



Letters
to Santa
Special section

Car burglary suspects
nabbed in Homedale

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Homedale wrestlers win
Oregon tourney titles

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Wednesday, December 20, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 51

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Amazing grace of Christmas

by Wesley Pruden

The Washington Times

Originally published Dec. 24, 1999

The malls and the Main Streets will soon fall silent. The ringing cash registers, the happy cries of children, the hearty greetings of a thousand fraudulent Santas will soon be but ghostly echoes across shuttered shops and silent streets.

But the Christ born in a manger 2,000 years ago lives, changing the hearts of sinners and transforming the lives of the wicked. This is the authentic story of Christmas, and nothing illustrates the redeeming power of the message of Christmas with greater clarity than the story of an English slave named John Newton.

Newton was born 300 years ago into a seafaring family in England. His mother was a godly woman. Faith gave her life meaning. She died when he was 7, and he recalled as the sweetest remembrance of childhood the soft and tender voice of his mother at prayer.

His father soon married again, and John left school four years later to go to sea with him. He quickly adopted the vulgar life of common seamen, though the memory of his mother's faith remained. "I saw the necessity of religion as a means of escaping hell," he would recall many years later, "but I loved sin."

On shore leave, he was seized by a press gang and taken aboard HMS Harwich. Life grew coarser. He ran away, was captured and taken back to the Harwich and put in chains, stripped before the mast, and flogged. "The Lord had by all appearances given me up to judicial hardness," he recalled. "I was capable of anything. I had not the least fear of God, nor the least sensibility of conscience. I was firmly persuaded that after death, I should merely cease to be."

The captain of the Harwich traded him to the skipper of a slaving ship, bound for West Africa to take aboard a human cargo. "At this period of my life," he later reflected, "I was big with mischief and, like one afflicted with a pestilence, was capable of spreading a taint wherever I went." John's new

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SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Inside

A collection of Christmas writings, including:

A Christmas Meditation *Page 2A*

The Christmas Story *Page 15A*

What Christmas Means to Me *Page 15A*

A Christmas meditation – God with us

Why does the world stand still today? Why such commotion over the birth of a Jewish peasant? For nineteen hundred years the birth of the Savior in Bethlehem has been the world’s number one story. It has been the theme of innumerable songs and stories, the inspiration of countless works of art. It has been told and retold until today it is known the world over as the “old, old story” the sweetest story ever told”. It has become the center of the most widely

observed and most joyfully celebrated festival in every land and among nearly all people. It has been observed that the birth of Jesus has become the great center of interest. The educational world is represented in the wise men; the peasants are represented in the shepherds; royalty is represented in Herold; nature is represented in her gifts, “gold, frankincense and myrrh”; the heavens are represented in the star which led the way; the

Heavenly Hosts are represented in their presence and praise; the lower creation is represented in the cattle around the manger; poverty is represented in the place in which He was born. In Matthew’s recording of the birth of Christ he makes reference to the prediction of the prophet Isaiah.”Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and she shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us,” (Matt. 1:23). Emblazoned

against the dark background of man’s wickedness, sin and selfishness, the words, “Immanuel – God with us”, are almost blinding, they appear startlingly misplaced. However, we will accept them and attempt to learn the reason. In this story man has found the utmost in God’s love. God is giving His only begotten Son that man may be Redeemed. He stoops to lift man from the depths of sin and death to life at its highest and best in

fellowship with the living God. In the Child of Bethlehem, God unites Himself with man. It was God’s utmost for man’s highest. That is what makes it the story of the ages. When the Wise men found Him they worshipped Him. The Birth of Jesus does not call for celebration so much, but for Worship.
Clare Willcuts
Written for the Owyhee Chronicle for Christmas, 1952

The amazing grace of Christmas From Page 1A

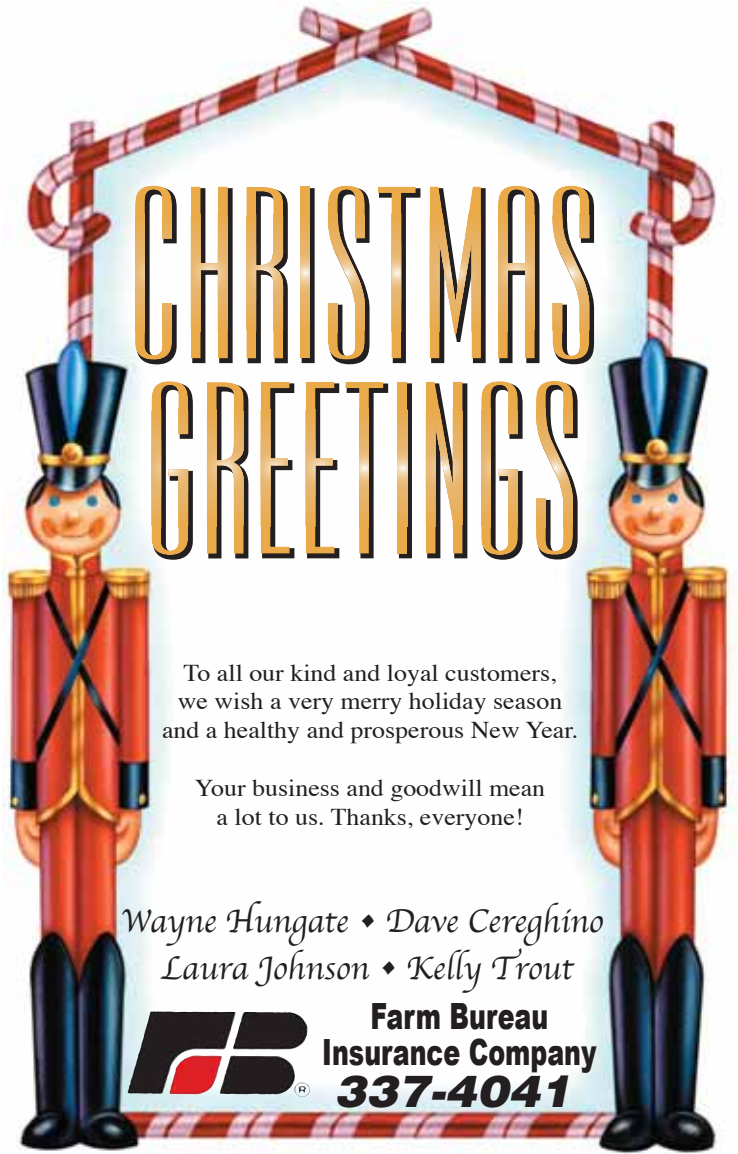
captain took a liking to him, however, and took him to his plantation on an island off the African coast, where he had taken as his wife a beautiful but cruel African princess. She grew jealous of her husband’s friendship with John, and was pleased when it was time for them to sail once more. But John fell ill, and the captain left John in his wife’s care. The ship was hardly over the horizon when she ordered him from her house and threw him into a pig sty, and gave him a board for a bed and a log for a pillow. He was left alone, in delirium, to die. Miraculously, he did not die. She kept him in chains, in a cage like an animal, and fed him swill from her table. Word spread through

the district that a black woman was keeping a white slave, and many came to watch her taunt him. They threw limes and stones at him, mocking his misery. He would have starved if the slaves, waiting for a ship to take them to the Americas, had not shared their meager scraps of food. Five years passed, and the captain returned. When John told him how he had been treated, he branded John a thief and a liar. When they sailed again, John was treated ever more harshly. He was given only the entrails of animals butchered for the crew’s mess. “The voyage quite broke my constitution,” he would recall, “and the effects would always remain with me as a needful

memento of the service of wages and sin.” Like Job, he became a magnet for adversity. His ship wrecked in a storm, and he despaired that God had mercy left for him after his life of hostile indifference to the Gospel. “During the time I was engaged in the slave trade,” he would write, “I never had the least scruple to its lawfulness.” Yet the wanton sinner, the arrogant blasphemer, the mocker of the faith of others, was finally driven to his knees: “My prayer was like the cry of ravens, which yet the Lord does not disdain to hear.” Rescued, he made his way back to England, to reflect on the mercies God had shown

him in his awful life. He fell under the influence of George Whitefield and John Wesley, and was born again into the new life in Christ. He began to preach the Gospel, which at last he understood. Two days short of Christmas 1807, he died, at the age of 82, and left a dazzling testimony to the amazing miracle of the Christmas story. “I commit my soul to my gracious God and Savior, who mercifully spared and preserved me, when I was an apostate, a blasphemer and an infidel, and delivered me from that state on the coast of Africa into which my obstinate wickedness had plunged me.” This is his testimony, which, set to music, has become the favorite hymn

of Christendom.
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.
‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear,
the hour I first believed.
Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come.
‘Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
and grace will lead me home.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS


To all our kind and loyal customers, we wish a very merry holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Your business and goodwill mean a lot to us. Thanks, everyone!

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Inside News

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Huskies handle Trojans;
Rimrock girls still perfect

Sheriff's sergeant collects
Triad recognition

Wednesday, December 20, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

A SECTION, 16 PAGES

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

DAVE SAYS COLUMN, PAGE 7A

Homedale PD nails car burglary suspects

Duo apparently caught in the act
as weeks of surveillance pay off

The arrest of two 18-year-old men early last week culminated weeks of investigation by Homedale Police into the city's rash of vehicle burglaries, vandalism and thefts.

Arturo Malacara-Garcia Jr., of Homedale, and Ulises Mendoza, of Nampa, were arrested Dec. 12 in connection with a string of vehicle burglaries, thefts and van-

dalisms. Police had been using surveillance during the past few weeks in an attempt to halt the crime spree.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said the pair was arrested after an undercover officer observed what he believed was a vehicle burglary in progress in the 10 block of South 2nd Street East just before 9 p.m. on Dec. 12.

"An undercover police officer witnessed them pull up to a vehicle. The undercover officer advised that at least one of them was acting suspicious, basically acting as a 'lookout,'" Eidemiller said. "They were there just a



Arturo Malacara-Garcia

few minutes, when they left, the undercover officer looked and found the window (to a vehicle) was broken and the stereo was gone."

Eidemiller said he believes the department has caught individuals responsible for the string of vehicle-re-



Ulises Mendoza

lated crimes in Homedale during the past several weeks.

"Based upon the way they (suspects) entered the vehicle, the way they removed the items from the vehicle, I'm satisfied that the individual or individuals we have in custody are responsible for the bulk of — if not all of — the vehicle burglaries that have been

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— Law enforcement officials give tips on protecting property 4A



Christmas hours for businesses

Most businesses and offices will be closed Monday for Christmas, including the U.S. Post Office, city and county offices, schools and banks.

Paul's Market in Homedale will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, but closed Christmas Day. Snake River Mart in Marsing will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Day.

Homedale Police, the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office and county fire departments will be available for emergency calls.

The Owyhee Avalanche office will close Monday. Noon Friday is the deadline for all classified advertising, display advertising and legal notices to be published in the Dec. 27 edition.

For the Jan. 3 Avalanche, all advertising and legal notices must be received by noon on Dec. 29.

Homedale drive feeds 60 families

Sixty needy families each picked up dozens of pounds of food Saturday as the Hands Around Homedale food drive wrapped up another successful holiday season.

The annual food drive, which — coupled with the Community Wish Tree — helps make up a strong showing of generosity in Owyhee County's largest town, will provide several meals for 60 families this year, coordinator Randee Garrett said.

"Our entire community has come through this year, donating an amazing amount of food to share with others," Garrett said.

The families flocked to Homedale Elementary School to pick up their food boxes.

About 30 volunteers of all ages — from Homedale Elementary School fourth-grader Ismael Fernandez to Homedale High School honor students and alumni to faculty and staff from through the school district — gathered Friday to organize canned food, dry goods and several turkeys and hams into boxes for each family.

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Students help with food drive

Jacob McRae hands a box of canned food to fellow Homedale High School student Trevor Krzesnik during Friday's unloading of the donations from the city's three Homedale schools as part of the Hands Around Homedale food drive.

Business panel suggested

Mayor calls
restaurant 'cancer'
during meeting

While the city and business community took a step toward collaboration on registration forms, Homedale Mayor Paul Fink likened one business to a disease in town during last week's city council meeting.

In a heavily attended meeting Wednesday at City Hall, Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Aaron Tines reported that he was working on building a list of business owners to serve on an advisory committee that will work with city officials on a registration policy.

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— Auditor finds city finances satisfactory 11A

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Homedale alum helps with food drive organization
Homedale High School graduate Hailee Garrett, the daughter of Hands Around Homedale food drive organizer Randee Garrett, helps stack canned food inside the Homedale Elementary School cafeteria Friday afternoon. On Saturday, 60 families were given food boxes for meals around Christmas.

✓ **Food**

Students on each of the school district's three campuses collected food for the needy in the weeks leading up to Saturday's giveaway.

Garrett speculated that each family would receive about 80 pounds of food.

Most of the meat in each food box was donated by the Caldwell Euzkaldunak Charity Organization (also known as Caldwell Basque

Charities), which is comprised of many members of the Owyhee County Basque community.

Homedale school board members Ric Uria and Tim Quintana — both Euzkaldunak members — met Garrett at Paul's Market in Homedale on Thursday morning to drop off 16 turkeys, 24 hams and 39 gift baskets each stuffed with 2 pounds of hamburger, two chickens and 2 pounds of hot dogs.

Uria said that Caldwell Basque Charities receives a financial break on the meat that it buys from

Paul's not only for the Homedale food drive but to also help feed families in Parma, Caldwell and Nampa. Paul's Market executives Stan Zatica and Steve Zatica both are listed as members of the Basque organization.

"The Basque club is so amazingly generous," Garrett said. "With their donation of turkeys, hams, chickens, hamburger and hot dogs, we are able to provide an ample portion of meat to each of 60 families."

— JPB

US Ecology gathers food for GV, Bruneau residents

US Ecology Idaho delivered more than a ton of food to food banks in Grand View and Mountain Home on Monday.

"You have to do something when you hear that people need food for their families," said Marie McMonigle, a supervisor with US Ecology.

Personnel from the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office were among the volunteers who helped deliver the food baskets to families, US Ecology spokesman Chad Hyslop said.

McMonigle started the company's food drive. Her innovation was to create a competition among various divisions of the company to see which could bring in the most food.

"That really got us started," McMonigle said. "Our rail facility employees in Elmore County teamed up with folks from headquarters in Boise and Steve Forler Trucking. They got things rolling by bringing in two barrels of food right away, and that motivated our competition to get on the ball."

The company's Grand View facility personnel responded to the challenge, acquiring bags of pinto beans and rice, and picking up cash contributions and other food donations. McMonigle countered by locating 30 bags of potatoes, and contacting state Sen. Tim Corder (R-Mountain Home)

for a contribution from Corder Trucking Company.

With cash contributions and groceries combined, US Ecology has netted more than a dozen barrels of canned and packaged goods and hundreds of pounds of beans, rice and potatoes. Total estimated weight is more than a ton. The food will be disbursed to citizens in Grand View, Bruneau and Elmore County.

"We have over 200 families to feed this Christmas, and the contributions by US Ecology will make it possible to meet that goal and not have to spend so much this year," Mountain Home Food Bank coordinator Alain Isaac said. "If everyone stepped up to the plate like this, we could ensure that nobody ever goes hungry in this area."

"US Ecology is proud to call this area home. We have over 115 employees in this area, and they're dedicated to helping our community. We hope that our efforts are an inspiration to other companies to make sure that nobody goes hungry in our communities this holiday season," McMonigle said.

In November, US Ecology Idaho announced the award of \$15,000 in grants to senior centers, schools, and libraries in the local area. The grant program is an annual event. The company owns and operates the hazardous waste facility west of Grand View.



Basque charity group gives meat
Hands Around Homedale food drive coordinator Randee Garrett, center, accepts a donation from Caldwell Euzkaldunak Charity Organization members Tim Quintana, left, and Ric Uria.

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What's happening
Read Calendar each week
in the Avalanche

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Owyhee County property tax bills due today

Owyhee County land owners must pay all or half of their property tax bills by today in order to avoid a late charge and interest.

The second half of the bill will be due June 20.

In most cases, county officials

report, some property tax bills decreased from a year ago because of the elimination of the statewide school levy and an increase in the homeowner's exemption — two moves pulled off by the Idaho Legislature in a special session

in August.

Other factors in property tax bills in the county are any number of school levies and levies from other taxing districts, officials said.

To show how property taxes

may have changed over the 2006 bills, Owyhee County Treasurer Brenda Richards provided five examples of different types of tax bills sent out this year:

- A homeowner who saw the assessed value of his home rise

more than \$19,000 from 2005 to 2006 saw his tax bill decrease from \$1,805.70 to \$1,235.76 because the homeowner's exemption drove the market value down.

- A home assessed more than \$9,000 higher in 2006 than in 2005 resulted in a tax bill falling from \$578.42 a year ago to \$246.88 because a school levy and the county levy both decreased. A similar scenario saw the tax bill for a home assessed for \$182,508 in 2006 drop more than \$600 to \$1,053.54.

- The tax bill for a piece of ground assessed at \$24,912 in both 2005 and 2006 rose from \$240.32 to \$357.04 without the benefit of homeowner's exemption.

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TRACTION RADIALS

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155R-13BW

SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
155R-13BW	42.91	185/70R-13BW	51.45	195/65R-15BW	72.47
165/80R-13BW	49.04	175/70R-14BW	54.18	205/65R-15BW	76.10
185/80R-13	49.26	185/70R-14BW	56.89	215/65R-15XLBW	87.90
P185/75R-14BW	52.99	P195/70R-14BW	59.40	215/65R-15BW	96.69
P195/75R-14BW	56.01	205/70R-14BW	63.26	195/60R-14BW	71.52
P205/75R-14BW	58.21	P205/70R-15BW	66.70	195/60R-15BW	75.82
P205/75R-15BW	65.10	P215/70R-15BW	70.03	205/60R-15BW	80.12
P215/75R-15BW	67.87	P225/70R-15BW	73.50	215/60R-15BW	83.34
P225/75R-15	70.08	175/65R-14BW	61.91	215/60R-16BW	96.14
P235/75R-15BW	74.27	185/65R-14BW	64.49	225/60R-16XLBW	100.15
175/70R-13BW	47.90	185/65R-15BW	66.84		

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An Excellent Value On Highway and All Season Radials. Offering A Smooth Quiet Ride And Tough Steel Belt Construction, It Comes With The Les Schwab Written Warranty At No Extra Charge

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P155/80R-13BW

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FREE WARRANTY

SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
P155/80R-13BW	19.99	P235/75R-15	48.17
P165/80R-13	34.59	165/70HR-13BW	30.97
P175/80R-13	35.03	175/70HR-13BW	30.69
P185/80R-13	37.02	185/70HR-13BW	33.56
P185/75R-14	37.91	175/70HR-14BW	34.45
P195/75R-14	39.02	185/70HR-14BW	35.90
P205/75R-14	40.54	195/70HR-14BW	38.09
P215/75R-14	44.04	205/70R-14BW	40.15
P205/75R-15	42.94	205/70R-14	47.86
P215/75R-15	44.45	P215/70SR-14	50.26
P225/75R-15	47.16	P205/70R-15	48.93
		P215/70SR-15	51.02

WINTER TRACTION RADIALS

WINTERCAT XT

STARTING AT 52⁰⁷

P155/80R-13

SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
P155/80R-13	52.07	P235/75R-15	83.39	175/65R-14BW	67.80	P195/60R-14BW	82.89
P165/80R-13	55.65	P235/75R-15XL	85.03	P175/65R-14BW	67.80	P215/60R-14BW	81.74
P175/80R-13	60.00	P185/70R-13BW	57.25	185/65R-14BW	71.00	185/60R-15BW	79.29
P185/80R-13	63.56	P185/70R-13BW	57.20	P195/65R-14BW	75.85	195/60R-15BW	82.61
P185/75R-14	61.60	175/70R-14BW	61.70	185/65R-15BW	75.83	P205/60R-15BW	88.03
P195/75R-14	63.41	P185/70R-14BW	63.26	195/65R-15BW	81.99	P215/60R-15BW	89.73
P205/75R-14	65.84	P195/70R-14BW	65.75	205/65R-15BW	88.13	P225/60R-15BW	90.07
P215/75R-14	76.24	P205/70R-14	67.56	P215/65R-15BW	92.65	215/60R-16BW	101.43
P205/75R-15	76.20	P215/70R-14	79.40	205/65R-16BW	103.39	195/55R-15BW	96.51
P205/75R-15	74.33	P215/70R-15	77.33	215/65R-16BW	104.66	205/55R-16BW	103.27
P215/75R-15	77.01	P215/70R-15	81.58	185/60R-14BW	69.01	225/55R-17BW	129.99
P225/75R-15	78.82	P225/70R-15	82.63				

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• STEEL BELTED RADIAL
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This Low Cost All Season Radial features outlined white letters, a smooth ride and is economically priced.

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P235/75SR-15

SIZE & LOAD RANGE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE & LOAD RANGE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
LT235/85R-16BW	E 87.47	LT225/75R-16BW	D 80.84
P235/75SR-15	B 69.58	LT245/75R-16	E 86.99
P245/75SR-16	B 79.10	LT255/70R-16	C 86.27
P265/75SR-16	B 99.11	30/9.50R-15	C 82.38
LT215/75R-15	C 71.99	31/10.50R-15	C 85.82
LT235/75R-15	C 74.50		PLUS FET

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165/65TR-14

SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
LT215/85R-16	134.60	185/60TR-14	69.01	215/55TR-16XL	106.70
LT225/75R-16	133.44	195/60TR-15	82.61	225/55TR-16	125.21
LT255/70R-17	183.31	205/60TR-15	86.03	235/55TR-17	129.89
165/65TR-14	61.22	205/60TR-16	98.78	255/55TR-17	160.05
175/65TR-14	67.80	225/60TR-16	109.16	275/55TR-17XL	124.98
P185/65TR-14XL	71.00	235/60TR-16	111.08	255/55TR-18XL	130.61
185/65TR-15	75.53	275/60TR-17	129.44	205/50TR-16	104.24
P195/65TR-15	81.99	235/60TR-18XL	112.12	225/50TR-16	119.30
P205/65TR-15	88.13	255/60TR-18XL	121.36	235/50TR-16XL	150.29
P205/65QR-15	105.30	185/55TR-15	84.23	255/50TR-19XL	169.53
P215/65TR-15	92.65	195/55TR-15XL	96.51	225/45TR-17	124.23
215/65TR-16	104.66	205/55TR-16	103.27	275/40TR-20XL	183.72

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175R-14

SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE	SIZE	SUPERMARKET PRICE
175R-14	63.91	195/70QR-14	71.76	205/65TR-15	93.11	205/60TR-16	112.25
185R-14	67.10	215/70QR-14	79.83	215/65TR-15	100.70	215/60TR-16	115.63
P185/75QR-14	80.55	205/70QR-14	76.03	205/65TR-16	115.75	225/60TR-16	124.44
P195/75QR-14	84.85	205/70QR-15	84.30	215/65TR-16	122.57	235/60QR-16	169.94
P205/75QR-15	88.82	215/70QR-15	94.71	225/65TR-16	128.71	215/60TR-17	121.41
P205/75QR-15	93.96	265/70QR-15	117.87	215/65TR-17	145.89	225/60TR-17	135.98
P215/75QR-15	100.56	215/70QR-16	102.98	265/65QR-17	224.70	225/60TR-18	190.45
P225/75QR-15	103.65	P255/70QR-16	111.35	185/60TR-14	80.80	195/55HR-15	127.17
P225/75QR-16XL	162.34	175/65TR-14	78.50	185/60TR-14	87.73	205/55HR-15	125.31
175/70QR-13	67.22	185/65TR-14	84.26	185/60TR-15	87.83	205/55HR-16	133.41
185/70QR-13	69.48	195/65TR-14	89.33	185/60TR-15	92.22	215/55HR-16	137.97
175/70QR-14	67.68	185/65TR-15	86.79	205/60TR-15	102.90	225/55HR-16	141.93
185/70QR-14	67.95	195/65TR-15	82.58	215/60TR-15	110.11	215/55HR-17	204.51

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CHAINS

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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Member

Rimrock senior nominated to service academies

Rimrock High School senior Leigh Martin has been nominated to a pair of service academies by members of Idaho’s congressional delegation.

Both U.S. Rep. C.L. “Butch” Otter and U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo placed the Grand View resident on their lists of nominees from the state. Crapo nominated 40 students, and Otter tabbed 26.

Martin, the 18-year-old son of Allen “Buffalo” and Debbie Martin, is the only nominee from Owyhee County this year.

“I think it’s great,” Debbie said. “I’m impressed with our young people who want to serve. I’m impressed that he wants to get involved.”

Crapo has nominated Leigh Martin to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He’s on Otter’s list for the Merchant Marine Academy and the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

The Merchant Marine Academy is located in Kings Point, N.Y.

Debbie Martin said her son also applied for academy nomination

through Sen. Larry Craig’s office, but at press time Craig had yet to make his nominations.

Final decisions on appointments are made by the service academies, according to Crapo’s office. If accepted to more than one academy, the student has the choice of which to attend in the fall of 2007.

Students submitted applications and provided references. Each applicant had to meet certain scholastic requirements.

“These outstanding young people represent some of the

best and brightest in our state, and I am pleased to nominate them to our nation’s service academies,” Crapo said.

“We in Idaho have much to be proud of in these students, who seek to serve our state and country in one of the armed forces and will go on to be tomorrow’s leaders. Each year, I am impressed by the high caliber of candidates who come before me in the nomination process. I congratulate this year’s nominees for their hard work and commitment, and I look forward

to seeing their future success.”

Leigh Martin is the president of the Rimrock FFA chapter and he competes on the Raiders’ track and field squad in the spring. He was one of only seven incoming high school seniors from Idaho to attend the summer seminar at the Air Force Academy in June, his mother said.

JR Steiner of Oreana, a 2004 nominee by Crapo, now attends the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He is the son of John and Lorna Steiner.

From page 1

✓ Burglary

happening over the past three weeks,” Eidemiller said.

Eidemiller said possible stolen property was located when Malacara-Garcia and Mendoza were apprehended.

“We located them, effected a traffic stop, arrested the driver and the passenger (Mendoza and Malacara-Garcia) and found a car stereo and a CD wallet on the front seat, which were identified by the victim, by personal knowledge of the stereo, and by the victim’s initials, which were placed on the CDs.”

Officers also found items and “tools associated with vehicle burglary” in the suspects’ possession at the time of arrest.

After the arrest of Mendoza and Malacara-Garcia, officers

obtained a search warrant from the Owyhee County Magistrate Court for a residence in the 200 block of West California Avenue in Homedale.

“Based upon the probable cause statement read to the judge, he found probable cause for a search warrant. The home of Arturo Malacara was searched,” Eidemiller said.

“More stolen property was recovered at Arturo Jr.’s home.”

Officers from Homedale Police, Wilder Police, deputies from the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office and the Nampa Police Department’s Tactical Response Team (TRT) served the search warrant and recovered several stolen items, a small quantity of marijuana and items of drug paraphernalia, according to reports.

Eidemiller said that the decision to use the TRT stemmed from

the belief that at least one subject at the residence was armed.

“Initially, one of the officers observing the house while we were trying to get the search warrant reported seeing one of the occupants with a handgun,” Eidemiller said. “Ultimately, it was determined that the ‘gun’ was an AirSoft pistol.”

Eidemiller said that the public’s help was instrumental in catching Malacara-Garcia and Mendoza in the act.

“This has been a collaborative effort for the past 3½ weeks,” Eidemiller said. “We’ve had, almost on a nightly basis, undercover cars out, and citizens that have volunteered to act as ‘eyes’ for us.

“This is a great example of what happens when the police department and the community work together. We had citizens who became more cautious and

started paying attention to things they wouldn’t — or shouldn’t have to — pay attention to.”

Eidemiller said that while not all of the stolen property has been returned, it has made an impact.

“With the collaborative effort and the hard work by everybody involved, we were able to locate the suspects and return some of the stolen property.”

Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said that he hoped some of the victims in these crimes will find some solace in the fact that the persons believed to be involved in this string of thefts will be brought to justice.

“These cases have been a priority for the department, and officers have been working non-stop to get these burglaries solved,” Takashige said.

“It is very unfortunate that we could not recover all of the

property that has been stolen, but we do hope all of the victims will find some peace of mind in knowing that someone will face justice.”

Mendoza and Malacara-Garcia were booked into the Owyhee County Jail and each held on a \$50,000 bond. They were arraigned Wednesday on burglary charges, a felony. If convicted they each could face up to 10 years in prison. According to officials at the Owyhee County courts, additional charges are possibly forthcoming, as the investigation continues.

Mendoza and Malacara-Garcia were scheduled to appear in a preliminary hearing on Monday in front of Judge Thomas J. Ryan. Results of the hearing were not available at press time.

— JWB

✓ Business

Tines told council members he had no commitments at the time of last week’s meeting, but he was hopeful to submit a list of names to the council for approval during next week’s meeting, which will be held at 6 p.m. on Dec. 28.

“The council would be interested in the committee’s recommendations as far as licenses,” Fink told Tines.

When Homedale Drive-In owner Pat Shenk volunteered to serve and asked about the committee’s ultimate objective, Fink singled out West Idaho Avenue Mexican eatery Tacos Flor del Valle in his explanation.

Fink said the restaurant, which is located in a motor home on a piece of property between Main Street and 1st Street, was a catalyst for the registration form and \$50 fee request sent out by Homedale Planning and Zoning administrator Sylvia Bahem.

“What caused us to act on the issue in the letter was right over here (Tacos Flor del Valle), that permanent stand that was set up,” Fink said. “It just kinda keeps growing tarp by tarp and table by chair.”

Fink said the continued effort

to clean up Homedale also was a factor in issuing the letter, and that newer businesses such as AutoZone and Subway and the Family Dollar Store have spent “an awful lot of money to make things look good.”

Then, motioning slightly in the general direction of Tacos Flor del Valle, Fink said:

“And then we let something grow kind of like a little cancer over here and that thing has become a permanent fixture, and that’s what brought this whole letter thing up: To get something going to stop that.”

Tacos Flor del Valle owner Steven Gaspar, speaking through interpreter Maricruz Escutia, refused to comment on the mayor’s statement. Gaspar showed that he had all the proper permits to run his restaurant and said he consulted City Hall before opening his establishment on a vacant lot adjacent to Cris y Finas Mexican store about four months ago. He leases the ground from the owners of Cris y Finas.

Tines didn’t discount Fink’s comments, but he did suggest that the city could have been more proactive and could have “counseled” Gaspar on ways to make his establishment aesthetically appealing.



Hot topic
Tacos Flor del Valle, left, a walk-up restaurant on West Idaho Avenue in Homedale owned by Steven Gaspar; above, has been listed by Mayor Paul Fink as one of the reasons for the recent push for business registration.

“It obviously is kind of an eyesore in town,” Tines said.

“Like any business, a business owner should have enough pride to make it a respectable-looking establishment.”

Fink said the registration letter was a “dead issue” when Shenk asked about it, and that the city was moving forward with a plan to listen to business owners on the best course of action.

“I don’t think we want to run all the vendors out of town,” Fink said. “What we’re talking about is (Homedale business leaders) coming up with how the business people would like to see this thing handled so we all have a direction of what we’re doing.”

The bottom line in the whole registration flap, Tines said, is that more insight is needed. He said that would be the main objective

of any group of business owners formed to advise the city on how to proceed with regulation.

“It doesn’t seem like there was a lot of insight or research put into it,” Tines said of the original registration plan.

“You can’t just impose a license, especially with how much the city wants to grow its commercial base.”

— JPB

Obituary

Dr. Charles Alvin Nelson

Dr. Charles Alvin Nelson, 70, of Little Rock, Arkansas died Sunday, December 3, 2006.

He is survived by his sister, Mary Jo Pottenger of Wilder, Idaho, his children, Steven (Deborah) Nelson of Peachtree City, Georgia and Melinda (Robert) Herring of Sherwood, Arkansas, and three granddaughters, Josephine, Jordan and Johanna Nelson.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rita Jean Nelson, and his parents, Alvin and Josephine Nelson.

Dr. Nelson was a Biochemist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences campus for over 20 years where he taught and made dramatic contributions to the understanding and research of heart disease. Services were



held Monday, December 11 at 1 p.m. at Griffin Leggett Rest Hills Cemetery in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Birthdays

Bruneau's Erwin marks 100th birthday Tuesday

Bruneau resident Annabelle Erwin will celebrate her 100th birthday Dec. 26, 2006.

Annabelle Schroeder Erwin came to Idaho from Iowa to teach school in 1929 at the urging of an uncle who had settled in Magic Valley.

She taught in schools around Shoshone, Jerome and Richfield, where she met her husband, Alan (Hap) Erwin. They married in Richfield in 1937.

Hap and Annabelle raised three children (Sidney, Mary and Frank) and farmed and ranched in the areas of Richfield, Appleton, Wendell and Hagerman.

They moved to Bruneau in 1973.

After Hap's death in 1979, Annabelle continued to live on the



Annabelle Erwin family farm operated by her son. She still lives in her own home and is remarkably independent.

Birth

Aliya Trinity Hibbs

Aliya Trinity Hibbs was born on Dec. 5, 2006, at Mercy Family Birthing Center in Nampa to former Homedale residents Chris and Marcy Hibbs, who now live in Caldwell.

Aliya weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19 inches long at birth.

The maternal grandparents are Mark and Bev Bauer of Homedale.

The paternal grandparents are Carol and Fran Hibbs and Joan Swenson.

Homedale ranchers win Angus award

Doug and Janice Burgess of Homedale were recognized as Idaho winners during the Premium Value Challenge (PVC) for enrollees in the American Angus Association's AngusSource Program.

The Burgesses were honored after their steers garnered an \$11.50 cwt premium at auction. State winners receive an AngusSource wind shirt.

Winners of the challenge had to be participants in AngusSource, a U.S. Department of Agriculture process verified program that documents source, age and genetics.

"The Premium Value Challenge was created so we could further recognize those producers who are using the AngusSource program and receiving a premium for their Angus sired calves enrolled in the program," says Ty Groshans, assistant director of commercial programs and coordinator of the PVC.

Once producers marketed their calves they were asked to submit their sale information to AngusSource. Those cattle who received more than a \$5 cwt premium over the Cattle-Fax mid-range weekly price for their region qualify for PVC. The first round of the PVC was conducted for cattle marketed from August through October.

For more information about AngusSource or the Premium Value Challenge, go to www.angussource.com.

Death notice Senior menus

RICHARD WENDT ZATZKE, 79 of Oreana died Monday, Dec. 11, 2006 at a Boise hospital. Military honors and committal services were held at 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 18, 2006, at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery, Boise. Services were under the direction of Bowman Funeral Parlor, Garden City.

Marsing center
Dec. 21: Liver & onions, chef's choice, mixed vegetables, potatoes, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
Dec. 22: BBQ ribs, baked potato, spinach, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
Dec. 23: Ham, yams, peas, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
Dec. 25-26: Closed.

Homedale center
Dec. 21: Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.
Dec. 26: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, broccoli & cauliflower, roll, milk.

Weygandt to be honored on 90th birthday Dec. 30

Longtime Marsing resident Bertha Weygandt will be honored at an open house hosted by her family in celebration of her 90th birthday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 30, 2006, at the Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main Street. Friends and family are invited to attend.

The family requests that no gifts be brought. But a card with a picture of your family, of a memory of you and your family, or a memory of your friendship with Bertha would be deeply appreciated.

Well-wishers who cannot attend may send cards and memories to Bertha in care of her son, Charles Weygandt, at 724 Teton, Caldwell, ID 83605.



Bertha Weygandt Marsing in 1940. They treasured their 48 years of marriage until his death in 1987.

Bertha continues to live in Marsing and is active in the senior citizen center and the American Legion Auxiliary Post 128. She is a member of the Homedale Presbyterian Church and volunteers in many other organizations.

Bertha looks forward to outings with friends and family. She is the mother of two, Charles Weygandt and Glenda Leigh, grandmother of four and great-grandmother of five.

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Your finances

Wife's spending delays family's debt-free plan

Dear Dave,

My family and I are on the verge of being debt-free, but I can't get my wife to stop using credit cards. It's like she in love with them. We pay them off every month, and it still scares me. I've suggested a debit card, but she doesn't like the idea of having \$500 in the bank and finding something she wants that costs \$1,000. Do you have any suggestions?

— Dan

Dear Dan,

I've never met a person who was in love with a credit card. I've met PLENTY who were in love with what they represent and what they do.

To most people, credit cards represent three things. One, they represent convenience. They're easier to use because you don't have to fool with a checkbook in the grocery store line. Two, they represent security. If you're away from home and need money, you can just pop it into a machine. And number three, they're a way to get stuff you can't afford. This doesn't sound like the case here, because you pay them off every month.

Here's the deal. A debit card will do anything a credit card will do. I think the real issue is that you guys aren't working together on your money. I also think she's just a little bit spoiled. It sounds to me like she does whatever she wants and then you cover it. She's got a sugar daddy, Dan, and it's you!

I want the two of you to sit down together and start doing a written budget every month. I want you to ask her how much extra she'd need in the account each month to feel comfortable. Come to an affordable agreement on this. Then, you both pull out the scissors, cut up the credit cards and start using a debit card!

We need some flexibility here, but she also needs to grow up a little and get over the idea that she's supposed to have whatever she wants the moment she wants it.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I've heard lots of my friends talking about pre-paid legal coverage. Do you think this is a good idea?

— Phil

Dear Phil,

Pre-paid legal isn't a BAD thing, and it's not a rip-off. It's usually pretty inexpensive, too. You can get it for between \$18 and \$25 a month. With some packages you'll even get a free will in the



deal, and that alone will save you about \$300.

Still, I wouldn't recommend buying it. Twenty-five dollars a month over 10 years is \$3,000. Most people won't have \$3,000 worth of legal needs in that period of time.

So it's not really worth it.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

Our current mortgage rate is 11 percent on a 30-year balloon note. Over the years we've been late on credit card payments several times. Things are looking better now, and I was wondering how long we'd have to wait to refinance our home at a reasonable rate.

— Sonya

Dear Sonya,

Chances are you won't qualify for a standard or conforming mortgage until you've had two or three years of clean credit AND a good explanation for why the bad credit issues won't come back later. But 11 percent is a horrible interest rate, so you'll want to do that as quickly as possible.

When you do refinance get a 15-year fixed rate. Stay away from 30-year mortgages and balloon payments. You'll be amazed at how quickly you guys can get out of debt, save and get the house paid off when all that interest money isn't going into the bank's pocket!

— 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. For more financial advice and a special offer for readers, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write Dave Says, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Have a news tip?

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337-4681

School district honors Ellen Kent

Ellen Kent, a teacher's assistant at Homedale Elementary School, was recognized as the Homedale School District's Award of Excellence for the month of December during the school board's Dec. 11 meeting.

"People with Ellen's experience are extremely valuable to a school; However, when you couple that experience with a work ethic like Mrs. Kent's she becomes invaluable," Homedale Elementary Principal Scott Freeby stated Monday.

Kent has worked for the Homedale School District for the past 28 years. According to Freeby, Kent instructs "comfortably and capably" with all age levels at Homedale Elementary.

"Mrs. Kent is helping students and teachers all day every day," Freeby wrote in a letter addressed to the Homedale School Board, school administrators and superintendent Tim Rosandick. "She is really 'at work' every hour that she is at Homedale Elementary School."

Freeby said Kent recently welcomed the challenge of being trained for a new intervention



Elementary school assistant earns award

Homedale School District board of trustees chairman Kurt Shanley, right, presents elementary school teacher's assistant Ellen Kent with the district's December Award of Excellence during a recent board meeting. Submitted photo

program.

"Recently, I complimented her for the way she does her job. She gave me a puzzled look and said, 'I just try do to what I'm

asked.'"

Freeby stated that Kent is in the "right place at the right time all day, everyday, with a smile on her face."

Pancake feed to send Marsing color guard to Virginia

A pancake feed is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 6, to raise funds to send the Marsing American Legion Post 128 squadron of the Sons of the American Legion to Virginia.

A rummage sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the same day. Both events take place at the Phipps-Watson American Legion Community Center in Marsing.

The feed costs \$5 for diners 12 and older; \$3 for 11 and younger.

Legion Post 128 also is seeking donations for the rummage sale. For more information, call Stephen Heidt at 896-4889.

The squadron has been selected to serve as color guard during a Fourth of July celebration of the 400th anniversary of the Virginia

Company arriving in the New World from England in 1607. The ceremony will be held in Jamestown, Va.

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Residents warned of scam artists

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman reports that a couple county residents recently have been targeted by a scam originating overseas.

Aman said the residents weren't fooled by the scam and reported the incidents to the sheriff's office. He is asking residents to be careful when making deals over the Internet or by mail from overseas. Any attempted

scam should be reported to the authorities.

Aman says that education is the best defense for these scams.

The most recent scam consists of someone from overseas contacting a business to make a purchase. The scammer sends a counterfeit money order or bank check made out for several thousand dollars more than the purchase price. The scammer will then ask the seller

to cash the check and send them the extra money via a drop box in New York or another large city. The scammer does not want the product only the extra cash.

"This is a common scam, and way too many people are being ripped off," Aman said. "Prosecution is basically impossible as the person is from another country and there is no real paper trail."



Law veteran honored

Owyhee County Triad president Erv Gifford, right, presents Owyhee County Sheriff's Sgt. Gary Olsen with the organization's annual police person of the year award Friday. Submitted photo

Sheriff's sergeant earns Triad award

Owyhee County Triad surprised Sheriff's Sgt. Gary Olsen with its police person of the year plaque Friday in a ceremony in Murphy.

"He's all totaled 27 years in law enforcement, and the plaque said that he has given good service to Owyhee County and also the people of Homedale because he was an officer in Homedale for a few years," county Triad president Erv Gifford said.

Gifford said Olsen had no idea he would receive the award. His wife, Faith, and his mother were among the guests at the ceremony. County Sheriff Gary Aman. Others in attendance included sheriff's Sgts. Jim Bish and Dick Freund, Deputy Aron Streibel and Triad members Dick Burman, Mary Burman, Bill Shaw and Vera Gifford.

Triad has been handing out its annual award for more than a decade. The organization began by helping in Homedale, but steadily grew to encompass

Marsing. The name was changed to Owyhee County Triad last year when members expanded their efforts into the Grand View area, Gifford said.

"It's seniors and law enforcement working together for the betterment of seniors and law enforcement," Gifford said.

Erv Gifford, who is a former Homedale mayor and spent 27 years on the Boise Police force, said Triad also is on the lookout for more volunteers to join the organization. The volunteers help supplement the sheriff's office force by patrolling after Jump Creek closes to the public after dark as well as parking lot patrols during the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo in August.

"We got about 10 volunteers, but, boy, can we use more," Gifford said. "We're always looking for members."

Gifford said that, although the majority of the members are senior citizens, Triad membership is open to anyone.

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Homedale begins process to repeal gas charge

In a rare split vote decided by Mayor Paul Fink, the Homedale City Council on Wednesday voted to begin the process to repeal the 3 percent franchise fee imposed on the town's Intermountain Gas Co. customers.

Fink sided with councilmen Dave Downum and Steve Schultz to break a 2-2 tie and grant the Homedale School District's request to eliminate the franchise fee.

A public hearing on the matter must be scheduled because doing away with the franchise fee would require a new city ordinance. A new ordinance would require Intermountain Gas to remove the fee from all bills mailed to city customers. No public hearing date has been set yet.

Council members Tim Downing and Bill Page voted to keep the franchise fee, which the city dedicates to the listing Parks and Recreation fund. The school district, which uses the city's Sundance Park during high school soccer and softball seasons, pays about \$1,300 a year in natural gas franchise fees.

"If it wasn't dedicated to Parks and Rec, I'd feel different about it," Downing said.

Downing said he cast a dissenting vote because the Parks and Rec fund needs all the money it can get to remain viable. The fund lost thousands of dollars during the 2005-06 fiscal year, according to the audit released earlier in Wednesday's meeting.

Homedale School District superintendent Tim Rosandick and school trustee Ric Uria attended Wednesday's council meeting to lobby for the repeal of the franchise fee. Uria is the liaison between the school board and the city government.

The City of Homedale recently annexed the area encompassing Homedale Middle School on Johnstone Road into the city limits, so the school district's franchise fee burden soon will increase.

Rosandick reminded the council that the Homedale School District was instrumental in bringing natural gas to the city eight years ago, and that the district spent \$66,000 over a five-year period on a 25-cent-per-therm surcharge

as Intermountain Gas recouped infrastructure costs.

The superintendent, who was hired in 2005 after Bob Lisonbee retired, said that the city originally had pondered repealing the franchise fee in discussions between then-Mayor Hap Duryee and Lisonbee.

City councilman Steve Schultz said that he attended council meetings as a concerned citizens during the Duryee administration. He said he remembers council members at the time had voted to repeal the franchise fee, but the charge was reinstated.

"I feel like it taxes the children," Schultz said. "I'd be in favor of removing it."

Although Fink said that removing the fee for the 2005-06 fiscal year would have created financial problems for the city's summer recreation program, Schultz seemed neutral before the vote.

"I don't think the franchise fee will 'deep-six' the city or the school," Schultz said. "I could be persuaded to vote in either way."

Schultz eventually voted to begin the process of repealing the fee.

— JPB

City's finances pass muster

Parks, irrigation funds both in the red, though

The City of Homedale was given a clean bill of financial health at Wednesday's city council meeting, but auditor Timothy S. Folke warned that the impending water and sewer bonds will change the fiscal regulatory demands on the city in the coming years.

"The federal government, while it doesn't keep track of its own money, is very picky about other people keeping track of the money it gives out," the Payette-based certified public accountant told council members last week.

During his narrative on the audit of Homedale's 2005-06 fiscal year, Folke urged the council to follow the instructions of U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency representative Dave Flesher very closely during the course of the water and sewer system upgrade.

"Do everything that he says," Folke said. "Don't try to home-brew anything."

At the time, Folke was unaware that Flesher was in the gallery awaiting his turn to address the council. Flesher presented the letters of conditions for Homedale to receive nearly \$3.5 million in loans for water and sewer upgrades. The council unanimously authorized Mayor Paul Fink to sign the letters, and the city has 60 days to meet all requirements set forth in the

documents before the money will be released for the construction.

Flesher said during the meeting that the 30-year bonds will be secured at 4.375 percent. That rate could fluctuate before the loans are approved and closed, but Flesher said the city is guarantee the lowest rate and the interest rate cannot go higher than 4.375 percent.

At the current rate, the annual payment on the bonds will be about \$210,000, Flesher said.

But Flesher warned that the lack of a federal budget approved by Congress could delay funding.

He also pointed out that Homedale's low sewer rates for customers could continue to hamper the municipality's chances of getting future funding for a possible wastewater treatment plant. He said the average monthly sewer bill in town, which is \$17, is about \$23 lower than the ideal rate.

The suggestion that the city needs to increase sewer rates to be more competitive for funding was echoed by Folke in relation to another utility — irrigation.

Folke pointed out during his narrative about the city's financial audit that both the irrigation fund and the parks and recreation fund lost money last year, the only blemishes on an otherwise satisfactory audit, he said.

According to Folke's audit, the irrigation fund showed a net loss of \$10,177 for 2005-06. The parks fund showed a loss of nearly \$80,000. The airport fund also was in the hole to the tune of more than \$25,000.

Folke suggested that a fee

adjustment might be in order to help the irrigation fund. The city increased irrigation rates for the 2007 season by 7 percent earlier this year.

When asked how to beef up the viability of the parks fund, which takes a major hit annually because of the city's operation of Sundance Park — and lack of substantial revenue from it — Folke recommended that the city consider leasing the concessions to an outside company that could run the food and beverage service more efficiently.

While approving the audit, council members also agreed to privatize park concessions. Bids soon will be requested.

— JPB

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Calendar

Thursday

Homedale Senior Citizens Center Christmas party and dinner, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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

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

Friday

Recovery Celebrate 12-step program, 6 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3520 or (208) 337-3151

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

Christmas musical program "There's Something About that Name," 10:30 a.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Christmas Eve candlelight service, 10 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Tuesday

Exercise class, 11 a.m., free,

Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Storytime for first- through third-graders, 4:20 p.m., Lizard Butte Public Library, Owyhee Plaza, 105 Main Street, Marsing. (208) 896-4690

Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m. (208) 880-8962

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

Thursday, Dec. 28

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

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

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

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jbrowneditor@cablone.net.

For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4861.

Smorgasbord to help buy reader board for Homedale

The 46th annual Homedale International Smorgasbord still is seven weeks away, but plans are in the works.

Homedale Middle School sixth-graders will begin selling tickets for the cuisine extravaganza during the Christmas break. Today was the first day tickets were available from sixth-graders.

The smorgasbord — themed "Growing Strong Students Through Community Support" — is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 10 at Homedale Elementary School.

The smorgasbord has been a strong fund-raiser for the school district for years. Last year, the event grossed more than \$10,259, according to 2007 chair Kelley Hansen.

In the past, proceeds have been divvied up among the schools in the district. But Hansen said all the money raised in 2007 will be donated to the school district's effort to buy a state-of-the-art reader board that would be installed along East Idaho Avenue near Homedale High School.

"The children of this community continue to be a top Homedale priority. The acquisition of a new, high-tech reader board that can be used to communicate what Homedale students are doing will be a great tool for the district to enhance parental involvement," Homedale schools superintendent Tim Rosandick said.

"We will be most grateful for any financial support we get from the community to make this new reader board a reality."

Homedale High School athletic director Dave Hart said the Daktronics, Inc., reader board would cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, including installation. Hart said last week that a pledge of \$5,000 from the long-standing Homedale Development Co., fund already has been made, and Hansen said smorgasbord organizers would like to send at least that much.

"We hope to be able to donate between \$6,000 and \$8,000," said Hansen, whose husband, Jeff, also is a chair this year. "In past years, (smorgasbord proceeds have) gone a little bit to each school."

"This year we wanted to try to



Students ready to sell meal tickets

Homedale International Smorgasbord representatives, from left, Jeff Hansen, Dwayne Fisher and Jessica Hansen brief Homedale Middle School sixth-graders on selling tickets for the February event during a visit Monday. The top-selling class will receive a pizza party.

come up with a big project to put all the money toward."

The reader board would be a free-standing, two-sided sign that features feature three lines of illuminated text. Hart said it would be similar to Daktronics reader boards in use at Nampa, Skyview and Columbia high schools in Canyon County.

"It would be a good communication tool for the school and the community," Homedale High School principal Mike Williams said.

School events would be publicized on the reader board, and community events possibly could be posted, too, Hart said. He added that, if all went as planned, a board could be installed before the end of the school year.

And a big step toward that reality would be the smorgasbord, at which diners can sample food from world cultures. Each cuisine is served from its own booth — European, Basque, Mexican, Asian, etc.

On Monday, 2007 smorgasbord representatives distributed tickets to sixth-graders at a morning orientation assembly at HMS.

The Hansens have a son, Mat, enrolled in his senior year at Homedale High School. Their daughter, Jessica, graduated in the spring and now attends the University of Idaho in Moscow. The co-chairs are Dwayne and Tracy Fisher, who have three children in the Homedale School District.

Kelley Hansen said she and her husband asked the students to sell as many tickets as possible before the smorgasbord, but the Hansens also stressed safety in the pre-sale process.

"They are our No. 1 promoters," Kelley Hansen said of the schoolchildren. "We want them to do it safely and not go door-to-door."

"If you know a sixth-grader, contact them and buy the tickets."

Smorgasbord tickets are \$28 for a family, \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for children in grades 1-6 and \$2 for preschool-aged children.

Tickets will be available at the door, but students are selling advance tickets as part of a contest for great prizes.

The top sellers from each class each week will earn prizes such as free bowling at Owyhee Lanes and Restaurant or school store gift cards. The student who sells the most tickets throughout the pre-sale period will receive \$50.

Luci Asumendi-Mereness at the middle school is organizing entertainment again for the smorgasbord, and there are plans for another art show, Hansen said.

"A few years ago, I suggested that for a few hours during the smorgasbord that maybe we could have some background music, as a way to kind of add to the atmosphere," Asumendi-Mereness said.


"We have lots of musicians in the middle school, high school and community, so by word of mouth and e-mail, I asked people if they wanted to play a couple of songs. And it's been good so far."

The art show is open primarily to students, but high school art teacher Katy Belanger said adults are welcome to enter works as well.

For more information on the smorgasbord, call the Hansens at 482-6922. For more information on the entertainment, contact Asumendi-Mereness at the middle school at 337-5780.

— JPB

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Ms. Idaho Senior pays visit to Homedale Senior Center

The Homedale Senior Center’s Dec. 12 luncheon turned out to be more eventful than just a meal.

The center’s noontime diners received a visit from Ms. Idaho Senior, Jane Thiel, and enjoyed a performance by a sixth-grade choir from Homedale Middle School led by teacher Pat Warren.

Senior Center coordinator Shirley McAbee also seized the opportunity to show off the center’s new tables, which were purchased through a \$2,000 grant from US Ecology Idaho.

A Nampa resident, Thiel was crowned this year’s Ms. Idaho Senior and recently represented Idaho in the Ms. Senior America competition in Las Vegas, where she stood among some of the most vibrant and talented women in the country. Thiel placed 13th of 33 contestants in the pageant.

Thiel was chosen Ms. Idaho Senior after rigorous judging in



Ms. Idaho Senior
Ms. Idaho Senior, Jane Thiel, visited the Homedale Senior Center during a luncheon last week.

four categories, including evening gowns, judges’ interview, talent and participants’ Philosophy of Life, a slogan of sorts.

She has been touring senior centers throughout the Treasure Valley recently, singing and reciting her Philosophy of Life, which was part of her presentation at the Ms. Senior America pageant in Las Vegas in the fall.

Thiel said she has long wanted to participate in beauty pageants. “My mother always wanted me to be a beauty queen,” Thiel said.

In 2000, Thiel got her first taste of pageantry when she was crowned Ms. Congeniality in a pageant in Burley.

Thiel’s family runs Idaho Tractor Inc. on Nampa/Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa.

Thiel said she was most proud of her large family, and her husband, Curt.

“I am most proud of my 6 children, 30 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandbabies,” Thiel said.

— JWB

Philosophy of Life

“Life is a precious commodity, one that increases in value when shared with friends, so I collect friends. How? First, to have a friend, one must be a friend, so I will love you unconditionally and accept you today just the way you are. If you don’t have a smile, I will give you mine, plus a hug, and ask that you pass them on. Together we can start a pandemic of smiles and hugs, for they are contagious. And won’t our world be brighter and warmer?”

— Ms. Idaho Senior, Jane Thiel

Silver City Fire and Rescue gets grants

Silver City Fire and Rescue, Inc., has received two Idaho Community Foundation grants totaling nearly \$4,700 to help with operating expenses in 2007.

Wednesday, the all-volunteer fire rescue service announced receiving a \$1,659 grant from the Robert I. and Barbara Troxell Fund.

The Steele-Reese Foundation Special Project Fund and Southwestern Region Greatest Need Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation (ICF) awarded the \$3,000 grant to the all-volunteer fire and rescue group.

“This grant will make it possible for us to meet operating expenses. Our hard-working volunteers will have less of a burden to raise funds to meet operating needs and can concentrate on maintenance of equipment and vehicles, and being on-call during our season of service,” said Jim Hyslop, president of SCF&R of the larger grant. “We greatly appreciate this grant.”

The \$4,659 from both grants will help SCF&R meet operating expenses for 2007. These expenses include insurance for personnel and vehicles, fuel for response vehicles, replacement of medical supplies used on emergency medical service calls, professional tax preparation for the agency and its annual audit.

SCF&R Inc. is a non-profit corporation formed in 2005 to develop fire protection and provide emergency medical services in the Silver City and War Eagle Mountain area of the Owyhee Mountains.

SCF&R is licensed by the Idaho State EMS Bureau as a seasonal, non-transport unit and has a staff of nine certified first-responders. SCF&R is in the process of gathering fire equipment and outfitting two fire trucks. Seven volunteers are trained and equipped as wildland

firefighters. Members of SCF&R receive no pay.

To learn more about Silver City Fire and Rescue, call 466-5064. Donations are appreciated and are tax deductible.

The ICF has more than 350 different funds, an asset total of more than \$60 million and a distribution record of more than 427 million for programs and projects.



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	12/27/06	10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.
MERIDIAN	Monday	Fiesta Guadalajara, 704 E. Fairview Avenue
	12/18/06	11:30 a.m.
NAMPA	Tuesday	Nampa Civic Center, 311 3rd Street South
	12/19/06	10 a.m. OR 2 p.m.

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Owyhee County-Wilson Sage Hens
From left to right, Betty Doser, Jean Reineke, Joyce Schermerhorn, Lois Adams, Aline DeNardi, Betty Freeburg, Sue VanKleek.

Sage Hens club delivers cheer to Owyhee Rehab

The Owyhee County-Wilson Sage Hens women’s group delivered Christmas cheer to residents of Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation (OH&R) on Dec. 12 in the form of 40 stuffed animals.

“We try to help where we’re needed,” Sage Hens member Lois Adams said.

Adams said the Sage Hens have been bringing Christmas gifts to OH&R for the past six years, but this year was the first time they have brought stuffed animals.

The club’s inspiration to bring stuffed animals to the OH&R residents stemmed from when Adams’ mother, Evelyn Davis, stayed at the facility. Adams said she noticed that her mother was one of the few residents who didn’t have a stuffed animal in her room.

Adams seized the opportunity to ensure that all residents had at least one stuffed animal. This year, the small Christmas tree in the center’s activity room barely had enough room to cover the variety of colorful stuffed animals.

“They get real excited when

they see her,” OH&R activity director Penny Riley said of Adams.

Adams said the Sage Hens have provided OH&R residents with lap robes in the past.

Sage Hens member Betty Freeburg of Wilder downplayed the group’s role in enriching the lives of Owyhee County residents, and said simply, “We’re a group of women from Owyhee County who meet monthly.”

The group, however, does much more than meet. In the past, club members have made quilts for patients at the Terry Reilly Clinic as well as quilts and crafts for the group’s Christmas bazaar. The Sage Hens also have helped send high school students to Girls State.

The Sage Hens meet from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at the old Wilson School, approximately 14 miles south of Marsing on Idaho highway 78.

For more information about the Owyhee County-Wilson Sage Hens, contact Betty Freeburg at 337-3400.

— JWB



Owyhee Health and Rehab overrun by stuffed animals for Christmas
A small Christmas Tree at Owyhee Health and Rehab in Homedale has been inundated by approximately 40 stuffed animals, courtesy of the Owyhee-Wilson Sage Hens.

Rural living classes offered

With more people moving to the country, University of Idaho Extension education system saw a need to teach new rural residents how to work their land.

The educational series Living on the Land, which was initiated in 2001, will be offered in the Treasure Valley next month.

The point of the course is to teach people how to live and work on their acreage. U of I Ada County Extension educator Kevin Laughlin estimates there are more than 4,500 landowners who have between one and 20 acres but have little background on living or working on their land.

“Most people had no idea what to expect when they bought the small acreage,” Owyhee County Extension educator Scott Jensen said. “They experience difficulties with weeds, irrigation and planning in general. This program helps them understand what questions to ask.”

Topics will range from budgets to equipment needs to what animals or crops can be grown.

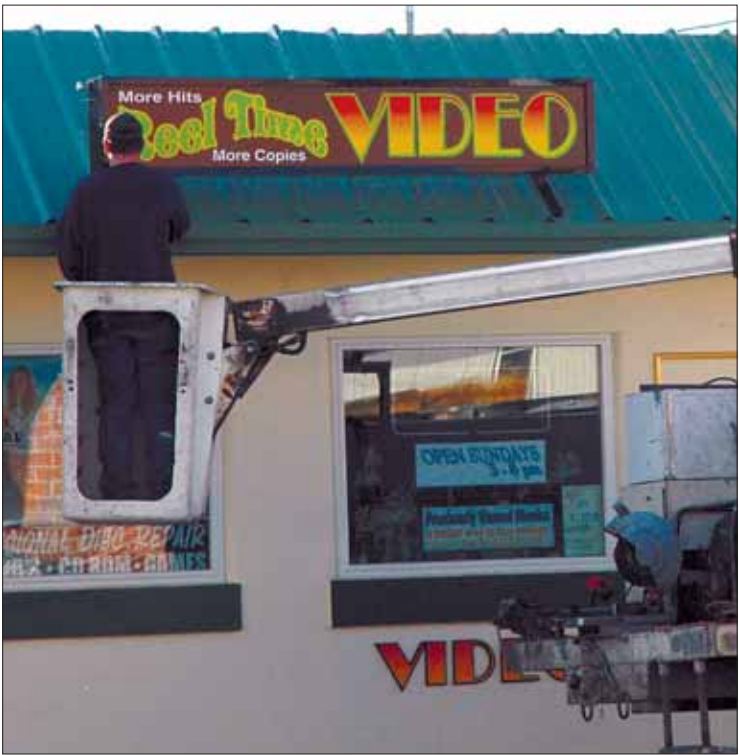
The 18-session program carries a \$250 fee per unit (two class attendees). Cost includes materials and professional analysis of water, soil and forage of the land.

Evening classes will be held from January to May. Monday classes will be held in the Boise and Caldwell extension offices. Tuesday classes will take place at the Parma and Owyhee County (Marsing) offices.

Enrollment is limited to 25. For more information, call Jensen at 896-4104.



Homedale businesses put up new signs
Above: A worker from Superior Signs installs a new sign for Reel Time Video on East Idaho Avenue in Homedale last week. The sign is another step in the ongoing remodel of the business. Below: Across the street from Reel Time, Mark Jolley of Allied Signs lines up the seams a two-part sign installed on top of The Owyhee Avalanche building.



Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir held 436,455 acre feet of water and that 29.5 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 10 a.m. Monday:

		Reynolds Creek			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp Max.	Min.	Avg.
12/12	2.0	3.5	37.5	26.0	32.1
12/13	1.6	3.8	37.5	33.8	35.9
12/14	0.7	4.2	42.7	35.6	39.5
12/15	0.1	4.5	47.0	35.8	42.5
12/16	0.2	4.7	44.2	17.5	27.9
12/17	0.8	4.7	23.5	10.7	17.6
12/18	0.7	4.8	29.3	10.3	18.3
		South Mountain			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp Max.	Min.	Avg.
12/12	14.5	7.1	36.1	25.0	31.2
12/13	19.2	7.7	36.4	32.5	34.9
12/14	17.2	9.3	39.7	35.3	38.0
12/15	12.9	9.8	43.3	38.4	41.3
12/16	15.2	10.0	40.7	15.5	26.7
12/17	15.2	10.0	27.5	10.9	18.5
12/18	15.1	10.0	31.2	12.3	19.7
		Mud Flat			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp Max.	Min.	Avg.
12/12	7.4	3.0	37.2	18.7	28.9
12/13	8.4	3.3	41.0	33.3	36.5
12/14	5.5	4.2	43.4	36.7	40.0
12/15	3.6	4.6	49.7	39.7	44.2
12/16	5.0	4.6	44.4	14.7	32.1
12/17	4.4	4.6	29.1	5.5	18.2
12/18	5.9	4.6	31.5	3.2	17.6

Ag director to retire to area

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Pat Takasugi announced last week that he will leave the agency at the end of month, completing 10 years of service to the state’s citizens and 25,000 farmers and ranchers.

Takasugi, 57, will return to his farm in southwestern Idaho. Takasugi is a grower/shipper with more than 1,500 irrigated row crop acres of alfalfa seed, onions, wheat, pea seed and garden bean seed on fields near Wilder and Homedale.

The third-generation farmer was appointed director in 1996 by Gov. Phil Batt and subsequently reappointed by Govs. Dirk Kempthorne and Jim Risch.

“What we’ve done in the last 10 years has been nothing short of extraordinary. We’ve improved regulatory conditions for the agriculture industry while protecting the environment. We’ve improved protections for seed growers, fought noxious weeds and improved the marketability of Idaho-grown commodities,” he said.

“It has truly been an honor to represent the state’s agriculture industry.

What Christmas means to me

From the pages of *The Owyhee Chronicle*, December 22, 1949

The Christmas season. Christmas day. Light-studded garlands across the streets, handsome store displays, the crowds of last minute shoppers. Christmas carols from across the way. Fresh snow crunching underfoot, frost-coated shrubs, holly wreaths and tinsel trees in windows. Cheery greetings, friendly gestures, the giving and the receiving of presents. The family gatherings, the warmth of the fireside. Home. Christmas means all of these things of course. But is this all Christmas means to me?

My whole being, my God-

formed soul, my inmost thoughts and desires say Christmas must mean more than that. Those things alone are too earth-bound, too self-contained. They savor of a part of the world self-complacent, self-content, self-sufficient--but utterly forgetful of that other part, persecuted, homeless, oppressed, starved, naked, cold. Those things savor of men possessing knowledge and truth, heedless of the anguished cry of those in error. They savor of a people so smug and self-righteous as to think itself Christian, when in reality true Christianity is but a memory. Those things savor

of a selfish Christmas. Such is a Christmas that is no Christmas at all.

Then what should Christmas mean? The thousands thronging the streets and crowding the churches at midnight, dawn, or later in the day--they have the answer. They do not go to church merely to hear the Christmas gospel read: the crowded inn, the stable, the birth of the Son of God made Man. They come to church to have the Christ child present before them and reborn in them. To Him, the Child whose birthday it is, they pray for the strength to accomplish in

themselves and in others what He began. They bring peace from the Prince of Peace, wisdom from the Angel of Great Counsel, life from the Author of Life, hope from the Source of All Hope, joy from the Promise of Eternal Joy. They bring Christ to a darkened and troubled world. They are

happy because their Christmas is not their own. It is like Christ's, for others.

And as for all those other things — now they take on meaning too, because I have found the true meaning of Christmas.

— Contributed

The Christmas story

As told by St. Luke II

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

unto us.

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now



Thanks good friends for your loyalty and good will. Hope your holidays will be filled to the brim with old fashioned Christmas cheer!





Homedale
337-4664

Wilder
482-9210

During this busy holiday season take some time to relax and enjoy your family and friends. Reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the true reason for celebration!



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:8-14



Merry Christmas from all of us at...

BOWEN PARKER DAY

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS CHARTERED

19 E. Wyoming • Homedale

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Happy Holidays
to all our loyal
customers!
We appreciate
your business!

Snake River Mart

MERRY CHRISTMAS



****OPEN****
Christmas Eve
6am-6pm
Christmas Day
8am-2pm

Boneless Beef
Chuck Roast



\$199 lb.

John-Morrell
Shanks



Butts 149 lb
\$139 lb.

Bunched
Celerly



89¢ ea.

Salad Mix



\$129 ea.

Bone-In
Turkey Breast



\$129 lb.

Bone-In
Beef Rib Roast



\$479 lb.

10 lb. Bag
Potatoes



\$189 ea.

Yams & Sweet Potatoes



59¢ lb.

Market Pack
Bacon **\$239** lb.
Hot Deli
Corn Dogs **49¢** ea.
Beef Rib Steak **\$529** lb.

John Morrell 14 oz.
Smokies **\$199** ea.
Western Family 8 oz.
Cream Cheese **79¢** ea.
Market Cut
Mild Cheddar **\$239** lb.

1 lb.
Baby Carrots **99¢** ea.
Bunched, Radishes &
Green Onions **2 for \$1**
Carmel Wrap **99¢** ea.

Red Potatoes **39¢** lb.
Apples & Pears **69¢** lb.
Avocados **99¢** ea.

Western Family
Whipped Topping



79¢ lb.
8 oz.

Asst'd Varieties
Rhodes Rolls **\$319** ea.

Western Family
Milk 2%,1%,Skim



Whole Milk \$2.69
\$249 ea.
Gallon

Western Family 16 oz.
Butter Quarters **2 for \$4**

Pepsi Products



3 for \$11
12pk 12oz Cans

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

Budweiser Beer



\$1199 ea.
18pk 12oz Cans

12pk 12oz Bottles
Michelob **\$899** ea.

Kraft Dressing **\$219** ea.
14-16 oz.

McCormick Gravy Mixes **2 for \$1**
.87 oz.

Campbell's Gravy **69¢** ea.
10.25-10.5 oz.

Western Family Peanuts **2 for \$3**
Asst'd 12 oz.

Nabisco Crackers **\$219** ea.
7.5-9.5 oz.

Lay's Potato Chips **\$219** ea.
13.25 oz.

Darigold Egg Nog **2 for \$3**
Quart

Western Family Medium & Large Olives **99¢** ea.
6 oz.

Western Family Sour Cream **\$119** ea.
16 oz.

Martinelli Sparkling Cider **\$219** ea.
25.4 oz.

Western Family Flavor Blend Cat Food **\$659** ea.
14 lb.

Tri Pro Dog Food **\$459** ea.
17.6 oz.

Campbell's Cream of Chicken & Mushroom Soups **99¢** ea.
10.75 oz.

Swanson Broth **59¢** ea.
14.5 oz.

Western Family Frozen Orange Juice **89¢** ea.
12 oz.

Mrs. Cubison Dressing **3 for \$5**

Solo Party Plates & Bowls **2 for \$5**
20-22 ct.

Western Family Yams **\$119** ea.
29 oz.

Stove Top Stuffing **2 for \$3**
6-6.38 oz.

Marie Callender's Pies **2 for \$9**
Asst'd Varities

Shasta Soda **79¢** ea.
2 Liter

Western Family Spring Water **2 for \$7**
24pk .5 liters

Christmas Candy & Toy CLOSE OUT

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

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