

MINICO IN THE MAKING

New coach Shepard and the Spartans turning the corner.

SPORTS, D1

SCRIPTURE IN STAINED GLASS

RELIGION, C1

ENTICING SHOPPERS

Retailers: gift cards up, dollar value down.

BUSINESS, B1

TIMES-NEWS

Saturday, December 27, 2008

MagValley.com

75 cents

Child dies of suspected hypothermia

Children tried to walk 10 miles near Hwy. 75 in Lincoln Co.

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

An 11-year-old girl who tried to walk 10 miles in the snow on Christmas Day to her mother's house from her father's broken-down vehicle

died of suspected hypothermia, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office authorities said Friday.

The girl's body was found Friday afternoon after an extensive search by Blaine County Search and Rescue

workers that began Christmas Day.

Blaine County coroner said the child, Sage Aragon, walked with her 12-year-old brother, who survived the incident. They were found at separate locations just off

State Highway 75.

Lincoln County authorities said the children's father, Robert Aragon, had turned off of Highway 75 near West Magic Road, but his vehicle got stuck in a snow drift.

Aragon allowed the chil-

BREAKING NEWS

You read this story first on MagValley.com.

den to make the long trek, which began after 9 a.m. on Dec. 25, according to the

Please see FROZEN, Page A2

To our valued customers:

We are experiencing extremely difficult delivery issues this week because of adverse weather conditions. Please be patient with us as we are doing everything we can to get your Times-News to you in a timely manner. There may be some areas that will not be deliverable until the high winds and icy conditions subside. Thank you for your continued patience.

Laura Stewart
Circulation Director

Serving up an increase

Food permit fees may increase for Idaho restaurants

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Idaho restaurants may end up paying more for their annual food permit fees.

The state's public health districts want legislators to consider a proposal that would more than double the fees that restaurants pay health districts for inspections and food permits. Talk of increasing fees began in April, long before Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter issued state budget holdbacks when revenues fell short of the projections, said Rene LeBlanc, director of the South Central Public Health District.

With the existing fee system, which charges \$65 a year for each permit, the funding from permits does not cover the costs of the program, LeBlanc said. For example, in fiscal year 2008, the local health district received \$84,572 in fees, while the entire cost of the food protection program was \$311,729.

"There's still some hurdles to go through, but we're doing everything we can by educating our legislators," LeBlanc said.

The proposal would spread



Jazm Harenmann, an employee at the Beacon Burger and Brew, prepares orders Friday morning at the restaurant in Twin Falls.

JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

increases over a two-year period with the goal of fees covering 67 percent of the program's cost, LeBlanc said. Half of the increase would happen in July 2009. The remaining half of the increase would go into effect in July 2010.

High risk establishments, those with extensive handling

and preparation of raw ingredients, would be hit hardest. Those fees would go up from \$65 to \$138.50 in July 2009. Then they would increase to \$212 in July 2010.

Medium risk establishments, which have prepackaged food that requires less handling, would increase

from \$65 to \$132.50 in July 2009 and \$200 in July 2010.

For temporary and mobile establishments like food carts, the increase is the smallest. Those fees would go up to \$128 in July 2009 and \$191 in July 2010.

That category has garnered questions from legislators

who patronize a hot dog vendor who works outside the statehouse in Boise, LeBlanc said.

"They sometimes just snag a hot dog from this lady, so they wanted to make sure that we weren't putting a financial

Please see FEES, Page A2

Legislators unlikely to pursue new sales tax hike

By John Miller
Associated Press writer

BOISE — When tax revenue plunged 14 percent six years ago amid an income tax cut and economic slump, then-Gov. Dick Kempthorne twisted conservative lawmakers' arms in the record 118-day Legislature to win a \$160 million sales tax increase to shore up Idaho's budget. The latest economic dip is forecast to chop 10 percent or more from state receipts in fiscal year 2010, starting next July, but heads of the Legislature's Senate and House taxation committees say another sales tax increase is off the table.

House Revenue and Taxation Committee Chairman Dennis Lake, R-Blackfoot, and his counterpart in the Senate, Bill R. Hixburg, said Friday that times may be tough, but the current situation isn't comparable to 2003.

When Kempthorne won his temporary increase of the sales tax by a penny per dollar to 6 percent until July 1, 2005, Idaho's economic reserve, or "rainy day," funds had already been depleted, raising the specter of massive cuts to education and other programs. Currently, Idaho has more than \$300 million set aside for hard times.

What's more, a property

Please see TAX, Page A3

Drifts, snowfall keep valley road crews busy

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

No major snowfall is in the forecast for this weekend in the Magic Valley, but snow removal crews are still busy.

Drifting snow has plagued driving conditions in recent days, and crews with Twin Falls Highway District and Burley Highway District worked on Christmas trying

Conditions

For updated information about highway road conditions, visit www.511.idaho.gov.

to keep roads clear. In the city limits of Twin Falls, workers took the holiday off.

Twin Falls Highway District crews came in as early as 5 a.m. on Christmas Day, said

Dave Jones, the district's road supervisor. On Friday, major drifting continued to put snow on the roads, he said, adding that the district removes snow from about 300 miles of roads.

"We'll get to them but it just takes time to cover this many miles," he said, adding that another challenge hampering the road conditions comes from drivers getting stuck in

drifts and blocking traffic. Work will continue today on widening the roads in the highway district.

For much of Friday, Interstate 84 was closed from the I-86 junction to the Utah border, where drifting snow and limited visibility affected the highway.

That section of the interstate has reopened, Sgt. Keith Thompson of the Idaho State

Police said at 5:30 p.m. Friday. "It's not so much the new snow," he said of the highway conditions. "It's just the wind. As long as we've got wind, we've got drifts."

Rob Carson, road director for Burley Highway District, said crews have about 400 miles of roads that need to be kept clear of snow.

Please see SNOW, Page A2

Man arraigned on vehicular manslaughter charge

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A Nevada man charged with vehicular manslaughter was arraigned from his wheelchair on Friday in 5th District Court in Twin Falls.

Jose G. Castaneda-Donasio, 41, Jackpot, allegedly caused head-on collision on Dec. 11 near Hollister while under the influence of alcohol. A passenger

in his car was killed.

Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office authorities assert Castaneda-Donasio drove his Ford Bronco over a double yellow line along U.S. Highway 93 and crashed head-on into a motor home.

Three people in the motor home escaped serious injury, but when deputies arrived at the crash they found Castaneda-Donasio's passenger, Gustavo

Gonzalez-Cervantes, 33, on the ground, covered by a blanket.

Castaneda-Donasio was hospitalized with injuries, and listed in good condition a day after the crash. At the hospital, he told deputies he had been drinking. According to a police report, he said he had "about four beers."

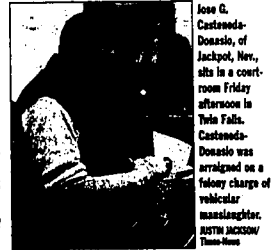
Deputies also found beer bottles in the Bronco, one of which was between the driver's and passenger's seats, with liquid in it.

court records show.

Driving under the influence is an element of felony vehicular manslaughter, and Castaneda-Donasio faces as long as 15 years in prison.

He didn't have questions Friday for the court, and Castaneda-Donasio's preliminary hearing was set for Jan. 2 in Twin Falls.

Andrea Jackson may be reached at ajackson@magvalley.com.



Jose G. Castaneda-Donasio, of Jackpot, Nev., sits in a courtroom Friday afternoon in Twin Falls. Castaneda-Donasio was arraigned on a vehicular manslaughter charge. JUSTIN JACKSON/Times-News

MORNING BRIEFING



TODAY'S HAPPENINGS

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

"It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" presented by Company of Poets, 8 p.m., Liberty Theatre, 110 N. Main St., Halley, \$25 for adults, \$18 for senior citizens and \$10 for children (ages 18 and younger), (208) 578-9122.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Christian Men's Fellowship and (optional) no-host breakfast, 7 to 8:30 a.m., Depot Grill, Twin Falls, no cost, 733-5501.
Buttons "n' Bows Square Dance Club Christmas Dance and potluck dinner, dinner at 7 p.m. and dance at 8 p.m., Moose Lodge, Twin Falls, \$4 per person, bring a potluck dish, 420-3947.

EXHIBITS

"Little Reminders," collection of new work by Magic Valley native Grant Olsen, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Magic Valley Arts Council's La Galeria Pequena, 132 Main Ave. S., Main Street Plaza, Twin Falls, free admission, 734-2787 or magicvalleyarts.org.
Russ Hepworth's "Retrospective," 1 to 9 p.m., Jean B. King Gallery, Herrett Center for the Arts and Science, College of Southern Idaho campus, 315 Falls Ave., no cost, 732-6655.

FAMILY

"Evening Fun for Youths," adult-supervised activities for ages 6-14 including arcade games, crafts and fast-track auto racing, 6 to 10 p.m., Sun Valley Inn Continental Room, Sun Valley, \$25 per person at the door, (208) 622-2135.



HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

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

MUSEUMS

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

To have an event listed, e-mail sbrowne@magicvalley.com; by fax, 734-5538; or by mail, Times-News, PO Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303-0548.

Pranks ... Pat Marcantonio

If you can't go to the Smithsonian, it has come to you. "Between Fences," a Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit, will be on display for six weeks at the Twin Falls Public Library, 201 Fourth Ave. E. This is a visual cultural history of fences and land use, and includes a selection of artifacts, photographs and illustrations. The exhibit is free.
• Show the kids a good

time with arcade games, crafts and fast-track auto racing. Evening Fun for Youths, ages 6 to 10 p.m., through Dec. 30 at the Sun Valley Inn Continental Room. These are adult-supervised activities at a cost of \$25 per person at the door. No reservations required.
• Sign up for the Kids Winter Fitness Camps Dec.

29-30 with fitness games, sports, snacks, nutrition classes and fun for kids 4-8 years from 9 a.m. to noon at Jerome Recreation District, 2032 S. Lincoln St. Cost is \$8 per day. Call 324-3389.
Have your own pick you want to share? Something that is unlike to the area and that may take people by surprise? Mail me at patm@magicvalley.com.

Heyburn approves cattle process permit S&S Cattle will harvest calf blood for vaccines

By Laurie Welch
Times-News writer

The Heyburn City Council removed an expansion condition attached to a special use permit granted to S&S Cattle Company Inc. that limited the number of calves processed a day to 200. The company holding the permit works with a pharmaceutical firm that will use calf blood for vaccine production.
In a second appeal hearing held during the same Dec. 10 meeting, the Mini-Cassia Christian Church, which is next door to the facility at 800 I. Street, asked the council to overturn the permit completely. The council denied the motion, according to minutes taken during the meeting.

Bill Loughmiller, who is a partner in S&S Cattle Company, said he and a partner work with a pharmaceutical company called BeefTech, based out of South Dakota. BeefTech produces several products that are used in the production of medicines or vaccines used to treat diseases in both animals and humans. The company harvests the blood from Holstein bull calves, which are less than 24 hours-old and would otherwise be euthanized at birth. The blood will be drawn from the animals by needle, processed and frozen on site within 12 hours.
The components of the blood will be used in the production of vaccines or in combination with other drugs in the treatment of cancer or as a

growth medium in research. The building the company will utilize was formerly a plant and is USDA approved. The business will employ about 30 people with a monthly payroll of \$100,000 with an average starting wage of \$12 to \$14 per hour plus benefits and only the plant manager will be relocated to the area. The company plans to begin operations between February and March 2008, Loughmiller said.
Loughmiller said the company would like to begin with processing about 200 calves per day, which would be shipped to the site and unloaded inside the building. The animals would be disposed of each day in a larger truck and no animals will remain on site for 24 hours.

SLIP-SLIDIN' AWAY



Coaxed into pulling a sled Kaden Tippets, 7, left, and Maxey Page, 9, give Shaylee Tippets, 9, left, and Kierra Page, 7, a wild ride down Coast Avenue in Burley Friday afternoon.

Snow

Continued from page A1
"They're very tough conditions," he said on Friday. "We're gaining today. The wind has died some. We had a full crew out on Christmas."
In the city of Twin Falls, workers started sanding roads at 3 a.m. Friday, said Bruce Stephens, the streets superintendent.
The snow was wet and melted when it fell and there was no need to come in on Thursday. Stephens said, adding that the holiday didn't affect that decision.
"Everybody got to be home for Christmas."

Stephens said, adding that crews went out early Friday after the snowfall became hard and frozen.
Wind speeds, not just snow, also hit the region during the holiday. Wind speeds exceeded 40 mph between 10 p.m. Wednesday and 6 a.m. Thursday. Sustained wind speeds reached 45 mph, with gusts reaching 64 mph.
"The wind speed was really strong even for your area and the sustained wind lasted for more than eight hours in most parts of the valley," said John Januzzi, a meteorologist with the National Weather

Service in Boise. "What you had was a really strong cold front that came in, bringing with it particularly strong winds."
The National Weather Service is predicting a 40 percent chance of snow for less than 2 inches. For Sunday, the weather service is forecasting a 50 percent chance of rain with a high of 37 degrees.
Times-News writer Josh Palmer contributed to this report.
Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or bbotkin@magicvalley.com.

Frozen

Continued from page A1
Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, Aragon and another adult passenger stayed to drive the vehicle from the snowdrift.
Officials said the search for the children began moments after they left the stranded truck, and lasted until 2 p.m. on Friday.
Blaine County Search and Rescue found the boy in a bathroom at a rest area about 4 miles from Highway 75. He was taken to St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center in Ketchum where he was treated and released, according to Lincoln County Sheriff's Office officials.

The girl was later found "apparently" one mile east towards Highway 75 "from the rest area" by a Blaine County Search and Rescue K-9 unit, according to the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office.
She was taken to St. Luke's Wood River Medical Center in Ketchum and pronounced dead.
Observed weather records from the National Weather Service in Pocatello showed the temperature around the Timmerman Hill area hovered from the high teens to high 20s with steady winds for most of Christmas Day. The wind chill dipped below

zero from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. on Friday.
"I can't tell you, we had a blizzard warning out at that time," said Kerry Hanko, a NWS meteorologist in Pocatello, of Christmas Day's weather reports.
The Blaine County coroner said an autopsy will be performed today.
The crime of child neglect may be connected to the tragedy, but no charges have been issued, said Lincoln County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Jiri Gay.
Andrea Jackson may be reached at 208-735-3380 or at ajackson@magicvalley.com.

Fees

Continued from page A1
The burden on these hot dog stands," LeBlanc said.
For food court vendors, inspectors also need to check out the area where food is stored and prepared, he said.
Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson, said he supports the concept of health districts being able to recover expenses.
"I'd say that this is a tough year for any new programs or new fees or tax increases, but having said that, the health districts really are entitled to at least recover their costs on inspections and they're not doing that now," he said. "I would be supportive of at least cost recovery."
Rep. Wendy Jaquet, D-Ketchum, agreed.
"I think it's important that it pay for itself," she

said. "I think that's fair. The other thing is I think food safety is a huge issue. It's really a protection for the restaurant."
Kathy Schroeder, a co-owner Beacon Burger and Brew in Twin Falls, said that inspections are necessary, adding that she isn't against the proposal.
"The health district in the past two years has bent over backwards to help restaurants and new business owners raise their standards and become a safe place for people to eat," said Schroeder, also a member of the health district's food safety coalition board. "People eat out more than they did years before."
Ben Botkin may be reached at 208-735-3238 or bbotkin@magicvalley.com.

WANTED in the Magic Valley

Aurelio Arambula III

Age: 28
Description: 6 feet, 150 pounds of a controlled substance, \$75,000 bond.
The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office asks anyone with information about Arambula call 208-735-1911 or Crime Stoppers at 208-732-5387 where tipsters can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward.

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nowpack levels

Watershed	Seasonal percentage	% of Avg.	peak
Salmon	72%	26%	
Big Wood	70%	20%	
Little Wood	85%	30%	
Big Lost	83%	29%	
Little Lost	82%	29%	
Kentucky Fork/Teton	85%	32%	
Upper Snake Basin	86%	29%	
Owley	96%	34%	
Salmon Falls	96%	34%	

As of Dec. 26

Go to Magicvalley.com to find a ski report at the Snow Center.

COMING TOMORROW IN THE TIMES-NEWS

Albion's turn?
Plans for a year-round resort unofficial but full of potential.

Pigskin pedigree
Jerome family sent eight sons to Division I football.

The good life
Reasons why it's good to be an Idahoan.

PAGE ONE SPORTS FAMILY LIFE

Murderess still fighting judge's restitution order

Vicki A. Jensen appeals order to pay victim's funeral expenses

By Andrea Jackson
Times-News writer

A convicted murderess is still fighting to get out from under a bill for her victim's expenses totaling \$22,500.

Vicki A. Jensen, a former nurse convicted eight years ago of a heinous killing in Twin Falls County, was ordered earlier this month to pay the state for restitution to survivors of her murder victim.

But Jensen appealed the judge's order, just in time for the holidays.

Jensen, 39, was locked up for life after being convicted for killing Alecia Diane Ray on Sept. 9, 1999. In what authorities have called one of the county's most horrific murders.

In her appeal dated Dec. 24, Jensen says she shouldn't have to pay because there was a delay between her sentencing and the restitution order. She also wants copies of transcripts from hearings on the issue, along with documents and exhibits from her case.

Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loebis says

he isn't shocked by Jensen's persistence.

"Nothing Vicki Jensen ever does surprises me in the least," said Loebis. "It's just one more thing for her to do to try to escape the consequences of her actions."

Jensen, an inmate at the Pocatello Women's Correctional Center, argued recently that her rights would be violated if she were forced to pay.

"That's not my fault, Mr. Loebis, you didn't order restitution in a timely manner," she said earlier this month. "I think if I had been required to pay restitution at my sentencing, I would have been more compliant."

At the time of the killing, Jensen's husband, Vern Jensen, had left her and was living with Ray and Ray's 3-year-old daughter.

Jensen and two young accomplices, her niece Autumn Pauls, now 24, and Pauls' friend Matthew W. Pearson, now 27, wore disguises and fooled Ray into letting them into her home.

Ray's daughter watched as they held a gun to Ray's head and administered a deadly injection of meth and insulin.

"Nothing Vicki Jensen ever does surprises me in the least. It's just one more thing for her to do to try to escape the consequences of her actions."

— Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loebis

All were convicted of first-degree murder, but only Jensen has tried to get out of the joint and several payments for \$22,500, authorities have said.

Jensen says she's indignant and was surprised that IDOC was garnishing money from her prison account for the restitution. She makes 20 cents per hour working in prison and argued she'll never be able to pay off her debt.

Loebis says that's not the point. "Pay as much as you can, for as long as you can. This is an issue of principle."

Andrea Jackson can be reached at 208-735-3380.

Tax

Continued from page A1

tax cut pushed by temporary Gov. Jim Risch in August 2006 was accompanied by boosting the sales tax back to 6 percent, to offset losses to schools. Going even higher would be tough, Lake told The Associated Press.

"We did a lot of research in 2003 and found that a penny increase didn't cause a whole lot of heartburn," he said. "But when you went above 6 percent, that would cause a lot of problems. And I think the same is true today."

Another big fear is that raising the sales tax further could send more Idaho shoppers across the border to Oregon or Montana, where there is no sales tax, or to Nevada, Washington and Wyoming, where grocery purchases are exempt.

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has ordered state agencies to cut 4 percent of their budgets, or about \$130 million, and delay spending another \$54 million. In case things get worse. He's also asked agencies to prepare to cut another 6 percent in the 2010 budget year — that begins in July, on pessimism the economic slowdown could be longer and deeper than previously forecast.

Such a cut would reduce Idaho's budget to about \$2.6 billion, levels last seen two

years ago.

Otter aides couldn't be reached Friday for comment, but the Republican governor has said he sees the slowdown as an opportunity to pare government programs that aren't necessary or mandated by federal or state law. In other words, belt-tightening, not raising additional money to plug budget holes, is Otter's mantra for 2009.

Idaho has about \$320 million in reserve, including an education stabilization fund, an economic reserve fund and the state's share of the national tobacco settlement.

Otter has already used a portion of the education money in the current fiscal year to offset a roughly \$60 million hit to public schools. The governor says he'll use more of the money in fiscal year 2010. Until the funds are depleted, however, there won't be any appetite for increasing taxes.

"We didn't have any choice at that time," said Hill, of the temporary sales tax increase in 2003 under Kempthorne. Now, "we've got enough in there to get us through a couple of years, although it will be tight. If we're still hurting at that time, every option will be on the table, cuts as well as tax increases."

Rep. John Rusche, D-Lewiston and the new House

minority leader, said he's heard some discussion in his north-central Idaho community that lawmakers should revisit a 2007 interim committee's recommendations to eliminate tax exemptions passed over the years to benefit specific businesses, including ski resorts, broadcasters, publishing companies, funeral homes, dairies and vending machine operators.

"However, an attempt to do that earlier this year fell on its face as affected businesses protested," Rusche said. "It won't likely gain any momentum — at least not until economic reserve funds are tapped out."

"I have not heard a groundswell for revenue augmentation," he said. "I think there's going to be some real tough choices around services."

Rusche said decisions to pare services should be "surgical," rather than across-the-board, in nature. For instance, in the Department of Health and Welfare, he said, lawmakers in the coming session should protect the Children's Health Insurance Program for low-income kids, because it carries a four-to-one federal match.

"We have to try and be as smart as we can," he said.



Wellness Watch

Birth/Parenting

Cesarean Childbirth Class

The third class of each Prepared Childbirth session focuses on cesarean deliveries, pain management, hospital procedures, and non-conforming labors. Pre-registration required, call 732-3148. Free.

Thursday, January 8, 6:30-9pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley Downtown Campus Lobby
660 Shoshone Street East

Infant Safety and CPR Class

New parents, grandparents, and caregivers learn CPR and what to do if baby chokes. No registration required. Free.

Tuesday, January 13, Wednesday, January 14, Thursday, January 22, 6:30-9pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley Downtown Campus Lobby
660 Shoshone Street East

Healthy Living/Screenings

Squeaky Joints Arthritis Aquatics Class

People with arthritis and related conditions are invited to attend. Call 734-2336. \$3 per session or \$30 for a 12-session pass.

Mondays and Fridays, December 29-January 30, 9-10am
YMCA City Pool, 756 Locust Street

Diabetes Education Classes

A series of six classes on diet therapy, medication administration, foot care, and more. Pre-registration required, call 736-6218. Fee is billed to insurance.

Wednesdays, December 31-January 28, 9:30am-noon
Genoa Building, Suite A, 746 North College Road

Back School

Basic anatomy of the spine, common injuries, diseases leading to back pain, and more. Call 737-2126 to pre-register.

Monday, January 5, 5-7pm
St. Luke's Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Services
560 Shoup Avenue West, Doctor's Park Complex

Weight Management for Diabetes

Conducted by a registered and licensed dietician and certified ADA consultant in weight management. Pre-registration is required.

Thursdays, January 8-March 12, 7-8:30pm
Genoa Building, Suite A, 746 North College Road

Free Smoking Cessation Classes

Sponsored by South Central Public Health. Call 308-5613 or 737-5945 for information. Free.

Mondays and Thursdays, January 12-29, 6:30-7:30pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley Education Center, Sunflower Room
588 Addison Avenue West

Heartwear CPR and AED Class

This class offers infant, child, and adult CPR, and AED. Pre-registration required, call 737-2007. \$36

Thursday, January 15, 6-10pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley Education Center, Sage Room
588 Addison Avenue West

Asthma Education Class

Monthly education for people with asthma, their families, and their caregivers to help them better understand and manage their condition.

Thursday, January 15, 6-7pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley Education Center, Sage Room
588 Addison Avenue West

Heartwear First Aid/CPR and AED Class

Classroom and hands-on practice in emergency procedures for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, chest compression, and choking. Call 737-2007. \$50

Saturday, January 24, 8am-1pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley Education Center, Sage Room
588 Addison Avenue West

Support Groups

Bariatric Support Group

Monday, January 5, 7pm
St. Luke's Education Center, 588 Addison Avenue West

Brain Injury Support Group

Tuesday, January 20, 8:30-9pm
St. Luke's Idaho Elks Rehabilitation Services
560 Shoup Avenue West, Doctor's Park Complex

Diabetes Support Group Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 7pm, South Central Public Health

Living through Cancer Support Group

Wednesday, January 21, 6:30pm, St. Luke's MSTI

Breast Cancer Support Group

Monday, January 26, 7pm, St. Luke's MSTI

Celiac Support Group

Tuesday, January 27, 7pm
St. Luke's Magic Valley, Doctors' Meeting Room

If you require special accommodations, call 737-2166 or TDD 737-2980. Servicio de Interpretes disponible, por favor comuniquese con Malena Rodriguez Coordinadora al numero 737-2163.

www.stlukesonline.org

Weevils contemplated as remedy for state's invasive milfoil problem

SANDPOINT (AP) — Insects rather than herbicides could be the answer to fighting an invasive plant that chokes waterways with dense mats in northern Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille, conservation groups say.

The groups are raising money to boost native populations of weevils to help control Eurasian milfoil.

About \$90,000 has been raised and another \$85,000 is needed to start the project next year.

The Tri-State Water Quality Council, Panhandle Environmental League, Sellkirk Conservation Alliance, Sandpoint Mothers for Safe Water and the Idaho Conservation League are raising money to produce the weevils at a facility and then distribute them on milfoil beds.

"We see this as a great opportunity to investigate non-herbicide control of milfoil in our lake while con-

tributing to the body of research on weevils as a control method," Diane Williams, executive director of the Tri-State Water Council, said in a statement.

Eurasian milfoil is a feathery weed that grows in water less than 20 feet deep and can entangle swimmers and hinder boats.

The state has spent more than \$5 million the last three years trying to eradicate milfoil from Lake Pend Oreille and nearby Priest Lake, favorite recreation destinations in the region.

"In these times, we need to be careful about how we spend every penny," Heather Lewis Sebiring of Sandpoint Mothers for Safe Water said in a statement. "Yet, millions of dollars are being spent on herbicides that are not succeeding in eradicating milfoil. It raises budgetary and health

concerns about the long-term consequences of using herbicides year after year."

The groups, banding together under the name Partners for Milfoil Control, say weevils have been used for more than a decade in other regions of the country to help control milfoil.

The insect does not eliminate milfoil, but stunts its growth and limits its spread by burrowing into milfoil stems. If enough money is raised, the weevil project would begin in 2009, the Bonner County Daily Bee reported.

If the groups fall short, the groups say the money that is raised will be used to support other non-herbicide methods of controlling milfoil.

Check out what's new online at
magicvalley.com

CHRYSLER



LINCOLN

MERCURY

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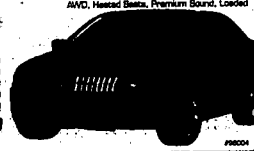
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TIMES-NEWS • OPINION EDITOR STEVE CRUMP; (208) 735-3223 SCRUMP@MAGICVALLEY.COM

Nonprofits rose to the occasion this Christmas

CHEERS: To the nonprofit organizations across south-central Idaho, who rose to the occasion in helping neighbors in need just when it was needed most this Christmas.

The Salvation Army in Twin Falls assisted more than 300 families during the holidays, typical of the response of service groups and nonprofits.

With unemployment running nearly 5 percent in the western Magic Valley, the Mini-Cassia area and Blaine County, many more folks are struggling to make ends meet this holiday season.

Cheers to the Mini-Cassia

Christmas Council, South-Central Community Action Partnership, Coas for Kids, Toys for Tots, the New Hope Transition Center, the East End Providers, KMMV's Christmas for Kids, the Filer Ministerial Association, Safe Harbor, Grey Eagle Realty Three Foot Socks, Jubilee House and every other local organization staffed almost exclusively by volunteers — that made Christmas happen this year.

JEERS: Here in the Magic Valley we're not used to the quantity of winter Mother Nature has thrown at us in the past two weeks. So you may not be aware that by law in

CHEERS & JEERS

several south-central Idaho cities, you're obliged to clear the snow from your sidewalk.

Lots of people don't, relying on the area's typically moderate winter temperatures to do the job. That's not likely to happen this winter. It shouldn't take a city ordinance

to motivate homeowners to shovel. Sidewalks are public pathways; used by postal workers, meter readers and UPS and Fed Ex delivery people. But also by folks who may be less able to navigate ice and snow.

So before your elderly neighbor slips on your snow-covered sidewalk and breaks a hip, do the right thing.

CHEERS: In a \$3.2 billion budget, it's not much. But Idaho legislators did the right thing last week in turning down their recent pay increase in a worsening state economy.

The Legislative Compensation

Commission recommended a 5 percent hike, from \$16,116 to \$16,921 for the 105 lawmakers. It went into effect Dec. 1.

About \$130 million has already disappeared from the current state budget in the form of holdbacks ordered by Gov. Butch Otter, and the governor plans up to a \$169 million reduction in the budget for fiscal year 2010.

With per diem and expenses, legislative compensation tops out at about \$40,000 for lawmakers who live the furthest from Boise. It's a financial hardship many to serve, but their constituents are having tougher times.

LETTERS OF THANKS

Support for fire department appreciated by family

The volunteer Raft River Fire Protection District in Malta, along with the Todd Powers family, would like to express their unwavering gratitude to the following:

Declo Fire Department, Hoburn Fire Department, Burley Fire Department and Raft River Electric Co. for their generous support in fighting the house fire at the Todd Powers home in Sublett on Dec. 4.

"The truth is it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, for the Malta Fire Department to handle this fire on its own. It is comforting to know that there are so many dedicated people in the Cassia County area who are so willing to help anyone who is in need. We take our hats off to these people and we look forward to returning the favor whenever needed.

Here is a big thank you to everyone involved.

MALTA LIGHTFOOT Raft River Fire Protection District
Malta

Spirit of Christmas alive and well in Gooding

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

Festival Chairman Cyndi Hoekstra recently announced that proceeds from the holiday gala totaled nearly \$12,000. The monies will be used to enhance hospital services and provide scholarships for those in the medical field.

In keeping with the 2008 theme, "Christmas Past - Christmas Present," friends and neighbors gathered to reflect on our past achievements and future successes and especially look forward to the completion of a new hospital in Gooding.

We are sincerely grateful to all.

SUSAN FAULKNER
Publicity
Gooding County Memorial Hospital Foundation
Gooding

Fish and Game employee helped man in need

There's always some grumping about the Fish and Game — what they do and do not do according to the public's various ideas of what they should and should not do.

I want to sincerely thank a friendly and helpful Fish and

Game employee named Scott. When I was down a steep and snowy road with out enough traction to get out, he willingly and pleasantly came to my rescue. What a nice guy!

JOHN TAYLOR
Jerome

Thanks to all who helped with the Turkey Shoot

The Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office would like to extend its sincere appreciation to all those who participated in the annual Turkey Shoot. Special thanks to the Twin Falls Gun Club, Falls Brand Meats, Sportsman's Warehouse, Ridley's in Buhl, Donnelley Sports, La Fiesta, members of the Twin Falls Sheriff's Employee Association and all participants. Congratulations to Michael March, winner of the shotgun.

DARON BROWN
President, Employee Association
Twin Falls County Sheriff's Department
Twin Falls

First Assembly thanks all for Christmas event support

We, the leadership, members and adherents of First Assembly would like to thank the community for the support of the Singing Christmas Tree and the Star of Wonder Drama on Dec. 12, 13 and 14. Many of you attended and many decisions were made at the altar Praise God, whom we thank the most!

Also special thanks are due to Marky's Towing for storage and logistics, Angus Electric for the manlift and Robert Sigmund for the sound!

We will see you all next year with a new celebration of our Savior's birth.

PASTOR JAMES R. FINN
First Assembly of God
Carch

Honesty appreciated by person who lost stamps

Thursday, Dec. 11, like everyone else, I was in a hurry to get home. I had just left Mr. Postman and had planned to put the stamps right away on the Christmas cards.

Oh, to my surprise, I only had one book of stamps. Who did I do with the other book?

As I had pulled my sunglasses out of the side pocket of my purse, they had fallen out.

A special thank you to the person who picked them up and turned them in to Mr. Postman. May God bless you and may you have a very

Merry Christmas.

I am glad I have been an honest person. It has paid off in return.

MARION GORDON
Twin Falls

Soroptimists party fun for Syringa apartments

The staff and residents of Syringa Plaza Apartments would like to sincerely thank the members of the Burley Soroptimists for once again sponsoring a Christmas Party for everyone.

This is the fifth year, and each year, it is more fun, with refreshments, gifts for all and a visit from Santa. It is the most anticipated event of the year and is enjoyed by everyone.

They also stock the emergency food pantry and help in so many ways during the year. We truly appreciate them!

DENA HARKNESS
Assistant Manager
Syringa Residents and Staff
Burley

Brunettes thank sponsors

The Twin Falls High School Brunettes would like to thank their 2008-09 sponsors:

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CARI LEBBY
Twin Falls

The Letters of Thanks column will publish letters of up to 150 words. Send letters to letters@magicvalley.com or call Ellen at 735-3266.



The kids are alright, but their parents ...

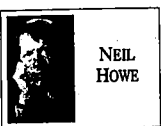
It is the prerogative of every generation of graybeards to look down the age ladder and accuse today's young of sloth, greed, selfishness — and stupidity. We hear daily jeremiads from baby boomers who wonder how kids would rather listen to Linkin Park and play "Grand Theft Auto III" than solve equations or read books can possibly grow up to become leaders of the world's superpower. The recent publication of "The Dumbest Generation" by Mark Bauerlein of Emory University epitomizes the genre.

Generational putdowns, Bauerlein included, are typically long on attitude and short on facts. But the underlying question is worth pursuing: If the data are objective, is today's working-age adults really doing so poorly that they deserve to be called the dumbest generation?

The answer may surprise you. No, it's not today's college-age kids, nor even today's family-starting 30-somethings. And no, it's not the 60-year-olds who once grooved at Woodstock. Instead, it's Americans in their 40s, especially their late 40s — those born from the late 1950s to the mid-1960s. They straddle the boundary line between last-wave boomers and first-wave Generation Xers. The political consultant Jonathan Pontell labels them "Generation Jones."

Whatever you call them, the numbers are clear. Compared with every other birth cohort, they have performed the worst on standardized exams, acquired the fewest educational degrees and been the least attracted to professional careers. In a word, they're the dumbest.

Obviously, we're talking averages. No one would applaud your "dumb" to Barack Obama (born in



1961) or Timothy Geithner, his nominee for secretary of the Treasury (born in the same month). Yet the president-elect himself has written eloquently about how hard it was for him and his peers to obtain a serious education during their dazed-and-confused teen years. Like it or not, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin (born in 1964) is more representative of this group. Early Xers are the least bookish CEOs and legislators the United States has seen in a long while.

They prefer sound bites over seminars, video clips over articles, street smarts over flip diplomas. They are impatient with syntax and punctuation and citations — and all the other brainy stuff they were never taught.

Want proof? Let's start with the long-term results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which is housed within the U.S. Department of Education. Considered the gold standard in assessing K-12 students, the NAEP has been in continuous operation for decades. Here's the bottom line: On both the reading and the math tests, and at all three tested ages (9, 13 and 17), the lowest-ever scores in the history of the NAEP were recorded by children born between 1961 and 1965.

The same pattern shows up in SAT scores. The SAT reached its all-time high in 1963, when it tested the 1946 birth cohort (including such notables as Gilda Radner and Oliver Stone). Then it fell steeply for 17 straight years, hitting its all-time low in 1980, when it

tested the 1963 cohort (Mike Myers, Quentin Tarantino). Ever since, the SAT has been gradually falling on the rise, paralleling income trends across the NAEP. In 2005, teens born in 1988 scored better on the combined SAT than any teens born since 1956 — and better on the math SAT than any teens born since 1951.

Most Americans know the score. Angling for promotions in the early 1990s, they got busy with self-help guides (yes, those "For Dummies" books) to learn never-taught test-taking tricks. And today they have become ultra-protective of their own teenage kids and ultra-demanding of their kids' schools, as if to make double-certain it won't happen again.

Most Americans need to worry that this group is taking over as our national leaders? Probably not. Early Xers have certain strengths that many more learned people lack: They're practical and resilient, they handle risk well, and they know how to improvise when even the experts don't know the answer. As the global economy craters, they won't keep leaning through a textbook. They may be a little rough around the edges, but their style usually gets the job done.

Just don't tell the early Xers that today's youth are the dumbest generation. Not only is that like factually untrue. It also calls into question all the family sacrifices the early Xers are now making on behalf of these youth. Let Generation Jones keep the "dumbest" label. They know it fits, and they're tough enough to take it.

Neil Howe is the co-author of "Millennials Rising" and other books on generational issues. He wrote this commentary for the Los Angeles Times.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinley

Blagojevich says he's fighting for the people

CHICAGO (AP) — Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich said Friday that if what he's done as Illinois governor is an impeachable offense, he's living on the "wrong planet" and is in the "wrong place."

Speaking to a WLS-TV reporter outside a Chicago law office, the governor said he was hired to fight for the people of Illinois and that's what he's been doing.

The interview marked the first time Blagojevich has spoken to the media since giving a defiant three-minute speech last Friday in which he said he'll fight the forces against him until he takes his last breath.

The 52-year-old Democrat is charged with scheming to sell President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder. Federal prosecutors built their case against the governor using wiretapped conversations riddled with profanity.

"Look, if I'd have known people were listening, I probably wouldn't have said some of the things you say in private conversations," Blagojevich said Friday. "But I think there's probably tens of

"... I think there's probably tens of millions of people across America that talk like that from time to time."

— Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich

millions of people across America that talk like that from time to time."

Blagojevich has ignored ongoing calls to step down. He spoke Friday as the committee of legislators investigating whether he should be impeached prepared to reconvene in Springfield on Monday. The group's chair, state Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie, said members were "still doing due diligence."

The governor's attorney, Ed Genson, said he will provide the committee with a list of 25 of Blagojevich's accomplishments that will render the idea of impeachment ridiculous, according to WLS-TV. Blagojevich said the wiretap recordings show him working



Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich addresses reporters during a news conference Dec. 19 in Chicago.

for the people of the state.

"Even in this process, without saying too much, that was all about trying to end up with the right decision that could do the most things for the people of Illinois, and when the full truth is told, you will see precisely that," Blagojevich said.

"If somehow that's impeachable, then I'm on the wrong planet and I'm living in the wrong place," he said.

Genson to subpoena incoming Obama chief of staff Rep. Rahm Emanuel, senior adviser Valerie Jarrett and more than a dozen others, including Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. Genson has said their testimony would also prove Blagojevich's innocence.

U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said earlier this week that lawmakers' interviews of current or former members of Blagojevich's staff might jeopardize his criminal investigation.



Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire talks about her budget plan Dec. 18 at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash. The budget aims to fix a nearly \$6 billion deficit by cutting spending, suspending voter initiatives and borrowing money.

When times get tough, state's initiatives at risk

By Rachel La Corte
Associated Press writer

INSIDE

Cash-strapped states cut juvenile justice programs.

See page A8

OLYMPIA, Wash. — When Washington state voters don't wait on the notoriously slow legislative process, they don't hesitate to go to the ballot.

More than 100 initiatives have appeared on the ballot since 1914; about half have passed as voters issued mandates ranging from a smoking ban in bars and restaurants to yearly teacher pay raises.

But the voters don't typically send any money with their demands. That leaves lawmakers in states with costly initiatives a menu of unpleasant choices when they face big budget shortfalls — override the voters or find the money to honor their wishes.

Twenty-four states currently allow ballot initiatives. In releasing her budget proposal last week, Gov. Chris Gregoire targeted two initiatives that passed in 2000. Teacher pay raises would be skipped entirely during the 2009-2011 fiscal year, and money for reducing class sizes would be cut by about a quarter.

Gregoire's budget also would delay stepped-up training for home-care aides who care for the elderly and disabled, the most expensive chunk of Initiative 1029, which was approved just last month.

"I hate it," Gregoire said of her budget, during last week's rollout. "There is something in there for everybody not to like."

Other states are facing similar dilemmas. In Oregon, Gov. Ted Kulongoski's budget contained only about half of the \$150 million needed for a tough new prison sentence for those recently adopted by Oregon voters.

Along with spending mandates, many states have voter approved restrictions on tax and spending increases.

In California, which is facing a projected \$4.2 billion deficit by June 2010, Democrats have introduced a constitutional amendment to eliminate the required two-thirds vote to pass a state budget.

Akanass and Rhode Island are the only other states with such a requirement. Majority Democrats in California blame the threshold for causing prolonged budget stalemates in recent years, including a record 85-day deadlock last summer. Changing the state's 75-year-old law won't be easy. The amendment needs approval by two-thirds of the Legislature, requiring some Republican support, and then must be passed by voters.

In Washington state, a similar voter-approved threshold requirement for raising taxes is being challenged in the courts by Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown. D. Spokane, who argues it's an unconstitutional intrusion on

Report: Early North Americans roasted lily bulbs, wild onions

By Thomas H. Maugh II
Los Angeles Times

Long before early humans in North America grew corn and beans, they were harvesting and cooking the bulbs of lilies, wild onions and other plants, roasting them for days over hot rocks, according to a Texas archaeologist.

The evidence for this practice has long been known of in fire-cracked rock piles found throughout North America, but archaeologists have tended to ignore it "because a new pyramid or a Clovis arrow point is much sexier," said archaeologist Alison V. Thoms of Texas A&M University.

In two new reports published online this week in *The Journal of Anthropological Archaeology* and *The Journal of Archaeological Science*, Thoms reported that cooking on hot rocks first became a substitute for cooking on hot coals around 9,000 to 10,500 years ago, then had a sudden jump in popularity about 4,000 years ago.

The reason for the changes: population growth that required primitive peoples to exploit new food resources.

"Whatever they were eating before did not require prolonged cooking," Thoms said. But, beginning about 10,000 years ago, "people couldn't

live off the cream of the land anymore." The megafauna that had been a prime food source — such as the woolly mammoth — were becoming extinct, and other mammals were becoming harder to find. People had to turn to plants.

Meadowlands and the forest edge were filled with acres and acres of lilies, wild onions and perhaps two dozen other wild plants ready for the harvesting. The bulbs

of these plants are as nutritious as sweet potatoes, but their energy is locked up in a dense, indigestible carbohydrate called inulin. The only way to make the bulbs digestible was to roast them for two days or longer.

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Cash-strapped states cut juvenile justice programs

By Ann Davenport
Associated Press writer

COLUMBIA, S.C. — State budget cuts are forcing some of the nation's youngest criminals out of counseling programs and group homes and what critics contend is a shortsighted move that will eventually lead to more crime and higher costs.

Tennessee, South Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia are among states that have slashed juvenile justice spending — in some cases more than 20 percent — because of slumping tax collections. Youth advocates say they expect the recession will bring more cuts next year in other states, hitting programs that try to rehabilitate children rather than simply locking them up.

"If you raise a child in prison, you're going to raise a convict," said South Carolina Juvenile Justice Director Bill Byars, credited with turning around a system once better known for warehousing children than counseling them and teaching them life skills.

Now, he's been asked to draw up plans to trim an additional 15 percent from a juvenile justice budget already cut \$23 million, or 20 percent, since June as part of the state's effort to pay \$1 billion from its \$7 billion budget.

All five of the system's group homes — which generally house less-violent offenders and give them more indi-

vidual attention — have been shuttered. Also gone are some intensive youth reform and after-school programs in detention facilities.

The story is similar in other states. Kentucky is riding a boot camp-style program developed by the National Guard. Virginia is losing behavioral services staff and a facility that prepares children to go home after serving time, along with smaller camps and community programs. Juveniles in those programs will return to traditional correctional facilities.

"It's not like we're going to say, 'OK, let's close a juvenile detention center,' or something like that," said Gordon Hickey, spokesman for Virginia Gov. Timothy M. Kaine. "We have to reduce spending across the state, and the governor looked at suggestions and recommendations from all departments. He certainly realizes that all of these reductions have consequences. The idea is to limit the damage as much as possible."

Among the programs being cut in South Carolina is one that Lex Wilbanks, an 18-year-old arrested four years ago on drug and gun charges, credits with giving him back his future.

Before moving to the program run by Florida-based nonprofit Associated Marine Institute, which provides intensive counseling and wilderness camps in several states, Wilbanks spent four



A student at Birchwood High School, a school for juvenile criminals that has lost some funding for its programs, learns brick masonry in class Dec. 18 in Columbia, S.C.

months in a regular juvenile detention center.

"When you did something wrong or you fight or you disrespect staff, they just throw you into lockdown," Wilbanks said. "They just throw you in and make them fight to sur-

vive. You're just making them a hardened criminal."

In South Carolina, only 22 percent of offenders who go through the institute's program later break the law, less than half the recidivism rate for juveniles in large state

Most states facing budget gaps

Juvenile justice programs are among the many affected by state budget gaps. Additional cuts are expected next year.

Budget gap as a percentage of general fund, FY 2009



SOURCE: National Conference of State Legislatures

facilities, Byars said.

Through the program, Wilbanks worked his way to the top rank in Army Junior ROTC and earned a GED and college credits.

Acting up brought meetings during which counselors "talk you through problems and how you can actually change," he said. "It gives you hope."

Florida is also doing three Associated Marine Institute programs to save \$1.7 million, part of an effort to cut 4 percent, or \$18 million, from the juvenile justice budget.

Advocates are bracing for additional cuts as legislators go back to the Capitol in January to deal with a \$2 billion state budget hole.

Florida's juvenile justice system "is going to die the death of a million 4 percent

cuts," said Jacqui Colyer, who leads a state juvenile justice advisory group.

"The picture isn't as bleak everywhere. In New York, where the population of jailed juveniles has declined as the state moves toward a more community-based approach, Gov. David Paterson has proposed closing six youth facilities and consolidating and downsizing others that aren't being fully used to save \$12 million in 2009-10 and \$14 million in 2010-11.

A court order limits the cuts California can make and Minnesota, Massachusetts and Nebraska haven't made serious cuts to their systems. Other states, including Connecticut, Oregon, New Hampshire and Utah, are posing more modest cuts or delaying planned spending.



A house is shown engulfed in a frigid mix of water and ash after a retention pond wall collapsed early Monday morning at a nearby power plant in Harriam, Tenn.

Utility doubles estimate of Tenn. ash deluge

By Kristin M. Hall
Associated Press writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A burst dike at a coal-fired power plant in eastern Tennessee spilled millions more cubic yards of ash than originally estimated, officials said Friday and residents fear the muck coating their neighborhood is endangering the area's drinking water.

The state, however, said Friday that tests show water entering the local treatment plant is safe.

About 5.4 million cubic yards of coal fly ash, a byproduct of burning coal, broke out of a retention pond at the Kingston Fossil Plant, Tennessee Valley Authority spokesman John Moulton said.

The TVA, which is the nation's largest utility company, supplies electricity to 8.8 million people, first estimated that Monday's breach had spilled less than half that amount.

Moulton could not explain the discrepancy but said TVA's first tests showed no threat to the area's drinking water. The spill damaged 12 homes and covered 300 acres with sludge in Harriam, about 35 miles west of Knoxville.

"We are cleaning it up," he said. "That's where our efforts are focused and we are making some headway. Both on land and in the water, we are containing it and skimming it off the water."

TVA "has done nothing to address our issues," Copeland said by phone Friday from his home on a road partially closed because of the spill.

Environmental activist groups said this week they also worry about the danger to drinking water.

An Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman has said some toxic metals could be in the muck, including mercury and arsenic, but EPA tests were not finished. Dead fish were seen floating downstream, but the TVA said that could have been caused by freezing temperatures that may have contributed to the dike bursting.

The results of water sampling downstream from the plant indicated the concentrations of toxic contaminants were less than what state standards deem harmful to fish and aquatic life, TVA said in a news release Thursday.

Friday evening, the state Department of Environment and Conservation said samples taken around the local water treatment plant show water entering the facility meets public health standards.

A department news release said elevated contaminant levels were present in the immediate area of the spill, but not in the area of any drinking water intake for Kingston Water Treatment Plant. The state reviewed samples taken by it, the TVA and the EPA.

In 2000, the EPA backed away from labeling it a hazardous waste but encouraged states to strengthen their regulations.

Rick Hind, Greenpeace legislative director, said his group will ask President-elect Barack Obama's administration to renew efforts to regulate coal ash.

Environmental activist groups said this week they also worry about the danger to drinking water.

Environmental Protection Agency spokeswoman has said some toxic metals could be in the muck, including mercury and arsenic, but EPA tests were not finished. Dead fish were seen floating downstream, but the TVA said that could have been caused by freezing temperatures that may have contributed to the dike bursting.

The results of water sampling downstream from the plant indicated the concentrations of toxic contaminants were less than what state standards deem harmful to fish and aquatic life, TVA said in a news release Thursday.

A department news release said elevated contaminant levels were present in the immediate area of the spill, but not in the area of any drinking water intake for Kingston Water Treatment Plant. The state reviewed samples taken by it, the TVA and the EPA.

Utah store has a bone to pick with shoplifting dog

MURRAY, Utah (AP) — A four-footed felon made off with a rawhide bone from a Utah grocery store after ignoring the store manager's orders to drop the loot.

Surveillance video at Smith's Food & Drug in Murray, just south of Salt Lake City, shows the dog walking in the front door and

giving a friendly sniff to a young girl at a checkout stand.

Then the dog headed straight for the pet food in aisle 16, grabbed the \$2.79 bone and made a break for the door, to be confronted by manager Roger Adamson.

"I looked at him, I said, 'Drop it!'" Adamson told

KSL-TV in Salt Lake City on Wednesday.

"I decided I wanted to keep all my fingers, so I didn't try to take it from him. He looked at me, and I looked at him, and he ran for the door and away he went, right out the front door," Adamson said. The suspect hasn't been seen since.

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'06 CHEVY EQUINOX LS Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD • Wheels 4171H \$13,995	'03 GMC YUKON DENALI XL Per Seat • Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD/Charge/Cassets • 17" DVD • Leather • Sunroof • Parking Brakes • Wheels 4142E \$19,995
'06 DODGE GRAND CARAMAN 4 DR Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD • Tire 4172H \$12,995	'05 DODGE GRAND CARAMAN Per Seat • Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD • Cassets • Leather • Rear Air 4155E \$8,995
'04 CHEVY SUBURBAN Per Seat • Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD • Wheels • Rear Air • Roof Rack • Tire 4417H \$14,995	'02 MERCEDES S500 Per Seat • Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD/Cassets • Leather • Wheels 4242H \$25,995
'07 DODGE CALDER Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD 4212H \$12,995	'08 FORD FOCUS SES Per Seat • Per W-L-M • TR/Clubs • CD • Leather • Wheels • Tire • Sunroof 2058H \$14,995

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B

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2008

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

Retailers slash prices to entice shoppers

Gift card sales up in region, but dollar value is down, say retailers

Times-News staff

Shoppers hit the stores early Friday to return unwanted gifts and take advantage of drastic price cuts offered by retailers desperate to get rid of old merchandise and boost their less-than-cheery holiday sales.

Many retailers in Twin Falls opened before 8 a.m., offering 50 percent to 75 percent off on toys, furniture, electronics and clothing. J.C. Penney opened at 5:30 a.m. — the earliest post-Christmas opening in the city's history.

Inma Brodeske, a mother of three children who lives in Twin Falls, loaded bags of discounted clothes and Christmas decorations into her car outside the Magic Valley Mall early Friday morning.

She said it's become a family tradition to take advantage of the post-Christmas bargains. "Before Christmas, the shopping is just chaotic and stressful, so we started a tradition of giving gift cards to friends and family," Brodeske said. "We focus on family during Christmas, and then on bargains the day after. Also, we see some of the best deals the day after Christmas."

Stores were hoping the discounts would entice shoppers to redeem gift cards and use cash from returning unwanted gifts to buy something new.

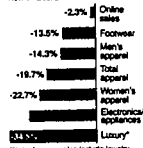
Retailers in south-central Idaho said gift card sales were up this year, however, they added that the dollar value was down as consumers chose to spend less this year.

With gift card sales down this holiday season and consumers looking to save money rather than spend it, even the big discounts may not be enough to salvage what looks to be one of the most dismal holiday shopping seasons in years.

Please see SALES, Page B2

Holiday sales drop

Retailers reported double-digit declines in holiday sales from a year ago, according to preliminary data. Change in holiday-season retail sales from the previous year Nov. 1 - Dec. 24



SOURCE: MasterCard Advisors, AP



Farmer deals with volatile market

By Justin Henningsen
Associated Press writer

TULSA, Okla. — Wheat farmer Jeff Krehbiel scoops handfuls of peanuts in a small wicker basket. He sets it on the edge of the table, next to stacks of glossy brochures advertising the irrigation systems he sells.

Maybe the peanuts will be incentive for a customer at the nearby Tulsa Farm Show, he lingers at Krehbiel's booth. Maybe it will be enough time to shake a hand, get a phone number, make a sale.

But in this economy, those are big maybes.

In the farm belt these days, there aren't too many folks interested in snapping up \$60,000 irrigation systems, which he sells as a sideline to farming.

These are dicey times for growers like him, held hostage by a volatile commodities market that saw a bushel of wheat hit \$12 and then plummet, and by unpredictable costs for expenses like diesel fuel and fertilizer.

The break-even point on the crop he harvested in June was \$6.30 a bushel, and he managed to make a profit, selling as high as \$7.50. But on his September crop, break-even could

be \$7.80 a bushel, and the going rate at the local grain elevator recently closed at \$4.15.

"I don't see a lot of interest in the wheat. Steve's boys losing their money, but it's the same thing on the farm," says Krehbiel, a tall, sturdy man of 45 who wears Wrangler jeans, scuffed brown boots and a Farm Bureau cap that hides a swatch of gray hair.

His hands are red and worn, his eyes tired. A difficult year has taken its toll.

Krehbiel takes a pinch of Skoal and waits.

In a decent economy, he would be thrilled if he could sell two Irrigation Systems in a three-day show. This year, he'll be happy if he can sell one.

Time is money, and he's already crunching the numbers in his head on what it's costing him to be here: renting space on the exposition floor; electrical hookup; hotel and meals for three nights and fuel for the 170-mile drive from his home in Hydro, Okla.

"Twelve-hundred dollars easy, he figures, and not one rattle yet from a customer."

Krehbiel's buddy, Glenn Tolle, stands by, cup of black coffee in hand.

"Is there anything I can leave here without?" he asks.

"Maybe," Krehbiel replies.

"I'm back in conservative mode," Tolle admits.

"Me too. I was going to buy a combine, but now I'm plum not in the mood."

The men talk about \$1,000-a-ton fertilizer and how Tolle's combine got hit by a freak bolt of lightning during the summer's harvest.

They watch dozens of farmers stroll by. A lot of looking, but not a lot of buying.

The guy in the booth next door is doing welding demonstrations every 10 minutes or so, and that seems to draw the bulk of the crowd on this row.

The two lay odds on when the financial mess might turn around.

Please see HARD, Page B2

Oil rebounds from fall in previous session

By Pablo Coronado
Associated Press writer

Oil prices rebounded to above \$36 a barrel Friday as key OPEC members were seen complying with promised output cuts, but investors were still braced for more signs that the global economic slowdown deepened in the fourth quarter.

By mid-afternoon in Europe, light, sweet crude for February delivery was up 85 cents to \$36.20 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract on Wednesday fell \$3.63 to settle at \$35.35. Trading was closed Thursday for Christmas.

In London, February Brent crude rose 49 cents to \$37.10 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

While OPEC production cuts announced in the past few months had failed to stop prices from falling, last week's decision to slash production by 2.2 million barrels a day, the largest OPEC cutback ever, finally seemed to be having a bullish effect on prices.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which accounts for about 40 percent of global supply, had already decided on a cut of 1.5 million barrels a day in November, but doubts about the will of some members to carry out the quota reductions had helped neutralize its influence on the market.

Please see OIL, Page B2

Oil prices slide

The price of oil has tumbled 70 percent since its record peak in July and is nearing its lowest level in five years.



SOURCE: Department of Energy AP

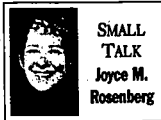
Bad timing? Many people started businesses in 2008

The economy didn't look that bad when Laura and Roger Bickford opened their medical clinic back in July.

But by mid-September, the couple was asking an unsettling question: "Oh my God, were we crazy to open the business when we did?"

Starting a business during 2008 might seem like the worst possible timing, but many owners, including the Bickfords, planned their ventures long before the near-collapse of the banking industry hurtled the country deeper into recession in September.

Many of these embryonic companies have struggled as the economy plunged, challenging their owners' entrepreneurial skills. But other businesses are more than



SMALL TALK
Joyce M. Rosenberg

holding their own and still others are actually thriving.

The Bickfords, who live in the Sacramento, Calif., area had planned to buy an existing business, but the changing lending environment early in 2008 made it impossible for them to borrow. They ended up starting their own company, Spring Medical Clinic, borrowing money from relatives to fund it.

"We are getting patients, despite the economy," Laura

Bickford said. But she and Roger do wonder, "how many more would we have if we had a viable economy? We don't know."

They are aware that the company that they weren't able to buy sees more patients than they do. Still, she said, the business, which specializes in weight loss management, is growing. "We saw over 60 new patients last month. And this month continues to be busy."

"We have a certain amount of money we need to earn to stay afloat," Bickford said. "If we can continue to do that, we can continue to stay in business."

Jake Cohen and his parents also planned to open their business when the economy was healthy. The family bought and renovated a bed

and breakfast in Palm Springs, Calif., and hoped to open it last January or February, at high season. But the renovations took longer than expected, and they were forced to open during the slowest time of the year.

Then, the economy tanked, and bookings for the 10-room Rendezvous Bed & Breakfast have been slower than expected.

"We've kind of hit the double whammy here," Cohen said.

The saving grace so far is that many guests are reserving at the last minute, and Rendezvous is booked for New Year's, so the Cohens are optimistic about the upcoming season and hope to recover their startup costs soon.

"It's always hard after

spending so much on a renovation to not see it come back quickly," Cohen said.

Some businesses founded this year are prospering because they're in a niche that's in demand in a downturn. While many retailers are having their worst holiday season in years, Jullia Baack's store in the Dallas suburb of McKinney is flourishing. Baack owns a Plato's Closet franchise, selling used clothing for teens.

Baack, who was laid off from a job in the mortgage business more than a year ago, opened her store in October. She had signed the franchise agreement early this year, but it took six months to get financing.

"Our store is coming out of

Please see SMALL, Page B2

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Con Agra	16.23	▲ .10	Dell Inc.	10.65	— —	Idacorp	91.50	— —
Lithia Mo.	3.48	▼ .13	Micron	2.59	— —	Supervalu	12.68	▲ .09

Today in business No reports are scheduled for release.

COMMODITIES

For more see page B2

Live cattle	85.90	▼ 1.57	Feb. oil	37.71	▼ 2.36
Dec. gold	870.4	▼ 23.3	Dec. silver	10.50	▼ .18

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ, GAINERS, and LOSERS. Includes stock symbols, prices, and volume.

Table with columns for INDEXES and STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST. Lists various stock indices and local company stock prices.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT. A detailed guide explaining market indicators, stock prices, and financial data.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Wal-Mart to start selling Apple's iPhone on Sunday. Reports that Wal-Mart will start selling Apple's popular iPhone on Sunday.

Japan factory output has biggest fall on record. TOKYO — Japan's contracting economy got a steepest decline Friday.

Output at the nation's manufacturers tumbled 1.1 percent from October, the largest drop since Tokyo began measuring such data in 1953.

Sales

Continued from page B1. "The last week of December represents about 14 percent of Christmas sales," said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group.

SpendingPulse. Sales of women's clothing dropped nearly 23 percent while men's clothing sales slipped more than 14 percent.

Oil. "For now, at least Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates seem to be fully complying with the cuts," said analyst Olivier Jakob of Petromatrix in Switzerland.

Hard

Continued from page B1. "I'm forecasting 2009 is going to be hell," Krehbiel says, spitting into a plastic soda bottle.

Krehbiel asks, half-joking. "Hunkering down, watching my pennies," Jackson says.

Small. ing budgets are often one of the first items that companies cut. So, like other business owners in similar situations, Meyerson is drawing on his entrepreneurial skills.

Learning QuickBooks Step-by-Step. "QuickBooks Fundamentals" course advertisement for ATARAXIS ACCOUNTING.

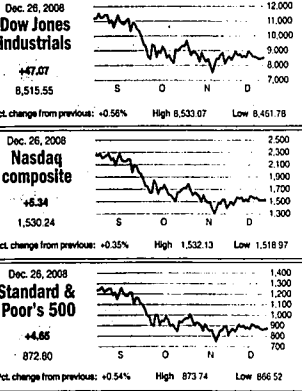
COMMODITIES REPORT

Table with columns for CLOSING FUTURES and GRAINS. Lists commodity prices for various futures contracts.

BEANS

Table listing bean prices and market data.

A DAY ON WALL STREET



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Kennedy says 9/11, Obama led her to public service

By Larry Humeister
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — Caroline Kennedy emerged from weeks of near-silence Friday about her bid for a Senate seat by saying that after a lifetime of closely guarded privacy, she felt compelled to answer the call to service issued by her father a generation ago.

She said two events shaped her decision to ask Gov. David Paterson 11 days ago to consider her for the position if Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is confirmed as secretary of state: the Sept. 11 terrorist

attacks and her work for Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

In her first sit-down interview since she emerged as a Senate hopeful, the 51-year-old daughter of President John F. Kennedy cited her father's legacy in explaining her decision to seek to serve alongside her uncle Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy.

"Many people remember that spirit that President Kennedy summoned forth," she said. "Many people look to me as somebody who embodies that sense of possi-

bility. I'm not saying that I am anything like him, I'm just saying there's a spirit that I bring with me. I grew up with that, that is something that means a tremendous amount to me."

She also credited her mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, with giving her the courage to run.

"I think my mother... made it clear that you have to live life by your own terms and

you have to not worry about what other people think and you have to have the courage to do the unexpected," she said.

Interest Kennedy expressed in the job, she has faced sometimes sharp criticism that she cut in line ahead of politicians with more experience and has acted as if she were entitled to it because of her political lineage. More than a half-dozen elected officials are vying for the seat, including New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and several members of Congress.

Kennedy said that she had

long been encouraged to seek public office and that Clinton's expected departure from the Senate offered the perfect opportunity to follow in the footsteps of her father, two uncles and cousins.

"Going into politics is something people have asked me about forever," a relaxed Kennedy said as she ate a grilled cheese and bacon sandwich and sipped coffee at a diner in Manhattan.

"When this opportunity came along, which was sort of unexpected, I thought, 'Well, maybe now. How about now?'"

She said she realizes she will have to prove herself and "work twice as hard as anybody else." She acknowledged, "I am an unconventional choice," but added: "We're starting to see there are many ways into public life and public service."

Since Kennedy's name first surfaced in the media, her advisers have shielded her from the media, with the exception of a few brief interviews on a swing through upstate New York and a visit to Harlem with the Rev. Al Sharpton.



Kennedy

Obamas visit aquatic park, eat shaved ice on outing

By Philip Elliott
Associated Press writer

WAIMANALO, Hawaii — A day after spending a quiet Christmas evening at their vacation retreat, President-elect Barack Obama and his children watched a dolphin show at an aquatic park and then picked up some shaved ice, a local treat.

Obama and his two daughters, Malia and Sasha, visited Sea Life Park on Friday. Reporters were not allowed to join Obama inside the park, and aides to the president-elect did not immediately have a list of who joined Obama for the 90-minute visit. Obama's wife, Michelle, was not in reporters' view during the outing.

Visitors to the park said the Obamas attended a dolphin show. Some visitors showed reporters snapshots they took with Obama, who assumes the office of president in less than a month.

Malia and Sasha later ate shaved ice at Kokonuts Shave Ice and Snacks while their dad dined a tuna melt.

Obama joked with reporters traveling with him that he would eat his lunch first, to set an example for his daughters. The president-elect then ordered a mound of shaved ice, colored orange and green.

He laughed as the children and family friends ordered their snacks, which included flavors such as pina colada, vanilla and cherry.

"I'm not arguing anymore," Obama said in faux-exasperation when one of the group's young members asked for a complicated blend of flavors poured on her midday dessert. "I gave up."

He also offered to buy journalists a plastic bowl of the slush — a second offer this week, coming after he offered beer to reporters waiting while he played golf last Sunday.

"Guys, here's your chance," he said. "No I'm telling you, this is really good."

No one took him up on the offer.

Obama and his family are on a 12-day trip to Obama's native Hawaii, a family vacation the president-elect is trying to keep as private as possible.

Obama has largely stayed out of public view while at a rented vacation home near Honolulu. No speeches, no formal news conferences, no political meetings. Just family and close friends, holed up behind stone and lava walls at the \$9 million beachfront home for his last trip before he takes office on Jan. 20.

So far, it has worked.

Obama has ventured into public only a few times since arriving here from his home in Chicago last Saturday.

Recruiter suicides lead to Army probe

By Michelle Roberts
Associated Press writer

HENDERSON, Texas — Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Henderson, a strapping Iraq combat veteran, spent the last, miserable months of his life as an Army recruiter cold-calling dozens of people a day from his strip-mall office and sitting in recruiters' living rooms, trying to sign up their sons and daughters for an unpopular war.

He put in 12-hour days, six days a week, often encountering abuse from young people or their parents. When he and other recruiters would gripe about the pressure to meet their quotas, their superiors would snarl that they ought to be grateful they were not in Iraq, according to his widow.

Less than a year into the job, Henderson — afflicted by flashbacks and sleeplessness after his tour of battle in Iraq — went into his backyard shed, slid the chain lock in place, and hanged himself with a dog chain.

He came, at age 35, the fourth member of the Army's Houston Recruiting Battalion to commit suicide in the past three years — something Henderson's widow and others blame on the psychological scars of combat, combined with the pressure-cooker job of trying to sell the war.

"Over there in Iraq, you're doing this high-intensity job you are recognized for. Then, you come back here, and one month you're a hero, one month you're a loser because you didn't put anyone in."

Sgt. Amanda Henderson, herself an Iraq veteran and a former recruiter in the battalion.

The Army has 38 recruiting battalions in the United States. Patrick Henderson's is the only one to have had more than one suicide in the past six years.

The Army began an investigation after being prodded by Amanda Henderson and Texas Sen. John Cornyn, Cornyn, a Republican, and Army Services Command, said he will press for Senate hearings.

"We need to get to the bottom of this as soon as we can," he said.

The all-volunteer military is under heavy pressure to sign up recruits and retain soldiers while it wages two wars.

Douglas Smith, a spokesman for the Army Recruiting Command, acknowledged that recruiting is a demanding job but said counseling and other support are available.

"I don't have an answer to why there are suicides in Houston Recruiting Battalion occurred, but perhaps the investigation that is under way may shed some light on that question," he said.

In all, 15 of the Army's 8,300 recruiters have committed suicide since 2003. During that period, more than 540 of the Army's half-



Amanda Henderson holds a photo of her late husband Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Henderson, Nov. 20 in her home in Henderson, Texas. Patrick Henderson, afflicted by flashbacks and sleeplessness after a tour in Iraq, hanged himself in a shed he had built as his wife and her son slept.

interested young people, trying to sell them and their families on the Army's opportunities while easing their fears. Some recruiters' parents were hostile.

"They are completely out-right nasty to you. That's stressful to you right then and there because you have some mother or father just ripping you apart," Amanda Henderson said.

She said her husband also found himself under crushing pressure from above. He and other recruiters in the battalion were required to account for every minute of every day in planners and logs, his widow said.

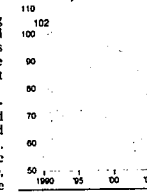
When Henderson took some time to recover from knee surgery, his bosses acted as if he was lazy and threatened to have him thrown out of recruiting and reassigned far from his wife, Amanda Henderson said.

He lived in constant fear of failing to sign up enough people, something that can result in an all-day audit by a recruiter's superiors and thwart a soldier's chances of a promotion, Amanda Henderson said.

As much as Henderson hated recruiting, he did the job well, his widow said. But Flores, who killed himself a few weeks before Henderson, "was getting chewed up one side and down the other" at work in the days before he died, Amanda Henderson said. Flores was her boss.

Army suicides reach new high

More than 150 suicides committed last year, a 13 percent increase from 2006.



SOURCE: Department of the Army, AP

million active-duty soldiers killed themselves.

The 266-member Houston battalion covers a huge swath of East Texas, from Houston to the Arkansas line. Henderson committed suicide Sept. 20. Another battalion member, Staff Sgt. Larry Flores Jr., hanged himself in August at age 26; Sgt. Nils "Aron" Anderson, 25, shot himself to death in March 2007; and in 2005, a captain at battalion headquarters took his life, though the military has not disclosed any details.

All served combat tours before their recruiting assignments.

Porter, Anderson's mother, said her son — who served two tours in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne and earned a Bronze Star — couldn't lie to recruits about the war and felt an enormous burden to ensure they could become the kind of soldiers he would want watching his back.

"He wasn't a complainer. He just said it really sucked," said his 51-year-old mother, who is from Eugene, Ore. "He felt like a failure."

Paul Rieckhoff, founder of the advocacy group Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said recruiting these days "is arguably the toughest job in the military."

"They're under incredible stress. You can see it on their faces," he said.

In Iraq, Henderson helped lead other infantrymen on risky "snatch-and-grab" missions and saw several buddies die.

He had been stationed in Germany before going to Iraq. After his tour was up, he was assigned to recruiting. He didn't particularly want to leave the infantry, but going to recruiting allowed him to move back to the U.S., his widow said.

Like most recruiters, he began his day with paperwork, followed by cold calls to high school graduates and college students. He spent lunches trying to chat up high schoolers outside the cafeteria, and then, more phone calls — often 150 a day, according to his widow.

He spent evenings on the living room sofas or at the dining room tables of the few

Some recruiters volunteer for the job, but most are assigned. They must have a recent evaluation showing no record of mental instability. But Amanda Henderson said her husband, like other combat veterans, rushed through his assessment, insisting he was fine.

Patrick Henderson had been out of Iraq a little less than a year when he began recruiting, and after several months on the job, his sleeplessness and flashbacks became evident, according to his wife. She said she stayed up one night watching him apparently flash between nightmares of combat and of illegally signing up a recruit.

Florida Medicare fraud debate focuses on patients

By Neil Kennedy
Associated Press writer

MIAMI — Three days ago, Rep. Philip Audette sat in a cushy white chair at the St. Jude Rehab Center, a needle pumping HIV drugs into his arm. He talked and laughed with a dozen other patients, all in good health, all receiving drugs they didn't need. All for the same reason.

Audette says he made \$100 to \$200 every visit, nearly \$10,000 over several months, selling his Medicare number to the clinic's three owners, the Benitez brothers, who were later indicted on charges of

bilking \$119 million from Medicare.

Authorities say there are thousands in South Florida like Audette, and federal officials say they are playing a large role in the fraud overhauling the national Medicare system. While authorities are successfully cracking down on clinic owners, they disagree over whether prosecutors should go after the patients who get the phony treatments in addition to the clinics that provide them.

"Unless patients are prosecuted, we will not have a long-term impact," says Kirk Ogrosky, deputy chief of the

U.S. Justice Department's criminal fraud section and an advocate for the program. It rarely happens in Miami and Los Angeles, the two cities where federal health care fraud task forces are based.

Florida health care providers, mostly in Miami, submitted \$2.5 billion in AIDS treatment claims in 2005, compared with \$978 million for the other 49 states combined, according to a 2007 report by the federal government.

About 8 percent of the nation's HIV/AIDS patients live here, but Florida is

responsible for 72 percent of Medicare spending on the disease — mostly for dubious infusion therapies like Audette received.

Most doctors prescribe pills to treat HIV patients, and say there is little reason to use less effective and costly infusions, which are all but obsolete.

"It was very easy — the worst part was getting the needle," said Audette, 48, who says he is HIV-positive. Audette, who was not prosecuted, testified in court against a clinic operator and agreed to describe the scam to The Associated Press.

For years, federal officials have campaigned aggressively against clinic operators like the Benitez brothers.

But the unspoken thousands who keep these mills churning — the patients — remain free to move from clinic to clinic, scan for deals from durable medical equipment and HIV infusion therapy to home health care. Another year, another disease. One patient was responsible for claims of \$1.1 million for HIV drugs and other services. Within a few years, that patient had claims filed for \$1.4 million for medical equipment, records show.

TWIN FALLS FORECAST Today: Areas of blowing snow and a chance of snow. Highs near 30. Tonight: Snowy. Lows near 25. Tomorrow: Slushy winter showers expected. Highs middle to upper 30s.

TWIN FALLS FIVE DAY FORECAST Today Tonight Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday City: 31 25 36/28 37/25 35/25 34/20

Yesterday's Weather City: HI Lo Precip. Boise 31 25 Trace. Coeur d'Alene 21 18 Trace. Idaho Falls 20 16 0.01. Jerome 20 16 0.01. Lewiston 20 16 0.01. Pocatello 20 16 0.01. Shoshone 20 16 0.01. Teton 20 16 0.01. Twin Falls 20 16 0.01.

IDAHO'S FORECAST SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. A chance of snow will persist unrelentingly over the mountains through the weekend and into the coming week. Travel is likely to be slow and problematic.

BOISE 18 to 23 Tonight's Lows: 18 to 14. Get ready for a weekend slush-fest. Milder air infiltrating the region will melt snow in the way of precipitation types. Anything from rain to snow will be possible.

ALMANAC: TWIN FALLS Temperature: Today 42, High 48, Low 30. Precipitation: 0.01". Humidity: 74%. Barometric: 30.03 in.

Sunrise and Sunset Today: Sunrise 8:07 AM, Sunset 5:13 PM. U.V. INDEX: Low. The higher the index the more sun protection needed.

REGGIE MIELKEKAUF'S QUOTE OF THE DAY "I'm a free gift that you can give to anyone you encounter - it is your choice."

REGIONAL FORECAST Today Tomorrow Monday City: HI Lo W HI Lo W HI Lo W. Includes forecasts for Boise, Idaho Falls, Pocatello, and other regional cities.

WORLD FORECAST Today Tomorrow City: HI Lo W HI Lo W. Includes forecasts for major world cities like London, Paris, Tokyo, and Sydney.

CANADIAN FORECAST Today Tomorrow City: HI Lo W HI Lo W. Includes forecasts for major Canadian cities like Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP 20 -10 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100. A map of the United States showing temperature zones from Cold to Warm.

Storm blankets West with snow; ice glazes Midwest

By Sandra Church Associated Press writer RENO, Nev. — Yet another snowstorm closed highways in parts of the West on Friday, the latest in a string of weak but dangerous and a dangerous sheet of ice in parts of the Midwest contributed to a looming flood problem. Winter storm warnings were in effect Friday for parts of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana and the western Dakotas, and a blizzard warning covered the mountains of southwest Colorado.



A dump truck and front-end loader lie in a ditch after sliding off State Road 23 following an ice storm Friday morning in South Bend, Ind.

tree, sending four firefighters to a hospital with minor injuries. Temperatures could reach the 50s and even 60s in the region Saturday, after subzero readings earlier in the week, and a possibility of 2 inches of rain was forecast in Indiana. The National Weather Service issued flood watches for much of Illinois, saying

weeks to 10 feet. "This is one of the snowiest Christmas holiday periods I can remember," said Kent Hooplinger, general manager at Homeowed Mountain Resort. In eastern Washington, Spokane reached a snowfall total for the month of 46.2 inches, a record for December, said Laurie Nisbet of the weather service. Further west, the weight of snow, ice and water over the past week collapsed the roof of a high school in Olympia, Wash. There was severe water damage but no injuries, fire Lt. Ralph Dunbar said. Snow and ice weren't the only problems. The weather service confirmed that it was two small tornadoes on Christmas Eve that caused scattered damage in Alabama. Slippery roads and cold have been blamed for 11 deaths this week in Indiana; eight in Wisconsin; five in Ohio; four each in Kentucky, Michigan and Missouri; two in Kansas; and one each in Illinois, Oklahoma, Iowa, Massachusetts and West Virginia.

Ex-investment banker works many sides to land a job

By Erika Hyszkal Los Angeles Times NEW YORK — Six months after Joshua Persky lost his job as an investment banker, he's hunting his faith in finding a new one around his neck on a sandwich board. Carrying a stack of resumes, Persky took to the Manhattan streets wearing a white board sandwiched with black marker "EXPERIENCED MIT GRAD FOR HIRE." The more garbled newspaper and blog headlines: "An ex-banker's unusual job pitch," "MIT graduate will work for food" and "Joshua Persky: desperate and alone."

ed to splurge on drinks and a shared entree at their favorite Argentine steakhouse: It would be the last of such dinners in a while. Following their plan, Persky's wife, Cynthia, moved in with her parents in Omaha, Neb., enrolling their two children in school there. Joshua moved in with his sister in Westchester, N.Y., while continuing to send out resumes and keeping his Manhattan contacts alive. After six years of marriage, the family was splitting up. But their bond remained strong. Joshua would visit his children, ages 4 and 5, when he could. He called every day. Nevertheless, said Cynthia, 44, "I felt like the world was going to end."



Joshua Persky, left, an unemployed financial engineer, advertises himself to passers-by in jeans in New York City. Persky, whose sign reads 'MIT Graduate for Hire,' lost his job as an investment banker coastside six months earlier.

which she e-mailed to media outlets across New York and the country. Joshua put on a dark pinstriped suit and a silk tie, and the sign bearing his phone number. He stood in front of the Charles Schwab building near 50th Street and Park Avenue during the lunch hour for a week, waiting. Cynthia, a photojournalist, snapped shots and sent them out to reporters interviewed him. Television news crews filmed him. "We thought something

would happen." Cynthia said. "He had a lot of calls and a lot of interest. They said they liked him. "Then," she said, "we wouldn't hear back." After a week, Joshua put away the sandwich board and kept trying through search engines and headhunters. He started a blog, orcleofny.com, to chronicle the experience and promote his hiring qualifications. Like the blog, the sign got attention but no work. "I was talking to investment banks, and by the beginning of the summer they were very excited," Joshua said. "By the end of the summer, they were frozen and saying, 'We don't know what's going on. Things are getting very dark very fast.' In September, Lehman Bros. Holdings Inc. collapsed, and things went from bad to worse," said Cynthia, who had not lived with her husband for three months. But Joshua kept trying. In October, a search company contacted him. An accounting outfit, Walser, came across his resume, and recruiters were impressed. Would he consent to an interview? Joshua agreed. He submitted writing samples and met with company leaders. His wife didn't want to get her hopes up yet. "We had so many things come and go," she said. "As time went by, expectations became more realistic." The recruiter called Joshua again. He got the job. "It was like a miracle," his wife said. "The threshold was finally broken."

RELIGION

INSIDE:
Cherishing the
Journey of life,
C5



C
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2008

TIMES-NEWS • SECTION EDITOR ANDREW WEEKS: (208) 735-3233 AWEEEKS@MAGICVALLEY.COM

INSIDE: Church news, C2 | Joseph Walker, C2 | Obituaries, C4 | Community, C5 | Comics, C7

Windows of faith

Stained glass windows help church members ponder scriptural teachings

By Andrew Weeks
Times-News writer

Similar to scripture — literary but with a message — stained glass windows portray art and symbolism. While not every church incorporates stained glass into their buildings, a lot of churches that have been around for 100 years or more do, as do some others.

For the First United Methodist Church of Twin Falls, its stained glass windows are an historic landmark to the century-old church. Its windows are filled with reverent images, such as Christ in Gethsemane and the Reaper and Sower in the building's Fireside Room, an image of an open Bible in the Wesley Chapel, and the angelic illustrations seen in the Sanctuary.

In the Middle Ages stained glass was used to illustrate scriptural teachings to congregations that often, due to illiteracy or other hindrances, were not personally versed in the Bible.

"They were used then as a teaching tool," Dale Stewart, the church's financial chairman, said. It

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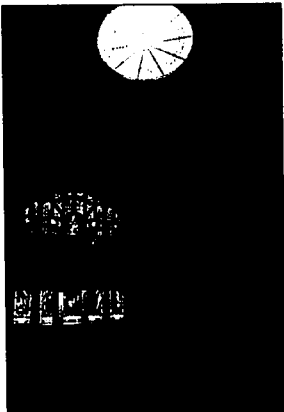
WATCH: For a video view of the stained glass art at the Methodist church, go to Magicvalley.com.

Please see WINDOWS, Page C3



Photo by JESSIE JACKSON/Times-News

A stained glass window depicting Jesus knocking on a door can be seen at the First United Methodist Church in Twin Falls.



An interior view of the First United Methodist Church and its stained glass windows.



The afternoon sun illuminates multiple stained glass windows depicting a variety of biblical scenes at the First United Methodist Church in Twin Falls. All three levels of the building have stained art.

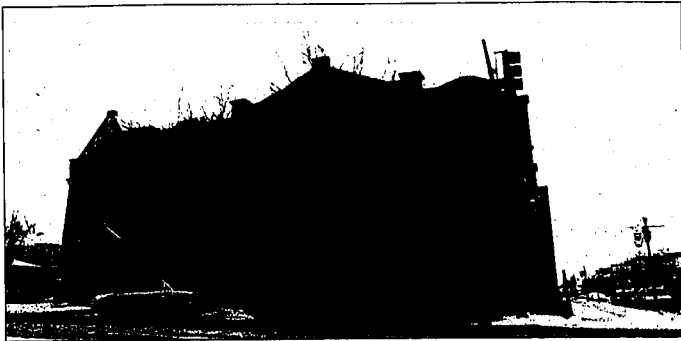
Windows

Continued from page C1

helped revive church members' minds on the gospel principles their pastors were teaching.

Stewart, who compiled a 100-page book about the Twin Falls church, some of it dealing with the building's stained glass, said the windows can have the same affect on people today — though he admits the windows likely are often overlooked by some congregants because of the windows' long standing at the church. People have gotten used to seeing them, he said.

That's a shame, Stewart says he still gets excited about the artistically-adorned windows, and thinks other churches that do not incorporate stained glass are rather bland looking.



A car passes by the First United Methodist Church located off of Shoshone Street in Twin Falls. The church was built during the years of 1905-1909.

Windows of a church

The First United Methodist Church of Twin Falls was started when in 1905 clergy passing through south-central Idaho appointed Henry W. Parker as reverend to represent Methodists in the Twin Falls area.

"That pioneer congregation which followed the lead of their faith into an undeveloped region, helped make it bloom with a bountiful variety of fruit, grain and other crops, and established thriving towns, has grown over a period of one hundred years — the present First United Methodist Church of Twin Falls," reads Stewart's book. Following the Light of Faith.

The church was established on the site of 15, 1905. But the structure of the building — which began June 29, 1908, and today still stands at the corner of 4th Avenue East and Shoshone Street — wasn't dedicated until May 23, 1909. Before the building was constructed, church members met in the Old Fellows Hall on Second Avenue South.

Several elements of remodeling took place over the ensuing decades.

In 1916, for instance, the cornerstone was laid for additional

space, including a new Sanctuary. Architect B. Morgan Nesbit used Tudor arches and stone tracery to frame the stained glass windows on the 4th Avenue and Shoshone Street sides of the building, according to Stewart's book.

A major remodeling of the building happened in the mid 1950s. Stewart told the *Times-News*, including the moving of five windows from the south wall of the Sanctuary to the newly designed Fireplace Room. Today the room serves as a church parlor and reception area, where weddings and other special gatherings take place.

"When the sun hits these windows in the afternoon, it really gets your attention," Stewart said.

Starting in 1976, the windows of the Sanctuary were covered with durable plastic to help protect them from vandalism and other dangers. Later, the coverings would be lifted over all of the church's windows.

Windows of faith

The windows were one of the things that impressed Rev. Philip Airhart, pastor of the

church, who moved to the area from Vent, Ore. in 1974.

Though it is common for Methodists to adorn their buildings with stained glass, he said the windows here especially intrigued him.

"I would have to say one of the first things that captivated me about the church, especially the Sanctuary, was the windows," Airhart said. "The dome is very striking. Your eye tends to go there. That's the way that type of architecture works, particularly in the sanctuary. The person's gaze is lifted upwards, which is symbolic of what we're supposed to do — look toward heaven."

Elaborating on the history of stained glass, Airhart explained: "The windows are extremely beautiful and make for a very worshipful atmosphere," he said of the Twin Falls church. "That's certainly the intent, and has always been the intent right down through Christian history."

"It's kind of interesting, because oftentimes we hear people talk about our 21st century culture, how it's becoming more visually oriented. People lament that kids don't like to read anymore, but like to watch TV

and play video games instead. ... In light of that, and in play history, common people were not able to read. The way in which they learned was orally through the car or visually by the eye. ... In a sense that is what our windows represent today, a return to that very old methodology of capturing people's attention and helping to instruct them in the faith."

Windows of art

The First United Methodist Church in Twin Falls is not the only church in the Magic Valley to incorporate stained glass into its building.

Other churches who have done the same include the St. Edwards Catholic, First Presbyterian and Immanuel Lutheran churches in Twin Falls, First Baptist Church in Filer and First Presbyterian Church in Burd, to name a few.

Linda Gray, owner of Stained Glass Reflections in Jerome, has done work for many of these churches since moving to south-central Idaho in 1988.

"It's a sea upon itself," Gray said. "People respond to God

in different ways," some verbally, others visually.

"Back in history, common people were not able to read. The way in which they learned was orally through the car or visually by the eye. ... In a sense that is what our windows represent today, a return to that very old methodology of capturing people's attention and helping to instruct them in the faith."

"They are very important to the people who commission the windows," she said. "They want them not only to be beautiful but if it's a memorial for someone, which many are, they want it to represent God and their church and also that person they are memorializing. It involves many, many meetings to determine just the theme or Bible verse to be depicted in the window."

Often it can take up to a year just to narrow down the design, she said. When the project is ready to move forward, Gray, who does most of her company's projects herself, said it can take a month or more to make a window, depending on the size and number of pieces involved. Costs range from about \$80 per square foot to upwards of \$150 per square foot, again depending on the piece.

You have to be both artisan

and craftsman to make stained glass art. The artistic part of the work is in the design and selection of the glass. "The rest is all craftsmanship," she said.

A low-cost selecting color and cutting sheets of glass into individual parts, then joining the pieces together with lead "came" or more modern copper foiling. Gray uses both techniques. If came is used, a putty is then applied to the entire surface of the window; both front and back, which strengthens and waterproofs the glass.

The window is then cleaned, excess putty is removed, and seams are burnished. Putty is not used with the copper-foiling technique, but a putty is used to darken its lines.

If done properly, the focus of the completed window should not be on the lines, but on the glass itself, she said.

Windows to remember

After several years at the Methodist church, Stewart said he is still impressed by the building's windows, though he admits to having some favorites.

They're not the ones that most people might notice, but are in the upper reaches of the Sanctuary behind scenes near a wadded platform where restless children gather during sermons.

But depending on what the sermon is on a particular Sunday or perhaps the time of year — Christmas or Easter — any of the stained glass windows can help lift the minds and hearts of those who ponder their meaning, he said.

It's happened to him. While sitting in the Sanctuary, his gaze might turn to one of the windows.

Referring to one that depicts the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Stewart said, "That is a pretty direct message."

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

U.S. woman claims 'Merry Christmas' got her fired

By Melissa Nelson
Associated Press writer

PENSACOLA, Florida — A Christian woman claims she was fired from her job because she greeted callers with "Merry Christmas," said Andy Phillips, the company's president. Thomas is a "disgruntled employee," presenting a one-sided version of what happened when she was fired Dec. 10, Phillips said.

Liberty Counsel, an Orlando-based legal group that advocates for people discriminated against because of their religion, is representing Thomas before the federal Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Their complaint also accuses the company of harassing and taunting Thomas after she was fired by calling the police to watch her pack her belongings and leave.

Counts-Oakes Resorts Properties Inc., said she wasn't fired for saying "Merry Christmas," but would not elaborate.

"I am a Christian company and we celebrate Christmas," said Andy Phillips, the company's president. Thomas is a "disgruntled employee," presenting a one-sided version of what happened when she was fired Dec. 10, Phillips said.

Liberty Counsel, an Orlando-based legal group that advocates for people discriminated against because of their religion, is representing Thomas before the federal Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. Their complaint also accuses the company of harassing and taunting Thomas after she was fired by calling the police to watch her pack her belongings and leave.

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\$150 per square foot, again depending on the piece.

You have to be both artisan

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MINIDOKA VIEW

Remember to cherish the journey

By Tim Perrigot
For the Times-News

Final score: Jerome 41, Minico 38. It ended abruptly. Oh so cruelly it ended, on the last play of the game. There would be no state championship trophy. Over and over, I have continually replayed the game in my mind. We should have done this, should have done that. And I begin to worry about next season: How can these seniors ever be replaced? Who is going to play what position? How tough is next year's schedule?



Perrigot

"The Station" by Robert J. Hastings is an internationally recognized and acclaimed essay that reminds all of us to live the journey of life now, each day. Hastings begins the essay describing our "long journey" by train that spans an entire continent. This "idyllic vision" which is tucked away in our subconscious minds takes us past "cars on nearby highways, children waving at crossings, cattle grazing in the distant pastures, smoke pouring from the power plants, of row upon row of cotton and corn and wheat, of flatlands and valleys, of city skylines and village hills."

Hastings uses the train station as an analogy for our final destination. "For at a certain hour and on a given day, our train will finally pull into the Station with bells ringing, flags waving, and bands playing." All of our dreams will come true on arrival, so we "race the aisles, count the miles, peering ahead, waiting, waiting, waiting for the Station."

We promise ourselves when we reach the station that will be it. "When we're eighteen ... win that promotion ... put the rest behind through college ... buy that 4500+ Mercedes-Benz ... have a nest egg for retirement!" Maybe even win a state championship trophy. "From that day on we will all live happily ever after," writes Hastings.

Eventually, we must realize "there is no station in this life, no one earthly place to arrive at once and for all." The station "is an illusion — it constantly outdistances us." Hastings concludes, "It isn't the burdens of today that drive men mad, but rather regret over yesterday and the fear of tomorrow. Regret and fear are twin forces who would rob us of today."

The 2008 Minico High School football team had a magnificent year. These young men carried the Idaho flag in victory over Colfax, Calif. High School in the inaugural Rocky Mountain Rumble. Minico won its fourth consecutive Great Basin Conference West championship. The team made school history by defeating Middleton in the quarterfinals and advancing to its first state semifinal game. The Spartans also can boast about the many individual accomplishments of each team member, which includes the Idaho Statesman's Class 4A Player of the Year.

Which brings me back to the game and the essay. Hastings states, "Yesterday's a memory, tomorrow's a dream." We can't change the past and we do not know what the future holds. A wonderful reminder for us all to cherish the journey ... Thanks Mr. Hastings, I needed that!

Tim Perrigot is assistant principal, athletic director and head varsity football coach at Minico High School.

MODERN WOODMEN DONATIONS



Above: Modern Woodmen of America Camp Secretary Jerry Voss, right, presents members of the Mini-Cassia Veterans Organization with \$5,000 to purchase a trailer and supplies for military funerals. The local chapter raised \$2,500 of the funds through a spaghetti feed, which was matched by Modern Woodmen.



Left: Voss presents Darrell Hatfield of Rupert with the Modern Woodmen's Homeless Heroes award Monday at Doc's Pizzeria in Rupert. Hatfield was given a \$100 grant for his favorite charity along with a certificate.

Courtesy photos

COMMUNITY NEWS

Christmas tree burn held in Heyburn

The Heyburn Horizons Group will hold a community Christmas tree burn from 5 to 7 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Heyburn Galavan Park. Boy Scouts will pick up discarded Christmas trees left on the curb of residents' homes Jan. 7-10. The Heyburn Fire Department will then burn the trees during the Jan. 10 event.

Hot chocolate and hot dogs will be served. There is no cost.

BJ bridge announces weekly winners

The BJ Duplicate Bridge Club in Rupert announced the results of Tuesday play:

1. Steve Sams, 2. Warren and

Faun McEnire, 3. Clarence and Sylvia Newirth, 4. Leo Moore and Dee Keicher, 5. Nanette Woodland and Vera Mal.

Games are held at 1 p.m. Tuesdays at the Rupert Elks. For partners and more information: Steve Sams, 878-3997 or Vera Mal, 436-4163.

Burley's Jake Garn earns Eagle Scout award

Jake Telcher Garn, the son of Vol and Ann Garn of Burley, was presented his Eagle Scout award Dec. 21, at the Burley Ninth Ward. Garn completed 39 merit badges. His project was to collect new and used books for the Mini-Cassia Reading Foundation. Members of Troop 23 and Troop 14 were involved in the project, and they

collected over 1,200 books.

Garn is a freshman at Burley High School. He is an honor student, and is involved in soccer, basketball, track, band and jazz band. He is a member of Troop 23 and his scoutmaster is Scott Harris.

CSI M-C holds Battle of the Bulge classes

The College of Southern Idaho Mini-Cassia enrichment program has scheduled a three-week opportunity to step back in time and learn about the Battle of the Bulge.

Classes will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, from Jan. 8-22.

The Battle of the Bulge was the largest battle ever fought by the United States Army. This class with discuss the rapid events from Normandy to the involvement of Patton's Third Army up to the battle from Dec. 17, 1944 to Jan. 31, 1945. Discussion will cover the advancements in technology during the war and the physical environment.

The cost is \$30. Information or to register by phone: 678-1400.

Calligraphy class returning the CSI M-C

The College of Southern Idaho

Please see COMMUNITY, Page C6

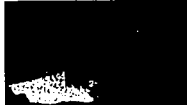
White Pine improving student reading skills

By Judy Albertson
Times News writer

White Pine Intermediate School in Burley is attempting to make a difference in their students' reading scores.

Across the nation one out of every four students struggles with reading; and research says the fourth grade is where the most impact can be made, said Matt Seely, principal at White Pine.

Because class sizes have become too large, Seely is asking parents, grandparents and volun-



JUDY ALBERTSON/Times-News
A White Pine Intermediate School student takes advantage of the special reading program.

teers to donate some time in the classrooms.

"White Pine teachers are com-

petent, dedicated and well-trained in reading instruction. We truly boast one of the best teaching staffs in Idaho, but volunteering time can help our students gain greater access to more personalized help in reading," Seely said.

The White Pine reading intervention program is organized for fourth graders who struggle with reading. But due to the size of the class, it has become difficult to offer the individualized attention that is required to make a marked improvement in reading skills.

Volunteers are needed Monday through Friday from 2:10 to 3 p.m. The program will begin when school resumes January 2009.

Interested parties may volunteer by calling the school at 878-6632.

"When a child becomes a confident reader that child can gain a passion for reading and learning — and that will change the course of a life. Fifty minutes a week can potentially change the future in the life of a child," Seely said.

Daily enemas are not OK, consider alternatives for constipation

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have tried to find an answer to my question and continue to get completely conflicting answers. Is it OK to do enemas daily or every other day?

DEAR READER: In a word, no. The occasional use of home enemas to combat constipation is safe for most people, but repeated, habitual use can be harmful. They



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

can increase the risk of injury to your anus and rectum. Solutions can cause

irritation to the lining of the colon. People with kidney or heart disease are at higher risk for fluid overload or an electrolyte imbalance when using enemas.

Much of normal bodily function is done without thought. The frequent use of enemas can disrupt the normal balance of the colon. The continued process may make it necessary to retrain

the colon as to what its purpose is.

We all suffer from constipation on occasion. Rather than rely on an enema, consider adding more fiber and water to your daily diet. Increase your exercise habits, take an occasional over-the-counter laxative or warm prune juice, and try to program your body to pass stool on a regular basis.

Unless you suffer from a health problem that has enemas recommended by your physician, let nature do what she does best — regulate your body. If constipation is a constant issue for you, speak with your physician or seek the opinion of a gastroenterologist.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report

"Constipation and Diarrhea." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped, No. 10 envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: Instead of my bladder leaking when I

Please see DR. GOTT, Page C6

NEW OFFICERS



Mindoka County 4-H Teen Association announced its officers for 2009. They are, from left, back row, Megan Osterholt, president; Staci Braxman, vice-president; Makizue Frost, secretary; Colten Homer, treasurer; front row, Emily Maylor, historian; Holly Mayer, reporter. Not pictured, Ashley Hulet, teen representative.

TOP STUDENTS



St. Nicholas School to Rupert announced its Students of the Month for December. Pictured from left: back row, Felix, Dashiell, Kaylee, Mathew, and Troy; front row, Carlos, Lillie, Tamika, Jacob, Madison, and Mason.

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

Felony Sentencings

Marcos Rafael Soto, 34, domestic battery/traumatic injury amended to aggravated battery, \$500 fine, \$99.50 costs, \$8,135.75 restitution, 4 years probation, 6 to 13 years prison, 105 credits credited, modified sentence, retained jurisdiction; enhancement-domestic battery/assault with child present, dismissed by prosecutor; probation violation, 289 days jail credited; Arturo Daniel Flores, 19, robbery, \$97.50 costs, 10 years probation, 7 to 25 years prison, retained jurisdiction; 2 counts probation violation, guilty. Jose Luis Zepeda Jr., 34, burglary \$1,000 fine, \$97.50 costs, 3 years probation, 3 to 10 years penitentiary, 102 days credited, retained jurisdiction, penitentiary suspended; forgery, dismissed by prosecutor; probation violation, guilty. Jose Luis Zepeda Jr., 34, forgery, \$1,000 fine, \$97.50 costs, \$2,850 restitution, 3 years probation, 5 to 10 years penitentiary, 90 days credited, retained jurisdiction, penitentiary suspended; probation violation, guilty. Eloy Naranjo Jr., 48, delivery of controlled substance amended to drug trafficking, \$10,000 fine, \$107.50 costs, 5 to 10 years penitentiary; drug stamp tax violation, \$500 fine, 1 to 3 years penitentiary, 16 days credited. Anita M. Taylor, 46, fraud, no account check, \$500 fine, \$100.50 costs, 3 years probation, 2 to 3 years penitentiary, 1 day credited, parole suspended; attempted burglary, dismissed by court. Lester Lee Parton, delivery of a controlled substance, \$110.50 costs, \$300 restitution, 1 to 12 years prison, 14 days credited, retained jurisdiction.

Misdemeanor Sentencings

Kelly Shane Beil, 34, driving without privileges, dismissed by prosecutor. Amanda M. Albertson, 33, driver's license violation, dismissed by prosecutor. Dominica Ramirez, 41, driver's license violation, dismissed by prosecutor.

Misdemeanor Dismissals

Ignacia Guzman Mendez, 23, driving under the influence, \$300 suspended fine, 24 months probation, 180 days jail, 176 suspended, 4 days credited. Ignacia Guzman Mendez, 23, driving under the influence, \$300 suspended fine, 24 months probation, 180 days jail, 176 suspended, 4 days credited.

Divorces Filed

Samuel Jason Vice, Burley, vs. Norma Jean Vice, Burley. Mario A. Chavez, Heyburn, vs. Rosalinda R. Chavez, Burley.

Cassia County

Felony Sentencings

Clifford Powell, 36, stalking, guilty, \$350.50 court costs, 5 years probation, 2 years 6 months determinate, 2 years 6 months indeterminate. Alexander Jose Cantu, 19, attempted strangulation, guilty, \$100.50 costs, \$5,000 restitution, 5 years determinate, 267 days credited; second charge, kidnapping, not guilty, dismissed by court; rape, not guilty; lewd conduct with a child under 16, guilty, \$550.50 costs, 5 years determinate, 15 years indeterminate, 267 days credited; to run consecutive. Timothy Shane Duree, 35, aggravated assault (use deadly weapon/instrument) amended to domestic violence, guilty, \$300 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 24 months probation, 180 days jail, 167 suspended, 13 credited; probation concurrent, sentence consecutive; enhancement, use of deadly weapon, commission of felony, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; aggravated assault, use of deadly weapon/instrument, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; enhancement, use of deadly weapon, commission of felony, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; battery/domestic violence, dismissed on motion of prosecutor.

Felony Dismissals

Jeffrey Alyn Krohn, 40, battery/domestic violence/traumatic injury, dismissed on motion of prosecutor.

Driving Under the Influence Sentencings

Jeremy Max Fowler, 35, driving under the influence, guilty, \$300 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited. Justin Lee Walker, 20, possession of drug paraphernalia with

intent to use, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; driving under the influence under age 21, amended to driving under the influence, guilty, \$300 fine, \$90.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 90 days, 12 months probation, 120 days jail, 118 suspended, 1 day credited. Juan Carlos Guerra-Monroy, 27, driving under the influence, guilty, \$300 fine, \$300 suspended, \$90.50 court costs, 2 years 6 months probation, 120 days jail, 176 suspended, 4 credited; unlawful transport/open container of alcoholic beverage violation, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 24 months probation, 180 days jail suspended.

Driving Under the Influence Dismissals

Arny Jo Brown, 22, driving under the influence, guilty, disposition withheld; consume/possess open container alcohol, not guilty, dismissed on motion of prosecutor.

Misdemeanor Sentencings

Maria D. Zepeda, 34, failure to purchase/invalid driver's license, guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$63.50 court costs, \$150 forfeited bond, 12 months probation, 120 days jail, 118 suspended, 4 credited; failure to appear for misdemeanor citation, guilty, \$100 fine, \$63.50 court costs, \$150 forfeited bond, 12 months probation, 116 days suspended, 4 credited.

Robert Chris Dixon, 38, trespass, guilty, 12 months probation, 30 days jail, 26 suspended, 4 credited; violation of no-contact order, not guilty. Tracy Jo Chavez Jr., 20, battery, prosecution deferred. Araceli Hernandez Rodriguez, 31, driving without privileges, guilty, \$200 fine, \$125.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 30 days jail, 28 suspended, 4 days work program in lieu of jail. Vincente J. Martinez, 19, minor possess/consume/purchase alcoholic beverage, guilty, \$100 fine, \$77.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 30 days jail, 28 suspended, 4 days work program in lieu of jail.

Brock Zamora, 19, minor possess/consume/purchase alcoholic beverage, guilty, \$200 fine, \$75.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 90 days, 12 months probation; failure to appear for misdemeanor, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 30 days jail, 27 suspended, 3 credited. Buddy L. Scott, 47, inattentive/careless driving, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 court costs.

Crystal Perez, 19, driving without privileges, amended to driver's license or commercial driver's license violation, guilty, \$300 fine, \$200 suspended, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 89 suspended, 12 months probation, 180 days jail, 160 suspended, and 1 credited, must report to

jail 6 p.m. every Friday 6 p.m. Sunday. Randy Lynn Hubbard, 45, driving without privileges, second offense, guilty, \$1,000 fine, \$700 suspended, \$125.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 175 suspended, 2 days credited; failure to provide proof of insurance, dismissed. Deborah Ann Perez, 25, battery/domestic violence, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 30 days jail, 1 credited; malicious injury to property, not guilty, dismissed on motion of prosecutor. Daniel E. Whatcott, 56, driving without privileges, guilty, \$300 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 30 days jail suspended.

Katie Lynn Kowicz, 26, inattentive/careless driver, amended to following too closely, guilty, \$33.50 fine, \$41.50 court costs. David William Watkins, 22, injury to child amended to battery, guilty, \$200 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited. Pete Matthews, trespass, other findings, deferred prosecution. Nelson George, reckless driving, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 court costs.

Mark Freeman Harper, 25, driving without privileges, guilty, \$85 fine, \$90.50 court costs. Tara Dawn Rodgers, 20, inattentive/careless driving, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Juan Antonio Salceda Sr., 33, attempted strangulation, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; battery/domestic violence, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; resisting/obstructing officer, guilty, \$200 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited. Dennis Gene Wilson, 59, pedestrian under the influence of alcohol or drugs, guilty, \$500 fine, \$500 suspended, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail suspended. Dorotero P. Gonzales, 44, possession of a controlled substance, guilty, \$700 fine, \$700 suspended, 12 months probation, 180 days jail, 150 suspended, 35 credited; possession/intent to use drug paraphernalia, guilty. Ryan Howard Hilscher, 29, driving without privileges, guilty, \$500 fine, \$300 suspended, \$90.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited. Timothy L. Ryals, 28, failure to purchase/invalid driver's license, guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.

Wade Henry Grisanti, 28, Fish and Game, hunt birds/animals from a motorized vehicle, guilty, \$25 fine, \$83.00 court costs. Dennis Patterson, 25, Fish and Game, hunt birds/animals from a motorized vehicle, guilty, \$25 fine, \$83.00 court costs. Amber R. Shockley, 24, driver's license or commercial driver's license violation, guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Eren Cervantes, 38, driver's license/commercial license violation, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 2 years probation, 180 days jail, 178 suspended, 2 credited; unlawful transportation of alcoholic beverage violation, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 2 years probation, 180 days jail. Aldara Lopez Godinez, 44, unlawful transportation/open

Contactor of Alcoholic Beverage Violation

Richard D. Reynolds, 41, wasteful destruction/mutilation of wildlife, guilty, \$100 fines suspended, \$83 court costs, 10 days jail suspended, 1 credited. Cruz Pascual, 20, provide false identity information to officer, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 30 days jail, 29 suspended, 1 credited; driving under the influence, guilty, \$500 fine, \$90.50 court costs, license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 180 days jail, 179 suspended, 1 credited; driving without privileges, guilty, \$400 fine, \$90.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 89 days jail suspended, 1 credited. Gordon B. Smith, 54, fail to stop at checking station as required, guilty, \$118.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Curtis A. Smith, 24, fail to stop at checking station as required, guilty, \$118.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Mark Matthews, trespass, other findings, deferred prosecution. Nelson George, reckless driving, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Mark Freeman Harper, 25, driving without privileges, guilty, \$85 fine, \$90.50 court costs. Tara Dawn Rodgers, 20, inattentive/careless driving, guilty, \$100 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Juan Antonio Salceda Sr., 33, attempted strangulation, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; battery/domestic violence, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; resisting/obstructing officer, guilty, \$200 fine, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited. Dennis Gene Wilson, 59, pedestrian under the influence of alcohol or drugs, guilty, \$500 fine, \$500 suspended, \$75.50 court costs, 12 months probation, 90 days jail suspended. Dorotero P. Gonzales, 44, possession of a controlled substance, guilty, \$700 fine, \$700 suspended, 12 months probation, 180 days jail, 150 suspended, 35 credited; possession/intent to use drug paraphernalia, guilty. Ryan Howard Hilscher, 29, driving without privileges, guilty, \$500 fine, \$300 suspended, \$90.50 court costs, driver's license suspended 180 days, 12 months probation, 90 days jail, 88 suspended, 2 credited. Timothy L. Ryals, 28, failure to purchase/invalid driver's license, guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs.

Contactor of Alcoholic Beverage Violation

Wade Henry Grisanti, 28, Fish and Game, hunt birds/animals from a motorized vehicle, guilty, \$25 fine, \$83.00 court costs. Dennis Patterson, 25, Fish and Game, hunt birds/animals from a motorized vehicle, guilty, \$25 fine, \$83.00 court costs. Amber R. Shockley, 24, driver's license or commercial driver's license violation, guilty, \$68.50 fine, \$75.50 court costs. Eren Cervantes, 38, driver's license/commercial license violation, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 2 years probation, 180 days jail, 178 suspended, 2 credited; unlawful transportation of alcoholic beverage violation, guilty, \$75.50 court costs, 2 years probation, 180 days jail. Aldara Lopez Godinez, 44, unlawful transportation/open

Misdemeanor Dismissals

Inocente Villalobos, 51, failure to purchase/invalid driver's license, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; failure to appear for misdemeanor citation, dismissed on motion of prosecutor. Isaias Gudino-Tavera, 47, failure to purchase/invalid driver's license, dismissed on motion of prosecutor; failure to appear for misdemeanor citation, dismissed on motion of prosecutor. Sean M. Morgan, 37, sexual exploitation by a medical care provider, dismissed on motion of prosecutor. Laura A. Gerrard, 54, possession of drug paraphernalia, use or intent to use, dismissed on motion of prosecutor. Saylor J. Shippy, 22, driving without privileges, dismissed on motion of prosecutor. Walter M. Reno, 21, failure to stop at the scene of an accident, not guilty, dismissed on motion of prosecutor.

Community

Continued from page C5

Mini-Cassia Center is returning calligraphy to the spring lineup with classes from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, Jan. 7-28. Stephanie Call will share her artistic talents, teaching a skill that has been practiced for more than 100 years.

The cost is \$40 plus supplies students will need to bring to class. A calligraphy kit class was offered in February so students can move further into the decorative aspect of lettering. Information: 670-1400.

CSI M-C offers computer class

The College of Southern Idaho Mini-Cassia enrichment program is offering "I've Turned on the Computer ... Now What?" class from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Jan. 8-22. Participants will take the intimidation out of computer technology with this basic course. Participants will experiment with the keyboard and mouse on common computer programs.

The class will increase understanding of Windows' operating system and cover how to set up programs, create and manage files, customize windows, change desktop displays and discover great shortcuts. The cost is \$40. Information: 678-1400.

Dr. Gott

Continued from page C5

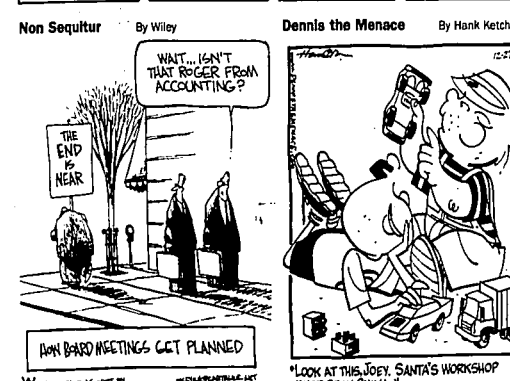
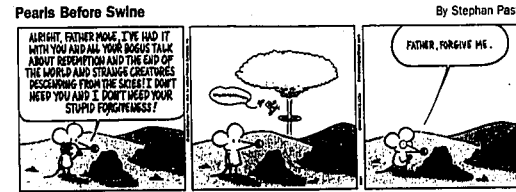
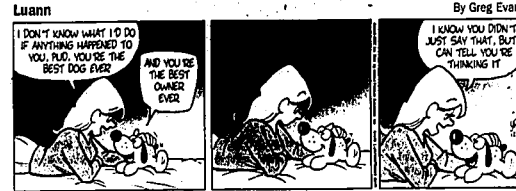
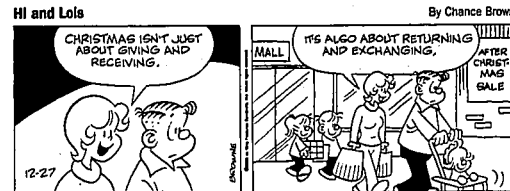
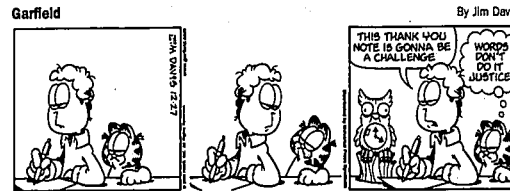
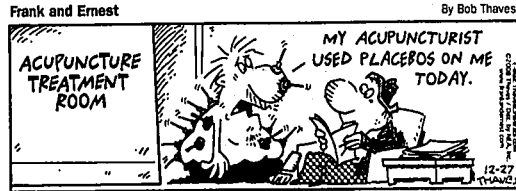
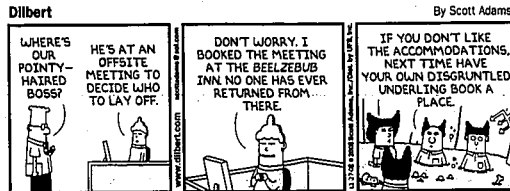
sneeze, it's my bowels. This has happened for the past 27 years and occurs when I sneeze or cough. Sometimes the problem is worse than others, but it is always very bad. I've been to many doctors and have had many tests, and no one has helped me.

DEAR READER: Fecal incontinence can result from a variety of causes. The more common reasons are damage to the anal sphincter, nerve damage, pelvic-floor dysfunction, diarrhea and constipation. It can be caused by childbirth, stroke, injury, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, radiation, inflammatory bowel disease and other conditions.

Food affects the consistency of stool and controls how quickly it passes through the digestive system. If your evacuations are watery, you might try eating foods high in fiber, such as fruits, vegetables and grains. Stool that is

well formed may be high in fiber, contributing to your incontinence. Diarrhea is caused by alcohol consumption, dairy products, fruits, fatty foods and sweeteners. Begin by making a list of the foods you eat and when the incontinence occurs. This may take several weeks to accomplish. A review of your records will tell you what to avoid and what you can eat without side effects. Do not eat and drink at the same time. Space the two functions by a half-hour or so. By avoiding trouble foods and sticking with those you can consume without consequence, you may be able to conquer the problem.

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."



Pakistan moves troops to Indian border

By Shahi Hussain
Special to
The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistan began deploying thousands of additional troops to its border with India on Friday amid rising tension in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai last month.

Officials ordered army personnel to leave to report for duty and moved troops from Pakistan's border with Afghanistan and adjacent tribal areas, where they had been deployed to counter the Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgency.

Some media reports suggested that as many as 20,000 Pakistani troops were redeployed. But a senior

Pakistani security official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that the moves involved no more than 5,000 troops.

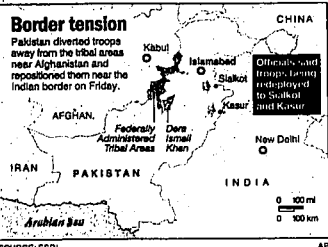
"We are taking the minimum required defensive steps for our security in the face of Indian troops' escalation at the border," he said. "Reports of heavy redeployment of Pakistani forces are false."

Pakistan and India, both nuclear-armed nations, have traded angry statements since India accused "elements" in Pakistan of planning the siege in Mumbai last month that left at least 170 people dead, including six Americans.

Indian officials say the banned Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out the attacks and have demanded that Pakistan do more to stamp out such groups. Pakistan has denied any government role in the attacks.

In New Delhi, government officials met to discuss Pakistan's reported troop buildup. Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee warned Pakistan against diverting its attention from fighting terrorism and calling on its leaders to "bring to book the perpetrators of (the) Mumbai terrorist attack."

"We would expect instead of raising war hysteria, they will address this problem," he said. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met with the chiefs of the army, navy



SOURCE: ESAI

and air force and later with his government colleagues to discuss security preparedness. The government also warned Indians against traveling to Pakistan.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani said his country would avoid launching a military action but would retaliate with full force if attacked.

U.S. urging calm over possible Pakistan troop moves

By Leif C. Baker
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. officials watched with growing concern Friday as reports suggested Pakistan was massing troops to the India border. Such a move raises double-barreled worries: A possible confrontation between two nuclear powers and a shift by the Pakistani military away from battling the Taliban along its western Afghan edge.

"We hope that both sides will avoid taking steps that will unnecessarily raise tensions during these already tense times," said White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe.

U.S. military leaders have been urging both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint in the wake of the deadly Mumbai attacks that many believe originated with Pakistan-based militants.

On Friday, U.S. intelligence and military officials were still trying to determine if the reported troop movements were true, and, if so, what Pakistan's intent may be. And they cautioned that the reports may be exaggerated, aimed more at delivering a message than dispatching forces.

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss intelligence matters.

U.S. defense leaders have been worried about a new flare-up between Pakistan and India ever since the coordinated terror attacks in India's financial capital of Mumbai last month that killed 164 people.

India has demanded that Pakistan arrest the perpetrators behind the Mumbai attacks. It says they are members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, a militant group widely believed created by Pakistan intelligence in the 1980s and used to fight Indian rule in the disputed Kashmir region.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, was in Pakistan twice this month, and as many as seven times in the past year.

In recent meetings with senior Pakistani leaders he has urged restraint and encouraged both sides to find ways to work together. One senior military official said Friday that the U.S. is monitoring the issue, but still could not confirm assertions from Pakistani intelligence officials that some 20,000 troops were on the move, heading to the Indian border.

A key concern for U.S. officials is that some of those troops may have been stationed along the volatile Afghan border, and were being diverted to the Indian side.

Breathing a little easier

Once world's smoggiest, Mexico City cuts pollution

By Theresa Bradley
Associated Press writer

MEXICO CITY — Gabriela Escalante stalks the rumbling streets alongside newspaper, peanut and candy vendors, wading deep into traffic at red lights across town.

Her eyes are fixed on talipipes.

A member of Mexico City's "ecoguardia," or environmental police, she and some 50 colleagues are on the lookout for white clouds of toxic exhaust, stopping hundreds of offending motorists each day, issuing \$100 fines and confiscating license plates — a small but urgent army fighting the capital's infamous air pollution.

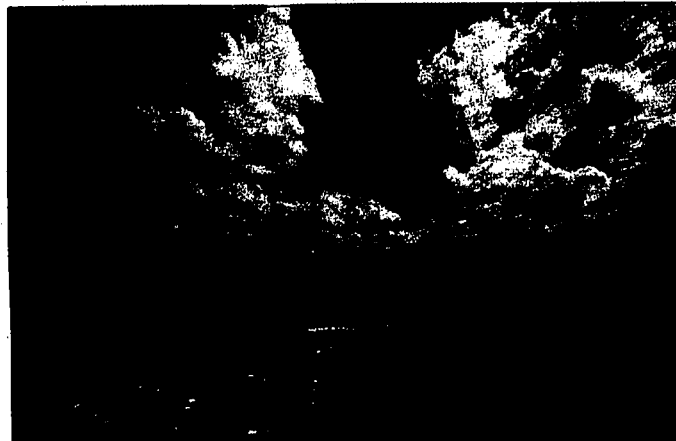
"We detect, we detain and we fine," said Escalante, 27. "This is the air we all breathe."

Not long ago, air in this throbbing capital was so bad that cyclists wore surgical masks. Birds fell dead in mid-flight, and children used brown crayons to draw the sky. Ozone exceeded safe levels on 97 percent of days in the year.

But the metropolis ranked the world's most polluted by a 1992 U.N. report has since slashed some of its worst emissions by more than three-quarters and has become a model for improving urban air quality.

Capitals such as Beijing, Cairo, New Delhi and Lima are now more contaminated, according to the World Bank, while air in at least 30 other cities contains more toxic particles, including Barcelona and Prague.

When Latin American leaders met here last month to



An aerial view of Mexico City is shown Oct. 9. Twenty years ago, birds fell dead from the sky in Mexico City, then home to the world's most-polluted air. Today, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide and ozone pollution has been slashed in half and carbon monoxide and lead particle levels cut by 90 percent.

discuss the environment, many looked to Mexico as an example of progress, said Sergio Jellinek, a World Bank spokesman who attended the forum.

Still, a nagging cloud of ozone has been harder to reduce — a sign of the secondary air pollution problems that cities can expect even after cutting their most visible contaminants.

With the onset of winter, the worst time of year for pollution, Mexico City has said it plans to spend \$3 billion by 2012 to expand public transit and further slash emissions.

"There has been a large improvement, and it's important to show it could be done," said Mario Molina, a Nobel Prize-winning Mexican chemist now advising President-elect Barack Obama's transition team on environmental issues. "But

there's still a long way to go to get really satisfactory air."

Ringed by volcanoes and nearly a half-mile higher than Denver, the city's geography and population make it a "perfect factory" for pollution, said Adrian Fernandez, head of the National Institute of Ecology, Mexico's version of the EPA.

In thin air at over 7,300 feet, fuel burns less efficiently, releasing more unburned particles. Breathing deeper to fill their lungs, people inhale more toxins.

High-altitude sunshine speeds the chemical reactions that transform emissions into a lethal stew of smog. That brown cloud blankets the city, lowering temperatures cool and trapping pollutants on the ground.

"What you have is a casserole dish with a lid on top,"

said Armando Retama, a chemist at the city's Environment Department.

Mexico City and its sprawling suburbs swelled from 3 million people in 1950 to more than 20 million today, making it the world's second-biggest urban area after Tokyo. Economic growth kept pace, boosting energy consumption and flooding the roads with more than 4 million vehicles.

Traffic is so clogged that average speeds have dipped to 13 mph, the Environment Department says. Even with today's cleaner cars, experts agree that 70 to 80 percent of emissions are vehicle-related.

The fumes inspired the novelist Carlos Fuentes to rename his toxic capital "Makesicko City" — and it does make people sick.

Studies show the air irritates the eyes, nose and

throat and worsens asthma, allergies, colds, coughs, bronchitis and the flu, while increasing infant deaths and overall mortality. Long-term exposure was found to impair one's sense of smell and to decrease the size and strength of children's lungs.

Mexico has been fighting the haze for decades, passing its first anti-pollution bill in 1971, a year after the U.S. formed the EPA. But enforcement lagged — until the record smog of the early 1990s.

Learning from Los Angeles' air cleanup, Mexico got to work changing technology and laws. Unleaded gasoline was introduced, catalytic converters were required on new cars, a major refinery was closed and power plants were pushed to switch to natural gas. Factories moved out, decentralizing some dog.

China targets pirates in groundbreaking mission

By William Foreman
Associated Press writer

GUANGZHOU, China — Chinese warships headed toward Somali waters Friday to combat piracy, the first time the communist country has sent ships on a mission that could involve fighting so far beyond its territorial waters.

The deployment to the Gulf of Aden, which has been plagued by increasingly bold pirate attacks in recent months, marks a major step in China's evolution from mostly guarding its coasts to patrolling waters far from home.

The move was welcomed by

the U.S. military, which has been escorting cargo ships in the region along with India, Russia and the European Union. But analysts predicted the Chinese intervention could be troubling to some Asian nations who might see it as a sign of the Chinese military becoming more aggressive.

The naval force that set sail from southern Hainan on Friday afternoon included a supply ship and two destroyers — armed with guided missiles, special forces and two helicopters. China announced it was joining the anti-piracy mission Tuesday after the U.N. Security Council authorized

nations to conduct land and air attacks on pirate bases.

Pentagon spokesman Maj. Stewart Utton said the U.S. welcomed China's move.

Pirates working out of Somalia have made an estimated \$30 million this year, seizing more than 40 vessels off the country's 1,800-mile (3,000-kilometer) coastline. Most of the attacks have occurred in the Gulf of Aden, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

Deploying ships to the area helped stoke national pride among Chinese who feel their increasingly wealthy nation should be playing a bigger role in world affairs.



Chinese navy special forces crew on the deck of a Chinese destroyer in the coastal town of Sanya, Hainan Province, Thursday.

INSIDE: Rookie helps lead Utah Jazz to victory, D2



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SATURDAY
DECEMBER 27, 2008

TIMES-NEWS • SPORTS EDITOR MIKE CHRISTENSEN: (208) 735-3239 SPORTS@MAGICVALLEY.COM

INSIDE: NBA, D2 | College basketball, D2 | Scoreboard, D3 | College football, D4

SHEPARD'S SPARTANS



Minico girls head basketball coach Joe D. Shepard reacts during the Spartans' Dec. 9 game against No. 1 Jerome. The Spartans upset the Tigers 39-30.



Florida Atlantic running back Orlivry Edgcomb (32) dives over Central Michigan defensive back Kirkston Edwards (31) for a touchdown during the first quarter of the Motor City Bowl on Friday in Detroit.

Smith leads FAU to Motor City Bowl victory

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Florida Atlantic has played eight seasons of major college football and already has a winning streak in bowl games. Smith threw for 307 yards and two second-half touchdowns to help the Owls beat Central Michigan 24-21 on Friday night in the Motor City Bowl.

Florida Atlantic began playing in the Football Bowl Subdivision in 2001 but has won both its postseason games. The Owls defeated Memphis last year in the New Orleans Bowl.

The teams were tied 10-all midway through the third quarter when Smith hit Chris Bonner with a 52-yard scoring pass. Smith found Cortez Gent with an 18-yard strike early in the fourth to give the Owls (7-6) a bit of a cushion.

Making their third straight Motor City Bowl appearance, the Chippewas (8-5) cut the lead to 24-21 with 3 minutes to play when Dan Lefevour hit Antonio Brown with a touchdown pass and then Kito Pohlman for a 2-point conversion. Gent recovered the ensuing onside kick, however.

Most of the 41,399 fans at Ford Field cheered the In-state Chippewas, but they were quiet as Florida Atlantic ran out the clock. It was the smallest turnout in the game's 12-year history, yet Motor City Bowl chairman Ken Hoffman said the game will return to Ford Field in 2009 despite Detroit's dismal economic forecast.

Smith, selected the game's MVP, finished 20-for-35. Gent caught seven passes for 98 yards.

LeFevour was 28-for-40 for 253 yards with two touchdowns and a first-quarter interception that led to the Owls' first touchdown.

Please see **MLB**, Page D2

Coach Joe D. and the Minico girls turning the corner

By Ryan Howr
Times-News writer



"I thought that we could get things done now and win right away."

— Joe D. Shepard

When Minico High School athletic director Tim Perrigo announced Joe D. Shepard as the Spartans' new girls basketball coach last March, he said that "the sun is shining in Spartanville."

Not everybody felt the same way. Some players were in a cloud of uncertainty.

"I was pretty stressed out because I was so nervous," said Luci Garner.

Garner was apprehensive about the change. It meant starting all over with a new coach during her senior year. She wasn't alone.

"At first I think we were all uncertain. We didn't know what to expect or what to think," said Junior Kendra Bailey. "I just knew that he coached at Twin (Falls) before and that he had seen our team play a couple times, but I didn't know a

whole lot about him." The Spartans players might not have known too much about him, but Shepard was a respected coach before the players were born.

Shepard coached at Buhl for 15 seasons, leading the Indians to the Class 3A state championship in 1997. Under his watch, Buhl also placed fifth in 2002 and won consolation titles in 1989, 1999 and 2001.

He took over the Twin Falls program in 2002 and built Class 5A contenders out of the Brulins as the program made four state tournament appearances in five seasons, including the 2004 consolation title, a third-place finish in 2005 and fifth

place in 2007. Along the way, he surpassed the 300-win milestone.

Shepard resigned his position as Twin Falls' coach in August 2007. After a year away from the game, he accepted Perrigo's offer to lead the Spartans. Shepard remains employed by the Twin Falls School District as a school psychologist.

"I knew that Minico had good quickness and good shooters," Shepard said. "Coming in, I saw there was good talent and good potential here. I didn't expect to come in and wait two or three years to build the program. I thought that we could get things done now and win right away."

His coaching style is the polar opposite of which Minico was familiar. In recent years under former coach Clint Straatman, the Spartans were a run-and-gun team, slashing to the hoop and kicking the ball out to their 3-point shooters. Now Shepard has installed the methodical flex offense, which is predicated upon patience, setting screens, patience, cutting, passing, and more patience.

At first, fitting the old players into the new coach's system was like fitting a round peg into a square hole. At summer basketball camp, they were beat by 40. One game, they only scored eight points.

"After that weekend I was thinking, 'Oh boy, they're really going to think I'm something.' I thought they were going to wonder who the heck this guy is, doubt my knowledge and wonder

if I knew what I was talking about," Shepard said.

Turns out, the early struggles had the opposite effect, a wake-up call. The next week at practice the girls decided to buckle down, listen to Coach and work harder at being patient and running his offense. Gradually they got better as the summer went along and started winning games.

"They bought into it," Shepard said. "It was encouraging. By the University of Utah summer camp, we'd pass the ball seven or eight times and get good shots. That has carried over to this winter."

Said Bailey: "After summer basketball came and we all played for him, we were all really excited and ready for the season. It's been a really good change. I think we've progressed a lot. We've had people tell us how we've

Please see **SHEPARD**, Page D2

The winless Lions have a last shot to avoid infamy

Detroit Lions quarterback Dan Orlovsky, right, sits on the bench with cornerback Travis Fisher Sunday during the third quarter of their game at Ford Field in Detroit.



The Associated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — Cornerback Travis Fisher said he won't fly back to Detroit from Green Bay if the Lions somehow manage to find a way to beat the Packers on Sunday.

"If we win, I ain't catching the plane back home," he said with a laugh. "I'll walk back to Detroit."

Chances are, Fisher won't have to worry about making the 482-mile trek.

A loss would install the Lions in their very own NFL Hall of Shame as the league's first team to go 0-16

1976 Buccaneers want to pass the torch to Detroit, See D4

In a season. They're already the first to go 0-15. A win, of course, would be better, allowing Detroit the dubious distinction of becoming the ninth franchise to finish a season 1-15.

The last team to finish the season winless was the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers, an expansion franchise that went 0-14.

"It's incredible that a team could

Please see **LIONS**, Page D2

24-hour MLB Network set to launch on New Year's Day

The Associated Press

SECAUCUS, N.J. — The Mariners could be lurching toward a 101-loss season as they were late last summer and Harold Reynolds would still want his game highlights.

Seattle's former All-Star second baseman figures

many fans are like him, loyal to their favorite team whether it's in first place or last, and hankering to see what happened each night as quickly as possible.

The MLB Network is set to launch Jan. 1, and it might seem that a 24-hour channel is aimed at fans who passion-



ately follow the entire league. But as their numbers dwindle, they aren't the viewers

president and CEO Tony Petitti is relying on to sustain the network.

The reality of TV sports today is that World Series ratings fluctuate greatly from year to year depending on who's playing. Still, many teams draw large audiences in their home markets. So

while the MLB Network is national, Petitti thinks of it as a conglomerate of regional interests.

"We want to complement the way fans watch their local team," Petitti said during a Dec. 17 tour of the network's studios.

For the first year at least,

the network will be more focused on highlights and analysis than live games. It will air only 26 regular-season matchups, but will broadcast an eight-hour highlight show six nights a week. The lengthy time slot

SCOREBOARD

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NBA
All Times BET
Atlantic Division
Boston 12 17 300 70

22, August 27 12:00 Central 8:00 P.M.
San Diego 12 17 300 70
New York 12 17 300 70

GAME PLAN

LOCAL

ESPNI - Emerald Bowl, Miami vs. California, at San Francisco
HIGH COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Noon
ESPNI - Washington St. at LSU
4 p.m.
CBS - National coverage, West Virginia at Ohio St.

TV SCHEDULE

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
11 a.m.
ESPN - Meineke Car Care Bowl, West Virginia vs. North Carolina, at Charlotte, N.C.
2:30 p.m.
ESPN - Champs Sports Bowl, Wisconsin vs. Florida St., at Orlando, Fla.
6 p.m.

SKI RESORT

Big Bear Ski - The 3,432-foot 18 degree packed powder machine groomed 45-74 miles of 86 trails, 24 miles, 200 acres, 8 of which, 100% open, Mon-Fri: 10a-4p, Sat-Sun: 9a-4p.
Bridgeway - Ft 4-42 overcast 11 degrees 1 new powder machine groomed 14-22 miles, 1,500 acres, 5 of which, 90% open, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p, Sat-Sun: 9a-4p.
Magui Mountain - Wed 4:17 10:00 powder machine groomed 43-43 base 14 of 14 trails, 120 acres, 3 of which, 100% open, Mon-Fri: 9a-4p, Sat-Sun: 9a-4p.

Keep Out 43.43 26.96 50 115
Bakersfield 31.33 37.20 63 112
Rockers, W. 40.00 23.56 64 109

WESTERN
Denver 18 11 423 103
Portland 18 11 423 103
Utah 18 11 423 103

WESTERN
Denver 18 11 423 103
Portland 18 11 423 103
Utah 18 11 423 103

NFL Team Statistics

AVERAGE YARDS PER GAME
American Football Conference
AFC NORTH
Cincinnati 277.0 27.0

NEW YORK
Miami 24 5 838 216
Pittsburgh 24 5 838 216
Cleveland 24 5 838 216

NEW YORK
Miami 24 5 838 216
Pittsburgh 24 5 838 216
Cleveland 24 5 838 216

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE
AFC NORTH
Cincinnati 277.0 27.0
Cleveland 277.0 27.0
Pittsburgh 277.0 27.0

NEW YORK
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NBA

NEW YORK
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Cleveland 24 5 838 216

PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia 24 5 838 216
New York 24 5 838 216

AFC Individual Leaders

Yards
Rivers, D. 458 297 380 23 11
Rivers, D. 458 297 380 23 11
Rivers, D. 458 297 380 23 11

NEW YORK

NEW YORK
Miami 24 5 838 216
Pittsburgh 24 5 838 216
Cleveland 24 5 838 216

PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA
Philadelphia 24 5 838 216
New York 24 5 838 216

THURSDAY'S LATE NBA BOX SCORE

THURSDAY'S LATE NBA BOX SCORE
New York 111 111
Philadelphia 111 111

NFC Individual Leaders

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Philadelphia 24 5 838 216
New York 24 5 838 216

BETTING

BETTING
Chicago Cubs 111 111
New York Yankees 111 111

NBA

NBA
Miami 24 5 838 216
Pittsburgh 24 5 838 216
Cleveland 24 5 838 216

Idaho mixed martial arts fighter fatally shot on Christmas

NAMPA — A coroner has identified the man who died in Christmas night shooting in southwestern Idaho as 30-year-old mixed martial arts fighter Justin Mark Eilers.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Army hires Elerson as coach
WEST POINT, N.Y. — West Point officials say Cal Poly's Rich Elerson will become Army's football coach.

Sports Shorts
Kimberly High School, El finished seventh in boys cutting at the Idaho High School Finals Rodeo in June.

Club Canyon/CSI volleyball camp nears
JEROME — The Club Canyon/CSI of Southern Idaho Winter Volleyball Camp will be held Dec. 29-30 at the Jerome Recreation Center.

'I would like the torch to be passed'

Those 1976 Buccaneers know all about losing

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Pat Toomay has had enough.

For more than three decades, the 1976 Tampa Bay Buccaneers set the modern standard for NFL futility by going 0-14. Now, Toomay would just as soon let someone else — the Detroit Lions, for example — finish winless and spend the next 30 years answering questions about sheer ineptitude.

"The luster wears off," said Toomay, a defensive end on the expansion team that was shut out five times and outscored 412-125 in the franchise's inaugural season.

"I would like the torch to be passed," he added. "At the same time, you don't want to wish that on anybody."

Several teams have flirted with winless seasons since the Bucs, wearing cream-colored uniforms and helmets bearing a winking pirate logo, were trounced by an average of almost three touchdowns a game.

The 1999 Saints were 0-14 before winning in the 15th game. The Colts went 0-14 during the strike-shortened 1982 season and were 0-13 on the way to finishing 3-13 in 1986. Several other teams have won one game since the NFL adopted a 16-game



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Steve Spurrier is brought down in a pile of Kansas City Chiefs during a game in Tampa Bay, Fla., on Oct. 31, 1976.

schedule in 1978, including last year's Miami Dolphins.

The '76 Bucs, playing in the AFC West, which eventual Super Bowl champion Oakland dominated with a 13-1 record, had a number of close calls, including a pair of

three-point losses to fellow expansion mates Seattle and to Miami.

They lost to Kansas City by nine the following week, then dropped their last six games by an average of nearly 30 points.

Defending Super Bowl winner Pittsburgh pummeled them 42-0 in Week 13, and Toomay will never forget the scene in the players' parking lot before a season-ending 31-14 loss to New England.

"By the time we got to the

last game of the season, we had so many injuries that we didn't feel we had much of a chance. Everybody was so sick of the season that they showed up packed and ready to get out of town," said Toomay, now a freelance writer living in New Mexico.

"I looked like a bunch of Oakes fleeing the dust bowl ... I was living in Dallas at the time, and I know my goal was to be out of the state by midnight."

Richard Wood, a hard-hitting linebacker who played for John McKay when the first Bucs coach was building an impressive resume at Southern California, has been following the Lions closely because he knows Rod Marinell from the Detroit coach's days as an assistant in Tampa Bay.

"Wood began his career with the New York Jets in 1975 and was acquired by the Bucs in a trade at the end of training camp."

McKay won four national titles at USC and annoyed some NFL players and coaches with brash comments about the prospect for success in the pro game.

"It was a brand-new organization. Who cared about us? They wanted to devastate us, beat us in the ground," Wood recalled. "And with coach McKay coming from college, they wanted to maybe even play us a little harder."

But unlike Toomay, who has mixed emotions after whether to root for Detroit against Green Bay this week, Wood hopes the Lions don't finish 0-16 and have to live with the humiliation of being on the

wrong side of history.

He remembers turning on the television late at night, wondering what Johnny Carson would have to say about Bucs, who also lost the first 12 games of 1977. The 26-game losing streak is still the longest in NFL history.

"I always felt we could win. That was just the type of player I was. I never went into a game where I didn't think we could win, even in '76," Wood said. "It's impossible for me to look back on it. I still feel we could surprise somebody."

He has empathy for the Lions, but still finds it amazing that during this age of free agency and high salaries that a club is on the verge of supplanting an expansion team as the measuring stick for futility.

Although there were some recognizable names on the '76 Bucs such as Heisman Trophy winner Steve Spurrier and future Hall of Famer Lee Roy Selmon, who was a rookie, the Bucs were mostly a collection of castoffs in the twilight of their careers.

"I'm not saying the Lions aren't fighting," Wood said. "I know they're working hard. But come on, guys. You've got to finish. You can't just talk about it. You have to go out and do it."

Count Spurrier is among those used to the Lions.

"I want that record," the South Carolina coach said during a recent visit to Tampa for an Outback Bowl contract signing ceremony.

"I think they'll win a game. I'm pulling for them, sure," Spurrier added. "That's the American thing to do, isn't it?"

Cal eager to test Miami mystique in Emerald Bowl

SAN FRANCISCO — When Wendell Williams was a star high school linebacker in Sacramento, his college choice came down to nearby California or exotic Miami, where his older brother was a star.

Although he decided to stay close to home, Williams knows more than most of his fellow Golden Bears about the unique Miami mystique they'll face in the Emerald Bowl.

"That's an amazing program," Williams said. "With the history they have there, and just the whole atmosphere around the University of Miami, it's an honor to be in the same field with them. But still, we also think we can beat them. We're going in expecting to win."

last two games and missed the chance to play for the ACC championship, but Cal's mix of speed and experience — along with its 3-4 defense — provides plenty of challenges to a program hoping to take its biggest step forward in Shannon's rebuilding project.

"I watch football late at night, and I see a lot of Pac-10 games," Shannon said. "We know about Cal. They're a very run-oriented team, but they can take shots downfield as well. There's going to be a lot of speed on both sides, but you'll also see two tough teams. I know it's going to be a great TV game, that's for sure."

The current Hurricanes' biggest concern might be at quarterback, where baby-faced freshman Jacoby Harris will make his second career start. Harris played extensively this season behind Robert Marve, who was suspended for the Emerald Bowl for missing classes.

But it's tough to rattle Harris, who hasn't lost a start in his last three years of high school and college ball.

Cal also made a change in its never-ending quarter-back competition when Nate Longshore was promoted past Kevin Riley for the final time this week. Longshore, the often-sidelined backup, spent most of the regular season behind Riley, although Longshore started three games and played most of the finale against Washington.

There are no questions about qualifications on the North Carolina sideline. Butch Davis and his thick, impulsive resume from college and the NFL engineered one of the nation's biggest turnarounds. After going 4-8 in his first season in 2007, North Carolina started 7-2 before a rash of injuries led to losses in two of its last three games to end any BCS bowl hopes.

Quarterback T.J. Yates is back after missing five games with a broken ankle, and may get his last chance to throw to Atlantic Coast Conference receiving leader Hakeem Nicks.

The junior, who has caught 60 passes for a school-record 1,005 yards and nine touchdowns this season, is contemplating turning pro.

Mash versus dash in Wisconsin-FSU Champs matchup

ORLANDO, Fla. — There's more to the Champs Sports Bowl matchup than debating brawn vs. speed, though, including how some Wisconsin and Florida State players perform in a game that means plenty to both teams.

Wisconsin wants to finish strong after an 8-5 season that saw the Badgers drop from a No. 8 national ranking to out of the AP poll after losing their first four Big Ten games. Florida State is trying to win nine games for the first time in four seasons and give Bobby Bowden redemption.

Both quarterbacks figure to be under scrutiny.

Christian Ponder, a sophomore, returns in injury to direct a Seminole attack predicated on his ability to run and spread the field. FSU's passing attack ranks 87th in the nation with a 192-yard-per-game average. Ponder is 89th in passing efficiency, completing 55 percent of his passes with 13 INTs and 12 TDs.

Wisconsin junior Dustin Sherer didn't throw his first TD pass until mid-October, a month after replacing injured starter Allen Eversidge.

New Year's Day not what it used to be

By Ralph D. Russo
Associated Press writer

As many bowl games will be played on New Year's Eve as on New Year's Day. Three bowls are scheduled for Jan. 2, and the Fiesta Bowl will be played Jan. 5.

The days when the college football season usually ended on Jan. 1 with a flurry of about eight mostly must-see games are long gone.

Whether this is good, bad or simply different is a personal choice, but the BCS and the overcrowded bowl lineup have made it so.

It has also taken much of the luster from what was once a major achievement in college football: playing on New Year's Day.

The BCS is mostly to blame for this. The Bowl Championship Series, wanting to give each major bowl its own exclusive TV spot, pushed the Sugar, Fiesta and Orange off Jan. 1 — depending on the year — and extended the college football season.

Still, Jan. 1 remained a line of demarcation. The games played on or after Jan. 1 were big. Those played before, not so much.

Insight Bowl
Kansas (minus 9 1/2) vs. Minnesota
Cophers stumble into Arizona
Rising Rebels can hang with Red Raiders for a while ... TEXAS ... TECH 42-30.

Chick-fil-A Bowl
LSU (plus 4) vs. Georgia Tech
How motivated will Tigers be to decipher their option? ... GEORGIA TECH 42-28.

Thursday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
Iowa (minus 3 1/2) vs. South Carolina
With two good D's, one Shonn Greene makes difference ... IOWA 20-14.

Capital One Bowl
Georgia (minus 7 1/2) vs. Michigan State
Nice season for Spartans, but they've been buried by top opponents ... GEORGIA 35-14.

Gator Bowl
Nebraska (plus 2 1/2) vs. Clemson
Only meeting was '82 Orange Bowl. Tigers won game, only national title ... NEBRASKA 34-24.

Rose Bowl
Southern California (minus 9 1/2) vs. Penn State
Trojans have outscored Big Ten teams 347-56 in four BCS victories ... USC 27-14.

Orange Bowl
Cincinnati (minus 2 1/2) vs. Virginia Tech
ACC is 1-9 in BCS games; Big East has won three in a row ... VIRGINIA TECH 24-21.

Friday, Jan. 2
Cotton Bowl
Texas Tech (minus 4 1/2) vs. Mississippi State
Rising Rebels can hang with Red Raiders for a while ... TEXAS ... TECH 42-30.

Liberty Bowl
Kentucky (plus 3) vs. East Carolina
Pirates were September sensations, slumped, but finished C-USA champs ... KENTUCKY 27-14.

Sugar Bowl
Utah (plus 10) vs. Alabama ... Tide too big, too tough, too close to home for BCS Busters ... ALABAMA 31-14.

Saturday, Jan. 3
International Bowl
Connecticut (minus 4 1/2) vs. Buffalo
Huskies' Donald Brown leads nation in rushing ... UCONN 24-17.

Monday, Jan. 5
Fiesta Bowl
Texas (minus 8 1/2) vs. Ohio State
Two teams trying to prove a point ... TEXAS 36-21.

Tuesday, Jan. 6
GMAC Bowl
Tulsa (plus 10) vs. Ball State
Mobile-based bowl is typically high-scoring affair ... TULSA 50-48.

Thursday, Jan. 8
BCS National Championship
Florida (minus 3) vs. Oklahoma
Winning coach becomes first with two BCS titles ... FLORIDA 45-35.

A baseball stadium packed with shivering Cal fans will have much the same thoughts Saturday night when the Golden Bears (8-4) essentially host Miami (7-5) in the seventh edition of the game, but the first featuring one of the Bay Area's two Pac-10 schools.

The Bears traveled the Bay Bridge repeatedly this week, going from a hotel in the city to their regular practice fields in Berkeley to prepare for their sixth straight bowl appearance under coach Tedford.

Yet Tedford doesn't see a huge advantage in being home, aside from a free trip to Alcatraz and the support of Cal's fans, who snapped up every available ticket — including roughly half of Miami's allotment.

"These are two very evenly matched teams, actually," said Tedford, who's 4-1 in bowl games. "Both of them have a lot of speed. All the speed that's on the field is going to be very exciting for our fans."

After missing the post-season in 2007 in head coach Randy Shannon's debut season, Miami will eager to get back into bowl action, even if it meant traveling across the country for the holidays and practicing at City College of San Francisco in a bone-chilling rainy weather for which the city is known.

The Hurricanes lost their

West Virginia's Stewart eyes 2-0 bowl record

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Late-season struggles dropped West Virginia (8-4) into Saturday's Meineke Bowl against North Carolina (8-4), and the questions remain about whether — longtime assistant Bill Stewart was the right choice to replace Rich Rodriguez in Morgantown.

Stewart will coach the Mountaineers in their seventh straight bowl appearance in which will mark the end of a year. The dynamic Pat White, the NCAA's all-time leader in rushing for quarterbacks with 4,425 yards, will try to finish 4-0 in bowls.

The picks:
Wednesday, Dec. 31
Arnold Forces Bowl
Houston (minus 3 1/2) vs. Air Force
Freaks of nature: High-flying Cougars vs. ground-bound Falcons ... AIR FORCE 37-31.

Sun Bowl
Oregon State (minus 2 1/2) vs. Pittsburgh
Panthers' first bowl since 2005 Fiesta ... OREGON STATE 27-23.

MiaSiC City Bowl
Vanderbilt (plus 3 1/2) vs. Boston College
Eagles have won eight straight bowls ... BOSTON COLLEGE 24-10.

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Price: \$199,900
MLS#: 98386705

502 Homes For Sale

Price: \$242,000
MLS#: 98386384

502 Homes For Sale

Price: \$199,900
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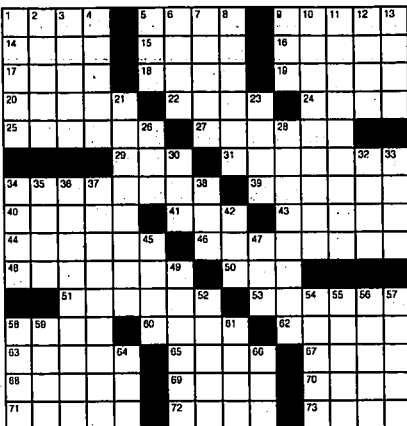
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<p>LEASE OPTION! Beautiful well cared for home on the outskirts of Hagerman, wrap around porch, Wood flooring, air lights, triple garage, 4 bedrooms 2 bath with bonus room on 1/2 acre. MLS#98371743 Call Barry Ross 539-8795</p>	<p>COME VIEW THIS QUALITY HOME -3 Bedroom 2 Full Baths + Granite Counters in Kitchen + Thriverite & Hardwood Flooring + Concrete Vasey Tops & Floors both Baths + Gas Fireplace in LR - Privacy Fencing + 3 Car Garage + A MUST SEE HOME! Call Sara Beahm 538-4289</p>	<p>Holiday Homes Ready To Move In! This Advantage of Exceptional Savings! HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS price reduction valid December 2008 only. This is a great well located 4 bedroom home! Sellers have put all the accessories to insure safety, comfort, pleasure for family, friends, and guests. Call Linda Virginia 308-7721</p>	<p>Home for the Holiday! This Advantage of Exceptional Savings! HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS price reduction valid December 2008 only. Needs among the trees in this 4 bedroom 2 bath home. Master suite overlooks a solarium built in closed. All rooms are roomy, completely updated. Call Linda Virginia 308-7721</p>
<p>1712 Maplewood Drive This great 2 story home on a corner lot features 3 bedrooms & 2 baths with the master on the main level, 2 private patios, auto separator, central air, gas heat, plus, carpet, roof, carpet and paint. MLS# 98338381 Call Pam Gonyea 308-4264</p>	<p>7 Spurts! This Advantage of Exceptional Savings! HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS price reduction valid December 2008 only! GREAT ROOM & SEPARATE LIVING ROOM! Split bedroom plan. Very well maintained home. Move in ready! Call Gerry Turner 428-6181</p>	<p>PRISTINE BRICK FRONT welcomes you to this Spacious Home. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, Family Room with FIREPLACE, 16x24 Covered Patio, Basement Storage, Extra Space for RV PARKING. Beautifully Landscaped with Auto Sprinklers. MLS# 98381761 Call Tom 539-9368 or Robbi 731-2286</p>	<p>Updated & Move-In Ready! This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home has lots of room updates! Updated Kitchen includes cabinets, counter tops and laminate flooring. New carpet, paint - inside and out and a new furnace in 2004. MLS# 98382672 Call Pam Gonyea 308-4264</p>
<p>WATERFRONT BEAUTY REDUCED \$24,000! First Time Buyers take advantage of up to \$7,500 TAX CREDIT (also to expire) Low options available at LOW RATES. Updated classic rock home w/wood. Two decks overlooking beautiful flowing river. MLS# 98362818 Call Gary Goyne 428-2186</p>	<p>OWN FOR LESS THAN RENT! First Time Buyers take advantage of up to \$7,500 TAX CREDIT (also to expire). Lowest available at LOW RATES on this updated classic, cute with full basement! Call me now about The Credit and bonus. MLS# 98322933 Call Gary Goyne 428-2186</p>	<p>A BIRTH OF SAVINGS FOR YOU! This 2 bed-1 bath home that has new flooring-plumbing-electrical-tranist ion-shower-cup-yard-windows-door-front porch-newer heater and more. Included O.R. & ref. Last chance at this price so hurry! Call Tracy Wharmy 428-2222</p>	<p>TURN KEY OPERATION! Take Advantage of Exceptional Savings! HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS price reduction valid December 2008 only! "Hidden Treasure" completely renovated 1915 vintage home. New kitchen, vinyl bath/laundry, updated plumbing & electric fixtures. Hardwood floor under. MLS# 98373562 Call Gerry Turner 428-6181</p>
<p>CUSTOM BUILT FOR YOU! 1823 sq ft 3 bedroom, 2 bath custom built by owner has quality and extra. Granite countertops, oak cabinets, oak hardwood floors in entry and kitchen, stamped concrete veranda and patio. So much more. MLS# 98382934 Call Gayle Anderson 308-8224</p>	<p>Great Family Home 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 3 car garage. Home is like brand new. Many upgrades. Call for an appointment! MLS# 98383830 Call Bob Deahl 734-3164</p>	<p>Luxurious Home In Quiet Caldecote This gorgeous 4 bed 2 1/2 bath home with 2100 square feet has both style and location! Beautiful kitchen with tile and inlay solid cabinets for the ladies, and 3 car garage for the gentlemen. MLS# 98385745 Call Tom 539-9368 or Robbi 731-2286</p>	<p>Prime Commercial Property @ \$2 a Commercial Foot This won't last long! 3.18 acre of commercial property in the HWY 93 business Park. There is 536 square feet of room to boost your new business. MLS# 98384566 Call Tom 539-9368 or Robbi 731-2286</p>
<p>Perfect Home For First Time Home Buyer! This adorable home has 3 bedrooms 2 baths with 1100 square feet! It would be a great place to start your new year in! MLS# 98374092 Call Carl Shirley 539-9368</p>	<p>North Elm Condo - JUST REDUCED! 2 bedroom 2 bath condo with upgraded kitchen, Gas fireplace, Air Conditioning, Open Living Room, dining & kitchen - Upgraded baths - Great floor plan, security garage in basement. MLS# 98386201 Call Betty Wade 731-6748</p>	<p>See Today! You'll Love IT! Spacious floor plan with extra footage added in living room, kitchen, dining area, with vaulted ceilings. Split bedroom plan, decorative arching, large laundry room, sitting on corner lot! Must see! MLS# 98386453 Call Linda Virginia 308-7721</p>	<p>BEST KIMBERLY VALUE! 911 Post Circle 3 bdrm, 2 bath, built in 1998, Open Floor Plan, Vinyl Exterior, Auto Sprinklers, Storage Shed, Fully Fenced, All Appliances Included. MLS# 98385905 Call Barry Seldin 428-3321</p>

ACROSS

- 1 Chew the fat
- 5 United
- 9 Emirats
- 9 Picks out
- 14 Angelic aura
- 15 Rob or Chad
- 16 Missionary
- 19 Junipero
- 17 Actor Estrada
- 18 Stable boy
- 19 Attempts
- 20 Rapidity
- 22 Remove fat
- 24 Notices
- 25 Fourteen-line poem
- 27 Pastor's aide
- 29 Small, low islet
- 31 Of a forward part
- 34 Covered with skin art
- 39 Coleridge's palace
- 40 Miscalculated
- 41 Puppy's bite
- 43 Rockies range
- 44 Practices recycling
- 46 Most lamblike
- 48 Sacred verbal formulas
- 50 Educ. group
- 51 Hard Rock or Luxor, e.g.
- 53 Indian instruments
- 58 Old streetcar
- 60 Solitary
- 62 Fragrant shrub
- 63 Couldn't stand
- 65 Chinese staple
- 67 Merrill or Meyer
- 68 Action site
- 69 Peter of "The Monkees"
- 70 Border upon
- 71 Bird abodes
- 72 Tight
- 73 Kissing equipment
- DOWN**
- 1 Kasparov's game
- 2 Groucho's brother



1227/08

Friday's Puzzle Solved

JUNEAU GAB SPAR
 USURPS EMU LEGO
 MUTATE NITRATES
 PATS FOG TANTRA
 SLY AUTHORITY
 ILLTIMED CAB
 BOAST SIS SARA
 EMULATE TSETSES
 EASE WAG TAHOE
 TNT FEROCITY
 REINSTATE MPH
 CRAVAT LPS MIRO
 POLITICAL ELIXIR
 OTIC EOS LINENS
 SEAT SOT FEISTY

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- 3 Not from Earth
- 4 Small memento
- 5 Furry TV alien
- 6 Subterranean growth
- 7 Oscar, e.g.
- 8 Tenet
- 9 Mach+ jet
- 10 Staff
- 11 Determine one's position
- 12 Acacia or ash
- 13 Give guff to
- 21 Some cipher handlers
- 23 "Das Kapital" writer
- 26 Chinese religion
- 28 Feature of a formal tuxedo
- 30 Desire
- 32 Fussess
- 33 Fontanne's partner
- 34 School period
- 35 Vicinity
- 36 Cuts short
- 37 Old Bible?
- 38 Excavate
- 42 Get-up-and-go
- 45 Jib, e.g.
- 47 PMS
- 49 Quick drinks
- 52 Vidalia veggie
- 54 Like some waves
- 55 Cover story
- 56 Amassed
- 57 Emulates Ella
- 58 Belter late never
- 59 Once in a blue moon
- 61 Natural tone
- 64 German article
- 66 Med. test

Special Notices

AL-ANON
 Tuesdays 7:00pm
 1838 E. Ida, Burley
 208-478-8618

CHOICES FOR RECOVERY
 Monday, 4:53pm
 Minidoka Memorial Hospital, 1218 8th St., Rupert, 431-3741

CRYSTAL METH ANONYMOUS
 Tuesday, 8:30pm
 Thursday, 8:30pm
 109 E. Main, Burley
 878-LUB or 512-4590

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
 Sunday 11am-12:30pm
 Thursday 7pm
 Monday 6:00pm
 Monday 8pm
 Tuesday 7pm
 Wednesday 7-8:30pm
 Thursday 7pm
 Friday 7pm
 Saturday 8pm
 220 East Ellis, Paul Street 9pm
 1220 J St., Heyburn
 MCANA Meeting Info
 208-438-4935

OVERCOMERS OUTREACH
 Wed. 8:30-7:00pm
 First Baptist Church
 2262 Hilland Ave., Burley, 208-478-2878

ROAD 2 RECOVERY
 Tuesday, 7:00-8:00pm
 1044 E. Main, Burley
 208-478-2878

SUBSTANCE ABUSE RECOVERY SERVICES
 Friday, 7pm
 LDS Burley W. Stake
 2420 Park Ave., Burley
 208-478-5933

TOPS CLUB
 ID# 374 Rupert
 Thursday, 9:30am.
 410 East 7th, Rupert
 435-6037 or 678-3518

ID# 266 Heyburn
 Thursday, 5:15-7pm
 1431 17th St., Heyburn
 878-5950 or 678-2822

ID# 388 Malta
 Wednesday, 5:30pm
 140 W. Center St.
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200

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 P.O. Box 5129 Twin Falls, ID 83303
 Ph. 208-736-3000 Job Listing #1300378

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 Alternatives

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Happy Holidays!

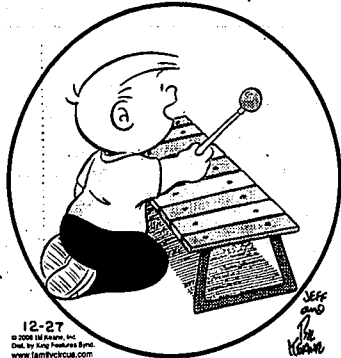
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By Bil Keane



12-27 © 2008 by Bil Keane, Inc. www.familycircus.com "Listen, Mommy! I composed a new doorbell tune!"

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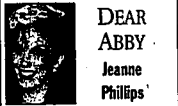
Woman is reluctant benchmark for co-worker losing weight

DEAR ABBY: I need some advice on how to handle a delicate situation at work because it's starting to get to me.

One of my co-workers, "Vicki," is overweight. She has been dieting and having some success with it. I support her efforts and am happy for her. However, she constantly makes comments to and about me. I often hear her comparing our looks, and I have heard her saying that we wear the same size. Abby, we don't.

As with many women, I struggle to maintain a positive body image. Vicki's constant comparisons are now shaking my confidence. It is the persistence of her remarks that is getting to me. I don't understand why she feels it is appropriate to comment on my body size or looks. I didn't ask to be used as a benchmark for her weight loss. Should I say something or keep quiet?

—MEDIUM-SIZED CALIFORNIA
DEAR MEDIUM-SIZED: Vicki envies and admires your looks. Like it or not, you are her "role model." She is also in denial about the way she actually looks. Because her constant comments bother you to the extent they do, you should definitely tell her she is making you self-conscious and ask her to stop. And if she doesn't comply, ask your boss to get the message across to her that her



DEAR ABBY Jeane Phillips

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law is insisting that she have my 8-month-old daughter "Mallory's" ears pierced. I am refusing. I do not want Mallory to be uncomfortable during the procedure or afterward. I have enough to worry about without adding fears of infected earlobes or my little one choking on jewelry parts. Mallory is just a baby — MY baby.

My mother-in-law says she will "slip off" and have Mallory's ears pierced and I won't be able to do anything about it. Furthermore, when I said I didn't feel it was necessary to explain why I was against the idea, my father-in-law stood up and told me to get out of his wife's house. I took Mallory and left. Two weeks later, they called my husband and asked to baby-sit. They have never apologized. I'm afraid they will pierce my baby's ears if she's left alone with them. What do I do? —MALLORY'S MOM IN GEORGIA
DEAR MOM: I'll tell you what

you DON'T do — you do not allow your in-laws to baby-sit your daughter until you are absolutely sure your wishes about her care will be followed.

DEAR ABBY: For the past 10 years I have put up with my husband's manipulative ex-wife. I am tired of her using their boys as a way to get my husband to do things. Don't get me wrong — I know my husband "has" to be there for his boys. But there are times when she could manage for herself without him.

Abby, this woman still keeps their wedding picture on her fireplace. My question is: Do you think she is still in love with him? —WONDERING IN HOUSTON

DEAR WONDERING: Whether your husband's ex-wife is still in love with him should be of no concern to you. My question is: Do you think she is still in love with him? She may keep the wedding picture on her mantle for the sake of her sons, as proof that at one time she was actually a size 6, or even that she was once loved by someone.

You have nothing to gain — and a great deal to lose — by harboring resentment against her. She will always be a part of your lives because she is your stepsons' mother, and she will be a grandmother to their children. If you are wise, you'll accept it, not obsess and move on.

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IF DECEMBER 27 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: All your channels are tuned to business or career success in the year to come. You will want to pay close attention to any offers or opportunities that appear during the first half of February.

300
301 Business Opportunities
VENDING Small business for sale in Sun Valley, 55000. Call for info 208-735-2430

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HOROSCOPE
Jeraldine Saunders

long lasting benefits.
CANCER (June 21-July 22): You might find your own special music during the month to come. Set your sights high and write down inspiring thoughts so you can put them to use later. Current cosmic conditions can bring two hearts close.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Paddle contentedly through the tunnel of love with a perfectly agreeable partner. It should be a fine time to tie the knots of affection in a little bit tighter. Go shopping for items that reflect your good taste.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Buy something of lasting value, but keep costs down by searching for the sales tables. Under these romantic cosmic conditions an established relationship can achieve true unity of spirit and harmony.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): One good turn deserves another. Believe the sincere promises received from your loved ones and your trust won't be misplaced. This is a good time to straighten out a rocky romance or misunder-

standing.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Cast cosmic nets and capture your dreams. Imagine what the future holds. Home and family may play a big part in your success during the month to come or become the motivation for your ambitions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You intellectually understand that a penny saved is a penny earned, but this month you might have a harder time gamine. When the stakes are high, listen to your intuition or a lucky companion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Today's new moon falls in your sign and signals that you will have more time to pay attention to your appearance and personal affairs, but by getting some elegant new outfits on sale today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): All the world's a stage. You may get a chance to play the part of gallant Galahad or gentle Guinevere today. You are at your best when part of your true personality is person who treats you like royalty.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): True happiness is like a puppy that will lick your face out of pure unconditional love. A loved one may be content to hold your hand or a strictly platonic relationship may satisfy your deepest desires.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Ten years ago: Six inmates, including four convicted killers, escaped from Riverbend Maximum Security Institution in Tennessee. (All were recaptured by the end of the next day.) A week after he was born weighing just 10.3 ounces, the smallest of the Houston octuplets (ChihJindua Childers Louisa) died from heart and lung failure.
Five years ago: Coordinated rebel assaults in Karbala, Iraq, killed 13 soldiers, including six coalition troops. Actor Alan Bates died in London at age 69.
One year ago: Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated in Pakistan by an attacker who shot her after a campaign rally and then blew himself up. Kenya held an election pitting incumbent president Mwai Kibaki against opposition candidate Ralla Odinga; both candidates ended up claiming victory in a vote that observers said was seriously flawed.

Today is Saturday, Dec. 27, the 362nd day of 2008. There are four days left in the year.
Today's Highlight In History:
On Dec. 27, 1968, Apollo 8 and its three astronauts made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.
On this date:
In 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.
In 1904, James Barrie's play "Peter Pan: The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up" opened at the Duke of York's Theater in London.
In 1927, the musical play "Show Boat," with music by Jerome Kern and libretto by Oscar Hammerstein II, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater in New York.
In 1932, Radio City Music Hall opened in New York City.
In 1945, 28 nations signed an agreement creating the World Bank.
In 1947, the children's TV pro-

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COFFEE TABLE round, wood, and wrought iron stand. \$150 or best offer. 208-715-0283.
DINING TABLE with 4 chairs, 59"x42", solid wood. Can email pictures. \$250. 428-6764.
FURNITURE For Christmas. Move out no room. Like new adult entertainment center \$300. White washbasin pine toilet desk w/drawers \$100. Gun cabinet w/glass doors \$125. Call 208-404-2122.
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THE ACES ON BRIDGE Bobby Wolff

"Even brute beasts and wandering birds do not fall into the same traps or nets twice."
— Saint Jerome

When North cue-bid in hearts after your splinter-bid showed slam interest, you were happy to ask for key cards and bid the small slam in spades.
West begins with the king and ace of clubs. How do you plan the play?
Your only problem will come if diamonds are 4-1. In fact, though, all you need to make the contract is for West to have the club queen. You ruff the second club, draw the trumps, and cash the ace and king of diamonds. Here it is East who guards the diamonds, so you cash the diamond queen and play your remaining trumps, discarding the diamond nine on the first of these.
In the three-card ending, West can see the club jack in dummy and will therefore keep two hearts and the club queen. Only then do you discard dummy's club jack.
What can East keep now? If he throws the diamond jack, your three will be high. But discarding a heart is no better, for then you will cash the king and ace of hearts, and dummy's heart eight will be high.
What happens if it is West who has four diamonds? Then instead of taking the last high diamond, you play the two remaining trumps, discarding a diamond and a heart from table. The king and ace of hearts will reduce everyone to two cards, with the lead in dummy. Either the club jack will be high or the diamonds will run, and you will make 12 tricks.

NORTH
A 10 7
A 8 7
9 8 5 2
J 5 4

EAST
3
J 10 6 5
J 10 7 6
9 8 3 2

SOUTH
K Q J 9 4 2
K 2
A K Q 3
A 10

Vulnerable: Both
Dealer: South

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ All pass
*Short clubs and a slam-try

Opening lead: Club king

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:
♠ A 10 7
♥ A 8 7
♦ 9 8 5 2
♣ J 5 4

South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

ANSWER: Three hearts is a game-try, and you have an excellent hand, with nothing wasted in diamonds. Ace-trick is only an average holding facing a game-try — partner typically has heart-bid or honor-fourth for his heart bid — but the rest of your hands so good you can bid four spades with something to spare.

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