Surging unemployment and the crash of property values have hit Boise-Meridian especially hard. In an economy built mostly on housing construction, in cities where the value of housing has fallen more than 40 percent, the damage is long term. Down and Out in Ada County examines the dislocation with comparisons to past recessions and an emphasis on people struggling to cope.

Investigate Boise puts a human face on vital issues of civic concern.

—Melissa Lavitt, Dean 
College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Boise State University

Pictured: Potatoes at The Idaho Food Bank. Cover: Single mother Heidi Gintz of Boise, 26, a tattoo and cosmetology apprentice, with daughter Tallulah.