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**ECONOMY**

## Details emerge on stimulus plan

Bush, Congress to meet Tuesday; legislative aides suggest rebates could be up to \$800 per person.

By **KEVIN G. HALL**  
AND **RENEE SCHOOF**  
of McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Bush said today that “the kind of spending projects that would have little immediate impact on our economy” should not be part of any stimulus package, setting the stage for a possible clash with Democrats.

On Friday, Bush outlined the broad details of a roughly \$150 billion economic-growth package, seeking Congress’ help to provide a jolt intended to stimulate consumer spending and spur job creation.

Bush said any stimulus plan

should be big enough to make a difference in the world’s largest economy, and he proposed that the cost amount to about 1 percent of the U.S. economy. He called for tax rebates for consumers and tax credits and cuts for businesses to entice them to hire more workers.

The president declined to say how big a rebate he plans to offer.

Although Bush and leading Democrats in Congress agree on the broad categories of a stimulus plan, they’re apart on the details. Bush wants incentives for businesses to invest. Democrats want to add spending for food stamps,

See **STIMULUS**, Page 8A

**COMMUNITY**

Chunks of concrete wait to be recycled at the former city dump at 1200 Coliseum Blvd. S. The city Board of Zoning Appeals approved the operation in 2005, but Brooks Construction Co. won’t begin recycling until later.

By Kevin Leininger of The News-Sentinel



## Recycling company to reincarnate dead land

Ex-dump site will conserve money and resources.



A column by **KEVIN LEININGER**

**AT FIRST GLANCE**, the scattered debris and mounds of concrete chunks and dirt make it seem little has changed at 1200 Coliseum Blvd. S. since the infamous “city dump” closed there in the 1960s.

But looks can be deceiving. A decidedly Earth-friendly use has been found for what is believed to be one of Fort Wayne’s most contaminated addresses — a use that represents environmentalism at its best because it will save money as well as natural resources.

Later this year, Brooks Construction Co. could begin to

**A change for the better**

Brooks Construction Co. of Fort Wayne wants to build a plant to recycle asphalt and concrete on land that until the mid-1960s served as the “city dump.”



By Jon Swerens of The News-Sentinel

See **LEININGER**, Page 8A

**Public hearing**

**What:** Fort Wayne Board of Zoning Appeals’ public hearing on whether Brooks Construction Co. has met several court-ordered conditions to open a recycling operation at a former “city dump.”

**When:** 6 p.m. Jan. 31

**Where:** Room 126, City-County Building, 1 E. Main St. Parking is available in the adjacent garage.

**THE BLIZZARD OF '78 || 30 YEARS LATER**

*Editor’s note: On Jan. 26, 1978, Fort Wayne residents woke to find themselves buried under what would become up to 2 feet of snow and drifts as high as the eaves on some homes. Accompanied by 50-mph winds, the Blizzard of 1978 left nearly everyone stranded at home, in vehicles or at work. Starting today and through Friday, we’ll bring you memories sent in by our readers. Find them each day in the Local section.*



1111 West Hamilton Road: One of many snowbound homes.

News-Sentinel file photo

## SNOWBOUND CITY STUCK IT OUT



A column by **KERRY HUBARTT**

**THE NEWS-SENTINEL** published a front-page story on Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1978, warning readers in the headline: “Major Snowstorm Fort Wayne-Bound.” I believe the storm that hit that

night is one reason people around here still flock to the grocery stores on days when such predictions are made. The snowstorm that hit us 30 years ago this month stranded much of the population of Allen County with what they already had in their refrigerators and pantry shelves — many for several days.

More than 4 inches of snow was predicted by the National Weather Service for the next morning. But when we all got up that Thursday, few of us were able to go anywhere. Reports said 6 inches of snow had fallen before dawn on top of the several inches already on the ground, and accumulations would continue — up to 17 inches by the end of the day. But the real problem was the wind — gusts up to 55 mph had drifted snow as high as 20 feet in places. Some drifts reached telephone lines and the eaves of houses. The stories afterward recounted how people took stranded strangers into their homes, how owners of snowmobiles and four-wheel-drive



News-Sentinel file photo

Some of the thousands of city residents who took to the streets Jan. 27, 1978 — in search of emergency food supplies — trudge along South Anthony Boulevard near McKinnie Avenue.

trucks became ambulance drivers and how the National Guard had to rescue stranded motorists on the highways.

“The thing I remember most is how Fort Wayne worked together,” said Robert Armstrong in a story on the 15th anniversary of the blizzard in 1993. Armstrong was mayor at the time. The story said he stayed in the mayor’s office for four days to help coordinate the \$1 million cleanup.

Streets were not only impassable on Jan. 26, 1978, they were

See **HUBARTT**, Page 7A

*Readers share memories of unforgettable few days*

By **NICHOLE RODRIGUEZ**  
nrodriguez@news-sentinel.com

*Editor’s note: Last month, The News-Sentinel asked you, our readers, to send us your memories of the Blizzard of 1978 — how it affected your life and your family’s. For the next week, we’ll print many of them. A few caught our eye; here’s more about them:*

**Hanging out at hotel**

Vinnie Nix was working at The Ramada Inn the night the snow started falling. Working only 2 miles



Nix

from home, she thought she could get back and forth without a problem. At 3 a.m. when she went to see if her car was going to start, she realized she wouldn’t be going anywhere.

“We had a full house with 150 rooms filled, and the only two employees were me and the

See **MEMORIES**, Page 3A

**More coverage inside**

See images from the Blizzard of 1978, as well as a chart putting the blizzard in perspective to other weather events in the city’s history. Pages 3-5A, 7A Also, see memories from another staff member. Editorial, Page 6A