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What's a little rain to an Idaho camper?



DREW GODLESKI/For the Times-News

Brianna Holt, 18, left, Madison Waters, 6, Talisa Palimerz, Kaitlynn Holt, 11, and Alexis Waters, 11, tip over their canoe for fun Monday at Twin Falls County's Murtaugh Lake.

Roughing it, the Murtaugh Lake way

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

MURTAUGH LAKE — Under a slightly cloudy sky, Brenton Holt of Burley was packing up a tent Monday at the end of his family's Memorial Day weekend trip to Murtaugh Lake.

When his family arrived Friday, it was rainy. But like other campers at the lake, the Holts decided to stick it out. They were rewarded with a mostly rain-free weekend, and the only elements to contend with were cool temperatures that fell to the lower 40s at night and ever-present wind.

"It all ran off," Holt said of the first day's rain. "It stayed

fairly nice."

For many Idahoans, Memorial Day is the longed-for start to the summer camping season. And camping without fear of the weather is a hardiness that runs in Holt's family. Tony Holt and Linda Holt, parents of Brenton and five others, both said they were unconcerned about rain ruining their family trip. When it rains, just play games, Linda Holt said.

"You just have to camp whatever the weather is," she said. "It's been windy and cold. That's the worst part."

On Monday, children were splashing in the lake and paddling around in a canoe.

Still, Murtaugh Lake's

campground wasn't packed. Camp host Scott Osterhout of Burley estimated that about a dozen trailers came for the weekend, filling half the campground.

"I think the weather had a lot to do with it," he said, adding that the campground has been filled entirely on past Memorial Day weekends.

Those who did come were glad they stayed. Brandon Busick of Burley was frying pork chops Monday morning at the end of a weekend at Murtaugh Lake.

"I've got a motor home now, so I don't need to worry about a tent," he said. "I did that growing up. I had enough of a tent. I probably wouldn't

have been out in a tent."

In some cases, those with tents were given a night of trailer living Friday. Lynette Sievers of Kimberly brought her two children, Tory, 9, and Trevor, 11, into her trailer. Her mother, Barbara Cameron of Twin Falls, came along with a separate trailer, too.

Both opened up their trailers to several other family members who brought tents. They had activities for indoors, too.

"We brought puzzles," Sievers said. "We just squished a little tighter."

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BLAIR KOCH/For the Times-News

Gooding American Legion Post Commander Fred Anderson, left, featured speaker Rep. Donna Pence, D-Gooding, and Gooding VFW Post Commander David Swarner lead a Memorial Day ceremony at Elmwood Cemetery in Gooding on Monday.

Gooding pauses in remembrance

By Blair Koch
Times-News correspondent

GOODING — With towering pines and soft rolling lawn, Elmwood Cemetery is an elegant final resting place, and for Memorial Day the scene was patriotic. Along with floral wreaths and chrysanthemums, the cemetery was dotted with white wooden crosses topped with small American flags, honoring the places where veterans lay.

It's a late-May scene familiar to communities across the nation, but one that never loses its poignancy.

Nearly 575 crosses were a new addition for the Gooding cemetery and the annual Memorial Day ceremony put together by the Gooding American Legion and Veterans of Foreign

Wars posts.

VFW Post Chaplain Don Larson welcomed Monday's crowd and commended the effort of getting crosses for each veteran's grave.

Larson said a local Boy Scout built and painted 180 crosses as an Eagle Scout project. American Legion member Paul Koonce of Gooding spearheaded the effort to complete an additional 400.

"The Boy Scout completed enough for one section of the cemetery, and it looked so good that I thought the rest of the cemetery needed them, too," Koonce told the *Times-News*. "It's a national project of the Legion to place crosses on every veteran's grave across the country. They are

See GOODING, Main 2

Packed house at Twin Falls teacher-contract hearing

By Ben Botkin
Times-News writer

The 350-seat auditorium at Canyon Ridge High School was crammed to overflowing Monday night, as school district employees and administrators gathered for a hearing about proposed changes to the contract for teachers for the upcoming school year.

Called a due process hearing, the meeting was a step required for Twin Falls School District before the School Board can make a final decision about the recommendation from Superintendent Wiley Dobbs. No decision was made Monday; that's expected to come from the School Board before a June 6 deadline.

The proposal is intended to reflect state budget cuts to public schools that are hit-

ting all 115 school districts in Idaho amid declining revenues. Statewide, the cut for the upcoming fiscal year will be \$128.5 million, or 7.5 percent of the public school budget. The Twin Falls district's cut in state funding is estimated at \$2.64 million.

The district opted into the statewide financial emergency, which the Legislature passed so districts could renegotiate lower contracts for next school year.

For the Twin Falls district, the proposed changes are: 14 furlough days, the elimination of an optional 192nd day of teaching, freezing employee salary movement that would usually be given for increased experience, and lowering the additional pay for teachers who take on extra duties like coaching.

"These cuts will be difficult, and I am not in favor of

them even though I believe they will be necessary," Dobbs said.

In the meeting, Dobbs stressed that the district's team did its best to negotiate respectfully and openly with the Twin Falls Education Association, which represents teachers.

"We did discuss all parts of it," he said of the recommendations in the proposal.

He also pointed out that each district is in a different situation, which is important to remember when comparing cuts. Minidoka County's school district, for example, is cutting a smaller percentage for the next school year, but has already cut more this year than the Twin Falls district has, he said.

Disagreements emerged at the hearing. Dobbs said his understanding under the new state law was that the

board would need to decide on his proposal by June 6. The teachers association, meanwhile, indicated that its understanding was that talks could continue if both sides agreed to extend negotiations.

Stacey Behrens, a math teacher at Twin Falls High School, outlined an alternative with eight furlough days, and stressed the association's willingness to continue working out a solution.

Tensions ran high at the hearing. Kammi Hafer, a teacher, testified that the district's administration broke ground rules of negotiations by talking with the media about the possibilities, citing *Times-News* stories.

Ben Botkin may be reached at 735-3238 or bbotkin@magicvalley.com.

Fatal shooting victim identified

Times-News staff

The 32-year-old woman killed in a bar shooting in Cassia County this weekend was Ramona "Monica" Nanez Arellano, a long-time Burley resident who also has lived in Paul, a mortuary director said Monday.

Arellano's identity was confirmed by Larry Hansen, director of Hansen Payne Mortuary, which is in charge of her funeral arrangements.

The victim was killed by a single gunshot wound in a shooting Saturday night at El Parolito Bar, 165 W. U.S. Highway 30 in Burley, according to the Cassia County Sheriff's Office, which didn't release more details Monday.

A suspect, Juan Manuel Arellano, 40, also of Paul, was taken into custody and is

being held in connection with the shooting on a charge of first-degree murder.

It's unclear from information released by law enforcement — or from an obituary in today's *Times-News* — how the two were related. Online Minidoka County court records show both Arellanos listed together as parties in civil child support cases filed in 2007 and 2009.

The Cassia County Sheriff's Office, Minidoka County Sheriff's Office, Rupert Police Department and Heyburn Police Department responded to a report of shots fired at the bar at 10:36 p.m. Saturday.

The victim was taken by ambulance to Cassia Regional Medical Center, where she later died from her injury, according to police.



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Burley to send letters to owners of unlicensed dogs

By Laurie Welch
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Burley dog owners who haven't purchased licenses for their animals may soon receive letters in the mail informing them they are in violation of city code.

Burley City Councilman Vaughn Egan said city officials estimate there are as many as 2,400 dogs living in the city but only 10 percent of them are licensed.

"We have a city ordinance that has never been enforced," Egan said. "This has been going on for years."

The city will soon send out several hundred letters to residents informing them they are in violation of the ordinance, which carries a \$25 penalty along with the cost of the \$10 dog license.

The licenses can be purchased at City Hall or at the

animal control facility at 2020 Parke Ave.

Egan said the list for the letters was compiled from several sources including meter readers in the city.

The issue will be discussed during the next City Council meeting, held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at City Hall, 1401

Overland Ave.

Egan said after the first batch of letters goes out the enforcement of the ordinance will be ongoing.

"This will be an ongoing process," Egan said. "We can't start and stop on something like this."

Egan said the revenue will

help pay for animal control in the city, which costs \$117,000 yearly.

"We need everyone to be accountable for their pets," Egan said.

Laurie Welch may be reached at 677-5025 or lwelch@magicvalley.com.



A supply vessel passes through oil floating near the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico near the coast of Louisiana, Monday.

AP photo

Scientists warn of unseen deepwater oil disaster

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — Independent scientists and government officials say there's a disaster we can't see in the Gulf of Mexico's mysterious depths, the ruin of a world inhabited by enormous sperm whales and tiny, invisible plankton.

Researchers have said they have found at least two massive underwater plumes of what appears to be oil, each hundreds of feet deep and stretching for miles. Yet the chief executive of BP PLC — which has for weeks downplayed everything from the amount of oil spewing into the Gulf to the environmental impact — said there is "no evidence" that huge amounts of oil are suspended undersea.

BP CEO Tony Hayward said the oil naturally gravitates to the surface — and any oil below was just making its way up. However, researchers say the disaster in waters where light doesn't shine through could ripple across the food chain.

"Every fish and invertebrate con-

tacting the oil is probably dying. I have no doubt about that," said Prosanta Chakrabarty, a Louisiana State University fish biologist.

On the surface, a 24-hour camera fixed on the spewing, blown-out well and the images of dead, oil-soaked birds have been evidence of the calamity. At least 20 million gallons of oil and possibly 43 million gallons have spilled since the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig exploded and sank in April.

That has far eclipsed the 11 million gallons released during the Exxon Valdez spill off Alaska's coast in 1989. But there is no camera to capture what happens in the rest of the vast Gulf, which sprawls across 600,000 square miles and reaches more than 14,000 feet at its deepest point.

Every night, the denizens of the deep make forays to shallower depths to eat — and be eaten by — other fish, according to marine scientists who describe it as the largest migration on earth.

In turn, several species closest to the surface — including red snapper,

shrimp and menhaden — help drive the Gulf Coast fishing industry. Others such as marlin, cobia and yellowfin tuna sit atop the food chain and are chased by the Gulf's charter fishing fleet.

Many of those species are now in their annual spawning seasons. Eggs exposed to oil would quickly perish. Those that survived to hatch could starve if the plankton at the base of the food chain suffer. Larger fish are more resilient, but not immune to the toxic effects of oil.

The Gulf's largest spill was in 1979, when the Ixtoc I platform off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula blew up and released 140 million gallons of oil. But that was in relatively shallow waters — about 160 feet deep — and much of the oil stayed on the surface where it broke down and became less toxic by the time it reached the Texas coast.

But last week, a team from the University of South Florida reported a plume was headed toward the continental shelf off the Alabama coastline, waters thick with fish and other marine life.

The researchers said oil in the plumes had dissolved into the water, possibly a result of chemical dispersants used to break up the spill. That makes it more dangerous to fish larvae and creatures that are filter feeders.

Responding to Hayward's assertion, one researcher noted that scientists from several different universities have come to similar conclusions about the plumes after doing separate testing.

No major fish kills have been reported, but federal officials said the impacts could take years to unfold.

"This is just a giant experiment going on and we're trying to understand scientifically what this means," said Roger Helm, a senior official with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In 2009, LSU's Chakrabarty discovered two new species of bottom-dwelling pancake batfish about 30 miles off the Louisiana coastline — right in line with the pathway of the spill caused when the Deepwater Horizon burned and sank April 24.

No details released in police shooting

Times-News

Authorities did not release any information Monday about a Saturday-night shooting by law enforcement that came after a police pursuit that ended in Filer.

The man shot, whose name had not been released since the incident, was sent to St. Luke's Magic Valley Medical Center in police custody to be treated for his injuries. Twin Falls County Prosecutor Grant Loeb declined Monday to provide any details about the case, saying he needed to talk today with police agencies before providing more information.

An officer involved in the shooting was placed on administrative leave, though his name and agency had not been provided to the public.

Before the police chase began, the man later shot by police went to Buhl. There the man allegedly shot James Lambert, who is dating his former girlfriend, according to a witness.

Lambert was shot in the leg; he was treated and released from St. Luke's Magic Valley.

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AP photo

U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologist Michael Sealy tries to net a oiled gull near Venice at the mouth of the Mississippi River near the Gulf of Mexico on Monday.

Relief for Gulf may be months away

Relief wells offer best chances of stopping oil leak

By Matthew Brown
Associated Press writer

NEW ORLEANS — The best hope for stopping the flow of oil from the blown-out well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico has been compared to hitting a target the size of a dinner plate with a drill more than two miles into the earth, and is anything but a sure bet on the first attempt.

Bid after bid has failed to stanch what has already become the nation's worst-ever spill, and BP PLC is readying another patchwork attempt as early as Wednesday, this one a cut-and-cap process to put a lid on the leaking wellhead so oil can be siphoned to the surface.

But the best-case scenario of sealing the leak is two relief wells being drilled diagonally into the gushing well — tricky business that won't be ready until August.

"The probability of them hitting it on the very first shot is virtually nil," said David Rensink, incoming president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, who spent most of his 39 years in the oil industry in offshore exploration. "If they get it on the first three or four shots they'd be very lucky."

The relief well drilling and temporary fixes were being watched closely by President Barack Obama, who planned to meet for the first time Tuesday with the co-chairmen of an independent commission investigating the spill.

A senior administration official said the meeting will take place at the White House.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting had

not been formally announced.

For the relief well to succeed, the bore hole must precisely intersect the damaged well. If it misses, BP will have to back up its drill, plug the hole it just created, and try again.

The trial-and-error process could take weeks, but it will eventually work, scientists and BP said. Then engineers will then pump mud and cement through pipes to ultimately seal the well.

As the drilling reaches deeper into the earth, the process is slowed by building pressure and the increasing distance that well casings must travel before they can be set in place.

Still, the three months it could take to finish the relief wells — the first of which started May 2 — is quicker than a typical deep well, which can take four months or longer, said Tad Patzek, chair of the Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering Department at the University of Texas-Austin. BP already has a good picture of the different layers of sand and rock its drill bits will meet because of the work it did on the blown-out well.

On the slim chance the relief well doesn't work, scientists weren't sure exactly how much — or how long — the oil would flow. The gusher would continue until the well bore hole collapsed or pressure in the reservoir dropped to a point where oil was no longer pushed to the surface, Patzek said.

"I don't admit the possibility of it not working," he said.

A third well could be drilled if the first two fail.

"We don't know how much oil is down there, and hopefully we'll never know when the relief wells work," BP spokesman John Curry said.

The company was starting to collect and analyze data on how much oil might be in the reservoir when the rig exploded April 20, he said.

Bloody Israeli raid on flotilla sparks crisis

By Steven Gutkin
Associated Press writer

JERUSALEM — Israeli commandos rappelled down to an aid flotilla sailing to thwart a Gaza blockade on Monday, clashing with pro-Palestinian activists on the lead ship in a botched raid that left at least nine passengers dead.

Bloodied passengers sprawled on the deck and troops dived into the sea to save themselves during several hours of hand-to-hand fighting that injured dozens of activists and six soldiers. Hundreds of activists were towed from the international waters to Israeli detention centers and hospitals.

International condemnation was swift and harsh as Israel scrambled to explain how what was meant to be a simple takeover of a civilian vessel went so badly awry.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abruptly canceled a planned meeting with President Obama in Washington to rush home. The global reaction appeared likely to increase pressure to end the embargo that has plunged Gaza's 1.5 million residents deeper into poverty.

Most of the information about what happened on the single ship where violence broke out came from Israel, which cut off all communication to and from the activists and provided testimony and video evidence that its soldiers came under attack by activists armed with metal rods, knives, slingshots and two pistols snatched from the troops.



An Orthodox Jew takes a photo of protesters demonstrating against Israel's raid on an aid boat bound for the Gaza Strip during a rally in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Monday.

AP photo

Passengers reached at an Israeli hospital and journalists aboard the ship accused the soldiers of using excessive force. One passenger, who identified himself as American, spoke briefly with reporters.

"I'm not violent. What I can tell you is that there are bruises all over my body. They won't let me show them to you," he said before he was pushed away by a security escort.

A soldier identified only as a sergeant told reporters at a military briefing that the activists on board "were armed with knives, scissors, pepper spray and guns." He said he was armed only with a paintball rifle. "It was a civilian paintball gun that any 12-year-old can play with," he said. "I saw my friends on the deck spitting blood."

The high-seas confrontation was a nightmare scenario for Israel, which insisted its soldiers were simply unprepared for what awaited them on the Mavi Marmara, the ship carrying 600 of the 700 activists headed for Gaza. Instead of carrying their regular automatic rifles, the Israelis said

they went in with non-lethal paintball guns and pistols they never expected to use.

Israel intercepted the six ships carrying some 10,000 tons of aid for the isolated seaside territory, which has been blockaded by Israel for three years, with Egypt's cooperation. The Israeli government had urged the flotilla not to try to breach the blockade before the ships set sail from waters off Cyprus on Sunday and offered to take some aid in for them.

Israel has allowed ships through five times, but has blocked them from entering Gaza waters since a three-week military offensive against Gaza's Hamas rulers in January 2009.

Key regional ally Turkey withdrew its ambassador on Monday, the U.N. Security Council held an emergency session, the British foreign secretary demanded an end to the blockade of Gaza, and Jordan called Israel's raid a "heinous crime."

An al-Jazeera journalist delivering a report before Israel cut communications said Israel fired at the vessel before boarding it. In one

Web posting, a Turkish television reporter on the boat cried out, "These savages are killing people here, please help" — a broadcast that ended with a voice shouting in Hebrew, "Everybody shut up!"

Al-Jazeera said that eight staff members were detained while covering the story, and asked for the Israeli government to release them immediately.

The military said naval commandos descending from a helicopter onto the deck of a Turkish-flagged ship were assaulted by armed activists. Military footage showed activists swarming around the commandos as they rappelled from a helicopter one by one, hitting them with sticks until they fell to the deck, throwing one off the ship and hurling what the military said was a firebomb.

Source: U.S. thinks No. 3 al-Qaida official is dead

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials believe al-Qaida's No. 3, Sheikh Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, is dead, killed by a U.S. Predator drone strike in Pakistan's tribal areas within the past two weeks.

Al-Yazid is also known as Sheikh Said and Abu Saeed al-Masri.

A U.S. official tells The Associated Press that word of the al-Qaida operative's death is spreading in

extremist circles, and that U.S. officials have "strong reason" to believe it's true. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the operations.

Al-Yazid was the group's prime conduit to Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, and he was key to day-to-day control, with a hand in everything from finances to operational planning.

Pacific volcano erupts near Marianas islands

SAIPAN, Northern Marianas (AP) — Scientists say a volcanic eruption near the Pacific's Northern Mariana Islands shot clouds of ash and vapor nearly eight miles into the sky.

The U.S. Geological Survey says Friday's eruption appeared to come from an underwater volcano off

Sarigan, an uninhabited island about 100 miles north of the U.S. commonwealth's main island of Saipan.

USGS volcanologist Game McGimsey says the eruption was largely water vapor and strong winds are dispersing it.

No additional volcanic clouds have been detected.

Official: No deal on U.S. hikers

BAGHDAD (AP) — The Iranian ambassador in Baghdad said the recent release of two Iranians from Iraqi custody is not an indication of any impending deal to free three Americans held by Tehran on spying charges.

Ambassador Hassan Kazemi Qomi told The Associated Press the fate of the Americans, who have been held since July, is in the hands of the Iranian judiciary and has no connection to the release of two Iranians earlier this month.

"There were no deals," Qomi said. "They (Americans) are in the custody of the judiciary system."

The detained Americans — Sarah Shourd, 31; her boyfriend, Shane Bauer, 27; and their friend Josh Fattal, 27 — were arrested along the Iraqi border.

Iran has accused them of espionage, but their families say the three were hiking in northern Iraq's mountainous Kurdish region and if they strayed into Iran, it was unintentional.

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OPINION

QUOTABLE

"It's very hard, but you don't dwell on it. You come here, you do your mission, and you pray."
 — Maj. Sonya Powell, 42, of Cincinnati, as troops in Afghanistan reflected on Memorial Day

EDITORIAL

Idaho cuts spending, then ratchets up real costs

The *Idaho Statesman* reported this week that the state has given up trying to pay for outpatient care for about 2,000 recovering substance abusers who don't have private insurance, don't qualify for public insurance and can't get help any other way.

Care to speculate how long it will be before the rest of us are paying for these Idahoans in some other way?

The *Statesman* says 80 people a month, on average, are being held involuntarily at Boise's Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center because they are a threat to themselves or someone else. A year ago — when more public-sector help was available to addicts — it was 24 a month.

These are folks without means and without insurance, so guess who picks up the tab?

Outpatient drug treatment is suffering along with the rest of the state budget. This year's outpatient drug treatment budget of \$21 million ran dry in April. In fiscal year 2011, which starts July 1, the Department of Health and Welfare will get another \$21 million, but \$4 million will be taken off the top to pay last fiscal year's bills.

That same sort of creative accounting is going on all across Health and Welfare and in other state agencies as well. We question whether it's saving a nickel in the long run.

What's cheaper?

Refilling a substance-abuser's prescription for an anti-addictive drug or paying for the consequences when he or she gets high, slides behind the wheel of a car and kills someone?

Unfortunately, state government isn't set up to make those kinds of choices — the Legislature has so far declined to change that.

So if fiscal 2011 is, as expected, a lean year for tax revenue, next year at this time Health and Welfare will be deferring outpatient drug treatment spending again — this time until July 1, 2011.

Except that many more Idahoans will have fallen through the cracks by then, costing the rest of us a whole lot more in the long run.

We hear a lot of conservatives talk these days about transforming what they regard as the wasteful mind-set of government. But they're not saying much about changing what's penny wise and pound foolish.

Our view: You could send two kids to college at an Idaho school for about the same amount of money it costs Idaho taxpayers to lock up a prison inmate for a year. So why are we spending that kind of money when it's cheaper to keep folks out of the criminal justice system altogether?

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

The wages of sin are going up

In 1845, America's most famous temperance crusader, John Gough, got caught dead drunk in a bordello. He responded with what would become the fallen Puritan's standard: I've shed "bitter tears of repentance." And besides, my enemies are at the bottom of this.

Scandal has long been an occupational hazard for moralizers. Last week, Rep. Mark Souder, a Republican from Indiana, was the latest to be snared. Souder, a champion of family values and abstinence education, acknowledged an extramarital affair with an aide, Tracy Meadows Jackson. He quickly announced his resignation and — following the familiar script — said he was "ashamed" for having "sinned," and blamed the "poisonous environment of Washington" for his downfall.



James A. Morone

Souder joins a long roster of lapsed Republican moralists who rode to power in part by preaching family values: Mark Foley (lewd text messages to House pages), Mark Sanford (mistress in Argentina), John Ensign (payoffs to the family of his former mistress), Larry Craig (wide stance in airport bathroom), House speaker-designate Bob Livingston (garden-variety affair) and the list goes on.

Of course, there are sinners on both sides of the aisle — few falls from political grace have been quite as spectacular as those of Democrats John Edwards (child with a mistress) and Eliot Spitzer (Client No. 9).

You'd almost think Americans would be ready to concede the obvious — that we are all imperfect. Well, that's not going to happen, and here's why.

Three different moralizing streaks run through American culture and history. The most powerful goes right back to the early Puritan settlers. Their idea was simple: Sinners impoverish themselves,



You'd almost think Americans would be ready to concede the obvious — that we are all imperfect. Well, that's not going to happen, and here's why.

diminish their communities and imperil America itself.

Republicans are so often ensnared in career-ending hypocrisies because they have seized with such vigor the sackcloth of the prophet Jeremiah, who warned the sinful Israelites to repent of their wicked ways. The contemporary version first showed up during the Carter administration. Evangelicals, outraged about Roe vs. Wade and the proposed Equal Rights Amendment, organized the Moral Majority, helped elect Reagan, and rightfully shared the credit for the rising Republican dominance. Their continuing influence keeps the party lashed to its Puritan past.

A second moral tradition makes things still worse for our falling preachers by idealizing the leader who enters politics to do the right thing. The eternal model is George Washington, reluctantly accepting his duty to be commander of the Continental Army and then president of the new republic. Today, the Tea Party, for all its contradictions, taps right into this

venerable way of thinking. The routing of incumbents in last week's primaries reverberates with the old contempt toward decadent political establishments.

For now, conservatives have seized on these two great moral traditions — the Puritan and the republican. Meanwhile, there is an eerie silence on the left. Liberals no longer seem to relish the Puritans' fall. Perhaps that's because Democrats have lost touch with their own inner Jeremiahs.

What they are missing is a third moral vision that once defined American liberals — the social gospel. A long line of reformers directed their moral rage at poverty, hunger, racism, segregation, sexism or other forms of injustice, turning the focus from individual sinners to communal wrongs.

Martin Luther King Jr. described the social gospel beautifully when he called on his listeners to become good Samaritans, to forget their selfish desires and to care for needy people of every race. From this perspective, political morality means worrying less about teen sex and more about

ministering to our neighbors.

Two generations ago, Democrats tirelessly reminded the rich and powerful about their obligations to community. In this view, the big American problems are not delinquent kids, single moms, drug abusers, illegal immigrants or errant members of Congress but disparities in health, education, wealth, wages and justice.

Today, the social gospel sounds like a quaint echo from the distant past. That's because there are so few leaders willing to stand up and articulate it. That failure diminishes our politics — and the way the political parties fight their fights. But partisanship is nothing new.

Nor is moralizing, or moralizers brought low by the very sins they preached against.

Conservatives find it hard to live up to their moral code; liberals find it hard to locate theirs. The tit for tat "gotcha" of sinning politicians is a poor alternative to a robust debate between visions of a good — and moral — American society.

James A. Morone, chairman of the political science department at Brown University, is the author of "Hellfire Nation: The Politics of Sin in American History." He wrote this commentary for *The Washington Post*.

Beware of genetic testing and its claims

Type "genetic testing" on an Internet search engine and then hang on. You will be in for quite a ride. There is an endless parade of companies touting genetic tests for everything, including determining whether your kid has the potential to be a star athlete, finding out whether your ancestors were kings or ne'er-do-wells, finding a date, optimizing your diet, or knowing what diet to use if your intake is not optimal. Apparently, there is more self-discovery to be had by spitting your saliva into a cup and sending it off to be genetically analyzed than in a whole month of Dr. Drew.

The push to get you to spend money on genetic testing has also reached your local drugstore.

Walgreens is entering into an agreement with Pathway



Arthur Caplan

Genomics to sell Pathway's Insight genetic test kit. If you send your saliva to Pathway, it promises to tell you what risks you have for developing Alzheimer's, breast cancer, diabetes, obesity, psoriasis and blindness. In addition, the company says you can find out how caffeine, cholesterol-lowering drugs, and blood-thinners might affect you.

Unfortunately, these crude forms of genetic testing cannot do any of these things.

The reality is that Internet offers and home-

testing kits are not ready for prime time. Not enough Americans have had their genes analyzed so as to know what risks they face, particularly if you are in a minority ethnic group. Nor do genetic scientists know, except for a small number of rare diseases, enough to foretell how different genes will interact with different environments and lifestyles to produce health or illness. And not having a gene for a disease does not mean you won't get that disease. If your house is full of radioactive radon gas leaking up from underlying rocks, your risk for lung cancer is high no matter what genes you do or don't have.

Right now no government agency regulates the accuracy of genetic tests. There is no requirement

that competent counseling be available to answer questions about the information you will get back. And for most risks there is nothing you can do except maintain a healthy lifestyle, which you can do without spending hundreds of dollars for genetic testing.

If you do have patterns of disease in your family, then seek out testing from a well-established, hospital-based, human genetics program. If you don't, join a gym. If you go regularly, that will do more for your health than worrying about your genetic risks.

Arthur Caplan is director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania. He wrote this commentary for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

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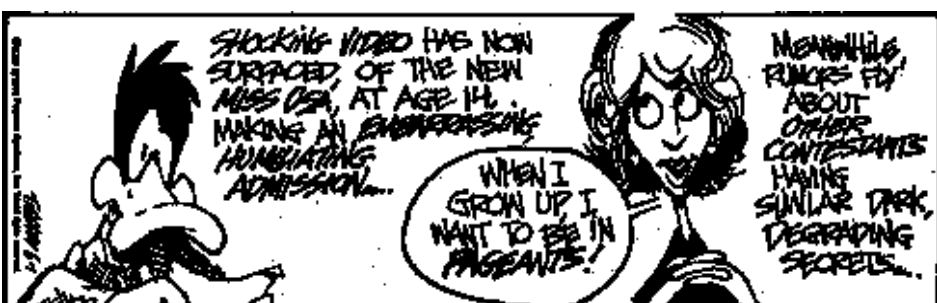
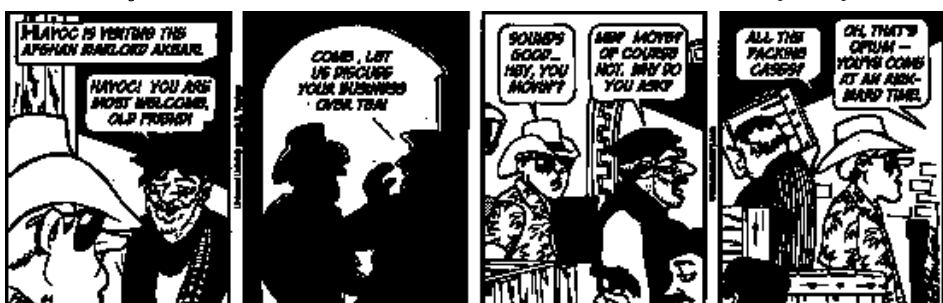
THE LIGHTER SIDE OF POLITICS

Doonesbury

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Mallard Fillmore

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How to sue an oil company

For 21 years, my legal career was focused on a single episode of bad driving: In March 1989, captain Joseph Hazelwood ran the Exxon Valdez aground in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

As an attorney for 32,000 Alaskan fishermen and natives, I tried the initial case in 1994. My colleagues and I took testimony from more than 1,000 people, looked at 10 million pages of Exxon documents, argued 1,000 motions, and went through 20 appeals. Along the way, I learned some things that might come in handy for the people of the Gulf Coast who are now dealing with BP and the ongoing oil spill.

• Brace for the PR blitz.

BP's public relations campaign is well under way. "This wasn't our accident," chief executive Tony Hayward told ABC's George Stephanopoulos earlier this month. Though he accepted responsibility for cleaning up the spill, Hayward emphasized that "this was a drilling rig operated by another company."

Communities destroyed by oil spills have heard this kind of thing before. In 1989, Exxon executive Don Cornett told residents of Cordova, Alaska: "You have had some good luck, and you don't realize it. You have Exxon, and we do business straight. We will consider whatever it takes to keep you whole." Cornett's straight-shooting company proceeded to fight paying damages for nearly 20 years. In 2008, it succeeded — the Supreme Court cut punitive damages from \$2.5 billion to \$500 million.

Even as the spill's long-term impact became apparent, Exxon used its scientists to run a counteroffensive, claiming that the spill had no negative long-term effects on anything. State and local governments and fishermen's groups on the Gulf Coast will need reputable scientists to study the spill's effects and work tirelessly to get the truth out.

Remember: When the spiller declares victory over the oil, it's time to raise hell.

• Don't settle too early.

If gulf communities settle too soon, they won't just be taking a smaller amount of money — they'll be paid inadequate damages for injuries they don't even know they have yet.

It's difficult to predict how spilled oil will affect fish and wildlife. In the Valdez case, Exxon set up a claims office right after the spill to pay fishermen part of lost revenue. They were required to sign documents limiting their rights to future damages.

This was shortsighted. Prince William Sound's herring have never recovered. South-central Alaska was devastated.

In the gulf, where more than 200,000 gallons of crude are pouring into once-productive fishing waters every day, fishing



Brian O'Neill

communities should be wary of taking the quick cash. The full harm to fishing will not be understood for years.

• Hire patient lawyers.

After the Valdez spill, 62 law firms filed suit against Exxon. Many lawyers thought they would score an easy payday when the company settled quickly.

They were wrong. My clients resolved their last issue with Exxon just last month. In the end, we were able to recover about a fourth of losses suffered by fishermen and natives.

And no matter how outrageously spillers behave in court, trials are always risky.

Though an Alaskan criminal jury failed to find Hazelwood guilty of drunken driving, in our civil case, we revisited the issue. The Supreme Court noted that, according to witnesses, when "the Valdez left port on the night of the disaster, Hazelwood downed at least five double vodkas in the waterfront bars of Valdez, an intake of about 15 ounces of 80-proof alcohol, enough 'that a non-alcoholic would have passed out.'" Exxon claimed that an obviously drunk skipper wasn't drunk; but if he was, that Exxon didn't know he had a history of drinking; but if Exxon did know, that the company monitored him; and anyway, that the company really didn't hurt anyone.

• Keep hope alive.

Historically, U.S. courts have favored oil spillers over those they hurt. Petroleum companies have the time and resources to chip away at damages sought by people with less money. And compensation won't mend a broken community. Go into a bar in rural Alaska — it's as if the Valdez spill happened last week.

Still, when I sued BP in 1991 after a relatively small spill in Glacier Bay, the company responsibly compensated the fishermen of Cook Inlet, Alaska. After a one-month trial, BP paid the community \$51 million. From spill to settlement, the case took four years to resolve.

Culturally, BP seemed an entirely different creature than Exxon. I do not know whether the BP that is responding to the disaster in the gulf is the BP I dealt with in 1991, or whether it will adopt the Exxon approach. For the sake of everyone involved, I hope it is the former.

Brian O'Neill, a partner at Faegre & Benson in Minneapolis, represented fishermen in Valdez and Glacier Bay in civil cases related to oil spills. He wrote this commentary for The Washington Post.

Five myths about college admissions

This spring, more than 3 million students will graduate from America's high schools, and more than 2 million of them will head off to college in the fall. At the top colleges, competition has been increasingly fierce, leaving many high school seniors licking their wounds and wondering what they did "wrong." But do selective colleges and universities do a good job of identifying the best and brightest? And is the concern about who gets into the best colleges justified? Five myths:

1. Admissions officers have figured out how to reward merit above wealth and connections.

A 2004 Century Foundation study found that at the most selective universities and colleges, 74 percent of students come from the richest quarter of the population, while just 3 percent come from the bottom quarter. Rich kids can't possibly be 25 times as likely to be smart as poor kids, so wealth and connections must still matter.

Leading schools have two main admissions policies that favor wealthy students. The more glaring of these is legacy preferences — an admissions boost for the children of alumni. Legacy preferences increase a student's chances of admission by, on average, 20 percentage points over non-legacies.

Less obvious is the role of the SAT, which was supposed to help identify talented students from across all schools and backgrounds. Instead, it seems to amplify the advantages enjoyed by the most privileged students. New research by Georgetown University's Anthony Carnevale and Jeff Strohl finds that the most disadvantaged applicants score, on average, 784 points lower on the SAT than the most advantaged students. This gap is equivalent to about two-thirds of the test's total score range. If the SAT were a 100-yard dash, advantaged kids would start off 65 yards ahead before the race even began.

2. Disadvantages based on race are still the biggest obstacle to getting into college.

More than race, it's class: The effects of racial discrimination are increasingly dwarfed by the impact of socioeco-



Richard D. Kahlenberg

omic status. Take that 784-point difference in SAT scores between the most advantaged and the most disadvantaged students. All other things being equal, the researchers found that there was a 56-point difference between black and white students. Most of the rest of the gap was the result of socioeconomic factors. To truly even the playing field, the system would therefore need to provide a lot of affirmative action to economically disadvantaged students who beat the odds and a little bit of affirmative action based on race.

3. Generous financial aid policies are the key to boosting socioeconomic diversity.

In response to the growing scarcity of poor and working-class students on campus, roughly 100 universities and colleges have boosted financial aid in the past several years. But these programs have not been enough to change the socioeconomic profile of these schools' student bodies. At the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for example, a generous financial aid program was instituted in 2004. Under its terms, low-income students are not required to take out loans as part of their financial aid packages.

The program has been successful in accomplishing one important goal: boosting the graduation rate among low-income students. A few other institutions, including Amherst and Harvard, have begun to consider a student's socioeconomic status in their admissions decisions; these schools provide a promising example.

4. Selective colleges are too expensive and aren't worth the investment.

A selective institution with a large endowment may indeed be worth the money. The least selective colleges spend about \$12,000 per student, compared with \$92,000 per student at the most selective schools. Put another way, at the wealthiest 10 percent of institutions, students pay, on average, just 20 cents in fees for every dollar the school spends on them, while at the poorest 10 percent of institutions, students pay 78 cents for every

A 2004 Century Foundation study found that at the most selective universities and colleges, 74 percent of students come from the richest quarter of the population, while just 3 percent come from the bottom quarter.

dollar spent on them.

5. With more students going to college, we're closer to the goal of equal opportunity.

The good news is that students are going to college at a higher rate than ever before; the bad news is that stratification is increasing at colleges and universities. Much as urban elementary and secondary schools saw white, affluent parents flee to suburban schools in the 1970s and 1980s, less selective colleges are now experiencing white flight.

According to Carnevale and Strohl, white student representation declined from 79 percent to 58 percent at less selective and noncompetitive institutions between 1994 and 2006, while black student representation soared from 11 percent to 28 percent. American higher education is in danger of quickly becoming both separate and unequal.

Richard Kahlenberg is a senior fellow at the Century Foundation.

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Memorial Day in Iraq

Troops reflect on a war winding down

By Hannah Allam
McClatchy Newspapers

CAMP VICTORY, Iraq — With heads bowed beneath a palace dome still etched with the initials of Saddam Hussein, dozens of U.S. service members paid tribute Monday to Americans killed in action not only in Iraq, but also in Afghanistan and in wars of the past.

Officers presented a Memorial Day wreath, a bugler played taps and a lieutenant general spoke about how “little compares to the loss of a brother in arms.” Soldiers in uniform and contractors in work boots said the nearly 4,400 Americans who’ve died in Iraq since 2003 were not faceless statistics: They were commanders, friends, family.

For some of the troops who gathered at Camp Victory in Baghdad, it was difficult to discuss individual losses, even now that combat deaths have tapered off and the war here is eclipsed by the bloodshed in Afghanistan, where the number of troops killed in action just passed the 1,000 mark.

“It’s too personal,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Bien Covita, 34, of San Jose, Calif., looking away as he declined to discuss the fallen service member on his mind. He added that he wished that Americans would view Memorial Day as “more than just a day off work. We sacrifice every day for them to sleep comfortably.”

Other soldiers said they missed the cookouts and



AP photo

U.S. soldiers pray during a Memorial Day ceremony at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday.

camping trips of Memorial Days in the United States. However, they, too, worried that the holiday is losing some of its traditional meaning at a time when thousands of service members are still deployed in the Middle East.

“For people back home, all they see is a four-day weekend and the official

start of summer,” said Sgt. Joseph Castro, 29, of Guam, from C Company, Special Troops Battalion, III Corps, out of Fort Hood, Texas. This is his third deployment. “For us, there are no weekends. Today means more to me; sometimes people have to be reminded.”

Speeches at the ceremony

never mentioned American contractors, who’ve assumed increased responsibilities with the drawdown of U.S. forces. The Obama administration plans to have just 50,000 troops remaining in Iraq by the end of summer, though the lack of a stable Iraqi government threatens to delay that goal.

At least 463 American and allied contractors have died since 2003, according to the website icasualties.org, which compiles official death announcements.

Kevin Decker, 54, of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Paul Woods, 58, of Detroit, said they reflected Monday on the “blessing” of staying alive in their perilous jobs as convoy drivers on roads that are still littered with roadside bombs.

“Every time we come up this way, we see improvements: lights, roadside fuel stations, checkpoints,” said Woods, who’s been in Iraq for a year and a half. “It’s getting better.”

“I don’t think it’s forgotten. I don’t think it’ll ever be forgotten,” added Decker, who wears a necklace of good luck charms to mark his three years in Iraq.



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After rain-out, Obama delivers speech back home

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (AP) — President Obama said Monday that the meaning of Memorial Day is found in the story of ordinary Americans who become extraordinary for one simple reason: love of country.

Obama, speaking to dozens of troops at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington after his Land of Lincoln tribute in Illinois was washed out by a storm, said the nation’s fallen heroes had such a deep love of country that they willingly sacrificed their own lives to protect it.

“In this time of war, we pay special tribute to the thousands of Americans

who have given their lives during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and who have earned their place among the greatest of generations,” Obama said in the Monday evening speech.

Vice President Joe Biden earlier made the more traditional appearance at Arlington National Cemetery on Obama’s behalf, saying the country has “a sacred obligation” to make sure its servicemen and women are the best equipped and best-supported troops in the world.

“As a nation, we pause to remember them,” Biden said. “They gave their lives fulfilling their oath to this nation and to us.”

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CULTIVATION COMEBACK



Photos by DREW GODLESKI/For the Times-News

Above: Refugees from Iraq, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar, along with Master Gardeners, work a plot at Twin Falls' community garden. **Below:** Seeds and garden tools lie ready as refugees work their garden plots.



Bhutanesee refugee Keshabi Timsina plants carrot seeds while Myanmar refugee Thang Er hoes May 22 at the College of Southern Idaho's community garden in Twin Falls.

Donations get refugees back into the garden

By **Melissa Davlin**
Times-News writer

It was only 45 degrees, and the wind kept the sandal-wearing gardeners huddled together.

But Keshabi Timsina was happy to be outside. After sowing beans and other seeds, the woman who fled Bhutan 19 years ago recalled helping her mother plant squash, carrots and okra in their family garden as a child. Timsina had access to a tiny plot in the Nepal refugee camp where she spent 18 years, but it wasn't the same.

But now Timsina and about 30 other refugees from Bhutan, Myanmar and Iraq are able, once again, to get dirt under their nails and grow their own food. On May 22, the group met with Master Gardeners at the

"I am very happy to get a chance to do like this in the garden."

— **Keshabi Timsina, a refugee who was able to return to gardening at the community garden at College of Southern Idaho**

community garden at College of Southern Idaho, where they worked two leased 25-by-50-foot plots, donated by members of the community.

The gardeners — many of whom farmed or gardened in their native countries — used donated tools and planted seeds given by individuals. The Master Gardeners donated the money for one of the drip irrigation systems, and the CSI Refugee Center paid for the other drip system, said volunteer coordinator Michelle Pospichal. The Master Gardeners will help water and weed, but the refugees will provide most of

the season's labor. At the end of the summer, those who worked the plots will have first dibs on the fruits and veggies, and the center will dole out the rest to refugees who couldn't help in the garden because of work schedules, Pospichal said.

Back at the refugee center, flats of plants — donated by Canyon Ridge High School and Moss Greenhouses — filled one of the English language classrooms. The gardeners originally planned to plant the starts at the same time, but after reading the prediction of freezing temperatures that night, they axed the plan and stuck with seeds.

Although the groups hail from different countries and cultures, the garden will produce the same vegetables and fruits as most American gardens.

"I like the tomato and onion and carrot," said Cung Awi, who came to Twin Falls from Myanmar.

The only difference, Pospichal said, is that the refugees use more cilantro and peppers than most American cooks do, and the garden reflects that.

And although they shivered between planting seeds and putting together the drip system, they had smiles on their faces.

"I am very happy to get a chance to do like this in the garden," Timsina said.

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



Nepali refugee Damanti Rai sprinkles compost May 22 at the College of Southern Idaho's community garden.

Organic vs. organic

Labels can be confusing between grocery store and garden center

By **Ariel Hansen**
Times-News writer

Walk through a superstore, and you'll find the term "organic" on a lot of items. But between the grocery section and the garden center, that word means two different things, which can cause some confusion for the consumer.

In the grocery aisles, "certified organic" indicates a certain set of standards and regulations that are overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture or other organizations like Oregon Tilth, and the stan-

dards can vary from product to product.

On a bag of compost, though, "organic" means the same thing it did to your high school chemistry teacher: "Organic material just refers to something that's from living material, carboniferous materials," said Jo Ann Robbins, extension educator for the Jerome County Extension Office.

That is, you and the dirt under your house are organic — carbon-based — but probably not certified organic.

"I can see how that might



ARIEL HANSEN/Times-News

Bags of certified organic and standard organic compost are ready for sale at Sun Valley Garden Center. 'Organic' means different things in different contexts, potentially confusing consumers.

be something that somebody could get confused on, if they've never studied gardening," Robbins said. "They're words used in two completely different contexts."

This confusion between

the two meanings of the word "organic" is something that garden center employees often have to clear up, said Heike Striebeck, retail manager for Sun Valley Garden Center in Bellevue.

"Our main issue is that we have to explain to people that the organic label on compost refers to the source of the materials, not to the process," she said. "Pay more attention, read the labels, and maybe ask questions; be aware of what you're buying."

The garden center does carry a certified organic compost, from Jerome-based Magic Valley Compost, which Striebeck said means that the manure and other organic materials were heated to between 131 and 170 degrees and kept hot for several days. This ensures that the compost is free of weed seeds and potential pathogens.

However, most of the compost the center carries is simply labeled "organic."

Compost can be made from a variety of ingredients, including food waste,

manure, straw, fish byproducts, yard waste, sewage, peat moss, worm castings and other carbon-based material. If it isn't certified organic, it can contain pesticides, heavy metals and other undesirable contaminants.

The Environmental Protection Agency has standards for what can be in compost, but some organic gardeners complain that they are not stringent enough.

The best way to determine what you're really buying for your garden is to read the bag — which will usually contain an ingredients list, but may not acknowledge the presence of pollutants — or ask the salesperson for more information, Striebeck said.

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

Extend the growing season with your own greenhouse

By Susan Zevon
For The Associated Press

Entering the warm, humid, blossom-filled oasis of a greenhouse on a snowy winter day seems magical. And an increasing number of people are bringing that experience home with their own greenhouses.

According to the National Horticulture Society, in 2009 there were almost 2 million Americans practicing greenhouse gardening.

Dorian Winslow, owner of Womanswork, a gardening company specializing in gloves and sun hats for women, is building a greenhouse at her home north of New York City because, she says, "I want to be able to pluck a lemon or lime from my own citrus tree in the dead of winter." She also plans to grow lettuce year-round, and start new plants from seed for her container and vegetable gardens.

It's all in keeping with a movement in gardening toward growing your own food.

But as enticing as it may sound to snip lettuce leaves and pluck lemons year-round from your greenhouse, there are many decisions to make before building one:

Kits vs. custom designed

Whether you build a greenhouse from scratch or buy a kit depends on your level of do-it-yourself

ON THE WEB

www.womanswork.com
www.charleysgreenhouse.com
www.ars.usda.gov/services/
www.gardenwriters.org/

expertise, as well as how much time and money you want to invest.

For people interested in custom designing and building a greenhouse, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has developed a software program called "Virtual Grower" that the public can download for free. Another source is the book "How to Build Your Own Greenhouse" (Storey Publishing, 2009) by Roger Marshall, who designed and built two 300-square-foot greenhouses for under \$500 each by using recycled materials.

If you decide on a kit, on the other hand, buy from a reputable manufacturer, as kits vary in quality.

Charley Yaw, owner of Charley's Greenhouse in Mt. Vernon, Wash., has, with his wife, Carol, been helping gardeners select, build and equip greenhouses since 1975. Most of Yaw's models come with a detailed manual and assembly video, and he has staff available to answer questions.

Another option is to buy a ready-made greenhouse, but if you go that route, be aware that these greenhouses arrive on a trailer and weigh from 500 to 1,000 pounds.

For more on whether to build or buy, consult "Greenhouses and Garden



Dorian Winslow, owner of Womanswork, builds a greenhouse at her home in New York.

Sheds" (Creative Publishing International, 2009).

Size

A greenhouse's size is often dictated by budget and time constraints. Ask yourself how much time you are realistically able to devote to greenhouse gardening.

"If you are an inexperienced gardener, get a moderately sized greenhouse until you know what you are doing," Marshall suggests. "If you are experienced, get the largest you can afford; you will fill it!"

Yaw maintains that 8 by 10 feet is about as small as you can go and still enjoy the



AP photos

By spring Roger Marshall's greenhouse in Rhode Island is full to overflowing. Marshall is the author of 'How to Build Your Own Greenhouse.'

greenhouse. "People tend to underestimate the size they should have," he says.

Attached or free standing

Attached greenhouses gain warmth from the house and are easily accessible, but freestanding ones may be sited anywhere on the property and have maximum exposure to the sun.

To heat or not to heat

How you heat your greenhouse will depend on the climate and what you want to grow. According to Marshall, many vegetables will survive almost to freezing. Orchids and tropical fruits and flowers require a warmer environment.

Ideally, he says, a greenhouse should receive eight to 10 hours of sunlight a day, including in the morning.

In colder climates, additional heat is usually required, with small portable electric heaters being most popular. However, if all you want to do is extend the growing season, an unheated greenhouse can add up to six weeks at each end of the season.

Yaw reports growing interest among young people in buying greenhouses because of the appeal of growing organic food for their families.

Some even extend the bounty to their communities. When their greenhouse is up and growing, Dorian Winslow and her husband, Tom, plan to donate part of their crop to their local food pantry.

10 steps to a more earth-friendly yard

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

Want to make the planet a little greener? Look no farther than your own backyard — or, for that matter, your own front yard.

The U.S. is home to 32 million acres of lawn, or enough to cover the 100 largest U.S. cities almost twice, says Owen Dell, author of "Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies" (For Dummies, 2009). Lawns suck up 270 billion gallons of water a week and burn 800 million gallons of (mower) gas a year.

And then there are the pesticides and the chemical-based fertilizers.

"I use this analogy," Dell says. "If you take care of yourself — exercise, eat right, don't drink too much alcohol, don't use drugs — you're going to have a much better chance of staying healthy. Similarly, if you keep the landscape healthy, whether it's the lawn or anything else, you're going to have fewer problems!"

How do you break free of the high-maintenance lawn care cycle?

Drawing from interviews with Dell, Tom Christopher, editor of "The New American Sustainable Garden" (due out next year from Timber Press) and Annie Spiegelman, author of "Talking Dirt" (Perigee, 2010), we assembled a list of basic tips to get you started.

1. Don't overwater. "Most people grossly overwater their lawns," Dell says. Consider getting a free "water audit" if your water company offers one, or just turn the sprinkler off and observe the results. If your grass doesn't spring back when you step on it in the heat of the afternoon, it's time to water. Dell says watering four times a week is too much in most parts of the country.

2. Water deeply. Spiegelman says it's better to water deeply than frequently. Many lawns do well with 15 to 20 minutes at a time, once or twice a week. For maximum efficiency, give the water a chance to seep in: Water for 10 minutes, wait 20 minutes and then finish watering.

3. Get adequate coverage. If your sprinkler doesn't cover a spot, Dell says, you end up with a dry area or an overwatered lawn.

4. Give the soil breathing room. Aerate your lawn once or twice a year in spring or fall with a gas- or foot-powered aerator. This loosens the roots and lets water and fertilizers penetrate. Dell suggests removing 9 or 10 little soil "cores" per square foot of lawn and raking compost into the holes.

5. Try a lush look. If you keep your grass 3 inches high, it will "shade out" weeds, denying them the sun they need to grow and take over your lawn, Spiegelman says.

6. Reduce your lawn size. Less lawn means less watering, Spiegelman notes. Consider a border planted with low-maintenance ground cover instead of grass.

7. Kick the chemical fertilizer habit. "We pump these (lawns) up on nitrogen and other nutrients until they're like baseball players on steroids," Christopher says. "You don't have to do that. One fertilization with an organic fertilizer in early fall and your lawn will be just fine!"

8. Go natural. Insecticides with ingredients such as vinegar and orange oil are sold at many nurseries, Spiegelman says, and boiling water kills weeds. She likes several organic lawn care products, including TerraCycle's liquid lawn fertilizer made with worm waste, available at its website (terracycle.net).

9. Keep grass clippings. Rather than removing them, rake them gently over your lawn, Spiegelman says. They're free and rich in the plant nutrient nitrogen.

10. Consider low-maintenance grass. Ask your local university extension program or agriculture department to recommend a low-maintenance grass (options include fine fescues and buffalograss) that grows well in your region, Christopher says. These easy-going grasses are designed for your region and will thrive with minimal water and mowing.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT
To Propose Or Promulgate
New Or Changed Agency Rules**

The following agencies of the State of Idaho have published the complete text and all related, pertinent information concerning their intent to change or make the following rules in the latest publication of the state Administrative Bulletin.

*The written comment submission deadline is June 23, 2010 unless otherwise listed.
(Temp & Prop) indicates the rule is both temporary and proposed.
(*PH) indicates that a public hearing has been scheduled.*

IDAPA 08 – STATE BOARD AND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0027
08-0202-1001, Rules Governing Uniformity. Requires all individuals seeing the Standard Elementary Certificate on or after July 1, 2013 to obtain a subject area endorsement.

IDAPA 16 - DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0036
16-0305-1001, Eligibility for Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD). (Temp & Prop) In compliance with HB 723, changes cap cash payments for all living arrangements, including: Room and Board, Semi-Independent Group Residential Facility (SIGRF), Assisted Living or Residential Care Facility (RALF), Certified Family Home (CFH), and Essential Persons who provide services in the participant's own home; limit AABD cash only to participants who receive SSI payments; and align benefits for the DD Waiver participants with the A&D Waiver participants living in CFHs and RALFs.

**16-0737-1001, Children's Mental Health Services.* (Temp & Prop) (*PH) Allows department to limit and prioritize Children's Mental Health Services, including eligibility, and focus the available resources on those who have the greatest clinical and financial needs.

IDAPA 35 – STATE TAX COMMISSION
PO Box 36, Boise, ID 83722-0410
35-0105-1001, Idaho Motor Fuels Tax Administrative Rules. Amends Rule 130 to notify fuel distributors that ethanol, natural gasoline, and gasoline blend stocks are received when the fuels are imported into Idaho, removed from an Idaho pipeline terminal, or removed from an Idaho ethanol production facility; provides a method for distributors to deduct the gallons of ethanol placed into storage inside an Idaho pipeline terminal; states that motor fuels tax and transfer fees are due when ethanol, natural gasoline, and gasoline blends stocks are received.

IDAPA 44 – OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES COORDINATOR
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0306
44-0101-1001, Rules of the Administrative Rules Coordinator. Implements statutory changes that clarify and modify certain definitions; change references to printed and bound volumes of the Code and Bulletin to electronic-only publications and adjust subscription costs; eliminate obsolete and clarify ambiguous language; additional changes conform rule to current style requirements.

THE FOLLOWING TEMPORARY RULE HAS BEEN ADOPTED:

Department of Agriculture
02-0421-1001, Rules Governing the Importation of Animals

State Tax Commission
35-0103-1001, Property Tax Administrative Rules

SCHEDULED NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING MEETINGS:

Board of Licensure of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors
10-0101-1001, Rules of Procedure
10-0102-1001, Rules of Professional Responsibility

Department of Environmental Quality
58-0101-1001, Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho

Please refer to the Idaho Administrative Bulletin, June 2, 2010, Volume 10-6, for notices and text of all rulemakings, public hearings and negotiated meeting schedules, Governor's executive orders and agency contact information.

*Issues of the Idaho Administrative Bulletin can be viewed at
www.adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/*

Submit written inquiries to the Office of the Administrative Rules Coordinator, Dept. of Administration, PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0306 or call 208-332-1820.

**BREAKING
NEWS!!**

24/7
magicvalley.com

Overcome by clutter? She can help you get organized

By Jura Koncius
The Washington Post

Stacey Platt has come to realize that many people are living in a state of domestic chaos.

As Platt writes in "What's a Disorganized Person to Do?" (Artisan Books, 2010): "If I came to your house and asked you to show me your birth certificate, would you know where to find it? What about a safety pin? Your check-book? The receipt for your computer? An extension cord? Your 2006 tax returns?"

Not many of us would. Enter Platt, a professional organizer in New York, who helps clients declutter closets, maximize space in the dishwasher and get over their addiction to hoarding takeout containers. And she can show them how to set up a time capsule for a child, filling it with special treasures such as her first tooth, a lock of hair, a favorite book and a beloved stuffed animal.

Helping people find order in their lives comes naturally to Platt, who says that as a child she lined up her records and games perfectly. Thirteen years ago, Platt, now 42, found herself dissatisfied with the conventional job she scored after earning her MBA. A trip to India to study yoga gave her a new awareness of the importance of bringing clarity to the mind and the home. She joined what was then a small group of life coaches offering consumers help streamlining domestic life and containerizing stuff.

Today, she and a partner run DwellWell, a company with "solutions for an organized urban lifestyle" (\$125 for initial consultations, then \$85 an hour). Their sales pitch: An organized home can save a family money. Platt is now posting tips for the messy on Twitter (@staceyplatt).

Organizing books are as popular today as diet and fitness guides. But Platt offers concise directions on de-cluttering and doing household tasks most efficiently. She'll tell you the 10 types of documents

you should shred and how to decide what to keep on your bedside table. (She condones reading lights, alarm clocks, hand cream and water pitchers, but vetoes vitamins and radiation-emitting cellphones and chargers.)

Should you save or discard that bulky box your computer was shipped in? After the computer's been working for a while, she says, cut out the serial number and store it with the owner's manual. Toss the box.

I spoke with Platt about how everyone can reduce clutter and find what they need.

Q Where do people go wrong?

A They don't want to invest time. Organizing takes time and energy, but it's worth it and pays off. Like going to the gym, the more you go, the more you will see results. We aren't taught to organize as kids.

Q Maybe we should start. Any tricks for teaching kids about organizing?

A When they're around 5, start showing them that everything has a home, and you should sort like things with like. I often use the example of the silverware drawer to start with. Teach them to sort their clothes and give away what they don't need.

Q What do you suggest to people who are attached to sentimental memorabilia?

A Just because you let go of a thing doesn't mean you let go of a memory. You can take a photo before you part with something and put the photos in a memorabilia box. In this box, you can also keep things like ticket stubs or bundles of special letters tied up in ribbons.

Q How do you describe your job?



Copyright Ben Ritter; from "What's a Disorganized Person to Do?," Artisan Books

Stacey Platt emphasizes the importance of bringing clarity to the mind and the home with pared-down essentials.

A I help people set up systems to facilitate the organizing process and get them to adopt a different mind-set. I teach simplicity and clarity. You should love and use everything in your home and live within your "space means" like you live within your financial means.

Q Do you have a junk drawer?

A It's not good to keep junk, such as pens that don't work or dead batteries, in a kitchen drawer, although there is room for a spot for random things you do use. I would approve of keeping Scotch tape, paper clips in a little container, 10 rubber bands, scissors. I live in a 500-square-foot place, so I don't have a junk drawer. I am very pared down.

Q My favorite tip in the book was stashing a yoga block under the kitchen sink to avoid nailing out a step-stool to get to a higher cabinet shelf. Where do you get one of these?

A I've found this has really helped people because it's not so simple to get out the stool, and when you have to put something up high, you just shove it up there instead of putting it



Copyright Ben Ritter; from "What's a Disorganized Person to Do?," Artisan Books

Helping people find order in their lives comes naturally to Stacey Platt, author of "What's a Disorganized Person to Do?" She says that as a child she lined up her records and games perfectly.

back neatly. You can get one of these foam blocks at www.barefootyoga.com.

Q Is there a generational gap in how people deal with clutter?

A Yes. People in their 20s have done everything via computer, so they are not going to have sentimental attachment to their CD collection. If you are 50 or above, there is a psychological resistance or mistrust of storing things on computers. Young people

aren't as attached to papers, books, DVDs or albums. There is still something about looking at photos in an album, though. A great online source for albums is www.blurb.com.

Q How has the recession affected our ability, desire or need to organize?

A People aren't buying stuff like they used to. They are really shopping their closets, using up shampoos and not wasting food. People are more frugal. Being organized sometimes just means simplifying.

Welcoming the new neighbors

By Kim Cook
For The Associated Press

"If strangers move into a neighborhood, it is not only unfriendly but uncivil for their neighbors not to call on them." — Emily Post, "Etiquette: The Blue Book of Social Usage," 1937

When we moved across the country to our new town, many friendly neighbors stopped by to say hello. Some brought pastries from a bakery; others offered advice on grocery stores, dentists and hardware stores.

One neighbor, with whom I'd established e-mail contact before the move, even stocked the fridge and pantry with the essentials so we wouldn't walk into a completely empty house. There was a small table with chairs, utensils, toilet paper, an inexpensive shower curtain, and soap and towels in the bathrooms. Mrs. A was a one-woman welcome wagon.

Some of us remember the official Welcome Wagon ladies coming to our childhood door; the company, started in 1928 by Tennessean Thomas Briggs, was such a cultural fixture that even the Kennedys and Nixons received visits when they moved into the White House. Now the firm operates primarily via the Internet.

In these modern times, what's the best way to greet our new neighbors? Many people aren't sure how much to do and when. Do you head over as soon as you see the van arrive, or wait a week, or wait for them to make the overture? Casserole, house plant or just a friendly hello?

Chicago-based residential real estate expert Mark Nash advises waiting till the moving van has gone. "Give them a couple of days to get somewhat settled," he says.

Offer to take some of the cardboard boxes to the recycle depot, he suggests, and if they have a dog, offer to introduce them to fellow pet owners. Nash says that



AP photo/Meg Volk

thoughtful housewarming gifts after the chaos eases could be a nice bird feeder, or a gift certificate for a home improvement store, local spa, dog walker or window washer.

Minneapolis-based psychologist and HGTV.com contributor Dr. Bra Vada Garrett-Akinsaya suggests some inexpensive ways to offer a friendly hand to new families:

- **Make a picnic hamper.** Include maps for local parks, disposable dishes and some outdoorsy snacks.

- **Make a kids' activity box.** Include markers, puzzle books and juice boxes to keep children busy while parents unpack.

- **Make a neighborhood look book:** a three-ring binder filled with neighbor contact info, trusted medical practitioners, recommended local businesses.

- **Make a kid's look book.** Include photos, names, ages and contact info for neighborhood kids and perhaps a calendar to add play dates.

- **Make magnets.** On a craft store magnet, glue names and numbers of baby sitters, yard services and reliable handy-men.

- **Offer to be a guide.** Make

a fun coupon good for a personal tour of the area.

Should you bring over prepared food?

Today we worry about allergies, religious restrictions and taste buds. While most people agree that the gesture's what counts, it's probably better to take something neutral rather than your famous tuna broccoli casserole. Nash suggests baked goods, fruits and vegetables, specialty coffees or teas.

Some people favor a festively wrapped bottle of bubbly or good wine. New Yorkers Bob and Christina Agnew fondly recall the elderly next door neighbor who brought over a bottle of fine Scotch.

"It was clearly her favorite, because she often stopped by to help us consume it!"

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Fresh eggs from your backyard? We'll tell you how.
Next Tuesday in Home & Garden

CLEANING CORNER

Question: My Grandmother (may she rest in peace) would always say "If Johnny's clean, the whole house is clean!" So keeping toilet bowls sparkling has always been a priority for me. However, nasty hard water rings seem to be defeating my efforts. I've heard you have an amazing product. "Pleasing Granny"

Answer: Your Grandmother gave you excellent advice. I might add to her words, "Dirty Johnny's will make even the nicest girls flush!" So... make toilets sparkle with safe and easy-to-use SAFETY FOAM. Fast and effective, Safety Foam cleans and deodorizes in minutes and dissolves hard water rings too! Your toilets will sparkle like never before.

P.S. Go to www.cleanreport.com for a video demonstration of Don Aslett's three easy steps for shiny, like new toilets.

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

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Lori Chandler
Cleaning Center owner
734-2404

BURLEY/RUPERT FORECAST

Today: A few showers or thunderstorms. High 66.

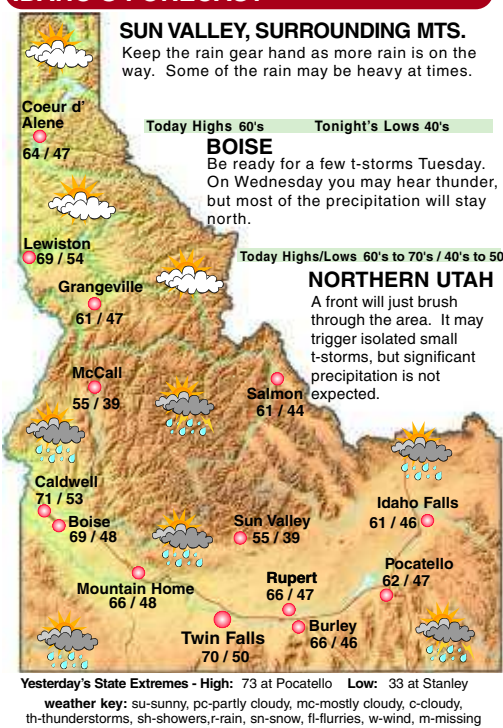
Tonight: Mostly cloudy, drier. Low 46.

Tomorrow: Mostly cloudy, maybe a night shower. High 67.

ALMANAC - BURLEY

Temperature and Precipitation table for Burley/Rupert area.

IDAHO'S FORECAST



TWIN FALLS FIVE-DAY FORECAST

Five-day weather forecast for Twin Falls, including Today, Tonight, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Yesterday's Weather

Table showing weather data for various Idaho cities from the previous day.

ALMANAC - TWIN FALLS

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

MOON PHASES



MOONRISE AND MOONSET

Table of moonrise and moonset times for Twin Falls.

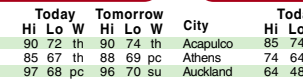
REGIONAL FORECAST

Regional forecast table for various Idaho cities.

NATIONAL FORECAST

National forecast table for various US cities.

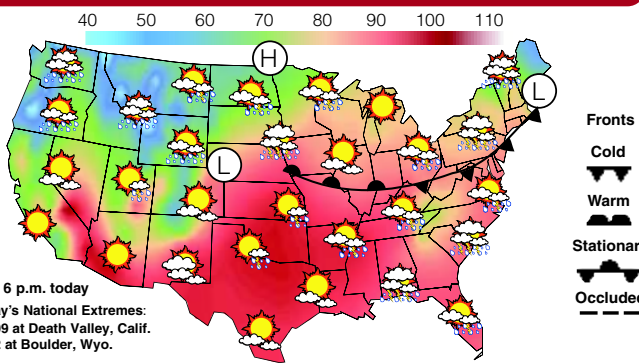
TODAY'S U.V. INDEX



WORLD FORECAST

World forecast table for various international cities.

TODAY'S NATIONAL MAP



Gregg Middlekauff's Quote of the Day: 'That's what it takes to be a hero, a little gem of innocence inside you that makes you want to believe that there still exists a right and wrong, that decency will somehow triumph in the end.'

Only the bold dare to play with color

By Martha Phifer, The Orlando Sentinel

Of all the ways to be bold when choosing decor, I find that using bold colors is the hardest one to pull off. It's like making a promise you know you might not keep.

It's easier with pillows

Throw pillows can be bold, even in all their soft and

cushiony glory. They are much safer, too, for those of us trying to experiment with color. Chiasso Simply Modern Design offers a wide selection of pillows in lots of shapes, colors and sizes.

fresh touch to a room. Unlike paint, changing your mind doesn't require too much work.

Color combinations made easy

What's harder: Choosing the right color or finding other colors that complement your first choice? Good thing the "Home Color Bible: 1,000 Gorgeous Combinations for Every Room" (Collins Design; \$26.99) by David Willis helps eliminate some of the guessing.

The first part covers understanding color, which includes descriptions of complementary, harmonious and triadic schemes, all illustrated on a color wheel. Then come explanations of color intensity, tone, warm and cool colors, color and light, natural color and seasonal color.

You'll find hundreds of possible color combinations for every room in the home, many of which you can "try" yourself

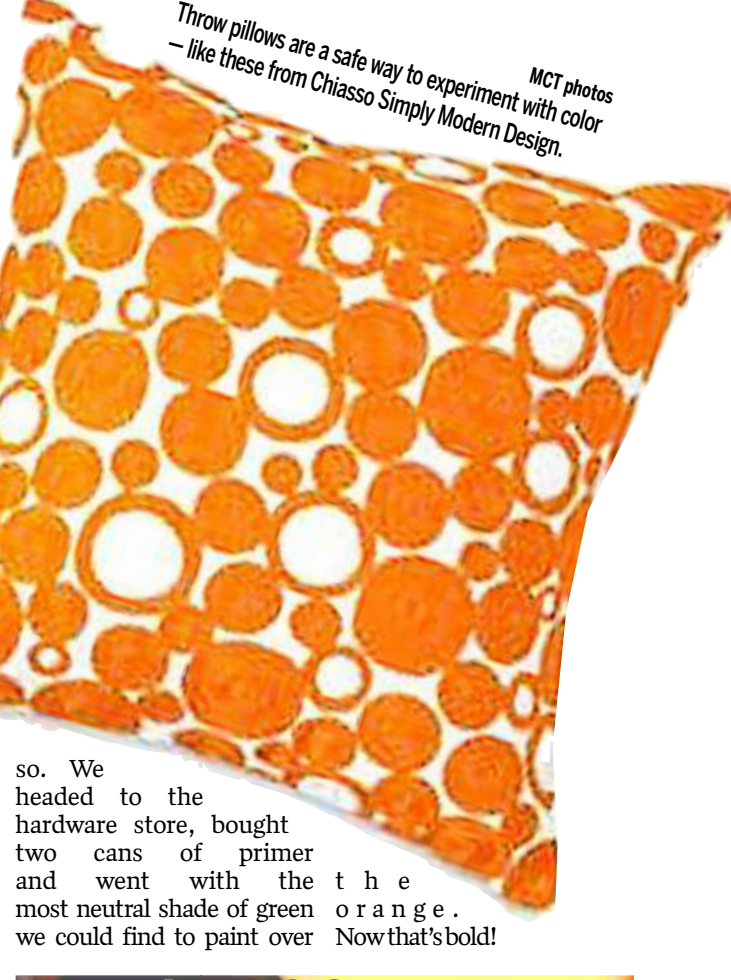
by flipping through the mix-and-match color tab system. Colors are based on Benjamin Moore Paints.

How bold can you go?

I was positive that I was ready to go bold with color. So was my husband. And even though she wouldn't have to live with the decision, my mom thought it was a great idea, too. She even helped us pick the color: orange!

None of us admitted it, but we were all a little nervous about the paint job. As soon as we saw that pumpkin orange splashed on our bedroom walls, we knew that the darn paint chip had deceived us. There was no way we would ever sleep peacefully in there.

Still, we weren't going to give up just yet. We finished painting the room and even added the second coat. After all, we were committed to our boldness. Our actions on the very next day proved it



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Lawn & Garden Directory

LAWN AND GARDEN FERTILIZING TIPS:

FERTILIZING TIPS CONTINUED

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EPA, green groups settle farm pollution lawsuit

Agency agrees to gather information on factory farms

By Michael J. Crumb
Associated Press writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will gather information about factory farms to determine whether more should be regulated as part of a settlement with environmental groups concerned about water pollution.

The EPA reached the settlement Tuesday with the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and Waterkeeper Alliance.

The groups filed a federal lawsuit in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans in early 2009, claiming the EPA gave too much discretion to farm operators in determining which farms needed permits to discharge waste into

waterways.

The settlement requires the EPA to gather information about factory farms that don't have discharge permits and determine whether they should be regulated.

Natural Resources Defense Council attorney Jon Devine said it could improve pollution control standards for factory farms.

"This settlement puts the EPA

on the path to collecting more data about factory farms and it will in turn give us the tools we need to determine which ones are polluting and how best to regulate them," Devine said.

The EPA acknowledged the settlement Wednesday night and said in a statement that the agency is "committed to protecting public health and the environment and advancing the agency's goals to protect America's waters."

The agency said it would pro-

pose a rule to collect information from the factory farms and would take final action on the proposed rule within two years. It will seek public comment as part of that process.

Representatives for the Sierra Club and Waterkeeper Alliance praised the settlement, saying it will help ensure farms follow environmental laws and protect the nation's waterways.

See **EPA**, Agribusiness 2

LABOR of love



AP photo

Mark Maynard, farm manager for Greyledge Farm in Roxbury, Conn., surveys a large field with knee high grass where Black Angus cattle are raised for meat, May 11. The farm, in the rolling hills of Litchfield County, also offers chicken and pork for mail order.

Weekend retreat transforms into cattle business

By Linda Giuca
Associated Press writer

ROXBURY, Conn. — Terry and Libby Fitzgerald got a little more than they bargained for when they bought a weekend home in Roxbury in 1993.

The Fitzgeralds, whose three sons now range in age from 7 to 16, purchased Greyledge Farm in Roxbury as a retreat from their New York City residence. The 330-acre farm built on a ridge between Roxbury and Bridgewater soon became not only the family's second home but also a new business venture.

Black Angus cattle now graze among its expansive pastures, and the farm is selling its grass-fed beef to local residents and to the

upscale Mayflower Inn in Washington Depot and the Monkey Bar in New York City.

When the family bought the property, "it was not a working farm," Libby Fitzgerald says.

"It was a dairy farm but had not been in use for 50 years. All of the original barns were gone, and the fields were overgrown. It's been a long-term labor of love to restore the farm to working order."

Today, the fenced-in pastures are well maintained, and the spacious new pale-yellow calving barn and business office building features a solar-energy system that can generate enough electricity in the summer to make the farm self-sufficient.

About 300 Black Angus cattle graze on the land in addition to pigs, turkeys and Cornish Cross chickens.

The Fitzgeralds bought the land with the intention of farming on a small scale. "We're very interested in land preservation," Fitzgerald says. "It was important to us to keep it open as farmland."

The town of Roxbury welcomes that kind of commitment.

"We are trying to keep farming and agriculture in our town," says Julie Steers, executive director of the Roxbury Land Trust. "It is certainly something that the community values" because the farms give residents access to locally grown foods.

Steers also works at the

farm, handling administrative duties and fulfilling customer orders for meat.

The fertile land also meant that the Fitzgeralds could become more self-sufficient.

"We, as a family, had a desire to grow our own beef and vegetables," Fitzgerald says. "We had an interest in producing healthy, natural food and it turned out that a lot of friends were interested in the same thing."

The couple also wanted their sons "to learn about where food comes from, hard work, (how to take) care of animals and life lessons they wouldn't learn in the city," she says.

The older boys already are entrepreneurs.

See **CATTLE**, Agribusiness 2

Superweeds fight

Farmers protecting crops from herbicide-resistant weeds

By Brett Rowland
Northwest Herald writer

HARVARD, Ill. — Blue Star Vineyard grape grower Jeff Pankow is careful about what herbicides and chemicals are used on his acres near Harvard.

He is cautious to protect his vines and the wine they eventually will produce. And he is cautious to prevent superweeds.

So-called superweeds haven't cropped up in McHenry County, but herbicide-resistant weeds have been growing in Illinois for several decades, and farmers are taking steps to prevent the spread of resistant strains.

Pankow changes his weed control methods to keep superweeds from sprouting here.

"The rotation helps to avoid resistance," he said.

Those in the agriculture industry are well aware of the threat of tricky weeds that rob nutrients from corn and soybeans and reduce crop yields. Weeds that have developed resistance are harder to kill and often require the use of one or more herbicide or other expensive methods the cost of which can stomp profits.

Plants can develop resistance to heavily used

chemicals such as glyphosate, sold under the trade name Roundup, through rapid selection, said Aaron Hager, associate professor of crop sciences at the University of Illinois.

"If we only use a limited number of tools to control weeds, only the resistant ones survive and reproduce," Hager said. "That is the selection process."

Changing weed control methods can help.

"We can't prevent selection nature doesn't want to give up but we can slow down the process," Hager said.

Illinois is one of 22 states in the United States that have documented herbicide-resistant weeds. The state is home to 18 varieties that are resistant to one or more kinds of herbicide.

Waterhemp is the most common herbicide-resistant weed in Illinois and the focus of much of the crop science research, Hager said.

Sizing up the effect of these weeds on agriculture is not easy.

"It is very difficult to measure the scope of the problem," Hager said.

Locally, no cases of herbicide-resistant weeds have been reported.

See **WEEDS**, Agribusiness 2



AP photo

Conserv FS Terra Gator floater operator Phil Etnner sprays glyphosate, a herbicide, in a field near Hampshire, Ill. Etnner expects with the warmer weather that the weeds and crops will be growing at a faster rate keeping the crews busy spraying area fields. Farmers are trying to protect their crops from herbicide-resistant superweeds.

Northern Nevada growers make use of farmers markets

By Brian Duggan
Nevada Appeal writer

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Mark O'Farrell takes a seat by a tiny wooden shed on his five-acre farm just south of Carson City.

"It has not been an easy spring," O'Farrell said, sporting a flannel shirt and baseball cap. "It's hard to predict the grow season in Nevada. Usually in April or May there are a couple of usable weeks with warmer weather."

Another winter-type storm was just topping the Sierra, and a flock of chickens suddenly scurried into their coop when a hawk began circling overhead.

Welcome to farming in rocky, windy northern Nevada.

O'Farrell is the owner of Hungry Mother Organics, located at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center. He grows dozens of fruit and vegetable varieties and raises free-range chicken.

He's also among the dozen or so farmers who bring produce to a farmers markets every week during the summer in Carson City.

But sustaining his 4-year-old operation requires more than hawking tomatoes and farm-fresh eggs to eager foodies in the city.

His farmers market business amounts to just a quarter of O'Farrell's income, which is why

See **MARKETS**, Agribusiness 2



Mark O'Farrell, owner of Hungry Mother Organics, works in one of his greenhouses in Carson City, Nev. O'Farrell is among the dozen or so local farmers who bring produce to farmers markets every week during the summer in Carson City.

AP photo



One more shot for Laing

It may not be too late for Austin Laing.

The 2007 Buhl High School graduate took a shot at playing at the next level and earned a scholarship to play for the University of Montana-Western. The only problem is that he may have picked the wrong sport.

Bradley Guire



First, a refresher: Laing was a premier athlete for the Indians in football, basketball and baseball. During his junior year, he and the Indians baseball team earned third at the Class 3A state tournament. As a senior and starting quarterback, he helped lead his team to second place in the 2006 state football championship. A few months later, he contributed to the basketball team's state runner-up trophy.

Following high school, Laing tried out for a spot on the Treasure Valley Community College baseball roster, but he didn't make a connection to the program. With offers from Montana-Western and Eastern Oregon University, he went back to football. He played quarterback for UMW for two seasons before leaving.

"I saw the writing on the wall for football," he said. "I knew I wouldn't excel and go to the next level."

He saw things differently when it came to the diamond.

Laing came back to the valley to finish up some course work at the College of Southern Idaho and got a few jobs assisting local high school teams — he was the offensive coordinator for the Filer varsity football team and a junior varsity coach for Buhl baseball this school year. While in Boise for a recent trip, he pitched a little and was clocked at 85 mph.

"Out of shape, I threw 85, and I thought I could do something with that, even though I thought I ruined my chances of (playing baseball)."

What can he throw if he shapes up to transform his body from that of a meaty football player to that of a more slender pitcher? He'll find out soon enough.

The plan for now is to throw three or four sessions a week with Buhl senior J.D. Leckenby, who signed with Washington State and is the younger brother of Laing's former teammate Tanner Leckenby, as preparation to attend an MLB scouting camp. One is coming up in late June in Kennewick, Wash., and is open to anyone 16 to 25. For those who were overlooked in high school or college, it's the place to get noticed. But at 21, time may be running out for Laing, and he's level-headed about his future.

"If you're not at a certain point (at the camp)," he said, "you know that you need to hang it up."

Say things don't work out. Then what? Laing said he'd be fine with continuing down the path toward becoming a teacher and a coach. He'd love to stay in the area a while longer, but there's always the goal of making it to the next level.

"The route now is to see where I'm at and see if I can compete with the big guys," he said. "If not, I've got my backup plan."

Current high school athletes with dreams of a playing career would do well to follow his example.

Bradley Guire may be reached at 735-3229.

SHRINE ON

Football games played today

By Ryan Howe
Times-News writer

BURLEY — Nobody can appreciate today's North-South All-Star Shrine Football Games more than Jesse Caldera.

"I'm honored to be playing in it," said Caldera. "I love Shriners Hospital. They definitely changed my life, and it means a lot for me to be playing in this game, to be able to give back to them."

Born pigeon toe, with his feet pointing inward, Caldera has been a patient at Shriners Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah, since he was a baby and has received a half-dozen surgeries on each foot. If it wasn't for Shriners, Caldera said he wouldn't have been able to walk — much less play football for Minico High School.

"If it wasn't for them I totally wouldn't have the life I have now," Caldera



MEAGAN THOMPSON/Times-News

Senior players from Magic Valley football teams run through drills Friday afternoon during a practice for today's North-South All-Star Shrine Football Games at Burley High School.

NORTH-SOUTH SHRINE GAMES

When: Today, 8-man game, 5:30 p.m.; 11-man game, 8 p.m.
Where: Burley High School
Admission: \$5

said. "There are lots of kids that don't get the opportunity that I got. I feel lucky to be able to be walking."

Caldera is one of approximately 135 recently-graduated senior football players from District IV participating in the 33rd Annual

North-South All-Star Shrine Football Games played today at Burley High School. The 8-man game starts at 5:30 p.m. with the 11-man game kicking off around 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the gate for \$5 with all proceeds benefit-

ing Shriners Hospitals for Children. Spectators are also encouraged to bring a can of food for donation.

For most players, this will be the last opportunity to strap on the pads and play a game they love while old rivals become teammates.

"It's a fun game and it's for a great cause," said Stacy Wilson, one of the 11-man South's coaches. "You never know with these Shrine games. We've had

INSIDE

Team rosters

See Sports 2

years where we had three Division-I (college) players, and we got our butts kicked. Then there were other years where we thought we weren't very good, and we won by 30. It's all about how the kids play together."

Niemi, Blackhawks beat Flyers 2-1, take 2-0 lead

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Antti Niemi was unflappable as the Stanley Cup finals turned defensive in Game 2. Different style of game from the opener, yet another victory for the Chicago Blackhawks.

Niemi made 14 of his 32 saves in the final period and Chicago beat the Philadelphia Flyers 2-1 to take a 2-0 series lead on Monday night.

"It's unbelievable feeling how the people react," Niemi said as the crowd cheered him and chanted his name after the game. "Defense was the key."

After a 6-5 Chicago victory in the opener when the teams traded goals, both clubs tightened up their defense. The tone was more physical and chippy from the outset.

The Blackhawks, who for the second straight



AP photo

Chicago Blackhawks goalie Antti Niemi makes a stop against the Philadelphia Flyers in the second period of Game 2 of the Stanley Cup Finals on Monday in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 2-1 and lead the series 2-0.

game got no points from their two young stars Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane, broke through against Michael Leighton when Marian Hossa and Ben Eager scored 28 seconds apart late in the second period. And after the Flyers got

a power-play goal from Simon Gagne early in the third, Niemi withstood a late flurry from the Flyers to preserve Chicago's seventh straight win.

"I thought their goaltender played extremely

See NHL, Sports 2

Stosur beats Henin, gets S. Williams next

The Associated Press

PARIS — Justine Henin kept saying it, even if no one was listening.

She's not back to being the player she was before taking a 20-month hiatus from tennis. She's still searching for consistency on court. Too many "ups and downs," to use her term.

Turns out Henin was right. Betrayed down the stretch by her best stroke, the backhand, and by her usually steely nerves, the four-time French Open champion lost to No. 7-seeded Sam Stosur of Australia 2-6, 6-1, 6-4 in the fourth round Monday, ending Henin's 24-match winning streak at her favorite tournament.

"Everyone wants to see me (at) the level that I was," said Henin, who abruptly retired in May 2008 while ranked No. 1, then returned to the tour this season and

reached the Australian Open final in January. "I still have to work a lot, quite simply."

Thanks to her 2005-07 titles at Roland Garros, and then the time away, it's been six years since Henin felt the sting of a loss at the clay-court Grand Slam tournament — all the way back in 2004's second round.

"Obviously, beating Justine is going to give me lots and lots of confidence for the next match," said Stosur, a French Open semifinalist in 2009 and a tour-best 18-2 on clay this year. "That's obviously a great achievement for me, but it's not over yet. I'm just in the quarters and going to play the No. 1 player in the world next."

That would be Serena Williams, who stumbled at the start before cruising to a 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 18 Shahar Peer of Israel.

See TENNIS, Sports 2

Pierce excited to return to NBA finals, hometown of Boston

The Associated Press

NBA Finals

Game 1: Lakers at Celtics
7 p.m., Thursday, ABC

WALTHAM, Mass. — Paul Pierce is excited to return to the NBA finals and his hometown for the next round in the league's greatest rivalry.

Boston's best player isn't exactly thrilled that Los Angeles' welcoming committee includes Ron Artest, a physical, tenacious defender.

"He likes to bang you," Pierce said Monday, "grab you, hold you, pull your shorts down. He's going to try anything."

The NBA's past two champions will go for another title beginning Thursday night when the Celtics

it makes it even more special. The only negative thing about it is tickets for me. I mean, it's going to be pretty expensive."

That was a small inconvenience two years ago when Pierce won his first NBA title in 10 seasons as the Celtics beat the Lakers in six games. Boston clinched it with a 131-92 win at home for its ninth championship in 11 finals matchups with the Lakers.

But Artest didn't join the Lakers until last July.

Pierce averaged 18.3 points per game in the regular season, and 19.1 over the first three rounds in the postseason. He averaged 24.3 in the Eastern Conference finals against

the Orlando Magic, collecting 31 points and 13 rebounds in the clincher.

But he scored just 13 points per game as Boston and Los Angeles split their two-game season series.

"I matched up with him the last 10, 11 years. He's one of the best defenders I've ever played against," Pierce said of Artest. "He'll try anything just to try to get into his opponent's head. But I think just from playing against him over the years I've become used to the things that he tries to do and I just try to go out there and play my game, not really get into the antics

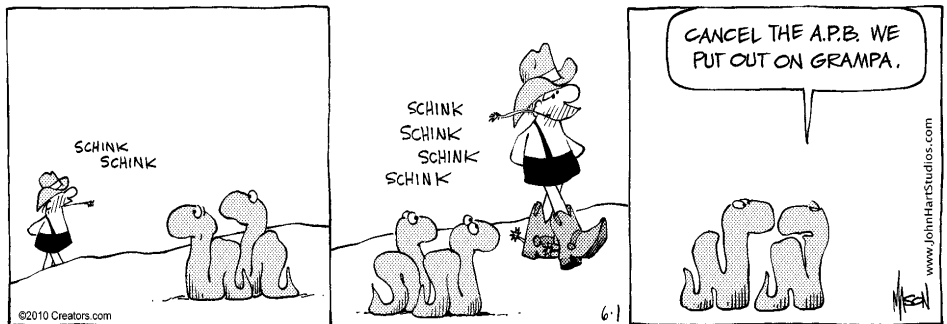
See NBA, Sports 2

B.C.

By Mastroianni and Hart

Baby Blues

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker

Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake

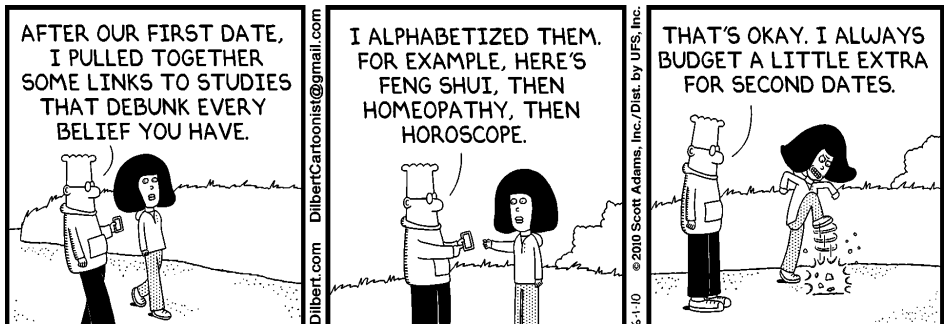


Dilbert

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The Elderberries

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise

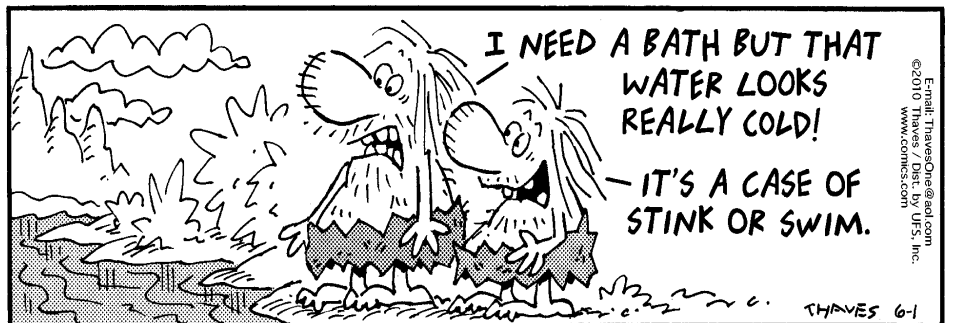


For Better or For Worse

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Frank and Ernest

By Bob Thaves

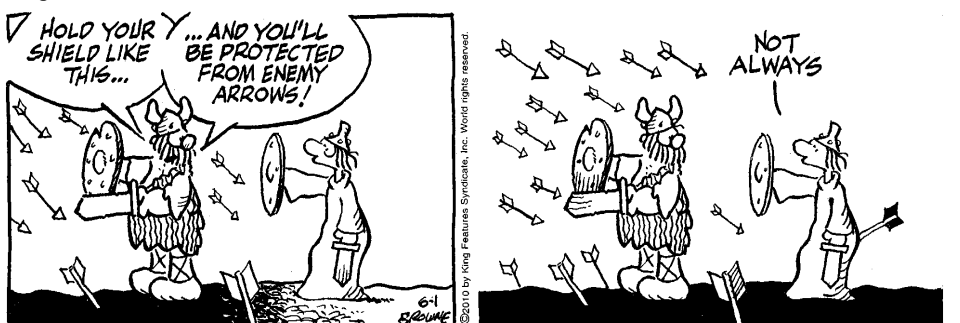


Garfield

By Jim Davis

Hagar the Horrible

By Chris Browne

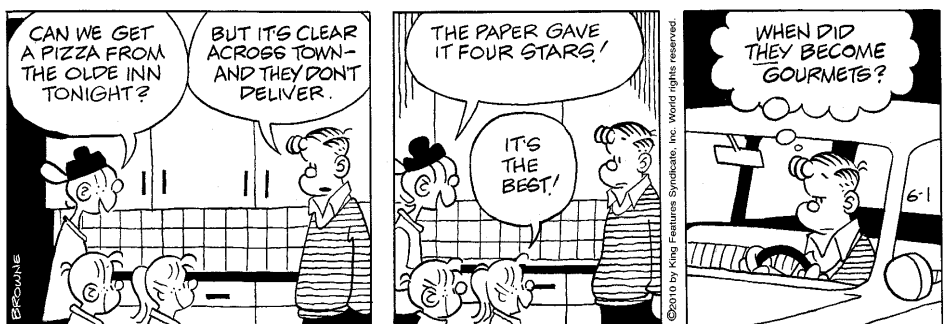


Hi and Lois

By Chance Browne

Luann

By Greg Evans

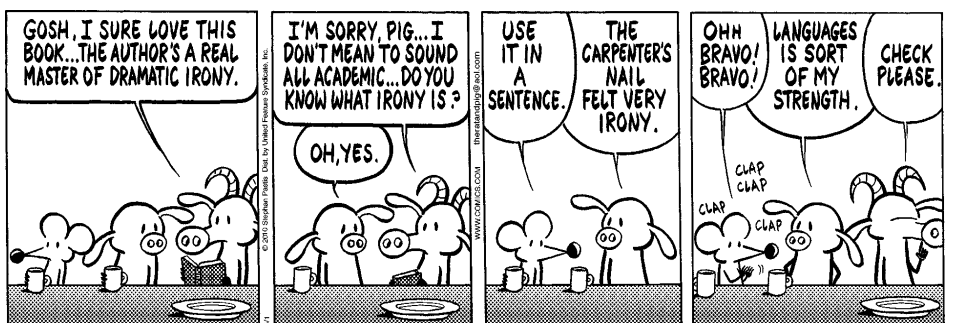


Classic Peanuts

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Pearls Before Swine

By Stephan Pastis

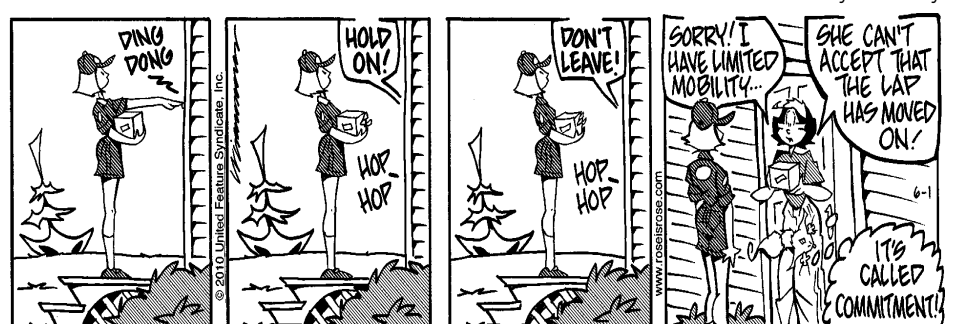


Pickles

By Brian Crane

Rose is Rose

By Pat Brady



Non Sequitur

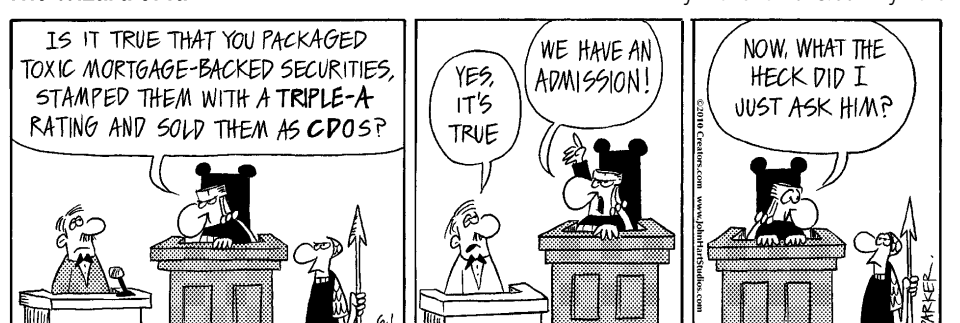
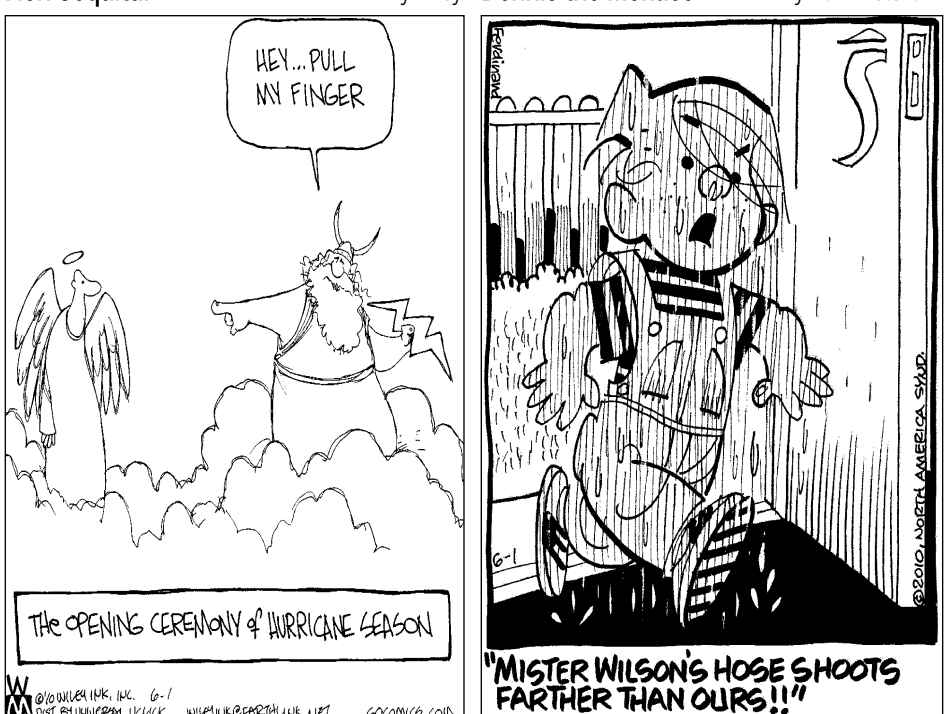
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Dennis the Menace

By Hank Ketcham

The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Zits

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