



## The Church *in* the News

March 11, 2004

Stories from the news media that include reference to the Church.

### Fighting Graffiti with Volunteers — [MyTown.co.nz](#)

The city of Hastings, New Zealand, aims to eradicate the scourge of graffiti. A group called Mainstreets, composed of Latter-day Saint and other volunteers, sends a cleanup brigade to the scene when a victim of graffiti calls the Mainstreets No Graffiti hotline.

### Covenants Bring Us Closer to God — [BYU-Idaho News Release](#)

"Covenants help us in so many ways as we sojourn on earth and try to get out of this telestial pit," said Victor L. Ludlow, a professor of ancient scripture at Brigham Young University, during his devotional address at BYU-Idaho on Tuesday. Ludlow compared sin and physical death to a pit from which we can escape through God's gifts and covenants, made effective through Christ's Atonement.

### Dramatic Language Teaching — [Deerfield Review](#)

Blaine Ray paced up and down in front of Elizabeth Mansfield's second period Spanish class in Deerfield, Illinois, telling a story in Spanish, with constant repetition of basic words and with pauses to ask the class about salient points. Ray developed his teaching technique after spending two years in Chile as a missionary for the Church.

### After 120 Merit Badges, Scout Still Going — [Statesman Journal](#)

"Be prepared" is the motto of the Boy Scouts of America, and perhaps no one lives up to that credo more than Sergei Zelenski. The 17-year-old from Woodburn, Oregon, has earned all of the 120 merit badges commissioned by the national scouting organization. He joined the Scouts through The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints when he was 12.

### Stafford Family String — [King County Journal](#)

Dan Stafford is one of a long line of Staffords who have played basketball for Auburn High, in Auburn, Washington. Stafford knows after next season he will leave basketball for two years to serve a Church mission. His older brothers all served two-year missions and then returned to basketball.