

Times-News

December 22, 2007
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SATURDAY

December 22, 2007

75 cents

Mutual attraction

The housing of the Centennial Observatory at the Herrett Center in Twin Falls can be seen with a backdrop of the moon and stars in the southeastern sky Thursday evening.

NASA gives asteroid 1-in-75 odds of hitting Mars

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

From time to time, objects in space hit one another. And while scientists would complain if something hit Earth, they get excited about other celestial collisions. That's why astronomers with the Near Earth Object Program at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory are so worked up about a roughly 200-foot-wide asteroid that could slam into Mars on Jan. 30.

Right now, the asteroid is predicted to miss the planet

by 55,000 miles — a near miss in astronomical terms, said Rick Greenwald, planetarium manager for the Herrett Center for Arts and Science in Twin Falls.

But it has a 1 in 75 chance of hitting the planet, an act that could provide scientists with their first up-close look at a meteor impact.

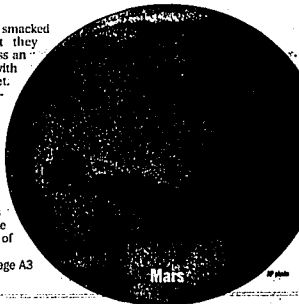
"Most likely it's just going to whiz by and nothing will happen," Greenwald said. "Every once in a while, interesting things can happen."

In 1994, astronomers were able to witness the scars when fragments of the comet

Shoemaker-Levy 9 snacked into Jupiter. But they have yet to witness an asteroid impact with another planet. With three different spacecraft in orbit and two NASA rovers still roaming the surface, Greenwald said, Mars would be the perfect target.

"(The orbiters could) capture incredible images of

Please see MARS, Page A3



FDA finds deaths from improper use of painkiller patch

By Lauran Neergaard
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Improper use of patches that emit the painkiller fentanyl is still killing people, the government said Friday — its second warning in two years about the powerful narcotic.

Some of the deaths came after doctors prescribed the patches to the wrong patients, the Food and Drug Administration said.

The drug is only for chronic pain in people used to narcotics, such as cancer patients, and can

cause trouble breathing in people new to this family of "opioid" painkillers.

Yet the FDA found cases where doctors prescribed it for headaches or post-surgical pain.

The FDA said patients also accidentally overdose by using the patches wrong, such as putting on more than prescribed, replacing them too frequently or getting them too hot.

"While these products fill an important need, improper use

Please see PATCH, Page A3



Nation's neediness more apparent this holiday season

Donations are falling and many families seeking assistance

By Martha Irvine
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — A Salvation Army shelter in a well-to-do Kansas county has an unprecedented waiting list that includes families who've lost their homes to foreclosure.

In Florida, a real estate agent who said she was having a tough time making

Inside

Salvation Army gives away holiday boxes.

Wendell students participate in gift-giving.

See page B1

It's this year sought assistance from a food bank for herself and her children.

And in Maryland, one agency that serves families says it's seeing more young, working, single mothers who move into shelters and ask family members to care for their kids.

"They just can't afford rent.

Stories like these tell of a holiday season rife with need across the country, but also what aid workers

are calling a disturbing and growing need for assistance all year round.

Everywhere, people are feeling the crunch of rising gasoline and grocery prices, as well as utility bills, rent and mortgage payments. Those factors also are cutting into people's ability to donate.

Please see NEED, Page A3



Tia Martins, a 4th grader at the Lafayette Specialty School, receives a gift from Santa Claus, Joka Malraany, CEO of Naristar Financial Corp. in Chicago, Wednesday.

AP photo

Alberdi to step down in 2008

T.E. Canal Co. manager was at the helm 15 years

By Cindy Snyder
For the Times-News

Water users will lose an advocate for senior water rights this winter.

Vince Alberdi, Twin Falls Canal Co. manager, has announced he will retire before the start of the 2008 irrigation season.

Alberdi is recognized by water users and coworkers as a manager who fought hard for canal company rights, modernized an aging canal system and improved water quality in the valley.

"They're going to miss him. He's such a fighter," said Ted Diehl, manager of the North Side Canal Co. in Jerome.

Alberdi himself calls his announcement bittersweet: He's enjoyed his career but leaves as the company faces unresolved water-rights issues.

Please see ALBERDI, Page A3



Vince Alberdi, who is retiring from the Twin Falls Canal Company, poses for a portrait Friday night in Twin Falls.

Idaho board denies closed-door meeting

The Associated Press

BOISE — Idaho Board of Education officials say they did not have an illegal closed meeting to debate ending a ninth-grade standardized test.

The board announced earlier this month in a news release that it was ending the ninth-grade version of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test to save money and help balance the budget.

After the announcement, The Spokesman-Review newspaper filed a complaint with the Idaho attorney general's office saying the matter had been discussed during a closed meeting in apparent violation of the Idaho Open Meeting Law. The Idaho Allied Educators, an association of 16 newspapers, filed a similar complaint, and the attorney general's office is investigating.

But at a meeting Thursday, board President Milford Terrell said it was the first time the board had met to discuss the

Inside

Jerome students start the move into Summit Elementary.

See page B1

Please see BOARD, Page A3



At Your Service directory	E9	Comics	E7	Jumble	E11	Movies	B2, B3	Sports	C1
Bridges	E4	Crossword	E8	Magic Valley	B1	Mutual Funds	C7	Stocks	C6
Calendar	A2	Dear Abby	E7	Market Summary	C7	Obituaries	E2	Sudoku	E5
Classifieds	E12	Horoscope	E9	Money	C5	Opinion	A6	Weather	C8

TODAY'S FORECAST

TWIN FALLS

Today	Tonight	Sunday
Mostly cloudy with light breezes	Snow developing, mainly light accumulations	A slight chance of snow showers
High 32	Low 26	37 / 25



MINI-CASSIA

Today: Mostly cloudy with near-average temperatures and light winds. Highs in the lower 30s.
 Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of snow developing towards midnight. Lows in the middle 20s.
 Tomorrow: A touch warmer, but there will be a small chance of a snow shower. Highs mid 30s.

Complete weather report: See page C8

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol...The Musical" a co-production of the nexStage Theatre and Laughing Stock Theatre Company, 7 p.m., nexStage Theatre, 120 S. Main St.; Ketchum: \$25 for adults; unreserved seats; \$15 for children (ages 14 and under); unreserved seats; and \$50 for reserved seating in center front rows, 726-4857.

The Standards Christmas concert "A Night To Remember," 7 p.m., CSI Fine Arts Center, Twin Falls, \$15 for adults and \$12 for youth (ages 17 and under), 308-1255 or www.TheStandards.com.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

A Bell Ringing, sponsored by Thrivent Financial For Lutherans with \$1000 matching funds as a fundraiser for the Mary Salvation Army programs, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., in front of Kmart, 2258 Addison Ave. E., Twin Falls, 420-1522.

EXHIBITS

"Ceramics from the Bray: The Idaho Connection," with featured artists Donna Flanery, Margaret Gregg, Jeanette Rakowski, David Peters, Kalia Jackson and Peter Rudd, 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center, CSI campus, 732-6655.

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

Santa's fire truck visit, West End Fire and Rescue will take Santa around town on fire truck distributing Christmas candy, 1 p.m., beginning at Paul fire station, 431-5209.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium "Joy Worlds/Saving the Night/Live Sky Tour," at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; "Season of Light," at 7 p.m.; and "Steamrolling" at 8:15 p.m.; Herrett Center, CSI campus, Twin Falls, \$4 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, \$2 for students and \$9 for families, 732-6655.

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

COMING SUNDAY IN THE TIMES-NEWS



Getting a head start?

Local program administrators worried about funding uncertainty.

PAGE ONE



Industrial corridor

Magic Valley is booming with industrial and commercial business growth.

MONEY



Up to the challenge?

Idaho boys basketball players struggling to find homes in college hoops.

SPORTS



December delights

Magic Valley families share their cherished holiday habits.

FAMILY LIFE

WHAT'S NEW AT MAGICVALLEY.COM

- Check out the scene at the Salvation Army as food, clothing and toys are distributed for Christmas.
- Want to see beautiful holiday light displays? Go to Magicvalley.com and click on the "You Light up our Christmas" button.



Watershed	% of Avg.	% season	Oakley	85%	20%
Salmon	100%	33%	Salmon Falls	54%	17%
Big Wood	95%	31%			As of Dec. 21
Little Wood	86%	26%			
Big Lost	63%	27%			
Little Lost	28%	28%			
Henny Fork/Teton	95%	33%			
Upper Snake Basin	82%	29%			

* A comparison of basin snowpack on this day, with a 30-year average.
 ** An indicator of basin snowpack for the entire snow season, which peaks in spring.

MORNING BRIEFING

AROUND THE WORLD

WASHINGTON

Rice says US has 'no permanent enemies'

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Friday held out the prospect of improved relations with the remaining two members of President Bush's "axis of evil," Iran and North Korea, as long as they meet international demands over their nuclear programs.

Rice said the Bush administration in its remaining year would welcome fundamental changes in its dealings with the two countries, as well as with Syria, and as an example pointed to warming ties with Libya, which renounced weapons of mass destruction in 2003.

"The United States doesn't have permanent enemies, we're too great a country for that," she told reporters at a State Department press conference.

But she stressed that neither North Korea nor Iran would benefit from closer relations with the U.S. unless they come clean about their weapons intentions.

"The third member of the 'axis of evil,' Saddam Hussein's Iraq, did not do so to Bush's satisfaction and was invaded in 2003, although no weapons of mass destruction were found. The administration has said it wants to deal diplomatically with the threats it sees from North Korea and Iran.

NEW YORK

Sacha Baron Cohen says he's retiring Borat and Ali G

NEW YORK — Borat is dead. Sacha Baron Cohen tells The Daily Telegraph that he's retiring the clueless Kazakh journalist, as well as his alter ego, aspiring rapper Ali G.

"When I was being Ali G and Borat I was in character sometimes 14 hours a day and I came to love them, so admitting I'm never going to play them again is quite a sad thing," the 36-year-old actor-comedian says in the British newspaper's Friday edition.

"It is like saying goodbye to a loved one. It is hard, and the problem with success, although it's fantastic, is that every new person who sees the Borat movie is one less person I 'get' with Borat again, so it's a kind of self-defeating form, really."

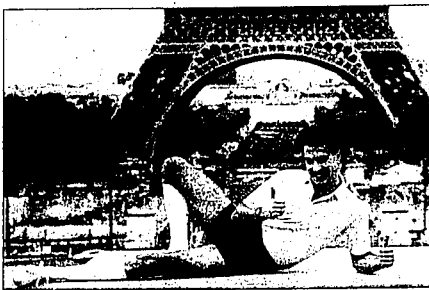
Baron Cohen brought Borat Sagdiyev — an anti-Semitic buffoon in search of Pamela Anderson — to the masses last year with his comedy, "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." He first introduced the character on "Da Ali G Show," which was carried in the U.S. on HBO.

"It's much easier for me to be in character and it's a lot more fun," he says. "If I'd done the entire promotional campaign for (the 'Borat' movie) as myself it wouldn't have developed in the same way."

TEXAS

Texas slaps 'pole tax' on strip joints

DALLAS — Texas, where strip clubs have given rise to Anna Nicole Smith and many other less generously



endowed performers, is about to make it more expensive to watch a little bump and grind.

In what some have dubbed the "pole tax," the Lone Star State will require its 150 or so strip clubs to collect a \$5-per-customer levy, with most of the proceeds going to help rape victims. The tax goes into effect on New Year's Day.

Club owners and some of their customers say the money is going to a noble cause, but they argue that the tax infringes on their First Amendment right to freedom of expression, that it will drive some bars out of business and that it unfairly links their industry to sex crimes.

"We'll be fine. I've already stopped advertising, and we're raising our cover charges. But this is going to kill some of the smaller clubs," said Dawn Blum, who runs The Lodge, a Hemingway-inspired place that has exotic animal heads on the walls and is packed after Dallas Cowboys games at nearby Texas Stadium.

The strip clubs are suing to block the tax, which state officials estimate will raise more than \$40 million a year, based on liquor sales figures. If accurate, the estimate suggests at least 8 million people a year go to Texas strip clubs to get a lap dance or watch women pole-dance in a G-string.

FRANCE

Ducasse aims for the sky with new Eiffel Tower restaurant

PARIS — Alain Ducasse has already taken haute cuisine to great heights in menus for the Concorde Jet and for astronauts. And opening a restaurant in the Eiffel Tower comes with its own challenges.

Though only 410 feet up, there's no gas cooking because of safety concerns. All the decor had to be light so as not to weigh on the 118-year-old iron structure. And because space is tight, food is washed and prepared in an underground kitchen.

The celebrity chef's new endeavor called the Jules Verne, like the restaurant it replaced — opens for its first dinner today. As staff frantically unwrapped cartons Friday, spilling bubble wrap and shards of cardboard onto the new carpeting, Ducasse took time out for an espresso and a chat about his vision.

"I think our only alternative in this monument is to be 100 percent French," he told The Associated Press.

So what exactly is his vision of modern French cuisine? "Beautiful products, perfect technique, perfect harmony, a precise, reduced sauces, (everything) in harmony with French wines," he said. Despite the buzz

around the restaurant, critics have not yet sampled its cuisine.

Ducasse, who has 16 Michelin stars and more than 20 restaurants around the world, says the menu price is "accessible to everyone" — about \$108 for lunch and \$216 for dinner, without wine. He shrugged off a question about whether setting up in France's most famous landmark — with more than 6.7 million visitors last year — might be too touristy for his elite clientele.

"For us, the Eiffel Tower is a restaurant more than a place to visit," the 51-year-old chef said, adding that he hopes to cultivate the right mix of tourists and Parisians. The restaurant seats at least 120 and takes reservations. As of Friday, there were still tables available for the first few days of business.

PAKISTAN
At least 50 killed in suicide bomb attack

CHARSADDA — At least 50 people were killed and more than 200 injured Friday when a suicide bomber attacked a mosque on the holy day of Eid al-Adha in a remote town in Pakistan's North-West Frontier province.

The attack was apparently aimed at former interior minister Afab Khan Sherpao, who was among those offering special Eid prayers in his home town, some 40 miles from the provincial capital of Peshawar.

Sherpao survived the attack, though one of his sons was injured. Sherpao is a candidate in Jan. 8 parliamentary elections and heads a splinter group of the Pakistan People's Party, led by former prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

A police official called the bombing an "instrument of terrorism." Police said more than 1,000 people were in the mosque, the main one in the town, for Eid prayers when the blast occurred in the eighth row.

Sherpao also was the target of a bombing in April that killed more than 30 people and injured more than 50. This time, police said there was a mortal doctor at the mosque door and extra security in place because of threats on Sherpao's life.

JAPAN

Japan hails plan to kill humpback whales in Antarctic hunt

TOKYO — Humpback whales are safe — at least for now.

Living in to U.S. pressure and worldwide criticism, Japan's government on Friday announced a whaling fleet now in the Southern

British actor Sacha Baron Cohen, dressed as his character 'Borat' poses near the Eiffel tower in October 2006. Cohen told a London daily Friday that he's retiring the clueless Kazakh journalist, as well as his alter ego, aspiring rapper Ali G. (See story below)

Ocean for its annual hunt will not kill the threatened species as originally planned. The fleet will, however, kill some 935 minke whales, a smaller, more plentiful species, and 50 fin whales.

Japan dispatched its whaling fleet last month to the southern Pacific off Antarctica in the first major hunt of humpback whales since the 1960s. Commercial hunts of humpbacks have been banned worldwide since 1966, but a commercial whaling effort since 1966.

The fleet was to kill 50 humpbacks, for scientific research. But the plan generated immediate criticism from environmental groups, which oppose the hunt to begin with but were outraged by the inclusion of humpbacks because they are so rare.

"Whaling issues tend to become emotional, but we hope that the discussion will be carried out calmly on the basis of scientific evidence," chief government spokesman Nobutaka Machimura said in announcing the halt.

It was a stunning turnaround for Japan. The U.S., which currently chairs the International Whaling Commission, recently held several rounds of talks with Japan to seek a one to two year suspension of the humpback hunt.

"We applaud Japan's decision as an act of goodwill toward the International Whaling Commission," said U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez.

But he added that Washington and Tokyo still have "opposite views on research whaling."

UTAH

Inmate says he needs sword, Thor's hammer to worship Nordic gods

SALT LAKE CITY — An inmate is suing the Utah Department of Corrections for denying him his right to practice an ancient Nordic religion while behind bars.

Michael Polk is serving time for aggravated assault and robbery. He filed a lawsuit against corrections officials in federal court, accusing them of denying him religious items that he says are necessary to practice the Asatru religion.

The religion worships ancient Nordic gods like Odin, Thor, Tyr and Heimdall. In the lawsuit, Polk says he has been a member of the Asatru faith since 2005, and in order to properly practice it he needs items including: a Thor's Hammer, a prayer cloth, a Mead Horn used for drinking, Wastall, a drum made of wood and boar skin, a rune staff and a sword.

— compiled from wire reports

Times-News

PUBLISHER	
Brad Hurt	735-2345
CLASSIFIED	
Classified service	735-0611, ext. 2
Classified service	735-2347
NEWSROOM	
Editor James G. Wright	735-2325
News Editor John Wright	735-2347
News Editor John Wright	735-2323
Letters to the editor	735-2328
ADVERTISING	
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CLASSIFIED	
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Classified service	735-2347
ONLINE	
Online sales John Wright	735-2327
CIRCULATION	
Circulation service	735-0611, ext. 1
Print and other mail	735-0611, ext. 1
Burly-Burly-Plus-Cable	877-6042
Classified phone base	are equal between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

weekends and court reporter pursuant to Section 80-108 of the Idaho Code. Thursday is hereby designated as the day of the week on which legal notices will be published. Postmaster, please allow 48 hours for notices from Box 548, Twin Falls, Idaho 83302.

See what's new online at the Times-News Web site

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The Times-News (ISSN 0451-2400) is published daily at 132 Parkfield St., Twin Falls, Idaho.

Publications Inc., a subsidiary of Sun Publications, Inc., is published at Twin Falls by the Times-News.

Vol. 102
No. 358

Alberdi

Continued from page A1

"In a perfect world, the adjudication would be done, the water rights would be done," he said. "I don't think retirement can be predicated on that, there's always going to be another corner."

There have been many corners in the 15 years since Alberdi came to the TFC.

His accomplishments include constructing or refurbishing structures, which allowed Alberdi to take advantage of his experience as a salesperson and then general manager for Wilco, a home-building company based in Twin Falls.

Not long after Alberdi was hired, the TFC board of directors asked him to build a new office in Twin Falls and consolidate the Bull and Castelford departments into one division.

Alberdi also remembers inspecting the Law Line Siphon, which carries water over Rock Creek south of Kimberly, on his second day on the job. He assumed the siphon had been replaced at some time but was shocked to discover it was the original steel pipe that had been made in Pennsylvania and shipped to Idaho in 1903.

During his term, Alberdi inspected the canal system, made improvements and

automated the weirs and gates at Milner to ensure a consistent flow of water. He also implemented water quality programs that have proven effective and changed farming practices in Magic Valley.

"We cannot stop, water quality is something we're going to have to stick with," Alberdi said. "This is a cultural change in the farming mentality that is being adopted right now as the right thing to do."

Phil Flick, chairman of the TFC board of directors, said Alberdi's greatest strength has been ensuring that stockholders get their water.

"Water is what we're all about. He has worked very diligently to get water to our patrons," Flick said. "So many things he'd done, we as the board have taken for granted. He knew what had to be done and had it done before we even knew about it."

Alberdi is a veteran in the canal company business. He worked for the North Side Canal Co. in college. He rejoined the North Side in the 1980s, where he was assistant manager for five years before joining the Twin Falls company.

Diehl and Alberdi have a close working relationship,

which has allowed them to cooperate on projects such as refurbishing Milner Dam or improving water quality in the Snake River.

"I took him under my wing and showed him some things he'd never seen before," Diehl joked.

Alberdi also credits another source for showing him the canal ropes. His father was a ditch rider for NSCC for many years.

Alberdi leaves at a pivotal time for the canal company and other surface-water groups. The canal company is at the center of ongoing administrative battles over Idaho's water. He expects the issues will ultimately play out in court, and plans to remain manager until the state makes a ruling on one of those issues.

"I love this company. I'm committed to this company," said Alberdi, who will also continue to serve on a state committee developing an aquifer management plan.

"I'll be the best," said Flick, who added the board had hoped Alberdi would stay at least another two years. "He's entitled to retire, and we want him to enjoy his retirement."

Cindy Snyder is a correspondent for *Ag Weekly*.

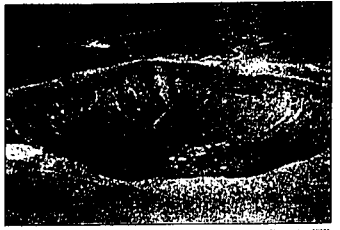
Mars

Continued from page A1

a collision," he said. "It could be a boon of information to scientists studying this."

Traveling at eight miles a second, the rock — known as 2007 WD5 — would leave a mile-wide crater similar to Meteor Crater in Arizona. According to the JPL scientists, the asteroid would probably hit Mars near its equator, close to where the rover Opportunity has been exploring the Martian plains since 2004, the Associated Press reported. The robot is not in danger, the scientists said, because it lies outside the impact zone.

The asteroid, Greenwald said, is about the same size as the unknown object that exploded over Siberia in 1908, flattening 80 million trees over an area of 830 square miles. But that doesn't mean the never object will explode. Mars' atmosphere is less dense, he said, and the odds are good that the Siberian object was an icy comet that vaporized.



Meteor Crater in Arizona. The asteroid headed toward Mars could leave a crater the same size.

Backyard astronomers shouldn't get their hopes up just yet. Any impact would be so small, Greenwald said, as to be invisible to smaller telescopes — it wouldn't even send soil or water vapor across the planet. The famed Hubble telescope might not pick up the collision in any great detail.

But pictures and readings

from the Mars-based crafts could reveal more about possible deposits of frozen water hidden beneath the crust, and answer other questions scientists have. And the public will still have something pretty to look at: The Red Planet, Greenwald said, is near its closest distance to Earth, and is visible in the eastern sky right after sunset.

Patch

Continued from page A1

and misuse can be life threatening," said FDA pain chief Dr. H. Rappaport. "It is crucial that doctors prescribe these products appropriately, and that patients use them correctly."

The FDA first warned about improper patch use in 2005, when it announced it was investigating 12 deaths.

Although FDA has investigated the new reports for several months, Rappaport related to say Friday how many additional deaths the agency has learned of since that first warning.

He called the number of deaths small but concerning because "they are preventable."

Friday, the FDA said it had ordered patch makers to cre-

ate special medication guides that will come with every box, spelling out proper use in easy-to-understand language.

What kind of mistakes are happening?

The consumer advocacy Institute for Safe Medication Practices highlighted some cases last summer. One patient died after being given a patch for post-surgery pain despite having pneumonia and being new to narcotics. Two others survived, an elderly man taken to the emergency room after being given a patch together with painkilling pills and an elderly woman who became delirious while wearing several patches at once.

The FDA's main message Friday: Do not prescribe fen-

tanyl patches to anyone new to opioids, the painkiller family that includes morphine. Absorbing fentanyl through the skin is a powerful way to deliver the potent drug, and thus poses serious risk to anyone not already opioid-tolerant.

Rappaport explained.

Doctors who aren't specially trained in pain management may not know that. But Rappaport said FDA isn't casting aspersions on prescribing because there is a great need for the patches among the millions of chronic pain sufferers, few of whom get care from pain specialists.

The patches were first approved under the brand name Duragesic in 1990, but generic versions are sold by other manufacturers.

Need

Continued from page A1

"Not only can they not give, many — for the first time — have need and are coming to us," says Melissa Temme, a spokeswoman for the Salvation Army, who says stories like that of the overflow at the Johnson County Family Lodge in Kansas are becoming increasingly common.

Last year, 4.8 million Americans got holiday assistance from the Salvation Army, everything from meals and clothing to gifts. It's too early to tell if those numbers will go up this year. But the organization generally sees a surge in giving of gifts and at kettles right before Christmas. Temme says she's sensed a general unease among staff about the level of need that's out there.

Others say the same.

"This isn't a holiday shortage, per se. This is a shortage that's been building," says Ross Fraser, a spokesman for America's Second Harvest, a domestic hunger-relief organization based in Chicago. At Thanksgiving, the organization estimated that food banks nationally were short a total of 15 million pounds of food, or roughly 11.7 million meals.

Since then, his agency has heard about recent shortages at food banks from New York, Illinois and Tennessee to Texas and California. One food bank in Dallas reports having to spend \$100,000 a month buying food, because of declining donations of excess food from grocery stores and farmers through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"I don't think anybody ever thought food banks would be going out and buying food," Fraser says.

One food bank in Orlando, Fla., he says, told of a single mother who was forced to get food donations because her income as a real estate agent fell from \$66,000 last year to just \$18,000 this year, due to

slumping housing sales.

Rebecca Wagner, executive director of Community Ministry of Montgomery County, Md., also has seen the need for emergency aid growing among the working poor.

"Before they were cobbling together three and four jobs to make ends meet," Wagner says. "Now that utility bill is a backbreaker."

She's been encouraging donors to make pledges beyond the holiday season — for instance for utility bills and rent next year.

"Toys and bags of oranges only go so far when you can't keep your heat on," Wagner says. But, she adds, families always appreciate the help at the holidays, too.

"All of it helps," she says. Considering that individual donors represent about three-quarters of all charitable contributions, it means the last few months of giving in a year are critical, says Albert Ruesga of The Meyer Foundation, which funds aid organizations in Washington, D.C., and beyond.

"The giving that happens

around the holiday season is really the lifeblood of many organizations that serve our poorest communities," he says.

Corporate donations are also key.

That includes Navistar Financial Corp., the Schaumburg, Ill.-based finance subsidiary of the International Truck and Engine Corporation.

Among other things, employees from the company give gifts each year to hundreds of students at the Lafayette Specialty School, an school that serves toddlers all the way up to eighth-graders in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood.

John Mulvaney, Navistar Financial's chief financial officer, recently played Santa Claus as he and his staff handed out the gifts to excited students who'd written "letters to Santa."

Tia Martins, a fourth-grader, was one of those. She asked for an electronic diary, "so I can write all the things that happened to me, so I would never forget them."

Board

Continued from page A1

matter and that it wasn't "done in executive session." He said the earlier news release had been in error.

"This is your first opportunity as a board to hear my findings, conclusions and decisions regarding these negotiations and related outcomes," he said.

Idaho's open meeting law allows closed sessions only to discuss specified topics: budget shortfalls and testing programs aren't on the list. Terrell has said he thought the board had acted properly, but declined to discuss the alleged closed session during the investigation.

During Thursday's meeting, the board voted 5-1 to change its 202 million testing contract with the test developer, Data Recognition Corp., to elim-

inate the ISAT for ninth-graders.

State Superintendent of Schools Tom Luna was the lone dissenter, saying he didn't want to eliminate money for the life of the contract, which runs for four years with the option of four more. Instead, Luna said, he had hoped to end the funding for just one year.

High school students must pass the 10th-grade version of the test before they can grad-

uate, and the standardized tests are used to determine if schools are succeeding under the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

The ISAT is still being given twice yearly to students in third through eighth grades and to 10th graders — the grades targeted for testing under the No Child Left Behind Act. High school juniors and seniors who don't pass the 10th grade exams can retake the test as needed.

BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC
of the Holiday Season

- Fabulous Gifts, Cards & Stationery
- WebKinz • Willow Tree • JIM SHORE
- Super Teaching Supplies
- Great Paper & Copy Center
- Cool Pens, Office & Art Supplies

1277 Pole Line Road East, Twin Falls - 733-5332

A Magical Valley Christmas Television Special!

Showtimes on KMTV-TV

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States are pressing convicts harder to pay restitution

By Mark Scottaro
Associated Press writer

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A new church was built, but no thanks to him. He coughed up a paltry \$374.

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possibly pay up. But it is also the case that many states make little effort to go after whatever money is available. "It's a system that's fraught with inadequacies, improper

checks and balances, no procedures in place. It's sort of a haphazard little dance that everyone dances around," said Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham.

That is changing in some places. Many states have begun taking steps to force defendants to pay up. Some, like Arizona, are turning to outside collection agencies

for help. Others, such as Pennsylvania and Colorado, are ratcheting up their own in-house collection efforts.

"There was a culture in Arizona that you can blow off paying money to the courts in some areas because they aren't going to do anything about it. So that's the first thing we set about to change," said Michael DiMarco, consolidated collections manager for Arizona's courts.

The amount of unpaid court costs, fines, fees and restitution in Arizona totaled \$631 million at last count, but the state has managed to bring in close to \$90 million since it contracted four years ago with Affiliated Computer Services of Dallas, DiMarco said.

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and keeps a percentage of whatever it collects.

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Rice rejects Huckabee criticism of Bush 'bunker mentality' foreign policy

By Liz Soteli
Associated Press writer

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"The idea that somehow this is a go-it-alone policy is just simply ludicrous," she said, briefly weighing in on policies during a State Department news conference in Washington. "One would only have to be not observing the facts, let me say that, to say that this is a go-it-alone foreign policy."

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States are pressing convicts harder to pay restitution

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Kenneth Plummer, left, and Tiffany Knoll, with her daughter Shannon Knoll, 2, listen and watch during the hanging of the Greens service at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Chambersburg, Pa., recently. The church has been rebuilt after burning to the ground 13 years ago.

possibly pay up. But it is also the case that many states make little effort to go after whatever money is available.

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checks and balances, no procedures in place. It's sort of a haphazard little dance that everyone dances around," said Philadelphia District Attorney Lynne Abraham.

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First-grader's kindness embodies Christmas spirit

CHEERS: To Xavier Charter School first-grader Kyndi Mahuke, for raising money to buy a headstone for a former pre-school classmate who was killed by a baby-sitter a year ago.

The family of Ashlyn Roger Lynn couldn't afford a tombstone for the boy's grave in Sunset Memorial Park in Twin Falls. So Kyndi put up jars at businesses around town to gather the \$437 needed to buy the marker. As of Thursday night she was just \$60 short.

The 7-year-old's fund-raising project was part of an effort by teacher Carole Stevens' class to do something for someone outside their families for Christmas.

Other students played guitar in

drift shops, baked cookies for cancer victims and shoveled snow for neighbors.

Kyndi's gesture would have been impressive by an adult. Her mother, her teacher, Kyndi's classmates and Xavier Charter School should be proud.

JEERS: To the Tuhli City Council, for considering an ordinance that would leave landlords holding the bag for deadbeat tenants' utility bills.

The city is owed about \$30,000 for past-due water, sewer and garbage services, which are hard to collect — especially after renters move out.

That, it seems to us, is City Hall's problem, not the landlords'. A bet-



ter solution would be compelling tenants to make a deposit with the city before the water is turned on.

Alternatively, it could require renters to sign a service agreement with the city, which would have the legal force of a contract.

Putting landlords on the hook for their tenants' bad debts will only reduce the number of rental units

on the market in Buhl, which in turn will hurt young families and single parents.

CHEERS: To the Twin Falls County Commission, for reversing a bad decision.

Commissioners. In November rejected an alcohol license for the Smoke-N-Head Shop in Twin Falls, saying they disapproved of the items it sold — flavored tobacco, various herbs and plants, and glassware to smoke them — because they didn't "fit well with the community."

Trouble was, there was no legal basis for such a ruling, which the county's lawyers quickly pointed out. Both the state and the City of Twin Falls signed off on the license.

So the commissioners put aside their personal views and followed the law, although they still disfavor the business.

"I didn't fall off the turnip truck today," Commissioner Tom Mikessell said earlier this week. "I don't believe the products are catering to legal tobacco smokers."

In the wake of the controversy, commissioners say they'll revise the county's application process — presumably to give the county more leverage in granting or rejecting alcohol licenses. That's fair enough.

Admitting a mistake is tough for everyone — especially for elected officials.

They did the right thing.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Options for caring for old horses

Jim in Ketchum says it's awful to send an old crippled horse to a packing plant. In Montana, we had a plant that canned horsemasters. The dog and cat people kept it in business.

There is nothing wrong with people that eat horsemasters. These plants are inspected the same as others. You said it's sad that the champion race horse ended up "winner for dinner." All champion cattle, hogs and sheep end up "winners for dinner," and you people seem to enjoy it.

I suggest that your society invest in a "care center for horses." You could buy this high-price hay and grain, employ a veterinarian to check they are in no pain. What relief for horse owners not having to send them to the slaughter yard, then to a packing plant. We would charge you regular price per pound, same as in the sales yard. Also, most horses will be donated.

SPARK ZEBARTH
Twin Falls

Seeing players return was a joy

I would like to say a big thank you to the College of Southern Idaho for bringing in the CSI II-Stars this last month to play in the Boise Office Equipment Basketball Tournament.

What an absolute joy to see these ladies return to CSI and play again, even though it's been years since some of them have played and most of them have married and had children.

They play with much skill and great poise. If you missed seeing them play, you missed a class act.

Thank you, ladies.
PAULIA GREENE
Filer

Most nurses are dedicated workers

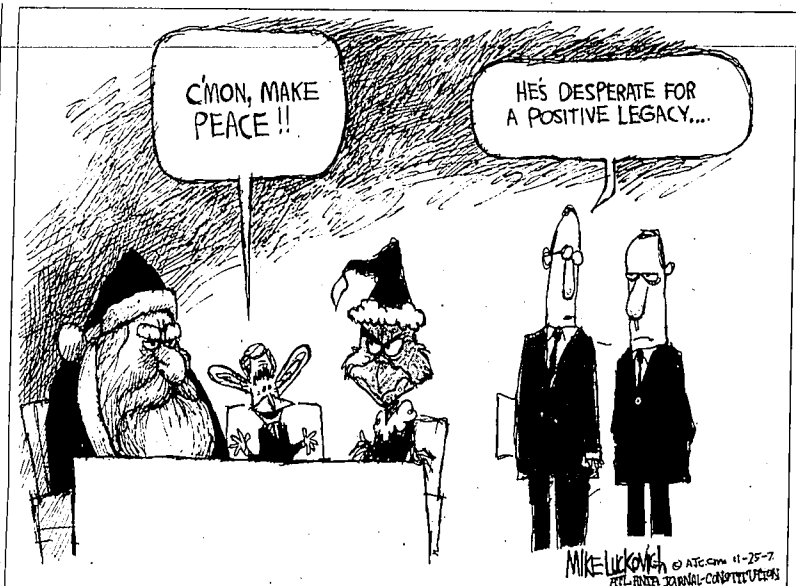
It always amazes me how people reveal in their narratives of others. We want to place our family members in nursing homes so that we can feel good about ourselves and not have to feel responsible for their care. Then we can sit back and criticize those who do try to care for

them. Those devoted caregivers who are willing to work shifts that make it difficult to have a good family life. Most of the ones working in nursing homes are truly dedicated and love the elderly and dedicate their time and effort to their care and needs. Who else would be willing to change the diapers of the elderly and do other unmentionable cares.

Instead of being critical, how about stepping up to the plate and being part of the solution instead of the problem. Yes, even in the best of facilities, bad things can happen, water pipes break, what a disaster, but stand up and be counted as being the one who brings about a solution instead of an added problem. We need more heroes and fewer critics.

Fewer people are going into nursing because there are so many demands made on them and, let's face it, with all the dreaded diseases, what you want to be exposed to that. We are trained nurses and are dedicated to the care of those in which we serve. We are not nudes, we are not servants, we are not miracle workers (well, maybe sometimes), but for the most part, we are struggling young people with small children who are just trying to make ends meet. Give these special workers applause, not a slap in the face. Do the things that you can do for your loved ones and free the nurses up for real nursing care.

A friend in need is everywhere,
GLORIA CHOCKER
Twin Falls



Awash on the bridge of Good Ship Bush

On an autumn night 300+ years ago, Admiral Sir Cloudesley Shovel, hero of the British Navy, was approached on his quarterdeck by a sailor with a warning.

According to the sailor's calculations, the fleet was headed straight for disaster. But Sir Cloudesley was a bold leader unburdened by doubt. He was dead certain he was headed in the right direction.

Such subversive navigation by an inferior was forbidden in the Royal Navy," according to Dava Sobel in her brilliant book "Longitude," and so "Admiral Shovel had the man hanged for mutiny on the spot."

The 57-year-old Sir Cloudesley stayed the course, oblivious to his ignorance and upright in his optimism, until, one by one, his ships wrecked in the Scilly Isles with great loss of life, including his own.

Sir Cloudesley kept coming to mind as I was reading Robert Draper's "Dead Certain," the presidency of George W. Bush. Dissenters were not hanged in the Bush White House, but their exclusion from the quarterdeck was the bureaucratic equivalent of the long drop. At least Admiral Shovel had a man in uniform willing to bring him bad news.

In the Bush White House, no one said, "Let's slow down and rethink this," Draper writes.

"I made the decision to lead," Bush told Draper. "And therefore there'll be times when you make those decisions; one, it makes you unpopular; two, it makes people accuse you of unilateral arrogance. And that may be true. But the fundamental ques-



H.D.S.
GREENWAY

tion is: Is the world better off as a result of your leadership?"

Sir Cloudesley might have made the same statement and asked the same question. For an essential part of leadership is not just dead certainty, but finding the right course, and being flexible enough to change it when the circumstances warrant.

Iraq may be more stable now, but it was an unnecessary war in the first place and there is no end in sight. It is destined to drag on long after Bush has left the stage, perhaps longer than the Vietnam War, radicalizing another generation of Muslims, and immeasurably empowering Iran.

And under Bush's leadership, the war in Afghanistan may be lost too. It will be hard to argue that Bush has left the world in better shape than when he found it.

As for the American people, Bush, "the First Optimist, made pessimists out of them," Draper writes. A few Bush lieutenants sometimes wonder if, in the end, was "his compulsive optimism ... worth the sacrifice of credibility?"

Draper poses the question: Was his plain speech just intellectual laziness, the strategic vision merely disrespect for the process, the boldness really

recklessness, the strength an ineffective self-certainty? Draper doesn't answer the question.

The villain may be, however, Bush's "elemental compulsion" to "accomplish big things." Draper quotes Condoleezza Rice as saying:

"This is a time when the US has unparalleled power and you can try and sit on it and husband it and use a little bit here and a little there ... or you can try to make big strategic plays that will fundamentally alter things in the way that the US did after 1947."

It is Bush's big, strategic moves that have gotten us into so much trouble, making one look nostalgically upon the less ambitious, but infinitely more competent, moves of his father's administration.

There are some indications, however, that this administration, in its 1 1/2 hour, is shedding some of the "almost peevish heedlessness to the outside world" that Draper ascribes to George W. Bush. His letter to North Korea's Kim Jong-il would not have been conceivable

when the old we-don't-talk-to-evil-theology reigned in the White House. Inviting Syria to the recent Middle East summit was another indication. There is a new flexibility that is helping to dispel some of the hubris of the last seven years.

According to Draper, Bush is thinking hard about his legacy. He is "consuming history books." Draper writes, with the "same voraciousness" with which he pounds back hot dogs. "His presidency now all but consigned to history, Bush (is) immersed in the past, and gleaning from its portents what the future would say about America's 43rd president," Draper writes.

Draper writes, Karl Rove gave him a biography of the young Churchill.

Bush looks to the ghosts of Churchill, and Harry Truman too, as heroes who were at one time considered failures, upon whom history now smiles. But, said it's too late. It is the ghost of Sir Cloudesley that crowds the Oval Office.

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

Get in your
two cents

ONLINE: At maglevvalley.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 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@maglevvalley.com.

LETTERS OF THANKS

Family grateful for care of their ailing relative

On behalf of Betty Davis, her family would like to express our gratitude to the staff at Cassia Regional Medical Center for the excellent care they provided to our mother and wife during her lengthy stay in the hospital. Everyone from housekeeping to administration touched us with their kindness and compassion. You all turned the worst time of our lives into something special and we are very thankful for each of you.

A special thank you to Carol McClellan, Lindsey, Stephanie Shirley, Cindy Moreno, Karen Burton, Rowena Miller and the pharmacy and lab departments. ESTELLA COOPER Oakley

Kimberly youth association appreciates support

The Kimberly Youth Association would like to express its appreciation to the businesses that sponsored the sports programs for the 2007 year in Kimberly. The support given helps make it possible for the youth to be active and enjoy all the programs offered through the year.

Thanks to Travelers Oasis Truck Plaza, Idaho National Guard, Maxie's in Kimberly, Green Acres Dental, Pacific Supply, Overcare Insurance,

Kevin Trainor (attorney), K&T Steel, D&T Automotive, Burk's Tractor, Plant Foods, Watts Hydraulic, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Forever Green, Stutzman Inc., Kimberly Education Association, Shapple, TKO Builders, James Jay Construction, Northwest Foam Products, K&K Construction, Oak Valley Dairy, Paradise Landscaping, Forge-Mc-Nuts and Kregan's Inc.

JAMIE CARLTON
President
KIRBY NEBEKER
Vice President
Kimberly Youth Association
Kimberly

Gooding hospital volunteers tireless workers

The Gooding Hospital Foundation wishes to thank the many volunteers that came together, shared their talents and worked tirelessly in the true spirit of Christmas to make the Festival of Trees such a successful event.

Festival Chairman Cyndi Hoekstra announced that proceeds from the holiday gala totaled nearly \$13,000. The monies will be used to enhance hospital services and provide scholarships for those in the medical field.

The 2007 theme, "Angels Among Us," proved to be very prophetic. Many angels appeared to make the festival a successful gathering of

friends and neighbors, and we are sincerely grateful to all.

SUSAN FAULKNER
Publicity Chairman
Gooding County Memorial Hospital Foundation
Gooding

Christmas Cantata was a success because of support

On behalf of the Gooding Community Choral and Orchestra and our director, Rick Strickland, we thank all of you and your staff for your excellent coverage of our Christmas Cantata. Also, a special thank you to the Walker Center in Gooding for providing a wonderful place to perform.

The community support was overwhelming and the Choral and Orchestra sends them a special thank you. We had people from all over our great Magic Valley attend, mostly because of the Times-News excellent coverage.

Again, thank you to all who participated in making this without a doubt, the best cantata yet. We look forward to next year's cantata with great joy.

BEV HEUSTON
Publicity Coordinator
Community Choral and Orchestra
Gooding

Despite reduction, Safe Harbor appreciates help

While Safe Harbor has had

to reduce the number of Saturday meals which it offers, we are extremely appreciative of everyone at the Twin Falls First Christian Church for allowing us to serve several of our meals there each month. In addition, they have extended their generosity to allowing us to serve breakfast at its facility from Dec. 24 to 26 this year.

In addition, we offer our sincere thanks to the following recent donors: Costco, Crossroads United Methodist Church, Fred Meyer, GFC Products, Gem State Pater, Glambia and Smith's Food.

PYLLIS BERG
Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter
Twin Falls

Library book sale a success thanks to many

Thank you to everyone who helped make my Hagerman Library Book Sale fundraiser a success. Thanks for donating your books and your time.

An especially big thank you to Dr. Eric Thomas at

Sawtooth Dental in Hagerman for letting me use the waiting room at the office. I couldn't have done it without you.
LIBBY SCOTT
Hagerman

Coats for Kids thanks supporters

The Twin Falls Optimist Club wishes we could personally thank each one of you that gives a coat or donates money to the "Coats for Kids" project. However, we can acknowledge you help make the project work.

Also, we can thank the groups that have organized their own projects to benefit "Coats for Kids".

The Corvette Club and the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club, who raised funds to buy new coats; the

Association of Realtors, who conducts a coat drive on behalf; Eldon Evans, who has for years given a generous personal donation; the businesses throughout the valley that participate with donation bins; Bekins-Ford

Transfer for storing our coats; KMYT for airing our public service announcements; the Times-News for running our ads; and all the people who have so generously responded with donations.

The Optimist Club is a tax deductible entity, and 100 percent of your contributions go toward serving local children. We thank you for their behalf.

DONNA BOHRN
Twin Falls Optimist Club
Twin Falls

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- ☐ In-kind Donations: Please contact Jubilee House at 736-2566
- ☐ I would like to help with fund-raising.
- ☐ I want to make a commitment of volunteer time.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ I would rather remain anonymous.

Please send all gifts to Jubilee House, PO Box 5684, Twin Falls, Idaho 83303

Ethanol still a fuel without a real market

HOUSTON — I want to

hear what President Bush said as he signed the new energy bill Wednesday morning — "a major step forward in reducing our dependence on foreign oil" and all that — and I wanted to cheer him on.

After all, if you buy the hype, the bill is supposed to save \$80 billion in energy costs by 2030. But it sounds long on promise and short on meaningful initiatives.

In one of the most concrete provisions, Congress, which a few years ago advised which direction our energy future should spin, now will dictate the kind of light bulbs we use.

I've tried the compact fluorescent bulbs lawmakers are endorsing. I find the light cold, sterile and difficult to read by. It makes my living room feel like a day-spring waiting area, only less bright and cheerful.

Over time, the fluorescent bulbs are supposed to save money, even though they cost two or three times as much as their incandescent predecessors. Royal Philips Electronics, the Amsterdam-based light bulb maker and big backer of the energy law, estimates the fluorescent bulbs will save \$18 billion annually, according to Bloomberg News. That's an average of about \$60 a year for each of us.

For all the attention the bulbs have received, this product hardly seems like a major step toward cutting off the yoke of foreign oil dependency.

Then there's gasoline. Congress wants to boost the ethanol content of gasoline to 20 percent by more than quadrupling the production of biofuels. We're already paying, both at the pump and the grocery store, for the 10 percent ethanol blend we now have.

While the increase would be a boon for ethanol producers, whose stocks rose last week as the bill passed the Senate, the benefits for consumers are less clear.

The increased production itself may be unattainable. Ethanol remains a fuel without a real market. It exists only because the government pays for it.

Congress not only wants to broaden that subsidized market, it's betting that doing so will lead to the development of more economic feedstocks such as the elusive "cellulosic



LOREN STEFFY

ethanol," the glimmering El Dorado of biofuels.

Ethanol has a lower energy content than gasoline, so we use more fuel to drive the same distance. I learned that firsthand driving an ethanol-powered Chevrolet Suburban last spring.

Speaking of Love Boat-size monstrosities, Congress also wants to raise the minimum vehicle mileage standards by about 40 percent, the first increase since the mid-1970s. The standards, though, are average benchmarks, so Ford or Chevy can import the latest motorized roller skate from Europe and boast about its stingy gas mileage while still cranking out all the Hummers, Suburbans and other Galaxy-class SUVs the market will bear.

We could simply call it a good start and hope for more ethanol next year, but by then, the worst parts of this bill will be extracting a cost from all of us.

We will be paying more for everything from light bulbs to automobiles, all with the promise that we will save money later. That may be a necessary sacrifice, but it may also help push us into a recession.

Oil prices are 45 percent higher than they were last year at this time, and tanks

in part to increased ethanol production food prices are creeping toward record levels. Government economists tell us these costs don't count toward inflation, but they don't pay from the same wallets as the rest of us.

For the average consumer, food and energy costs are significant expenses, and this bill, as Rep. Joe Barton, Texas, pointed out, may do more to accelerate a recession by raising consumer prices than it does to address America's energy needs. Opening more areas to new drilling, while unpopular, would have a more immediate effect at the pump and give researchers time to develop alternatives with a viable market.

Increasing tax breaks for improving energy efficiency in our homes — from light bulbs to window seals — might make the dim chemical lighting more bearable.

Lifting trade barriers to imported sugar or sugar-based ethanol would allow the free market to decide on the most efficient and economic alternative fuel.

Those kinds of initiatives would have made the promise of the energy law easier to believe.

As it is, squinting through the glow of our congressionally mandated fluorescent bulbs, the benefits are hard to see.

'Houston Chronicle business columnist Loren Steffy can be reached at loren.steffy@chron.com. His blog is at http://blogs.chron.com/loren-steffy.'

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CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

Stamp of approval for Japanese-American vets

By Teresa Watanabe
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Months after Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government imprisoned Robert Ichikawa in a desolate World War II internment camp.

But the Torrance resident volunteered for the U.S. military anyway. He wanted, he said, to prove his loyalty to his American homeland over his ancestral land of Japan.

More than 30,000 "Nisei," or second-generation Japanese-Americans, did likewise by volunteering for military service during World War II. Many of them joined the mostly-Nisei 442nd Central Postal Directory and 100th Infantry Battalion, whose valor under fire made it among the most highly decorated units in U.S. military history.

Others joined the Military Intelligence Service as interrogators, translators and interpreters, crucial roles credited with shortening the war by as many as two years.

About 300 Nisei women served in the Women's Army Corps and Cadet Nurse Corps.

Now, as Japanese-American World War II veterans rapidly dwindle in number — many are in their 80s — their supporters are pushing

"They have stamps for flowers and animals and Elvis Presley and Superman. But these guys are living Supermen. They did so much despite all of the adversity they faced at home."

— Rabbi Shmuel Novack of Jacksonville, Fla.

for a commemorative postage stamp in their honor. And they have attracted support from an unexpected quarter: the Jewish community.

At a Los Angeles news conference this week, the Simon Wiesenthal Center and Museum of Tolerance pledged support for the campaign and called on the U.S. Postal Service to approve the proposal when its commemorative-stamp review committee meets in January.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper said his Wiesenthal Center has had a long relationship with the Nisei veterans, stemming from an initial friendship with one of them, the late Clarence Matsunaga, who helped liberate Holocaust survivors from Dachau concentration camp.

In November, Port Hueneme City Councilman Murray Rosenbluth successfully sponsored a city resolution supporting the campaign. He, too, was moved by the mostly-Nisei 522nd Field

Artillery Battalion's aid in liberating Dachau. It was a "good deed that resonated with me," Rosenbluth said at the City Council meeting.

Rabbi Shmuel Novack of Chabad, Smithside in Jacksonville, Fla., joined the campaign because his grandfather, Lt. David Novack, commanded many of the Nisei soldiers as an officer in the 100th Battalion.

The younger Novack traveled to a Las Vegas review of Nisei war veterans in November, hearing for the first time their stories of his grandfather's bravery, including shattering his leg on a land mine.

Now, Novack said, he is a passionate supporter of the stamp campaign.

"They have stamps for flowers and animals and Elvis Presley and Superman," Novack said. "But these guys are living Supermen. They did so much despite all of the adversity they faced at home."

The campaign was



Don Seki, at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, lost an arm when his unit freed a Texas battalion trapped by the enemy in France in World War II. The Japanese American unit lost four men for every Texan saved.

launched four years ago but has just begun to pick up steam. It has attracted support from more than 50 California cities and 10,000 petition signers.

Community organizations, such as the American Jewish Committee and Japanese American Citizens League, have endorsed the campaign. So have numerous federal and state lawmakers, including Sen. Daniel Inouye, D-

Hawaii, a veteran of the 442nd who lost an arm in battle.

Proposed resolutions are pending in Congress and in several states, said Wayne Osako, stamp campaign chair.

Osako said the Postal Service has issued commemorative stamps honoring minority veterans in the past. It issued a stamp in 1994 honoring Hispanic veterans and

another a decade later recognizing the black Buffalo Soldiers. The Nisei veterans stamp would be the first to honor an Asian-American military group.

The Postal Service's citizens' stamp advisory committee will review the proposal in a selection process that usually takes about three years, Osako said. The veterans stamp could be issued in 2010.

J. Russell Coffey, oldest American World War I veteran, dies

By John Seewer
Associated Press writer

TOLEDO, Ohio — J. Russell Coffey, the oldest known surviving U.S. veteran of World War I, has died. The retired teacher, one of only three U.S. veterans from the "war to end all wars," was 108.

Coffey died Thursday at the Briar Hill Health Campus in North Baltimore, where he had lived for the past four or five years, said Gaye Boggs, nursing director at the nursing home. No cause of death has been deter-

mined, she said Friday. His health began failing in October.

More than 4.7 million Americans joined the military from 1917-1918. Coffey never saw combat because he was still in basic training when the war ended.

The two remaining U.S. veterans are Frank Buckles, 106, of Charles Town, W.Va., and Harry Richard Landis, 108, of Sun City Center, Fla., according to the Veterans Affairs Department. In addition, John Babcock, 107, of Spokane, Wash., served in the Canadian army and is

the last known Canadian veteran of the war.

Coffey once confided to his daughter, Betty Jo Larsen, that he wished people would remember his contributions rather than his old age. "He told me 'even a prune can get old,'" she said last spring. She died in September.

Coffey had enlisted in the Army while he was a student at Ohio State University in October 1918, a month before the Allied powers and Germany signed a cease-fire agreement. He was discharged a month after the war ended.



J. Russell Coffey, the oldest known living World War I veteran in the U.S., talks to a reporter in April at Shady Side Center in North Baltimore, Ohio. Coffey died Thursday, according to a funeral home.

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Buhl High to launch START program

Tutoring sessions aimed at raising graduation rates

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

"What we're trying to do is bring student performance up," said Mike Gemar during Tuesday's Buhl-School Board meeting.

Gemar said the high school will begin the Students Taking A Right Turn program during the second semester, Jan. 21, as a way to increase learning, decrease failure rates and create a culture of success at Buhl High School.

The program, Gemar said, will occur every school day and impact students with a D or F grade, as well as students who are not turning in assignments. These students will be required to attend tutoring sessions.

Students will be assigned a START adviser who will assist them in making sure work is turned in and that performance increases.

"Will this replace or complement Saturday school?" asked Trustee Ken McDonald.

No, the START program would not replace Saturday classes, as they are used as both academic and disciplinary purposes, said Gemar. "I want to stress that this is not designed for disciplinary reasons. This is to focus on the academic," he said.

Gemar said that Twin Falls High School has used the program and is seeing results. He hopes the new approach will raise graduation rates and better prepare students for college. Even students who aren't required to attend the extra tutoring time but want to participate will be rewarded with an hour-long lunch period, those required to participate in START will get the normal 30-minute lunch break.

"This sounds like a good program," said Trustee Jay Anderson.

The school will try the program during this school year's second semester. The district will then critique its performance before deciding whether or not to continue with it next year.

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

Salvation Army gives families holiday boxes

By Hilary Johnson
Times-News correspondent

The last of the Twin Falls Salvation Army holiday food boxes were distributed Friday afternoon at the organization's kitchen, 348 4th Ave. N. More than 500 children and 250 adults were served.

Online

See Friday's activity at the Salvation Army at Magicvalley.com

Kelly Pensabene, social director of the Twin Falls Salvation Army, said clients are mostly those on a fixed-income.

People started signing up for the holiday food baskets Dec. 3.

"Everyone is just paycheck-to-paycheck," Pensabene said of the clients, noting that if

Sit-down dinner

The Salvation Army will host a sit-down meal for anyone who wishes to attend, 348 4th Ave. N. in Twin Falls. For more information: 733-8720.

Illness or other adversities happen, it becomes even more difficult for the families. This is the first year Pensabene has overseen the entire production of food and gift donations and distribution.

"It all went really smoothly, thanks to the detention center kids," she said, noting that volunteers stayed late organizing the night before. "They are all coming out and help-



ing us, all these wonderful kids."

Tara Davis, who monitors community service for the Juvenile Probation Depart-

ment in Twin Falls, brought Friday she brought seven youth to help.

"We love it," Davis said.

Tina Becker, a Salvation Army employee, stands in front of a semi-trailer filled with turkeys and other frozen food for families Friday afternoon. "I keep on hoping more cars will show," Becker said as he waited for 20 families that had yet to pick up their Christmas food donations.

Amarda Simasone from the Snake River Youth Center, said she enjoyed helping.

See DONATIONS, Page B2

MOVING DAY



Taylor Alarcon, a fourth grader at Central Elementary School in Jerome, fills her new cubby with school books Friday at Summit Elementary School. "It's exciting for the fourth grade," says Eva Meyerhoeffer, the vice principal at Central. She said the move will help families of children that were previously separated due to fourth grade classes being divided between two different schools.

New Jerome school is like an early 'Christmas gift'

By Carol Stephens
Times-News correspondent

Although Friday morning was cold and windy, Jerome fourth-graders were bubbling with excitement as they carried books from their old school, Central Elementary, to their new school, Summit Elementary.

"The new school is like a Christmas gift," said student Nicole McDermott.

That sentiment was echoed by Vice Principal Eva Meyerhoeffer. "It's our gift

to them," she said. "It took three tries to pass the bond, but their (the students') smiles are worth it. This is the first time the fourth-graders are all together in one hall, and here they have light."

Central Elementary had small windows, Meyerhoeffer said, and one room only had one window.

Some of the students were a little sad about leaving their former school, so Meyerhoeffer said they had them pick their favorite thing at Central and took a picture of the student standing by it.

All the students said goodbye, leaving their hand prints in the school's basement.

The students were eager to add why they approved of the new school.

"It's new. I love it," said Anna Hanks. Dallon Sultt said he thought the new gym was the best part of Summit, while McKenzie Dowton liked the idea that they are the first students to use the new school.

Please see SUMMIT, Page B2

Getting in the spirit of the season

Wendell students pass out gifts, food to area families

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

With the hustle and bustle defining the weeks prior to Christmas, one can easily forget about the families who just flat can't afford a turkey or ham dinner, gifts or even a tree.

For more than 15 years Wendell schools have held a food and toy drive with the aim of making sure area children don't go without the items that some people tend to take for granted during the holidays.

On Friday, 50 high school volunteers, along with 25 community members, spent the morning filling food boxes and wrapping gifts for 90 families and 300 children in the Wendell area.

Not only do the baskets contain gifts for children to unwrap Christmas morning, and food for a holiday meal, but organizers try to provide extra staples such as cereal, potatoes and bread so that children don't go hungry during the extended school break.

"The High School Student Council really helps spearhead this project," said Rebecca Ashmead, chairwoman of the Wendell Food Basket Committee. "The entire community really deserves the accolades, because so

See STUDENTS, Page B2



Wendell High School students Krista Merrill, 17, and Kayla Neal, 17, sort toys Friday morning at the high school. The Wendell Student Council spearheaded a community food and toy drive to help provide gifts and meals to 90 families and 300 children throughout the Wendell area.

WANTED in the Magic Valley

Name: Abraham McGrew
Age: 20
Description: 6 feet, 10 inches tall, 205 pounds, black hair, brown eyes; has multiple tattoos

Wanted for: Failure to appear; original charge, burglary bond, \$100,000

The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office asks anyone with information about McGrew to call 735-1911 or Crime Stoppers at 732-5387, where tipsters can remain anonymous and might be eligible for a cash reward.

Dog sledding returns to Camas Prairie

By Amy Ballard
Times-News correspondent

FAIRFIELD — Lin Vanskike just turned 90, but he remembers the dog sled races in the 1920s and '30s like they were yesterday.

The only way into town in winter was by sleigh, sleds or dog sled. Homesteaders from all around the prairie gathered on Saturdays to socialize, pickup their groceries, and take in a dog sled or skijoring race. Local businesses contributed prizes of a new pair of gloves, a hat or a sweater.

"Those were the good old days for me," Vanskike, now of Truth or Consequences, N.M., said Thursday. As a lad, he owned the fastest sled dog on the Camas



Lin Vanskike circa 1928, at about age 11, with his shepherd crane Towser in downtown Fairfield, where they once many dog sled races.

Prairie. A big shepherd crane, "through town in a minute, 35 Towser, pulled the young Vanskike to victory in many of the races. Once, he and Towser, "This weekend, dog sled made the six-block loop, teams from throughout the

West will gather here just like in the old days to test their speed. Camas County resident and race marshal Dennis Stitt partnered with fellow mushers, the City of Fairfield, the Camas Chamber of Commerce, and the Camas County School District to bring an early-season dog sled challenge he thinks "could become an annual event."

Information: Dennis Stitt, 764-2688.

Please see RACES, Page B2

DANGERS OF TOBACCO



Fourth-graders at St. Nicholas Catholic School in Rupert learned about the effects of smoking at a presentation Nov. 30. Minidoka County School District nurse Laurie Stimpson showed the students a DVD and visual aid depicting the types of damage tobacco can cause, including an actual lung from a deceased cancer patient. From left, Anna Teller, Jia Camarena, Suleyma Altamirillo and front, Colton Dwight and Kaylee Knopp.

Donations

Continued from page B1

"It is my first time here," she said. "I just didn't think we even had something like this."

Many of the volunteers who stayed to distribute food were former donation recipients.

Aleksandr and Tamara Vereshchagin, recipients of holiday food baskets and regulars at the food kitchen, are citizens of the United States who emigrated from Russia.

"We very happy to be in United States," said Tamara with a smile. "Very, very kind people."

Area Salvation Army officials are not sure how much money has been raised this year, because the red kettle donation pots have not yet been collected.

Local donations to the

Salvation Army never see the national headquarters, said Becky Bonnett, business manager of the Twin Falls office.

"It stays right here in our community," she said. "We feed lunch to over 50 people a day. We also, on the average, give about 150 poor food boxes a month."

But Bonnett said helping the needy with food, utilities and clothing are just a few of the services the organization provides.

Pensabene said she thanks the community for its generous support.

"If our community doesn't support us, we don't get to stay open," added Bonnett.

Hilary Johnson may be reached at mjhljohnson@gmail.com.

Students

Continued from page B1

many people, organizations and businesses make this happens. We couldn't do it without the effort of everyone."

Senior class member Kyrissa Merrill, 17, spent the morning wrapping and sorting toys.

"This makes me feel so good, because we are doing something that really makes a difference for a lot of people," Merrill said.

Some students such as Julianna Rodolfo, 18, go above and beyond to make the project a success.

Rodolfo's spent countless hours on the phone pitching the cause to area businesses in hopes of upping cash donations to purchase food. Her efforts helped bring in more than \$3,000.

Magic Valley food drive donations this year have been down.

"I was on the phone a lot," said Rodolfo. "I heard that donations were down and I wanted to do everything I could to help. Not one business I called turned me down. Each and everyone one of them contacted helped out."

This is Rodolfo's third year assisting in the high school project and said the payoff is in seeing happy parents and kids come and pick up the goodies. Food and gift boxes were scheduled to be picked up by applicants Friday afternoon.

"They come in smiling and feel good because someone cares. They are all really thankful for the stuff and they all really need it," Rodolfo said.

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

Summit

Continued from page B1

"It's cool," said Courtney Argyle. "The best school I've been in."

While the students and teachers were busy getting set up in the classrooms, the school's maintenance crew loaded up desks at Central and unloaded them at Summit. Principal Alice Hocklander praised the

men, saying, "They are the real heroes of the move. They have been working hard for weeks."

Hocklander said the new school will make a definite difference for the students, not only in the pride they feel for the school and community, but also in having a better learning environment. She said all the light

they will have in Summit's classrooms will aid in the learning process.

After Friday morning exertions, the students boarded the bus and went back to Central for a pre-Christmas vacation assembly.

Not only do the students have a new school to come back to after the New Year,

Races

Continued from page B1

Local businesses donated to a \$1,000 purse — an upgrade from the old days — and any profit will go to Camas County Schools, whose mascot is the Musher. Stitt said Wednesday he hopes the event will boost school spirit.

No Camas County residents have registered for any of the four race categories, but Stitt offered to sponsor a high school student. Although some students were interested, safety concerns won out.

"I just didn't see putting a kid out there on a sled without any training," Stitt said.

Several Idaho mushers have registered including Twin Falls resident Shannon McLinnans. Other teams hail from Utah, Montana and Oregon.

"We've had great commu-

nity support," Stitt said Wednesday. "Fairfields really came together. We even had some people out there breaking in the trail with sleds." The trails start on Camas Avenue and lead north toward Wells Summit with the longest loop totaling 30 inviting miles.

Before paved highways, snowmobiles and four-wheel drive, dog sledding could mean a whole lot more than just winning a race in the crisp winter air. Dog sleds linked a snowbound community with mail and supplies. Roads to the prairie were inadequate even in winter. In winter they were impassible, except to a few postal workers who braved the elements by dog sled to get the mail through.

In 1912, the Oregon Short Line came to Fairfield, and carried with it a mail con-

Everard Franklin Gergen

Everard Franklin Gergen, 82, died peacefully on Friday, Dec. 14, 2007, at Ashley Memory Care Center in Redmond, Ore., with family members by his side.



A service was held Monday, Dec. 17, at the St. Anthony Catholic Church in Portland, Ore., where he was married more than 50 years ago.

Everard was born Aug. 12, 1925, in Idaho Falls, to Nick and Ada Feltman Gergen, the third of seven children. While he was growing up, the family lived in Idaho Falls, Hansen, Eden and finally settled in Hazelton, where he attended schools. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1945, where he served in the Third United States Army Campaign during World War II. He earned the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, the Bronze Campaign Ribbon with 2 Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged in 1945 with the rank of sergeant.

Everard started working for local farmers as a young teenager and was always anxious to learn and do his best on any job he was given. After his discharge from the service, he farmed with his brothers and others for several years and eventually went into the custom haying business. He was a self-taught mechanic and welder and was meticulous about the care and maintenance of his equipment and machinery.

Everard married Phyllis Avery, of Portland, Ore., in 1956. Two sons, Martin G. and James Richard, completed their family in 1961. They continued farming locally for several years, then moved to Tillamook, Ore., in 1971. They owned and operated a restaurant. A few years later, another move took them to Redmond, where again they bought and operated a restaurant. After they sold that business, Everard returned to working with farmers of the Madras-Redmond area during the summers. During the spring planting and fall harvest seasons, he loved to return to

this area and work with his brothers, Bernard and Jerry, and nephew, Kevin, and to run his own truck, hauling seed and other farm produce. He enjoyed those weeks back in the old neighborhood, visiting, enjoying meals and playing cards with friends and family here.

Everard was an uncomplicated, humble man who loved and enjoyed his family above all else. He appreciated the simple things of life — a friendly smile, winning a game of cards, finishing a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle, time with his brothers, and the companionship of his beloved animals, Snapper, Boer and Scout. He also enjoyed a few special friends over the years. Aside from those favorites, the thing he liked best was work. Whatever else he did during his life, he was always a farmer at heart.

Everard is survived by his wife of 51 years, Phyllis Avery Gergen of Redmond, Ore.; two sons, Marty (and fiancée Joyce Graft) of Portland and Jim (Lindy) of Bend, Ore.; two grandchildren, Megan Gergen of Helena, Mont., and Jacob Gergen of Twin Falls; five step-grandchildren; a sister, Gayle (Mercer) Stover; a brother, Jerry (Pat) Gergen; and a sister-in-law, Carol Gergen, all of Hazelton. He is also survived by a special, well-loved sister-in-law, Jeannine Huston of Gresham, Ore., who gave selflessly of her time and energy to help care for Everard during his last illness; another sister-in-law, Pat (Bob) Shannon; and brother-in-law, Lorin Avery, both of Portland, Ore., and many special nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by an infant sister, Goldie Gergen; his brothers, Don, Bernard and Ferris Gergen; sister-in-law, Pat Deis Gergen; and brother-in-law, Vernon Huston.

He was a devoted man who will always remain dear to the hearts of every one who knew and loved him. For those wishing to do so, memorials may be given to Central Oregon Hospice, 2698 NE Courtney Drive, Suite 101, Bend, OR 97701; and/or to St. Anthony Catholic Church, 3818 SE 79th Ave., Portland, OR 97206.

DEATH NOTICES

Fred J. Walmsley

HAGERMAN — Fred J. Walmsley, 76, of Hagerman, died Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007, at his residence. A memorial service will be conducted 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Living Waters Presbyterian Church in Wendell.

Patricia Korb

BURLEY — Patricia Korb, 73, of Burley, died Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at Countryside Care in Burley.

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

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

Lois Kroft

Lois Kroft, 81, of Twin Falls, passed into a higher plane at 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007.

She did not experience any pain, but her left side was paralyzed for several weeks. She passed quietly in her home with her husband holding her hand.

She was born June 1, 1926, in Angus, Ind., to Charles and Emma Johnson. Soon after her birth, they moved to David City, Neb. Lois attended the school system in David City and graduated

with honors. She married Richard Kroft on June 23, 1946, and they were married 61 years. They had two daughters, Jolene Hoppe of Arcadia, Calif., and Susan Nicholson of Twin Falls. They have lived in Nebraska, California, Arizona, Montana and Twin Falls. Lois was a wonderful wife, mother and grandmother and will be missed by all who knew her.

Lois is survived by her husband, Richard; two daughters, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was cremated at Parkside Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls. A memorial service will be held later in Arizona.

SERVICES

Vida E. Doty of Wendell, funeral at 10 a.m. today at Farmer Funeral Chapel in Butte.

Patricia Gibson of Rupert, funeral Mass at 11 a.m. today at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church, 118 E. 3rd, in Rupert (Hansen Mortuary Chapel).

Rose Marie Schaeffer of Twin Falls, memorial service at 11 a.m. today at the St. Nicholas Assembly of God Church, 709 Locust in Butte.

Ronald Smith Tanner of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Rupert LDS 5th Ward Chapel, 324 E. 18th St.; visitation one hour before the funeral today at the church (Hansen Mortuary Chapel).

Jeffrey Edward Petersen of Twin Falls, funeral at 11 a.m. today at the Twin Falls LDS West Stake Center, 667 Harrison St. (Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Calvin C. "Cal" Hahn of Boise, funeral at noon today at the King of Glory Lutheran Church in Burley (Alden-Wagoner Funeral Chapel in Boise).

Ewald Theophilus "E.T." Thwaet of Twin Falls, memorial service at noon today at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Twin Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Edward Laats of Twin Falls, rosary prayer service at 12:30 p.m. and funeral Mass at 1 p.m. today at St.

Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, 161 56th Ave. E. in Twin Falls (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

Terry Paul Weeks of Twin Falls, funeral at 2 p.m. today at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Fariss May of Rupert, funeral at 2 p.m. today at the Hansen Mortuary Chapel, 710 3rd St.; visitation one hour before the funeral today at the mortuary.

K. Marle Pierce of Twin Falls, memorial service at 3 p.m. Sunday at White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Edith Louise Woodall Stacey of Twin Falls, open house for family and friends from noon to 4 p.m. Wednesday at Edith's home, 663 Alders Drive N. in Twin Falls (Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls).

David Arthur Craner of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Thursday at the Star LDS Church, 100 S. 200 W. in Burley; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Hansen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:40 a.m. Thursday at the church.

Jennie Marie Egbert of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the Springdale LDS Church, 559 E. 200 S. in Burley; visitation from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at Hansen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and 10 to 10:45 a.m. Friday at the church.

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ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS Movie Gift - Adult - \$14.95 (PG) 2:00 • 2:45 • 4:30 • 5:00 (PG) P S N O V	BURLEY THEATRE 100 S. 200 W. BURLEY MR. WOODCOCK Movie Gift - Adult - \$14.95 (PG-13) 2:00 • 7:15 • 9:45 (PG-13) P S N O V
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<p>Claudine Weeks - aka Trujillo has Twin Falls warrant. Up to \$1000.00 anonymous reward for information leading to her arrest. DOB: 10/24/65, (42) HT: 5'7", WT: 175, Brown eyes, Black hair. Long term resident in Rupert, Heyburn, Burley and Twin Falls areas. May be visiting Heyburn or Twin Falls area for Holidays.</p> <p>Please call with any information!</p> <p>CALL NOW - 735-0030 OR 1-800-513-9681</p> <p>This paid advertisement in no way authorizes any bail agent, bounty hunter, or other private person to attempt to apprehend and/or arrest the person identified herein. Rewards paid ONLY for information leading to the arrest and cannot be paid to defendant, law enforcement officials and/or other governmental agencies.</p> <p>FAST BALD BOND, Inc LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED - over 11 yrs</p>	

Hundreds seek answers on Payette nuclear plant plan

PAYETTE (AP) — An executive with a company that is considering building a nuclear power plant outside this southwest Idaho city says a decision to pursue permitting and construction could come as early as next fall.

Bill Fehrman, president of MidAmerican Nuclear Energy Co., told about 400 people at a meeting here Thursday night that more answers will be forthcoming as the company decides whether to build the plant. For many at the meeting, the biggest concern about the project appeared to be whether there is enough water to go around. Payette is a high desert town tied to farmland located near the confluence of the Snake and Payette rivers.

"Where are we going to get the water when even our farmers can't get enough?" asked Karl Key, a Payette carpenter.

The reactor would use an estimated 25,000 acre-feet of water annually, more than a quarter of the water stored in Lucky Peak Reservoir near Boise, Fehrman said.

The company has several options for buying water and is studying strategies to get it at the least cost and without hurting existing water users, he said.

Walt Bosse, a retired cement plant supervisor, quizzed Fehrman on environmental safeguards the

company intends to implement.

"If they have a problem, they're going to flood the reactor," Bosse said. "What are they going to do with that water?"

Fehrman said many of the details will come later when the company selects a reactor design and completes nearly a year of study just to determine whether to move forward.

If company executives give initial approval, the project would face another four-year review by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As part of its review, NRC scientists would take an even closer look at the environmental issues, Fehrman said.

The idea has attracted early support from some. Duane Youngberg, a Payette businessman, said he was excited about the plant's economic potential and had no worries about safety.

"I pulled up a map of nuclear sites," Youngberg said. "The East Coast is dotted with them. What do we have to be afraid of?"

Peter Rickards, an anti-nuclear activist from Twin Falls, suggested radiation is a chief concern and he urged residents to press lawmakers to enact laws to stop the project.

"Let's not let it into Idaho," Rickards said, drawing brief applause from the crowd.

Former Idaho Sen. James

McClure has been hired as a consultant by MidAmerican, a subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Co., based in Des Moines, Iowa. That company owns Rocky Mountain Power, which serves eastern Idaho.

McClure, from Payette, told the crowd that a nuclear plant would be an economic boon to the community. He said the current assessed valuation of Payette County is just over \$1 billion. Bringing a plant to the county, he said, would increase that value to as much as \$10 billion.

"It's a very, very good deal for Payette County," said McClure, who supported nuclear power initiatives when he served as chairman of the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Others were not convinced. Tim Kennedy of New Plymouth, said the plant is projected to be built on some of his favorite hunting grounds, and he is concerned about living downwind.

"You'll see me on horseback with a protest sign whenever you go," he said to a round of applause.

The company — which has built fossil fuel plants and renewable-energy projects, but not nuclear power plants — has been doing geologic testing on 3,300 acres of private land about 70 miles north of Boise near Paddock Valley Reservoir.



Attorney Mark Geragos, left, representing Krivor Sarkisyan, right, and his family, speaks Friday during a news conference in Los Angeles. The family of a 17-year-old girl, who died hours after her health insurer Cigna HealthCare belatedly decided to pay for a liver transplant, plans to sue the company, Geragos said.

Family to sue insurer in dispute over transplant for girl who died

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The family of a 17-year-old leukemia patient blamed Cigna Corp. on Friday for her death, saying the health insurance giant's initial refusal to pay for a liver transplant contributed to her death.

"They took my daughter away from me," said Natalie Sarkisyan's father, Krivor, with tears in his eyes at a news conference at his lawyer's office.

The Philadelphia-based insurer had initially refused to pay for the procedure, saying it was experimental. The company reversed the decision Thursday as about 150 nurses and community members rallied outside of its office in Glendale in suburban Los Angeles. Natalie died just hours later.

The insurer "maliciously killed" Natalie because it did not want to hear the expense of her transplant and aftercare, said family attorney Mark Geragos. He did not say when or in what court he would file the civil lawsuit.

Geragos also said he would ask the district attorney's office to press murder or manslaughter charges against Cigna, an allegation that one legal expert described as difficult to prove and "a little bit of grandstanding."

A district attorney's office spokeswoman declined to

comment, saying it would be inappropriate to do so until Geragos submits evidence supporting his request.

The family's "loss is immeasurable, and our thoughts and prayers are with them," Cigna said in a news release Friday. "We deeply hope that the outpouring of concern, care and love that are being expressed for Natalie's family help them at this time."

Natalie was diagnosed with leukemia at 14 and received a bone marrow transplant from her brother the day before Thanksgiving. She later developed a complication that caused her liver to fail. She was in a vegetative state for some time, her mother Tilda said.

Natalie was taken off life support at the University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center Thursday, her mother said. Natalie died within the hour.

In a Dec. 11 letter to Cigna, four doctors had appealed to the insurer to reconsider. They said patients in similar situations who undergo transplants have a six-month survival rate of about 65 percent.

One of Natalie's doctors, Robert Venick, declined to comment on her case. UCLA Medical Center staff refused to make her other doctors

available for comment.

The case raised the question in medical circles of whether a liver transplant is a viable option for a leukemia patient because of the immune-system-suppressing medication such patients must take to prevent organ rejection. Such medication, while preserving the transplanted liver, could make the cancer worse.

Transplantation is not an option for leukemia patients because the immunosuppressant drugs "tend to increase the risk and growth of any tumors," said Dr. Stuart Knecht, who heads the liver transplant program at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and was not commenting specifically on Natalie's case.

The procedure "would be futile," he said.

Geragos' attempt to get the district attorney to press murder and manslaughter charges against Cigna would be difficult to prove unless the defense can show that the company somehow intentionally caused Natalie's death, said Rebecca Lonerger, a law professor at the University of Southern California.

"My personal opinion is that it is a little bit of grandstanding," said Lonerger, a former Los Angeles County and federal prosecutor.

Utah family refuses to return adopted boy to biological father

COEUR D'ALENE — A Utah couple are refusing to return their adopted baby to its biological father in Coeur d'Alene, despite a judge's order earlier this month.

Matt Tenneson, 20, is charged and said he may ask a judge to uphold the order. Callie Nielson of American Fork, Utah, with a crime for refusing to return his son.

"We're working with the police in Idaho and Utah," Tenneson said Thursday. "They are in direct violation of the court order."

Last week, Magistrate Barry Watson ruled that Tenneson, 20, be given tem-

porary primary custody of his 5½-month-old son, and ordered the Nielsons to relinquish custody.

The Nielsons told a Salt Lake City newspaper they intend to wage a legal battle to keep the baby.

"I plan to celebrate Christmas with Harvey and be grateful for every day we have him," said Callie Nielson in an interview with the *Deseret Morning News* on Wednesday.

No one answered the telephone at the Nielson home on Friday afternoon. Larry Jenkins, attorney for the Nielsons, did not immedi-

ately return a telephone message.

The birth mother, Camille Knight, gave up custody of the child last summer, shortly after he was born.

But Tenneson never waived his parental rights and has won several court rulings in Idaho against the adoption agency, LDS Family Services.

The custody battle is testing state jurisdiction. Representatives from the attorneys general in Idaho and Utah both maintain the private adoption is a civil matter and they don't want to get involved.

Crews save 2 wild elk from Colorado pond; 2 others die

PAGOSA SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Emergency crews who were "making things up as we went" saved two wild elk that were trapped in a frigid pond after breaking through the ice, but two others died.

The animals were spotted struggling in the pond on private land south of Pagosa Springs, 200 miles southwest of Denver, last weekend. Division of Wildlife officials said Friday.

An impromptu team of wildlife officers, sheriff's deputies, firefighters, police and search-and-rescue members pulled three cow elk out, but one was euthanized when it appeared it wouldn't survive.

The fourth, a young bull, died before he could be rescued.

The elk apparently were walking toward open water on Dec. 15 when they broke through the ice, DOW spokesman Joe Lewandowski said.

"It's not clear who discovered them, but the State Patrol alerted DOW officer James Romero and emergency responders. They were panicked and struggling, but appeared they had enough energy to last another 24 hours," Romero said.

Romero and volunteer firefighter Chad McKain donned ice rescue suits and rope towels and crept out on the ice.

"Then we just started making things up as we went," said Mike Reid,

another DOW officer.

To Romero's surprise, a cow elk swam up to him. He and McKain tied ropes around her and the rescuers pulled her ashore. The crew retrieved another elk the same way, but she dashed back into the water and had to be pulled out again.

By this time the young bull had died. Thinking the second cow elk had gone back to protect him, the crew dragged his body out.

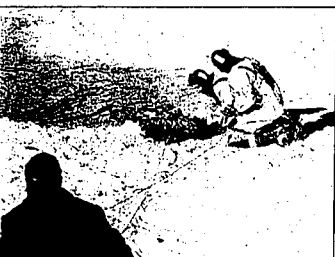
The last elk fought her way back into the pond three times but eventually was brought to shore and holed.

The crew dried the elk, drove them to Forest Service land about 20 miles away and released them. One — which had fought hardest against rescue — charged the crew, grazing a rescuer as he

and the second, killed, Lewandowski said, apparently protecting the other two. She and another cow eventually left, but the third was never able to stay on her feet and died euthanized.

"It was frustrating to see, but the deputy made the right call," Romero said. Romero said that the other two elk appeared to recover.

"I think they had a pretty good chance," he said.



Rescue workers wearing special ice-rescue suits, prepare to pull an elk out of a pond where it had become trapped near Pagosa Springs, Colo., Dec. 15.

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All Stars Only \$1.00	Jerome Cinema 4	All Stars Only \$1.00	Jerome Cinema 4
I am Legend vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	I am Legend vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Mr. Magwitch's Wonder vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Mr. Magwitch's Wonder vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
First Class vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	National Treasure vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	First Class vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	National Treasure vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Wall to Wall vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Wall to Wall vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	No Country for Old Men vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	No Country for Old Men vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	National Treasure vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	National Treasure vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
No Country for Old Men vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	P.S., I Love You vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	No Country for Old Men vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	P.S., I Love You vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
National Treasure vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Beowulf vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	National Treasure vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Beowulf vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Avatar vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Avatar vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Walk Hard vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Walk Hard vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	This Christmas vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	This Christmas vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Into the Wild vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Golden Compass vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45	Into the Wild vs. Fri. Mon. 12:30 - 2:45
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Muslim pilgrims say farewell as hajj winds down in Saudi Arabia

By Scheherazade Faramarzi
Associated Press writer

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — After five days of exhaustion and hardships, Muslim pilgrims were saddened to see the annual hajj come to a close Friday, ending what for many is a spiritual high point of their lives.

"Hidding farewell is hard," said Afaf al-Nuweili, her voice choking with emotion. "I wish I could stay longer — in a place of worship where you pray and get closer to God."

Al-Nuweili, a 61-year-old retired teacher from Egypt, spent her nights during the hajj sleeping on roadides in her tent and her days moving from ritual to ritual with some 4 million other pilgrims. Still, she is ecstatic. "I feel I am home again. Hajj is all about enduring hardship and suffering in order to wash away our sins," she said. "I hope God will give me strength to sustain my hajj spiritually after I get back home because it's going to be difficult for me to come back again."

Amelia Hallaq, a 47-year-old Syrian, sat on a plastic mat on the pavement.

"I'd be even happy if we could stay at least another week," she said. "Believe me, I am sad to be leaving."

After performing the ritual of stoning pillars that represent the devil in Mina on Friday, pilgrims proceeded to the nearby holy city of Mecca to bid "farewell" to the Kaaba by circling it seven times in the final rite of the hajj. Muslims around the world face the cube-shaped stone structure draped in black cloth during the five daily prayers.

The pilgrimage ended without any major incidents, but even as the pilgrims were preparing to journey back to their countries Friday, the Interior Ministry announced it had arrested a group of militants plotting to disrupt the hajj with attacks on the holy sites.

Interior Ministry spokesman Mansour Al-Tunki said the arrests came about a week ago but gave no further details on the number or identity of those arrested. Saudi-owned satellite television station Al-Arabiya described them as Saudis.

Thousands milled through the massive four-story mosque in the center of Mecca housing the Kaaba and completed the final steps of their pilgrimage with more than a hint of sadness.

"It is a difficult and bitter thing," Fadhel Abdallah, a 33-year-old Yemeni petroleum engineer, said as he sat in the mosque reading his Koran. "The atmosphere here is so spiritual that one cannot experience it anywhere else."

He said he had left behind the anxiety and stress that plagued him at home.

Above the Kaaba, on the vast mosque's third level, a pack of Pakistani friends watched the slow, hypnotic movement of the faithful around the courtyard.

"When you simply look at the Kaaba you feel rewarded by God," said Usman Haidar, a 32-year-old in the Pakistani army, who sported a long, luxuriant beard. "It is difficult to leave this place, anyone who comes here is the luckiest person because God has brought them here."

His companion, Nadim Haq, a 43-year-old businessman, said that pilgrims always feel lonely when they depart "because they leave part of themselves behind."

Friday is also the last day of the three-day holiday of Eid al-Adha marked by Muslims around the world.

On the last day of the hajj, pilgrims also walk the distance between hills in Safa and Marwa, re-enacting the search by Abraham's wife,

Hagar, for water for her infant son Ishmael in the desert. After her seventh run, the spring — known as Zamzam — emerged miraculously under Ishmael's feet.

"I feel like I am flying on an angel's wings," said Abbas Ibrahim, a 50-year-old Iranian teacher. "I feel my feet are not on the ground."

"Can there be any better place than here?" interjected Gol-Ahrou Qazizadeh, 67, a fellow Iranian.



Muslim pilgrims pray outside the Grand Mosque after finishing their Hajj in Mina near Mecca, Saudi Arabia, Friday. Despite five days of exhaustion and hardships, Muslim pilgrims were saddened to see the annual hajj wind down to a close Friday, ending what for many is a spiritual high point of their lives.

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INSIDE: Pats QB Brady earns more accolades, C4



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SATURDAY
DECEMBER 22, 2007

INSIDE: Local sports & NBA, C2 | Scoreboard, C3 | AP awards, C4 | NFL, C5 | Money, C6-7 | Weather, C8

Smith's passing leads FAU to 44-27 victory in New Orleans Bowl

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Howard Schnellenberger is still undefeated in bowl games, and now so is the fledgling college football program he built from nothing.

Rusty Smith threw for 336 yards and a New Orleans Bowl record five touchdowns to lead Florida Atlantic to a 44-27 victory over Memphis on Friday night.

It was the first bowl game for FAU, which has had a football team for only seven

seasons and didn't join the NCAA's Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) until 2005.

The game also marked another meaningful step for the young Sun Belt Conference. The league champion has now won three of seven New Orleans Bowls, including the past two by convincing margins, with Troy beating Rice 41-17 last year.

It certainly wasn't the highest-profile bowl victory for Schnellenberger, who led

Miami to the 1993 national championship with an Orange Bowl triumph over Nebraska. He is now 5-0 in bowl games over his 23 seasons as a head coach. He won the 1980 Peach Bowl with Miami and two bowl games with Louisville, the 1990 Fiesta Bowl and the 1993 Liberty Bowl.

Still, this one had to be special, given that he is the father of FAU's program and the only head coach the Owls have ever known. As the final minute ticked away, the 73-year-old's



head of white hair and blue blazer were left drenched by a bucket of ice water his players dumped over him in celebration. But the old coach didn't even flinch.

Florida Atlantic started fast and never trailed. Smith had 102 yards passing and a pair of touchdown tosses in the

first 10 minutes. His second, a short pass that Delivory Edgcomb turned into a 29-yard score, gave FAU a 17-7 lead.

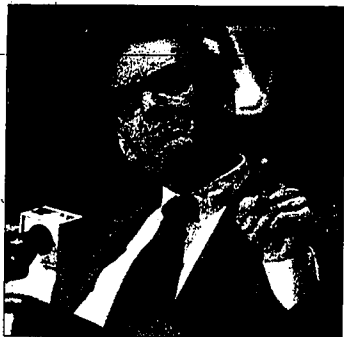
Edgcomb also set up FAU's first two scores with kickoff returns of 42 and 62 yards. He added a 4-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

Memphis quarterback Martin Hankins helped the Tigers keep the game competitive into the second half, throwing for 203 yards and three touchdowns. The Tigers got as close as 30-27, but he

left the game late in the third quarter with a right leg injury after getting tangled up in a heap of players after releasing a pass.

Reserve quarterbacks Will Hudgens and Matt Malouf finished the game for Memphis, which couldn't muster a significant threat in the final quarter.

Smith also had touchdown passes of 4 yards to Charles Pierre, 16 yards to Chris Bonner, 4 yards to Willie Rose and 16 yards to Jason Harmon.



Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig speaks during a news conference in New York, Thursday, Dec. 13.

Selig support strong among MLB owners

By Ronald Blum

Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Bud Selig could be baseball commissioner for life if he wanted.

His backing among owners is as strong as ever after the Mitchell Report, which accused owners and players of ignoring performance-enhancing drugs.

"I'm not sure exactly what you'd say was Bud's crime? I mean, what was he supposed to do?" former commissioner Fay Vincent said. "He has no magic wand. He has got to work with owners. He has to work with the union."

Two things matter most in professional sports: winning and profits. Selig has delivered both.

More clubs have a chance to win the World Series because of the revenue-sharing rules negotiated during his 15-year tenure. And the league set attendance records in 2007, topping \$6 billion in revenue for the first time.

"He has total support of the ownership, total support," Chicago White Sox chairman Jerry Reinsdorf said.

Selig received \$14.5 million in the 12 months ending Oct. 31, 2005, according to Major League Baseball's last available tax return, and owners think he's worth it.

"He's a terrific commissioner, and he's doing the right thing in trying to clean up the sport," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said through spokesman Howard Rubenstein. "I am fully supporting him."

Selig has said he plans to retire in two years, when he's 75, but some owners think they can persuade him to stay on.

"Believe me, we're going to certainly try," Reinsdorf said. "The job is not done yet. He shouldn't leave until he knows that he's accomplished all he wants to accomplish and there's somebody in place to pick up the ball and go the rest of the way."

Selig, who had owned the Milwaukee Brewers since 1970, became acting commissioner in September 1992 when clubs forced out Vincent. Selig became permanent commissioner in

Please see MLB, Page C5

Not a moment to Treasure



College of Southern Idaho point guard Kevin Galloway defends as Treasure Valley point guard Robert Moss takes the ball down court Friday night in Twin Falls.



College of Southern Idaho forward Juan Patillo goes up for two during the Golden Eagles' matchup against Treasure Valley Friday night in Twin Falls.

CSI men fly past visiting Chukars

By Eric Larsen
Times-News writer

Sometimes you're the rolled-up newspaper. Sometimes you're the puppy who went on the carpet.

The pups — Treasure Valley Community College's 11 freshmen, along with a pair of sophomores — got the Sunday edition early as the No. 2 College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team served up a 131-76 tap on the Chukars' collective backside.

The nonconference game was of little consequence to either the 12-0 Golden Eagles or the 1-0 Chukars of Ontario, Ore.

However, CSI kept its undefeated season alive while TVCC played better than it did during last week's 131-58 home loss to the Golden Eagles.

CSI won mainly on sheer size, outrebounding the visiting Chukars 62-29 behind sophomore Juan Patillo's 29 points and 14 rebounds, both game highs. The Golden Eagles pulled down 14 more offensive rebounds (43) than the Chukars grabbed in total.

"That's one of our M.O.'s. That's who we are," CSI head coach Barret Peery said. "... When we get a stat like that, that makes me feel real good."

Eight CSI players finished in double figures as freshman Daequan Montreal added 18 points and 11 rebounds. Joey Shaw finished with 13 points, while point guards Kevin Galloway and Reggie Guyton each dished out eight assists.

Every CSI player on the roster saw at least seven minutes of action, as every CSI player aside from sophomore Terry Fields scored. Fields did contribute 10 rebounds. In the end, Peery was pleased with the way his squad finished out its pre-New Year schedule.

"You can't go into the locker room after winning by 55 and be upset," Peery said. "The guys came out and did the job they needed to do."

The streets of Kimberly emptied into the CSI gymnasium as a large contingent of Friday's crowd came to see former Bulldogs standout Jason Mumm. The 6-foot-7 Chukars freshman finished with 12 points, six rebounds and six assists.

Treasure Valley was led by Shane Miller's 17 points, while Ryan Goodwin was hot early, scoring nine of his 15 points in the first half.

Please see TREASURE, Page C2

Suspect in murder of Redskins' Taylor seeks plea

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — The attorney for one of the four suspects charged with killing Washington Redskins star Sean Taylor said Friday he is talking with prosecutors about a plea agreement that may include testifying against the others.

Michael Hornung, who represents Joseph Hunt, said his client has maintained throughout that he was not aware that anyone had a weapon when they arrived at Taylor's Miami home or that violence would occur, and that he was not inside the home when Taylor was shot Nov. 26.

"He has said from the very beginning that he wants to accept responsibility for his limited role," Hornung said. "He is willing to cooperate and to speak

truthfully about that."

The attorney's comments came after a brief hearing for the four suspects, who have already filed written pleas of not guilty to charges of first-degree felony murder and armed burglary. Miami-Dade County Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy set an April 7 trial date, but indicated that might be delayed.

Murphy also expressed concern that too much investigative material was finding its way into the news media, saying he is considering issuing a gag order on the lawyers in order to ensure a fair trial.

"Hopefully it won't get to that point," Murphy told the attorneys. "Hopefully my point was made today."

A hearing was set for Jan. 8 on a request by the lawyer for suspect Charles Wardlow to seal from the public

statements made by the defendants to police. Normally most investigative material becomes public under Florida law once it is given to defense attorneys.

"There's a tremendous amount of information that's out there already," said David Brenner, who represents Wardlow. "It's unfair."

Prosecutors also filed papers asking for the statements to be sealed temporarily — including two that were videotaped — and that lawyers not publicly reveal "the contents of their clients' confessions."

"This may prejudice both the state's investigation and the co-defendants," said Assistant State Attorney Reid Rubin in the court filing.

Murphy also denied Brenner's request

Please see MURDER, Page C5



Amisha Rivera, left, mother of Eric Rivera Jr., 17, is seen as her son walks into the courtroom Friday in Miami. Rivera Jr. and three other suspects from the Fort Myers area are charged with breaking into Redskins Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor's Miami home Nov. 26 and shooting him during a confrontation in his bedroom.

SCOREBOARD

GAME PLAN

LOCAL

BOYS BASKETBALL
TV SCHEDULE
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
11 a.m.
ESPN — PapagoJacks.com
 Bowl, Southern Miss vs. Cincinnati, at Birmingham, Ala.
2:30 p.m.
ESPN — New Mexico Bowl, Nevada at New Mexico
6 p.m.
ESPN — Houston in Chicago
NFL FOOTBALL
8 p.m.
NFL — Dallas at Carolina
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
8:30 p.m.
FSN — Tennessee at Stanford

NOON
CBS — National coverage, UCLA at Michigan
ESPN — Tennessee at Xavier
2:30 p.m.
CBS — National coverage, Florida at Ohio St.
ESPN2 — Stanford vs. Texas Tech, at Austin, Mich.
4:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Texas vs. Michigan State, at Auburn, Mich.
6:30 p.m.
ESPN2 — Illinois vs. Missouri, at St. Louis, Mo.
NBA BASKETBALL
6:30 p.m.
WGN — Washington at Chicago
NFL FOOTBALL
8 p.m.
NFL — Dallas at Carolina
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
8:30 p.m.
FSN — Tennessee at Stanford

BASEBALL
APN NCA Division I
Presession Top 25

1. Arizona	42.37	496
2. Florida	42.37	496
3. Arizona St.	42.37	496
4. Arizona St.	42.37	496
5. North Carolina	42.37	496
6. North Carolina	42.37	496
7. North Carolina	42.37	496
8. North Carolina	42.37	496
9. North Carolina	42.37	496
10. North Carolina	42.37	496

BASKETBALL
NBA All-Time Top Eastern

1. Wilt Chamberlain	23,687	70
2. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar	23,687	70
3. LeBron James	23,687	70
4. Kobe Bryant	23,687	70
5. Shaquille O'Neal	23,687	70
6. Magic Johnson	23,687	70
7. Scottie Pippen	23,687	70
8. Dwyane Wade	23,687	70
9. Tim Duncan	23,687	70
10. Chris Paul	23,687	70

BASEBALL
NBA All-Time Top Western

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AP MALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: TOM BRADY

Brady makes being a superstar QB look routine

FONSBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady arrives at Gillette Stadium before the sun comes up. As always, there is work to be done, and no time to waste.

Yes, he is the superstar quarterback with the golden arm and the sharp football mind. Yes, he is in position to break Peyton Manning's single season record of 49 touchdowns passes. And yes, he is the main reason the New England Patriots are challenging the 1972 Miami Dolphins' status as the only team to go undefeated for an entire Super Bowl season.

This, however, is what teammates see and respect:

"When you see him here at 6:15 in the morning, lifting weights, watching film and working out, I think that's not a sign of a guy that's getting a big head," safety Rodney Harrison said.

And that is why Brady was both flattered at being selected The Associated Press Male Athlete of the Year, and determined to spread the honor around.

"I play in a team sport," Brady said. "Everybody I play with is responsible for what each of us accomplish as individuals and for what we all accomplish as a team."

Brady received 51 votes from members of The AP 18 more than runner-up Roger Federer, who won his fifth straight Wimbledon and fourth straight U.S. Open tennis tournament in 2007. They were followed by Tiger Woods, Manning, Barry Bonds and Josh Beckett.

Lorena Ochoa, who won eight tournaments including the Women's British Open and became the first LPGA Tour player to win \$4 million in a season, was the runaway choice as top female athlete for the second consecutive year.

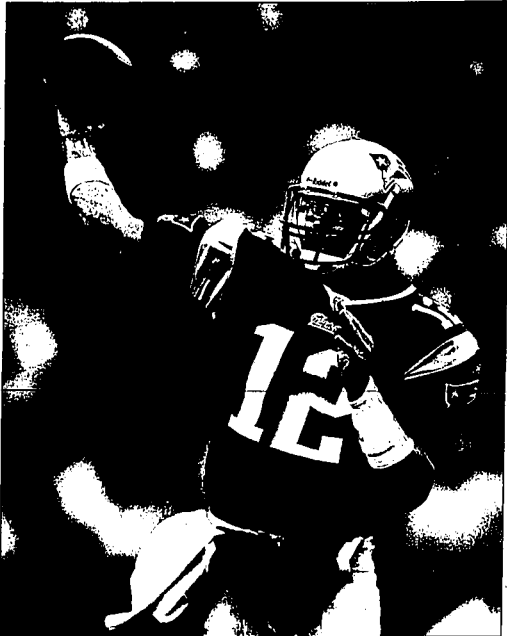
Brady, who grew up in the San Francisco area, is the first football player to win the award since quarterback Joe Montana of the 49ers in 1983 and 1980.

"You look at Joe Montana, who was one of my role models growing up, Lance Armstrong, Tiger Woods," Brady said. "They're all great role models for children and adults with how they handle themselves every time they step out in public. It's flattering to be mentioned in their company."

Armstrong won the award four consecutive years before Woods took the summer training camp, he found himself preparing for two roles: football player and father.

Brady's handsome visage with the dimpled chin has graced glossy magazines. His private life has been fodder for tabloids.

During summer training camp, he found himself preparing for two roles: football player and father.



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady throws down field during a game against the Washington Redskins at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Mass., in Oct. 28. 28 file photo.

On Aug. 22, his ex-girlfriend, actress Bridget Moynahan, gave birth to their son. By that time, Brady was dating former Victoria's Secret model Gisele Bündchen.

In the locker room two days before the birth, Brady discussed how he avoided the distractions of impending parenthood. "I'd hate to come in here and have my mind on 100 different things when that's not going to help this team at all," he said. "And then when I leave here I deal with that and my team takes ... a step backward."

The year started poorly: a 38-34 loss to Indianapolis in the AFC championship game in which the Patriots blew a 21-3 lead. It was sealed when Marvin Jackson intercepted Brady's pass with 16 seconds

left. When he left the locker room, Brady got a kiss from his mom and a hug from his dad. Then they walked down the hallway, a somber stroll in a season that ended too soon.

"It was over, that was my only thought," Brady said after the game. He and the Patriots haven't lost since then.

Brady has had plenty of help: a line with three Pro Bowl players, new receivers Randy Moss and Wes Welker and an improving running game.

Still, the offense revolves around him.

"There's nobody I'd rather have," coach Bill Belichick said. "He's done a great job for us, this year and in previous years."

Brady wasn't drafted until the

sixth round in 2000, a snub that has driven him. He took over from injured Drew Bledsoe as the starter in the third game of 2001 and won the first of his two Super Bowl MVP awards that season.

New York Jets coach Eric Mangini was an assistant coach for the Patriots in Brady's first six seasons.

"Tom was impressive from the day he got in the building," Mangini said a few days before losing to the Patriots 20-10 on Dec. 16. "As he's gotten more successful and more and more accolades, he hasn't changed his work ethic, his intensity, his selfishness."

This season Brady's Patriots have posted mind-boggling numbers. In the seventh game, he threw a franchise record six TD passes and had a perfect passer rating. The

2007 Male Athlete of the Year Voting

Athlete	Points
Tom Brady	51
Roger Federer	33
Tiger Woods	29
Barry Bonds	8
Peyton Manning	7
Josh Beckett	7
Michael Phelps	5
Alex Rodriguez	2
LeBron James	2
Floyd Mayweather	1

Patriots won their first eight games by at least 17 points each. By that time, he had thrown 30 touchdowns and only two interceptions.

In three of the next six games, he showed he hadn't lost his knack for pulling out narrow victories by coming from behind in the fourth quarter.

So, what is it that sets Brady apart from other quarterbacks?

"Poise, patience," Moss said, "and going out there determined to kill you at any given time. They can give you a fourth-and-24, and Tom's still ready to kill you."

The pretty-boy looks hide a fierce competitiveness. After throwing for the first touchdown in a 34-13 win Dec. 9, he confronted Pittsburgh cornerback Anthony Smith, who guaranteed a Steelers win, and started jawing.

"I don't care to repeat it, especially if my mother reads it," Brady said. "She wouldn't be very happy with what I said."

If you're an opponent, you don't want him mad at you. If you're a teammate, you couldn't have a better one.

"He is a legitimate superstar in every sense of the word and yet you talk to people within that locker room and they love the guy," said television commentator and Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman. "They love playing for him, they think the word of him, he takes care of those guys, the organization likes him."

Why not?

Brady does a better job deflecting praise than opponents do deflecting his passes.

"The great thing about playing quarterback here is that you're just got to do your job. You don't have to worry about a whole lot of other things, because you have great confidence that all the other guys are going to do what they're asked to do," he said. "I've just got to drop back and try to throw it to the guys in blue."

Right now Brady is doing that as well as anyone ever has.

AP FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: LORENA OCHOA

New No. 1 Ochoa keeps making history on LPGA Tour

NEW YORK (AP) — Lorena Ochoa didn't have a blueprint for becoming the best in the world, and she certainly didn't have a role model. Mexico had yet to produce anything resembling a world-class golfer, and Ochoa did not look like one at age 12.

So it was surprising when she told her coach she wanted to be No. 1.

"At that time, with the way I was playing, and being in Guadalajara, it was a little bit crazy to think that way," Ochoa said toward the end of a historic season. "But I did it. It took me a long time, but I did it."

It might have seemed like a long time from when she was 12, but she took only five years on the LPGA Tour to establish her reign.

She replaced Annika Sorenstam at No. 1 in the women's world ranking. She captured her first major championship, the Women's British Open, making history as the first female to win a professional event at St. Andrews. And she capped off the year with a fearless shot that defines her style, becoming the first LPGA Tour player to top \$4 million in one season.

Maybe it wasn't such a crazy dream.

Since won her dominance that for the second straight year, Ochoa was the overwhelming choice as the Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year. In her fifth straight year a golfer has captured the Female Athlete award, the longest streak of any sport.

Ochoa received 71 votes



Lorena Ochoa looks at the trophy after winning the ADT Championship 2007, in West Palm Beach, Fla., on Nov. 18.

from members of The Associated Press, equal to the combined total of the next seven athletes below her on the list.

She joined Sorenstam, Kathy Whitworth, Mickey Wright and Babe Zaharias as the only golfers to win the award in consecutive years.

"Being compared with such exceptional players makes me feel honored," Ochoa said in an e-mail from Mexico, where she is spending a hard-earned vacation. "My main goal is to maintain myself as the No. 1. Therefore, I can promise to

keep improving." Justine Henin, who won her third straight French Open title in tennis, was second with 17 votes. Rounding out the top five were New York Marathon winner Paula Radcliffe, Tennessee basketball player Candace Parker and Allyson Felix, the second woman in history to win three gold medals at the World Track and Field Championships.

Tom Brady, who led the New England Patriots to 14 consecutive wins and was on pace to break Peyton Manning's single season

touchdown pass record of 49, was the AP Male Athlete of the Year. Brady received 51 votes, 18 more than runner-up Roger Federer, the Swiss tennis star who won his 5th consecutive Wimbledon and 4th consecutive U.S. Open, his 11th and 12th Grand Slam titles.

Never afraid to fall, Ochoa has been scaling heights since she was a girl. She broke both wrists when she fell 15 feet from a tree at age 5. When she was 12, she trained six months to climb the snowcapped top of Pico de Orizaba, Mexico's

tallest mountain at 18,405 feet.

Her rise to No. 1 also was hard work.

Twice she had a chance to reach No. 1 by winning tournaments, but a triple bogey in the third round derailed her bid at the Kraft Nabisco Championship, and a double bogey on the final hole cost her the title at the Glens. The 26-year-old Ochoa became No. 1 during a week off in April. In her first tournament as the LPGA's top player, with a frenzied gallery in Mexico ready for a coronation, she finished two shots behind underdog Silvia Cavalleri.

Even more pressure came in the majors, the only achievement Ochoa was missing.

After blowing her chances at the Kraft Nabisco, Ochoa was tied for the lead in the U.S. Women's Open with five holes to play until two poor shots left her short again. But she buried those demons for good at the Women's British Open, where a gritty chip on the dangerous Road Hole secured a four-shot victory.

"There were a lot of people saying that I wasn't good enough, or that I couldn't win a major, or when I'm going to win a major," Ochoa said. "And I always have taken all of the comments and understood very well because I didn't win. I just think now it's a big step forward. I did it, and there's no more to say."

But she didn't pack it in. Ochoa will soak in a view from the top of a mountain, but her eyes are quick to scan

2007 Female Athlete of the Year Voting

Athlete	Points
Lorena Ochoa	71
Justine Henin	48
Paula Radcliffe	18
Candace Parker	14
Allyson Felix	8
Shawn Johnson	7
Venus Williams	6
Arta Pasaron	2

the horizon for the next mountain to climb. She won her next two starts on the LPGA Tour and finished the season with eight victories, finishing out of the top 10 only four times.

"I don't like to look back," she said. "I was always very motivated to become No. 1, because of what it meant and because of all the effort and passion I have put in during my life to golf. Now that I am No. 1, I'm even more motivated to keep giving my best."

Two of her cousins made a documentary of Ochoa this year, bringing a hand-held video camera to all the tournaments. They live in the United States, and often tried to expand Ochoa's vocabulary.

Instead of saying she had a good day during the Women's Open, she said it was "delightful," and then looked to her cousins to make sure she used the word properly.

Perhaps the next word to learn is sensational. Her play has been nothing but that for the last two years.

Bonds argues to keep all-star legal team intact

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds told a judge Friday that he wants two top-notch Bay Area defense lawyers to lead his legal team even though they previously represented "potential" witnesses against the slugger.

Bonds, who is charged with perjury and obstruction of justice for allegedly lying to a federal grand jury about his steroid use, appeared briefly in U.S. District Court after



prosecutors raised conflict-of-interest concerns about defense attorneys Allen Ruby and Chris Argueadas. Speaking softly in response to a series of questions by U.S. District Judge Susan Blanton, baseball's home

run king said he wanted the two lawyers to represent him, even though lead attorney Ruby earlier represented Bonds' personal surgeon Dr. Arthur Ting, and Argueadas represented former track star Tim Montgomery. Blanton did not immediately rule on whether to disqualify Ruby and Argueadas and asked Bonds to file a written declaration by Jan. 4. Bonds declined to comment as he

left court. Prosecutors said they probably will call Ting as a witness at trial and that they're concerned Ruby won't conduct a rigorous cross-examination of the doctor. Ting accompanied Bonds to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative to draw the slugger's blood, which was privately tested for steroids. According to the indictment charging Bonds with perjury and obstruc-

tion, two of those tests came back positive. Argueadas represented disgraced track star Montgomery and three former NFL players who testified about their steroid use to a grand jury investigating the BALCO steroids ring. By waiving conflict-of-interest issues, Bonds is precluded from appealing any conviction because of the lawyer's previous representation.

Linehan downplays Holt confrontation

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis Rams coach Scott Linehan had job security for next season before Thursday night's loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

A third season might not be such a certainty, though, after wide receiver Torry Holt uncharacteristically gave Linehan a piece of his mind near the end of the game.

Holt, the team's lone Pro Bowl representative, is a team leader who usually emphasizes the sunny side, but not this time. He was caught by TV cameras yelling at Linehan after the 51-yard interception for a touchdown on a fourth-and-10 play put the game out of reach.

Linehan downplayed the exchange after the game, saying it was not a "big deal" and was said in the "heat of the battle."

He stuck to that story on Friday.

"When you're sitting here at 3-12, I'm the first one to say everything's not all that pleasant," Linehan said. "No one likes losing. I really wish I said last night is what I say today and I'll say tomorrow."

"You can ask me that question any way you want and I'll have the same opinion on it."

Rams president John Shaw said on Dec. 10 that Linehan would be back, and that it was unfair to judge job performance because the team has so many injuries.

The Rams began the year with eight straight losses before winning three of four, but they've lost three in a row entering the season finale next Sunday at Arizona.

A former first-round pick, Holt has been the subject of offenses that produced two Super Bowl berths in a three-year stretch from 1999-2001. He's finishing off his eighth consecutive 1,000-yard season despite persistent problems with his right knee coming off arthroscopic surgery last February.

Through the years, win or lose, Holt has often seen on the sideline with a wide grin on his face. That vanished at the end of another second-half collapse.

"The Rams had closed the gap to one touchdown in the third quarter before finding

They've been outscored 130-10 in the fourth quarter this season.

Holt has only five catches the last two weeks, but offensive coordinator Greg Olson, who is in the booth on game day, didn't think that was a factor in his dis-

gruntlement. "I think it's more born out of frustration for a 3-12 season," Olson said. "No one's used to that."

Defensive coordinator Jim Haslett said he heard of the confrontation but did not witness it.

"I miss all that stuff, arguing with my guys," Haslett joked.

Linehan said it wasn't a surprise that Holt, or the rest of the roster, would be unhappy. "The Rams' loss total matches their worst, a 4-12 record in 1990, since the franchise moved to the Midwest in 1995."

Linehan declined to reveal the exact nature of Holt's tongue-lashing, saying it was "nothing specific." Apparently, Holt was taking issue with Linehan's play-calling.

"It was the situation we got in on fourth down and that was it," Linehan said. "Everything else, the rest, was between me and I. And it's over as far as I'm concerned."

Linehan said he didn't think the team had lost confidence in him.

"Well, I mean, I don't know that we're not confident," Linehan said. "We've talked about our business and we've been very competitive, especially the second half of the year. Obviously if we were winning our confidence level would be higher."

"It's not where it needs to be, that's for sure."

The last few weeks there's been heightened security surrounding the team with Linehan more tightlipped regarding injuries. Linehan confirmed only Friday a published report that quarterback Marc Bulger's setback on a sack he was called on earlier this month was due to getting struck on the head by a football during practice.

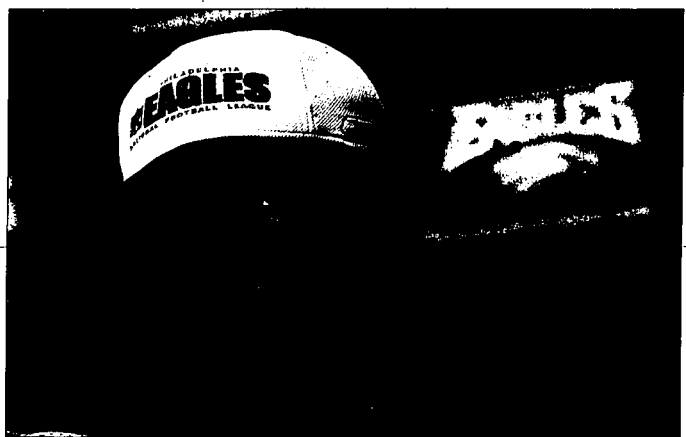
Linehan said he found out about the accident the following week, and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch disclosed the accident on Thursday. Because backup quarterback Gus Ferretto also was out with a partially torn labrum in his throwing shoulder, the Rams were forced to elevate Brock Berlin from the practice squad to start in his NFL debut in a loss to Cincinnati.

"I don't really understand the significance of when I found out or anything like that," Linehan said. "I had no idea when it happened and I didn't tell anybody as far as coaches were concerned."

and Hunte, left Fort Myers on Nov. 25, but had no plans when they arrived in the Miami area. When they saw the luxury cars parked at Taylor's home, one of the suspects said the football star kept \$200,000 in a black bag in one of the bedrooms.

At least one of the men said he had stolen \$5,000 from Taylor's home before, Hunte said.

The suspects thought Taylor, though injured, was still traveling with the team for a game in Miami. Then, last Sunday, they didn't know he was home nursing a knee injury.



Philadelphia Eagles football coach Andy Reid addresses a news conference in Philadelphia, Friday. Reid broke his silence about his sons' problems in an exclusive interview with Philadelphia Magazine.

Reid breaks silence about sons' struggle with addiction

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Eagles coach Andy Reid and his wife have dealt with their sons' drug addictions for years, through "Super Bowls and championships," and the coach plans to remain with the team as long as he can do the job and the owner will have him. The Reids broke their silence about their sons' problems and vowed their support in an exclusive interview with Philadelphia Magazine for its January edition. They said they decided to give the interview in hopes of helping others.

In excerpts of the interview posted on the magazine's Web site Friday, Reid disclosed he and his wife have been dealing with their sons' struggles since 2002.

Reid declined to discuss the interview during his news conference Friday, referring to the statement he made a day earlier.

"It was a way to share our story with others," Reid said. "We've had tremendous support through this whole event, it was a way to reach out to those who are going through similar situations."

"It was an opportunity to do this while the players were still in town and let them have an opportunity to, likewise, to reach about it so there would be no gray areas as they left town."

Reid encouraged everyone to read the interview, saying "it's all explained in that."

Both Garrett and Britt Reid have battled drug addiction and been sentenced to jail terms stemming from Reid's road-rage case and Garrett's heroin-fueled, high-speed crash in January.

"We've dealt with Garrett's situation for a long time, and we've done it through Super Bowls and championships," Andy Reid told the magazine. "And it's new to a lot of people, but it's not new to us."

Tammy Reid said, "We raised these boys. We taught them to pray, taught them to ride their bikes — you see this potential in him, and you're just not going to give up."

In the interview, Andy Reid said that he wants to remain with the team "as long as I can do my job to the best of my ability."

Tammy Reid questioned whether her husband's job status should be an issue.

"(Plus) we do have house payments, he does need to have a job," she said. "Any other dad, any other man who has things going on in his family, has not had it questioned whether he's going to retire or step down from his job. The

CEO of any major company, it would never be in question."

The couple also spoke about a difficult six-month separation with Garrett in 2006, when their oldest son was living in his car in Arizona.

Tammy Reid told the magazine that, in a phone call Garrett said he wished he'd never done drugs and could come home and start over.

"You're thinking, let's try one more time," she told the magazine. "Because that's what you do as a parent. You think, OK, it didn't work the last couple of times, but there's still hope."

Garrett Reid was sentenced last month to 2 to 23 months in jail for a high-speed crash in which another driver was injured. Police said they found heroin, steroids and more than 200 pills in his car and he admitted using heroin on the day of the crash. Garrett Reid was later charged with five additional drug counts related to 89 pills authorities said he had smuggled into prison.

Britt Reid was sentenced last month to eight to 23 months in jail for pointing a gun at another driver on Jan. 30. He also pleaded guilty to charges including carrying a firearm without a license.

The magazine lists the newstand on Wednesday.

MLB

Continued from page C1

1990, was elected to a five-year term and gave up running the team, which his family sold in 2005.

Only Kenesaw Mountain Landis (1920-44) and Bowie Kuhn (1969-84) have served longer among the nine commissioners.

If anyone is to be faulted for the duping mess, owners said it's the players' association.

"I think we all knew there was an issue, but we all felt we had our hands tied by the collective bargaining agreement, and until that could be resolved in '02, there just wasn't a whole hell of a lot that could be done," Texas Rangers owner Tom Hicks said. "Well-meaning people were trying to protect privacy, and they weren't protecting their constituents from the biggest danger they had, which was steroids."

Don Felt, head of the players' union, twice has reopened the 2002 drug agreement, toughening the rules before the 2005 and 2006 seasons. In his report last week, Mitchell recommended baseball move its testing from a joint labor-management committee to an independent body.

Steve Greenberg of Allen & Co., an investment banking firm that advises owners on sales, blames individual players "that went out there and made the choice to essentially cheat, break the law and distort the record books." The son of Hall of Famer Hank

Greenberg, he can see both sides: He was a player agent, then became deputy commissioner under Vincent.

Greenberg understands what appears to be an ambivalence among some to the Steroids Era.

"I think there are a significant number of fans, and I think maybe mostly the younger fans who don't remember Roger Maris, let alone Babe Ruth and Hank Aaron, who don't think it's a big deal," he said. "There are significant other segments of the fan population, like myself, who are concerned about it."

Rep. Cliff Stearns, a Florida Republican who sponsored a bill and held hearings on drugs in 2005, called on Selig to resign.

"Certainly, a lack of leadership and oversight in MLB enabled these abuses to continue," Stearns said. "After 15 years of slow action, a new commissioner is needed to guide the league out of this era of drug abuse."

That kind of blame-the-boss mentality led to the ouster this year of Citigroup Inc. chief executive officer Charles Prince and Merrill Lynch & Co. CEO Stan O'Neal, both booted after their companies took massive hits for subprime mortgages.

But under Selig baseball economics are the best they've been since the 1960s, when the league began in 1976, a transformation that saw the average player salary increase from \$51,000 to nearly

\$3 million in three decades. Industry revenue rose from \$182 million to its current \$6 billion mark over the same span.

User Selig, baseball instituted the popular switch to three divisions and a wild card in 1997, started the biggest ballpark building boom ever, signed record television contracts, started its own Internet business and ventured overseas for the first time, starting the World Baseball Classic and playing regular-season games in Mexico, Puerto Rico and Japan.

His detractors said he was slow to make many of those moves and pushed ahead with decisions only after he formed a consensus. He prefers to call his pace studied and deliberate.

And the positive changes came only after his attempt to institute a salary cap provoked players into a 75-day strike in 1994-95, a work stoppage that led to the first cancellation of the World Series in nine decades.

"The game has prospered. He's done all sorts of great things. And the only thing that has held it back is the steroid and HGH era is Don Fehr," Reinhold said.

Fehr argues the union has moved far in a short time to combat the problem. He has agreed to discuss Mitchell's recommendations but said, as he usually does, that union leadership will consult with players before making any determinations.

Murder

Continued from page C1

that the four suspects be permitted to wear civilian clothes to court rather than bright red or burgundy jail jumpsuits.

Despite the judge's admonitions, Horning was willing to discuss Hunte's statements in detail, including that the black handgun used in Taylor's killing was placed in a black and chrome bag and thrown along Alligator Alley between Miami and the Fort Myers area where the four lived. The weapon has not been found.

Horning said Eric Rivera Jr., Jason Mitchell, Wardlow

C6

BUSINESS

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

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 22, 2007

Consumer spending surges in November

Data reduces fears of recession

By Martin Cutsinger
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Consumers put aside worries about shrinking home sales and soaring gasoline prices and headed to the malls in November, pushing spending up by the largest amount in 3½ years. The better-than-expected surge lessened fears of an imminent recession.

The Commerce Department reported Friday that consumer spending shot up 1.1 percent last month, nearly triple the October gain.

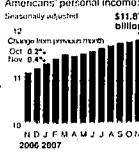
It was the biggest one-month jump since a 1.2 percent rise in May 2004, and was significantly higher than the 0.7 percent gain

analysts had expected. Incomes were also up last month, but the 0.4 percent increase was far below the rise in spending. Consequently, the personal savings rate dipped back into negative territory as households spent savings and borrowed to finance November purchases.

Analysts attributed part of the spending to heavy discounting and longer store hours at the start of the holiday season by retailers worried that the all-important Christmas shopping period may not be as strong this year given the factors weighing on the economy.

Still, the strong November relieved some concerns that

Personal income



a recession might be looming.

"Consumers did their part in November, but we will see whether they are up to it for the full Christmas season and into next year," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "Their financial firepower is

Personal spending



fading due to the weaker job market, surging gasoline and food prices which cut into their purchasing power and the evaporating housing market."

On Wall Street, stocks surged, helped by the strength shown in consumer spending. The Dow Jones

Industrial average finished the day up 205.01 points at 13,450.65.

Consumer spending is closely watched because it accounts for two-thirds of economic growth. Many analysts said the unexpectedly strong November was causing them to boost their forecasts for overall growth this quarter.

David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York, said he now believed the economy would grow at around a 1.5 percent rate in the current quarter, rather than his previous view that the gross domestic product growth might dip below 1 percent this quarter. He said he still felt GDP growth could slow to around 0.5 percent in the first three months of next year.

Fed auctions another \$20 billion in funds

By Martin Cutsinger
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve, working to combat the effects of a severe credit crunch, announced Friday it had auctioned another \$20 billion in funds to commercial banks at an interest rate of 4.67 percent. Fed officials pledged to continue with the auctions "for as long as necessary."

The central bank said it had received bids for \$57.7 billion worth of loans, nearly three times the amount being offered, indicating continued strong interest in the Fed's new program for providing money to cash-strapped banks.

It was the second of four scheduled auctions. The first auction, on Monday, of \$20 billion resulted in loans being awarded at an interest rate of 4.65 percent. There were 93 bidders seeking \$63.6 billion at the first auction and 73 at the second.

Two more auctions will occur in early January. In a statement Friday, the central bank said it would continue with further auctions "for as long as necessary to address elevated pressures in short-term funding markets."

The new auction process was announced by the Fed last week in a coordinated action with central banks around the world trying to address a global credit crunch.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues decided to try the new process because their efforts to inject funds into the banking system through the Fed's discount window, which makes direct loans to banks, had proven less successful than Fed officials had hoped.

Many banks had avoided using the Fed's discount window out of concern that investors would see the move as an indication of underlying problems at their financial institutions. The auction process was developed as a second way to get money into the banking system with the hopes that it would not carry the perceived stigma of the discount window.

Federal officials said the first two auctions had gone well and appeared to be helping with the credit crisis. They said the Fed would not have announced a pledge to continue with the auctions if Fed officials did not think they were having a positive impact.

"This is a good start but more needs to be done because segments of the credit markets are still locked up," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Richard Yamarone, an economist at Argus Research in New York, said the Fed's auction effort was a "great step psychologically" and should help boost bank lending activities.

The Fed said Friday that it would announce on Jan. 4 the sizes of the next two auctions which will be held Jan. 14 and Jan. 20. Officials have said the Fed will evaluate the interest in the auctions after the initial four and determine whether more auctions will be scheduled.

The new auction results cover short-term loans for 35 days.

The global credit crisis has made banks reluctant to lend to each other even as the Fed has been lowering its federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other for overnight loans.

Going off the air



The General Motors OnStar command center is shown in Detroit. Older OnStar systems for cars, home alarms and up to a million cell phones will lose service starting in February under a 2002 federal decision that allows carriers to switch the spectrum over from analog to digital technologies, which would use it more efficiently.

Loss of network likely to strand OnStar cars, alarms, other devices

By Peter Svensson
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — When Adele Rothman bought her 16-year-old son a car in 2003, she made sure to pick one that had OnStar, the onboard communications and safety system.

What the Scarsdale, N.Y., resident didn't know was that the OnStar system in the car was already doomed to die. The federal government decided in 2002 to let cellular carriers shut down analog cell phone networks, used by Rothman's Saab and about 500,000 other OnStar-equipped cars, after Feb. 18, 2008.

It's the end of the nationwide network that launched the U.S. wireless industry 24 years ago, and it leaves a surprising number of users like Adele Rothman in the lurch. OnStar told Rothman in March its service would stop at the end of this year, in anticipation of the network shutdown in February. "I was really upset," she said, "because that was my lifeline" to her son.

Perhaps a million cell phones will lose service, but

those are cheap and easy to replace. The effects will be felt the most by people who have things that aren't phones but have built-in wireless capabilities, like OnStar cars and home alarm systems.

The shutdown date has been known years in advance, but some industries appear to have had a problem updating their technologies and informing their customers in advance, which raises the question of whether the effects will be even more widespread the next time a network is turned off, given the proliferation of wireless technology.

General Motors Corp., which owns OnStar, started modifying its cars after the 2002 decision by the Federal Communications Commission to let the network die, but some cars made as late as 2005 can't use digital networks for OnStar, nor can they be upgraded. For some cars made in the intervening years, GM provides digital upgrades for \$15.

In 2006, OnStar said it had let customers know of the

shutdown with a posting on its Web site. This year, it said it had notified all affected customers. Spokeswoman Cristy Chojnacki said she was unable to comment beyond those statements. General Motors and other car manufacturers with similar systems, including Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz, are facing a potential class-action lawsuit over the analog shutdown.

When Rothman complained, GM sent a \$500 coupon toward the purchase of a new car. To compensate for the lack of OnStar, she outfitted her son's car with a handfree system and a Global Positioning System.

A week before the end-of-year shutdown, the analog coverage map is still the first one presented on OnStar's Web site. The digital coverage map, showing large areas of "limited" service in out-of-the-way places, is available on another page.

On the home alarm side, about 400,000 systems still use analog service, according to Lou Fiore, chairman of the Alarm Industry Communications

Committee. In most of those systems, the wireless link to the alarm center is a backup to the landline. But some homes lack a landline, so the wireless link is the only connection to the outside world.

Fiore doesn't know the current number of systems that only use analog wireless connections and no landline, but a survey by the AICC a few years ago put the number at 138,000.

"The larger (alarm) companies are in pretty good shape," Fiore said. "There are so many smaller companies out there that are probably I'd say, in denial. They just don't know about it."

To complicate things, some alarm systems advertised as "digital" actually use a digital subchannel of the analog network. True digital alarm systems need to be replaced by the time the network is shut down, according to the AICC.

According to the FCC, many analog alarms that have not been replaced by the time the network is shut down will start beeping to warn that they've lost the connection to the alarm center.

The Central Station Alarm Association, an alarm industry group and the parent of the AICC, tried to get the FCC to delay the analog sunset.

The FCC turned away that request this year, saying digital networks are a much better use of the airwaves. The same spectrum can carry about 16 times more traffic using digital technology compared to analog.

Verizon Wireless, AT&T Inc. and Alltel Corp. are the largest carriers that still have analog networks. Alltel will take more time than Verizon and AT&T to close its network, shutting down in three stages ending in September. Each carrier will keep its portion of the newly available spectrum, and will use it to boost their digital services.

A few rural cellular providers may keep their networks up. Plateau Wireless, which provides service in eastern New Mexico and western Texas, will maintain its analog network alongside a digital one "for the foreseeable future," according to Chief Executive Tom Phelps.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	24.14	▲ .06	Dell Inc.	24.80	▼ .09	Idacorp	35.44	▲ .35
Lithia Mo.	14.66	▲ .36	Micron	7.53	▼ .39	Supervalu	37.99	▲ .64

COMMODITIES

For more see page C7

Live cattle	92.10	▼ .27	Feb. Oil	93.31	▲ 2.25
Dec. gold	811.6	▲ 12.4	Dec. Silver	1434.6	▲ 15

MUTUAL FUNDS

[illegible]

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES

Mac	Community	High	Low	Chase	Change
Mac	15.15	15.15	15.15	15.15	0.00
Mac	15.17	15.17	15.17	15.17	0.00
Mac	15.18	15.18	15.18	15.18	0.00
Mac	15.19	15.19	15.19	15.19	0.00
Mac	15.20	15.20	15.20	15.20	0.00
Mac	15.21	15.21	15.21	15.21	0.00
Mac	15.22	15.22	15.22	15.22	0.00
Mac	15.23	15.23	15.23	15.23	0.00
Mac	15.24	15.24	15.24	15.24	0.00
Mac	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	0.00
Mac	15.26	15.26	15.26	15.26	0.00
Mac	15.27	15.27	15.27	15.27	0.00
Mac	15.28	15.28	15.28	15.28	0.00
Mac	15.29	15.29	15.29	15.29	0.00
Mac	15.30	15.30	15.30	15.30	0.00
Mac	15.31	15.31	15.31	15.31	0.00
Mac	15.32	15.32	15.32	15.32	0.00
Mac	15.33	15.33	15.33	15.33	0.00
Mac	15.34	15.34	15.34	15.34	0.00
Mac	15.35	15.35	15.35	15.35	0.00
Mac	15.36	15.36	15.36	15.36	0.00
Mac	15.37	15.37	15.37	15.37	0.00
Mac	15.38	15.38	15.38	15.38	0.00
Mac	15.39	15.39	15.39	15.39	0.00
Mac	15.40	15.40	15.40	15.40	0.00
Mac	15.41	15.41	15.41	15.41	0.00
Mac	15.42	15.42	15.42	15.42	0.00
Mac	15.43	15.43	15.43	15.43	0.00
Mac	15.44	15.44	15.44	15.44	0.00
Mac	15.45	15.45	15.45	15.45	0.00
Mac	15.46	15.46	15.46	15.46	0.00
Mac	15.47	15.47	15.47	15.47	0.00
Mac	15.48	15.48	15.48	15.48	0.00
Mac	15.49	15.49	15.49	15.49	0.00
Mac	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	0.00

CHEESE

Checklist cheese prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange
 (cents per pound) as of 11:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time

LIVESTOCK

INTERMOUNTAIN LIVESTOCK

METALS/MONEY

GOLD

BEAN

Valley Soars

19

Other island bird prices are collected weekly by Ilean Market Survey, U.S. Department of Agriculture — Pintos, Ltd. \$28, great northern, Ltd. \$30, small whites, not established, pink, Ltd. \$26-\$27, small reds, Ltd. \$20. Quotes current Dec. 17.

MARKET SUMMARY

[illegible]

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

[illegible]

BUSINESS PERMIT

City of Burley
C & U CONSTRUCTION
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116961
 Filed 15 Nov 2007
 133434 ALMO LN
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

CLASSY CLEANERS
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116821
 Filed 15 Nov 2007
 564 E 400 S
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

DREAMZ DAY SPA AND SALON, LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B68395
 Filed 08 Nov 2007
 1223 EAST 23RD DR
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

FERMIN SANCHEZ-SIDING
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116871
 Filed 16 Nov 2007
 501 E 6TH ST
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

FIFTY THREE INVESTMENT COMPANY
 Organizational ID / Filing number: L5973
 Filed 15 Nov 2007
 BOX 569
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 LIMITED PARTNERSHIP
 CURRENT

220 FARMS
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116441
 Filed 01 Nov 2007
 13 S 300 W
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

JUSTIN POWELL TRUCKING LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W69013
 Filed 30 Nov 2007
 226 SOUTH 605 EAST
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

K & S PIZZA SERVICES, LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68960
 Filed 29 Nov 2007
 1519 BURTON AVE
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

MASITTI'S PREVENTION EQUIPMENT
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116962
 Filed 19 Nov 2007
 2010 BENNETT AVE
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

MCREYNOLDS FAMILY CHIROPRACTIC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116539
 Filed 07 Nov 2007
 401 W 3RD ST N
 BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

STITCHES 'N' STARS QUILTING
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B117155
 Filed 29 Nov 2007

BURLEY, ID 83318
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

City of Twin Falls
"ANYTHING AUTO" LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68647
 Filed 16 Nov 2007
 1486 STONECREST CT
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

ADN LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68228
 Filed 02 Nov 2007
 3485 N 2983 E
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

AGRICARE SERVICES
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116631
 Filed 08 Nov 2007
 2674 LONGBOW DR
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

ANGELO CLEON ENTERPRISES LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68361
 Filed 07 Nov 2007
 1182 FIREBIRD CIRCLE
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

B & K TRUCK DRIVING SCHOOL
 Organizational ID / Filing number: C175968
 Filed 23 Nov 2007
 3067 EAST 3500 NORTH
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 CORPORATION
 GOODSTANDING

B S DESIGN & SUPPLIES CO.
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116940
 Filed 21 Nov 2007
 198 LOUST ST S
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

BB TRACTORING, INC.
 Organizational ID / Filing number: C176027
 Filed 29 Nov 2007
 1455 N POINTE DR
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 CORPORATION
 GOODSTANDING

BIG BLUE SKY LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68808
 Filed 21 Nov 2007
 166 DESERT VIEW DR
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

BJMS LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68252
 Filed 05 Nov 2007
 320 2ND AVE N
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

BLOCKHEADS CONSTRUCTION, LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68167
 Filed 01 Nov 2007
 3215 EAST 3225 NORTH

FILED 02 NOV 2007
 828 BLUE LAKES BLVD N
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

BRIDGER PEAK LANDSCAPING, LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68226
 Filed 02 Nov 2007
 828 BLUE LAKES BLVD N
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

C.M. FALA, INC.
 Organizational ID / Filing number: C175739
 Filed 05 Nov 2007
 409 SHOSHONE ST S STE 10
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 CORPORATION
 GOODSTANDING

CANYON RIDGE H.S. ALL NIGHT GRADUATION PARTY
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116471
 Filed 02 Nov 2007
 3485 N 2983 E
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

ELDREDGE FINNEY FARMS
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B117053
 Filed 23 Nov 2007
 PD BOX 1598
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83303-1598
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

EXCALIBUR INFORMATIONAL SERVICES
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116738
 Filed 13 Nov 2007
 1841 EYEBURN AVE E
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

DARON BROWN SMALL TRACTOR WORKS, LLC
 Organizational ID / Filing number: W68317
 Filed 05 Nov 2007
 3057 VICKIE LN
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
 EXISTING

EL CAZADOR MEXICAN RESTAURANT
 Organizational ID / Filing number: B116471
 Filed 02 Nov 2007
 3485 N 2983 E
 TWIN FALLS, ID 83301
 ASSUMED BUSINESS NAME
 CURRENT

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with occasional showers and light winds. Highs in the lower 30s.
 Tonight: Cloudy with a chance of snow developing towards midnight. Lows in the mid-20s.
 Tomorrow: A bright summer feel there will be a small chance of a snow shower. Highs and 30s.

BURLYRUPERT FORECAST

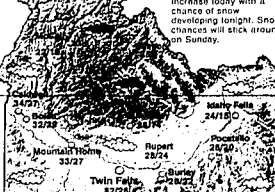
Today: Lightly to mostly cloudy with light breezes. Highs reaching the upper 20s.
 Tonight: Clouds thicken with snow developing late. Lows in the lower 20s.
 Tomorrow: A bright summer feel there will be a small chance of a snow shower. Highs and 30s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY SURROUNDING MTS.
 Snow looks to move back in late today with a better chance tonight. Slight chances of light snow will remain into Christmas Eve. Christmas Day looking to have a decent chance of a fresh coating of snow.

Today Highs: 32-35. Tonight Lows: 20-23.
 BOISE
 Plenty of clouds around today and that will lead to a chance of snow tonight. Snow chances remain Sunday, but will not be as great. Christmas Eve will see a better chance of snow than today.

Today Highs: 32-35. Tonight Lows: 20-23.
 NORTHERN UTAH
 Clouds will gradually increase today with a chance of snow developing tonight. Snow chances will stick around Sunday.



Yesterday's State Extremes: 41 at Lewiston. Low: 6 at Canyon. Weather was dry for most of the day. The snow showers and snow showers were mostly cloudy with a chance of snow showers and snow showers.

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
 "I'm young, so I don't know how to be prudent, and therefore I'm going to be imprudent and achieve it."
 — Reggie M. Middlekauff, Author and Motivational Speaker

Photo: Reggie M. Middlekauff, Author and Motivational Speaker

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
High 32	Low 26	37/26	35/24	32/18	30/20

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

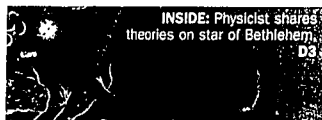
Temperature	Precipitation	Humidity	Barometric Pressure	Sunrise and Sunset
Yesterday's Low: 22 Monthly Mean: 29 Record High: 51 in 1978 Record Low: -24 in 1978	Month to Date: 0.65 Year to Date: 2.93 Yearly Mean: 0.76 Record High: 1.50 Record Low: 0.00	Yesterday's Humidity: 65% Monthly Mean: 65% Yearly Mean: 65% Record High: 100% Record Low: 0%	Yesterday's Pressure: 30.20 in Monthly Mean: 30.20 in Yearly Mean: 30.20 in Record High: 30.70 in Record Low: 29.70 in	Yesterday's Sunrise: 8:05 AM Yesterday's Sunset: 5:00 PM Sunrise: 8:05 AM Sunset: 5:00 PM Solstice: 8:05 AM Equinox: 5:00 PM

Moon Phases

Dec 24	Dec 31	Jan 6	Jan 15
Full Moon	Last Quarter	New Moon	First Quarter

REGIONAL FORECAST

	H	W	H	W	H	W	H	W
Boise	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Idaho Falls	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Shoshone	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Blackfoot	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Arco	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Donnerstag	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Malheur	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Blaine	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Blackfoot	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Arco	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Donnerstag	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
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Malheur	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
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Donnerstag	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Malheur	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Blaine	32	26	35	25	38	28	40	30
Blackfoot	32	26	35					



INSIDE: Church news, D2 | Missionaries, D2

Welcoming a new lady

New Our Lady of the Snows church gathers hundreds for dedication in Sun Valley

By Susan Bailey
For the Times-News

Words from Psalm 84, "How lovely is Thy Dwelling Place," took on a literal meaning during the Dec. 13 dedication of the new Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church on Sun Valley Road.

A Mass of Dedication drew more than 400 people, many from other churches or no church at all.

"Some of the people were coming to see because they didn't think we could do it," said Teresa Gregory, parish life director for Our Lady of the Snows.

In truth, pews were installed on Monday and scaffolding was removed on Wednesday. The \$4.5 million dollar church features a host of windows around the altar, a soaring ceiling in the style of medieval cathedrals and a chandelier cascading in small white lights toward the altar.

Church leaders from the Presbyterian Church of the Bigwood and St. Thomas Episcopal and Emmanuel Episcopal contributed blessed water to the font at

the entrance, making the dedication an event for the greater religious community in the Wood River Valley.

Gregory spoke the first words to the audience assembled for the Mass of Dedication.

"This is such an amazing community of love," she said, noting the presence not only of the Rev. Ken Brannon, pastor of St. Thomas Episcopal, the Rev. Shawn Carty, pastor of Emmanuel Episcopal, and the Rev. Bob Henley of the Presbyterian Church of the Big Wood but of every person in the church as a show of love.

Bishop Michael Driscoll recited part of Psalm 84 in his sermon after the gospel reading.

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord God of Hosts," he said. "I think all of us who walked into this church for the first time today said, 'How lovely is your dwelling place.' I know I did."

When Driscoll asked the community to thank Gregory, they immediately rose to their feet in a rousing standing ovation. Gregory, with the now-retired Rev.

John Morgan, started the process of bringing the idea of a new church to the parishioners.

Shaped like a cross with round windows at each of the four ends and a rock wall behind the altar, the new Our Lady of the Snows has rafters stained a rich chocolate to match the pews. Wallpaper in a soothing taupe color completes the earth tones selected by Ketchum architect Jim McLaughlin.

Completion of the church took 16

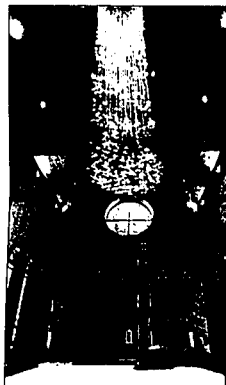
Please see CHURCH, Page D3

"I think all of us who walked into this church for the first time today said, 'How lovely is your dwelling place.' I know I did."

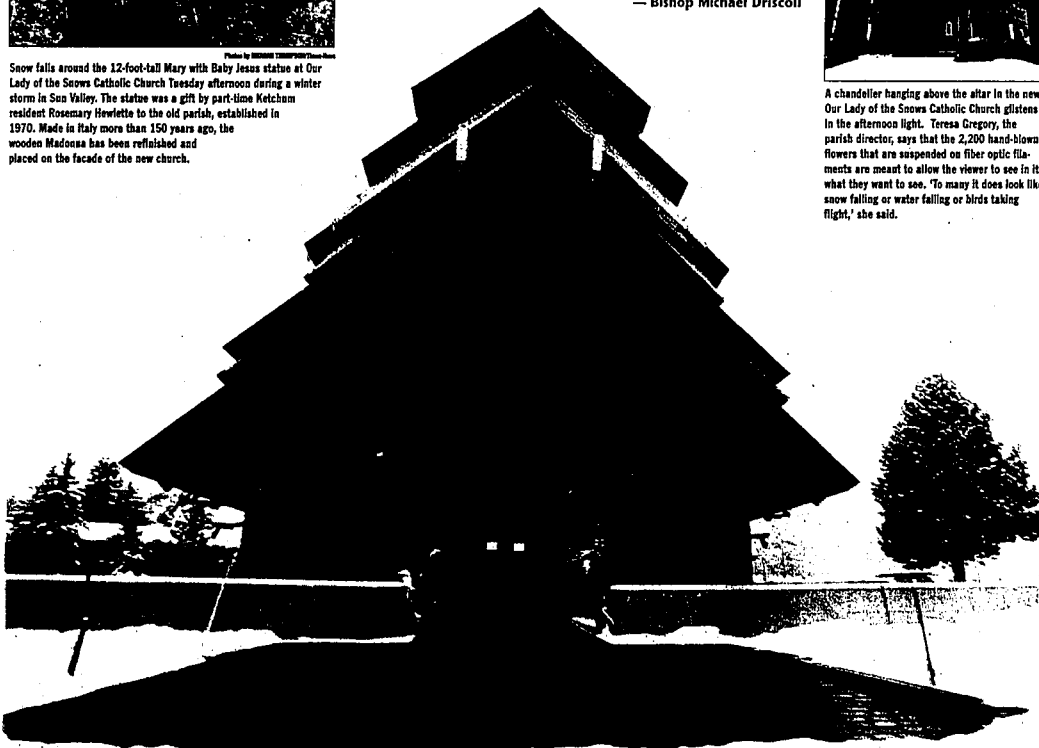
— Bishop Michael Driscoll



Snow falls around the 12-foot-tall Mary with Baby Jesus statue at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Tuesday afternoon during a winter storm in Sun Valley. The statue was a gift by part-time Ketchum resident Rosemary Hewlette to the old parish, established in 1970. Made in Italy more than 150 years ago, the wooden Madonna has been refinished and placed on the facade of the new church.



A chandelier hanging above the altar in the new Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church glimmers in the afternoon light. Teresa Gregory, the parish director, says that the 2,200 hand-blown flowers that are suspended on fiber optic filaments are meant to allow the viewer to see in it what they want to see. "To many it does look like snow falling or water falling or birds taking flight," she said.



The entrance to the new Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church is nearly swallowed up by the white winter storm that blew through the Wood River Valley Tuesday afternoon. "We tried to take a lot of things from the local area," said Teresa Gregory, parish life director for the church. The building is made of stone from a quarry near Galena Summit. Gregory also says that the church is designed to inspire a connection between the church community and the natural environment of the Wood River Valley.

CHURCH NEWS

Nativity presented at First Christian Church

A live Nativity will be presented from 7 to 9 p.m. today, Sunday and Monday at the First Christian Church, 601 Shoshone St., in Twin Falls. The community is encouraged to drive by and contemplate the meaning of Christmas.

The church choir will present a cantata, "Wonderous Gift" by David Cudross, during worship at 10:50 a.m. Sunday.

A traditional Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. Monday will feature music, scripture and a message.

Information: 733-2209.

Rock Creek holds Christmas celebration

A special Christmas celebration will be held for worship at 10 a.m. Sunday at the Rock Creek Community Church, 262 Fifth Ave. E. in Twin Falls.

The church choir will perform "O Holy Night" and Fred Gagliardi will present a vocal solo.

A traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, with music by the "Pewee" Family Orchestra. But first, any the choir will sing "Still, Still, Still," and Metzger will speak on "Christmas is Love." The church is celebrating its first Christmas Eve service at its new location.

Information: 734-2568.

Sunday school presents 'The Newest Angel'

The Sunday school children will present a Christmas play, "The Newest Angel," at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the Crossroads United Methodist Church, 205 Madison Ave. E. in Kimberly. Refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall.

A Community Candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m. Monday at the Murrighill City Hall. A Candlelight Communion service will begin at 8 p.m. Monday at the church.

Everyone is welcome. Information: 423-4311.

Presbyterian Church presents 'By Heaven's Light' cantata

"By Heaven's Light," a cantata by Allen Poe and Tom Long, will be presented by the church choir at 10:30 a.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church, 262 E. Ave. A in Jerome.

Guest musicians accompanying the choir will include Angie Fillmore on violin, Ann Poul playing the flute, Paula Brown Sinclair on the French horn, Bob Bybee playing clarinet and Barry Hamilton playing cello. The cantata is being performed in memory of a special church member, Dr. Lawrence "Doc" Ruebel.

A Christmas Eve service begins at 7 p.m. Monday.

Childcare is available for both services. Everyone is welcome. Information: 324-2972.

Methodists hold Christmas carol sing

A Christmas Carol Sing will begin at 10:45 a.m. Sunday at the Jerome United Methodist Church, 211 S. Buchanan.

Pastor Laura Rockwell will speak on "Christmas at the Manger" for worship at 11 a.m. Christmas Eve will be celebrated with a Family Friendly Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. Monday. A contemporary candlelight service begins at 11 p.m.

The community is invited to all services. Nursery care is available for small children. Information: 324-2981 or 324-2204.

Gooding Community Chorale presents 'Ceremony of Candles'

The Gooding Community Chorale, under the direction of Rick Strickland, will present "Ceremony of Candles" by Joseph M. Martin during a special cantata service at 11:15 a.m. Sunday at the Gooding United Methodist Church, 805 Main St.

A Christmas Eve Special Family service begins at 6 p.m. Monday, and a Christmas Eve Candlelight service starts at 11:30 p.m. Monday.

Visitors are welcome. Information: Bev Heuston, 934-0227.

Burley LDS Stake holds Christmas concert

The Burley LDS Stake will present a Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Burley Stake Center, 2050 Normal Ave.

Featured performers are Robert Newman singing "O Holy Night," Jolene Hobson and Coleen McCall playing the violin and flute with accompaniment by Marilyn Whiting, Myra McGill and Helen Bowcut performing a piano and organ duet, the group "Soft Touch" and a

choir consisting of individuals from the Burley Stake.

The concert is free and open to the public. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy Christmas music. Information: 678-1566.

Presbyterian Church holds two Christmas Eve services in T.F.

The First Presbyterian Church, 209 Fifth Ave. N. in Twin Falls, will hold two Christmas Eve services Monday — an informal family worship at 5 p.m., with special music by Hallelujah Handbells and a solo by Chris Eberlein, and a traditional worship with communion at 11 p.m.

Worship at 10 a.m. Sunday will include a reading and lighting of the fourth Advent candle by Callyn Probasco and Chris Eberlein. Christmas Eve will be celebrated with a Family Friendly Candlelight Service at 7 p.m. Monday. A contemporary candlelight service begins at 11 p.m.

Everyone is welcome. Information: 733-7023.

Christmas Eve candlelight service held at Rupert church

A Christmas Eve candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m. Monday at the Christmas Praise Chapel, 1110 Eighth St. in Rupert.

Everyone is welcome. Information: 436-4040.

Buhl Presbyterians celebrate Christmas

The Buhl Presbyterian Church will celebrate with a Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Monday.

Everyone is welcome. Information: Myra Lively, 543-5143.

Lighthouse Christian holds service at CSI

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship will hold its annual Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m. Monday at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center.

Everyone is invited to an evening of Christmas and worship music and a drama to remind them of the meaning of the season. Child care will be available for ages 2 through fifth grade. Information: 737-4667.

Burley Methodists hold Christmas Eve service

The Burley United Methodist Church, 450 E.

27th St., will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 7 p.m. Monday.

With carols and candles, participants will pause to remember the meaning of Christmas.

Bring the family. Information: 678-2184.

Upton speaks at candlelight service

A Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at the Halldale Community Presbyterian Church. Elder Charles Upton of Twin Falls will be the speaker and worship leader.

A dessert social will follow worship.

The Rev. Bruce Stevens will deliver a Christmas sermon at 11 a.m. Sunday; refreshments will follow.

Visitors are welcome. Information: Mildred Jones, 655-4216 or 539-1916.

Family History Library offers indexing classes

The Family History Library is offering classes on how to do indexing for family records. The next classes will be held at 10 a.m. Jan. 18 and 25 at the library, located west of Temple Square in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. Parking is available for a fee at the northwest corner of West Temple and North Temple streets.

FamilySearch Indexing is an easy-to-use online program for indexing genealogical records and making them available to the public at no charge. Anyone with a computer and access to the Internet can index records.

Also, a series of classes including "How to do Indexing," "Arbitrating FamilySearch Indexing Batches" and "Indexing Administration" will be taught from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Jan. 12. All classes are hands-on and held in the main floor computer lab of the library.

To view class schedules online, go to www.familysearch.org. To register for the free classes, send an email to FHLClassreg@ldschurch.org or call (801) 240-4950.

The Times-News welcomes news of church events. Send information to Ellen Thomason at ellen@magicvalley.com or in the *Monticello* area, Trena Tegan at trena@magicvalley.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication on the Saturday religion page.

A Christmas wish list for you

I've been thinking about you.

No, really, I have. Every week about this time, I think about you a LOT. And this being the holiday season and all, I've even been thinking about what I could get you for Christmas. But I've got to be honest with you. We've only been Christmas shopping a couple of times this season, and already my debit card has been worn smooth and my leather checkbook is bulging and gasping for air. And it's been so long since I had anything green in my wallet that it gets the shakes every time we walk past a salad bar.

Still, I've been thinking. If it's really true that "it's the thought that counts," maybe you'll be just as pleased to find out what I've been thinking about getting for you. That way I can stay within the charred remains of my holiday budget, and you'll only have to think about writing a thank you note in return.

The first thing I wanted to get for you was some "Peace of Mind." But do you have any idea how hard that is to find these days? I looked in all the usual places — you know, Position, Power, Wealth, Status, Fame and Stuff Like That — but I couldn't find it anywhere. It occurred to me that maybe it's something that you're going to have to find on your own. I'd suggest a good hard look at Personal Integrity, for starters. If you can't find it there, try Honesty, Loyalty and Self-Control. And if you haven't yet made room for God in your life, this might be a good time to discover the "Peace of Mind" that he offers.

The next thing I was thinking about getting for you is "Success," but I wasn't sure what size to get. Do you need an extra large, complete with mansions, limousines and a jet-set lifestyle? Or would you prefer something more modest — perhaps a medium, with its three-bedroom ramblers, minivans and occasional vacations?

Of course, this assumes you're going to choose the traditional Success package, with its attendant



VALUESPEAK
Joseph Walker

angst, frustration and rat-race mentality. You may wish to go in a different direction to find the kind of Success that best suits you. I'd recommend the "No Other Success Can Compensate for Failure in the Home" line. It's quite expensive in terms of work, consistency and love, but the results can be incredibly satisfying.

And finally, I was thinking about getting you a big bag of "Happiness" — not the fleeting kind of pleasure that melts on your own for now, but the real thing: whole-souled, enduring, tragically-defying and joyful. But everyone says you can't buy that, so I guess you're going to have to go out and find it on your own. I can't tell you for sure where you're going to find it. But I can tell you that a few places where it's more likely to be like a bar, for example, or a casino. And you won't find it in a syringe, a new car, a larger paycheck, a significant honor, an elaborate meal, a pack of cigarettes or even — believe it or not — a box of chocolates.

In fact, it has been my experience that real happiness isn't something you find; it finds you. And it is more a consequence of choices than a choice itself. But I know it has something to do with those other two gifts — "Peace of Mind" and "Success."

And a lot to do with "Love." Which, come to think of it, is something else I've been thinking about picking up for you. As well as all of my other gifts for this Christmas, however, that's something you'd best find on your own. But I do wish you "Success" in finding it.

Not to mention "Happiness" and "Peace of Mind."

Merry Christmas!

Joseph Walker is a freelance writer living in American Fork, Utah.

MUSLIM HAJJ



Muslim pilgrims pray on a rocky hill called the Mountain of Mercy, on the Plain of Arafat near Mecca, Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday. More than two million pilgrims gather at the site of Prophet Muhammad's last sermon 14 centuries ago in a ritual that marks the climax of the annual Muslim pilgrimage where most of them spend the night. (See story on page B4)

For interfaith couples, holidays require delicate negotiation

By Amber Miles
Albany Times Union

ALBANY, N.Y. — Like many couples, Josh and Laura Mullin Klein face the dilemma of which family they will go to for Christmas. But they also wonder where to fit the celebration of the historically Christian holiday around the other traditional holiday in their family — Hanukkah.

Some years, Laura spends time with Josh's family for Hanukkah, and others, Josh celebrates Christmas with her family. Regardless of whose "turn" it is, the Bullton Lake, N.Y., newbies say they'd rather compromise when it comes to their religion than to be without one another.

"Our differences in religion were known very early in the relationship. I knew we both were very spiritual, so religious differences aside, that's our commonality," says Laura Klein.

Laura — raised Roman Catholic — grew up going to church every weekend. The 26-year-old Clifton Park, N.Y., native is a member of St. Mary's Crescent, which she attended while growing up.

She says learning about Josh and the differences they have has been beneficial.

"We have both learned to respect and participate in one another's spirituality and religious beliefs. We've both worked extremely hard to celebrate our differences, rather than to criticize them," she says. About 28 million U.S. adults live

"We've both worked extremely hard to celebrate our differences, rather than to criticize them."

— Laura Mullin Klein

in mixed-religion households, according to the American Religious Identification Survey 2001 (the latest survey). Called interfaith or mixed-religion, these couples typically observe religions that teach different beliefs and practices about deity, humanity and the rest of the universe.

Despite the differences in beliefs, it's love and respect for the other person that binds interfaith relationships, just as it does same-faith couples.

In March 2007, when it came time for the Kleins' big day, they planned a ceremony that incorporated both religions' beliefs.

They incorporated several traditions, including the sign of peace (a Catholic ritual that invites guests to share in a sign of goodwill through a handshake or sign) and the menorah, or Jewish marriage canopy (an open tent that signifies the couple's home will always be open to family and friends) and the breaking of the glass, a Jewish tradition that symbolizes the fragility of life and sorrow in the midst of joy and transformation of today. It also symbolizes celebration of the couple's life together and the hope the marriage will be as difficult to destroy as it would be to put the pieces of the glass back together.

Interfaith marriages among Jews

have increased from 13 percent before 1970 to close to 50 percent, according to a study conducted by the United Jewish Communities. Those numbers can be attributed to couples who are willing to see beyond their own views and accept others' ideas.

Josh says his biggest concern, knowing that Laura came from such a strong religious background, was adjusting to that culture. Though he came from Reform Judaism, he says Laura was more of a practicing Catholic than he was a practicing Jew.

"One thing that's been very clear is that we're both not interested in converting to the other's religion. I realized early on that practicing regularly was a choice she made and I accepted that," says the 28-year-old.

There is another marriage hurdle they must cross when they feel the time is right: how to raise their children. Laura wants them to be baptized, a tradition that's important to her. But she agrees they want their children to have an understanding of both faiths.

"Hopefully, we provide them with options," Josh says. "We want to expose them to both faiths. 'To us, it's more about celebrating the difference and realizing there's no right and wrong.'"

Notre Dame astrophysicist has theories on star of Bethlehem

By Tom Coyne
Associated Press writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — It's long been a puzzle for Christian astronomers, and now a professor from the University of Notre Dame thinks he has it figured out — almost, anyway.

His quest, discovering just what "the star in the East" was that led wise men to travel to Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

As a theoretical astrophysicist, Grant Mathews had hoped the answer would be spectacular — something like a supernova. But two years of research have led him to a more ordinary conclusion. The heavenly sign around the time of the birth of Jesus Christ was likely an unusual alignment of planets, the sun and the moon.

Not a lot was written about the star in the Bible. In the Gospel of Matthew it says: "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

The star, though, has long been immortalized in Christmas songs, plays and movies. Astronomers, theologians and historians for hundreds of years have been trying to determine exactly which star might have inspired the biblical writing. German astronomer Johannes Kepler proposed in 1604 that the star was a conjunction of Mars, Jupiter and Saturn in 7 B.C.

The advantage Mathews has over Kepler and others who have pondered the question is that he had access to NASA's databases.

"In principle, we can see any star that was ever made from the beginning of time if we knew where to look. So the question is, could we find a star that could be a good candidate for what showed up then?" he said.

Mathews found several possibilities. He began by posing three questions he would ask when trying to find the answer to any astronomical question: When did it occur? What were its characteristics? Did anyone else see it?

The Gospel of Matthew indicates Jesus was born in Bethlehem when Herod was king. Roman historian Flavius Josephus wrote that Herod died after an eclipse



Grant Mathews, a Notre Dame astrophysicist, points at a computer generated demonstration of the night sky of April 17, 6 B.C. in the Digital Visualization Theater at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., on Dec. 14. Mathews gives a presentation that offers possible explanations of events in astronomy that could have caused wise men to travel to Bethlehem.

of the moon before the Passover. Mathews said among the possibilities are 6 B.C., 5 B.C., 1 B.C. or 1 A.D. The star could have appeared up to two years before the wise men arrived in Jerusalem, he said.

Mathews believes that means the Christmas star could have appeared anywhere from 8 to 4 B.C.

Among the characteristics written about the star was that it appeared before sunrise and that it appeared to "rest in the sky," Mathews also found writings from Korean and Chinese astronomers of an event about 4 B.C. which described a comet with no tail that didn't move.

Using that set of facts, Mathews found several possibilities, including supernovae, novae and planetary alignments.

Mathews found two possible supernovae in the right period, but said one was probably too low on the

horizon to be seen. The other supernova is known as Kees 75. But it was 60,000 light years away and may not have been particularly spectacular.

"There's no real convincing evidence this occurred right at 2000 years ago, but it could be in the range of being right because it's in the right location," he said.

He also found a number of novae that also could have been the Christmas star. The one he thinks is the most likely candidate is known as Nova Aquilae V603. "The problem with novae and comets, though, is that they were believed in ancient times to be a sign of disaster, not a portent of good things to come."

For that reason, Mathews believes the Christmas star is most likely an alignment of planets. He said there are three likely times for this:

• Feb. 20, 6 B.C., when Mars, Jupiter and Saturn aligned in the constellation

Pisces.

• April 17, 6 B.C., when the sun, Jupiter, the moon and Saturn aligned in the constellation Aries while Venus and Mars were in neighboring constellations.

• June 17, 2 B.C., when Jupiter and Venus were closely aligned in Leo.

Mathews believes the April 17, 6 B.C. alignment is the most likely candidate. It makes sense because he believes the wise men were Zoroastrian astrologers who would have recognized the planetary alignment of Aries as a sign of a powerful leader was born.

"In fact it would have even meant that (the leader) was destined to die at an appointed time, which of course would have been significant for the Christ child, and may have been why they brought myrrh, which was an embalming fluid," Mathews said.

"Saturn there would have made whoever was born as a leader a most powerful leader because Saturn had the strength to do it, in their view."

Mathews has been sharing his findings in public lectures at Notre Dame and plans to write a paper to submit to the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society. He's also considering writing a book.

Mathews concedes, though, that any of the other events could have been the famed star. Unless a document is discovered that allows historians to more accurately estimate exactly when Jesus was born, it will be impossible to say what caused the light with absolute certainty, Mathews said.

"I think it would take more of a historical reference more than an astrophysics," he said. "There are plenty of strong opinions out there. I think this is as good as you can do for now."

Church

Continued from page D1

The process started Aug. 27, 2006, when Bishop Driscoll blessing the ground behind the original church as the site of the new church. For many months, parishioners attended mass in the old church while the new one was under construction behind them.

The final mass in the original Our Lady of the Snows took place on July 29, 2007, and it was demolished on Aug. 13.

The original church had two wings at the rear for classrooms and a kitchen.

The new building has 11,290 square feet and a smaller footprint because its classrooms and parish hall are underneath. It stands 15 feet taller than its predecessor.

The dedication drew 17 Idaho priests, more than

one-third of all those ordained in the state.

The ceremony included blessing the altar by rubbing holy chrism into its marble surface. The holy oil is used in baptisms, confirmation and the ordination of priests.

Under the altar is a relic of St. Frances Cabrini, a relic stone from the first church dedicated in 1870.

The Rev. Jorge Garcia, pastor of Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church, presided over the first Mass on Dec. 13, followed by Santa Mass the next day.

The Mass of Dedication ended with a reception in the Parish Hall underneath the church in a daylight breakfast. Archbishop McLaughlin and Dave Wilson, owner of Dave Wilson Construction, were in attendance.

MISSIONARIES

Sister Caille Beck has returned from serving a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in French-speaking mission on the island of New Caledonia, which is in the Pacific Islands.



Beck

Beck is the daughter of Heidi and Karen Beck of Burley and is in the Burley 4th Ward. She is a 2003 graduate of Burley High School and will attend Brigham Young University in January to complete a degree in psychology.

Sister Kamil Lentz served in the El Salvador San Salvador East Mission. Lentz graduated from Twin Falls High School and Idaho State University as a

registered nurse. She also attended Utah State University, worked in labor and delivery at a hospital in Logan, Utah, and participated in two medical trips to Peru before her mission.



Lentz

She plans to return to work in a hospital. She is the daughter of David and Karen Lentz of Twin Falls and is in the Twin Falls 19th Ward.

The Times-News welcomes news of church missionaries. Send information to Ellen Thumason at ellen@magicvalley.com or in the Mini-Cassia area, Trena Tegan at trena@magicvalley.com. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for publication on the Saturday religion page.

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Salt Lake Methodists make room for city's homeless

By Natalie Hale
Deseret Morning News

SALT LAKE CITY — A boldness echoed through the Christ United Methodist Church chapel as the congregation stood and sang the words to Dan Schutte's 1981 hymn, "Here I Am, Lord."

The hymn's symbolic meaning resonated through the struggling church members ordered to have the recently renovated church's basement turned into a proper housing facility so they could better serve Utah's homeless families.

"I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them," they sang in unison. "My hand will save."

"The Inn," as it was named, is multipurpose. It is used as classrooms on Sunday and then converted to bedroom areas during the week. It features a large kitchen, showers and laundry facility and can accommodate three to five families a week.

"As a part of Family Promise Salt Lake formerly known as the Salt Lake Interfaith Hospitality Network the area will provide homeless families meals and lodging at no cost. Volunteers from the congregation provide food and also stay at the facility."

"This is a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ and provide service to people."

— The Rev. Steven Goodier

During the day, members in the program are partnered with social workers to help them meet case management goals and regain a stable lifestyle.

"Two-thirds of the homeless in Utah are families with children," said Steve Graham, president of Family Promise. "For whatever reason, somebody falls into homelessness and they try as hard as they can to not depend on anyone else and then they come looking and many of them ask God that Family Promise is there."

The families rotate among different affiliate churches weekly.

Most facilities house families four weeks a year, but because "The Inn" was built specifically to cater to the needs of Utah's homeless families, other congregations will be able to volunteer their time there if they don't have adequate facilities to house them.

In May, Natasha White came from Los Angeles to Salt Lake with her son. She knew she needed to change her life, she said, and her

daughter worked in Clearfield, so she and her son made the trip to Utah. They came with nothing and, with nowhere to go, they were told to talk to the people at Family Promise.

"From that day on, my whole life changed," White said.

After spending time in the program, White was able to find stable housing and secure a job.

"They brought me a long way and helped me see life a little better," White said.

The Rev. Steven Goodier wasn't surprised at his congregation's dedicated support of Family Promise.

"This is a way to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ and provide service to people," Goodier said. "I've been a pastor at a lot of churches, but I've never been a part of a congregation that has been so service oriented."

golden corral MERRY CHRISTMAS
Look for our ad in today's paper.

Holiday handouts don't solve the hunger problem

By Mark Winne
Special to The Washington Post

How can anyone not get caught up in the annual holiday turkey frenzy?

At the food bank I co-founded in Hartford, Conn., November always meant cheering the caravans of food-laden trucks that moved into our parking lot. They came on the heels of the public appeals for "A bird in every pot," "No family left without a turkey" and our bank's own version — "A turkey and a 20 (dollar bill)." Like nonstop girls leading a high school pep rally, we reveled up the community's charitable impulse to a fever pitch with radio interviews, newspaper stories and dramatic television footage to extract the last gobbler from the stingiest citizen. After all, our nation's one great day of social equity was upon us. In that rare soup kitchens and the gated communities of hedge-fund billionaires alike, everyone was entitled, indeed expected, to "sit down" to a meal of turkey with all the fixings.

And here we are, putting on the same play again this year. But come the day after Thanksgiving, as most of its stuff more leftovers into our bulging refrigerators, 35 million Americans will take their place in line again at soup kitchens, food banks and food stamp offices nationwide.

The good souls who staff America's tens of thousands of emergency food sites will renew their pleas to donors fatigued by their burst of holiday philanthropy. Food stamp workers will return to their desks and try to convince mothers that they can feed their families on the \$3 per person per day that the government allots them.

The cycle of need — always present, rarely sated, never resolved — will continue. Unless we rethink our devotion to food donation, America's far-flung network

(America's) vast base of volunteers and donors and its ever-expanding distribution infrastructure have made it a powerful force in shaping popular perceptions of domestic hunger and other forms of need. But in the end, one of its most lasting effects has been to sidetrack efforts to eradicate hunger and its root cause, poverty.

of emergency food programs — from Second Harvest to tens of thousands of neighborhood food pantries — constitutes one of the largest charitable institutions in the nation. Its vast base of volunteers and donors and its ever-expanding distribution infrastructure have made it a powerful force in shaping popular perceptions of domestic hunger and other forms of need. But in the end, one of its most lasting effects has been to sidetrack efforts to eradicate hunger and its root cause, poverty.

As sociologist Janet Poppendieck made clear in her book "Sweet Charity," there is something in the food-banking culture and its relationship with donors that dampens the desire to empower the poor and take a more muscular, public stand against hunger.

My experience of 25 years in food banking has led me to conclude that co-dependency within the system is multifaceted and troubling.

As a system that depends on donated goods, it must curry favor with the nation's food industry, which often regards food banks as a waste-management tool. As an operation that must sort through billions of pounds of damaged and partially salvageable food, it requires an army of volunteers who themselves are dependent on the carefully nurtured belief that they are "doing good" by "feeding the hungry." And as a charity that lives from one multimillion-dollar capital campaign to the next (most recently, the Hartford food bank raised \$4.5 million), it must maintain a ready supply of well-heeled philant-

pists and captains of industry to raise the dollars and public awareness necessary to make the next warehouse expansion possible.

The ability of food banks to attract volunteers and raise money approaches that of major hospitals and universities. While none of this is inherently wrong, it does distract the public and policymakers from the task of harnessing the political will needed to end hunger in the United States.

The risk is that the multibillion-dollar system of food banking has become such a pervasive force in the anti-hunger world, and so tied to its donors and its volunteers, that it cannot step back and ask if this is the best way to end hunger, food insecurity and their root cause, poverty.

During my tenure in Hartford, I often wondered what would happen if the collective energy that went into soliciting and distributing food were put into ending hunger and poverty instead. Surely it would have a sizable impact if 3,000 Hartford-area volunteers, led by some of Connecticut's most privileged and respected citizens, showed up one day at the state legislature, demanding enough resources to end hunger and poverty. Multiply these volunteers by three or four — the number of volunteers in the state's other food banks and hundreds of emergency food sites — and you would have enough people to dismantle the Connecticut state capital brick by brick.

Put all the emergency food volunteers and staff and board members from across the country on buses to Washington, to tell Congress

to mandate a living wage, health care for all and adequate employment and child-care programs, and you would have a convoy that might stretch from New York City to our nation's capital.

But what we have done instead is to continue down a road that never comes to an end.

Like transportation planners who add more lanes to already clogged highways, we

add more space to our food banks in the futile hope of relieving the congestion. We know hunger's cause — poverty. We know its solution — end poverty. Let this holiday season remind us of that task.

Mark Winne is the former director of Connecticut's Hartford Food System and the author of the forthcoming "Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty." Email: win5m@aol.com.



Christmas



Celebration!

We invite you to join us for a time of joyful celebration!

Bethel Temple Church

929 Hankins Road

December 23, 2007

5:00 pm

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- New York Burrito, Twin Falls

- Cactus Grill, Twin Falls
- Smokin Cowboys, Jerome

- Idaho Pizza, Jerome & Twin Falls

- Riley Creek, Twin Falls
- Wok N Grill, Twin Falls

*Dine in only. Lobster entrees excluded

- Tomato's, Twin Falls

*Free entree valued \$11.45 or less

- Gerties, Twin Falls
- Divine Grind, Twin Falls
- Vinifera, Twin Falls
- Plum Natural, Twin Falls

- Daisy's, Twin Falls
*Excludes Candy
- Fiesta Ole', Kimberly & Eden
- Zulu Bagels & Java Jungle, Twin Falls
*Excludes Bagel Buckets and retail items.

- Chubby's, Kimberly
*Valid Breakfast or Lunch
- Dales Dogs, Twin Falls

- Crowley's Soda Fountain, Twin Falls
- Subway, Twin Falls, Jerome
- Perkys Pizza, Filer, ID

Top 20 Dining Card

____ Cards at \$20 per card.

____ Total Amount

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

____ Check or Money Order enclosed.

____ Visa ____ Discover ____ M/C ____ Amex

Card Number: # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Mail to Times-News Diners Card
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For faster service stop in, call 733-0931 Ext. #1
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Real Estate

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Section E

REAL ESTATE 501 Open House 1777 Plaza 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath \$119,900 Hosted by: Rob Adoff 731-2085 Gem State Realty, Inc.	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale BUHL HANDYMAN SHOP This cute 2 bdrm home on 14-acre lot has a large fenced yard and a handyman SHOP. It's priced right at only \$75,000. Call Rob McCoy at 731-5502	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale KIMBERLY Beautiful Golf course home, built in 2006! 2,487 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 3 bath, Theater room, Full auto sprinklers, jetted tub, 1 acre. Reduced to sell quick, \$269,900! 3210 N. 3470 E., Kimberly, Idaho 208-421-0551	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS \$329,900 Beautiful new construction, ready now. Full sprinklers & sod, Northwest location. Exceptional Marble bath, 3 bedrooms with a study, room for 4th bedroom, 3 baths, & 3 car garage. Call Ron Freeman 737-3915 or Kathy Partridge 737-3920 MLS#98319037 PC#061	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, ideal corner lot, underground sprinklers, double car garage, and much more. \$146,900 1511 Atlantic St. TWIN FALLS, WA Home: 517-7900, 3 bdrm, 2 bath. Finished 2nd floor, 1120 sq. ft. Split bdrm design. Split bath, large lot 72x100, 18' side yard for RV. Quiet street. Upgrades & extras. A steal at this price! Call 208-734-4314 or 559-937-2030	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1,000 sq. ft., 1 car garage, near Sawtooth School, \$158,000. Lease option. Call 208-734-8550	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 454 Hunter Ave. 1700 sq. ft., 2 1/2 bath, open living room/dining area, kitchen, family room, Hardwood floors, in closets, large utility room, Carpet, Range, vinyl floor, curbing and custom landscaping. Stone patio w/pergo, sprinkler system gas kitchen appliances included. Call 208-315-0507 www.BuyMyHouse.com www.Future.com	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale GOODING house with 5 acres, with \$200,000. Call 208-359-0190 after 6pm.	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale HOME INSPECTIONS www.inspectedonce.com For Buyers & Sellers Bill Baker 326-6116
501 Open House 1777 Plaza 3 bdrm, 1.5 bath \$119,900 Hosted by: Rob Adoff 731-2085 Gem State Realty, Inc.	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale BUHL HANDYMAN SHOP This cute 2 bdrm home on 14-acre lot has a large fenced yard and a handyman SHOP. It's priced right at only \$75,000. Call Rob McCoy at 731-5502	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale KIMBERLY Beautiful Golf course home, built in 2006! 2,487 sq. ft., 4 bdrm, 3 bath, Theater room, Full auto sprinklers, jetted tub, 1 acre. Reduced to sell quick, \$269,900! 3210 N. 3470 E., Kimberly, Idaho 208-421-0551	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS \$329,900 Beautiful new construction, ready now. Full sprinklers & sod, Northwest location. Exceptional Marble bath, 3 bedrooms with a study, room for 4th bedroom, 3 baths, & 3 car garage. Call Ron Freeman 737-3915 or Kathy Partridge 737-3920 MLS#98319037 PC#061	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath, ideal corner lot, underground sprinklers, double car garage, and much more. \$146,900 1511 Atlantic St. TWIN FALLS, WA Home: 517-7900, 3 bdrm, 2 bath. Finished 2nd floor, 1120 sq. ft. Split bdrm design. Split bath, large lot 72x100, 18' side yard for RV. Quiet street. Upgrades & extras. A steal at this price! Call 208-734-4314 or 559-937-2030	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, 2 bath, 1,000 sq. ft., 1 car garage, near Sawtooth School, \$158,000. Lease option. Call 208-734-8550	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 454 Hunter Ave. 1700 sq. ft., 2 1/2 bath, open living room/dining area, kitchen, family room, Hardwood floors, in closets, large utility room, Carpet, Range, vinyl floor, curbing and custom landscaping. Stone patio w/pergo, sprinkler system gas kitchen appliances included. Call 208-315-0507 www.BuyMyHouse.com www.Future.com	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale GOODING house with 5 acres, with \$200,000. Call 208-359-0190 after 6pm.	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale HOME INSPECTIONS www.inspectedonce.com For Buyers & Sellers Bill Baker 326-6116

OPEN HOUSE TODAY 1 - 3 PM 1898 Riverwood Road, Twin Falls Outstanding 4 bdrm home by S&B Construction, River Edge (Escher) Subd. large triple garage, 2143 sq. ft. Covered patio & porch, deluxe kitchen, throughout inside hard wood floors, great room, beautiful Master suite, granite work top & much more. Comfort & Style come Standard. All for just \$249,900. Reduced \$15,000 for the Holidays. Merry Christmas! Call Jani Hutchison today 734-3373 or 731-6991 ALPINE REALTY 235 9th Ave East • Twin Falls • 734-3373	BUY IT! SELL IT! A TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED WILL FILL EVERY NEED BUY IT! SELL IT!	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale JEROME 3 more new homes nearly completed in the Thompson Subd. across from Pizza Hut. Each 3 bdrm, 2 bath with 1 car garage, AC, sprinklers and sod. Between \$129,900, \$249,900, \$329,900, \$349,900.	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale JEROME Beautiful 3 bdrm, 1 bath home newly remodeled, all new appliances, large corner lot, carpet, all new landscaping, in nice neighborhood. \$119,500 or best offer. Call 208-324-7608 or 208-420-2688	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale JEROME Ready, Set, Move! Freshly painted inside and out, this 4 bdrm 1.5 bath home offers finished basement, newer roof, power windows including one new garage in basement. \$124,900. MLS #98326112 Melinda or Beckie @ Western RE Group 234-2236	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400 WE SELL HOMES! www.TwinFallsHassleFreeListing.com 733-5600	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400 WE SELL HOMES! www.TwinFallsHassleFreeListing.com 733-5600	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400 WE SELL HOMES! www.TwinFallsHassleFreeListing.com 733-5600	502 Homes For Sale 502 Homes For Sale GEM STATE REALTY, INC. 208-734-0400 WE SELL HOMES! www.TwinFallsHassleFreeListing.com 733-5600
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OPEN HOUSES FROM 1-4 P.M.
WATCH FOR ASSIST 2 SELL SIGNS!
689 Jackson St., Twin Falls
 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, 1401 sq. ft. \$108,000

407 Nottingham Dr., Twin Falls
 3 Bedrooms, 1.5 Baths, 138 sq. ft. \$125,000

1850 Teton Dr., TF
 3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths, 1677 sq. ft. \$174,900

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Great Value TWIN FALLS MLS# 98316143 \$104,000 3 BR 1 BA. Well maintained manufactured home. Call Roger: 329-0032	Shop TWIN FALLS MLS# 98328096 \$104,900 Excellent location for a business or home, 3BR, 1 bath. Call Debbie: 316-3476	Commercial/Built BUHL MLS# 98334800 \$120,000 Great business location, 4 car bays w/overhead doors. Call Troy: 308-8964	Must See BUHL MLS# 98318160 \$128,500 Enjoy peaceful surroundings & small town living. 3BR/1BA. Call Michael: 948-5102	Dream Shop HAZELTON MLS# 98323956 \$144,900 Nice home w/wooded of potential. 3 BR 2 BA, 32 x 36 shop. Tanden garage. Call Jason: 969-0703
Great Buy! KIMBERLY MLS# 9839396 \$145,000 Great home in Kimberly. Must see. Call Sam: 420-9317	Newly Remodeled KIMBERLY MLS# 98338833 \$189,000 Close to elementary school. Brick exterior. Great back yard. Call Jordan: 429-9709	More Than Ready KIMBERLY MLS# 98319138 \$194,900 Beautiful brick home, much larger than it looks. 5 bed 2 bath. Call Steven: 404-9017	Brand New! TWIN FALLS MLS# 98329467 \$225,900 Move in ready home w/new carpet, paint & tile throughout. Call Ridman: 213-2474	Brand New! FILER MLS# 98324031 \$239,900 Shining 3-4 BR's, 2.5 BA. Tanden garage. Call Tiffany: (208) 293-6928

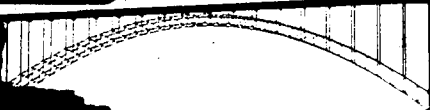
View All Our Listings At: www.TwinFallsHassleFreeListing.com

Lynn Rasmussen Owner/RE/CI 419-2887	Brian Rasmussen Multi-Media Producer 464-2952	Steve Dinsbury RE/CI/CI 464-9017	Diane Walney RE/CI/CI 731-3598	Roger Urubchuk RE/CI/CI 323-4622	Chris Jones RE/CI/CI 529-1246
Sarah Hickey RE/CI/CI 464-8551	Richard Bateman RE/CI/CI 731-2474	Michael Bateman RE/CI/CI 948-5192	Dore Foster RE/CI/CI 326-4954	Sam Salgado RE/CI/CI 429-4311	Jason Shumway RE/CI/CI 948-7783
David Davidson RE/CI/CI 464-4434	Bryan Tabares RE/CI/CI (208) 999-7077	Jordan Reed RE/CI/CI 429-7039	Troy Hanna RE/CI/CI 368-7872	Babbi Dehaard RE/CI/CI 316-3476	Tiffany Lead RE/CI/CI 731-2474
Peggy Connors RE/CI/CI 733-3415	Brianne Haysworth RE/CI/CI 733-3416	Joanna Wade RE/CI/CI 733-5600			

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**3506 East 3300 North,
Kimberly**

Unique round house design with
your family in mind. This spacious
4 bedroom, 2 bath home is
located on 3.6 acres. New paint,
carpet, upgrades, warm country
setting, views all around.
MLS#98292098 \$224,900

Call for your private tour
today!

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To imagine your own pasture down in the Hagerman
Valley. Buy it all or part. Great views, good fences and
irrigation system. \$200,000. MLC #66320108

Call Johnny U
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BRAND NEW HOME



Being built in Bowdoin Acres. South of Jerome. 2000
square foot with 4 bedrooms, 2 bath and 3 car garage.
\$235,000 MLC #66330718

Call Dan Wise 539-2609
or Judy Holland
731-3141

PRIME LAND TO DEVELOP!



Located one mile east of Jerome across from the high
school. Can be purchased as 80 acres or 237 acres.
MLC #66310800 or #66333116

Call Bonny
539-0795 or
Chris 404-6322

WATER SHARES INCLUDED



Need thousands of acres BLM ground and great view?
Get on your horse and ride lower! Irrigated by galled
pipe, included. \$134,000 MLC #66330707

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Fax: 735-0548

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BURLEY/RUPERT
208-478-2678
Fax: 296-478-7877

520 Main Street
GOODING
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YAHOO! hotjobs™

Classifieds

To place ads, call (208) 733-0931, ext 2; Come see us at 132 Fairfield Street, Twin Falls, ID 83430
Or visit us online at www.magicvalley.com • Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

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© Puzzles by Pappocom

4					9
3		6			1
		1		2	6
			3	9	6
2	9				1
		1	7	2	
		2		4	7
1	3			4	2
8					5

HARD

#10

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.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices. They are part of your right to know and to be informed of what your government is doing. As self-government charges all citizens to be informed, this newspaper urges every citizen to read and study these notices. We advise those citizens who seek further information to exercise their right to access public records and public meetings.

IMPORTANT

Please address all legal advertising to:
LEGAL ADVERTISING
The Times-News
PO Box 548
Twin Falls, Idaho
83430-0548
email to:
legals@magicvalley.com

Deadline for legal ads: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday. Holiday deadlines may vary. If you have any questions call Ruby, legal clerk, at 208-735-3324.

Classified Deadlines

For line ads

Tues. - Sat. - 1 p.m.
the day before.

For Sun. & Mon.
2 p.m. Friday.

Need extra holiday cash?

Consider a Times-News
Delivery Route

To apply, call 735-3346
or apply online at
magicvalley.com

101 Lost and Found

FOUND Terrier cross, black with white chest, female, found on Tyler St. Call 208-316-1497

LOST Cat Black/Grey Tabby, neutered male, long body, green eyes (Named Solomon) No collar. Lost in vicinity of Paintbrush & Trotter. (SE Twin Falls) Reward: 735-0355/420-8544

LOST Cat, domestic tortoiseshell with long hair, on Kimberly Road by Haines Auto Electric. Call 731-5048.

LOST diamond wedding ring, ladies if found, please call 208-423-6453.

LOST Kodak Easy Share Camera. Camera was stolen 2 weeks ago. Please return the camera to me or my nephew's birth. Call 316-3288 or mail to Times-News 132 Fairfield St. W. TF.

LOST POMERANIAN Would the woman who picked up Pomeranian at the Oasis on the corner of Addison and Eastown please call us. We have you on video tape and would really like our dog back. Call 406-252-3474 or 208-490-1979

LOST Yorkie, blonde/tan, half female, 12 yrs old. Family misses her. Low reward 734-0383 or 734-4958

Pregnant? Worried? Free Pregnancy Tests Confidential 208-734-7472

FOUND Cat, black and white. Deaf and blind, but litter box trained. Found on old 500 East Jackson area in Rupert. Call 208-436-9720.

FOUND dog, mixed breed, SE of Rupert near Snake River. Call to identify 208-735-1015

FOUND Husky/Border Collie Cross on Lindsey Ln. in Kimberly, male, has two white front feet. Call to identify 208-731-9992

FOUND puppy, black, on Tyler St. in Twin Falls. Call to identify 208-316-1497

Trying to find a good used automobile? Check out the classifieds for the largest selection available in your area today. 733-0331

SAINTA FOR HIRE Very reasonable. Call Roger at 734-5194 / 731-5193

Child Care

BAYSITTER Stay at home mom looking to watch kids in my home. Near CSI. 208-948-5904

NANNAS HOUSE DAYCARE Day and swing shifts, meals and snacks included, CCP and CPR Certified. All ages accepted. Call 208-735-4193

115 Community Events

CLASSICAL DRAWING CLASSES 2008 Sign up now with -MARIA SMITH- The Artist's Atelier Call (208) 734-3003

Trying to find a good used automobile? Check out the classifieds for the largest selection available in your area today. 733-0331

EMPLOYMENT

200 Employment

201 Accounting

202 Clerical

203 Construction

204 Customer Service

205 Dairy

206 Drivers

207 Education

208 Farm

209 General

210 Management

211 Medical

212 Miscellaneous

213 Professional

214 Retail

215 Sales

216 Trades

217 Newspaper Careers

202Z Clerical

CLERICAL Rich Thompson Trucking Inc is accepting resumes for a full-time Data Entry/Receptionist position. Must have exc computer skills, be experienced with office operations and be extremely dependable. Benefits available. Wages DOE. Please send resumes to PO Box 137 Jerome, ID 83338

Abstractions can lead to confusion. Make sure readers will understand your ad completely. Spell it out. Classifieds 733-0331

204 Customer Service

CUSTOMER SERVICE Liberty Tax Service is seeking a dependable person for seasonal part-time customer service position with flexible hours. Requires basic computer skills. Position begins after completion of tax school. Call 208-733-5525.

205 Dairy

DAIRY Herdman needed at Hanson Dairy. Please call 423-5178

206 Drivers

DRIVER Courier/Delivery Driver, Twin Falls area. Mon-Fri days/evenings. Must be available evenings & weekends. Clean driving record. 21+ yrs old. Local knowledge a must. \$9.50/hr. stat. Contact Action Couriers for application 478-7500 or www.actioncouriers.com

DRIVER

DRIVERS Hiring over the road Drivers. 2 years experience preferred. Medical insurance and 401k offered, vacation after 1 year, \$3.35 per mile. Apply at: 46 S. 200 E. Jerome, Idaho 208-324-3515 Glitter Milk Transportation

DRIVERS Local drivers for the Burley/Rupert area, and OTR drivers for dedicated routes. Home weekly. 6% quarterly safety bonus. Exc benefit pkg. Apply at Rich Thompson Trucking Inc 323 West Bee Drive in Jerome or call 208-324-3511

DRIVERS

GUR TOP DRIVERS EARN \$55,000 ANNUALLY REGIONAL & LONG HAUL AVAILABLE CLASS A CDL REQ. 2 YEARS OTR EXP. REO IDAHO MILK TRANSPORT 800-967-2911

DRIVERS

EDUCATION Wendell School District #232 is looking for a Pre School Paraprofessional. Full-time or half-time. Please see district website at www.wd232.k12.id.us for an application contact the District Office at 536-2418 after January 1st.

DRIVERS

CDL Driver needed for long haul in 48 states. Some exp. necessary. Call 208-293-8809

DRIVERS

Be Seen. Be Heard. Use the Classifieds 733-0931 ext.2

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205 Drivers

DRIVERS Hiring over the road Drivers. 2 years experience preferred. Medical insurance and 401k offered, vacation after 1 year, \$3.35 per mile. Apply at: 46 S. 200 E. Jerome, Idaho 208-324-3515 Glitter Milk Transportation

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209 General

COOK TWIN FALLS Care Center Twin Falls Care Center is looking for a Cook for the day and the evening shifts with weekends & holidays included. Must be serious and dependable. Prefer someone with experience in institutional cooking, but will train the right person. Please apply at Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Drive or call Cindy at 208-734-4264

GENERAL TWIN FALLS Care Center Dining Room Aide needed. Hours vary. Competitive wages & benefits. In House CNA Classes offered. Call Cindy 208-734-4264 or apply in person at Twin Falls Care Center 674 Eastland Dr. Twin Falls, Idaho

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The Times-News
magicvalley.com

The Times-News office
will be close at
2:00 pm on
December 24th
and will be closed
December 25th.
We wish you a happy
and safe Holiday
We will re-open on
December 26th
at 8:00 am

Georden: "I do the routes so I can earn money for my video games."
Gary: "I do the routes so I can take my family on vacation."

Newspaper routes are now
available. Call today for
more details.

Georden & Gary
Dad & Son Team, Twin Falls Careers

TWIN FALLS:

- 4th Ave.E., Bitterbrush, Meadowview, Trotter
- Concordia, Mountain View, Randco Vista, Sunrise
- 9th Ave.E., Morningside, Sherry Dr., Sherry Ln.
- Addison Ave.E., Hillcrest, Lakespark, Sunrise
- Carls Cr., Filer Ave.E., Oakwood, Rusty
- Carriage Way, Cedar Park, Longbow, Whispering Pine
- Boxwood, White Pine, Wildrose, Woodland
- 11th Ave.E., Juniper, Knicks, Maple
- Alurax, Heyburn Ave.E., Shoup Ave.E., Sigrid
- 2nd Ave.E., Alta Dr., Harmon Park, Lenore
- Alpine, Bluebell, Clover Ave. Park
- Baroh, Hantson, Polk, Tyler, Taylor, Flimore
- Evergreen, Holly, Julie, Juniper St. N.

- Bitterroot, Elm, Targhee, Towaxway Cr.
- Fells Ave.E., Capri Cr., Eastland Park Dr.

MOTOR ROUTE AVAILABLE

FILER:

- Town Routes Available

JEROME:

- Town Routes Available

BURLEY:

- Substitutes Wanted \$250-\$500
- W.16th St.-W.21st St., Overland-Park Ave
- E.16th St.-E.19th St., Overland-Dennett Ave.
- Overland-Park Ave., W.21st St.-W.27th St.

\$. Earn some extra Cash for the Holidays! \$.

Call now for more information about routes in your area.

Twin Falls. . . 735-3346

Burley, Rupert, Poul. . . 678-2201

Kimberly, Jerome, Buhl. . . 735-3347

Gooding, Shoshone, Hailley. . . 735-3302

Times-News
magicvalley.com

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Guy & Rodd

By Garry Trudeau

By Lynn Johnston

By Greg Evans

by Stephan Pastis

By Pat Brady

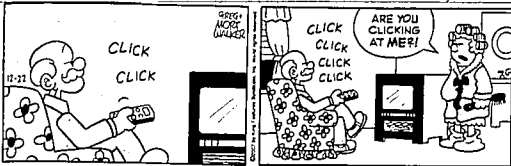
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AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It is time to play Santa Claus. Help your friends get their wishes fulfilled. This is a great day for long-term planning. Formulate a strategy to achieve your fondest hopes and dreams.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be part of the big picture. Take part in community events or go shopping at the local mall and meet up with long-lost friends. The people you meet now might be beneficial in the future.

Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



The Born Loser

By Art Sansom, & Chip



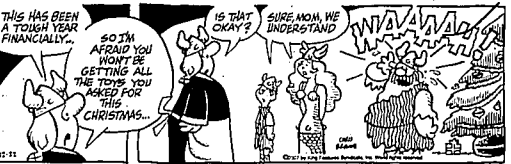
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



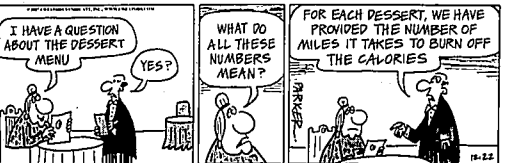
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



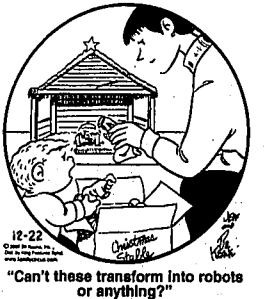
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketchum



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keene



Cook with special recipe means to keep it that way

DEAR ABBY: I have a special cake recipe that I have perfected over the years. I get compliments on it and requests for the recipe every time I take one to any non-family gathering.

People often ask me to make these cakes for them for special occasions. I always tell them that I will need to charge them for it because the ingredients are expensive. No one has a problem with paying me.

I love to cook, and it gives me pleasure to see people enjoy something I have prepared. However, because I use my special recipe as another source of income — albeit a small one — what can I say to those people who demand that they must have the recipe?

I usually evade the question by ignoring them, which I know is rude, but I don't know how to tell them "No," without seeming offensive and snobbish. Please help.

— FRUSTRATED COOK

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Sending a nicely shaped diffidence if you say it with a smile. One way would be to say, "I'm sorry — I don't share this recipe because it's a way I can earn extra money." That's not rude. It's the truth. Another smiling response



DEAR ABBY
Jeanne
Phillips

might be, "Coca-Cola isn't giving away its recipe, and neither am I!"

DEAR ABBY: I go to church with a woman who is generous and means well, but she likes to give away her old clothes — second-hand dresses that fit me, but I wouldn't be caught dead in them. I'm 15, and she doesn't understand that.

My mom is planning to donate the dresses to charity. But now the woman is saying she wants to give me more of her old dresses. I don't know how to handle this.

DEAR SECONDHAND TEEN: Your neighbor is both kind-hearted and generous. She also appears to be into recycling, which is a good thing.

Before you turn your nose up at what she is offering, please consider that vintage clothing can be valuable. Some of it is "classic" and can be worn regardless of what the current fashion may be. Members of the Hollywood crowd, as well as fashionable members of New York society, already know this. I often see their photos in magazines wearing some of the marvelous items they have collected.

However, if your neighbor's dresses are really not your style, I close the menu and honestly and graciously tell your neighbor that they're not for you.

DEAR ABBY: When you're at a restaurant, after you have made your selection from the menu, what should you do with it? Do you place it closed directly in front of you, or place it hanging halfway off the table?

— CONFUSED IN DENVER

DEAR CONFUSED: If the server has not yet taken your order, I close the menu and place it beside me on the table. (The closed menu signals to the server that I have made my choice.) After my order is taken, I hand the menu to the server.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 2007. There are 9 days left in the year. Winter's arrival: 1:08 a.m. Eastern time.

Today's highlight:

On Dec. 22, 1944, during the World War II Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe rejected the Germans' demand that the Americans surrender, writing "Nuts!" in his official reply.

On this date:

In 1775, Esek Hopkins was appointed the commander-in-chief of the Continental Navy.

In 1807, Congress passed the Embargo Act, barring all U.S. trade with foreign countries.

In 1808, Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony Number 5 in C Minor, Opus 67, and Symphony Number 6 in F Major, Opus 68 ("Pastoral"), had their world premieres in Vienna, Austria.

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman wrote a message to President Lincoln which said in part: "I beg to present you as a Christmas-gift the

city of Savannah."

In 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. (Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.)

In 1907, actress Dame Peggy Ashcroft was born in Croydon, England.

In 1963, an official 30-day mourning period following the assassination of President Kennedy came to an end.

In 1977, three dozen people were killed when a 250-foot-high grain elevator at the Continental Grain Company plant in Westwego, La., exploded.

In 1994, New York City resident Bernhard Goetz shot and wounded four youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 2001, Richard C. Reid, a passenger on an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami, tried to ignite explosives in his shoes, but was subdued by flight attendants and other passengers. (He is serving a life sentence in federal prison.)

Ten years ago: During his visit to Bosnia, President Clinton thanked American troops and lectured the nation's three presidents to set

aside their differences. Gummam attacked an Indian village in southern Mexico, killing 45 people. Actress Hunter Tylo, whose pregnancy got her fired from TV's "Melrose Place," was awarded \$4.9 million by jurors who agreed she'd been wrongfully terminated.

Five years ago: A defiant North Korea said that it had begun removing U.N. seals and surveillance cameras from nuclear facilities that U.S. officials said could yield weapons within months. Time magazine chose as its Persons of the Year for 2002 three female whistleblowers: FBI agent Chelsea Rowley; WorldCom auditor Cynthia Cooper; and former Enron vice president Sherron Watkins. Joe Strummer, lead singer of the legendary British punk band The Clash, died in Bromfield, England, at age 50.

One year ago: Rape charges were dropped against three Duke University lacrosse players, but kidnapping and sexual offense charges remained. (Those charges were later dropped as well.) Space shuttle Discovery returned to Earth after a smooth, 13-day flight to revive the international space station.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Former House Speaker Jim Wright is 85. Actor Hector Elizondo is 71. Country singer Red Steagall is 69. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Steve Carlton is 65. ABC News correspondent Diane Sawyer is 62. Rock singer-musician Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick) is 61. Baseball All-Star Steve Garvey is 59. Singer Robin Gibb is 58. Gaffer Jan Stephenson is 56. Actress Bernadette Stans is 53. Rapper Luther Campbell is 47. Country singer-musi-

cian Chuck McEad (B1549) is 47. Actor Ralph Fiennes is 45. Actress Lorraine Bell is 39. Country singer Lori McKenna is 39. Actress Dina Meyer is 39. Actress Heather Donahue is 33. Actor Chris Carmack is 27. Singer Jordin Sparks ("American Idol") is 18.



Sparks

THOUGHT

"Winter is not a season, it's an occupation."

— Sinclair Lewis, American author (1885-1951)

Nick Lachey's choir wins NBC's 'Clash of the Choirs'

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center has something to sing about, thanks to Nick Lachey and the hometown choir he put together.

They were declared winners on Thursday night's finale of NBC's "Clash of the Choirs," taking home \$250,000 for the hospital. Lachey's choir beat four other choirs led by music celebrities who went to their home areas to find talent. The choirs performed live in four

airings from New York City this week. The winner was determined by viewer voting. "I've been blown away by my choir's poise. It's made up of amateur singers. They've never done this before," Lachey, 34, said on the show. He hand-picked the 20 vocalists in his choir from 350 people who auditioned six weeks ago. The choir included teachers, a child server, a nurse, cell phone and software salesmen, choir directors and college students. Many Children's Hospital

Medical Center employees "have been glued to TV at home this week rooting for the hometown choir," said Nick Miller, hospital spokesman.

Parti Labelle's Philadelphia choir placed second, while Blake Shelton's Oklahoma City choir was third. Also competing: Michigan's New Haven, Conn., choir and Kelly Rowland's Houston choir. The show surprised these choirs with a \$500,000 donation from GE to each of their charities.

816	816
Miscellaneous	Miscellaneous
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1006 Trucks

FORD '97 ext cab, 4WD, AT, 5.0L, 302 motor, \$12,000. Call 208-608-1999.

GMC '02 Duramax, 6' lift, dark blue, 4 door, 4WD, tan leather interior, power everything, exc. cond., \$17,000. Call 208-300-0181.

1006 Trucks

FORD '96 F150, V8, standard cab, bed in or, new radio, new tires, exc. cond. 108K. \$2,900. 308-5786

GMC '95 1 ton, 4x4, loaded, \$13,000/offer. CHEVY '89 S4000/offer. Call 208-433-5228

GMC '95 Sierra, crew, tow pkg., rear airbag suspension, bed liner, roller brake, \$16,000. 208-420-6923

GMC '94 Sierra, 4x4, power windows and locks, \$5,900. 324-0859

2011 So. Lincoln Jerome, ID.

Smalley Motors

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WETTE

MUHID

VOONCY

SYVURC

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington



His always looking down!

WHEN THE STAR QUARTERBACK LEARNED TO FLY, HE WAS GOOD AT IT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: (Answers Monday)

Jumbles: CRIME WOMEN IDIOT TREATY

Answer: What the large Christmas tree needed -- "TRIMMING"

CANYON MOTORS SUBARU



1999 PONTIAC GRAND AM
2000 CHEVY MALIBU

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CHROME WHEELS, CRUISE
CANYON'S PRICE
\$3999

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, POWER STEERING, TILT
CANYON'S PRICE
\$4250



1997 JEEP CHEROKEE
1997 CHEVY SILVERADO

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE
CANYON'S PRICE
\$4880

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE
CANYON'S PRICE
\$5400



2000 MAZDA PROTEGE
2000 DODGE CARAVAN

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC
CANYON'S PRICE
\$5775

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE
CANYON'S PRICE
\$5775



2005 KIA OPTIMA
2002 SUBARU OUTBACK

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE, 20,000 MILES
CANYON'S PRICE
\$10800

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE, 20,000 MILES
CANYON'S PRICE
\$11290



2003 HONDA ACCORD EX
2003 SUBARU BAJA

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE, 20,000 MILES
CANYON'S PRICE
\$13800

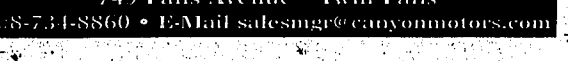
4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE, 20,000 MILES
CANYON'S PRICE
\$15675



2005 FORD F-150
2007 SUBARU OUTBACK

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE, 20,000 MILES
CANYON'S PRICE
\$19995

4CYLINDER, AC, AUTOMATIC, CRUISE, 20,000 MILES
CANYON'S PRICE
\$20990



2003 GMC DENALI
2006 DODGE RAM 2500

CANYON'S PRICE
\$24950

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\$36400

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Sudoku Answers:

4	7	5	6	3	1	8	2	9
3	2	6	9	8	7	5	4	1
9	8	1	4	2	5	6	3	7
7	1	8	3	9	6	2	5	4
2	6	9	8	5	4	1	7	3
5	3	4	1	7	2	9	8	6
6	9	2	5	4	3	7	1	8
1	5	3	7	6	8	4	9	2
8	4	7	2	1	9	3	6	5

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2010 Autos

BUICK '91 Park Ave.
 102K, exc. cond. Well maintained & loaded.
 Must see/drive.
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2010 Autos

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 like new, 24K miles, super sharp! \$16,900.
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 Stock #101.
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SUBARU '99 Legacy Sport, good condition, A/C & heat, leather interior, and new tires. \$8,000 or best offer. Call 208-731-3683.

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VOLVO '99 V70 75K miles. Loaded with all the options: leather, moonroof, 3rd row seat. Runs great \$7100/offer. Call 208-731-3723.

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The Times-News
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 The Times-News office will be close at 2:00 pm on December 24th and will be closed December 25th. We wish you a happy and safe Holiday. We will re-open on December 26th at 8:00 am

Something strange happens to people at this time of year.

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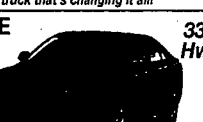
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\$2,000
0.0% APR for 36-48 mos. **1.9% APR** for 60 mos.

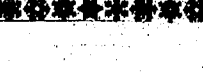
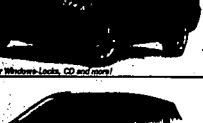
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- Superintendent Message
- District Spotlights
- Winter Calendar
- TFHS S.M.A.R.T Program

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INFLATION IMPACTS SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDING BUDGETS

The majority of the Canyon Ridge High School (CRHS) bid packages have been received and the costs of the bids are higher than budgeted. The other projects approved as part of the bond campaign appear to be facing a similar fate. Since the original plan and budget amount of \$49.7 million was set, the public and commercial construction market has changed dramatically.

Construction costs have escalated in the last several years due to a number of factors. Contractors have not been able to find enough workers or supplies to meet the demand. Material and petroleum costs are much higher due to world demand and limited resources. These factors combined to drive up costs. In Idaho school construction, during the past three years, costs have increased in the range of 15 to 40% over budgets that had been set during the bond planning phase of the project.

The District is forging ahead on the Canyon Ridge High School and calculates that the construction project is 28% over budget; instead of \$37.6 million, the construction costs will be approximately \$47 to \$49 million. As a result of prudent investment of the bond money and land adjacent to the CRHS site, the district is able to increase the revenues by \$8 million above the \$49.7 million originally approved. Interest should net about \$5 million, and the excess property at the CRHS site has been appraised at approximately \$3 million. This still leaves a shortfall of about \$7 million necessary to complete the other projects at the schools which were part of the bond project. The Board of Trustees has committed to the completion of those projects even though it may take additional time.

In an effort to trim the current budget, value engineering (an attempt to reduce or limit component parts and pieces) has been examined on every bid. A guiding principle during this process has been to preserve the critical educational components and facilities to meet the needs of the children who will attend the schools. This effort has been undertaken, but it has not provided the kind of results that had been anticipated. Value engineering ideas will continue to be reviewed in an effort to yield cost reductions to the project.

One step that can help with this issue is the Plant Facility Levy that has been in place for 50 years and approved by voters each 10 years. The levy is being proposed to the

patrons in March to provide the financial resources to help with the construction projects as well as to maintain our current buildings to the high level that has been historical for the district. The plant facility levy is already being paid by the taxpayers and has maintained a static level of cost to the taxpayer. Since the tax levy is based on the assessed value of the district, which continues to rise, the tax rate will remain the same while generating more funds and will help to solve the situation that the district is facing today.

Growth is occurring in the District, and new buildings are going to be needed in the future. The administration and board want to continue to keep up with this growth and have placed a priority on planning ahead to provide for the educational needs of the community. The District has a challenging task to put together a solution that will accomplish the goals expected by the public and set forth by the Board of Trustees. This effort will take patience, understanding and support from patrons, parents, students, staff, administration and the Board.

We have the opportunity to continue moving forward, and it will take everyone pulling together to make it happen. If you desire a presentation or more information about the plant facility levy, please contact the school district office at 733-6900 or email Dale Thornsberry at thornsberryda@tfsd.k12.id.us.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear TFSD #411 Parents, Students, Patrons and Staff:

I want to take this opportunity to wish you a merry Christmas, a happy holiday season, and prosperity in 2008. I am hopeful that this year will be our finest ever in the Twin Falls School District. As we begin the second semester of the current school year, I feel a great sense of pride in what we have accomplished so far, and I am confident that the second semester will bring much success in terms of student achievement and customer satisfaction. It is an exciting time to be involved in the field of public education; perhaps the most noble profession.

As we rapidly move toward the beginning of the second semester on January 14th, many teams and committees are working on important issues and decisions through the shared leadership approach. As our architects, construction managers, and district office officials continue to plan, work on, and complete construction projects on nearly every campus in the district, committees comprised of community members and district personnel will continue their work to formulate recommendations to help guide our reconfiguration (grades K-5 elementary schools, 6-8 middle schools, and 9-12 high schools) and rezoning efforts. The diligent work of the people within these two committees should culminate in recommendations to the board in the late spring of this current school year. Soon, another committee will be formed to hire the very first principal at Canyon Ridge High School. The new principal will begin work as early as July 1, 2008 on the exciting challenge to successfully open the new school.

Building leadership, grade level, and department teams in every school will continue their relentless work to analyze and interpret student achievement data and their efforts to continually adjust instruction and extra time/extra help strategies to meet the educational needs of our students. That work appears to be paying off. For example, Twin Falls High School and Robert Stuart Junior High School were able to track marked improvement after instituting school time schedules that built opportunities for additional time and help for students into each school day. Please check out the data from TFHS included in this edition of *District Focus*. Our associate superintendent, Patti O'Dell, will be working with the Extra Duty Pay Committee and the Activities Advisory Committee to create recommendations to update the current structure the district has in place to compensate our teacher leaders. In addition, they will look to expand the pay schedule to include the new positions that will be necessary when we open a new high school and change our junior high configuration to a middle school format, and to make plans in how we can effectively transition into a situation where our high school students will have double the opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities.

I want to inform you of an important upcoming event. As our community is aware, the TFSD is well known for the great care the district has always given its facilities over the years. That care has allowed the district to utilize its buildings for longer periods of time by comparison with many other districts. For example, parts of Bickel Elementary are over 100 years old. The District Office Building was built around 1918. Lincoln Elementary is over 75 years old. Harrison and Morningside Elementary Schools turned 50 last year. TFHS celebrates its 55th birthday this year. Unbelievably, the "new" O'Leary Junior High is fast approaching 30 years of age! Each of these buildings and the other facilities in the district are so well kept and a source of great pride to our community. We have plans to utilize even the oldest of our buildings well into the future. The patrons in our district have, for the past 50 years, provided the district with the necessary funds to keep our facilities up-to-date and looking good. The district now needs the support from our patrons for another 10 years to continue to care for and protect the investment in our facilities. In January I will present a resolution to the school board giving the district permission to run a 10-year plant facility reserve fund levy election on March 11th, 2008. It is important to reiterate that this is not a new tax, but a renewal and a continuation of funding for the maintenance and upkeep of our district's schools.

As I conclude my comments in this edition of our *District Focus*, I want to sincerely thank our administrators, faculty and staff members for their strong efforts to increase the rigor of the daily work we ask from our students, for recognizing that increased rigor must be accompanied by opportunities for additional help and time, and for the strong working relationships they are forging with our students and their parents. Great things are happening in the district as a result. I am so proud to be a part of that quality effort.

Sincerely,

Dr. Wiley J. Dobbs.
Superintendent of Schools

District SPOTLIGHT

Most Inspirational Teacher Night



Friday, October 26th was Most Inspirational Teacher Night at Twin Falls High School. Each senior varsity football player presented his white "away" jersey to the teacher who most inspired him from elementary to high school.

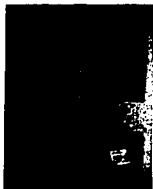
The Class of 2008 football players would like to thank and recognize the following teachers for providing inspiration during the course of their education in the Twin Falls School District. Please see the list to the right.

#	SENIOR	TEACHER	SCHOOL
3	Bryant Ward	Mrs. Blanco	TFHS
6	Connor Walkers	Mrs. Blanton	Moscow
10	Caryn Johnson	Mr. Gerschl	O'Leary
13	Bo Feikunga	Mr. Wakenman	O'Leary
15	Judd Orenstad	Mrs. Jones	O'Leary
18	Connor Smith	Mrs. K. Ingram	Bickel
19	Russ Pullen	Mr. Fedenco	TFHS
22	Nick Yergomien	Mr. Doyle	O'Leary
25	David Lush	Mrs. Stanger	TFHS
39	Grayson Stone	Mr. Dickinson	Robert Stuart
40	Bo Hegb	Mr. Ballaton	TFHS
41	McKaly Grimswood	Mrs. Barron	Manning
42	Leopold Pino	Mr. Moody	O'Leary
46	Grady Bowman	Mrs. Pizzo	TFHS
50	Tyler Long	Mrs. Meyerhoeffer	Sawtooth
51	Patrick McKen	Mr. Moody	O'Leary
53	Tyson Long	Mrs. Kemper	TFHS
56	Travis Johnson	Mrs. Andrus	Sawtooth
63	Tommy Rodriguez	Mrs. Johnson	Harrison
65	Jake Pierce	Mr. Harr	TFHS
66	Sean Reimer	Mrs. Salisbury	O'Leary
70	Luis Sanchez	Mr. Larsen	TFHS
77	Ilan McMurty	Mr. Wallace	Seminary
84	Cody Taylor	Mrs. J. Ingram	O'Leary
88	Brent Martinez	Mrs. Rapp	TFHS

Checked Out
District Blog Yet?



Visit
www.tfhsd.blogspot.com
to check out all of our
District Spotlights, or click
on the big red apple on
our district website.



Clara Allred, Director of Support Services, was named the Idaho Special Education Director of the Year by the Idaho Association of School Administrators.



Mr. James Haycock, Drama Teacher at Twin Falls High School, was named Idaho Drama Teacher of the Year at the annual Idaho Speech Arts Teachers Association convention.



Ms. Susan Waters, Foreign Language Teacher at Robert Stuart and O'Leary Junior High, was named Teacher of the Year at the annual conference of the Idaho Association of



Mrs. Karlee Annis, teacher at Lincoln Elementary, was given an extra special teacher award through Office Max. Office Max presented her with over \$1500 in supplies ... including a new chair, storage cart, a printer, a digital camera.

Teachers of the Year and
District Spotlight

CALENDAR

January

- 2 School Resumes
- 11 Early dismissal at 1:15
- End of 2nd Quarter
- End of 1st Semester
- No School for 1/2 day Kindergarten

February

- 14 No School—Teacher Inservice
- 15 No School—Teacher Inservice
- 18 No School—President's Day

March

- 11 10-Year Plant Facility Levy Election
- 14 Early Dismissal at 1:15
- End of 3rd Quarter
- No School for 1/2 Day Kindergarten
- 17-21 Spring Break—No School
- 24 School Resumes

April

- 3 Elementary & Secondary Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- No School for all Grades
- Senior and Junior High Registration
- 4 Elementary & Secondary Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- No School for all Grades
- Senior and Junior High Registration



Twin Falls High School S.M.A.R.T. Program

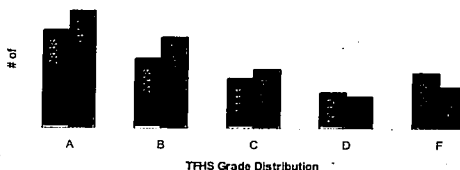
Twin Falls High School students who have a D or F, have work that is not turned in, or work not meeting standards from the previous week are required to participate in the S.M.A.R.T. (Students Magnifying Achievement and Responsibility Together) program. This program was created to increase learning and mastery of standards, decrease failure rates, and create a culture of success.

As one can see from the graphs, the program is working! More students are experiencing success as the D grades have decreased 10%; F grades have decreased 26%; A grades have increased 17%; and B grades have increased 24%. The gains in student achievement led to an overall 3.0 grade point average among TFHS students.



GRADE DISTRIBUTION 2nd Quarter Progress Grades

■ 2006-2007 ■ 2007-2008



GRADE POINT AVERAGE

■ 2006-2007 ■ 2007-2008



TFHS GPA - 2nd Quarter, 2007