



County seeks
flood help
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School board
elections
on the horizon

Owyhee
cowboys fare
well in Nampa

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 14

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Tolmie: County P.A. has coroner issue now

Owyhee County Commission chairman Hal Tolmie said last week that the county prosecutor — not the commissioners — is involved in answering questions pertaining to approved spending of the county corner.

Several approved payments came under fire, including payments for fuel, mileage and vehicle maintenance during the past several years for Coroner Harvey Grimme. Commissioners held an executive session meeting on March 29 concerning the matter, and now Tolmie says county Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks will handle the situation.

“He is an elected official,” Tolmie said of Grimme last week. “If someone thinks he is doing wrong, it is up to the prosecuting attorney to go in there. It is not up to the commissioners that check and start this. Now it is between him and the prosecutor to hash this out.”

Tolmie said the commissioners have not asked the prosecutor to check the legitimacy of the spending — it is Faulks’ job to do so.

“We just told him to talk to Harvey about it,” Tolmie said. “The commissioners didn’t bring it up. If someone is upset about an elected official, they should go directly to that official.”

Faulks said he planned to give an opinion Monday, but he declined to say what that opinion would be. He said he

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Glorious water

Top: Water flows over the glory hole at Owyhee Reservoir. The reservoir contained 598,791 acre-feet of water Monday, with water entering the reservoir at the rate of 7,085 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Rome, Ore. Right: Water rushing at more than 4,000 cfs — plus water entering the glory hole — is released from the reservoir during the weekend. Flows are expected to increase in the next few weeks.



More on the irrigation situation, Page 12A

City, Sevieris enter into new deal for water

Homedale releases news of
agreement before formal approval,
backtracks on previous allegations

After months of accusing a local mobile home court owner of delinquent utility bills, retaining money from individual mobile home owners and park tenants and denying city workers access to park property, the City of Homedale did an about-face last week when it announced a new agreement with Robert and Jane Sevieri, owners of Sunset Village Mobile Home Park.

A joint press release issued last week by Homedale and the Sevieris said that the city acknowledged that all the previous allegations — including a charge that the park owners owed more than \$3,000 in past-due utility fees — never happened and that a new agreement regarding water

service for the mobile home park was in place.

Although the press release announcing the agreement was issued to the The Owyhee Avalanche and a Canyon County newspaper March 28 in the form of a legal notice, the Homedale City Council didn’t actually approve the new memorandum of agreement or a \$9,000 payment to the Sevieris until a public meeting held Friday night. The scheduling of the meeting was first announced Wednesday, a day after the press release went public.

Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said after Friday’s meeting that a

— to page 5A

Marsing fire, ambulance discontinue phone lines for emergencies

Marsing fire and ambulance services now will be completely dispatched through the Enhanced 911 system. Department officials announced last week the use of seven-digit direct phone numbers will be discontinued.

Since the installation of

Enhanced 911 into the county dispatch, residents were asked to call 911 for faster service, but the direct seven-digit numbers remained in service. Last week, several of those seven-digit numbers became inactive, and now the departments are reminding

people to use the Enhanced 911 system through the county.

Marsing officials said the normally used seven-digit number, (208) 896-4444, will no longer be operational beginning this week. Those calling the number will receive recorded instructions to

hang up and dial 911.

Judy Malmberg a Marsing fire and ambulance dispatcher,

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— State lawmakers vote
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'The estimated cost for repairing ... the road to Silver City is ... shy of \$1 million.'

— Owyhee County Commission
in letter to Gov. Dirk Kempthorne

Commission asks for governor's help with flood damages

County commissioners have asked Gov. Dirk Kempthorne for his help in funding the repair of roads damaged during New Year's flooding.

Owyhee County hopes that the state will agree to provide an additional 5 percent of a 25 percent state-local cost-share plan, leaving the county to provide 5 percent of the funds needed to repair more than \$1 million in damages.

Under the original emergency declaration, the county has to support the repairs by paying 10 percent, the state would pay 15 percent and the Federal Emergency Management Agency would foot 75 percent of the total bill. Total repair costs are estimated at more than \$1 million, but some areas have not been assessed because they still are covered with snow.

"Since the disaster hit us in the middle of budget year, we, as commissioners, obviously did not set a budget high enough to accommodate the extra costs necessary to repair the transportation system which is used by so many visitors who are not citizens and taxpayers of the county, many of them from Ada and Canyon counties," the commission's letter to the governor said. "The estimated cost for repairing and restoring the road to Silver City, for example, is just shy of \$1 million. That road is used by thousands of visitors to our county and to the state each summer."

Commissioners explained that the road is also necessary to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for management activities related to federal lands and to the State Land Department for activities related to school endowment lands.

"Cattle are grazed in the Silver City area under BLM permits, and the Silver City road is the only route available for rancher access

to and from the grazing sites," the letter said. "It is a main route for federal, state and local fire and emergency vehicles being used to respond to fire, accidents and search and rescue. It is important to the county and the state that this road be made safely passable before the normal opening on or around the Memorial Day weekend."

County Disaster Coordinator Gary Aman said his department in the sheriff's office has spent about \$9,300 in non-refundable expenses for the flood. County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said the road district has spent about the same. She said, overall, the county has spent roughly \$25,000 so far.

"The Silver City Road is estimated at \$1 million alone," Sherburn said. "With our percentage, we would have to pay about \$100,000. It will put regular road projects on hold."

Commission Chairman Hal Tolmie said the costs for personnel, equipment use and supplies faced by the county departments for roads and bridges and law enforcement would exceed the amounts budgeted for the fiscal year. He said the roads and bridges budget would be exhausted by the costs of work necessary on the Silver City Road as well as other roads damaged throughout the county. Tolmie said that the 2007 fiscal year budget would be stressed before it even begins.

"The county could not use a mill levy increase to help financially in the middle of the fiscal year, even if an adequate increase were possible under the 3 percent limitation," the commissioners wrote to the governor. "That limitation blocks financial relief for the costs of the emergency repairs even in the coming fiscal year."

— CAB

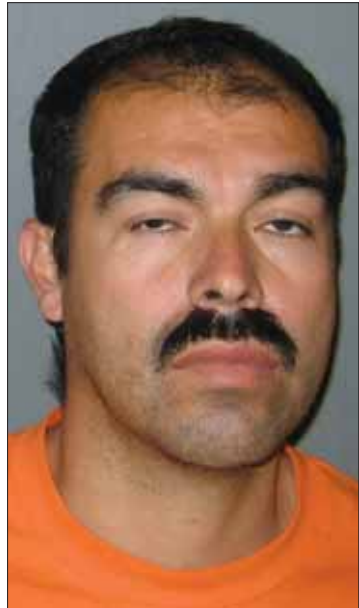
Jordan Valley arrests keep Malheur deputies busy

JV man charged in domestic attack; man wanted for sex crime nabbed

The Malheur County Sheriff's Office made two felony arrests last week in Jordan Valley. A Jordan Valley man was arrested for assault in the fourth degree and for unlawfully possessing a concealed weapon, and a California man was taken into custody on felony sex charges filed in California.

Undersheriff Brian Wolfe said Monday that Thomas Sausser, 53, of Jordan Valley, was arrested Thursday evening after an altercation with a 49-year-old female. Wolfe said county law enforcement received a report that Sausser and the woman were fighting in the street at Yturri Avenue and that Sausser had a weapon with him.

"When he arrived on scene, the deputy asked where the weapon was," Wolfe said. "The female stated that the male subject had it. The situation was tense at that time. Mr. Sausser was ordered to put his hands up, and he refused to comply keeping his arms folded across his chest. He then informed the deputy that he had a .22-caliber pistol in his coat pocket



Valfre Rodriguez
Wanted in California

and still refused to comply. He told the deputy that the only way he would give up the gun was if the deputy shot him."

Wolfe said after a short conversation, the deputy was able to contain Sausser and handcuff him. He said the subsequent search turned up a .22 revolver

was located in the suspect's coat.

"It had five live rounds and one spent round in it," Wolfe said. "He again refused to comply and would not get in the patrol car."

Wolfe said the situation was brought under control and Sausser was transported to an Oregon hospital. He said no one was injured in the altercation.

On Friday night, Deputy Bob Rotten pulled over a semi-truck that he clocked traveling 71 mph in a 55 mph zone. But what Rotten didn't know is the driver of the vehicle, 39-year old Valfre Rodriguez of Santa Ana, Calif., was wanted in that state for a sex crime against a minor.

"Deputy Rotten stopped the truck outside of Jordan Valley," Wolfe said.

"After running a check on the driver and issuing the citation, Rotten was notified that Rodriguez was wanted in California for lewd conduct with a minor child. He was taken into custody without incident."

Wolfe said Rodriguez is being held in the Malheur County jail waiting extradition to California.

— CAB

Lizard Butte library plans another running clinic

Lizard Butte Public Library in Marsing is holding the second of its running clinics in preparation for its first fun run and walk in June.

The clinic will begin at 6:30 p.m. April 18 at the library in the Owyhee Plaza on Main Street. Dr. Matthew Smith from Rehab Authority in Homedale will give a presentation on treatment and prevention of injuries. The final pre-event clinic will be held at 6:30 p.m. on May 25.

The fun run and walk will be held June 10 in conjunction with Marsing's Old Time Fair. In addition to 5- and 10-kilometer runs, there will be a 1-mile walk for children and families.

The entry fee for the 5K and 10K races is \$25 per person. After May 31, the fee increases to \$30.

The entry fee for the walk is \$15 per person. Children 4 years old and younger can join the fun for free.

Registration packets are available at the library, by calling (208) 896-4690 or by e-mail at lizardbuttelibrary@yahoo.com.

Proceeds from the event benefit the library's building fund.

HHS softball plans youth camp

Players and coaches from the Homedale High School softball program will conduct a youth softball skills camp April 15 at Sundance Park.

The camp will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and it's open to girls ages 7-14. The fee is \$20.

For more information, call Homedale junior varsity coach Shelly Shenk at (208) 249-2448.

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Spring brings back worries of West Nile, Lyme disease

Spring means, sunny skies, warm temperatures, flowers, and bugs. Officials are warning Idaho residents to take precautions against insects this year because of wet weather and illnesses such as West Nile virus, carried by mosquitoes and Lyme disease, spread by biting ticks.

Experts expect West Nile to appear in Idaho again. One person in Owyhee County was infected with the virus last year.

Officials say the first signs of the virus probably will show up in mid- to late summer.

Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not become ill, but some may experience a mild fever, headaches and body aches.

Fewer than 1 percent of people infected with West Nile will suffer serious complications such as inflammation of the brain or paralysis. In severe cases, infection can lead to death.

The Centers for Disease Control and the U.S. Geological Survey report that in Idaho in 2005, West Nile showed up in 114 horses, 15 birds and 13 humans. The human cases all were reported in August and September in southwestern Idaho — two each in Ada, Canyon, Elmore and Gooding counties; and one each in Owyhee, Twin Falls and Washington counties. No human deaths were reported.

Tips for prevention include: cover exposed skin when outdoors; apply insect repellent containing DEET to exposed skin and clothing; avoid outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active;

eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed; empty birdbaths and clean decorative ponds every three to six days; repair or install window screens; report dead birds to state Fish and Game; and vaccinate horses.

One-third of horses infected by West Nile virus die. There was at least one report of a horse fatality in Owyhee County last year.

Lyme disease, which is passed to humans through a tick bite, is another concern this spring.

Although Lyme disease has not plagued Idaho, from 1994 to 2003, the last time the CDC reported on cases, 35 people have been infected.

The Lyme disease bacterium can infect several parts of the body, producing different symptoms at different times. Not all patients will have all symptoms, and many can occur with other diseases as well.

The first sign of infection is in about 70 to 80 percent of cases is a circular rash at the site of a tick bite. Patients also experience fatigue, chills, fever, headache, muscle and joint aches, and swollen lymph nodes. In some cases, these may be the only symptoms of infection.

Untreated, the infection may spread to other parts of the body, producing an array of discrete symptoms, including loss of muscle tone on one or both sides of the face, severe headaches and neck stiffness due to meningitis, shooting pains that may interfere with sleep, heart palpitations and dizziness because of changes in heartbeat.

— CAB

Four Owyhee school districts prepare for trustee elections

Four Owyhee County school districts will hold board of trustee elections May 16.

Elections will be held in the Homedale, Marsing, Bruneau-Grand View and Pleasant Valley school districts. Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

Prospective candidates have until 5 p.m. April 14 to file declarations of intent. Declarations can be filed at the respective school district offices. Write-in candidates have until May 3 to file.

In Marsing, the Zone 1 seat currently held by trustee Joe Usabel is up for election. The position carries a three-year term. Only electors from Zone 1 are eligible to vote, and a map of the zone can be obtained from the school district office at 257 8th Ave. West. Voters will cast their ballots at the district office on May 16.

In Homedale, the Zone 2 position occupied by Allen Hays, which carries a three-year term, is up for election. Zone 2

encompasses the west portion of the Homedale district, and eligible patrons will vote at the district office on Election Day.

Patrons in Zone 1 of the Bruneau-Grand View School District will elect a school board trustee on May 16. The zone is in the Bruneau area.

In Pleasant Valley, the Zone 2 seat will be on the May 16 ballot. No further information was available from Pleasant Valley school officials.

Idaho Legislature votes to clarify 911 funding law

The Idaho Legislature unanimously approved an amendment that would clarify exactly how Emergency 911 funds can be spent. Now the bill awaits Gov. Dirk Kempthorne's approval.

House Bill 695 amends the existing law relating to the emergency communications fee to provide that the fee may be used for the management, maintenance and operation of hardware and software application, to reference dispatching for purposes of general funding payments and to provide for application.

The clarification will become law on July 1, but counties currently in violation — such as Owyhee County — will have until fiscal year 2007 to comply.

In Owyhee County, questions concerning the use of 911 funds came up when it was acknowledged Owyhee County was paying its deputy county assessor Doug Cook out of emergency funds. County Sheriff Gary Aman said that if the bill becomes law, the county would no longer be

allowed to use those funds for the assessor's wages.

Aman has been working with the Idaho Sheriff's Association for nearly a year on the legislation. He said last week that the amendment to state law was necessary because of how Owyhee County, and some other counties, have been spending 911 funds.

"It is going to reinforce the original intent of the 911 monies be used for 911 purposes, not general funds purposes," Aman said. "It was Owyhee County's misinterpretation of the original law that led to its (the amendment) passing."

Aman said the attorney general's office was involved in Owyhee County's problem, but did not give an opinion to the county. He said the Sheriff's Association corresponded with the AG's office during the campaign for the clarification, which helped its passage.

The Senate passed the legislation with amendments on March 21 34-0 and the House passed it on March 27, 63-0.

— CAB

√ 911

said the (208) 896-4796 number that is received in the firehouse will remain in service, but if it is called, an answering machine will pick up.

She said only non-emergency phone calls will be taken at the number.

Betty Ackerman, training officer for the Marsing Ambulance Service, said the county dispatch center in Murphy has been dispatching Marsing emergency calls for some time, and now the seven-digit number will be phased out.

All emergency units in Owyhee County are on the same interoperability channel so they can talk and hear each other during emergency calls.


County dispatchers are trained in emergency medical dispatch and can advise a caller on certain life-saving actions to take before an emergency medical technician can arrive.

Homedale fire and ambulance discontinued direct seven-digit phone number access and switched to 911 for all emergency calls earlier this year.

— CAB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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U.S.P.S. NO. 416-340
Copyright 2005—ISSN #8750-6823

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Published each week in Homedale, Idaho by Owyhee Avalanche, Inc. Entered as Periodical, paid at the Post Office at Homedale, ID under the Act of March 3, 1879. POSTMASTER: send address changes to THE OWYHEE AVALANCHE, P.O. 97, Homedale, ID 83628.

Annual Subscription Rates:

Owyhee County.....	\$31.50
Canyon, Ada, Malheur counties	36.75
Elsewhere.....	40.00

(Price includes sales tax where applicable)

Deadlines

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From page 1

✓ Water

copy of the agreement wouldn't be available by the Avalanche's Monday deadline. Although he said early last week that he would be able to discuss the matter after that meeting, Fink gave no further comment.

The action formalized by Friday's vote supercedes the memorandum of agreement reached by the Sevieris and a previous Homedale administration, according to attorney Jim Davis, who represented the city in the matter on behalf of Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRIMP), the city's insurance carrier.

The agreement and subsequent press release seemingly settle litigation the Sevieris filed against the city last year alleging myriad complaints ranging from breach of contract to violations of the Civil Rights Act. The complaint asked for compensatory damages of more than \$25,000 and emotional distress in the amount of \$500,000.

Exact terms of the settlement and new agreement are unknown, but Davis said it was his understanding that the Homedale City Council approved a \$9,000 payment as part of the agreement sometime during its March 23 meeting. During that meeting, the city council went into an executive session in which Davis apparently discussed the legal issue with city officials.

It is against Idaho code for city officials to make decisions

affecting the public in executive session. When reached last week, Fink refused to discuss any details of the agreement or how it came about.

However, when reached last week, Davis said it was his understanding that the city came to an agreement on the settlement during the March 23 meeting. But, in violation of state code, no vote was taken during the public portion of the council meeting.

When contacted by the Avalanche after the March 28 release went public, Fink confirmed that the City Council had consented to accept an agreement between the city and the Sevieris. But, citing the advice of legal counsel, the mayor refused to answer any questions concerning the new agreement.

He said while council members met in executive session over the agreement, no vote was taken at that time.

"We will have a special meeting sometime to bring it to the public," Fink said March 28, foretelling the meeting that was announced a day later. "Then we will sit down, look at it, and approve it."

When asked if there was any doubt that the agreement would gain approval, Fink said, "Oh, no."

On Wednesday morning, the city announced that a special meeting would be held Friday night. At that time, Fink said he would not discuss the issue until after the meeting.

Fink was asked if the agreement meant that statements made in council session and reported in

subsequent newspaper articles were not true.

"I can't say anything," he replied.

When asked if the council agreed to the press release before it was issued to local media, he answered: "About like I did. What do you read into it? No comment."

Davis said that he was aware of the release and that it is part of the litigation settlement.

Susan Buxton, an attorney for the Sevieris, confirmed last week that the city had endorsed the agreement on March 23 and that Buxton and the plaintiffs had signed it on March 24.

"The agreement is signed, and the city has a copy," Davis said.

Davis said no one could comment beyond the press release with respect to the content of the agreement.

"All I can tell you is what the joint press release says," Davis said. "By the terms of the agreement and the joint press release, no one can say anything."

Davis said the city council agreed upon the press release during the March executive session meeting. He said the council approved the expenditure of \$9,000, a portion of the payment to the Sevieris.

During the public portion of the council meeting, neither council members nor the mayor introduced any discussion of payment. Davis said the payment would be nothing more than a bill and would be approved in the council's monthly bills motion.

"Anytime something is done in secret, it raises more questions," Davis said. "There is a brand new settlement agreement which addresses the memorandum agreement. It is a release agreement that dismisses the lawsuit and takes care of the underlying problems of the dispute between the Sevieris and the city and it resolves everything."

When asked if the council approved the agreement, Davis said, "That was my understanding, but I wasn't there."

Each councilmember was contacted by the Avalanche last week, and all said that they could not comment on the agreement. But each also stated that they understood they had approved the release agreement during executive session.

"I didn't think the mayor was going to do anything with the release until the next meeting," Councilman Bill Page said.

"All the agreement does is rescind the earlier agreement," Davis said. "In my view the original memorandum of agreement may not have been legal. What it is called is 'Void Ab Initio.' It didn't happen. In my view, that agreement was never valid. The litigation is being dismissed, and we have an agreement."

The dismissal seemingly ends a months-long battle between the Sevieris and Homedale during which the city had openly discussed, in public meetings, the situation with the mobile home park owners.

In December, the council

approved shutting off water to the entire trailer court in light of non-payment of utilities by the court's owners. Council members stated during the meeting that utility bills for the mobile home park had exceeded \$3,000.

At that time, Fink said the issue had begun with the prior administration, which entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the owners for utility services. Now it seems that memorandum was not legal and no longer exists.

Fink said earlier this year that the city purchased new water meters for the park and was reimbursed by the Sevieris. Under the original agreement, the city was to send each tenant an individual bill. But the city claimed that the placement of the meters prevented easy access for reading and that the city maintenance crews had been denied access to the private property, resulting in unpaid bills and a breach of the agreement on the part of the Sevieris.

At the time, councilmen Dave Downum and Steve Schultz questioned shutting off the water to the entire park because some of the renters had paid their water bills to the owner. Fink said then that if the renters had paid, they would have to seek their own legal advice on the situation.

During the subsequent months, the city voted several times to shut off the park's water, but each time the mayor overrode those decisions because of threatened legal action.

— CAB

✓ Coroner

would present his information to the commissioners during a continued executive session. He said the opinion would not be in a printed form.

Tolmie said Grimme was confronted about the spending in 2005, at which time the coroner submitting claims for fuel and for fuel reimbursements.

But Grimme continued to charge the county to fix his own pickup, which he uses on county business.

"It's probably not criminal, what he is doing. But I'm saying, basically, it's probably not right," Tolmie said. "He took (the vehicle) over to have it tuned up. It was (in the repair shop) for two weeks, and he brought it back and it didn't work right so he had his own guys work on it and got it fixed."

"He uses his own rig for the coroner rig. If I were him, I would demand the county give me a coroner rig. I'm not saying what he is doing is right, but it is not criminal. That is what the prosecuting attorney is looking into. If it is not criminal, but it is not right, then it can and will be corrected."

A message left by The Owyhee

Avalanche seeking comment from Grimme on Monday was not returned.

Tolmie said he doubted the coroner would be asked to repay the budget for expenses already reimbursed. He said Grimme's entire budget is the smallest in the county.

"He always has a surplus at the end of the year, and he has the lowest operating budget in the county," Tolmie said. "If he put down all the money he has spent out of his personal pocket to do his job, we would probably still owe him money. He buys body bags. He buys rubber gloves. He spends a lot of money out of his own pocket. He doesn't want to go over budget."

An expenditure activity detail report obtained by The Owyhee Avalanche from the county clerk's office shows that many entries had been made for reimbursement for fuel to the coroner for use of his own vehicle as well as being paid 34.5 cents to 36 cents per mile for his travel. It also shows that from Oct. 1, 2004 until Aug. 30, 2005, Grimme charged the county \$335.01 for repairs and maintenance on his vehicle. The repair payments were made to Grimme's own business.

On the report, under Travel and

Mileage, Grimme was reimbursed for fuel the sum of \$121 in November 2004 and 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 were reportedly being paid to US Bank for a credit card and to a Platinum Plus credit card. County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said the coroner has one credit card from the county, the Platinum Plus card. She said the US Bank card, "was probably his own credit card."

From October 2004 to August 2005, 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.

— CAB

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Obituary

Charlotte Irene Cyphers Rippee

Charlotte Irene Cyphers Rippee, 76, of Homedale passed away Monday, March 27, 2006 at Homedale care center. Memorial services were held at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, March 30, 2006 at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

Charlotte was born July 28, 1929 in Benton, Kansas. She graduated from Nampa High and later went on to become a beautician in Marsing. Charlotte married Eugene Eager in 1950 and soon lost him in an accident. They had one daughter Kathleen. Later she married Edd Rippee, her best friend and love of her life for 50 years. They had three children Minnie, Tom and Tim.

Charlotte is survived by her

husband Edd, daughters Kathy and (Bill) and Minnie, son Tom (Charlotte), step brother Terry Arrizabalaga, sister-in-law Etta Miller, 5 grandchildren, Renee, Travis, Daniel, Charlie and Maudi, 4 great grandchildren Bailey, Sami, Dalton and Shaun. She was preceded in death by her parents, her first husband, Eugene, her son, Tim.

Mom had a long and wonderful life and touched the hearts of each and everyone she met. She will always be loved and greatly missed.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you donate to the Charlotte I. Rippee Memorial Fund at the US Bank.



Homedale senior center announces April events

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center has a full slate of activities planned for April, beginning Saturday with the monthly breakfast fund-raiser.

Pancakes, eggs, sausage, bacon and biscuits and gravy will be served from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the center. The price is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children ages 3-10, and children younger than 3 eat for free.

On Monday, the center opens its doors from 9 a.m. to noon for seniors to sign up for the Circuit Breaker property tax program.

The center’s annual Appreciation Luncheon will be held at noon April 25. Coordinator Shirley McAbee said the lunch is held to recognize volunteer and financial support of organizations and individuals throughout the year.

McAbee said the center also is seeking the donation of wheelchairs and walkers. The center loans the devices to seniors who can’t afford them.

A dance will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on April 15. Admission is \$3.

All ages are welcome, and participants are encouraged to bring finger food.

Other events planned for the month include a shopping trip leaving the center at 9 a.m. Monday and a foot clinic on April 17. Sign up for the clinic at the front desk.

The center is located at 224 W. Idaho Ave. For more information, call (208) 337-3020.

Owyhee Watershed Council plans to meet in Marsing

The next Owyhee Watershed Council meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. April 12 at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing. The executive committee will meet at 5 p.m., prior to the regular meeting.

Albertson College of Idaho assistant biology professor Chris Walser will give a presentation based on redband trout studies he has conducted on Jordan Creek. The title of his presentation is “Ecology of redband trout in Jordan Creek, Owyhee River Drainage.”

The meeting will cover other important watershed business as well. Everyone is welcome to attend.

School menus

April 6-12

- Homedale Elementary**
- April 6: Lasagna or mini corn dogs, corn, apple turnover, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
 - April 7: Fish nuggets or turkey sandwich, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk
 - April 10: Sloppy Joe or hot dog, fries, chocolate pudding, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
 - April 11: Turkey & noodles or tuna sandwich, peas, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
 - April 12: Ravioli or beef taco pie, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Homedale Middle**
- April 6: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit bar, cookie, milk.
 - April 7: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, fruit & veggie bar, churro, milk.
 - April 10: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, fruit bar, cookie, milk.
 - April 11: Fish nuggets or corn dog, rice, fruit & veggie bar, brownie, milk.
 - April 12: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit bar, milk.

- Homedale High**
- April 6: Chicken patty/bun, sandwich & soup, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk.
 - April 7: Crispito or rib-b-que/bun, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
 - April 10: Pizza, chicken fritters or chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk.
 - April 11: Beef nuggets or corn dog bites, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
 - April 12: Lasagna or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

- Marsing**
- April 6: Pizza, garden salad, fruit, milk, baked potato & chili bar, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
 - April 7: Sloppy Joe, fruited jello, veggies, milk, corn dog, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
 - April 10: Hamburger, baked potato wedges, fruit, milk, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
 - April 11: Spaghetti, salad, fruit, milk, grilled chicken sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
 - April 12: Shepherd’s pie, veggies, fruit, milk, pizza, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

- Bruneau**
- April 6: Lasagna, salad/croutons, fruit, bread sticks, milk
 - April 7: Fish nuggets, tots, veggies, fruit, roll/butter, cookie, milk
 - April 10: Hamburger, potato wedges, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.
 - April 11: Mexi mac, salad, bread sticks, fruit, milk.
 - April 12: Chicken & noodles, green bean, roll/butter, strawberry cake, milk

Senior news

Marsing Senior Center

- April 5: BBQ beef, potatoes, baked beans, corn, soup, dessert.
- April 6: Roast pork, potatoes/gravy, spinach, green salad, soup, dessert.
- April 10: Chicken & noodles, peas and carrots, corn salad, soup, dessert.
- April 11: Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, salad, soup, dessert.
- April 12: Chili & baked potato w/toppings, corn bread, tossed salad, soup, dessert.

Homedale Senior Center

- April 5: Chicken pot pie, tossed salad, roll, milk.
- April 6: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, California blend veggies, roll, milk
- April 11: Birthday lunch. Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, milk.

Life’s milestones

The Owyhee Avalanche welcomes any news of engagements, weddings and births or announcements of significant birthdays or anniversaries. Photos are accepted, too. Announcements must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week before publication.

There are numerous ways to get your information to the Avalanche:

Mail — P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628

Fax — (208) 337-4867

E-mail — jbrowneditor@cableone.net

Drop off — 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale

Call (208) 337-4681 for more information on guidelines, including e-mailed photos.

The Owyhee Avalanche



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Your finances

Keep priorities straight; business will work out fine

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have been married for nine years, and we’ve recently started our own graphic design company. We’re beginning to make a little money, but we have two car payments — a balance of \$6,000 on one and \$8,000 on the other — in addition to a mortgage payment. What can we do to make sure we don’t do something stupid and go under?

— Sharon

Dear Sharon,

The two car payments are a little alarming. Now, if you turn around and make \$200,000 profit, it’s not so bad. But if you only make \$20,000, then those are big problems.

The first thing I’d do is sell the car that you owe the most money on, because if you make a bunch of money it’ll be pretty easy to go out and buy a good, used car. Right now, I’m trying to keep you from sinking, but you’re trying to swim with ankle weights and no life jacket. You can get away with that for a while, but sooner or later you’re going to get tired. I want to get at least one of those weights off of you so you don’t drown.

Another thing you need to do is really prioritize the money you’re going to make from this company. Don’t spend a bunch of it right off the bat because you need to bring as much home as possible. Set aside one-fourth of what you make for taxes each quarter. Also, set up a separate checking account for the business and make sure all of the money from the business goes into that account and all the expenses for the business comes out of that account. What’s left is called profit.

The next step is a fourth-grade civics lesson for the home. Make sure you take care of the necessities like food, shelter, utilities, house payment and that remaining car payment. You may have to put things like cable television, vacations and eating out on hold for a while if you’re serious about making this business work. This is a fun, but critical time in your lives, Sharon. You guys have to hardcore prioritize what it takes to stay alive and keep the dream alive. Good luck!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I wrecked my car and have spent all the insurance money. I owe \$10,000 on the car, and it’s now worth \$5,000 but still drivable. I bring home about \$1,000 a month, and I’m single. I feel like I’m stuck, and I’m afraid my car might fall apart at any second.

— Tina via e-mail

Dear Tina,

You’re not stuck. If you sit



around and don’t take action to fix this situation, you’ll be stuck because you decided to be stuck. That’s called laziness. It’s time to step up to the plate, take some personal responsibility for your actions and fix this thing.

You made one mistake already by blowing the insurance money, so you’re going to have to pay some stupid tax to make things right. Find a part-time job at night or on weekends to make some extra money. No one wants to work 60 to 70 hours a week all the time, but if you’re willing to endure the pain for a little while you can make enough to have that busted car fixed or even pay it off and buy yourself a decent used car.

Sometimes life just happens, Tina. But most of the time what happens to us is the fault of the person we look at in the mirror every day. There’s no magic wand or microwave for this situation. I can HELP you change your life, but it’s going to take a little time, some hard work and most of all YOU have to come along for the ride and make it happen.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I’m going through a divorce, but I get to keep the house. I’m thinking about refinancing and was wondering if I should take a fixed rate or balloon payment.

— Tom

Dear Tom,

Never do a balloon payment on a house. Anytime you take a balloon payment, you’re painting a big, red target on your back asking Murphy to shoot at you over and over. Anything can happen between now and the time that balloon comes due, and if you’re not credit-worthy they can foreclose on you in a second.

People come into our office every week in this exact situation, Tom. Take the fixed rate. Then, if you decide to sell the house later it’s your choice and not a situation where life has taken another chunk out of you and you were forced to sell.

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*. You can find tools to help with finances or previous columns at Davesays.org.

Bruneau Marine receives achievement medal

Marine Corps Warrant Officer Jonathan B. Delle, son of Kathleen Delle of Bruneau, and Bob Delle, of McCall, was recently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal while serving as the adjutant for Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, U.S. Marine

Corps Forces Pacific, Okinawa, Japan.

Delle provided training to several personnel from the squadron who were selected to fill administrative clerk billets. These billets provide support to more than 500 personnel daily and assist in all administrative matters pertinent to squadron deployments.

A 1988 graduate of Caldwell High School, Delle joined the Marine Corps in July 1988.

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Calendar

Saturday

Homedale Senior Citizens Center monthly fund-raising breakfast. 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. \$5 adults, \$2.50 children ages 3 to 10, children younger than 3, free. 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Monday

Circuit Breaker property tax registration, 9 a.m. to noon. Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Thursday, April 13

Owyhee Garden Club meeting, 1 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-5474 or (208) 896-4104

Saturday, April 15

Homedale Senior Citizens Center Saturday night dance. All ages welcome. 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. \$3. 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events 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 either jbrowneditor@cablone.net or cherylbeeson@cablone.net. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4861.



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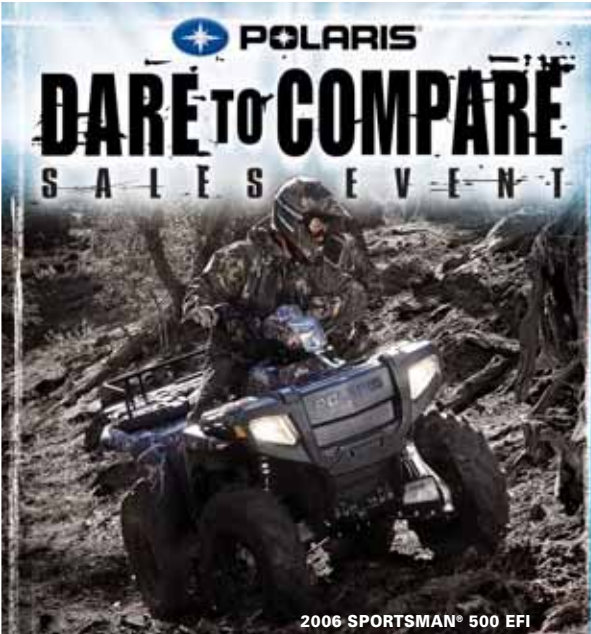
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Jordan Valley EMS continues tradition of its fund-raisers

The Jordan Valley Emergency Medical Service has presented several fund-raising events in the Jordan Valley area recently, and coordinators say each one has been a huge success.

Runnin' for Cover played country music during a benefit dance held by the community's Emergency Medical Technician service on March 11.

Another dance was held Saturday at the Lions Hall. George Nourse's Treasure Canyon Band furnished the music, and the Jordan Valley Middle School's class of 2007 provided a Mexican-Taco feed.

Plans are in the works for a May 6 fund-raiser inside the Jordan Valley High School gymnasium. Nationally renowned cowboy poet Rudy Gonzales and his entertainers will furnish rhyme, stories and musical entertainment.

Work and planning continue for the Big Loop Rodeo weekend for May 20-21, including organization of the food booth and crew shifts for rodeo events.

The Emergency Medical Service will provide a sports bottles special drinks deal at the booth again this year. If you still have last year's EMS rodeo sports

bottle, it can be refilled.

On July 4, the EMTs will play host to Family Fun at the Park with a potluck from mid-afternoon into the evening. More information will be released after the rodeo next month.

Money raised from these events go to help defray costs of a number of organization expenses, including equipment, training and continuing education for all EMTs, first-responders and emergency vehicle drivers. Fund-raiser money was used recently to purchase new bright reflective high visibility clothing,

while other funds helped finance scholarships for local graduating seniors. Funds also are used to help those who may be in need whether after an illness, an injury or fire.

Air St. Luke's donated two backboards to the service in December during its annual holiday gathering.

To assist with funds or to volunteer, contact any Jordan Valley EMT crewmember.

The annual membership drive is beginning this month, and notices with contact information will be sent out.

Three Creek

By Lola Blossom

The creeks are starting to run a little, but the grass is still short.

Our new babies are starting to come. J. R. and Kelsie Robinson got a baby boy on March 6, 2006. He was named Jasper Russell and he weighed 7 pounds, 15 ounces. He has two little sisters, Tessa and Gretta to give him a bad time, and two older sisters, Dani and Kresley to spoil him. Grandmother Teresa Anderson came from Meeker, Colo. to give a helping hand.

Kim and Ira Brackett had the luck of the Irish and got a new baby girl on March 17, 2006. She has been named Chantry Leigh and she weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces. She has two brothers, Cade and Zane. Grandmother Burton came from Evanston, Wyo., to help with her.

Rolly Patrick says he has a new great grandson in Portland, Ore. His granddaughter, JoDee Conrad Kelly, and her husband, Kevin, are the parents. They have another little boy, Carson. Grandma Dee Conrad is up from Boise helping out. We remember JoDee as the plucky little gal who helped us brand calves in the dust and heat.

We want to congratulate Jessica Gonzalez for having her poem selected as one of the creative submissions that will be published in the 2006 edition of the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans.

Barbara Swan Anderson is visiting her mother, Libby Swan, and other relatives and friends. She was a little girl in pigtails when Swans first came to Three Creek. She now lives in Evergreen, Colo., where she raises and shows Arabian horses.

Tom Stefani and Paul Flanigan — rangers from the Humboldt National Forest office at Wells, Nev. — met with permittees Kip Gould and Lola Blossom on March 27.

I had a neat, interesting visitor not long ago when the "Weed Lady," Tammie Hedges, came to see me. She lives in Little Valley near Bruneau. She was gathering information for the Corps of Engineers on past history of the country pertaining to the Juniper Butte and past the Saylor Creek area. The Corps of Engineers wants the names of the people who used the area. Tammie checks for different weeds and sprays them. She even uses them to make boutonnieres and casket sprays. She uses weeds, wilder flowers and sagebrush. She made the casket sprays for Grand Strickland and Ace Black, prominent Bruneau Valley ranchers.

HHS Class of 1996 plans class reunion

Plans are in the works for a 10-year reunion for Homedale High School students who graduated in 1996.

The reunion is planned for Aug. 11-12 in Homedale, and classmates are now being sought.

To RSVP for the celebration, members of the Class of 1996 should contact Dana Marston by e-mail at ribs33@hotmail.com or by calling (202) 213-7299.



Spring is in the air

A doe mule deer joined a herd of deer recently on a hillside outside of Marsing.

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BLM amends its study on proposed grazing regulations

The Bureau of Land Management issued an addendum to its final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on proposed regulations aimed at improving the BLM's management of federal lands grazing.

The addendum and final EIS, posted on the BLM's Web site, www.blm.gov, conclude that the proposed regulations will produce long-term health benefits for public rangelands. The proposed new grazing regulations, collectively known as a "rule," will be finalized in the near future and published in the Federal Register.

"In producing this addendum, the BLM went the extra mile to ensure full consideration of comments made on the proposed changes to our grazing regulations," BLM Director Kathleen Clarke said. "The proposed new regulations, when finalized and implemented, will enable the BLM to manage public rangelands more effectively and efficiently through, among other things, a better working relationship with public lands ranchers. We have proposed these regulatory changes to promote the long-term health of public rangelands, which are vital to the economy and social fabric of Western rural communities."

The BLM published its proposed grazing rule in December 2003 and followed that with a draft EIS. The agency received more than 18,000 comments on those two documents during a public comment period.

The BLM published its final EIS in June 2005 then announced that it would prepare an additional document to respond to comments that were received after the March 2, 2004, comment deadline.

Water report

Date	Reynolds Creek		Year-to-Date Precipitation
	Snow Water Equivalent	Snow Depth	
March 28	1.1	0.7	15.8
March 29	0.9	0.6	15.8
March 30	0.9	0.4	16.0
March 31	0.7	-0.2	16.0
April 1	0.6	0.2	16.2
April 2	0.9	0.8	16.5
April 3	1.0	0.0	16.4

Date	South Mountain		Year-to-Date Precipitation
	Snow Water Equivalent	Snow Depth	
March 28	18.9	52.1	34.2
March 29	18.7	51.7	34.2
March 30	19.3	54.8	34.7
March 31	19.4	52.4	34.8
April 1	19.6	52.6	34.9
April 2	20.1	55.1	35.4
April 3	20.2	54.4	35.4

Date	Mud Flat		Year-to-Date Precipitation
	Snow Water Equivalent	Snow Depth	
March 28	11.1	31.0	17.2
March 29	11.1	-99.9	17.3
March 30	11.1	31.1	17.5
March 31	11.0	30.3	17.5
April 1	10.9	30.0	17.7
April 2	11.0	30.0	17.8
April 3	11.0	29.4	17.9

Expect rain throughout week

More rain is expected this week, which continues to have county officials worried about wide spread flooding from creeks that have been swollen since the beginning of the year.

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for Owyhee County on Monday for the Bruneau River, which was expected to reach flood stages Tuesday. Heavy rain was expected Monday and increasing temperatures increased chances of heavy snowmelt.

Rain is expected today through

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Mar 28	64	21	
Mar 29	67	39	.07
Mar 30	48	28	.12
Mar 31	60	33	.12
Apr 01	no	read	
Apr 02	no	read	
Apr 03	58	24	.13

Sunday with temperatures in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Lows are expected to be in the upper 30s to low 40s.

Kindergarten screening, registration begins soon

Children just beginning school will be screened and registered for kindergarten and preschool beginning this month at most elementary schools in Owyhee County.

Children who are 5 years old by Sept. 1, 2006, are eligible for kindergarten. The screening and registration will be held the same day. Parents or guardians must bring a certified birth certificate, immunization records, Social Security number and proof of address to the registration.

Melba will screen preschool and kindergarten children from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 26-27. To make an appointment, call the elementary office at (208) 495-2508.

Homedale will register kindergarten children on from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on April 25 and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on April 26. Both registration sessions take place in the school's lunchroom. For more information, contact Homedale Elementary School at (208) 337-4033.

Marsing will register and screen kindergarten students from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on May 4 and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 5. Call (208) 896-4111, ext. 497 to make a screening appointment.

Bruneau-Grand View School District hasn't scheduled kindergarten registration yet.

Marsing schools plan summer meals program

The Marsing School District will be participating in the summer feeding program this summer, which is designed to provide free breakfast and hot lunch meals to all children ages 1-18.

The service will begin May 29 and will run weekdays through June 30. Breakfast will be served from 7:45 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

The only participation requirements are that the child be between the age of 1 and 18 years of age and that they go to the district's cafeteria for scheduled breakfast or lunch meals. Meals must be eaten on the school campus.

For more information, contact the district office at (208) 896-4111, ext. 146.

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And we're proud to announce that West Valley Medical Center will be the first hospital in Idaho to premiere a nationwide program in April, called **Boot Camp For New Dads**, to give our expectant fathers the training and confidence to care for their newborn. It's all part of our commitment to the needs of you and your family; just what you'd expect from Caldwell's community hospital.

Register for Parenting and Childbirth Classes

- Childbirth Preparation – Cost, \$40; one-day class or four-part evening series
- Breastfeeding – Cost, \$10; free class to participants that attended childbirth class
- Boot Camp For New Dads – Cost, \$10; one-day class for expectant fathers

To pre-register for these classes, call West Valley Medical Center at 455-3881.

To take a personal tour of the Labor & Delivery Women's Unit, call Women's Wellness Services at 455-3760.

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Homedale schools superintendent visits Mexico as part of education delegation

Rosandick says Idaho students can benefit from exchange programs

Homedale School District Superintendent Tim Rosandick recently joined other Idaho educational delegates, several teachers and Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction Marilyn Howard in a trip to Mexico's state of Jalisco.

The group was a part of the Idaho Education Delegation that is working to connect Idaho to schools around the world.

On March 14, Rosandick joined Howard; state Department of Education International Education Coordinator Dr. Dan Prinzing; state Department of Education Migrant Education Coordinator Irene Chavolla; John Asher, the principal from John Brown Elementary School in Rathdrum; Sharon Larracoechea, Boise School District World Languages Consultant; Dr. Aileen Hale, Boise State University College of Education, Bilingual Education; Erich White, BSU International Programs Extended Studies; and teachers from Coeur d'Alene, Wendell and Boise.

The group's destination... Guadalajara, Mexico.

"Dr. Prinzing is the one who is really heading up this international education program," Rosandick said. "My role was to be an active participant and represent a small school district from Idaho."

"(Gov. Dirk) Kempthorne created the sister state relationship with Jalisco. When they had the trade missions, they had sign-offs, and part of those agreements included educational elements. Marilyn and Dan have been traveling all over the world to create relationships with foreign entities."

The Idaho delegation spent four days in Jalisco and toured schools in Tlaquepaque, Trompo and Secundaria.

"We had a busy schedule on our trip," Rosandick said. "Three big events were held, but everywhere we went we received a very warm welcome."

Flag exchange ceremonies were held in Tlaquepaque, which has a sister school to Coeur d'Alene, with Primaria Urbana. a sister school to St. Joseph's Catholic School in Boise. and in Secundaria, which is a sister school to Wendell Middle School.

"Homedale doesn't have that relationship, but we could have," Rosandick said. "It is something for discussion."

Rosandick said being a sister school means creating a relationship with another school in another country. He said districts try to have learning activities between students and could include written or electronic communications.

"It can also include exchanges," Rosandick said.

"Students can come and spend



Greeting the delegation

Top: Mexican schoolchildren were patriotic for their country and the visitors. **Above:** Dancers performed three dances for the delegation and guests. Photos by Mike Nelson.

some time here or students from here can travel to the sister school. It can also include faculty exchange work. Trying to learn from each other."

Rosandick said he was impressed with the reception the delegation received from the foreign cities.

"Everything was very formal and very warm, like participating in something I might watch on television, like watching diplomats signing off on things," Rosandick said. "They treated us so well with great respect and dignities. It was very enriching to

be involved in."

Rosandick said when the delegation arrived in Guadalajara, the entire student body, parents and faculty greeted them with a performance and a formal reception.

"It was amazing," Rosandick said. "The children greeted us in uniform. They escorted us in, and they had banners and gift exchanges and speeches. They had traditional dances for us. One school had a bugle corps. It was wonderful. The formality was really quite amazing."

The biggest difference between

the Mexico schools and the schools in the United States, Rosandick said, was the limited resources.

"But they are very proud of what they have," Rosandick said. "Their schools are very well-maintained. Their classrooms were quite full. The classrooms were smaller, and they would have 20 to 30 children per class."

Rosandick said he felt he received an education in the trip and that Idaho will benefit from knowing that the world is getting much smaller.

"We can't help but be impacted by other countries ... at least economically," Rosandick said. "I would say that is the push by this global perspective in that public schools in Homedale and in Idaho, in general, there is this encouragement to emphasize and recognize of the world around us."

"My experience is we have a lot of children who will come to us from other countries, but we don't have a lot of children who will go to other countries."

— CAB

Wilson Butte 4-H to hold trail ride fund-raiser again

Members of the Wilson Butte 4-H club are planning their third annual cowboy trail ride and fun run for April 23.

Registration for the fund-raising event will start at 9:30 a.m. Cowpokes can hit the trail up to 11 a.m. by riding 2 to 2½ miles around the Blackstock Ranch. Last year, 80 riders participated in the event.

The dusty trail includes Side Winder Gulch and Easy Keepers Flat.

Wild West card draws will be held along the way. Organizers said they plan an enjoyable day.

Fun run prizes include \$100 in feed donated by Double D Feed of Melba and a quilt donated by Janet Cooney.

There also will be many other raffle items.

Horseless riders also are welcome to join and swap stories around the campfire as Cowpokes return for a lunch of buckaroo beans and country harmony by the Sevy Family Band.

A contest for best-dressed little buckaroo will be held for entrants 9 years old and younger.

For more information, call the W.B. Trail Bosses at (208) 896-4512 or (208) 467-4250.

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Officials warn of flood danger as water crests glory hole at Owyhee Reservoir

Increased flows pose threat; Marsing, Homedale irrigation water scheduled to be turned on April 17

For the first time in nearly a decade, water is flowing over the glory hole at Owyhee Reservoir. But the increased flows have irrigators and irrigation managers concerned.

The Bureau of Reclamation issued a warning last week to those downstream from the Owyhee Dam of an increase in flows from the reservoir. The bureau has repeatedly increased the flows during the past several months, but this time some flooding is expected.

“These increases are necessary due to continuing precipitation in the area and a need to prepare for flood control operations,” the bureau said in a statement released last week. “Releases from the reservoir are currently at a rate of about 1,550 cubic feet per second (cfs). The increased runoff is a result of higher-than-normal snow pack and warm and wet weather conditions over the last week. Flows could increase up to 3,000 to 5,000 cubic feet per second.”

South Board of Control Manager Rex Barrie said water began flowing in South Canal on Monday, but users may not

need to begin irrigating for some time.

“It always depends on the weather,” Barrie said Friday. “Wednesday, water began going over the glory hole, which is a first in about 10 years. We have determined that we will try to match inflow and outflow for the current time. The Joint Committee’s operating procedures are to release up to 6,000 cfs downriver. If inflows exceed 12,000 cfs and we are releasing 6,000 downriver, then the Joint Board will meet again to reevaluate the runoff based on information they have at that time, they may change the parameters.”

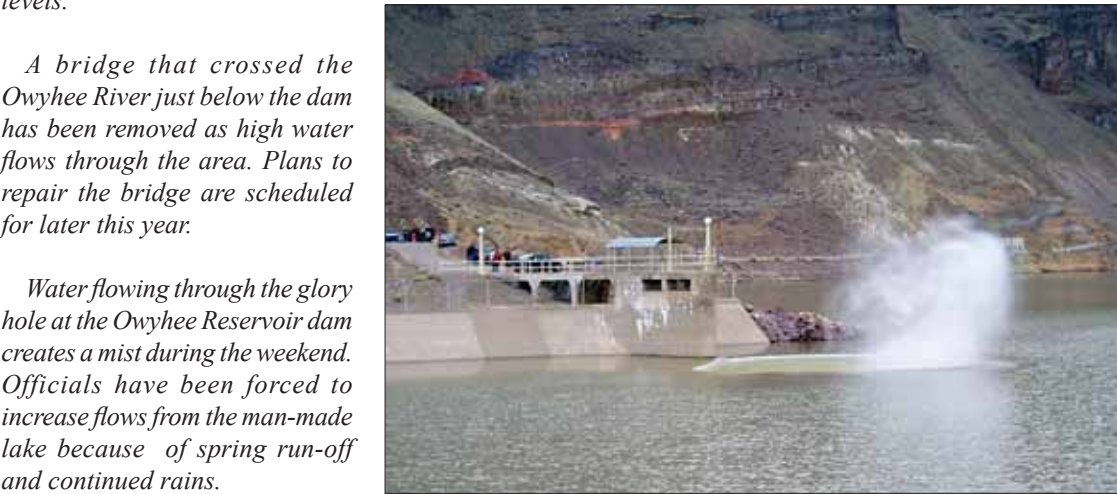
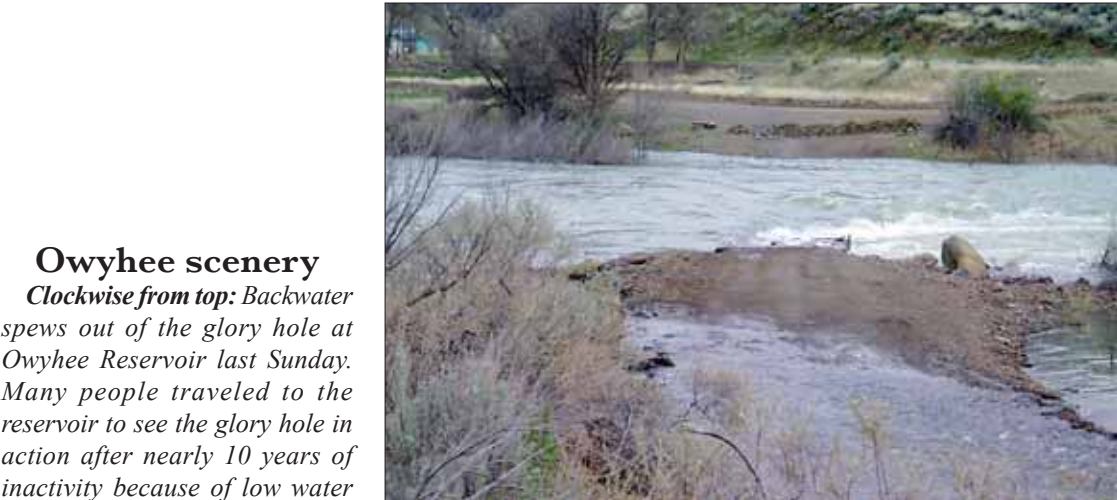
Downstream flow rates between Owyhee Dam and the Snake River will fluctuate to sustain the necessary reservoir storage requirements. The higher flows are expected to occur during the next few weeks.

Homedale and Marsing plan to turn on irrigation water to the respective cities on April 17, but officials from both cities stressed that weather will determine exactly when water will be turned on.

— CAB

‘These increases are necessary due to continuing precipitation in the area and a need to prepare for flood control operations.’

— Bureau of Reclamation
in release about increased flows from Owyhee Reservoir




Owyhee scenery
Clockwise from top: Backwater spews out of the glory hole at Owyhee Reservoir last Sunday. Many people traveled to the reservoir to see the glory hole in action after nearly 10 years of inactivity because of low water levels.

A bridge that crossed the Owyhee River just below the dam has been removed as high water flows through the area. Plans to repair the bridge are scheduled for later this year.

Water flowing through the glory hole at the Owyhee Reservoir dam creates a mist during the weekend. Officials have been forced to increase flows from the man-made lake because of spring run-off and continued rains.

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Hemingway Butte volunteers

Above: Volunteer Dave Fisher puts signs together while other volunteers bundle up against the weather. Top right: Scott and MariJo Dickson run the auger to create post holes for the road signs. Bottom right: The crew of volunteers gathers to begin work. Pictured are Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, Max Teasdale, Willie Spiva and Russ Newcomb. Photos by Bill Jones.

**ATV group
installs
Hemingway
Butte
road signs**

On Saturday, the Idaho ATV Association volunteered approximately 90 man-hours to install road signs in the Hemingway Butte area of Owyhee County.

Fifty-six signs were put up on Saturday.

The county's Recreation Task Force team has made recommendations to the Owyhee County Commission for future recreation growth in the Hemingway Butte area. The recommendations were forwarded to the Bureau of Land Management for implementation.

Future development in that area will include off-highway vehicle (OHV) crossings on Upper Reynolds Creek Road and fencing of the open area. Safety issues involving conflicts between vehicle traffic and OHV traffic is the main concern along with protection of private property.

The Owyhee County Sheriff will strictly impose enforcement of the signs, OHV registration and other state laws.

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— Dr. Summers, True Blue network physician, Caldwell

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— Mr. and Mrs. Summers, True Blue members

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Out of control

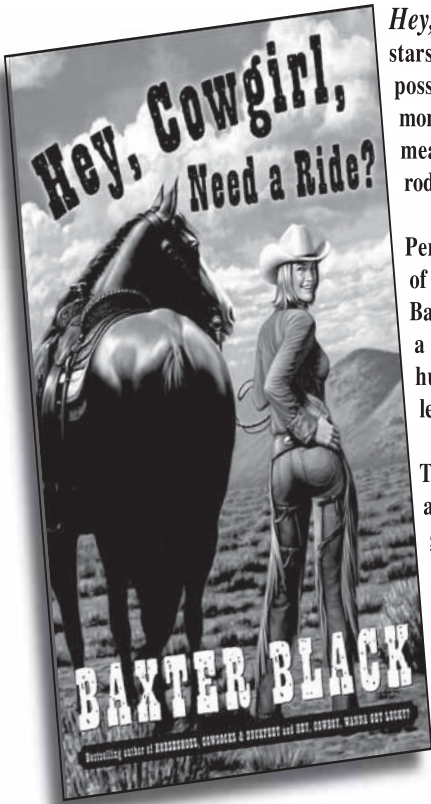
Homedale Fire responded to an out of control brush fire that nearly caught a structure on fire last week near the city pool. City workers stated that they had been burning weeds in the area when the fire got out of control.



Chilly recovery

Markus Holloway, an employee from Country Repair, drags a towline to a 1997 Chevrolet Cavalier in the Snake River near Marsing on Sunday morning. A 17-year-old boy from Meridian drove the car into the river at the end of Edison Road at about 2 a.m. The teen, who was not injured, was cited for driving under the influence and underage drinking and released to his parents. Records show an intoxilizer test measured his alcohol level at about 0.139. The car was a total loss.

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Grill Power! A Girl's Guide to Grilling



This summer, the National Pork Board commemorates grilling season by offering a free booklet titled "Grill Power! A Girl's Guide to Grilling."

Whether you're a seasoned "grill girl" or this is your first date with the grate, the booklet offers "grill-friendly" recipes and guidelines. From choosing the right cooking methods to incorporating flavorful rubs and marinades into your repertoire, this booklet offers tips for hosting the perfect outdoor gathering for the family or girlfriends.

To order the free recipe booklet, and for hundreds of other grilling meal ideas and tips, visit TheOtherWhiteMeat.com and click on "Freebies" on the menu bar. This booklet also is available by sending a self-addressed mailing label to "Grill Power! A Girl's Guide to Grilling," National Pork Board, P.O. Box 9114, Des Moines, IA 50306. While online, look under "All About Pork" on the menu bar for a demonstration video: "Fire Up the Grill."

Thai Pork and Mango Salad With Mango-Mint Dressing

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 20 to 25 minutes

- 1 pork tenderloin (about 1 pound)
 - Salt and freshly ground pepper
 - 2 tablespoons Thai red curry paste
 - 4 cups shredded coleslaw mixture (cabbage and carrots)
 - 4 cups chopped romaine lettuce
 - 1 chopped baby bok choy (dark green leaves only)
 - 2 large ripe mangos, peeled, pitted and diced
 - 1 cup julienned red bell pepper
 - 2 tablespoons julienned, peeled fresh ginger
- Mango-Mint Dressing (recipe follows)

Season pork lightly with salt and pepper, then rub curry paste onto meat surface. Grill over medium coals 20 to 25 minutes, or until pork reaches internal temperature of 160°F, as measured with instant-read thermometer. Remove from grill and let cool slightly. Cut into strips and place in large bowl with coleslaw, romaine, bok choy, mango, red pepper and ginger. Drizzle with dressing and toss well to coat.

Makes 4 to 6 servings

Mango-Mint Dressing: Puree 1 peeled and pitted mango, 1 medium peeled and chopped shallot, 1 sliced green onion, 1/4 cup rice vinegar, 2 tablespoons vegetable oil, 2 teaspoons sesame oil and 1/2 teaspoon salt in blender or food processor until smooth. Add 1 tablespoon fresh mint leaves and pulse until chopped.

FAMILY FEATURES

Looking for juicy new ideas to add variety to your cookout repertoire this summer? Take a cue from one of the nation's top culinary pros.

"Chefs have been going wild for tropical fruits lately, and not just in sweet dishes," says Melissa Kelly, food trend expert and executive chef of Primo (with restaurant locations in Maine, Arizona and Florida). "Incorporating exotic fruits such as mangos into savory dishes using a lean meat like pork is hotter than ever."

Mangos are the world's favorite fruit, and Americans are beginning to experiment with this exotic, luscious fruit in everything from entrée salads to desserts. Pork is a natural partner for fruit and is perfect for grilling, thanks to the variety of cuts and cooking times. Because its versatile flavor blends harmoniously with a variety of seasonings, grilling with pork is sure to spice up any meal. By pairing pork with the unique flavor of mango, the result is a mouth-watering and naturally healthy summer meal that's definitely not blah.

When entertaining this summer, consider these delicious recipes that are bursting with tropical taste, yet quick and easy to prepare on the grill. The menu options, perfect for lunch or dinner, feature succulent pork and tropical mangos.

For more recipes, visit www.mangoinfo.org and www.TheOtherWhiteMeat.com.

Bacon-Wrapped Pork With Spicy Mango-Basil Relish

Prep time: 20 minutes
Cook time: 12 to 16 minutes

- 4 boneless pork chops, 1 1/2-inch thick
 - 8 strips bacon
 - 1/2 cup soy sauce
 - 1/2 cup fresh lime juice
 - 1 1/2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
 - 2 to 3 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- Spicy Mango-Basil Relish (recipe follows)

Wrap 2 strips of bacon around outside edge of each pork chop, securing in several places with toothpicks. Mix together soy sauce, lime juice, cayenne pepper and garlic. Reserve half of mixture for basting and place half in shallow baking dish. Add pork to dish and turn to coat both sides. Cover and refrigerate at least 1 hour, turning pork occasionally. (Marinate longer for more flavor.)

Remove from marinade, discard marinade and place pork on grill over medium coals. Cook 12 to 16 minutes total, basting with reserved marinade several times, until pork registers 160°F with instant-read thermometer. Serve with large dollop of Spicy Mango-Basil Relish.

Makes 4 servings

Spicy Mango-Basil Relish: In small bowl, stir together 1 peeled, pitted and chopped mango, 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice, 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil and 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper.



Tropical S'mores

Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 5 minutes

- 8 marshmallows
- 8 (3-inch) soft molasses cookies
- 1 large mango, peeled, pitted and sliced

Optional toppers: caramel sauce, toasted coconut, chopped macadamia nuts

Toast marshmallows on long metal skewers over hot coals until golden brown outside and soft inside. Place 2 marshmallows on each of 4 cookies and top with mango slices. Drizzle with caramel sauce and sprinkle with coconut and nuts, as desired.

Top with remaining 4 cookies.

Makes 4 servings



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