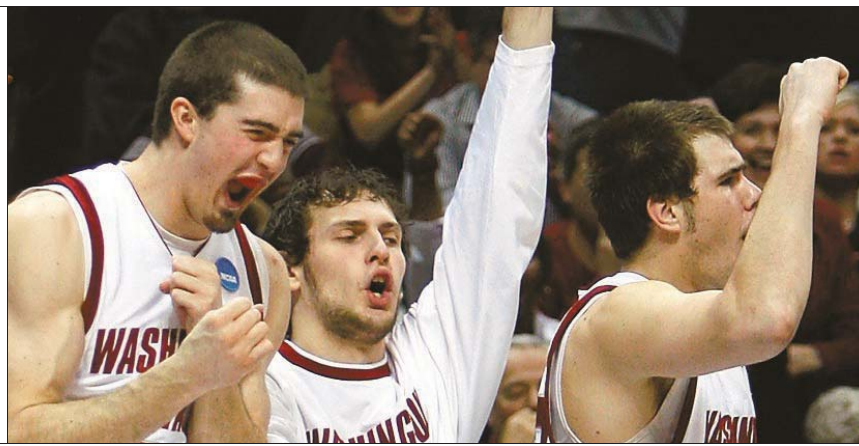


Happy Easter



NCAA Tournament

SWEET!

Cougs rout Irish 61-41 to advance to Sweet 16

SPORTS > C1

FORECAST
Rain, then showers.
High, 48. Low, 37.
> LOCAL B10



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“We’re obviously not immune”

BAD RECESSION COULD DRAG DOWN OUR STATE

Washington’s strengths still providing a shield

BY JON TALTON
Special to *The Seattle Times*

Washington state is taking some shrapnel from what is increasingly being seen as a national recession.

But the trigger event of a housing bust has yet to arrive in force. The complex offshoots of the bust, such as the exotic investment vehicles that sank Bear Stearns on March 14, are largely an abstraction.

Locally, the Puget Sound economy ended 2007 with a host of strengths, many of which are continuing into this year. The biggest danger is the depth and length of the national downturn, which has caught the at- Please see > **ECONOMY, A6**

WASHINGTON’S ECONOMY

Good news

Exports: Booming countries around the world are buying planes and grains produced here.

Jobs: Boeing and Microsoft and other tech companies are still hiring.

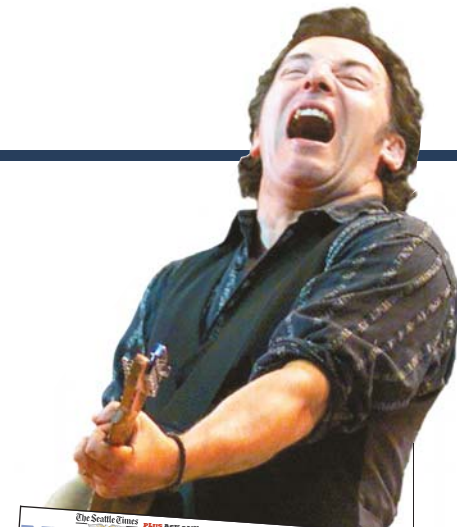
Population: People continue to move here for well-paying jobs.

Bad news

Prices: Up for everything from gasoline to milk.

Adjustable mortgages: Reality sets in; interest rates resetting upward.

Housing: Sales are off, prices down, foreclosures up. Still, the situation isn’t as bad as in other parts of the country.



NEW ENERGY IN 2 SECTIONS

NW Arts&Life
E Street Band has Bruce’s back > 11

NWTraveler
Adventure in Syria; plus, hotels close to home > 11

INSIDE TODAY’S SEATTLE TIMES, you’ll find stories on Bruce Springsteen’s visit to Seattle and on traveling to Syria and new Northwest hotels. They’re packaged in two revamped sections that debut today: NW Arts&Life and NWTraveler.

The sections are part of a renovated NWLife family of sections that will roll out through the week.

On Sundays, we’ve melded the Northwest Life and E&A sections into one, and we’ve refined the travel section through a Northwest lens.

And each weekday, you’ll get a single streamlined, updated feature section, so the Food, Ticket and NWWeekend sections have been refashioned to include daily lifestyle stories, puzzles, comics and television listings. For more on the changes, see the cover of today’s NW Arts&Life or NWTraveler.

A sanctuary all their OWN

For parishioners at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, this Easter is indeed a celebration of renewal. The Woodinville church finally has a home — and it’s pretty unique.



PHOTOS BY ERIKA SCHULTZ / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Rev. Frank Schuster follows altar girls Katie Kelly, middle, and Amy Camilleri in the recessional after the Palm Sunday service last week at Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Schuster came to the Woodinville parish from Bellingham in July.

BY JANET I. TU / *Seattle Times* religion reporter

That the sign for her parish is dwarfed by 18-wheelers parked out front is not of great importance to Shauna Smith.

After all, Smith and her fellow parishioners at Woodinville’s Blessed Teresa of Calcutta have worshipped in a junior high school under posters of Ichiro and Shrek and in a barn amid the whinnying of nearby horses.

The important thing to Smith is that this relatively new Roman Catholic congregation will finally celebrate Easter together in a space of its own — even if it is at a truck-driving school.

Today, millions of Christians worldwide celebrate Easter, the day they believe Jesus rose from the dead. It’s a time of renewal and hope.

For the 330 families at Blessed Teresa, this Easter will indeed be a celebration of renewal. After years of having to set up and take down their worship space each weekend in various places, they have transformed the driving school’s unused warehouse into a beautiful sanctuary that’s theirs full-time.



The archdiocese provided a loan for the half-million-dollar renovation of the Check Ride driving school’s warehouse.

They’re also coming to terms with a somewhat new identity. Their founding pastor was reassigned to another parish in July, and their Hispanic members — about a third of the congregation — relocated to a larger church in Bothell.

“I think it was tough to go through these transitions,” Smith said.

For years, Woodinville had no Catholic church, so local Catholics worshipped at churches in Bothell, Duvall and Redmond.

But between 2000-06, the population in the Please see > **CHURCH, A10**

THE DALAI LAMA IN SEATTLE |

Tibetan’s appeal transcends politics, religion

153,000 TO ATTEND

Compassion is focus of free, 5-day event

BY JANET I. TU
Seattle Times religion reporter

On his first visit to Seattle 30 years ago, the Dalai Lama drew a couple of thousand people. On his second, the crowds totaled more than 10,000.

When the leader of the world’s Tibetan Buddhists again visits Seattle for a gathering next month on compassion, more than 153,000 people are expected at speeches and workshops to be held over five days at some of the city’s largest venues.

The Dalai Lama’s popularity — here and worldwide — reflects his rise during the past half century from a relatively obscure spiritual and political leader to a prominent Please see > **VISIT, A14**

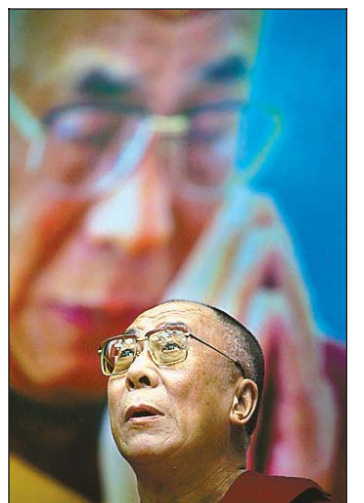
OLYMPIC sponsors pressured by human-rights groups > **A15**

On the Web

WATCH VIDEO excerpts of Janet Tu’s interview with Lama Tenzin Dhonden, the Dalai Lama’s personal emissary for peace.

ARE YOU GOING to the Seeds of Compassion event in April? Tell us what you hope to experience there.

seattletimes.com



GURINDER OSAN / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inside Sunday

Rebirth of haggling: Looking for a better deal on that TV? Savvy consumers are finding that they can dicker on prices — and some retailers welcome it. > **A4**

Midwest talks: Vice President Cheney reiterated the U.S. has an “unshakable” commitment to Israel’s security. > **A9**

Odd couple: School plays could one day share a space with funerals in a proposed deal between Tahoma schools and a national cemetery. > **Local B1**

Borrowers left in cold: The Fed has lowered interest rates, but new-home buyers and those looking to refinance aren’t benefiting. > **Real Estate E1**

Opinion: Barack Obama taught us how to talk about race, writes Leonard Pitts Jr. > **B8**

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