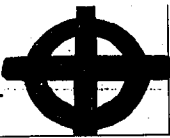


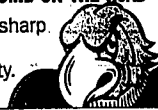
A CENTURY STRONG
Hailey-based church
celebrates 125 years.

RELIGION, C1



AT HOME ON THE ROAD
CSI men sharp
in rout of
Dodge City.

SPORTS, D1



READY FOR NEW RESCUE

Money slated for financial
sector could go to autos.

BUSINESS, B1



TIMES-NEWS

Saturday, December 13, 2008

MagicValley.com

75 cents

Market delays Gooding hospital project

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Citing dismal market conditions, planners of the new North Canyon Medical Center in Gooding have taken \$30 million in bonds for the project off the market until next year. The decision comes at a time when higher interest rates would amount to \$3 million more in anticipated costs when paying off the loan during the next decade. As a result, the hospital's anticipated January 2010 opening likely will not happen until several months later.

"We all said, 'Let's take it off the market,'" said Earl Fitzpatrick, chief executive officer of the new hospital's board of directors, on Friday. Fitzpatrick described the decision as emotionally difficult after two years of planning, but easy when looking at the extra interest costs of keeping the bonds on the market. "It doesn't make any sense to just push it through," he said. "We want to make sure the project's very viable, strong and feasible."

The hospital's board of directors

Please see GOODING, Page A2



Visitors attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the North Canyon Medical Center in Gooding in September. Due to current market conditions, hospital planners have taken their bonds off the market to save money and wait until things improve. Times-News file photo

Mental health group struggling in Idaho

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

A national mental health advocacy group has an uncertain financial future in Idaho. The National Alliance on Mental Illness, which has a presence in every state, is facing a funding crunch in Idaho that threatens its services, such as a toll-free hotline and advocacy efforts for people with mental illnesses. NAMI Idaho, the state branch, is no longer receiving about \$71,000 in annual state funding. The funding loss resulted from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's decision to seek a contract for the

Please see HEALTH, Page A2

Idaho economist: Forecast calls for more pain

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — Idaho will likely lose another 13,500 non-farm jobs next year because of a state economy that's in its worst shape in a quarter-century, the state's chief economist warned Friday.

"In terms of the economy, what we're going to be experiencing is pain," Mike Ferguson told reporters at an economic briefing.

He added that all regions will be affected by the economic downturn — including south-central Idaho.

"The projections are generalized for the state, but I still don't see any region of the state as an anomaly," Ferguson said.

Ferguson, who supplies Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter with the forecast that helps determine annual state spending, says the state is deep in its "worst economic experience" since the early 1980s.

Idaho now ranks 47th in the nation in job growth, down from 21st in January. Only Arizona, Florida and Rhode Island are worse.

Ferguson said the state's nonfarm work force is estimated to decline by 2.1 percent in 2009, even with the effect of whatever stimulus package the federal government might provide to help mitigate the deepening recession.

Since last October, Idaho's nonfarm employment has shrunk about 1.7 percent to 646,400, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The state's 2009 employment forecast is based on national estimates that already incorporate the benefits of a stimulus package being discussed by President-elect Obama and Congress.

Idaho has enjoyed two decades of robust economic growth, buoyed by the rise of companies like Micron Technology Inc.

Please see FARM, Page A2

INSIDE

Hard times hitting area landscape businesses.

See Business, B1

CHRISTMAS 'CAROL'-ING



With just minutes to showtime, C.R. Call goes over his lines Friday evening as he gets into the character of Ebenezer Scrooge for the Village of Southern Idaho Theater Department's production of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol.' The play's final production will be tonight at the CSI Fine Arts Center Theater. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are \$5 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students.



Lincoln Elementary School students perform at the band show at the Yule Falls City Park during their Christmas Concert Friday evening.

JETH JACOBSON
Times-News

Camas Co. loses main land-use case

Judge rules county did not properly record zoning deliberations

By Nate Popovic
Times-News writer

The 5th District Judge hearing a complicated Camas County land-use case came down hard against county officials last week, siding with a builder who challenged spring 2007 revisions to the county's zoning rules.

In his decision, dated Dec. 2, Judge Robert J. Elgee

declared null and void amendments to the county's comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance and zoning map, changes that rezoned as many as 20,000 acres.

In an exhaustive explanation of his reasoning, Elgee concluded that both the board of county commissioners and the Planning and Zoning Commission failed to keep proper records of their deliberation and

decisions, making it impossible to tell if several parts of the state public meetings and land-use laws were followed. He also awarded attorney's fees to builder George Martin, who said costs could reach more than \$100,000.

The 2007 amendments were already suspended by an injunction, and have since been replaced by a near-identical set passed in

April and May of this year. Elgee wrote the issue still matters, in part because his decision may be needed for future direction and guidance.

The 27-page decision is sharply critical of county officials and their arguments in the case. Among other missing records, Elgee wrote, it seems the B&Z never gave

Please see CAMAS, Page A2

Coming Sunday in the Times-News



The money plane
Senior T.F. cops earn most overtime pay for airport security

PAGE ONE



A dairy downturn
Declining prices collide with increased requirements

B-U-S-I-N-E-S-S



Cash for coaches
Breakdown of how much Canyon Ridge will pay coaches

SPORTS



A frugal holiday?
How to prepare your kids for fewer gifts under the tree

FAMILY LIFE



Obituaries on B5
Bridge E4
Classifieds E1-12

Commodities B2
Crossword E5
Dear Abby E7
Dr. Gott C6

Horoscope E7
Jumble E9
Movies B4
Nation/World B3

Opinion A8
Sudoku E6
Today in History E7
Weather B6

High: 30 Low: 20

Developing snow showers. Details: B6 and live at magicvalley.com/weather

MORNING BRIEFING

TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

College of Southern Idaho Student Honors Recital, features outstanding CSI music students of 2008. 2 p.m., Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, Twin Falls. no cost, (donation to CSI Music Department Scholarship Fund appreciated), 732-6288 or <http://fineartscenter.csi.edu>.

"The Nutcracker", Centro Stage Studio's 20th annual holiday production, 2 p.m., King Fine Arts Center, 2430 Park Ave., Burley. tickets: \$10 general seating, \$8 senior citizens, and \$13 and \$15 reserved seating, proceeds toward new scenery, costumes and scholars' ships, 678-4117.

Caritas Chorale Holiday Sing Along, with holiday favorites and selections from Handel's "Messiah," 5:30 p.m., St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 201 Sun Valley Road, Ketchum, no cost, 726-5349.

Joseph M. Martin's "Festival Of Carols" Community Christmas Cantata, performed by Gooding Community Chorus and Orchestra and directed by Rick Sockland; soloists: Pastor Dave Bauser, choir director, 7 p.m., Walker Center Auditorium, 805 11th Ave. E., Gooding, refreshments served, no cost but donations appreciated, 934-8227.

Robert Shaw and Robert Russell Bennett's The Many Moods of Christmas, presented by Magic Valley Chorale, under the direction of Joseph Casperano and accompanied by Magic Valley Chamber Orchestra; individual selections performed by members of Chorale, 7:30 p.m., College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Auditorium, \$5 general admission and \$3 for seniors and students, 733-8286.

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" presented by College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center Theater, \$8 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and students, 732-6288 or tickets.csi.edu.

BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Century Cinema of Christmas annual canned food drive, choices: Kung Fu Panda (PG), Indiana Jones 4 (PG-13) and a special surprise movie, 10 a.m., 484 E. 5 N., Burley, admission: two cans of food, food to the Christmas Council and concession proceeds to Cops for Kids, 678-3131.

St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center's Winter Ball, dinner, dance and silent auction, with entertainment by High Street Band, 6:30 p.m. cocktail hour and 7:30 p.m. dinner, Limestone Room, Sun Valley Inn, Ketchum, \$175 per person (includes dinner, wine and entertainment), proceeds benefit St. Luke's new Women's Imaging Center, 726-8406.

Twin Falls High School Desert Theater, collection of competition, selections and recitations, 7 p.m., doors open and desert service begins, 7:30 p.m., curtain, Roper Auditorium, \$5 annual fundraiser, Hockley@id.k12.id.us.

BUSINESS

Rio Hondo Ribbon Cutting, noon, 220 Broadway Ave., Buhl, (208) 543-6682.

Buhl Wildlife Ribbon Cutting, 2 p.m., 19 Broadway Ave., Buhl, (208) 543-6682.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Men's Fellowship and (optional) no-host breakfast, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Depot Grill, Twin Falls, no cost, 733-5501.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Twin Falls Chapter Christmas Silver Tea, 1:30 p.m., 3258 E. Canyon Place, Twin Falls, prospective members welcome, 735-1205.

Burtone's 'N' Bows Square Dance Club regular dance, also election of officers, 7:30 p.m. pre-dances and 8 p.m. square dance, Twin Falls Moose Lodge, 835 Falls Ave., \$4 per person, bring finger foods, 536-5147.

FAIRS AND BAZAARS

Grandy's and Juniper Street Farmhouse Christmas Craft Show, 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun River Spicers Garden Center, Buhl, 20386 U.S. Highway 30 (1.75 miles east of



Buhl on Highway 30, loyndanleanne@hotmail.com.
The River Christian Fellowship Craft Fair and Bake Sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., The River Christian Fellowship, corner of Falls Avenue East and the road to Shoshone Falls, Twin Falls, 733-3133.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" Party at Hands On, special holiday story reading of Dr. Seuss's classic book with snacks and "Cookies for Santa" plate to paint, 9 to 11 a.m., Hands On, 147 Shoshone St. N., Downtown Twin Falls, 115, 736-4475.

Parents shopping day, two hours of arts and crafts while parents shop, 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m., Twin Falls Creative Arts Center, 249 Main Ave. W., Twin Falls, \$10 per child, 737-9113 or tfcc@brucebunchmyr.net.

Bingo, for men and women, 1 to 3 p.m., Twin Falls Senior Center, 530 Shoshone St. W., Twin Falls, cards: four for \$3, 734-5084.

MUSEUMS

Faulkner Planetarium "Here Comes the Sun" at 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. and "The Christmas Star" at 7 p.m., Herrett Center, \$4.50 for adults, \$3.50 for senior citizens, \$2.50 for students, no cost for children under age 2 and a special price package for families with five children or less; and **Rock Entertainment Show: "Steammrolling through the Holidays"** at 8:15 p.m., Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, \$4.50, 732-6655.

Star party with telescope viewing, 6 p.m. to midnight, Centennial Observatory, Herrett Center for Arts and Science, north end of the College of Southern Idaho campus, Twin Falls, no cost, 732-6655.

SEASONAL EVENTS

Mini-Cassia Community Nativity Celebration, general showing 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Burley LDS West Stake Center, 2430 Park Ave., Burley, no cost, open to the public, 677-8822.

Four Paws Bed and Bath Annual Christmas Party and Open House, bring pets for refreshments, drawings, gifts and free pictures with Santa, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., 370 W. 200 S., Rupert, no cost, (208) 438-4444.

A Multicultural Holiday Party, celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza, Boxing Day, Day of the Kings, Dia de los Muertos and Lady of Guadalupe with prizes, crafts, food and pictures with Santa, 4 to 6 p.m., wood River Community YMCA, 101 Saddle Road, Ketchum, open to the public, free admission, (participants may donate canned goods or contribute to the Giving Tree), 726-9922.

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 strowne@magvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 5448, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548. Deadline is noon, four days in advance of the event.



• For wood and metal art made by College of Southern Idaho students, a fundraising auction at 1:45 p.m. at the Herrett Center for Arts and Science of North College Road in Twin Falls. Wood items will include an entertainment center, credenza, library cabinet, gun cabinet, blanket chest, kitchen cart, sleigh bed and more, while there's around 30 metal pieces from wall hangings to a swing.
• You can find Nativity collections, art, displays, live

Nativity enactments and music at the Mini-Cassia Community Nativity Celebration at the Burley LDS West Stake Center, 2420 Park Ave. in Burley. A showing for senior citizens and the handicapped is from 2 to 3:30 p.m., with general showing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It's free.
• Meanwhile, celebrate a bunch of holidays at a Multicultural Holiday Party from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Wood River Community YMCA, 101 Saddle Road in Ketchum. Celebrate Hanukkah,

Christmas, Kwanza, Boxing Day, Day of the Kings, Dia de los Muertos and Lady of Guadalupe all at once. The family event includes prizes, crafts, food and pictures with Santa. Free admission, but bring canned goods for the Y's food drive or contribute to the Giving Tree.
Have your own pick you want to share? Something that is unique to the area and that may take people by surprise? E-mail me at pratt@magvalley.com.

Pain

Continued from page A1
the state's largest employer, and a booming construction industry that picked up steam in 2004 to help house a population that grew at the nation's fourth-fastest clip, behind only Arizona, Nevada and Utah.

Now, turmoil in the housing market and a glut of microchips that has forced Micron to lay off more than 1,500 workers in Idaho have bumped the state's unemployment rate to 5.6 percent, more than double the figure from a year ago.
While Idaho still comes in under the 6.7 percent national unemployment rate in November, the sting of the recession has been more abrupt here because the state's economy had been performing relatively better than most other states.
For instance, in January

"What we've observed over the past year is a dizzying degree of change in the economic outlook."
— Mike Ferguson, Idaho's chief economist

2008, Idaho's unemployment rate was third-best in the nation. Now, it's 19th.
For the first time in his 24-year state career, Ferguson in February was forced during the middle of the legislative session to downgrade his tax revenue forecast for the fiscal year starting July 1. He reduced it again in September and the outlook has further soured since, though new figures won't be released until January.
On Dec. 1, Otter ordered the state agencies to cut budgets by a total of 4 percent, or \$130 million.
Otter also asked them to

delay another \$54 million in spending in case things deteriorate further. Agencies are ordering employees to take time off unpaid, the state Tax Commission this week told 63 temporary workers they'd lose their jobs a day after Christmas, and the Department of Health and Welfare is cutting Medicaid payments to Idaho hospitals, doctors and service providers by \$55.2 million — all to save money.
"What we've observed over the past year is a dizzying degree of change in the economic outlook," Ferguson said.

Health

Continued from page A1
three combined services of family advocacy, consumer advocacy and a peer support program. In the past, NAMI Idaho was only involved in family advocacy.
Rick Huber, president of NAMI's Mini-Cassia branch, said NAMI officials felt they were unable to meet all the requirements of the change, which would have entailed taking on two more tasks.
The Idaho group's executive director, Lee Woodland, said she will no longer have a job with the organization after the end of the year, though she hopes to continue as a volunteer answering the hotline. But with state funding gone, it's uncertain if there will be money to pay for the phone line.

"I don't know how long we'll be able to do that," she said. "In Idaho, there's not a lot of money."
The group's still going to look for alternative funding sources, though. Woodland said NAMI Idaho will look for grants that could provide money to keep the program going.
"That's going to take awhile," she said.
NAMI Idaho has chapters in Twin Falls and the Mini-Cassia area that meet monthly to provide support and information. Fundraising has been used in the past for state conferences that help raise awareness and additional funding from donations.
"The NAMI conferences in Boise will probably be a thing of the past," Huber said.

Tom Shanahan, spokesman for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, said NAMI Idaho would have been considered if they put in a bid, adding that he was unaware of why the organization did not bid.
Mountain States Group of Boise is the bid for the service. The executive director of Mountain States Group, Hartzel Cobbs, said there are benefits of having people with a history of mental illness work with their peers.
"There's a sensitivity to this when you've gone through the trials that it is difficult to replicate," he said.
Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3230 or bbotkin@magvalley.com.

Camas

Continued from page A1
the board any sort of written recommendation or the changes besides a single proposed land use map, a copy of which apparently could not be found and included.
Elgee also stated that two Idaho Supreme Court decisions issued while the Camas case was still going likely do not change the substance of his conclusions. Giltner Dairy LLC v. Jerome County and Highlands Development Corporation v. City of Boise would be subject to the statutory review procedures that can be judicially reviewed — in the Giltner case, the court found that the dairy lacked legal standing to challenge a comprehensive-plan amendment changing the suggested zoning of a golf course next door.
Camas County, the judge wrote, suggested in its briefing that the cases mean most zoning-document revisions aren't subject to the statutory review procedures in the state's land-use planning law. Language in the Giltner decision could be read that way, he wrote. But he then spent a number of pages explaining the effects such a construction would have on state procedures and many legal precedents, and wrote that until the Idaho Supreme Court explic-

"This is taxpayer money, and I don't understand why they don't want to try to end it."
— George Martin

ity says previous cases have been overruled, he is obligated to follow that existing law.
If the record and review requirements disappear, he wrote, "the public hearings become a sham."
Either way, Elgee wrote, Martin pursued a declaratory judgment that prompted a move of the case into the federal court system where it is awaiting acceptance by a judge.
On Friday, Camas County Commissioner Ken Backstrom said he wasn't sure why Elgee's decision was issued because he thought the entire case had been moved to federal court. He stood by the county's interpretation of Giltner and Highlands, and said officials are consulting with their legal counsel to decide what to do next.
"To me, our stuff is supported in these other cases, and I

don't know how it can be viewed any other way," he said.
Martin said Thursday that the decision gave him everything he sought at the start of the case, and repeated a previous point that he never sought money originally. He is an attorney who has litigated the 2008 zoning rules, now in effect. In another case before 5th District Judge John K. Butler.
He said he expects the county to appeal the decision, and that he will continue to avoid mediation on the remaining issues, supplying a Dec. 4 letter from the county's attorney declining a mediation proposal. It's a stance he said he thinks will only cost the county money, and that Backstrom said in July in reference to previous settlement talks that officials "don't make those kinds of deals."
"This is taxpayer money, and I don't understand why they don't want to try to end it," Martin said.
Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237.

WHAT'S NEW AT MAGICVALLEY.COM

If you have a great light display or know of one, let us know. Go to the Food or Home & Garden page on MagicalValley.com to submit your information. You'll also find a list of homes to check out.

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Gooding

Continued from page A1
made the decision this week after discussing the market condition with financial advisor. Officials are hoping to sell the bonds in February, provided that the market improves by then.
The contractor building the hospital project has agreed that the cost will increase because of the delay. Fitzpatrick said, adding that decreases in

fuel and construction materials have offset normal construction cost increases. "I feel very confident after the year's end that the market's going to stabilize," Fitzpatrick said.
Ground was broken for the new hospital in September, and the hospital spent \$1.5 million of its own money for cement work.
When finished, North Canyon Medical Center will

have technology that includes CT scans, surgical imaging and digital mammography. The emergency room will have two waiting rooms and six examination rooms.
The hospital also will have a 6,000 square-foot surgical services area with 10 operating rooms and services that include general surgery, orthopedic and podiatry surgery.

TIMES-NEWS

PUBLISHER
Twin Falls... 735-3343
Burley... 678-2201

EDITOR
Twin Falls... 735-3355
Burley... 678-2201

NEWSROOM
Twin Falls... 735-3343
Burley... 678-2201

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AROUND THE VALLEY

Tree decorating party today in Twin Falls

The Twin Falls County Historical Society will host a Community Christmas Tree Decorating Party from noon to 2 p.m. today at the Twin Falls County Museum on U.S. Highway 30 west of Twin Falls. The event will feature live Christmas music and decoration of an Australian pine tree with antique ornaments, popcorn and cranberry garlands.

Forest Service seeks comment on wildlife conservation

The Boise, Payette and Sawtooth National Forests are soliciting public comment on a "Wildlife Conservation Strategy" currently being developed by all three.

The WCS will prioritize the types and locations of projects over the next 10 to 15 years aimed at maintaining or restoring habitats for wildlife species in greatest need of conservation. The project was delayed in 2007 by the forest supervisors to incorporate habitat changes caused by recent wildfires in the region.

The three forests cover more than 6.5 million acres of federal land.

Along with the WCS, forest officials say they may need to change management directions in the three forest plans. Comments on the proposal and an environmental analysis will be used to create a final environmental impact statement that will analyze any plan amendments before they are made. The draft should be available for comment in spring 2009.

To simplify the complex process, the forests are completing the process in four phases. The first phase, now underway, addresses forested wildlife communities. For more information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/sawtooth/>, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/blake/> or <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/payette/>

BLM, tribes plant willows in Murphy site

Two Bureau of Land Management fisheries biologists and a 16-person crew from the Shoshone-Palute Fire Department have planted willows along Dorsey Creek to help the area recover from 2007's Murphy Complex Fire.

The team went out in late November, the BLM reported, and in two days planted about 3,250 willows — more than 1,000 more than the BLM had hoped for. The fire had destroyed all the willows along the stretch of the creek, along with other riparian vegetation.

The planted willows were cut by tribal members at Duck Valley several weeks earlier, and should provide additional wildlife habitat and improve water quality, facilitating recovery of the burned area. The BLM also purchased seeds from the tribes a few weeks ago for use in repairing the Murphy site.

—Times-News

Man wanted for kidnapping still in Mexico

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

It may take a while to bring Hector Guerrero-Castillo back to America.

The 35-year-old Blaine County man is charged with kidnapping and 10 counts of lewd and lascivious conduct against a 14-year-old Jerome girl who disappeared from Jerome High School on Oct. 23.

Gone for almost six weeks, the man and teen girl were recently found in Mexico City by Mexican and U.S. authorities.

The girl was brought back a week ago, according to a press release from the Jerome County Sheriff's Office.

Castillo, however, is still in Mexico and may face

separate charges internationally but none had been levied by Friday, Jerome County Prosecutor Paul Kroeger confirmed.

"We desire to prosecute this man," said Kroeger, adding he doesn't know how long it will take to get Castillo back into the states. "I'm not certain how long this extradition process is going to go," he said Friday.

If Mexico presses charges against Castillo then that country would have the man, Kroeger confirmed.

Authorities tracked the couple by e-mails the teenager sent to her father indicating she was safe, according to Mexican media outlets.

The Jerome County criminal case against Castillo

has been sealed from the public.

Fifth District Court officials in Jerome County wouldn't say why the case is now confidential, and Kroeger confirmed his office did not make such a request.

Castillo worked for a landscaping company and is an American citizen. He was friends with the girl's family and had stayed at her home, according to November court records in the case. Those court records open

to the public until November showed Castillo pleaded not guilty to the lewd conduct charges on Oct. 20, and posted \$25,000 bond, which was revoked 11 days later after he didn't show up for a hearing in Jerome County.

The girl's mother discov-

ered the relationship between Castillo and her child through text messages. November court records show.

Andrea Jackson may be reached at 208-735-3380 or ajackson@magicvalley.com.

T.F. Sheriff's Office names Thursday wreck victims

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office authorities on Friday named people involved in a near head-on collision along U.S. Highway 93 that killed a passenger on Thursday.

The crash near Hollister claimed the life of Gustavo Gonzalez-Cervantes, 33, of Jackpot, Nev., according to a press release Friday from the sheriff's office.

Cervantes was riding in a Ford Bronco, driven by Jose Castaneda-Donasio, 41, also from Jackpot.

Donasio was taken by air ambulance to St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center, where he was listed Friday in good condition.

Donasio was headed north and crossed the center line, hitting an oncoming motor home, according

to the sheriff's office release.

The driver of the motor home, Jeff Heath, 44, Woodinville, Wash., was not hurt in the crash, according to the sheriff's office.

The passengers, Tina Heath, 41, also from Woodinville, and a child, were treated and released from St. Luke's, according to the sheriff's office.

Nebecker said no one has been charged with a crime, at least yet.

"Someone crossed the center line and someone is deceased," she said. "It looks like a driver will be charged with something but I can't say what at this point."

The crash is still under investigation and deputies are waiting for blood alcohol test results, said Nebecker.

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The Jr. Club of Magic Valley presents the 19th annual **Holiday HOME TOUR**

to benefit the Le Kistler Safe House & Crisis Center of Magic Valley
Sunday • Dec. 14th • 1:00-6:00 pm

The following homes will be featured:

Sherm & Loretta Mullins	Linda Virgin
Shawn & Camille Barigar	Steve & Pam Brown
Roger & Kelly Vincent	Tammie Hall

Tickets: \$8⁰⁰. Children 8 & older are welcome with ticket

Holiday Prize Package Drawing
Entries are submitted with ticket purchase prior to Wednesday, December 10th.


Tickets on sale at:

Everybody's Business	Kimberly Nurseries
Inspired Living	Kurt's Pharmacy
Java Jangle	Rosebud's Florist
Kelly Garden Center	The Little Red Hen
The Black Sheep Gallery	

For more information please contact
Shelly Olsen 731-4463 or
Ruth Mace 320-1602

"Live United" this season

The United Way sends a special holiday greeting to you and your loved ones. As you prepare to celebrate the season, consider a gift that reaches out to friends and neighbors. The strength and success of our community depends on your giving heart. Give a tax-deductible gift to the United Way. And donate non-perishable food items to your favorite United Way agency. "Happy Holidays from our family to yours!"

United Way 

United Way of South Central Idaho
412 Second Ave West • PO Box 65
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TWIN FALLS
AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Blaine Co. to tighten planned development standards

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

So what does "superior" really mean? Blaine County Planning and Zoning commissioners met on Thursday to consider changes to its Planned Unit Development criteria for superior design.

Basically, if a developer designs a development that includes elements above and beyond the traditional PUD, the commission can grant changes to elements such as lot size, density and lot shape.

What the commission has been facing, though, are unclear regulations on what those superior, above-and-beyond design elements are. That's led to what county planner Shana Swickert called a "legal assault" on the ordinance. To avoid legal challenges, the commission is revising the ordinance to specify the kind of elements and number of elements needed to define superior design.

"The intent was to limit some of this subjectivity in the standard," said Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Tim Graves. "My goal is to get away from the current standard, which says, 'Superior design is what we say it is.'"

After hearing from the public, including members of the Wood River Land Trust and Citizens for Smart Growth, the commissioners made some changes to the proposed ordinance before then. Developers must fulfill three site-neutral requirements: "and several other site-specific options for superior design.

The required elements will be 10 percent community housing, energy-efficient certification and water conservation techniques.

Community housing — defined according to the Blaine County Housing Authority as housing that a typical community worker could afford — can be fulfilled on-site, off-site or via in lieu of payment.

The optional elements, which are site-specific, include road mitigation, location of housing near roads or cities, public recreational amenities like parks or paths, interconnectivity with adjoining developments, on- or off-site mitigation, or efficient use of water, or wildlife habitat, and public facilities, which could include fire houses and bus stops.

There is also an option for a developer to come to the commission with one or more public benefits not on the list — perhaps geothermal heating of a development, or replenishment of the aquifer.

Although this last option remains subject to the commission's will, the commissioners felt it was important not to exclude unusual and potentially highly beneficial suggestions from developers.

It goes to the idea of flexibility and creativity," said P&Z Commissioner Brooke Bonner.

Sawtooth Club reopens after Ketchum fire

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

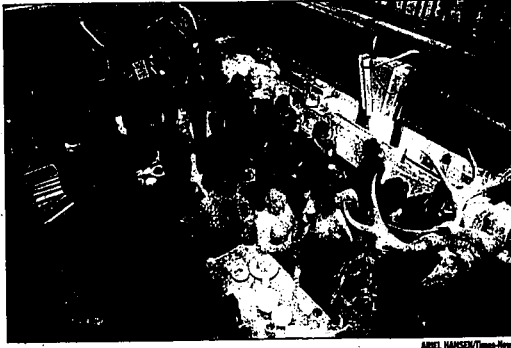
Less than 100 days after a fire gutted Main Street in Ketchum, landmark bar and restaurant The Sawtooth Club is set to reopen. The north wall destroyed in the fire has been fixed, and customers will see a few changes inside — especially the back bar.

Next door, the pit left where Whiskey Jacques' and the old Ore House once stood is still empty and the evidence carted away from the site is still at the state. Fire marshal's lab in Boise, said Ketchum Police Department public information officer Kim Rogers. The department is handling the investigation, and Rogers said she has no estimate when the results will be available. "We've been waiting anxiously," she said, echoing the sentiments of many around town.

On Wednesday night, Sawtooth owner Tom Nickel offered to thank the firefighters and contractors that made the rescue and restoration of his business possible. Speculation about the cause of the fire was flying almost as fast as it lit in the days after the blaze, but the spirit was one of celebration. The Sawtooth Club will reopen to the public today with an open house.

Nickel credits an extraordinary effort from contractor Engelman Construction and subcontractors for his ability to reopen so quickly — and the public response didn't hurt either.

"Everybody has said, 'Let



Firefighters, contractors and their guests mingle Wednesday night at The Sawtooth Club, for a private party to thank those who rescued and restored the landmark restaurant after a Sept. 15 fire.

me know I can come in and help." Nickel said, describing his trips around town in the past few months. "I must have heard that 10 times a day."

Jerry Odegar, senior project manager for Engelman, estimated that with 26 subcontractors, nine weeks of work and a bit less than \$500,000, there were more than 9,000 man-hours put into making the Sawtooth better than it was pre-fire.

In addition to the new back bar which features brick arches and glass shelves, the contractors replaced the central fireplace mantle, refurbished the bathrooms, and made a number of changes to the

kitchen, some of which were needed to bring the building up to code. All the carpet was replaced, the wood refinished and the decorative items and furniture removed for smoke and water treatment.

"What I can't believe is, you can't smell any smoke," said Blair Board, captain with Sun Valley Fire Department, who stopped by the Wednesday night party. It was on a hauler truck on Sept. 15 and fought the fire, helping prevent it from spreading to more buildings on Main Street. "The sad part was we lost Whiskey Jacques," but Karlin (Martin, owner of the property) has said she's going to rebuild.

Martin previously told the Times-News she has received permission from the city's Planning and Zoning department to rebuild, but that she is awaiting an insurance settlement. George Kirk, co-owner of the Ore House property, has told the Times-News he is reviewing design concepts with architects and prospective tenants. Nickelker could be reached for this story.

A few small details remain to be taken care of before the public begins streaming in today — cords need to be tucked up, light bulbs put in sockets — but Nickel will be ready. And when, by Saturday or evening, a planned mural is

Mural and trees to beautify site

Locations requested

Local high school artists, led by Janit Karrys, will today transform the Ketchum pit left after the Sept. 15 fire that destroyed Whiskey Jacques' and the old Ore House as damaged owners of the Sawtooth Club.

From noon to 5 p.m., artists will paint a mural on whitewashed plywood covering the Main Street portion of the site, with the theme "Winter Wonderland."

The event is sponsored by Engelman Construction, the Sawtooth Club, The Roosevelt Grill, Bob Kantor, John Sofro, George Kirk and Webb Landscapes — which will donate trees to be planted at along the fenced area. From 5 to 6 p.m., the Sawtooth will officially reopen with an open house featuring complimentary appetizers and drinks. The Sawtooth is requesting that those who attended donate to the Hunger Coalition.

completed on the whitewashed plywood covering the pit next door, Main Street will be well on its way to recovery from the devastating blaze. As Nickel explained, "There was a hole, and now we're going to be whole."

Ariel Hansen may be reached at 208-788-3475 or ahansen@navigvalley.com.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Recent activity in Twin Falls County 5th District Court included the following:

TWIN FALLS COUNTY FELONY ARRESTS
Lori J. Trevino, 38, Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; Dec. 19 preliminary hearing; \$1,000 bond; public defender appointed

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE SENTENCINGS
Filbert Stephens, 27, Buhl; one count driving under the influence; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 180 days jail, credit for 90 days served; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 24 months probation; no alcohol
Ranette C. Mitchell, 48, Kimberly; driving under the influence, excessive; \$1,000 fine, \$600 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 90 days jail, 80 suspended; 180 days jail, 28 suspended; four days house arrest, four days work detail; driving privileges suspended 365 days; 12 months probation; no alcohol

Arin A. Nelson, 40, Carnas, Wash.; one count driving under the influence; \$600 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 30 days jail, 28 suspended; credit for one day served, one day work detail; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation; no alcohol; one count open container dismissed
Peggy L. Smith, 65, Twin Falls; driving under the influence; withheld judgment granted; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 30 days jail, 28 suspended; credit for time served; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation; no alcohol
Steven R. Chocler, 47, Kimberly; driving under the influence; withheld judgment granted; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 10 days jail, one suspended; credit for time served; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation; no alcohol
Scott J. Bredie, 21, Buhl; one count driving under the influence; \$800 fine, \$400 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 180 days jail, 176 suspended; credit for two days served, two days work detail; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 24 months probation; \$416 restitution; one count malicious injury to property dismissed
Matthew S. Smith, 33, Twin Falls; driving under the influence; \$800 fine, \$400 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 180 days jail, 175 suspended; credit for one served, six days work detail; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 12 months probation

Carlos A. Sanchez, 21, Twin Falls; driving under the influence, second

offense; \$1,000 fine, \$400 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 180 days jail, 170 suspended; driving privileges suspended 365 days; 12 months probation
Alison R. Moore, 21, Twin Falls; driving under the influence; withheld judgment granted; \$500 fine, \$500 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 90 days jail, 88 suspended; credit for one day served, one day work detail; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 12 months probation
Juan A. Salazar-Gutierrez, 56, Twin Falls; driving under the influence; \$1,000 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 90 days jail, 88 suspended; two days community service; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 12 months probation; no alcohol
Jesus R. Cardenas-Serrano, 34, Buhl; one count driving under the influence; \$1,000 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 30 days jail, 27 suspended; credit for time served; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 12 months probation; no alcohol; one count driving under the influence dismissed
Dale R. Higdon, 34, Twin Falls; one count driving under the influence; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 30 days jail, 28 suspended; credit for one day served, one day work detail; driving privileges suspended 180 days; 12 months probation; no alcohol; one count open container; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; 10 days

jail, nine suspended; credit for time served; 12 months probation; three counts injury to a child; \$500 fine, \$400 suspended; per count; six months jail; credit for time served

MISDEMEANOR SENTENCINGS

Barbara A. Payne, 48, Nampa; possession of drug paraphernalia; withheld judgment granted; \$800 fine, \$500 suspended; \$85.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days jail, 90 suspended; 12 months probation
Solon L. Short, 18, Twin Falls; driving without privileges, two or more offenses; \$1,000 fine, \$600 suspended; \$75.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days jail, 70 suspended; credit for eight days served, two days house arrest, to serve 10 days; driving privileges suspended for 365 days; six months probation
Wan A. Roudette, 53, Buhl; theft by receiving/possessing stolen property; \$300 fine, \$300 suspended; \$75.50 costs; 14 days jail, credit for time served; six months probation; no alcohol
Nathaniel Begay, 25, Twin Falls; petty theft; amended to aiding in a misdemeanor; \$500 fine, \$400 suspended; 10 days jail, eight suspended; two days work detail; six months probation
Jack R. Cramer, 33, Twin Falls; one

count driving without privileges; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days jail, 28 suspended; two days work detail; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation
Orlando Begay, 24, Twin Falls; petty theft; amended to aiding in a misdemeanor; \$300 fine, \$300 suspended; \$75.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 180 days jail, 180 suspended; 12 months probation
George Ferreira Jr., 28, Jerome; driving without privileges, two or more offenses; \$1,000 fine, \$600 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 180 days jail, 150 suspended; driving privileges suspended 180 days; six months probation
Daniel A. Gonzalez, 17, Castleford; driving without privileges; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 30 days jail, 26 suspended; two days work detail; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation
Bruce E. Tompkins, 50, Kimberly; one count driving without privileges; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 30 days jail, 28 suspended, two days work detail; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation; one count no insurance; \$500 fine, \$400 suspended; 10 days jail, eight suspended, two days work detail; six months probation
Jack R. Cramer, 33, Twin Falls; one

count driving without privileges; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 90 days jail, 28 suspended; two days work detail; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation
Juan M. Guman-Avilar, 18, Twin Falls; driving without privileges; \$500 fine, \$300 suspended; \$90.50 costs; 10 days jail, 10 suspended; driving privileges suspended 90 days; six months probation
Aneshia F. Mann, 18, Coalinga; battery; withheld judgment granted; \$500 fine, \$400 suspended; \$75.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 10 days jail, six suspended; credit for time served; six months probation
Kenneth R. Biggers, 53, Twin Falls; hunt without archery permit; \$500 fine, \$400 suspended; \$83 costs; 10 days jail, 10 suspended; six months probation; hunting/fishing privileges suspended for one year
Justin J. Egert, 25, Twin Falls; felony insufficient funds check; amended to misdemeanor; \$500 fine, \$400 suspended; \$75.50 costs; \$75 public defender fee; 10 days jail, eight suspended; credit for time served; six months probation

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Filer School District preparing for construction

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Filer School District is making plans to start new construction projects next year that will include a new intermediate school and an eight-classroom addition to the high school.

The district will accept bids until early February for the projects, which are being funded through a \$16.4 million bond issue that the district's voters passed in May. The new projects will help meet growth needs for the district projected for the next 10 years, said Superintendent John Graham.

"We don't have enough room," he said.

The new intermediate school will have fourth-through sixth-grade students, which also will free up classroom space at Filer Elementary School and Filer Middle School.

"It gives us room to grow," said Greg Lanting, principal of the middle school.

Because the sixth-graders will go to the new intermedi-

ate school, four or five middle school classrooms will become available. Because of enrollment growth, the middle school has had to take steps to accommodate more students. Including using an art classroom for other classes during parts of the day, Lanting said.

Construction on the new intermediate school is likely to start in late March or early April, depending on the weather.

The building, which will be located near Filer Elementary School, is expected to open in the fall of 2010 for classes.

The high school addition will be finished sooner, probably in late 2009 or early 2010, district officials said.

Next year, the district will be putting in a concessions building, bleachers and restrooms to create a football complex near the high school. Currently, the high

school uses a field that's a mile away, Principal Leon Madsen said.

"We have to use a bus for home games," he said.

The bond will also help pay for roof repairs to Filer Elementary and Hollister Elementary Schools and resurfacing for the middle school's west end parking lot.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or botkin@magicvalley.com.

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Magicvalley.com poll: Two-thirds don't support auto bailout

Times-News

Two-thirds of those who responded to a Magicvalley.com poll don't support the proposed bailout to the auto industry. A total of 33 people voted online in the unscientific poll.

The following were some of the comments that accompanied reader votes.

• "They put themselves in this position, why do we taxpayers need to bail them out."

• "A total re-tool and organizational restructure is needed. Each company should trim their product lines and offer 3-4 major lines and make all fuel-efficient and affordable. Unions will need to take concessions and not expect to get \$30 an hour per employee. Make a 'blue-collar' car at a blue collar price to fit a blue collar economy."

• "The big three need to be allowed to fail, declare bankruptcy, get rid of the unions that are largely responsible for their current problems, reorganize and then start fresh. Many other foreign car companies are manufacturing in the U.S. and are very profitable. If the big three want to act like a dinosaur, let them die like the dinosaurs!!!"

• "When is big business including government going to operate like a business? Normal business can not operate in the red."

• "I think the oil companies with their trillions of profit the last 7 years should be the big backers of the bailout not the taxpayers. But there was some support for the bailout."

"The only reason I do, is for the thousands of people who it would affect if the Big 3 failed," commented one reader.

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Don't send money, but if you insist ...

JEERS: To Gov. Butch Otter, for holding his nose about the prospect of the federal government bailing out financially troubled states even up to a wish-list for the money.

The governor has said he doesn't like the idea of states facing large deficits getting federal money to shore up their finances. Idaho's Constitution doesn't allow budget deficits.

But if President-elect Barack Obama insists on sending money anyway, Otter would like \$605 million for roads, \$6.7 million for broadband connection between Riggins and Grangeville, a \$7 million filtra-

tion system for the Central Shoshone County Water District — and \$6 million to improve arsenic and drinking water storage in Twin Falls.

Not so long ago, when he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Otter called those sorts of one-off federal expenditures pork barrel spending and denounced them.

Guess it depends on whether he's giving or taking.

CHEERS: Examples of physical courage aren't that unusual in the Magic Valley, but off-duty cop Ken Danson may have saved lives last Saturday at Smith's Food &



Drug in Twin Falls.

Danson told police he was standing at the video rental machine in the store when he heard a commotion behind him and saw an employee with two customers trying to stop a man from leaving with a DVD player and a candy bar. That prompted Danson to step in. He identified himself as a

Twin Falls County deputy and told the man he would detain him until Twin Falls police got there. Then Danson and the customers forced the uncooperative man to the ground.

That's when the man allegedly pulled a .40-caliber handgun from under his sweatshirt.

Danson yelled "gun" and immediately grabbed the man's right hand to control the loaded weapon. Another customer put the suspect in a headlock until the gun was taken away.

JEERS: In the private sector, it's an unwritten rule that in hard times businesses shouldn't lay off employees who bring

revenue through the front door.

So why is the Idaho State Tax Commission cutting 63 jobs in its audit and collections division?

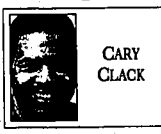
These folks, all temporary workers, help the state collect taxes. Tax collections have been spiraling downward in Idaho for the past few months.

Not that the commission had much choice about the layoffs. The agency is among those ordered earlier this month by Gov. C.L. Otter to help the state cut \$130 million from its budget in fiscal year 2009.

The layoffs will save the commission \$1.1 million. But how much will they cost?

Extorting figgy pudding in suburbia

This is the season of nonstop Christmas carols ringing out over radios and mall sound systems — and Christmas pages everywhere that one little boy is always singing "Jingle Bells" louder than everyone else.



CARY CLACK

Carols that remind us of Christmas' wonderment and joy and the good will and generosity it inspires.

One of the oldest and best loved of these songs is "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," an insidiously deceptive song that is, without a doubt, the rudest and most threatening Christmas song ever written.

The song dates back to 16th-century England, and while its composer is unknown, we can assume it was someone with boundary issues and an elevated sense of entitlement.

"We Wish You a Merry Christmas," with its pleasant, sing-along melody begins cheerily and well-meaning enough:

"We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

New Year.

What a kind and thoughtful thing to do: a group of people going door-to-door wishing their neighbors not just a merry Christmas but also a happy New Year.

That's followed by more good tidings:

"Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,
Good tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year."

Now that's sweet: not only are they wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, but all your family, even those relatives you wouldn't wish holiday tidings to.

But the song then takes an ominous turn as the carolers begin to beg, even becoming insistent:

"Oh, bring us some figgy pudding,
Oh, bring us some figgy pudding,
And a cup of good cheer."



"Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
"Oh, bring us some figgy pudding
"And a cup of good cheer"

Wait a minute. I thought you'd be singing for free out of the Christmas spirit and the good will in your heart.

True, you've been walking around in the cold for a while singing and I should offer

you some refreshments. But you're not going to wait until I offer you something? That is, if I choose to offer refreshments to strangers showing up unannounced at my doorstep and singing songs I didn't request? And not only do you not wait for me to offer you some hot chocolate and cookies, you ask specifically for figgy pudding!

At this point, without giv-

ing the homeowner a chance to say anything, the carolers become threatening:

"We won't go until we get some,
"We won't go until we get some,
"We won't go until we get some,
"So bring some out here!"

No, no, no, no, no, no, no.

you didn't. You didn't show up singing at my house, demanding some figgy pudding and then claiming you won't go until you get some!

Was figgy pudding the crack of 16th-century England, making its addicts crave it so badly they'd threaten you for it?

"We won't go until we get some
"So bring some out here!"

Don't you know you can be legally shot if you show up uninvited on someone's property demanding some figgy pudding and threatening not to leave until you get some?

Anyway, if you're coming to my house to wish me a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, shouldn't you be bringing me the figgy pudding? Isn't that what Christmas is all about — giving and not making threatening demands?

So if you're coming to my house on Christmas Eve, you bring the pudding, but make it banana. And you're not leaving until I get some.

Cary Clack is a columnist for the San Antonio Express-News. Write to him at: cclack@express-news.net.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Helping Hands avoids disaster

On Sunday, Dec. 7, Helping Hands of Gooding experienced a small fire when an exhaust fan in a linen closet overheated. Staff responded quickly and a family member of one of the residents offered his assistance to put out the fire. Although the fire was out within moments, there was still a considerable amount of smoke in the corridor.

The Gooding Fire Department arrived and assisted in ensuring resident safety, ventilating the corridor to remove the smoke and checking the attic, walls and other areas to make sure there were no other hot spots. During this event, damage to the facility was negligible and the residents were kept from any danger thanks to the quick action of staff, Mr. Canine and the fire department.

Helping Hands of

Tell us what you think

ONLINE: Register at MagicValley.com, and respond to any of the local opinions or stories in today's edition.

ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to

Gooding residents and staff want to extend a thank you to the Gooding Fire Department and Bill Canine for their prompt and effective assistance. The Fire Department response time was so quick and the firefighters so helpful that we are proud to report that Gooding is very blessed to have such professional fire department. Thank you, Captain Pat

TRACI TREASURE
Gooding
(Editor's note: Traci Treasure is the administrator at Helping Hands of Gooding.)

Reasons for scouting

I'm writing this letter as a requirement for my communications merit badge. My topic is "Why Boys Should be in Scouts."

Boys should be in Scouts because they learn how to tie knots and shoot guns and how to make shelters. Some other reasons are you learn how to fold the flag and you go on camping trips.

One time at Scout camp I had to sleep in a shelter that I made as part of the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge.

I love Scouts because I learn many useful things and

make great friends.

If someone wants to join Boy Scouts, they can look up www.Scouting.org for a troop in their area.

MITCHELL GOODMAN
Hagerman

A new kind of bailout

I have an idea of how to help the economy in general and, coincidentally, myself.

The government can buy my gas-guzzling motorhome and pickup at an inflated price and I'll go buy a new vehicle of the same brand.

My purchase of a new, green and eco-friendly car will benefit the salesman, the dealer, the manufacturer, the unions, the suppliers — everybody. Since I'm a taxpayer and will, in the end, be paying for the few trillion dollar stimulus packages that our Congress is going to give away anyhow, why can't I have my hand out and feel patriotic for doing it?

Funny, but this idea makes as much sense to me as prop-

osing up failing auto companies and their outrageously overpaid workers.

JIM CARVER
Burley

Dog beater should be ashamed

How could one abandon a dog? We got camping at Milner Dam in September. This year, there was a black lab out there abandoned. We were told by other campers she had been out there for three weeks. People were trying to get her but she was too scared of them. I am an animal lover. I guess she knew that as I was the only one she would come to. We now own a black lab as there was no way we could leave her there to die. She has been beaten bad and she does not like men so I am guessing it was a man that had beat her so badly. I think they left her there to die, but she was too strong to give up.

All I would want to say is how can you take in a dog,

have her spayed and then beat her so bad and leave her there to die? People like that should never be able to have pets, or kids for that matter. I am still the only one she is not afraid of. I don't know if she will ever take to other people. All I know is she is a good dog that would not hurt anyone or anything. So shame on you for beating her.

JOYCE ANDOE
Jerome

Reader corrects mistake

In your Dec. 12 editorial, you stated, "Athenians managed to erect the Acropolis instead of just another police station." The Athenians did not erect the acropolis. No one did, except perhaps God. In Latin, "acer" means "extreme point"; polis means "city." Thus, the acropolis is the highest point in any city. In Athens, the acropolis is the highest point in the city on which the Parthenon is built.

PENNY GLENN
Twin Falls

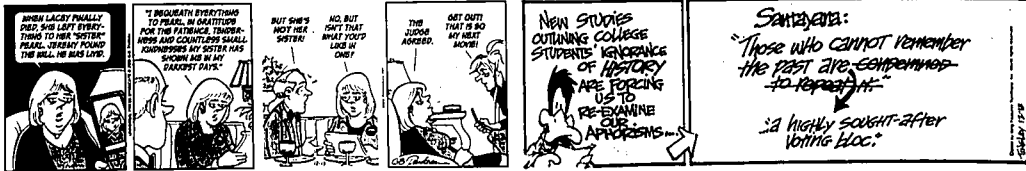
THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau.

Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



LETTERS OF THANKS

Paul Palooza thanks sponsors

The Paul Palooza would like to thank the following sponsors for their donation at this year's event:

- American Legion, Arlene's Bookkeeping, Barclay Crane, Barclay Mechanical, Glen Anderson, Mark and Lourdes Delgado and family, Fairfield Inn, Handy Truck Line, Ice Cold Ice, Jentzsch Kears Farms, Kloefer Concrete, Les Schwab Magic Valley Tire of Paul, Merrill's Poultry, Mr. Gas and Wash, Morley's Steakhouse, Palooza Committee members, Misty Lynn Peterson, Red Crossland, Art Smith, Snake River Flats, Speedcraft Printing, Swensen's, West End Fire Department, West End Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary.

Thanks to all of you, the Palooza was a great success. DALLAN FISHER Chairman Palooza Committee Paul

Oktoberfest apologizes for error

We would sincerely like to apologize for not including Doug and Mary Ash of Stichtin's Time in our Oktoberfest thank you ad. Doug and Mary both are a valuable asset to downtown and their help and contributions for Oktoberfest were very much appreciated. Thank you from all of us! PAM WRIGHT KATHY SCHROEDER Downtown Events Committee Twin Falls

Senior center thanks donors

The Silver and Gold Senior Center wants to thank all the businesses, volunteers and members of the community that donated to our annual chuckwagon dinner and auction on Nov. 14. In this time of despair in the economy, it was very heartwarming to have peo-

ple donate and buy the items we had for auction. We cannot get by without the generous support from our community. THERESA HANSON Site manager Silver and Gold Senior Center Eden

T.F. Optimist Club thanks donors and supporters

We would like to give thanks to the following businesses and organizations in helping the Twin Falls Optimist Club with the 23rd annual Wayne Kinney Memorial Turkey Shoot: The Twin Falls Gun Club in its generous help and support every year, and for Red's Trading Post in the donations of the guns for the raffle.

We would also like to thank all the people for attending the event on Nov. 16. The money raised from this event will help the Optimists with their various

youth projects, including the Childhood Cancer Campaign, Coats for Kids, Respect for Life Week, Youth Appreciation Week, Easter Egg Hunt and the Youth Support Services helping any youth in need. DENNIS J. BOWYER Chairman Optimist Club Twin Falls

Thanksgiving dinner was a huge success

Many thanks to all that helped make our Thanksgiving Day dinner a huge success. Thanks to everyone that donated food and turkeys. Special thanks to Mike Zemke and Dale Martin for cooking the 40 turkeys we served. Thanks to the Elks for donating the use of the building and kitchen. A special thanks to all the people that helped. Thanks also for the donations we received: \$1,500 for Minidoka County Senior

Center Meals on Wheels. Thanks for the ones that joined us for dinner. We delivered 90 and had 88 take-out and 235 that ate at the Elks. Thank you. RON AND DEB ANDERSON Alaska's Best LEONARD AND BETTY MARTIN Elks Club Rupert

Children's theater week was a success

On behalf of the Magic Valley Arts Council, I would like to thank the following for the success of our Missoula Children's Theater residency week and production of "Rumpelstiltskin." Major support was provided by Glanbia Foods, Farmer's National Bank of Buhl, Amy Perkins at Best Western Twin Falls Hotel, Mike and Jan McBride family, O'Leary Junior High Parent-Teacher-Student

Organization, Mix 103 and Valley Christian Church. And special thanks to this year's planning committee: Rebecca Smith, Larisa Alexander, Jennifer Brizeo and Julie Whitehead. Without everyone's support, we would not be able to provide such a worthwhile performing arts experience to so many youth in our community. CAROLYN WHITE Program director Twin Falls

Thanks for a happy 100th

I want to thank KMYT and Inland Empire Shows for all the coverage for my mother's 100th birthday party. Her name is Mary Ortes and her birthday was Aug. 30. We took her to the fair and KMYT interviewed her, and Reed Williams and Mac Chris helped her on the Ferris wheel. We would like to thank them so much. ALICE TACAY Twin Falls

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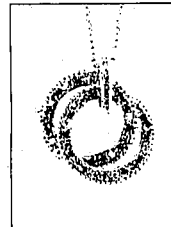
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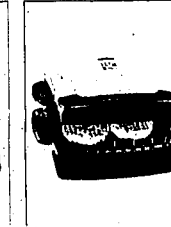
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Stocks advance amid hope for auto rescue

(AP) Wall Street put on another impressive show of resilience Friday, rebounding from an early sell-off to end higher after the government said it would assist troubled U.S. automakers.

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BUSINESS

TIMES-NEWS • BUSINESS EDITOR JOSHUA PALMER: (208) 735-3231 JPALMER@MAGICVALLEY.COM

INSIDE: Illinois AG asks state Supreme Court to declare governor unfit to serve, B3



B
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 13, 2008

INSIDE: Stocks and commodities, B2 | Nation/World, B3-4 | Obituaries, B5 | Weather, B6

Economic development director to leave Jerome

By Joshua Palmer
Times-News writer

Economic Development Director Marlin Eldred said Friday that he will be leaving the City of Jerome to accept a position as an assistant economic development director in Davis County, Utah. Eldred played a large part in developing the Northside

Development project, which is home to the new Idaho Milk Products facility, as well as other properties such as Crossroads Point.

He also worked with new and existing businesses in Jerome to encourage commercial growth within the city. "I'm leaving because I want to be closer to family and because I want to take the

next step in my career progress," Eldred said. "It's not that I'm disgruntled or anything like that — I've enjoyed working with the city and it's been a wonderful experience for me."

Eldred said he was offered a position as the assistant to the economic development director in Davis County, Utah, which includes 15 cities

such as Bountiful and Farmington.

The total population that he will be serving is about 300,000 people.

Eldred came to Jerome after serving as the economic development director for Emery County, Utah.

During his five years as the economic development director for the City of Jerome,

he has worked with city officials and local business leaders to help prepare vacant acreage surrounding Jerome for future development.

He also worked on the city's behalf to retain and help promote expansions of existing businesses such as WOW Logistics and Rite Stuff Foods.

"I think I have planted a lot of seeds that will reap benefits

under my predecessor," Eldred said.

Jerome City Manager Ben Marchant said Eldred last day will be January 7. He said the city is "weighing its options about what it will do with the position."

Joshua Palmer may be reached at 208-735-3231 or at jpalmer@magvalley.com.

AUTO BAILOUT

White House readies new rescue for auto industry

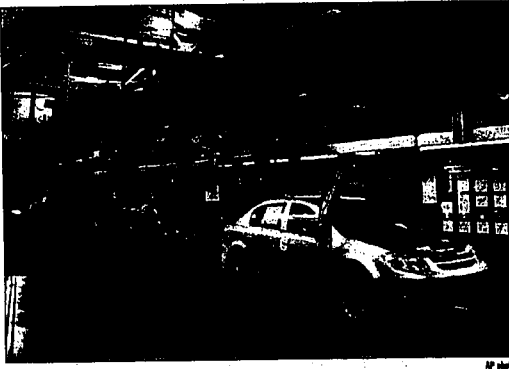
Money slated for financial sector could be diverted

By David Expo
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — With Congress gridlocked and the economy flailing, the Bush administration declared Friday it would step in and prevent the "precipitous collapse" of the U.S. auto industry and the disastrous economic impact of the hundreds of thousands of job losses sure to follow.

The day after the sudden demise of emergency legislation in Congress, administration officials said no decision on duration of the new rescue plan, or what type of concessions, if any, would be demanded from the struggling automakers, their workers, stockholders or others.

In a reversal, the most likely option under consideration involved billions of dollars originally ticketed for the bailout of the financial industry. President George W. Bush had long declared that money off-limits to the beleaguered automakers. General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC have warned they are running out of cash and face bankruptcy without some form of assistance. Ford Motor Co., which is in somewhat better shape financially, has been seeking



The Chevy Cobalt assembly line at the Lordstown Assembly Plant in Lordstown, Ohio. Workers at the large General Motors factory have made concessions before, and they're prepared to revisit their contract once again to keep GM alive and their jobs intact, but only if that doesn't involve deep salary cuts.

access to a line of credit. Urgent requests for White House intervention to save the automakers came from President-elect Barack Obama, Republican and Democratic members of Congress and outside groups.

"Under normal economic conditions we would prefer that markets determine the ultimate fate of private firms," White House press secretary Dana Perino said after the failure of a \$14 billion bailout bill in Congress. The legislation died when Senate Republicans demanded upfront pay and benefit concessions from the United Auto Workers that

Please see AUTO, Page B2

GM to temporarily close 20 plants to slash output

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — General Motors Corp. said Friday it will temporarily close 20 factories across North America and make sweeping cuts to its vehicle production as it tries to adjust to dramatically weaker automobile demand. GM said it will cut 250,000 vehicles from its production schedule for the first quarter of 2009, which includes a cut of 60,000 vehicles announced last week. Normal production would be around 750,000 cars and trucks for the quarter, spokesman Tony Sapiezna said.

Many plants will be shut down for the whole month of January, he said, and all told, the factories will be closed for 30 percent of the quarter.

"We're adjusting pretty dramatically," spokesman Chris Lee said.

brought some golf clubs and a golf simulator into his Lubbock, Texas, media relations firm, just to be able to do something physical during a workday. "Then I realized it was having a stress reduction effect as well," he said.

"I think everyone's stress is up," said Holmes, president of Holmes Worldwide Media. "Every time we hear the ball being whacked in the other room, we say, 'Somebody had a bad (phone) call.'"

Many owners have seen stress levels soar in the past

two months or so, when the crisis in the financial industry turned catastrophic, sending the stock market plunging and forcing the government to step in and rescue commercial and investment banks. Consumers and businesses cut their spending back, and an already sagging economy was pummeled ever further.

The anxiety sent Julie Kampf back to the gym two months ago. "That's when the stress hit me," said Kampf, president of JBK Associates Inc., an executive

HARD TIMES



These Times correspondents

"This is the reason when Cuervo Orozco is usually busy 'blowing snow' in parking lots and driveways as well as hanging blinking lights and holiday wreaths on homes.

As the owner of 3-Rios Landscaping, Orozco runs two 'careers' in the Wood River; said Magic Valley during the warmer months, but during the winter his business provides other services to keep cash flowing. But many hurdles have come into play this year. A late start with snow fall means no white stuff to plow, and people cutting back on non-essential spending has led to fewer homes and businesses decorating with lights.

"I've had just three jobs for Christmas lights and usually it's more. I think people aren't putting up as

many decorations as last year," Orozco said. "I'm not sure how long this recession will last, but I'm concerned for his employees."

"I think it's going to be harder this year to get winter work if it has been for me," said Orozco. "Some of the crew lives in Mexico, my brother is going to start working part-time in construction, and others are looking at getting a job for winter or collecting unemployment."

He left the only landscaper waiting for the snow to fly.

Farell Wheatley, of Jerome owns and operates Mother Earth Landscape Care and also plows snow in the Wood River Valley.

"I'm taking advantage of the warmer weather by working a little, spraying dormant oils. It's usually done in the spring but

Please see HARD, Page B2

Small business owners learning to cope with recession stresses

Right before Election Day, it occurred to Beth McCre that her stress levels were rising and affecting the people around her, including the employees of her public relations firm.

"All hell was breaking loose, and I realized, wow, this is an epidemic of stress and that I needed to take better care of myself," said McCre, whose company, The McCre Agency, has offices in Scottsdale, Ariz., and San Diego.

McCre, deciding not to let the tension and anxiety get

SMALL TALK
Joyce M. Rosenberg

the better of her, began a routine of prayer, meditation, yoga and focusing on improving her company. She is one of many small business owners who are responding to the stresses of today's economy by taking better care of themselves and their companies.

Some are driving a few more golf balls. Bretton Holmes had

search firm in Englewood, N.J.

"I think any business owner is losing sleep over this," she said. "We've had a fantastic year, and all of a sudden, like in October or November, we really saw the drop."

By exercising, "my energy is coming back, my focus is getting better. It helps me deal with the ongoing stress of every day," she said.

Kampf said her company is still busy, but not as much as it was a year ago. So she's also working on stress by try-

ing to motivate her employees. At staff meetings each week, everyone needs to come in with new ideas for increasing revenue, something that she says helps keep the attitude at the company upbeat.

Stress and anxiety can be contagious. Employers who deal with their own stress effectively and make sure their staff's stress levels are under control can stop a vicious circle.

"I stay positive and we

Please see SMALL, Page B2

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

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Lithia Mo.	2.87	▼ .98	Micron	2.07	▲ .22	Supervalu	13.27	▲ .52

COMMODITIES

For more see page B2

Live cattle	83.32	▼ 1.15	Jan. oil	46.28	▼ 1.70
Dec. gold	818.90	▼ 6	Dec. silver	10.19	▼ .19

Today in business

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve releases industrial production for November.

WASHINGTON — Weekly Treasury briefing, auction.

WASHINGTON — First day of a two-day meeting of Federal Open Market Committee.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and INDEXES. Includes sub-sections for Most Active, Gainers, and Losers.

Table of STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST listing various companies like Alliant, Albion, and others with their stock prices and changes.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT: A guide explaining market terminology and symbols used in the report.

Fed: household debt, net worth post declines

WASHINGTON — U.S. households, hit by declining home values and stock market losses, have cut back on their debt levels for the first time in record as loans remain scarce amid what appears to be a recession.

the third quarter to \$56.5 trillion, reflecting the hit Americans are taking as the value of their homes and investments decline.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON — Retail sales dropped 1.9 percent in November, the first straight monthly drop, a sign the recession will force further cuts in production.

More jobs came: 573,000 file for unemployment. Initial claims for unemployment benefits jumped to their highest level in 26 years.

Auto

Treasury Department is barred from dipping into the second \$350 billion without a formal notification of Congress.

Hard with the weather like it I can do it now," Wheatley said. His fellow landscapers have been able to round up winter work fairly early in the past.

Small

"If I have a negative attitude, it's not going to help me, it's not going to help any one around me, it's not going to help the economy."

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES table listing prices for various commodities like oil, wheat, and soybeans.

CHEESE

Cheddar cheese prices on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

POTATOES

POTATOES: CRACKED AP - USDA - Major potato markets FOB.

BEANS

POCCELLO (AP) - Idaho Farm Bureau International.

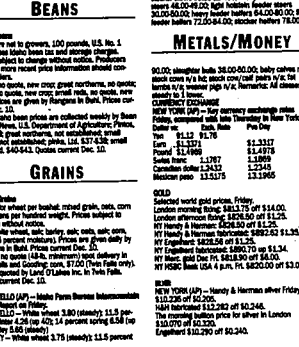
METALS/MONEY

90.02, 100.00, 100.00, 100.00, 100.00, 100.00.

GRAINS

Wheat, corn, and soybean prices.

A DAY ON WALL STREET



THE DOW

The Dow rose 64.59, or 0.75 percent, to 8,629.68 on Friday. The Dow tumbled 496 points Thursday as worries intensified that the auto bill would stall in the Senate.

THE NASDAQ

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 6.14, or 0.70 percent, to 879.73. The Nasdaq composite index rose 32.84, or 2.18 percent, to 1,540.72.

THE RUSSELL 2000

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 7.22, or 3.82 percent, to 468.43.

EPA exempts some farms from reporting toxic fumes

By Dina Cappiello
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The nation's farms no longer have to report to authorities the toxic, smelly fumes released from manure.

The Bush administration issued a regulation Friday exempting farms from reporting releases of hazardous air pollution from animal waste to federal, state and local authorities. The rule applies specifically to the gases from manure that are often responsible for odor problems.

Environmental Protection Agency officials said that the changes will allow responders to focus on spills

and releases from factories, natural disasters and other emergencies that require urgent attention. They said it would also reduce reporting burdens on America's farmers, saying it is difficult to estimate the pollution coming from "a herd of cows."

"When there is a train wreck, we need to know about it because we need to get out and look at chemical spills," said Barry Breen, director of the agency's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "When there is a lagoon full of manure there is nothing our folks can do when they show up."

The farm reporting rule is one of several eleventh-hour environmen-

tal regulations unveiled by the Bush administration this week that were lobbied for by industry. The Interior Department on Thursday issued revised rules loosening protections for endangered species. And the EPA, also on Friday, issued regulations exempting industrial solvents and other chemicals that can be burned for fuel from the strict regulations governing hazardous waste.

Environmentalists lashed out again, saying that the new reporting rule would make it difficult to keep track of farms polluting the environment and putting neighbors at risk.

The gases released when animal waste decomposes include hydro-

gen sulfide, with its characteristic rotten egg smell, and ammonia. Exposure to these chemicals can cause respiratory problems and irritate the eyes, nose and throat.

"The effect of this is to create a loophole for all operations for not reporting their toxic emissions to the federal government," said Ed Hopkins of the Sierra Club. "If you don't know there is a problem you aren't going to get a solution."

Representatives of the poultry and beef industries said Friday the rule was long overdue. In 2005, associations representing chicken, turkey and egg farmers asked the Bush administration to exempt all ammo-

nia emissions from reporting requirements.

The rule finalized Friday covers gases just from animal waste. Large farms with hundreds of dairy cows or thousands of pigs would still be required to report air releases to local and state authorities.

"We have always felt that reporting requirements ... were never meant to address the release of naturally occurring substances," said the National Chicken Council, National Turkey Federation and U.S. Poultry & Egg Association in a statement. "We believe the EPA heard our concerns and has come to a reasonable compromise."

New breast cancer test may better predict risk

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A new test to predict an ordinary woman's odds of getting breast cancer works better than a method doctors have relied on for decades, researchers reported Friday.

The test is the first to combine dozens of genes and personal factors like age and childbearing to gauge risk in women who don't have a strong family history of the disease. They account for three-fourths of all cases.

In a California study to check its validity, the test correctly classified 50 percent more women with breast cancer as high risk than the current method did, and properly scored others lower. Results were given at a cancer conference in Texas.

But don't rush out to get it, cancer specialists plead. Even though this test and several others claiming to predict risk are available, more research is needed to prove their worth, they say.

"The market is being flooded with all these tests making all these claims," said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld, deputy chief medical officer for the American Cancer Society.

"There's no 'Consumer Reports' of genetic testing" to rate their accuracy and usefulness, he said.

Women and doctors have long wished for a simple test that could reveal risk beyond the two BRCA genes, which tend to cause cancer at early ages but account for only a few percent of all cases.

In the last year, four companies started selling broader multi-gene tests, but their value is widely disputed.

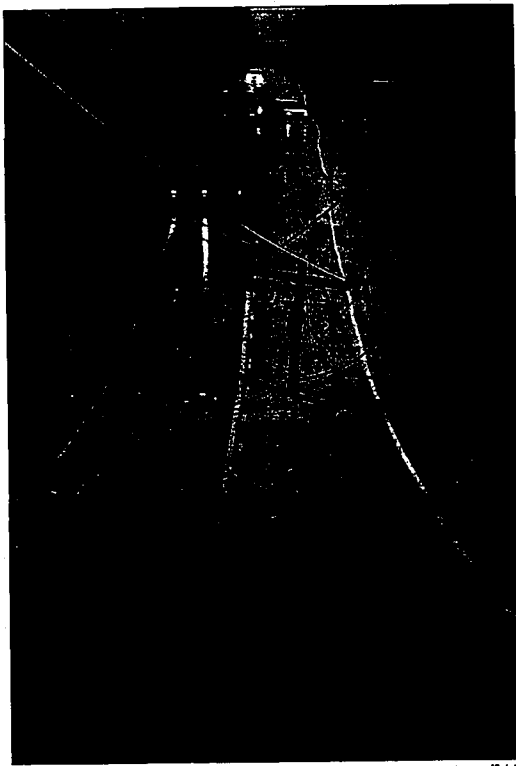
Women thought to be at high risk can get more frequent mammograms or MRI scans to check for breast cancer, or consider hormone-blocking drugs like tamoxifen. But even some advocates for better prevention approaches don't think genetic tests are a good idea until more is known about the best treatment options.

"Are we going to give everyone chemotherapy or chop off everyone's breasts?" asked Barbara Brenner, head of the advocacy group Breast Cancer Action.

"It's terrifying people" to allow these tests to be sold without more information, she said.

The company that makes the new OneVue test — Oklahoma City-based InterGenetics Inc. — aims to cut criticism by offering it only through doctors rather than directly to consumers, and validating it in population studies like the one reported Friday.

WINTER WITH A VENGEANCE



Traffic is redirected in Derry, N.H., after a utility pole snapped during an overnight ice storm Friday.

Northeast ice storm leaves 1.25M without electricity

By David Thrall-Wysocki
Associated Press writer

CONCORD, N.H. — An ice storm to compare with some of the Northeast's worst made a mess of the region Friday, leaving 1.25 million homes and businesses in seven states without power as it forced schools to close and toppled ice-laden trees and power lines onto sleepy roads.

More than half of New Hampshire's homes and businesses lost power, and it was expected to take several days to completely restore electricity there and in other states. The storm wreaked havoc from Maine to Pennsylvania, leaving a sparkling, ice-covered landscape that was too destructive for many to find beautiful.

"This is pathetic," said Bob Cott of Portland, Maine, who lost power. "I'm already sick of winter and we have nine days to go before it officially begins."

At least one death was related to the storm: New Hampshire officials said a 49-year-old Danville man who lived in a camper died of carbon monoxide poisoning after tending on his generator when his power went out Thursday night.

For New Hampshire, the power outages dwarfed those during the infamous Ice Storm of '98, when some residents spent more than a week in the dark.

In Hampstead, N.H., Mark Cegelis, 36, said things were hectic at his neighborhood gas station, which was jammed with people trying to get gas for home generators.

"It's kind of lawless out there right now," he said. "There's a lot of people very frustrated stacking up at the gas stations. It's pretty ugly."

He bought 21 gallons for himself and tried to deliver some to friends in Derry but couldn't get there because of downed trees blocked roads. So the two friends came to him instead, and were expected to hunker down with Cegelis' family, his parents and another friend until power was restored.

"I'm sure they'd do the same thing for us," he said. "It's treacherous out there."

Nearly two dozen shelters were set up across the southern part of the state, and authorities were working to get generators to several nursing homes. About 35 people, mostly elderly, had settled in at a shelter at Portsmouth High School by early afternoon.

"All the motels have no electricity, and that's why I'm here," said Duke Strachan of Hampton, who can't do without power because he uses an oxygen tank at night. People at the shelter dined on American chop suey and shepherd's pie and watched "The Polar Express" in the cafeteria.

Gov. John Lynch urged residents to "please go out of your way" to check on their neighbors, especially those who are elderly and live alone.

Both Lynch and Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick declared states of emergency Friday morning and called up members of the National Guard. Five hundred Massachusetts Guard members were clearing up debris and clearing access to downed power lines. Lynch put 150 on alert and deployed 200.

"All of the resources at our disposal" have been made available to try to get the roads clear and power restored," said Patrick, adding that it would be "ambitious" to think power would be restored by Monday to the more than 250,000 homes and businesses in his state still left in the dark Friday.

"This is not going to be a couple of hours," Patrick said. "It's likely to be several days."

Illinois plunges deeper into chaos over scandal

By Deanna Bellandi
and Christopher Wilks
Associated Press writers

CHICAGO — Illinois plunged deeper into turmoil Friday over disgraced Gov. Rod Blagojevich as the attorney general asked the state's highest court to strip the governor of his powers, billions of dollars in bills went unpaid and lawmakers moved closer to impeaching the scandal-plagued politician.

But Blagojevich showed no sign of backing down. He took time to pray with ministers at his home and signed a bill that extends insurance coverage for autistic kids, sending a sign to his critics that he's still in charge.

In the hours after it, all the state's bills headed for an extraordinary constitutional showdown.

Attorney General Lisa Madigan asked the Supreme Court to declare Blagojevich unfit to serve, likening his corruption scandal to a debilitating illness as she ramped up pressure on the governor to resign. The move seeks to hand power over to the lieutenant governor.

"I recognize that this is an extraordinary request, but these are extraordinary circumstances," Madigan said.

It is the first time in Illinois history that such an action was taken. The attorney general is applying a rule that was intended to cover cases in which a governor is incapacitated for health reasons.

The Democrat is "unable to serve as governor due to disability and should not rightfully continue to hold that office," according to the motion. "His ability to provide effective leadership has been eliminated, and the state government is paralyzed."

The attorney general, also a Democrat, asked the court to strip the governor of his duties until possible impeachment proceedings and his criminal case run their course. If he does not step down and is not impeached or convicted, Blagojevich could go to the court and ask to be reinstated.

The scandal has also begun to impede state business, Madigan said.

Illinois has billions of dollars in unpaid bills, including payments to Medicaid patients, hospitals, pharmacies, nursing homes and schools, and the state has approved \$1.4 billion in short-term borrowing to keep cash flowing. But before the borrowing takes effect, Madigan said she has to certify that there is not any legal proceeding threatening the ability of the governor to hold his office.

In light of Friday's filing by her office, Madigan said she can't sign that.

"We will not be able to move forward on it until we have a different governor," Controller Dan Hynes said.

The state's inability to pay the bills has "a horrible ripple effect," the comptroller said. He said that pharmacies that count on state reimbursements could shut down, an supplier could stop delivering food to Illinois prisons or letting state troopers buy gasoline. Businesses waiting for the state to pay its bills could lay off workers or simply go bankrupt, Hynes said.

Indian fundraiser emerges in Blagojevich investigation

CHICAGO (AP) — A fundraiser held by Indian-American businessmen three days before Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested on corruption charges emerged Friday as a potentially key event in the federal investigation into whether he tried to sell President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat.

Questions are being raised almost last Saturday's event for Blagojevich because Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr.'s brother, Jonathan, was among those attending. The Indian community has a long history of supporting the Jackson family's political aspirations, and the congressman has been clear about his interest in succeeding Obama.

Rep. Jackson, however, flatly denied that he or his brother were involved in a scheme for Blagojevich to peddle the Senate seat in return for up to \$1.5 million in political contributions.

The congressman also said neither his brother nor his father, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, served as any kind of emissary for discussions with the governor.

"Clearly, a scheme had been hatched in the mind of the governor," Jackson said.

The Chicago Tribune reported Friday that some of the businessmen who gathered at the Dec. 6 fundraiser discussed the prospect of raising at least \$1 million for the governor in return for Jackson getting the Senate seat.

Blagojevich was arrested at his home Tuesday, one day after he met with Jackson for 90 minutes to discuss Jackson's interest in the seat.



Jesse Jackson Jr.

For Madoff investors, big returns trumped concerns

By David B. Caruso
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — They had known him for years as a golf partner, a family friend. Some were neighbors or fellow members of country clubs on Long Island and in Florida.

Many had begun investing with 70-year-old Bernard L. Madoff decades ago, often after being referred by a friend or relative who had known the Wall Street veteran even longer.

There had been some warnings: Financial consultants had been suspicious for years about his astounding run of success.

"They couldn't figure out how he managed to produce steady returns, month after month, even when everyone else was losing money — and leave almost no footprint behind in the billions of dollars in and out of the markets.

"People would come to me with their statements and I couldn't make heads or tails of them," said Charles Gradante, co-founder of the Hennessy Group, a hedge fund investor.

"The only had five down months since 1996," Gradante said. "There's no strategy in the world that can generate that kind of performance. But why didn't it come to him and end? 'How did I make money this month?' he didn't like it. He would get upset with people who probed too much."

Those investors were scrambling Friday to learn whether their had been wiped out by what prosecutors described as a multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme. The assets of Madoff's investment



Bernard L. Madoff, founder of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities, is shown in New York in 1999. Madoff was arrested at his Manhattan home by federal agents on Thursday, accused of running a multibillion-dollar fraud scheme. The New York Times/AP Photo

company were frozen Friday in a deal with federal regulators and a receiver was appointed to manage the firm's financial affairs.

According to the criminal complaint, Madoff estimates he lost as much as \$50 billion over many years. It was, it said, one of the largest fraud schemes in Wall Street history.

The roster of alleged victims included Sterling Equities, co-founded by New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon, as well as a long list of Madoff's friends, neighbors and country club associates.

Joyce Greenberg, a philanthropist and retired financial adviser in Texas, said her family began investing money with Madoff in the 1970s after being introduced by a stepbrother who knew him from college.

She stuck with him after her husband, also Houston entrepreneur Jacob Greenberg, died in 1987, partly because he had been with them for so long, but mostly because he kept posting profits.

Like other investors, she

said she never questioned his strategy.

"I hate computers, and I never tried to figure out what he was doing because the bookkeeping all added up," Greenberg said. She said she was still trying to figure out Friday how much of her money was gone.

Investor Lawrence Velvel, dean of the Massachusetts School of Law, said he was introduced to Madoff by a friend whose late mother began investing with him decades ago after being impressed by the fancy cars of friends who had made a fortune with him.

He described a powerful word-of-mouth allure, where one friend after another recommended Madoff as a sure thing, someone who took on new clients only reluctantly and as a favor.

"I was told there was a small number of people who practically begged him to let them keep their money with him," Velvel said. "Older people living off their savings. These kinds of people and others practically begged him."

"I was told there was a small number of people who practically begged him to let them keep their money with him.

Older people living off their savings. These kinds of people ..."

— Investor Lawrence Velvel, dean of the Massachusetts School of Law

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60% off all men's heavyweight shirts	50% off all bar stools	19.99 sale Cabbage Patch Kids® 25th Anniversary Doll
	60% off all holiday table linens	

These are just a few examples of what's on sale. There are many more savings in store for you.

SHOPKO

DNA evidence awaits, but signs point to child's ID in Florida case

By Christine Amario
and Tamara Lush
Associated Press writers

ORLANDO, Fla. — Evidence mounted Friday that a child's skull discovered near Caylee Anthony's home belonged to the missing toddler, although investigators cautioned it could be a week or more before they have conclusive DNA evidence.

A day after a utility worker found the remains of a child in a wooded lot, a defense attorney said some characteristics of the remains matched 3-year-old Caylee, while the county sheriff said clues linked the remains to the child's nearby home.

Her mother, 22-year-old Casey Anthony, was charged with first-degree murder months after the girl disappeared in June and was not reported missing until July. One of her attorneys, Linda Kenney Baden, said during a court hearing Friday that "anthropological measurements and hair color" of the remains were said to match Caylee.

Orange County Sheriff Kevin Beary said earlier Friday that a search of the grandparents' home where the mother and daughter lived had also yielded links to the remains that he would not reveal.

There are no other similar

missing-child cases in the area.

Asked if he believed it was Caylee, Beary said: "My gut says yes, but I have to wait seven to 14 days for the DNA analysis to absolutely make sure."

Intertec Amusement Machines
Movies Dec. 12 to 15, 2008

Nicole Kidman - Australia
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Day The Earth Stood Still in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Twilight in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Madagascar Escape 2 Africa in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Secret Lives of Bears in Day 7 18 45
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Transporter 3 in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

High School Musical 2 in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Nothing Like the Holidays in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Eagle Eye in Day 8 00 30
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Publisher: War Zone in Day 7 18 30
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Delgo in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Four Christmases in Day 7 30 45
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Madagascar Escape 2 Africa in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Quantum of Solace in Day 7 30 45
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Twilight in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Now Down in Day 7 30 45
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

Boy in the Striped Pajamas in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

The Day the Earth Stood Still in Day 7 00 13 00
Sat. Sun. 12:02 2:04 4:07 6:09 8:11

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Keanu Reeves Jennifer Connelly
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50¢ off 100 copies of this newspaper

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Developing snow showers. Highs near 30.
 Tonight: Periods of light snow. Lows near 20.
 Tomorrow: Additional snowfall expected. Highs upper 20s.
 After 30.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Drab winds and incoming snow showers. Highs near 30.
 Tonight: Snow showers. Lows near 20.
 Tomorrow: More wind and snow. Highs upper 20s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
 It's going to be an abnormally cold weekend with periods of snow expected. High mountain travel may be problematic. Be prepared for icy road conditions.

NORTHERN UTAH
 Temperatures will spiral downward this weekend. Becoming very cold. Periods of snow are likely. Travel will be impacted.

Today Highs 19 to 23 Tonight's Lows 1 to 8
BOISE
 Get ready for a taste of winter this weekend. Temperatures will become cold enough to support slushy rain and snow shower activity. Roads will be icy.

Today Highs/Lows to 24 to 28 / 20 to 35
BOZEMAN, MONT.
 Expecting very cold temperatures. Periods of snow are likely. Travel will be impacted.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Developing snow showers	Periods of light snow	Additional snowfall expected	Snow showers persist	A little less likely to snow	Lingering clouds
High 30	Low 20	29/20	31/19	31/15	25/19

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Temperature
 Yesterday's High 41
 Yesterday's Low 27
 Monthly Total 273
 Record High 53 in 2004
 Record Low -14 in 1988

Precipitation
 Yesterday 0.02"
 Monthly to Date 0.24"
 Normal Year to Date 6.48"
 Record Year 12.47"

Humidity
 Yesterday's Maximum 85%
 Yesterday's Minimum 57%
 Today's Maximum 70%
 Today's Minimum 67%
 A major year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30

Barometric Pressure
 6 pm Barometer Yesterday 29.93 in.

Sunrise and Sunset
 Today Sunrise: 8:00 AM Sunset: 5:08 PM
 Monday Sunrise: 8:01 AM Sunset: 5:08 PM
 Tuesday Sunrise: 8:02 AM Sunset: 5:08 PM
 Wednesday Sunrise: 8:03 AM Sunset: 5:08 PM

Moonrise and Moonset
 Moonrise: 8:18 PM Moonset: 6:20 AM
 Today Moonrise: 7:33 PM Moonset: 10:10 AM
 Monday Moonrise: 6:58 PM Moonset: 10:49 AM

Moisture and Moonset
 Moonrise: 8:18 PM Moonset: 6:20 AM
 Today Moonrise: 7:33 PM Moonset: 10:10 AM
 Monday Moonrise: 6:58 PM Moonset: 10:49 AM

U.V. INDEX
 Low Moderate High
 The higher the index the more sun protection needed.

Regional Forecast

City	Today	Tomorrow
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44

National Forecast

City	Today	Tomorrow
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
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Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44

Yesterday's Weather

City	Hi	Lo	Pres
Boise	46	30	29.97
Burley	41	29	30.00
Coeur d'Alene	38	28	30.00
Jerome	41	27	30.00
Lowell	46	30	31.00
Maria	43	27	30.00
Payson	36	28	30.00
Rupert	38	28	30.00
Shoshone	41	27	30.00
Twin Falls	38	28	30.00

WORLD FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44
Altoona, Pa.	33-47	34-45
Alton, Ill.	37-47	38-44

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP

REGG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
 "The way that I know how - the very best I can and mean to do
 you well. And I believe if the end brings me out all
 right, I shall not regret what I have done."
 - Thomas Merton, 1908-1982, 1900 President

CANADIAN FORECAST

City	Today	Tomorrow
Calgary	18-28	16-28
Edmonton	17-28	16-27
Regina	17-24	16-27
Winnipeg	17-24	16-27
Saskatoon	17-24	16-27
Victoria	17-24	16-27

Heavy rains pound Italy, Rome declares emergency

ROME (AP) — Rome declared a state of emergency as the swollen Tiber river threatened to flood Friday and the death toll from the heavy rains better. The Civil Protection Department said the Tiber had risen about 16 feet in the past two days and warned it might burst its banks. Officials evacuated Gypsy camps along the Tiber's banks and boats broke loose from their moorings in the surrounding area. The smaller Aniene river, which flows into the Tiber, already overflowed, forcing officials to close down some streets in Rome and evacuate hundreds of people. "It is as if there has been an earthquake," Rome Mayor Gianni Alemanno told the daily La Repubblica. Tourists snapped pictures as the rolling Tiber surged underneath the city's bridges. Lumir, an Afghan hound, sported a blue raincoat

Friday as his owner watched the Tiber rise in Rome. Italy has been hit by days of bad weather, and TV footage has shown entire neighborhoods flooded or submerged by mud. Downpours disrupted traffic Friday from Milan in the north to Palermo, Sicily, in the south, as trains were delayed and many streets were flooded or blocked by fallen trees. A few inches of water again covered Venice's lowest parts, including the landmark St. Marks Square, while Alpine rescuers saved a group of boy scouts who had been trapped on Mount Etna. Four people were reported killed. Rescuers recovered the body of a man in southern Italy who was swept away in the heavy rains, while an elderly man died after his car was hit by a tree and another one was killed in a car crash in a rainstorm, police in the southern city of Reggio Calabria said.

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- '02 SUBARU OUTBACK LL BEAN: Per Seat + Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD/Cassette + Leather + Wheels + Tire + Roof Rack \$11,995
- '06 CHEVY EQUINOX LS: Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Wheels \$13,995
- '06 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN 4 DR: Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Tire \$12,995
- '04 CHEVY SUBURBAN: Per Seat + Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Wheels + Rear Air + Roof Rack + Tire \$14,995
- '08 TOYOTA AVALON: Per Seats + Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Leather \$21,995
- '06 CHEVY EXPRESS: Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Wheels \$16,995
- '07 DODGE CALIBER: Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD \$12,995
- '03 GMC YUKON DENALI XL: Per Seat + Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD Charge/Cassette + 12" DVD + Leather + Sunroof + Running Boards + Wheels \$19,995
- '05 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN: Per Seat + Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Quads + Rear Air \$8,995
- '08 FORD FOCUS SES: Per W/L + TR/Cruise + CD + Leather + Wheels + Tire + Sunroof \$14,995

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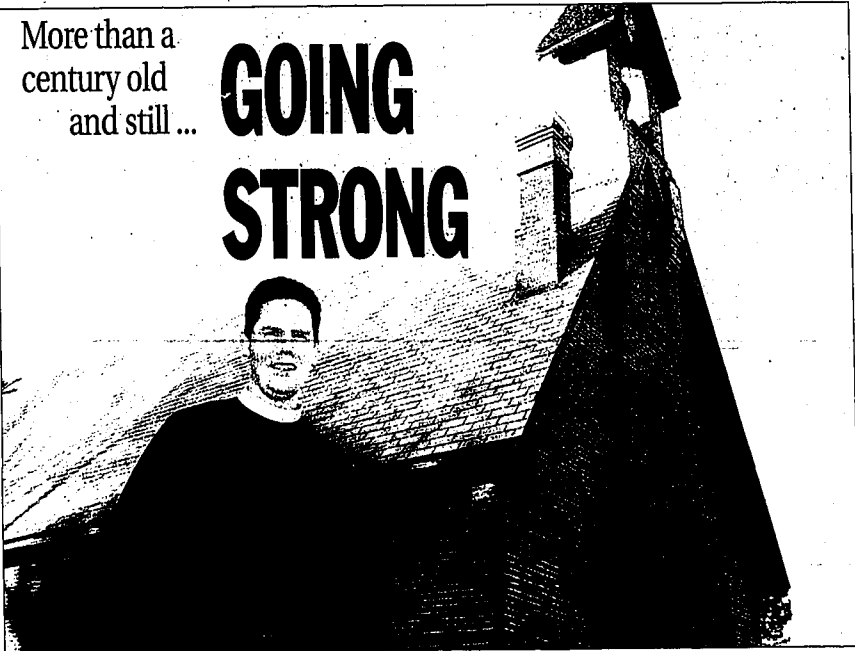
INSIDE: You better think twice before stealing this Baby Jesus, C2



INSIDE: Church news, C2 | Missionaries, C2 | Vedder column, C3 | Community, C6

More than a century old and still ...

GOING STRONG



Rev. Shawn Carly stands outside the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Hailey, which this year celebrates 125 years. In 1885 the congregation laid a time capsule in the church cornerstone. It contained a Bible, prayer book, a copy of the Wood River Times, and carefully labeled ore samples from a dozen mines in the area. After more than a century old, the church is still going strong.

Photos by KAREN BOSSICK/For the Times-News

Hailey-based church celebrates 125 years

By Karen Bossick
Times-News correspondent

Hailey was a bustling town of 3,500 people, 18 saloons, five newspapers and dusty streets crowded with merchants, gamblers and miners when Idaho's first Episcopal bishop, Daniel Tuttle, stepped off a stagecoach in 1881.

"No sacraments, no Lord's days, no Sunday schools," he noted. "And yet hundreds of children and families. Ought we not, must we not look after these sheep in the wilderness?"

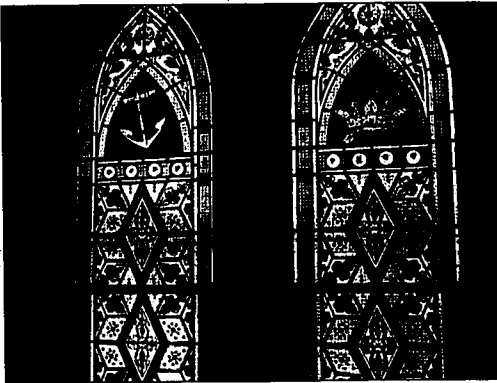
Tuttle set about buying "ample" church lots in Hailey and Ketchum. And a year later, the Wood River Valley's first priest — the Rev. Israel Tremain Osborn from New York — arrived in town, bent on establishing an Episcopal church.

Now, the 130-member congregation of Emmanuel Episcopal Church is celebrating its 125th anniversary, marking the passage of the church from a pioneer church that predated the state of Idaho to modern times.

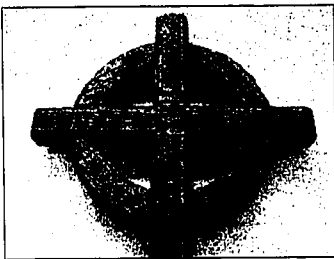
"Actually, we're looking at a couple years of celebration — first to celebrate the church, which is the people, then to celebrate the building, which was finished in 1885," said the Rev. Sean Carly, the latest in a long line of pastors to serve the church. "And in between we'll celebrate the 125th anniversary of the bell, which was cast in Baltimore and shipped across the country."

The church — the oldest in Hailey and the oldest still in use in the Episcopal Diocese of Idaho — was built with funds raised from ice cream socials, dinners of oysters and celery, masquerade parties, concerts featuring banjo and piano. The playing of poet Ezra Pound's mother and dances accompanied by Professor Delius' orchestra.

The ladies held a Ladies Fair, at which they sold lamp mugs, ladies slippers, wax flowers, a Japanese quilt, an embroidered toilet set. Grandma Belt even took on the "arduous task" of knitting three pairs of gentlemen's silk socks for the occasion, newspaper accounts noted.



Stained glass windows of Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Hailey feature such symbols as an anchor, which portends safe harbor in Christ and a cross in a crown, which symbolizes the reward awaiting the faithful after death.



The original wooden Celtic cross that was mounted on top of the belfry now hangs inside the church.

Perhaps the most unusual type of fundraiser was what they called "electric parties." People shuffled rapidly over a carpet to generate electricity, then tried to discharge it. When two well-charged persons kissed, the "snap" could be heard in the next room, wrote the late Dorothy Chapman in the *Wood River Journal*. When a young man put his nose near a gas burner, sparks would fly, igniting the gas.

"It was said that convivial people must not attend these

parties as they were liable to be set afire!" Chapman wrote.

Parishioners laid the cornerstone in 1885. It contained a Bible, prayer book, carefully labeled ore samples from a dozen mines in the area and a copy of the *Wood River Times*, which featured an article on the death of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant.

Following a parade led by the Ketchum Brass band, the Hailey Masons scattered corn for nourishment, wine for refreshment and oil for

Not always a pleasant task

Being a priest in pioneer Hailey was not always a pleasant task. It included, for instance, conducting the funerals of men who had been blown up in mining explosions.

On Aug. 1, 1884, Bishop Tuttle and Father Osborn accompanied a man who had been convicted of murder to his hanging.

The man was hung near the entrance of Quilley Gulch, now a cross-country ski site and site of a proposed golf course. Six hundred men and three women watched.

job on the site. And on Christmas Day 1885 the first service was held in the new church.

The congregation finished the \$4,000 church in the nick of time, Carly said, since the silver market crashed shortly after and Hailey's population plunged from 3,500 to 973 over the course of the next 35 years.

Carly pulled out his business card, and pointed to his motto: "Emmanuel — 'God with us' in the heart of Hailey



Rev. Shawn Carly holds the processional cross, known to date back at least to 1902.

"If these walls could talk, they would tell stories of people's faith, of something bigger than ourselves."

— Rev. Shawn Carly

since 1883."

"I think of what happened in the past 125 years — the Great Depression, two World Wars ... yet our community of faith and this building is still going," he said.

One of the most notable features of the church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is its 16 glass-and-jewel stained glass windows believed to have been made on the East Coast by European artisans and installed as early as 1887.

Stained glass experts contend that they may be the finest historical church windows in the Northwest.

The gothic-arched lancets feature a plethora of biblical quotations and symbols, such as a lily — a symbol of purity and of the Virgin Mary. One honors Bishop Tuttle. Another was donated in honor of Alexander Culbertson, a townswoman's father who established Fort Benton — the first permanent settlement in Montana in 1847.

Still another was placed in memory of a 3-year-old girl whose brother became Hailey's first telephone operator at age 12 and then went on to become vice president of AT&T where he authored an agreement with the government settling antitrust disputes.

"If these walls could talk, they would tell stories of people's faith, of something

bigger than ourselves," Carly said.

The steeple features the Wood River Valley's first bell — a 522-pound bell, which the congregation paid for by buying shares at 50 cents a pound. Two days after it was hung, the church people rang it for a half-hour in honor of George Washington's birthday.

Shortly after the church was finished, St. Michael's Church in Boise City donated a small Mason and Hamlin pump organ that had come around Cape Horn in 1869. It was originally used in the first Protestant church in Idaho — now Christ Chapel.

Osborn put the organ in a wagon and hauled it to services in Ketchum, Bellevue and even old mining towns like Bullion four miles west of Hailey, said John Chapman, who still has the organ in his home.

"He would stand up and preach from the wagon," said Chapman.

Chapman, who grew up in Twin Falls, lives at the Cloverly Ranch, which Osborn built 1.6 miles north of Hailey. Osborn milked cows there to bring in extra money following the slump in the mining industry.

Like the church, the house boasts several stained glass windows, including one memorializing Osborn's wife

Please see 125 YEARS, Page C2

Crowd rallies in Washington against atheist sign in capitol

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) — Several hundred people rallied at the state Capitol on Sunday to protest a holiday display inside that provoked a national outcry by disparaging religion and declaring there is no God.

The "winter solstice" sign sponsored by the atheistic Freedom from Religion Foundation calls religion "myth and superstition, that hardens hearts and enslaves minds."

An organizer at Sunday's rally, Steve Wilson, said outrage over the display was growing, and that it was offensive to people of all faiths.

"When it comes to disparaging my faith on public property, that's where I draw the line," Wilson said.

Three counter-protesters stood at the side of the rally, holding up signs that said, "Get Over It."

The sign went up Monday in the Capitol rotunda, alongside a "holiday" tree and a nativity scene.

It generated national debate after TV talk-show host Bill O'Reilly made it an issue on his program. Gov. Chris Gregoire's office promptly received hundreds of calls, mostly to protest the state's decision to allow the sign to be displayed.

Gregoire and Republican Attorney General Rob



Visitors view atheist- and religious-themed signs on display Dec. 8 at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash. Since the atheist group Freedom From Religion Foundation was allowed to place a sign, second from right, that was critical of religion, at the Capitol last week, protests, additional signs, and even the theft of the atheist sign have occurred, and Washington State Patrol troopers assigned to the Capitol have been stationed near the displays to keep an eye on them and the people who come to view them.

Mckenna have defended the atheists' right under the law to display their sign in the Capitol.

The state began granting broader access to religious displays a few years back, after a Jewish group added a Hanukkah menorah to the long-standing display of a massive evergreen Christmas tree — or as atheists call it, a "holiday tree" — sponsored by the Association of Washington Business.

Organizers pleaded with

Sunday's crowd to keep their messages positive, but there were still signs portraying Gregoire as a Grinch. Even scheduled speakers took political pot shots.

"You have led the State of Washington to be the armpit of America. And I'm afraid that our governor is the one adding the offensive odor to the armpit," said the Rev. Ken Hutcherson, a Christian preacher known in the region for his commentary on social issues.

Also on hand was a manager scene made from balloons. The wise men were missing, but the scene included an image of O'Reilly slugging Gregoire.

"It's knocking the sense of God into her," balloon artist Adam Lee told KING-TV.

The atheist sign was briefly stolen Friday, but was returned to the Capitol after somebody dropped it off at a Seattle radio station. It was restored to its display site, along with the added message, "Thou shalt not steal."

HANDBELL CHOIR



The Hallelujah Handbell Choir will ring "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" during worship at 10 a.m. Sunday at the First Presbyterian Church, 209 Fifth Ave. N. in Twin Falls. The Handbell Choir also will ring at the Christmas Eve service at 11 p.m. Dec. 24. Music includes "Lo How A Rose E're Blooming" and "Resonances and Alleluias." Pictured, left to right, in the back, are Robin Wells, Marcia Neibling, Betty Beaslie, director Barbara Mix, Annie Neibling, Rene Horner and Howard Neibling; in the middle, Maria Le, Peggy Kroll, Marjie Atkins and Liberty Yates; and in the front, Vivian Wells, and Ian and Kelly Probasco. Two home school chime choirs will be ringing before and during worship at 10 a.m. Dec. 21. Everyone is welcome. Information: 733-7023.

Pope condemns quest for quick profit

By Victor L. Simpson Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI said Thursday the global financial crisis is a result of the quest for short-term gains at the expense of the common good and said the widening gap between rich and poor is a threat to world peace.

In an annual peace message directed at world leaders, Benedict said the "corrosion of humanity" can no longer ignore the economic differences that have become more marked even in the most advanced countries.

Benedict has spoken out frequently on the world financial crisis — and made it a major point in the message written for the Roman Catholic Church's World Day of Peace on Jan. 1.

He said that international finance should sustain long-term investments and devel-

opment but that the recent crisis "demonstrates how financial activity can be completely turned in on itself, lacking any long-term consideration of the common good."

Among other points: • Benedict rejected the idea that high birthrates lead to poverty, pointing out that among the most developed countries, those with higher birth rates enjoy better opportunities for development. The church opposes artificial birth control and abortion.

• He said the current food crisis is characterized not so much by a shortage of food as "by the difficulty in gaining access to it and by different forms of speculation."

• He said countries dependent on commodity exports, particularly in Africa, must be given equal opportunities for access to world markets.

Christmas: The sacred and the profane

This time of year, in many places, but especially in Christian churches, you're likely to hear this familiar refrain: "We've lost the real meaning of Christmas!"

and fun that is devoid of mention of the divine grace that was the genesis of the Bethlehem miracle. Christians are saddened and angered. And they wonder what happened to the holiday they love and hold sacred.

"Sacred" is a word that is used to denote something that is separated from common use and dedicated to the worship of God. The opposite of "sacred" is "profane." Profane comes from the Latin word "profanus," which means "in front of the temple" or "outside the holy place." The ancient word doesn't mean that something is vulgar but, instead, that a holy thing has been put to a common, everyday use.

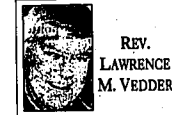
Thus, the modern Christian's lament over the loss of real Christmas spirit can be explained by the fact that the sacred tradition of Christmas has been profaned when it is simply used as a rationale for time off work, too much to eat and drink and the reason for a vigorous spurt of spending. All the traditions of fellowship, fun and expression of love through gifts are fine and good, but when they are emptied of the Biblical story and its implications for humankind, the sacred has been profaned.

Many in our world may not believe in Jesus, or trust in Him, but we Christians do see Him as the perfect gift of God to a needy, underserving

mankind. Please be aware of the sacred nature of this time of year before you too easily profane it. We Christians are observing God's love for us, and His faithfulness to us, when we look at the Child in

the manger. Please be so kind as to not spoil our view. Merry and blessed Christmas!

Rev. Laurence M. Vedder is pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Twin Falls.



REV. LAURENCE M. VEDDER

The words indicate a sadness and sense of loss of something important in the emphasis and observance of Christmas. Christians recognize that Christmas is the celebration of God keeping His promise of sending a Savior (to redeem humankind) from sin. The story of the baby born to a virgin, far from home, laid in a manger, heralded by angelic choirs and visited by humble shepherds is beautiful and mysterious as a simple narrative. But the awesome "knowledge that that baby is the Son of God, and that He came to redeem me from my sinful nature and life by His life, His death and His resurrection, adds a measure of awe and gratitude to the story that can literally change lives.

When Christmas becomes merely a marketing tool, or a mid-winter festival of food

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Vatican delegation in Israel to plan papal trip

JERUSALEM (AP) — A delegation from the Vatican has met with Israeli President Shimon Peres to start preparing for a visit to the Holy Land by Pope Benedict XVI.

A statement from Peres' office says he invited the pope to visit Israel, and the leader of the Catholic Church is considering a trip next year. No official announce-

ment has been made. According to the statement, Peres said "it would be a great honor for Israel to host him and strengthen the message of peace, reconciliation and hope in the entire Middle East."

The statement continued, "all are now waiting for an official Vatican declaration regarding the planned visit."

RELIGION BRIEFS

Nearly all ELCA bishops to travel together to Israel

CHICAGO — The bishops from the nation's largest Lutheran group will hold their annual theological retreat in the Midwest, hoping to boost peace efforts in the region.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is sending 59 of its 66 bishops to the area Jan. 6-13, along with five of the six bishops in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The trip is part of the "Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine," which the U.S. denomination adopted in 2005.

The leaders of both North American churches — Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson from the U.S. and National Bishop Susan Johnson from Canada — will travel to Jordan first, then to Jerusalem to join the other bishops. They will meet with Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian leaders from

churches, community groups and the political world.

Russian Orthodox Church to pick leader

MOSCOW — Russian Orthodox Church will pick a new patriarch in January to replace the longtime leader who died last week.

The church says a council will choose the new leader at a meeting to be held Jan. 27-29.

Russian news agencies quote temporary leader Metropolitan Kirill as saying Wednesday that the new patriarch would be installed on Feb. 1. Kirill is seen as a likely candidate.

Patriarch Alexy II died Friday at age 79 after serving 18 years as the head of Russia's dominant church.

Alexy is credited with guiding the Russian Orthodox Church through a major revival after the official atheist Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. He was buried Tuesday after a funeral attended by Russia's political leaders.

Clergy, residents renew call for help in Iowa town

DES MOINES, Iowa — Clergy and residents in Postville say they need help now more than ever and they are calling on politicians to visit the troubled town.

Several local religious leaders and two residents affected by a May 12 immigration raid at the Agriprocessors kosher meat-packing plant spoke on a conference call on Wednesday. They say the town is still reeling more than seven months after the raid.

The Rev. Steve Brackett, a senior pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Postville, says that it's important for politicians to visit Postville and learn about the effects of the raid.

He says the damage done to Postville is irreparable, but that politicians can learn important lessons if they visit the northeast Iowa town.

Top evangelical resigns after backing gay unions

WASHINGTON — A top evangelical leader has resigned his post following an uproar over a recent interview when he said he supports civil unions for gays.

The National Association of Evangelicals says the Rev. Richard Cizik (SIGI-zik) quit Thursday as the group's representative in Washington.

The announcement follows Cizik's Dec. 2 interview on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" program. Cizik said on the show that he backs same-sex civil unions and made other comments that the evangelical group says don't reflect their values.

Cizik had already made enemies of some evangelical leaders because of his high-profile fight against global warming.

The National Association of Evangelicals is an umbrella group for thousands of churches.

Federal judges hear Fla. Christian fraternity case

By Erin Haines
Associated Press writer

ATLANTA — A Christian fraternity asked federal judges Wednesday to recognize the group as part of student life at the University of Florida, despite a school rule that bars Gator groups from discriminating based on religion.

Beta Upsilon Chi lawyers told a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that the university's policy threatens their core beliefs and that inviting non-Christians would undermine their mission.

"They're not going to be as open if everyone in the group is not sharing their Christian values," fraternity lawyer Tim Tracy said.

University lawyer Chris Bartolomeucci said student groups are an extension of the educational process and should be open to intellectually curious students. He said no non-Christians have

attempted to join the fraternity to hijack it, a hypothetical concern raised by the judges during a hearing in Atlanta.

"Suppose 50 atheists appear and all become members?" asked Judge Gerald Tjoflat.

The university said Beta Upsilon Chi is welcome to operate on campus, just not with the school's support.

The court in July temporarily ordered the school to recognize Beta Upsilon Chi while the case moves forward.

But the 16-member group fears if it is not made a permanent part of student life, it will be deprived of meeting space and the ability to advertise and recruit on campus, Tracy said.

"Is it not true that they are disadvantaged in significant ways?" asked Chief Judge J.L. Edmondson.

"The policy here concerns me deeply as a matter of constitutional law."

Vatican issues major new bioethics document

Shows some flexibility on gene therapy

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press writer

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican hardened its opposition Friday to using embryos for stem cell research, cloning and in-vitro fertilization. But in a major new document on bioethics, it showed flexibility on some forms of gene therapy and left open questions surrounding embryo adoption.

The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued "The Dignity of a Person" to help answer biological questions that have emerged in the two decades since its last such document was published.

With it, the Vatican essentially confirmed in a single, authoritative instruction the opinions of the Pontifical Academy for Life, a Vatican advisory body that has debated these issues for years.

The Vatican's overall position stems from its belief that human life begins at conception and must be given the consequent respect and dignity from that moment on. The Vatican also holds that husband and wife, not in a petri dish.

As a result, the Vatican said it opposed in vitro fertilization and related technologies because it involved separating conception from the "conjugal act" and often results in the destruction of embryos.

But it stopped short of issuing an explicit no to "embryo adoption," whereby infertile couples adopt embryos that were frozen during in vitro techniques and subsequently abandoned, it said that while the intent was "praiseworthy," the result posed legal, medical and psychological problems.

Dr. Edmund Pellegrino,

emeritus professor of medicine and medical ethics at Georgetown University and the chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics, said that vagueness indicated that the question of embryo adoption "is still a little bit open."

"That means we're not issuing dicta on things which may be questionable," he said in an interview from Washington.

He said the document was valuable not because it contained any new pronouncements, but because it made explicit, and in one authoritative place, Vatican positions on issues that have emerged since the last such document was published in 1987, "Donum Vitae," or "Gift of Life."

"The important thing is the linking of the scientific advances with the dignity of the human person, and the notion of the church's teaching on procreation," he said.

The Vatican said it opposed the morning-after pill, even if it doesn't cause an abortion,

because an abortion was intended. That could complicate the situation of some Catholic hospitals in the United States that offer the morning-after pill to rape victims.

In the use of drugs such as RU-486, which causes the elimination of the embryo once it is implanted, the "sin of abortion" is committed, the document said, thus their use is "gravely immoral."

The Vatican did show flexibility in saying that parents could in good conscience use vaccines for their children that were prepared using cell lines derived from an "illicit origin." Religious groups in the United States have pressed the Vatican to issue a statement concerning the morality of using vaccines prepared using cell lines derived from aborted fetuses.

"Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justifying the use of such 'biological material,'" the instruction said, adding that the parents would have to make known

their disagreement with the way the vaccines were developed and press for alternatives.

But the document was strong in stressing that researchers using such material had a greater degree of responsibility. It said they had a moral duty to remove themselves from the "evil aspects" of the original, illicit act — even if they and their institutions had nothing to do with it.

The document said gene therapy on regular cells in the body other than reproductive ones was in principle morally licit since it sought to "restore the normal genetic configuration of the patient or to counter damage caused by genetic anomalies."

But it said cell therapy that seeks to correct genetic defects with the aim of transmitting the therapy to offspring was more problematic.

"Because the risks connected to a genetic manipulation are considerable and

as yet not fully controllable, in the present state of research, it is not morally permissible to act in a way that may cause harm to the resulting progeny," the document said.

In the instruction, the Vatican repeated that it supported research involving adult stem cells. But it said obtaining stem cells from a living embryo was "gravely illicit."

It repeated its opposition to human cloning for both medical therapies and reproduction. Such techniques could result in an individual being subjected to a form of "biological slavery from which it would be difficult to free himself."

It noted therapeutic cloning techniques in which embryonic-type stem cells can be produced without destroying true embryos. The document didn't rule definitively on the technology, known as altered nuclear transfer, saying there were still questions about what was produced.

Christmas in Church

Children's Musical
Sunday, Dec 7
9:30am & 11:00am
The Christmas Candy Spelling Bee
Join the children as they study and spell the different names of Jesus.

Carols by Candlelight
Sunday, Dec 14, 6pm
Join us for the traditional carols of Christmas service and learn the stories behind some of these much loved songs.

Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, Dec 24, 8pm
Celebrate the meaning of the Christmas Season with family and friends, as we take the opportunity to reflect on the birth of Jesus and share in communion.

Christmas Worship Services
Sunday, Dec 21, 9:30am & 11:00am
Epic 6:00pm
Celebrate our Savior's birth and fill Christmas with meaning for your entire family.

WHAT DO YOU REALLY WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

How about something truly amazing?
A baby, Jesus. Born to bring you God's grace - the gift that lasts forever. Come and see.

Living in God's amazing grace

Mid-Week Advent Services
7:00pm Dec. 3rd
7:00pm Dec. 10th
7:00pm Dec. 17th

Christmas Eve Services
5:30pm Family Service
10:00pm Candlelight Service

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Drama & The Singing Christmas Tree
December 12-14, 7pm Nightly

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189 Locust St. N. • Twin Falls

Advent:
Nov. 30 • 7:00pm at 10:30am "Hanging of the Green"
Dec 7 • Brunch:
Dec 6 • 10:30am at Church
Hosting Community Caroling:
Dec. 14 • Caroling at 9pm
Caroling Party
Dec. 21 • To have loved & having loved, gathering at 3pm at church
Christmas Eve Service:
Dec 24 • 4:45 with candles and carols 7pm

Church of the Nazarene 1231 Washington St N (west of CSI) 733-6610

A New Earth, A New Creation: God's plan for Saving the World.

In these times of uncertainty and distress, there is an old message of hope, peace, joy, and love. The true message of Christmas is about God's plan for redeeming the world through the love and peace of his son Jesus Christ.

Please join us for worship during Advent
Sundays at 10:30am • Nov. 30, Dec. 7, & Dec. 14

Crossroads United Methodist Church
205 Madison Street East, Kimberly, Idaho

For more information about our holiday activities, please visit our website: crossroadsumc.org

Sunday, December 21st, Our young peoples Christmas play • 10:30am
Adult Sunday School 9:30am
Worship 10:30am (including Children's Church for younger children)

A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness, December 21 • 6:00pm
Christmas is not a merry time of the year for everyone. For some it is a time of sorrow, stress, or loneliness. On the longest and darkest night of the year, we offer a quiet meditative worship service that makes for remembering, sharing our hurting places with God, and preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

Join us on Sunday, December 21, at 6:00pm for a candlelight service.
O come, let us adore the One who will bring light into our darkness.

Christmas at First United Methodist Church

360 Shoshone Street East, Twin Falls, Idaho
Pastor - Philip J. Airhart

December 21, 2008
Contemporary Worship 8:30am
Sunday School 9:45am
Traditional Worship 11:00am

December 24, 2008
Christmas eve
9:00pm Candlelight Service
Special Music, Carols, and The Spoken Word

Celebrate the Birth of Christ with us!

Special Christmas Service
Sunday December 21st, 9am
Special Children's Choir with Inter-
science Children's Sermon
Sermon: "Who, Jesus, the Son of God came into this world."
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Wednesday December 24th, 7:30pm
Magic Valley Bible Church meets at 601 Shoshone St. N., Twin Falls, ID
733-5248

Built On
"By God's Word"
Magic Valley Bible Church

CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICE SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Celebration Services at 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Evening Service at 7:00 p.m.

You are welcome here!

We invite you to celebrate the Advent Season with us...making the holidays a meaningful time for you and your family!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Light Service

DECEMBER 24
AT 6:00 P.M.

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A Grandmother telling the traditional biblical Christmas story, the story is brought to life with Choir and Drama and traditional decorations on a Christmas tree.

Two nights • Dec 13 & 14 at 6pm
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Twin Falls, Idaho
For more information call 732-6089

Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve
10:00pm

With special music & a Christmas message by Pastor Mike Keiser

Declo City Council holds first meeting in new building

By Mary Lynne Bristol
For the Times-News

The November meeting of the Declo City Council was the first meeting held in the new city hall located in Declo's new fire station at North Clark St.

During discussion regarding the new facility Mayor Jay Darrington said the contractor still has some minor items to complete. Declo Fire Chief John Pons reported the fire department will begin moving equipment into the station soon and that he too had a list of items to be finished or fixed.

Bids for various small items for the building were approved and it was announced that area artist Robert Moore will donate a painting for the new facility.

Steve Carson, a commissioner of the North Cassia Rural Fire District which has been responsible for constructing the new station, was present for discussion about signs for the new building, which will be discussed further.

City Attorney David Shirley was asked to prepare an ordinance for consideration during the December Council meeting regarding the newly formed Declo Public Library's move to the former city office on Main Street. It will include some stipulations regarding library operation and allow for taxation should the council decide at a later date to form a taxing district.

The council will require the library to have a five-member board and present council members a plan of operation. It was noted that Councilman Ron Knowles is the city council liaison to the library board.

Resident Deputy Eric Nebeker was not able to attend the meeting, but left a written report. He noted that Halloween night in the city was upset by paint ball shootings sign in north Declo. Retiring Sheriff Jim Higgins was present to express his pleasure in serving the City of Declo for eight years. "I will miss the people most," he said.

He was thanked for his department's service to the city.

In other business, it was announced that the Declo Community Christmas Celebration with a chili supper and fireworks will be held Dec. 22. The council also agreed to make a donation to the Declo FFA for helping move city office equipment to its new home.

Mathrusse given Minidoka Memorial volunteer award

Minidoka Memorial Volunteer of the Month for December is Susan Mathrusse.

Mathrusse has been volunteering her time at the hospital for six years. She volunteers weekly at the information desk and serves on the Volunteer Decorating and Luncheon Committee. She enjoys gardening and spending time with friends in her spare time.

She also has a great love for animals and has spent the majority of her life volunteering in different communities.

Hospital officials say she is a wonderful volunteer and a great asset to Minidoka Memorial Hospital and the community.



Mathrusse



Eli Duffin of Rupert tells Santa what he wants for Christmas at the Caring & Sharing Teddy Bear Breakfast in Rupert.

Teddy Bear Breakfast draws area children

Many Mini-Cassia children attended the Teddy Bear Breakfast held Nov. 29 at the Rupert Civic Center.

This is one of the many events held during Minidoka Health Care Foundation's Caring & Sharing. Children and families were able to attend the event for the donation of a new toy and enjoy breakfast, singing and a picture with Santa.

All toys collected are given to the Mini-Cassia Christmas Council to be handed out to children who may otherwise not get presents for Christmas. Five-year-old Eli Duffin of Rupert presented Santa with a survival kit that he made before coming to the breakfast.

The survival kit included a toothbrush, Q-tips, cotton balls, and a few other small items. Eli

thought Santa needed it for his big night of traveling around the world.

Santa was impressed with Duffin's generosity and gift. When he asked Duffin what he wanted for Christmas, the boy replied that he "wanted Santa to teach him to fly."

Duffin was at the breakfast with relatives Roger and Toni Duffin, who travel from Salt Lake City each year to attend.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Santa Claus is coming to Paul

On Dec. 20, Santa will make his annual visit to Paul.

The West End Fire Department will escort Santa around on a fire truck and he will be giving Christmas candy to everyone. So go to Paul on Dec. 20, get some candy and wave to Santa, who will be leaving the fire station at about 1 p.m. Information: 431-5209.

Friends of Rachel club hosts holiday social

The Friends of Rachel Opening Social Club will host a holiday social for members and anyone interested in joining at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at Minico High School, Room 107. Attendees are asked to bring an inexpensive gift for the exchange. The club needs help in funding service projects. Donations may be sent to Minico High School, Friends of Rachel Club, 100 S. 292 W., Rupert, ID 83350. Information: 436-9404 from 4 to 10 p.m.

Pet Christmas party held today

Four Paws Bed and Bath is holding its fourth annual Christmas party open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today at 370 W. 200 S., Rupert.

Community members are invited to bring their pets and enjoy refreshments, prize drawings, gifts and free pictures with Santa. Information: 438-4444.

M-C Democrats meet today

The December meeting of the Mini-Cassia Democrats will be held as a no-host luncheon at noon today, at Polo's Cafe, 1255 Overland Ave., Burley.

Discussion will include voter identification, precinct captains and plans for 2009. Information: Joey Bryant, 679-7793.

Please see COMMUNITY, Page C7

TOP SPELLERS



Rupert Elementary School announced its Spelling winners. Pictured from left, Gage Kloor, first place; Elio Aguilar, second place; and Lashlee Beale, third place.

Grant a wish

Area long-term care centers compiled resident wish lists recently. Instructions to fulfill a wish are included with each facility. For clothing, sizes precede the items, and are abbreviated: S for small; M for medium; L for large; and so on.

RiverRidge Care & Rehabilitation (formerly SunRidge), Twin Falls Call Craig, 734-8845 to reserve your resident numbers. Put the gifts in gift bags, wrapped or unwrapped, deliver to RiverRidge at 640 Filer Ave. W., Twin Falls, by December 20. Male 1: 46-30 jeans, XL undershirts, chocolate candy, root beer, aftershave, Marlboro cigarettes. Male 2: Aftershave, men's hobby magazines/books, card games, orange soda. Female 3: Raisin cookies, Pepsi,

handkerchiefs, body wash, popcorn, M blue sweater. Female 4: Makeup, body wash, flavored coffee creamer.

Male 5: L blue sweater, L sweat pants shirts (no red), good coffee, aftershave.

Male 6: 34-30 jeans, size 12 slippers, slipper socks, candy, Pepsi, aftershave.

Female 7: S red sweater, slipper socks, body wash, chocolates, Pepsi.

Female 8: M red sweater vest, slipper socks, root beer, lap blanket, body powder.

Female 9: Size 12 black/blue dress, lap blanket, cookies, coffee, slipper socks, body wash.

Female 10: 2XL shirts, 2XL pink sweater, slipper socks, chocolates, body wash.

Female 11: XL bathrobe, XL sweat suit, slipper socks, body wash, popcorn.

Female 12: M blue sweater, slipper socks, M red coat, body wash, Pepsi.

Female 13: S blue sweat suit, slipper socks, body wash, caramels, Yahrzee game.

Female 14: Body wash and powder, cookies, Coke, lotion, L sweater.

Female 15: Blanket, body wash, M sweat pants, cookies, slipper socks.

Female 16: XL nightgown, slipper socks, 7-Up, lap blanket, body wash.

Male 17: Pal Mall cigarettes, diabetic candy, diet Pepsi, slipper socks, puzzles, aftershave.

Please see WISH, Page C7

Bundle branch block is a matter of the heart

DEAR DR. GOTT: Please tell me about left bundle branch block. Is it something that I should worry about?

DEAR READER: The heart is a muscular, cone-shaped organ, about the size of a clenched fist, that pumps oxygenated blood through the entire body. In essence, it is a natural pacemaker. The chambers of the heart include two ventricles with



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

thick muscular walls and two atria with thin muscular walls. The heart is divided

into right and left sides by an inner wall known as the septum. The purpose of the right side of the heart is to pump blood from which the oxygen has been removed into the lung arteries. The purpose of the left side of the heart is to pump re-oxygenated blood throughout the body.

Heart block occurs because of the interference

of electric impulses that control the activity of the heart muscle. Sometimes, the impulses can't travel through the heart because of a blockage. When this occurs, a person is said to have a bundle branch block. The rhythm and rate of the heartbeat are not affected, but the event will take longer because of the slowed impulse.

If a block is located in the

right bundle branch, it is referred to as a right bundle branch block. If located in the left bundle branch, it is known as a left bundle branch block. A blockage can be caused by coronary artery disease or other diseases that affect the heart muscle.

Without other conditions or symptoms, a person may not even be aware of a heart

block. Those who do experience symptoms may feel faint or even pass out. People with a left bundle branch block may be at a higher risk for heart disease than those without a blockage.

A bundle branch block will be revealed through an electrocardiogram. In fact, the

Please see DR. GOTT, Page C7

EU hails climate deal as example for the world

By Robert Weisard and Arthur Max
Associated Press writers

BRUSSELS, Belgium — European nations on Friday dared the United States, Russia and China to follow their lead on global warming after agreeing on a plan to meet the so-called "20-20-20" targets: reducing greenhouse emissions by 20 percent and ensuring that 20 percent of energy comes from wind, sun and other renewable sources by 2020.

But activists said the plan was fatally weakened by a raft of concessions to eastern Europe and heavy industry at a time of worldwide economic crisis.

Stavros Dimas, the European environment commissioner, said the package put the 27-nation European Union on a path to a low-carbon economy.

"We are the only region in the world that is reducing emissions," Dimas said on the sidelines of a U.N. climate conference in Poznan, Poland, calling the bloc an example that others should follow.

Environmentalists said the concessions made the plan ineffective.

"The deal is a disaster, it's disgraceful," said Stephen Singer, a climate specialist for WWF International. "If the world follows the example of the EU, it is on a trajectory to disastrous climate change."

The plan increased the amount of emissions Europeans could offset by sponsoring green projects in developing countries.

Armed with that opt-out, Singer said Europe's actual emissions reductions would be a mere 4 percent, not the

20 percent the EU claims. The Brussels summit coincided with the end of a two-week, 190-nation U.N. conference in Poznan that worked on a global climate treaty to be adopted next year in Copenhagen, Denmark. The treaty would replace the expiring Kyoto Protocol, which required the EU and other industrial countries to cut carbon emissions by an average 5 percent by 2012.

The EU leaders held out an inducement to the Poznan negotiators: If a global climate deal can be reached in Copenhagen, the EU will go even further, cutting its greenhouse gases by 30 percent by 2020.

President George W. Bush has refused to accept mandatory restrictions on the U.S. economy intended to cut carbon emissions, both as outlined in the Kyoto accord and those now being considered. While the United States signed the Kyoto agreement, it was never ratified by the Senate and Bush essentially scrapped it. Since 1990 U.S. emissions have increased by 16.7 percent.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., who was at the Poznan conference, said he expects the United States to have a climate policy in place within a year that will allow it to join the worldwide effort to combat global warming.

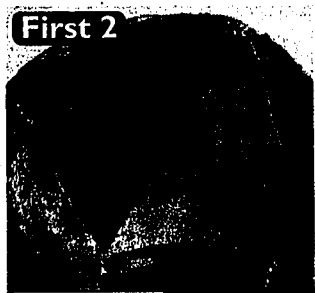
President-elect Barack Obama has called for Congress to establish greenhouse gas limits that would reduce emissions to their 1990 levels by 2020 and cut them another 80 percent by 2050. He also pledged to invest \$15 billion a year to develop clean energy projects that produce fewer greenhouse gases.

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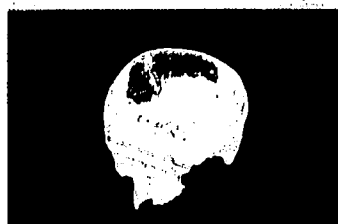
<p>Kraft Miracle Whip or Mayonnaise 24-32 oz. Select Varieties 2.56</p>	<p>Kraft Salad Dressing 16 oz. Bottle or 8 oz. Packet, Select Varieties 2.55</p>	<p>Kraft Velveeta Cheese 2 lb., Regular or Lite 5.99</p>
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<p>Kraft Shredded or Chunk Cheese 8 oz., Select Varieties 2.99</p>	<p>Velveeta Shells & Cheese, Kraft Deluxe Macaroni & Cheese or Easy Mac 9.4-14 oz., Select Varieties 2.54</p>	<p>Nabisco Ritz Crackers 14.5-16 oz., Select Varieties 2.55</p>
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<p>Nabisco Oreo Cookies, Premium Salines or Crystal Light Drink Mix 18-20 oz. Cookies, 16-16.5 oz. Salines or 10-12 oz. Crystal Light Concoct, Select Varieties 2.56</p>	<p>Jell-O Pudding, Gelatin or Jet-Puffed Marshmallows 1.5-5.9 oz. Pudding, 4-6 oz. Gelatin or 10-10.5 oz. Marshmallows, Select Varieties 4.5¢ for \$5</p>	<p>Yuban Ground or Maxwell House Coffee 33-39 oz., Select Varieties 7.99</p>
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<p>Taco Bell Dinner Kit or Knudsen Sour Cream or Cottage Cheese 11.5-15.5 oz. Dinner Kit or 16 oz. Sour Cream or Cottage Cheese, Select Varieties 2.55</p>	<p>Taco Bell Refried Beans or Seasoning Mix or Kraft Easy Mac 16 oz. Beans, 1.25-1.4 oz. Seasoning Mix or 205 oz. Easy Mac, Select Varieties 1.10</p>	<p>Taco Bell Taco Shells, Salsa or Restaurant Sauce 10-12 oz. Shells, 16 oz. Salsa or 7 oz. Restaurant Sauce, Select Varieties 2.53</p>
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York Archaeological Trust/AP photo
This image shows brain material as dark folded matter at the top of the skull in this computer-generated view.

British scientists find 2,000-year-old brain

By Raphael G. Sattler
Associated Press writer

LONDON — British archaeologists have unearthed an ancient skull carrying a startling surprise — an unusually well-preserved brain.

Scientists said Friday that the mass of gray matter was more than 2,000 years old — the oldest ever discovered in Britain. One expert unconnected with the find called it "a real freak of preservation."

The skull was severed from its owner sometime before the Roman invasion of Britain and found in a muddy pit during a dig at the University of York in northern England this fall, according to Richard Hall, a director of York Archaeological Trust.

He said it was a mystery why the skull was buried separately from its body, suggesting human sacrifice and ritual burial as possible explanations.

The existence of a brain where no other soft tissues have survived is extremely rare, according to Sarah O'Connor, an archaeological researcher at the University of Bradford in northern England who helped authenticate the discovery.

"This brain is particularly exciting because it is very well preserved, even though it is the oldest recorded find of this type in the U.K., and one of the earliest worldwide," she said.

The old brain is unlikely to yield new neurological insights because human brains aren't thought to have changed much over the past 2,000 years, according to Chris Gosden, a professor of archaeology at Oxford University unconnected with the find.



INSIDE: Local roundup, D2 | Scoreboard, D3 | NBA, D4 | Comics, D5 | NFL & college football, D6

Golden Eagles hammer Dodge City in Kansas

Tight defense, hot shooting key CSI in rout

Pizza Hut Classic
At Seward County CC, Liberal, Kan. All times MST Friday

No. 18 CSI 83, Dodge City CC 42

For the first time this season, the College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team played a game away from CSI Gymnasium. No worries, though, the Golden Eagles

made themselves right at home in Liberal, Kan., Friday. The 18th-ranked CSI men

routed Dodge City (Kan.) Community College 83-42 on the opening day of the Pizza Hut Classic at Seward County CC. The Golden Eagles used suffocating defense and 56-percent shooting to bury the Conquistadors. "I thought we put 40 minutes of basketball together," said CSI head coach Gosar, who said his team's defensive intensity and offensive decision making showed growth and

maturity in his players. "It was great to go on the road and have the guys come together," he said. "They were pulling for each other and cheering for each other. It was really a lot of fun." CSI (9-2) played without preseason All-American forward Daquon Montreal, who is still recovering from a bruised Achilles' heel suffered Nov. 29. But fellow sophomore Jay Watkins — the only other sophomore

on the active roster now that swingman Jason West has been suspended indefinitely — took care of business, scoring 19 points. Freshman Louis Garrett had one of his better games as a Golden Eagle, scoring 16 points and hitting two 3-pointers. Point guard Janelle Barrett totaled 12 points, seven assists, five rebounds and four steals. As for winning away from Twin Falls, Barrett said, "We faced adversity and adversi-

ty pulled us together and that's what this team needs, right now." Up 34-18 at halftime, the Golden Eagles held Dodge City scoreless for more than seven minutes to open the second half. During that span, CSI scored 22 points to build a 56-18 lead. Six of those points came on three straight dunks by Watkins. CSI led by as much as 43 at 82-39 as Dodge City shot just

Please see CSI, Page D4

WHO WILL IT BE?

The incumbent, the showstopper and the wild card all will make their way to the Downtown Athletic Club tonight (6 p.m., ESPN) to find out which of the trio is deemed the nation's top college football player. Each performed admirably while leading their teams into national title contention, but for the purpose of New York's grand spotlight, discernible differences had to be drawn. Heisman voters were asked to select the sport's

most elite group of individual players and then rank them according to subjective merit, and for the first time since 2001, their final list included only quarterbacks — Florida's Tim Tebow, the 2007 Heisman winner; Oklahoma's Sam Bradford, the leader of the nation's most potent offense; Texas' Colt McCoy, the most effective dual-threat talent. Here's a look at why each of three will or won't win the coveted trophy tonight.



By Steve Yanda • The Washington Post

Trio of quarterbacks eye Heisman Trophy

SAM BRADFORD, OKLAHOMA QB

TIM TEBOW, FLORIDA QB

COLT MCCOY, TEXAS QB

Why he should win it: Bradford has thrown the most touchdowns (48) and the third-most passing yards (4,464) of any quarterback in the nation. He also led an offense that tallied at least 60 points in five straight games. Why he won't: Unlike the other two contenders, Bradford is a one-dimensional threat. Opposing defenses don't have to worry about him taking off and running with the ball too often.

Why he should win it: Tebow played phenomenally down the stretch in leading Florida to a BCS title game berth. He threw for three touchdowns in a victory over previously undefeated Alabama in the SEC championship game. Why he won't: His passing numbers aren't comparable to what he recorded en route to winning the Heisman last year. They also don't come close to matching the stats of the other two finalists.

Why he should win it: McCoy might go down as the most efficient passer in the history of college football. His 77.6-percent completion rate leads the nation, and his 576 rushing yards leads his team. Why he won't: His passing yards (3,445) and touchdowns thrown (32) are impressive, but nowhere near what Bradford posted. It doesn't help that Texas isn't playing for the national title.

Lezamiz beats buzzer, lifts Richfield over rival Carey

By David Bashore Times-News writer

The roles were reversed, but the site and result were the same. Class 1A Division II No. 1 Carey and No. 2 Richfield, switching rankings from their meeting in Richfield last season, played to a classic 1-2 matchup. Again, the Tigers came away victorious when Michael Lezamiz hit a lay-up at the buzzer to take a 52-50 win on Richfield's home floor.

The play was actually designed a lot like UCLA's famous win over Missouri in the NCAA Tournament nearly 15 years ago, with Lezamiz designed to take the ball the length of the court like ala Tyus Edney and put up a shot for the win. But much like the rest of the night, things didn't go according to plan for the junior point guard.

"I tripped, and the ball got tipped out for 3 and I just got the rebound and put it back in. Right time, right place," said Lezamiz, who picked up two early fouls in each half and spent just as much time on the bench as on the floor, if not more.

Lezamiz finished with 12 points, including six in the decisive quarter. Tot Clark led Richfield (3-0, 2-0 Northside Conference) with 17, including five 3-pointers, and Brody Norman — who missed the 3 that Lezamiz rebounded — added 14 and seven rebounds.

Carey (3-1, 1-1) actually had the first chance to win the game but taking possession with the game tied and 17.1 seconds left to go. But Dillon Simpson lost the handle on the ball going up for a lay-up attempt and Richfield took possession. The Panthers never saw the ball again. "We didn't run the right set, but that's just youth. These kids haven't played together since they were freshmen," said Carey coach Dick Simpson. "But they played well, and we hung with

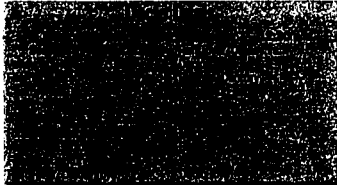
Please see LEZAMIZ, Page D2

Alonzo shines at Declo Duals

Filer, Oakley/Raft River pick up pair of wins

By Ryan Howe Times-News writer

This could be Jose Alonzo's year. One day removed from beating a returning state champion and No. 1 ranked wrestler, Declo senior Jose Alonzo improved his season record to 5-0 by sweeping through the first day of the Declo Duals on Friday.



Alonzo, the Hornets' 130-pounder who finished sixth at state as a junior, beat top-ranked Skid Moore from Malad on Thursday. He followed that thrilling victory with three pins on Friday. "He's worked his butt off," Declo coach Jason Cooper said of Alonzo. "This is his year, hopefully. He kind of

wrestled sluggish his first match. If he can stay focused and wrestle like he can, he can beat anybody." Host Declo went 1-2 with a team win over Ririe. Filer sandwiched a bye with a pair of strong wins over Declo and Ririe. "I was delighted," said

Filer coach Leon Madsen. "The kids did absolutely fantastic. Cash Cochlo at 135 (pounds) had a couple really tough kids and did an outstanding job against both of them. Nick Fleenor did a great job, too, at 188. But overall everyone did a great job; some of them were

pleasant surprises." Valley tied with Marsh Valley, but the Vikings earned the victory by way of a tie-breaker rule. Valley also defeated Century before a bye in Session 3. The co-op team of Raft River and Oakley went 3-0 on the day, with wins over Ririe, Marsh Valley and Century. "I'm a little surprised we won all three duals today because this year is such a growing year. We're relatively a young team," said Raft River coach Chris Rogers. "We're excited to see a lot of kids excel here." All seven teams will be back in action today as the Declo Duals wrap up with



Declo's Jose Alonzo throws down Pedro Nunez of Filer during their 130-pound match Friday at Declo High School.

Please see DECLO, Page D4

B.C.

By Johnny Hart



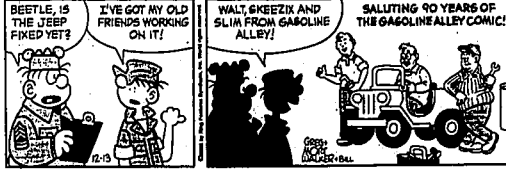
Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Dilbert

By Scott Adams



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troisi



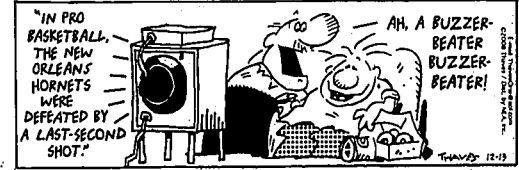
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



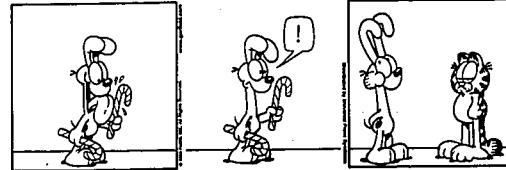
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Luann

By Greg Evans



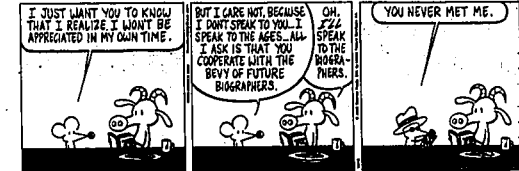
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



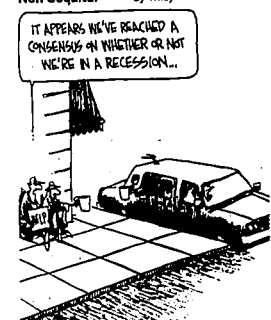
Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketchum



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott





Dallas Cowboys' Terrell Owens wears a red blinking nose during an interview at the Dallas Cowboys Valley Ranch football training facility on Wednesday in Irving, Texas.

Cowboys deny reports of locker room rift

IRVING, Texas — Wade Phillips insisted there are no rifts in his locker room. Jerry Jones dismissed rumors of a turf war, and Terrell Williams wore a Santa hat but hardly sounded merry.

This is how the Dallas Cowboys made their case Friday that everything is just fine at Valley Ranch.

Before a pivotal game Sunday night against the NFC-leading New York Giants, the Cowboys fended off questions about divisive secret meetings, an unhappy Terrell Owens end-cornerback Terence Newman's frank comments about accountability.

"I am not worried about a divided locker room," Phillips said.

It began with individual meetings Owens, Williams and Williams received. Patrick Crayton had with Cowboys offensive coordinator Jason Garrett this week. The Cowboys characterized the meetings as normal, but the timing hinted at frustrations over their roles.

That followed a report by ESPN, citing anonymous sources, that quarterback Tony Romo and tight end Jason Witten sketched out plays in private meetings. The Dallas Morning News said that Romo's text message again using unnamed sources, that the Cowboys receivers felt Romo favored Witten in games and practices.

In last week's loss to the Steelers, Romo targeted Witten on his last of three interceptions. He also threw incomplete to Witten on fourth down in what was the last gasp for Dallas.

WALTER JONES HAS MICROFRACTURE KNEE SURGERY

RENTON, Wash. — Seahawks star tackle Walter Jones will miss Seattle's final three games following microfracture surgery in his knee.

Coach Mike Holmgren said Friday the eight-time Pro Bowl blocker had holes drilled into a bone in his left knee on Thursday to regenerate cartilage.

"It will be training camp (before he returns), but he will be fine," Holmgren said after practice.

The generally understood recovery time for such a procedure calls for running to begin in four to six months, with a return to competition in six to nine months. Holmgren said the team is expecting Jones, who turns 35 next month, will be on the shorter ends of rehabilitation estimates because the three holes were drilled into a non-weight-bearing bone in Jones' leg.

The coach said quarterback Matt Hasselbeck, resting a bulging disk in his back, and outside linebacker Lroy Hill, who has a pinched nerve in his neck, are also out for Sunday's game at St. Louis.

MAWAE, STALLWORTH, KELLY FINED BY NFL
NEW YORK — Tennessee Titans center Kevin Mawae was fined \$5,000 by the NFL on Friday for his hit on Cleveland's Kamerion Wimbley in Sunday's victory. Mawae was penalized for unnecessary roughness on

the hit and plans to appeal. Also, Browns wide receiver Donterre Stallworth was fined \$5,000, also for unnecessary roughness, on an interception when he speared an opponent with his helmet.

Oakland defensive lineman Tommy Kelly was the third AFC player fined \$5,000 for unnecessary roughness for a late shove of an opponent in a loss at San Diego.

Detroit fullback Moran Norris and Minnesota linebacker Napoleon Harris were fined \$5,000 each for the same issue when they struck each other in the head in the Vikings' win. Norris was ejected.

Two players were hit for \$10,000 fines for prohibited celebrations. Arizona defensive tackle Darnell Dockett went to the ground in a celebration against St. Louis. New England tight end Benjamin Watson was cited for unsportsmanlike conduct for his celebration after a Patriots touchdown when he used the football as a prop.

BUCS BOB GARCIA QUESTIONABLE FOR SUNDAY
TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay quarterback Jeff Garcia was limited during practice Friday because of a right calf strain and is listed as questionable for Sunday's game at Atlanta.

Coach Jon Gruden said he was optimistic that Garcia, who missed part of training camp with a similar injury, will be able to play. If he doesn't, the Buccaneers likely would turn to Luke McCown or Brian Griese.

GIANTS' HB BRANDON JACOBS TO MISS DALLAS GAME
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Halfback Brandon Jacobs is going to miss the New York Giants game with the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday because of a knee injury.

Jacobs aggravated his left knee in Sunday's loss to the Philadelphia Eagles and did not practice this week.

"We just don't think he will be ready," coach Tom Coughlin said after practice on Friday.

Jacobs leads the Giants with 1,002 yards rushing and 12 touchdowns. He will be replaced in the starting lineup by Derrick Ward. Ahmad Bradshaw and second-year pro Danny Ware, who has never carried the ball in an NFL game, will back him up.

— The Associated Press

Syracuse hires Marrone as head football coach

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Greg Robinson learned to bleed Orange. New Syracuse coach Doug Marrone already has that pattern.

"When I went into coaching, I myself prepared myself for this," the Bronx-born Marrone said Friday after being hired to replace Robinson as football coach. "This has been the job I have always wanted."

The offensive coordinator for the New Orleans Saints since 2006, Marrone is returning to the school where he played to try to resurrect a program that hasn't had a winning season since 2001. Robinson was fired in November after going 10-37 in four seasons.

Over a lot of times in your life you can actually accomplish your dream," said Marrone, a three-year letterman at Syracuse under former coach Dick MacPherson in the mid-1980s. "Today is the greatest day of my life. This is my school and these are my people. You're going to be proud, and we're going to win football games."

Terms of Marrone's contract were not revealed. Robinson had one year left on a deal that paid \$1.1 million per season.

Money wasn't on Marrone's mind as he contemplated working two jobs for a while.

"We need everyone to believe," he said. "We need the alumni, we need the fans. I love the people here."

The 44-year-old Marrone was selected by a football search committee that included former Syracuse players Tim Green, Art Monk, Don McPherson and Floyd Little, as well as MacPherson.

MUSCHAMP DENIES REPORT THAT HE'S TAKING AUBURN JOB

AUSTIN — Texas defensive coordinator Will Muschamp insists he's staying with the Longhorns and hasn't interviewed for any other jobs.

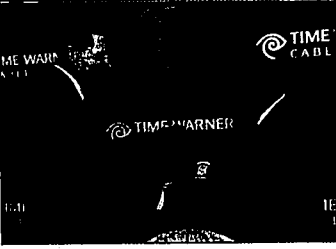
Muschamp, recently tagged as coach Mack Brown's eventual replacement at Texas, said Friday in a statement he isn't interested in other jobs and is happy in Austin.

A television station in Mobile, Ala., reported, citing unidentified sources, that Muschamp would be named Auburn's coach Friday.

Muschamp agreed to become coach-in-waiting behind Brown, who has no plans to retire soon, last month. The deal more than doubled Muschamp's salary to \$900,000.

CHIZIK SERIOUS CANDIDATE FOR AUBURN JOB

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State coach Gene Chizik is



Doug Marrone, left, shakes hands with athletic director Daryl Gross as he is introduced as the new head football coach during a news conference in Syracuse, N.Y., Friday. Marrone was the offensive coordinator of the New Orleans Saints.

in the running for the Auburn job. Current athletic director Jamie Polard said Friday.

Polard acknowledged that Auburn athletic director Jay Jacobs recently contacted him to speak with Chizik about the Tigers' vacancy. Polard said in a statement that his understanding is that Chizik has met with Auburn officials and is a serious candidate for the job.

Chizik was the defensive coordinator at Auburn from 2002-04. The Tigers allowed a national-low 11.3 points per game in 2004 en route to an unbeaten season.

Chizik has gone just 5-19 in two seasons at Iowa State.

CLAWSON HIRED AS BOWLING GREEN FOOTBALL COACH

Bowling Green hired former Tennessee offensive coordinator Dave Clawson as its head coach Friday.

Clawson spent only one season at Tennessee, but newly hired Volunteers' coach Lane Kiffin decided not to keep him on staff. Clawson replaces Gregg Brandon, who was fired after six seasons.

Much of Clawson's success came in the Football Championship Subdivision, where he was coach at Richmond and Fordham and twice won coach of the



Doug Marrone, left, shakes hands with athletic director Daryl Gross as he is introduced as the new head football coach during a news conference in Syracuse, N.Y., Friday. Marrone was the offensive coordinator of the New Orleans Saints.

four years for the buyout of his coaching contract — was being hired for three months with a privately funded salary of \$37,500 to assist with fundraising, and outreach efforts.

He also would have received the same benefits available to full-time Tennessee employees. "I am sorry for any confusion, and I appreciate the university allowing me to take time to consider my retirement and insurance options," Fulmer said in a statement. "It has always been my goal to do what's right for this great university and bring Tennessee people together, and that's what I will continue to do."

The 58-year-old Fulmer said he will instead work as an alumni volunteer to foster relationships with Tennessee donors.

ARMY FOOTBALL COACH STAN BROCK FIRED

WEST POINT, N.Y. — An Army football coach Stan Brock has been fired.

Army athletic director Kevin Anderson notified Brock of the decision on Friday, six days after the Black Knights completed their season with a 3-4 loss to archrival Navy. Brock compiled a 6-18 record in two years as coach.

Army, which finished 3-9 in each of Brock's seasons, has not had a winning record since 1996.

— The Associated Press

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HOME SELLERS HOLIDAY DECORATING!

IDEA'S THE WILL HELP SELL YOUR HOME

Jeff Duggan, CEO
Greater Twin Falls
Association of
REALTORS®

Sellers don't have to forgo all holiday trimmings just because your home is on the market. But you should decorate in a way that won't turn off buyers.

There's no doubt the holidays are near: Walls filled with poinsettias, festive music filling elevators, catalogs flooding mailboxes, and home design magazines packed with ways to make the season bright.

Many sellers want to pull out the stops and decorate according to family traditions, but houses that are on the market shouldn't be overly personalized or cluttered at any time. Your home should strike a balance between enjoying your traditions yet showing restraint. Remember that too much "stuff" camouflages what's most important when decorations come down: a home's architectural details, its condition, location, and price.

"A home on the market during the holidays should show off the house, but not the holiday decorations," says Julie Dana, a home staging professional and co-author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Staging Your Home to Sell* (Alpha, 2007). If you succeed, you'll get buyers to say, "I wish this were my home for the holidays."

Amid all of the challenges of listing a home during the holidays, there is one big plus: Most buyers who are actively looking at this time

of year are serious. The following tips will help sellers achieve the right decorating balance:

Add tasteful, generic decorations. Tasteful decorations can be an asset to a sale. But since taste is subjective be careful to what good holiday taste looks like and doesn't. Most define it as "elegant," "simple," and "quiet." Try a minimalist, "approach-one wreath, one tree, one dining table centerpiece. Decorate the front door with an inviting wreath. A tall narrow tree will emphasize a room's height and conserves floor space. In the don't-do list, no "cute" wreaths with gingerbread men or oversized inflatable snowmen on front yards. Steer clear of personalized objects such as monogrammed stockings. When decorations get too personal, people have a hard time picturing themselves in the home.

Trade non-seasonal for seasonal decorations. To avoid clutter, remove a non-holiday accessory for each seasonal accessory. Remember, you are trying to show the qualities of your home, not the quantity of your decorations.

Don't Imitate Scrooge. Even if decorating seems a Herculean task, don't avoid all decorations. It is the holiday season after all and people expect some, and they add warmth.

Think green...and metallic, and white. Too much red and green can backfire. Practitioners suggest a neutral palette of fresh greens, elegant silvers and golds, and classic whites. Some practitioners also suggest replacing a few knobs in a bathroom or kitchen with ones that add a touch of seasonal color.

Remember the joy of



entertaining. Because home entertaining connotes happy homeownership, stage a kitchen as if the owners were going to throw a cozy holiday party. Buyers don't want things to look stark at the holidays. Show buyers the look and feel of the

home just before their guests arrive. Be mindful of valuable gifts. Keep most holiday presents and family heirlooms out of sight to avoid distracting buyers. Doing so also is a smart precaution for open houses. Not all people who tour a home

are trustworthy. This is just one of many reasons to use a REALTOR® during the home selling process. REALTORS® will show your home to "qualified" buyers interested in ownership.

Keep up decorations for a limited time. While most homeowners love prolonging the holiday spirit, experts suggest curtailing it when the house is on the market. Dave Sears, co-founder of OpHome, advises a maximum of two weeks before and two after Christmas.

Add warmth and twinkling. Nothing says holidays more than twinkling lights and crackling fires, but make smart choices. Lights, which also help illuminate a home's exterior in the dark: particularly important in winter when many showings take place—shouldn't be left on all the time. Select efficient LED bulbs and use them with motion detectors or timers, says Roxanne Weisman, senior director of consumer campaigns with the nonprofit Alliance to Save Energy in Washington, D.C. To get a fire going quickly and make clean up easier, consider manufactured logs.

Minimize smells. Holiday aromas-baked goods and live green-entertain seasonal decor. But overly strong odors from air fresheners and candles may send buyers running. When you have a scheduled showing of your home, leave out a plate of cookies, which buyers will associate with the spirit of giving not to mention the great smell fresh baked cookies leave in the house.

Play soothing music. Most people get their fill of jingles and carols, so

try non-seasonal favorites that appeal year-round.

Use timely marketing materials. Everyone wants to lower expenses, but it's critical not to cut corners when your agent is taking photos for listing materials. Your professional real estate agent will use current photos to market your home.

Remember winter's threat. If (and I hope we do) we have a snowstorm, remember to shovel your walks rather than have snow and ice become part of the décor. Making your home accessible and well kept during the winter is just as important as it is during the summer.

Decorations can sell your home! Every year, the Junior Club of Magic Valley hosts the "Christmas Tour" of local homes decorated for the Holidays. These homes are generally not on the market as homes "For Sale," yet it seems every year one of the homeowners will be asked if they will sell their home.

Selling a home is usually a stressful time. Don't make the Holiday Season any less enjoyable just because your home is on the market. Enjoy your home and the many memories it has provided. A potential buyer will see your pride and sense the enjoyment they may find as well.

Happy Holidays!

Source: Barbara Hallinger
December 2008
http://www.realtor.org/mo/home_and_design

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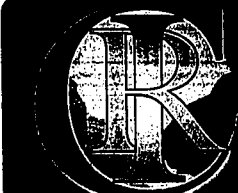
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<p>Possible Lease Option Great River view in Hagerman Valley & only 16 miles from Lost Legends. Beautiful 3 bed/2 bath home with wrap around deck & double garage with great room above. All this on .25 acre. MLS# 98376545 Call Bonny Rose 539-8795</p>	<p>503 Northern Meadows Subdivision 4 Bed 2 Bath 1413 sq. ft. WAS \$199,900 NOW \$189,000! This amazing price will only last through Christmas so HURRY! MLS# 98369525 Call Judy McCurdy 731-2686</p>	<p>Owner will do lease/purchase! Great Family Home - A/R Ready For The Holidays! 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms have double doors on vinyl, a wood stove in the family room, fully finished basement with covered walkout & over 3000 sq. ft. of storage, yard, landscaping, & front & back decks. MLS# 98351246 Call Judy Holland 731-3141</p>	<p>431 N. Outrigger St., Twin Falls FROM YOUR TRUCK! GREAT SIGHTING! Take a Photo Standing Offer: \$200.00. FLD's perfect location in Play and Family Rooms. COME SEE TODAY! JUST REDUCED \$300. MLS# 983176 Hosted by Bobbi Kelley 731-2806</p>
<p>GREAT PRICE REDUCTION! BRAND NEW CARBET 3 Bdrm, 2 Bath. Newer kitchen appliances. 2 baths remodeled. Ready now. Call today! MLS# 98365595 Call Betty Yeh 731-6740</p>	<p>1844 Barns Ave W Home Subdivision 4 Bed 2 Bath 1413 sq. ft. WAS \$199,900 NOW \$189,000! Don't miss out on this Christmas Holiday only so berry is in the perfect gift. MLS# 98369487 Call Jason McCurdy 731-2686</p>	<p>1286 Woodland Street This is the BEST VALUE in the area! After breakfast. This is a great home, double master suite, large yard, 4 bedrooms & 2 baths, large yard with hot tub. Much more than most homes in area. MLS# 98357114 Call Jason McCurdy 731-2686</p>	<p>2011 Sun Valley Circle, Twin Falls Office View Drive! Exceedingly Nice 1649 SF Two Story 5 Bdrm/2.5 Bath Home-Deck-Patio-Fenced. Jaw-dropping Front Yard! Hosted by Ray Sabala 539-3321</p>
<p>One Great Home! This is truly one great 3 bedrooms, 2 bath bedroom home located in just minutes from the lovely neighborhood. Double & back yard own court, 1.5 acre lots. JUST 90 SECONDS from the new hospital. Close to new high school. MLS# 98379273 Call Judy McCurdy 308-4255</p>	<p>1818 Barns Ave West Home Subdivision, 3 Bed 2 Bath 1413 sq. ft. WAS \$199,900 NOW \$189,000! Don't miss out on this December only price! You must see to believe. MLS# 98369487 Call Jason McCurdy 731-2686</p>	<p>New Vintage Home Ready for the first time! Homeowner is larger family looking for lots of room. All fenced for privacy & a spectacular view. Lots of updated appliances, furnace, tile, landscaping. MLS# 98367500 Call Louisa Harris 280-8822</p>	<p>2524 E. 3707 N. Twin Falls Wonderful Hagerman Country Home! Beautiful open-plan master bedroom with dual closets, dual closets, Crown crown, formal dining room, great rooms, 3 bedrooms/2 ba, granite throughout, Crown ceilings, tile floors, 34' Deck, 2nd floor laundry. MLS# 98349061 Hosted by Jeanne Wilson 539-4961</p>
<p>PROXIMITY POTENTIAL POSSIBILITIES! You cannot see the beautiful mountains in this new prestigious neighborhood. Double & back yard own court, 1.5 acre lots. JUST 90 SECONDS from the new hospital. Close to new high school. MLS# 98379273 Call Judy McCurdy 308-4255</p>	<p>North Side Center - JUST REDUCED! 2 bedrooms 2 bath with updated kitchen, One fireplace Air Conditioning. Open Living Room, dining & kitchen. Updated bath. New floor plan, master garage in basement. Elevator in all doors. 2 Car garage. MLS# 98360709 Call Betty Yeh 731-6740</p>	<p>CRUISE AS A BIRTHDAY! This cozy cottage style home with 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, 750 sq ft finished new yard. Hardwood floors, acres new vinyl windows, beautifully landscaped with flowers & shrubs in back. This is a rare gem. MLS# 98379554 Call Gerry Anderson 308-8224</p>	<p>1332 Madrasa, Twin Falls. Quality throughout! Dependable the finest quality of the tranquil surrounding waterfall and beauty in back yard. Hagerman home! Great central location! View of back yard, 34' Deckroom, Spacious. MLS# 98380007 Hosted by Denise Roe 731-4920</p>

BUIH (208) 543-8510
 BURIA (208) 878-7878
 GOODING (208) 934-4334
 HAGERMAN (208) 877-6022
 JEROME (208) 324-3354
 TWIN FALLS (208) 734-6500
 TWIN FALLS (208) 735-0590

518 Acres and Lots

BURLEY Beautiful and affordable. 3 to 5 acre waterfront lots. Birds, wildlife, and views with four season recreation. 208-320-3200

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TWIN FALLS 1 acre Windmill Heights. \$75,000. Call 208-420-1818 Doug

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For Rent... Many rentals, sizes, & locations to choose from. 734-4001 www.cjpro.com

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008

THE ACES ON BRIDGE

Bobby Wolff

"And isn't your life extremely flat With nothing whatever to stumble at?" — W.S. Gilbert

		12-13-A	
NORTH			
♠	A 9 8 4	♥	9 7 6 4
♦	A 10	♣	K 7 10
WEST			
♠	3	♥	10 5 3 2
♦	Q J 5 3	♣	J 7 6 4
EAST			
♠	Q 10 7 5	♥	J
♦	10 8 6 2	♣	Q 8 5 3
SOUTH			
♠	K J 8 2	♥	A K Q 8
♦	A K 9 7	♣	9 2

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 ♣ Pass
4 NT* Pass 6 ♥ All pass
*Garber, with hearts agreed
**Two-key cards and the heart queen

Opening lead: Spade three

BID WITH THE ACES

12-13-B

South holds:
♠ Q 10 7 5
♥ J
♦ 10 8 6 2
♣ Q 8 5 3

South West North East
1 ♥ Dbl.

ANSWER: If the opponents had not intervened, you would have been forced to respond and look for a better spot. As it is, although there is a minuscule chance they are about to play for penalties, it is more likely that the opponents will declare the hand. You will be happy to defend, no matter what denomination they pick. So pass, and don't encourage partner to bid again.

For details of Bobby Wolff's authoring agency, "The Loose Wolf," contact bob@loosewolf.com. If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bob@loosewolf.com
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515 Commercial Property

TWIN FALLS Motel on Addison \$450,000
Building, business, & inventory on Blue Lakes \$485,000
Start your business at 260 Shoshone St \$425,000
Buy shop \$165,000

NELSON REALTY LLC
734-3930

516 Vacation Property/Thru Shares

COLORADO RIVER ADVENTURE Five RV Parks. Lifetime membership. \$1000+ fees. 208-339-2877

518 Mobile Homes

WEINDELL 1972 mobile home for sale. Must be moved. \$500. Call 208-639-6300

521 Manufactured Homes

DECEMBER MOVE-IN SPECIAL. PHENOMENAL DEALS HOME ENHANCED DEALS homes available from 8:00 am-5:00 pm Monday-Friday Call our office in Twin Falls 733-0931 ext. 2

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602 Unfurnished Homes

BUHL 1 bdrm, 1 bath, pet friendly. \$3750 dep. 212-1870

BUHL 2 bdrm w/bsmt \$550 2 bdrm close in \$450 Barber Real Estate Call 543-4371

BUHL 5 bdrm, 3 bath, 3 car garage, fireplace, no pets/smoking. \$900/mo. + \$750 dep. 543-2300

BUHL Nice, newly remodeled, 2 bedroom home. \$400/mo + \$500 deposit. 212 2nd Ave. S. 208-308-8000

BUHL Why rent? 100% finance & seller pays closing costs. A new home in Both. 800 Miner St. 735-8400

Watch out, readers: I'm about to blaspheme. Just how good a convention is Stayman? This was not MY question, but one posed by Leonardo Burgary, who argued (quite rationally) that it is better for the responder to describe his hand, than to give away information to the defenders about declarer's hand. And he was prepared to put his money where his mouth was.

A challenge match 12 years ago between two top teams (Meckstrodt-Rodwell and Soloway-Goldman against Burgary-De Falco and Moule-Levy) tested Burgary's no-trump response structure. The match, however, was decided for the most part by card-play. This deal resulted in the biggest swing, and was perhaps the most discussed.

Both tables reached six hearts after the mandatory no-trump opening bid from South, and both Wests preferred to lead their singleton spade rather than experiment with a potentially dangerous minor-suit lead, unaware that they had a natural trump trick. When Moule-Levy were defending, the spade lead went to the four, queen and king. Declarer drew three rounds of trump and tested the minors sufficiently to discover that West had no extreme shortage there, then played to the spade ace and finessed against the spade 10 to make his contract.

In the other room Eric Rodwell (East) covered the spade four with the seven (picking the right moment to break the rule of third hand playing high) and now had assured himself of a natural spade trick whatever declarer did. That was worth 17 IMPs to his side when the minors did not produce a discard.

Rasmussen Real Estate

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FANTASTIC CANYON VIEWS

can be seen from this 5.09 acres. Build your dream home and raise horses here. This property has great potential. \$260,000 \$835,700 Joe Costa 948-9227

MANUFACTURED HOME.

3 bedroom 2 bath (no land), 1,708 SF open floor plan with large kitchen, split bedrooms, central air, all appliances, very nice home, only lived in for 6 months. Not on foundation, needs to be moved. \$83,000 \$835,000 Linda Lewis 539-4870

11.6 ACRES ZONED P-1 IN BURL

Approximately 220' of Hwy 30 frontage. Good farm ground of future development. 11.6 acres of Twin Falls Canal Water. \$677,500 \$938,420 Joe Costa 948-9227

4 COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS ON 1.39 ACRES

Over 7,000 SF Offices and more, plus 3500 SF of shops. Partial fenced. \$933,770 \$275,000 Jim Herring 771-3090

135 ACRES DEVELOPMENT LAND NEAR TF MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE, REALTOR OWNED, IN THE PROCESS FOR 1 TO 4 UNITS. 98285948 \$3,915,000

208-734-5650
210 6th Ave E, Twin Falls, ID 83301

602 Unfurnished Homes

JEROME 2 bedroom, 1 bath, pet ok. \$475 + \$300 deposit. 208-212-1878

SHOSHONE 3 bdrm, 2 bath on 2 1/2 acres. Rent or rent to own. \$1100/month. 208-870-5289

TWIN FALLS 1 bdrm, 1 bath, W/D hookup, no pets. \$375. Call 208-410-8802

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, no pets. Water & garage paid. \$425 + \$300 dep. 212-1878

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, 1/2 acre. 1337 8th Ave. E. \$825/mo. or \$480/mo. + dep. 208-731-6348

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 1 bath, no pets. \$600 + dep. 659 Main Ave. W. 731-3310

TWIN FALLS 2 bdrm, 2 bath, no carpet, large blk. W/D, no smoking/pets. \$550 + dep. 208-738-4730

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Price: \$109,648

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su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocom

Grid for the 'su do ku' puzzle with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

MEDIUM # 97
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9.

LEGAL
Actions planned and taken by your government are contained in public notices.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Please address all legal advertising to: LEGAL ADVERTISING The Times-News

IMPORTANT
Deadline for legal advertising: 3 days prior to publication, noon on Wednesday for Sunday, noon on Thursday for Monday, noon on Friday for Tuesday and Wednesday, noon on Monday for Thursday and noon on Tuesday for Friday and Saturday.

100
ANNOUNCEMENTS
FOUND Digital camera in the 300 block of Grove St. in Twin Falls.

101
Lost and Found
FOUND Bichon or Cocker-poo south of Jerome. Very well trained. Call 543-4849.

Santa Claus
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See what's new at www.magicvalley.com

106 Special Notices

AL-ANON
Tuesday-7:00pm
1836 S. Burley
208-478-9519

OVERCOMERS
OUTREACH
Wed. 6:30-7:30pm
First Baptist Church

ROAD 2 RECOVERY
Tuesday, 7:00-8:30pm
1044 E. Main, Burley

TOPS CLUB
ID# 374 Rupert
Thursdays 8:00am

107 Pregnancy Alternatives
Pregnant? Worried? Free Pregnancy Tests

108 Professional Services
Bankruptcy & Debt Counseling
Free fee for consultation

109 Special Notices
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Burley Meetings are NS

PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING
For hire, available anytime through the holidays.

SANTA FOR HIRE
Very reasonable.
734-5194 or 731-5193

113 Child Care Services
IN-HOME DAY CARE
immediate openings for (3) FT children

LITTLE GEMS
now enrolling 6 weeks to 6 years.
109 E. Main, Burley

RIGHT ON TRACK
CHILDREN'S CENTER
Licensed and ICCP Certified.

114 Miscellaneous Services

NEED A PIVOT
Moved or lowered?
Call 208-431-7087

200 Employment
PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE
Federal

204 Customer Service
WALCO COMPANIES INC.
has an immediate opening for an entry level Customer service/ Data entry clerk.

207 Education

EDUCATION
Murfath School Dist. is looking for a Special Education Teacher to join our team.

205 Dairy

DARY
Horton Organic Farm has openings for the following positions:

206 Drivers

DRIVER
Looking for a part-time job working mornings & afternoons? We have the perfect job for you!

209 General

FOOD SERVICE
Twin Falls Senior Center is seeking a Food Service Cook

206 Drivers

DRIVER
Looking for a part-time job working mornings & afternoons? We have the perfect job for you!

GENERAL
Landscape Laborer 1, 40 positions with Landscapes Unlimited, LLC

206 Drivers

Class A CDL, OTR 48 States.
Call 801-650-8169

DRIVERS
Local Drivers for dedicated work in Magic Valley area.

206 Drivers

DRIVERS
Self Motivated Exp. OTR Drivers with Class A CDL

206 Drivers

DRIVERS
Truck Driver NW regional carrier. Class A CDL, tanker and doubles endorsement

207 Education

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GENERAL
Landscape Laborer 1, 40 positions with Landscapes Unlimited, LLC

General

GENERAL
Housekeeping Person Needed.
Apply in person

INVENTORY TAKERS
Available anytime
Flexible
\$8.50 to start

206 Drivers

DRIVERS
Self Motivated Exp. OTR Drivers with Class A CDL

206 Drivers

DRIVERS
Truck Driver NW regional carrier. Class A CDL, tanker and doubles endorsement

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Landscape Laborer 1, 40 positions with Landscapes Unlimited, LLC

St Luke's Magic Valley

Executive Secretary

Full-time, days. Some college or degree preferred, plus 5 years of administrative level experience preferably in an executive environment.

Deck the halls with a better job

Research offers:
Flexible evening, day and weekend hours
Monthly interviewer incentive

River Ridge

LPN/RN - 12 hour NOC 2-10 CNAs
Full-time is 32 hours per week. Part-time is 20 hours.

TRADES

Sears
Good We. Great price.
Appliance Repair Technicians
We are looking to immediately fill two positions.

Management

Established and profitable Magic Valley business seeks qualified experienced professional to manage ongoing operations.

REMEMBER

That trendy ad you placed some time ago in The Times-News is in the time to come back to you again.

IT JUST MIGHT

KEEP YOU FROM BECOMING POOR.
Motor Route Accepting Applications. TWIN FALLS 735-3346

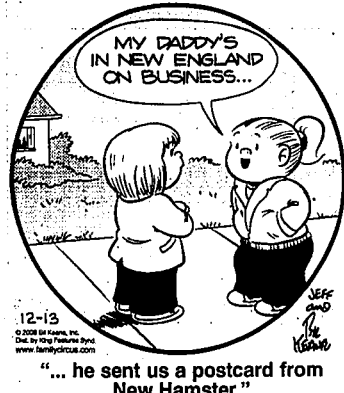
Happy Holidays!

Gooding Shoshone Motor Route Available \$800-\$1000 735-3302
Motor Route Available \$1100-\$1300 SHOSHONE 735-3302

TIMES-NEWS
Call now for more information about routes. Twin Falls, 733-5346

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bill Keane

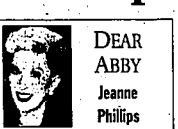


... he sent us a postcard from New Hamster.

Medical, Trades, Investments, Education, School Instruction, Public Service Message, Classifieds, Agriculture, Livestock/Poultry, Pets and Pet Supplies, Newspaper (Times-News magicvalley.com), DRACO Investment Corp, 701 Livestock/Poultry, 704 Pets and Pet Supplies, 705 Horse and Tack, 706 Dairy Cattle and Supplies, 707 COW HORSES, 708 EQUINE, 709 HORSES for sale, 710 HORSE BOARDING, 711 HORSE SHOENING & TRIMMING, 712 HORSES for sale, 713 HORSES for sale, 714 HORSES for sale, 715 HORSES for sale, 716 HORSES for sale, 717 HORSES for sale, 718 HORSES for sale, 719 HORSES for sale, 720 HORSES for sale.

Freeloader takes advantage of colleague's helping hand

DEAR ABBY: Four months ago, a guy I knew from work asked if he could stay with me for a few weeks until he finished saving for his own apartment...



DEAR ABBY Jeanne Phillips

The question is, what is your friend willing to sacrifice in order to pursue his dream? It's his willing to give up his education...

DEAR ABBY: I am a senior in high school, and my friends and I are all looking at different colleges. I have one friend whose parents are all about deciding what is right for him and won't let him make the final decision...

DEAR ABBY: My sister has two grandchildren, whom I adore. I would like to take them places and do things with them, but my sister, who has a severe weight problem and is unable to walk...

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HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Play it cool and stay sane. You may yearn for some romantic moments and are likely to lure others close. New relationships formed now might not last forever...

of them by spending time with a special someone. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change of pace could force you to be creative in allowing your sister to hear there love is concerned and you can't go wrong. It's a perfect night to enjoy sweet surrender and sensual snuggles.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Think things through intelligently as you go through your card on the table. It may not be the time to talk over new ideas, as others might be fearful of change, but it might be a good time to take action.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Looking around with you-know-who might cause close encounters of the amorous kind. An existing relationship will run like clockwork if you take time to make the first move.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It might be friendship or love. The glue disappear when you meet someone who plucks the strings of your heart. You can start things that improve your health.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Looking around with you-know-who might cause close encounters of the amorous kind. A good time to purchase furnishings, gifts or items that must last a long time. Romance and gentleness is in the air, so do your best to bring a smile to a special someone's face.

Today is Saturday, Dec. 13, the 38th day of 2008. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 13, 1862, Union forces suffered a major defeat to the Confederates in the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg (Va.).

In 1642, Dutch navigator Abel Tasman sighted present-day New Zealand.

In 1769, Dartmouth College, in New Hampshire, received its charter.

In 1835, Phillips Brooks, the American Episcopal bishop who wrote the words to "O Little Town of Bethlehem," was born in Boston.

In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson arrived in France, becoming the first chief executive to visit Europe while in office.

In 1926, George Gershwin's musical work "An American in Paris" had its premiere, at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1944, during World War II, the U.S. cruiser Nashville was badly damaged in a Japanese kamikaze attack that claimed more than 130 lives.

TODAY IN HISTORY

In 1976, the U.N. Security Council chose Kofi Annan of Ghana to become the world body's seventh secretary-general.

Ten years ago: With a grave impeachment threat looming, President Bill Clinton told a news conference in Jackson that he would not resign, and insisted he did not

commit perjury. Voters in Puerto Rico rejected U.S. statehood.

Five years ago: Saddam Hussein was captured by U.S. forces while hiding in a hole under a farmhouse in Adwar, Iraq, near his hometown of Tikrit. A summit for peace in Europe and the Union constitution collapsed in Brussels, Belgium. Oklahoma quarterback Jason White won the Heisman Trophy. Former Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., creator of Roth IRA accounts, died in Washington at age 82.

One year ago: Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, an unusually candid debate. Shareholders of Dow Jones & Co., publisher of The Wall Street Journal, approved a takeover by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Major League Baseball's Mitchell Report was released, identifying 85 names to differing degrees in connection with the alleged use of performance-enhancing drugs.

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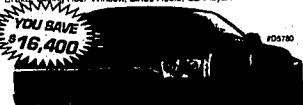


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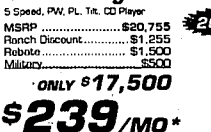
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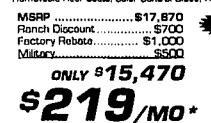


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