

TUITION RISES: College boosts fees 5%, Page 1B

TOMORROW'S WEATHER CLOUDY, SNOW 35° 20° 4-DAY FORECAST, 2A ▶

TIMES HERALD

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WINTER OLYMPICS 2002: FIGURE SKATING

Golden skate adds luster to tarnished sport

Yagudin flawless; American takes home the bronze

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — There was more Russian gold in Olympic figure skating Thursday — this time with perfection, not controversy.

Alexei Yagudin won his duel against rival Evgeni Plushenko, and Timothy Goebel finished third, the first time since 1992 an American man has won a medal in the event.

Mr. Yagudin received all 5's on the scoreboard — except for four perfect 6.0s for artistry.

Mr. Goebel showed why he is the "Quad King," becoming the first Olympian to hit three of the four-revolution jumps in the games. He also displayed improved artistry in becoming the first American to win a medal since Paul Wylie won silver at the Albertville games.

"I skated as well as I can skate, and I was just so happy to go out there and put it out under pressure," he said.

As for getting a medal, he said, "I was sweating it a little bit."

Mr. Yagudin, 21, the three-time world champion, nailed everything, including two quads, one as part of a three-jump combo. He skated as the "Man in the Iron Mask," wearing a costume with a bronzed breast plate and wielding an imaginary sword.

When he was done, he collapsed to his knees, then kissed the ice. The quick-witted Mr. Yagudin, who spends much of his time in the United States, said he was showing his appreciation for his part-time home.



Timothy Goebel

BRONZE SOUVENIR U.S. skater Timothy Goebel celebrates at the end of his figure skate program Thursday. He finished third.

SALT LAKE CITY MORE IN 2002 COMPLETE OLYMPICS COVERAGE ON 1C, 5C AND 6C

Americans Todd Eldredge and Michael Weiss finished sixth and seventh, respectively.

And in an upset appeal filed late Thursday night, Canadian Olympic officials have asked an international court of arbitration to award a gold medal to the figure skating pair whose narrow loss to the Russians has touched off one of the sport's most heated judging controversies.

The Canadians asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport to compel the nine judges involved in Monday night's pairs competition to testify before a court panel. A hearing will be at 2 p.m. today to rule on the request. The panel ordered the International Skating Union to have its referees and judges bring all records relating to the event's scoring to the hearing.



Alexei Yagudin

GOLDEN MOMENT: Russian Alexei Yagudin won the gold in the men's free skate Thursday.



Evgeni Plushenko

Kimball lawsuit dismissed

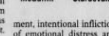
Judge's ruling: Ex-fire chief gave up right to sue

By AMBER HUNT Times Herald

KIMBALL TWP. — A lawsuit accusing the township and its supervisor of sexual harassment stemming from an alleged sexual affair has been dismissed by a St. Clair County circuit judge. Judge Daniel Kelly ruled Thursday former fire chief Patrick McGuffin couldn't sue the township and Supervisor Laura Studevant because he waived his right to sue when he signed a March 2001 retirement agreement.



Patrick McGuffin



Laura Studevant

"The claim for malicious prosecution is barred by governmental immunity," Jill Weinger, Mr. McGuffin's lawyer, said she does not know yet if Mr. McGuffin will appeal.

See KIMBALL, 2A ▶

Skepticism greets accreditation plan

The Associated Press

LANSING — A new plan to give schools letter grades based on state test scores, parental involvement and other factors was tentatively approved Thursday by the State Board of Education.

Board members, however, made clear they want some questions answered before they give the plan final approval in March. The board has scheduled a meeting in two weeks to hammer out those details. The accreditation plan would grade schools in six different areas based on factors such as professional development for teachers, arts education, alignment of curriculum with state standards and improvement on Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests. Each school also would

See SCHOOLS, 2A ▶

Senate Democrats push campaign reform

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Moving swiftly, Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle pledged Thursday to seek passage of sweeping legislation to rewrite campaign spending rules "the minute we receive it" from the House. He said any filibuster was doomed.

"This is the year we're finally going to pass campaign-finance reform," Sen. Daschle, D-S.D., said less than eight hours after the House approved it.

White House spokesman Art Fletcher did not respond directly when asked whether President Bush would sign the bill designed to reduce the influence of money in political campaigns.

"The president will wait to be declarative until he sees what the final bill is," he said.

An earlier version of the campaign finance bill backed by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russel Feingold, D-Wis., passed the Senate last year on a vote of 59-41.

One lawmaker who would be in opposition then, Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., issued a statement indicating he would support it when it came to the floor.

At the same time, Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, disclosed he was withdrawing his support — meaning it was not clear whether supporters had 60 votes to overcome a filibuster.

"If I were a Republican up for re-election in the Senate, I'd ask myself, 'Do you want to be part of a continuing filibuster?'" Sen. McCain said.

Supporters said the legislation would help clean up the nation's political cam-

paigns by banning soft money, the unlimited donations that unions, corporations and individuals make to political parties.

The bill also would curtail late-campaign "attack ads" that have proliferated in recent years by prohibiting the use of soft money to pay for them to be broadcast.

Republican critics argue the bill is unconstitutional as well as biased in favor of Democrats.



ON THE HILL: Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., addresses a Capitol Hill news conference Thursday to discuss the campaign finance reform legislation now before the Senate.

Family searches for answers

The Associated Press

Wife: Disease research must become priority

By AMBER HUNT Times Herald

KIMBALL TWP. — For nearly a year, Michelle Cataldo watched as her spouse regressed from a loving husband and father to something of a child.

completely dependent on her to be dressed, fed and bathed. Five days after dozens of people gathered for Adam Cataldo's funeral, Mrs. Cataldo, 30, said it's time the U.S. and Michigan governments step up to learn exactly what killed her husband.

"I worry because the government isn't spending that much on studying it or on research," she said Thursday from her home in Kimball Township.

"They're spending a lot more money in Canada and Ontario," she said. "They're spending a lot more money in Canada and Ontario, but here, it's not a priority."

Mr. Cataldo, 28, died Feb. 6 of sporadic — or classic — Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which infects one person per million each year nationwide. See DISEASE, 2A ▶



AT HOME: Adam Cataldo plays with his son, Andrew, at their home in September.

Cloning project has claws

The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — At first blush, "cc" looks just like any other healthy, frisky kitty.

The 7-week-old domestic shorthair is a miracle of science. Its name is short for "copycat" — cc is a clone. CC is the first reported success in cloning dogs or cats, said Denise Kramer of Texas A&M University.



MAKES DEBUT: Cc, the first-ever cloned cat, is 7 weeks old in this photo.

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