

Fall sports preview **B section**

Page 2A

County busts grand theft ring in Marsing area

Page 10A

Marsing's German POW camp

Wednesday, August 24, 2005

Established 1865

The Ownhee Avalanche

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 34

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Records show county has stashed \$733K

While Owyhee County Commissioners are pleading poverty, the Avalanche has learned that they are quietly keeping nearly three-quarters of a million dollars stashed away in the bank, not showing in the county's budgeting funds, as

the they continue telling elected officials to cut expenses because of a lack of money.

The county's proposed budget was published in last week's edition of the Avalanche, and a public hearing will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 6 in the

courthouse in Murphy.

The overall budget is down from last year, as the commissioners continue to deplete the county's reserves to the point that the Current Expense reserve fund will be gone sometime during the next fiscal year. At the

present published revenue base, the Current Expense fund will require cuts of approximately \$300,000 by the end of 2006, unless Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) trust funds are put back into the county's budget.

The downward spiral began

at the end of 2003, after the county began the fiscal year with \$1,378,368 in carryover funds from the '02 Current Expense fund. The '03 year ended with \$1,064,532 in carryover, but by

— to page 5A

Owyhee cities OK budgets for 2006

The cities of Homedale, Marsing and Grand View have completed and approved their fiscal year 2006 budgets with few changes. All three cities approved budgets below last year's totals.

In Homedale, a budget of \$1,552,061 was approved, which is about \$500,000 less than the budget for FY 2005. Revenues in the library, airport, water and sanitation funds are expected to drop, but higher revenues are expected in parks, sewer and irrigation.

In law enforcement, the City Council approved an extra \$17,000 in revenue to its general fund for a high school resource officer as negotiations continue with the school district. Owyhee County commissioners recently cut the SRO furnished by the sheriff's office. The Homedale city council has approved \$34,000 to hire a resource officer.

The Homedale Police Department also will get a new vehicle this year as \$23,000 was approved for the car. The crunch of fuel expenses will be felt by

— to page 5A

Bomb scare brings Marsing to standstill



Stand clear

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman and posse members Lynn Bowman and Joe Aman stand clear as Nampa Police Department's bomb squad prepare a robot who eventually fired a shot into a suitcase.

The streets of Marsing were emptied Saturday afternoon when a bomb scare forced county deputies to reroute traffic for about three hours. What at first looked like a very dangerous situation turned out to be uneventful, but the conditions for a serious incident were apparent.

It started Saturday morning when a patron noticed a suitcase tucked between a cement pillar and a garbage can in front of Snake River Mart. Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said the patron saw the suitcase but didn't think much about it, until he returned two more times and the case was still there.

"The customer had been to the store three times and after he returned home the third time, he felt something was not right," Aman said. "He went home, came back and told the clerk not to get upset, but he felt the sheriff's

— to page 4A

Work group considers final draft of Initiative

On Aug. 11, the Owyhee Initiative Work Group met and voted on the language as to the actual legal definitions of the wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. Now, the work group will meet again on Aug. 31 in the same courtroom where the initiative was born to vote on the final language of the bill, other than voluntary proposals. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in

Courtroom 1 in Murphy.

"As we move toward quick completion of the language of the bill, we await word from the conservation groups as to whether they can support the proposals as written," chairman Fred Grant said Monday. "If they can, a completed bill is days away. If they cannot, and if they produce a counterproposal, then meetings will be set between

the conservation members and the ranchers. If the work group representatives of the ranchers are invited by the ranchers to participate in those discussions, they will do so.

"If the Initiative is meant to be, August 31 will be an important milestone. We have moved through more than four years

— to page 5A





Out of control

A fire blackened about three acres of land behind the Owyhee County Fairgrounds near the Snake River on Friday afternoon. Homedale Fire Chief Scott Salutregui said he was unsure how the fire started, but due to dense growth, it spread quickly. The Homedale Rural Fire District responded with several engines to battle the blaze, which was burning in two different locations. Part of the fire burned just yards from the back fence of the fairgrounds.



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Owyhee County Sergeant Jim Bish reads Travis Ehlers a grand jury indictment during his arrest at the Ehlers home on Clark Road Friday afternoon. Ehlers was charged with grand theft and conspiracy to commit grand theft for his part in a \$100,000 theft ring.

Grand jury indicts Marsing couple in thefts

Owyhee County's grand jury convened last week and handed down two indictments of a Marsing couple for grand theft and conspiracy to commit grand theft. Only hours after receiving the indictments, Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies had both people in custody.

Travis Ehlers, 35, and his wife, Brenda, were arrested Friday. Travis was arrested at his home on Clark Road and Brenda was taken into custody at Marsing City Hall.

In January, deputies searched a home on Clark Road and discovered thousands of stolen tools, vehicles and miscellaneous items and construction equipment, but warrants were not issued immediately following the search. Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said a grand jury was convened because of the amount of stolen property and the number of people involved in the case.

"It has been a long investigation," Aman said Monday morning. "We started this in January. It was a very in-depth case. There are witnesses from other counties, and there is all this different property. It is just an intense case."

Aman said total property recovered would exceed \$100,000 in value.

Detectives and officers from Nampa Police Department, state investigators from the Idaho Transportation Department and Canyon County Sheriff's office were on scene to help identify some of the property.

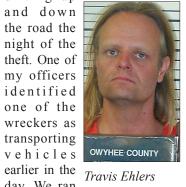
"We had a report of a stolen

motor home in Marsing," Aman said during the investigation. "A reporting party said they had seen a wrecker which is on this property, driving up and down the road the night of the theft. One of my officers identified one of the wreckers as transportingvehicles

day. We ran



Brenda Ehlers



a check on the two vehicles and they came back clean. Thursday, (Idaho Law Enforcement Telecommunications System) contacted us and reported that one of the vehicles ran had just been reported stolen from Nampa. The other vehicle on the wrecker was also stolen. So we got a search warrant and now have four confirmed stolen and could have many more."

Aman said several vehicles had the ignition punched out and a key maker machine was also found. He said a ignition rebuilding kit was found.

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Protecting the public

Since the publication of registered sex offenders in Owyhee County last month, two more have been added to the state's

This list is published for the protection of the public.

The complete list can be

http://www.isp.state.id.us/ identification/sex_offender/ index.html



Steven John Chaffin

Date of birth: July 5,

1899 Sweet Water Lane Murphy, Idaho 83650

Conviction: Lewd conduct with a minor child under 16.

Carl Edward Scott

Date of birth: May 4, 1950

615 W. Idaho Ave. No. 2 Homedale, Idaho 83628 Conviction: Two counts

of lewd and lascivious act with a child under 14force.



The Avalanche

Planning and Zoning hears more testimony on Wilke Farms plan

The hearing on the Wilke Farms' application for a conditional use permit for operation of a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) that would include up to 9,000 animals, was concluded on Aug. 16. The Planning and Zoning Commission has taken the case under advisement in order to study the testimony of several witnesses and the numerous documents admitted into evidence. A written decision will be issued in a few

Two days of hearings were held in April, and testimony was closed at that time. However, the hearing was not adjourned. It was held open so the applicant could answer a series of questions from the Planning and Zoning Commission in writing.

After heavy rainfalls hit the area in early May, the hearing officer was notified by Helen Kettle, a neighbor of the Wilke operation, that there was runoff of waste from the Wilke operation on to her property. Upon recommendation, the Planning and Zoning Commission ordered the hearing resumed.

During the interval between the

April hearings and the resumption nothing more regarding run-off of the case, Rich Collins had entered as counsel for Helen Kettle, replacing Lois Hart, who remained as counsel for other landowners in the surrounding area who opposed the application.

When the hearing began, counsel for Wilke Farms, Chris Meyer, announced that a settlement had been reached between his client and Kettle, which would shorten the hearing. Outside the presence of the commission, the hearing officer heard details and read the actual signed settlement.

Under the terms of the written settlement admitted into evidence, there is admitted violation by Wilke Farms for allowing drainage and run-off during May's heavy storms. Wilkes agreed to make funds available for planting trees and shrubs, and for developing berms to protect against run-off on to the Tom Wilke property. The agreement called for Kettle to withdraw from the hearing and not provide any further testimony or evidence regarding the May runoff violations. Collins explained that while Kettle still opposed the application, she would offer

violations.

Wilke testified that he believes that he has taken all precautions necessary to make the requested use consistent with the surrounding neighborhood, and will operate it within all laws and regulations. He explained that his annual feed bill would be \$3.6 million, and most of those purchases of feed would be from Owyhee County growers.

"I explained to the commission that the Kettle-Wilke settlement put to rest the question of whether there was a regulatory violation by Wilke," hearing officer Fred Grant said. "The settlement removed that issue from the issues to

be dealt with at the resumed hearing. It also settled the rain run-off violation as between Kettle and Wilke, and as far as the state is concerned. But, the settlement did not settle the matter of whether the application should be granted. No voluntary citizen settlement can foreclose the obligation, which the commission has to determine whether the cup should be granted. It is the standards set by the ordinance, which must guide their decision, and no individual settlement can satisfy the commission's obligation. With that admonition, the commissioners took the case under advisement."



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St. Luke's to offer mammograms

The mobile mammography unit from St. Luke's Regional Medical Center will make a stop for examinations at the Grandview Valley Health Clinic on Wednesday, Sept. 14.

Women can make an appointment to receive their annual mammogram by calling (866) 381-2055. The mobile exam unit will be at the clinic from 9:40 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.

Insurance is accepted for this safe, confidential service.

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From page 1



Everything is code 4

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, center, removes a suitcase after it was blown open by the Nampa Police Department's bomb squad as posse top hand Joe Aman assists. Snake River Mart and the main street in Marsing were closed for approximately three hours until authorities could determine what was in the suitcase.

Marsing

office should be notified. Due to the nature of it, we couldn't take any chances and we notified the bomb unit from the Nampa Police Department."

Aman said because of where the suitcase was sitting, because no one in the store claimed ownership of the suitcase and because videotape from the store did not show anyone putting the suitcase in its position, Aman felt

the situation had to be treated as suspicious. None of the residents in the area were evacuated, but traffic was detoured around town for about three hours.

"Where it was, it could have caused a lot of damage," Aman said. "We wanted to make sure no one got hurt."

The suitcase was X-rayed twice, and Aman said because of the make-up of the case, the decision was made to blow open the package.

"Luckily this time it was empty," Aman said. "We don't like to shut down stores and force a loss in business. This situation was a classic for a suspicious circumstance. We would rather be safe than sorry."

Aman said that, in addition to the Nampa Police Department, Marsing Fire and Ambulance crews and posse members assisted in the incident. He said he was very grateful for the help.

Corrections

Setting record straight after madness of fair

The staff of the Owyhee Avalanche strives for accuracy in everything it does. Unfortunately, there are times when not everything is going to be correct. And last week was one of those

The Aug. 17 edition of The Avalanche was chock full of information from the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo. As anyone who attends the fair or organizes the fair, this time of year is a hectic one.

With that whirlwind of activity, something is bound to fall through the cracks.

In short, as a way of explaining our lapse last week, suffice to say: It was fair week.

Here is a list of items we'd like to clear up:

Because of incorrect information given to the Avalanche, the name of Idaho National Guardsman Patrick O'Connor was misspelled in the fair story on Page 1A.

The name of Idaho National Guardsman David Rodriguez was misspelled in a story appearing on Page 15A.

Because of incorrect information provided to the Avalanche, the photo that accompanied the story on a Homedale standoff on Page 2A was not that of suspect Salvador Serrano. The correct mugshot appears in today's pa-

The bronc rider in the photo on



Salvador Serrano

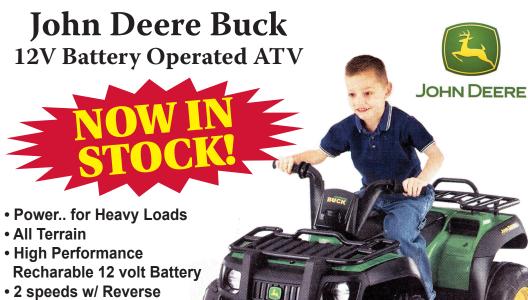
Page 1A was misidentified. He's Patrick Tindall.

Because of incorrect information given to the Avalanche, the winning car in the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo parade was misidentified as a Model A. It simply is a 1934 Ford Coupe. The Ford Motor Co. stopped making the Model A in 1932.

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JOE E. AMAN, editor-in-chief and publisher JON P. BROWN, managing editor E-mail: jbrowneditor@cableone.net CHERYL BEESON, reporter E-mail: cherylbeeson@cableone.net JENNIFER STUTHEIT, office ROBERT AMAN, composition

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Friday noon the week prior to publication

Inserts

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Letters to the editor

Friday noon the week prior to publication (Limit 300 words, signed, with day phone number.)

From page 1

√ County

the end of the '04 fiscal year more than half of that was gone, leaving \$470,000 to start '05. By the end of Fiscal Year '05 (Sept. 30), only \$90,000 will be left in the carryover to begin the '06 budget.

During the three-year budget period, an average of \$429,000 per year was spent out of reserves.

But the commissioners cannot increase taxes at a level to come close to covering such a shortfall in next year's proposed budget. Nor can they legally transfer funds from other levies.

"No question, we have reason for concern," Commissioner Chris Salove said last week about the depletion of carryover funds.

"I honestly don't know the answer."

He said the board will have to further cut budgets, and that he

Current Expense Revenues

This table shows how the Current Expense carryover funds have been depleted over past several years, and as a result, how taxes have increased. Because the carryover will be depleted by the '06 budget, and the maximum percentage of assessed valuation is being levied, a crisis looms for the '07 fiscal year.

Year	Budget	Carryover	Other	Taxes
01	3,100,081	1,013,357	1,323,269	763,455
02	3,491,475	1,246,085	1,479,228	766,162
03	3,648,860	1,378,368	1,335,587	682,433
04	3,564,188	1,064,532	1,416,366	830,818
05	3,368,049	470,000	1,725,764	917,774
06	3,310,692	90,000	2,180,422	1,040,270

believes there will be funds left over from the '06 budget to carry over into '07.

But what they're not talking about is that there is \$733,713 set aside in a trust that's not being factored into the county's budget. The money is from PILT funds from the federal government. The commissioners have set it aside, refusing to use it for

operational expenses. Their plan for the money is to build a new building to house records and a meeting room. But the money can be used for operational expenses (salaries, equipment, etc.) if the commissioners choose to do so.

Property taxes can be increased by a growth factor not to exceed 3 percent over the highest amount of any one of the past three years, plus the amount that would have been generated on new construction had it been levied against at the previous year's rate.

The county is also allowed by law to add a figure called "foregone amount" had there been any. This amount is what could have been levied in previous years, had the county not levied at its maximum 3 percent growth factor. The clerk said the county has already levied at the maximum, so there's no "foregone amount" to factor in. From this figure is subtracted the agricultural equipment property tax replacement money the county gets from the state. And, added to the taxable property is the market value of utilities, a figure that is provided by the state.

The total Current Expense levy cannot exceed 0.26 percent of market value for assessment purposes, according to Idaho Code.

— JEA

√ Initiative

now discussing the agreement and the method of implementing the agreement. Last year the agreement was signed. Now, we are at the point of gaining approval of the language, which will implement the agreement.

"And, if the Initiative is meant to be, the discussions regarding the proposals for voluntary participation in the wilderness program of the agreement will go well and quickly. We can then have a bill to Senator Mike Crapo by late September. I have promised him that we will try to meet that deadline."

Earlier this month, the work group met and voted on the language of the bill, minus the language as to the actual legal definitions of the wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. The latter language was being worked on for accuracy, but its fate must await final discussions of the proposals, which were made by several ranchers for sales or exchanges. Those proposals would be the base for adding the acres of wilderness made possible by voluntary actions of ranchers in order to make their cattle operations more viable and to remove wilderness study areas.

Grant said the status is the individual ranchers themselves have made the proposals, as the price for their sale or exchange of lands, which would free them from wilderness study areas, and in some cases change significantly their grazing preference. The work group members did not participate in developing the proposals. Dr. Chad Gibson worked with the

ranchers with Grant's help upon request. When the report containing the proposals was handed over to the conservation members, it was done so under strict confidentiality agreements and was done for the purpose of those members determining whether they and their national organizations could support the proposals.

In the meantime, an outside appraiser was sought for the purpose of reviewing the proposals. After several weeks of study, it became apparent that time constraints as well as money constraints made it impossible to gain the type of appraisals that the appraisers wanted to do prior to passing judgment on the proposals.

"As we trudged through the appraisal period, I asked the work group to focus on the rest

of the language of the bill, so that if we can get agreement on the proposals, we will already have in place the language which would implement the Owyhee Initiative Agreement," Grant explained. "It was that watermark which we struck on the 11th."

The work group has now approved a draft of all provisions of the bill except those that relate to the voluntary proposals and their relationship to some of the wilderness areas most desirable to the conservation groups. The work group members with their constituent organizations are discussing that draft.

"I am still very optimistic, even though the discussions over the individual rancher's proposals are now the single key portion of the Initiative upon which success depends," Grant said.

√ Cities

police, too. The new budget calls for an allotment of \$10,000 for fuel, an increase of \$1,000 from last year. Overall, the police department budget has been raised from \$462,477 to \$472,217.

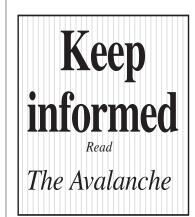
Expenditures for parks and recreation is budgeted for \$78,515, nearly \$4,000 more than budgeted last year. Expenditures for the water fund are expected to drop from \$677,250 to \$267,245 and the sewer fund is expected to spend \$143,000 more than it did last year with a budget of \$383,200.

In Marsing, voters passed a \$1.7 million water bond earlier this month, which brought the city's total budget to \$3,777,603. The general fund received \$270,425, and \$100,223 was put into streets and roads. Parks and recreation received \$20,656, and planning and zoning will get \$9,100.

The city's water budget was approved at \$2,872,562, which includes the bond and a grant, and the irrigation budget was approved at \$31,428.

The city of Grand View approved a \$66,761 budget, consisting of \$32,683 for city expenditures and \$34,078 for streets and roads.

— CAB







Grant expands East Owyhee library's Web access

Thanks to a Staying Connected challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Eastern Owyhee County Library in Grand View has been able to upgrade its Internet service.

"We could never afford to connect all our computers to the Internet," Library Director Kathy Chick said. "Some days we had several people waiting at the same time to use our single Internet computer. Now we can provide the people within our library district more opportunities to use that service without all the waiting."

At the present time, the Eastern Owyhee County Library has four public computers and one librarian workstation computer connected to the Starband service.

Chick reported that the library would be purchasing two more computers in the near future because of another grant they have received. These computers will be for the public to use and will be connected to the same Internet service.

"We feel the demand for the Internet in our community for the school students and their homework and for the business person or curious person doing research. We may be a small community, but our needs are the same as the larger population areas when it comes to education and information," Chick said.

The upgrade project is expected to total \$4,780, with the grant picking up \$2,794, the Idaho State Library \$1,460 and Eastern Owyhee County Library covering the rest.

In addition, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grant will pay for training for librarians on using the Internet service.



Marion Mackenzie

Marion Mackenzie celebrates 100th

Marion Mackenzie is celebrating her 100th birthday on Aug. 28, 2005. Born in Boise, she was a schoolteacher for many years at the one-room schoolhouse in Pleasant Valley.

The mother to two children and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Marion currently resides at Ashley Manor Care Center in Caldwell.

A birthday open house for friends and family will be held at Ashley Manor, 2604 Iowa Ave. in Caldwell (on the corner of Willow and Iowa) at noon on Sunday. Call (208) 459-2948 for more information.

Melba sailor completes training

Navy Seaman Recruit William K. Hoagland, nephew of Dee W. Hoagland of Melba, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, Hoagland completed a variety of training, which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness.

The capstone event of boot camp is "Battle Stations." This exercise gives recruits the skills and confidence they need to succeed in the fleet. "Battle Stations" is designed to galvanize the basic warrior attributes of sacrifice, dedication, teamwork and endurance in each recruit through the practical application of basic Navy skills and the core values of honor, courage and commitment. Its distinctly "Navy" flavor was designed to take into account what it means to be a sailor.

Hoagland is a 2004 graduate of Melba High School.

School menus Aug. 25-31

Homedale Elementary

Aug 25: Spaghetti or hot pocket, French bread, green beans, fruit bar, milk

Aug 26: Half ham & cheese or turkey sandwich, yogurt, carrots & chips, ice cream bar, fruit bar, milk

Aug 29: Beef wiener wrap or chicken quesadilla, mac & cheese, green beans, rice krispie treat, fruit bar, milk

Aug 30: Beef or chicken taco with cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, corn, fruit bar, milk

Aug 31: Chicken patty or rib-b-que/bun, potato wedges, applesauce cake, fruit bar, milk

Homedale Middle

Aug 25: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk

Aug 26: Early release. Nachos or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, rice krispie treat, milk

Aug 29: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, fruit bar, cookie, milk

Aug 30: Sloppy Joe or wiener wrap, green beans, fruit bar, animal crackers, milk

Aug 31: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit bar, fruit roll-up, milk

Homedale High

Aug 25: Chicken patty/bun or sandwich choice, fries, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk

Aug 26: Early release. Crispito/taco salad or rib-b-que/bun, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk

Aug 29: Pizza or nacho bar, salad, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk

Aug 30: Country fried beef steak or chicken fillet, mashed potato/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk

Aug 31: Spaghetti or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk

Bruneau schools

Aug 25: Sub sandwiches, fries, veggies, fruit, milk, cookie

Aug 26: Pizza, tossed salad, corn, fruit, milk

Aug 29: Chicken wrap, rice, stir-fry veggies, mandarin oranges, milk

Aug 30: Spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, peaches, milk

Aug 31: Corn dog, potato wedges, fruit, cinnamon twist, milk

Births

Jacob Douglas Blandford

Jacob Douglas "J.D." Blandford was born Aug. 8, 2005, at 7:11 p.m. at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in Boise to Jason and Marci Blandford of Caldwell. He weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20¾ inches long.

His maternal grandparents are Larry Carlston of Payette and Dani Aman of Homedale. His great grandmother is Alene Downing of Homedale.

His paternal grandparents are Doug and Kathy Blandford of Boise, and his great grandparents are Jim and Shirley Hurst of Gooding and Velda Blandford of Meridian.

Bailey Rae Purdom

Greg and Carina Purdom of Homedale are the parents of a new baby daughter — Bailey Rae Purdom.

Bailey was born Aug. 17, 2005, at 10:39 a.m. at St. Luke's-Meridian. She weighed 8 pounds and was 21¹/₄ inches long.

She joins 3-year-old brother Gage Conner Purdom.

Bailey's maternal grandparents are Kathy Malmberg and Craig (Debbie) Malmberg) of Marsing. Maternal great grandparents are Phylis Malmberg of Marsing and Virginia Guptill of Puyallup, Wash. Paternal grandparents are Bill and Judy Purdom of Homedale. Paternal great grandparents are Mrs. Harold (Irene) Markley and James and Mary Purdom, all of Homedale.

Library accepts orders for annual fund-raiser birthday calendar

Orders are now being accepted for Homedale's community birthday calendar for 2006. The calendar is a fundraiser for the Homedale Public Library.

The calendar lists birthdays and anniversaries for any family for a suggested donation of \$7. The suggested donation for a couple is \$6 and \$5 for a single person.

People who bought the calendar last year will be contacted by

phone to see if they want one for the coming year. Other interested persons who would like to be added to the calendar may call the library at 337-4228, afternoons from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. to place an order. Orders must be received by Sept. 10.

Calendars may be paid for when they are delivered to the customer in mid-December. Proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the library.

"It's a lot of fun to phone a friend to wish them a happy birthday because you saw it in the birthday calendar," Library Director Margret Fujishin said. "And it's a fun way to help your local public library raise money for new books."

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2005 Che Ownhee Avalanche Poor communication blamed for farm worker poisoning

Fines from state agency could total more than \$40,000

of Agriculture has served Notices of Violation against the aerial applicator, the pilot and labor contractor involved in a Canyon County case in which farm workers were exposed to pesticides. The notices were mailed last week to Valley Air Service, Inc., pilot Frank Amen and the Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee, Inc., alleging violations of the Worker Protection Standard and pesticide labels.

On the morning of July 6, a pesticide mixture of Lannate LV, Mustang Max and Dithane DF contaminated 29 farm workers weeding an onion field in eastern Caldwell. The pesticides were sprayed on the field late the night before. The crew began to experience symptoms such as headaches, diarrhea, vomiting, dizziness and breathing problems later that morning after they

The Idaho State Department moved to another field. Some were stripped and washed down at or near the field, while others went to a hospital for treatment.

Also last week, the department mailed a Notice of Violation to Arroway Farms, Inc., for failure to train its employees and for failure to provide and maintain proper safety information at a central location on the farm.

"The case and the department's response to it should serve as a reminder that Idahoans demand the safest conditions for the people who work in Idaho's agriculture industry," a statement from the Department of Ag said. "The investigation of the case is considered to be ongoing until either the settlement negotiations or administrative hearing is concluded, and copies of the investigatory file will not be released until then."

The department's environmental toxicologist, Dr. James Baker, assisted on July 6 in providing proper treatment information to medical personnel who were treating the workers that were exposed to pesticides in this case. The chemicals involved in incident were Lannate LV, Mustang Max and Dithane DF.

Copies of the Notices of Violation are available now through public records requests, and the farm workers who were involved in the July 6 incident are urged to request a copy.

The department has a 30-day target to investigate all cases of human pesticide exposure and this case was completed within that 30-day window, despite the number of people involved in the case. The case was treated as the Division of Agricultural Resource's No. 1 priority. Seven employees were called in to assist ISDA investigator Dave Chase, who led the department's investigation.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi, a Canyon County farmer, is a member of the Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring

Committee, and therefore is not involved in the investigation or settlement discussions.

Valley Air Service faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$12,000. Amen faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$12,000 and/or license suspension. The Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee faces proposed civil penalties of up to \$9,000. Arroway Farms faces proposed civil penalties of up to

The respondents in the case have the right to request an administrative hearing on this case within 14 days.

According to law, a certain amount of time must pass before workers can re-enter a field. The waiting period on the three chemicals used are 12 hours for Mustang Max, 24 hours for Dithane DF and 48 hours for Lannate LV.

The workers were allowed to enter Alloway Farms' onion field only four and a half hours after it was sprayed.

— CAB

Ranchers ask Winmill to reconsider his ruling

Ranchers in the Jarbidge area who have been forced to remove their cattle from grazing allotments after a decision by a district court judge earlier this month have filed motions to reconsider which will be heard at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in Boise.

Judge B. Lynn Winmill ruled against the Bureau of Land Management and ordered ranchers to remove thousands of head of cattle from nearly 1 million acres of federal land near Jarbidge. Winmill found the agency addressed environmental impacts from grazing in a "patchworkquilt" manner. He ruled in favor of conservationists who had sued BLM claiming the department 28 livestock grazing allotments that are used by 11 ranchers and permit holders. Winmill closed approximately 800,000 acres of the 1.7 million-acre resource area to livestock grazing.

Currently through an informal stipulation by counsel, cattle will remain in place until Sept. 2 and then ranchers will have one week to gather their livestock.

Judge Winmill made his ruling based upon a 1987 management plan that relied on data from years before. In an earlier decision, which caused reductions of grazing and great financial loss to ranchers in the Owyhee Resource Area, Winmill ruled that relying didn't adequately determine the on such an old plan was contrary to decision." impact to sage grouse habitat in federal law. The result of ignoring

current studies and relying on ancient data is that ranchers must remove their cattle from a thriving range with a thriving sage grouse population, in the middle of the grazing season, opponents to Winmill's decision said.

"This is the kind of irresponsible decision making by the courts which bankrupts hard-working Americans. Here is an example of an activist judge who finds that a federal agency made a mistake and punishes not the agency but the ranchers," said Fred Grant, litigation chairman of Stewards of the Range. "We are taking a hard look at what we can do to help the ranchers overturn this

— CAB

Have a news tip? Call us! 337-468I

Slickspot peppergrass fate still undecided

A judge has ordered that a plant that blooms in the Owyhee Desert of southwestern Idaho should be reconsidered for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). District Court Judge Mikel H. Williams said in his order last week that Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton relied on "improper standards" in determining that listing slickspot peppergrass under the act was not warranted, and he has ordered the fate of the species back to Norton.

Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew its proposal to list the peppergrass after the State of Idaho, together with private landowners, crafted an agreement to conserve the grass. When deciding not to list the plant, Fish and Wildlife officials noted the agreement should decrease risks of harm to slickspot peppergrass.

An environmentalist group filed another lawsuit saying that the Fish and Wildlife Service violated the ESA when it declined to list the species after determining that the plant had a 64 to 82 percent chance of extinction in the next 100 years, depending on implementation of the conservation agreement.

Before deciding to withdraw its proposal to list the species, Williams wrote, the Fish and Wildlife Service "should have erred on the side of caution."

The plant grows in "slickspots." areas in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem that retain more water longer than the surrounding soil.





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Summer sizzles with beef

by The Idaho Beef Council

Ahhh, summer. Laid-back dining goes hand-in-hand with balmy, summer breezes and hot smoking grills.

And while burgers and steaks are still hands-down favorites for the grill, according to Laura Wilder, executive director of the Idaho Beef Council, outdoor chefs are becoming more adventurous and grilling the accompaniments,

For example, as a companion to a nice grilled steak, add a grilled vegetable salad.

It's easy, too. Marinate steaks in prepared balsamic vinaigrette spiked with plenty of fresh garlic. While the steaks marinate, toss a colorful combination of leek, tomato, eggplant and squash with the reserved marinade.

For ease in grilling, simply skewer the vegetables and cook them alongside the steaks. Remove the vegetables from the skewers and sprinkle with fresh basil. Beef Steak with Grilled Vegetable Salad is ready to serve.

BEEFSTEAKWITHGRILLED VEGETABLE SALAD

Total preparation and cooking time: 50 to 55 minutes

Marinating time: 30 minutes to 2 hours

Ingredients

4 beef shoulder center steaks (Ranch steaks), cut 3/4 inch thick (about 5 ounces each)

or, use 1-1/2 pounds of sirloin

2 large leeks, white and light green parts only, cut diagonally into 1/2-inch pieces

2 medium tomatoes, cut into 6 wedges each

1 small eggplant, cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2inch thick slices

1 small yellow squash, cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2-inch thick slices

1 small zucchini, cut lengthwise in half, then crosswise into 1/2-inch thick slices

Chopped fresh basil

Salt and pepper Marinade: 3/4 cup prepared

balsamic vinaigrette 1 tablespoon minced garlic

- 1. Combine marinade ingredients in small bowl. Place beef steaks and 1/3 cup marinade in food-safe plastic bag; turn steaks to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes to 2 hours, turning occasionally.
- 2. Meanwhile, toss leeks, tomatoes, eggplant, vellow squash and zucchini with remaining marinade in large bowl.

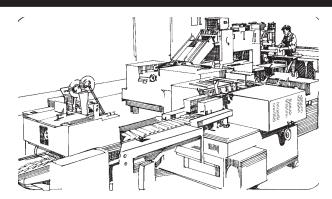
Alternately thread vegetable pieces evenly onto eight 12-inch metal skewers.

- 3. Remove steaks from marinade; discard marinade. Place steaks in center of grid over medium, ash-covered coals; arrange kabobs around steaks. Grill steaks and kabobs, covered, 9 to 11 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness and until vegetables are tender, turning steaks once and vegetables occasionally.
- 4. Remove vegetables from skewers. Sprinkle steaks and vegetables with basil. Season with salt and pepper, as desired.

Makes 4 servings.

Cook's Tip: To grill, place steak on grid over medium, ashcovered coals. Grill, uncovered, 13 to 16 minutes for medium rare to medium doneness, turning occasionally.

Nutrition information per serving: 298 calories; 13 g fat (3 g saturated fat; 3 g monounsaturated fat); 57 mg cholesterol; 345 mg sodium; 22 g carbohydrate; 7.0 g fiber; 26 g protein; mg niacin; 0.7 mg vitamin B₆; 2.6 mcg vitamin B₁₂; 4.4 mg iron; 26.6 mcg selenium; 6.0 mg zinc. s an appetizer, frequently with an Asian flavor profile.



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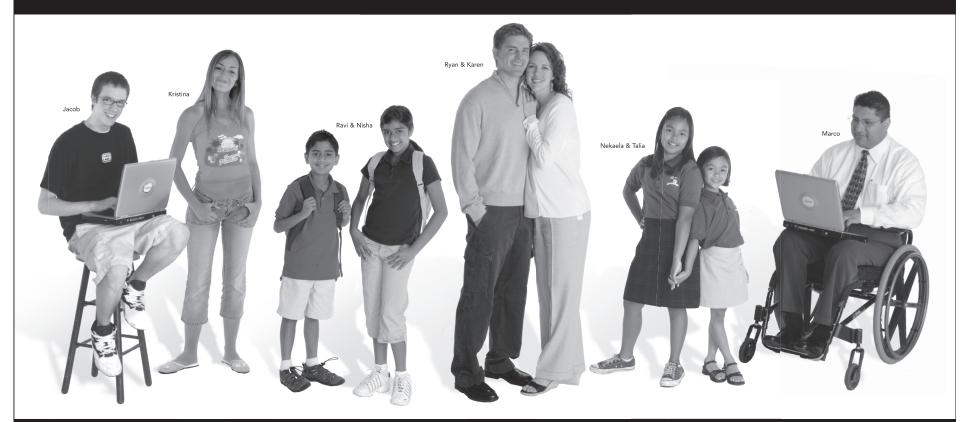
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STEP BACK IN TIME

Marsing camp held German POWs

OCHS investigation uncovers a piece of history long-forgotten by many

> Story by John Larsen, OCHS president Photos by Roy Herman

My 9-year-old eyes were bugging out in wonder and alarm. The German soldiers, crouched low, were brandishing their flashing weapons and were slowly advancing toward me across the field east of the house. I was right in their path as they slowly and determinedly advanced. This was not some place in Europe, but right next to Marsing, Idaho. My imagination was calmed by the fact that there were armed American guards watching over them and the German soldiers' weapons were beet hoes and their enemy was now the foliage before them.

German POWs, or prisoners of war, were sent to Idaho to help the farmers and ranchers whose crops needed tending and harvesting.

The remnants of their camp can be seen when traveling on Highway 55. As your round the last curve in the highway approaching the Marsing bridge, look straight ahead and you will see the old Churruca service station. (Highway 55 did run right in front of the service station, but the road was rerouted in the 1960s to its present course). Locals recall that there were about a dozen wooden buildings there when the camp was in operation. What remains are barracks used by the guards and a shed.

No one recalls why the camp was located there, but the property was owned by Frank Chorea. There were large 20-man tents located on an area of about 10 acres. There were tall poles with floodlights mounted on top at the corners of the camp.

Several of the buildings were hauled away to ranches after the war, but it is doubtful that any of these travelers still exist. Derelicts were known to hang out in the remaining buildings, and several burned down because of careless fires. There are still two weatherbeaten buildings on site that can be seen from the road that are part of the original camp.

The reason for the POWs' presence in our country was because of a shortage of farm hands. This shortage was acute by our young men who were called into military service in either the Japanese or European war theaters. This left the American workforce shorthanded.

In interviews, local ranchers recalled that in 1941 and 1942 Mexican Nationals were brought into our area under the Presario plan. In 1943, Jamaicans were brought in to harvest the crops. The defeat of Rommel's Africa Corps after the battle of El Alemain in Tunisia in 1942 netted a large

Information sought

The Owyhee County Historical Society seeks additional information to make this history as complete as possible. If anyone has information or photographs to add to this account, call John Larsen at 495-2834, Roy Herman at 896-4514 or OCHS director Doc Couch at 495-2319.

number of POWs, many of who were sent to the United States.

There is not a lot of information available about the Idaho German POW program. A check of Web sites in 2004 revealed some information about camps that existed in Coeur d'Alene, Rupert and Nyssa, Ore. There is no mention of the camp in Marsing. The absence of facts is because of the situation that all military information during World War II was classified, so it would have been unpatriotic to publish any military facts in local papers. We could find no mention of the POWs there until after the war was over.

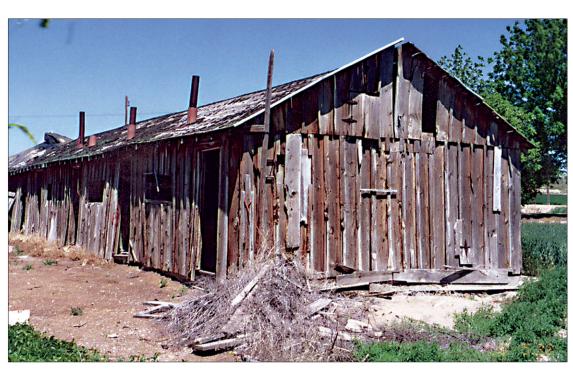
Judging from the facts that we have been able to gather from local residents, there may have been as many as 1,500 POWs when the camp was at its population peak. So many were allocated to each community in the area, and they were housed in the temporary satellite camps. Their living quarters were a sea of large tents that stretched behind the existing buildings and extended toward Marsing and the Snake River.

'Der Leedla Schwine'

Roy Herman, a longtime Marsing resident, remembered the day in 1944 when the train arrived in Marsing carrying a contingent of German prisoners of war.

The train pulled up next to the depot where Herman and Donnie Daniels were sitting on the dock at Hortsmans produce warehouse, and the prisoners were soon lined up in precise ranks, guarded by U.S. soldiers. Herman recalled that while watching the disembarkment that he and Daniels were wearing bacalava helmets that Daniels' father brought home from World War I.

The prisoners snapped to attention as the U.S. soldiers barked out orders. Many of the U.S. guards bore the wounds of past battles and were not to be



Still standing

This rundown structure is one of two buildings that remain on the site of the World War II-era prisoner of war camp that was built in Canyon County just over the Snake River from Marsing.

trifled with.

Herman had a unique opportunity to observe the POWs as his father was an accountant and had the job of taking care of the books at the camp. Herman often visited the camp and got to know some of the prisoners. One was obviously practicing his English from a book, as he would call the young Herman *Leedla Schwine*, or "little pig." (*Leedla* is the German pronunciation of our word "little".)

Herman became friends with the guards and recalls they would let him carry their rifles and Thompson submachine guns on occasion. This fulfilled his fantasy of wanting to carry a Thompson, that is until he got the opportunity and found his 11-year-old frame could hardly lift the hard weapon.

The Hermans' main contact was with a prisoner named Emil who was fluent in English. One night, Emil and his friend strolled from the grounds and went into what was then Marsing's Spot Bar for a beer. After all, where do you go when you are 5,000 miles from your homeland with no underground movement to spirit you away?

The commander of the camp did not take kindly to this flaunting of the rules, and Emil and his friend were trustees no more. My mother recalled that camp officials shaved the heads of untrustworthy trustees because to have a shaved head, or a "skin head", was a mark of shame for the proud soldiers of the German army.

The prisoners did all of the cooking, but all was not any sort of bliss. Herman recalls one incident where the cooks made up a big batch of home brew, or what prisoners today call "squawky," and had party time. As a result, supper was not done when their tired and hungry comrades came home from the fields. The angry POWs took out their displeasure



Remnants of history

The building on the left served as a cookhouse and administrative building. Sliding doors were later installed on the building in the background on the right. These are the only two remaining buildings on the original site of the POW camp.



If stovepipes could talk

Stovepipes used for the exhaust of stoves that generated the heat for the building stick out of the roof of the cookhouse.

by beating up on the drunken cooks.

The tragedy

One of the saddest events to come as a result of having a local prisoner-of-war camp came not from anything a prisoner did, but rather the action of the camp's commanding officer.

On July 27, 1945, the commander, a Lt. Christensen, went out on a date with a Marsing girl. It was dusk, and

children were riding their horses along Highway 55 in the section called Sunny Slope.

The lieutenant struck two of the children with the ³/₄-ton vehicle he was driving. One child and one horse died from the accident. An inquest was held regarding the accident, and the lieutenant received a court martial and a six-month jail sentence.

— to page **11**A

$\sqrt{\mathsf{POWs}}$

The Wehrmacht

The German name for their army was the Wehrmacht, which would translate into English as war makers or perhaps warriors. All those interviewed agreed that the prisoners were very good workers. This is consistent with what you could expect, as the German soldiers as a whole were very well-disciplined and were used to following orders regardless of who was giving them

As time went by and with the end of the European campaign in June 1945, the tension between the German prisoners and the people of this part of Idaho melted away. Reed Larsen reported that even though it was against regulations to do so, they would always make lunch for the prisoners when they came to work in his fields. Many of our resident farmers did the same as all the prisoners had for lunch was a loaf of bread to be shared between two men.

The prisoners stayed in the area well into 1946, as an account in the Owyhee Avalanche mentioned an additional 900 more POWs, no doubt replacements, arrived in April of that year. Stanley Robison hired them as workers in the cherry harvest of that year and remembers they had to pick 200 pounds of cherries as a quota. Each man would have that amount by 2 p.m. Robison was charged 2 cents a pound for the picking, which was the going rate for the times.

All sides were glad the war was over. The prisoners were anxious to get home, and Robison remembered that often the armed guard would fall asleep and the prisoners would wake him up when it was time to go back to the camp.

Playing Soldier

When we were out of school and our time was free, one of the main occupations of my grade school friends and I was to play war. We would get out broomstick guns and rubber band pistols and go out to fight out imaginary conflicts, pretending we were the Allied heroes overcoming the Axis foes.

I would ask, "Who shall we fight



One of the last

The other buildings at the old Marsing POW camp were either moved to other locations or burned down because derelicts would seek shelter and build fires that would get out of control.

today, the Germans or the Japanese?" I thought it strange my playmates always wanted to fight the Japanese. I did notice a lot of my fellow play soldiers had very German last names. I personally did not see what difference it would make as they had explained they were of Dutch ancestry not German. In the U.S., this was sociably acceptable, as the Dutch were our allies.

The facts are the Aryan name for Germany is Deutschland, and people living there are the Highland Deutsch, whereas the people of Holland are often called the Lowland Deutsch (Dutch is an Anglicized pronunciation of Deutsch.)

This reveled one of the anomalies of World War II. Japanese Americans were rounded up and sent to interment camps, but no similar move was made against U.S. citizens of German origin. The rationale was the Japanese were more dedicated to Japan and, therefore, more likely to spy for the nation and they had attacked us with the raid at Pearl Harbor.

There were no credible facts to back up this interment, but in a way it could have saved the lives of some Japanese Americans. The propaganda machines were running in high gear, often portraying the Germans and Japanese as some sort of monsters. It is true there were some horrendous things done by both the German and Japanese armies, but those acts were due to their governments' policies, and had little to do with their average citizen.

In later years, I have talked to some of my peers who were of German origin, and they do not like to even remember what those

Ben & Lori Badiola / Owners

days were like. It was extremely stressful for them for fear that racial profiling could turn the population against them as it had the Japanese. Some of them spoke German and talked to the prisoners, but never mentioned the fact until the war was well over.

V-E Day

Finally the war was over and by 1947 all the prisoners had been sent home. When the POWs were repatriated, many kept up correspondence with friends they had made here.

One sent for a girlfriend he had met while working south of Nampa, and she made the trip to The Fatherland.

We presume they lived happily thereafter.



Modern-day explorers

Members and guests of the Owyhee County Historical Society take in the view from near the summit of South Mountain.

OCHS explores South Mountain

by Mary O'Malley

The summit of South Mountain, 8,025 feet in elevation, was the destination of Saturday's Owyhee County Historical Society field trip. The society invited members of the Idaho Museum of Mining and Geology to join them, so approximately 60 people participated.

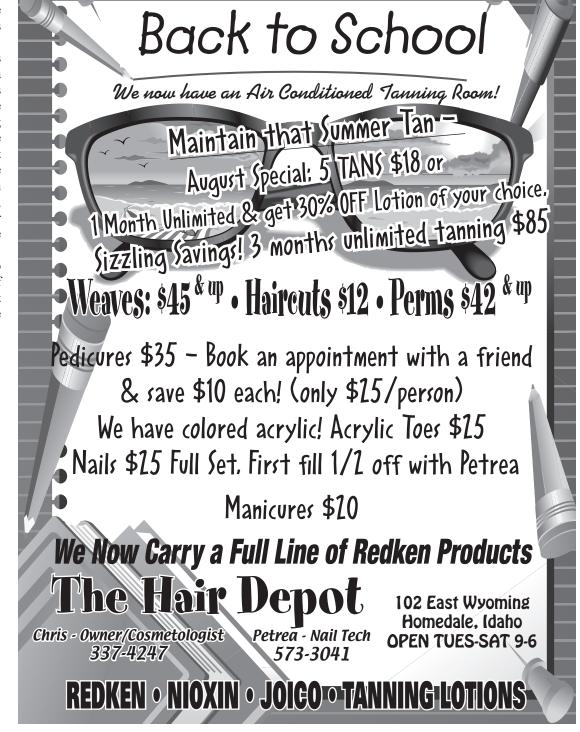
Don Adair, a geologist from Boise, showed the group 300-to 400-million-year-old rocks, which were originally deposited in the oceans, much like modern coral reefs. He showed rocks near South Mountain that were associated with the Yellowstone Hot Spot, when it erupted nearly 16 to 17 million years ago. He showed how granite is formed and also showed how to identify ore

minerals and some rare minerals found at South Mountain that are found in only a few other places in the world.

A stop was made at the site of the first lead smelter in Idaho, at Bullion City on South Mountain in 1874

From the summit of the mountain, Kenny MacKenzie pointed out many important sites, including the area where Buffalo Horn, a Bannock Indian leader during the Bannock War, was killed in June 1878 in a skirmish with the Silver City volunteers.

For more information on the Owyhee County Historical Society, its fieldtrips or any other of its programs, please call the Owyhee County Historical Museum at 495-2319





573-1788 · 573-1886



Snake River Mart



Back to School

Choice Boneless Beef Petite Sirloin Steak

Boneless Beef Chuck Roast



Local 1/2 Bushel **Canning Peaches**



Local **Watermelons**



Boneless Beef Chuck Steak



Pork Country Style



Local **Sweet Corn**



All Varieties Tomatoes



Western Family 5 oz. Burritos	3,\$1
Oscar Mayer	~ \$ 1
Lunchables	2 \$ 4
Western Family 12 oz.	\$ 1 99
Bacon	Ψ

Western Family 2 lb.	\$1 99
Medium Cheese	ea.
Western Family 1 oz.	4,\$1
String Cheese	4 for
Oscar Mayer 12 oz.	99¢
Bologna	JJ ea.

Dole Salad Mix	\$ 1 29
	5lb for \$1
Yellow Onions Seedless Grapes	\$119

Peaches -	70¢
Plums - Nectarines	/ 9 lb.
Apples & Oranges	89¢
Lemons	5 \$1

Kraft **Pudding Cups**



Home Pride 24 oz.	0 \$5
White or Wheat Bread	3 for 5

Dasani Water

Soft & Gentle **Bath Tissue**

12 Roll

12 Pack

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7	Watto!	医		
KE	DIA.		Ų	JJ
	IGNU.			
ALANY AND A.	0			ea.

24pk 12 oz. Cans	
24pk 12 oz. Cans	\$ 0 99
Busch Brands Bee	r 999

99¢ ea.

Coca Cola Products



12 Pack Cans	
iter Bottles	\$ 1 29

4 \$5

121 401 04110	
2 Liter Bottles	\$1 29
Coca Cola Products	ea.

Western Family

Family Size Soup

Spaghetti Sauce



Maruchan

Ramen Noodles

26 oz.

15 oz. \$119 ea. **Chef Boy Ardee Pasta**

12 oz. Bottles	L for U
Golden Grain Rice or Pasta Roni 4.5-7 oz.	89¢ ea.
Western Family Facial Tissue 86 ct. & 160 ct.	99¢ ea.

9 ea.	Marsnmallows Regular & Mini 16 oz
9¢ ea.	Western Family Charcoal Briquets 10 lb.
	Western Family

24 ct.

Heavy Duty Cutlery

Western Family

Sunny Delight

Citrus Punch

Western Family

64 oz.

a.	26 oz.
α.	Quaker Granola Bars 10 ct.
	Western Fam Fruit Snacks 6 ct.
a.	Western Fam Charcoal Ligl Fluid 32 oz.

Quaker Granola Bars 10 ct.	\$189 ea.
Western Family Fruit Snacks 6 ct.	5 \$5
Western Family Charcoal Lighter Fluid 32 oz.	\$189 ea.
Michelina's	A —

3 02.	
Shasta Soda 2 Liter Bottle	79 ¢ ea.
Lay's Potato Chips 11-12 oz.	\$189 ea.
Fritos & Cheetos 9.5-11 oz.	\$229 ea.

Western Family Microwave Popcorn 3 ct.	9
Whiskas	

Canned Cat Food

3-5.5 oz.

- 1	104
2. (שעטנ
offor	7 7 7

2 \$6

\$ 1 89 **Instant Oatmeal** ea. Asst'd 12.5-15 oz. **Western Family** Chunk Style Dog Food \$ 5 lb.

Frozen Entrees 8-10 oz. **Western Family**

Frozen Vegetables

SRM COUPON NO LIMIT PER COUPON • PER VISIT

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

16 oz.

Marsing, Idaho WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 8/24/05 thru 8/30/05