



HOLDING THE LINE

Twin Falls County budget down almost 2 percent

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

Twin Falls County commissioners have prepared a \$36.9 million tentative budget for next year, a 1.8 percent drop from this year.

The decrease — due mainly to a decline in revenue, including from a drop in building permits — would have been nearly 4 percent if not for the 25 percent spike in indigent health care costs, commissioners said. The budget, which kicks in at the new fiscal year on Oct. 1, will undergo public hearings Sept. 1 and 2. It's unclear whether property taxes will go up because levy rates won't be set until later this month.

"We held the line like we said we were going to do," said Commissioner Terry Kramer. "If it weren't for indigent care having such a high increase we would've done much better."

Commissioners did not include funding to switch employee pensions to the Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho, despite a petition circulating among law enforcement officials who



Twin Falls County Sheriff's Deputy Shellie Stokesberry patrols Salmon Dam Reservoir Monday afternoon. The Twin Falls County Commission is currently discussing a \$36.9 million tentative budget for the coming fiscal year, a 1.8 percent drop from this year.

support the change. Instead, the budget includes a 2 percent increase in the county's contribution to its existing retirement plan, and a 1 percent salary increase for county employees. The salary increases are lump sums, as raises are decided by department heads.

Officials are hopeful the \$3.74 million for indigent health care will be enough, as a new state law bumped up the county's responsibility on individual cases. Indigent health care is emergency health care provided to people without insurance that addresses a wide range of needs, includ-



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

ing mental health. Its administration can often be a cumbersome process that involves appeals and various challenges.

"That's what's killing us," Kramer said.

Individual department budgets essentially remained flat. The zoning department's budget dropped 14 percent, and commissioners said they will keep open a vacant

See **BUDGET**, Main 2



Registered Nurse Susan Baisch prepares an emergency room bed Monday for a patient at St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in Twin Falls. The Twin Falls County Commission has slated \$3.74 million for indigent health care in next year's budget, a 25 percent increase from the current fiscal year.

CSI trustees defend college's selection process

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

College of Southern Idaho trustees on Monday defended their selection of a design-build team for a proposed wind energy and technical training building, saying the process was fair for all.

College trustees unanimously approved the hiring of Starr Corp., a Twin Falls

construction firm, and CTA, an architectural and engineering firm with offices in Montana and Boise, on June 15, contingent on a pending \$5.5 million federal Economic Development Administration grant.

Ten design-build firms or partnerships had applied for the work. On Sunday the

See **CSI**, Main 4

Pumpers offer curtailment alternative

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

Groundwater pumpers in south-central Idaho on Monday responded to the state water agency's curtailment order by offering altered acreage for conversion and late-season recharge in hopes of keeping dozens of wells from being shut off.

On Friday, Idaho Department of Water Resources officials traveled across the Magic Valley to see if nearly 250 water-right holders have complied with an order to stop using some groundwater. It was the first time that the IDWR actually enforced widespread well

closures to provide water to another entity.

The filing Monday, which would increase the number of acres converted to use surface water instead of groundwater, also asks IDWR Interim Director Gary Spackman to suspend the curtailment order.

But Spackman, who ordered the closures about two weeks ago, said curtailment will continue as planned after he received a debriefing from his staff Monday. Today, state officials will begin contacting pumpers they observed last week that appeared to be using water they shouldn't have.

"I'm not stopping the

investigation right now because this document came in," Spackman said Monday afternoon. "We'll evaluate that filing and ultimately determine how it may affect our investigation."

He acknowledged that the filing could lead to changed acreage or possibly altering the priority date in the order. But he did note the plan came in after the July 29 deadline and IDWR is moving cautiously for a fair and safe curtailment.

Spackman issued the order after the department learned that two groundwater districts had allowed as much as half of 9,300 acres of farmland converted

to use surface water to revert back to pumping groundwater. State officials said those conversions needed to be maintained to fulfill an agreement with Clear Springs Foods of Buhl, whose springs, officials ruled, have declined due to groundwater pumping.

The call, which also affects businesses and cities, includes water used for slightly less than 9,000 irrigated acres.

Inspectors last week studied whether each site appeared to be using the rights. Punishment — including fines — could kick in for persistent violators.

See **PORN**, Main 2

Police: Body found in canal near Boise matches Manwill

The Associated Press

BOISE — Police say a body pulled from an Ada County canal matches the size and age of an 8-year-old boy who disappeared more than a week ago.

Boise Deputy Chief Jim Kerns said Monday the Ada County coroner had not identified the body and was performing an autopsy.

Kerns said the family of Robert Manwill had been notified.

The child reportedly disappeared July 24 after leaving his mother's apartment in Boise, where he was visiting. The boy's father, Charles Manwill, lives in New Plymouth and has had custody since 2008.

Police said Friday new evidence in the case indicated suspicious circumstances surrounding the disappearance and the boy could be



CHARLIE LITCHFIELD/Idaho Press-Tribune Boise Deputy Police Chief Jim Kerns talks to the media regarding the case of missing 8-year-old Robert Manwill during a news conference on Monday.

hurt "or the victim of a tragic event."

A passerby called emergency workers Monday to report they had seen a body floating in the canal near Kuna about 1:30 p.m.

T.F. man charged with 20 counts of child porn

By Nichole Carnell
Times-News writer

Dwayne E. King, 38, of Twin Falls, was arraigned Friday morning for alleged possession of child pornography.

King is charged with 20 counts of possession of sexually exploitative material after police found four hard drives containing exploitative images and videos of children on King's computer, according to court records.

King could face up to a maximum of 15 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine for each count.

The charges stem from an investigation that began in

June 2008, according to court records, which included a search of King's home and computer, and an interrogation by investigators.

King consented to a search of his home and computer on June 6, 2008, when he showed detectives the images on his computer. The "homemade" computer was seized and sent to Intermountain West Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory in Boise, court records show.

According to court records, King's computer contained 1,581 images and 452 sexually explicit videos found through various



You Don't Say

Steve Crump



To boldly go where USS Idaho has gone before

Sixty years ago, the USS Idaho had a distinguished naval career. And 360 years from now, it will again.

Some "Star Trek" fans, who have far too little to do, have compiled the history of the Starship Idaho and its adventures with Starfleet.

According to the Web site memory-beta.wikia.com, the Idaho will be a Galaxy-class explorer starship in service late in the 24th century.

In 2369, the Idaho and the USS Madison will be assigned as part of a small task force of Starfleet and Klingon vessels to assist the USS Enterprise in meeting the second invasion of the Furies.

The following year, the Idaho and the Madison, docked at Deep Space Nine, will help prevent a second war between the Federation and the Cardassian Union after a disruption of the First Annual Deep Space Nine Poker Tournament by the Ghost Riders and Espiritu.

In 2371, the Idaho, Madison and the USS Boswell will be assigned to escort the ancient Jibetian starship Nibix to Deep Space Nine so it can be protected under Federation jurisdiction.

And in 2371, the Idaho

SHOW AND TELL

If it's odd, sad or funny and it happens in south-central Idaho, I want to hear about. Call 735-3223, or write scrump@magicvalley.com.

will be part of a small fleet to battle the Mist Grey Squadron.

We know this because it's been written about in various "Star Trek" novels that have been published over the years as part of the industry that includes movies and TV.

Who would take the time to keep track of all that? Have you been to a Star Trek convention?

The original Idaho, of course, was a U.S. Navy battleship in the thick of the fighting in the Pacific during World War II. The ship participated in the battles of Attu, Makin Atoll, Kwajalein, Saipan, Guam, the Philippine Sea, Peleliu, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

Decommissioned in 1946, the ship was sold for scrap the following year.

From the time her keel was laid in 1917, the USS Idaho sailed for 30 years. Let's wish the next USS Idaho as much luck.

Steve Crump is the Times-News Opinion editor.

T.F. Council dishes up budget talk

By Jared S. Hopkins
Times-News writer

The Twin Falls City Council on Monday held its third discussion on next year's proposed \$48.7 million budget, and the focus was being updated on items council members inquired in recent weeks.

Among the issues addressed was \$75,000 for proposed technology and software upgrades to the Council Chambers, the city's new Web site and the city's broadcasting methods. The city wants to install individual computer screens where council members sit, mostly to help the various city commissions that lack laptops like the council members.

The city also wants to start streaming council meetings live on its Web site, broadcasts of which can then be catalogued for viewing anytime — both of which are growing trends in small cities

"I certainly support anything that burns less paper and helps us communicate with the public better."

— Councilman David E. Johnson

across the United States. But that would also require multiple cameras and perhaps someone to operate them, said Eli Searle, the city's information technology director.

"There is that human aspect to run those cameras," said Searle. "That's something that is beyond me to resolve."

The cost details came because of questions from the council last week. They said Monday they support the changes but were concerned about the spending, particularly with someone needed to operate cameras.

"We're way behind the technology curve," said Councilman David E. Johnson. "I certainly support anything that burns less paper and helps us commu-

nicate with the public better." Elsewhere in the budget, Mayor Lance Clow voiced his concerns about the proposed \$120,000 for animal control services paid to the Twin Falls County Sheriff's Office. The Times-News reported Monday the city has been operating the entire current fiscal year without a signed contract, partly because Clow refused to sign off on this year's.

"I do not know what the county's total cost for their animal control is ... and apparently they don't have it as a line item either," Clow said, referencing sheriff's officials reportedly said costs are absorbed into the department's overall budget. "Money's always a concern — how it gets spent."

On Monday, however, Twin Falls County Clerk Kristina Glascock told county commissioners the sheriff now wants a new line item for animal control. City Manager Tom Courtney updated the council on other items. Replacing the "bubble" enclosure at the city pool could cost between \$124,000 and \$252,000. Last week the City Council discussed saving money annually for long-term and costly projects.

Health insurance for city employees will be \$100,000 less than originally budgeted.

The council is expected to vote on a spending cap next week, and a public hearing on the budget will follow in several weeks. The new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

Despite the overall budget decline, officials have said no services will be cut and no employees laid off, partly due to cost controls installed in December.

Richfield teen in good condition after weekend rollover

Times-News

A Richfield resident remained hospitalized but in good condition Monday following a one-vehicle rollover accident in Jerome County this weekend.

Ashlee Mays, 18, of Richfield, was listed in good condition, according to St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center. Mays was a passenger in a Chevy pickup driven by Robert Ellis, 19, of Jerome, when it rolled off the right side of the road at 100 East at 140 South in Jerome County early Saturday, Idaho State

Police said.

Mays, who wasn't wearing a seat belt, was ejected from the vehicle, police said.

Ellis had minor injuries and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence, police said.

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Law & Disorder... in Cassia County

From July 22 police reports:

Driving without privileges:

A Declo male, 19, was pulled over for driving 35 mph in a 25 mph zone north of Burley. After Deputy Brice Nelson confirmed that the suspect had a suspended license, the driver, according to the report, "asked me to please not place him under arrest and I told him no." When the driver was asked to get out of the car, he reportedly stayed inside and once again requested not to be arrested. "I pulled my Taser from its holster and I turned it on. I pointed the laser from the Taser at center mass of his chest. I told him to get out of the car right now or I would Tase him. The car was in park and was turned off so there was not a chance of him wrecking from a flinch to the Taser," the report reads.

The man got out of the vehicle and was arrested.

Domestic battery:

A 31-year-old Burley man with a

mushroom tattooed on his shoulder and both of his little toes missing was arrested for domestic battery and obstruction after police responded to a report of a fight at a Burley residence. Two women in the house, accord-

ing to the report, said the man hit them in the face. One of them, 29, said he head-butted her. The other woman, 24, said, "when he was head-butting (the woman) she got in the middle of it," and he punched her in the nose.

While the women were questioned, the suspect got up and started arguing with them, according to the report, hence the obstruction charge. The 24-year-old — with whom the man has a child — pressed charges.

— Darnon Hunzeker

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Reinvigorated

Officials hope to breathe new life into Blaine Co. Fair

By Karen Bossick
Times-News correspondent

CAREY — The Blaine County Fair aims to grow its audience.

It's doing so by offering quality entertainment with its Friday night barbecue, along with an ATV rodeo in addition to the traditional horse rodeo to attract those who feel more kinship with roaring motors than neighing horses.

"We're trying to get the fair back to what it used to be like and I think with what we've got going on this year, we're off to a good start," said fair organizer Kyle Green.

Far from being outdated, the fair is an important part of community life, Green said:

"My daughter Kelsey, who's now 18, has been in 4-H since she

was 8 and she used the checks she got from selling livestock at the fair to pay for the College of Southern Idaho where she wants to learn to be an elementary teacher."

This year's highlights include the ATV and motorcycle rodeo on Thursday, the barbecue and little kids' rodeo on Friday and the fair rodeo on Saturday.

Thursday's ATV rodeo will include a balloon bat competition where one rider with a plastic bat tries to pop a balloon tied to the helmet of another rider.

There also will be barrel racing, a slalom race and a race where drivers compete to see who can pick up passengers the fastest.

The entry fee is \$15 and winners get to keep most of the pot, said organizer Kodi Farnworth.

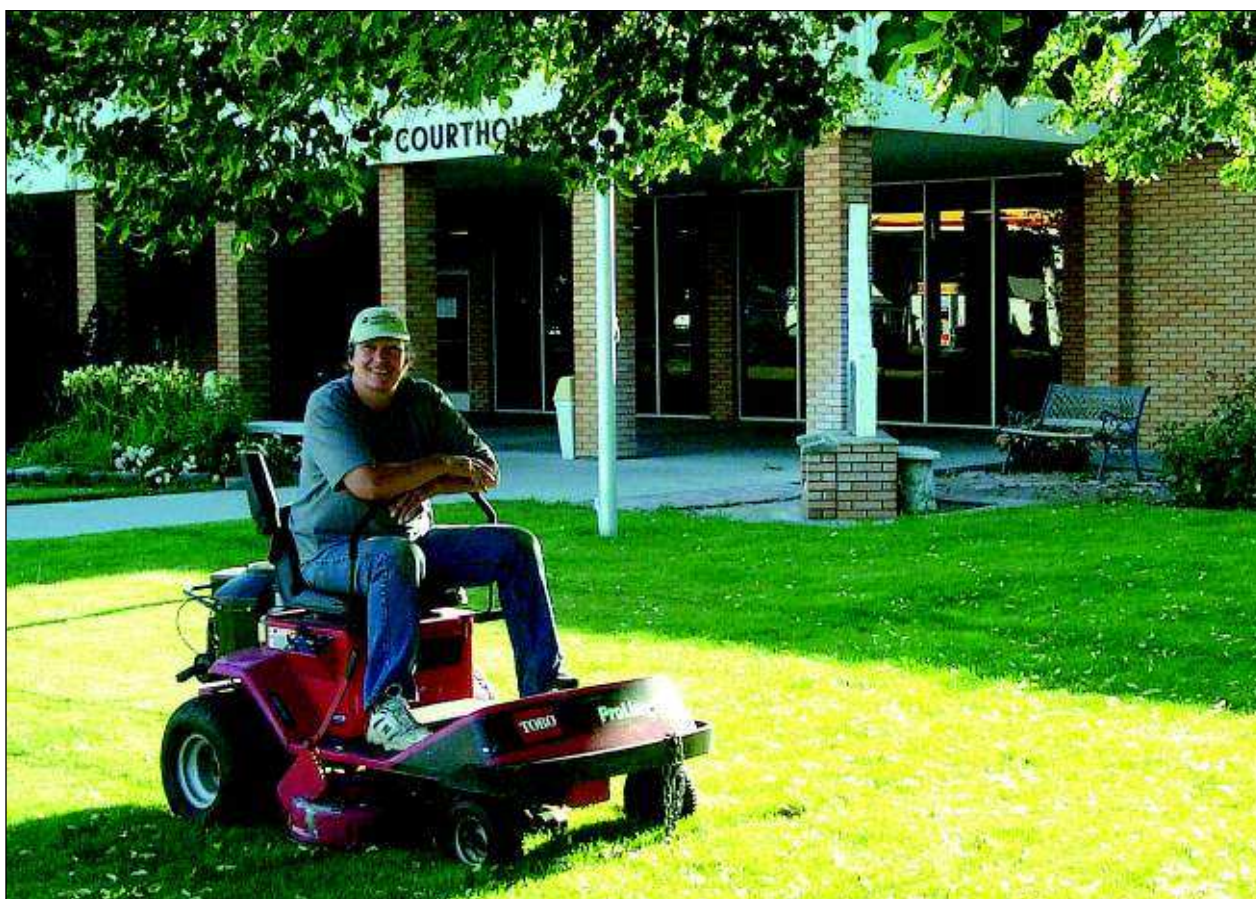
See **REINVIGORATED**, Main 6



Kelsey Green, now 18, raised money over the years through her market sales at the Blaine County Fair to fund her education at the College of Southern Idaho. This year's fair begins today in Carey.

KAREN BOSSICK/
For the Times-News

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES



MARY HANSON/For the Times-News

Gooding County maintenance worker Jan Shepherd poses recently on a county-owned mower in front of the Gooding County Courthouse in Gooding.

Gooding woman keeps county property shining

By Mary Hanson
Times-News correspondent

GOODING — You may have noticed Jan Shepherd schlepping a snow blower on a cold winter day.

Or perhaps you've passed by as she cut row after row of grass atop a riding lawn-mower.

It wouldn't be a stretch either, to catch Shepherd replacing a misbehaving toilet in the Gooding County Courthouse.

Shepherd, 52, said that 15 years ago she saw Gooding County needed a maintenance worker and told herself she could do the job. The rest, as they say, is history.

"I really do love my job," she said. "Even in the winter when I'm shoveling snow, I love it. And

I've learned a lot too."

She says she has been able to adjust her hours, if need be, and is free to handle her chores as she sees fit.

"I have a lot of help around here and many times citizens volunteer with various jobs," Shepherd said. "After all, I am the maintenance department; there is only me. We have a regular employee who cleans the government center, though."

Shepherd said she works a second job cleaning two county buildings and she delivers newspapers to Gooding in the mornings before coming to her maintenance job.

Shepherd and her husband, Scott, who was an electrician, came to Gooding after Scott worked in the Ketchum area. Shepherd served as

his electrician's assistant.

With her marriage to Scott, she acquired two stepchildren and then she and her husband added a baby of their own. All the children are grown now and Shepherd is a grandmother.

Three and a half years ago, Scott passed away. After, Shepherd took on her extra jobs to help bring in more income.

Tourists and passersby in Gooding often compliment the condition of the lawn and shade trees around Gooding's Main Street government center. While the praise comes in, Shepherd is quick to downplay her role.

"I just needed the job and knew I could do it. It's just that simple," she said.

Mary Hanson may be reached at maryhansonmbd@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Basque First Friday dinner nears

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. Tickets are \$14 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$6 for children. Menu includes lamb and chicken, Basque rice, Basque bread, homemade soups, salad and various desserts.

Information: Julie, 308-5051.

Cassia fair parade taking entries

The Cassia County Parade Committee will continue to receive entry forms for the 2009 parade, "Imagine Today, Harvest Tomorrow," through Friday, sent to Tammi Pollard, 1250 Sylvan Circle, Burley, ID 83318.

Entry forms may be obtained at the fair office, Burley Public Library, City Hall and Cassia County 4-H Office.

The parade will begin at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 12, beginning at the intersection of 27th Street and Overland Avenue then traveling north to the corner of Main Street and Overland Avenue, then proceeding east on Main Street to Elba Avenue.

Announcers will be located at Taco Bandido and City Hall on Overland Avenue and Rock's Cycling and Fitness on East Main Street.

Hagerman Elementary registration nears

Registration for Hagerman Elementary

School will take place at the school's front office from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 to 6 p.m. Aug. 10-12. All students are required to register for the new school year.

Children registering for kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1.

Parents/guardians of incoming kindergarten students and students new to the district are reminded to bring proof of immunization and a certified copy of their child's birth certificate.

Since students are only allowed five lunch charges, money (check or cash) should be added to lunch cards on registration day.

Class supply lists are posted on the front doors of the elementary school.

Information: Crissey Lewis, 837-4777, on or after Aug. 10.

Gooding school registration nears

Registration for Gooding Elementary School and Gooding Middle School, located at 1047 Seventh Ave. W., starts next week.

Aug. 11 — 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3:30 p.m.; Aug. 12 — 1 to 7 p.m.; Aug. 13 — 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parents of new students need to bring a legal birth certificate and immunization record.

Elementary school fees include: kindergarten, \$2; first grade, \$7; second grade, \$7; third grade, \$7; fourth grade, \$12; fifth grade, \$9.

Middle school fees required include: agenda, \$10; weekly reader, \$10; towel and lock rental, \$5 (required for PE and sports).

Optional fees include: activity card, \$20 (required if playing sports or cheerleading); annual \$12.

The first day of school will be Aug. 26. Information: 934-8443.

We want your community news

Do you have community news you would like to have published in the *Times-News'* Jerome, North Side, Mini-Cassia and Twin Falls Community sections? E-mail the information and a photo, if you have one, to frontdoor@magicvalley.com. Please put the word "community" in the subject line.

Patient urged to follow cancer specialist's advice

DEAR DR. GOTT: I have been reading your articles in the paper for many years and have found them helpful. Now it's my turn.

I walk a couple of miles a day. I play 18 holes of golf twice a week. My problem is this: Approximately six months ago, I had my annual physical and blood testing. My doctor called to tell me my platelets were

ASK DR. GOTT

Dr. Peter Gott



high (400,000 to 500,000). He suggested I see a cancer specialist. I did, and he ran me through a series of echograms on all of my vital organs, did a

chest X-ray, and said everything was OK. But now he wants to take a bone-marrow specimen so he can find out what is causing the problem.

What can cause platelets to go higher than usual? Ten years ago, I had colon cancer and received chemotherapy. Could that cause a malfunction of the bone marrow?

My medications are simvastatin, finasteride, Diovan and aspirin. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

DEAR READER: Blood contains four major components: red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets and plasma. In the simplest terms, plasma carries the blood cells, red blood cells carry oxygen and nutrients

throughout the body, white blood cells fight infection, and platelets are responsible for clotting.

When any one of these components is "out of whack," it can cause problems. For example, a common condition known as anemia occurs when the red blood cells are too low. This can lead to fatigue, paleness and more.

When platelet levels are too low, it can lead to easy bleeding. In contrast, higher-than-normal levels can lead to abnormal clotting. Normal levels are generally considered to be between 150,000 and 400,000, but each laboratory has its own set of standards.

With a level between a

See **DR. GOTT**, Main 6

OPINION

QUOTABLE

"If we want an economy that's going to grow in the future, people have to understand we have to bring those deficits down."
 — Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner commenting on the possibility of higher taxes to help tame an exploding budget deficit

EDITORIAL

Idaho shouldn't be a deadly place for children

Idaho is a surprisingly risky place to be a kid. According to the newest Kids Count survey on child welfare released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Idaho has the fifth-highest rate of child deaths in America — 29 per 100,000. Only Mississippi, Alaska, Wyoming and Montana have higher rates.

What's killing Idaho children? Accidents, chiefly. For kids 1 and older, they're the leading cause of death.

Beyond that, SIDS, birth-defects-related issues, cancer, suicide, heart disease and homicide were also prevalent.

Idaho is still the only state in the nation that doesn't give special attention to the deaths of children.

In 2008, legislation creating the Idaho Child Mortality Prevention team to probe the "sudden, unexpected and unexplained" deaths of kids up to 18 passed 63-5 in the House of Representatives. But Sen. Patti Ann Lodge, R-Houston, killed the measure in the Health and Welfare Committee that she chairs.

Such a program would have cost \$43,000 a year.

Child-review teams have been widely praised for detecting overlooked child homicides and for identifying public-safety threats.

A Scripps Howard News Service study of child mortality records found that states with aggressive local and statewide review programs for child deaths identify 20 percent more infant homicides and double the number of accidental deaths than do less watchful states.

Idaho disbanded its Child Death Review Team in 2002 because the group lacked legal authority to obtain health and police records of dead kids. Without specific legislative authority, its work was stymied by the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 that requires confidentiality for personal health records.

As the latest child mortality statistics demonstrate, Idaho isn't doing enough to use the lessons of child deaths to prevent future tragedies. It's time for the Legislature to step up.

Our view:

Idaho is the only state in the nation that doesn't give special attention to the deaths of child. That's just wrong.

What do you think?

We welcome viewpoints from our readers on this and other issues.

Medical tort reform could save billions of dollars

Health-care reform is bogged down because none of the bills before Congress deals with the staggering waste of the current system, estimated to be \$700 billion to \$1 trillion annually. The waste flows from a culture of health care in which every incentive is to do more — that's how doctors make money and that's how they protect themselves from lawsuits.



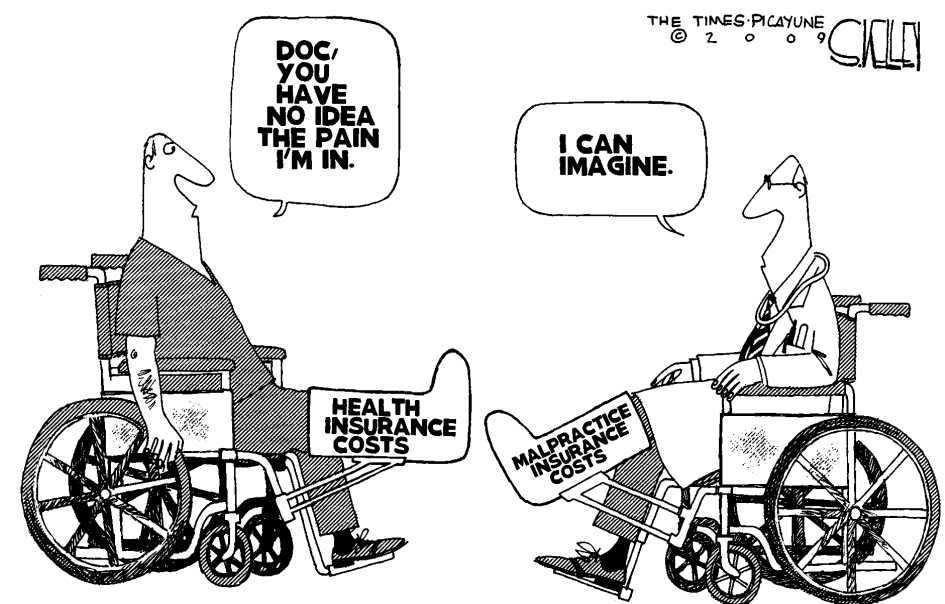
Philip K. Howard

Yet the congressional leadership has slammed the door on solutions to the one driver of waste that is relatively easy to fix: the erratic, expensive and time-consuming jury-by-jury malpractice system. Pilot projects could test whether this system should be replaced with expert health courts, but leaders who say they want to cut costs will not even consider them.

What are they scared of? The answer is inescapable — such expert courts might succeed and undercut the special interest of an influential lobby, the trial lawyers. An expeditious and reliable new system would compensate patients more quickly and at a fraction of the overhead of the current medical justice system, which spends nearly 60 cents of every dollar on lawyers' fees and administrative costs.

Even more compelling, expert health courts would eliminate the need for "defensive medicine," thereby helping to save enough money for America to afford universal health coverage.

Defensive medicine is ubiquitous. A 2005 survey in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* related



that 93 percent of high-risk specialists in Pennsylvania admitted to the practice, and 83 percent of Massachusetts physicians did the same in a 2008 survey.

Defensive medicine is notoriously hard to quantify, but some estimates place the annual cost at \$100 billion to \$200 billion or more. Quantification is difficult because defensiveness is now embedded in the culture of American health care; it's hard to separate the financial incentives from the distrust of justice. Yet every physician, and most patients, can give examples. In a recent letter to the *Wall Street Journal*, a Texas doctor described how, since being unsuccessfully sued in 1995, he has "doubled and tripled the number of tests and consultations that I order."

A few years ago, I was not allowed to have minor knee surgery at an orthopedic hospital unless I went through a comprehensive "pre-operative examination." There was no financial incentive to the hospital because this pre-operative exam was to be done elsewhere. As it turned out, I had recently endured all those tests in my annual physical. But the orthopedic

hospital would not accept month-old test results, nor even an explicit waiver by me of any liability. The result was pure waste: more than \$1,000 spent on wholly unnecessary tests.

Health-care professionals live the reality of defensive medicine every day. Do an online search of the phrase "defensive medicine," and you will find scores of testimonials. But congressional leadership, amid all the talk of cost-containment, has assiduously avoided even mentioning the phrase.

Containing costs requires overhauling the culture of health-care delivery. Incentives need to be realigned. That requires a legal framework that, instead of encouraging waste, encourages doctors to focus on what's really needed. One pillar in a new legal framework is a system of justice that is trusted to reliably distinguish between good care and bad care. Reliable justice would protect doctors against unreasonable claims and would expeditiously compensate injured patients. The key is reliability. Traditional "tort reform" is not sufficient to end defensive medicine, because doctors could still be liable when they did

nothing wrong. The shifts in legal structure required to contain costs are hard to "score," using the terminology of the Congressional Budget Office. Only with experience can anyone quantify the real value of realigning incentives. But surveys and studies repeatedly confirm what every doctor knows — that they go through the day ordering tests and procedures that aren't really needed.

As the nation debates health-care overhaul, not addressing defensive medicine would be a scandal, a willful refusal by Congress to deal with one of the causes of skyrocketing health-care costs. The real crisis here is not that health care is broken; people of good will could come together and create the conditions for rebuilding the incentive structure of health-care delivery. The real crisis is that Congress is broken, and that it answers to special interests instead of the needs of all Americans.

Philip Howard is chairman of Common Good, a nonprofit legal reform coalition, and a partner with the law firm Covington & Burling LLP.

The Fed wants too much power

Perhaps a little bit of Michael Jackson lives on in Ben Bernanke.

I'm not implying that the balding and bearded Ivy League economics professor now running the Federal Reserve moonwalks or leads the Open Market Committee in a re-enactment of Thriller. Rather, Bernanke seems to want more power with less scrutiny, much as the King of Pop craved fame while seeking privacy.

In the wake of the financial crisis, Bernanke has championed, and the Treasury Department has supported, extending the Fed's powers to regulate non-banks. Had it had such authority last fall, it might have saved Lehman Brothers and muted the economic fallout in the credit markets that brought our financial system to the brink of collapse.

But in moving to extend credit to businesses, the Fed is straying into Congress' turf, which threatens to draw the central bank into politics. Earlier this week, at a



Loren Steffy

meeting in Kansas City, Bernanke criticized a bill sponsored by longtime Fed-hater Ron Paul, R-Texas. Paul's bill, which now has almost 280 co-sponsors in Congress, would require routine audits of the Fed. Such oversight would destroy the Fed's independence, Bernanke argued.

"I don't think the American people want Congress running monetary policy," he said.

Bernanke argues the Fed's mandate to maintain a stable financial system requires additional powers to regulate non-banks that deal in financial instruments, such as credit-default swaps, that can have broad economic implications.

But he can't have it both ways. Giving the Fed broad additional powers beyond

monetary policy demands increased accountability.

"The Fed shouldn't get too much power," said Mahmoud El-Gamal, chairman of the economics department at Rice University. "They already have the systemic stability provisions. Expanding that beyond what they already have just broadens their power too much."

Besides, the Fed is going to have its hands full taming the inflation that may result from the bailouts and stimulus of the past year.

"We know they're going to have to suck up all this liquidity later on," El-Gamal said. "That should be the primary mandate to clean up the mess later."

The Fed has always been an awkward anomaly in our democracy. In his classic book *Secrets of the Temple*, William Greider characterized the central bank as "an uncomfortable contradiction with the civic mythology of self-government."

The Fed was created to be free of political influence so that it could act on what's

best for the financial system, rather than political whim. That autonomy may be more important than broader powers.

If it had had more oversight responsibility, the Fed might have been able to save Lehman Brothers, but there were other solutions. It was Congress, after all, that bent to Wall Street's wishes and allowed investment banks to take on too much debt, which ultimately crushed Lehman. It was Congress that declined to regulate the derivatives market, and it is Congress that even now could be imposing more stringent standards on the rating agencies that made a mockery of their role as arbiters of creditworthiness.

If Congress is serious about preventing another crisis, it will tell Bernanke and his plans for expanded Fed powers to beat it. Lawmakers should be talking to the men and women in the mirror.

Loren Steffy is a columnist for the Houston Chronicle.

TIMES-NEWS

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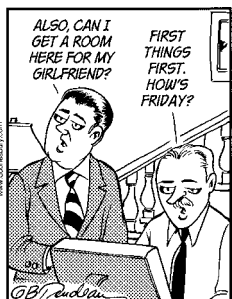
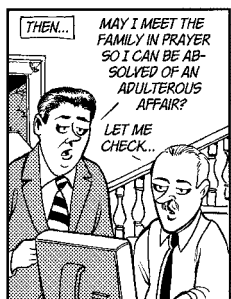
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THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury



By Garry Trudeau

Mallard Fillmore



By Bruce Tinsley

Pakistani Christians: Police did nothing to stop carnage

By Babar Dogar and Asif Shahzad
Associated Press writers

GOJRA, Pakistan — Almas Hameed grabbed his 7-year-old daughter and stumbled out of their smoke-filled home as she pleaded in vain to bring her pet parrots. His wife, father and two other children did not survive.

Outside, hundreds of enraged Muslims called the victims "dogs" as they fired guns and burned house after house in the Christian neighborhood of this eastern Pakistani city. The weekend rampage left eight Christians dead. All but one were relatives of Hameed.

"We always live in fear," said Hameed, 50. "I wonder if I will see a time in this country when I can live like an equal citizen."

The attack, which Pakistani officials said was incited by a radical Islamist group, followed rumors that some Christians had desecrated a Quran — an act regarded as sacrilege by Muslims. The violence drew condemnation Monday from the prime minister and the pope, a chilling reminder of how religious extremism has left minority religious groups in this country increasingly vulnerable.

On Monday, paramilitary troops patrolled near the dozens of targeted houses,



AP photo

Pakistani Christian women visit a house destroyed by a mob in Gojra, 224 miles from Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday. The attack, which came after rumors that some Christians had desecrated a Quran, drew condemnation Monday from the pope and sent a chilling reminder that minority religious groups are especially vulnerable in Pakistan now that extremist Islam, alongside the Taliban-led militancy, is on the rise.

with their blackened walls, charred furniture, and twisted ceiling fans. Six people died in the fires, two by gunshots.

Authorities urged calm and promised that local police would be investigated for their inability to stop the violence, which spiraled even after an initial probe debunked the rumor that a Quran had been defiled.

"It was like hell. Nobody was coming to help us," said Atique Masih, a 23-year-old

Christian who was shot in his right leg.

Christian schools across the country closed for three days starting Monday.

"We are closing the schools to show our anger and concern," Bishop Sadiq Daniel told The Associated Press, emphasizing the move was a peaceful tactic. "We want the government to bring all perpetrators of the crime to justice."

Christians — Protestants and Catholics among them

— make up less than 5 percent of Muslim-majority Pakistan's 175 million people, according to the CIA World Factbook. They generally live in peace with their Muslim neighbors.

Extremists, however, have made Christians and other minority religious groups a target. Earlier this summer in the Kasur area, for instance, Muslims set fire to dozens of Christian homes, according to local news accounts.

China seals off NW town as plague kills 3rd man

By Gillian Wong
Associated Press write

BEIJING — An outbreak of pneumonic plague in a remote farming town in northwestern China has killed a third person, the official Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday, as authorities locked down the town and moved to disinfect the region.

Police set up checkpoints around Ziketan in Qinghai province after the outbreak was first detected last Thursday. The lung infection can kill a human in 24 hours if left untreated. Townspeople reached by The Associated Press by phone said the streets were largely deserted and most shops shut.

The latest victim was a 64-year-old man named Danzhi, Xinhua said.

He was a neighbor of a 32-year-old herdsman in Ziketan and a 37-year-old man who died earlier. A further nine people — mainly relatives of the herdsman — are infected and in a hospital, according to the local health bureau.

Of those, one is in a serious condition and one other has developed symptoms of coughing and chest pain, but there have been no reports of new infections, Xinhua said.

The local government has sealed off the town, and medical staff are disinfecting the region and tracking down those who have been in close contact with those affected, it said.

Authorities urged anyone who had visited the town of 10,000 people since mid-July and has developed a cough or fever to seek hospital treatment.

The World Health Organization office in China said that it was in close contact with Chinese health authorities and that measures taken so far to treat and quarantine sick people were appropriate. It did not comment on the move to seal off the town.

According to WHO, pneumonic plague is one of the deadliest infectious diseases, capable of killing humans within 24 hours of infection. It is spread through the air and can be passed from person to person through coughing.

Pneumonic plague is caused by the same bacteria that causes bubonic

PNEUMONIC PLAGUE

A closer look at plague and how it is spread

- Pneumonic plague is the deadliest and least common form of the disease. Patients can die 24 hours after being infected.
- Plague is an animal disease that circulates mainly among small animals like rats and mice, but the bacteria can also infect humans.
- Since 2001, the World Health Organization has reported about six plague outbreaks, though some may go unreported because they often happen in remote areas.
- Between 1998 and 2008, nearly 24,000 cases were reported, including about 2,000 deaths.
- Plague can be effectively treated with antibiotics, but if left untreated it can kill up to 60 percent of the people it infects.
- Humans are infected when they are bitten by plague-carrying fleas, if they have close contact with infected surfaces or if they inhale the bacteria.
- People infected with the plague usually experience flu-like symptoms including fever, chills, muscle aches, vomiting and nausea, after an incubation period of 3-7 days.
- Pneumonic plague can be directly spread between humans since the bacteria is airborne and can easily be inhaled by those in close contact with infected patients.
- Containing an outbreak usually includes quarantines and isolation.
- The most common type of plague is bubonic plague, also known as "Black Death," that swept across Europe killing millions in the 14th century.
- The disease was never eradicated and continues to cause small outbreaks across Africa, Russia, the Americas and Asia.

Custody of Jackson kids granted to grandmother

By Anthony McCartney
Associated Press writer

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson's mother gained permanent custody of her late son's children during a hearing Monday that included a surprise objection from the pop icon's former dermatologist.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff made a series of key rulings during the morning portion of the Monday hearing. In addition to approving Katherine Jackson's guardianship petition, he also granted monthly stipends to the 79-year-old and the three young grandchildren she is now charged with raising.

Katherine Jackson's approval as permanent guardian is in accordance with her son's wishes, who named her in a 2002 will as the person he wanted to raise his children. Beckloff noted that the singer's two oldest children, 12-year-old Prince Michael and 11-year-old Paris Michael, filed declarations stating their wishes for who would raise them. He did not indicate what they said.

Iran president confirmed but deal sealed without a kiss

By Ali Akbar Dareini
and Brian Murphy
Associated Press writers

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader bestowed his formal endorsement on Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's second term as president on Monday but withheld a powerful symbolic gesture — the kisses and close embrace that portrayed their bond four years ago.

The awkward and halting moment came when Ahmadinejad leaned forward to kiss Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. But the supreme leader raised his left hand and momentarily stopped Ahmadinejad, who spoke a few words and then kissed Khamenei's robe.

The uneasy body language reflected much of the political tension and collateral damage since the disputed June 12 election sent Iran into its worst internal unrest since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Ahmadinejad limps toward his next four-year term as a hugely polarizing figure: backed by the Islamic system but scorned by millions of opponents who claim the vote was rigged. Khamenei, meanwhile, has been rattled for the first time by protesters questioning the near limitless power of the theocracy he controls.

Both now are battered and bound together against the pro-reform backlash. But



AP photo

This photo released by the official website of the Iranian supreme leader's office shows Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, left, giving the presidential decree to the President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for his second term in Tehran, Iran, Monday.

it's still a potentially testy relationship.

Khamenei appeared to signal he is willing to stand by Ahmadinejad but that the supercharged political climate requires new sensitivities to public opinion.

Ahmadinejad also crossed a political line last month by resisting Khamenei's calls to dismiss a top aide — whom Ahmadinejad eventually dumped.

After Ahmadinejad's surprise election in 2005, Khamenei allowed him to kiss his hand in a show of profound loyalty. Then Khamenei drew him close and kissed him on both cheeks with a benevolent smile. This time, Ahmadinejad moved toward Khamenei but was offered only the chance to kiss the leader's

robe — a gesture of respect but far more restrained than four years ago.

First origin of malaria may have been found

By Randolph E. Schmid
Associated Press writer

WASHINGTON — Scientists say they may have tracked down the origins of the deadly disease malaria — chimpanzees.

In recent years diseases like HIV-AIDS and Ebola have been traced to chimpanzees, and a study being released Tuesday shows that this is nothing new, according to Dr. Nathan D. Wolfe, an author of the report in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Malaria has been a human disease as long as history," Wolfe, of Stanford University and the Global Viral Forecasting Initiative, said in a telephone interview.

"It is now clear that a new

disease that successfully jumps from an animal to a human can last not just for decades, but millennia or more," Wolfe said. "This makes the task of stopping future disease spillovers from animals to humans vital, not only for saving lives today, but for the health of people for many generations to come."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year more than a million people, mostly children, die of malaria worldwide.

Malaria is caused by a parasite, Plasmodium falciparum, which is transmitted from person to person via mosquitoes.

It was known that chimpanzees could harbor a related parasite, Plasmodi-

um reichenowi. The researchers, led by Wolfe and Francisco Ayala of the University of California, Irvine, studied chimps in Cameroon and Ivory Coast and found it is more common than had been thought.

Conventional wisdom had been that the two parasites diverged from a common origin, Wolfe said, but a comparison of the two indicates that the human version more likely developed from the chimpanzee type.

"We now know that malaria, while at least thousands of years old, did not originate in humans but rather was introduced into our species, presumably by the bite of a mosquito that had previously fed on a chimpanzee."



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Great Gardens



Yellow delicious apples are one of many fruits and vegetables in Becky Woodhouse's garden near Oakley. Woodhouse has tried gardening for 10 years, but this year has been the best yet now that she has mastered weed control.



Becky Woodhouse says it's great being able to walk out of her house to grab fresh fruits and vegetables for meals.

Photos by ASHLEY SMITH/
Times-News

Today's chore from Oakley mom: Squish potato bugs

By Melissa Davlin
Times-News writer

OAKLEY — Wednesday afternoon, Becky Woodhouse stood in her garden outside of Oakley and watched her children pick raspberries.

Aubrie, 14, Lauren, 12, and Carter, 8, wandered the raspberry patch and picked plump fruit from the plants. The dog, Phoebe, nibbled berries off the bushes when she thought her keepers weren't watching.

"Mom, look at this raspberry!" Aubrie said, presenting one to Becky. "It's huge!"

Although Becky has been at this house for 10 years, and has tried growing a garden each of those years, this is the first season she has been successful. And not only does she get fresh vegetables from her hard work, but she gets to teach her children about home-grown food.

"I remember as a child, my grandpa had this huge garden," Becky said as she watched her kids mill around the vegetable rows. During summer visits to his home, Becky had to pick berries — a task she despised.

Now, though, she cherishes the memories and hopes her children will feel the same way when they are older. "Not every kid gets to do that," she said.



Lauren Woodhouse, 12, holds a family chicken named Peck on Wednesday afternoon. The family raised the chickens from birth and expects the first batch of eggs in the next few months.

Along with harvesting, her children help her weed and squish potato bugs. ("It's really nasty," Lauren said.) Even with the whole family helping with invasive plants, though, the weeds took over the first nine years.

This year, Becky convinced her husband to get a lawn mower that bags the grass clippings. She uses them as mulch to keep unwanted plants down, then puts the rest in a compost pile.

Now that the weeds are under control, Becky has turned her attention to the rodents that are nibbling on her veggies. The mice, she suspects, live in the same compost pile that helps nurture her plants.

"My dad actually skewered one last

See GARDEN, H&G 4



ABOVE: Lauren Woodhouse, 12, holds a freshly picked raspberry. Her mother, Becky Woodhouse, says she used to hate picking the berries when she was a child, but now she looks back on the experience with fond memories and enjoys making fresh jams for her family.

BELOW: The use of grass clippings on the garden has been a huge help in reducing weeds. This is the first year the Oakley family has used the clippings, and Becky Woodhouse said in years past the garden was full of weeds.

BECKY WOODHOUSE

- **Garden includes:** Armenian cucumbers, tomatoes, several squashes, beans, raspberries and a new cherry tree.
- **Worst pest:** Rodents. A mole ate her potatoes, and now mice are nibbling on her cucumbers and beans. Luckily, the bugs aren't bad this year for the most part (although earwigs are out in force).
- **Favorite part about gardening:** Being able to pick dinner fresh from her backyard.
- **Favorite vegetable:** Squash. She loves to prepare them simply — yellow scallop squash, sauteed with onions in butter, or zucchini sliced fresh in salad.

Give us names

Who is south-central Idaho's best in the family vegetable garden? To suggest a notable home garden for the *Times-News* "Great Gardens" series, e-mail Features Editor Virginia Hutchins at virginia.hutchins@lee.net.



The case for using window film

DEAR JIM: A lot of heat and glare comes in my windows. It makes the air conditioner run more and us uncomfortable. I don't want permanent window film because I want winter solar heating. What are my options? — **Katie J.**



SENSIBLE HOME
James Dulley

DEAR KATIE: Everybody knows the summer sun's heat comes indoors through windows, but they often do not realize how much. Not only do many windows have an insulating R-value which is only about one-tenth that of a wall, but they also allow the sun's radiant heat in. This heating is significant and does make your air conditioner run much longer using more electricity.

This also impacts your electric rates. Utility companies have to invest millions of dollars extra to provide enough electric gener-



Photo courtesy of Halcyon Shades

Roll-up interior shades made with embossed window film block glare from the kitchen window.

ating capacity just for the peak afternoon demand. The rest of the time, it is not needed. By decreasing your afternoon air-conditioning

load, this will help delay the need for new generating plants. This can minimize or delay rate increases. Installing permanent

window film on the windows is very effective, but being permanent, it cannot be removed for free passive solar winter heating. Some of the newer nearly clear low-emissivity permanent window films reduce summer heat gain and also reduce winter heat loss back outdoors. Even though they block some solar winter heat gain, they save overall.

Removable window film is another option. You can install it on your south- and west-facing windows in early spring and remove it in the fall. If you take care of it, it can be reused for many years and will not lose its effectiveness.

Most removable window film adheres to the window glass by means of static cling. The natural properties of the tinted film, often vinyl, create a static charge to make it stick to the glass. This is similar to the film labels you see on new television or cell phone screens.

This film is often available in a bronze or smoke tint. It is best to install it on the indoor surface of the

window glass. Clean the window thoroughly and squeegee the film onto the window while it is still wet. Since the film is tinted, do not use it on double-pane windows. In the direct sun, the absorbed heat may make the glass panes too hot, and the seal between them may fail.

Another static-cling film option is film imprinted with stained or etched glass or floral patterns. These are very attractive. Although the nearly clear etched glass patterns do not block as much heat as tinted film, they do block some heat. They also reduce the sun's fading ultraviolet rays coming through the glass.

Another option is a roll-up sun control shade. The most effective ones slide in vertical side tracks in the window opening. These can use special sun-control fabrics, screening or window film material.

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

Galling, but not serious

By Scott Aker
Special to
The Washington Post

Q. We have a 74-year-old ash tree that is beautiful, but in recent years I have noticed blemishes on the leaves. A county extension agent diagnosed leaf gall, which was confirmed by an arborist. He said drought may have increased stress on the tree but that it is not dying. I am still concerned and wonder if you could recommend some corrective tips.

A. Leaf galls occur on the white ash, *Fraxinus americana*, and are caused by a midge. The leaf tissue is thickened and cupped to form a pocket in which the larval midges feed on the sap from the leaf. By contrast, the green ash, *Fraxinus pennsylvanica*, is host to a mite that causes galls on the flower buds, causing them to proliferate into ugly brown masses. The leaves are not affected by the mite.

Although these pests are unsightly, they are inconsequential and have little bearing on the health of the ash. Compared with the emerald ash borer, they are not worth a second thought. It sounds as though the tree is one that you value.

You might want to protect your ash against the borer by treating it with a pesticide. The only option available to homeowners is Bayer Advanced Tree and Shrub Insect Control. It contains imidacloprid, which remains active in the tree for a year or longer after it has been applied.

Scott Aker is a horticulturist at the U.S. National Arboretum.

Enchanted places:



AP photo
A matted page from the 'New We Look and See' basic reader from 1956.



Limited editions of Dr. Seuss' most beloved characters.

Decorating with kids' book art

By Kim Cook
For The Associated Press

"Look, Spot! Look and see..."

For many grown-ups, Indiana schoolteacher Zerna Sharp's wholesome world of Dick, Jane, Spot and the rest was a comforting hallmark of childhood reading. And for a new generation of parents who didn't grow up with the books, it's the fun, retro vibe of the illustrations that makes them perfectly hip wall decor.

Children's book art, especially vintage examples, can be a relatively inexpensive way to add a special touch to a room.

Denise Myers of Tagnwag.com collected a number of early primers — including many "Dick and Jane" books — and wanted to give them an even longer life. She sells matted 8-by-10-inch pages, read to frame, in \$28 sets of four, or singly for about \$10.

"I thought it would be a wonderful way to save the nostalgic quality they have," she said.

There's something about the illustrations in childhood books that strikes a chord: When the Lakeview Museum of Arts and

Sciences in Peoria, Ill., hung 50 of Eleanor Campbell's original illustrations from the "Dick and Jane" series, curators were unprepared for what happened next.

"Dick and Jane" had such an emotional impact on our visitors that we had it up longer than any other temporary exhibit ever," museum spokeswoman Kathleen Woith recalls. "What was supposed to be a three-month run turned into 17 months. While museums always try to appeal to the heart and soul, it's not very often that we find visitors with tears streaming down their faces."

For those interested in early children's book art, look for reproductions of work by Kate Greenaway, John Tenniel (of "Alice in Wonderland" fame), Maude Humphrey ("Mother Goose"), Randolph Caldecott (Christmas books), Bessie Pease Gutmann and N.C. Wyeth, who was Andrew's father and illustrated the Robert Louis Stevenson classics.

Try eBay for vintage pieces, or for inexpensive reproductions in poster form, Art.com has a large selection, including Babar books, Tintin, King Arthur

and "The 1940 Boys' Book of Heroes." Prices run between \$10 and \$50, and the site will custom frame them if desired.

Ernest Shepard's illustrations for A.A. Milne's "Winnie-the-Pooh" books make delightful additions to a child's room. A 1926 first edition sells for around \$2,500 at rare bookstores. But for free, you can download images on Keith Mander's Web site, Just-Pooh.com, and frame them yourself.

"While most of us wouldn't admit it, we envy simple characters living carefree lives shared with some close friends," Mander said.

Several of Dr. Seuss' well-known characters, including Horton and the Cat in

the Hat, are available framed at PBKids.com through a partnership between the retailer and the Seuss Foundation.

Fans of hungry caterpillars, meanwhile, should visit Picturebookart.org for signed Eric Carle lithographs (\$100-\$500), as well as signed Tony DiTerlizzi ("Spiderwick Chronicles") digital prints (\$375).

Large-format books work well as art. Frame the covers or favorite pages from picture books, and even old coffee table books that feature wonderful photography or a child's favorite animal.

Search for used or remaindered books at your favorite bookseller, and spray mount the pictures on card stock, or fit them in a

ready-made mat, then frame. If you come upon a beautiful first edition, however, consider placing it in a Plexiglas display box (crafts stores stock them), then hang or place on a decorative shelf.

A first bedroom — indeed any room — dressed in book art and filled with literature is a happy place.

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Southern Style

Decorator Phoebe Howard uses soft decorating touch

By Terri Sapienza
The Washington Post

Phoebe Howard was a 38-year-old stay-at-home mother when she decided to start decorating. Years later, she began taking private clients, and her first project landed on the September 2006 cover of House Beautiful magazine.

Today, Howard's name is widely recognized in the design world, and her work has become synonymous with Southern style: rooms so comfortable and inviting they make you want to sit down and stay awhile. She has been featured in countless shelter publications, including Elle Decor, Southern Accents and Traditional Home, and images of her soft, pretty spaces turn up almost weekly on design blogs. She and her husband, Jim, also an interior decorator, are owners of eight home furnishings stores in four Southern cities: Jacksonville and Jacksonville Beach, Fla.; Atlanta; and Charlotte, N.C.

It all started when Howard, now 51, suggested to her husband that they open a store. Her idea was a place to showcase Jim's design work (he designs the spaces, lays out the rooms and selects the flooring and lighting) and to show customers how to properly place furniture (the shops are arranged in a series of room vignettes).

"It's all about helping customers figure out the mysteries of scale, proportion and balance," Howard says. The result was a high-end home furnishings shop that opened in 1996 in their home town, Jacksonville. They named the store Mrs. Howard. "It was an instant hit," she says.

Five years later they opened a more modern and moderately priced shop, Max & Company (named after Phoebe's son). "Max & Company is like walking through a beach house," says Howard, who is the buyer, decorator, stylist and manager for the stores. "Mrs. Howard is like walking through a grand Southern home."

For nine years the self-taught decorator used the stores as a training ground, and the experience eventually led to her taking on clients of her own. "That's how I taught myself how to decorate," Howard says. "When you sell off the floor, you have to fill that space fast."

Howard spoke to us by phone from Jacksonville about decorating and her favorite paint colors, palettes and furniture pieces.

Q: How would you describe your style?

A: It has a timeless quality, because I mix antiques with modern pieces. A hallmark of my style is that I use color in a monochromatic way. When you limit color con-



Photos by JOSH GIBSON

A client's living room includes a pair of Bridgewater club chairs, a favorite of Phoebe Howard. She is the buyer, decorator, stylist and manager of eight home furnishings stores.



A soft bedroom filled with subtle variations on white. 'A hallmark of my style is that I use color in a monochromatic way. When you limit color contrast, it brings a sense of calm, order and serenity to a room,' Phoebe Howard says.

trast, it brings a sense of calm, order and serenity to a room, even if the colors are vibrant.

Q: What is your decorating philosophy?

A: Keep it pretty. I want people to love the way they feel when they walk into a room, rather than have their eye drawn to one thing in a room. If someone walks in a room as says, "Oh, I love that painting," I think I've failed. I'd rather they say, "I love that room. I love being in there."

Q: What is the simplest way to update a space?

A: Paint. That's the easiest. It's inexpensive, it only takes a day, and it's guaranteed to bring about a big impact.

Q: What colors are you most drawn to when decorating?

A: I'm personally drawn to a soft, neutral palette of blues, greens and sands. This kind of palette is something that's soothing and calming to me, I think because I grew up on the beach and those colors always make me feel at home. I like to say: I'm married to beige, but I have affairs with color.



"It's all about helping customers figure out the mysteries of scale, proportion and balance," says Phoebe Howard, whose work has become synonymous with Southern style.

Q: Do you have favorite paint colors?

A: Glass Slipper, Healing Aloe, Vale Mist, Cream Fleece, Winter Wheat — all Benjamin Moore.

Q: What are some easy ways to freshen up a home?

A: Add fresh, live greenery, like pots of ivy, orchids — they last forever and are easy to maintain. In the bedroom, you could update your bedding. In the dining room, take a

look at your chairs and make sure they're comfortable. Do you need new ones? Can your existing ones be slipcovered? In the living room, add pillows or lamps. A new coffee table can usually greatly improve a living room.

Q: Are there furniture pieces and accessories you turn to again and again?

A: My signature favorites are starburst mirrors (I dig around for antiques), Bridgewater club chairs

PHOEBE HOWARD'S PAINT PICKS

Here are Phoebe Howard's choices for paint combinations by room, by Benjamin Moore unless otherwise noted.

Living room

Walls: Cream Fleece

Trim: Atrium White

Ceiling: Blue Veil

Bedroom

Walls: Glass Slipper

Trim: White Dove

Ceiling: Ivory White

Dining room

Walls: Vale Mist

Trim: Ivory White

Ceiling: Winter Wheat

Little girl's room

Walls: White Dogwood by Sherwin-Williams

Trim: Atrium White

Ceiling: Edgcomb Gray

Little boy's room

Walls: Decatur Buff

Trim: Seashell

Ceiling: Horizon

Best paint finishes

For walls: flat or eggshell

For trim: semi-gloss

For ceilings: flat

(English arms, delicately turned legs and a high, tight back), modern coffee tables, painted beds, upholstered dining room chairs, antiques that have a modern silhouette. For accessories: glass hurricanes (they're very versatile; you can use them on a dining table, coffee table, a mantel), glass lamps with colored shades, brass accessories, and I always love antique boxes and books. With accessories, it's important that they aren't cluttered. I like collections, but collections need to be controlled. Most people buy too many picture frames.

Q: Is there a design trend that you dislike?

A: People are too caught up in mid-century furniture. I like it in small doses, but I don't know if it has staying power. People randomly make purchases without careful consideration and thought, then call the look "eclectic." Furniture and decorating is an expensive investment, and I think it should be treated with a great deal of importance. I think people should do as much research when they buy furniture as they do when they buy a car.

Unlike many other perennials, shrubs are proven performers, Buttala said: "Shrubs require minimal care beyond watering and feeding."

Here is an alphabetical selection of some easy-to-grow, top-performing shrubs that can thrive in many climates while offering a range of appealing features, including fruit, bark, blooms, foliage color, shape and size:

Aronia (black chokeberry). USDA Hardiness

Shrubs can be 'great green furniture' for the yard

By Dean Fosdick
For The Associated Press

Blooms may be losing some luster among cash-strapped gardeners weeding out nonessential spending. A practical option is investing in an assortment of low-risk, high-return shrubs.

Few plants can return so much for so little attention as shrubs, which are long-lasting, colorful, cold-hardy, fast-growing, drought-tolerant, pest-resistant and utilitarian, and also deliver multi-season interest.

"They're really great green furniture for lots of people," said Sharon Yiesla, an extension horticulturist with the University of Illinois. "Forty or 50 dollars will give you a lot of annuals, but shrubs will last longer and perform more frequently. They may cost more initially, but over time, shrubs are a much better value."

Shrubs come in three varieties: flowering or deciduous (heather, Japanese maples, roses, to name a few), broad-leaf evergreens (boxwood, holly, azaleas, rhododendron) and evergreens with needles. The latter group includes spruce, juniper, yews and pine, all great foundation plants.

Shrubs differ from trees in that they generally are smaller and produce multiple upright stems, rather than a single trunk. Some varieties, like Japanese maples, are classified as both.

"Choosing the right range of shrubs from small to medium in size can create a strong sense of garden without all that much work," said Lee Buttala of Bridgeport, Conn., a veteran gardener who has cultivated shrubs in a half-dozen hardiness zones. "Shrubs can work so well in a mixed border, and give you good structure and a good look through several seasons — even when they're not blooming. They also can interact with one another and train other plants."

Unlike many other perennials, shrubs are proven performers, Buttala said: "Shrubs require minimal care beyond watering and feeding."

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Aronia (black chokeberry). USDA Hardiness

See SHRUBS, H&G 4

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CLEANING CORNER

Question:

I just ruined a full load of laundry because I accidentally left a tube of chap stick in a pocket! As it melted in the wash, all my clothes came out with horrible grease spots. Some of my favorite outfits are spotted so badly, I'll never be able to wear them again!

Answer:

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Lori Chandler
Cleaning Center owner
734-2404

STAINED & ASHAMED

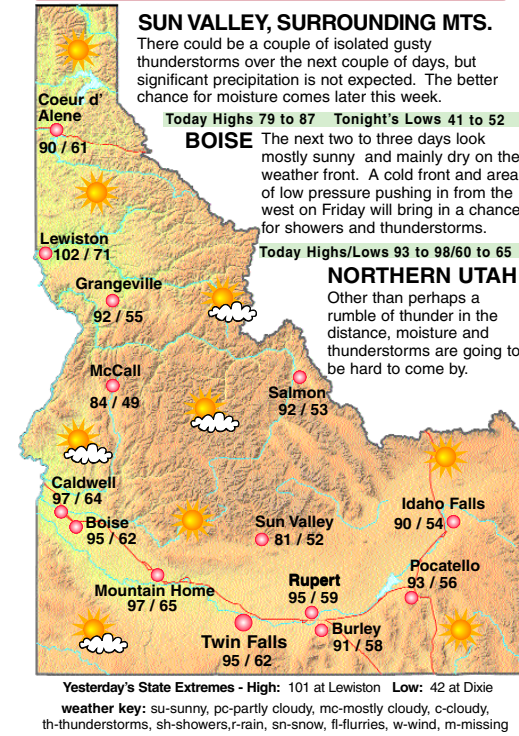
BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: Abundant sunshine. Highs, 90s. Tonight: Still dry and quiet on the weather front...

ALMANAC - BURLEY

Table with 2 columns: Temperature and Precipitation. Includes data for Yesterday's High/Low, Normal High/Low, Record High/Low, and various monthly averages.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Forecast table for Twin Falls for Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, including high/low temperatures and weather icons.

Yesterday's Weather

Table of weather data for various cities including Boise, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Lewiston, Lowell, Mailed City, Malia, Pocatello, Rexburg, Salmon, Stanley, and Sun Valley.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

Comprehensive forecast table for Twin Falls including Temperature, Precipitation, Humidity, Barometric Pressure, Sunrise and Sunset, Moon Phases, and U.V. Index.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table listing weather predictions for various Idaho cities like Boise, Burley, Challis, Coeur d'Alene, etc.

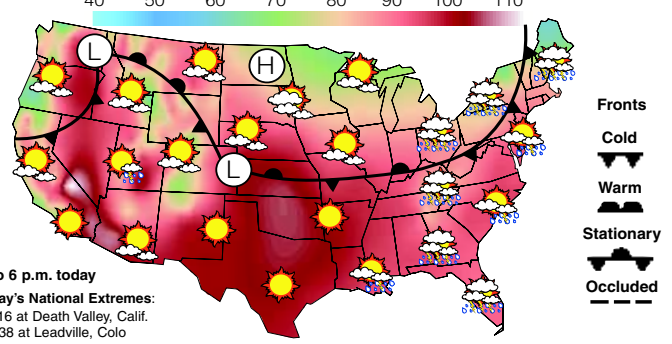
NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table listing weather predictions for various US cities including Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Denver, etc.

WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table listing weather predictions for various international cities including Athens, Auckland, Bangkok, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Cairo, etc.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: "When you create you get a little endorphin rush. Why do you think Einstein looked like that?"

Shrubs

Continued from H&G 3. Zones 3-8. White flowers in summer followed by a dark purple fruit favored by many songbirds.



Carpets spread horizontally. Great border plants, especially when intermingled. Both are long blooming, from early spring until the fall frosts.

Lilacs are among the most popular and enduring shrubs in America. They will continue to thrive long after the people who planted them are gone.

AP photo

Garden

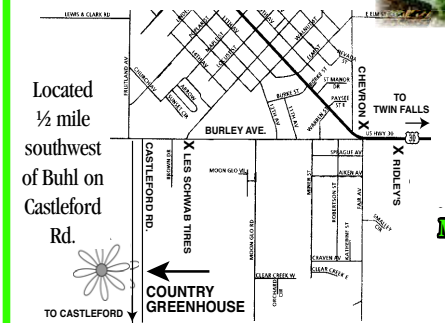
Continued from H&G 1. night!" Carter said cheerfully, motioning to a pitchfork. Bugs haven't posed a major threat to her food supply this year.

dow and I can actually see my garden." She plans her meals around the vegetables that she and the kids gather and hopes to can the rest...

More great gardens. See another backyard where veggies flourish. NEXT WEEK IN HOME & GARDEN

Lawn & Garden Services. TREES ARE GIFTS THAT KEEP ON GIVING. These days, you hear a lot of talk about global warming.

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Ranchers diversify to stay in business

Producers use creativity to earn extra income

By Susan Gallagher
Associated Press writer

WOLF CREEK, Mont. — Zack Wirth realized more than 15 years ago that the economics of ranching would not let him make a living on his ancestral home, a scenic slice of western Montana tucked in the Rocky Mountains.

Wirth maintained a breeding herd of cattle and weaned calves on the Rocking Z Ranch, but he needed to supplement the livestock income. He tried selling automobile parts from Montana to New Mexico, but later turned to self-employed construction work. When the physical toll caught up with him in his late 40s, he later considered but quickly dismissed becoming a preparer of tax returns.

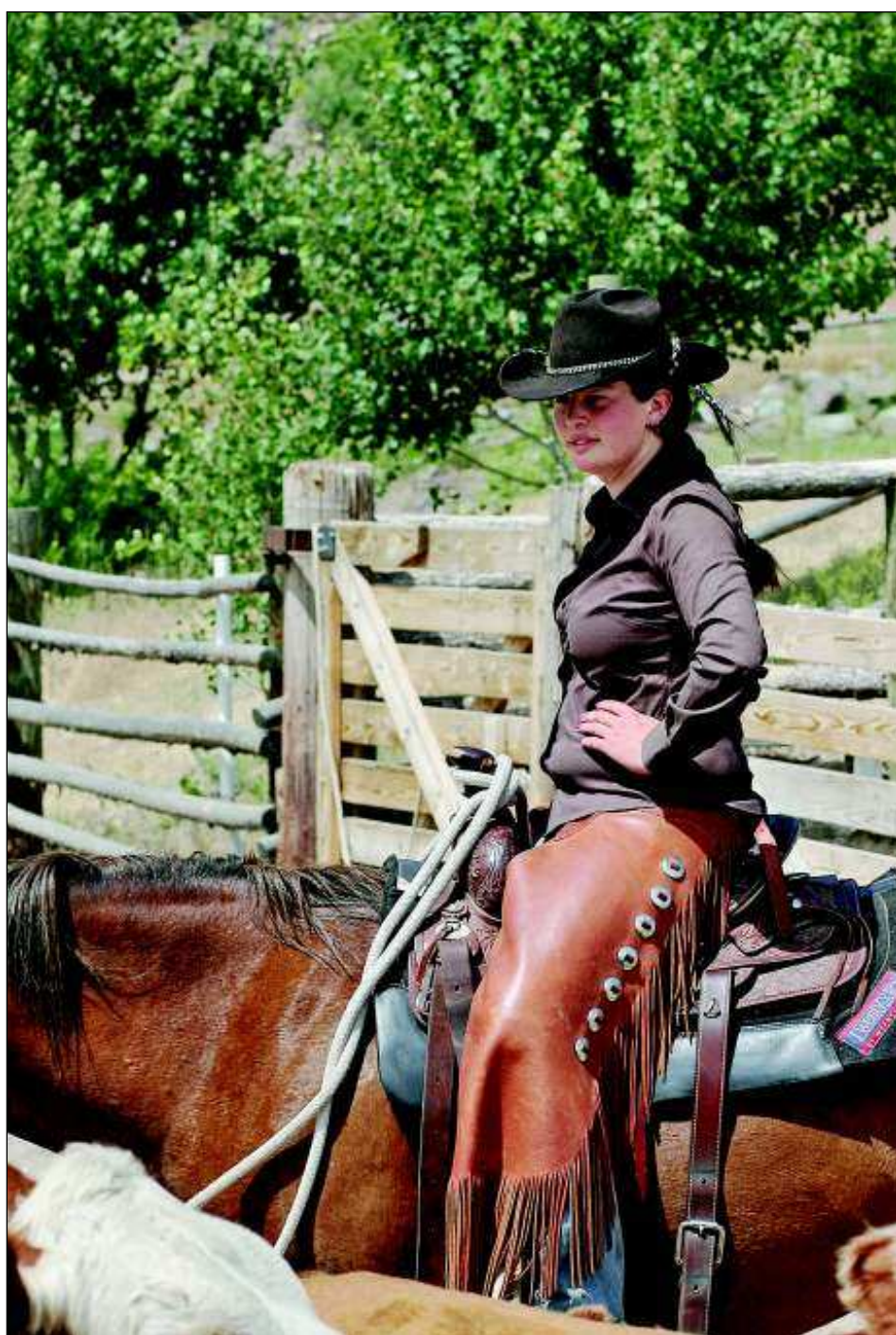
Now, he's back at the Rocking Z nearly full-time as he and his wife, Patty, run a dude ranch where horses and nearly 2,000 acres of available riding land attract a largely European clientele. Only a handful of cattle remain at the ranch each season for guests, but the couple still grow hay.

They save money by running a solar-assisted irrigation system and using old cooking oil from a couple of restaurants in Helena, about 24 miles south of his ranch in Wolf Creek, to power a pump and make biodiesel for ranch equipment.

Wirth also brings in extra cash at Christmastime: By dying his long, gray beard white and using his soothing voice, he steps in for Santa at malls in New York and elsewhere when times are lean back home.

"All good horsemen know you never quit learning," he said.

The Wirths are among thousands of people around the country turning to economic diversification as they try to stay on ranches and farms, said University of Colorado geographer Bill



Anna Wirth works with cattle at her family's ranch that has diversified to become economically sustainable.



Zack Wirth works as a Santa Claus at high-end malls in the East to help sustain his Montana ranch operations.

Travis, who studies rural land use.

As producers of commodities "they take the price they get and that price barely covers production costs in many years," Travis said. "Individual producers find they can't make it from the wholesale prices they can get."

For nearly 78 percent of U.S. farms and ranches, the market value of agricultural products sold plus government payments was below \$50,000, according to the 2007 Census of Agriculture. And the Department of Agriculture says most of the nation's crops and livestock come from relatively few producers.

Some operators turn to jobs away from their land to

supplement their income and provide other benefits, such as health insurance. But others need to stay close, like the Wirths, by offering bed-and-breakfast accommodations or fee hunting.

"One way to diversify is just to get a job off the farm, but in a lot of places in Montana there's not much opportunity to do that," said Joe Atwood, a professor of agricultural economics at Montana State University in Bozeman.

Only about 52,000 farms nationwide — about 2.5 percent — received income from farm-based recreation, the Department of Agriculture's publication, "Amber Waves," reported last year.

The great debate

Members of 25x25 propose subsidies to increase alternative energy sources

By Cindy Snyder
Times-News correspondent

FORT WORTH, Texas — Starting a discussion about renewable fuels and climate change in the heart of Big Oil is sure to spark controversy. Especially when participants are two of the nation's leading agricultural policy experts.

Barry Flinchbaugh is one of the founding members of 25x25, a coalition whose aim is to encourage that 25 percent of America's energy come from renewable sources by 2025. Flinchbaugh is an economist who will also enter the classroom at Kansas State University later this month to start his 40th year teaching agricultural policy.

Flinchbaugh says the goal of 25x25 is "doable, it will happen and it's a national security issue," adding that those goals are good for agriculture and good for the climate.

"We need to be realistic in our goals."

— Charlie Stenholm, former Congressman

"We have the capacity to do 25 by 25 without tearing up the rain forests and still feed the world," Flinchbaugh told about 500 agricultural journalists from the United States and 24 foreign countries during an agricultural media summit held in Fort Worth, Texas.

Agriculture contributes approximately 7 percent of the greenhouse gases to the atmosphere but through practices such as no-till and methane digesters can mitigate 20 to 25 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions, according to some researchers.

"But producers must be paid for the difference between the seven percent and the twenty to twenty-five percent," Flinchbaugh said. "Climate change is real yet 70 percent of farmers believe it's a hoax and they can beat it."

Charlie Stenholm served 26 years in the U.S. House
See **DEBATE**, Agribusiness 2

Wyoming joins western states in growing oilseeds

By Matt Joyce
Associated Press writer

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Wyoming's agriculture industry is looking at the oilseed crops camelina, canola and sunflowers as part of an effort to diversify farming and produce the seed stock for biofuel.

Researchers are testing Wyoming's ability to grow oilseed crops, which are already getting attention in nearby states such as Idaho, Montana, Oregon

and Washington. Oil made from the crops can be useful as biofuel, cooking oil and in products such as natural deodorizers and lubricants.

"Our development with oilseeds, compared to all of our western neighbors out here that border Wyoming, we're significantly behind where they're at," said Donn Randall, of the Wyoming Business Council's

See **SEEDS**, Agribusiness 2

Local butchers stay busy

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

HAGERMAN — Midwest meat producers and processors still dominate the U.S. meat market but consumers across the country are using their local butchers more and more.

The same is holding true in southern Idaho.

Typically, Matt Bates, owner of Bates Custom Meat in Hagerman, would just now be entering his busy season but this year is different. Bates has been booked since last fall.

"Business is outstanding," Bates said. "Generally ... March to July is our slower season but we have had constant busi-



Cliff Rediker, owner of B&L Meats in Buhl. The business provides mobile butchering and says business is booming as consumers increasingly move to growing their beef, hogs and sheep instead of purchasing meat at a supermarket.

ness since last fall." Bates isn't alone. Butchers across the valley are saying

the same thing: consumers are moving from buying their meat at the grocery

store to raising their own beef, hogs and sheep.

The trend isn't about people wanting to necessarily save money but stock their freezers with meat they are comfortable feeding to their families.

"A lot more people are raising their own animals. They know the animal, what it's been fed or treated with and consumers are more comfortable with that," said Cliff Rediker, who owns, with wife Barbara Rediker, B&L Meats in Buhl.

Rediker said he doesn't have an opening for mobile butchering services until the end of September. To help with the onslaught of orders he's brought in another employee.

Many processors booked through 'slower' season

Other butchers, like Clint Carlin of Jerome's Carlin Inc., don't provide mobile butchering but are still seeing demand for their services explode. He's booked out to September, too.

Carlin, who has operated the company since 1983 has a connection with a local feedlot. Customers hand-pick the animal they want to buy for slaughter and it is then taken to Carlin for slaughter and custom cutting.

He found his business flourish without a kill truck.

"We did mobile butchering, had a kill truck but it just wasn't financially profitable," Carlin said.

He found that by slaughtering animals once a week

(customers bring their live animals to Carlin) more animals could be processed that by going to the customer to retrieve the animal.

"I could be out in the truck for two or three hours and bring back one animal. I could have two or three animals done in that time," Carlin said. "The kill truck was more of a customer convenience."

With business booming it's a convenience Bates and Rediker will continue offering.

"I look forward to this trend continuing. It's great," Rediker said.

Blair Koch may be reached at 208-316-2607 or blairkoch@gmail.com.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with 3 columns: NYSE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Each column lists 'Most Active', 'Gainers', and 'Losers' with columns for Name, Vol, Last, and Chg.

INDEXES table with columns for Index Name, Value, and Change. Includes Dow Jones Industrials, Dow Jones Transportation, etc.

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and Change. Lists local companies like AlliantEgy, AmCasino, etc.

HOW TO READ THE REPORT

Name: Stocks are listed alphabetically by the company's full name... Div: Current annual dividend rate paid on stock... Last: Price stock was trading at when exchange closed for the day.

COMMODITIES REPORT

CLOSING FUTURES table with columns for Mon, Commodity, High, Low, Close, Change. Lists various commodities like Live cattle, Feeder cattle, etc.

BEANS

Valley Beans Prices are net to growers, 100 pounds, U.S. No. 1 beans, less Idaho bean tax and storage charges.

GRAINS

Valley Grains Prices for wheat per bushel: mixed grain, oats, corn and beans per hundred weight. Prices subject to change without notice.

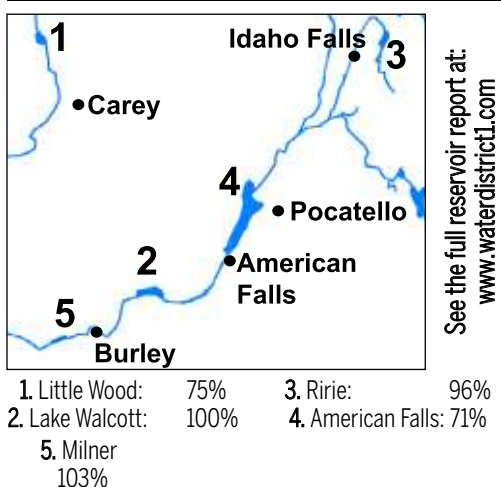
POCATELLO (AP) - Idaho Farm Bureau Intermountain Grain Report on Monday. POCATELLO - White wheat 4.85 (up 45) 11.5 percent winter 4.91 (up 20) 14 percent spring 5.71 (up 19) Barley 5.52 (steady).

METALS/MONEY

By The Associated Press Selected world gold prices, Monday. London morning fixing: \$954.25 up \$15.25. London afternoon fixing: \$959.75 up \$20.75.

Table with columns: Dollar vs, Exch. Rate, Pts Day. Lists exchange rates for Yen, Euro, Pound, etc.

RESERVOIR LEVELS



COMMODITY PRICES

Table with columns: Block, Close, Change. Lists prices for Dairy (Butter, Whey protein concentrate, Class III milk, Class IV milk) and Feed (Corn, Barley, Hay).

Small grain

Table with columns: Soft white wheat, Ask, N/A. Lists prices for Rangen, Ogden, Pocatello, Burley, Twin Falls.

Livestock

Table with columns: Lambs and hogs, Lams, Ewes, Fat hogs, Feeder hogs, Weaners, Low, High prices.

Price quotes as of Monday afternoon. Prices subject to change at any time. To be included in this table, call Joshua Palmer at 208-735-3231.

REGIONAL TRENDS

Dairy trends Idaho milk production is trending lower seasonally. Temperatures have moderated although daytime temperatures hover around 90. Cooler nights have reduced stress levels on cows.

Wheat trends

Local wheat prices were mixed this week: SWW ranged from 6 cents higher to 15 cents lower; HRW ranged from 15 cents higher to 14 cents lower; and DNS from 10 cents higher to 13 cents lower.

Barley trends

Local barley prices were mixed, ranging from no change to \$1.00 lower this week. USDA did not report any barley export sales last week.

Hay trends

Compared to last week: All classes of hay traded generally steady. Buyer demand moderate to good on light supplies of dairy quality test hay.

Grants to ease water shortages in California

FRESNO, California (AP) - U.S. federal agencies have pledged to send nearly \$60 million in grants to help California communities, farms and dairies suffering from ongoing water shortages.

The funding announced Thursday includes \$40 million in stimulus money aimed at drought-relief projects, the bulk of which will go to the agriculturally rich San Joaquin Valley, where three years of dry weather and irrigation cut-backs have crippled production and caused severe unemployment.

Seeds

Continued from Agribusiness 1 Agribusiness Division. "But that may not be all bad. We'll let everybody else make mistakes."

are some real wrecks, but that's part of the learning," Randall said. A Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant also paid for Randall and a handful of farmers to visit oilseed producers, processing facilities and researchers in neighboring states.

Thirteen producers have planted about 1,500 acres of test crops around Wyoming. The farmers are reimbursed for the cost of growing the crops in return for keeping production records.

Meanwhile, the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service in Gillette purchased an oilseed press to use for demonstrations and research. The press separates oil from the crushed seeds, leaving behind meal, which can be used as livestock feed.

Debate

Continued from Agribusiness 1 ing to the position of ranking Democrat on the House Agriculture Committee. He now represents "Big Oil, Little Oil, Texas Oil" as what some might call a lobbyist but he prefers to be called an educator.

today, Stenholm said. "Let's produce all the supplemental fuel we can - wind, solar, biofuels and don't forget nuclear," he added. "If you are concerned about the carbon in the atmosphere, how can you be opposed to nuclear?"

Advertisement for Ghost Hollow featuring a cow with a dollar bill on its back. Text: "This Is The Money You Could Be Making With GHOST HOLLOW".

Advertisement for Musser Bros. LLC with text: "Need an Auction? Call MUSSER BROS. TYPES OF AUCTIONS".

Advertisement for United Country Musser Bros., LLC with text: "United Country Musser Bros., LLC Randy Musser, Owner/Auctioneer (208) 733-8700".

Advertisement for www.magicvalley.com with text: "Find more news at www.magicvalley.com".

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805 Electronics

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806 Hot Tub & Pools

HOT TUB Like new, 6-man hot tub in Jerome for sale...

809 Firewood

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FIREWOOD. Buy firewood early, save money! Lodge pole pine, cord \$165 in round...

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814 Lawn Garden

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NORDICTRACK Treadmill like new \$650. 208-413-3408

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square...

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GADEA

SHOMID

MEESID

Answer: " O O O O " O O O O ON

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORGO PRIOR VIRILE PREFER Answer: When the chief hired his son, he was considered — "FIRE" PROOF

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



WHAT THE WAITRESS DID TO THE SHORT ORDER COOK.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer...

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CARPET PADDING 25-30 yards, new, 8 lb rebound...

LAMINATE FLOORING Must sell all or part. 6 & 12mm...

816 Miscellaneous

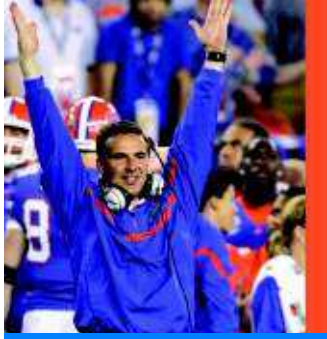
LOVESEAT \$50, Armoire \$20 Dishwasher \$50...

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 2009

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

WAC PREVIEW

WESTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE FOOTBALL

'Bottom three' still rebuilding

By **Dustin Lapray**
Times-News correspondent

When it comes to competing against Boise State and the upper echelon of Western Athletic Conference football, Utah State, Idaho and New Mexico State still appear light-years away.

"We're not even nipping at their heels," said Utah State coach Gary Andersen. "We're probably a puppy running 10 yards behind them. Hopefully we can nip at their heels."

Here's a look at what the three schools are doing to make that happen.

Vandals vow to compete

Robb Akey is hoping a certain axiom proves true as he begins his third year at the helm of the University of Idaho football program.

"They say the third time is the charm, right?" Akey said. "So this should be a great thing. We're expecting much better

things this year."

The Vandals finally have a full squad of players, but must replace nine defensive starters and seven on offense, including receiver Eddie Williams, who caught 54 passes last season — more than double the total for any other Vandal.

Max Comar may be the man to replace Williams.

"(Comar) had a much better spring," Akey said. "He didn't play very consistently (last season), but he fixed a lot that this spring. That's a 6-6 target at the very least you can throw jump balls to. He's done good enough of a job in the weight room he can now cast a shadow."

Nathan Enderle will battle Brian Reeder, a transfer from Monterey Peninsula Junior College, for the starting quarterback position.

Deonte Jackson returns as the team's leading rusher (734 yards), giving the Vandals some solidification at the skill positions.

"It's not just who can run the ball and how can we get it to Eddie?" Akey said of his 2009 squad.

The Vandals have a big, but inexperienced offensive line. They should be able to run the ball, but it may take time before real dividends — wins — come to Moscow.

"If you're going to try to put a number on it in regards to years ... it's got to be five," Akey said of rebuilding the program. "I might shoot myself in the head if it takes five years to have success."

For now, Akey is comfortable knowing that his team is trying hard. The Vandals seemed to quit at times last season and gave up 420 points after first quarters.

"What I want to see is a football team that plays better, like it started to at the end of the season, a team that is winning football games," Akey said. "You have to expect success and put a plan together to make it happen."



This is the first of a three-part series previewing the WAC's nine football teams. Wednesday's story looks at the teams picked to finish Nos. 4-6 in the conference, while Thursday's story looks at the top 3.

The Vandals haven't been to a bowl game since the 1998 Humanitarian Bowl, haven't had a winning season since 1999 and haven't won more than four games since 1999.

'Air raid' ends in Las Cruces

DeWayne Walker threw out the playbooks at New Mexico State University. The former NFL assistant spent the past three seasons as the defensive coordinator at UCLA. He brings his pro-style plans to Las Cruces.

See **WAC**, Sports 2

"What I want to see is a football team that plays better, like it started to at the end of the season, a team that is winning football games. You have to expect success and put a plan together to make it happen."

University of Idaho football coach Robb Akey



Brandon Perez

New Mexico State Aggies

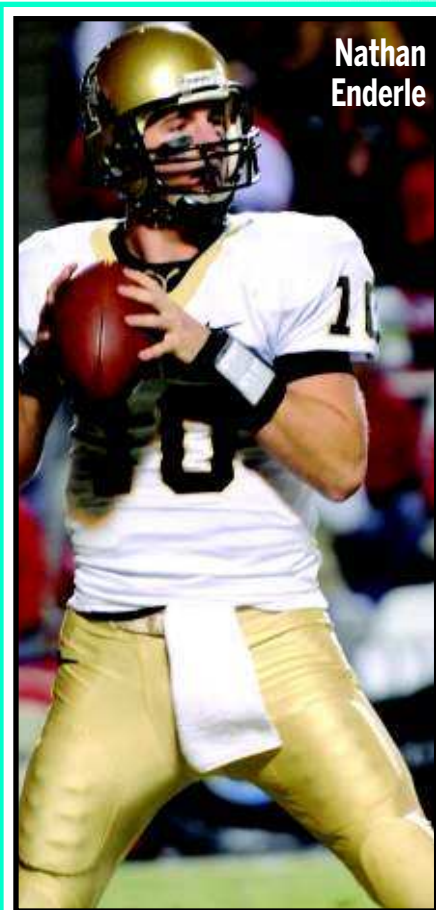
2008 record: 3-9
Returning starters: 13 (5 offense, 6 defense, kicker, punter)
Preseason WAC finish: Coaches 8, Media 9
Head coach: DeWayne Walker
Players to watch: WR/KR Marcus Anderson, DB Davon House
Coach speak: "To me you have to stop the run. You can do a better job stopping the run with four defensive linemen than you can with three." — DeWayne Walker.



Diondre Borel

Utah State Aggies

2008 record: 3-9
Returning starters: 19 (10 offense, 7 defense, kicker, punter)
Preseason WAC finish: 7 Coaches and Media
Head coach: Gary Andersen
Players to watch: QB Diondre Borel, S James Brindley
Coach speak: "You've gotta have somebody who can make a play for you when the game is tight. Who is that game-breaker for us? It remains to be seen." — Gary Andersen.



Nathan Enderle

Idaho Vandals

2008 record: 2-10
Returning starters: 11 (5 offense, 6 defense)
Preseason WAC finish: Coaches 9, Media 8
Head coach: Robb Akey
Players to watch: RB Deonte Jackson, SS Shiloh Keo
Coach speak: "It still hurts not winning. About midnight, I look in the mirror and go, 'now let's work on you big fella' ... cuz it's not easy to lose." — Robb Akey.

Hamlin wins at Pocono

By **Dan Gelston**
Associated Press writer

LONG POND, Pa. — Denny Hamlin had few bigger fans than his grandmother. She wore her No. 11 socks, held her No. 11 stuffed bear, and watched every race on TV — even as she sat and squinted only inches away from the 30-inch screen.

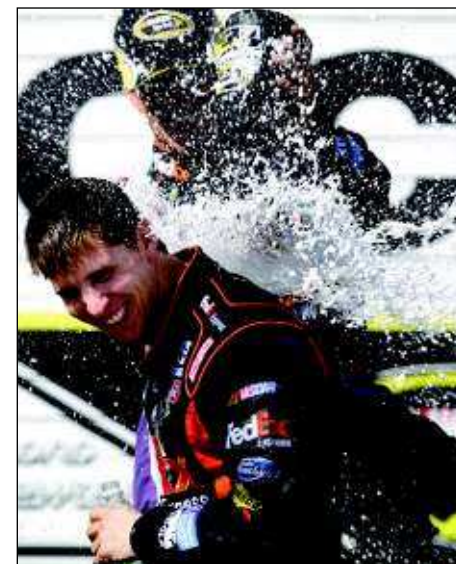
When Thelma Clark died last week at 91, there was a part of Hamlin that didn't want to be at the track.

With a heavy heart, Hamlin came to Pocono Raceway and snapped a 50-race winless skid. He took the checkered flag at the Pennsylvania 500 on Monday and dedicated this victory to his grandmother.

"She understands the competition of the sport and she understands how much she means to me," Hamlin said. "Like today, she's pretty proud."

Hamlin held off Juan Pablo Montoya over the final riveting laps, then choked up with grief in Victory Lane.

See **NASCAR**, Sports 2



AP photo

Denny Hamlin is doused with champagne as he celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Pennsylvania 500 auto race at Pocono Raceway in Long Pond, Pa., Monday.

WAC reprimands McMackin for slur

HONOLULU — The Western Athletic Conference is reprimanding Hawaii coach Greg McMackin for his derogatory comment while describing Notre Dame's chant before last year's Hawaii Bowl.

The university already has suspended McMackin for 30 days without pay. He's volunteered to take an additional 7 percent pay cut from his \$1.1 million salary.

The coach also has apologized for using a gay slur during a media briefing last month at the WAC football preview in Salt Lake City.

The WAC said Monday it reprimanded McMackin for violating the conference's sportsmanship code. The league says any further violations will result in a minimum one-game suspension.

"I greatly appreciate the quick and decisive actions by UH chancellor Virginia Hinshaw and athletics director Jim Donovan as it has made my job in processing this very unfortunate situation much easier," WAC Commissioner Karl Benson said in a statement. "Coach McMackin's comments were clearly offensive, violated the WAC Code, and are not condoned by either Hawaii or the WAC."



McMackin

Grand jury indicts Burress on weapons charges

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former New York Giants star Plaxico Burress was indicted by a grand jury on weapons charges for shooting himself in the thigh at a Manhattan nightclub and faces a minimum prison sentence of 3 1/2 years if convicted, prosecutors announced Monday.

The indictment charged the 31-year-old Burress with two counts of criminal possession of a weapon and one count of reckless endangerment, Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau said.

"The grand jury applied

the law to the facts of this case," Morgenthau said. He said the accidental shooting at the Latin Quarter nightclub on Nov. 29 was treated "like any similar case against any other defendant."

Burress' lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said he was disappointed but not surprised by the indictment, which came after Burress testified before the grand jury and expressed remorse.

"When you have the mayor and the district attorney both publicly demanding a maximum prison sentence, it was



perhaps too much to hope for the grand jury to conduct a sympathetic review of the unique facts of this sad case," Brafman said in a statement.

Burress' former teammate Antonio Pierce, who was with Burress in the club and drove him to the hospital, was not indicted.

The panel also did not indict the nightclub security guard who carried the gun to Pierce's car or the hospital staff members who failed to notify police that Burress had been shot.

Morgenthau said hospital

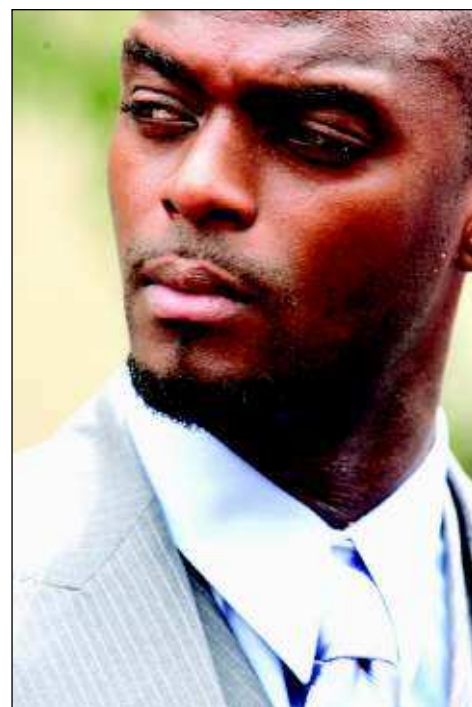
personnel were guilty of "a screw-up rather than a cover-up" and the security guard exhibited "bad judgment in the first degree" but did not commit a crime.

Pierce, who also testified before the grand jury last week, was practicing with the Giants in Albany when he learned of the panel's decision.

Giants President John Mara said the team was pleased that the linebacker was not indicted.

"We said last week we felt strongly that Antonio's actions did not warrant

See **NFL**, Sports 2

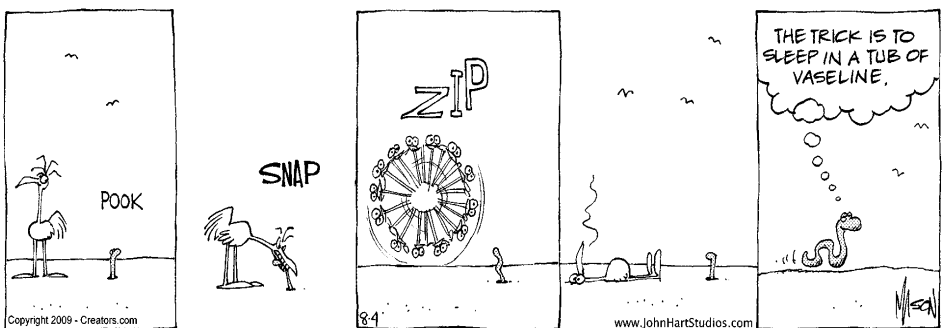


Plaxico Burress listens to his lawyer make a statement to reporters outside Manhattan Criminal Court after he testified to a Grand Jury, Wednesday in New York.

AP photo

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



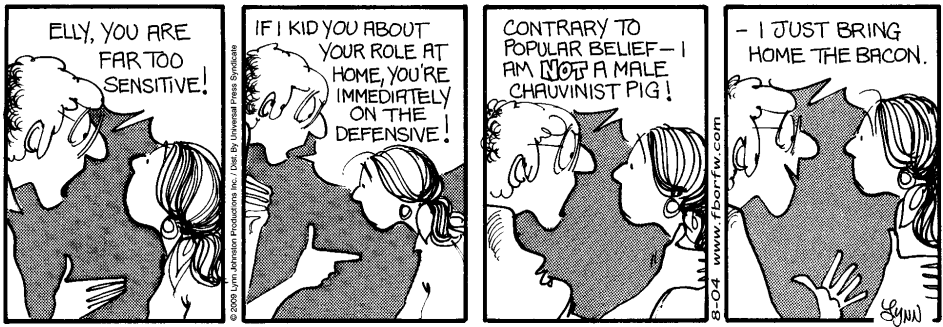
The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise



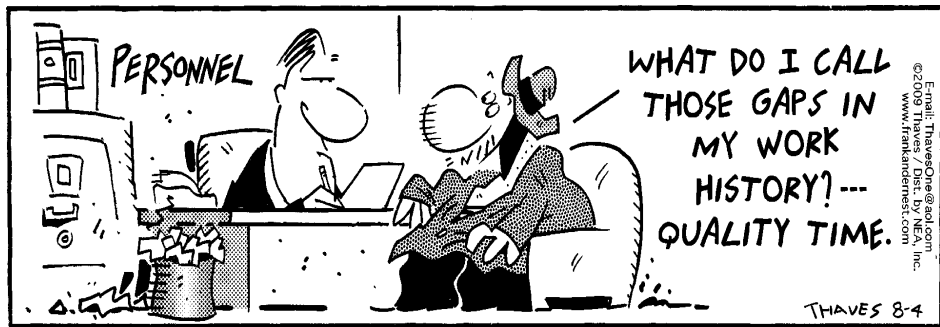
For Better or For Worse

By Lynn Johnston



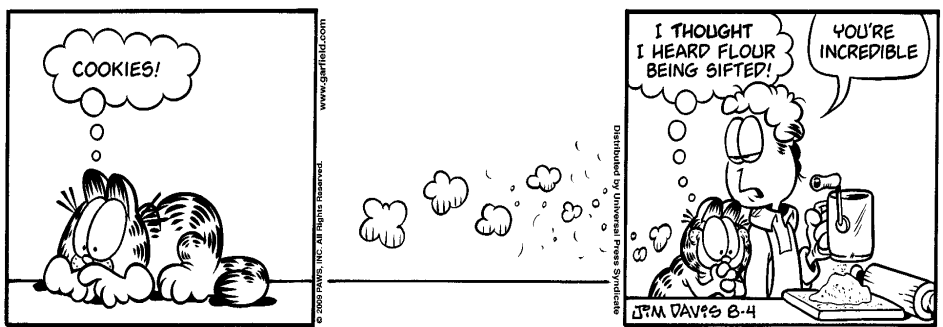
Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves



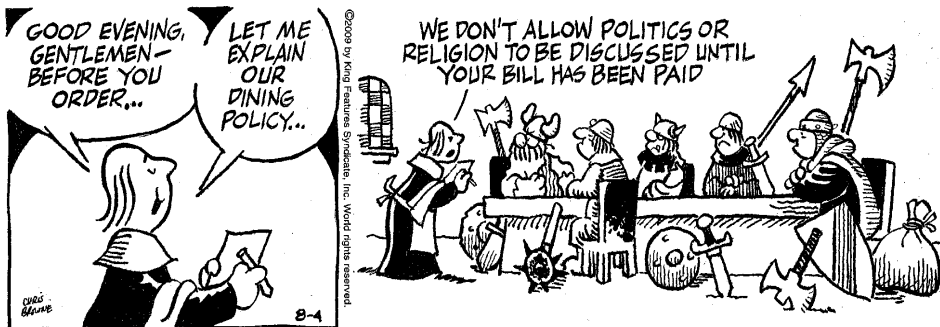
Garfield

By Jim Davis



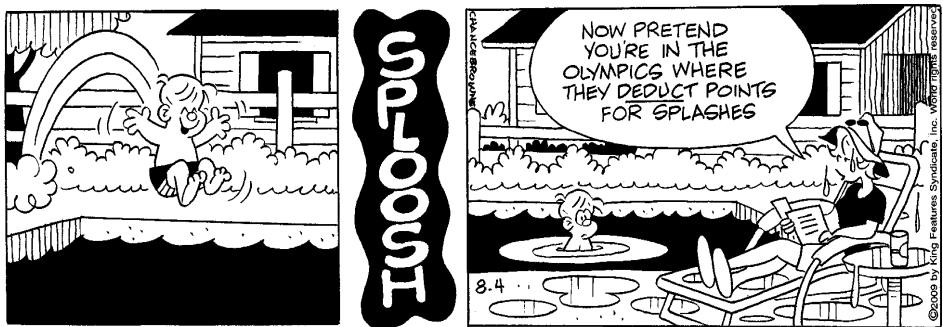
Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne



Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne



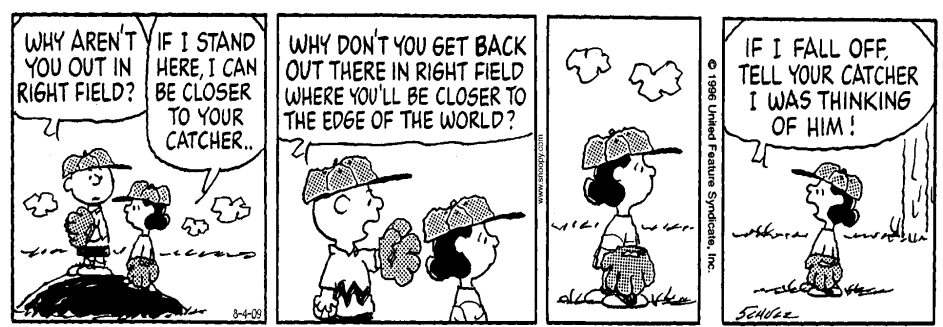
Luann

By Greg Evans



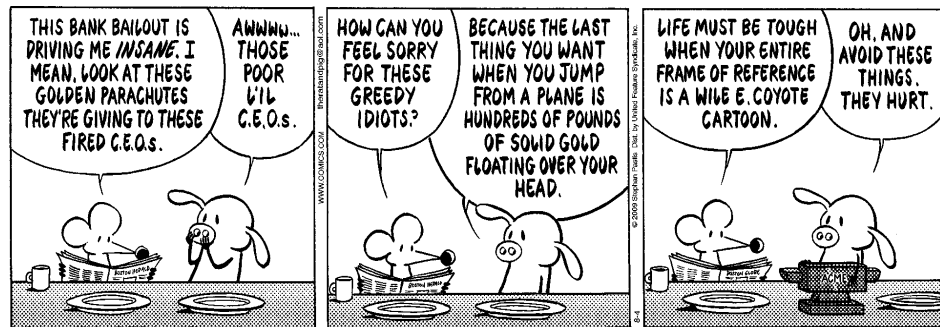
Classic Peanuts

By Charles M. Schulz



Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis



Pickles

By Brian Crane



Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



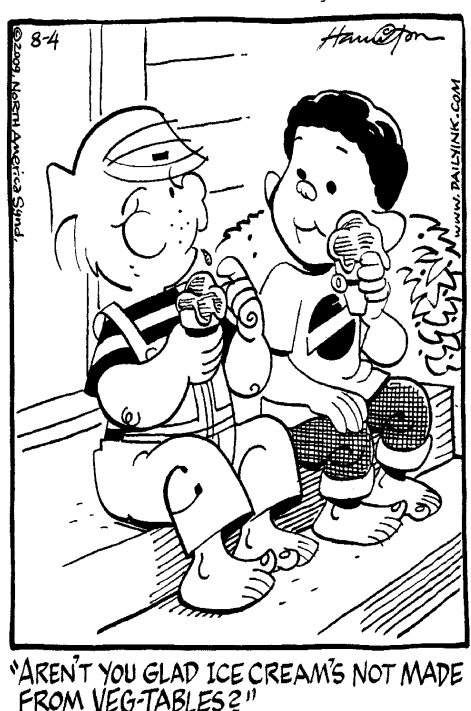
Non Sequitur

By Wiley



Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

By Jim Borgman and Jerry Scott



IF YOU'RE STILL ON THE FENCE, PICTURE YOURSELF STANDING PROUDLY NEXT TO THE WHITE PICKET VARIETY.

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