



# home

A special advertising section of the Daily Inter Lake

## On the House



MORRIS and JAMES CAREY

### Strange odor coming from under the house

There's a strange odor from under our home. Could it be mold?

—Lyndon

Yes, it could be. It could also be wet dirt. Wet dirt will grow a bacterium that produces a smell that can get into your home. If the space under your home is damp, try using powdered lime to alleviate the smell. Take proper precautions when using it, as it could burn your skin and eyes. Sprinkle it on the grade in sub areas. Also try improving the ventilation by adding foundation vents that will free the air throughout the crawl space.

### Hardwood floor troubles

It flooded underneath my wood floor this winter. The water is gone now, but my hardwood floors smell like mildew.

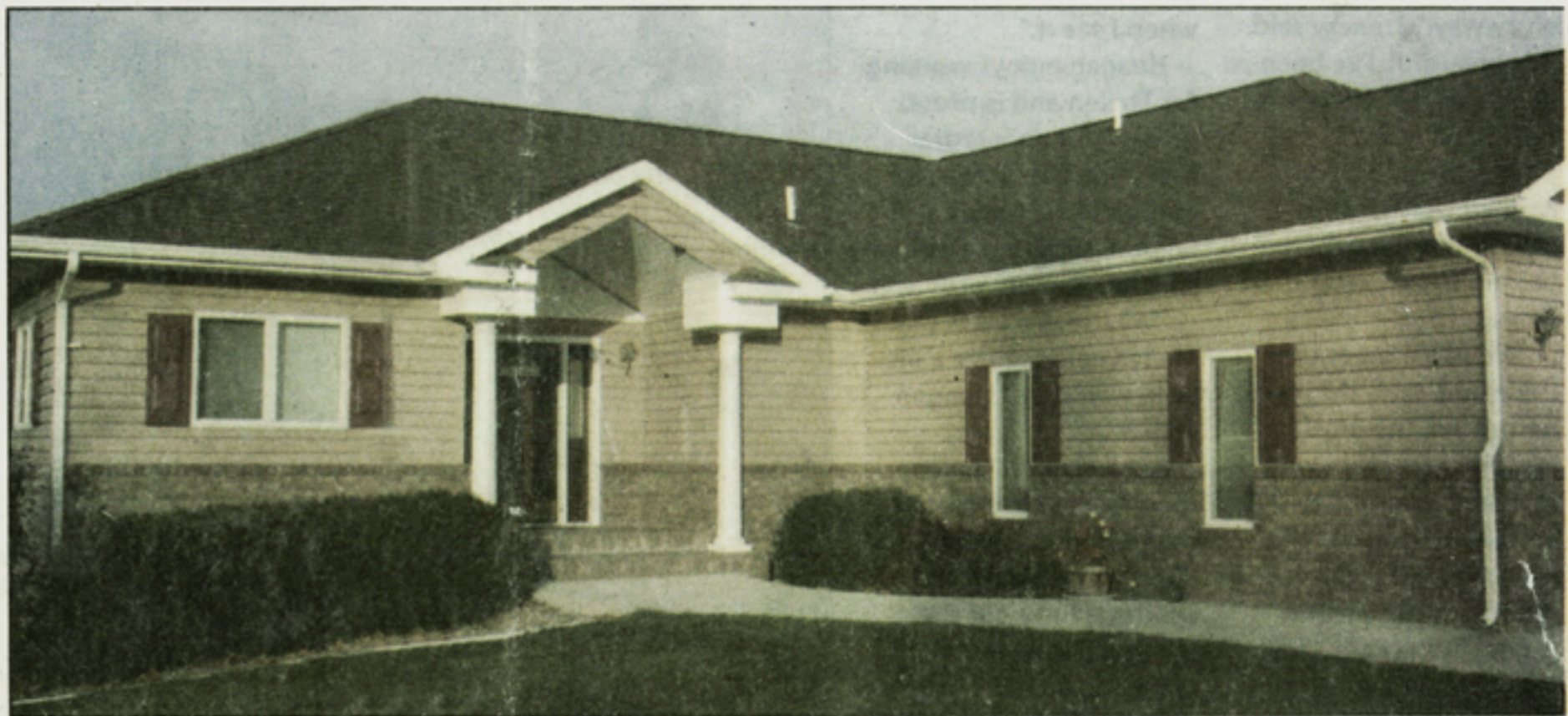
—Angelique

Your sniffer has indicated the problem and now it's time to take action before the mildew runs rampant and you end up with a \$10,000 hardwood floor replacement. Mildew thrives in moist dark areas, so to kill it you must brighten things up and dry them out. Prune back the spring growth outside your windows, pull up the blinds open the curtains and drapes, and flood your house with light. Prune shrubs away from foundation vents, and start a fan or three going under the floor and as many above it as well. The fast-moving air above and below your floor will dry out those impossible-to-reach places where only vapors travel. Keep this up all day every day for several days after the smell has disappeared.

#### TIP OF THE DAY

### Finger paint test

"Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" premiered on TV on this day in 1967 with things of interest to kids, from puppets and make-believe to arts and crafts including finger-painting. The latter is good for adults, too, when they want to know if paint is good or goo. To determine if paint is of good quality, just pop the lid and give it the finger test. If rubbing it between your thumb and fingertip results in a smooth and silky feel, it's high-quality paint. If it feels gritty, it's of poor quality. The cheap stuff often uses clay as filler which gives it a gritty constitution. When it comes to assessing paint for your home, the finger-paint test isn't child's play. It's smart and easy. And that's the On The House tip for today.



*Thelen Construction re-sided the home of Charles Ingles in Polson on the golf course. Ingles was more than pleased with the work and is excited that he and his wife will not have to paint their home ever again.*



## Thelen Construction's pre-summer sale highlights the company's philosophy

By Kasa Zipfel  
Advertising Writer

Last July Alvin and Billie McCrea faced a tight time frame for the siding on their house to be completed. They were hosting a family reunion and wanted the house to look its best for the event. The McCreas entrusted Thelen Construction to put new siding on their home and garage. It was the first time they had worked with Thelen Construction.

"We were more than pleased with what they did. They started at 6 a.m. and worked late at night to try and accommodate for the family reunion," explained Billie McCrea.

According to Mrs. McCrea, Thelen Construction owner Phillip Thelen and his com-

pany "do an excellent job.

"They came and picked up everything when they were finished. They were very conscientious. I would definitely recommend them to other people," she said. "My husband does carpentry and my brother is a contractor. They were equally impressed by the job that Thelen Construction did."

Thelen Construction is a full-scale general contractor. With more than a decade of experience, whether it's building a home from scratch or interior and exterior residential remodels, Thelen Construction is a one-stop construction shop.

Right now, Thelen Construction is celebrating summer by offering a pre-summer sale on energy-efficient windows and siding. In addition to

the federal government's 30 percent off rebate on energy-efficient windows and siding, Thelen Construction offers an additional 20 percent off purchases. This pre-summer special provides customers with the potential to save 50 percent on siding and window upgrades.

"The windows we carry are overqualified for the new federal tax credit. We only deal with manufacturers that have been around for at least 15 years," said Paul Hoagan, sales representative for Thelen Construction. "We endorse our products whole-heartedly because they've stood the test of time over decades. We're looking for the most long-standing and beneficial products to sustain the longevity of a home."

Thelen Construction stands

behind the company's labor with a labor warranty and also has a lifetime transferable warranty on products.

Thelen Construction services most of Northwest Montana, from south of Missoula to the far reaches of the Flathead Valley. Rod Trenary of Frenchtown hired Thelen Construction to install new siding around his entire house last September.

"We went around and inspected it after they finished and I looked it over very carefully, even through the winter and I cannot find a flaw in it. It's excellent," Trenary said.

Initially Thelen Construction's job for Trenary was to replace the home's siding. "While they were here, though, I asked them to put a new door in the entry way."

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### Thelen/From C1

When Thelen took the door off, they discovered that the framing around the door was rotting.

"They replaced that, put in the new door and I had them lay new tile in the entry way," Trenary said. "It's beautiful. I've been so happy with it. My house looks totally new."

Trenary had never worked with Thelen before and the experience proved to be better than he expected.

"We had a great time the whole time they were here. All of the guys he had out here were very personable and they did excellent work," he said. "I sure would recommend them to other people."

Paul Berrett of Columbia Falls had a similar experience with Thelen Construction after working with the company for the first time. Thelen did a complete exterior renovation on Berrett's home in a mere three days.

"He did a first class job. I would recommend him to anybody," Berrett said. "If Phillip (Theren) tells you he's going to do it, he will do it."

One of the highlights for Berrett was Thelen Construction's attention to neatness.

"He picked up everything around the house and cleaned up the whole property. It was a fine job," Berrett said.

Theren Construction is a detail-oriented company - paying attention to the customer's needs and ideas; details of the job; clean-up process and following up with the client.

"Thelen Construction

takes great care with everything they do," said Hoagan. "Phillip oversees every project personally and his workmanship is second to none. I know this to be true because I was an installer for 25 years so know quality when I see it."

Hoagan enjoys working for Thelen and is proud to work for an integral company that strives for complete customer satisfaction, superb craftsmanship and quality products.

"All the products that Thelen carries have a lifetime warranty," Hoagan explained.

According to Thelen, most of the customers that have installed Energy Star siding and windows have cut their energy bills by nearly 50 percent.

"With the rising energy costs, people can save money hand-over-fists by improving their windows and siding to make their homes more efficient," Thelen said.

"It's about as green as it gets," Hoagan said. "It's all about reducing our country's dependence on foreign energy and that's part of our philosophy and what we believe."

Taking small steps to save money, make a home more energy-efficient and eliminate the U.S. dependence on foreign energy, "helps out the entire community, state and nation," Hoagan said.

"You might even be saving a life somewhere by purchasing these energy-efficient windows."

Call Thelen Construction for a free estimate at (406) 253-1109.



*Thelen Construction installed the hardwood floors for this home's renovation.*



*Thelen Construction also does custom bathrooms and construction.*