

In-depth look at the fair B section

# Granddaughter wins Marilyn, Ace Black buckle

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# Nampa university harvests talent from Marsing High

Page 12A

Wednesday, August 16, 2006

Established 1865

# The Ownhee Avalanche

**VOLUME 22, NUMBER 33** 

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

**SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS** 

# County seeks 20 percent budget increase

The Owyhee County Commissioners will consider a 20 percent increase in spending for Fiscal Year 2007. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 5 in Murphy, and the complete budget appears on Page 9B today.

See next week's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche for more information on the budget and the scheduled hearing.

# Storm interrupts work on complex

The wind storm that swept through the area Thursday night destroyed part of a business under construction in Homedale, mangled awnings at the fair and contributed to the slight injury of a teenager.

Winds were clocked at between 45 mph and 60 mph with a gust as high as 94 mph in the area.

The storm toppled two walls and several trusses on the framework for a new business complex at the corner of East Second Street and East Idaho Avenue in Homedale. Project foreman Mike Wood said Friday that the construction would be delayed about four days, but he still expected construction to be completed by the end of next month.

"We'll still finish in the fourth

— to page 5A

— Thursday lightning sparks brush fire near Grand View, Page **3A** 

# Homedale plans online ad for land

Council members take different tact on hard-to-lease airport acreage The saga of the seven acres took an electronic turn Thursday night at the first Homedale City Council meeting of the month.

Council members, unable to find someone to lease a 7-acre parcel near the airport, have decided to post the availability of

the land on the Internet.

Mayor Paul Fink got a unanimous vote from the council when he proposed listing the parcel on the World Wide Web.

"I'm confident that there are companies around — especially in California — wishing to relocate, and we we're going to give incentives for somebody to come in here and create jobs," councilman Steve Schultz said.

— to page 5A

— Public hearing for Homedale subdivision, **page 2A** 



#### Kitten Kuboodle

Shenandoah Hinton, 10, has bright, wide smile for the judge last week during the 4-H cat show at the Owyhee County Fair's Tumbleweed Theatre. Hinton's 1-year-old male cat, Kuboodle, was one of five entered in the inaugural cat show. For 4-H results from the fair, see our special section.

# Another year's county fair comes to close

Traditions old and new were celebrated at this year's Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo.

While the rodeo, queen coronation and livestock auction were familiar happenings to many fair-goers, other events — such as a dog and cat show for 4-H members and a countywide food drive for the same 4-H clubs — added new spark to the fair.

Wilder'Dannielle Kidder was crowned as the 2006 Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo queen.

Marsing's Erik Munson won the first cat show, and Homedale's Carlie Purdom earned top honors in the dog show.

The Owyhee County Dog Club members were top dogs in the food drive contest. Canned goods were collected throughout July and the first part of August to benefit the El-Ada Community Action Partnership's efforts to feed the hungry in Owyhee County.

— More on rodeo, **page 12A** — More on fair, **B section** 



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#### Gas prices break \$3 barrier again in Owyhee County

The sign advertising the price of fuel at the ION Truck Stop at the intersection of Idaho highway 55 and U.S. Highway 95 delivers the bad news Friday. Gas prices topped \$3 a gallon in the county for the first time since last summer. As of Monday afternoon, gas prices still were below the dreaded \$3 mark in Homedale.



## Horse awards evoke emotions

## Hipwell wins buckle that honors her grandparents

Emotions ran high last week when it came time to hand out the second Ace and Marilyn Black buckles at the 4-H Horse awards ceremony during the Owyhee County Fair.

The buckles, named last year to honor the lifetime residents of Owyhee County, represent 4-H's Most Inspirational Senior Awards and are sponsored by the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office.

This year's awards went to Homedale's Kortney Bahem and Jordan Valley's Breann Hipwell.

Sheriff's Sgt. Gary Olsen and Marilyn Black presented the buckles to Bahem and Hipwell on Aug. 8 in front of the rest of the county fair's 4-H horse participants.

Hipwell, the granddaughter of Ace and Marilyn Black and the daughter of awards emcee Ann Rutan, choked back tears and said, "I can't even say," when asked what the award meant to her.

The 18-year-old, who is entering her senior year at Jordan Valley High School, has participated in 4-H for 10 years. Her future plans include pursuing a career in nursing.

Hipwell's volunteer activities include involvement with various charitable organizations, helping with the Jordan Valley Junior Rodeo and community rodeo. She also has volunteered for environmental causes such as picking up trash on the Juniper Mountain Road and South Mountain Road. She was chosen the Jordan Valley Student of the Year in May.

Hipwell is the daughter of Jerry Hipwell and Ann and David Rutan.



#### Hipwell, Bahem win inspirational award

Jordan Valley resident Breann Hipwell, left, and Homedale's Kortney Bahem, far right, flank Owyhee County Sheriff's Sgt. Gary Olsen and Marilyn Black after last week's 4-H horse awards ceremony in the livestock area of the Owyhee County fairgrounds.

Bahem, 16, has been involved with 4-H for eight years. She hopes to attend the University of Idaho after high school to study Veterinary Medicine and Equine Management. She has served as the vice president for the Homedale FFA chapter and is club reporter for the Dust Devils 4-H Club.

She's the daughter of Sylvia and Ken Bahem of Homedale.

During the holiday season, Bahem took flowers and gifts to a local nursing home and provided Christmas gifts to a local needy family. Bahem enjoys softball

and basketball, but injuries, which included a broken foot, have hampered her sports activities during the past two years.

Bahem and Hipwell were chosen for the Ace and Marilyn Black most inspirational award through a selection process that included a short essay on how they plan to help their communities as adults and recommendations from their respective 4-H leaders, a parent or guardian and an adult who has worked with the applicant in a volunteer position at some time.

— JWB

'I can't even say.'

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#### — Breann Hipwell

Jordan Valley High School student who was overcome with emotion after winning a 4-H award named to honor her grandparents, Ace and Marilyn Black

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### Public hearings scheduled

Public hearings dealing with growth in Homedale are scheduled at City Hall in the next two weeks.

The first meeting deals with the Santa Fe residential subdivision proposed by B.R. Maier Properties LLC for a lot bordered by Idaho Avenue, Railroad Avenue and Utah Avenue. That meeting to review the Planning and Zoning board's recommendations takes place at 6 p.m. Thursday.

The second public hearing, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Aug. 24 at City Hall, will address proposed annexation of land outside the city limits. Maps describing the parcels to be annexed can be found on Page 11B.

# County crews help BLM battle brush fire

Firefighters from the Grand View and Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson fire districts spent 13 consecutive hours last week helping Bureau of Land Management (BLM) crews fight a 12,000-acre blaze near Grand View.

Lightning from Thursday's storm is being blamed for igniting the Rabbit-Ditch fire complex.

According to Grand View Fire Chief Terry Carothers, local crews were activated at approximately 7:40 p.m. on Thursday and remained on-scene until approximately 8:40 a.m. Friday.

No structures were threatened,

but the fire destroyed two large haystacks. One, a 350-ton haystack, belonging to Gary Cunningham, was valued at approximately \$40,000. The other, a 300-ton stack, belonged to the J.R. Simplot Co.

No injuries were reported, but Carothers stated that campers at C.J. Strike Reservoir were evacuated.

"It was pretty big, about 10 miles long and 4 miles wide, coupled with 50 mph winds," Carothers said.

A c c o r d i n g t o B L M spokesperson Jennifer Smith, the fire was contained late Saturday.

### Get info on Homedale Fan Club at barbecue Friday at football field

The Homedale Fan Club holds its second annual fall sports kickoff barbecue at 6:30 p.m. Friday on the Deward Bell Stadium football field.

The free barbecue includes hamburgers, potato salad, pop and cookies and gives people in the community a chance to find out what the Homedale High School activities booster club is all about.

Memberships are \$15 per person or \$30 for a family, and registration will be available at the barbecue.

"We encourage teachers, administrators, parents and nonparents to get involved," said fan club board member Suzanna Brockett, who encourages the parents of incoming freshmen to get involved.

The club is open to anyone interested in lending support to activities at Homedale High School

In the past, the club has provided after-game pizza parties for high school students.

But the club is about more than just helping out the school's athletic programs.

Last year, the club donated \$1,000 to the high school's Advanced Communications class drive to buy new camera equipment.

For more information, call Brockett at (208) 337-3755.

# Commissioners consider declaring West Nile disaster

Owyhee County commissioners were expected to meet at Monday morning to decide whether to join Ada and Canyon counties in declaring a state of emergency because of this summer's West Nile Virus outbreak.

Monday, Gov. Jim Risch approved Canyon County's request for a disaster declaration for the West Nile virus. Canyon County will have to contribute approximately 25 percent for the mosquito abatement strategy, while the state will pay the other 75 percent.

Owyhee County Commission Chairman Hal Tolmie said Friday that county commissioners were "working" on a plan to declare a state of emergency. Tolmie stated that because of all the rivers, creeks and irrigation ditches in Owyhee County, the commission will seek state funding to assist in spraying for mosquitoes.

"We've contacted Ada and Canyon counties about their plans and are working with Southwest District Health." Tolmie said.

Tolmie said the commissioners and representatives from Southwest District Health were to discuss the West Nile Virus situation during Monday's regular commission meeting. Results from the meeting weren't available at press time.

Laurie Boston of Southwest District Health said there are at least eight officially reported human cases of West Nile Virus in Owyhee County at this time, with one being considered serious. Boston also added there could be "many more" cases not reported. A care provider living in Owyhee County states there are 21 persons who have reported to her symptoms of West Nile Virus in the eastern Owyhee County area alone. The number could be higher, though, because many people possibly infected with the virus do not get tested because of the costs associated with testing.

"Only 20 percent of cases show symptoms and 1 percent are neuroinvasive," Boston said. "Just going outside for a minute" is enough to be bitten by an infected mosquito, she said. Boston stressed wearing insect repellant at all times.

According to Southwest District Health, neuroinvasive forms of the disease include meningitis, encephalitis and meningoencephalitis. In fact, the disease is neuroinvasive by nature, but the severity differs from case to case.

Boston stated that there were 67 reported cases between Owyhee, Payette, Gem, Washington and Canyon counties combined.

Tom Shanahan from Idaho Department of Health and Welfare said Idaho is behind many other eastern states in the number of reported cases, but West Nile is spreading in Idaho.

Shanahan also pointed out that every state seems to have a "peak" year of West Nile cases, and then the number drops dramatically. It's unclear if 2006 can be considered Idaho's "peak" year.

According to an article published Saturday on the Web site FoodConsumer.org, which cites

figures from the departments of Health in many states, Idaho's 151 reported West Nile cases are second in the nation only to California's 935. Nationwide, the article said, six people have died from the virus.

To reduce the spread of West Nile Virus, the Idaho State Department of Agriculture recommends:

- Reducing the amount of standing water that provides mosquito-breeding habitat such as birdbaths and decorative ponds.
- Applying insect repellant approved by the EPA to exposed skin and clothing. Follow instructions on the product label, especially for children.
- Avoid mosquitoes when they are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Report dead birds to your local state Fish and Game office. The Southwest Region office for Fish Game is located at 3101 S. Powerline Road in Nampa. The phone number is (208) 465-8465.

The state Department of Health and Welfare has more information about West Nile Virus online at www.westnile.idaho.gov.

Brochures with information on West Nile Virus are available at the following county locations:

• Homedale — The Owyhee Avalanche office, Southwest District Health, Tolmie's Appliance, City Hall and the post office.

Marsing — True Value Hardware, ION Truck Stop, City Hall and Snake River Mart.

• Murphy — General Store, the post office and the Sheriff's Office.

— JWB

# Thursday open house planned by Melba School District

The Melba School District will hold an open house from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at all its schools.

All classrooms will be open to allow students and parents to meet the teachers and find out the expectations for the school year.

The elementary office will be

The elementary office will be open, allowing parents to pay fees or sign up for Parent Connect.

Middle school and high school parents and students will meet at 7 p.m. in the commons area.







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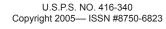


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Friday noon the week prior to publication (Limit 300 words, signed, with day phone number.)

# Marsing passes 2007 budget

With major improvements to its water system planned and more residential development expected, the City of Marsing increased its Fiscal Year 2007 budget by nearly 25 percent over the 2006 budget.

The Marsing City Council passed the budge at its monthly meeting Wednesday.

Part of the increase includes a 4.3 percent hike in what the city will pay Owyhee County for law enforcement services. After at least two years of contracting the Sheriff's Office for \$69,000 a year, Marsing will pay \$72,000 for law enforcement.

"The City Council felt we could only afford a (4.3) percent increase," Marsing City Clerk Janice Bicandi said.

The county wanted a \$90,000 contract for the upcoming year

in light of the hours of service the sheriff's office provides that goes above and beyond the hours specified in Marsing's contract.

With Holton Homes planning the second phase of its Morning Dove subdivision in town, Bicandi said Marsing's Planning and Zoning budget has been increased 214 percent from \$9,100 a year ago to \$28,600 for 2007.

The Water fund allotment increased 64.4 percent to \$511,000 because of the water bond passed earlier this year and the increase in hookup fees.

The city council also took another look at the possibility of adopting a cat ordinance.

City attorney Stephanie Bonney presented the council with two ordinances from other cities so council members can decide what should be in any ordinance adopted by Marsing.

Both ordinance language proposals furnished to The Owyhee Avalanche by the city call for mandatory spaying or neutering of cats and both prohibit cats running loose.

Infractions of the section pertaining to keeping the cat on an owner's premises carry fines ranging from \$50 for a first offense to as much as \$1,000 for the third during a one-year period.

Also, one ordinance example limits the number of cats per household to five, unless the owner has obtained an animal rescue permit. Again, the fines range from \$50 to \$1,000.

Marsing's next city council meeting is at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13.

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#### Corrections

An article in the Aug. 9 edition of The Owyhee Avalanche incorrectly reported the starting dates for school in Homedale. The first day of school at Homedale High School is Aug. 18. Classes at the elementary and middle school begin Aug. 21.

Aheadline accompanying an article detailing the introduction of the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act into the U.S. Senate in the Aug. 9 edition of the Avalanche incorrectly stated that the legislation is a public lands bill. The bill pertains to *federal* lands in Owyhee County.



# From page 1



#### Winds of rage

**Above:** The remnants of two exterior walls and trusses for half the roof of a structure under construction lay scattered on the ground Thursday night after a wind storm roared through Homedale. The building at the corner of East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and East Idaho Avenue will house four businesses, according to project foreman Mike Wood, including a physical therapy business and a Curves for Women fitness center. **Below:** Hardy fans wait out the wind prior to Thursday's night of rodeo action at the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds. The wind whipped flags and tore down awnings.



# $\sqrt{\mathbf{Storm}}$

week of September," Wood said, adding construction had begun in June.

Crews worked briefly Saturday completing more of the cleanup.

Wood couldn't put a price tag on the damage last week because an insurance adjuster hadn't examined the site yet. He said that a truss engineer was due to visit later in the day to survey how many of trusses could be salvaged.

Wood said the complex will house four businesses, including a physical therapy business and a women's fitness center. The fitness center's franchisee later confirmed that Curves for Women will occupy one of the shops.

At the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds, the wind whipped awnings throughout the complex, including ripping down the camouflage netting over the beer garden in the rodeo arena. The rodeo announcer continually assured the thin crowd that the rodeo would go on despite the fierce gusts.

Outside the arena, the wind damaged several awnings, according to fair secretary and manager Teri Nielsen.

A 14-year-old boy required stitches in the back of his head after being struck by an awning pole that had been uprooted by the storm.

Nielsen said onlookers
— including members of the
National Guard and Marines

— banded together to help save some of the threatened structures at the fair.

"One guy shimmied up a pole and saved the (Tumbleweed Theatre) stage backdrop," Nielsen said. "It amazes me how people step up and help. Everybody is just great."

The Marines and Guardsmen helped clear tree branches on the fairgrounds that had been downed by the winds.

"Some people were kind of stunned, but a bunch of people got in and saved the awnings," Nielsen said.

Lightning from the storm also sparked a fire that consumed more than 12,000 acres near Grand View

— JPB

# √ Land

Schultz also revealed during the meeting that John McBean, who is constructing a plant for Kitfox Aircraft at the Homedale airport, may be interested in a piece of the seven acres.

"He showed some serious interest in an acre or acre-and-a-half or two acres on the point on the end down there on the far south end of it," Schultz said.

Schultz said a street proposed by businessman Ben Badiola would bisect the parcel and create a two-acre plot to the south.

Neither McBean nor any of the other businessmen —Badiola and Dirk Tolmie — who previously have expressed interest in the land attended Thursday's meeting.

Schultz said McBean would like to lease the property and incorporate it into buildings that are being built now. The councilman also said that as soon as access was available to the land, he would sign a lease.

Schultz suggested that the road proposed by Badiola, which would run between Industrial Road and Airport Avenue, would help foster commercial development. He said it would create several access points that could ensure that traffic to any retail areas that may come would be sheltered from truck traffic down Industrial.

## Council approves new water ordinance

After another round of discussion, council members unanimously passed a water ordinance to bring it in line with garbage and sewer ordinances that require property owners — and not tenants — to bear the ultimate responsibility for paying delinquent utility bills.

The discussion before the vote gave the impression that many landlords already follow that rule of thumb.

"I don't think it's the city's job to police my property," Kelly Aberasturi said. "I pay the bills on my own, and I don't see what the problem is.

"Somewhere along the line, people have to stand up and be

responsible."

Fink has said that the ordinance was necessary for Homedale to secure a voter-approved bond for improvements to the water system because of the amount of past-due bills the city has had to write off in the past.

Another part of the discussion centered on making sure the city knows when a new tenant moves into a dwelling.

City Public Works Supervisor Larry Bauer said the problem always has been renters who skip town without paying bills.

"One in 10 of the turnoffs are homeowners," Bauer told the council.

## City looking for new engineer, policeman

The City Council learned Thursday night from Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller that Officer Mike Flores has left the force.

Eidemiller told council members that because of vacation time and benefits the search for Flores' replacement couldn't start until after Aug. 22.

Fink also asked the council to terminate the city's contract with Sunrise Engineering after city engineer Fred Ostler left the Boise-based company.

The city retained Ostler as an advisor because of his knowledge with the proposed sewer and water system projects, but plans to open bidding for a new engineering contract soon.

## Fink seeks another beautification grant

Fink asked the council to give him the go-ahead to pursue a grant of up to \$15,000 to plant trees in the new park that he suggested for the end of East Owyhee Avenue in a previous meeting.

The mayor told the council that the grant application had to be completed this year.

The grant does stipulate a 12 percent match (or \$1,800 on \$15,000) on the part of the city, but those matching funds could be "in-kind," such as the cost of labor to plant the trees and move the dirt, Fink said.

— JPB

# The Owyhee Avalanche Owyhee County's best source for local news!!

# **Obituaries**

## **Dorothy Lois Thurston**

Dorothy Lois Thurston, 86, of Marsing, passed away August 7, 2006 at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Charlene and Don Denton, where she has resided for the past two years. A private burial will be held at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery. A memorial service to celebrate her life was held at 2:30 PM Monday, August 14, 2006 at the First Baptist Church, 221 E Linden St, Caldwell, Pastor Dick Shaw officiated. Arrangements are under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell.

Dorothy Lois Thurston was born on April 18, 1920 in Ainsworth, Nebraska, the fifth of seven children born to Walter Knee and Mabel Cushing Knee. Times were hard in the dust bowl and depression era, so in June of 1937, before Lois's senior year of high school, the family moved to Idaho. Following her graduation from Caldwell High school in 1938, Lois attended the Northwest Bible Institute in Seattle from 1941-1942

Lois was encouraged by a friend to write to a young military man named, Budd. Their correspondence led to a brief courtship, then a marriage proposal. Accompanied by her soon to be mother-in-law, Lois traveled to Florida to meet Budd in person for the first time. The day after her arrival, May 24, 1943, in Clearwater, Florida, Lois became Mrs. Charles "Budd" Thurston, which began a wonderful life of 53 years together.



During Budd's military service they lived in various places including Florida, Georgia, New Jersey and traveled extensively throughout the United States. In March of 1946, they made their home in Caldwell for the next 42 years. On February 23, 1948, their joy and home was made complete when they chose to adopt daughter, Charlene. When Charlene was nine, Lois started "Auntie Lois' Nursery" in her home. Her love and devoted care for children allowed her to continue on as "Auntie Lois" for the next 15 years.

Lois delighted in sharing her love, laughter, and wisdom with her granddaughters as they arrived. Budd and Lois took them on several special trips, numerous camping adventures, and fun days at Silver Creek Plunge. In 1988,



after Budd's retirement from the Post Office, they moved to Marsing to be closer to Charlene and their granddaughters. As the years passed, Lois was also able to enjoy the arrival of 6 great-grand children. With the addition of son-in-law, Don Denton, in 1995, Lois happily gained 2 grandsons and eventually, 2 more greatgrand children.

Lois was always the hub and heart of her family. She wrote letters, sent cards, made calls, visited, and rarely missed a special occasion for family or friends.

Lois enjoyed several hobbies and activities which included photography, crocheting, crossword puzzles, and collecting pretty dishes. No occasion was too small for Lois to whip out her trusty camera! She also kept diaries from 1939-2001.

Lois enjoyed music, especially hymns, and taught herself to play the piano, organ, guitar and accordion. Lois and Budd enjoyed traveling, making many memories in their pickup and travel trailer, as well as special trips to Hawaii.

Lois also participated in Budd's activities with the VFW, being a life member of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, and in the Civil Air Patrol, including Search and Rescue. They enjoyed longtime friendships made through Budd's hobby of Amateur Radio. After Budd's death in 1996, Lois continued to be active with family and friends.

Lois was raised and active in the Assembly of God Churches. She went forward during a camp meeting and accepted Christ as her personal Savior, and was baptized in a South Dakota Lake. From 1962, until declining health prevented her attendance, she was an active member of the Caldwell First Baptist Church. Lois always served in the church wherever she was needed. Some of those areas included: Awana's Leader, Deaconess, Secretary of "The Women's Ministries", and President of the "Truth Seekers" Sunday School class.

Lois' greatest joy was caring for her family and friends, all of which was motivated by her love for God. She will be remembered as a woman of deep and active faith. She had an abiding trust in God, counted her blessings daily,

and spent much time in prayers. Her smile, laughter, and caring disposition will live on in our memories.

Lois is survived by her daughter, Charlene Denton and son-in-law Don of Caldwell; grandchildren Kimberly Richardson of Nampa; Karla Callaway of Caldwell; Tony Aevermann of Marsing, Keri Tinsley and husband Max of Nampa; Krista Callaway of Caldwell; Bret Denton and wife, Kimberli of Boise; and Troy Denton of Boise; great grand children Nicholas and Kelsey Aevermann, Kambry and Shasta Richardson, Gage Callaway, Alexandria Tinsley, and Mason and Remington Denton; sister Bessie Mattox of Caldwell; brothers Cecil Knee of Smithville, TX; and Ralph Knee and wife, Leona of Boise; and sister-in-law Grace Rogers and husband Jim of Hermiston, OR; and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

She was preceded in death by husband Budd; brother Mark; sisters Lottie McManigal Scaggs and Dee Bowdish; and her parents.

Family would like to thank the following; Marilyn Oakie, caregiver; Life's Door Hospice; and special niece Pat Delong, for all your help in this time of

If desired memorial contributions can be made to: First Baptist Church, Lifeline Pregnancy Center, and Alzheimer's Foundation.

#### Avalanche obituary policy

Obituaries can be submitted the following ways:

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(208) 337-4867

Mail

P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628

No obituaries are accepted over the telephone. Rates are \$3.50 per column inch and \$5 per photo.

There is no cost for a death notice.

All submissions are verified through the funeral home handling the services.

For more information, call (208) 337-4681.

## The Ownhee Avalanche

### Homedale lands three on EOU dean's list

Three Homedale residents made the dean's list for Eastern Oregon University's spring term.

The students were Michelle Eby, Michael Eby and Sara Reed.

To qualify, students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while completing at least 12 hours of graded coursework.

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

## Erma Kershner Udlinek

Erma Kershner Udlinek, 92, of Homedale, died Monday, August 7, 2006 at a Caldwell hospital. Memorial services were held at 11:00 A.M. Friday, August 11, 2006 at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

Erma was born December 30, 1913 in Ontario, Oregon, a daughter of George and Martha Pierce Kershner. She was reared and educated in Ontario. When her brothers had ranches in the Owyhees, she would ride horses between the ranches. She married Vincent Rudolph Udlinek on September 7, 1940 in Caldwell. The couple moved to Kooskia, Idaho for 9 years before returning to Homedale in 1962.

She loved volunteering,

especially at the Senior Citizen Center. She was awarded volunteer of the year in 1994, for work with the Ida-Ore Council on Aging.

Erma is survived by a daughter Irene Knopes of Spokane, WA; a son Larry Udlinek of Homedale; grandchildren, Mariah Udlinek of Holden Beach, NC; Matt Udlinek of Nampa; Donna Garcia of Las Vegas, NV; Mike Knopes of Portland, OR; three great grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vince and six brothers.

Memorials may be given to the Homedale Senior Citizens Center, PO Box 848, Homedale, ID 83628



**Aaron Tines** Morticians Assistant Proudly serving the Community as. President, Homedale Chamber of Commerce

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## Your finances

# Attack debt rather than sell home to get rid of hefty bills

#### Dear Dave,

I owe \$20,000 in consumer debt. I'm selling my current home, which I don't like very much, and want to take the \$25,000 in equity to pay off everything I owe. After this, I'm planning to live in an apartment for about a year then make a huge down payment on a new house. Does this sound like a good plan?

— Dale

#### Dear Dale,

I think it's a good plan because it sounds like you're ready to get out and would sell the house anyway. But if the only reason you'd sell your house is to pay off the debt, then I'd say don't do it — just get angry at the debt and attack it instead.

Feeling like you're forced to give up your home is an emotional experience—one that can damage your spirit. You should always exhaust all the other options before putting yourself through that kind of stress.

— Dave

#### Dear Dave,

I used to work for the city as a property appraiser. I really enjoyed the job and developed an interest in real estate after seeing what investors were doing with their purchases. What's the best way to get started in this business?

— Brad

#### Dear Brad,

If there's a real estate investors club in your area, I'd join it. Attend the meetings and hang out with the people who are doing what you'd like to do for a living. You can also check the foreclosure sales and see who is bidding. Usually, those are your better investors and a great source of information.

Find a couple of folks at these places who have been in the business five or 10 years and really pick their brains. If they've survived that long, chances are they're pretty conservative and have stayed away from debt by keeping a cash position.

Anyone can buy houses for a few years, go into debt and end up broke. I know, because that's



what happened to me years ago before I wised up. Don't let it happen to you!

— Dave

#### Dear Dave,

I'm thinking about starting my own small business and was wondering about the best time to do something like this. Should I wait until my home is paid off or until I have a year's worth of expenses savings?

— Bernie

#### Dear Bernie,

The best advice I can give you is to start this business DEBT-FREE. Don't run the risk of losing everything by borrowing a bunch of money right off the bat and becoming a slave to some banker!

You don't necessarily have to have your home paid off or a year's salary saved up, but you DO need a track record in what you're doing to make sure you'll still be able to eat and keep a roof over your head. It would be a lot easier, too, if you started this new business out on a part-time basis in your spare time. I launched my company from a card table in my living room, so I know it can be done.

I'd also examine your business idea and figure out how long it will be before you start seeing some real money in the deal. Some businesses make money sooner than others, but you need to have some idea when you'll become profitable and able to live comfortably off this idea.

— Dav

— Dave Ramsey is the bestselling author of The Total Money Makeover. You can find tools to help with finances or previous columns at Davesays.org. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write Dave \$ays, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Read all about it
in
The Ownhee Avalanche
337-4681

### Christian artist to perform at Marsing church

Gabriel "Gabe" Cedillo III returns to the Marsing Church of the Nazarene on Sunday for his fourth free gospel concert at the church.

The show starts at 11 a.m. and features contemporary and traditional gospel music.

Marsing Church of the Nazarene is located at 12 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. W., in Marsing.

Cedillo will have two CDs of his music available, and a freewill offering will be taken for the artist.

"Gabe Cedillo is an outstanding Christian artist with one of the richest voices I've ever heard," Marsing Church of the Nazarene pastor Bill O'Connor said. "It is a privilege to present him to our community."

Cedillo has performed at Gov. Cecil Andrus' inauguration and the annual Idaho Homecoming concerts. He also has represented the state at the Farm Bureau Association's annual convention in New Jersey.

Cedillo has sung with numerous organizations throughout the nation, including Chico State University, Santa Clara Chorale, Zeeland Civic Chorus, The Kalamazoo Symphony, the Ventura Symphony, the Santa Barbara Civic Light Opera and the Western Michigan Opera Association.

Cedillo and his wife, Bobbi, summer in Idaho to be near family.

# Senior news

#### Marsing center

Aug 17: Roast pork, potatoes, mixed veggies, fruit jello, soup, dessert, drink.

Aug 21: Hot dog, sauerkraut, scalloped potatoes, corn, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Aug 22: Hamburger potato pie, mixed vegetable, cottage cheese & fruit, soup, dessert, drink.

Aug 23: Chicken supreme, winter blend veggies, tossed salad, soup, dessert, drink.

#### Homedale center

Aug 17: Stir fry chicken, vegetables & rice, milk.

Aug 22: Chicken cacciatore, spaghetti, tossed salad, roll, milk.

Aug 23: Tuna salad, cottage cheese, pickled beets, roll, milk.

Buy it, sell it, trade it, rent it... in the

Classifieds!

# Calendar

#### Today

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting, 5:30 p.m. executive council, 6:30 p.m. public meeting, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing

#### Thursday

Calvary Chapel Home Fellowship Bible study, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

#### Saturday

Homedale High School cheerleaders benefit car wash. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$5 donation. Homedale High School parking lot

#### Tuesday

Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

#### Thursday, Aug. 24

Homedale City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming St. (208) 337-4641

Calvary Chapel Home Fellowship Bible study, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4th St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

#### Tuesday, Aug. 29

Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4th St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

#### Thursday, Aug. 31

Calvary Chapel Home Fellowship Bible study, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4th St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

#### Tuesday, Sept. 5

Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m., 112 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. W., Homedale. (208) 880-8962

AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jbrowneditor@cableone. net. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4861.





# GV-Bruneau schools prepare for new year

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Another school year for the Bruneau-Grand View School District begins Aug. 24 with the start of classes at Rimrock Jr./Sr. High School. The first class starts at 8:37 a.m.

School at Bruneau and Grand View elementaries begins at 8:30 a.m. Aug. 28.

Pre-registration now is under way for any student who is new to the district. Pre-registration takes place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily at any of the district's schools. Proof of immunizations and a birth certificate are required upon enrollment. Parents of elementary students new to the district should pre-enroll their child at the school that serves their area.

According to Idaho Code, children entering first grade must be 6 years old by Sept. 1 to be eligible. The eligibility for kindergarten is reaching age 5 by Sept. 1.

For more information on the elementary schools, call Bruneau at (208) 845-2492 or Grand View at (208) 834-2775.

Seventh-graders who attended the Bruneau-Grand View district as a sixth-grader don't need to pre-register.

## **Head Start** application period begins

Applications will be taken later this month for the Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP) Head Start preschool program in the Homedale and Marsing area.

The registration period begins Monday and runs through Aug. 25. Every day except Tuesday, applications will be taken from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday's hours are from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Children must be 3 or 4 years old before Sept. 1 to be eligible for Head Start.

Families must provide proof of household gross annual income, birth record and immunization record for evaluation during the application process. Acceptable verification of income includes W-2 forms, 1040 tax forms, wage stubs, a statement from an employer or a statement from Health and Welfare.

Enrollment priority is given to families whose income meets Federal Poverty Income guidelines and to children who are 4 years old.

For more information, call the Head Start center for Homedale at (208) 482-7223 or the center for Marsing at (208) 896-6041.

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#### Highway 78 collision sends three to hospital

Three teenage girls were transported to Mercy Medical Center on Friday afternoon after a two-car crash on Idaho highway 78 near Givens Hot Springs. According to Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Dick Freund, a 1988 Nissan Pathfinder driven by 88-year-old Pearl Cooper from Placerville slammed into the back of a 2000 Buick Century that the three girls — ages 13 to 16 — were occupying. Freund said it appears Cooper failed to realize that the driver of the Buick was attempting a left-hand turn. Cooper was treated at the scene and released. The girls were transported to Mercy by Homedale and Marsing ambulances and later released. A traffic citation is pending for Cooper, Freund said.

# Two of three county horses known to be infected with West Nile die

# State Ag vet urges vaccination as best defense

Three Owyhee County horses have been diagnosed with West Nile Virus this year. Two of the three diagnosed cases resulted in the animal's destruction, according to Idaho Department of Agriculture data.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture veterinarian Dr. Marilyn Simunich said only one of the three infected horses had been vaccinated against the virus.

"Almost all of the Idaho horses diagnosed with West Nile Virus last year were not vaccinated. And the same is true this year. Our advice to horse owners is to make sure that their horses are protected, and if not, they should contact their veterinarian immediately," Simunich said.

There were approximately 30 reported cases of horses infected with West Nile Virus in Canyon County, at least two in Malheur

'Our advice to horse owners is to make sure that their horses are protected.'

> — Marilyn Simunich

state Department of Ag veterinarian

County, Oregon. This year, 115 cases have been reported in Southern Idaho.

According to Simunich, vaccination is the most effective weapon against West Nile Virus. Horses must be vaccinated against the virus every year.

"Over one-third of horses that contract West Nile Virus die," Simunich said. "That is consistent with the national average of about 40 percent."

Simunich said the disease is not spread from horse to horse.

"Horses don't get sick from each other," said Dr. Simunich. "They

get it from infected mosquitoes, which contract the virus from birds."

Simunich recommends installing fans in horse stables because free-flowing air can discourage mosquitoes from landing and biting. Simunich urged horse owners to "hurry" and vaccinate their horses. She said other preventive measures such as repellant wipes and sprays are "better than nothing," but vaccination is key.

The most common sign of West Nile Virus in horses is weakness, usually in the hindquarters. Weakness may be indicated by a widened stance, stumbling, leaning to one side or toe dragging. In extreme cases, paralysis may follow. Fever is sometimes evident, as are depression and fearfulness. Lip smacking, chewing movements and fine muscle tremors may be noticed.

Humans cannot contract the virus from contact with an infected horse.

— JWB

# School menus

#### Homedale Elementary

Aug. 21: Hamburger or fish patty/bun, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Aug. 22: Chicken tenders or chicken-fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Aug. 23: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

#### Homedale Middle

Aug. 21: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Aug. 22: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Aug. 23: Enchilada or chicken & noodle, corn, apple crisp, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

#### Homedale High

Aug. 18: Crispito or rib-b-que/bun, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar. milk.

Aug. 21: Pizza, chicken fritters or chef salad, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk

Aug. 22: Beef nuggets or corn dog bites, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Aug. 23: Lasagna or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

### Otter rep to visit Owyhee County

Ann Beebe, a state assistant for Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-Idaho), will visit Murphy next Wednesday to conduct a remote availability session for the congressman.

Beebe at the Owyhee County Courthousefrom 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. . She will answer questions and receive comments and assist people having problems regarding federal government benefits and services. Questions may involve, but are not limited to, Veterans Administration claims, the U.S. Postal Service, immigration, Social Security, Medicare and the Internal Revenue Service.

Brochures highlighting services offered by Otter's office, as well as forms for flags, tours and constituent opinions also will be available.

For more information, call Otter's Treasure Valley offices at (208) 454-5602 or (208) 336-9831.

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# Public notice

#### NOTICE OF SALE

Be ADVISED, according to Idaho Code S55 2306 all interest the tenant may possess in the contents of the rental unit number 13 will be sold to the for nonpayment of rent and other charges. Clyde Adams, PO Box 1261, Caldwell, Id 83607. The sale will commence at 12:00 PM August 29, at Marsing Storage on Van Road, Marsing Idaho (208)343-9855 or (208) 867-2466

8/16/06

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

## **Estate Auction**

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### Lunch, raffle to benefit longtime Homedale resident on Aug. 26

A benefit spaghetti lunch is planned Aug. 26 to help defray medical expenses for longtime Homedale resident Larry McBride.

McBride is battling cancer, and the benefit lunch will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center at 224 W. Idaho Ave.

The lunch menu also includes French bread, salad and a dessert. Prices are \$5 per person, \$2.50 for children 8 and younger or \$20 for a family ticket.

Family tickets are for immediate

family only, and the limit is six people per ticket.

A raffle and bake sale also will be held during the lunch. Raffle tickets will be available at the door. Organizers said local businesses have made donations to the raffle. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

Tickets for the lunch will be available the day of the lunch or at Paul's Market in Homedale from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets also can be purchased by calling Sue at (208) 337-3642 or Davina at (208) 465-6754.

## Queen crowned for Owyhee Fair and Rodeo

Dannielle Kidder was crowned

O w y h e e County Rodeo Queen on Saturday after a rigorous round of judging in which contestants were judged on speech, appearance,

personality,



Dannielle Kidder

horsemanship and a personal interview with a panel of judges.

Kidder, who is from Wilder, recently graduated from high school and plans to attend Treasure Valley Community College in the fall to become a professional welder and to study taxidermy. After learning these trades, she hopes to study equestrian massage therapy at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

Kidder has participated in rodeo events in the past, but this is the first time she has been named queen.

Tessa Bradford of Nampa was the other Owyhee County Rodeo queen contestant this year.

She also was a repeat candidate

Kidder succeeds 2005 Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo Queen Sarah Bass.

## Bruneau holds Art in the Park and community sale on Saturday

The fifth annual Bruneau Community Art in the Park event will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday in Bruneau's park.

Vendor booth space is free, but must be reserved by calling Milly Hunt-Porter at (208) 845-2117.

The art event also includes a yard sale, and several area community groups will sell goods to raise money. Some of the highlights include the Bruneau Ladies Aid selling Rada knives, the Bruneau Library book sale, local youth groups raising money and booths such as Give-It-A-Go Books, All Things Western and Lost Arts, hand-made Native American jewelry, original barn wood frames and pictures and sandstone art.



Read all about it in the Avalanche!

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# U of I grazing school teaches efficiency to region's ranchers

By the sheer nature of the profession, it's pretty obvious ranchers would get restless cooped up in a classroom. They need to be outside as much as their livestock needs to graze.

That's why a group of University of Idaho Extension educators — including Owyhee County-based Scott Jensen — have come up with an effective and award-winning education program.

"It gives them an opportunity to learn some things in the classroom and then go out and apply that out on the ground," Jensen said of the program that recently won the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Search for Excellence in Livestock Production national award and a \$500 cash prize.

"You're not just hearing it. You're able to go out and see things work."

Jensen and three other Extension educators — Chad Cheyney, Jim Hawkins and Shannon Williams — devised a management-intensive grazing school. Four-day courses generally are held in June and September on university grazing land near Salmon.

"It includes a mixture of handson along with classroom," Jensen said. "Folks come to the school and are put into groups.

"The groups go out and are given a small number of cattle and a chunk of pasture and fencing, and they're given grazing objectives."

Jensen said Owyhee Cattlemen's Association past president Brad



#### Outdoor classroom

Students at a recent University of Idaho grazing school lean on their pasture sticks while listening to a speaker. The ranchers included, from left to right, Lyle Woodbury of Declo, Brett Ellison of Dillon, Mont., Todd Traucht of Gallatin Gateway, Mont., Barbara Brody of Cascade, Brad Huff of Murphy and Lorie Ann Lau of Soda Springs. The pasture sticks help the ranchers determine how much standing forage is in a pasture, either by pounds or tons per acre. Submitted photo

Huff is a county rancher who has taken advantage of the program. Huff is one of about 160 ranchers from 10 different states who have completed the course.

"I think it's going to benefit ranchers from the standpoint that the biggest (advantages are) better forage allocation, improved pasture management and reduced winter feed costs," Jensen said.

Jensen said the program has been around for a while. It was offered a few times before becoming a regular part of the educational lineup six years ago.

The Idaho class has picked up elements from several areas. Hawkins and Cheyney incorporated aspects learned from programs in Utah and California, and former University of Missouri forage research center expert Jim Gerrish contributed to the program's basic curriculum and has given lectures during the classes. Gerrish now is the owner of American Grazing Lands, LLC, a consulting business based in Patterson.

The next program is scheduled for Sept. 11-14 in Salmon, Jensen said. Enrollment for the four-day class costs \$450, and that includes all meals. A scholarship is available for state residents.

For more information on the class, call Jensen at the Marsing Extension office, (208) 896-4104.

## Judge blocks new grazing regs

A U.S. District Court judge has blocked new grazing regulations that were set to go into effect Friday.

Judge B. Lynn Winmill issued a preliminary injunction stopping the new rules that were to be imposed by the Bureau of Land Management. The move gives environmental extremist groups time to file lawsuits against the regulations.

The regulations are designed to allow ranchers more freedom in their day-to-day operations by reducing the level of involvement by public interests.

The BLM issued a statement after Winmill's ruling reaffirming its belief that the new regulations pass muster when challenged by groups that allege that the rules violate the Endangered Species Act and other legislation dealing with federal resources.

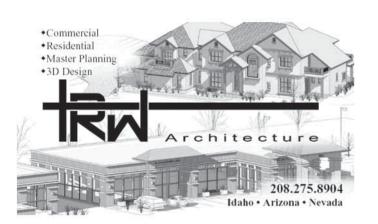
"The Bureau of Land Management is confident that the new grazing regulations it has published will withstand legal challenge when the judicial review process is complete," the BLM's statement read.

Furthermore, the federal agency disagreed with the

environmentalists' assertions that the new regulations would allow over-grazing by ranchers.

"The BLM believes that the new regulations will produce long-term benefits for rangeland health," the agency's statement said.

Winmill did allow the aspect of the new regulations that would let ranchers apply for private water rights on federal lands.



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Aug 10 89 45
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Aug 12 no read
Aug 13 no read
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### Page 13A

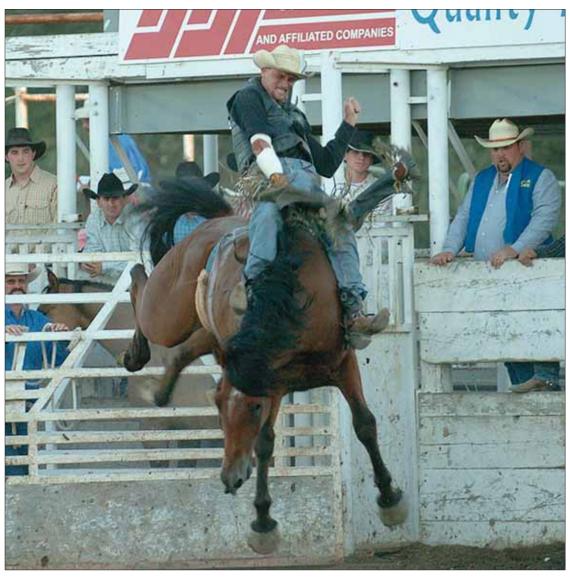
Huskies' Heller lands at NNU

# **Avalanche Sports**

Page 14A

Homedale soccer opens Tuesday

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2006



#### Ridng a winner

Emmett cowboy Caleb Bayes grimaces as he prepares for the next buck out of his horse during his championship 78-point ride in the saddle bronc at the Owyhee County Rodeo. Photo by WT Bruce Photography

# Dad keeps Black name at the top

Father of fallen rodeo star grabs Owyhee crown

Rob Black has another reason to love his family's "home" rodeo.

Black, the father of an Idaho Cowboys Association rodeo circuit star who died last month, thrilled the crowd with a steady performance in team roping and tie down roping to win the Owyhee County Rodeo's all around championship.

The 53-year-old Black is the father of Blaise Black, a former ICA champion roper who was killed in an industrial accident in New Plymouth in early June. Rob Black was one of the men who tried to save his son when an explosion ripped through a

— to page **15**A

# Trojans tab top senior athletes from 2005-06

As a new crop of athletes gets ready for another sports year at Homedale High School, athletic director Dave Hart confirmed last week that 2006 graduates Tyler Christoffersen and Cheyanne Andrade were named the school's Outstanding Senior Athletes of the Year.

Christoffersen's senior season

included his second state championship in wrestling and a defensive most valuable player award in the East-West Shrine Game all-star football classic.

"He was a warrior for us as far as wanting to win and his willingness to work real hard," Trojans football

— to page **14A** 

# Marsing pipeline to NNU keeps flowing

## Heller, Covey follow fellow Husky Usabel to Nampa campus, careers in NCAA Division II track and field

The relationship between Marsing High School's track and field program and Northwest Nazarene University is the classic story of finding something that has been under your nose the whole time.

It took a third party to ignite the chain events that brought Huskies Chris Covey, Cody Heller and MJ Usabel to the Nampa campus this year.

"The Marsing pipeline all really began with MJ Usabel this year," Crusaders coach John Spatz said. "Eric Forseth, our vice-president of Enrollment Services, brought MJ's name to my attention as a possible student-athlete, because of her excellent academic record combined with her outstanding athletic accomplishments."

Spatz lives in Melba, and his daughter, Rachael, just completed her freshman season on the Mustangs' track team. She's a pole vaulter, which pitted her

against Usabel last spring.

"I was able to see MJ and Chris compete three or four times during the track season, and I was able to talk with Coach (Don) Heller several times as well," Spatz said.

"This really helped us all to get comfortable and to be able to really discover what NNU is all about when it comes to school and athletics."

Heller said the fact that NNU is a small college with big-college track and field amenities helps, too

"It's just that they have a good program," Heller said of the NCAA Division II Crusaders. "It's a good program for kids from smaller schools.

"What's enticing about them is they have the use of indoor facilities so they can train year-round whereas Eastern Oregon and others don't have that edge."

— JPB

Covey keeps commitment to Crusaders
As his father, Chuck, looks over his shoulder, Marsing High School
graduate Chris Covey signs his national letter of intent, solidifying his

academic and athletic future with Northwest Nazarene University.

AND PIN

## Jumper Covey has mom in mind during decision

When Chris Covey signed to compete for Northwest Nazarene University's track and field team earlier this month, he was continuing a path that began on what can be the saddest day of any young man's life.

Ten years ago, Covey's mother, Cyndi, lost her battle with cancer. Shortly thereafter, 8-year-old Chris poured himself into athletics in the Marsing school system.

"I didn't do (athletics) in school, but I started to do it when she passed away," Covey said.

A decade later, Covey has made his mark at Marsing High School, eclipsing Kevin Ineck's triple jump school record (set in 1998) last spring with an effort of 39 feet, 6¾ inches.

Covey's athletic potential caught the eye of Crusaders head coach John Spatz whenever he attended meets in which Marsing athletes and his daughter (who competes for Melba) were entered.

— to page **13A** 

# Sports

# Home, health bring Heller back to valley

# Former state track champion takes talents to NNU

The third time wasn't the charm for Cody Heller, but the 2005 Marsing High School graduate pretty much knew a change was needed.

The change is coming home and competing for the Northwest Nazarene University track and field team after a recurring leg injury ended his hopes of playing college football at Oregon State University.

"I don't think track is any less competitive than football," Heller said. "It's definitely not going to be my first love or my first sport. But I'm going to go out there as I did for anything.

"I'm going to compete and expect to win. Maybe in a few years, I'll be on top like I want to be."

The 19-year-old Heller will compete in the throws for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference-member Crusaders after he completes a mandatory redshirt season because of his transfer from OSU.

"It will take a little time to get back in the groove of track and throwing," NNU coach John Spatz said. "I am excited to see if the hammer throw is an event that Cody might pick up and do really well (in)."

Spatz admits that the NCAA Division II Crusaders didn't do the best job recruiting Heller after a high school career that included consecutive shot put state championships.

"I'm not sure how we missed a kid who has a 4.0 grade-point average and wins the state shot put title as a senior," Spatz said.

"I am really glad that we have a second chance to do the right thing with Cody." I'm going to compete and expect to win. Maybe in a few years, I'll be on top like I want to be.'

— Cody Heller

New NNU track and field athlete



It's possible NNU, which doesn't have a football team, would have missed out on Heller anyway because of his determination to follow his uncle, former NFL tight end Ron Heller, into the Oregon State football program.

But fate — and another stress fracture in his right leg — steered Cody Heller back toward the Treasure Valley.

"The way I looked at it, I want to be able to walk still when I'm 40," said Heller, who in 2004 set Marsing school records in both the shot put (51 feet) and the discus (156 feet, 4 inches). "I don't think I could go through (the rehabilitation) another time."

During spring football workouts at Oregon State, Heller suffered a stress fracture in his leg. It was the third break in his right leg since his junior year in high school, when he snapped both the fibula and tibia in the leg. After an excruciating self-evaluation, he decided in April to give up his dream to play college football.

"The only reason I was over there was to play football in the first place, and I had that taken away," said Heller, the son of Huskies football coach Don. "The doctor straight-up told me, 'You're not going to play football anymore.'"

When Heller visited a local doctor for more advice, he learned that his right fibula was a little more than a centimeter from snapping completely.

"I think it's a great move," Don Heller said of his son's decision to switch to track. "He's worked hard three times to come back and ran into a situation with his leg.

"I tell all my kids, 'If you're doing something, then go all-out. And if you can't do that, then try something else."

Cody Heller has earned a partial athletic scholarship to study Kinesiology at NNU. He says he can use the degree to be a personal trainer, an athletic trainer or a teacher.

Heller is 6 feet tall and weighs less than 220 pounds, which gives many people pause when they learn that he is a shot-putter.

"They kind of look at me funny when I throw, and say, 'You're kinda small, aren't you?' "Heller said. "But a lot of (successful throwing) is not only strength, but it's speed and technique."

Heller is excited about the opportunity to improve his throwing technique, especially with the one-on-one coaching that he'll receive at NNU and the ability to work out year-round. The Crusaders have an indoor facility, too.

"One of the main goals for the program here at NNU is to continue to improve our standing in the (GNAC) championship meet, both indoors and outdoors," Spatz said.

"Cody will be a key part of this development. I really feel that his best performances in track and field are yet to come."

— JPB

## **√** Covey

When Chris Covey signed to compete for Northwest Nazarene University's track and field team earlier this month, he was continuing a path that began on what can be the saddest day of any young man's life.

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"I didn't do (athletics) in school, but I started to do it when she passed away," Covey said.

A decade later, Covey has made his mark at Marsing High School, eclipsing Kevin Ineck's triple jump school record (set in 1998) last spring with an effort of 39 feet, 63/4 inches.

Covey's athletic potential caught the eye of Crusaders head coach John Spatz whenever he attended meets in which Marsing athletes and his daughter (who competes for Melba) were entered.

"This level (NCAA Division II) will be a big step up for Chris," Spatz said. "Having been able to see him compete, I see that he has good potential to develop during

his college years into a solid high jumper and will be able to make some progress in the triple jump."

Spatz said the triple jump is one of the strongest events for NNU, but that he coveted Covey as a high jumper because the Crusaders' stable has been thin in that area in recent years.

"I need someone that can step up and be able to score at the conference meets, indoor and outdoor," Spatz said. "I think that Chris can be that guy for us."

NNU's indoor season begins Jan. 13 in Nampa, and Covey has said he wants to start contributing right away.

Covey is excited to be able to concentrate on the high jump.

"I'm going in to see how I can get higher in my high jump," he said. "I've been stuck at 6 feet for a couple years."

The 6-foot-3 Covey said the fact that NNU has specialized coaches for certain disciplines will help in his quest to improve in the high jump.

"There's more one-on-one," he said, comparing the coaching situation to high school. "I'm going in to see what I was doing wrong in high school."



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20	21	<b>22</b> Team Penning: 7pm	23	Team Roping Practice: 7pm	25	26 Play Day: 9am
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### Melba plans alumni baseball

The second annual Melba Mustang Alumni Baseball Game will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Melba High School.

The game will be played at the Robert Hilton Field of Dreams. Last year's alumni game was played to celebrate the refurbishing and renaming of the baseball field.

Each tournament participant will receive a barbecue meal and a T-shirt.

For more information on playing in the game, call Melba athletic director Steve Barker at (208) 495-2221, Thomas Chavez at (208) 250-9165 or Caloub Huttassh at (208) 250-6075.



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#### It's getting to be that time again

A Homedale High School football player prepares to pop a tackling dummy during a running backs drill last week. The Trojans held practice twice a day last to get ready for the 2006 season, which opens at home on Aug. 25 against non-conference rival Melba.

# Trojans soccer teams kick off season Tuesday

The Homedale High School soccer teams will be the first squads from the school to hit the field when the 3A Snake River Valley conference season begins next week.

Coach David Correa's boys team takes on Weiser at 5 p.m. on Tuesday at Sundance Park. Coach Lesa Folwell's team plays the Wolverines in Weiser at 5 p.m.

Beginning the season against a conference foe is unusual. and Correa said opening against Weiser is no small task.

"It is hard to start right away against a tough team such as Weiser — especially because we have not had the time to put all the pieces together. Of course, they will be in the same situation that we are." the coach said.

"I know that they have special reasons to want to defeat us since we have eliminated them from the (3A District III) tournament two years in a row. That fact makes this game more interesting. Both teams will try to prove their standing in the conference."

Correa said last week that the Trojans still are looking for a junior varsity coach, adding that enough athletes came out for the team this year to field two squads. He had 28 out for preseason practice and expects as many as five more once school begins Friday.



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## $\sqrt{\mathbf{Athletes}}$

coach Thomas Thomas said.

Christoffersen split time at quarterback with Trevor Krzesnik, but made his largest impact as the heartbeat of the Trojans' defense at linebacker. He earned first-team All-Snake River Valley conference honors at his defensive position.

"Defensively, he was our leading tackler, and you could always count on him flying around and making things happen," Thomas said.

Christoffersen ended his high school career as a two-time state champion in wrestling after winning the 145-pound title in the 3A tournament this year. He finished with 119 career victories for coach Toby Johnson's program, second only to fellow 2006 graduate Jeremy Ensley.

Andrade qualified for the 3A track and field state meet in the shot put and the discus, and she'll try to continue her career in the throws as a walk-on at Idaho State University

"She's not big like most throwers, but she's a strong girl and

she's athletic," Thomas said. "She put those two together to become a strong thrower.

"I've seen a lot of progress from her from her sophomore season to senior."

Andrade was selected to the second team for All-SRV girls basketball after averaging 7.4 points and 4.5 rebounds per game for firstyear coach Mike Greeley.

She also was



Christoffersen

Tyler

Andrade

selected to play for the 3A squad in the District III senior all-star game in Fruitland.

Andrade also played for firstyear Trojans volleyball coach Maleta Henry.



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biodiesel plant in that Payette County town.

The father paid tribute to the son last week by pulling down a chunk of the \$32,000 purse at the four-day rodeo in Homedale.

Black, who lives in Meridian, was runner-up in calf roping with a 9.6-second effort. Ty Thomas of Middleton won the calf roping with a 9.3 showing.

He teamed with his nephew, Mark, to finished third in team roping. The Blacks were clocked at 7.2 seconds, fourth-tenths of a second off the winning time turned in by Chad McDaniel and Marlow Eldridge.

Black pulled within 105 points of Thomas in this season's ICA all around standings after last week's rodeos in Homedale and New Plymouth.

Owyhee country athletes swept the top three spots in saddle bronc. Mark Gage widened his ICA lead with a 79-point ride, two points better than fellow Jordan Valley cowboy Josh Mackenzie. Homedale rookie Bryan Martinat was third with a 71.

Another Owyhee County winner was Riley Timmons of Grand View, who rolled to a tremendous 81-point ride to win

the ranch hand bronc title.

Keith Bayes of Homedale won steer riding with a 78, and a firstnight, 55-point ride by Jordan Valley's Cole Eiguren stood up for the mutton busting title. Kendra Hansen of Homedale scored a 51 for third place.

Sammy Mackenzie of Jordan Valley was third in steer wrestling with a 5.9-second effort. Sterling Lambert won the Homedale championship in the event at 5.3.

Patti O'Maley, whose parents' Slash T Rodeo Co. provided stock for the show, won the breakaway roping competition.

Caleb Bayes of Emmett was

a two-time winner. He won the ICA bareback bronc event with a 78 and served on the winning wild horse race team with Richard Jordan and Jeff Bayes.

Caldwell entrants won in bull riding (Mike Sparks, 81 points) and barrel racing (Kyna Schrader, 17.421). Abby Davis, listed as a Homedale entrant, was second in barrel racing.

Tome Love and Frank Tobias won the wild cow milking competition with a fast time of 53.2 seconds.

Jennifer Hall was part of the local team roping championship duo, which paced the field with an outstanding 8.9-second effort.



Wild ride

Josh Tompson holds on in ranch hand bronc riding. Photo by WT Bruce Photography

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