

No reason to spring ahead with this idea

Lee Rozen, Moscow-Pullman Daily

Daylight saving time was less than two days old for 2014, and the editorial board was grumpy when it met Monday afternoon.

Some might say this was because it has been scientifically shown that heart attacks, workplace injuries, traffic accidents, headaches and other physical ailments all increase when the clocks change twice a year for daylight saving time.

Of course, the editorial board is always grumpy Monday afternoons well, really, whenever it meets.

Nevertheless, the board was considering the rationale behind an idea so wacky it might not even be approved by the Idaho Legislature.

The idea was that since the daylight saving changes trouble us so, let's just pick a time and stick with it.

State Rep. Jason Monks, R-Meridian, who introduced a bill to do just that, also wanted to pick daylight saving time as the time to stick with. If the whole nation followed his plan, we might save \$400 million or more a year, it's estimated, but if just Idaho does it, we grumpily suggest the savings would be far less.

Monks said he likes permanent daylight saving time because "most people like the extra hour of fishing time in the summer."

But, alas, it is unlikely to happen.

It seems the Legislature has been unable to agree whether to make Mountain Daylight Time or Pacific Daylight Time the permanent rule. (Moscow is on Pacific Time as is all of Idaho from Lucile north, while Boise and Meridian and all the rest of Idaho from Riggins south and east is on Mountain Time.)

If Idaho were on permanent Mountain Daylight Time, Moscow and Pullman (and Lewiston-Clarkston and Coeur d'Alene-Spokane) would be on the same clock all winter, but March through October at 7 a.m. in Moscow, it would be 8 a.m. in Pullman.

Getting to work in Pullman on time from Moscow would take real concentration. But in the evening those commuters would get home before they left work.

On the other hand, a permanent Pacific Daylight Time in Moscow would put the two cities on the same clock for eight months, but November through February at 5 p.m. in Pullman it would be 6 p.m. in Moscow.

In either case, it's confusing and that's why it would be a bad idea much of every year all along north Idaho's border with Washington.