



## Owyhee Fair and Rodeo Special section

School registration continues  
throughout county

Page 6A

New BLM grazing  
regulations land in court

Page 9A

Wednesday, August 9, 2006

Established 1865

# The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 32

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



## County fair begins with flag salute

The U.S. flag hangs from the announcers booth inside the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo arena Monday morning during the 4-H Horse Show flag salute.

## 4-H clubs very busy during fair time

The Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo hits full stride today with the beginning of nightly entertainment and the promise of another exciting four-night rodeo.

The grounds open at 8 a.m. each day. Admission is free.

"I just feel like every year we just have things start getting better and better," said fair secretary and manager Teri Nielsen, who has been involved with the fair for six years. "The people of the community are positive and responsive, and that helps putting

— to page 5A

## Initiative reaches Senate

### Crapo introduces landmark public lands bill



Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) kept his word Thursday when he introduced the Owyhee Initiative legislation into the U.S. Senate.

"I said I would put my support behind it and we would put an effort into it if it was a collaborative decision," Crapo said during the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association summer meeting last month in Silver City.

The fruit of that support now is known as the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act of 2006.

"This is comprehensive land management legislation that enjoys far-reaching support among a remarkably diverse group of interests that live work and play in this special country," Crapo said while introducing the bill on the floor of the Senate last week.

The legislation is the culmination of a five-year process that began in 2001 when Owyhee County commissioners Hal Tolmie, Dick Reynolds and Chris Salove asked if Crapo would throw his support behind an effort to quell seemingly endless land management disputes.

"The Owyhee Initiative transforms conflict and uncertainty into conflict resolution and assurance of future activity," Crapo said in his introduction.

The Owyhee Initiative Work Group praised Crapo after he introduced the legislation. The work

— to page 5A

## Bill would preserve beauty and livelihoods

The Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act is aimed at preserving the natural wonders of the Owyhee region without damaging the industries it supports, such as ranching.

## Inside

### Obituaries

page 6A

### Sports

pages 14A-16A

### Looking Back

page 17A

### Commentary

pages 18A-19A

### Legal notices

pages 10B-14B

### Classifieds

pages 14B-15B



# County children sweep sheriff's essay contest

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office's DARE drug prevention program was discontinued for budgetary reasons two years ago, but three Marsing High School students stand as proof that its message still reverberates.

Maricruz Esquivel, Kacie Hull and Bardo Martinez swept the scholarships for the Third Judicial District in the eighth annual eighth-grade essay contest "Why I Will Say No to Alcohol and Drugs."

"I'm really proud of you, and the community is very proud of you," county sheriff Gary Aman said as he presented the incoming high school freshmen with letters from the sheriff's office and checks at Marsing High School on Friday.

Aman said this marks the first time in the eight-year history of the contest that all three Third Judicial District winners have come from the same county. The district encompasses Owyhee, Canyon, Gem, Payette and Washington counties.

The Idaho Sheriff's Association sponsors the drug-free essay contest each year.

Esquivel, 14, won the top prize of \$250. She is the daughter of Maria and Rafael Esquivel.

"It's pretty important," Maricruz Esquivel said of the subject of her winning essay. "Everyone gets to know why you do certain things, like being drug-free."

Hull, the 14-year-old daughter of Cary Hull and Angela Richardson, won \$100 for second place.

"If I did drugs, I wouldn't have the same friends I have," said Kacie Hull, who is involved in



## Marsing students dominate essay contest

Students from Marsing took all three spots in the Third Judicial District during the eighth annual "Why I Will Say No to Alcohol and Drugs" essay contest. The contest, which is open to eighth-graders, is sponsored by the Idaho Sheriff's Association. This year's winners for the Third District, from left to right, Maricruz Esquivel, 14, Kacie Hull, 14, and Bardo Martinez, 14, stand with Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman after receiving their letters of recognition and checks Friday afternoon.

basketball, volleyball and track and field.

Martinez, 15, is the son of Jesus and Petra Martinez. He received \$50 for third place.

Bardo Martinez said he wrote the essay because it was an assignment in the class for eighth-grade teacher Michelle Ross. Outside of school, he plays drums in a band with his father

and uncles.

Hull moved to Marsing from Nampa about the age when students in the school system took part in the DARE program, which was open to fifth- and sixth-graders before it was eliminated from the sheriff's office budget.

Aman said he doesn't know if or when the DARE program

can be reinstated. But he's confident that the children who did go through the curriculum absorbed the important lessons and message.

"These kids have learned something, and they're still dedicated to not doing drugs," Aman said.

"I think it says a lot for the youth of this county."

# Marsing, GV hold budget hearings

The city councils of Marsing and Grand View will hold public hearings tonight to approve budgets for Fiscal Year 2006-07.

The hearings are part of the regular monthly meetings for both councils. The proceedings begin at 7 p.m. inside the municipalities' respective city halls.

Marsing City Hall is located at 425 Main St. Grand View City Hall is located at 425 Boise Ave.

Marsing's proposed budget lists expenditures at \$4,663,478. Grand View has proposed a budget of \$69,589 for city and road and street expenditures.



Don Osterhoudt  
Marsing mayor

Also on the Marsing agenda is a return to the discussion about establishing a cat ordinance in the city and an ordinance dealing with prime farm land mitigation measures.



Paul Spang  
Grand View mayor

The Grand View City Council will discuss several issues at its meeting before the budget hearing.

City councilman Bill Lawrence is scheduled to give an update on the committee formed to help formulate a new ordinance governing open containers of alcohol and beer within Grand View city limits. Lawrence is the committee chairman.

The council has been moving toward a new ordinance since repealing the old open-container ordinance in October.

Also on tap tonight in Grand View is a report from councilman Rodger Dillard on information received from the state attorney general's office concerning grants and establishing a police department.

Grand View still is trying to fill two spots on its Water and Sewer Board, and suggestions for appointments will be taken at tonight's meeting.

City council president Franklin Hart declined nomination to the board at the June council meeting, leaving the board of directors as Mayor Paul Spang, Lawrence and Jim Markham. Lawrence was elected as the Water and Sewer Board president later in the June meeting.

# Shoshone-Paiute Tribe to receive Rural Development grant

Mike Field, state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency, announced last week that the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of the Duck Valley Reservation will receive a \$90,000 grant for further

planning of the priority economic development opportunities as identified in the Sho-Pai Tribal Comprehensive Economic Development Strategic (CEDS) Plan.

A check presentation is planned

Tuesday in Owyhee County.

In 1990, the elders of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe saw the need for a comprehensive plan that would take their reservation into the next century. The Tribe has implemented many of those economic development activities identified in its CEDS and in 2005 opened a new grocery store and Trade and Travel Center on the Reservation.

The focus of this project is to

expand upon ideas developed during the comprehensive plan update, including additional wind studies and potential renewable energy development on Tribal lands.

This project is part of an ongoing effort by the Tribe to create and maintain economic development opportunities for Tribal members while encouraging and promoting the growth of local small and emerging businesses.

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# Water, land on tap at Homedale council meeting

The Homedale City Council meets at 6 tonight, and members could take up two issues that have stirred passions in the community recently.

One issue is the continued debate of a proposed water ordinance that would rewrite the city statute to make clear that the ultimate responsibility to pay water bills lies with property owners, not tenants.

After a lengthy discussion that included input from a handful of the city’s landlords at the council’s July 27 meeting, Mayor Paul Fink decided to table any action on the proposal until tonight’s meeting.

Another issue that may appear on the agenda tonight is the nagging question of what the city will do with a 7-acre parcel near the airport purchased from the military.

Fink said at the July 27 meeting that he would like to have what amounts to a summit with those who have expressed interest in the land, which is adjacent to the airport. Homedale businessmen Ben Badiola and Dirk Tolmie both previously have submitted preliminary proposals to lease the land.

“I would like to sit down with the people who want lease agreements and see what goals are out there and what kind of businesses they’ll put on the property,” Fink said.

Controversy arose when members of the Homedale business community learned that a lease agreement between Snake River Lumber owner Dave Holton and the city was in the works. In the wake of the outcry, the city decided to take lease proposals from all interested parties. It seemed originally that the council had planned on settling on one lessee.

But when Homedale resident Kelly Aberasturi asked why the land had to be leased to one tenant, Fink said at the July 27 council meeting that more than one lessee would be considered.

“That’s why I want to bring them in and see how much space they need,” Fink said.

“One of the goals is to create jobs,” councilman Steve Schultz said.

# Marsing library summer reading wraps up a most successful run

Children made edible monsters last week as the Lizard Butte Library in Marsing wrapped up its summer reading program. And the popularity of the program may have created a lovable monster in the community.

The Tuesday session was the last of four held in Marsing this summer. Library director Janna Streibel said between 18 and 22 children attended each class. The ages of the kids ranged from 2 to 11, so the library plans to have preschool and elementary programs on different days next summer, Streibel said.

“The program helps because it keeps the kids reading over the summer,” Streibel said. “The kids that come to the program have not lost as much of their reading skills as kids that don’t come.”

Streibel said the program has been around about a decade, and she has been involved for the past four years. The curriculum is the product of input from librarians in 11 different states, but there is flexibility in each library. Books given away at the sessions were provided by a grant through the Fred Meyer Foundation, Streibel said.



**Monsters in ink at Lizard Butte Library**  
*Seven-year-old Taj Jacobi, left, points as Janna Streibel helps children build edible “monsters” during the final day of the Lizard Butte Library’s summer children’s reading program in Marsing. Looking on are 5-year-old Logan Stansell, center, and Justin Ineck, 4.*

“I think the program went really well this year,” Streibel said. “We had about 10 more kids than we have had in the years past.”

Most important, Streibel said the program, though only a month long, magnified the library’s community profile. She said that because of the summer reading and daycare-related activities, the library is staying open until 7 p.m. on Thursdays. After-school story time will begin again in September for elementary schoolchildren.

“I think it did attract more people to the library,” she said. “I think the summer reading shows how much we value the community that we are in and shows how much we want to make a difference and help those that are here.”

“Mostly it shows the kids that the library is a fun place that they can come to.”

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# Potato farmers honor Frances Field

## Owyhee legislator retiring this year

The Potato Growers of Idaho (PGI) recently honored retiring state legislator Frances Field for her long service in the Idaho House of Representatives.

“Growers all across the state express great appreciation to Rep. Frances Field,” PGI executive director Keith Esplin said.

“We value her exemplary leadership and willingness to stand

up for the state’s agricultural industries.”

Field received the award for her support of Idaho’s agriculture and potato industries during the annual Potato Growers Summer Meeting in Pocatello last month.

Field, a Republican from Grand View, will end a 22-year career in the Idaho House later this year. She holds Seat A in District 23, but will retire at the end of November.

The 87-year-old Field currently chairs the House Agricultural Affairs Committee.

She was first elected to office in 1984 and served 11 two-year terms.

During her tenure, Field has served on several different legislative committees, including Ap-

propriations, Joint Finance and Appropriations, State Affairs, Judiciary and Rules, Revenue Projection and Education.

Field also is a former ranking senior member and vice chair for the House Resources and Conservation Committee.

She also has earned the Idaho Food Producers Idaho Ag All-Star Award.

“Idaho is constantly changing, and as the state becomes more urban, more dedicated leaders like Rep. Field are needed to educate people of the importance agriculture has on the welfare of our state and nation,” Esplin said.

Field announced her plans to retire at the Owyhee County Lincoln’s Day Banquet in February in Marsing.

# Another failed grand jury costs county money

For the second time in three months, the Owyhee County prosecuting attorney’s office has been unable to seat a grand jury.

While the nature of the grand jury is confidential, the reason it never was formed is no secret: Many people who receive summons to serve on the jury never report to the courthouse in Murphy on the appointed date.

Another grand jury called by county Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Falks failed to be seated on May 24, at which time 25 people were summoned.

Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said last week that 40 jurors were called for the latest grand jury, but too few reported for jury duty.

Three people didn’t even bother to respond to the summons by either appearing or telephoning the clerk’s office for a postponement.

“The failed jurors have been summoned to appear to explain their absence,” Sherburn said last week.

People who fail to honor a jury summons in Idaho can be found guilty of criminal contempt and are subject to a fine of \$300 and a jail sentence of three days.

A third grand jury has been summoned for Aug. 23, Sherburn said.

Sherburn has spent the past four years as county clerk and has several more years experience in the county offices. She can’t recall ever having such trouble trying to find prospective grand jury members.

“We want to instill that honor of serving,” Sherburn said.

More directly, the county would like to prevent the loss of money. Sherburn said the county spent about \$800 on the last attempt to seat a grand jury. Sherburn writes in an opinion piece appearing in this week’s edition of The Owyhee Avalanche that the county’s property taxpayers take the hit when money is wasted on failed juries.

“You’re getting into deputy wages for sitting in court and mileage expenses, and we had to order meals three or four days ahead of time,” Sherburn said.

More than 20 lunches were ordered, and witnesses also were flown in from Seattle for the proceedings, Sherburn said.

She added that the lunches, which always are ordered ahead of time, were eaten by county office personnel when the grand jury proceedings were canceled.

— Sherburn writes on the importance of jury service

Page 18A



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



# JV Basque eatery to re-open Sunday

## New ownership expands hours after closure

The Old Basque Inn restaurant in Jordan Valley will re-open Sunday after a three-month closure. Steve and Robin Henry are the

new operators of the restaurant, which has been in existence in Jordan Valley for nearly 40 years. “It has been run as a dinner house for two years, but we will serve breakfast, lunch and dinner,” Steve Henry said. The restaurant, located at 306 Wroten Road, will be open from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10

p.m. seven days a week. Henry said the menu will include traditional Basque cuisine as well as American dishes. Robin Henry’s aunt, Bobbie (Moran) Hammer, started the Old Basque Inn 37 years ago, according to Steve Henry. For more information on the restaurant, call (541) 586-2800.

# Historical society plans August field trip near Jordan Valley

The Owyhee County Historical Society will take this month’s field trip to historic Camp Three Forks on Aug. 19. The former military installation is located near Jordan Valley. The trip, led by Idaho historian Ken Swanson, will encompass the unique history of the military in the territory and its impact on settling the greater Treasure Valley.

Anyone interested in joining the field trip should meet at 9 a.m. Aug. 19 in Jordan Valley’s city park. Bring items for a potluck lunch and plenty of fluids to keep hydrated. For more information or to car pool, call Jim Skelton at (208) 495-2232 or the Owyhee County Historical Museum at (208) 495-2319.

# From page 1

## √ Initiative

group is comprised of ranchers, conservationists, outfitters and county commissioners. “This is truly a grassroots effort,” Initiative co-chairman Fred Grant said. “These are Idaho issues, Idaho wildlands, Idaho rivers and Idaho ranch families, and we have developed an Idaho solution that we now need Congress to help us enact. “Sen. Crapo and his staff have done a great job helping us get this far, and while it’s been a long time in the making, it’s the right solution for our people and places.” Crapo said in his introduction that through passage of the legislation ranchers could

continue to advance their industry, wilderness would be established, off-road vehicle users would have access, the cultural resources of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe would be protected and the Air Force could continue to train its pilots out of Mountain Home Air Force Base. A board of directors would be created to oversee administration and implementation of the Initiative, which would include the establishment of a scientific review process to assist the BLM and the designation of wilderness and wild and scenic rivers. “This can’t be called a ranching bill or a wilderness bill or an Air Force bill or a Tribal bill,” Crapo said. “It is a comprehensive land management bill. “Each interest got enough to

enthusiastically support the final product, advocate its enactment and, most importantly, support the objectives of those with whom they had previous conflict.” Conservationists, ranchers and other land-use advocates all

support the bill. “The Owyhee County commissioners and other local officials worked very hard with Sen. Crapo and put together a work group of affected stakeholders that reached a consensus for managing

these lands,” Idaho Gov. Jim Risch said. “I congratulate everyone involved for their effort and determination in reaching this important step of introducing legislation in the U.S. Senate.”

## √ Fair

on the fair easier.” But even as the fair officially starts today, fair time has been going on for a while for exhibitors of livestock. The entire year of raising and caring for animals points to the Owyhee County Junior Livestock Auction, which takes place Saturday after the annual livestock buyers lunch at noon. For the rest of the week, members of the county’s 4-H clubs and FFA chapters will take part in shows for beef, dairy, goat, sheep and swine with all the efforts culminating with the auction and the annual costume contest where the young exhibitors dress up their animals in search of prizes. As with any county fair, animals are a focal point throughout the week. The rodeo will be held at 8 each night through Saturday. The gates open at 7 p.m. with a pre-rodeo chock full of mutton bustin’ and other events following at 7:30 p.m. A rabbit and poultry show is planned for 1 p.m. today at the Tumbleweed Theatre. A cat show and a dog show will take place at the theatre beginning at 1 p.m. Thursday, and the fair’s first small animal round robin follows at 3 p.m. At 9 a.m. Friday, the annual light horse and mule driving competition will take place in the

rodeo arena. At 10 a.m. Saturday, horses will be focal points for the annual parade, and after the parade the Owyhee County Drill Team Competition will be held inside the rodeo arena. Other attractions this year include nightly performances by hypnotist Greg Hassikis and dances to live country music almost every night of the week at the Tumbleweed Theatre. Contests this year include a cow pie eating contest at 7 p.m. today, a veggie people making contest at noon Thursday, a milk-drinking contest at 7 p.m. Thursday, a pie-baking contest at 11 a.m. Friday, a pedal tractor pull at 2 p.m. Friday, a siphon tube-setting contest at 4 p.m. Friday behind the Armory building and a roping contest at 7 p.m. Friday. More details are available in the fair book available at The Owyhee Avalanche office, the fair office or the post offices in Marsing and Homedale.

— Special section detailing the myriad events around fair week  
**Section B**

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# Obituary

## Rosalie L. Churruca

Rosalie L. Churruca, 83 of Phoenix, Az. passed away Saturday July 8, 2006. Funeral services were held at the Peoria Church of the Nazarene on July 18. Rosalie was born Sept. 22, 1923, in Scott City, Kansas to Herb and Dewey Williams. Her family moved to Marsing Idaho when she was in grade school, and lived there until she graduated from high school. She married Frank Churruca Jr. on Sept 12, 1942. She and Frank had 4 children, 6 grand children, 12 great grandchildren, and 1 great

great grandchild. Rosalie worked and retired from Motorola. She lived and raised her family in Phoenix, Az. spending summers in the Marsing area, enjoying her many friends and family. Rosalie was preceded in death by her husband Frank, both parents and all her siblings. She is survived by her 4 children, LaVila, Herb, Fred, and Bruce Churruca. A special thanks to the staff and friends at Pepper Tree Living in Peoria, Az.

# Calendar

### Today

Buckaroo Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., \$5 adults, \$2 children younger than 10. Homedale Senior Citizens Center parking lot, 224 W. Idaho Ave.  
Owyhee County Fair, 8 a.m., Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds, Homedale  
Grand View annual city budget public hearing, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. (208) 834-2700, Monday through Wednesday  
Owyhee County Rodeo, 8 p.m., Owyhee County Rodeo grounds, Homedale

### Thursday

Buckaroo Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., \$5 adults, \$2 children younger than 10. Homedale Senior Citizens Center parking lot, 224 W. Idaho Ave.  
Owyhee County Fair, 8 a.m., Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds, Homedale  
Owyhee Garden Club meeting, 1 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-5474 or (208) 896-4104  
Owyhee County Rodeo, 8 p.m., Owyhee County Rodeo grounds, Homedale

### Friday

Buckaroo Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., \$5 adults, \$2 children younger than 10. Homedale Senior Citizens Center parking lot, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Owyhee County Fair, 8 a.m., Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds, Homedale  
Recovery Celebrate 12-step program, 6 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3520 or (208) 337-3151  
Owyhee County Rodeo, 8 p.m., Owyhee County Rodeo grounds, Homedale

### Saturday

Buckaroo Breakfast, 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., \$5 adults, \$2 children younger than 10. Homedale Senior Citizens Center parking lot, 224 W. Idaho Ave.  
Owyhee County Fair, 8 a.m., Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds, Homedale  
Owyhee County Fair parade, 10 a.m., throughout Homedale  
Owyhee County Rodeo, 8 p.m., Owyhee County Rodeo grounds

### Monday

Homedale School Board monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Homedale School District office. 116 E. Owyhee Ave.

### Tuesday

Foot clinic, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Register for an appointment beforehand. Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020  
Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

# School registration on tap

Area schools are gearing up for another year with registration sessions this week and next.

### Marsing

The Marsing School District already held registration for elementary and middle school students, but high school students will register today and Thursday. Juniors and seniors can register for school from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. today, and freshmen and sophomores enroll from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday. Both sessions take place at the high school, 301 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West. Call (208) 896-4111 for more information.

### Homedale

Registration for Homedale School District students will be held Monday at all three campuses. All new students must bring a certified copy of their birth certificate and immunization records. They also must provide proof of residency in the school district and a Residency Certification Form signed by a parent or guardian. Grades kindergarten through fourth can register from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Homedale Elementary, 420 W. Washington. Anyone unable to register at that time

should call (208) 337-4033. Idaho Code states that children must be 5 years old before Sept. 1 to attend kindergarten and 6 years old before Sept. 1 to enroll in first grade.

Students in the fifth through eighth grades register from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., at Homedale Middle School, 3437 Johnstone Road. Students unable to make this six-hour window must call (208) 337-5780 to set up an alternate enrollment time.

Student photos will be taken during registration for middle-schoolers.

The first day of classes for elementary and middle school students is Aug. 18.

The registration schedule at the high school, 203 E. Idaho Ave., is:

Seniors — 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Juniors — 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sophomores — 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.  
Freshmen — 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Students are urged to register during their respective times because, while registration will be available on the first day of school, classes may be filled by then. Call (208) 337-4613 to schedule registration, if necessary.

School photos won't be taken during registration for high school students. Photo day for high-schoolers is Aug. 22.

Registration for new high school students and class changes can be made from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. between Tuesday and Aug. 17.

The first day of classes at the high school is Aug. 21.

### Jordan Valley

High school registration takes part Tuesday morning at Jordan Valley High School.

All other grades and new students can register at the elementary school from 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday.

For more information, call the district office at (541) 586-2213.

### Adrian

Registration for grades 6 through 12 and any new students to the Adrian district can register from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday or Tuesday.

High school students will register at the high school, while middle school and elementary students can register at the elementary school office.

Both schools are located at 202 High Street. For more information, call (541) 372-2335.



### Tumbleweeds 4-H beautifies Homedale

*The Tumbleweeds 4-H Club met at City Park on July 10 before fanning out to pick up trash in the park, pull weeds from around the Homedale city sign at the entrance of town and generally spruce up the area. The work was part of the club's Community Pride Project. Club members conducting the cleanup included, clockwise from left, Karly Bertagnolli, Kynna Bertagnolli, Kayla Bertagnolli, Katie Butler, Carol Butler, Megan Romans, Trevor Romans, Chris Romans and Logan Romans. Dalton Penrod also participated, but isn't pictured. Submitted photo*

## Eoff family to celebrate graduation

Family and friends of Nathanael Eoff are invited to celebrate his graduation from the University of Idaho.

The Homedale High School graduate is the son of Ken Eoff and Barbara Downes.

The event takes place from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center.

Eoff recently earned a masters degree from the Moscow school with a 3.9 grade-point average.

Eoff's family will hold a covered dish potluck dinner with music and entertainment from the family. Eoff also will introduce his fiancé.

## Homedale's junior class to raffle rifle

Homedale High School's junior class — the Class of 2008 — will sell raffle tickets for a Marlin .17 HMR rifle with a Simmons scope at the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

Proceeds from the raffle will help finance the class trip and prom.

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# Your finances

## Dave says ‘Do debit, just shred it’ to credit card

**Dear Dave,**  
I’m a youth minister in Texas, and often I’m out on the road with the kids going to and from events. I have one credit card with a zero balance and would love to destroy it, but started thinking maybe I should keep it for emergencies or car rentals. Is there any good reason to hold a credit card?  
— Chad

**Dear Chad,**  
You can use them to scrape the frost off your windshield in winter ...  
No, there’s NEVER a good reason to hold a credit card! Get a debit card. You can use it for virtually anything a credit card will do like get a hotel room, buy stuff online or rent a car almost anywhere. A few rental car companies do have pretty silly requirements for debit card use or only accept them in certain parts of the country, but those guys are too expensive, anyway!  
With a debit card, you’re using YOUR money instead of borrowing it from someone else. The borrower is ALWAYS slave to the lender, Chad.  
— Dave

**Dear Dave,**  
My wife and I had our car worked on the other day, and brought it home with a receipt stamped “paid in full.” The next day, the mechanic who worked on the car called and said we owe an additional \$50 for labor. We looked on the bill, and the cost of labor was included. We want to be fair, but we also don’t want to be taken. What do you suggest?  
— Paul

**Dear Paul,**  
If the manager or mechanic doesn’t have sense enough to put all the charges on the bill before you pay, then this really isn’t your problem. They closed out the transaction as paid in full, so this is a closed deal. It takes a lot of gall for any business to call up a customer the next day saying, “Oops, I need some more money.”



Morally, you don’t owe them anything else. But you need to call these people and get a straight answer about the charges. I wouldn’t get into a big, messy fight over \$50, but I might walk away from a place and never do business there again.  
— Dave

**Dear Dave,**  
I’m a single mom with a 13-year-old daughter. Recently, I visited a lawyer and drew up a will. He advised that I change the existing beneficiary of my life insurance policy from my daughter to my estate. What do you think? I was also wondering how taxes will affect this policy.  
— Dawn

**Dear Dawn,**  
If it were me, I’d set it up where the money goes into a trust for your daughter’s benefit.  
A few years ago, I set up a family trust. The beneficiary on my insurance policy is my wife, but if something should happen to both of us the money will go into the trust. From there, it’s the trustee’s job — according to the dictates of the trust — to manage the money for the benefit of our kids.  
You probably won’t have any tax worries. There’s no income tax on life insurance beneficiary payments as long as the amount involved isn’t above the estate tax limit of \$750,000.  
— 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](http://Davesays.org). Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to [syndication@daveramsey.com](mailto:syndication@daveramsey.com) or write *Dave Says*, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027



**Owyhee garden club adds flourish to fair**  
*Members of the Owyhee County Garden Club recently placed new plants in the flowerbeds around the Owyhee County Fairgrounds in Homedale in preparation for this week’s fair. Club members included, from left to right, Barbara Oberst, club president Sharon McIlveen, Ellen Dines and Jan Aman. Submitted photo*



**Homedale resident earns high honors at NNU**  
*Randee Garrett of Homedale recently graduated in May from Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa with highest honors, receiving her Masters Degree in Counseling. Randee completed the Masters program with straight A’s and also was inducted into Chi Sigma Iota, the International Counseling Academic and Professional Honor Society. Garrett is currently employed by the Homedale School District as a counselor at the elementary school. Submitted photo*

## Three Creek

*by Lola Blossom*  
The U.S. Forest Service personnel held a meeting with the permittees at the Pole Creek Ranger Station on July 12. They are having workshops at the Cottonwood Ranch in the O’Neil Basin on Tuesday and next Wednesday to discuss riparian management.

The Jarbidge Arts Council had a gathering last weekend, and about 30 people attended and enjoyed stew made by Jane Smith and Sue Heil’s rhubarb cake. The Forest Service has been doing extensive work on the road to Jarbidge.  
Bert and Paula Brackett attended the Owyhee Cattlemen’s meeting in Silver City last weekend. Bert and Paula are happy that their youngest daughter, Jani and her husband John Revior, are moving to Idaho. They have spent all of their wedded years in the Washington, D.C., area. They have bought a home in Meridian, and John is employed by U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho).  
Kim J. Brackett and three children are visiting her relatives at Evanston, Wyo.

J. R. and Kelsie Robinson and three children went to Meeker, Colo., for a family reunion.  
Marc and Kristen Brackett took their fifth daughter home to Brown’s Bench with them. Trinity Inez Brackett was born June 27, 2006, at Magic Valley Regional Medical Center in Twin Falls. Sisters Raylyn, Morgan, Mary and Erica Rose welcomed her home.

On July 22-23, I had a fun weekend. I went with Wilma Jewett Homan and her son, Phil, to the Jewett family reunion held at Pine. Relatives from Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and many parts of Idaho attended. After a wonderful potluck supper and when darkness had settled in, Ella Mae Jewett Gennette and her husband Jumbo’s kids put on a neat skit. It was entitled “Went With the Wind” a spoof of “Gone With the Wind.” They were dressed in Civil War attire. Tracie Gennette Kinghorn, as Scarlet O’Hara, was a real actress. The only thing they needed was a good program so we would have known who all the actors were. We spent the night in a nice motel. Next morning, we went to Featherville and Rocky Bar and from there 16 miles over the narrow, winding road to Atlanta.  
Atlanta is one of the oldest continuing post offices in the state. Seven mail carriers were killed in snow slides between Atlanta and Rocky Bar. I’m glad I went, but I wouldn’t want to go again.

## Senior news

**Marsing center**  
Aug 10: Chicken divine, broccoli, veggie tray, fruit salad, soup, dessert, drink.  
Aug 14: Swiss steak, green beans, potatoes, carrot salad, soup, dessert, drink.  
Aug 15: Lasagna, salad bar, soup, dessert, drink.  
Aug 16: BBQ chicken, potato salad, baked beans, deviled eggs, pears, soup, dessert, drink.

**Homedale center**  
Aug 10: Buckaroo Breakfast!  
Aug 15: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli, roll, milk.  
Aug 16: Sausage & biscuits, oven fried potatoes, carrots, milk.

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# Schools chief: Homedale in good shape



**Signs that school is around the corner**  
While most Homedale High School students were busy enjoying the warm summer weather, school district workers like 12-year veteran Salvador Gonzalez got the campus ready for the new school year. The first day of school for students in kindergarten through eighth grade is Aug. 21.

*Editor’s note — This is the first part of a two-part series looking at Homedale school superintendent Tim Rosandick’s first year with the school district.*

After a year as Homedale schools superintendent, Tim Rosandick isn’t looking backward. His eyes are firmly fixed on the future, specifically on enrollment forecasts and possible expansion needs of the district. “If you don’t pay attention to (enrollment numbers) and can’t be a little proactive, then you’ll look at cuts in programs, and we haven’t had to do that,” Rosandick said. In fact, the school board recently approved a budget that added positions for student activities and handed all employees a 2 percent pay raise. “Our teachers are being paid at a level that exceeds the state’s funding formula,” Rosandick said, explaining that the state allots a certain amount of funds for salaries per year, and Homedale faculty receives more than that mandate. The superintendent says the district is in good shape, even with proposed subdivisions in both Owyhee and Canyon counties looming. He said the change in the district’s open-enrollment policy last year was a step to head-off a financial crunch from an

expected drop in enrollment within district lines. “When we re-wrote open enrollment and opened up the district to a limited number of kids outside the district, the reason we did that was primarily financial,” Rosandick said. “We had seen a drop in enrollment, and that has fiscal ramifications.” Subsequently, the current budget was configured with the anticipated enrollment decrease in mind, he said. “The budget was set on a figure based on less students in attendance in the (2007) budget year than we had when the ’06 budget was set,” Rosandick said. “That was the reason for the (enrollment) policy change because we have the capacity to add kids, and that’s how the state funds us.” Rosandick said the open enrollment policy will be reviewed each year to ensure that no added strain is put on the district’s facilities and resources. “Where we have to keep our eyes open is at the elementary and middle school level,” he said. “If we run into issues as far as facility capacity, we will have to



Tim Rosandick

begin turning away out-of-school-district students to accommodate Homedale kids.” As the in-district attendance begins to rise, which is expected with the blitz of residential development on both sides of the Snake River, the open-enrollment policy will adapt. The school district will see an influx of revenue but also will have to face infrastructure issues, Rosandick added. “I don’t have a crystal ball, but I would say in the next five years or so, we will see the impact of additional houses being built in the district,” Rosandick said. “I would guess that our enrollment would bottom out and we’ll see an increase in enrollment, which will be good news for Homedale on the revenue side. But we will have to be able to respond to the facility demands in that, in the next decade, we’ll have to look at space for kids.” The superintendent doesn’t see a crisis looming as is the case in Melba where many factors — including enrollment expansion and facility needs and three failed plant facilities levy elections — have put the district in a major financial bind. “If Homedale needs to build a new school a decade down the road, I think it would be difficult to do on a plant facilities levy,” Rosandick said. “You would look at bonds.”

# BLM honors longtime rancher at OCA meet

The Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association celebrated the industry’s heritage and looked to the future at its annual summer meeting recently in Silver City. Vern Kershner of the Jordan Valley area won the drawing for the Silver Bit at the July 29 meeting, and Mitch Jaurena from the Bureau of Land Management honored Bruneau rancher Gene Davis for 41 years service on the grazing board. “Talk about being surprised. I didn’t know anything about this,” Davis said when the award of appreciation. “This means a lot to me.” Jaurena, who read a letter from BLM Boise District manager

Jerry Taylor, praised Davis for the help that he has given to the Bruneau Field Office manager. “Gene Davis is the first one I call when we have a fire,” Jaurena said. “I go to him because he knows the country.” Davis said he was pleased that the BLM finally was working with the ranchers again.

“Those people in the agency are again my peers,” he said. “We’re back where we used to be. It’s back to old home times for me.” Stuart Hardegree from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service closed the morning session July 29 with a report on the agency’s study of the Owyhee Watershed and the efforts being mounted to control the spread of the juniper

population and, thus, preserve grazing lands. The afternoon session was reserved for updates from various interests, including the sage-grouse local work group headed up by Grand View resident Donna Bennett; the new grazing regulations; the special legislative session on property tax and the state sales tax; and cooperative weed management programs.



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# Richards named to Beef Council

Murphy resident Brenda Richards recently was appointed to a seat on the Idaho Beef Council.

Richards was added to the council along with Caldwell resident Dan Hinman and Montpelier's Lynn Keetch.

The appointments by Gov. Jim Risch were announced July 31.

Richards, who is Owyhee County treasurer, ranches in Reynolds Creek with her husband Tony, a past president of the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association.

Brenda Richards will serve on the council as a representative for cow/calf producers. She said she was recommended for the post by the Idaho Cattlemen's Association.

"What I would see is being able to bring some of the promotion-



Brenda Richards

The Idaho Beef Council is comprised of businessmen, people from the livestock marketing industry and dairy producers. OCA member Inez Jaca is a former beef council member.

"I'm proud to follow in those footsteps," Richards said. "It's an honor to be chosen for that."

al and educational aspects back to the producers I deal with on a regular basis," said Richards, adding that good communication is essential in her new role.

## Work continues

Several pieces of heavy equipment used in the reconstruction of the Silver City Road are parked on the side of the road a few miles outside of Silver City. Thueson Construction of Nampa will begin resurfacing parts of the gravel road this week.



# Silver City Road work enters its second phase

While the Silver City Road reconstruction project will shift gears this week after the completion of culvert replacement, authorities still struggle with traffic problems on the roadway damaged by heavy rains and flooding in January.

Thueson Construction of Nampa completed the first leg of the road project last week with the installation of the final pieces of 850 feet of culvert pipe in the winding mountain road. The focus of the project now switches to resurfacing approximately four miles of the gravel road this week.

The road will remain closed from 6 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday while the resurfacing work is completed. While the

road is open from noon to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. during the week and all weekend, motorists are advised to still expect delays and to use caution and read the warning signs posted regarding road usage.

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office dealt with at least one traffic situation last week after a motorist hauled a trailer on the road. According to a dispatch report, the driver unhooked the trailer and left it in the middle of the roadway in the construction zone. The driver was cited.

Trailers are prohibited in the construction zone on Silver City Road, and signs urge that only drivers of high-clearance vehicles and off-road vehicles use the road.

# Legal action threatens debut of BLM's new grazing regulations

New grazing regulations from the Bureau of Land Management are scheduled to become official Friday, but a lawsuit is threatening implementation of the guidelines.

The regulations were published in the Federal Register on July 12, and an environmental extremist group immediately filed an injunction request in a Boise federal courtroom.

An injunction hearing was held July 28 before Judge B. Lynn Winmill.

"I feel that the grazing regulations were worked on for over two years to make sure they were within all the rules they had to follow, so I think the government has a strong stand to make the changes," Murphy resident Brenda Richards, a rancher in Reynolds Creek, said.

A decision on the injunction request is expected this week from Winmill, but he hadn't ruled as of press time.

The new guidelines will soften the deadline for BLM to analyze grazing practices when there is a dispute. The new rules give the BLM 24 months to make a decision on a course of action. Currently, the agency has until the start of the next grazing season to make a ruling.

Richards, the wife of Owyhee Cattlemen's Association past president Tony Richards, said the new rules will reduce the instances in which ranchers are hamstrung in the execution of their day-to-day business. The interested public, or anyone with a

'(The regulations) ... benefit the Bureau in being able to administer in a way that doesn't create ... a legal challenge.'

— Chad Gibson  
Land management consultant

land-use interest in an affected area, will be involved during the program and planning stage, but no longer will be able to intervene in the daily ranching operations.

"It will allow (ranchers) to function on a day-to-day basis in a more timely fashion than they are right now because the interested public can come into play anywhere between the development of plans and the day-to-day operations," said Brenda Richards, who is the Public Lands Council chairperson for the Idaho Cattlemen's Association.

The National Public Lands Council has filed an intervention in the case on behalf of federal permit holders as well as cattle and sheep ranchers.

Richards said if the injunction is denied, she thinks the plaintiffs will continue their battle in a higher court.

Chad Gibson, a consultant

on natural resources and land management, said that the new regulations bring some clarity to the rules already in place.

"They not only benefit the rancher, but they benefit the Bureau in being able to administer in a way that doesn't create controversy or a legal challenge," Gibson said.

But a legal challenge has been mounted before the regulations have had a chance to see the light of day.

Richards attended the preliminary injunction hearing on July 28. She said the main environmentalist argument was that the new regulations are in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Richards said attorney Donna Fitzgerald represented the BLM for the Department of Justice and argued that the public still can participate when there is a modification to a grazing permit and that the new regulations comply with the NEPA and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA).

Bill Thomas, an attorney for the Public Lands Council, asserted the new regulations would make no substantive changes on the ground, according to Richards. He also said the injunction request shouldn't have been filed at this time because the plaintiffs claim possible violation of the ESA — which requires 60 days' notice before any litigation is mounted.



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# Group welcomes new sage-grouse plan

## Updated conservation pact signed last month puts control at local level

The co-existence of the sage-grouse and Owyhee County ranchers now has a guideline. Officials from Idaho and the federal government signed the Idaho Sage-grouse Conservation Plan last month at the Idaho Statehouse in Boise.

And the plan puts the focus on the local level, rather than allowing regional decisions affect smaller areas that might have different needs.

“The local working group is still left as the prime voice for the programs in the county,” Stewards of the Range board member Fred Grant said. “If that hadn’t happened, I think it would have been a disaster.”

The plan, which was signed July 10, is the culmination of nearly a decade of work. Donna Bennett of Grand View said the work began in the late 1990s when the sage-grouse seemingly was headed for the endangered species list.

“The state put together a plan of sorts back then, but it’s kind of antiquated, so they are putting together a new one,” said Bennett, who is the chairperson for the Owyhee Local Working Group.

“The new plan is a guideline for conservation of the bird. It gives a guideline for what the local working groups are to do.”

The work since 1997 prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to rule the sage-grouse is not a

candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The new plan, if implemented as written, should leave intact the progress made by nearly a decade of work already done, some analysts say.

“Anyone who does have a local working group or forms one or gets one under way should be able to make things fit on a site-specific basis,” said Chad Gibson, who does private consulting on natural resource and range management issues.

Owyhee County is divided into two local working groups (LWGs) — the Owyhee in the west and the Jarbidge in the east. The Bruneau River is the line of demarcation.

“Every section of the country is different. That’s how diverse Idaho is,” Bennett said. “What works for us wouldn’t work for Arco and that part of the country.

“Our birds aren’t the same. Theirs are more migratory, and ours stay in one particular area.”

But Grant said that even though the working groups fall into two different Bureau of Land Management districts (Boise in the west; Twin Falls in the east), a memorandum of understanding (MOU) is being drafted to put the Owyhee County-based group members on the point for the local conservation movement.

“The commissioners had to make it clear from the very



**State plan latest effort to help bird**  
*A Idaho Department of Fish and Game employee handles a sage grouse during a field study. Photo by Evin Oneale, IDFG*

beginning that even though there were two working groups, that Owyhee County was going to be the primary point of coordination,” Grant said.

Grant said the MOU is important to preserve the years of work already done by the local working groups.

“They had to make sure the state plan doesn’t supersede or override the local plan because the local groups have plans in place already,” he said.

Grant said many of the plans already are funded and working. One such plan is prescribed burns of juniper to reduce the effects of

the plant on sage-grouse habitat.

Bennett’s group has seeded large areas of land affected by fire where the sage-grouse’s winter forage — sagebrush — has burned away.

“A couple of areas we’ve done have had really good results,” she said. “We’ve had some good moisture years the last couple years.”

The burns also help reclaim grazing ground that has been rendered unusable by the encroachment of juniper. Bennett said grazing herds of cattle also help the sage-grouse because the bird feeds on bugs left behind in

cattle manure.

Bennett says the Owyhee local working group meets about every other month. The group could meet in August to discuss the sage-grouse conservation plan.

“We didn’t sign it ourselves because we didn’t have a representative on the plan-writing committee,” Bennett said. “We want to make sure the changes we want are there.

“We want to make sure we can live with it before we sign it.”

Bennett doesn’t expect any roadblocks to the Owyhee LWG signing off on the document, though.

“We’ve had a lot of bombshells in the last five or six years,” Bennett said. “I think it’s just little tweaks here and there. I think we’ll be fine.”

The conservation plan was set up as a living document. Bennett said the effectiveness of the plan will be open for review every five years.

The best aspect of the plan, though, could be the unification of all concerned parties — federal agencies, environmentalists and ranchers — under a common document that everyone seemingly can live with.

“The plan was to bring them together, and it has,” Bennett said. “We have representatives from the Idaho Bird Hunters and other organizations on our group, and we’ve had some pretty heated discussions.

“But we all agree the ultimate goal is to keep the bird from being listed.”

# Fish and Game study shows Owyhee’s grouse move for food

by Michelle Commons Kemner

When the temperature starts rising and the vegetation dries up, how do animals survive summer in the desert? Sage-grouse, North America’s largest grouse, pick up their large bodies and fly to greener pastures.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game studies of the sage-grouse’s migratory habits in Owyhee County found that the local population also moves in search of nourishment during arid months.

It is widely known that sage-grouse rely on sagebrush for their survival. They feed exclusively on sagebrush during winter months, hens nest under sagebrush, males roost in sagebrush, and chicks hide under sagebrush. But during summer, chicks require more protein to grow. When sage-grouse chicks hatch, they eat insects during the first few weeks of life, the most critical time for young birds. After this time, their diet shifts mainly to forbs, those green, leafy plants such

as buckwheat, salsify, dandelion, and alfalfa. Chicks are not the only ones who eat forbs. Adult male and female sage-grouse also take advantage of the succulent plants during summer.

Typically, sage-grouse move up in elevation to find green vegetation when the desert is brown.

Males and unsuccessful nesting females move to higher elevations in early to mid-June. Hens with broods take a little longer to move upcountry, primarily because chicks are still quite small during this time. Sage-grouse chicks are precocious, meaning they can feed, walk and fly just days after hatching. Often, a hen will move her brood a mile or more from the nest in the first days

after hatch, an impressive distance for the tiny chicks.

By late June, most chicks are from one-third to half-grown and have the ability to fly a few hundred yards at a time. As moisture continues to disappear, hens will move their brood as far as it takes to find water. Movements to summer range are traditional and often summer ranges support birds from many different populations.

We’ve learned that in Owyhee County, hens nesting in lower elevations near Oreana will move their broods approximately nine miles to Quicksilver Mountain along the Silver City range. Hens nesting near Grasmere move their broods between five and 15 miles to

the Riddle area and the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. Hens and chicks found at Big Spring south of the Mud Flat road came from as far as 12 to 15 miles from the north and five miles from the east.

On the opposite side of the state, sage-grouse move more than 19 miles from their breeding area in the Big Desert to summer range in Copper Basin. Other sage-grouse nesting in the bottom of Birch Creek Valley move up the valley as summer progresses.

The next time you are out wandering the sagebrush desert and come across a wet meadow, alfalfa field, or a riparian area, look closely.

You may observe a sage-grouse brood taking advantage of the green, leafy vegetation. If you find yourself hiking along the ridges near Silver City, you may observe a flock of sage-grouse roosting in the sagebrush. The higher you climb in elevation, the greener the pastures, at least for sage-grouse.

— Michelle Commons Kemner is a wildlife research biologist for the Southwest Region office of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

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# Citing workload, BLM replaces Owyhee chief

Less than a week after speaking at the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association summer meeting, Mitch Jaurena was replaced as acting field manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Owyhee Field Office in Marsing.

Jerry Taylor, manager of the BLM's Boise District, said associate district manager Dave Wolf has taken over the duties in Marsing. Jaurena, who is the manager for the federal agency's Bruneau Field Office, had been working with outgoing Owyhee manager Ron Kay on transition duties.

Taylor said it was decided that

heading up both the Bruneau and Owyhee offices was too much workload for Jaurena.

"You remember the old Ed Sullivan Show and the guy who would spin the plates? We had too many plates up there to expect one person to keep track of," Taylor said.

Jaurena began a transition program with Kay in mid-July. Kay retired to take a job with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture on July 31, leaving Jaurena in charge of both field offices that cover Owyhee County. The search for a full-time Owyhee Field Office manager

was imminent.

But while Taylor said Jaurena's responsibilities were lightened because of the workload, Wolf seemingly steps into a similar situation. He began a new job July 24 as an associate manager for the Boise District, and Taylor said he started getting acclimated with the Marsing office and its personnel Thursday.

"He's going to straddle the line a bit," Taylor said of Wolf's splitting duties and time between Marsing and Boise. "He'll have a presence in Marsing. Whether that's two days a week, three days a week or four days a week,

I can't say."

Jaurena represented Taylor and the BLM to honor Bruneau's Gene Davis during the OCA meeting in Silver City on July 29. Davis had spent more than 40 years working with the agency on issues affecting the county's ranchers.

But Taylor said Wolf's situation is different than the one Jaurena entered.

"He's coming in fresh, and he doesn't have as many commitments up front," Taylor said. "Mitch was trying to balance the writing of Bruneau resource plan and the (Environmental

Impact Study) and fire duties."

News of the change still was trickling down to Owyhee County's ranching community late last week, but none of the OCA members contacted by The Owyhee Avalanche expected ill effects from this latest change.

And Taylor doesn't see any hiccup on the horizon, either.

"We thought it would be a better approach," he said. "We still have continuity. With the overlap of Mitch and Mitch's familiarity with Owyhee County and Owyhee County issues, he will still be able to provide good advice and support for Dave."



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# Homedale crews get hands-on training



Mock wreck, real ‘victim’ used as extrication drill for fire, ambulance

Homedale emergency personnel pulled out all the stops July 31 in a vehicle extrication drill on Johnstone Road.

A mangled late-model Cadillac Sedan de Ville was placed in the middle of the road in front of Homedale Middle School with 16-year-old Kendra Eidemiller posing as the “victim” of a rollover car crash.

Homedale emergency medical technician Nicole Garrett placed makeup to mimic wounds on Eidemiller, and she was placed in the rear seat of the vehicle.

At that point, Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige radioed in a report of the accident and requested response from units of the Homedale Rural Fire District and Homedale Ambulance Service.

Once on the scene, the emergency crews assessed the situation and then proceeded to remove Eidemiller, who was “pinned” in the backseat.

Homedale Fire personnel to pry the back door and roof off the Cadillac used extrication tools.

Eidemiller then was strapped onto a gurney and placed in the ambulance as Takashige requested a Life Flight helicopter be dispatched from Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

Eidemiller was transferred to the helicopter and then received a ride in the aircraft as reward for her role in the training exercise.

“She deserves it. She was a real trooper,” said her father, Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller.

Eidemiller said the drill was set up earlier in the day on July 31. Takashige said a Homedale Police reserve officer supplied the vehicle, and DeAugustineo Tow owner Frank DeAugustineo volunteered the use of his rollback truck to haul the Cadillac to and from the scene of the exercise.

“I think it went off without a hitch,” Eidemiller said of the drill.



## Anatomy of a rescue

Members of the Homedale Rural Fire District and the Homedale Ambulance Service banded together last week for an extrication drill in front of Homedale Middle School. Clockwise from top:

Fire personnel pull back the roof on the Cadillac Sedan de Ville while trying to free “victim” Kendra Eidemiller from the backseat.

Homedale emergency medical technician Nicole Garrett applies a little gore to Eidemiller as she prepares to enter the automobile as a passenger “pinned” in the backseat.

Homedale EMT Sherry Parrill stabilizes Eidemiller’s neck as another crewmember gets in position to assist.

Members of the fire crew work to pop open the rear door using an extrication tool.





# Back where it all began



## Harris' visit creates coaching cooperative in Marsing

As Marsing High School head coach Don Heller, right, and assistant coach Jake Walgamott, left, look on, Pitman High School football coach Brandon Harris has his whistle at the ready as he supervises a blocking assignment drill during last month's summer camp at Marsing High School. Harris, who is starting his first year as head coach at the Turlock, Calif., school returns to his roots each summer. Heller gave him his first coaching job in the early 1990s.

# Former Marsing assistant returns home each summer to help mentor

## Hired fresh from Melba by Heller, Harris has top job at California school

It's not like an ultra-competitive football coach like Don Heller to show his cards, but he couldn't hide from the truth when former pupil Brandon Harris was in town recently.

When asked who would win a battle on the field between Heller — the Marsing High School head coach — and the 32-year-old Harris, who coaches at Pitman High School in Turlock, Calif., the master bowed to the student.

"Probably him," Heller said. "He's all about it. If he wanted to come back and take the job at Marsing, I'd give it to him."

"I'd be his assistant in a heartbeat."

Brandon Harris is preparing for his first season as head coach at Pitman, taking over from another Idaho product, former Emmett coach Larry Nigro. But Harris, who played football at Melba High School and graduated from Boise State University, never has forgotten his roots.

He has returned each of the past three summers to Marsing

— his coaching staff in tow — to help conduct the Huskies' Wing-T Camp.

"It's a great thing for our staff. It's a good trip to kind of get away and bond," Harris said. "It's also kind of a way to give back to somebody who put their neck out on the line for me."

"We have a blast down here. Marsing has a great bunch of kids."

Harris was barely out of high school when Heller hired him as a Huskies assistant in 1993. He served on the Marsing staff as he attended BSU then moved on to Parma High School to help coach with Bruce Schlaich. It was while on the Panthers' staff that Harris got his first exposure to the Wing-T offensive scheme that both he and Heller now use.

"Heller talked to me a couple of years ago, and he began running it," Harris said. "We run a little souped-up version of it (at Pitman). But it's not mine. It's been around."

*'(The Pitman High School coaches) love coaching the Marsing kids because they have a great work ethic. They're very respectful kids.'*



— **Brandon Harris**  
Pitman High School football head coach and former Marsing assistant coach

Nigro added an element of the fly offense to the scheme, and Pitman has ridden it to consecutive Central Coast Conference championships in California's Sac-Joaquin Section 5A (large school) division.

Two of the most potent weapons in the Pride's offense have moved on to Division I college football and will play for two of BSU's Western Athletic Conference rivals. Quarterback Colin Kaepernick was recruited by Nevada, and running back Anthony Harding is headed for Fresno State.

This is Harris' second head-coaching job. He cut his teeth with one season at Melba before

Nigro recruited him to help lay the foundation for the Pitman program.

And Heller knows Harris has the tools to strike gold in California, even though he is coaching in a section that has more than 100 schools that meet 5A enrollment standards. Idaho, by contrast, has little more than a dozen that meet the criterium.

"It means a lot to see how far he's gone, and he's got some big shoes to fill now where he's at," Heller said. "He's always been a great kid and hard worker. He's taught me a lot about hard work, too."

— to page 15A

# Prep seasons altered by fair

The fall sports coaches at Homedale and Marsing high schools face the dilemma of starting practice without many athletes.

But the Trojans and Huskies are taking two different approaches to remedy the issue of their players putting off athletics a little while longer to participate in projects at this week's Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo.

Homedale volleyball coach Maleta Henry is adding a weekend date to her practice schedule. The Trojans open practice for the 2006 season at 8 a.m. Friday inside the main gymnasium. An 8 a.m. Saturday practice also is scheduled, and Homedale will practice twice Monday, beginning with an 8 a.m. workout.

Henry said player tryouts will be available during those practices. She said any athlete who can't make the practices because of fair commitments should call her at (208) 250-3996.

The Trojans start the season Aug. 22 with a varsity and junior varsity jamboree on the road in Melba. Homedale visits Marsing on Jan. 29 to start the non-conference schedule.

Homedale cross country coach Nick Schamber is scheduled to begin his second year at the helm Friday as well. The Trojans are scheduled to open the season Aug. 31 at the New Plymouth Invitational.

In Marsing, Huskies co-athletic director Don Heller said that because of the fair, the football and volleyball teams will kick off their practice schedules Monday. Idaho High Activities Association rules allow both Heller's football team and Loma Bittick's volleyball squad to begin practice Friday, but Heller said Monday will be the opening day because of the volume of athletes who also are involved with fair activities.

The Huskies' football program will hold only one practice each day next week. Practice will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to keep the athletes out of the heat of the day. Marsing opens the season Sept. 1 at Nyssa, Ore.

Homedale's football team and boys and girls soccer teams began practice last Monday. The Trojans' first football game is

— to page 15A



# Sports

## Women in the Outdoors day planned in Homedale

Idaho Sporting Clays in Homedale will be the site of a Women in the Outdoors event Aug. 12. The day is sponsored by the Ontario, Ore.-based 4 Rivers Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Registration for the Homedale event begins at 9 a.m.

The entry fee is \$50 per person, and that price includes a lunch. The class is open to women and girls ages 14 and older and will be limited to the first 50 registered participants.

The Women in the Outdoors program gives women an opportunity to learn outdoor skills.

For more information, call Sandy Smallwood at (541) 372-5418 or the NWTf at (800) THE-NWTf (843-6983).

## ✓ Coach

And, in the process, Harris perhaps has helped the Huskies become stronger football players.

“They’re very attentive, and that’s what our coaches have always commented on,” Harris said of the Marsing players. “They love coaching the Marsing kids because they have a great work ethic. They’re very respectful kids.”

“I think it’s going real well. It’s real fun.”

## ✓ Practices

scheduled for 7 p.m. Aug. 25 at home against Melba.

Coach David Correa’s boys soccer team jumps right into the 3A Snake River Valley conference season with its home opener against Weiser on Aug. 22. Lesa Folwell’s girls squad is on the road against the Wolverines that same day.

Rimrock, which is scheduled to open the season Aug. 25 against Notus, also began its football practice Monday. Jim Clark returns for his second season as coach.

The football and volleyball teams at Jordan Valley and Adrian high schools will begin practice on Aug. 21.



### Crain makes pitch for Panzeri award

*Caba’s I pitcher Chris Crain lobs a pitch toward the plate during an A Division semifinal game against Dan’s Auto Body in the 24th annual Percifield Memorial Slowpitch Coed Softball Tournament at Marsing High School. Crain earned the annual Kim Panzeri Memorial Award after his team fell in the divisional championship game against Panzeri Livestock. The Panzeri award has been given out each year since 1991.*

## More history made at Percifield tourney

The 24th annual Percifield Memorial Slowpitch Coed Softball Tournament had its share of history this year.

While Panzeri Livestock won its third consecutive A Division championship — and became only the second team to win five tournament titles, Quinn’s/Team E won its second straight C Division crown.

Pour House I has won five championships, the last coming in 2003.

The Shoulder Clinic captured the B Division championship, taking advantage of 2005 champion Custom Coed’s graduation to the A Division.

Tim Pemberton of Panzeri’s and Mandy Crain of Caba’s I were the A Division most valuable players.

The B Division MVPs were Sheree Willhite of Shoulder Clinic and Darren Uranga of the runnerup Johnstone’s Farmers.

Carlos Nava of Quinn’s/E Team and Hanna Gibson of second-place Famn Damily were the C Division most valuable players.

The B Division squad Action Garage won the Sportsmanship Award.

Tournament standings:

A Division — 1. Panzeri’s Livestock; 2. Caba’s I; 3. Pour House I

B Division — 1. Shoulder Clinic; 2. Johnstone’s Farmers; 3. C-Dub’s All-Stars; 4. Bell Key

C Division — 1. Quinn’s/Team E; 2. Famn Damily; 3. Team Capri; 4. Fenwick

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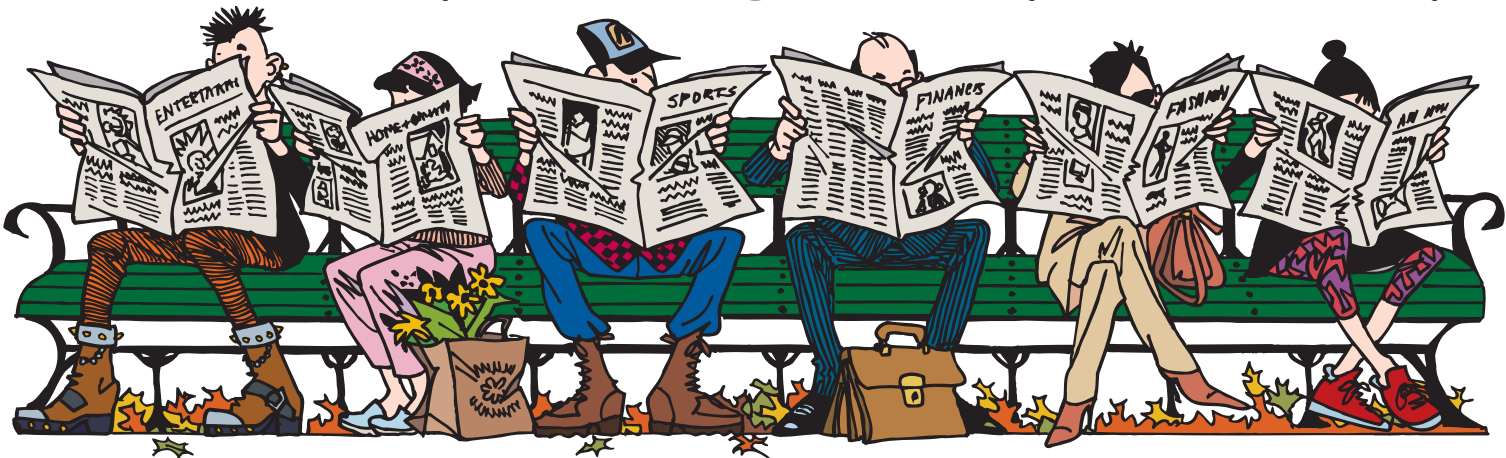
Youth bowler  
7<sup>th</sup> at nationals

Wes Cassity, a teenager who bowls in the youth league at Owyhee Lanes in Homedale, finished seventh in the Pepsi United States Bowling Congress Youth Championships on July 17-20 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The Greenleaf resident faced competitors from the U.S., Canada, Europe, the Far East and Puerto Rico.

Cassity, who earned the trip to nationals by winning the state Pepsi title, will be a senior at Vallivue High School this year.

Wednesday morning in Owyhee County



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# Looking back...

*from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle*

## 50 years ago

### August 9, 1956

#### 8 girls entered in queen contest

Owyhee County is a busy place this month with everyone preparing for the county fair August 23, 24 and 25.

The fairgrounds are being cleaned up and prepared for the fair. Jack O’Leary, Marsing, is manager, and Mrs. Marge Echevarria is assisting in the office.

Mrs. Echevarria may be phoned at any time between 9am-5pm for information concerning the fair.

Several boys have been helping to clear away weeds and fix fences. They are Gary Samson of Marsing, John Davenport, Michael Mayes and Stan Moore.

Eight queen candidates are being sponsored this year. They are Sandra Ross, sponsored by the Jaycees and the Homedale BPW, who leads with 160 votes; Donna Dines, sponsored by the American Legion of Marsing, who is second with 150; Bonnie Kiester, sponsored by the Marsing American Legion, third with 110; LaNora Daboling, sponsored by the Homedale American Legion and the Owyhee Heights club, with 100; Phyllis Haken, another candidate sponsored by the Marsing American Legion, with 92; Kathy Dunn, sponsored by the Altar Society, with 70; Ella Mae Zillig, sponsored by the Rebekahs, with 34; and Beverly Haines of Opalene who has not yet turned in the number of tickets sold.

#### Parade chairman says parade to start at 10 o’clock

With the Owyhee County fair just around the corner and all its activities, the parade is one of the greatest attractions to many people.

During this event the American flag is commonly used and often taken for granted.

While the flag is passing in a parade, men in uniform should salute. When not in uniform men should remove their hats and with their right hand hold it over their left side with the hand being over the heart. Women should place their right hand over their heart. After the flag has passed on, the salute should cease.

The miniature Union Pacific train will be in the parade and also the 25<sup>th</sup> Army band from Caldwell under the direction of Warrant Officer William Rankin. The Melba High School band will again entertain, replacing the Homedale and Marsing bands, which have been unable to get enough members together.

The parade will start at 10am this year instead of 11 as formerly. It will assemble at the armory on the fairgrounds and march to city park where all prizes will be awarded. Entrants are asked to wait at the park until all prizes are awarded.

#### School to begin classes September 4

A full day of school has been planned for Tuesday, September 4, when all schools in Homedale will be open. Supt. Charles Zollinger announced today that an increase in enrollment is expected and that one additional teacher has been employed to cut down the load in the second grade. The Washington school will house the first three grades, including three sections of grade one and two, and two sections of grade three. The pupils in grade four will attend classes in the Junior high school building until the new Lincoln building is completed. Completion should be about November 1, at which time pupils in grades 4-5-6 will be transferred to it. New furniture has been ordered for the building, and it should arrive on or before November 1.

The school lunch program will begin September 4 and 25 cents will be charged for each meal. Mrs. Bessie R. Wolf will be the chairman of the program again this year with Mrs. Laura Combs and Mrs. Ruby O’Neal assisting.

All parents of beginning first grade children must present the children’s birth certificate and a record of a recent physical examination. This physical examination must be given by a reputable physician (medical doctor). In order for a child to enter the first grade this fall, he or she must be six years old. His sixth birthday must come on or before October 15, and no child will be accepted whose birthday comes after this date. Registration for all first grade children will be Saturday, September 1 from 9am until noon at the Washington school.

## 140 years ago

### August 4, 1866

OUGHT TO BE STOPPED. What? Selling seams of quartz from three to six inches in thickness to capitalists. It is often asserted that more capital was necessary here and in order to get it the possessors must purchase before they could be interested and that they bit as greedily at offers of worthless ledges as of valuable ones, and that the man who by any means made a sale was a benefactor to Owyhee. This is very good logic for parties whose only trading capital consists of “cheek” and “jawbone” in fact, it is neither needed nor adapted to any other’s wants. Whatever of force such argument may have had in days ago, it is now powerless and even paralyzing. At this time there are six eastern companies operating in Owyhee. They, in the aggregate, have spent approximating a million of dollars and as they prosper or fail so will capitalists become interested or disgusted with our mines. The argument that if they fail it will be from a lack of experience, and hence their own fault and not that of the camp, is babyish nonsense. We know of at least two sales, to eastern men, of mere seams of quartz not four inches in width. The cost of finding these seams is nothing and not to be considered anyhow in calculating the effects upon our community at large. These seams are sold for rich ledges — ledges that can be made to pay hundreds of thousands in a few months. These representations induce a purchase and the purchasers go to heavy expense to satisfy themselves of their truth. The most discouraging letters have been written to the eastern cities from this cause alone — not on the ground that there are no paying ledges here. Letters from influential men have been written to New York warning capitalists to not believe the word, oath or representations of any man who is there trying to negotiate the sale of ledges. Why? Because their experience has taught them a costly lesson; and, also, for the reason that representatives of capital here make liberal offers for ledges of known merit and such offers are refused. There is not a ledge of known or credited worth but the owners can find anxious purchasers on the ground at reasonable figures. A settled determination prevails not to pay exorbitant prices for a hole in the ground in other words, the privilege to prospect. We have not heard anyone representing eastern interests doubt the existence of many very valuable ledges in Owyhee in truth enough to make an exceedingly flourishing and permanent mining community. They say all that is required are time, money and economy in every possible branch of production.

If this kind of writing should delay or frustrate the hope of individuals who wish to sell their “feet,” (and soul, too) we cannot help it, for we are bound to use our influence to enhance the general welfare of all rather than the particular designs of a few. We repeat that ledges can be sold for their worth right at home, and to sell worthless ones in the East is a great damage to the general property of Owyhee.

PROCEEDINGS DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION. Silver City, Owyhee Co., I. T., July 28.

The Owyhee County Democratic Convention met pursuant to a call of the County Democratic Central Committee, for the purpose of making nominations of candidates for the coming August Election.

The Convention was called to order by O. H. Purdy, Chairman of the Central Committee.

On motion of R. Z. Johnson, Mr. Sterling Hill was chosen temporary chairman, Maj. E. L. Massey elected temporary secretary and James Lynam appointed sergeant of arms.

On motion, Committees on Credentials and Permanent Organization and Order of Business were appointed, whose reports were received and adopted.

Committee on Credentials reported the following delegates entitled to seats in the Convention: Pleasant Valley Precinct – Wm. Killingsworth, Andy Hall. Oro Fino Precinct – A. English, Wm. T. Smith, D. A. Cogswell. Ruby City Precinct – Geo. Carter, Ben Woodbury, Geo. L. Howard, (by R. S. Miles, proxy) R. S. Miles, R. Z. Johnson, T. Greenig, J. Bell, F. G. Martin, Wm. Duncan. Silver City Precinct – E. L. Massey, Fred Menge, Isaac Culp, Dan. Carling, Ben

Bernstein, J. R. Oldham, W. L. Burnham. Flint Precinct – C. D. Warren, J. W. Minear. Reynolds’ Creek Precinct – Sterling Hill, A. Ives. Hays & Ray Precinct – D. C. Baker, L. A. Burthey, Frank Hardy. Sinker Creek Precinct – C. C. Johnson, by T. S. Hendrix, proxy. Asby Precinct – A. P. Minear, M. F. Davis, E. Ankrom.

MAIL AND STAGE FACILITIES. After a few years of inconvenience and persistent effort, Owyhee is about to be supplied with rightful mail service, and for which we are solely indebted to our individual efforts and the hearty assistance of the Nevada Senators and Representative. J. D. Carr — the gentleman who has the contract for four years on and after September 1<sup>st</sup>, from Virginia City, Nevada, to Boise City — arrived in Ruby on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup> ult. He came over his route via Star City, and reached here from Sacramento in six and one half days. He stopped a while in Virginia and in Star and from the latter place drove the same team. He is well satisfied with the route as to road, grass and water. He brought through some mail and went direct to Boise City, made some arrangements about the line, returned to Ruby and on Tuesday at 4 AM started with the first California mail. At present the mails will be carried on ponies, but in the course of three or four weeks light four horse coaches will be making time that will satisfy the public. Hill Beachey has an interest and will be the Superintendent of the State line. He accompanied Mr. Carr to California to put everything in order. Carr is a man full of life, energy and means, and Beachey is second to no man in the stage business. They will regularly land passengers (via the Pioneer Line from Virginia, Nevada) on the Sacramento River in five days — more likely less than more. The public need have no fears for the success of this enterprise — except the Indians should make continual war. Gen’l Halleck has ordered an immediate survey of this route from the Big Bend of the Truckee to Ruby, and will give the route all possible protection within his power. Things is brightening.

VILLAINOUS. A resident of Owyhee informs us that a leasing Idaho City merchant offered him \$12 per ounce for battery dust for all he could furnish. This is another evidence that the gallows and penitentiary are still swindled cut of subjects. A man who will galvanize or otherwise manipulate battery dust so as to enable him to pass it at \$16 per ounce, has the will but lacks the courage to engage in highway robbery; and, if caught should be summarily punished and, if thought best, tried afterwards. Battery dust is worth from \$1 to \$10 per ounce — will probably average \$4. From the discovery of gold in California within a year or two past, gold dust has been a creditable and very safe currency. It was left for Idaho to disgrace it and make it a dangerous currency to receive. Every miner, especially, should shun the merchant who is known to be engaged in the fraudulent business of adulterating and disgracing the product of their sluices, as they would foot pad whose motto is plain and freely spoken — Stand and deliver. We intend to watch these scoundrels and if possible get incontrovertible evidence of their guilt — and should we succeed will take malicious pleasure in writing them up as they deserve.

BLUE GULCH. There is a species of placer mining going on in this gulch rather new to Owyhee — that of deep diggings reached by tunneling. We learn from Daniel Colehower that he is interested in a claim of this kind at the head of Blue Gulch, and has a tunnel (with branches) in eight hundred feet. Pay dirt is taken out in the fall and winter and washed in the spring. The success of this claim will doubtless inspire further hill prospecting. Every hill and slide will not pay — they never do anywhere: but there are probably many good hill claims along Jordan.

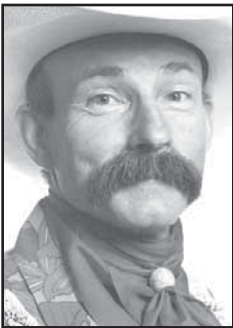
We see by the Statesman that good hill diggings have been struck in Boise County, between Boyle’s Gulch and Ophir Creek, near Placerville. They are reported as paying from 50 cents to \$1 to the pan. There is great hope that this species of diggings will prove extensive and revive the flush times of 1863.



# Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM

## On the edge of common sense



### 2006 Drought

This last winter and spring, drought stalked its way down through the sandhills of Nebraska, across Kansas and Oklahoma, stopped long enough to torch the Texas panhandle, scorched New Mexico, then drove a stake in the heart of Arizona’s rangeland.

When the grasslands of the plains turn as tough and fragile as a spider web, proper grazing management can sustain it and prolong it even through dry seasons. But eventually without rain it becomes as nutritious as bristles on a push broom.

We’ve got a saying out here, “Don’t look at the country, look at the cows.” But when the cows start fallin’ off we begin looking for solutions: feed protein, feed hay, wean off the big calves, rent pasture in Missouri, or finally sell cows.

Because the profitability of the cow business has been good these last few years, most cowmen begrudgingly began instituting supplemental feeding. But, most of us are thankful. Their value is high enough to justify the additional cost.

Summer rains were never so welcome. It’s like a baseball team struggling at bat, dropping the ball, walking the hitters, changing the pitcher, striking out, getting picked off at second, flying out, getting caught in a pickle and trailing by three runs, then suddenly getting a grand slam home run in the bottom of the seventh inning and taking the lead!

The game’s not over, but we’re back in it with a fighting chance. Wonderful feeling, rain. The 100-pound bag of worry you’ve been carrying around on your shoulder is gone. You stand taller. Drought is one of those scourges like diabetes or tuberculosis. It can kill you just as dead as a wildfire or flood or tornado, it just takes longer.

We’ve had a bad year or two of drought. It has been regional, and it hurts those of us who are affected. But it is not the 1930s when drought broke the back of rural America and changed the face of our nation. Even city people went hungry.

We think of the Great Depression as a collapse of our banking system and stock market. but it was also a natural disaster far worse than the San Francisco earthquake, the Galveston flood or New Orleans’ Katrina. This year’s drought was just some western ranchers’ turns in the barrel. Our suburban neighbors hardly noticed; the economy is booming, gasoline is expensive but abundant, and our urban customers keep eating beef like it was chicken and paying record prices!

We’re still in the game. Guess I better order one more load of protein blocks!

Wayne Cornell

## Not important ... *but possibly of interest*



### The Alaskan adventure continues

Our ship pulled into Skagway early in the morning, with the Zuiderdam, a Holland American cruise ship, docking a half-hour later. Our quartet disembarked and made the half-mile walk from the dock to downtown.

Beginning about 1898, thousands of miners poured into Skagway by ship, bound for the gold camps in Canada’s Yukon Territory. The newcomers had to carry everything they would need to survive over the mountains on their backs. For several years, Skagway was one of the most rip-roaring towns in North America.

Today, Skagway’s population is officially 800 people. But on the day we were there, about 2,000 people from our ship and 3,000 from the “Dam ship” descended on the community. Later in the day, the Diamond Princess arrived, bringing the Skagway population to about 8,800 for half a day. Main Street was a lot like Frontier Town at Disneyland.

We had arranged in advance to take a narrow gauge train tour on the White Pass Railroad. The tour takes people on a three-hour trip over the mountain into Canada. It offers some of the most spectacular scenery to be found on any railroad. Veteran rail buffs take the Alaskan cruise just to ride on the White Pass Railroad. Therefore, there was considerable grumbling the night before our arrival in Skagway when it was announced that the rail tour had been cancelled. The largest rock and snow slide in 80 years had buried a section of the track.

With the rail tour off, we had time to kill. We wandered around downtown, which is composed almost entirely of gift shops. One point of interest was a building that had once been a house of ill repute. A make-believe “soiled dove” — at least I think she was make-believe — was hanging a leg out a second-story window and yelling at passersby.

The little town was so packed with people, that when my partner and Cindy disappeared into a store when our backs were turned, it took Al and me about 20 minutes to

track them down again.

Later, we were standing outside a store doing what husbands do best — waiting for our spouses. While loitering, we overheard a man, who turned out to be the mayor, talking to a fellow named Ron. Ron, who apparently “dropped out” in the ’70s and never quite dropped back in, goes “trekking” in Peru in the winter and operates a small tour bus in Skagway in the summer. When Ron learned that our train ride had been buried, he offered to take us to the top of the pass by road.

At the appointed time, Ron showed up with his bus, and we climbed aboard along with several other people who had been derailed by the landslide. We were about to depart when a group of people, led by an older woman rushed up. The woman climbed aboard and told Ron to take them back to the ship. Ron said this was a tour bus, not a shuttle bus. The woman said she and her friends were tired of walking and insisted Ron drop them off at the ship. At that point, Ron started yelling, “GET OFF MY BUS! GET OFF MY BUS!” And they did.

The trip to the top of the pass probably wasn’t as awe-inspiring as the rail tour would have been. But it was entertaining. Ron stopped at scenic overlooks along the way and gave us history lessons and tips on how to take telephoto pictures with a digital camera by holding the camera up to the eyepiece of a pair of binoculars. At the top of the pass, on the Canadian side of the border, we shot photos of each other standing in front of a sign that says “Whitehorse 156” (kilometers).

Despite the cancellation of our rail excursion, I have to say Skagway was one of the highlights of our shore experiences on the cruise. It was worth the fare just to watch Ron throw those folks off his bus.

It was still light when the Dawn Princess pulled away from the Skagway dock and headed south for the first time in our journey.

## Concerning the county Ignoring jury summons illegal, costly

by Charlotte Sherburn

The right to jury trial may be one of the most unique characteristics of the system of justice found in the United States of America. It is a right engrained in the U.S. Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Idaho, and it is considered by many to be the most important part of our system of justice.

Jury service is a valued liberty and is a vital obligation in the exercise of good citizenship.

Unfortunately, the problem of citizens not appearing after summoned for jury duty has surfaced in Owyhee County.

Studies have shown that U.S. citizens strongly support the jury system and have done so over a long period of time, but many citizens also seem to go out of their way to avoid jury service. Like it or not, jury service should be viewed as a civic obligation and an opportunity to serve.

A fair trial requires that a jury be made up of citizens who represent a fair cross-section of the community. That means everyone needs to share the obligation of jury duty. The statutes of the State of Idaho contain provisions clearly designed to broaden participation in jury service.

Only the following persons are disqualified from serving on a jury in Idaho:



Charlotte Sherburn

- Those unable to read, speak and understand the English language.
  - Those who have a disability that renders them unable to perform satisfactory jury service.
  - Those under the age of 18.
  - Those without their rights of citizenship because of a felony criminal conviction.
- Idaho law further states that there are no exemptions from jury service for any qualified prospective juror, but a person 70 years of age or older may request to be permanently excused from jury service.
- Postponements of jury service may be granted under certain circumstances.
- The willful evasion of jury service is viewed as a serious matter in Idaho law. An individual failing to comply with a jury summons can be found guilty of criminal contempt and, upon conviction, be fined up to \$300 and be jailed for up to three days.

Jury service is important. Please do your part in protecting the precious right of trial by jury.

If you receive a jury summons, appear for service as ordered or contact the clerk of the court’s office if you feel a postponement is necessary. The phone number is

— Continued next page



# Commentary

## From Washington

### Apply common sense to any efforts to reform grazing rules

by Sen. Larry Craig

“The world will not be a better place if ranching ceases on the public lands of this nation.” Those are the simple and direct words of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor and her brother, Alan Day, in their book *Lazy B: Growing Up on a Cattle Ranch in the American Southwest*.

Justice O’Connor had it right on this one.

Public land ranching existed in the West long before our states did — it helped make the West what it is today. So much of our culture exists today because of ranching. Of course, ranching was a bit different back then, when it was sometimes regulated through the barrel of a gun. These days, it is regulated with the gavel of a judge, and that needs to change. Land managers, not judicial activists, should be managing our lands. Environmental groups should partner with ranchers, not battle them in court.

Unfortunately, the battles never seem to end, employing lawyers and activists but destroying ranching — the ultimate goal of one side of the debate. For instance, within hours of the Bush administration issuing new grazing regulations through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), environmental groups filed suit.

How can we resolve this? One giant step is grazing reform legislation that injects common sense into federal management. As chairman of the subcommittee that oversees federal public

land grazing, I am working on legislation to do just that.

While I am ironing out details and expect to introduce legislation early in 2007, I am already looking at some concepts. We need to recognize the role ranchers play in the protection and conservation of the land. Often they are the only human presence on vast acreages of land that provide pristine wildlife habitat. In many ways, they are tasked with preserving it for generations to come.

The federal government needs to recognize this and offset grazing fees for environmental improvements ranchers make. For instance, many ranchers already maintain roads, provide year-round water for wildlife, reduce fire danger or control noxious weeds. That should be recognized and encouraged.

One of the advantages of a vibrant ranching culture is the preservation of open space across the West. As folks flee the cities, driving property values up, it becomes more and more difficult to

stave off development of our ranches. Currently leases are for 10 years. With the increased pressure of development, tools need to be in place to assist ranchers in keeping a working ranch. One possibility would be to offer longer-term leases on public rangelands with the stipulation that the rancher would not develop the private land on the ranch during that time.

While grazing is an important land management tool, it is

not always appropriate on every parcel every year. Unlike the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM lacks the authority to manage vacant allotments or “forage reserves.” This means that areas identified for grazing in a land management plan must be grazed or reallocated for another use. We should give the BLM the authority to set aside forage reserves for drought, pasture rotation, etc., in addition to current grazing allotments.

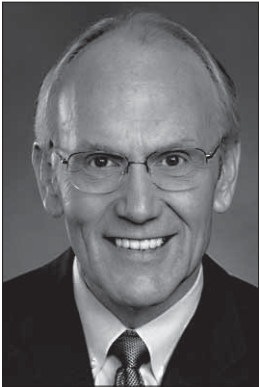
Finally, our land managers need a few more tools in their toolbox. We ought to give them categorical exclusion authority (reduced environmental paperwork) for ongoing range management practices that clearly will have no significant impact on the environment. We also ought to require litigants to exhaust the administrative appeals process before going elsewhere to challenge a rangeland decision. This will help move land managers out of the office and onto the range — improving the health of our public lands.

I have many fond memories from my time on our ranch. It certainly wasn’t an easy life, but I am grateful for it. My time as a child and young adult on our ranch made me the husband, father and citizen I am today. We can’t let ranches fade from our landscape, culture or economy.

Justice O’Connor also wrote, “The best way to preserve these vast acreages of public lands in the Southwest necessarily calls for responsible use of those lands by people who care about both those lands and their own survival.”

I couldn’t agree more.

— Larry Craig is a Republican U.S. senator from Idaho.



Sen. Larry Craig

## Liberty Matters Ninth Circuit reverses Winmill

by Liberty Matters News Service

The Ninth Circuit unanimously has reversed a March 2004 decision by Idaho Federal District Court Judge B. Lynn Winmill.

Winmill wrote 106 pages explaining why the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) decision to take “no action” resulted in creating “action” that triggered the consultation requirement under the Endangered Species Act requiring property owners to first consult with the BLM before using their Act of 1866 ditch rights of way.

*Western Watersheds Project v. Matejko* involved six rights-of-way across BLM land in the Upper Salmon River Basin. The Ninth Circuit somehow found clarity after reviewing the wisdom of Winmill and ruled that BLM was under no obligation to consult with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding use of the rights-of-way in question because “the federal agency had taken no action to fund, permit or use the rights-of-way and had no general ongoing regulatory responsibility with respect to their use.”

So, if you’re following all this, “no action,” once again means “no action.”

## √ Summons

(208) 495-2806.

Two grand juries have recently been summoned in Owyhee County, and there were not enough qualified jurors to seat the jury on either of them. This is a cost that is passed on to the property taxpayers of the county.

It is our hope that in the future this will be taken more seriously by the citizens of Owyhee County.

— Charlotte Sherburn is the Owyhee County clerk.

## From Washington

### Fair time: An opportunity for health

by Sen. Mike Crapo

Six years ago, I started the Mike Crapo Health Awareness Booth at the Western Idaho Fair. Since then, the booth has been expanded to fairs in Filer, Blackfoot and Coeur d’Alene. I have partnered with regional medical centers, local nurses and physicians and others in the public, private and non-profit health care field to make these important screening centers a reality.

I can personally attest to the importance of health screenings, as my own encounter with prostate cancer came from a similar test done long before physical symptoms had occurred. Catching it early, the doctors were able to perform necessary surgery and give me a clean bill of health. Had I not had the screening, the outcome may have proven much worse.

And screenings must continue even after you’ve been given a clean bill of health. My prostate cancer re-emerged after five years and in 2005, I again underwent a series of treatments to eliminate the cancer.

This year, my health awareness booths will be at the Western Idaho Fair in Garden City from Aug. 18 to Aug. 27; at the North Idaho Fair in Coeur d’Alene from Aug.

23 to Aug. 27; in Filer at the Twin Falls County Fair from Aug. 30 to Sept. 4; and, in Blackfoot at the Eastern Idaho State Fair from Sept. 2 to Sept. 9.

We have a team of dedicated volunteers who have taken time out of their busy schedules to help you be proactive about your health. Along with prostate and breast cancer screenings, visitors to the booths (depending on the location) will be able to have glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol and body fat levels checked.

Each booth averages between 100 and 150 visits per fair annually, with a number of men testing positive for indications of prostate cancer — many of whom had no prior symptoms.

This August as you and your family enjoy the tastes, sights, sounds and smells of your local fair, consider taking a step that could result in many more years of these

memories.

Visit the health awareness booth at the fair in your area, and use this valuable opportunity to preserve your long-term good health. Please remember to thank the volunteers and enjoy the fair!

— Mike Crapo is a Republican U.S. senator from Idaho.



Sen. Mike Crapo

### Avalanche letters to the editor policy

All letters to the editor submitted to The Owyhee Avalanche must be no longer than 300 words, signed and include the writer’s address and daytime phone number.

The deadline for submitting letters is noon on Friday. Letters can be submitted in the these ways:

- E-mailed to [jbrowneditor@cableone.net](mailto:jbrowneditor@cableone.net)
  - Faxed to (208) 337-4867
  - Mailed to P.O. Box 97, Homedale ID, 83628
  - Dropped off at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., in Homedale
- For more information, call (208) 337-4681.





# Snake River Mart



## It's Fair & Rodeo Time!

<div><b>Boneless Beef London Broil</b></div>  <div><b>\$1.99</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>Boneless Beef Rump Roast</b></div>  <div><b>\$1.89</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>Local Watermelon</b></div>  <div><b>29¢</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>Fresh Local Sweet Corn</b></div>  <div><b>4 for \$1</b></div>
<div><b>BBQ Pork Spare Ribs</b></div>  <div><b>\$1.79</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>Boneless Beef Petite Sirloin</b></div>  <div><b>\$3.29</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>Local Cantaloupes</b></div>  <div><b>29¢</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>Fresh Local Fruit Peaches &amp; Plums</b></div>  <div><b>99¢</b> lb.</div>
<div>Western Family 2 lb. Medium Cheese <b>\$3.99</b> ea.</div> <div>Western Family 12 oz. Singles <b>\$1.89</b> ea.</div> <div>Western Family 16 oz. String Cheese <b>\$2.99</b> ea.</div>	<div>Western Family 8 oz. Shredded Cheese <b>\$1.59</b> ea.</div> <div>Oscar Mayer 12 oz. Bologna <b>99¢</b> ea.</div> <div>El Monterey Burritos <b>89¢</b> ea.</div>	<div>Slicing &amp; Roma Tomatoes <b>99¢</b> lb.</div> <div>Apples <b>69¢</b> lb.</div> <div>Dole Salad Mix <b>\$1.29</b> ea.</div>	<div>Lemons 4/\$1.00 Limes <b>10 for \$1</b></div> <div>Avocados <b>89¢</b> ea.</div> <div>Seedless Grapes <b>\$1.29</b> lb.</div>
<div><b>Western Family Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b></div>  <div><b>4 for \$1</b> 7.25 oz.</div> <div>Wonder 20 oz. Whole Grain Bread <b>99¢</b> ea.</div>	<div><b>Western Family Tomato &amp; Chicken Noodle Soup</b></div>  <div><b>49¢</b> ea. 10.75 oz.</div> <div>Western Family 16 oz. Refried Beans <b>2 for \$1</b></div>	<div><b>Pepsi Products</b></div>  <div><b>3 for \$10</b> 12pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>2 Liter Bottle Pepsi Products <b>\$1.29</b> ea.</div>	<div><b>Keystone Beer</b></div>  <div><b>\$9.99</b> ea. 24pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>12pk 12oz Cans MGD &amp; Miller Light Beer <b>\$7.99</b> ea.</div>
<div>Western Family Jumbo Biscuits <b>\$1.29</b> ea. 16 oz.</div>	<div>Western Family Chili <b>69¢</b> ea. 15 oz.</div>	<div>SOBE 16 oz. Cans <b>3 for \$4</b></div>	<div>Western Family Fancy Tomato Sauce 8 oz. <b>19¢</b> ea.</div>
<div>Top Ramen Noodles <b>9 for 99¢</b> 3 oz.</div>	<div>Shasta Soda 6pk 12oz Cans <b>\$1.19</b> ea.</div>	<div>Western Family Water <b>\$3.99</b> ea. 24pk .5 liter bottles</div>	<div>Western Family Pork &amp; Beans <b>39¢</b> ea. 15.5 oz.</div>
<div>Kellogg's Asst'd Cereals <b>\$2.59</b> ea.</div>	<div>Western Family Seasoning &amp; Gravy Mixes <b>3 for 99¢</b></div>	<div>Campbell's Spaghetti &amp; Spaghetti's 14.75-15 oz. <b>79¢</b> ea.</div>	<div>Western Family Facial Tissue <b>\$1.09</b> ea. 86-160 ct.</div>
<div>Western Family Ultra Liquid Bleach <b>\$1.19</b> ea. 96 oz.</div>	<div>Western Family Econo Detergent <b>\$5.99</b> ea. 30 lb. Bucket</div>	<div>Western Family Canned Tomatoes <b>2 for 89¢</b> 14.5-15 oz.</div>	<div>Western Family Cream Soups <b>79¢</b> ea. 10.5 oz.</div>
<div>Ruffles Potato Chips <b>\$2.79</b> ea. 11.5-12 oz.</div>	<div>Western Family Frozen Orange Juice <b>99¢</b> ea. 12 oz.</div>	<div>Western Family Petal Soft Bath Tissue <b>\$4.99</b> ea. 12 &amp; 24 Roll</div>	<div><b>SRM COUPON</b> <b>River Ranch or Dole Salad Mix</b> <b>99¢</b> ea. LIMIT 4 PER COUPON • PER VISIT</div>
<div>Doritos Tortilla Chips <b>2 for \$5</b> 13 oz.</div>	<div>Skillet Sensations <b>\$3.99</b> ea. 25 oz.</div>	<div>Tri Pro Dog Food <b>\$4.99</b> ea. 17.6 lb.</div>	

**HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.**  
**Marsing, Idaho**

**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 8/9/06 thru 8/15/06**