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State-bound Rimrock girls close
WIC play with 20th straight win

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 5

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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Marsing Disaster Auction goes on the block

Several auction and raffle items are on display in the front window of Marsing Hardware and Pump. The 47th annual auction takes place Saturday.

Auction unites generations

The tradition of the Marsing Disaster Auction goes beyond community members gathering each year at 10:13 a.m. on the first Saturday of February since the early 1960s.

"We have people who have donated their time and

talents since the first," auction advertising chair Betty Ackerman wrote in a press release.

"The tradition continues as each generation takes the cause into their hearts and finds ways they can help."

This year's auction will be

held Saturday inside the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center at 126 2nd St. N., on the corner of 2nd Street North and Old Bruneau Highway. Marsing

— See *Auction*, page 3A

Market robber remains at-large

The Snake River Mart in Marsing was robbed last week by a gun-wielding man who disappeared on foot into the darkness. At this time, the suspect has not been identified and was still at-large at press time.

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office continues to investigate.

According to Jo Loo-tens, owner of Snake River Mart, a white male adult loitered inside the store until after closing on the night of Jan. 23.

He waited until all the other customers had left the store then produced a black semi-automatic handgun and then removed an undisclosed amount of cash from register.

The suspect is described as a Caucasian male, approximately

— See *Robber*, page 5A



Marsing to vote on library bond Tuesday

After more than two decades in a cramped three-room suite, the Lizard Butte Library could find new digs if patrons pass a bond in a Tuesday election.

Registered voters in the Lizard Butte Library District will go to the polls Tuesday to decide the fate of a \$775,000 bond to build a new facility behind the Marsing Rural Fire District Station on Third Street.

The library currently is housed at 429 Main Street. The polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday. There are two voting places — the library for Owyhee County residents and near the Marsing International Sprint Track on the Snake River for Canyon County residents.

Dottie Christensen, president of Friends of the Lizard Butte Library, announced late last week that free rides

— See *Library*, page 5A



OCA to hold winter meeting Saturday

Members of the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association will be asked to look out for other livestock producers and a bird species in resolutions to be presented at Saturday's winter meeting.

The OCA's membership meeting takes place from noon to about 5 p.m. at the Oreana Community Hall.

According to the meeting agenda, resolutions will be

presented to the membership around 3:30 p.m.

The first proposed resolution for county cattlemen's consideration,

Resolution 2007-1, is designed to promote augmentation of the sage-grouse population through a captive breeding program.

Citing the sensitivity of the sage-grouse species and its affect on grazing permits, the resolution asks OCA

— See *OCA*, page 5A



Police officer saves choking 1-year-old boy

Homedale Police Officer Mike McFetridge is a pleasant, soft-spoken young officer, but when a situation calls for action, he is ready to deliver.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller has nominated McFetridge for a commendation after the officer used the Heimlich Maneuver to save the life of a choking Homedale 1-year-old earlier this month.

According to the American Heart Institute, the Heimlich Maneuver is a series of under-the-diaphragm abdominal thrusts. It is recommended to aid a victim who is choking on a foreign object.

McFetridge was on routine patrol just before 8 p.m. Jan. 5 when the incident occurred in the 100 block of East Montana Avenue.

“Dispatch sent me to an infant choking on a burrito,” McFetridge said. “I got there, and the infant was lying on the couch, not breathing, discolored.”

“I did the Heimlich Maneuver,” McFetridge said simply. “The

parents had tried to swipe it out with a finger, but they couldn’t get it out.”

“I get there, he’s not breathing, changing colors, so I did the child Heimlich Maneuver,” McFetridge said. “It dislodged (the burrito), and the kid started crying. I just kept him stable until the ambulance got there. We learned later that he (the infant) had a seizure, too.”

McFetridge said he was with the child for the next two to three minutes before the Homedale Ambulance arrived.

McFetridge said the last he knew the child was doing well.

This is not the first time McFetridge has been recognized for heroic service to the city of Homedale. McFetridge, who began working for the Homedale Police Department in October 2005, was awarded a medal of valor for his performance during a potentially deadly standoff in February 2006.



Mike McFetridge

— JWB



Parking restrictions in the works

Soon these two popular parking areas (East Idaho Avenue across from Homedale High School and South Second Street East between Wyoming and Idaho Avenue) will have a two-hour parking limit imposed during weekdays. Signs indicating the restriction are expected to arrive at the end of this week.

Homedale to limit parking

The City of Homedale hopes to cure the parking quagmire near the City Park and Homedale High School by imposing parking limits along two common parking areas.

The city will soon impose two-hour parking restrictions between the hours of 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the following areas:

- The north side of East Idaho Avenue between South 2nd Street East and South 3rd Street East.
- The east side of South 2nd Street East between East Idaho Avenue and East Wyoming Avenue.
- The north side of East Owyhee Avenue between North 1st Street East and North 2nd Street East.

Larry Bauer from Homedale

Public Works said that signs indicating the parking restrictions will arrive later this week.

While enforcement actions for violators have not been outlined by Homedale city leaders, it is known that the State of Idaho has set a fixed fine of \$36.50 for parking infractions on public roadways.

Beating trial set for Murphy

One trial already is under way and another scheduled to begin in the next week for two men accused of beating and robbing a Homedale man outside a bar in September.

Steven Dickson was scheduled to begin trial proceedings in Murphy on Tuesday. He is accused of aggravated battery and robbery.

Dickson, 23, and Adam Cook, 22, both of Homedale, were arrested Sept. 19 on charges of aggravated battery and robbery. They were booked into the Owyhee County Jail and held on a \$100,000 bond apiece. Both men are still in custody.

Cook is scheduled to begin tri-

al in Murphy next Wednesday.

During a Sept. 8 incident, 50-year-old Douglas Grever was robbed of his wallet and an undisclosed amount of cash during an attack outside a Homedale bar.

The attack left the victim unconscious. Grever initially was treated by Homedale Ambulance crews before being transported to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medi-



Adam Cook



Steven Dickson

cal Center by helicopter. He remained in the intensive care unit for several days.

Cook was arrested in Nampa by Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and Cpl. Ian Takashige after more than two days of surveillance at area motels.

Dickson was arrested at his residence in Homedale without incident later the same day.

— JWB

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Marsing auction, raffle has sweet treats for all

Plasma TV donated for raffle just in time for Super Bowl XLI

There are a lot of new faces in Sunday's Super Bowl XLI, and one lucky raffle ticket-holder at Saturday's Marsing Disaster Auction could be viewing the NFL championship game between the Indianapolis Colts and Chicago Bears on a 42-inch plasma television.

Canyon County Farm Bureau agents Don and Dari Pfost and Kerry Harris teamed with Best Buy electronics store to donate the TV to the 47th annual auction's \$10 raffle.

The auction and raffle, dubbed "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," begins at 10:13 a.m. Saturday at the Phipps-Watson American Legion Community Center at 126 2nd St. N.

Fifth-, sixth- and seventh-grade students from Marsing Middle School are selling \$1 and \$10 raffle tickets. The top four ticket-sellers will win prizes, choosing between a portable DVD player, an IPOD music player, a Nintendo DS or \$100 cash. Two names will be drawn from the ticket-seller pool to win \$50 each this year, too.

Raffle tickets also will be available during the day of the auction at the community center.

The \$10 raffle prize pool also includes a gun safe donated by Rhino Safe Co., a Ruger 22-250 rifle donated by Owyhee Farm Bureau agents Wayne Hungate

and Dave Cereghino, and cleaning services for one year donated by Karen Azevedo of Karen's Custom Cleaning.

Prizes in the \$1 raffle include a \$250 shopping spree in Marsing donated by American Legion Post No. 128; half a beef, cut and wrapped, donated by Sandy and Terry McCloud; a Boise getaway donated by Mason and Stanfield, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors; and a digital camera and printing dock donated by Dick Downum and Haken Insurance Agency of Marsing.

There are some big-ticket auction items as well, including a rafting trip for 12 people, a child's playhouse, a 90cc ATV, a picnic table, season passes to local college teams, a barbecue grill, handmade quilts and rugs, "famous" sour cream and raisin pies, home-canned pickles and several other items.

Food booths are open throughout the day selling homemade chicken and noodles, tacos, chorizos, hamburgers, donuts that are made fresh on-site, and home-made pies.

The auction has raised \$250,000 since 2003.

For more information, call (208) 830-5560, (208) 855-9937, (208) 880-8770 or (208) 896-5701 or contact any Marsing Ambulance or Marsing Fire personnel.

✓ Auction: Community rallies for event

From Page 1A

Middle School students have been selling raffle tickets for the raffle that accompanies the auction, and tickets will be available on-site during the auction Saturday.

The 47th annual auction once again will feature sour cream and raisin pies, home-canned pickles and a Levis quilt donated by Peggy Korte. She has been donating those items every year since the auction began.

The community involvement spans generations, too.

Helen Floyd has hand-cracked and chopped bags of walnuts from the walnut trees in her front yard for several years. Her granddaughter, Cindy Floyd, is the 2007 auction chair.

Cindy Floyd remains active with the auction despite the fact that she is getting married soon and will be leaving Marsing, Ackerman said.

Floyd's 10-year-old son, Dylan, is following in his mother's footsteps. Last year, he donated two hours of labor to the auction. This year he asked mom if it would be OK to give three hours.

Just like they have done for the past eight years, Bette Peck, Maurine Johnson, Ruth Clapier, Terry McClellin and Clara Randolph have crafted a quilt for the auction. This year's version is made from scraps of the quilts they have sewn over the years.

Women from Marsing's LDS wards have also contributed hand-made quilts for several years.

Mona Lindemann paints a saw each year for the auction, using a theme suggested each year by the auction's chair. Lindemann's son, Russ, builds a storage shed and donates it each year.



New and traditional at auction
Clockwise from left: Advertising chair Betty Ackerman holds a sighted rifle that is an auction mainstay. Above: The auction's new logo. Below: The gun safe available at Saturday's auction.

Three Brothers Chickens donates two dozen eggs to be sold at the auction.

While the Marsing Disaster Auction has been around for decades, this year a Marsing High School graduate gave it a fresh look with a new logo.

Lupe Galvan teamed with the auction committee to design the new logo. Galvan has a Bachelor's degree in illustration from Boise State University. He now is pursuing a Master's in Fine Arts.

Galvan also donated a painting from his personal portfolio to this year's auction.

The auction, which benefits the community disaster fund, also recognizes those folks who often are the first to come to the aid of their neighbors.

"This is also the one time each year that the volunteer ambulance members are recognized and thanked for their dedication and



service," Ackerman said.

She said new members of the service are introduced to the community and newcomers to Marsing have the opportunity to get to know the ambulance crew.

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Latest Smorgasbord winners cited

Homedale Middle School sixth-graders raised \$970 during their fourth week of ticket sales for the 46th annual Homedale International Smorgasbord. The top sellers from each class were honored at school Friday afternoon, including, from left to right, Shelbie Criffield (Dave Hann's class, \$148), Heather Romriell (Arlene Eidemiller's class, \$135), Erin Shenk (Pat Warren's class, \$197) and Kenneth Harper (Lesa Folwell's class, \$76). Smorgasbord chairs Kelley and Jeff Hansen (back row, left to right) presented the students with their awards. The Smorgasbord will start at 11 a.m. Feb. 10 at Homedale Elementary School.

Irrigation workshop scheduled for GV

A free workshop to help irrigators save money will be held in Grand View next Wednesday. The workshop will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Black Sands Restaurant in Grand View. The workshop is sponsored by the University of Idaho, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Idaho Power Co., and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The main topics for the workshop include, with approximate start time:

- 9 a.m. — Managing crop stress points through irrigation scheduling, presented by Mir Seyedbagheri from the University of Idaho.
- 9:50 a.m. — Irrigation strategies: Increase yields, reduce costs, by Howard Neibling of the University of Idaho.
- 11 a.m. — Avoiding wrecks in pivot management, presented by the Farmer Board at the University of Idaho.
- 12:30 p.m. — Irrigation conservation programs, presented by Quentin Nesbitt from Idaho Power.
- 1:30 p.m. — Irrigation upgrade and protective equipment review by Rex Winn of Idaho Power.
- 2:30 p.m. — Irrigation system upgrading and sources of funding by Duane La Fayette from the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Terry Hoebelheinrich from the Idaho Department of Water Resources and Brian Buch from the USDA Rural Development Agency.

Lunch will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. and is provided by Idaho Power. For more information, call La Fayette at 250-6007, 845-2244 or 896-4544, ext. 103.

Local irrigation boards set monthly meetings for Tuesday

The boards of directors for local irrigation districts will hold their monthly regular meeting Tuesday at the South Board of Control office at 118 S. 1st St. W., in Homedale. The Ridgeview Irrigation District board meets at 1 p.m. The Gem Irrigation District board meets at 1:15 p.m. The South Board of Control meets at 1:30 p.m.

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From page 1

✓ **Robber:** Suspect had to wait for employees to unlock door to escape

20 to 25 years old, approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall with a thin build. Lootens said the male had "pock marks" on his face and had what she described as a "soul patch" goatee. He was wearing a green hooded sweatshirt and jeans. He had brownish hair.

"(It happened) about 10:05, and he was the last customer. They were just closing up," Lootens said.

Lootens said that at the time, the employees didn't note anything suspicious about the man, but after reviewing the surveillance camera footage, it appeared the suspect intentionally waited until he was the sole customer in the store.

Lootens said there were a total of six employees in the store at the time, but only two were on the sales floor, a male and a female. The female employee was at the register and the male, who had keys to the store, was letting remaining customers exit the store. None of the employees have been identified.

Lootens said the suspect approached the register, as if preparing to buy a bag of beef jerky.

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said the man claimed to have forgotten his money outside and the employees let him out the locked front door to retrieve it.

"He went to pay for the jerky, and he said he left his money out in the car, they let him out to go get his money, and then they let him back in, he walked up to the



Snake River Mart robbed at gunpoint

Security cameras captured several images of an armed robbery suspect who struck late on the night of Jan. 23 at the Snake River Mart. He eluded capture with an undisclosed amount of cash.

counter, pulled the weapon and grabbed the money," Aman said.

Aman said the suspect had to wait for an employee to open the locked front door in order to make his escape.

Lootens said the suspect waited until the employee rang up the sale of the jerky, and when the register opened made his move, drawing the handgun and grabbing the money.

Lootens said the suspect apparently hid the weapon in the pocket of the sweatshirt, then pulled it out and pointed it at the employee manning the register.

"He grabbed it (the money) himself," Lootens said. "Then it looks like he just stuffs it (the money) in his pocket."

Lootens said the suspect was

momentarily delayed by the locked front door of the store.

"He went over to the door and was trying to get out," Lootens said.

"The doors were locked, the gentleman that was working for us unlocked it so he could get out."

Lootens said that after the suspect got outside the door, he fled on foot. No vehicles or accomplices were seen. Employees immediately called 911 to report the robbery.

Lootens also said none of the employees recognized the male as a regular customer, but that the suspect had carefully planned the robbery. Lootens supposed the suspect is new to the armed robbery business.

"He obviously had planned this

out, because he waited," she said. "But he did not act like a 'pro' by any means. He was very jittery, very nervous-acting."

Lootens said the female employee who was the victim was "pretty shook up" and not available for comment.

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office quickly responded to the desperate 911 call from Snake River Mart employees. Aman said a deputy was on the scene in less than 1 minute from the time the emergency call came into the dispatch center.

"He (the deputy) was dispatched at 10:13, and he was there at 10:14," Aman said. "I had three full-time officers, myself, three posse members."

Aman said that Homedale Po-

lice Chief Jeff Eidemiller also responded, as did Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige, who provided police coverage for the rest of Marsing, while deputies conducted their investigation.

Aman said his deputies were not able to locate the suspect, despite an intensive search of the area. Aman said the search for the suspect was complicated by heavy traffic in the area because of a Marsing High School girls basketball game that had just ended across Main Street from the Snake River Mart.

Aman said there are no suspects in the case as of press time.

Anyone with information about this crime is urged to contact the sheriff's office at (208) 495-1154.

— JWB

✓ **OCA:** Big game, birds on meeting menu

members to approve pursuit of a plan with "appropriate cooperation to establish the science and protocol to augment" the bird's population if it should become necessary.

The resolution also says that while the county population is stable enough to warrant a regular sage-grouse hunting season, western sage grouse management areas could benefit from augmentation.

"We feel that there is plenty of habitat and plenty of birds," OCA vice president Dana Rutan said. "We just want to explore the avenue of raising birds and see that it can be done and that they'll nest."

The 2006 Owyhee County sage-grouse hunting season was canceled because of the devastation of last summer's West Nile Virus outbreak.

Simpson Game Birds near Grand View is a wild fowl farm that raises pheasants, chukars and pheasants. It's one of the largest facilities of its kind in the western United States, according to the OCA resolution, which implies the farm could raise sage-grouse, too.

Rutan said the resolution had failed in the past because of a lack of solid information on the expense of a program. If the measure passes this year, he said the next step would be to pursue a permit from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to harvest eggs to start a captive population.

The second resolution on the table for Saturday's meeting asks members to oppose any proposed legislation to limit or eliminate the elk ranching industry in Idaho.

Resolution 2007-2 contends that special interest groups are working to persuade state legislators to, in effect, ban elk ranching, which the proposed resolution says is a legitimate agricultural enterprise that contributes to the Idaho economy.

The resolution states that the primary reason opposition groups want to close elk ranches — Chronic Wasting Disease — has been proven by science not to be a threat to captive herds not already infected or to humans.

The resolution process is the last major piece of work for OCA members at Saturday's meeting.

Registration begins at noon,

and association president Russ Turner will call the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

The program starts at 1:30 p.m. and will include an update on the Owyhee Initiative, a talk by new state Department of Agriculture director Celia Gould and a Sage Grouse Plan update from Owyhee Local Working Group chair Donna Bennett.

A silent auction and the deck o'cards raffle will be held during a 2:45 p.m. break.

The meeting resumes at 3:30 p.m. with industry update reports, bureau reports, resolutions and old and new business.

At 4:45 p.m., the Idaho Cattlewomen chair Sara Baker is scheduled to present Bruneau's Celia Tindall with the Idaho Cattle Association Cattlewoman of the Year Award.

After the meeting is adjourned, a 5 p.m. social hour and 6 p.m. potluck dinner will be held.

The Cattlemen's dance, with music by Runnin' for Cover, will run from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. inside the hall.

— JPB

✓ **Library:** Absentee ballots available through Monday

to the polls would be offered. Call 455-2550 or 989-4483 for a ride. Absentee ballots also are being accepted at the library from noon to 6 p.m. during the week until Monday. Mail-in absentee ballots are due at the county clerk's office in Murphy by 5 p.m. today. Voter registration will be available at the polling places Tuesday. Only those people living within the taxing district of the library are eligible to vote.

The library district has owned the land on which the 5,800-square-foot building would be built for a number of years.

According to documents released by the library district's board of directors, property taxes in the district would increase about 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. For example, in the first year of the 21-year

bond, a homeowner would pay an additional \$2.19 per month on a home assessed at \$105,000 after the \$75,000 exemption.

Library officials say the bond could be paid off before its 21-year maturity date.

The floor plan released by Design West Architects shows a building that would house a 4,750-square-foot library as well as a 1,000-square foot community room. Library officials had said the design allows for future expansion.

A pamphlet circulated at the library asserts that the open floor plan of the proposed library would provide room for more patrons as well as 10,000 books. Furthermore, construction of the new library would eliminate the \$700-per-month rent paid for the current facility.

*Read all about it
in the Avalanche!*

Hunter safety class to be held in Homedale

A hunter safety course will be held at the Homedale Armory at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds beginning Feb. 12.

Students must be at least 10 years old during the next hunting season to attend. Students must bring proof of age, name, date-of-birth, address, Social Security number (if available), payment for the class, drinks, snacks and a parent or responsible adult.

Cost for the course is \$8, and it will be taught by instructor Paddy Doyle.

A sign-up sheet for the class will be located at Matteson's Sports Counter at the corner of Idaho Avenue and Main Street in Homedale.

A tentative class schedule is as follows: Feb. 12, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22 classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. A field exercise and shoot will be held Feb. 24, a Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The final review and test will be Feb. 26 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, contact Doyle at 337-5331.

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Feb. 1: Roast pork, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, roll, milk.

Feb. 6: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, California blend veg., roll, milk.

Feb. 7: Beef stew, roll, milk.

Have a news tip?

Call us!

337-4681

Engagement Malmberg, Haagenson to marry in Oregon

Raeann Mae Malmberg and Frank D. Haagenson have announced their engagement. The couple plans to marry March 24, 2007, at the National Guard Armory in Hermiston, Ore.

The bride-to-be is a resident of Hermiston and is the daughter of Rob and Roxann Malmberg of Hermiston. She is a graduate of Hermiston High School.

The groom-elect is the son of Patricia Haagenson of Echo and the late Murdy Haagenson. He's a Hermiston High School graduate and is employed by Wal-Mart.

Malmberg is the granddaughter of Bob and Judy Malmberg of Marsing and Leonard Engle of Marsing.



Frank D. Haagenson and Raeann Mae Malmberg

Anniversary Beebes to celebrate 60th anniversary Feb. 11

David and Ruth Beebe of Adrian will mark their 60th wedding anniversary with a celebration Feb. 11, 2007, at the Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. Highway 95.

The celebration, which will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., is being presented by the Beebes' sons, Don and Dennis, and their families.

David and Ruth were married Feb. 9, 1947, in Caldwell.



Ruth and David Beebe

Homedale seniors schedule library game day next month

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center has released its schedule of events for February.

The center will be closed Feb. 19 for Presidents Day.

The month's festivities kicks off Feb. 17 with the monthly Saturday night dance, which is open to all ages. Admission is \$3 and finger food for the dance, which runs from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Live music will be provided by Woody Purdom and Band.

The center's monthly foot clinic will be held Feb. 20. The cost is \$10, and appointments are required. Sign up at the front desk or call the center at 337-3020.

On Feb. 24, a Library Game Day will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m at the center.

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center is located at 224 W. Idaho Ave., in Homedale.

Obituary Barbara Jean Strickland Cristobal

Barbara Jean Strickland Cristobal, 69, of Mountain Home, passed away on Saturday, January 20, 2007, from cancer at a local hospital. A Memorial Service was held at 2:00pm on Thursday, January 25, 2007 at Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel in Mountain Home.

Mom was born at Saint Alphonsus Hospital in Boise, on April 27, 1937 to Grant and Jodie Strickland. She was raised on a ranch in the Bruneau valley. Mom was the oldest of Grant and Jodie's four kids, Barb, Dick, Patty, and Curt.

She was a tomboy at heart, with bruises and scars to show for it. Mom graduated from Bruneau High as salutorian of the 1955 Bruneau Bobcats. After graduation she went to Seattle to attend dental assistance school. It didn't take her long to realize she missed her true love, our dad John Cristobal. Mom and dad were married December 3, 1955, in Elko. They started their family four years later with us two kids, Chris and John.

Mom worked for Dr. John Bideganeta's dental office until she retired after 29 years. After a brief retirement she and dad started Cristobal Construction, Inc. She didn't have an office job with the construction company; she started just like everyone else being a wheelbarrow operator. Pay was minimal but it was a family affair. At the end of the day we could always say a family that works together, plays together, stays together.

Mom loved being involved in the community.

Delivering meals on wheels, helping out at the nursing home, Mountain Home Hospice, Historical Museum and most importantly the 4th of July "street walkers." If someone needed a helping hand mom loved to help them. That gave her great pride.

Mom is survived by her husband John, daughter Chris and her husband Mark Alzola, son John and his wife Julie Cristobal, four grandchildren J.T., Jacci, Jett and Jazzi all of Mountain Home and her mother Jodie Strickland, her brother Dick and his wife Linda Strickland of Bruneau, her sister Patty and her husband Bob Pinkston of Spring Valley, Wisconsin, her pup "Scooter" and her cat "Kat."

She was preceded in death by her father Grant and her brother Curt.

In lieu of flowers memorials can be made in Barb's honor to: The 4th of July Fireworks, Pioneer Credit Union, Attn.: Sharon Fletcher, 250 W. 3rd South, Mtn Home, Id 83647, or Meals on Wheels, C/O Senior Citizens Center, Attn.: Patty, 1000 No. 3rd East, Mtn Home, Id 83647, or Mtn Home Burn Out Fund, C/O Phil Gridley, 220 So. 2nd East, Mtn Home, Id 83647, or Bruneau Cemetery, C/O David Jones, P.O. Box 152, Bruneau, Id 83604, or Bruneau Q.R.U., C/O Mary Tindall, P.O. Box 194, Bruneau, Id 83604.

Mom's whistling is now silent but her memories will always be with us.



Death notice

BELLE M. BOND, 98, of Friday, January 26, 2007 at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery, Marsing. Services were under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.



Aaron Tines
Morticians Assistant
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Homedale looks to buy new patrol car

The Homedale City Council voted to approve the purchase of a new patrol car to replace one that was totaled during an emergency response on New Year's Eve.

The council approved the purchase of a new Ford Crown Victoria from Meridian Ford for the amount of \$20,317.

The city's insurer estimated the value of the totaled police car at approximately \$8,800. The city will be given that amount, plus will be able to keep the damaged vehicle and all the emergency equipment on it. The \$8,800 likely will go back into the city's general fund. The city has a new police car budgeted for 2007.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said the police radio, lightbar and other equipment will be installed in the new vehicle, requiring extensive electrical upgrades — estimated to cost \$1,200.

— JWB



Homedale businesses celebrate grand opening

Employees and managers of the three Homedale businesses located in the strip mall at the corner of East Idaho Avenue and South 2nd Street East cut the ribbon at their grand opening celebration on Jan. 23. Cutting the ribbon, from left to right, were Kaye Devenport of H&R Block, Matt Smith of Rehab Authority and Juanita Rundell of Curves. Holding the Homedale Chamber of Commerce red ribbon is chamber president Aaron Tines. A fourth business suite at the site still is vacant.

Honor roll

Rimrock Jr-Sr High School

The honor roll for the first semester from Rimrock Junior-Senior High School:

4.0 grade-point average — Awbrey Anderson, Leigh Martin, Hugo Araujo, Bobby Jackson, Chelsey Lemon, Cole Merrick, Nathan Black, BreAnne Merrick and Katie Johnson

3.75-3.99 — Anna Cantrell, Jackie Thurman, Shelby Chandler, Travis Dawson, Trude Eggesvik, Lee Gray, Cy Lootens, Sierra Ridley, Courtney Bennett, Juan Palencia, Kathleen Wilson, Ellie Cantrell, Alan Draper, Nathan Hofer, Kody Schiermeier, Ana Alcantar, Francisco Garcia and Lyndie Gillespie

3.50-3.74 — Joseph Morrison, Francisco Ayala, Kyle Lahtinen, Clay Cantrell, Logan Thomas, Sadie Timmons, Nick Vandenberg, Alberto Ontiveros, Annabel Meza, Brian Simper, Caitlin Day, Lenzi Murray, Estrella Ayala, Jonathon Burnett and Jay Long

3.25-3.49 — Sam Richardson, Alex Meyers, Laura Zaragoza, Andy Bol, Brian Meyers, Connor Merrick, Ariel Turner, Kaile Murray, Stevie Richardson, Corey Worthington, Alexis Lewis, Joseph Black, Lois Fisher, Chris Hipwell and Belen Quereda

3.0-3.24 — Stephen Campbell, Michael Myers, Brittany Boman, Isaac Steiner, Chelsey Wilson, Megan McLing, Cody Myers, T.J. Snyder, Sarah Chandler, Cody McCarthy, Chelsea Cole, Oscar Guevara, Brittany Rahier, Laura Smith, Jose Cruz Araujo and Sydnee James

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

We are well into 2007 and this country has about 6 inches of snow and very cold temperatures. Some pretty hardy people hang in here regardless. Such as Rolly Patrick who is past 90 years old and stays on his ranch and sees that his cows are all right. Kathy Jones feeds cattle all by herself on the Gould Ranch. Harlan Mink keeps the roads open. Marylin Boss keeps things going at the school. She said she was amazed at how many people came through the snow for the Christmas program and silent auction. She has one less pupil since Santa and Elva Valdez and their three little ones moved to California. Mrs. Boss's husband, Eddie, had painful shoulder surgery so she brought him to Three Creek to recuperate.

In the latter part of 2006, Nancy Brackett and sons, Marc and Jarad sold their ranching interests at Metropoles, Nev., to Joe and Janelle Durrant Revocable Trust of

Estancia, N.M. Nancy is making her home at Antelope Ranch. Jarad is on a trip to Argentina. Marc, Kristin and five daughters went to Texas for the holidays. They planned to go to Colorado to visit sister LinDee but the big snow stopped that. J.R. and Kelsie Robinson and three kids spent the week at Meeker, Colo., with Kelsie's folks.


Libby Swan has a new great grandson. Hutch and Trudy Swan have a boy this time, and he was named George Hutchison after his deceased grandfather.

We lost some of our old timers in 2006. Bill Clark passed away on Nov. 30 in Boise after a long illness. At his funeral on Dec. 7, we visited with his oldest sister, Shirley. She looked so good but went back to Boise and died in her sleep. What a shock. They were the offspring of George and Dora Clark. Their grandfather, Dick Clark, was one of the oldest settlers in Three Creek.

Tony G. "Red" Ramsey, 78, of

Mountain Home, passed away Jan. 10, 2007, at a local care center. Tony was born Nov. 1, 1928, in Bruneau, Idaho. He was one of nine children born to Matt and Lottie Ramsey. His mother, Lottie, was born on the Faraday ranch at Three Creek, and his father was one of our oldest settlers. Tony grew up on a ranch in Bruneau and bought his first cattle truck as a teenager and started a lifelong career hauling for local ranchers. He is survived by his wife Arlene and many other relatives.

My fun excursion in December was going with Marilyn Ramsey to the Owyhee County Museum in Murphy, Idaho. It was fun to see all the remodeling and all the old things and look at and buy some of their many books. It was really fun to visit with the girls who attend the museum. Mary O'Malley, Darlene Townsend Price and Vivian Good. Very interesting dyed-in-the-wool Owyhee County Gals.



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Amethyst is February's Birthstone

Did you know Leonardo Da Vinci believed the gemstone **Amethyst** could dissipate evil thoughts and quicken intelligence? Moreover, this brilliantly purple gem was thought to encourage celibacy. Hence, it became a very important ornamentation of churches in the Middle Ages.

The Greek word "**amethystos**" can be translated as "**not drunken**." So strong was this belief that wine goblets were often times carved from it!

From Greek myths: Dionysius, the god of intoxication, became angered by an insult from a mortal and swore revenge on the next one to challenge him, creating fierce tigers to carry out his wish. Then came along the unsuspecting Amethyst, a beautiful young maiden on her way to pay tribute to the goddess Diana who saw the danger and turned Amethyst into a stature of pure crystalline quartz to protect her from the tiger's claws. Then at the sight of the beautiful statue Dionysus wept tears of wine in remorse, staining the quartz to purple - thus creating the gem we know today.

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School menus

Homedale Elementary

- Feb. 1: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 2: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 5: Hamburger or fish patty/bun, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 6: Chicken tenders or country-fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 7: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

- Feb. 1: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 2: Chicken tenders or country-fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 5: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 6: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 7: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, cherry turnover, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

- Feb. 1: Chicken or hamburger/bun, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 2: Beef taco or toasted cheese sandwich, tomato soup, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 5: Pizza, mini corn dogs or chef's salad, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 6: Wiener wrap or popcorn chicken, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 7: Enchilada, hot pocket or baked potato/toppings, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

- Feb. 1: Texas fries, fruit, veggies, milk, chicken fajita, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Feb. 2: Pizza, salad, fruit, milk, chicken sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Feb. 5: Nachos w/toppings, refried beans, fruit, milk, pizza, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Feb. 6: Ham & cheese, veggie, fruit, milk, burrito, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Feb. 7: Enchilada casserole, salad, buttered rice, fruit, milk, Chinese egg roll, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.



Wilson Butte 4-H elects officers

The Wilson Butte 4-H club elected its 2007 officers recently, including, from left to right, Sammie Bass, president; Josie Grim, vice president; Hailey Brisbin, secretary; Wade Bass, treasurer and sergeant of arms, Weslie Grim. Submitted photo

Wilson Butte 4-H news

by Hailey Brisbin, club report
The Wilson Butte 4-H Club wrapped up 2006 with an evening gathering for dinner and awards. Certificates were handed out for members' achievements for their 4-H projects. Both Hailey Brisbin and Tyler Blackstock received recognition for being positive throughout the '06 year. We thanked our leaders and

wrapped up the season with a visit to the Sunbridge retirement home in Nampa. Members sang songs, and punch and cookies were served.
A horse, shorthorn heifer, dogs, puppies and a dressed-up pygmy goat brought smiles to the residents' faces. Fudge from the Essence of Life was given, and it was an enjoyable afternoon.

The first meeting of the year was held with election of officers. New officers were voted in: president, Sammie Bass; vice president, Josie Grim; secretary, Hailey Brisbin; treasurer, Wade Bass; and sergeant of arms, Wesley Grim.
Fund-raising and community service projects were discussed, and everyone is looking forward to an exciting new 4-H year.

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Longtime school bus driver earns monthly award

Homedale School District bus driver Sue Love, left, receives the January Award of Excellence for employee recognition from school board chair Kurt Shanley during a Jan. 17 meeting. Submitted photo

Homedale school trustees recognize veteran bus driver

Do your children distract you while you drive? Do they whine? Fight? Complain about the radio station?

Imagine that ... multiplied

by 50. That is what veteran Homedale School District bus driver Sue Love has been doing — three times a day — for the past 20 years.

Love began driving school buses for the Homedale School District in 1987.

Last week, she was given the Homedale School District's monthly Award of Excellence by the Homedale School Board in recognition to her outstanding service to the district.

According to school superintendent Tim Rosandick, Love's supervisor — district director of transportation and maintenance Tom Muir — told trustees that Love is a conscientious and reliable member of his team. She always willing to take on field trip and athletic assignments.

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Triangle Road debate

Commissioners ask court to dismiss appeal

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners moved to petition for dismissal of an appeal filed in regards to its October decision that Triangle Road was a public roadway.

In their dismissal motion made at a Jan. 22 meeting in Murphy, commissioners claim they were not properly served notice of appeal. The commission asked the district court to throw out the appeal.

"There was a motion filed November 7th (2006), in (3rd Judicial) District court, but the commissioners had never been served," Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said.

Don Barnhill, the trustee for Wintercamp Ranch, filed the appeal. Triangle Road provides access between Oreana and Jordan Valley.

In an Oct. 10 document signed by county commissioners Hal Tolmie and Dick Reynolds, the commissioners ruled that gating and locking Triangle Road amounted to obstruction of public access to public lands. The decision was made after a public road hearing requested by Darren Nelson of Josephine Creek Ranch.

The original hearing findings said Barnhill had gated and fenced the road under the claim that it was private. The Oct. 10 ruling stated that such an action interferes with "useable access" to the ranch as well as the Triangle Ranch operated by John Steiner.

In October, the Board deemed the questioned section of Triangle Road a public road after public hearings.

The section in question is a quarter-mile in length and has been gated and locked at times in the past.

According to the Oct. 10

decision, commissioners found that "the action of gating and locking out access to the (Triangle) road, including the disputed portion, obstructs public access to public lands... The Board (of commissioners) finds that obstructions to public access across a right-of-way of 50 feet on the road, must be removed, thus allowing the public access to which it is entitled."

Triangle Road provides access to Triangle Ranch, a ranch established by Jacob Bachman as early as 1902. The road was used for public travel and commercial use as early as 1915.

According to county documents, Jacob Bachman took up a homestead in 1902 and used a triangle as his brand, thus the name. Bachman was appointed postmaster of the Triangle Post Office in 1915.

An airstrip was constructed at the Bachman Ranch at Triangle in 1948, and maintained until 1974. The airstrip touches the road, making the road an access point to the airstrip. Public funds were used to maintain the airstrip throughout its lifetime.

In 1948, the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners made the decision to abandon all county roads and review which roads were necessary as public roads. When commissioners reported back that same year, the Triangle Road was named "Highway No. 7." County documents further state that the road was never formally abandoned, as would be required by state statute. County officials have treated and maintained the road as a public road. George Reed, the backcountry deputy for the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, has enforced laws on the road.

— JWB

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Club president wins chess tourney again

Kevin Marris could have been caught in a no-win situation as president of the Homedale High School chess club during the recent school-wide tournament.

On the one hand, he could have solidified his credibility as president of the club with a victory in the tournament. At the same time, as president he could have been expected to win it all anyway.

The 17-year-old put to rest any possible second-guessing or speculation by beating fellow club member Mark Klug last week and wrapping up the championship for the second consecutive year.

Chess club faculty advisor Mark Thatcher presented Marris with his championship certificate last week. The tourney championship was sewn up when Marris beat Klug on points in one of the tournament's final matches Jan. 22.

Klug was in second place when he entered his match with Marris. The loss dropped him down to sixth place with 3.5 points and allowed Homedale teacher David Hart to claim second place.

Marris earned five points

throughout the tournament, which took about two weeks to finish. Hart was second based on tiebreakers even though he and three other players — Dayton Syme, Jake Tolmie and Matthew Farrell — had scored four points during the course of the competition.

Competitors earned one point for each win and a half-point or each tie.

Hart finished fourth in the 2006 tournament — the highest finish for a faculty member in the inaugural tournament.

In addition to his certificate, Marris won a card redeemable for a milkshake at Homedale Drive-In. Thatcher said the top eight competitors earned those cards. Rounding out the top eight were Christian Cahill (3.5 points), Gage Egurrola (3.5) and Mike Jones (3).

Each person who entered the tournament, which attracted 30 students and faculty members, received a card redeemable for a candy bar at the school's student store.

Thatcher said that he has nailed down March 10 as the



Marris wins Homedale chess title
Homedale High School teacher Mark Thatcher, left, presents chess club president Kevin Marris with a certificate honoring him as the champion for the school's 2007 chess tournament.

date for the community chess tournament. It'll be held at 10 a.m. at Homedale Middle School. A location hasn't been secured yet, but the teacher said he has received several inquiries about

the tournament, including one from Marsing.

Call Thatcher at 337-4613 for more information on tournament registration.

— JPB

Trial set for suspect in Marsing DUI crash

A Marsing man charged with felony aggravated driving under the influence is scheduled to appear for trial in district court in Murphy on March 20.

Ronald McDonnell, 71, was arrested for aggravated DUI Oct. 21 after allegedly causing a three-vehicle accident near Marsing High School in October.

The crash occurred when McDonnell's 1992 Jeep Cherokee collided with a 1996 Mazda driven by Ricardo Meza and a Ford Ranger driven by Monica Torres.

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

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

— JWB



Bruneau goat raffle tickets on sale today

Preparations are under way for the annual Bruneau Booster Club Auction and Fund-raiser, including the sale of tickets for a goat raffle.

The auction will be held Feb. 24 at the Bruneau American Legion Hall.

Bruneau's George and Milly Porter have donated a boar goat for the raffle.

Tickets, which are \$1 each or six for \$5, go on sale today. Tickets are available at the Bruneau Beauty Shop, The Fishing Hole, the Bruneau Valley Library, The Cowboy's pastime, The One Stop and Jumbo's.

The winning ticket will be drawn at the auction on Feb. 24.

Homedale couple to stand trial

Pair due in court March 20 on theft charges

Kimberly and Rocky Nix, a Homedale couple accused of grand theft and burglary after an investigation into the theft of guns and a four-wheeler ATV in Homedale, will stand trial in district court.

Rocky Nix was scheduled to begin trial proceedings Tuesday in Murphy. Kimberly is scheduled to begin trial on March 20.

The two appeared in court in November in Murphy. Both waived their right to preliminary hearings and appeared in district court for arraignment on felony charges of grand theft and burglary.

According to the Owyhee County courts, the Nixes' only listed charge as of last week is grand theft.

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

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

gain access to the firearms, but took the ATV from the backyard.

Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said that the investigation led to a search warrant, in which 10 officers, including ATF agents searched a Homedale residence on Oct. 13.

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

If convicted, the Nixes each face prison sentences of up to 14 years and a \$5,000 fine for grand theft.

— JWB

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Library bond election coming for Melba area?

Owyhee County residents living in the Melba area soon may be voting for a better library, according to minutes from the county Board of Commissioners meeting held last week in Murphy.

Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said library proponents hope to form a new library district, which will be tax-funded, rather than relying simply on donations.

“Alicia Cowger and Cindy Brown met with the board,” Sherburn said. “They are going to send a petition around for the creation of the Melba library taxing district.”

The district will extend to parts of Owyhee, Canyon and Ada counties and will follow Melba’s school district boundaries, Sherburn said.

Sherburn said collecting signatures is the first step on the road to a new library district.

“The process is, they will hand that petition in. There was a question as to how many signatures they had to have,” she said.

According to Brown, who is a member of the Melba Library Board, 50 signatures are needed to form the taxing district, and if formed, the group hopes to place the measure on the ballot for the district’s May election.

Sherburn said that the Idaho Secretary of State’s Office will verify that the signatures belong to registered voters.

From there, Brown and Cowger will be required to present their position at a public hearing regarding the matter, then the issue will be placed on the ballot for voters to decide.

Sherburn said the current Melba library is housed in a converted home and is funded strictly by donations. The Melba library is

located at 219 Charlotte Drive in Melba, on the Canyon County side of the Snake River.

“What they have is a house they are using with a few books in it, and it has just been donations funding it,” Sherburn said. “There has been a lot more interest in that area to actually create a library that would be (relying) on property taxes.”

Sherburn said the result would be a library that would better serve the public.

Brown said that the library hopes to generate \$55,000 per year from the proposed tax, an amount that Brown and other proponents of the library tax said will be sufficient for additional growth in the community.

Alicia Cowger, Melba Library spokesperson, said that the library was extremely conservative when it looked at how much the library would cost taxpayers. Minimizing the financial burden for homeowners in the taxing district was foremost in their considerations.

“Taxes are a big concern, and a lot of people don’t want to have to pay that much money in taxes,” Cowger said. “We tried really hard to come up with a budget that was really fiscally conservative.”

“I believe it works out to about \$32 per \$100,000 (of assessed value) after your homeowner’s exemption,” Cowger said, adding that the figure is based off of 2006 property values.

Brown said the benefit to the community will be nearly doubling the library’s hours, being able to update the library’s 10,000-book collection, and enabling the library to access the State of Idaho’s inter-library loaning system.

— JWB



Recreationists make do with light snow
Snowmobilers have been climbing Widow-maker Hill in the Owyhees recently, despite the low snow base. About 2 feet of snow covers the popular hill. Photo by Joe Aman

County snow and water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site Monday showed that Owyhee Reservoir held 465,436 acre-feet of water and that 21 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.
01/23	2.4	6.5	36	24	30
01/24	2.0	6.4	41	25	31
01/25	2.0	6.4	37	22	30
01/26	1.5	6.5	42	27	35
01/27	1.6	6.5	43	27	35
01/28	1.4	6.3	32	19	27
01/29	1.5	6.2	34	20	26

		South Mountain			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
01/23	24.2	13.1	40	22	31
01/24	24.1	13.1	45	28	36
01/25	24.1	13.2	53	33	43
01/26	23.7	13.2	53	36	44
01/27	N/A	13.1	51	33	39
01/28	24.1	13.1	37	25	29
01/29	24.1	13.1	44	24	32

		Mud Flat			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
01/23	11.4	6.2	34	8	19
01/24	11.2	6.2	40	14	25
01/25	11.2	6.2	49	15	31
01/26	11.2	6.2	48	22	32
01/27	11.2	6.2	51	16	32
01/28	11.4	6.2	35	17	27
01/29	11.6	6.2	43	15	28

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Jan 23	45	12	
Jan 24	45	9	
Jan 25	44	9	
Jan 26	46	8	
Jan 27	no reading taken		
Jan 28	no reading taken		
Jan 29	47	5	

Emergency personnel participate in training

Homedale Fire Department and Homedale Ambulance crew members attended an 8-hour training course in major incident command at the Homedale Fire Department on Jan. 20.

The class is designed to teach personnel responding to a major event, multiple-patient emergency, or mass-casualty incident how to establish command and establish tiers of responsibility in order to maintain control. Other class goals are to ensure safety of any patients and the public, manage resources from other assisting agencies, and track any financial data related to the incident.

“If we have an event where multiple agencies come in, (the incident command system) allows (involved agencies) to function together under a structured command system,” Homedale Ambulance administrator Lisa Price said. “It allows us to manage the incident better.”

“It is a structured system that will make it all come together better and deliver better patient care or organization on fires (or other emergencies).”

According to Price, the system would heighten efficiency in a case where multiple agencies, such as police, fire, sheriff and federal emergency services agencies must work together to control a large incident such as a plane crash or large brush fire. Using the incident command system helps facilitate communication between all facets of the emergency response.

All first-responders, such as police, fire and ambulance workers are required to take this course by the end of the fiscal year in order to qualify for grants/funding from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

The course was offered at no cost to participating agencies through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and DHS.

Several mock scenarios were discussed, and participants were required to pass a written test upon completion of the course.

Dust Devils to hold pig raffle

The Dust Devils 4-H Club is holding a pig raffle as a fund-raiser.

The club will raffle a whole pig, cut and wrapped, to one winner on March 4. Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20.

To obtain tickets or for more information, contact any Dust Devil member, or call club leader Sylvia Bahem at 337-3231 or 259-6889.

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Caldwell, Idaho

Read all about it in

The Owyhee Avalanche

337-4681

Pageant assists cancer patient

Adrian High senior coordinates fund-raiser

by Ryann Bowns, AHS

Often, teenagers believe the world revolves around them. This may be the case in most instances, but not for one local teenager.

Sarah McPeak is a senior at Adrian High School. Her career path is centered on Public Relations, and for the physical project of her Senior Project, she devised and successfully executed the first "Mr. AHS" pageant. Not only did she host a night of uncontrollable laughter, but at the same time she touched the hearts of community members as she organized her pageant to benefit a local cancer patient.

Linda Dominguez-Bautista, 23 and a 2001 graduate of Adrian High School, recently was diagnosed with cervical cancer. She lives in Caldwell with her husband, Adrian, and their two children.

"I wanted to organize an event that would help somebody out financially," McPeak said. "I heard of Linda Dominguez's condition and with the help of others, we brainstormed the idea of a 'Mr. AHS' pageant."

For almost two months, McPeak was busy recruiting Adrian High boys to participate in the pageant. Once recruited, the boys were responsible for obtaining individual sponsors. McPeak approached area businesses concerning her project in an effort of seeking donations of food and other items for the pageant.

"Planning and organizing the event was very time consuming," she said.

The pageant was held Jan. 13. The event had a cover charge of \$2 for students, \$3 for adults. The evening began with a baked potato feed, including salad, dessert and beverage. Through McPeak's efforts, all food for the evening was donated.

"I do not like approaching people and businesses for money. Fortunately, everyone was very supportive of my cause," McPeak said.

Individuals and businesses donating to the banquet included:



Serious senior project provides fun

Above: Carlos Mendoza performs his routine of "I Will Survive" on his way to winning the first Mr. AHS Pageant at Adrian High School.

Below: Event organizer Sarah McPeak introduces pageant honoree Lynda Dominguez Bautista. Photos by Angie Sillonis



Red Apple (Ontario), M&W Market (Nyssa), Perry and Kelli McPeak (Adrian), Dennis and Julene Bowns (Adrian), Pam Myers (Adrian), Geary Johnson (Adrian) and Jan and Mike Sillonis (Adrian).

After the feast, the audience was entertained by enthusiastic contestants. Adrian High boys 'strutted their stuff' in the athletic wear portion of the pageant. Individual talents were the next judging criteria. A pageant cannot be complete without evening wear.

The finishing segment was the ever-important interview question. There were seven boys who competed for the prestigious title of "Mr. AHS."

After the final tally of the judges' scores, senior Carlos Mendoza was crowned Mr. AHS. Mendoza also brought in the

largest amount of donations with \$440.

"I cannot thank the boys enough for their willingness to obtain donations for Linda. All of the boys did a fantastic job," McPeak said.

"The community was very generous, which contributed to this event being a huge success."

A total of \$2,200 dollars was raised for Dominguez throughout the pageant process.

"The pageant was better than I had anticipated," McPeak said. "It was very rewarding to make a difference to our school, our community, and most importantly, someone in need. I would definitely do this again."

Talk has surfaced at the school of the Adrian Leadership class making the "Mr. AHS" pageant an annual experience to benefit someone in need.

Santa Fe home construction to begin next month

A representative for the Santa Fe subdivision proposed for downtown Homedale said recently that houses will begin going up next month.

BR Maier Properties partner Ron Mayhew said a majority of the five designs developed by G&J Builders will be reflected in model homes, which will be built in February.

"Four of the five designs are to be built as model homes with construction starting in February," Mayhew wrote in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

The designs include two one-story models and three two-story layouts. Mayhew said homes should be available after plat recording, which is expected in April.

Although BR Maier Properties

is based in Eagle, Mayhew said the development company has retained Lurre Construction, owned by Homedale native John Badiola, as the general contractor.

"In my 25 years in managing construction projects, they have been one of the best and a pleasure to work with," Mayhew said of the Lurre company.

Mayhew said that water, sewer and other utility work has been completed on the proposed 45-lot subdivision that will be located on a piece of land bordered by West Idaho Avenue, Railroad Way and Utah Street.

Road and sidewalk work, which began last week, is expected to be completed by the first of April.

— JPB



Work progresses on subdivision

Don't let the idle piece of construction machinery fool you. A developer says home construction will heat up soon at the Santa Fe subdivision in Homedale. Signs of utilities, such as irrigation and water hookups, line the home lots now.

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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
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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 for further information.

Oh-So

Festive

Floribbean Fare

for Super Sunday



Winter sweet onions add zesty crunch to this game-day menu

FAMILY FEATURES
By Aliza Green

In honor of this year's big game in Miami, kick up your Super Bowl festivities with colorful Floribbean fare, a cooking style combining the best of Florida's traditions with Caribbean and Cuban flavors.

These recipes feature Oso Sweet onions, the winter sweet onion from Chile that's in season January through March. Oso Sweets are grown at the foot of Chile's Andes Mountains where growing conditions produce large, juicy onions with record-high sugar content, crisp texture and mild flavor.

Never had an orange salad before? Try this surprising, tart-sweet orange and onion salad. Find out why empanadas, the Spanish hand-held meal-in-a-pocket (here made with chicken and corn), are snapped up from Buenos Aires to Miami.

Florida Flounder Sandwich With Lime and Sweet Onion Tartar Sauce

A pan-fried fish sandwich is a beach shack favorite in Florida, often made with native grouper. In other parts of the country, flounder fillet works just fine. The crunchy crust made from Japanese panko breadcrumbs holds in moisture so the fish is juicy inside. For those who love lime, increase the amount to the juice of two limes and don't forget the sweet onions, which add their own sweet, mild crunch to the sauce.

Serves: 6

Tartar Sauce

- 2 tablespoons each chopped parsley, green olives and pickle relish
- 2 hard-cooked eggs, peeled and chopped
- Juice and grated zest of 1 lime
- 1/2 cup finely diced Oso Sweet onion
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon hot pepper sauce (optional)
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper to taste

Fish

- 2 1/2 pounds lean, firm white fish fillet, such as flounder, fluke, halibut, grouper or cod, cut into (2- to 3-ounce) pieces
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 2 cups Japanese panko breadcrumbs or other breadcrumbs
- 1 cup vegetable oil (for frying)
- 2 long French baguettes or Italian breads, split open with some of soft insides removed
- 1 Oso Sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- Green leaf lettuce, separated into individual leaves, washed and dried

For tartar sauce, stir all ingredients together and refrigerate.

Season fish with salt and pepper. Lightly beat together eggs and milk. Set up three bowls: flour, egg mixture and half the panko. Dip each piece of fish into flour, shaking off excess. Next, dip into egg mixture, allowing excess liquid to drip off. Finally, dip in crumbs, coating well on all sides. (Add second half of panko to bowl as needed, so crumbs stay dry.) Arrange fish on a waxed paper-lined baking tray and chill for at least 30 minutes or overnight.

In large, heavy skillet, heat half the oil until shimmering. Lay fish pieces in oil without crowding, turning pieces as they brown. Fry until firm and well-browned, about 6 minutes; repeat with remaining fish. Drain and keep warm in 200°F oven. Spread baguettes with tartar sauce on both sides. Arrange fish in single layer on each bread, top with onion, tomato and lettuce; close, cut in portions and serve.

Cuban Picadillo

Picadillo is a tasty mixture of ground or finely chopped meat, often beef, simmered with aromatics like sweet onion and garlic and seasoned with the bold flavors of cumin and sherry vinegar from Spain that are a big hit throughout Latin America. Picadillo comes from the Spanish "picar," which means "to cut into small pieces."

Serves: 6 to 8

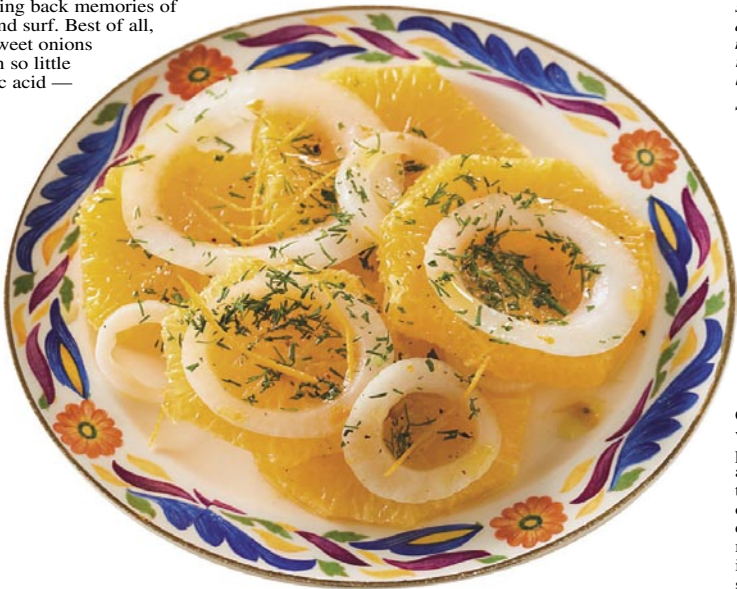
- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1/4 cup olive oil, divided
- 1 cup diced Oso Sweet onions
- 1 green pepper, diced
- 1 tablespoon chopped garlic
- 1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1/2 cup raisins
- 1/2 cup chopped pimento-stuffed green olives
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste

In large skillet, brown beef in 2 tablespoons olive oil over high heat; drain and reserve. In same skillet, lightly brown onion, pepper and garlic in remaining oil. Add sauce, cumin and oregano; bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer

Tired of the same old ground beef dishes? This chunky Cuban beef picadillo fragrant with oregano and cumin is so good, you may want to make a double batch.

Can't get to the beach this winter? Our Florida fish sandwich with its tangy fresh lime and Oso Sweet onion tartar sauce will bring back memories of sand and surf. Best of all, Oso Sweet onions contain so little pyruvic acid —

the substance that causes tearing, harshness, and indigestion — that they are gentle enough for people of all ages. The whole family can kick back and enjoy this make-ahead fresh and spicy — but not fiery — menu.



Florida Orange and Oso Sweet Onion Salad

Serve this cheery, bright-colored salad on dull, dreary mid-winter days. You won't believe how sweet, mild and deliciously crunchy the raw sweet onions marinated in lemon and olive oil can be.

Serves: 6

- 1/4 cup extra virgin olive oil, divided
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
- 1 thinly sliced Oso Sweet onion
- 2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
- Grated zest of 1 orange
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 6 large navel oranges
- 2 tablespoons chopped dill

Combine 2 tablespoons olive oil with lemon juice, salt and pepper; pour marinade over onion and marinate 20 minutes. Whisk together remaining oil, vinegar, orange zest, salt and pepper for dressing. Remove rind and white membrane from oranges and cut into thin slices. Arrange orange slices on serving platter, drizzle with dressing, top with onions, sprinkle with dill and serve.

Chicken and Corn Empanadas

Empanadas, which come from the Spanish word for "bread," are baked or fried turnovers made from bread, pastry, phyllo or even pizza dough. Here we prepare these make-ahead Latino favorites with flaky, defrosted frozen crescent rolls, but feel free to substitute your own favorite savory dough.

Makes: 8 large empanadas

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup diced Oso Sweet onions
- 1 diced red bell pepper
- 1 teaspoon hot red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups frozen corn kernels
- 2 teaspoons oregano
- 3 cups (1 pound) diced cooked chicken
- 6 ounces shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Kosher salt and black pepper to taste
- 2 14-ounce packages frozen crescent rolls, defrosted
- 1 egg, lightly beaten with 1 tablespoon water

In large skillet, heat oil and lightly brown onions. Add pepper, pepper flakes, corn and oregano and cook 5 minutes over moderate heat or until liquid has mostly cooked away. Remove from heat; stir in chicken and cheese, season to taste and chill.

Unroll crescent dough into two perforated squares; Place one square over second. Roll out with a little flour to form a single, large rectangular sheet. Cut out four circles about 5 inches in diameter; repeat with remaining package of rolls. Refrigerate circles on waxed paper until firm, about 30 minutes.

Spoon 1/4 cup filling into center of each circle, leaving 1-inch border. Brush edges with egg mixture. Fold over to seal, stretching dough slightly. Press edges together while pushing out any air pockets; seal by crimping with tines of a fork. Brush top with egg wash and prick with fork. Arrange empanadas on buttered and floured baking pan. Refrigerate until ready to bake, up to two days ahead of time. Preheat oven to 400°F. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until puffy and brown and filling is bubbling hot.

Tip: Use rotisserie-roasted chicken.



20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until mixture has thickened. Stir in beef, raisins, olives and season to taste with salt and pepper. Bring back to boil, simmer 10 minutes and serve over steamed rice with sautéed sliced ripe plantains and black beans.

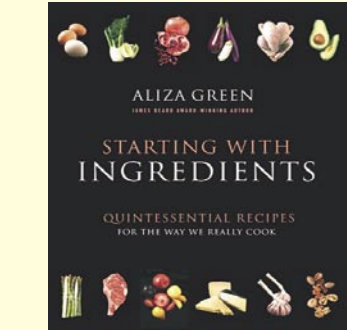
Tip: Make a double batch and freeze half for up to three months. Defrost in microwave.

Tip: Use Texmati rice, a hybrid of American long-grain rice with Indian basmati, for perfect, fluffy results.



Starting With Onions

Most savory recipes around the world start with onions. They provide a welcome edge of sweet-sharp flavor when raw and an underlying rounded, sweet-savory flavor when cooked. Sweet onions are the most versatile of all — mild enough to eat raw, in salads, sandwiches



or salads yet versatile enough to cook by any method from caramelizing, sautéing, grilling and frying to baking, steaming, roasting or even barbecuing. For more information about Oso Sweets and other seasonal sweet onions, go to sweetonionsource.com.

For more about onions and 99 other essential ingredients, pick up a copy of this season's hot new cookbook "Starting With Ingredients," which includes more than 550 outstanding recipes by award-winning chef and author Aliza Green.



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