

The wife and daughter of a Lewistown, Mo., man are sentenced to federal prison terms for their roles in bilking the Social Security Administration out of \$133,000.

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Challengers oust three long-time incumbent trustees on the Marion County Health Department board, while voters in the Palmyra School District overwhelmingly approve a bond issue for school improvements.

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QUINCY

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50 cents

Cable deal brings Comcast to Quincy

Comcast, Insight dividing Midwest cable partnership; officials say customers will notice no change in operation and no jobs will be affected

By Steve Eighinger
Herald-Whig Staff Writer

Comcast will soon take over Insight Communication's Illinois cable television and high-speed Internet markets, including the West-Central portion of the state that includes the Quincy area.

The agreement between the two cable giants is not expected to be complete until late this year and the transition should be seamless, spokesmen from both sides told

The Herald-Whig.

The two companies are dividing assets they had mutually owned and operated for the past five years. At the heart of those assets are about 2 million cable customers in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

Rich Ruggiero, a Comcast vice president of communications and public affairs for the Midwest, said it was inappropriate to speculate on changes in programming, subscription prices, employee status and other items until the agreement is final.

Dominick Ascone, a district vice president for Insight who oversees operations in Quincy and Macomb, said the company's cable customers will notice no change in operation or service and all employees' jobs are safe. Ascone said Insight employs 25 people in its Quincy office.

"There will be no change — except uniforms," Ascone said.

The A.C. Nielsen ratings service reports

See **CABLE**, Page 7A

E-MAIL CHANGE

Arguably the biggest change connected with the transaction related to Internet subscribers will be the change of e-mail addresses. Those "insightbb.com" addresses will change to reflect Comcast ownership.

GOVERNOR IN QUINCY: Statewide bus tour touts controversial gross receipts tax

Gov. Rod Blagojevich smiles while making a point during a stop Tuesday at the Oakley-Lindsay Center in Quincy, where he hoped to build support for a gross receipts tax as a way to help fund education and health care programs, and fix the state's pension system.

Cheers and jeers greet Blagojevich

By Doug Wilson
Herald-Whig Senior Writer

Gov. Rod Blagojevich smiled and waved despite some boos as he took the stage in Quincy Tuesday afternoon to seek support for a \$7.6 billion tax that many in the audience believe would devastate the Illinois economy.

"I believe, I believe that we have a responsibility to provide health care to people in our state. I believe that is a fundamental right. I believe it is a God-given right. I believe it is written in the Declaration of Independence" under the pursuit to happiness, Blagojevich said.

The Chicago Democrat focused much of his speech on the benefits of his gross receipts tax: universal access to health insurance, better funding for schools and repair of the state's pension system.

Blagojevich also focused one how "big corporations" that pay little or nothing in corporate income tax are

See **GOVERNOR**, Page 6A



A man entering the Oakley-Lindsay Center Tuesday to hear Gov. Rod Blagojevich talk about his gross receipts tax proposal had to pass a sign posted by an opponent of the tax plan.

Author shares can-do attitude with summit attendees

Jack Schultz is sharing the inspiration for 'Boomtown USA' at the Tri-State Development Summit today at Culver-Stockton College.

By Doug Wilson

Herald-Whig Senior Writer

CANTON, Mo. — Jack Schultz says "a can-do attitude" is the most important factor in successful communities or successful regional efforts.

"It's amazing what communities have been able to accomplish" when they believe in themselves and their goal, Schultz said during an interview.

Schultz, author of "Boomtown USA," was the keynote speaker today at the Tri-State Development Summit. He talked about his study of the most successful small communities in the nation and complimented summit organizers for combining their efforts and taping the power of regionalism for more than 10 years.

"I think it's a wonderful approach," Schultz said.

He has observed other regional approaches. One that Schultz talks about is a coordinated effort on behalf of 21 counties in western North Carolina. Schultz said the area has rolling hills and little to attract industry. When the counties did an inventory of their assets, they noted that the area was once known as the moonshine capital of the United States.

"The moonshiners had fast cars and some of the first NASCAR drivers spent time in prison for running moonshine," so there was a natural connection for car racing, Schultz said.

Moonshining during the abolition era also led to a wealth of artisans who created pottery for storing and transporting liquor. Even though decades have passed, Schultz said that portion of North Carolina has "the third largest concentration of artisans" in the United States.

After the region started putting out maps and booklets for tourists, the art industry now brings in \$500 million a year, with 1,000 artists attracting visitors who spend days seeing what's available.

Schultz's message was a natural for business and community leaders from 35 counties in West-Central Illinois, Northeast Missouri and Southeast Iowa.

Jim Mentesti, president of the Great River Economic Development Foundation, said Schultz's research focuses on economic development in rural America.

See **SUMMIT**, Page 7A

INSIDE

Much has changed since October 1996 when the Tri-State Development Summit held its first gathering in Canton. More than 400 people attending the summit traveled along U.S. 61, which is still being upgraded to four lanes as the Avenue of the Saints project.

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information, please

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TODAY'S INSERTS

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Inserts are included in motor and carrier routes. If you did not receive a copy, call 221-3345 before 6 p.m.

48-Hour FORECAST

Thursday... partly cloudy, high in the mid-40s, cold in the evening with a low in the mid-20s. Friday... partly cloudy, high in the mid-40s, turning colder overnight with a low around 20.

**NEWS Maker**

LONDON — Keith Richards has acknowledged consuming a raft of illegal substances in his time, but this may top them all. In comments published Tuesday, the 63-year-old Rolling Stones guitarist said he had snorted his father's ashes mixed with cocaine. "The strangest thing I've tried to snort? My father. I snorted my father," Richards was quoted as saying by British music magazine NME. "He was cremated and I couldn't resist grinding him up with a little bit of blow. My dad wouldn't have cared," he said. "... It went down pretty well, and I'm still alive." Richards' father, Bert, died in 2002, at 84. Richards, one of rock's legendary wild men, told the magazine that his survival was the result of luck, and advised young musicians against trying to emulate him.



Richards