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closure of county roads

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Wednesday, December 13, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 50

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Christmas cheer



Cold, wet day can't discourage parade-goers

Mary Burman of Homedale, dressed as one of Santa's elves, hands out stuffed animals to children along Idaho Avenue during Saturday's A Country Christmas Homedale Christmas Parade. Onlookers braved wet conditions to view the annual parade sponsored by the Homedale Chamber of Commerce. Paul's Markets won the best float award for its "Paul's Country Delivery" theme. Several other Homedale businesses entered parade floats, and the Homedale High School marching band played holiday favorites along the route, which wound west on Owyhee Avenue and east on Idaho Avenue. Santa Claus capped the day by riding a fire truck along the parade route. For more photos from the parade, see **Page 15A**

Grievance nixed, Owyhee workers mull legal option

The Owyhee County Employees Association is considering its next move after county commissioners denied a grievance based on the hiring of a building official.

"(Commissioners) found an excuse once again to do what they want and not show any regard for policy or procedure," association president Aron Streibel said last week.

The commissioners delivered three different findings to employees in the wake of a grievance hearing held in

executive session during the Nov. 6 weekly meeting.

"When you have a number of individuals involved and the different ways they went about the process, different aspects of the policy applied to them," said county prosecuting attorney Matthew Faulks, who was involved in drafting the three responses.

There is no appeal once a grievance has been denied, but

— to page 5A

Bruneau nuke plant faces many hurdles

Even with regulatory go-ahead, county must still approve permit

News that a recently formed energy development and marketing company wants to build a nuclear power plant near Bruneau caught area residents — including county commissioner Dick Reynolds — off-guard last week.

"It's not the Bruneau or Owyhee County way of life to have something like that around here," Reynolds said. "It might be good for someone who wants

to sell 1,000 acres."

Alternate Energy Holdings, Inc., (AEHI) announced it had signed a letter of intent on Dec. 1 to "construct, own and operate" a 1,500-megawatt nuclear power plant near Bruneau.

The idea is to supply electricity to help with agricultural irrigation, the company's press release said.

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Marsing city water project begins

A crew from Stevens and Sons Well Drilling in Boise works on creating a new well for Marsing’s city water late last week across 8th Avenue from the Marsing Schools complex. The project began about a week earlier. The city engineer was scheduled to give an update on the water project at Wednesday’s city council meeting, which was postponed Monday.

Marsing council meeting rescheduled for Tuesday

Tonight’s Marsing City Council meeting has been postponed until 7 p.m. Tuesday because of a lack of a quorum.

Marsing City Clerk Janice Bicandi told The Owyhee Avalanche on Monday morning that the meeting had to be postponed because of the anticipated absence of two council members. City

officials knew that one member would miss the meeting, but a second has been called out of town on a family emergency.

Items on the agenda for next week include the city audit and an update on the city water project,

The council usually meets on the second Wednesday of each month.

Homedale council addresses business registration tonight

As expected the Homedale City Council will tackle a full agenda tonight during its first meeting of the month, including the controversial business registration form sent to local businesses recently.

The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

The highlights of the meeting include a discussion of the

business registration form and \$50 fee request mailed out by the Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission to local businesses.

As Mayor Paul Fink had pointed out last week, the business registration discussion is the last item on a lengthy agenda.

Also on the agenda:

- The city audit

- Letter of conditions for the city’s water and sewer project, presented by Dave Flesher of the U.S. Department Agriculture’s Rural Development Agency.
- A discussion of 50-foot lots in the older part of town.
- A discussion about putting an end to the natural gas franchise fee each city utility user pays.



Homedale water service interrupted

Workers from Homedale Public Works responded to repair a “broken or cracked” water main Friday afternoon near the intersection of Main Street and Montana Avenue. The break left the city without water for approximately two hours. According to public works supervisor Larry Bauer, planned upgrades to the city’s infrastructure will enable workers to shut off sections of pipe in the future, instead of the entire city.



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Legion plans Christmas potluck

The Homedale American Legion Post 32 and its Auxiliary will host a potluck Christmas dinner Saturday at the Legion hall on Owyhee Avenue.

The dinner will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is open to the public. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish or a dessert.

For more information, call Carolyn at 249-6021.

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

County considers raising building fees

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners will look at raising fees assessed for Department of Building Safety services at its Dec. 26 meeting in Murphy.

According to a legal notice placed by Owyhee County officials in *The Owyhee Avalanche*, the fees currently charged have not been increased as costs of operation have risen.

County building official Arlyn Tietz said he will propose fee increases during the commissioners' 10 a.m. meeting Dec. 26 inside courtroom 2 at the Owyhee County Courthouse in Murphy.

One proposal will be a minimum \$80 residential building plan review fee that Tietz said is necessary to cover costs associated with reviewing building plans. The second is a \$100 fee to appeal building permit decisions, which Tietz said will be charged merely to set the appeal process in motion.

"I think we're getting up to what other counties are charging," County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said of the proposed increases.

The Owyhee County Building Code requires fees to be assessed with provisions adopted by the jurisdiction for permit fees, plan review fees, inspection fees and the determination of value for the conduct of business.

According to Tietz, the fees will be placed into the county's general fund.

"It goes to the county, for me to look at plans and make comments on it," Tietz said last week. "Everything that our office brings in goes straight to the (Owyhee County) general fund," Tietz said.

Tietz said that his office is considering a residential plan review fee of 16 percent of the "assessed permit value." For example, if the permit is for a \$1,000 improvement, \$160 would be charged by the county as 16% of the assessed permit value.

Tietz, who formerly worked in the Caldwell Department of Building Safety, said the proposed fee schedule is identical to the rate Canyon County charges.

Tietz also said that his office will collect 65 percent of commercial plan review fees. Tietz said this is in line with the rest of Idaho.

County documents obtained by *The Owyhee Avalanche* read as follows: "Commercial Plan review fees for A, B, E, F, I, M, R, S and U occupancies shall be sixty five percent (65%) of the Building Permit and shall be paid as a Plan Review Deposit."

For example, a commercial building permit, assessed at 92,000 would be charged a permit fee of \$937.75. 65% of that fee would be used as a plan review deposit.

The Plan Review Deposit is not an additional fee, county documents state: "It is a prepayment of the plan review fee."

"Every jurisdiction I am aware of has adopted this schedule," Tietz said.

A list of requested fee amounts is available for public review in the Owyhee County Clerk's office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

— JWB

Several county roads closed for the winter

With snow piling up, Owyhee County crews have posted closed signs on several roads.

Sheriff Gary Aman said Monday that the road district supervisor reported six county roads shut down for the winter, including:

- Silver City Road at the upper transfer
- Jordan Creek Road at DeLamar
- Mud Flat Road at the Poison Creek campground
- Flint Creek Road at Deer Creek
- Juniper Mountain Road at Payne's Ranch
- Bachman Grade Road at Hyde Saddle

According to Owyhee County Dispatch records, the road was closed at 9 a.m. Wednesday morning. The road will be closed at the upper transfer on the Murphy side. The road is also closed from the DeLamar side.

Owyhee County has posted signs indicating road closures, and warning that drivers traveling on the road after closure will be charged for any necessary search-and-rescue operations.

TRIAD to honor officer of the year

The Owyhee County TRIAD will present its 2006 law enforcement officer of the year award Friday in Murphy.

The award presentation will take place at 1:30 p.m. at the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office.

TRIAD president Erv Gifford said the award is given annually to a person who has performed exceptionally in the interest of public safety.

Gifford, a former Homedale mayor and a 27-year veteran of the Boise Police Department, said TRIAD has been giving the award out since the mid-1990s.

TRIAD is a volunteer organization helping law enforcement in the county.

Homedale resident's designs make impact on road projects

If you've driven I-84 between Nampa and Caldwell recently, you have seen the influence of a civil engineer from Homedale.

Don Vander Boegh is a senior design engineer with W&H Pacific, a Bothell, Wash.-based engineering consulting firm. The firm's current projects include sub-contract work on the Karcher Interchange and lead work on the future Franklin Interchange, at I-84, exit 29.

Mollie McCarty with the Idaho Transportation Department said traffic would flow on the Karcher Interchange this week after Tuesday afternoon's opening ceremony. Central Paving Co., in Boise, began the \$30 million project in the summer of 2005. Earth Tech is the lead design firm on the project, with W&H Pacific providing assistance.

Meanwhile, Concrete Placing Co., is scheduled to begin work on the \$25 million Franklin Interchange this month. Construction is expected to be completed by the fall of 2008.

In the past, Vander Boegh has designed overpasses in Denver and Phoenix. Vander Boegh and his wife, Barbie, moved to Idaho in 1992.

For Vander Boegh, civic design has long been a part of his life.

"My dad was in highway construction," said Vander Boegh. "It just kinda interested me."

Vander Boegh started working for Morrison-Knudsen in 1977, and transferred to the engineering department in 1980. Vander Boegh holds a Bachelor's of Science in Engineering from the University of Idaho and a Master's Degree



Don Vander Boegh

from the University of Colorado in Denver.

Beginning this week, those years of experience and education will benefit Owyhee County residents with easier access to I-84 in the form of the Karcher Interchange.

"We designed two of the five bridges," Vander Boegh said, adding that there are a total of five bridges in the complex that forms the Karcher Interchange.

While these massive projects — which will change the face of I-84 in southwest Idaho — are some of the more locally visible projects Vander Boegh has taken part in, he has contributed to several other projects through cooperative efforts with the Idaho Transportation Department and the Ada County Highway District, since moving to Idaho in the early 1990s.

— JWB



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Commissioners deem Wilson Cemetery Lane public road

Nighthawk Lane to remain private, won't appear on county maps

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners recently decided the fate of two rural roads in Owyhee County after holding public hearings.

Wilson Cemetery Lane was declared a public county road from Idaho highway 78 to the cattle guard put in place near the Brandau property.

Nighthawk Lane will be considered a private road and not shown on any county map.

Both decisions were handed down at the commissioners' Nov. 20 meeting in Murphy.

Wilson Cemetery Lane begins at its intersection with Idaho 78 and continues to Wilson Cemetery. Nighthawk Lane intersects with Wilson Cemetery

Lane approximately 1/8 mile west of the intersection of Idaho 78.

In the past, Wilson Cemetery Lane has been considered a private road, with the Brandau family having permitted access to the cemetery. With the declaration of the road public, it now will be maintained within the county public road system.

According to documents received from the Owyhee County Clerk's office, there were several factors in the commission's decisions.

The commissioners found that Wilson Cemetery Lane "has been used to access the Wilson Cemetery by many who have ancestors and family members buried there." Documents show

that the road was first acquired by the county in 1925 by a tax deed executed by county treasurer Isabel Wees and presided over by Probate Judge R.H. Leonard.

All county roads were abandoned in May 1948. At that time, county commissioners were to each file a report indicating the roads "within his district best adapted to serve the needs of the public." In June 1948, the commissioners provided lists of roads they felt met that requirement, and those roads were adopted as public roads. Wilson Cemetery Lane was not included in that list.

The Board was given "evidence of public use" last month by members of the public who gained access to the Wilson Cemetery across the road.

Idaho Code provides that public roads can be created by public use for five years "provided they

shall have been worked and kept up at the expense of the public," and the county has documented Wilson Cemetery Lane meets that criteria from the intersection with Idaho 78 to the Brandaus' cattle guard.

County Road Supervisor Larry McDaniel testified that public maintenance has been performed on the road to the cattle guard since 1986.

Past the cattle guard, commissioners found that, while the road has been traditionally used by the public, meeting one of the statutory requirements of a public road, it has not been publicly maintained in such a way as to find it to be a public road.

"The Board cannot and does not find that the requisite maintenance is proved," county documents state. "By statute, such use, alone, does not establish a public nature

of a road."

While McDaniel testified that he had delivered gravel to the cemetery at public expense, the commission found that, "the testimony does not make out the regular yearly maintenance."

With regards to Nighthawk Lane, commissioners found "there is absence of testimony sufficient to establish this roadway as a county road."

In July 2004, LaVar Young testified during a conditional use permit hearing that he could not "find anything recorded in the county on Nighthawk Lane."

McDaniel testified that the county did not maintain Nighthawk Lane, and county documents show that Nighthawk Lane was created by a private party through the use of privately owned equipment.

— JWB

Avalanche deadlines change for post-Christmas issue

Because of Christmas, The Owyhee Avalanche will observe special holiday deadlines for its Dec. 27 edition.

Deadlines for classified advertising, legal notices and display advertising will be noon Friday, Dec. 22.

For more information, call the Avalanche office at 337-4681.



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Friday noon the week prior to publication	Friday noon the week prior to publication
Letters to the editor	
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Read all about it
in the Avalanche!

Canyon man pleads guilty to Owyhee felony

A 62-year-old Canyon County man avoided trial Friday by entering a guilty plea to one count of felony lewd and lascivious conduct.

Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks said that George Scott accepted a plea bargain in which a second felony count would be dismissed.

"We're pleased with the resolution on it," Faulks said.

Scott's trial was set to begin this week. He was facing charges related to events that happened earlier this year and involved two "early school-age" boys, Faulks said.

The felony conviction carries the possibility of a life sentence,

but Faulks said part of the plea agreement is a recommendation that Scott serve a 4-year fixed prison term with a possibility of an 8-year total sentence.

Faulks stressed that the final sentencing is left to the discretion of Judge Gregory M. Culet at Scott's Feb. 9 sentencing hearing.

Other cases also saw time in Owyhee County court last week.

• Burglary suspects Rocky and Kimberly Nix of Homedale both entered not guilty pleas Friday, Faulks said. Both will have pre-trial conferences on Jan. 12.

Rocky Nix has had a trial date set for Jan. 30-31, Faulks said, but Kimberly Nix's trial date is yet to

be determined.

• The aggravated driving under the influence case of Ronald McDonnell was continued because his counsel was unavailable for Friday's court date, Faulks said. McDonnell is scheduled to be arraigned Jan. 12.

— JPB

From page 1

✓ Plant

Excess power generated by the plant would be sold on the open market to help alleviate the West's energy crunch. Plant construction wouldn't begin until 2008.

While Reynolds and groups such as Snake River Alliance weighed in with skepticism, Fred Grant, a consultant for Owyhee County, made it clear that no power plant can be built until AEHI completes the approval process that would include obtaining a special use permit from the county after a public hearing and vote by the commissioners.

The plant would have to get federal approval from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, too.

"They have no money, they have no plans," Reynolds said. "They have to raise \$1.7 to \$2 billion, they need to buy 1,000 acres, they've got to get water rights and all these kind of things are something that someone is dreaming about and, in my opinion, a waste of time."

Reynolds, who ends his county board of commissioners tenure next month, said he didn't hear about the idea until after County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said she

It's not the Bruneau or Owyhee County way of life to have something like that around here. '

— Dick Reynolds
Owyhee County commissioner



had received a fax from AEHI president and chief executive Don Gillispie two days after his company had announced its plans.

Reynolds said last week that there were plans to add the issue to the agenda for Monday's commissioners meeting, the results of which weren't available at press time.

The commissioner said he spent Friday morning talking to residents in the Bruneau area.

"Most of them think that it's, again, if I may use the term, a daydream or a fairy tale," Reynolds said. "They're not interested in seeing the thing happen."

Bruneau-area rancher Eric Davis, though, wants to reserve judgment.

"Let's find out the facts before any knee-jerk reaction," Davis

said Thursday, admitting that the first he had heard of the proposed plant was when he received a phone call from a reporter seeking comment.

"If it provides a future for our lifestyle, we better look at it seriously and factually."

Another Bruneau rancher, Chris Black, said that energy issues and the increasing cost of utilities could warrant a plant.

"We've seen rate hikes in the last few years," Black said. "Irrigation rates have gone up substantially."

"The more and more demand that Boise and urban-type areas has put a strain on the power grid, the more we need options."

Gillispie said the plant would take up about 50 acres of a 1,000-acre plot of land. Davis and Black said they knew of no land that size currently on the real estate

market.

Gillispie also told The Owyhee Avalanche last week that the power plant's construction — which would be handled by local workers and what the former nuclear energy executive called "imported" labor — would create as many as 10,000 jobs. Gillispie said about 500 high-paying jobs would be created once the plant began operation.

Gillispie said his group, which includes River Rural Electric Cooperative, is looking at a large piece of private property in an undisclosed part of the Bruneau area, but no details are set. Gillispie, who admitted he hasn't even seen the land, said a siting test to examine if the environment would support a power plant would take place early next year. Any land sale would be contingent on the results of that testing, he said.

"We have to confirm the water (rights). That's Step 1," Gillispie said. "We have to make sure it's high enough above the river for a 100-year flood plain. ... There's seismic testing, too."

Another part of the preliminary work, Gillispie said, is soil testing to ensure that nothing from the plant could seep into the ground

and affect nearby wells or the aquifer.

Idaho native Robert Sparrow, a former insurance company owner and current president of the River Rural Electric Cooperative, is involved in securing land and water rights for the \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion project.

The 79-year-old Sparrow, who now lives in the Salt Lake City area, said last week that the River Rural Electric Cooperative grew out of an attempt more than 30 years ago to build a nuclear power plant in Owyhee County.

"We were working with Westinghouse Electric then they took out bankruptcy," Sparrow said of his initial attempt to bring nuclear energy to the county.

Reynolds, who said he has lived in Owyhee County since 1972, said he never heard of an attempt to build a nuclear plant in the 1970s.

While the idea to build a power plant in Owyhee County may be nothing new, AEHI is a company that began trading stock publicly only in the past few months. According to the company's Web site, AEHI stock appeared on the market on Sept. 20 after a merger with Nussentials, Inc.

— JPB

✓ Grievance

Streibel said the association is exploring its options through discussions with attorneys dealing with labor law and administrative law.

"I feel that there was a valid concern brought before the commissioners, and they made no attempt whatsoever to come to a compromise or show concern for their employees," Streibel said.

Streibel wouldn't reveal any specifics about the association's next step.

"Obviously we don't want to cost the taxpayers money," he said, "but we want to hold the current commissioners accountable."

One finding in the commissioners' dismissal addressed the delay in the original Oct. 21 hearing, which was postponed a week when the county's legal representative — Faulks — couldn't attend because of a sudden illness. The decision, which seemingly addressed a

second letter filed with the county after the meeting was delayed, said the commissioners have the right to order a "reasonable continuance" with good cause.

Another set of findings stated that the county employee policy manual allows for only individual employees to bring grievances. In their denial document, commissioners cited the fact numerous employees signed the original letter that disputed the procedure used to hire and pay county building official Arlyn Tietz, saying that the grievance process is available only to a "regular individual employee."

A total of 24 employees, most members of the association, signed the original grievance.

"I think (the commissioners) feel that by treating them as different grievances that they showed they are trying not to recognize the association as a group," Streibel said.

Another part of the findings said that the petitioner did not file an individual grievance when

the opportunity was offered. Streibel, however, doesn't recall the opportunity being extended.

"If they did, it wasn't made clear," he said. "I'm not sure what their definition of that would be. I never heard an offer."

Faulks said it was his understanding that the employees were given the opportunity to file individual grievances.

"This was treated as an employee matter, and it did happen under an executive session and was treated accordingly," Faulks said. "I believe there was a written notice sent to a number of different individuals giving them an opportunity to respond."

Another document dismissing the grievance asserted that county policy permits commissioners to enter into employment agreements without soliciting applications for the position. According to the findings, the policy also allows commissioners to give preference to a person who has been in an employment agreement with the county. Tietz was a contract

employee of the county before being named to the newly created full-time position at a salary of \$50,000.

Another point of the findings suggested that the employees took the wrong avenue to voice their concerns.

Faulks speculated that the commissioners would have listened to the employees' concerns had they requested a spot on the agenda to address the county policy. But, he said, because a grievance was filed — thus creating a personnel matter — the commissioners were obligated to hold the meeting in an executive session.

"If somebody wants to talk about policy matters or decisions of a department or the board, those would be generally a matter of public concern," Faulks said.

"There seems there was a desire to have a public forum, but at this point in time the method chosen was better designed to deal with personnel matters."

The commissioners also denied

the grievance on the grounds that the employees failed to prove that Tietz's hiring or salary level caused them "negative employment treatment, actionable discrimination or any adverse employment action."

"One of the things that they asked in the hearing is what impact it's had on me," Streibel said. "The impact is the morale issue it has caused."

"From their reaction and demeanor, it shows that there's no regard for the employee."

Streibel said that the commission's perceived attitude toward county employees could change in January when retiring Owyhee County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Richard Freund and rancher Jerry Hoagland replace Chris Salove and Dick Reynolds on the board.

"I know with at least one of the new commissioner, there will come a concern for the welfare of the county employees," Streibel said.

— JPB

Obituary

Maude Nettleton

Maude Nettleton, 97, of Oreana, passed away on Saturday, December 9, 2006 in Mountain Home. A Viewing and a Rosary was held at 6:00 pm on Friday, December 15, 2006 at Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home. A Funeral Mass was held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 16, 2006, at the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana with burial following at the Oreana Cemetery. A dinner followed Saturday’s services at the Oreana Community Hall. Arrangements are under the direction of Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home.

Sara Maude Sothern was born August 1, 1909, the oldest child of Alfred G “Appie” and Mary Elizabeth (Carothers) Sothern at DeLamar, Idaho, near Silver City and grew up surrounded by a large extended family in the Owyhee Mountains.

Maude started school in Silver City at nine years old. She attended schools in Silver City, Oreana, Long Beach and Hailey. She graduated from Hailey High School in 1927, and returned to Owyhee County to her family.

While attending an Oreana



dance, Maude caught the eye of a young cowboy named Jim Nettleton. The couple was married on August 18, 1931, in Nampa. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Estacada, Oregon, where they had a small farm for several years and they started their family. Jim and Maude moved back to the Joyce family ranch on Sinker Creek with their two small children, Marilyn and Matt, and soon added sons, Tim and Nick. The Nettletons raised their family at the Box T Ranch in the Owyhee Mountains in the summer and in Oreana, where their children attended school in



the winter. As the Oreana School only went through eighth grade, the Nettletons later purchased a home in Nampa where their children attended St. Paul’s and the Nampa High School.

Maude was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana, and was an active member of the Altar Society for many years. Maude’s life began a new chapter when Jim was killed on March 28, 1970 in a truck accident on the Poison Creek grade. In time, she moved to Orofino to help her sister care for their mother. Maude lived in Orofino for several years, and

made many friends there. In 1978, she moved back to the ranch in Oreana where she lived out the rest of her productive life, doing the thing she loved; milking cows, raising chickens, collecting blue glass bottles and watching the grandkids grow up.

Maude broke her hip in 1991, and it ended her years of spontaneity and fierce independence. She moved in with her granddaughter for three years, and spoiled her great-grandchildren with her sourdough pancakes and stories of fun times she had enjoyed as a child. In 1994, she joined the residents at Cedar Crest Retirement Center in Mountain Home, where she was an active member of their community for many years.

Maude was a unique individual with a kind heart and many talents. After her husband died, she spent many summers cooking in cow camp for her grandchildren, collecting rattlesnake rattles, and gathering petrified wood for projects. She was an avid collector of simple things, and was generous to a fault when sharing her “treasures” with others. Scrabble and Rummy were just two of the games she enjoyed teaching to her great-

grandchildren. Maude will always be fondly remembered by the name her older grandchildren gave her, “Old Mom,” and she signed all her cards and letter with the same over the years. Many friends from her high school years fondly remembered her by her nickname “Jackie.”

Maude is survived by her children; her daughter Marilyn Black of Bruneau, her son Matt and his wife Rosemary Nettleton of The Dalles, Or, her son Tim and his wife Charlene Nettleton of Murphy, and her son Nick and his wife Betty Ann Nettleton of Glenns Ferry, 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 13 great-great-grandchildren, her brother Bruce Sothern of Minneapolis, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Maude was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jim, son in-law Ace Black, two grandsons, sister, Margaret Crockett, and brothers Al Sothern and John Sothern.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made in Maude’s honor to Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic church in Oreana, C/O Ruth Collett, 24912 Collett Rd., Oreana, ID 83650 or the Owyhee County Historical Society, PO Box 67, Murphy, ID 83650.

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

- Dec 14: Roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, green beans, roll, milk.
- Dec 19: Baked ham, green beans, yams, roll, milk.
- Dec 20: Chicken patty/bun, macaroni & cheese, broccoli, milk.

Marsing Senior Center

- Dec 14: Pepper steak, potatoes, broccoli, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
- Dec 20: Stew, green beans, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

The Three Creek school fall get-together was a gala affair. Sixty-two people attended with 19 kids in costumes. Myrl Leach, who now lives in Gooding, was an honored guest. She taught at Three Creek from 1961 until the spring of 1962. Mrs. Marilyn Boss, teacher at present, is in the process of trying to get a teachers reunion lined out. So if any of the former teachers would like to come, contact Marylin Boss, Three Creek school No. 416, 49909 Three Creek Road, Rogerson, Idaho 83302. Phone (208) 857-2281.

At the school board meeting on the 8th, two men from the Idaho

Department of Lands presented to the school a picture of the state tree, the Western White Pine. It was framed in wood milled from the tree itself.

Lots of cattle are in the fields now, and I saw a sight I never expected to see. A long string of mottled longhorns on Steve Aslett’s ranch. When I was growing up, the county was straight Herefords.

Little Sam Gould recently underwent a serious brain surgery at Boise. He is getting along fine now.

Betty Ann Montgomery, a former resident of Murphy Hot Springs, passed away recently at a Twin Falls care center.

Melvin Ellsworth Reynolds passed away Nov. 9, 2006, in Boise after a three-year battle with cancer. He was born on Feb. 6, 1932, to Robert Reynolds and RubyMae Stuart Reynolds. His first home was at Roseworth. He was the great grandson of

Crendall Dunn, who was at one time the greatest land owner in Three Creek. His grandmother, Neva Dunn Reynolds, was the midwife when I was born many, many moons ago.

Melvin married Nelda Faux, May 27, 1951, and together they had three children, Pamila (John) Ostercamp, Allyn Reynolds and Patricia (Vince) Hamilton, all of Buhl.

My fun time last month was when my cousins came from Colorado and took me to see the Trailing of the Sheep in Ketchum. The Basque and Peruvian dancers were awesome, as were the bag pipers with their kilts. I just think the first sheep ranchers in the Wood River country were Scotchmen.

I had just read the book “Bitterbrush Country” by Dianne Peavey, and it was fun to get to meet her and shake hands. She and her husband, John Peavey, walked with the sheep.

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Your finances

Hospital may help lessen bill for uninsured patient

Dear Dave,
My daughter graduated from college last year, is engaged, and has been working part-time jobs while looking for a career position. She's also a diabetic, and she had an episode recently that put her in the hospital. The problem is she has no health insurance and is looking at a bill of \$25,000. Some people have told her to file bankruptcy. What can she do?

— Larry

Dear Larry,
I know it's a scary situation — for her AND for you and Mom. The good news is that medical bills are some of the most flexible to work with in terms of getting a discount for cash in the event that you have no insurance.

Get her to sit down with you or her fiancée and figure out a monthly budget to see exactly what she's working with. Then talk to the hospital, explain the situation in detail, and ask for a little help and understanding. Let them know that she wants to be honorable and make things right, but that she'll need them to work with her to make this happen.

Lots of people file bankruptcy in these kinds of situations, Larry. I recommend bankruptcy about as often as I recommend divorce. In other words, I don't. There's a good chance the hospital will agree to accept 50 cents on the dollar, so why ruin your financial life for the next 10 years by declaring bankruptcy?

Something like that could kill her chances of buying a home, finding a good job and even affect her self-esteem. She doesn't need that kind of garbage hanging over her head when she's just starting out.

— Dave

Dear Dave,
Is it a good idea to transfer your credit card balance to another card that has a lower interest rate? I've got a \$2,500 balance on my current card, and I'm hoping it will help me save some money as I try to get out of debt.

— Trevor

Dear Trevor,
It might save you a little money on interest for a while. The problem is it will make you feel like you really did something when you didn't.

Lots of time people will switch to a card that has a lower interest rate then run the balance up even higher. Many of these offers also offer a lower interest rate for a



while, then it shoots up to an even higher rate than you were stuck with before!

Making the switch is OK, but it's only 2 percent of the plan. The other 98 percent is to go insane attacking this debt and NEVER use credit cards again! Get a part-time job for just a little while delivering pizzas or throwing boxes for a delivery service.

Do this and you'll have that debt paid off in less than a year!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I'm 27 years old, and my wife and I just had our first child. I was wondering what life insurance, if any, I should get for them. I'd also like to set up a retirement fund for my wife, even though she's going to be a stay-at-home mom. What do you recommend?

— John

Dear John,
I'd recommend a Roth IRA for your wife's retirement. She definitely needs life insurance, too, and I'd suggest about \$400,000 in a good level term policy. She's going to be doing several jobs now that your baby is here, and if something happened to her it would be impossible for you to do your job AND hers.

Honestly, John, you don't need a separate life insurance policy on a child.

Stay away from things like the Gerber plan, and never buy life insurance as an investment. Sometimes people sell this junk as a way to save for your child's college fund. Don't buy it!

A \$10,000 to \$15,000 rider on your coverage or your wife's term policy will be very inexpensive and take care of final expenses if something tragic should happen. God willing, you'll never need it.

— 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 or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write Dave Says, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

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
Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon, noon, Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 W. 1st St. (208) 337-3252
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
Marsing School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 7 p.m., district office board room, 209 W. 8th Ave. W.
AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Friday
Bruneau American Legion Post 83 Turkey Shoot fund-raiser, 6 p.m., American Legion Hall, 32536 Belle Ave., Bruneau. (208)

845-2842
Homedale schools band Christmas concert, free, 6:30 p.m., Homedale Middle School, 17550 Johnstone Road

Saturday
Homedale Senior Citizens Center Christmas dance, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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

Tuesday, Dec. 19
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

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events to *The Owyhee Avalanche* by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4861.




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Escapee with Owyhee ties back behind bars in Texas

Former Marsing resident, who covered 80 miles in more than week on the lam, faces more prison time

An Idaho Department of Corrections (IDOC) inmate with Owyhee County ties is back in custody after escaping from a Texas prison on Dec. 3.

Scot Noble Payne, 43, was caught Sunday morning in Cottle County, Texas, approximately 80 miles from the Dickens County Correctional Center in Dickens, Texas, from which he escaped.

For a week, the former Marsing resident eluded capture from Texas Department of Public Safety helicopters, local law enforcement officers and private prison workers.

According to IDOC spokesperson Natalie Hartley, Payne was wearing the same clothing as he was when he escaped from the detention center at approximately 6:35 p.m. on Dec. 3.

Hartley said dogs tracked his

scent from the facility, and that it appeared Payne had been on foot since his escape and had no help from outside sources.

“Staff report finding a shirt in the fence and believe Payne went over the fence,” Hartley stated in a press release to The Owyhee Avalanche.

“Payne had no extra clothing when he escaped and temperatures are near freezing in Dickens County.”

Hartley said Payne was arraigned on charges of escape Monday and could face up to 25 additional years in prison if convicted.

He is currently serving a 20-year sentence on Ada and Owyhee county convictions. His scheduled release date was September 2022, and he was to be eligible for parole in 2009.

Payne pleaded guilty in 2001 to aggravated battery in an Owyhee County case.

Payne was originally charged with lewd conduct with a minor under 16. He was arrested on a warrant on April 9, 2001. At the time, Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said that computers were involved in the case and that multiple victims may have been involved. No further information on that particular case was available.

Payne is one of approximately 100 Idaho inmates housed at the facility near Spur, a town 60 miles east of Lubbock in West Texas.

Idaho inmates have been incarcerated in the facility, which is managed by the GEO Group, since July. Payne was transferred to the facility in August.

— JWB



Scot Noble Payne

County Fair Board chooses new secretary

The Owyhee County Fair Board has selected a new fair secretary after holding interviews at its meeting last week.

Homedale area resident Kelly Haun learned Friday morning that she had been chosen to replace Teri Nielsen as fair board secretary. She will begin training for the position early next year. The fair board held interviews Thursday.

“It is a perfect opportunity to be involved in the fair and the community,” Haun said. Haun said the position is a perfect fit for her and her family.

For Haun, originally from Sandy, Ore. (near Mt. Hood), livestock, 4-H, FFA and cattle breed competition have been the focus of much of her life.

“I was lucky enough to show cattle all over the country,” Haun said Friday afternoon. “It set the pavement down for what I would do later in life.”

One of those things has been to earn an advanced degree. Haun holds a master’s in Animal Science from Oregon State University.

Haun, her husband Bill, and their two children live in the Homedale area. Her daughter, Riley, attends second grade at Homedale Elementary, while she says her 3-year-old son, Willy, stays home in his mother’s “back pocket.”

Haun said one of the things she finds most attractive about the Owyhee County Fair is the hometown feel of the fair, and she hopes to involve her children in the fair and livestock activities. She said one of her goals is to make the fair a positive environment to attract youth. She said that the part-time position will enable her to put the majority of her focus on her family.

“I hope to continue the wonderful community support the fair has in Homedale and Owyhee County,” Haun said.

She also spoke of the challenges she expects with the job.

“I have big shoes to fill,” Haun said. “Teri (Nielsen) put her heart and soul into this position. They (fair board members) all have a lot of respect for her.”

That respect goes both ways.

Nielsen has high hopes for her successor.

“I was really impressed,” Nielsen said Friday. “She is just a real positive, dynamic person.”

Nielsen also said Haun’s qualifications and background will be a big help.

Nielsen, who held the position for the past seven years, said one of the things that impressed her most was Haun’s commitment to the community and making the fair a community event.

— JWB

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Real estate market going strong

Agent says local buyers will see more benefit than investors

The local real estate market remains hot, according to local realtor Kent Simon.

While prices are down slightly from early last summer, they are still up from a year ago, the Homedale resident said.

“The average prices are down slightly from July, but up from last year,” Simon said.

“It (the market) has slowed down a little. Which, in my opinion, is a good thing.”

Simon said that the slower market benefits local homebuyers because it enables them to purchase in the area — rather than having out-of-state investors artificially raise the market, which potentially could price locals out of the market.

“I think the market is going to continue to do well,” Simon said.

Simon said that, currently, one of the best real estate targets lies right over the Oregon border, between Homedale and Adrian.

“I’d go across the state line and buy something,” Simon said. “Land prices are about one-third what they are here.”

Simon added that this mostly applies to larger tracts of land, which — because of current Oregon laws — cannot be developed and are priced low. Simon predicted that situation will change soon, and property values will quickly rise.

Simon also said that the best strategy for a potential buyer is to find property that has been on the market for an extended period.

“I’d go out and find something that has been on sale for a while, a



Local housing market still shining

Kent Simon, a Homedale-based real estate agent, said last week that the housing market in Owyhee County still is in good shape. Several houses in Homedale can be found for sale, and Simon said local buyers may have an edge over investors.

year or more, and make an offer,” he said. He added that making an offer on land that has been on sale for a while could enable a buyer to get more for their real estate dollar.

Simon said that high gas prices have not made near the impact that increased automobile traffic in the Treasure Valley has, and that long commutes can outweigh the benefits of low Owyhee

County property taxes, for people who work in the eastern end of the valley.

Simon said that the Homedale-Marsing housing market is unique in that the majority of new buyers in these “fringe” areas do so because their professional position enable them to work from home, rather than commute daily.

Simon has been the real estate

business for the past five years. He is a licensed Realtor in Idaho and soon hopes to be licensed in Oregon. He recently retired from the Idaho Air National Guard after 28 years of service. He retired at the rank of senior master sergeant and spent last year in Afghanistan, flying in C-130s.

— JWB

Church to hold Christmas programs

The Mountain View Church of the Nazarene kicks off a series of Christmas programs at 10:30 a.m. Sunday with a children’s show entitled “Christmas Snapshots.”

At 10:30 a.m., Dec. 24, the church will feature a Christmas musical and play entitled “There’s Something About that Name.”

At 10 p.m. on Dec. 24, the church will hold a Christmas Eve candlelight service.

The Mountain View Church of the Nazarene is located at 26515 Ustick Road in Wilder. For more information, call 337-3151 or visit www.mvcnaz.org.



Young Homedale hunter gets first deer

Veronica D’Alessio, a 12-year-old seventh-grader at Homedale Middle School, bagged her first deer on Oct. 19. She downed the spike buck with a .243 Winchester. Veronica is the daughter of Mike and Lesli Kube of Homedale. Submitted photo

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Homedale school board continues policy makeover

New guideline sharpens students' in advancement

The Homedale School District board of trustees have approved a policy that ties a student's chances of moving up to the next grade into how hard he or she works in the classroom.

The new policy was established by a unanimous vote at a recent school board meeting.

"It's expecting a reasonable effort from the child, and it's giving the teacher a tool to expect that reasonable effort from the child," school board member Tim Quintana said.

The policy addresses whether a student is prepared to move on to the next grade level or, based on his or her performance, if they should be required to repeat a grade.

In each case, parents have the final say on whether to hold their child back or move them to the next grade, school superintendent Tim Rosandick said.

"Clearly, the idea of the new

policy is to make the parents responsible in their child's education," Rosandick said.

The district's policy also isn't a boilerplate solution, Rosandick said. Each child's situation will be taken into consideration before a decision is made on promotion or retention.

"The district wouldn't have any intent of negatively impacting any kid who is giving it their all and just struggling in school," Rosandick said.

"This policy is to address those very few kids who don't put forth the effort."

Quintana formerly served on the policy review committee that has played a role in revamping various elements of the district's policy manual. He gave up a seat on that panel when he was elected to replace retiring Allen Hays on the school board earlier this year.

The policy review committee now includes school board chairman Kurt Shanley, Rosandick, Homedale Elementary School principal Scott Freeby, Homedale Middle School language arts teacher Shannon

Johnson, Homedale schools paraprofessional Carri Lauson and former school board chair Benita Miller, who serves as a patron of the district.

Quintana said that part of the new promotion and retention policy includes making an official notation of parents' decisions when faced with the progress of their child.

"It protects the school system, of course, but if there is ever an issue down the road, at least there's a record of what the parent wanted," he said.

The policy also serves as a tool for the teacher to monitor a child's progress and address a student's capability of handling the next grade level during parent-teacher conferences.

"Conversely, the parents may not want (their child) to move on, and the teacher can say, 'Johnny has a grasp of this grade level, and I think it would be detrimental if he remained at this level,'" Quintana said.

The retention/promotion policy is only part of the school administration's efforts to address student performance at all levels in the district.

During the summer, the school district revised its attendance policy, too.

District students from kindergarten through Grade 12 are allowed 12 absences per year. The kindergarten through Grade 8 policy was updated earlier this year to follow the high school limit of six absences per semester.

— JPB



Owyhee Garden Club receives grant

US Ecology of Idaho recently presented the Owyhee Garden Club with a grant check. On hand for the presentation were, from left to right, Judith McShane, Chad Hyslop of US Ecology, Sharon McIlveen, garden club president, and Dr. Harold Shockley, superintendent of the Marsing School District. Submitted photo

Club moves forward with community garden

The Owyhee Garden Club has received a grant to make improvements to the Marsing Community Garden and to continue gardening education efforts.

Chad Hyslop of US Ecology Idaho Inc. recently presented the check to the club. In addition to the community garden improvements, the grant will be used teach garden skills to the children of the Marsing after-school program and to help club members share their garden skills with the Marsing Agriculture Class.

The Owyhee Garden Club thanked US Ecology for its support in the county, and also expressed gratitude to Marsing Schools Superintendent Dr. Harold Shockley and the school district for their role in the community garden and the

education of students in the ways of gardening.

The club also acknowledged the help of Nate and Milissa Meland, owners of Lakeshore Landscape & Nursery, Inc., and their staff for the donation of many trees that will be planted along the front fence at the community garden. Other businesses thanked for their involvement in the project included Owyhee Sand and Gravel, Marsing Hardware and Pump and Allied Sign.

The next garden club meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing. A Christmas gift exchange is planned.

For more information on the club or becoming a member, call club president Sharon McIlveen at 896-5474.



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Bruneau woman surprised by ICA award

Celia Tindall of Bruneau is the Idaho Cattle Association 2006 Cattlewoman of the Year. Tindall was born and raised in Bruneau, and is a teacher in the Rimrock School District. She and her husband, Dave, ranch in the Bruneau and Grasmere areas of Owyhee County.

Tindall said last week that the award came as a surprise, and that traditionally the candidate is the last to know of the award.

“You are nominated for the award, and they kinda go behind your back,” Tindall said. Tindall said she had no idea she had been nominated for the award until after the ceremony last month.

Tindall, formerly Celia Black, is no stranger to the cattle industry in Owyhee County. She grew up in a ranching family, and for the majority of her life, the cattle industry was her focus. In the 1980s, she was president of the Owyhee County Cowbells.

In 1978, she married Dave Tindall, and they have since had five children.

Celia’s priorities in life changed

somewhat in the 1990s, and her career shifted from ranching to teaching. Celia, who held a Bachelor’s Degree in Home Economics from the University of Idaho, decided to teach.

“The shift was a result of my kids getting older,” Tindall said. In 1997, Tindall obtained her Idaho State Teaching Certificate and began teaching at the Glenn’s Ferry School District. For the past four years, Tindall has taught at Rimrock High School. She currently serves as advisor of the Family Career and Community Leaders of America.

The ranching industry is still close to Tindall’s heart, while her function in the industry has changed.

“Through my teaching, I can still promote the (cattle) industry,” Tindall said.



Celia Tindall

“I think, as always, multiple uses of land are challenges of the cattle industry,” Tindall said. “It’s a lifestyle, part of what we do.”

Tindall said keeping the integrity—and viability—of the cattle industry are particular challenges.

When asked what her she is most proud of, Tindall answered without hesitation: “My children.”

Lloyd B. Knight, Executive Vice President of the Idaho Cattle Association, said Tindall was one of many nominees for the award.

“Like all of our producer awards, the award is given by ICA’s members to those that have shown a special or significant amount of involvement in the industry or in ICA,” Knight wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche. “In Celia’s case, her continued support and advocacy of the industry through Cattlewomen, Beef Council, and youth activities made her especially deserving of this year’s award.”

“Celia has been a lifelong member of the cattle industry, and a tireless advocate for beef and the ranching lifestyle,” the ICA said in a press release to The Owyhee Avalanche.

“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 in Sun Valley on Nov. 28 to accept the award, will accept it at the Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association meeting in Feb. 2007.

—JWB

Bruneau company faces EPA complaint

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has filed a complaint against the Bruneau Cattle Company for unauthorized discharges of pollutants from a Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) into the South Side Canal.

The South Side Canal flows to the Snake River and C.J. Strike Reservoir near Bruneau. A CAFO is otherwise known as a feedlot.

According to Elin D. Miller, EPA regional administrator in Seattle, the EPA took action after an inspection in 2006 revealed: “clear evidence of several direct discharges of CAFO wastewater from cattle pens to the Canal, which flows to the reservoir and the Snake River.”

“This is an especially important case since the discharge was immediately upstream of a public campground,” said Miller in an EPA press release. The Bruneau Cattle Company has 30 days to respond to the complaint and will have an opportunity for a hearing if the company and EPA are unable to reach a settlement. Under the Federal Clean Water Act, facilities can face fines of up to \$11,000 per day of violation.

The Bruneau Cattle Company has a capacity of approximately 7,000 head of cattle.

At the time of the Feb. 6 inspection, there were approximately 4,000 head on site.

Read all about it
in the Avalanche!



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	Monday	Fiesta Guadalajara, 704 E. Fairview Avenue
	12/18/06	11:30 a.m.
NAMPA	Tuesday	Nampa Civic Center, 311 3rd Street South
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Rimrock FFA wins at district
The Rimrock FFA team that captured first place in the Boise Valley District Ag Mechanics competition on Nov. 29 included, from left to right, Jay Long, Connor Merrick, Cole Merrick and Leigh Martin. Submitted photo

Rimrock FFA news

by Chelsey Lemon,
Rimrock FFA reporter

On Nov. 29, the Rimrock FFA traveled to Melba High School for Ag. Mechanics. There, the team placed first overall in the Boise Valley District after competing in Arc Welding, Oxy Welding, Small Engines, Tool Identifications,

Electricity and Copper Pipe. Cole Merrick placed first high individual in Tool Identifications. He also placed second in Arc Welding. Jay Long placed fourth in Oxy. Connor Merrick, a newcomer to the team, placed first in Small and Large Engines. Leigh Martin placed second in both Electricity and Copper Pipe. The chapter's upcoming event is its Christmas party. They plan on going bowling in Mountain Home.

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Notice of Request for Public Comment on Addendum to Mid-Snake/Succor Creek Assessment, Improvement Plan

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comment on a draft addendum to the assessment and water quality improvement plan for the Mid-Snake River/Succor Creek Subbasin.

The draft addendum addresses water quality in Succor, Castle, and South Fork Castle Creeks. Based on a recent study of the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the water bodies, DEQ has proposed a plan to manage temperature in Succor and Castle Creeks from the headwaters to the Snake River. In addition, DEQ is proposing to remove South Fork Castle Creek from the state's list of water bodies impaired by bacteria.

The draft addendum is available for review at DEQ's Boise Regional Office, public libraries in Homedale and Boise, county courthouses in Murphy and Mountain Home, and in PDF format on DEQ's Web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/public/comment.cfm.

Submit written comments by 5 p.m. MST, Friday, January 5, 2007, to:

Julia Achabal
DEQ Boise Regional Office
1445 N. Orchard
Boise, ID 83706
Phone: (208) 373-0550
julia.achabal@deq.idaho.gov



4-H club members show off horse and roping skills
Above: A young 4-H club member tries out dummy roping during the ranch horse competition held in Oreana earlier this month. Below: Jeni Hagler closes the wire gate obstacle after passing through with her horse during the Dec. 3 Ranch Horse Trail competition portion of the 4-H Oreana Ranch Horse Clinic and Competition. Submitted photos

Oreana hosts 4-H ranch horse contest

The Poison Creek Posse Horse 4-H club sponsored a ranch horse clinic and competition Dec. 3 at John and Lorna Steiner's ranch in Oreana.

Top placing rope halter awards were sponsored by Ted Hagler. Judges for the day were Gena Showalter, Ted Hagler, John Steiner, Suzanne Sideroff, Patty Hagler, Haley Palmer, Burt Sideroff, Greg Palmer, Shawn Charters and Bruce Reuck.

Youths practiced various trail skills in a large portion of sagebrush and rough terrain. Obstacles included opening a wire gate on foot, leading horses through and closing gates, mounting, crossing bridges over dry creekbeds, walking over poles through the middle of a steep creek bed, loping through markers, logging, trotting through rolling terrain, roping dummies, donning a rain slicker, dismounting and lifting the horse's feet.



After practicing roping skills with breakaway (and non-breakaway) ropes and working cattle, the youth were ready for competition. Drawing winners of branding ropes were Mason Sideroff and Drew Gill.

The Poison Creek Posse is planning more clinic/competitions in the upcoming months. Other classes discussed are ranch cutting, ranch riding and ranch conformation.

For more information, contact Terri Reuck at (541) 339-3019.

Here are the results from the Dec. 3 competition:

Ranch Trail — Macy Hagler
Advanced Ranch Trail — 1. Jeni Hagler; 2. Mason Sideroff;

3. Drew Gill; 4. Zane Charters; 5. Taylor Anderson; 6. Brianne Charters; 7. Jake Steiner
- Dummy roping** — 1. Haley Palmer; 2. Macy Hagler
- Breakaway roping** — 1. Brianne Charters; 2. Jeni Hagler; 3. Zane Charters; 4. Taylor Anderson; 5. Noel McQuigg
- Working Ranch Horse reining** — 1. Mason Siderhoff; 2. Noel McQuigg; 3. Taylor Anderson; 4. Jeni Hagler; 5. Macy Hagler; 6. Jake Steiner; 7. Zane Charters; 8. Brianne Charters
- Working Ranch Horse cow work segment (breakaway)** — 1. Jeni Hagler; 2. Taylor Anderson; 3. (tie) Zane Charters, Jake Steiner, Noel McQuigg
- Working Ranch Horse cow work and roping segment (real rope)** — 1. Jake Steiner; 2. Drew Gill; 3. Chani Taggart; 4. Mason Sideroff
- Working Ranch Horse (all segments)** — 1. Jake Steiner; 2. Mason Sideroff; 3. Jeni Hagler; 4. Brianne Charters; 5. Taylor Anderson; 6. Zane Charters; 7. Noel McQuigg; 8. Macy Hagler; 9. Drew Gill; 10. Chani Taggart

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Final phase begins in Bruneau

Above: Crews from Irminger Construction out of Boise began pouring the footings for the new Bruneau water treatment plant last week. *Below:* Workers help guide cement into place during construction last week. Submitted photos

Bruneau water treatment plant construction continues

Construction of the \$980,000 water treatment plant in Bruneau continues this week.

Crews from Boise-based Irminger Construction, the general contractor for the project, has installed yard piping and did concrete work such as the footings and stem walls.

Rich Wiebe of J-U-B Engineers Inc., said Irminger was expected to build the walls for the facility beginning today, and off-site piping such as sewer and drain lines will go in later this week.

Construction is expected to be completed in April, finishing a three-step process to bring arsenic and fluoride levels in Bruneau drinking water in line with federal



standards. Canadian company H2O Innovations is supplying a reverse osmosis filtration system for the project through its California-based Membrane Systems Inc. subsidiary. Irminger received the OK to begin work on Oct. 18.

Adrian seniors make positive difference in their community

by Ryann Bowns, AHS senior
With the holidays upon us, I along with many others feel the need to give back to the community. One of the ways I have done this is through the Senior Project class I am currently enrolled in at Adrian High School.

Senior Project is a requirement in the state of Oregon. Senior Project consists of choosing a career path and then completing job experiences, a physical project, a research paper and a presentation. The career path I chose is Landscaping.

To fulfill the job experience requirement, I completed 16 hours of job shadow experience, and I am planning on fulfilling additional hours.

The next step, the physical project, must benefit the community in some manner, and consist of five hours, not including planning time. For my physical project, I winterized the lawn of Wes and Ilea Jones

of Adrian. I also handed out "How to Winterize" brochures to all of the residents in Adrian. After completing my physical project, I believe I improved our community by volunteering my services in assisting an elderly couples needs. In addition, my brochures were beneficial in educating our community on the proper winterization of lawns.

This was a very important project to me because I enjoy helping others, believe the appearance of a healthy lawn adds to the value of a home, and feel it is important that our community is attractive.

A few seniors at Adrian High who are making impacts around the community include:

- Carlos Mendoza is organizing a blood drive.
- Jorge Michel is helping to reduce the amount of gang participation in the Treasure Valley.
- Sarah McPeak is orchestrating a "Mr. AHS Pageant," with all proceeds benefiting a cancer

patient.

"The Physical Project part has been a good experience for me," McPeak said. "It has given me the drive to extend a helping hand to others. I hope that other kids my age will see the need to do their part in helping out their communities."

For the first semester, the Adrian seniors are under the supervision of Pam Myers, the senior project coordinator.

"The physical projects are my favorite part of Senior Project," Myers said. "That's the time that I get to see the kids give back to their communities and do something for others."

Students leave school with the basic skills of reading, writing and arithmetic, but Senior Project has given us [seniors] a new perspective on making a difference.

Through senior project, we have had the opportunity to make differences in our school, community, and most importantly, with people.

Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir held 428,338 acre feet of water and that 28.7 cubic feet per second was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore.

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 8 a.m. Monday:

Date	Snow Depth	Reynolds Creek		Average Temp		
		Year to Date	Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.
12/05	3.2	3.5		33.2	13.1	23.7
12/06	2.6	3.5		39.8	29.8	34.8
12/07	2.5	3.4		45.2	26.8	35.3
12/08	2.5	3.4		41.2	25.4	33.2
12/09	2.8	3.5		42.4	29.2	35.3
12/10	1.0	3.6		45.4	29.3	36.8
12/11	1.5	3.5		39.7	28.8	33.1

Date	Snow Depth	South Mountain		Average Temp		
		Year to Date	Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.
12/05	12.3	6.5		49.1	29.8	37.9
12/06	12.1	6.5		42.7	34.9	37.7
12/07	11.3	6.6		53.3	36.2	43.6
12/08	10.9	6.6		52.9	41.7	46.7
12/09	10.5	6.6		54.4	40.9	46.9
12/10	11.5	6.6		41.9	31.1	38.4
12/11	13.3	6.7		39.4	27.6	32.5

Date	Snow Depth	Mud Flat		Average Temp		
		Year to Date	Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.
12/05	5.9	2.6		38.8	9.9	23.4
12/06	5.3	2.6		36.8	15.1	24.8
12/07	4.9	2.6		45.9	19.5	30.8
12/08	4.7	2.6		49.7	24.2	35.8
12/09	5.5	2.6		52.3	26.1	38.4
12/10	3.7	2.7		46.9	28.5	36.6
12/11	N/A	2.8		39.7	28.8	35.2

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Dec 5	34	8	
Dec 6	40	10	
Dec 7	41	8	
Dec 8	39	8	
Dec 9	no	read	
Dec10	no	read	
Dec11	44	9	.06

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Homedale third-graders show they care
*Students in Mary Jo Larzelier's third-grade class at Homedale Elementary School recently completed a reading assignment that provided books for needy children. **Bottom row, left to right:** Benny Schamber, Lawsen Matteson, Brady Hansen, Mariela Esparza, Chase Martell, Curtis Westergard. **Middle row:** Austin Burtin, Jordan Stuart, James Nelson, Valerie Ramirez, Elizabeth Vargas, Joey Reyes, Dusty Sanders. **Top row:** Zachary Jerome, Maria Nery, Kimberly Galvan, Coty Ford. **Not pictured:** Miguel Gonzalez, Nancy Mendoza*

Homedale students read for kids in need

Mary Jo Larzelier’s third-grade class at Homedale Elementary School recently participated in a program that allowed the students to send books to needy children while sharpening their own reading skills.

“As teachers, we are always trying to find ways to motivate our students to read,” Larzelier said. “When I received the information about Classrooms Care from Scholastic News, I felt it was something my students would get excited about.”

Larzelier’s hunch was right. During the reading project, as students finished a book, they colored in one letter on a Classrooms Care poster. The goal is to read 100 books, and for every completed poster submitted by a

classroom, Scholastic News and its literacy partners donate 100 books to needy children across America, according to Larzelier.

“My students took this on as a contest and enjoyed reading a book so they could color in a letter,” Larzelier said.

But there was another element to the exercise, she said. Her students talked in class about children less fortunate than they are and the pride the Homedale kids felt in helping other children’s lives better — all by reading a book.

“It’s been a valuable experience for my students, and my overall goal of motivation has been met,” Larzelier said. “In fact, they want to start another poster! What more can I ask?”

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Classrooms Care essays

I Love to Read
by Mariela Esparza
Hi, my name is Mariela Esparza and I love to read because I helped kids that needed to get some books. Our class has read 100 books to give to other kids so they can read books. I also love to read because I can learn interesting things I don’t know about. I am glad we did Classrooms Care for needy kids because all kids need books.

I Like Reading
by Coty Ford
I love to read because it helps my edgecation, plus it’s fun, and it helps me get a better grade. I like helping others and our reading helps people in need. Helping others makes me feel like I care, so I am glad I did Classrooms Care. Now I’ve told you I Love reading!

Reading is Fun
by Kimberly Galvan
Did you know I helped someone in need? My class read 100 books including me. Reading is fun because you learn, it makes you a better reader and makes your fluency better. A book has some interesting things, you can learn how to do something, you can visulize, and sharpen your skills. Our classrooms did Classrooms Care. I am so proud that we all read 100 books to help other kids. I love helping others it makes you feel good. I hope all kids will get a chance to read. As you can see, we all love to read!

Reading is Important
by Miguel Gonzalez
I think reading is important because it helps you read better and it will help others. Also it will help you get a better grade so you could pass. I care about reading because I could get a better grade. I am glad our class read because now all kids will have books to read.

There are People in Need!
by Brady Hansen
I think reading is important because it helps others. My class has read 100 books. Now the book club is going to send 100 books to kids who need them, so they will have something to do. Now, they can get better at reading. I love to read because it can help you get scholarships. Also because it can help you read better. That is why

I like to read.

Reading is Important
by Austin Burton
I think reading is important because I can help other people when I read. Reading books helps me read faster and it helps me learn more. That’s why I love reading!

I love to Read
by Zachary Jerome
I love to read because it is fun to learn. I like to read because I can help others that cannot read. That is why I love to read. The end.

Why I love to read
by Chase Martell
I love to read because you could learn how to read if you don’t know how to read. I love to read because you can even help other people that are in need. When you learn how to read you should read a lot of books because you can get a scholarship. Our class read a lot of books so we could help kids get books.

This is why I love to read
by Lawsen Matteson
I love to read because if you are a really good reader and good at school you could get a scholarship at a college and you don’t have to pay at that college. If your grades aren’t good you can’t play sports so you better work hard in school. You can help someone and entertain them by reading to them. Sometimes I read to my grandma and I think that makes her happy. My classroom read one hundred books so we can mail 100 books to poor kids now. I hope you can help other people by getting them to like reading. That’s why I love to read.

I Like to Read
by Nancy Mendoza
I like to read so I like to learn and have fun. I can help someone so it will help me be a better reader. I learn how to do something new. I like books.

I Think Reading is Important
by James Nelson
I think reading is important because I feel more helpful to kids across America in need of help. So I want to read as many books as I can to help kids in need. I’m glad that we did Classrooms Care.

Reading is Important
by Maria Nery
I think reading is important because some kids are poor and cannot read. There are kids all over the world who need books and reading is good for children. That is why I think reading is important.

I Love to Read
by Valerie Ramirez
I love to read because I feel good about helping others kids America . My classrooms helped Classrooms Care and I’m happy that everyone helped the kids in New Orleans or any kids who need books.

I Love to Read
by Joey Reyes
I love to read because you can become a good reader. Reading is fun and you will be more fluent, and sometimes you can find interesting things in the book.

I Love to Read
by Dusty Sanders
I love to read because it helps me and then I help other people. Next, I get better at reading. Then the other people can get better too. Last Classrooms Care is my fafret!

We love to Read
by Ben Schamber
I love to read because reading is a fun way to learn things like I read if you have a dream go for it. Also, reading can help you a lot. Do you know how many kids would die to be able to read? Now because of Scholastic’s Classrooms Care posters all of the kids that want to read can. That is why I love to read.

I’m Glad I Helped
by Jordan Stuart
I love to Read because I helped children in America by reading 100 books. I feel proud that my class helped the people in New Orleanse or wherever there are kids in need of books get some books. As you can see, I’m glad I helped.

I love to Read
by Elizabeth Vargas
I love to read because it is very fun and I think that it is very important for my speed and my fluency. I also learn interesting things. The most important thing is that I am very glad that my class helped kids in need and we helped Classrooms Care. As you can see, every kid needs books to read.

I like to Read
by Curtis Westergard
I like to read because I help people. Have you ever helped someone? Well, I did. I like to visualize my story when I read. Do you like to read and visualize? It makes it more interesting to me. That’s why I like to read.

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‘A Country Christmas’

A look back at Homedale’s parade



New looks, old favorites
Top: Homedale School District music director Karla Kachelmier directs the Homedale High School marching band through a Christmas tune during their trek down Idaho Avenue on Saturday. *Left:* No Christmas parade would be complete without an appearance from Santa Claus, who brought up the rear during Saturday’s festivities. *Below:* Even with a new designer, the Paul’s Market float entry still was tops among other parade entrants. This year’s float was designed by Judy Trussell.



School menus

Homedale Elementary
Dec 14: Hamburger or fish patty/bun, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 15: Christmas dinner, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 18: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 19: Chicken tenders or CF beef steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 20: Hot ham & cheese or cold turkey sandwich, yogurt, potato wedges, milk.

Homedale Middle
Dec 14: Lasagna or hot pocket, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 15: Christmas dinner, milk.
Dec 18: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 19: Fish nuggets or corn dog, rice, brownie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 20: Crispito or tst. Cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High
Dec 14: Christmas dinner, milk.
Dec 15: Chicken taco or French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 18: Pizza, nacho bar or chef’s salad, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 19: **1:47 dismissal.** Chicken nuggets or egg rolls, rice, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
Dec 20: **1:47 dismissal.** Idaho haystack or burrito, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing
Dec 14: Pizza, salad, fruit, milk, chicken sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec 15: Beef stew, veggies, fruit, milk, pasole w/corn chips, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec 18: Mac & cheese, fruit, milk, chicken fried steak, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec 19: Chicken patty/bun, veggie, fruit, milk, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
Dec 20: Hot dog, veggie, fruit, milk, burritos, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau
Dec 14: Ham, scalloped potatoes, peas, roll, cherry crisp, milk.
Dec 15: Spaghetti, salad/croutons, garlic bread, fruit, milk.
Dec 18: Turkey sandwich, tots, veggie sticks, fruit, cookie, milk.
Dec 19: Tacos, corn, peaches, pumpkin cake, milk.
Dec 20: *Early release.* Chicken nuggets, potato wedges, veggie, roll, fruit, milk.

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Western Family 16 oz.
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Home Pride Bread 24 oz. \$1.69 ea.	Western Family Flour 10 lb. \$1.99 ea.	Powerade 32 oz Bottle 99¢ ea.	Nestle Hot Cocoa Mix 10 ct. 2 for \$3
Western Family Large Eggs Dozen 89¢ ea.	Betty Crocker Cake Mixes 18-19 oz. \$1.19 ea.	Maruchan Cup of Soup 2.25 oz. 3 for \$1	Western Family Stuffing Mix 6 oz. 79¢ ea.
Western Family Cottage Cheese 16 oz. \$1.09 ea.	Western Family Light Amber Walnuts 16 oz. \$3.99 ea.	Western Family Seasoning & Gravy Mixes Asst'd size foil pouch 3 for 99¢	Shasta Soda 12 Pack cans 2 for \$5
Cool Whip 8 oz. \$1.19 ea.	Chinet Plates 15-44 ct. 2 for \$5	Western Family Pineapple 20 oz. 89¢ ea.	Western Family Petal Soft Bath Tissue 24 Roll Advantage Pack \$5.99 ea.
Budget Gourmet & Michellina's Frozen Entrees Asst'd sizes \$1.19 ea.	Purina Dog Chow 22 lb. \$9.49 ea.	Western Family Brown & Powdered Sugar 32 oz. 99¢ ea.	<div>SRM COUPON</div> <div>Purina Dog Chow 22 lb. & Purina Cat Chow 18 lb.</div> <div>50¢ off</div>
Lay's Potato Chips 13.25 oz. 2 for \$4	Purina Cat Chow 18 lb. \$10.49 ea.	Inland Frozen Potatoes 24-32 oz. \$1.89 ea.	

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Marsing, Idaho

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 12/13/06 thru 12/19/06