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in city limits

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on Wheels

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 13

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



Daylight savings begins Sunday

Spring ahead, fall behind. Daylight-saving time begins at 2 a.m. Sunday. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour, which means you'll lose an hour of sleep.

Homedale man held in kidnapping

A Homedale man was charged with kidnapping his pregnant wife and young child at gunpoint during a domestic altercation Friday night outside of Homedale.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Bish said Dan Mercado, 18, of Homedale, was arrested and has been charged with several domestic battery charges from the incident Friday night and from a previous altercation with his wife. Bish said it was reported that Mercado forcibly removed his pregnant wife and their 10-month-old child from a residence on Jump Creek Road.

"We received a report about 9:30 p.m. Friday evening that a woman and a child had been removed from a residence against their will," Bish said. "The officers responded, located the



Dan Mercado

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Coroner's spending habits under fire

Owyhee County Commissioners are questioning the spending habits of the county coroner after learning he had been paid for many items not allowed by state law.

Commission chairman Hal Tolmie said last week that he was made aware of the situation on Wednesday and planned to discuss the issue with coroner Harvey Grimme during an executive

session at Monday's weekly commission meeting in Murphy.

But County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn stated that she had brought the situation to the commission's attention more

than a year ago. She said Grimme was told to halt his practice of double-charging the county for fuel and mileage at that time, which he did.

— to page 5A



Bronco Willy

Homedale High School Principal Mike "Willy" Williams prepared for battle during last week's donkey basketball hosted by the school's FFA program. Williams joined other staff members in defeating the community team 20-18. For story and more photos, see **Page 11A**

Homedale citizens will face May votes for water, sewer

Millions sought for system upgrade

City officials are hoping voters will approve nearly \$4.5 million in two bond elections to be held in May that will be used for deteriorating water and sewer systems and add new water and sewer lines.

The bond election will be held on May 23, the same day as the primary election. Voters will be asked to pass \$2,265,000 for installation and construction of improvements to the domestic water system and \$2,100,000 for improvements to the sewer system.

Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said Friday that the water and sewer fees will not increase because of the bond, that current fees will be able to cover the payments, which can not exceed 30 years.

The water bond will be used to install a new domestic well, replace transmission and service lines, valves, hydrants and meter

boxes. The interest rate anticipated is 4.5 percent per annum. Along with an existing indebtedness of \$200,827, the city will repay about \$4,172,130 if the bond is passed by a majority vote.

The sewer bond will replace or reconstruct approximately 15,500 linear feet of transmission lines, construct a sewer trunk line system with collectors, construct a new lift station and replace a force main between the primary lift station at the treatment plant.

The anticipated interest rate is also 4.5 percent and with an existing debt of \$200,827, the city will repay \$3,868,200 over 30 years.

"We need this," Fink said. "We have had a great deal of problems with the current system which is ancient. Valves will be replaced so if we have a problem it can be isolated instead of shutting down the entire system."

The last bond passed in the city for water or sewer was in 1979.

— CAB

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Commissioners prepare county’s voters for May primary election

Board designates mail ballot precincts, county gets voting machines

Owyhee County is gearing up for the May 23 election by making sure that each registered voter can cast a ballot with relative ease.

The Board of County Commissioners recently passed a resolution designating three precincts in Owyhee County as Mail Ballot Precincts.

In 2004, Gov. Dirk Kempthorne signed House Bill 560, authorizing the commissioners from Idaho’s counties to designate precincts with less than 125 registered voters as Mail Ballot Precincts.

By adopting Resolution 06-11, the Owyhee County commissioners have designated Pleasant Valley, Three Creek and Riddle Precincts to receive ballots by mail for the primary and general elections for this year. The primary election will be held on May 23 and the general election will be on Nov. 7.

A ballot will be issued to every

registered voter 24 days prior to the election, with a postage-paid return envelope enclosed. After the ballot is marked, it must be received in the county clerk’s office no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day for the vote to be tallied.

Voter registration will be available at the county clerk’s office on Election Day to any individual who is eligible to vote, resides in a mail ballot precinct, and has not previously registered. The clerk will provide an official polling place in the clerk’s office, and a qualified elector who registered on Election Day and resides in a mail ballot precinct shall be allowed to vote in the office.

Early registration is encouraged, so the clerk’s office knows to send every voter in the precinct a ballot.

With the mandate of HAVA,



New technology
Through federal mandate and funding, machines like this will be distributed throughout Owyhee County to make the voting process easier for the May 23 primary. Submitted photo

the Help America Vote Act, the Idaho Secretary of State’s office is encouraging counties to designate all the precincts that fall under House Bill 560 as mail ballot precincts.

The county also is meeting the requirement to have a ballot-

marking device in each polling place — an expense that eventually will be absorbed by the counties, County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said. The machines cost \$4,800 each, and were paid for with federal funding. They have a two-year maintenance agreement paid for, but after that the county will be responsible for replacement of them as well as the maintenance agreement, Sherburn said.

“We have received 10 machines for the primary election and will be going countywide to train the election workers on use of them,” Sherburn said. “Please understand Owyhee County is still going to use paper ballots. The new machines are for handicapped voters at each polling place. No information is stored in the machines, they are for marking ballots only. The (Owyhee County Historical) Museum Board has graciously offered us space to store the machines, as there is not available room in the Courthouse.”

For more information, call the Clerk’s office at (208) 495-2421.



Andrea Jackson

Jacksons COO honored

Homedale High School graduate Andrea Jackson, the president and chief operating officer of Jacksons Food Stores, has been chosen by Idaho Business Review as one of Idaho’s Women of the Year.

Jackson was honored because of her professional accomplishments and because of her willingness to serve in volunteer organizations and to mentor other women.

Jackson, 43, received a bachelor’s in psychology from Willamette University in 1984.

Jackson has risen from clerk to president and COO of Jacksons Food Stores, a rapidly growing convenience store chain that currently has more the 100 stores in Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming and Utah. Her responsibilities include marketing, operations, training, human resources, construction, maintenance and food service.

She attributes her rise within the company to the influence of another woman in her life, her mother Gypsy Carson Jackson.

“She taught me to value other people, to seek to understand them and to recognize the importance of bringing the best out in others,” Andrea Jackson said.

“She has shaped many lives, all without the expectation of anything in return or public acknowledgement.”

Now that she’s in a position to encourage, develop and influence other women, Jackson says, “because our system is truly fair, we have diversity at every level, including women at the highest levels in our company. If you focus on developing the people on your team, it is amazing the places they will take you.”

Jackson contributes to the community, too. She was a board member of the local chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters from 1992 to 1999 and has been a member of the National Organization of Women since 1990, the ACLU since 2001 and the Order of Eastern Star since 1980. She also volunteers for numerous causes.

Homedale Police SRO welcomes ‘Bully bill’ legislation

The Idaho House of Representatives unanimously approved a bill earlier this month that will crack down on bullies in schools and on the Internet.

Now local police departments, including Homedale, are hopeful that the bill will help them keep some control in local schools.

Homedale School Resource Officer Michelle Babcock said last week that control is difficult because punishment is handled by the individual schools rather than law enforcement.

“It will help me because a lot of the school issues are dealt with

only in the schools,” Homedale School Resource Officer Michelle Babcock said last week.

“They set the consequences, they have their disciplinary actions in plan. The prosecutor is not always able to prosecute cases because it has been dealt with in the schools.”

Babcock indicated that some of her biggest disciplinary problems are within the middle school setting. She said as in most cases, middle school students are caught somewhere between being a child and a teenager, and conflict often occurs.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Tom Trail (R-Moscow) would make bullying a legal infraction that could result in a ticket from police. It also directs school district trustees to prescribe rules for disciplining students who harass or intimidate others verbally, by phone or by computer.

House members passed the bill without debate. The measure does not call for spending taxpayer money; it just defines harassment, intimidation and bullying and calls for school officials to suspend or expel bullies.

The bill still must pass the Senate.

Trail’s bill calls for school district trustees to include rules of student harassment, bullying and intimidation in a district discipline code that will be provided to every teacher and student at the beginning of the school year.

“This will be another tool for us to use to keep our kids safe, keep our schools safe and help the principals because some of them get a little overwhelmed with all the problems,” Babcock said.

— CAB

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Mayors for Meals highlights importance of Meals on Wheels program for seniors

Fink, Osterhoudt bring food to seniors as part of national campaign

Mayors from Homedale and Marsing got a chance to see first-hand the faces of hungry seniors Wednesday as they delivered meals during the first nationwide Mayors for Meals day.

More than 450 mayors from across the nation — including Homedale’s Paul Fink and Don Osterhoudt from Marsing — agreed to deliver meals as part of the event put on by the Meals on Wheels program.

Fink joined deliver driver Ramona Andrus on Wednesday and helped bring meals to about 26 homebound elderly people in the Homedale-Wilder area. The Homedale Senior Citizen’s Center delivers food every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but volunteers leave frozen meals for some customers for the weekend.

An accurate, up-to-date count of Owyhee County’s senior citizen population isn’t available, but the 2000 census showed that 12.1 percent of the county’s residents are over the age of 65.

Homedale’s senior population was at 17.3 percent in the 2000 census for a total of 439 senior citizens.

For many seniors who get food from Meals on Wheels, the delivery person may be the only human contact they have all day. Others, not having the energy to fix a nutritional meal, might just eat something unhealthful.

Fink said the daily visits do



more than offer a friendly face — they may save lives. If there is no answer at the door, the person making a delivery knows something could be wrong.

“It opens your eyes to see how many people really cannot get out because of age,” Fink said. “Most of these people I know, but

haven’t seen for some time. It is kind of a shock to see them at this stage in their lives.”

Osterhoudt joined Juan Delgadillo in the Marsing area. In Marsing, meals are delivered to about 20 people per day. Meals are prepared in the centers and delivered to homebound elderly

Mayor serves
Above: Homedale Mayor Paul Fink assists 97-year-old Lillian Ward with her meal on Wednesday during nationwide Mayors for Meals day. More than 25 local residents are served meals three times a week by the Homedale Senior Center. Left: Fink discusses the frozen meal program with Homedale Senior Citizens Center coordinator Shriley McAbee.

people.

“It doesn’t matter if they can afford the meals or not, they still get them,” Andrus said.

“We have fundraisers all the time to help support the program or we could not do it.”

— CAB

Public meeting on Homedale fee hikes set in April

Homedale City Council will hold a public hearing April 12 to consider increasing water and sewer hookup fees. The hearing will be held at 6 p.m. at city hall.

The city has proposed increasing the water fees from \$700 to \$1,250 for residential and sewer hookup fees from \$1,00 to \$1,500. Commercial property would be charged \$1,500 for water hookup and \$2,000 for sewer hookup.

“We have had hook-up fees, but they have been entirely inadequate,” Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said. “We surveyed our sister cities and base our increase on that information. The fee schedule is in the ballpark of what it takes to maintain our system.

“I feel like that we are not in line with surrounding cities and I don’t think the increase will discourage anyone from moving into town. I think it is still below what other cities are charging.”

Fink said new home developments are in the planning stages within the city limits as well as several new businesses. He said he feels the burden is being placed on the current residents to maintain the system and that new businesses or residents should buy into the system.

“I don’t think the people coming in are buying into the program,” Fink told the council.

— CAB

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in the Avalanche

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City calls fowl with chicken ordinance

Homedale
outlaws poultry
ownership within
city limits

First it was dogs, now it's chickens. But Homedale City Council has devised a plan to rid the fowl from the city by banning them all together.

Last week, the council passed a new ordinance, No. 362, which amends the original animal control rules and regulations to include prohibiting chickens and other poultry, including turkeys, ducks, geese, peacocks, quail, pheasant and guineas, within the city limits completely.

The ordinance goes into effect Saturday.

Mayor Paul Fink told the council that at-large chickens have become a real issue in the city as no one wants to claim ownership of the cackling birds.

"I realize everyone is going to make light of this, but it really is an issue," Fink told the council

Thursday night. "We have to do something because some of the complaints we have been getting are real and important."

Fink said he visited some areas in the city where the fowl are running wild. City Clerk Susan Mansisidor stated that one resident had complained because the birds would roost on her air conditioner, eventually burning out the motor.

"Chickens carry diseases," Fink said. "We have to get some kind of control on them, and this is about the only option we have."

The ordinance states that recipients of a violation notice would be fined \$50 per offense.

"Beginning April 1, if chickens are found running at-large in the city, they will be disposed of," Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said. "Since we have gotten the dog problem under control, we seem to have found an influx of chickens. When we find them at-large, no one wants to claim ownership of them. So we will be removing them."

— CAB

JV EMTs plan Family Fun Night

Jordan Valley EMTs will present another Family Fun Night Saturday with dinner and a dance at the Jordan Valley Lions Den beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Jordan Valley Middle School students will serve tacos and

Treasure Canyon Band will perform from 8:30 p.m. until midnight.

Tickets area available for \$6 per person and \$9 per couple. A family of four can purchase a family ticket for \$12.

No alcohol is allowed.

Neighbors help neighbors with fire truck donation

Jordan Valley Rural Fire service has added one more fire truck to its fleet with the donation of a 1962 pumper engine from neighboring Marsing Rural Fire District.

The engine was given to Jordan Valley Fire Chief Mike Quintero in a ceremony in Marsing on Thursday. He said the donation means a lot to the residents of Jordan Valley as well as the surrounding community.

Marsing Fire recently purchased a new truck with funds from a levy passed last year. Marsing Fire Commissioner Joe VanWassenhove said the truck given to Jordan Valley was purchased by the Marsing department in 1962. He said the truck only has a little more than 22,000 original miles.

"It runs like a champ," VanWassenhove said. "We wanted to help a neighboring department, so the truck will continue to be of use."

Jordan Valley has two fire responders. One is the city department. The second, the Jordan Valley Rural Service, responds to fires outside of the city in surrounding Pleasant Valley, Arock and Rockville. Quintero said he was not sure how many miles the department covers because it is formed on a membership basis.

"We are not a taxing district, so we can also cover Idaho since we are on the border," Quintero said. "We take memberships for response. It has worked out pretty well."



To good use

Jordan Valley Fire Chief Mike Quintero, center, accepts the keys to a 1962 pumper truck from Marsing Fire Chief Brian Showalter, right, last week. Marsing fire donated the truck to its neighboring department after purchasing a new fire rig earlier this year.

Quintero said the departments doesn't respond to a large number of fires per year, but when firefighters do get a call, it is usually a devastating fire. He said the plan is to station a fire truck in surrounding areas for quicker response times.

"We hope to place trucks in several different areas for coverage," Quintero said. "This truck should enable us to achieve that. We are hoping to station this truck in Arock."

VanWassenhove said he could not remember the original cost

— CAB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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From page 1

✓ Coroner

An executive session was on the agenda for Monday morning's commissioners meeting, and Sherburn confirmed that the private gathering was to discuss spending in the coroner's office.

County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks said last week that he was aware of the situation, but wasn't certain what role he would play — if any — at this time.

An expenditure activity detail report obtained by The Owyhee Avalanche from the county clerk's office shows several reimbursements for fuel to the coroner for use of his own vehicle, even though he also being paid 34.5 cents to 36 cents per mile for his travel. The ledger also shows that from Oct. 1, 2004, until Aug. 30, 2005, he charged the county \$335.01 for repairs and maintenance on his vehicle. The repair payments were made to Grimme's own business in Marsing.

"He is an elected official, and I think who you should be talking to is him," Tolmie said Thursday when asked about the expenditures. "I haven't had any problem with him."

Grimme didn't return repeated calls placed to his business by the Avalanche seeking comment.

Idaho Code prohibits public officials from profiting through transactions between their private businesses and government agencies.

Tolmie said he had been informed of the situation only a day before his interview with the Avalanche. He said he didn't know if the charges were correct because he had not seen the report. He said Grimme is an elected official and he submits his expenses to the county, which means they should be true and correct.

The expenditure report is approved by the commissioners as part of the bill-paying process — which is a regular item on the commission's county business agenda — and the annual budget review.

"He submits that and it is a good deal," Tolmie explained. "He never goes over his budget, ever. He has the lowest budget in the county, and I don't understand the

big problem, unless there really is a problem."

On the report, under Travel and Mileage, Grimme was reimbursed \$121 for fuel in November 2004 and he also was paid more than \$2,200 for mileage from September 2004 to August 2005.

But, under Supplies and Other, two charge accounts are listed for the coroner. Payments reportedly were being paid to US Bank for a credit card and to a Platinum Plus credit card. Sherburn said the Platinum Plus card is a county credit card issued to the coroner. The US Bank card, "was probably his own credit card," she said.

From October 2004 to August 2005, reports show Grimme submitted five payments on his personal card. The county paid a total of \$2,091.35 for fuel, motel, meals and supplies to Grimme's credit card. Sherburn said the double fuel expenses had been paid until 2005.

Sherburn said she had informed Tolmie about a year ago about the double charges, and Grimme had been asked to stop submitting them.

"He was paid travel mileage, then paid back for fuel," Sherburn said. "That was the problem I had with it, and I brought it to the attention of the board. I felt like he was getting mileage as well as being paid for fuel."

Originally Sherburn recalled that she called Grimme to meet with the board, but after requesting a copy of the minutes of that meeting, Sherburn stated that she recalled Tolmie telling her to call Grimme and ask him to stop submitting the double payments. She said since that time he has no longer submitted fuel reimbursements.

When asked if it was acceptable for an elected official to profit from the county for his own services, Sherburn answered, "all I am saying is the commissioners approved the claim."

"Harvey is not paid very much for being the coroner," Sherburn said. "I did bring it up to the board about a year ago that it was not right. They discussed it with him. I don't think it is right, but he also has a towing business and he is getting those vehicles that are wrecked."

Grimme's towing service in

Marsing is on rotation with the county to respond to accidents.

Faulks said Friday that he was aware of the questionable amounts, but at this time he could not comment on what part he may play in the situation.

"There are some obvious questions about the spending, but until the commissioners request my involvement, they will handle it on their own," he said. "I don't know what happened here as far as whose budget that was for, what items that was for and what they were. I don't know who was involved in the decision-making process basically. I would have to speculate as far as what happened on it."

"I think that what you have here is questions have been raised. And it gives everyone a chance to review it and see what the practices were in making some decisions, whether or not something different should have been done and whether or not something can be done or should be done to correct that."

Faulks said he would not say Grimme paying the county back was out of the question if the commissioners determine the payments were unfounded.

"Without knowing what exactly happened: What accounts were involved; what dollar amounts were involved; what things were purchased, I just don't know that," Faulks said. "I can see that there might be a need to address some of those practices."

Faulks said an investigation is not being conducted at this time. He said his role right now is to advise the commissioners or any other department involved.

"Then there are limits to and at what level I can advise," Faulks said. "Obviously we have county people involved here and the various inner relations of the county departments. There is always a question of (to) what level investigation should go on in any office within the county against any other county office."

He said an outside agency could be asked to assist if an investigation is warranted.

Grimme has served as coroner for 17 years. How long any of the practices discussed at Monday's meeting have been going on is unclear.

— CAB

✓ Arrest

woman and the child at a home off of Sunflower Lane west of Homedale. They were presumably removed from a residence on Jump Creek."

Personnel from both the Homedale Police Department and the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office were involved in Friday's arrest.

Bish said a warrant had been issued for Mercado earlier Friday afternoon from a previous domestic altercation and now several additional felony charges have been added, including kidnapping.

"When they (law enforcement) spoke with Mercado, they served him with a protection order that had been issued by the victim," Bish said. "Then we served the felony warrant, and he was taken into custody."

Bish said the victim reported Mercado had threatened her with a gun before the abduction. He said a 9mm pistol had been found during a subsequent search. Although the gun had a clip of ammunition, Bish said there was no bullet in the chamber.

"He threatened the victim with the gun at one point and she was threatened with a broken beer bottle, which was held to her throat," Bish said.

Mercado was arrested on the original warrant of two felonies, domestic battery and domestic battery in the presence of a child. He was also charged with misdemeanor battery. After the altercation Friday, Mercado was taken into custody for three felonies, kidnapping, aggravated assault and domestic battery in the presence of a child.

Bish said neither the victim nor the child were seriously injured in the altercation.

Mercado was being held in the Owyhee County jail and was arraigned on Monday. Results of the arraignment weren't available at press time.

Mercado was arrested earlier this month and charged with petit theft for stealing a Doppler attached to a sonogram from Terry Reilly Health Clinic in Homedale.

The device attaches to a sonogram and is placed over the mother's stomach to view her unborn child. Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said the device was worth about \$800 and was recovered.


— CAB

County irrigation meetings slated

The Ridgeview Irrigation District will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Ridgeview district office at 118 S. 1st Street in Homedale.

The meeting will be followed by the Gem Irrigation District board meeting at 7:15 p.m. at the same location.

The South Board of Control meets at the same location on the same day at 7:30 p.m.



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Well, just as there was no other female actress likened to Elizabeth Taylor in her day, there is still no other diamond quite like the 69.42-carat that she loved to exhibit, nor of the financial sacrifice of a husband wanting a big diamond for his wife.

That beautiful gem had been cut from a rough stone weighing 240.80 carats found in the Premier Mine in 1966 and it was subsequently bought by Harry Winston.

But did you know that the stone's first owner after Harry Winston wasn't actually Elizabeth Taylor? In 1967 Winston had sold the tear shaped diamond to Mrs. Harriet Annenberg Ames, who was the sister of Walter Annenberg, the American ambassador in London during the Richard Nixon administration. Two years later, she sent the diamond to Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York to be auctioned

On October 23rd, 1969 the bidding started, with the understanding that the buyer could name it, and with Richard Burton making bids from a bar in England.

As well as Richard Burton, Harry Winston (who wanted the diamond back) had also been an under-bidder at this famous sale. But Burton was determined to prevail. So, speaking from a pay phone sandwiched between the lounge bar and the saloon, Burton negotiated for the gem while continually dropping coins into the phone. Patrons quietly sipping their drinks would have heard the actor's loud tones exclaiming, **"I don't care how much it is; go and buy it."** And in the end the stone's new owner Robert Kenmore agreed to sell it him, but only on the condition that Cartier was able to display what was now to be named **The Taylor-Burton Diamond.**

Without question Richard Burton's purchase of this gem was a huge financial sacrifice, and as such awed the entire world. In fact I still recall the headlines in the news. It was and remains a public exhibit of his love for the beautiful actress and, in the eyes of many, was a sacrifice to either be judged and/or envied. That same judgment (or envy) of diamond rings worn by women still exists today because the diamond ring not only symbolizes enduring love, it also represents a man's sacrifice for his loved one.

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Death notice

MAXINE O. ROLAND, 83, of Homedale, died Saturday March 25, 2006 at a Nampa hospital. A memorial service will be at 2 p.m., March 29, 2006, at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

Calendar

Today
“What’s Hot at the Library” lunchtime speaker series, noon, Bruneau Valley Library, 2 Ruth Street, Bruneau. (208) 845-2345 or (208) 845-2131
Easter crafts lessons, 12:30 p.m., Marsing Senior Center, 218 W. Main St. (208) 896-4634

Submit information to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jbrowneditor@cableone.net

Rimrock grad completes naval training

Navy Seaman Recruit Eric G. Rodriguez, son of Cynthia R. and stepson of Wyatt M. Frederick of Grand View, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.
Rodriguez is a 2005 graduate of Rimrock High School.
During the eight-week program, Rodriguez 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 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 Navy skills and the core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Obituary

James F. Toston

James F. Toston, 84, died peacefully at home March 23, 2006. He was born July 2, 1921 to Mary Agnes Knowles Toston and Frank D. Toston in Pocatello. He spent his younger years on a ranch at Walker creek near McCammon. He purchased his first car, a Model A Ford, for \$90. Jim graduated from Pocatello High School in 1940 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps, serving in North Africa and Italy. On July 11, 1942, Jim married his high school sweetheart, Doris Lewis in Ogden, Utah and spent the next 63 years living happily ever after. Together, they enjoyed traveling and relaxing in the hot pools at Lava Hot Springs before settling in Pocatello.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Francis, his sister Alice, and his son James Toston Jr.

He is survived by his beautiful bride, Doris, daughter Connie (Bob) Colvin, Washington, son Larry (Ronda) Toston, Pocatello,



daughter-in-law, Lucy Toston, California, grandchildren Michael, Stephanie, Shannon, Mary, and Bryan, great grandchildren Brandon and Kyle. A family memorial will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in Jim’s name to Southeastern District Health Department Hospice Division, 1901 Alvin Ricken Drive, Pocatello.

School menus

March 30 – April 5

Homedale Elementary
April 3: Burrito or French dip sandwich, green beans, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 4: Nachos or baked potato/toppings, veggies, cinnamon bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 5: Chicken rice bowl or egg roll & rice bowl, veggies, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle
April 3: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, fruit bar, cookie, milk.
April 4: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, fruit bar, cinnamon roll, milk.
April 5: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, fruit bar, pudding, milk.

Homedale High
April 3: Pizza, quesadilla or chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk.
April 4: Wiener wrap or oven fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 5: Enchilada, hot pocket or baked potato/topping, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing
April 3: Burritos, rice, fruit, milk, hamburger, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
April 4: Chicken nuggets, veggies, fruit, milk, sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
April 5: Tacos w/fixings, fruit, desserts, milk, chicken fajitas, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Honor roll

Homedale High third quarter

Homedale High School released its third quarter honor roll recently for students receiving a 3.0 to 4.0 grade point average.
Senior students receiving a 4.0 GPA included: Faith Brasher, Jennifer George, Lyubov Pryadko, Michelle Uria and Shaunna Vaughn.
Senior students receiving a 3.5 to 3.99 GPA include: Stuart Miyasako, Tyler Christoffersen, Jessica Hansen, Ian Lootens, Andrew VanDerhoff, Hailee Garrett, Samantha Perry, Luciana Silva, Zachary Lootens, Jessica Mooney, Wade Hyer, Patrick Vega, Samuel Ensley and Kalon Lord.

Senior students receiving a 3.0 to 3.49 include: Jennifer Thomas, Karina Aguilera, Amanda Crosland, Matthew Dillon, John Hurich, Ryan Rupp, Garrett Sweet, Hailee Hall, Heath Phelps, Lawrence Wass, Kyle Carson, Kimberly Pershall, Elizabeth Steinmetz, Roberto Sandoval, Tyler Leslie, Cheyanne Andrade, Magdalena Vega, Andrew Davey, Kelly Uilkema and Sarah Cline.
Junior students receiving a 4.0 GPA include: Chanda Cox, Shanae Galloway, Ryan Johnson, Joshua Myers, Bonnie Price, Mark Vance, Amanda Gibbs, Andrew Bingham, Andrea Schwangler, Scott Thatcher and Andres Vasquez.

Junior students receiving a 3.5 to 3.99 GPA include: Jared Haskett, Kyle Miyasako, Johnny Butler, Matson Lyon, Jacob Anthony, David Liddell, Elizabeth Calderon, Trevor Krzesnik, Whitney Tackett, Esmeralda Alvarez, Jared Brockett, Efrain Cortez, Jamie Frost, Jacob McRae, Ashley Bailey, Angela Henman, and Josh Jolley.
Junior students receiving a 3.0 to 3.49 GPA include: Sarah Black, Becky Thomson, Caleb

Johnson, Vanessa Brown, Kevin Nettleton, Kayla Bertagnolli, Aida Delgadillo, Jenine Lindbloom, Tyler Maxwell, Bradley Rudd, Jordan Warwick, Travis McRae, Kristin Phifer, Jennifer Williams, Kiaya Combs, Matthew Holloway, Jason Christoffersen, Jorge Gaspar-Cruz, Rachel Shenk, Christopher Anders, Roger Rochester, Joshua Ryska and Cory Uria.
Sophomore students receiving a 4.0 GPA include: Mandy Brasher, Kelsey Silva, Joshua Klug, Mark Klug, Samuel Sanchez, and Zach Tolmie.

Sophomore students receiving a 3.5-3.99 GPA include: Silvino Jimenez, Sarah Scarratt, Belen Vega, Gage Egurrola, Jarrod Driskell, Daisy Aguilera, Kathia Alvarez, Elizabeth Davis, Jaime Uriarte, Katie Cammack, Dayton Syme and Yeraldin Juarez.

Sophomore students receiving a 3.0-3.49 GPA include: Andrew Eubanks, Kortney Bahem, Mathew Hansen, Terence Thomas, Brady Potter, Maria Sanchez, Taryn Corta, Alysha Bahem, Rachel Wheeler, Luz Escutia, Jonathan Verwer, Sierra Hall and Samuel Hart.

Freshmen students with a 4.0 include: Briana Cornwall, Ryan Garrett, and Annamaria Salas.

Freshmen students with a 3.5-3.99 include: Hannah Gibson, Kara McRae, Kelsey Thatcher, Kendall Rupp, Andrea Vega, Mikal Mackenzie, Jessica Sotelo, Blanca Uriarte, Trinity Heath, Esmeralda Jimenez, Mitchell Quintana and Chance Bohr.

Freshmen students with a 3.0-3.499 include: Sierra Aberasturi, Victoria Reed, Kali McRae, Vaughn Abels, Sean Dally, Joel Aguilera, Austin Emry, Haylie Freelove, Rye Hyer, Rachelle Christoffersen, Rowdy Liar, Trevor Meligan, Ashli Kesler and Rodrigo Villarreal.

Local ministerial association to present Holy Week luncheon

Beginning April 10 through the 14th, the Homedale Ministerial Association will again sponsor the Ecumenical Holy Week luncheon from noon until 1 p.m. at the Mountain View Nazarene Church at 26515 Ustick Road.
Nine area Churches will provide a free meal, but offerings will be accepted. Funds collected will be used for missionary and community needs.
A devotion and special music will be offered.

Read all about it in the Avalanche!



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Your finances

Stay-at-home mom more valuable than job if you can do it

Dear Dave,
My wife makes \$40,000 a year, and has been working at the same company for the last 20 years. She can take retirement in nine years with full benefits, but we're thinking it might be a good idea for her to quit now and stay home with our preschool kids. We're also debt-free and can pay the bills and save some money on my income. Is this a crazy idea?

— Sam

Dear Sam,
Is Mom staying at home with the kids a crazy idea? Absolutely not. All you have to do is look in the face of those children and ask them which they'd like — benefits or having mom around a lot more. I think you already know the answer.
But why do we work, anyway? We don't work for benefits and retirement, we work for what benefits and retirement DO for us. We need benefits to help take care of our families, and one of those benefits is money that we can save for later in life in order to retire with dignity and change our family tree.
These are great things to do, Sam. But if you really want to see some benefits, pour your life into your kids.

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I attend a small church with about 100 members. There is a \$97,000 mortgage at 8.75 percent on the building, and the note was signed only by the pastor. Are the members liable in the event of default?

— Charlene via e-mail

Dear Charlene,
Unless you signed the note, you are not liable. If the pastor signed the note personally or on behalf of the congregation it would actually depend on the wording in the note as to who is liable in case of default.
But this whole situation is kind of silly, and I'll tell you why. If everybody in the congregation gave an extra \$83 a month in their tithe — that's only about \$20



more every Sunday — you could have this mortgage knocked out in a year! There's absolutely no reason for this church to be in debt 12 months from now.
This is a prime example of what happens when a church adopts the same mentality as the rest of the world. The Bible itself warns us that borrower is slave to the lender, Charlene.

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I'm looking at a \$92,000 home I really love. I have a car payment, but my boyfriend and I have a combined income of about \$53,000. Should we wait until the car is paid off to buy the home?

— Carrie via e-mail

Dear Carrie,
Don't do it! You should never buy a home with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or even right after you get married. If you go through with this, it could end up being the worst mistake of your life.
Have you ever heard of Murphy's Law, and how everything that CAN go wrong WILL go wrong? You might as well give Murphy his own bedroom if you do this, Carrie, because you'll be creating a huge nightmare for yourselves morally, legally, physically, financially and spiritually.
Slow down and take your time. Make sure you two love each other and want to spend the rest of your lives with each other. Then, after you've gotten married, live in a cheap apartment for a few years while you get the car paid off and save up for a solid 20 percent down payment on a house. When you've done all this, THEN you can start looking for that first home together.

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*.

Dairy elections planned in May

The Idaho Dairy Products Commission is seeking nominations for dairymen to represent producers in the IDPC district elections.
Two commission terms for District I, which includes Owyhee County, will be on the ballot this year.
The District I chairman is Dale Van Beek, and he is responsible for naming three eligible producers to appear on the ballots by May 5.
The terms of District I commission members Bob Lustig of Cottonwood and John Vander Woude of Nampa expire this year. The men could be re-nominated.
Any dairy producer interested in more information on the district committee elections can contact Van Beek at 9613 Lincoln Road, Caldwell, ID 83605

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2006 Homedale High School honor society

The 58th annual class of National Honor Society inductees were introduced at Homedale High School during a ceremony Wednesday night. The group of 26 students were accepted based on their grade-point average, community service leadership and work experience. **Front row left to right:** Elizabeth Calderon, Andrea Schwangler, Lyubov Pryadko, Andrea Aguilera, Bonnie Price, Jared Haskett. **Middle row left to right:** Jordan Warwick, Jared Brockett, Vanessa Brown, Sarah Black, Kyle Miyasako, Kayla Bertagnolli, Samantha Perry. **Third row left to right:** Andres Vasquez, Jacob McRae, Trevor Krzesnik, Matson Lyon, Ryan Johnson, Amanda Gibbs, Shanae Galloway, Chanda Cox. **Back row left to right:** Scott Thatcher, Andrew Eubanks, Josh Myers, Mark Vance.

Homedale students inducted into National Honor Society

The Homedale High School chapter of the National Honor Society held its 58th annual induction ceremony Wednesday, and 26 students were accepted into the club to replace the upcoming graduating seniors.

In order for students to be accepted, they must have a minimum of a 3.3 cumulative grade-point average. Then they are given an application in which they must include past community service, leadership roles and work experience. The applications are then sent to the Faculty Advisory Council, which consists of five teachers.

The teachers rate the applicants and decide who will be inducted into National Honor Society.

This year's inductees include Amanda Gibbs, Andrea Aguilera, Andrea Schwangler, Andres Vasquez, Andrew Bingham, Bonnie Price, Chanda Cox, Elizabeth Calderon, Jacob McRae, Jared Brockett, Jared Haskett, Jordan Warwick, Josh Myers, Kayla Bertagnolli, Kyle Miyasako, Lyubov Pradko, Mark Vance, Matson Lyon, Ryan Johnson, Samantha Perry, Sarah Black, Scott Thatcher, Shanae Galloway, Trevor Krzesnik, Vanessa Brown and Wade Hyer.

During the past year, the honor society helped with many school-related activities. Among those activities were high school registration, parent-teacher conferences, lunch concessions, sold caramel apples to purchase kindergarten books, gave out Halloween-grams, made Veterans Day ribbons for students and teachers, coordinated a food drive for Christmas, held a kindergarten ice cream social, helped with the annual International Smorgasbord and sold concessions to raise money for new honor sashes to be worn during this year's graduation ceremony.



Honored student

Homedale High School senior Stuart Miyasako, center, accepts a certificate from school principal Mike Williams, left, during a ceremony Wednesday night in the school cafeteria. The certificate signifies that Miyasako has been nominated for a national scholarship sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Miyasako's father, Randy, stands behind his son.

Homedale senior Miyasako nominated for national prize

Stuart Miyasako, a Homedale High School senior and member of the National Honor Society, has been nominated to compete in the National Honor Society scholarship contest sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Homedale principal Mike Williams made the announcement during the honor society induction ceremony last week. With the nomination, Miyasako becomes one of 200 students nationwide who could be eligible to receive \$1,000 in college scholarships this spring.

"It's an honor to recognize Stuart for his accomplishments at Homedale High School," Williams said.

"Stuart has proven himself as a superb ambassador for the school and community. He is a natural leader, both in and out of the classroom, who will continue to excel as he starts his collegiate

career. On behalf of the faculty at Homedale High School, we would like to congratulate Stuart and his parents, Randy and Chris, with his selection to the national competition."

High School National Honor Society chapters from across the country were eligible to nominate two senior high school members to compete. Nominees were selected based on their leadership skills, participation in service organizations and clubs, achievements in the arts and sciences, employment experience and academic record. They also were required to write an essay.

Miyasako has been Homedale's student body president, participated in wrestling, placing fourth at the state meet this year, a member of the golf team and attended Boys State last summer and was elected governor.

He also was elected Homecoming king in the fall.

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Golf challenge deadline nears

Time is running out to sign up for the ninth annual Spring Golf Challenge to benefit Marsing High School class of 2006's drug and alcohol free graduation party.

The registration deadline for the benefit golf tournament is Friday.

The challenge will be held at River Bend Golf Course on April 8 with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. and a four-person scramble.

Awards and prizes will be given for closest to the pin, longest drive and much more. Each hole is sponsored by a local business.

Entry fees are \$45 per person or \$180 per team and include green fees and a shared cart for 18 holes of golf. A hamburger cookout will be served after the tournament.

The parents of the senior class sponsor the event.

Homedale honors science-math teacher with excellence award

Not only is Mark Thatcher Homedale High School’s physics, chemistry, calculus, applied math, geometry and basic algebra teacher. He is also month’s honored school district employee.

Thatcher was presented with the Award of Excellence by the Homedale school board earlier this month in recognition of his “exemplary dedication to creating new and improved lessons through research of innovative teaching methods and materials.”

High school principal Mike Williams said Thatcher is constantly looking for additional ways to teach and motivate his students.

“Mark has incorporated technology into his everyday teaching to such a degree that technology is a part of his teaching rather than something added to his lessons,” Williams said.

“He is the first one to volunteer to teach an extra class and is willing to take extra students in his class. To better serve our students and school, Mark went back to school to pick up a math endorsement.”

After school, when Thatcher is not working with the baseball team, he can be found tutoring students in the After School Program at the high school.

“Mark gives freely of his time, always willing to take on extra duties when needed,” Williams



Honored teacher

During its March 13 meeting, the Homedale School District Board of Trustees honored Homedale High School science and math teacher Mark Thatcher with its monthly “Award of Excellence” plaque. Board chairman Kurt Shanley, right, presents the award to Thatcher, who was cited for his performance as a Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics teacher at Homedale High School. Submitted photo

said. “Mark has worked as an advisor for the INL Academic team, providing supervision for practice and at competitions. He makes himself available during lunchtime so that the Chess Club has a place to meet and play daily, as well as helping them sponsor an occasional tournament.”

This year’s INL Academic team reached the state competition in Boise, bowing out during the first day of competition March 20.

Thatcher volunteers with the Trojans baseball program,

working with the junior varsity team. Williams said he has given countless hours of service to the students, school and community.

“Mark is always willing to chaperone a dance, work concessions at the games or supervise fund raising events,” Williams said.

Students say Thatcher is enthusiastic, greets every student with a smile and an eagerness to educate even in the toughest subjects. He is “cool” and makes math fun to learn.

Homedale scholastic team ends historic ride at State

The Homedale High School scholastic team made history last week despite being eliminated during the first day of the Idaho National Laboratory Scholastic Tournament in Boise.

The group, which included Ryan Johnson, Patrick Vega, Faith Brasher, Mandy Brasher, Mark Vance, Jennifer George, Zach Lootens, Stuart Miyasako, Bonnie Price and Shanae Galloway, became just the third Homedale High School team to reach the state competition in the past 11 years.

The 10-person team lost both its Knowledge Bowl-style contests the first day of competition March 20 at Boise Centre on the Grove after qualifying for the state tournament with a third-place finish in the Feb. 27 western regional at Boise State University.

Homedale teacher Mark Thatcher put the team through lunchtime practices this year. The

team would split in two groups and face off in a lightning round of questions.

But this was not their fathers’ Trivial Pursuit. Questions covered subjects such as science, English, math, grammar, literature, current events, the arts, history and social studies.

The practice paid off in the regional competition as Homedale beat McCall-Donnelly for third place after knocking off Wendell in the opening round and losing to Buhl in the second round.

At the state competition, Homedale lost closely contested matchups against Soda Springs and Timberlake from Spirit Lake.

Soda Springs went on to finish third in the state competition. Marsh Valley beat Nampa Christian for the state championship on the morning of March 21 at the Idaho Public Television studios in Boise.

Read all about it
in the Avalanche!

Masons deem scholarship breakfast a success

Several hundred people attended the annual Silver City Masonic Lodge No. 13 scholarship breakfast earlier this month.

Coordinators said enough funds were raised for members of the lodge to offer two scholarships to local high school students this year.

“We just want everyone who

helped know how thankful we are for them,” Bill Shaw lodge member said. “It was a complete success.”

“Building today for tomorrow is the focus of the lodge,” Shaw said.

Shaw said the scholarships would be awarded to two students this spring.

The program helps students in Marsing, Homedale, Parma and Wilder. The breakfast was held at the Masonic lodge in Homedale.

Find out
What’s happening
Read Calendar each week
in the Avalanche



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After-school group recreates early Homedale

In the past several weeks, children attending the First Presbyterian Church after-school program in Homedale have been rebuilding a rendition of the City of Homedale staged in the late 1800s based on pictures and stories from Homedale Hodgepodge and Homedale Scenes Revisited, books written by native historian Norma Walker.

The older children have been working on the main buildings for the town, and the younger children have been working on the small outbuildings. Coordinator Janet McCornack said the Snake River, the former ferryboat site, the train tracks and train depot and possibly a sheep camp outside of town will be built to complete the project.

Vivian Lilly, Don Townsend and Pastor Maryann Paul are assisting the class with the project.

Walker is also working on a project that will mark each original spot of the early 1900s ferryboat locations. She said three

locations near Homedale were used, and two have positively been identified. Walker will host a slideshow, Historic Homedale, on Nov. 15 at the church.

After-school program student Allison Shenk said she and her classmates have been working on the project because they think their rendition resembles what Homedale looked like many years ago.

“The children are very excited every Monday to build a new building,” McCornack said. “We refer to Norma’s book many times to see what the buildings may have looked like then.”

McCornack said the church plans to host a reunion potluck picnic in the park later this summer. She said it would be an Old Fashioned Homecoming. The makeshift town will be on display.

The church’s after-school program meets every Wednesday right after the release of school.

— CAB



Homedale years ago

Children from the First Presbyterian Church in Homedale stand with their rendition of Homedale. The children will have the completed town on display during a reunion picnic this summer. Pictured, front left to right: Angel Andaverde, Olivia Cardenas, Alison Shenk, Siri Gierlich and Christopher Contreras-Benitez. Back row; Ben Cardenas, Elise Shenk, Norma Walker, Denise Contreras-Benitez, Antonia Banda and Brittany Wilson.

Owyhee County water figures look good

Owyhee Reservoir sits 13 feet from full	Weather		Prec.
	H	L	
The following is a water and snow report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service as of Monday. The Owyhee Reservoir held 553,206 acre-feet of water and was 77 percent of full. Water was entering the reservoir at the rate of 5,659 cubic feet per	Mar 21	55	21
	Mar 22	56	27
	Mar 23	62	32
	Mar 24	65	42
	Mar 25	no	read
	Mar 26	no	read
	Mar 27	66	18
second at Rome, Ore., and water was being released from the dam at 2,302 cfs.			.06
			.04

The reservoir is 13.46 feet from being full. It is at 97 percent capacity for the 30-year average.

At the Reynolds Creek Snowpack Telemetry (SNOTEL) site, 15.8 inches of precipitation has fallen, year-to-date. The site gained 0.4 inches during the weekend.

At South Mountain, nearly 3 inches of new snow fell last weekend giving the site a total of 55.3 inches of snow as of Sunday. But warming temperatures

dropped the levels nearly an inch, recording 54.4 inches on Monday morning.

Year-to-date, the site has recorded 34.1 inches of total precipitation.

At Mud Flat, an inch of new snow fell on Saturday night, bringing the site to 34.1 inches of snow.

The level dropped to 32.4 inches by Monday morning because of warm temperatures. Year-to-date, 17.2 inches of precipitation has been recorded.

Assessor: Residents must name private roads

Owyhee County residents are being reminded that they must name their private roads to comply with the Uniform Addressing Ordinance passed by the county commission on March 11, 2002.

“It provided a chance for residences that live on a private road that meet one or more of the three requirements, to name their roads,” County Assessor Brett Endicott said. “In the case of mobile home parks, the owner needs to name the roads on the property.”

The ordinance states that signs must be erected and maintained by the residents on the roadway. Signs must stand between 5½ feet and 6½ feet above the ground and must be visible and readable from both sides. The signs must be blue.

“This ordinance was passed to facilitate a quicker, more efficient response of emergency service vehicles and personnel to the citizens of Owyhee County,” Endicott said.

Violation of the ordinance is an infraction punishable in accordance with Idaho law, he said.

“We still have many roads that are not named,” Endicott said. “We need to get them done for emergency response reasons and for mapping purposes.”

For more information, call Endicott at (208) 495-2817.

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FFA teams get a kick out of basketball



Stubborn mule

Homedale's Kendall Rupp, left, pulls her trusty stubborn steed as Marsing's Marcus Miller gathers the basketball in the corner of the Homedale High School gymnasium.

Loose ball

Marsing FFA student Daniel Ineck, right, dismounts his donkey in an effort to retrieve a loose ball before Homedale FFA student Kendall Rupp can reach it.

Marsing, Homedale chapters play in annual donkey basketball fund-raiser

Most sporting events pit man versus man, or woman as it may be. But the contest played inside Homedale High School's gymnasium last week took the art of basketball to a new level, pitting man against donkey.

Homedale High School's chapter of Future Farmers of America (FFA) held a benefit basketball contest in which all the competitors rode donkeys.

Team members, including Homedale faculty, students, community members and Marsing FFA members, had to be on donkey-back to score a basket. The trouble was the riders had to convince their "teammate" (the donkey) to move toward the basket.

The animals did not move when directed, trotting or stopping unexpectedly. Pooper-scooping also was part of the action in the gym.

The money raised will help the Homedale FFA members travel to state and national conventions, said advisor Lori Harrison. Marsing and Homedale have formed a partnership for the annual donkey basketball game.

Last year, Marsing played host to the event and benefited from the funds. This year, Homedale reaped the rewards.

"We have been doing this for a couple of years," Marsing FFA advisor Jason Nettleton said. "It helps both of our chapters to be able to work together. Next year, we will host the event and invite Homedale to attend."

Officials say Homedale FFA made about \$550 from the proceeds. Some of the funds were used to pay the price for borrowing the burros.

In the first game, Marsing beat Homedale 22-18, in a battle of FFA chapters. Homedale's school staff faced the community team in Game 2. The community members were too much for the much older staff members, who lost in the final seconds 18-16.

Marsing played the championship game against the community members and were crowned winners at the end of the evening. Coordinators of the event could not recall the final score.

"It is great fun," Homedale Principal Mike Williams said shortly before his game began.

Williams dressed the part, complete with cowboy boots, spurs, bandana and a large-brimmed cowboy hat.

Between games, children got to take donkey rides, and the animals were much more cooperative.

Those attending included Kallie Roeser, Kenneth Redmond, CC Zanardi, Sean Finley, Keneth Redmond, Marcus Miller, Daniel Ineck and Nettleton for Marsing FFA.

From Homedale FFA Jacob McRae, Rye Hyer, Kendall Rupp, Mandy Gibbs, Hannah Johnson, Austin Emry, Ulysses Vargas, Jessie Eubanks, Sarah Black, Heath Phelps and Harrison.

The community team consisted of Gheen Christoffersen, Dwayne Fisher, Alisha Mackenzie, Jeff Christoffersen, Dennis Uria, Steve Nash, Michelle Babcock, Brandon DeMond, Kurt Shanley, and Tim Quintanna.

The faculty team was Jamie Frelove, Mark Weekes, Larry Corta, Greg Kelly, Thomas Thomas, Mike Williams, Mike Greeley, Shelly Shenk, Nick Schamber and Roger Eubanks.

— CAB



Foul ball

Marsing FFA Advisor Jason Nettleton, right, battles his beast as Homedale's Kendall Rupp tries to get back on her mule to score a two- point basket during last week's donkey basketball fund-raiser at Homedale High School. More than \$500 was raised in the event, which featured a Marsing FFA vs. Homedale FFA game and a school staff vs. community contest.

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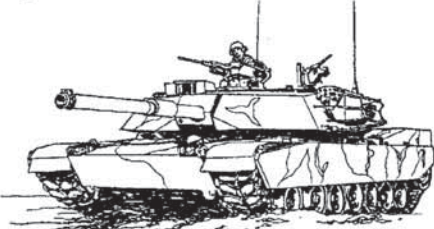
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Shoo-Fly 4-H news

by Aubrey Nash

Vice President Josh Ryska called the March meeting of the Shoo-Fly 4-H club to order earlier this month.
The Cloverbuds led the pledges

and secretary Gabby Nash called roll and read minutes from the February meeting. New club members were introduced and include Kelly and Megan Barraza, Drew and Kylie Farwell and Curtis Demont.

Laurien Mavey, who reported on the club’s bowling party held at Owyhee Lanes in Homedale on Feb. 26, gave a social committee report.
Cory Uria reported that the swine clinic held on March

7 was very informative and most Shoo-Fly swine members attended.
The business meeting was then adjourned and demonstrations were presented to judge April Binford.

The club ended the meeting by enjoying a meal of pizza and sodas.
The next meeting and demonstrations day will be held on April 9 at 3 p.m. at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center.

Wilson Butte 4-H news

by Haley Brisbin

The start of a busy year for the Wilson Butte 4-H club is already up and rolling.
The club had its first official meeting in January with the election of officers. The new club officers are: president Tyler Blackstock, vice president Kelsey Pease, secretary and club reporter Haley Brisbin, treasurer Elizabeth Gramps and sergeant of arms Wade Bass.

Business and activities were planned. Current club members welcomed new members, including Perry and Cory Maupin, Shauna and Erica Anderson, Ashley Richardson, Katelyn Wilson, Jordin Brisbin, Cheylah Volkers, Annie Bass, Megan Smith, Becky Carter and Joseph Ineck.
“We are all looking forward to an exciting 4-H year,” leader Mary Blackstock said.

Letters of thanks were received by the Mississippi 4-H families who were victims of Hurricane Katrina and received individual gifts and money donated from the Wilson Butte club.
Discussion at the February meeting included club expectations, 4-H dues, weigh-in of projects, fund-raiser and workdays.
Halter breaking went smoothly for the 11 beef members and their projects leading nicely at Oreana and Homedale weigh-in. Members attended and enjoyed the informative beef field day put on by the University of Idaho.
Subjects were taught with an



Elected officials

Officers elected during a recent Wilson 4-H Club meeting include, front, left to right: Elizabeth Gramps, Kelsey Pease, Haley Brisbin and Wade Bass, and, in the back, Tyler Blackstock. Submitted photo

interesting twist for providing lasting memories, including handling, record-keeping, how to give a shot, quality assurance, bio security and ultrasound.
Wilson Butte dairy, beef, sheep and goat members have met and started their Cooperative Curriculum System project books.
“With luck, sheep members are looking forward to a better year with lambs ‘making’ it to the fair, and when weather permits, the horse members will be gearing up with weekly riding lessons,” Blackstock said.
The club’s annual pizza party and the March meeting were held

at Idaho Pizza in Caldwell.
“It was a ton of fun and with 30 members and family’s attending, we filled the place,” Blackstock said. “Demonstration information was received and 18 large pizzas were eaten.”
Members attended the annual 4-H skating party held at the Nampa Roller Dome.
“Always fun to get together with other 4-H members we haven’t seen for a while,” Blackstock said. “Fundraising plans for our third annual Cowboy Trail Ride April 23rd are being discussed with excitement. We hope it will be another successful event and fun time.”

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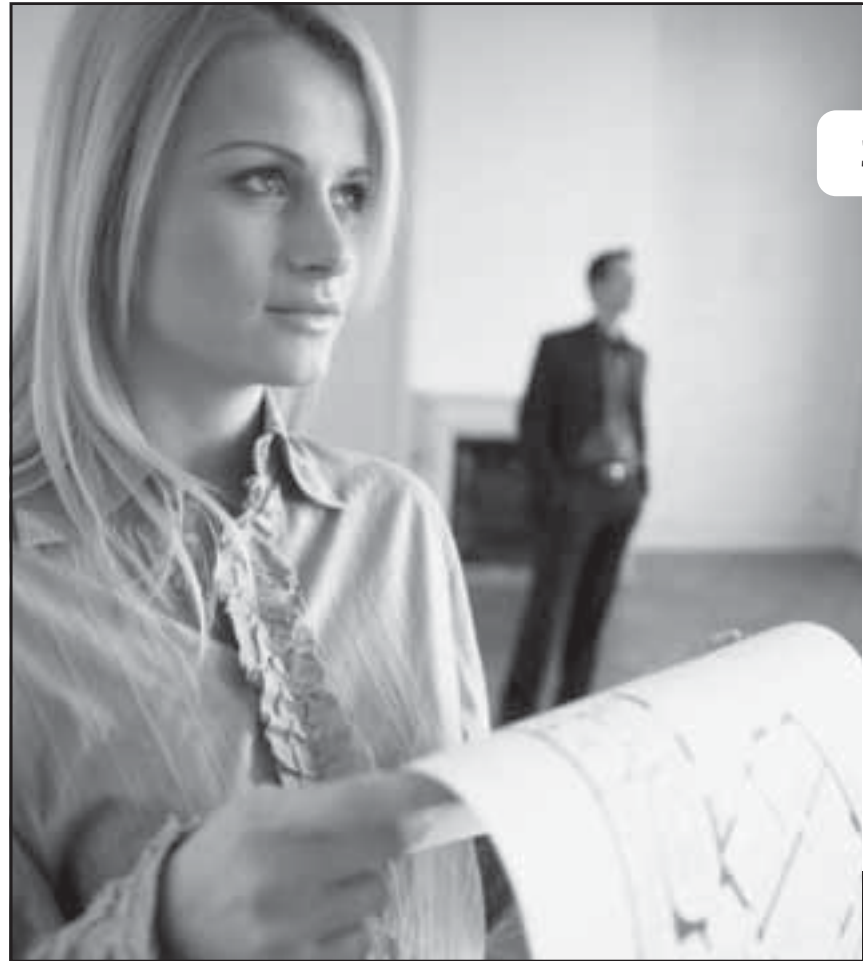
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Marsing center reaps the profits of bank's casual day

Marsing resident Esther J. Rounds presented a donation March 20 to the Marsing Senior Center on behalf of Home Federal Bank's employees.

Alana Squires, the coordinator of the Marsing Senior Center, accepted more than \$300 in donations stemming from the bank's monthly Jeans Day promotion.

"We were just delighted," Squires said. "It was just a real surprise."

For a small donation, Home Federal employees, like rounds, can wear jeans to work. The raised through the promotion is Home Federal, which employs Rounds, allows the casual day once a month, employees are allowed to wear jeans for a small donation, and the money raised is given to an organization chosen by the employees.

Marsing Senior Center served about 9,500 meals last year. The center gets some government funding, but relies primarily on private donations and money raised through various fund-raisers.

The Marsing Senior Center is located at 218 Main Street in Marsing. For more information, call (208) 896-4634. Squires said donation checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 481, Marsing, ID 83639.



Jeans Day benefactor

Marsing Senior Center coordinator Alana Squires, left, accepts at donation from Marsing resident Esther Rounds on March 20 at the center. Rounds, who works at Home Federal Bank in Nampa, turned over the proceeds from the bank's latest Jeans Day fund-raiser. Submitted photo

OCHS plans lots of activity in April

A whole schedule of events is being planned by the Owyhee County Historical Society this year, and the first are being held this weekend.

A country market, complete with vendors offering unique gifts, crafts, jewelry and homemade goodies will be held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday at the museum, which is located on Basey Street in Murphy. A yard sale will be held at the same time at Pedricini Hall.

Yard sale items will be accepted throughout the event. To donate call Vikki Tyson at (208) 834-2077 or Linda Charters at (208) 834-2744.

A Western Heritage Music Festival is planned for April 22-23 at the museum. Tickets will be sold for \$3 for adults and free for children 12 and under.

Featured acts will include Bona Fide, The Sunset Four, Blue Dove, Ted Hoffman and many others.

To perform, musicians must register from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and entertainment will begin at 10 a.m. on both days.

A Dutch oven dinner will be held on Saturday at 5 p.m. and breakfast will be served on both days from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. with gospel music on Sunday morning.

Planned events include music workshops, band scrambles, open mike performances, featured bands and original music. The event will be held at the museum.

An Outpost Days meeting is planned for April 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the museum with the event planned for June 3-4.

Historical society field trips include April 29 to Oreana and to the 45 Ranch on May 20.

The museum is open all year on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Tom Couch at (208) 495-2319.

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Spring calves

Rancher Doug Burgess holds a calf as the brand is applied recently at an Owyhee County ranch. Spring brings a new crop of calves and also the brandings at various ranches. Many ranches in the county still rope the young calves for vaccinations and brands. Photo by Gregg Garrett

Extension office hosts Living On The Land miniseries

A Western Treasure Valley Living On The Land (LOTL) miniseries targeted to small-acreage landowners and hobby farmers will take place each Tuesday from April 18 to May 9 in Marsing and Parma. Programs will run from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and include handouts, refreshments and more. Pre-registration is required before April 17, so enough supplies and materials are available. Call (208) 896-4104 to register or for a complete agenda. You may also visit www.ag.uidaho.edu/sustag or drop by your local extension office for a registration form. The cost is \$15 per class or \$50 for all four classes. Classes will be held at the Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing and at the Parma

Research and Extension Center. This educational effort is offered in partnership with Rural Roots, Capital City Farmers' Market, Touch the Soil, Zamzows, the Idaho State Department of Health, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, LOTL Alumni Volunteers, District II University of Idaho Extension Offices and the UI Agricultural Experiment Station. Topics covered will include managing animals and plants on small acreages: Rodent and Wildlife Management, Animal – Human Disease Transfer, Grazing Management, Caring for Your Animals, So You Want to be an Animal Owner, Feeds and Feeding; Marketing Strategies for Produce, A Whole Farm Approach, Farmers Markets, and Organic Production Practices.



In memory of

A brand new awning has been built in Sundance Park in memory of longtime high school sports fan, Johnny Krzesnik. Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said Darren Krzesnik and his family built the awning. Fink said Johnny Krzesnik was a big sports fan and always supported the local athletes.

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