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benefit auction on Saturday**

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**First semester honor rolls for  
JV middle school and high school**

**Wednesday, January 24, 2007**

**Established 1865**

# The Owyhee Avalanche

**VOLUME 23, NUMBER 4**

**HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO**

**SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS**

## County continues campaign to own landfill

Landowner offered to accept commissioners' original offer if county approved permit for dairy

New details surfaced last week in Owyhee County's ongoing attempt to buy the property where the Bruneau-Grand View landfill sits.

The county leases the land from Kent Kohring, and the Owyhee

County Board of Commissioners began negotiations to buy the 40-acre site outright in September by offering landowner Kent Kohring \$40,000.

Kohring turned down the offer,

but earlier this month countered with two options:

- A cash price of more than \$109,000

— See *Landfill*, page 5A

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**Jordan Valley man honored  
by OSCD  
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### Marsing water system groundbreaking

The Marsing's old yellow water tower looms above city officials as they break ground for a new city well.  
**From left to right:** John Larson, Mayor Don Osterhoudt, city superintendent Danny Martin, city councilman Ed Pfeifer, engineers Amy Woodruff and Shawn Kohtz and city councilwoman Paula Enrico.

## Marsing preps for new well

Major step in \$2 million improvement project to clean up quality, smell

The City of Marsing took a big step forward early last week, as city superintendent Danny Martin passed out seven gold shovels to city leaders and engineers during a groundbreaking ceremony for the new city well.

With the familiar yellow water tower hovering in the background on Jan. 16, the group braved temperatures in the teens, coupled with a biting, icy wind

to take the first scoops out of the frozen ground across Idaho highway 78 from the Marsing School District.

To Mayor Don Osterhoudt, the groundbreaking is the home-stretch for a new \$2.1 million water system for the city, which was forced to look for a new source of water because ever-stricter government drinking water regulations.

Voters passed a \$1.7 million bond measure in August 2005 with a 67.1 percent majority. In February 2005 a similar bond measure had failed by nearly identical numbers. In July, then-Gov. Jim Risch presented the city with a grant check for more than \$400,000 to be used with the project.

"We had our well on the Canyon County side. When that was drilled (20 to 30 years ago), it had 13 parts-per-billion (ppb) of

— See *Well*, page 5A

## Homedale Silver Sage proposal denied

The Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission voted unanimously to deny a special use permit request filed by Landmark Engineering and Planning on behalf of local developers Rick Kushlan and Carl Anderson, who planned to build three four-plexes in the Silver Sage subdivision.

The proposed development is north of the intersection of South 4<sup>th</sup> Street West and Silver Sage Place and covers more than 1 acre of land.

According to Homedale P&Z administrator Sylvia Bahem, opposition to the proposed multiple-family dwellings was strong during a Jan. 15 public hearing.

"Everyone who was there was against it," Bahem said of the 20 to 25 community members who spoke out on the proposed development. "At least everyone who spoke was against it."

Bahem said community members gave many reasons for their opposition.

"Increased traffic along 4<sup>th</sup> Street, because there is no other access (to the development), the narrowness of 4<sup>th</sup> Street (no curbs or sidewalks), a lot of children walking up and down that street,"

— See *Proposal*, page 5A



**International Smorgasbord honors latest top ticket-sellers**  
*Homedale Middle School sixth-graders raised \$986 in third-week ticket sales. The top sellers in each class were, from left to right, Heather Romriell (Arlene Eidemiller's class), Erin Shenk (Pat Warren's class), Hailee Aberasturi (Lesa Folwell's class), Hayden Krzenik (Dave Hann's class). Standing behind the students are, from left to right, event chair Kelley Hansen and co-chair Dwayne Fisher.*

# Smorgasbord tickets sale still going strong

Ticket sales for the 47<sup>th</sup> annual Homedale International Smorgasbord continue this week in anticipation of the Feb. 10 event at Homedale Elementary School.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and will feature volunteers serving cuisine from around the world.

Tickets are \$28 per family and \$7 for adults. Seniors can eat for \$5, while children in grades 1-6 get in for \$4 and preschoolers dine for \$2.

Admission will be available at the door, but Homedale Middle School sixth-graders continue to sell tickets for the fund-raiser.

Through three weeks of sales, students have raised \$2,376. Last week, \$986 was raised.

The top sellers in each sixth-grade class at HMS were honored Friday afternoon by International Smorgasbord chairs Kelley and Jeff Hansen and co-chair Dwayne Fisher.

The top sellers included Heather Romriell from Arlene Eidemiller's class (\$251), Erin Shenk from Pat Warren's class (\$56), Hailee Aberasturi from Lesa Folwell's class (\$89) and Hayden Krzesnik from Dave Hann's class (\$203).

For more information about the Smorgasbord, call 482-6922.

# City closes in on developer

Homedale mayor says Eagle group has submitted proposal for seven acres

Despite the cancellation of a public hearing to unseal bids on the development of seven acres near Homedale Airport, Mayor Paul Fink remains optimistic about the retail area.

City council members voted to nix the public hearing when city engineer Fred Ostler reported during the Jan. 10 council meeting that no developer had responded to a Request For Proposal (RFP) that he had drafted for the city.

Surprisingly, bids weren't received by Tom King of King's Discount Stores or Eagle-based developer Ron Mayhew and his associates, even though both had expressed interest in developing the area.

"I can tell you that I personally sent copies of the RFP to two companies that I know were interested in making a proposal," Ostler told The Owyhee Avalanche in an e-mail.

The city never published a legal notice dealing with the RFP, and only alluded to the process in a notice published to announce Wednesday's public hearing. There is nothing in the Idaho Code requiring a municipality to publish a legal notice to solicit such proposals.

Despite Ostler's report to the city council, Fink has said that the city has a proposal to develop the land. But that offer was only hinted at during the council meeting earlier this month.

"We've got a written proposal," Fink said. "Ron Mayhew has already committed with a proposal to us."

"Ron said the proposal was in when I contacted him (about the bid process)."

Mayhew acknowledged last week in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche that his company has reviewed the draft RFP. But he said that any action by his company is "dependent on availability of city services and Idaho Department of Transportation requirements as well as state grant money to offset some of the road improvement costs."

"If economics are attractive," Mayhew wrote, "we are interested in building a combination retail/business center."

According to Ostler, the traffic impact study for U.S. Highway 95 through Homedale, including the intersection with East Idaho Avenue, should have been submitted to the state transportation department on Jan. 11.

Ostler said he was puzzled

that King hadn't submitted a plan because he had seen blueprints for the development during a visit with the head of the store chain that would be an anchor in the Homedale retail complex along U.S. 95.

"... The RFP was a good thing because the city can use it as a basis of negotiation," Ostler told the councilmen.

During the Jan. 10 meeting, Ostler said the city had fulfilled its legal obligation by requesting bids and could negotiate with whomever comes forward with a plan now that the deadline has passed.

Fink said that a lack of a proposal from King shouldn't be considered a sign that his retail chain is no longer interested in building a Homedale location, even though he has expressed concern about how the progress with the city's sewer improvement project will impact development of the site.

"Tom King has talked to (city councilman) Steve Schultz," Fink said. "He has been in contact with one of his people, and I guess they're still very interested. They're going to come back with a proposal, and their designer does have a design for the project."

"We're going to step back and let the council decide on which one they want to work with."

— JPB

# Motel-restaurant site work moves forward in Homedale

The ground may be frozen, but things are still churning at the Homedale site where Eagle-based developers plan to build a motel/restaurant complex.

Ron Mayhew, who is involved in Homedale Plaza Partners LLC, said last week that site preparations are in progress for the construction of a 32-room motel near the intersection of U.S. Highway 95 and East Idaho Avenue.

This week, Mayhew expects a marketing consultant to interview people in Homedale to get a better idea of a range of rooms to be built in the first phase of the motel.

Originally, Best Western was in negotiations with the development firm to brand the motel, but Mayhew told The Owyhee Avalanche in an e-mail last week that a change in the national chain's policy during the application process forced a

change in direction.

The motel is scheduled to be a 32-room facility initially, and Mayhew said Best Western's minimum requirement was 50 units.

"We will most likely hire a contract operator for the motel, but retain ownership," he said.

He added there is no name yet for the 32-room motel with a pool and spa, but a consideration is Snake River Lodge. Mayhew also said that the lodging could grow to as many as 64 rooms if a second 32-room phase is undertaken.

Developers are interviewing potential operators for the accompanying restaurant.

Mayhew said the motel/restaurant development is budgeted at \$4.6 million. He also said further economics of the site are dependent on the city securing a state grant to rebuild Owyhee Avenue.

The Eagle developers and the city continue to work toward securing a \$500,000 grant for improvements to the surrounding streets, including installation of gutters and sidewalks.

"The Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor made it clear that when city government and private business work together it creates a much stronger case to win these grants," Mayhew said.

— JPB

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# Overdue hunters near Riddle prompt short search by air

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office initiated a short search early last week for two overdue hunters in south Owyhee County.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Sgt. Jim Bish took to the air with pilot Ed Dickman on Jan. 15 to locate the lost hunters after the office received a call that Peter Ferrero, 40, of Boise and Bill Cherry, 42, from out of state, were overdue from a chukar hunting trip near the 45 Ranch west of Riddle.

"They were to return late Sunday night, and we got the call Monday morning," Sheriff Gary Aman said.

Aman said his office received the call at about 8 a.m. on Monday.

Dickman and Bish located the men around noon.

Aman said the two hunters were never actually lost, but simply overdue. Aman said that it was fortunate that both hunters were well prepared and had told others where they would be and when to expect their return.

"They were actually on the way out (when they were found). Ferrero's wife even had GPS coordinates where they were going to camp," Aman said. "They had a lot of food, they were very well prepared. They were just overdue."

— JWB

## Moxie Java shoots for February opening on U.S. Highway 95

Owners of the new Moxie Java Bistro, located on U.S. Highway 95 in Homedale, hope to open by the first week of February.

According to Lori Badiola, who co-owns the new business with her husband, Ben, the opening has been postponed because of back-ordered parts that are essential to the operation of the establishment.

Lori Badiola said that once the parts arrive, a week-long training session for employees will commence.

In addition to the standard selection of gourmet coffees, the location will serve beer and wine

and a limited food menu, which will include pitas, pasta, salads and other deli items.

Badiola said that potential customers have been frequenting the bistro's parking lot since the business signs were placed on the building and near the roadway at the corner of U.S. 95 and Industrial earlier this month.

"We have people pulling in from everywhere; people that we don't know," Badiola said. "People from the highway (U.S. 95), not only the local people. We're in a good location."

— JWB



**Subway owners cut ribbon at grand opening**  
Virginia Landa, left, and Pilar Wheeler, center, perform the ribbon cutting as Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Aaron Tines helps Saturday morning in front of the new Subway restaurant.

# Owyhee's only Subway sandwich shop thrives

Virginia Landa and Pilar Wheeler can be excused for seemingly getting their grand opening party off the ground a little late.

The Homedale women's Subway sandwich restaurant has been opened for nearly three months, but the ribbon-cutting ceremony was held only Saturday.

Maybe that's because it was the first moment to breathe in a whirlwind operation since the doors open Oct. 25.

"We've been fantastically accepted (by the community)," Landa said last week. "(The turnout) was better than we expected for the beginning."

The 15 staffers — three full-time, 10 part-time and the two store co-owners — at Owyhee County's only Subway franchise have settled into a routine since opening.

"Those first two weeks were just pretty overwhelming," Landa said, adding that the restaurant served 372 "units" (6- or 12-inch sandwiches, wraps or salads) in the first day of business and 2,037 in the first week of November.

Now, the restaurant averages around 200 sandwiches a day. The menu includes the usual deli sandwiches for which Subway is known as well as a breakfast selection of biscuits and gravy or an omelet, which can be enjoyed by itself, in a wrap or on bread.

The restaurant is open from 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m.

The restaurant originally was taking phone orders, but the workload didn't lend itself to

efficient customer service. Now, Landa encourages folks to fax in their orders to 337-3355.

Homedale High School is just down East Idaho Avenue from the Subway, but Landa said the student lunch crowd probably is hampered by time constraints. Basketball game nights at the school have been a different story, though.

"The basketball games were great for us, and we hope the spring sports will be great for us," Landa said.

Saturday's festivities included a ribbon-cutting performed by Landa, Wheeler and Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Aaron Tines. Free cookies were passed out, and there was a drawing for numerous door prizes provided by area businesses.

— JPB

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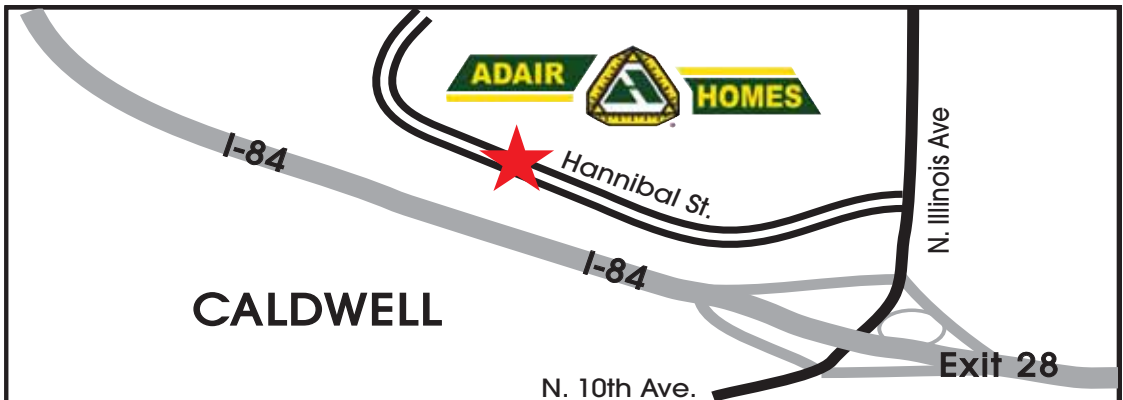
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# Tindall to receive award at OCA winter meeting

Celia Tindall of Bruneau, the Idaho Cattle Association’s 2006 Cattlewoman of the Year, will receive her award at the Feb. 3 Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association winter meeting in Oreana.

The OCA last week released the official agenda for its annual winter meeting, which will be held inside the Oreana Community Hall on Oreana Loop Road.

The meeting begins at noon with registration. Association president Russ Turner will call the meeting to order at 1 p.m., and the membership silver bit drawing will be held.

Other items on the agenda include:

- An Owyhee Initiative update

from the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners and Chad Gibson

- A presentation from Celia Gould, new director of the Idaho Department of Agriculture. Gould was selected by Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter to replace Homedale-area farmer Pat Takasugi in the state post.
- An update of the Sage Grouse

conservation plan from Grand View resident Donna Bennett, who is the chair of the Owyhee local working group.

A silent auction will be held later in the afternoon, and Idaho Cattlewomen’s chair Sara Baker will present Tindall with her Cattlewoman of the Year award shortly before the meeting adjourns for a 5 p.m. social hour.

A potluck dinner will be served beginning at 6 p.m.

A dance, featuring music from Runnin’ For Cover, will be held from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person, and proceeds will benefit the Oreana Community Hall.

For more information on the meeting, call (208) 896-4104.

# Melba Community Auction slated for Saturday

Event started in 1950 for polio victims still helps those in need today

The 58<sup>th</sup> annual Melba Community Auction, touted as the oldest community charity auction in the country, will be held Saturday at Melba High School.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for preview of auction items. Outside sales begin at 10 a.m., and inside sales will start at 11 a.m.

The Melba Community Auction is a 501C non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible. For more information or to donate to the auction, call chair Jason Knopp at 495-9867, treasurer Edith Pease at 495-2204 or

women’s chair Jody Moos at 495-2784.

Organizers say the auction provides a unique opportunity for members from the Melba community, as well as those from around the Treasure Valley, to come together for a day filled with fun.

The Melba Community Auction was first held in January 1950 when the community worked together to raise funds to assist three children afflicted with polio. The auction was held on the birthday of a fellow polio

victim, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This was the nation’s first such charity auction. Farmers donated everything from hay and calves to tools, while women made jam, pies and quilts. The bidding was fast and furious, and \$2,500 was raised.

Times have changed since the 1950s and medical science has spared us of the likes of polio, but not the high cost of medical care. Many of the funds provided by the Melba Community Auction make things possible and life a little less difficult for the people assisted.

Today, the auction continues to raise money to assist members of the community who are victims of catastrophic illness or medical

conditions, as well as other disasters such as fire. The auction also supports Melba’s Quick Response Unit which serves residents of the entire Melba Valley on both sides of the Snake River, as well as maintaining a loan locker of wheelchairs, hospital beds, crutches and other medical equipment available for use of local residents.

Funds are kept in reserve in the event of a disaster throughout the year, but the committee also takes requests and provides funds for organizations such as the Scouts and little league, Girls State, LifeFlight and St. Luke’s Mountain State Tumor Institute.

Funds from the 2006 auction were used to assist a local family that traveled to New York for a much needed surgery for their young son, as well as to aid another family whose child has been diagnosed with leukemia.

Other families who have had extenuating circumstances, such as long-term hospitalization resulting in the loss of income, have been assisted as well.

The community library has been provided with funds for heat and telephone service during the past few months.

The Melba volunteer fire department received funds to assist with the purchase of a Thermal Imager.

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Read all about it  
in the Avalanche!

From page 1

✓ **Well:** Project will bring municipal water system into the 21st century

arsenic, which was acceptable at that time,” Osterhoudt said. “All the wells on the Canyon County side had arsenic in them. We don’t have that problem on the Owyhee County side (of the Snake River).”


The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency now has established the acceptable levels of arsenic in water at 10 ppb, making the Canyon County water sources non-conforming.

With the possibility of those wells being shut down, the city looked to new wells on the Owyhee side of the river — and a way to get rid of the omnipresent sulfuric smell of the city’s water.

“We were faced with one-third of our total production going away,” Osterhoudt said. “The EPA would no longer allow us to pump that well, which put us in the situation of only relying on our one well (on Well Road in Marsing). That put us in a precarious, dangerous position.”

Another issue was the actual pipes within that city, which were originally put into service in the 1940s, were not prepared for a fire

*‘My expectation is that when I turn the faucet on, I’m not going to smell methane; I’m not going to smell ammonia; I’m not going to smell sulfur.’*



— **Don Osterhoudt**  
Marsing mayor

emergency if that should arise. “The pipes do not meet standards for fire code,” Osterhoudt said.

These two factors were compounded with growth in the area to give the city exponential problems.

For city leaders, it was time to address the issue head-on. Part of tackling that issue was determining if it was worth updating the old system or looking toward a totally new one.

“Do we want to fix our old system?” Osterhoudt asked rhetorically. “Our old system is gravity flow; our old system is 1940s technology. Most of the towns around here have abandoned that

(gravity flows) and have gone to pumping stations and pressurizing the pipes.

“In the 1940s, we had state-of-the-art, and over the years, we’ve put ‘band-aids’ on it.”

Osterhoudt said that mixing the old, tower system with modern pumping and filtration systems would only reduce the efficiency of the new equipment. It was time to re-think the process completely.

“It’s like taking a 1932 DeSoto engine and putting it into a brand-new car,” Osterhoudt said. “It will run and it will work, but it won’t have the performance it would if you just leave the thing alone (as new). And, you have to pay to

have it adapted on top of it.”

Osterhoudt said the new pumping system will be “overbuilt” for current domestic water use, but will be adequate for a large fire emergency and set up to handle inevitable future growth in Marsing.

“This should resolve our water concerns and needs for quite some time,” Osterhoudt said.

While technological enhancements and future water requirements are practical realities and can easily be calculated by concrete numbers such as gallons-per-minute, other water issues don’t fit as neatly into a package.

Scientists define water quality based on particles-per-billion of arsenic, alkali, calcium and other nasty unseen chemicals. The rest of us are forced to use less sterile ways to define it, such as our noses or tongues. These “subjective” factors were not lost on Osterhoudt and other Marsing city officials when looking at a new water system.

“My expectation is that when I turn the faucet on, I’m not going to smell methane; I’m not going to smell ammonia; I’m not go-

ing to smell sulfur,” Osterhoudt said, adding that the Marsing city water should be drinkable when the project is complete.

Osterhoudt said that water quality was a balancing act city leaders had to perform when considering cost.

“You can filter it (water) so hard that it eliminates the need of the people to have water softeners in their homes, but you can’t do it without cost.”

Osterhoudt said that the reality of the situation is that Marsing was once a desert and hard water is a fact-of-life.

“You’re going to have hard water, but we’re going to take the contaminants and the smell out,” Osterhoudt said.

While Osterhoudt acknowledged that the well is a long way from being finished, he said earlier this month that one of the major hurdles already has been conquered.

“In a water project, the biggest issue is getting permits, evaluation, etc.,” Osterhoudt said. “We’re on track. We started it.”

— JWB



**Homedale housing development denied**  
*The Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission rejected a request to build multi-family housing on this lot north of the Silver Sage subdivision and west of Fourth Street.*

✓ **Proposal:** Several citizens voice opposition to four-plex

Bahem said, listing concerns voiced at the hearing.

Bahem also said a reason residents of Silver Sage spoke up was because they did not want multiple-family residences in the subdivision, which is now home exclusively to single-family dwellings.

Bahem said that prior to the hearing, she anticipated controversy surrounding the subject.

“That was the only thing I put on the agenda, because I knew it

was going to be a hotly contested item,” Bahem said.

Bahem said she felt Anderson and Kushlan would appeal the decision.

The Owyhee Avalanche contacted Kushlan last week, after the hearing and P&Z’s decision. Kushlan said he was not aware of the results of the outcome of the meeting and declined to comment.

Attempts to contact Anderson were unsuccessful.

— JWB

✓ **Landfill:** Commission can’t legally trade land for cash and conditional use permit

Or, • Kohring would accept the original offer of \$1,000 per acre if the county approved a conditional use permit that would allow him to operate a dairy with up to 2,000 head of milking cows and up to 500 heifers.

According to Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn, the commissioners cannot legally take Kohring up on his bargain-basement price plus the permit.

“They can’t do that,” Sherburn said last week. “He would have to go through Planning and Zoning to get a conditional use permit. The Board only hears appeals on those. They couldn’t have granted that anyway.”

Sherburn said Kohring has not tried to obtain the special use permit in the past, and this counteroffer was unprecedented and arrived in a handwritten letter addressed to the Board.

“It doesn’t have any letterhead or anything on it,” Sherburn said of Kohring’s correspondence. “It’s just his figures.”

Sherburn cited the letter accepting the county’s \$40,000 offer “contingent upon approval of a county dairy permit at my (Kohring’s) site for 2,000 milking cows plus 500 heifers, which could be transferable within a three-year period.”

Sherburn said that Kohring’s

request for a transferable special use permit is also questionable.

The Board rejected Kohring’s offer during a Jan. 8 meeting, but sweetened the deal by doubling the original offer to \$80,000. As of Monday morning, Kohring had not yet responded to the new offer. Attempts by The Owyhee Avalanche to reach Kohring were unsuccessful.

In April 2004, the county signed a 10-year lease with Kohring for the 40-acre site located near milepost 71 along Idaho highway 78. Thus far, the county has made three annual payments of \$5,000.

When commissioners pitched the original offer to Kohring in

September, then-board chairman Hal Tolmie said it simply makes good financial sense for the county to attempt to purchase the landfill site from Kohring, rather than lease the same ground from him.

“We figure that landfill is good for about 70 to 75 years, and at the end of 10 years (the lease period), he walks away from the lease and we’ll have to go through it all again,” Tolmie said. “If we can buy the land, it will be cheaper.”

With a \$5,000-per-year lease, the landfill would cost the county at least \$350,000 over the course of a 70-year lifespan for the facility.

— JWB

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337-4681

# Obituary

## Mae F. Murphy Kelley

Mae F. Murphy Kelley, 95, of Caldwell, formerly of Homedale, died Thursday, Jan. 18, 2007, at a Caldwell hospital. Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Tuesday Jan. 23, 2007 at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. Private family interment was at Marsing-Homedale Cemetery.

Mae was born October 31, 1911i at Milwaukee, Wis, to Esther and Jack Tomasino. As a young woman, she married George Hylaszek and had two sons, both of whom died shortly after birth. After a courageous battle with tuberculosis, she had another son Jim. She worked many years at Milwaukee County General Hospital as a nurse’s aid, a job that she was incredibly proud of. In 1979, she moved to Idaho to be with her family. Shortly thereafter, she met and married A.E. ‘Spud’ Murphy. They enjoyed traveling and exploring Idaho together. In 1990, she married her third husband, William ‘Bill’ Kelley, and moved to Caldwell.

Mae had a wonderful outlook on life and was liked by everyone who met her. She always had a positive perspective on a situation, no matter how bleak. Mae enjoyed helping others and always found time to watch a Brave’s baseball game on TV.

Mae is survived by her



granddaughters Leslea Basterrechea of Nampa and Lacie Kent of Okinawa, Japan; her five great-grandchildren, Kyle and Braden Kent, and Mitchell, Megan, and Mikayla Basterrechea; her sisters Marie Groszkiewicz of Arizona and Margaret Geracie of Wisconsin and a brother Philip Tomasino of Wisconsin. She was preceded in death by her parents; her sons Wayne, Russell Hylaszek and Jim Miller; her three husbands George, Spud, and Bill; her sisters Rose Brawn, Josephine Helmuth, and Ann Radtke; and her brothers Peter, Frank, and Anthony Tomasino.

# School menus

## Homedale Elementary

- Jan. 25: Lasagna or mini corn dogs, corn, apple turnover, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 26: Fish nuggets or turkey sandwich, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 29: *Early release.* Sloppy Jo or hot dog, fries, chocolate pudding, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 30: Ham & potato soup or tuna sandwich, peas, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 31: Chili or beef taco pie, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

## Homedale Middle

- Jan. 25: Spaghetti or chicken pot pie, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 26: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 29: *Early release.* Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 30: Taco burger or wiener wrap, green beans, animal crackers, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 31: Burrito or fish patty, corn, apple crisp, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

## Homedale High

- Jan. 25: Chicken patty/bun or sandwich & soup, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 26: Crispito or rib-b-que/bun, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 29: *Early release.* Pizza, popcorn chicken or chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 30: Country fried beef steak or chicken filet, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 31: Spaghetti or burrito, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

## Marsing

- Jan. 25: Corn, strawberries & bananas, milk, baked potato & chili bar, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Jan. 26: Weiner wraps, veggies, fruit, milk, chicken nuggets, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Jan. 29: Turkey soup, corn, fruit, milk, chicken fried steak, maple bar, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.
- Jan. 30: Hamburger, veggie, fruit, milk, hot dog or chorizos, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Jan. 31: Chicken patty/bun, veggie, fruit, milk, soup & sandwiches, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

## Bruneau

- Jan. 25: Tacos, bean dip, chips, corn, pears, milk.
- Jan. 26: Spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, fruit, milk.
- Jan. 29: Macaroni & cheese, little smokies, green beans, muffins, fruit cobbler, milk.
- Jan. 30: Nachos, salad/croutons, corn, cinnamon roll, milk.
- Jan. 31: Lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, peaches, milk.

# Birth

## Addison Jane Martin

Addison Jane Martin, a girl, was born Jan. 16 at the Mercy Family Birthing Center in Nampa.

Addison, the daughter of Ryan and Jennifer Martin of Adrian, weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces.

The girl has two brothers, Conley and Jace.

Her grandparents are Bob and Robin Martin, Janie and Kay Engelking and Scott and Sheryl Fenwick.

Bill and Florence Shenk, Calvin and Ruth Martin and Eloise Ward are her great grandparents.



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# Senior menus

## Homedale Senior Center

- Jan. 25: Spaghetti & Italian sausage, tossed salad, bread, milk.
- Jan. 30: Chicken cordon bleu, scalloped potatoes, broccoli & cauliflower, roll, milk.
- Jan. 31: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, California blend veg., roll, milk.

## Marsing Senior Center

- Jan. 25: Chicken & dumplings, yams, applesauce, green salad, dessert, drink.
- Jan. 26: Roast pork, potatoes/gravy, carrots, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
- Jan. 29: Tamale pie, corn, carrots, cabbage/pineapple salad, soup, dessert, drink.
- Jan. 30: Stew, biscuits, salad, soup, dessert, drink.
- Jan. 31: Hot dogs, sauerkraut, scalloped potatoes, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

# Owyhee County students make EOU dean’s list

Three students with Homedale ties have been named to the Eastern Oregon University dean’s list for the fall term.

Anna Bayes, Michelle Eby and Sara Reed each earned a spot on the list reserved for students in the upper echelon of EOU students.

Only those who have achieved and maintained a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while completing a minimum of 12 hours of grade coursework during the term make the cut.

The three women from Homedale are among 480 students on the list for the college, which is located in La Grande, Ore.

# Homedale man awarded during Angus contest

Homedale’s Jimmy Thomas and his partner, Beller Feedlots of Lindsay, Neb., recently earned an AngusSource \$1,000 bonus for the ninth- and 13<sup>th</sup>-place steers in the 2006 National Angus Carcass Challenge.

Thomas and the Beller company had the second- and third-high-value animals in the AngusSource program.

All the winners from the NACC competition were announced at the National Western Stock Show in Denver on Jan. 13.

Thomas’ award was announced on the cattlenetwork.com Web site late last week.



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Your finances

There’s no point to paying points on home loan

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are looking to buy our first home, but we don’t know a lot about the home-buying process. My question is what are “points,” and when is it a good idea to pay them?

— Gary

Dear Gary,

Points are just pre-paid interest. One point equals 1 percent of the loan amount. For instance, if you’re borrowing \$130,000 one point would equal \$1,300.

Paying points or “origination” — which is another kind of point — is not a good idea. The average homeowner refinances every 5.6 years. And because it takes seven to 12 years to reach the break-even point and get your money back, it really doesn’t make sense.

ALWAYS go for zero points and zero origination unless the seller is paying!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I’m trying to get in shape this year, and I’m looking at treadmills. I found an offer for a \$999 machine with a 10-month payment plan and no interest. Is it OK to go ahead and buy it on this plan rather than waiting to save up the money?

— Clive

Dear Clive,

No! Chances are that plan has a catch that includes interest or some other fee tacked on if you’re late with a payment or go past the 10-month payment schedule.

The best way to buy a treadmill or any other piece of workout equipment is to get it used from the person who DIDN’T use it. There are tons of folks out there who make the resolution to get in shape and buy these big, expensive contraptions with the best intentions. Then, they fall off the wagon and it sits there gathering dust.

Just save up the money, Clive. Then go to a used sports store or check out the local newspaper for a good, inexpensive machine someone’s trying to sell.

If you can’t afford to buy



something outright, you can’t afford it — period!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

Is it a good idea not only to diversify among various mutual funds, but also among different companies that sell mutual funds?

— Brian

Dear Brian,

There’s no need to do that. Find one good broker you’re comfortable with and who has the heart of a teacher. You want to know what’s going on with your money, and finding someone who can explain it well and help you understand the details is a must!

Just make sure your broker is not directly connected to the mutual fund. You don’t want someone with a vested interest. What you’re looking for here is someone who can objectively connect you to a good mutual fund with a solid 5- to 10-year track record.

— 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](http://Davesays.org). For more financial advice, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to [syndication@daveramsey.com](mailto:syndication@daveramsey.com) or write Dave Says, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

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Calendar

Thursday

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.

Friday

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

Saturday

Men’s Wild Game Dinner and live auction, \$7, 6 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (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

Snake River Valley Fellowship Bible study, 10 a.m., 532 W. California Ave., Homedale. (208) 475-3733

Snake and Salmon rivers region folk song-swap, free, musical participation encouraged, 2 p.m.

to 5 p.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main Street, Grand View. (208) 442-8844

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, Feb. 1

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

Bureau of Land Management rangeland health public meeting, 5 p.m., BLM Jordan Valley Guard Station. (541) 473-3144

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

Friday, Feb. 2

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

Saturday, Feb. 3

Marsing Disaster Auction and raffle, 10:13 a.m., Phipps-Watson American Legion Community Center, 126 2nd St. N., Marsing. (208) 830-5560, (208) 855-9937, (208) 880-8770 or (208) 896-5701

Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association winter meeting, noon registration, 1 p.m. meeting, 5 p.m. social hour, \$6 poutluck, Oreana Community Hall, Oreana Loop Road. (208) 896-4104

Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association dance, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., \$5 per person, Oreana Community Hall

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events to *The Owyhee Avalanche* by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to [jbrownditor@cablone.net](mailto:jbrownditor@cablone.net). For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4861.

Find out  
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in the Avalanche

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# BLM seeks comment on range health

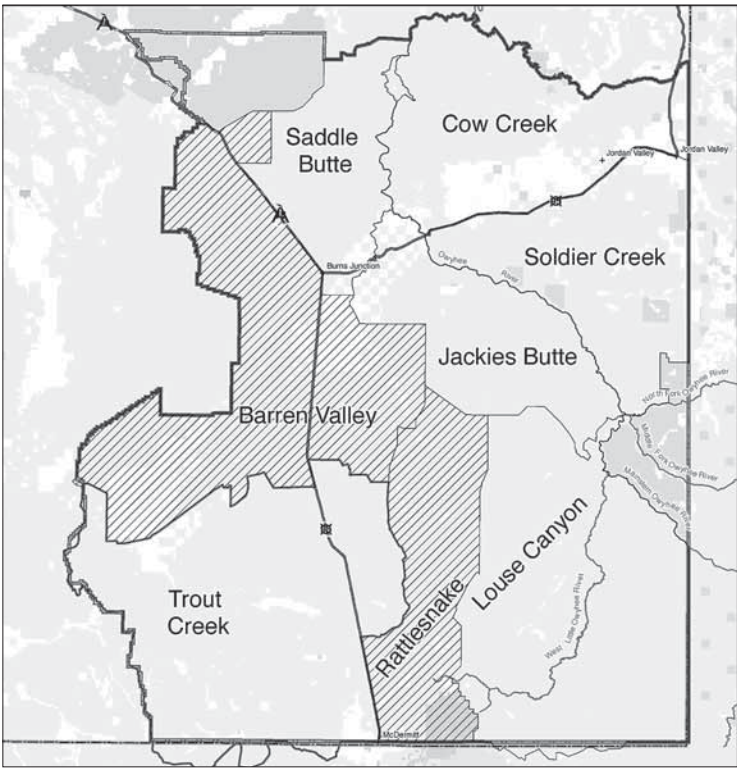
Agency also plans Jarbidge area RMP meeting in Twin Falls

The public will have two opportunities next week to attend upcoming meetings in Jordan Valley and Vale, Ore., to discuss preliminary assessments of rangeland health for several Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allotments and pastures in southeastern Oregon.

The meetings are scheduled for 5 p.m. Feb. 1 at BLM's Jordan Valley Guard Station and 1 p.m. Feb. 2, at BLM's Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street in Vale, Ore.

Preliminary assessment findings will be discussed for the following grazing allotments: Black Hills (No. 01309), Bowden Hills (No. 10803), Crooked Creek (No. 10806), Coyote Lake (No. 10804), Sheephead (No. 10702), Echave (No. 20302), Eiguren (No. 11305), Gilbert (No. 21031) and Sherburn (No. 11303) as well as the Frenchman Creek, Wilkinson FFR and Wilkinson Fence pastures of the Louse Canyon Community (No. 01307) Allotment.

Anyone with information to share on resource conditions within these areas is encouraged to participate. BLM staff will begin to craft



**Meetings will cover rangeland health**  
*The areas with diagonal lines on this map of southeastern Oregon indicate the portions of the Bureau of Land Management Jordan Resource Area that will be discussed at two public comment sessions on rangeland health assessments on allotments and pastures.*

a final evaluation for each of these allotments after the public comment opportunity and after consideration of information that may be brought forward from the meetings. Final determinations relative to Federal Rangeland Health Standards will be made in March. For more information, call Bill Lutjens at (541) 473-3144.

## Jarbidge RMP meeting slated

The BLM has scheduled an informal open house next Wednesday to collect public input on the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan. The event takes place from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. inside Herrett Center on the College of Southern Idaho campus in Twin Falls. The public is encouraged to bring data and other information to share with resource managers. For more information, call the Jarbidge Field Office at (208) 736-2350 or visit [www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbidge](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbidge).



**Dual concentration**  
*Reece Landa, left, and Domingo Esparza stare at the chessboard during the second day of the fourth round of Homedale High School's chess tournament Thursday inside the classroom of math teacher Mark Thatcher*

# Homedale tourney ends second week

Some separation was achieved as the Homedale High School chess tournament's second week drew to a close Friday. Competitors took part in the first day of the fifth and final round of play during lunchtime Friday inside math teacher Mark Thatcher's classroom.

Results from the second day of the fifth round Monday weren't available at press time. Chess club president Kevin Marrs had a half-point lead over fellow club members Dayton Syme and Mark Klug through four rounds last week. Marrs had racked up four points in a competition that awards one point for a win and a half-point for a tie. Six players had earned three points through four rounds, including Trojans athletic director David Hart, who was the highest-finishing faculty member in last year's inaugural tournament, and

students Mike Jones, Christian Cahill, Jake Tolmie, Matthew Farrell and Dustin Regis. The highest-ranking teacher in the field after Hart was Ken Olsen, who was locked with Gage Egurrola with 2.5 points each. The following players had scored two points each through four rounds: Thatcher, Shravan Shraganesh, Trojans track and field coach Thomas Thomas, Sam Hart, Aaron Wheeler, teacher Brandy Bratcher, Jeff Krasko, Tyler Ford, Domingo Esparza and John Howes. Players who earned 1.5 points through the first four rounds were: Tyler Gibson, Josh Klug and Kevin Abels. Reece Landa, Tracey Cook, Stefan Phippen, Jarod Driskell, Jordan Kennedy and Neil Doyle had one point apiece through four rounds.

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**IT'S A DATA FAIR...Public Input is Needed!**  
**The Bureau of Land Management is seeking your input for the Jarbidge Resource Management Plan...please join us.**  
**Informal Open House / JANUARY 31, 2007 / 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
Herrett Center / College of Southern Idaho / Twin Falls

Meet your Resource Specialists and participate in an interactive information exchange. Please be sure to bring any data or information you may have!

Contact the BLM Jarbidge Field Office at 736-2350 or visit the website at [www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbidge](http://www.blm.gov/rmp/id/jarbidge) for further information.

**Wednesday morning in Owyhee County**

*That's when the Owyhee Avalanche hits the news stands*

# Project aims to make Hemingway Butte safer

Bureau of Land Management crews  
begin work to narrow OHV access  
onto Reynolds Creek Road

Bureau of Land Management crews have begun work on improvements for the Hemingway Butte Off-Highway-Vehicle (OHV) Play Area.

The project, which is expected to last until March, will implement recommendations made by the Owyhee County Recreation Task Force in December 2005.

According to Dave Wolf, acting BLM field office manager in Boise, the plan for the 192-acre area located off of Reynolds Creek Road is two-fold.

“The plan has two major objectives,” Wolf wrote in a press release from the BLM. “Safety, and continued open-area style recreation to the designated areas.”

The BLM Boise District's public affairs specialist, M.J. Byrne, said the project is a collaborative effort with the county recreation task force.

“They (task force members) have been involved in this from the get-go,” Byrne said. “We have been working hand-in-hand with them.”

Byrne said that one key to the plan is that recreationists stay in the designated areas. The plan encourages OHV users to remain in designated areas, and to cross Reynolds Creek Road only in those designated areas, which will be marked for OHV crossing.

This will create a “funneling” effect for OHV use in the Owyhee

Front.

Part of the strategy to ensure OHV operators use the crossings is the construction of a fence along portions of Reynolds Creek Road. The fence will have openings, which will allow OHVs to pass over the road. The goal is to prevent fast-moving OHVs from crisscrossing Reynolds Creek Road at places motorists traveling the road do not expect.

"They have finished new crossings and seven new cattle guards," Byrne said. "The reason is to funnel the OHV traffic, instead of going across the road all the time, everywhere."

Another part of the plan is to eliminate parked vehicles strewn along the shoulder of the road.

“The safety objective is in classing the OHV area on Reynolds Creek Road to identify the signed areas (for OHV use,” Byrne said. “The other objective is the new parking areas that are up Reynolds Creek Road (from Hemingway Butte). They did this to help eliminate random parking along the road.”

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman is happy to finally see the project taking shape. Aman, whose office is the first to respond to an emergency caused by a recreation accident, hopes that the project's enhanced safety aspects will take some of the burden from his office.

“The work they are doing is



## BLM Hemingway Butte work under way

**Above:** A worker prepares to place a weld on a steel fence, which will border Upper Reynolds Creek Road along the Hemingway Butte OHV Open Play Area. According to BLM officials, the fence will allow OHVs to cross the road only at designated areas. **Below:** The entrance to the Hemingway Butte area, which will be the site of construction until March, according to the BLM.

the result of the Owyhee County Recreation Task Force, an advisory group to the (Owyhee) county commissioners,” Aman said. “BLM has been going to do something with this for several years. The task force came together and we had a plan in four months.”

Aman said the new fence and designated crossing areas will greatly enhance the safety of OHV users and motorists on Reynolds Creek Road.

"It is increased safety, because we had motorcycles up and down the road. It (the fence) will help funnel them across the road in a couple places instead of anywhere they want to," Aman said.

"It will still allow the ranchers to be able to do the stuff they want in the area, as far as grazing goes."

Aman also said one of the major benefits is keeping OHV users in the Hemingway Butte designated play area.

“They are going to keep the open area from getting any bigger,” Aman said. “That thing has tripled in size in the past 10 years.”

Aman also is pleased to see new loading and unloading areas, further south on Reynolds Creek Road.

“There are two new unloading areas further up. That is all part of the county’s recommendation.”

— JWB



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# Officials stress disaster, disease preparedness

Southwest District Health delivers information on being ready for days without necessities

Owyhee County leaders, emergency services personnel, school officials and county health workers gathered Friday afternoon in Marsing to discuss options in dealing with a large-scale disaster or pandemic illness.

The word “pandemic” is used to describe a disease that affects people on a worldwide scale. Flu pandemics have occurred roughly every 20 to 30 years throughout history, the most serious being the misnamed “Spanish flu” of 1918, the “Asian flu” of 1957 and the “Hong Kong flu” of 1968.

Officials gathered Friday at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center learned from Travis Best of Southwest District Health that there are steps every family needs to take now to prepare for

a potential disaster or pandemic illness situation.

“The basic things that every family should do is to prepare themselves so they can survive at least three days,” Best said.

When thinking of disasters, events such as Hurricane Katrina or a tidal wave come to mind — events that Idahoans generally don’t have to worry about. But, as Best explained, there are other circumstances that could force a family to be self-sufficient for an extended period of time.

“It could be a wildfire; It could be a flood; It could be a natural disaster of any kind,” Best said.

“Listen when information comes out,” Best said.

One example Best did point to that had a direct impact on local residents was the recent West Nile Virus situation in Idaho.

“We had the ‘Fight the Bite’ campaign going on. It has been going on for about three years,” Best said. “It (West Nile Virus) actually hit last year, and some people said ‘How come you didn’t tell us?’ because they were turning a deaf ear to the information because it (WNV) wasn’t here. But, we said it was coming.”

“When we say something is imminent, please be informed, pay attention, and be prepared for it,” Best said.

“Next year will be our second year of West Nile. We don’t know what will happen here. That is one thing, right now, people can get ready for, because that is an epidemic.”

Best said that, in most areas, WNV has a two-year peak and that 2006 most likely was the first year of the two-year cycle in Idaho.

Best listed steps everyone needs to take today.

“Be informed, get prepared, have a disaster kit and talk with your family and talk about what

they need to do,” he said.

Laurie Boston of Southwest District Health stressed important steps to limit the spread of communicable diseases.

“Take action against infection,” Boston said. “Wash your hands, cover your cough and sneeze, and stay home when you’re sick.”

Best agreed with Boston and said those basic steps could have a big impact on the spread of disease.

“That is absolutely bottom-line,” Best said. “If people practice that, we’ll minimize the impact.”

To be prepared, Best recommended that every household have what experts call a 72-Hour Kit filled with the following essential items:

- At least 1 gallon of drinking water per person, per day, and extra water for pets.
- Nonperishable food items that do not need to be refrigerated or cooked to be eaten. Examples are canned foods, cereal or protein bars, unsalted crackers, peanut

butter, containers of baby food, and of course, pet food.

- Medical essentials such as over-the-counter pain relievers, extra prescription medications, vitamins, a thermometer and protective masks.
- Personal supplies such as tissue, toilet paper, diapers and feminine hygiene products.
- Household goods such as a flashlight, battery-powered radio, spare batteries, a can opener, soap and alcohol-based hand-sanitizers and garbage bags.

Best also emphasized the need to listen to media announcements about possible public-safety emergencies.

For more information on disaster-preparedness, visit, any of the following Web sites:

- [www.pandmicflu.gov](http://www.pandmicflu.gov)
- [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)
- [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)
- [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- [www.swdh.com](http://www.swdh.com)
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

— JWB

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## Honor roll Jordan Valley

Here is the first-semester honor roll for Jordan Valley High School and Middle School:

Here is the second-quarter honor roll for Jordan Valley High School and Middle School:

**High honors**

**12<sup>th</sup> grade** — Holly Deen, Michelle Elsner, Breann Hipwell, Bailey Kershner, Lacey Kershner, Luisa Lowry, Megan Mackenzie, Chelicy Payne, Tina Stanford and Jerry Wroten

**11<sup>th</sup> grade** — Athena Beckwith, Elisa Eiguren, Annie Mackenzie and Jessie White

**10<sup>th</sup> grade** — Kayla Cuvelier, Emma Johnson, Catie Kershner and Nickie Naegle

**Ninth grade** — Bryce Kershner, Brandan Mackenzie and Sonny Mackenzie

**Eighth grade** — Shelly Payne and Garrett Williams

**Seventh grade** — Meagan Fillmore and Haley Hebison

**High honors**

**12<sup>th</sup> grade** — Holly Deen, Michelle Elsner, Breann Hipwell, Bailey Kershner, Lacey Kershner, Angela Larsen, Luisa Lowry, Megan Mackenzie, Chelicy Payne, Tina Stanford and Jerry Wroten

**11<sup>th</sup> grade** — Athena Beckwith, Elisa Eiguren and Annie Mackenzie

**10<sup>th</sup> grade** — Kayla Cuvelier, Emma Johnson, Catie Kershner and Nickie Naegle

**Ninth grade** — Bryce Kershner, Brandan Mackenzie, Sonny Mackenzie and Katrina Moran

**Eighth grade** — Garrett Williams

**Seventh grade** — Meagan Fillmore

**Honors**

**12<sup>th</sup> grade** — Angela Larsen

**11<sup>th</sup> grade** — Tim Eiguren and Kelsey Prescott

**10<sup>th</sup> grade** — Alek Quintero and Cole Scown

**Ninth grade** — Anne-Marie Eiguren, Katrina Moran, Michelle Telleria and Mattie Wroten

**Eighth grade** — Taylor Lucas

**Seventh grade** — Jordan Matteri

**Honors**

**11<sup>th</sup> grade** — Tim Eiguren and Jessie White

**10<sup>th</sup> grade** — Alek Quintero and Cole Scown

**Ninth grade** — Anne-Marie Eiguren, Michelle Telleria and Mattie Wroten

**Eighth grade** — Taylor Lucas and Shelly Payne

**Seventh grade** — Jordan Matteri

# The Owyhee Avalanche

Owyhee County's best source for local news!!

Homedale FFA news



**The fun after the festivities**  
Members of the Homedale High School FFA chapter ham it up after wrapping presents for their annual Gift of Green project in the days before Christmas last month. The members competed in a scavenger after delivering the presents. Submitted photo

Chapter’s annual gift of green project spread holiday cheer

With the spirit of giving in their hearts, the Homedale FFA chapter completed its gift of green project last month. Throughout 2006, chapter members set aside approximately \$400 from their fund-raising efforts to give back to the community.

In this effort they provided Christmas for a less fortunate family in the area. To get the whole chapter involved, the members shopped for clothes and toys for the children as well as clothes for the parents. To provide food for the family, each member was asked to bring two cans of food.

The night the chapter members delivered the presents, all the members met at the Ag shop on the Homedale High School campus and wrapped presents and stuffed stockings. After all the presents were prepared, the members headed out to personally deliver the gifts. The smiles on the children’s faces made all the endeavors worthwhile.

To end the night with a little excitement, chapter members split up into teams and went on a scavenger hunt.

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# Winter decorates Reynolds Creek

*Ice covered Reynolds Creek at Reynolds on Thursday, as temperatures dipped into the single digits in Owyhee County.*



## Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir held 457,403 acre-feet of water and that 20.4 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:

Reynolds Creek					
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
01/09	0.7	6.2	41	33	36
01/10	0.2	6.2	47	31	38
01/11	1.9	6.1	40	15	26
01/12	2.6	6.1	16	9	13
01/13	2.5	6.2	12	0	6
01/14	1.8	6.3	18	5	12
01/15	2.2	6.1	17	4	10

Date	South Mountain				
	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
01/09	22.6	12.9	41	33	36
01/10	22.5	13.0	50	35	41
01/11	24.7	12.8	37	17	27
01/12	26.4	12.9	21	6	13
01/13	25.6	12.8	18	-2	5
01/14	25.0	12.9	24	3	13
01/15	25.2	12.9	22	7	12

Date	Snow Depth	Mud Flat			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
01/09	10.2	6.2	44	27	34
01/10	10.0	6.2	45	24	33
01/11	10.4	6.1	44	21	31
01/12	12.1	6.1	25	7	17
01/13	11.9	6.2	16	-10	7
01/14	11.2	6.2	18	14	4
01/15	11.4	6.2	25	-4	10

# Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Jan. 16	30	2	.00
Jan. 17	32	1	.00
Jan. 18	39	2	.00
Jan. 19	35	7	.00
Jan. 20	no reading taken		
Jan. 21	no reading taken		
Jan. 22	46	9	.00



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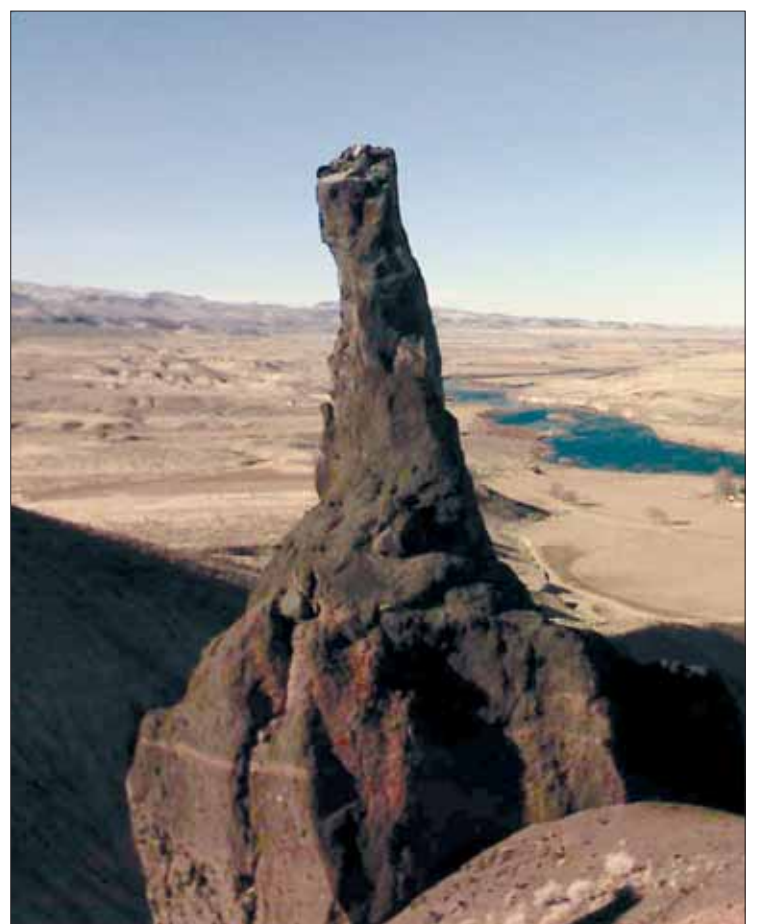
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## Guffey Spire

*Guffey Spire, an unusually shaped land mass rises to the heavens along the Snake River in Owyhee County. Photo by Chad Hyslop*

# JV area rancher honored during OSCD banquet

Dennis Stanford has helped in battle against leafy spurge weed during his service to ranching in region

Weeds are the bane of any gardener, but the pesky plants are more than just a nuisance for Owyhee County resident Dennis Stanford.

For Stanford and other ranchers in the region, weeds can put a serious dent in their livelihood — raising cattle.

“The biggest bother we have is leafy spurge,” said Stanford, who ranches in the Jordan Valley area. “It’s all up and down Jordan Creek and Boulder Creek, and we try to keep it contained in the area.”

“It crowds all other natural vegetation out. Nothing will eat it.”

About six years ago Stanford and Forrest Fretwell became the inaugural co-chairs of the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) after being approached by Glenn Secrist of the state Department of Agriculture, who since has passed away. The cooperative was formed to fight nutrient-choking weeds over 250,000 acres in the region that straddles the Idaho-Oregon border.

For his efforts in weed management and his service with other agriculture-related agencies in the region, Stanford has been named Conservationist of the Year by the Owyhee Soil Conservation District.

Stanford was honored Thursday as part of the OSCD’s fourth annual awards banquet in Marsing.

The program also included a slide presentation by Scott Koberg of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts on the changes to Ada County’s agricultural industry brought

on by urban growth in the past five years. Kuna resident Duane Lafayette also presented a photo array on Owyhee County agriculture.

In addition to his work with the Jordan Valley CWMA, Stanford recently completed a 12-year stint on the Farm Service Agency (FSA) board of directors, and he serves as treasurer for the Owyhee Watershed Council. He also takes part in the Owyhee County Natural Resources Committee and the Jordan Creek Sub-basin Water Advisory Group.

The lifelong Jordan Valley resident lives in Pleasant Valley and runs 06 Livestock with his brother Pat and his family. The brothers have a 1,200-acre ranch on which they raise cattle and grow grasses like alfalfa and hay.

The 53-year-old Dennis Stanford has three grown children — Kelly, 29, Jackie 27, and Anita, 24.

As a member of the FSA board in Owyhee County, Stanford was a key player in convincing the federal government not to consolidate the county’s FSA office with the Canyon County outpost.

“The committee for the FSA has had a tough time keeping an office in Owyhee County,” Stanford said. “(Federal officials) keep wanting to close it or move it to Canyon County, and we wanted to keep the office local.”

In the end, the FSA offices in Canyon and Ada counties were combined.

But the Jordan Valley CWMA’s continued battle against invasive plants could be the biggest reason



## Dennis Stanford cited for longtime service in region

Pleasant Valley rancher Dennis Stanford was bestowed with the Owyhee Soil Conservation District’s conservationist of the year award Thursday at a dinner in Marsing. Stanford served on the local Farm Service Agency board for 12 years and is co-chair of the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area. Submitted photo

*‘The biggest bother we have is leafy spurge. It’s all up and down Jordan Creek and Boulder Creek, and we try to keep it contained in the area. It crowds all other natural vegetation out. Nothing will eat it.’*

— Dennis Stanford

OSCD conservationist of the year award recipient

weeds such as leafy spurge, Canada thistle, Scotch thistle and white top is ongoing. Seeds were brought to the county in numerous ways — packed in the straw for the horses of hunters or imported from Asia in grain feed.

But he said the management of these weeds will prevent the disaster that has overtaken areas of Montana because of leafy spurge.

“There are places in Montana where (ranchers) have walked off and left whole ranches because there’s no value,” Stanford said. “In this country, there’s nothing like that yet.”

— JPB

## USDA extends registration program registration period

Because of an increase in allocated funds for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and interest in participation, the deadline date for application has been extended to Jan. 31.

WHIP is a voluntary U.S. Department of Agriculture program, and it is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Through WHIP, NRCS provides both technical assistance and a

50 percent cost-share incentive to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.

WHIP agreements between NRCS and participating individuals generally last from five to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed.

Submit applications to the USDA Service Center, 2925 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Ontario, Ore., 97914-2446 by Jan. 31. For more information, call the NRCS at 889-9689 ext. 103 or 118.

Read all about it  
in

The Owyhee Avalanche  
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# Grand View-Bruneau community comes to aid of teacher's son

The son of two Rimrock High School employees is in critical condition in a Boise hospital, and the Grand View-Bruneau community is rallying to help his family.

James (Jones) Pincher sustained a head injury on Jan. 14 and is hospitalized in the Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center intensive care unit.

Details of the events surrounding Pincher's injury are unclear at this time. His father, Rimrock boys basketball coach and industrial arts teacher Gary Jones, said Monday morning he couldn't comment because an investigation is ongoing.

Pincher's mother, Penny, is the librarian and Idaho for Drug-Free Youth Club advisor at Rimrock.

Pincher also has a brother and sister who graduated from

Rimrock.

Pincher lives in Twin Falls with his wife, Kyla, and two children — 6-year-old son Toben and 2½-year-old daughter Elly.

A fund has been set up at US Bank to help pay for the costs of Pincher's medical bills. Donations to the James Pincher Family Support Fund can be made at any US Bank location.

Contributions to the family's lodging expenses also can be made directly to the Rodeway Inn in Boise. Payment can be made by check or credit card in person at the motel in Boise or mailed to Rodeway Inn, 1115 N. Curtis Road, Boise, ID 83706. Specify the money is for the Gary Jones and/or Kyla Pincher rooms.

For more information, call JayDene Aquiso in Bruneau at (208) 845-2492.



# Mountain man to speak at men's wild game dinner

Don Moore, a mountain man/preacher who dresses in full backwoods buckskin regalia, will be the guest speaker sharing his tales Saturday at the Men's Wild Game Dinner and live auction in Wilder.

The event begins at 6 p.m. and will be held at the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road.

Tickets are \$7 per person. For more information, call 337-3151.



**Americana musicians visit Murphy**

Nampa musician Gary Eller, left, plays guitar chords to accompany John Larsen's slide guitar leads during Friday's performance at the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy. Bona Fide will perform in Grand View on Sunday at the Rimrock Senior Center. Both performances are part of Eller's "songswap" project in which he is gathering musical compositions specifically dealing with the county's history. A CD of the songs is planned for release in the spring. Submitted photo

**Homedale students can lift weights for college credit**

Homedale High School student Amanda Brown, top, spots for fellow senior Whitney Tackett during a weight training class at the school last week. So far, a handful of students have taken advantage of the credits available through the school that can be applied toward college general education requirements. Enrollment is available through this week.

# High school offers college credit in weight training

Homedale High School is adding some muscle to its dual college credit program.

Athletic director Dave Hart said last week that the school is offering a weight training program in which credits are transferable to college.

As of late last week, only a handful of students had taken advantage of the course, but Hart and fellow weight training instructor Thomas Thomas said the option is a no-brainer for parents trying to save a little money on their children's college education.

"The kids are excited about it, but down the road they will see it will help them save on tuition," Hart said.

The course is available for \$60, and the credits can be applied toward general education requirements at any college, Hart said.

Enrollment for the college credit course, which is open to juniors and seniors, closes this week. There are six classes during the day in which the credits are offered.

For more information on the class, call Hart or Thomas at 337-4613.

# The Owyhee Avalanche

Owyhee County's best source for local news!!

# It's Chinese New Year Go "Full Boar"!

FAMILY FEATURES

Where does the time go? Seems like just yesterday it was 4704! February 18 marks the start of the 15-day Chinese New Year festival, ushering in lunar year 4705, the Year of the Boar.

It's a perfect opportunity to shake off the winter blues and enjoy the fun and flavors of Chinese cooking. Why not invite friends and family over for a big New Year's feast?

And what better way to kick it off than by serving up some crowd-pleasing pork dishes. Choose one of these — Braised Black Bean Pork, Hoisin Glazed Pork or succulent Year-of-the-Boar Ribs. Round out the menu with Crispy Bags of Gold appetizers and a refreshingly light and silky Almond Gel for dessert.

## The Secret's in the Sauces

Preparing great tasting Chinese dishes is easier than you might think. The trick is to let high-quality prepared sauces do most of the heavy lifting for you — products like Kikkoman's Black Bean Sauce with Garlic, Hoisin Sauce, Stir-Fry Sauce, Sweet & Sour Sauce, Plum Sauce and Thai Style Chili Sauce. Made with premium ingredients and perfectly balanced for authentic flavor, these sauces can hold their own as the starring flavor ingredient in easy Chinese dishes perfect for New Year's or any time of year.

## Create a Mood to Match the Food

Red and gold, symbolizing long life and prosperity, are the traditional colors for Chinese New Year. Set the table and buffet with red tablecloths, or white linens with red runners. Add red and gold accents, such as gold confetti, gold-coin candies, candles and flowers.

Ready to put more fun in your February? A little imagination, a few good recipes and some premium sauces are all it takes to create a Chinese New Year celebration that's anything but "boar-ing." *Gung Hay Fat Choy!* Here's to a year of good fortune, good eating and good times shared with friends and family.

For more Chinese New Year entertaining tips and recipes, download Kikkoman's official Chinese New Year Celebration Guide at [kikkoman-usa.com](http://kikkoman-usa.com).

### Year-of-the-Boar Ribs

Makes 4 servings

- 2-1/2 pounds pork baby back ribs
- Salt
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh ginger root
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 can (20 oz.) lychee in syrup
- 1 bottle (11.5 oz.) Kikkoman Sweet & Sour Sauce
- 1 tablespoon packed brown sugar
- 1 red bell pepper, chunked
- 1 green bell pepper, chunked
- 1 small onion, chunked

Cut ribs into 1-rib pieces; lightly salt all sides. Brown ribs and ginger together in hot oil in Dutch oven or large saucepan over medium-high heat. Drain lychee; reserve 1/4 cup syrup and stir into pan with sweet & sour sauce and sugar. Turn ribs over to coat with sauce. Cover and simmer 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Add bell peppers and onion; cover and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in lychee; heat through.

### Almond Gel

Makes 6 to 8 servings

- 2 envelopes unflavored gelatin
- 3 cups Pearl Unsweetened Organic Soymilk
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1-3/4 teaspoons almond extract
- 1 can (15 oz.) fruit cocktail in syrup

Sprinkle gelatin over 1/2 cup water in small bowl; let stand 10 minutes to soften. Meanwhile, combine soymilk and sugar in saucepan. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally until hot and steaming; do not boil. Remove from heat; blend in gelatin and extract. Cool slightly and pour into 8-inch square glass baking dish. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 8 hours or overnight until firm. To serve, cut gel into 1-inch cubes; place in individual bowls and top with fruit cocktail and syrup.

### Crispy Bags of Gold

Makes 60 appetizers

- 3/4 pound ground pork
- 1/4 cup Kikkoman Stir-Fry Sauce
- 1/4 cup grated carrot
- 1/4 cup minced green onions
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 package (12 oz.) refrigerated round wrappers for potstickers and dumplings
- Vegetable oil for deep-frying
- 1/2 cup Kikkoman Plum Sauce
- 2 tablespoons Kikkoman Sweet & Sour Sauce
- 1/2 cup Kikkoman Thai Style Chili Sauce

Thoroughly mix pork, stir-fry sauce, carrot, green onions and salt in medium bowl with fork. Working with about 6 wrappers at a time, moisten edges of each circle with water. Place 1 teaspoon pork filling in center of each circle. Pull edges up together, pinching to enclose; tap bottom gently to flatten to resemble drawstring purse. Place on large baking sheet; cover with plastic wrap while filling remaining wrappers. Heat oil in wok or large saucepan over medium-high heat to 380°F. Deep-fry filled wrappers, about 5 to 6 pieces at a time, until brown and crispy. Remove and drain on paper towels; keep warm. Combine plum sauce and sweet & sour sauce. Serve "bags" with plum sauce mixture and Thai style chili sauce.

### Hoisin Glazed Pork

Makes 4 to 6 servings

- 1/2 cup plus 1/3 cup Kikkoman Hoisin Sauce, divided
- 1/4 cup plus 1/4 teaspoon Kikkoman Soy Sauce, divided
- 2 pork tenderloins, each about 1 pound
- 1 tablespoon apple juice

Combine 1/2 cup hoisin sauce and 1/4 cup soy sauce; pour over pork in large plastic food storage bag. Press air out of bag; close top securely. Let stand 30 minutes. Place pork on rack of broiler pan. Bake in 375°F oven 30 to 35 minutes, or until meat thermometer registers 155°. Let stand 5 minutes before slicing. Cut across grain into thin slices; place on platter. Meanwhile, blend 1/3 cup hoisin sauce, apple juice and 1/4 teaspoon soy sauce. Just before serving, drizzle sauce over pork slices.

### Braised Black Bean Pork

Makes 4 to 6 servings

- 2 pounds boneless pork shoulder, trimmed
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons Kikkoman Black Bean Sauce with Garlic, divided
- 3 tablespoons Kikkoman Soy Sauce
- 2 tablespoons dry sherry
- 1/2 pound lotus root or 12 canned baby corn ears
- 1 pound carrots
- 3/4 pound turnips
- 1 bunch green onions, cut into 1-inch lengths, separating tops from whites
- Hot cooked rice

Cut pork into 1-inch cubes; coat lightly with cornstarch. Heat oil in Dutch oven or large saucepan over medium-high heat; add pork and brown on all sides. Stir in 1-1/3 cups water, 1/4 cup black bean sauce, soy sauce and sherry; bring to boil. Cover and simmer 30 minutes. Meanwhile, peel lotus root, carrots and turnips; cut into 1-inch chunks. Add lotus root to pork mixture; simmer, covered, 10 minutes. Stir in carrots and turnips; cover and simmer 20 minutes. Stir in 2 tablespoons black bean sauce, white parts of green onions and corn (if using); simmer, covered, 5 minutes. Add green onion tops; cover and simmer 1 minute longer. Serve over rice.



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of Gold,  
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Pork and  
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13.2 oz. **59¢** ea.

Western Family  
Macaroni & Cheese **4 for \$1**  
7.25 oz.  
Western Family  
Fruit Cocktail **\$1.29** ea.  
30 oz.  
Viva  
Scrub Cloth **\$1.29** ea.  
6 ct.  
Western Family  
Liquid Bleach **\$1.29** ea.  
96 oz.

**Don't forget  
Your Valentine!  
We have Flowers-  
Candy-Cards-Gifts!**

**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 1/24/07 thru 1/30/07**