



SALES SAPPED

Below-average spring flows halt production, slow sales at some trout facilities. >>> **AGRIBUSINESS 1**

Dow now near 1997 levels. **SEE MAIN 10**

RETHINKING, REUSING >>> Don't just throw away broken or unused items, HOME & GARDEN 1, 3

TUESDAY
March 3, 2009

TIMES-NEWS

75 CENTS

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HEALTHIER ALTERNATIVES

Small schools get legislative boost

Bill to create more leeway in keeping tiny schools open passes committee

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

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

BOISE — A House panel unanimously approved legislation Monday that would give the State Board of Education more leeway in keeping tiny schools open. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Rich Wills, R-Glenns Ferry, and Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson, is designed to give the board more discretion when school district enrollments shrink so small that the board must dissolve them. The House Education Committee sent it to the floor on a unanimous vote.

District dissolution is now mandated for a handful of reasons, including declining enrollment of less than five students. The legislation simply changes the word "shall" to "may," which means the board wouldn't be required to dissolve the schools. The bill could affect as many as five districts, Brackett told the committee, including Three Creek near Rogerson. The others are Avery, Prairie View near Mountain Home, Pleasant Valley near Marsing and Arbon Valley in Power County.

See **SCHOOLS**, Main 2

T.F./church land swap to get public hearing

Council sets hearing for March 23

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

Four months after Twin Falls city officials deeded over land to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, they're making plans for the public hearing that was supposed to take place before the property deeds were signed. The Twin Falls City Council on Monday approved a resolution that schedules a public hearing for March 23 and declares the intent to ratify the property exchange. Council members will vote on the ratification following the public hearing.

The city council in September approved an agreement with the LDS church in which the city gave a 1.3-acre parcel near Canyon Ridge High School and \$258,991 to the church. In exchange, the city received the church's softball complex south of Highland Park. The land near Canyon Ridge High School, where the LDS church plans to build a seminary, was deeded over to the church in November. "We didn't follow the process," City Manager Tom Courtney said. After the *Times-News* asked questions about the process, the city officials realized that Idaho code

See **COUNCIL**, Main 2

Deep Fat Frying



>> Schools shall not use deep fat frying as a method to prepare food.

Fruits & Vegetables



>> Schools shall offer at least one fruit and one non-fried vegetable at all points of service during lunch and one fruit during breakfast.

Calories



>> Schools shall serve at minimum 100 percent and a maximum 110 percent of the appropriate level of calories per week to ensure meals comply with USDA calorie levels.

Schools move toward new USDA lunch guidelines

By Laurie Welch
Times-News writer

RUPERT — The days of pre-fried chicken patties, corn dogs and tater tots are numbered, or will at least be restricted, in Minidoka County schools as the district steps up to meet new state nutritional guidelines. The district, along with all other state school districts, will be required to comply with the new nutrition standards for school meals handed down in anticipation of more stringent requirements implemented by the United States Department of Agriculture by August. Sixteen-year school cook Betty Morin said the food they are serving today is definitely getting healthier and is fresher than it used to be. "We are also serving more of it, and sometimes that means more waste," Morin said. District Food Service Supervisor Phyllis Bean said the new guidelines require that the schools only serve three pre-fried items a week, which includes things the schools typically serve for breakfast such as hash browns, French toast sticks and breakfast biscuits, as well as lunch items like crispitos and chicken nuggets, all of which are student favorites. Bean said the schools will still be able to serve a limited

See **ALTERNATIVES**, Main 2



LAURIE WELCH/Times-News
Betty Morin, cook at Rupert Elementary School, gets ready to serve a healthier cookie made with raisins, sunflower seeds, coconut and peanuts to the school's students during lunch time.

School serving recommendations courtesy Idaho State Department of Education

Condiments

>> Schools shall not have salt shakers, sugar dispensers or packets of either available.



Whole Grains



>> Schools shall offer one whole grain in all serving lines at least three times per week during both breakfast and lunch.

Pre-Fried Foods



>> Schools shall limit serving pre-fried, flash-fried or par-fried sides or entrees to no more than three times per week.

Madrid pleads guilty

Woman, two others burglarized dead man's home

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

Just days after requesting a new public defender, the owner of the home where 18-year-old Dale Miller was found dead in a barrel pleaded guilty on Monday to burglarizing Miller's apartment. Rachel Madrid was charged with burglarizing the Twin Falls apartment with two men convicted of the 2007 killing connected to a drug debt: John McElhiney and Cameron Watts. She appeared in court last week, ostensibly to change her previous plea, but instead asked for another lawyer and met in conference with 5th District Judge G. Richard Bevan and her public defender, Loren Bingham. Bingham told Bevan on Monday morning that his

client had originally signed a change of plea on Feb. 11, but that he had had further questions and concerns about the matter last week. After visiting with Madrid afterward, she again signed the guilty plea on Monday. Madrid had to be prompted by Bevan when asked why she was guilty, trailing off a couple of times at first. She told the judge early in the 15-minute hearing that she didn't actually take the items from Miller's apartment herself. "I just went to inventory," she said. "I didn't go with intent." But a few minutes later, she said that she went to the apartment on Madrona Street with McElhiney and Watts intending to take



Madrid

See **MADRID**, Main 2

"FIRST AMENDMENT SPEECH AND PRESS RIGHTS MAY ALSO BE SUBORDINATED TO THE OVERRIDING NEED TO WAGE WAR SUCCESSFULLY."

— Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General John Yoo in a legal opinion following the 9/11 attacks

Obama releases secret Bush anti-terror memos

Former administration determined some constitutional rights didn't apply following 9/11 search for terrorists

By Devlin Barrett and Matt Apuzzo
Associated Press writers

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration threw open the curtain on years of Bush-era secrets Monday, revealing anti-terror memos that claimed exceptional search-and-seizure powers and divulging that the CIA destroyed nearly 100 videotapes of interrogations and other treatment of terror suspects. The Justice Department released nine legal opinions showing that, following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Bush adminis-

tration determined that certain constitutional rights would not apply during the coming fight. Within two weeks, government lawyers were already discussing ways to wiretap U.S. conversations without warrants. The Bush administration eventually abandoned many of the legal conclusions, but the documents themselves had been closely held. By releasing them, President Barack Obama continued a house-cleaning of the previous administration's most contentious policies. "Too often over the past decade, the fight against terrorism has been viewed as a



AP photo
Justice Department memos from 2001 are seen in Washington Monday. The Justice Department on Monday released a long-secret legal document from 2001 in which the Bush administration claimed the military could search and seize terror suspects in the United States without warrants. zero-sum battle with our civil liberties," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a speech a few hours before the documents were released. "Not only is that

See **MEMOS**, Main 2



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OFF TO COEUR D'ALENE
CSI hoops ready for tourney > **Sports 1**

You don't say
Steve Crump



Last of the Bobcats? Gooding College fades away

Since November, four Gooding College alumni have died — the last two aged 100 and 97, respectively ...

Which leads me to wonder: How many Gooding College alumni are left out there? ...

Gooding College was a four-year Methodist school that operated from 1917-38 on a 110-acre campus south of Gooding ... There were, during its 22-year history, dozens of graduates — most of whom became teachers, farmers and small-business owners ...

Former Gov. and future U.S. Sen. Frank Gooding himself donated most of the land, and the community raised \$267,000 to get the college going ... The Great Depression, however, killed it off and the last two students graduated in 1938 ...

The first student enrolled at Gooding College was Frank Bennett, who later became president of Eastern Oregon State College ... Mary Blue in 1919 was the first graduate ... At its peak, the college had an enrollment of 209 in 1928 ... Fifty-six people graduated from Gooding College in its first decade ...

Bachelor of Arts was the only degree offered by the school ...

The college had one president most of its life, Charles Wesley Tenny, who ran the school from 1917-35 ... He resigned due to pressure to include non-academic subjects in the cur-

SAY SO

If it's new, different, odd, poignant, sad or funny and it happens in south-central Idaho, I'd like to know about it.
Call 735-3223, or write scrump@magicvalley.com.

riculum, part of a last-ditch effort to increase enrollment ...

The Methodists donated the campus to the state, which in 1947 turned it into a tuberculosis hospital ... It closed in 1976 ...

If you're a Gooding College alumni, or know someone who is, I'd like to hear from you ...

I SUSPECT I won't have as hard a time locating alumni of Magic Valley Christian College, the successor institution to Albion State Normal School which operated from 1958-69 ...

It was a Churches of Christ school — tiny and poorly funded by any standard — that operated on the old Albion campus, which the Church of Christ leased from the state for \$100 a year ...

In 1969, MVCC was merged with Baker College in Oregon, which itself closed a year later ... The Web site Classmates.com lists 38 MVCC alumni ...

If you're one of them, or would like to share your MVCC experience, call me ...

Steve Crump is the Times-News Opinion editor.

United Oil pays \$123,000 to settle EPA violations

By Nate Poppino
Times-News writer

A Jerome oil distributor will spend more than \$123,000 to settle Clean Water Act violations alleged by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The EPA announced Monday that United Oil will pay a \$32,680 penalty for failing to properly plan for possible petroleum spills at its 129 W. Ave. D location, and has installed new equipment to monitor for accidental overfills of some of its tanks. The company will also spend more than \$90,000 on spill-response equipment for emergency responders in both Twin Falls and Idaho Falls.

The agency did not report any actual spills from the facility.

The penalty is the largest of its type to date in Idaho, EPA officials noted. The Jerome site stores bulk gasoline and diesel fuel, as well as a distribution and card-lock facility.

EPA inspectors discovered the oversight in June 2007, finding that the company had a prevention and response plan for the site but had not put most of it into practice. The worst violation was a lack of secondary containment around the facility's above-ground tanks or any containment at its loading/off-loading rack.

Greg Weigel, an EPA coordinator in Boise, told the Associated Press that

Jerome's combined storm drain irrigation system means a large oil spill could travel through a canal to the Snake River.

"They need to be able to contain spills," he said.

The fine is about 10 times the typical penalty, Weigel said, and the company was fined previously for similar violations elsewhere in Idaho. It stores about 179,000 gallons of oil at Jerome.

The equipment donation is known as a "supplemental environmental project," an option usually negotiated between an offender and EPA attorneys, said Kate Spaulding, an enforcement officer for EPA's Region 10 office. Though it does cost a little more, she said, it can

help a company improve its public image.

"And it gives back to the community, too — which we like," Spaulding said.

United Oil was founded in Twin Falls as a fuel service station offering deliveries to regional farms in 1939. It merged with the Franklin Oil Company in Caldwell in 1975.

Staff at the Jerome office said Monday that they weren't aware of the settlement and that owner Rob Franklin was out of town for a week.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Nate Poppino may be reached at 208-735-3237 or npoppino@magicvalley.com.

AROUND THE VALLEY

Two arrested for using counterfeit bills

Twin Falls Police arrested two people on Sunday suspected of possessing counterfeit money, a felony.

Frank Ernesto Barrientos, 20, of Canoga Park, Calif., and an unidentified 17-year-old female accomplice from Van Nuys, Calif., allegedly tried to spend the cash at the Magic Valley Mall. But they were caught when the female tried to buy a \$20 shirt at Deb and a cashier tested her \$100 bill with a money pen.

She and Barrientos, who allegedly managed to buy merchandise at RadioShack with another counterfeit \$100, were both detained by mall security outside Deb. Barrientos was later cited for providing a false name to police, according to the report filed on the arrest. Barrientos allegedly didn't give police his full name.

Police described one of the fake bills as too thick, glossy and bearing an exterior watermark instead of one embedded in it.

The couple may have passed similar bills in Idaho Falls and Pocatello, and business owners in all three areas who think they may have been scammed are advised to call police.

New Washington Street stoplight now functional

Crews have completed

work on the temporary stoplight installed at Washington Street North and North College Drive, and the light is now functional.

Twin Falls city officials say drivers need to be aware of the new light and establish driving patterns according to its function.

The stoplight will operate as a normal intersection stoplight in daylight hours. At night, the stoplight will be a flashing stoplight — flashing yellow to drivers on Washington Street North, and flashing red to drivers on North College Road.

— staff reports

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5TH DISTRICT COURT NEWS

TWIN FALLS COUNTY Monday arraignments

Robert A. Huntsman II, 25, Twin Falls; driving without privileges, no insurance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 24; \$100 bond.
Rodolfo A. Ortega, 23, Wendell; aggravated battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for March 13; \$250,000 bond.
Robert Skinner, 44, Buhl; one count possession of a controlled substance, three counts unlawful possession of a firearm; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for March 13; \$5,000 bond; possession of a controlled substance; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 24; \$1,000 bond.
Randall Rogers, 55, Twin Falls; possession of drug paraphernalia; no plea entered; public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 24; posted bond; possession of a controlled substance; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for March 13; posted bond.
Frank E. Barrientos, 20, Canoga Park, Calif.; forgery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for March 13; \$25,000 bond; provide false information to an officer; no plea entered;

public defender appointed; pretrial hearing set for March 24; \$100 bond.
Rodolfo A. Ortega, 23, Wendell; aggravated battery; pleaded innocent; public defender appointed; preliminary hearing set for March 13; \$250,000 bond.

PET OF THE WEEK



Meet 'Boulder,'
a 3-month-old spayed female setter/border collie cross pup. She's ready for spring training so she can go on summer adventures with you.
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A Message For

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COMMUNITY

North Side

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A DIGITAL UPGRADE



BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News

Wendell Police Chief Kirtus Gaston communicates with other patrol officers on the new digital radio system the department received through a nearly \$13,000 grant through the federal Department of Homeland Security.

Wendell Police Department receives equipment grant

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

WENDELL — Bigger guns and faster cars are nice, but a police force runs on the strength of its ability to communicate.

"Without communication you're dead in the water ... and our new radios help us communicate," said Wendell Police Chief Kirtus Gaston.

The department was recently awarded a \$12,760 grant from the State of Idaho Military Division of the United States Department of Homeland Security for the purchase of new digital radio equipment. The new radios replaced the old system which included units up to 12 years old.

Gaston said the new radios were completely installed

"Without communication you're dead in the water ..."

— Kirtus Gaston, Wendell police chief

about two weeks ago; he submitted the grant application about three months ago.

"These are definitely the most important tool in law enforcement. They are the most widely used tool," Gaston said. "The others were just old and out of date."

The department can now be contacted directly through the digital system by other departments and agencies.

"They seem to be a lot nicer. From what I can gather the reception is better," said Administrative Assistant Carrie Bellem.

Not only are the radios — installed in each of the city's

four police vehicles — offering better reception but they bring the system into P25 compatibility.

According to the Department of Homeland Security SAFECOM Web site, www.safecomprogram.gov: "Project 25 (P25) is focused on developing standards that allow radios and other components to interoperate regardless of manufacturer-enabling emergency responders to exchange critical communications.

"The goal of P25 is to specify formal standards for interfaces between the various components of a land mobile

radio system commonly used by emergency responders in portable handheld and mobile vehicle-mounted devices."

Without the grant the Wendell Police Department would not have been able to afford the needed upgrade. With a modest annual budget of just \$430,000, an extra \$10,000 is hard to come by.

"This is great for the community because we are able to use federal dollars in lieu of local tax dollars," Gaston said. "(With) these grants we are able save on property tax assessments but still get equipment that assists this community and helps us do the best job we can for Wendell."

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607.

Hagerman hosts free 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. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CSI offers course on change

The College of Southern Idaho North Side Center is offering the course, Embracing Change from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, at the North Side Center, 202 14th Ave. E., Gooding. The course fee is \$25.

Students will learn how to turn their irrational beliefs about change into affirmations that allow themselves to go through life's transitions with grace and ease. Instructor is Jodie Robb. Information: 934-8678.

First Friday Dinner set for this week

The Gooding Basque Association will hold a First Friday Dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Gooding Basque Center at 285 Euskadi Lane — located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 26 and Idaho Highway 46, behind Family Dollar in Gooding.

The dinner is open to the public. Cost is \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors. Menu includes lamb chops, fish, Basque rice, Basque bread, homemade clam chowder, salad and various desserts. Information: Julie, 308-5051.

Gooding bridge results announced for Feb. 27

Gooding Duplicate Bridge released its results for Feb. 27.

Section A: 1. Max Thompson and Edna Pierson, 2. Don and Lorna Bard, 3. Henry Robinson and Mary Kienlen, 4. Mary Steele and Kathy Rooney.

Section B: 1. Don and Lorna Bard, 2. Gus and Lucy Gustafson.

Duplicate bridge is played at 1 p.m. Fridays at the

Gooding Senior Center, 308 Senior Ave. For partnership information or directions: Kathy Rooney, 934-9732.

CSI offers egg decorating class

Decorating eggs takes on a whole new meaning in Ukrainian Eggs, a new class offered by the College of Southern Idaho North Side Center.

The class will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Thursdays, March 26 and April 2, at the North Side Center, 202 14th Ave. E., Gooding. The fee is \$25, plus a \$10 supply fee paid to the instructor at the first class.

Participants will learn the delicate art of using wax and dye to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind decorations. Instructor is Wanda Keegan.

Registration deadline is March 9. Information: 934-8678.

Hagerman Spring Fling on tap for April at Billingsley park

The Hagerman Spring Fling will be held on April 17 at Billingsley Creek State Park in Hagerman.

The event will consist of live music, hors d'oeuvres, a complete bar, memory photos, and more. All funds raised will benefit a scholarship for the Youth Citizen of the Year. This award is open to any college-bound student from Gooding County.

Any business or individual interested in sponsoring a table at this event with donation of \$100 or more is encouraged to contact: Kris, 837-6613; Tina, 837-6631; Jasmine, 837-4466; or Angie, 280-0308.

— Staff reports

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Colorful duo a hit in Gooding

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

GOODING — Like those of many rural communities, two of Gooding's most colorful characters spend their time hanging out in a hardware store.

Taz and Sammy, 14-year-old macaws, call the southwest corner of the G&H Ace Hardware store home. Of course, it wasn't supposed to be this way.

"The plan was to sell them since people had asked for parrots," store owner Julie Loder said. "But then no one was interested in buying them."

The back of the store used to house a variety of birds, fish and pet supplies, Loder said. But the parrot fledglings never sold and are now Loder's — something she says she likes just fine.

While the birds have lived most of their lives in the store,

See PARROTS, Main 6



Taz and Sammy, macaws who live in the back of the G&H Ace Hardware store in Gooding, sit together at their perch in the store on Friday.

MARY HANSON/For the Times-News

Red, scaly skin could point to serious case of Sezary syndrome

DEAR DR. GOTT: You have written about itchy skin several times in the past, and, on occasion, indicated that it might be due to serious condition. Invariably, I get excited, thinking, "Oh, yes, he's finally going to talk about mycosis fungoides/Sezary syndrome!" Each time, however, is a let down. Let me share my experience. My father suffered unne-



ASK DR. GOTT
Dr. Peter Gott

essarily, I think, because he was misdiagnosed for several years with psoriasis when it

was actually Sezary syndrome. Mycosis fungoides and Sezary syndrome are two forms of cutaneous T-cell lymphomas (cancer).

I believe my father died because a surgeon operated on his back without realizing how fragile his skin was from the Sezary syndrome. I think that a lack of information created a situation that could have been handled

differently, and perhaps my father would still be here.

I am sure that there are actual cases of psoriasis, but I would hope that if there are patients with red, scaly, itchy skin that fails to respond to treatment, they would at least investigate these life-threatening diseases.

DEAR READER: Mycosis fungoides is a type of lymphocyte cancer (lymphoma)

that affects the skin. Lymphocytes are infection-fighting white blood cells. T-cell lymphocytes are specialized versions that help the body's immune system. This is a relatively rare type of cancer, with only about 1,000 new cases diagnosed per year in the United States. It is more common in African-Americans than Caucasians and in men than

women. It usually presents at around age 50 but is occasionally seen in children and adolescents. The cause is unknown.

Mycosis fungoides ordinarily develops slowly over many years. In fact, because of nonspecific laboratory testing of early lesions, it is often misdiagnosed as a

See GOTT, Main 6

Taking flight

Gooding students launch hot air balloons

Eighth-grade students in Downey Qualls' Earth Science class at Gooding Middle School completed their hot air balloon projects recently with the launching of the balloons.

The project took approximately seven class periods to reach launch day. Using only tissue paper, pattern, glue and one small computer wire to tie the bottom, the students worked in pairs to design and build their four- to five-foot tall balloons.

They completed a lab report stating the problem and hypothesis and analyzed the results following the launch. The primary concept that the students are studying during the project is convection.

Prior to launch day, Qualls could be seen each morning anxiously studying weather conditions, waiting for the most opportune day. Most importantly he looked for dry, cool conditions with no wind. On the day of the launch, there was a slight breeze that hindered the performance of the balloons, but



Gooding Middle School students Tony LaBott, left, and Cheeto Walgamott, right, are pictured holding their completed hot air balloon projects.

after postponing for several days, Qualls decided that this might be as good as he would get.

Following a decision to launch, the teachers of the sixth and seventh grades were invited to bring their

students to join the eighth grade in watching the activity.

In addition to a grade for the total project, students were rewarded with 10 extra points if their balloon had one of the top five flight times

or was judged one of the top five designs. Typically a time of around three minutes wins the competition, however, this year Dakota Milburn and Lucas Kerner paired up for the top flight time of one minute.

Buhl book talk schedule adjusted

The Buhl Public Library has make changes to its winter/spring book talk schedule because of some conflicts with borrowed book availability.

Cindy Bjorneberg's program on Timothy Egan's "The Worst Hard Time" has been changed to 7 to 9 p.m. on March 26. This non-fiction book examines the story of the environmental disaster that created the Dust Bowl in the

1930s and its impact on stricken communities during the darkest years of the Great Depression. Bjorneberg brings her own agricultural background and insights along with Egan's to the discussion.

Carole Carlson Garrison will explore "Snow Falling on Cedars" by David Guterson from 7 to 9 p.m. April 14. The haunting novel explores memories and murder on San Piedro Island in the north

Puget Sound, a love affair between a white boy and a Japanese girl, and an entire Japanese community sent into exile during World War II while neighbors watched.

Garrison will also lead the discussion on April 16, when the novel's corresponding film is shown at the library from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Discussion will center on the difference between the film and the book.

On May 14 Cynthia Toppen will lead a discussion on "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," the fifth book in the series by J.K. Rowling. Harry is now entering his fifth year at school and there are new teachers, new problems, new tests but the same old enemy growing stronger as the magical government and magical leaders turn a blind eye and deaf ear to what is happening.

Parrots

Continued from Main 5

they still have their secrets.

"... We think Taz is male and Sammy is female," Loder said. "... We are hoping they are mates and will raise a family."

Loder said 14 is young for macaws, who have been known live past their 100th birthday while in captivity.

Both Loder and her son, Devin, say that area children love to visit the birds, adding that Taz and Sammy seem to have learned that loud noises

scare kids, and as such don't screech at them.

"After (store) hours things are different," Devin Loder said. "Mother takes each parrot around the store and shows them all the shelves and they make noises that sound like they're saying, 'Oh, that's new' and so on."

While the feathered duo seems to enjoy its sojourn through the aisles, the birds have definitely set up shop in their corner of the store.

"If something scares them

they will climb up on to their perch to sit very close together," Julie Loder said. "But usually they love to visit with the children and the customers."

Julie Loder said she's always loved animals and fondly recalled a family pet from her childhood.

"Our family even had a spider monkey for awhile. It wore a diaper and eventually we gave it to the Boise zoo," she said. "There are grown people my age in Gooding who have a few scars to this

day from that little monkey."

As for her current pets, Julie Loder said she has plans to bring the birds home so they won't get bored with their surroundings at the store, adding that a screened porch is in the works. Still, Taz and Sammy won't be exempt from showing up for work days along with the rest of the family.

"We will still bring them to work often," Julie Loder said. "Our customers would miss them."

Gott

Continued from Main 5

benign ailment. The average time span between onset of symptoms and proper diagnosis is about six years.

In its early stages, the skin may become itchy and develop dry, dark patches, similar to those associated with psoriasis or eczema. As the disease progresses, tumors may develop. As more of the skin becomes affected, intense itching, scaling, thickening of the skin and more can develop. Skin infections can become more frequent due to cuts and tears as a result of scratching.

Mycosis fungoides is a chronic condition that, unless caught very early, is often fatal. Depending on the stage of disease at diagnosis, life expectancy can

range from normal (for early cases) to as little as one year (for advanced cases). It is important to be under the care of an oncologist once diagnosed. For those who have been diagnosed with conditions such as eczema or psoriasis that fail to respond to appropriate medications, ask about further testing to determine whether there is, in fact, a different cause.

Thank you for writing to remind me about this rare but very serious skin cancer.

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copy of my Health Report "Psoriasis and Eczema." Other readers who would like a copy should send a self-addressed, stamped No. 10 envelope and \$2 to Newsletter, PO Box 167, Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to mention the title.

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."

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Gooding Spring Fling on the horizon

The Gooding County Hospital Foundation annual Spring Fling will be held March 28 at the Gooding Country Club. A no-host bar begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner to follow at 7 p.m.

Gooding High School students, under the guidance of Cora Caldwell, will help serve dinner. Jan Mittleider of Twin Falls will be the featured speaker. She will share her secrets of aging well. Door prizes will be provided.

Tickets are \$50 and are available from foundation board members or at the hospital reception desk. Seating is limited, so everyone is urged to purchase tickets early.

The foundation sponsors several events throughout

the year to raise money for medical scholarships and to enhance hospital services. Upcoming events include a summer golf tournament, the Tough Enough to Wear Pink event at the Gooding County Fair and Rodeo in August, and the Festival of Trees in December. Foundation members also assist the hospital with the health fair held every spring.

"With the promise of a new hospital on the horizon, these events take on an added meaning. We thank everyone for making them a success in the past and look forward to seeing everyone again this year," Spring Fling chairman Susan Faulkner said.

Information: Faulkner, 934-5391.

M-C Educators honor Petersen

At the February meeting of the Mini-Cassia Retired Educators, a tribute was given by Ko Tateoka in memory of Claire Petersen, a retired teacher who recently passed away.

Speakers for the meeting were from the Idaho Youth Ranch who spoke about the recent changes to the program at the Rupert facility.

Jason Scrivner, clinician at the Youth Ranch, mainly works with counseling the youth and their families. Jim Stockberger, the new director, was in a similar program in Wyoming and brings his expertise to Idaho's new program which is based on the family model. They rely on income from the Youth Ranch Stores and donors.

Parents pay on a scale according to their income.

The next meeting of the Retired Educators will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Connor's Café in Heyburn. Irene Larsen from the state office will be the guest speaker. All retired educators in the area are invited to attend.

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OPINION

QUOTABLE
"It's the first of March, which, as you know, is the month that we say comes in like a lion and out like a lamb. It's pretty clear that the lions are getting ready to roar."
— New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg on a winter storm that is expected to dump eight to 13 inches of snow on the city.

EDITORIAL

Labrador's big idea: Let folks tax themselves

The second-term Eagle Republican wants to give counties the power to ask voters by a simple majority to increase vehicle registration fees. Call it "local-option tax" lite, if you will, but it would provide local governments with a real, usable tool to deal with high-priority transportation infrastructure projects. Still, it's not a perfect idea for reasons that must be clear to Labrador: If his home county, Ada, imposes a significant registration fee increase, what's to prevent motorists from signing up their vehicles — say, at the home of a relative — in neighboring Canyon County, where fees might be lower? Yet we're inclined to support Labrador's legislation because it would implement no-strings-attached, 44-county local-option taxation authority in Idaho for the first time. A majority of Labrador's Republican colleagues in the House oppose the local-option sales tax, one of the reasons it's still used sparingly in Idaho despite the fact that it's been a front-burner issue since 1972. Call them the sunshine soldiers of local control: House Republicans beat their breasts and speak passionately about the need to get government — state and federal — off the backs of local taxpayers. But when it comes time to actually give folks the authority to raise their own taxes — or not — by popular vote, most members of the House GOP caucus simply don't trust us. Labrador's local-option registration fee isn't on the scale of a true local-option sales tax — it would raise far less money — but it could work well for one-time, short-term, transportation needs. Would there be some "leakage" — motorists registering their rigs elsewhere? No doubt. But isn't that better than watching farm-to-market roads being pounded to dust because there's no money to fix them? It's time to break the chokehold of the local-option tax refuseniks in the Idaho Legislature. Labrador's bill is a good way to start.

Our view:
We know somebody has to pay to fix our roads, so get out of the way and let us taxpayers do it ourselves.

I ponied up for Sheryl Crow?

LOS ANGELES — Talk about being teed off. The economy is croaking and bankers are still partying at a golf tournament here on our dime.



MAUREEN DOWD

It's a good argument for nationalization, or better yet, internationalization. Outsource the jobs of these perfidious, oblivious bank executives to Bangalore; Bollywood bashes have to cost less than Hollywood ones. Northern Trust of Chicago, which got \$1.5 billion in bailout money and then laid off 450 workers, flew hundreds of clients and employees to Los Angeles last month and treated them to four days of posh hotel rooms, salmon and filet mignon dinners, music concerts, a PGA golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club with Mercedes shuttle rides and Tiffany swag bags. Northern No Trust had a lavish dinner at the Ritz Carlton with a concert by Chicago (at a \$100,000 fee); rented a private hangar at the Santa Monica Airport for another big dinner with a gig by Earth, Wind & Fire, and closed down the House of Blues on Sunset Strip (at a cost of \$50,000) for a dinner and serenade by Sheryl Crow. In the ignoble tradition of rockers who sing for huge sums to sketchy people when we're not looking, Crow — in her stint as a federal employee — warbled these lyrics to the oblivious revelers:
"Slow down, you're gonna crash, Baby, you're a-screaming it's a blast, blast, blast Look out babe, you've got your blinders on ..."



But there's a new cat in town He's got high payin' friends Thinks he's gonna change history.
Northern Untrustworthy even offered junketeers the chance to attend a seminar on the credit crunch where they could no doubt learn that the U.S. government is just the latest way to finance your deals and keep your office swathed in \$87,000 area rugs. In what is now an established idiotic ritual of rationalization, the bank put out a letter noting that it "did not seek the government's investment" even though it took it, and that it had raised \$3 million for the Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce Charity Foundation and other nonprofits. They ripped that they have a contract to do it every year for five years; but this isn't every year. The bank cloaks itself in a philanthropic glow while wasting our money, acting like the American Cancer Society when in fact it's a cancer on American society. It asserted that it earned an operating net income of \$641 million last year and acted as though it did Americans a favor by taking federal cash. I would ask Northern No Trust: If you're totally solvent, why are you taking my tax dollars? If you're not totally solvent, why are you giving my tax dollars to Sheryl Crow? Coming in a moment when skeptical and angry Americans watched AIG, Citigroup, General Motors and Chrysler — firms that had already been given a federal steroid injection — get back in line for more billions, the golf scandal was just one more sign that the bailed-out rich are different from you and me: Their appetites are unquenchable and their culture is uneducable. President Barack Obama served them notice last week in his congressional address, saying: "This time, CEOs won't be able to use taxpayer money to pad their paychecks or buy fancy drapes or disappear on a private jet. Those days are over." But will they notice? John "Antique Commode" Thain had to be ordered by a judge to tell New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's investigators which Merrill Lynch employees got those \$3.6 billion in bonuses that Thain illicitly shoved through as his firm was failing and being taken over by Bank of America with the help of a \$45 billion bailout. Kenneth Lewis, the Bank of America CEO, made the absurd assertion to Congress that his bank had "no authority" to stop the bonuses, even though he knew about them beforehand. "They find out they're \$7 billion off on the estimate of losses for the fourth quarter and they never think maybe we should go back and adjust these bonuses?" Cuomo told me, as Thain was finally responding to investigators on Tuesday at the New York attorney general's office. "He refused to answer questions on the basis that 'the Bank of America didn't want me to.' You can take the Fifth Amendment or you can answer questions. But there's no Bank of America privilege. The Bank of America doesn't substitute for the Constitution. And who's the Bank of America, by the way?" He gets incensed about how ingrained, indoctrinated and insensitive the ex-masters of the universe are. "They think of themselves as kings and queens," he said. And they're not ready to abdicate.
Maureen Dowd is a columnist for The New York Times. Write to her at mdowd@nytimes.com.

TIMES-NEWS
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Organization raises money for overseas schools

Pennies for Peace is an organization that raises money for schools to be built for children in Pakistan and Afghanistan and helps pay for these children's school supplies. Greg Mortenson founded Pennies For Peace in 1993 after he came back to the United States from a trip to Pakistan to hike up a mountain. He learned that these children were not being educated, so he wanted to help. His idea has turned into this organization Pennies for Peace. The Kimberly Middle School eighth-grade class has decided to help raise money for the children in Pakistan and Afghanistan so they can be educated. We each are participating in a project to raise money or awareness for the children of these countries. Each group has its own idea to

raise money or awareness such as penny jars placed at local businesses, baked food sales, or posters put in the hallway. Our goal is to raise enough money to have an impact on these children's lives. If we raise \$20, we can buy one student's school supplies for the whole year; \$300 can pay for one advanced scholarship for a student, and \$600 pays for one teacher's annual salary. We would like to raise around \$500 for the kids in Pakistan and Afghanistan. If you would like to help us promote this cause, bring your donations to Kimberly Middle School. CHASE NEBEKER JOSIAH PAINE Kimberly (Editor's note: Chase Nebeker and Josiah Paine are eighth-grade students at Kimberly Middle School. The letter was sent in by their teacher, Denise Mumm.)

Times-News backs 'radical gay agenda'

I was surprised to see the Monday editorial parroting the radical gay agenda. As for gays being in fear of losing their jobs because they are gay, that is ridiculous. I have worked alongside several homosexuals and lesbians over the last 40 years and had no problem because they worked hard and kept their mouths shut about their sexual orientation. Any employer who has a gay that is making money for him isn't going to fire him or her for being homosexual. What employers don't want is an unproductive or disruptive employee that they can't fire because they know if the Idaho Human Rights Act (sponsored by a radical homosexual, Nicole LeFavour, D-Boise) is passed, then the "gay card" can be played making it next to impossible to fire them. The statement that homosexuals are being treated unequally is not true in 99

percent of the cases. The few cases, such as religious organizations refusing to hire homosexuals or not being allowed to marry, is totally justified. Homosexuals are sexual deviants. Sexual deviancy is offensive to most of the population. If that is the lifestyle they chose, that is up to them. Just don't pass a law giving them favored status. JOHN PITTS Twin Falls
Recently on TV, a man said that as he viewed "his people" in certain roles in films, how he cringed and was deeply affected by their performances because they portrayed "his people" in an anything but complimentary situation or demeanor. He referred to the famous portrayal of the little flippis servant in "Gone With The Wind" and also the woman who played the maid. How much I agree with this man, as I cringe every day at the

way any ordinary American is portrayed when the situation is something beyond the dignity and integrity I expect from all people. In your newspaper of Feb. 19, there was reported a statement from our new attorney general who has asked his employees to "take advantage of Black History Month and begin a dialogue about race." It seems to me that quite a lot has been accomplished just recently in overcoming the racial hang-ups of the past. I find myself not looking at all at someone's skin but looking at their demeanor and their contributions to our society. No matter what their skin color, if they have made the right choices and use their abilities and talents wisely, then you know that they are honoring their status as good citizens of this or any country. Some years ago, we were in Nigeria on an assignment for our church. It was at that time when O.J. Simpson was on trial for murder. Even with all that was being printed and

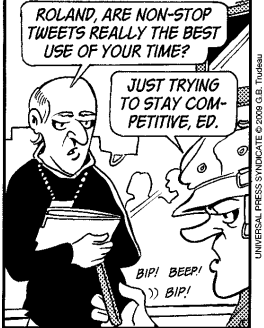
reported about his situation, I think any grown man in Nigeria would have gladly changed places with him. You don't have to live outside of the United States for very long to be reminded of what true freedom and liberty really mean to you. Personally, I think that man who was unhappy with the stigmatism of "his people" in certain acting roles and also our esteemed attorney general would find that a lot of the racial problems would be solved by "their people" just being called Americans. I don't call myself a Scottish-American nor does my husband call himself an English-American. If you don't want people to see you differently, just be an American. I can't think of anything more wonderful. And knowing that it was not easy for him to get to America, I am certainly mindful of what my father had to sacrifice so that I have this great heritage. SUE CHILD Rupert

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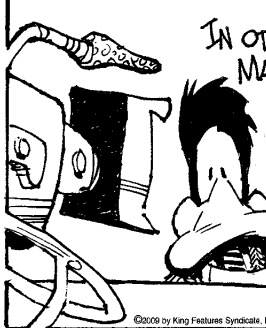
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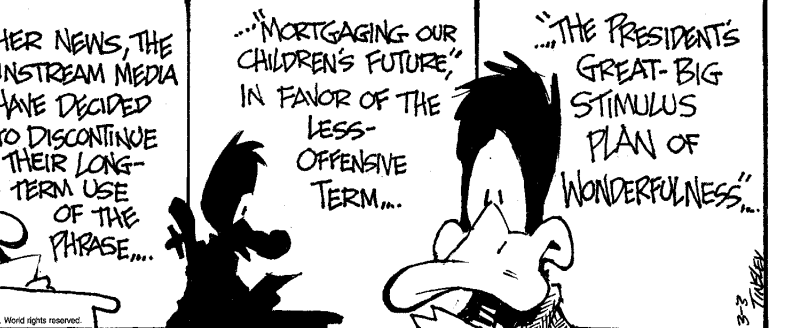
Doonesbury



Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley



How about a stimulus for life?

Thanks to former New York Lt. Gov. Betsy McCaughey and her recent essay on Bloomberg.com entitled "Ruin Your Health with the Obama Stimulus Plan," we know of another problem with the just-passed stimulus bill, one that may threaten the lives of many Americans.

McCaughey discovered buried in the bill a new bureaucracy called the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology. Among other things, it means that a Washington official will "monitor treatments to make sure your doctor is doing what the federal government deems appropriate and cost effective." Some of that occurs now, but this would take it to a whole new level.

The idea comes straight from former HHS nominee Tom Daschle's 2008 book "Critical: What We Can Do About the Health-Care Crisis" in which he says that doctors are going to have to give up their autonomy and "learn to operate less like solo practitioners." Inevitably, this means the government will decide who gets life-saving treatment and who doesn't. It is survival of the fittest in practice. Thank you, and belated happy birthday, Charles Darwin.

In 1979, six years after Roe v. Wade, philosopher and theologian Dr. Francis Schaeffer and the about-to-be surgeon general of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop, wrote a book, "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?" In chapter three, "Death by Someone's Choice," the authors write, "Will a society which has assumed the right to kill infants in the womb — because they are unwanted, imperfect, or merely inconvenient — have difficulty in assuming the right to kill other human beings, especially older adults who are judged unwanted, deemed imperfect physically or mentally, or considered a possible social nuisance?"

No one should be surprised at the coming embrace of euthanasia. After the Supreme Court deprived the unborn of their right to live by declaring them non-persons, it was only a matter of time before other categories of human life deemed to be inconvenient or unwanted would also face extermination in order to benefit the government, the healthy and the wealthy, who prefer not to be disturbed in their pursuit of pleasure, personal peace and affluence.

Schaeffer and Koop predicted "the next candidates for arbitrary reclassification as nonpersons are the elderly." That 30-year-old prophecy, deemed hyperbole and alarmist by many at the time, now seems to be coming true. In 1993, Hillary Clinton, as chair of the Task Force on National Health Care Reform, pushed the bureaucratic-heavy Clinton Health Care Plan, quickly labeled "HillaryCare," which was long on government oversight, short on patient choice. A Democratic Congress defeated it a year later. Now we have the National Coordinator of Health Information Technology and a Democratic Congress and President Barack Obama appear ready to resume their assault on all but the fit and those who do not burden



CAL THOMAS

government with their need for treatment. "Medicare now pays for treatments deemed safe and effective," writes McCaughey. "The stimulus bill would change that and apply a cost-effectiveness standard set by the Federal Council."

I called Koop, who is now 92. He reminded me that in 1988 he had an ailment that left him a quadriplegic. Surgery restored his limbs, but "if I'd lived in England, I would have been nine years too old to have the surgery that saved my life and gave me another 21 years." Koop fears the United States is about to embrace English socialized medicine with government authorities deciding who lives and who dies. He says the idea of government second-guessing doctors sickens him.

Great inhumanities are usually ushered in at the extremes in order to make the public more accepting. Abortion on demand followed the 1973 Roe v. Wade case where Norma McCorvey, Jane Roe, "alleged" she had been raped, resulting in pregnancy. Technology allows people to abort a "defective" baby in the womb, "selectively reduce" implanted embryos to the desired number, or even abort a female when a male is wanted.

Euthanasia will not originate with your beloved grandmother or parents. It will start in a public hospital with a 100-year-old woman who has multiple health problems and "wants" to die so as not to "burden" anyone. Public opinion polls will determine that a majority favor letting — even helping — the old girl die.

Yes, there are times when a patient and his family may decide to forego treatment and allow death to occur, but that decision should not be made by a government official. Once that door is opened (as it was with abortion) there will be no closing it and dying will become a patriotic duty when the patient's balance sheet shows a deficit.

They'll probably have a clergyman available to bless the government's decision and make everyone feel better about it.

Syndicated columnist Cal Thomas can be reached at tmseeditors@tribune.com.

Where war is waged by rape

Perhaps we've heard so little about them because the crimes are so unspeakable, the evil so profound.

For years now, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, marauding bands of soldiers and militias have been waging a war of rape and destruction against women. This sustained campaign of mind-bending atrocities, mostly in the eastern part of the country, has been one of the strategic tools in a wider war that has continued, with varying degrees of intensity, since the 1990s. Millions have been killed.

Women and girls of all ages, from old women to very young children, have been gang-raped, and in many cases their sexual organs have been mutilated. The victims number in the hundreds of thousands. But the world, for the most part, has remained indifferent to their suffering.

"These women are raped in front of their husbands, in front of their children, in front of their parents, in front of their neighbors," said Dr. Denis Mukwege, a gynecologist who runs a hospital in Bukavu that treats only the women who have sustained the most severe injuries.

In some cases, the rapists have violated their victims with loaded guns and pulled the triggers. Other women have had their organs deliberately destroyed by knives or other weapons. Sons have



BOB HERBERT

been forced at gunpoint to rape their mothers. Many women and girls have been abducted and sexually enslaved.

It is as if, in these particular instances, some window to what we think of as our common humanity had been closed. As *The New York Times'* Jeffrey Gettleman, on assignment in Congo, wrote last fall: "Many of these rapes have been marked by a level of brutality that is shocking even by the twisted standards of a place riven by civil war and haunted by warlords and drug-crazed child soldiers."

Mukwege visited me at last week. He was accompanied by the playwright, Eve Ensler, who has been passionate in her efforts to bring attention and assistance to the women of Congo.

I asked Mukwege to explain how it was in the strategic interest of the various armed groups to rape and otherwise brutalize women. He described some of the ramifications of such atrocities and the ways in which they undermine the entire society in which the women live.

"Once they have raped these women in such a

public way," he said, "sometimes maiming them, destroying their sexual organs — and with everybody watching — the women themselves are destroyed, or virtually destroyed. They are traumatized and humiliated on every level, physical and psychological. That's the first consequence.

"The second consequence is that the whole family and the entire neighborhood is traumatized by what they have seen. The ordinary sense of family and community is lost after a man has been forced to watch his wife being raped, or parents are forced to watch the rape of their daughters, or children see their mothers raped.

"Neighbors are witnesses to this. Many flee. Families are dislocated. Social relationships are lost. There is no more social network, village network. Not only the victims have been destroyed; the whole village is destroyed."

The devastating injuries treated by Mukwege at his hospital can all but stun the imagination. There is no need to detail them further here. AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases are commonplace. Often the ability to bear children is destroyed. In many other cases, women end up giving birth to the children of their rapists.

"The hospital can take care of 3,600 women every year," said Mukwege. "That is our maximum capacity.

We can't take any more."

He spoke of ambulance teams that would drive into villages and be besieged by rape victims desperately seeking treatment. "It is awful to see 300 women in need of help," he said, "and you have to take 10 because the ambulance can only take 10."

Ensler spoke of her encounter with an 8-year-old girl during one of her trips to Congo. The girl's father had been killed in an attack, her mother was raped, and the girl herself was abducted. The child was raped by groups of soldiers over a two-week period and then abandoned.

The girl felt too ashamed to allow herself to be held, Ensler said, because her injuries had left her incontinent. After explaining how she persuaded the child to accept an embrace, to be hugged, Ensler said, "If we're living in a century when an 8-year-old girl is incontinent because that many soldiers have raped her, then something has gone terribly wrong."

Despite the presence in the region of the largest U.N. peacekeeping mission in the world, no one has been able to stop the systematic rape of the Congolese women.

If these are not war crimes, crimes against humanity, then nothing is.

Bob Herbert is a columnist for *The New York Times*. Write to him at bherbert@nytimes.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cattle or wildlife?

This is the other half of my letter that was in the *Times-News* on Feb. 24 about the anti-wildlife Republicans in Cassia County and the state.

It seems that the Republican-backed public land grazers are drawing a line in the sand and that is — it's cattle and sheep or wildlife. I don't know about anybody else but when I go to the mountains, it's to enjoy the wildlife, not to see non-native cattle and sheep that could be raised in a feedlot.

Now to let you know I am not a Republican or Democrat but a wildlife person who is seeing what the real reason is why our big game and sage grouse are disappearing in our area.

Also there have been

more than 40 head of elk poached and left to rot in the South Hills, and the Fish and Game and a lot of people know who's doing it over the last 25 years, but you won't see the Republican-run Fish and Game agency do its job or they would get fired by the governor!

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Inkheart (PG) 7:30 9:45
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Tell us what you think

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NATION & WORLD

AIG posts \$61.7B 4Q loss, bailout is restructured

By Ieva M. Augstums
Associated Press writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — American International Group Inc., once the world's largest insurer, said Monday it lost \$61.7 billion in the fourth quarter, the biggest quarterly loss in U.S. corporate history, amid continued financial market turmoil.

The results come as the U.S. government announced a restructuring of a bailout plan for the troubled insurer, extending \$30 billion in additional aid to the company.

New York-based AIG said it lost \$22.95 per share in the last three months of 2008. It lost \$5.3 billion, or \$2.08 per share, in the same quarter a year ago.

Revenue fell to negative \$23.8 billion, as the company had to reverse gains it recorded from investments in past quarters.

The latest results include \$7.2 billion in unrealized losses and credit valuation adjustments at AIG Financial Products, the source of credit-default swaps, and pretax losses of \$21.6 billion tied to

the declining value of AIG's investment portfolio.

AIG's general insurance business swung to a loss on \$2.8 billion in net realized capital losses. General insurance net premiums dropped 16.3 percent to \$9.2 billion, and net premiums earned fell 5.9 percent to nearly \$11 billion.

Adjusted to exclude certain items, operating losses totaled \$37.9 billion, or \$14.17 per share, versus a loss of \$3.2 billion, or \$1.25 per share, last year.

The results fell drastically

short of estimates. Analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters, on average, forecast a loss of 37 cents per share on revenue of \$24.82 billion. Analysts have been dropping coverage of AIG in recent weeks due to the uncertainty of AIG's future.

Its shares rose 6 cents to 48 cents in morning trading but are down from \$51.47 on Feb. 28, 2008 and have lost nearly all of their value since the market meltdown began in September.

"We have made meaningful progress in addressing

liquidity issues related to AIG Financial Products and our securities lending activities and have announced several divestitures," AIG chairman and chief executive Edward Liddy said in a statement. "However, the economy and capital markets remain in turmoil and we are taking additional steps to preserve the value of our businesses and maximize the ultimate proceeds for the benefit of all stakeholders, including taxpayers."

The government's new

financial assistance to AIG includes providing the troubled company another \$30 billion on an "as needed" basis.

In an interview on NBC's "Today" show Monday morning, Liddy said: "We're going to be able to pay back the Federal Reserve. The new \$30 billion is a stand-by line. It's not necessarily something that we think we'll have to draw on right away."

The Federal Reserve said Monday it will also take stakes in two international units.

Police investigate use of stun gun on 12-year-old

By Jack Leonard and Richard Winton
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Hawthorne police have launched a misconduct investigation of an officer who used a 50,000-volt stun gun on a violent autistic 12-year-old boy at one of the city's middle schools, authorities said.

Such use of electroshock weapons by police on young students is rare, but high-profile incidents have sparked fierce debate around the U.S. over when, if ever, Tasers should be used on children. At the same time, an increasing number of police departments are equipping school-based officers with them, according to the leading maker of the weapons.

Supporters of deploying Tasers in schools say they allow officers to safely detain unruly students without resorting to batons or other physical force. But critics argue that little research has been done on the medical effects of shocking children and that using Tasers on minors is inappropriate.

"This is a question of common sense. ... You don't discharge a Taser at a child absent the most extreme circumstances," said Michael Gennaco, a former federal prosecutor who monitors internal discipline of deputies for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

A police spokesman in Hawthorne, a city of 90,000 about 15 miles southwest of downtown Los Angeles, said the department launched an internal investigation in response to a complaint by the parents of the boy days after the Sept. 23 incident. He said department officials are now reviewing the findings to determine whether the officer followed the agency's rules on using Tasers.

LEFT IN TURMOIL

Assassinations of leader, rival leave Guinea-Bissau in precarious situation

By Assimo Balde and Rukmini Callimachi
Associated Press writers

BISSAU, Guinea-Bissau — The man who ruled this small African nation for nearly a quarter-century was assassinated Monday just hours after a bomb killed his longtime rival, the armed forces chief, leaving behind a precarious power vacuum as the country struggles to stem a booming cocaine trade.

Analysts fear the back-to-back assassinations could shake up drug cartels that use the country as a transit point for shipping cocaine to Europe, leading to new alliances.

President Joao Bernardo "Nino" Vieira had ruled Guinea-Bissau for 22 of the past 29 years, surviving numerous attempted coups, including one four months ago when gunmen opened fire on his home. Vieira later complained that the military had failed to intervene, leaving his body guards to fend off the attackers alone.

Tension between him and the head of the army escalated further in January, when Gen. Batiste Tagme na Waie received a call from the president's office, asking him to come at once, said his chief of staff Lt. Col. Bwam Namtcho. Waie rushed outside and was nearly killed when assailants opened fire on his car, a sequence of events that prompted Waie to believe the attack had been ordered by Vieira.

On Sunday, the army chief was killed when a bomb hidden beneath the staircase in his office exploded, said Namtcho.

Hours later, volleys of automatic gunfire rang out for at least two hours before dawn outside Vieira's palace. Military spokesman Zamora Induta denied the military had killed Vieira in retaliation for Waie's assassination,

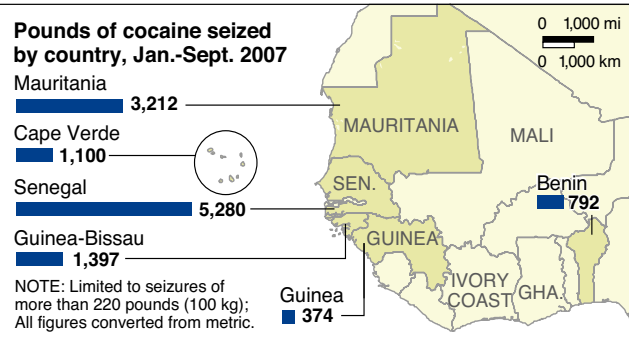
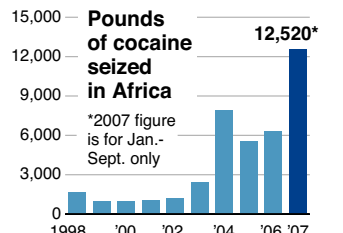


AP photo

In this image made from television, Zamora Induta, a military forces spokesman, makes a statement in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, Monday. Renegade soldiers assassinated the president of Guinea-Bissau in his palace Monday, hours after a bomb blast killed his rival, but the military insisted no coup was taking place in the West African nation.

Cocaine gateway

Several West African countries like Guinea-Bissau have become transit points in recent years for the cocaine trade between South America and Europe. The influx of money from drug trafficking has been a destabilizing force.



SOURCES: U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime; ESRI

instead calling the attackers "an isolated group" and vowing to pursue them.

The former Portuguese colony has suffered multiple coups and attempted coups since 1980, when Vieira himself took power in one. His relationship with the army was always an uneasy one, fueled by a continuing power struggle as well as ethnic differences. Whereas most army officers are Balanta, the country's dominant ethnic group, Vieira is Papel, a far smaller ethnicity

representing just 5 percent of the population. After an attempted coup in the mid-1980s, Vieira established a military tribunal and systematically purged the top Balanta officers, condemning many of them to death. One of the country's top lawyers — who was also Balanta — was among those executed and Vieira did not back down even when Pope John Paul II asked for clemency.

While Waie was not killed, he was dropped off on a

deserted island miles off the coast of the tiny nation and left there for years along with other coup plotters before being allowed back, according to country experts and Namtcho.

Vieira's death creates a dangerous opening in light of the country's appeal to cocaine smugglers.

While demand for cocaine has leveled off in America, it continues to rise in Europe, forcing Latin American drug cartels to aggressively seek new routes to smuggle cocaine to Europe. In recent years, they have begun flying small, twin-engine planes to Africa's West coast, where they land on deserted islands or on dirt runways and then parcel out the drugs to dozens of smugglers who ferry them north.

Guinea-Bissau, ringed by an archipelago of uninhabited islands, has become a key transit point for Europe-bound cocaine, with the government estimating that as much as 1,750 pounds of the drug is transiting the country's borders each week. It's an amount worth billions of dollars per year, dwarfing all other economic sectors.

Ferocious storm dumps heavy snow on East Coast

By Sara Kugler
Associated Press writer

NEW YORK — A ferocious storm packing freezing rain, heavy snow and furious wind gusts paralyzed most of the East Coast on Monday, sending dozens of cars careening into ditches, grounding hundreds of flights and closing school for millions of kids.

The devastating effects of the storm were seen up and down the coast. A crash caused a 15-mile traffic jam in North Carolina, forcing police and the Red Cross to go car-to-car to check on stranded drivers. The storm was blamed for 350 crashes in New Jersey, and a Maryland official counted

about 50 cars in the ditch on one stretch of highway.

By Monday, the storm had moved north into New England, and most areas in the storm's wake expected to see at least 8 to 12 inches of snow. The weather contributed to four deaths on roads in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and on Long Island.

Diane Lugo, of Yonkers, N.Y., got a ride with her husband to avoid walking 10 minutes in the slush to her bus stop. "Getting out of the driveway was pure hell," Lugo said.

The South was especially hard hit, dealing with record snowfalls, thick ice and hundreds of thousands of power

outages in a region not accustomed to such vicious weather.

In North Carolina, Raleigh got more than 3 inches of snow; the March snowfall for the city has exceeded 3 inches only 11 times in the last 122 years. The Weather Service said parts of Tennessee received the biggest snowfall since 1968.

The 15-mile traffic jam in North Carolina caused no serious problems and authorities were able to get traffic moving again.

Travelers were stranded everywhere, with about 950 flights canceled at the three main airports in the New York area and nearly 300 flights canceled in Philadelphia.



AP photo

Jamilya Rich, 10, of Washington D.C., makes a snow angel by the sidewalk in Washington, on Monday. A late-winter snowstorm pummeled the Northeast on Monday, grounding hundreds of flights, causing spin-outs, delaying trains and buses and closing school for over a million children from South Carolina to New Hampshire.

Painful slide Dow falls below 7,000 for first time in 11 years

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors' despair about financial companies and the recession has brought the Dow Jones industrial average to another unwanted milestone: its first drop below 7,000 in more than 11 years.

The market's slide Monday, which took the Dow down 300 points, was nowhere near the largest it has seen since last fall, but the tumble below 7,000 was nonetheless painful. The credit crisis and recession have slashed more than half the average's value since it hit a record high over 14,000 in October 2007. And now many investors fear the market could take a long time to regain the lost 7,000.

"As bad as things are, they can still get worse, and get a lot worse," said Bill Strazzullo, chief market strategist for Bell Curve Trading. Strazzullo said he believes there's a significant chance the S&P 500 and the Dow will fall back to their 1995 levels of 500 and 5,000, respectively.

The "game-changer," he said, will be the housing market and whether it can stabilize.

A recovery will also require signs of health among financial companies, but so far in 2009, it is clear that banks and insurance companies' losses are multiplying despite hundreds of billions of dollars in government help. The market fell Monday after insurer American International Group Inc. posted a staggering \$61.7 billion in quarterly losses and as the government agreed to inject more money into the company. AIG will get another \$30 billion in loans, on top of the \$150 billion the government has already invested.

And it's not just U.S. companies that have Wall Street frightened. HSBC PLC, Europe's largest bank by market value, said Monday it needs to raise \$17.7 billion. The company reported a 70 percent drop in 2008 earnings and said it would cut 6,100 jobs.

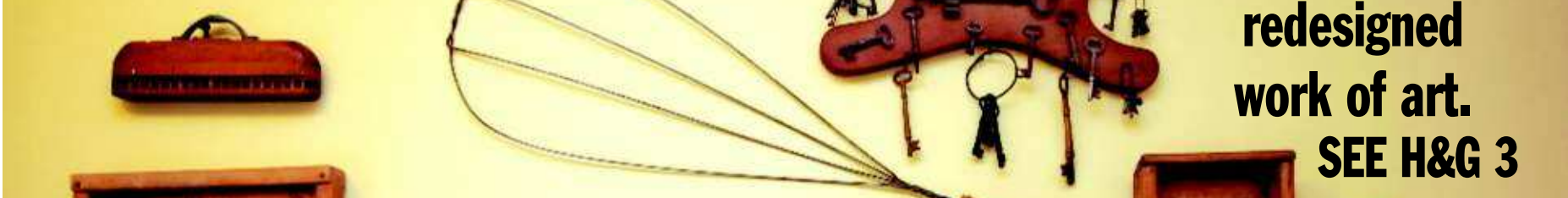
While the root of financial firms' problems lie with the bad bets they made on mortgages and mortgage-backed securities, now the recession is exacerbating their problems as it also forces millions of job cuts.

"The economy definitely has deteriorated since November," said Sean Simko, head of fixed income management at SEI Investments. "It's just the fact that we haven't seen signs of improving or stabilizing, per se, which is adding to the morass of the market."

INSIDE

The D-word: Will recession become something worse?

Obama's stimulus plan faces major battle from Americans' attitudes about banks, Wall Street



Waste not

Save money like these thrifty rethinkers

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

After Agnes Kehrer married her husband in 1964, she hung her wedding dress in her Rupert closet and forgot about it for more than 30 years.

But when her infant granddaughter, Meghan, needed a baptism dress, she immediately thought of her white gown.

By repurposing the cloth from wedding to baptism dress, Kehrer joined the ranks of creative crafters who save money and resources by recycling and taking advantage of what they already own to meet their needs.

Penny Schell of Twin Falls said she and her husband, Philip, love the challenge of being thrifty and resourceful.

"I have a real guilty conscience about wasting," Schell said. She recycles her trash and reuses whatever she can for crafts and home-improvement projects.

In one project, Schell took a rusted metal pipe and turned it into a planter. Trellises made from tree stakes adorn her garden during the growing months. Even Schell's dog is recycled — she got her from the animal shelter.

King Hill resident Jean Crowley is another veteran rethinker who learned her crafting skills from her parents.

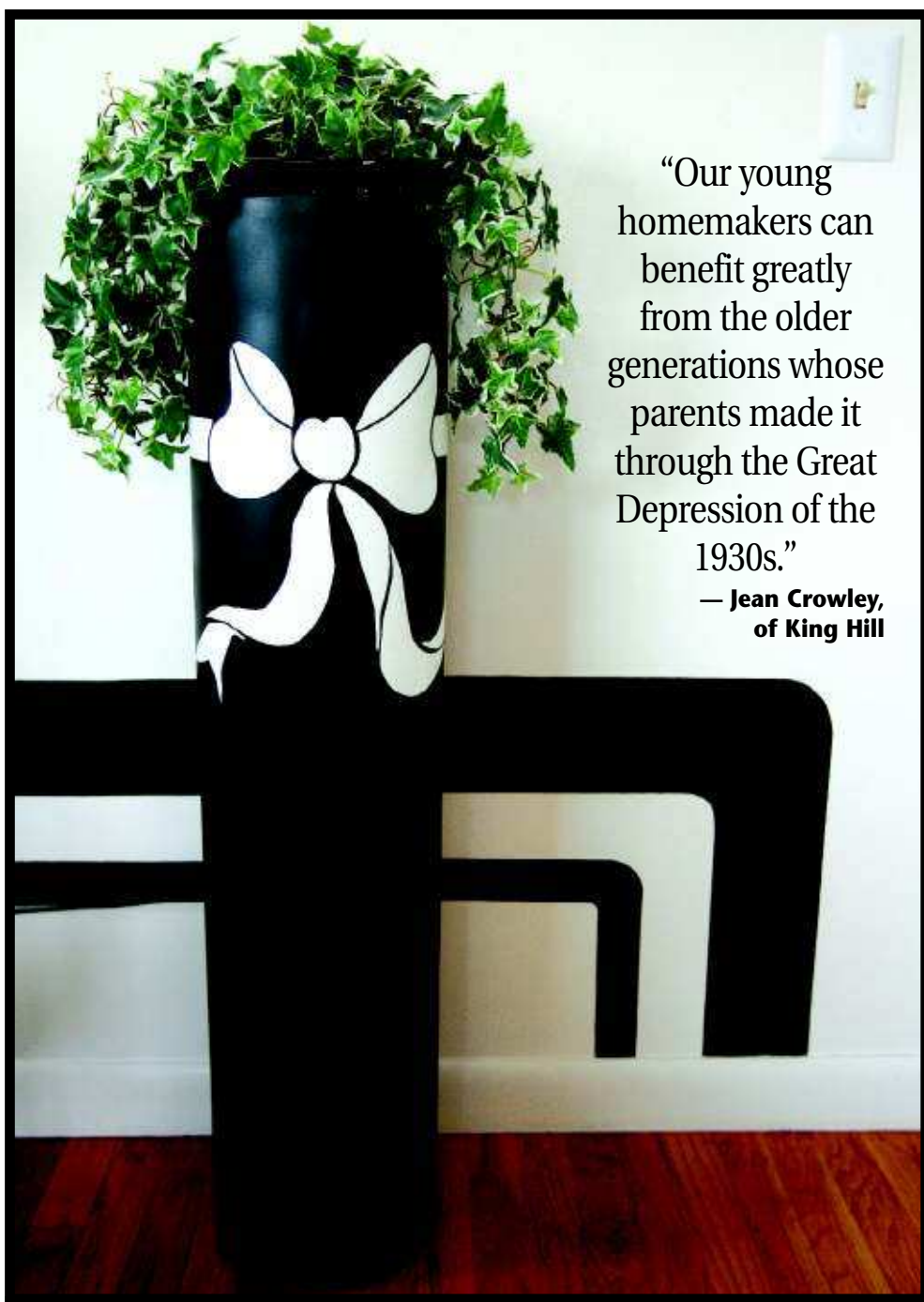
"Our young homemakers can benefit greatly from the older generations whose parents made it through the Great Depression of the 1930s," Crowley said. "I grew up with parents who, if we said, 'I wish I had such-and-such,' answered, 'So make one.'"

Donna Scott agreed. "In the Depression days they just said, 'Use it up, make it do, wear it out, then do without,'" the Wendell woman said in an e-mail to the *Times-News*. "Before it became green or crafty, it was simply survival."

Crowley said making crafts was often a family event. Parents would help scout out materials and



Schell



"Our young homemakers can benefit greatly from the older generations whose parents made it through the Great Depression of the 1930s."

— Jean Crowley, of King Hill

Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/Times-News
Penny Schell of Twin Falls used an old rusted-out pipe to make a snappy planter. Schell enjoys repurposing objects, which she says saves her loads of money.

piece together the project.

"At the time, that irritated me, of course," Crowley said. "But in the years since, I have been regularly and frequently grateful for that answer to my desires: 'So make one.'"

The thrifty spirit extended to garments. If clothes could be reused and handed down, they were. Appliques, patches or pockets covered holes.

"If the fabric had any wear left in it, we kept it," Crowley said. "Cut in pieces it went into quilts, aprons, cleaning rags, dust rags, mop rags, grease rags." Other bits of cloth were cut into strips and reborn into woven and braided rugs, place mats and pot holders.

Scott used similar techniques to give new life to a pair of tights for her small daughter.

"Remember when tights first became the fashion? Our small daughter begged and begged until finally I broke down and bought that ultimate in

See RETHINK, H&G 3



Penny Schell made this garden trellis with tree planter wood she got from her neighbor.

Carrying on Thoreau's work

Ecologist starting 30-year project to monitor climate change effects



National Portrait Gallery

By Adrian Higgins
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Even with the ground frozen and the fish pond glazed, there are signs of life.

The first brave blossoms of winter jasmine are shivering in freezing temperatures. Daffodil shoots are rising through the rock-hard soil, and pearl-like snowdrops are just apparent through the golden and lifeless foliage of the hakone grass.

Gardeners notice these seasonal progressions even in the supposed dead of winter, and for that reason, a U.S. Geological Survey ecologist named Jake Weltzin wants to tap into the vast reservoir of knowledge that exists in America's backyards.

"I would like to have 40,000 plant observers," said Weltzin, who is based at the University of Arizona at Tucson and is executive director of an organization called the USA National Phenology Network. Phenology is a bloodless scientific term for the miracles that occur every day in the garden: the morning in March a flock of cedar waxwings alights on the holly bushes, the first unfurling of the dogwood flower, the day the hummingbirds return, or the hour the frog lays her eggs. These life cycle events combine to form the tapestry of the natural world, and the more plants we use in the garden and the more wildlife we attract, the richer the experience.

Weltzin and his colleagues have a more prosaic reason to call on gardeners and backyard naturalists to log these phenomena: They are starting a 30-year project to gauge how climate change is affecting the world around us.

"Citizen scientists" are vital to the success of the

Henry David Thoreau spent six years recording the flowering dates of 500 plant species of his native Concord, Mass. More than 60 percent of the plants Thoreau tracked either have gone extinct in that area or are on the brink of disappearance.

program "to get the density of observations we need," he said.

The network has established a plant phenology program and Web site (www.usanpn.org) that is about to be revamped for the 2009 season to be more user-friendly while refining the program's reporting protocols. After the late-winter redesign of the Web site, participants will be able to record their observations at three levels: as a novice under Project BudBurst, or at an intermediate or more skilled scientific level. Participants are asked to observe the life cycles of plants chosen from a list of 70 to 203 garden plants, shade trees, wildflowers and weeds. No garden? No problem. Trails, parks and public woodlands all offer opportunities for recording information.

Next year, the network hopes to launch a similar site for recording wildlife and is working to nail down 120 animal species for people to observe and record, 20 each among mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, aquatic species and insects.

The unwitting father of this endeavor died 147 years ago. Henry David Thoreau, abolitionist, philosopher and naturalist, spent six years recording the flowering dates of 500 plant species of his native Concord, Mass., with the

See PROJECT, H&G 3



DAVID INOUE

A Mormon fritillary butterfly on aspen fleabane. Researchers fear that climate change will upset the balance between flowers and pollinators. They have asked gardeners for help.

HOME & GARDEN BRIEFS

PRUNE TREES LIKE A PRO

The College of Southern Idaho's Horticulture Club will present a free, public "Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop" from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 28 at Twin Falls' Centennial Park.

You can stay for an hour or all morning. Participants will prune fruit trees that once formed part of the original Perrine orchard in the city's early days. They will help to revitalize these trees while learning proper techniques to prune several types of fruit trees.

Bring your own tools: pruning saw, loppers, bypass hand pruners and pole saw.

Information: Dave Kiesig at 732-6431 or dkiesig@csi.edu.

— Compiled from staff reports



SEED REP GIVES GARDENING SEMINAR

A community gardening seminar will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday at Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, 960 Eastland Drive in Twin Falls.

Chris Stanger from ABCeeds will educate novice gardeners interested in 2-foot-by-2-foot plots and assist professional gardeners with multiple acres. Discussion will cover soil preparation, watering needs, fertilizers, effective weeding, proper sunlight, planting location, types of packaging and packaging for storage.

Samples will be available, and group or individual orders may be made.

Admission is free. Information: 737-4667.

— Compiled from staff reports



For a conservatory, find true solar south

DEAR JIM: We need some additional living space and I was thinking of installing a sunroom. My wife prefers the appearance of a conservatory. What are the actual differences between the two, and which is better? — Al R.

DEAR AL: Building a typical sunroom or conservatory is not inexpensive, but it certainly is less expensive living space per square foot than adding another room to your house. All of the glass area offers the possibility of free solar heating for your house and other uses such as growing plants.

A conservatory is actually just a type of sunroom, but with some specific style characteristics. Neither is inherently better than the other. As with most home-related products, there are various qualities of each available.

Conservatories often have more sides than a typical



SENSIBLE HOME
James Dulley

rectangular sunroom and are more ornate. A pitched roof with an ornate roof ridge and decorative or leaded glass are also common features of a conservatory.

With these features, a conservatory usually costs more than a typical sunroom of the same size.

There are several general designs and styles of conservatories. Before selecting one, try to determine how it will be used. If you plan to use it for living space, but to also capture the sun's heat to help warm the rest of your home, it should face within plus or minus 15 degrees of



Arizona Solar Center

This is an external Trombe wall. This passive design allows the warming solar energy to strike a stationary high-mass wall inside the south-facing glass. The heated air circulates naturally throughout the house.

true solar south. In most areas, true solar south is different than compass south.

If the conservatory will be used for growing plants or for a spa or pool, make sure the flooring is strong enough to handle the additional weight. Also, it would be

wise to install a vapor barrier in the common wall with your house to block excess moisture from migrating indoors.

When most people think of conservatories, they picture traditional Victorian-style ones from Europe. This

style is still very common in Europe and many of the highest quality Victorian conservatories available in the U.S. are manufactured in Europe.

There are several options for purchasing one of the European conservatories. Some are made entirely in Europe in a modular form and delivered to your building site. Others are delivered in various stages of partial completion. Still others import just the frames and ornate roofing from Europe and use domestic windows, doors and glass.

Efficiency is always a concern with any sunroom design, and the type of glass has the greatest impact. As a minimum, install double-pane glass with a low-emissivity coating. You will also need some type of ventilation and shading to minimize overheating during summer.

Solar-powered vents are

effective because the sun's heat actuates them.

DEAR JIM: I get ads in the mail for very expensive electric space heaters which can "cut my heating bills in half." I also find heaters for less than \$30 at Wal-Mart. What is the difference to justify the cost? — Linda H.

DEAR LINDA: Any electric heater which is plugged into a standard wall outlet produces a maximum of about 5,100 Btu/h. The more expensive heaters have fancy cabinets, but produce no more heat than a cheaper one.

Also, all electric space heaters are nearly 100 percent efficient. I use a cheap radiant electric heater in my home office so I can set the furnace thermostat a few degrees lower. My savings is about 5, not 50, percent.

Send inquiries to James Dulley, 6906 Royalgreen Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

Farmer sings praises of green roof movement

By Mary Gail Hare
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Five generations of the Snodgrass family have prospered at Emory Knoll Farms in Harford County. Its 365 acres have evolved from a 19th-century dairy operation to a crop farm for most of the 20th. Now Ed Snodgrass runs a 21st-century roofing business — one that is environmentally friendly and has nothing to do with slate, tin or asphalt.

Snodgrass, 56, grows plants that make roofs green. In the past eight years, he has supplied colorful, resilient and fast-growing plants to cover nearly 2.5 million square feet of rooftops across the U.S.

Green roofs insulate buildings in winter, cool them in summer and prevent weather damage all year, said Snodgrass, who has 15 greenhouses at his farm in Street. Snodgrass, who with his wife, Lucie, co-wrote Green Roof Plants, a primer on the technology, lectures on the advantages of living rooftops and spoke at the World Green Roof Conference in London last fall. His talks focus on managing urban problems with living systems, not mechanical ones.

The door to his office, once his grandfather's milking barn, has a sign that reads "Green roofs. They grow on you." The sweet smell of citrus, from orange and lemon trees in the greenhouse, wafts in. The roof has been green

for about three years and has never needed watering or fertilization, he said.

"It keeps the office cool in summer because the sun is not beating down on the roof," he said. "It is working for us, and not making us work on its maintenance."

About 10 years ago, after visiting several cities in Europe, where green roof technology has long been popular, he established greenroofplants.com. The Web site helped his business expand quickly, and he expects continued growth as businesses learn that green roofs deter runoff and lower energy costs.

"I do see a time when green roofs will be required, especially when people understand their value," he said. "The Earth is built on a balance between plants and animals. If it gets out of balance, there are consequences to be paid."

A green roof is a system with several layers that begin with decking and waterproofing. The layers, which include drainage, filter and growing medium, work together as a unit. The roof can be built on various decking surfaces, if the right engineering, waterproofing, drainage, insulation and protective components are put in place. (Herbaceous perennials are the most desirable rooftop plants because they offer the greatest color, texture and seasonal variability; those that work best include species of phlox, dianthus and viola.)



Baltimore Sun photo by Kenneth K. Lam

Ed Snodgrass, a fifth-generation farmer at the Emory Knoll Farms, started a green roof business about 10 years ago. Now, he is the largest supplier of plants for more than 1 million square feet of green roofs in more than 20 states.

New life for the scuffed and frayed

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Bonsai: How to get started

By Lee Reich
For The Associated Press

A bonsai is a small tree or shrub grown in a shallow pot. Pruning is what makes and keeps it small, but pruning is only a small part of the art of bonsai.

The art — pronounced BONE-sigh — began in China almost 2,000 years ago, then was carried to Japan during the Kamakura period (1180-1333), where it was brought to a state of perfection.

A bonsai planting portrays, in miniature, a natural theme such as the rugged beauty of a gnarled pine on a windswept slope, the tranquility of a grove of larches, or the joyousness of spring in the cascading branches of an old fruit tree bursting into bloom.

To evoke such a mood, the pot must be chosen with an artistic eye; likewise for the manner in which branches are shaped, and the choice of groundcover beneath the tree. And with all this, the plant must be kept healthy with careful attention to soil, fertilizers, watering and shelter from the cold.

Getting a bonsai started

Most bonsai are created from plants that, given their druthers, would grow into towering trees or billowing shrubs.

You can purchase bonsai or, even more engaging, start your own by digging up a smallish wild plant or even a seedling tree that popped up in your yard. This plant will need its first pruning, of its roots, before it even goes into a pot. Wild plants and seedlings, even if small, often have surprisingly far-reaching roots. These roots must be untangled and shortened to fit the plant into its pot.

Certain trees have a taproot — a main root that plunges deep into the ground — in addition to shallow feeder roots. Cut back the taproot to fit the plant into its shallow pot.

Prune right from the beginning

The top of a new bonsai also might need to be cut back to bring it down to bonsai size, which is usually under 4 feet. (Bonsai are classified according to form and size, and the



AP photo

A bonsai is seen at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pa.

smallest are less than 7 inches high.)

But you cannot simply lop back a stem or trunk; the plant will look like a lopped-back plant instead of an ancient tree in miniature.

To shorten a trunk artistically, cut it back to within a few inches above its desired height. Trim the bark from the portion of trunk above the highest remaining branch, and pare the stub to a taper. Then bend the next highest branch upwards, tying it right up against the tapered stub, with some padding to prevent the string or wire from marring the branch.

After a few weeks, when the branch can hold the upright position without assistance, remove the ties and cut back the stub, with a sloping cut, to the base of the now-leading branch.

Another way to artistically shorten a trunk is to create a "broom"-style bonsai: a trunk capped by a fan of stems. Begin by cutting the trunk

back to where you want the branches to begin. Rather than a flat or slanted cut, leave the cut surface of the decapitated plant with an asymmetric V-shape.

Next, wrap rubber strips tightly around the trunk at the top, to prevent it from swelling and ruining the form. Many new shoots may attempt to grow from where you cut; rub off all but a half-dozen of them. As the shoots grow, pinch their tips to promote branching. This broom style is especially suited to the growth habits of deciduous trees like elm and sycamore.

Add age to a young bonsai

To create an "old" snag of wood on your young bonsai, snap off a branch or the top of the trunk. Pull down a strip of bark from the snag as far as you want. Let the exposed wood dry out and then paint it with full strength lime-sulfur solution (available at nurseries and gardening centers) three or four times, every two weeks, to preserve it.

There you have before you the beginnings of a wizened tree. You're not finished pruning though — that remains an annual affair.

Call for Nominations

2009 Max Dalton Open Government Award

The Idaho Newspaper Foundation will present \$2,000 to the winner of this 11th annual award, which is given to a citizen or group judged to be an outspoken advocate of openness for public records or open meetings on the state or local level.

Nominations should include

examples of the use of Idaho's open meetings and public records law to enforce the public's right of access to government.

Send nominations to:

Idaho Newspaper Foundation, 1000 First St., McCall, ID 83638 or e-mail to: starnews@citlink.net. **Deadline: April 1, 2009**



Idaho Newspaper Foundation
For Details, go to www.idnewsfound.org



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Redesigner finds new identity for home castoffs

By Nancy Schoeffler
The Hartford Courant

Pam Hartz Miller says her family made fun of her when she took an old seed cabinet from the family hardware store that her father ran in Deposit, N.Y. The store, Ed Hartz and Sons, has been in the family for five generations, and the seed cabinet was a wreck.

"The backs of the drawers were chewed up from mice, and it was painted a mustard gold," she says.

Hartz Miller and her husband, Jim Miller, transformed the oak cabinet, with its slanted bank of windowed drawers, into a distinctive kitchen island.

Her family isn't teasing her anymore.

"Now they all want it!"

Hartz Miller, who once designed window displays at the hardware store, sees new identities hidden in castoff items, flea market buys and roadside finds — second careers for old furniture.

She created an unusual settee from an old bed with a spool-style headboard.

"It really wasn't that sturdy as a bed," Hartz Miller says.

Her husband transformed another spool bed into a desk for their sons' bedroom.

Jim Miller remembers his grandmother making cookies at the old Hoosier baking cabinet that's now in their kitchen in Middletown, Conn. It has a built-in flour sifter, original instructions on weights and measures and a deep bread drawer. But these days, the cupboard is a wine cabinet.

In the same vein, an old typesetter's drawer serves as a coffee table, and Hartz Miller transformed a CD rack made from dowels into a hand-stenciled display rack for the quilts she makes.

Hartz Miller has woven pillows from neckties, framed a mirror with a Victrola cover and turned discarded wooden shutters plus the arm rests of a broken rocking chair into a one-of-a-kind headboard. The base of an unusual table lamp she and her husband made is encircled with antique thread bobbins.

Sometimes Jim has to "temper me," Hartz Miller says. "He'll say, 'This is something you found by the side of the road. Why are you putting so much time into it?'"

She smiles. It's her nature. An old chamber pot works for a houseplant. An antique shoe form makes a charming candleholder.

The creative way Hartz



Pam Hartz Miller's husband, Jim, created a bench for their family room from Hartz Miller's childhood spool bed. They got the idea from a picture in a magazine.



Pam Hartz Miller found this thread spool at an antique shop and brought it home and created a lamp.



Pam Hartz Miller repurposes items to furnish her home. She decorated the wall in her laundry room with old cleaning and laundry implements.



Pam Hartz Miller collects items like these miniature chairs made from tin cans. She remembers watching her grandmother make chairs like these and now finds them at tag sales and antique shops. She thinks they might have been used as decorative pin cushions.

Design and launched a traditional interior-design business.

"I hated it," she says. "I hated picking custom wallpapers and window treatments for thousands of dollars. I thought, this isn't the way I decorate."

A book she read by interior redesign pioneer Lauri Ward of Use What You Have

Interiors struck a chord. Hartz Miller trained with JoAnne Lenart-Wearly, who popularized "one-day decorating."

After a redesign, which runs \$300 (consultations are \$75 an hour), Hartz Miller says she will leave clients with a list of what they might want to get — almost always a lamp.

Miller uses things in her home echoes the work she does in her part-time business as an interior "redesigner" — bringing a fresh eye to clients' homes and finding new uses and contexts for the things they have.

"I love this kind of decorating because I think it's less intimidating. I'm not going to judge their stuff. They have collections, and that's what makes their home personal," she says. "It's their style. I just find ways it can be arranged better, so that it functions better. And they didn't have to buy anything new."

Hartz Miller, who started her Hartz & Homes room-styling business about six years ago, previously worked as a graphic designer. She realized she was always shifting her own furniture around and helping friends decorate for parties. She studied at New York School of Interior



Pam Hartz Miller, in her family room, runs a part-time business redesigning clients' rooms by finding new uses and contexts for the items they already have. Hartz Miller furnishes her own home by giving new life to old items.



Pam Hartz Miller created an island in her kitchen using an antique seed case that came from her father's hardware store in upstate New York.

"Most people need more light," she says.

And she's a big proponent of grouping a collection rather than scattering it around the house, piecemeal.

"For me, I think you see it better when it's all together."

Hartz Miller recently launched a new service, Mantel in a Box, to help peo-

ple assemble attractive mantel displays of collectibles for each season.

"I change my mantels once a month," Hartz Miller says. "We live in an area with four distinct seasons, so you ought to at least change it four times."

"It's good to change," she adds. "It gives you a little lift to change things around."

Project

Continued from H&G 1

aim of producing a calendar based on a plant's first flowering.

Such was the scale of his task, and his legendary status as a naturalist, that his work inspired others in Concord to follow suit. Alfred Hosmer, a shopkeeper and amateur botanist, recorded the flowering times in various habitats of 700 species and varieties between 1878 and 1902. And from 1963 to 1993, Pennie Logemann, a landscape designer in Concord, methodically logged the bloom patterns of 250 plants. "I especially loved wildflowers," the now-retired Logemann said in an interview, "and more of my work was done with wildflowers than cultivated plants." She added, "I just noticed from year to year that something was going on."

All three sets of records have begun to give scientists a painfully clear picture of how global warming has affected flora and fauna.

Researchers at Harvard and Boston universities went back to Concord between 2003 and 2006 to record flowering data for 500 species (60 percent of Concord's green spaces have remained intact since Thoreau's day). They determined that temperatures have risen nearly 4 degrees in the past 150 years, that flowers now open a week earlier on average and that some plants are far better equipped to deal with this phenomenon than others. More than 60 percent of the plants Thoreau tracked either have gone extinct in that area or are on the brink of disappearance.

"Orchids have declined, as have lilies and gentians; these are some of the most charismatic plants," said Abraham Miller-Rushing, one of the researchers and coordinator of the impending wildlife project.

Strikingly, the scientists found that plants that adapted to temperature changes, particularly in January and early spring, were survivors

compared with those that continued to bloom at the same time as when Thoreau trudged the gardens and woods of Concord.

"Species that have not flowered earlier have declined in abundance," wrote Miller-Rushing and his colleagues in a recent issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. These include asters, mints, orchids, saxifrages, lilies and violets.

Insect life cycles also have shifted, leading the researchers to wonder whether the declining plants have lost their traditional pollinators.

For the plants that have responded to warming, first-flowering dates have advanced markedly in some cases. The high-bush blueberry now flowers three weeks ahead of its 19th-century appearance. The wood sorrel, a common yellow flowering weed, blooms a month earlier.

Researchers suggest a number of widespread plants that gardeners and naturalists could use to track climate change, including the weed chicory, with its distinctive blue flower in early summer; a St. John's wort species named Hypericum perforatum; the blueberry bush; and the water iris named blue flag.

"We want people in urban areas, rural areas. We are really going to need the backyard naturalists to help out," Weltzin said.

In short, a nation of Thoreaus. "He didn't realize it at the time," said Miller-Rushing, "but the observations he was making would be valuable to our understanding of climate change."

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Rethink

Continued from H&G 1

legwear," Scott said. "First day at school, playing tetherball, you guessed it — a rip in the beloved tights."

Instead of tossing them out, Scott dug out her needle and thread and repaired them. She fancied up the tights with an applique lady bug, made to look like it was crawling up the run.

In the end, Scott — and

the other rethinkers — got more than just saved money out of their projects.

"There's a certain amount of joy and personal satisfaction when you find a use for items that might otherwise end up in the landfill," she said.

Melissa Davlin may be reached at 208-735-3234 or melissa.davlin@lee.net.

CLEANING CORNER

Question: I have three bathrooms and three boys. Need I say more? How do I get the guys in my house to more accurately hit the toilet? I'm tired of cleaning up overspray!

"Latrine Queen"

Answer: First of all, teach those macho-missers to clean up after themselves. This will improve their aim by 90%! Getting your children to clean up messes as quickly as they make them will improve your family's well being. Come to "Ladies' Night Out" on Friday, March 6 from 6-9 p.m. Attend helpful seminars such as "Teaching Your Family to Clean the Bathroom in Less Than 3½ Minutes", presented by author, home expert and mother of eight, Sandra Phillips. We'll see you there! (Bring a friend too!)

Frustrated with a stubborn cleaning problem? Write or e-mail your questions to: lchandler@cleaningcenters.com

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TWIN FALLS FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Highs 50 to 55.
Tonight: Cooling down enough for rain to mix with or change to snow.
Tomorrow: Scattered morning snow showers, changing back to rain by late morning.

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers. Highs around 50.
Tonight: Cooling down enough for any rain to mix with or change to snow.
Tomorrow: Scattered morning snow showers, changing back to rain by late morning.

IDAHO'S FORECAST

Map of Idaho showing weather forecasts for various regions including Boise, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, and Sun Valley. Includes temperature ranges and weather icons for each area.

TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

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

Yesterday's Weather

Table listing weather data for various cities including Boise, Burley, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, Lowell, Malad, Malta, Pocatello, Rexburg, Salmon, and Stanley.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for Idaho cities including Boise, Bonners Ferry, Burley, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Elko, Eugene, Gooding, Grace, Hagerman, Hailey, Idaho Falls, Kalispell, McCall, Jerome, Lewiston, Malad City, Missoula, Pocatello, Portland, Rupert, Rexburg, Richland, Rogerson, Salmon, Salt Lake City, Spokane, Stanley, Sun Valley, and Yellowstone.

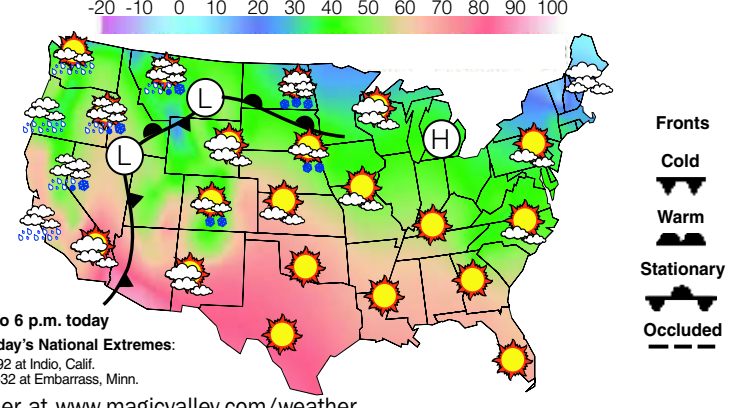
NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table for various cities including Atlanta, Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Des Moines, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Oklahoma City, and Omaha.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for cities including Acapulco, Athens, Auckland, Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Dhahran, Geneva, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, Kuwait City, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Nairobi, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Rome, Santiago, Seoul, Sydney, Tel Aviv, Tokyo, Vienna, Warsaw, and Zurich.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: 'The prizes go to those who meet emergencies successfully. And the way to meet emergencies is to do each daily task the best we can.'

CANADIAN FORECAST

Canadian forecast table for cities including Calgary, Cranbrook, Edmonton, Kelowna, Lettbridge, Regina, Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver, Victoria, and Winnipeg.

The D-word: Will recession become something worse?

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — A Depression doesn't have to be Great — bread lines, rampant unemployment, a wipe-out in the stock market.



In this photo combo made with file photos, part of a line of 1,000 job hunters outside Newark City Hall applying for a chance to wield pick and shovel, 10 hours a day, for \$4, excavating for the City Canal Railway Project, April 3, 1935, in Newark, N.J., top, and Job seekers wait on line to enter the WWD Fashion Career Expo, Feb. 20, in New York, bottom. The epic hardship of the 1930s is the best-known depression in American history, but it doesn't necessarily take that kind of nightmare to trigger the D-word.

And it may be happening now. The trouble is, unlike recessions, which are easy to define, there are no firm rules for what makes a depression. Everyone at least seems to agree there hasn't been one since the epic hardship of the 1930s.

But with each new hard-times headline, most recently an alarming economic contraction of 6.2 percent in the fourth quarter, it seems more likely that the next depression is on its way. 'We're probably in a depression now. But it's not going to be acknowledged until years go by. Because you have to see it behind you,' said Peter Morici, a business professor at the University of Maryland.

The rational underpinnings of irrational anger

Obama's recovery plan faces stiff battle from Americans' attitudes about banks, Wall Street

By Shankar Vedantam
'I know how unpopular it is to be seen as helping banks right now, especially when everyone is suffering in part from their bad decisions. I promise you, I get it. But I also know that in a time of crisis, we cannot afford to govern out of anger.'

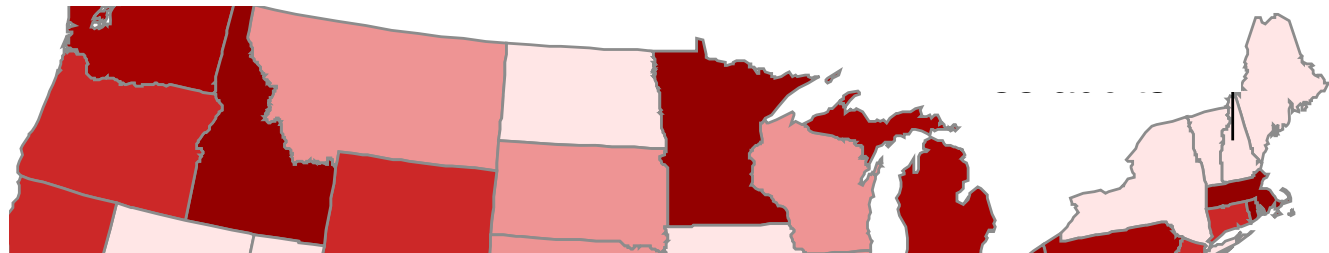
Obama is right in calling such anger unreasonable. But there is robust evidence that unreasonable anger against those who harm the common good is deeply embedded in human DNA — and has probably played a salutary role in our economic, political and social history.

A wide body of experiments have recently put such anger in a new light: Seeking to punish those who harm the common good, especially when the punishment involves a high cost to ourselves, is really a form of altruism. As with giving to charity, 'altruistic punishment' elevates emotional goals over purely rational — and selfish — goals.

Neilson is an especially instructive case study because he happens to be an economist, too, at the University of Tennessee. He agrees with Obama's rescue plan on an intellectual level but vehemently disagrees on an emotional level.

Advertisement for 'We can help you!' featuring Dr. Wraalstad (Twin Falls Orthopedics), Mark L. Beams and Jason Applewhite (Beams Flooring), Trent Stimpson (Reynold's Funeral Chapel), Courtney Burgoyne (Sunset Memorial Park), and Kevin Rosenau (White Mortuary).

Times-News logo and website information: www.magicvalley.com



Trout numbers drop



Below-average spring flows halt production at some facilities

By Cindy Snyder
Times-News correspondent

Trout production in Idaho is down and industry watchers point to declining spring levels as one of the causes. However, the decline may not be as dramatic as numbers released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture last week indicate.

According to the report, which was released Feb. 27, sales in 2008 of foodsize trout — 12 inches or longer — totaled \$35 million, down 24 percent from the \$46.4 million reported in 2007. Total pounds sold in 2008 were 35.4 million pounds compared to 49.9 million pounds the previous year.

But industry watchers believe the 2007 numbers were too high. Last year, USDA reported production of 50.5 million pounds. That number was revised to 49.9 million pounds in this report, but Ken Ashley, president of SeaPac of Idaho in Buhl, says the 2007 number is still too high, but he thinks the 2008 number is reasonable.

Many smaller facilities that used to

AQUACULTURE BY THE NUMBERS

- Total world fisheries production reached a new high of 143.6 million metric tons in 2006.
- More than 90 million metric tons from wild or capture and 51.7 million metric tons from aquaculture.
- Of the 90 million, 110.4 million metric tons was used for human consumption with the remainder used as livestock feed or fishmeal.

SOURCE: FAO The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture.

produce a couple hundred thousand pounds of trout annually are no longer operating because spring flows have dropped below levels where production is viable. A facility needs to produce 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of trout per cubic feed per second of water to break even.

Magic Spring, a spring used by SeaPac to raise fish, is licensed at 146 pounds per cubic feed per second, but Ashley said they've been lucky to get 105 to 106 pounds per cubic feed per second — about a 30 percent decline in spring flow, which is close to the approximately 25 percent loss in sales reported by USDA.

Ashley said facilities were operating at maximum capacity in 2008.

"Every site that was viable in two-thousand-eight, was in production and doing everything they could," he said.

Nationwide, trout production was down 9 percent in 2008. Idaho accounted for 44 percent of the total value of U.S. trout production. North Carolina also showed a decline in production from 4.4 million pounds in 2007 to 3.5 million pounds in 2008.

Gary Fornshell, University of Idaho extension aquaculture specialist, said a severe drought in North Carolina is limiting production.

Fornshell wasn't surprised to see the dramatic decrease in Idaho production.

See **TROUT**, Agribusiness 2

Stimulus bill allocates \$50M to help recover high feed costs

By Cindy Snyder
Times-News correspondent

Aquaculture producers found an unexpected surprise when they started reading the federal stimulus bill — a \$50 million relief program for high feed costs in 2008.

"We were all taken by surprise," said Linda Lemmon, executive secretary for the Idaho Aquaculture Association.

While \$50 million sounds good, she and others who have looked at the provision are cautioning Idaho's trout, tilapia, sturgeon and other

See **FEED**, Agribusiness 2

AGRIBUSINESS BRIEFS

Idaho producers and handlers eligible for reimbursement

BOISE — Idaho State Department of Agriculture is accepting applications from certified organic producers and handlers in Idaho for reimbursement of 75 percent of certification costs up to \$750. Reimbursement for certification costs paid between Oct. 1, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2009, will be reimbursed in the order they are received.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is authorized to provide cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products in obtaining certification under the USDA National Organic Program. The cost share program was contained in the 2008 Farm Bill.

An application form is posted on the ISDA website at: www.agri.idaho.gov For additional information on the cost share reimbursement program, contact Linda Georgiev 208-332-8681.

California storms still don't provide enough rain

FRESNO, Calif. — California officials say recent storms haven't dumped down nearly enough rain and snow to make a big dent in the state's ongoing drought.

Wendy Martin, who leads the Department of Water Resources' drought division, says storms in the last few weeks helped bring this year's rainfall up to about 87 percent of average.

Over the next 10 days, another round of wet weather is expected to bring about 6 more inches of rain.

California is in its third straight year of drought.

— Staff and wire reports

Criminal charges mulled in Mo. grain seizure

By Alan Scher Zagier
Associated Press writer

MARTINSBURG, Mo. — Linus Rothermich took a trucking company owner at her word when she promised to later pay him for nearly \$200,000 in grain delivered to feedlots and storage elevators across Missouri.

Now the Auxvasse resident wonders if he and as many as 300 other farmers will ever see a dime. The state agriculture department has seized the assets of T.J. Gieseke Farms and Trucking after a routine audit revealed the company owes more than \$1.3 million in unpaid grain royalties.

On Wednesday, Attorney General Chris Koster announced a criminal investigation into the missing money as hundreds of potential fraud victims packed a Knights of Columbus meeting room in the small town east of Mexico, Mo.

Judging by the comments of Rothermich and others, the actual losses could be far higher than the state's initial estimate.

"It was all pretty much

done over the phone," Rothermich said of his verbal agreement with Cathy Gieseke, the business owner and sole employee. Gieseke has not returned telephone calls seeking comment.

Other farmers at the meeting told similar stories of handshake deals with Gieseke, though most declined to be publicly identified.

Gieseke may have offered the farmers a rate far higher than what grain buyers wound up paying on the other end, agriculture officials said.

"She promised them the world, and she promised them a price that was not realistic," said Chris Klenklen, administrator of grain regulatory services for the Missouri Department of Agriculture.

Klenklen said Gieseke served as broker between grain farmers in northeast Missouri and buyers in St. Louis; Louisiana, Mo.; Mexico, Mo.; and Quincy, Ill.

The company still has about \$100,000 worth of grain stored in elevators

See **GRAIN**, Agribusiness 3

EPA says farm dust open to regulation

By Marco Santana
Associated Press writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Nothing says summer in Iowa like a cloud of dust behind a combine.

But what may be a fact of life for farmers is a cause for concern to federal regulators, who are refusing to exempt growers from new environmental regulations.

It's left some farmers feeling bemused and more than a little frustrated.

"It's such a non-common-sense idea that you can keep dust within a property line when the wind blows," said Sen. Charles Grassley, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee who still farms in northeast Iowa.

Under rules imposed in 2006, rural areas would be kept to the same standards as urban areas for what the Environmental Protection Agency calls "coarse particulate matter" in the air.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Pork Producers Council had petitioned the government to provide an exemption to farmers. They argued that evidence of harm caused by dust in rural areas hasn't been determined.

But the U.S. District Court of Appeals in Washington ruled Tuesday that the EPA had already provided the evidence necessary to determine farm dust "likely is not safe."

Michael Formica, a lawyer



A combine kicks up dust as a farmer harvests a soybean field north of Ames, Iowa, in this file photo. Federal regulators are refusing to exempt growers from new environmental regulations, including rules on dust.

for the pork council, said this means farmers now face the daunting task of proving a negative — that the dust is not harmful.

Formica said his and other groups will consider a further appeal.

Farmers said they will be hard-pressed to meet the standards.

In a letter sent Wednesday to the EPA, Grassley wrote that compliance would be impossible because of the dust produced in farmers' day-to-day activities.

Grassley also has noted that because many rural roads are not paved, particulate readings could be affected by wind gusts that con-

stantly change.

"After all, God decides when the wind blows, not Chuck Grassley," he said.

But the EPA said the regulation was overdue.

Every five years, the Clean Air Act requires the agency to review the newest scientific information and recommend changes to its standards.

EPA spokeswoman Cathy Milbourn said the changes are not just a matter of regulating dust. They serve the public's well-being and, regardless of whether someone lives in a rural or urban area, the threshold for unsafe levels of dust in the air must remain consistent nationally.

"It's health-based," she said. "We don't look at a particular industry. The goal is to protect public health."

But farmers insist the regulation will affect their operations and eventually their bottom lines. And they said unlike fixing a bus, they have few options for limiting dust from their fields and roads.

Roger Zylstra, a director with the Iowa Cornrowers Association, said if left alone, farmers can compete worldwide. But regulation could impede their success.

He said there seems to be a disconnect between farmers and policymakers.

"Many of the people that are making the rules, it feels like they really don't know what (farming) issues are," said Zylstra, a Lynnville resident who has worked on a farm for 35 years.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for NYSE, AMEX, and NASDAQ. Each column lists 'MOST ACTIVE' and 'GAINERS' with columns for Name, Vol(00), Last, and Chg. Includes a 'LOSERS' section at the bottom of each column.

Table with columns for INDEXES and STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST. INDEXES lists Dow Jones Industrials, Transportation, Utilities, etc. STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST lists AlliantEgy, AlliantTch, AmCasino, etc.

HOW TO READ THE MARKET REPORT
Name: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name (not its abbreviation).
Div: Current annual dividend rate paid on stock, based on latest quarterly or semiannual declaration, unless otherwise footnoted.
Last: Price stock was trading at when exchange closed for the day.
Chg: Loss or gain for the day. No change indicated by ... mark.

DATES & DEADLINES

- Dates to know in Idaho ag
• March 15: 2009 crop year for spring planted crops, small grain forages (wheat, barley and oats including annual pea forage), mustard and summer planted buckwheat.
• March 31: Final loan & LDP availability date for small grains, honey, and oats.
• May 31: Final loan & LDP availability date for corn, dry peas, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, safflower seed, small chickpeas, soybeans and sunflower seed.

COMMODITY PRICES

Table with columns for Dairy, Feed, and Livestock. Dairy includes Block, Barrel, Butter, Whey protein concentrate, Class III milk, Class IV milk. Feed includes Corn (Per 100 pounds), Barley (Per 100 pounds), Hay (Mid/Ton). Livestock includes Lambs and hogs.

COMMODITY REPORT

Table with columns for CLOSING FUTURES and CHEESE. CLOSING FUTURES lists various commodities like Live cattle, Feeder cattle, Soybeans, etc. CHEESE lists Cheddar cheese prices.

Feed

Continued from Agribusness 1
aquaculture producers not to get their hopes too high. She said the money will be apportioned to states based on feed usage and aquaculture production. After that, it will be up to each state to allocate the funding to producers based on their increased feed costs. Aquaculture feed costs in Idaho increased 15 to 25 percent in 2008, depending on which feed was used during production. Catfish producers from southern states are largely credited for getting a feed relief provision included in the stimulus bill. Ken Corpron, sales director for Rangen's aquaculture feed division, said catfish production dominates U.S. aquaculture production. In 2007, the base year for determining each state's portion of the program, the U.S. catfish industry fed 800,000 pounds of feed. According to FAO numbers for 2006, catfish accounted for 72 percent of U.S. aquaculture. Trout represented just 8 percent of the total 61 million pounds of fish produced nationwide in 2006. "We've been in contact with the Idaho State Agriculture Department and they're putting through the numbers to USDA," Lemmon said. "We have no idea what kind of rebate it may be."

Retired bean breeder receives Governor's Award

By the time he retired from the University in Idaho in 1975, Leslie L. "Bill" Dean had released 18 dry edible and snap beans. According to Stewart-Williams, several of Dean's milestone beans, including UI 111 and UI 114, remain cornerstones of the North American pinto bean industry. UI 111, to which all modern pinto beans grown in North America trace their roots, was among the first cultivars developed by hybridization in its market class worldwide. Dean was a founding member of the International Bean Improvement Cooperative and led the campaign for zero tolerance of bacterial blight of beans in Idaho.
BOISE — Leslie L. "Bill" Dean, a retired University of Idaho bean breeder, received the Governor's Award for Excellence in Technical Innovation Feb. 24 at the 2009 Idaho Ag Summit. Dean's nomination, which was in recognition of his accomplishments in the development, production and marketing of dry and garden beans, was initiated by the Idaho Bean Commission. Kathy Stewart-Williams, University of Idaho coordinator of the Idaho Foundation Seed Program in Kimberly, said the Idaho bean industry has "benefited immeasurably from Bill's gifts" and from his commitment to the protection of standards and quality in Idaho seed beans. A native of Twin Falls, Dean earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Idaho and his Ph.D. from Purdue University. He released his first beans for the University of Idaho's Bean Improvement Program before completing his master's degree and joined the University of Idaho faculty as a Twin Falls-based assistant plant pathologist for bean diseases in 1950. By the time he retired from the University in Idaho in 1975, Dean had released 18 dry edible and snap beans.

BEANS

Valley Beans
Prices are net to growers, 100 pounds, U.S. No. 1 beans, less Idaho bean tax and storage charges. Prices subject to change without notice. Producers desiring more recent price information should contact dealers.
Pintos: no quote, new crop great northern, no quote. pinks, no quote, new crop small reds, no quote, new crop. Prices are given by Rangens in Buhl. Prices current Feb. 25.
Other Idaho bean prices are collected weekly by Bean Market News, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Pintos, great northern, not established. small whites, not established. pinks, Ltd. \$37-\$39 small reds, Ltd. \$38-\$40. Quotes current Feb. 25.
GRAINS
Valley Grains
Prices for wheat per bushel: mixed grain, oats, corn and beans per hundred weight. Prices subject to change without notice.
Soft white wheat, ask barley, ask oats, ask corn, ask (15 percent moisture). Prices are given daily by Rangens in Buhl. Prices current Feb. 25.
Barley, \$7.00 (48-lb. minimum) spot delivery in Twin Falls and Gooding; corn, no quote (Twin Falls only). Prices quoted by Land O'Lakes Inc. in Twin Falls. Prices current Feb. 25.
POCATELLO (AP) — Idaho Farm Bureau Intermountain Grain Report on Monday.
POCATELLO — White wheat 4.37 (down 9) 11.5 percent winter 4.44 (down 9) 14 percent spring 6.38 (down 11) barley 5.73 (down 7) 11.5 percent winter 4.52 (down 8) 14 percent spring 6.20 (down 11) barley 5.50 (steady)
OGDEN — White wheat 4.36 (down 14) 11.5 percent winter 4.80 (down 10) 14 percent spring 6.53 (down 11) barley 6.26 (steady)
PORTLAND — White wheat 5.50 (down 15) 11 percent winter 5.65 (down 18 to 13) 14 percent spring 7.65 (down 11) barley n/a
NAMPA — White wheat cwt 7.35 (down 20); bushel 4.42 (down 11)
CHICAGO (AP) — Futures trading on the Chicago Board of Trade Monday.
WHEAT
5,000 bu minimum: cents per bushel
Mar 497 516 492 494 -15%
May 507 529 502 506 -15%
Jul 518 540 514 518 -15%
Sep 544 566 540 542 -16
Dec 564 585 560 563 -16%
Mar 585 590 579 581 -16%
May 591 593 585 585 -15%
Jul 592 594 586 588 -15%
Dec 619 619 609 612 -14%
Est. sales 85,544. Fri's sales 85,614. Fri's open lot 281,066
CORN
5,000 bu minimum: cents per bushel
Mar 339 355 337 343 -7%
May 362 344 350 350 -8%
Jul 355 374 354 359 -9
Sep 365 380 363 368 -9%
Dec 376 393 375 380 -10%
NEW YORK (AP) — Sugar futures trading on the New York Board of Trade Monday.
SUGAR-WORLD 11
\$12,000 lbs.: cents per lb.
May 13.70 13.77 12.71 12.75 -98
Jul 13.88 13.93 12.97 13.00 -87
Oct 14.22 14.25 13.34 13.38 -84
Jan 13.68 -84
Mar 14.77 14.82 13.94 13.98 -84
May 14.34 14.40 13.57 13.58 -83
Jul 13.93 14.00 13.13 13.17 -84
Oct 14.00 14.08 13.18 13.22 -90
Jan 13.24 -90
Mar 14.11 14.20 13.30 13.35 -92
May 13.82 13.90 13.10 13.10 -91
Jul 13.63 13.66 12.97 12.97 -84
Oct 13.74 13.74 13.08 13.08 -80
Est. sales 25,641. Fri's sales 61,084. Fri's open lot 630,263
SUGAR 14
12,000 lbs.: cents per lb.
May 19.73 19.73 19.65 19.70
Jul 20.80 20.80 20.35 20.35
Sep 20.80 20.80 20.80 20.80 -.18
Est. sales 83. Fri's sales 83. Fri's open lot 6,833
NEW YORK (AP) — Handy & Harman silver Monday \$12.930 off \$0.040.
H&H fabricated \$15.516 off \$0.048.
The morning bullion price for silver in London \$33.440 off \$0.070.
Engelhard \$12.920 off \$0.400.
Engelhard fabricated \$15.504 off \$0.480.
NY Merc silver spot month Monday \$13.050 off \$0.035.
NEW YORK (AP) — Spot nonferrous metal prices Monday.
Aluminum -\$0.6050 per lb., N.Y. Merc spot Mon.
Copper -\$1.5710 Cathode full plate, U.S. destinations.
Copper -\$1.5075 N.Y. Merc spot Mon.
Lead -\$1.0310 metric ton, London Metal Exch.
Zinc -\$0.5175 per lb., delivered.
NEW YORK (AP) — Key currency exchange rates Monday, compared with late Friday in New York.
Dollar vs: Exch. Rate Pts Day
Yen 97.67 97.84
Euro \$1.2572 \$1.2697
Pound \$1.4038 \$1.4320
Mexican peso 15.4745 15.1515

METALS/MONEY

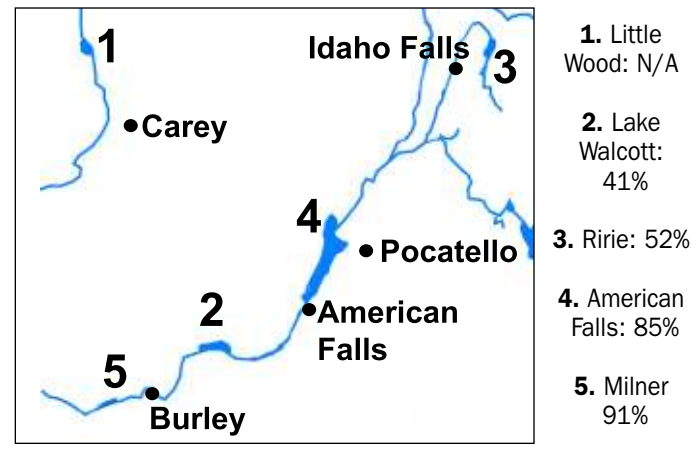
By The Associated Press
Selected world gold prices, Monday.
London morning fixing: \$949.50 off \$2.50.
London afternoon fixing: \$952.00 up \$15.50.
NY Handy & Harman: \$952.00 up \$15.50.
NY Handy & Harman fabricated: \$1028.16 up \$16.54.
NY England: \$954.27 up \$15.53.
NY England fabricated: \$1009.15 up \$16.69.
NY Merc gold Mar. Mon. \$939.00 off \$2.50.
NY HSBC Bank USA 4 p.m. Mon. \$940.00 off \$3.00.

Table with columns for FUEL REPORT. Lists prices for various fuels like Diesel, Gasoline, etc.

FUEL REPORT

The fuel report was unavailable Monday. The report will return next Tuesday in Agribusness.

RESERVOIR LEVELS



Trout

Continued from Agribusness 1
Based on egg sales into the state and other indicators, he has been skeptical of the 2007 production estimate. One bright spot in the 2008 production report is that the average price received by Idaho growers was up 6 cents to 99 cents per pound. Nationwide, the average trout price was \$1.38 per pound — up from \$1.19 per pound in 2007. "Profit margins were down because of increases in feed and energy prices, but trout prices stayed ahead," Fornshell said.

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Montana horse slaughterhouse bill moves forward

Bill aims to prevent increasing number of abandoned horses

By Matt Gouras
Associated Press writer

HELENA, Mont. — The Montana House of Representatives strongly endorsed a bill that paves the way for construction of a horse slaughterhouse in Montana and aims to bring the industry back to the United States.

Backers said ranchers and those who own horses have been struggling ever since all the slaughterhouses in the country were closed down. They said it is far more difficult now to dispose of old, sick or injured animals.

"This bill is really providing a humane and regulated processing plant," said the spon-

sor, Republican Rep. Ed Butcher, a horse owner from the central Montana farm community of Winifred. "Demand is there. We want a humane way to address the problem."

The measure was endorsed 67-33 last Tuesday in the first of two scheduled House votes. If it passes again Wednesday as expected, it will go to the Senate for more hearings and votes.

Butcher said his bill gives investors assurance that Montana will treat their businesses fairly if they build in the state.

He was backed by agriculture interests on both sides of the aisle. House Majority Leader Margaret Campbell,

D-Poplar, said the closure of the country's last slaughterhouse "had a devastating effect on ranchers."

Others said that old and lame horses are being abandoned on public land in some cases.

Cavel International Inc. shut down its DeKalb, Ill., operation after the U.S. 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2007 upheld an Illinois law prohibiting slaughter of horses for human consumption.

Opponents argued that a horse slaughterhouse should not be granted special exemptions from environmental and other laws, and should be treated like any factory.

Rep. Sue Malek, D-

Missoula, said animals should be more justly treated. "We need to care about animals and be responsible owners," she said.

In 2007, when state-imposed bans closed the last three U.S. horse slaughterhouses, a record 78,000 horses were exported to Canada and Mexico for slaughter, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics compiled by the Humane Society.

Butcher argued the country needs a slaughterhouse as cases of horse abandonment and cruelty escalate amid economic upheaval that has some owners of the animals unable to care for them, unable to find new homes for

"This bill is really providing a humane and regulated processing plant. Demand is there. We want a humane way to address the problem."

— **Republican Rep. Ed Butcher,**
a horse owner from the central Montana farm community of Winifred

horses and looking for ways to dispose of them humanely and affordably.

Selling horses for slaughter was an option when the country had facilities to take them, Butcher said, but now people are left with the cost of euthanasia plus disposal fees that can run into hundreds of dollars.

Butcher said slaughtering domestically makes more sense than sending U.S. hors-

es to Canada or Mexico, and the work can be done swiftly, without pain to the animal.

But Nancy Perry, the Humane Society's vice president for government affairs, has said horses are particularly ill-suited for traditional slaughterhouses. The animals are likely to try to escape the kill box and the procedure for killing them can be disrupted.

Cost of diesel fuel dives

Los Angeles Times

As gasoline prices drift and oil falters, the diesel fuel that dominates agriculture, rail transport, heavy construction and road hauling is cheaper than it has been in more than four years, the U.S. Energy Department said Monday.

Though that sounds like good news, diesel's decline is another sign of the depths of the global economy's funk.

"Diesel prices are down because demand is down," said Jerry Nickelsburg, senior economist with the Anderson Forecast at the University of California, Los Angeles, adding that foreign trading partners have also soured on buying U.S. exports.

"Californians, and American households in gen-

eral, are not buying. Retailers are not ordering. Factories are not building, and trucks are not delivering," Nickelsburg said.

Analysts said that the continuing economic malaise was the primary reason for another sharp hit on oil prices Monday. Unable to find any firm basis for a climb since its record high above \$147 a barrel last summer, crude oil for April delivery fell \$4.61 to close at \$40.15 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Retail gasoline was mixed, up an average of 2.5 cents a gallon over the last week to \$1.93 nationwide, according to the Energy Department's weekly survey of filling stations. In California, the average price of a gallon of self-serve regular gasoline fell 7.2 cents to \$2.18.

AGRIBUSINESS BRIEFS

Agriculture futures trade lower on CBOT

CHICAGO — Agriculture futures fell Monday on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Wheat for May delivery dropped 15.5 cents to \$5.06 a bushel; May corn lost 8.75 cents to \$3.5025 a bushel; May oats fell 3 cents to \$1.91 a bushel; and May soybeans slid 28 cents to \$8.44 a bushel.

Beef and pork futures were also lower on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. April live cattle fell 1.97 cents to 83.95 cents a pound; April feeder cattle lost 1.52 cents to 92.35 cents a pound; April lean hogs slipped 0.63 cent to 60.27 cents a pound; and May pork bellies fell 0.72 cent to 79.1 cents a pound.

Report says 15 percent of Kansas wheat in poor condition

WICHITA, Kan. — The dry weather in Kansas is hurting the state's winter wheat.

Monday's report by the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service shows 15 percent of the wheat crop is in poor to very poor condition.

About 35 percent is reported in fair shape. The report also pegs 45 percent as good and 5 percent as excellent.

The crop update comes at

a time when soil moisture conditions are deteriorating in the wake of a mostly dry winter.

The agency says topsoil moisture is short to very short across 66 percent of the state. Subsoil moisture conditions are 38 percent short to very short.

Farmers worry as parts of Texas stay dry

LUBBOCK, Texas — Across the nation's No. 2 agricultural state, drought conditions are evaporating stock tanks, keeping many crop farmers from planting, forcing cattle producers to cull their herds, and dropping water levels in state lakes.

Despite hurricanes Dolly, Gustav and Ike soaking Texas in 2008, almost every part of the state — nearly 97 percent — is experiencing some drought, according to the most recent U.S. Drought Monitor map, released Feb. 26.

Parts of central Texas and the Hill Country — more than 8 percent of the state — are not only in exceptional drought — the most severe stage of dryness — but they are now the driest region in the country and the driest they have been since 1918. It is the only place in the U.S. experiencing exceptional drought.

— **The Associated Press**



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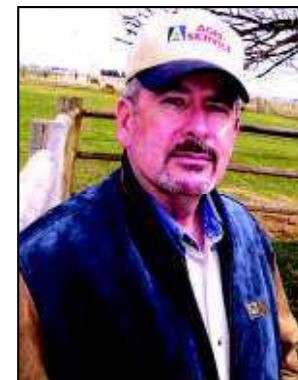


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RETIREMENT PARTY
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Burley- After 42 years of serving the local agricultural business, Bob Moore is retiring. Bob has been the manager of the Burley Agri-Service location for the past 16 years.

Bob went right to work straight from college in Twin Falls, starting with Massey Ferguson Corporation in April of 1967. He worked in all aspects of the business, as credit manager, salesman, and now as the store manager.

Active in the community and in his church, Bob currently serves as a Minidoka County Commissioner. He will enjoy his retirement with his wife Peggy, visiting his grandkids, horseback riding, and serving as commissioner.

We would like to thank Bob for devoting his entire working career to agriculture, and more particularly to Agri-Service and the Massey Ferguson brand.

Come to our annual breakfast and open house which is in his honor, Thursday March 5th, 7am to noon.

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Grain

Continued from Agribusiness 1

across the state as well as \$557,447 in its bank account, according to the state's court petition seeking appointment as legal trustee and receiver of the business assets. An Audrain County judge granted that request last week.

Farmers owed money have until March 31 to submit any purchase agreements, copies of scale tickets showing weight and other documents to the state. An administrative law judge will help proportionally divvy up the company's remaining assets in June and July.

Given the number of farmers who attended the meet-

ing, those returns could be just pennies on the dollar, Klenklen said.

"I don't think we're going to find this pot of gold," he said after the meeting.

Missouri Agricultural Director Jon Hagler tried to assure the crowd that state regulators will aggressively investigate the grain dealership. Audrain County Prosecutor Jason Lamb will assist the state Attorney General's Office.

"Any time you have this level of money changing hands, you have got a roomful of people like this, we always want to take the extra step," Hagler said. "There's a lot of anxiety."

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Wang makes spring debut, tests foot

NBA & college hoops, Sports 2 / Scoreboard, Sports 3 / Comics, Sports 4

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2009

SPORTS EDITOR MIKE CHRISTENSEN: (208) 735-3239 SPORTS@MAGICVALLEY.COM

See Sports 2

CSI men, women ready for Region 18 tourney

By Mike Christensen
Times-News writer

Let the madness begin. March is here and with it comes tournament time for the College of Southern Idaho men's and women's basketball teams.

The Region 18 tournaments will be held Thursday

through Saturday in Coeur d'Alene. Both the CSI men and women have first-round byes and will open play on Friday afternoon.

The Golden Eagle men (22-8, 9-6 Scenic West Athletic Conference) are the No. 3 seed and will face second-seeded Salt Lake Community College, which has lost two

straight and three of its last four.

The Bruins (23-6, 10-5 SWAC), took two of three games from CSI this season, but all three were close going down the wire and Friday's 3 p.m. (MST) contest should be a battle.

"It all comes down to a two-game season," said CSI

head coach Steve Gosar.

The winner of Thursday's game between the College of Eastern Utah (23-6, 9-6) and Snow College (18-12, 5-10) will advance to face top-seeded North Idaho College (27-3, 12-3) in Friday's late game.

The champion on the men's side will travel to Arizona to

face the Region 1 winner on March 10 in Scottsdale with a trip the NJCAA national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan., on the line.

On the women's side, CSI dominated the regular-season SWAC campaign, going 14-1 in league play and 25-4 overall. The Golden Eagles await the winner of

Thursday's Salt Lake Community College vs. College of Eastern Utah game in a 1 p.m. contest on Friday. Both teams are 16-14 overall.

CSI head coach Randy Rogers was pleased to have the tournament land in Coeur d'Alene, grateful to

See CSI, Sports 2

Boise St. cruises past N.M. State

Broncos move to third in WAC with win

The Associated Press

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Boise State took the upper hand on third place in the Western Athletic Conference with a 104-92 victory over New Mexico State Monday night.

Boise State (18-10, 8-6) swept the Aggies (15-14, 8-7) and leapfrogged them into third a week before the WAC Tournament in Reno, Nev.

Jamar Green had a career-high 19 points as one of six Boise players in double figures, but it was Broncos senior forward Mark Sanchez who was too much for the Aggies.

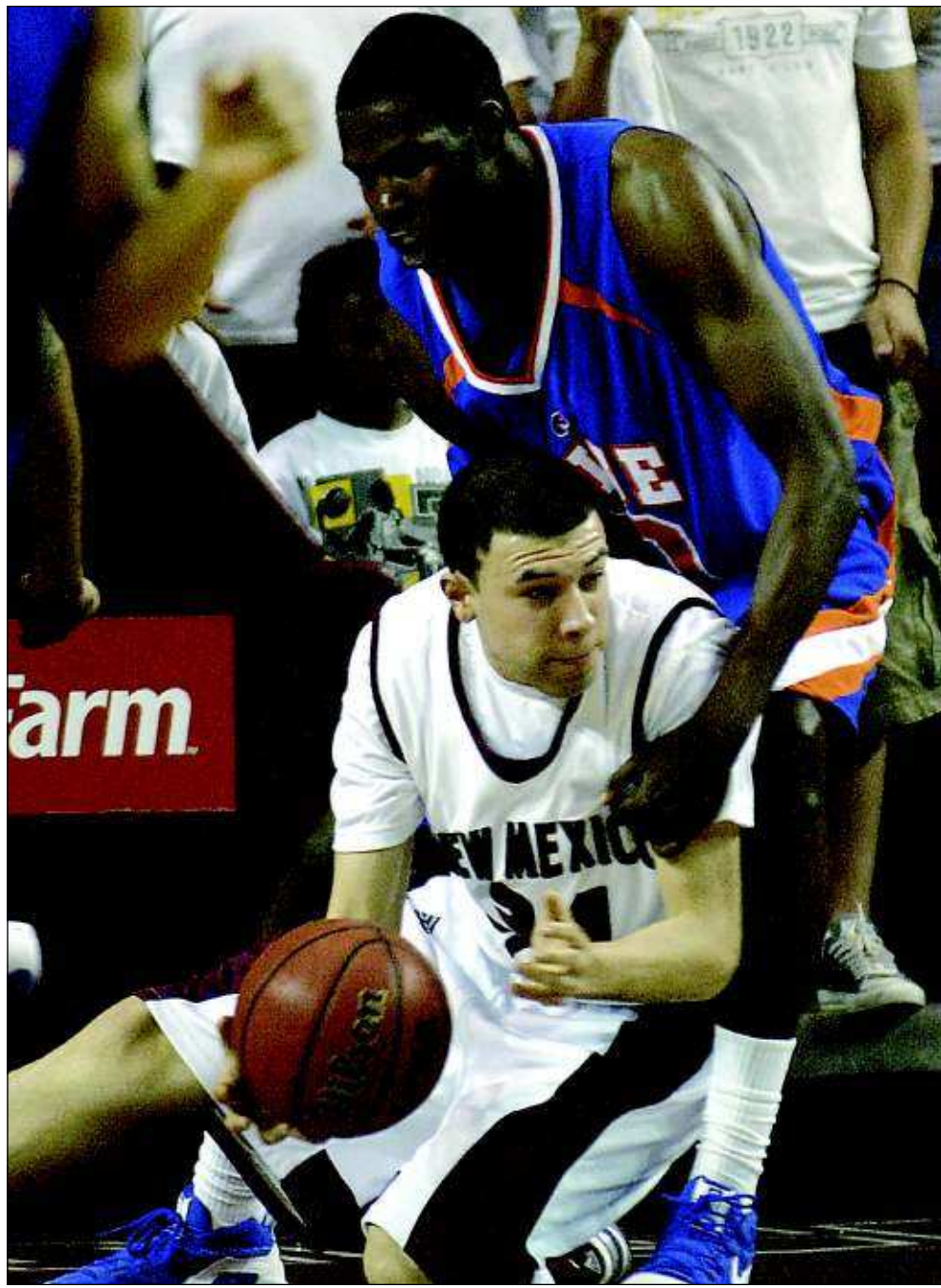
Sanchez and the Broncos big men helped put Boise State up 80-64 with 8:22 left to play.

Sanchez was limited to five minutes in the first half with foul trouble, but he scored nine of his 13 points during a stretch where the Broncos outscored NMSU 23-14 during a seven-minute stretch early in the second half.

NMSU got to within seven with 1:36 to play, but it was as close as the Aggies would come, losing their second straight.

Boise State outrebounded NMSU 36-34 and 17-13 on the offensive glass, scoring 44 points in the paint and 17 second-chance points.

Jahmar Young had 24 points to lead the Aggies and Jonathan Gibson added 21.



New Mexico State's Gordo Castillo keeps the ball in play as Boise State's Sean Imadiyi attempts to gain possession Monday during a Western Athletic Conference game in Las Cruces, N.M.

Search narrows for NFL players off Fla. Gulf Coast

The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The Coast Guard on Monday narrowed the search area for two NFL players and a third man missing since a weekend fishing trip off the Florida Gulf Coast after crews rescued a fourth man clinging to their capsized boat.

Survivor Nick Schuyler, a former University of South Florida player, told rescuers that the boat the four good friends were aboard was anchored when it flipped Saturday evening in rough seas, said Coast Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close. Schuyler, who was wearing a life vest, had been hanging onto the hull that a Coast Guard cutter discovered 35 miles off Clearwater.

The 21-foot boat belongs to Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, who, along with free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith and former South Florida player William Bleakley, were missing.

The Coast Guard wouldn't speculate on the men's chances of survival, but Petty Officer Robert Simpson said their size and good health were advantaged. Cooper, 26, is 6-foot-3, 230 pounds, and the 29-year-old Smith is 6-foot-2, 250 pounds. The 25-year-old Bleakley had played tight end.

"With all of these men being past, present football players, they do have a much larger physique than a lot of people," he said. "So their odds are going to be definitely in their favor."

Their families have said they had life vests and flares aboard.

Schuyler was conscious but appeared weak as he was being taken off a helicopter at Tampa General Hospital and placed on a stretcher. His father said his son was in serious but stable condition and that he "looks OK."

"He's got some cuts and bruises. He's dehydrated," said Stuart Schuyler.

Schuyler's mother, Marsha Schuyler, said her son told her that he survived by thinking about how he didn't want her to go to his funeral.

The family's joy at him being found alive was tempered by the search for his friends.

"We still have three men missing, and we're not going to talk too much until we find these guys," said his father, Stuart Schuyler. "We're all praying for them. These guys

are all very close friends."

Searchers had previously covered 16,000 square miles of ocean but the area being searched was much smaller since they found Schuyler, Close said.

Smith's family planned to drive to Florida from Richmond, Va., Tuesday, after the snowy weather in the East made getting a flight impossible, said Yolanda Newbill, one of Smith's sisters. She said they have been in contact with the Coast Guard every few hours since the search began.

"We have never lost hope," Newbill said. "We have total faith that (he) will be coming home."

Ray Sanchez of Tampa, a cousin of Cooper, said the family was confident the Coast Guard would find them.

"My cousin's a powerful swimmer," he said.

James Allen, a marine safety consultant who once worked search and rescue operations with the Coast Guard, said the chances of finding survivors diminish after people have been in the water three days.

Survivors have been found who were floating for days, but he added "you just can't swim forever."

After 18 hours in 64-degree water, hypothermia will set in, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class James Harless said.

The four men left Clearwater Pass early Saturday in calm weather, but heavy winds picked up through the day and the seas got heavy, with waves of 7 feet and higher, peaking at 15 feet on Sunday. A relative alerted the Coast Guard early Sunday after the men did not return as expected. The Coast Guard said it did not receive a distress signal.

The men were aboard an Everglades-manufactured boat, which is built with compressed foam encased in Fiberglas, making it difficult to sink. The weather had improved, with waves subsiding to 6 to 8 feet, National Weather Service meteorologist Todd Barron said.

However, Bob Zales, president of National Association of Charter Boat Operators, said waves that high can capsize a boat the size of Cooper's.

"A boat that size, personally, I wouldn't get out any farther than 20 or 30 miles offshore," Zales said. "But I see people all the time 40, 50 miles offshore."

Chiefs not talking about deal for Cassel, Vrabel

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Scott Pioli pulled off a big deal in his first major act as Kansas City's general manager, landing quarterback Matt Cassel and linebacker Mike Vrabel for a second-round draft pick.

Not a package of draft picks, not the second-round and another player, not even with cash thrown in. A potentially franchise-building quarterback and a starting linebacker for one second-round draft pick. That's it.

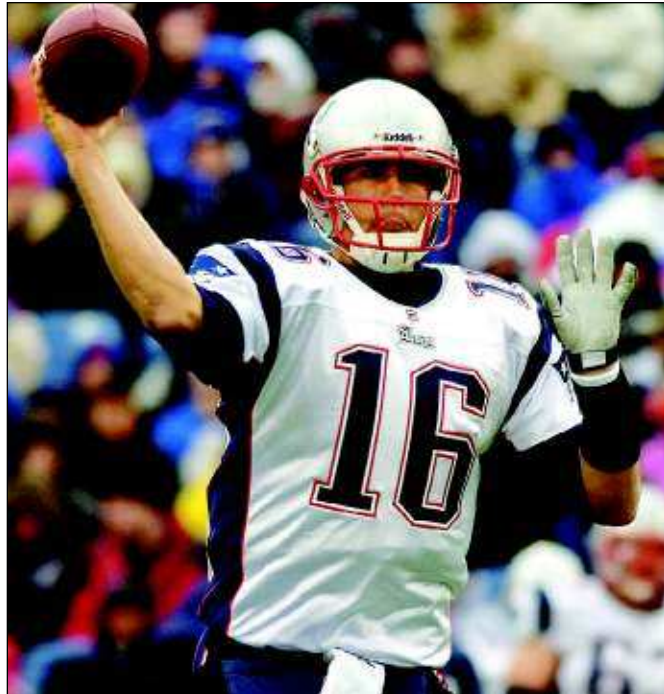
The obvious question is, how did he get so much for so little?

Sadly, there's still no answer.

Two days after the trade with New England was announced, the Chiefs were again mum on what seems like a monumentally lopsided deal.

Pioli? Unavailable. Coach Todd Haley? Evasive. Cassel? On speaker phone for his introduction to the Kansas City media. Vrabel? Also not available.

"I won't get into specifics of that. I'm glad we have



New England Patriots quarterback Matt Cassel throws a pass during the first half of a game against the Buffalo Bills at Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Dec. 28, 2008. The Kansas City Chiefs have acquired quarterback Matt Cassel and linebacker Mike Vrabel from the New England Patriots in a trade for their second-round draft pick.

both players on the team," Haley said Monday. That's it. No discussion of

how the trade came together, not even a "we got a good deal." It was calculated, tidy,

somewhat mysterious. In other words, very Patriots-like.

Of course, that's no surprise. As vice president of player personnel in New England, Pioli helped turn the Patriots into a dynasty, gathered all the pieces for coach Bill Belichick to win three Super Bowls.

Those ties to New England clearly played some role in the trade to get Cassel and Vrabel. How much? It's hard to tell since no one's talking about the deal.

Cassel was talking, but not in person and not about specifics of the trade. Calling in from somewhere in Kansas City, he was thrilled at the chance to be the man after eight years of being the man behind the man.

On paper, the Chiefs clearly got the better end of the deal.

Cassel, after three years as Tom Brady's backup and five more on the bench at Southern California, proved to be a more-than capable starter, leading the Patriots

See CHIEFS, Sports 2



Coming Wednesday

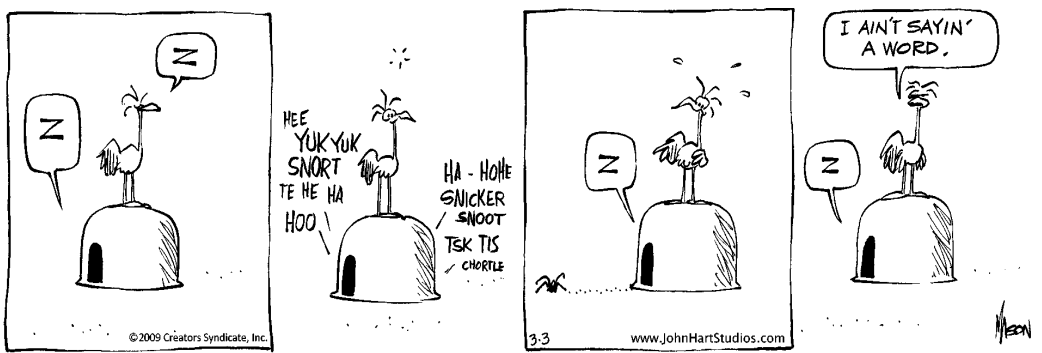
Boys state basketball preview section

- Twin Falls aims to regain 2006 championship form
- Jerome among favorites for Class 4A crown
- A preview look all 10 area teams going to state
- Team capsules for every state participating in all six divisions

INSIDE: Full schedule for 2009 Boys Real Dairy Shootout, Sports 2

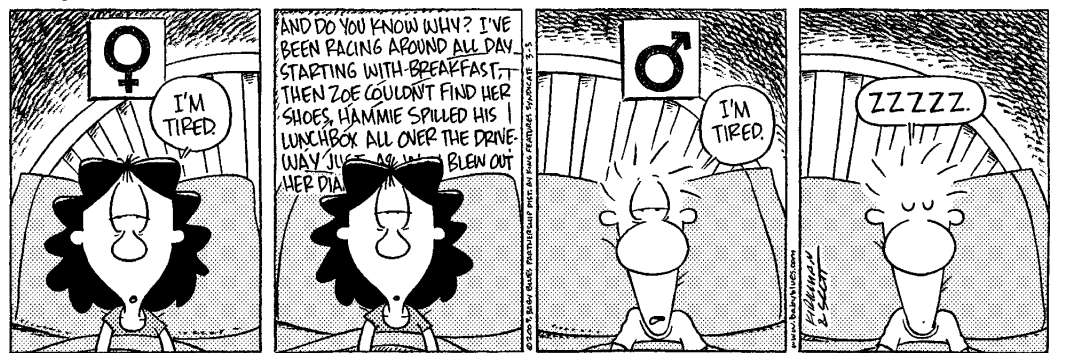
B.C.

By Johnny Hart



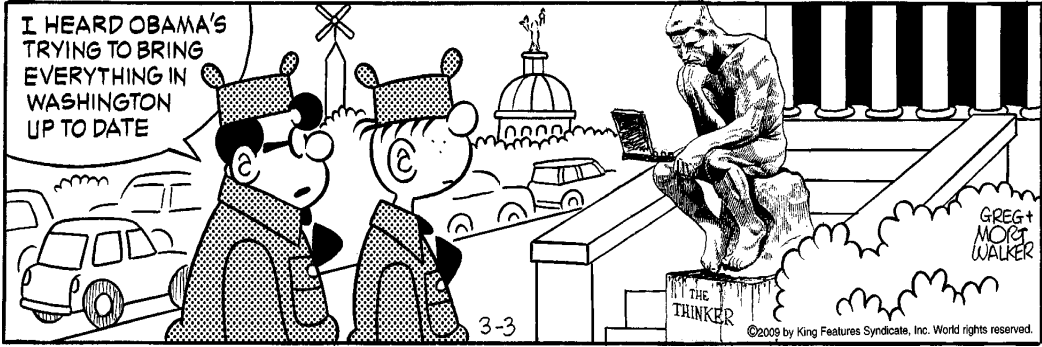
Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



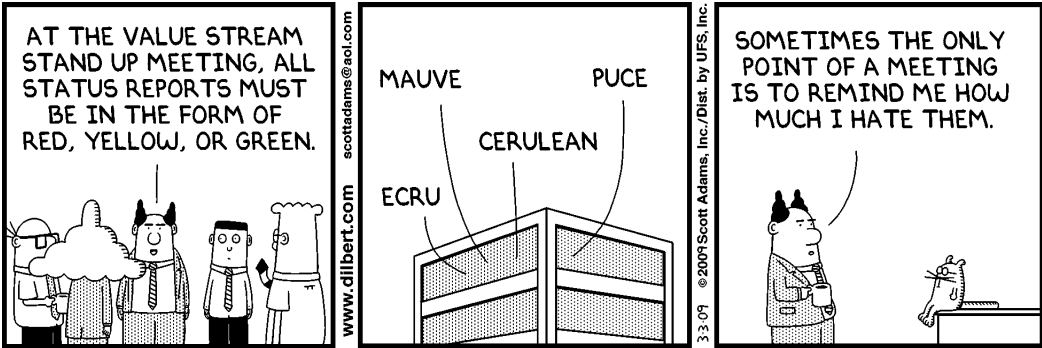
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



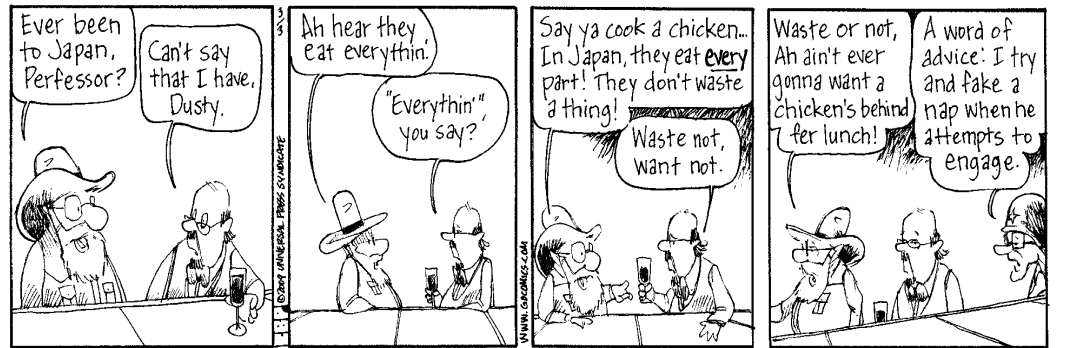
Dilbert

By Scott Adams



The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



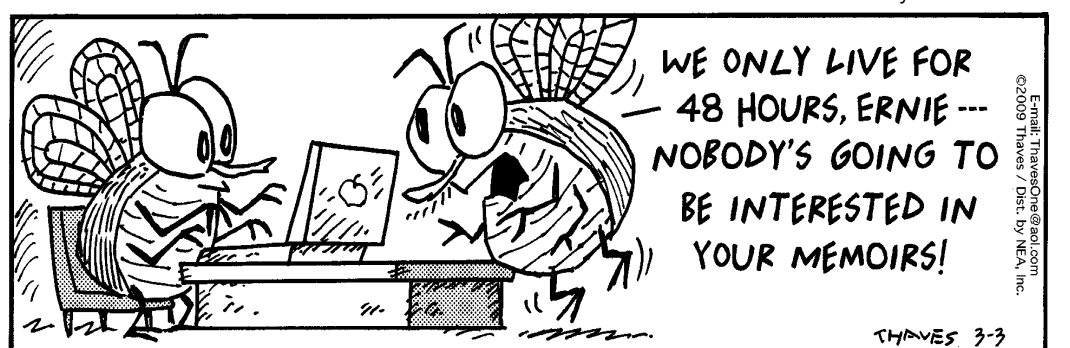
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



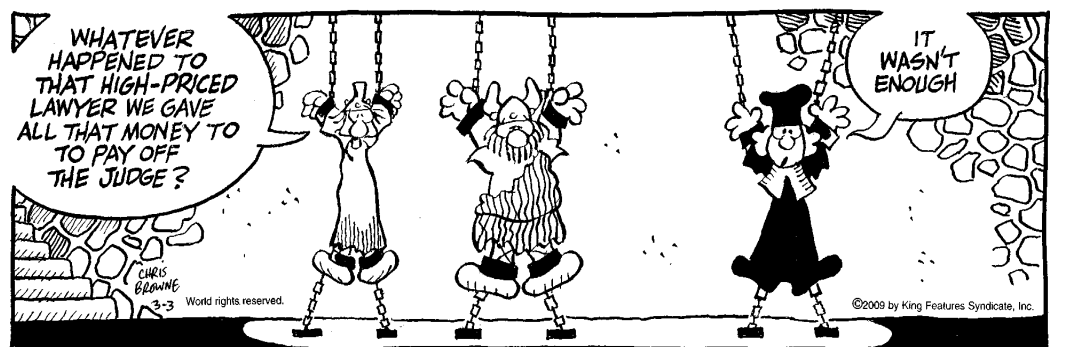
Garfield

By Jim Davis



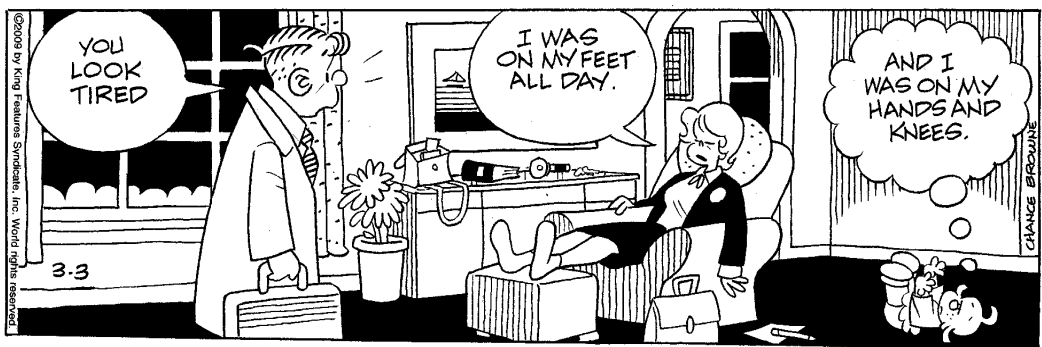
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



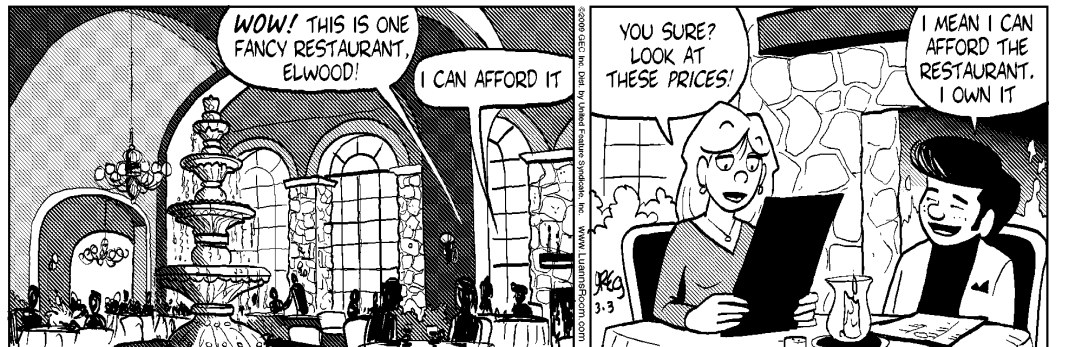
Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



Luann

By Greg Evans



Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Non Sequitur

By Wiley



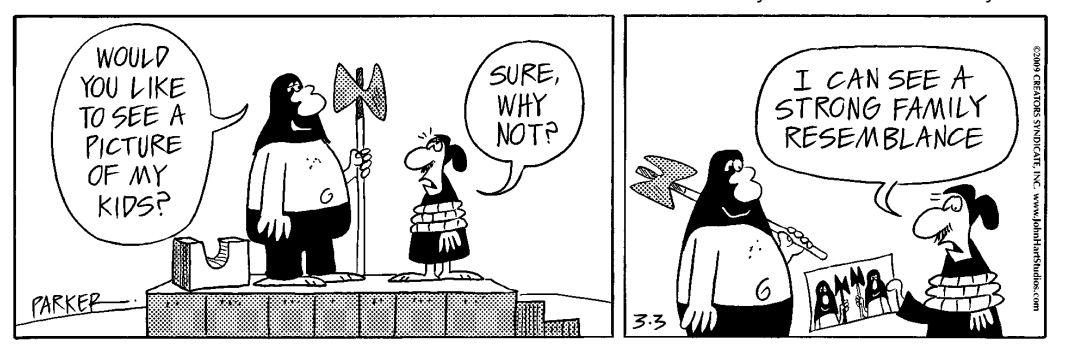
Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott

