



**Walla Walla Community College basketball player Kayla Hutcheson stands with her coach, Bobbi Hazeltine on Dec. 11 in Walla Walla, Wash. After a head-on collision with a teammate, Hutcheson, 18, suffered a rare case of complete amnesia.**

# Distant Memory

## Accident in practice leaves former Kimberly athlete with total amnesia

By Stella Hager  
from the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. —

**A**t 18 years old, Kayla Hutcheson is looking forward to her first Christmas in memory. The more the Walla Walla Community College freshman learns about the traditions, decorations and general holiday hoopla, the more Christmas sounds like something she'll like.

The fact that Hutcheson, who graduated from Kimberly High School last spring, lived through 17 Christmas seasons doesn't really register, she said, leaning forward on a couch in her basketball coach's office, her long fingers locked in loose embrace. For now, those years are lost for her.

It's almost exactly like a Hollywood movie, what's happened to Hutcheson. On this day, to look at her, a bystander would never know what the young woman has undergone since late October. The college athlete runs, as fast or faster than her teammates. She shoots, long and sure. She sprints, lunging from line to line with concentration etched in the trails of sweat running down her face.

It was a regular basketball practice like this one, remembered Walla Walla Community College women's basketball coach Bobbi Hazeltine. On Oct. 26, Hutcheson and another girl were "pressing," running full-court defenses, the coach explained. "She and another girl were running full speed toward another girl who had the ball ... both were just looking at the ball."

And — snap — the two runners met head-on, face to face in the most literal sense. Blood began flowing immediately; Hutcheson had fractured her nose.

Nothing unusual, requiring no more than a water break and tending the girls for a bit. "Everyone gets bloody noses, we deal with them. She told us she was fine," the coach recalled.

The call that came later said otherwise. After her roommates took Hutcheson home, they saw signs of trouble.



**Kayla Hutcheson drives to the hoop in this photo from a Kimberly basketball game against Valley in 2007. Hutcheson, a multi-sport star at Kimberly, suffered long-term memory loss this fall after a basketball practice accident at Walla Walla Community College.**

"She said her arms were numb," Nancy Johnson said of Hutcheson. "I started rubbing them out, lifting her face for the broken nose, treating her for shock."

The four roommates, all age 18, share a downtown apartment, as well as a love for sports. Three come from Idaho, one from Washington.

The story continues on A7

"It knocked 15 years out of her life. Everything you hear about concussion, they talk about short-term memory loss. You hear nothing about long-term memory loss."

— Bart Hutcheson,  
Kayla's father

# M.V. scientists have the right stuff for NASA

## Buhl, Burley men building microchips for space agency



**The small EoC Plane Encoder chip developed by Chad Orbe of the University of Idaho Center for Advanced Microelectronics and Biomolecular Research (CAMBR).**

By Andrea Jackson  
Times-News writer

Two men from the Magic Valley still live in Idaho, but they're reaching far beyond Earth.

The science savvy men, Sterling Whitaker and Chad Orbe, grew up in the Buhl, Burley and Rupert areas. Now they're helping NASA researchers see things from space that couldn't be seen before.



**Orbe**

This engineering work takes years in front of a computer terminal designing circuits, and it's happening

because the University of Idaho beat out impressive international competition to work with NASA.

The complicated projects are rolled into little chips, which solve problems for NASA researchers peering into space through satellites. Orbe and Whitaker work at the Post Falls-based, Advanced Microelectronics and Biomolecular Research

Please see CHIPS, Page A2

# The safer side of Christmas toys

## Major post-present hazard: wrapping paper

By Laurie Welch  
Times-News writer

When the shredded wrapping paper and bows lay strewn across the living room floor on Christmas morning, most parents are tempted to kick back and turn their children loose with their new toys.

But parents may need to complete one more task before allowing their kids free-rein with their Christmas loot.

Evaluating toy safety is not always an easy task, said Jean Freymiller, manager and toy buyer for 'A Child's World' in Burley.

Freymiller said parents should check to see how durable the toys are and

### Toy safety tips

- Make sure toys are age appropriate and do not have sharp edges, points or small parts that could cause choking
- Never give magnets to children under age 6
- Make sure children playing with ride-on toys are wearing helmets and safety gear
- Immediately dispose of plastic wrappings
- Parents can log onto [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) to check for toy recalls.

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

### INSIDE

Toy makers say lead law harms workshops.

See page A4

Please see TOYS, Page A4

# Another round of snowfall expected this morning

By Hale Poppino  
Times-News writer

A white Christmas isn't just a dream this year.

The Magic and Wood River valleys should wake up to another round of snow this morning, according to predictions from the National Weather Service.

The agency's Boise and Pocatello offices issued winter storm warnings Wednesday forecasting anywhere from 4 to 10 inches of new snowfall in the valleys that evening and this morning, depending on the loca-

tion. The releases also warned of possible drifting and blowing snow across the region, and suggested people only travel if they really have to.

The Wood River Valley faces a 90 percent chance of snow today and could see up to 10 inches of snow in valley areas, with more than a foot possible in the mountains. Snow could accumulate as quickly as 1 inch per hour this morning, the agency warned.

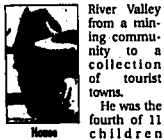
The rest of the region has Please see SNOW, Page A2

# Former miner, outspoken commissioner House dies at 92

Times-News

South-central Idaho has lost part of its heritage. Rupert Theodore House, who was born in Hansen and later became one of the oldest mining men in Blaine County, died in a Caldwell nursing home Sunday afternoon.

He was 92. House was best known as an outspoken hard-rock miner who bemoaned the transformation of the Wood



**House**

and Angeline House in 1916. He graduated from Twin Falls High School in 1933, and married his wife Bonnie when they were both 17.

## INSIDE

Read House's full obituary.

See page C7

House earned the title of the heavyweight boxing champion in southern Idaho when he was 18, however, most of his time was spent breaking rock at his father's gravel pit and delivering newspapers for the *Times-News*. Both friends and family

remember him as one of the hardest working men in the region — an ethic that House attributed to his upbringing in Idaho mining towns during the Great Depression.

House said his wife Bonnie moved to the Triumph Mine camp in Blaine County in the late 1930s, where House began a 23-year career as a hard rock miner.

He once told the *Idaho Mountain Express* that he

Obituaries on.....C7	Commodities.....B2	Horoscope.....E7	Opinion.....A8-9
Bridge.....E9	Crossword.....E6	Jumble.....E10	Sudoku.....E5
Classifieds.....E1-12	Dear Abby.....E7	Movies.....A7	Today in History.....E7
	Dr. Golt.....C4	Nation/World.....C8-10	Weather.....B4

High: 30 Low: 14  
Snow and wind. Details: B4  
and live at [magvalley.com/weather](http://magvalley.com/weather)

# MORNING BRIEFING



## TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

No events are scheduled for today. Have a merry Christmas!

## IN TODAY'S TIMES-NEWS

**CSI GROWING TOGETHER AS A TEAM**

SPORTS, D1

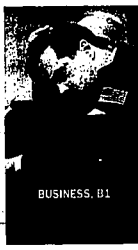


**SNOWMOBILING IS IN HIS BLOOD**



OUTDOORS, C1

**AFTER MARKET'S FALL, AN ARDUOUS RECOVERY**



BUSINESS, B1

**Weeks ... Pat Marcantonio**  
What to go and do today

My picks for today are simple:  
• Enjoy the holiday.  
• Enjoy family and friends.  
• Promote peace and goodwill towards all.  
That's what I'm doing — not to mention

opening my presents.

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@magicvalley.com](mailto:pam@magicvalley.com).

## Christmas brings closures around the valley

Many offices and facilities are closed for Christmas. Here's a list of places that will be open or closed today and Friday:

- City offices are closed today. Most city offices are open Friday, including in Twin Falls, Burley, Gooding, Shoshone and Rupert.
- County offices are closed today. Most county offices are open Friday, including in Twin Falls, Jerome, Burley,

Hailey and Gooding.

- State offices: closed today, open Friday.
- Federal offices: closed today, some are closed Friday.
- Post offices: closed today, open Friday.
- Banks: closed today, open Friday.
- Twin Falls Public Library: closed today, open Friday.
- YMCA/Twin Falls City Pool: closed today, will offer

open swimming from 1 to 5 p.m. Friday.

- The College of Southern Idaho: closed today and Friday; the Herrett Center for Arts and Science is closed today, but open Friday.
- Magic Valley Mall: closed today, open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday.
- Trash will not be picked up today. Trash collection will be one day later Friday.

# Pocatello mayor pushing for vicious dog registry

POCATELLO (AP) — Pocatello Mayor Roger Chase has asked Idaho lawmakers to create a statewide vicious dog registry to track problem animals that move from one jurisdiction to another.

Chase's request follows an attack earlier this month on a city animal control officer by a pit bull that had a history of killing other dogs and cats, and whose owner had been cited in other southeastern Idaho cities for allowing the dog to run loose.

Officials say the officer might have died from her injuries if not for a police officer who applied first aid.

"I'm a believer that dogs are what their owners make them," Chase told the Idaho State Journal. "Vicious animals

are usually trained to be that way or get that way through abuse and neglect."

Chase has asked lawmakers to consider the registry during the 2009 Legislature, which begins Jan. 12 in Boise.

The pit bull that attacked animal control Officer Tamara Anderson on Dec. 5 in Pocatello had citations in nearby cities of Aberdeen and American Falls, where it killed several cats and at least one other dog. Anderson had responded to a residence to investigate a report of a vicious dog. As she took photos, the pit bull attacked, and she called for backup.

Anderson required surgery to repair puncture wounds in her left arm and is still recovering.

"The dog ripped an artery, and (Anderson) was bleeding out pretty fast," said Mary Remer, animal control director for Pocatello. The officer used his tie and his gun clip to make a tourniquet.

Sabrina Adamson, the dog's owner, was cited for a vicious dog and failure to provide proof of rabies vaccination. Her sister, Pia Adamson, was housing the dog and was cited for failure to contain a vicious animal. The dog was euthanized later in the day after the attack.

American Falls police Chief Brandon Wilkinson said Sabrina Adamson had been cited in that city for allowing the same dog to run at large, and that the dog had previously attacked another dog.

# Kindly elf hands out \$13,000 to LA's homeless

By Robert Jablon  
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — While carmakers have their hands out to Congress, a kindly soul showed up in a car to deliver his own bailout to those on Skid Row.

The anonymous donor continued a holiday tradition by handing out \$10 bills to people at the Midnight Mission. The shelter estimated that \$13,000 was distributed this year.

"It's the highlight of my year," the donor said. Hundreds lined up

around the building Tuesday, and some said they waited as long as eight hours for the benefactor nicknamed the Eldorado Elf.

The tradition of handing out money at the mission around Christmas dates to the early 1980s when car dealer Ronald Moran began showing up in a Cadillac to pass out thousands of dollars.

When the man dubbed the Cadillac Santa died in 1992, his friend, who was the attorney for Moran's dealership, took over the

handout. He showed up in a Cadillac Eldorado and thus was born the Eldorado Elf.

The elf — a 67-year-old semiretired lawyer who would only give his name as Bill — wore a bright red shirt and a smile as he and several friends distributed the money Tuesday. He said the money was needed more than ever because of the poor economy.

The donor said the money comes from himself and his friends and that he did not regret spending it even though the economy has hurt his own finances.

# House

Continued from page A1  
traded a quart of bootleg whiskey to a mine foreman for the job.

He worked as several mines in the Wood River Valley, eventually becoming the manager of the North Star mine in Triumph.

House left mining and moved to California to pursue other work, but returned three years later to work for the Hailey's street department.

He later served four terms as a Blaine County commissioner during the

'80s and '90s. As a commissioner, he was quoted as saying, "It just bothers me that mining became a dirty word around (Blaine County) when it was mining that made these towns in the first place."

# Chips

Continued from page A1

(CAMBR), staffed by about a dozen scientists. Orbe's chip, the Bit Plane Encoder, took six years to make. It measures 13.5 millimeters wide, and has 12 million transistor switches.

Its function: make images smaller without reducing their quality, so NASA researchers can study the earth's magnetic field. It will be deployed on four satellites, CAMBR officials said. Orbe, 36, has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the U of I. He spent five years at the College of Southern Idaho and six in the U.S. Navy, he said.

"This is Chad's first chip, and probably the most complicated chip we've ever done," said Orbe's boss, Gary Maki, research professor and principal investigator at CAMBR.

Whittaker helped design another chip, the Low Density Parity Check Encoder, which corrects errors in space transmissions. It's scheduled to be on a number of missions, he said.

CAMBR's relationship with NASA has slowly developed over 20 years, said Maki. "It's been a long process of proving ourselves to NASA."

And NASA authorities liked the University of Idaho's work and its price tag.

"The team's capability allows high-end specialized space processors to be developed at a budget level con-



Photo courtesy of QUAD ORSE  
Chad Orbe, scientist with the Post Falls-based University of Idaho Center for Advanced Microelectronics and Biomolecular Research (CAMBR) grew up in Buhl, and has created a chip, the Bit Plane Encoder, that will help NASA study the earth's magnetic field. Orbe stands next to his engineering equipment.

sidered shoe-string by industry standards," said Pen-Shu Yeh, senior engineer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, in a recent press release. "We at NASA are extremely fortunate to have the U-Idaho team developing these chips."

Creating and designing Orbe's chip, which competes with the better known JPEG photo compression system, cost about \$2 to \$3 million, CAMBR authorities said.

CAMBR writes proposals and competes with other scientists around the world to make chips for NASA using the space agency's algorithms. The University of Idaho scientists beat out the European Space Agency for Orbe's chip, Maki confirmed.

Orbe and Whittaker said they started tinkering with electronics as children in the Magic Valley.

Whittaker, who holds a doctorate in electrical engineering from University of Idaho, says he learned a lot growing up on a farm.

"Growing up in that area teaches one a work ethic," said Whittaker. "The opportunity to work on farms or haul hay... Just doing manual labor gives an incentive to go to school and get your education."

Maki jokingly attributes the engineering contributions to something else. "You folks down there must have good water."

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# Snow

Continued from page A1

an 80 percent chance of snow, with 4 to 8 inches expected for the western Magic Valley. That prediction rises to 6 to 12 inches in mountain areas. Between 5 and 6 inches of snow is expected in the Mini-Cassia area and east across the Snake River Plain.

Most of the storm warnings are in effect until 5 p.m. Monday, except for the western Magic Valley, which ends at 11 a.m.

After today, southern Idaho should see a break from the steady storm systems of the past couple of weeks. Snow and wind from the storms were bad enough to cause state authorities to close a section of Interstate 84 from

Monday through Wednesday. Another weaker storm could bring snow to the region Friday or Saturday, but should produce far less than the past few.

The NWS predicts between a 20 and 60 percent chance of snow across south-central Idaho through the weekend, with rain possible in some areas after that.

## COMING UP IN THE TIMES-NEWS



**Number of people assisted understated**  
The number of people assisted by the East End Providers in Kimberly was understated in an article that appeared on the front page Monday.  
Ceclie Griffith, who runs the organization, said it will assist 250 families with a total

of about 700 children during the Christmas season.  
**Soldier's rank misidentified**  
The Dec. 7 articles on Mountain Home Air Force Base misidentified Master Sgt. Brian Orban's rank.  
The Times-News regrets the errors.

**IDAHO LOTTERY**  
Due to an early deadline, lottery numbers were not available Wednesday night.  
To view winning numbers, go to [www.idaholottery.com](http://www.idaholottery.com) or call 208-334-2600.

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Go to [MagValley.com](http://MagValley.com) to find a ski report at the Snow Center.

**Snowpack levels**  
Seasonal percentage of Avg. peak  
Watershed: 65%  
Salmon: 22%  
Big Wood: 55%  
Little Lost: 10%  
Henny's Fork/Seton: 72%  
Upper Snake Basin: 75%  
Dakota: 71%  
Salmon Falls: 81%  
As of Dec. 24



# Toys

Continued from page A1

whether there are any sharp or pointed edges. Even if a toy is originally covered in small parts, if it breaks apart, a hazard could exist.

"They should also make sure there are no small parts that come off or a nose that can like an eye of the toy," Freymiller said.

Burley mother Kyerin Gochnoor said she used to pay a lot more attention to toy safety when her daughter, Madilyn, now 4, was younger.

"She's old enough now that she knows not to put toys in her mouth," Gochnoor said.

Gochnoor said when she does examine toys she looks to see if any of the parts are small enough for Madilyn to swallow or choke on and she reads the warnings printed on toy packages.

According to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, parents should always examine new toys given to children under 3 years old for small parts that could cause choking. The agency warns that toys containing magnets are never to be given to children under 6, because they can cause serious injury or possibly death when ingested.

Parents should inspect the toys to see if they have been painted because some toys,



Laurie Welch/Times-Herald

Four-year-old Madilyn Gochnoor of Burley looks over a selection of toys at 'A Child's World' Wednesday.

even ones manufactured in the United States, can be painted with lead-based paint, which can be harmful to children.

But Freymiller said, there is no easy way to tell if a toy has been painted with lead-based paint, so a good bet is to check out recall lists, like the one found on the CPSC Web site.

Other safety tips include making sure all children playing with ride-on toys are wearing helmets and other safety gear, and toys such as air rockets, darts and sling shots are kept out of the hands of younger children, said the CPSC.

But one of the most overlooked dangers lurks not in the toys themselves but in

the plastic wrapping lying on the floor that the toys came packaged in.

A report released this month by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention titled "CDC Childhood Injury Report: Patterns of Unintentional Injuries Among 0-13 Year-Olds in the United States, 2000-2006" says in children under age 1, two-thirds of injury-deaths were caused by suffocation.

"It's really important to make sure that all of the plastic wrapping the toys are packaged in gets thrown away," Freymiller said.

Laurie Welch may be reached at 208-675-9767 or lwelch@magicvalley.com.

# Enviros file appeal of lynx plan

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) — Conservation groups are asking the U.S. Forest Service to provide more protection for lynx in the southern Rockies.

Four groups have filed an appeal of a Forest Service management plan for lynx in national forests in Colorado and one in southern Wyoming. They say the Forest Service made improvements from a draft plan, but the final plan still gives preference to other uses of the forest over habitat for the cat.

Durango-based Colorado Wild, the Center for Native Ecosystems, Defenders of Wildlife and WildEarth Guardians filed the appeal with the Forest Service Monday.

The final plan, released in November, weakens standards and guidelines for logging, snow grooming for recreation, road upgrades and gas and oil development, the groups said.

"If the amendment's weaker standards and guidelines are applied to areas in the Southern Rocky Mountains, lynx recovery

may be delayed or even thwarted altogether," said Rocky Smith of Colorado Wild.

The lynx population in the southern Rockies is small and vulnerable to extinction, even with conservative management, Smith said.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has released more than 200 lynx from Canada and Alaska in the state since 1999 to restore the cat to Colorado.

At least 116 lynx kittens have been born in Colorado since the restoration began. State wildlife biologists say no newborn kittens have been found in the last two years, possibly because of a decline in the number of snowshoe hares, the cat's main prey.

The long-haired cats, found mostly at high elevations, are listed by the federal government as threatened in 14 states, including Colorado.

The Forest Service has said the plan's intent is to manage vegetation to support snowshoe hares. There would be exceptions for logging and other activities in

lynx habitat to reduce wildfire risk.

The Forest Service said the final version was modified to give forest managers more flexibility in dealing with the bark-beetle infestation that has killed more than 1.5 million acres of pine trees in Colorado.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed designating 42,753 square miles in six states as critical habitat for lynx, possibly placing the area under tighter federal oversight. The states are Maine, Minnesota, Idaho, Montana, Washington and Wyoming.

Colorado, at the southern tip of the cat's historic territory, was left out of the proposal. Federal officials have said it's not clear if the Colorado population will sustain itself.

The agency originally designated only 1,841 square miles in three states as critical lynx habitat but reconsidered after allegations that Julie MacDonald, a deputy assistant secretary of the interior, interfered in that and other decisions. She resigned.

# Toymakers say lead law harms workshops

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Worries over lead paint in mass-market toys made the holidays a little brighter for handcrafted toy makers last year, but now the federal government's response to the scare has become worrisome.

"It's ironic that the companies who never sold to the public trust, who have already operated with integrity, are the ones being threatened," said Julia Chen, owner of The Playstore in Palo Alto, which specializes in wooden and organic playthings.

In a memo released Wednesday, Consumer Product Safety Commission staffers recommended that the agency exempt some natural materials from the lead testing requirements.

Lead paint spurred the recall of 45 million toys last year, mostly made in China for larger manufacturers. Parents looked to buy The Playstore in the recall's aftermath searching for safer alternatives.

Lawmakers also responded. In August, President Bush imposed the world's strictest lead ban in products for children 12 or younger by signing the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act.

Small toy makers strongly back the restrictions in the bill, which they say reflect voluntary standards they have long observed to keep harmful substances out of toys. But they never thought their products would also be considered a threat.

Under the law, all children's products must be tested for lead and other harmful substances. Toy makers are required to pay a third-party lab for the testing and to put tracking labels on all toys to show when and where they were made.

Those requirements make sense for a multinational toy manufacturer churning out thousands of plastic toys on an overseas assembly line, said Dan Marshall, co-owner of Peapods Natural Toys and Baby Care in St. Paul, Minn. But a business that makes, for example, a few hundred handcrafted wooden baby rattles each year can't afford to pay up \$4,000 per product for testing, a price some toy makers have been quoted, he said.

Marshall and nearly 100 other toy stores and makers have formed the Handmade Toy Alliance to ask Congress and the federal agency that

enforces the law to exempt small toy companies or those that make toys entirely within the U.S. from testing and labeling rules.

Falling that, they want the Consumer Product Safety Commission to preemptively declare unfinished wood, wool and cotton and food-grade wood finishes such as beeswax, mineral oil and walnut oil to be lead-free.

U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., lead sponsor of the legislation, says toy makers should not worry. Rush points out that the law already exempts products and materials that do not threaten public safety or health.

"This exemption should be sufficient to affect most companies," Rush said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Determining what materials fall under that exemption falls to the safety commission, however, which has yet to issue specific guidelines. With a Feb. 10 deadline for complying with the law, small toy makers say they have no choice but to act as if its rules apply to them or risk facing fines of \$100,000 per violation.

Staff toxicologists at the product safety commission told agency commissioners in a memo released Wednesday that some unfin-

ished natural materials should be considered lead-free. The materials include wood and fibers such as cotton, silk, wool and linen.

The safety commission still must vote on the recommendations.

"The agency is diligently working on providing rules that would define some exclusions and some exemptions," said Julie Vallesse, a spokeswoman for the product safety commission.

Toy safety activists who helped push the legislation through Congress say they are sympathetic to small toy makers' anxieties. Charles Margulis of the anti-lead Center for Environmental Health in Oakland said exemptions based on natural materials would be "sensible." But "Made in the USA" is not enough to ensure a toy is not toxic, according to Margulis. "Materials from the U.S. could be lead-contaminated as well," he said.

One European toy maker has already announced it will stop its exports to the U.S. because of the law's costs and uncertainties. Selecta Spielzeug, a German company, said earlier this month that it will stop shipping its wooden push toys, games and other products to 1,200 U.S. stores after Dec. 31.

# Environmentalists petition EPA over ozone concern

By Susan Montoya Bryan Associated Press writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — An environmental group has filed a petition with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to force 16 Western states to revise their air quality regulations in an effort to trim ozone pollution.

WildEarth Guardians filed its 25-page petition filed Tuesday that large cities throughout the West have already violated clean air standards limiting ozone and the problem is spreading to rural areas, including northwestern New Mexico and western Wyoming.

"The Western states are facing an unprecedented challenge in addressing the impacts of ozone air pollution. For the sake of public health, it is a challenge that must be met aggressively," Jeremy Nichols, WildEarth Guardian's climate and energy program director, wrote in the petition.

Ground-level ozone, a key component of smog, forms when emissions from tailpipes and smokestacks mix with sunlight. The colorless gas can irritate the respiratory system, reduce lung capacity and aggravate asthma.

WildEarth Guardians is asking the EPA to force New

Mexico, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming to revise their air quality regulations to strengthen ozone safeguards by 2013.

The group wants the agency to designate an interstate transport region for the West that would prioritize the development of regional solutions to ozone pollution. It also wants the EPA to create an interstate commission to assess the degree of ozone pollution transport and strategies to combat the problem.

According to the petition, all or portions of the 16 states are expected to exceed ozone pollution limits by 2018.

"With air quality projected to worsen throughout the West, we need regional solutions, not piecemeal plans or fingerprinting," Nichols said. "The Environmental Protection Agency can provide the leadership and direction needed to put the West on the path toward clean air."

The petition calls for the agency to act on the group's requests within 18 months.

EPA spokesman Jonathan Schrader in Washington, D.C., said Tuesday that once the agency receives the petition it will be reviewed and

the agency will respond appropriately.

The EPA earlier this year lowered the federal health standard for ozone from its previous level of 0.08 parts per million to 0.075 ppm.

The agency estimates that more than 300 counties nationwide will not be able to meet the new standard, although it is not expected to make official non-attainment designations until 2010.

WildEarth Guardians contends that the EPA has authority under the Clean Air Act to force states to revise their air quality regulations if the rules are found to be "substantially inadequate." Nichols argues that is the case — or soon will be — in the Western states.

WildEarth Guardians decided to petition the EPA now rather than wait for a new federal administration to take over, saying the problem needs to be addressed immediately.

"Filing it now really ties it up for the new EPA administrator to give it the priority attention it deserves," Nichols said. "...We are hopeful the next administrator will not just realize what's legally required, but what is the right thing to do from a public health and environmental standpoint."

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# Gunman identified as father of boy taken hostage in LA

By Ari B. Bloomkatz  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A gunman who took a 7-year-old boy hostage and was killed by police after a two-hour stand-off at a Los Angeles-area Chinese restaurant was identified Wednesday as the boy's father, a former child actor who was a fugitive wanted for a 2004 slaying, police said.

Mauzel Benitez, who police said barricaded himself inside the restaurant with the child, was declared dead at the eatery soon after gunshots were fired, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lt. Liam Gallagher.

The boy also was injured in the shootout and was hospitalized in critical condition, although he does not have a life-threatening injury, police said.

Benitez, who is from Hawthorne, was wanted by police in connection with the June 2004 slaying of his girl-



friend, Stephanie Spears. According to police, Benitez used a dumbbell to beat Spears to death and fled with their then 3-year-old son, named Benjamin.

Although the Sheriff's Department reported that Benitez was 38 years old, court documents and an FBI Web site on the kidnapping said he was born in September 1969, making him 39 at the time of his death. The FBI Web site also said his son was born in November 2001, making him 7 years old; earlier reports said the boy was 6.

According to the FBI, Benitez was a former child

actor who used aliases, such as Mark Everett, Manuel Velasco and Mike Rivers, to elude authorities. He also may have spoken several languages, including German, French, English, Spanish and Cantonese.

As a child actor, Benitez was best known for working under the stage name Mark Everett. He starred in commercials, TV shows and movies, including "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," "Stand and Deliver" and "Trapper John, M.D.," according to the Internet Movie Database.

After years away from the camera, he reappeared in 2005 as a real-life fugitive featured on "America's Most Wanted." A state warrant was issued for his arrest that year. A federal warrant was issued in 2006, when he was charged with "unlawful flight to avoid prosecution." A \$20,000 reward was offered for information leading to his capture.

The Tuesday afternoon incident began in a parking

lot in El Monte, according to witnesses. It ended about 8:50 p.m., when a flash-bang grenade exploded and gunshots echoed inside the building.

Shortly afterward, authorities carried the boy out on a stretcher and put him in an ambulance.

Henry Villan, 35, was standing in the parking lot talking to a friend when he saw a man roughly dragging a young boy by his T-shirt.

"I just seen a guy taking a kid," Villan said.

At first, Villan thought nothing of it because he assumed that the man was the boy's father.

"Sometimes you see bad parents," Villan said.

An El Monte police officer, who had been called to the scene at about 2:30 p.m. to investigate reports of a transient man and a young boy, approached the pair and told the man to let go of the boy, said El Monte Police Detective Ralph Batres.

The man resisted and fled, pulling the boy with him. El Sombroso Restaurant, With the boy in a headlock according to a restaurant and a gun held to the child's head, the man tried to enter El Sombroso Restaurant, according to a restaurant employee.

## Giant snowman rises again in Alaska — mysteriously

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A giant snowman named Snowzilla has mysteriously appeared again this year — despite the city's cease-and-desist order.

through every goofy hoop they have sent to me. I have never been confrontational and it goes on and on and on and it is so goofy," he said.

Someone again built the giant snowman in Billy Powers' front yard in an east Anchorage neighborhood.

Snowzilla reappeared before dawn Tuesday.

Powers is not taking credit. When questioned Tuesday afternoon, he insisted Snowzilla just somehow happened again.

For the last three years, Snowzilla — to the delight of some and the chagrin of others — has been a very large feature in Powers' yard. In 2005, Snowzilla rose 16 feet. He had a corncob pipe and a carrot nose and two eyes made out of beer bottles.

This year, Snowzilla is estimated to be 25 feet tall. He's wearing a black stovepipe hat and scarf.

"Have you seen him?" Powers asked when reached by telephone at his home, the sound of excited children in the background. "He's handsome."

Snowzilla has consistently risen outside Powers' modest home. His children — he is the father of seven — collected snow from neighbors' yards to make the snowman big enough. Each year, Snowzilla got a bit bigger.

Not everybody in the neighborhood liked all the cars and visitors who came to see him.

City officials this year deemed Snowzilla a public nuisance and safety hazard. A cease-and-desist order was issued. The city tacked a public notice on Powers' door.

City officials said the structure increased traffic to the point of endangerment and that the snowman itself was unsafe.

The mayor's office on Tuesday issued a statement defending its move against Snowzilla.

"This property owner has repeatedly ignored city attempts to find ways to accommodate his desire to build a giant snowman without affecting the quiet, residential quality of the neighborhood," said the statement from Mayor Mark Begich's office. "This is a neighborhood of small homes on small lots connected by small streets. It can't support the volume of traffic and revelers that are interested in Snowzilla."

The mayor's office says Powers appears to run a large junk and salvage operation from his home. He has violated land use codes for 13 years, the city said. He owns the city more than \$100,000 in fines and other assessments.

Powers said it is the city that has been difficult, not him.

"I have tried to jump

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# With approaching storms, avalanche danger rises

JACKSON, Wyo. (AP) — Avalanche centers around the Rockies are warning that backcountry conditions are already hazardous and likely to become even more dangerous with approaching storms.

Centers in Colorado, Montana, Utah and Wyoming have issued avalanche warnings.

Bob Conroy, director of the Bridger-Teton National Forest Avalanche Center in Jackson, said Wednesday that the area already has a weak snowpack. He said additional snowfall of perhaps as much as 2 feet is forecast for coming days.

Conroy said the center anticipates a major avalanche cycle during the storm and immediately afterward. He says conditions are likely to remain dangerous for some time.

"We are seeing natural avalanche activity," Conroy said. "We have a weak snow pack, and we have a big storm coming in with strong winds. So we expect to see more avalanches. With the accumulated snow from the past several storms, plus the new snow that's anticipated, we're expecting to see large avalanches."

The National Weather Service is predicting snow in Jackson every day through the weekend.

The Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center in Bozeman, Mont., reported Wednesday that the avalanche danger in the mountains near Cook City was high on all slopes steeper than 35 degrees and on any wind-loaded terrain. The center reported that four people were partially buried on Saturday and that conditions on Monday were dangerous enough to keep center personnel from entering avalanche terrain in the area.

The Montana center rated the avalanche danger as considerable in many other mountain ranges in the state.

The avalanche danger in Colorado is growing after days of heavy snows and strong winds. There have been two deaths and three accidents the past 10 days in that state due to avalanches.

The Colorado Avalanche Information Center says the greatest risk is in the mountains west from Frisco to Grand Junction and south from Steamboat Springs to Durango.

Shelly Grall of the U.S. Forest Service says the current threat originated in October when early snows were followed by warm weather. That created layers of sugary, unstable snow and hard snow that break apart when they flex. Since 1950, Colorado has led the nation in avalanche-related deaths, with 221.

The Utah Avalanche Center also is discouraging travel through the backcountry because of increasing danger from snow slides.

A wave of winter storms has

dumped snow all over Utah, especially in the mountains. Another round expected for Wednesday and today could push the danger level from high to extreme.

The Utah Avalanche Center

says steep slopes where snow has drifted in the wind are the most vulnerable. People are being discouraged from going to the backcountry until the conditions improve.

The avalanche center says a

backcountry skier escaped two separate avalanches in the Park City mountains on Monday by clinging to trees for safety.

Avalanche Center Forecaster Drew Hardesty told The Salt

Lake Tribune that the unidentified man was an experienced skier. He was not injured during the incidents.

The skier was along the Park City ridgeline when he triggered a slide 40 feet above

him. He grabbed a tree as the snow went by. Hardesty says that then, as the man was trying to ski out, another slab

broke loose 100 feet above him, forcing him to grab another tree for safety.

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## Two dead after avalanche in northern Utah

LOGAN, Utah (AP) — Two people were killed Wednesday in an avalanche in northern Utah, the Cache County sheriff's office said.

Lt. Matt Bilodeau said the slide happened at 10:30 a.m. on the backside of Logan Peak, between Providence and Logan canyons.

The two were in a party of four that was snowmobiling, Bilodeau said. One person had a satellite phone and called authorities after the slide.

Identities of the dead were not being released pending notification of family. The other two people were not injured, Bilodeau said.

He said search teams do not believe anyone else was caught in the avalanche.

Avalanche danger across northern Utah has been high this week as new snowfall has made the snowpack increasingly fragile. The Utah Avalanche Center has cautioned people not to venture into the backcountry.

Logan is about 85 miles north of Salt Lake City.

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# Amnesia

Continued from page A1

At the end of October the living situation still felt new. Relationships were being worked out. There had been some tense moments here and there, the women agreed.

As a unit, however, the three healthy roommates quickly reached the decision to leave Hutchinson to the emergency room after noting the alarming behaviors.

For starters, she didn't know their names, said Berghammer. Tom, Hutchinson was happy and had a horrible headache.

After a CT scan, an ER doctor determined Hutchinson had endured a third-degree concussion. As is common, her symptoms would dissipate, he predicted.

Hutchinson has enjoyed only a nodding acquaintance with "common" and this incident would prove no different.

Since she was tiny, the Kimberly girl had been a real kick, he said. "She's very athletic. At 5 or 6, as soon as she could, she started playing T-ball. I coached her team."

Young Kayla also excelled in soccer and basketball, her enthusiasm for sports equaled by her magnetic, outgoing nature that attracted friends. Bart Hutchinson said.

Kayla started in multiple sports at Kimberly Middle School. The Bulldogs won a state title in softball her junior year.

She even found her niche as a place kicker on a Bulldogs team that made a run to the state semifinals. She was just as steady in the classroom, making the honor roll several times at Kimberly.

It was that combination and more that Hazelatine was drawn to as she was recruited for her 2008-2009 team.

Hutchinson was also a gifted athlete, she's an above-average student and an "exceptional person," the coach said. "I like to find good people... she's a team player. Those things are really important to me."

Knowing her recruit as such a capable young woman made it difficult for Hazelatine to grasp what she was hearing soon after Hutchinson's accident.

Although the girls' roommates warned her Hutchinson was changed, Hazelatine was confident this was another regular concussion, like others she's seen over the years.

"At the apartment, however, the situation immediately became more clear, she said. "She didn't know me, even though her roommates had told her I was coming. I start-

ed asking her questions and she didn't know anything. She couldn't read, she barely talked."

When Hazelatine got Hutchinson out of bed, the young woman couldn't walk without holding on to something.

When Hutchinson spoke, it was in the voice and diction of a little child.

Things got worse. "I took her to her room and showed her pictures on her wall and she didn't know anyone," Hazelatine said.

Hutchinson said, still incredulous six weeks later. "I asked her parents' names, her siblings ... she shrugged at every question I asked."

Hazelatine was unprepared for this level of trauma, she said. "I was sick to my stomach. I couldn't believe this had happened."

The ER providers assured the coach nothing had shown up on a brain scan and that this was how a severe concussion looked.

But Hazelatine doesn't limit her job to the gym floor and this would be no exception. "When I recall these kids, I make a promise to their parents to take care of them, but you never think it's going to be this."

"Every year I get 15 new children. Kayla is like a daughter. Every day when I wake up, my first thought is 'How's Kayla?'"

Although Kayla's parents, Bart and Patty Hutchinson, stayed in constant phone contact, everyone assumed Kayla would return to normal any moment.

It started becoming apparent that wasn't to be the case, even after another brain scan still showed no internal bleeding. When it took Hutchinson 30 seconds to identify a pencil, and another chunk of time to remember what it was used for, Hazelatine grew increasingly worried.

As for Hutchinson's roommates, they were equally nervous about their roommate. Overnight, the living arrangement had changed and Johnson, Berghammer and Jill Haney found themselves in the role of parents.

They took turns skipping class to stay with Hutchinson, quizzing her on the facts of her life, like her birth date and what she likes to eat.

"It was kind of like having a big, huge baby," Johnson said. "The first couple of weeks were really overwhelming. She didn't know what fire was, what a toaster was."

Hutchinson wanted only notes and cookies for sustenance. "She didn't know what anything was. She was afraid to try stuff," Johnson said.

The roommates discovered

Hutchinson would do almost anything for cookies. At the point she could use walls to balance herself, she would sneak into the kitchen like a preschooler to get the treat.

"We gave her cookies to get her to smile," Johnson recounted. "Because we knew someone was in there."

When Hutchinson attended a team practice after a few days, she was reintroduced to her teammates. She could only comfort in a chase lounge lawn chair and she held a basketball like it was a foreign object, Hazelatine said.

"She didn't know anything we were doing. If she sat at 'understood something, she would give me a thumbs up,'" Hutchinson couldn't attend classes at first, couldn't name her pets, couldn't remember how to eat a banana.

Hutchinson explained. "It wasn't an easy decision. 'It went against every parental instinct, but we tried not to show her ... but to leave her there, we had to fight down that urge to bring her home.'

What's happened to his child is "flat-out weird," Bart added. "It knocked 15 years out of her life. Everything you hear about concussion, it didn't know what to do."

"She called me," Hazelatine said. "She said, 'Wow, my town is so little. I cannot believe I grew up here.'"

Maybe. A trip home for Thanksgiving was widely anticipated to act as a catharsis for Hutchinson's amnesia. Instead, she ended up hanging out with childhood friends and a brother she didn't remember, although "everyone was really nice," Hutchinson said.

Even his videos and pictures did little to help the situation. It was hard to watch friends she no longer knew fall apart in a jangle of emotion, the young woman said.

"I was freaking out because I didn't know what to do," she said. "She said, 'Wow, my town is so little. I cannot believe I grew up here.'"

Somehow, Hutchinson regained one memory of a family trip to a Six Flags amusement park. But no avalanche of recovered data followed, the coach said, adding people often get impatient, thinking they will be the one to unlock Hutchinson's memories.

"They start talking to me and don't realize I don't know what they are talking about," Hutchinson explained.

Yet there have been signs of recovery. Hutchinson has been reluctant to participate in most of the basketball practice drills. She's writing and reading again.

"She's amazing," Hazelatine said. "Kayla's the fastest on our team, the highest jumper, she's been released all the rules. All her motor skills are coming back but she can't remember the last 18 years."

There's some humor to be found, though. Hutchinson

than any computer we could ever devise." Carmody didn't panic. He knew more testing was unlikely to offer answers, but could mean unnecessary expense and worry for the Hutchinsons, he said.

"I was comfortable with everyone and doing it myself. I felt we could manage it locally with the great support of the school and the people around Kayla, Reassurance is a big part of this."

He's not anticipating any long-term effects for the college freshman, who has enjoyed good health her whole life, Carmody said. "I hope by January you won't be able to tell anything happened."

Maybe. A trip home for Thanksgiving was widely anticipated to act as a catharsis for Hutchinson's amnesia. Instead, she ended up hanging out with childhood friends and a brother she didn't remember, although "everyone was really nice," Hutchinson said.

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straighten herself to text message on her cell phone, much to Carmody's delight — texting takes higher brain activity, he said.

At first, her spelling was atrocious, Hazelatine noted. "She would text me writing 'coach.' Then, one day all her spelling was perfect and I was sure everything had come back."

She'd regained the "T3," or automatic spelling function, Hutchinson explained with a grin.

Some days are still exhausting: head pain still dulls her. "Other days I'm excited I get to do more things," she said. Her favorite retreat is the school gym. "It helps me remember more."

Christmas is coming, when the young woman will again get to know relatives on a family trip to Colorado. Thanks to the tutoring of those around her, Hutchinson knows what the holiday typically holds, and there's one gift she'd love to get.

"I'd like my memory back from Christmas," she said.

Hutchinson's ordeal will have lifelong impact on many.

Johnson, Haney and Berghammer left the self-absorbed world of young adults behind to take care of Hutchinson. That included taking notes in class for her, making one lunch for them.

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### EDITORIAL

## Glad tidings of great joy on Christmas Day

Following our Christmas Day column, the Times-News editorial board is pleased to surrender this space for a seasonal and eternal holiday message from St. Luke.

—The editorial board:  
**Brad Hurd**  
**James G. Wright**  
**Steve Crump**  
**Billitzenburg**  
**Ruth Pierce**

Now it came to pass in those days, that a decree went forth from Caesar Augustus that a census of the whole world should be taken. This first census took place while Cyrenius was governor of Syria. And all were going, each to his own town, to register.

And Joseph also went from Galilee out of the town of Nazareth into Judaea to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem — because he was of the house and family of David — to register, together with Mary his espoused wife, which was with child.

And it came to pass while they were there, that the days for her to be delivered were fulfilled. And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn.

And there were shepherds in the same district living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of God shone round about them, and they feared exceedingly. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people; for today in the town of David a savior has been born to you, who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace among men of good will."

And it came to pass, when the angels had departed from them into heaven, that the shepherds were saying to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and they found Mary and Joseph and the baby, lying in a manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this child.

And all who heard marveled at the things told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept in mind all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, even as it was spoken to them.

— Luke 2:1-20

## Bleeding-heart liberals don't give 'til it hurts

This holiday season is a time to examine who's been naughty and who's been nice, but I'm not angry with my findings. The problem is this: We liberals are personally stingy.

Liberals show tremendous compassion in pushing for generous government spending to help the neediest people at home and abroad. Yet when it comes to individual contributions to charitable causes, liberals are cheapskates.

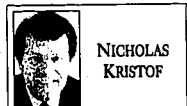
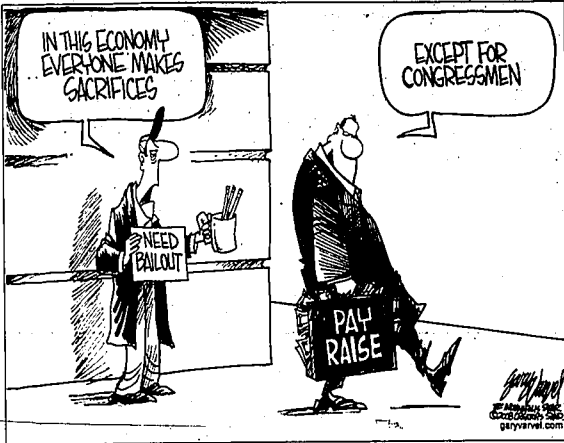
Arthur Brooks, the author of a book on donors to charity, "Who Really Cares," cites data that the households headed by conservatives give 30 percent more to charity than households headed by liberals. A study by Google found an even greater disproportion: average annual contributions reported by conservatives were more than double those of liberals.

Other research has reached similar conclusions. The "generosity index" from the Catalogue for Philanthropy typically finds that red states are the most likely to give to nonprofits, while No-taxer states are least likely to do so.

The upshot is that Democrats, who speak passionately about the hungry and homeless, personally fork over less money to charity than Republicans — the ones who try to cut health insurance for children.

"When I started doing research on charity," Brooks wrote, "I expected to find that political liberals — who, I believed, genuinely cared more about others than conservatives did — would turn out to be the most privately charitable people. So when my early findings led me to the opposite conclusion, I assumed I had made some sort of technical error. I re-ran my analyses. I got new data. Nothing worked. In the end, I had no option but to change my views."

Something similar is true internationally. European countries seem to show less compassion than the United States in providing safety nets for the poor, and they give far more humanitarian foreign aid per capita than the United States does. But as individuals, Europeans are far less charitable than Americans.



NICHOLAS KRISTOF

When I started doing research on charity," Brooks wrote, "I expected to find that political liberals — who, I believed, genuinely cared more about others than conservatives did — would turn out to be the most privately charitable people. So when my early findings led me to the opposite conclusion, I assumed I had made some sort of technical error. I re-ran my analyses. I got new data. Nothing worked. In the end, I had no option but to change my views."

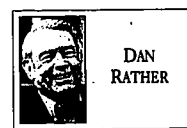
liberal donations are excluded, liberals give slightly more to charity than conservatives do. But Brooks says that if measuring by the percentage of income given, conservatives are more generous than liberals even to secular causes. In any case, if conservative donations often end up building extravagant churches, liberal donations frequently sustain art museums, symphonies, schools and universities that cater to the well-off. (It's great to support the arts and education, but they're not the same as charity for the needy. And some research suggests that donations to education actually increase inequally because they go mostly to elite institutions attended by the wealthy.) Conservatives also appear to be more generous than liberals in nonfinancial ways. People in red states are considerably more likely to volunteer for good causes, and conservatives give blood more often. If liberals and moderates gave blood as often as conservatives, Brooks said, the U.S. blood supply would increase by 45 percent.

So, you've guessed it! This column is a transparent attempt this holiday season to shame liberals into being more charitable. Since I often scold Republicans for being callous in their policies toward the needy, it seems only fair to reproach Democrats for being cheap in their private donations. What I want for Christmas is a healthy competition between left and right to see who actually does more for the neediest. Of course, given the economic pinch these days, charity isn't on the top of anyone's agenda. Yet the financial ability to contribute to charity and the willingness to do so, are strikingly unrelated. Amazingly, the working poor, who have the least resources, somehow manage to be more generous as a percentage of income than the middle class. So, even in tough times, there are ways to help. Come on liberals, redeem yourselves, and put your wallets where your hearts are.

William Kristof is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at nkristof@nytimes.com.

## Despite bad news, we ought not miss the 'Oughts'

The beginning of 2009 is in sight, and the end of the '00s is at hand. We Americans tend to think of our popular culture in decadal terms: "The Fifties," "The Eighties," and so on, with each span conjuring up its own stew of fashions, songs and movies in the mind's eye.



DAN RATHER

Since this way of thinking is ultimately more about retrospective attempts to capture a national mood or spirit of the times than it is about historical precision, the images and events we summon don't always line up with the round-numbered years.

It has been noted, for instance, that when we think of "The Sixties" in terms of music, we are usually talking about little more than a five-year stretch, from "The Beatles'" arrival in 1964 to Woodstock in 1969. In political terms, however, The Sixties started right on time, with the youthful John F. Kennedy taking the torch from the quinquagesimal Fifties political icon, President Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower. The current decade, which some call "The Oughts," had a similarly prompt beginning, with

likely one will think of 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, Hurricane Katrina, the ongoing financial meltdown and little else — all framed and surmounted by the actions and reactions of the Bush White House.

When 12:01 p.m. of Jan. 20, 2009, rolls around, we will still be at war with the perpetrators of 9/11, American troops will still be in Iraq and Afghanistan, New Orleans will remain forever changed, and our economy will still (almost certainly) be in shambles. But George Bush will no longer be president. Mentally and emotionally, America will be looking, as we are already, to the next era. For better or worse, "The Teens" — or, at very least, "The Twens" — will have begun.

We can only guess what woes or good fortune may befall us in this next era. Will The Twens — and their new president — remain overshadowed by the geopolitical and economic challenges imposed by The Oughts? Or will policy and politics cede the decade's spotlight to stunning new scientific developments or exciting new movements in the arts? There will be

"change," to be sure, but don't believe those who say that change will take. If we are to venture guesses, we can only do so in reaction to what has come before. In this spirit, we might imagine that The Twens will be, in their earliest years, characterized by thrust at home (look for a mass return to the DIY — "Do It Yourself" — aesthetic) and a self-conscious dash for glory and multilateralism abroad. In all spheres, one can bank on a widespread yearning for that legendary decade known as "The Good Old Days," the precise dates of which correspond to the childhood years of whoever is doing the yearning. For a nation on the verge of a new era, the picture remains unclear. But for individual Americans facing a new year, the hopes stay the same: Peace, Health and Happiness — and those I wish to you in this holiday season and in the year to come.

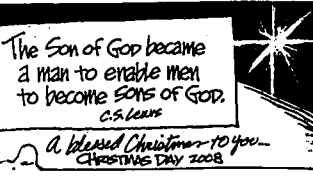
Former CBS News anchor Dan Rather wrote this commentary for Hearst Newspapers.

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### THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

By Garry Trudeau      Mallard Fillmore      By Bruce Tinsley





OTHER VIEWS

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



... Ketchum's dubious deal

Idaho Mountain Express, Ketchum

Ketchum Mayor Randy Hall and the City Council need to demonstrate to the public that they're not buying a pig in a poke by accepting a \$1.3 million payment and a lease on four acres of property with clouded development rights in lieu of construction of workforce housing by the Thunder Spring development.

They also need to explain why the city should strike a deal with a developer not owned by the failed financial services firm Lehman Bros.

The deal was approved (last) week.

It followed the council's rejection of the recommendation of its own Planning and Zoning Commission to allow Thunder Spring to build workforce housing on property bordering the Bigwood Golf Course.

Instead, the city now has

agreed to accept a lease with only the hope that the property's owners will donate it to the city. Worse, the property is clouded by legal questions imposed by a plan note imposed by a long-ago City Council that called for it to remain open in perpetuity. At best, a declaratory judgment court action will be necessary to remove the cloud.

The city needs to show how, where and when workforce housing, not a fire station, will be built. In-lieu payments for anything from parking to housing have a deservedly bad reputation in Ketchum. Historically, the glacial pace of government and failure to accrue fast enough to keep up with construction cost increases has ravaged them.

The city shouldn't be doing a questionable deal just to get upset developers and upset neighbors off its back.



... Idaho's death penalty

Idaho Statesman, Boise

More than eight years

after Samantha Maher was abducted, raped and murdered, and five years after Darin Padgug was sentenced to death for this crime, his case is going back to court.

And this should concern anyone on either side of the emotional debate over capital punishment.

For all its finality, the process of the death penalty is excruciatingly slow. So slow that it is reasonable to question its fiscal and emotional costs.

Payne's reprieve from death row came from unusual circumstances. During the original sentencing, 4th District Judge Thomas Neville allowed Maher's family and friends to describe Payne as an evil sociopath and to say they'd like to see Payne rot in hell or face torture. These comments were unconstitutional, said the Idaho Supreme Court, which has put Payne's fate into the hands of a jury.

Eight years and counting. But even when the process moves swiftly — by the glacial standards of capital punishment — the taxpayer cost is enormous.

Keith Eugene Wells dropped his appeals in connection with a pair of 1990 murders, yet his 1994 execution still cost Idaho taxpayers more than \$1 million ... There is no more recent example, based on 2008 dollars, because Wells is the only person executed in Idaho since 1957.

It costs about \$20,000 a year to keep an Idaho inmate behind bars — and that is in 2008 dollars.

The human cost of a cumbersome capital punish-

ment process cannot be calculated and can only be imagined. The death penalty has provided no closure for those closest to Maher — only the prospect of more court testimony detailing the July 2000 slaying of the 22-year-old Boise State University student.

This should make even death penalty proponents think twice ...

... our painful past

Spokesman-Review, Spokane, Wash.

It would have been so easy for an awkward feud to erupt over the aging murals that adorn the former Ada County Courthouse in Boise. It didn't happen, thanks to a group of Idahoans who resolved a potentially volatile situation with reason and maturity.

The 26 Depression-era murals were painted about 70 years ago under the Works Progress Administration. Most are uncontroverted, but two depict white pioneers apprehending and preparing to lynch a buckskin-clad Indian.

One doesn't have to be an American Indian to grasp the hurtfulness of the image of a Native man — a symbolic ancestor — kneeling between two captors while a noose dangles from a branch above. For a time, the two troublesome panels were concealed by strategically placed American and Idaho state flags.

But when the Idaho Legislature prepared to move into the historic building for two years while



the official state Capitol is renovated, the insensitivity of the display forced a more extensive discussion.

That discussion has produced a rational decision that justifies the year and a half spent crafting it. The murals will not be destroyed or hidden away. Nor will they continue to go unexplained.

They will remain on display, but soon they will be accompanied by interpretive plaques, the wording on which has been agreed to by state officials and representatives of Idaho's five sovereign Indian tribes. The plaques will provide an appropriate context that acknowledges the cultural

tensions that marked the history of the region ...

This incident never rose to the level of heated divisiveness that South Carolinians dealt with over the Confederate flag. But cultural tensions can and do get loud and ugly in a hurry. Just look at the current hostilities over religious and anti-religious displays in the Washington state Capitol. The sensible approach used in Idaho averted the embarrassment that cable news anchors snack on for weeks. More importantly, the state's residents and visitors will benefit from a clearer and more honest presentation of the region's history.

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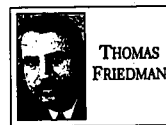
China isn't going to rescue us this time

HONG KONG — I had no idea that many of those oil paintings that hang in hotel rooms and starter homes across America are actually produced by just one Chinese village, Dafen, north of Hong Kong. And I had no idea that Dafen's artist colony — the world's leading center for mass-produced artwork and knockoffs of masterpieces — had been devastated by the bursting of the U.S. housing bubble. I should have, though.

American property owners and hotels were usually the biggest consumers of Dafen's works," Zhou Xiaohong, deputy head of the Art Industry Association of Dafen, told Hong Kong's Sunday Morning Post. "The more houses built in the United States, the more walls that needed our paintings. Now our business has frozen following the crash of the Western property market."

Dafen is just one of a million Chinese and American enterprises that constitute the most important economic engine in the world today — what historian Niall Ferguson calls "Chimerica," the de facto partnership between Chinese savers and producers and U.S. spenders and borrowers. That 30-year-old partnership is about to undergo a radical restructuring as a result of the current economic crisis, and the global economy will be high-ly Americans the money they needed to keep buying shoes, flat-screen TVs and paintings from China, as well as homes in America.

Americans then borrowed against those homes to consume even more — one reason we enjoyed rising wealth without rising incomes.



THOMAS FRIEDMAN

This division of labor not only nourished our respective economies, but also shaped our politics. It enabled China's ruling Communist Party to stay in power. "We will guarantee you ever-higher standards of living, and in return you will stay out of politics and let us rule." So China's leaders could enjoy double-digit growth without political costs. And it enabled successive U.S. administrations, particularly the current one, to tell Americans: "You can have guns and butter — sub-prime mortgages and nothing to pay for two years, ever-higher consumption and two wars, without tax increases!"

It all worked — until it didn't. With unemployment now soaring across the U.S., said Stephen Roach, the chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia, Americans can no longer buy so many Chinese exports. We need to save more, invest more, consume less and throw out most of our credit cards to bail ourselves out of this crisis.

But as that happens, we need the Chinese buy more of what China produces and more imports from the rest of the world. That's the only way Beijing can sustain the minimum 8 percent growth it needs to maintain the political bargain between China's leaders and led — not to mention pick up some of the slack in the global economy from America's slowdown.

However, if I've learned one thing here, it's just how hard doing that will be. China's whole system and culture nourish saving, not

spending, and changing that will require a huge "cultural and structural" shift, said Fred Hu, chairman for Greater China for Goldman Sachs.

In China, for instance, to buy a home you have to put at least 20 percent down, and the average is 40 percent. If you try to walk away from the mortgage, the bank will come after your personal assets. Moreover, China can't just shift production from the U.S. market to its own consumers. Not many Chinese villagers want to buy \$400 tennis shoes or Christmas tree ornaments.

Also, China has no real Social Security, health insurance or unemployment insurance. Without that social safety net, it's hard to see how Chinese don't end up saving most of their stimulus. "You open up the newspaper every day, and you hear about this factory shutting down or that supplier going belly-up," said Willie Fung, whose company, Top Form International, is the world's leading bra maker.

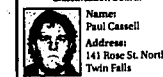
"You can never be too careful in this financial climate."

As such, "the world should not have a false hope that China can cushion the global downturn," by reducing its domestic demand in a big way, said Frank Gong, head of China research for JPMorgan Chase. "The best thing China can do is keep its own economy stable."

It's good advice. China's good advice: We're going to rescue us or the world economy. We're going to have to get out of this crisis the old-fashioned way: by digging inside ourselves and getting back to basics — improving U.S. productivity, saving more, studying harder and inventing more stuff to export. The days of cheap prosperity — I borrow cheap money from China to build a house and then borrow on that house to buy cheap paintings from China to decorate my walls and every body is a winner — are over.

Thomas Friedman is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to him at tfriedman@nytimes.com.

This Individual has been classified as a HIGH RISK OFFENDER by the Idaho Sex Offender Classification Board.

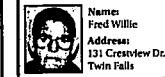


Name: Paul Cassell Address: 141 Rose St. North Twin Falls

Convicted: Statutory Rape

Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office

This Individual has been classified as a HIGH RISK OFFENDER by the Idaho Sex Offender Classification Board.



Name: Fred Willie Address: 131 Creativew Dr. Twin Falls

Convicted: Lewd Conduct with a Minor under 16.

Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office

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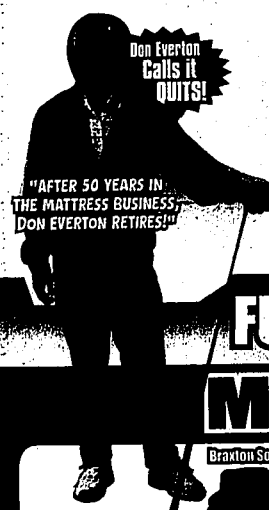
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**Stocks advance in light trading**

(AP) Wall Street rose modestly in light holiday trading Wednesday after the government released downturn, but unsurprising, readings on rising U.S. joblessness and declining consumer spending.

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# BUSINESS

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**INSIDE: Obama to boldly go where no geek has gone before, B4**

**B**

**THURSDAY**  
DECEMBER 25, 2008

INSIDE: Stocks and commodities, B2 | Comics, B3 | Weather, B4

## Idaho's workforce continues to grow older

Retiring baby boomers will create future worker shortage

**Times-News staff**

An update of the U.S. Census Bureau's report on the impact older workers have on the work force highlights how much Idaho's labor force has aged in just a few years.

Data from the Local Employment Dynamics program, which merges labor market information with demographics, show that just over 16 percent of Idaho's 2007 labor force was over 55.

That was up almost two percentage points from 2004 and more than four percentage points from 2001. Last year, 83,000 of Idaho's 644,000 jobs were held by workers 55 and older — that compared to 79,000 of the 567,000 jobs in 2004. Private education and utilities reported that more than a quarter of their workers were 55 or older in 2007. Government, transportation

and warehousing and real estate reported that more than one-fifth of workers were 55 and older. "Changes in the size and composition of age groups may affect government program and policy choices and the options available to businesses," the Census Bureau said in its 2004 report on older workers in Idaho, which was released in November. Information was updated

by Idaho Department of Labor to reflect the situation in 2007. "While the national recession has pushed Idaho's unemployment rate to a 15-year high, the unrelenting movement of the state's baby boomers toward retirement indicates that what is a surplus of workers today will become a shortage of workers in a decade or less," said Department of Labor

Research Chief Bob Uhlenkott. "People who continue working after the traditional retirement age of 65 have also increased, rising from 2.3 percent of the work force in 2001 to 2.7 percent in 2004 to 3.2 percent in 2007. But three of every four workers still retired at or before 65 in 2007 just as they had in 2001, and

Please see **OLDER**, Page B2

## After the market's unraveling,

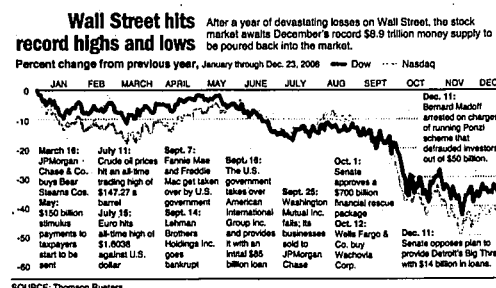
Analysts: Wall Street must earn back public trust

**By Madien Road**  
Associated Press writer



STEPHEN CHERRIN/AP photo

A trader takes a break in front of the New York Stock Exchange in New York as the Dow Jones Industrial Average plummets.



others received government funding or were bought up in desperate shotgun deals. As investors recoiled and cashed out even their safe assets to build up reserves, the Dow Jones industrial average tumbled by as much as 47 percent from its October 2007 record. The stock market's drop between October 2007 and November 2008 wiped out more than \$10 trillion in stockholder wealth. In 2008, governments around the world have shovelled trillions of dollars into the financial system, primarily by offering and guaranteeing various types of loans and investing in troubled companies. Signs are emerging that these rescue plans are beginning to stick.

Please see **RECOVERY**, Page B2

## November personal spending falls 0.6 percent

**By Martin Cutsinger**  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Consumer spending fell for a fifth straight month in November, the longest weak stretch in a half-century, while incomes declined under the weight of massive job layoffs. The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that consumer spending fell by 0.6 percent last month, slightly smaller than the 0.7 percent drop that economists had expected. Americans' incomes fell by a worse-than-expected 0.2 percent. It was the first decline since July and reflected in part the fact that more than a half-million jobs were cut in November as the recession deepened.

The 0.6 percent drop in consumer spending followed an even larger 1.1 percent fall in October. However, the steep plunge in gasoline prices, which is actually good news for consumers, made the declines look worse. Excluding price changes, consumer spending would have dropped by 0.5 percent in October and actually risen by 0.6 percent in November. The November increase excluded inflation was the best showing in more than three years.

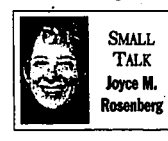
Still, economists think the overall trend for consumer spending is down, given the problems facing the economy including the longest recession in a quarter century, a severe financial crisis that has cut off access to credit for millions of borrowers and a massive wave of job layoffs.

All of those troubles have left retailers braced for what could be their worst holiday shopping season in decades. Economists don't think the hard times will end any time sooner. The government reported Thursday that the overall economy, as measured by gross domestic product, was declining at an annual rate of 0.5 percent in the July-September quarter and analysts believe the contraction will accelerate in the current quarter.

economic professors may well point to 2008 as the year capitalism went on life support. Home prices sank further than any mortgage lender could have imagined. Banks including Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. and Washington Mutual Inc. failed, and many

## New presidency makes 2009 planning complex

Small businesses trying to plan their finances for 2009 are finding the process complicated not only by the recession, but by the uncertainty about what governments at all levels will be doing to either stimulate the economy or make up for lost tax revenues.



**SMALL TALK**  
Joyce M. Rosenberg

Small businesses also face unknowns from their state and local governments — in some areas, for example, property taxes will be going up, which will affect compa-

nies whether they own rent their premises. Governments are likely to act quickly in the new year, and small business advocates say company owners need to follow the news closely to see how they might be affected. "There is a possibility of some changes being made that could be beneficial, but they could be short-term," said Bill Rys, tax counsel for Washington, D.C.-based National Federation of

Independent Business. "There could be an opportunity for a lot of savings, and you don't want to miss that savings." Rys added, "we could see a lot of changes in a short amount of time." Among the questions to be answered under the Obama administration and the new Congress that convenes in January is whether two business features of the 2008 economic stimulus plan will be extended or modified for

2009. One is the near doubling of what's known as the Section 179 deduction, which allows small businesses to deduct up-front the cost of equipment such as computers, cars, office furniture and manufacturing machinery. The deduction for 2008 was \$250,000, up from an originally planned \$128,000. Also uncertain is the future of the 50 percent

Please see **PLANNING**, Page B2

### STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Cong Agra	16.13	▲ .00	Dell Inc.	10.65	▼ .18	Idacorp	28.94	▲ .05
Lithia Mo.	3.61	▼ .17	Micron	2.59	▲ .23	Supervalu	12.59	▲ .09

### COMMODITIES

For more see page B2

Live cattle	87.47	▲ 1.82	Feb. oil	35.35	▼ 3.63
Dec. gold	847.10	▲ 9.90	Dec. silver	10.32	▲ .09

Today in business

Markets closed for Christmas Holiday. No reports are scheduled for release today.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, and DIARY. Includes sub-sections for MOST ACTIVE, GAINERS, and LOSERS.

Table with columns for INDEXES and STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST. Includes Dow Jones Industrials, S&P 500, and various regional stock indices.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT
Names: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name (not the abbreviation). Dividend rates made up of initial reports...

COMMODITIES REPORT

Table with columns for CLOSING FUTURES. Lists various commodities like oil, wheat, corn, and soybeans with their respective prices and changes.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lower chip prices add to Micron's Q4 pain
BOISE — Micron Technology Inc. said falling chip prices for first-quarter losses that were deeper than analysts projected...

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT

Names: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name (not the abbreviation). Dividend rates made up of initial reports...

METALS/MONEY

Table with columns for Gold, Silver, and various metal prices. Includes prices for gold, silver, and various metal futures.

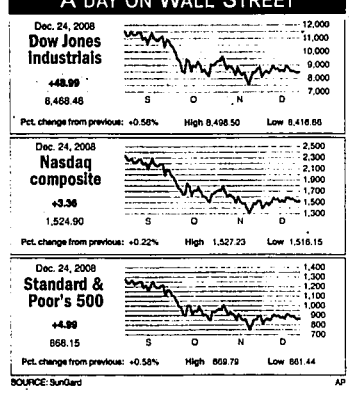
Older

Continued from page B1
Private education had over 14 percent, health care 12 percent, retail trade 11.5 percent...

Recovery

Continued from page B1
But getting U.S. stocks moving higher again — let alone back to their 2007 levels — is going to be a long haul.

A DAY ON WALL STREET



Planning

Continued from page B1
bonus depreciation, which gave business owners a more generous than usual first-year deduction for capital equipment bought during 2008.

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• Managing Revenues
• Managing Expenses
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The Dow Jones industrial average rose 48.99, or 0.58 percent, to 14,208.48, after falling for the straight sessions. The blue-chip index is well off its November lows, but is still down for the typical strong month of December.

roll taxes — employees' and employers' contributions to the Social Security system — for six months. Rys said such a step would 'get this money back into the hands of small businesses and their employees.'

Two half-day sessions to choose from:
Wednesday, January 7\* and Thursday January 15\*
8:00 - 12:00, Registration 7:45 AM
864 Filer Avenue, Twin Falls
\$97.00 including book Register Today! 737-0087

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

Baby Blues



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

Beetle Bailey



By Mort Walker

Blondie



By Dean Young & Stan Drake

Dilbert



By Scott Adams

The Elderberries



By Phil Frank & Joe Troise

For Better or For Worse



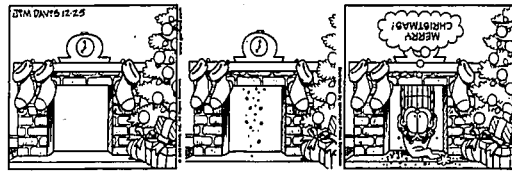
By Lynn Johnston

Frank and Ernest



By Bob Thaves

Garfield



By Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible



By Chris Browne

Hi and Lois



By Chance Browne

Luann



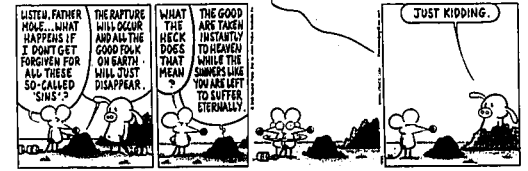
By Greg Evans

Classic Peanuts



By Charles M. Schulz

Pearls Before Swine



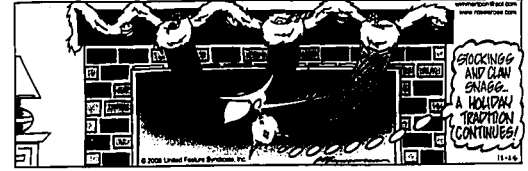
By Stephan Pastis

Pickles



By Brian Crane

Rose Is Rose



By Pat Brady

Non Sequitur



By Wiley

Dennis the Menace



By Hank Ketcham

The Wizard of Id



By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

Zits



By Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott

TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Christmas snow will be falling with two to five inches of new snow possible. Highs near 30.
Tonight: Mostly cloudy to cloudy skies and light snow showers. Lows in the teens.
Tomorrow: Cold temperatures, a brisk breeze and scattered snow showers. Highs 20s, lows teens.

BURLEIGH/REPERT FORECAST

Today: A fresh coating of Christmas snow. Highs in the upper 20s, to two to five inches of snow possible.
Tonight: Cloudy skies and scattered snow showers. Lows in the teens.
Tomorrow: Cold temperatures and light snow showers and flurries. Highs lower 20s, lows lower teens.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. Snow will continue to fall in the mountains all day and the next few days. Periods of moderate to heavy snow is possible. Travel conditions will be difficult at times.

Map of Idaho showing regional forecasts for Boise, NORTHERN UTAH, and Idaho Falls. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges for various locations.

REGGIE MIDDLEKIFF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY
You put pictures in your mind, you believe in love, you believe in hope, you believe in dreams, hopes, aspirations, and you believe in responses to an image of a man in a heavy raincoat, and you believe in a woman who says, 'I'm a geek, the promise of a better life.'
-P. D. Anderson



Obama to boldly go where no geek has gone before

WASHINGTON — Get ready for the geek-in-chief. President-elect Barack Obama used to collect comic books, can't part with his BlackBerry, and once fished Leonard "Mr. Spock" Nimoy the Vulcan "Live Long and Prosper" sign.
...That and other evidence has convinced some of Obama's nerdier fans that he'll be the first American president to show distinct signs of geekiness. And that's got them as excited as a Tribble around a Klingon.
Obama is good at "repressing his inner geek but you can tell it's there," says the president-elect's campaign spokesman. He has nuanced explanations of technical matters, said Benjamin Nugent, author of the book "American Nerd: The Story of My People."
One imagines a terrifying rally of "Star Trek" people shouting, "Of us!" Nugent said, in an interview conducted by e-mail, of course.
Others see only some geek qualities, qualifying the president-elect as a mere "nerd-adjective." After all, he's an athlete and kind of cool, some experts demur. Still, there's enough there for geeks to celebrate.
Psychology professor Larry Welkowitz of Keene State College in New Hampshire hopefully speculated that there's a shift in what's cool and that "smart can be in. Maybe that started with the computer programmers of the '90s. The Bill Gates of the world are OK."

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Forecast table for Twin Falls with columns for Today, Tonight, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Includes weather icons and temperature ranges.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac section containing Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moon Phases, Moonrise and Moonset, and U.V. INDEX.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table listing cities like Boise, Burley, Caldwell, etc., with their respective 5-day forecasts.

NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table listing major cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, etc., with their respective 5-day forecasts.



CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table listing major Canadian cities like Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, etc., with their respective 5-day forecasts.

Friends say money manager was ashamed over Madoff

By Adam Geller Associated Press writer
NEW YORK — The fraud may not have been the work of Rene-Thierry Magon de La Villehuchet, but it came on his watch. For a man with a deep sense of rectitude, that was shame enough.
Friends and colleagues tried to console the fund manager, the son of French aristocracy who despaired after losing more than \$1 billion of his wealthy clients' money in the Ponzi scheme allegedly run by Wall Street wizard Bernard Madoff.
"Listen, people make mistakes," Leon Cooperman, founder of hedge fund Omega Advisors, said he told de La Villehuchet in a telephone conversation Monday. "You're not at fault and you have to pick yourself up from this.
But when a security guard opened the door to de La Villehuchet's office at Access International Advisors the following morning, he found the businessman dead at his desk, both of his wrists slashed. A box cutter and a bottle of sleeping pills lay nearby. Police say it was a suicide.
De La Villehuchet's death marked a grim addition to the toll laid bare since Madoff was arrested Dec. 11, telling FBI agents he had masterminded a \$50 billion fraud. And it reinforced the emotional wounds the scandal has inflicted on many of its victims.
De La Villehuchet was a shoulders man, a man of the blame, having put so many millions of his investors' fortunes into Madoff's fund only to find out it was a complete fraud. His fund was among the biggest losers in the Madoff fraud and one of a handful to get taken for more than \$1 billion.
Cooperman strongly disputed some reports that de La Villehuchet might have had any deeper involvement with Madoff.
But the responsibility weighed heavily on de La Villehuchet, a descendant of one of France's most distinguished families who had a deeply ingrained sense of personal decorum, associates said. It is not yet known who his clients were.
"This guy is aristocracy, one of his ancestors was the admiral for Napoleon in the Napoleonic wars," said Cooperman, who traveled extensively with de La Villehuchet to meet with

"This guy is aristocracy, one of his ancestors was the admiral for Napoleon in the Napoleonic wars. I think this thing brought great disgrace and embarrassment, and he didn't have the capacity to deal with ... being involved with this."
— Leon Cooperman, a friend of Rene-Thierry Magon de La Villehuchet



Rene-Thierry Magon de La Villehuchet, shown in November 2007, lost more than \$1 billion of his clients' money to Bernard Madoff. He was discovered dead Tuesday after committing suicide at his Manhattan office.

speak UBS. A UBS spokesman, Kris Kugel, said Wednesday he did not know specifically when custody of the fund was transferred to Access International at the time the fund was under the UBS umbrella. It was not on its list of approved, recommended funds. But the company made it available to clients who sought to invest with Madoff, he said.
De La Villehuchet's firm enlisted intermediaries with links to upper-crust Europeans to attract investors. Among the intermediaries, Philippe Janot, a former UBS boss and friend who is the former husband of Princess Caroline of Monaco, and Prince Michel of Yugoslavia.
Cooperman described de La Villehuchet as the kind of businessperson who maintained contact with clients, even on vacations.
De La Villehuchet, the former chairman and CEO of Credit Lyonnais Securities USA, was also known as a leaving several friends participating in regattas and was a member of the New York Yacht Club. He and his wife, also French, lived in the New York suburb of New Rochelle.
But the fund manager also periodically visited his family's 17th-century stone castle in Brittany, sometimes inviting friends and local sailing enthusiasts to join him. The castle and adjoining stables in Plouer-sur-Rance were built in the 19th century and had been in his family for two centuries.
In June, his boat "Claudia" won his class in a regatta from the walled city of St. Malo to Plouer-sur-Rance. He had invited several New York friends to take part, said Plouer-sur-Rance city hall official Serge Simon.
"He did it in a very discreet way, but at the same time it showed his appreciation for sailing on the New York coast," the other, his appreciation for the town he wanted to bring visitors to," Simon said.

ALSO INSIDE:  
 Skywatch, C3  
 Outdoors briefs, C2  
 Community, C4-6  
 Obituaries, C7  
 Nation, C8-10



INSIDE:  
 Ketchum's Santa Claus,  
 Page C4

# OFF-ROAD EDITION OUTDOORS

OUTDOORS EDITOR ANDREW WEEKS: (208) 735-3233 A WEEKS@MAGICVALLEY.COM

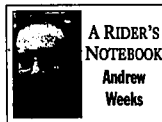
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THURSDAY  
 DECEMBER 25, 2008

## Snow brings different types of off-road fun

**I**f you're reading this today in south-central Idaho, you're likely not dreaming about a white Christmas.

You're experiencing it. There's just something about the white stuff (though it can be a real pain in the rear to drive in). It makes Christmas seem, well ... Christmassy. But it also brings something new and fun for off-road enthusiasts. Like the chance to ride snowmobiles.



A RIDER'S  
 NOTEBOOK  
 Andrew  
 Weeks

Sure, before the snow falls you could participate in the annual grass drags hosted by the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club. This year the event was held Nov. 1 at KN Turf Farm in Kimberly. But as adrenaline-rushing as the races likely are to those who participate, I can't imagine them being more fun than plowing through powder on a high-powered sled.

A few years ago while living in the Beehive State I traveled to the outskirts of Tooele County, Utah, with family who brought a handful of snowmobiles — and at least one ATV, if I remember right — and had a ball traversing the backcountry of the hills, and at times not-so-hilly, terrain. It was the first time I took to a snowmobile in several years. A motorcycle guru since early childhood, I forget how much fun you could have on a sled.

Though we tried staying together, my family and I, at times we found ourselves riding off in different directions. (They were marked trails, however, and we didn't

Please see **NOTEBOOK**, Page C3

## ATV club winter rides

The Magic Valley ATV Riders does not have any scheduled rides planned due to inclement weather. But that doesn't mean club members won't be riding. Any club rides to take place during the rest of the winter will be short-notice rides, according to the club Web site.

MVATVR schedules rides throughout the year, usually heading to trails at least once a month. Members are expected to follow club rules and a code of ethics, which includes:

- All machines must have liability insurance, per Idaho law.
  - Helmets not mandatory, but encouraged.
  - All motor vehicle laws in effect, including DUI.
  - ORV stickers required, per Idaho law.
  - Pack out what you pack in.
  - Always ride as if someone were watching you.
- For more information or to join the club:  
[www.mvatvr.org](http://www.mvatvr.org)



JSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

Terry Howe, president of the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club, poses for a portrait by his 2009 Arctic Cat snowmobile Dec. 19 in Twin Falls.

# It's in his blood

Twin Falls  
 man heads up  
 snowmobile club

By Andrew Weeks  
 Times-News writer

He can't exactly say what got him hooked. It was just one of those things.

But now seven years later, when the weather turns cold and the snow begins to fall, Terry Howe looks forward to uncovering his snowmobiles and heading to the hills.

Snowmobiling is like that. It gets in your blood. Sure, it's cold. But it's fun as hell.

It wasn't that long ago that Howe participated in a different kind of winter sport. "I'm one of the new guys to it," he said of snowmobiling. "I've always liked winter sports. I grew up skiing, but now that I'm getting a little older I really like this (snowmobiling)."

Howe, 42, got involved with snowmobiling in about 2001. As a newcomer, he didn't waste anytime diving into the recreational sport. He now serves as president of the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club, appointed to the position in April 2007.

The club, which has about 45 families who participate regularly, was formed in the 1970s. Members gather once a month October-March for a club meeting and at other times throughout the season to trail ride.

Howe, who often visits the South Hills, said he enjoys riding in the Stanley Basin and Island Park areas. For scenery, Stanley is tops. But for proximity, you can't beat the South Hills, he said.

Because he spends a lot of time there — and because he wanted to provide something nice for others who use the hills — Howe and his group built a warming hut this year in the South Hills near the Bosteder campgrounds.

It took several years to get funding for the \$39,000-plus building, but the waiting was worth it. The hut was finished in time for this season's snow and is open to anyone who wants to use it.

### Club meeting

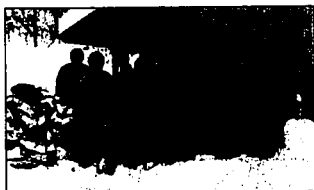
Join the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club for its first meeting of the new year, 7 p.m. Jan. 1 at Gertie's Brick Oven Cookery, 602 2nd Ave. South in Twin Falls. A no-host dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Members gather the first Tuesday of each month throughout the year. For more information: [www.magicvalleysnowmobileclub.com](http://www.magicvalleysnowmobileclub.com)

### INSIDE

Find Idaho snowmobile destinations.

See page C2

Please see **HOWE**, Page C3



Courtesy photo

Snowmobilers gather Saturday in front of the warming hut Terry Howe and his group, the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club, built at the Bosteder campgrounds in the South Hills.

OUTDOORS BRIEF

Arctic Cat recalls snowmobiles

Arctic Cat, a popular manufacturer of snowmobiles, has recalled its 2009 Mountain Cat and Crossfire snowmobiles that fall within VIN numbers 102896 through 118441.

The VIN number can be found stamped into the furred near the right-side footrest.

The snowmobiles, sold at Arctic Cat dealers June-November, are being recalled because the mountain hardware that secures the fuel pump allows fuel to leak, posing a fire hazard to consumers, according to the manufacturer.

Consumers who purchased the machines should immediately stop using the snowmobiles and contact authorized Arctic Cat service dealers to schedule a free repair. All known users have been contacted, according to the manufacturer.

For more information: Arctic Cat at 800-279-6851 or www.arcticcat.com.

Freeze on Skis coming Jan. 1

The Snake River Freeze on Skis, Inc. is sponsoring its 22nd Annual Freeze on Skis starting at noon on Jan. 1 at Shoshone Falls in Twin Falls.

The organization is looking for skiers and sponsors to raise money for Wishung Star Foundation and Living Independence Network Corporation.

Interested skiers can pick up packets at Idaho Water Sports in Burley. Claude's Sports, Elevation Sports, Sportsman's Warehouse in Twin Falls or they can download the packets at www.freezeonskis.com.

Skiers who raise a minimum of \$500 or more will receive a jacket, hat and T-shirt others, depending on the amount, will receive one or more of the gifts. Other donated prizes, such as ski equipment, gift certificates and dinners, will be awarded to the top fundraisers.

For this year's event, the organization will recognize all sponsors depending on their monetary levels. Silver sponsor is for \$100 or more; the Gold sponsor is for \$200 or more; and the Platinum sponsor is for \$500 or more. For more information: Project chairman Hank Heeling at 731-0028, or Hans Heeling at 420-2192.

Craig Mountain gates to open

With major snowstorms covering the area recently, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will begin opening access gates on the Craig Mountain Wildlife Management Area south of Lewiston.

The gates are designed to enhance wildlife security, not to restrict snowmobile use. The gates will remain open until March 15 or until snow depths recede below 16 inches.

Early season snowmobilers are urged to use caution. The recent snow is very fluffy with no base. This unconsolidated snow can hide hazards, such as stumps, rocks and logs. In

addition, because of the Chimney Complex wildfire, many trees are expected to fall the next few years and new fences were constructed in several areas to restrict illegal off-road use. Salvage logging will also be in progress during the winter months, so users should be cautious of the increased traffic.

The Lewis and Clark Snowdrifters annually groom and remove obstacles on almost 200 miles of trails on Craig Mountain and surrounding area to enhance access and improve safety.

Horseshoe Reservoir seeks summer host

Horseshoe Reservoir is a popular weekend fishing destination for thousands of Idahoans. But the right person could spend the entire summer there in 2009, serving as host for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's owned reservoir and camp area.

Applications are being accepted for the position of camp host. This is an unpaid, volunteer position, and applicants must have a valid, self-contained recreational vehicle. A small per diem is offered to help hosts defer some expenses.

Located just east of Cascade, the 260-acre site is managed as a rainbow trout fishery and is a popular summer destination for anglers and other recreationists.

For additional information or to apply: Dennis Hardy at 208-465-8465 or e-mail dhardy@dfg.idaho.gov.

Egin-Hamer area closure starts Jan. 1

The Egin-Hamer Road closure in the Upper Snake River region begins Jan. 1 and lasts through the end of March on southern lands and until April 30 on northern lands.

Signs marking the area north of the Egin-Hamer road are fluorescent orange; signs for the southern portion are lime green.

The lack of human disturbance created by the annual closure has allowed herds of deer, elk and moose to spend more time down on the desert between St. Anthony and Dubois during crucial portions of the late winter and early spring, Idaho Department of Fish and Game observes. An increased number of animals staying down on the desert later into the spring is a sign of the success of the project.

Penalties for closure violations range into the hundreds of dollars and result in a Class B misdemeanor. Individual landowners are exempt from the closure. The active St. Anthony Sand Dunes, from the Red Road to Thunder Mountain and adjacent to Egin Lakes access, is also exempt from the closure.

Boundaries of the closure are posted and free detailed maps are available from the federal Bureau of Land Management or Fish and Game in Idaho Falls. The Fremont and Jefferson County Sheriffs' offices also have copies of the map.

For more information: 208-525-7290 or 208-523-1012.

— staff reports

Find an Idaho snowmobiling destination

Twin Falls trails

In the foothills and mountains of the south rim of the Snake River Valley, south of Twin Falls, lie the Diamondfield Jack and Howell Canyon snow play areas.

The Diamondfield Jack area offers more than 200 miles of groomed and marked trails of 200-square miles of Sawtooth National Forest and Bureau of Land Management land.

Both areas are easily accessible from Interstate 84. Two 85-car allowed parking lots provide access and the forest service maintains a warming hut and heated restrooms.

The region surrounding Howell Canyon is similar to Diamondfield Jack and offers the same amenities.

Directions to Diamondfield Jack Snow Play Area: From Twin Falls, take Highway 30 east to Hansen. Turn south on Birch Creek Road and drive about 28 miles into the area. No fees. For more information: 208-737-3200.

Directions to Howell Canyon: From Burley, follow Highway 81 east to Decia; at Decia, take Highway 77 south past Albion and turn right on Howell Canyon Road. No fees. For more information and maps: 208-678-0430.

Trails at City of Rocks

Snowmobiling is available on roads in the City of Rocks when weather permits.

Established in 1988 as a national reserve, City of Rocks encompasses 14,407 acres of land renowned for its scenic, geologic and historic significance. Take a walk to see inscriptions on the spires written in axle grease by pioneers traveling through on the California Trail.

Visitor Center is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. November through March. No fees. For more information and directions: 208-824-5519 or www.nps.gov/ciro.

Gooding County Snow Park

This snowmobile trail is at the Gooding-Camas County line, 20 miles north of town and includes 150 square

miles of both BLM and private land.

No fees. For more information and directions: 208-732-7200.

Fairfield trails

The Fairfield snowmobile program grooms 220 miles of trails in Camas County and provides a snowmobile shelter north of Well Summit. The area provides quality groomed trails and outstanding open play areas.

No fees. For more information and directions: 208-764-3202.

Shoshone trails

Traveling up the Cub River from the Bear River and over into Bear Lake valley you will find the historical Shoshone Indian Trail.

The Shoshone Indians traveled this route from their winter grounds to Bear Lake and into Wyoming Territory for hunting and fishing. The trail is passable by foot, risky by horse, and viewable by ATV, snowmobile, or ATV. The Pony Express and early pioneers used this same trail as the first route into the Bear Lake Valley from Cache Valley. Lodging is available nearby at the Cub River Lodge & Guest Ranch.

No fees. Directions: Take U.S. Highway 91 about 3 miles southwest of Preston, or 22 miles north of Logan, Utah, then east 8.5 miles on Cub River Road. For more information: 208-852-2124 or www.cubriverguest-ranch.com.

Cascade trails

About 60 miles north of Boise on Highway 55, snowmobile trails take off from Smith's Ferry and 18 miles farther north in Cascade.

The Wellington Snow Park near Smith's Ferry offers 400 miles of trails, 250 of which are groomed, with access to Warm Lake and Garden Valley. The Winter Wonderland Trail leaves the mountain meadows of Smith's Ferry, weaves past the towns of Cascade and

Donnelly past spectacular scenic vistas at more than 7,900 feet before reaching McCall.

No fees. For more information and directions: 208-382-3833 or www.cascadehambor.com.

Lowman trails

This portion of the Highway to Heaven trail goes through an isolated area. Make sure you have plenty of fuel and provisions to make it from Lowman to Stanley.

Contact the Lowman Ranger District before starting out for information and to make sure they know you are touring this remote area.

No fees. Directions: Parking is at Lowman or Stanley. For more information: 208-259-3361.

Pine-Featherville area trails

More than 380 miles of well-marked, groomed trails offer snowmobilers nearly every kind of terrain imaginable for winter fun. The base elevation is near 4,200 feet and climbs close to 10,000 feet in the fabulous Trinity Mountains and the open high-mountain prairies and rolling hills of Cub Creek.

A network of groomed trails is located north of Highway 91 near Anderson Ranch Reservoir in southwest Idaho.

Popular paths include Trinity Lakes, Puffer Creek, James Creek, Wagon Town Loop, Burnt Creek and Idaho City. Trails also lead to Featherville, Deep Creek, Smith's Prairie, Rocky Bar, Atlanta, Fall Creek, and Pine. Several locations in the Anderson Ranch Recreation Area offer lodging, food, gas and RV facilities.

No fees. For more information and directions: 208-587-7961.

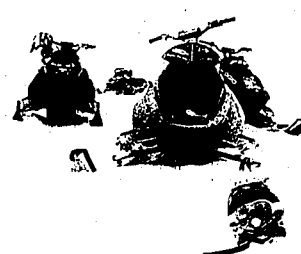
Bear Lake trails

Beautiful Bear Lake has a network of 350 miles of groomed trails and has extensive additional mileage in marked, ungroomed trails. Changes in elevation offer terrain varying from mountainous to open meadow.

The St. Charles Fish Haven Trail is one of the most popular in the area. Other trails include Paris, Mink Creek, Bloomington, Georgetown, Montpelier Loop, Crow Creek, Stump Creek, 8 Mile Meadow Creek, and Ant Canyon. Several parking areas make the trails easily accessible.

No fees. Directions: Trails start at Paris Canyon, Bloomington and St. Charles. For more information: 208-847-1045 or www.parkanddecreation.idaho.gov.

— Times-News



Field test: Crested Butte, Colo.

It is late December, and snow has clogged the trees runs on Crested Butte Mountain Resort's namesake peak in central Colorado. I'm suited up for a gear test — helmet, goggles, boots and shell jacket, ready to stand against the elements and the vertical drop at one of the state's most precipitous ski areas.

On my feet, Black Diamond's new high-end Method ski boots are made for downhill turns as well as touring and uphill travel. They look like regular alpine boots, and on the moguls and in tight trees at Crested Butte they perform as such.

But flip a switch and the Method's (5669-99, \$600) convert to flexible boots with generous forward lean, allowing you to attach climbing skins to your skis — as I did the first morning at the resort — and stride uphill in alpine-touring mode for back-country access.

Fit with the Method's bolstered



THE GEAR JUNKIE Stephen Regenold

short hikes to access powder and windchill-inducing downhill runs. I found the jacket to have great versatility.

It blocked wind but breathed well enough when I was on the move heading uphill.

Head protection was afforded by Smith's Variant Brim helmet (\$160, www.smithoptics.com), a hybrid polycarbonate and ABS-plastic shell cap. It is warm and comfortable, with a padded and insulating liner and ear covers. But small slide-open vents on top provide airflow if it gets too hot.

A snowy couple days on the ski hill made goggles mandatory gear. I went with another Smith product, the \$160 1/0 goggles, which have switch-out lenses and



a rimless look. A couple clicks and you can swap one lens for another, providing more contrast in flat light or better shading when the sun is high. At Crested Butte, the 1/0 goggles fit well and never fogged. They integrated with the Variant Brim helmet, slinging around the protective dome to sit snug on my face for three days of downhill action.

Stephen Regenold writes a daily blog on outdoors gear at www.gearjunkie.com.

Share your hunting, fishing or other outdoors photos or stories with Outdoors Editor Andrew Weeks. E-mail him at aweeks@magic-valley.com or call him at (208) 735-3233.



Let your gear take you on a tour of our homes. www.westerrarealestate.com

J & C Motorsports, Inc. 140 Blake Street Twin Falls 208-733-7222. Includes an image of a snowmobile and the Arctic Cat logo.

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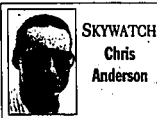
THRILL SEEKERS



Brennan Berardo, left, of Essex, Vt., and Mike Tietjen of Cresco, Pa., crash into each other during a Back Maple Racing SnowX semi-pro race at Black Mountain in Ramford, Maine, on Dec. 13.

AP photo

Edmond Halley's cometary Christmas gift



SKYWATCH  
Chris Anderson

In addition to celebrating Christmas today, science history buffs might note that today is also the 250th anniversary of a notable return of Halley's Comet in the skies over Germany.

Edmond Halley was a contemporary of Isaac Newton. In addition to his own manifold contributions to science, he convinced Newton to write his seminal book, "Mathematical Principles of Science," and even paid for its publishing.

In Halley's time comets were thought to be one-time phenomena. In 1705, after searching historical records and calculating orbits, Halley published his hypothesis that four comets seen in the previous 250 years were actually the same comet, on an orbit that brought it back to the inner solar system every 76 years. He predicted the comet's return in 1758, but died 16 years too early to see if he had been right.

Given Halley's reputation, astronomers worldwide began to scan the skies in 1758. But as the year wore on and the comet failed to appear, most lost interest and wrote off Halley's prediction as a failure. What they didn't know was that—unlike planets—comets' orbital periods can vary considerably. When a comet crosses a planet's orbit, the planet's gravity can perturb the comet's motion. Also, as comets approach the sun, frozen gases are boiled away, producing a jet effect. Consequently, Halley's Comet was running nearly two years behind schedule.

Finally, on the night of Christmas, 1758, German amateur astronomer Johann Palitzsch spotted the tardy comet. The comet was immediately named in Halley's honor, securing his place in history. Astronomical historians have since found nearly a dozen other historical records of previous apparitions of Halley's Comet, the oldest being Chinese chronicles written in 240 B.C. Palitzsch's name barely rises to the level of historical trivia nowadays. But perhaps we should at least acknowledge his posthumous Christmas gift to Edmond Halley.

Sky calendar through Thursday:

Planets  
One hour before sunrise:  
Saturn: SW, high  
One hour after sunset:  
Jupiter: SW, very low  
Venus: SW, low  
Moon  
New moon Saturday, 5:22 a.m.  
Close to Venus Wednesday evening.

Next week: Astronomy on television, good and bad.

Chris Anderson manages the College of Southern Idaho's Centennial Observatory in Twin Falls. He can be reached at 208-732-6663 or anderson@csl.edu.

REGIONAL SKI REPORT

Idaho

Bogus Basin — Open, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday-Sunday  
Brundage — 80 percent open  
Kelly Canyon — Operating, no details  
Magic Mountain — Open, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Not open today  
Pebble Creek — 56 percent open  
Pomerelle — Open, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Schweitzer Mountain — 32 percent open  
Silver Mountain — 59 percent

Oregon

Cooper Spur — Open, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday; 9-9 Friday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday  
Hoodoo — 33 percent open  
Mt Ashland — 75 percent

Washington

49 Degrees North — 49 percent open  
Badger Mountain — Plan to open 01/03  
Blueswood — Open, 9 a.m.-4

p.m. Today not open.  
Crystal Mountain — 95 percent open  
Loop Loop Ski Bowl — TBA  
Mission Ridge — 32 percent open  
Mt Spokane — 40 percent open  
Stevens Pass — 50 percent open  
Summit at Snoqualmie-Alpental — N/A  
Summit at Snoqualmie-Central — 27 percent open  
Summit at Snoqualmie-West — 33 percent open  
White Pass — 62 percent open

Howe

Continued from page C1

"It's big enough to get 20 people out of the weather to warm up," Howe said.

The 18x24 facility comes with restaurants and a fireplace.

Howe said construction of the warming hut is his biggest accomplishment since serving as club president. But, he admits, "I had a very small part in it. There were a lot of hands involved."

It was a committee effort, which began about six or seven years ago, said Vice President Peggy Stanley.

"It was called the process," she said. "Of course, we went through a number of club presidents along the way ... but with Terry's help as the new president, we decided we really had to get this done. He was a key fac-

Notebook

Continued from page C1

venture too far from each other). One trail, which soon became my favorite, led to an open field with deep powder. Before long I was speeding across the flat surface at 60 mph and later found myself making doughnuts in the snow.

When it was time to park up the machines to go home, I was having too much fun and was the last one to drive into camp.

Figures, Andy's acting like a kid again. I'm sure my family had thought. (My wife expresses such sentiments about me from time to time.)

That was in 2003. I haven't been back on a sled since, but the recent snowfall has tempted me in wanting to buy one.

But then I thought about the state of the economy and decided to wait to see if Santa would bring me one instead.

Then I remembered I'd still have to flip the bill. Never mind. I'll stick to my motorcycle. Do they sell snow tires for two wheelers?

Ride schedule

Jan. 1 - New Year's ride, Diamondfield Jack Snow Play Area in the South Hills  
Jan. 31 - Stanley ride  
Feb. 22-22 - Ride from Bone to Alpine  
March 7 - Family Fun Ride, Diamondfield Jack Snow Play Area in the South Hills  
March 27-28 - Jackson Hole, Wyo.

tor in getting it done."

Come April, Howe will step down for his successor — likely Stanley, though an official appointment won't come until March. Usually, however, the vice president becomes the club's next president, Stanley said.

Until that time, Howe looks forward to working

with his group throughout this winter season. And, of course, riding the back-country on his sled — something he'll continue to do long after giving up the reins of the Magic Valley Snowmobile Club.

Today, Howe plans to take his wife and two daughters to the South Hills for a Christmas day trail ride. While there, you can bet that they'll stop by to warm up at the hut he helped build.

Though he also likes to ride dirt bikes and ATVs, Howe admitted to the Times-News what he believes is the best thing about snowmobiling: If nothing else, it's clean.

"It's quiet and peaceful and" — unlike riding other

machines — "there's no dirt involved," he said.

"It's a blast. If you've never tried it, you need to because you'll get hooked."

Andrew Weeks may be reached at 208-735-3233 or aweeks@magicvalley.com.

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Answer: In Idaho, every debtor in bankruptcy is entitled to keep a his or her assets if the assets are "exempt" under Idaho law. The Idaho exemption statutes are sufficient to protect the common assets most people have. Money, however, is not always exempt. Money on hand or in the bank is 75% exempt if from wages, otherwise it is probably not exempt at all. Money in a 401(k) account or a qualified IRA or other retirement vehicle is 100% exempt. Unfortunately, the Idaho Statutes do not currently provide an exemption for funds held in an HSA, although I suspect that our legislators might address that issue in the future. In addition to the HSA problem, the terms of your property settlement and the debt division in your divorce may raise other issues in a bankruptcy. Pre-bankruptcy planning is definitely in order, and you should contact an experienced bankruptcy attorney to explain your options, one of which would be to file a joint bankruptcy with your spouse before your divorce becomes final.  
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## Ketchum's Santa Claus



KAREN BOSSICK/For the Times-News

Three-year-old Ana Knowles of Halley dressed up in a red velvet dress and sparkling silver princess shoes to visit with Santa at Glacchob Square in Ketchum. Jack Williams has been Ketchum's resident Santa since 1977.

## Since 1977, one man has been mountain town's jolly old elf

By Karen Bossick  
Times-News correspondent

For Ketchum residents, the road to Santa's house — a log A-frame in the shadow of Bald Mountain — is not lined with peppermint sticks.

But once inside, you know you've arrived at a special place.

Everything smacks of Santa — from the array of old-world Santa figurines on the knotty fireplace mantle to the stockings draped over Santa's rocking chair and the candy cane box on the kitchen counter.

"I look forward to this time of year. I love seeing the excitement radiating from the kids, the joy in their faces," Santa says, turning on Christmas music before he settles into Santa's throne, a wicker chair in which he can bask in the sun streaming through the large picture windows.

"Santa arrived in Ketchum in 1977 disguised as photographer Jack Williams. A native of San Francisco, he had been enchanted by the dog

sled scene in the movie "Sun Valley Serenade" and wanted to become the Answer Adams to Sun Valley's Yosemite.

But it was when Williams donned his famous red costume to pose for pictures atop Bald Mountain that he realized his true calling.

"If he's not the perfect Santa, I don't know who is," said Ketchum resident Carol Hatley, as she waved to him on Saturday. "Do you know anyone who looks more like Santa? Look at that little twinkle in his eye!"

It took some special skills to be a mountaintop Santa. A number of drinking clubs inhabited San Valley in its early days, and when they toasted the mountain, Santa had to toast it with them.

Then, donning skis, he had to snowplow down 3,400 vertical feet of mountain very carefully, his hand sweeping in a rodeo queen wave, while greeting skiers with his "Ho, Ho, Ho."

"It was hard on the quads but it was the only way," he said. "It would

n't have done for Santa to have fallen, for the kids to see Santa parts all over the place."

Ketchum didn't used to plow its streets as readily and thoroughly as it does now, which meant Santa could go to his gigs in a horse-drawn sleigh.

His busy Christmas Eve schedule at private homes throughout the valley included the home of Bruce Willis and Demi Moore when their three daughters were young.

"I remember one time going to their home and sitting down and eating the cookies and milk they'd left out for me while Bruce went to get the girls," he said. "Next thing I knew Bruce was saying, 'That's perfect.' I said, 'I haven't done anything.' But he had awakened the girls and they saw me sitting there and they knew Santa had come."

A twinkle brightens Williams' eyes. "I ask people, 'How come Demi Moore paid me to sit in my lap?' It's because she hired me as Santa."

Please see SANTA, Page C5

## Area students graduate from U of I

The University of Idaho welcomed nearly 700 graduates at winter commencement on Dec. 13 in the ASUI-Kibbie Activity Center.

Graduates from the Magic Valley area included:

Bellevue: Callin A. O'Farrell, bachelor's degree in advertising.

Bliss: Chase N. Erkins, bachelor's degree in communication studies.

Buhl: Michael R. Barker, bachelor's degree in business economics.

Burley: Wendell E. Robinson, bachelor's degree in agricultural science and technology; Melissa Jo Larson, bachelor's degree in psychology.

Gooding: Brian J. Huber, master's degree in food science; Katie Jo Schmitt, bachelor's degree in psychology.

Halley: Christian M. Blackman, bachelor's degree in fine art; Joseph R. Paisley, bachelor's degree in radio, TV and digital media production.

Jerome: John P. Whitechurch, bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering; Zackery K. Fleming, bachelor's degree in history; Steven W. Worthington, bachelor's degree in history; Andrew R. Chojnacky, bachelor's degree in psychology.

Oakley: Brandell H. Bedke, master's degree in education.

Rupert: Brandon L. Rucker, bachelor's degree in finance.

Twin Falls: Christina J. Satterwhite, bachelor's degree in agricultural science and technology; Ian W. Fullmer, bachelor's degree in microbiology; Matthew J. Dyson, bachelor's degree in finance and bachelor's degree in accounting; Nicholas P. Barry, bachelor's degree in management and human resources; Heidi C. Ainsworth, master's degree in education; Judy K. Studebaker, master's degree in education; Christopher D. Johnson, bachelor's degree in electrical engineering; McKinzie N. Cole, juris doctor; Jon B. Henry, bachelor's degree in advertising.

## Jerome graduate Bolich returns to M.V. with Army

Army Staff Sgt. Eric S. Bolich has arrived for duty at the Twin Falls Recruiting Station.

Bolich, a heavy construction equipment operator with 16 years of military service, is assigned to the Boise Recruiting Company.

He is the son of Stanley D. and Karin Bolich of Jerome. His wife, Amanda, is the daughter of Donna Jones of Pasco, Wash.

The sergeant is a 1988 graduate of Jerome High School.

## FIVE GENERATIONS



Courtesy photo

Five generations of the Rosemary Lawton family met recently. They are, from left, back row, son, Warren Lawton of Wendell; grandson, Kerry Lawton of Wendell; front row, great-granddaughter, Amanda Mulligan of Jerome; great-great-granddaughter, Holly Mulligan of Jerome; and Rosemary Lawton of Wendell. Rosemary Lawton will celebrate her 90th birthday on Thursday. Cards may be sent to 3469 S. 2000 E., Wendell, ID 83355.

## Grant will encourage walking to Jerome schools

By Ben Bolkin  
Times-News writer

The city of Jerome and the Jerome School District are receiving more than \$100,000 to promote healthy habits among children and encourage exercise and safety.

The city and school district are starting a Safe Routes to School program, which comes with federal dollars for improvements along a route that children walk to school and education efforts in health and safety. The national program goals include health and safety pro-

### Learn more

To learn more about the Safe Routes to School program, visit [www.saferroutesinfo.org](http://www.saferroutesinfo.org).

grams for schools and encouraging children near schools to walk or ride a bicycle to class.

The city will receive \$100,000 for sidewalks, gutters and curbing along North Lincoln Street between Eighth and 10th streets in Jerome. The location of the planned improvements is near Summit Elementary School and Jerome Middle School, and will

provide better conditions for children to walk to school, said Sandra Thompson, director of curriculum and staff development for the school district.

"It will provide safe routes on a major street," said Walt Appell, public works director for Jerome.

He expects that work on the infrastructure improvements will take place in 2010.

The school district will receive \$12,500 for health and safety education efforts. Thompson said the district will spend the upcoming months looking at possibilities for the funding.

One potential idea is a part-time safety coordinator who works with the school district and city on community health and safety programs, Thompson said, adding that nothing has been decided yet.

"Hopefully in a couple months we'll know which route we want to take," she said.

The Idaho Department of Transportation administers the federal funding through a competitive grant process.

Ben Bolkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or [bbolkin@magicvalley.com](mailto:bbolkin@magicvalley.com).

## Cellulitis needs to be treated with antibiotics

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 51-year-old female who would like to find out all I can about cellulitis. I'm hoping you can help me with whatever you know about this very painful, distressing condition.

It has reared its ugly head several times during the past few years. Once, I ended up spending several days in the hospital. This was preceded



ASK DR. GOTT  
Dr. Peter Gott

by a high fever and chills. Many times, I'd awaken with my clothes wet and

fever having broken. Another time, a lump started forming on my right thumb knuckle. The area got red and sore, and it looked like a big boil.

Still another time, my right hand and fingers swelled up, only to subside with antibiotics. At times, my eye swells and my lips are affected. In fact, my lower lip is now covered with thick, heavy-crust-ed scabs that burn and itch.

I can't see a doctor for almost a month and am at my wits' end.

DEAR READER: Cellulitis is a bacterial skin infection that appears as a swollen red area, hot and tender to the touch. It occurs when there is a break or crack in the skin, as can occur with puncture wounds, cuts, ulcers, dermatitis, athlete's feet and other conditions

that allow bacteria to enter. Certain types of insect and spider bites can also transmit cellulitis. It most commonly appears on the lower legs or ankles but can present anywhere on the body. Children and the elderly commonly have the condition on the face.

Complications arise when the tissue under the skin is affected, allowing bacteria to

spread to lymph nodes and the blood stream. Those with diabetes, compromised immune systems and senior citizens are particularly susceptible.

Prescription antibiotics that treat both staphylococci and streptococci are most often prescribed. Positive results are generally seen

Please see DR. GOTT, Page C5

# Habitat for the holidays

By Mary Hanson  
Times-Herald correspondent

The home Colton and Michelle Bartlett wanted was the home they had. They loved their quiet Jerome neighborhood and the nearby schools for their two children. What they didn't love, however, was their rental's patchwork roof and deteriorating exterior. They weren't crazy about the kitchen and bathroom that needed remodeling, or the idea that their landlord was

looking to sell the rental. After applying with Habitat for Humanity of the Magic Valley for a remodel and putting in nine months of their own work on the house, the home the Bartletts wanted is closer to being theirs. The area Habitat chapter bought the rental from the Bartlett's previous landlord and provided their expertise to renovate the home. "We lived at home during most of the remodel," said Colton Bartlett, who works at NAPA Auto Parts in Jerome.

**Learn more.**  
Find out more about area Habitat for Humanity efforts online at [local.habitat.org/magvalley/](http://local.habitat.org/magvalley/) or by calling 208-735-1233.

"That was for almost nine months, but the neighborhood is so great and the school, Horizon (Elementary), is terrific. "It's been a real experience but it was all worth it." Habitat established a Magic

Valley affiliate in 1991 and operates with a 10-member volunteer board, along with volunteer workers. Linda Fleming has been the full-time director for two years after previously working in the hotel and restaurant industry. Fleming and her husband, Jim, joined Habitat after looking for ways to volunteer in the community. "Helping with (Habitat) would be a good way to contribute to the community and get acquainted, we thought,

# Jerome family receives residential renovation

"Fleming said. "And it has been." Since 1991, the Magic Valley Habitat affiliate has remodeled 16 homes. Chosen families donate hours of sweat equity, both on their homes and free-stores, where recycled building materials and other home items are sold. Mortgage payments are based on each family's ability to pay, and families who sell their Habitat homes must sell them back to Habitat. "There are many considera-

tions when selecting a family but bottom line is the family's income level," Fleming said. The Bartletts were able to assist with much of the remodel, including the roofing, which helped the project's bottom line. After his experience, Bartlett's advice was, "If people are thinking about doing this, they should go ahead and fill out the application." Mary Hanson may be reached at [mhansonmb@ao.com](mailto:mhansonmb@ao.com).

## 5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Recent activity in Minidoka County 5th District Court included the following:  
**MISDEMEANOR SENTENCINGS**  
Erik James Scott, 24, alcohol violation; driver's license suspended 90 days, 24 months probation; disturbing the peace, 30 days suspended jail; probation violation, guilty; contempt of court, guilty.  
Gary Lance Higgins, 39, fraud, insufficient funds check, \$200 fine, \$175.50 costs, \$220.22 restitution, 24 months probation, 90 days jail, 82 suspended, 8 days credited; 2 counts fraud, insufficient checks, dismissed by prosecutor; probation violation, guilty, 30 days jail, 25 days suspended.  
Miguel Angel Otazgui Jr., 29, battery, \$75.50 costs, 30 days jail, 30 days credited; contempt of court, dismissed by court.  
Maria Del Carmen Zepeda, 34, fraud, insufficient funds check,

\$75.50 costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 86 days suspended, 4 days credited.  
Gregory Frubinger, 18, battery amended to disturbing the peace, \$100 fine, \$75.50 costs.  
Hartan Lee Gannason, 75, driving without privileges, \$200 fine, \$90.50 costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 30 days jail, 26 suspended, 4 days credited.  
Tyler Dean Calderon, 18, alcohol violation by a minor, 12 months probation; battery amended to disturbing the peace, \$300 fine, \$75.50 costs, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 30 days credited, 20 days credited, 30 days ordered community service, 20 days suspended.  
Teresa Jean Hanson, 54, driving under the influence amended to inattentive/careless driving, \$300 fine, \$150 suspended, \$75.50 costs, 12 months probation, 90 days suspended jail.

**MISDEMEANOR DISMISSALS**  
Robert C. Torgerson, 65, Peit theft, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Francisco Pablo Chavez, 29, alcohol violation by a minor, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Jose Pablo, 34, failure to purchase/invalid driver's license, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Manuel L. Beltran, 37, failure to purchase, invalid driver's license, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Sebastian Gomez Diaz, 41, petit theft, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Mikayla R. Frost, 16, speeding (infraction) amended to driving offense (misdemeanor), \$150 bonds forfeited, case dismissed.  
Edward Joseph Schaefer, 31, driver's license violation, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Kody Raymond Saras Andrew, 16, speeding (infraction) amended to driving offense (misdemeanor), \$150 bonds forfeited, case dismissed.  
Jeremy Shyne Cochran, 19, failure to carry driver's license on

person, dismissed by court.  
Jason James Winn, 22, 2 counts of vicious dogs violation, dismissed by court.  
Melinda F. Orr, 41, domestic violence-violation of protection order, dismissed by prosecutor.  
Antonio Carrera-Vizquez, 18, alcohol violation by a minor, \$100 fine, \$75.50 costs.  
**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE SENTENCINGS**  
Any Cassandra Oley, 20, driving under the influence, \$200 fine, \$420.50 costs, driver's license suspended 90 days, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 4 days McWork in lieu of jail; probation violation, guilty; Contempt of court, dismissed by court.  
Richard Eugene Russell, 75, driving under the influence (misdemeanor) amended to driving under the influence (felony), \$1,000 fine, \$115.50 costs, 5 years probation, 3 to 10 years

jail time, 8 days time credited; festivity or obstructing officers amended to assault or battery upon certain personnel, dismissed by court; assault or battery upon certain personnel amended to resisting or obstructing officers, dismissed by court.  
Marie Lucille Denaugel, 27, driving under the influence, \$300 fine, \$429.50 costs; driver's license suspended 90 days, 15 months probation, 60 days jail, 58 suspended 1 day time credit; 2 days McWork in lieu of 1 day jail; probation violation, dismissed by prosecutor; probation violation, guilty.  
Roberto Cruz-Diosdado, 26, driving under the influence, \$300 fine, \$390.50 costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 18 months probation, 180 days jail, 172 suspended, 3 days time credited; driver's license violation, \$100 fine, \$75.50 costs, 30 days jail, 27 suspended, 3

days time credited.  
**DIVORCES FILED**  
Travis Daniel Freeman, Rupert, vs. Jeannette Jarlene Freeman, Ozark, Ark.  
**FELONY SENTENCINGS**  
Donald Palmer Langley, 46, sexual abuse of child under 16, \$295.50 costs, 5 years probation, 3 to 10 years prison, suspended sentence; 3 counts of probation violation, guilty, \$258 costs, 424 days credited.

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## Santa

Continued from page C4  
When it comes time to make an appearance as St. Nick, Santa retrieves his red velvet suit from among the flannel shirts hanging in Williams' walk-in closet and puts on a pair of spectacles atop his nose and pulls black irritation boots over his feet. At 77, he's had plenty of time to refine his techniques. He's learned how to hold his hand and how to purse his lips when the picture is snapped. He encourages mothers to sit with their children to calm those who might be shy and to let them hear what their children are telling Santa. And, given the opportunity, he asks the child's parents if they can tell him something special about their child.

"Maybe it's something they've never said to the child, something the child is hearing for the first time," he says. Santa has carefully constructed answers for the questions he gets asked year after year, from where his sleigh and reindeer are, to how he gets around the world so fast, which he admits even he doesn't know — he lets the reindeer worry about that. "But I always tell them to look hard and they might see the sleigh go through the fireworks on Christmas Eve, and that they need to check their presents for burn marks." He's been asked to pose with a snake and a pet crab. He's commiserated with children who confide in him that their daddy won't be with the family this Christmas. And he's exhorted children whose parents have lost their jobs to remember that the love of

family is more important than presents under a tree. "I had a little girl tell me she was Jewish. I tell her, 'Well, Santa has enough love for everyone.'" He pauses, "I like to think that Santa expresses Christ's love — that he expresses unconditional love. Just as Christ expresses unconditional love." That extends for adults, as well as children. When Mary Austin Crofts returned to the valley in agency three months ago after her husband was murdered in a burglary attempt in Panama, Santa bought her lunches and coffee, accompanied her to Salt Lake City to pick up her dog, and took her on daily walks pointing out the area's natural beauty. "I can tell you that Jack Williams lives in the spirit of Santa every day," she says. "He has a wonderful sense of humor and personifies goodness. He is Santa every day."

It doesn't seem to faze the children of Sun Valley when they see Santa walking around in a Hawaiian shirt during the summer. "I've overheard kids say, 'Mother, that's Santa in disguise,'" he said. "Another time I was at Grumpy's and I heard an Australian child say, 'Daddy, you're right. Santa does drink beer.' Kids are going to put all the odds in your favor." When Christmas is over though, even Keichum's Santa is ready for a break. "It's a relief to be myself again, to walk into a room and not be the center of attention," he says. But all it takes is someone to look at him with a knowing smile or to greet him as Santa to get him thinking about Christmas again. "Being Santa has given me a tradition to look forward to," he said. "I used to be Jack Williams, photographer. Now I say, 'No, I'm Jack Williams, Santa.'"

## Dr. Gott

Continued from page C4  
within a few days following the start of treatment. Because it will be quite some time before you can see your physician, I would speak with him or her about keeping a prescription in your medicine cabinet for unexpected outbreaks. Antibiotics are not to be taken unnecessarily, let you appear to know what to look for and could nip the condition in the bud between visits to the office. Do your best to keep your hands away from the lesions to prevent further skin contamination. Prevention includes washing the area(s) daily with soap and water, applying antibiotic cream, keeping your fingernails trimmed and covering the lesions with dry dressings to avoid further contamination. When the condition occurs, it should be brought to your physician's attention promptly so it can be identified and treated. The lesions on your lower lip are of concern to me. Make it a point to visit the doctor's office during an outbreak to determine whether you are dealing with cellulitis or an unrelated condition. If you're related information, I am sending you a

copy of my Health Report "Consumer Tips on Medicine." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped, No. 10 envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Dickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.  
Peter Gott is a retired physician and the author of the book "Dr. Gott's No Flour, No Sugar Diet," available at most chain and independent bookstores, and the recently published "Dr. Gott's No Flour, No Sugar Cookbook."  
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# Family brings poinsettias to Christmas

By Mike Anton  
Los Angeles Times

ENCINITAS, Calif. — On a day when America's banks were failing and the Big Three automakers were on their knees begging Congress for money, Paul Ecke III could muster little sympathy.

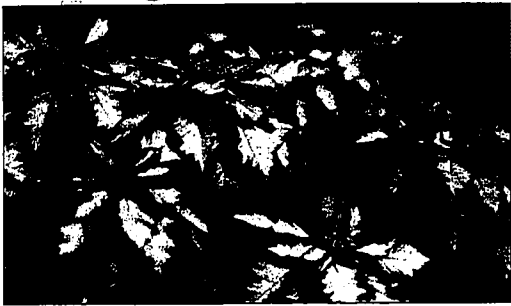
"I can't go to Washington looking for a bailout," Ecke said. "I should be making \$20 million a year like these auto guys. All they have to do is make good cars that don't break down. Mine is a far more complicated business."

Foreign competitors and outdated equipment. Low-ball pricing by upstarts trying to muscle market share. Crisping energy costs and a tanking economy. European regulators and Chinese patent thieves.

The poinsettia game has never been tougher.

"When I tell people that I'm in the flower business, they say, 'Ohhh, that must be so pretty,'" said Ecke, 53, an industry leader. "But I can tell you it's no tiptoe through the tulips."

The Ecke family of Southern California is to poinsettias what De Beers of South Africa is to diamonds. Over the past century, four generations of



Los Angeles Times photo

Ice Punch poinsettia is a new favorite of the Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, Calif.

Ecke took a cold-weather blooming plant few Americans had ever seen and made it a holiday staple.

Their zealous promotion is the reason the poinsettia is the nation's best-selling potted plant — astonishing considering about 100 million are sold each year in just six weeks.

In 1900, German immigrant Albert Ecke and his family were headed to the Fiji Islands in the South Pacific to open a health spa when they stopped

in Los Angeles and liked what they saw. A few years later, they established a dairy farm and fruit orchard in a northeastern Los Angeles neighborhood.

Ecke became intrigued by the poinsettia, a red-and-green shrub that is native to Mexico and Central America and grew wild throughout Southern California. The Aztecs extracted dyes and a fever treatment from poinsettias, and the Spanish used it as a Christmas decoration.

The plant was brought to the United States in the late 1820s by the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett.

Ecke was the first to develop the plant's commercial potential. He grew poinsettias on farmland in Hollywood and sold them from street stands. His son, Paul Ecke Sr., had bigger ideas.

A visionary horticulturist and businessman, Paul Ecke Sr. gave the poinsettia a

makeover through a secret breeding technique that turned the delicate and gangly weed into a sturdy and voluptuous potted plant.

In the 1920s he moved south and laid a carpet of poinsettias stretching down the San Diego County coast from Carlsbad to Encinitas.

His son, Paul Ecke Jr., expanded the business yet again. In the 1960s, he moved the poinsettias into greenhouses and pushed cuttings shipped by air instead of mature plants hauled by rail.

An inexhaustible promoter, Paul Ecke Jr. showered television networks with free poinsettias from Thanksgiving to Christmas. He extolled their virtues on "The Tonight Show" and Bob Hope's holiday television specials.

The Ecke family had a virtual monopoly on the world's poinsettia market largely because no one could figure out how they produced uniformly perfect plants with multiple branches emanating from a single stem — the "Ecke style."

"My grandfather learned this from a German backyard gardener he knew," said Paul Ecke III, also known as "P3."

"Nobody at the ranch knew the secret. My grandfather, my

dad and their breeder knew, and it was done at the breeder's home so nobody could see."

In 1992, Ecke took out a 30-year loan and bought out other family members. His smiling couldn't have been worse.

A university researcher published an article revealing his family's secret process. It wasn't pollination but rather the grafting of two types of poinsettias that created the desired plant from which cuttings were taken.

"The people who wanted to compete with us said, 'Ah, now we get it,'" Ecke said. "I was saying, 'My life is over.'" In 2007, for the first time, no poinsettias were grown for sale at the Encinitas ranch, and an 83-year-old tradition came to an end.

Ecke's near-monopoly is gone, but he still accounts for 70 percent of the poinsettias sold in the U.S. and one-half the market worldwide. His annual harvest is bigger than ever. But profits have never been slimmer. On Black Friday, a poinsettia could be had at some stores for 99 cents.

Ecke has been surrounded by poinsettias all his life, and he never tires of them.



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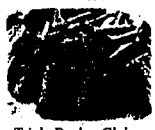
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Rupert House

HAILEY — Blaine County lost one of its oldest mining men. Rupert House passed away Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008.



Rupert had a long, full life, always busy because he would never leave it any other way. He was the fourth of 11 children of Oscar and Angelina (Tucker) House.

He was always busy working. When he was a young child, his mother would bake pies for him to sell at migrant worker camp sites.

In the early years, it was a struggle to make a living, but somehow Rupert always found work.

He moved to the Challis area and Rupe worked at the Ram's Horn mine.

Rupert continued to work at the mine and drove the mine bus.

That summer was very busy. If you came to visit, you brought a hammer and talked while you worked.

Calvin Amen

BURLEY — Calvin Amen, an 82-year-old Burley resident, passed away Monday, Dec. 22, 2008, at the Burley Care Center.

He was born Oct. 31, 1926, in Fruitdale, S.D.

His parents were Henry and Elizabeth Knopp Amen. He married Della Winter in 1947.

He owned "Cal's Cab," which he sold in 1946 and went into the trucking business hauling hay for local farmers.

He sold cars for Hansen Motors in 1979. He started working for Simplot and

While working for the street department, he became county commissioner for Blaine County.

He enjoyed that as much as anything. Dad was a miner and did as he thought best.

Besides being a Golden Gloves Boxing Champion of Southern Idaho, Rupert was a member of the Wood River Valley. He believes it was the trappers, sheepherders and the miners that made tfvils valley wild.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Bonnie; one son, Michael; two grandchildren, Gary and Mitch; and all of his siblings.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, held at the Hailey LDS Chapel, with the Rev. Harvey Lipskoch of the Community Baptist Church officiating.

The funeral will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, held at the Hailey LDS Chapel, with the Rev. Harvey Lipskoch of the Community Baptist Church officiating.

retired from there in 1989. Calvin liked to go fishing, bowl on a league, go to Jackson, play the harmonica, play darts and share a beer with his sons.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Della; his children, Steven (Lorraine), David (Betty), Randy (Sandy) and Susan (Bob) Lovin; his one loving grandchild; his great-grandchildren; his brothers; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, six sisters and three brothers.

At his recent cremation has taken place. Arrangements were entrusted to Hansen-Payne Mortuary in Burley.

A memorial service will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 27, at the Hansen-Payne Mortuary Chapel, 321 E. Main St. in Burley.

Clara 'Maxine' McCracken

KIMBERLY — Clara "Maxine" McCracken, 78, of Kimberly, passed away Sunday, Dec. 21, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center from complications from injuries suffered in a fall.



Maxine was born in Fairbury, Neb., on Aug. 31, 1930, to Harold and Mary (Nutsch) McCord. As a teenager, she moved with her family to Ashton in 1944 and later to the Orchard Valley area of Wendell in 1946.

Maxine worked at the soda fountain at Woodworth's Roger Brothers Seed and Turppeware. In addition, she was employed at Bakker Brothers, Kimberly Seed, Hansen School District, Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, and the Hollister Ranch. All of which are located in Magic Valley.

Maxine was a member of the Crossroads Methodist Church in Kimberly. She was a 50-year member of the Mountain at Woodworth's Roger Brothers Seed and Turppeware.

SERVICES

Nivea Lopez of Rupert, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the Hansen Mortuary Chapel, 710 Sixth St.; visitation one hour before the service Friday at the mortuary.

Jerald Dean Anderson of Burley, funeral at 11 a.m. Friday at the Pleasant View 1st Ward LDS Church, 650 E. Stadium Ave. in Provo, Utah; visitation from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Friday at the Church; Second funeral at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Pleasant View LDS Church, 550 S. 500 E. in Burley; visitation one hour before the funeral (Rasmussen Funeral Home in Burley).

Audrey Beatrice (Olson) Snell of Jerome, funeral at 2 p.m. Friday at the Hove-Robertson Funeral Chapel in Jerome; visitation from 11 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Friday at the mortuary.

Chelsey Lee Harder of King Hill, funeral at 11 a.m. Saturday at the First Baptist Church in Glens Ferry (Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home).

Lavina Bell Mort of Burley, funeral at 10 a.m. Monday at White Mortuary in, Twin Falls; visitation from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the mortuary.

Nelle Orville Schultz of Filer, funeral at 11 a.m. Monday at Farmer Funeral Chapel, 130 N. Ninth Ave. in Buhl; visitation one hour before the funeral Monday at the mortuary.

Blanche Prosham Wilson of Tucson, Ariz., and formerly of Burley, funeral at 11

To view or submit obituaries online, or to place a message in an individual online guestbook, go to www.magicvalley.com and click on "Obituaries."

Faye Aldene Nussbaum

Faye Aldene Nussbaum, 79, of Twin Falls, died Sunday evening, Dec. 21, 2008, at Bridgeview Estates.



Faye was born Dec. 1, 1929, to Ed and Lena Stalter in Waldo Township, where she grew up on the family farm. She attended school in Flanagan, Ill., played basketball and the clarinet and graduated from Flanagan High School. She completed two years at Goshen College in Goshen, Ind., and then attended Hesston College in Hesston, Kan., where she was also secretary to the college dean.

Faye worked very hard and made many sacrifices as a single mother to care for her children. She always tried to instill in them the Christian values with which she was raised and that she maintained throughout her life. She worked as a secretary for several years and then attended the College of Southern Idaho, graduating with the first CSI class of licensed practical nurses in 1966. She worked as an LPN in the Magic Valley area for nearly 30 years at Twin Falls Clinic Hospital and Magic Valley Staffing. Faye enjoyed reading, gardening, playing Scrabble, working on jigsaw puzzles, going on picnics or to garage sales.

She played the piano, wrote many songs and sang with a perfect alto voice in several female quartets in college and at church. Faye loved her kids and grandkids more than anything on earth but she extended love and kindness to all she met, always trying to see the good in every person. She made a sincere effort to help anyone in need and gave whatever she could to family, neighbors or someone she just met on the street. She brought sunshine to many lives and did a lot of wonderful things for which she did not want credit; she gave the credit to Jesus and always tried to share her testimony for the Lord. She had real concern for the young men and women she met needing help finding direction in their own lives and spent many hours in prayer on their behalf.

DEATH NOTICES

Lyle A. Frazier

Lyle A. Frazier, 98, of Twin Falls, died Tuesday, Dec. 23, 2008, at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center.

A service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 29, at the First Presbyterian Church, 209 Fifth Ave. N. in Twin Falls (White Mortuary in Twin Falls).

Ronald Potts

BUHL — Ronald Potts, 79,

Floyd Samuel Thornton of Gooding, visitation from 4 to 6 p.m. Monday at Demaray's Gooding Chapel; memorial service in the spring will be announced later.

Michael Lyn Kitchen Moon of Twin Falls, memorial service at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home, 2551 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

Billy H. Brown of Wendell, funeral at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Living Waters Presbyterian Church in Wendell; visitation from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday at Demaray Funeral Service, Wendell Chapel.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Wayne Stalter and Edwin "Jack" Stalter. She will be greatly missed and lovingly remembered by all of her family, which includes one sister, Mildred Lugbill of Archbold, Ohio; her three brothers, Raymond "Fritz" (Margery) Stalter of Fridley, Ill., and Paul David (Linda) Stalter of Graymont, Ill.; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Edwin "Jack" (Marcella) Stalter of Flanagan, Ill.; her three children, Sharon Elison of Sandy, Utah, Marlon (Stacy) Nussbaum of Twin Falls and Marvin (Gail) Nussbaum of Meridian; seven grandchildren, Jesse, Anna Leah, William, Emily, Katherine, Kristine and Geoffrey; three great-grandchildren, Brock, Edward and Jack; many nieces and nephews; as well as many other extended family members and dear friends.

A life celebration will be held in the near future. At the request of the family, in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Idaho Chaplain Corps.

Have some good times in Heaven, Grandma.

Arrangements will be announced by Park's Magic Valley Funeral Home in Twin Falls.

Arrangements will be announced by the Hansen Mortuary Rupert Chapel.

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Advertisement for Jim and Linda Lee of Lee's Monuments and Rock Art, LLC. The ad includes a photo of a couple and text stating they would like to thank their customers for their support in 2008 and wish them and their families well for the holidays and a safe and prosperous 2009. It also mentions family and friends who support them and that they are more precious than gold and better than any present they could ever receive.

## Bush withdraws 1 of 19 pardons he issued Tuesday

By Jennifer Love  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush took the very rare step Wednesday of revoking a pardon he had granted only a day before, after learning in news reports of political contributions to Republicans by the man's father and other information.

Bush pardoned 19 people on Tuesday, including Isaac Robert Tousseil of Brooklyn, N.Y., who had been convicted of making false statements to the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development and of mail fraud. On Wednesday, the White House issued an extraordinary statement saying the president was reversing his decision in Tousseil's case.

White House press secretary Dana Perino said the new decision was "based on information that has subsequently come to light," including on the extent and nature of Tousseil's prior criminal offenses. She also said that neither the White House counsel's office nor the presi-

dent had been aware of a political contribution by Tousseil's father that "might create an appearance of impropriety."

"Given that, this was the prudent thing to do," she said. The new information came to the White House's attention from news reports, Perino said.

A story in the New York Daily News said Tousseil's father, Robert, donated \$28,500 to the national Republican Party in April. It came just months before the Tousseils' pardon petition, the

newspaper said.

The counsel's office generally doesn't include vetting of political contributions in its reviews on such matters, as that would be "highly inappropriate on many levels," she said. The White House decision on Tousseil had come without a recommendation from the pardon attorney, Ronald L. Rodgers, as Tousseil's request for a pardon came less than five years after completion of his sentence, so that eliminated another step in the review process.

The Justice Department

advises the president on who qualifies for pardons. Only people who have waited five years after their conviction or release from prison can apply for a pardon under the department's guidelines.

But the president can forgive people outside that process if he chooses. Under the Constitution, the president's power to issue pardons is absolute and cannot be overruled.

Perino said she is not aware of any other instance of a pardon reversal, in the Bush administration or others.



The White House/AP photo. President Obama makes his annual Christmas Eve telephone call to the U.S. armed forces, Wednesday at the presidential retreat at Camp David, Md.

## Fed grants GMAC authority to seek bailout funds

By Martin Crotzinger  
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — General Motors' chances of survival improved Wednesday after its financing arm became eligible to tap into federal bailout funds.

The Federal Reserve approved GMAC Financial Services' request to become a bank holding company, allowing it to apply for a portion of the \$700 billion bailout fund and get emergency loans directly from the Fed.

Analysts had speculated that without financial help, GMAC would have had to file for bankruptcy protection or shut down, dealing a serious blow to GM's own chances for survival. The Fed cited "new business conditions" in justifying its decision.

The move to rescue an auto financing company was just the latest extension of the federal bailout program, which has been designed to shore up ailing banks but has grown to include insurers and credit card companies.

GMAC provides financing for both GM dealers and customers as well as home mortgage loans through its Residential Capital LLC division. The company is 51 percent owned by Cerberus Capital Management-LP, the investment fund that also owns Chrysler. GM owns the remaining 49 percent of the company.

Under the Fed's order, Cerberus and GM, whose businesses are mainly outside banking, would both have to significantly reduce their ownership stakes in GMAC. GM has committed to reducing its ownership in GMAC to less than 10 percent.

Cerberus was ordered to reduce its stake to 33 percent of total equity in the company.

## More snow, ice confounds travelers in northern states

By Sophia Tarson  
Associated Press writer

CHICAGO — Hundreds of holiday travelers spent the night in the nation's second busiest airport and some of them faced the prospect Wednesday of doing it again on Christmas Eve as airports across the country recovered from a barrage of snow and ice storms.

Conditions improved Wednesday but highways were still dangerously slippery in some areas.

More snow fell in the Midwest, where the National Weather Service said up to 4 inches was possible in Chicago. The Northwest faced more snow and sleet, with up to 20 inches possible in the Cascade range in Washington, and icy, wet weather spread over the Northeast.

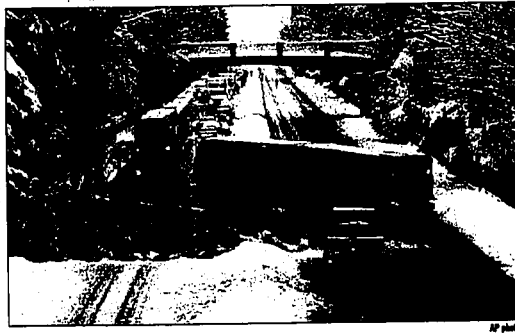
At least 23 highway deaths had been blamed on the weather, including a woman and her 7-month-old son who died in a two-vehicle crash early Wednesday in southeastern Wisconsin.

About 500 travelers had to spend the night at Chicago's O'Hare International, the nation's second busiest airport, after stormy weather canceled more than 500 flights Tuesday, said Chicago Aviation Department spokeswoman Karen Pridie. Some slept on cots, some on the floor or across waiting-room seats, and at least some face the prospect of spending Christmas Eve at O'Hare.

Newlyweds Tommy and Stobhan Costello were at O'Hare on Wednesday gearing up to spend their second night stranded in an airport hotel en route to their honeymoon in San Diego. They arrived from their native Ireland on Tuesday but the weather disruptions meant earliest flight out they could get was Thursday.

"This was supposed to be a pit stop," said Stobhan Costello, 30. "But there's nothing you can do."

At O'Hare's American Airlines terminal, Paul Fustini waited with a bag of food for his daughter Sara, who was

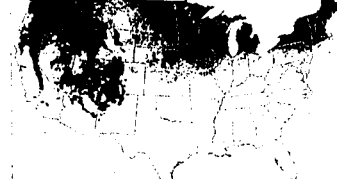


A Metro bus is routed around a tree that fell across Highway 99 in north Seattle Wednesday, following more overnight snow. A week of heavy snow, jammed airports, closed roads and cable fever had many Washington residents wishing for that traditional Northwest holiday: a rain-soaked Christmas. More snowfall was expected Christmas morning for much of Western Washington.

### White Christmas for half the country

Snow and ice storms have caused severe flight delays and treacherous road conditions for holiday travelers across the country.

Inches of snow as of Dec. 24, 6 a.m. EST



SOURCE: National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center

trying to get home to Orlando, Fla. Her flight was canceled Tuesday and she finally got a flight for Thursday afternoon. "She wishes I would have brought a toothbrush," Fustini said.

More than 100 flights were canceled at O'Hare on Wednesday. On Tuesday, cancellations totaled more than 500.

The New York metro area's Kennedy and Newark airports reported arrival delays of up to 3 hours, the Federal Aviation

Administration reported.

"The airlines are dealing with nothing but unhappy customers," said Mike Conway, spokesman for Detroit's Metropolitan Airport, where delays were reported in departures and arrivals because of conditions elsewhere in the country.

The weather service posted winter storm warnings and advisories for large parts of the West, plus parts of the Midwest and the Northeast.

Driving conditions were still

tough in Oregon's Portland metro area, where many side streets were clogged with snow and motorists were required to have tire chains unless they had four-wheel drive and tires designed for hazardous weather. More snow fell in the region Wednesday.

Oregon's largest utility, PGE, said it had restored service to 265,000 customers since the stormy arrival Friday, but 47,000 were still blacked out Wednesday.

Across Massachusetts, icy roads caused numerous accidents Wednesday morning, and state Trooper Thomas Murphy Interstate 495 in Middleborough and Wareham was closed because of wrecks.

"The rain and sleet just hit everywhere at once, and we're encouraging everybody to reduce speed and take it easy out there," Massachusetts Trooper Thomas Murphy said.

Police in southeastern Pennsylvania reported a spate of ice-caused accidents and traffic delays, including one 22-vehicle crash. No serious injuries were reported.

Motorists in Michigan had to cope with drifting snow in places in addition to ice-covered pavement.

## AROUND THE WORLD

### GEORGIA Scarf arrest prompts sensitivity training

ATLANTA — City court workers including a municipal judge in an Atlanta suburb will undergo sensitivity training after police arrested a Muslim woman for refusing to remove her religious headscarf before attending a hearing.

The judge ordered Lisa Valentine, 40, to serve 10 days in jail for contempt of court after the Dec. 16 incident. She was released less than a day.

Muslim rights activists have asked the Department of Justice to investigate the incident that triggered a protest in Douglassville, a city of about 20,000 people on Atlanta's west suburban outskirts.

Council on American-Islamic Relations spokesman Ibrahim Hooper said Wednesday the training doesn't address the problem. "We can deal with whether people knew about policies or whether they handled things correctly, but the bottom line is, can a Muslim woman walk into this courtroom wearing religious attire?" he said.

### HAWAII Obama celebrate holiday in islands

HONOLULU — President-elect Barack Obama offered appreciation to the U.S. military on Christmas Eve in a recorded message and then asked children of uniformed troops if they had their wish lists ready.

Obama and wife, Michelle, made their early morning trip to Marine Corps Base Hawaii just northeast of Honolulu as they had done during the last three days.

After about an hour at the base on Wednesday where he went inside a gym for a workout, he walked over to greet more than 60 people who waited for him. The president-elect shook hands while onlookers took pictures with their cell phones and digital cameras.

### WASHINGTON Obama inaugural will have 10 parties

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama and his wife Michelle will throw their way through 10 official inaugural balls on Jan. 20.

The Presidential Inauguration Committee said Wednesday that the Obamas would attend 10 official balls, one more than President George W. Bush and Laura Bush attended in 2005.

For ball-goers and Obama-watchers, a few questions remain: What will Michelle Obama wear? Which musical groups will perform? Will young daughters Sasha and Malia attend? No word from the committee on those fronts.

— The Associated Press

## 400 dress as Jesus to put Christ back in Christmas

By Heather Hollingsworth  
Associated Press writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Dressed in flowing robes and thorny crowns, about 400 churchgoers promised their pastor they'd dress like Jesus as a hard-to-miss reminder of the holiday's religious roots.

Members of Praise Chapel Christian Fellowship began showing up that way last week at jobs, shopping malls and restaurants. The demonstration wrapped up Wednesday.

"I know it's a crazy idea," said pastor Kelly Lohrke, who has 500 members attending services in Kansas City, Kan.,

and nearby Lee's Summit, Mo. "I know it's a radical idea. Christians can have fun with their faith and sharing their faith."

Lohrke said he came up with the idea out of frustration over the removal of crosses, nativity scenes and other religious symbols from public view.

Several groups have pushed the issue this year, with the American Humanist Association placing ads on Washington, D.C., buses that proclaim "Why believe in god? Just be good for goodness' sake." That story motivated Lohrke, whose church is part of Rancho Cucamonga,

Calif.-based Praise Chapel Fellowship of Churches and Ministers International, isn't convinced the founding fathers intended separation of church and state to mean the end of Jesus displayed publicly for holidays.

"It's just absurd," he said, "that Jesus is taken out."

Lohrke brought up the idea at services on Dec. 14, telling parishioners: "We aren't going to preach." If asked about their attire, he said, participants are free to share their faith.

"We've gotten nothing but positives," said Lohrke, who has dressed like Jesus at a Starbucks, a Target store and a post office.



Sharon Johnston of Kansas City, Kan., browses a newspaper while having a cappuccino at Homer's Coffee House in Overland Park, Kan., on Tuesday. The member of Praise Chapel Christian Fellowship started dressing as Jesus about two weeks ago to "show people what Christmas is all about."

# Coup leader's troops parade through Guinea capital

By **Abon Baker and Rajesh Callanadi**  
Associated Press writers

**CONAKRY, Guinea** — The leader of a coup paraded into Guinea's capital followed by several thousand soldiers Wednesday, hours after saying his group would hold power for two years. A crowd cheered him, screaming "Long live the president!"

Capt. Moussa Camara stood in the first truck of a military convoy and waved to the throng that lined Conakry's streets. A phalanx of soldiers

hosting Kalashnikovs accompanied the parade.

It was the first time the capital's residents and visitors saw the military-led coup was declared Tuesday in this broken West African nation.

Cautiously at first and then by the thousands, people poured into the streets to watch the convoy make its way toward the presidential palace.

"I came to see if the terrain is favorable to us. I see that it is," Camara told the crowd.

The renegade army captain


was unknown to most Guineans until Tuesday, when he and other members of the military announced the coup after the death of longtime dictator Lansana Conte. Initially the coup leaders promised elections within 60 days, but Camara broadcast another message Wednesday. "This national Council for Democracy and Development has no ambition of staying in power," he said. "We are here to promote the organization of credible and transparent presidential elections by the end of December 2010."

Camara's group set a curfew from 8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. throughout the country, where soldiers loyal to the coup plotters circulated in tanks and jeeps armed with rocket launchers.

Guinea's prime minister said Wednesday that the government remained in control. "This unknown captain doesn't control the army. The majority of the troops are still loyal — but one little group can cause a lot of disorder," Ahmed Tidiane Souare said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

**Rush to seize power in Guinea**

A military-led group declared a coup Tuesday in Guinea after the death of dictator Lansana Conte.



SOURCES: ESPN; World Bank; CIA World Factbook

**Country Profile**

Population: 8 million  
Inflation: 24.6 percent (June '08)  
Resource: Rich in bauxite, the ore used to produce aluminum; gold, diamonds and iron ore deposits

**History**

1894: Guinea gains independence from France.  
1984: Conte takes power in a military coup after death of his predecessor, Ahmed Sekou Touré.  
1996: Soldiers angry over low pay bombard presidential palace for several days with Conte inside.  
Dec. 22, 2008: Conte dies, following lengthy illness.

## Peace prize winner Tutu urges action in Zimbabwe

By **Angus Shaw**  
Associated Press writer

**HARARE, Zimbabwe** — With the death toll from Zimbabwe's cholera epidemic over 1,100 and the country in shambles, Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu said Wednesday it was time to threaten its longtime president with removal by force.



Tutu

The comments came as the government of President Robert Mugabe brought a missing Zimbabwe human rights activist to court Wednesday, accusing her and at least six others of plotting to overthrow the 84-year-old leader. The activist, festina Mukoko, disappeared on Dec. 3 following nationwide protests against the country's deepening economic and health crises.

Charging Mukoko, the respected head of a group known as the Zimbabwe Peace Project, in a plot since widely dismissed as a fabrication is seen as a sign Mugabe is not prepared to back down.

In an interview with the British Broadcasting Corp. aired Wednesday, Tutu called on Mugabe to relinquish power and said he was ashamed of his own country, South Africa, for its handling of the issue.

"We have betrayed our legacy, how much more suffering is going to make us say, 'No, we have given Mr. Mugabe enough time,'" said Tutu, retired archbishop of Cape Town who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize.

Firmer South African president Thabo Mbeki incited the power-sharing deal between Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, and South Africa reiterated this week it saw the deal as the only way forward despite new U.S. and British opposition to it.

Mugabe has ruled the country since its 1980 independence from Britain and refused to leave office following disputed elections in March.

Asked during the interview if Mugabe should be removed by force, Tutu said there should "certainly be the threat of it." And he added the president should

be warned that he could face prosecution at the International Criminal Court for his violent suppression of opponents.

Mukoko's court appearance came days after Tsvangirai threatened to withdraw from talks on implementing the power sharing deal unless at least 42 missing activists and opposition officials were released or charged.

Late Wednesday, a judge ordered Mukoko and six other activists sent to a hospital under police guard so that allegations of torture could be investigated, a human rights lawyer said. The lawyer, Beatrice Mtshwa, said the seven would be brought to court again Monday to determine the next step, while another judge had ordered another group of about two dozen detainees released unconditionally.

Shortly before Mukoko was brought to court, human rights lawyers said they managed to locate 14 activists who had disappeared in recent weeks.

"It is our strong belief that most individuals that have been disclosed to lawyers are being held in those police stations, as well as others which have not yet been visited," the lawyers said in a statement.

The Herald, the state-run daily, said Mukoko and the other activists with Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change would be charged with attempting to recruit fighters to overthrow President Robert Mugabe. The Herald quoted police as saying the MDC was training fighters in Botswana.

Zimbabwean officials have repeatedly made such accusations, which have been denied by Botswana and the MDC. Last week, South African President Kgalema Motlanthe dismissed the allegations, saying the main regional lawyers, said an investigation when Mugabe's regime first raised them last month, but "we never believed" them.

Annah Moyo, a Johannesburg-based Zimbabwean human rights lawyer, said the charges against Mukoko were "trumped up," and could be used by the Mugabe regime as an excuse to declare a state of emergency and withdraw from power sharing talks.

# Christmas contrast

## Bethlehem festive, Gaza violent

By **Dalia Hammari**  
Associated Press writer

**BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)** — Pilgrims and local Christians celebrated Bethlehem's merriest Christmas in eight years Wednesday, with hotels booked solid, Manger Square bustling with families and Israeli and Palestinian forces cooperating to make things run smoothly.

The festivities in the West Bank town contrasted sharply with Hamas-run Gaza, just 45 miles away. While revelers in Bethlehem launched pink fireworks from a rooftop, militants fired barrages of dozens of rockets and mortar shells at Israeli communities and sent residents scrambling for bomb shelters.

Crowds gathered around nightfall outside Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, the traditional birthplace of Jesus, ahead of the midnight Catholic mass that is the holiday's highlight. A dozen pilgrims from India, Canada, Britain, the U.S. and other countries sung impromptu renditions of Christmas carols. David Bogenerri, 57, Sioux City, Iowa, played the trumpet.

"Jesus was the prince of peace, and he can bring that peace to you. We pray for you," Bogenerri told a gaggle of local children who gathered to listen.

Not long afterward, Israeli aircraft over southern Gaza targeted militants firing rockets, killing one and wounding two others.

Daniel Spang vendors hawked roasted peanuts and Santa Claus hats. Many in the square were Muslim residents out to enjoy their quiet town's annual moment at the center of world attention.

"Bethlehem is like the soul of the universe, and it's like an explosion of love here," said Stefano Croce, 46, a fashion photographer from Rome, Italy.

Bethlehem has suffered from the Israel-Palestinian fighting of recent years, and is now surrounded on three sides by the concrete slabs and fences of the separation barrier Israel began building during a wave of Palestinian bombings. The Palestinians see the barrier as



A Palestinian woman walks past Christmas decorations at a shop in Jerusalem's Old City, Tuesday. The Jerusalem Municipality held its annual free Christmas trees distribution Tuesday for residents who celebrate Christmas.



A foreign tourist wears a festive hat during the traditional Christmas procession outside the Church of the Nativity, believed by many to be the birthplace of Jesus Christ, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, Wednesday.

rise in tourism. The Palestinians have counted more than 1 million visitors to Bethlehem so far this year, a rise of more than 20,000 since last year.

Not everyone was thrilled Wednesday. Victor Dabash, 63, a souvenir shop owner, said there might be more tourists but they weren't spending money. "These are the first people to enter our shop," he said, gesturing at two tourists, "and all they're buying is postcards."

The situation is dramatically different in Gaza, controlled by the Islamic militant group Hamas. A six-month cease fire between Israel and Hamas disintegrated last month before expiring officially last week, sending Gaza and nearby swaths of Israel into a spiral of violence.

Gaza militants pummeled southern Israel towns on Wednesday with the largest barrage of rockets and mortars since June, when the cease-fire began.

More than 80 rockets and mortars hit, forcing residents into shelters. With the projectiles inaccurate and residents well-drilled in taking cover, no one was injured in the attacks, though medals treated dozens of panicked citizens for shock.

One of the targets was Ashkelon, a Mediterranean city of 120,000. "We demand the government take action," Ashkelon Mayor Benny Vaknin told Israel's Channel 1 TV. "People are hiding in bomb shelters and our children are taking cover under desks at school. This cannot continue."

Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, who is running for

prime minister in February elections, said in a speech Wednesday that Israel had to act.

"Our desire for peace does not replace our responsibility to act when necessary, and now it is necessary," Livni said. "There is a point where every country and every leadership says — and this is what we say tonight as well — enough is enough."

Security officials said a large-scale military campaign against Gaza militants has already been approved but was being delayed because of difficult winter weather. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of Israel's military plans.

The military said Wednesday it had decided to hook up a system that will sound a warning in communities within 19 miles (30 kilometers) of Gaza every time a rocket is launched. The current warning system operates at half that distance. The new move showed Israel's concerns that Gaza militants have dramatically expanded their range and could take advantage of their improved capabilities in response to a large military action.

Three civilians and two militants were killed in Gaza when militants' explosives apparently malfunctioned, Gazans criticized militants for operating within residential areas, but would not agree to be quoted for fear of reprisal.

Israel has imposed a blockade of Gaza in response to the rocket fire, preventing residents from leaving the territory and causing shortages of fuel and basic supplies.

# Iran leader's Christmas message decries bullies

**LONDON (AP)** — Iran's president is offering season's greetings to Christians in a British TV address and suggests that if Jesus were alive he would oppose "bullying, ill-tempered and expansionist powers" — an apparent reference to the U.S. and its allies.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's Christmas Day broadcast will be shown on Britain's Channel 4 television, occupying a slot that provides an often controversial counterpoint to Queen Elizabeth II's

traditional annual message, the station said Wednesday. A leading British Jewish body said it was appalled.

According to a transcript released in advance, Ahmadinejad says most of the world's problems stem from leaders who have turned against religion. The Muslim president doesn't refer to rival nations or leaders by name or mention Israel, despite his past calls to wipe it out.

"If Christ were on earth today, undoubtedly he would

host the banner of justice and love for humanity to oppose warmongers, occupiers, terrorists and bullies the world over," Ahmadinejad said, according to the English

**Enjoying an extreme Xmas**

11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center in New York.  
2002 — Sharon Osbourne, the wife of rock and reality television star Ozzy Osbourne.  
2004 — Animated cartoon character Marge Simpson.  
2008 — A British Muslim woman with her face covered by a niqab, a traditional veil.  
2007 — Maj. Andrew Stockton, a British soldier who lost his arm fighting in Afghanistan.  
2008 — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran.

translation of the Farsi-language speech. The broadcast will air with subtitles.



Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attends a news conference at the United Nations food crisis summit June 3 at the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

# In Guatemala, a steep, rutted road to peace

By Juan Carlos Lorca  
Associated Press Writer

COCOP Guatemala — Guatemala's government is hoping the steep, rutted road to Cocop is a path to lasting peace.

Abandoned for years, the repaired dirt roadway was repaired access to an isolated valley that the army stormed in 1981, killing 79 people. It may not seem like much, but the road represents a new level of war reparations: Government aid that tries to rebuild war-torn communities as a whole, rather than handing victims cash payments that often sow resentment among their former enemies.

Despite peace accords in 1996 that ended 36 years of civil war, distrust of both neighbors and government officials still runs deep in Guatemala, and many communities are still divided between former leftist guerrillas and paramilitaries recruited by a U.S.-backed Guatemalan army. The war left 200,000 dead, mostly poor Mayan peasants.

"I would remember the dead and think, 'They are buried one on top of another. That can't be right,'" Ramirez said.

Next year, the program wants to help Cocop peasants grow fruit and vegetables that are more profitable than traditional crops of corn and beans. And plans are under way to build a common building for occasional demonstrations and traditional ceremonies.

Cocop's success has persuaded 27 other communities to ask for similar programs, and the government

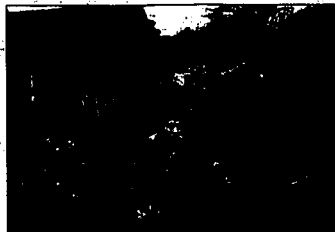
earmarked \$1 million for the next two years to pay for buildings and provide psychological care to those affected by painful memories of the war, like Ramirez's mother, a 79-year-old woman who still runs and hides whenever strangers approach.

The new aid does not halt cash payments to survivors of human rights violations committed by the government. They receive one-time payments of between \$3,200 and \$5,800 from the war reparations program. And former paramilitary members who

were forced by the army to fight leftist guerrillas receive about \$700 each.

But cash reparations have fueled tensions between those who suffered human rights abuses and their perpetrators, says Hector Solo, a forensic anthropologist from the Independent Center for Forensic Analysis and Applied Science.

"In those villages where only cash was given, even more problems arose," Solo says. "There were jealousy problems because people were not happy that others got cash."



Catarina Santiago sits outside her home in Cocop, Guatemala, Dec. 2. Guatemala's government is hoping the steep, rutted road to Cocop is a path to lasting peace. Abandoned for years, the repaired roadway has restored access to a valley the army stormed in 1981, killing 79 people.

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## Somalian president poised to resign

LOS ANGELES Times

NAIROBI, Kenya — Somalia's aging president is expected to resign in the coming days, aides said Wednesday, succumbing to threats of impeachment and international sanctions over his refusal to support a national reconciliation plan.

Abdullahi Yusuf, a war-torn, turned-statesman, once was viewed as the linchpin of Somalia's transitional government. But in recent months, Yusuf, 74, repeatedly has clashed with the prime minister and has come to be regarded as an obstacle to peace.

Yusuf's departure would mark a turning point for the Horn of Africa nation. It could replace clan warfare but it also could clear the way for a new power-sharing government that includes a key Islamist opposition faction.

"Yusuf was always a liability to Somalia and to the peace process," said Aisid Omar Ibrahim, head of the Center for Peace and Democracy, a Somali peace-advocacy group. "This is going to help bring in a new era for Somalia by helping different stakeholders come together to decide the country's future."

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## CSI men growing up, improving as SWAC season approaches

By Mike Christensen • Times-News writer

The 2008 portion of the schedule is in the books for the College of Southern Idaho men's basketball team. Here's a look at how things have gone and what's ahead for the Golden Eagles in 2009.

Record: 10-2 (8-2 at home, 1-0 road, 1-0 neutral site)  
National ranking: No. 18 in NJCAA Division I poll

### Crowd pleasers: Janelle Barrett and Jay Watkins

The flashy freshman point guard (Barrett) and the incredibly athletic small forward (Watkins) have hooked up for some jaw-dropping alley-oop dunks this season. Barrett is also becoming a fine floor leader, topping the team in assists (6.2 per game) and averaging better than 14 points a game. Watkins is CSI's leading scorer at 18.6 a game and could easily be the team's 2008 MVP.



Barrett



Watkins

### Best win

An 84-79 road win over No. 15 Seward County Community College on Dec. 13. The victory lifted CSI to 10-2 on the season and was the Golden Eagles' first win over a ranked foe.

### Worst loss

A 69-64 home loss to Harcum College on Dec. 6. The Golden Eagles were playing short-handed in this one, but it was key mistakes throughout that cost them their victory against a team in its first year at the NJCAA Division I level.

### Statistical leaders

Points: Jay Watkins 18.6, Daequon Montreal 17.1, Janelle Barrett 14.1. Rebounds: Montreal 10.3, Watkins 7.9, Aziz Ndlaye 7.9. Assists: Barrett 6.2, Odum 3.7. Blocks: Ndlaye 3.2, Montreal 1.2.

### What's ahead

The Golden Eagles close their nonconference schedule Jan. 1-3 with the James Ray Construction Shoot Out where they'll host Treasure Valley (Ore.) Community College, Westchester (N.Y.) Community College and Sheridan (Wyo.) College. Scenic West Athletic Conference play begins Jan. 9 and the competition should be fierce with five of the six SWAC teams capable of winning the league crown. With No. 12 Salt Lake, No. 19 Eastern Utah and No. 20 North Idaho in the mix, CSI will have to be on top of its game to repeat as regular-season SWAC champs.

### Coach Steve Gosar's take

"It's gone kind of as expected for a young team with so many freshmen and so many new guys. I think we're right where we need to be heading into the new year and conference season. I think we took big steps (Dec. 12-13) at Seward (County Community College). We have our guys coming together.

"I like where we're at right now. The guys are getting along, having a fun time and finding the enjoyment right now. Not just of playing and playing in front of crowds and winning, but the enjoyment of playing with each other. We're starting to really develop chemistry."

### Coming Friday: A look at the CSI women's basketball season thus far

## BSU likely to have big hopes in 2009

By Tim Booth  
Associated Press writer

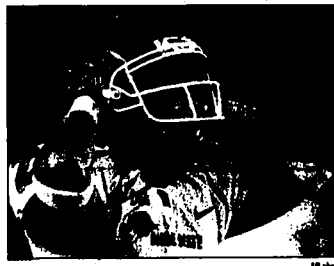
SAN DIEGO — The pre-season seemed accurate: with a cast of new faces about to enter critical roles, 2008 was supposed to be Boise State's rebuilding year before making another run at the big boys of the BCS in the coming seasons. Try again.

Even with a 17-16 loss to No. 11 TCU in Tuesday night's Polaris Bowl that ruined Boise State's hopes for a second unbeaten season in the last three years, the Broncos will likely head into the 2009 season with expectations that have rarely been muttered in their hometown where Boise State is THE game in town.

Landing a second BCS bowl in 2009 wouldn't just be a pleasant surprise. Fans will be expecting it from the moment spring practice begins.

"Everyone thought we were going to be rebuilding this year because our team is so young," said sophomore defensive end Ryan Winterswyk. "But I think our team matured really fast as the year went on, and kind of grew up fast and had to prove ourselves every week."

Boise State will bring back 13 starters with a long list of others who saw significant playing time this season, and its toughest game — a matchup with Pac-10 power Oregon — will come on the friendly blue turf



Boise State's Mike Barragans watches the scoreboard during the final moments of the Polaris Bowl college football game against TCU in San Diego Tuesday. TCU won the game 17-16.

Please see BSU, Page B2

And under the tree... we find ...

Most folks will wake up this morning and head to the Christmas tree, pulling out presents and finding out what surprises await inside.

In the spirit of the season, let's take a look (all in good fun, of course) at what some area sports personalities might be hoping for under their trees this morning:



DAVID BASHORE

Jack Bagley, Burley boys basketball coach: Improvement from the guard position to complement Kyle Hepworth and Bill Blauer, who have the post pretty well established. Short of that, a fifth year of eligibility for Colton Moon may do the trick.

Heldi Cartisser, CSI volleyball coach: A big-game performer, and a mulligan.

Steve Kent, Richfield girls basketball coach: A challenge. The undefeated Tigers' average margin of victory this season is just short of 35 points. The closest any team has gotten is 19, and the greatest spread is 61.

Skyler "Poke" Morgan, Minico running back and All-Idaho Class 4A Player of the Year: Two more yards.

Steve Gosar, CSI men's basketball coach: A few of those handy medical packs from the video game "Wolfenstein," which significantly improve the health of the person to whom the packs are applied.

Ed Simons, Jr., former Dietrich football coach: Two tickets to the Solomon Islands, and a happy retirement.

University of Idaho All-American punter T.J. Carter: Fewer opportunities to display his talent.

Ken Johnson, Twin Falls softball coach: An Amber Petersen clone. Or at least someone capable of filling her shoes.

Kimberly football/basketball players Eric Marvin, Braden Nield, Justin Whinnill, A.J. Schroeder, Lael Schoessler, Cody Wadsworth, Isaac Makings and Nick Dame: A Fruitland- and Shelley-free road to a state championship game.

Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore: A do-over on a certain fourth-quarter pass.

BSU's football program: An invitation to the Mountain West Conference (or Pac-10, if the conference strangely decides to expand to 12 to invoke a championship game).

CSI softball coach Nick Baumert: A whole lotta pitching to go with that potentially scary offense we'll see in a month or two.

Hagerman boys basketball coach Kevin Cato, and his Pirates: Another visit from that March mo-jito.

David Bashore may be reached at 208-735-3230 or dbashore@magicvalley.com.



Gosar

**Holiday deadlines**

Due to an early holiday deadline, results from Wednesday night's [unclear] will be published in the Thursday edition of the Times-News.

# Medal to mettle:

## Olympics were boon for NBA stars.

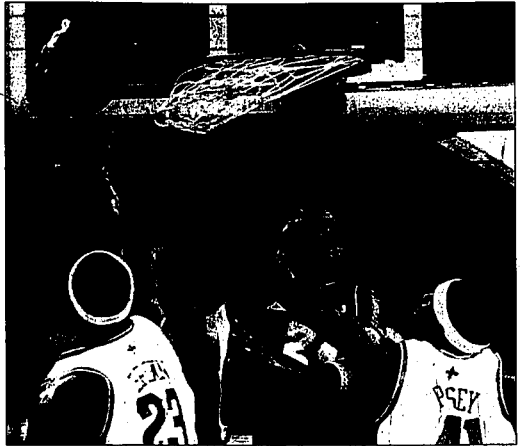
By Tim Reynolds  
Associated Press writer

Kobe Bryant is still fueled by the memory.  
He was on a bus in China six months ago after the U.S. Olympic basketball team defeated Spain to win the gold medal at the Beijing Games. Even now Bryant can close his eyes and see LeBron James, Chris Paul, Dwight Howard, Jason Kidd, whooping and hollering, nary a care in the world.  
"You see these guys, these quote-unquote superstars, hanging loose like a bunch of high school kids, just going crazy? It was great," Bryant said. "There was so much energy in the locker room after the gold medal, the champagne and the guys just having a good time."  
"That energy has carried over to now."  
It will be on display during an NBA Christmas Day showcase as five U.S. gold medalist headline a quintupleheader.  
Bryant's Los Angeles Lakers host Boston Celtics in the first rematch on ABC. Paul and Howard reunité when Orlando hosts New Orleans

"You see these guys, these quote-unquote superstars, hanging loose like a bunch of high school kids, just going crazy. It was great."  
— Kobe Bryant

(ESPN). James and Cleveland host Washington in the first of a TNT double-header, while Kidd takes Dallas into Portland in the second game. The other Christmas Day game has an Olympic feel too: San Antonio, with Beijing veterans Manu Ginobili and Fabricio Oberto, visits Phoenix (ABC).  
Players say there is definitely a correlation between Beijing success and stardom this NBA season.  
Bryant's Lakers are atop the West, James leads MVP talk, Paul now makes double-doubles seem easy. Howard has come himself as the game's dominant big man, Miami's Dwyane Wade is having his best regular season — and each took a boost from the Olympic fire.  
"To win the gold just uplifted all of us into this season," James said. "A lot of people were wondering if we'd hit it all because we played in the

Olympics. But look at everybody from the Olympic team. Everybody is playing the best they've ever played."  
Maybe not everybody, but it's close.  
Wade (29.0 points per game) leads the NBA in scoring and has the heat back in the playoff chase after last season's 15-win disaster where he was besieged with injuries. James is shooting better than ever. Howard leads the league in double-doubles with 20, and that duo is keeping the Celtics from turning the East into a complete runaway. Toronto's Chris Bosh is on pace for career-high in scoring average, and Bryant, again, is a serious MVP candidate with an eye on a fourth NBA ring.  
"It gives you a boost individually and in what you bring to your team," Wade said. "You're not only around winning, you're around greatness, competitiveness. You just know



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant shoots against the defense of New Orleans Hornets guard Devin Brown, left, and forward James Posey, right, in New Orleans on Tuesday. Bryant and the Lakers will try to end the Boston Celtics' 19-game win streak today on ABC.

how good it felt and how it was done, so you're looking back to your organization. It helps a lot."  
In some cases, though, that summer of competitiveness came with a price.  
Howard has dealt with a tender knee, a condition that Magic coach Stan Van Gundy believes was exacerbated a bit by the extra strain of the

demanding Olympic schedule. San Antonio was without Ginobili for the early part of the year as he continued to recover from a nasty ankle sprain that he aggravated in Beijing and ultimately needed surgery to fix.  
*All-Star trio of gold-medalists.* Deron Williams and Carlos Boozer of the Utah Jazz and Michael Redd of the

Milwaukee Bucks, all have missed time with injuries in the early portion of 2008-09.  
"Some guys are maintaining right now from what they did in the summer, and some guys have hit a little bit of a wall," Raptors coach Jay Triano said. "I think it has to do with their personalities and how they deal with different things, and how their teams doing."

# Lost in a rush of games, the Mercy Bowl remembered

By Ben Walker  
Associated Press writer

Exactly how high the plane got off the ground is hard to say. No one could really be sure that foggy night in Ohio nearly a half-century ago. Some folks swear the old C-46, a leftover from World War II, never lifted off at all.  
Ted Tollner, a quarterback at Cal Poly, was sitting over the left wing, on the slide where the engine gave out. "After we hit, it was all a blur," he said.  
The Arctic-Pacific charter split in two and caught on fire at Toledo Express airport on Oct. 29, 1960. It was the first airline crash involving a U.S. sports team. Of the 22 people killed, there were 16 Cal Poly players, a manager and a booster.  
"The next year, with support from Bob Hope and a blessing from President Kennedy, a game was held at the Los Angeles Coliseum to offset burial costs, pay medical expenses and set up an educational fund for the victims' families and survivors."  
They called it the Mercy Bowl.  
Almost 50 years since that game, the college procession

is now filled with 34 bowls that make millions of dollars for the schools and conferences that participate. None is held to solely benefit a greater cause.  
"Today, most fans don't even recall the Mercy Bowl or why it was played."  
"It did get lost," said NFL Hall of Fame coach John Madden, who anchored Cal Poly's lines in the late 1950s. "It's like it just went away."  
A crowd of more than 33,000 turned out to see Fresno State beat Bowling Green 36-6 that Thanksgiving Day in 1961. Check clay and his way to find ticket stubs — stamped with "Benefit Cal Poly Plane Crash Fund" — and souvenir programs for sale.  
Tollner was there as a spectator, still nursing the right ankle smashed in the accident. He went to a life of coaching in the NFL and college, always wondering why he was allowed to survive.  
Shortly before the flight, Curtis Hill, asked Tollner to switch seats.  
"The gifted receiver became ill on the trip to play at Bowling Green, and figured he'd do better near the front of the plane going back home

to San Luis Obispo."  
Tollner traded, moving back a few rows. Minutes later the pilot, flying with a license that had been revoked by the Federal Aviation Administration, tried to take off.  
"I was pretty much the cut-off," said Tollner, now the quarterbacks coach for the San Francisco 49ers. "About 100 percent of the people sitting in front of me were killed. Curtis was one of them. The people in my row and back mostly survived."  
"A lot of things go through your mind when you get an extra bout of 48 years to live. Why me? Why not them? You don't know why. You think about those things when you've been spared," he said.  
Those tied to that day find it puzzling how the details faded so quickly.  
"You hear 'Mercy Bowl' and it sounds dreadful," said Bernie Casey, a former Bowling Green star who became a Pro Bowl receiver in the NFL. "You think of bowls of being a celebration. We're going to the Whoopie Bowl or Good Times Bowl."  
"I don't have a clue why it didn't get more attention," he said. "It should have."

# The story of Chase Kear:

## Miracles, perseverance, and love



WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — The story of Chase Kear sounds straightforward: Pole vaulter sustains terrible injury, makes an unexpected recovery, returns home in time for Christmas.  
Dig deeper, beneath the basic plot line, and there are many other threads to the tale.  
There's perseverance, a young man's will keeping him alive when he probably should have died, pushing past others' expectations for his recovery.  
There's the love of family and friends, along with him on the arduous road back to a normal life.  
Kear's story also has an inexplicable quality, an improbable arc that has some wondering if they've witnessed a miracle.  
"No one has been able to explain it to us," said Chase's mother, Paula Kear. "No one knows, not even the doctors."  
If nothing else, Kear's story has miraculous attributes to it.  
It started Oct. 2, during track practice at Hutchinson Community College. Chase was trying out some new poles, practicing pop-ups — jumps without the crossbar — when he lost control. Flying out instead of up, his feet caught the back edge of the mat, flinging his head to the turf below.  
Chase didn't have a mark on his body, but was clearly in trouble, convulsing and fading in and out of consciousness when a Hutchinson track coach Pat Bechter arrived.  
"I thought we were going to lose him right there on the field," Bechter said.  
Paul and Paula Kears rushed from their home in Colwich to

the hospital in Wichita 20 miles away, a helicopter carrying their son overhead, close to death. A chaplain greeted them at the door.  
"It started to get real scary because it wasn't the normal ER visit," Paula said.  
Chase's skull had fractured across the front from ear to ear. Two sections of his brain were bleeding.  
Doctors induced a coma to curb the massive swelling inside his head. It didn't work.  
The only option was to remove part of his skull, give the brain room to expand.  
"Can't wait, see what happens, the Kears asked. No. Wait and he'll die. Even if we do it, don't expect him to make it," the doctors said.  
Somehow, the procedure worked. Chase was alive.  
Then, another problem.  
Chase remained unresponsive days after surgery, unflinching under nurses pinched his arm, eyes open, staring blankly past family members.  
Might be time to start talking to special needs hospitals, doctors said. This could be all he is.  
The Kears didn't care.  
"At least he was alive," Paul said. "I thought, if I have to carry him, I'll carry him — as long as he was alive."  
A few days later, Chase moved his arm, a reaction to a

sonogram. Finally, a glimmer of hope.  
Slowly, he became more responsive — parents and nurses euphoric with each wiggle of toe, reaching hand, pinching lips.  
Then, on the 10th day in the hospital, a nurse asked Chase to squeeze her hand if he understood what she was saying. He did.  
"That's when we knew he was in there," Paula said.  
Chase continued to progress from intensive care to a regular room after 19 days, walking the hallways of Wesley Rehabilitation Hospital a week later.  
Then, on Nov. 21, the young man who wasn't supposed to live, wouldn't have any brain function, walked unsteadily through the door of the family home, less than two months after the accident.  
And the future, the one he wasn't supposed to have, looks good.  
Chase turned 20 earlier this month, had surgery last week to fill the baseball-sized hole in his skull with a ceramic plug. He's enrolled in two online classes next semester and has been offered a chance to coach track at Hutch. He still plans a career as a firefighter and hopes to pole vault again some day — despite his mother's pleadings.

Students and faculty at Cal Poly bow their heads during a memorial service Nov. 10, 1960, at the school gymnasium in San Luis Obispo, Calif., for 16 players of the school's football team who died in a plane crash. They died on Oct. 29, 1960, when their chartered plane, returning home after playing Bowling Green in a college football game, crashed shortly after take-off in Toledo, Ohio.



# BSU

Continued from page D1 of Bronco Stadium.  
Still, overcoming the perception of playing feeble competition could end up being the biggest challenge. These BSU hopes may ultimately be hamstringing again by the Broncos' weak Western Athletic Conference schedule and a relatively tame non-conference slate. Aside from Oregon and a trip to rising Tulsa, the rest of Boise State's schedule is a walk with the likes of Toledo, Miami (Ohio)

and UC Davis.  
The Broncos toughest WAC game at Boise, Nevada — will also come at home.  
Upgrading its schedule continues to be the biggest obstacle for Boise State to overcome in regards to how the team is perceived outside of Boise.  
Losses like Tuesday night's setback to TCU only feed the furor of pundits who believe that in a better conference — like the Mountain West that features TCU, BYU and Utah — the Broncos would be a middle-of-the-pack team.  
"The best statement we can

make is how we play on the field, year after year, game after game," said Boise State coach Chris Petersen. "That's all we concern ourselves with."  
One challenge will be avoiding the step back the Broncos took after an 11-0 regular season in 2004. BSU lost to Louisville in the Liberty Bowl, then stumbled badly to start 2005, finishing 9-4.  
Eluding such a setback should be made easier by the possibility Boise State could have its most talented talent this decade in 2009.  
One cog the Broncos will

need to replace is Ian Johnson, who concluded his career Tuesday night as the WAC's all-time leader in rushing touchdowns, passing Marshall Faulk with a 20-yard touchdown sprint in the first quarter.  
But Johnson was already being phased out, partly because of an inexperienced offensive line that couldn't get the push that is John's running style. Often, Boise State's best runs were short dump passes or sweeps handed off to receivers in motion.  
Johnson's loss shouldn't be felt too much on the field,

especially with quarterback Kellen Moore returning. The WAC freshman of the year concluded his first season with a costly interception with less than 2 minutes left against TCU. But it was one of only a few mistakes he made all season. Coaches are continuing letting Moore call his own plays next year — as a sophomore.  
"I always say I felt like I was capable of it," Moore said of his first year. "I'd just never really knew when it would come, but it came early I guess."  
Despite being mostly

regarded for its offensive ingenuity, Boise State's defense carried most of the season, at least until Tuesday night when it couldn't get off the field against TCU's grinding offense and gave up a season-high 472 yards.  
Still, the Broncos will return 19 defensive players to a unit that ranked third in the country in the regular season, allowing fewer than 13 points and 300 yards per game.  
Combine an improving defense with another undefeated regular season and some critics might finally come around.

SCOREBOARD

GAME PLAN

TV SCHEDULE

ESPN BASKETBALL
ABC - Boston at L.A. Lakers
TNT - Washington at Cleveland.
ABC - San Antonio at Phoenix.

BASKETBALL

Table with columns for team names, scores, and game details. Includes sections for Atlantic, Midwest, and NBA Leaders.

WISCONSIN

Table with columns for team names, scores, and game details. Includes sections for Wisconsin, Michigan State, and other regional games.

HOCKEY

Table with columns for team names, scores, and game details. Includes sections for NHL and AHL.

RODDEO

Table with columns for event names, dates, and locations. Includes sections for All Around, Team, and Individual events.

FOOTBALL

Table with columns for team names, scores, and game details. Includes sections for NFL Week 18 and Week 19.

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FOOTBALL

Table with columns for team names, scores, and game details. Includes sections for NFL Week 18 and Week 19.

BETTING

Table with columns for game names, odds, and betting information.

Lance Armstrong's new baby conceived naturally

AUSTIN, Texas — Lance Armstrong may be busy baby-sitting between two major races next year. Armstrong, who won the Tour de France seven consecutive years after overcoming testicular cancer, and his girlfriend, Anna Hansen, are expecting a baby in June. He is scheduled to compete in the Giro d'Italia, which runs from May 9-31 and the Tour de France, which begins July 4. "Anna and I are thrilled to confirm that we are expecting in June and our families are ecstatic and grateful," Armstrong said in a statement released Tuesday night. "We are very much looking forward to what 2009 brings on many fronts. We appreciate respecting our privacy, as we are both eager to celebrate the holidays as a family."

Shaw has resigned and Billy Devaney has been promoted to general manager. The developments Wednesday are two more moves in a front office overhaul by a franchise that's been among the NFL's worst in the last few seasons. Jay Zygmunt, the president of football operations, resigned on Monday. The Rams are 2-13 heading into Sunday's finale at Atlanta, and are 5-26 the last two seasons. "I will just say this: I don't interpret anything as ... really good or really bad," said Zygmunt, who has been with the Rams for the last six years. "It's the most important thing is that I just continue to stay focused. After it's all said and done, we can look back at how positive things are, and our direction or whatever, and we can fully pay attention to it."

Sports Shorts

MAGIC VALLEY Holiday open gym in Twin Falls
TWIN FALLS — Twin Falls Parks and Recreation will offer holiday basketball open gym at Robert Stuart Junior High, from 6-9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. Additions open gym times include 6-9 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 2 and Saturday, Jan. 3, and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4. Open gym is free. Information: 736-2265.

CSI holds winter baseball camp

TWIN FALLS — The 25th annual Southern Idaho Baseball Camp will be held Thursday through Monday at the Hudson Evans Expo Center. The camp, which has a long tradition of offering great instruction at an affordable price, features instruction for hitting, pitching, catching and infield and outfield play. Information: 732-6650 or 734-6285.

Club Canyon/CSI vb camp nears

JEROME — The Club Canyon/College of Southern Idaho Winter Volleyball Camp will be held Monday and Tuesday at the Jerome Recreation Center. The camp is open to girls in grades 5-8 and applications may be downloaded from the CSI volleyball Web site at athletes.csi.edu or picked up at the Jerome Recreation Center. The cost is \$60 and the camp is limited to 40 athletes. Sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each day. Information: Jim Carrisser at 404-2768.

Idaho Prep Basketball holds tourney

TWIN FALLS — Idaho Prep Basketball will hold youth tournaments, which are open for boys and girls in grades 4-8 from Twin Falls and Buhl. Information: Call (360) 885-7810 or visit http://www.idahoprepbasketball.com for more information. — Staff and wire reports

NFL Rams president resigns, Devaney promoted to GM

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis Rams president John

# Favre says arm may be issue for future

**F**LORHAM PARK, N.J. — Brett Favre's rocket right arm might be running out of steam. The 39-year-old quarterback insisted Wednesday he hasn't decided whether he'll return to the New York Jets next season, but said the health of his shoulder could be a factor.



"I think the ending physical, or whatever, that every player goes through after the last game will kind of maybe shed some light on some things," he said. "So we'll see."

Favre has struggled for several weeks with one touchdown and six interceptions in New York's last four games. His arm strength doesn't appear to be what it was earlier this season, and that has led to speculation his right shoulder might be ailing. Favre did little to dispel that notion.

"During the course of the year, there was numerous times where I'd been asked about my shoulder and it had been a couple of times," Favre said.

"I don't know, I mean, just knowing my body, there may be something, but there's no

test yet to reveal anything," Favre said he hadn't yet had the shoulder examined, but will after the season — whether that's after Sunday's game against Miami or after the playoffs, if the jets make it.

"I'm sure if we MRI'd enough, we'd probably find something," Favre said, laughing.

He was encouraged by how his arm felt in practice Tuesday as the team took the field a day early so they could have the Christmas holiday off Thursday.

"I have had my moments," Favre said. "I think (an exam) will reveal one way or the other if there is something wrong, and I don't want to make a big deal of it. And, obviously, I don't want to make excuses because I feel like I can make every throw."

Favre, voted to his 10th Pro Bowl last week, has looked particularly shaky during the Jets' recent slump in which they've lost three of four to drop out of first place in the AFC East. His quarterback rating has been no higher than 61.4 in any of those games, and he has routinely under-

thrown receivers and lacked touch on some of his passes.

### WEAPONS, AMMO, PANTS SEIZED AT BURRESS' HOME

A small cache of weapons and ammunition and the pants and sneakers that Plaxico Burress wore when he accidentally shot himself last month have been seized from the home of the New York Giants receiver, police said Wednesday.

A 9-mm handgun, a 30.06-caliber rifle and ammunition, including a clip for a .45 gun, were taken from Burress' home in Totowa, N.J., by authorities executing a search warrant Tuesday afternoon, police said.

Investigators are trying to determine whether the weapons are registered, so it is unclear whether Burress will face additional charges.

Burress was charged with two felony gun-possession charges following the accidental shooting at a Manhattan nightclub last month.

Benjamin Brafman, the receiver's criminal attorney, said Wednesday morning that he believed that only a registered rifle was taken from the home. He did not know

whether Burress would face additional charges.

"We have not had a chance to review this new information," Bradman said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday afternoon. "When we do, we will have additional comment."

### GRADKOWSKI LIKELY TO OSTARIT FOR BROWNS

**B**EREA, Ohio — Bruce Gradkowski is likely to start at quarterback for the Cleveland Browns in Sunday's season finale after Ken Dorsey did not practice Wednesday. Dorsey is "very questionable" for the game against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Dorsey sustained a rib injury and mild concussion in Sunday's 14-0 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Gradkowski started 11 games for Tampa Bay in 2006. He was signed Dec. 2 by the Browns as an emergency pickup after quarterbacks Brady Quinn and Derek Anderson suffered season-ending injuries.

If he does start, Gradkowski will become the 13th QB to play for the Browns since 1999.

— The Associated Press



Seattle Seahawks head coach Mike Holmgren waves to fans after Seattle's 13-3 win over the New York Jets in Holmgren's last home game as coach of the team. AP photo

# Family, philanthropy up next for Holmgren

By Gregg Bell Associated Press writer

**S**EATTLE — Mike Holmgren is happily leaving the job he's loved and mastered for the last 17 years in the NFL. The reason is his second love of the Pike Market Medical Clinic.

His wife, Kathy, a registered nurse who specializes in treating diabetes, is ending a checkup with a patient, a small, older man with bright eyes for whom English is a second language. For the last two years Kathy has volunteered at the clinic, which welcomes poor people off the streets of downtown Seattle.

She's done foot care, made home visits and seen woe-cryer comes through the door. She's also traveled to Africa and Romania and Mexico while volunteering for a medical outreach team.

"I know who the real star of the family is," said her husband, the coxing coach of the Seattle Seahawks who earns about \$7.5 million per year, has led teams to three Super Bowls, and is the league's winningest active coach. "And it's not me."

Holmgren's move away from football is for Kathy. He married her in 1970, the year he graduated from Southern California and went to the training camps of the St. Louis Cardinals and New York Jets as a quarterback.

She's been waiting and coping while Holmgren has coached football every year since 1971, when he was a history teacher running the freshman team at Lincoln High School in his native San Francisco.

"There couldn't be a better person to give to," he said.

Before Holmgren's final game on Sunday, Kathy had reluctantly raised the "12th Man" flag. Seattle's in-stadium salute to its fans, immediately before kickoff. It was the first time in 15 years she's watched one of his games in its entirety in person.

"She can't stay at the game because she's cancer-free," she said. "She said she had to be there for this last one. It was all very, very special."

As special as the charitable work the Holmgrens have done over the decades.

Among the checks the coach writes to Africa is one for \$20,000 each year to provide food for children attending a primary school in Uganda. More than 500,000 people were killed in 100 days during a mass genocide in the country in 1994. He's been told his money feeds the entire school for a year.

He is also putting the leader of the school through medical school there.

A few days before Christmas, Holmgren has just finished a lunchtime appearance ringing bells in the Seattle ring outside a department store for the Salvation Army's annual holiday campaign. The man with 173 career wins, 10th all-time entering his final game with Seattle on Sunday at Arizona, walks unannounced through the alley entrance of the clinic.

Kathy is gently talking with her patient as her towering husband walks slowly up wooden stairs to the second floor.

"Trying to surprise her — for the first time, after 38 years of marriage," Holmgren says, chuckling.

# Dolphins try to clinch AFC East at Meadowlands

By Dave Goldberg Associated Press writer

When the New York Jets and Brett Favre opened the season by beating the Dolphins, few people thought the final game of the season would be Miami's chance for retribution and then some.

The Dolphins, 1-15 a year ago, visit the Meadowlands needing only a tie to beat the Jets to win the AFC East and finish the season 11-5. Even more ironic: Miami's quarterback is Chad Pennington, dumped by the Jets to make room for Favre.

The Jets are favored by three, a strange line considering how they've been playing since they handed Tennessee its first loss: three losses in four games, and the one victory handed them by Buffalo and J.P. Losman, who was immediately demoted to third-string quarterback.

That plays into the Dolphins' "no respect" theme.

"I think teams said, 'They're winning some close games, but they're the same Dolphins.... It's just a fluke,'" cornerback Andre Goodman said. "We did go 1-15. You don't come back from 1-15 and gain respect just because you have a new coaching staff and Bill Parcells is in the front office. And it's OK that team views us this way."

It's unlikely the Jets think that way. Nor do the Patriots, who won the division title the five previous seasons but are out of the playoffs unless the Jets win and they beat Buffalo, or New England wins and Baltimore loses to Jacksonville.

But the Jets' nosedive isn't the only reason to like the Dolphins, who are unlikely to be faced by Giants Stadium weather. Hey, they played the coldest game in their history last week in Kansas City and came back to win 38-31. And Pennington, of course, spent eight seasons with the Jets and probably knows the wind directions better than Favre, who has just one TD pass and six interceptions in the last four games.

Beyond that, go with Tony Sparano and his staff over Eric Mangini and his — Mangini has made some very strange decisions lately, including several in last week's loss in Seattle.

**D**OLPHINS, 24-17

**D**enver (plus 8½) at San Diego Ed Hochuli, who handed the Broncos the first game, is not the referee for this one. More important, the Chargers finally seem to have found their shame. **CHARGERS**, 41-30

**D**etroit (plus 9) at Green Bay Last chance for the Lions to win. We gave them a shot last week. Not again. **PACKERS**, 31-13

**D**allas (plus 13½) Philadelphia

The Eagles' would be in much better shape if they hadn't blown last week's game in Washington. Now they'd love to knock out the hated Cowboys, perhaps even get into the playoffs in the process. **EAGLES**, 16-10

**N**ew York Giants (plus 8½) at Minnesota

The line is based on the Vikings needing the game. Tom Cousin insists he will play most of his starters, as he did against the Patriots last season, but why did the Giants trot out backup QB David Carr to meet the media this week? **VIKINGS**, 24-10

**C**hicago (plus 1½) at Houston The Bears will be watching the Vikings on the scoreboard. Won't matter: Texans are good at home. **TEXANS**, 24-21

**T**ennessee (minus 3) at Indianapolis

The oddsmakers finally figured out that when the Colts have clinched, Jim Sorgi rather than Peyton Manning will play most of the game. **TITANS**, 23-10

**N**ew England (minus 6½) at Buffalo

The Patriots could finish 11-5 and still miss the playoffs. **PATRIOTS**, 24-9

**C**arolina (minus 3) at New Orleans

No NFC South team has beaten a division rival on the road. But the Panthers need this one. **PANTHERS**, 32-20

**S**t. Louis (plus 15) at Atlanta The Falcons will be happy to "settle" for their wild card. **FALCONS**, 37-10

**J**acksonville (plus 12½) at Baltimore

For the second straight week, a



Miami Dolphins head coach Tony Sparano reacts after the Dolphins picked up a first down against the Kansas City Chiefs Dec. 21 in Kansas City, Mo. The Dolphins can clinch the AFC East title with a win over the New York Jets on Sunday.

team wraps up a playoff spot by beating the Jags. **RAVENS**, 27-10

**O**akland (plus 13) at Tampa Bay

The Bucs will win, but their recent slumbos may have done them in. **BUCS**, 21-5

**C**leveland (plus 10) at Pittsburgh

How hard will the Steelers play? **STEELERS**, 17-12

**S**eattle (plus 6) at Arizona

The plunging Cardinals have won the West by default but would like a winning season. **CARDINALS**, 30-20

**W**ashington (plus 3) at San Francisco

If Mike Singletary and Shaun Hill had started earlier ... **49ERS**, 20-13

**K**ansas City (plus 3) at Cincinnati

The Chiefs even can find ways to lose to the Bengals. **BENGALS**, 13-12

**L**AST WEEK: 4-12 (spread); 8-6 (straight up)

**S**EASON: 113-121-6 (spread); 148-89-1 (straight up)



SNAKE RIVER FREEZE ON SKIS, INC. sponsors the

# 22nd Annual SNAKE RIVER SKIS 2009

**Why?** Skiers raise money for two charities, then they wear and use the Snake River at Shoshone Falls on New Year's Day. The year's most fun event will be in town: **Wishing Star Foundation and Living Independence Network Corp.** Any one interested in skiing or snowing? You may contact: Bob at 775-0018 or Dana Reiche at 425-2182.

**Skiers Pledge Packets Available:**

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- In Twin Falls: **Clayde's Sports, Elevator Sports, Sportswear's Warehouse**
- or any member of the Snake River Freeze on Skis, Inc. or the website below.

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- \$100 - a Hat;
- \$150 - T-shirt & Hat;
- \$200 - a Jacket;
- \$300 or more - All Three (Jacket, Hat & T-shirt)

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF JEROME MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-2008-1205 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of ROBERT AL CRAWTHORN, Deceased. EFFIE A CRAWTHORN has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate...

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CASSIA

Case No. CV-2008-1327 NOTICE TO CREDITORS In the Matter of the Estate of MARGARET ALICE MABEY, a/k/a MARGARET T. MABEY, a/k/a Peggy Mabey, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Warren A. Welby has been appointed personal representative of the above-named decedent...

CITY OF WENDELL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Wendell Planning and Zoning Commission will hear comments from the public concerning the repeal of Sections 5-11-1 (J) and 5-11-1 (K) of Planning and Zoning Chapter 7...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TS No. 08-000614 Title Order No. W830998 Parcel No. RP8201000007A The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, payable in lawful money of the United States...

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CASSIA MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-2008-1294 NOTICE OF TIME AND PLACE HEARING PETITION TO DETERMINE SURVIVING SPOUSE IS SOLE BENEFICIARY ESTHOLE DAHL DURFEE, aka Joe Durfee aka Joseph D. Durfee, Deceased.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On April 22, 2008, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock AM of said day, at First American Title Co., 199 Century Lane, Jerome, Idaho, JUST LAW, INC., as Successor Trustee, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 11, 2008 File No: 702318288 Sale date and time (local time): April 13, 2009 at 11:00 AM Sale location: in the office of First American Title Company, 260 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, ID 83301...

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ANNEAktion

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that RICHARD L. KECHTER and CRAIG SCARLETT, as Successors, have been appointed personal representatives of the Southwest Irrigation District. The lands are described as being in Cassia County, Idaho, and more particularly described on Exhibit A and Exhibit B...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 15, 2008 File No: 710275110 Sale date and time (local time): April 16, 2009 at 11:00 AM Sale location: in the office of First American Title Company, 200 3rd Avenue North, Twin Falls, ID 83301...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TS No. 08-0112106 Title Order No. 080906534DIGNO Parcel No. RP76520004110 The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, payable in lawful money of the United States...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

TS No. 08-0112106 Title Order No. 080906534DIGNO Parcel No. RP76520004110 The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, payable in lawful money of the United States...

TOWNSHIP 10 SOUTH, RANGE 21 EAST OF THE BOISE MERIDIAN, CASSIA COUNTY, IDAHO

Section 36: All EXCEPT the following described tracts: Tract No. 1: Begins at 270 feet East of the Southwest corner of said Section 36, which is hereby known as the True Point of Beginning...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 17, 2008 File No: 717421468 Sale date and time (local time): April 22, 2009 at 11:00 AM Sale location: in the office of Land Title and Escrow, 760 Main Street, Gooding, ID 83330...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 17, 2008 File No: 717421468 Sale date and time (local time): April 22, 2009 at 11:00 AM Sale location: in the office of Land Title and Escrow, 760 Main Street, Gooding, ID 83330...

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

Idaho Code 45-1506 Today's date: December 17, 2008 File No: 717421468 Sale date and time (local time): April 22, 2009 at 11:00 AM Sale location: in the office of Land Title and Escrow, 760 Main Street, Gooding, ID 83330...

EXHIBIT A (Kechter Property)

Township 11 South, Range 24 EBM Cassia County, Idaho. Section 19: That part of the West one-half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 19 particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Section 19...

EXHIBIT B (Searle Property)

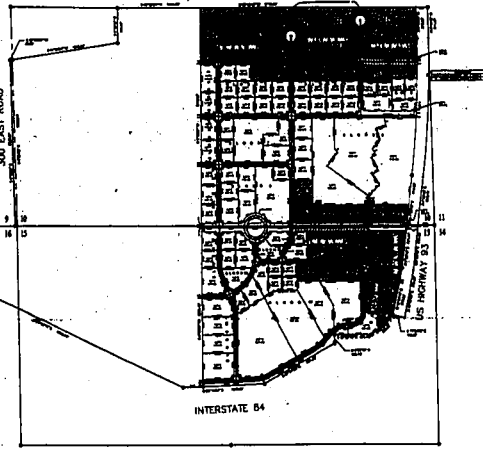
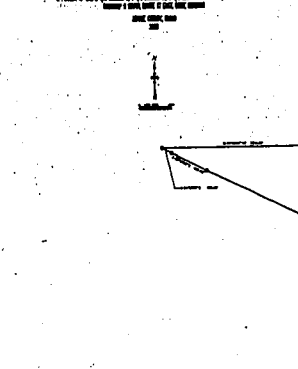
Township 11 South, Range 24 EBM Cassia County, Idaho. Section 19: That part of the West one-half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 19 particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southwest corner of said Section 19...

See what's new at www.magicvalley.com





JEROME COUNTY URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY CROSSROADS POINT PROJECT



IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION

Case No. CV-2008-005359 NOTICE TO CREDITORS. In the Matter of the Estate of JACK COX, Deceased.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE 5TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS. Case No. CV-08-5233. NOTICE OF GUARDIANSHIP PETITION AND HEARING.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION. Case No. CV-08-5248. NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS MAGISTRATE DIVISION. Case No. CV-08-3282. SUMMONS.

AMENDED NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. On April 18, 2009 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on said day, at the front door of the First American Title Company.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. Notice is hereby given by the City Council for the City of Twin Falls, Idaho, that public hearing will be held on Monday, January 12, 2009.

NOTICE TO YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE NAMED PLAINTIFF(S). THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. On April 18, 2009 at the hour of 10:00 o'clock PM of said day, at First American Title, 260 Third Avenue North, Twin Falls, Idaho.

AMENDED NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. On April 18, 2009 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on said day, at the front door of the First American Title Company.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. T.S. No. 11-15243-C Loan No. 0308102999. NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE. On April 30, 2009 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. on said day, at the front door of the First American Title Company.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF TWIN FALLS SMALL CLAIMS DEPARTMENT. Case No. CV 08-8514.

STATE OF WASHINGTON. On this day personally appeared before me Bruce J. Blohowiak, to be known to be the individual described in and who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he has signed the same as his/her free, voluntary act and deed.

NOTARY PUBLIC and for the State of Washington. Residing at Spokane. Commission Expires: 10/1/11.

NOTICE TO YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE NAMED PLAINTIFF(S). THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS.

TO THE DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a claim has been filed against you. The plaintiff(s) who filed the claim with the court with which the claim is made, and the case number assigned to your case are listed above.

Need to place a classified? No time to call or stop by? Log on to www.magicvalley.com

NOTICE TO YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE NAMED PLAINTIFF(S). THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS.

NOTICE TO YOU HAVE BEEN SUED BY THE ABOVE NAMED PLAINTIFF(S). THE COURT MAY ENTER JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE UNLESS YOU RESPOND WITHIN 20 DAYS.

TO THE DEFENDANT(S): YOU ARE NOTIFIED that a claim has been filed against you. The plaintiff(s) who filed the claim with the court with which the claim is made, and the case number assigned to your case are listed above.







**208 Farm**


**Professional Cutting**  
Horse trainer is seeking **PRO Gram Assistant**. Must have experience handling and riding young horses, ability to drive tractor & skid loader. Send resume & refs. to: 4082 E. Twin Falls, ID 83301

**RANCH MANAGER**  
Needed in northern Nevada. Experienced. 208-316-2334

**(General)**

**Lincoln County Housing Authority** has an opening for a **Caretaker**. Maintenance person in Shoshone. Must live in Shoshone. Contact Shauna at 208-544-2424 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.



**209 General**

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Great summer job! Earn \$20,000 next summer! Call Greg or Shawn 801-356-2000

**PhoneBase Research** currently has immediate openings in our interviewing department. This position involves conducting public opinion polls over the telephone. PhoneBase Research offers: \*Flexible evening, day or weekend hours. \*Up to \$12 an hour \*Casual working environment \*Monthly interviewer incentives \*Absolutely no sales or are afraid to sell \*Health benefits available

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**SALES**  
Part-time Sales Position open 24-32 hrs/week. Flexible w/ some Saturdays. Call Gayla at Fox Floral 733-2674

**216 Trades**

**TRADES**  
Busy Transportation Company is seeking a Full time Person to perform light mechanic maintenance on equipment and various other duties. Must have a Class A CDL. Apply to Box 913884 60 Times News P.O. Box 548 Twin Falls, ID 83303

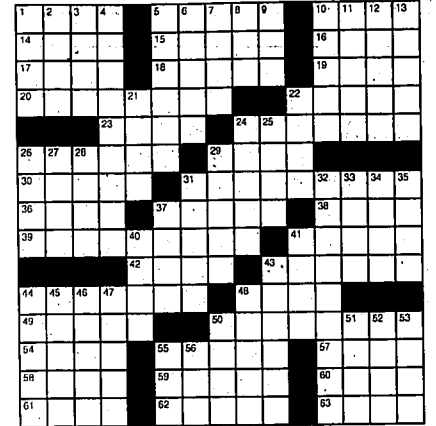
**WELDER**  
Experienced SS TIG Welder. Full Benefits. Pay DOE. Call Brian or Mike at 731-9128

**ACROSS**

- 1 From Bangkok
- 5 What ignorance is
- 10 Lake makers
- 14 Bugle
- 15 Automaton
- 16 Give off
- 17 Oil power
- 18 Comment to the audience
- 19 Indonesian island
- 20 Figures out
- 22 Behemoth
- 23 Always
- 24 Get together
- 26 Novelist Capote
- 29 Eat fancily
- 30 Up and about
- 31 Identifying features
- 36 Airy
- 37 Unnerves
- 39 Type of dance or drive
- 39 Fleet member
- 41 Military school student
- 42 Lodge loads
- 43 Breaks down a sentence
- 44 Flicker of illumination
- 48 Even off
- 49 Game summary
- 50 Inclinations
- 54 Rara \_\_\_\_\_ location
- 55 Frightening
- 57 Sandwich side
- 58 On the way
- 59 Bizarre
- 60 Olympic skater
- Lipinski
- 61 Cribbage markers
- 62 Asparagus unit
- 63 Deliberately avoid

**DOWN**

- 1 Norse god of thunder
- 2 Crosby film foil
- 3 Neighborhood
- 4 Lacking mercy
- 5 Shameless



**Wednesdays Puzzle Solved**

**LOS OTTOS BATON**  
**ORE FRONT SPARE**  
**ANA FATSO AERIE**  
**MALTED ELS TOD**  
**MAINE TEASDALE**  
**GENESIS SPOONED**  
**ENTRENCH SOS**  
**ETS HAD SID**  
**BOS MACARONI**  
**ASSAILS SAVALAS**  
**BOOTLACE DINES**  
**ALL TAR EAGLES**  
**TEASE TRENT ENC**  
**EMCEE HENCE SSA**  
**TRUNK EDOGES SET**

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**Deck the halls with a better job fa, la, la...**

**River Ridge** (formerly Sunbridge)

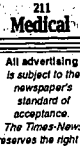
**Registered Nurses**

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.

**RIVER RIDGE**  
CARE & REHABILITATION CENTER  
Caring in the Way of Life  
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**211 Medical**

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**NEWSPAPER**

**Times News magicvalley.com**

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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 retail 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 in all weather conditions. You must be able to lift up to and above 50 pounds, have a dependable vehicle, valid drivers license, good driving record and proof of insurance... This is a hourly part-time position, approximately 20-25 hrs per week depending on the workload, and includes some benefits.

Apply online at [www.magicvalley.com/workhere](http://www.magicvalley.com/workhere) or pick up an application from 8-5 M-F at the **Times-News** 132 Fairfield St W Twin Falls, Idaho Application deadline is 1/2/09.

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Put your money to work. Good return secured with real estate. Sunland Investments 208-539-0203

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**FINANCIAL**

**300**

301 Business Opportunities

**It won't MAKE YOU RICH**  
But look on the bright side.

**IT JUST MIGHT**  
KEEP YOU FROM BECOMING POOR.

• Motor Route Applications. <b>TWIN FALLS</b> 735-3346	• 3rd Ave. W. • 4th Ave. W. • 6th Ave. W. • Wilkipley St. <b>GOODING</b> 735-3302	• 14th Ave. W. • Idaho St. • Wilkipley 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
--	---

**501 School Instruction**

**400**

**401 School Instruction**

**MESSAGE TRAINING**  
Total 108 hour Swedish training working toward 500-650 hours message business training. Classes evenings & weekends Swedish starts 2/6/09. Pathology 2/10/09 & Deep Tissue 2/12/09. Classes 12 weeks long. Call 528-870 for info Twin Falls Institute of Holistic Studies

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Big profits usually mean big risks. Before you do business with a partner, check it out with the Better Business Bureau. For free information about avoiding investment scams, write to the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580 or call the National Fraud Information Center 1-800-876-7060

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Lease purchase. New home, 4 bdrm, 2 1/2 bath, 2 car garage. Sale price \$229,900. Rent \$1000/month. Kathleen 280-0214

**HAGERMAN**  
New home located in Park Place Subdivision. Lot size .43, room for RV parking & shop. 4 bdrm, 3 bath, 2200 sq. ft., single level home. 3 car garage (85 sq. ft.), formal dining room, 9' ceilings, central vacuum system throughout home, vaulted ceilings in living room, tray ceilings in master bdrm & formal dining room, covered rear & front porches, city water & sewer, open floor plan. \$310,000. 208-539-7060

**REAL ESTATE**

**500**

**502 Homes For Sale**

**HOME INSPECTIONS**  
For buyers & sellers Bill Baker 326-5115

**TWIN FALLS 2005**  
For sale or lease. 4 bdrm, 2 bath, 1658 sq ft., 2 car garage. Sprinkler system, lots of upgrades, RV pad, fireplace, extra electrical upgrades, lg master bdrm and bath, beautiful kitchen, plant shelves, excellent neighborhood. \$230,000. 2352 Eastbrook Rd. Call 961-0522

**TWIN FALLS 3 bedroom, 2 bath** with extra den or family room. Approx. 1536 sq. ft., with attached 2 car garage. Fenced yard with sprinkler system. Built in 2004. Located at 652 Cedar Brook. For sale by owner. \$150,000. Contact Linda at 208-923-4842.

**502 Homes For Sale**

**TWIN FALLS**  
4 bdrm, 3 bath, gas fireplace, 2.581 sq. ft. of living space. Landscaped, 3 car garage. \$279,900. 2185 Sottlers Lane Financing Available. First Federal Bank 208-733-4222

**Ask for Ron Rasmussen or Shauna Dally**

**502 Homes For Sale**

**TWIN FALLS**  
Free Home Search [www.bestrealty.com](http://www.bestrealty.com)  
Free list of foreclosure [www.bestrealty.com](http://www.bestrealty.com)  
Est Realty

**TWIN FALLS**  
Lease option, (2) properties. 2300 sq. ft., \$145,000. 1800 sq. ft., \$115,000. 208-404-8202

**TWIN FALLS**  
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**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 DiLuca 733-7653, Westerna

**BURLEY** Like new, great location, 5 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. Fenced in backyard, new flooring, paint, lights and kitchen cabinets, \$500 sq. ft. Won't last long. \$199,000. Call Terry 208-431-4916.

**GOODING WENDELL**  
New 3294 sq. ft. home on 21 dry acres, 3 full baths, 4 bdrms, large 2 car garage, electric furnace, AC, carpeted throughout. Would consider smaller house or farm ground on trade. \$280,000. 208-934-6370

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Beverly Nipper, 801-877-6733  
Kimberly Barr, Tina Miller, 733-3241  
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FONTANE '91 3 axle drop dock, 45' 60K rubber, 90,000 miles, 193,500. '99 CABE 580SL 4x4 cab, extend a hot, AC, 62K, 525,750. JD 410B 2WD, fresh eng, cab, new tires, new paint. 4 trucks. \$16,500. RAYCO '84' vibratory 17,500 406-8357

FREIGHTLINER '98 FL60, 14' flatbed, National crane model (N8 (excelsior boom)), new tires & head gasket. Will consider all offers. 208-539-2043

REEFER VAN, has 3 windows, door, partially plumbed, 3' shower stall, \$3,800. 736-8400 or 731-5220

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1006 Trucks All TRUCKS WANTED!! Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY!! Buying all years makes and models 1-800-574-1248

CHEVROLET '00 S10, reg cab, 74K miles, excellent condition, only \$2950. Assist AUTO BROKERS/AGE 275 S. Idaho St., Wendell 208-538-1900

1006 Trucks

CHEVROLET '01 ext cab, 1500 work truck, automatic, AC, 80K miles, only \$7950. Assist AUTO BROKERS/AGE 275 S. Idaho St., Wendell 208-538-1900

CHEVY '01 Silverado 1500, ext. cab, 78K miles, good shape, like new. \$12,500. offer 208-368-1623

CHEVY '02 S-10 with 292 pkg. Nice truck for great price, 105K miles, lift kit, 4x4, tires and wheels. Don't let this one get away. \$5500 or best offer. Must go! 208-731-4989

CHEVY '04 Colorado LS, 2-71 Off Road Plus, AT, 4x4, PWP/PLM, short bed, crew cab \$11,756. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

CHEVY '06 Crew 2500 4x4, Duramax diesel, cloth bench seat, alloy wheels, \$25,999. Stock# 871242792

CHEVY '07 Colorado crew cab, 4x4, custom wheels, tool box, liner, power option, stock #782474700 \$17,999. 208-733-3023

1006 Trucks

CHEVY '93 1/2 ton, ext. cab, 4x4, auto, V8, 1950. 208-437-4077

CHEVY '98 Silverado 1500, 4x4, ext. cab, loaded, short box, 5 speed, many extras! \$6500. Call 208-539-1419

CHEVY '98 Silverado Extended Cab, P/W, PL, CD, Rock Bottom Price! \$6995. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

DODGE '01 Ram 2500 Quad Cab, Cummins turbo diesel, AT, 62K miles, 20' wheels, Toyota Tires, \$17,950. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

DODGE '03 Ram 3500 Cummins Turbo Diesel, crew cab, 6 spd, long bed, power everything, 4x4, 64K miles, \$21,995. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

DODGE '08 Dakota Quad cab, SLT. Was \$13,995. Now \$11,897. #119012A 208-733-7700

1006 Trucks

DODGE '07 2500 Quad 4x4 SLT, 8 year/80K Powertrain warranty, Cummins, auto, power W/L/A, cruise, Stock #70350158DPC \$25,999. ALTHIA 208-736-2480

DODGE '07 Ram 1500 Flog cab, 4x4, 4.7L V8, low pkg, alloy wheels, \$14,978. Stock# J7J540540

FORD '08 F-150 4x4, crew cab, Was \$24,995. Now \$18,997. #260333

FORD '08 F-150 Crew cab, loaded, \$25,991. Stock# 9955

FORD '96 F-150 Eddie Bauer, 5 spd, PWP/PL, 69K (original) miles, short bed, \$7950. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

FORD '01 Ranger Extended cab, flare-side, AT, 4x4, CD, 58,995. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

1006 Trucks

FORD '97 1500 Ext Cab AT, AC, P/W, 4x4, low package, 14,900 208-539-9178

FORD '04 F-250 extended cab, 4WD, diesel, 39,991. Stock# 578131A

FORD '08 F-150 4x4, crew cab, Was \$24,995. Now \$18,997. #260333

FORD '96 F-150 Eddie Bauer, 5 spd, PWP/PL, 69K (original) miles, short bed, \$7950. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

FORD '98 F-250 XLT, Ext Cab, Powerwinch, diesel, 5 speed, 4x4, \$7900. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

GMC '04 Sierra SLT Duramax diesel, crew cab, long bed, heated leather seats, fully loaded! \$21,925. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

1006 Trucks

DODGE '04 Ram 1500 Hemi Sport, Ramen shell, loaded, \$11,500. Take any reasonable offer. 208-219-4141

GMC '06 1500, 4x4, ext. cab, SLE, 271, AT, P/W, PL, low pkg, light gray, 58K miles, \$14,900/offer. 843-8000 Ext. conf.

GMC '07 Sierra SLT Duramax diesel, crew cab, short bed, heated leather seats, fully loaded! \$29,995. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

GMC '99 1500, 4x4, ext cab, stepside bed, low pkg, cruise, CD, \$9,499. Stock #X2527541D

LINCOLN '08 Mark LT 4x4, 5.4 V8, dual power or W/L/A, cruise, power sunroof, loaded, \$21,975. #3057

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumble, one letter to each square, to form 10 ordinary words.

DANAP, PREMAT, INSORP

Yesterday's Jumble: MUSTY RAVEN SOCKET DEVICE. Answer: What the flies passed on the movie set - THE 'SCREEN' TEST

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, suggested by the above cartoon.

MATTRESSES CAN PROVIDE THIS.

Answers tomorrow

FORD '02 F-350 Crew Cab, XLT Lariat, 4x4, Powerwinch, 87K mi. \$17,000. 731-4643

MAZDA '94 63000 V8, 2WD, 5 speed transmission, AC, 32995. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

NISSAN '04 Titan 4x4 Crew Cab, auto, power or W/L/A, cruise, stock #4N558188D \$16,499

WANTED TRUCKS!! Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY!! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.

ALL SUVS WANTED!! Sell your vehicle for immediate CASH TODAY!! Buying all years, makes and models 1-800-574-1248.

BUICK '02 Rendezvous CXL, AT, loaded, leather, CD, sunroof, AWD, \$6900. 208-324-0069 28118 Lincoln, Jerome

RED TAG EVENT. The price on the tag is the price you pay! 2008 Pontiac G6 \$17,522. 2008 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab \$20,935. 2008 Buick Enclave CX FWD \$29,085. 2008 GMC Yukon XL \$28,080.

And each comes with the best coverage in America. See Your Southern Idaho Pontiac-Buick-GMC Dealer Today! CON PAULOS PONTIAC - GMC. ROB GREEN PONTIAC - BUICK - GMC. WOOD RIVER PONTIAC - BUICK - GMC.

\*All participating dealers only. Not available with special GMAC lease or finance offers. Tax, title, license, dealer fees and optional equipment extra. Take delivery by 1/5/09. See dealer for details.



**1010 Autos**

HONDA '05 Civic, 2 door, 45,000 miles, auto, air, great condition, silver. Below book value! \$9,800. Call 208-423-4842.

LINCOLN '06 LS Sport pk 1.6, heated/cooled leather seats, low miles, factory certified warranty, loaded. \$14,995. #2087

**Thrifty Car Sales**  
802 N College Rd, TF  
208-737-1200

**1010 Autos**

PONTIAC '03 Grand Am, V6, CD, automatic, PL, PW, AC, 58K miles, very nice gas mileage car, only \$9950

**Assist AUTO BROK/FACT.**  
275 S. Idaho St., Wendol 208-536-1900

**1010 Autos**

PONTIAC '07 G6 GT, alloy wheels, automatic, sporty car. \$11,995. Stock# 7217509CP

**CHEVROLET**  
Call them at 208-733-3033

**1010 Autos**

MAZDA '96 626 ES, white, 4 door, AT, sunroof, runs great. \$2200. 308-4248

SUZUKI '04 Verona, AT, PW, PL, PM, CD, 5790. 208-324-0069

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MERCURY '97 Marquis LS, 110K miles, loaded, runs good, clean \$3100. 208-842-3255

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**WARNING**  
When purchasing a vehicle, make sure that the title is in the name of the seller. Under Idaho motor vehicle code a vehicle cannot be sold unless the title is in the name of the seller (exception: Idaho licensed dealer). The seller shall provide the new purchaser a signed bill of sale showing the following: Full description of the vehicle, vehicle identification number, amount paid and name(s) and address of the new purchaser. The bill of sale must be signed, dated and show actual mileage at the time of sale. If you have any questions, please contact your local assessor's office.

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\$13,977\*  
Normally you would expect to pay OVER \$20,000 for this truck!

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