

UP TO THE CHALLENGE?

Lebanese players struggle to find homes in college hoops.

Good Morning

High: 35
Low: 26

Good travel weather.
Details: D8

THE INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR

MV business competition heats up.
MONEY, B1

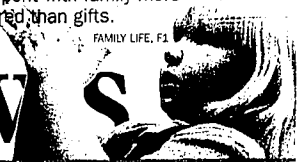
Sunday
December 23, 2007 | \$1.50

MEMORIES WITHOUT THE MONEY

Time spent with family more treasured than gifts.

FAMILY LIFE, F1

Times-News
MagicValley.com



WAITING FOR THEIR HEAD START



Four-year-old Umar smiles as he has an imaginary conversation on a cell phone Wednesday morning during playtime at South Central Head Start.

Local program administrators worried about funding uncertainty

By Andrea Gates
Times-News writer

They lined up to play outside, zipping their coats and pulling hats and gloves at random from plastic bowls on a table by the door. A 4-year-old boy wearing his shoes on the wrong feet fished through the bowl — quickly at first, but then he stopped.

"There's no more," he said, holding up one red glove.

Charity runs thin at the Head Start preschool in Twin Falls.

Many of the small coats stuffed into cubbies have been worn before — donated through "Coats for Kids," said Head Start teacher Dee Fairchild-Garcia.

Head Start is a federally funded poverty prevention program that started in 1965. It gives low-income kids ages 3 to 5 structured preschool education, along with health and nutrition services and

Please see **START**, Page A3



Oblivious to the shoes he wears on the wrong feet, 4-year-old Gabriel tries to catch his hat and glasses before they fall off his head. The young boy is participating in play time — one of the many facets of the structured preschool education program at South Central Head Start in Twin Falls.



Dee Fairchild-Garcia, a Head Start teacher, comforts 5-year-old Gabriel Pope Wednesday morning as the class sings a song. Gabriel and his identical twin brother are attending the preschool program this year after spending a year on a waiting list.

Modern-day parable

Living out lesson of giving, congregation receives joy in return

By Helen O'Neill
Associated Press writer

CHAGRIN FALLS, Ohio — The Rev. Hamilton Coe Throckmorton shivered with anticipation as he gazed at the loot — wads of \$50 bills piled high beside boxes of crayons in a Sunday school classroom.

Cautiously he locked the door. Then he started counting.

It was a balmy Friday evening in September. From several floors below faint melodies drifted up — the choir practicing for Sunday service.

Throckmorton was oblivious. For hours, perched awkwardly on child-sized wooden stools surrounded by biblical murals and children's drawings, the pastor and a handful of coconspirators concentrated on the count.

Please see **PARABLE**, Page A6



Paul Cantley, 9, shows off some of his origami creations in his bedroom at his Chagrin Falls, Ohio, home on Nov. 25. Cantley took the 'parable of the talents' challenge and raised \$68, selling his origami from a stand at the end of his street.

Inside

War-torn families reunited for the holidays through technology.

See page A7

Expert links first Dec. 25 Christmas celebration to pagan shrine in Rome.

See page A8

More pets are finding creature comforts under the tree.

See page A5

Immigrants going back over the border

Tough new employer legislation, slow economy driving immigrants out of Arizona

By Amanda Lee Myers
Associated Press writer

PHOENIX — Illegal immigrants in Arizona, frustrated with a 'Bagging economy and tough new legislation cracking down on their employers, are returning to their home countries or trying their luck in other states.

For months, immigrants have taken a wait-and-see attitude toward the state's new employment-sans law, which takes effect Jan. 1. The voter-approved legislation is an attempt to lessen the economic incentive for illegal immigrants in Arizona, the busiest crossing point along the U.S.-Mexico border.

And by all appearances, it's starting to work. "People are calling me telling me about their friend, their cousin, their neighbors — they're moving back to Mexico," said Magdalena Schwartz, an immigrant-rights activist and pastor at a Mesa church. "They don't want to live in fear, in terror."

Martin Herrera, a 40-year-old illegal immigrant and masonry worker who lives in Camp Verde, 70 miles north of Phoenix, said he is planning to return to Mexico as soon as he ties up loose ends after living here for four years.

Please see **BORDER**, Page A4

Third time's the charm?

T.F. legislator brings drug-free scholarship bill back for another try

By Nata Poppino
Times-News writer

A bill proposing scholarships for drug-free high school students will return to the Legislature during the coming session.

But the bill — which cleared the House in 2004 and 2006 only to die in Senate committee — may face some of the same criticism that did it in before.

Rep. Sharon Block, R-Twin Falls, said Friday that she's made some changes to her proposal, which would reward students who pass random drug tests with as much as

Please see **SCHOLARSHIP**, Page A4

At Your Service directory	E8	Dear Abby	F4	Jumble	E8	Movies	C5, C7	Sports	D1
Bridges	E8	Employment	E1	Magic Valley	C1	Obituaries	C2	Subject	E7
Classifieds	E1-10	Family Life	F1	Mini-Cassio	C7	Opinion	B2	Tavel	D6
Crossword	E2	Horoscope	F4	Money	B1	Real Estate	E3	Weather	D8

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TWIN FALLS

Today Tonight Monday



Good travel weather expected

Unsettled weather approaching

Snow may mesa with travel

High 35 Low 26 36 / 21

MINI-CASSIA

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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@magvalley.com; by fax, 734-6538; or by mail, Times-News, P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

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COMING UP IN THE TIMES-NEWS



Monday

Boot camp fitness could get your body in line.



Tuesday

The charm and chill of a horse-drawn caroling party.



Wednesday

Publishing company helps Idaho cooks share culinary wisdom.



Thursday

Try one of these original cocktails for New Year's.



Friday

Examining the good, bad and ugly of the Russian Olive.



Saturday

What does the season mean to Magic Valley faithful?

SNOW LEVELS chart showing snow depth in inches for various locations like Watershed, Salmon, Big Wood, Little Wood, Big Lost, Little Lost, Henrys Fork/Teton, Upper Snake Basin, and As of Dec 22.

MORNING BRIEFING

AROUND THE WORLD

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For a permanent jail to be built, voters would have to approve a bond. Last year, they rejected an \$80 million bond proposal. Commissioners said they are considering resubmitting a proposal.

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—Wire services

HOW YOUR LAWMAKERS VOTED

Idaho

Tally



Table with 2 columns: Issue Name and Vote Count. Issues include New Energy Policies, Catchall 2008 Budget, Alternative Minimum Tax, Catchall 2008 Budget, Iraq-Afghanistan Funds, and Iraq Withdrawal Mandate.

IDAHO LOTTERY advertisement for Saturday, Dec. 22, showing winning numbers and prize amounts.

ADVERTISING section listing contact information for various advertising services.

Times-News advertisement including online edition info, circulation rates, and subscription details.

Start

Continued from page A1

diurnal care. Head Start workers also make home visits to help parents become more involved in their child's education.

Educators generally agree that the program helps parents' graduates on a more equal footing when they go on in school, though some studies have been inconclusive.

Fairchild-Garcia has no doubt that her students gain from their involvement.

"Never underestimate them. They're brilliant," Fairchild-Garcia said as she helped zip a girl into a light pink jacket.

The state's Head Start Association says the program pays big dividends for taxpayers as well as children, who gain needed tools to break free of poverty. One California study shows that it returns \$9 in benefits — everything from higher personal income to lower crime and welfare rates — for every \$1 invested.

Idaho has 284 Head Start classrooms, and about 661 children from nine counties in the south-central region already were enrolled in the program last year.

But that's not enough.

Waiting...

In south-central Idaho, there are 59 completed applications on file for children who are eligible for Head Start preschool, but who are waiting for a spot, said South Central Head Start Director Mary Marshall.

And numbers on those lists fluctuate.

"Wait-lists will go up or down. We do see waiting lists getting larger in rural areas," said Marshall.

There's a 30-child waiting list for Head Start in Twin Falls, said the location's administrator, Tabina Crooper. "Obviously they can't afford preschool, so they sit and wait for me to call," she said.

Angela Pope, 28, and her husband waited for almost a year to get their twin boys into the Twin Falls Head Start.

"Some people sit on the waiting list the whole school year, like we did last year," said Pope. "We couldn't get them in at four and had to wait until they were almost five."

Pope's boys have extra behavioral needs.

"My twins have disabilities and they have to be separated or else they feed off of each other's behavior," she said.

That means one child goes to preschool for a morning session, the other in



Wound up from his morning preschool session, Gabriel Pope can't help but dart around his family as they head to the house. On this Thursday afternoon Christian grips his mother's hand; he decided that he did not want to take the bus to Head Start, so Angela will have to drive him over later.

the afternoon. At noon one of her sons comes off the bus while the other goes on. Pope said she has to stay home all day to care for each child in turn.

"I wanted to work. I worked here and there ... Because of the disabilities with my children, when do I work? I can't," she said.

Pope's husband brings in \$7.50 an hour as an apprentice plumber and he's also going to school. "We don't see a whole lot of my husband right now, but we know it will benefit us in the long run," she said.

For Pope, Head Start was her sons' only preschool option, she said.

"We are a low-income family. People applying to Head Start can't afford preschool," Pope said. "I really haven't found any other options. The only places without waiting lists are expensive, and there's no way someone with low-income could do it."

Questions linger about the effect of waiting lists. "They're on waiting lists. They don't get that benefit," said Karen Hagan, director of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children. "These children are already challenged by low income. If they can end up equal to their peers who are more economically advantaged, than that's huge ... Then they're even."

Pope agrees. "If there was more funding for low income families, education would be started sooner and we wouldn't have as many kids struggling in school."

Childcare vouchers are also available for certain low income people through the

Idaho Childcare Program, and some Head Start families are enrolled in ICCR Marshall said.

Funding uncertainty

Idaho is one of a dozen states that does not fund preschool programs. Those states in 2006 included Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, according to a March release from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

Head Start operates on 80 percent federal funding, matched by 20 percent from local funds and in-kind services, according to the Idaho Head Start Association.

Another chunk of federal funding, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is channeled through the state to the program. That had amounted to \$1.5 million, but state budget and policy officials said those funds are dwindling.

Local Head Start administrators worry that TANF money could get pulled from Head Start in the coming legislative session, which starts 22 more slots for south-central Idaho children would be lost.

"It's my understanding that money will be redirected somewhere," she said Marshall. "It's our hope people will take another look at that and gather information from us ... That money is so well spent it returns many times over."

But legislators said it's just too soon to say exactly what

will happen to the TANF money.

"There's just no word on that yet," said Rep. Fred Wood, R-Hurley, who serves

on the Joint Finance Appropriations Committee. "There's always rumor before any session starts."

But signs point to a possible shake-up.

Members of the Legislative Audit Division in May told the Legislative Council that a recent audit report raised questions about whether TANF funds should be directed at Head Start.

"Funding for Head Start had not been cut, though that was part of a Department of Health and Welfare recommendation to the governor," according to Legislative Council Minutes dated May 17.

Wood said legislators haven't received budget updates yet, and the governor's request could be involved until his State of the State address next month.

An important investment?

While state lawmakers study the funding issues over Head Start, federal lawmakers and President Bush are apparently solid on the program. Bush signed a bill Dec. 12 to reauthorize the 10-year-old pro-

gram, and that legislation could make more working poor people eligible for Head Start.

"There's no mechanism to increase the amount of kids we can serve," Marshall said. "We haven't seen a dollar amount attached."

Federal spending levels are higher than what the president proposed in his budget.

"Approval of his legislation is not an endorsement of these funding levels or a commitment to request them," he said Dec. 12 in a media release.

The state could also opt to subsidize Head Start and/or preschool programming, but early child education advocates say it's a matter of priorities.

"Our policy makers decide what's important. We can choose to spend money on wars or building roads, which are important, but it's a priority, not a lack of money," said Nison.

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

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Black Rock

Moxie Java Tuscan

Enchantment
Steamed white chocolate milk poured over espresso with peppermint. Topped with a dollop of whipped cream.

Gingerbread Man
Steamed milk poured over espresso combined with gingerbread and spice flavors. Topped with a dollop of whipped cream.

Moxie Mistletoe
Steamed chocolate milk poured over espresso, with Irish cream and just a hint of mint. Topped with a dollop of whipped cream.

Santa's Slipper
Steamed apple cider with cinnamon. Topped with a dollop of whipped cream and a graham cracker treat.

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OUTDOORS	RELIGION

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HOW YOUR LAWMAKERS VOTED
 Idaho
Tally



N	NEW ENERGY POLICIES: Voting 314 for and 100 against, the House on Dec. 18 sent President Bush a bill (HR 6) that would raise vehicle mileage requirements by 40 percent by 2020; boost residential and industrial energy efficiency standards; phase out the incandescent light bulbs now used in most U.S. homes; and increase production of ethanol and other biofuels sixfold by 2022. The bill would increase Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for cars, SUVs and light trucks to a fleet average of 35 miles per gallon by 2020, up from current 27 mpg for cars and 22.2 mpg for SUVs and light trucks. This would be the first increase in mileage standards in 32 years. A yes vote was to pass the bill.
Y	CATCHALL 2008 BUDGET: Voting 272 for and 142 against, the House on Dec. 19 sent President Bush a fiscal 2008 budget bill (HR 2764) that appropriates \$473.5 billion in non-defense discretionary spending, \$70 billion for war in Iraq and Afghanistan and \$11.2 billion in emergency domestic spending. Congress previously appropriated \$459.3 billion for Department of Defense operations in 2008 other than those for Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress next year budget year. A yes vote was to pass the bill.
Y	ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX: Voting 352 for and 64 against, the House on Dec. 19 sent President Bush a bill (HR 3906) to exempt about 23 million middle-income households from the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) this year. The bill will add \$50 billion to the national debt as a result of Senate Republicans' refusal to accept House-passed tax increases and loophole closers designed to offset its cost. The AMT, which sets a minimum rate, was enacted in 1969 to prevent a small number of wealthy filers from using deductions, exemptions and shelters to avoid income taxes. Not indexed for inflation, the AMT has crept into middle-income brackets, and even with this fix it will add a projected \$2,000 per return to the tax bills of four million middle-income households.
Y	CATCHALL 2008 BUDGET: Voting 76 for and 17 against, the Senate on Dec. 18 sent the House a bill (HR 2764) appropriating \$555 billion in discretionary spending for fiscal 2008, including \$70 billion to finance war in Iraq and Afghanistan through May. The House (above) then sent the bill to President Bush, completing congressional work on the 12 spending bills that fund the federal government. A yes vote was to pass the bill.
Y	IRAQ-AFGHANISTAN FUNDS: Voting 70 for and 25 against, the Senate on Dec. 18 added \$70 billion to HR 2764 (above) to fund U.S. military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan through May 2008 without conditions set by Congress. The House and Senate next year will consider the remainder of President Bush's \$193 billion request to pay for U.S. combat in Iraq and Afghanistan in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. A yes vote backed unconditional war funding.
N	IRAQ WITHDRAWAL MANDATE: Voting 24 for and 71 against, the Senate on Dec. 18 rejected a bill to require President Bush to begin withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq within 90 days of enactment, leaving behind a small force to protect American interests, train Iraqi security forces and conduct strikes against foes such as Al Qaeda. The amendment was offered to HR 2764 (above). A yes vote backed the amendment.

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 Saturday, Dec. 22
 5 10 11 34 38 Powerball: 21
 Power Play: 4
 WILD CARDS: 7 16 17 27 28
 Acc of Hearts
 Dec. 22 8 4 2
 Dec. 21 1 4 4
 Dec. 20 2 9 6
 Saturday, Dec. 22
 2 8 11 16 37 48 4
 In the event of a draw tie, the numbers drawn shall be the numbers drawn in the immediately preceding draw.

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How much snow?

Watershed	% of Avg*	Season peak**	Oakley Salmon Falls	63% 19%
Salmon	97%	33%	53%	Of Dec. 22
Big Wood	81%	31%		
Little Wood	81%	27%		
Big Lost	79%	26%		
Little Lost	77%	27%		
Henrys Fork/Teton	93%	32%		
Upper Snake Basin	80%	28%		

* 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.

Start

Continued from page A1
 dental care. Head Start workers also make home visits to help parents become more involved in their child's education.

Educators generally agree that the program helps put its graduates on a more equal footing when they go on to school, though some studies have been inconclusive.

Fairchild-Garcia has no doubt that her students gain from their involvement.

"Never underestimate them. They're brilliant," Fairchild-Garcia said as she helped zip a girl into a light pink jacket.

The state's Head Start Association says the program pays big dividends for taxpayers as well as children, who gain needed tools to break the poverty. One California study shows that it returns \$9 in benefits — everything from higher personal income to lower crime and welfare rates — for every \$1 invested.

Idaho has 284 Head Start classrooms, and about 661 children from nine counties in the south-central region alone were enrolled in the program last year.

But that's not enough.

Waiting...

In south-central Idaho, there are 59 completed applications on file for children who are eligible for Head Start preschool, but who are waiting for a spot, said South Central Head Start Director Mary Marshall.

And numbers on those lists fluctuate.

"Wait-lists will go up or down. We do see waiting lists getting larger in rural areas," said Marshall.

There's a 30-child waiting list for Head Start in Twin Falls, said the location's administrator, Yajna Cooper.

"Obviously they can't afford preschool, so they sit and wait for me to call," she said.

Angela Pope, 28, and her husband waited for almost a year to get their twin boys into the Twin Falls Head Start.

"Some people sit on the waiting list the whole school year, like we did last year," said Pope. "We couldn't get them in at four and had to wait until they were almost five."

Pope's boys have extra behavioral needs.

"My twins have disabilities and they have to be separated or else they feed off of each other's behavior," she said.

That means one child goes to preschool for a morning session, the other in



Wound up from his morning preschool session, Gabriel Pope can't help but dart around his family as they head to the house. On this Thursday afternoon Christian grips his mother's hand; he decided that he did not want to take the bus to Head Start, so Angela will have to drive him over later.

the afternoon.

At noon one of her sons comes off the bus while the other gets on. Pope said she has to stay home all day to care for each child in turn.

"I wanted to work. I worked here and there ... Because of the disabilities with my children, when do I work? I can't," she said.

Pope's husband brings in \$2.50 an hour as an apprentice plumber and he's also going to school. "We don't see a whole lot of my husband right now, but we know it will benefit us in the long run," she said.

For Pope, Head Start was her sons' only preschool option, she said.

"We are a low-income family. People applying to Head Start can't afford preschool," Pope said. "I really haven't found any other options. The only places without waiting lists are expensive, and there's no way someone with low-income could do it."

Questions linger about the effect of waiting lists.

"They're on waiting lists. They don't get that benefit," said Karen Mison, director of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children.

"These children are already challenged by low income. If they can't end up equal to their peers who are more economically advantaged, than that's huge ... Then they're even."

Pope agrees. "If there was more funding for low income families, education would be started sooner and we wouldn't have as many kids struggling in school."

Childcare vouchers are also available for certain low income people through the

Idaho Childcare Program, and some Head Start families are enrolled in ICCP Marshall said.

Funding uncertainty

Idaho is one of a dozen states that does not fund preschool programs. Those states in 2006 included Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming, according to a March release from the National Institute for Early Education Research.

Head Start operates on 80 percent federal funding, matched by 20 percent from local funds and in-kind services, according to the Idaho Head Start Association.

Another chunk of federal funding, called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, is channeled through the state to the program. That had amounted to \$1.5 million, but state budget and policy officials said those funds are dwindling.

Local Head Start administrators worry that TANF money could get pulled from Head Start in the coming legislative session, which starts next month. If that happens, 22 more slots for south-central Idaho children would be lost.

"It's my understanding that money will be redirected somewhere," she said Marshall. "It's our hope people will take another look at that and gather information from us ... That money is so well spent it returns many times over."

But legislators said it's just too soon to say exactly what

will happen to the TANF money.

"There's just no word on that yet," said Rep. Fred Wood, R-Burley, who serves

on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee. "There's always rumor before any session starts."

It's signs point to a possible shake-up.

Members of the Legislative Audits Division in May told the Legislature Council that a recent audit report raised questions about whether TANF funds should be directed at Head Start.

"Funding for Head Start had not been cut, though that was part of a Department of Health and Welfare recommendation to the governor," according to Legislative Council Minutes dated May 17.

Wood said legislators haven't received budget updates yet, and the governor's request won't be unveiled until his State of the State address next month.

An important investment?

While state lawmakers study the funding issues over Head Start, federal lawmakers and President Bush are apparently sold on the program. Bush signed a bill Dec. 12 to reauthorize the 40-year-old pro-

gram, and that legislation could make more working poor people eligible for Head Start.

"There's no mechanism to increase the amount of kids we can serve," Marshall said. "We haven't seen a dollar amount attached."

Federal spending levels are higher than what the president proposed in his budget. Approval of this legislation is not an endorsement of these funding levels or a commitment to request them," he said Dec. 12 in a media release.

The state could also opt to subsidize Head Start and preschool programming, but early child education advocates say it's a matter of priorities.

"Our policy makers decide what's important. We can choose to spend money on wars or building roads, which are important, but it's a priority, not a lack of money," said Mison.

Andrea Gates can be reached at 735-3300, or Andrea.Gates@tee.net

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Scholarship

Continued from page A1
\$2,000 for college. The bill now suggests starting with a pilot program at one large, one medium and one small school district.

"The scholarship would be offered to 600 students and teachers working through the state's drug courts — one program of each would also be in the pilot. And the testing will only cover juniors and seniors who volunteer to return for \$1,000 a year for each year they were clean."

The proposal, Block said, would address a critical issue in the schools using the same tactics as other groups in the state — including Idaho Drug-Free Youth, which gives discount cards rather than scholarships. But members of the Senate Education Committee, where Block couldn't even get a hearing in 2004, said they remain skeptical. Their concerns range from how to

provide equal access to the scholarships statewide to how colleges would ensure student eligibility.

Sen. Gary Schroeder, R-Moscow, the former chair of the committee, said he still doesn't think the state should reward people just for following the rules.

"It's against the law, so you should (the drug-free) anyway," he said.

And he said he worries that colleges would have to spend money to continue

testing students to ensure they remain clean and eligible.

On top of that, the scholarships may not be available to districts that can't afford the tests, committee member Sen. Tom Gannon, R-Boihl, said.

"It has to be available on a statewide basis," he said. "If there was some way to do that, it'd get a more favorable hearing."

Block responded to some of the criticisms in her new

draft, though she said she's still trying to find a way to fund the program. She would give school districts \$200 per participating student for testing and administrative costs — whether or not those students actually snuck with the program.

Rewarding students for following the law would be in line with the way many parts of society work, she said, citing insurance rate breaks for good drivers as one example. "They find that people are

more apt to follow the law and drive properly if they're going to get an incentive for it," she said.

The bill has divided Idaho educators and health officials in the past. Boise State University and Idaho State University all opposed the program at one point, then abruptly withdrew a letter of opposition they had sent to the Senate committee, Schroeder said.

Brent Heinke, then state

director of juvenile corrections, backed the legislation in 2006. But Archie Walker, who gave his name to the addiction treatment center he started in Gooding, said in 2004 he opposed the first version of the bill because it didn't ensure all students at a high school would be tested — which he considered discriminatory.

Note: Poppino can be reached at 735-3237 or ppoppino@magicalvalley.com.

Border

Continued from page A1
"I don't want to live here because of the new law and the oppressive environment," he said. "I'll be better in my country."

He called the employer-sanctions law "absurd."

"Everybody here, legally or illegally, we are part of a motor that makes this country run," Herrera said. "Once we leave, the motor is going to start to slow down."

There's no way to know how many illegal immigrants are leaving Arizona, especially now with many returning home for normal holidays visits.

But economists, immigration lawyers and people who work in the immigrant community agree it's happening.

State Rep. Russell Pearce of Mesa, the author of the employer sanctions law, said his intent was to drive illegal immigrants out of Arizona.

"I'm hoping they will self-deport," Pearce said. "They broke the law. They're criminals."

Under the employer sanctions law, businesses found to have knowingly hired illegal workers will be subject to sanctions from probation to a 10-day suspension of their business licenses. A second violation would bring permanent revocation of the license.

Nancy Jo Merritt, an immigration lawyer who primarily represents employers, said her clients already have started to fire workers who can't prove they are in the country legally.

"Workers are being fired, of course," she said. "Nobody wants to find out later on that they've got somebody working for them who's not here legally."

When immigrants don't have jobs, they don't stick around, said Dawn McLaren, a research economist at Arizona State University who specializes in illegal immigration.

She said the flagging economy, particularly in the construction industry, also is contributing to an immigrant exodus.

"As the jobs dwindle and the environment becomes more unpleasant in more ways than one, you then decide what to do, and perhaps leaving looks like a good idea," she said. "And certainly that creates a problem, because as people leave, they take the jobs they created with them."

Pearce disagreed that the Arizona economy will suffer after illegal immigrants leave, saying there will be less crime, lower taxes, less congestion, smaller classroom sizes and shorter lines in emergency rooms.

"We have a free market. It'll adjust," he said. "Americans will be much better off."

He said he's not surprised illegal immigrants are leaving the state and predicts that more will go once the employer-sanctions law takes effect next month.

"It's attrition by enforcement," he said. "As you make this an unfriendly state for law-breakers, I'm hoping they will pick up and leave."

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Pets finding creature comforts under the tree

By Yan Q. Mai
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Just because 2-year-old Ruben is a dog doesn't mean he can't send Christmas cards.

The Fruggle (a cross between a pug and a beagle) from McLean, Va., has already mailed seasons greetings to his canine friends and signed them with a paw print.

His mother — that is, owner Mary Partlow Lattimus — is knitting him a striped scarf that she plans to put under the tree, along with a new doggy-sized red sweater.

He's already received a box of homemade treats from his walker and a pull toy from a Brittany spaniel. And Santa Claus will drop off the piece de resistance: a new plush toy hedgehog with a distinctive squeak.

"Ruben is really a part of our family," Lattimus said. "It's a good sport when it comes all these things. He puts up with us."

This holiday season, retailers are catering more than ever to the desire to pamper pets. Responding to what they see as the growing humanization of pets, retailers are finding that there's great appeal in the kinds of gifts for pets that were once the sole domain of their owners, such as Christmas stockings, cashmere sweaters and educational toys.

"It's no longer comfortable to reward these animals in pet terms," said Bob Votaw, president of the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association, a trade group. Now the thinking is, "My dog means so much to me that I have to give him something that means something to me," he said.

According to a recent APPMA survey, about 56 percent of dog owners and almost half of cat owners buy their pets Christmas gifts.

Spending on pets is expected to reach \$40.8 billion this year, almost double the amount spent in 1996.

Votaw said the growth is driven by two groups of pet owners — empty-nest baby boomers and dual-income couples with no children — who lavish their time, affection and disposable income on their animals. In this world, pets are people too.

Kartracie Hooper of Washington D.C. cradles her 10-month-old Pomapop, Noly, in her arms while shopping during a holiday party for Juicy Couture's new line of canine-grooming products. Juicy Couture, Noly was stylishly dressed in a floral Elizabethan-style coat adorned with pearls. Hooper said she splurged on the \$70 outfit the previous week.

"Is that bad?" she said, hugging her pooch. "It was getting cold, so I wanted to get her something."

Still, Hooper planned to buy another Christmas present for Noly — maybe, a heavier knit sweater, something more wintry. Her young nephew already bought Noly a bone.

"They're like our best friends," she said. "Besides ourselves, this is the only person we can spoil."

In the APPMA survey, Christmas ranked as the most popular holiday to give pets gifts. Though dogs and cats were the most likely recipients, 27 percent of bird owners also admitted to tucking a little something under the tree. Among people with reptiles, the number dropped to 10 percent.

Tracy Ryan, an associate professor of advertising research at Virginia Commonwealth University who has studied pet gifts, said owners have three main motivations, which mirror the roles we take on when giving to each other.

Most commonly, owners want to make their pets happy, or they feel a responsibility to provide for their pet's needs, she said. But a surprising minority of peo-

ple gave gifts to compensate for a guilty conscience, such as not walking the pet enough or not being able to spend time with it.

Ryan also found that pet owners pay close attention to whether their friends and family include their treat-

ured pup in their holiday lists. Gifts from others are signs that they understand and acknowledge the pet's role in the owner's life.

"If a dear friend or family member fails to give the pet a gift," she said, "well, let's just say it's noted."



Kartracie Hooper of Washington D.C. cradles her pet dog Noly while shopping. Hooper recently spent \$70 on an outfit for the Pomapop.

PHOTO: JAMES HARRIS/GETTY IMAGES

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Parable

Continued from page A1

Forty-thousand dollars. Throckmorton smiled in satisfaction as he stashed the money in a safe.

"That Sunday, the 52-year-old minister donned his creamy white robes, swept to the pulpit and delivered one of the most extraordinary sermons of his life.

First he read from the Gospel of Matthew. "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his ability."

Then he explained the parable of the talents, which tells of the rich master who entrusts three servants with a sum of money — "talents" — and instructs them to go forth and to work. The master lavishes praise on the two servants who double their money. But he casts into the wilderness the one so afraid to take a risk that he buries his share.

Throckmorton spends up to 20 hours working on his weekly homily, and his clear diction, contemplative message and ringing voice command the church. Gazing down from the pulpit that Sunday, Throckmorton dropped his bombshell.

"Take the master, he would give to each of you a sum of money — in this case, \$50. Church members had seven weeks to find ways to double their money, the proceeds to go toward church missions.

"Five, the parable of the talents," Throckmorton exhorted, as assistants handed out hundreds of red envelopes stuffed with crisp \$50 bills and stashed church members did quick mental calculations, wondering where all the money had come from. There are about 1,700 in the congregation, though not everyone attends each week.

The cash, Throckmorton explained, was loaned by several anonymous donors.

In her regular pew at the back of the church, where she has listened to sermons for 40 years, 73-year-old Barbara Gates gasped. What kind of kooky nonsense is this, she thought.

"Sheer madness," sniffed retired accountant Wayne Albers, 85, to his wife, Marjorie, who hushed him as he whispered loudly. "Why can't the church just collect money the old-fashioned way?"

Throckmorton wrapped up his two morning services by saying that children would get \$10. And he assured the congregation that anyone who didn't feel comfortable could simply return the money. No consent to enter darkness for those who didn't participate.

But as church members spilled into the late summer sunshine that morning to ponder their skills and their faith, there were many who thought Hamilton is really rushing us this time.



Reverend Hamilton Throckmorton puts on his robes before a church service at the Federated Church in Chagnin Falls, Ohio, on Nov. 25.

"There was definitely this tension, this pressure to live up to something," said Hal Maskell, a 62-year-old retired Navy pilot who spent days trying to figure out how to meet the challenge.

Maskell's passion is flying a four-seater Cessna 172 Skylark over the Cuyahoga County hills. He decided to use his \$50 to rent air time from Portage County airport and charge \$30 for half-hour rides. Church members eagerly signed up. Maskell was thrilled to get hours of flying time, and he raised \$700.

His girlfriend, Kathy Marous, 55, was far less confident. What talents do I have, she thought dejectedly. She was tempted to give the money back.

And then Marous found an old family recipe for tomato soup, one she hadn't made in 19 years. She remembered how much she had enjoyed the chopping and the cooking and the carrying and the smells. With Hal's encouragement Marous dug out her pots. She bought three pecks of tomatoes. Suddenly she was chopping and cooking and canning again. At \$5 a jar, she made \$100.

"I just never imagined people would pay money for the things I made," Marous exclaimed.

Others felt the same way. Barbara Gates raised \$450 crafting pendants from beads and sea glass — pieces she had casually made for her grandchildren over the years. Katie Biggle created fanciful little red-nosed Rudolph pins

and sold them for \$2.50. Twelve-year-old Amanda Horner pooled her money with friends, stocked up at JoAnn's fabric store, and made dozens of colorful fleece baby blankets, which were purchased by church members and then donated to a local hospital.

But it wasn't the money; everyone said so. It was something else, something far less tangible but yet so very real. For seven weeks an almost magical sense of excitement and energy and camaraderie infused the elegant red-brick church on Bell Street, spilling over into homes and hearts.

In her sun-filled studio on Strawberry Lane, Shirley Culbertson felt it — a joyful sense of purpose that she had rarely experienced since her husband passed two years ago. Culbertson, 81, is a gifted painter and watercolorist fill her house. But she discovered another talent during this time — knitting whimsical eight-inch stuffed dolls with button noses and floppy hats. She raised \$90.

Zooming down country roads clinging to the back of a leather-clad biker, Florence Cross felt it too. For the challenge, Barry Dilgin had parked his 2005 Harley Davidson Road King outside the church, offering 12-mile rides for \$30. Cross was the first to sign up. Never mind that she is in her mid-80s, had never been on a bike, or that her husband of 60 years had to hoist her up.

"Oh, it was such a thrill!" said Cross, her face glowing at the memory. Her friends now call her "Harley Girl."

Martine Scheuermann lived the parable in her Elm Street kitchen, transforming it into an "applesauce factory" for several weeks. The 49-year-old human resources director would rise at 6 a.m. on Sundays in order to have warm batches ready for sampling at church services.

In his original-filled bedroom on Bradley Street, Paul Cantley lived the parable too. Surrounded by sheets of colored construction paper, the 9-year-old crafted paper dragons and stars and sailboats. He set up an original stand at the end of his street, charged 50 cents to \$5 depending on the piece, and raised \$68.

Talents began multiplying at such a rate that the church held a bazaar after services on two consecutive Sundays for people to display — and sell — their wares.

The pretty little village on the Chagnin River falls had

never seen anything quite like it. Everyone seemed to be talking about the talent challenge: over the clatter of coffee cups at Din's restaurant, at the Fireside bookshop on the green, sipping drinks at the Cona's coffee, the tavern. Even members of other churches weighed in: Have you heard what's happening at Federated?

"Anyone can open their wallet and give cash," Kris Tesar said. "This was just an extraordinary process of exploration and discovery and of challenging ourselves. It became bigger than anyone of us or than any individual talent."

Tesar, a 55-year-old retired nurse, discovered her talent in baskets of flip-flops for sale at Old Navy. She stocked up on yarn and beads and made dozens of funky, fluffy decorative footwear that were a huge hit with teens. Tesar raised \$550 for the church, is still taking orders and is thinking of starting a business. Now even her children call her the "flip-flop lady."

Kathy Wellman quilted. Mary Iobbs knit shawls and penciled portraits. Cathy Hatfield auctioned a ride in her hot-air balloon. Norma

and Trent Bobbitt pooled their money with another church member to hire a harpist from the Cleveland orchestra and host an elegant evening dinner party. Folks paid \$50 each and the Bobbitts made over \$1,200.

The deadline to return the money was Sunday, Oct. 28. Organ music filled the church as people silently filed down the aisle, dropped their proceeds into baskets, and offered testimonials about what living the parable had meant to them. Throckmorton started counting.

A week later he delivered the joyful news: They had more than doubled the amount distributed.

The initial take was \$38,195 over the loan, but the amount will be divided equally between three charities: One-third will go to a school library in South Africa where the church is involved in an AIDS mission; one-third will go to micro-loan organizations that provide seed money for small businesses in developing countries; one-third will help the Intercity Hospitality Network in Cleveland, specifically programs for homeless women.

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War-torn families reunited through technology

By Chelsea J. Carter
Associated Press writer

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Wendy Derkts stood in front of the camera to deliver a holiday message thousands of miles away.

She wanted to tell her husband and at war that she loved him and wish him a Merry Christmas, but with the camera rumbling and people watching, her words were replaced by tears.

Hours later, she sat in her living room trying to figure out how to tell her Marine husband what she wanted him to hear.

So she set up her own video camera and just started to talk, telling him everything a wife tells a husband about their children, the family, their Christmas plans. She showed him the house, the tree and the decorations.

"It was an hour of nothingness. But it was me, normal. Me, everyday. He doesn't need to remember me said and crying. That's not what he needs. He needs regular me," said Derkts, 24, of Oceanside.

For some Marines and soldiers, this is their first Christmas away from family. For others, it is a second, third or fourth missed holiday season — a reality of a country at war.

But unlike war past, many deployed military personnel will have an opportunity to connect with loved ones.

From sending Christmas wishes in a video message to participating in a two-way videoconference or using a Web cam.

"Twenty years ago, you sent a letter," said Navy Chaplain William Kennedy, who counsels Marines, sailors and family members about overcoming the lost holidays together.

"Now it's instant messaging and three e-mails a day. That's the norm," he said. "You can be in contact with your family nearly every day. Not too long ago that was just unheard of."

Just a few years ago, e-mail and digital photographs united families with their deployed loved ones in combat zones. Today, live video and audio feeds have made it possible to help those deployed keep up with family events and celebrations.

This is the fifth deployment — the second at Christmas — that Dina Gutierrez, 37, and her two sons have been without the boys' father during the holidays. The first Christmas, she and her husband used Web cams to talk about gifts for their two sons, now 2 and 4. This time, though, she has had to rely on recorded video messages because her husband is at sea with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

"It's like a lifeline for him more than us," said Gutierrez of Marco Island, Fla. "Just being able to see the boys is good for him."

Marine Master Sgt. Otto "Willie" Ellerbrock, 44, was preparing to go back to Iraq again after Christmas. The timing means that next year he will spend his second Christmas there in three years.

"These are years that I will never get back," he said. "It's



Dina Gutierrez and her son, Aidan, 4, who wears a duplicate pair of his father's dog tags, send a video Christmas greeting to Sgt. Joshua Gutierrez Nov. 27 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Her husband is at sea with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

like hitting the pause button on your VCR. You hit pause, you leave you come back and you push play again."

For this Christmas, Ellerbrock was buying a computer with video and Web cam capabilities so he doesn't miss those big moments in the lives of his three children, ages 6, 4 and 1.

"I love to see my kids wake up at 5 o'clock in the morning and see their presents. As a father, it hurts not being able to do that."

"But I also understand that's what I signed up for,"

said Ellerbrock, of Valencia. While the instant communication can bring families together, its fleeting nature can also make it harder on them.

"Sometimes it's hard when you get that 15 to 20 minutes of seeing the family and you have 6 or 7 months left on your deployment," Kennedy

said. "There's a little bit of let-down afterward."

It's a feeling Amanda Doyle knows well. Married for two years, this is her husband's first deployment at Christmas.

"Standing in front of a video camera, Doyle cried. "I started talking to him, and then I just started to laugh."

at the camera and I couldn't think of anything else to say," she said. "It's like when you're on the phone and you know you're at the end of the conversation and you still don't want to hang up."

In an e-mail from his ship, Staff Sgt. David Derkts said access to e-mail and phone services allow him to keep a sort of daily conversation going with his family. And for those times when he can't get in contact, he has pre-recorded audio and video messages for his children.

But he said those don't replace being there for those moments he has missed, such as birthdays, school events and, of course, Christmas.

"The inability to be there for them can never be replaced by an e-mail or phone call," he said.

A few days ago, Wendy Derkts chatted live with her husband through a one-way Web cam — she saw him but they could only type messages back and forth about their first holiday apart.

"I find myself stopping and breaking down when I hear his favorite Christmas carol or something the little one is doing that would just love," she said. "I have to remember that it's his turn. If it wasn't him, somebody else husband and father would be there."

Bush praises military families who help others with sons and daughters serving overseas

By Deb Riechman
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush praised U.S. troops on Saturday and gave a special thank-you to military families who have turned the grief of losing loved ones into acts of compassion.

For many relatives of U.S. troops, military service means packing up their belongings and moving on short notice, living in a foreign country or missing a family member as he or she serves overseas, Bush said in his weekly radio address.

Bush taped his broadcast on Friday before leaving aboard the Marine One presidential helicopter to fly to Camp David with first lady Laura Bush; their daughter Jenna; and Mrs. Bush's mother, Jean Welch. He will celebrate Christmas with his family at the presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, then travel to his Texas ranch the day after Christmas.

"This Christmas, many will sit down for dinner thinking of their loved ones half a world away," Bush said. "These families deserve the thanks and the prayers of our whole nation."

Bush said Army Spc. Michael Rodriguez of Knoxville, Tenn., often wrote

to his family about children he met on patrol during his deployment in Iraq. Rodriguez was killed in April by a suicide bomber, but his family honors his memory by helping collect school supplies for students at an Iraqi school for girls.

Last year, Kirsten Yuhl-Torres of San Diego, Calif., lost her son, Sgt. Joseph Perry, in Iraq.

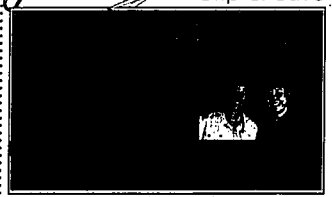
"To honor Joseph's memory," Bush said, "she started sending care packages and writing letters of support to other soldiers serving there. Kirsten says, 'Joe was our only son, but now we have hundreds.'"

The president also told the

story of Bob Lehmiller, whose son, Sgt. Mike Lehmiller, was killed in 2005 while serving in Afghanistan. To honor his son, Lehmiller created Mike's Guardian Eagle Foundation, which assists military families that need extra help when their loved ones are deployed, or when they're wounded or killed on the battlefield.

"All these families have, already given so much to America, and yet they have found a way to give even more," the president said. "We thank each of them, and we thank every one of our citizens who supports our troops with letters and donations or prayers."

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"These families deserve the thanks and the prayers of our whole nation," Bush said. "These families deserve the thanks and the prayers of our whole nation."

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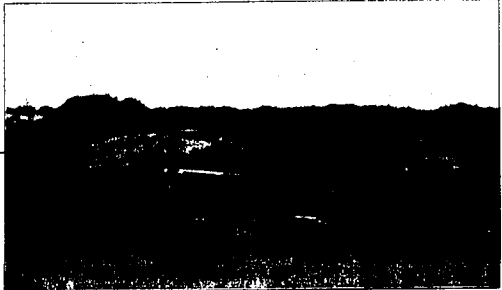
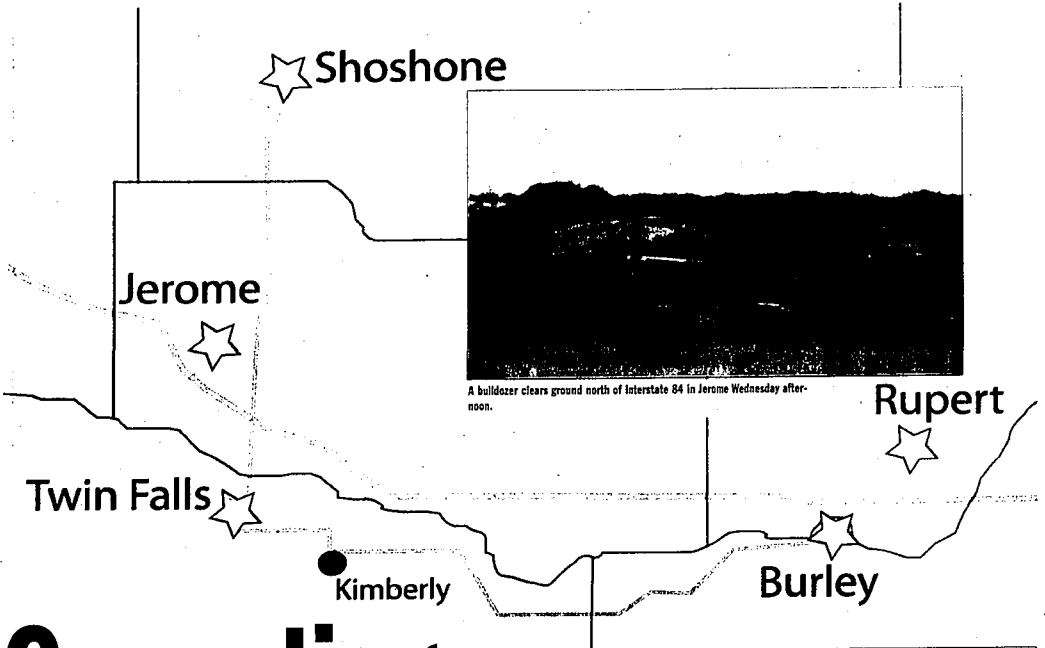
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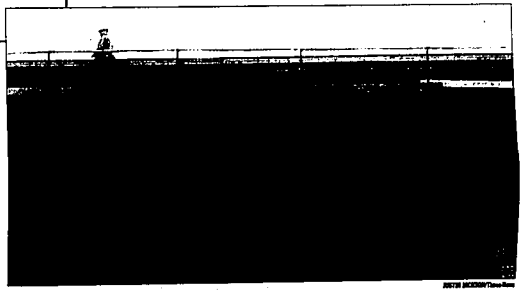
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A bulldozer clears ground north of Interstate 84 in Jerome Wednesday afternoon.



A construction worker walks atop a new building Wednesday afternoon in Jerome.

Competing for growth

Smaller communities are growing more aggressive in economic development

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

South-central Idaho has long been known as the Magic Valley, but state officials are calling it by a new name: The Industrial Corridor.

"That's because the region has been booming with industrial and commercial growth due to the availability of building space and an aggressive marketing campaign.

"Although economic development officials say that communities in south-central Idaho work together for the good of the region, it's apparent that they also compete to be the most attractive to interested businesses.

"The newfound competition seems to have risen from recent challenges facing some communities, such as the closure of Simplot and Kraft in Burley, as well as Shoshone's efforts to revitalize the once booming community.

Now it appears that Twin Falls, which has grown to be a dominant community in economic development growth since the mid 90s, faces new competition as places such as Jerome and Burley unleash aggressive campaigns to market millions of dollars in infrastructure upgrades designed to attract new businesses and industries.

Twin Falls — being challenged

In 2007, Jayco Inc announced the opening of its expanded plant on Hankins Road between Twin Falls and Kimberly.

The announcement not only recognized the company's growth and stability, but also established the Jayco Industrial park as ready to take in new businesses.

The city has already installed the utilities, so the park is referred to as being "shovel-ready."

"We have a shortage of available buildings for busi-

nesses looking to come here, so what we need to have are lots that are ready to build," said Jan Rogers, director of the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization. "It's not necessarily a problem that we only have because it is something that we're noticing throughout the state."

She said developers are ready to build on demand — guaranteeing, for example, that a 25,000 square-foot building can be finished in 90 to 120 days.

Although most businesses want vacant buildings for a quick move, Rogers said most builders find it too risky to build without a paying occupant on the line.

"It's a major risk to build spec buildings if you are not certain that someone is going to occupy them," Rogers said.

It's a similar challenge that communities throughout the Industrial Corridor face, even though property and building costs remain among the lowest in the nation.

Jerome — seeing the fruits of its labor

When people ask Jerome officials why industrial and commercial businesses suddenly seem to be sprouting like cheatgrass, city officials have to explain that these things don't just "suddenly" happen.

In fact Jerome is only now starting to see the fruits of more than five years of quiet investment and hard work dedicated to a region it calls the Growth Triangle.

Establishing the nearly seven square-mile area — bordered by Highway 25 on the north, Highway 93 to the east and Interstate 84 on the west — addresses Jerome's dual goals of economic diversification and while minimizing additional stress on the region's water supply.

It's also a project that began just after 2001, when water rights issues began to build the infrastructure for smart

development," said Travis Rothweiler, Jerome city administrator. "This includes sewer and water lines that can handle millions of gallons of water, as well as the roadways that are needed."

Simply put, the city of Jerome is laying a foundation for growth through a program that is one of the most aggressive and progressive in south-central Idaho.

By connecting the Industrial park to the city's recently upgraded water treatment plant, it has made it possible to expand its industrial base by providing through the lure of an adequate water supply.

Burley — a boom-town

When J.R. Simplot shut down its food processing plant in 2003, city officials went back to the drawing board to see how they could revitalize the economy. They quickly found that their biggest challenge was inadequate water treatment services.

"We went to everything, including senior citizen centers, and told them that they were not even going to be in the game unless they addressed this," Rogers said. "So the voters in Burley decided to almost double the bond to upgrade their water services so it could handle industry growth."

There are now five large businesses under construction in Burley — including Dot Foods and Packaging Specialties Inc — that will create more jobs than were lost to the closure of both Simplot and a Kraft processing plant.

Shoshone — up-and-coming

For decades Shoshone has struggled to revive a local economy, which is some distance from I-84.

See also CORRIDOR, Page B2

Elf for a day: Reporter experiences life on the other side of the shopping counter

By Yan Q. Mai
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The low point in my one-day stint as a holiday saleswoman came shortly after lunch. My feet hurt. My back was sore. I longed for dessert — and, oh yes, I was trying to sell a customer an \$800 diamond necklace to tuck under the Christmas tree.

He showed me the diamonds in his wedding band, we chatted about the quality of the jewels. I tried unsuccessfully not to zone out.

"Is this a gift for your girlfriend or your wife?" I asked, my thoughts already on the next customer.

He stared at me indignantly.

"I hope it's for my wife!" he said. "Oh, I'm sorry," I said, trying to recover. "I didn't notice your ring."

Oops. You think you have it rough, dear Shopper. The long list. The crowded stores. The need, especially this year with gloomy economic news bearing down, to get the perfect little gift at an amazingly low price.

But think. Think about the seasonal laborer, transported from some other life to make all those sales happen, the nimble, stout-hearted soul who mends from jewelry (Carats, anyone?) to electron-

ics (Who knew USH stood for Universal Serial Bus?) and rice-chests to the cake dome table (Can I eat another slice?)

I persuaded Sam's Club to let me, a retail reporter, spend one day last week working at its warehouse club in Laurel, Md., to see what life is like on the other side of the sales counter, one woman in an army of holiday help hired across the country each year.

The National Retail Federation, a trade group, found last year that stores increased their workforce by nearly 4 percent in November and December. Nationally, retail employees are

See also ELF, Page B3

Reporter Yan Q. Mai waits on a customer at Sam's Club in Laurel, Md., where she spent a day as a holiday saleswoman. "Thinking about everybody else and their special holiday gift and their warm and fuzzy memories for eight hours a day is draining," she writes. Washington Post



YOUR BUSINESS

Utah wind project lines up customers

MILFORD, Utah (AP) — Utah wind will keep the lights on in southern California.

The Southern California Public Power Authority has signed a 20-year agreement to get electricity from a wind farm built in Beaver County by UPC Wind of Massachusetts.

The power agency acted on behalf of Los Angeles, Burbank and Pasadena.

"The approval of this power-purchase agreement by the mayor and the L.A. City Council is a major milestone," said Paul Gaynor, UPC Wind's president and chief executive officer.

"In addition to the clean wind energy that the project will produce for the city of Los Angeles, it will be a source of revenue and new jobs to the Utah region where it will be built," Gaynor said this week.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will receive 185 megawatts from the first phase of the Milford Wind Corridor. Burbank will get 10 megawatts and Pasadena will use five megawatts.

UPC Wind said 185 megawatts represents enough power to serve about 39,000 homes.

"We'll begin construction sometime the middle of next year," said Krista Kisch, UPC Wind's western regional vice president of business development. "We're aiming to have the project built before the end of 2008."

MILESTONES

Copy-It

Janice Ham formerly of Copy Pro has recently opened her own business Copy-It in the Lynnwood Shopping Center next to Barton's Jewelry. Ham has over 25 years of retail management, with the last 10 years managing a local copy center. Copy-It will offer digital scan, print and copy services which include blue prints, color copiers, photo gifts, poster size color and more. Staff includes Kately Crawford formerly of Copy Pro who also brings 10 years of experience a key operator specializing in litigation and accounting documents; Kacie Howell, a College of Southern Idaho nursing student who has five years of customer service experience; and Brandy Elam, a junior at Twin Falls High School will bring a youthful and inviting aspect to Copy-It.



Janice Ham



Kacie Howell



Brandy Elam



Kately Crawford

Copy-It LLC is locally owned and operated by Tim and Janice Ham. Tim and Janice are both life long residents of Twin Falls.

Zenitha-Lee

Zenitha-Lee is a new

REMEMBERING LOVED ONES



Hansen Mortuary of Rapert and Hansen-Payne Mortuary of Burley held an open house Dec. 5 at each location. The evening was entitled "A Christmas Tree of Remembrance." The families that were served by the mortuaries through out the year were invited to take an ornament from the Christmas tree, in remembrance of their loved ones they lost this year. Pictured is Hallie Jensen choosing an ornament in remembrance of her brother, Jaden.

RIEDELSE ENGINEERING



Riedesel Engineering Inc. celebrated its five year anniversary and expansion of their new lab on Nov. 16 with a ribbon cutting assisted by the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. The lab located at 2332 Eldridge Ave. in Twin Falls can provide the following tests: moisture density curves, atterberg limits, sand equivalency, cleanness values, sieve analysis, extraction gradation of bituminous mixes, aggregate specific gravities and aggregate unit weights. For more information: 733-9465. Pictured from left, Valerie Smith, Kamille Somanon, Aaron West, Dale Riedesel, Freddie Garcia, Marvin Krebs, Don Acheson, and Rod Mathis.

Herservices are in Mini-Cassia. Katie Lee Bradshaw gives advice and psychic readings over the phone for a fee. Bradshaw has 10 years of experience in advising and two years of study in psychology, but is not licensed or certified.

Herservices are a branch of www.KEEN.com. Calls are taken from 3 to 11 p.m. daily and 8:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. most days.



Bradshaw

SYRINGA WIRELESS



Syringa Wireless has moved to a new location. Now you can find them at 869 Filer Ave., Twin Falls (next to Starbucks Coffee). They celebrated their move with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors at their ribbon cutting. They offer assistance with phones and accessories. Pictured from left, John Mye, senior manager/customer service; Rossana Simon; Ariana Sanchez and John Lance.

INTERFAITH CAREGIVERS



A ribbon cutting was held for Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Magic Valley, Inc. located at 252 Deer St., Ste. A, Twin Falls assisted by the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. The organization is a non-profit Fall in Action program which provides volunteers to assist the elderly, chronically ill and disabled. They serve as a safety net for other community agencies and organizations to ensure no one in need falls through the cracks. Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers strives to enrich the human spirit, alleviate human suffering and create a caring community one life at a time. They can be reached at 733-8333. Pictured from left, Thomas Mahan, board member; Amy Ueraman, executive director; Lynn Hughes, board president and Margie Alexander, board member.

Corridor

Continued from page B1

However, a group of businessmen found a niche that the small agricultural community could fill as its neighbor to the north ran out of affordable development property.

What they learned was that the small agricultural community could fill as its neighbor to the north ran out of affordable development property.

What they learned was that the small agricultural community could fill as its neighbor to the north ran out of affordable development property.

PERSONNEL PLUS



Personnel Plus in Burley associates include, from left, back, Lori Delgado and Yaneth Zamudio, placement supervisors; Christina Garcia, payroll; Angie Angulo, receptionist; and front, Bret Corrigan, sales and safety; and Brenda Bailey, office manager.

Personnel Plus, located at 735 Overland Ave. in Burley, has added several services to its resume.

The business is a complete staffing service, providing drug and alcohol testing and background checks, job skill testing for clerical, forklift operators and cashiers, placement of temporary or permanent employment, workers compensation insurance and payroll service.

New services offered include pre-employment screening, OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) awareness training and Happy Housekeepers and Janitorial Service. Business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and on call 24 hours. The business can be reached by calling 678-4040.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS



Adam Haynes greets customer Gays Price at the Business After Hours open house, at Adam Haynes State Farm Insurance Thursday, Dec. 13. The event was co-hosted by the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce and included food, drawings for door prizes and a visit from Santa Claus. The business is located at 2271 Overland Ave., Ste. 9 in the Overland Shopping Center, Burley. Also pictured is Marcus Meek who played music throughout the event.

CAREER MOVES

Starley-Leavitt

Starley-Leavitt Insurance Agency Inc. announced the promotion of three employees.

Andrea McCandless, CISR, has been promoted to commercial lines manager.

She specializes in farm accounts and has been a commercial account manager since May 2002.

She will manage the commercial department in the Twin Falls and Burley offices.

Patsy Marino, CISR, has been promoted to personal lines manager. She has been a personal account manager in Burley in

recognized as a top-selling account manager in The Leavitt Group for the past two years.

She will be responsible for personal lines operations in the Twin Falls and Burley offices.

Janice Schorzman has been promoted to the position of human resource manager/bookkeeper.



McCandless



Marino



Schorzman

CHECK INTO CASH



Check Into Cash located at 799 Chesney Dr., Ste. H in Twin Falls held a ribbon cutting with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. Their professional staff can assist people with cash for unexpected expenses. For more information: 734-3392. Pictured from left: Rob Newmiller, district manager; Robyn Ross, manager; and Nikole Tyrva, assistant manager.

We want YOUR BUSINESS news

To submit contributions to the YourBusiness section, send information and photographs to Times-News Business Editor Joshua Palmer at jpalmer@magicalvalley.com or call (208) 735-3231.

Kimberly — More than a bedroom community

"You can't consider it a possibility if you don't even know that it's there," Rogers said in reference to the town of Kimberly.

For years, the small town has been a bedroom community for Twin Falls, but regional economic officials say that will likely change in the near future.

"Kimberly is the little town that could be," Rogers said. "And I wouldn't hesitate to say that in a few years it could experience development that we are seeing in Burley."

The small town may already be on the radar after the Jayco Industrial Park opened nearby. Now other businesses are eyeing the area, which has available building space and easy access to I-84 across the Hansen Bridge.

Development officials have said repeatedly that one of south-central Idaho's biggest strengths is its proximity to intersecting interstates and highways that access major cities in Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming and parts of California, all within about a day's drive.

With Twin Falls running out of space to build, Kimberly may be the next community to absorb business seeking access to these main transportation routes.

Joshua Palmer may be reached at (208) 735-3231 or at jpalmer@magicalvalley.com.

Vintage Benzes get classic treatment

By Martin Zimmerman
Los Angeles Times

HEVINE, Calif. — Imagine a used-car dealership with six-figure prices, an inventory older than you are and access to parts that have been out of production since the early 20th century.

That sums up the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center, a 26,000-square-foot, multimillion-dollar shrine to all things Benz.

It's a place where you can get an oil change for a 1956 300 SL sports car (the one with the famous pull-wing doors) or parts for a 1964 220 SE coupe. Or tour a museum stocked with a few dozen historic Mercedes-Benz automobiles and browse the inevitable gift shop for a miniature model of that Benz you always wanted but couldn't afford.

If you're in the market for a set of "pre-owned" wheels, wander the showroom stocked with vintage Mercedes—like the burgundy 1928 630 S Sattelkoffer open-top touring car, originally owned by a Mr. Brandt of San Francisco and selling for the low, low price of \$775,000.

For those on a budget, there's a fully restored 1955 190 SLI going for \$125,000.

Mercedes executives claim the Classic Center is the only facility of its kind, and they might be right.

Other high-end automakers such as BMW, Porsche and Ferrari emphasize catering to owners of their older, classic cars and operate elaborate parts-and-restoration facilities in Europe. None but Mercedes has opted to open a full-fledged shop center for its classic car customers in the U.S.

In the mired and mercurial world of luxury car collecting and restoration, it was seen as a risky move on the part of the German automaker. To others it's surging success. Karl Benz is generally credited with building the first true automobile in 1885.

"It seems to me a reasonably good idea. It's never so good as you see Bob Mosler, renowned classic car restorer and owner of Mosler Restoration Inc. in Inglewood.

Alaskans choose Hawaii as antidote to winter blues

By Jeannette J. Lee
Associated Press writer

HONOLULU — To some, a vacation in the tropics involves slipping mat towels poolside at a five-star resort. To others it's surfing, scuba or snorkeling on a colorful, fish-filled reef.

To Francis Mitchell and Joanne Mehl of McGrath, Alaska, vacation paradise is the modest second home they have built atop a barren, windswept lava field on the Big Island, Hawaii's youngest and most volcanically active island.

The couple have lived for years in a remote cabin, without running water, in the wilderness of interior Alaska. Each year they, and thousands of other Alaskans, board flights bound direct to the Hawaiian Islands for a break from the cold and, in some places, absolute darkness of a northern winter. "I want to balance Alaska because it is so soft and gentle compared to how hard Alaska can be," said Mehl, 56, who volunteers with rural



A 1936 Mercedes-Benz 290 Special Roadster occupies a parking space at home at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Center. Prices for pre-owned models are in the six figures.

Used car dealership boasts six-figure prices



Mike Kunz, left, is director of the center, which fastidiously repairs, restores and sells vintage Mercedes-Benz automobiles and has a museum and gift shop.

"But if anybody can pull it off, it's Mercedes."

With average monthly sales of one car and a service department geared toward cars that are at least 20 years old, the Classic Center obviously isn't intended to function as a true dealership. Director Mike Kunz sees it more as an elaborate advertisement for his company's products.

"We don't sell new cars out of this facility," Kunz said, "but that's our purpose — to provide a compelling argument for customers" to consider Mercedes when buying a new car.

More new Mercedes are sold in Southern California than anywhere else in the world, and five of the 10 biggest Mercedes dealerships are in Los Angeles and Orange counties. The region is home to more than half of the 540,000 vintage Mercedes on the road in the U.S., according to Kunz.

Kunz grew up in New Jersey but his German heritage — his parents immigrated after World War II — shows in his insistence that everything in his domain be just so, from the spottless repair bays to the miniature model displays in the showrooms.

"That's how you get customers," said Kunz, a 23-year Mercedes vet whose fluency in German helped him land his

first job with the automaker translating owners' manuals and repair guides.

"If it looks like a dump, it shows your attitude toward your work. We don't operate that way. We're clinical."

Kunz said the Classic Center had been a success since opening in June 2006, although there were a few bumps along the way.

Despite having a state-of-the-art paint shop, he had to farm out painting jobs at first because he couldn't find a qualified auto painter. The work wasn't always up to Kunz's standards, although he recently was able to hire a skilled paint smith.

Kunz can get parts for any Mercedes-Benz car ever built, either drawn from the company's stockpile of factory-built original parts or fabricated using the library of engineering specs and drawings the center meticulously has maintained. That helped when, for example, a Huntington Beach collector brought in an 1894 Mercedes-Benz Myford for some mechanical work.

The company's passion for record-keeping supports another Classic Center service: the sale of \$125 a year certificates attesting that a classic Benz is indeed a classic and not a look-alike rebuilt with nonstandard parts. In addition to an extensive archives

search, Kunz said, the certification process can involve metallurgy tests to determine, for example, if the frame is actually made of "old iron."

According to Kunz, that obsession with authenticity carries over to the center's restoration work. They'll make some concessions to safety, such as installing halogen bulbs in a 1938-230 Cadillac B to improve driver visibility. "But would we do something that looks weird? No."

Or take the bias-ply tires that came as original equipment on the 300SL. Although they are generally considered to be inferior to today's radial designs, modern tires just didn't look right on the classic '50s sports car. So Mercedes commissioned Dunlop to produce tires that look like bias-ply, but are actually radials.

All of this doesn't come cheap, of course. Those 300 SL tires, made only in small batches, cost \$140 apiece. And a full-blown restoration can easily cost more than \$100,000.

Even a passion for the past has its limits, however. Becker Electronics, which has supplied radios to Mercedes for decades, produces a unit that's virtually indistinguishable from the vintage models — except, of course, that you can play your iPod through it.

Environmental group will sue over federal energy corridor plan

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — An environmental group says it will sue the U.S. Department of Energy for designating energy corridors in Arizona and California that will bypass normal reviews for new power lines and pipelines.

More than 6,000 miles of corridors were designated last month in 11 Western states, crossing dozens of sensitive areas.

The Tucson-based group California Paths of Concern Southern California counties and three in Arizona crossed by the 3,500-foot-wide corridors contain at least 85 threatened and endangered species.

The Center for Biological Diversity formally notified the U.S. Department Thursday that it will sue over the Southwest National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor.

The federal designation allows an expedited environmental review process for new projects.

EIf

Continued from page B1

on the job an average of 30 hours a week and make \$12.78 an hour, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. These workers half from all walks of life — school teachers, retirees and college students are common — but they grapple with the same issues: long days, cursory training and high expectations.

I steered myself for the anticipated onslaught of crazy customers during this hectic time of year. I quickly learned that the craziest person in the store was me.

My shift began at 9 a.m. with a quick training session and a rousing meeting with staff members that included rounds of clapping and whooping as they recounted accomplishments of the previous day's members. They were signed up 20 percent/level up 60 percent! A \$50 bonus for signing up so many new Sam's Club members!

Club manager Sheldon Williams said the store has a philosophy of "aggressive hospitality." There's also the 10-foot rule: Workers must greet customers within 10 feet of them. Employees are expected to "react to assist," he said. Good thing I wore a comfy pair of Converse rather than my usual three-inch heels.

"Our members pay to shop here, so building relationships with them is important to us," Croteau, Sam's Club store manager for local Sam's Club stores, advised before they turned me loose. "We want to continue that relationship with this."

I started out in electronics, testing the waters with mumbled greetings to a few customers nearby. They looked confused. Was I was speaking to them or tried to sound more assertive:

"Hello! How are (begin it) you (end it) doing today?"

I gave one firm hello to a man in a long-sleeved shirt and photo frames. He responded with — curses! — a question: Can the frames be connected to a computer? I briefly glanced at the box to crib what technical information I could.

"Well, all you have to do is connect the USB port..."

Pause. The man looked at me skeptically.

"Er," I mean USB," I said, meekly correcting myself.

I tried to keep talking, but he slowly edged away. Finally, I just let him go. I spent him a few minutes. Later, he was asking another employee for advice. Consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas estimated that 509,000 jobs were added during October and November, about 50,000 fewer than last year. The number who will be fired after the holidays will likely be greater. In 2006, 721,000 jobs were added during the holidays, and 818,000 were cut in the beginning of this year.

"For those hoping to turn a part-time season into a full-time, permanent position," chief executive John A. Challenger said, "it is critical to use the short time available to prove your indispensability."

I prepared for my day on

I was starting to realize that retail is not for the neurotic. Selling requires confidence in yourself and the product.

the job by taking a customer service certification exam offered at the Retail Skills Center in Wheaton, Md., operated by Montgomery County and the National Retail Federation. The Foundation, an industry trade group, it took me about an hour, and let's just say I was relieved when I passed. The questions were called out from real-life scenarios, such as what to do when you are trying to sell products about which you know zilch.

That was my dilemma. My first sale was pure luck. Two guys from a nearby fire station needed help finding a flat panel TV on display in a successful department at the correct box. They took it down from the shelf themselves. I steadied the flatbed. Done!

I was in the right spot. The men also tacked on a surround sound system, which caught the attention of Usmani. Like a master, he smoothly stepped into the sale.

"Do you need HDMI cables?" he said. Wouldn't you like to take the TV back to see how it works in your cabin and not be able to watch DVDs. Usmani whisked them off to show them the merchandise and later sold them an upgraded club membership. This guy got good.

By now I was starting to realize that retail is not for the neurotic. Selling requires confidence in yourself and the product, as well as the ability to instill the feeling in others. In my fear of coming off too pushy or looking dumb, I ended up being little more than decorative.

Emel Entel, a principal at management consulting firm Katzenbach Partners, said the main problem with retail customers is that shoppers don't believe that employees understand their needs.

"Employees are too often scripted, so they're working on a connect with the customer sales performance target," she said. "They're involved in sort of their own emotions versus really taking the customer as an individual, not as a holiday shopper en masse."

Here's the truth: Thinking about everybody else and their special holiday gift and their warm and fuzzy memories for eight hours a day is draining. Shoppers expect you to see their inner selves, not to mention the wonderful, unique personalities of everyone on their Christmas list — in five minutes or less. They want to bond, while you're thinking about how you're going to be going to have to ask Santa for Box.

Report: Hoover planned to arrest 12,000 Americans for disloyalty

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had a plan to suspend the rules against illegal detention and arrest up to 12,000 Americans he suspected of being disloyal, according to a newly declassified document.

Hoover sent his plan to the White House on July 7, 1950,

less than two weeks after the Korean War began. But there is no evidence to suggest that President Truman or any subsequent president approved any part of Hoover's proposal to house suspect Americans in military and federal prisons.

Hoover had wanted Truman to declare the mass

arrests necessary to "protect the country against treason, espionage and sabotage." The New York Times reported Saturday in a story posted on its Web site.

The plan called for the FBI to apprehend all potentially dangerous individuals whose names were on a list Hoover had been

compiling for years.

"The index now contains approximately twelve thousand individuals, of which approximately ninety-seven percent are citizens of the United States," Hoover wrote in the now-declassified document. "In order to make effective these apprehensions, the proclamation sus-

pends the writ of habeas corpus."

Habeas corpus is the right to seek relief from illegal detention, and is a bedrock legal principle.

All apprehended individuals eventually would have had the right to a hearing under Hoover's plan, but hearing boards comprised of

one judge and two citizens would not have been bound by the rules of evidence.

The details of Hoover's plan was among a collection of Cold War-era documents related to intelligence issues from 1950-1955.

The State Department declassified the documents on Friday.

SURVIVOR OF BRIDGE COLLAPSE SLOWLY REBUILDING HIS LIFE

By Patrick Condon
Associated Press writer

MINNETONKA, Minn. — The ruins of the Minnetonka bridge collapse are all cleaned up now, but Garrett Ebling is still picking up the wreckage it made of his life.

"Every step I take I'm sore, so I look in the mirror and see my new nose, it's a reminder. My mouth gets sore every time I chew — that's a reminder," said Ebling, a 42-year-old journalist who was among the worst injured when the Interstate 35W bridge plummeted 60 feet into the Mississippi River.

For most Minnesotans, what happened on Aug. 8 has receded from daily notice. Answers from a federal investigation of the collapse are months away, and at the state Capitol it has become just another subject of partisan feuding. Commuters have found new routes around the gap, and construction of the replacement bridge is expected to be completed by the end of next year.

But for Ebling, and the 15 or so others seriously injured in the catastrophe, the last few months have been just the beginning of a long struggle to regain their health.

Ebling's "new sense of normal," as he calls it, means recovering from numerous bone fractures in his face and jaw, two broken feet, a compound fracture in his left arm, a severed colon and a collapsed lung.

"You try to find milestones," Ebling said. "He has a few: The day he left the hospital, two months after the collapse. Walking for the first time without a walker, eight before Thanksgiving. His first day back at work for a few hours, about four months after the collapse.

Before Aug. 1, Ebling's life was going pretty good. He went to drop, and then I remember my car starting to



Garrett Ebling holds onto a piece of the Interstate 35W bridge found in his car while looking over the scene for the first time Dec. 18 near downtown Minneapolis. Ebling was one of the worst injured when his Ford Focus plummeted 60 feet into the Mississippi River when the bridge collapsed on Aug. 1.

fall forward.

"And the next thing I remember is, it's August 19th."

Ebling's car fell 60 feet into a shallow part of the river. His face and feet bore the brunt of the impact, and the seat belt caused the injuries to his colon and lungs.

His face was "a bloody mess," said Dick Kraft, a cable TV installer who was near the bridge and, with an unidentified man, waded into the river to pull Ebling out of his car and to the shore. Ebling was conscious and talking about his injuries, Kraft recalled, though Ebling has no memory of it.

Within an hour of the collapse, Ebling was at nearby Hennepin County Medical Center. The first concern was his severed colon, but he was in such rough shape that doctors refrained from operating for nearly two days.

"I thought he was going to die at numerous times those first few days," said Dr. Chad Richardson, the surgeon who repaired Ebling's colon.

Ebling eventually underwent six operations — two facial reconstructions plus operations on his jaw, his left arm, his left foot, his colon and his diaphragm — and he might someday need more. He has metal rods and pins in his foot, arm and throughout his jaw and chin. He awaits permanent repairs to his chipped and broken teeth, and needs regular physical therapy to improve his walking.

But Ebling has recovered faster than his doctor expected. "The guy is a miracle," said Dr. Nemesio Herrera, his physical rehabilitation. "He beat all the odds considering all the trauma he had."

Ebling isn't sure how many bones he broke; his face was such a mess, doctors couldn't even tell for sure. He counts 18 scars on his body.

When he first regained regular consciousness, Ebling said he immediately felt "very blessed and very elated that I was alive." Still, the early days the physical damage stung — when his res-

cueer Kraft came to visit, Ebling wouldn't see him because "I didn't want him to see how bad I looked."

The two have talked by phone several times since but haven't yet met.

Ebling says he sometimes suffers anxiety attacks, like the time when he had to move off a set of shaky bleachers during a roller derby match.

Still, he tries to focus on the positive: His workers' compensation insurance is covering his medical bills, and he feels a stronger connection to his loved ones.

"That outlook helps explain the date Ebling and girlfriend Sonja Birkeland chose for their wedding — Aug. 3, 2008, one year and two days after the bridge collapse.

"I had picked all these other dates but went right for that one," Birkeland said. "He's like, I have to take back this day. I have to take victory over it. Finally I said 'OK, Garrett, we're going to have that wedding anyway. We might as well do it at our wedding.'"

Christmas presents are hardly a concern when "people are going to start leaving their homes and their businesses," she said. "Gifts are almost frivolous ideas at this point. This is about survival."

Most writers and below-the-line workers earn middle-class incomes. The average writers-guild member's salary is \$62,000 a year, according to the WGA. IATSE

salaries are similar. Strike or no, employment is inconsistent for both groups, with nearly half of writers-guild members and 10 to 15 percent of IATSE members without work during the year.

"As a writer, you have to develop the instinct of squirreling money away," Rakhe said. "You're just used to a lot of uncertainty in the first place."

The WGA prepared its members for the possibility of a strike a year in advance, so many writers saved money and started buying Christmas presents early.

"Wesley, I did all my holiday shopping throughout the year," said Sally Nerneth, a writer for "Law & Order" who described herself as "truly a middle-class member of the guild."

Others curtailed shopping and travel plans to accommodate newly abbreviated incomes.

Democrats find majority status has painful limits

By Charles Babington
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Democrats running Congress for the first time in more than a decade faltered at key points this year as they grudgingly passed important bills opposed by many, or even most, of their House members. When Republicans are in charge, they generally avoided a similar fate.

Republican solidarity also forced House Democrats to abandon a campaign promise to avoid new deficit spending by paying for new programs with tax increases or budget cuts.

In the Senate, Republicans repeatedly used their filibuster powers to block or weaken Democratic proposals. Backed by President Bush's veto threats, the minority party managed to sharply limit the Democrats' influence on a range of issues throughout the year.

The Democrats' dilemma was clear in two House votes this past week just before Congress adjourned.

A House vote of 352-64 on Wednesday to delay an expansion of the alternative minimum tax. All 64 "no" votes came from Democrats.

Another vote on a \$20 billion cut in anticipated revenues to be offset, either with spending cuts or tax increases on wealthy groups. They were dismayed that the party had abandoned its no-deficit-spending pledge.

The House then voted 272-142 to set aside \$70 billion for the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nearly twice as many Democrats voted against the spending as voted for it, because the measure imposed no restrictions on Bush's war policies.

In all, 174 of the House's 232 members voted against one or both of the high-profile measures, an obvious setback for a party that rose to power last year on voters' discontent with Bush and the Iraq war.

The House spending agreement to a vote only because Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., refused to embrace the headline, partisan philosophy of her predecessor. Former Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., allowed major legislation to reach the full House only if it was backed by a "majority of the majority" — meaning, in his case, most Republicans.

In November 2006, his rule most prominently in December 2004 to quash an intelligence bill that he, Bush and most Democrats supported — but which most House Republicans opposed.

The "Hastert rule" had marginalized and infuriated Democrats. Pelosi dropped it when she became speaker in January.

Her decision, plus Republican lawmakers' loyalty toward Bush and his Iraq policies, obligated Pelosi to swallow bitter bills this year, most notably approving money for the war without conditions. Unable to override Bush's veto of efforts to force troop withdrawals, House Democrats in May and October reluctantly allowed passage.

Republican-backed measures that lacked support from the "majority of the majority."

The writers strike is the Grinch that stole Christmas

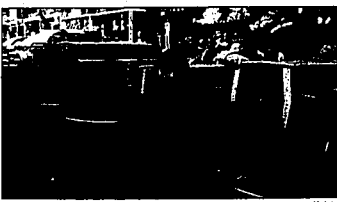
By Sandy Cohen
Associated press writer

LOS ANGELES — Nearly two months without paychecks. Scores of shuttered shows. Thousands out of work. The Hollywood writers strike suggests a bleak Christmas for many in Tinseltown.

But just like a movie script, this story has a twist: Many striking writers remain upbeat despite the financial and emotional strains the walkout has brought to the season.

Since members of the Writers Guild of America went on strike job Nov. 5, wages have been lost, said Jack Kyser, chief economist for the Los Angeles Economic Development Committee.

Writers, though, are accustomed to sporadic employment and saving their pen-



Pamela Dyea poses inside her prop store, History for Hire, Dec. 21, 2007 in North Hollywood, Calif. The Hollywood writers strike suggests a bleak Christmas for many in Tinseltown.

nies, and they're inspired by the feeling that they're helping their profession and the labor movement at large.

But not everyone sees it that way. "The strike against the studios has also forced nearly 40,000 'below-the-line' workers — including electri-

clans, carpenters, welders and prop masters — out of work, according to the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Unlike the writers, who are buoyed by feelings of righteousness and will presumably benefit from the strike's outcome, these workers are

simply jobless at what should be a festive time of year. "The strike has been 'eleventh' for IATSE members, said spokeswoman Katherine Orloff.

"They've not only lost their paychecks, they're losing hours that contribute to eligibility for health insurance and pension coverage," she said. "Everybody wants to go back to work, whether they support the strike, don't support the strike, are angry at producers or are angry at writers."

Christmas presents are hardly a concern when "people are going to start leaving their homes and their businesses," she said. "Gifts are almost frivolous ideas at this point. This is about survival."

Most writers and below-the-line workers earn middle-class incomes. The average writers-guild member's salary is \$62,000 a year, according to the WGA. IATSE

Snowstorm causes 20- to 40-vehicle pileup in Missouri

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — A strong snowstorm that cut visibility nearly to zero in some places as it rolled across the Plains on Saturday caused numerous vehicle pileups and forced authorities to close portions of several major highways. Dozens of vehicles were involved in a pileup on Interstate 29 in western Missouri, authorities said. Sections of some Oklahoma highways were closed because of whiteout conditions.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol said preliminary reports indicated 20 to 40 vehicles, including three tractor-trailer rigs, were involved in the early afternoon chain-reaction wreck on Interstate 29 at St. Joseph.

Multiple ambulances were sent to the scene but there was no immediate indica-

tion how many people were injured or if there were any fatalities. Heartland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph said it was treating several people from the accident though none of the injuries appeared to be life-threatening.

The patrol closed about 100 miles of I-29 from Dearborn, which is between Kansas City and St. Joseph, to the Iowa state line. The storm blew locally heavy snow across Oklahoma, eastern Kansas and northwestern Missouri, plus parts of Nebraska and Iowa.

In Oklahoma, U.S. 412 near Moorland was closed because 15 to 20 cars had slid off the road or had been involved in collisions, authorities said.

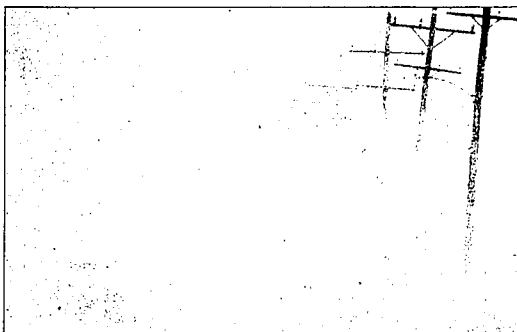
The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said a six-car collision on U.S. 64 in the state's

northwest corner involved an ambulance that was carrying victims from the scene of another accident. Parts of that highway and others in the Panhandle were closed because of blowing snow and low visibility.

The Kansas Department of Transportation said a 40-mile stretch of I-70 west of Topeka was closed because of a weather-related 30-car pileup. It was not immediately clear how many people were injured or if there were any fatalities in either pileup.

By early afternoon, the storm had dropped 3 inches of snow in the St. Joseph area, said National Weather Service meteorologist Julie Athlipsom.

Accumulations of up to 7 inches were possible in northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas.



A car travels on Schilling Road in hazy conditions on Saturday in Salina, Kan. Snow and high winds started in central Kansas on Saturday morning and continued throughout the day.

FBI begins \$1 billion effort to build biometric database

By Ellen Nakashima
The Washington Post

CLARKSBURG, W. Va. — The FBI is embarking on a \$1 billion effort to build the world's largest computer database of peoples' physical characteristics, a project that would give the government unprecedented abilities to identify individuals in the United States and abroad.

Digital images of faces, fingerprints and palm patterns are already flowing into FBI systems in a climate-controlled, secure basement here. Next month, the FBI intends to award a 10-year contract that would significantly expand the amount and kinds of biometric information it receives. And in the coming years, law enforcement authorities around the world will be able to rely on iris patterns, face-shape data, scars and perhaps even the unique ways people walk and talk, to solve crimes and identify criminals and terrorists. The FBI will also retain, upon request by employers, the fingerprints of employees who have undergone criminal background checks so the employers can be notified if employees have brushes with the law.

"Faster. Better. That's the bottom line," said Thomas E. Bush III, assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division, which operates the database from its headquarters in the Appalachian foothills.

The increasing use of biometrics for identification is raising questions about the ability of Americans to avoid unwanted scrutiny. It is drawing criticism from those who worry that people's bodies will become de facto national identification cards. Critics say that such government initiatives should not proceed without proof that the technology really can pick a criminal out of a crowd.

The use of biometric data is increasing throughout the government. For the past two years, the Defense Department has been storing a database images of fingerprints, irises and faces of more than 1.5 million Iraqi and Afghan detainees, Iraqi citizens and foreigners who need access to U.S. military bases. The Pentagon also collects DNA samples from some Iraqi detainees, which are stored separately.

The Department of Homeland Security has been using iris scans at some airports to verify the identity of travelers who have passed background checks and who want to move through lines quickly. The department is also looking to apply iris- and face-recognition techniques to other programs. The DHS already has a database of millions of sets of fingerprints, which includes records collected from U.S. and foreign travelers

stopped at borders for criminal violations, from U.S. citizens adapting children overseas, and from visa applicants abroad.

"It's going to be an essential component of tracking," said Barry Steinhart, director of the Technology and Liberty Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. "It's enabling the Always On Surveillance Society."

If successful, the system planned by the FBI, called Next Generation Identification, will collect a wide variety of biometric information in one place for identification and forensic purposes.

In an underground facility the size of two football fields, a request reaches an FBI server every second from somewhere in the United States or Canada, comparing a set of digital fingerprints against the FBI's database of 55 million sets of electronic fingerprints. A possible match is made — or ruled out — as many as 100,000 times a day.

Soon, the server at CJIS headquarters will also compare palm prints and, eventually, iris images and face-shape data such as the shape of an earlobe. If all goes as planned, a police officer making a traffic stop or a border agent at the airport could run a 10-fingerprint check on a suspect and within seconds know if the person is on a database of the most wanted criminals and terrorists. An analyst could take palm prints lifted from a crime scene and run them against the expanded database. Intelligence agents could exchange biometric information worldwide.

More than 55 percent of the search requests now are made for background checks on civilians in sensitive positions in the federal government, and jobs that involve children and the elderly, Bush said. Currently, those prints are destroyed or returned when the checks are completed. But the FBI is planning a "tap-back" service, under which employees could ask the FBI to keep employees' fingerprints in the database, subject to state privacy laws, so that if that employees are ever arrested or charged with a crime, the employers would be notified.

Advocates say bringing together information from a wide variety of sources and making it available to multiple agencies increases the chances to catch criminals. The Pentagon has already matched several Iraqi suspects against the FBI's criminal fingerprint database. The FBI intends to make both criminal and civilian data available to authorized users, officials said. There are 900,000 federal, state and local law enforcement officers who can query the fingerprint database today, they said.

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EDITORIAL

Craig can no longer halt threats to Idaho's interests

The extent to which Idaho Sen. Larry Craig's power is eroded in Capitol Hill became painfully apparent last week. Senate Democrats removed language from a federal spending bill that would have protected a major water-rights agreement between the state and the Nez Perce Tribe.

Without Craig's rider, a federal judge could jeopardize the deal, which resolved the tribe's claims to massive water rights on the Snake River, and threaten other Idaho water users.

Craig's provision would have directed the Interior Department to implement "without further delay" a federal plan to manage Northwest dams, which was ruled illegal by U.S. District Judge James Hadden. That plan was integral to the Nez Perce deal.

Idaho water-users worry that Redden could require the state to release thousands of acre-feet of water — including water in the Nez Perce Agreement — to increase downstream flows for salmon. That could mean disaster for the state's farmers and 4th utilities.

In fact, anything that jeopardizes the Nez Perce Agreement is a potential threat to southern Idaho water users. Under the provisions of the 2007 settlement, the state is obligated to send 487,000 acre-feet that might otherwise have gone for irrigation down the Snake River annually to help irrigating salmon and steelhead. In exchange, southern Idaho farmers are spared from the prospect of Endangered Species Act-based lawsuits for diverting irrigation water from the river and can't be required to send more water downstream.

But if Redden orders any of the Nez Perce water released, all bets are off.

Idaho's all-Republican congressional delegation contends the agreement is still binding, despite the judge's rulings. We hope so, for the sake of the Magic Valley's \$1.6-billion agriculture economy.

Craig lost political clout — and seniority — on the Appropriations Committee following an airport bathroom sex scandal. For much of his 17 years in the Senate, Craig had been in a position to defend the interests of Idaho water-users.

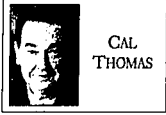
No more. It's clear that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who chairs the Appropriations' panel's Interior subcommittee, doesn't feel compelled to listen to the Idaho senator any longer. If Craig — who has refused to resign — is now a cipher on the Appropriations Committee, it falls to Sen. Mike Crapo to protect Idaho in the U.S. Senate. And he's 72nd out of 100 on the Senate's all-important seniority ladder.

We get the uneasy feeling that this won't be the last time Craig's new-found political weakness hurts Idaho.

Our view:
Larry Craig won't resign, and now his political weakness is threatening Idaho issues in the U.S. Senate.

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

You don't have to be 'religious to qualify as a fundamentalist. You can be Al Gore, the messiah figure for the global warming cult, whose followers truly believe their gospel of imminent extermination in a Noah-like flood. If we don't immediately change our carbon polluting ways,



CAL THOMAS

One of the traits of a cult is its refusal to consider any evidence that might disprove the faith. And so it is doubtful the global warming cult will be moved by 100 scientists, many of whom, according to the Washington Times, "are current or former members of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Mr. Gore for publicizing a climate crisis." In a report by Republican staff of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, these scientists cast doubt on a "scientific consensus" that global warming caused by humans endangers the planet.

Like most cultists, the true believers struck back, not by debating science, but by charging that a small number of the scientists mentioned in the report have taken money from the petroleum industry. A spokeswoman for Al Gore said 25 or 30 of the scientists also have received the funding from Exxon Mobile Corp. Exxon Mobile spokeswoman Gantt H. Walton dismissed the accusation, saying, "the company is not concerned about climate-change issues and does not pay scientists to bias global-warming theories."

The pro-global warming cultists enjoy a huge monetary advantage. Paleoclimate scientist Bob Carter, who has testified before the Senate Environment and Public

Thomas Jefferson was a smart man. He hated newspapers with a passion.

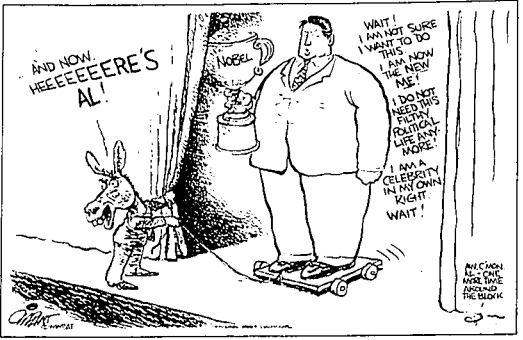
"Nothing can now be believed which is seen in a newspaper. Truth itself becomes suspicious by being put into that polluted vehicle. The real extent of this state of misinformation is known only to those who are in situations to confront facts within their knowledge with the lies of the day." our third president wrote midway through his second term in 1807.

But Jefferson, whose ideas about the rights of man and democracy most influenced our Constitution, knew that our republic couldn't function without an educated and informed citizenry. That's why in 1787 he wrote that, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

He and other founding fathers understood that citizens in a democracy need information to know how their government is doing, and that a free press provides a marketplace for the public debate of issues and public affairs.

Each day we fulfill some of our civic duty by running letters to the editor, which allow virtually anyone to have a little voice in Jefferson's marketplace of ideas. We run 2,000 to 2,500 letters per year. We like to have a nice debate, rather than a brawl, so there are a few rules:

- Letters are limited to 300 words and we reserve the right to edit or reject those in our poor taste. Racist statements tend to fall under this rule.
- We don't run letters that are libelous, which is defined as those containing untrue statements that would unfairly continue to hurt public contempt.
- Letters must be signed, and the



In fact, the debate hasn't even begun because the global warming cultists won't debate. Despite numerous challenges, Al Gore has refused to debate the issue with any credible scientist who is a skeptic.

Works committee, noted in an EPW report how much money has been spent researching and promoting climate fears and so-called "solutions." In one of the more expensive ironies of the expense, there are more than \$50 billion (US) on research into global warming since 1990 has failed to demonstrate any human-caused climate trend, let alone a dangerous one." He wrote on June 18, 2007. The \$19 billion spent on research that debunks the global warming faith pales in comparison to the amount that has been received in the Republican report are comments by Dutch atmospheric scientist Hendrik Tennekens: "I find the Doonday picture Al Gore is painting — a six-meter sea level rise, 15 times the IPCC number — entirely without merit. I protest vigorously the idea that the climate reacts like a home heating system to a changed setting of the thermostat; just turn the dial, and the desired tempera-

ture will soon be reached." Oklahoma Senator James M. Inhofe, ranking Republican on the Environment and Public Works Committee, said the report debunks Mr. Gore's claim that the "debate is over." In fact, the debate hasn't even begun because the global warming cultists won't debate. Despite numerous challenges, Al Gore has refused to debate the issue with any credible scientist who is a skeptic. Shouldn't the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize be willing to debate such an important issue? What does he have to fear? If his theory cannot stand up to scientific inquiry and skepticism, it needs to be exposed as a false religion and himself as a false prophet before he and his followers force us to change the way we live and alter the prosperous society of four generations of Americans have built.

Gore and his disciples will still be living in their big houses, driving gas-guzzling cars and flying in private

jets that leave carbon footprints as large as Bigfoot's, while most of us will be forced to drive tiny automobiles and live in huts resembling the Third World. But hypocrisy is just one of many traits displayed by secular fundamentalists like Gore.

Before adopting any faith, the agendas of the people attempting to impose it, along with the beliefs held by them and their disciples, should be considered. Gore and company are big government liberals who think government is the answer to all of our problems, including problems they create. In fact, as Ronald Reagan often said, in too many cases government is the problem.

The secular fundamentalists who believe in Al Gore as a prophet and global warming as a religious doctrine are being challenged by scientists and others who disbelieve and who think we ought to be spending more time on developing new technology and energy sources for the future and not preaching gloom, doom and retreat. Let them debate the issue. If they won't, we can only conclude that all they are spewing is hot air.

Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas can be reached at insidert@tribune.com.

Times-News

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Teachers are united against Luna's pay plan

The Idaho Statesman recently wrote that Idaho teachers are split over Superintendent Luna's new pay proposal.

The teachers at the school where I teach aren't split. All the certified teachers (that's 22 out of 22) at Declo High School (Cassia County) recently signed a strong letter opposing Mr. Luna's proposal.

We said in this letter that Mr. Luna's plan won't help education because ISATs are unreliable and already take up too much valuable instructional time. And we also said that giving up continuing contracts puts teachers at risk whenever parents get angry or administrators are under pressure. We stated that Mr. Luna's

proposal will turn the focus of many teachers away from teaching and toward a series of hoops that won't benefit students.

Please don't assume that Declo High is a hotbed of liberalism — only three of our staff are union members. All the certified

What we are at Declo is focused on classroom instruction and angry whenever non-educators attempt to move our focus away from our students.

Merit pay can be built in a way that rewards classroom excellence — merit pay plans in Denver and Minnesota are promising. But Mr. Luna's proposal has nothing to do with classroom excellence and should be vigorously opposed.

BUFF ROOPER



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST
James G. Wright

Identity of the author must be verifiable. We do not accept anonymous letters.

• Everyone is limited to one issue-related letter per month, though additional letters thanking someone for a good turn are allowed. This is to keep any one writer from dominating the debate.

These rules have been in place for some time, but we're adding a new guideline: If an issue has been debated to the point where there's nothing new to say, we'll let it rest. If we invoke this guideline, we'll run an editor's note to that effect. And if a subsequent letter breaks new ground, it'll be published. We don't want to stifle debate, but we also don't want to waste everyone's time by using the same dead mule.

I doubt this guideline will be invoked often, but that's up to you. Be creative. The best way to send us your thoughts is by email. Letters@maglev.com, or by old-fashioned post at 132 Fairfield St., Twin Falls, 83303.

Publisher Brad Hurd and I would love to buy you a cup of coffee and have a chat.

After the first of the year we'll hold an open meeting each month in a different community in our south-central Idaho. We're soliciting invitations from any community group that wants to have an evening of thoughtful and enlightening

discussion of the newspaper and community issues. We'll be happy to buy the coffee — Sanka, if you please — and cookies. If you're interesting in hosting a session, please drop me a line. The contact information is listed below.

Last week we joined a national trend by shifting our stock listings from the print edition of our Web site, www.maglev.com. The reason: Fewer people use printed stock listings these days when they can get more timely market information from countless other sources.

Over the course of the week we heard from about two dozen readers, most of whom said they missed the stock table. Two people canceled their subscriptions.

No business likes to lose customers and we hope they'll come back for other features, but like any business we have finite resources and want to offer products and services that are most in demand. In this case, we replaced the stock table with content provided only by the Times-News and our Web site, www.maglev.com. In the expectation that this information would be more useful to more people.

It's too soon to measure the response of our print readers, but the number of people who have gone online for the new data gives us promising. As of Thursday, 93 people had looked at the building permits; 78 at business permits, 56 at unclaimed property, at probate reports and 3 at bankruptcies. Now if each of them also buys a subscription to the print edition...

Times-News Editor James G. Wright may be reached at (208) 735-3253 or at james.wright@ee.net.

Add your two cents

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

ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number.

Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently banned. 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@maglev.com.

OTHER VIEWS

Here's what Idaho newspapers are saying about ...

... friends in high places



Lowiston Tribune

Questions about the Idaho State Board of Education's deficit spending on a private company to provide standardized tests for public school students shouldn't stop with the board's inability to balance its budget. The company with which the board contracted is another of those outfits run by prominent Republicans now profiting from tax dollars.

The company on which the board overspent in its testing budget, after seizing the testing function from the State Department of Education under former Democratic school Superintendent Marilyn Howard, is Data Recognition Corp. of Maple Grove, Minn. Its president and CEO is Susan Engeltger, whose career in Republican politics goes back decades.

For most of the period from 1974 to 1989, Engeltger was a Wisconsin legislator.

In 1979, she ran for an

open congressional seat, but lost in the Republican primary to Jim Sensenbrenner. In 1980, she sought election to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by William Proxmire. After winning another contested primary, she lost to Democrat Herb Kohl.

Following her defeat, Engeltger was appointed by President George H.W. Bush to head the Small Business Administration, and served in that post until 1991, the year Bush left office. She later joined the company she now heads.

Idahoans have seen this pattern before. In 2004, their State Board of Education authorized the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence to certify public school teachers solely on the basis of computerized tests.

The board was founded by the Education Leaders Council, one of whose founders was Eugene Hickock, a former undersecretary of education for the current President Bush.

Although the board is not a profit-making enterprise, the Government Accountability Office in 2006 reported the U.S. Education Department had bent its rules to direct 55 million federal funds to it. At the time, the Education Leaders Council was paying its chief executive \$235,000 a year ...

Recently, some principals from north central Idaho met to discuss use of the ACT tests provided by a nonprofit vendor in place of the Idaho Standard Achievement Tests provided

by Data Recognition Corp. That would be worth considering even if the state board had not overstepped on Data Recognition.

Idahoans' education tax dollars ... are too precious to be used to add to the profits of prominent members of the State Board of Education's political party.

... salmon

Idaho Statesman, Boise

U.S. District Judge James Redden has positioned himself as the conscience of the Northwest salmon debate ...

Redden has rejected federal salmon recovery plans twice before, one written by the Clinton administration and one from the Bush administration. He will review the feds' latest rewrite, but he doesn't like what he's seen in the draft of the latest plans ...

Idaho chinko salmon were added to the federal endangered species list in 1991; Idaho chinook were added to the list in 1992. Even the feds suggest that



time may be running out for the sockeye.

That isn't acceptable to us — so it's encouraging to see Redden bring some sense of urgency to the process ...

How about spilling more water over the hydroelectric dams in the Columbia and lower Snake rivers? The upside: The spill water would help push young salmon to the ocean. The downside: The dams would not produce as much power for the region.

How about "drawing down" the reservoirs, such as the John Day Reservoir on the Columbia? The upside: The drawdown will mimic a natural river, helping salmon migrate. The downside: The drawdown will affect power and barging.

How about taking additional water from Idaho reservoirs? The upside: The water would help young salmon reach the ocean. The downside: Idaho would have less water for farms, communities and resident fisheries.

These are difficult options for the Northwest to



acknowledge, much less discuss ... Draining Idaho reservoirs — during a time of drought and robust population growth — is a political nonstarter, with good reason.

By making the region confront a menu of tough choices, Redden keeps the focus on another, better alternative: breaching the four lower Snake River dams ...

Breaching is not easy. The dams produce about 5 percent of the region's power and give Idaho a seaport link to the Pacific. The power would need to be replaced. Idaho shippers would need another way to get their goods to the Pacific ports.

But no painless options exist. Redden — the conscience of the salmon debate — makes this point clear.

... smoking

Spokane-Review, Spokane, Wash.

Idaho lawmakers want to take another run at extending that state's indoor smoking ban — and

they should — they ought to take a look at the state of Washington's progress report.

For the first 18 months, the effect on business has been minimal despite warnings that taverns and bowling alleys would be wiped out ...

Three years ago, Idaho got out ahead of Washington state by banning smoking in restaurants, but the ban did not extend to bowling alleys and bars.

Last year, the Idaho Legislature passed a bill that would have removed the bowling alley exemption, but Gov. Butch Otter vetoed it. Bowling alleys continue to be the only place where youths (under 21) and smoking are allowed to mix.

At the time of the veto, Otter called the ban an unresonable property rights restriction. Some lawmakers concurred, saying that owners should be allowed to run their businesses as they see fit ...

It's time for Idaho to snuff out the last ember of hope for a dying cause. Ban all indoor smoking in public places.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tax collector is grinch who stole Christmas

The grinch that stole Christmas is the tax collector. Many property owners will pay more than 20 percent and more after the mandated higher property assessments. School bond taxes collected have increased by the same percentage as the assessment percentage increase. It is time to put government on a diet with a cap placed on annual property tax increases of 2 percent to 3 percent. Please contact the Legislature.

The United States is being lynch-mobbed by more than 180 United Nations members because we will not destroy our economy to support the man-caused global warming scam being promoted by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and Non-scientist, politician Al Gore. Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," has at least nine property tax increases. Adopting their lies will increase hardship for the poor.

More than 19,000 real scientists, including Dr. William Gray of Colorado State University, have signed a petition against man-caused global warming and the fact that Carbon Dioxide is not causing global warming but

an increase in solar activity is. The increase in CO2 is increasing oxygen and food produced by photosynthesis in plants.

Please check www.accessioncheck.org and www.greatglobalwarmingwindie.com, where you can obtain a new DVD exposing the man-caused global warming lie. Climate change is being used to make the United States a Third World country as they redistribute our wealth to socialist dictators and give more power to the United Nations. We should pass H.R. 1146, sponsored by presidential candidate Rep. Paul. To get out of the communist-controlled United Nations.

ADRIAN LARR PH.D. Twin Falls

Professional duct cleaning is the only way to go

We are writing in response to your article on Dec. 9, "Check your own ducts before paying for cleaning."

The author writes that duct cleaning may not be a necessary for home maintenance. He suggests a visual inspection and Shop-Vac-type cleaning. A homeowner can see and vacuum only a small portion of the ductwork. The contaminants extend the entire length of

the ductwork. Most of the problems are beyond visual inspection.

In more than 3,500 cleanings, we have found animals (dead and alive), in ductwork, including mice, rats, snakes, frogs, insects, lost pens, squirrels and stunks, along with their droppings. Removing the animals and droppings from air that people will be breathing seems to us to be a "necessary" part of home maintenance.

We find dust and/or debris in every duct system. Occupants find allergy and asthma symptoms improving or disappearing. An improvement in breathing seems to us to be a "necessary" part of home maintenance.

We have also found issues with the ductwork itself, such as water from a irrigation flood, leaking appliances, deteriorated sewer lines, etc; also disconnected ductwork, closed dampers, blockages from construction and other debris, etc. An owner would never find these problems and that seems to us to be a "necessary" part of home maintenance.

We clean furnaces as they are part of the ventilation system. The heating, ventilation and air-conditioning technicians, in professional servicing the furnace,

often refer their customers, as they recognize the necessity of clean equipment for longevity and efficiency. Longevity and efficiency of HVAC systems seem to us to be a "necessary" part of home maintenance.

The three primary reasons that homeowners and building owners request duct cleaning is to reduce dust and smells, improve air quality and improve the efficiency of their furnace. Professional duct cleaning accomplishes these objectives.

GARY SIPE
KATIE SIPE
Twin Falls
Editor's note: Gary and Katie Sipe are the owners of Air Quality Services.

Write to us

The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Because of space constraints, please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and telephone number. 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 549, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or emailed to letters@magvalley.com.

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QUOTE

"The war is far from over. And we must protect and build on the gains earned with the blood of our military, our allies and our Iraqi partners."

— Defense Secretary Robert Gates

"I'm hoping they will self-deport."

— State Rep. Russell Pearce on the desired effect of Arizona's new immigration law, which imposes sanctions against employers who hire illegal workers. The law takes effect on Jan. 1.

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Katrina-displaced cooks spread love of Cajun, Creole fare nationwide

By Vicki Smith
Associated Press writer

CLARKSBURG, W.Va., — It's clarkburging at Ben Appetit, and the heigeters are long gone.

Behind a Plexiglas wall, a cook is chopping vegetables for lunch. Music heavy with brass is blaring, and Chef Leroy Crump Jr. is fiddling about with cell phone in hand, periodically stepping outdoors to greet a passer-by and toot the special, a Cajun shrimp cream pasta.

The sign above his 2-week-old restaurant promises "Authentic New Orleans Cuisine and Spirits" — in small-town West Virginia, 1,400 miles from the French Quarter.

After Hurricane Katrina destroyed his New Orleans home and restaurant, Crump traveled to Atlanta, then Daytona Beach, Fla. A chef's encounter with a hotel guest who smelled Crump's cooking lured him to Clarkburg, a town of 17,000 in a state he'd barely heard of.

"He recalls driving through Virginia, lost in the dark. Shortly after a trooper told him he needed West Virginia, the next state over, he started seeing mountains," Crump says. "Oh my God, what have I gotten myself into?" he remembers with a laugh.

And now? "I have customers now who say 'if you ever get a chance, I will have the State Police stop you on the interstate. You will not get out of town.'"

Like other displaced Mississippi and Louisiana residents, Crump has taken root in an unlikely place, bringing along the tastes of home and the ability to share them. From Nevada to West Virginia, professional and amateur chefs alike are sharing Cajun and Creole fare with folks who still consider it exotic.

"At first, they couldn't pronounce things," jokes Darren Indovina, who fled to St. Louis, Miss., and opened St. Bayou Lanch Box in Monett, Mo., population 7,400. "They'd say 'I want that big sandwich with the fish and the sauce that was the mufuletta. But I can honestly tell you that now they can all say it."

Indovina, a former electronics technician, hacks the menu's supply connections to offer delicacies like shrimp, oysters and catfish, and he offers a popular roast beef po'boy.

Business "was and still is fantastic," Indovina says. "I personally get more smiles and thumbs up and pats on the back than ever before in my life."

Wendy Warren, spokeswoman for the Louisiana Restaurant Association, is happy to hear the Gulf Coast's loss is small-town America's gain. "It is saying the flow is both directions."

"We are seeing people from other parts of the country opening restaurants in New Orleans now," she says. "The recipe is exactly what Louisiana's culinary traditions to other communities and here in New Orleans, the diversity in restaurant choices is growing seemingly by the day."

New Orleans is still recovering, Warren says, but will get a big boost from more than 20 large conventions, the Sugar Bowl and other college championship games coming to town.

But many displaced by Katrina have no plans to return. "I would rather remember it as a happy place," says Irving Harrell, who used to park cars in New Orleans but now runs T.C.'s Rib Crib with eight relatives in Las Vegas.

"The house specialty is obvious, but there's plenty of Gulf Coast influence on the menu: smothered pork chops on Wednesdays, gumbo on Thursdays, catfish on Fridays."

"Mississippi catfish is the finest catfish on earth, and I'm not afraid to say it," says Harrell, who has his shipped in. "On gumbo night, it's a destination." People will still in droves of time and money that we hold some for it."

Before T.C.'s opened last year, Harrell says, the only Cajun in town was on a cast-

no buffet. Harrell laughs when asked about its authenticity: "Well, some people think Chef Boyardee is real Italian, too."

No one in the family had restaurant experience, but the Harrells realized they had talent when their weekly barbecue with the neighbors started drawing people from 10 miles away. Harrell took a loan against the home of his mother, who had moved to Las Vegas years before.

"We're playing for all the marbles. There's no Plan B," says Harrell, 34.

"Plan B is to make sure that

Plan A doesn't fail."

In its first year, T.C.'s won the Las Vegas Review-Journal's Best of Las Vegas award for barbecue restaurant.

In Clarkburg, Crump isn't looking back, either. "I just decided that I'd rather go ahead and move somewhere else, where people really care about somebody," he says. "I got here and I found the people to be very, very nice. Friendly."

And, along with his New Orleans suppliers, people willing to help rebuild his life.

Don Jackson, the tourist

Crump met while watching a shuttle launch in Florida, opened his home kitchen the day Crump arrived. Together, they cooked 40 gallons of jambalaya and seafood gumbo, loaded up an El Camino and drove around selling \$2 bowls.

Two weeks later, Crump met a video poker bar operator with a full kitchen.

"I started letting people know I was going to open up on the corner at I-ay-Ray," Crump recalls. "And I'll be damned, the place was packed."



Former New Orleans Chef Leroy Crump, Jr. stands outside his new Clarkburg, W.Va., Cajun restaurant Dec. 11.

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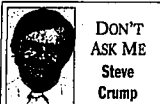
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If Santa had a word processor

Every kid writes to Santa Claus this time of year. It's a shame that Santa doesn't write back. The Kindly Old Elf could save himself tons of work on Christmas Eve if he made clear to his young correspondents exactly what they could — or couldn't — expect, and why.



DON'T ASK ME Steve Crump

Maybe I'll volunteer as his secretary:

"Dear Jimmy:
Santa has received your letter of Dec. 5. You can expect enough coal in your stocking to cause Sempira Generation to reconsider its decision not to build a power plant in Jerome County.
Regards,
SC (by sc)"

"Dear Suzi:
You report in your e-mail of Dec. 12 that you have more often been nice than naughty. That's a large enough lie to make Pinocchio seem like Abe Lincoln. Santa invites you to sleep in on Christmas morning, since there will be no reason whatever for you to get up. Compliments of the season.
SC (by sc)"

"Dear Bobby:
A review of your record for this past year shows that you have a record. It is apparent that the only reason you weren't indicted by a grand jury is that you're 5 years old. Better luck when you're a. Conviviality and joy.
SC (by sc)"

"Dear Jeffrey:
I regret to report that Santa has a very specific policy against bringing toys to little boys who set their sisters' hair on fire. Please tell your sister, however, that her request for a new brother has been green-lighted. Have your stuff packed and be ready to go on Christmas Eve. Cheerfully,
SC (by sc)"

"Dear Amy:
There is a legend in Holland about St. Nicholas (he's a skinny cousin of Santa Claus). If you have been good during the year, St. Nick leaves a present in your wooden shoe. But if you've been bad, he beats you with a switch, throws you into a burlap sack and takes you to Spain. Barcelona is wonderful this time of year. Feliz navidad,
SC (by sc)"

"Dear Jimmy, Suzi, Bobby, Jeffrey and Amy:
I recently fired my secretary. That still doesn't mean you'll be getting anything for Christmas, but it does mean he's jobless, homeless and utterly pitiable. Please refer all cookies, cake, pies and eggnog that is left out for me to him, but kindly omit the fruit. Wishing you a giddy holiday season,
sc (by sc)"

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3229 or scrump@magicvalley.com.

Foundation grants money for several area needs

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

More than \$18,000 was recently awarded to several worthy causes by the Idaho Community Foundation, a statewide nonprofit organization composed of more than 370 individual funds, pooled together for efficient management.

"The mission of the Idaho Community Foundation is to enrich the quality of life throughout Idaho," said

Cathy R. Silak, the foundation's president and chief executive officer. "The grants show the breadth and diversity of the needs in our state and the many situations in which a small grant can make a difference. We are pleased that our generous donors enable us to help a wide cross-section of the people in southwestern Idaho."

The grants ranged from \$250 for a new fire pump in Bliss to \$5,000 to help refurbish the children's center at

the Little Wood River Library District in Carey.

Several organizations in Twin Falls County received an ICE grant. They include \$1,785 for the Boys and Girls Club of Magic Valley; \$2,000 to help the Bull Fire Department buy service pagers; \$4,167 to Family Health Services for children's dental sealant and education; \$4,000 to the Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind; \$2,500 to the Murtaugh Joint School District; \$3,000 for the

Housing Coalition, and \$721 for the YMCA of Twin Falls.

Although the grant money given to the Bull Fire Department will only purchase four new medical service pagers for firemen that also serve on the city's Quick Response Unit, Fire Chief Earl Yreese said the amount is "significant."

"I applied for four different grants and this is the only one we got," Yreese said. "The last time we bought pagers was in 1984, and they are so anti-

quated they can't be repaired when they break."

At \$500 apiece, the department, which operates on a slim annual budget of \$361,000, cannot afford to upgrade all the equipment they would like to.

"This grant will help a lot," Yreese said.

For the money given to the Family Health Services, dentist Adam Hodges said it will make a huge impact.

Please see GRANTS, Page C3

Last-minute rush



Patty Browning of Twin Falls carries purchases to the car after shopping Saturday afternoon at a local retailer. 'We're having a Christmas party tonight, so I had to stop and get some last-minute things,' she said.

With two shopping days until Christmas, some are having a hard time finding the right gifts

Amanda Murphy
Times-News correspondent

Santa's mad dash
For those who have not yet finished their holiday shopping, area stores are extending their hours. The Magic Valley Mall will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. today and from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, while several large retail stores such as Target will be open from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Shoppers in the Magic Valley braved the cold weather and crowds Saturday to do some last-minute holiday gift-buying. And those who set their alarms a little earlier, found that their experience was a little less fring. Shopper Debbie Burnside arrived at the Magic Valley Mall as stores were opening and, to her surprise, found a relatively calm atmosphere. According to store employees, there are very few shoppers before 11 a.m., and the crowds generally don't accumulate until early afternoon — even on the weekend before Christmas.

Burnside came to the mall to find last-minute gifts for her daughters, ages 12 and 14. Though Burnside was pleased she wasn't going head-to-head with long lines, to her chagrin she was having a difficult time finding the right gifts. "I just haven't been enticed to buy anything today," she said. "I like nice classic pieces and I'm having a hard time finding any. I'm a little disappointed with the selection; most of the (clothing) stores seem to be selling the same things."

Instead of clothing, electronics seem to be the hot commodity this season, apparent not only by sales but by merely observing the selection of video games, iPods, MP3 players and other gadgets that seemed to draw the largest crowds at department stores Saturday.

According to Target manager Victor Barajas, the store receives nearly 50 calls a day regarding the Wii Nintendo systems.

"We can't keep them in stock," he said. "Every few days we get a new shipment of them in, and after two hours we're sold out again."

Barajas also said that due to recent

box office successes such as Transformers and the Spider-Man movies, new sales highs are being reached on action figures, which are most popular among boys. Books, lotion sets, Barbie dolls, pajamas and Hannah Montana CDs seem to be popular choices for girls, he said.

And where are the guys doing their last-minute shopping? Best Buy is likely your best bet.

Twin Falls resident Jim Taft browsed the store's electronics Saturday, hoping to be inspired, he said.

"I have a hard time imagining what I want to buy," Taft said. "That's why I don't do much shopping online; I need to see what's out there."

Shopper Jessica Fernandez described the frenzy of last-minute shopping, saying, "Christmas shopping is a little like having an ingrown toenail. It's something you know will hurt and you don't want to deal with it, so you put it off as long as possible. But by putting it off, it causes even more suffering."

Amanda Murphy can be reached at (208) 423-4202 or amurph10@hotmail.com.

Mayor appoints Irace to fill Wendell council vacancy

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

The city of Wendell is again moving forward in city government with a full house.

After Councilman Rick Cowen was appointed to head the city as mayor last month, his first official piece of business during Thursday's meeting was to fill his vacancy on the council.

Cowen suggested Jon Irace to serve the remaining two years of his council term. Irace was narrowly

defeated during the November election, needing just eight additional votes to beat incumbent Ilene Rounselle for the four-year term. Irace received a total of 168 votes.

Cowen said he felt that Irace should be appointed to the position because of the votes he received. "Irace was within the top-three vote getters," Cowen said. "I think the voters would agree."

While Irace was the only name mentioned for consideration during the meeting, Rounselle said she would like to see the council

have a say in the process come January. At that time Barry Brown will be sworn into office, filling the seat now held by Councilman Don Bunn, who did not seek reelection.

"I think it would be nice for the new council to approve this name," Rounselle said. However, the majority of the council, including Cowen, said the decision should be made sooner rather than later. "With the strength of his votes," Bunn said, "the town picked (Irace) anyway."

Irace was surprised with

the move, but is ready to see the city move forward with a clean slate.

"(Cowen) asked me to come to the meeting, but I didn't know what was going on," Irace said. "I really didn't expect anyone to be appointed into the position after the first of the year. It's good. I think Wendell is moving on after the stuff with the recall. Rick seems to be a really good mayor; he ran the meeting well and it went smooth."

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

Fundraiser helps pay for treatment of student hurt in accident

Amanda Murphy
Times-News correspondent

The spirit of good will and fellowship was in full form at Kimberly High School Thursday night, where a silent auction and dinner were held to raise money for Kimberly High School junior Timothy Broner. In the summer, Broner suffered major head trauma in a car accident. Thursday's events were organized to raise money to help send Broner to specialist in Boise, which will cost about \$2,500.

Those who attended Thursday paid \$15 for a pork and potato dinner, donated by Independent Meat, Mulberry Farm and Dalrymen of Idaho. They also had the opportunity to bid on a variety of merchandise. Goods and services were donated by several area businesses, such as Sunstones and Gold's Gym, while Kimberly residents and KHS club donated a variety of gift baskets.

The event was the culmination of three months of hard work for the students of the Mona Club and the Future Teachers of America. The ladies of Mona organize at least two fundraisers a year, one for a local cause and one to support the education of women around the world. The Mona Foundation, a Seattle-based grassroots public service organization, was formed in the memory of Mona Mahmoodzadeh, a young woman and student of American things, volunteered her time twice a week at an orphanage in Iraq. In 1983, at age 16, she was executed for her minority faith.

Kimberly's Mona Club leaders, Lindsay Hancey and Hally Harmon, spent much of the last three months finding volunteers and donations. "I make Thursday's event happen."

"It's a great feeling to know that in a year we are able to reach across the globe to help support the education of women, and at the same time we can help members of our own community," Hancey said.

"We started the Mona Club four years ago," said Jan Hall, the group's faculty adviser. "We were attracted to Mona's philosophy of 'educate a woman, educate the world.' It does a disservice to everyone if women are held down and mistreated, because women have such an integral role in raising and educating children." Hall, referring to the past few months, said: "This has been the warmest experience of the holidays for me, getting to witness these girls work together for such a great cause."

Amanda Murphy can be reached at 423-4202 or amurph10@hotmail.com.

Jennie Marie Egbert

BURLEY — Jennie Marie Egbert, a 57-year-old resident of Burley, died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, at her home, following a valiant battle with cancer.

She was born Sept. 7, 1950, in Gooding, Idaho. The daughter of Joseph Glen and Elizabeth Ella Jasper Torson. She received her education in Gooding, graduating from Gooding High School in 1969. She continued her education at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, graduating as a licensed practical nurse in 1991.

She married Loyal Egbert July 19, 1983, in Gooding Valley and Boise, passed away peacefully Dec. 20, 2007, at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Summer Funeral Home, Boise Chapel, 1205 W. Bannock St. in Boise. A viewing and visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, also at the funeral home.

Jim was born to Walter and Myrtle Goller in Twin Falls, Idaho, on March 13, 1934. He grew up on a farm in Hanson, Idaho, and later in Wendell, where he graduated from high school. After graduating from high school, Jim joined the Navy and served on a minesweeper in the Pacific during World War II. After the war, Jim attended the University of Idaho on the GI Bill. It was during this time that he met Carl Kitchan, known as "Old Shakes" for his impressive mane of silver hair. Jim worked for Carl in several capacities and eventually took over Carl's business, the Idaho Capital Reports, which reported on the activities of the Idaho Legislature and the opinions of the Idaho Supreme Court. This became the core of a business that remains in the Goller family today.

Jim had an abiding interest in public affairs and politics. In 1966, he managed the first U.S. congressional campaign for an up-and-coming lawyer and state legislator from Payette named James McClure. The successful outcome of that campaign changed both of their lives. The two men enjoyed a successful professional partnership during McClure's three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and three terms in the U.S. Senate. William Smallwood recounts many of the events Jim Goller participated in during his two-decade association with McClure in the recently published book, "McClure of Idaho."

In 1987, Jim Goller was appointed by Gov. Cecil Andrus to be an Idaho representative on the Northwest Board and Conservation Council, where he served until 1993. After retiring from the "Power Council," Jim served as a principal with the public affairs firm, The Gallatin Group.

care related activities. She also enjoyed helping her husband, Loyal, give Gang Talk seminars throughout the community.

She had a host of hobbies which included knitting, sewing, needlepoint work, salt crafts, hunting, fishing, hotstock, riding and motorcycles.

She was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister and friend who will be sorely missed by her family, coworkers and the community.

Survivors include her husband, Loyal Egbert of Burley; two sons, Kerry (Katie) Egbert and Kyle Egbert, both of Harley; two sisters, by Hostetler of Rockwell, Neb., and Glenda Lockvagen of Renton, Wash.; and five grandchildren, Amber, Brian, Jordan and Melissa Egbert and Cecil Miles. She was preceded in death by her parents and one sister, Anna Mae Cisco.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at St. Joseph's LDS 1st and 2nd Ward Church, 559 E. 200 S. in Burley, with Bishop Jared Johnson officiating. A viewing for family and friends will be held from 6 until 9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 10 until 10:45 a.m. Friday at the church.



Jennie Marie Egbert

James A. Goller

BOISE — James "Jim" Aloysius Goller, 41 of Gooding Valley and Boise, passed away peacefully Dec. 20, 2007, at St. Luke's Hospital in Boise.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Summer Funeral Home, Boise Chapel, 1205 W. Bannock St. in Boise. A viewing and visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, also at the funeral home.

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James A. Goller

Throughout his life in politics, as a public servant and as a human being, Jim Goller approached everyone and every challenge with energy, thoughtfulness and complete integrity. His ability to work with people of all political parties and persuasions was legendary as evidenced by his compassionate efforts with displaced residents of Eastern Idaho following the collapse of the Teton Dam in 1976. He was respected and admired by his political allies and opponents, and he would often be found in lively discussions with both, somewhere near the Idaho Statehouse, especially when the Legislature was in session. Jim Goller was always kind in manner, generous with his time, humble in his approach yet extremely well informed, honest and direct in his responses. He spent his entire life working on behalf of the people of Idaho.

In August 1995, Jim and Shirley Lindstrom were married at the ranch in Garden Valley.

Jim's family is so grateful to Dr. Bob Clifton, Paul Montgomery, the nurses and assistants at MSTI and St. Luke's Hospital for the excellent care and genuine compassion they extended to Jim.

The family would also like to express a special appreciation to Dr. Michael Koening in Garden Valley, Dr. Koening and Jim developed a special friendship; his care allowed Jim to remain in Garden Valley most of the time during his illness.

His parents; his son, Robert; his brother, Wilbur; sisters, Dorothy and Anna Bell; and grandson, Bryan, preceded Jim in death.

Jim is survived by his wife, Shirley Lindstrom-Goller; his son, Brian Goller (Jane); his brother, Kenneth; sisters, Elizabeth, Neva, Doris and Eleanor; grandchildren, Jenny and Wendy; and great-grandchildren, Cyan, Lilly, Areyel, Makenna and Zalen. His step children and grandchildren, Rob, Thad and Chris Wolsmann (Bridgett), Zach and Jeremy; David Lindstrom (Lisa), Ryan, Rikki, Jacob; and Lindsey Lindstrom (Lisa); Todd, Tiffany, Tori; Wendy Lindstrom (Jason), Darell, Ali, Richard and Sydney; and Fritz Lindstrom. We will miss you very much.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to two of Jim's favorite charities, the Boise Rescue Mission or the Salvation Army.

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is obits@magivalley.com. Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magivalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Wanda May Whipkey

HAGERMAN — Wanda May Whipkey was born in Clayton, Kan., on March 4, 1922, where she spent the majority of her youth surviving one of the toughest times in American history known as the Dust Bowl. In 1937, she and her family left the drought stricken state of Kansas and moved to Gooding, Idaho, where she attended and graduated from Gooding High School. From day one, Wanda has always been a person of service and caring, which drew her into the field of nursing. She received her nurses training from St. Alphonsus, after which she cared for tuberculosis patients at the VA Hospital in Gooding, as well as volunteering for the Red Cross. Wanda married Robert Whipkey in 1943. Shortly after their marriage, Robert who had already been enlisted in the Air Force was shipped off to Europe to help fight World War II. While her husband was away at war, Wanda kept the household together and raised their daughter, Patricia. Soon after Robert returned from the war and they had their second child, Robert.

Anyone that has had the pleasure of spending time with Wanda knows that she somehow improved everything and everyone that she touched. In her home, visitors were always welcome, well fed, and quickly found themselves in a warm and meaningful conversation surrounded with laughter. For Wanda, her family was her biggest treasure and she

was the cornerstone that brought both her immediate and extended family together.

In the 1960s, Wanda started painting and very quickly learned how to turn a blank canvas into an incredible work of art. Painting was her passion and she had a special talent for capturing the essence of life in the work she did. With art being so central in her life, she helped start the first art gallery in the state of Idaho called the Art Mart, which is now known as Browns Gallery.

Her husband retired from Simplot Aviation in 1986, after which they moved to Hagerman, Idaho, on the Snake River. Wanda was very involved in the local community and belonged to several clubs including Menter Book Club, Snake River Artisan which she was a past president of, the Hills Flower Club, where she also was a past president, a member of the AY PEO, and a member of the Magic Valley Bridge Club.

Wanda will be greatly missed by everyone in her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 64 years, Bob Whipkey; her son, Robert Whipkey; daughter, Patricia Whipkey; grandson, Todd Whipkey; and four great-grandchildren, Eric, Ryan, Victoria and Cayden.

A service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at the First Methodist Church in Gooding. Viewing for family and friends will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Demaray's Gooding Chapel.



Wanda May Whipkey

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

 Don Sobel, AAAS 1616 1/2 S. Idaho Twin Falls, ID 83402	 Ken Stuart 1014 S. Idaho Twin Falls, ID 83402	 Shirley Sobel, AAAS 1616 1/2 S. Idaho Twin Falls, ID 83402	 Herb Struppi, AAAS 1014 S. Idaho Twin Falls, ID 83402
 Edna Johnson, AAAS 1126 Lattland Twin Falls, ID 83402	 Dorothy McCallum, AAAS 2715 S. Lincoln Twin Falls, ID 83402	 Thelma Kirtley 1445 Florence St. Twin Falls, ID 83402	 Tom & Paul Herwickson 1227 1/2 Brown Ave. Twin Falls, ID 83402

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DEATH NOTICES

Hazel I. Veeder

Hazel Irene Veeder, 96, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, at her home. Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Gracia E. Davis

Gracia E. "Gracie" Davis, 65, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at a local care facility.

A graveside memorial service is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Dec. 28, at the Heyburn Cemetery (Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls).

Thurman L. Jackson

Thurman L. Jackson, 88, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center.

Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

Laren M. Rosa

PAUL — Laren Melvin Rosa, 67, of Paul, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, at his home.

Arrangements will be announced by Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley.

Martin Gutches

BELLEVUE — Martin Gutches, 69, of Bellevue, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2007, at the Shoshone Living Center.

Arrangements will be announced by Wood River Chapel in Halley.

At this time of Reflection, we give Thanks for the things we often take for granted, our Freedoms, health and loved ones.

During this holiday season let us Remember those who defend our freedoms, those less fortunate, and those gone before us.

May our Love for them never Diminish.

Heartfelt wishes from:

- Mike & Catherine Clarke -
- Jared & Michelle Clinger -
- Clancy Carter - Nadine Ellis -
- Cole Harding -

Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home
 2551 Kimberly Road
 Twin Falls, Id 83401
 735-0011

See what's new at www.magivalley.com

For more obituaries page

AROUND THE VALLEY

Avalanche danger warning in Ketchum

KETCHUM -- Avalanche danger is extremely high, allowing the fairly wet snow that fell overnight Thursday. At least two slab avalanches occurred on Bald Mountain Thursday morning on the hill above the Lostout Express. Both slides were about 50 feet wide and six inches deep. For up-to-date avalanche information: 622-8027.

'State Legislature' film voted among year's best

The Frederick Wiseman documentary film "State Legislature," which profiled the 2004 Idaho Legislature...

COMMUNITY NEWS

Hazelton woman to celebrate 80th birthday

HAZELTON -- Beverly Okelberry will celebrate her 80th birthday on Thursday. Birthday greetings and well-wishes can be sent to her at 1935 E. 1200 S., Hazelton, ID 83325.



Okelberry

the Idaho Falls LDS temple. Three children were born while in Murtagh: Alan (Cheryl) Okelberry of Hazelton, Mark (Cheryl A.) Okelberry of Hazelton, and Patsy (Doug) Barnes of Tappeka, Kan.

Okelberry worked at Thomas IGA and then as a switchboard operator for Mountain States Telephone for five years. In 1964 the family built a new home on the farm south of Hazelton where she worked with her husband and children and still resides. Her goal has been to raise honorable and happy children. The couple has traveled to Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico, Canada, England, Scotland, Wales and Israel, and served a 12-month LDS mission to the Orlando, Florida temple. Okelberry has 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Grants

Continued from page C1

How we really are going to get a job for our kids," Hodges said. "The money will help provide an exam, dental sealants and dental care education for up to 200 kids."

Hodges said the clinic is considering visiting schools on the eastern end of the Magic Valley such as Burley, Rupert and Mindokla. "Nothing is ironed out yet," he said.

The care provided by the clinic plays an essential role in a child's dental health and can keep permanent teeth from decaying, which can be painful and costly to remedy.

"If the molars get cavities, that decay can spread through the teeth very rapidly, so by the time the child is nine or 10 may need

a root canal," Hodges said. "This grant will help us get a job that need to see a dentist."

The Idaho Community Foundation was established in 1988 and began funding grants in 1991, when about \$164,000 was awarded that year. Since then the foundation has distributed more than \$31 million to a variety of projects statewide.

Grants are awarded by its board of directors, primarily on the recommendation of the foundation's Southwestern Region Advisory Panel, comprised of local community leaders who volunteer their service as grant reviewers.

Blair Koch may be reached at 216-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

David A. Craner

BURLEY -- David Arthur Craner, a 77-year-old resident of Burley, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, at the C S S F A Region of a Medical Center in Burley, from a natural cause.



He was born July 20, 1930, in Burley, Idaho, the son of Arthur Elden and Oralie Ballard Craner. He was raised on the family farm during the Depression. He graduated from Burley High School in 1948. He then attended the University of Idaho graduating with a degree in agricultural education in 1953.

In May of 1953, he was drafted into the United States Army. He was discharged in 1955, after serving stateside during the Korean conflict. Within days of returning home from the Army, he was asked to serve a mission for the LDS church. He served for two and one-half years in Tonga, where he met his future wife, Annie Helen Berrett, who was also serving a mission. While on his mission, David taught the Tongan people agricultural practices of the Liaison College. He taught them to become self-sufficient and introduced the first tractor to the Tongan Islands. After returning from his mission, he was married in the Idaho Falls LDS Temple on Aug. 8, 1958.

David and Helen moved to Rexburg, Idaho, where David taught agriculture at the high school. In the spring of 1960, they moved

to Burley, where he taught science, English and drivers education for the Burley Junior High School. David was the official Santa Clause for the Burley Chamber of Commerce during the 1960s and was known as "Yule-Clause" to his children.

In the spring of 1977, while teaching his students, David had a stroke which led to surgery. Complications arose as a result of the surgery and David was left as a bilateral quadriplegic for the last 30 years of his life. David endured faithfully to the end, through many trials in life and has left a lasting impression on the many people that knew him, especially his children and grandchildren.

David is survived by one daughter, Cindy (Rick) Wicks of Caldwell; two sons, Kirk (Lisa) Craner of Burley and Don (Tera) Craner of Meridian; one sister, Donna (Bill) Haycock of Grants Pass, Ore.; and 10 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Helen Craner; and his parents.

The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at the Star LDS 1st and 2nd Ward Church, 100 S. 200 W. in Burley, with Bishop Kirk Garretson officiating. Military rites will be provided by the Mini-Cassia Veterans and Auxiliary. Burial will follow at the Pleasant View Cemetery. Friends may call from 6 until 8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at the Rasmussen Funeral Home, 1350 E. 16th St. in Burley, and from 10 until 10:40 a.m. Thursday at the church.

Glen Laverne Klier

BURLEY -- Glen Laverne Klier, 84, of Burley, died Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2007, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls.



He was born April 10, 1923, in Grainfield, N.D., to Raymond and Elma Victoria Klier. After school, he joined the Army and served during World War II. Glen enjoyed many things in life, including camping, hunting, fishing and working with his hands on projects such as model cars and planes. He also loved farming.

Glen was preceded in death by his parents, two mothers, two sisters and one

daughter. He leaves behind a grandson, Carol Perez of Garden Grove, Calif.; sons, Lee Klier of Sterling, Okla., Scott Klier of Sumnerfield, N.C., and Steve Klier of Twin Falls; numerous grandchildren; great-grandchildren and many family members and friends who cared for him through the years.

At Glen's request, no service will be held. Commation has taken place under the direction of Parkers Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls. The family will hold a private memorial at a later time.

Glen's family wishes to express a special thank you to those at Polar Care arrangements, Mountain View Care Center and St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center for their loving care and compassion.

Wayne Ellis

BURLEY -- Wayne Ellis went home to his wife Les on Dec. 20, 2007.

Wayne was born Jan. 17, 1927, in Joplin, Mo., to Elmer Ellis and Loretta Hendrix Ellis. Wayne was raised and schooled in Missouri.



Wayne married Evelyn Martin on Aug. 31, 1946. They moved to Sublett, Kan. in 1948 and to Burley, Idaho, in 1965, where they have since resided. Wayne was self-employed for many years, owning and operating Modern TV Service in Burley. Wayne retired in 1989 but continued a small business at

home. Wayne was a member of St. Johns Lutheran Church. He is survived by his wife.

Evelyn; two children, Jerry (Kerry) Ellis of Boise and Gayla (Annie) Wagner of Burley; four grandchildren, Heather (Gene) Roman and Matt Ellis, all of Nampa, Cladd and Ryan Wagner of Burley; three great-grandchildren, Zack, Austin and Sierra of Nampa; sister, Irene Ford of Burley; and brother, Paul (Joyce) Ellis of Boise. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Christine.

The funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 27, at Farmer Funeral Chapel in Burley. Interment will follow at West End Cemetery in Burley. A public viewing will be from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Farmer Funeral Chapel.

Perry V. Hickman

POCATELLO -- Perry V. Hickman, 81, passed away Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007, at a local long-term care center.



He was born Sept. 20, 1926, in Burley, Twin Falls, Idaho, to a M o n a W h i t a k e r and Don Hickman. Perry joined the Navy and served on the USS Intrepid during World War II. After returning from the war, he drove trucks for several companies: Garrett Freight, Dravo, Amerigas and continued part-time following retirement until he was unable due to ill health. He was a member of the Teamster Union. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and reading Western novels.

Perry is survived by his children, Dan Holcomb of St. George, Calif., and daughter, Ginger Bagley of Las

Vegas, Nev.; Dennis Hickman of Pocatello, Carl M. (Ed) Hagan of Caldwell, Janie (J.L.) Greenwall of Rupert, stepson, Kenneth (Cindy) Nelson of Chubbuck, and stepdaughter, Elizabeth Nelson of Pocatello; 17 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Don Hickman; his sons, John and Don Holcomb.

A graveside service was held Friday, Dec. 21, at Marsh Center Cemetery near Robin, Idaho. Arrangements were under the direction of Colonial Funeral Home, 2005 S. Fourth Ave. in Pocatello. Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.colonial-funeralhome.com.

SERVICES

K. Marie Pierce of Twin Falls, memorial service at 6:30 p.m., today 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 Alturas Drive N. in Twin Falls (Olympus) Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

Fred J. Walmsted of Hagerman, memorial service at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Living Waters Presbyterian Church in Wendell.

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair, perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there, perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say; perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part. From Families of Max & Donna Haag & Nannette Miller

SOMEBODY NEEDS YOU

Volunteers -- South Central Community Action Partnership is in need of volunteers for the holiday season to assist in food pantry, pick up donated food (mileage reimbursed with correct documentation) and sort donated food items. Information: Leanne or Sandra, 733-9351.

Volunteers/Donations -- The College of Southern Idaho Refugee Program is in need of volunteers to provide gifts or a meal for Christmas for newly arrived families. Volunteers are also needed to work with refugees in a variety of areas. The center is in need of beds, kitchen tables and chairs, living room furniture, coffee tables, clothing, iron, radios, televisions, kitchen items and linens. Bring donated items from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed noon to 1 p.m.), Monday through Friday, to 1526 Highland Ave. E. Information: Shannon, 736-2166, septatove@sprnet.com.

teer insurance are provided. Information: 733-6333.

Volunteers -- The Idaho Reads VISTA program at Lincoln Elementary School in Twin Falls is in need of volunteers to serve as reading coaches in the classrooms. Volunteers are needed from 11:30 a.m. to noon, 12:30 to 1 p.m., and 2:30 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10:30 to 11:10 a.m. Thursday and Friday. Information: Betty, 733-1321.

Want to help? This public service column is designed to match needs in the Magic Valley with volunteer help. If you need a volunteer, contact the Red and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) at 736-2122, ext. 4764, before 4:30 p.m. Wednesday for Sunday publication. RSVP is a United Way-sponsored agency of the College of Southern Idaho.

WANTED - REWARD. Claude Weeks - aka Trujillo has Twin Falls warrant. Up to \$1000.00 anonymous reward for information leading to her arrest. DOB: 10/24/65, (42) HF: 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. Please call with any information! CALL NOW - 735-0030 OR 1-800-513-9681. 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. FAST BAIL BOND, Inc. LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED - over 11 yrs

Twin Falls Canal Company NOTICE Of Regular Stockholders' Meeting YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that the regular meeting of the Stockholders of the Twin Falls Canal Company will be held on Tuesday the 8th of January, 2008. The meeting will be called to order by the Directors at 9:00 a.m. in the Rick Allen Room of the Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Director for District 3-Filer will be elected for a three-year term. Other business will also be transacted. There will be reports from the Company's General Manager, auditors and lawyers. There will also be reports concerning operation and maintenance efforts, 2008 water supplies, water call, and other matters of interest. The corporate books will be closed for the transfer of stock effective December 28, 2007. Proxies shall be filed with the Company's Assistant Secretary at the Company Office on or before January 4, 2008. DATED this 3rd day of December 2007. TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY Brian Olmstead, Assistant Secretary

Mustangs, American icons, help patrol nation's northern border

By John K. Wiley
Associated Press writer

OROVILLE, Wash. — Astride sturdy mustangs "Okanagan" and "Spurs," U.S. Border Patrol agents Daniel Williams and Justin Hecker ride quietly along a ridge line above the Similkameen River valley.

The only sound is the gentle plodding of the strong-boned horses' large hooves — and an occasional snort — as they move through the pine forest just east of Washington state's Pasayten Wilderness with a sure-footedness that makes them a perfect fit for scaling the steep hillsides along the international border.

Williams and Hecker, both senior patrol agents, have added old-fashioned horse wrangling to their list of skills; riding once-foral mustangs to patrol areas where the agency's boats, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and high-horsepower patrol vehicles can't go.

The mustangs are among a dozen the Border Patrol's Spokane Sector has bought to patrol a 300-mile-long section of the U.S.-Canadian border from the crest of the Cascade Range in Washington state to the Continental Divide in Montana.

The Border Patrol, a division of the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, routinely uses horses on the southern border with Mexico. But the dozen mustangs, owned by the patrol's Spokane Sector are the first of that breed used to guard the northern border, said Agent Lee Pinkerton, assistant chief of the section of border that runs from the crest of Washington's Cascade Range to the Continental Divide in the Montana Rockies.

The Border Patrol's "Operation Noble Mustang" adopts horses from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's wild horse and burro program, blending today's technology with yesterday's law enforcement traditions, the agency said.

On this day, Richard Graham, agent-in-charge of the Border Patrol station in Oroville, rides along as his agents patrol a small section of the border. The avid horseman sings the praises of mustangs and their ability to patrol the border with minimal environmental damage.

In the valley below, aspen, cottonwoods and a few pine flank the river that flows into the U.S. from Canada. Along the river is a prohibition-era dirt "whisky trail" that shows recent activity from modern smugglers bringing different contraband, most likely potent "B.C. Bud" marijuana, from Canada.

"The reason we went with the horses was to get into those hard-to-reach areas," Pinkerton said. "We can really reach out to some of these remote locations, if nothing else, to see if there is something out there."

The breeds' big hooves and large hoofs give them a sure-footedness that makes them a perfect fit for scaling the steep hillsides and thick forests along the border, he said. They also have less of an impact on the fragile wilder-

ness ground than motorized vehicles, he said.

"These horses are truly American. They are a product that's unique to the United States and we are putting them in a position to help protect the U.S.," Pinkerton said. "There's something inherently right in doing that."

The patrol contracts with local ranches to board and feed the animals. Because they are owned by the government, the agency saves money it used to have to spend to lease horses from local ranchers, Pinkerton said.

A year ago, the mustangs — descendants of horses brought by Spanish conquistadors and ridden by American Indians, cavalry soldiers and cowboys — ran wild in great herds across the West's vast expanses. They were rounded up in the ILM wild horse adoption program, broken by inmate wranglers at a Colorado prison, then sent to the Border Patrol's Colville station in Washington state for final training.

Graham's station is responsible for an 80-mile stretch of border that includes about 50 miles of the vast Pasayten Wilderness Area, a 529,477-acre tract where motorized vehicles are prohibited and there are few, if any, roads.

Along the Spokane sector, agents also patrol the smaller Salmo-Priest wilderness of northeastern Washington state, as well as Montana's Glacier National Park, where it abuts Canada's Waterton Lakes National Park.

Graham's station has four mustangs, as well as three mules and a handful of horses leased from local ranches for their patrols. Others are stationed in Metaline Falls and Curlew in Washington state, as well as Whitefish, Mont.

Law enforcement aircraft have limited use in the wild, Pinkerton said. It is difficult to see people hiding beneath the tree canopy and wilderness lawbirds have low aircraft can fly, he said.

"Our biggest successes are going to be on the ground," Pinkerton said, noting that the mustang program blends traditional law enforcement techniques with high tech gadgets.

"We're going back to the 1800s style of doing this because it is successful," he said. "On the ground, a horse is going to be the best mode of transportation in those areas."

The mustangs and their wranglers provide surveillance of large areas not covered by remotely operated cameras and motion detectors that dot the cleared areas of the border, Pinkerton said.

"The horses allow you to patrol stealthily. They're quiet," he said. "And you are elevated above ground level, so you can see for a long ways. You can put on miles into rugged areas that otherwise you would be on foot."

Agents on horseback look for signs of border crossings and watch for low-flying aircraft that drug smugglers are increasingly using to bring potent "B.C. Bud" marijuana south.

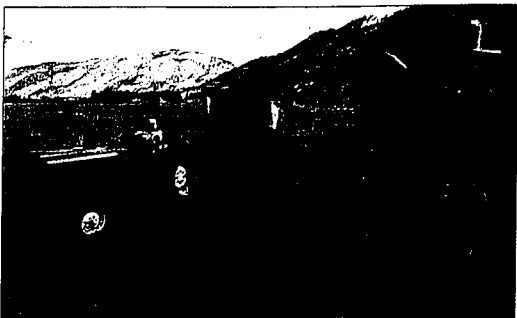
A drawback is heavy snow that keeps horses out of some

high country areas for months at a time during winter and spring runoff, which makes some creeks and streams impassable, Pinkerton said. But those natural hazards also keep smugglers out of those areas as well, he said.

"The need for the mustangs became more urgent after Sept. 11, 2001," Graham said.

Previously, the Border Patrol's focus in the area was rounding up illegal workers in orchards and fruit packing houses in north-central Washington state. Now, the threat of terrorists sneaking into the country is a bigger concern.

Supporters say the program appears to be a success, even though mounted agents have made no arrests. Jim McDevitt, the U.S. Attorney for Eastern Washington, said the mustangs' presence can serve as a deterrent.



U.S. Border Patrol Agent-in-Charge Richard Graham Jr. has a cross-border chat with Canadian farmer Mark Quadvilje while on patrol Sept. 19 along the U.S.-Canadian border — marked here by a barbed-wire fence — near Oroville, Wash.

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Scientists: Southern Utah fault could be active, dangerous

CEDAR CITY, Utah (AP) — A fault line near St. George and cuts under nearby Washington City could be more active and more dangerous than experts previously believed, Utah geologists said.

"Depending on its activity, it could place a lot of things at risk," Bill Lund, senior geologist with the Utah Geological Survey in southern Utah, said Friday. "The

new data could show it is more of a hazard than we thought."

That concern has triggered additional research to determine the frequency and severity of movement along the Washington Fault.

The work could trim the booming development across southern Utah. The fault runs north-to-south through Washington City and parallels the Hurricane

Fault several miles east.

"Our goal is not to scare people, but rather to make sure the earthquake hazard is adequately characterized and that people are aware of the potential hazard," Lund said.

Depending on the findings city and county government may need to update emergency plans and be more vigilant about building code enforcement, said Dean Cox,

emergency-services director for Washington County.

"Earthquakes don't kill buildings do,"

Interest in the fault was piqued last spring after a Washington City development geologic survey crew discovered an underground rupture.

The proximity of the rupture to the surface indicates the last major activity on

the fault — a tremor estimated at 6.5 magnitude or more — could have occurred about 10,000 years ago, Lund said.

A 5.8-magnitude quake on the Hurricane Fault near Zion National Park in 1992 left three homes destroyed, damaged a park highway and wiped out a water tank.

"That quake wasn't large enough to rupture the surface but did cause a lot of

shaking," he said, "and that is what is most damaging."

So far studies on the Washington Fault are preliminary. French samples are being sent to Utah State University for analysis and a final report is expected in 2008.

"If what we suspect is true," Lund said, "the Washington Fault may eventually be added to ... national earthquake hazard maps."

Parents of shooting victim seek tougher sentence for gun seller

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The parents of a woman killed during a shooting rampage in a Utah mall are asking a federal judge to impose a 99-month sentence on the gun-seller that provided the weapon.

Court papers filed Friday by an attorney for Ken and Sue Antrobus seek the maximum possible sentence for Mackenzie Glade Hunter, 20, of West Jordan. Their daughter, 29-year-old Vanessa Quinn, was among the five dead and four wounded by the 18-year-old Sulejman Talovic at the Trolley Square Mall on Feb. 12.

Hunter has pleaded guilty to transferring a .38 Smith & Wesson handgun to Talovic, who also died during the massacre after being shot multiple times by police.

Hunter's sentencing is set for Jan. 14. Under federal sentencing guidelines, he faces up to one year in prison and a \$100,000 fine for the transfer charge and up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on a related drug charge.

Under the law, neither Quinn nor her parents are considered victims in the crime, but the Antrobus' have also petitioned Kimball to be recognized.

State senators want N. Idaho city's domestic-partner decision reviewed

MOSCOW (AP) — Six Republican state senators have asked the Idaho attorney general's office to examine the legality of northern Idaho city's decision to extend health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of city employees, citing its possible incompatibility with the state's marriage amendment.

The senators said the resolution the city council approved on Monday conflicts with the state's marriage amendment, passed in 2006, which says "a marriage between a man and a woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state."

"We were surprised to see the (city's) decision regarding the health insurance policy," Sen. Russ Fulcher, R-Meridian, told the Moscow-Pullman Daily News. "It appears it would conflict with the marriage amendment, or at least the spirit of it."

Fulcher submitted the request to the attorney general's office on Friday on behalf of Sen. Curt McKenzie, R-Boise, Michael Jorgenson, R-Hayden Lake, Curtis Bowers, R-Caldwell, Phil Hart, R-Abot, and Steven Thayne, R-Emmett.

Regence Blue Shield of Idaho, the city's insurance company, recently began offering a plan that covers same- and opposite-sex domestic partners. Employees who meet the insurance company's requirements must also sign an affidavit to be eligible for the health insurance benefits.

The benefits take effect

early next year, and the council has the option to review the plan by January 2009.

Fulcher said the city resolution and the marriage amendment have an "intuitive conflict."

Moscow Mayor Nancy Chaney said there is no conflict between the two.

"This is a matter of extending to employees an insurance plan that is offered by our insurance provider,"

Chaney said. "The city is neither defining domestic partnerships nor creating them."

The city's attorney, Randy Rice, said the city's insurance company decided who is eligible, meaning the city didn't "recognize" domestic partnerships.

He said the city did not change its policy, and its definition of "immediate family" doesn't include domestic partners.



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Beem Movie Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 1st Legend Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45	Jerome Cinema 4 Daily 7:00-9:05 Sat-Sun 6:45-7:00-9:05
Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45	Golden Compass Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
1st Legend Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45	Alvin and the Chipmunks Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
Golden Compass Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15	1st Legend Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45 National Treasure Book of Secrets Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45
Alvin and the Chipmunks Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15	Odyssey 6 Daily 7:00-9:05 Sat-Sun 6:45-7:00-9:05
No Country for Old Men Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15	P.S., I Love You Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
National Treasure Book of Secrets Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45	Beowulf Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
1st Legend Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45 August Rush Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45	Awake Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
	Walk Hard Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
	This Christmas Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15
	Into the Wild Fri-Sun 12:30-2:45 Sat-Sun 12:00-2:15

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Months after mummy claim, DNA proof still elusive

By Anna Johnson
Associated Press writer

CAIRO, Egypt — Months after Egypt boldly announced that archaeologists had identified a mummy as the most powerful queen of her time, scientists in a museum basement are still analyzing DNA from the bald, 3,500-year-old corpse to try to back up the claim aired on TV.

Progress is slow. So far, results indicate the linen-wrapped mummy is most likely, but not conclusively, the female pharaoh Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled for 20 years in the 15th century B.C.

Running its own ancient-DNA lab is a major step forward for Egypt, which for decades has seen foreigners take most of the credit for major discoveries here.

It's time Egyptian scientists took charge, said Zahi Hawass, Egypt's antiquities chief who spearheaded the quest to find Hatshepsut and build the lab.

"It's time Egyptian scientists took charge, said Zahi Hawass, Egypt's antiquities chief who spearheaded the quest to find Hatshepsut and build the lab."

But the Hatshepsut discovery also highlights the struggle to back up recent speculation about the unearthing of ancient tombs and mummies, investigations into how King Tut died, and even the discovery in the Sivan oasis of possibly the world's oldest human footprint.

So far, the science shown in the Discovery Channel's "Secrets of Egypt's Lost Queens" has not been published in a reputable peer-reviewed scientific journal — the gold standard of scientific research worldwide.

And some scientists, even ones working on the project, have raised concerns.

"I think the people at the Discovery Channel went way too much 'CSI,'" said biological anthropologist Cordelia Corrhals, referring to television's "Crime Scene Investigation" series.

"They think you can pick up evidence at 2 p.m. and by 6 p.m. you get results," added Corrhals, a scholar at England's University of Manchester who has been helping Egypt establish the DNA lab.

In June Egypt announced that Hatshepsut's mummy had been found, and about a month later the Discovery Channel aired the documen-



A young Lebanese tourist looks at the mummy of the pharaoh Queen Hatshepsut, who ruled for 20 years in the 15th century B.C., at the Egyptian museum in Cairo, Egypt, Aug. 21. E

— showcasing scientific breakthroughs including CT scans and DNA testing. The mummy is now on display in a glass case in the Egyptian Museum's royal mummy room.

Hawass, other Egyptian officials and the Discovery Channel all stand by their findings, even though the DNA testing is incomplete.

"So far there is some agreement and no discrepancies. The results are quite encouraging," said Yehia Zakaria Gad, a molecular geneticist who heads the ancient-DNA lab at the Egyptian Museum.

Most of evidence that led Hawass to declare the mummy to be Hatshepsut did not come from DNA but from CT scans. Those scans showed that a tooth found in a relic box displaying the pharaoh's insignia matched a gap in the mummy's jaw.

CT scans also showed facial similarities between the mummy and already identified mummies of Hatshepsut's royal relatives, as well as evidence of a skin disease that the queen may have shared with some of them.

"The reason why we went

with such a strong claim was because the CT scan was conclusive and the fact that the missing tooth provided the missing clue. ... I don't think that the DNA testing will indicate otherwise," said Peter Lovinger, Discovery's senior programming executive.

Now, scientists at the Egyptian Museum lab are comparing Hatshepsut's DNA sequences to the previously identified mummy of Hatshepsut's grandmother — the first such attempt in Egypt at using this scientific analysis to verify a mummy's identity. DNA is the unique genetic code of a person and a key tool in solving decades-old crimes, establishing paternity and funding cures for diseases.

The Discovery documentary, which showed scientists extracting the DNA from the mummies, did indicate the DNA results were incomplete and did not say those results proved the mummy was Hatshepsut.

But Corrhals still has raised concerns about the expectations placed on the new DNA lab.

She said the team at the Egyptian lab was under "a lot

of pressure" to produce results. She said they had "very good preliminary results," but that it will still take months to verify that those results were not a fluke.

Egypt also lacks an independent second lab to review the testing. Before any DNA results can be published in a scientific journal, the Egyptian Museum lab must duplicate its initial findings — which have not yet been completed — and then the samples must be sent to an independent lab to be replicated.

"The ancient-DNA world goes by a very stringent set of criteria. ... One of the biggest is replication by an independent lab," Corrhals said. "If you don't do it, particularly with something so famous as this mummy, no peer review journal will publish it."

"And if you don't get it published in a peer review journal, as a scientist, you haven't done anything," she said.

Hawass says he is trying to get a second DNA lab set up in Egypt. The first \$5 million lab, funded by the Discovery Channel, is the centerpiece of an ambitious plan to identify mummies and re-examine the royal mummy collection.

The project is time-consuming, especially for a new lab with scientists who have little experience with mummy DNA. It takes three days just to extract the delicate DNA, then scientists must spend at least three more days completing one test on one sample. Months are needed to make a finding.

During a recent tour of the lab by an Associated Press reporter, Gad was not firm on how much more time is needed to complete initial tests on Hatshepsut, saying only that he was "nearly there."

The Discovery Channel paid for the current lab in exchange for exclusive rights to film the search for the Hatshepsut mummy. Hawass said he's offering other companies a similar deal: the rights to film a highly covered expedition — possibly the search for King Tut's family —

in exchange for a second lab. "This is how I use TV to bring technology here," he said during an interview in his Cairo office. He added that he has had nibbles about a deal, but would not elaborate.

Hawass has ambitious plans for DNA testing in Egypt, including examining all the royal mummies and the nearly two dozen unidentified mummies stored in the Egyptian Museum. He believes DNA tests will show that some royal mummies on

display are not who archaeologists thought they were.

One example is the mummy of Thutmose I, Hatshepsut's father, found in the late 19th century amid the ancient sites in Luxor. But further investigation discovered that the mummy was too young to be Thutmose I, who died in his 50s, Hawass said.

"I really do believe that the Egyptian mummy project is going to be very important in revealing lots of secrets," he said.

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Decorating the season

Paul man created hand-made Christmas decorations for 16 years

By Trena Tegan
For the Times-News

PAUL — With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, sometimes the true spirit of Christmas can be hard to find. Dewey Draper of Paul holds the spirit of Christmas in his heart all year long, even now.

Many Mini-Cassia residents will remember the extensive holiday display that adorned Draper's yard each holiday season for 16 years. Though other displays may have been larger, Draper's display outshined them in the hearts of many because most of his décor was hand-made.

Even more impressive was that many of these hand-made treasures were animated. Troops of hand-made toy soldiers marched to the tune of "The Little Drummer Boy," and Santa's elves busily worked building toys in Santa's workshop. Numerous other figures including Santa Claus, carolers and even a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle, move and glow with the warmth of the season.

How did he animate these figures? His secret is the rotisserie motors from barbecue grills. Draper also had a small train that offered rides around the display. This started out as a riding lawnmower and was transformed to look like a miniature locomotive. The steering wheel was replaced with a lever, as a child had pointed out that "real trains don't have steering wheels."

"The kids (taught) me a lot," Draper said. "You have to get down to their level to see things the way they do. If you don't have it right, they'll tell you."

Draper and his wife, Betty, had talked about having a large Christmas display together for many years. After Christmas in 1994 they hit the half-price sales and bought 5,000 lights. Unfortunately, Betty died the following August and was not able to see their Christmas fantasy come to life.

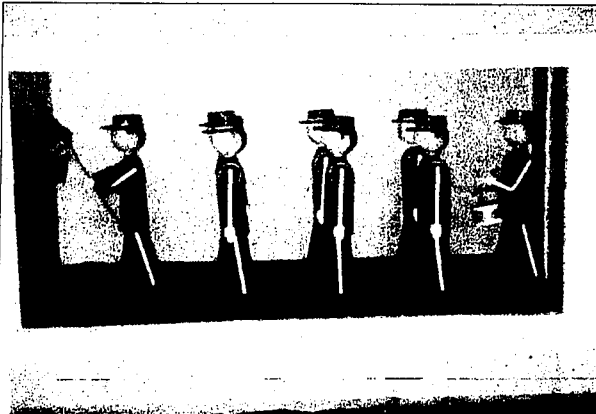
Come to life it did, though, and like every living thing, it grew. Each year Draper added new displays, more lights and, of course, candy canes. "I got started and just couldn't quit," he said. "I'd get so hyped up about it I couldn't sleep."

He has become known as "Candy Cane Lane," as he would stand outside and hand each visitor, young and old, a candy cane before they left the yard. As a result of time spent outdoors in the cold, Draper had pneumonia eight times in those 16 years, usually fighting it off until after Christmas so he wouldn't miss a guest.

"My doctor would come by to visit and say 'See you next week,'" Draper says.

His festive display has been featured on television and in various newspapers over the years and was a staple tradition for many families near and far. Draper says he had a family from Kansas that would stop by each year on their way to Oregon to visit family, and an Ogden, Utah, family would bring their foreign exchange students up each year to see the display.

Draper never charged admission to view the display and refused donations that were offered, though elves would often leave treats or boxes of candy canes on his doorstep. Draper says he owes



ABOVE: A group of animated toy soldiers marched to the tune of 'Little Drummer Boy' in Dewey Draper's back yard. Draper built the soldiers and brought them to life using the motor off a barbecue grill rotisserie unit.

ABOVE RIGHT: What holiday display would be complete without a 'one horse open sleigh'?

BELOW: One of Dewey's handmade Santas.

his living to this community who supported his business. M and D Irrigation, and this was his way of giving something back.

"The biggest paycheck I got in the 16 years I did it was a little 7- or 8-year-old boy who tugged my coat and said, 'Mr. Draper, you done real good!' That's what makes it," Draper says. "That's why I did it. I wish I still could."

Sadly, three years ago, due to his deteriorating eyesight, he had to give up most of the display and sold many of his pieces to the Beutke family, who has a large holiday display in Oakley. Draper still does

some decorating around his house in Paul.

He feels around the house for the hooks to hang the lights, sometimes tearing up his hands in the process.

But he takes pride in doing it himself.

"I want to make sure it's done right," he says.

There is no shortage of Christmas spirit in Mini-Cassia thanks to Dewey Draper and his legacy of goodwill he shared with so many over the years.



"The biggest paycheck I got in the 16 years I did it was a little 7- or 8-year-old boy who tugged my coat and said, 'Mr. Draper, you done real good!' That's what makes it. That's why I did it."

— Dewey Draper of Paul, speaking about his hand-made Christmas decorations



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After centuries, Nepal's living goddess struggles with modernity

By Tim Sullivan
Associated Press writer

KATMANDU, Nepal — The living goddess likes bubble gum.

On a cold autumn evening, during a festival giving thanks for the monsoon rains, dozens of chanting worshippers pulled her enormous wooden chariot through narrow streets in Kathmandu's old city. Thousands of cheering people pressed forward, hoping for a blessing. Drunken young men danced around her, pounding drums and shouting.

But the goddess — a child wrapped in red silk, a third eye painted on her forehead as a sign of enlightenment — took little notice of the joyous riot. Instead, she stared ahead intently, her jaw pumping furiously. Then, finally, she blew a yellow bubble about the size of a plum.

And then the goddess smiled, just a little.

Priti Shukya is 10 years old, the daughter of a family of poor goldsmiths. At the age of 4, a panel of judges examined her in a series of ancient ceremonies — checking her horoscope, searching for physical imperfections and, as a final test, scaring her. She would be frightened after a night spent in a room filled with 100 freshly decapitated animal heads. She was not.

So Priti became a goddess, worshipped as the incarnation of the powerful Hindu deity Taleju, and going into near-complete isolation in an ancient Kathmandu palace.

She will return home only at the onset of monsoon, when a new goddess will be named. Then Priti will be left to adjust to a life that — suddenly and absolutely — is supposed to be completely normal.

That is how it has been for nearly four centuries, in a tradition that held out against modernity even as Nepal, ever so slowly, began to change. But modernity is coming, even to the goddess.

She has been dragged into Nepal's political maelstrom, her influence anguished over by even the most militant to the prime minister. Her role, meanwhile, has become a topic of public debate, with human rights activists, politicians and academics wrangling about a child's rights and an ancient form of worship.

Today, everything from television to insults reach into the goddess's palace.

A communist politician called her an "evil symbol" and the Supreme Court launched an investigation after activists said the tradition violates Nepalese law. In a showdown that melded religion, politics and the monarchy, the nascent democratic government refused to allow any government involvement in the goddess' annual blessing thought to be an all-important protector of the king. When the king went without permission, the government slashed the number of royal bodyguards.



Nepal's living goddess Priti Shukya, is taken around the city on a chariot during the Indra Jatra festival in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Sept. 30.

Among the Shakyas, the goldsmith caste that chooses the goddess from its daughters, it has become increasingly difficult to find families willing to send their girls away.

For some people, all this is simply too much. "We know there needs to be change," said Manju Shree Ratna Bajracharya, the eighth generation of priests from his family to oversee the temple of the royal kumaris — or "sisters" — as the goddess is commonly called. "But this criticism of the tradition, this is pure ignorance."

He is bitter about politicians who focus on the kumaris for political gain, and the way she has been pulled into their battles with the king. He distrusts the rights activists, wondering if they're using the practice for publicity.

"The tradition can't be treated like this," said Bajracharya, who spends most of his days working as a bureaucrat in the state electricity company. "It is too important to Nepal."

Teachers have been appointed, keeping the goddess on the same academic track as any other girl her age. There's also television in the palace these days, giving the kumaris access to everything from Bollywood to the news, and there's talk that she may be allowed someday to live at home with her family.

It is an attempt to give some normalcy to the goddesses, who can fall desperately when they return to the outside world.

Rashmi Shukya, one of eight ex-royal kumaris still alive, remembers the pain of her return. Now a 25-year-old computer technician, she left the kumari palace at age 12. She'd had no proper schooling, and her feet had not touched the outside ground for years. Her only playmates had been the children of the palace's caretaker, and while her family could visit, even they saw her as a goddess. Her return home took a heavy toll. "I didn't even know how to

walk around like a regular person," said Shukya, a quiet, bookish young woman who dreams of becoming a software designer. "The crowds frightened me."

Still, she said, she doesn't regret her time in the palace. "Not everybody gets to be a goddess," she said, smiling. "In one life, I got to have two lives."

"We know there needs to be change. But this criticism of the tradition, this is pure ignorance."

— Manju Shree Ratna Bajracharya, the eighth generation of priests from his family to oversee the temple of the goddess

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Wife of former FBI agent fails to find husband in Iran

By Ali Akbar Darsini
Associated Press writer

TEHRAN, Iran — The wife of a missing former FBI agent said Saturday she has been unable to find out what happened to her husband despite visiting the Iranian island where he was last seen.

The Iranian government reiterated that it had no information about Robert Levinson's whereabouts. "Our trip is almost over and the miracle we were hoping for has not happened. We still don't have answers about what happened to Bob," Christine Levinson said at a news conference in Tehran following her visit to Kish Island, a resort off the southern coast of Iran.

Her 59-year-old husband was last seen March 8 on Kish, where he had gone to seek information on cigarette smuggling for a client of his security firm.

"We tried to retrace his steps and met with airport officials and members of the hotel staff where Bob stayed before he disappeared," Christine Levinson told reporters at the Swiss Embassy. "We still don't know where Bob is, and the nightmare I and my family are experiencing will continue."

Christine Levinson arrived in Iran on Tuesday to look for her husband, accompanied by her 22-year-old son, Daniel, and her sister, Suzan Halpin. According to the Swiss Embassy, which looks after American interests in Iran, she is scheduled to stay in Iran until Sunday.

Government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham told reporters earlier Saturday that the Iranian government had no information proving that Levinson had gone missing while visiting Kish. "If new information is given to us on this matter, we will follow up the case," Elham told reporters.

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INSIDE: Can the Broncos win two bowls in a calendar year? D2



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Photo by RYAN HOWE/For the Times-News
Photo illustration by BRADLEY GUIRE/Times-News

Burley High School seniors Colton Moon, left, Jordan Hosteen and Ben Searle are among the current batch of Idaho boys basketball standouts looking for a place to play collegiate basketball next season.

Idaho high school stars struggling to find homes in college hoops

STORY BY ERIC LARSEN • TIMES-NEWS WRITER

Somewhere in America, this is a story of a 3,000-seat gymnasium packed sardine-style with bodies and anticipation. Elsewhere, maybe in California, New York, or Texas, it's the story of hot breath on the back of your neck as the fan row rack leans forward, straining to be closer to the angular young men on the court. Its characters include the peacocks of the basketball world, all these assistant coaches leaning on the upper-concourse railing, initially identified only by the bright, disparate colors of their polo shirts and team jackets. They wait, all puffing their chests, showing their plumage, hoping to land high school basketball's next big sensation. Somewhere. This, however, isn't somewhere. This is Idaho, where 3,000 seats is often 2,000 too many and hot, sticky breath is a welcome reprieve from the biting cold. This story, at least in part, is about the best boys team in the state, the defending Class 4A state champion Burley Bobcats.

Sixth-year head coach Jack Bagley lends what is the closest thing to a basketball jargonat that this state has. His Bobcats own the longest win streak in the state — 20 games — a run that has spanned exactly one year and one day today. At its heart, Burley's recent success revolves around a trio of locally-lauded seniors: reigning 4A Player of the Year Colton Moon, 6-foot-6 post Jordan Hosteen, and 6-4 swingman Ben Searle. Each was a Great Basin Conference West First Team member as a junior, and while many top talents from across the nation have already been offered scholarships by major collegiate programs, each is still searching for an opportunity to play after high school.

Actually, the opportunity will be waiting for Burley's standout senior trio after graduation. From nonscholarship collegiate ball and intramurals to city rec league basketball, the game will still

welcome them. In reality though, this isn't a story about opportunity. It's about athletic scholarships. It's about the thousands of Idaho boys who play each year, many hoping that one day the game will reward their sacrifice. It's also about eight in-state collegiate men's basketball programs, each striving to compete at a high level, each anchored to a region not known for producing college-ready talent. Over the past decade, as college recruiting has grown increasingly global and exponentially competitive with the advent of Internet scouting services, Idaho's top programs have been forced to expand the reach of their recruiting efforts to maintain a quality on-court product. "It's something we fight all the time," Boise State head coach Greg Graham said. "We come from all over. We have TUCO guys, transfers, high school guys. We have

Please see STATE, Page D4

Opportunity by the numbers

- 34 Idaho's population rank among U.S. states according to the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 census
- 322 Idaho high schools with more than 1,000 enrolled students
- 626 Washington high schools with 1,000-plus enrollment
- 148 HSAA member high schools currently offer 174 boys basketball
- 4,940 Estimated number of Idaho boys playing high school basketball, assuming 2.5 varsity/junior varsity/freshman/C/team/2 team roster for 148 schools
- 44,722 California boys playing high school basketball, according to the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation Sports Participation Survey
- 332 Current roster spots on eight scholarships for in-state collegiate programs
- 100 Most spots taken by former Idaho high school players

Blocked FG saves BYU

The Associated Press
LAS VEGAS — Eathyn Manumaleuna blocked a field goal as time expired to give No. 19 BYU a 17-16 victory over UCLA on Saturday night in the Las Vegas Bowl. Skal Forbath made field goals of 52 and 50 yards to keep the Bruins in it and UCLA drove almost the length of the field in the final 2 minutes to line up Forbath for the potential winner. But Manumaleuna got his hand on the kick and the Cougars got their first win over the Bruins since Steve Young was the quarterback. Max Hall threw for two touchdowns and the Cougars (11-2) closed the season with their 10th straight win despite getting shut out in the second half and having their lowest offensive output of the year. BYU managed just 268 yards against the Bruins (6-7), who were playing for interim coach and defensive coordinator DeWayne Walker. If it was Walker's only game as UCLA's coach, it was a memorable one.

Please see BYU, Page D2



UCLA wide receiver Dominique Johnson gets hit by BYU defensive back Ben Criddle during the first half of the Las Vegas Bowl football game Saturday in Las Vegas.

Lobos end 46-year winless skid in bowls

The Associated Press
ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Enough talk about New Mexico's bowl struggles. Paul Baker ran for 167 yards in his first start, and Donovan Porterie threw for career-high 354 yards and two touchdowns to help New Mexico beat Nevada 23-0 in the New Mexico Bowl on Saturday. The Lobos (9-4) ended a 46-year skid without a postseason victory and gave 10th-

year coach Rocky Long his first bowl win in five tries. New Mexico's defense also delivered what's the second straight loss for Nevada's Hall of Fame coach, Chris Ault. The Wolf Pack (6-7) hadn't gone scoreless since losing 10-0 to Weber State on Sept. 27, 1960, a span of 325 games — the longest current streak in college football and the second longest in history.

Please see LOBOS, Page D2

Mauk leads Cincinnati past Southern Miss

The Associated Press
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Ben Mauk shrugged off mistakes and Southern Miss defenders alike, and helped No. 20 Cincinnati make one more entry into an impressive season. Outgoing Golden Eagles coach Jeff Bower, meanwhile, couldn't put another win on his ledger. The hard-to-tackle Mauk passed for 334

yards and four touchdowns, and DeAngelo Smith intercepted three passes Saturday, leading the Bearcats to a 31-21 victory over Southern Miss in the PapaJohns.com Bowl. The victory gave Cincinnati (10-3) its second 10-win season and first since 1951, while virtually assuring a spot in the

Please see CINCINNATI, Page D2



Boise State running back Ian Johnson, right, gives a high-five to Shriners Hospitals for Children patient Tuvale Auelua, Jr., 2, of Samoa, during the football teams charity hospital visit Saturday in Honolulu, HI. Boise State will play East Carolina today in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl.

Broncos hope to continue postseason magic in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Boise State might be a little disappointed about not returning to college football's Big stage. The Broncos sure aren't showing it.

"I tell you what, if you're not going to be in a BCS game, I don't know if there's a better place in the country to live up the right way and against Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl, the 24th-ranked Broncos (10-2) face East Carolina (7-5) in the Hawaii Bowl on Sunday. While Boise State captivated the nation with its win last 1, this time it will play in Aloha Stadium and there could be more empty seats than fans.

pointing many Broncos' fans.

"If you think about it, it's either stay in Boise in the freezing cold or come out here and actually have a lot of experience," said running back Ian Johnson, who will be looking to repeat some his Fiesta Bowl heroics.

Despite being a heavy favorite this time around, the Broncos aren't taking the Pirates for granted.

"We give every opponent we face that respect that we have to do everything we can to be ready for them and we're not going to take them lightly because that's how you end up losing," Johnson said.

Petersen expects a tough game and was surprised by all the praise.

"They've got as much talent as anyone we played this year. They really do," Petersen said. "I think people are underestimating these guys. We're not. The good thing is, our players know what type of team this is."

The Pirates are led by Chris Johnson, who leads the nation in all-purpose yards (212.7) and is third in scoring (111 points). He has 1,200 rushing yards, 496 receiving yards and returned 30 kick-offs for 856 yards.

The Broncos are the WAC's top defensive team and explosive on offense, averaging 42.8 points. They have a balanced attack led by Johnson and Tharp, who has thrown for 3,070 yards and 29 touchdowns.

Johnson has rushed for 1,030 yards and 16 touchdowns despite missing a couple games with an injury. The numbers are down from his breakout sophomore season, in which he ran for 1,713 yards and 25 TDs.

"I think I'm truly a better player this year," said Johnson, noting improvements in blocking and receiving. "There's nothing I'm really trying to prove because I've shown that I'm capable of doing it."

Boise State will be without its top receiver, Jeremy Childs, who didn't make the trip for violating team rules. He finished the season with a school-record 82 catches for 645 yards and nine touchdowns.

Without Childs, the Broncos will rely on freshmen Titus Young and Austin Pettis, who combined for 74 catches and 11 TDs this year.

"I just told them that I'm going to be leaning on them and putting my confidence in them to make plays and get open," Tharp said.

East Carolina, meanwhile, has also prepared for Boise's bag of tricks.

"We're ready for anything," Pirates linebacker Fred Wilson said.

Boise State.

"We're not there yet, but that's where we aspire to be," he said.

The Pirates, making their 14th postseason appearance, will use the Hawaii Bowl as a gauge on how far they have come. They have reached the postseason for the second straight year after a four-year absence. They lost to South Florida (21-7) last season in the PapaJohns.com Bowl.

Holtz has restored confidence and resuscitated a program that was on life-support and lost 22 of 25 games before his arrival. This year, East Carolina finished tied for second in the East Division of Conference USA with a 6-2 league record.

Holtz was full of compliments for the Broncos, perhaps taking a page from the coaching play book of his father and legendary coach Lou Holtz.

"I think our offense is going to have to play darn near perfect to compete," he said. "I think our defense is going to have to play over their head against a very talented football team."

A year after their spectacular 43-2 overtime victory against Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl, the 24th-ranked Broncos (10-2) face East Carolina (7-5) in the Hawaii Bowl on Sunday. While Boise State captivated the nation with its win last 1, this time it will play in Aloha Stadium and there could be more empty seats than fans.

"It's really a privilege and an honor to be able to go to a BCS game. No matter who you are, it takes a lot of things to line up the right way and that doesn't happen every year," Petersen said. "We're honored to be here in this game and play East Carolina. We'll be excited to play without question."

Broncos quarterback Taylor Tharp said the two seasons shouldn't be compared.

"We've put together 10 wins this year and a lot of hard work went toward this moment," he said. "At the top of our pyramid of goals is to win a bowl game. It doesn't sound like a big deal, but we're very happy to be here and very happy to play East Carolina."

The Broncos chose the Hawaii Bowl despite visiting here just a month ago in their regular-season finale against Hawaii. With the loss to the Sugar Bowl-bound Warriors, Boise State saw its streak of nine straight wins and five consecutive Western Athletic Conference titles come to an end.

Boise State picked the Islands over its hometown Humanitarian Bowl, disapp-

Cowboys lose T.O., utilize ground game in 20-13 win over Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — With Terrell Owens watching the second half from the locker room, the Dallas Cowboys had to depend on their running game and their defense to avoid a second straight upset loss.

Tony Romo threw for 257 yards and a touchdown and the Cowboys overcame the loss of Owens to a left ankle injury in a 20-13 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Saturday night.

While Dallas (13-2) moved a step closer to clinching home-field advantage throughout the playoffs, the Cowboys were dealing with another injury to a key offensive player.

Last week it was Romo, who bruised his right thumb and was ineffective in a loss to Philadelphia. Now it's Owens, who left in the second quarter after his left leg got caught underneath him after a catch.

The Cowboys made it 14-0 a play after Owens left, but failed to score another touchdown.

After the Panthers (6-9) cut it to 20-13 on John Kasay's 25-yard field goal with 3:01 left, the Cowboys put it away on Barber's 11-yard run with 1:45 left.

Barber rushed for 110 yards on 22 carries to help Dallas match the 1992 team for the most victories in franchise history.

But despite improving to 7-0 on the road, the Cowboys struggled to put away the Panthers, who started undrafted rookie Matt Moore for a second straight week.

Moore, who like Romo went undrafted and spent training camp with the Cowboys, threw for 182 yards. He threw his first NFL touchdown pass to Steve Smith in the second quarter, and connected with Smith on a 57-yard pass play that led to Kasay's final field goal.

But Moore was sacked five times, twice by DeMarcus Ware and the Cowboys' defense was strong despite the absence of Roy



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) pulls away from Carolina Panthers defender Richard Marshall (31) as Owens runs for a touchdown after a catch during the first quarter in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday.

Williams, who was serving a one-game suspension for an illegal "horse-collar" tackle.

Smith caught nine passes for 137 yards, but the Panthers managed only 67 yards rushing and were officially eliminated from playoff contention.

The Cowboys will clinch home-field throughout the playoffs if Green Bay loses at Chicago on Sunday, but there are concerns about when Owens will be able to play again.

Owens had his team-record 15th touchdown catch of the season in the first quarter. After grabbing a sideline hitch pass, Owens barreled over cornerback Richards Marshall for a 10-yard score and a 7-0 lead.

Owens' fifth catch midway through the second quarter was his last. After Romo's 4-yard pass near the goal line, Owens' leg got caught underneath him when he was brought down by Jon Beason.

Agitated, Owens limped to the sideline, then later walked to the locker room.

Browns can solidify playoff position with win over Bills

By Dave Goldberg Associated Press writer

Washington (plus 6½) at Minnesota (Sunday night)
Second straight elimination game for the Redskins. Vikings are due to lose ... REDSKINS, 17-13.

New York Giants (minus 3) at Buffalo Long-range forecast is rain or snow ... GIANTS B-2.

Cleveland (minus 3) at Cincinnati Browns' march toward playoffs started with 51-45 win over Bengals. Harder to score in December ... BROWNS, 31-25.

Green Bay (minus 9) at Chicago If the Bears thought Kyle Orton might be their future, they learned otherwise in Minnesota ... PACKERS, 27-3.

Denver (plus 6½) at San Diego (Monday night) The Broncos lost 41-3 to the Chargers at home. They'll play for a little pride here ... CHARGERS, 37-27.

Houston (plus 7) at Indianapolis Tony Dungy says the Colts want to maintain momentum. But they sometimes take it easy with everything clinched ... COLTS, 27-21.

Miami (plus 21½) at New England The Dolphins will NOT win two in a row ... PATRIOTS, 30-3.

Kansas City (plus 4½) at Detroit The Lions have been trying since Nov. 11 to get to their seventh win, which would break the Millener record. Finally ... LIONS, 21-9.

Oakland (plus 23) at Jacksonville The Jaguars are a fashionable team going into the playoffs even though the voters who so honored Dallas found none of their worthy of a Pro Bowl spot ... JAGUARS, 24-10.

Philadelphia (plus 3) at New Orleans The Eagles may be better than the Saints ... EAGLES, 16-14.

New York Jets (plus 8½) at Tennessee The Jets have been a troublesome team for contenders, including New England last week ... TITANS, 19-13.

Baltimore (off) at Seattle The Ravens go for nine straight — losses ... SEAHAWKS, 29-3.

Tampa Bay (minus 7) at San Francisco Older guys like Barber, Brooks, Kelly and maybe Garcia might rest a bit ... BUCCINERS, 16-13.

Atlanta (plus 40½) at Arizona If the Cardinals finish 8-8, it would be their best record in nine years. That's incentive ... CARDINALS, 41-3.

LAST WEEK: 8-8 (spread); 9-7 (straight up)
SEASON: 110-106-8 (spread); 144-80 (straight up)

Lobos

Continued from page D1

It was New Mexico's first bowl victory since beating Western Michigan 28-12 in the 1961 Aviation Bowl at Dayton, Ohio. The Lobos also notched a nine-win season for just the fourth time in school history.

Much of the credit goes to

New Mexico's defenders, who prevented a redshirt freshman quarterback ... Collin Kaepernick all afternoon and made Nevada's "Pistol" offense look more like a popgun.

The Wolf Pack averaged 36.2 points and 488.9 yards during the season. Nevada logged 23 scoring plays that

covered at least 25 yards — second only to Oklahoma's 25 big-play TDs.

Nevada had 210 total yards, with only 73 yards rushing. On a chilly day, with the temperature at kickoff 34 degrees, Kaepernick finished 13-of-31 for 137 yards. He had 10 carries for 40 yards rushing.

Cincinnati

Continued from page D1

final rankings for the first time.

"It's kind of finishing off what's been a really important season in UC football," first-year coach Brian Kelly said. "It started out with waking up a program that maybe had needed a little bit. It took us six wins this year to get ranked in the Top 25. I don't know that it will take six next year."

Mauk, the game's most valuable player, completed 30 of 52 passes and overcame

three interceptions to become only the third third-year player to have a 3,000-yard passing season. It was a nice finish for the former Wake Forest starter, but a difficult one for Southern Miss (7-6) and Bowser.

It was the final game for Bowser after 17 seasons as his alma mater, a stay that ranks behind only that of Joe Paterno, Bobby Bowden and Frank Beamer among current coaches. Bowser was forced to resign after a disapp-

pointing regular season, leading to the hiring of Oklahoma State offensive coordinator Larry Fedora.

Bowser walked off the field, his arm draped around daughter Stephanie and admitted he got "a little emotional" in the locker room afterward.

Bowser's team couldn't convert several chances to at least make the ending interesting. Mostly, though, they couldn't stop Kelly's spread offense.

BYU

Continued from page D1

The Bruins forced two turnovers, pressured 101 all game and nearly pulled off the upset with their fourth-straight quarterback.

Walk-on McLeod Bethel-Thompson drove the Bruins from their own 2 in the final 2 minutes, completing an 86-yard pass to Logan Paulsen on a third-and-8 play with 30 seconds left to give UCLA a chance at finishing with a winning record.

It didn't quite happen. Forbath's kick was low enough for Mantiqaleuma to get a piece of it and keep the ball from getting through the uprights. Forbath had three field goals.

BYU improved to 2-7 against UCLA, beating the Bruins for the first time since 1983 when Young passed for 270 yards and two touchdowns. The Cougars also averaged a 27-17 loss to UCLA in the second week of the season, one of just two losses this year for BYU.

The Cougars won the Las Vegas Bowl for the second straight year. The last time BYU ended consecutive seasons with bowl wins was 1983 and 1984, when BYU won its only national title.

Chris Markey ran for 117 yards for UCLA, the first runner to break the 100-yard mark against BYU this season. UCLA needed the running game to stay in it with its top two quarterbacks on the sideline with knee injuries.

BOWL ADROME

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1300-1300

RING IN THE NEW YEAR!
Cosmic Bowl

10:30pm-12:30am

only \$17.00/person
call for your reservations today. Space is limited.

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- Noise Makers & Hats
- Chances to win iPod (4gb shuffle or nano)
- Cosmic Bowl Prizes
- Drink Specials in Bowl it! Bowl Lounge
- Glass of Champagne or Sparkling Cider

Group Photo Available

SCOREBOARD

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE COLLEGE FOOTBALL... ESPN - Home of Boise... CBS - Oklahoma at... Football - Oklahoma at... Football - Oklahoma at... Football - Oklahoma at...

BASKETBALL

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Rows include Boise State, Idaho State, New Mexico, etc.

SKI REPORT

Big Bear Back - 11:53 party... Lookout Pass - Fri 5:25 pm... Snow Summit - Sat 8:30 am... Heavenly - Sat 8:30 am...

SOFTBALL

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Rows include Boise State, Idaho State, New Mexico, etc.

SQUADS WESTERN

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Rows include Boise State, Idaho State, New Mexico, etc.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Table with 4 columns: Player, Team, W, L, Pct. Rows include Boise State, Idaho State, New Mexico, etc.

HBA NEWS

WALSH... Golden State... Fresno... Fresno... Fresno... Fresno... Fresno...

SPORTS LAWYERS

L.A. CLIPPERS... Boston... Boston... Boston... Boston... Boston...

FOOTBALL

Green Bay... Green Bay... Green Bay... Green Bay... Green Bay...

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

North Texas... North Texas... North Texas... North Texas... North Texas...

BETTING

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct. Rows include Boise State, Idaho State, New Mexico, etc.

WRESTLING

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HOCKEY

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Mayweather meets with Cuban, mulls switch to mixed martial arts

DALLAS — Floyd Mayweather Jr. met with Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban this week to discuss competing in mixed martial arts...

Idaho Baseball projects will host its annual Twin Falls

Idaho Baseball projects will host its annual Twin Falls expo from Thursday to Saturday at the Eldon Evans Expo Center on the CSI campus...

THFS opens Little Dribbler registration

TWIN FALLS — The 10th annual Little Dribbler basketball camp is accepting registration for January...

MAGIC VALLEY CSI baseball holds twin camp

TWIN FALLS — The College of Southern Idaho men's and women's baseball annual winter camps held Friday and Saturday in the CSI gymnasium...

YOUR SPORTS D5



Back row, from left: Noble Stauffer, Nicole Dally, Paige Jackson, Crystal Luna, Kaitlyn Kelly, Anastasia King, Stephanie Martens, Savannah Lott, Alexis Moore, Connie Morales
Front row, from left: Diana Cisneros, Ali Bingham, Kylene Craner, Mina Ahrens, Kyle Bright, Brittany Young, Mackenzie Martens, Jessica Glassinger.

Tigers earn Magic Valley title

BHOMIE — The Jerome Middle School seventh grade girls basketball team capped off a perfect season by defeating O'Leary Junior High in the championship game of the Magic Valley

Conference on Dec. 12. Entering the tournament as the top seed, the Tigers earned a first-round bye when topped Robert Stuart Junior High in the semifinals. The Tigers won every

game by double digits, compiling a 15-0 record during the season. Playing as hosts, several players led games in scoring while the team consistently played outstanding defense.

Bowling

SUNSET BOUL
MON. YABA
BOYS' SERIES: Derek Lonon 298, Dwight Moore 229, Brandon Taitano 217, Brandon Abate 171.
GIRLS' SERIES: Derek Lonon 116, Dwight Moore 96, Brandon Taitano 87, Brandon Moore 70.
CURLS SERIES: Alexa Breck 133, Julie Anne Negecheta 117.
GIRLS' GAMES: Julie Anne Negecheta vs. Alexa Breck 45.
MASON TROPHY
SERIES: Lois Tomlinson 557, Verna Kodesh 469, Kalle Oakesley 447, Nancy Bright 416.
GAMES: Lois Tomlinson 224, Kalle Oakesley 177, Verna Kodesh 175, Lynette Butler 173.
PINBUSTERS
GAMES: Danny O'Brien 644, Dirk McCallister 642, Ed Davis 628, Alec Wagner 616.
GAMES: Danny O'Brien 246, Ed Davis 245, Roger Shady 236, Tom Beck 236.

SUNSET SENIORS

GAMES: Nehman Caldwell 624, Ron Fugate 618, Charlie Hill 589, Tom Kenner 588.
MEN'S GAMES: Ron Fugate 244, Nehman Caldwell 234, Ed Hanna 221, Charlie Hill 222, Tom Kenner 219.
LADIES SERIES: Lois Tomlinson 518, Lena Hatby 433, Phyllis Catten 424, Verna Kodesh 395.
LADIES GAMES: Lois Tomlinson 192, Verna Kodesh 177, Lena Hatby 169, Phyllis Catten 164.
LUCY STRIKERS
SERIES: Lois Tomlinson 528, Manda Olson 518, Dana McCallister 503, Morgan Beck 503.
GAMES: Brenda Johnson 226, Lois Tomlinson 199, Morgan Beck 194, Manda Olson 185.
STARBUKE
MEN'S SERIES: Chuck Hicks 649, Dirk McCallister 597, Drew Foster 587, Brad McDonald 584.
MEN'S GAMES: Dirk McCallister 236, Chuck Hicks 235, Brad McDonald 215, Adam Preece 206, Drew Foster 206.
LADIES SERIES: Manal Olson 529, Dana Griffin 510, Teresa Boehm 507, Dana McCallister 504.
LADIES GAMES: Teresa Boehm 211, Diana Griffin 190, Manal Olson 187, Dana McCallister 183.

SPARE PAIRS

MEN'S SERIES: Curt Quantance 710, Bob Fells 566, Dirk McCallister 548, Dustin McCallister 548.
MEN'S GAMES: Curt Quantance 258, Bill Lemmons 211, Bob Fells 214, Wiley Bohann 211.
LADIES SERIES: Lois Tomlinson 557, Jeanne Hicks 543, Kay Miller 505, Jon Quantance 483.
LADIES GAMES: Lois Tomlinson 223, Jeanne Hicks 212, Kay Miller 210, Dana McCallister 177.

BOWLDROME, TWIN FALLS

SUN, EARLY MIXED
MEN'S SERIES: Byron D. Hager 665, Chris Meads 637, Shane Rackham 621, Ron Marshall 600.
MEN'S GAMES: Chris Meads 246, Byron Wayner 233, Byron D. Hager 228, Ron Marshall 226.
LADIES SERIES: Suzi Leen 570, Nicole Frederksen 536, Kim Leazer 522, Kaylene Randall 521.
LADIES GAMES: Nicole Frederksen 213, Kim Leazer 210, Georgia Randall 200, Tracy Hoffman 199.
MON. DBLS
SERIES: Pat Kleinkopf 615, Karen Perron 515, Linda Lyda 466, Kalle Jo Ciesla 464.
GAMES: Maureen Van Buren 197, Carlie Mikasei 196, Pat Kleinkopf 194, Martha Kemp 192.

MON. MIXED TOLLIES

MEN'S SERIES: Craig Grayer 738, Tony Brass 648, Juan Hernandez 623, John Bonnett 601.
MEN'S GAMES: Craig Grayer 287, Juan Hernandez 251, Tony Brass 249, Duke Simpson 238.
LADIES SERIES: Kay Paschel 581, Tiffany Cornelison 540, Rochae Reese 526, Angie Hillman 518.
LADIES GAMES: Rochae Reese 220, Kay Paschel 211, Leslie Harbison 210, Tiffany Cornelison 194.
SHABOON
MEN'S SERIES: Dale Black 646, Blake Kontrach 636, Neil Sabosko 603, Kelly Jerry 598.
MEN'S GAMES: Dale Black 246, Blake Kontrach 244, Dale Ritter 235, Kelly Jerry 226.
LADIES SERIES: Kahlie Jernie 529, Diana Suter 523, Barbara Reynolds 510, Carole Fredrickson 508.
LADIES GAMES: Diane Siegel 205, Stacy Pluton 201, Ann Dean 195, Julie Shull 189.

MID MORN. MIXED

MEN'S SERIES: Mac Brown 616, Gerald Lutz 600, Ed Dury 598, Myron Schroeder 575.
MEN'S GAMES: Ed Dury 255, Mac Brown 241, Gerald Lutz 240, Victor Haggard 220.
LADIES SERIES: Pat Glass 536, Margie Howard 535, Vicki Heilig 522, Gail Goddard 513.
LADIES GAMES: Pat Glass 194, Joann Burkhal 180, Margie Howard 189, LaDonna Young 185.
TUES. A.M. TRIOS
SERIES: Linda Vining 543, Carolyn Hanson 507, Betty Wargner 501, Jean McGuire 500.
GAMES: Linda Vining 202, Carolyn Hanson 201, Jean McGuire 195, Sondra Hill 193.
LATECORNERS
SERIES: Kelly Rodriguez 665, Lisa Allen 628, Charlene Anderson 537, Linda Vining 518.
GAMES: Kelly Rodriguez 246, Charlene Anderson 242, Lisa Allen 222, Donna Kruger 211.
UNBOLDED
SERIES: Bob Leazer 769, Byron D. Hager 704, Cory Moore 696, Matt

Your Scores

WED. MIXED
SERIES: Adria Parks 626, Gabe Rogers 615, George Shestakoff 602, Annette Marsh 567, Georgia Schmitt 428, Ken Hillard 444.
GAMES: Ken Hillard 208, Gabe Rogers 213, Kurt Shestakoff 208, Annette Marsh 209, Georgia Schmitt 195, Ken Hillard 167.

FALDADERS
GAMES: Ryan Sutt 591, Thea Knutson 595, Mrs. Rodriguez 592, Lisa Hutchison 597.
YABA & PA
SERIES: Garth Jones 546, Bob DePue 537, Harry Rane 498, Annette Marsh 599, Janet Grant 497, Mrs. Rodriguez 469.
GAMES: Garth Jones 230, Bob DePue 193, Doree Olson 179, Annette Marsh 225, Janet Grant 184, Mrs. Rodriguez 171.

THURS. MORN. DBLS
SERIES: Dawn Lavett 550, Doree Smith 541, Kim Sutt 475, Carol McAfee 456.
GAMES: Dawn Lavett 255, Doree Smith 241, Kim Sutt 176, Doree Carson 167.

HOUSEWIVES
SERIES: Shannon Smith 527, Bannu Murphy 520, Lisa Hutchison 509, Kristie Johnston 499.
GAMES: Kristie Johnston 197, Bannu Murphy 181, Lisa Hutchison 176, Thea Knutson 170.
MAJOR
SERIES: Bob Suter 217, Wally Stuer 638, Duran Carter 617, Rodney Fanchell 617.

EARLY BIRDS
SERIES: Steve Carter 379, Duane Maier 578, Duane Smith 537, Rita Maier 538, Norma Carter 535, Shannon Carter 498.
GAMES: Duane Smith 217, Duran Carter 214, Duane Smith 210, Rita Maier 205, Norma Carter 189, Shannon Carter 173.

MAGIC BOWL, TWIN FALLS
SUNDAY ROLLERS
MEN'S SERIES: Keith Kelly 713, RD Adema 657, Stan Vissler 637, Gary Frisky 611.
MEN'S GAMES: Keith Kelly 278, Stan Vissler 259, Gary Frisky 257, RD Adema 252.
LADIES SERIES: Lisa Countymans 505, Kelly Kelly 416, Brenda Shaley 447, Ruth Rufe 412.
LADIES GAMES: Lisa Countymans 215, Kelly Kelly 214, Brenda Shaley 216, Ruth Rufe 149.

COMMERCIAL
SERIES: Cory Moore 761, Bob Leazer 750, Ryan Worden 713, Mike Leazer 706.
GAMES: Fred Fuller 279, Cory Moore 279, Ryan Worden 279, Andrew Neilan 267.

MASON
SERIES: Andrew Neilan 538, Kathy Gray 510, Shirley Bial 494, Jon Stokesbury 481.
GAMES: Angie Wayman 211, Gloria Harter 183, Mare Bruce 187, V. Coshaw 186.

PIONEER
SERIES: Margaret Miller 620, Sunny McKeely 596, Brenda Altan 557, Cheri Freeman 534.
GAMES: Cheri Freeman 235, Sunny McKeely 224, Brenda Altan 211, Margaret Miller 211.

VALLEY
SERIES: Tony Brass 682, Jim Viarmes 672, Ron Wortman 655, Robert Watkins 650.
GAMES: Ron Wortman 287, Jim Viarmes 267, Rod Jerke 266, Robbie Mastfeld 256.

THURSDAY MIXED
SERIES: Glenn Dickenson 585, Doug Hammick 562, Jared Ashmead 559, Tom Kerr 538.
MEN'S GAMES: Jim Howard 233, Doug Hammick 232, Tom Dickenson 205, Larry Luttin 205.
LADIES SERIES: Kim Dalgin 211, Sheri Wink 199, Edie Barkley 190, Darceia Hancock 181.

EARLY FRI. MIXED
MEN'S SERIES: Tad Capuro 678, Marc Owens 620, Joey Bryant 615, Todd Dickenson 594.
MEN'S GAMES: Tad Capuro 262, Marc Owens 247, Todd Dickenson 247, Joey Bryant 214.
LADIES SERIES: Bobbie Thompson 581, Julie Capuro 542, Melissa Strubb 515, Kim Leazer 509.
LADIES GAMES: Bobbie Thompson 241, Julie Capuro 202, Kim Leazer 195, Lisa Dickenson 194.

BAT YABA
BOYS' SERIES: Zack Black 629, Trevor Webb 614, Kyle Mason 595, Paul Hammick 581, Billy Bryant 572.
GAMES: Trevor Webb 242, Zack Black 223, Kyle Mason 216, Paul Hammick 216, Billy Bryant 214.
GIRLS' SERIES: Leah Wasko 629, Traylor Webb 614, Kyle Mason 595, Paul Hammick 581, Billy Bryant 572.
GAMES: Leah Wasko 242, Traylor Webb 242, Kyle Mason 216, Paul Hammick 216, Billy Bryant 214.

3-ON-3 HOOPS

Sawtooth Elementary School recently held its Sixth Annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament. Pictured are the top three teams from each grade.



Sixth-grade first-place winners, from left, front row: Allison Ward, Kennedy Traveller, Casdon Jardine and Connor Meyerhoeffer; Second-place winners, from left, second row: Courtney Ellis, Macy Urvilly, Kade Meyerhoeffer and Ale Meyerhoeffer; Third-place winners, from left, back row: Chelsea Waldgafel, Nicole Smith, Jacob Johnson and Jeremy Stark.

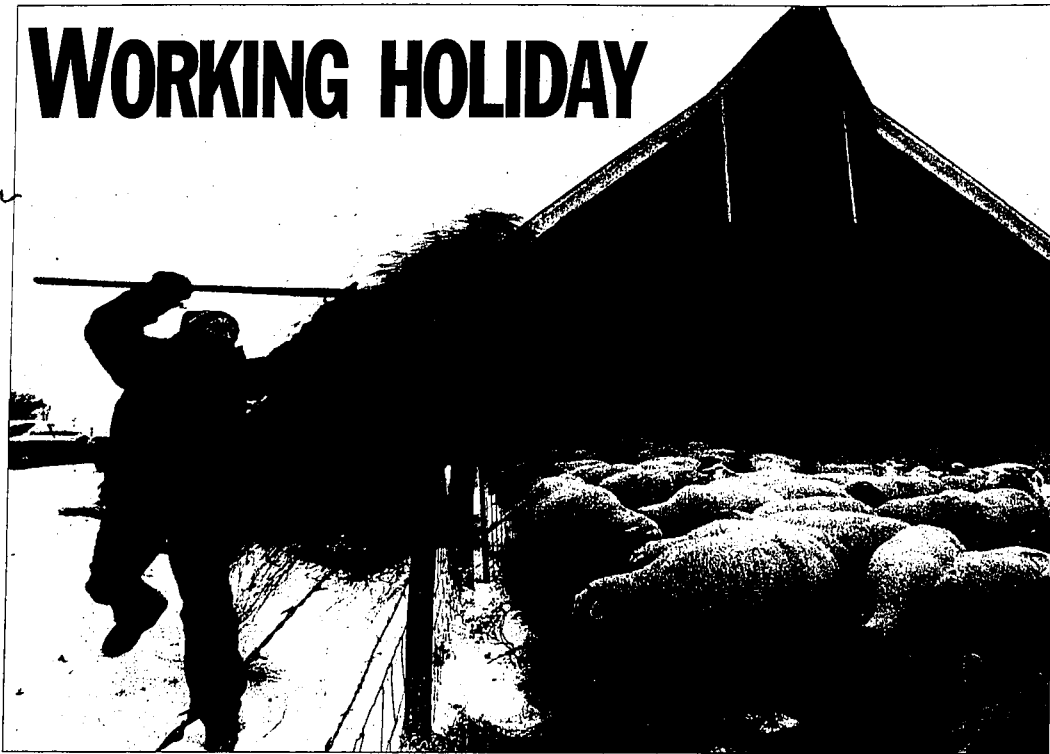


Fifth-grade first-place winners, pictured, from left, front row: Taylor Schwanerdt, Halaght Allen and Jady Carter; Second-place winners, from left, second row: Porter Casdorph, Megan McQueen, Lauren Lyda and Bradley Pierce; Third-place winners, from left, back row: Andrew Wabb, Rolly Hoy and Brittany Harmon. Not pictured: first-placer winner Braden Stutzman and third-place winner Hilary Chicheby.



Fourth-grade first-place winners, pictured, from left, front row: Landon Hatch, Dallas Hatch and Samantha Eggen; Second-place winners, from left, second row: Brittany Ward, Kayler Detmer, Cam Calho and Thas Rovig; Third-place winners, from left, back row: Fernando Sandoval, Lia Brodin and Kazari Cunningham. Not pictured: Third-placer winner Trevor Skaggs.

WORKING HOLIDAY



Brian Stoverink feeds sheep at the Buffalo Chip Ranch in Republican City, Neb., on Dec. 8. The weekend included farm chores, chopping down a Christmas tree and baking cookies.

Agri-tourism packages invite families to spend the holidays on working farms, doing chores

By Anna Jo Bratton
Associated Press writer

How far?

REPUBLICAN CITY, Neb. — With pitchforks and heavy coats, three teenage cousins brave below-freezing temperatures and learn how to pitch straw into a sheep pen — something their teacher, 27-year-old Matt McClain, has been doing since he was a kid.

Blending sheep may not be the expected soundtrack for a holiday vacation, but some farm families in Nebraska and elsewhere are hoping to change that with an old-fashioned holiday celebration that includes chores, chopping down a Christmas tree, baking cookies and more.

"The way we look at it is, every farmer needs a supplementary income to support their farming habit," McClain said. "Nowadays, with the price of fuel and fertilizer, and everything, you've got to be a major farmer to make ... it work."

His parents, Lorraine and Jerry McClain, invite families to their Republican City farm for what they call a "1900s Family Christmas Adventure."

"It's just like a family thing. There isn't enough things for families to do all together," said Lorraine McClain. "We also like to educate about what farmers do and ranchers do."

Dana Markel of Omaha found out about the McClain's vacation package on an Internet site called Country Adventures. The Kearney-based online catalog helps farmers and ranchers plan their packages, get insurance, and lure people to the farm to spend their vacation dollars. Markel found that for \$2,500, up

to 13-hour drive from Twin Falls to Republican City, Neb., but you might be able to find a willing farmer closer to home.

to 10 people could spend two nights and three days at the McClain's farm. She convinced her two sisters and their families to come along.

Bill and Karen Stoverink brought their teenage children, 13-year-old Brian and 16-year-old Katie.

"We're from St. Louis. We don't see much country like this too often," Bill Stoverink said. "I thought farmers had it easy in the wintertime ... no crops, they had nothing to do. Now realize they work harder in the winter than they do in the summer."

Such agri-tourism is gaining traction in Nebraska and beyond. Country Adventures has 160 listings in Nebraska, about a dozen in South Dakota and a few in Kansas and Missouri, said CEO Marge Lauer. Many vacation packages include hunting, fishing and lodging.

People can book a vacation pay online with a credit card or PayPal. "They could stay at this bed and breakfast one night, they could go horseback riding the next afternoon, they could tour a dairy the following day, stay at another farm home," Lauer said.

Farmers in Nebraska and elsewhere are catching on, Lauer said. Country Adventures recently got a \$72,000 USDA grant to expand to South Dakota and Utah.

"The concept is understood, but now it is actually convincing a

farmer that a ride on a combine, a tour through an implement lot, the ability to pick grapes, to stay in a farm home is something that's attractive to a consumer to a traveler," she said.

Lorraine McClain is convinced. She and her daughter, Vicky, dressed up in period clothing and taught their guests to make Christmas cookies. They used chicken feathers to paint them with frosting — "just like they would have in 1900" — and hang them on a live tree the family chopped down in a nearby field.

Jerry and Matt McClain showed the boys how to skin a deer.

"It's not as bad as I thought it would be," said Markel's son, 13-year-old Cale Rohwer, who grimaced as he pulled back the skin from the frozen carcass. He and his brother Gage, 16, have never been hunting.

"It's good for them to know where the meat comes from, where their milk comes from, and what we do out here to feed the world," Lorraine McClain said.

Katie Stoverink, 16, who's a vegetarian, skipped the deer-skinning lesson, opting instead to feed the chickens.

"It's a little bit crazy," she said. "I guess I don't think of people eating deer ... It's like, oh no, poor cute little deer!"

Once the holiday season passes, the McClains will keep leading hunting tours on their property and plan to put together another vacation package.

Lorraine "has a good business head," said Jerry McClain. "This is her dream, and I'm just trying to help make her dream come true."



Cousins Cale Rohwer, right, and Brian Stoverink, drag a Christmas tree they chopped back to the Buffalo Chip Ranch in Republican City, Neb., on Dec. 8.



Lorraine McClain, owner of the Buffalo Chip Ranch in Republican City, Neb., center, jokes with Dana Markel, left, who is busy decorating a Christmas tree with family members.



Janette Bowles paints a Christmas tree ornament with a feather at the Buffalo Chip Ranch in Republican City, Neb., on Dec. 8. Bowles and members of her family braved below-freezing temperatures while on a '1900s Family Christmas Adventure' vacation.



Cale Rohwer takes time off from chores at the Buffalo Chip Ranch in Republican City, Neb., to ride a take down a snowy hill on Dec. 8.



Under the watchful eye of farmer Matt McClain, 27, Gage Rohwer breaks the ice covering a cattle drinking pond.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Good travel weather expected... High: 35... Low: 18... Tomorrow: Snow and blowing snow may mess with holiday travel... High: 35...

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: A diminishing threat of snow early today, then dry... High: near 30... Tomorrow: Developing snow showers, the heavy to create some holiday travel headaches... High: upper 20s...

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Today will be the battle day to travel, as rain, dry weather is forecast... NORTHERN UTAH Snow chances will fade with the rising sun today...



REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY... 'I hope of character do the right thing, not because they are afraid of the world but because they will change it by the world.'

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Yesterday's Weather. Includes icons for weather conditions and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 4 columns: Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure. Includes sunrise and sunset times.

MOON PHASES

Table showing moon phases for Dec 24, Dec 31, Jan 8, Jan 15.

MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table showing moonrise and moonset times for Monday and Tuesday.

U.V. INDEX

Table showing U.V. index levels (Low, Moderate, High) and a note about sun protection.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities like Boise, Burley, and Twin Falls.

NATIONAL FORECAST

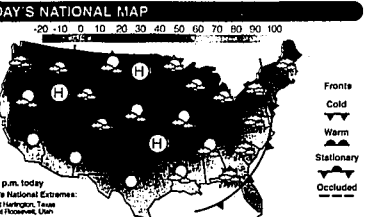
Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities across the United States.

WORLD FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities in other countries.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Table with 4 columns: City, Today, Tomorrow, High/Low. Lists cities in Canada.



Federal budget bill delays Canadian border passport requirement

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) — Passports won't be necessary for Americans and Canadians entering the United States by land until mid-2009 — a year later than planned — if a budget bill passed Thursday by Congress gets the approval of President Bush.

U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont, said he expects President Bush to sign the bill, despite the administration's insistence on implementing the passport requirement next summer.

'This delay is very very helpful and gives us a chance to do the right thing as opposed to the quickest thing,' said Bill Stenger, president of Jay Peak ski area, which is near the Canadian border. 'It's a major step. I give (Leahy) a tremendous amount of credit for getting some common sense into this whole situation.'

'The passport requirement is the wrong answer to the wrong question. It creates major hassles for law-abiding citizens and communities all across the longest peaceful border in the world,' Leahy said in a statement. 'It adds nothing to our security while costing Vermont and our national economy billions in lost commerce.'

Even though the passport requirement is likely to be postponed, Vermonters and others will still need birth certificates or similar identification to enter the United States by land beginning Jan. 31.

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Large advertisement for Motorola RAZR V3a. Features the headline 'FREE RAZR', 'buy one RAZR get one FREE NOW \$99 ONLY', and 'this phone ROCKS! NOW ONLY \$79.99'. Includes Motorola logo, phone images, and contact information for retail stores.

209 General

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Clinic Nurse/PTN (FT)
Clinic Nurse/PTN - Haley (PT)
CNA/RNA - LTCU (FT, PRN)
Dietary Aide (PT)
Employee Health Nurse
Housekeeper (FT)
LPN - Long Term Care (PT)
RN - Home Health (FT)
RN - Long Term Care (PT)
RN - Med Surg JOB (PRN, PT, FT)
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Submit Resume/cover to: udd@uddhealth.com Attn: Nancy

GENERAL MPR is seeking former Military Members living in the immediate area of Twin Falls to recruit for the Twin Falls Recruiting Station. Recruiting experience desired, but not required. Salary potential is \$48,000 the first year plus benefits.
www.mprrecruiting.com & fill out the individual information form under the job tabs.

GENERAL Painter needed to paint lam equipment. Experience preferred. pay D.O.E. Benefits available.
Mail resume & job application to Fleet Equipment 878 E. Main Burley, ID 83319

NEWSPAPER Times-News
magicalvalley.com
CORRESPONDENTS
The Times-News is looking for Correspondents to cover general news in Twin Falls and surrounding counties. This is a great opportunity for journalists students and others wanting to make a splash in the newspaper biz. Hours and assignments vary; pay is based on articles and photos published. Skills should include curiosity, grammar and some photo. Publishing with the Times-News is a great way to market your journalism skills, build clips, and earn money for your writing.

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To find out more, interested candidates should contact Assistant City Editor Andrew Weeks at 208-735-3233 or weeks@magicalvalley.com

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Mail resume & job application to Fleet Equipment 878 E. Main Burley, ID 83319

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The Times-News is looking for Correspondents to cover general news in Twin Falls and surrounding counties. This is a great opportunity for journalists students and others wanting to make a splash in the newspaper biz. Hours and assignments vary; pay is based on articles and photos published. Skills should include curiosity, grammar and some photo. Publishing with the Times-News is a great way to market your journalism skills, build clips, and earn money for your writing.

Times-News magicalvalley.com
CORRESPONDENTS
To find out more, interested candidates should contact Assistant City Editor Andrew Weeks at 208-735-3233 or weeks@magicalvalley.com

Sunday Crossword
WORLDWIDE WISHES
By Josiah Brewster, Scranton, Pennsylvania

ACROSS
1 Monday
2 Pies to a list
3 Dimples
4 Che Guevara
5 First name
6 7's shaped curve
7 Sole points
8 72's
9 "Radio Days"
10 I haven't won
11 More down
12 in the circus
13 My first job
14 Trolley and
15 Thunder
16 Her's prov.
17 Peter of
18 Former U.S.
31 Former U.S.
34 Work at
35 Portuguese waltz
36 Frosts
37 Work at
38 getting in shape
41 State with
42 Ale like
43 West of
44 British tenor
45 Homer
46 West of
47 Hollywood?
48 Danah
49 Q U connection
50 In good health
51 Market price
52 Unhappy's
53 Sam of letters
54 of letters
62 Teams

211 Medical

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12/20/07

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Real Estate & Classifieds

REAL ESTATE

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- 516 Vacation Prop
- 517 Condominiums
- 518 Mobile Homes
- 520 Realty Wanted
- 521 Manufactured Home

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Abbreviations can lead to confusion. Make sure readers will understand your ad completely. Spell it out. Classifieds 733-0311

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Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

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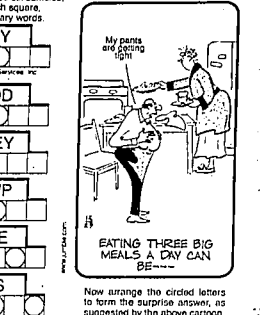
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the answers on page E-10

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Sunday, Dec. 23, 2007

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

Dear Mr. Wolff:
You recently asked what one should bid with six clubs and two diamonds after an unpassed sequence your way - one diamond, one spade, one heart, two clubs. You advocate passing, which I can understand but that is not my call forcing here.

ANSWER: We need to define what's forcing and what is not New South by responder are already forcing (except by a passed hand). New suits by opener are NOT forcing, unless a force has already been set up as an opening bid or a simple change of suit is not forcing. Jumps and reverses by opener are forcing - the former to judge, the latter for one round.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
I held 4-4-3-2-3 A-J, 8-9-4-4-2. My partner opened one spade and I reopened one club after the first bid (he told me I have preference to two spades). This went down because trump broke 4-4, but two notrump, or perhaps even three notrump might have been possible. Where did we go wrong?
Catherine Dorn, Thermo, Wis.

ANSWER: I'm not sure you did anything bad here. Your hand looks more suitable for play in spades than no trump, and in the minors. I'd be exactly what you did, and then I made two tricks.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
I am now many players use an ace and negative after a two-club opening. I always thought that the way to bid after the first bid (two diamonds was to bid two notrump. But I'm told that the better minor is to bid "1N" but for the weak opener. Where do you stand?
Tim Weckler, Reno, Idaho

ANSWER: It is now more fashionable for the lower limit (three or less) over opener's bid of two hearts or

three clubs, three diamonds over a three club bid to show a four-card suit. If opener's rebid three diamonds at his first turn, there is no second intention. The idea of showing the lower limit is to get a trump declaration by the strong hand, an obvious advantage.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
Holding 4-3-3-4-3, 4-4-4-4-2. I made a one spade over one spade over one club. This was because I thought that a takeout double would be better since I had clubs to an opening bid in spades. What is current thinking here?
E. J. Cantwell, Passaic, N.J.

ANSWER: I believe you would get heavy support for the idea that when you have a five-card major and a minor, you would bid the suit rather than double. For clubs with 4 in the majors a case could be made for the double - but not here. After the overcall, you should still find a fit in another suit, then start an overcall, when your partner has values.

Dear Mr. Wolff:
It is such a thing as an agreed method of signaling when you hold a king in a suit that you can't hold the king? (Dummy has come down with Q-10-8-3-1) Should you start an overcall?
Neal Patkar, Spaworth, N.C.

ANSWER: The short answer is that it depends! If the auction has made it clear that you can't hold two tenaces you should support for the suit or declare (can't do that either way). If you have a king, you should encourage. If playing standard signals, you may play third hand in a suit and then continue in the other, but there are many plans that you might employ in partner.

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Sudoku Answers:

5	2	1	8	4	9	3	7	6
4	9	3	6	2	7	1	8	5
7	8	6	1	3	5	2	4	9
2	7	5	9	6	8	4	1	3
9	1	8	3	7	4	5	6	2
3	6	4	2	5	1	8	9	7
6	3	7	4	8	2	9	5	1
1	4	2	5	9	6	7	3	8
8	5	9	7	1	3	6	2	4

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Answer :

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Eating three big meals a day can be —

"WEIGH"
TOO MUCH

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WILLS TOYOTA 208-733-2891 318 Shoshone St W, Twin Falls

1010 Autos

CHRYSLER '05 PT Cruiser, turbo charged, automatic, navigation, leather, \$14,315. Stock # 4166

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FORD '02 Mustang, \$6,995.

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Making memories without the money

Time spent with family is treasured more than gifts

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

Misty Phillips has a clear memory of how she spent Christmas as a child.

The College of Southern Idaho student recalls crafting popcorn balls with her grandparents, tracking Santa's progress on the evening news and helping her grandmother bake holiday bread.

"I remember Dad's voice. I remember Grandpa's hands. I remembered the heartfelt things, those little things that stuck in my heart," said Phillips, 34, of Hagerman.

And except for the gifts her father lovingly fashioned out of wood, she doesn't recall most of the presents she received.

Time spent with family during the holidays stands out to children more than getting gifts, said Gloria Wolf, a social worker at Positive Connections in Twin Falls.

"Let them know that Christmas isn't just about gifts and about material things, but about time spent together and the real meaning of Christmas," she said.

Terry McCurdy agreed. The Twin Falls grandfather established Christmas traditions with his five children that they have carried on to their families. One favorite tradition was recreating the birth of Jesus from the Bible's Book of Luke.

"We would read it every year and act it out," McCurdy said. "Dad was always the donkey." Even though they don't act anymore, he said, they still read the story every year.

The McCurdys also made a point to teach their children the importance of giving. When they were younger, the children would pool their allowances to buy a Christmas dinner, then leave the dinner on the steps of someone in need.

"I can tell you, our kids still think back on that with some real tender feelings," he said.

When the children were old enough to drive, McCurdy and his wife gave them \$20 each to give to someone in need on Christmas Eve. One year, his son found a woman searching for affordable toys at Kmart.

"You could tell it by looking at her, the way she was

Please see **FAMILY**, Page F3



Elias Phillips, 5, takes a deep breath as he plunges his hands into a bowl of popcorn while making popcorn balls with his family Tuesday night in Hagerman.



Josie Phillips, 4, front, kneads dough while her brother Elias does the same Tuesday night in Hagerman.



The original bread recipe card that Misty Phillips uses each year to make bread with her family.



Skyler Phillips, 14, kneads dough for his own loaf of bread during a family Christmas tradition Tuesday night in Hagerman.

Making your own memories

Not sure where to start with family traditions? Here are some seeds to help sprout your own annual holiday rituals.

- **Research your ancestors'** holiday traditions and incorporate them into your yearly festivities. In Mexico, for example, children break pinatas filled with candy and fruit. In Denmark, families leave out rice porridge for mischievous Christmas elves.

- **Give new life to Grandma's** old recipes or find your own to share with your family. Make them more special by designing them holiday-only treats, giving your family something to look forward to each December.

- **Teach your children** the importance of giving. Let them pick out a book or toy to donate to less fortunate families, or have them collect canned food for a local charity.

- **Give family members** a new Christmas ornament every year. Make it meaningful — give a Mickey Mouse ornament commemorating a summer trip to Disneyland, an ornament inspired by a favorite hobby or one marking a major achievement.



See it online

Watch a video of Misty Phillips' family making popcorn balls and bread, at Magdevalley.com.

What to buy for those boomers in your life

By Kelly Vann
Special to The Hartford Courant

Attention, Gen X shoppers: Anyone seeking a last-minute gift for an older family member, please step away from the cologne, after-shave, ties and knickknacks. Perfect boomer gifts can be found in Aisle 5.

No question, the above announcement would make holiday hunting easier for twenty- and thirtysomethings jumped on the "silver industries" bandwagon and filled store shelves with unique gifts, gadgets, books and lifestyle solutions designed to make life easier, more interesting and fun for the rapidly expanding group of Americans over 50. (The term "silver industries," coined by

Harry Moody, director of academic affairs for AARP, refers to companies responding to the needs of America's graying population.)

Take clothing, for example. Though the country's 75 million boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) spend \$100 billion annually on apparel

and accessories, they can be guilty of sins of fashion. That's the message from Sherric Mathleson, author of "Forever Cool: How To Achieve Ageless, Youthful, and Modern Personal Style" (Clarkson Potter Publishers). Mathleson, a former Hollywood costume designer,

penned the guide to help boomers develop a hip, yet age-appropriate appearance. The book, with photos of fashion makeovers, gently steers readers toward cool, hip, classy, age-appropriate clothing.

Please see **BOOMERS**, Page F3

SENIOR CALENDAR

Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center
 530 Shoshone St. W., Twin Falls, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; lounge and pool rooms; bargain center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Wednesday: Birthday dinner, roast pork
 Thursday: Sloppy Joe
 Friday: Fried chicken
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Quilting, 9 a.m. Elks Card Club, 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday: Quilting, 9 a.m. Pinocchio, 1 p.m.
 Exercise class, 1:30 p.m.
 Friday: Lunch bingo

West End Senior Citizens Inc.
 1010 Main St., Buhl, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60. Sunday buffet: 1 p.m.; \$4.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60; \$3.50, under 12. Center hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Thursday: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, **MEMUS:**
 Monday: Ham and bean soup
 Wednesday: Cook's choice
 Thursday: Beef stew
ACTIVITIES:
 Today: Christmas dinner (ham), 1 p.m.
 Monday: SilverSneakers exercise program, 10:30 a.m.
 Tuesday: Center closed

Wednesday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.
 Thursday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
ACTIVITIES:
 Bus runs for lunch pickup, call 543-4577 by 10:30 a.m.
 Bingo 1 to 3 p.m.
 Foot clinic
 Friday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.

Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.
 310 Main St. N., Kimberly. Lunch and full-serve salad bar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; take-out home delivery. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Wednesday: Potato soup
 Friday: Oven-fried chicken
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Nu-2U Thrift Store open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
 Thursday: NA meeting, 7 p.m.
 Friday: Nu-2U open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Exercise, 10:30 a.m.
 Bingo, 11:50 a.m.
 Pinocchio, 1 p.m.

Gooding County Senior Citizen Center
 308 Senior Ave., Gooding, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50 for seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Monday: Ham
 Wednesday: Turkey noodle

soup
 Thursday: Roast beef
 Friday: Soup and sandwiches
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Pinocchio, 12:30 p.m.
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Shuffleboard, 6 p.m.
 Thursday: Quilt social, 9 a.m. Birthday party
 Pool, 9:30 a.m.
 Pinocchio, 7 p.m.
 Friday: Bridge and duplicate bridge, 1 p.m.
 Saturday: Pinocchio, 7 p.m.

Hagerman Valley Senior and Community Center
 140 E. Lake, Hagerman. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2, under 12. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; thrift shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free high-speed Internet.
MEMUS:
 Monday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Brunch casserole
 Friday: White bean chicken chili

Jerome Senior Center
 212 First Ave. E., Jerome. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Wednesday: Hash brown casserole
 Thursday: Polish sausage
 Friday: Birthday dinner, chicken-erie steak
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed

Wednesday: SilverSneakers fitness class, 10:30 a.m. Bridge, 12:30 p.m. Dick and John
 Pinocchio, 7 p.m.
 Magic Valley Singles Square Dance Club
 Friday: SilverSneakers, 10:30 a.m.
 Pinocchio, 1 p.m.

Silver and Gold Senior Center
 210 E. Wilson, Eden, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon Friday.
MEMUS:
 Thursday: Fried chicken
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Center closed

Richfield Senior Center
 130 S. Main, Richfield, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60.
MEMUS:
 Monday: Center closed
 Thursday: Center closed

Golden Years Senior Citizens Inc.
 218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone.
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Friday: Center closed

Camas County Senior Center
 127 Willow Ave. W., Fairfield.
MEMUS:
 Tuesday: Center closed

Wednesday: Center closed
 Friday: Center closed

Blaine County Senior Center
 721 Third Ave. S., Halley, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Wednesday: Roast beef sandwiches
 Friday: Turkey
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Yoga, 5:30 p.m. Thursday: Kneadery lunch, 11:30 a.m.

Carey Senior Center
 Main Street, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, non-seniors.
MEMUS:
 Thursday: Roast beef sandwiches

Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center
 702 11th St., Rupert, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$5, seniors; \$6, non-seniors; \$3, under 12; \$4.50, home delivery. Gift shop: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Wednesday: Pork chops
 Thursday: Tacos
 Friday: Chicken or fish
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Pool, 1 p.m. Pinocchio, 4 p.m.
 Thursday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3

p.m.
 SHIBA and Medicare assistance, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; call George Schwindeman at 436-9107 or Kitty Andrews at 677-4872 for appointments
 Friday: Pool, 1 p.m. Pinocchio, 1 to 4 p.m. Bingo, 7 p.m.

Three Island Senior Center
 492 E. Cleveland Ave., Glenns Ferry. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. For rides: 366-2051. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Thursday: Pop chops
ACTIVITIES:
 Friday: TOPS, 9 a.m. Cardio, 1 p.m.

Wendell Senior Meal Site
 105 W. Ave. A, Lunch served at noon. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Filer Senior Haven
 222 Main St., Filer, Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
MEMUS:
 Wednesday: Enchiladas
 Thursday: Birthday dinner, fried chicken
ACTIVITIES:
 Monday: Center closed
 Tuesday: Center closed
 Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.
 Thursday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.
 Bingo, 1 p.m.

Parenting: A job with more questions than answers

By Jill Kelley
 Cox News Service

DAYTON, Ohio — With all the challenges parents face, it is good to know what weapons we have in our arsenal.

I have found that one of the biggest resources we have as parents is other parents. They not only understand why we are in distress, but usually know just how to make us feel better.

I realized the benefit of the fellow parent the day I brought my first child home from the hospital. I still reeling from the fact that they allowed my husband and I to take responsibility for this small person without escort or proof of ability, we first tried to rely on the advice the nurses had given us.

Among his many other mysterious baby needs, my son had jaundice. The nurses said to make sure he was getting enough milk and was fed at frequent intervals and it would clear up. Otherwise, they noted, he would have brain damage.

At the same time, the breast feeding wasn't going well. I called the lactation consultant at the hospital, who then likened giving formula to your baby to child abuse.

So, I stood there with the phone in my hand — still in pain from giving birth and repeatedly attempting to feed the baby, exhausted from not having slept in a couple of days. I was frantically trying to figure out which was worse: brain damage or child abuse — when I had the best idea yet.

I decided to call my sister. I didn't know if she could

Fellow parents not only understand your problems, they usually have a story about something much worse that happened to them.

help, but I knew she had a couple of kids she had managed not to kill or permanently damage.

She calmed me down, told me to keep trying and to supplement with a little formula to ease all of our pain. It worked and we all survived.

Since then, I have found that other parents are a wealth of information in just about any child-related issue, and they usually dole out the advice in a soothing, easy-to-swallow form.

These fellow parents not only understand your problems, they usually have a story about something much worse that happened to them. Their story gives you perspective and makes you realize that you really don't have it so bad.

For example, if your kid uttered a swear word at the neighbor's house, they'll tell you about the time their kid yelled one out at church; if your kid pinched his brother, they tell you about the time their kid punched her grandmother.

They understand that the banana smeared on your back came from the goodbye hug you got this morning, and quietly wipe it off when you aren't looking.

They get how hard it is to let go on the first day of kindergarten or how stressed you can be when the baby is crying incessantly and you can't

figure out why.

They're helpful when discussing schools, passing the time at T-ball games and helping find a recipe that is not only beloved by the class, but is within the accepted frosting restrictions of the teacher.

And it is just as rewarding when you can help out a fellow parent.

Recently a friend at work was freaked out about her new baby sister.

She told me that her kids, who are 4 years and 6 months old, were with the first baby sitter she had used who wasn't a friend, a friend of a friend, or someone another mom recommended.

And, just to compound the fear factor, she said she had found the baby sitter on the Internet.

"She could be off selling my kids by now!" she said with a nervous laugh that let on that she had been thinking that at least since the moment she walked into the building.

But I reassured her that they would be fine.

"Besides," I said, "there isn't much money in kids these days."

So it is good that we have each other.

Parenting is a job that will always have more questions than answers, so I figure the more guesses you have, the better your chances of getting it right.

The wild that launched a society

By Karly Vann
 Special to The Hartwood Courant

Sue Ellen Cooper never meant to start a movement.

In 1998, when she cajoled five friends to dress up in purple outfits and big red hats and head out for a few hours of silliness and fun, the Fullerton, Calif., wife and mother of two had nothing more in mind than a one-time break from her everyday routine and the chance to let down her hair and play.

"I had been inspired by that famous poster," says Cooper, 62. (The poster titled "Warning," by British author Jenny Joseph, begins, "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple with a red hat that doesn't go...") "So I got my friends to put on these outrageous outfits, and we all went out to tea, laughed and had a great time. And I thought that was the end of it."

But the outing was such a success that the group planned another, then another and another, until they were meeting regularly each month, always outfitted in scarlet hats and purple duds. After a magazine article featured tales of Sue Ellen and friends meeting for tea dressed in red hats and purple clothes in July 2000, dozens of e-mails poured in asking, "What is the Red Hat Society and how can I join?" Six months later, The Orange County Register ran a story about the group that was picked up by a wire service and appeared in newspapers throughout the United States. E-mails increased to hundreds, daily.

"I didn't know where this was going," Sue Ellen says. "But I knew we would have fun getting there."

She is now up a "Hattersqueers," for what she refers to as a social "dis"-organization, dedicated to women's friendships and having fun. In 2004, her first book, "The Red Hat Society: Friendship and

"I got my friends to put on these outrageous outfits, and we all went out to tea, laughed and had a great time. And I thought that was the end of it."

— Sue Ellen Cooper

Fun After Fifty," was published. Within days, it shot to No. 3 on The New York Times best-seller list. Her second best-seller, "The Red Hat Society's Laugh Lines: Stories of Inspiration and 'Ittitude,'" was released in 2005. These days, Cooper, better known to her loyal and adoring subjects as the Exalted Queen Mother, reigns over close to 1 million "women of a certain age." (Red Hat Society members range in age from 50 to well over 100.) Since its inception, the Red Hat Society has grown to include nearly 40,000 chapters — with such names as "The Scarlet O'Hatters," "Beguiling Red Hat Biddies" and the "Bearly Hat Hatters."

— In all 50 states and 30 countries. A new membership segment, Pink Hatters, is made up of women younger than 50 who wear pink hats and lavender clothing.

"Younger women were jealous of all the fun we were having," Cooper says. "When 'Pinkies' turn 50, chapters hold 'hat-untion' parties."

Over the years, the group has established itself firmly in the public consciousness. Regional and national conventions draw thousands. Organized trips and cruises draw hordes of red-hatted "girls" who wanna have fun. "The Red Hat Society Cookbook" was published in 2006, and "Eat Dessert First:

The Red Hat Society Dessert Cookbook" is due in stores in September. A series of Red Hat Society romance novels has a wide audience. A documentary film, "The Remarkable Red Hat Society," debuted on PBS earlier this year. An exercise program developed with AARP, "Step & Slide with Ruby," helps keep Red Hatters in fine form. Licensed Red Hat merchandise includes hats, clothing, jewelry, hat racks, rudy slippers and even Red Hat cookies, candies and cakes.

Several years ago, a producer approached Cooper with an idea for a musical based on the group's philosophy. The result, "Hats" with songs by Grammy-winner Melissa Manchester, Amanda McBroom and Pam Tillis, debuted in Denver last year, recently completed a run in Chicago and will be touring in 2008.

In spite of the group's higher profile, fun is still the No. 1 priority, Cooper says. It will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2008 with a year of festivities, frivolity and friendship.

"We stay away from politics and religion," Cooper says. "If people insist on bringing up those topics, we plug our ears and hum until they stop. We're all about celebrating women's friendships and nurturing ourselves and each other."

Finding ways to live with pet allergies

The Washington Post

Lots of people who are allergic to dogs and cats find ways to live with their dear pets anyway. One smart approach is to create a pet-free zone in the house, where the door is kept closed and the pet is kept

out. The bedroom where the allergy sufferer sleeps is a prime candidate to declare off-limits.

A HEPA air purifier in this room will help, as will a vacuum with a HEPA filter to pull allergens out of carpets, upholstery and the air. Washing bed coverings and

mattress pads frequently will help, too. If your cat or dog has been luxuriating on your bed for years, however, don't expect instant results. Allergens can remain in furniture and upholstery for up to four to six weeks even after the pet has started napping elsewhere.

Heavenly Quiche!

By Ailene Eberhard from Sun Valley \$7.50 as featured in the Times-News per dozen

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Natural Foods

Family

Continued from page F1
dressed, that she was barely making ends meet," McCurdy said.

His son, too embarrassed to approach the woman, handed the money to a clerk to give her and watched from the background.

"It was like she had received a million dollars from someone," McCurdy said.

Weir said families who make traditions and spend time together during the holidays — and throughout the year — help their children develop in positive ways.

"When they have a good, close family connection, a functional family versus dysfunctional, they're just going to grow up to be healthy adults, mentally," she said. "Things step out to them just like they do to adults. I think good and bad things stick out to them — bad experiences as well as good experiences."

The good stuck with Phillips, who has made popcorn balls and homemade bread every Christmas since she was a child.

This Christmas marks the first year she will spend with her grandparents, who taught her how to make the treats. Her grandfather died last year, and her grandmother is in Kansas. It's not so simple as passing the tradition to her own children, although she had problems duplicating the recipe dur-



Elias Phillips, 8, cracks the handle of a stovetop popcorn maker with the help of his mother, Kitty Phillips, during a family tradition Tuesday night in Hagerman. "Remember that one time you opened it and (the popcorn) all fell out?" he asked his mother.



The little hands of Jodie Phillips, 4, left, are dwarfed by those of her older brother Skyyler, 14, while forming popcorn balls.

ing a test run. "Grandpa's stuck the

best," Phillips' son Elias, 8, said as he squeezed pop-

corn pieces mixed with caramelized sugar. "My grandpa always had the biggest ones."

Phillips said the traditions help remind her of her father's family — something she appreciates during her first Christmas since she moved to Hagerman from Kansas one year ago.

"It kind of keeps everybody intact, especially with our busy schedules these days," she said. "I hope my kids will pass on the tradition, too."

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

Boomer

Continued from page F1

Helping the 'You're So Vain' generation disguise the fact that they're doing nothing, reading glossy newsmagazines, The Skryroll selected carry-on/purse-size bag is an innovative hybrid that carries up to three suits and reduces wrinkling and creasing. Smart Cart luggage from Swamy offers ergonomic, wide-grip handles that double as canes to support full body weight and drop-down seats that lock into place and support up to 300 pounds.

These days, boomers are exercising their brains as well as their bodies, hoping to stave off cognitive decline. Companies offering stay-sharp games include Nintendo, which has titles such as "Big Brain Academy" for its handheld DS game system and the new Wii. MindFit by Cognifit costs \$129 and can be downloaded from www.cognifit.com. It features a series of exercises that the computer customizes to the user's level of brain functioning.

Billed as a cellphone for "baby boomers and their parents," the Jitterbug cuts out the bells and whistles of other models and offers instead bigger, backlit buttons, large easy-to-read text, easily accessible phone list and voice messages and the ability to use the phone right from the start — without special instructions. See Jitterbug.com.

Missing socks form one of life's little mysteries

By Gary DymSKI

Two socks enter the washer. The socks exit the dryer. ... As household chores, what could be simpler? A pair of socks goes from drawer to feet to dirty clothes to washer and dryer and back into the drawer.

"Of course, anyone associated with a social group that faintly resembles a family knows the truth. Socks do disappear. Virtually every residence in the free world has a drawer, pile or basket of mismatched socks. Millions — no, billions — of socks drift aimlessly without mates.

"Washing machines and dryers eat socks," says my wife of 27 years, who oversees the laundry in our seven-person family. There are other theories, of course. Sock heaven is one. A Bermuda Triangle for socks is another.

For whatever reason, our family's mismatched-sock pile grows and grows, like an expanding cotton-blended Blob. Two or three times a year we try to match socks. For too often, they remain alone, sentenced to the rag pile, one wife closer to the garbage.

Today, sock sales in the U.S. are about \$4.9 billion annually. Perhaps because I seem responsible for about a \$1 million of those sales, I just lose it over mismatched socks. As frustration builds, I erupt, like any normal, sock-wearing person.

Once, when my daughter Allyson was playing competitive soccer, her black game sock came back from the wash inexplicably empty. I ended with one of 'my black dress socks. When I put them on, the sports sock reached my

knee; the dress sock climbed past my ankle. "Who in their right mind would put these two socks together?" I shouted in a rage.

My wife, returning clean clothes to drawers at the time, answered: "If you don't like how we do socks, you can do the laundry." By emphasizing "you" and modifying "laundry" with a word translatable for print, my wife revealed to me for the first time that she is truly capable of murder.

Since no matches existed for these black socks, they, too, were exiled to our pile. "I share your pain," says Gail Hammond-Gibson, who manages the laundry in her Long Island Freeport household of four that includes husband, Bill, daughter, Novell, 15, and son, Julian, 13.

"The family has a bag of lonely, single socks. 'The problem is the bug of mismatched is larger than our supply of good socks,' she says.

Although she has no proof, she wonders if socks are made specifically to disappear, or whether there's a conspiracy between the weavers of socks and appliance manufacturers.

"It's all about buying new socks," she says. Hammond-Gibson's son seems to be the only family member who has a plan for keeping his socks together; he folds the tops of one open end into the other. "At least they get to the washing machine paired up," mom says.

The youngster is on to something, says Audrey Reed-Granger, a marketing and public relations executive at Whirlpool, a Michigan-based manufacturer of appliances. The journey from harpner to laundry room is fraught with



SockCops and SockPro are designed to link single pairs of socks as they wash and dry.

danger for socks. Contrary to popular opinion, washers and dryers do not eat socks. Reed-Granger says, and she insists there is no conspiracy between the hosiery industry and the appliance manufacturers.

There are logical explanations for single-sock phenomena. First, Reed-Granger says, most socks do not make it to the washer in pairs. "Boys shoot dirty socks into hampers like they're shooting basketballs," she says, "so socks end up behind furniture or under the bed."

Then she asks me if I've ever followed my wife as she carries a load of clothes to the washer. I reluctantly admit that my wife often leaves behind a trail of single socks, T-shirts and unmentionables.

"The logic is based on research" by Whirlpool's Institute of Fabric Science, which studies how consumers

use things like washers and dryers. The institute also claims static cling causes socks to diverge. Even when a pair gets together from the washer and into the dryer, static cling can split them up. A single sock can be swallowed by a pillow case or a pant leg, which hints of textile cannibalism.

"The laundry room has been unfairly identified as a Bermuda Triangle for socks," Reed-Granger says. "But, really, it's not the fault of the room or the machine. It's you."

Well, not me. And certainly not Mary Ellen Zimmermann of Kings Park. After 20-plus years of laundry, she knows exactly why socks go single: "They escape to sock heaven." If you were a sock, she asks, wouldn't you be looking for greener pastures?

Reed-Granger understands. "Before I falling Whirlpool, I had a lot of missing socks, too, and I thought I

Plastic holders keep socks together

Linda Cobb, who has written books on laundry, organizing and household cleaning, never had a problem keeping her socks organized.

"Let's face it, I am the Queen of Clean," says Cobb, who raised one son and has a Web site (www.queenofclean.com) dedicated to cleaning and organizing tips. Her 2001 laundry book, "Talking Dirty Laundry With the Queen of Clean" also has advice on socks seeking Spillville.

She advocates the use of sock holders — discs and clips that keep pairs together from when they hit the dirty clothes to when they exit the dryer — for eliminating the disappearing sock syndrome.

For large families, using such devices might be time-consuming. Cobb puts up the kids to work. "Make the children do it," she says. "Make them clip together their socks when they put clothes in the dirty laundry."

Another solution is putting socks in mesh laundry bags. One bag for white socks and undergarments, and another for colors.

"If you have more than one child, color code their undergarments," she says. Boys' underwear can be divided into gray, navy and red, for example, while girls get white, pink and light blue.

Another source for laundry tips is Whirlpool's Institute of Fabric Science, www.instituteoffabricscience.com.

was going crazy." One solution is using mesh laundry bags, which keep socks together before they reach the laundry room, Reed-Granger says.

Experts like author Linda Cobb, the self-proclaimed "Queen of Clean," says clips and rings — sold as SockCops and SockPro and designed to link single pairs as they wash and dry — also prevent socks from disappearing. Reed-Granger prefers the mesh bags, because she says such plastic items could loosen and potentially damage the appliances.

To heck with bags and organizing clips, scoff those who launder regularly. Especially those who have large families. Bags, clips and rings are too much work. Plus,

deep down, they are true believers in the household legends of sock heaven and sock-munching appliances.

Again, Reed-Granger understands. So much so that she grudgingly reveals there is a rare — an extremely rare — opportunity for a washing machine to hold up a sock.

Under the lid of the traditional machine is a gap between the tub and the drum, Reed-Granger says. "You have to really, really overload a top-end machine, so when the cycle starts, a small item could be flung up into that gap and be lost."

To those who toil under mountains of grimy clothes, all the single socks in the ghosts of single socks, it finally makes sense. "What did I tell you?" my wife says.

STORK REPORT

- Cassia Regional Medical Center: Ireland Rayn Chard, daughter of David and Shana Chard of Rupert, was born Dec. 4, 2007.
St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center: Carlos Isaac Quinonez, son of Laura Juarez and Carlos Quinonez of Hailey, was born Dec. 4, 2007.
St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center: Gabriel Christian Sandovyl, son of Andrea Dee Myers of Kimberly, was born Dec. 2, 2007.
Allen James Dewayne Larsen, son of Katie Shannon Hendrix of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 4, 2007.
Brynelle Elizabeth Egbert, daughter of Krystal and Ryan Clark Egbert of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 8, 2007.
Dalton Deman Brasler, son of Lindsay Kay and Michael James Brasler of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 9, 2007.
Paola Gomez, daughter of Anal and Martin Gomez Jr. of Jerome, was born Dec. 9, 2007.
Kaiden Adair Johnson, son of Alecia Adair Johnson of Kimberly, was born Dec. 9, 2007.
Sascha Rozina Atkinson, daughter of Sabra Brittaney Lee Atkinson of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 11, 2007.
Weylin Keith Alphin, son of Yubitha Cathleen and Devine Cordell Alphin of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 12, 2007.
Hadassah Inne Bennett, daughter of Angelica Valentine and Michael Donald Bennett of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 12, 2007.
Joshua David Christensen, son of Angie Lynn and David V. Christensen of Jerome, was born Dec. 12, 2007.
Macaella Yazmine Truxero, daughter of Kalloni Dawn Menck and Jose Alberto Truxero of Twin Falls, was born Dec. 12, 2007.
Deanna Lee Billman, daughter of Ellsberg Whitteal and Bryan Lee Billman of Flor, was born Dec. 13, 2007.
Halley Rae Rinderle, daughter of Jessica Danielle and Kenneth Ross Rinderle of Jerome, was born Dec. 13, 2007.

Gadget of the Month at Rudy's. J.A. Henckels 4 Star... German Forged Cutlery. \$19.99. Rudy's A COOK'S PARADISE. Open Today 10am-10pm. 837 Main Ave., 733-2677. www.CookSupplies.com

It's the thought, not the gift, Libra

IF DEC. 23 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY... Remember that maturity has more to do with the experiences you have had and what you have learned from them than from how many birthdays you have celebrated.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Make every month spent in the public eye count this week. You might have guests in your home or spend time at holiday events.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Integrity means doing what you say you will do. You are more likely to be honored. Get those bills in the mail so you can enjoy the rest of the week unfettered by worries or cares.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Tie a bow with a flourish. Make happy holiday memories a possibility by putting finishing touches on your gifts and plans today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This evening's full moon should shine down on completed holiday shopping. If you keep the emotional side of things running smoothly, the financial matters will fall into place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Family background and circumstances may influence who you are, but you are responsible for the person you become.

HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

during the week ahead.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) If you sit in Santa's lap today and he promises that you will have your wish granted, you will probably find it under the tree later this week. Concentrate on home and family ties.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It's not the gift but the thought that counts. Give a thoughtful message to the neighbor, the paperboy or someone in your daily rounds who makes your life easier. Spread joy this week.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 19) Choose when to fly your kite. Relationships will remain buoyant if you pay attention to the direction the wind is blowing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Lay the groundwork for new traditions. Your thoughts tonight will have a strong presence in your Christmas to come.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Wrap up your shopping in more ways than one. This week you might realize that a treasured personal relationship needs to develop experience in treating trust and respect for each other.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Wisdom comes in a variety of packages. You know the meaning of true generosity and how to do it well.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Wrap up the bigger things. The whole. All the small acts of kindness that you perform who knit you more firmly into the community of your choice.

The Peter Pan syndrome

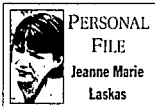
THE husband is setting the alarm for 4:30 a.m. "Well, then I'm wearing a nightgown," says the wife. "I'm pretty sure that's what you did last year, too," he says.

"Tradition," I say. "Holiday traditions. We've been quarantining on the concept, but only in a way intended to protect each other. My point is that Alex really doesn't need to get up at 4:30 to pick up the kids, his fully grown son, who is taking the redeye home from San Francisco."

Alex insists, refusing once again this year to surrender to the tax and insurance. I come up with, "No, tradition dictates that he'll make the one-hour drive, park, stand there at baggage claim waving and waving, and then the two will go get some bags at their favorite bagel place in the B Concourse, and they'll talk and reminisce and recommit to each other."

Peter admits it's a lot to ask. Peter does not want his father to get up at 4:30 a.m. Peter feels terrible about this. It is hard because this happens every year.

Because Peter waits so long to get his plane reservation, and the redeye is usually the only flight that fits his schedule, he usually there are just middle seats available. We'll hear of this. We'll go around and around on the phone feeling bad for making him take that redeye with that middle



PERSONAL FILE Jeanne Marie Laskas

seat, and for Alex who will have to pick him up. And then we'll all say Peter should remember to make his reservation earlier next year so he'll have more time to pick him up, definitely, and then someone it never happens.

One year, we broke from tradition. I am vague on the details, apparently I went into a kitchen and blocked most of it out. I knew there were good intentions involved — there are always good intentions — and an Avia rental car agreement. There was a lost or misplaced driver's license involved, and Alex driving out to the airport anyway to pick up Peter. I know there was a found license involved, an Avia car in our driveway and something days later about lost Avias.

There may have been a tow truck, and another trip to the airport behind the tow truck. There was almost certainly something found in the washing machine: keys, a license, a discovery resulting from the best intentions. Every visit, Peter kindly does at least one load of laundry right about the time Alex is understandably complaining that he never socks left because Peter had

borrowed them all. Ear plugs. I am putting to ear plugs. I am not going to get dragged into any of this again.

I should state for the record that on his own turf, Peter is a responsible young man, successfully holding a big-time job in a major California hospitality system.

Whatever dark cloud of bad luck hovers above him when he returns home for the holidays is almost certainly just a matter of the repression that occurs when anyone revisits one's childhood. We have a fascinating discussion about this as we drive around with him, just looking for something to do. Seems he read the paper

and the holiday movie we wanted to see actually started an hour ago. Peter looks bad, and we all laugh and say how we'll never put him in charge of movie times again — nope! Then we decide to go buy him a cellphone battery because his is dying. The cellphone store no longer carries that model, but the salesperson is able to locate one at a branch 15 miles away, so we have to hurry before the store closes, which it does minutes before we get there.

Ear plugs? This year, I am just used to get involved. "Well, I'm going to sleep." I say to Alex. "I really wish you would reconsider this 4:30 a.m. plan."

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Ear plugs? This year, I am just used to get involved. "Well, I'm going to sleep." I say to Alex. "I really wish you would reconsider this 4:30 a.m. plan."

I awake the next day at a gloriously sensible 8 a.m., thanks to my 6-year-old daughter bounding on the bed saying "Peter's here! He's here!" She's peering out the window, watching Alex's car drive up. We sit together and prepare for the next. We see Alex get out of the car. We wait for Peter. We keep waiting.

No Peter. Alex comes in, carrying a bag of bagels. Alex, a bag from Target. His head is low. His shoulders are flat. He looks like the flat-tire version of himself.

"He missed the plane," Alex says. "He missed the plane." He goes over to the phone to see if perhaps Peter thought to call with this information. In fact, Peter had left a message in the middle of the night saying that he and at least eight other passengers got bumped from that redeye due to an oversold flight; he would be arriving on a connecting flight tonight from Phoenix. "I didn't hear the phone ring," Alex says. He looks at me with his eyebrows all pouty.

Alex asks me what I saw. "I saw a plane," I say. "Why didn't you hear the phone ring?" "Ear plugs!" I remind him. "I ask him what's in the Target bag."

"Socks," he says. "I thought him his own socks. Because things are going to change around here."

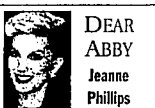
Jeanne Marie Laskas writes her columns for The Washington Post.

High school senior can't see beyond the next party

DEAR ABBY: As you know, when students are in their last year of high school, their minds wander to other places — college careers, marriage, etc. But my daughter is the complete opposite. All she wants to do is party and have fun.

My husband has been telling her about the importance of planning her future — things like college and work — she tells me to "take a chill pill" and to "relax." She says, "I want the best for my daughter. I'm a single parent and am afraid she won't get the education she deserves. She was a very bright student. She was on her way to being valedictorian until she took a year for the worse. I have tried everything. I even scheduled a meeting with her school counselor to see her about her options. My daughter never showed up. What can I do?"

— SCARED PARENT IN PUERTO RICO DEAR SCARED PARENT: Girl, do not let us worry about becoming class valedictorian don't normally take the kind of nosedive your



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

daughter has. The first thing you should do is screen her for drugs. If she tests positive, get her into rehab. This will effectively remove her from the "party scene."

If the results are negative, sit your party girl down and inform her that the party is over. The time to start planning her independent future is here and now, and unless she wants to face the job market with only a high school degree she needs to make plans to complete her education at an institution.

And, dear parent, if that girl prescribes one more "chill pill" for you, show her in no uncertain terms what life will be like trying to build a secure future while earning minimum wage. After that, what happens will be up to her.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 15-year-old high school student with a big problem. My boyfriend is two months "Justin," gave up smoking for me. We made an agreement that if he started again, I would dump him.

Now he's asking my permission to start again. I don't want Justin to smoke, but he tells me that smoking is "a part of him," although he wants me to be happy and knows I am against it.

I really like Justin and love being around him. But if he smokes I know it will cause a lot of problems with us. Please help me, Abby, because I'm not sure how long I can take this.

— ANTI-SMOKING IN ST. PAUL DEAR ANTI-SMOKING: My experts tell me that smoking is both treacherous and addictive. The earlier a person starts, the harder it is to quit because the need for the nicotine becomes hard-wired into the brain. I have never heard anyone say that smoking improved his or her

health, although I have heard more than one person say that it shortened their lives.

If you truly care about Justin, you will stand your ground and remind him that you have an agreement, and in order to have you for a girlfriend, he will have to hold up his end. Believe me, you'll be doing him a favor.

DEAR ABBY: I'm 13 and have a problem. My mom's stepdad just passed away. My problem is I'm not sad. I mean, I knew him well enough — but I'm not sad. My mom cried, but I didn't. Is there something wrong with me?

— PROBLEM IN PENNSYLVANIA DEAR ELI: There is nothing wrong with you. Every person grieves in his or her own way. It's possible that your mother's stepdad occupied a larger place in her life than he did in yours. Therefore, the empty space his passing has left is greater for her than for you. You're normal, so stop worrying.

Corralling pet hair

The Washington Post

Shedding hair is normal in the life of a pet. Many dogs or cats shed more in the spring as they lose their heavy coat for warm weather, but cats who never go outdoors may shed the same amount year long. There are a few tricks to corral all that hair.

- Spray the bottom of draperies with anti-static spray and hair won't stick to them.
Get a good vacuum with a HEPA filter.

- Keep one of those lint rollers with the perforated sheets handy so you can snickily roll it over your sofa.
For surfaces that hold on to hair, such as tightly woven carpet upholstery, wear a pair of rubber or latex gloves and rub hands over the fabric, then begin to vacuum and become easier to pick up.
The best way to control hair is to brush your pet every day. Dry your mat will enjoy it and you'll find less hair on your clothes and furniture.

Picky eater shouldn't cause panic

By Beth Whitthouse Newsday

Question: My 4-year-old is afraid to try any food. She lives mainly on yogurt, bread and biscuits. She will not go near us when we eat, and she says it smells yucky. Offering a new food 10 times, often necessary before a child will accept it, hasn't worked for me. How do I go about helping her to open herself up to a few foods? I'd be happy with her eating plain pasta or chicken. She used to eat all her baby food with no problem, even vegetables. Do I take her to a therapist or a nutritionist?

Answer: No grilled cheese? Not even a chicken nugget? A hot dog? OK, your daughter is a picky eater. But many children go through a stage where they insist on certain foods. There's actually a term for it — a food fad.

It's when kids get hung up on a few foods, and from the ages of 2 to 5 or 6," says Josephine Connolly-Schoonen, registered dietitian and clinical assistant professor of family medicine at Stony Brook University Medical Center in New York.

As for her age — there's usually no need to panic. Connolly-Schoonen says: "We have some breathing room; it's not an emergency situation," she says. If she isn't growing, a pediatrician or dietitian can discuss what's appropriate — seeing a dietitian, nutritionist or counselor. But assuming growth is normal, here are suggestions from an expert to reduce the anxiety for both parent and child:

- First, make sure you give your child the healthiest version of the foods she will eat. For instance, switch to plain low-fat or no-fat yogurt and add pureed fruit such as banana or pineapple chunks for flavor and sweetness.
As far as bread and biscuits, shoot for whole wheat. If you can make the biscuits yourself, mix part whole-wheat flour in with the white flour to gradually transition her.
Family doctor can direct a healthful spread — natural almond butter or peanut butter, for instance, would supply protein. Be sure your daughter is taking any vitamin supplements prescribed by her doctor, Connolly-Schoonen added.

daughter's relationship with food.

Make a list with her of all the foods she likes, suggests Pamela Gould, co-author of "Feeding the Kids: The Flexible, No-Battles, Healthy Eating System for the Whole Family," even if the list is mostly "lemon yogurt, strawberry yogurt, peach yogurt." The point is to start the child "collecting" foods she likes and making it fun for her to add to the list. "The child starts to think about herself as someone who likes food," Gould says.

Read stories about food with her, such as "Blueberries for Sal" or "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," Gould suggests. Then try offering her some new, bland, colorful such as apples or bananas that won't offend her sensitive sense of smell.
Have her help you prepare her food, perhaps using recipes from child-oriented cookbooks that suggest such things as making faces on sandwiches using red peppers or carrots for eyebrows or mushrooms for go-athurs. Eleanor Taylor, a registered nurse. Don't pressure her to eat them, but hopefully she'll be more willing to try what she proudly created herself.

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SINUSITIS or ALLERGIES Because the symptoms of sinusitis sometimes mimic those of colds, you may not realize that you need to see a Sinus Specialist. If you suspect that you have sinusitis, review these signs and symptoms. If you suffer from three or more symptoms, Sinus Center-Idaho can help!

SYMPTOM	SINUSITIS	ALLERGIES
Facial pressure/pain	Yes	Sometimes
Duration of illness	Over 10-14 days	Under 10 days
Nasal Discharge	Thick, yellow-green	Thick, whitish or thin
Fever	Sometimes	Sometimes
Headache	Sometimes	Sometimes
Pain in upper teeth	Sometimes	No
Bad Breath	Sometimes	No
Coughing	Sometimes	Yes
Nasal Congestion	Yes	Yes
Sneezing	Yes	Yes

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ENGAGEMENTS

BOHMAN-JOHNSON

Stan and Cathy Bohman of Shelley announce the engagement of their daughter, Carisa Lynne Bohman, to Christopher Johnson, son of Virgil and Joan Johnson of Kimberly. Bohman is a graduate of Shelley High School and attends the College of Southern Idaho. She works at Sizzler in Twin Falls. Johnson is a graduate of Kimberly High School and attends CSI. He served a two-year mission in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. He works at Forever Green Lawn and Tree in Kimberly.



Christopher Johnson and Carisa Bohman

The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 28, at the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. A reception will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Kimberly Stake Center.

HAYWARD-TILLEY

Rick and Teresa Hayward of Elko, Nev., announce the engagement of their daughter, Amanda Grace Hayward, to Landon Miles Tilley, son of Darrell Tilley of Burley and Karen Pratt of Heyburn. Hayward is a graduate of Queen Creek High School in Queen Creek, Ariz. She attends and works at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. Tilley is a graduate of Minico High School and attends Utah Valley State University in Provo, Utah. He



Amanda Hayward and Landon Tilley

is self-employed at a tile company in Twin Falls. The wedding is planned for Thursday, Dec. 27. A reception will be held from 6 p.m. at The Ballroom in Twin Falls.

POPE-HERNANDEZ

Amanda Jo Pope and Juan Atliana Hernandez announce their engagement. Pope is the daughter of Rebecca McIntire of Burley and Carl and Barbara Pope of Rupert. Hernandez is the son of Eduardo and Tina Hernandez of Heyburn. Pope and Hernandez attend Brigham Young University-Idaho. The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 20, at the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. A reception will be held from 6



Amanda Pope and Juan Hernandez

to 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Heyburn LDS Church, 530 Villa Drive.

DELA CRUZ-BECK

Seville and Rose Dela Cruz of Bakersfield, Calif., announce the engagement of their daughter, Michelle Amigable Dela Cruz, to E. Weston Beck, son of Reid and Karen Beck of Burley. Dela Cruz attends Utah Valley State College in Provo, Utah. Beck is a 2001 graduate of Burley High School and attends Brigham Young University in Provo. The wedding is planned for Friday, Dec. 28, at the Mount Timpanogos LDS Temple. A reception will be



Michelle Dela Cruz and Weston Beck

held from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Burley LDS Institute building, 1650 Parke Ave.

WEDDINGS

DAVIS-CHADD

Sarah Davis and Joshua Chadd were married Sept. 22 in an outdoor ceremony at Browns Point in Tacoma, Wash. A reception followed. The bride is the daughter of Carl and David Zemanek of Des Moines, Wash., and Daniel Davis of Kenmore, Wash. The groom is the son of Tim and Michelle Chadd of Twin Falls. Ashley Wingate, friend of the bride, was maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Kristin Vels-Suthre, friend of the bride, and Lauren Zemanek, sister of the bride. Jeremy Laund, friend of the groom, was best man. Groomsmen were Austin



Sarah and Joshua Chadd

Chadd, cousin of the groom, and Aaron Chadd, brother of the groom. The bride works in the corporate office of a fishing company, and the groom is an analyst for Starbucks. They both attend local colleges. The couple resides in Seattle.

ANNIVERSARIES

THE COXES

Raising her family, she was an elementary music teacher at the Anchorage School District from 1983 to 1993. They have been active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, serving in humanitarian and special assignments in Mongolia, South Africa and Alaska.



Gary and Joyce Cox

The event is hosted by their children, Keri (Doug) Huntsman of Spanish Fork, Utah; Jordan (Amy) Cox of Mapleton, Utah; Bob (Linda) Cox of Palmer, Alaska; Lisa (Dean) Nelson of Liberty, Mont.; Denise (Scott) Shout of Cerventille, Utah; Michelle (Brian) Olsen of South Jordan, Utah; David (Christanne) Cox of Holladay, Utah; Stephen (Rebecca) Cox of Bellevue, Neb.; Paul (Misty) Cox of Provo, Utah; and Lori (Chris) March of Lehi, Utah. The couple has 60 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

FUHRMAN-CONOVER

Steve and Mickey Fuhrman of Idaho Falls announce the engagement of their daughter, Roxanne Fuhrman, to Shon Thomas Conover, son of Ray and Carol Conover of Twin Falls. Fuhrman is a graduate of Hillcrest High School in Idaho Falls and Brigham Young University-Idaho. She is a first-grade teacher at Lone Peak Elementary School in Sandy, Utah. Conover is a graduate of Twin Falls High School and has an associate degree from BYU-Idaho. He is a senior at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and is in the Army ROTC.



Shon Conover and Roxanne Fuhrman

The wedding is planned for 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. A reception will follow from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the LDS Church, 2150 Avoet Drive in Idaho Falls. A second reception will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the LDS Church, 847 Eastland Drive in Twin Falls.

POULTON-GILLETTE

Kayla Poulton and Lance Daylie Gillette were married Dec. 20 at the Idaho Falls LDS Temple. The bride is the daughter of Bill and Margaret Poulton of Burley. The groom is the son of Rusty and Cindy Gillette of Gooding. The bride graduated in 2006 from Deelo High School and played basketball at Northwest College in Portland, Ore. She attends the College of Southern Idaho, working on a nursing degree. The groom graduated in 2004 from Gooding High School and attended one semester at Northwest College before serving an LDS mission in Oakland,



Kayla and Lance Gillette

Calif. He attends Brigham Young University-Idaho and will continue his studies at CSI. A reception was held Dec. 21 at Best Western Burley Inn. An open house will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, at the Gillette residence, 1961 S. 1800 E. in Gooding.

HULL-DAMRON

Stephanie Ann Hull and Tyson L. Damron announce their engagement. Hull is the daughter of Tommy Hull of Paul and Brad and Dee Ann Holm of Burley. Damron is the son of Walter Damron of Rupert and Penny Shockey of Burley. Hull is a 2006 graduate of Deelo High School and attended the College of Southern Idaho for one year. She works at Burley Veterinary Hospital. Damron attended Minico High School and received his general equivalency diploma



Tyson Damron and Stephanie Hull

in 2006. He serves in the U.S. Army Infantry in South Korea. The wedding is planned for 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 29, at the Best Western Burley Inn, 800 N. Overland Ave. A reception will follow.

BAKKE-LARSEN

Katie Jo Bakke and Kristopher Rick Larsen were married Dec. 15 at the Logan LDS Temple. The bride is the daughter of Kelly and Jan McCarthy of Preston. The groom is the son of L. Rick and June Larsen of Turley. A reception followed at the former Rupert LDS Stake Center. The bride attends Brigham Young University-Idaho majoring in history for secondary education. The groom attends BYU.



Katie and Kristopher Larsen

Idaho majoring in construction management. He works at Burgess Construction in Rexburg.

MILLER-LINDEMOOD

Karl Miller and Charles Lindemood were married July 7 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Twin Falls. The bride is the daughter of Shawn and Joslyn Miller of Twin Falls. The groom is the son of John and Susan Lindemood of Kimberly. Officiating was the Rev. Lawrence Velder. Nila Gregory of Spokane, Wash., was maid of honor, and Katherine McCoy of Yalinda, Wash., was matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Bethani Studebaker, Paula Carroll and Jennifer Bishop, friends of the bride. Janessa Tolman, niece of the groom, and Lauren Miller, cousin of the bride, were flower girls. Marshall Bishop and Josh Young were best men. Groomsmen were Tommy O'Dell, Kevin Moudy and Ryan Mumford, friends of the groom. Andrew Tolman, nephew of the groom, was ring bearer. Candle lighters were Kyrany and Nick Miller, cousins of the bride. Special guests included Ilene Hosington of Twin Falls.



Charles and Karl Lindemood

grandmother of the bride, and Opal McGochlin and Aileen Lindemood, grandmothers of the groom, both of Twin Falls. A reception followed at The Ballroom. The bride is a 1999 graduate of Twin Falls High School and a 2003 graduate of the University of Idaho. She is an account executive at KTF 38 in Twin Falls. The groom is a 1998 graduate of Kimberly High School and a 2004 graduate of the College of Southern Idaho. He is the chief technologist of diagnostic imaging at St. Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center. The couple resides in Twin Falls.

MACHACEK-BARNUM

Tina Marlene Machacek and Troy Gregory Barnum announce their engagement. Machacek is the daughter of Wanda Machacek of Twin Falls and the late David Machacek. Barnum is the son of Doug and Annette Barnum of Twin Falls. Machacek is a graduate of Twin Falls High School and attends the College of Southern Idaho. She works at Walgreens in Twin Falls. Barnum is a graduate of Twin Falls High and attends Boise State University pursuing a degree in business management. He works at Walgreens in Boise. The wedding is planned for



Troy Barnum and Tina Machacek

Thursday, Jan. 3, at the Beautiful LDS Temple in Bountiful, Utah. A reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 4, in the Hick Allen Room at the Horrett Center for Arts and Science.

PEDROW-KEETER

Patrick and Christ (Griff) Pedrow of Moscow announce the engagement of their daughter, Chelan Michele Pedrow, to Samuel Neil Keeter, son of Andrew and Sharpen Keeter of Twin Falls. Pedrow has a bachelor's degree in biological systems engineering from the University of Idaho. Keeter has a bachelor's degree in international studies from U of I and is a second lieutenant Army Ranger stationed at Fort Drum, N.Y.

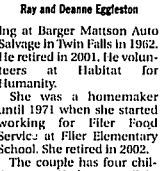


Sam Keeter and Chelan Pedrow

The wedding is planned for Saturday, Dec. 29, in Moscow. The couple will reside in Watertown, N.Y.

THE EGGLESTONS

Ray and Deanne Eggleston of Twin Falls will be honored at an open house for their 50th wedding anniversary. Family and friends are invited from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Beacon Burger & Brew, 137 Second Ave. E. in Twin Falls. Raymond Earl Eggleston and Deanne Marie Gartner were married Dec. 29, 1957, at Clover Trinity Lutheran Church. He was a mechanic in Buhl before he started work-



Ray and Deanne Eggleston

ing at Barger Mattson Auto Salvage in Twin Falls in 1962. He retired in 2001. He volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. She was a homemaker until 1971 when she started working for Piler Food Service at Piler Elementary School. She retired in 2002. The couple has four children: Kathy (Nick) Schroeder, Kurt (Becky) Eggleston, Koren (Roger) Blass and Ken Eggleston; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

AESOP'S FABLES

The story of the moral

By Marylou Tousignant
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Aesop was a writer, possibly of African origin, who lived more than 2,500 years ago in Ancient Greece. But although he's long gone, his famous fables — or those credited to him, if not actually his — live on today.

Don't know any, you say? Sure you do. Misery loves company is the ending of one story that you might have heard. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched is another.

Aesop's fables, many of which have animals acting like humans, all have a moral. That means they teach us a lesson, often about right and wrong.

But if you think that a bunch of dusty old fables

have nothing to teach you, you'll think twice after reading "The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School" by Candace Fleming (for ages 7 to 11).

The 19 fourth graders at this school are an odd lot, to be sure, but they're funny and lovable. Calvin is a worm, for instance, wants to go back to kindergarten — until it actually happens. (Moral: Be careful what you wish for.) Stuck-up Victoria Savaine tells a lie to get a fancy new pair of mittens, and winds up losing the pair she already had. (Moral: Honesty is the best policy.)

Leading this wild class is the new teacher, Mr. Harry Valentine Jupiter, who studied at the Candler Tree Institute for Misbehaved Monkeys. Maybe because of that, he's pretty smart when it comes to outsmarting fourth graders, but he's rather dumb in matters of the heart. Will he ever realize that Miss Page Turner, the school librarian, has a crush on him?



This 17th-century portrait by Diego Velazquez adds to the fabled history of the writer Aesop, said to have been a slave in Greece around 550 B.C. Although Aesop is long gone, his famous fables live on today.



Old-fashioned toys have learned a few new tricks

By Amy Orndorff
The Washington Post

Believe it or not, there was a time when toys didn't need batteries or require hours to assemble or program. You just ripped open the package and got down to business.

Two of these classic playthings — a kite and a Raggedy Andy doll — were recently inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, N.Y. Your parents and grandparents probably flew kites, and maybe even had a Raggedy Ann or Andy.

We talked with two people for whom old-fashioned toys have never gone out of style.

The pogo stick

The patent for a pogo stick was issued in 1919, and the toys became wildly popular in the 1920s. Today's young jumpers, though, have gone w-a-a-a-y beyond simply bouncing up and down.

Cody Bluett, 15, started jumping with the Pogo Squad in York, Pa., three years ago after watching his brother perform tricks on a pogo stick. The hardest part,

he says, was getting started: "Just learning to balance ... it was kind of hard getting used to it."

Cody practiced hour after hour until, about a month later, he could do difficult tricks with ease. Once the group officially accepted him as a member, he started performing around town — doing pogo tricks in parades and at shopping centers.

"It's great to be in that kind of group where ... bystanders look and say, 'Wow, that's cool. I have never seen that before,'" Cody says.

Advanced jumpers can even do backflips on their sticks.

Cody says that no matter what trick he is trying, he always wears a helmet.

If you would like to see a video of him in action, go to www.thepogopost.com, click on "Video Vault" and then "Individual Videos." Cody goes by the nickname Ooops.

The site also has tips on how to do some great tricks.

The yo-yo

Think you are good enough to make a living doing yo-yo tricks?

Dick Stohr does. He quit his job as an engineering consultant about 10 years ago. Now he travels around calling himself That Yo-Yo Guy and teaching kids "a really fun science lesson."

Stohr, 61, has been playing with the toys since he was a kid setting six world records along the way. Now he enjoys teaching a new generation what makes a yo-yo go.

"The more energy you put into the throw, the more stable the yo-yo becomes, and the spin will last longer, so you can do more tricks," he explains. The yo-yo starts to slow down when there is friction between it and its string.

Stohr loves the work that's required to master a tough trick. "The more you practice, the better you get," he says. "The more confident you become, the more fun it is."

When he's not traveling, Stohr is at home — in Springfield, Va. — practicing. His basement is filled with yo-yos. "I quit counting at 1,400," he says with a laugh.

You can watch videos of his tricks at www.monkey-see.com/video/watch/1072.

It's about you and free time

The Washington Post

What activities make 8- to 12-year-olds happy?
Watching TV, 86 percent
Being with friends, 82 percent
Going to the movies, 66 percent

Reading board games, 61 percent
Reading, 56 percent
Biking, 55 percent
Source: Harris Interactive survey of 260 kids ages 8 to 12

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