

PREPPED FOR THE POINSETTIA

Moore thrives in freshman year for No. 9 Broncos.

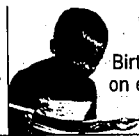
SPORTS, D1



Down with the DIRTY

Teens protest dirty dancing.

FRANK LUE, F4



THE BABY BUST?

Birthrate rises and falls on economic uncertainty.

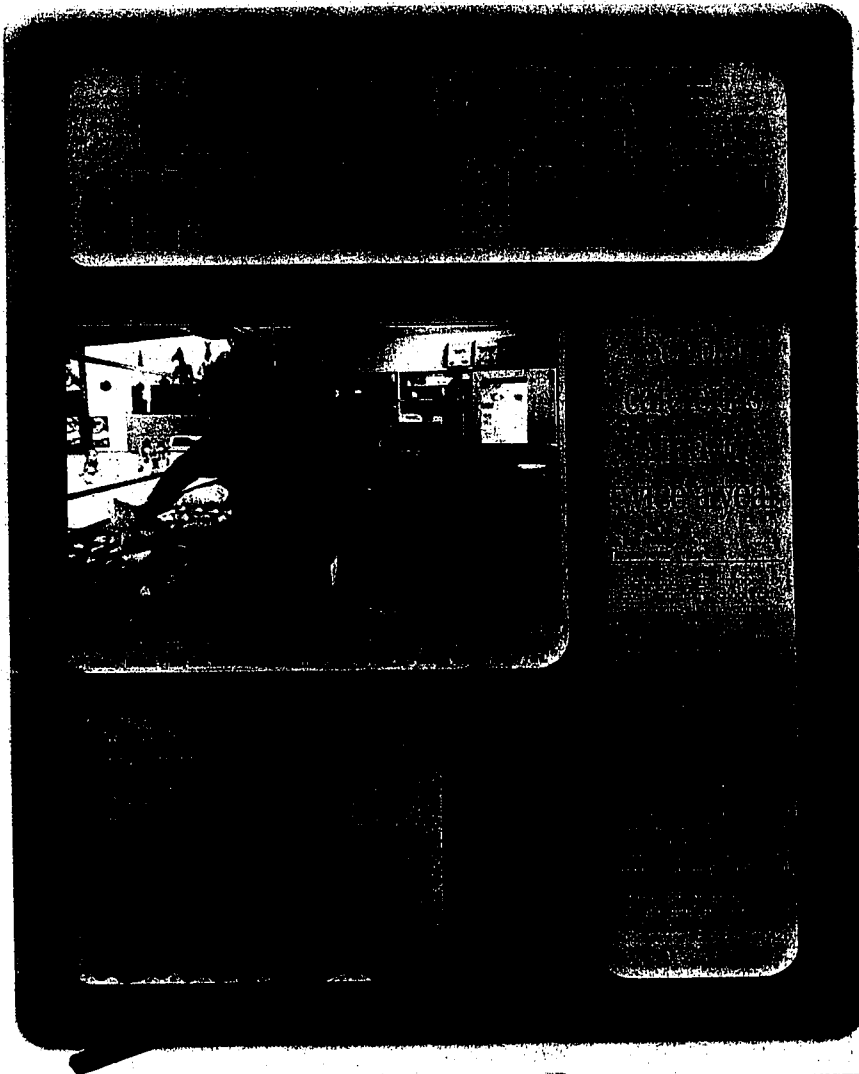
BUSINESS, B1

SUNDAY

TIMES-NEWS

December 21, 2008 \$1.50

MagicValley.com



Pole Line revisited

Twin Falls Alternate Route could be part of federal stimulus package funds

By Jared S. Hopkins Times-News writer

The second phase of expanding Pole Line Road has stalled for two years. Turns out federal funding could be the jump start it needs.

The Idaho Transportation Department is preparing a list of projects to submit to the federal government to be funded by the expected economic stimulus package, and two are in south-central Idaho, including the second phase of the Twin Falls Alternate Route, according to the ITD.

The second phase to the alternate route — the five-mile bypass from Grandview Drive to the U.S. Highway 93/30 interchange that includes a bridge over Rock Creek Canyon — has sat dormant for about two years. The alternate route was added by the Idaho Transportation Board to a special list of highway projects Idaho bonds would pay for, but legislators later removed it.

The other stimulus project involves upgrades to the Interstate 84 and U.S. Highway 93 junction, including a new on-ramp, said ITD spokesman Nathan Jerke. Other items include paving. With the stimulus expected to be approved by Congress early next month, President-elect Barack Obama hopes to generate 2.5 million jobs nationwide by the end of 2010. The Associated Press reported submitted Idaho highway projects total \$805 million, which could

Please see FUNDS, Page A7

Idaho aims to harness cow pie power

By John Miller Associated Press writer

BOISE — That odor wafting from 550,000 cows that make up Idaho's growing dairy herd smells like energy independence and economic development to state energy czar Paul Kjellander.

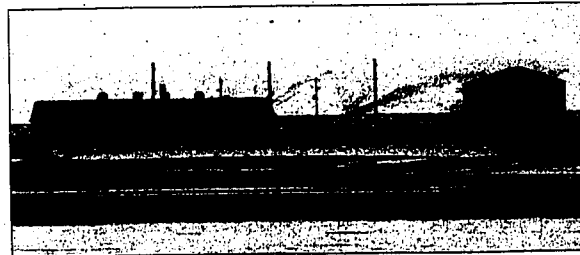
Idaho is now America's No. 3 milk producer, trailing California and Wisconsin. That also means it's cow pie central.

Mountains of manure are fueling Kjellander's dream of pipelines crisscrossing the Snake River plain, linking manure digesters at dairies large and small to central refineries that produce natural gas pure enough for homes or cars. Processed manure would be sold as plant bedding. Dairies could also fire turbines, shooting electricity into the power grid. And they could sell carbon credits in schemes to slash greenhouse gas emissions.

Kjellander, who heads up Gov. C.L. "Burch" Otter's Office of Energy Resources, is pushing a package of income tax credits, property tax waivers and other incentives in the 2009 Legislature starting Jan. 12 to transform Idaho's southern heartland into a methane Mecca.

Two corporations, including Minneapolis-based Cargill Inc., are

Please see POWER, Page A7



An anaerobic digester is visible at a new Dutchess dairy south of Hansen on Friday. Digesters convert dairy manure into methane gas, which can then be burned into natural gas or burned for power.

ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

HOPE AND HARBOR FOR THE HOMELESS

By Kate Poppino Times-News writer

Winter is a busy time for Phyllis Berg.

Between directing volunteers where to take boxes of food on Saturday morning, she recapped her past 24 hours: Twelve food boxes delivered to needy people in Twin Falls. About 45 more waiting to go out. All the fixings for a heavy lunch waiting to be taken to the First United Methodist Church, including meat donated by Falls Brand and 100 pounds of cheese from Meadow Gold.

The president of Safe Harbor, Berg was preparing for one of her regular Saturday meals for the homeless, one of the group's main purposes.

Please see HOPE, Page A7

Hope for the Holidays

Safe Harbor

Phone: 208-735-8787 Primary mission: Food pantry and weekend meals for the homeless. Hours: Flexible; call to drop off donations. Needs: Food, beverages and disposable silverware, cups and dishes. The group's next meal will be Jan. 3 at the First Christian Church in Twin Falls.



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High: 30 Low: 27

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

# MORNING BRIEFING



## Part's Picks .. Pat Marcantonio

### Four things to go and do today

A lot going up north ...  
 • Try Nordic skiing with a Free ski day offered by the Blaine County Recreation District and Galena Lodge. Ski on any of the trails within the district's Nordic Trail system and attend a free Learn to Skate clinic at 1 p.m. and Learn to Classic clinic at 2:30 p.m. Equipment is also free. Call Galena Lodge at 725-4010 for more information or to register. Santa also visits from noon to 2 p.m.  
 • How about a dinner show and the famous Sun

Valley Carolers at the Lighthouse Family Holiday Feast from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. in the Lighthouse Ballroom at Sun Valley Inn. Tickets are \$29 for adults and \$16 for children age 12 and under.  
 • And there's the Environmental Resource Center Winter Solstice Celebration with marshmallow roasting, hot chocolate, a "snow-person" making contest at 6 p.m. with prizes and at 7 p.m. telescope viewing at the Little League fields behind Atkinson's Park in Halley. It's free.

• Meanwhile in the west, listen to the West End Community Singers Christmas Cantata at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 908 Maple St. in Buhl. A second performance is at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at the Clover Trinity Lutheran Church, 3553 N. 1825 E. Buhl. Admission is free.  
 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 [pam@magvalley.com](mailto:pam@magvalley.com).

## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

### ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Idaho Old Time Fiddlers entertaining, noon to 1 p.m., with dance music provided after lunch until 2:30 p.m., West End Senior Citizens Center, 1010 Main St., Buhl, 543-4577.  
 "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" presented by Company of Fools, 3 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, \$25 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens and \$10 for children (ages 18 and younger), (208) 578-9122.  
 Musical version of "A Christmas Carol" presented by Laughing Stock Theatre, 7 p.m., nextStage Theatre, 120 S. Main St., Hetchum, \$20 for adults and \$10 for children, (208) 726-4857.  
 Holiday Party with the High Street Jazz Band, dance to big-band sound, 9 p.m., Lighthouse Ballroom, Sun Valley Inn, Sun Valley, \$10 at the door, (208) 622-2167.

### BENEFITS AND FUNDRAISERS

Get photo op with Santa, fundraiser for Sheena Foundation for homeless dogs and cats, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., PetSmart, 1605 Blue Lakes Blvd. N., Twin Falls, 732-6100.

### CHURCH

West End Community Singers Christmas Cantata, 3 p.m., Clover Trinity Lutheran Church, 3553 N. 1825 E., Buhl, no cost, 326-4950.  
 Staley West Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints annual Christmas concert, traditional music with stake choir, solo and ensemble groups, 7 p.m., at the church, 2420 Parke Ave., Burley, no cost, open to the public, 678-2100.

### CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Magdo Valley Iris Society Christmas Party, optional \$5 gift exchange, 2 p.m., Norm's Catering Room, 827 Main Ave. W., Twin Falls, no cost for members; meal fees with new or renewed membership dues of \$7 for guests and future members, 734-3613.

### OUTDOORS

Environmental Resource Center Winter Solstice Celebration, marshmallow roasting, complimentary hot chocolate, and a snow-person making contest, 6 p.m. and telescope viewing hosted by Mark Nelson, 7 p.m., Little League fields (behind Atkinson's Park), no cost, open to the public, dressing for warmth advised, (208) 726-4333.

### SEASONAL EVENTS

The 24th Annual Christmas in the Park 2008, Advent Message by President Kelly Ward of Twin Falls Stake LDS Church, and special music by the Maria Garrett Trio, 5 p.m., City Band Shell, Twin Falls City Park, TwinStimpson2008.us.com.  
 Lighthouse Family Holiday Feast, includes traditional Christmas buffet with all the trimmings, dinner show performance by "As Time Goes By" and Sun Valley Carolers, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Lighthouse Ballroom, Sun Valley Inn, \$29 for adults and \$16 for children (age 12 and under), 622-2135 (reservations not accepted).

### SPORTS

Jerome Gun Club sporting clays shoot, 100-target event, 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (worth \$25 each), High Over All, High Lady, High Veteran (over 65), High Sub-junior and High Junior, 9 a.m., sign up and 10 a.m. shotgun start, 11 miles north of junction of Highway 93 and I-84 at mile marker 64, \$20 for adults and \$14 for sub-junior and juniors (under age 18), food available, 733-6045.

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

"I don't think health inspections are bad. I think it's a good thing because it keeps people on their toes. I feel a little more secure with them coming twice a year."

— Susan Henderson, child nutrition director for Twin Falls school district



Food inspector Richmond Petty takes a look at cleaning supplies and the garbage bins at Morningside Elementary School in Twin Falls on Tuesday. Petty said that no violations were noted at the facility.

## Schools

Continued from page A1  
 does not provide health districts with any money to pay for the additional inspections and staff time of inspectors. Because of the law, health officials across the nation often pass the costs on to schools and charge for the second inspection, said Erik Peterson, spokesman for the School Nutrition Association, a national organization.

"They see it as an unfunded mandate," Peterson said, adding that his organization isn't against food safety inspections. "They don't have the funds to send inspectors out to every school. One of the side effects of this in some communities is the health departments will charge the schools."  
 That's the case for the health district, which charges \$120 for the additional inspection.

The health district hasn't needed to add staff because of the federal requirement, said Melody Bowyer, the district's public health manager.

"We just make everybody work harder," she said.

Typically inspectors try to do the first inspection before the school Christmas break and the second one by the spring break, she said.

The public is able to look up how schools did on their inspections on the health district's Web site. However, most Magic Valley schools only have an inspection posted online for each year, not two. That's because the computer coding for the billing system used for the second inspection is different, Bowyer said. The different coding would require paying a computer consultant to come in and change the programming, she said.

All the inspection records are open to the public, and school cafeterias tend to perform well on their inspections. Bowyer consulted with a general school cafeteria to do a better job than the average restaurant," she said.



Lissa Melismora and Marlow Jones prepare dinner rolls for 600 hungry mouths Tuesday at Morningside Elementary School in Twin Falls.

At Twin Falls School District's cafeterias, for example, there was a wastewater disposal violation involving a wet bucket at I.B. Perrine Elementary School in that two-year period.

Susan Henderson, the child nutrition director for the district, said that the district welcomes the inspections and doesn't mind having two a year instead of one. However, the extra-inspection costs do come out of her budget, she said.

"I don't think health inspections are bad," she said. "I think it's a good thing because it keeps people on their toes. I feel a little more secure with them coming twice a year."

Cafeteria workers are trained in food safety and take precautions such as recording temperatures of food kept in freezers and, of course, frequent hand washing.

School cafeterias, which serve hundreds of children daily, have to be cautious because a batch of tainted food could sicken many people, Henderson said.

"We would never want to make anyone sick," she said. "We realize the importance of food safety. That's one of our main goals: to make sure the food's safe."

Jill Thompson, food service director at Kimberly School District, said that the federal law requiring a second inspection hasn't changed how the district's cafeteria workers follow food safety practices.

She noted that the federal law requiring a second inspection affects both schools and the health dis-

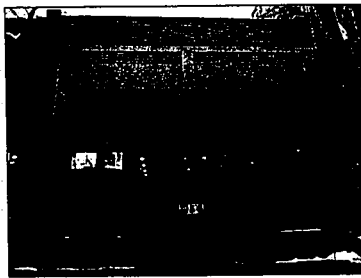
Ben Batkin may be reached at [batkin@magvalley.com](mailto:batkin@magvalley.com) or 208-735-3238.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY



Photo courtesy Twin Falls Public Library

Twin Falls Hardware was the first hardware store in the Twin Falls area. Roy W. Cager and M. Kennedy began the store in 1904, but sold it a year later. By 1935, it was sold again, this time to a Coe M. Price, who renamed the store Price Hardware. In the 1990s, the site was sold to the Akabehnner family and it is now the home of Rudy's — A Cook's Paradise.



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

## COMING UP IN THE TIMES-NEWS

- Pillow time:** Five ways to get a better night's sleep. **MONDAY IN HEALTHY & FIT**
- Color crazy:** For a quick, cheap change, just paint. **TUESDAY IN HOME & GARDEN**
- The Southern Santa:** Soul Food for the holidays. **WEDNESDAY IN FOOD**

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# A brief history of a very short day

Let's assume you're reading this newspaper after you get home from church, say, at 1:45 p.m. MST. It's probably already dark in Seattle.

I exaggerate — but not by much. This is the shortest day of the year, and it sucks. Especially north of the 45th parallel — the mid-point between the equator and the North Pole. About 25 percent of the world's population lives above that line, and they're all clinically depressed.

In fact, there are historians who will tell you that all that wintertime darkness and all that depression explains much of the world's history, including the Vikings, the Russian Revolution and the fact that Canada is an independent nation and not part of the United States.

All I know is that I come from a family of Swedes, and we're plagued by a phenomenon called Seasonal Affective Disorder.

That simply means that as the days get shorter and colder, we get bluer — in both senses of the word.

Swedes — and I'm assuming Norwegians, Danes, Scots, Russians and Eskimos as well — tend to congregate in cold, dark places even when they have the option of moving elsewhere. Most Vikings, for example, didn't stay in southern Europe even though they conquered much of it in the ninth and 10th centuries.

And two-thirds of Swedish-Americans, I'm told, settled in the northern tier of states, Alaska or New England, where their descendants still live today.

Some became Minnesotans — folks who are suspicious of optimism, convinced that winter is out to kill them and relentless about standing out in a crowd. They keep to themselves — in ice-fishing huts, Knights of Columbus lodges and dimly lit public houses, drinking their sorrow away (technically, brewed liquor) and lutefisk (cod soaked in lye).

In short, they're melancholy. Same deal in Seattle (47 degrees north latitude). Walk around the streets in an icy drizzle at 4 o'clock on a winter afternoon and you'll see nothing but glum-looking yuppies nursing quad shots of espresso.

Today — the winter solstice — we here in Twin Falls (42 degrees north latitude) will have 51 minutes more daylight than Seattle, but it's not enough. If the sun were a greeter at Wal-Mart today, he'd have been fired in the first 10 minutes.

So, the only real alternative, I guess, is to wait. A couple of years ago I went to a Unitarian winter solstice evening service, which was to be capped by candle-toting congregants dancing around the parking lot to the record "Moonance."

But the CD player was broken and organizers decided it was too cold to go outside. So

Today we here in Twin Falls will have 51 minutes more daylight than will Seattle, but it's not enough. If the sun were a greeter at Wal-Mart today, he'd have been fired in the first 10 minutes.

30 middle-aged Unitarians bumped their way through the sanctuary, upsetting chairs and dropping their lighted candles on the carpet. I think I'll go to bed early tonight.

Steve Crump may be reached at 735-3223. Hear him live on KLDX-1310 AM at 8:30 a.m. Fridays or on the Web at [www.magicvalley.com/opinion](http://www.magicvalley.com/opinion).

# Officer assaulted, four arrested after Friday incident in Wendell

Times-News

Four people were arrested and one police officer was assaulted Friday night in Wendell.

Wendell Police responded at about 10:40 p.m. to what at first was reported as a fight, but turned into a chase. The incident involved a number of people, according to a news release issued Saturday.

When Wendell police officers initiated a stop at 200 6th Ave. East, an officer was assaulted by at least one

man. Shellie Jimenez, 44; Ricky Jimenez, 48; Miguel Cruz, 21, and a juvenile were arrested.

The police officer who was assaulted — his name was not released Saturday — was taken to Gooding Memorial Hospital and later released, according to the news release.

Further details, including what sparked the incident, were still unclear Saturday night, as Wendell Police did not return phone calls to the Times-News. Police are investigating the incident.

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# 'A giant Christmas present' Twin Falls family moves into new Habitat for Humanity home

By Ben Botkin  
Times-News writer

Magic Valley. The house, located at 420 Watchmaker St. in Twin Falls, is a welcome change from their previous two-bedroom home that was just too small for the family.

"It's a blessing," said James Gardner, who has four children with his wife, Sarah. "I'm a firm believer in God, and God definitely blessed me."

On Friday, there was a ribbon-cutting with friends who came to visit the Gardners and see the finished house. His 5-year-old son, also named James, eagerly walked through the house.

"He's pretty excited," his father said.

Their old house had only one bedroom for all four children, with the bathroom in the parents' room. "It was cramped," Gardner said. "It was pretty hectic. We just kind of outgrew the house."

Those days of cramped quarters are done.

The house's construction started this summer, a process that included work as well as making new friends, Gardner said. And his family was ready to move into the house just in time for Christmas.

"It's like a giant Christmas present," he said.

The house was constructed through Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, an alliance between Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

"It's a blessing from God, and I'm excited," said Sarah Gardner.

This year, three new homes were built in the region and a house was remodeled, said Linda Fleming, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of the Magic Valley. The local organization has built or remodeled more than 16 houses in the Magic Valley and Blaine County since 1991.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3258 or bbotkin@magicvalley.com.



James Gardner pulls out a few bags of personal belongings during his family's move into a new home Saturday morning in Twin Falls. The home was built by Habitat for Humanity. (STAFF PHOTO BY JAMES GARDNER)

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**Merry Christmas!**

At the end of this turbulent, unsteady year, Jesus Christ's message of peace, hope, and unconditional love becomes especially poignant, meaningful, and relevant. As we celebrate His birth this Christmas season, may we all take time to ponder His great gifts to the world.

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<p><b>Marie Callender's Asst. FRUIT OR CREAM PIES</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$10</b></p>	<p><b>Breyer's Asst. 48 oz. ICE CREAM</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$5</b></p>		

**SWENSEN'S GROCERIES**

<p><b>Pitt Sweet Asst. 16 oz. VEGETABLES</b></p> <p><b>99¢</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 32 oz. Pkg. TATER TOTS</b></p> <p><b>\$1.99</b></p>	<p><b>Ribeye Asst. Varieties ROLLS</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$6</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Asst. 8 to 14 oz. CINNAMON OR CRESCENT ROLLS</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$3</b></p>	<p><b>Lean Cuisine Select Varieties ENTREES</b></p> <p><b>4 for \$10</b></p>	<p><b>Meadow Gold 1 quart EGGNOG</b></p> <p><b>\$1.39</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Asst. 16 oz. SOUR CREAM</b></p> <p><b>\$1.09</b></p>	<p><b>Meadow Gold 1/2 pint WHIPPED CREAM</b></p> <p><b>79¢ ea.</b></p>
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**SWENSEN'S GROCERIES**

<p><b>Swanson Asst. 14 or 14.5 oz. CHICKEN OR BEEF BROTH</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$1</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 14.5 oz. CORN OR GREEN BEANS</b></p> <p><b>59¢</b></p>	<p><b>McCormick Asst. 0.87 oz. GRAVY MIX</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$1</b></p>	<p><b>Knorr Asst. 14 to 16 oz. DRESSING</b></p> <p><b>\$2.29</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Assorted MIXES</b></p> <p><b>3 for 88¢</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 16 oz. JELLED OR WHOLE CRANBERRY SAUCE</b></p> <p><b>88¢</b></p>	<p><b>Dale Asst. 15-20 oz. ORANGES OR PINEAPPLE</b></p> <p><b>\$1.09</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 29 oz. PUMPKIN OR FANCY YAMS</b></p> <p><b>4 for \$5</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 6 oz. MED OR LARGE OLIVES</b></p> <p><b>\$1.19</b></p>	<p><b>Nalley Asst. 46 oz. PICKLES</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$6</b></p>						
<p><b>GM's Spangher Asst. 21 oz. BREAD</b></p> <p><b>3 for \$5</b></p>	<p><b>Stove Top Asst. 5 to 6 oz. STUFFING MIX</b></p> <p><b>3 for \$4</b></p>	<p><b>French's Asst. 6 oz. FRIED ONIONS</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$6</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Asst. 34 to 39 oz. COFFEE</b></p> <p><b>\$4.99</b></p>	<p><b>Langer's Asst. 64 oz. Zero-Sugar Added OR APPLE JUICE</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$4</b></p>	<p><b>Swan's 6.5 oz. MINCED OR CHOPPED CLAMS</b></p> <p><b>3 for \$4</b></p>	<p><b>Taco Bell Asst. 16 oz. REFRIGERATED BEANS</b></p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Asst. 12 oz. CRISPY RICE CEREAL</b></p> <p><b>5 for \$10</b></p>	<p><b>Martinelli's Asst. 25.4 oz. SPARKLING CIDER</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$5</b></p>	<p><b>Asst. Value Pack ENERGIZER BATTERIES</b></p> <p><b>\$5.44</b></p>	<p><b>Diamond Asst. 100 ct. PLASTIC WARE</b></p> <p><b>4 for \$5</b></p>	<p><b>Jack Frost 100 ct. COLOR PLASTIC CUPS</b></p> <p><b>\$5.49</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 2 ply 1 roll DECORATOR TOWELS</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$1</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 2 ply 4 rolls WHITE BATH TISSUE</b></p> <p><b>99¢</b></p>	<p><b>75 to 200 ct. KLEENEX</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$3</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Asst. 3 to 4 lb. DOG BISCUITS</b></p> <p><b>\$3.19</b></p>

**SNACKS & BEVERAGES**

<p><b>Lays Asst. 11.5 to 12 oz. LAYS CHIPS</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$4</b></p>	<p><b>Asst. 9 to 15 oz. TOSTITOS</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$6</b></p>	<p><b>La Victoria Asst. 16 oz. SALSA</b></p> <p><b>2 for \$3</b></p>	<p><b>Asst. 8 to 12 oz. HERSHEY'S MORSELS</b></p> <p><b>3 for \$5</b></p>	<p><b>Duncan Hines Asst. 18.9 oz. CAKE MIX</b></p> <p><b>88¢</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 10 lb. SUGAR</b></p> <p><b>\$4.99</b></p>
<p><b>Asst. 12 pack PEPSI</b></p> <p><b>4 for \$12.97</b></p>	<p><b>Asst. 2 liter PEPSI</b></p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p><b>Asst. 2 liter SHASTA</b></p> <p><b>79¢</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family Asst. 16 oz. REG OR MINI MARSHMALLOWS</b></p> <p><b>\$1.09</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 22 oz. POWDERED OR BROWN SUGAR</b></p> <p><b>4 for \$5</b></p>	<p><b>Western Family 75 ft or 25 ft WAXED PAPER OR ALUMINUM FOIL</b></p> <p><b>\$1.09</b></p>

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# A Christmas both green and white

## Stores report decent sales on the weekend before the holiday

By Nate Poppino  
Times-News writer

On the last Saturday before Christmas, Twin Falls retailers said their sales still don't match up to last year's, but that they should do all right this holiday season.

Despite fears over the economy, stores in the area had reported solid turnover on the day after Thanksgiving, the traditional start of the holiday shopping season. This weekend, cars filled the snowy roads on the city's north side as people from across the Magic Valley worked to finish off their Christmas lists.

Many customers at JCPenney sought last-minute gifts, including lots of coats and gloves, said store manager Pat Garcia. She said it had been a store a little longer this year to see a rush of customers, but seemed happy with the crowds browsing jackets and jewelry on Saturday.

"We're pleased so far," Garcia said. "The next four or five days will tell the story."

Elsewhere in the Magic Valley Mall, a steady stream of shoppers lined up at the registers in Shopko, and members of Job's Daughters Bethel No. 42 kept busy at their gift-wrapping table, an annual service for mall shoppers that pays for the group to attend an annual state meeting.

"Taking two seconds from her work, Kathy Peterson said the group had wrapped a variety of gifts both simple and pricey — even a large quilt.

"It always gets busy the closer to Christmas," she said.

John Howard manager of the nearby Sportsman's Warehouse, said things such as gift cards have lost out this year to firearms and other basics — "the stable stuff," he said. It's the gold, guns, gear and ammunition that the store's inventory is low and suffering from the same supply problems he said are affecting sporting goods stores nationwide.

Twin Falls is still a pretty strong area," he said, comparing its economy to other regions of the country.

Jan Roesser, a regional

economist with the Idaho Department of Labor, said the agency's statistics indicate retail outlets are making do with what employees they have — reporting few layoffs, not a surprise before Christmas, but little new hiring as well. It's a sign of their resources, she said.

While Saturday's snow

may have discouraged some shoppers from venturing out for the day, she said, it also could have kept some local money in the Magic Valley rather than people spending it in places like Boise.

Hypothesizing from her information, she said shoppers may be making more conservative choices this

year, but also seem to be spending more than expected.

"Consumers have not held the wallet as close as they (thought) they would," she said.

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3297 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.



JCPenney employee Lirya Kayan takes care of a customer at the store in Twin Falls Saturday afternoon.

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## Wendell house catches fire

Times-News

A house fire Saturday afternoon left about 70 percent of the structure damaged, according to police dispatch.

Crews were notified of the fire at 1898 E. 2400 S. in Wendell at about 4:30 p.m. Seven fire trucks were called to the house, and crews were able to put out the fire and finish mopping up by about 6:45 p.m.

No one was hurt in the incident.

The fire is believed to have been started by a heater inside the garage, though the incident is still being investigated, according to dispatch.

Further information was unavailable Saturday night.

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(see store for details)

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# BUSINESS

INSIDE: Ripples of Madoff scandal spread everywhere in financial web, B3



B

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

INSIDE: Your Business, B2 | Obituaries, B6 | Weather, B8

## Recession might set mood for a BABY BUST



Tyler Sheridan, 6, plays with parents Phil and Melanie. The Carlsbad, Calif., couple want to have a second child but decided to postpone doing so after a job loss.

### Nation's birthrate rises and falls on economic uncertainty

By Jessica Gyman  
Los Angeles Times

SAN FRANCISCO — Kristen Hirsch Montag took her time finding Mr. Right, so she didn't want to wait long to start a family. Yet at 35, Montag says the economy has left her little choice but to let her biological clock keep ticking.

While the couple were planning their October wedding, Montag's husband, Paul, lost the job he had held for seven years selling ads for a magazine. His unemployment benefits will run out soon, leaving the newlyweds with two mortgages and heavy hearts.

"I definitely cannot think

about getting pregnant now," said Montag, a marketing communications manager for a nonprofit organization in St. Paul, Minn. "I hope that a new job and a house sale will change things for us. But I am not too confident about the future right now."

As the financial crisis reverberates through Wall Street, Washington and beyond, it is taking a personal toll on couples who are making the painful decision to postpone starting—or growing—their families.

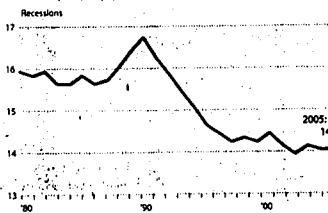
Once hopeful about their ability to provide for children, prospective parents are now filled with gnawing doubts as

Please see BABIES, Page B4

#### Family finances

The birthrate generally rises and falls with the fortunes of Americans, making baby booms and busts lagging economic indicators.

Child births per 1,000 population in the U.S.



Sources: Centers for Disease Control, National Bureau of Economic Research  
Los Angeles Times

## Obama takes first shot at reshaping Federal Reserve

### SEC also likely to be remolded

By Neil Irwin  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama has an unusual opportunity to remake the Federal Reserve in the early part of his presidency, shaping the institution at a time that it is undergoing dramatic change.

Obama said last week that he will name Daniel K. Tarullo, a law professor and banking regulation expert to the Fed's Board of Governors. Because of current expired terms, Obama

can appoint two more governors, subject to confirmation by the Senate.

Then in January 2010, Obama can either reappoint or replace Chairman Ben Bernanke when his term expires and make the same decision about Vice Chairman Donald Kohn when his term ends in June of that year. Fed governors serve a 14-year term, though in practice most leave after a few years.

Thus within 18 months of taking office, Obama will likely have appointed five of the seven Fed governors. The



President-elect Barack Obama speaks to reporters in Chicago on Dec. 19, 2008.

central bank is designed to be independent from politics, so a president's best chance of influencing how

the Fed will regulate banks or respond to economic changes is through these appointments.

Tarullo, a Georgetown University law professor and top aide to former President Bill Clinton on international economic matters, has been generally skeptical of key parts of the Basel II international standards for bank regulation, arguing that the approach needs to be changed in major ways to prevent financial crisis like the one underway. As a Fed governor, Tarullo would have a place at the table to reshape international bank regulations according to that philosophy.

At a news conference this week, Obama also named Mary Schapiro, a former member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, to chair that body, and Gary Gensler, a Treasury undersecretary in the Clinton administration, to chair the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

Obama, in announcing the picks, said that the overhaul of financial regulation will be "one of the top legislative priorities" of his administration. "We have been asleep at the switch," he said, referring to the SEC, other financial regulators

Please see OBAMA, Page B2

#### Inside Business

RIPPLES OF MADOFF SCANDAL  
 SPREAD EVERYWHERE.  
 SEE PAGE B3

STORES USING SURVIVAL TACTICS,  
 FEAR POST-HOLIDAY LULL IN CONSUMERS.  
 SEE PAGE B4

PEARLSTEIN COLUMN: MADOFF'S  
 LESSONS FOR THE MARKET.  
 SEE PAGE B3



# YOUR BUSINESS

## CAREER MOVES

### Dave Petersen

Hospice Visions and Visions - Home Health announced the addition of Dave Petersen who is now serving as community liaison.

Petersen began his health care career in the U.S. Army, serving as an EMT/Paramedic in W. Germany in 1986. Following his military service, he enrolled at Boise State University and graduated with honors as a licensed practical nurse in 1994. He practiced nursing predominantly in skilled nursing facilities in Boise and is where he found his calling working with the geriatric population.

As the community liaison, Petersen will establish and maintain relationships with the healthcare community and actively promote and educate the community on all services and benefits provided by the Visions Group. The Visions Group is a premier home care provider with a full range of services to support independence, safety, and dignity as care is given in the home environment.



Petersen

ard of Canyon Crest since its opening and recently studied under the Court of Master Sommeliers. He was tutored by some of the best wine tasters in the world. After much instruction, Melone completed an exam that covered an intensive introduction and tour of all the major wine growing areas.



Melone

A portion of the exam consisted of a blind taste testing in which the students had to taste a wine knowing nothing about it, and attempt to name the variety of grape used to make the wine, the country of origin, the area in which it was grown, and the vintage year.

Melone will also be teaching his Wine Appreciation course again in February through the Community Education Department of the College of Southern Idaho. Information: www.csi.edu.

### Chad Brown



Brown

MetLife Agricultural Investments announced the addition of Chad Brown to its field associate staff.

Brown has experience in all forms of farm, dairy and ranch financing.

### Jon Melone

Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center announced that Jon Melone has become a sommelier.

Melone has been employed as the wine stew-

## MILESTONES

### HOSPICE VISIONS



Courtesy photo

Chamber Ambassadors joined Hospice Visions at 209 Shoop Ave. W. in Twin Falls to cut the red ribbon as they celebrated being the recipient of a donation from Cactus Pete's and Ameristar Casinos. Hospice Visions has been selected as the beneficiary of Cactus Pete's and Ameristar Cares 2008 Charity Golf Classic Tournament. On Dec. 8, Cactus Pete's and Ameristar presented Hospice Visions with a donation of \$25,000 to begin their Capital Campaign of a new six-bed hospice residential/inpatient facility in the Magic Valley. The Chamber of Commerce was there in support as Tami and Flo Slatter cut the dedication ribbon and explained why a Hospice Home and Community Grief/Losses Healing Arts Center is needed in our community. If you would like to help 'Raise the Roof for Hospice,' contact Tami Slatter or Heidi Walker at Hospice Visions at 735-0121. Pictured from left, Tami Slatter, Flo Slatter, Kris Asa; back row, Dave Peterson.

### MARTIN FAMILY INSURANCE



Courtesy photo

Martin Family Insurance Health, Life, Retirement held a ribbon cutting at the Twin Falls Chamber's office along with the Chamber's Ambassadors. Kim Martin is a Chamber of Ambassador. Martin Family Insurance can assist its patrons with a variety of insurance needs. Information: 539-1322. Pictured from left, Kathi Hattaras, Linda Johnson, Kim Martin, Jan Gooding and Bill Evans.

## FARMERS INSURANCE



Courtesy photo

Farmers Insurance, 378 Falls Ave. in Twin Falls, recently held their ribbon cutting along with the Twin Falls Area Chamber's Ambassadors. They are new members of the chamber as well as a new insurance office in the Magic Valley area. Their staff can assist anyone with their personal or business insurance needs. Information: 733-7200. Pictured from left, first row, James Christensen, district manager; Jennifer Jensen, agent; Lori Gross, office manager; second row, Matt Williams, agent; Elise Anderson, office clerk; and Brandon Schmidt, agent.

## REALTOR OFFICERS



Courtesy photo

Jed Crowder, 2009 Idaho Association of Realtors president, left, swears in Mimi-Casala Association of Realtors 2009 officers. Jolene Smith, president; Maria Cruz, first vice-president; Joe Farfan, second vice-president; Carla Shockey, three-year director; Deasie Jones, secretary/treasurer; Holly Koerl, one-year director; and Sheri Jones, two-year director. Not pictured: Nyaletti Noyle, state director.

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Courtesy photo

The Jerome Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated a grand opening ribbon cutting for the Habitat for Humanity. The Bartlett family home was recently completed through sweat equity on behalf of the Bartletts and other volunteers willing to make home ownership a reality for another deserving family. The Bartlett home is the third to be built or renovated in Jerome.

### Obama's Cabinet now complete

<b>AGRICULTURE</b> Tom Vilsack	<b>ATTORNEY GENERAL</b> Eric Holder	<b>COMMERCE</b> Timothy Geithner	<b>DEFENSE</b> Robert M. Gates	<b>EDUCATION</b> Arne Duncan	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES</b> Anthony M. Principi	<b>HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT</b> Elizabeth S. Glick	<b>INTERIOR</b> Bryan Burke	<b>LABOR</b> Hilda D. Solis	<b>STATE</b> Hillary Clinton	<b>TREASURY</b> Timothy W. Geithner	<b>TRANSPORTATION</b> Ray LaHood	<b>UNIVERSITY AND ARTS</b> Arne Duncan	<b>VETERANS AFFAIRS</b> Eric Lipton	<b>WHITE HOUSE</b> Barack Obama
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## Obama

Continued from page B1 and Congress. He declined to offer details of the overhaul.

The Obama administration will come to power at a time when the Fed is taking on vast new responsibilities. Just this week, the central bank signaled that it will take more unconventional steps to stimulate lending. Now the primary regulator of almost every major financial firm, the Fed also could be given new powers to oversee any company that is big enough to pose a systemic risk to the financial system.

The biggest Fed-related decision Obama must make in his first year as president is whom to appoint chairman when Bernanke's term ends in January 2010. Bernanke has won praise from Democrats in Congress for being pragmatic, responding aggressively and creatively to the financial crisis, and working to build consensus.

But there are strikes against him. In his first 18 months as chairman, he did not see the crisis looming and then had a relatively reserved response in his ini-

tial months. Moreover, it may be politically difficult to reappoint a Fed chairman if the economy is still in the dumps.

Fed watchers say former Treasury secretary Lawrence Summers would be a leading contender to replace Bernanke if Obama seeks a new chairman. Summers, who will be working closely with the president as director of the White House National Economic Council, is an accomplished academic economist with financial market experience.

But Summers's often combative style might not sit well at the Fed, where decisions are traditionally made by consensus. According to Fed observers, other candidates for chairman could include Janet Vellen, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and a former official in the Clinton administration; Timothy Geithner, the New York Fed president whom Obama plans to nominate as Treasury secretary; and Christina Romer, a highly regarded economist who is to be chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers.

### Chamber announces decoration winners

Gooding Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of their Wreath Decorating Contest. Woodriven Engine in Gooding took first place, and honorable mentions went to

Land Title & Escrow and Gem Vet Clinic. Companion Animal Clinic was the first place winner in Wendell with honorable mention to Dr. Kulm's office.

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# Ponzi scam artists share charm, respectability

By Denise Lovato  
Associated Press writer

**BOSTON** — They're smart and charming. They have an aura of success about them and exude respectability. Above all, they instill confidence.

Which is, after all, why they are called con men.

Bernard Madoff, the Wall Street trader accused of running the biggest Ponzi scheme in history — \$50 billion — dealt in more astounding numbers than others but shares many of the basic qualities of Ponzi swindlers through history, according to law enforcement authorities and others who have studied such cases.

"They seem trustworthy because of their charm, their command of finance and the unshakable confidence that they project," said Jacob Frenkel, a former Securities Commission enforcement lawyer. "The Bernie Madoffs of the world are the people you want to sit next to on an airplane."

Much like the original Ponzi scheme, Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant to Boston who worked as a waiter, bank teller and nurse before he talked investors into sinking their money into a complex — and, it turned out, bogus — scheme involving postal currency.

His short-lived swindle in 1919-20 cheated thousands of people out of \$10 million but was so widely lucrative for some early investors that he was hailed as a hero in the Italian community. He was convicted of mail fraud and sent to prison before being

## Investors beware

Wall Street trader Bernard Madoff, who is accused of running the biggest Ponzi scheme at \$50 billion, is now attracted to similar frauds and scams in U.S. history.

Selection of biggest U.S. Ponzi or pyramid schemes	\$187 million	\$240 million	\$300 million	\$490 million	\$5.5 billion
<b>James Paul Lewis Jr.</b> 1965 to 2003 Told investors he made money by buying and selling distressed businesses, leasing equipment to medical offices and financing medical insurance premiums	<b>Daniel Heath</b> 1995 Investment scam that involved money-lending real estate and small business projects; prosecutors said he preyed on the elderly	<b>Reed Slabbin</b> 2003 Sentenced to 14 years in prison for fraud, conspiracy and money laundering scam that lasted over 15 years.	<b>Lou Pearlman</b> 2006 Mastermind of the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync; operated a stock and investment scam	<b>Steve Hoffman</b> 1995 A bill collector who briefly ran the New York Post; admitted in the 1990s he defrauded investors	<b>Tom Peters</b> 2006 Accused of orchestrating a Ponzi scheme that lasted 14 years; he has pleaded not guilty

deported in 1934.

A Ponzi scheme, or pyramid scheme, is a scam in which people are persuaded to invest in a fraudulent operation that promises unusually high returns. The early investors are paid their returns out of money put in by later investors.

"It used to be called 'robbing Peter to pay Paul,'" said Mitchell Zuckoff, a Boston University journalism professor who wrote a biography of Ponzi in 2005.

Ponzi's scheme became one of the most famous con games of his time, and his name has been attached to similar frauds ever since.

People who run Ponzi schemes generally fall into two categories: hucksters like Ponzi who plan to cheat investors and get out quickly, often fleeing the country, and people who start a legitimate investment venture but lose money, then try desperately to cover it up and dig themselves into a deeper and deeper hole. Ultimately, it all comes crashing down.

Some have speculated that Madoff — once a highly respected figure on Wall Street and a former Nasdaq chairman — falls into the latter category.

Bookish and bespectacled with a wide smile, Madoff had multiple homes, fancy cars and memberships at exclusive country clubs. He gave millions to charity from his own fortune.

"Looking successful is the key because everyone's first question is going to be, 'If this is such a great deal, why is it so you wearing a cheap suit?'" said Eric Sussman, a former federal prosecutor from Chicago who helped on about a dozen Ponzi cases.

"They have to have all the accoutrements of success," investigators said that only \$200 million to \$300 million of Madoff's investors' money is left. Where the rest went is a mystery.

The Madoff debacle appears to be typical of Ponzi schemes in another way: They are typically orchestrated by people who look to

their own churches or other groups for investors. A large number of Madoff's victims are, like Madoff himself, Jewish.

"They are done in groups where people trust each other," said Peter Henning, a former SEC enforcement lawyer and now a professor at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit. "Any Ponzi scheme is built on trust. People don't ask too many questions."

Madoff passed that test long ago. At the exclusive Palm Beach Country Club — founded by Jews in the 1950s, when the other clubs in town were restricted — he proved himself a person of character by giving hundreds of thousands of dollars to charity each year, a substantial portion of it to Jewish causes.

One of the most famous pyramid schemes occurred just before the turn of the 20th century. William Miller of Brooklyn, N.Y., misled investors out of \$1 billion by claiming he had inside information on stocks and prom-

## Largest Ponzi schemes in history

Some of the biggest Ponzi, or pyramid, schemes in history.

- William "20 Percent" Miller of Brooklyn, N.Y., claimed in 1899 he had inside information on stocks and promised interest of 10 percent a week. He defrauded investors out of \$1.1 billion.
- Charles Ponzi, an Italian immigrant in Boston, ran a bogus investment scheme in 1919-20 involving postal currency. As many as 20,000 people invested \$8 million to \$10 million. He spent time in prison before being deported in 1934.
- Lou Pearlman, the mastermind behind the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, operated a \$300 million stock and investment scam. He was sentenced earlier this year to 25 years behind bars.
- James Paul Lewis Jr. told investors he made money by buying and selling distressed businesses, leasing equipment to medical offices and financing medical insurance premiums. He was sentenced to 30 years in prison for a scheme that ran from 1965 to 2003 and cost nearly 3,300 investors around \$70 million.
- Steven Hoffman, a bill collector who once briefly ran the New York Post, admitted he defrauded investors of \$460 million. He pleaded guilty in 1995.
- Reed Slabbin, co-founder of Earthlink Inc. and once a Scientology minister, was sentenced in 2003 to 14 years in prison for swindling investors out of about \$240 million over 15 years. Groups affiliated with the Church of Scientology agreed to return millions received from his scheme.
- Daniel Heath was sentenced to 127 years in prison for running an investment scam in Southern California that bilked 1,200 people out of \$187 million in the early 1990s.
- Fredrickson said he preyed on the elderly in a scheme that involved money-lending real estate and small-business projects.
- Tom Peters of Minnesota is accused of orchestrating a \$3.5 billion Ponzi scheme that lasted at least 14 years. He has pleaded not guilty.

— The Associated Press

ising interest of an astounding 10 percent a week. For that, he was nicknamed "20 Percent."

Some modern-day Ponzi operators include Democratic fundraiser Norman Hsu, a former men's sports-wear executive who was indicted last year on charges of duping investors out of at least \$20 million. He was known for his impeccably attire and warm personality.

Former boy-band promoter Lou Pearlman, who is serving a 25-year prison sentence for cheating investors out of \$300 million in a scheme that lasted more than a decade, was a round man nicknamed Big Poppy. He was known for his smooth talk and easygoing style.

# Ripples of Madoff scandal spread everywhere in financial web

By Adam Keller  
Associated Press writer

**NISW YORK** — In the non-profit legal center Steven Schwartz runs from a converted furniture store in Northampton, Mass., news of the scandal spread by week's end, a check for \$243,000 couldn't be on its way.

The money couldn't come soon enough. The sharp downturn in the economy had put Schwartz's group — which works to improve treatment of teen offenders with mental illnesses — under very tight budget pressure. At least the check was a promise he could count on.

By that Thursday, though, events were unfolding 160 miles away that would upend those assumptions and assurances. In a federal courtroom in lower Manhattan, a Wall Street wizard stood before a judge, charged with hearing a \$5 billion fraud that targeted scores of wealthy and powerful investors.

The name of the accused, Bernard L. Madoff, meant nothing to Schwartz and why should it? He'd never heard of the money manager with the beachfront mansion and the 55-foot yacht. They'd certainly never met. There was no reason to think they had anything in common.

Except, it turned out, the money.

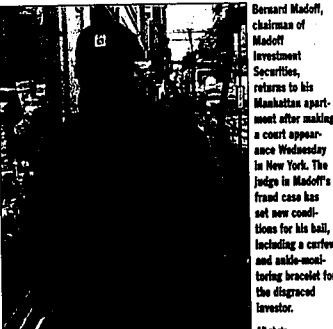
In the days since Madoff's Dec. 11 arrest, the tale has repeatedly been told of wealthy victims who, perhaps naively, invested their trust in a man who promised financial miracles.

But the scale of the Madoff scandal can just as well be measured in its still-widening ripples, reaching people and causes that populate a very different world.

Their future is now in jeopardy — a painful reminder of the far-flung financial web linking very different worlds.

Signing up companies for office space in Manhattan skyscrapers made Norman F. Levy a very rich man.

In the hotly competitive but tight-knit world of New York commercial real estate, Levy worked across more than seven decades breaking leases in midtown towers. When he died in 2005 at 93, he was hailed as an elder statesman of the trade whose zest for the deal was matched by his gen-



Bernard Madoff, chairman of Madoff Investment Securities, returns to his Manhattan apartment after making a court appearance Wednesday in New York. The judge in Madoff's fraud case has set new conditions for his bail, including a curfew and ankle-monitoring bracelet for the disgraced investor.

erosity with both friendship and money.

"Your spirit and love of life have touched and changed all who knew you," one friend of 40 years wrote in a paid death notice for Levy that ran in The New York Times. "You taught me so much. I'll cherish our relationship forever."

The friend was Bernard Madoff.

The real estate broker and the money manager were separated by 26 years, but they and their families had formed a friendship reinforced by shared interests, social circles — and trust.

For more than 30 years, the Levys entrusted their personal investments to Madoff. When they chartered the Betty and Norman F. Levy Foundation — which reported assets last year of \$244.4 million — as the vehicle for their charitable giving, they again put their trust in their longtime friend.

"My father believed in Bernie Madoff," Norman Madoff's son, Francis — who declined to comment for this article — said in a recent interview with FOX Business News. "The one thing he said about Bernie (was), 'if there's one honorable person, it's Bernie.'"

Francis Levy, a novelist, and his sister, Jeanne Levy Church, had no reason to think otherwise.

When Norman Levy died, they took the helm of the family philanthropy, leaving the funds invested with Madoff, whose offices were housed in the same Third Avenue tower as the foundation.

And in Schwartz's program in Massachusetts, JEHT offered a three-year grant for work in Connecticut, Texas, Alabama and elsewhere to get states to reconsider treatment of teen offenders with mental health problems, encouraging them to send some home with therapy or provide it in detention centers.

The JEHT grant accounted for 16 percent of the Center for Public Representation's annual budget. Its importance became even more clear this fall when a state tax on real estate transactions that provides nearly as much of the group's funding dropped sharply with the collapse of the housing market, Schwartz said.

Still, Schwartz's staff of 11 was so certain of JEHT's budget that they moved ahead with new projects, spending about \$25,000 in advance.

"We just trusted that we would get the money, and so rather than suspend the work until the check was in hand... we do the work and expect the check will follow," Schwartz said.

Crane, the director of the JEHT Foundation, was working late that Thursday evening when his cell phone rang. His beneficiaries, Jeanne and Kenneth Levy Church, were on the line.

"Are you sitting down?" they asked.

The couple told him they'd just come across a story online about the arrest of a

New York money manager whose name sounded vaguely familiar to Crane. All the Levy Church's money was invested with Bernie Madoff. If it was gone, so was the foundation.

On Monday morning Crane sent an e-mail to people at nearly 150 groups around the country that count on his foundation for \$25 to \$30 million in funding each year. The checks they had been expecting would not be coming, he told them, and JEHT would close by the end of January.

Francis Levy's group, the Philoctetes Center, also announced it could not continue without a cash infusion. Leaders of some of the groups funded by the foundations said they had not even been aware that their money came from the Levy family. Nor had they ever heard of Madoff.

For some, the impact was immediate. Between the JEHT closure and the drop in tax revenues, Schwartz's group has seen 48 of its 62 employees vanish.

On Wednesday, he called an emergency meeting with his staff. They've put juvenile justice projects in Texas and Alabama on hold. But those are emergency measures, not a solution.

"We don't have any money," he said. "I'm not sure what we're going to do."

It's a strange paradox, Schwartz and others in his situation may say, all the attention swirling around Madoff has been about his wealthy

lifestyle and the ultra-rich investors in places like Palm Beach and Hollywood and New York who lost their shirts. But few seem to understand the repercussions.

"It's very ironic that the very wealthiest in the country can have such a severe impact on kids on the low end of the economic scale," said Mark Steward, whose Missouri Youth Services Institute has relied on funding from the Levy family to help improve juvenile detention centers.

Only Madoff knew, Steward said — "Or maybe he does know."

"Sometimes, they just don't care."

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# Stores using survival tactics, look past holidays

## Retailers fear post-holiday lull in consumers

By Anne D'Innocenzo  
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Retailers are accelerating their use of survival tactics — slashing prices further and pulling merchandise off shelves to send liquidators — as the number of holiday shopping days dwindles. But January and beyond look scarier for even relatively healthy merchants as the passing of the holidays give shoppers no reason at all to spend.

What's worse, the industry expects a rise in returns after the holidays as shoppers seek to convert their unwanted gifts to much-needed cash as they struggle with rising job and tightening credit and shrinking retirement funds.

Many retailers are in panic mode as they try to liquidate inventory in a season that's expected to show the first drop in sales in nearly 40 years. For this last weekend before Christmas, Sears stores are offering up to 70 percent off on fine jewelry and up to 60 percent off on outerwear, while Macy's is offering early morning discounts of up to 75 percent. J.C. Penney is featuring 300 early morning specials on items from pajamas to handbags.

But a major winter storm cutting across the country could make shoppers just stay home.

"The retailers are doing everything possible to be lean and clean by the end of

Christmas, because the shoppers are not going to be there" in January, said New York-based retail consultant Walter Loeb. "This is more about survival."

But the casualties from the holidays are rising. Circuit City Stores Inc. and KB Toys Inc. have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in recent weeks. Finlay Fine Jewelry Corp., which operates stores such as Bailey Banks & Biddle, warned Wednesday that it may not have enough cash to finance its operations through the end of its fiscal year on Jan. 31, and may have to "significantly curtail" its business or pursue other options.

In a sign of how grim the future looks for consumer spending, even fairly healthy companies are making big shifts in their plans in order to respond to the deteriorating climate. Best Buy Co. Inc. announced Tuesday that it will slash capital expenditures by half in 2009 and will offer voluntary severance packages to virtually all its 4,800 corporate employees. The nation's largest consumer electronics chain also said its third-quarter profits skidded 77 percent.

"We believe that the environment for consumer spending is likely to get worse before it gets better," said Brad Anderson, chief executive of Best Buy — which has seen little benefit so far from the bankruptcy of Circuit City, its largest rival, which is



A shopper passes "sale" signs as she walks past a store window during a snowstorm in New York. Retailers are accelerating their use of survival tactics — slashing prices further and pulling merchandise off shelves to send liquidators — as the number of holiday shopping days dwindles. But January and beyond look scarier for even relatively healthy merchants as the passing of the holidays give shoppers no reason at all to spend.

closing more than 150 of its approximately 700 U.S. stores by Dec. 31.

"Consumer demand is much less than most of us understood even in September," said Richard D. Hastings, a strategist with Global Hunter-Securities, who expects total retail sales will fall as much as 8 percent for the November through January period. Even with recent moves to cut inventory and slow store expansion, he said retailers are finding that their assets — stores and inventory — are "out of whack."

Hastings doesn't think the spending malaise will hit bot-

tom until the second half of 2010 as mounting layoffs depress sales even further next year.

Michael P. Niemira, chief economist at the International Council of Shopping Centers, expects same-store sales will fall as much as 1 percent for the November and December period, but fears the decline could even be steeper. Same-store sales are sales at stores open at least a year and are a key indicator of a retailer's health. That would be the worst performance for the holidays since at least 1969 when the index began, Niemira said.

## Babies

Continued from page B1

toles vanish, retirement savings dwindle and housing prices fall — even as the cost of having and raising a child rises.

Many economists fear that the current recession will beget one of the worst since the Great Depression. When that hit in the 1930s, the birthrate dropped precipitously, and the effects of having fewer people in the workforce rippled through the economy two decades later.

"If you can't pay your mortgage, the last thing on your mind is to have another child," said Dr. Khalil Tabsh, chief of obstetrics at the University of California, Los Angeles, who expects to start seeing a drop in pregnancies.

Baby booms and busts are reliable, if lagging, economic indicators, intertwined with the rise and fall of the nation's fortunes. For three-quarters of a century, economic downturns have triggered declines in the U.S. fertility rate, which, at about two children per woman, is the highest among rich nations. The fertility rate hit its post-World War II low of 1.7 in 1976, after the oil shortage and a severe recession.

With the country in a recession since December 2007, accompanied by a stock market plunge and growing numbers of people losing their jobs and homes, 8 in 10 Americans say they are anxious about the economy, a recent survey by the American Psychological Association showed.

Demographers say it's too early to tell what effect that anxiety will have on the U.S. birthrate, which is already difficult to forecast with so many factors in play, including immigration and birth control. They don't expect the current recession to lower the rate below the so-called replacement level, at which each couple reproduces itself. But they do say that the rate could drop if the economic slump is deep and protracted. "We'll know in about nine months," said Carl Haub, a demographer for the Population Research Bureau, a private company in Washington. "It depends on how low it goes."

For now at least, childbearing is a family issue, not a national one. Melanie and Phil Sheridan, both 35, were high school

sweethearts who recently celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary. They have a 6-year-old son, Tyler, and Melanie has yearned for a second child for some time. The Sheridans took a step in that direction in March 2007, when they bought a three-bedroom house in Carlsbad, Calif.

But eight months later, Melanie was laid off from her job as a marketing assistant for a home builder. The economic outlook is gloomy and their household budget is strained, relying on a single income from Phil's job as a project planner with San Diego Gas & Electric Co. So they have decided to hold off on having another child.

"People tell me not to let money stop us from having a baby, that everything works itself out in the end," Melanie said. "That may be true, but right now having another baby feels more like a strain than the blessing it's supposed to be."

Childbearing is taking a back seat to financial discipline for Brandon and Amanda Mendelson, an Albany, N.Y., couple who wed in June planning to soon start a family. But Brandon, a 25-year-old graduate student, and Amanda, a 24-year-old certified math instructor, are

hardly scraping by as substitute teachers.

Saddled with mounting bills but having no steady source of income, they are giving up their apartment to move in with Amanda's parents 40 minutes away in Glen Falls, N.Y. It's a tight squeeze. Amanda's brother and his wife have already moved back in to the three-bedroom, single-story house where Amanda grew up.

The Mendelsons are keeping their two cats, but they had to give away their two guinea pigs and put their family plans on hold.

"We can't even take care of ourselves," Brandon said.

"We're both disappointed and upset about this, as we want to have children while we're young and able to play with them."

As confidence in the economy wanes, especially among middle-class families with shrinking incomes. "From now on, people will think twice before they have kids," UCLA's Tabsh said. "Especially, parents who already have one or two or

three kids will probably defer pregnancy until things get better."

Starting or growing a family often becomes more of a financial decision than an emotional one as parents calculate the sometimes overwhelming costs of health care, child care, education and other necessities, said Kathleen Gerson, a sociologist at New York University. "Though birthrates usually decline in a recession, there is a countervailing theory popular with some economists: Births may swell. Some women who lose their jobs may decide it's an opportune time to raise a child," said Gary Becker, a University of Chicago economist and sociologist.

Some working moms are making the same decision. Jennifer Gradedick, 33, a freelance writer in Homewood, Ill., and her husband, Randy, who works in online advertising, are the parents of two young girls and have always been careful with money. So they don't plan to defer their dream of having more children.

"Making a judgment about having a child based on the economy today is like selling all of your stocks when they are low," Gradedick said. "It's very shortsighted."

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**Twin Falls Canal Company**

**NOTICE**

**Of Regular Stockholders' Meeting**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the regular meeting of the Stockholders of the Twin Falls Canal Company will be held on Tuesday the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 2009. The meeting will be called to order by the Directors at 9:00 a.m. in the Rick Allen Room of the Herrett Center at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

Director from District 1 - (Murtaugh, Hansen and Kimberly) will be elected for a three-year term. Director from District 5 - (Castleford) will be elected for a three-year term.

Other business will also be transacted. There will be reports from the Company's General Manager, auditors and lawyers. There will also be reports concerning operation and maintenance efforts, 2009 water supplies, water call, and other matters of interest.

The corporate books will be closed for the transfer of stock effective December 31, 2008.

Proxies shall be filed with the Company's Assistant Secretary at the Company Office on or before January 9, 2009.

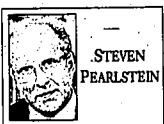
DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of December 2008.

**TWIN FALLS CANAL COMPANY**  
Kay Puschel, Assistant Secretary

# Madoff's lessons for the market

**Y**es, but is it good for the Jews?

That's the punch line of a long-running joke among those of us who grew up among Jewish parents and grandparents whose first reaction to almost any event would be to calculate how it would affect the tribe.



STEVEN PEARLSTEIN

Looking at life through such a partial lens is hardly unique to Jews, but for generations of Jews who were subject to various forms of persecution and discrimination, the instinct became ingrained. Arthur Goldberg to the Supreme Court good. The espionage trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; but not so good. The "Godfather" movies breaking box-office records; good (put spotlight on some other ethnic group). Study Kuffner relating to pitch a World Series game on Yom Kippur; bad (encourage anti-Semitism among Dodger fans).

For some, this instinct survives to this day. ITA, a Jewish news service, last week put out an upbeat story on the Blagojevich scandal in Illinois by noting that the governor's arrest has greatly improved the odds that Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky — a few untrained in law — might be appointed to the Obama seat.

All of which brings us to Bernie Madoff — "the Jewish T-bill" as he was known affectionately in Palm Beach and on Wall Street because of his reputation for delivering solid, reliable returns to his investors. The Madoff scandal is definitely not good for the Jews — a *shanda* far *de goyim*, as my grandmother would have wisecracked in Yiddish so as not to upset us children. It's not only that this *machter* of the Jewish community may wind up holding the world indoor record for financial fraud with his alleged \$50 billion Ponzi scheme. Even worse, many of his alleged victims were well-known Jews or Jewish philanthropic organizations.

The fallout from the Madoff scandal extends well beyond Jews, however. It's also an unmitigated disaster for Wall Street, which already stood accused of using complex new financial instruments to create the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression. With the Madoff story, it is now revealed that the masters of the universe aren't just too clever by half — they're not clever at all. For years, they not only allowed themselves to be bamboozled by a con artist but also willingly and enthusiastically served as his market agent, offering friends, relatives and favorite charities the opportunity to invest with their good pal, Bernie Madoff.

Lafaire Madoff has also revealed a dirty little secret about a corner of the hedge-fund world known as funds of funds. These are hedge funds that raise money from pension funds, university endowments and wealthy individuals and, for a fee of 1.5 percent a year, invest it in other hedge funds, which charge even higher fees. In return for paying double fees, these middlemen claim to offer investors access to the best hedge funds, which can be choosy about whose money they accept. They also offer the peace of mind that goes with knowing that funds have been thoroughly checked out.

"Now it turns out that some of these funds of funds had parked billions of dollars of their clients' money with Madoff without asking how he could so consistently produce returns in up market or down, or demanding to know

why his books were audited by a three-person firm that nobody ever heard of operating out of a broom closet on Long Island. Britain's Man Group, Spain's Banco Santander and Switzerland's Union Bancaire Privée all had funds of funds that lost big money with Madoff. But none put more faith in Bernie than Asot Partners, a fund of funds run by J. Ezra Merkin, who invested virtually all of the \$1.8 billion that had been trusted to him with Madoff, a close friend and fellow trustee of Yeshiva University.

It will be a while before the full story behind Madoff's scheme finally comes out. But it is already possible to see that this is just the most recent case of a financial disaster that could have been avoided if the professional gatekeepers had done their job.

That was certainly the story behind the failures of Enron, WorldCom and the other blowouts from the stock market bubbles, when auditors allowed their desire to please finally to override consulting contracts to warp their judgment and override their jobs' concerns about these companies were keeping their books.

In Madoff's case, there were no independent and uncompromised auditors would have quickly discovered that the firm's investment arm was paying out returns it didn't earn.

It doesn't take a PhD in finance to see the pattern here: Accounting firms and rating agencies are too easily compromised by the fact that they are chosen and paid by the management of the companies whose books they are auditing and securities they are rating.

The solution is equally obvious: turn these firms into something akin to a regulated public utility. For any business that provides consulting services, or for any newly issued security, auditors and raters should be assigned by exchanges or regulators at random and on a rotating basis. The firms would be paid from the proceeds of a small tax on transactions and new issues, based on rates competitively bid at the beginning of each year.

Those firms that make serious mistakes would be subject to significant fines; those that screw up more than that would lose their licenses.

As you might expect, the accounting firms and ratings agencies hate this idea and conjure up all sorts of reasons — a few of them credible, most of them bogus — why the system should remain pretty much as it is. What they don't offer is any remedy more credible than "It wasn't our fault, but we won't let it happen again." After a decade of these scandals, something needs to be done to restore the public's faith in financial markets. The quickest way to do that is to assure the competence and independence of the system's gatekeepers. That would be good for Wall Street, good for investors and good for companies in desperate need of capital. My guess is that it would also be good for the Jews.

Steven Pearlstein is a columnist for the Washington Post.

# Boom in music video games helps artists

By Ryan Nakashima  
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — "This song is dedicated to Debbie Harry," lily-eyed Lisa Hsuan purrs into a microphone on the red-hot stage of Hyperion Tavern. It's a cozy dive where patrons drink Coke and beer from bottles and a fading chandelier dangles overhead.

Her tribute is intentionally ludicrous: The 30-year-old veterinarian is about to belt out "Call Me," which Harry-fronting the group Blondie — released 28 years ago. Accompanied on fake guitars and drums by three Web programmers who drove in from the rolling, dotted coastal suburb of El Segundo, Hsuan launches in as a smoke machine puffs nearby.

They're playing the video game "Rock Band 2," which along with "Guitar Hero" is rocking the game makers across the country. Many song's sales have more than doubled after release in one of the games, and well-known bands have started lining up to provide new music direct to the game makers. Now record labels — noticing what they are missing, and struggling as compact disc sales tumble — are looking for a bigger piece of the action.

Although labels get some relief from the plucky console game makers, they are often bypassed on image and likeness licensing deals, which the bands control and which account for a rising proportion of musicians' income. Meanwhile, the Recording Industry Association of America pegged its U.S. members' sales at \$10.4 billion in 2007, down 11.8 percent from the year before, with a further drop expected for 2008. By comparison, sales of music video games more than doubled this year, hitting \$1.9 billion in the past 12 months, according to NPD Group. And they're expected to keep growing.

Aerosmith made more money off the tune release of "Guitar Hero: Aerosmith" than either of its last two albums, according to Kai Huang, co-founder of RedOctane, which first developed "Guitar Hero."

The kind of exposure that artists can get through the Guitar Hero platform is huge," said Huang, who remains RedOctane's president after it and the "Guitar Hero" franchise were taken over by Activision Blizzard Inc. in 2006. "Rock Band," meanwhile, is made by Viacom Inc.'s MTV Games and distributed by Electronic Arts Inc. Through Warner Music Group, Chief Executive Edgar Bronfman Jr. bemoaned the "very paltry" licensing fees record labels get from game makers in August, the labels haven't stopped sending their music to game makers.

That's partly because they lack leverage. Even the largest label, Universal Music Group,

Here's a sampling of how some songs have fared after appearing in versions of "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band": those that were released last year.

Download figures compare the week ending Dec. 30, 2007, with the final week of December 2006.

- Guns N' Roses, "Welcome to the Jungle" (1987), Geffen, released on "Guitar Hero III" Oct. 27, 2007: 38,000 downloads, up 153 percent.
- Pat Benatar, "Hit Me With Your Best Shot" (1980), Chrysalis, released on "Guitar Hero III" Oct. 27, 2007: 9,800 downloads, up 190 percent.
- Aerosmith, "Dream On" (1973), Columbia, released on "Guitar Hero III" Oct. 27, 2007: 10,000 downloads, up 35 percent.
- Red Hot Chili Peppers, "Suck My Kiss" (1992), Warner Bros., released on "Guitar Hero III" Oct. 27, 2007: 3,900 downloads, up 258 percent.
- Smashing Pumpkins, "Cherub Rock" (1993), Virgin, released on "Rock Band" on Nov. 20, 2007: 6,800 downloads, up 843 percent.
- Source: Nielsen SoundScan

It's all in the game

Here's a sampling of how some songs have fared after appearing in versions of "Guitar Hero" and "Rock Band": those that were released last year.

- Nirvana, "In Bloom" (1992), DGC, released on "Rock Band," Nov. 20, 2007: 9,000 downloads, up 843 percent.
- Kiss, "Detroit Rock City" (1976), Casablanca, released on "Rock Band," Nov. 20, 2007: 3,400 downloads, up 89 percent.
- David Bowie, "Surfergirl City" (1972), RCA, released on "Rock Band," Nov. 20, 2007: 1,700 downloads, up 55 percent.
- R.E.M., "Orange Crush" (1988), Warner Bros., released on "Rock Band," Nov. 20, 2007: 3,200 downloads, up 258 percent.
- Smashing Pumpkins, "Cherub Rock" (1993), Virgin, released on "Rock Band" on Nov. 20, 2007: 6,800 downloads, up 843 percent.
- Source: Nielsen SoundScan

— The Associated Press

## "The kind of exposure that artists can get through the Guitar Hero platform is huge."

— Kai Huang, co-founder of RedOctane, which first developed "Guitar Hero"

controls just a third of the U.S. market, said Wedburn Morgan entertainment analyst Michael Pachter. "There are literally probably 2 million songs out there, and fewer than a 1,000 were used in these two games combined in these last two years," Pachter said. "If Warner wants to say we'll take our 20 percent of the market and go away, a lot of bands are going to leave the label if they think they can get better exposure by being on these games."

Artists from Nirvana to Red Hot Chili Peppers have seen sales of their music more than double after being released on the games. Some bands are featured on special editions like Aerosmith on "Guitar Hero" this year and the Beatles with MTV Games — and last month, The Killers released two new songs on "Guitar Hero" the same time their latest album came out.

"It's a way to save the music industry," said Grant Lau, a 40-year-old bar worker who started the play-along night at the Hyperion three years ago for a friend who owns the bar.

Lau points out the games protect artists and recording companies from piracy because buyers have to own the console equipment to enjoy new music, which they must purchase through sanctioned game sites or on special game-formatted discs.

"You actually have to buy the music," he said. "You can't just rip it and put it on (file-sharing site) LimeWire." The addictive play-along games are a cross between karaoke and open-mike night. Players hear an approximation of a song and try to match colorful visual cues by pressing buttons on a guitar-like plastic game controller, pounding touch-sensitive rubber drums and singing into a specialized mike. Successful performances sound quite like the originals.

"As soon as you play it, you

great game for the users. We'll figure this stuff out."

This holiday season is expected to bring even stronger game sales and, by extension, a still greater boost for the featured musicians.

Through November, some 22 million units of "Guitar Hero" had sold in the U.S. since its launch in October 2005, along with 5 million units of "Rock Band" since its debut in late 2007, according to NPD Group. The release of "Guitar Hero: World Tour" in October could boost revenue for the franchise some 40 percent over last year, according to analysts. At \$189, the latest "Guitar Hero" costs nearly twice as much as last year's version because it comes with a drum set and a microphone. The newest "Rock Band" — "Rock Band 2" — costs the same with all the peripherals.

"They're selling out," said Cowen & Co. analyst Doug Creutz, who noticed resellers on Amazon.com charging a premium of up to \$85 over the regular price for the full kit. "In the U.S., supply is a lot tighter than they were anticipating."

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### Robert E. Dickerson Sr.

Robert E. Dickerson Sr., 87, of Twin Falls, died early Wednesday morning, Dec. 17, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls.

Robert was born July 1, 1921, in Tuttle, Idaho, the son of Frank and Augusta Gilmore Dickerson. He grew up and attended schools in Tuttle and graduated from Hagerman High School in 1939. Following high school, Robert entered into the U.S. Navy in 1942, where he served his country proudly in World War II upon the USS Hancock. He was honorably discharged in 1945. It was while he was serving in the Navy in Washington D.C. that he met the love of his life, Mary Jean Huse, they were married Dec. 4, 1945, in Washington D.C. They moved to Hagerman, where they had five children, Dorothy, Jude, Robert Jr., Georgia and Gary. He and she moved to Billings, Mont., where they lived until 1962, when they moved to Pocatello. They lived in Pocatello for 30 years, where Robert owned and operated Idaho Construction. In 1992, they moved to Twin Falls to be near their children.



Robert enjoyed camping, golfing and motorcycle riding. He loved his family and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Robert is survived by three children, Jude Jones of Twin Falls, Robert Dickerson Jr. of Twin Falls and Gary Dickerson of Jerome; and two sisters, Louise Calkins of Gooding and Georgianna Condit of Kansas City, Mo. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife in 2006; two children, Dorothy Uhlund and Georgia Anthony; one sister, Iris Dickerson; and his half brother and sister, Lawrence Dickerson and Laura Gutt. A celebration of Robert's life will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Roger Laughlin officiating. The family understands that inclement weather and driving conditions may make it difficult to attend the service. We know your thoughts and prayers are with us. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to the American Diabetes Association. Contributions may be given to funeral chapel staff or made to Reynolds Funeral Chapel, P.O. Box 1142, Twin Falls, ID 83303.

### William Stanley Moore

William Stanley Moore, 90, returned to his heavenly home and beloved wife, Charlotte, on Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008.

Stan was born in Oyster Bay, N.Y. The family soon relocated to Hollywood, Calif. He graduated from Hollywood High School in 1935 and entered the family construction business, specializing in structural pest control. Stan became the youngest licensed contractor in Los Angeles County, when he was just 20 years old. During World War II, he served in the Navy as a gunner in the Pacific Theater. After the war, Stan returned to the family business and worked with his father, He met Charlotte at a dance at the Cinderella Ballroom on the Pike at Long Beach. She fell in love with his easy going, optimistic nature and his ability to see the humor in most any situation. Stan joined the LDS Church and his family was sealed in the Los Angeles LDS Temple. He served in several bishoprics and as the bishop of the Elysian Park Ward. People enjoyed his ability to listen to their difficulties and not answer judgmentally. At the age of 64, Stan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. For the next 20 years, his beloved Charlotte cared for him until she could no longer care for herself. He never forgot her name, or the names of his son, daughter-in-law or grandchildren. He remained happy and was always grateful for everything and everyone, calling those around him "Angel." We will miss his easy smile, but know that he is in a better place. We, his family, are grateful for his life and example. He is survived by his son, Ray (Julie) Moore of Filer; his grandchildren, Josie, Stan, Larry and Kevin; and his sister, Dorothy Cunningham of Elmhurst, Ill. A celebration of Stan's life will be held at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls. Burial will follow at the Filer Cemetery.

### DEATH NOTICES

#### Robert L. Bishop

Robert L. Bishop, 70, of Twin Falls, died Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. At his request, no service is planned. Cremation is under the direction of White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

#### Marian I. Sillers

Marian I. Sillers, 87, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, at River Ridge Care and Rehabilitation Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Reynolds Funeral Chapel in Twin Falls.

#### Lavina Mort

Lavina "Billie" Mort, 88, of Twin Falls, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, at River Ridge Care and Rehabilitation Center in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by White Mortuary in Twin Falls.

#### Michael L. Moon

Michael L. Moon, 54, of Twin Falls, died Friday, Dec. 19, 2008, at a local hospital. Arrangements will be announced by Parke's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

#### Floyd S. Thornton

GOODING — Floyd S. Thornton, 92, of Gooding, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, at Desano Place Suites II. Gooding. Arrangements will be announced by Demaray Funeral Service, Gooding, Idaho.

#### Audrey Snell

JEROME — Audrey Snell, 93, of Jerome, died Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008, at Heritage Homes in Twin Falls. Arrangements will be announced by Howe-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome.

### SERVICES

Jesse Vernon Yarrington of Idaho Falls and formerly of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at Wood Funeral Home East Side, 963 S. Ammon Road in Idaho Falls; visitation from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Monday at the mortuary; burial in the Marion Cemetery in Oakley.

Ralph Lorin Price, 69, of Tucson, Ariz., and formerly of Jerome and Ganon, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at Central LDS Church, 105 N. Norton Ave. in Tucson; visitation two hours before the funeral at the church (Bring Funeral Home of Tucson).

For obituary rates and information, call 735-3266 Monday through Saturday. Deadline is 3 p.m. for next-day publication. The e-mail address for obituaries is [obit@magvalley.com](mailto:obit@magvalley.com). Death notices are a free service and can be placed until 4 p.m. every day. To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an online guest-book, go to [www.mgvalley.com](http://www.mgvalley.com) and click on "Obituaries."

### Marjorie Eleanor Renfrow

MESQUITE, Nev. — Marjorie Eleanor Renfrow, age 88, died Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, in Mesquite, Nev.

She was born June 16, 1923, in Downey, to Clinton John and Winifred Evans Mock. Marjorie grew up in Downey until her senior year for the year when the family moved to Wendell, where she graduated from high school. She graduated from the University of Idaho in 1945 and taught high school English in Burley for two years. On Sept. 4, 1947, she married Jerry Franklin Renfrow in Wendell. They lived in Moscow until 1949, when Jerry graduated from the University of Idaho. They moved back to Wendell until 1953, when Jerry began working for the Green Giant Company in Dayton, Wash.



Survivors include one daughter, Pamela (Tom) McGill of Mesquite, Nev.; two sons, Douglas (Dawn) Renfrow of Nampa and Phillip (Green) Renfrow of Shoreline, Wash.; one brother, Robert Mock of Seeley Lake, Mont.; one sister, Dorothy Hoskins of Idaho Falls; six grandchildren, April, Autumn, Emily, Adam, Reed and Kyle; and two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Felix. She was preceded in death by one sister, Marion Salvesen; one brother, Charles Mock; and her husband of 60 years, Jerry, who passed away July 30, 2008.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 5, 2009, at the Mesquite United Methodist Church. Memorials may be made to Mesquite United Methodist Church or a charity of your choice. The family invites you to leave a message in a memorial guestbook at [www.virginiamortuary.com](http://www.virginiamortuary.com).

### Lola M. Burgoyne

Lola M. Burgoyne, 81, of Twin Falls, died Thursday morning, Dec. 18, 2008, at the Twin Falls Care Center.

Lola was born May 15, 1927, in Filer, the daughter of Henry and Ethel Huggles. She grew up and attended schools in Filer, where she graduated from Filer High School. On Nov. 6, 1946, she married Bob Burgoyne in Elko, Nev. They settled in Twin Falls, where they raised their four children, Roberta, Linda, Connie and Dennis. Lola attended the Filer First Baptist Church until ill health prevented her to attend.



Lola enjoyed bowling, square dancing and cooking. Her love was being a great mom, grandma and great-grandmother. Lola is survived by her four children, Roberta (Dave) Quigley of Phoenix, Ariz.,

Linda (Nell) Newman of Boise, Connie (Dak) Basham of Norman, Okla., and Dennis (Gina) Burgoyne of Joy Huddleston of Filer, George Huddleston of Filer and Bud Huddleston of Wendell; and one sister, Thelma Swartz of Twin Falls. Also surviving are eight grandchildren, Melissa, Ryan, Rob. T.J., Megan, Michelle, Nikki and Cody; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bob, in 1992; one brother, Gordon Huddleston; and two sisters, Doris Huddleston and Pat Rippe.

A celebration of Lola's life will be held at 3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at Reynolds Funeral Chapel, 2466 Addison Ave. E. in Twin Falls, with Pastor Gary Gilman of the Filer First Baptist Church officiating. Burial will follow at Sunset Memorial Park. Friends may call from 2:30 p.m. until the time of the service Monday at Reynolds Funeral Chapel.

### Fern Anita Kieffer

MOUNTAIN HOME — Fern Anita Kieffer went peacefully to heaven on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008. She was 84 years old.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at the First Congregational Church, located at 515 E. 15th N. in Mountain Home, and a reception will follow. Cremation was under the direction of Rest of Days, 1600 N. McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home.



Fern was born Fern Anita Robbins on Oct. 17, 1924, to Henry and Lela Robbins in Kuna, Idaho. Fern married John D. Kieffer on April 16, 1944. After a few years into their marriage and three children later, they moved to Portland, Ore., so John could attend Chiropractic College. Upon completion of John's education, they returned to Idaho, specifically Gooding, to set up their chiropractic clinic and, in 1958, relocated to Mountain Home, where they worked and built their business. Upon retirement, they settled in their dream home in Hagerman, where they spent many special years together.

She was an inspiration to many. She served in countless capacities. As a young girl, she was her father's right-hand man. He affectionately referred to her as "Henrietta." She worked with him on the farm and in the feed store. She often talked of her childhood growing up in Kuna, Mora, Long Valley and Payer. She took her "little girl" through and through. As a young woman, she worked as a waitress, store clerk and bookkeeper, giving a relentless focus on

detail. After marrying Dad, she gave birth to seven children. As she cared for her family she continued to be very active in the day-to-day operations of the family business, her last involvement in the business was just two weeks ago. She lived a very proud and natural lifestyle. Her interests were varied and many, but most had to do with giving and sustaining quality life. This was apparent in the beautiful vegetable and flower gardens that she grew and cared for. One of her favorite places to be was in her greenhouse. She loved the beauty of the outdoors, it made no difference whether it be the mountains or the desert. She loved to get in the car and drive. She was always up for a trip or an adventure. She rarely missed doing the daily crossword puzzle in the newspaper. She was an avid reader and was virtually unbeatable as a Scrabble player. That was her game and she was very good at it. She was a skilled seamstress and over the years created many clothes and other projects for her family and friends.

As a mother, her sacrifices for her family were limitless. She was the most caring and compassionate mother that a child could have. She taught us much by example that she made. With seven children and working outside the home, she always managed to cook good healthy meals three times a day. She never missed a

parent/teacher conference and was always available to help with homework or school projects. Her answers and questions were matter of fact and always offered understanding and clarity. Birthdays were always made special whether at home or away. She taught all of her children to be honest, live with integrity and a good work ethic. She also knew how to have fun and enjoy life. She always made Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July and other holidays a special time filled with tradition.

Her love of family and her quiet words of wisdom were truly a blessing. The last greatest gift she gave her children while living was showing us how to die with the utmost dignity and peace. Her memory and legacy will live on through her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Fern is survived by five children, Janet (Bill) Renfrow of Fairbanks, Alaska, John E. (Donna) Kieffer of Mountain Home, Judy (John) Unruh of Manhattan, Kan., Jerry (Jeanne) Kieffer of Toledo, Ore., and Jeffrey Kieffer of Boise; a sister, Iris Peterson of Emmett; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several cousins, nieces and nephews. Jerry has joined her husband of 62 years; two daughters, Joan and Jean; a granddaughter, Shelly; two sisters; her parents; and many friends in heaven. As a family, we would like to thank the many care providers, pastors and friends for their kind compassionate care, concerns and prayers. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a favorite charity.

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HOSPICE VISIONS, INC. - 209 SHOUP AVE. W • 732-5346

### Retura Kimpton

Retura Kimpton, 98, passed away Thursday, Dec. 18, 2008, at her daughter's home in Twin Falls, surrounded by family members and friends.

She was born Dec. 10, 1910, in Lava Hot Springs, Idaho, to George and Ella Robins. She graduated from Idaho Falls High School, then attended Gooding College and earned her teaching degree. She taught grade school in Ashton, Idaho, for two years. In 1934, she married the love of her life, Lloyd Kimpton, and they enjoyed 63 happy years together. They settled on a farm south of Twin Falls, where Lloyd farmed and they raised their family.

Retura loved living in Idaho and enjoyed fishing, swimming, family gatherings, sewing, picnics, literature and poetry, and her rose and vegetable gardens. She loved playing bridge and Scrabble and doing things with and for her family. She loved to travel and enjoyed many trips with family members and friends. Her last trip was a drive to Seattle, when she was 97 years old, where she enjoyed good food and the Seattle waterfront. She had a sweet tooth and enjoyed candies and confections.

Retura was an active member of the Methodist Church

### Autumn L. Decker

BUHL — Autumn L. Decker, 73 of Buhl, passed away Monday, Dec. 15, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls.

She was born Oct. 28, 1935, in Erie, Tenn., to the late Mattie (Chancy) Weaver. She later moved to Silt, Colo., where she was graduated from Rille, Colo.

She married Steve Decker on July 1, 1975, and was happily married for 33 years.

Autumn loved her house and gardens, camping, fishing and reading. She did odd jobs to help when needed. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; she was re-baptized

### David Norman Martin

CHATHAM, N.Y. — David Norman Martin, age 69, died too soon on Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, in Chatham, N.Y., while working on the farm that he loved.

He is survived by his four children, Kenneth Martin (Beth) of Chicago, Ill., Lucinda Johnson (David) of Tacoma, Wash., Timothy Martin (Natalie) of Villard, Utah, and Andrew Martin of Chatham, N.Y.; and three grandchildren, Brandon D'Andrea, Madison and Sierra Johnson. He is also survived by one brother, Kenneth; and three sisters, Kathie Wendt, Carol Wendt and Marian Miller, as well as his partner, Rosemary Vantassel, and daughter, Rachel Doering.

Dave had the opportunity to travel extensively throughout the United States during

for many years and was involved in numerous church activities.

Retura loved life, had a fantastic sense of humor and loved to laugh and tell interesting and fun stories. In summary, her outlook on life was "Life is Good Whoopee LaLa, Whoopee LaLa."

Retura is survived by sons, George (Clara) Kimpton of Twin Falls, Dave Kimpton of Stanley, Dan (Loretta) Kimpton of Twin Falls and Steve (Janet) Kimpton of Preston; and daughter, Rose Kimpton of Twin Falls; and by special family friend, Dianne VanDiac. She is also survived by four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, who called her "Grandma Great." She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and her husband, Lloyd.

The funeral will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at White Mortuary "Chapel by the Park," with Pastor Phil Althoff officiating. Burial will follow at Twin Falls Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 21, at the White Mortuary and one hour prior to the service.

Her family would especially like to thank caregiver Nysya and nurse Ann from Hospice Visions for the wonderful, outstanding care and compassion extended to our mother. The family suggests memorials to the First United Methodist Church Restoration Fund.

in the Idaho Falls church. She will be greatly missed. She is survived by her husband, Steve of Buhl; daughters, Cheryl of Los Angeles, Calif., and Emily of Phoenix, Ariz.; sons, Craig of Denver, Colo., and Steve Jr. of Boise; three grandchildren; one great-grandchild and brother, Cecil Weaver of Ely, Nev. She was preceded in death by her mother and sister, Virginia Bonliverger.

Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., with the funeral starting at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 22, at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Buhl.

Arrangements are under the direction of Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.magicvalleyfuneralhome.com.

his lifetime, and he touched the lives of many people from coast to coast. He was a kind, compassionate father, brother and friend, and his cheerful, playful attitude will be missed. He was a devoted father who never stopped thinking about his children. His great love of the outdoors brought him some of his most peaceful moments.

His ashes will return to the places he loved during his lifetime: a favorite fishing spot and the Sawtooth and Rocky Mountains. The family requests donations be made in his name to the American Lung Association. Arrangements are under the direction of the French, Gifford, Preiter & Blas Funeral Home in Chatham. To send an online condolence, visit [www.french-blas.com](http://www.french-blas.com).

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# Hard times hit Christmas pageants

By Eric Gorski  
Associated Press writer

ARVADA, Colo. — To get to heaven, Steve Erickson must climb a narrow ladder, clamber onto a catwalk and duck under a black curtain. The clouds in heaven are rolled cotton, and the stars are white Christmas lights poking out of the wall, which are supposed to look like the night sky over Bethlehem.

Erickson, 57, is comic relief in the annual Christmas pageant at Arvada Covenant Church, a medium-sized evangelical church in a middle-class Denver suburb. His role is Harold, Angel Second Class Cloud Stomper. He tucks fake snow from the pockets of a rented white suit when an alarm goes off.

Each year, churches large and small stage Christmas dramas, plays and musicals like *Jesus* and *The Nutcracker*, but many people in common purpose, have a little fun or get non-churchgoers in the door, ideally for good.

This year, fallout from the nation's battered economy has brought added drama.

Some amateur Marys, Josephs and Bob Cratchits are enduring their own hard times. For them, the stage provides escape from some of their skin, a support network that might have disappeared along with a job, and a chance to deepen their spirituality at a trying time of year. For many families in the audience, the performances are free entertainment when tickets to "The Nutcracker" are a luxury.

All those things are true at Arvada Covenant Church, which staged the musical "Bethlehem's Big Night" last weekend after months of planning and practice.

One janitor's wife has a 9-month-old baby and can't find work, but she chipped in making costumes and props. The understudy to Mary's mother was laid off and her husband moved out of state to find work, but she was still backstage memorizing lines at the last rehearsal.

And Harold the Cloud Stomper lost his job almost a year ago.



'Bethlehem's Big Night' cast members, from left, Dan Fisher, Ken Fisher and Bob Stuart bow their heads in prayer prior to acting in the Biblical-based Christmas musical performance Dec. 13 at the Arvada Covenant Church in Arvada, Colo.

They financial adviser said they were OK. Suddenly given free time, the couple traveled to Burma and Thailand to help with cyclone relief.

Then the news about Wall Street hit. Their 401(k) started to disappear. And it became clear that retirement might have to wait.

Erickson is back earning money consulting part-time with his old company, and he said taking part in the Christmas play has helped in other ways.

"You have to focus on what you're doing and take your mind off the other things," he said.

Yet he also knows that hard times are all relative, that he and his wife are better off than many.

One rehearsal was interrupted when a stranger walked in.

"I'm really sorry to bother you," the man said. "I was just laid off, my wife has been

laid off, my daughter lost her job, and we have a family of seven. I've got a 2-year-old, and she's 18 months."

He needed diapers, toilet paper, milk, infant formula. He needed everything.

Practice came to a halt. The food bank was opened. A choir member dug a few dollars out of his wallet.

"You need to buy diapers and milk for your kids," he said.

... ..

"Near the end of 'Bethlehem's Big Night' at Arvada, Angel Second Class Cloud Stomper is back in heaven, sitting on a bench, eating cotton candy and cracking more jokes.

Sometimes, Erickson worries that the message gets lost on the power and laughs. But, he said, sometimes you need gags and laughs to get people's attention.

Down on stage, a crowd gathers in the manger around Mary, Joseph and an infant. The baby Jesus — in real life, the eight-week-old son of a church couple — cries softly.

"Is that?" says Harold. "But ... How'd he get in there? He's so tiny."

Afterward, Erickson reflects on the power of that moment for him, which he hopes the audience felt.

"You hear a lot about the baby Jesus, the baby Jesus," he said. "But a lot of times, there's a disconnect between God and who that baby is. It's not just a symbol. It's God. It's a mind-blowing concept."

His lines finished, the pageant coming to an end, Harold the Cloud Stomper takes his place in heaven and joins the rest of the cast in song: "O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant..."

graduating from college and taking a job with Youth for Christ.

"Working in a production like this year in and year out, you really do create a community," Erickson said. "Especially in our society, it's so easy to be lost in anonymity."

"This offers the community a chance to see a little bit of the church," he said. "It's not just holy things doing spiritual things. It's real people living real lives who have issues, but also have each other."

On Jan. 1, Erickson lost his job as a real estate developer company. But he and his wife, Dawn, who was laid off from a parks and recreation district, didn't panic.

They were good savers. Their financial adviser said they were OK. Suddenly given free time, the couple traveled to Burma and Thailand to help with cyclone relief.

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it's almost curtain, and the church auditorium is filling. Most of the cast and choir have invited neighbors and co-workers. Residents of Covenant Village Retirement Home arrive in a bus.

Mary Cunningham, the church's worship arts director, huddles backstage with her cast. She prays that God help them be real and authentic, use the talents he provided

Act 1, Scene 2. The setting: heaven. The lights come up on Harold, Angel Second Class Cloud Stomper.

He is flat on his stomach tossing hall on the people of earth this angel has little regard for.

Another angel, Alvin, appears with a newspaper. There is big news in heaven: God is going down there, the planet of the people, and few special effects are planned. These angels aren't even invited.

Some cloud-stomping ensues, snow falls, the lights go dark, and Erickson disappears down the ladder.

He has 90 minutes until his next scene. Downstairs in the makeup room, Erickson sits back in a folding chair and describes his character as "goodhearted, but a little bit slow."

His kids' friends know him as "that crazy guy in the plays." But Erickson said he's shy. He grew more comfortable in the spotlight after

graduating from college and taking a job with Youth for Christ.

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**Jaime Thietten**  
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a community concert honoring our hospice families past and present

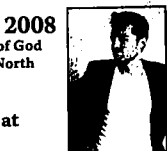
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The First Assembly of God  
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Concert from 6:30 - 8:30 pm

With special guest **Caleb Collins** whose music stirs the hearts of his audiences worldwide.

Please join us in a celebration of life, love and the holidays. A donation of a non-parishable food item would be accepted as admission at the door to help support the local senior centers of the Magic Valley.



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- Shelby Seibert, AAMS**  
402 S. Main St. #101,  
Twin Falls  
788-7112
- John Sturgeon, AAMS**  
1324 Eastland Drive,  
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734-0106
- James Sturgeon, AAMS**  
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**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

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

**Edward Jones**

### Bolshoi ballerina Olga Lepeshinskaya dies at 92

MOSCOW (AP) — Olga Lepeshinskaya, the Bolshoi Ballet's prima ballerina for three decades during the Soviet times, has died at 92.

Nataliya Uvarova, a spokeswoman for Russia's Culture Ministry, said Lepeshinskaya died Saturday of an unspecified illness. The ITAR-Tass news agency reported that she died in her sleep in her Moscow apartment.

Lepeshinskaya was born to a noble family in besting in 1916. When she first tried to enter the Bolshoi choreographic school, she was rejected.

The school admitted her shortly afterward, in 1925, and Lepeshinskaya graduated in 1933. Immediately joining the Bolshoi Ballet, she was rumored to be the

favorite ballerina of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin, and received the coveted Stalin Prize on four occasions.

Lepeshinskaya recalled in an interview in the daily newspaper *Pravda* in 2006 that Stalin once affectionately called her "dragonfly."

As Bolshoi's prima, Lepeshinskaya danced Kiri in "Don Quixote," "Ho Ho in The Red Poppy," Jeanne in "The Flame of Paris," Aurora in "Sleeping Beauty" and Masha in "The Nutcracker" among other parts.

She said that Kiri, first performed in 1940, was her first big success and she was so eager to dance that she asked her friends to hold her off-stage so she wouldn't enter ahead of time.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Today: Snow showers spreading our way from the west. Highs near 30.
Tonight: Snowing at times. Lows upper 20s.
Tomorrow: Snow flurries throughout the day. An occasional rain/snow mix possible. Highs near 30.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Occasional light snow showers possible. Highs middle to upper 20s.
Tonight: Snow likely. Lows upper teens to near 20.
Tomorrow: Snowing at times. A bit of icy rain possible. Highs upper 20s to near 30.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS.
Travel conditions will deteriorate as snow showers start hitting the region today and continue at times through Monday. Be prepared for icy and snowy roads.

Map of Idaho with weather forecasts for Boise, Northern Utah, and various regional areas. Includes temperature and precipitation data for different parts of the state.

REG MIDDLEKAUFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
I don't know if it comes out to be better than the other side of the coin before your eyes.

Table with 7 columns: Today, Tonight, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Yesterday's Weather. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Includes historical and forecast data for Twin Falls.

Table with 2 columns: Humidity and Barometric Pressure. Includes current and forecast data.

Table with 2 columns: Moonrise and Moonset. Includes times for the current and next moon phases.

Table with 2 columns: Sunrise and Sunset. Includes times for the current and next sunrise and sunset.

Table with 2 columns: U. V. INDEX. Includes current and forecast UV index levels.

Table with 2 columns: REGIONAL FORECAST. Includes weather forecasts for various Idaho cities.

Table with 2 columns: NATIONAL FORECAST. Includes weather forecasts for various national cities.

Table with 2 columns: WORLD FORECAST. Includes weather forecasts for various international cities.

Table with 2 columns: CANADIAN FORECAST. Includes weather forecasts for various Canadian cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP. A map of the United States with weather symbols indicating conditions across different regions.

Post Office puts buffer between kids and 'Santas'

NEW YORK (AP) — A sex offender is responsible for taking away some of the joy of the Postal Service's Operation Santa program: Volunteers who answer children's letters to Santa can no longer deliver gifts in person — or even know where they're going.

The program resumed Saturday morning in New York and Chicago, three days after it was abruptly suspended after a postal worker in Maryland recognized one volunteer as a registered offender. A postal inspector intervened before the individual could answer a child's letter, but officials declined changes had to be made.

It was a shocking moment for the effort, which started in New York's main post office in the 1920s. Back then, postal clerks answered Santa's mail, buying food and toys for children. Over the years, the number of letters increased, and the program was opened to the public in post offices around the country.

For some gift-givers, one of the personal pleasures was to show up and surprise needy kids at home — after rifling through piles of letters and envelopes looking for a story that tugged at their heart-strings.

Now, those opportunities for face-to-face contact are gone. Volunteers will no longer have access to the children's last names or addresses.

At New York City's main post office on Saturday, each letter had been removed from its envelope and photocopied, with the child's family name blocked out. If it happened to appear in the text, the addresses were replaced with codes that match computerized addresses known only to the post office.

What remained, though, was no less heart-wrenching. In neat handwriting, a 10-year-old Bronx girl named Jennifer said her father couldn't work because his kidneys were failing and he was undergoing dialysis. For her and her two sisters, she told Santa, "anything you send me will make me happy." After showing a photo ID, each volunteer was handed five letters at a time to choose from at tables where people also wrapped and boxed gifts for mailing.

Advertisement for Zions Bank. Features a large image of a smiling woman and the text: 'It's time for us to do WHAT WE DO BEST, so that you can too.' Includes the slogan 'We lend. You succeed.'

Zions Bank logo and slogan: 'WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN WHO KEEPS US IN BUSINESS.' Includes contact information and a note about loan restrictions.

INSIDE: Nation, C2-4 | World, C5-8

## AROUND THE WORLD

### WASHINGTON

#### Obama names four top science advisers

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama's selection Saturday of a Harvard physicist and a marine biologist for science posts is a sign he plans a more aggressive response to global warming than did the Bush administration.

John Holdren and Jane Lubchenco are leading experts on climate change who have advocated forceful government action. Holdren will become Obama's science adviser as director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Lubchenco will lead the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which oversees ocean and atmospheric studies and does much of the government's research on global warming.

Holdren also will direct the president's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology. Joining him as co-chairs will be Nobel Prize-winning scientist Harold Varmus, a former director of the National Institutes of Health, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Eric Lander, a specialist in human genome research.

### CANADA

#### Canada offers auto bailout worth \$3.29B

TORONTO — The federal and Ontario governments will provide the Canadian subsidiaries of the Detroit Three automakers with \$3.29 billion in emergency loans, the prime minister said Saturday.

The announcement follows a pledge Friday by U.S. President George W. Bush to offer \$17.4 billion in emergency loans to General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Canada's bailout plan, the equivalent of 20 percent of the U.S. aid package, will help keep the plants afloat while the automakers restructure their businesses to retain one of the country's most important economic sectors.

"We cannot afford, in the United States or Canada, the catastrophic short-term collapse of the Big Three automakers," Harper told a news conference in Toronto.

### TEXAS

#### Travelers strut their stuff at Texas airport

HOUSTON — Ho-ho-ho, head that flight, here's a holiday surprise for travelers — and aspiring performers — passing through Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport this month.

There it is, just past the security checkpoint, set at a small stage: a karaoke machine adorned with Christmas lights and stockings shaped like cowboy boots. There's even a team of Christmas elves — airport employees the rest of the year.

"A little holiday karaoke while you wait? It's fun and it's free," coed Ashley Thompson. "You could be a star."

This is the first year the airport has included holiday-themed karaoke among its array of seasonal musical entertainment, which includes school choirs and local bands. The karaoke booth is being set up five times around the airport this month.

— The Associated Press

# Obama boosts employment goal to 3 million

By Nadia Plicker  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama has increased his employment goal with the nation's economic outlook worsening, seeking to create or save 3 million jobs in the next two years instead of the 2.5 million he proposed last month.

Obama set the more ambitious target earlier this week after meeting with top economic advisers who cautioned that the nation's unemployment rate could exceed 9 percent given the current pace of job losses, Obama transition officials said Saturday.

During the presidential campaign, Obama pledged to create or save 1 million jobs. He increased that goal to 2.5 million over two years just last month.

Obama and his family traveled Saturday to his home state of Hawaii for a two-week vacation. But advisers were

using Obama's guidance as a roadmap for a draft stimulus package to have ready when he returns on Jan. 2, advisers said.

Obama met with Vice President-elect Joe Biden and his economic leadership team Tuesday in Chicago.

Transition officials said Christina Romer, an economics professor who Obama has chosen as chair of his Council of Economic Advisers, opened the meeting by arguing that historical data and wide-rang-

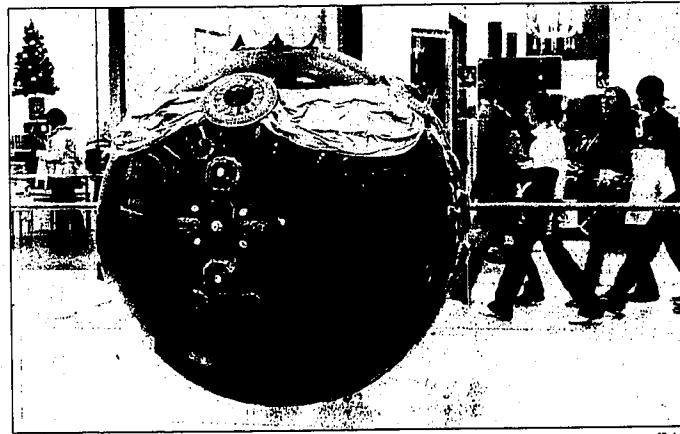
ing expert opinions suggest that economic problems could be more severe than anything the country has faced over the past half century. She said the country is likely to lose another 3 million to 4 million jobs over the next year without significant action.

Biden and Obama responded by pushing for a more ambitious jobs plan, driven by federal investments in health care, education and energy that could have a stimulative effect and lay the ground work

for long term reform and a more sustainable economy. Ideas included weatherizing 1 million homes, shifting to a paperless health system, investing in disease prevention and modernizing schools.

Obama's team and congressional staff over the last week have been scrambling to come up with details of a plan to pump up the droopy economy with \$650 billion or more in government spending over the next few years.

# No time to splurge



Holiday shoppers make their way through the Northshore Mall, Saturday in Peabody, Mass. With shrinking retirement accounts, record credit card debt, stagnant wages and rising unemployment, this is no time to spend money you don't have, experts say.

# Experts: Cutting back for holidays is prudent

By Ellen Ambrose  
The Baltimore Sun

Consumers have done more than their fair share to keep the economy afloat for years. It's time to let others lift up the economy.

Or as ethicist Bruce Weinstein says: It's OK to be a lightweight. "It's not only OK in some circumstances; it would be wrong if we weren't," Weinstein said. "Because you shouldn't spend what you don't have."

This is especially true during the holidays, a time when so many people go overboard and figure they'll deal with the consequences later.

You have an ethical obligation to express gratitude to loved ones or those who have helped you, and many people think of giving thanks this time of year, Weinstein said.

But you don't have to buy gifts for all of those people to the point that you're putting your family's finances in jeopardy, he said.

Yet many do just that.

A recent Consumer Reports survey, for example, found that about 12 million Americans are still digging out from under last year's holiday debt.

"What is OK is to recognize your circumstances. Look at what you can reasonably budget without getting yourself into debt. And then do the very best you can with that."

— Peter Post, director of the Emily Post Institute

"There is a lot of pressure to create the perfect holiday," said Latoya Peterson, communications specialist with the Center for a New American Dream in Takoma Park, Md.

She said the economic crisis might cause some consumers to spend as much as last year, not less.

"They feel they need this kind of feeling of normalcy," she said, and that often means emulating TV commercials with people opening expensive presents, she said.

But with shrinking retirement accounts, record credit card debt, stag-

nant wages and rising unemployment, this is no time to splurge with money you don't have.

Besides, friends and family would feel guilty if they knew you were going into debt just to buy them lavish gifts, Weinstein said.

And gifts, while nice, aren't as important as you might think. Can you name every present you received last year?

"People don't remember. It doesn't mean we're ungrateful," said Mary Hunt, founder of the Debt-Proof Living Web site and author of "Debt-Proof the Holidays." It's just that gifts usually don't create lasting memories the way spending time with loved ones does, she said.

Of course, there's a wrong and right way to be a lightweight.

The wrong way: "It's cheap, but not in the best sense. It's Ebenezer Scrooge before his epiphany," said Tod Marks, who writes Consumer Reports' Tightwad Tool blog.

Also canceling all holiday festivities because suddenly money is short. "Your family will feel the loss twice," Peterson said.

Please see SHOPPING, Page C2

# Airliner goes off Denver runway; 38 hurt

The Associated Press

DENVER — A Continental Airlines jet taking off from Denver veered off the runway into a ravine and caught fire Saturday night, forcing passengers to evacuate on emergency slides and injuring nearly 40 people, officials said.

No deaths were reported, but 38 people were taken to hospitals, said Kim Day, Denver International Airport manager of aviation. No one was reported in critical condition.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. The weather in Denver was cold but not snowy when Continental Flight 1404 took off from Denver International Airport for Houston around 6:20 p.m.

The plane veered off course about 2,000 feet from the end of the runway and did not appear to be airborne, Day said.

It was not known when the plane caught fire, but ground crews put out the flames quickly, said airport spokesman Jeff Green. The 112 people on board made it out on through slides on the Boeing 737.

The plane was carrying 107 passengers and five crew members, said Continental spokeswoman Mary Clark.

Denver Health spokeswoman Kalena Wilkinson said seven people were taken to her hospital with injuries that were not life-threatening. Seven people were at the University of Colorado hospital, but no one had life-threatening injuries, a spokeswoman said.

The accident closed the airport's west airfield and caused delays of 40 minutes, Day said.

# Winter weather blasts nation from end to end

By Amy Lorentzen  
Associated Press writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Successive waves of wintry weather gripped much of the country Saturday, frustrating holiday travelers from coast to coast and keeping the lights off for thousands of people who lost power after ice storms just days ago.

Iowa public safety officials urged motorists not to travel as heavy snow began to fall in the morning.

The state expected winds up to 35 miles per hour and wind chills of minus 25 just two days after being slammed with sleet, ice and snow.

Washington state braced for hurricane-force winds as a storm blew in from the Pacific. The temperature dipped to minus 18 Saturday in Spokane, which expected up to 6

inches of snow on top of the 25 that fell over the past three days, said Johnny Burg, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

In the Northeast, the aftermath of snow that fell Friday continued to snarl air traffic. And residents who still lacked power after an ice storm last week grew frustrated as officials warned that the storm now battering the Midwest would blow in Sunday, the official first day of winter.

But the wintry conditions weren't unwelcome everywhere. Megan Zarbano, manager of Kratz Hardware in Valley City, N.D., noted that the snow was helping to clear inventory from years of mild winters.



Please see WINTER, Page C2

Usually busy streets are empty after a major snowstorm blanketed Racine, Wis., Friday.



# Automakers grab loans from Bush, look to Obama White House

By Bob Hochmann  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — The long-term fate of the auto industry rests with Barack Obama now that President George W. Bush has given car companies \$17.4 billion in emergency rescue loans. Simply letting the Big Three collapse was not an option amid a recession, housing slump and financial credit crunch, Bush said in announcing the short-term loans and demanding tough concessions from the automakers and their employees.

"By giving the auto companies a chance to restructure, we will shield the American people from a harsh economic blow at a vulnerable time," the president said in his Saturday radio address. "And we will give American workers an opportunity to show the world once again that they can meet challenges with ingenuity and determination, and emerge stronger than before."

The Detroit companies pledged to rebuild their once-mighty industry, though they acknowledged it would be tough to fight their way back from the brink of bankruptcy. If the carmakers fail to prove viability — a positive cash flow and ability to make good on the loans — by March 31, they will be required to repay the government loans.

That's something they would find all but impossible to do.

Bush said the loans will give automakers three months to institute plans to restructure into viable companies "which we believe they are capable of doing." He said if restructuring cannot be done outside bankruptcy, the loans will provide time for companies to make the legal and financial preparations needed for an "orderly" Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

"This restructuring will require meaningful concessions from all involved in the auto industry — unions, creditors, bondholders, dealers and suppliers," he said. "If a company fails to come up with a viable plan by March 31, it will be required to repay its federal loans."

Taken together, these con-



Workers leave the Daimler Chrysler North Assembly Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio, after their shift Friday. Autoworkers took home an early holiday gift Friday with President Bush's offer of \$17.4 billion in emergency loans to beleaguered U.S. car makers.

## Tracking the \$700 billion rescue fund

Half the funds within the largest government bailout program have been committed, which was enacted on Oct. 3.



\*Provided to the Federal Reserve for credit protection to boost the availability of consumer loans.  
\*\*President Bush announced giving \$9.4 billion to General Motors and \$4 billion to Chrysler. An extra \$4 billion will be available to GM if February contingent on congressional action.

ditions send a clear message to everyone involved in American automakers: The time to make the hard decisions to become viable is now — or the only option will be bankruptcy." The autoworkers union complained the deal was too harsh on its members, while Bush's fellow Republicans in Congress said it was simply bad business to bail out the industry using money from the \$700 billion rescue program for financial institutions.

Obama, who takes office a month from Saturday, praised Bush's action but said the companies "must not squander this chance to reform bad

management practices and begin the long-term restructuring" absolutely necessary. Obama will be free to reopen the arrangement from the government's side if he chooses, and the head of the United Auto Workers said the union would be appealing to the new president and the strongly Democratic new Congress on that subject.

Some \$13.4 billion of the rescue money will be available this month and next — \$9.4 billion for General Motors Corp. and \$4 billion for Chrysler LLC, which have said they could be facing bankruptcy soon without government help. GM is set to

receive the remaining \$4 billion in loans after more money is released from the financial rescue account. Ford Motor Co. says it doesn't need federal cash now but would be badly damaged if one or both of the other two went under.

Under terms of the loans, the government will have the option of becoming a stockholder in the companies, much as it has with major banks, in effect partially nationalizing the industry. Bush said the companies' workers should agree to wage and work rules that are competitive with foreign automakers by the end of next year.

# Winter

Continued from page C1

"We haven't had a blizzard-type storm in almost 10 years," she said. "A good storm really shakes people up; they freak out and realize they're not prepared for winter."

North Dakota's snowfall total for December nearly matches the 19.3 inches that fell all last winter, said meteorologist Joshua Scheck at the National Weather Service office in Bismarck.

"And it's not even the first day of winter yet," he said Saturday.

The cold was the major concern in Illinois, where the Weather Service canceled a storm watch in the north but warned that freezing temperatures could cause flooding rains to clog jams on rivers near the Quad Cities and Rockford. Meteorologists also said the weekend's temperatures, expected to hit minus 5 by late Sunday with wind gusts of 30 mph, could cause damage power lines serving those plunged into darkness by ice earlier in the week.

More than 77,000 customers in northern Indiana still had no power Saturday after Thursday night's ice storm, and Indiana Michigan Power said the power failures could last beyond Wednesday. The Weather Service warned that winds as high as 40 mph would "greatly have with trees and power lines" already covered or weakened by ice.

In New Hampshire, more than 20,000 homes and businesses awaited restoration of power after an ice storm last week but feared the worst as the next storm approached.

"The utilities have made significant progress in

restoring power in what is an unprecedented outage," New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch said Saturday. "However, I continue to hear frustration from the local communities regarding the utilities, and I share their frustration."

Sunday's storm could bring more power failures to southern New Hampshire, which was expected to get 10 to 16 inches of snow, forecasters said.

Logan International Airport reported about 60 canceled flights and about 215 delays Saturday as effects lingered from a storm the day before. In the New York City area, some arrivals were held at Newark airport, and arrival delays at Kennedy Airport averaged 90 minutes, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

Alaska Airlines, a major regional carrier in the Northwest, said it preemptively canceled 47 flights to and from Seattle, Portland and Vancouver, British Columbia. United Airlines also canceled some flights, said Perry Cooper, spokesman for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Blizzard warnings were posted for parts of Washington as high winds, snow and freezing rain began coating the state Saturday.

Western Washington, including the Seattle area, could see wind gusts as high as 90 mph, meteorologist Burg said.

Up to 10 inches of snow was expected all along Interstate 5 in Oregon, the state's main north-south route, including Portland. The state braced for wind gusts up to 60 mph.

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# Shopping

Continued from page C1

"What is OK is to recognize your circumstances," said Peter Post, director of the Emily Post Institute. "Look at what you can reasonably budget without getting yourself into debt. And then do the very best you can with that."

You can explain to friends and adult relatives that you're cutting back this year because of budget constraints.

Most will understand. Many probably will be happy to scale back the holidays with you.

Choose your words carefully with small children. Don't tie the reason for a more modest holiday celebration this year to a lack of money, Hunt said.

"Don't let them be fearful of the future," Hunt said. Give them confidence that you came from things under control, even if a parent has lost a job, she said.

Think of ways other than spending money to be gener-

ous or show your appreciation.

A heartfelt note of what a friend or relative means to you will be more memorable and valuable to the recipient than another gizmo or sweater that will soon be forgotten, Weinstein said.

"Give what you do best," Hunt suggested. "Give four hours of window washing if you're a fabulous window washer."

Or give your time, especially with children. "Children like time alone with an adult," Hunt said.

Regifting has grown popular as a way to save money or to clear closets of unwanted gifts. If you choose to do this, use care.

Give items that are in excellent condition. And make sure you never recycle a gift among the same group of friends or family that it came from. You don't want to give a friend by returning a gift.

Some people welcome recycled gifts. "Some people

have regifting parties if they are frugally inclined," Peterson said.

Charities rely heavily on your generosity this time of year. If you can't contribute cash, there are other ways to donate.

Ask someone who is planning to give you a gift to make a donation to your favorite charity instead, for example. Or donate your time, and not just around the holidays when volunteers are more plentiful.

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# Inaugural security: Please leave your chairs, strollers at home

By **Nafeesa Syeed**  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — No strollers near the Capitol. No tents on the National Mall. None of that Silly String on the parade route.

That's just a sample of the items forbidden from President-elect Barack Obama's inauguration for security reasons. And while many people say the inconvenience is a small price to pay to witness the swearing-in of the nation's first black president, others are scratching their heads, trying to figure out how they will sit, snack, carry diapers or transport tired tots.

Some older people are backing out of their inaugural plans, partly because of a no-chair rule for the parade route. Parenting blogs are abuzz with complaints about the less-than-kid-friendly restrictions. Thermoses, coolers and backpacks are out at both the Capitol and the parade route. "Of course, they're not going to say, 'no children,'" said Sunny Chanel, a San Francisco-based contributor to Babble.com, a parenting Web site. "But they're definitely not making it easy for parents with smaller children to go."

The tightest rules are reserved for the lucky 240,000 ticket-holders, who get to sit closest to the Jan. 20 swearing-in ceremony on the West Front of the Capitol. There are understandable prohibitions on weapons and pepper spray. But you also can't carry an umbrella. And don't think about holding up any "Yes We Did" signs — posters also are not allowed.

It could get tricky as people congregate along the parade route, where many items allowed on the Mall

will be off-limits. That list includes bicycles, backpacks, aerosols (which could include Silly String), coolers, thermal containers and chairs.

Signs or placards can be brought to the parade — but only if they're made of cardboard, poster board or cloth and are not more than 3 feet by 20 feet.

Antron Johnson, who's organizing an Inauguration trip with three busloads of Obama supporters from Atlanta and Savannah, Ga., said he's had about a dozen people, mostly elderly, who dropped out after learning about the parade's no-chair policy. Additionally, Johnson said seven people, including fam-

ilies with young children, recently backed out — losing their deposits — because they're afraid they won't be able to maneuver in big crowds. Turnout estimates vary widely, with Mayor Adrian M. Fenty saying 2.5 million to 3 million people are a possibility and the National Park Service planning for at least 1 million.



A woman pushes her sleeping granddaughter in a stroller by the Capitol in Washington on Thursday. Strollers are just one of the items that will be prohibited on Capitol grounds during the presidential inauguration.

AP photo

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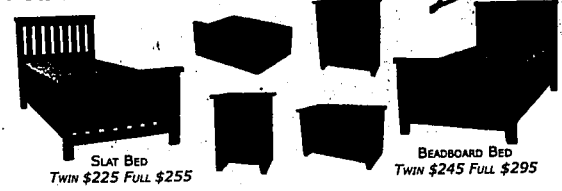
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# Wildlife experts ponder gender of Santa's reindeer

By Betty Henny  
Associated Press writer

LUBBOCK, Texas — There may be a perfectly good reason why Santa doesn't get lost on his annual Christmas get-together: His flying reindeer just might be female and don't mind stopping for directions. The gender of Rudolph and his or her sleigh-hauling friends — the subject of goofy Internet chatter every year

around this time — is now being pondered by renowned wildlife experts at Texas A&M University.

"Santa's reindeers were really females, most likely," said Alroy Blue-McLendon, a veterinary medicine professor specializing in deer who cites the depictions of Santa's helpers with antlers as the primary evidence. It turns out reindeer grow antlers regardless of gender, and most bulls

typically shed their fuzzy protrusions before Christmas. But Santa's sleigh helpers might also be castrated males, known as stags, said Greg Finstad, who manages the Reindeer Research Program at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Young stags finish shedding their antlers in February and March, just as non-expecting females do. Bulls generally lose theirs before

Christmas, while expectant mothers retain their antlers until calves are birthed in the spring. This allows them to protect food resources through harsh weather and to have enough for developing fetuses, he said.

Sledsiders most often use stags because they maintain their body condition throughout the winter, he said. Bulls are tucked out from rutting season when

they mate with as many as a dozen females in the month leading up to December. That leaves them depleted and too lean to pull a sleigh or sled through heavy snows, Finstad said.

Many females are pregnant after rutting season, which lasts from summer and into the fall. That would mean long hours of backbreaking work for an expecting Rudolph, as well as Donner,

Blitzen, Cupid, Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Comet and Vixen.

"You don't hook up your pregnant females to a sled," Finstad said. "That is not good animal husbandry."

But other aspects of the Christmas story support the all-girl sleigh team theory, Blue-McLendon said.

For example, would a boy reindeer really sport a shiny red nose that almost glows?

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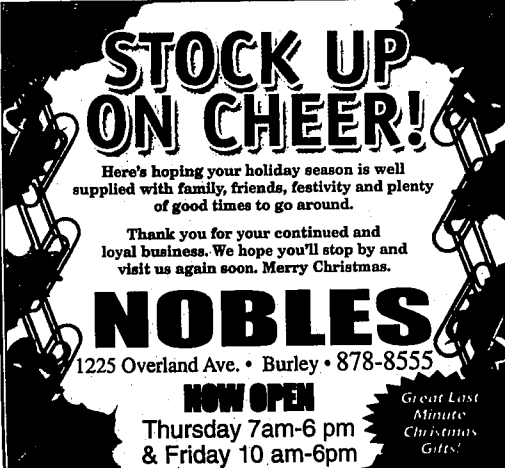
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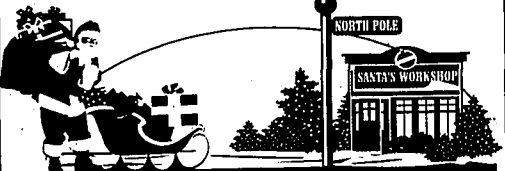
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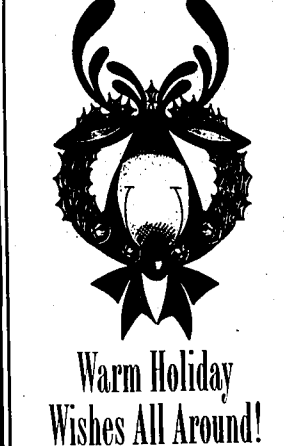


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# Afghanistan could get 30,000 new US troops

By Jason Strazius  
Associated Press writer

**KABUL, Afghanistan**—The top U.S. military official said Saturday that the Pentagon could double the number of American forces in Afghanistan by next summer to 60,000—the largest estimate of potential reinforcements ever publicly suggested.



Mullen

Afghanistan, Mullen said any increased U.S. deployment would be directly tied to force levels in Iraq, where U.S. commanders are drawing down troops.

"The Taliban and extremists are more sophisticated and effective," Mullen said. "They haven't won any battles but they certainly have increased the level of violence, and we're very focused on that. That's why the additional forces are so important, to be able to provide security for the Afghan people so these other areas can be developed."

U.S. officials already have plans to send four ground brigades and an aviation brigade to Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has approved the plan to increase the aviation brigade, defense officials told The Associated Press. And 10th Mountain Division forces will deploy next month to two provinces that neighbor Kabul—Wardak and Logar, which have seen an influx of militants over the last year.

Mullen said that after the additional U.S. troops are added over the next eight months, only improvements in Afghanistan's government and economic situation will affect the strength of the insurgency.

But the chairman conceded that the U.S. may have misjudged the central government's ability to have the kind of impact that we wanted."

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that between 20,000 and 30,000 additional U.S. troops could be sent to Afghanistan to bolster the 31,000 already there.

This year has been the deadliest for U.S. forces in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion to oust the Taliban for hosting al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden. Suicide attacks and roadside bombs have become more dangerous, and Taliban fighters have infiltrated wide swaths of countryside and now roam in provinces on Kabul's doorstep.

U.S. commanders have long requested an additional 20,000 troops to aid Canadian and British forces in two provinces just outside Kabul and in the south. But the high end of Mullen's range is the largest number any top U.S. military official has said could be sent to Afghanistan.

Mullen said that increase would include combat forces but also aviation, medical and civilian affairs support troops.

"So some 20,000 to 30,000 is the window of overall force from where we are right now," he told a news conference at a U.S. base in Kabul. "We certainly have enough forces to be successful in combat, but we haven't had enough forces to hold the territory that we clear."

Overall, there are more than 60,000 foreign troops in

"... some 20,000 to 30,000 is the window of overall increase from where we are right now. We certainly have enough forces to be successful in combat, but we haven't had enough forces to hold the territory that we clear."

— Adm. Mike Mullen, outlining his U.S. troop goals for Afghanistan

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# Christmas party for Baghdad Christians sends positive signal

By Kimi Yoshino  
Los Angeles Times


**BAGHDAD** — Trying to demonstrate just how much safer Baghdad is these days, Iraqi officials threw a party for Christians on Saturday, complete with huge posters of Jesus Christ.

A skinny Santa Claus draped in an Iraqi flag also made an appearance, waving and posing for photos.

Despite being slightly outnumbered by the huge security detail protecting the event, the crowd of Christians and Muslims called it a positive sign for the country.

feel happy and joyful," said Saba Tariq, 40, a Shiite who attended the "Master of the Spirit" celebration. "It reminds me that we are rejecting the ideas of sectarianism. Before, it was getting to the point where we didn't trust our neighbors."

Arun Babu, a well-known Iraqi soccer coach and a Christian, said he wasn't sure what to expect from the event. But when he arrived and saw the mixed crowd so openly celebrating different religions, he said, "This should prove to Christians who live abroad that they should return to their beloved country, which is Iraq."



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# Pirates and poverty mark U.S. failure in Somalia

By Anne Coarun  
Associated Press writer

## News analysis

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration inherited a mess in strategic Somalia and may be leaving President-elect Barack Obama with a worse one.

The explosion of piracy off Somalia's coast is an attention-grabbing product of internal chaos in the Horn of Africa country, and a problem that will outlast the administration's success this past week in winning U.N. backing for possible pirate-hunting raids on Somali territory.

"We have a framework in place now to deal with this issue, but it's not going to be a very easy one," State Department spokesman Robert Wood said.

Wood meant that there is more to do to combat piracy, and indeed Somali gunmen seized two more ships the day the Security Council voted unanimously to authorize nations to conduct land and air attacks on pirate bases on Somali coast.

Bandits are taking over more and larger ships and ranging farther from land to do it. Last month they seized a Saudi oil tanker carrying \$100 million worth of crude.

The larger problem, however, is the hollowness of nearly every institution that makes a working country, despite more than 15 years of international help. The Somali pirates may be bandits and thugs, but they also are entrepreneurs making do in a place without a functioning government, laws or normal commerce.

"Once peace and normalcy have returned to Somalia, we believe that economic development can return to Somalia," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said following the U.N. vote. In the meantime, however, she

wants a pirate crackdown. "This current response is a good start."

The resolution sets up the possibility of increased American military action in Somalia, which has not had an effective government since 1991, when warlords overthrew a dictatorship and then turned on one another.

A U.S. peacekeeping mission in 1992-93 ended with humiliating withdrawal of troops after a deadly clash in Mogadishu, the capital, as portrayed in the movie "Black Hawk Down." A massive U.N. humanitarian program withered.

The country is now at a dangerous crossroads.

Ethiopia, which has been protecting the ineffectual and fractured Somali government, recently announced it would withdraw its troops by the end of this month. That will leave the Western-baked government vulnerable to Islamic insurgents and further chaos.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen singled out Somalia as a danger zone during a recent Pentagon news conference.

"I try to pay a lot of attention to the evolution of potential safe havens" for terrorism, Mullen said. "We need to do all we can to impede the arrival of more safe havens out of which we can be threatened."

The United States accuses the most powerful Islamic faction, al-Shabab, of harboring the al-Qaida-linked terrorists who blew up the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998. Many of the insurgency's senior figures are Islamic radicals; some are on the State Department's list of wanted terrorists.

To address Somalia's underlying problems, the U.S. and the rest of the world would have to spend money building or rebuilding basic services and structures and encourage charities, development organizations and the Somalis themselves to do the same.

The Obama team should also ditch the myopic view of Somalia as little more than a hatchery for Islamic terrorism, said J. Anthony Holmes, head of the Africa program at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and a former top Africa official at the State Department. He was working there when terrorists trained in what had become a terrorist haven in Afghanistan struck the U.S. on Sept. 11, 2001.

"There was a very serious concern that Somalia could be the next Afghanistan, and we've been reacting to that possibility ever since, but only in the most short-term respect," Holmes said. "We've been trying to kill terrorists rather than to facilitate the rebuilding of a state that would be inhospitable to terrorists."

At the least, Muslim Somalia represents a missed opportunity for a Bush administration that made a special project of promoting democratic ideals and good governance in the Muslim world.

Somali civilians have suffered most from the violence surrounding the insurgency, with thousands killed or maimed by mortar shells, machine-gun crossfire and grenades. An estimated 1 million people have been forced from their homes. The U.N. says there are 300,000 acutely malnourished children in Somalia, but attacks and kidnappings of aid workers have shut down many humanitarian projects.

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# Castro grip firm as Cuba's revolution turns 50

By Anita Snow  
Associated Press writer

HAVANA — In the palace of a fallen dictator, the grade-school kids in their red Communist Pioneer bandanas are getting their mandatory introduction to the glories of the revolution. Clattering from one display case to the next, they gaze wide-eyed at an antique gun, a fighter's bloodied shirt, the engine of a downed U.S. spy plane. Moving on, they stare at the yacht named Gmma that carried Fidel Castro back from exile to launch his guerrilla war, and the combat boots his brother-successor wore as a ponytailed 27-year-old rebel.

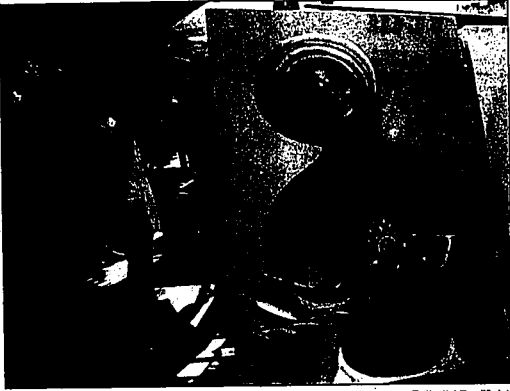
The palace of Fulgencio Batista, the ruler whom Castro overthrew, is now the Museum of the Revolution, and these 6- and 7-year-olds are the heirs to a communist government that may be softening at the edges but appears determined to crush any threat to its grip on power, lest it crumble like its one-time godfather, the Soviet Union.

Castro declared victory on New Year's Day 1959, the day after Batista fled the country, his rule has prevailed through 10 U.S. presidents, the U.S.-backed Bay of Pigs invasion, a world-shaking missile crisis, the U.S. embargo, the Soviet collapse and the onslaught of globalization. Now 82, he is ailing and out of sight but still the head of the Communist Party of Cuba. Raul Castro, his successor as president, is taking baby steps toward change and vowing to fend off any challenge to his brother's legacy.

But today, between the extremes of enforced communist dogma and the dilemmas of the Cuban diaspora still dreaming of bringing down the Castro regime, other faces of Cuba are emerging from deep underground: rappers, gays, dissent bloggers, installers of pirated satellite dishes, teenagers with tattoos and pierced belly buttons, and the women who call themselves Las Damas de Blanco, or Ladies in White.

Each Sunday, these women deliver a muted counterpart to the official cry of "Viva Fidel! Viva la revolucion!" by marching down Quinta Avenida, a busy Havana thoroughfare, each dressed in white and carrying a gliadiola, silently demanding the release of their husbands from political imprisonment.

Dissidents have a new way to reach the outside world — blogging. Yoani Sanchez, 33, gets her message out by dressing like a tourist and slipping into a hotel with Web access for foreigners. She works quickly at a computer terminal



The New York Times/AP photo

A tourist looks at paintings sold by street vendors in Old Havana in November 2007. Through a labyrinth of rattios, regulations, two currencies (peso, hard currency, agro and black), people make their way in Castro's Cuba, whose revolution turns 50 on Jan. 1.

and gets out before someone notices her.

In a posting this month, Sanchez noted that the government, which used to send gays to labor camps, now accepts homosexuality. So why not political opposition? she asked. "Why does the adjective 'revolutionary' continue to be used for those who think differently?" But few of Cuba's 11.2 million people have access to the Internet, and anyway are preoccupied with staying afloat in a sclerotic economy where basics like toilet paper often disappear from store shelves and most people eat meat only a few times each month.

In such conditions, the slightest hint of new thinking at the top can be electrifying. Cubans felt it after Castro stepped down and his brother Raul, now 77, took over in February, cutting a much lower-key, more pragmatic figure than the bearded, expansive Fidel. He has lifted a ban on cell phone service for ordinary Cubans and allowed them to stay in tourist hotels that hitherto were off-limits. He has let them buy DVD players, computers and coveted kitchen appliances.

He has legalized some home ownership, upped payments to farmers, acknowledged that state salaries are too small to live on, and rebuked bureaucrats who don't properly serve the public. Now Cubans are excited by the prospect of Barack Obama becoming the U.S. president, offering to talk to the Cuban leadership and promising to immediately lift U.S. restrictions that strictly limit how often Cubans and how much money they can send them.

A Havana billboard portraying George W. Bush as a bloody-fanged vampire was taken down this autumn. No official reason was given, but Cubans were happy to read it as a goodwill gesture to Obama as he campaigned for the presidency. "They say with Obama tourism should improve, that he'll let family members come whenever they want and maybe all Americans. That would be good for business," says Roberto Garcia, who paints pictures of old American cars, topless women and bottles of Havana Club rum.

Garcia sells his acrylics for

up to \$60 on the Malecon, the four-mile stretch of seaside highway that runs through Havana and has witnessed some of revolutionary Cuba's most dramatic moments.

Here a tumultuous crowd greeted a 32-year-old Fidel Castro when he and his bearded fellow commanders reached Havana on Jan. 8, 1959, just a week after their victory in eastern Cuba spelled the end of the Batista government.

Ernesto Blasencela, a born 76-year-old ex-rebel, remembers that day on the Malecon. "It was a fiesta, like carnival! We were so happy! The tyrant was gone!" he said.

## Cuba in brief

**LAND:** Largest island in Caribbean, covers 44,344 square miles, about the size of Pennsylvania. Sierra Maestra mountain range runs north-south but mostly flat or slightly rolling country.

**PEOPLE:** Population 11.2 million. About half mixed-race, 35 percent white, 18 percent black, with scattering of people descended from Chinese and other non-European immigrants. Parts of population have traces of original Indian peoples, but indigenous cultures died out long ago. Life expectancy of near 77 years, with infant mortality of about 6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

**GOVERNMENT:** Head of government and state is president of the Council of Ministers and president of Council of Ministers, Raul Castro. Raul Castro will be resigned in February 2008. Castro's younger brother, Fidel, elected by National Assembly in 1976, is president until 2008. The Communist Party is the only legal party.

**ECONOMY:** Recovering from economic crisis that began in 1990 after losing Soviet aid and trade, Cuba posted steady annual growth beginning in late 1990s. Cuba blames economic problems on U.S. trade embargo; detractors blame inefficient centralized planning. Government experimented with modest economic reforms in mid-1990s to survive, but by 2004 reasserting more centralized control over economy. U.S. dollar, used widely for more than a decade, taken out of circulation as legal tender in 2004; replaced with convertible local currency. Important sources of income include health services exported to Venezuela, tourism, sugar, nickel, tobacco, citrus, coffee, pharmaceuticals.

— The Associated Press

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# Iranians celebrate longest night of the year

By Ali Akbar Darini  
Associated Press writer

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranians recited poetry, shared stories and ate fruits and nuts Saturday during all-night celebrations of the longest night of the year, a tradition going back thousands of years to when Zoroastrianism was the predominant religion of ancient Persia.

For many Iranians, the celebration, known as Yalda, offers a link with ancient traditions as well as a chance to gather with family.

"Almost all Iranians, no matter their religion, language and race, celebrate Yalda," said Hooshang Sobael as he stood in a long line at a confectionary shop in north Tehran to buy sweets and dry fruit.

Zoroastrianism's central theme is the struggle between the good spirit Ahura Mazda and the evil Ahriman. Yalda, marked on the winter solstice, recognizes the symbolic victory of light over darkness as day-  
time starts growing longer and nights become shorter.

In the streets of the capital, Tehran, fruit vendors enjoyed their busiest day of the year, and confectionaries were packed with customers buying up provisions for the feast. Traditionally, families and friends sit around a furnace and elders recite tales or read poetry, often from the Shahnameh, an ancient epic by Iran's greatest storyteller, Abolqasem Ferdowsi, as they drink tea and eat nuts and fruit.

Others debate the latest domestic and international developments, which these days means the economic crisis, Iran's nuclear program and the recent shoe-throwing incident involving President George W. Bush and an angry Iraqi journalist.

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Iranians wear traditional clothes as they celebrate Yalda, the longest night of the year, Saturday in Tehran.

at Yalda, fruit vendors even keep watermelons and other fruit from the summer harvest refrigerated until the winter feast.

The national celebration, like several other pre-Islamic holidays, has survived the advent of Islam and efforts

after the 1979 Islamic revolution by hard-line clerics to discourage such festivals as un-Islamic.

Opposition to Yalda, however, is mild because of its emphasis on family gatherings, a value promoted by Iran's ruling clerics.



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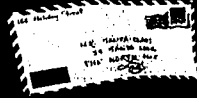
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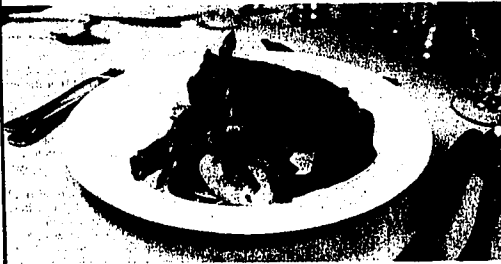


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# SPORTS

INSIDE: UConn outlasts Gonzaga in OT, D4



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## Moore thrives for No. 9 Broncos



No. 9 Boise State vs. No. 11 TCU  
6 p.m., Tuesday, ESPN

By Tim Booth  
Associated Press writer

**SAN DIEGO** — For all the success Tom Moore has enjoyed as a small-town football coach in Prosser, Wash., there's one area he couldn't win: making major colleges believe his son Kellen could play at the next level.

No matter the gaudy numbers Kellen Moore posted as a high school star, no BCS conference school would believe in Moore's talent. Certainly not the Pac-10 schools in the Northwest, who believed Moore wasn't capable of being a successful major college quarterback.

"You can't try and sell your own son. I couldn't sell him," Tom Moore recalled. "I just had to send out the film and have people watch it."

Boise State saw something special. They actively courted Moore from the beginning of the recruiting game, and landed the underdog Moore. It's now looking like a genius move by the Broncos, who have seen Moore blossom as a redshirt freshman, leading No. 9 Boise State to a 12-0 record entering Tuesday's Poinsettia Bowl against No. 11 TCU.

"I think it's just been fun, out there playing with those guys. I think I'm pretty lucky," Kellen Moore said.

Boise State's season began filled with questions, none more pressing than who would be the Broncos' MVP.

Please see MOORE, Page D2



Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore, right, looks up at the fish and sharks at the SeaWorld shark exhibit during the football team's Saturday visit to SeaWorld in San Diego as part of the Poinsettia Bowl festivities.

## Poinsettia Bowl has feel of 2009-10 BCS play-in

I am excited to watch No. 9 Boise State play No. 11 Texas Christian. It's the biggest bowl game this week. It pits two teams, both dominant in conference, out to prove their worth in an absolute gift to the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl.

The Las Vegas Bowl took Brigham Young and the Bowl Championship Series chose Ohio State. That left the Broncos and the Horned Frogs on the outside looking in.

It's hard for these "non-BCS" teams to get respect in this system laden with greed. The Fiesta Bowl took Ohio State over LSU because of cash-in-hand. How anyone can put faith in a system based on averages when the BCS average is ignored?

That type of greed sold the integrity of the game. But it's a money-strapped world and all must come to grips with it.



DUSTIN LAPRAY

Talking to BSU players, there is a collective acceptance based on powerlessness this Christmas season. They want to play a good team in a new place and win. They get Texas Christian, a team flexing its breakneck speed, its athleticism, its angst, its parallel drive to prove its prowess.

The Broncos haven't lost this season (12-0) but they are favored to lose this game to the Horned Frogs (10-2). I like the defense. The speed and intelligence of these squads will make long drives abound as frequent as finding another prime number.

I wonder if either team can run. I'm sure TCU will, both will try. The option can give BSU problems. I'm sure the Broncos will be able to hurt the ball around. Kellen Moore will have one-on-one matchups on the outside for Jeremy Childs and Austin Pettis. He'll find them.

What will work for either team in this slugfest I know these BSU coaches have proved to be some of the smartest in the country. Derrel Acrey last week told me the game plans each week this season were different. The Broncos outsmart their opponent. After the Nevada game, Wolf Pack head coach Chris Ault found a way to stop the read-pistol attack.

It's all hush-hush around Bronco camp. No secrets are told. The plan is in. The game is on a Tuesday night, two days before Christmas. It's the only game on television that night. A lot of people should watch. The winner will finish the season in the top 10.

The winner will also be primed to begin the season in the top 10. The high preseason ranking got Utah in the BCS this season. The winner of this game has a similar shot.

That is what this game does. It gives the winner a great shot at the BCS next year. This is a play-in game to what will have to again be an undefeated season next year to get a non-BCS squad into the glory role.

There is a little shame on the BCS. Depending on where you call home, you can win all your games and still not be called a champion. And if you lose any game next season, any season, you don't even stand a chance.

That's what life is outside these big-money conferences. That's the game.

## Spartans get best of Twin Falls

By Ryan Howe  
Times-News writer

The Minico and Twin Falls girls basketball teams headed into Saturday's nonconference game in Rupert riding three-game losing streaks.

Someone was bound to head into the holiday break with a present.

Brecka Fetzner poured in 16 points and Kendra Bailey had 15 in Minico's 51-34 win.

It was Spartans head coach Joe D. Shepard's first game against his former team. Shepard coached at Twin Falls from 2002-2007, leading the Bruins to the state tournament in four out of five seasons.

"It was kind of tough to see them," Shepard said of his old team. "It's only the seniors who I really know. I think it will be harder when we go to Twin Falls (on Jan. 29)."

Minico (5-7) owned the point as Fred Gannur had 14 rebounds to go with her seven points. Twin Falls is still without injured post player Jazlyn Nielsen, and senior guard Katelyn Fjeld was also out with an injury.

"It hurts us not to have Jazlyn," said Twin Falls coach Nancy Jones. "But it's giving my other girls and opportunity, which will only make our bench deeper when she comes back."

Twin Falls (4-9) got a team-high 15 points from Sara Fedricion.

"Twin played good defensively and made us work for our shots," Shepard said.

Bailey scored eight of her 15 points in the first quarter and Fetzner scored nine of her 16 points in the second quarter as Minico built a 27-19 halftime lead.

Twin Falls only trailed by five heading into the fourth and led the Spartans to just one field goal in the final period. However, the Spartans were 14-of-18 from the foul line down the stretch. Minico converted 25 of 30 free throws in the game.

"Coming off three losses in a row, to get this win is big," said Shepard. "It would have been tough to lose four in a row and then wait for two weeks to play again."

The Spartans are off until Jan. 8, when they will host conference foe Wood River. Shepard said that will be an important game for Minico, which is currently tied for first in the conference standings.

Twin Falls is off until Jan. 7 when the Bruins host tough back-to-back home games with Burley and then Jerome.

"We're struggling right now, but second half of the season things will pick up," Jones said. "If they give out an award for most improved team, I think we'll get it."

Minico Ed. Twin Falls 34

Twin Falls	20	14	0	0
Minico	15	12	7	0

Twin Falls: Sara Fedricion 15, Taylor Smith 10, Chelsea Robinson 8, Tracy Green 8.  
 Minico: Katelyn Fjeld 15, Fred Gannur 14, Kendra Bailey 15, Sara Fedricion 15, Taylor Smith 10, Chelsea Robinson 8, Tracy Green 8.  
 Referee: Mike Smith.

## Jerome takes second at Bear-Cat

Highland takes team title, four locals win

By David Bashore  
Times-News writer

Jerome head coach Des Case said before this week-end's Bear-Cat Wrestling Invitational that his team hoped to be toward the top at the end of it.

Suffice it to say he was pleased with the way Saturday's final day unfolded.

Despite getting just one individual winner, Wade Bennett at 189 pounds, the host Tigers finished with 152 points on the strength of 10 top-six finishers. Only Highland, which ran away with the team title by piling up 220.5 points, had more — the Rams had 111 placers, including five champs.

"We're pleased. We kind of felt like we didn't wrestle to our potential at the Capital Duals last week, so we got back in the room with some renewed focus and intensity," said Case. "You'd like to have more people toward the top (of the placements) but in order to be successful you have to have your team



Minico High School's Jake Krzusa works his way out of a hold during his 140-pound championship match against Tyson Ward of Bear Lake at the Bear-Cat Wrestling Invitational Saturday afternoon in Jerome.

working together and getting placements. We did that today, and it paid off."

Bennett got after Caldwell's Tim Harwig from the onset in his title match, easing to a 10-3 victory that very much reflected the Jerome grappler's dominance over his opponent.

For someone who's beating 171 and staying at 189, the win gave him all the confidence in the world.

"I just wanted to get some stuff done out there. This was my first year at 189s... this was to prove to my coaches

that I can do it," Bennett said. "I felt like my wrestling (technique) was fine. I was getting as many shots in as I could."

Another wrestler who made his mark was Gooding freshman Brandon McBride, who pinned Jerome's Hayden Thacker in 54 seconds to win the 145-pound title.

McBride is a five-time national champion and five-time national runner-up, as well as the No.-1 ranked

Please see JEROME, Page D2

## Ravens beat Cowboys in Texas Stadium finale

By Jaime Aron  
Associated Press writer

IRVING, Texas — Dallas Cowboys fans and Hall of Famers came early and stayed late, making sure they savored every bit of the 313th and last game at Texas Stadium.

The Baltimore Ravens will remember it fondly, too.

Willis McGahee ran 77 yards for a lead-stretching touchdown when things got tight late in the fourth quarter, then Le'Ron McClain topped that by going 83 yards for the touch victory-clinching touchdown with 1:18 left, sending the Ravens past the Cowboys 33-24 Saturday night in a game both teams needed to boost their playoff chances.

Baltimore led 19-10 midway through the fourth quarter behind four field goals from Matt Stover, who said programs outside the stadium as a kid growing up in the area, and a touchdown pass from Joe Flacco to Derrick Mason.

Tommy Romo threw touchdown passes to Terrell Owens and Jason Witten



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens (81) is tackled by Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis, back, and Baltimore Ravens safety Ed Reed (20) after picking up 22 yards on a pass play in the second quarter of Saturday's game in Irving, Texas.

over the last 3:36, each putting Dallas within two points. But the Ravens answered both with one-play scoring drives, both coming on runs up the middle against a defense that had done a great job against the run all night.

When Romo's final drive ended on downs, fans began to boo. More boos followed when Flacco took a knee and time ran out.

Please see RAVENS, Page D2



Twin Falls forward Chelsea Robinson, left, and Minico's Kelli King go for a loose ball during their girls basketball game Saturday in Rupert.





SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for team names, wins, losses, and percentages. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, and various conference teams.

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE
Sunday, Dec. 22
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
8:30 p.m.
ESPN - Pittsburgh at Florida State

MON'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FSN - Pittsburgh at Florida State 8:30 p.m.
FSN - Cincinnati at Miami 8:30 p.m.
FOX - Arizona at New England 8 p.m.

Baseball

Boise State 319 100%
Idaho State 273 100%
Pac-10 273 100%

SOCCER

Table with columns for team names, wins, losses, and percentages. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, and various conference teams.

WRESTLING

Table with columns for team names, wins, losses, and percentages. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, and various conference teams.

FOOTBALL

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WRESTLING

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BASEBALL

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WRESTLING

Table with columns for team names, wins, losses, and percentages. Includes teams like Boise State, Idaho State, and various conference teams.

Kim takes the lead at Chevron Challenge with a 67

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — An Anthony Kim matched the best score of the week with a 5-under 67, taking a one-shot lead when Jim Furyk found the water for double bogey on the 18th hole Saturday at the Chevron World Challenge.

Kim was worried about rust coming off a five-in making six birdies at Sherwood Country Club. He was back at 8-under 208.

Furyk made his back-to-back birdies to regain the lead, but from a tough stance in the rough, his approach came up well short and into the pond in front of the 18th green. That led to double bogey for a 70, but still left him in range of another win in the silly season.

Kim will try to make it 2-for-2 in tournaments hosted by Tiger Woods. He also won the AT&T National this year at Congressional.

brightly, moving around the ring to neutralize Valiev's long reach advantage. The 7-foot Russian, the tallest and heaviest champion ever, struggled to close down Holyfield but began asserting his jab as the fight wore on.

One judged scored the bout a draw, while the others had Valiev winning 116-112 and Holyfield (42-10-2) was attempting to become the oldest heavyweight champion. He had not fought since losing a one-sided decision to then-WBO champ Sultan Ibrahimov over a year ago.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

Penn St. sweeps Stanford, defends title

OMAHA, Neb. — Megan Hodge had 16 kills and Penn State ended its perfect season with second straight NCAA volleyball championship, sweeping Stanford 25-20, 26-24, 25-23 on Saturday night.

SPORTS SHORTS

Noted: Sand Magic Valley links to sports@magicvalley.com

Penn State spotted Stanford leads of 5-1, 13-8 and 16-12 before scoring 13 of the final 17 points of the first set.

The Nittany Lions never trailed in the second and third.

MAGIC VALLEY

CSI booster club holds sale

CSU booster club holds sale

TWIN FALLS — Golden Eagle Booster Club clothing store will be open for holiday shopping from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday, upstairs in CSI Gymnasium by the concession stand.

Club Canyon/CSI volleyball camp nears

JEROME — The Club Canyon/Camp of Southern Idaho Twin Volleyball Camp will be held Dec. 29-30 at the Jerome Recreation Center. The camp is open to girls located in the CSI volleyball Web site at athletes.csu.edu or picked up at the Jerome Recreation Center. The cost is \$60 and the camp is limited to 40 athletes.

Local Fall VB team seeking members

TWIN FALLS — The Southern Idaho Volleyball Club is seeking girls 16-18 years of age for its 18 and under traveling volleyball team. The club competes within the Intermountain Volleyball Association and will begin tournament play in mid-February of 2009.

BOXING

Valiev stops Holyfield by majority decision

ZURICH, Switzerland — Nikolai Valiev ended any hope of Evander Holyfield winning a fifth heavyweight title, narrowly defending his WBA title by majority decision on Saturday night.

The 46-year-old American started the fight

TRANSACTIONS

WRESTLING
COLUMBIA COLLEGE - ...
FOOTBALL
COLUMBIA COLLEGE - ...



# Johnson leads Colorado St. to N.M. Bowl win

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Colorado State's Garrett Johnson was reluctant to talk about his career-high 285 yards rushing, so teammate Tommie Hill took over for him.

Sort of. "I'm not going to give him credit because he got run down twice," Hill joked after Colorado State rallied for a 40-35 victory over Fresno State on Saturday in the New Mexico Bowl.

Johnson added 90 yards rushing for 375 total yards and scored two fourth-quarter touchdowns. All day long, he left defenders reaching for the deadlocks tumbling out of his helmet.

Johnson set a Football Bowl Subdivision record for the most combined yards rushing

and receiving in a postseason game. His yards rushing were the second-most ever in a bowl, trailing only a 307-yard effort by P.J. Daniels of Georgia Tech at the 2004 Humanitarian Bowl. It was also the second-best rushing performance in school history.

"It just feels great," Johnson said. "It's good for everyone." Johnson sealed the victory on a 77-yard touchdown burst with 1:46 remaining, igniting a celebration by fans who made the 7-hour drive from Fort Collins, Colo. He was honored as the most valuable offensive player as Colorado State (7-6) won a bowl for the first time since 2001.



"He is a very physical back," Burns coach Steve Fairchild said. "He made some big plays in the passing game, too, which really bailed us out. You can't say enough. His numbers speak for him."

If only Johnson would speak for himself. He was more focused on his 57-yard run in the first quarter and a 57-yard reception on a shovel pass from Billy Farris in the second period. The reason? He was ribbed by teammates for getting tackled from behind. "They told me, 'Hey, you got run down,'" Johnson recalled. "But I broke the second run today, so I was able to talk

trash back at them." The Rams took their first lead at 33-28 when Farris threw a 69-yard TD to Rashawn Greeg with seven minutes left. Fresno State cornerback Sharrod Davis took a big chance but whiffed on his attempt to bat the ball. Greeg made the catch at the 30 and went untouched into the end zone.

"Give credit to Colorado State. They made big plays and kept the pressure on," Fresno State coach Pat Hill said. The loss capped a rough season for the injury-depleted Bulldogs (7-6), who talked in fall workouts about a possible Bowl Championship Series run. They led 28-20 early in the fourth quarter.



Colorado State running back Garrett Johnson (5) gets a block from teammate Rashawn Greeg, top left, as he breaks a tackle on Fresno State defensive back Sharrod Davis (8) as teammates Luke Bell (20) and Jake Jorde (23) chase after Johnson in the second quarter of the New Mexico Bowl on Saturday in Albuquerque, N.M.

# Arizona tops BYU in Vegas Bowl

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Willie Tuitama threw for 322 yards and two touchdowns Saturday night as Arizona won its first bowl game in 10 years, 31-21 over No. 17 BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl.

The Wildcats stifled BYU quarterback Max Hall throughout the game, forcing him to scramble often, lose a fumble and throw an interception.

"We had to go with physical tackling — we had eight guys in the box at all times," linebacker Xavier Kelley said. "We had our ups and downs, and this is tremendous. It's amazing, amazing."

Arizona fans tricked onto the field as the last minute ticked off the game clock, then sprinted to midfield in celebration of the school's first bowl win since 1998, when it finished 12-1 and beat Nebraska in the Holiday Bowl.

"This was five years in the making. It all came together in the last month of the season," Arizona coach Mike Stoops said. "I couldn't be more proud of these seniors who brought Arizona back."

The Wildcats (8-5) kept the ball in the air most of the game. Tuitama threw a 71-yard pass to Terrell Turner that set up the first, a 37-yard touchdown to Delashaun Dean that gave the Wildcats the lead for good, and a 24-yard strike to Chris Gronkowski that sent Cougars fans toward the exits.

Arizona's career passing leader added a 6-yard touchdown run in the third quarter to give the Wildcats (11-4) their bowl BYU (10-3) lost its bid to win three straight Las Vegas Bowls in



Arizona quarterback Willie Tuitama makes a pass during the Wildcats' win in the Las Vegas Bowl over BYU on Saturday.

four consecutive trips, ending a sloppy night with three missed field goals and 10 penalties for 76 yards.

The penalties twice cost BYU prime chances to tie or take the lead. Three straight flags just before halftime turned a third and 1 at the Arizona 19-yard line into a third and 16, and Mitch Payne ended the drive by missing a 40-yard field goal wide left. Arizona led at halftime 10-7.

The Cougars took their first lead of the game in the third

quarter after Arizona lost a fumble at its own 29 on the first play of the half. BYU marched to the 1 with five running plays and Max Hall completed play-action touchdowns.

pass to Andrew George to put BYU up 14-10. Nic Grigsby's 1-yard run on Arizona's first possession was set up by Turner's 71-yard catch. Turner cleared BYU's defense on the long pass play but was tackled from behind by Brandon Bradley just short of the end zone.

Grigsby fumbled deep in BYU territory on the next drive, turning the ball over at the 5 and ending a 62-yard drive without a score. But BYU fumbled on its next possession, resulting in a 31-yard field goal for the Wildcats.

BYU scored its first points midway in the second quarter, when Harvey Unga scampered into the end zone from the 1-yard line.

Hall completed passes of 35 and 36 yards on the drive, including one to Austin Collier that gave the Cougars a first down on Arizona's 3-yard line.

# Sioux Falls beats Carroll College 23-7 for NIAA title

ROME, Ga. — This time the University of Sioux Falls players got to slide across a rain-soaked field in celebration as Cougars quarterback Lorenzo Brown threw a touchdown pass and ran for 129 yards as Sioux Falls defeated Carroll College 23-7 in the rain to win the NIAA championship Saturday.

The title was the South Dakota school's third and avenged a 17-9 loss to Carroll in the championship game last year on a wet day in Savannah, Tenn.

Carroll, located in Helena, Mont., had won 28 championship games and five of the past six NIAA championships. Sioux Falls won titles in 1996 and 2006.

"It was an awful, awful feeling last year watching them celebrate," Sioux Falls senior linebacker Tyler Newman said. "To get to do it ourselves by sliding across the field this year was a great, great feeling ... We wanted revenge on Carroll real bad."

Brown, a junior college transfer, led a strike-free offense, and the defense forced four turnovers along with blocking a punt for a touchdown.

Brown connected with Jon Ryan on a 54-yard touchdown pass with 7:04 left in the game as the Sioux Falls (14-0) ahead 17-0. Carroll (13-1) came back with a 39-yard touchdown pass from Matt Ritter to Travis Brown with 6:15 remaining. But Drew DeGroot picked up



Sioux Falls quarterback Lorenzo Brown goes down defended by Carroll College defensive back Mike Waldenberg during the NIAA National Championship game, Saturday in Rome, Ga.

a fumble and returned it 30 yards for the clinching touchdown with 2:44 left. "You have to win the turnover battle to win the game and we didn't do it," said Carroll senior linebacker Owen Koepen, the NIAA player of the year.

### EagleBank Bowl

WAKE FOREST 29, NAVY 19 WASHINGTON — Riley Skinner found a perfect way to open the bowl season and redeem himself for a flawed September performance against Navy. Skinner went 11-for-11 and threw the go-ahead touchdown pass to Ben Wooster with 7:52 left to lead Wake Forest to the comeback win.

The previous school record for accuracy was a 12-for-14

effort by Mike McGlammy in 1975. Skinner passed for 166 yards and added a completion on a conversion attempt. "I was really impressed with Riley today," Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe said. "There were very few decisions he made that were wrong."

It was a rematch of a Sept. 27 game at Wake Forest, when Navy took advantage of five turnovers by Skinner — four interceptions and a fumble — to pull off a 24-17 upset.

"I think any quarterback who plays a football game like I had last time we played them, if you're competitive, you want to come out and play them again and get revenge," said Skinner, voted the game's Most Valuable Player. "You don't want the last thing you think about when you think of Navy to be

that game and the performance had."

### Magick Jack St. Petersburg Bowl

SOUTH FLORIDA 41, MEMPHIS 14 ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — For anyone who thought it might be difficult for Matt Grothe and South Florida to get excited about playing what amounted to an extra home game, the Bulls and their dual-threat quarterback answered with a dominating performance in the first St. Petersburg Bowl.

Grothe moved ahead of West Virginia's Pat White as the Big East's career total offense leader, throwing for 236 yards and three touchdowns.

Grothe and White, a senior who will finish his season in the Meineke Bowl on Dec. 27, are the only players in league history to amass more than 10,000 yards total offense. White has 10,142 in 49 games, and Grothe, who also rushed for 82 yards on 15 carries Saturday, finished the night with 10,214 in 39 games.

### Division III Championship

MOUNT UNION (OHIO) 31, WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER 26 SALEM, Va. Greg Mitchell threw two touchdown passes and Nate Knick rushed for another score —

All in the first quarter — and Mount Union (15-0) regained its spot atop Division III football. The victory gave the small Ohio school its 10th Stagg Bowl title, all coming in the past 16 seasons.

And Knick walked out of Salem Stadium for the fourth and final time with the added satisfaction that the Raiders' win came over the Warhawks (13-2), the same foe Mount Union has faced in the championship game the past four years and one of only two teams to beat the Raiders during Knick's career.

"As a senior, this is the most unbelievable feeling," said Knick, who conceded that ending 2007 with a loss made for a long offseason. "I would trade it all of the individual awards and all the other stuff that has happened in my career for this moment right now."

"That's saying a lot, considering that Knick has accomplished. During the five-game 2008 postseason, he broke the Division III records for rushing yards (1,150), touchdowns (16) and points (96). He also became the first running back at any NCAA level to reach the 8,000-yard mark for career rushing yards. The last 88 of those 8,074 yards came on Saturday.

Knick also has more touchdowns than any player in NCAA history. — The Associated Press

# Iowa State makes hometown hire

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa State had pinned all its hopes on Gene Chizik — which was why his jump to Auburn after just two seasons was such a kick in the gut for the cellar-dwelling Cyclones.

Judging by the passion native Iowan Paul Rhoads showed upon being introduced as Chizik's replacement, Iowa State at least has someone who is less likely to wander.

Rhoads, a native of nearby Ankeny and a former Cyclones assistant, was hired as Iowa State's coach Saturday.

Rhoads, 41 spent last season as the defensive coordinator at Auburn, the same school that lured Chizik away earlier this week.

"I can honestly tell you, on a beautiful day in Ames, Iowa, it's great to be home," Rhoads said.

Rhoads, who has never been a head coach, was the defensive coordinator at Pittsburgh from 2000-07. He was also an assistant with the Cyclones under Dan McCarney from 1995-99.

Surrounded by dozens of family members and well-wishers who made the short trip to Ames through a snowstorm for his introductory news conference, Rhoads had to stop a number of times to compose himself.

Many have labeled Iowa State a coaching graveyard, but Rhoads couldn't contain his excitement over the chance to rebuild the Cyclones.

Iowa State went 2-10 last season and was winless in the Big 12. Under Chizik, the Cyclones were 5-19 and never won a road game.

"There are deep roots here," Rhoads said. "I was born 10 miles down the road."

Iowa State said Rhoads agreed to a five-year deal worth \$5.75 million in guaranteed compensation, with incentives available to increase that total.

Rhoads also plans to appear at halftime of Iowa State's men's gam Saturday night.

# TODAY'S BOWL CAPSULE



### New Orleans Bowl

Southern Mississippi (6-6) vs. Troy (6-4) (ESPN) Kickoff: 4:15 p.m. (ET/PT) Line: Troy by 4½ Series Record: Southern Miss leads 7-1. Last Meeting: Sept. 3, 1977. Southern Miss won 42-19.

What's at Stake: Troy, the Sun Belt Conference champion, seeks its second New Orleans Bowl victory in three seasons, having beaten Rice 41-17 in 2006. Southern Miss, after starting 2-6, needs one more victory to finish with a winning record in coach Larry Fedor's first season.

Key Matchup: Troy's spread offense, which has racked up 421 yards per game this season, will be tested by an increasingly stout Southern Miss defense that has given up a combined 21 points in its last three games.





# Schools invest in athletes' degrees

OXFORD, Miss. (AP) — From the moment he stepped on campus, 320-pound tackle Michael Oher seemed destined to be a star on Mississippi's football team and a failure in its classrooms.

Oher was the son of a crack-addicted single mom, and as a teen could barely read. His educational record — 11 schools in nine years as he moved from home to home in Memphis — read like an indictment of a failed education system.

But four years later, at a school that graduates fewer than 60 percent of all students within six years, Oher has cleared every hurdle and nearly earned his degree — all that stands between him and graduation are a final semester and workouts for the NFL draft.

"I haven't struggled a bit in college," the All-American offensive lineman says. "It's been a breeze."

It's a tribute to Oher's determination and character, to be sure.

His story also says something about the state of big-time college athletics.

Like a lot of other athletes at Ole Miss and elsewhere, Oher got not only tutoring help but a full range of academic support services throughout his career. At Ole Miss, 14 full-time staffers line up tutors for student-athletes, help them choose classes, monitor study habits and check attendance. More than 60 percent of the Rebels' 390 athletes receive at least some tutoring, and together they averaged about 1,000 sessions a week this fall.

Such services are not unusual.

The last five years have seen an astounding jump in the time, money and resources devoted to academic support for student-athletes, even as some faculty complain that just plain students are being left behind. To learn more about the trend, The Associated Press surveyed the 65 schools from the six major conferences involved in the Bowl Championship Series plus independent Notre Dame.

The AP started work before the first kickoff of the season and eventually obtained at least some financial information from 45 schools about the resources they devote to graduating athletes.

The picture formed by the data is one of schools frequently spending more than \$1 million annually on academic support, with some spending hundreds of thousands of dollars more in 2008 than they did in 2004, the AP found. Eight BCS schools reported spending increases of more than 70 percent in the last five years. Four — South Florida, Illinois, Georgia and Kansas — more than doubled spending.

Helping athletes graduate has become its own academic mission. A national group for people who work in the field has nearly doubled its membership to around 1,000 in just two years. Many work in new academic centers devoted exclusively to athletes.

Behind the spending binge, fueled by both public and private funds, are toughened NCAA regulations that now punish schools for poor academic performance.

"Now, when I'm around and speak on campuses and speak to coaches and athletic programs and to student-athletes, they want to bring about how well they're doing academically," NCAA president Myles Brand said. "They want to show me the academic study centers. The coaches want to talk about and brag about their APR (Academic Progress Report). All that is good. A few years ago, that was the last thing people wanted to talk about."

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Snake River Freeze on Skis, Inc. sponsors the 22nd Annual Frostbite Skis 2009

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The year's event is the net proceeds will be divided 50/50 between the Wishful Star Foundation and Living Independence Network Corp.

Are you interested in skiing or snowboarding? The next event is Feb 21-22 at Kona Beach at 420-2182.

Skiers' Pledge Packets Available:

In Perley: Maho Water Sports

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For Participant: Skiers raising at each mile/hour level will receive the following:

- \$50 - a T-shirt
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**General**

**GENERAL**  
Lincoln County Housing Authority has an opening for a caretaker.

Maintenance person in Shoshone. Must live in Shoshone. Contact Shauna Porter at 208-84-2424 for job description. Mail resume to Lincoln County Housing Authority 340 South 750 East Dietrich, ID 83324. Background check required.

We are an equal opportunity employer.

**General**

**GENERAL**  
Minidoka County School District #31, EOE, has the following temporary position: Softball Coach Contact Tim Parrigot Athletic Director 435-6385 ext. 202 or 435-4727 IV. msg.

**Medical**

**MEDICAL**  
Growing Skilled Nursing Facility is seeking CNAs and Licensed Nurses that enjoy caring for the elderly. Call Leslie at 208-924-5001 or in person at 1220 Montana St. Gooding, Idaho.

**Cheese Plant Manager**

**Gossner Foods**

Gossner Foods, a leading Swiss cheese manufacturer in the U.S.A., has an immediate opening for the position of Manager of its new, state-of-the-art plant located in Heyburn, Idaho.

Qualified candidates will have:

- Prior cheese plant management experience
- Strong dairy industry background
- Bachelor's degree in related field preferred

We offer a competitive salary and benefit package consisting of health insurance, 401(k) plan, bonuses, etc.

Send resume to: Gossner Foods, Inc. 1051 North 1000 West Logan, Utah 84321-6852 greg@gossner.com • 435-752-9365

**Employment**

**PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE**  
Federal Employment Information is free. Remember, no one can promise you a federal job. For free information about federal jobs Call Career America Connection. 478-757-3000

**DRIVERS**

Newly Improved Pay Package, Full Benefits! Dedicated Client! Clean Work 3 yrs. CDL Hazmat. Double/Triples! bulldt.com Forrest 775-774-2582 Bill 775-934-4479

**FARM**

Professional Cutting Horse Trainer is seeking FT Barn Assistant. Must have experience handling and riding young horses, ability to drive tractor & feed/stock. Send resume & refs. to: 4082 N 3300 E. Twin Falls, ID 83301

**PhoneBase**

PhoneBase Research currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone.

PhoneBase Research offers:

- Flexible average day and weekend hours.
- Up to \$12.50 an hour
- Casual working environment
- Monthly interviewer incentives
- Absolutely no sales or soliciting
- Health benefits available

To apply also by our office at 840 Meadows Dr. Ste #2 in Twin Falls or call us at 208-736-2851

**RESTAURANT**

Serving Cooks. Experience preferred but will train. Apply in person at: 501 N. Main St. Kimberly.

**MEDICAL**

**MEDICAL**  
ICMA HEALTH LICOPIEC Idaho Home Health & Hospice is now accepting resumes for a Full-time RN Assistant Branch Director (RHHA) offers paid training for medical and dental, continuing education and bonus program plus a COMPETITIVE SALARY. Come be a part of a caring environment! Apply at 828 Eastland Dr. or email resume to hather@idahohealth.com. EOE

**205 Dairy**

**DAIRY**  
Horizon Organic Farm has openings for the following positions:

- Milkers
- Herdman

Apply in person at: 2689 East 500 South Paul, Idaho

**DRIVERS**

We have the small, company ready New 2008 Dodge Ram. Financial Strength. YOU deserve it!

**KNIGHT**  
CALL FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE!  
More HOMETIME Daily Weekly Pay! 7/07 & Newer Trucks Orientation in BOISE  
Pre-Qualify by Phone 800-450-9988 www.knighttrucks.com Owner Op 800-437-2907

**209 General**

**GENERAL**  
Buyer Openings - Pomeroy - Clerical

Twin Falls 733-7300 Jerome 524-8400 Burley 878-4040  
www.personnelinc.com

**REMEMBER**

This browser ad you passed some time ago in The Times-News? Now is the time to come back to your picture. Stop by the Customer Service Dept today!

**211 Medical**

All advertising is subject to the newspaper's standard of acceptance. The Times-News reserves the right to edit, abbreviate, decline or properly classify any ad. Receipt of copy via remote entry (fax, e-mail, etc.) does not constitute final acceptance by this newspaper. The advertiser, not the newspaper, assumes full responsibility for the truthful content of their advertisement message.

**MEDICAL**

**MEDICAL**  
Learn Phlebotomy 12 hour course being offered. V15, 16 & 17 in Twin Falls. For more information Call Wendy 208-735-8901

**206 Drivers**

**DRIVER**  
Looking for a part-time job working mornings & afternoons? We have the perfect job for you! New Hiring Bus Drivers Paid Training Western States Bus Call 208-733-8003

**CLASSIFIEDS**

It pays to read the classifieds. Call The Times-News to place your ad: 208-733-0931 ext. 2

**BUY IT! SELL IT!**

**A TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED WILL FILL EVERY NEED**

**BUY IT! SELL IT!**

**PROFESSIONAL**

Accounting Firm seeking full-time, Seasonal Tax Preparer to start immediately. Candidate should have at least 2 years experience and be self-motivated, with excellent written and verbal communication. We offer a very competitive salary in a pleasant working environment. Please send resume with references and salary requirements to P.O Box 514, Kimberly, ID 83341

**YOU CAN**

"WANTED" motivated individuals to serve their state and country in the Idaho Army National Guard. Here are some of the benefits available:

- Earn an extra paycheck
- College Tuition Assistance
- Student Loan Repayment
- Low cost life and health insurance

For more information contact: SSG Schiffler 208-308-2398

**FAX YOUR CLASSIFIED AD**

**TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT**  
208-734-5538

**OPPORTUNITY IS AT YOUR DOOR.**

**RNS**  
6 p.m. - 6 a.m. shift available. Hire-on bonus of up to \$7,500 available! Now hiring December graduates.

We offer competitive pay and benefits including comprehensive medical coverage, 401(k), career development opportunities and paid vacation, holidays and sick days.

**BridgeView**

Long-term health care  
208.736.3933 | 208.736.3941 Fax  
1828 Bridgeview Blvd., Twin Falls, ID 83301  
www.LCCA.com

**24/7 Classified Ad Placement**  
magicvalley.com

**Education**

**EDUCATION**  
Kimberly School District is seeking a full time, bilingual Spanish/English teaching assistant for middle & high school students. Qualifies for full benefits. If interested contact Cathy 208-423-4170 ext. 309 or visit www.kimberly.edu for an application packet.

**St Luke's Magic Valley**

**NOW HIRING**

**REGISTERED NURSES** - Full & part time positions available.

- Medical
- Surgical
- Operating Room
- Emergency Department
- Intensive Care Unit
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Obstetrics
- Pediatrics/ Women & Children

• **IMAGING SPECIALIST** - Full-time, varied shifts. Graduate of a JRCERT accredited school of radiological technology. Registered Technologist with the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT)

**Surprise Express**  
Twin Falls, Idaho  
1-800-635-0825  
**COMPANY DRIVERS**  
Deluxe Late-model Equipment  
Weekly Settlements  
Holiday & Vacation Pay  
Health Insurance - 401(k)

The Times-News Classifieds will be closed Thursday December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas

All of us at the Times-News wish you a happy and safe holiday.

**Times-News**  
magicvalley.com

Place your ad online 24/7 at www.magicvalley.com

St Luke's Magic Valley Regional Medical Center  
P.O. Box 409, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0409 (208) 737-2671 or FAX (208) 737-2741  
hcdy@stlucmv.com - Becky

We offer competitive salaries & an excellent benefits package. For a complete listing of open positions, or to complete an application, visit our website www.stlucmvonline.org

See what's new at  
**www.magicvalley.com**

It won't MAKE YOU RICH But look on the bright side. IT JUST MIGHT KEEP YOU FROM BECOMING POOR.

* Motor Route Accepting Applications. <b>TWIN FALLS</b> 735-3346	* 3rd Ave. W. * 4th Ave. W. * 6th Ave. W. * California St. <b>GOODING</b> 735-3302	* 14th Ave. W. * California St. * Idaho St. * Whippley St. <b>GOODING</b> 735-3302
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**Happy Holidays!**

* Gooding/ Shoshone Motor Route Available \$800-1000 <b>GOODING</b> 735-3302	* Motor Route Available \$1100-1300 <b>SHOSHONE</b> 735-3302
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**TIMES-NEWS**  
magicvalley.com

Call now for more information about routes available in your area.

Twin Falls... 735-3346  
Burley, Rupert, Red... 877-4733  
Timberly, Mill, Rex, Tula... 733-2341  
Gooding, Shoshone, Holey, Jerome... 735-3302

**HOTFACTS** by **YAHOO!** hotjobs

**22%** of people spend 8 hours a week web surfing instead of working.

Source: Yahoo! HotJobs 1st Qtr. May 2008

Provides more stimulating jobs at **magicvalley.com**



# Woman longs to realize her dream of family sisterhood

**DEAR ABBY:** I am happily married, but all my life I have yearned for a close and sisterly relationship with my mother and my sisters. We are very different people, but a kind and understanding female relative is what I have always wished for.



**DEAR ABBY**  
Jeannie Phillips

They send me unsolicited advice, including articles about physical and mental health, diet pills and clippings on financials, etc. but we don't seem to be able to sustain a good conversation, with listening or encouragement. I sometimes think people get so wrapped up in trying to "fix" others that they don't see the true beauty that lies within.

I have expressed my feelings to them about wishing we could be closer, but was told that sisterly affection is a "myth." Unfortunately, I don't fit in with my husband's family, either. Family issues seem to be the recurring theme of my life. It's depressing.

I work full-time, do charity work and have good friends outside my family, but I still long for a closer relationship with my family. Is there a way to let go of old dreams and wishes? With the holidays here, I have difficulty getting through this time without a bad case of the blues.

**—MISSING SOMETHING IN MINNESOTA**

**DEAR MISSING SOMETHING:** Forgive me if my response has a "bah, humbug" tone, but has it occurred to you that your mother and sisters may be incapable of being the kind of idealized family that you would like to have? If they didn't care about you, they wouldn't send you unsolicited advice, articles on physical and mental health, diet pills and financial planning. They may think what they're doing is a demonstration of their love and concern for you.

The surest way I know to "let go" of the old dreams and wishes is to concentrate on the here and now and the blessings you have in your life — a solid marriage, a good job, caring friends and the ability to help those less fortunate. Christmas and New Year's can be a taxing time for those who are emotionally vulnerable. Because these holidays happen every year, some sessions with a licensed mental health professional could help you break that cycle.

**DEAR ABBY:** When I come home and my girlfriend is there, I greet her with a cheerful "hello" or "good morning." Her usual response is somewhere between a grunt and a snarl.

If I am home first and she walks in, she will immediately launch into a conversation without giving me a greeting. I have tried explaining to her that her behavior makes me feel like she isn't happy to see me, but when I tell her it hurts my feelings, she accuses me of trying to "control her."

She always gives her co-workers and friends a nice, friendly greeting when she sees them. Am I being too sensitive? I feel I deserve a similar acknowledgment if I take the time to be cordial.

**—SHORTCHANGED**

**DEAR SHORTCHANGED:** You're not being overly sensitive, and asking to be treated with warmth and courtesy isn't being controlling. Your girlfriend appears to take you and your affection for granted.

If there are other problems in your relationship, perhaps it's time to step back, take a cool and rational look at how you are being treated in other areas, and decide whether it is in your best interest to continue it.

**—SHORTCHANGED**

## IF DECEMBER 21 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY

Passionate Pluto completes it trip through your piece of celestial real estate during the next several months. You might experience heightened ambition or an obsession with an intense desire or a spiritual quest. As his influence on you grows, you will need to learn to handle business matters with diplomacy instead of sheer willpower. Business projects initiated in May or August are likely to founder even though you have all the skills. It is best to wait until a member of your team wears the brass ring on the career carousel. June is the best month for a thrilling getaway vacation or a romantic interlude.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Start your engines. The week ahead, padded full of holidays and last minute purchases, could be more enjoyable if you are already warmed up at the starting gate. Remember to jog off the excess.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** More than one of your wishes can come true this week. You are one of those people who enjoy a taste of all the trimmings and will probably sample more than your fair share of holiday goodies.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** The decorative this week. Although you might think that your signifi-

## HOROSCOPE

Jeraldine Saunders

cant other has gone overboard, or perhaps it is meant to bring pleasure.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Render unto Caesar this week. The business world doesn't screech to a halt just because of upcoming holidays. Don't let your inner plans get derailed by someone's passion for personal acclaim.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Santa is sure to deliver an important item on your list. In the meantime, you should do your best to make sure that the people on your list receive what they want. Don't overlook a small treat this week.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Toss around good will, kindness and charitable donations like a Frisbee. This week extend your sincere best wishes to those who want to be cheered by your renewed spirit. Your social instincts could be right on the mark.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Smoke the peace pipe. Early this week you may have more than one golden opportunity to tender sincere apologies for careless remarks or misunderstandings so there is nothing to mar your fun.

recipient's taste — as well as to your wallet.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Save receipts this week. A trip to the store might save you money if the item you purchased is returned. The brainy economy steps you take now can make a big difference in the year ahead.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Ambition to succeed materially might be part of your year's desire. Your plans for the community doesn't depend on the money in your pocket, but on your participation in local politics.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Last-minute shopping spree could bring satisfying results to your year's quest for a new and awkward personal situation, or show your sincerity by finding gift to offer as a token of peace.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Prepare to party heavily this week. Holiday parties are pre-planned on your social calendar. Your generous gestures may be unappreciated, but your social instincts could be right on the mark.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Smoke the peace pipe. Early this week you may have more than one golden opportunity to tender sincere apologies for careless remarks or misunderstandings so there is nothing to mar your fun.

Today is Sunday, Dec. 21, the 356th day of 2008. There are 10 days left in the year. Winter will arrive at 7:04 a.m. Eastern time. The Jewish Festival of Lights, Hanukkah, begins at sunset.

**Today's Highlight in History:**  
On Dec. 21, 1620, Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower went ashore for the first time at present-day Plymouth, Mass.

On this date:  
• In 1804, British statesman Benjamin Disraeli was born in London.  
• In 1937, the first feature-length animated cartoon in Technicolor, Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" had its world premiere in Los Angeles.  
• In 1940, author E. Scott Fitzgerald died in Hollywood, Calif., at age 44.  
• In 1945, Gen. George S. Patton died in Heidelberg, Germany, of injuries from a car accident.  
• In 1948, the state of Eire, or

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Ireland, passed an act declaring itself a republic.

In 1958, Charles de Gaulle was elected to a seven-year term as the first president of the Fifth Republic of France.

In 1959, Apollo 1 was launched in an attempt to orbit the moon.

In 1971, the U.N. Security Council chose Kurt Waldheim to succeed U Thant as Secretary-General.

In 1978, the Liberian-registered tanker *Amo Merchant* broke apart near Nantuxet, island off Massachusetts, almost a week after running aground, spilling 75 million gallons of oil into the North Atlantic.

In 1981, 270 people were killed when a terrorist bomb exploded inside a Pan Am Boeing 747 over Lockerbie, Scotland, sending wreckage crashing to the ground.

Ten years ago Israel's parliament voted overwhelmingly for early elections, signaling the demise of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ailing hard-line government. A Chinese court sentenced two dissidents (Xu Weili, Wang Jue) to long prison terms for trying to organize an opposition party. Xu was released in December 2002; Wang, in March 2004.

Five years ago: The government raised the national threat level to orange, indicating a high risk of terrorist attack. It was lowered back to yellow on Jan. 9, 2004. More than 150 people were killed in mudslides in the Philippines. Soviet diplomat Oleg Troyanovsky died at age 84.

One year ago: A suicide attacker detonated a bomb at a mosque in the name of Pakistan's former interior minister, killing at least 50 people.

## su do ku

© Puzzles by Pappocorn

5	2	3			
8	7	4	5		
9				4	1
	7		3	6	
2	4				
		4	6	7	
		3	8		

**HARD #99**  
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. That's all there is to it. There's no math involved. The grid has numbers, but nothing has to add up to anything else. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic. Find the answers for today's puzzle on page E8.

**INSURANCE**

**AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**

American Family Insurance is hiring an Agent in Training (AIT) position. Base pay is \$3000 per month with 50% bonuses and commissions on new business. Unlimited income potential. AIT's will work under an established mentor agent for 12-18 months before starting their own business.

Please apply online at [www.aifscall.com](http://www.aifscall.com)

Click on Agency Application. For questions, please call (208) 552-2411.

**A Job You Really Want!**  
The Sawtooth National Forest is looking for quality people to fill seasonal forestry positions in:

Firefighting, Trail, Recreation, Timber, Range, Public Affairs.

Jobs are available on the Fairfield Ranger District, Ketchum Ranger District, Minidoka Ranger District and Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Watch for Open House Dates. Applicants need to be highly motivated and willing to work in a demanding and challenging environment. The two basic requirements for summer job applicants are that they be at least 18 years old and a United States Citizen.

For information on how to apply visit: [www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/sawtooth) or call 208-737-3200. Apply online at <https://www.usajobapplication.com/>

USDA Forest Service is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**REAL ESTATE**

Local Office  
Hiring New and Experienced Agents. Free Recorded Info 1-866-811-1710 Code 1170

**SALES** Part-time Sales Position open 24-32 hrs/wk. Flexible wk hrs. Competitive commission. Call Gailley at Fox Floral 733-2674

**TRADES**

**MECHANIC** Heavy Transportation Job Interview! accepting applications for a Mechanic in Sheehoe, starting wage is \$14.05/hr. The State of Idaho offers a competitive benefits package. Apply online at [www.idaho.gov/careers/](http://www.idaho.gov/careers/)

208-886-7880 for more information on this position. Close 12/21/08. EOE

**TRADES**

Heavy Transportation Company is seeking a Full Time Person to perform electrical mechanics, maintenance on equipment and various other duties. Must have a Class A CDL. Apply to Box #15864 c/o Times News P.O Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303

**Professional**

**PROFESSIONAL** Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Inc. is offering a full-time Executive Director position with health insurance with a very active volunteer program. Applicants must be proficient in grant writing, in computer applications, particularly QuickBooks, and possess good administrative skills. Applicants must be comfortable meeting with large and small groups for the purpose of recruiting volunteers and procuring funding. Those interested may pick up a job description and brochure at the office at 252 Deere St. Site A, Twin Falls, ID To apply, applicants must submit a full resume with cover letter to [starwats@twinfalls.net](mailto:starwats@twinfalls.net) or 406-522-3205. Email resume to: [awcreeper@starwats@twinfalls.net](mailto:awcreeper@starwats@twinfalls.net)

**REMEMBER** The holiday ad you placed some time ago. The Times News? How is the time to come pick up your orders. Stop by the Customer Service Dept today!

**Deck the halls with a better job fa, la, la...**

**River Ridge** (formerly Sunbridge)

**Registered Nurses**

Full-time is 32 hours per week. Part-time is 20 hours. We offer competitive pay, and full-time includes an excellent package. Apply in person or contact Beverly Nipper.

**CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER**  
Caring to the Core 24/7

640 Filer Ave West, Twin Falls, Phone: 708-734-8645

**MEDICAL**

**St. Benedicts Family Medical Center**

Director of Nursing (FT)  
LPN-LTC (PRN)  
Pharmacist (FT)  
Physical Therapist (FT)  
RN-Adult Care (FT)  
RN-Home Health (FT)

For a complete listing of our jobs and application procedures please visit [www.stbenedicts.com](http://www.stbenedicts.com)

709 Lincoln Ave. Jerome, ID 83338 EOE

**NEWSPAPER**

**Times-News** [magivalley.com](http://magivalley.com)  
Single Copy Coin Collector

The Times News is seeking an individual to fill the position of part-time Single Copy Coin Collector. If you are self motivated and able to work independently, then this position may be for you. You will be responsible for collection of Times News coin in business and rack accounts on daily and weekly basis, all the while maintaining and repairing the racks as needed.

This position requires some flexibility including the possibility of some weekend and early morning hours weather conditions. You must be able to lift up to and above 50 pounds, have a dependable vehicle, valid driver's license, good driving record and proof of insurance.

This is an hourly, part-time position, approximately 20-25 hrs per week depending on the workload, and includes some benefits.

Apply online at [www.magivalley.com/workthere](http://www.magivalley.com/workthere) or pick up an application from 8-5 M-F at the Times News 122 Fairfield Ave W Twin Falls, Idaho  
Application deadline is 1/2/09.

The Times News is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Pre-employment Drug Testing and Background Check are required

**24/7 Classified Ad Placement**  
[magivalley.com](http://magivalley.com)

REAL ESTATE & CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE MESSAGE Selling Property? Don't pay any fees until it's sold. For more information about avoiding time share and real estate scams...

502 Homes For Sale BURLEY Like new, great location. 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Fenced in backyard, new flooring...

502 Homes For Sale BURLEY Like new, great location. 5 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths. Fenced in backyard, new flooring...

FAX YOUR AD TIMES-NEWS CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT 208-734-5538

YOU CHOOSE!! WE ARE BOTH READY FOR CHRISTMAS!! 436 Meadowlark Way, Twin Falls 3 beds, 2 baths, lots of extras! Reduced to only \$149,900

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM Brawley REALTY INC 2476 Ironwood, Twin Falls 4 beds, 2 baths, great yard! Price Right At \$173,900

502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Call 208-280-4663

502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath. Call 208-280-4663

502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath. Call 208-280-4663

502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath. Call 208-280-4663

502 Homes For Sale TWIN FALLS 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath. Call 208-280-4663

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies FILER (West) 150 acre, productive farm for sale, w/irrigation 7 lower, full circle pivot. 209-358-6866

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies TWIN FALLS County 200 acres w/water on Hwy 83, home and shop. 525-5000

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies TWIN FALLS County 200 acres w/water on Hwy 83, home and shop. 525-5000

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies TWIN FALLS County 200 acres w/water on Hwy 83, home and shop. 525-5000

512 Farms/Ranches/Dairies TWIN FALLS County 200 acres w/water on Hwy 83, home and shop. 525-5000

521 Manufactured Homes BUHL 1 bdrm, 1 bath. pet ok. 5375 + \$300 deposit. Call 208-212-1678

521 Manufactured Homes BUHL 1 bdrm, 1 bath. pet ok. 5375 + \$300 deposit. Call 208-212-1678

521 Manufactured Homes BUHL 1 bdrm, 1 bath. pet ok. 5375 + \$300 deposit. Call 208-212-1678

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521 Manufactured Homes BUHL 1 bdrm, 1 bath. pet ok. 5375 + \$300 deposit. Call 208-212-1678

602 Unfurnished Homes HEYBURN 3 bedroom, 2 bath. clean. \$650 month + \$550 deposit. No pet/smoking. Call 208-720-5777

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602 Unfurnished Homes HEYBURN 3 bedroom, 2 bath. clean. \$650 month + \$550 deposit. No pet/smoking. Call 208-720-5777

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602 Unfurnished Homes HEYBURN 3 bedroom, 2 bath. clean. \$650 month + \$550 deposit. No pet/smoking. Call 208-720-5777

602 Unfurnished Homes SHOSHONE/GOODING 3-4 bdrm, 2 bath in town & country. Rent to own. Buydown 308-2941, SV Properties 208-720-1678

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602 Unfurnished Homes TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, home 2 1/2 miles W. of T.F. 21435 Hwy 20. Rent to own. No smoking. \$650 + dep. Water/trash paid. No pets. 208-431-7387 or 208-280-0093

602 Unfurnished Homes TWIN FALLS 3 bdrm, home 2 1/2 miles W. of T.F. 21435 Hwy 20. Rent to own. No smoking. \$650 + dep. Water/trash paid. No pets. 208-431-7387 or 208-280-0093

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513 Acreage and Lots BURLEY Affordable. Watertown Lots. Views. Recreation. 209-320-3200

601 Furnished Homes BURLEY Affordable. Watertown Lots. Views. Recreation. 209-320-3200

602 Unfurnished Homes BURLEY Affordable. Watertown Lots. Views. Recreation. 209-320-3200

602 Unfurnished Homes BURLEY Affordable. Watertown Lots. Views. Recreation. 209-320-3200

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OPPORTUNITY OPPORTUNITY OPPORTUNITY! Commercial Development Opportunity!! FOR SALE 3,800 sq ft Retail/Office 703 Washington Corner of Washington & Caswell. Approximately 1 acre. High Traffic Count - Ideal commercial exposure. Call for more details: Steve Di Luccio 733-7653, Westport

Country Living...With All The Extras! SAWTOOTH ACRES Only Minutes From Twin Falls & Jerome. Slusher Construction Company - 644-1541









**1010 Autos**  
**BUICK '02 Century**, AC, PW, PL, cruise, only \$9590.  
**Assist**  
**AUTO BROKERAGE**  
 275 S. Idaho St.,  
 Wendell 208-638-1900

**1010 Autos**  
**CHRYSLER '07 PT Cruiser**, 80K Powertrain warranty, auto, power W/M, AC, cruise, 2 to choose from \$10,999.  
**LITHIA**  
 Chrysler - Jeep - Dodge  
 Call 208-733-6776

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**CHEVROLET '99 Lumina**, only 73K miles, AC, PW, AC, one owner, only \$4950.  
**Assist**  
**AUTO BROKERAGE**  
 275 S. Idaho St.,  
 Wendell 208-638-1900

**1010 Autos**  
**FORD '98 Mustang**, good condition, \$3100 offer. Call for details 208-259-9398 or 293-7047

**1010 Autos**  
**HONDA '01 Accord EX** coupe, 5 spd air, PW, PL, AM/FM/CD, factory alloy wheels, \$2988. #3059A.  
**Tuffy Car Sales**  
 802 N College Rd, TF 208-737-1200

**Sudoku Answers:**

4	5	6	9	2	1	3	8	7
8	1	2	7	3	4	5	9	6
9	3	7	5	6	8	1	2	4
3	6	8	2	5	9	7	4	1
5	7	1	8	4	3	9	6	2
2	4	9	1	7	6	8	5	3
6	9	5	3	1	2	4	7	8
1	8	4	6	9	7	2	3	5
7	2	3	4	8	5	6	1	9

**Jumble Answers:**

**JUMBLE**  
**Answer:**  
 POLITE CAJOLE JOYOUS  
 UNPAID CHALET SHERRY  
 The cycle of some marriages -  
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 Local owner. Was \$18,499. Now \$13,999. #11907A  
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INSIDE: Senior calendar, F2 | Stork report, F5 | Engagements, weddings, anniversaries, F5

# Down with the Dirty

By Melissa Davlin  
Times-News writer

Kim Smith wasn't impressed with some of her classmates' dancing at last spring's prom. The 17-year-old Wendell senior was so offended by inappropriate dancing at the school dance that she left early, opting to watch Disney movies with her date instead.

"It's inappropriate," Smith said. "You're like, ooh, I think I'll leave now."

R-rated dancing at school functions has many administrators and students shaking their heads instead of their booties. Whether chaperones kick out offending students or cancel the dance altogether, many agree that it's inappropriate for school.



Kim Smith, 17, center, high-fives teammate Tyler Hall after winning a game of speed Scrabble while her sister, Ralys, and Stephanie Henderson look on Monday night at her home near Wendell. Last spring, Smith left her junior prom because she felt uncomfortable with the inappropriate dancing.

Smith said dances at her church are a lot more tame. "It's a lot more distance between everybody," she said. "At homecoming or school dances, you know, they're a lot closer."

That's why Smith has no plans to go to her senior prom.

"That might change," she added. Lacey Kniep of Shoshone has witnessed similar scenes at her school dances.

"You just can't let it bother you," Kniep, 17, said. "You turn your head, don't look at it. Pretend it's not there."

Kniep said chaperones do well at keeping explicit moves off the dance floor, but they can't control everything.

"No matter what, students will find a spot, somewhere, to do what they want," Kniep said.

While some schools depend on the chaperones to keep things clean, Twin Falls High School opted to cancel its

winter dance as a punishment for out-of-control dancing.

"We have a dance code, and the dance code wasn't being followed," said Twin Falls High principal Ben Allen.

Although the school takes the policies seriously, the students' pranks aren't in danger — yet.

"That would be a last resort," he said.

Please see DANCE, Page F3

## Hazard lights a festive part of holiday trips

With the price of gas dropping like the temperature, you may be planning some rock-ribbed adventure. Perhaps you think it's time for a road trip, a chance to see Idaho in all its winter splendor.

Really, that's just crazy talk. Christmas travel is the roulette wheel of family life, and if you're like me, you tend to lose all your chips the moment you leave the driveway. It's enough to make you appreciate all that went wrong with the Donner Party.

My wife has learned not to push for big road ventures anymore. In fact, I can't even make it to the South I'lls to cut a Christmas tree without meeting danger. A few years ago, my vintage truck failed to make it halfway up the canyon, so I had to be towed by another truck with four-wheel drive. Talk about shame. In Idaho, being towed by another truck is like taking your llama to the rodeo.

The next year we took a better vehicle, but forgot rope. So I strapped down the tree with my leather belt. Within moments, the tree was almost entirely on my windshield, looking like a stuntman hanging on to dear life. We earned many curious looks from other drivers on Rock Creek Road.

Last year hit a new low. After cutting a tree, I yanked it out from some hanging brush. This forced a branch deep into my eye, scratching a cornea and creating a new definition of pain. I love my kids, but no Churlie Brown tree is worth a trip to the ER.

All those memories pale in comparison with my solo trek five years ago. It was on Dec. 23 when I was driving to Salt Lake City to make a late flight to San Diego, to join my wife and kids at her parents' home by Christmas Eve.

Somewhere near Malta, my car's electrical system went belly up, forcing me to leave it on the side of the road south of Sublett Pass. Sublett, if you don't know, was a French trapper's word for "Siberia."

I made it to a gas station where I tried to call friends or relatives for a ride to Burley. Unfortunately the phone line cut me off in the middle of the call, and I hung up the receiver in frustration. This quickly put me on the naughty list of the station manager, and I was told to leave and hoof it to Burley — some 20 miles away.

After straggling along for another hour in an Arctic wind, I found a ride to town and called my cousin in Twin Falls. She and her husband rushed to Burley with two cars. We sped back to Sublett with a new car battery and slim hopes of catching my flight.

Imagine my surprise moments later we found my car loaded onto a tow truck, with a state trooper's car ready to lead it back to town. In all my wanderings along Interstate 84, this was the first police officer I saw that night.

I approached me, asked if this were my car, then said something that even today makes me shudder.

"Where've you been? You can't leave your car on the roadside like this, and we've been calling your house all night."

The human body is quite amazing, really. Because at that moment, in 10-degree weather, I could feel all my skin start to burn, as if I were already in the San Diego sun.

Just when I was about to do something obnoxious or illegal, my cousin cut me off to say what's done is done. Within minutes, my luggage was retrieved and put into one of their cars. They urged me to take off while they would follow the wrecker to Twin Falls and take my car to a mechanic.

"Though I missed the flight, my cousins' generosity headed a lot of frustration that night. I eventually arrived in San Diego and enjoyed five days with my family, in splendid weather, good health — and no desire whatsoever to leave the house.

Southern California may not be Idaho, but at least the palm trees don't poke your eye out.

David Cooper is the Times-News city editor. Watch for his column weekly in Family Life, and reach him at david.cooper@lee.net.



SPILT MILK  
David Cooper

## A bright idea: Make-your-own luminarias

By Samantha Critchell  
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Children's faces seem to brighten the moment you flip the switch on the Christmas tree lights.

But tree awe is usually a one-day thing. What comes next?

Luminarias could be another brilliant idea. These easy-to-make lanterns are a tradition in America's Southwest — and they could become one in your household too.

Luminarias are rooted in an old Hispanic bonfire ritual, lighting the pathway to church for the festival of Las Posadas, a reenactment of the story of Joseph and Mary's search for lodging.

Today, luminarias, also called "farolitos" (Spanish for little lanterns), are done on a smaller scale — typically candles placed in paper bags — but they still give off a warm, inviting glow.

The bag and candle can both be kept in place by filling the bag with sand, says Deborah Way, a senior editor at FamilyFun magazine.

Way says her most family-friendly tip for all luminarias is to use a piece of dry spaghetti to light any candles inside a deep vessel. You use a match or lighter to light the spaghetti, but then have a much longer stick as well as a longer window of time to trans-

fer the flame. Battery-operated "candles," popular in home catalogs, are another option.

Other ideas:

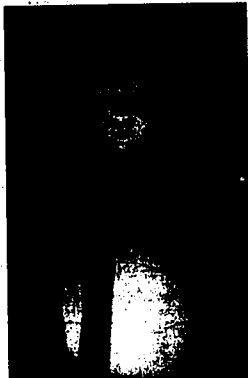
• **Spruce up your bag.** If you use extra paper to cut shapes and then tape them to the inside of the bag, you'll cast your own shadows. If you use colored tissue paper, the effect will be even more impressive, Way says.

• **Make a terrific trail.** This project uses plastic, gallon-size milk jugs. Cut a half-dollar-size hole in the base of clean, dry jugs and feed a section of a strand of electric Christmas lights inside. Using the same string of lights, place another section in a jug next to the first, and so on. You'll create the effect of a trail of lights.

• **Try ice.** This project uses tin cans. Fill a clean, empty tin can that's been stripped of its label. Freeze it until ice is solid. Use a hammer and nail to poke holes in the can to make a design — the ice will prevent denting.

Let the water melt, discard, and drop a candle inside the can.

Way warns not to stick your hand inside the can because there may be sharp edges. The cans can either be placed on the ground or be strung together and hung with wire.



Della Oberding, 5, looks into a luminaria, or paper lantern, Dec. 7 at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, N.M.

## We can help fix your family budget

Feeling the pinch? Dumbfounded by personal debt? Let us help you get your family's budget under control.

The Times-News has recruited Frank Ellis, associate business professor at College of Southern Idaho, to offer personalized advice for a southern Idaho family who needs major help getting a handle their spending.

So what are you waiting for, your credit cards to incur more interest? Contact features reporter Melissa Davlin at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net to volunteer for the story.



SENIOR CALENDAR

**Twin Falls Senior Citizens Center**

530 Shoshone St. W., Twin Falls. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; lounge and pool rooms; bargain center, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Daily lunches are available for take-out from 11 a.m. to noon; seniors 59 and under, \$5.50; seniors 60 and older, \$4.50. 734-5084.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Chicken a la king  
Tuesday: Soup and sandwich  
Wednesday: Birthday dinner, baked ham  
Thursday: Center closed  
Friday: Center closed

**ACTIVITIES:**  
Monday: Quilting, 8 a.m. SHIBA, 12:30 to 4 p.m. Monday bridge, 1 p.m. Tal chi, 1 p.m., \$1  
Tuesday: Ticket Tuesday Blood pressure, 10 a.m. to noon

Exercise class, 1 to 11 p.m. Let's Dance, 6 to 11 p.m. Wednesday: Cinnamon rolls for sale, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; \$1.50 each; coffee and roll, \$2  
Quilting, 9 a.m. Cliff Haack Band Foot clinic, 1 p.m. Tal chi, 1 p.m., \$1

**Filer Senior Haven**

222 Main St., Filer. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**MENUS:**  
Tuesday: Chicken breast  
Wednesday: Chicken enchiladas  
Thursday: Center closed

**ACTIVITIES:**  
Monday: Bingo, 7 p.m. Tuesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m. Bingo, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday: Puzzles, 11:30 a.m.

**Ageless Senior Citizens Inc.**

310 Main St. N., Kimberley. Lunch and full-serve salad bar, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; take-out; home delivery. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2.50, under 12. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Chicken pot pie  
Wednesday: Soup and sandwich  
Friday: Center closed

**ACTIVITIES:**  
Monday: Nu-2-U Thrift Store open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Exercise, 10:30 a.m. AA meeting, 8 p.m. Al-Anon meeting, 8 p.m. Tuesday: Bingo, 7 p.m.; everyone over 18 welcome  
Wednesday: Nu-2-U open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Exercise, 10:30 a.m.

**Gooding County Senior Citizens Center**

308 Senior Ave., Gooding. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50 for seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Fettuccini  
Tuesday: Christmas turkey dinner  
Wednesday: Salad bar  
Thursday: Center closed

**ACTIVITIES:**  
Monday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Pinochle, 12:30 p.m. Wild one, 5 p.m. Tuesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Hand and foot, 6 p.m. Wednesday: Pool, 9:30 a.m. Shuffleboard, 5 p.m. Friday: Bridge and duplicate bridge, 1 p.m. Saturday: Pinochle, 7 p.m.

**West End Senior Citizens Inc.**

1010 Main St., Buhl. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60. Sunday buffet: 1 p.m.; \$5, seniors; \$6, under 60; \$4, under 12. Center hours: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday.

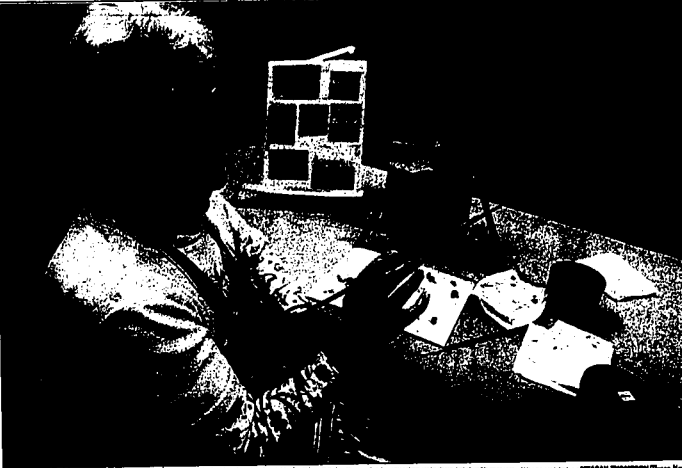
**MENUS:**  
Monday: Soup and sandwich  
Tuesday: Cheeseburger  
Wednesday: Center closed  
Thursday: Center closed

**ACTIVITIES:**  
Today: Ham dinner, 1 p.m. Idaho Old Time Fiddlers  
Monday: Silver/Sneakers exercise program, 10:30 a.m. Tuesday: Quilting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bus runs for lunch pickup, call 543-4577 by 10:30 a.m. Bingo, 7 p.m.

**Hagerman Valley Senior and Community Center**

140 E. Lake, Hagerman. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4, seniors; \$5, under 60; \$2, under 12. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; thrift shop, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free high-speed internet.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Christmas ham dinner  
Wednesday: Center closed



Jean Ballard poses by her depiction of the Arizona desert at the end of her oil painting class Dec. 9 at the Twin Falls Senior Center. Ballard is one of several people taking the \$20, two-hour class from local artist Don Oman. Classes are held four times a week: 4 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Sign up: Oman at 734-0509 or garynll@calhoun.net.

Friday: Center closed  
**ACTIVITIES:**  
Monday: Blood draws, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Christmas celebration

**Wendell Senior Meal Site**

105 W. Ave. A. Lunch served at noon Mondays. Hours, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Jerome Senior Center**

212 First Ave. E., Jerome. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free transportation to and from center Wednesdays through Fridays, call center for information at 324-5642.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Fish or chicken party  
Tuesday: Ham  
Wednesday: Center closed  
Thursday: Center closed  
Friday: Center closed  
**ACTIVITIES:**  
Monday: Silver/Sneakers exercise, 10:30 a.m. Bridge, 12:30 p.m.

**Silver and Gold Senior Center**

210 E. Wilson, Eden. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 8

a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday and Friday.  
**MENUS:**  
Tuesday: Hamburger gravy  
Thursday: Center closed

**Golden Years Senior Citizens Inc.**

218 N. Rail St. W., Shoshone. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

**MENUS:**  
Tuesday: Center closed  
Wednesday: Center closed  
Friday: Center closed

**Camas County Senior Center**

127 Willow Ave. W., Fairfield. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$4, under 60; \$2, under 10. Quilting, pool, table games, puzzles, TV, videos. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**MENUS:**  
Tuesday: Pizza  
Wednesday: Center closed  
Friday: Center closed

**Blaine County Senior Center**

721 Third Ave. S., Halley. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, non-seniors. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday

through Friday.  
**MENUS:**  
Tuesday: Christmas turkey dinner  
Wednesday: Salisbury steak  
Friday: Center closed

**Golden Heritage Senior Center**

2421 Overland Ave., Burley. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$4.50, seniors and children under 12; \$6, non-seniors. Center hours: 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Spaghetti  
Tuesday: Barbecue ribs sandwich  
Wednesday: Birthday dinner  
Thursday: Center closed  
Friday: Center closed

**Carey Senior Center**

Main Street. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3, seniors; \$5, non-seniors.

**Minidoka County Senior Citizens Center**

702 11th St., Rupert. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$5, seniors; \$6, non-seniors; \$3, under 12; \$4.50, home delivery. Gift shop: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Center hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Sweet-and-sour chicken  
Tuesday: Pork roast  
Wednesday: Center closed  
Thursday: Center closed  
Friday: Center closed  
**ACTIVITIES:**

Monday: Pinochle, 1 to 4 p.m. Pool, 1 p.m. Tuesday: Pool, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Walking, 9 a.m.

**Richfield Senior Center**

130 S. Main, Richfield. Lunch at noon. Suggested donation: \$3.50, seniors; \$5.50, under 60.

**MENUS:**  
Monday: Liver and onions  
Thursday: Center closed

Asking dad for daughter's hand has staying power

By Melissa Kessler Dutton For The Associated Press

Adrian Enrique was nervous when he popped the question to Leah Smeenk. And he had been even more nervous when he sought permission from her mom and dad first.

"I wanted to make sure I did it right," said Enrique, 25, of Orlando, Fla. "It's a ritual. It shows respect. You just start out on the right foot with the parents."

Although seeking permission from a woman's father is no longer a societal must, many prospective grooms still do it as a way to gain the trust, respect or friendship of their future fathers-in-law. Some include mothers in the conversation.

In fact, 73 percent of the men who participated in a 2007 survey by Men's Health magazine and TheKnot.com, a wedding Web site, said a guy should seek dad's permission before giving his daughter a ring. Sixty-eight percent of the women who responded said that asking their dad was not necessary, but was OK, according to the survey of more than 10,000 men and women.

Men like the tradition because it gives them a place to start as they plan the proposal, said Anja Winikka, editor at TheKnot.com.



Leah Smeenk and Adrian Enrique at their home in Winter Springs, Fla. Adrian took Leah's parents to the jewelry store where he bought the ring to ask permission to propose to their daughter.

"The proposal is the one thing where he's got all the control," she said. Enrique came up with a way to talk to Smeenk's parents before he finalized his plans for how to propose to her. During Jan and Leonard

this to Leah and ask her to spend the rest of her life with me."

The speech made a big impact on the family. "They were all ecstatic," recalled Enrique. "They respect me more because of this."

Jan Smeenk, of Montoursville, Pa., agreed. "It was very special," she said. "I felt he was showing both Leah and her family respect."

Randy Burns, 28, also saw a conversation about marriage with his future father-in-law as a way to earn approval, even though they had just met a day earlier.

"It was very awkward," Burns, of Louisville, Ky., said of the July conversation with Collin Stevens. "I thought it was the right thing to do. He was floored but at the same time I definitely got the feeling he respected me for asking."

The discussion took "guts," agreed Stevens. "It was a respectful thing to do. I don't think it was a necessary thing to do. If that's who my daughter wants to marry, then that's it."

Mallory Stevens, who said yes to Burns a few days later, appreciated the gesture. "I'm really close to my dad," she said. "It helped them bond. Now, they have a story between the two of them." The custom has come back

into favor with a different connotation than it had in the past, said Stephanie Coontz, who teaches family studies at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., and directs research and public education for the Council on Contemporary Families. "We're playing with conventions," she said. "It's totally a formality. How many couples that are in love would accept a no?"

Today, the courtesy seems to signal a man's desire to foster a respectful and loving relationship with his intended's parents, she said. "People are rediscovering the need to have support net-

works of friends and family," Coontz said.

Mary Felschman said he was "totally shocked" and pleased in 2007 when Brett Berger asked permission to marry his daughter, Shawna. "It made me feel like I had another son," said Felschman, of Dania Beach, Fla. "It showed he wanted to be part of my family."

When Shawna Felschman Berger learned about the conversation months later, she was touched. "It just showed that Brett really valued their opinion and how strongly he viewed their relationship," she said. "My dad was just so excited."

The bright side  
Reasons for optimism about southern Idaho's future for families

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# Hard-to-find dresses for unconventional brides

By Betsy Taylor  
Associated Press writer

DES PERES, Mo. — As a Mormon planning a temple wedding, Jenna Gaal knew what she needed in a wedding gown: pure white, with sleeves and a conservative neckline and hem.

She just couldn't find it. "I tried on things that looked like nightgowns, floor-length with beads," said the 23-year-old from Kansas City, Mo., who wanted something elegant as well as modest.

Finally, she found her dress about a four-hour drive from home at Chatfields Boutique in the St. Louis suburb of Des Peres, Chatfields, which bills itself as "an unexpected wedding store" features modest, plus-size, eco-friendly, maternity and other specialty gowns.

Its owner, Debbie Welcher, notes that not all brides are of a size 6 strapless couture gown. While those with unconventional — or very traditional — needs may have to do a little more homework, there are places where they, too, can find the dress of their dreams.

Gaal was beaming, and her mother looked happy too, as she stood in front of a mirror at Chatfields while her satin gown — with covered shoulders, a dropped waist and box pleats — was being fitted. She found the store because it is near her wedding temple.

"Oh my goodness! I was almost in tears because I had 10 to 20 dresses to try on, instead of two or three to try and work with," she said. "I think it's a great thing because every bride wants to look pretty on her wedding day."

Welcher was motivated to create a boutique of hard-to-find bridal dresses when she heard a radio call-in discussion about how difficult it could be for pregnant brides to find flattering dresses and sympathetic salespeople.

Her store now serves a variety of niche bridal markets. There is a pregnant mannequin in the same store window as another mannequin wearing a temple-ready gown with high neck and long sleeves.

The maternity dress is a champagne taffeta with a corset back that can be laced to adjust for a changing figure. It also includes a panel of fabric that expands to accommodate an expanding belly.

"It's not just an empire with fabric hanging down," Welcher said, referring to the high-waistline style that might be used to dress a pregnant woman. "I love this dress because it's so Audrey Hepburn."

These days, brides want gowns that fit their own personal circumstances, say those in the industry.

"The whole concept of a traditional bride is being turned on its head a little bit," said spokeswoman Cindi Freeburn of David's Bridal, which has about 300 stores nationwide. "Brides really want to make their wedding their own."

Freeburn noted that about 15 percent of American weddings are now "destination" weddings, for which brides might want gowns that can be worn outside, perhaps with a shorter train or other practical considerations.

Gown preferences also can vary by region, she said, and David's adjusts its mix of dresses to meet demand — providing more covered-up gowns, for instance, in areas where there are larger concentrations of conservative, religious families.

The chain doesn't specifically design maternity dresses, Freeburn said, but has in-store experts trained to make those alterations.

They can help meet other special requests, too, she said. A jacket that covers up may be the answer for a bride seeking a modest silhouette at a religious cere-

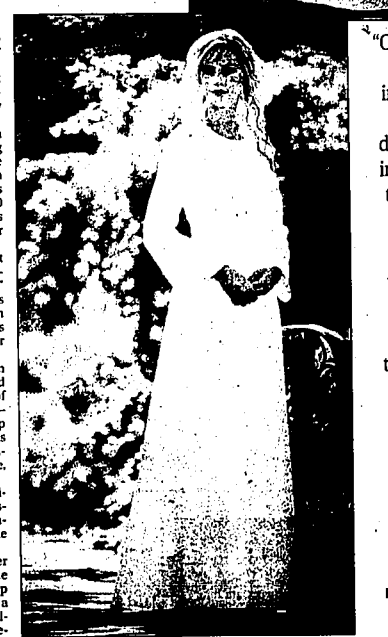


LEFT: Eternity Gown's Temple Ready Dress: a matte satin sacred occasion gown that has lightly beaded embroidery at the long flared sleeves and at the high scoop neckline.

CENTER: Eternity Gown's elaborate beaded Frack lace over matte satin A-line gown with sheer lace three-quarter bell sleeves.

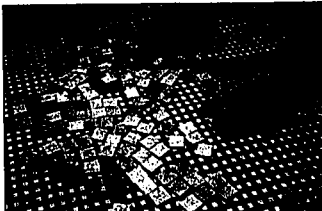
BOTTOM: Eternity Gown's matte satin A-line gown that has flared sleeves and insets of Gulpere lace at the ends of the sleeves, the empire waistline and around the bottom of the skirt.

All photos: Eternity Gown



"Oh my goodness! I was almost in tears because I had 10 to 20 dresses to try on, instead of two or three to try and work with."  
— Jenna Gaal

"The whole concept of a traditional bride is being turned on its head a little bit. Brides really want to make their wedding their own."  
— spokeswoman Cindi Freeburn of David's Bridal, which has about 300 stores nationwide



Wendell High School senior Kim Smith plays Scrabble with friends and family Monday night at her home.

## Dance

Continued from page F1

The school's sweetheart dance in February will serve as a test run.

Asking students to follow the rules shouldn't be too much to ask. They played a role in making the rules, Allen said, and most want to keep it clean. One parent wrote a letter suggesting the Winter Ball cancellation was too harsh, but the majority of response was positive, he said.

"I'm proud of our student leadership class and our students," Allen said.

Other local schools haven't had as much of a problem. Mike Gemar, prin-

cipal of Bighi High School, said students who dance inappropriately understand the admonishment.

"They respond real well when we just tell them to knock it off or leave the event," Gemar said. "And we've never had to usher anybody out."

"That's the kind of dance Allen and his faculty are hoping for."

"That's what we want," Allen said. "We want it to be a positive experience for all our students."

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

### Quick Study

Update on major health topics

By Linda Searing  
Special to The Washington Post

### The topic: Kids' allergies

**THE QUESTION**  
Can children allergic to milk develop a tolerance of it?

**THIS STUDY**  
It randomly assigned 20 children, who averaged about 10 years old and had a severe milk allergy, to take a gradually increasing dose of nonfat powdered milk or fake powdered milk daily. At the start, the children could tolerate just 1/4 teaspoon of milk, on averages, without a reaction. After four months, children in the milk group could tolerate about five to eight ounces of milk daily; those who had taken the fake milk still could tolerate just 1/4 teaspoon. As the dosage increased, reactions such as itchy mouth and abdominal pain were common, but 90 percent required no treatment.

**WHO MAY BE AFFECTED?**  
Children allergic to milk. An estimated 3 million children in the U.S. have food allergies, an 18 percent increase in the past decade.

**CAVEATS**  
The study had a small number of participants. It did not determine if the children's increased tolerance was permanent or if they would lose their tolerance if they did not continue consuming higher amounts of milk. Anyone interested in testing an allergic child's tolerance of milk should consult a doctor before doing so.

**FIND THIS STUDY**  
It's in the Oct. 28 issue of the Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

**LEARN MORE**  
Learn about milk allergy at [www.mayooclinic.com](http://www.mayooclinic.com) and [www.kidshhealth.org](http://www.kidshhealth.org) (enter "Teens" site).

The research described in Quick Study comes from credible, peer-reviewed journals. Nonetheless, conclusive evidence about a treatment's effectiveness is rarely found in a single study. Anyone considering changing or beginning treatment of any kind should consult with a physician.

## CLEANING CORNER

**Question:**  
My toddler has drawn all over the wall with crayons! Everything I've used ruins the paint finish. Can you suggest a product that won't ruin the paint?  
— Frustrated Mother of Baby Picasso

**Answer:**  
Relax! Don Aslett's Cleaning Center has the perfect product to clean up after your roaming juvenile artist -- Industrial Strength Problem Solver. It was formulated as a graffiti remover with bio-based solvents that are safer than other alternatives. This product is ready to use, non-toxic and biodegradable. It tackles the toughest stains in your home such as permanent marker, and of course, dissolves crayon right off your walls.

Frustated with a stubborn cleaning problem? Write or e-mail your questions to: [lsandler@cleaningcenters.com](mailto:lsandler@cleaningcenters.com)

483 Washington St. N. Twin Falls, ID  
(Corner of Washington St. N. and Piler Ave.)

# Ring in the New Year on a budget

By Megan K. Scott  
Associated Press writer

No need to spend a fortune on a swanky dinner, admission to an upscale club, a babysitter or a big blowout bash this Dec. 31.

Here are some cheap and fun ways to ring in the New Year.

## If you want to stay in, try ...

- **A clothing swap.** Start the new year with a clean closet and free clothes. Ladies can trade clothes and accessories, says Heather Flett, co-author of "The Rawls Mom's Handbook," who has had several of these parties. Guys can trade video games, CDs and gift cards.

- **A spa night.** Have a pampering evening with your close girlfriends, says Maggie Gallant of Rogers & Cowan, a PR firm.

- **A game night.** Some of your friends will score a new game or even a new gaming system over the holidays, says Flett. The host is the person with the biggest television.

- **A fondue party.** A twist on the traditional potluck. Guests can be assigned specific fondue cheese to bring and notes can be rented, says Judy Allen, co-founder of Sensual Home Living.

- **A sleepover.** Give the kids a slumber party with a babysitter, says Angela Gala of Rogers and Gala Creative Partners. Host couple provides hors d'oeuvres. Visiting

couples, breakfast. Dinner is take out — and ditch.

- **A movie binge.** Sitting in front of the TV is much more fun if you have a mission, says Flett. "Watch all six 'Star Wars' movies or catch up on two seasons worth of 'Mad Men,'" she says.

- **A romantic evening.** A take out dinner by candlelight with lingerie and soft music. It's fun, romantic and very economical, says love coach Robin Gorman Newman.

## If you want to go out, try ...

- **Church.** Many evangelical churches have Watch Night services, says Bill J. Leonard, dean and professor of church history at the Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

- **Some churches make a night of it, with dinner, activities, and then a service that ends at midnight. Some simply have a service that begins at 11 p.m., says Leonard.**

- **Watch Night services are free, but families may be asked to bring something for a potluck dinner.**

- **First Night.** Boston's may be the oldest and largest, but more than 100 cities in the U.S., Canada, and New Zealand have First Night celebrations, according to the First Night International Web site.

- **About 1 million people are expected to attend Boston's Watch Night celebration, according to Joyce Linahan, spokeswoman for First Night Boston. Events include a family festival, live perfor-**



Shauna Swansborg, 8, left, and her brother Andy Swansborg, 13, right, of Beverly, Mass., watch the First Night parade in Boston in 2006.

ances, a Mardi Gras style Metro Grand Procession and two fireworks displays.

Willing to travel? Find First Night celebrations at [www.firstnight.com](http://www.firstnight.com).

## ... and if you must throw a traditional bash

- **Later is better.** Start the party around 10 or 10:30, says Gallant. "You don't

want to invite them earlier because it's too much time before the ball drops," she says. Plus, providing snacks and beverages are cheaper and easier than dinner.

- **Keep the guest list small.** Pay attention to how many people you are inviting, says Gallant. They should all be able to sit comfortably.
- **Consider a progressive dinner.**

Assign each house a name of a country and a course, says Sarah Taylor of Rogers & Gala Creative Partners. For example, French dessert and Chamborde at the Smiths.

- **Have a dessert potluck.** "It can all be sweet and delicious," says Gallant.

- **Skip the champagne.** Franciacorta, a sparkling wine from Lombardy, is an affordable alternative, says

Saunabh Abrol, president of WineChateau.com, an online retailer. "It's as complex and sophisticated — at half the price," he says.

- **BYO Bottle.** Guests are in charge of inventing their own specialty drink recipe and bringing the ingredients, says Taylor. "As a thank you, compile all of the recipes in a book and send it to all of your guests," she says.

# Writing for kids? Book world debates value of Newbery Medal awards

By Valerie Strauss  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Newbery Medal has been the gold standard in children's literature for more than eight decades. On the January day when the annual winner is announced, bookstores nationwide sell out, libraries clamor for copies and teachers add the work to lesson plans.

Now the literary world is debating the Newbery's value, asking whether the books that have won recently are so complicated and inaccessible to most children that they are effectively turning off kids to reading. Of the 25 winners and runners-up chosen from 2000 to 2005, four of the books deal with death, six with the absence of one or both parents and four with such mental challenges as autism. Most of the rest deal with tough social issues.

An article in October's School Library Journal — "Has the Newbery Lost Its Way?" by children's literacy expert Anita Silvey — touched off the debate. Now in full bloom on blogs and in e-mails, it is the new flashpoint in the struggle to draw children into the delicious world of books at a time when the National Endowment for the Arts says fewer Americans are choosing to read than they were 20 years ago, risking social and economic consequences.

The organization that awards the Newbery — and several other book prizes, including the Caldecott Medal for best American picture book for children — defends its methods and its record.

"The criterion has never been popularity," said Pat Scates, president of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association. "It is about literary quality. We don't expect every child to like every book. If too many adults have read all the Pulitzer Prize-winning books and the National Book Award winners and liked every one?"

But Silvey and other critics have said the Newbery committee, which will award the 2009 medal Jan. 26, has a special responsibility because it is so influential.

"I can't help but believe that thousands, even millions, more children would grow up reading if the Newbery committee aimed to spotlight books that are deep and beautiful and irresistible to kids," said Lucy Colkins, founding director of the Reading and Writing Project at Columbia University's Teachers College and a professor of children's literature.

In an interview, Silvey said one example of inaccessibility is the 2005 winner, "Secret Masters: Sweet Ladies' Voices From a Medieval Village" by Laura Amy Schlitz — a series of monologues that Deborah Johnson, manager of the extensive book section at Child's Play in the District, agreed would be difficult for most kids to read on their own. "The quality and popularity are not mutually exclusive concepts," said Silvey, ed-



"It is about literary quality. We don't expect every child to like every book. How many adults have read all the Pulitzer Prize-winning books and the National Book Award winners and liked every one?"

— Pat Scates, president of the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association

tor of several books, including "Children's Books and Their Creators," an overview of 20th-century children's books. "It can be found in the same book. ... If you don't think of children at all in the equation, what you get are books that work for adults."

Yet Johnson said she is reluctant to criticize the quality of recent Newbery winners: "To choose books that people feel are going to stretch a young person's mind is not a bad thing." The Newbery Medal was launched in 1922 — the first children's literary award in the world — to promote the publishing industry by choosing "the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children." There are now numerous awards given for young people's literature by Scates's organization and others — some even selected by children — but the Newbery remains the most prestigious.

A 15-member committee of librarians and other literary experts is chosen each year to select the Newbery winner and the runner-up "honor" books.

Eligible books — fiction, non-fiction and poetry — must be by an author who is a citizen or resident of the United States and written for "ages up to and including 14." Librarians have said some parents and teachers mistakenly think the Newbery is aimed for children ages 8 to 12 and give children developmentally inappropriate books.

Some Newbery winners have become classics, including Louis Sachar's "Holes" in 1999, Lois Lowry's "The Giver" in 1994 and Ellen Raskin's "The Westing Game" in 1979. Some runners-up have, too, including "Charlotte's Web" by E.B. White in 1953; that year, the medal was given to "Secret of the Andes" by Ann Nolan Clark.

Winning books become instant best-sellers. Many bookstores and libraries have Newbery sections, and popular tel-

evision shows interview the winners each year. Textbooks given to prospective teachers and librarians includes lists of Newbery winners, and many master's and doctoral theses are written about them.

A book's appeal to students is important in literacy acquisition, according to experts — and kids.

"If you force someone to read a book, the less likely you are to like it," said Ellis Feldman, 13, an eighth-grader at private Landon School in Bethesda, Md. Teachers, he said, like to select books ripe for analysis rather than for a gripping narrative. He said he understands that motivation but thinks kids would read more if their assigned books engaged them.

John Beach, associate professor of literacy education at St. John's University in New York, studied 30 years of book lists chosen by children and adults. He found that less than 5 percent overlap between the Children's Choice Awards — named every year by the International Reading Association — and the library association's annual Notable Children's Books list, which includes many Newbery and Caldecott winners.

Books prized by children had stories and characters "accessible" to their lives, Beach's report concluded. "The Newbery has probably done far more to turn kids off to reading than any other book award in children's publishing," he said.

Richard Allington, an education professor at the University of Tennessee and a literacy expert, wonders why adults seem to identify literature with books that are sad and difficult. So does Temuelun Uranbayar, 11, a fifth-grader at Long Branch Elementary School in Arlington, Va.

He says he loves to read — but not always the books his teachers want him to. "I love funny chapter books, when I get to pick," said Temuelun.

# Quick Study

Update on major health topics

By Linda Searing  
Special to The Washington Post

## The topic: Pregnancy and the flu

**THE QUESTION**  
If a pregnant woman gets a flu shot, might the child she's carrying be protected after birth?

**THIS STUDY**  
It randomly assigned 340 women in the third trimester of pregnancy to get a flu shot or a shot that contained a vaccine against meningitis and pneumonia. Twenty-two children born to the women developed an influenza infection in their first six months. Infants whose mothers had gotten flu shots while pregnant were 63 percent less likely to have the flu than were the other children. Also in the children's first six months, other respiratory illnesses accompanied by a fever occurred about a third less often in the infants and mothers in the flu-shot group than in the children and mothers who did not get a flu shot.

**WHO MAY BE AFFECTED?**  
Newborns. A flu vaccine has not been approved for children younger than 6 months. Being vaccinated against influenza has been recommended for pregnant women since 1998, but experts estimate that just 15 percent of pregnant women get a flu shot.

**CAVEATS**  
Flu vaccines change each year to combat specific strains of the virus; testing with a different vaccine might yield different results. Use of a pneumococcal vaccine rather than a placebo in the study may have reduced the number of other respiratory illnesses among participants.

**FIND THIS STUDY**  
It's in the Sept. 17 online issue of the New England Journal of Medicine.

**LEARN MORE**  
Learn about vaccinations during pregnancy at [www.marchofdimeds.com](http://www.marchofdimeds.com). Learn about flu shots at [www.kidshhealth.org](http://www.kidshhealth.org) (on parents' site, search for "flu").

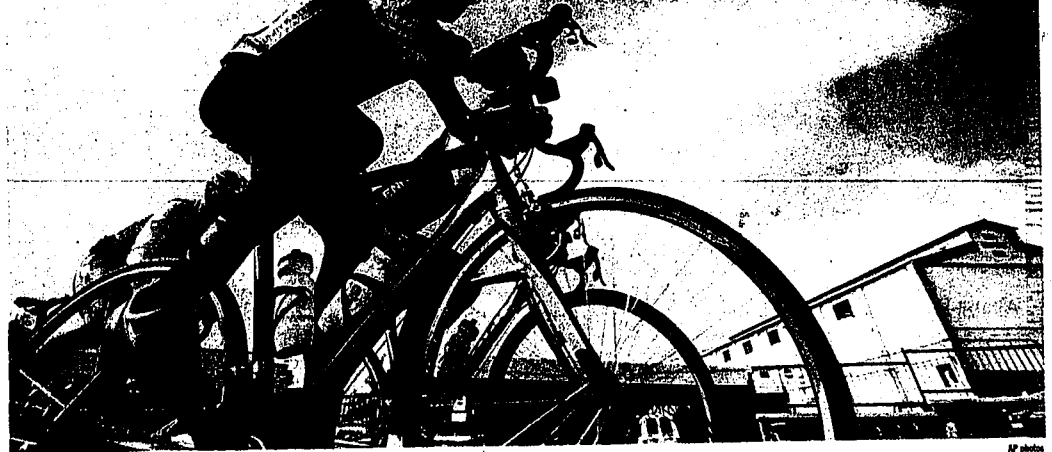
The research described in Quick Study comes from credible, peer-reviewed journals. Nonetheless, conclusive evidence about a treatment's effectiveness is rarely found in a single study. Anyone considering changing or beginning treatment of any kind should consult with a physician.



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# Lance Armstrong and other comeback kids



U.S. cyclist Lance Armstrong rides his bicycle during a training session near Los Cristianos, on the Canary Island of Tenerife, Spain, Dec. 5.

By Fred Bowen  
Special to  
The Washington Post

Lance Armstrong has announced that he is hopping on his racing bike and making a comeback. Armstrong is the legendary cyclist who won the Tour de France, the grueling bike race that covers more than 2,200 miles through France, an amazing seven straight times, beginning in 1999.

Armstrong won the seven races after he almost died of cancer in 1996. So Armstrong knows something about comebacks.

Still, I'm not sure that even as great an athlete as Lance Armstrong can do this. After all, he is 37 years old. That's old for a world-class cyclist. And Armstrong has not competed in the Tour de France since 2005. Of course, as anyone who has ridden a bike knows: Once you learn to ride a bike, you never forget. But sports comebacks are tricky. Even the greatest athletes sometimes fail.

Michael Jordan may be the greatest basketball player ever, but he's also proof that great athletes don't always make great comebacks. Jordan quit basketball in 1993 after winning three NBA championships to try professional baseball. He found out that hitting a curveball was harder than hitting a jump shot. So he returned to the Chicago Bulls, won three more NBA titles and retired again.

After Jordan's second



Washington Redskins owner Daniel Snyder, right, and former coach Joe Gibbs take in the Redskins King of Fame pre-game ceremony for the late Sean Taylor before the New York Giants NFL football game, Nov. 30 in Landover, Md.

retirement, he came back to play for the Washington Wizards. Jordan was not a big hit in his second comeback. The Wizards never came close to winning a championship.

The same thing happened when the Washington Redskins' three-time Super Bowl-winning coach, Joe Gibbs, tried to return to the game after retiring. Gibbs got the Redskins to the playoffs, but in the four years that he coached the team after his

comeback, they had a regular-season record of only 30 wins and 34 losses.

Still, some athletes make incredible comebacks. Swimmer Dara Torres won three silver medals at age 41 in the 2008 Summer Olympics after taking several years off and having a baby. Hockey player Mario Lemieux battled back from cancer, like Armstrong, to win the National Hockey League's scoring title in 1993. Super Mario later retired but

came back again and played well enough to be an all-star.

Other great athletes simply choose to walk away from their sport. Jim Brown of the Cleveland Browns is perhaps the greatest running back in the history of the National Football League. Brown led the NFL in rushing yards eight of the nine seasons he played. In his last season, Brown ran for 1,544 yards and scored 21 touchdowns in 14 games. He was at the top of his sport. But Brown retired



Pittsburgh Penguins owner and hall of famer Mario Lemieux helps coach his son's hockey team at the Harrogate, Pa., Blade Rasser's Nov. 25.

at age 29 after the 1965 season and never played again.

If Lance Armstrong can win an eighth Tour de France, that would be one of the greatest sports comebacks

ever. It's a huge challenge, but Armstrong doesn't seem to mind challenges.

Fred Bowen writes sports novels for kids.

## Talking with singer Ne-Yo

By Chelsea Collado, Diana De La Rosa and Wendy Fernandez  
Kidsday reporters, Newsday

We interviewed music star Ne-Yo after he gave a special performance at the Ronald McDonald House in Manhattan.

Question: What is your favorite song that you've been featured in?

Answer: It has to be Rihanna's song "Hate That I Love You."

Q: Do you have enough privacy, or do paparazzi follow you everywhere?

A: I have this really, really big baseball cap that I put on. I have a fake mustache and trench coat, and I walk around with that on. It works sometimes.

Q: Did you always want to

be an R&B singer, or some other kind of singer?

A: I always wanted to be a singer and a songwriter. I (always) knew what I wanted to be. When I was 6, I knew this is what I want to do with my life. And everything up until now has been preparation for this.

Q: Who or what inspired you to be an R&B singer?

A: My mom. My mom has been my hero all my life. My dad wasn't always around. So it was me, my mom and my sister. Any music that she was into, I was into. I just developed a love for it from there.

Q: Do you enjoy singing by yourself or do you like to feature other singers?

A: I enjoy both. I just enjoy making music period, be it by myself or with someone else. I

enjoy the process of making music.

Q: Why do you supply lyrics for other singers?

A: In the very beginning of my career, I tried to come out as an artist on a different label, and it didn't really work out, so I was kind of at a crossroads (in) my life. I figured I gotta do music, because music is in me. So I guess maybe I am supposed to write for other people. So I started doing that, and that became successful. Then I tried the artist thing again, and it worked this time.

Q: When you were a kid, what type of music did you like?

A: I was a weirdo. I used to listen to ... Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra — they are people you probably never heard of — Tom Jones. ... I



AP photo

grew up in Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, it was all about flamenco feathers, tap dancing and that type of stuff. My friends used to make fun of me for listening to that sort of stuff.

Q: What are your future goals?

A: Future goals? To continue doing music, to do more movies and to one day have my own record label.

### Comeback fact

Boxer Sugar Ray Leonard may be the king of comebacks, with five. His first was in 1987, three years after retiring because of injury, and he won a championship title. His other comebacks had mixed results.



## EDITORIAL

## Why Idaho cities work — most of the time

Cities are the best-run governments in Idaho.

And it's not hard to see why. In most cases, a group of five to seven elected citizens serves as a board of directors for a professional organization composed of specialists in every aspect of public policy.

The CEO — either an elected mayor or an appointed city manager — wields enough power to function effectively but not enough to dominate the government.

City government tends to attract the best and the brightest in a community — eight of Idaho's governors were mayors first — and elections are usually non-partisan and competitive. Incompetent or lazy city council members, as a rule, don't last.

Yet there are problems with city government in Idaho. Because Idaho communities are small there's an ever-present risk of conflict of interest, and cities don't always spend taxpayer dollars in an open and transparent way.

Case in point: Twin Falls' sputtering efforts to revitalize downtown.

Conceived as a \$40 million public-private partnership to redevelop a four-block area, it's now shrunk to a one-block project — if it happens at all. Bad decisions involving problematic business relationships were made outside public scrutiny.

All the while, the city and its Urban Renewal Agency were paying \$350,000 to a Portland, Ore.-based consultant for, well, not much.

Did it have to be done that way? Of course not. But close working relationships sometimes tempt developers, city staffers and elected officials to cut corners and leave the public out of the loop.

Part of the problem is that Idaho's city-dwellers, for whatever reason, aren't engaged with local government unless they have a personal stake in a decision, as in the uproar that followed the Kimberly City Council's action last summer to raise utility rates sharply. The issue had been debated for months, but few residents decided to become part of the process until the bills landed in their mailboxes.

That breeds complacency in public officials. When most of their decisions are met with a shrug by the taxpayers, city council members tend to leave the hard work to the municipality's professional staff or to the city's boards and planning and zoning commissions.

That leads to bad decisions, and worse, to groupthink — the phenomenon in which a collection of like-minded folks can't see obvious flaws in decisions.

Did the Buhl City Council really not foresee the current taxpayer rebellion when it committed \$23 million to pay for water treatment and wastewater system upgrades? That decision raised basic utility bills from \$54 a month to \$130.

Still, Idaho cities get things right more often than not, and on most issues they're far more proactive than state government. The city of Idaho Falls, for example, now regulates small daycare facilities and licenses general contractors after the Legislature refused.

Unfortunately, lawmakers call the shots when it comes to municipal finance, leaving cities few tools with which to handle rapid growth. A local option tax has been on the table for 35 years, but legislators still refuse to permit most cities to raise taxes — with the approval of voters — to pay for transportation or infrastructure.

Another potential source of local income — impact fees — are so circumscribed under Idaho law that they're not an option for many smaller communities.

Cities in general manage the taxpayers' money better than other levels of government in Idaho. It's too bad the Legislature won't get out of the way and let them do their jobs properly.

## TIMES-NEWS

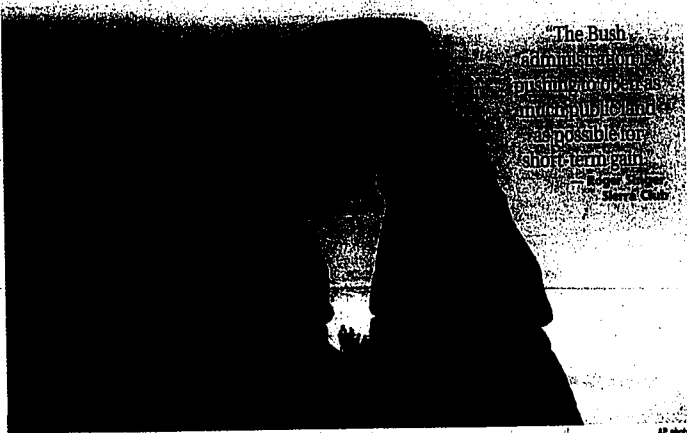
Brad Hund ... publisher • Steve Crump ... Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hund, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Bill Blitzenburg and Ruth S. Pierce.

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## Bush's fingerprints



The Bureau of Land Management last week sold 275,000 acres of oil and gas leases in Utah near national parks, such as Arches National Park (above). The plan that was needed to offer the leases was completed Oct. 3, and the sale was announced Election Day.

## President's push for rule changes to be felt across the West

By Mark Jaffe

A flurry of end-of-term Bush administration changes in rules, permits and plans could alter canyons, mesas, grasslands and forests across the West.

From the November rules for oil-shale development to a revision of the Endangered Species Act earlier this month to an oil-and-gas lease last week there are a spate of changes that touch Western lands. And while the changes may benefit some commercial interests and create jobs, environmentalists are raising alarms.

"The Bush administration is pushing to open as much public land as possible for short-term gain," said Roger Singer, the Sierra Club's Colorado regional representative.

Officials at federal agencies say many of the actions have been years in the making or are responses to statutory requirements.

The agencies include the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Office of Surface Mining.

"The bureaucracy really doesn't move quickly," said Cecilia Boddington, a Department of the Interior



A file photo of President Bush clearing brush near Crawford, Texas, in 2004. End-of-term Bush administration changes in rules, permits and plans on public land across the West are raising alarms among environmentalists.

spokeswoman. Western officials and environmentalists don't see it that way.

"Last-minute maneuvering" is how Colorado Gov.

Bill Ritter described the BLM's September move to open 2.4 million acres in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming to oil-shale and

tar-sands development.

## Beating the clock

"There is this sense of a heading rush by the Bush administration," said Steve Smith, assistant regional director of the Wilderness Society.

Officials for the federal agencies say the timing of these actions is complex and varied.

A permit for the Black Mesa Coal Mine on Navajo and Hopi tribal land in Arizona, for example, was part of a 2006 environmental-impact statement, even though the permit application was made only in May.

"The company has fulfilled the requirements for its application," said Al Klein, regional director of the Office of Surface Mining, "and we are obliged to make a decision."

The energy-corridor plan was mandated by the 2005 Energy Policy Act and involved the Department of Energy, the BLM and the Forest Service.

"The scale of the plan made it something for the assistant secretary for lands and minerals to sign. It is

Please see BUSH, Page G2

## Why we put the Hanks video on our Web site

The video is tame, compared to what you can see late at night on America's Whackiest Police Chases.

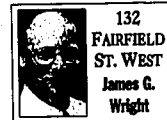
It shows the dark August night when Cody Hanks of Burley was shot and killed by Idaho State Patrol Trooper Michael Wendler in a traffic stop gone awry near Kimberly.

On the video, Wendler is seen chasing Cody Hanks to the open door of Hanks' pickup truck. The men scuffle, but Hanks gets into the truck.

Wendler discharges pepper spray into the cab, then scrambles along as the vehicle begins to drive away. In the distance, too far away from the police cruiser's dashboard camera to see, Wendler apparently drew his pistol and shot Hanks before falling away to the pavement. The truck curves from the highway and bounces to a stop in a field.

Elapsed time: 48 seconds. We posted the video on our Web site, [Magicalvalley.com](http://Magicalvalley.com), on Dec. 11 after it was

released at a news conference where Ada County and ISP officials announced that



132 FAIRFIELD ST. WEST James G. Wright

Wendler had been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing in Hanks' death.

The Hanks family relayed word through the ISP that they would rather not have the video shown. The valley's only television station declined not to show it, though at least one Boise station with high viewership here did so.

I reviewed the video and decided that it needed to be seen. Not everyone agreed.

"I am disgusted and saddened," Kelly Peterson of Burley wrote in an e-mail and letter-to-the-editor. "I am asking myself why this had to be shown. Even the family had not seen it until it was shown on the Internet. Now, they see it. Can you imagine how heartbreaking and gut-wrenching it was for them to have to watch this? How would you feel if that was your brother? WHY was it

necessary to show this video? It was in extremely poor taste and it SHOULD NOT have been shown!"

With all respect to the feelings of the Hanks family, there was never really much question that the video is appropriate for our Web site.

There's nothing particularly distasteful about it. After getting into his truck, Hanks is not visible to the camera. His shooting and death aren't seen at all.

Secondly, it's close to impossible to view a video on [Magicalvalley.com](http://Magicalvalley.com) unless you want to see it. Unlike broadcast television, where someone can accidentally be exposed to a TV screen, our video player requires the viewer to click on it to start it running.

But most importantly, the video needed to be available for the same reason that we cover any incident where a police officer uses deadly force: The public has an unquestionable need to know how and why an agent of the state has deprived a citizen of his ultimate civil right, even when all reasonable people would agree that

the killing is justifiable. The video of the incident is the best possible record of what happened. Witness statements can be wrong, and authorities can shade things a bit to benefit their needs. But if anyone can see the event, they can judge for themselves if the officer acted appropriately.

That transparency is also important because it helps build confidence in our governmental institutions, especially those of law enforcement.

So would I want the media to show a video of a police officer shooting a member of my family?

I would demand it. Don't forget to check for school closures this winter at [Magicalvalley.com](http://Magicalvalley.com). School officials have the ability to post any schedule changes or closures there each morning. Just click on the snowflake at the top of the page for the latest news.

Times-News Editor James G. Wright may be reached at 735-3255 or [james.wright@tee.net](mailto:james.wright@tee.net).

# Bush

Continued from page G1  
 standard procedure," said Jill Moran, a BLM spokesperson.

"When a plan is signed at the agency level, the public has the right to file protests with the head of the agency — such as the BLM director. There is no protest mechanism at the secretarial level."

"The governors of all the affected states do have the right to review it," Moran said.

A bureaucratic determination also cut the comment period on an Endangered Species Act rule change that was adopted Thursday.

**Don't ask FWS**

The change frees federal agencies overseeing projects — such as dams and pipelines — from having to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service to assure that key species are not adversely affected.

Agencies will assess species themselves. The aim is to streamline and simplify the process, Interior officials said.

"There are at least a couple of examples right here in Colorado where species were overlooked in agency evaluations that Fish and Wildlife raise."

— **Erin Robertson, senior biologist for the Center for Native Ecosystems**

It was ruled a minor change because it would not have a \$100 million impact on the economy, and that decision cut the comment period.

"It's not that it isn't important; it just doesn't meet the criteria," said Chris Paolino, an Interior Department spokesman.

"There are at least a couple of examples right here in Colorado where species were overlooked in agency evaluations that Fish and Wildlife raise," Erin Robertson, senior biologist for the Center for Native Ecosystems.

For example, in an oil-and-gas lease on South Shale Ridge in Colorado, the BLM failed to note the presence of the threatened Colorado hookless cactus.

And the Forest Service failed to take into account the reintroduction of Canada lynx in the Rio Grande National Forest when evaluating the proposal for the proposed Village at Wolf Creek development.

In both cases, after consulting with the FWS, protections were added, Robertson said.

The 1.4 million-acre Comanche and Cimarron Grasslands in Colorado and Kansas in October received the first management plan under new Forest Service planning rules.

"The aim here was to balance between specifics and getting a plan out," said John Ripe, a Forest Service planner. "I'm not sure we've figured it out yet."

On Nov. 4 in Utah, the

Among the last-minute initiatives critics say the Bush administration is speeding through or launching:

- A Sept. 4 environmental-impact statement clearing the way for oil-shale development, followed by Nov. 17 commitments to development rules and a Nov. 28 oversight of six regional management plans to accommodate oil-shale projects.
- A permit for the Black Mesa Coal Mine on Navajo and Hopi tribal land in Arizona. The tribes were given a 45-day review period by mining officials, and a request for more time was denied. Permit approval is expected.
- A Bureau of Land Management sale last week of 275,000 acres of oil and gas leases in Utah-near national parks, such as Arches and Canyonlands and Dinosaur National

# A rush to judgment

Monument. The plan that was needed to offer the leases was completed Oct. 3, and the sale was announced Election Day.

- Cutting the public-comment period from 60 to 30 days on rule changes to the Endangered Species Act by removing a Fish and Wildlife Service review that is intended to assure that key species are not jeopardized.
- Having no public-comment period on a plan to open 3,700 miles of new pipeline and power-line corridors across the West's public lands by having the plan approved at the Interior Department secretarial level. Western governors have until Dec. 30 to comment.
- Issuing an "aspirational" management plan for the Comanche and Cimarron Grasslands in eastern Colorado and Kansas on Oct. 17 with a 30-day comment period.

BLM set a sale of about 360,000 acres of oil and gas leases for last week. Twenty days later, it amended the plan after the National Park Service objected to sales near national parks.

Earlier this month, it amended it again, saying not all of the environmental assessments could be completed in time. The sale is now down to 163,000 acres.

"That decision shows this was a rush job," said Steve Bloch, attorney for the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance.

The BLM is required to have a quarterly lease sale, and the industry's requested parcels have built up to more than a million acres, said Terry Catlin, energy team leader in the BLM's Salt Lake office.

There was a logjam until the management plans were adopted enabling the industry to designate acres, she said.

"The process was a little different," Catlin said. "It does look like we were a little rushed."

Mark Jaffe is a reporter who covers environmental issues for the Denver Post.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### We should make this holiday about acceptance

What if we made Christmas more about giving and receiving acceptance? We might stop going through the motions of something we don't feel and bring back some of the wonder and sparkle of genuine love.

Acceptance makes room for others when we stop cementing them out of our lives. Not even the dog feels welcome in a stony heart. Separation creates a very small world of the wounded and dying.

Hearing for the first time doesn't justify not being able to see. When we break up our stony hearts, we find that our spouses, children, friends and dog have a voice too. We see their needs as well as our own.

Listening sees past the black exterior of the fluff of others until we expose the sparkling diamonds enclosed inside. We receive with appreciation the gifts they bring without regard to the wrapping. The world's darkness never reaches the light of acceptance.

What if we really slow down and listen to our spouses or children? Our rebellious teenager may only need us to listen. The quality time we spend together may change our world. With an ear for the word, our thinking prospers and we see in our hearts what really matters. We find the courage to resolve our differences.

The splendor of understanding removes the shadows of gloom from our thoughts and sets our feet to dancing with the joy of acceptance as we engage our world in the real meaning of Christmas.

LOYD T. BAKEWELL  
Twin Falls

### American Legion doesn't discriminate against women

This letter to the editor is in response to the previous letters that have been written about the American Legion of Twin Falls being discriminatory against women veterans.

There are always two sides of a story. Susan Bergen admitted in her letter that she did not tell the American Legion that she was a female veteran. In that case, we would refer her to the women's auxiliary if she had a husband who was a veteran in any of the armed services.

I have been an American Legion commander and a member for 32 years, and I can truthfully say that we have not discriminated against any female veteran who has asked to join our organization. We have talked to a few women who

seemed to be interested but hardly any have showed up on our monthly meetings.

We now have a female vice commander, and I must say that she is a very hard worker, being a leader in many of our community programs.

As I mentioned before, there are two sides of a story and I would like everyone to know that the Twin Falls Post 7 American Legion does not discriminate against any female veterans.

JERRY WERTZ  
Twin Falls  
(Editor's note: Jerry Wertz is a retired Army veteran and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.)

### Response to letter about oil situation

In response to Delay Baker's letter of Dec. 6:

I worked for a refinery for 40 years before I retired and there are three things I would like to say:

1. As far as I know, the federal, state and local governments set the taxes on fuel, not the so-called greens.

2. In the 40 years I worked there, we never had the greens tell us how much fuel we could or could not distribute.

3. For 75 years, the oil industry has lobbied the automakers to not put out high-mileage vehicles (you think we would cut our own throat?)

ROY R. DAVENPORT  
Buhl

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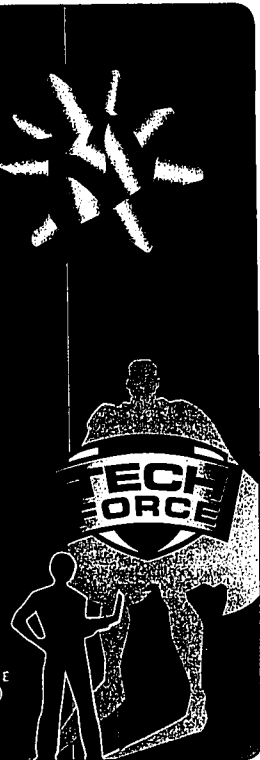
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# NRA was less effective in 2008 election

The vaunted National Rifle Association and the rest of the gun lobby — for years presumed deadly to any politician who dared to buck them — were firing blanks in the recent election.

Lobby-promoted candidates generally fared poorly. Candidates who support firearms controls that most people consider sensible were not routed, not even when typically hysterical campaigns were run against them.

At least for this election cycle, the single-issue, guns-everything-water — the source of the lobby's political intimidation — turned out to be more pussycat than tiger.

Might the way finally lie clear for the political system to engage pragmatically with the nation's reckless trafficking in firearms and the violence with which, partly as a consequence, Americans have had to put up with as no other people must do?

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence has parsed the election results. The NRA conducted major television ad campaigns against Barack Obama in 13 key states, including several with histories of failure for the lobby's tactics. Obama carried 11 of those states.

And in the 25 congressional elections in which the Democrats gained seats, the NRA had backed 20 of the losers.

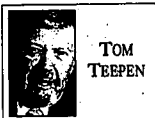
The Brady Campaign's president said, "We know of no candidates at any level, in any race, who lost because they supported sensible gun laws."

You don't have to take the gun-control organization's word for it. Gun Owners of America, though in its usual overwrought language, agrees: "The new Congress has moved decidedly in an anti-gun direction and many pro-gun leaders were defeated."

"(Anti-)gun," you understand, meaning, for instance, barring concealed firearms from airports.)

The gunners' answer to gun violence is public shoot-outs. Their lobby fights even the most obvious common sense controls in favor of pushing for enabling legislation that would encourage people to carry more firearms in more public places.

Yet polling has found for some time that majorities — often including most gun owners — support a five-



TOM TERPEEN

At least for this election cycle, the single-issue, guns-everything-water... turned out to be more pussycat than tiger.

day waiting period for handgun purchases, limits on the number of firearms that can be bought at any one time, outlawing assault-style weapons, closing the loophole that lets buyers at gun shows duck background checks.

One election does not make a trend, but it can be fairly suspected — and certainly hoped — that in this election we may have seen the first welcome if unintended fruit from the Supreme Court's ruling this year that the Second Amendment asserts a personal right to gun ownership.

Historically, the courts had read the amendment as a community right pegged to the maintenance of state militias.

Most control advocates hated the court's about-face, but the ruling equally made it clear that families and communities have the right to maintain their own militias.

Control advocates hated the court's about-face, but the ruling equally made it clear that families and communities have the right to maintain their own militias.

And Hitler coming in right after them. (And you thought he was dead!)

Maybe, just maybe, even the ever-galled are catching on to that private ownership might make sense. We can talk like adults about how to manage that right with good sense.

Tom Teepen is an Atlanta-based columnist for *Cox Newspapers*. Write to him at [tteepen@coxnews.com](mailto:tteepen@coxnews.com).

# We mean it: This time we're serious about health care reform

WASHINGTON — On the same morning that President-elect Barack Obama introduced Tom Daschle, the former Senate majority leader, as his prospective secretary of health and human services, and his point man on health care reform, a panel of key constituency group leaders met to assess the prospects for success.

Taking the microphone, in turn, at a Washington hotel were a head of the Business Roundtable, speaking for leading corporations; the CEO of Pfizer, the giant pharmaceutical company; the president of America's Health Insurance Plans, the trade association for that industry; and spokesmen for the National Federation of Independent Business, the small-business lobby, and AARP, the senior citizens' organization.

All of them agreed that major health legislation has a much better chance of passage in the next Congress than when Bill and Hillary Clinton tried back in 1993-94. And so did John Harwood of CNBC and myself, the two journalists invited to be on the panel.

The comments of the corporate representatives were particularly important because the small-business, insurance and pharmaceutical lobbies were instrumental in killing the Clinton reforms. As John Castellani, president of the Business Roundtable, said, "This is not 1994," when his constituents were willing just to thwart the Clintons and live with the status quo.

Today, that status quo has become unendurable for almost everyone. The budgets of families, businesses and government at all levels are being wrecked by the rising cost of health care.

What Obama said on Thursday was the simple truth: "Some may ask how, at this moment of economic challenge, we can afford to invest in reforming our health care system... I ask how can we afford not to."

The president-elect went on to say, while introducing Daschle, that "right now, small businesses across America are laying off (workers) or shutting their doors for good because of rising health care costs. Some of the largest corporations in America, including major American carmakers, are struggling to compete with foreign companies unburdened by these costs."

Daschle is a starved choice to lead the Obama effort. The former South Dakota senator



DAVID BRODER

knows the politics of Capitol Hill intimately. He recently wrote a book on health reform with Dr. Joanne Lambrew, who will be his deputy. By designating Daschle also as head of a newly created White House Office of Health Reform, Obama has circumvented one of the problems that plagued the Clintons.

Hillary Clinton formulated her proposal through a secretive White House task force, which hid its work from Congress and from the Department of Health and Human Services and from Treasury. The heads of those departments let Congress know they were skeptical of her scheme — and damaged its chances of passing.

Obama and Daschle should be able to avoid that snare. As auspicious as the start has been, enacting a major health care bill will still be a daunting task. When you talk about reorganizing one-sixth of the U.S. economy and changing the way a vital service is delivered, every single

decision from the most trivial to the monumental will be controversial.

But Obama has the good fortune that the four-committee chairmen who will handle his legislation have strong personal motives to make it succeed. For one Senate chairman, Montana's Max Baucus, this is an opportunity to report out the largest bill of his two-year tenure. For the other, Ted Kennedy, now battling brain cancer, it is the chance to achieve the main goal of his long Senate tenure — while he still has time.

In the House, one chairman, California's Henry Waxman, is brand-new in the position, so this is a test of his legislative skill. The other, New York's Charles Fangel, is a veteran now under scrutiny by the House Ethics Committee for possible conflicts of interest. If he survives the investigation, this bill more than any other offers him a chance for vindication. If he fails, his successor, like Waxman, will find it his first and most crucial assignment.

It will really test the whole political system to determine if the fragile emerging consensus on the need for major reform can overcome the thousands of political battles that are certain to erupt.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Christmas Lights on Twin View Lane worth the drive**  
• Fantastic Christmas lighting display; don't miss it!  
On Dec. 8, five of us took a drive to Twin View Lane and saw an outstanding display of Christmas lights that will make even the Grinch smile. We drove the lane three times, and each time, we saw additional outstanding displays that we didn't see before, and we kept updating our list for Addison until you get to Curry Country Store, turn left, go over the

railroad tracks and you will be on 2500 East. Continue on 2500 East for approximately 1.2 miles, turn left on Twin View Lane. Displays are from 5 to 11 p.m.

Moms and Dads and Grandmas and Grandpas, take your families for an evening of joy and giggles as you take in the beauty and fun that the Caspersons and

their neighbors have given as their gift to all of us. We thank you for this magical vision.

ILA WARREN  
CYRUS WARREN  
Twin Falls  
(Editor's note: Ila and Cyrus Warren submitted this letter also signed by Frances Puzler, Violet Becker and Rosie Stover.)

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**TIMES-NEWS**  
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**Q** I've heard that an open MRI costs more than a "traditional" tube type MRI?

**A** Each insurance company has a pre-determined fee schedule (the amount they will reimburse a medical office) for MRI scans, open or "traditional." An open MRI costs no more than a "traditional" tube type MRI to be confident in what your insurance company will pay, consult them in advance of your scan for their reimbursement rate. Then the choice becomes your individual preference as the patient, open or closed MRI.

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OTHER VIEWS

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

... shorting schools

Lawiston Tribune

If it's OK to raise taxes during a recession to prevent Idaho roads from crumbling, shouldn't it be OK to raise taxes during a recession to prevent Idaho public education from crumbling?

That's a question for Idaho Gov. Butch Otter and members of the Idaho Legislature. Otter and many legislators acknowledge that the state's roads and bridges need repair, and neglecting them would be harmful to the state's economy.

It's a good thing he is, too. The state's economy is dependent on a system of decent roads and bridges. That isn't all it's dependent on, though. The engine of economic growth is public education ... because it adds value to the most valuable of any state's resources, its people.

You don't hear calls from Otter or legislative leaders to do for schools what will probably be done for roads. Instead, the state is already demanding cost reductions at schools of higher education for the current budget year and the next, and is talking about requiring the same from public schools for the next.

That's a bad thing, and the people responsible should be called on it.

Starting with the chairmen of the Legislature's budget committees. Time was when leaders of those committees in the House and Senate were advocates for public education, but ... Rep. Bob Nonini and Sen. John Goedde, both Coeur d'Alene Republicans, are expressing willingness to ... pass a public school appropriation lower than that of the year before.

"They might have to take some budget cuts like all the other departments are taking," Nonini tells the Coeur d'Alene Press. "The problem is going to be next year's budget for 2010."

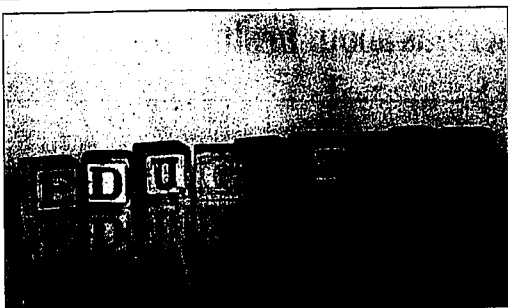
The problem he refers to is depletion of the Public Education Stabilization Fund that is currently protecting public schools from the hiccups higher education is experiencing. ... there is enough money in the fund for this budget year, but probably not enough for the next. ... So how about some additional revenues? If the state can find some for roads, why can't it find some for schools?

... Craig's appeal

Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa

Idaho Sen. Larry Craig is about to wrap up a very distinguished and accomplished career in national politics. He has been a United States senator since 1990 after serving 10 years as a United States congressman.

With his last term almost up, we have one final



request to make of our senior senator: Just let the bathroom sex sting appeals go ...

The more you continue to prolong this legal process, senator, the more we have to keep hearing about it. And we're really tired of hearing about it — on the news, on Jay Leno's monologue, on "Saturday Night Live," etc. Most of us have moved beyond it now, and whatever happens from here on out in the courtroom, the verdict has long since been rendered and sealed in the court of public opinion.

People have made up their minds about the incident, whether they think you were soliciting sex or were just innocently misunderstood. A ruling from a judge isn't going to change many of those opinions.

After the story first broke, Craig said he would resign — or, to be more specific, that it was his "intent" to resign — and we supported that decision. Instead, he chose to remain for the rest of his term and fight to withdraw his guilty plea.

Whether or not you feel he should have resigned or stayed on, the fact is he's just about finished his tenure. And that's what he should be remembered for ...

Let it go, senator.



... Chu's challenge

Post Register, Idaho Falls

If you want to understand the task facing Energy Secretary-designee Steven Chu, take a look at Idaho National Laboratory.

Or any other major nuclear facility. You'll find a lot of gray hair.

The Nuclear Energy Institute says the median age of the industry's work force is 48. It figures 35 percent of those employees could retire by 2013 — while another 11 percent will simply quit.

Just to maintain 104 commercial reactors operating in the United States — which provide 20 percent of the country's electricity — the industry will need to find 25,000 more workers. Seventeen organizations are considering construction of

30 new reactors, each of which will need between 400 and 700 trained engineers, scientists, technicians, maintenance staff, linemen, plumbers and pipe fitters.

After Three Mile Island in 1979, the industry attempted. So did the programs to train the next generation of nuclear scientists and engineers. Earlier in this decade, nuclear energy's prospects brightened. The coinciding dot-com bubble burst persuaded a generation of emerging scientific and engineering talent that the Bill Gates role model was defunct. Now they were encouraged to enter nuclear engineering.

What that's produced, however, is a generation gap within the industry — the people entering it are in their 20s and those getting ready to leave are in their 50s.

Fewer are in the middle ... (President John Kennedy) challenged the nation to win the race to the moon. He mobilized a generation to embrace engineering and the sciences. Virtually every aspect of modern life — from electronic devices in your office to those in your car — traces back to that flowering of talent.

Chu and the man who selected him, President-elect Barack Obama, now face the same opportunities.

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DAVID BROOKS

Over the past few years, scientists have made a series of exciting discoveries about how these deep patterns influence daily life. Nobody has done more to bring these discoveries to public attention than Malcolm Gladwell.

Gladwell's important new book, "Outliers," seems at first glance to be a description of exceptionally talented individuals. But in fact, it's another book about deep patterns. Exceptionally successful people are not lone pioneers who created their own success, he argues. They are the lucky beneficiaries of social arrangements.

Zengerle of *New York* magazine: "The book's saying: 'Great people aren't so great. Their own greatness is not the salient fact about them. It's the kind of fortunate mix of opportunities they've been given.'"

Gladwell's noncontroversial claim is that some people have more opportunities than other people. Bill Gates was lucky to go to a great private school with his own computer at the dawn of the information revolution. Gladwell's more interesting claim is that social forces largely explain why some people work harder when presented with those opportunities.

Chinese people work hard because they grew up in a culture built around rice farming. Tending a rice paddy required working up to 3,000 hours a year, and it left a cultural legacy that prizes industriousness. Many upper-middle-class American kids are raised in an atmosphere of "concerted cultivation," which inculcates a fanatical devotion to meritocratic striving.

As usual, Gladwell intelligently captures a larger tendency of thought — the growing appreciation of the power of cultural patterns, social contagions, memes.

His book is being received by reviewers as a call to action for the Obama age. It could lead policymakers to finally reject policies built on the assumption that people are coldly rational utility-maximizing individuals. It could cause them to focus more on policies that foster relationships, social bonds and cultures of achievement.

Yet, I can't help but feel that Gladwell and others who share his emphasis are getting swept away by the coolness of the new discoveries. They've lost sight of the point at which the influence of social forces ends and the influence of the self-initiating individual begins.

Most successful people begin with two beliefs: The future can be better than the present, and I have the power to make it so. They were often showered by good fortune, but relied at crucial moments upon achievements of individual will.

Most successful people also have a phenomenal ability to consciously focus their attention. We know from experiments with subjects as diverse as obsessive-compulsive disorder sufferers and Buddhist monks that people who can self-consciously focus attention have the power to rewire their brains.

Control of attention is the ultimate individual power. People who can do that are not prisoners of the stimuli around them. They can choose from the patterns in the world and lengthen their time horizons. This individual power leads to others. It leads to self-control, the ability to formulate strategies in order to resist impulses. If forced to choose, we

would all rather our children be poor with self-control than rich without it.

It leads to resilience, the ability to persevere with an idea even when all the influences in the world say it can't be done. A common story among entrepreneurs is that people told them they were too stupid to do something, and they set out to

prove the jerks wrong. It leads to creativity. Individuals who can focus attention have the ability to hold a subject or problem in their mind long enough to see it anew.

Gladwell's social determinism is a useful corrective to the Homo economicus view of human nature. It's also pleasantly egalitarian. The

less successful are not less worthy, they're just less lucky. But it slight the centrality of individual character and individual creativity.

And it doesn't fully explain the genuine greatness of humanity's outliers. As the classical philosophers understood, examples of individual greatness inspire achievement more reliably

than any other form of education. If Gladwell can reduce William Shakespeare to a mere product of social forces, I'll buy 25 more copies of "Outliers" and give them away in Times Square.

David Brooks is a columnist for *The New York Times*. Write to him at [dbrooks@nytimes.com](mailto:dbrooks@nytimes.com).

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# Europe's in trouble, Germany's to blame

So here's the situation: The economy is facing its worst slump in decades. The usual response to economic downturn, cutting interest rates, isn't working. Large-scale government aid looks like the only way to end the economic nosedive.



PAUL KRUGMAN

government acting unilaterally faces the strong possibility that it will run up a lot of debt without creating

much domestic employment. For the European economy as a whole, however, this kind of leakage is much less of a problem: two-thirds of the average European Union member's imports come from other European nations, so that the continent as a whole is no more import-dependent than the United States.

This means that a coordinated stimulus effort, in which each country counts on its neighbors to match its own efforts, would offer much more bang for the euro than individual, uncoordinated efforts. But you can't have a coordinated European effort if Europe's biggest economy not only refuses to go along, but heaps scorn on its

neighbors' attempts to contain the crisis. Germany's big Nein won't last forever. Last week Ifo, a highly respected research institute, warned that Germany will soon be facing its worst economic crisis since the 1940s. If and when this happens, Merkel and her ministers will surely reconsider their position. But in Europe, as in the

United States, the issue is time. Across the world, economies are sinking fast, while we wait for someone, anyone, to offer an effective policy response. How much damage will be done before that response finally comes?

Paul Krugman is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at pkrugman@nytimes.com.

No, I'm not talking about Bob Corker, the senator from Nissan — I mean Tennessee — and his fellow Republicans, who torpedoed last week's attempt to buy some time for the U.S. auto industry. (Why was the plan blocked? An e-mail message circulated among Senate Republicans declared that denying the auto industry a loan was an opportunity for Republicans to "take their first shot against organized labor.")

I am, instead, talking about Angela Merkel, the German chancellor, and her economic officials, who have become the biggest obstacles to a much-needed European rescue plan.

The European economic mess isn't getting very much attention here, because we're understandably focused on our own problems.

But the world's other economic superpower — America and the European Union have roughly the same GDP — is arguably in as much trouble as we are.

The most acute problems are on Europe's periphery, where many smaller economies are experiencing crises strongly reminiscent of past crises in Latin America and Asia: Latvia is the new Argentina; Ukraine is the new Indonesia. But the pain has also reached the big economies of Western Europe: Britain, France, Italy and, the biggest of all, Germany.

As in the United States, monetary policy — cutting interest rates in an effort to perk up the economy — is rapidly reaching its limit. That leaves, as the only way to avert the worst slump since the Great Depression, the aggressive use of fiscal policy: increasing spending or cutting taxes to boost demand. Right now everyone sees the need for a large, pan-European fiscal stimulus.

Everyone, that is, except the Germans. Merkel has become Frau Nein! If there is to be a rescue of the European economy, she wants no part of it, telling a party meeting that "we're not going to participate in this senseless race for billions."

Last week Peer Steinbrueck, Merkel's finance minister, went even further.

Not content with refusing to draft a serious stimulus plan for his own country, he denounced the plans of other European nations. He accused Britain, in particular, of engaging in "crass Keynesianism."

Germany's leaders seem to believe that their own economy is in good shape, and in no need of major help.

They're almost certainly wrong about that. The really bad thing, however, isn't their misjudgment of their own situation; it's the way Germany's opposition is preventing a common European approach to the economic crisis.

To understand the problem, think of what would happen if, say, New Jersey were to attempt to boost its economy through tax cuts or public works, without this state-level stimulus being part of a nationwide program. Clearly, much of the stimulus would "leak" away to neighboring states, so that New Jersey would end up with all of the debt while other states got many if not most of the jobs.

Individual European countries are in much the same situation. Any one

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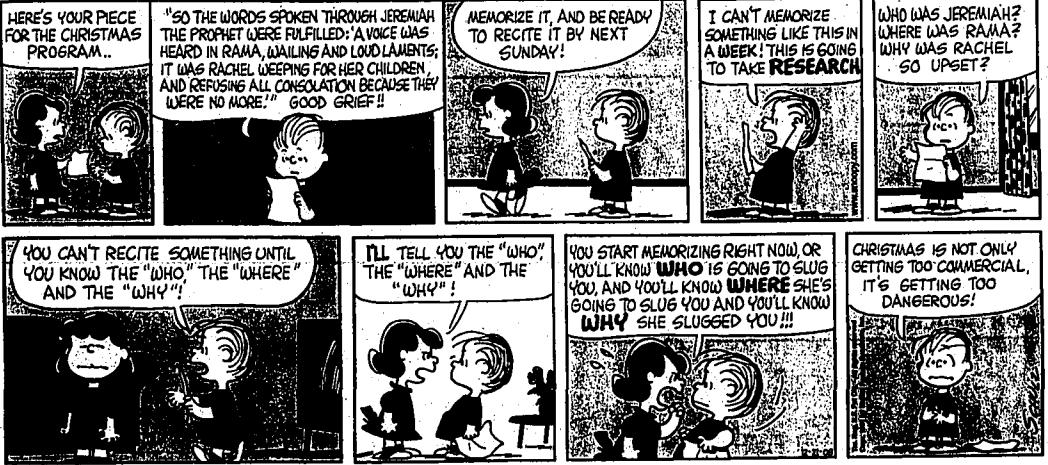
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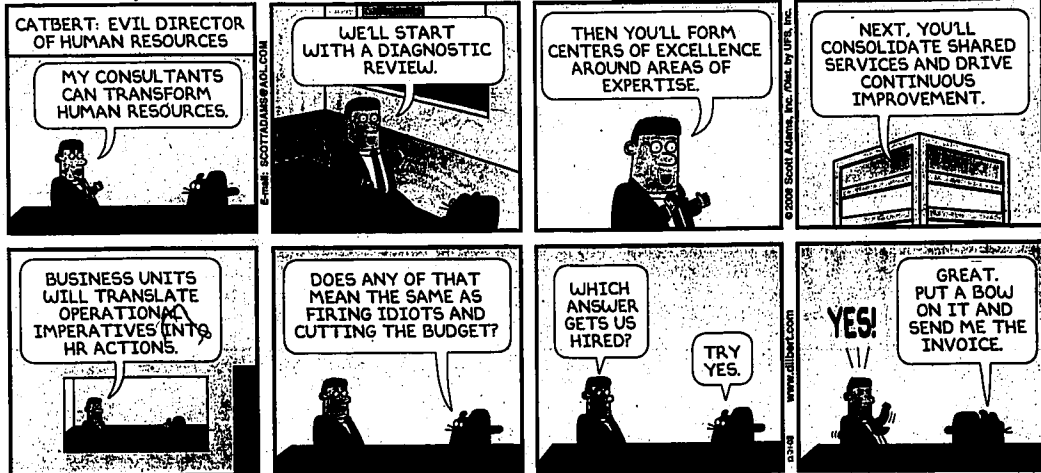
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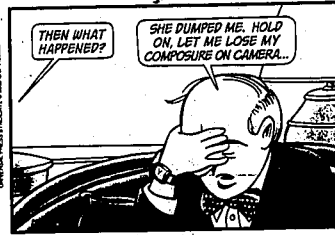
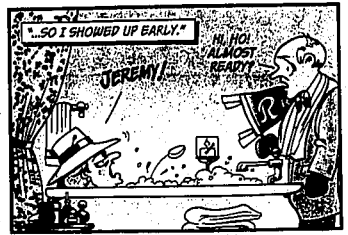
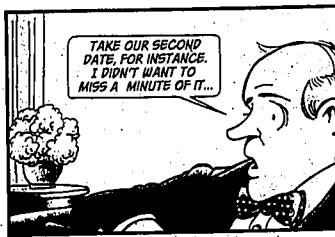
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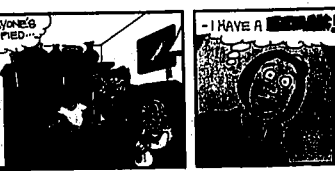
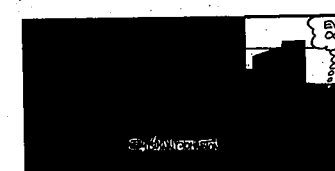
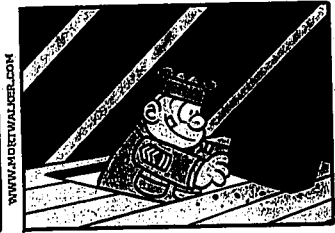
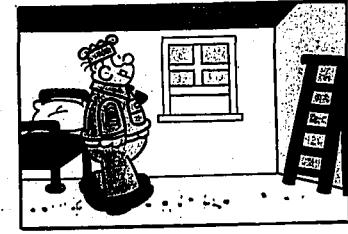


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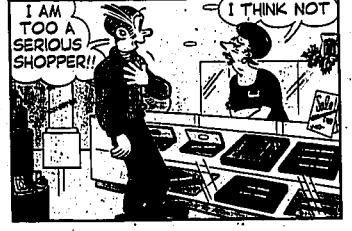


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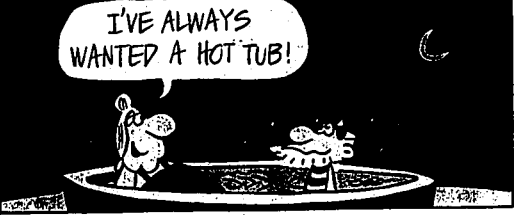


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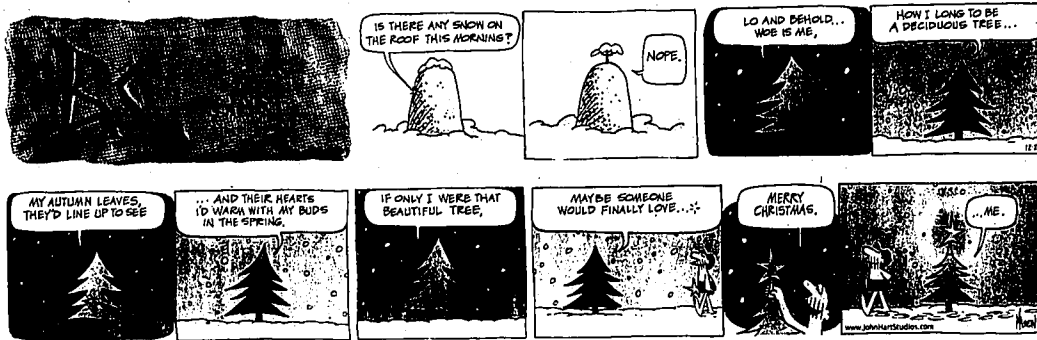
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Twin Falls, Idaho

Week of December 21 - 27, 2008



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# Television has its own ghosts of Christmas past

By Beverly Foster Seaberg  
Zap2it

If it's Christmas, it must be time for those Very Special Episodes of our favorite shows.

Most of them are going into reruns this week — the network suits don't like to waste new material in the busy days just before, during and after Christmas. But chances are the past few weeks brought us at least one television character getting the ghost-guided trip to Attitude Adjustment Land, a la "A Christmas Carol," or the angel-guided tour of The World Without Him in it, a la "It's a Wonderful Life."

Not all shows drag out these old scenarios for the holidays, and of those that do, only a few do it the way well. Some of those that did get it right are listed here, along with other memorable television treatments of the Most Wonderful Time of the Year. Want to see them again? Check your local or online video store.

"Smallville" (Thursdays, The CW): One of the better recyclings of the "It's a

## Cover story

Wonderful Life" scenario was 2005's "Lexmas," Lex (Michael Rosenbaum) is shot in a Christmas Eve mugging while on a quest for information to discredit Jonathan Kent's (John Schneider) senatorial campaign. When he awakens, he finds himself living the straight life, a pillar of the community and the happy husband of Lana Lang (Kristen Kreuk), with a little boy and another child on the way. His mother, Lillian (Alisen Down), appears and tells him this can be his life if he gets out from under Lionel's (John Glover) influence. We all know how that turned out.

"Huge" (Tuesdays, Fox): If ever there was a character who needed the Dickens treatment, it's grouchy, Grinchy Greg House (Hugh Laurie). In the season four episode "It's a Wonderful Life," he tears down the decorations that Kutner (Kal Penn) has put up, insults Wilson's (Robert Sean Leonard) taste in holiday headgear



David Spade stars in 'Just Shoot Me' Wednesday on TBS.

and rigs his department's Secret Santa exchange so everyone draws his name. He doesn't get any ghostly visitors to help him see the error of his ways, but the end of the episode does find him sampling a seasonal activity, thanks to a clinic patient with a St. Nicholas medal.

"Just Shoot Me": Kelsey Grammer lent his sonorous voice as narrator of 1998's "How the Finch Stole Christmas," which can be seen Wednesday,

Dec. 24, on TBS. Smarmy administrative assistant Dennis Finch (David Spade) gets a peek at the gift his co-workers got him: a calendar, and not even the kind with naked women. Incensed, he tears down the office decorations and replaces everyone else's presents with insult gifts. Dr. Seuss' classic isn't the only parody target here; Elliot (Enrico Colanone) falls in love with a punny tree in a La Charle Brown Christmas," and

Nina (Wendie Malick) has a "Yes, Virginia" epiphany.

"Married ... With Children": The Inspired Cast of last, irrelevant comic Sam Kinison as the guardian angel saved the 1989 two-parter "It's a Bundayful Life" from being just another roasting of the Jimmy Stewart chestnut. A despondent Al (Ed O'Neill) gets to see what his family's life would be like if he'd never been born. Turns out Peg (Kathy Sully) would have married a rich man and become a model wife and mother, while slutty, dimwitted Kelly (Christina Applegate) would be an honor student, and nerdy Bud (David Faustino) would be Mr. Popularity. Ted McGinley, who plays Pugs husband in the fantasy sequel, returned to the show in 1991 as neighbor Marcy's (Amanda Bearse) new spouse, Jefferson "D.W." West.

"The Most Wonderful" in the emotional 1999 episode "In Excess Deo," a homeless veteran dies on the National Mall, and nobody claims his body. Toby (Richard Schiff) is called to identify him because the

man's coat had Toby's card in the pocket — but that's because it's Toby's coat, which he'd given to charity. He makes his mission to find the man's relatives but can only locate one brother, who's also homeless. Toby pulls some strings and arranges a military funeral at Arlington National Cemetery for the man. This episode won for its script, and Schiff took home the Emmy for best supporting actor in a drama series.

"The Brady Bunch": Who can forget the time Carol (Florence Henderson) came down with laryngitis just before her big solo at the Christmas church service? While her siblings wonder whether they should postpone Christmas, Mom is better, little Cindy (Susan Olsen) asks a store Santa (Hal Smith) to deliver a miracle. Henderson, a gifted singer, didn't get many opportunities to show this talent on the show, so the 1969 classic "The Voice of Christmas" is a treat for fans and anyone who believes in ... well, believing.

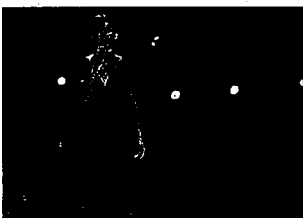
## Annual CBS adoption special has extra Faith (Hill) this time

By Jay Bobbin  
Zap2it

"A Home for the Holidays" is more Faith-based than ever this year, and appropriately so.

Music superstar Faith Hill is an adoptee, so she feels a strong connection to "A Home for the Holidays," the yearly CBS special that advocates adoption through uplifting stories of children and their foster families. A performer on past editions, Hill returns to host and sing on the 10th annual program Tuesday, Dec. 23.

Also rendering songs during the hour are Melissa Etheridge, Jamie Foxx, Gavin Rossdale and Hill's husband, Tim McGraw. Some youngsters featured previously on "A Home for the Holidays" return to update their stories; new tales are



Faith Hill hosts "10th Annual A Home for the Holidays With Faith Hill" Tuesday on CBS.

introduced by Rene Russo, Martin Short, Patricia Heaton ("Everybody Loves Raymond") and Kristin Chenoweth ("Pushing Daisies"). "This is my third time doing this show, and to perform on something like this is just one part of

it," Hill says. "All the children highlighted on it have been adopted. That's an average of 10 to 12 children each year, but the number of children adopted because of the show is over 20,000, and that's remarkable. When you call the 800 number

## Show time

What: "A Home for the Holidays"  
When: Tuesday, Dec. 23  
Channel: CBS

given on the show, there's someone to speak to you who's in your city or your area."

Having such a personal tie to "A Home for the Holidays" made the taping challenging for Hill at some points.

"I had a difficult moment in one of my songs," she admits. "Everyone in that room had been affected by adoption in some way, and most of the (celebrity) guests in the show either have adopted a child or have been adopted. Jamie Foxx was adopted, and Martin Short and his wife have adopted."

Program schedules in TV Weekly are supplied by Tribune Media Services, which receives information directly from television stations and cable companies. Although The Times-News and Tribune Media work hard to ensure accuracy, stations may reschedule their programs without notice. The Times-News has no control over programming decisions made by individual stations.

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### TV Weekly symbols

**OTV** Children's TV ages  
 **OTV7** Children's TV and older  
 **OTV A** Audiences  
 **OTV P** Parental guidance suggested  
 **OTV M** Moderate language  
 **OTV S** Sexual content  
 **OTV D** Drug use  
 **OTV I** Intense violence  
 **OTV L** Limited language  
 **OTV C** Coarse language  
 **(CC)** Closed caption  
 **(I)** In series  
 **(R)** Repeat  
 **(G)** General audiences  
 **(P)** Parental guidance  
 **(M)** Moderate language only  
 **(S)** Sexual content  
 **(D)** Drug use  
 **(I)** Intense violence  
 **(L)** Limited language  
 **(C)** Coarse language  
 **(CC)** Closed caption  
 **(I)** In series  
 **(R)** Repeat  
 **(G)** General audiences  
 **(P)** Parental guidance  
 **(M)** Moderate language only  
 **(S)** Sexual content  
 **(D)** Drug use  
 **(I)** Intense violence  
 **(L)** Limited language  
 **(C)** Coarse language  
 **(CC)** Closed caption

More TV Listings. Visit  
[www.magicvalley.com](http://www.magicvalley.com)









Time	NEWS		MOVIES		SUNDAY MORNING			SPORTS		KIDS		10:00	10:30	11:00
	5a.m.	5:30	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30				
5a.m.	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00					
5a.m.	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00					
5a.m.	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00					

\* CHANNELS BROADCAST OUTSIDE TWIN FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

BHP BROADCASTING

PROJECT MUTUAL

TTON WIRELESS

COMMERCIAL SERVICES



Page 9 December 21, 2008 NEWS MOVIES SUNDAY EVENING SPORTS KIDS 11:30 12:00

Pre-Christmas	7p.m.	8:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
KTWT	Jacobus "Walls of Jericho" (CC) (TVPG)	Three Amigos... (1996) Comedy	Cherry Chase... Screen	Penkil... (2008) (TVPG)	Paik's... (TVPG)	Sea and... (TVMA)	Sea and... (TVMA)	Sea and... (TVMA)	Sea and... (TVMA)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVAP	America's Funniest Home Videos (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	Extreme Makeovers... (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KRTF	Roseanne and Thea "A Simple Plan" (CC) (TV14)	Outdoor Music (TVPG)	Dropout Film (TVPG)	Walters "Christmas" (CC) (TV14)	Walters "Christmas" (CC) (TV14)	Walters "Christmas" (CC) (TV14)	Walters "Christmas" (CC) (TV14)	Walters "Christmas" (CC) (TV14)	Walters "Christmas" (CC) (TV14)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KRTS	Comedy Central "Americas Div" (CC) (TV14)	The Simpsons (TV14)	King of the Hill (TV14)	Family Guy (TV14)	American Dad (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	South Park (TV14)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KTFD	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KTVN	CNN "Call of Duty" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVCN	60 Minutes (CC)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVCW	Monday Football on Fox (TV14)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVCY	Wide as Linda's Las Vegas (TV14)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVCZ	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDF	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDR	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDS	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDT	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDM	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDP	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)
KVDR	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	MTV "Football Cardinals" (TVPG)	American Idol... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	Contestants... (CC) (TVPG)	RuPaul's... (CC) (TV14)

\* CHARLES BROADCAST OUTSIDE TOWN FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

KTWT  
KTWT  
KTWT

KVCN  
KVCN  
KVCN

PROJECT  
MATERIAL

TDOT  
WIRELESS  
CABLE





Main content table with columns for channels (6p.m., 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and rows for various channels including Pro Channels, Public Channels, and Sports channels.

CHANNLES BROADCAST OUTSIDE YOUR AREA FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS... NEWS MONDAY EVENING SPORTS KIDS THE TIMES-NEWS

Table with columns for Time, News, Movies, Monday Late Night, Sports, Kids, and a right-side section for December 22, 2008. Each cell contains program titles and descriptions.

\* CHANNELS INDICATED OUTSIDE THIS AREA CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

More movies
0700 KNOCKED UP +++
0700 Romance Comedy+
0730 Katherine Heigl (1)

0730 JINGLE ALL THE WAY
0800 THE HOLIDAY
0900 AFFAIR +++ (1946, Romance)
1000 THE BEST OF BRAD PITT
1030 THE FUGITIVE: PART ONE

11:15 AM THE GHOST
AND MR. CROCKER +++ (1960)
1200 THE BIRTH OF A NATION
1230 THE MONTY PYTHON'S SPANISH OBSCURITY

1230 PM UNLEASH THE GAME
1300 THE FATHER OF THE YEAR
1330 THE FATHER OF THE YEAR

0500 THE PACIFIER +++
0600 Comedy/Vt. Deed,
0700 THE BOURNE
0800 THE PACIFIER +++ (2005)

TO DINNER +++ (1941)
Comedy/Mo. Woolly, Deed.
1100 YOUNG FRISK
1200 THE BOURNE

Table with columns for time slots (6p.m., 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and rows of program listings for various channels (e.g., 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 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1000).

CHANNELS BROADCAST OUTSIDE THIN FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 508-538-2100

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 508-538-2100

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 508-538-2100



Main grid containing program listings for various channels (e.g., 6p.m., 8:30, 17:00, 17:30, 8:00, 8:30, 7:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and program titles.

\* CHANNELS BROADCAST OUTSIDE TWIN FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS
KITCHEN
BUN
BROODING
PROJECT
MUTUAL
TETON WEATHER
CHANNELS BROADCAST OUTSIDE TWIN FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

Table with columns for time slots (12:30, 1:00, 1:30, 2:00, 2:30, 3:00, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30) and rows of program listings with channel numbers and titles.

\* CHANNELS BROADCAST OUTSIDE THEIR FALLS CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN THESE AREAS

More movies

UPRO THE GREATEST CHRIST EVER TOLD ... (1995, Historical Drama) Max von Sydow, Charlton Heston. 7:45 a.m. (12:00) THE GAME PLAN ... (2007, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Owen Wilson. 7:45 a.m. (12:00) MARTIAN CHILD ... (2007, Drama) James Van Der Beek, Anthony Page. 7:50 a.m. (12:00) THE GAME PLAN ... (2007, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Owen Wilson. 8:00 a.m. (12:00) CALIFORNIA DREAMING ... (2007, Drama) Chevy Chase, Jason Lee. 8:00 a.m. (12:00) THE GAME PLAN ... (2007, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Owen Wilson. 8:00 a.m. (12:00) THE GAME PLAN ... (2007, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Owen Wilson.

NEW RELEASES

COMEDY-DRAMA FLORENCE Henderson, Robert Redford. (12) A CHRISTMAS STORY ... (1983, Comedy) Peter Onorati, Charles Hallahan. (13) ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN ... (2006, Animation) Ray Romano, John Leguizamo. (14) THE NINE ... (2009, Comedy) Matt Damon, Anne Hathaway. (15) THE HUNTER ... (2008, Drama) Will Smith, Jason Clarke. (16) DR. NO ... (1962, Action) Sean Connery. (17) WILD WILD WEST ... (1993, Action) Will Smith.

NEW RELEASES

SECRET'S ... (2007, Action) Nicolas Cage, John Voight. (12) THE GREAT ESCAPE ... (1963, Drama) James Garner, Robert Redford. (13) BRING IT ALL ON ... (2007, Comedy) Jason Statham, Hayden Panettiere. (14) THE DOG ... (2007, Comedy) Doug Liman, Mel Gibson. (15) BROUHAHA ... (2009, Comedy) Peter Onorati, Drew Barrymore. (16) THE UNEXPECTED ... (2008, Drama) Jason Lee, Mackenzie Gray. (17) THE BIRTHDAY ... (2009, Drama) Ray Romano, John Leguizamo. (18) BEEHIVE ... (1992, Comedy) Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt.

PROJECT MUTUAL

11:00 a.m. (12:00) ANY FRIENDS TOGETHER ... (1993, Comedy) Sean Connery, Robert Redford. (11:30 a.m. (12:00) RATATOUILLE ... (2007, Animation) Brad Pitt, Jason Lee. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) THE LONGEST DAY ... (1962, War) John Wayne, Robert Mitchum. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) A CHRISTMAS STORY ... (1983, Comedy) Peter Onorati, Charles Hallahan. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) THE TOWN ... (2008, Drama) Brad Pitt, George Clooney. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) THE KING OF KINGS ... (1961, Historical Drama) Richard Gere, Anthony Quinn. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) BARRY ... (2007, Comedy) James Van Der Beek, Anthony Quinn. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) THE HALLS ... (2006, Comedy) Drew Barrymore, Owen Wilson. (11:50 a.m. (12:00) THE FIRST KNIGHT ... (1995, Adventure) Sean Connery, Richard Gere.

NEW RELEASES

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Main grid of TV listings with columns for time slots (6p.m., 6:30, 7:00, 7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00) and rows for various channels (CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, etc.) listing program titles and descriptions.

CHANNELS BROADCAST OUTSIDE THIS AREA CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

PROGRAMS BROADCAST OUTSIDE THIS AREA CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS

PROGRAMS BROADCAST OUTSIDE THIS AREA CANNOT BE RECEIVED IN SOME AREAS













		NEWS		MOVIES		SATURDAY EVENING		SPORTS		KIDS				
		6p.m.	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
62	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
63	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
64	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
65	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
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81	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
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83	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
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97	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
98	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
99	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00
100	CH	KTWC	CD	7:30	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	12:00



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# PARADE

Dustin Hoffman:

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## The Jewelry Store inside JCPenney

Known as 'difficult'  
for decades, the  
star reveals his  
happy, funny side

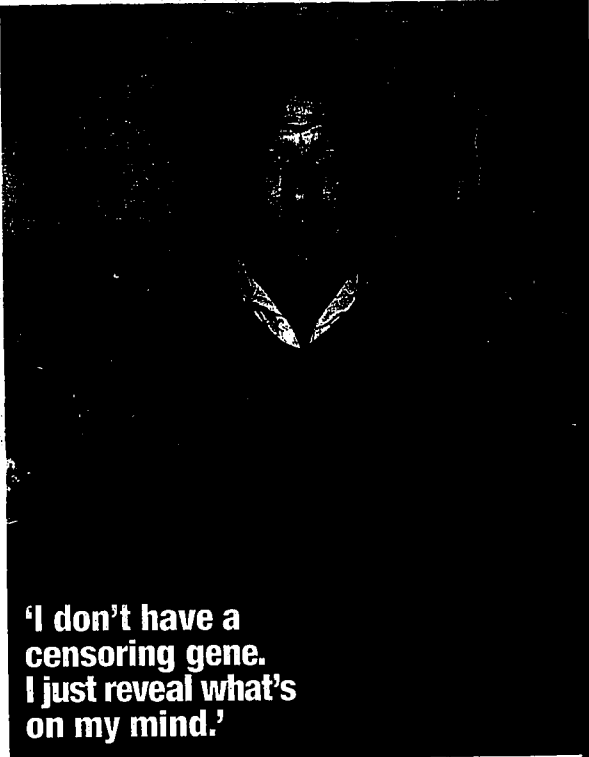
# the JOY of Dustin

by Jeanne Wolf

**'M**Y WIFE SAYS THE ONE thing that differentiates me from a lot of other people, or at least is an essential part of my character, is that I don't have a censoring gene," Dustin Hoffman says with an impish grin. "My friends just wait for me to reveal what's on my mind. They know for sure that I'm going to say something inappropriate."

Hoffman, now 71, has been saying surprising lines onscreen for more than 40 years, since his Oscar-nominated debut in *The Graduate*. He starred as the confused college grad Benjamin Braddock, who famously asked an older married woman (played by Anne Bancroft), "Mrs. Robinson, you're trying to seduce me...Aren't you?"

The self-described "short, funny-looking guy with acne" went on to win the Academy Award twice and score seven nominations. His films include *Midnight Cowboy*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Tootsie*, *Rain Man*, and *Lenny*. This year he lent his voice to animated



**'I don't have a  
censoring gene.  
I just reveal what's  
on my mind.'**

movies, including the hit *Kung Fu Panda* and *The Tale of Despereaux*. In his latest film, the romance *Last Chance Harvey*, Hoffman plays a lonely guy who finds late-in-life love with Emma Thompson. And proving he still likes to be a bit inappropriate, he looks at me and says, "Don't worry, there's no big bedroom scene. We didn't have enough money for

the special effects to make me look great naked."

Hoffman grew up in L.A. His mother was a jazz pianist, and his dad was a set decorator. Ironically, Hoffman stumbled into his acting career by accident. "It was only because I couldn't do anything else," he says. "I was slunking out of college. And I didn't want to go into the service because my brother had gone in,

and he said, "Whatever you do, Dusty, don't go into the service." I happened to take an acting course when I was 21. It was the first experience I had in my life where there was no clock. Time didn't matter. I had never felt that before." After two years at the Pasadena Playhouse, Hoffman moved to New York City.

"Then, for 10 years, I was an unemployed actor," he remembers. "I roomed with Gene Hackman, who was friends with Robert Duvall. They were also unemployed. We'd have little parties because we didn't have any money. You know, the Chianti bottle with the candle on it. Everybody comes over and brings stuff. And if someone were to say, at any of those get-togethers, 'See those three guys there? They're going to wind up being movie stars,' the place would have laughed. And we would have laughed the loudest, because we were beat up by all the rejection."

The lead role in Mike Nichols' 1967 film *The Graduate* made Hoffman an overnight star. That soon was followed by *Midnight Cowboy* and a second Oscar nomination. Though anxious to keep proving himself, he was never willing to compromise. He gained a reputation for delivering knockout performances—and also for being a pain-in-the-neck perfectionist.

"I got in the press that it was difficult," he says. "That was my signature—they want everyone to have a signature. Warren Beatty's reputation was that he screwed around a lot. And yet he will tell you, 'Hoffman screwed around more than I did.'" Whatever the count, that early wildness has given way to a calmer, more relaxed, and definitely funnier Hoffman.

"It's true," he says. "I am a happier person now. I've changed a lot. I had a big breakthrough after I took a couple of years when I didn't want to do movies. I went back to work with total passion. You change as you go. Time alters you. It's been a flip from the time when I was a shy, unhappy teenager. Now I can appreciate my own joy and my sense of irony."

Instead of becoming daunted by the shadow of his own legendary image, he's learned to

be more playful as he's gained wisdom. At a recent gala honoring Hoffman and Clint Eastwood, the audience got restless as speeches went on and on. When Hoffman finally came to the podium, he said, "A thought went through my mind as I was sitting at my table: What if I died while I was waiting to receive my Lifetime Achievement Award?" The room roared with laughter.

Leaning back in his chair recently in the office of his L.A. production company, Hoffman smiles about that night, then turns serious as he reflects on the meaning of his life and career.

"I guess making things fun is the only revenge you have against mortality," he says. "Of course I think about mortality. So many of my colleagues and friends have died that I'm forced to think about it." He pauses—figuring out how he wants to describe his attitude toward death. "What we would all like is to



Clockwise from above: Hoffman with Jon Voight in *Midnight Cowboy*; with Anne Bancroft in *The Graduate*; as Dorothy in *Tomb Raider*; with Emma Thompson in *Last Chance Harvey*.

kind of choose when we're ready to go, and we'd not have any fear. The best part about death is that it's not selective. It's comforting to know that everyone dies. Death is the pure democracy."

Hoffman has always tried to have his family with him when he works. He has six kids—two with his first wife, actress/dancer Anne Byrne, and four with his current wife of 28 years, Lisa.

"When I got married for the second time, my wife and I made a deal," he says. "We agreed that we wouldn't let

work separate us. We've stuck to that. I sometimes say that we're wealthy gypsies. I was holding my kids when they were babies on the sets of my movies. A couple of my children even saw me dressed as a woman in *Tomb Raider*. Lisa knows me. We can read each other. We've always had this loving connection."

Hoffman remains proud of his grown-up children. "They get mad at me for telling everyone about their accomplishments or for finding cute girls for my sons," he says. "But even though they love to hate me for it or cruelly imitate me, I can't stop bragging. They are my true credits."

How do his children express their affection? "We're a tactile family," he says, "and I never get over the fact that even though my kids are no longer 'kids,' they like to kiss me for no reason or when we greet each other. When they're leaving, they say, 'Bye, Pop,' and they grab me and kiss me on the cheek. I've never taken that for granted, even though they don't even know that they're doing it."

I ask Hoffman if this love from his family and his need to keep changing at 71 is what has brought him to his current point—mellow but not satisfied. "Mellow?" he says, surprised. "Let me think." He pauses, then polishes the description of himself: "OK, I'll say, 'Satisfied but not satisfied.'" ☐



Dustin with (l-r) his wife Lisa, daughter Rebecca, and son Max.

**'I can't stop bragging about my kids. They are my true credits.'**



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**GOVERNMENT WATCH**

## Should Congress Stop Rewarding Seniority?

Is it time to end the seniority system in the U.S. Senate? According to Senate protocol, the longest-serving members get to chair committees. Both the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Appropriations Committee are chaired by men over 80—Sen. Daniel Akaka (D., Hawaii) and Sen. Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii), respectively—and five other committees are chaired by lawmakers ages 71 to 76.

It's not much different in the House, where currently 12 of 22 committee chairs are old enough to be President-elect Obama's parents. But the House does allow its members to leapfrog over others with more legislative service, and it has six-year term limits.

"The [Senate] seniority system is not set in the rules

but is a powerful informal norm in selecting committee chairs," says Congressional expert Thomas Mann, adding that Washington's idea of a "youth movement" is replacing Sen. Robert Byrd (D., W.Va.), 91, as head

of Appropriations with 84-year-old Inouye. And last month, Rep. John Dingell (D., Mich.), 82, who chaired the House Energy and Commerce Committee for 16 years over two terms, was unseated by Rep. Henry Waxman (D., Calif.), 69.

Former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich says: "Obama will have to make some big decisions to avoid being drawn back into the past by senior House Democrats." Should Congress eliminate using seniority as a criterion for picking committee chiefs? Tell us at [Parade.com/intel](http://Parade.com/intel)

SENATE COMMITTEE/CHAIR	AGE
Appropriations/Sen. Daniel Inouye (D., Hawaii)	84
Veterans' Affairs/Sen. Daniel Akaka (D., Hawaii)	84
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions/ Sen. Edward Kennedy (D., Mass.)	78
Armed Services/Sen. Carl Levin (D., Mich.)	76
Aging/Sen. Herb Kohl (D., Wis.)	73
<b>Median age in U.S. Senate: 63</b>	
<b>Median age in U.S.: 36.7</b>	

## ECONOMY Libraries Facing Closures and Cuts

Philadelphia and San Diego recently announced that they would need to shut some libraries because of budget shortfalls. "I know how important libraries are, but unfortunately we have to close a \$108 million deficit this fiscal year, and serious changes need to be made to our budget," says Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter.

The cuts come as job losses and empty bank accounts are sending more Americans to their local libraries, where use is up more than 20% in some places. For many, library resources help replace everything from magazine subscriptions and DVD rentals to home Internet. "The top reasons people come to libraries to use computers are for K-12 education and job hunting," said Jim Rettig, president of the American Library Association. According to one study, a

family of four saves as much as \$2500 a year by borrowing 10 items per month instead of buying.

So, how will libraries stay open? Beyond requesting and receiving a portion of the proposed economic-stimulus package, individual branches are finding creative ways to get help. The Friends of the Free Library of Philadelphia created a Web page where residents can contribute as little as \$10—less than the cost of most new paperbacks—toward keeping open the 11 libraries slated for closure. Currently, the city has no plans to reopen them once they're closed.



**NEWSMAKERS**

## Ruthless Pirates at Sea



Pirates from deeply impoverished Somalia have seized dozens of merchant ships off Africa's east coast and shot at a U.S. cruise liner last month. Cyrus Moody and Michael Howlett of the International Maritime Bureau, an anti-piracy watchdog group, offer their insight into the problem.

**How long has Somali piracy been a problem?**

Piracy is nothing new off Somalia. The activity reached a peak there in 2005, and now attacks have started to climb again. There have been 96 this year.

What makes the Somali activity different from piracy in other parts of the world is that their intent is to hijack the ship for ransom. Elsewhere, pirates will board a vessel to steal its cargo or rob its crew, then leave.

**Why is the situation worsening?**

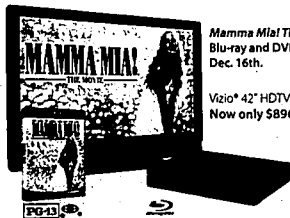
The probability of a pirate getting a job in Somalia is zero. The probability of his getting a million bucks in a hijacking is much greater.

**Navies from around the world are on the scene. Why can't they stop this?**

They need more assets in the area, better coordination, and rules of engagement from their governments. We'd like to see navies target the "mother ships," which are used by the pirates as bases offshore. If the navies believe a ship is involved in piracy, they should be able to board it, seize it, direct it to port, and hold the ship until the owner arrives to claim it.



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Because global issues matter more now than ever, here's ...

# How America Can Maintain Its Edge

by Simon Winchester

**A**T AN IRON-ORE MINE IN western Australia, I once stood and watched as a young man worked an excavator to claw bucketfuls of deep-red ore from the ground. For a project, I wanted to follow

the ore on its journey from raw material to finished product. So I went on a train that took it to a port, then traveled on the Chinese ship that carried it to Japan. There it was refined into steel ingots, which were sent to a factory outside Tokyo and fashioned into a Toyota Corolla. Next I got on a mighty ship carrying thousands of Toyota imports across the Pacific Ocean to Seattle.

The car made from my ore—small, red, spunky—was unloaded in Washington and put on a truck. I rode with it to a dealer in San Francisco, where I bought the car. Then I drove it to a port and put it, and me as well, onto a Norwegian passenger liner bound for Australia. Ten days later, I unloaded and drove the car to the cliff face and to the young excavator operator.

"Here," I said to him, pointing at the car. "This

is what your bucketful of iron ore made." He was astonished. Astonished that I had come back to see him. Astonished that his pile of ore had been made into a car. But most astonished of all to learn that so many people—Chinese, Japanese, American, Norwegian—from so many countries had

been involved in the process. "I guess we are all linked," he said. "Even if we never think we are."

Americans

are coming to this realization—that we are connected in so many invisible little ways—more and more often these days. Every week, it seems, we're greeted with news of more melting ice in the Arctic, a result of carbon emanating from the pipes and smokestacks in this country and others. In September, the U.S. investment bank Leh-

man Brothers was the first major firm toppled in a financial crisis that has afflicted economies and workers from Iceland to Dubai. And, for any lingering doubters of globalization's reach, the elec-

tion of Barack Obama—a man whose kenya, was shaped by connections to Hawaii, Kenya, and Indonesia—provided the ultimate proof.

Nonetheless, the degree to which Americans know about and travel around the world is surprisingly low: Thirty percent of Americans possess a valid passport, according to State Department figures. Despite our immigrant roots, just 10% of U.S. citizens can speak a second language. In contrast, more than half of the people in the 27 nations of the European Union are bilingual, and 28% are trilingual. And while America is home of the world-famous, yellow-bordered *National Geographic* magazine, 63% of U.S. students surveyed in a 2006 poll could not find Iraq—where their troops are fighting—on a map. In addition, 75% had no idea where Israel—the largest recipient of America's foreign aid—was, and 75% had no idea that Indonesia was an Islamic nation (in fact, the world's biggest).

The U.S. Department of Education recently pinpointed the languages most vital to this country's

future: Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Japanese, Russian, Hindi, and Urdu. Less than 1% of high school students are studying any of these. More specifically, around 30,000 to 50,000 American students—high school and college—are learning Chinese. But in China, where



## Conflict in the Congo could affect how many jets we can build

English is mandatory for students from third grade onward, at least 150 million students currently are becoming fluent in our language.

"The U.S. will become less competitive in the global economy because of a shortage of strong foreign-language and international-studies programs at the elementary, high school, and college levels," stated one of the findings in a 2006 report from the nonprofit Committee for Economic Development. "Our diplomatic efforts often have been hampered by a lack of cultural awareness."

Almost all events, no matter how far away, have an effect on us. Upheaval in Bolivia? That could mean a shortage of cellphone batteries down the road. (Bolivia has the world's largest reserves of lithium, vital to small batteries.) War in the Democratic



## Turmoil in Bolivia may end up causing a U.S. shortage in cellphone batteries

Republic of Congo? We may have to produce fewer jets, since Congo is a leading exporter of cobalt, a metal crucial to jet engines. More dramatically, if the conflict heats up between Pakistan and India, then nuclear annihilation threatens, since they both have atomic weapons. And yet how much do most Americans know about Bolivia, Congo, Pakistan, or India? And how many of us have contemplated visiting them or their neighbors?



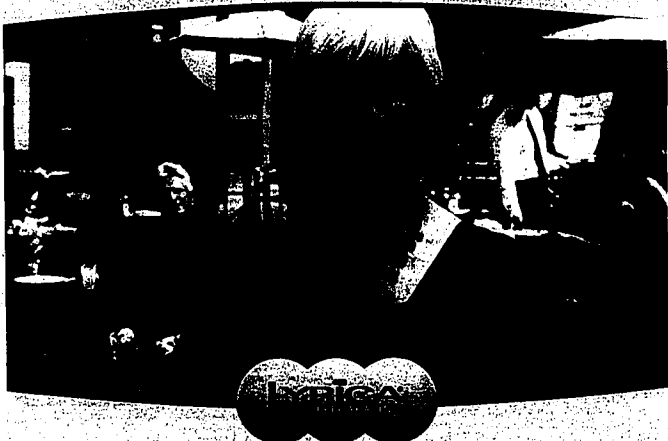
## Australian iron is used to make the cars we drive

I raised these questions with a college student I know from Elko, Nev. He felt that technology trumped the need to go overseas, saying, "Anything can be found out on the Internet—you don't have to go places to find out about them."

I'm not so sure. I'm a firm believer in getting to know people who are very different from ourselves, in trying to understand customs and beliefs and systems that are unfamiliar and, yes, foreign. More than a century ago, Mark Twain said words that still are true today: "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness."

I first arrived in America from continued

## Help for Fibromyalgia pain can start here. Ask your doctor about Lyrica.®



If you suffer from Fibromyalgia (the real, widespread muscle pain that also makes daily tasks difficult), you should know about prescription Lyrica (LEER-uh-kah). It's not an antidepressant. Lyrica is an FDA-approved treatment for Fibromyalgia. And clinical studies have shown that Lyrica can help reduce the unique pain of Fibromyalgia and improve function. Lyrica helps people with Fibromyalgia accomplish their daily activities. And it helps them feel better. If you have Fibromyalgia, ask your doctor if Lyrica is right for you.

**Prescription Lyrica is not for everyone.** Tell your doctor right away about any serious allergic reaction that causes swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue or neck or affects your breathing or your skin. Also tell your doctor about any changes in your eyesight, including blurry vision, or muscle pain along with a fever or tired feeling. Some of the most common side effects of Lyrica are dizziness and sleepiness. Others are weight gain, blurry vision, dry mouth, feeling "high," swelling of hands and feet and trouble concentrating. You may have a higher chance for swelling and hives if you are also taking certain high blood pressure medicines. Do not drive or operate machinery until you know how Lyrica affects you. Do not drink alcohol while taking Lyrica. Be especially careful about medicines that make you sleepy. If you have had a drug or alcohol problem, you may be more likely to misuse Lyrica. Talk with your doctor before you stop taking Lyrica or any other prescription medication. Lyrica is one of several treatment options for you and your doctor to consider.

Please see Important Facts Brief Summary on adjacent page.

To learn more visit [www.lyrica.com](http://www.lyrica.com) or call toll-free 1-888-5-LYRICA (1-888-559-7422).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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# IMPORTANT FACTS

**LYRICA**  
gabapentin

(LEER-i-kah)

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION ABOUT LYRICA

LYRICA may cause serious allergic reactions. Call your doctor right away if you think you have any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:

- Swelling of the face, mouth, lips, gums, tongue or neck.
- Have any trouble breathing.
- Other allergic reactions include rash, hives and blisters.

LYRICA may make you feel dizzy or sleepy.

- Do not drive a car, work with machines, or do other dangerous things until you are sure you will be alert. Ask your doctor when it is okay to do those things.

LYRICA may cause problems with your eyesight, including blurry vision. Call your doctor if you have any changes in your eyesight.

## ABOUT LYRICA

LYRICA is a prescription medicine used to treat:

- Nerve pain from diabetes and nerve pain that continues after the rash from shingles has healed.
- This pain can be sharp or burning. It can feel like tingling, shooting, or numbness.
- Fibromyalgia, a condition which includes widespread muscle pain and difficulty performing daily activities.

Some people taking LYRICA had less pain by the end of the first week. LYRICA may not work for everyone.

## WHO IS LYRICA FOR?

Who can take LYRICA:

- Adults 18 years or older with Fibromyalgia, nerve pain from diabetes, or pain after shingles.

Who should NOT take LYRICA:

- Anyone who is allergic to anything in LYRICA.

LYRICA has not been studied in children under 18 years of age.

## BEFORE STARTING LYRICA

Tell your doctor about all your medical conditions. Tell your doctor if you:

- Have or had kidney problems or dialysis.
- Have heart problems, including heart failure.
- Have a bleeding problem or a low blood platelet count.
- Have alcohol or drug abuse. LYRICA may cause some people to feel "high."
- Are either a man or woman planning to have children or a woman who is breast-feeding, pregnant, or may become pregnant. It is not known if LYRICA may decrease male fertility, pass into breast milk, or if it can harm your unborn baby. You and your doctor should decide whether you should take LYRICA or breast-feed, but not both.
- Tell your doctor about all your medicines, include over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products. Tell your doctor if you take:
- Amoxicillin (moxalintan) or Acton® (gabiglutam).
- For diabetes. You may have a higher chance of weight gain or swelling if these medicines are taken with LYRICA.
- Angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors.
- Narcotic pain medicines (such as oxycodone), tranquilizers or medicines for anxiety (such as benzodiazepines). You may have a higher chance for dizziness and sleepiness if these medicines are taken with LYRICA.
- Any medicines that make you sleepy.

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LYRICA

LYRICA may cause serious side effects, including:

- Swelling of the face and mouth.

See "Important Safety Information About LYRICA" for a complete description of the symptoms of a serious allergic reaction.

- Dizziness and sleepiness.
- Eyestrain problems including blurry vision.
- Weight gain and swelling of hands and feet. Weight gain may affect control of diabetes. Weight gain and swelling can be serious for people with heart problems.
- Unexplained muscle pain, weakness, or weakness along with a fever or tired feeling.
- Skin sores. LYRICA caused skin sores in animals. Although skin sores were not seen in studies in people, if you have diabetes, you should pay extra attention to your skin while taking LYRICA and tell your doctor of any sores or skin problems.

If you have any of these symptoms, tell your doctor right away.

The most common side effects of LYRICA are:

Dizziness	Swelling of face and feet
Sleepiness	Balloon problems
Weight gain	Trouble concentrating
Rhinitis	Increased appetite
Dry mouth	
Constipation	

You may have a higher chance of swelling, hives or gaining weight, if you are taking certain diabetes medicines or angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors with LYRICA. Medicines that already make you sleepy or dizzy may make you feel more sleepy or dizzy with LYRICA.

## HOW TO TAKE LYRICA

Do:

- Take LYRICA exactly as your doctor tells you. Your doctor may tell you to take it 2 or 3 times a day.
- Take LYRICA with or without food.

Don't:

- Do not drive a car or use machines if you feel dizzy or sleepy while taking LYRICA.
- Do not drink alcohol or use other medicines that make you sleepy while taking LYRICA.
- Do not change the dose or stop LYRICA suddenly. You may have headaches, nausea, diarrhea, or trouble sleeping if you stop taking LYRICA suddenly.
- Do not start any new medicines without first talking to your doctor.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Ask your doctor or pharmacist. This is only a brief summary of important information.

- Go to [www.lyrica.com](http://www.lyrica.com) or call:
- For Neveo Pfizer: 1-888-5-LYRICA (1-888-559-7422).
- For Fibromyalgia: 1-888-5-LYRICA (1-888-559-7422).

Uninsured? Need help paying for Pfizer medicines? Pfizer has programs that can help. Call 1-866-706-2400 or visit [www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com](http://www.PfizerHelpfulAnswers.com).

helpful answers™

America's Edge | continued

England as a teenager. A nervous schoolboy, I hitchhiked (it was safe back in the 1960s) up and down and from coast to coast—30,000 miles in six months. The lesson I learned as I met strangers in Texas, Oklahoma, and Maine? That Americans are some of the biggest-hearted people in the world.

To fully appreciate that we are all passengers on the same vast

## We are all linked, even if we never think we are



The author on a boat off the Faroe Islands in the North Atlantic.

planet, it's essential to go and see the intricacies of humankind for yourself. You don't need to spend a lot to achieve the kind of wisdom that is necessary to be fully informed citizens and participants in the world.

So, if you're ready to embark on your own journey toward greater awareness, get yourself a shiny new blue-jacketed U.S. passport. And then get going.

PARADE Contributing Editor Simon Winchester is the author of 20 books, including the best-selling "The Professor and the Madman" and "Krakatoa." His newest book is "The Man Who Loved China." He is on his 11th passport and has been to more than 150 countries.



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# 1-2-3 Bake™

by Dorie Greenspan



## Fudgy Brownies

This is the ideal recipe for chocolate-loving beginners. Once you've got it, try adding a little espresso powder or cinnamon, or double the richness by adding chocolate chips.

- 5 Tbsp unsalted butter, cut into 5 pieces
- 4 oz. semisweet chocolate, chopped
- 2 oz. unsweetened chocolate, chopped
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup walnut pieces

- 1 Preheat the oven to 325°F. Line an 8x8-inch baking pan with nonstick or buttered foil.
- 2 Put a metal bowl over a pan of simmering water. Drop in the butter, top with the chocolate, and heat, stirring occasionally, until melted. Remove the bowl and whisk in the sugar and salt. One by one, whisk in the eggs, stirring until the mixture is smooth. Add the flour and stir it in gently. Fold in the walnuts.
- 3 Bake the brownies for 30 to 33 minutes, or until the top is dull and a knife inserted into the center comes out clean. When the brownies are cool, peel away the foil and cut into 16 squares.

Dorie Greenspan is the author of "Baking: From My Home to Yours."

PHOTO BY GOTTLESTOCKPHOTO

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Battling violence in their hometown, these ex-criminals have become

# The Walking Wise Men of D.C.

by James Grady

**M**Y BAD TRAIL STARTED IN elementary school," says Brandon Forrest, 22. Muscled like a linebacker, he has arms sleeved with tattoos and a grin that could light up a movie theater.

Forrest and I are a mile from Washington's white-icing Capitol dome, sitting in the offices of the Alliance for Concerned Men. The group was started 17 years ago by five ex-criminals who wanted to end the killing in their hometown and bring hope to D.C.'s streets.

Forrest now works for the Alliance—something that would surprise people who knew him early on. Back in fourth grade, he "stepped in trouble" when he and his best friend teased some guys, then ran. Forrest got away, but his friend slipped on the ice. The men caught him, tossed him in their car, and drove off. Weeks later, the police took Forrest to identify his friend's gunshot body, tied to a tree in a park.

Forrest was put into the juvenile-detention system for theft when he was 11, an experience that did nothing to reform him. "It was like bringing a wolf to the zoo," he says. At 15, robbery convictions graduated him to adult prison. Getting out four years later, he recalls, "Everything had changed. I didn't know what an iPod was." Back in his neighborhood, he met a couple of older guys trying to end the street wars. "They grabbed me up and told me I had a lot of potential," he says.

The guys were from the Alliance. They often went

to the city's roughest sections armed only with street smarts to confront violent gang members and criminals. They used unconventional tactics like "give a thug a hug" to help build trust, because few "thugs" had actually experienced honest intimacy.

Washington, D.C., Police Chief Cathy Lanier says the Alliance "has made a significant change in the fear that once held a community at bay." Guys on the street have called them "walking wise men."

Alliance co-founder Arthur "Rico" Rush, a Vietnam vet and former heroin addict, says that too many inner-city boys are on "two roads to destruction: death and jail." To solve the problem, members meet every week with the city's police and staff from the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) to talk about the 25 most-troubled young people currently under supervision. DYRS Director Vincent Schiraldi says, "Who better to teach them the way back to the straight and narrow than guys who've been there and done that?" The Alliance's other efforts include counseling teens, convicts, and ex-offenders.

While as many as 60% of ex-offenders nationwide end up back in jail, many Alliance staffers have made it to their second decade of freedom. And although

they share the common denominator of incarceration, these men defy clichés. Some have been addicts; others have never touched drugs. Some are from strong families; others were raised by the streets.

To see the "walking wise men" in action, I go for a ride on a rainy afternoon with Forrest and three Alliance staffers—who, among them, have served 27 years in prison. Their mission that day was to help some troubled kids.

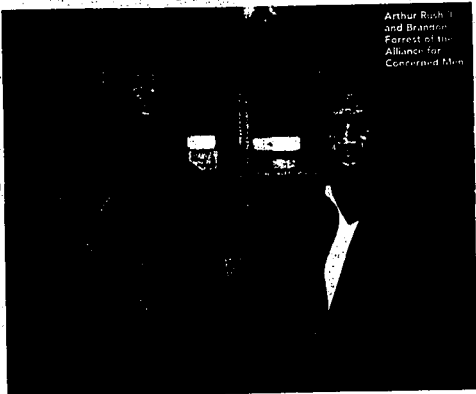
Our driver—Jeff Edelen, 40—says that crime "was basically the norm" when he was growing up. After serving 12 years in jail for armed robbery, he now has a GED and can quote from the Constitution. He cares for his 20-year-old autistic son while working full-time for the Alliance. "I helped contribute to the madness, so it's my duty and obligation to help clean it up," he says. "The cycle has to be broken."

Next to him is Jeff Sledge, also 40. Sledge says he "got his head straight" in prison at an Alliance-sponsored program for concerned fathers.

This afternoon is the third time the Alliance guys are working with a group of 9- and 10-year-olds who have been categorized by teachers and social workers as emotionally damaged.

Our van parks. Inside a building, a classroom

Arthur Rush and Brandon Forrest of the Alliance for Concerned Men



strains to contain the rock-concert-level roar of a dozen kids. Forrest and Keith "K.D." Gliss, 22, stride into the bedlam and get mobbed by boys and girls half their size. Kids tug at Edelen and Sledge to show them what they've learned to do on the computer. The children's faces glow like stars.

One boy stops pacing a figure-eight to join Gliss and a wild-eyed cartwheel-turner at a table. Gliss insists that they all sit and play a board

## The men show the troubled kids love and respect

game. The kids still rock back and forth, but their hunger to hang with Gliss keeps them in their chairs.

Forrest corrals three boys and turns their homework into a game: If they catch the ball that he tosses to each of them in turn, they spell a word of his choice. Forrest coaches the boys through multiple tries until they find the correct spelling and master it.

One boy turns sullen, slouches in a chair. Forrest walks to him, presses the ball against the boy, and says, "Your word is SMILE."

We wait. Wait. The boy spells the word, then frees his own smile.

For two hours, the kids have these rough guys paying attention to them and showing them respect, love, and better ways to be cool. And for two hours, the Alliance men experience that they're not just ex-cons, they're people who bring hope to the world.

"Come back!" the kids call out as we leave. "Are you coming back?"

"I never promise the kids anything," says Forrest. "They got so many promises that been broken, I don't want to be like that. But I tell 'em, 'I'm gonna try.'"

*James Grady is the author of "Six Days of the Condor." His latest novel is "Mad Dog."*

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FILL UP ON THE GOOD STUFF

## HOW SPIRITUALITY KEEPS YOU WELL

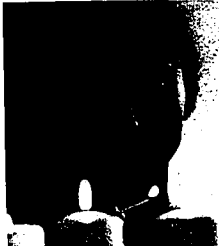
**P**lanning on going to church this holiday season? That should be good for the spirit, of course—and perhaps also for the body. According to a study in *Annals of Epidemiology*, people who attend religious services tend to be healthier than the rest of us. More specifically, weekly churchgoers have a lower risk of death than those who never set foot inside a place of worship.

The report came out earlier this year, but it's only the latest in a series of studies exploring the link between health and spirituality. This research has found that prayer and meditation seem to be associated with improved immune systems and fewer episodes of chronic inflammation.

Not surprisingly, the benefits extend to mental health as well. People who identify themselves as more religious reveal lower rates of depression. A study reported in September by the *Journal of Affective Disorders* showed lower suicide rates among people who regularly attend religious services.

So is church a healing place? While some faithful may believe it is, scientists point out that religious people often take better care of themselves. Studies show that regular churchgoers are also people who don't smoke, drink rarely, and see their doctors regularly. More important, people who make church a habit—and the same goes for people who worship at mosques and synagogues—are more socially integrated, which means they have more friends and acquaintances and a better support system to help them cope with stressful life events.

Many researchers also believe that at bottom there seems to be a



strong connection between the mind, the spirit, and the body. Improve one, and you have an effect on the other. Praying, meditating, or attending religious services may not cure a disease, but those activities may make you feel better and contribute to a more positive outlook on life.

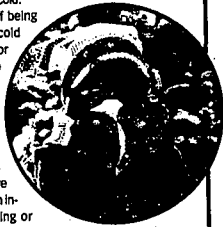
## ALLERGY TO THE COLD

**Y**ou know the song lyric "Jack Frost nipping at your nose"? It makes winter weather sound all fresh and tingly. But for some Americans, the feeling that comes to mind is being itchy. They have what is called "cold-induced urticaria," which is an allergy to the cold.

Within five minutes of being exposed to something cold—chilled water, cold air, or the touch of an ice cube to the skin (how doctors confirm the condition)—sufferers develop hives: blotchy, itchy welts. They usually disappear 10 to 20 minutes later, as long as you can get warm. In rare cases, the allergic reaction includes difficulty breathing or even anaphylactic shock.

If you've experienced any of these symptoms, talk with your doctor to make sure you don't have anything more serious. The best treatment for a cold allergy may be to avoid exposure to cold temperatures. But what if you like skiing, ice-skating on frozen lakes, or simply live in an area where the temperature tends to get low? Taking antihistamines before going out may prevent an outbreak.

Even better, a study in the December issue of the *Journal of the European Academy of Dermatology* showed that, in many cases, symptoms simply go away after several years.



## SLOW DOWN TO LOSE WEIGHT

**I**t's hard to resist all the delicious food that's set out at holiday time, but here's one trick: The pace at which you eat may be as important as the amount you eat. A recent article in the *British Medical Journal* says you're more likely to be overweight if you don't eat your food fast and don't stop eating until you feel full. Scientists asked more than 3000 adults to answer a survey on their eating habits. Those who didn't stop eating until they felt full were nearly two times more likely to be overweight than the others, and those who ate quickly were about twice as likely to be overweight as the slower eaters. So, if you want to battle obesity, eat mindfully, focus on what you put in your mouth, chew slowly, and stop before you feel stuffed. For more weight-loss tips, visit [Parade.com/health](http://Parade.com/health)





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What started in pain  
and loss became...

# My "Perfect" Holiday

by Jacquelyn Mitchard

**M**Y HUSBAND DIED ON THE first day of summer, just three months after being diagnosed with cancer. He was 44, seven years older than I; our boys were 9, 6, and barely 4. Several times that fall, I heard my eldest, Rob—whose bed was on the other side of the wall—sobbing. "Dad, Dad, please come back."

My own days were a dizzying whirl of work and worry. Dan left life insurance equal only to one year's salary—which I banked for the kids—and the house needed major repairs. I often worked late into the night but seemed to be holding the inevitable just at bay.

As Christmas drew closer, so did my dread. Dan had loved the lights, the festive nights we visited our families, the huge formal Italian dinner of shrimp and pasta. Everyone now welcomed us into their celebrations, but

Finally, Danny announced, "We're ready!" It looked like a lopsided candy cane.

The top was covered in white lights, the bottom in red, and the whole thing canted left at a precarious angle. In place of tinsel were strings of aquamarine yarn. Marty, the youngest, had made clothespin people to represent each of us, using some of the yarn as hair above cut-paper faces. The one for the top was Dad. He had wings.

They'd also set up the manger. A purist, Rob had arranged the principal players—Mary, Joseph, and what Rob, when he was little, called "the three wise guys." But Marty added others: Batman, a green Apatosaurus, Luke Skywalker, Garfield, a Power Ranger.

"I've never seen decorations like this!" I said. "They're perfect!"

On Christmas Eve, the boys presented their gift to

me: a "Mom" book with photos, drawings, and a letter from each of them. My heart nearly burst.

The boys had written their lists—Lionel trains; K'NEX, Power Wheels. I'd found a toboggan at a garage sale. There would be three Nerf footballs and a set of walkie-talkies. But what about the tree?

Cutting down and bringing home a plump, lovely evergreen was a big ritual. So, dutifully, the boys and I tromped out to the tree farm. Danny spotted a Fraser fir that would have brushed the ceiling. But the tag read \$45, and even if we could cut it down, how could we ever get it up again? Finally we settled on a modest Scotch pine.

I'd always micro-managed the perfect Christmas, but this time, when the boys volunteered to decorate—well, what did it matter? I heard bumps and busting as they hauled out boxes of lights and ornaments for the tree.

me: a "Mom" book with photos, drawings, and a letter from each of them. My heart nearly burst.

That day, we made pasta from scratch and homemade bread. We held hands and sang the song played at their father's memorial—the one that says, *Inch by inch and row by row, God bless these seeds I sow.*

We woke the next morning to a gift from nature—a rich, healing frosting of Wisconsin snow. Santa had found the perfect present after all, because we spent the day whizzing down a nearby hill on the toboggan.

The boys now are in college. But 15 years later, traditions born that woebegone Christmas still pertain. It's still they who decorate the tree, 12 feet tall in the living room of the house built by Chris, the man I married 10 years ago. And at least one clothespin person has survived; each year, we glue his aquamarine hair back on.

I still have a "Mom" book. In fact, I have three. Chris adopted the boys and helped give them four younger siblings. Every year, each child adds something. When he was 10, Marty taped in all the change he had—eight coins totaling \$1.50—and wrote that his love for me added up to even more than that. Last year, all seven traced their hands in a collage.

## It was the time we realized that joy might come again



We're no longer one step in front of the bill collector, but the four of us who lived it still recall the Christmas nobody wanted as something not grim but dear. It was the time we realized that joy might come again—along with birthdays, fireworks, and a summer that would be green

instead of gray. Though I'd lost my best friend, I found myself—a person who could protect those seeds I'd sown until they grew strong. We gave each other a rare gift. So I wasn't pretending when I called that time "perfect."

Perfect isn't always extravagant. But perfect is always what you really need.

*PARADE Contributing Editor Jacquelyn Mitchard is the best-selling author of 14 books.*

Season's Savings Recipe #6

### Frozen Tiramisu

#### Ingredients

- 2 packages soft ladyfingers  
(3 oz. ea.)
- ½ cup coffee liqueur or strong brewed coffee
- 6 oz. semi-sweet chocolate or bittersweet chocolate chips, melted
- 14 oz. sweetened condensed milk
- 1 container Breyers® All Natural Coffee Ice Cream  
(1.5 qt.)
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 cup thawed frozen whipped topping or 1 cup fresh whipped cream
- 1 tsp. unsweetened cocoa powder

#### Directions

1. In 9-inch springform pan, line bottom and sides with ladyfingers; brush with coffee liqueur. Freeze at least 20 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in small bowl, combine melted chocolate with sweetened condensed milk; chill 10 minutes. Into prepared pan, scoop ½ of the Breyers® All Natural Coffee Ice Cream, pressing to form an even layer. Evenly top with chocolate mixture. Scoop in remaining ice cream, pressing to form an even layer. Cover and freeze 5 hours or overnight.
3. To serve, remove ring from pan and arrange cake on serving platter. In mixing bowl, with electric mixer, beat cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla; fold in whipped topping. Evenly spread over ice cream layer, then sprinkle with cocoa powder.

\*Tip: Don't have a springform pan? Use a 9-inch cake pan lined with plastic wrap instead!

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## Books Great Books for Holiday Gifts

Pair the right book with the right person for an easy, thoughtful gift this holiday season. For fiction fans, try a new release by an old favorite, Wally Lamb's *The Hour I First Believed* portrays a couple's struggle to piece together their lives in the aftermath of the Columbine tragedy. In *The Widows of Eastwick*, John Updike's infamous witches return home older and wiser—only to find that even time can't erase their past sins. Toni Morrison, always a must-read, triumphs again with *A Mercy*. And parents wondering what Twilight-obsessed teens are raving about might enjoy series creator Stephenie Meyer's sci-fi thriller for adults, *The Host*.

Who doesn't love a good mystery? Even die-hard fans of the genre will be surprised by the twists in Pablo De Santis' *The Paris Enigma*. When one of *The Twelve Detectives*—

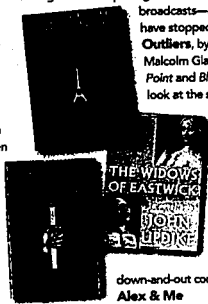
a group of brilliant crime-fighters from around the globe—is found dead at the 1889 World's Fair in Paris, a grim, perilous hunt for the killer ensues. In *A Most Wanted Man*, John le Carré goes behind the scenes of the war on terror as German, American, and British intelligence agencies race to uncover the identity of a mysterious

Chechen immigrant. And you can't go wrong with Stephen King, whose latest, *Just After Sunset*, blends suspense, fantasy, and horror in 13 short but riveting stories.

History buffs will be enthralled by *Giants*, in which Harvard historian John Stauffer uses the relationship between Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln to shed new light on the Civil War and other historical happenings of the day. *We Interrupt This Broadcast* is a book/CD pairing—with audio of actual broadcasts—about events that have stopped us in our tracks. *Outliers*, by best-selling author Malcolm Gladwell (*The Tipping Point* and *Blink*), is a compelling look at the surprising forces that determine our success.

Animal-lovers will fall hard for Vicki Myron's *Dewey*, the true tale of an abandoned library cat that united and inspired a small, down-and-out community. Lastly, *Alex & Me*

is scientist Irene Pepperberg's sweet, moving memoir about the African gray parrot that opened her mind—and her heart.

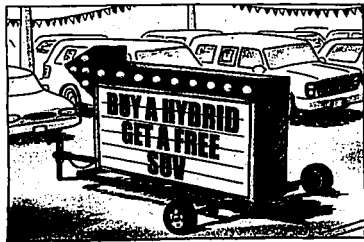


For more Picks, tune in to *Good Morning America* tomorrow, 7-9 a.m. ET on ABC.

Reviews by Sharon Mele and Allison Takeda



"I always put on weight over the holidays."



## HOWARD HUGE®

BY BARRY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"Have you noticed how many Christmas cards we get from dog-food companies?"



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# Ask Marilyn®

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by Marilyn vos Savant

When flying in an airplane, why do I feel the change in cabin pressure when descending but not while ascending?

—Tom Wittenberg, Athens, Ga.

As a plane climbs, its cabin pressure quickly decreases—from local air pressure up to about 8000 feet above sea level. (Higher altitudes have lower air pressure. Practical considerations make it impossible for planes to maintain sea-level pressure, so they compromise at this mountainlike air pressure.)

The higher pressure of the air inside the middle ear can cause the eardrums to bulge outward. But before this occurs, people often swallow or yawn, which opens the eustachian tubes and lets the air escape. The result: nothing much.

By the time the plane heads back down, however, the air in the middle ear has equalized with its environment and is at that mountainlike air pressure. So, as the cabin pressure rapidly increases, it pushes *inward* against the eardrums. This is more problematic, because the higher pressure everywhere may block your ability to open the eustachian tubes as easily as you could before. The result is an instant earache.

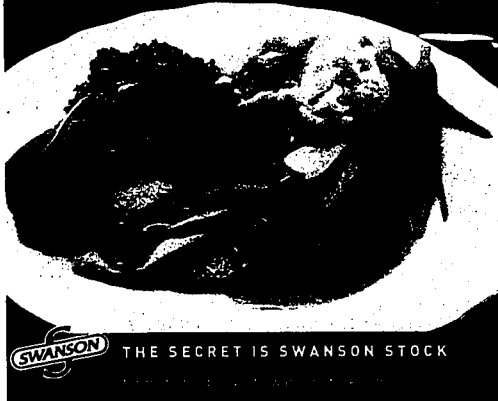
How are these sequential numbers unique: 123, 210, 234, 321, 345, 432, 456, 543, 654?

—Roger Nauheimer, Clearwater, Fla.  
continued

Christopher Lee

1925-2015

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Cook: 8 minutes  
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18- to 20-pound turkey  
1½ cups Swanson Chicken Stock  
Ground black pepper  
¼ cup all-purpose flour

1. Remove the package of the giblets and neck from the turkey cavity. Rinse the turkey with cold water and pat dry with a paper towel. Tie the ends of the drumsticks together.
2. Place turkey, breast-side-up, on a rack in a shallow roasting pan. Brush with the stock. Sprinkle the black pepper. Insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the meat, making sure the thermometer is not touching the bone.
3. Roast at 325°F. for 4 to 4½ hours or until the thermometer reads 180°F, and the drumstick moves easily, basting occasionally with the stock. Begin checking for doneness after 3½ hours of cooking time. Let stand for 10 minutes.
4. Remove the turkey from the roasting pan. Pour off any fat. Stir the stock and flour in the pan. Cook and stir over medium-high heat until the mixture boils and thickens. Serve with the turkey.



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AskMarilyn<sup>™</sup> continued

Take your time, readers! The answer appears below.

I'm fascinated by the oxygen and carbon dioxide exchange between people and plants. How many houseplants would be needed to replenish the oxygen consumed by one person?

—Don Tamasky, Sacramento, Calif.  
You'd need hundreds. They, in turn, also would need water and sunlight.

Do identical twins always have the same dominant hand?

—Ken Miller, Greensboro, N.C.  
Surprisingly, no. About four in every five sets of twins are the same—either right-handed or left-handed. But one pair is different: One twin is right-handed; the other is left-handed. Handedness is a puzzling phenomenon and still largely unexplained.

Answer: They are the only three-digit sequences that can be displayed on a 12-hour digital clock.

## Numbrix<sup>™</sup>

Complete 1-81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path. (No diagonals.)

39	40	41	42	43	48	49	50	51
38								52
31								57
30								58
29								79
28								78
27								77
26								70
25	24	1	10	11	66	67	68	69

**P** For solutions and a new puzzle every day, go to [Parade.com/numbrix](http://Parade.com/numbrix).

To send a question to Ask Marilyn, go to [Parade.com/marilyn](http://Parade.com/marilyn) or e-mail [marilyn@parade.com](mailto:marilyn@parade.com). For solutions by mail, write to: PARADE, Attn: Numbrix, 711 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017. Please indicate the publication date of the puzzle.

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Lansbury has a great project outside of acting. Her older sister died of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, abbreviated as ALS but usually called Lou Gehrig's disease. Angela now serves as spokesperson for the ALS Association and its American and global effort for research and advocacy. I asked if there had been any progress toward a cure. "There is no cure," Ms. Lansbury said bluntly. "When you are diagnosed with ALS, it's a death sentence. But we can help the patient and the family and we do." Her husband, Peter Shaw, died five years ago. As Angela got my topcoat, she told me, "I don't want to get married again. But I'd love to have a guy around."

The Tony Award-winning actress brews some "real" coffee, then chats about Broadway

# InStepWith® Angela Lansbury

by James  
Brady

**O**N A CHILLY MORNING IN MANHATTAN, AT her apartment between Broadway and Central Park, the actress Angela Lansbury, tall and elegant in a brown velvet pantsuit and an ivory blouse, was serving me coffee.

"Real coffee and not that instant nonsense," she assured me as she emerged from the kitchen with an attractive, small tray. "For once, I won't be going to the theater tonight but dining with friends."

The four-time Tony Award-winner is perhaps best known as Jessica Fletcher of *Murder, She Wrote*, the long-running CBS series. Now she is beginning rehearsals with Christine Ebersole and Rupert Everett for a revival of the famous Noël Coward comedy *Blinkie*, opening on Broadway in February.

"I had no intention of coming back to work, only of coming back to New York to enjoy the city as a part-time resident," said Angela. "But my agent called, saying, 'They're interested in having you play the psychic, Madame Arcati.' I'm a bit long in the tooth [83], but that's the great thing about the theater—it's all illusion."

The British-born actress was only a teenager when she made her film debut in the romantically sinister Victorian-era drama *Gaiety*, with Ingrid Bergman, and it earned her an Oscar nomination. "Ingrid and I became lifelong friends," she said.

Even at her age, Angela is looking ahead. "I would like to put down on paper the story of the earliest days of my life and its bearing on why I became an actress," she told me. Would she ever do another television series? "No," she said. "But I would do a film if it was a great role. I won't play a poor little old lady dying of Alzheimer's."

And is *Murder, She Wrote* still running today?

"Everywhere in the world," she said. "My granddaughter was in Rome for the World Cup and waiting to watch the games on a giant TV screen in an Italian piazza, when all of a sudden, there was Grandma up there on the screen—Jessica Fletcher speaking perfect Italian!"

#### Personal

Born Oct. 16, 1925, in London, England. Married to Richard Cromwell (1945-46); to Peter Shaw (1949-2003), with two children.

#### What You Don't Know

Three years into *Murder, She Wrote*, Lansbury got bored with the story line. "It began to wear," she said. "So I spoke up and was responsible for our getting better stories, getting us out of the fishing village and into more cosmopolitan settings."



To see photos of Angela Lansbury through the years, visit [Parade.com/brady](http://Parade.com/brady)

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