



**Baxter Black
reflects on '06
FFA gathering
Page 8B**

**Homedale High grad helps
rebuild Iraq oil infrastructure**

Page 10A

**McClellin has Marsing
basketball out to strong start**

Page 1B

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 49

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Property taxes go lower

Owyhee County property tax bills were mailed out last week, as the assessor's office prepared to recalculate the value of farm land.

County Treasurer Brenda Richards said that many property

owners may have seen a drop in their tax obligation even as their property assessments increased.

"We have been receiving a lot of calls, and people's assessment values in June went up because Owyhee County has been

discovered," Richards said.

Property tax bills are due Dec. 20.

"There are some areas that have seen their taxes go up," Richards said.

— to page 5A

Council, business dialogue stressed

Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Aaron Tines last week suggested an advisory panel to help reach a compromise over the recent business registration form distributed by the city's Planning and Zoning administrator.

"If (the city fathers are) willing to heed the advice of an advisory committee, I think it's a great step for the city," Tines said. "The more input you have, the better decision you make."

During a special chamber meeting Thursday attended by Homedale Mayor Paul Fink, Tines asked if the city would be open to suggestions from a committee of city businessmen.

"I think it's a great idea," Fink said late last week.

Representatives from eight Homedale businesses attended the meeting, which was held during the lunch hour at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant.

During the meeting, Fink took responsibility for the release of the registration form that had raised the ire of many business owners in town. Planning and

— to page 5A



ITD beefs up warnings

The Idaho Department of Transportation has added more arrow signs, like this one on a particularly gnarly curve, to a dangerous stretch of highway in southern Owyhee County.

State adds signs to deadly Idaho 51

Travelers on Idaho highway 51 between mile markers 44 and 47 will get better warnings from now on.

Since The Owyhee Avalanche last reported on the section of road south of Bruneau — which has been plagued with 14 serious crashes during the past six years and at least three fatal accidents this year alone — the roadway has

received higher-visibility signs.

On Oct. 27, engineers from the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) met with Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman and Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Bish to evaluate the roadway and seek a solution to the highway, which claims multiple lives nearly every year.

— to page 5A



'A Country Christmas'

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday parade is Saturday. A special shopping section can be found inside today's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

Homedale readies for holiday parade

Annual event (and Santa) hit town
at 10:30 a.m. Saturday

Many of the old favorites and a few new faces will be seen Saturday when the Homedale Holiday parade strolls down Idaho and Owyhee avenues.

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce's "A Country Christmas" parade begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in front of Tolmie's Ace Hardware and Appliance on Owyhee Avenue.

Chamber members will hammer out final details for the parade at another noontime luncheon Thursday at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant.

It's free to enter a float in the

parade. Call Tami Steinmetz at 899-2263 or Chamber president Aaron Tines at 337-3252 for more information.

The annual drawing for Homedale gift baskets and turkeys will take place after the parade. Entry forms can be found in a holiday parade/local shopping special section inside today's editions of The Owyhee Avalanche. There are 30 turkeys and 30 gift baskets featuring merchandise from Homedale businesses up for grabs this

— to page 5A

Inside

School menus
page 6A

Sports
pages 1B-6B

Looking Back
page 7B

Commentary
pages 8B-9B

Legal notices
pages 10B-17B

Classifieds
pages 18B-19B

Two homeless after apartment fire

Fire raced through an apartment near the intersection of West Main and Edwards streets in Marsing on Sunday, leaving a Marsing couple homeless and forcing the evacuation of the Emerald Village Apartments.

Marsing Fire District Fire Marshal Roman Usabel said that at approximately 11:45 p.m. Sunday a female resident came out of the shower to find flames in the living room of her apartment.

“She came out into the living room from the shower and could smell burning wires and then saw flames shooting up the wall by the window (in the living room),” Usabel said.

Usabel said the Marsing Fire Department received the emergency call at 11:42 p.m. The fire was contained in approximately 45 minutes, by 12:30 a.m. Monday. A total of 16 firefighters responded, and Usabel said fire crews were on-



No injuries in late-night blaze
Marsing Fire District Fire Marshal Roman Usabel said Monday that faulty baseboard heaters are believed to have caused a fire Sunday night that gutted this Marsing apartment.

scene until approximately 2 a.m. investigating and mopping up.

“We suspect it was electrical,” Usabel said of the apparent cause

of the blaze. Usabel said fire officials’ investigation led them to believe the fire was caused by the apartment’s baseboard heaters,

which were recently replaced. Usabel said firefighters found discarded baseboard heaters in a dumpster on the property.

Usabel said there were no reported injuries from either of the two residents of the apartment, but the entire apartment complex was evacuated while fire crews worked at the scene.

Usabel said little is known about the couple, identified as Lynn Susan Pacheco and Guadalupe Pacheco. It is not known how long the two have resided in the Marsing area, but they reportedly had moved into the apartment earlier Sunday. Usabel said it is thought the couple is staying with friends in the fire’s aftermath.

Usabel said that in these cases it is routine for the American Red Cross to assist the displaced family, but Usabel did not know if the Pacheco family have been in contact with the service.

— JWB

Marsing DUI suspect faces felony arraignment

Three Owyhee County residents will be in court next week.

A Marsing man charged with felony aggravated driving under the influence is scheduled to appear for arraignment in district court in Murphy on Friday after a three-vehicle crash near Marsing High School in October.

Ronald McDonnell, 71, was arrested for aggravated DUI Oct. 21 after allegedly causing an accident in which his 1992 Jeep Cherokee collided with a 1996 Mazda driven by Ricardo Meza and a Ford Ranger driven by Monica Torres.

According to Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, sheriff’s deputies, Marsing Ambulance, Homedale Ambulance and Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center LifeFlight air-ambulance responded to reports of a three-vehicle crash at approximately 7:45 p.m. Oct. 21 near Marsing High School on Idaho highway 78.

McDonnell was charged with aggravated DUI and booked into the Owyhee County Jail. He later posted a \$10,000 bond and was released pending trial.

— JWB

Homedale poised for commercial developer

The Homedale City Council last week approved a request for proposal document seeking commercial developers for the city’s 7-acre site near the airport.

But Mayor Paul Fink said Friday that the city would hold off until Monday of this week to open the bidding process, giving Eagle developer Ron Mayhew and King’s Discount Stores president Tom King time to hash out a joint plan to develop the land.

“We approved it, but we also held off on going ahead with that until this coming Monday to see if the two developers could come together,” Fink said last week.

Fink said the city gave Mayhew and King the weekend in an attempt to save Homedale the \$4,100 fee city engineer Fred Ostler is charging to draft the request for proposal.

There was no word on an

agreement between Mayhew and King by press time Monday. If no deal was struck, Ostler’s document would be sent to developers with an eye on getting proposals for the council’s consideration by the end of the year, Fink said.

The mayor said a developer is crucial to the future of the seven acres as a commercial operation.

“We don’t have the money, and we don’t have the expertise,” Fink said. “We’re not developers. We have no clue what would go in there.”

“It’s going to take \$200,000 to \$250,000 to develop that piece of property, then we’d have to look for (businesses) to go out there.”

Representatives from King’s, Perfection Tire, a dentist, a bank and a log furniture retail outlet and factory have expressed interest in parcels on the acreage.

— JPB

Former city clerk scheduled back in court next week

Former Homedale City Clerk Pamela Dugger is scheduled to attend a motion hearing at 9 a.m. Monday in Caldwell, but the details of the proceedings are not available at this time.

Dugger was indicted by a Canyon County grand jury in July on nine felonies, including eight counts of misuse of public funds and one count of grand theft. These charges stem from questionable spending reports from Oct. 1, 2003 through September 2004, in the course of her duties as Homedale City Clerk.

Dugger is scheduled to appear at a pre-trial conference at 3 p.m. March 5 at the Canyon County Courthouse in Caldwell. A status conference is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on March 26. At this point, a trial is set to begin between April 3 and April 13.

If convicted, Dugger would be barred from ever holding public office in the state.

The maximum penalty for each of the eight counts of misuse of public funds is 10 years in the state penitentiary.

The charge of grand theft carries a maximum of 14 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Sentencing is ultimately at the discretion of the trial judge.

— JWB

County FSA office closes for training

The Owyhee County Farm Service Agency office will be closed Monday through Wednesday next week for employee training.

The agency’s office is located at 15 Reich St. in Marsing. The closure will not affect the other agencies located within the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center.

To contact the FSA during this timeframe, leave a voice message at (208) 896-4384, ext. 2.

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County Hug Day nets lots of food for Owyhee’s needy

When Kathy Streibel looked for a way to help her community, she didn’t have to look farther than her own day spa, Essence of Life, on Main Street in Marsing.

“The community has been really good to us. We wanted to give back,” Streibel said. “We saw this as an avenue to help.”

Streibel and her friends at Essence of Life decided on a food drive. The all-day event, held Wednesday, was called County Hug Day. Patrons of the day spa could get a huge discount on services and help the community at the same time. For a donation of two non-perishable food items, patrons of the spa could choose from a haircut, 15-minute massage, manicure or a pound of fudge for a discount rate of \$5.

Food drive participants collected a generous 217 food items and one container of laundry soap for the Owyhee County office of the El-Ada Community Action Partnership.

“We see this as serving two needs: Helping those who may not be able to afford our services, and to help El-Ada,” Streibel said.

Streibel said that patrons were lined up at her door to donate and take advantage of her offer, even before business hours. She said at one point a whole family came in to take advantage of the discount haircuts.

El-Ada gives assistance to those in need through food drives, heating bill assistance in the winter, emergency services, youth services, employment services and education.

The county office is located at 15 W. Colorado Ave., in Homedale. The phone number is (208) 337-4812.

“It went very well,” El-Ada Owyhee coordinator Ricardo Vargas said of the food drive. “We got lots of food. We haven’t



Marsing business helps El-Ada

“We wanted to give back,” said Kathy Streibel, of Essence of Life Day Spa, center, as Melissa Streibel, right, loaded food items into a box held by Amy Yacavace during the first County Hug Day. The business collected more than 200 items to donate to the El-Ada Community Action Partnership Owyhee County pantry.

weighed it, but (the total is) very good from just a one-day event from a small business.

“We’re very thankful and very grateful.”

Streibel said that this year has been tough for many in the community, and so far she was not aware of other programs to help.

“I don’t think many people realize we have a non-profit organization in Owyhee County,” Streibel said. “They (El-Ada) were excited to think something might happen.”

Streibel said she and her staff at Essence of Life plan to make the County Hug Day an annual event, with an eye on expanding the program in the future.

“This is the first year,” Streibel said. “It has really helped community awareness.”

Vargas encourages a reprise of the event.

“It sounds like they had a good handle on it, and it went very smoothly,” he said. “By all means, I encourage them to do it again.”

Jan Clapier, who accepted the donated items from Streibel for El-Ada, was overjoyed about the support the community showed during this event.

“This was really, really nice,” Clapier said. “They kinda went out of their way to help.”

Clapier said that County Hug Day comprised the only donations El-Ada has received from Marsing. And, while material donations are nice, Clapier said her organization is always looking for volunteers to help with physical chores associated with the program.

Essence of Life Day Spa is located at 111 Main Street in Marsing.

— JWB

Homedale’s Christmas food drive under way

Students in the Homedale School District are collecting canned food and dry goods for their annual Hands Around Homedale food drive, which is part of the Community Wish Tree program.

Food drive coordinator Randee Garrett said Monday that a barrel would be placed in Paul’s Market on East Wyoming Avenue. Citizens are encouraged to drop off food donations at the barrel.

Last Christmas, the food drive donations helped 60 Homedale families celebrate the holiday. The drive was initiated years ago by the late Poke Henson, according to Garrett.

Each classroom at Homedale’s three schools will gather food until Dec. 15. Donations can be made to students, who will take the food to their classrooms.

All the food will be rounded up and delivered to Garrett at the elementary school, where she will organize food boxes that will be distributed to families on

Dec. 16. As in years past, Paul’s patrons can donate their Price-Cutter Club points to help buy hams and turkeys for the needy families. Card holders can call the Paul’s corporate office at 337-3919 to donate their points.

While the Hands Around Homedale food drive has begun, the Wish Tree gift drive continues as well.

A Christmas tree inside Paul’s Market in Homedale and a wreath at the Homedale Post Office carry the names of children and the presents they want. Gifts of new toys and clothing should be wrapped and returned to the place where the name tag was obtained.

The Owyhee Avalanche’s gift drive for nursing home residents at the Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation Center in Homedale also continues. Look for the list of requested items on Page 15A of today’s edition of the Avalanche.

— JPB

Bruneau’s Tindall earns ICA’s Cattlewoman of the Year award

A Bruneau area woman was recognized last month as Cattlewoman of the Year by the Idaho Cattle Association.

Celia Tindall was chosen the 2006 Cattlewoman of the Year during the ICA’s annual meeting in Sun Valley. Born and raised in Bruneau, Tindall is a teacher at Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School. She and her husband, Dave, ranch in the Bruneau and Grasmere areas.

“Celia has been a lifelong member of the cattle industry, and tireless advocate for beef and the ranching lifestyle,” the ICA said

in a press release. “Through her involvement with the Cattlewoman organizations at the county and state levels, Celia has volunteered her time to help tell the story of beef and its importance to consumers and local communities that rely on the cattle industry as an economic driver.”

Tindall, who was not present to accept the award, will receive the honor during the Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association winter meeting in February, according to ICA executive director Lloyd B. Knight.

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Area drug dogs sweep Homedale High School



Random sniff

Homedale School Resource Officer Michelle Babcock stands by as Homedale Police Cpl Ian Takashige and his detection canine, Bosco, conduct a random sniff of lockers inside Homedale High School on Friday morning.

School principal says common, random ‘sniffs’ serve as deterrent to drug use by student body

The halls of Homedale High School got a surprise visit last week from four drug dogs and their handlers.

Friday morning, Homedale High School administrators worked in cooperation with Homedale Police, Canyon County Sheriff’s Office and Parma Police to conduct a random sweep of the entire school campus.

“This is the first time we’ve done the entire school,” said School Resource Officer Michelle Babcock.

Babcock said that random drug dog searches are commonplace at the high school, but the exercises usually only involve one canine.

“(Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige) comes out about once a week,” Babcock said as Takashige and his detection canine, Bosco, swept through the boys locker room.

Upon detecting the odor of narcotics, the dog sat and watched Takashige intently, hopeful of a payoff for his hard work. The reward was a throw of a tennis

ball, which Bosco returned to Takashige by tossing it in the air from his mouth.

Homedale High School principal Mike Williams noted that a detection canine “hit” on a locker may not necessarily indicate narcotics inside the locker. The dog simply may be picking up the residual odor from the use of narcotics on an item such as clothes inside the locker from a student having recently used an illicit substance — or having been around others who were using.

“It’s kind of like riding in a car with someone who is smoking cigarettes. Afterward, you smell the smoke on your clothes,” Williams said.

According to Takashige, state and federal law allows for a certified canine to “sniff” any item or enclosed space so long as the canine and its handler have legal reason to be present.

The dog’s “sniff” does not constitute a search by law, but a positive alert does constitute probable cause to search by the officer.

In the case of a school search, the students entered into an agreement with the school district allowing school administrators access into lockers and backpacks

for the purpose of providing a safe school environment.

While Bosco and Takashige finished sweeping through the locker room, Parma Police Officer Chris Cullen and his canine, Ed, a chocolate lab, posed for pictures in Brenda Paxton’s class across campus.

“He’ll look right at you when you take his picture,” Cullen said as students armed with camera phones snapped photos. The dog’s tail wagged the entire time.

Williams is supportive of the dog sweep of the campus.

“It’s actually a deterrent,” Williams said, likening the dog sniffs to random drug tests.

It also brings peace of mind for those on campus, the veteran administrator said.

“It is a safety measure for the students and the staff,” Williams said. “It’s a good exercise for the police and for the school.”

Williams said that if a student is suspected of possessing or using illegal drugs, the first step would be to bring the student in to talk to school staff.

Last week’s sweep included City Park across East Idaho Avenue from the school and school’s the parking lot. Canyon County Sheriff’s Office personnel, including Deputy Doug Daniels and his Belgian Malinois, Rysa, and Deputy Doug Stafford and his canine Dutchess, assisted in the sniff.

— JWB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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From page 1

Taxes

“The majority of the people either saw them go down or stay the same.”

Calculating exactly in which areas of the county property taxes have plummeted is a difficult proposition, Richards said, because there are several different taxing districts and land uses throughout Owyhee.

“There’s a substantial difference here because it’s such a big county from straight agricultural

in Pleasant Valley to residential in Homedale and Marsing,” Richards said.

Richards did say that while individual tax bills vary according to where a property is located, the county levy rate attached to all bills decreased this year.

The treasurer, who begins her first full term in January, said the levy rate dipped because of county commissioners keeping a watchful eye on spending, the increase of planning and zoning and assessor’s fees, a nearly \$100,000 increase in the

interest the county earns on its investments and an increase in the revenue the county receives from the state sales tax.

Property taxes also may have decreased because of the Idaho Legislature’s decision to increase the homeowners exemption to \$75,000 and remove the statewide school maintenance and operation levy from property tax bills.

But if residents didn’t see a decrease in their property taxes this year, county assessor Brett Endicott said the blame may fall

with a state law requiring counties to appraise values according to fair-market value.

Endicott estimated that property values have changed to the following per-acre scale recently. He stressed the figures were approximate:

- Marsing-Homedale — Bare ground, \$19,000; homesite, \$25,000
- Opaline — Bare ground, \$12,000; homesite, \$18,000
- Grand View-Bruneau — Bare ground, \$5,000; homesite, \$11,000

Agriculture land values are uncertain at this point, Endicott said, because the county is in the process of gathering information to begin the assessment process.

Endicott’s office mailed a letter on Nov. 27 asking county residents to submit information on their irrigation crop yield from the past five years.

State law requires counties to use that figure in determining the assessment for a piece of farm land, the letter stated.

— JPB

Parade

year. For the rest of this week, each business will have a deposit box for entry tags. Two tags from each business will be drawn — one for a turkey, one for a basket. A table will be set up near the post office on Main Street on Saturday to drop off entries, too.

Parade float lineup and judging begins at 9 a.m. Saturday on Owyhee Avenue between Main Street and East 1st Street. Tines said last week that entries will be accepted during lineup.

The parade route heads west on Owyhee Avenue to Third Street, where it will turn south and head to Idaho Avenue. Participants then will head east on Idaho Avenue.

Homedale School District music director Karla Kachelmier confirmed last week that she will lead a marching band of middle school and high school students along the parade route.

“This will be the first time marching in a parade for all the middle school kids, and it will be a great learning experience,” Kachelmier said.

Kachelmier, who is in her first year as the music program director, said the band will play holiday favorites such as Jingle Bells and Jolly Old St. Nicholas during its march Saturday morning.

Tines said that the Vallivue FFA chapter’s drill team has committed to entering a float this year, and at least one member from a Homedale High School youth club inquired about entering a float in recent weeks.

The Chamber of Commerce usually hands out an award for the best float in the parade.

Tines said last week that Les and Maria Blair of Marsing will bring out their Clydesdale horses to participate in the parade this year.

Santa Claus will make an appearance to greet children after the parade, too.

Andres Vasquez, president of the Homedale High School chapter of Future Hispanic Leaders of America, said late last week that a carnival originally planned for City Park on Saturday has been postponed.

— JPB

Idaho 51

“Speed is one of the main problems. That’s my problem,” Aman said at the time.

The corners at milepost 44 are marked with yellow “advisory speed” signs of 40 mph. Most of the accidents involve vehicles traveling significantly faster than the posted speed.

At milepost 44, northbound traffic will receive additional warning about a deadly downward-sloping corner, which sometimes surprises drivers after miles of straight, open highway. While the curve was clearly marked before, now the existing signs will be topped with bright orange

reflective diamonds, which officials hope will capture drivers’ attention faster than previously.

At milepost 47, southbound drivers will see additional warning of a reverse-banked turn, which in the past has proven to be difficult to negotiate for larger vehicles, such as cattle trucks.

The changes were described in a letter written by ITD officials.

- The signs depicting a snaking curve in the roadway at milepost 43.53 and 46.93 will be replaced with curve signs.
- Add arrow signs urging drivers to anticipate an oncoming curve so that each curve in the highway has three of the markers.
- A “truck tipping” and “slow to 45 mph” sign will be added for the

southbound lane.

- Orange diamonds will be placed on top of the curve signs to improve visibility.

“What we would really like to do is a highway realignment, to realign the curves,” ITD spokesperson Mollie McCarty said in October.

But rising construction costs prevent ITD from fulfilling its wish list.

“That is a project that just can’t be funded at this time,” McCarty said. “A majority of our money is spent on maintenance.”

McCarty said it’s not a situation that sits well with either ITD or the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office.

“Neither of our agencies are happy,” she said.

McCarty said the department tries to make conditions safer for drivers using what resources are available in the best way possible.

McCarty said that even with the improved signage ITD’s role in the situation is limited and that highway safety hinges on many factors: mainly, engineering, enforcement and personal responsibility.

“There are so many components that come together. Engineering is one; working with the public to look at their own choices, to look at their behavior such as wearing seatbelts, speed, conditions and not driving while impaired. Enforcement is the third.”

— JWB

Dialogue

Zoning administrator Sylvia Bahem mailed the form, and the request for a \$50 fee, to several businesses last month.

Chamber vice president Brad Dines from Bowen and Parker CPA suggested that the fee be used to train City Hall staff on ordinances to ensure prospective business owners get all the right answers when they investigate establishing businesses in town. The fact that the owners of the Munster’s Ink tattoo shop on Idaho Avenue received misinformation from City Hall and had to obtain a special use permit two months after opening their doors spurred the letter and form mailed by Bahem.

After Thursday’s luncheon,

Tines said training about the ordinances shouldn’t be necessary for the city clerk and other city staff.

“To me, that’s kind of the job of a city clerk,” he said.

He suggested that a checklist or guidelines be available at City Hall so aspiring business owners can find out what type of permits they must obtain before setting up shop.

“That’s something Sylvia or the P&Z can work on,” Tines said. “(Bahem) admitted that it took a couple months to put the form together. In the time it took her to do this, she could have put something together for City Hall to aid (city personnel) in better serving the city businesses.”

The city council has scheduled a hearing on the business form at its meeting Wednesday, Dec. 13.

Fink encouraged business leaders to attend the 6 p.m. gathering, but warned that it would be a long night because the agenda is chock full of items.

Fink said the meeting is also scheduled to include a presentation from a U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency representative on the status of the city’s water and sewer improvement bond.

“I still think the businessmen should come down there,” Fink said. “It’s going to be an awful long meeting before they’ll get to talk.”

But Fink said getting city business owners to attend council meetings is another step in improving communication between the business community and government officials.

“If the business people would

come to the council meetings, I think it would be a lot easier, because a lot of times we’re second-guessing what they want,” Fink said.

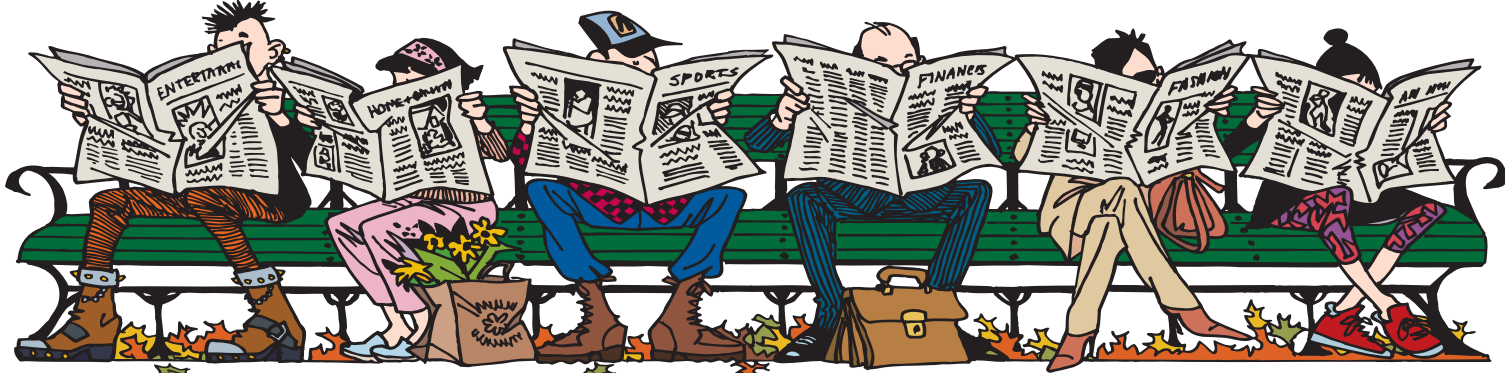
Tines expects to bring a list of both business owners and city residents to next week’s council meeting so city fathers can appoint a committee.

He said that Thursday’s visit from the mayor was a sign of progress in relations between the city and its business leaders after the shock of the registration form.

“Obviously now the business owners know where (Fink) stands,” Tines said. “And the mayor knows that the businesses feel that the way (sending the business form) was gone about wasn’t right.”

— JPB

Wednesday morning in Owyhee County



That’s when the Owyhee Avalanche hits the news stands

Homedale High drama club ready for dinner theater debut

The Homedale High School Drama Club will present three performances of William Gleason’s play, *The Clumsy Custard Horror Show*, Thursday, Friday and Saturday inside the old gymnasium at the high school.

The final performance on Saturday will be a dinner theater featuring a lasagna meal.

Only 50 tickets will be sold for this performance, which begins at 7 p.m. Admission is \$8 that night.

The first two performances — on Thursday and Friday — also will be held at 7 p.m., and admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens.

The Clumsy Custard Horror Show tells the story of King Dumb’s daughter, who is ready to select a husband. Although all the Knights of the Realm are anxious to claim her hand, Princess Prince falls for a man she mistakenly assumes to be a pauper.

Paxton says the play has everything: action, suspense, swordplay, swashbuckling princes, dancing and something

Clumsy Custard Horror Show

Cast

Arnis Boheme — Josh Klug
Arnis Boheme — Kevin Marrs (Dec. 8 only)
Swashbuck Valpariso — Scott Thatcher
Worfle — Mark Klug
Worfle — Karly Bertagnolli (Dec. 8 only)
Princess Prince — Becky Thomson
King Dumb — Shravan Sriganesh
Dacron — Matt Borschowa
Alphasia — Kelsey Thatcher
Malforce — Gage Egurrola
Polly — Aldin Juarez
Ester — Sarah Scarratt
Head — Kayla Bertagnolli
Sir Prize — Vanessa Brown
Sir Vival — Shanae Galloway
Clumsy Custard — John Howes
Usher No. 1 — Karly Bertagnolli
Usher No. 2 — Kindra Galloway

Crew

Director — Chanda Cox
Sound Genius — Dayton Syme
Lights and stage manager — Tori Reed
Advisor — Brenda Paxton

called a Worfle. Paxton at the high school at 337-4613.

For more information, contact

CASINO NIGHT AT THE “COWBOY UP” HUGE SUCCESS!!

Thanks to the support of our generous community, the fund raiser for the Homedale Community Wish Tree was a huge success. Great fun was had by all and over \$3,600 was raised to purchase warm clothes and toys for needy children in the Homedale community.

Names for children that need help at Christmas is submitted to the Beta Sigma Phi ladies by the Homedale School District. This year, names for over 70 families were submitted. This money will be used to purchase clothes and toys that have not been filled by Wish Tree Tags. A special account is set up at US Bank.

Donations were made by: Allendale Produce, Owyhee Truck, Bauer Heating & Cooling, Dr. Bill Jeppe, Bull Realty, Owyhee County Realty, Campbell Tractor, Curves, Owyhee Avalanche, Flahiff Funeral Chappel, Frontier Telephone, Metzer Well Drilling, SSI, Snake River Company, Homedale Chiropractic, Homedale Drive-In, Homedale Drug, Ken’s Tent & Canvas, Les Schwab, Owyhee Motors, NAPA, Dynamic Images Hair Salon, Tips & Toes, Tim’s Appliance, Perfection Repair, Pick Up The Pace, Owyhee Lanes, Zions Bank, Dollar Store, Subway, Key Bank, Donna Haylett, John Indart, Ginger Loucks, Lori Badiola, Julie Uranga, Teresa Ryska, Donna Batt, Diane Paulsen, Lorraine Hunt, Diana Maxwell, Gypsy Jackson, Charlene Uranga, Peggy Campbell and Julie Ryle.

A special thanks to “Dealers” donating their time and entertainment goes to: Dennis Pruett, Ben Badiola, Jeff Eidemiller, Jim Watkins, Greg Kelly, Peggy Campbell, Julie Ryle and Auctioneer Jeff Eidemiller.

Senior menus

Marsing center

Dec. 6: Sweet & sour pork, mixed vegetables, rice, fruit salad, soup, dessert, drink.
Dec. 7: Beef stroganoff, noodles, carrots, tossed salad, soup, dessert, drink.
Dec. 11: Caribbean chicken, rice, broccoli, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
Dec. 13: Lasagna, spinach, garlic bread, tosses salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Homedale center

Dec. 6: Sausage & biscuits, rice, carrots, milk.
Dec. 7: Hot roast beef sandwich, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, milk.
Dec. 12: Birthday lunch. Spaghetti/sausage, tossed salad, roll, milk.
Dec. 13: Salisbury teak, California blend veggies, mashed potatoes, roll, milk.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Dec. 7: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 8: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 11: Spaghetti or hot pocket, French bread, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 12: Ham & potato soup or tuna sandwich, peas, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 13: Crispito or tst cheese sandwich, taco salad, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

Dec. 7: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 8: Chicken tenders or cf beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 11: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 12: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 13: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, apple crisp, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

Dec. 7: Chicken patty/bun or sandwich & soup, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 8: Crispito or rib-b-que/bun, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 11: Pizza, chicken bacon melt or chef’s salad, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 12: Beef nuggets or chicken tenders, potato or macaroni salad, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec. 13: Lasagna or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

Dec. 7: Burrito, corn, strawberries & bananas, milk, hamburger, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec. 8: Weiner wrap, veggie, fruit, milk, chicken nuggets, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec. 11: Hamburger, veggie, fruit, milk, hot dog or chorizo, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec. 12: Enchilada casserole, rice, salad, fruit, milk, Chinese egg roll, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec. 13: Texas fries, veggie, fruit, milk, chicken fajita, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau

Dec. 7: Chicken patty, potatoes/gravy, peas, roll/butter, fruit cobbler, milk.
Dec. 8: Peanut butter/jelly, cheese & carrot sticks, chips, fruit & cookies, milk.
Dec. 11: Chicken wrap, rice, stir fry veggies, mandarin oranges, fortune cookie, milk.
Dec. 12: Mac & cheese, little smokies, green beans, muffins, oranges, milk.
Dec. 13: Nachos & salsa, salad, corn, bread sticks, fruit, milk.

Irrigation meetings slated

Area irrigation boards of directors will hold monthly meetings Tuesday at the South Board of Control office at 118 S. 1st St. W., in Homedale. The Ridgeview Irrigation District will meet at 1 p.m. The Gem Irrigation District will meet at 1:15 p.m. The South Board of Control caps the day with a 1:30 p.m. meeting.



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Morticians Assistant
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Your finances

Mutual funds are the perfect plan for anyone's future

Dear Dave,
My husband and I are in the process of paying off our debt. We also have a 3-year-old daughter who is severely handicapped. We'd like to begin investing toward her future, even though there's little chance she'll go to college. What can you recommend?

— Judy

Dear Judy,
I'm a big fan of mutual funds that have solid 5- to 10-year track records. For my money, they're the best long-term investment out there. And you're right to think about this now. Even if she doesn't go to college, it sounds like your daughter may need help well into the future.

Mutual funds are great in lots of ways. Not only do they generate a great return on your investment, but they're easy and inexpensive to get into. You need only \$250 or \$500 for an initial lump-sum investment with lots of them. If you'd rather give to the fund monthly, you can do that for as little as \$25 with several that are out there.

If you're planning to contribute less than \$10,000, I'd suggest a calm growth and income fund. But if you plan on really pumping this thing full you'll want to spread your investments out a bit. I'd put 25 percent in each of the following categories: growth, growth and income, aggressive growth, and international.

— Dave

Dear Dave,
How do you get a product to market?

— Jim

Dear Jim,
Well, it depends completely on what the product is you're talking about. But first you need to determine what your target market is and decide if there are potential buyers.

Once this is established, I would meet with some of the people or businesses that make up your target market. This is called a focus group. Find out where they would be most likely to buy your product or service, what type of advertising would attract their attention and what distribution method would work best.

Your focus group can tell you a lot about the best ways to position your business!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I was wondering if I should save up three to six months' of expenses, Baby Step Three, before I pay off my debt with



the debt snowball — Baby Step Two. I'm self-employed and work on a contract basis. My current contract will be up in a few months, and I'll have to find another contract.

— Pat

Dear Pat,
In a sense, you're going to be laid off in a few months. It would be wise to prepare for that in advance.

Just paying the minimum payments on your debt for now and saving up three to six months' of expenses would be one way to plan for that event. However, the day you get your next contract, I want you to take that emergency fund back down to \$1,000 because you'll have gotten your stability back at that point.

The good news is that you have a little while to be looking for another contract. That's a luxury that not many people have when they lose a job.

After you bring your emergency fund back down, I want you in attack mode on the debt snowball. Every extra dime you can find needs to go to paying off debt. Sell some things if you have to, but get out from under the debt as soon as you can, and don't ever borrow again!

Think of how quickly you could save three to six months' of expenses if you had no debt at all. You could change your family tree and save like crazy!

— 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. For more financial advice and a special offer to our readers, please the Web site or call (888) 327-3223.

Keep informed

Read

The Avalanche

Today
Idaho DEQ nitrate open house, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School, Bruneau

Thursday
Exercise class, 11 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020
Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon, noon, Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 W. 1st St. (208) 337-3252
Homedale High School Drama Club production, The Clumsy Custard Horror Show, \$4 adult, \$3 students and senior citizens, 7 p.m., old high school gymnasium, 203 E. Idaho Ave.

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

Friday
Homedale High School Drama Club production, The Clumsy Custard Horror Show, \$4 adult, \$3 students and senior citizens, 7 p.m., old high school gymnasium, 203 E. Idaho Ave.

Saturday
Homedale Senior Citizens Center Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$12 large table, \$6 small table, 224 W. Idaho Ave., (208) 337-4573, (208) 482-7545 or (208) 337-3020

Owyhee County Historical Society Christmas Bazaar and Charlie Brown Christmas tree sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Owyhee County Historical Museum complex, 17085 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2319

Homedale High School Drama Club production, The Clumsy Custard Horror Show, dinner theater presentation, \$8 general admission, 7 p.m., old high school gymnasium, 203 E. Idaho Ave.

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

Owyhee County Historical Society Christmas Bazaar and Charlie Brown Christmas tree sale, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2319

Monday
Homedale School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 7

p.m., district office board room, 116 E. Owyhee Ave.

Tuesday
Homedale Senior Citizens Center luncheon, 11:45 a.m., 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

Friends of Ken and Marge Travis have established a legal fund for their benefit

Anyone wishing to contribute may donate at the Marsing U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 490, Marsing, ID, 83639

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Three Creek Highway District

Transportation Plan

Public Open House

Friday, December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Road Shop, 56562 Blossom Road

Comments will be taken at the open house or can be submitted via email, telephone, fax, or mail (see below). For additional information or directions, contact Harlan Mink at:

Three Creek Highway District
56562 Blossom Road
Rogerson, ID 83302
208-857-2284 / 208-857-2236 (fax)
mudruts@rtci.net

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Sure sign of Christmas

Above: Homedale Public Works employees Jack Ulrich and Scott Malheur put finishing touches on a Nativity Scene on the east end of Homedale. **Below:** The city's Nativity Scene shines through a light snow storm late last week.



Bruneau Legion Turkey Shoot set

Bruneau American Legion Post 83 will play host to another Turkey Shoot fund-raiser at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 15.

The event will be held at the American Legion Hall, 32536 Belle Ave., in Bruneau. Featured activities will include target shooting, bingo and card games. Turkeys will be given as top prizes for all contests.

Admission to the event is free, but the entry fee for each game varies. Food also will be sold.

Proceeds from the function, which is similar to a turkey shoot held in November by the Bruneau post, will benefit the general maintenance and building fund for Bruneau Post 83.

For more information, call Bill McBride at (208) 845-2842.



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BSU composer debuts originals in Marsing

The Marsing High School Choir last week debuted an original composition titled *While the Lavenders Were Blooming* by composer Mikel Bell. Friday's Marsing High School Christmas Concert also featured Bell's original arrangement of *O Holy Night*.

Before the singers performed his piece, Bell choked back tears while he presented the choir with his original score to *While the Lavenders Were Blooming*.

Bell, 42, is a Boise State University music composition major and has worked with Marsing students for the past year. He began playing piano at age 8.

According to Marsing School District music teacher Dawn Sandmeyer, Bell's work fills a niche for her music program that has traditionally been hard to fill — arranging music for the school's band.

"It is really hard to find arrangements for a group this size," Sandmeyer said of her high school band.

Sandmeyer said that with Bell's talent, he is able to literally "custom-make" a music piece to suit the needs and skill level of her classes. Sandmeyer said the response from students has been positive.

"They thought it was awesome. They were excited to have a piece written for them," Sandmeyer said. "It keeps them challenged."

Bell's original piece, *While the Lavenders Were Blooming*, was inspired and written within a day, he said, after meeting with friends at Bar Gernika in Boise.

"I went home that night and started scribbling, and it just came out," Bell said.

While composing original works may come from inspiration,



BSU student delivers original composition

Above: Marsing School District music teacher Dawn Sandmeyer, left, accepts a framed copy of the sheet music for "While the Lavenders Were Blooming" from composer Mikel Bell. **Below:** The Marsing High School band debuts Bell's original composition during its Christmas Concert, which was held Friday in Marsing.



and pour out freely, Bell said that composing arrangements of existing pieces is challenging yet rewarding.

"I'm just really proud of it. I assumed it was easy," Bell said. "I realized it is really tough."

"It's hard to find music to meet the level (of the students) that sounds good," he said. "I literally tailor-made the music to their level."

Bell said a particular challenge lies in the fact that some of his

junior musicians have varying skill levels, and that he sometimes has to write different parts with that in mind.

Bell is scheduled to graduate from BSU in May with a degree in music composition and a minor in Basque studies. His works also have been featured in a short film titled *Proserpine*, which was shown this summer at the Idaho International Film Festival.

— JWB

Homedale band plans holiday concert

After the Homedale School District's group of student-musicians finishes the Homedale Holiday parade Saturday, the focus will shift to other seasonal

pursuits.

District music director Karla Kachelmier announced last week that middle school and high school students will present the

annual Holiday Concert at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Homedale Middle School on Johnstone Road.

"This is a great chance for the community to show their support for the arts and get in the spirit," Kachelmier said.

Admission is free for the show.

The Homedale High School music department will sponsor a winter carnival from noon to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16, inside the high school band room. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Carnival activities include face painting, finger painting, ornament making, a beanbag toss, "fishing," snowflake making and a cake walk.

"This is a great chance for parents to get a little peace before the holidays," Kachelmier said.



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Homedale High grad helping rebuild Iraq

U.S. Navy Capt. Richard Fritzley is a long way from Homedale, where he graduated from high school in 1975.

Fritzley has been stationed in Baghdad, Iraq, since July. A Navy reservist, he is serving as a sector chief of the Oil Infrastructure Reconstruction Program. He is responsible for providing full-spectrum program and management services for \$1.725 billion worth of the Iraq Reconstruction and Relief Fund oil projects.

“Being away in Baghdad, you really think about what is important. It has been a time of personal reflection,” Fritzley said by phone from his office in the Iraqi capital last week.

Fritzley leads a diverse 45-person sector program and project management team staffed by a contracted workforce that includes gas industry experts from all over the world.

Fritzley spoke highly of the military service personnel and civilian contractors with whom he works. He and his team work 12 to 15 hours a day, seven days a week, but have Friday mornings off. He is registered as a professional engineer in the state of California and has worked for Boise Cascade for 17 years.

Fritzley said he hopes to come home to spend the holiday in Boise with his wife, Kathleen, and their three daughters, Maitland, Katie and Mercedes.

Richard is the son of Herb and Sandra Fritzley, longtime members of the Homedale community.

“I’m working on that,” Richard Fritzley said, cautiously optimistic



Project analysis

Capt. Richard Fritzley talks to a manager of an Iraqi gas oil separation plant (GOSP). Fritzley said the communication barrier made for “a very interesting conversation.” The process equipment used in the plant was purchased, engineered and delivered by American crews to stretch the rebuilding budget, Fritzley said. Submitted photo

about his chances of coming home for Christmas. “I have R&R over Christmas, and I might get home (Dec. 21). My mid-tour point falls around the first of the year.”

Fritzley said he hopes to complete his tour and return home in June.

Fritzley said he has been fortunate during his career to be home for most of the holidays. Fritzley was active-duty in the Navy for his first eight years, and has served the past 20 years in the

Naval Reserves.

In 1980, he was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, but said at that time he was able to “wrangle” a trip home for Christmas, that he ended up spending in the hospital due to a car accident.

Fritzley said that while Thanksgiving always has been a special holiday for he and his loved ones, he was treated well in Iraq this year.

“It was actually very good. They really did up the facility.



All in a day’s work

Above: Crews use acid to open previously made perforations in the oil well to make the resource flow better. The job usually takes one or two days to complete, Capt. Richard Fritzley said. Below: Another part of Fritzley’s job is serving as liaison for the Iraqi media. Questions in Arabic are translated to him in English and then his responses are translated back to Arabic. Submitted photos



They do feed us well,” Fritzley said.

Fritzley was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps in 1979 after his graduation from the University of Idaho where he attended on a Naval ROTC scholarship. In 1988, Fritzley earned a Master’s degree from Indiana University, where he graduated with highest distinction.

Fritzley is a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. His awards and decorations include: Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Battle

“E” (Two Awards), National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Expert Rifle Marksmanship and Expert Pistol Marksmanship.

While he misses his home and family in Idaho, Fritzley says his work in Iraq is rewarding.

“We can see the difference we make in this country,” Fritzley said. “What the U.S. is doing is giving them (Iraqi citizens) a kick start.”

— JWB

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Grant ensures hunter access to large Jordan Valley tract

Thanks to a recent agreement between a Jordan Valley area rancher and the State of Oregon, upland bird and big game hunters will continue to have access to nearly 10,000 acres of private land in Malheur County.

Jordan Valley resident Mark Mackenzie has received a \$286,500 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Access and Habitat Program grant in exchange for allowing hunters ongoing access to his 9,807 acres and private roads the public uses to reach thousands of acres of adjacent BLM lands. The grant will be in effect for the next 10 years.

The area is popular for chukar hunting, but also provides excellent opportunities for deer,

pronghorn and predators.

Mackenzie traditionally has permitted public access to his property located between Owyhee Reservoir and Jordan Valley; however, in recent years he has experienced problems with inconsiderate hunters leaving gates open and allowing his livestock to escape.

Hunters also utilize 13 miles of his private roads during wet conditions, resulting in road damage.

The A&H Program grant will be used to install four cattle guards and repair and maintain roads. The funds also will provide the landowner with an access payment of \$2 per acre, per year, for 10 years.

Information on access

regulations and maps are available from the ODFW headquarters in Salem, Ore., (503) 947-6314, and at the ODFW office in Ontario, Ore., (541) 889-6975.

The A&H Program is funded by a \$2 surcharge on Oregon hunting licenses.

Funds raised by the program are distributed through grants to individual and corporate landowners, conservation organizations and others for cooperative wildlife improvement and hunter access projects throughout the state.

For more information on the A&H Program, call program coordinator Nick Myatt (503) 947-6087 or visit the Web site at www.dfw.or.us/AH/.

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Homedale couple's arraignment scheduled

Kimberly and Rocky Nix, a Homedale couple accused of grand theft and burglary following an investigation into the theft of guns and a four-wheeler ATV in Homedale, face arraignment in district court in front of Judge Gregory Culet on Friday.

The two appeared in court on Nov. 27 in Murphy. Both waived their right to preliminary hearing and agreed to appear in district court for arraignment on felony charges of grand theft and burglary. If convicted, the Nixes each face prison sentences of up to 14 years and a \$5,000 fine for grand theft and up to 10 additional years for burglary.

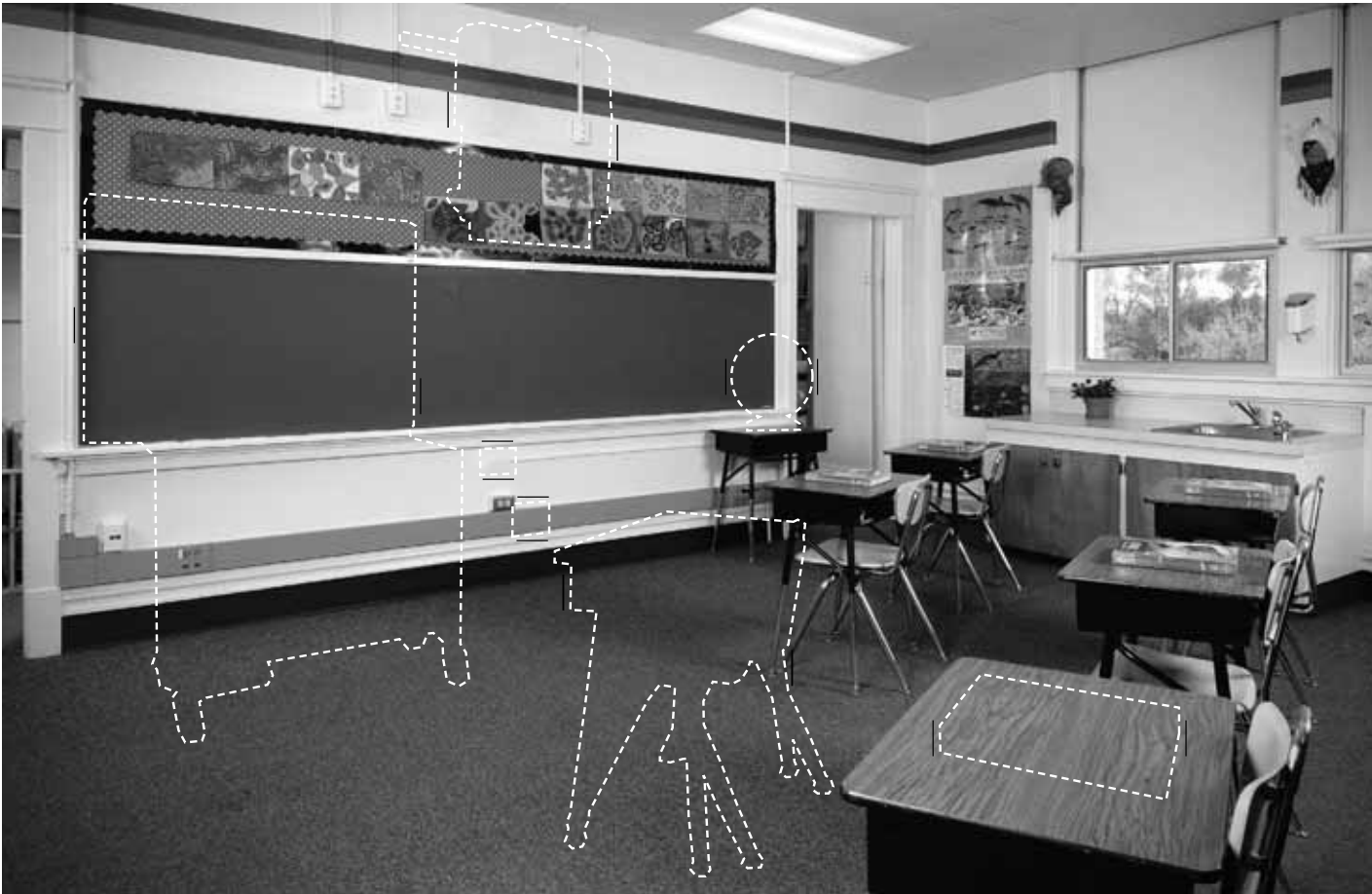
Rocky Nix, 39, and Kimberly Nix, 31, both of Homedale, were arrested on Oct. 27, after an ongoing investigation involving personnel from the Wilder Police Department, Canyon County Sheriff's Office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. A juvenile also was arrested.

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 ATV from the backyard.

Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said that the investigation led to a search warrant, which was executed on Oct. 13.

With assistance from the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, Homedale officers later arrested the couple at their residence on Oct. 27.

— JWB



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JV’s ION Museum offers Christmas gift sale

The ION (Idaho-Oregon-Nevada) Museum in Jordan Valley offers an inexpensive option for Christmas shopping this year.

According to museum volunteer Adele Payden, the group is raising money to remodel a Jordan Valley home to house the museum has opened a thrift store nearby, and the items are pouring in.

Payden said the store, located at 508 Swisher Ave., in the old Owyhee NAPA Auto Parts building, covers a wide range of items and should overcome most shoppers’ initial objections to Christmas shopping at a “second-hand” store.

“Some may think a second-hand store is not a place to shop for Christmas gifts. Boy, are they wrong. We have many new and almost new items,” Payden wrote in e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

Payden also pointed out that shoppers could find barely-used, high quality items for the same price as new, lower quality department store items.

Payden listed a few of the items currently up for sale at the museum: card tables, kitchen tables, end tables, bunk beds,

sewing machines, lamps, old bottles, baby clothes, home electronics, new and used clothing, coats, jackets and other items. Payden said many items are new and in the original packaging.

Store hours are Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m., but Payden said special arrangements can be made for anyone interested in donating items or shopping during off-hours.

For more information on the store, contact museum curator Joanne Cunningham at (541) 586-2984; Cindy at (541) 583-2428; or Payden at (541) 586-2818.

Payden said the ION Museum is slowly using up its funds, but with the second-hand store open museum supporters are able to maintain the money they now have. Payden said while the funds are primarily used to pay monthly bills such as utilities, etc., volunteers are the lifeblood of the museum’s renovation.

“Everyone is strictly on a volunteer basis, so no one is paid for any work or help, unless we require a qualified tech or journeyman,” Payden said.

Payden said that the museum is in the process of redoing the floors

in the former Elorriaga Home and Basque Boarding House at 502 Swisher Ave., and creating themes for different rooms throughout the building.

“One room is the Basque Bedroom, another a music/sport room. Our living room, when finished, will hopefully be as a room would have looked circa early 1900s.”

Payden said that in the future, she hopes to be able to rent the property’s outdoor yard for functions such as wedding, graduations and birthdays.

— JWB



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Homedale Police intensifies hunt for automobile vandals

In two days last week, Homedale Police responded to four vehicle vandalisms on East Idaho Avenue. Now officers are stepping up efforts to curb the crime.

Two weeks ago, The Owyhee Avalanche reported a plague of vehicle vandalisms and burglaries throughout Homedale. It appears that trend is continuing.

Tuesday, between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. three vehicle vandalisms were reported along Idaho Avenue between Main Street and Homedale High School. Wednesday evening, another vehicle break-in occurred behind Homedale High School. So far, officers have not had any arrests or leads in any of these cases.

Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said that the only pattern that has developed in these instances has been that police were occupied on other calls when the vandalisms likely occurred.

“They tend to occur when officers are tied up on other calls,” he said.

Takashige said he was busy with a felony arrest near the intersection of Homedale Road and Little Valley Lane shortly before one of the vandalisms was reported, leading him to believe it happened during the actual arrest and transport of the suspect.



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	Wednesday	Golden Corral, 8460 W. Emerald Street 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday	AmeriTel Inn, 7965 W. Emerald Street 10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
MERIDIAN	Tuesday	Hampton Inn & Suites, 875 S. Allen Street 10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
	Monday	Fiesta Guadalajara, 704 E. Fairview Avenue 11:30 a.m.
NAMPA	Monday	Golden Corral, 2122 N. Cassia Street 11:30 a.m.
	Tuesday	Nampa Civic Center, 311 3rd Street South 10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
CALDWELL	Monday	Golden Dragon, 211 S. 21st Avenue 11:30 a.m.

This has prompted the department to utilize additional resources to try and launch a counter-attack.

“Officers are working overtime observing areas where vandalisms are taking place,” Takashige said.

“The department is taking every step and measure we can to curb the vandalisms. Officers are working overtime to stop or catch the persons responsible.”

With no leads developing in this string of crimes, Takashige asked the public for help.

“We encourage everyone to be observant and to report suspicious activity,” he said. “The police department can’t do it alone.”

Anyone with any information regarding these crimes should contact the Homedale Police Department at 337-4642 or Owyhee County Dispatch at 337-4222.

— JWB

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Crew installs new sewer line in Paul’s parking lot



Sewer relocation paves way for store expansion

Left: Uria Pump workers Terry Deweese and Mike Riley examine the trench dug by foreman Steve Atkins, background in construction machine, during the early stages of the project in the Paul’s Market parking lot. Above: Project foreman Atkins begins trenching the rest of the parking during the sewer line replacement work last week.

Work by Uria Pump sets stage for store expansion project

Homedale-based company fixes aging sewer main

Paul’s Markets has begun infrastructure improvements in preparation of expansion at its Homedale grocery store, but not before a slight detour.

The plan, which company vice president of operations Steve Zatica said already has begun with the relocation of an electrical power line and transformer, also includes a project to install a new sewer line.

Homedale-based Uria Pump began excavation for the new line on Nov. 27. The crew includes foreman Steve Atkins, Terry Deweese and Mike Riley.

Atkins said Wednesday that he expected the job to be completed

some time this week. After the new line is in, a subcontractor will replace the pavement, he said.

The existing line, which is buried under the front of the store on East Wyoming Avenue, is deteriorating. Rather than re-line the ancient pipe, Paul’s Markets and the City of Homedale worked out a plan to run a new sewer main altogether.

“It’s just the right thing to do,” Zatica said. “After looking at the cost and the logistics, this was the best route.”

The new sewer pipe, which will be buried in the parking lot north of the existing storefront, will allow a higher volume, which Zatica said will come in handy once the store’s new deli and bakery are up and running.

The new line will include additional manholes and a grease

trap, Zatica said.

The early phase of the work last week closed the east door on the store’s north side and blocked part of the parking lot. Zatica said the work would probably finish up sometime this week after a shift in the work site that temporarily will close the west entrance on the north side of the property.

Homedale public works supervisor Larry Bauer said in a recent city council meeting that the sewer line work would have to be completed before any other phase of the expansion project could be undertaken.

Last week, Zatica was uncertain when the rest of the expansion work would begin, saying that winter weather will play a role in the timetable.

— JPB



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Adrian set to build new school after certifying November vote

The Adrian School District recently received official word on how the Nov. 7 bond election turned out.

Superintendent Gene Mills said last week that certification confirmed that the \$3.785 million, 40-year bond to build a new grade school passed by a margin of just eight votes, 266-258.

“It was close,” Mills said. “I think this is really a credit, though, to the community because that’s a lot of money for the small tax base that we have.”

According to previous reports, the district patrons’ property tax rate will increase to \$3.13 per \$1,000 of property value for the next assessment year. Bond supporters have said tax rates

would stabilize after the first 12 years of the levy.

Patrons rejected a \$4.985 million levy option that would have financed a new school for kindergarten through eighth grade as well as the construction of a gymnasium for district-wide use.

The second levy failed by a 281-254 count. The more expensive levy would have been enacted if both bond had passed.

“Maybe we can find a way to finance the gym in the next couple years with general fund money,” Mills said. “The close vote has encouraged us that there is support out there.”

The next step for the district, Mills said, is putting a construction timeline in place. He speculated

the ground-breaking on the new school wouldn’t take place until late spring after approximately a three-month planning and design phase followed by two months for the bidding process.

The new building will be constructed south of the deteriorating grade school. Once the new school is constructed, the old building would be razed, Mills said.

“We’re going to build south of the old school, so this one can be built and we can still be in school in the other,” he said.

Mills expects the new school to be ready by the middle of the 2007-08 school year. He speculated it could make a nice Christmas present for the school district’s younger students.

Grand View library makes reading fun

The Eastern Owyhee County Library in Grand View sought to make reading fun Nov. 16 during a reading activity celebrating Family Reading Week.

Curious George, the fictional primate, was the mascot for the activity, and a costumed version of the creature was on-hand to greet participants.

George sat and visited with children, posed for photographs, danced, and finally, encouraged children to read to their parents

and parents to read to children.

Kathy Chick, library director, said that there were approximately 80 participants for the activity. Thirty children’s and junior books were given away in drawings, as well as many other prizes, including activity pages, stickers, bookmarks and door hinges.

Chick wished to thank Ricardo Araujo, Jeremy Poland, Dixie McDaniel, Barbara Lindquist, the Modern Woodsman Youth Services group, and the Joel and

Sariah Pearson family for their contributions to the event.

The library also participated in the *Let’s Talk About It* series from the Idaho Commission for Libraries during November. The topic of choice was the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

New books added to the library’s fiction collection feature authors such as Stephen King, Nora Roberts, Janet Evanovich, Nelson Demille, David Baldacci and Robert B. Parker.

Non-fiction titles include: *Ship of Ghosts*, *Blood Thunder*, and *Prosperity in Isolation*, a book about the history of Boise by Idaho author Carol Lynn MacGregor.

Owyhee County snow report

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 10 a.m. Monday:

Reynolds Creek					
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date	Average Temp		
		Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.
11/28	2.2	3.1	29.1	16.4	21.7
11/29	2.7	3.2	20.2	7.7	13.5
11/30	2.5	3.3	19.0	6.0	12.8
12/01	3.2	3.4	32.2	15.5	24.3
12/02	2.8	3.3	27.4	18.2	21.1
12/03	3.0	3.3	29.9	13.0	19.3
12/04	2.7	3.3	27.6	13.7	18.5

South Mountain					
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date	Average Temp		
		Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.
11/28	18.9	5.9	28.0	16.2	21.5
11/29	18.7	6.2	20.3	7.7	13.7
11/30	15.8	6.2	25.2	4.9	14.1
12/01	14.3	6.5	35.0	21.9	29.6
12/02	13.5	6.4	26.4	17.6	20.9
12/03	13.3	6.3	29.1	15.0	20.1
12/04	12.7	6.4	39.8	17.3	28.8

Mud Flat					
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date	Average Temp		
		Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.
11/28	8.0	2.3	35.4	11.6	25.0
11/29	7.1	2.5	29.3	8.5	17.7
11/30	6.0	2.5	16.8	-4.4	5.1
12/01	4.3	2.6	29.2	5.6	20.1
12/02	N/A	2.6	32.3	12.4	22.6
12/03	5.0	2.5	31.9	4.9	17.7
12/04	5.8	2.5	34.3	4.9	17.5

Snow forces seasonal closure of county’s Juniper Mountain Road

As of Monday, there was not a lot of new white stuff in the Owyhees following last week’s storms, which dumped up to 9 inches in some locations.

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said Friday that the Silver City Road remains open at this time and will remain open until the area receives enough snowfall to warrant closing the road. No projected closure dates were given.

Aman said that Juniper Mountain Road is closed at OK Corrals.

Aman cautioned that if motorists choose to travel on a road marked closed, they will be required to reimburse the county for any costs associated with rescue efforts should they run into problems.

Aman also said that Owyhee County officials close roads to ensure safety and the durability of the roads.

“We don’t close roads just to be mean,” Aman said. “We have good reasons.”

Aside from obvious safety concerns, Aman said roads sometimes are closed during inclement weather to preserve the road surface.

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir held 423,917 acre feet of water and that 38.5 cubic feet per second was being released into the Owyhee River.

Public Notice of Intent To Propose Or Promulgate New Or Changed Agency Rules

The following agencies of the state of Idaho have published the complete text and all related, pertinent information concerning their intent to change or make the following rules in the new issue of the state Administrative Bulletin.

IDAPA 22 – IDAHO STATE BOARD OF MEDICINE
PO Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0058
22-0105-0601, Rules Governing the Licensure of Physical Therapists and Physical Therapy Assistants. (Temporary and Proposed) Repeal of chapter. Comment by: 12/27/06.

22-0106-0601, Rules for EMS Personnel. (Temporary and Proposed) Repeal of chapter. Comment by: 12/27/06.

(Temporary Rules Have Been Adopted in the Following Rulemakings)

IDAPA 15 – Div. of Human Resources & Personnel Commission
15-0401-0601, Rules of the Division of Human Resources and Personnel Commission

IDAPA 35 – Idaho State Tax Commission
35-0102-0603, Sales and Use Tax Administrative Rules
35-0103-0608, Property Tax Administrative Rules

(Public Hearings Have Been Scheduled for the Following Rulemakings)

IDAPA 41 – Public Health District #1
41-0101-0601, Rules of Public Health District #1

IDAPA 58 - Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
58-0102-0601, Water Quality Standards

Please refer to the Idaho Administrative Bulletin **Volume 06-12, December 6, 2006**, for notices and text of all rulemakings, public hearing schedules, Governor’s executive orders, and agency contact information.

Issues of the Idaho Administrative Bulletin can be viewed at the county law library or online.

To view the Bulletin or Code or for information on purchasing the Bulletin and other rules publications, visit our website at www.adm.idaho.gov/adminrules/ or call (208) 332-1820 or write the Dept. of Administration, Office of Administrative Rules, 650 W. State St., Room 100, Boise, ID 83720-0306.

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Outshine Santa This Christmas

Residents have included several gifts on their wish lists, but local "Santas" need only to select one item. Gifts should be gift wrapped and tagged with the number and item selected. Gifts need to be dropped off to the Avalanche office before Dec. 21. Gifts will be delivered to Owyhee Health & Rehabilitation Center on Dec. 21.

1. Male: Puzzles (something to do w/hands)
2. Female: Portable CD player, religious CDs, gardening books, talking books
3. Female: Perfume, socks
4. Female: Socks, clothes (l), perfume
5. Male: Portable CD player, watch
6. Female: Underwear (8), earrings
7. Male: Electric shaver, western shirts (xl)
8. Male: Shoes, slippers (11), old time country music CDs
9. Female: Radio, underwear, socks (Fruit of the Loom 7)
10. Female: Scrap booking kit, fuzzy socks, photo albums
11. Female: Bras (38D), button up blouses (l)
12. Female: Ankle socks, moo-moo dresses (4x)
13. Female: Throw pillow, stuffed animal
14. Female: Blouses (m), slacks (14), stuffed animal, talking doll
15. Female: Blouses (m), underwear (5), socks, slippers (9)
16. Female: Sports bra (l), shoes (9), case of Pepsi
17. Female: Makeup, jewelry, perfume
18. Female: Perfume (musk), slippers
19. Male: Socks, button up dress shirts (m/l), mens jewelry box
20. Male: Underwear (m/l), aftershave
21. Female: Chocolates, small earrings, jewelry box
22. Female: Silky blouse with slacks (12/14)
23. Female: Art set, fuzzy posters for coloring
24. Female: Blue sweatshirts (m)
25. Female: Knit tops (m), slacks (10)
26. Female: Turtle neck (l), beaded jewelry
27. Female: Body pillow, sweaters (m), slacks (m)
28. Male: Long sleeved western shirts (xl), aftershave, cologne
29. Male: Slippers (10.5)
30. Male: Slippers (l), brief underwear (m)
31. Male: Fuzzy blanket, slippers (l), sweatshirt (xl)
32. Male: Sweatpants (l), t-shirts (l), sweatshirt (xl)
33. Female: Sweat suit (xl), socks, perfume
34. Female: Slippers (l), blanket, body pillow
35. Female: Sweatshirt (3x), caffeine free soda
36. Male: Western shirts (m), jeans (32wX34l)
37. Male: Coat (l), hooded sweatshirt (l)
38. Female: Sweatshirt (m), hat & gloves, socks
39. Male: Sweatshirt (l), cologne, sports decor, twin size bedding

The annual
Owyhee Avalanche
Christmas gift
project for the
residents of
Owyhee Health &
Rehabilitation
Center Homedale
is under way

Miscellaneous Items:

Hairbrushes,combs, blankets, socks,
hair trimers, books, puzzles, books,
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much appreciated.

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**Boneless Beef
Cross Rib Roast**

\$199 lb.



**Bone-In
Beef Short Ribs**

\$179 lb.



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4 for \$1



**Boneless Beef
New York Steak**

\$529 lb.



**Boneless
Pork Loin Chops**

\$229 lb.



**Case
Navel Oranges**

\$999 ea.
or 39¢ lb.



Pomegranates

89¢ ea.

Bar-S 16 oz.
Franks **99¢** ea.

Johnsonville
Bratwurst **\$349** ea.

Sun-Land 3 lb.
Corn Dogs **\$329** ea.

Bar-S 16 oz.
Bologna **99¢** ea.

Western Family 8 oz.
Parmesan **\$239** ea.

Gem Pack
Chorizo **\$289** lb.

All Varieties
Tomatoes **99¢** lb.

1 lb.
Baby Carrots **99¢** ea.

Avocados **89¢** ea.

Cello Wrapped
Lettuce, head **79¢** ea.

Salad Mix **\$129** ea.

10 lb.
Potatoes **\$179** lb.



**Western Family
Hot Cocoa Mix**

\$119 ea.
10 ct.

Pringles **\$119** ea.



Folgers Coffee

\$699 ea.
34.5-39 oz.

Western Family 1/2 gal.
Ice Cream **\$229** ea.



**Pepsi
Products**

3 for \$11
12pk 12oz Cans

2 Liter Bottle
Pepsi Products **\$129** ea.



Keystone Beer

\$999 ea.
24pk 12oz Cans

12pk 12oz Bottles
Budweiser Beer **\$849** ea.

Western Family Sour Cream 16 oz. \$119 ea.	Western Family Snack Crackers 14.5-16 oz. \$149 ea.	C&H Powdered & Brown Sugar 32 oz. \$169 ea.	Shasta Soda 6 Pack 12oz Cans \$119 ea.
Darigold Whip Cream Pint \$199 ea.	Banquet Pot Pie 7 oz. 59¢ ea.	Arrowhead Spring Water 24pk .5 liter Bottles \$499 ea.	Gatorade 32 oz. \$119 ea.
Darigold Half N Half Quart \$159 ea.	Banquet Frozen Entrees 9-11oz. 10 for \$10	Chef Boy Ardee Pasta 14-15 oz. \$119 ea.	Golden Grain Rice & Pasta Roni 4-7.2 oz. 5 for \$5
Hunt's Manwich Sauce 15.5-16 oz. \$139 ea.	Western Family Sherbert 1/2 Gallon \$169 ea.	Western Family Chunk Basic Dog Food 37.5 lb. \$899 ea.	Western Family Cranrasberry & Cranberry Drink 128 oz. \$479 ea.
Planters Dry Roasted Peanuts 16 oz. 2 for \$5	Western Family Oatmeal Cookies 18 oz. \$139 ea.	<div><div><p>SRM COUPON</p><p>Poinsettias</p><p>\$100 off Any Size</p><p>LIMIT 2 PER COUPON • PER VISIT</p></div><div><p>** Kids **</p><p>Enter to Win Giant Stuffed Dog!</p><p>Must be 18 years & younger.</p></div></div>	
Doritos Tortilla Chips 13 oz. \$219 ea.	Dawn Dish Soap 25 oz. 2 for \$5		

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