



TUESDAY February 24, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

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Time to get stimulated

JFAC reviewing how stimulus money for state could be used

By Jared S. Hopkins Times-News writer

BOISE — If this were a movie it might be called, The Budget: Part Two.

The Joint Finance Appropriations Committee began an unprecedented series of hearings Monday on how the federal stimulus could be used in Idaho, kicking off the second go-round of budgeting in the 2009 Legislature that will precede a review by Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

Cathy Holland-Smith, the legislative budget director, gave an overview on the approximate \$1 billion scheduled to come to Idaho.

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READ: Capitol Confidential, a political blog by Jared S. Hopkins.

She said the federal government is giving less flexibility on using the funds than in the past. Infrastructure projects must use American companies unless a waiver is granted, and for education, annual reports must be submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Education.

"Our goal here this morning is to lay a foundation so there's a proper context for the recommendations," said Holland-Smith, who leads a non-partisan staff of budget analysts.

JFAC co-chairwoman

See BUDGETING, Main 2

Micron cutting 2,000 jobs in Idaho

Will close plant due to decreased demand for its memory chips

By John Miller Associated Press writer

BOISE — Micron Technology Inc. said Monday it's eliminating 2,000 more jobs in Idaho and closing a manufacturing plant due to decreased demand for its memory chips.

The Boise-based company will cut 500 positions in the "near term," with the remaining positions stricken by August.

After that, Micron will employ just over 5,000 people in the state, down from more than 10,000 two years ago. Once Idaho's largest private employer, it will trail St. Luke's hospitals and Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which have some 7,500 workers here.

Micron, whose losses since 2007 exceed \$2.5 billion, is shuttering manufacturing operations in Boise, where it made specialty dynamic access memory, or DRAM, products from 200-mm silicon wafers. Like others in its industry, Micron

has been hurt by oversupply and pricing pressure on chips used in personal computers and the slumping automobile industry.

"We remained hopeful that the demand for these products would stabilize in the marketplace," Chairman and CEO Steve Appleton said in a statement. "Unfortunately, a better environment has not materialized, and we are at a point where we wanted to let our employees and the community know in advance what will occur later this summer."

South Korea's Hynix Semiconductor has posted five consecutive quarterly losses, including nearly \$1 billion in the three months ending Dec. 31, while German memory-chip maker Qimonda AG filed for bankruptcy protection in January.

Hynix has said DRAM prices dropped 43 percent from the third quarter.

Micron's cuts come on top of a 15 percent company-wide layoff announced last October, in which it eliminated about 3,000 of its 19,000 total positions. About 1,500 of those were in Boise, as it shut down the NAND flash memory plant it operated as part of a joint venture with Intel Corp.



Almost crushed Homeless man nearly killed in garbage truck

By Ben Botkin Times-News writer

Ramiro Martinez's garbage truck almost became the tomb of a homeless man who was sleeping in a garbage bin in Jerome.

In early February, Martinez was working in his Western Waste Services truck as usual along his route in Jerome. At one stop, his truck's forklift hoisted up the bin and dropped in its load, which included a homeless man.

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WATCH: an interview with Ramiro Martinez, driver of the garbage truck.

Sanitation workers can't see the garbage as it leaves the bin, which is hoisted above the truck and turned over.

Inside was Elias Hernandez, a 30-year-old Latino man who has been on the streets since entering the U.S. from Mexico at the age of 17. Not knowing Hernandez was in the truck, Martinez pressed the button that pushes in a large, metal blade toward the garbage to compress it.

"God's angels had him by his hands, fighting for him," Martinez said when recalling how the man escaped death.

The first time, Hernandez's head got caught, snapping his jaw as he tried to scramble out. Martinez pushed the button a second time, and Hernandez's intestines were damaged.

Something happened as Martinez reached his next stop in Jerome, where he

See CRUSHED, Main 2

ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

Ramiro Martinez, a driver with Western Waste Service of Twin Falls, unknowingly dumped a homeless man into his truck on his route in Jerome. The man was crushed twice while Martinez packed the garbage with a compressor before the man was able to climb out.

ESPA plan presented to Legislature

Coiner rips water goals

By Jared S. Hopkins Times-News writer

BOISE — The state continues to search for ways to fund the first phase of a plan to repair the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer and could even benefit from some unexpect-

ed federal funding, state water officials told a joint meeting of the House and Senate resource committees on Monday.

Funding the first phase of the plan to manage the Lake Erie-sized aquifer could require as much as \$100 million in its first 10 years — and remains the biggest hurdle to

overcome. Idaho Water Resource Board members, legislators and water officials have lauded the process as productive and healthy, and have warned that not funding the first year could harm the carefully negotiated project.

Most of the money was set to come from the state and water users, but draft and

final versions of the plan included federal money as a possible source. Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Dave Tuthill and Administrator Hal Anderson told legislators Monday that some funding may now come from the

See ESPA, Main 2



Economy making health care reform even harder for Obama

Health care costs to top \$8,000 per person

By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — A new government report on medical costs paints a stark picture for President Obama, who is expected to call for a health care overhaul in a speech tonight to a

joint session of Congress.

Even before lawmakers start debating how care is delivered to the American people, the report shows the economy is making the job of reform harder.

Health care costs will top \$8,000 per person this year, consuming an ever-bigger slice of a shrinking economic pie, says the report by the Department of Health and Human Services, due out Tuesday.

As the recession cuts into tax

receipts, Medicare's giant hospital trust fund is running out of cash more rapidly, and could become insolvent as early as 2016, the report said. That's three years sooner than previously forecast.

At the same time, the government's already large share of the nation's health care bill will keep growing.

Programs such as Medicaid are expanding to take up some of the slack as more people lose job-based coverage. And baby boomers will soon start reaching 65 and signing up for Medicare. Those trends

together mean that taxpayers will be responsible for more than half of the nation's health care bill by 2016 — just seven years from now.

"The outlook for health spending during these difficult economic times is laden with formidable challenges," said the report by statisticians at HHS. It appears in the journal Health Affairs.

The health care cost forecast did not take into account recent legislation that expanded medical coverage for children of low income working

See HEALTH CARE, Main 2



ComicsMain 7 Commodities Agribusiness 3 CommunityMain 5-6

CrosswordH&G 9 Dear AbbyH&G 6 MoviesMain 4

ObituariesMain 9 OpinionMain 8 SudokuH&G 5

CSI INCREASES TUITION

Cost goes up \$5 per credit > Main 3

You don't say

Steve Crump



The Idaho transsexual who saved lives

Even if you grew up in the Magic Valley, I'll bet you 50 cents you never heard of Dr. Alan L. Hart ...

He's the man most responsible for the establishment of the state tuberculosis hospital in Gooding, which operated from 1947 to 1976 ... A pioneering and crusading radiologist and epidemiologist, Hart took Idaho's tuberculosis prevention and treatment program from non-existent during the 1930s to among the best in the nation by the time he left Idaho in 1948 ...

He was also a transsexual; having had one of the first-ever sex-change operations ...

She was born Lucille Hart in Kansas in 1890, but dressed as a boy when growing up in Oregon and Indiana ... The Oregon Health & Science University, where she graduated in 1917, indexed her records internally as "Hart, Lucille (aka Robert L.), M.D." ...

In 1917, Hart persuaded a colleague in Oregon to perform a sex-change operation ... He married Inez Stark the following year and set up a medical practice in Gardiner, Ore. ... Outed by a former colleague, Hart moved to Montana, New Mexico and Pennsylvania before he was hired by the Idaho Tuberculosis Association, and later became the state tuberculosis control officer ... TB was then a leading cause of death in the U.S. ... Throughout the Great Depression and World War II, Hart traveled extensively through rural Idaho, covering thousands of miles to lecture, conduct mass TB screenings, train new staff and treat patients ...

After the Methodist Church donated the former Gooding College campus to the state in 1941, Hart worked to make it a TB hospital, in part by moving barracks from a former prisoner of war camp in Paul ...

Hart was among the researchers who recognized the value of X-rays to diagnose TB ... Even rudimentary early X-ray machines could detect the disease before it became critical, often saving the patient's life ... It also meant sufferers could be identified and isolated from the population, greatly lessening the



Dr. Alan S. Hart, circa February, 1922

Courtesy Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission

If you say so ...

It's it poignant, odd, strange, funny or weird and it happens in south-central Idaho, I want to hear about it. Call 735-3223, or write to him at scrump@magicvalley.com

spread of the disease ... By the time antibiotics were introduced in the 1940s, doctors using Hart's techniques had cut the TB death toll to one-fiftieth ...

Hart went on to a high-profile clinical career at a TB hospital in Connecticut ... After World War II synthetic male hormones became available — making it possible for him to grow a beard and develop a deeper voice — making him more confident and his public appearances easier ...

His ashes were spread across the Puget Sound after his death in 1962 ...

"Each of us must take into account the raw material which heredity dealt us at birth and the opportunities we have had along the way," he once told a group of his graduate students, "and then work out for ourselves a sensible evaluation of our personalities and accomplishments" ...

Not a bad epitaph for anyone ...

Steve Crump is the Times-News Opinion editor.

CSI increases tuition

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

With state funding slipping, the College of Southern Idaho's board of trustees unanimously voted on Monday to increase tuition for students.

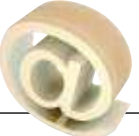
Tuition for summer and fall semester students will increase from \$95 per credit to \$100 per credit. The increase comes as state holdbacks are siphoning away more than \$700,000 in funding from the college — with cuts expected to continue into next fiscal year.

"We're all about affordability and access and any time we have to raise tuition, it's a very difficult decision for us," said Jerry Beck, president of CSI.

For full-time students taking 12 to 18 credits in the fall semester, the tuition will be \$1,200, up from \$1,140. For each additional credit beyond 18 credits, the

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WATCH: A video about the tuition increase.



tuition will be \$100.

The college received support from students for the proposal.

The Student Senate recently voted in favor of the tuition increase, recognizing the need to help the college during a tough economic period, said Yesica Flores, president of the senate.

Last year, college trustees changed the tuition structure, reducing the price per credit for part-time students from \$105 to \$95.

The college also changed full-time status for students from a minimum of 10 credits to 12 credits. As a result, the cost of full-time tuition increased in 2008 from \$1,050 per semester to \$1,140 per semester.



ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News

College of Southern Idaho student Matthew Jacobson of Buhl, walks on the campus Monday afternoon. The CSI Board of Trustees met Monday night to vote on a tuition increase.

Happy Birthday Cammi!

"50 is the youth of old age!"

Love from your family

Federal absconder with local tie caught

Times-News

A federal parolee who was living in Twin Falls before going on the lam six years ago has been nabbed in Mexico, according to a Feb. 20 press release from the United States Marshals Service.

Scott David Steel allegedly murdered a man camping in Montana's Glacier National Park in 1984. He was sentenced to life in prison and paroled after 16 years, according to the release.

He absconded from post-prison supervision, though, in 2003 after living in Twin Falls for about three years, according to the press release.

"With the help of the Mexican immigration officials and the U.S. Marshals using their international resources, this criminal was arrested in Mexico after 6 years on the lam," according to the press release. "Even if you run to Mexico ... The long arm of the law will get you one day."

5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY Monday arraignments

Joshua K. Peterson, 27, Gooding; driving without privileges, DUI; \$10,000 bond; pleaded not guilty; public defender appointed; pretrial April 7
Ruth A. Hunsaker, 46, Twin Falls; possession of a controlled substance; March 6 preliminary hearing; \$25,000 bond; public defender appointed
Jay A. Lewis, 30, Castleford; DUI, fail to purchase/invalid driver's

license; violation of a protection order; \$10,000 bond; public defender appointed; April 7 pretrial

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Business Highlight

Economy Hearing Aid Clinic, located at 532 Blue Lakes Blvd. North, in the Lynwood Shopping Center is owned and operated by Steve Lerohl, with a second office located in Burley on Overland. Economy Hearing features a collective staff with over 40 years of experience in the hearing aid industry in the Magic Valley.

Economy Hearing specializes in complete hearing health care including; hearing aids, hearing evaluations, repairs, fittings, maintenance, live speech mapping, ear molds, ear protection and wax removal. We also provide complete auditory rehabilitation services.

Steve is nationally board certified and the only certified Audioprosthologist in the Magic Valley which makes him uniquely qualified to serve the hearing impaired. Economy Hearing deals with all manufacturers of hearing aids to provide you with the best solution for your hearing needs.

To provide excellent service and additional benefits to the residents of the community, Steve and his staff offer free monthly visits and services to those who reside in assisted living facilities.

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Giltner case returns to court

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

JEROME — Once again, a Jerome County dairy is taking the county to court, seeking to avoid future problems with its neighbors.

Less than a year after the Idaho Supreme Court shot down an appeal by Giltner Dairy of a Jerome County comprehensive plan change, the dairy is again taking county officials to court over the same issue.

Both cases involve changes requested by the 93 Golf Ranch, adjusting its zoning from A-1 to A-2 — the latter a zone where land shifts from agricultural to urban uses.

Giltner first challenged an amendment to the comprehensive plan that indicated its neighbor would be consistent with the A-2 zoning. The 843-acre dairy feared the change from A-1 to A-2 would allow the course to develop houses next to it, and lead to conflicts between residents and the dairy.

That effort ended at the

Supreme Court, which in March unanimously found that the plan did not authorize any actual development and therefore the dairy didn't have standing to file for a review.

The ruling was considered as possibly setting legal precedent at the time, and has been quoted in at least one subsequent case, a rezone in Camas County.

In December, the Jerome County commissioners approved an actual zoning change for 93 Golf Ranch, and the dairy filed a new case against the county, seeking judicial review of its second decision.

In an amended petition for review filed Jan. 12, Giltner's attorneys argued that the zoning change "negatively affected and aggrieved" the dairy's ability to operate in a number of ways, and will place two incompatible land uses right next to each other. They also wrote that the zoning change doesn't conform to the county's previously adopted comprehensive plan, and that the plan commissioners did cite

allegedly was never validly adopted or approved.

Giltner is asking the court to reverse the zoning decision and instruct the commissioners to deny the application, as well as for attorneys' fees and costs.

The case is still in the early stages, and attorneys for the dairy and the county met Monday with county commissioners to sort out what should be included in the record of the case.

Giltner's attorneys haven't filed their opening briefs yet, but it seems likely that they may present similar arguments to the previous case. Attorney Davis VanderVelde deferred comment on the case to Terrence White, the dairy's other attorney. A phone message left for White was not returned Monday afternoon. Both attorneys work for Nampa firm White Peterson.

Deputy County Prosecutor Mike Seib is representing the county, and 93 Golf Ranch has intervened in the case, represented by Gary Slette.

No new meningitis cases reported from January bus trip

Times-News

A bus passenger who died of meningitis last month appears not to have infected anyone else during a trip through southern Idaho, according to state health officials.

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare last month asked people who traveled on a Greyhound Bus on Jan. 11 from Salt Lake City to Boise to contact it because they might have been exposed to the disease. As many as 24 people could have been exposed.

Spokesman Tom Shanahan said Monday that his agency only received nine calls. As far as officials could tell, none of the callers had caught the disease. Two people from out of state — one from Oregon and one from Virginia — were

directed to those states' health departments, he said.

The bus departed Salt Lake City at 2 p.m. on Jan. 11 and arrived in Boise at 9:45 p.m., stopping in Burley, Twin Falls and Nampa as well before continuing to

Portland. The one infected passenger, a Nevada resident, later died in a Salt Lake-area hospital.

The disease is relatively difficult to transmit person-to-person. Information: 208-334-5939.

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Jerome County clears way for impact-fee study

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

JEROME — In a time of low revenue and rising need, more Magic Valley taxing districts are turning to impact fees as an answer.

Jerome County commissioners last week approved spending \$35,000, mostly in outside funds, for a consultant's input on whether the fees — charged to builders as a way to pay for growth — might benefit growing areas of the county. Studies will also include a suggested fee amount, and will be done for five participating taxing districts: Jerome Rural Fire District, Jerome and Hillsdale highway districts, Jerome Recreation District and Jerome Ambulance District.

The county is using BBC Research & Consulting of Denver, the same firm that recently helped the city of Twin Falls put together its fees. Each agency is contributing \$7,000, though the county is picking up the tab for at least Hillsdale because that district couldn't spare the funds, said Commission Chairman Charlie Howell.

"We took it upon ourselves for the betterment of the whole county," he said.

Howell said he thinks it's "vital" to at least look at adopting the fees, citing as example the effects new developments have on already-battered county roads.

"We think it's a very wise and prudent thing to do," he said.

And the taxing districts seem to agree. Though representatives of a couple of them were still learning about the proposal, others said the added income would help them maintain services while adequately preparing for future needs.

Many rural highway districts have said for months that they don't have the funding to keep up with their sprawling jurisdictions. LeRoy Lewis, road supervisor for the Jerome Highway District, said impact fees could help relieve possible congestion in growth areas.

"I considered it a need, and we agreed, since we have a hard time keeping up with some of the development," Lewis said of the county.

Ken Sheldon, manager of

Jerome County Paramedics, said his organization is essentially a "break-even service" and that a little extra money could help him replace old ambulances and keep medical equipment up to date. About two-thirds of its budget comes from patients and their insurance companies.

"The impact fees are what will give us those opportunities to not only grow when we need to, but just to maintain the quality of the equipment," Sheldon said.

Officials weren't sure how long the study will take, saying that will be worked out at a meeting with the consultants on March 4. Once completed, BBC's study will be given to the county commissioners to review.

T.F. man arrested for rape, battery at party

Times-News

A 19-year-old Twin Falls man was arrested Monday on charges of rape and battery stemming from a party earlier in the morning.



Loya

Michael A. Loya, 19, is lodged at the Twin Falls County Jail on \$16,000 bond for both charges and was

arraigned Monday afternoon.

Twin Falls Police assert an 18-year-old woman was raped after she drank alcohol — "jungle juice" — and passed out.

Charges allege Loya had sex with the woman when she was unconscious or unable to resist.

Other people at 927 Wood River Drive confronted Loya, and then Loya allegedly tried to flee and struck someone in

the face, according to court records.

Police said they were called to the home Monday at about 2:30 a.m.

Loya allegedly told police he thought he had consensual sex, according to court records.

He has a preliminary hearing set for March 6 in the rape case. Loya on Monday pleaded not guilty to the battery allegation has a pretrial scheduled for April 7.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Wendell Centennial celebration is Saturday

The city of Wendell Centennial celebration will be held Saturday at the Magic Valley Portuguese Hall, 625 E. Ave. F, Wendell. A no-host bar will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner and entertainment beginning at 7 p.m.

Cost is \$25 per person, \$45 per couple, or \$180 for a table of eight. Tickets can be purchased from: Sharon Cheney, 934-5135; Ilene Rounsefell, 536-5366; Sally's, 934-4412; or Package Shoppe, 536-1711.

The event is presented by the Gooding County Historical Society.

Hagerman hosts Peavey presentation on the West

Remembering the West as It Changes will be presented by Diane Josephy Peavey at the monthly Hagerman Valley Historical Society program held at 7 p.m. March 10 at the National Park Service at 221 N. State St., Hagerman.



Peavey

This program is funded in part by the Idaho Humanities Council.

The public is invited to the free presentation. Refreshments will be served. Those attending will also have a chance to check out displays at the National Park Service building.

Diane Peavey and her husband, John, are owners/operators of the Flat Top Sheep Ranch northeast of Carey. She writes stories about life on the ranch and changing landscapes of the West, and addresses conflicts between ranching and

resource preservation. Her book, "Bitterbrush Country: Living on the Edge of the Land" is a mosaic of her essays.

Peavey was born in New York and is the daughter of Albin Josephy, a writer who focused his writings on the American West and the American Indians. The Peaveys were instrumental in starting the Wood River Valley's Trailing of the Sheep Festival, held each October. The festival was started in 1997.

Information: Milo Packer, program chairman, 837-4597.

Area agencies to receive grants

The John William Jackson Fund announced it will award \$35,000 to several area organizations on March 4, continuing the fund's mission to advance academic scholarship, performing arts and outdoor sporting for Idaho youth.

The awards will be presented at the VengaWorks Venture Centers, 943 W. Overland Road, Meridian, at 6:30 p.m. March 4. The event is open to the public.

Awards given in the Magic Valley area include:

The school districts of Kimberly, Shoshone and Wendell will be awarded \$1,000 each to purchase musical instruments for underprivileged elementary, middle school and junior high students.

To date, The John William Jackson Fund has awarded grants totaling more than \$120,000. The fund was established nine years ago in memory of John William Jackson, who lost his life in a climbing accident in central Asia.

Information: www.johnwilliamjacksonfund.org.



MARY HANSON/For the Times-News

Layton Construction site Superintendent Rick Bair, left, points out North Canyon Medical Center site details to Assistant Project Manager Ryan Davis while the two work at the future site of the Gooding County Historical Society's museum.

Back on the job

Construction resumes on Gooding hospital, museum

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

Two delayed construction projects in Gooding are back on track, while another is ready to break ground as the Magic Valley town enjoys a small building boom.

North Canyon Medical Center, scheduled to open in January 2010, has overcome funding delays caused by a downturn in the economy. Backers of the 52,000-square-foot hospital delayed selling \$30 million in bonds in

December, but in early February, Partners in Healthcare, the hospital's governing nonprofit, signed final contracts for funding.

According to Rick Bair, construction superintendent for Layton Construction, work will be in full swing by the middle to the end of March. The flow of building materials and infrastructure pipe, electric supplies and cement has resumed.

"We'll be bringing in plumbing crews, subcontractors, electricians and welders

starting next week," Bair said.

Nearby, the Gooding County Historical Society's museum project has gained new life after receiving insurance money that reimbursed the society. Last winter, heavy snows collapsed the unfinished steel skeleton of the building.

"Right now, we've got most of the steel support structure up and we are taking a break to let the snow melt and the ground dry," Sharon Cheney, society president said, "Then the contractors will all be able to get in and finish the building. When they finish then we will be calling for volunteers to clean up and especially to move in."

The 6,000 square-foot

museum is built at a cost of \$150,000, paid through a variety of sources, including grants and public donations. Its opening date is not yet set.

Across U.S. Highway 46 to the east of North Canyon Medical Center, the South Central Public Health District will construct a 3,500 square-foot facility that will break ground in March or April.

Also, the remodeling continues at the Get Inn, located on U.S. Highway 26 north of the new museum site, where the registered historical building continues its conversion to a bed and breakfast.

Mary Hanson may be reached at 208-944-4421 or mhansonmbd@aol.com.

HOLLISTER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Courtesy photo

Hollister Elementary School announced its January Students of the Month. They are from left, top row: Aurora Fallis, fifth grade; Miguel Cervantes, fourth grade; Debbie Domingues, third grade; bottom row: Shad Newby, first grade; Ramon Cervantes, kindergarten; Adam Trowbridge, second grade.

Gooding Public Library has new books and videos

New items at Gooding Public Library include:

Adult fiction: "The Ladies Left Behind" by Jeffery Deaver, "The Associate" by John Grisham, "The Penguin Who Knew Too Much" by Donna Andrews, "Dark Light" by Jayne Castle, "Contagious" by Scott Sigler, "Zen and the Art of Vampires" by Katie MacAlister, "Old Man's War," and "Zoe's Tale" by John Scalzi, "Bones of the Dragon" by Margaret Weis, "The Virgin's Lover" by Philippa Gregory, "The Wizard Lord" by Lawrence Watt-Evans, "Extreme Measures" by Vince Flynn, "Running Hot" by Jayne Ann Krentz, "Plum Spooky" by Janet Evanovich, "Exposed" by Alex Kava, "The Charlemagne Pursuit" by Steve Berry, "The Explosionist" by Jenny Davidson, "The Manning

Grooms" by Debbie Macomber, "Devil of the Highlands," and "The Rogue Hunter" by Lynsay Sands, "Something Sinful" by Suzanne Enoch, "Arctic Drift" by Clive Cussler, "Revenge of Innocents" by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg, "From Dead to Worst" by Charlaine Harris, "Almost Dead" by Lisa Jackson, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" by Stieg Larsson.

Adult nonfiction: "Team of Rivals" by Doris Kearns Goodwin, "Home: A Memoir of my Early Years" by Julie Andrews, "Sea Trials: Cruising Vivace" by Myra Lenington, "Outliers: the Story of Success" by Malcolm Gladwell, "From Hormone Hell to Hormone Well" by C.W. Randolph, "I'd Rather be in Jarbridge" by Donald E. Mathias, "My Cat Spit McGee"

by Willie Morris, "Ski & Snow Country" by Ray Atkeson, "Field Guides" set by Roger Troy Peterson.

Books on CD: "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown, "Zorro" by Isabel Allende.

Videos: "Timecop," "Universal Soldier," "Street Fighter," "Nowhere to Run," "Maximum Risk: The Other Side of Safe," "Double Team," "Death Warrant," "The Quest," "Hard Target," "Double Impact," "Black Eagle," "Legionnaire."

There is a large section of exchange paperback books in the library. For public convenience, they also have a collection box for Campbell soup labels and Box Tops for Education to benefit local schools.

The next Youth Book Club will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. March 12 at the library.

Cause of spontaneous bruising needs to be identified

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a 64-year-old male in reasonably good health for the life I have lived. But in the last five weeks or so, I have had three baseball-sized bruises on my thighs, midway up, for no apparent reason. The first was on the outside of my right thigh, and about two weeks later, one appeared on the inside of my left thigh. Now I have one on the inside of my right thigh. Do you have any idea as to the cause?

DEAR READER: Bruising is generally the result of injury — even minor trauma, such as hoisting a heavy box and resting it on your thighs. The process doesn't appear to



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

cause damage, yet it can be extreme enough for blood to clot beneath the surface of the skin and result in a bruise.

Aspirin, Advil, naproxen, Motrin and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatories can also cause contusions, as can hoisting a heavy box and resting it on your thighs. The process doesn't appear to

Recap your activity prior to the first bruising. Did you lean into a porch railing, over the hood of a car to work on it or carry debris from your basement up a set of stairs? If so, you may have a harmless cause you can identify.

If you are on new medication, ask your physician whether it carries a side effect of bruising. If not and your bruising is spontaneous, speak with him or her about getting a blood workup. In this way, disorders such as von Willebrand's disease and hemophilia can be ruled out. These hereditary disorders are marked by slow blood clotting that can result in nosebleeds, exces-

sive bleeding of the gums and more.

Another possibility is the aging process. As we get older, our bodies take longer to heal, from even minor injuries. We also tend to have thinner skin, which causes what were once trivial bumps and scrapes to turn into larger, more serious cuts, bruises and tears. If your health checks out (as I suspect it will), you may simply need to be more cautious and try to avoid getting hurt.

To give you related information, I am sending you a copy of my Health Report "Blood: Donations and Disorders." Other readers who would like a copy

should send a self-addressed, stamped, No. 10 envelope and \$12 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

DEAR DR. GOTT: The lady who wrote about her gray hair having yellow tones might try Clairol Professional Shimmer Lights Original Conditioning Shampoo. The bottle I have is purple and so is the shampoo. I've had great success with highlighting my gray hair and recommend it.

DEAR READER: I understand there are a number of shampoos available that are directed toward highlighting dull or discolored gray hair. They may be somewhat

pricey compared to the vast supply of inexpensive products on store shelves, but if they do the trick and provide good results, I am sure they are worth the expense.

If you have trouble finding such products, check with a local hairdresser who might have something for sale from the shop or who can otherwise recommend a good alternative.

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."

Back to 1997

Stock market indexes retreat to levels not seen since the 1990s

NEW YORK (AP) — Wall Street has turned the clock back to 1997.

Investors unable to extinguish their worries about a recession that has no end in sight dumped stocks again Monday. The Dow Jones industrial average tumbled 251 points to its lowest close since May 7, 1997, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index logged its lowest finish since April 11, 1997. It's as if the decade's dot-com surge, collapse and subsequent recovery never occurred.

The Dow is just over 100 points from 7,000. Both indexes have lost about half their value since hitting record highs in October 2007.

Backtracking

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 251 points Monday to its lowest level since 1997.

Dow Jones industrial average



SOURCE: Thomson Reuters AP

"People left and right are throwing in the towel," said Keith Springer, president of Capital Financial Advisory Services.

Investors pounded most financial stocks even as government agencies led by the Treasury Department said

they would launch a revamped bank rescue program this week. The plan includes the option of increasing government ownership in financial institutions without having to pour more taxpayer money into them.

Although the government has said it doesn't want to nationalize banks, many investors are clearly still concerned that this could be a possibility as banks continue to suffer severe losses because of the recession. They're also worried that banks' losses will keep escalating as the recession sends more borrowers into default.

"The biggest thing I see here is the incredible pessimism," Springer said. "The government is doing a lousy job of alleviating fears."

The Treasury and other agencies issued a statement after *The Wall Street Journal*

reported Citigroup is in talks for the government to boost its stake in the bank to as much as 40 percent. Analysts said the market, which initially rose on the statement, wanted more details of the government's plans.

"It's only a very partial picture of what we may get," said Quincy Krosby, chief investment strategist at The Hartford. "This proverbial lack of clarity is damaging market psychology."

Meanwhile, technology stocks fell after The Journal reported that Yahoo Inc.'s new chief executive plans to reorganize the company. But the selling came across the market as pessimism about the recession and its toll on companies deepened.

"There's no where to hide anymore," said Jim Herrick, director of equity trading at Baird & Co.

Ginsburg returns to court

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg returned to the Supreme Court bench Monday, a little over two weeks after her second major bout with cancer prompted questions about her health and the possibility of a quick court vacancy for President Obama to fill.



Ginsburg

A beaming Ginsburg walked into the marble courtroom with her eight male colleagues as Supreme Court Marshal Pamela Talkin began the traditional chant that announces the start of court: "Oyez. Oyez. Oyez ..."

Wearing her typical court dress consisting of a black robe and white lace collar, Ginsburg showed no ill effects from her recent pancreatic cancer surgery, leaning forward in her chair and tossing out challenging questions for lawyers in her soft hesitant voice.

"You are really saying you were wrong," she chided a lawyer for the Navajo Nation who seemed to be backing away from an earlier position his clients took. During the arguments, Ginsburg looked the lawyers directly in the eyes, leaning forward scribbling notes with a pencil. She later began rocking slightly in her seat.

Ginsburg, 75, underwent surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York on Feb. 5 and returned to her home in Washington on Feb. 13. Doctors gave her an encouraging prognosis after they removed a small malignant tumor from her pancreas and determined that the disease had not spread to her lymph nodes or other organs.

Obama vows to cut deficit

President pledges restraint on spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — Urging strict future restraint even as current spending soars, President Barack Obama pledged on Monday to dramatically slash the skyrocketing annual budget deficit as he started to dole out the record \$787 billion economic stimulus package he signed last week.

"If we confront this crisis without also confronting the deficits that helped cause it, we risk sinking into another crisis down the road," the president warned, promising to cut the yearly deficit in half by the end of his four-year term. "We cannot simply spend as we please and defer the consequences."

He said he would reinstitute a pay-as-you-go rule that calls for spending reductions to match increases and would shun what he said were the past



AP photo

President Obama opens a White House economic conference on Monday in Washington.

tration — that's the figure Obama says he'll cut in half — and the stimulus law, coupled with rescue efforts for ailing automakers, the financial industry and beleaguered homeowners will raise this year's red ink to \$1.5 trillion.

The administration hopes to trim the deficit by scaling

back Iraq war spending, raising taxes on the wealthiest and streamlining government.

"We are paying the price for these deficits right now," Obama said, estimating the country spends \$250 billion — one in every 10 dollars of taxpayer money — in interest on the national debt. "I refuse to leave our children with a debt that they cannot repay."

As an example of a purchasing process "gone amok," the president said he had ordered a thorough review of his new fleet of Marine One helicopters, now far over budget.

He was asked about the fleet by former presidential rival John McCain at the end of the White House meeting.

"The helicopter I have now seems perfectly adequate to me," Obama said wryly to laughter. "Of course, I've never had a helicopter before. So, you know, maybe I've been deprived and I didn't know it."

Calcium tied to lower cancer risk in older people

CHICAGO (AP) — A study in nearly half a million older men and women bolsters evidence that diets rich in calcium may help protect against some cancers.

The benefits were mostly associated with foods high in calcium, rather than calcium tablets.

Previous studies have produced conflicting results. The new research involved food questionnaires from participants and a follow-up check of records for cancer cases during the subsequent seven years. This research method is less rigorous than some previous but smaller studies.

But because of its huge size — 492,810 people and

more than 50,000 cancers — the new study presents powerful evidence favoring the idea that calcium may somehow keep cells from becoming cancerous, said University of North Carolina nutrition expert John Anderson, who was not involved in the study.

The study was run jointly by the National Institutes of Health and AARP. The results appear in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine.

National Cancer Institute researcher Yikyung Park, the

study's lead author, called the results strong but said more studies are needed to confirm the findings.

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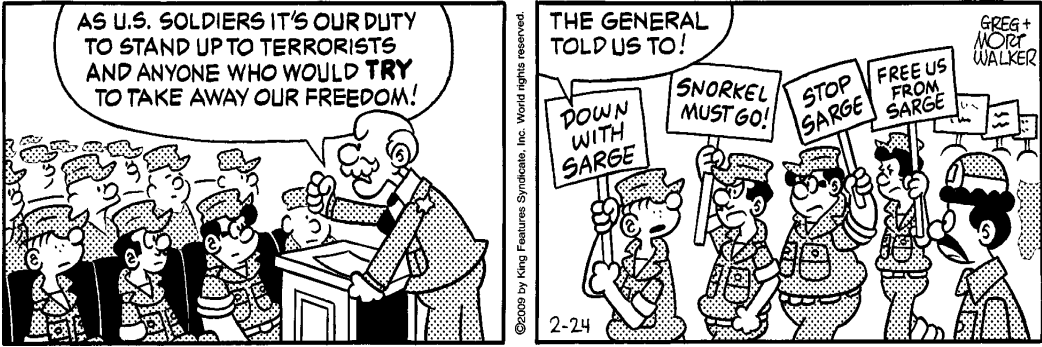
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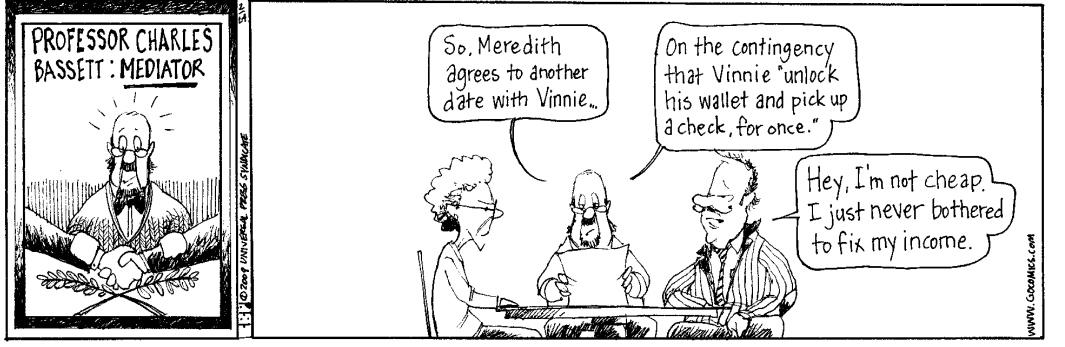
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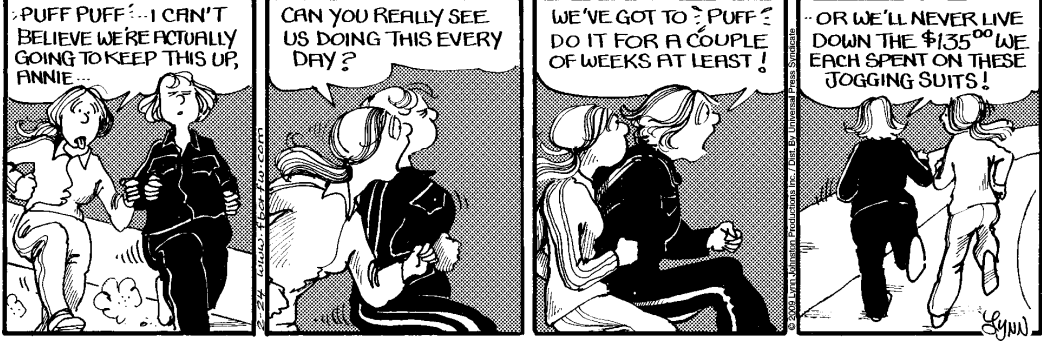
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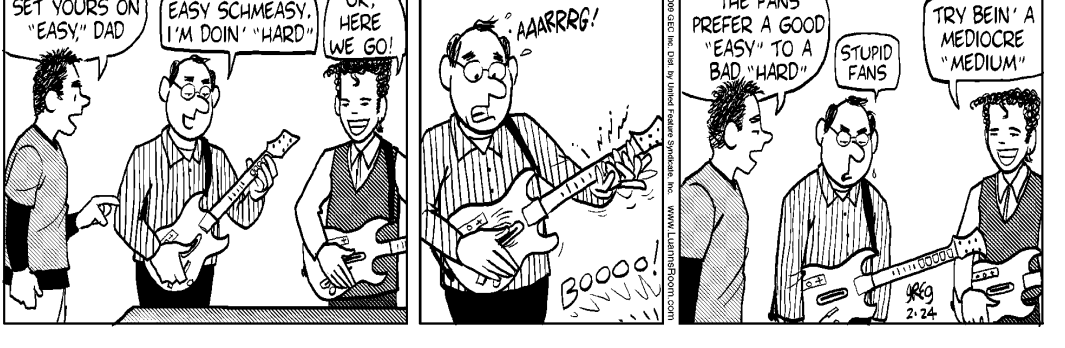
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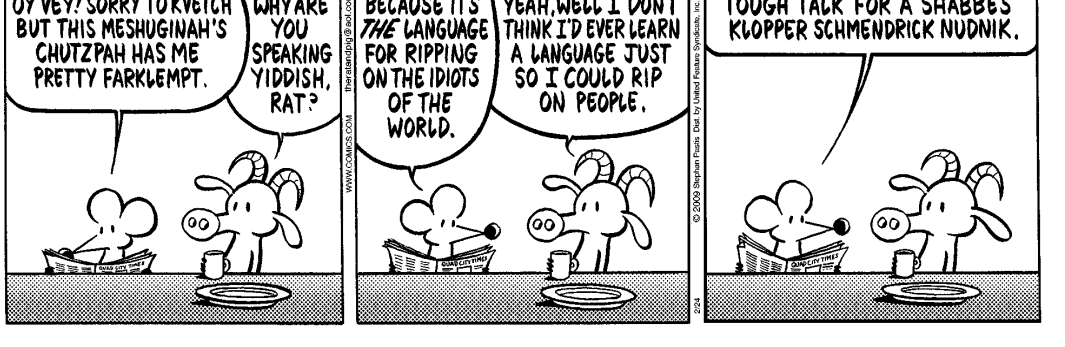
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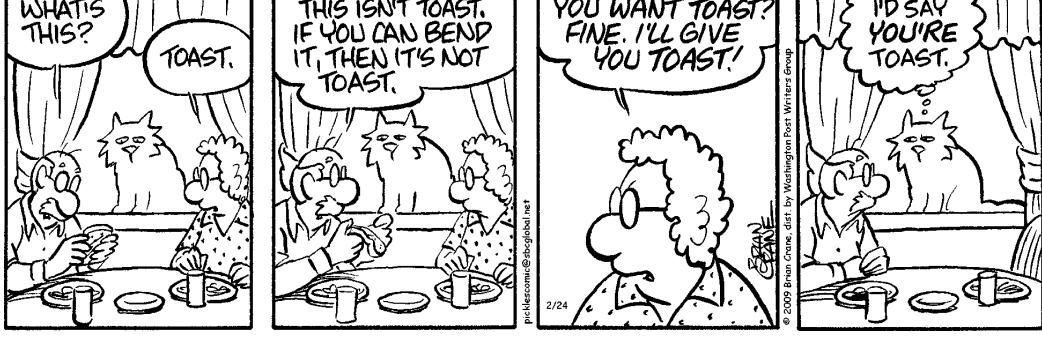
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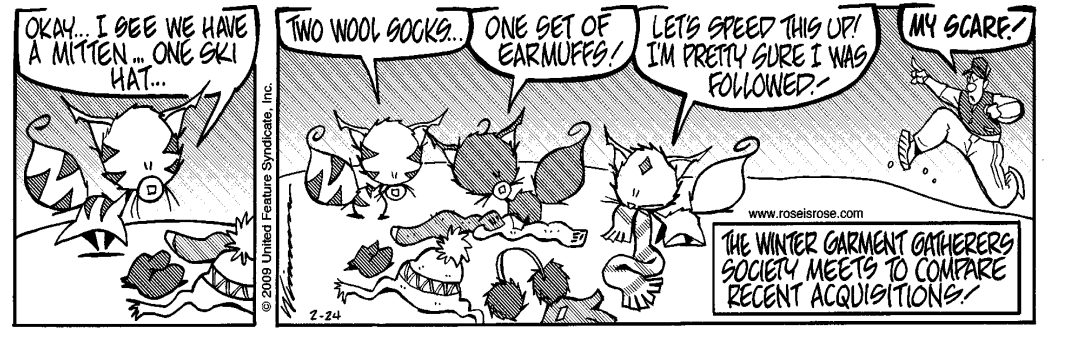
Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



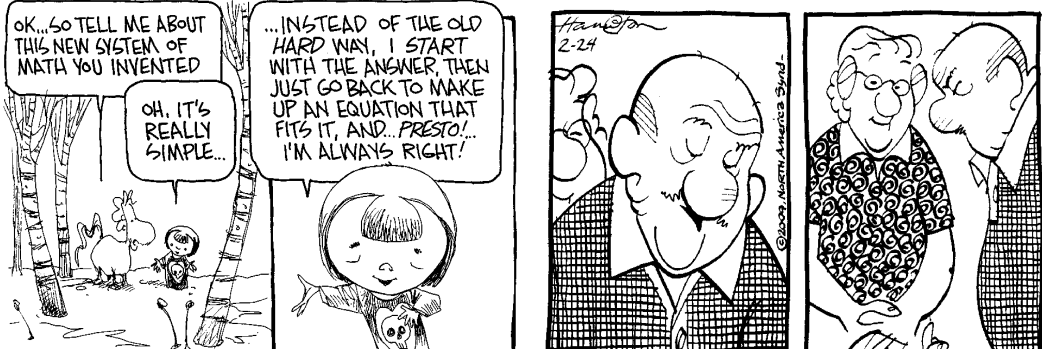
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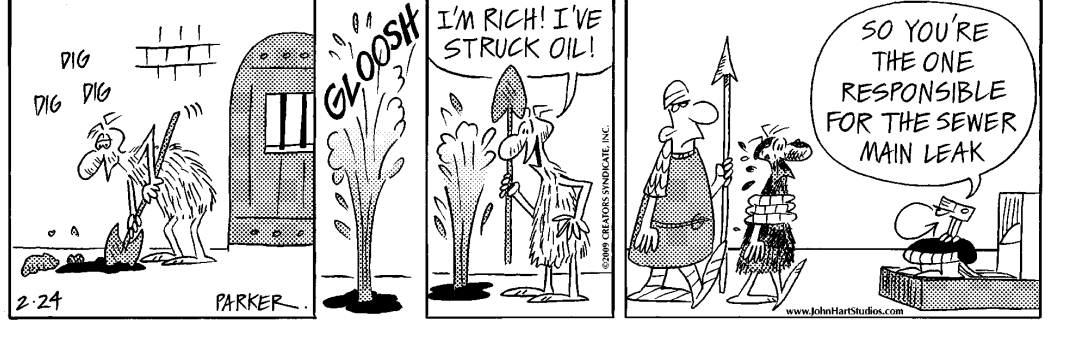
Rose is Rose By Pat Brady



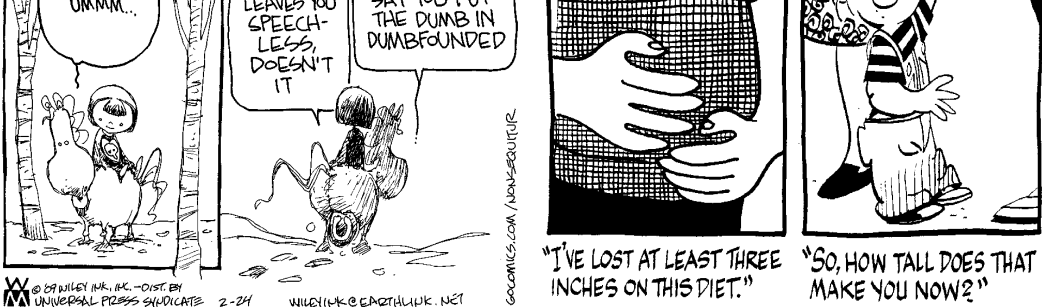
Non Sequitur By Wiley



The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Dennis the Menace By Hank Ketcham



Zits By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



OPINION

QUOTABLE

“Although the stimulus program is a great first step, we want to impress on the president that it's only a first step.”
 — Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a day before a governors' meeting with President Obama on the stimulus plan

EDITORIAL

EchoHawk's the right choice for the BIA

Larry EchoHawk was one of the class acts of Idaho politics during the 1990s. Smart, socially conservative and steeped in Idaho values, the former state attorney general had the political misfortune to run against Phil Batt for governor in 1994. In a poll of the state's historians taken last year by the *Times-News*, Batt — a Republican — was ranked the third-best governor in Idaho history.

Our view: Former Idaho Attorney General Larry EchoHawk, a Pawnee by heritage, would be a good choice to revitalize the Bureau of Indian Affairs. **What do you think?** We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

EchoHawk, a Democrat from Pocatello, moved to Utah in 1995 and became a law professor at Brigham Young University. Now he's widely expected to be appointed by President Obama to lead the troubled Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Department of Interior. If so, it's likely that he'll spend most of his tenure trying to repair the damage that fellow Idahoan Dirk Kempthorne did as secretary of interior during the Bush administration.

Kempthorne — a former Idaho governor and U.S. senator — presided over an agency that trafficked in corruption and flawed, politically motivated science.

At the same time, he did little to address the long-festering wounds cause by generations of mis-management of Indian Trust lands by the BIA, which has resulted in a massive class-action lawsuit still unresolved a dozen years after it was filed. That lack of interest in proper management must stop. EchoHawk has the integrity and the knowledge of Native American law to set things right at the BIA. In many ways, EchoHawk is the anti-Kempthorne. As U.S. senator, governor and secretary of the interior, Kempthorne never made a decision without calculating which way the wind was blowing politically. EchoHawk, an old-fashioned Mormon trial lawyer, just cared about getting it right.

The BIA needs him.

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.

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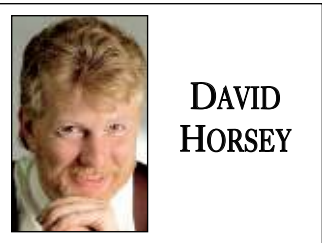
Want to express your opinion?

Go to Magicvalley.com, register and tell us what you think about this editorial and other news.

U.S. financial collapse threatens real journalism

When the federal government was deciding to spend hundreds of billions of dollars to revive the economy and bail out bankers, one ailing industry was being left to fend for itself: newspapers.

Arguably, newspapers are as vital to American democracy as banks are to the American financial system. Yet the implosion of the news business is the most underreported story amid the great flood of bad economic news.



DAVID HORSEY

My newspaper is unlikely to exist in print format by the end of March. As unthinkable as it may be, Seattle could soon become the first large American city with no metro daily rolling off the presses. If so, it is unlikely to be last.

Metro dailies are struggling everywhere. In some cases, this situation has been exacerbated by the stupidity and avarice of newspaper owners. (Chief case in point: Chicago real estate mogul Sam Zell's leveraged buyout of the Tribune Co.) Most often, though, it is the unexpectedly rapid decline in advertising revenue that is killing off newspapers.

Many newspapers have come and gone over the years, but, for most of the 20th century, it didn't take a genius to make money in the news business. Publishers had a product that people were eager to read and, for advertisers who wanted to reach those people, newspapers were the only game in town.



Annual profits of 25 percent and higher were typical at many publications and those profits paid for the kind of expensive enterprise reporting that didn't necessarily sell newspapers but did keep watch on nefarious politicians, venal corporations, polluters of our environment and corrupters of our democracy.

Things began to change as newspaper readership declined and advertisers were lured away to the Internet. Everyone saw this happening and newspaper managers have been running in circles for the past decade trying to figure out what to do about it. What no one anticipated was the economic meltdown of 2008 that has now gotten everyone's attention, from the halls of the Capitol to the humblest American home. The onset of this recession knocked the newspaper industry from a

precarious perch into a careening dive.

The question we all now face is this: Who will be the truth tellers in the future? Can the republic be protected by a cacophony of independent bloggers? Will online newspapers, if they come into being, have the resources to tackle the big, controversial and complex investigative stories? If metro newspapers and regional bureaus disappear, what new creation will arise, phoenix-like from the ashes of print journalism, to take their place?

Oddly enough, this journalistic calamity comes just when the news matters more than ever to Americans. Every report about the stimulus package working its way through Congress and every story about job losses and mortgage foreclosures now touches each resident of this country personally. It's not about somebody else;

it's about you and me. Will you and I have money to retire? Will you and I have jobs next week or next year? Will our children be able to go to college or buy a house when the time comes? Will our 401(k) and mutual funds be worthless?

Given the vastly enhanced power of government and large business entities to project a self-serving, sanitized version of the truth, the need for credible sources of information has never been greater. I've got to believe that necessity will compel an inspired response to the financial collapse now threatening to permanently cripple American journalism.

I've got to believe it because the alternative is too frightening.

David Horsey is the editorial cartoonist for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. Write to him at davidhorsey@seattlepi.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Kimberly residents thanked for recall support

I want to thank all of the Kimberly residents who participated in our recall petition. Due to your support, we were able to get 330-plus verified signatures. We realize that we were only able to reach a small portion of the households, but we appreciate the feedback that we received from you. By visiting with you individually, we were able to gain many suggestions for possible solutions to the city of Kimberly's issues.

Recently, the city of Kimberly has reported that the "recall petition has failed." All of the signatures on these petitions were verified in December through the Twin Falls County Election Department prior to submission. However, in the first part of February, a substantial number of the signatures have become void. Due to this and other discrepancies, we are currently turning the matter over to the proper authorities for review.

Tell us what you think

ON PAPER: The *Times-News* welcomes letters from readers on subjects of public interest. Please limit letters to 300 words. Include your signature, mailing address and phone number. Writers who sign letters with false names will be permanently barred from publication. 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.

Thanks again for all your support and for welcoming us into your homes.

WAYNE SAYER
Kimberly

GOP politicians in Cassia County are anti-wildlife

This letter is in response to the front page article in the *Times-News* on Feb. 6 about the Fish and Game blaming the wolves for the decline of the big game herds.

But they cannot use that excuse in Cassia County where there are no wolves. The problem here is

Republican politicians who are anti-wildlife!

They see wildlife as an obstacle that stands in the way of their only concern — money. Here are some examples that prove that fact:

Back when Cecil Andrus and John Evans were governors, our wildlife was flourishing and doing very good.

Now this one happens to be a coincidence but fact. In 1991 to 1992, we had a winter that just about wiped out the deer and, at the same time, the Republicans had a governor in Boise. Bad for the wildlife, but what luck for the Republican-managed Fish and Game agency. They will not let the herds

return to the historical levels that previously existed. The reason for this is because the Fish and Game (Republicans) are in bed with the public land grazers.

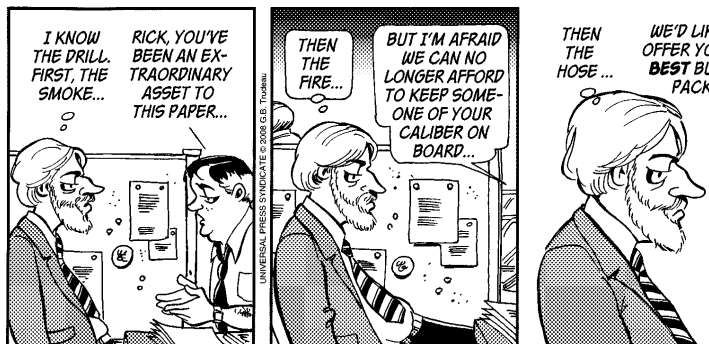
Fact is the Fish and Game commissioners and director are appointed by the governor and Legislature who are in power at the time - Republicans. What we need to do is return to the 1938 Sportsman Wildlife Council that will take politicians out of the picture. They did this because, back then, the elk and deer were practically exterminated due to over-hunting and no controls on management.

The approval by the Cassia County commissioners of the Cotterell Ridge Wind Farm right in the middle of prime deer and sage grouse habitat. Again their main concern is money, not those pesky critters that have lived there for thousands of years.

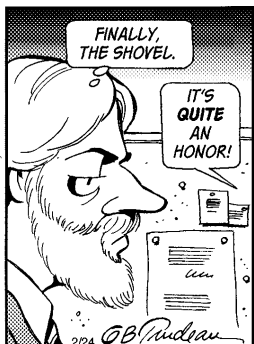
KEVIN LARSON
Burley

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

I R A Q

Three U.S. soldiers, interpreter killed

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. soldiers and an interpreter were killed Monday during fighting north of Baghdad, the military announced.

The combat took place in Diyala province, an area northeast of Baghdad that remains volatile despite an overall drop in violence nationwide.

The statement did not provide more details.

The attack came two weeks after a suicide car bomber struck a U.S. patrol in the northern city of Mosul, killing four American soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter in the deadliest single attack against U.S. forces in nine months.

At least 4,250 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Iraq's Interior Ministry, meanwhile, announced the arrest of a Shiite police gang accused of killing the Sunni vice president's sister in 2006 as part of a string of kidnappings and slayings.

Museum reopens 6 years after looting

BAGHDAD — Iraq's restored National Museum reopened Monday with a red-carpet gala in the heart of Baghdad nearly six years after looters carried away priceless antiquities as American troops largely stood by in the chaos of the city's fall to U.S. forces.

The ransacking of the museum became a symbol for critics of Washington's post-invasion strategy and its inability to maintain order as Saddam Hussein's police and military unraveled.

But Iraq's prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, chose to look ahead. He called the reopening another milestone in Baghdad's slow return to stability after years of bloodshed.

"It was a dark age that Iraq passed through," the prime minister said at a dedication ceremony after walking down a red carpet into the museum. "This spot of civilization has had its share of destruction."

MEXICO

Gunmen attack convoy, kill bodyguard

CIUDAD JUAREZ — Gunmen have attacked a convoy carrying the governor of a violence-racked border state, killing one of his bodyguards and wounding two other agents.

It was not clear if the attackers were targeting Chihuahua Gov. Jose Reyes Baeza, but he canceled a trip Monday to meet with federal officials in Mexico City about security problems in his state, where hundreds have died in drug-related violence in recent months.

Baeza said gunmen in two cars fired high-powered weapons Sunday night at a vehicle two cars behind his in a convoy in the state capital, Chihuahua city. The two wounded agents were in stable condition on Monday and one of the

attackers was hospitalized with a gunshot to the head. The other attackers fled.

ENGLAND

Guantanamo detainee freed after 4 years

LONDON — The first Guantanamo detainee released since President Obama took office returned to Britain on Monday, saying his seven years of captivity and torture at an alleged CIA covert site in Morocco went beyond his "darkest nightmares."

Binyam Mohamed's allegations — including repeated beatings and having his genitals sliced by a scalpel — have sparked lawsuits that could

ensnare the American and British governments in protracted court battles.

— The Associated Press

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Today: Mostly cloudy with a few rain showers in the area. Highs 45 to 50. Tonight: A chance of rain, mixing with and changing to snow. Low 25 to 30. Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy with scattered rain and snow showers. Cooler with highs 40 to 45.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for various regions including Boise, Burley, and Twin Falls. Includes temperature ranges and weather icons for different areas.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day forecast for Twin Falls with weather icons and temperature ranges for Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Yesterday's Weather

Table showing weather data for various Idaho cities including Boise, Burley, Challis, and Coeur d'Alene, with columns for High, Low, and Precip.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Almanac section for Twin Falls including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, and Sunrise and Sunset times.

U.V. INDEX and Moonrise and Moonset information for the current day.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table listing weather conditions and temperatures for various Idaho cities like Boise, Burley, and Twin Falls.

NATIONAL FORECAST

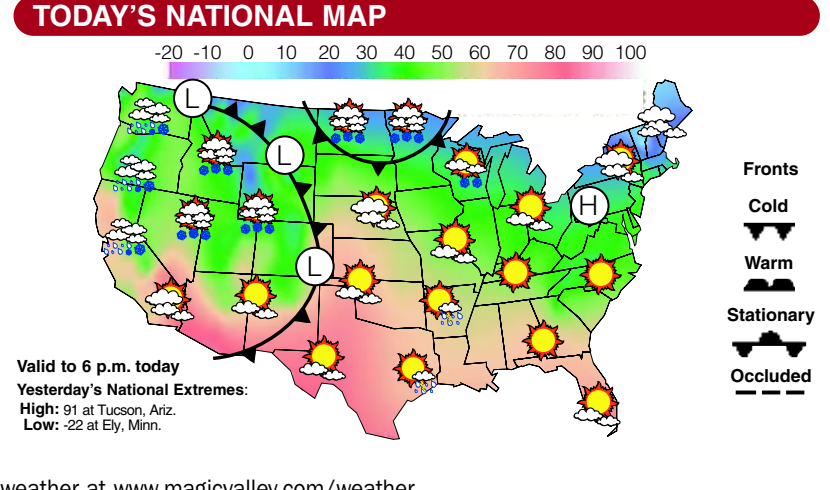
National forecast table providing weather outlook for major cities across the United States.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table showing weather conditions for various international cities.

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table listing weather for major Canadian cities like Calgary, Toronto, and Vancouver.



Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: 'Try not to become a person of success, but rather try to become a person of value.' - Albert Einstein.

Meth makers leave behind a toxic trail at U.S. motels

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — Methamphetamine "cooks" are secretly converting hundreds of motel and hotel rooms into covert drug labs — leaving behind a toxic mess for unsuspecting customers and housekeeping crews.



East Ridge investigator Josh Creel adjusts a quarantine notice on a motel room door at the Cascade Motel on Thursday in Chattanooga, Tenn. Meth manufacturers used the room as a lab recently, causing concern for future occupants.

They are places where drug-makers can go unnoticed, mixing the chemicals needed for the highly addictive stimulant in a matter of hours before slipping out the next morning. The dangerous contaminants can lurk on countertops, carpets and bathtubs, and chemical odors that might be a warning clue to those who follow can be masked by tobacco smoke and other scents. Motels can be an attractive alternative for drug makers seeking to avoid a police raid on their own homes. "They can seize the trailer or seize your house but they can't seize a motel room," said Dr. Sullivan Smith, director of emergency services at Cookeville Regional Medical Center in north-central Tennessee. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration records obtained by The Associated Press show that states reported finding evidence of drug-making in 1,789 motel and hotel rooms in the past five years — and that's just those the authorities found. Some cleanup professionals hired to make the travelers' havens livable again say

most of their work is done on properties where a meth lab was discovered long after the fact. The number of clandestine labs that are never found is difficult to pin down. There was a slight uptick in hotel and motel lab busts reported to the Drug Enforcement Administration in 2008 from the previous year, with 149 in 2006, 87 in 2007 and 127 in 2008. The tally was 461 in 2005 and 965 in 2004, before there were restrictions on purchasing over-the-counter decongestants often used as ingredients. The DEA count is based on states that reported labs. The toxins can linger for days if meth lab hygienists

wearing hazmat suits don't clean living areas. The cleanups cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$20,000. Even short-term exposure to vapors and residue where the drug is smoked or cooked can cause eye and skin irritation, vomiting, rashes, asthma problems and other respiratory issues. "It probably happens all the time," said John Martyny, a National Jewish Medical and Research Center associate professor who is also an industrial hygienist and meth researcher. "The difficulty is, how do you make that attribution? You might think it is from cigarette smoking."

New England suffers from storms

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A winter storm blew through northern New England on Monday, dumping 2 feet of snow in spots, forcing hundreds of schools to cancel classes and leaving tens of thousands of homes and businesses without power. More than 127,000 utility customers in Maine remained without electricity Monday evening after wet, heavy snow snapped tree limbs, power lines and utility poles. The Maine Emergency Management Agency said about 15 warming shelters had been set up around the state. Bangor Hydro Electric urged residents who lacked power to prepare for the possibility that it might not be restored until Wednesday. Lows for early Tuesday were forecast in the single digits in northern Maine and about 20 degrees in the south, the National Weather Service said. Gov. John Baldacci declared a state of emergency extending the hours that power crews can work to restore electricity. Baldacci, who was in

Washington attending a National Governors Association conference, decided to return to Maine on Monday afternoon. Central Maine Power and Bangor Hydro Electric were getting help from out-of-state utilities that sent line

crews to help restore service. The companies said the work was complicated by deep and heavy snow, poor road conditions and the rural locations of many outages. Heavy snow fell across most of Maine through Monday morning.

Battle over UBS secret accounts to take months

MIAMI (AP) — A federal judge decided Monday it will take months to determine if and when the Internal Revenue Service will learn the identities of 52,000 wealthy Americans who have secret accounts at Swiss bank UBS AG. U.S. District Judge Alan S.

Gold set a July 13 hearing on the IRS lawsuit, unless an agreement is reached first. UBS claims that turning over the account names would violate Swiss privacy law and jeopardize the bank's license to stay in business. "Such violations would

expose these (UBS) employees to substantial prison terms, as well as fines, penalties and other sanctions," the UBS lawyers said in a court filing last week. "There is simply no reason to have, nor equity in having, such an expedited process here."

HELPFUL RADIATOR CORNER advertisement featuring a radiator repair service with contact information for Mac's.

AGRI-SERVICE advertisement for farm equipment including balers, windrowers, and tractors, with financing options and contact details.

Annual Bull Sale - February 25, 2009 advertisement for Heritage Cattle Company, featuring details about the sale and contact information.

Used Equipment advertisement listing various farm vehicles and machinery for sale with contact information.

How to turn a corner or a closet into a home office

See Home & Garden 3

Spring's forecast is bright and sunny

By Kim Cook
For The Associated Press

It's a pretty outlook for spring 2009 on the home decor front. The color palette includes fresh blues, saucy pinks and upbeat yellows, as well as a veritable laundry line of clean whites.

Patterns are playful or romantic. It's the season of renewal, and a great time to fluff up the feathers in the nest.

Louise Smith, color and design manager for Dulux, points out, "This is the year to go wild and express yourself. Since fewer people will be moving, the onus is on personalization and reinvention."

So if you've never been brave enough to dip your toes in the color pool, now's the time to get wet. Never been a flower child? You may reconsider when you see the new floral motifs. The mood-enhancing benefits of a re-styled living space cannot be underestimated.

Yellow is such a happy hue, and so right-this-minute. Look for it in dishes, furniture, soft furnishings, even trash bins: Vipp's Yellow Cab stepcan may be made in Copenhagen, but the vibe is totally New York.

Spring in the city is evoked in Blissliving Home's contemporary bedding ensemble, "Off the Park," which pairs a black and white print with bright yellow. Designer Mei Xu notes the color's "cheerful, optimistic tone. It has the power to bring a smile to your face."

Conran USA continues to support international craftwork with the ceramics of south African designers Philippa and Werner du Toit. Their pitchers and cake stands are embossed with tribal fabric textures, then washed in soft yellow. They're quirky, rustic and charming.

We'll see white as another dominant color, either crisp and pure or vanillating. Gather a group of snowy vases, fill them with white blooms, and place on a textured runner. Pull off all the dark drapes and hang white cotton or silk; the light will pour in, awakening everything.

Garnet Hill has the Angie lamp, a curvy little number in soft tones accented with barrel shades in on-trend motifs like black and white ironwork, white-on-white bubbles, or orange and green zinnias.

Florals are blooming on casual dinnerware, wall art and soft furnishings. Some are feminine, painterly prints while others are bold, contemporary graphics. Xu says her Kew Gardens bedding ensemble, which has a green and white trellis pattern as its centerpiece, was inspired by her visit to one of the royal British gardens.

"I wanted to translate that happy memory into an uplifting design that would bring home the essence of spring," she says.

Over at HomeGoods, there are sweet little footed bowls in robin's egg blue, as well as a creamy lacquered chest hand painted with chrysanthemums.

Indeed, as befits the season, garden themes dominate. Wrought iron and trellis motifs are a new twist, and a departure from the ubiquitous damasks of the past couple of seasons. Lattice patterns are versatile; they can evoke either English Garden traditional or Palm Beach Moderne.

For something really different, look to ModernDose's new pouf festooned with dozens of laser-cut wool blooms. While it may look like Grandma's Sunday-best hat, you have permission to sit on it.

Spring's the perfect time to change out a few accessories and introduce some new hues; without spending a great deal, a room can look refreshed and invigorated in no time. Target has inexpensive yet appealing floral throw pillows and wall art, as well as a pretty filigreed votive holder in grass green, white or deep pink. Perfect for the patio, when the nights begin to warm.



AP Photo/Carl Tremblay
Garnet Hill's \$168 Angie Table Lamps in lime, turquoise or white.



AP Photo/HomeGoods
A \$12.99 Footed Floral Bowl by HomeGoods.



AP Photo/Conran USA
The Philippa and Werner du Toit's glazed stoneware cake stand, \$99, by Conran USA.



AP Photo/Blissliving Home
Blissliving Home's Off the Park Bedding Collection, \$50-\$295.



AP Photo/Target
Target's Filigreed Iron Votive Holders, \$24.99 for a set of six.



AP Photo/Conran USA
The Vipp's 2009 Limited Edition Yellow Cab Pedal Bin, \$349, by Conran USA.



AP Photo/Target
Target's Floral Wall Art, \$14.99.



AP Photo/Blissliving Home
The Garden Party Bedding Collection, \$65-\$295, by Blissliving Home.



AP Photo/Target
Target's \$19.99 Turquoise Floral Pillow.



AP Photo/HomeGoods
HomeGoods' Handpainted Floral Chest, \$49.99.

Economic downturn brings out do-it-yourselfers

By Kevin Cowherd
The Baltimore Sun

On a freezing Saturday morning, a handful of people braved the weather to watch Stephanie Kirchner give a clinic on tiling at the Home Depot in Cockeysville, Md.

At a small demonstration area in the middle of the store, surrounded by buckets and wet saws and mixing compounds, Kirchner ticked off the pros and cons of three types of tile: ceramic, porcelain and natural stone.

While natural stone, the priciest of the three, is the Taj Mahal of the tile world, even that has a few negatives, she said.

"It's very beautiful but more difficult to install," Kirchner said. "It needs lots of treat-



Janelle Johnson tries tile laying at a Home Depot clinic in Cockeysville, Md., as Larry Bracey watches.

ments. Also it's difficult to clean."

Looking on with rapt attention was Mary Sturm of

Upperco, who had just bought a condo in Bethany Beach, Del., and was interested in fixing up its two bath-

Before you start do-it-yourselfing

Katie and Gene Hamilton, who write a do-it-yourself syndicated column and have written a number of books on DIY projects, offer these insights:

Do-It-Yourselfers' Mistakes:

- **Scheduling** a big project before a holiday or family event.
- **Tackling** too large a project.
- **Neglecting** to prepare family members for the inconvenience (no electricity means no hair dryer).
- **Not budgeting** enough money to eat out.
- **Losing** their sense of humor.

Don't Do This at Home:

- **Install** drywall
- **Install** roofing on a two-story house
- **Sand** floors
- **Take on** plumbing projects that require a building permit

rooms.

"In order to afford the condo and do the (repair) work, too, I have to do some of the work myself," said Sturm.

With more consumers feeling the effects of the economic downturn, the popularity of clinics and classes in home repair and home maintenance seems to be on the rise.

"What (we're) getting is a lot more of the do-it-yourselfers," said Corrie Grammer, specialty manager at the Home Depot.

He recalled a conversation a few days earlier with a couple who planned to install laminate in a powder room in their home.

"They said: 'If times were better, we'd have somebody else do it,'" Grammer said.

Instead, he continued, "they bought all the products they needed from start to finish" and headed off to plunge into their project.

Home Depot, the country's largest home-improvement retailer, offers free clinics on a variety of subjects: energy efficiency in the home, tiling

How to turn a corner or a closet into a home office

By Terri Sapienza
The Washington Post

More than 20 million people work from home at least once a week, according to the latest figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wireless technology has made this easy at a time when a struggling economy has forced many people to spend more time at home.

If you work at home full time or just require a place to sort mail, pay bills and check your e-mail, having a dedicated space to get the job done is essential.

"Even if people are downsizing, they want a room for an office. People who didn't have a computer 10 years ago have them now," says Nancy Itteilag, a real estate agent with Long & Foster in Washington.

Tim Burch, the president of Burch Builders Group in Warrenton, Va., says almost every home his company builds now includes an office. In older homes, remodeling jobs have included conversions of loft spaces, rooms over the garage, basements, spare bedrooms and even dining rooms into places where homeowners can park their computers.

"More and more people need a home base," says Arlington, Va., designer Melissa Broffman, "and that little communication center in the kitchen is not going to cut it."

For a time, the typical home office was a built-in desk area in the kitchen. Once on everyone's renovation wish list, the kitchen desk is falling out of favor, experts say. The spaces end up being too small and easily cluttered. "You're always going to find a need for a calendar or computer in the kitchen, but you get so much traffic in there, and it doesn't always make the kitchen look its best," Broffman says. "People want to get away and get a quieter environment in which to work."

But what if you're short on spare rooms? Look for "an



No spare room for an office? Consider converting a closet into one like this suggestion from the Container Store.

unused pocket of space that can be fitted with shelves, cabinets, (electrical) power and a chair," says Amy Gardner, a D.C. architect. She converted a bedroom closet in her Washington apartment into her work space. She removed the clothing rod and installed shelves and a countertop that flips down as needed.

"I just pull up a chair, and I have a home office," she says.

She also removed the closet door and replaced it with a bookshelf on wheels that's connected to a ceiling track. When she wants to close up her office, she simply slides

the bookshelf in front of it. (For the non-architects among us, keeping the door works, too. So does installing a curtain rod to hang a pretty panel in place of a door.)

Broffman likes to paint a closet's interior walls and any installed shelving the same color, or hang wallpaper in the back of the closet for a more custom look. If you're considering converting your closet, she says, be sure you have a place for files, a phone line if needed, a lamp, electrical outlets and an adequate power supply. For those on a budget, she suggests brainstorming at an organization store and mak-



From Chris Plantan

Think outside the storage box for supplies. Chris Plantan of Russell+Hazel uses a leather jewelry box to organize pens, stamps, stationery and more.

ing it a smaller-scale DIY project.

Chris Plantan, founder and owner of Russell+Hazel paper company in Minneapolis, says she and her husband struggled with where to create a home office. They finally decided to use their dining room, but adjustments had to be made.

For example, an old farm table, which they used for dining, had an uneven top that made it unsuitable for writing. Rather than replace the table, they simply put a piece of glass on top, transforming the table into a functional desk. "There are so many ways you can create a home office without having an 'office,'" Plantan says. "Just open up your mind a little."

Plantan also likes to think beyond boxes for storage. She uses jars and trays to hold supplies. For her home, she bought a large leather jewelry box from Pottery Barn and filled it with office

supplies. At the Russell+Hazel office, an old glass pastry case from a bakery holds printer paper and other supplies.

Whether you have an entire room, a converted closet or a tiny nook carved out of a corner, the basic essentials for any well-run office are the same, says Peggy Hackett, a professional organizer and founder of Come to Order Consulting in the District of Columbia. You need a desk, a comfortable chair, storage, paper and pen, and proper lighting. "You don't have to spend a lot," says Hackett.

For storage, she prefers simple colored boxes because they "allow you to hide your work," she says, "to put it away so it's not out there for people to see." Her favorite storage item is a plastic file crate with wheels. "It holds letter and legal hanging files, it's portable and it's inexpensive."

A common mistake people

Three cures for clutter

So, you've set up an organized office space. Here's how to keep it that way:

- **Get a handle on mail.** "When you get it, go through it immediately," says Peggy Hackett, a professional organizer in the District of Columbia. Pull out the junk mail and put it in the recycling bin. Take bills out of their mailing envelopes, put them together with their return envelopes, and then place them on a spot on a desk just for bills. "Doing this every day is best, but if that's not possible, choose a designated day to go through your mail, and stick to it."
- **Keep up with filing.** "We tend to let filing pile up, and at some point it's going to get overwhelming," Hackett says. "If you work from home, pick a designated day to do administrative stuff. If you can't do a whole admin day, then take a couple of hours, but take the time to do it." Don't go more than a week without filing or going through mail.
- **Buy a shredder.** This is important, Hackett says. Shred new credit card offers and anything with personal information on it.

make when setting up a home office area, says Hackett, is to overlook vertical space, where tall bookcases or hanging shelves can provide extra storage. "People tend to go horizontal instead of vertical, which uses a lot of space and can get junky," she says. "Using vertical space makes a space look cleaner, neater and less cluttered."

And as is the case with everything in the home, keeping things uncluttered is key.

"An office space doesn't have to be large or grand," says Plantan, "just well-thought-out and organized."

"And make sure your technology works."

Common energy problems and solutions

By Jura Koncius
The Washington Post

An energy audit is a positive step toward making your home run more efficiently. If you follow the auditor's advice, you can waste less energy and save money on utility bills.

We asked Matthew Cooper, president of PEG, an energy audit firm, to list five of the most common prob-

lems encountered by his auditors and how to fix them.

1. **Air leaks** occurring around the house through electrical outlets; plumbing, heating and cooling pipes; and wall cavities. **Solution:** *sealing or caulking.*

2. **Leaky windows or doors.** **Solution:** *sealing or weatherstripping.*

3. **Improper maintenance** of furnaces, boilers and

water heaters. **Solution:** *Maintain according to manufacturer's instructions and have them routinely serviced by a professional.*

4. **Lack of adequate attic insulation.** **Solution:** *Install batt or pre-cut insulation or have insulation blown in by a professional.*

5. **Air leakage** from the attic access door. **Solution:** *Have the door properly fitted and insulated.*

Are you one of 'The Rethinkers'?

The Times-News is searching for masters of reinvention.

How far will you go to reuse a household item? Do you unwind old sweaters to salvage the yarn for knitting projects? Make crafts out of torn-up jeans? Jazz up plastic margarine containers for cute storage? Whatever it is, share your repurposing ideas with Magic Valley.

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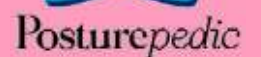
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Sleep Solutions opened in 2006 and is locally owned and operated by Michael Waldron and Blake Bessire of Twin Falls, ID. The owners are local sponsors of the Magic Valley Speedway, CSI, and members of the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce. Sleep Solutions started the company by only carrying Serta Beds and then added Kaymed and the Human Touch Massage Chairs. In the past 12 months, Sleep Solutions added three new lines of bedding; Temperpedic, Sealy, & Comfortaire. They have recently remodeled the floor to make room for more beds to choose from. Michael Waldron and Blake Bessire are considering a second location within the next 12 months to better serve their customers needs. Michael & Blake research all the beds thoroughly. Their goal is to find the best mattresses for comfort, quality durability, and value to give their customers the best night's sleep available.

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Blue Jays CF Vernon Wells injures hamstring

The Associated Press

Vernon Wells hurt his hamstring again — before the Toronto Blue Jays even started spring training games.

The high-priced center fielder injured his left leg during drills Monday in Dunedin, Fla., and could be sidelined for most of spring training.

It's the same hamstring that kept Wells out for a month last season. The two-time All-Star was scheduled for an MRI late in the day and the team was waiting for results.

"Right now, preliminarily, I'd say he's going to miss four weeks," Blue Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi told MLB.com.

Toronto manager Cito Gaston said he thought Wells was hurt running the bases.

"I was on another field," Gaston said, "but I noticed he wasn't doing the cutoffs and relays so it must have happened during that time."

Gaston said the only positive thing about Wells' injury is that it happened early in spring training.

"He's got a chance to be ready to start the season," possibly as a designated hitter, Gaston said.

It's the latest setback for Wells, who signed a \$126 million, seven-year contract before the 2007 season. He missed 52 games due to injuries in 2008, when he broke his left wrist making a sliding catch early in the season and then returned to the disabled list July 10 with a strained left hamstring.

A three-time Gold Glove winner, Wells batted .300 with 20 home runs and 78 RBIs in 108 games last year. He spent the offseason working with a personal trainer, hoping to strengthen hamstrings that have bothered him for years.

At Viera, Fla., the Washington Nationals scrapped their plans for Odalis Perez.



Toronto Blue Jays' Vernon Wells stretches with teammates Sunday during a baseball spring training workout in Dunedin, Fla.

AP photo

The disgruntled pitcher was released Monday, a day after he failed to show up at spring training by the mandatory reporting deadline.

Perez agreed to a minor league contract with Washington on Feb. 5 that would have paid him \$850,000 if he made the team. Recently, however, the left-hander said he wanted a better deal.

The 31-year-old Perez hadn't returned phone calls from general manager Jim Bowden or manager Manny Acta. Perez let the 7 p.m. Sunday deadline pass without reporting.

"We left messages yesterday for his agent, we left messages for him, I left messages again this morning,

and they made their point really clear," Bowden said. "We've got a lot of pitchers here in camp who are committed to helping us win, and we want players here who want to be here."

Perez was 7-12 with a 4.34 ERA in 30 starts for the Nationals last season. He is 73-82 with a 4.46 ERA in 10 seasons.

"It's disappointing because you'd at least like him to talk to us in person," Bowden said.

Jason Schmidt is not only in camp with the Los Angeles Dodgers, but on the mound throwing strikes.

Trying to come back from two shoulder operations, the right-hander was admittedly nervous for his intrasquad outing in

Phoenix. Yet things couldn't have gone much better.

Schmidt looked sharp in his brief stint against Dodgers teammates. He threw nine of 11 pitches for strikes and retired three of his four batters in a scoreless inning.

"My biggest goal was to get out there and walk off in one piece," Schmidt said. "I wanted to be able to come out knowing I don't have to ice. I think I accomplished that, as long as I don't trip on the way to the clubhouse."

The 36-year-old Schmidt has pitched in only six games, all in 2007, during the first two seasons of his three-year, \$47 million deal with the Dodgers.

He used two of his four pitches Monday, throwing

fastballs and changeups to retire Juan Pierre, Mark Loretta and Matt Kemp while allowing an infield single to Casey Blake.

"I wanted to get in a game, get my feet wet and see how it feels to play catch tomorrow," Schmidt said. "I wouldn't have minded a few more pitches. When you get out there and get loose, you feel like you can throw all day."

"It's going to take me a while. I'll be honest about that. I have to get all my checkpoints back, the things that got me over the plate and got me aligned."

Los Angeles manager Joe Torre was encouraged.

"He had an easy time throwing the ball. He certainly looked comfortable," Torre said. "He's been in a

great frame of mind. Last year, there would always be that one day when he wasn't sure. But today looked like he was just letting it go and it looked great coming out."

Brad Penny threw 30 pitches during his first batting practice session with Boston and said he "felt great."

The right-hander tossed fastballs, breaking balls and splitters and stayed on track to be ready for the start of the regular season.

"Today, for me, answered a lot of questions, mentally and physically," Penny said in Fort Myers, Fla. "I didn't even know what to expect going out there the first time facing hitters, but everything felt great."

Shoulder problems limited Penny to 19 games last season with the Dodgers and only nine innings after June 14.

At Mesa, Ariz., Carlos Zambrano is showing no signs of the shoulder problems that hampered him last season, although the Chicago Cubs are taking a conservative approach with their ace this spring.

"Physically, I feel the best I've ever felt in spring training," Zambrano said after a free-and-easy throwing session against hitters. "I'm not a rookie. I know what to do and I know my job here is to get ready."

Zambrano spent the off-season strengthening his shoulder, and the Cubs sent a trainer to his native Venezuela to work with him.

"It's important," he said. "I won't want that to happen to me again this year."

At Kissimmee, Fla., an X-ray revealed that Houston Astros outfielder Darin Erstad has a small fracture near his right eye after a ball hit him there during outfield drills Sunday.

Erstad has been cleared for all baseball activities but won't participate in Tuesday's intrasquad game or lift weights for a few days.



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