



Busy stork

Maternity unit is hopping in Rexburg **B1**

A bright idea

Eastern Idaho schools install energy-efficient lighting **B1**



Must be the shoes

Challis' Jarvis has plenty of style to go with his talent on the wrestling mat **A9**



James B. Hale / Associated Press
Don Aslett, founder of the Museum of Clean in Pocatello, demonstrates an interactive window washing exhibit Dec. 7.

Museum of Clean is ready to shine

■ The Pocatello museum features a variety of cleaning-themed items, such as a horse-drawn vacuum cleaner.

JESSIE L. BONNER
Associated Press

POCATELLO — Don Aslett may be more than a half century into his fight against dirt and clutter, but he still can't take a stroll without bending to pick up litter from the sidewalk.

INSIDE
■ Salmon museum receives award and cash / **B1**

As a child, he can remember cringing at the site of spilled coffee grounds, and in high school finding it strange the other boys didn't like to clean their rooms. Even now at the age of 76, his battle against grit and grime has yet to relent.

Those who may not understand his devotion, he reasons, have likely never felt the satisfaction of making a toilet bowl shine.

"I'll tell you, clean is a hard sell," said Aslett, who has written 37 books on the topic and founded a janitorial business with branches in most states and Canada. "I love to clean," he said with a shrug.

■ The museum took about six years and \$6 million to put together

MUSEUM, Continued on Page A5

PRECISION-MADE
Efficiency, quality are company's cornerstones



Ken Eberspacher, project manager for Diversified Metal Products, likes the "can-do" feeling and attitude that typifies the working environment for this growing Idaho Falls business.

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■ Gross sales at Diversified Metal Products in Idaho Falls have increased by no less than 8 percent for each of the past six years.

By SVEN BERG
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Diversified Metal Products' stock in trade is precision.

Whether it's a cut, a weld, the machining process or a bid for a multimillion-dollar contract, everything has to be just right. And with good reason, since the products the Idaho Falls company builds are routinely subjected to great stress and are counted on to keep dangerous materials from mixing with the rest of the world.

Somehow, in this realm of micro-precision and very serious machines, employees find that the simple things are the most satisfying aspects of their jobs.

For some, it's the company of their fellow workers.

"It's the camaraderie — the guys. It makes a lot of difference," shop

foreman Clyde Crow said. "I like the people I work with."

Jim Vincent, a machinist who started working at Diversified in September, said his counterparts' efficiency is part of what makes them enjoyable to be around.

"Everybody seems to be enjoying what they're doing," he said. "Everybody seems to like to get things done quickly, accurately."

Then there's Lynn Coleman, manager of the company's controls division, who said working at Diversified lets him scratch an itch — and get paid for it — that he's felt since he was a kid.

"When I was a kid, my dad used to get so frustrated because I was always tearing stuff apart and seeing

■ Diversified Metal Products has contracts for work all over the United States

PRECISION, Continued on Page A5



A plate of stainless steel more than 2 inches thick yields to the 60,000 PSI of water and sand at Diversified. The cutouts are machined and assembled into sophisticated devices for the nuclear or food-service industries.

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Fatal Connecticut fire reminds homeowners of ash dangers

■ Authorities are reiterating the proper way to dispose of fireplace ashes in the wake of a Christmas morning fire that killed five people.

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Fireplace ashes can be deceiving. Just ask anyone



This story was selected by a Post Register focus group of readers younger than 35.

hot embers or ashes. It appears Michael Borcina was among

was staying caused a fire early Christmas morning that killed his friend's three children and their two grandparents. Borcina and the mother, Madonna Badger, escaped the blaze after failed attempts to rescue the little girls.

The fire has led to renewed safety warnings from federal and local authorities.

"What often happens, and it's a pretty common scenario that we see, is that

is thought to be out," said Tom Olshanski, a spokesman for the U.S. Fire Administration.

Olshanski and local fire officials in Stamford and other communities urged homeowners this week to put fireplace ashes in a metal container and place it well away from the house. If you leave hot ashes in the fireplace, make sure there's a metal screen or glass partition in place,

MUSEUM

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And now, he has a six-story shrine dedicated to his craft — the Museum of Clean — that recently opened to the public in eastern Idaho.

Among the exhibits: a horse-drawn vacuum dating to 1902, a collection of several hundred pre-electric vacuum cleaners, a Civil War-era operating table, a 1,600-year-old bronze pick that was used to clean teeth, and an antique Amish foot bath.

There's also an 88-seat theater, an art gallery and a gift shop with cleaning kits for kids priced at \$9.95 and plush toys in the shape of germs.

The idea for the project came several years ago, when Aslett came upon an old pre-electric sweeper vacuum at a Detroit museum.

"I thought, well there's horse museums, cow museums, train museums, plane museums. Why not a clean museum?" Aslett said.

He started his collection with an old pump vacuum he purchased for about \$250 and tracked down more items at antique stores, while others were donated. He soon had enough for a display at his office in downtown Pocatello.



James B. Hale / Associated Press

After years of work, the Museum of Clean in Pocatello held its grand opening in November.

"I found out something interesting: People are into cars and food and sports," Aslett said. "Cleaning is way down on the list. But if you took something as dull as cleaning and made it humorous, then cleaning goes to the top."

Aslett started public speaking and writing cleaning handbooks. His personal monikers have included the Dean of Clean, the Sultan of Shine and, who could ever forget, Don Juan of the John.

He was featured in People Magazine. He's also been on Oprah.

As his cleaning business thrived, so did the cleaning tool collection. Things got serious when he found a Boston collector with 230 pre-electric vacuums he was willing to sell for \$300,000.

"After I got that collection, I found out that I needed a lot more room," Aslett said.

Over the years, the museum missed several expected starts, but Aslett stood firm in his belief: "When you hear Pocatello, you're going to think clean."

He was quick to dismiss a website survey this year that ranked Pocatello among the dirtiest cities in the U.S. based on online sales of cleaning products.

"That's like saying Pocatello has the most ugly women in the world because we buy the least makeup," he said.

Admission to the museum, which took six years to assemble at a cost of about \$6 million, costs \$5 per person or \$15 for a family.

FIRE

From Page A1

they said. And, of course, make sure you have working smoke detectors.

University of Vermont men's basketball coach John Becker and his family on Tuesday could have suffered a tragedy similar to the one in Stamford. A construction worker who just happened to be passing by the Beckers' home noticed it was on fire and woke the family up by knocking on the door at about 6:30 a.m.

Burlington's fire marshal, Terry Francis, said the fire was caused by hot fireplace ashes in a paper bag that was placed on the back porch of the home the night before. Becker, his wife and their daughter escaped.

"We got out of there in the nick of time," Becker told the Burlington Free Press. "Kenny Roberts was the construction worker who saved us. I can't thank him enough, and I can't thank the Burlington Fire Department enough."

The Fire Safety Admini-

Fireplace safety

- Overbuilt fires can ignite creosote in the chimney, so don't use too much paper to build fires.
- Never burn charcoal indoors; it can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.
- Keep flammable materials away from the mantel.
- Before you go to sleep, be sure a fire is out.
- Never break a synthetic log apart or use more than one at a time; they often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.
- Never close the damper with hot ashes in the fireplace; it could cause the fire to heat up and force carbon monoxide into the house.
- If you leave ashes in the fireplace, make sure there's a metal screen or glass partition in place.
- If you scoop ashes, put them in a metal container and place it well away from the house. Embers can remain hot enough to start a fire as long as a day later.

— Associated Press

stration says there are about 374,900 residential building fires in the U.S. every year. Those fires kill more than 2,600 people and injure another 13,000. Cooking is the leading cause, starting 44 percent of the fires.

About 192,700 of yearly residential fires spread beyond the source, and 6 percent of those fires are caused by hot embers or ashes, the Fire Safety

Administration says.

And 15 percent of multiple-fatality fires are caused by unintentional or careless actions, the agency says. There are about 250 multiple-fatality fires in the U.S. each year, resulting in an estimated 825 deaths and 200 injuries.

No fatality statistics solely for fires caused by ashes were available.

Market watch

Dec. 28, 2011

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Dow Jones Industrials | -139.94 |
| Nasdaq composite | -35.22 |
| Standard & Poor's 500 | -15.79 |
| Russell 2000 | -16.10 |
| | 735.21 |

Stocks of Local Interest — Wednesday, Dec. 28, Close

| Name | Open | Close | Range | Name | Open | Close | Range |
|---------------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| AnhBsch Inbev | 60.10 | 60.10 | 60.10/60.10 | Lockheed Martin | 81.68 | 80.94 | 80.85/81.78 |
| Century Link | 37.24 | 36.67 | 36.59/37.24 | Martin Marietta | 75.61 | 72.88 | 72.68/75.92 |
| Chev. Texaco | 107.69 | 105.96 | 105.88/108.16 | Micron Technolgy | 6.25 | 6.17 | 6.06/6.33 |
| ConAgra Foods | 26.56 | 26.36 | 26.34/26.64 | OfficeMax | 4.52 | 4.31 | 4.31/4.52 |
| Exxon Mobil | 85.15 | 84.18 | 84.01/85.44 | PepsiCo | 66.38 | 65.91 | 65.84/66.50 |
| Gnrl Dynamics | 66.58 | 66.95 | 65.70/66.68 | PrkmsElmer Inc | 20.01 | 19.55 | 19.46/20.01 |
| Gnrl Electric | 18.00 | 17.83 | 17.72/18.02 | Shwria-Williams | 90.09 | 89.21 | 89.09/90.42 |
| H.J. Heinz | 54.42 | 53.93 | 53.92/54.42 | Union Pacific | 105.69 | 104.47 | 104.12/105.99 |
| Home Depot | 42.23 | 41.53 | 41.52/42.39 | U.S. Bancorp | 27.28 | 26.88 | 26.84/27.35 |
| IdaCorp | 42.50 | 41.97 | 41.96/42.52 | Viacom | 45.42 | 45.06 | 44.84/45.44 |
| KeyCorp | 7.73 | 7.63 | 7.59/7.74 | Wel-Mart | 59.73 | 59.73 | 59.63/59.94 |
| Kroger | 24.40 | 24.33 | 24.30/24.49 | Wells Fargo | 27.59 | 27.11 | 27.08/27.72 |

PRECISION

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how it worked," Coleman said. "It's served me well in this career."

Make no mistake, however: Work at Diversified is serious business. So serious, in fact, that the company's gross sales have increased by no less than 8 percent for each of the past six years. Business development manager Dan Payne said annual growth of 15 percent is typical. He declined to release the company's annual sales figures.

One of Diversified's main products is glove boxes — the kind you see in movies that scientists use to shield themselves and the world from whatever toxic or dangerous substance is inside the box. Locally, their products are popular with customers such as Battelle Energy Alliance, which runs Idaho National Laboratory, as well as contractors charged with cleaning up Cold War-legacy waste on the federal government's 890-square-mile site west of Idaho Falls.

Diversified doesn't win contracts to build gear for the site and lab just because it's a local company. Payne said Diversified is subject to the same competitive bidding process competitors face. In fact, that process has led the company to develop its niche.

"One of the things we really try to do is take our proposals away from just being about price and go after contracts where

they want the best value," Payne said. "So we want to minimize the customers' risk and we want to show them that we're the ones who are technically capable."

That approach has led to massive contracts this year, with projects as far-flung as South Carolina. It helped the company score a deal to build one of the most impressive-looking contraptions ever wheeled out of Idaho Falls: a 100-ton pressure vessel that measured 40 feet long and 14 feet in diameter.

Some of the tools at Diversified's disposal are as impressive as the things it builds. There's a plasma cutter, a helium leak test machine, press breaks, vertical mills and plenty of micrometers. One of the coolest tools is the water jet. It may sound like a feature at a municipal swimming pool, but the Diversified version of a water jet welds a mixture of water and garnet fragments that come out in a stream — pressurized to 60,000 pounds per square inch — capable of cutting through a 6-inch-thick slab of stainless steel.

Twenty-three years after incorporating, the people who run Diversified say they are constantly examining every aspect of the company's operations to make them run smoother and more efficiently. It's no accident they've enjoyed success as businesses across the globe have suffered.

"We don't consider ourselves lucky. We're fortunate," product manager Neil Lanier said. "We've worked hard to get to this level, this kind of work that we do. We're just fortunate to have the opportunity to do it."

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