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Wednesday, September 20, 2006

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The Owyhee Avalanche

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Silver City Road construction completed

After two months of intensive construction, the Silver City Road reopened to traffic Friday.

The Langdon Group, Inc., the

public relations firm for project engineer J-U-B Engineers, said in a press release that minimal delays will exist through this

week as construction crews finish cleanup work.

With the construction done, the trick now will be keeping

motorists safe on the new roadway to one of Owyhee County's oldest towns.

"Our main concern now is that

the road is in such good shape that the speed of motorists will be the

— to page 4A



New loading zone will enhance students' safety

Benny Schamber, a third-grader at Homedale Elementary, steps into an SUV parked in the new loading area outside the school Thursday.

School's new drop-off area seen as budding benefit

The Homedale Elementary School's new loading zone caused confusion in its first week of operation, but most agree it will be helpful and safer in the long run.

"It's plugging up a little in the afternoons," Homedale Elementary Principal Scott Freeby said Thursday. "The more people catch on, the smoother it gets. It's kind of like the airport."

The system went into operation on Sept. 11.

Freeby said the system got smoother as the week went on

— to page 5A

Retailer wants airport acreage

A new player entered the fray Wednesday night in the ongoing story of seven city-owned acres near the Homedale Airport.

Alan McRae, a Homedale resident who works for Caldwell-based The Preferred Company, presented a lease proposal for one of his real estate clients during Wednesday's first Homedale City Council meeting of the month.

The proposal is to lease 1 to 1½ of the parcel for construction of a 15,000-square-foot department

store building.

"(The client) knows what he has to offer will be a plus for Homedale," McRae said before last week's meeting. "He's interested in coming in and bringing jobs and bringing in a pretty nice store."

McRae said the store would create 10 or 20 jobs and maybe as many as 30 full- and part-time positions.

— to page 5A

State: County won't get WNV money without plan

Tolmie questions if aerial spraying would stop virus

A spokesman for Gov. Jim Risch said last week that the state still has not received a plan of attack from Owyhee County to combat West Nile Virus, and until a plan is received no 2006 disaster funds will be released.

"(Owyhee County officials) have not received any disaster assistance money from the state, nor has a plan been submitted," Risch spokesman Brad Hoaglund wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche on Thursday. "Until a

plan is agreed to and the criteria is met, it is unlikely state funding will be available."

With fall approaching, however, it all may be a moot point.

West Nile season is expected to end when mosquitoes die off with the year's first frost.

Meanwhile, county commission chairman Hal Tolmie maintained the county's strategy for the rest



Hal Tolmie

— to page 4A

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Malheur Sheriff spends resources on unreported plane crash at river's edge

Lake Owyhee area site of two wrecks this month

An unreported small plane crash in the Owyhee River earlier this month resulted in what officials called needless search operations and wasted resources for the Malheur County Sheriff's Office and Idaho Air National Guard.

Malheur County Sheriff Andrew Bentz reported last Wednesday that a single-engine Cessna 180 flown by Ray Gross of Wilder crash-landed in the Owyhee River between Rome and the Owyhee Reservoir on Sept. 2.

Reports state Gross and the plane's owner, Canyon County resident Martin Koch, left the area with help from campers, but failed to report the incident to authorities.

Malheur officials learned of the incident Sept. 9 when they received a report from recreationists in the area who had found the wreckage.

"We had to assume there were still people with the crash," Bentz said. "We were lucky in that we were able to enlist an Idaho Air National Guard helicopter to aid in locating the plane and accessing it."

Bentz said it took his deputies two days to access and investigate the crash.

"The frustrating part was that no one called it in," Bentz said.

Bentz said the crash was caused when the pilot, Gross, attempted to use an improvised runway above the Owyhee River. The plane crashed in the Owyhee River shortly after takeoff.

There were no injuries reported.

Safety investigator Tom Little handled the crash probe for the National Transportation Safety



Sheriff forced to search for wreckage of unreported plane crash

National Transportation Safety Board Investigator Tom Little said a single-engine plane crash Sept. 2 near Rome was the equivalent of a "fender bender." Photo by Malheur County Sheriff's Office.

'We had to assume there were still people with the crash.'

— Andrew Bentz
Malheur County Sheriff

Board, was assigned the crash investigation. On Thursday, Little told The Owyhee Avalanche that the crash was caused by "operational (pilot) error" and classified it as the aeronautical equivalent of a "fender bender." Little said the plane did not appear to have any mechanical issues that may have contributed to the crash.



Second plane crash in Owyhee Canyon this month

A toddler runs near the wreckage of a second plane mishap near Lake Owyhee. This crash occurred at the Pelican Point airstrip along the shore of Lake Owyhee. A single-engine Aviat A-1B owned by John Morgan of Gardnerville, Nev., crashed during landing earlier this month. No other details are available. Photo by Mark Aman

Little said his report was submitted to the Federal Aviation Administration, which will decide later if Gross will face sanctions for the crash.

Gross and Koch could not be reached for comment on the crash.

— JWB

Homedale man still in Boise hospital

Victim not coherent; police seek suspects

A 49-year-old Homedale man remains hospitalized after a beating outside a Homedale bar nearly two weeks ago.

"He is in-and-out of consciousness, but not coherent," Homedale Police Cpl. Andrew Hoagland said Friday of Douglas Grever, who was airlifted to a Boise hospital after being found beaten and unconscious in the early morning of Sept. 8.

The investigation is ongoing. Hoagland said police have a suspect in the case, but declined to reveal further information.

Grever was the victim of a beating at approximately 2 a.m. on Sept. 8. A bartender and patrons from O'Henry's Pub on West Idaho Avenue noticed two males attacking Grever on South 1st Street West. The suspects fled the area when they noticed onlookers.

"The bartender saw two persons dragging a third individual out in the road," Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said shortly after the attack.

"When the two men saw the bartender and bar patrons, they fled the scene."

Grever was bleeding from the head and unconscious when police arrived. His wounds were apparently caused by multiple punches and possibly kicks to the head.

Homedale Ambulance responded, but he was eventually transported to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center via air-ambulance. He was admitted to the intensive care unit and was still hospitalized as of Friday.

There is no evidence of any weapons involved at this time, and no motive for the attack has been released.

Anyone with information should contact the Homedale Police Department at 337-4642.

—JWB



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Melba school board passes tax increase

Superintendent:
Enrollment spike
necessitates
emergency move

The Melba School District board of trustees approved an emergency fund levy earlier this month that temporarily will raise property taxes in parts of Owyhee County.

Melba district patrons in Owyhee, Canyon and Ada counties will see a new levy amount on their December tax notices.

According to the schedule published this week by the school district, patrons will pay an additional 60 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The school board passed the measure at its Sept. 6 meeting.

The emergency levy will be in effect for only one year and will raise a slightly more than \$100,000.

Melba schools superintendent Robert Larson said no election was necessary because the increase is under the ceiling established by Idaho Code that would require a vote.

Larson said the increase became necessary when the student enrollment ballooned 7 percent in August. Melba's enrollment stands at 747, up from 696 a year ago.

"We didn't anticipate nearly 50 kids," Larson said. "We were anticipating 24 to 30."

The money generated by the emergency action will be used to finance desks, chairs, books and staff for an additional third-grade classroom, Larson said.

'We didn't
anticipate nearly
50 kids. We were
anticipating 24 to
30.'

— Robert Larson
Melba schools
superintendent

He added that Melba already had added a first-grade and kindergarten class for the 2006-07 school year.

The levy also will help provide additional staffing and educational supplies at the middle school and high school levels.

The emergency levy isn't related to the three failed attempts to extend the district plant facilities levy, and Larson said the district still wasn't sure what direction it would take on that front.

Larson also reported last week that taxpayers will see an overall lower bill in the wake of the property tax reform passed in a special session of the Idaho Legislature on Aug. 25.

The property tax reform legislation raised the homeowners exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000 and eliminated the statewide levy for school maintenance and operations.

The superintendent said that without the property tax reform measure the rate within the Melba district would have been about \$8 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Melba patrons will pay a combined rate of about \$5.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

— JPB

Commissioners deny Silver City Fire and Rescue billing request

Owyhee County Commissioners denied Silver City Fire and Rescue's (SCF&R) request for the ability to bill non-subscribers for emergency services at a meeting earlier this month.

Under the proposed plan, Silver City community residents would have had the option to subscribe to fire/rescue/EMS services for a membership fee of \$100 per year. SCF&R still will respond and perform fire/rescue services to non-subscribers, but the all-volunteer organization had asked for the right to bill for services.

"Our biggest concern was for EMS response," SCF&R representative Jim Hyslop said. "The \$100-per-year covers our essential operating expenses, such as gasoline, insurance and EMS supplies like oxygen."

Much of the expenses for these

items come from private donations or even out of volunteers' pockets if no other funding is available, Hyslop said.

"Last year, we had two private \$500 donations and one \$15,000 donation from Cleo Swayne," Hyslop said. The \$15,000 donation was used to buy a retired military fire engine, he said.

Hyslop said most of the firefighting equipment his agency owns has been donated from other agencies from around the valley.

Hyslop said for now the agency will continue to ask for donations and can ask for "voluntary payments" from non-subscribers.

Hyslop said there are a few community members who choose to opt out of fire/rescue services, and have sent letters to SCF&R requesting no fire services be

provided to their residences. Hyslop said those requests will be honored, but added that in an emergency no one will be denied service if it is requested, even if they have previously opted from services.

Owyhee County Commissioner Chris Salove said commissioners denied the request strictly based upon testimony from a public hearing on SCF&R's request. Salove cited "2-to-1" public opposition to allowing SCF&R to bill for services.

"It is up to the people of Silver City to convince us (commissioners) it is a good thing," Salove said.

The Owyhee Avalanche's attempts to contact residents opposed to the plan were unsuccessful.

— JWB

Homedale man accused of child molestation

A Homedale man was in custody last week after being arrested on child molestation charges.

Jose Neri Cortez, 51, of Homedale was arrested Wednesday and charged with molesting a juvenile under 16. Homedale Police didn't release further case details, including the victim's name or whereabouts.

Cortez was booked into Owyhee County Jail on a \$15,000 bond and was still in custody as of Friday. He is scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing Monday.

— JWB



Jose Neri Cortez

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From page 1

West Nile

of the 2006 season is ground spraying around schools. He said last week that — unlike neighboring counties — Owyhee has no plans for aerial spraying to kill adult mosquitoes that may be carrying the West Nile Virus.

Although the state says no Owyhee County plan has been received, Salove said a document detailing the county's schools spraying strategy was submitted at the commission's meeting last week.

"This past Monday (Sept. 11), we received a half-page statement that I guess came from (county disaster coordinator) Larry Howard because it was unsigned," Salove said.

School district employees in Homedale and Marsing already

sprayed school grounds in both cities before the county announced its plan. School superintendents Tim Rosandick (Homedale) and Harold Shockley (Marsing) have said they will seek reimbursement, and Salove said Friday that the county would repay costs if state monies were authorized for that purpose.

Tolmie said last week that county funds for pest abatement were depleted by the May authorization of \$6,000 for gopher bounties.

"Owyhee County doesn't have money in the budget," Tolmie said.

Canyon, Elmore and Ada counties have used state disaster funding to finance aerial spraying to kill adult mosquitoes, but Tolmie said Owyhee County has no plans for aerial spraying.

"Where should we start spraying?" Tolmie asked

rhetorically in response to the aerial spraying issue.

The county's representative on the Southwest District Health board of directors, Tolmie said the county doesn't have a plan of where to start spraying even if officials wanted to.

"It's kind of like fighting a fight with both hands tied behind your back," Tolmie said of the lack of a spraying plan.

"Yeah, it would kill mosquitoes, but it wouldn't stop West Nile Virus," Tolmie said.

As of Friday, there were 26 confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus in Owyhee County, 4 of which are considered the serious neuroinvasive form of the disease, according Southwest District Health statistics.

Tolmie said the matter would be a "priority" next spring.

—JWB

Road

cause of accidents," Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman wrote in an e-mail last week.

Aman said signs with the posted speed limit of 20 mph will be installed, and the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office will use radar and other speed enforcement methods to ensure the posted limit is obeyed.

Theuson Construction of Nampa completed the \$700,000 reconstruction project nearly two weeks early and just in time for the annual Silver City Open House, which was held during the weekend.

"The county is very pleased with


the work done by the construction company and all involved," Aman said.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the return to normalcy on the mountain road will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at Sinker Creek, the point where the project was started.

Theuson began resurfacing the gravel roadway and replacing culvert pipe in mid-July, more than seven months after heavy rains and the flooding of Scotch Bob Creek had made the road impassable.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency funded the project, which included resurfacing about 4 miles of road and replacing 850 feet of culvert pipe.

'Our main concern now is that the road is in such good shape that the speed of motorists will be the cause of accidents.'



— Gary Aman
Owyhee County Sheriff



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Correction

Homedale High School football quarterback Trevor Krzesnik's statistics were reported incorrectly in The Owyhee Avalanche's Sept. 13 article detailing the Trojans' 28-20 victory over New Plymouth. Krzesnik threw just one interception.

The Owyhee Avalanche

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From page 1

✓ School

and parents became more familiar with the new system.

“Traffic is more predictable. It brought order to the traffic lanes,” Freeby said. “Before it was a free-for-all.”

Freeby said not all feedback has been positive about the new system. A few parents have expressed frustration over the changes because it is different from what they are used to, but nothing specific has been brought to his attention.

Niki Hopson of Homedale arrived to pick up her daughter, Cheyenne, a kindergartner at the elementary. But rather than wait in her vehicle in front of the school, she parked nearly a block away and walked.

“There’s no parking near the school,” Hopson said. Hopson added that, overall, the system is a good thing because she no longer has to worry about children running into cars.

Last spring, 7-year-old Govany Castilleja of Homedale suffered leg injuries when he was hit by a van drive by Alicia Contreras-Mirada, 39, of Adrian, Ore., as he was crossing Washington Avenue to get to his mother’s car.

Not every parent was pleased with the entire system, however.

“It’s a pain in the butt,” Raycal



Sorter of Homedale said after picking up her daughter, Ashlyn, a kindergartner.

Sorter said one of the problems is that the center lane is difficult to pull into when traffic is heavy. Sorter said she liked the loading lane (nearest the school), but not

No more traffic free-for-all at Homedale Elementary

A new pick-up/drop-off area for Homedale Elementary Students went into effect last week. While the system caused some confusion initially, officials said that by the end of the week parents and students had adjusted to the new lanes. Most agreed that the system will be safer for students.

the center lane.

She said the most difficult thing about it is when drivers stop in lanes other than the designated loading lane.

Sorter, who lives less than a block from the school, said she was “thrilled” about the

crosswalk. She added that the system is safer for students, in spite of the confusion it caused initially.

Homedale School Resource Officer Michelle Babcock said Friday that the new arrangement was “a little confusing” for parents

at first, but they were quickly become familiar with it.

Babcock said the school district plan to distribute flyers in the mail further explaining the new system.

— JWB

✓ Acreage

He declined to name the department store, but said it was a regional operation with outlets in neighboring towns, including Caldwell. During the meeting, he told councilmen that the company has been in operation since 1915 and has stores in six states.

Burley-based Kings Department Store was founded by F.H. King in 1915 and has stores in six states, including locations in Caldwell and Nampa. But neither McRae nor Homedale Mayor Paul Fink would confirm that Kings was the store in question.

“This is something that’s beneficial to the city,” councilman Steve Schultz said. “I think it’s a great opportunity.”

McRae said that he also is in contact with a Treasure Valley doctor who had expressed interest in erecting a medical arts building adjacent to the department store. But McRae said the second client’s proposal to lease one or two acres is contingent on the arrival of the department store.

McRae presented a proposal to lease the 1 to 1½ acres for the department store at terms of about \$136 per month for 50 years, and he said the medical building lease would be comparable. He added that the department store

building could be valued at about \$700,000, bringing property tax revenue to the city.

Fink said Dave Holton’s original plan to lease the land to relocate Snake River Lumber included a \$750,000 building that would have generated about \$126,000 in property tax revenues over a 25-year lease. Conceivably, the department store would bring twice as much money in tax receipts over 50 years.

“I live in Homedale and I sell real estate, so it’s obviously a big thing for me to see what goes on in the community,” McRae said. “Obviously, I think it’s the best thing for the city.”

“I’m trying to do what is best for everybody with a proposal of this nature.”

A local group, including Homedale businessmen Ben Badiola and Dennis Pruett and Caldwell resident John Badiola, has expressed interest to lease the full seven acres for \$800 a month for 25 years — about \$114 monthly per acre. Part of the group’s plan is to build a car wash.

Ben Badiola was in North Idaho and didn’t attend last week’s city council meeting, but Badiola’s wife, Lori, said the couple made contact with Fink on Sept. 11 to see if the 7-acre parcel would be on the council meeting agenda.

“I called Paul on Monday afternoon (Sept. 11) and asked him if there was going to be anything on the agenda, and Paul said, ‘No,’ “ Lori Badiola said.

Homedale resident Teresa Ryska said she attended Wednesday’s meeting in the interest of the Badiolas when it was learned McRae’s proposal would be on the agenda.

Ryska spoke up when Fink asked the council for a vote on considering the department store proposal.

Ryska contended the council couldn’t entertain the proposal for the 1-plus-acre subdivision because councilmembers agreed during their Aug. 24 meeting to meet with Badiola on any developments.

But the council unanimously decided to move forward with the department store angle. Fink said he would contact Badiola before the Sept. 28 council meeting, at which time the next step of the latest lease plan is expected to be taken.

“I would just like to find out and get some idea of what (Badiola is) going to do out there,” Fink said after the meeting. “I want a commitment of a time span.”

“Lay out a plan, and don’t just say you’re going to put a car wash in,” Fink said later. “Where do you want to put the car wash?

What kind of car wash?

“Car washes don’t employ that many people. I think we need a car wash. I’m not saying that they don’t have good ideas. I’m saying, ‘Let’s talk.’ ”

Lori Badiola said her husband and partners now are playing a waiting game.

“We’re waiting for the city’s next move,” she said.

McRae said his client is a latecomer to the proceedings but has monitored how the saga unfolded.

Four groups, including Homedale businessman Dirk Tolmie, Eagle developer Steve Thomas, Holton and Badiola’s consortium, had submitted lease proposals by a supposed May 25 deadline.

Saying, “Nobody is interested,” Fink told The Owyhee Avalanche last week that the city continued to seek offers after the deadline, including possibly putting the property listing on the Internet.

“I’ve maintained all along we’re not going to sit on the property,” Fink said.

McRae said that a variable in the department store’s arrival is whether or not a frontage road along U.S. Highway 95 will be built.

“If we can create jobs, it gives us the right to go in for a (Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor) grant for industry,” Fink said in response to the frontage road issue.

At a recent council meeting, Badiola presented as part of his idea for the area a plan to build a frontage road connecting Industrial Road and Airport Road. The street would bisect several parcels of land owned by Badiola and Pruett.

McRae said the department store chain would move quickly if given the green light, telling the council that concrete for the outlet could be poured within 30 days of a deal being struck.

“I think it was pretty good,” McRae said of the council’s reception of the proposal. “They seem to be positive. They reacted the way I hoped they would.”

— JPB

Read all about it in the Avalanche!

Your finances Research items you sell to ensure you get fair value

Dear Dave,

When people are trying to get out of debt, you advise them to sell stuff. Could you elaborate on the “dos” and “don’ts” of selling stuff? How do you avoid getting ripped off, especially if you’re selling items that are somewhat valuable?

— Laura

Dear Laura,

First, be professional. If you have an item someone wants, make sure they understand you want to sell it but that you’ll keep the item if you don’t get a fair price. Make up your mind what you’ll take for a particular item before any negotiations take place.

If we’re talking about REALLY valuable items here, I’d advise getting it appraised so that you can show potential buyers what it’s really worth. The more information you have, the more likely you are to make a sale.

Once you have all this firmly in place, then use your local newspaper’s classified ads or even the Internet to make your stuff available to the public. Good luck!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My two personal cars are paid for, but I have debt on the car I use strictly for business. My company reimburses me for the cost of the car. Am I way off-base as looking at this as a business tool and that the debt does not impact my income and savings abilities?

— Andrew

Dear Andrew,

This kind of thinking is normal, but I disagree with the notion that it doesn’t impact you.

Even if you’re reimbursed, you’ve lost the use of that money. If you didn’t have the debt, you’d have extra money in your pocket that you could save and make work for you. That’s the biggest thing debt does. It acts like an acid that eats away at our largest wealth-building tool — our income.

I know some companies require employees who drive a lot to have a new or practically new car. But I’d still recommend driving



a paid-for car to minimize the damage done to your finances.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I have my own medical practice, but I’m in a lot of debt and the practice doesn’t seem to be working out. I took out a large loan, and I just can’t seem to stay current on the payments. Should I file bankruptcy?

— John

Dear John,

You went to school to be a doctor, which is an admirable thing. But now you’re also a businessman, so you need to know how to run your interest profitably.

Chances are that you’re not bankrupt. It sounds to me like you started a business without having a realistic business plan in place. Talk to your lender and let them know what your situation is like right now. They may be willing to work with you on a plan that would give you a little bit of breathing room.

You might also look into the possibility of hiring a business manager. This would require paying someone an additional salary, but you’d be assured that the business side of things is being run properly.

But don’t file bankruptcy, John. It’s a stressful and emotionally damaging process. You’re doing what you love and what you were called to do. The trick is to free up the money that will allow you to continue doing this great work.

— 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. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write *Dave Says*, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

Labor Day the lightning really hit the country, starting four fires. The BLM did a good job putting them out. A fire broke out on Tuesday over on Deer Creek and the smoke jumpers put it out.

Kathy Jones trailered her horse from Cherry Creek to Grassy Hill at 11:30 at night to help her brother move his cattle from the fire.

When Harlan Mink and Bob Tayler dug a hole for a new cattle guard between the Gus Brackett and Kip Gould Ranch they also dug up six rattlesnakes.

Kip Gould and son Wyatt just lately came back from a tour of Alaska.

J.R. Robinson is spending 10 days at Nampa. He is helping work 7,000 head of cattle for a cow cutting jamboree they are having there. The same cow is never to be cut twice. Cattle cutters are there from many states.

Chuck Dustin Smith, 28, was killed in an ATV accident Sunday, Sept. 3, 2006, in Jarbidge, Nev. He was born May 6, 1978 in Elko, Nev., to Penny Ann Smith and Charles Tilt Gibson. He attended school in Three Creek when his mom was married to Neil Row. He graduated from Castleford High School. He recently was employed by Barrick Strike Mine in Nevada. He married Jennifer Pletecha on April 15, 2005. He is survived by his grandmother, Elva Smith, mother, Penny Row, father Chuck (Bonnie) Gibson, wife Jen Smith, daughter Kaitin, sisters Shilo (Rafael) Ruiz, Tawny (Erwin) Pirtle and Codi (Greg) Sherman, Heide, Cheri and Jenny Gibson, brothers Chaz

(Kim) Gibson, Jason and Jami Gibson. A remembrance was held Sept. 8, 2006, at Eastman Park in Buhl.

Kathy Jones lost her mother. Virginia Mae Keith Jones of Castleford passed away Aug. 12, 2006, at her home after a lingering illness. She was born on Nov. 6, 1929, to George and Virginia King Keith near Castleford. Virginia graduated from Castleford High School. She married Robert C. Jones on Feb. 28, 1949. They have farmed and lived on the family farm ever since. She is survived by her husband, Bob Jones, children Ron (Susie) Jones, Sharon (Kip) Gould, Neva (Mike) Lewis, all of Buhl, and Kathy Jones of Three Creek, brother-in-law Fred Jones of Buhl and sister-in-law Jeanie Keith and many grandchildren.

Although I haven’t got to go on an interesting Alaskan cruise like Owyhee Avalanche columnist Wayne Cornell, I have had some fun excursions. Last month, I went with Wilma Jewett Homan, her son, Phil and his friend, Vicki Wulf, from Buffalo, N.Y., on a tour of the South Hills. We first

went to the old Stricker Stage Stop on Rock Creek, then up Rock Creek to the ski lift. When we topped out there, it felt like we were on top of the world. We then took a road back to Rogerson. We went to the ranch on Big Creek where Wilma, her husband Pete and little 2-year-old daughter were snowbound for three months the winter of 1948-49. Food was dropped to them from a plane. The snow was some above the window sills, and Wilma said some porcupines would lay on the snow to get warmth through the window.

We went on over to Three Creek to my home and down to Crawfish Spring where Wilma was raised. Since Vicki was from New York, we hoped to see some wildlife. We lucked out as a little chipmunk shared Phil’s lunch on Rock Creek, in the Shoshone Basin we saw two coyotes, a sage hen, bluebird and Kingfisher and a hole herd of antelope on Big Creek ranch and a ground hog that Vicki called a marmot. (Probably the proper name).

On Flat Creek, we saw sand hill cranes and jack rabbits near Lily grade.



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The Owyhee Avalanche
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Calendar

Thursday

Exercise class, 11 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020
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.

Friday

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

Saturday

Owyhee County Historical Society Fall Country Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., McKeeth Hall, 17085 Basey Street, Murphy. (208) 495-2319
Body of Worship music festival, free admission, food to be sold, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.,

Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Homedale. (208) 896-4808 or (208) 482-7559

Sunday

Owyhee County Historical Society Fall Country Market, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., McKeeth Hall, 17085 Basey Street, Murphy. (208) 495-2319

Tuesday

Exercise class, 11 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020
Storytime for first- through third-graders, 4:20 p.m., Lizard Butte Public Library, Owyhee Plaza, 105 Main Street, Marsing. (208) 896-4690
Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m. (208) 880-8962
Let's Talk About It discussion program, Lewis & Clark Among the Indians, free, 7 p.m., Eastern Owyhee County Public Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785
AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.
Wednesday, Sept. 27
Christian Life Club initial meeting, after school, Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. Highway 95. (208)

337-3464

Thursday, Sept. 28

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.

Friday, Sept. 29

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

Friday, Oct. 6

ION Museum fund-raiser yard sale preview, 508 Swisher Ave., Jordan Valley. (541) 586-2460 or (541) 586-2818

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@cablone.net.

Murphy man arrested after firing shot

Clint Fuquay, a 19-year-old Murphy resident, was arrested by Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies last week after an argument. Fuquay allegedly fired a shot from rifle or shotgun during an argument with his girlfriend on Castle Lane near Murphy.



Clint Fuquay

No one was injured during the melee, but Fuquay was arrested for disturbing the peace and booked into the Owyhee County Jail. Fuquay later was released on a \$300 bond.

— JWB

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Family Farm Days & Music Jamboree

Brought to you by: Vision Community Church

September 22nd—24th, 2006

FRIDAY— 6:00 PM

- *FREE ICE CREAM SOCIAL
- * AUCTION PREVIEW
- * LIVE MUSIC



SATURDAY— 10:00 AM

*LIVE MUSIC

* OLD FASHIONED CARNIVAL GAMES

- Mule Cart Rides, Petting Zoo, Dunk Tank, Jumping Castle
- * GIANT YARD SALE AND FLEA MARKET
- * PIG BBQ \$1.00 per plate— 5:00 PM
- * LIVE AUCTION —6:00 PM



SUNDAY —9:00 AM

- * FREE PANCAKE BREAKFAST —9:00 AM
- * OPEN AIR SUNDAY SERVICE — 10:00 AM
- * LIVE MUSIC, OLD FASHIONED CARNIVAL GAMES
- Mule Cart Rides, Petting Zoo, Dunk Tank, Jumping Castle
- * GIANT YARD SALE AND FLEA MARKET



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AUCTION (6th annual)

Saturday, September 23, 2006

6:00 pm

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2 full size truck tool boxes (one diamond plated)
1 economy size truck tool boxes (diamond plate)

80"x100" Stepping Stone Quilt (red & white)
Vision Community Church Children's Quilt
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3 Bible verse swords
Wooden Doll House
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1 Lilliput Lane Figurine Title: "PEN PALS" (valued at \$250.00)
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Family Farm Days & Music Jamboree

Brought to you by: Vision Community Church

Information sought in Marsing vandalism

Damage to excavator costs South Board money, time; reward posted

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office is investigating the vandalism of irrigation construction equipment on Idaho highway 78 near Marsing High School on Sept. 6.

A \$300 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons responsible for vandalizing a Caterpillar excavator owned by the Owyhee Project South Board of Control.

"We lost two days of work on a project cleaning an irrigation drain for farms in the area," Rex Barrie from the South Board of Control said a week after the incident.

"Money talks," Barrie said of the reward. "Someone will get hungry enough for it."

Barrie said the total loss, including damages and lost time on the project, was valued at about \$1,700.

Vandals broke windows out of the excavator between 3:30 p.m.

and 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 6.

Barrie said the rig has been repaired and workers were able to resume the project.

The South Board of Control is part of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Marsing/Ridgeview district. Its responsibilities include keeping irrigation waterways open to provide water to farms in the area.

"Somebody knows who did this. It happened in the middle of the day, right after school let out," Owyhee County Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Bish said. "Hopefully someone will come forward with information to claim the reward."

Anyone with information on the case can call Bish at the sheriff's office at (208) 337-4222 or (208) 495-1119

— JWB

Church after-school program starts

Homedale Friends Community Church's after-school program, the Christian Life Club (CLC), begins today.

The free program runs from 3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. each Wednesday at the church on U.S. Highway 95, two miles north of Homedale.

All children from kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome. Transportation is provided to and from Homedale Elementary School, and schoolchildren should meet by the east entrance of the school by 3:10 p.m.

The children will return to the school at 5 p.m.

Snacks are provided and games are played. Children also learn memory verses and listen to Bible stories.

For information, call the church at 337-3464 or Mary Sonke at 337-4757.

Marsing students selling calendars again

Fifth-graders at Marsing Elementary School have kicked off the annual community calendar fund-raiser.

Calendars cost \$10, and each purchase entitles the buyer to eight listings in the fourth annual calendar.

Listings in the 12-month calendar can include birthdays and other milestones. The 2007 calendars will be distributed in December.

Advertisements at the bottom of the calendar are available for businesses to purchase.

A \$35 ad includes eight listings in the calendar.

For more information, call Angie at (208) 896-4111, ext. 497.



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Reserve spot for museum luau fund-raiser

It's an event that has become as popular as the islands that it honors, and organizers are compensating by urging reservations for the fourth annual Aloha from the Owyhees.

The luau, a fund-raiser for the Owyhee County Historical Museum's building fund, will be held Oct. 1 in Murphy.

The festivities begin at 5 p.m. with a social hour at the Owyhee County Historical Museum complex at 17085 Basey Street in Murphy.

Organizer Debra Lindner said last year's event attracted a standing-room only crowd, so it's imperative that reservations are made. Save a spot in this year's event or get more information by calling (208) 495-2319 or (208) 495-2809.

"We were sold-out and overbooked before we knew it last year," Lindner said in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

The price of the luau and dinner show is \$30 per person.

The evening pays tribute to the cultures of the South Pacific, which is the region from which the Hawaiian fur trappers for whom the Owyhee region is named hailed. A group of Hawaiian fur trappers became lost and died in the mountains that would eventually carry their name, the Owyhees.

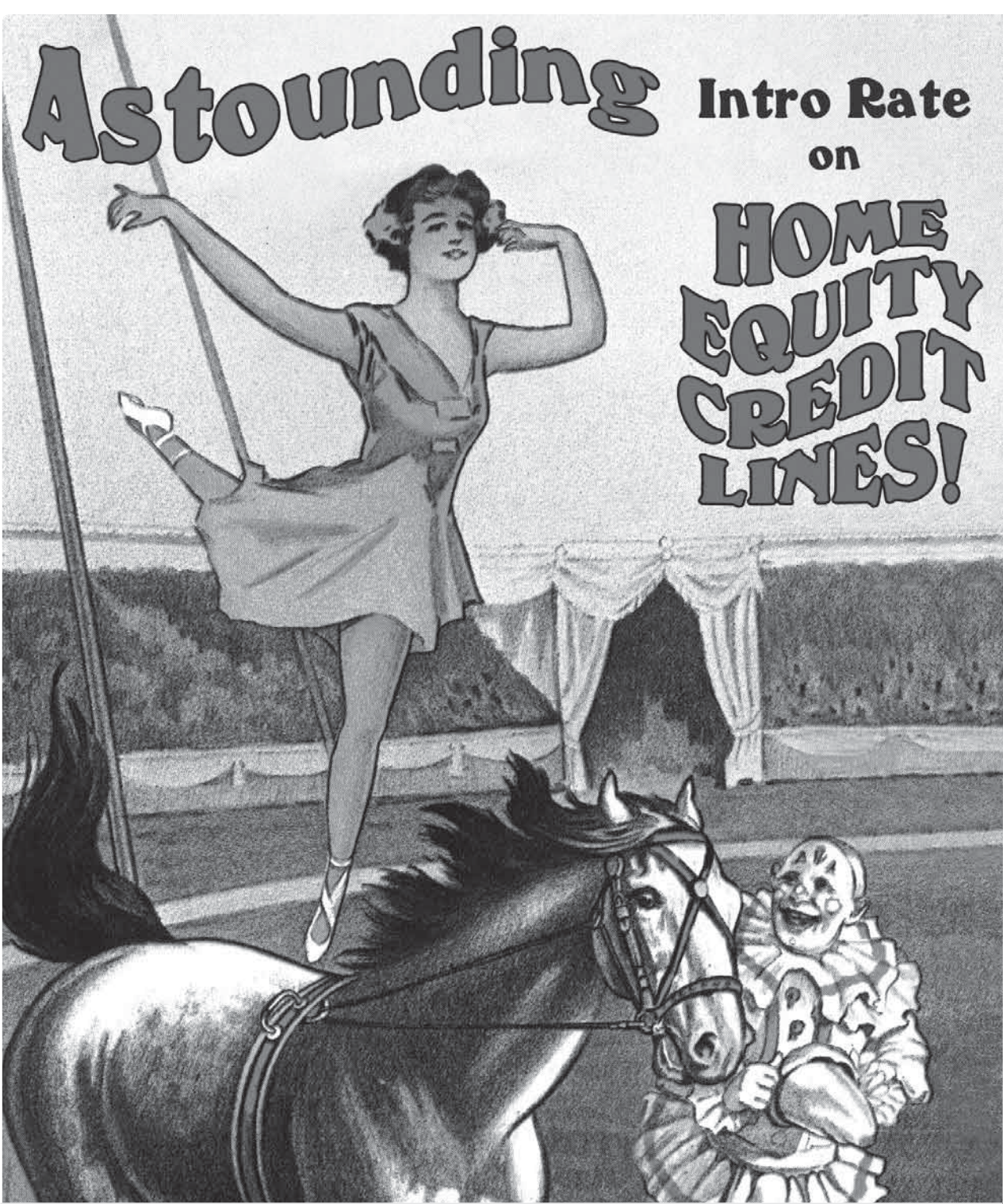
Museum holds its fall market

The Owyhee County Historical Society's third annual Fall Country Market is planned for Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24, in Murphy.

The market, which is held to raise community awareness and funds for the Owyhee County Historical Museum, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day in McKeeth Hall inside the county museum and library complex. The complex is located at 17085 Basey Street in Murphy.

The market features jewelry, arts and crafts, books, food, Western and Native American items and a tour of the museum.

For more information, e-mail info@owyheemuseum.org or call the museum at (208) 495-2319.




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Anniversary

Wedding anniversary brings Kiester family together for reunion

More than 60 descendants of Marsing homesteaders Charlie and Ella Kiester gathered in Marsing City Park on Aug. 26, 2006, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Rev. Russell and Edith Kiester of Cuba, N.M.

Six of the surviving children of Charlie and Ella attended the event with their spouses, including Russell and Edith; Dick and Ida Kiester of Marsing; Evelyn Cummings of Caldwell; Bonnie and Bob Scheuffele of Nampa; Chuck and Doris Vaughn of Buhl; and Don and Sharon Sheets of Middleton.

Ruby Kiester of Marsing, the widow of Howard Kiester, also attended.

Charlie and Ella Kiester homesteaded their property south of Marsing in 1938.



Edith and Russell Kiester

The property had been granted to Charlie for his service in World War I.

Many family members still live in and around the Marsing area.

Head Start sponsors free meals program

The Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP) Head Start sponsors the U.S. Department of Agriculture Child and Adult Care Food Program, through which Marsing and Homedale children from families that meet income eligibility guidelines can receive free meals.

Marsing families are served by the Marsing Head Start at 120 3rd Ave. W., in Marsing.

Homedale and Wilder families are served by Wilder Head Start at 305 Avenue A in Wilder.

For more information, call the Marsing Head Start at 896-6041 or the Wilder Head Start at 482-7223.

U of I sets class for Jr. gardener instructors

The University of Idaho Extension will offer a Junior Master Gardener facilitator certification course this fall at its Canyon County office at 501 Main St. in Caldwell.

The course is ideal for teachers, scout leaders, church groups or anyone interested in helping teacher children about gardening.

The registration deadline is Sept. 29, and class size is limited to 15 students per session.

Classes will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Oct. 4 and continuing through Nov. 8.

For additional information, contact Tina Platt or Sally Hansen at (208) 459-6003.

To learn more about the Junior Master Gardener program visit www.jmgkids.org.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Sept.. 21: Spaghetti or hot pocket, French bread, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 22: Hot ham & cheese or cold turkey sandwich, yogurt, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 25: Early release. Beef weiner wrap or chicken pot pie, mac & cheese, green beans, rice krispie treat, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 26: Beef or chicken taco w/lettuce, cheese, tomatoes, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 27: Chicken patty or rib-b-que/bun, potato wedges, applesauce cake, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

Sept.. 21: Lasagna or hot pocket, break stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 22: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 25: Early release. Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 26: Fish nuggets or corn dog, rice, brownie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 27: Crispito or tst. cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

Sept.. 21: Chicken patty or hamburger/bun, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 22: Chicken taco or French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 25: Early release. Pizza, nacho bar or chef's salad, dessert, milk.

Sept.. 26: Chicken nuggets or egg roll, rice, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept.. 27: Idaho haystack or burrito, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Bruneau

Sept.. 21: Baked ham, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, roll/butter, apple crisp, milk.

Sept.. 22: Burritos, Spanish rice, corn, fruit, milk.

Sept.. 25: No school.

Sept.. 26: Weiner wraps, fries, apples, bar cookie, milk.

Sept.. 27: Spaghetti, salad/croutons, garlic bread, peaches, milk.

Senior news

Homedale center

Sept. 21: Salisbury steak, broccoli & cauliflower, mashed potatoes, roll, milk.

Sept. 26: Spaghetti, sausage, tossed salad, roll, milk.

Sept. 27: Beef stew, roll, milk.

Sept. 28: Chicken chow mein, fried rice, stir fried veggies, milk.

Marsing center

Sept. 21: Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, carrot salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Sept. 25: Liver & onions or beef tips & rice, mixed veggies, salads, dessert, drink.

Sept. 26: Roast turkey, dressing, potatoes/gravy, peas & carrots, cranberry salad, dessert, drink.

Sept. 27: Spaghetti, green beans, tossed salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Sept. 28: Sliced ham w/raisin sauce, rice, broccoli, biscuits, salad, dessert, drink.

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Read all about it

in

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Homedale council approves Santa Fe subdivision

The Homedale City Council gave developers in the proposed Santa Fe subdivision the green light last Tuesday with a unanimous vote to rezone the property for residential use.

The council heard from Ron Mayhew and Brad Condie, owners of BR Maier Properties, LLC, a development company from Eagle.

Mayhew expected home construction to begin in early October, pending final approval of the full project by engineer, Fred Ostler. Mayhew expects the project will create 80 full-time jobs, lasting approximately one year.

The proposed 45-home subdivision will be located on Railroad Avenue. The developers bought the old railroad property in March with intentions of building a new residential subdivision, which they say will improve the

appearance of the area. A 46th lot fronting Idaho Avenue will remain commercially zoned.

“We’ve had positive feedback, so we’ve continued on this project,” Mayhew said. “(Homedale) community leaders make this a fun place to work.”

Mayhew said he hopes to help “beautify” Homedale to maintain a small-town feel.

“We all live in Eagle. We love Homedale and the community. The leaders are just great people. We’d like to take out eyesores like that junkyard (on the east end of town) and beautify the city,” Mayhew said.

Although no plans for the former Homedale Auto Recyclers site at the entrance of town on Idaho Avenue were discussed at the hearing, Mayhew is involved with the Homedale Plaza LLC group that has purchased the

property. He previously has stated that there are plans to locate a “national chain-type” motel on the site. Mayhew said demolition of the existing buildings on the property is planned for the near future.

“Our vision is to be the catalyst for the leaders of the city; to help it grow in the way the community would like,” Mayhew said in a previous interview with The Owyhee Avalanche. “(The Eagle developers) have the money, resources, inner desire, and we’re all guys with high integrity.”

Mayhew said existing Homedale residents will benefit from civic improvements planned with the new subdivisions, including:

- Plans to cover the irrigation ditch near the subdivision and create a “greenbelt” area.
- Sprinklers and grass seeding for right-of-way near the subdivision.

- Donate South 4th Street West to the city.

- Donate parking lot to Bible Missionary Church at the corner of West Idaho Avenue and South 4th Street West.

- Rebuild Utah Street.
- Offer 20 percent matching funds if the city can acquire grant money to complete paving and install curbs, gutters and sidewalks on the Santa Fe subdivision side of Railroad Avenue.

Mayhew said the new subdivision will be limited to single-family residences and will have covenants to preserve the community’s image. Provisions include required fencing, required lawns and sprinklers, limitation on number of pets and architectural review prior to building.

Mayhew said the covenants will “prevent extreme abuse of neighbors.”

Proposed features of the Santa Fe Subdivision include:

- Sidewalks on both sides of streets
- Walking paths to connect cul-de-sacs
- Old irrigation lines rerouted and replaced
- Improved image of city center
- City water/sewer revenue will increase approximately \$16,000/year, with no significant added costs.

Mayhew said the builder for the project has not yet been chosen, but said his company is going to interview three to four “good-quality builders.”

“My hope will be that professional people will come to Homedale. I believe this will fill that (housing requirements),” Mayor Paul Fink said.

— JWB

Parents take active role in kids’ reading

Nothing makes JoAnn Thomas happier than to see a child reading a book.

For the past five years, Thomas has helped instill a love for reading as coordinator of Marsing Elementary School’s Parents as Reading Partners program.

“The satisfaction is that they’re reading,” Thomas said of the children who take advantage of the 7-year-old program.

Parents as Reading Partners encourages children in kindergarten through the fifth grade to read 15 minutes every day. With the supervision of their parents, if a child reads 15 minutes a day for 20 days out of the month, they’ll receive a free book.

“The parents think it’s wonderful because there are kids that don’t get books unless it’s through something like that,” she said.

Thomas’ program doesn’t receive any funding from the Marsing School District, but it still has thrived. The 16-year teachers aide at Marsing Elementary said she gave away 1,400 books during the seventh-month run of the program during the 2005-06 school year. Children receive certificates for completing the reading goals for five of the seven months. Those who meet the goals every month of the program receive special recognition and become eligible for a drawing for a special prize.

“Parents as Partners is another way we can support reading,” Marsing Elementary School principal Lil Stewart said. “It fits in really well with our comprehensive reading plan and reading instruction.”

Each child who takes advantage of the program takes home a book and a calendar to keep track of the time spent reading with Mom and Dad each night.

“Parents are students’ first



Program cites Marsing’s reading stars

Parents as Reading Partners coordinator JoAnn Thomas is surrounded by many of the Marsing Elementary School students who take advantage of the program. Front row, from left to right, Logan Stansell, a 5-year-old kindergartener and second-grader LeAnn, 7. Back row, from left to right, Audra Kendall, 9, fourth grade; Casey Yiengst, 9, fourth grade; Raul Garcia, 10, fifth grade; Tyler Malmberg, 10, fifth grade; and Courtney Hodges, 9, fourth grade.

teachers and their most influential teachers,” Stewart said.

Thomas buys the books from the long-established Scholastic publishing company. Volumes from the firm’s Collections series of books are given to kindergarteners and first-graders. Children in the fourth and fifth grade earn books from collections such as Harry Potter or Goosebumps or the Babysitter

Club, Thomas said. Mysteries, books on special interests such as horses and educational books also turn up as rewards.

“Over half the school is taking advantage of it,” Thomas said. “It makes a difference because they read.”

While no school funds are used for Parents as Partners, Thomas said several local businesses and the City of Marsing provide big

Marsing plans its Homecoming

Marsing High School’s Homecoming festivities are in full swing this week.

Participants in the Homecoming parade will march through town at approximately 1:45 p.m. on Friday, and the Homecoming football game will be held at 7 p.m.

The Marsing football team plays new 2A Western Idaho Conference member Cole Valley Christian from Boise.

This year’s Homecoming King candidates are Manny Herrera, Miguel Quebrado, Johnathan Cossel, Aaron Salvias and Shea McCellin.

Queen candidates are Kortni Scott, Jessica Elsberry, Cristina Cuevas, Taryn Chenoweth and Samantha Wilson.

Marsing also welcomes back the Class of 1996 this weekend for its 10-year reunion.

For more information, contact Marsing High School at (208) 896-4112.

— JPB




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Teacher’s varied interests keep students riveted



Drama club prepares for winter show

Brenda Paxton appears to be a busy person at Homedale High School, but that hasn’t stopped her from adding a little drama to her life.

In addition to her full-time gig as a Economics, Psychology, Speech and Humanities teacher at the school, Paxton serves as advisor for the Drama Club.

“Drama is my extra-curricular activity,” Paxton said. “They had (a club) some years before, and I reinstated it.”

There are about 20 students in the Drama Club this year, and they’re gearing up for a Dec. 7-9 presentation of the Clumsy Custard Horror Show.

Paxton said tryouts have been held, and plans were to work on the set and decorations Saturday before beginning rehearsals in the next week or two.

“The whole play is on extra-curricular time, but the kids are pretty motivated,” Paxton said.

Performances will be held at 7 p.m. each day during the December run.

The play will be presented in the old junior high school gymnasium on the high school campus.



Paxton hailed as top-notch teacher
Top: Homedale High School teacher Brenda Paxton, left, discusses an assignment with sophomore Ashli Kesler during a computer lab last week. Above: Paxton goes over some items at the start of class.

Paxton earns Homedale district’s monthly award for high school work

Variety apparently keeps Brenda Paxton going in her education career.

A nine-year veteran of classrooms at Homedale High School, Paxton teaches a cornucopia of subjects during her average workday.

“We’ve got great kids here, and teaching them is fun,” Paxton said. “These kids make me laugh every single day. It’s just a lot of fun.”

But whether she’s teaching a class on economics, speech, psychology or humanities, Paxton makes sure things stay interesting for her students. When the school day is done, she keeps busy as the advisor for the high school Drama Club.

Paxton earned the school year’s first Homedale School District Award of Excellence honor last week.

High school principal Mike Williams nominated Paxton for the award, and she received it in an unexpected presentation at the Sept. 11 school board meeting at the district office.

“It was a huge surprise,” said Paxton, who attended the meeting with her husband and children.

Paxton said her husband caught her off-guard at home after the school day when he said she was supposed to be at the school board meeting later that night.

“I was totally set up for that thing,” she said.

“I did not understand it until Mike started talking. I thought I was going to have to talk about ISATs or the school improvement plan.”

Instead, Paxton listened as Williams told the trustees about the impact Paxton has made at the school.

“Each of us in his own life can remember a teacher who made the subject ‘come alive,’ who entered our lives and minds with an enthusiasm for the subject, learning and life,” Williams wrote in a memo that he later read at the meeting.

“She’s really fun,” Homedale sophomore Ashli Kesler said of her teacher. “She’s not boring, and she’s always keeping us busy.”

Paxton has a knack for taking the boredom out of subjects, even in a class like Economics, which traditionally has been perceived as a ho-hum endeavor.

“I love Economics,” she said. “I think it’s really fascinating. That’s one of my favorite classes.”

“The trick is making it interesting for the kids.”

Paxton said she keeps the class lively for her students by doing exchange-rate and free-market simulations. She says it’s actually not that difficult to keep teenagers interested in the subject matter because most of her students are ready to jump into the world of retail — as shoppers.

“It’s more project-based than book-based,” she said. “We go through quite a bit on just consumer finance, and 18-year-old kids are interested in that because they’re getting out there.”

A Homedale High School graduate who returned home to teach after starting her career in the Vallivue School District, Paxton turned a background in business into an educational career.

But she has education in her blood, too. Her father, Homedale resident Duane Root, is the founder of Quality Schools International, an organization that runs education facilities in 26 foreign countries.

Paxton actually taught in Kiev, Russia, for a few years, too.

But she’s home at Homedale.

“They’re easy kids,” she said of the school’s students. “We’ve got good-natured kids.”

Paxton’s pursuit of variety in the classroom fits in perfectly with the Northwest Themes Humanities class she is teaching this year.

The Humanities class is a newer, state-mandated addition to the curriculum, and Paxton said it’s the perfect vehicle to achieve the state Department of Education’s desire for more courses that weave through several different disciplines.

“We talk about U.S history and Idaho history like Lewis and Clark and then Owyhee County and the type of people who came to Owyhee County,” she said.

Although the course is literature-based, Paxton said she utilizes film, art, music and even dance.

“And I started that class because the kids say Homedale is so boring,” she said. “There are a ton of things that have happened here, and (the students) had no idea of the Old West stuff that happened here.”

— JPB



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Silver City open house attracts 600

The Silver City Homeowners Association’s annual open house proved to be a big success. Nearly 600 visitors, mostly from the Treasure Valley, braved cold temperatures to flock to the event held Saturday and Sunday.

“It was a chilly experience,” Idaho Hotel co-owner Jerri Nelson said of the unexpectedly cold weather.

Nelson said the annual event had the third-largest turnout ever.

Adults paid \$10 each, and children younger than 6 years old were charged \$5, to tour the

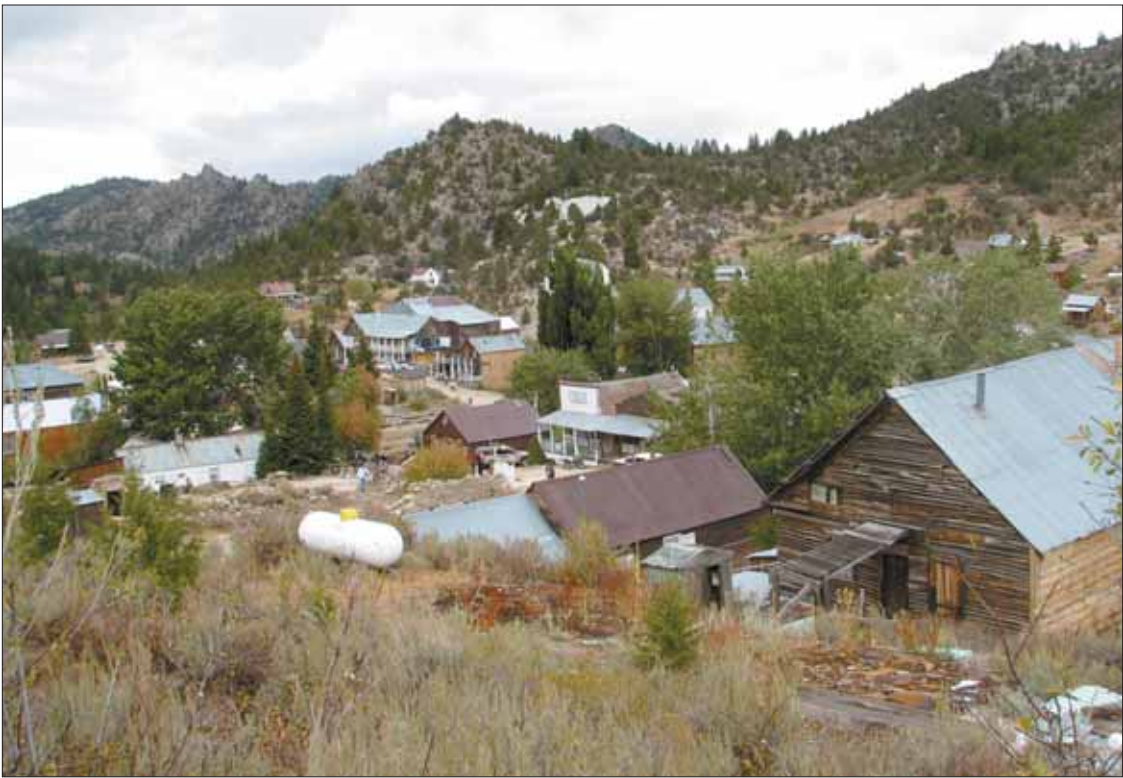
old town.

Monies collected from the event will be used for the Silver City Homeowners Association Watchman’s fund, which helps to provide living quarters for the watchman hired to care for the historic mining town during the winter months.

Nelson said the funds also will be used for upgrades to the city water system.

For more information on Silver City, visit www.historicsilvercityidaho.com.

— JWB



Past, present mingle in Silver City

Clockwise from top: Several hundred visitors descended on the historic Owyhee County mining town of Silver City during the weekend. Silver City’s Masonic Hall was among the buildings open for tours. Visitors got some of the town’s charm at one of the shops in the town. Submitted photos

Candidate learns of difficulties faced on Duck Valley

Larry Grant, the Democratic candidate for Idaho’s First Congressional District, traveled to the southernmost reaches of Owyhee County last week on his campaign trail.

Grant met with tribal leaders and toured Duck Valley Indian Reservation last Wednesday.

Grant toured the 400-square mile reservation straddling the Idaho-Nevada border in the far south end of the 1st District on Sept. 13 at the invitation of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe.

He met with Tribal Chairman Terry Gibson and toured reservation facilities, including the tribal headquarters, hospital and new juvenile detention center with vice-chairman Kyle Prior.

Grant held an open meeting with the public Wednesday night at the community center, answering questions and listening to concerns raised by members of the tribe.

Gibson told him the tribe endorses the Owyhee Initiative because it will help protect remote tribal cultural sites in the Owyhee Mountains that are being plundered by looters.

Gibson discussed some of the problems the tribe is trying to resolve, including economic development, high unemployment, health care, water rights and dealing with an unresponsive federal bureaucracy.

Hospital administrator Anthony Marshall outlined the challenges his facility faces with

recruiting and retaining health care professionals to deal with the reservation’s major health problems of diabetes and diseases related to the population’s isolation and living standard.

The hospital does some inpatient care, Marshall said, but most of its workload is for outpatient clinic visits. Prior said the reservation’s isolation makes providing health care costly, citing the \$50,000 charge to transport an emergency case by helicopter to Boise.

“I felt it was important to come down here, see the reservation, talk to the people who live here, talk to the tribal officials, and discuss their issues and concerns,” Grant said at the community meeting.

Grant fielded questions on the Iraq war, methamphetamine problems, education and Native American sovereignty.

Tribal voter registrar Eleanor Little told Grant that the tribe lost its polling place and is classed as a mail ballot-only precinct by the state, which she said effectively disenfranchises many voters.

Owyhee County mails an absentee ballot to each registered voter before the election and they vote by return mail.

Registration by a registrar like Little is cut off about three weeks before the election, so if a reservation resident wants to register after that, or register and vote in person on the day of the election, they must drive to county

offices in Murphy a round trip of more than 100 miles, Little said.

But many voters don’t understand the process, Little said, or have a language barrier that effectively prevents them from voting.

Grant met Thursday with Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn in Murphy and contacted the office of Secretary of State Ben Ysursa to get more information on the Duck Valley voting issue.

Grant said it is not likely that the polling place can be restored to the reservation for the upcoming Nov. 7 election but he is working with Little on plans to boost voter registration and turnout, which will restore the precinct to on-site voting status.



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| <div>Pork</div> <div>Sirloin Chops</div> <div></div> <div>\$139 lb.</div> | <div>Jeff's Choice</div> <div>Rib Steak</div> <div></div> <div>\$539 lb.</div> | <div>Half Bushels</div> <div>Local Onions & Fruit</div> <div></div> <div>\$699 ea.</div> | <div>1 lb.</div> <div>Baby Carrots</div> <div></div> <div>99¢ ea.</div> |
| <div>Pork</div> <div>Sirloin Roast</div> <div>\$129 lb.</div> <div>Western Family 12 oz.</div> <div>Bacon</div> <div>2 for \$4</div> <div>Western Family 32 oz.</div> <div>Cheese</div> <div>\$499 ea.</div> | <div>Western Family 3 lb.</div> <div>Sausage</div> <div>\$299 ea.</div> <div>Gem Pack</div> <div>Chorizo</div> <div>\$289 lb.</div> <div>John Morrell</div> <div>Cocktail Smokies</div> <div>\$199 ea.</div> | <div>Salad Mix</div> <div>99¢ ea.</div> <div>Bunch</div> <div>Celery</div> <div>89¢ ea.</div> <div>Cello Wrapped</div> <div>Lettuce</div> <div>89¢ ea.</div> | <div>Lemons 4⁸/1</div> <div>Limes</div> <div>10 for \$1</div> <div>Jalapeños</div> <div>69¢ lb.</div> <div>10 lb.</div> <div>Red Potatoes</div> <div>\$199 ea.</div> |
| <div>Western Family</div> <div>Orange Juice</div> <div></div> <div>99¢ ea.</div> <div>12 oz. Frozen</div> <div>Maruchan 3 oz.</div> <div>Ramen Noodles</div> <div>8 for \$1</div> | <div>Lipton Noodles 'n Sauce or</div> <div>Rice 'n Sauce</div> <div></div> <div>10 for \$10</div> <div>4-5.4 oz.</div> <div>Western Family 64 oz.</div> <div>Apple Juice & Cider</div> <div>\$129 ea.</div> | <div>Pepsi</div> <div>Products</div> <div></div> <div>3 for \$10</div> <div>12pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>2 Liter Bottle</div> <div>Pepsi Products</div> <div>\$129 ea.</div> | <div>Budweiser</div> <div>Beer</div> <div></div> <div>\$1199 ea.</div> <div>18pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>24pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>Natural Light or Ice Beer</div> <div>\$899 ea.</div> |
| <div>Western Family</div> <div>Cottage Cheese</div> <div>\$109 ea.</div> <div>16 oz.</div> <td><div>Shasta Soda</div><div>12 Pack</div><div>\$199 ea.</div></td> <td><div>Western Family</div><div>Hot Cocoa Mix</div><div>\$139 ea.</div><div>10 ct.</div><td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Taco Shells</div><div>\$119 ea.</div><div>10 ct.</div></td></td> | <div>Shasta Soda</div> <div>12 Pack</div> <div>\$199 ea.</div> | <div>Western Family</div> <div>Hot Cocoa Mix</div> <div>\$139 ea.</div> <div>10 ct.</div> <td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Taco Shells</div><div>\$119 ea.</div><div>10 ct.</div></td> | <div>Old El Paso</div> <div>Taco Shells</div> <div>\$119 ea.</div> <div>10 ct.</div> |
| <div>Citrina</div> <div>Punch</div> <div>2 for \$3</div> <div>Gallon</div> <td><div>Western Family</div><div>Bagged Cereal</div><div>\$289 ea.</div><div>28-32 oz.</div><td><div>Solo</div><div>Plastic Cups</div><div>2 for \$5</div><div>30-50 ct.</div><td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Salsa</div><div>\$199 ea.</div><div>16 oz.</div></td></td></td> | <div>Western Family</div> <div>Bagged Cereal</div> <div>\$289 ea.</div> <div>28-32 oz.</div> <td><div>Solo</div><div>Plastic Cups</div><div>2 for \$5</div><div>30-50 ct.</div><td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Salsa</div><div>\$199 ea.</div><div>16 oz.</div></td></td> | <div>Solo</div> <div>Plastic Cups</div> <div>2 for \$5</div> <div>30-50 ct.</div> <td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Salsa</div><div>\$199 ea.</div><div>16 oz.</div></td> | <div>Old El Paso</div> <div>Salsa</div> <div>\$199 ea.</div> <div>16 oz.</div> |
| <div>Western Family</div> <div>Petite Corn & Peas</div> <div>89¢ ea.</div> <div>16 oz. Bag Frozen</div> <td><div>Western Family</div><div>Cereal</div><div>\$229 ea.</div><div>Asst'd Varieties</div><td><div>Gain & Cheer</div><div>Laundry Detergents</div><div>\$499 ea.</div><div>53-63 oz.</div><td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Enchilada Sauce</div><div>\$129 ea.</div><div>10 oz.</div></td></td></td> | <div>Western Family</div> <div>Cereal</div> <div>\$229 ea.</div> <div>Asst'd Varieties</div> <td><div>Gain & Cheer</div><div>Laundry Detergents</div><div>\$499 ea.</div><div>53-63 oz.</div><td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Enchilada Sauce</div><div>\$129 ea.</div><div>10 oz.</div></td></td> | <div>Gain & Cheer</div> <div>Laundry Detergents</div> <div>\$499 ea.</div> <div>53-63 oz.</div> <td><div>Old El Paso</div><div>Enchilada Sauce</div><div>\$129 ea.</div><div>10 oz.</div></td> | <div>Old El Paso</div> <div>Enchilada Sauce</div> <div>\$129 ea.</div> <div>10 oz.</div> |
| <div>Western Family</div> <div>Vegetable in Sauce</div> <div>\$149 ea.</div> <div>12 oz. Frozen</div> <td><div>Gold Medal</div><div>Flour</div><div>\$799 ea.</div><div>25 lb.</div><td><div>Eggo Waffles</div><div>10 ct.</div><div>2 for \$3</div><td><div>Budget Gourmet-</div><div>Michelina's- Yu Sing</div><div>79¢ ea.</div><div>Asst'd Frozen Entrees</div></td></td></td> | <div>Gold Medal</div> <div>Flour</div> <div>\$799 ea.</div> <div>25 lb.</div> <td><div>Eggo Waffles</div><div>10 ct.</div><div>2 for \$3</div><td><div>Budget Gourmet-</div><div>Michelina's- Yu Sing</div><div>79¢ ea.</div><div>Asst'd Frozen Entrees</div></td></td> | <div>Eggo Waffles</div> <div>10 ct.</div> <div>2 for \$3</div> <td><div>Budget Gourmet-</div><div>Michelina's- Yu Sing</div><div>79¢ ea.</div><div>Asst'd Frozen Entrees</div></td> | <div>Budget Gourmet-</div> <div>Michelina's- Yu Sing</div> <div>79¢ ea.</div> <div>Asst'd Frozen Entrees</div> |
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