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H&F 10

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February 23, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

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Detour for school transportation legislation?



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Bus driver Pam Wolters chats with co-workers out the window of Pluto at Western States Bus Services, Inc. located at Curry Crossing between Twin Falls and Filer, before heading out on her Twin Falls route Thursday afternoon. Pluto is one of three buses used for field trips.

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

For Idaho educators, the arena of school budgets is something of a roller coaster ride.

The downswings are plentiful, with cuts to state education funding in the works. One potential bright spot this year is the federal stimulus funding, which could help offset the impact of expected cuts.

But state lawmakers are also considering a bill to change how the state covers districts' transportation expenses. The bill would cut back funding for field trips, saving about \$2.5 million. It would also reduce the state's reimbursement of busing costs from 85 percent to 50 percent.

Under the proposal, the affected 35 percent — about \$23.4 million — would then be shifted into discretionary funding. State officials say that would give districts an added incentive to save money.

"So I don't know if there's any money for transportation funding."

— House Education Chairman Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene

"Right now if the district runs it more efficiently and saves a dollar in transportation costs, the state keeps 85 cents of that," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. "Well, we want to change that so if they save a dollar, they keep 50 cents. In other words, there's more incentive to run transportation more efficiently."

House Education Chairman Bob Nonini, R-Coeur d'Alene, the bill's sponsor,

said the proposal is still alive because he has heard that the federal economic stimulus would be directed toward programs and teachers.

"So I don't know if there's any money for transportation funding," he said.

Wayne Davis, executive director of the Idaho Association of School Administrators, said one concern is that the bill would take away the long-term stability of transportation funding that's currently in place, adding that the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee determines the line item for discretionary funding.

"You'd have to plead your case," Davis said. "I think the feeling has been that the funding formula has been relatively fair and consistent. Districts know what to plan on year after year."

Phil Homer, a lobbyist for the IASA, said school districts already have an incentive to keep costs down because they aren't reimbursed at the full 85 percent

if they exceed a cap that's in place.

Wiley Dobbs, superintendent of Twin Falls School District, said he has worries about dropping the match to 50 percent.

"The thing that scares the dickens out of most of us is that 50 percent," he said.

Currently, Twin Falls School District's contract for bus service is \$1.4 million a year, and the state reimburses \$1.19 million. Going to a 50 percent reimbursement would mean being reimbursed only \$700,000 instead, which is a cut of almost half a million.

While there would be the funding would shift to discretionary funds, Dobbs said he remains concerned about what it would mean, adding that he needs to learn more about the proposal.

As for the economic stimulus, the school district cannot count on that money to come in when planning its budget, Dobbs said.

Minidoka County School

See DETOUR, Main 2

DEQ: New ammonia report an improvement, but still needs work

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer



On the Web:

To read the new report, visit http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air/permits_forms.cfm and click on "Permit by Rule for Dairy Farms."

The newest report on a state program tracking ammonia air emissions at dairies is better, but still doesn't meet what the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality says it's looking for.

The program, started in 2006, is run by DEQ and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and targets dairies that emit more than 100 tons of the chemical each year. But its second year was marred by computer and inspection problems that kept ISDA from submitting a complete report last April.

A program update completed in August says ISDA took a number of steps to fix those problems, including

additional training for its inspectors that made inspections more uniform.

The report, posted on DEQ's Web site on Thursday, provides more details — even copies of inspection sheets from 2008. But it still doesn't quite cover what the agreement that created the program requires, said Martin Bauer, head of DEQ's air-quality division.

In a comment letter he expected to send to ISDA by

See DEQ, Main 2

Edwards: 'Fairness doctrine' should be dropped

Times-News staff

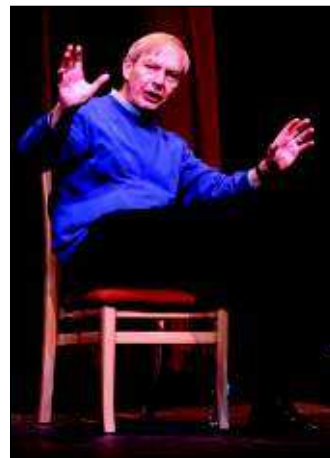
Efforts to restore the "Fairness Doctrine" as a way to counter conservative talk radio is wrong-headed and should be dropped, former National Public Radio host Bob Edwards said in a 90-minute talk in Twin Falls Sunday afternoon.

Edwards, as host of NPR's popular Morning Edition program for more than 30 years, has long been associated with a news organization lauded for its quality but often associated with a more liberal political bent.

Still, he said ongoing efforts to force right-wing broadcasters to be "balanced" will backfire on the left because it would actually drive news coverage from the air, allowing fewer voices to be heard.

"People who want to bring

See EDWARDS, Main 2



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Bob Edwards, the former host of 'Morning Edition' on National Public Radio, speaks Sunday at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. He has conducted more than 25,000 interviews with guests ranging from celebrities to politicians as well as authors and shared some of those stories with audience members Sunday.

CSI trustees to vote on tuition hike

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

College of Southern Idaho students will likely pay higher tuition starting this summer.

CSI's board of trustees will vote today on a proposal to raise tuition from \$95 a credit to \$100 a credit. The board meets at 5:30 p.m. in room 248 of the college's Taylor Building.

The increase comes as state colleges and universities deal with budget holdbacks issued this year and anticipate further cuts for the next fiscal year.

For full-time students taking 12 to 18 credits, the proposal would raise tuition from \$1,140 to \$1,200 per semester. For each additional credit beyond 18 credits, the tuition would increase from \$95 to \$100.

"We would have liked to not have to do that," Mike Mason, vice president of administra-

tion, said of raising tuition.

The college has already experienced a state funding cut of \$760,000 this fiscal year. Mason said the college does not know yet how much of a cut to expect next year.

State officials are still looking into what federal economic stimulus funding will do for Idaho's budget.

CSI plans to apply for a construction project using federal stimulus funding that will provide a building for teaching wind, solar and geothermal energy courses.

As for the college's typical budget expenses, Mason said he isn't expecting stimulus cash to offset those budget cuts.

"We don't expect any operational funds from the stimulus money," Mason said.

Summer registration begins in April, so it's important that students applying for financial aid know what the tuition cost is, Mason said.

Western Democrat skews conservative

By Mark Z. Barabak
Los Angeles Times

MERIDIAN — Rep. Walter Minnick, the new Democratic congressman from Idaho, doesn't think much of President Barack Obama's economic recovery plan.

"I think it's a horrible idea to try to appropriate large sums of taxpayer dollars to programs that have never been debated or authorized," Minnick recently wrote.

Obama staked his presidency on the sprawling legislative package, and the administration fought hard for its passage. But if anyone at the White House was unhappy with Minnick for his opposition, they

never let on.

"I've had no pressure," he said.

Minnick is the first Democrat in 16 years to win a congressional seat in Idaho, which may be the most Republican state in the country. His narrow victory was a small but striking example of Democrats' growing political strength in the Rocky Mountain region; six of the 21 seats the party gained in November in the House of Representatives were won out West.

But success brings its own challenges. If Democrats hope to remain a majority party nationally, they will have to embrace a fresh breed of Western candidate like Minnick, 66, a former corporate executive who



Coeur d'Alene Press/AP photo

Rep. Walt Minnick, D-Idaho, signs an autograph for TESH client Donna Christy while touring the facility Jan. 23 in Coeur d'Alene.

campaigns as a pro-gun, antitax, small-government conservative and shows every intention of behaving like one.

Party leaders seem mindful of that reality. Days after the stimulus bill passed the

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HOARDING MILLIONS

Army charity holds onto funds > Main 9



**WADE SCORES 50,
BUT HEAT LOOSE TO MAGIC
SEE MAIN 5**

Mickelson avoids a meltdown to win at Riviera

Phil Mickelson hits the rough on the eighth hole in the final round of the Northern Trust Open golf tournament at Riviera Country Club in the Pacific Palisades area of Los Angeles on Sunday.



AP photo

By Doug Ferguson
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — On the verge of blowing the biggest lead of his career, Phil Mickelson turned his fortunes around in the final hour at Riviera with back-to-back birdies that carried him to a one-shot victory Sunday in the Northern Trust Open.

Mickelson went from a four-shot lead at the start of the final round to a two-shot deficit with three holes to play.

Determined not to get another title get away from him at Riviera, he hit 9-iron to 5 feet behind the hole for birdie on the par-3 16th, hit his biggest drive of the round on the par-5 17th to set up a two-putt birdie from 70 feet, then buried his demons on the 18th hole by making a 6-foot par to avoid a playoff with Steve Stricker.

Mickelson closed with a 1-over 72 to become only the fourth player to win in consecutive years at Riviera. It might have been three in a row if not for his sloppy bogey on the 18th hole two years ago,

when he wound up losing in a playoff.

"I'll take a lot out of this," Mickelson said. "To make par on 18 when two years ago I didn't, that meant a lot to me."

Stricker closed with a 67 and was on his way to the range to get ready for a playoff when he saw Mickelson leave himself a tough par putt on the final hole, and stopped when he heard the cheer.

He had his chances. Stricker missed a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-5 17th that would have given him a three-shot lead at the time, then missed a 12-footer for par on the 18th.

It was the second time on the West Coast that Stricker had a chance to win. He had a three-shot lead at the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic until he was blown away by the raging desert wind, closing with a 77.

"It's just a little disappointing when you don't finish it off, or have the opportunity to finish it off," he said. "And I didn't."

But the real heartache belonged

to Fred Couples.

A two-time winner at Riviera, his favorite golf course west of Augusta National, the 49-year-old had a chance for one last victory in his final full season on the PGA Tour. Couples was one shot behind when he fanned his approach to the 18th green and watched in disgust as it struck a eucalyptus tree. He finished with a bogey for a 69 to tie for third with K.J. Choi (69) and Andres Romero (70).

Couples learned earlier in the week that his estranged wife, Thais Baker, died Tuesday of breast cancer. They never divorced after splitting up nearly four years ago, and Couples said he is not welcome in their home in Santa Barbara.

"She was a nice person," he said. "She did everything she could to make it another month."

Mickelson finished at 15-under 269 and won for the 35th time in his career. It was the first time since the 2005 PGA Championship that he won a tournament without breaking par in the final round.

INSIDE:

Full golf roundup

Main 5

Kenseth gets back-to-back wins in to open season

By Mike Harris
Associated Press writer

FONTANA, Calif. — Daytona 500 winner Matt Kenseth made it two victories in a row Sunday, holding off a late challenge from Jeff Gordon to win the Auto Club 500.

Kenseth took the lead from Gordon in the pits under caution with 38 laps to go in the 250-lap race and stayed ahead in a battle of former NASCAR Sprint Cup champions, pulling away over the last 20 laps.

It is the first time a Cup driver has won the first two races of the season since Gordon did it in 1997 on the way to the second of his four championships.

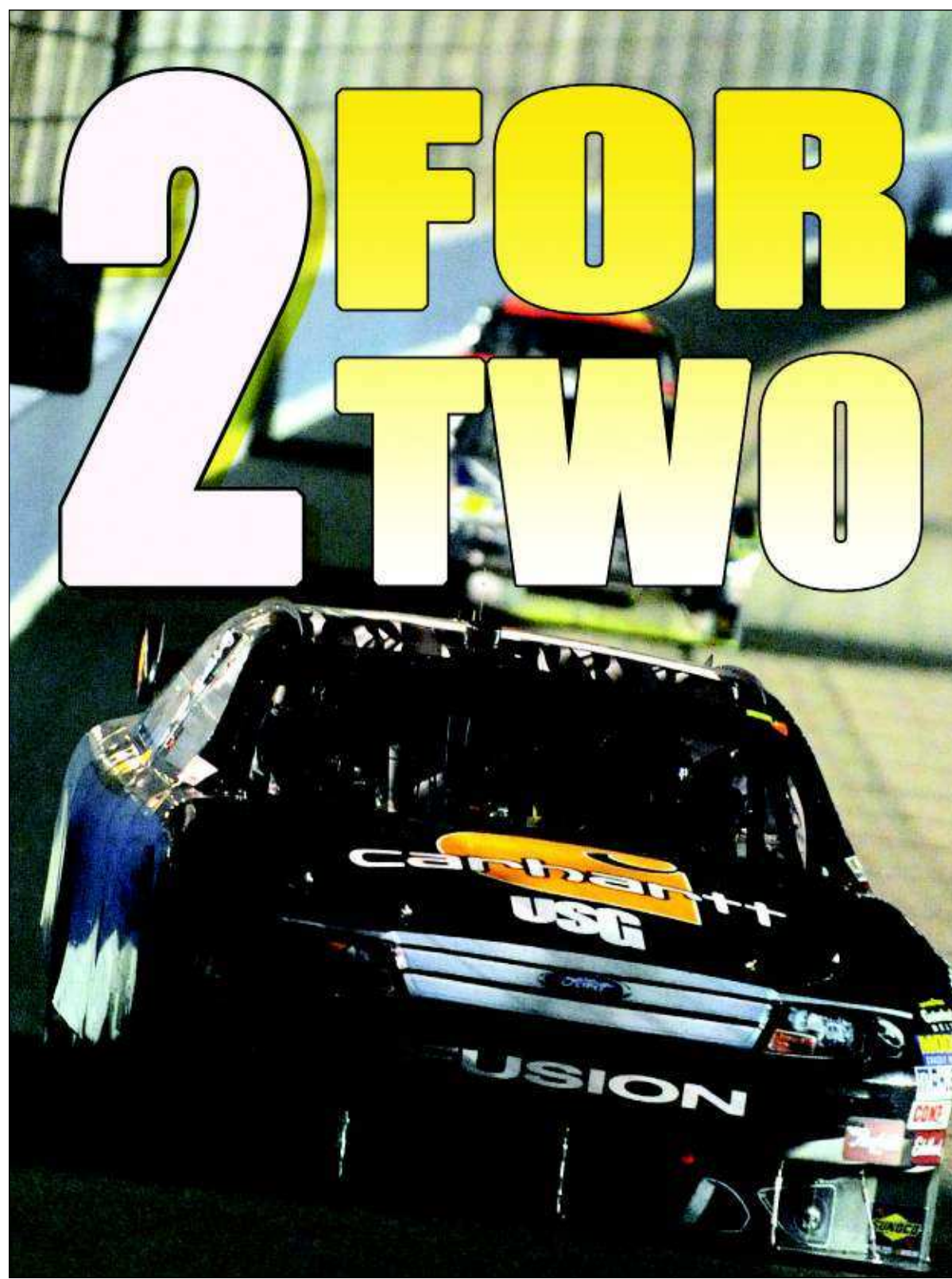
"It's such a great team," Kenseth said. "I just thank these guys (on the crew). They gave me a great stop and got me in clean air and that's just a huge difference."

"Our pit stops started out great and then we had a bad one," he added. "I complained a little and then, all of sudden, we seemed to pick up three or four spots on every one after that."

Earlier in the race, Kenseth, who led a race-high 84 laps, got out ahead and Gordon caught and passed him on a long green-flag run. But, after the final restart on lap 216, Kenseth found a way to stay in front.

At that point, both Kenseth and Gordon were much faster than the rest of the field at the end. They steadily pulled away from the pack. But Gordon, like Kenseth — winless last year, was unable to get to Kenseth's rear bumper and get a real run on the No. 17 Roush Fenway Ford.

"I thought he was going to pass



Matt Kenseth leads Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon during the NASCAR Auto Club 500 race Sunday, in Fontana, Calif.

us," Kenseth said. "Earlier, I had a good run and, in the middle of it, he just caught up, ran right by me and took off. I thought it was

going to happen again. "I could tell right away (the car) was better (after the last stop), but I honestly thought it was

going to be too loose before it was over. I guess his car got a little too

Please see **NASCAR**, Main 5

Golden Eagles split with Prairie

CSI belts 15 runs, 17 hits in Game 2

By David Bashore
Times-News writer

College of Southern Idaho baseball coach Boomer Walker admitted he can be a little unrealistic in expecting consistent play this early in the season.

It's still February, and the Golden Eagles finished their first home weekend of the season Sunday after two long road trips. But the second game of Sunday's doubleheader showed how good CSI could be.

After wasting a good pitching performance from Tyler Barrett in the opener with four errors in a 10-4 loss, the Golden Eagles took the Prairie Baseball Academy behind the woodshed in Game 2, belting out 17 hits in a 15-1 drubbing at Skip Walker Field.

CSI (6-7) scored seven runs in the second inning, highlighted by sophomore catcher Cameron Cushing's three-run homer to right-center field. Only one ball left the Skip all of last season.

That homer spurred starting pitcher Sam Armstrong, who tossed all seven innings and gave up just one run on five hits.

"After you put together a seven-run inning like that you definitely see the wind's out of their sails," said

Please see **CSI**, **MAIN 5**

Davis, Chung beat odds to reach NFL combine

By Michael Marot
Associated Press writer

INDIANAPOLIS — Patrick Chung and Rulon Davis arrived at this week's NFL scouting combine with wildly different perspectives.

Chung, the 21-year-old safety from Oregon, describes himself as cocky and ready to conquer the world.

Davis, the 25-year-old defensive end from California, knows better. After spending more than three years in the Marines, including six months in Iraq, and surviving a serious motorcycle accident in California, he's just happy to be alive.

"It's a miracle, man," Davis said Sunday. "I should be dead."

By all accounts, Davis is right.

In July 2005, he was rear-ended on a California highway, thrown off his motorcycle and into the path of an oncoming semitrailer, which ran over both his legs. Somehow, Davis survived with no broken bones and no ligament

damage, though he couldn't walk for a month and had to retrain his legs.

Miraculously, the kid with no scholarship offers out of high school, made it back to the football field and less than four years later is here in Indy, surrounded by some of the biggest names in college football.

"I had to learn how to walk again. The year after that I went to Cal, that's why I redshirted in '05," Davis said. "Today, there's no pain. I got a little bit of numbness here and there, but structurally it's sound."

In a league that tries to balance experience with youthfulness, Chung and Davis come from opposite worlds.

Chung, the No. 2 rated safety, always expected to be here. Davis did not.

Chung could be the youngest fifth-year senior selected in this year's draft, while Davis is projected to go in the middle rounds and likely to be the oldest player chosen in April.

But the two players with such divergent backgrounds and vastly different

expectations do have one thing in common — they've beaten the odds.

Chung jumped onto the college football field at age 16, with a team full of older players ready to embrace him as more of a punch line than a teammate.

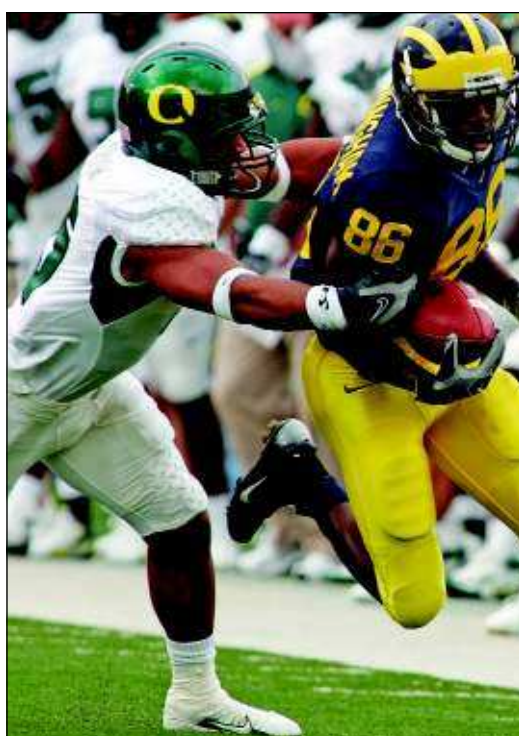
"They were a bunch of grown men, and the guys were picking on me," he recalled. "They called me 'Little Man.'"

Not for long. Chung reported to freshman practice at an already comfortable safety-size of 5-foot-10, 188 pounds, played on special teams and emerged as one of Oregon's top practice players during his redshirt season. In Year 2, he was the Ducks' No. 2 tackler and on the way to starting 51 consecutive games.

Since then, Chung has grown in size and stature, overcoming the challenges his teammates placed on him.

"The older guys were showing me the ropes, and I was trying to be the best player I could," he said. "I'm kind of

Please see **Chung**, **MAIN 5**



Oregon defender Patrick Chung, left, attempts to take down Michigan wide receiver Mario Manningham in Ann Arbor, Mich. Chung could be the youngest fifth-year senior selected in this year's NFL draft.

AP Photo

OPINION

QUOTABLE

“Come out, be clean and say, ‘Look, I used that, I made a mistake.’”
 — California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on steroid use in professional sports

EDITORIAL

Legislature continues its old, tired, gay-bashing ways

At least 46,000 Idahoans are gay — a number roughly equivalent to the population of Twin Falls. On Friday, a state Senate committee made it abundantly clear they’re second-class citizens.

A proposal to add discrimination protection for gays and lesbians in employment, education and housing to the Idaho Human Rights Act was defeated when the State Affairs Committee refused to even print the bill.

The measure’s sponsor, Sen. Nicole LeFavour, D-Boise, said many gays and lesbians “live in fear” that they can be fired only because of their sexual orientation.

“This is a way of prohibiting the most egregious forms of discrimination,” said LeFavour, Idaho’s only openly gay legislator. “By virtue of its omission, many employers and individuals feel it is OK.”

Homosexuality is the last remaining legal pretext for treating Idahoans unequally, and all the State Affairs Committee accomplished Friday was putting the state on the wrong side of history.

As has been the case with discrimination because of race, gender, religion and disability, federal law will eventually extend equal protection on the job, in schools and in housing to gays and lesbians regardless of what our Legislature does.

Most Idaho homosexuals are like LeFavour, a law-abiding, taxpaying small business owner. What are our lawmakers so afraid of?

Back in 2005-06, the Legislature wasted its time and our money on long debates over putting redundant language banning gay marriage into Idaho’s Constitution. For practical purposes, all that accomplished was stirring up hate.

Although he’s not a member of the State Affairs Committee, Sen. Chuck Coiner, R-Twin Falls, did the right thing Friday in testifying in favor of LeFavour’s bill.

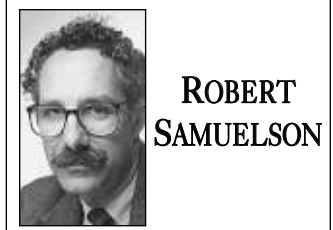
“We’ve got work to do,” he told the committee. We sure do.

Our view: Gay and lesbian Idahoans pay taxes, so why aren’t they entitled to equal protection of the law?

What do you think? We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Spending stimulus money in the wrong places

WASHINGTON — Judged by his own standards, President Obama’s \$787 billion economic stimulus program is deeply disappointing. For weeks, Obama has described the economy in grim terms. “This is not your ordinary run-of-the-mill recession,” he said at his Feb. 9 news conference. It’s “the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.” Given these dire warnings, you’d expect the stimulus package to focus almost exclusively on reviving the economy. It doesn’t, and for that, Obama bears much of the blame.



ROBERT SAMUELSON

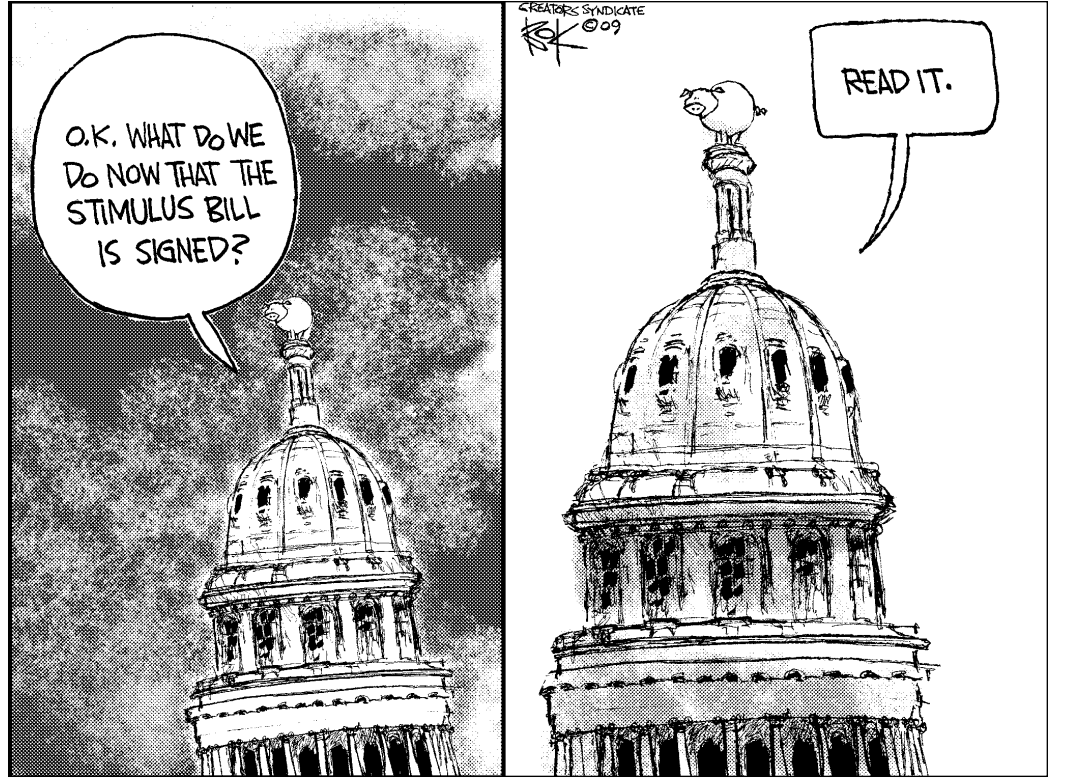
The case for a huge stimulus — which I support — is to prevent a devastating downward economic spiral. Spending is tumbling worldwide. In the fourth quarter of 2008, the U.S. economy contracted at a nearly 4 percent annual rate. In Japan, the economy fell at a nearly 13 percent rate; in Europe, the rate was about 6 percent. These are gruesome declines.

If the economic outlook is as bleak as Obama says, there’s no reason to dilute the upfront power of the stimulus. But that’s what he’s done.

His politics compromise the program’s economics. Look at the numbers.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that about \$200 billion will be spent in 2011 or later — after it would do the most good. For starters, there’s \$8 billion for high-speed rail. “Everyone is saying this is (for) high-speed rail between Los Angeles and Las Vegas — I don’t know,” says Ray Scheppach, executive director of the National Governors Association. Whatever’s done, the design and construction will occupy many years. It’s not a quick stimulus.

Then there’s \$20.8 billion for improved health information technology — more electronic records and the like. Probably most people regard this as desirable, but here, too, changes occur slowly. The CBO expects only 3 per-



The purpose of the stimulus is to minimize declines in one part of the economy from dragging other sectors down. The next big vulnerable sector seems to be state and local governments.

cent of the money (\$595 million) to be spent in fiscal 2009 and 2010.

The peak year of projected spending is 2014 at \$14.2 billion.

Big projects take time. They’re included in the stimulus because Obama and Democratic congressional leaders are using the legislation to advance many political priorities instead of just spurring the economy. At his news conference, Obama argued (inaccurately) that the two goals don’t conflict.

Consider, he said, the retrofitting of federal buildings to make them more energy efficient. “We’re creating jobs immediately,” he said.

Yes — but not many. The stimulus package includes \$5.5 billion for overhauling federal buildings. The CBO estimates that only 23 percent of that would be spent in 2009 and 2010.

Worse, the economic impact of the stimulus is already smaller than advertised. The package includes an obscure tax provision: a “patch” for the alternative minimum tax (AMT). This protects many middle-class Americans against higher taxes and, on paper, adds \$85

billion of “stimulus” in 2009 and 2010. One problem: “It’s not stimulus,” says Len Burman of the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. “(Congress was) going to do it anyway. They do it every year.” Strip out the AMT patch, and the stimulus drops to about \$700 billion, with almost 30 percent spent after 2010.

The purpose of the stimulus is to minimize declines in one part of the economy from dragging other sectors down. The next big vulnerable sector seems to be state and local governments. Weakening tax payments create massive budget shortfalls. From now until the end of fiscal 2011, these may total \$350 billion, says the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), a liberal advocacy group. Required to balance their budgets, states face huge pressures to cut spending and jobs or to raise taxes. All would worsen the recession and deepen pessimism.

Yet, the stimulus package offers only modest relief. Using funds from the stimulus, states might offset 40 percent of their looming deficits, says the CBPP’s Nicholas Johnson. The effect on localities would probably be less. Congress might have

done more by providing large, temporary block grants to states and localities and letting them decide how to spend the money. Instead, the stimulus provides most funds through specific programs.

There’s \$90 billion more for Medicaid, \$12 billion for special education, \$2.8 billion for various policing programs. More power is being centralized in Washington.

No one knows the economic effects of all this; estimates vary. But Obama’s political strategy stunts the impact from what it might have been.

By using the stimulus for unrelated policy goals, spending will be delayed and diluted. There’s another downside: “Temporary” spending increases for specific programs, as opposed to block grants, will be harder to undo, worsening the long-term budget outlook.

Politics cannot be removed from the political process. But here, partisan politics ran roughshod over pragmatic economic policy. Token concessions (including the AMT provision) to some Republicans weakened the package. Obama is gambling that his flawed stimulus will seem to work well enough that he’ll receive credit for restarting the economy — and not blamed for engineering a colossal waste.

Newsweek columnist Robert Samuelson writes about economics.

TIMES-NEWS

Brad Hurd publisher Steve Crump Opinion editor

The members of the editorial board and writers of editorials are Brad Hurd, James G. Wright, Steve Crump, Bill Bitzenburg and Ruth S. Pierce.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dog owner feels dog-at-large fine unfair

Last September, I received a citation from the city of Twin Falls when my dog got out one afternoon. I had acquired two little dogs from the local animal shelter late last spring, and they had dug out a time or two before the date of my infraction. Each time prior, my son or I would retrieve them and repair their escape routes. I have owned several dogs and had never been cited for a dog-at-large.

The day of the incident, Officer Rathbun, Twin Falls Animal Control, claims he chased my dog for 45 minutes before capturing him. He told me no accidents were caused nor was anyone bitten or hurt; my little dog

was merely stopping traffic. I was subsequently shocked at how high the fine was, especially being my first such offense. I don’t believe Officer Rathbun treated me like the responsible dog owner I have been. For some reason, he questioned as to whether or not the dogs were even mine, which he denied in court.

My previous “run-ins” with the law have been limited to speeding tickets, and I have always paid my fines promptly. I am not against making restitution for actual crimes having been committed, but I think \$100 for the violation and an additional \$41.50 in “penalty and costs” is exorbitant.

We have all had to stop occasionally for an animal in

Tell us what you think

ON PAPER: The Times-News welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Letters may be brought to our Twin Falls office; mailed to P.O. Box 548, Twin Falls, ID 83303; faxed to (208) 734-5538; or e-mailed to letters@magicvalley.com.

the road. I don’t believe this infraction merits the punishment it’s being dealt.

My name is Cami Priddy. I work at the Idaho Youth Ranch Thrift Store on downtown Main Street, where I’ve been employed for 3 1/2 years. Some dear friends, customers and co-workers suggested I write this letter. I am not planning on paying the fine, and it has now gone to collections.

CAMI PRIDDY
Twin Falls

Partisanship prevents goals we all seek

For those of you who attended “The Common Interest” highlighted by Keith Allred at the College of Southern Idaho this past week, congrats. It was refreshing to hear words from someone who puts “the people” ahead of personal goals or ambitions.

Mr. Allred used former Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Adams, Lincoln

and Madison to stress common ideas. Partisanship has become so obstructive that it has prevented the ultimate goals we all seek. If we really look inward, we can agree that both sides of the spectrum have equal culpability. We need to be reflective, swallow our egos and reach out. The majority of people in America are in the “middle.” However, we tend to be controlled by the extremists on either side.

Please take the time to pull up the Web site, www.TheCommon-Interst.org. It is free. All the CI asks is that you become involved. You can devote just a few hours annually and help do research and review bills that may be submitted to

the Legislature.

An interesting statistic revealed that there are more than 34,000 lobbyists in the United States. That breaks down to 62 lobbyists per each member of congress. That figure has doubled since 2000. We need to get the facts on both sides of each issue and determine what is best for the majority. You cannot fairly paint all lobbyists with the same brush, but I think it is pretty easy to say they do not represent the whole, only a faction, and we are more than that. Please take the time so we can pass on a legacy that more fairly represents the ideals of the original founders.

KEVIN C. DANE
Twin Falls

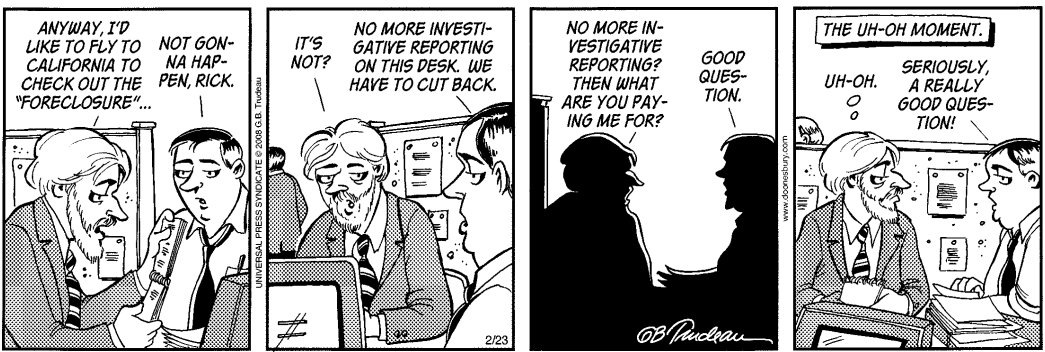
Join the discussion

Voice your opinion with local bloggers: Progressive Voice, Conservative Corner and In the Middle. On the opinion page at Magicvalley.com.

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

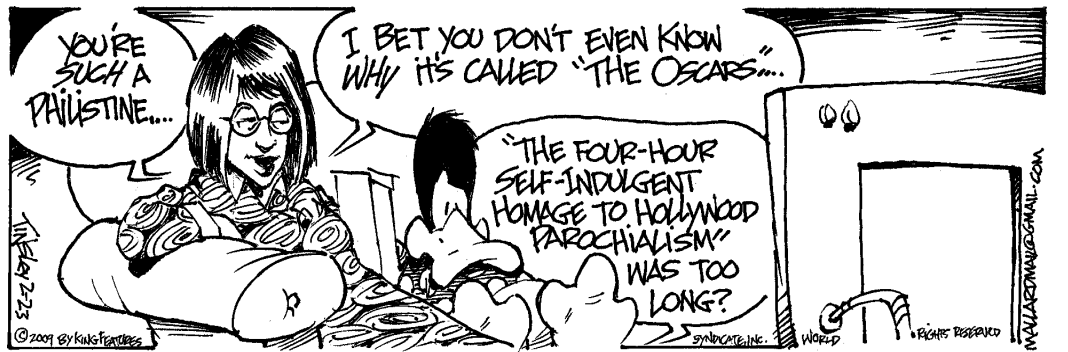
Doonesbury

By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore

By Bruce Tinsley



NATION & WORLD

Tough crowd: Wall Street awaits Treasury details

By Madlen Read
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — This week, Washington will get another chance to prove to Wall Street it means business.

Investors are expecting details on the Treasury Department's plans to fix the financial industry. The questions they want answered: How the government will decide which banks are healthy enough to be saved, how their toxic assets will be priced and how officials will convince

private investors to buy them.

President Barack Obama's administration has yet to galvanize confidence on Wall Street. Last November's 11-year trading low of 741.02 for the Standard & Poor's 500 index has not yet been breached — but it could be if the government fails to show the market that its efforts are working and tell them more help is on the way, said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors.

"We could be down 50

percent from here over the next couple of quarters depending on how much Washington disappoints us," Orlando said. "We're in this freeze right now. We need something to break this ice jam. Right now, Washington is the only one that has the power to break this jam."

So far, the multi-trillion-dollar efforts by the Federal Reserve, Treasury Department, White House and Congress have provided only short-lived bursts of optimism in the stock market. Investors, having gotten

burned by buying on rumors and selling on news, are now refraining from any major moves until they see reliable, sustained data showing that the economy and financial system are getting back on track.

"They're not going to become optimistic until they see these plans we spent so much money on start to work," said Hugh Johnson, chairman and chief investment officer of Johnson Illington Advisors.

It's been a rough couple of weeks for stocks:

- The Dow Jones industrial average is at its lowest level since October 2002.

- Five Dow stocks are trading below \$10 a share — General Motors Corp., Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., Alcoa Inc. and General Electric Inc.

- Only about 100 of the 500 stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 index are up for the year.

- After suffering its worst January ever, the S&P 500 is on track for its third-worst February.

Stocks are so weak

because, simply, the economy is not stabilizing and no one knows when it will.

Last week, more companies revealed worse-than-expected results and forecasts. Government data showed the economy is still sliding. Investors grew more skeptical about the effectiveness of the \$787 billion stimulus package signed into law. A foreclosure relief plan was met with doubt. And they fretted over not knowing how the Treasury Department intends to repair the financial system.

'SLUMDOG' GETS ITS DAY IN THE SUN

Film scores 8 Oscars, Ledger wins best supporting actor

By David Germain
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — "Slumdog Millionaire" took the best-picture Academy Award and seven other Oscars on Sunday, including director for Danny Boyle, whose ghetto-to-glory story paralleled the film's unlikely rise to Hollywood's summit.

The other top winners: Kate Winslet, best actress for the Holocaust-themed drama "The Reader"; Sean Penn, best actor for the title role of "Milk"; Heath Ledger, supporting actor for "The Dark Knight"; and Penelope Cruz, supporting actress for "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."

A story of hope amid squalor in Mumbai, India, "Slumdog Millionaire" came in with 10 nominations, its eight wins including adapted screenplay, cinematography, editing and both music Oscars (score and song).

"Just to say to Mumbai, all of you who helped us make the film and all of those of you who didn't, thank you very much. You dwarf even this guy," Boyle said, holding up his directing Oscar.

The filmmakers accepted the best-picture trophy surrounded by both the adult professional actors who appeared among the cast of relative unknowns and some of the children Boyle cast from the slums of Mumbai.

As he took the stage to accept his prize for playing slain gay-rights pioneer Harvey Milk, Penn gleefully told the crowd: "You commie, homo-loving sons of guns."

He followed with condemnation of anti-gay protesters who demonstrated near the Oscar site and comments



Producer Christian Colson, along with the cast and crew, accept the Oscar after the film 'Slumdog Millionaire' won best motion picture of the year during the 81st Academy Awards Sunday in Hollywood.

about California's recent vote to ban gay marriage.

"For those who saw the signs of hatred as our cars drove in tonight, I think it's a good time for those who voted for the ban against gay marriage to sit and reflect on their great shame and their shame in their grandchildren's eyes if they continue that support," Penn said.

For his demented reinvention of Batman villain the Joker, Ledger became only the second actor ever to win posthumously, his triumph coming exactly 13 months after his death from an accidental overdose of prescription drugs.

His Oscar for the Warner Bros. blockbuster was accepted by Ledger's parents and sister on behalf of the actor's 3-year-old daughter, Matilda.

"I have to say this is ever so humbling, just being amongst such wonderful people in such a wonderful industry," said his father, Kim Ledger. "We'd like to thank the academy for recognizing our son's amazing work."

Complete list of winners at the 81st annual Academy Awards

By The Associated Press

- **Motion Picture:** "Slumdog Millionaire."
 - **Actor:** Sean Penn, "Milk."
 - **Actress:** Kate Winslet, "The Reader."
 - **Supporting Actor:** Heath Ledger, "The Dark Knight."
 - **Supporting Actress:** Penelope Cruz, "Vicky Cristina Barcelona."
 - **Director:** Danny Boyle, "Slumdog Millionaire."
 - **Foreign Film:** "Departures," Japan.
 - **Adapted Screenplay:** Simon Beaufoy, "Slumdog Millionaire."
 - **Original Screenplay:** Dustin Lance Black, "Milk."
 - **Animated Feature Film:** "WALL-E."
 - **Art Direction:** "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."
 - **Cinematography:** "Slumdog Millionaire."
 - **Sound Mixing:** "Slumdog Millionaire."
 - **Sound Editing:** "The Dark Knight."
 - **Original Score:** "Slumdog Millionaire," A.R. Rahman.
 - **Original Song:** "Jai Ho" from "Slumdog Millionaire," A.R. Rahman and Gulzar.
 - **Costume:** "The Duchess."
 - **Documentary Feature:** "Man on Wire."
 - **Documentary (short subject):** "Smile Pinki."
 - **Film Editing:** "Slumdog Millionaire."
 - **Makeup:** "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."
 - **Animated Short Film:** "La Maison en Petits Cubes."
 - **Live Action Short Film:** "Spielzeugland (Toyland)."
 - **Visual Effects:** "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."
- Academy Award winners previously announced this season:
- **Jan Hersholt Humanitarian Award (Oscar statuette):** Jerry Lewis
 - **Gordon E. Sawyer Award (Oscar statuette):** Pixar Animation co-founder Ed Catmull

AROUND THE WORLD

WASHINGTON
Official: Obama to name former Abramoff investigator to oversee stimulus spending

President Barack Obama plans to announce Monday a former Secret Service agent who helped expose lobbyists' corruption at the Interior Department as his pick to oversee the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan.

Obama is set to name Earl Devaney as chairman of the new Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board, an administration official said Sunday. Vice President Joe Biden also will be given a role coordinating oversight of stimulus spending.

The official spoke of the condition of anonymity because the White House had not made public the announcement.

Devaney, the inspector general of the Interior Department, helped turn up disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff's dealings at the department. The department's No. 2 official, Steven Griles, pleaded guilty to charges he lied during congressional testimony based in part on Devaney's investigation.

Obama has pledged the Recovery Act Transparency and Accountability Board to be an at-large body to oversee how the government spends billions allocated to help the flailing U.S. economy. But with dozens of agencies and departments involved, Obama wanted a central group to independently monitor where those funds are going.

EGYPT

Explosion in Cairo kills French tourist, injures 21

CAIRO — An explosion ripped into a famed bazaar in medieval Cairo on Sunday, killing a French woman and wounding at least 21 people — most of them foreigners — the government said. It was the first attack on tourists in Egypt in three years.

The blast hit the bustling main plaza at the Khan el-Khalili, a 650-year-old bazaar

packed with tourists next to one of Cairo's most revered shrines, the Hussein mosque.

Within an hour, police found a second explosive device and detonated it safely. Security officials said three people were in custody.

Initial reports said a pair of grenades were thrown, but a government statement said the attack involved a homemade bomb placed under a bench in the main plaza.

"We were serving our customers as usual, and all of a sudden there was a large sound," said Magdy Ragab, 42, a waiter at a nearby cafe. "We saw heavy gray smoke and there were people running everywhere ... Some people were injured by the stampede, not the shrapnel."

CALIFORNIA

A family's grief endures, despite reports that police close to arrest in Chandra Levy killing

MODESTO — In the first weeks after her only daughter disappeared, grief hit Susan Levy so hard she could not move from a fetal position on the living room couch.

By the time Chandra Levy's skull and bones were found in a park in the nation's capitol a year later, her mother had found enough strength to dial Washington police detectives to ask why it was taking so long to find her daughter's killer.

Now, eight years after Chandra's death, Susan Levy said the sudden news late Friday that police planned to arrest a Salvadoran immigrant in the slaying may resolve the crime, but it will do nothing to stem her family's heartache.

"This helps a little," said Levy, staring listlessly in the den of her central California home. "But we still don't have our daughter and we have a life sentence without her. Grief is like a marathon. You don't get over it. It recycles itself."

Chandra Levy was 24 and had just completed an internship with the U.S. Bureau of Prisons when she disappeared in May 2001 after leaving her Washington, D.C., apartment.

— The Associated Press

Gas blast kills 74 in N. China coal mine

GUJIAO, China (AP) — Rescuers wearing headlamps and oxygen backpacks carried dozens of miners to safety Sunday after a gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China killed at least 74.

The blast at the mine, which had for years boasted an exemplary safety record, highlighted the perilous conditions that make China's mining industry the deadliest in the world.

Survivors described how they tried to flee along tunnels to escape the choking carbon monoxide, but were overcome by the fumes.

"When it happened, I felt a

big gust of wind that blew me over," a miner with tubes coming out of his nose told state broadcaster CCTV from his hospital bed. "I got up and started running to try to get to the surface. After that I don't know what happened." His name was not given.

The official Xinhua News Agency said 436 miners were in the Tunlan Coal Mine in Gujiao city near Taiyuan, the capital of Shanxi province, when the blast occurred.

At six miners were in critical condition, Xinhua said, making it China's deadliest mine disaster in more than a year.

Beijing has a skyline of 'see-through' buildings

Few new buildings actually occupied

By Barbara Demick
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — "Empty," says Jack Rodman, an expert in distressed real estate, as he points from the window of his 40th-floor office toward a silver-skinned prism rising out of the Beijing skyline.

"Beautiful building, but not a single tenant."

"Completely empty."

So goes the refrain as his finger skips from building to building, each flashier than the next, and few of them more than barely occupied.

Beijing went through a building boom in advance of

the 2008 Summer Olympics that filled a staid communist capital with angular architectural feats that grace the covers of glossy design magazines.

Now, six months after the games ended, the city continues to dazzle by night, with neon and floodlights dancing across the skyline. By day, though, it is obvious that many are "see-through" buildings, to use the term coined during the Texas real estate bust of the 1980s.

By Rodman's calculations, 500 million square feet of commercial real estate has been developed in Beijing since 2006, an amount larger than all of the office space in Manhattan. And that doesn't include huge projects developed by the Chinese govern-

ment. He says 100 million square feet of office space alone is vacant — a 14-year supply if it filled up at the same rate as in the best years, 2004 through 2006, when about 7 million square feet a year was leased.

"The scale of development was unprecedented anywhere in the world," said Rodman, a Los Angeles native who lives now in Beijing, running a firm called Global Distressed Solutions. "It defied logic. It just doesn't make sense."

Construction cranes jut into the skyline, but increasingly they are fixed in place, awaiting fresh financing before work resumes.

Boarded fences advertise coming attractions — "an iconic landmark" or "international wonderland" — that are

in varying states of half completion. A retail strip in one development advertised as "La Vibrant shopping street" is entirely empty.

"Our boss ran away with the money, and he is nowhere to be found," said Li Zirong, a migrant worker from Shaanxi province, who was a supervisor on a stunning building with windows shaped like portholes.

What makes this boom-and-bust cycle different from those in the West is there is no private ownership of land in China, making local governments de facto partners in the real estate industry by earning huge fees from leasing and transferring land. In effect, everything is built like the large urban renewal projects in the United States.



"Seeing machine"

RESEARCHER DEVELOPS DEVICE
THAT HELPS THE BLIND SEE.
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To do for you, H&F 2 / Comics, H&F 4 / Classifieds, H&F 5-10 / Weather, H&F 10

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2009

FEATURES EDITOR VIRGINIA HUTCHINS: (208) 735-3242 VIRGINIA.HUTCHINS@LEE.NET



Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Lori Maxfield of Twin Falls can't keep from grinning Jan. 20 as she looks at her new permanent implanted dentures, just installed. It's a far cry from her original teeth, displayed on the screen in the corner.

A new smile

Total mouth reconstruction means pain relief and improved look

By Ariel Hansen
Times-News writer

One by one, the dentist took pliers to the woman's top teeth, gently working them out of their sockets and dropping them on a paper-covered tray. In 10 minutes, the tray was littered with teeth and specks of blood, and the woman's gums were empty.

On that day in May, Lori Maxfield had both her fears and her dreams realized.

By February, the Twin Falls woman would have a smile like a movie star, and the hereditary periodontal disease that had haunted her for her entire life would be gone. Unlike her mother, she wouldn't have to resort to removing a denture each night, leaving a caved-in, toothless mouth.

"I remember as a kid I'd look at her and say, 'I never want to do that,'" Maxfield said the morning of the procedure that removed all her upper teeth. "I'm glad to get rid of these ugly things, I'll tell you."

Maxfield, 47, won The Worst Bite Contest held last spring by Twin Falls cosmetic dentist Bret Davis. A friend signed up Maxfield for the competition, and she was stunned when she learned she'd receive a free total mouth reconstruction from Davis.

"I've been waiting to do a smile makeover thing for years," the dentist said in April at one of Maxfield's first appointments, where he compared mock-ups of what her new smile would look like and her

"before" pictures.

"It's like a dream, and I don't want to wake up," Maxfield said. "I used to watch your commercials and say, 'I wish that would happen to me.'"

Maxfield, who is self-employed, hasn't had dental insurance for about 15 years, so despite her care with flossing and brushing, her genetic makeup meant she was just a few years from permanently losing her teeth to disease. Her enamel would chip, her fillings would fall out, and new cavities constantly appeared.

"What I saw in you was this collapsed bite, these missing teeth, and I thought, 'I'm going to have to bring my A game,'" Davis said.

Rather than fit Maxfield with a removable denture, which wouldn't retard the bone loss in her jaw, Davis turned to a new technique called "all on four" that attaches a permanent denture to four titanium posts implanted in the bone. He said Maxfield is the first patient to have this procedure done in Magic Valley. Maxfield will soon get veneers on her bottom teeth to



Congenital disease wracked Lori Maxfield's mouth, weakening the bone and creating a smile she hated. In April, Maxfield chats with Dr. Bret Davis, after winning the cosmetic dentist's The Worst Bite Contest.



Dr. Bret Davis pulled old crowns and visibly damaged teeth from Lori Maxfield's mouth in late May, then fitted her with a temporary denture until her bone could heal and a permanent implanted denture could be installed.



Chipped enamel, failing fillings and frequent cavities were just part of the effects of the congenital periodontal disease that Lori Maxfield suffered from for much of her life.

complete her mouth makeover.

The implants and permanent denture were constructed by Precision Dental Arts, a Twin Falls-based firm that has created prosthetics for television makeover

shows and has been published in international journals. It uses computer-assisted design and manufacturing to build the tiny screws and perfectly shaped artificial teeth that make up implant dentures.

The smile makers

Dr. Bret Davis specializes in cosmetic dentistry: 788 Eastland Drive, Suite A, Twin Falls; 733-2621 or idahosmilemaker.com.

Lori Maxfield's implants and dentures were created by Precision Dental Arts: 834 Falls Ave., Suite 2060, Twin Falls; 733-0383 or precision-dental-arts.com.

The company also created a plastic device shaped like a retainer, with four precisely placed holes. Davis used the device as a guide, drilling with a graduated bit that let him make holes in the bones of Maxfield's jaw without cutting into and retracting her gum tissue. Although pain during the procedures wasn't a concern because of local anesthetic and a Demerol drip, less impact on the gum tissue meant a shorter recovery and less pain for Maxfield after the implants' installation.



Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

On April 18, Lori Maxfield rests her head on an apparatus that helps Dr. Bret Davis, right, get accurate measurements of her bone. They will then be used to engineer permanent prosthetic dentures.

Smile

Continued from H&F 1

All these devices were created based on high-resolution images of Maxfield's jawbones, which showed the technicians and dentist the ideal spots to place the implants.

As he operated the high-speed drill in January, Davis noted the difference in having the guide made compared with a more traditional implant procedure.

"Look at that, no blood," he said. "That's cool. No stitches, no flaps."

For several months after her teeth were pulled, Maxfield lived with a removable denture, waiting for her bone and gums to heal. On the morning of Inauguration Day, she returned to Davis' office, fidgeting on a sofa as she contemplated the national history being played out on the waiting room television and the personal history that was about to be made.

"I'm nervous but happy," she said. She smiled widely, and, unlike the previous April, did so without raising her hand to cover her mouth.



Four titanium implants were secured in Lori Maxfield's jaw on Jan. 20, onto which a permanent denture was later attached. Maxfield is the first Magic Valley patient to undergo this procedure, called 'all on four.'

"The denture to me is very pretty," she said, comparing her temporary denture to the permanent one that waited in a foam-filled box on the counter. "Dr. Davis reassures me they're going to look better."

In the box were small, sealed vials containing the titanium implants, and the white, straight teeth that, in just a few hours, would greet Maxfield in the mirror.

Then it was time for the Demerol drip again, and another iteration of the now-familiar joke that she would

wake up with a permanent-marker moustache. Holes were drilled, implants inserted, and then Maxfield's new teeth were locked into place.

Though she had warned Davis in April that she would probably cry when she saw her new smile, instead Maxfield could barely take her eyes off the hand mirror a dental assistant handed her.

"Oh, land ... Thank you so much."

Ariel Hansen may be reached at 208-788-3475 or ahansen@magicvalley.com.



Photo courtesy of Donna Coveney, MIT

Elizabeth Goldring, a senior fellow at MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies, uses a device she developed that allows many people with severely impaired vision to create — and then see — photos.

Researcher develops device that helps the blind see

By Kathleen Hom
The Washington Post

The small degree of vision that diabetes-induced hemorrhaging in her eyes had left her with vanished because of injuries in an auto accident, says Elizabeth Goldring, a senior fellow at MIT's Center for Advanced Visual Studies. After several months of being blind, the artist and poet was amazed to find that when her ophthalmologist projected images onto her retina with a concentrated stream of light, she saw them.

The projection device, called a scanning laser ophthalmoscope, or SLO, was being used to determine if Goldring had any healthy retina left, but Goldring thought it could be much more than a diagnostic tool. She wanted to create an accessible version (SLOs are expensive and bulky) so blind people with some healthy retina might see photos of words, scenes and people's faces.

Twenty years have passed, along with three prototypes. And now Goldring and her research team have come up with a

portable and relatively inexpensive "seeing machine."

Because the device contains an LED light rather than a laser, its projected cost is \$500 — cheaper than the \$3,000 readers often marketed to the visually impaired, she says. A visually impaired person can operate it independently.

A user can connect it to any camera, flip the device's on/off switch and aim the camera to take a photo.

The next step is further testing.

Looking out for your parents' health?

Are you struggling to help (or push) your mother and father to live a healthier life? If you're trying to convince your parents to lay off the bacon, quit smoking or get a breast cancer exam, let us know. If you're a parent whose children have taken an interest in your health, we'd like to hear from you, too.

Contact features reporter Melissa Davlin at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

Less-than-white teeth?

By Lindsay Minnema
The Washington Post

Between the coffee you can't get through the morning without and the occasional glass of wine you sip at dinner, it happens: Your pearly whites become less so. Much of what you eat and drink every day contributes to staining your teeth.

The good news is that many safe products — both over the counter and from your dentist — exist to correct the problem. The bad news is their occasional side effects: Tooth sensitivity, gum irritation, bluish enamel and uneven whiteness. Even worse is the possibility that whitening or bleaching chemical might seep into a cracked tooth or cavity, causing internal damage that, if bad enough, could require a root canal.

When it comes to minor pain and sensitivity, the American Dental Association says rest assured: It should clear within a week or two of discontinuing the whitening treatment. But if you have many fillings, crowns or other dental work — or if you have particularly dark stains — check with your dentist for an appropriate treatment.

The dangers of whitening come when you overdo it, so don't ignore the warning signs of discomfort that come from too much whitening.

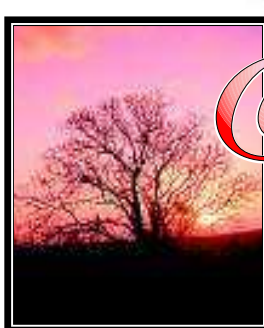


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Business Highlight

-- Dr. Alan Fox --

My Family's Introduction to Chiropractic

I came to understand the importance of health when I was sixteen years old. My father, a former WWII hero and a very athletic man, began to deteriorate before my eyes. He began to suffer from pain in his entire right side. It was in his shoulder, neck, arm and even his right hip and leg. At first pain pills helped, but over a period of weeks and months, the pain grew worse. The pills upset his stomach, and he became more ill and depressed. I saw the adverse effects of his illness on my mom and our family. Doctor after doctor just gave him the same advice — take more pills. He got to a point that he could only sleep for 15 minutes at a time. A friend suggested he see Dr. Pangle, a Doctor of Chiropractic. At the time, Dad did not know what a chiropractor was, but he was desperate. Dr. Pangle conducted a spinal examination and x-rays to find the cause of the condition, not just a treatment of the pain. He located a small misalignment (subluxation) in Dad's neck. The irritated nerves coming from that area were the source of the problem. Dad had a series of adjustments over several months. Miraculously, in less than 90 days, after being sick for over a year, Dad not only received relief but function back in his right side. It was truly amazing for Dad, but it was fantastic to me to see such a wonderful change in my family. I learned that illness affects the entire family unit, and I never forgot that experience. Later I experienced first hand the wonderful benefits of chiropractic after I suffered many sports injuries as a former athlete. Chiropractic added years to my life and life to my years!



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B.C. By Johnny Hart

YEP... SAYS IT RIGHT HERE. AN AFTERY HAS VESTIGIAL WINGS.

AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T FLY.

I WONDER WHAT OTHER USELESS STUFF YOU HAVE...

MAYBE YOU CAN LOOK IT UP IN THE APPENDIX!

© 2009 Creators Syndicate, Inc. 2-23 www.JohnHartStudios.com

Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

WHAT'S NEW AT SCHOOL, SPORT?

THERE'S A NEW KID WHO EATS BOOGERS.

WHOO! HEY! COME ON! LET'S MAKE THIS A MEALTIME CONVERSATION!

OKAY.

HE DOES IT MOSTLY AT LUNCH.

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Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

HEY LOOK! SARGE HAS TAKEN UP JOGGING

NO, HE HASN'T

THE PIZZA PARLOR CLOSES IN FIVE MINUTES!

GREG + MORT WALKER

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Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

BUMSTEAD, I WAS GONNA SAY SOMETHING TO YOU, BUT NOW I'VE FORGOTTEN WHAT IT WAS

THEN I GUESS IT WASN'T VERY IMPORTANT, BOSS

NO, I'M SURE IT WAS SOMETHING, ALL RIGHT

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT, UNTIL I THINK OF IT, YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF ON THIN ICE, OKAY?

OKAY, FINE, BOSS

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Dilbert By Scott Adams

THANKS FOR COMING ON SHORT NOTICE. I CALLED THIS MEETING BECAUSE...

... COMPANY POLICY ALLOWS ME TO ORDER DONUTS FOR ANY MEETING THAT INCLUDES CUSTOMERS.

I DON'T WORK ON COMMISSION.

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The Elderberries By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

PROFESSOR CHARLES BASSETT: MEDIATOR

... And Dusty, you agree to stop sneaking your chili paste into Boone's breakfast.

Into everyone's life a little Spice must fall.

Just stay away from my Cocoa Puffs, Cowboy Five Alarm!

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For Better or For Worse By Lynn Johnston

FITTING ROOMS 1-12

2

1

... BUT HOW LONG COULD I WEAR IT WITHOUT PASSING OUT?!

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Frank and Ernest By Bob Thaves

BAR

"UNWIND"? I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOLAR-POWERED.

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Garfield By Jim Davis

ICE CREAM TRUCK

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Hagar the Horrible By Chris Browne

HAVE YOU MADE CONTACT WITH THE KING'S TROOPS, SCOUT?

YES

THE KING OF ENGLAND IS OFFERING TWENTY GOLD COINS TO ANY MAN WHO DESERTS AND GOES OVER TO OUR SIDE!

WHO PICKED THIS GUY AS OUR SCOUT?

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Hi and Lois By Chance Browne

YOU HAD AN ACCIDENT?!

ARE YOU OKAY?!

I'M FINE, THANKS

ARE YOU SURE?!

DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET CHECKED?!

REALLY, I'M ABSOLUTELY FINE!

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO THE CAR?!

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Luann By Greg Evans

IS THIS THAT GUITAR GAME?

YEAH, WANNA TRY, MR. D? JUST PUSH THE BUTTONS AND STRUM

Y'KNOW, I WAS IN A BAND ONCE

THEN SHRED, DUDE!

ERG...

800.00!

THIS IS HARDER THAN IT LOOKS

I THINK AN AEROSMITH GUY SAID THE SAME THING

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Classic Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz

The light mist turned to rain.

The rain turned to snow.

The story turned to boring.

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Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, RAT?

STUDYING YIDDISH... I HAVE DETERMINED IT IS BY FAR THE BEST LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD FOR HURLING INSULTS.

DO YOU REALLY THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO LEARN A LANGUAGE JUST SO YOU CAN HURL INSULTS?!

PLEASE STOP BEING SUCH A SHMULKY SHLUMPERDIK.

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Pickles By Brian Crane

YOU'RE VERY QUIET.

I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY AT THE MOMENT.

YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY? WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH IT? IF NO ONE SAID ANYTHING UNLESS THEY HAD SOMETHING TO SAY, THE WORLD WOULD BE A VERY, VERY QUIET PLACE!

I WOULDN'T KNOW.

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Rose is Rose By Pat Brady

WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU, MISS... A LITTLE SOMETHING TO WARM YOU UP?

A CUP OF RATTLESNAKE CHILI!

I GELL SOUP! CHICKEN OR LENTIL?

HOPEFULLY THE LENTIL HAS A LITTLE KICK TO IT!

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Non Sequitur By Wiley

UM... GET WHAT?

MATH... INSTEAD OF FIGHTING IT, I CAME UP WITH A NEW SYSTEM THAT MAKES IT FUN, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY...

... PROVES THAT I'M ALWAYS RIGHT

OH, WELL I'M SURE M.I.T. IS WAITING WITH BATED BREATH

OF COURSE! I FINALLY GET IT!!

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Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham

"DENNIS DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF FEAR... OR STOP!"

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The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

MAN, I'M FREEZING

HEY, LIZARD LIPS! YOUR MOMMA WAS HIT BY A 747!

AAAAHHHHH THAT'S THE STUFF

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Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

DING! DONG!

HI, I'M SASHA, THE MATH TUTOR.

YES! YES! YES!

PLEASUED TO MEET YOU.

THE PLEASURE IS MINE.

WANNA BET?

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

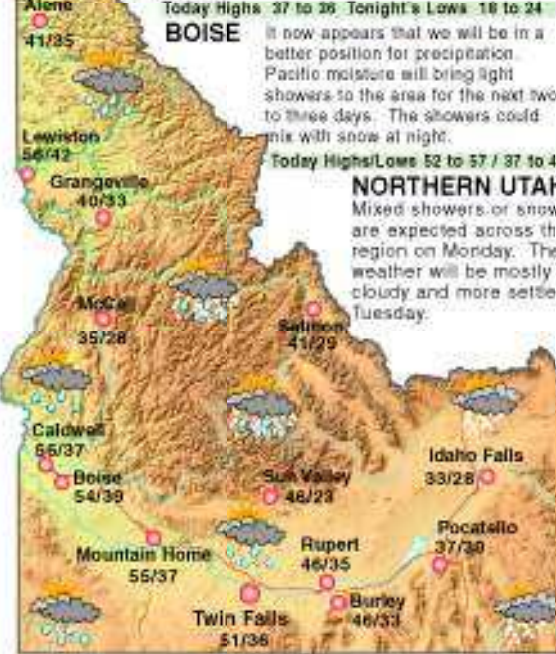
Today: Incoming showers and breezy at times. Highs, lower 50s.
Tonight: A few more showers. Lows, mid 30s.
Tomorrow: Showers by day with a chance for a rain/snow mix at night. Highs, 40s.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Showers expected along with breezy conditions. Highs, 40s.
Tonight: More shower activity. Lows, lower to mid 30s.
Tomorrow: A touch cooler, showers could mix with a little wet snow. Highs, 40s.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

SUN VALLEY, SURROUNDING MTS. As Pacific moisture moves further inland, mixed showers and snow will start up once again in the high country. Strong winds will accompany the snow at times on Tuesday.



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST



Yesterday's Weather

Table listing weather for various cities including Boise, Burley, Chubb, and Jerome with columns for High, Low, and Prep.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac data for Twin Falls including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, and U.V. Index.

Moon Phases



REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table listing cities like Boise, Burley, and Idaho Falls with their respective weather conditions for Today, Tomorrow, and Wednesday.

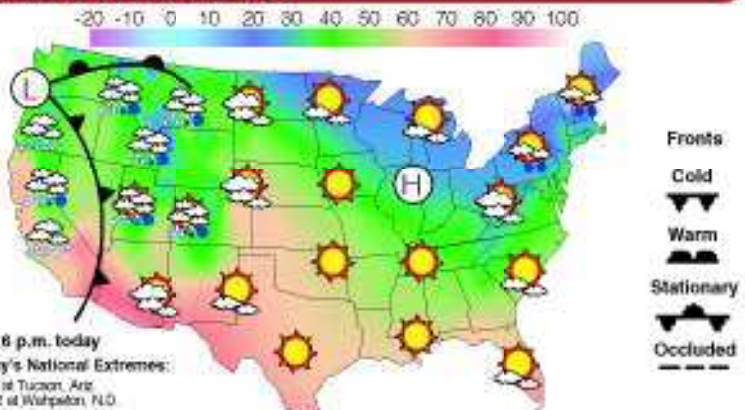
NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table listing major cities like Atlanta, Baltimore, and Boston with their respective weather conditions.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table listing international cities like Adelaide, Amman, and Ankara with their respective weather conditions.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



meineke car care center advertisement with address and phone number.

1008 SUVs

Vehicle listings for 1008 SUVs including CHEVY '04 TrailBlazer and '05 Explorer.

1009 Vans and Buses

Vehicle listings for 1009 Vans and Buses including DODGE '96 Grand Caravan and '08 Grand Caravan.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including ACURA '95 Integra and CHEVY '07 Cobalt.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including CHEVY '82 Camaro and '08 Avenger.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including DODGE '08 Caliber and '01 Focus ZX3.

1008 SUVs

Vehicle listings for 1008 SUVs including FORD '98 Expedition and '05 Explorer.

1009 Vans and Buses

Vehicle listings for 1009 Vans and Buses including DODGE '96 Grand Caravan and '08 Grand Caravan.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including ACURA '95 Integra and CHEVY '07 Cobalt.

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Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including CHEVY '82 Camaro and '08 Avenger.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including DODGE '08 Caliber and '01 Focus ZX3.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including FORD '03 Focus and '06 Taurus.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including CHEVY '07 Cobalt and '08 Avenger.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including DODGE '03 Neon and '08 Avenger.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including HONDA '05 Civic and '06 Civic.

1010 Autos

Vehicle listings for 1010 Autos including HONDA '06 Civic and '09 Accord.

Assist AUTO BROKERAGE 275 S. Idaho St., Wendell 208-536-1900