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cruise to win
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of their subscription labors**

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Wednesday, September 27, 2006

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The Owyhee Avalanche

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Marsing celebrates Homecoming



Saluting colors of country and school

Members of Marsing High School's spirit squad walk with the school's flag and the American flag as the annual Homecoming parade heads down Main Street toward the high school on Friday. More photos, **Page 15A**

Senate panel holds Initiative hearing today

Subcommittee chaired by Craig

The legislation drafted to preserve the diverse use of land in the Owyhees goes before a key Senate subcommittee this morning, even as support from a federal agency integral to its success appears to be wavering.

The Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act, known as Senate bill 3794, is on the agenda in Washington, D.C., for the Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee of the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) chairs the subcommittee, which convened at 8 a.m. MDT today.

Owyhee Initiative chairman Fred Grant said last week that, even though the bill was introduced in the latter stages of the 109th Congress, this morning's hearing lays the foundation for efforts to keep the legislation alive when the new Congress is seated in January.

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— Local Farm Bureau, state water users group pledge support **Page 5A**

Marsing picks contractor for water well

Boise firm could begin work in fall

The City of Marsing took another step in building a new water system last week with the selection of a contractor was selected for the first phase of well drilling.

The city council approved a bid from Boise-based Stevens & Sons Well Drilling in a special meeting on Sept. 18. The company had the lowest offer out of four bids unsealed by city and U.S. Department of Agricultural Rural

Development Agency officials at City Hall on Sept. 15.

Marsing Mayor Don Osterhoudt said the company bid \$142,000 for the project that calls for the drilling of as many as two wells to find a new water source for the city.

— to page 5A

— County inquires about chunk of land near site **Page 12A**



Proposed site of new well

Marsing city officials hope that the new municipal well can be drilled on this property on West 8th Avenue.

County offers to buy landfill site

The Owyhee County Commission wants to make an offer to buy the land on which the Bruneau-Grand View Landfill sits.

At their Sept. 11 meeting, the commissioners agreed to contact property owner Kent Kohring about the possibility of buying the 40-acre parcel for \$40,000. The county currently has a 10-year lease with Kohring, paying him \$5,000 a year.

As of last Wednesday, Kohring had not accepted the county's offer. The Owyhee Avalanche was unable to reach the landowner for comment.

Owyhee County signed the 10-year lease agreement with Kohring in April 2004, and so far has made three annual payments.

“We figure that landfill is good

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Korean war vet receives medals

Marsing resident gets help from Otter's office

Seventy-three-year-old Ray Heidt tore into the package like a child on Christmas Day. What fell out was closure after more than 50 years. Heidt, who lives in Marsing with his wife, Joyce, had tried for decades to obtain eight combat medals that he had earned during the Korean War. He received some of them last month.

"They came in one of those red, white and blue envelopes, and I didn't bother to see who it was from," Heidt said. "I just ripped it open, and all these medals fell out and the cover letters.

"It was like Christmas Day 30 years late."

The package was from Rep. C.L. "Butch" Otter (R-Idaho) and included a good conduct medal, a national defense service medal, the Korean service medal and a United Nations service medal.

Otter's military and veterans affairs specialist, Jim Adams, had taken about 30 days to track down Heidt's awards. Heidt had been trying "off and on" on his own for 30 years.

"Jim is retired Army and retired postal service, so he knows how bureaucracy works," Otter communications director Mark Warbis said. "He's very skilled in finding his way through the maze that the Department of Veteran's Affairs and other military bureaucracies can be."

Heidt said he was grateful for Adams' work to find proof of his record.

A letter from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) of the Department of Defense said that no record could be found of four other medals Heidt had been seeking, including a Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star and Occupation Medal.

But Heidt is satisfied with bringing home half of his awards.



"It kind of brings closure," Heidt said.

And also a shopping trip. Heidt also has a medal from the South Korean government commemorating the 50th anniversary of his service in the conflict, which ended in 1953.

"At my age and after 50 years, I'm just kind of glad I got what I got," he said. "And now I need to find a display case and put them up for the grandkids to see."

Heidt says he had been writing military officials periodically for 30 years in an attempt to track down the medals. He was told that record of his medals was destroyed in a July 12, 1973, fire in the NPRC's archives. According to a letter, the blaze destroyed Army personnel records from 1912 through 1959, a period of time spanning both World Wars and the Korean conflict. Proof of some of Heidt's medals was preserved only because the NPRC loaned a portion of its veterans' records to the Department of Veterans Affairs before the 1973 fire.

Heidt's Purple Heart designation apparently stems from injuries received during a patrol in Korea. He said his group came under mortar fire and he was hit with shrapnel and suffered a concussion and hearing problems that linger to this day.

Heidt said his medals quest was rejuvenated and he wrote a July 22 letter to Otter's office after seeing television coverage of the plight of Boise World War



Marsing veteran receives overdue medals

Above: Marsing resident Ray Heidt sits with the medals he earned for his service during the Korean War. **Top:** The medals include, top, a replica of his Combat Infantry Badge and, left to right, a Good Conduct medal, a National Defense medal, the Korean Service medal, the United Nations Service medal and a medal from the South Korean government commemorating the 50th anniversary of service during the Korean conflict.

II veteran Lynn Eichelberger. Otter presented Eichelberger with his long-lost medals on June 26, according to a letter to the editor written by Heidt that appears in The Owyhee Avalanche on Page 11B today.

"I just had kind of written the whole thing off until I saw this TV deal with Otter," he said. "It's been kind of an up-and-down thing."

— JPB

Two arrested in Homedale beating case

Homedale Police officers arrested two suspects last week in connection with the Sept. 8 beating that left 49-year-old Douglas Grever in critical condition.

Grever, a Homedale resident, was hospitalized after the early-morning attack near O'Henry's Pub in Homedale.

Adam Cook, 22, and Steven Dickson, 23, both of Homedale, were arrested Sept. 19 on charges of aggravated battery and robbery. They were booked into the Owyhee County Jail and held on a \$100,000 bond apiece. Cook and Dickson were scheduled to appear for preliminary hearings on Monday.



Adam Cook



Steven Dickson

Cook was arrested in Nampa by Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and Cpl. Ian Takashige on Sept. 19 after more than two days of surveillance at area motels. Takashige said Friday that he and Eidemiller worked "46 hours in two days" tracking Cook in the Nampa area until they were finally able to take him into custody with help from the Nampa Police Department.

Dickson was arrested at his residence in Homedale without incident later the same day.

Takashige said the entire Homedale Police Department mobilized to capture Cook and Dickson.

"We had every officer involved in one way or another, whether it was booking evidence, interviewing witnesses, interviewing the victim or on surveillance," Takashige said. "Every resource the department has was put to use. Officer (Mike) McFetridge called almost every motel between here (Homedale) and Boise after we received a tip Cook was in a motel somewhere."

The victim, Grever, has regained consciousness since the attack, but remains hospitalized. Grever's injuries were so severe that he was transported by air-ambulance to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise after the attack. He was admitted to the intensive care unit and was listed in critical condition for several days.

— JWB

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Schools may be reimbursed in West Nile plan

Owyhee official says plan will fit districts' needs

Larry Howard, Owyhee County Emergency Services Coordinator, said last week that the county's plan to seek state funds likely will be written based upon what school districts already have done to combat mosquitoes, the culprits in this year's unprecedented West Nile Virus (WNV) outbreak.

"We are going to make the plan fit what the schools have done," Howard said Wednesday. "The plan is still up in the air."

Howard said that — as a result of the state's acceptance of the county's Aug. 21 disaster declaration — county entities can expect to receive state funding to cover the majority of the expense of combating the spread of West Nile Virus. If Owyhee County receives state funds, it is likely that the county's school districts will be refunded 75 percent of their West Nile-related pesticide expenditures because the spraying done by the schools will be the only anti-mosquito efforts undertaken this year in the area.

Howard said he is waiting for the county's school districts to submit final expenditure lists to him, so he can draft the final plans to send to Gov. Jim Risch's office. Howard said he expected the information "any day."

Owyhee County Commission Chairman Hal Tolmie said last that "at this time" the county had no plans to pay the other 25 percent of the schools' West Nile expenses.

Vickie Chandler, Bruneau-Grand View School District superintendent, said her school district had spent approximately \$1,400 to hire a professional company to spray "every inch" of every campus in the district, and hoped to be reimbursed when state funds become available.

Chandler added that normally

Simplot Co., and Idaho Power donate time and resources to spray for mosquitoes around the schools. But this year, with increased liability because of the hazards of WNV, neither company was willing to do the spraying. She said the school district had no choice but to contract for spraying.

Marsing Schools Superintendent Harold Shockley said his school district has sprayed every seven to nine days since Aug. 18 — before the school year began — at a cost of approximately \$240 per application. That cost, along with the initial price of \$400 for a sprayer, has weighed on Marsing Schools' pocketbook, he said.

Regardless, Shockley said the school chose to do the spraying without thought to the possibility of state reimbursement. A school employee even donated the use of a privately owned four-wheeler ATV to help in the effort.

"We tried to get coverage before we officially had students on the grounds," Shockley said. "We did what we thought we had to do (to protect students) without thought about the cost or what we might get back from the state. It was the right thing to do."

Shockley said he did not have final calculations on the cost of spraying for the year, but said even if the school only receives partial reimbursement it will be a great help to a tight school district budget.

Tim Rosandick, Homedale Schools superintendent, said that his district has sprayed all school grounds twice this year. Rosandick said he did not expect to receive 100 percent reimbursement for the costs associated with spraying, but "the district is going to be pursuing all legitimate avenues."

Rosandick said costs associated with spraying totaled nearly \$2700, including the cost of a sprayer, insecticide and labor. The cost to spray for mosquitoes from Aug. 1 through Sept. 2007 is projected to be approximately \$3700.

— JWB

Fairgrounds changes planned



Barn will be moved to allow livestock arena expansion

Teri Nielsen with the Owyhee County Fair Board said the white beef barn (above) on the fairgrounds in Homedale will be moved from its current location to the bare ground directly east of the large livestock barn at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds. The new location of the beef barn will be directly behind the rodeo arena (below). "The ultimate goal is to enlarge the livestock barn," Nielsen said. Nielsen cites fair growth as the main motivator in the expansion. The barn is tentatively scheduled to be moved in October.



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Clarification

An article in the Sept. 20 edition of The Owyhee Avalanche stated that a plane crash in the Owyhee River Canyon was not reported to the proper authorities in a timely manner. Pilot Ray Gross did, in fact, properly report the crash to the Federal Aviation Administration’s regional operations center.

It was also reported that there were two persons aboard the aircraft. It was later learned that Gross was the sole occupant at the time of the crash. Martin Koch, who originally was reported as being in the plane, is part owner of the aircraft through Idaho Pilots Inc.

Homedale hearings address tattoo shop, alley

Business has been open since June; Paul’s asks for vacation of alley

The Homedale City Council will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. Monday to decide whether to grant a special use permit to Munster’s Ink., a tattoo shop on West Idaho Avenue.

Without a special use permit, it would be a misdemeanor for Michael and Karoline Munster to operate their business, which has been open for nearly four months.



Homedale business subject of Monday public hearing

Karoline Munster of Munster’s Ink on Idaho Avenue works in her business. She owns and operates the business with her husband, Michael. The Munsters were notified they will be required to obtain a special use permit in order to stay open. A public hearing is scheduled Monday.

to operate a business such as a tattoo shop.

Karoline Munster contends that her business falls into what is defined as a “personal service” by city code, and therefore, should not require a special use permit.

Bahem said Planning and Zoning commission members did not feel the tattoo shop could be categorized as a personal service, but said there is no apparent

reason Munster’s Ink would not be granted a special use permit. Bahem said the permit would cost the business a one-time fee of \$100, plus the cost of publication and mailing notices. Exact costs of publication and mailing were not available.

Bahem said the requirement is standard when a business does not fall within clearly defined guidelines.

Monday’s public hearing also will address the application for vacation of public right-of-way filed by Paul Zatica on behalf of Paul’s Market in reference to the alley directly behind Paul’s Market on Wyoming Avenue.

The alley has been platted but never used. It runs north/ south between Colorado and Wyoming avenues and East 1st Street.

— JWB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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Social Hour - 5 p.m.

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Building Report - 7:00 p.m.

LUAU - 7:15 p.m.

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✓ Landfill

for about 70-75 years, and at the end of 10 years he walks away from the lease and we’ll have to go through it all again,” commission chairman Hal Tolmie said last week. “If we can buy the land, it will be cheaper.”

At \$5,000 per year, a 70-year lease would cost the county \$350,000.

The county brought the Bruneau-Grand View landfill online in September 2005 when the Rimrock landfill was shut down.

The landfill accepts household waste. Asbestos products, asphalt, roofing products or batteries are prohibited. Refrigeration equipment disposed at the site must be certified Freon-free or have compressors removed. Toxic chemicals are not accepted.

The Bruneau-Grand View landfill is located near milepost 71 on Idaho highway 78, approximately 10 miles east of Grand View and 9 miles west of Bruneau.

— JWB

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news tip?

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337-4681

Local Farm Bureau reps, Idaho water users back bill

Owyhee County delegation sponsors resolution asking state, national Farm Bureau groups to support effort

While there are rumblings that the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act could face mild opposition in Washington, D.C., two Idaho interest groups recently threw their weight behind the legislation last week.

The Idaho Farm Bureau Federation (IFBF) District IV and the board of directors of the Idaho Water Users Association Inc. (IWUA) announced their support of Sen. Mike Crapo’s legislation last week. Previously, the Public Lands Council also had backed the legislation that Crapo introduced into the Senate last month.

The IFBF District IV represents 19,592 IFBF members and is

comprised of Owyhee, Canyon, Elmore, Ada, Gem, Payette and Washington County Farm Bureau organizations.

IFBF District IV held its annual resolutions meeting on Sept. 14. Voting delegates Jerry Hoagland and Cindy Bachman represented the Owyhee County Farm Bureau with support from member Ted Blackstock.

Tim Lowry, OCFB president, was in Washington D.C., helping carry the importance of Sen. Mike Crapo’s Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act of 2006, known as Senate bill 3794 to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and other significant organizations.

Hoagland and Bachman carried the OCFB Owyhee Initiative resolution to the floor. After a lengthy presentation and ensuing discussions, a motion was made and seconded to pass resolution on to the IFBF annual meeting for possible adoption into IFBF & AFBF Policy for 2007. District IV director Terry Jones, Sr. called for a voice vote, and the IFBF District IV voting delegates passed the resolution unanimously.

David Ascuna, president, and Sid Erwin of Elmore County Farm Bureau (ECFB), both voting delegates, specifically supported the Owyhee Initiative with ECFB’s resolution to amend existing IFBF Policy No. 126 Wilderness and Restrictive Zones to include the phrase, “We may support negotiated wilderness solutions when the stakeholders have been participating in the negotiations.” Again, the District

IV voting passed the resolution unanimously.

The Owyhee Initiative Workgroup has collaborated for five years to create the Owyhee Initiative (OI). The IFBF District IV resolution meeting affirmed support of the process and content of the OI and also signaled support for Crapo, the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners and all the stakeholders working toward passage of the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act of 2006.

For more information on the Owyhee Initiative, go to http://crapo.senate.gov/issues/owyhee_initiative.cfm

For more information on the Idaho Farm Bureau, <http://www.idahofb.org/>

The IWUA announced its support of elements of the legislation in a statement released last Wednesday.

The IWUA board said it voted

at a Sept. 6 meeting to support the water rights protection language in S. 3794 because it makes current water rights a priority. The board also supports the provision that will ensure water from the Owyhee and Bruneau rivers won’t be shipped out of state, but board members took no position on the proposed wilderness or wild and scenic designations and other land management issues in the legislation.

“After very careful scrutiny of Sen. Crapo’s legislation, we are satisfied that Idaho sovereignty over its waters is fully protected,” the release said. “The detailed subordination language included in the agreement, and incorporated throughout the legislation, makes clear that water rights for the Wild and Scenic Rivers will be treated as junior in priority, not just to existing water rights, but also to future development.”

From page 1

√ Initiative

“One of the reasons for going in quickly is that when the new session starts, (the bill) is already in and already started,” Grant said. “Sen. Craig has cooperated from that standpoint because (today) was the only date left on the calendar.”

Lindsay Nothern, press secretary for Initiative legislation sponsor Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), said his boss still is looking to get a vote this session.

“We are hopeful to build momentum for the (Initiative this morning), and the plan is to get it through the Senate and House yet this session — a tall order given they may adjourn by the end of the first week of October,” Nothern wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

The Owyhee Initiative shares the docket today with the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act, authored by Rep. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho), and legislation dealing with lands

and forests in Oregon and New Mexico.

Dan Whiting, a Craig spokesman, said last week that the senator hasn’t taken a position on either of the bills that affect land in Idaho.

“Sen. Craig has not taken a position on either bill,” Whiting wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche. “He wants to have this hearing first to hear both sides of the debate.”

Other bills on the agenda today include S. 3599 to establish the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in New Mexico; S. 3854 to establish wilderness in Oregon; and H.R. 5025 to preserve areas of the Mount Hood National Forest in Oregon.

“The hearing will probably be an hour at the most,” Grant said.

Nothern said today’s hearing is the best-case scenario considering the lateness of the session, but he reiterated Crapo’s determination to get the legislation through the law-making process.

“Testimony will be limited, but it is the best we can get,” Nothern said. “We will try again in the

lame duck session (possible after the election), if there is one, and again next year if the bill fails this year.”

Whiting said the next step for the Initiative after today’s subcommittee meeting is a hearing before the full Energy and Natural Resources Commission for “mark-up” — or consideration and a vote. Amendments could be made to the bill during the trip through that committee. At that point, if approved, the Initiative would go before the full Senate for a vote.

If the Senate passes S. 3794, it goes to the House of Representatives to start the committee process again.

But for now, Grant says, the focus is the subcommittee hearing and brief testimony from Grant and Rick Johnson, the executive director of the Idaho Conservation League. Johnson is scheduled to discuss Simpson’s Boulder-White Clouds legislation, but Grant said he also will speak to the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act. According to a witness list from the subcommittee, other Idaho

legislation-based testimony will come from Crapo, Simpson, Custer County Commissioner Cliff Hansen, Idaho Outfitter and Guides Association Executive Director Grant Simonds, Idaho Trail Machine Association President Brett Madson, Idaho Cattlemen’s Association President Mike Webster, Idaho Wildlife Federation issues coordinator Russ Heughins and Custer County residents Amanda Mathews and Carole King.

Although Grant is the only scheduled witness directly connected to the Initiative, other Owyhee Initiative players, including Owyhee County Commission Chairman Hal Tolmie and Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, made the trip to Washington.

“It’s just showing the people back there that it’s a homegrown initiative coming direct from the county,” Tolmie said of his trip to the nation’s capital.

“Fred has been back there once, and he said it’s looking pretty positive.”

But Grant confirmed last

week that the Bureau of Land Management appears to be changing course even though Grant said the agency’s national director, Kathleen Clarke, has visited the Initiative committee three times to pledge BLM support.

“The problem is (BLM officials) never thought we’d make it,” Grant said. “And now that we’re there, they’re saying they don’t like this process. They want to maintain the current bureaucracy.”

Nothern painted the issue in a different light.

“(The) BLM has indicated it will not oppose the bill,” Nothern wrote in an e-mail.

“We have heard rumblings they are not pleased with the issues relating to the resource oversight committee, but have said they will not oppose. We will have to see (today).”

— JPB

— Initiative opens private lands to public
Commentary, Page 10B

√ Water

“Both of these new wells, if it’s necessary to put in two wells, would be properly engineered and keep out the sand and the gravel and keep those wells from caving in,” Osterhoudt said.

Osterhoudt said the city was pleased with the winning bid, and received the blessing of SPF Water Engineering LLC, the firm in charge of designing the new water system that the town’s voters approved with a \$1.7 million bond vote last year.

“The people of Marsing need

to know that this is going forward and we’re trying to give them the most value for their buck,” Osterhoudt said. “We’re going to try to get this done as fast as we can.”

The mayor said Stevens & Sons could begin drilling in the latter part of October or early part of November.

“Probably during the cold months of the year,” he said. “That way, we can figure out what we need in the way of filtration systems then get that online.

“We’ll pour the concrete (for the filtration system) when the weather breaks (in the spring).”

The bidding process will continue later for the selection of contractors to construct the filtration plant and storage facility. But Osterhoudt said those projects might be consolidated into one bid.

Osterhoudt said that the city recently purchased a parcel of land in the 200 block of 8th Avenue West for a possible location of the new well, filtration and storage complex. The land sits across the street from the Marsing Schools campuses, sandwiched between the city’s corporation yard and the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension office.

“We can punch a well on the back side and that gives us some protection because it’s got that slope on the back side,” Osterhoudt said of the proposed location.

Osterhoudt said the land was purchased with the goal of consolidating the town’s water works and protecting it from an accident.

“Putting the storage tanks and filtration system there gives us some integrity in safety, and it’s not subject to somebody slipping off the road and zipping through our filtration system,” Osterhoudt said.

The current water facility is housed near the city’s elevated storage tank at the corner of Knob Lane and Well Road.

Osterhoudt said while the area is fenced, it’s still vulnerable to damage.

— JPB

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

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Sept. 28: Enchilada or corn dog, scalloped potatoes, brownie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Sept. 29: Pizza or uncrustable peanut butter/jelly sandwich, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 2: Burrito, French dip sandwich, green beans, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 3: Nachos or baked potato/toppings, cinnamon bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 4: Chicken rice bowl or egg roll/rice bowl, veggies, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

Sept. 28: Nachos or baked potato, rice krispie treat, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Sept. 29: Chicken tenders or CF beef stk, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 2: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, cookies, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 3: Rice bowl w/chicken or egg rolls, veggies, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 4: Burrito or fish patty, corn, apple crisp, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

Sept. 28: Chicken patty or sandwich & soup, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Sept. 29: Crispito or rib-b-que, corn, salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 2: Pizza, popcorn chicken or chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 3: Fried beef stk or chicken filet, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Oct. 4: Spaghetti or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Bruneau

Sept. 28: Tacos, refried beans, fruit, cinnamon rolls, milk.
Sept. 29: Stromboli, salad/cROUTONS, wedges, fruit, milk.

Obituary

Carl Henry Powers

Carl Henry Powers 98, of Parma Idaho, born March 19, 1908 passed away September 23, 2006 at Owyhee Health and Rehab in Homedale Idaho. He was preceded in death by his mother Mary C. Powers April 29, 1971, and father Frances A. Powers March 1928. Also preceding him in death were five brothers, three sisters, and one daughter, Barbara Angela Powers. Surviving him are his wife Barbara Nell (Pritchett) Powers, and sister Ruby Penton of Boise Idaho. Also surviving him are two Sons, Carl E. Powers, Ira Powers, and a daughter Enid Frank, all of Parma Idaho, also numerous grand and great grandchildren.

Carl was born in Ten Davis where he attended elementary school, then graduated High School at Parma High. While attending Links Business College he married Barbara Nell Pritchett.

He went to work for his brother Irvin Powers in the bees, and eventually formed a partnership that became the biggest beekeeping business in the United States. They had businesses in Idaho, Arizona, North Dakota, Montana, Florida, and Hawaii.

He loved to play the fiddle his father made, and play cards at the B. & B. in Parma. He was an avid reader and spent many happy



hours at the Parma Library trying to find a good western he hadn’t already read.

He worked hard all his life and was respected and liked by all who knew him, dearly loved and appreciated by his children, an honest and honorable man and a hard act to follow.

Graveside memorial services will be held at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 3, 2006 at Lower Boise Cemetery at Parma under the direction of Dakan Funeral Chapel, Caldwell. The family suggests that anyone wishing may send memorial donations to the Parma Library.

HMS plans meals for parent/teacher conferences

Homedale Middle School plans to serve a light meal during parent/teacher conferences next week.
Meals will be offered both nights during the parent/teacher conferences from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday and next Wednesday
An information session about the Project Alert drug prevention program also will be held. This program is offered in addition to the 8th-hour after-school program. Parents will have the opportunity to sign up students to participate in both programs during the conferences.
For more information, call 337-5780.

Irrigation meetings slated for Tuesday

Irrigation districts based in Owyhee County will hold their monthly meetings Tuesday at 118 S. 1st St. W., in Homedale.
The Ridgeview Irrigation District will meet first at 7 p.m.
The Gem Irrigation District meets at 7:15 p.m.
The Owyhee Project South Board of Control closes the evening with a 7:30 meeting.



Church marks 60th anniversary

Homedale Baptist Church recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. The church is located on First Street West.

Homedale Baptist Church celebrates 60th anniversary

The Homedale Baptist Church, located at 212 S. 1st St. W., celebrated its 60th anniversary on Sept. 17.
The church began holding services in a tent across from where the Homedale Nursing Home formerly was located. The congregation gathered in the tent on Sept. 27, 1946, to organize as a church. Missionary H.C. Payton served as a moderator. He was sent by the Middle Oregon Baptist Association.
Loy Moore from the North American Baptist Association was selected to become the first pastor of this new church.

The church bought the South 1st West Street property on March 3, 1947.
The first church building was

a small one-room structure, with curtains separating the interior into small classrooms. Churchgoers met in that building until a larger building was constructed n the early 1960s.
There have been several pastors over the years at Homedale Baptist Church: Moore, Ben Walker, Lawrence Harris, Duncan, Lee Jolif, Wayne Harding, Charles Whaley, O.J. Holler, Pharris Hughey, Bill Whala, Roy Graybeal, Terry Crabb and present pastor, James Huls.
Interim pastors have included F.J. Walker, John Walker, and Don Allen.
The church holds Sunday School at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., with services at 7 p.m. on Sundays and Wednesdays.



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Your finances Teach children money isn't only thing to work for

Dear Dave,
My husband and I are expecting our first child in a few months. We really like your idea of putting kids on commission instead of giving them an allowance, but I'm afraid this may turn our child into the kind of person who only does things to get money. What's your advice?

— Jennifer

Dear Jennifer,
You can definitely overdo the commission thing. There are some jobs that kids should do simply because they're members of a family or community, and out of respect for their parents. The key is to find a balance between the chores they get paid for and the tasks they should do because they're living, breathing human beings with a conscience.

More than anything, you're striving for teachable moments here, Jennifer. You want to teach that there's a connection between work and money, because that's how the real world operates. You also want to teach saving, giving and wise spending.

— Dave

Dear Dave,
My question is about homeowners insurance. I know I have to have it, but I don't really know what it does. There are also some terms in my policy that I don't understand. Can you help?

— John

Dear John,
Typically, a homeowner's policy is written to give you coverage for your structure and dwelling, coverage for liability, and coverage for a percentage of the structure and dwelling that will cover personal assets inside the home — like furniture and other items.

Different policies and different companies can use different terminology, so talk to your insurance agent and ask him



to explain any terms you don't understand in language that makes sense to you. If he can't do this, change agents!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I've heard you say buying cancer insurance isn't a great idea. Considering how prevalent this disease is today, I was wondering why you feel this way.

— Dino

Dear Dino,
It's really simple. Any good quality health insurance will cover you in the event that you get cancer. People have heart attacks, too, but it would be foolish to spend additional money on heart attack insurance when you're already covered.

I recommend having a good health insurance plan, disability insurance and a fully funded emergency fund of three to six months' worth of expenses. This gives you medical coverage should you become seriously ill, disability coverage if the illness prevents you from working, and a big pile of cash to help cover incidentals and other bills along the way.

Hopefully, you'll never have to experience a situation like this, Dino. But if you do, this will help lessen the burden.

— 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

Calendar

Today
Christian Life Club initial meeting, after school, Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. Highway 95. (208) 337-3464

Thursday
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
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
Homedale FFA Harvest Auction, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. auction, Hyer & Sons Ranch, 1201 Hyer Lane

Monday
Rimrock Senior Center open house, 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., 525 Main Street, Grand View. (208) 834-2808

Tuesday
Owyhee County Republican meeting, 7 p.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy

Thursday, Oct. 5
Homedale Senior Citizens Center luncheon, music by Just Country, 60 and older, \$3; 59 and younger, \$5, 11 a.m., 224 W.

Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020


Friday, Oct. 6
ION Museum fund-raiser yard sale preview, 508 Swisher Ave., Jordan Valley. (541) 586-2460 or (541) 586-2818

Saturday, Oct. 7
Homedale Senior Citizens Center monthly breakfast, \$5, adults; \$2.50 children younger than 10, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020
ION Museum fund-raiser yard sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 508 Swisher Ave., Jordan Valley. (541) 586-2460 or (541) 586-2818
Rimrock Senior Center Fall Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$10 vendor table rental, 525 Main Street, Grand View, (208) 834-2808
Community Preparedness Fair,

2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Homedale High School


Sunday, Oct. 8
ION Museum fund-raiser yard sale, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 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 jbrownditor@cablone.net. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4861.



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Senior news

Homedale senior center

Oct. 3: Roast beef, mashed potatoes/gravy, carrots, roll, milk.

Oct. 4: Sausage & biscuits, oven fried potatoes, carrots, milk.

Rimrock senior center

(Meal times: Tuesday, 6 p.m., Thursday, noon)

Oct. 3: Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes/gravy, bread, broccoli, carrot, raisin salad, tomato juice, peach cobbler.

Oct. 5: Pizza, salad, vegetable, pineapple & oranges, milk.

Homedale seniors’ Christmas Bazaar around the corner

The weather is turning chilly, but that’s not the only sign that fall — and the holidays — are lurking.

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center announced last week plans to hold its annual Christmas Bazaar on Oct. 14. The bazaar will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the center at 224 W. Idaho Ave. Table rentals are \$12 for a large table and \$6 for a small one. For more information, call the center at (208) 337-3020 or Mona at (208) 337-4737.

The Christmas Bazaar highlights an October chock full of activity at the senior center.

The month’s calendar of events

kicks off with an Oct. 5 luncheon featuring musical entertainment from the band Just Country. The lunch program begins at 11 a.m., and the cost is \$3 for people 60 years old and older. Diners 59 and younger eat for \$5.

The center’s monthly fund-raising breakfast is scheduled for the morning of Oct. 7. The menu includes sausage, pancakes and eggs, and the cost is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children younger than 10. Breakfast is served from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The center is closed Oct. 9 for Columbus Day, but the senior center van will be in use for a 9 a.m. shopping trip. Call (208)

337-3020 or (208) 337-4737 to reserve a seat.

The center’s monthly birthday luncheon and board meeting will be held at noon Oct. 10.

The monthly foot clinic will be held at 10 a.m. Oct. 17. Make an appointment at the senior center’s front desk or by calling the center.

The center will hold a Saturday night dance from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 21. Woody Purdom and Band will provide the music. Admission is \$3 and a plate of finger food. All are welcome.

The Homedale Public Library will hold a book sale at the senior center on Oct. 27-28.


Museum taking reservations for fund-raiser luau

The fourth annual Aloha from the Owyhees fund-raiser for the Owyhee County Historical Museum will be held Oct. 7 at the museum complex in Murphy.

Reservations are being taken for the luau event, which was incorrectly reported as being scheduled for Oct. 1 last week.

The event will begin with a 5 p.m. social hour, and the cost is \$30 per person. Proceeds will benefit the museum building fund. The museum is located at 17085 Basey Street in Murphy.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call (208) 495-2319 or (208) 495-2809.



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Homedale plans annual Halloween celebration

The City of Homedale plans to hold its third annual Safe-N-Sane Halloween Celebration between 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 31.

Children 12 years old and younger may trick-or-treat safely by visiting any Homedale business that displays an orange “Safe-N-Sane” jack o’lantern.

Homedale businesses interested in participating can pick up orange Safe-N-Sane jack-o-lanterns at Homedale City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave.

A costume contest will be held for trick-or-treaters at Homedale

City Hall.

The winner will receive a plaque and a photo posted at City Hall and published in The Owyhee Avalanche.

Homedale officials ask that parents park at either end of the city and walk to the downtown core area because of limited parking.

For safety, Homedale Police will have additional patrol officers in the area to ensure compliance with all parking, traffic and pedestrian laws.

For more information, call City Hall at 337-4641.

Keep informed

Read

The Avalanche

County GOP to hold meeting

The Owyhee County Republicans will hold a meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78 in Murphy.

Republicans running for state offices will be featured speakers.

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Owyhee County creates full-time position for building official

County commissioners have approved a new, full-time building official position with an eye on saving Owyhee County money.

The Owyhee County Commission approved the hiring of Arlyn Tietz as a full-time building official at its Sept. 11 meeting.

Tietz starts the position as Owyhee County Building Official next week, after the new fiscal year begins Sunday.

Prior to being hired for this new position, Tietz worked part-time for Owyhee County in a similar position, so transition time into the new position will be minimal, one county official said.

“There will be no training time, and he will get the county caught up on fees,” county clerk Charlotte Sherburn said. “This will help the county.”

“He will set a fee schedule for building permits and other things like building plats. He has experience in this area working with the City of Caldwell,” Sherburn said. “Before we contracted it done, and it cost the county \$50 per inspection.”

Sherburn confirmed last week that the county spent approximately \$87,000 to contract building inspection services throughout the first 11 months of fiscal year 2006.

According to a 2007 Owyhee County budget worksheet, Tietz’s annual salary will be approximately \$50,400. He will use an existing county vehicle for his duties.

“It’ll save us money in the long run,” commission chairperson Hal Tolmie said Wednesday. “He’s doing the job for us now. He does a heck of a job and we don’t have any complaints.”

Tolmie added that Tietz has been with the county on a contract basis for three years, along with another part-time employee, who handled the same job on the eastern end of the county. Now Tietz will handle the entire county, eliminating the second contract position.

Tietz’s main responsibility will be running the building department and mostly conducting site inspections on homes Tolmie said.

But his arrival as a full-time employee in Murphy also gives the county’s building department a customer service angle.

“He’ll spend some time up at Murphy answering the phone and stuff like that. He can answer a lot of questions on building before (contractors begin construction). He’s going to help quite a bit,” Tolmie said.

— JWB

GV-Bruneau open house looks at water contamination issue

Residents of the Grand View and Bruneau areas can learn more about potential ground water contamination in three upcoming open houses.

Elevated nitrate concentrations have been found in several wells in the area in the past several years, and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has made development of a ground water management plan a priority.

The first open house will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at Rimrock Junior/Senior High School. The meeting will be held in the cafeteria of the school, which located on Idaho highway 78 between Grand View and Bruneau.

Of 25 degraded ground water areas identified in the state by the DEQ, the Grand View area ranks sixth, and the Bruneau area is 14th.

Monday’s event is the first of three public meetings to deliver information about possible contamination as well as develop a strategy for protecting and improving water quality in private wells.

The open house is sponsored by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and will include input from the state Department of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Commission, Southwest District Health and the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Monday’s open house will include displays, handouts and refreshments. Staff members from the various state agencies also will be on hand to answer questions.

Future meetings will cover well testing and information about treatment systems.

Nitrate is discharged into the environment in a variety of ways, including plants and other organic matter through the decomposition process. Septic systems, waste from animal feedlots and nitrogen-based fertilizers also place nitrates in the soil.

The state standard for drinking water is 10 milligrams of nitrate per liter of water (10 mg/L), which also is the federal standard established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Some people who may be vulnerable to high levels of nitrate in drinking water include children younger than a year old, pregnant women, adults with reduced stomach acidity, adults who lack a hereditary enzyme necessary to combat the effects of nitrate in the in the body or dialysis patients. Infants younger than 6 months are especially sensitive to nitrate poisoning, which may result in serious illness or death.

High levels of nitrate in water also can poison cattle and sheep. Water with a concentration of more than 100 mg/L shouldn’t be given to livestock.

Tax sale fetches substantial amount

As required by Idaho Code, Owyhee County held Tax Deed sale on parcel RP95S03W040065A on Monday. This property had been taken for non-payment of taxes according to the procedures outlined in Idaho Code. The property was advertised in The Owyhee Avalanche for a consecutive four weeks prior to the sale.

Ten parties showed up for this tax deed sale, and the property was awarded to the highest bidder at \$33,000.

The total amount of the sale started at \$441.59, which included the amount of delinquent tax, late fees, interest and costs, current year’s taxes and advertising costs.

According to Idaho Code 31-808, sub-paragraph (2), “If the property to be sold has been acquired by tax deed, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 10, title 63, Idaho Code, the proceeds from the sale, after reimbursement to the county for the cost of advertising and sale, shall be apportioned to the taxing districts in which the property is situated according to the levy applied to the year of delinquency upon which the tax deed was issued to the county.”

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Feds begin review of Bruneau snail’s status

Fish and Wildlife Service seeks input for study on endangered status of hotspring snail

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is seeking information on the Bruneau Hot Springsnail as part of a new policy instituting five-year reviews of federally listed endangered species.

This could be good news for Owyhee County’s ranching and agriculture industries because the ability of ranchers and farmers to pump water from the Bruneau River has been limited by the snail’s endangered status. The snail is found only in the river and surrounding hot springs.

The snail, originally collected by Borys Malkin at the Indian Bathtub in upper Hot Creek in 1952, has been included on the list of species slated for review in a new plan from the Fish and Wildlife Service. In April, the USFWS announced plans to initiate five-year reviews for 70 species in the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii and Guam.

Despite objections — including an unsuccessful lawsuit — from Owyhee County ranchers and farmers, the federal government originally placed the snail on the endangered species list in February 1993 and irrigation withdrawal from the Bruneau River was limited to 18,000 acres. Later, a ruling by U.S. District Court Judge Frank Ryan briefly removed the snail from the endangered list, but a 1995 Court of Appeals ruling reinstated the snail’s original endangered status.

In 1998, the snail was reaffirmed as an endangered species. The Fish and Wildlife Service’s Endangered Species Division’s final rule dated 1993 said the reduction of thermal spring habitats from agricultural-related ground water withdrawal and pumping was the primary threat to the snail.

A 15-person Bruneau Hot Springsnail Conservation

Committee has been working on ways to preserve the species. Nate Fisher of the Governor’s Office of Species Conservation said Monday morning that one plan instituted by the panel has been conservation of geothermal groundwater through the installation of efficient sprinkler systems for irrigating.

Owyhee County Commissioner Dick Reynolds and Bruneau resident Eric Davis are two of the members on the committee, which also includes state Secretary of Agriculture Pat Takasugi, a Homedale area farmer, as well as representation from the state Department of Water Resources, the Bureau of Land Management, the Idaho Farm Bureau and other interest groups.

The USFWS is seeking any new scientific or commercial information that has become available since the snail was listed endangered. New information may be submitted by mail to the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709; by fax to (208) 378-5262; by telephone to (208) 378-5243; or by e-mail to

fwlsrbocomment@fws.gov.

All faxes and e-mails should include “Bruneau HSS” in the subject line.

The Fish and Wildlife Service requests information including, but not limited to, species biology; population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics and genetics; habitat conditions; conservation measures; threat status and trends; and any other new information, data or corrections such as taxonomic or nomenclature changes, identification of erroneous information, and improved analytical methods.

“We have gained much new information about this and other aquatic snails since their listings in the late 1990s,” Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office field supervisor Jeff Foss said. “We encourage the public to submit new scientific information for our five-year review of this species.”

According to the Service, the purpose of a five-year review is to ensure that the classification of a species as threatened or endangered is “accurate and consistent with the best scientific

and commercial information currently available.”


A five-year review is an assessment of a listed species and does not trigger any changes in management of a species or its habitat.

If the Service receives new information considered substantial, the agency may determine a change in the species’ listing classification. Changes may include removal from the Threatened and Endangered Species List (commonly referred to as delisting) or a change in the status from endangered to threatened or threatened to endangered.

Any change in classification of a species requires a separate rulemaking process, including public review and comment. No change in status would occur until the completion of the rulemaking process.

All species are protected under the Endangered Species Act during the five-year review.

For more information or questions, contact Cary Myler at (208) 378-5243 or by e-mail at cary_myler@fws.gov.




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Homedale, ID 83628
Phone: 337-3189
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8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Tue. 8:30 AM-9:00 PM
Chip Roser, M.D.
Dick Ernest, FNP
Janine Franco, PA

Three injured in Homedale area accidents last week

Three people were injured in recently Homedale area vehicle accidents. All the victims required transport to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s deputies, Homedale Police and Homedale Fire responded to an accident Wednesday involving an onion truck in the 3500 block of Industrial road near Homedale.

The incident occurred at approximately 11:45 a.m. One person was transported to West Valley Regional Medical Center. No further information was available.

A motorcycle crash near the

intersection of North Main Street and California Avenue sent two people to the hospital on Sept. 18.

Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said the accident occurred when the male driver of the motorcycle “lost control turning onto California Avenue from North Main.”

Takashige said alcohol may have been a factor in the crash. The driver and female passenger were both transported to West Valley Medical Center. Their condition was not reported to be life-threatening.

—JWB



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Rimrock Senior Center gets batch of good news

The Rimrock Senior Center in Grand View recently received this bus through a state grant as well as a food and sanitation commendation from Southwest District Health. Submitted photo

Rimrock Senior Center receives new bus, health board citation

The Rimrock Senior Center is more than a facility that serves senior citizens in the Bruneau, Grand View and Oreana areas. It's also a community center, throwing open its doors to several different events each year.

Recently, the center received recognition for the cleanliness of its kitchen and took delivery on a new bus that will allow more people to take advantage of the center's activities.

The Southwest District Board of Health cited the center during its seventh annual Food Sanitation Award presentation during Tuesday morning's board meeting in Caldwell. The award is based on the center's performance in Southwest District Health food and sanitation reviews during the past two years.

"I think it's a real tribute to these people around here because we have a very clean facility and a very good facility for the size of our town," Rimrock Senior Center coordinator Carolyn Larson said.

The center was one of eight organizations throughout the six-county Southwest District to receive a plaque during Tuesday's reception. Unlike the Rimrock Senior Center, most of the other organizations cited were full-time restaurants. The Southwest District encompasses Owyhee, Canyon, Gem, Payette, Washington and Adams counties.

Owyhee County Commission Chairman Hal Tolmie is the Owyhee County representative on the Southwest District Board of Health.

The Rimrock Senior Center at 525 Main Street in Grand View is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays.

Meals are served at 6 p.m. Tuesday and noon Thursday. The price is \$3 for people 60 years old and older, and \$5 for diners 59 and younger. Items featured on the menu in the past have included roast pork, beef tips and noodles, oven-fried chicken, meatloaf, fish and chicken enchiladas.

"We make all our own bread and desserts," Larson said. "We make everything from scratch, all in our own kitchen."

Larson said food for the

senior center's Meals on Wheels program also is whipped up in the kitchen.

But the senior center is more than a place for senior citizens.

"We're about the only place in this town where we can have (large gatherings)," Larson said. "We're more like a civic center."

Several events not affiliated with the senior center are held in the building at 525 Main Street in Grand View. Larson said there have been baby showers, barbecues, benefits and political meetings.

"We even have things not connected with the senior center ... because we have a very nice facility," Larson said. "(Event organizers) make donations to take care of the power and bills like that."

The senior center will hold its annual Fall Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 7. Table rental for vendors is \$10, and Larson said shoppers can expect to see different crafts, produce and jellies and jams at the sale. The event, which is a fund-raiser for the center, also will feature a chicken and noodle luncheon and dessert.

It now will be easier for seniors in the area to take advantage of the facility after the Rimrock Senior Center took delivery of a new 14-passenger bus on Sept. 13.

The bus is equipped with a lift for handicapped persons accessibility. Larson said the bus was acquired with a grant through the Idaho Transportation Department.

According to Adam Rush at ITD, the price tag for the bus was \$45,412, and grants from the Idaho Vehicle Investment Program and Federal Transit Administration provided \$41,779. The remaining \$3,633, or about 8 percent in accordance with the matching funds provision, was provided by the senior center, which also built a cover for the bus.

The senior center will hold an open house Monday to help show off the new vehicle.

Representatives from the community and area businesses are encouraged to attend, which runs from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The new bus will be used for

scheduled trips to Mountain Home, and all area residents are invited to ride the bus. It also might be used to help those folks who don't drive to get to the center.

"We anticipate that the bus will be taken into Mountain Home once a month for shopping and doctor's appointments," Larson said.

Call (208) 834-2808 for more information on the senior center or any of its activities.

— JPB

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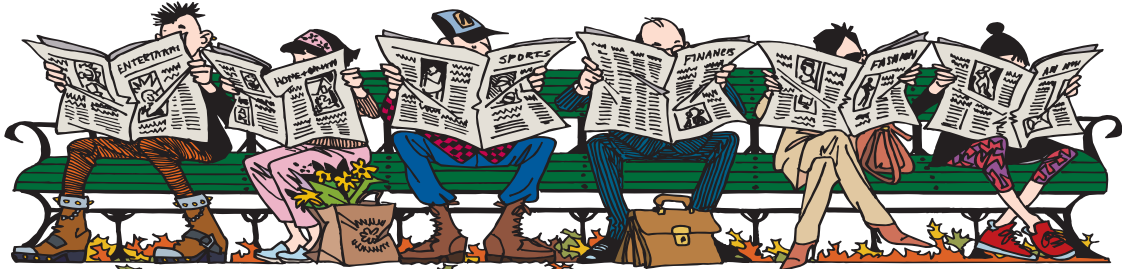
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Coveted land in Marsing

Owyhee County has expressed interest in buying a portion of the land next to the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension office, right, to improve access to the rear of the property and a proposed modular trailer for county offices.

County seeks land in Marsing

Owyhee County is looking for some elbow room in Marsing, but the city isn't sure if the land county officials seek will be available.

County commissioner Chris Salove approached the Marsing City Council at its meeting earlier this month. The county would like to obtain about 30 feet of land adjacent to the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office on 8th Avenue West to complete a plan to add county offices.

"We've been talking about it and actually doing some checking in the last couple of months on the location," Salove said.

Salove said the county would like to move a modular trailer into the space behind the extension office to alleviate an overcrowding situation between county and city office space in Marsing City Hall. At the present time, the county's licensing division and the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office has space in City Hall on Main Street.

The commissioner said the land the county seeks adjacent to the extension office would be used to improve access to the rear of

the property on 8th Avenue West. Salove said Owyhee County owns the land the extension office occupies.

But the county may have to look elsewhere because, according Marsing Mayor Don Osterhoudt, the city plans to put its water complex — including the new well that Boise firm Stevens & Sons will start drilling in the fall — on part or all of the two acres between the extension office and the city's corporation yard.

"I told Chris basically that the city is exploring different options," Osterhoudt said. "We're probably not interested in selling to the county."

Osterhoudt did leave the door open to a future deal, though.

"I think there's going to be some excess property down the road, and we don't know what that is," Osterhoudt said. "We didn't buy it so we could lease it. We bought it so we could have a place for our well."

Salove understands that city officials must see how much of the ground across from the Marsing Schools complex they'll need before making a decision on

splitting any portion. He added that the county is looking into other options.

"We've looked at other properties in town; properties that are publicly for sale," Salove said. "Places like The Rock Shop and the old drug store."

Osterhoudt also confirmed last week that the Bureau of Land Management also has expressed interest in obtaining some land in town.

"When (former Owyhee Field Office manager) Ron Kay was here, they were saying that they really need some additional space for some temporary office workers during the summertime," Osterhoudt said.

The mayor said last week that the city would consider a temporary situation with the BLM involving some of the two acres on 8th Avenue West.

"If they wanted to put temporary storage and parking out there, we wouldn't have a problem to do that — once we determine how much land we need for our own (water) system," Osterhoudt said.

"That's the priority."

Osterhoudt said that the BLM already shares the city's corporation yard on one side of the two acres in question as part of the original lease for the field office on Reich Street.

— JPB

Marsing Nazarene church to hold revival

Guest evangelist Ron Rodes will visit the Marsing Church of the Nazarene on Sunday for a "mini-revival."

The church is located at 12 2nd Ave. W., in Marsing.

A retired elder in the Church of the Nazarene, Rodes will speak at the 10 a.m. Sunday School hour, during the 11 a.m. worship hour and at the 6 p.m. praise service. The three-message service is designed to help those present to "move forward in faith," according to a press release from Marsing Church of the Nazarene pastor Bill O'Connor.

Rodes has been the pastor of several churches throughout the Pacific Northwest, including Meridian and Spokane, Wash. He has more than 50 years of ministry and has been influential in changing many lives.

In recent years, Rodes has specialized in providing interim pastoral services to churches between pastors. His work has been especially well-received, as Rodes has brought help and healing to churches in the midst of transition.

In inviting the public to attend the specialty services, O'Connor said, "I have personally been the recipient of the biblical, compassionate preaching ministry of Ron Rodes and have been deeply blessed by both his ministry and his friendship. It is a privilege to bring to our congregation and community the ministry of a man with such a tender, caring spirit. I'm convinced that his pulpit ministry will do anyone who attends a world of good."

For more information, contact the Marsing Church of the Nazarene at (208) 896-4184.



Auction items on display

Homedale FFA chapter member Mat Hansen sits with some of the merchandise that will be up for grabs — along with chapter members' labor services — on Saturday at the Hyer & Sons Ranch. Submitted photo

Homedale FFA chapter set for annual 'slave' auction

The Homedale FFA Chapter has planned its annual Harvest Auction for Saturday at the Hyer & Sons Ranch outside of town.

The fund-raising auction will feature 30 young, hard-working "slaves," and each will

be auctioned for eight hours of labor. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a dinner. The auction starts at 7 p.m.

To get to the Hyer ranch, take Idaho highway 19 and turn north onto Gulley Road, then turn west onto Hyer Lane.

Other items on the block for the auction Saturday include one pig, one calf, a water trough, homemade quilt, numerous produce items, a toy tractor and much more.

Proceeds from the auction help chapter member attend competitions throughout the year.

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911 response calls attention to rock theft

Federal agency, sheriff ask for help in curbing illegal practice

An emergency medical call to the Black Mountain area earlier this month unfolded to spotlight the problem of people illegally removing landscape rock from Bureau of Land Management land in Owyhee County.

According to BLM Law Enforcement Ranger Lee Kliman, Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman came across a possible case of a father-and-son team stealing landscape rock after securing a medical emergency on Black Mountain southwest of Murphy on Sept. 8.

“While at the scene, Sheriff Aman observed a trailer loaded with landscape rock that appeared to have been taken from BLM public land in the area,” Kliman said.

The son, who Kliman says is in his 40s, had called 911 after his father, who is in his 60s, apparently suffered a stroke shortly after becoming pinned temporarily under the trailer of rock, Kliman said.

Kliman said after securing evacuation of the older man, Aman contacted the federal agency about the possible landscape rock theft.

“Gary saw the trailer with the rock, but then he went down the hill back to Murphy and notified BLM law enforcement because the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office aggressively works with

BLM in regards to commercial landscape rock theft,” Kliman said.

Saying the investigation is ongoing, Kliman refused to release the names of the alleged violators.

It is illegal to remove landscape rock from BLM land unless you have a bureau-issued permit and the rock comes from a BLM community pit.

Permits range in price from \$10 to \$14.75 per ton and can be obtained at the BLM district offices in Boise and Twin Falls or any of the agency’s field offices, such as Owyhee County-related offices like the Owyhee office in Marsing, the Bruneau office or the Jarbidge office.

The maximum penalty for removing rock without a permit is a \$100,000 fine and/or up to a year in jail.

Offenders also can be required to pay restitution.

Kliman said that while some rock loads are taken unwittingly by citizens, many alleged rock thefts are committed by people who sell their haul commercially to private parties or landscape contractors or nurseries.

“It’s pretty blatant,” Kliman said of the rock thieves. “Most of them know they are in the wrong. Most of them are repeat offenders.



Ill-gotten rocks
The rock found in this trailer in the Black Mountain area near Murphy was illegally harvested from Bureau of Land Management land earlier this month. Photo by BLM

We have a high number of repeat offenders.”

But Kliman said in the majority of cases those who are buying the rock are unaware that it may have been illegally obtained.

Another example of rock theft is people with legally obtained landscape rock permits not complying with the terms of the permits.

“We have had a number of instances where a permittee pays for a ton or two of landscape rock and ends up hauling off many tons,” Kliman said.

There are six community pits in the Owyhee Field Office alone. Several different types of rock can be hauled, including sandstone,

basalt and rhyolite.

Kliman, a 26-year veteran of the BLM — including 21 in Idaho and Owyhee County, said “community” is a key word in protecting the integrity of landscape rock on BLM land.

“The public is our eyes and ears,” Kliman said. “The public is important in that they write the license plate down and take pictures with their cell phone or digital camera and give us the location and then we can verify the permit.

“Even if someone is taking rock authorized, don’t be surprised if someone is documenting it.”

Kliman said ranchers and off-road users also keep an eye out, and suspicious activity to look

for includes people taking rock at unusual times of day or from a place that may not be a BLM quarry.

He said if it appears someone is taking rock illegally, you should call the county sheriff, and that agency will contact BLM.

Kliman stressed that the problem may not be just a BLM issue. There are community rock pits on some state lands, too.

The BLM Boise District has recently implemented a load accountability form that must be filled out when the operator enters the pit and again before they leave the pit. Failure to comply may result in the cancellation of the permit. Also, a trespasser could lose the right to purchase mineral materials for one year from the date of the determination of trespass, for first offenses. Subsequent offenses may result in the loss of rights to purchase mineral materials from BLM lands.

Besides the fines levied, a trespasser may also be liable for cost of environmental compliance evaluations

for the disturbed area and any costs associated with remediation of damages created as a result of the trespass action.

“People who take rock outside BLM approved areas either do not realize or may not be concerned that they may be damaging cultural or Native American sites or that they may be causing environment impacts to the public land,” Kliman said.

— JPB

Court ruling could make Owyhee Vietnam vets eligible for benefits

A recent decision by the Court of Veterans Appeals has expanded the pool of Vietnam veterans entitled to consideration for possible Agent Orange exposure.

The court ruled in the case of *Haas v. Nicholson* that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) misinterpreted the law, and that veterans who served in the so-called “blue water” Navy near Vietnam during the war should be entitled to the

presumption of exposure to Agent Orange.

Any Agent Orange-related conditions these veterans may have are, therefore, are service-connected if he or she suffers from one of the VA recognized conditions.

These conditions include type II diabetes and prostate cancer.

Any veteran previously told he or she didn’t qualify or who had been previously denied VA benefits because they “hadn’t set

food in Vietnam” should contact Gene McAbee, the VA’s veterans service officer for Owyhee County, for more information or to resubmit a claim under this new ruling.

McAbee can be reached at (208) 337-4547.

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HMS students get magazine drive rewards

The annual Homedale Middle School magazine has ended for another year, leaving successful students with memories of limousines, candy grabs and other prizes.

Fifth- through eighth-graders as the school compete each year to see who can sell the most subscriptions to various magazines and The Owyhee Avalanche. The school received a portion of the sales to help pay for activities and supplies. The Avalanche donates 25 percent of each subscription to the cause.

Homedale Middle School principal Keith Field said last week the school received about 40 percent of the total sales from the subscription drive.

“We’d like to get about \$15,000,” Field said. “But it’s usually about \$10,000 to \$12,000.”

The students had three different deadline days to turn in subscriptions. The students who obtained 10 or more orders by the first turn-in day, Sept. 19, earned a ride in a limousine and lunch at Homedale Drive-In.

Six seventh- and eighth-graders and seven fifth- and sixth-graders qualified for the limo ride and lunch, which was held Wednesday. Randy Fowler, a flamboyant chauffeur with Ultimate Limousine, showed up in a custom-made purple wizard’s outfit — complete with a flowing cape — to take the children and their chaperones on their excursion.

Fowler said he has been driving for Ultimate for a few years and that many clients request him personally because of the former professional musician’s flair for dressing outrageously.

The students were driven from the middle school on Johnstone Road down Idaho Avenue to Homedale Drive-In, where they ate lunch. The two groups were chaperoned by teachers from the classrooms with the top magazine

sales.

Fowler made two trips, beginning with the seventh- and eighth-graders. The group was chaperoned by Bev Bauer and included:

Eighth-graders — Philip Moulton and Jonathan Stacey

Seventh-graders — David Clampitt, Rabecka Krasko, Kyle Purdom and Austin Trevino.

The fifth- and sixth-graders made the second trip accompanied by top teacher Wayne Skeen and another teacher, David Hann. Those students included:

Sixth-graders — Mariza Fernandez, Miranda Miklancic and Heather Romriell

Fifth-graders — Ben Cardenas, Juliana Hart, Shelby Lee and Nathaniel Tomlinson

Many of those same children qualified for a candy scramble on the floor of the cafeteria Wednesday afternoon. In addition to the students who went on the limo ride, Shelby McRae, Jordan Meligan, Karissa Webb, Kenny Harper and Nicole Keller were eligible for the candy scramble. Sixteen children in all slid and crawled on the floor trying to gather as many pieces of candy as they could during a 20-second time frame.

Friday was the second turn-in day for the subscription drive, and students who sold 10 subscriptions or more were eligible for a “cash grab” Monday that featured a top prize of \$50. Those who sold at least five subscriptions earned cash cards.

Top sellers after Tuesday’s last order submission were entered into a drawing for a mini-refrigerator, and others qualified to take part in a mechanical pig race. The drawing and races will be held today.

Results of the cash grab and the refrigerator drawing weren’t available at press time.

— JPB



Reaping benefits from hard work

Some Homedale Middle School students were rewarded for their success during the first week of the school’s annual magazine drive. **Top:** Some students took part in the candy scramble Wednesday. **Above:** Two waves of students were treated to a limousine ride and lunch at the Homedale Drive-In on Thursday. **Left:** The flamboyant chauffeur, Randy Fowler, stands watch as students enter his limo for the ride downtown.

Rimrock FFA news

by Chelsey Lemon, chapter reporter

Nine members of the Rimrock FFA chapter attended the Boise Valley District workshop on Sept. 11. They traveled to Vallivue High School in Caldwell.

The group attended three different workshops held by district officers.

The first workshop taught teamwork, and the second one taught FFA members how to present themselves to district, state and national officers.

The last workshop covered the different awards you can earn as an FFA member, including:

Greenhand Award — Earned during the first year as an FFA member; Chapter degree — Earned during second year as a member within a chapter; State degree — Earned at the state level; American degree — Earned at the national level

The next event is today, when Rimrock FFA travels to Kuna for dairy judging and dairy foods competition.



Rimrock FFA visits district meeting

The Rimrock FFA chapter’s team that attended the Sept. 11 Boise Valley District meeting at Vallivue High School in Caldwell included, from left to right, Ariel Turner, Chantel Smith, Sam Harger, Cody Worthington, Chelsey Lemon, Katie Love, Geoff King, Leigh Martin and Ross Lemon. Submitted photo

Read all about it

in

The Owyhee Avalanche

337-4681

Marsing High School marks Homecoming



Homecoming prince and princess honored

Sean Finley, left, and Rose Remick smile after learning they won the contest for Homecoming prince and princess for Marsing High School on Friday night.

Homecoming king and queen crowned

Marsing High School seniors Johnathon Cossel, left, and Jessica Elsberry pose after being named 2006 Homecoming king and queen before Friday's football game.

Sophomores build prize-winning float

Members of the Class of 2009 ride on their "Mario Bros." float, right, during Friday afternoon's Homecoming parade. The sophomore class won the float contest, which had a theme of video games, and the overall class championship.



Bon fire ignites school spirit

Marsing High School's students attended a rally Wednesday night that was capped with a bon fire to get the competitive flames stoked for Friday's football game against Cole Valley Christian. Photo by Brandy Smith, MHS Yearbook



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<div>Boneless Pork Sirloin Roast</div> <div></div> <div>\$1⁹⁹ lb.</div>	<div>Boneless Beef Top Sirloin Steak</div> <div></div> <div>\$3⁵⁹ lb.</div>	<div>Pomegranates</div> <div></div> <div>99¢ ea.</div>	<div>5 lb. Potatoes</div> <div></div> <div>\$1⁴⁹ ea.</div>
<div>Tony's Pizza 5 for \$10</div> <div>Western Family 12 oz. \$1⁸⁹ ea.</div> <div>Cheese Singles</div> <div>Western Family 40 oz. \$2⁷⁹ ea.</div> <div>Burritos</div>	<div>Bar-S 16 oz. 99¢ ea.</div> <div>Bologna</div> <div>Bar-S 16 oz. 99¢ ea.</div> <div>Franks</div> <div>Western Family 24 oz. 2 for \$7</div> <div>Fish Sticks</div>	<div>Salad Mix 99¢ ea.</div> <div>Local Apples 79¢ lb.</div> <div>1 lb. Baby Carrots 79¢ ea.</div>	<div>Avocados 89¢ ea.</div> <div>Lemons 4 for \$1</div> <div>Limes</div> <div>Jalapeños 69¢ lb.</div>
<div>Progresso Soup</div> <div></div> <div>\$1²⁹ ea.</div> <div>18.5-19 oz.</div> <div>Western Family 24 oz. \$1³⁹ ea.</div> <div>Sour Cream</div>	<div>Western Family Long Spaghetti</div> <div></div> <div>5 for \$5</div> <div>32 oz.</div> <div>Hunt's 26 oz. \$1²⁹ ea.</div> <div>Spaghetti Sauce</div>	<div>Coca Cola Products</div> <div></div> <div>\$3⁹⁹ ea.</div> <div>12pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>2 Liter Bottle \$1²⁹ ea.</div> <div>Coke Products</div>	<div>Coors Beer</div> <div></div> <div>\$11⁹⁹ ea.</div> <div>18pk 12oz Cans or Bottles</div> <div>12pk 12oz Cans \$5⁹⁹ ea.</div> <div>Busch Beer</div>
<div>Wonder Whole Grain White & Kids Sandwich Bread 20-24 oz. 3 for \$5</div>	<div>Shasta Soda 3 Liter Bottle \$1²⁹ ea.</div>	<div>Powerade 32 oz. 79¢ ea.</div>	<div>Doritos Tortilla Chips 13 oz. 2 for \$5</div>
<div>Betty Crocker Cake Mixes 18-19.5 oz. 4 for \$5</div>	<div>Western Family Beef Ravioli & Rings w/Meatballs 15 oz. 89¢ ea.</div>	<div>Western Family Ice Cream 1/2 Gallon \$2²⁹ ea.</div>	<div>Ruffles Potato Chips 11.5-12 oz. \$2⁷⁹ ea.</div>
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