



**Basketball set
to begin
Page 1B**

**Commissioners honor
longtime election worker**

Page 14A

**Jordan Valley, Adrian reach
volleyball state tournament**

In Sports

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 45

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

County workers' grievance still unresolved

County commissioners held an executive session Monday to address the grievance filed by the Owyhee County Employees Association, even as an individual county employee has filed a

second grievance.

According to employees association president Aron Streibel, an executive session was held during Monday's weekly commissioners meeting

in Murphy to address the original grievance questioning the process used to hire a full-time building inspector.

Streibel said no decision was handed down by the

commissioners, who instead told the employees on hand they would issue a written response. Streibel said no timeline for a response was given.

"To our feeling, the grievance

hasn't been resolved," Streibel said.

But even as a second grievance, dated Oct. 24, asserted that the

— to page 5A

Election results published next week

Because of The Owyhee Avalanche's press schedule, results from Tuesday's general election will appear in the Nov. 15 edition.

Voters went to the polls Tuesday to decide a handful of Idaho issues and fill several seats at all levels of government, including Idaho's District 1 congressman, governor, lieutenant governor and state District 23 senator and representatives.

In Owyhee County, Richard Freund and Jerry Hoagland ran unopposed to fill commissioner posts. Other county offices featuring only one candidate on the ballot included clerk (Charlotte Sherburn), treasurer (Brenda Richards), assessor (Brett Endicott) and coroner (Harvey Grimme).

There also was an election for two local irrigation board seats, and Adrian School District patrons had their choice of two multi-million dollar bond measures to build a new grade school and gymnasium.



Homedale High School Government classes hold mock election

"It (mock election) will show us that we can do this in the real world," Michelle Oviedo, a senior at Homedale High School said after casting her mock vote in the ballot box. Oviedo said that she thought students would be more likely to vote later in life after practicing in class. Homedale High Government classes, taught by Jim McMillian, took part in mock elections Monday as a way to get hands-on learning prior to election day. For more on the exercise, see **Page 3A**

Homedale couple arrested on theft, burglary charges

**Homedale PD, ATF, other agencies
team up for investigation**

A husband and wife are in custody on charges of grand theft and burglary following an investigation into the theft of guns and a four-wheeler ATV in Homedale.

Rocky Nix, 39, and Kimberly Nix, 31, both of Homedale, were arrested on Oct. 27, after an ongoing investigation, which also included officers from the Wilder Police Department, Canyon County Sheriff's Office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. A juvenile

also was arrested in connection with the case.

On Oct. 12, Homedale Police Officer Michelle Babcock initially took a report of a stolen Benelli 12-gauge shotgun, a loaded Ruger .22-caliber rifle and a Polaris ATV from the 400 block of West Colorado Avenue in Homedale. The suspects apparently broke into a vehicle at that location to gain access to the firearms, but took the

— to page 5A

Banks, most city offices open on observed Vets Day

All county offices, including the vehicle registration office adjacent to the Marsing City Hall, will be closed Friday in observance of Veterans Day.

There's no mail service Saturday.

City offices in Homedale and Marsing will be open as usual throughout the week. Schools

will be open normally, with the exception of Homedale schools, which will be closed Monday for an unrelated activity.

U.S. Bank branches in Homedale

and Marsing will be open.

Grand View City Hall will be closed Friday, which is a normal day of closure for the city government there.

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On Page 1B

*Marsing High School
bows out in first round
of 2A football playoffs
against Orofino.*

Homedale costume contest winner



City staff crows about this scarecrow
Amelia Brown, 3, won the costume contest for Homedale's third annual Safe-n-Sane Halloween celebration last week. Amelia originally was going to dress as a mermaid, but her mother, Cindy, made the scarecrow costume when the temperature dipped on Oct. 31. Amelia was selected from a pool of 43 trick-or-treaters whose costumes were judged by employees in the city clerk's office. Her photo will be displayed at City Hall for a year, and she also won a Halloween prize bowl. For more photos from the Safe-n-Sane Halloween, see Page 12A. Submitted photo

Caldwell man arrested in Homedale for felony stalking

A Caldwell man is being held in the Owyhee County Jail after an Oct. 31 arrest for stalking in the first degree, a felony.

Geoffrey Pruett of Caldwell was arrested in the 300 block of West Nevada Avenue after Homedale Police received a report that the suspect was stalking a 40-year-old Homedale woman. Police discovered Pruett had an outstanding no-contact order, which made it illegal to contact the victim. Police did not release the name of the victim.

Pruett was charged with stalking in the first degree, a felony. If convicted, Pruett could face up to five years in the state penitentiary and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Pruett is in custody in the Owyhee County Jail on a \$50,000 bond. A preliminary hearing is set for Monday.

— JWB



Geoffrey Pruett

Stolen vehicle recovered on bank of Snake River in Homedale

A Homedale man breathed a sigh of relief last week after finding his stolen 1994 Geo Tracker dangling above the Snake River near Riverside Avenue in Homedale.

Terry Pegram said his vehicle was stolen from the Farmer's Inn on Halloween. Police recovered the vehicle a day later.

"They stole it last night about 7:30 p.m. from behind the Farmer's Inn," Pegram said last week. "I left the bar, and it was gone."

Pegram said he did not know who may have stolen the vehicle.

The suspect or suspects apparently attempted to run the vehicle into the Snake River near Riverside Park, but trees and brush stopped the Tracker before it reached the water. The vehicle apparently sustained little damage, but a wrecker was required to tow it back to the roadway.

At the time of recovery, Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said his officers did not have any suspects in the case. Eidemiller said it was the second stolen vehicle in Homedale in two days.

According to Owyhee County Dispatch records, the second stolen vehicle was recovered shortly after it was reported missing.

No arrests have been made in either case.

— JWB



Stolen vehicle found near river

A Homedale man recovered his stolen Geo Tracker from the banks of the Snake River last week. The vehicle was stolen from the parking lot of a Homedale bar Oct. 31 and located Wednesday.

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in the Avalanche!

Risch appoints Marsing resident

Marsing resident John Hill has been appointed to a new commission created by Idaho Gov. Jim Risch.

According to Risch spokesman Brad Hoaglund, Hill will represent the youth community on the Idaho Council on Suicide Prevention.

The council was created by Executive Order 2006-35 and the Idaho Legislature supported it through the passage of HCR 31.

According to a press release from the governor's office, the council is charged with implementing the Idaho Suicide Prevention Plan, evaluate progress and recommend any new priorities for the plan.

The release stated that suicide is the second-leading cause of death among Idahoans age 15 to 34.

The council will be co-chaired by Rep. Kathie Garrett, who co-sponsored HCR 31, and Peter Wolheim of Boise.

Trial date set in superintendent stalking case

Trial dates are set for a Marsing couple accused of stalking Marsing Schools superintendent Harold Shockley.

Robert and Genie Atkins plead not guilty last month on charges of stalking Shockley. According to Owyhee County court records, the couple's attorney, Alan Coffel, filed a notice-of-appearance and entered a plea of not guilty on the couple's behalf.

The Atkinses must appear in court on Jan. 22 for a pre-

trial conference. A jury trial is scheduled for Feb. 16.

Both have been charged with criminal stalking in the second degree, a misdemeanor. The charges stem from events that occurred during 2005 and 2006 in which the couple allegedly followed, photographed and harassed Shockley repeatedly over several months' time. Shockley reported the series of incidents to the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office after the couple

unexpectedly confronted him in the parking lot of a Wal-Mart store in Canyon County in May.

Last month, Genie Atkins told The Owyhee Avalanche that she and her husband followed and photographed Shockley as he drove a 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer issued to him by the Marsing School District in order to document what they perceived as "blatant abuse" of taxpayer funds, in which Shockley used

the vehicle for personal as well as official business.

She contends that Shockley "blatantly abused" his district-owned vehicle and "used up as much gas as he could use" by driving more than 2,000 miles per month.

Former Marsing School Board chairman Joe Usabel said that the school district furnished the vehicle to Shockley for business and personal use as part of his contract, a policy that has

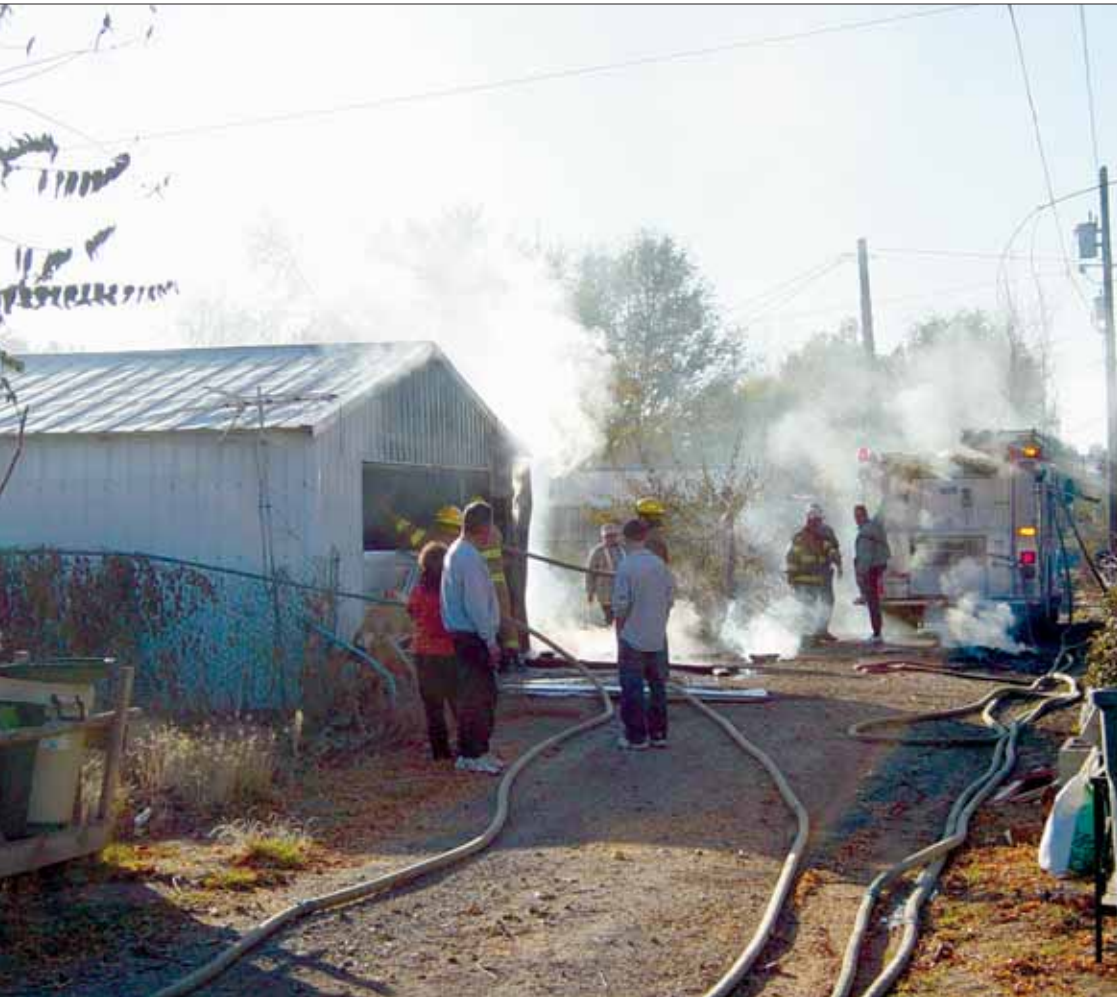
been in place for the past four superintendents.

Usabel said the Atkinses never have attempted to address the issue with the Marsing School Board at any time.

"We didn't feel they would do anything," Genie Atkins said.

If convicted, the couple each could face up to a year in the county jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000.

— JWB



Shed fire in Homedale

Firefighters from the Homedale Rural Fire District quickly attacked and extinguished a shed fire near the intersection of West 3rd Street and Montana Avenue on Oct. 31. The fire reportedly was accidentally started by a neighbor burning weeds. No one was injured.

More businesses flock to new mall

The new strip mall on East Idaho Avenue currently houses Rehab Authority and Curves, but at least one other business is on the way in the next few months.

In January, another suite in the business complex will feature preschool and pre-kindergarten educational opportunities with the opening of Teaching World Learning Center.

According to Kimberly Stebly, an instructor at Teaching World in Nampa, the facility managers hope to offer tutoring services by March. Stebly is co-owner of

the franchise with her mother, Deborah Roetto.

Teaching World also has a retail location in Nampa that sells learning materials.

Meanwhile, Rehab Authority was scheduled to move into its new digs at the strip mall Monday. The clinic had been located at 106 W. Idaho Ave.

Matt Smith, physical therapist at Rehab Authority, said the new location will provide higher visibility and easier access for patients.

— JWB

HMS plans open gym on Friday

Homedale Middle School plans an open gym activity Friday.

The activity is sponsored by Project Alert, an anti-drug organization.

Fifth- and sixth-graders will be offered the 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. slot, and seventh- and eighth-graders are slated for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A video, board games and a Project Alert lesson are scheduled, in addition to a prize drawing for those students who attend the Project Alert lesson.

For more information, contact Susan Ankey at 337-5780 or by e-mail at ankenys@homedaleschools.org.

Students stage mock election

While the pundits are sifting through the votes and trying to figure out what happened in Tuesday night's general election, students at Homedale High School are analyzing their own results today.

Students in Jim McMillan's Government classes have focused on the election process during this campaign season with debates and a mock vote.

"The objective was to have them become more aware of the issues and the candidates that were running," McMillan said.

The teacher expressed hope that the assignment would brew interest in and discussion about Tuesday's election among the teenagers, who are at or close to voting age.

The assignment included each student researching two candidates then holding a mock debate during class. The pros and cons of the state initiatives were covered,

and students also watched debates on the proposals.

Monday, students and school staff voted in a mock election on the candidates and the initiatives.

"I plan to have them tallied

by Tuesday so they can see how we voted at school and then compare it with the actual election on Tuesday," McMillan said, likening the process to a pre-election poll.

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Homedale official explains spike in water bills

With the area firmly entrenched in another fall, the city of Homedale recently reviewed water usage from the summer. The conclusion is residents can save water — and subsequently money — if they observe some simple guidelines.

City public works supervisor Larry Bauer said last week that Homedale City Hall received complaints from customers about high water bills, especially in the summer. But he said it’s a matter of supply-and-demand, and residents use more water in the hot months of the year, such as August.

“We had a handful of people with 100,000 gallons (of water used) in a month during August,” Bauer said.

According to data from a recent audit of water usage, Homedale water users dispensed more than 10 million gallons of water in August.

By the end of October, that number had trickled down to less than 5.8 million gallons.

“We found a lot of people who said that they only watered their flowerpots,” Bauer said. “But

By the numbers

The total amount of water used by Homedale residents in the past five months:

Month	Gallons used
October	5,790, 700
September	8,078,000
August	10,146,200
July	9,252,200
June	7,702,000

if you water a flowerpot for a half-hour a day, you use a lot of water.”

Another reason for the spike in usage, Bauer suspected, was that some residents sprayed off their driveways during the hot months, in which Bauer said Homedale had 21 days of temperatures over 100 degrees.

And then there are faulty faucets and pipes.

“The biggest problem we had are leaks,” Bauer said.

There is a “drip-chart” available at City Hall that will show customers how much water is lost (for which they are charged) from a leaking spigot. A running toilet wastes even more water.

Some people may have seen a higher bill because they watered their lawn with city water instead of taking advantage of irrigation water in the summer.

“Most people have ready access to irrigation, but it’s easier to grab the hose,” Bauer said. “We all have a habit of doing that.

“We live in a desert here. Water really isn’t a ready commodity. It’s hard to get.”

Assistant city clerk Marsha Hays said city crews sometimes are dispatched to re-read meters when residents call about high water bills.

“If it’s something we can’t explain in the office, then we send the guys out for a re-read,” she said. “Occasionally, there is a wrong read, and if there is we’ll adjust the bill accordingly.”

But more and more of the city’s water meters have digital readouts, from which data is downloaded with the wave of

an electronic wand. Hays said this cuts down on human error that stems from visually reading meters that are buried in dark holes in the ground.

While water usage is a big reason for the spike in water bills each year, Bauer says it’s a matter of inflation, too. There is an automatic 5 percent increase built in to water bills each year strictly to keep pace.

“The city pays to pump water. We have to cover our cost,” Bauer said. “Power, labor and capital improvement monies are all part of the cost to bring water to the people.”

Bauer adds that longtime residents may not be aware that they use more water now than in the past simply because of improvements to the city’s system.

“Our system has 70 pounds-per-square-inch (psi) of pressure,” Bauer said. “One minute at 70 pounds of pressure out of a garden hose is a lot of water.”

The system’s pressure has nearly doubled since the city installed a new water tower three years ago, Bauer said. But that

upgrade, while perhaps causing folks to unknowingly use more water, has also helped the city come in line with Department of Environmental Quality standards for fire suppression, he said.

Three years ago, city water flowed at about 40 psi, Bauer said.

Bauer said the city tries to stay ahead of the demand, and that the water bond passed by voters in May will help by financing the addition of another well, which could happen next summer.

“We look at usage to see whether we have to expand the system,” Bauer said. “And we’re going to do that.

“Part of the reason we’re going to expand the system and add another well is because of the usage.”

The residential expansion that lurks on the horizon is another impetus for the city, he said.


“We’re trying to be proactive and do the work up front and make the new people (moving in) pay for it,” Bauer said. “That’s the way it’s supposed to happen.”

— JPB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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

Bruneau’s unique Christmas event on tap

The sixth annual Bruneau Cowboy Christmas Gif Boutique will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 19 at the Bruneau American Legion Hall.

Admission is free for the gift extravaganza sponsored by Miller’s Etched OutWest and featuring local artisans and

craftsmen from Nevada, Oregon, California and Montana.

Among the “Best of the West” gift ideas will be handmade, one-of-a-kind Western home décor, cowboy gear and tack, furniture, metal work, quilts, Western books, crafts, art and hand-crafted silver jewelry.

Santa Claus also will be on hand throughout the day to visit with children.

Vendors will begin selling at 9 a.m., after Cowboy Church at 8:20 a.m.

For more information on the boutique, call Anita Miller at (208) 863-8443.



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From page 1

✓ Grievance

commissioners didn't address the original issue in a timely fashion as mandated by the county's employee policy manual, Streibel said he felt Monday's proceedings also were contrary to the manual.

Streibel disputes the validity of the commissioners' calling an executive session to hear testimony because the matter doesn't deal with a specific employee.

"I feel that holding it in executive session was not the proper way," Streibel said. "The only reason that I can see for holding it in executive session is if you have something to hide."

"The grievance was concerning hiring practice. The grievance hearing did not involve employee discipline or a specific employee issue," Streibel said. "It was regarding us aggrieving the commissioners on their practice of hiring unfairly, so we don't feel they have the right to hold an executive session."

Monday's hearing was a continuation of an item on the Oct. 23 meeting agenda when commissioners decided to table the grievance hearing on the advice of counsel.

'If the commissioners refuse to accept responsibility or address the issue and keep trying to string us along, so to speak, unfortunately the only other recourse I can see at this point is to get some legal advice and possibly seek legal representation.'

— **Aron Streibel**

Owyhee County Employees Association president

The employees association contends that the full-time position of building inspector — created in the 2006-07 budget — wasn't opened to all interested parties before commissioners hired Arlyn J. Tietz. The association also maintains that Tietz is being paid more than is allowed by the county's pay scale for his position. Streibel said Monday that one of the commissioners told him that the county hasn't always followed the pay scale.

The commissioners' handling of the original hearing, which was convened in executive session on Oct. 23, sparked a second grievance.

In a letter dated Oct. 24, a county employee asserted that the

commissioners failed to follow the county policy manual when they voted to "table" the hearing on the original grievance at their Oct. 23 meeting.

"That grievance is straight from an employee, not through the association," Streibel said. "And, from what I understand, (the employee) felt or believed that the grievance process was not handled correctly."

Streibel said while the second grievance was launched independent of the employees organization, the association does agree with the message in the letter, which also claimed that any grievance hearing is to be held in an open meeting.

According to Section IX C (5)

of the employee policy manual, a hearing must be conducted within 10 days of the filing of the grievance.

The employees association grievance was filed on Oct. 13, and 10 days later a hearing was placed on the agenda of the commissioners' regular meeting. But a hearing was never held because the commissioners postponed any action until Nov. 6 (Monday), on the advice of legal counsel, according to Streibel.

The policy manual states that an "elected official or department administrator" may conduct an informal hearing or refer the grievance to a hearing officer. If the hearing officer option is chosen, the elected official or administrator must deliver the grievance to the hearing officer within three days of its original receipt. The officer then has 10 days to schedule a hearing.

"(The commissioners) ran the hearing (Monday), which we felt was inappropriate," Streibel said.

If the official or administrator opts to hold a hearing without an officer, a written decision must be issued in five days. According to the policy manual, a decision would be due by Friday.

"Once again, it appears you are in violation of your own policy

manual," the second grievance letter says. "Gentlemen, it is this kind of activity that creates the animosity and distrust between the employees and yourselves."

"We are asking that you please follow the county policy manual and rectify this situation immediately."

Streibel has said in the past that the association didn't want controversy to mark its first official action, but last week he didn't back away from the organization's desire for a fair resolution to the issue.

"If the commissioners refuse to accept responsibility or address the issue and keep trying to string us along, so to speak, unfortunately the only other recourse I can see at this point is to get some legal advice and possibly seek legal representation," Streibel said.

Streibel said the association hasn't retained legal counsel yet but has been receiving "professional advice" from the liaison who works on labor issues between the Boise City Police Union and the City of Boise and its police department.

"He's acting as a concerned individual. He's just giving us advice from his experience," Streibel said.

— JPB

✓ Arrests

ATV from the backyard.

"The suspects had prior knowledge of where the guns were," Babcock said.

During her investigation, Babcock was able to piece together physical evidence and then link it to the suspects in the case.

"Officer Babcock did a fine job in connecting physical evidence and connecting a juvenile suspect to the crime within hours of the initial report," Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said last week.



Rocky Nix



Kimberly Nix

Takashige said that although physical evidence was key in tying the case together, members of the community also provided information, which was key in solving the crime.

"We had two confidential informants that assisted in locating the weapons," Takashige said.

Takashige said that the investigation led to a search warrant, in



Multi-agency investigation nets stolen guns

Homedale Police Officer Michelle Babcock processes two firearms recovered during an ongoing felony grand theft and burglary investigation in Homedale. Officers from Wilder Police, Homedale Police, deputies from Owyhee and Canyon County, and federal agents from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms assisted Homedale Police in serving search and arrest warrants on a Homedale couple and their residence last month.

which 10 officers, including ATF agents searched a residence in Homedale on Oct. 13.

After the search, arrest warrants were issued for the Nixes. With assistance from the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, Homedale officers arrested the couple at their Homedale residence on Oct. 27.

Kimberly and Rocky Nix are in custody in the Owyhee Coun-

ty Jail, each being held on a \$15,000 bond. They both face felony charges of grand theft and burglary, if convicted they face prison sentences of up to 14 years and a \$5,000 fine for grand theft and up to 10 additional years for burglary.

The Nixes are scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing Nov. 13 in Murphy.

— JWB

Life's milestones

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

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

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

Fax — (208) 337-4867

E-mail — jbrowneditor@cableone.net

Drop off — 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale

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

The Owyhee Avalanche

Avalanche obituary policy

Obituaries can be submitted the following ways:

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No obituaries are accepted over the telephone.

Rates are \$3.50 per column inch and \$5 per photo.

There is no cost for a death notice.

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

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

The Owyhee Avalanche

Veterans can catch a ride at senior center for free flu shots

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center’s bus will be available to take an veteran needing a flu shot to the Boise Veteran’s Administration hospital. The VA is offering flu shots to all veterans between Nov. 14 and Nov. 17.

Any veteran wanting to take advantage of the bus ride to the Boise VA should call Owyhee Veterans Service Office Gene McAbee at 337-4547 to reserve a spot on the bus.

A donation of \$5 is suggested for the bus ride.

The center’s van also will be used for a senior citizens’ shopping trip on Monday. Call 337-3020 or sign up at the center’s front desk at 224 W. Idaho Ave., to reserve a seat.

Other activities planned for the senior center this month include the monthly Saturday dance on Nov. 18. The dance runs from 7 p.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to all ages. Admission is \$3 and a plate of finger food.

On Oct. 21, the senior center will host its monthly foot clinic at 10 a.m. Call the center to make an appointment. Delta Dental of Idaho’s Mobile Dental Clinic also will be on-site that day for dental exams and screening, cleaning and prophylaxis, oral cancer screening, denture adjustments and relining and oral hygiene/denture care education. Call or stop by the center to set up an appointment.

The center will hold its Thanksgiving dinner on Nov. 22 and will close Nov. 23-24 for the holiday.

19-year district worker earns latest Homedale school award

Longtime Homedale School District employee Tom Muir was honored by the school board recently with the monthly Award of Excellence.

A 19-year veteran of the district, Muir currently is the director of transportation and maintenance for the Homedale district.

“Tom has two major job responsibilities: The improvement and maintenance of district facilities and the operation of our student transportation system. Not many people in the state of Idaho, I would guess, have both of these jobs...most school districts have one person dealing with facilities, and another dealing with student transportation; so, the fact that Tom is able to perform with excellence the demands of both of these jobs is quite remarkable,” Homedale School District Superintendent Tim Rosandick said of Muir.

Muir received his plaque at the

October board meeting from his son, Shane, who is a member of the district’s board of trustees.

Muir has served with the district for 19 years. Muir has been with the district since 1987.



Homedale School District honors longtime employee

Homedale School District transportation and maintenance director Tom Muir, right, receives the monthly Award of Excellence from school board member — and Tom’s son — Shane Muir. Submitted photo

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Nov. 9: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 10: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 13: No school.

Nov. 14: Chicken rice bowl or egg roll & rice bowl, vegetables, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 15: Crispito or tst. Cheese sandwich, taco salad, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

Nov. 9: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 10: Chicken tenders or beef steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 13: No school.

Nov. 14: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 15: Enchilada or chicken noodles, corn, apple crisp, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

Nov. 9: Chicken patty/bun or sandwich & soup, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 10: Crispito or rib-b-que/bun, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 13: No school.

Nov. 14: Beef nuggets or corn dog bites, potato or macaroni salad, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Nov. 15: Lasagna or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Bruneau

Nov. 9: Chicken & noodles, peas, roll/butter, cherry crisp, milk.

Nov. 10: Hamburger, fries, veggie sticks, fruit, cookie, milk.

Nov. 13: Soft taco w/fixins, corn, applesauce, cinnamon roll, milk.

Nov. 14: Pizza, salad/croutons, corn, pineapple, milk.

Nov. 15: Popcorn chicken, potato wedges, fresh veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

Photographer to speak at Bruneau library

The fall program of the Bruneau Valley Library’s “What’s Hot at the Library” speaker series has begun.

November’s event is a talk and slide show by Nampa wildlife photographer Colleen Sweeney. It will be held next Wednesday, and a free lunch is served at noon before the program.

Sweeney has done extensive photography work in Owyhee County and southwest Idaho.

Call library director Clara Morris at (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2345 by Monday to reserve a spot for the event. If there is a large registration, the presentation will be moved to the Bruneau Community Church.

The Bruneau Valley Library is located at 32073 Ruth St. in Bruneau. The church is located at 152 Hyde St.

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Oct 31	47	12	
Nov 1	47	7	
Nov 2	49	10	
Nov 3	no	read	
Nov 4	no	read	
Nov 5	no	read	
Nov 6	64	31	.18

Senior menus

Marsing center

Nov. 9: Ham, peas, rice, sweet potatoes, applesauce, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Nov. 13: Potato bar, chili, cheese, broccoli, etc., soup, salad, dessert, drink.

Nov. 14: Spaghetti, green beans, peaches, tossed salad, garlic bread, soup, dessert, drink.

Nov. 15: Liver & onions or

pizza, corn, potatoes, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Homedale center

Nov. 9: Spaghetti, meat sauce, tossed salad, roll, milk.

Nov. 14: Birthday lunch. Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas, roll, milk.

Nov. 15: Sausage & biscuits, oven fried potatoes, carrots, milk.

Have a news tip?

Call us!

337-4681



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Your finances

Grown children need to suck it up with father ill

Dear Dave,

I have four children in college. My husband recently became ill and will be off work for quite a while. Fortunately, we had disability insurance, so that pays him 60 percent of his previous salary. Our older two children are self-supported, but we help the younger two with expenses and spending money. Now, I'm having a hard time meeting OUR expenses. Worse yet, I don't think we've done a very good job teaching them about money. They keep expecting us to just hand it to them.

— Mary

Dear Mary,

I think you need to hold a serious family meeting. Point out the changes around the house since their dad got hurt, and let them know things are going to be different from now on.

You shouldn't feel bad about this, either, because you're not doing anything wrong. I think college is important, but your husband is ill. I don't feel too bad about your kids. I feel badly that they didn't pull up stakes and come home to help out. That's what we used to do in the old days.

I know it's tough when you can't help your kids as much as you'd like. But they're grown up, and it's time for them to start acting like it. Let go of the guilt. Paying for a kid's education is something all parents should ATTEMPT to do, but it's a luxury.

Sit down with them, explain the situation and begin teaching them what you've learned. Show them how to make a monthly budget — spending all of their money on paper before the month begins — and lovingly but firmly suggest that they get part-time jobs if they want spending money. Start teaching them now, Mary. It's never too late!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My tax preparer suggested that I start investing in a 401(k) plan at work and that next year she would help me set up an IRA. I know an IRA is for retirement, but I'm only 20 years old. Do I really need to do that right now?

— Melanie



Dear Melanie,

Yes!

You should start saving for retirement as soon as you can. If you make smart decisions right now you could be a millionaire by the time you retire. Did you catch that? I said you could retire a MILLIONAIRE!

First, get \$1,000 in the bank. This will be your emergency fund. If your car breaks down or some unexpected emergency comes up you won't have to scramble or mess up your budget to cover it. Then, you need to pay off any debts that you have and become debt-free as soon as possible. This will free up your greatest wealth-building tool — your income.

If your company offers a 401(k) and a match, you should invest the maximum possible amount. A 401(k) gives you nothing unless you put money into it, so you need to put something in.

The 401(k) usually gives you several options of where to invest. I would choose the mutual funds option and spread the money evenly over four different categories — growth, aggressive growth, growth and income, and international. Invest in mutual funds that have a solid track record of at least five to 10 years. After you're funding your 401(k) then look into a Roth IRA — an Individual Retirement Account that grows tax-free.

Melanie, you're in a position to change your entire family tree. With no payments you'll have the power to save so much money that your children's children will have an inheritance!

— 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



Homedale youngsters celebrate Basque heritage

Herribatza Dantzariak members Tristan Corta and Michael Lejardi perform a Basque dance at the Trailing of the Sheep festival last month in Hailey. Submitted photo

Calendar

Today

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

Marsing City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Main St. (208) 896-4122

Grand View City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. (208) 834-2700, Monday through Wednesday

Thursday

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

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

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 High School Band spaghetti feed fund-raiser, \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four or more, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-4613

Sunday

DivorceCare recovery support group, 9:30 a.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Calvary Chapel Home Fellowship Bible study, 10 a.m.,

532 W. California Ave., Homedale. (208) 475-3733

A Study in Heaven, 10 a.m., Marsing Church of the Nazarene, 12 2nd Ave. W. (208) 896-4184

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

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

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

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Read all about it

in

The Owyhee Avalanche
337-4681

Homedale High senior wins BBB's integrity award

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Southwest Idaho and Eastern Oregon has chosen a Homedale High School senior for its annual integrity award.

Joshua Myers was chosen for the award on Oct. 18 after submitting an essay and receiving recommendations from three references, including Jim McMillan, Joshua's U.S. History teacher at Homedale.

"Joshua is a person with the highest personal integrity, whose conduct is always above reproach. ... I cannot think of a single situation where I would not trust him completely to do the right thing," McMillan wrote of Joshua.

In order to be eligible for the award, Myers was scored in four areas: Leadership (20 percent of total score), academics (30 percent), community service (20 percent), and another 30 percent of the score was based on an essay dealing with ethics and integrity.

Joshua's essay defined what the word "ethics" means to him. His essay can be viewed online at www.integritycountsonline.org.

Joshua's parents are Cynthia and H. Timothy Myers of Homedale. Joshua plans to attend college after high school at either Idaho State University in Pocatello or Albertson College of Idaho in Caldwell. He hopes to study premed as an undergraduate and hopes to pursue a career in medicine.

"I originally wanted to go into pharmaceuticals, but now I'm thinking about dentistry or physical therapy," Joshua said.

When asked about his greatest challenges in life, Joshua said, “trying to balance extra-curricular activities like Growth Club,

playing tennis, BPA (Business Professional of America) and maintain a 4.0 GPA (grade-point average).”

Joshua said he and his family have lived in the Homedale area for the past 13 years, but he was born in Harrisonburg, Va. His father, H. Timothy, is a supervisor at Micron, and his mother works for the Homedale School District as a computer lab assistant. His older brother, T.J. Myers, is a 2005 graduate of Homedale High School and is currently studying to be an electrical engineer.

Joshua said he enjoys the sciences and making a positive impact in his community. He said his hobbies include woodworking and hunting. He was the No. 1 boys singles player for the high school's tennis team last year and finished fourth in the 3A state tournament.

Joshua admits that he has little time for hobbies because of his studies and time spent in volunteer groups, such as the Growth Club in which he helps at-risk youth.

Integrity Counts is a recognition program established by the board of directors of the BBB of Southwest Idaho and Eastern Oregon. The program's purpose is to honor local firms whose business operation and related activities demonstrate a commitment to integrity and ethical business practices.

There were 22 submissions from high school students from throughout southwest Idaho. The advisory council consists of community leaders from both for-profit and non-profit organizations.

— JWB



Homedale senior accepts award

Joshua Myers addresses the crowd while picking up his Integrity award from the Better Business Bureau recently. Submitted photo

Joshua Myers' essay on integrity

It seems as though each time I listen to the news, I am greeted by a popular catch phrase, “code of ethics.” Every politician, church official and business leader wants to convince the public that they are governed by different guidelines that set them apart from the rest of their peers.

What are ethics? What does it mean to refer to someone as “ethical?” The word “ethics” usually describes a person or group’s moral philosophy and principles of conduct. Most people know the difference between right and wrong. However, just knowing about right and wrong does not suffice to make someone ethical. Ethics are more than just a list of do’s and don’ts. A person’s code of ethics can define how they will react to a given situation, but I believe ethics should direct how people live their lives day in and day out no matter what happens. It should not change as a reaction to certain events, nor should it depend on the majority consensus.

Ethics, to me, describes the moral fiber of the individual. My strong spiritual upbringing influences the way that I treat others "as I would like to be treated." I strive daily to show kindness, respect, and consideration to everyone no matter their race, religion or social status. I feel convicted to uphold all that I believe is righteous in the sight of God. I do not cheat in school, drink alcohol, or partake of illegal drugs. These actions and habits would detract from my personal standards and decrease my chances of achieving my goals in both the educational and



Proud parents

Joshua Myers, center, smiles along with his parents, Cynthia, left, and H. Timothy as they pose with Joshua's award. Submitted photo

business worlds.

The word “integrity” is similar to ethics. It can be defined as the strict adherence to a moral or ethical code. One can’t have the integrity in just parts of one’s life. It has to be an all-encompassing quality. Integrity is *living* ethically. In my eyes, a person of high integrity has been tried and proven to be trustworthy. Their word carries weight and can be taken as truth and ultimately is supported by their actions.

People of high integrity are usually chosen for positions that require much responsibility. My personal integrity is evident in the fact that I was selected as a Gem Boys State delegate (one of only four in the school district), nominated and elected as a member of the Church Council, and asked to donate time

to the Growth Club (an after-school program for underprivileged elementary students).

People who have known me for very long know that my word means something. If I am entrusted with a certain task, they know that it will be carried out to the best of my ability. This is what integrity is all about.

After participating in the Snake River Valley regional tennis tournament this spring, I was told by several coaches in charge that I deserved an award for good sportsmanship on the court because of my cool-headedness, level of maturity, and willingness to abide by proper tennis etiquette. This is only one example of the way I strive for integrity in all aspects of my life.

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Leslie Gulch bighorn sheep get a hand with fresh drinking water

Large plastic tanks help keep animals hydrated

Although they are near the Owyhee Reservoir, which is full of water this year, Owyhee bighorn sheep in the Leslie Gulch area sometimes have a hard time finding fresh water. That is why crews from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), with the help of other federal agencies and citizen volunteer groups have installed “guzzlers” in the Leslie Gulch area.

Guzzlers are 1,800-gallon plastic storage tanks, designed to collect water and provide easy access to fresh water. There are at least three of them in the Leslie Gulch area.

These fresh water sources will benefit the third-oldest herd of California bighorn sheep in Oregon, a species reintroduced to the area in 1965 with the relocation of 17 sheep from Hart Mountain.



Leslie Gulch bighorn ewe

Leslie Gulch bighorn sheep were given a hand with fresh water stations called “guzzlers.” Guzzlers were placed in locations easily accessible by the sheep, but isolated from predators and poachers. Photo courtesy of Bureau of Land Management, Vale District.

According to the ODFW studies, the herd grew to nearly 300 in the early 1990s. Today, the population is estimated to be approximately 100.

ODFW lists the two major culprits for the dwindling herd as

contaminated drinking water and mountain lion predation.

When temperatures rise in the summer months, blue green algae grows on the water in the upper third of the Owyhee Reservoir and other sparse water

sources used by the sheep as drinking water. The decaying algae releases a toxin that is often fatal to animals.

By installing guzzlers in strategic locations, volunteers provide a permanent fresh water source to reduce the need for the sheep to travel to drainage bottoms to reach drinkable water, where they are easy prey for both natural predators and poachers.

The guzzlers are either placed in locations inaccessible to feral animals and livestock or are fenced to prevent unwanted animals from accessing them.

The Leslie Gulch recreation area is located approximately 25 miles west of U.S. Highway 95 on McBride Creek Road.

The area features red, yellow and orange volcanic tuft and rhyolite formations, whose beauty rivals any place in North America.

Leslie Gulch was renamed in 1882 for Hiram E. Leslie, who was struck by lightning in the area, then called Dugout Gulch.

Homedale student musicians plan benefit

The Homedale High School music program will hold a fundraiser spaghetti feed Saturday at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center at 224 W. Idaho Ave.

The event, which will run from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. will feature the meal and performances by members of school district music director Karla Kachelmier’s various musical programs.

Tickets are \$5 per person or \$20 for families of four people or more. Kachelmier said many tickets have been sold in advance, but admission will be available at the door, too.

Kachelmier, who is in her first year as head of the district’s music program, said that performances could come from a Stomp-style ensemble group that has been practicing nightly Monday through Thursday. She said there are between eight and 13 students taking part in the percussion group.

The band and choir program recently received what Kachelmier characterizes as a “generous” donation from the Homedale Fan Club. She said the money will be used to repair several instruments.

“We are still seeking more funds to purchase more instruments for the school, update uniforms ... colorguard budget, etc.,” Kachelmier wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

The band and choir members also are trying to form a parents organization, but Kachelmier stresses the group is open for all community members interested in helping the program. Meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m.

“We are looking for go-getters and positive attitudes to help get the ball rolling,” Kachelmier said.

Kachelmier also said that participation in the sixth-grade band at Homedale Middle School is growing. She still is looking for instruments to build the music program’s inventory.

Earlier in October, the middle school and high school musicians both held their fall concerts.

For more information on the band and choir program, e-mail Kachelmier at KKachelmier@homedaleschools.org, or call (208) 337-4613.



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MERIDIAN	Tuesday	Hampton Inn & Suites, 875 S. Allen Street
	11/21/06	10 a.m. — Noon OR 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
	Tuesday	Fiesta Guadalajara, 704 E. Fairview Avenue
	11/28/06	11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
NAMPA	Wednesday	Golden Corral, 2122 N. Cassia Street
	11/15/06	11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
	Monday	Nampa Civic Center, 311 3rd Street South
	11/27/06	10 a.m. — Noon OR 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
CALDWELL	Monday	Golden Dragon, 211 S. 21st Avenue
	11/20/06	11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

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Homedale's Safe-n-Sane Halloween



Tasty treats for Halloween
Above: 'Superman' (AKA: Joshua Waller of Homedale) won one of the kryptonite-free cakes given away by Paul's Bakery on Halloween.
Below: Paul's Markets employee Kathie Schultz hands candy out at the store chain's main office in downtown Homedale for the town's Safe-n-Sane Halloween last week.



Halloween brings out the children
Left: Allison Grandeen, the 15-month-old daughter of Notus residents Eric and Kila Grandeen, enjoys Homedale's Safe-n-Sane Halloween. Allison and her mom were in town to visit sister-in-law Melissa Morris.
Below: Children gather around the Grim Reaper display that employees of the Owyhee Family Dental Office erected on the lawn in front of the Main Street office in Homedale.



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Planned fires dot hillside near Silver City

According to the Bureau of Land Management's fuels module lead Grant Camp, these controlled burns of piles of underbrush reduce the threat of fire to historic Silver City. "It's basically an urban-interface technique to protect the town from wildfire," Camp said. Camp said crews traditionally burn unwanted brush piles in the fall, because conditions are easier to control. Submitted photos



Youth hunt going strong

Carmen Zatica, a 14-year-old freshman at Homedale High School, smiles with her father, Steve, after harvesting her second deer. Carmen and her dad with hunting with other Homedale residents about three weeks ago in the Mesa area near Council. The doe was downed in brush on a steep hillside. The youth hunt in Units 40-41 continues through Nov. 24. Youth hunts in all other units have closed, according to the Idaho Fish and Game 2006 Big Game Seasons handbook. Submitted photo



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Commissioners honor retired election worker

Owyhee County Commissioners honored a longtime election worker last month. Barbara Lahitnen of Bruneau received a certificate of appreciation from commissioners in recognition of her 35 years of service as an election worker.

“I was really surprised, because I really didn’t expect anything. I just thought it was a job,” Lahtinen said last week.

Lahtinen had served at the Bruneau American Legion Hall polling location since 1970. As a clerk, it was her responsibility to receive the ballots from each voter and put them in the ballot box. Her last election was the primary in May, after Bruneau precinct chief judge Gene Tindall talked her into one last election.

“He just asked me to come down and help get the new person started that first day,” Lahtinen said. “I think they’ve done just fine. It really isn’t a hard job, just one you have to pay attention to what you’re doing.”

Lahtinen said she began working elections at the request of Chief Judge Tom Hall.

“I just happened to be in town one day, and they needed someone to work on the board, and I ran into him in the store and he asked how I would like to have a job,” Lahtinen said.

Lahtinen said not much has changed since she started 35 years ago, except for the arrival last May of the voting machines to help disabled voters cast their ballots.

The deaths of two of her fellow election workers, Mildred Bachman and Helen Johnson, in the past year, caused Lahtinen to re-evaluate her role in the elections.

Although she retired this year, she still plans to help out if necessary.

“It’ll be a little different when I walk in there (on election day) and someone else will be doing my job. It’ll be a little bit different,” Lahtinen said.

Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said Lahtinen’s dedicated service has not gone unnoticed.

“We appreciate the hard work and dedication of each and every one of our poll workers in Owyhee County. They are a big part of what makes our election process work as efficiently as it does. A big ‘thank you’ to all of you,” Lahtinen said her main interest in life is quilting and if her time is not otherwise occupied she will probably be at her sewing machine. Lahtinen said working at the polls gave her a new appreciation for the importance of voting.

“It made me much more aware of what was going on in politics and aware of the importance of voting. I don’t know if I ever missed a vote or not. It made me very aware of how important it is to vote.”

— JWB and JPB

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Family Reading Week hits Lizard Butte Library

Homedale library earns \$350 with book-by-the-pound sale

A local musician will perform Nov. 16 at the Lizard Butte Library in Marsing as part of the facility’s observance of Idaho Family Reading Week with Curious George.

Idaho Family Reading Week runs Sunday through Nov. 18.

“There’s no better place to satisfy your curiosity than the library,” Idaho State Librarian Ann Joslin said. “We know Idaho children have curious minds and will enjoy exploring books and other activities at their libraries during Family Reading Week and throughout the year.”

The Lizard Butte Library, which is located inside the Owyhee Plaza on Main Street in Marsing, has planned a special event for families at 7 p.m. Nov. 16. Local musician Logan Kline will sing and play his guitar for the event, which also will feature reading about Curious George and craft activities for children of all ages.

Parents can obtain information on early literacy and how to help get children excited about reading.

“If you can’t make it to our family reading night, come in anytime to get more information on early literacy and see what we have to offer your family,” Lizard Butte librarian Janna Streibel said.

Idaho Family Reading Week is sponsored by libraries throughout the state and the Idaho Commission for Libraries’ Read to Me Program. Funding for materials is provided by the Governor’s Executive Office for Families and Children and the Library Services and Technology Act.

For more information, visit the library or call 896-4690.

Homedale Public Library

Homedale librarian Margaret Fujishin said late last week that

there are no formal plans for Idaho Family Reading Week, but the library will host a summit for librarians from throughout Southwest Idaho on Friday.

The all-day meetings will take place at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center, which also was the site of the library’s book-by-the-pound fund-raising sale last month.

Fujishin said the sale will bring more than \$350 to the library, which will use the funds to add to its 9,000-book inventory.

“We’re grateful to the senior center for allowing us to use the building not only for the book sale, but the librarians’ meeting,” Fujishin said.

Friday’s meeting is a rarity for Homedale, which has the opportunity to play host to the rotating series of librarians’ meetings only about once every two or three years, according to Fujishin, who has been at the Homedale library for 18 years.

The morning session of the librarian summit will be devoted to the Southwest Idaho Rural Libraries (SWIRL) organization and will feature a discussion on adult literacy and what libraries can do to help adults learn to read or read better.

Fujishin also said that improving the English of non-native English speakers also will be on the agenda.

In the afternoon, the 16-member Valley Mountain Consortium will hold its annual election of officers and discuss solutions to problems faced by each member library.

Fujishin also announced last week that the library has received a couple grants from the Caldwell Community Foundation and the Caldwell-based Whittenberger Foundation.

For more information about the Homedale library, call 337-4228.

Homedale FFA horse team 28th in nation

The Homedale FFA chapter’s horse team had an adventurous trip to the national FFA convention in Indianapolis last month.

The team finished 28th in the national horse judging competition, with team member Kortney Bahem grabbing a Gold ranking with a 22nd-place finish overall.

Rye Hyer earned a Silver, while Jessica Eubanks and Sarah Black were Bronze winners.

Advisor Lori Harrison also made the trip with the team. And the trip wasn’t routine by any stretch of the imagination.

“We were supposed to come home on Friday (Oct. 27) but missed a plane due to weather delays and ended up staying a night in Atlanta, so they were a little tired,” Harrison wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

The fatigue also could have come from the whirlwind of activity the team endured during the Oct. 25-28 convention.

The fun-filled activities and hard work included taking part in the three-day horse judging contest. The event began Oct. 25 with a long day of judging and oral reasons. The Oct. 26 schedule included the team activity and test, and the contest wrapped up Oct. 27 with a breakfast at which the members learned how they fared.

The opening day of the convention, Oct. 25, was highlighted by keynote speaker Terry Bradshaw, a Fox NFL television analyst and Hall of Fame quarterback who led the Pittsburgh Steelers to four Super Bowl championships between 1975 and 1980.

On Thursday, the convention a career day during which more than 600 exhibits exposed FFA members to various career in agriculture.

When they weren’t hard at work, chapter members enjoyed sight-seeing and an “amazing” concert featuring country music artists Heartland, Jason Aldeen and Carrie Underwood.

Some of the sight-seeing points of interest included a paddleboat cruise on the Ohio River and a tour of the Louisville Slugger bat factory in Louisville, Ky.

The team also visited Lexington, Ky., where members toured horse Windstar and Juddmonte horse farms and the Keeneland Race Track, the Kesmarc Equine Rehab Center and the Hagyard-Davidson-McGee veterinarian clinic.

The Homedale FFA members want to thank everyone whose support made the trip affordable.

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Church holds annual Armed Forces Sunday
Above: The color guard prepares to march down the aisle on Oct. 29 during the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene's second annual Armed Forces Sunday. Left: A photo of Jarrod Bunker and his daughter Audrey is displayed on a large video screen inside the church. Bunker is stationed in Afghanistan. Submitted photos

Nazarene church honors military personnel

The Mountain View Church of the Nazarene near Homedale conducted its second annual Armed Forces Sunday on Oct. 29.

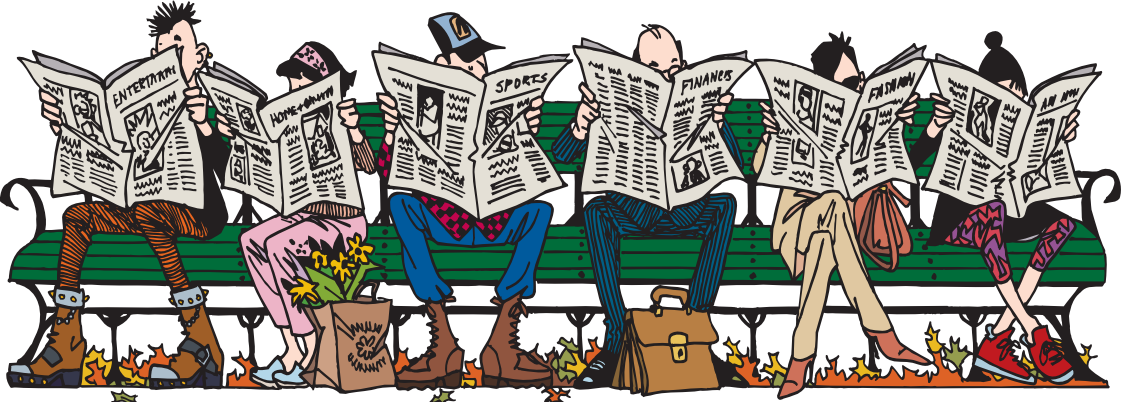
The event took place during the morning worship service and honored military personnel currently serving the United States.

The posting and retiring of the colors were carried out by a color guard from the Civil Air Patrol Boise Squadron. The guard consisted of Master Sgt. Case Hegg, Tech Sgt. Hershey Cross, Tech Sgt. Rowdy Lair and Staff Sgt. Daniel Clarkson. Also present were uniformed members of the squadron, including Airman Tanner Lair, 2nd Lt. Brenda Lair and Sr. Member James Lair II.

The service also consisted of photos of honored military personnel being shown on a large screen while family members and loved ones gave updates on each service man's situation.

The National Anthem was performed by Dave Holton, Mike Barraza, Eldon Sheets and Cole Cooper. The Loucks Kids, a musical group from Marsing, also performed.

Wednesday morning in Owyhee County



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USFWS seeks comment on slickspot peppergrass

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced Monday that the public comment period on the slickspot peppergrass' eligibility for protection under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) has reopened.

Slickspot peppergrass is a plant that occurs in Idaho's northern Snake River Plain and Owyhee Plateau.

"To ensure that our final action is as accurate as possible, we are seeking additional comments and information from the public," said Ren Lohoefer, director of USFWS's Pacific Region.

The service will accept comments from interested parties until Nov. 13.

The plant grows in "slickspots," areas in a sagebrush steppe ecosystem that retain water longer than the surrounding soil. Slickspot peppergrass can be found on 20,000 acres of land spread over Owyhee, Canyon, Ada, Elmore, Gem and Payette counties. About 91 percent of those acres belong to the Bureau of Land Management.

On Aug. 19, 2005 the U.S. District Court in Idaho reversed the USFWS's 2004 decision to withdraw its 2002 proposal to list slickspot peppergrass as endangered under the ESA.

The court ordered the agency to reconsider whether the species should be proposed for listing as either threatened or endangered. Last month, the court ordered the Service to issue a final listing determination by Jan. 4.

The USFWS is notifying the public of the availability

of information collected on the species since the agency's 2002 proposal to list slickspot peppergrass as endangered.

New information will be accepted by the USFWS until 5 p.m. MST on Nov. 13. It is not necessary to re-submit comments provided to the Service in previous comment periods.

Information may be submitted to the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office by mail or hand-delivery to 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709, or by fax to (208) 378-5262.

Electronic comments should be e-mailed to fwl1srbocomment@fws.gov.

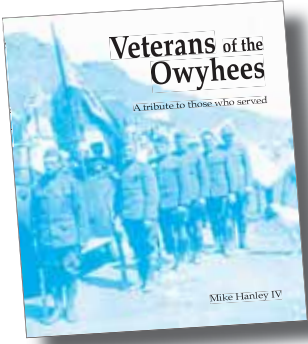
Please include "LEPA RIN1018-AU99" in the subject line for faxes and e-mails.

Information received, developed and analyzed by the Service since Aug. 19, 2005 is available online at <http://idahoes.fws.gov>. Materials include the Federal Register Notice announcing the reopening of the comment period and document availability, peer review comments on the Service's 2006 "Draft Best Available Biological Information for Slickspot Peppergrass," analysis of conservation efforts, results of the Expert Science Panel, threats matrix and citations, summary of factors affecting the species, and new scientific information received by the Service.

People without Internet access can obtain these materials by calling the Service's Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise (208) 378-5243.

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