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Patrons overwhelmingly approve plans for new Lizard Butte Library

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Annual community benefit auctions on tap in coming weeks

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Marsing remembers grad killed by explosion in Iraq

Marsing High School staff recalled fallen U.S. Army Sgt. Ross A. Clevenger on Monday, days after he died while serving his country in Iraq.

A 2003 Marsing High School graduate, the 21-year-old Clevenger and two other members of the 321st Engineering Battalion

were killed when a roadside bomb exploded in Ar Karma, which is in the Anbar province west of Baghdad.

Clevenger's mother, Abby Bradshaw, lives in the Marsing area. The Owyhee Avalanche did not contact family members for comment.

Teachers at Marsing High School remembered Clevenger for his maturity and sense of humor.

Coach Don Heller recalled having Clevenger in his weight training class and as a member of the Huskies football team. Heller said Clevenger was a strong team player.

"He was a good kid," the longtime coach said. "He was a wide receiver and a defensive back. He was a good kid, worked hard and came to practice every day."

Heller said the most memorable

— See *Grad*, page 5A



Ross Clevenger

U.S. Army photo

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**Huskies star makes it official
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'He was the guy that held the fire department together.'

Homedale crew says goodbye to longtime chief

To a man, John Matteson's colleagues said Friday that it's impossible to overstate his role in the history of the Homedale Fire Department.

"He was the guy that held the fire department together for the first 40 years," Floyd Breach said.

Matteson, a 50-year member of the fire department, died Feb. 5 at the age of 91. Current and former Homedale firefighters turned out for his funeral in town Friday afternoon.

Matteson, who along with his brother, Frank, and father, Loyal James (L.J.) built several successful businesses in and around Homedale, also showed a golden touch for building the city's fire apparatus. He built two of the trucks employed by firefighters through the years, including a yellow pumper truck still in use today.

A plaque on the rear of the yellow firetruck that led Friday's funeral procession to the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery recognizes Owyhee Motor Sales as the custom-builder of the vehicle.

"He did all the mechanical



Fitting escort to final resting place

The Homedale Fire Department's yellow pumper truck, designed and built by John Matteson, leads the funeral procession for Matteson in front of the family's Homedale business Friday afternoon.

work," Breach said. "He designed and built two tank trucks."

Matteson served as fire chief for the city crew for more than 20 years of his long career, and that meant he was the assistant chief for the rural volunteer agency.

As would be expected of a fire chief, Matteson essentially was the face of the department. He was quoted through the 1950s and 1960s in Owyhee County newspaper reports about area fires, including the devastating

LDS church blaze in Homedale on Dec. 9, 1961.

"He was very dedicated and worked hard at being the chief and knew all about what was going on and what needed to be done," former city councilman and fellow Homedale businessman Paul Zatica said.

"He was a good man for the community and helped bring us a long ways."

— See *Matteson*, page 5A

Prosecutor reaches deal in bar beating

Adam Cook and Steven Dickson, two Homedale men accused of beating and robbing Douglas Grever outside a Homedale bar in September, entered plea agreements in third judicial district court earlier this month.

Both men could receive probation after as little as six months in prison, according to the agreement with Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks.

Faulks reached plea agreements



Adam Cook



Steven Dickson

— See *Deal*, page 5A

Marsing to hear public on water service fees tonight

Marsing citizens will have a chance to comment on proposed rate changes to the city's sewer fees at a public hearing scheduled for 7 p.m. today at City Hall.

The city is considering increasing the base rate of city sewer fees and changing rate calculation methods from three winter months usage to actual water usage each month. The city is also considering decreasing the sewer rate charged per volume.

The public hearing will be part of the city council's regular monthly meeting.

According to a legal notice filed by the City of Marsing in The Owyhee Avalanche, reasons given for the proposed increases are that the current fees "are no longer adequate to reimburse the costs incurred by the city for developing, operating, and

maintaining the city's sewer system."

Last month, city officials broke ground on a new city well across 8th Avenue from the Marsing School District. For city leaders, the groundbreaking represents the homestretch in their quest for a new \$2.1 million water system for the city, which was forced to look for a new source of water because of 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.

— JWB

President's Day closures

All city and county offices and U.S. post offices in Owyhee County will be closed Monday in observance of President's Day. Schools will be closed, too.

U.S. Bank locations in Homedale and Marsing will be open. Paul's Market in Homedale and the Snake River Mart in Marsing both will be open for regular hours.

Homedale council meets tonight

Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller has requested an executive session for personnel and legal reasons during tonight's Homedale City Council meeting.

No other details about the executive session are known. The council meeting begins at 6 p.m. inside City Hall.

Also on the agenda is an item to review and renew Westowns Disposal's garbage contract.

Library vote leaves little doubt

Voters in the Lizard Butte Library District overwhelmingly showed their support for a new, improved library in Marsing, approving a \$775,000 bond to build a new library building during a Feb. 6 election.

The proposed location is behind the Marsing Rural Fire District Station on Third Street. The library district has owned the property for approximately 10 years.

A new building could be a year away, library director Janna Streibel said.

The bond passed 299-34. Voters in both Owyhee and Canyon county portions were overwhelmingly in favor of the new library. In Owyhee, 205 patrons voted for the bond, while 21 voted against it. In Canyon, it was 94 in favor and 13 against.

The measure needed to win by a two-thirds supermajority. It won by an even greater margin of nearly 90 percent.

"It went very well," said Dottie Christensen, president of the Friends of the Lizard Butte Library. "We got some very positive vibes as we were sitting there."

Streibel partially credits the Friends of the Lizard Butte Library organization with the landslide victory.

"They, I believe, are the reason it passed because they got out and talked to people and got people excited, made phone calls to make sure everyone had voted," Streibel said. "I don't think we could have done it without them."

Christensen said one of the rewards of the election is having hard evidence of the Marsing



Polls inside cramped library

Election worker, Winona Munger, right, gives Melissa Streibel voting instructions during the Feb. 6 library bond election in Marsing.

area's desire for a better library facility. The current location, at 429 Main Street, is packed from floor to ceiling with books, and patrons have to pass one another sideways in the book aisles while they browse.

"Now we (Friends of Lizard Butte Library) can go ahead," Christensen said. "We had a wonderful opportunity to realize the support the library has in this community."

"The people were willing, they just didn't have the direction," Christensen said. "We provided the impetus."

Christensen said the only person she personally knew of that voiced opposition to the bond was against it strictly for financial reasons.

Now the Friends of the Library face the task of getting the building built.

"We will continue getting the building built," Christensen said. "This is the first step. There will be books to buy, programs to originate ... there are so many things to work with."

Streibel said she does not expect to see the new library take shape

for at least a year.

"We are estimating not until next year," Streibel said. "It takes about a year to get the financial part settled and the building done."

The Friends of the Lizard Butte Library plans to meet with state library officials, who will give the group pointers on steps to make the new library a reality.

Before the election, documents released by the library district's board of directors estimated that property taxes in the district would raise approximately 25 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value. In other words, 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 homeowner's exemption.

The new library is expected to sport an open floor plan with room for more patrons and 10,000 books. A 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.

— JWB

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Diners, volunteers flock to Smorgasbord

Left: Fire Chief Scott Salutregui, left, and other firefighters from the Homedale Fire Department scrape dishes during the 46th annual International Smorgasbord, which was held at Homedale Elementary School on Saturday. **Above:** Booths featuring American, Asian, Basque and European cuisine allowed patrons to sample foods from around the globe, and all for a good cause. The event raised more than \$16,000 to benefit Homedale schools.

46th International Smorgasbord packs house

Thousands packed the west end of Homedale on Saturday for the 46th Annual International Smorgasbord.

Cars lined the streets up to three blocks from Homedale Elementary School for a chance to sample cuisine from throughout the world.

Monday, Smorgasbord chair Kelley Hansen gave a rundown of some preliminary numbers for the event and gave a re-cap of the annual event.

"It went really good," Hansen said. "Our total gross was \$16,489. I'm really happy. I was expecting about \$13,000 to \$14,000."

Hansen said that more than \$1,000 was generated by the basket sales alone, with the Boise State University basket going for more than \$350.

Hansen said a portion of the total profit will be used to purchase a new electronic reader board that

will be installed at the high school and display community and school announcements. Hansen said that approximately \$6,000 will be used for the reader board, and the remainder of the proceeds will be divided between all three schools for needed items.

Hansen said this year's smorgasbord went smooth with no major hurdles. She said part of the reason for the ease or preparation was the careful delegation of duties. All major planning was completed by mid-week before the event.

"When it came to Wednesday, it was easy going," Hansen said. "Those people that are in charge of those booths are just completely in charge and they just take care of everything they need."

Hansen said that, as in years past, the teriyaki chicken from the

Oriental booth was a favorite, but it was impossible to pin down a clear crowd favorite.

"Everyone always likes teriyaki chicken," Hansen said. "The beef brisket (from the American booth) was a big hit. The codfish (from the Basque booth) was really good this year."

Hansen said she is amazed every year at how scores of community members come together to create such a worthwhile event.

"I just think it is fascinating that over 200 people can come together and create something special for the community as well as the schools," Hansen said. "That's a lot of people to work together at one time."

Hansen said there is a long list of community sponsors, which would be provided at a later date.

—JWB



Silent auction for baskets a big hit

Patrons bid on these themed baskets filled with everything from catered dinners to bath item in the mix. A Boise State University-themed basket claimed top honors, by going for \$350. The basket auction grabbed more than \$1,000 for Homedale schools.

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Help is Just Around the Corner

Bruneau Legion presents oyster feed once again

Bruneau American Legion Post 83 will hold its long-standing annual oyster and fish feed Saturday.

The feast begins at 6 p.m. at the American Legion Hall in Bruneau.

Adults eat for \$11, while children 11-and-younger will be admitted for \$4.

Post 83 secretary-treasurer Bill McBride said proceeds from the feed will go to the local American Legion's general fund to pay for building maintenance as well as help finance other endeavors such as Boys State.

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

School braces for parking change

On the surface, Homedale's proposed limits on parking around the high school could be seen as a nuisance.

But representatives for both the school and the city say the idea to put a 2-hour limit on parking on stretches of Idaho and Owyhee avenues won't be that much of an inconvenience. And it could enhance the safety of students.

"The city has a responsibility to try to protect them as best as we can," city public works supervisor Larry Bauer said of the students.

Bauer said city crews will put the signs up as soon as all the details of revamping the city's parking ordinance are squared away.



New rules will affect north side of high school

The drivers of these cars, many of whom are teachers at Homedale High School, soon will have to find an alternative to parking on East Owyhee Avenue.

"We've discovered that to do this properly we have to do it by ordinance, and we hope to have it ready for the next meeting," Bauer said.

He added that city attorney Michael Duggan said the only way any parking changes would have any "teeth" would be to add them to the existing city parking code.

The Homedale City Council holds its first meeting of the month at 6 p.m. today inside City Hall. It's not clear if the parking ordinance will be on the agenda.

Homedale High School principal Mike Williams said student reaction to the proposed changes has been mixed. But he said the school has plenty of parking on campus to accommodate those students who will be forced to

change their habits. Word of the pending changes has been circulated in the school's daily morning bulletin, and Williams plans a public forum to further discuss the alterations.

He also said that the city has agreed to add two crosswalks on Owyhee Avenue on the north side of the school to improve pedestrian safety. Williams said many Homedale Elementary children end their daily school bus ride at the bus loading zone behind the school at the same time the high school students are leaving for the day, and that creates dangerous congestion.

"Hopefully (departing students) will slow down and it'll be a lot safer for the students, especially after school," Williams said.

The plan is to restrict parking on the north side of East Owyhee Avenue between First and Second streets. Williams said parking still will be available on Second Street across from the high school's shop building, but teachers who now park on Owyhee Avenue will have to utilize the fenced lot that sits between the high school and the Jacksons Food Store.

The only problem with that, Williams said, is teachers will have to walk around that annex building to enter from the east

because the west entrance of the building isn't suitable for employee access because of the boiler room.

"This will require roughly 15 to 20 student vehicles to be moved and roughly eight to 10 faculty members to select another parking area," Williams said of the changes.

Homedale School District superintendent Tim Rosandick said that the school has adequate parking to accommodate the students in the gravel lot that borders Third Street in the northeast corner of the campus.

"We've got an obligation to make it as safe as possible on the north side of the high school," he said.

"We need to be good neighbors and look out for the kids let off (the elementary school buses) behind the school."

Williams said that the changes in parking policy around City Park could be a remedy to the congestion caused by students arriving to take the bus to the Centerpoint alternative high school in Caldwell. When the students lose the ability to park on Second Street to catch the bus, Williams suggests that the bus stop be moved farther west on Idaho Avenue.

Juanita Rundell, the owner of Curves women's fitness center in the strip mall at the corner of Second Street and East Idaho Avenue, said the 2-hour limit won't affect her patrons much.

"I don't think a lot of people park on that side," she said. "Our people are in there only about 30 to 45 minutes anyway."

One business person that could be affected by the change is hot dog vendor Tom Murray. He always stakes out two parking spaces for his Ford Explorer and hot dog cart for a few hours during the week. He said he's in his East Idaho Avenue spot in front of the park usually about 3½ hours a day.

"If they put up signs, I'd have to move every two hours," he said last week.

But Murray said he would be willing to buy whatever permit necessary to obtain a waiver on the impending parking law. In a previous council meeting, Homedale Mayor Paul Fink suggested that a waiver be designed for Murray.

Murray also thinks the new regulation would help his business.

"People have said they would stop more if there was more parking," he said.

— JPB

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From page 1

✓ **Matteson:** Former chief remembered as leader with knack for building

He also was something of a historian for the department, mapping out his years of service and the events around the creation of Homedale's fire agency in 1940.

Current Homedale fire chief Scott Salutregui said Matteson remained an honorary member until his death. But, as seemingly was the case with everything Matteson did, honorary wasn't the total sum of his relationship with the department.

"Not only was he honorary, but he helped us on all our other functions, like our oranges sales, by bagging oranges," Salutregui said. "He was very active that way."

Matteson went to work for the Wilder Fire Department a few years after he graduated from Wilder High School in 1933.

After a couple years with the Wilder department, Matteson became part of the Homedale unit.

He took a lead role during the 1990 Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo parade to commemorate his 50 years of fire service. Everyone who gathered at the Homedale firehouse Friday afternoon before his funeral said — in their eyes — Matteson's service spanned nearly 70 years because firemen may retire but they never leave the department.

Matteson's name will be added to the wooden memorial on the southeast corner of the firehouse in Homedale that honors former longtime members who have passed away.

Breach, himself a Homedale fire veteran of many decades, said Matteson's importance to the fire department and its progress with little or no public assistance shouldn't be underestimated.

"Guys like him and Bruce Smith and Dan Haylett and some of those other old-timers, they didn't have any money," Breach said.

"They just had ambition and cared about the community."

Breach said Matteson was among the group that built the original firehouse, which now serves as the City of Homedale maintenance shop behind City Hall.

"Those guys built the original firehouse themselves," Breach said. "They didn't need to pass a bond."

The 15 or so firefighters who stood around the firehouse Friday, all wearing their red Homedale Fire windbreakers, remember Matteson as a stern leader who had a unique way of teaching.

"He would stand and watch you do something, and after you messed it up, he'd say, 'This is how you should do it,'" firefighter Dan Parrill said. "He could fix anything."

But Matteson was easy-going away from the job, according to those who knew him.

"He got along with everybody," Mike Matteson, John's nephew, said. "He was kind of a stubborn ol' guy, but he got along with ev-



Matteson to be honored by comrades

Above: Flanked by Mark Stimmel, left, and Floyd Breach, right, John Matteson poses for a 1990 photo. **Below, left:** Matteson's name will be added to the Homedale Fire memorial that stands in front of the firehouse. **Below, right:** This plaque on the yellow pumper truck in the fire department's fleet commemorates the fact that Matteson custom-built the truck as part of his family's Owyhee Motor Sales business.



erybody."

Mike Matteson said his uncle was the one in the family business who turned the wrenches while his brother — and Mike's dad — Frank was the salesman.

He worked in the family machine shop that used to occupy



the building where the NAPA Owyhee Parts store now stands.

"He was a latter-day blacksmith," Mike said. "He could

build almost anything he could set his heart to."

— JPB

✓ **Grad:** Clevenger expressed gratitude for lessons learned at Marsing

thing about Clevenger was his sense of humor.

"He was a character," Heller said. "He was probably the funniest kid I ever taught or coached. He would come to class everyday and just see what he could do to get me to laugh. That was his nature — to come in every day to weight training and

just see what he could do to make me laugh."

Heller said he did not recall Clevenger expressing an interest in the military until after high school.

"His senior year his big thing was that he wanted to become a nurse," Heller said. "It was something he wanted to do, to

help people out."

Heller said Clevenger returned to Marsing High School to visit after joining the military and was thankful for the lessons learned while at the school and on the football field.

"Most of the time when he came home, he would come by to say hello," Heller said. "He

enjoyed it (the military). He was glad he played football, because a lot of what we did helped him get through boot camp, as far as the discipline part and the running."

Marsing High School art teacher Melanie Metzger recalled Clevenger as a tall, mature student who got along well with his peers and teachers.

"He was more mature, it seemed, than any of the other people," Metzger said. "He was very friendly."

Metzger said losing a former student is tough for any teacher.

"I just don't think it is right, that teachers should outlive their students," Metzger said.

— JWB

✓ **Deal:** Defendants could receive probation after six months in prison

with Cook and Dickson in which the men would not be charged with robbery if they entered guilty pleas to charges of aggravated battery. The pair was to stand trial on charges associated with the bar beating case that left Homedale resident Douglas Grever unconscious and in critical condition for several days.

Cook has a sentencing hearing March 9 in Murphy. Dickson's sentencing date is April 13. They have been in custody since their arrests in September.

But an Owyhee County court

official said Dickson's sentence already may have been determined, based on recommendations from Faulks. In exchange for a guilty plea to a charge of aggravated battery, the Owyhee County Prosecutor's Office gave a sentencing recommendation of two years fixed and four years indeterminant, for a total of six years.

Cook's sentence deal has not been finalized.

However, according to details of the agreement, Owyhee County likely will retain jurisdiction for 180 days in both cases after sen-

tencing, in what is referred to as a "rider." In the Idaho Department of Correction's (IDOC) rider program, the district court judge has the option of removing the defendant from the prison system and ordering probation at the end of the rider period, which is usually six months.

During the six-month period, the defendant is placed in a special program, which has been likened to a military "boot camp." Near the end of the rider period, IDOC prepares a report of the defendant's performance for review

by the sentencing judge.

Based on that report, the judge has the option of placing the defendant on probation at the end of the rider period, or imposing the full sentence.

There was no firm information on possible restitution or other penalties that could be imposed. Officials at the Owyhee County Courthouse confirmed that restitution could be part of final sentence, but amounts are not known.

Cook and Dickson, both in their early 20s, were arrested on Sept. 19

by Homedale Police officers and charged with aggravated battery and robbery for allegedly beating and robbing the 50-year-old Grever near O'Henry's Pub around 2 a.m. on Sept. 8. The suspects were held in the Owyhee County Jail on a \$100,000 bond each.

Grever's injuries were so severe that he was rushed to Boise's Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center by Lifeflight air-ambulance. He remained in intensive care for several days before regaining consciousness.

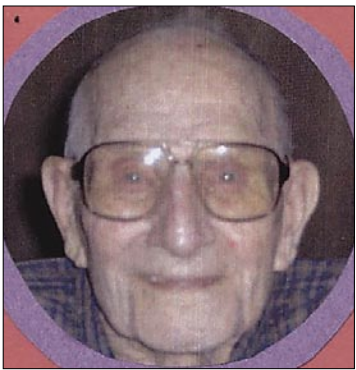
— JWB

Obituary

John Edward Matteson

John Edward Matteson, 91, passed away Monday, February 5, 2007, with family members at his side. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, February 9, 2007 at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. Burial followed at Marsing-Homedale Cemetery, Marsing.

John was the eldest of four children born to Winifred Hogan Matteson and Loyal James (L.J.) Matteson. John was born in Harlowton, Montana on January 16, 1916. His family moved to Elk, Washington, to Kinzua, Oregon and then to Wilder, Idaho. John graduated from Wilder High School in 1933. After graduation he worked in his father’s machine/blacksmith shop in Wilder and for Yankee Machine in Boise. He also attended mechanist school in Portland, Oregon and worked as an apprentice and became a journeyman. In the late 30’s, John worked for his uncle in Phillipsburg, Kansas where he met and married Kathryn Jane Fouts. They moved to Homedale and he again worked with his father in Matteson’s Machine Shop. In the fall of 1942 they moved to Phillipsburg, Kansas where John worked for the Co-op refinery. Moving back to



Homedale in 1946 he started back with his father in the machine shop until 1948 when he moved to Emmett where he purchased the Veltex service station, and then sold it. Moving back to Homedale in 1948 he owned the Veltex service station until 1951 where he worked for a brief stint with M & L Implement. John, his father, and brother Frank bought Owyhee Motor Sales in 1952. In the fall of 1954 they added Owyhee Tractor Sales, an Allis Chalmers and New Holland dealerships. As the business grew, a wrecker was added, sales of new and used cars, a pump business, bulk fuel delivery business and parts house were also acquired. He was active in the family business until his retirement in 1981.

John was also a longtime member of the Homedale Fire

Department, honored for 50 years of service and serving as the department fire Chief for over 20 of those years. He was also a member of the Homedale IOOF Lodge, Homedale-Marsing Cemetery Board, and longtime active member of the Homedale Christian Church.

John was preceded in death by his father, Loyal James Matteson, his mother, Winifred Hogan Matteson, two brothers, Frank Matteson and Archie Matteson.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn Matteson, his children Janice Matteson-Howell of Pocatello; Jack Matteson and wife Sue of Atlanta, GA; and Ralph Matteson and wife Bonnie of Eugene, OR; his grandchildren Bret Howell, Courtney Leigh, Landon Matteson, step-grandchildren Jamie Barnett and Samantha Martin. He is also survived by two great grandchildren. He has one sister, Agnes Smith, and one sister-in-law, Wanda Matteson and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, John would prefer a donation to the Homedale Fire Department Burnout Fund, P.O. Box 608, Homedale, ID 83628 or Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation Center Activity Fund, P.O. Box A, Homedale, ID 83628.

Area students qualify for CSI Dean’s List for fall semester

Three students from the Homedale-Marsing area were selected for the 2006 fall semester honor roll at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

All three local representatives — Hailee Garrett and Michelle

Uria of the Homedale area and Mollee Nielsen of Marsing — were placed on the Dean’s List.

Students with grade-point averages of 3.2 to 3.9 with 12 or more credits qualified for the Dean’s List.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

- Feb. 15: Enchilada or corn dog, scalloped potatoes, brownie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 16: Pizza or P&J sandwich, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 19: No school.
- Feb. 20: Nachos or baked potato, cinnamon bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 21: Chicken rice bowl or egg roll & rice bowl, veggies, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

- Feb. 15: Nachos or baked potato, rice krispie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 16: Chicken tenders or CF beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 19: No school.
- Feb. 20: Chicken nuggets or egg roll, rice, veggies, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 21: Burrito or fish sandwich, corn, apple crisp, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

- Feb. 15: Chicken or hamburger/bun, potato wedges, dessert, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 16: Chicken taco or French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 19: No school.
- Feb. 20: Chicken nuggets or egg roll, rice, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Feb. 21: Idaho haystack or burrito, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

- Feb. 15: Chicken nuggets, veggie, fruit, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Feb. 16: No school.
- Feb. 19: No school.
- Feb. 20: Hamburger, potato wedges, fruit, milk, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Feb. 21: Tacos, veggie, fruit, milk, pizza, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Locals land on Dean’s List at U of I

A handful of students from the Owyhee County area have been named to the fall semester Dean’s List at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

The local students on the list include:

Homedale — Zachary Tyler Lootens, College of Engineering; Richard Corey Huddleston and Yasone Maite Lejardi, College

of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences; Travis Eugene Parrill, College of Natural Resources; Spencer Taylor Batt, College of Science

Marsing — Amy Lynn VanWassenhove, College of Education

Melba — Siska De Winkle, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences; Anna Lucille Schwisow,

College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences; John Matthew Hamilton, Hannah Nizam-Aldine and Leah Louise Schwisow, College of Science

To be eligible for this honor, undergraduate students must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or better in 12 or more graded credit hours during one semester.



Aaron Tines
Morticians Assistant
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President, Homedale Chamber of Commerce
Member, Homedale Lions Club

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Owyhee County's best source for local news!!

Senior menu

Homedale Senior Center

- Feb. 15: Spaghetti & Italian sausage, tossed salad, roll, milk.
- Feb. 20: Baked fish, scalloped potatoes, carrots, roll, milk.
- Feb. 21: Liver & onions, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, milk.



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Your finances

Cutting mortgage insurance can save money if done right

Dear Dave,

We bought a home a couple of years ago, and we're currently paying private mortgage insurance. I'm tired of seeing extra money go out the door, so is there anything we can do to keep from paying this?

— Eddie

Dear Eddie,

You can get the PMI dropped if your home has appreciated enough to cover the cost of the insurance. This can be done through a standard appraisal. It might cost you about \$400, but it's worth it if that gets the insurance charge out of your life for good.

Just make sure the appraiser you pick is approved by your mortgage company. You don't want to pay for the same job twice!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I've had my own business for a few years, and I'm finally starting to see some real money. I want to make sure I don't mess things up now. How important is it for a small business to have some kind of cash reserve?

— Ken

Dear Ken,

This is a great question, and I hope other small business owners and folks thinking about opening a business will pay attention. You always need capital reserves for a small business — always!

You know how I stress the importance of having an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses in your personal finances? The same principle applies to business. When business slows down or the economy does a nosedive, having a cash reserve will soften the blow and help you make it through the lean times. And if something goes wrong or breaks down, it will turn a disaster into nothing but a minor inconvenience.



Not only that, but it can help grow your business debt-free. At some point, you're going to hear about a good opportunity. Good opportunities have a way of becoming great when you're paying with cash!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I love your philosophy on money. But I travel a lot, and was wondering how I'm supposed to rent a car without a credit card.

— George

Dear George,

I use a Visa debit card. I'm traveling somewhere almost every week, and a debit card can do virtually anything a credit card will. There are a couple of car rental agencies that don't accept debit cards, but they're too expensive anyway. So it's always a good idea to call ahead.

Probably the biggest advantage, George, is that you're using your own money with a debit card. With credit cards you're always borrowing someone else's money and paying extra for the "privilege."

Why go into debt and pay more for something when you don't have to?

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*. You can find tools to help with finances or previous columns at davesays.org. For more financial advice, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write *Dave Says*, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Calendar

Today

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

Marsing City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Main St. (208) 896-4122

Grand View City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. (208) 834-2700, Monday through Wednesday

DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting, 7 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (541) 372-5782

Thursday

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

Rhythm and Rhyme at the library, 11 a.m., Melba Cottage Library, 109 Charlotte Drive. (208) 495-1063

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), \$3, 5:30 p.m. weigh-in, 7 p.m. meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St., Homedale. (208) 482-6893

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

Friday

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

Saturday

Bruneau American Legion Post 83 oyster and fish feed, 6 p.m., \$11, adults, \$4 children 11-and-younger, American Legion Hall, Bruneau. (208) 845-2842

Monthly dance, 7 p.m., \$3 and finger food donation, all ages welcome, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., (208) 337-3020

Sunday

Snake River Valley Fellowship Bible study, 10 a.m., 532 W.

California Ave., Homedale. (208) 475-3733

Tuesday

Foot clinic, 10 a.m., appointments necessary, \$10, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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

Storytime at the library, 11 a.m., Melba Cottage Library, 109 Charlotte Drive. (208) 495-1063

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.

Wednesday

Bruneau and Beyond speaker series, lunch served, free (RSVP required), noon, Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth Street, Bruneau. (208) 845-2345 or (208) 845-2131

DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Thursday, Feb. 22

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

Rhythm and Rhyme at the library, 11 a.m., Melba Cottage Library, 109 Charlotte Drive. (208) 495-1063

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

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), \$3, 5:30 p.m. weigh-in, 7 p.m. meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St., Homedale. (208) 482-6893

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

Friday, Feb. 23

Celebrate Recovery 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. 24

Library Game Day, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Bruneau Booster Club Auction, 5:30 p.m., Bruneau American Legion Hall. To donate: (208) 845-2552

Sunday, Feb. 25

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

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jbrowneditor@cablone.net. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JOHNNY!

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Johnny's April, Anna,
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Marsing grad completes Air Force training

Air Force Airman James R. Heffner, a 2005 Marsing High School graduate, has completed basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Heffner is the son of Kim Kent of Marsing and the grandson of Pat Cercle of Modesto, Calif.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, and military customs and courtesies.

Heffner also performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship and field training exercises.

He also received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.



James R. Heffner

Chamber continues to plot its course

New officers elected; members discuss improving participation

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce continued its push toward reorganization and revitalization last week with the election of officers for 2007.

Gavin Parker of the Bowen Parker Day CPA firm was elected president.

Bowen Parker Day colleague Brad Dines will serve as vice-president and treasurer.

Tami Steinmetz, a local Realtor who also is involved with the Homedale Pick Up the Pace women's fitness center, was installed as secretary.

The election during the monthly luncheon at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant was just the first step in a renewed effort to put the Homedale Chamber back on the map.

Representatives from at least six city businesses attended Thursday's meeting, and the consensus was that the chamber would thrive only if three goals were met:

- More organization within the



New chamber officers ready for challenge

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce elected its 2007 officers during last week's monthly luncheon. The new officers are, from left to right, vice-president/treasurer Brad Dines, president Gavin Parker, both of whom work for Bowen Parker Day CPAs, and secretary Tami Steinmetz, a local Realtor who is also involved with Pick Up the Pace women's fitness center.

group

- Better communication of chamber events to the businesses in town

- More of an effort from business leaders to participate in chamber functions

"We've all decided it can't be a one-person show," Parker said. "We can't accomplish anything that way."

The members in attendance were sympathetic to the demands of running a business and acknowledged that other commitments have prevented some civic leaders from participating in the chamber on a regular basis.

Parker said that it wasn't necessary for a business owner to show up for the luncheons,

but a representative such as a manager or an employee would help bolster attendance and increase exposure.

The chamber also decided to re-double efforts to produce the long-delayed directory of Homedale businesses. The target date now is late summer or early fall for the publication of a catalog of city businesses that also would include information on the city's attractions, demographics, geography and history.

Steinmetz said the business directory could be a tool real estate offices would use to give exposure to the town and its retailers when out-of-state or out-of-area clients are shopping for homes here.

It was decided that a stronger plea for support of the chamber would be sent along with the organization's mission statement when dues renewals are distributed.

Another focus of Thursday's

meeting was the anatomy of the monthly gatherings themselves.

Members again brainstormed on ways to make the meetings more attractive and valuable for business owners.

As with January's meeting, the ideas of bringing in guest speakers and spotlighting businesses each month were floated.

The concept of developing a fund-raiser or selling a food item at a city event also was discussed. Greg Evans, who represents Idaho Power at the Homedale meetings, suggested that the exposure from an activity such as a raffle or a concert or a concession stand could give long-dormant business owners incentive to get involved again. And it could help in the reconstruction of the chamber's image.

"We need to start with something small and something fun and let the community see what you're doing," he said.

— JPB

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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.

More about Amethyst: The Rose de France
Did you know that not all Amethyst is purple and that artificial heat is sometimes used to enhance the color? In fact, the pale colors of this gemstone are sometimes called "**Rose de France**" and can be found set in Victorian jewelry while, the deeper colors of Amethyst like those that are rich purple and, also contain rose flashes, are among the more valuable species.

Amethyst is mined in Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia and Argentina, as well as in Zambia, Namibia and other African countries. And very dark amethyst, mostly in small sizes, is mined in Australia.

Yet it is the amethyst from South America that tends to come in larger sizes than those from Africa. Conversely, amethyst from Africa has the reputation of presenting even more saturated color in the smaller small sizes.

LaDon Reames, owner of LaDon's Fine Jewelry
in the WinCo/ShopKo Center has been a Nampa jeweler for thirty-three years. She is a certified diamondologist and gemologist. She can be reached at
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Grand View Lions pile up merchandise for auction
These items will be up for bid when the Grand View Lions Club holds its annual auction at 1 p.m. Saturday inside the Grand View Elementary School gymnasium. The Lions will serve lunch immediately prior to the auction. Two of the featured items at this year's auction will be a 12-gauge shotgun and a barbecue grill. Submitted photo

Owyhee County Gems 4-H news

by Hayleigh Green

The Owyhee County Gems 4-H Club held its first meeting on Jan. 28.

We talked about meeting requirements and held an election for new officers.

The new officers are: Ethan Salove, president; Tyler Wardle, president; Jessica Ellsberry, secretary-treasurer; Hayleigh Green, reporter-scrapbook; and Trevor Lootens, sergeant of arms.

The Owyhee County Gems would also like to welcome new members Gill Lootens, Kate Smith and Logan Stansell.

We would also like to thank our leader, Becky Salove, for sticking with us another year.

Rimrock FFA news

by Chelsey Lemon,
chapter reporter

Six members of the Rimrock FFA chapter traveled to Kuna recently for a workshop on horses.

Members attending the workshop included Jay Long, Riley Timmons, Geoff King, Curtis Thiel, Sierra Ridley and Jackie Thurman.

The workshop, presented by representatives from the College of Southern Idaho, was held in the Lucky 13 arena.

The workshop taught the members the proper nutrition and the basic anatomy of the horse. Members also learned the proper way to judge a horse.

Keep informed

Read The Avalanche

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Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir held 479,223 acre feet of water and that 20.6 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 9 a.m. Monday:

		Reynolds Creek			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
02/06	-0.2	6.5	55	40	45
02/07	0.2	6.4	56	39	47
02/08	0.0	6.5	49	36	42
02/09	0.0	6.5	42	32	37
02/10	-0.4	6.4	46	33	38
02/11	0.6	6.5	43	32	37
02/12	0.1	6.5	44	28	36

		South Mountain			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
02/06	21.2	13.3	60	42	50
02/07	21.0	13.3	55	41	47
02/08	20.5	13.3	52	37	43
02/09	22.5	13.4	57	33	37
02/10	21.9	13.5	47	34	38
02/11	21.2	13.7	45	34	38
02/12	23.7	14.2	40	27	34

		Mud Flat			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
02/06	8.6	6.3	53	31	41
02/07	9.6	6.3	52	32	40
02/08	9.4	6.3	53	31	41
02/09	9.5	6.4	50	33	40
02/10	9.1	6.4	51	35	40
02/11	8.0	6.5	46	35	40
02/12	9.0	6.7	47	30	37

Weather			
	H	L	Prec.
Feb 6	52	21	.00
Feb 7	52	22	.00
Feb 8	48	25	trace
Feb 9	60	30	.06
Feb10	no reading taken		
Feb11	no reading taken		
Feb12	58	25	.30

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Bruneau Boosters prepare for auction

Event features
goat raffle, too

Organizers promise plenty of food and fun Feb. 24 at the annual Bruneau Booster Club Auction and Fund-raiser.

The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. with a free potato and taco bar, punch and coffee inside the Bruneau American Legion Hall. Slices of homemade pie will be sold for \$1 each, and pop and water also will be sold.

A live Boar goat donated by Bruneau's George and Milly Porter also will be raffled off. Tickets will be sold until 8:30 p.m., when the winning ticket will be drawn.

Raffle tickets are being sold at all Bruneau businesses for \$1 each or six for \$5. The animal will be available for inspection during the fund-raiser.

Auctioneers Dick Strickland and Kyle Colyer will bring their humor when the auction begins around 6:30 p.m.

Area businesses, artists and craftsmen have donated a wide variety of items for this year's auction.

A top attraction for the auction is a lithograph copy of the Bruneau Cowboys by David Stoecklein. Stoecklein donated the artwork, and Robin Howard framed it.

Other lots up for grabs at the auction include grader work, dry beans, gift baskets, quilts and Western motif pillows, loader work, custom application of fertilizer, newspaper subscriptions, hay, tires, tools, lawn fertilizer and various gift certificates for meals and products and services from

local merchants.

In addition to the live auction, a silent auction will be held, and items up for bid will be displayed in the dining hall. Bidding for the silent auction will end at 8 p.m.

Auction organizers still are seeking white elephant items and new items for this year's event. Those items can be dropped off at the Legion Hall from noon to 5 p.m. on Feb. 23, or beginning at 10 a.m. the day of the auction. Call (208) 845-2552 to have items picked up.

To guarantee inclusion on the posterboard advertising auction lots, items must be received at the Legion Hall by noon Feb. 24.

The Bruneau Booster Club was started on Jan. 23, 1988, to promote community pride, spirit and awareness. The civic organization has embarked on a special project over the years to develop and maintain a community park. Two years ago, a picnic shelter with electrical outlets was built in the park.

The club also organizes an annual community Christmas dinner and strings Christmas lights on all the poles of streetlights.

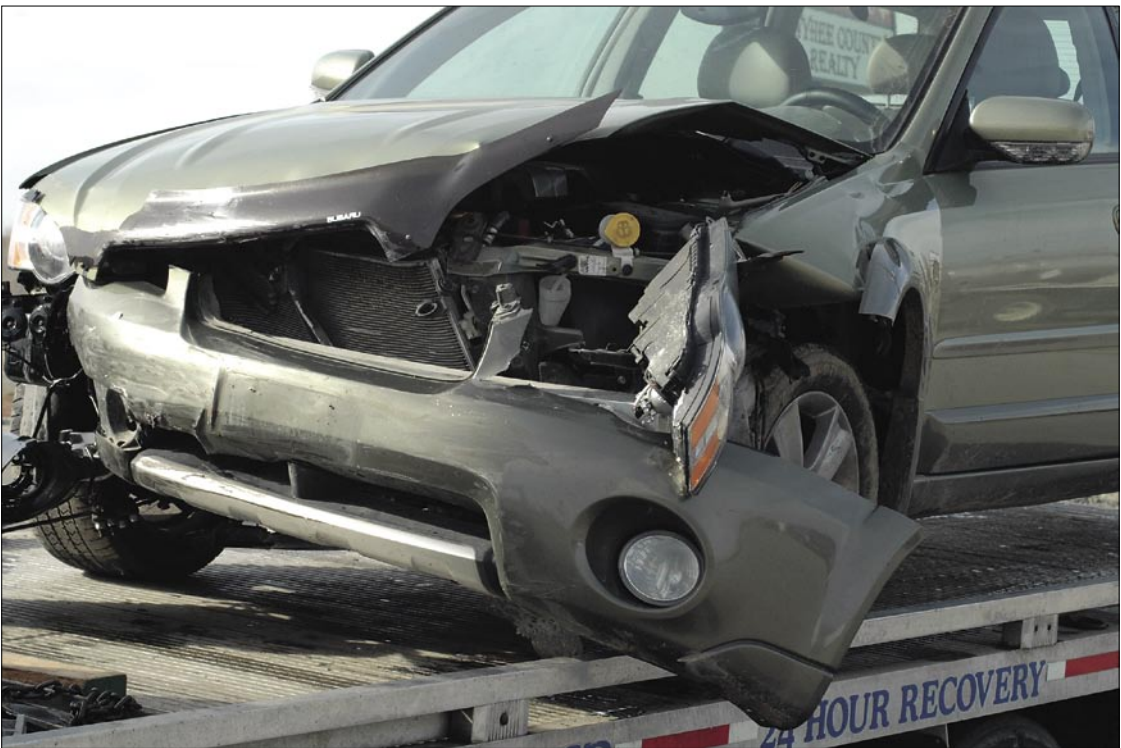
The boosters award two \$500 scholarships each year, and the club is underwriting a project to preserve and re-frame the Bruneau High School graduation photos that hang in the Legion Hall.

The club also has paid 50 percent of the annual cost for streetlights in Bruneau as well as helping finance field trips for the local grade school, trips for high school students to workshops as well as lending a hand to other Bruneau organizations.



Woman goes to hospital after wreck

Above: The 1998 Toyota Celica driven by Homedale area resident Kathleen Soshea rests on the shoulder of northbound U.S. Highway 95 after a Feb. 6 accident. The front license plate frame of the car that hit Soshea's vehicle can be seen embedded in the driver's side door. **Below:** The front end of a 2005 Subaru owned by Homedale's Arthur Pope suffered extensive damage in the noontime accident.



Man cited in U.S. 95 accident

A Homedale man was cited for failure to yield at a stop sign after a noontime auto accident Feb. 6 at the intersection of Industrial Road and U.S. Highway 95.

According to Homedale Police Department reports, Arthur Pope, who was driving a 2005 Subaru Legacy wagon, was accelerating eastbound from the stop sign at Industrial at about 12:27 p.m. when he slammed into the

driver's side of a red 1998 Toyota Celica driven by Homedale area resident Kathleen Soshea, who was traveling north on U.S. 95.

The force of the impact sent Soshea's vehicle spinning across the roadway, and it came to rest on the shoulder facing south in front of the Les Schwab Tire Center.

Homedale Police Cpl. Ian Takashige said Pope reported that his neighbor was waiting to turn left from southbound U.S. 95 and waved at him. Pope told police he thought his neighbor was giving

him the right-of-way, pulled into the intersection and hit Soshea's Celica square.

Soshea complained of a minor neck injury and was transported to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell by private vehicle. Takashige said she was later released.

The front end of Pope's Subaru was demolished and the license plate from that vehicle embedded in the door of the Celica.

— JPB

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Marsing Fire benefits from sold-out feast

Organizers mull moving next year's event after folks snap up 2007 dinner tickets faster than expected

Is it an urban legend that firemen are great cooks?

Not if you ask the 300 people who shelled out \$35 bucks each for tickets to the Marsing Volunteer Fire Department's second annual Crab and Prime Rib Feed to be held Saturday at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center.

According to firefighter Pete Smit, tickets for the event sold out in less than a week after going on sale early last month. No tickets will be available at the door.

Last year, the event sold 225 tickets within the span of three weeks. Word of the event spread, and this year patrons snapped up the tickets practically overnight, something Smit and others did not expect.

Smit supposes that word of last year's feed was the catalyst.

"We had calls from people who went last year, asking when the tickets (for this year) were going to go on sale," Smit said. "Dusty Clover, who organizes the ticket sales, was getting calls all year. As soon as they went on sale, they (ticket buyers) just overwhelmed us."

Smit said he hopes that in the future the event will be expanded so he doesn't have to turn people away.

"We maxed-out the facility this year, so we're trying to look for alternatives for next year to have more tickets available," Smit said. "It's turned into a great community event and evening."

"We certainly don't want it to be too big, but we want to take care of the local community," Smit said.

Smit said the idea for last year's inaugural feed came about informally and was suggested as a public relations event as well as a fund-raiser.

"There was a group of us (firefighters). We were looking for a fund-raising activity that we could do, kind of a one-day type of thing that could benefit



the community, too, and keep us (firefighters) connected with the community," Smit said. "We figured, 'Well, we'll try it.'"

While the sellout may disappoint connoisseurs of prime rib and crab, it was still good news for the firemen.

"The funds are for the volunteer fireman's emergency fund," Smit said. "It helps support emergencies that a fireman might get into or injuries, or additional training."

No one will debate the hazards of the job of firefighting, but many do not realize that the risks faced by volunteer firefighters are exactly the same as those faced by fulltime, career firefighters. A fulltime firefighter's lost work time and medical bills likely will be covered by the agency for which he or she works; a volunteer firefighter might have to shoulder the burden alone.

Smit gives credit for the event's success to several members of the fire department's Crab & Prime Rib Feed committee: Marsing Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Percifield, Clover, Marsing Fire Chief Brion Showalter, Firefighter Bob Carter, Fire Marshal Roman Usabel and Rob and Jerrod Howarth.

— JWB

Marsing auction sets record

Community gives \$82,000 during annual community event

The turnout and success of the Marsing Disaster Auction proved that community members never get tired of helping their neighbors — or finding great deals.

Betty Ackerman, the auction's 2007 advertising chair, reported last week that the 47th annual edition of the community event pulled in a record \$82,000.

And, Ackerman said that more donations may yet come forth.

"Each year we think there is no way we'll raise more than we did the year before, but each year our great community surprises us and we top the last year's amount," Ackerman said.

Three hundred people packed the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center on Feb. 3 for the annual community event.

"We're fortunate to have such a great community and a great turnout," auction chair Cindy Floyd said in her opening remarks Feb. 3.

According to Ackerman, the 2007 auction collected about \$2,000 more than the 2006 event.

"It was another successful year," Ackerman said. "The community came through again, buying every single item that was provided by our generous supporters."

Ackerman said that the cyclical nature of the auction continued for another year, and the turnout seems to suggest that the auction continues to thrive as new folks show up on the scene to bid on items or volunteer to the cause.

"The faces change from year to year as the older generation is replaced with younger, but just as dedicated, individuals," Ackerman said. "The younger supporters step up by volunteering their time, talents and the fruits of their labor as the event continues



Mayor takes in big event

Marsing Mayor Don Osterhoudt was among the crowd of an estimated 300 people who attended the Marsing Disaster Auction earlier this month.

to successfully raise funds to help neighbors in need."

While younger faces, including Marsing High School boys basketball player Johnathan Cossel, were on hand to help out, familiar individuals also did their part.

The volunteer auctioneers included Chris Brown, Bob Hopkins, Sid Maxwell, Lonnie Rudd, Roger Baker, Sam Baker and J.B. Salutregui.

Ackerman said that those long-standing auction supporters who were unable to attend because of failing health sent younger representatives to bid on items.

Marsing Mayor Don Osterhoudt and Owyhee County Assessor Brett Endicott were among those seen in the audience.

The children of Marsing also help out by selling raffle tickets.

Lacey Usabel won the annual sales competition by selling 2,103 raffle tickets. She selected an iPod music player as her reward.

Kimber Bowman sold 1,560 tickets and accepted \$100 as her second-place prize.

Third place went to Becky Carter (660 tickets), who selected a DVD player.

Dillon Danner finished fourth with 240 tickets and received

a Nintendo DS video game console.

Hayleiah Green and Katlyn Barkell won the \$50 prizes after a random drawing of the ticket-sellers.

Here are the raffle winners:

• **Ethan Salove** — Ruger .22-250 rifle donated by Owyhee Farm Bureau agents Wayne Hungate and Dave Cereghino

• **Loren McIntyre** — Cleaning services donated by Karen's Custom Cleaning and a digital camera and picture dock donated by Dick Downum and Haken Insurance Agency

• **Boyd Peterson** — Plasma television donated by Canyon County Farm Bureau agents Don Pfof, Darin Pfof and Kerry Harris

• **Dave Cereghino** — Gun safe donated by Rhino Safe Co.

• **Bart Yates** — \$250 Marsing shopping spree donated by Marsing American Legion Post 128

• **Tina Glenn** — Boise getaway donated by Mason and Stanfield Inc., Engineers and Surveyors

• **Tawnie Price** — Half a beef, cut and wrapped, donated by Sandy and Terry McCloud

— JPB

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Making mom and dad the ‘good guys’

Homedale Elementary stresses all parents can benefit from new class

Homedale Elementary School counselor Randee Garrett wants all parents to succeed in life’s No. 1 job. Through the Homedale School District, she and district intervention specialist Kathleen Schatz will facilitate a class with that goal in mind.

“My goals are just to give parents tools to make their jobs easier, to make their homes more peaceful, and to make their kids more responsible,” Garrett said.

The seven-week parenting class, entitled Love & Logic, begins Feb. 26 at Homedale Elementary. The class will run from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 8 p.m. each Monday. The only cost involved is \$10 for materials, and childcare will be provided.

For more information about the class, contact Garrett at 337-4033. For more information on the Love & Logic curriculum, go to the program’s Web site, www.loveandlogic.com.

While the notion that a parenting class is reserved for parents of problem children is common, Garrett stresses that this particular class is for all parents, not just those of troublemakers.

“It’s not for parents with ‘problem’ kids,” Garrett said. “It is for any parent who wants parenting to be easier.”

Garrett hopes that kids will gain life-skills needed to do their own thinking, rather than forcing parents to make all the decisions and ‘fix’ things that have gone wrong.

Garrett said that the program’s goals are to refocus children’s frustrations about life’s difficulties to the actual problem at hand, instead of simply focusing on the parent’s role.

“Love & Logic has a way of making the child’s problem the enemy...instead of the parent,” Garrett said. “If a kid can’t get up or doesn’t do their homework or has bad grades, that is the problem, not the parent.”

Garrett said a big part of the class will be to teach parents to use empathy instead of anger when dealing with parenting challenges. She said the goal is to

‘My goals are just to give parents tools to make their jobs easier, to make their homes more peaceful, and to make their kids more responsible.’

— Randee Garrett
Homedale counselor

show concern for a child’s problem, but not become angry at the child for the circumstances. Through this process the child is expected to learn to make decisions and face consequences with parental support, Garrett said.

Love & Logic literature says that the course is designed to help parents cultivate their child’s ability to analyze the consequences of their actions:

“When done on a regular basis, kids develop an internal voice that says: ‘I wonder how much pain I’m going to cause for myself with my next decision?’ Kids who develop this internal voice become more capable of standing up to peer pressure.”

Originators of the Love & Logic program theorize that a child’s self-confidence is often gained through struggle and achievement. Another Love & Logic goal is helping the parent realize children are bound to make mistakes and must be responsible for those errors. Love & Logic originators say as the children are held responsible for their poor decisions, they eventually will learn to solve their own problems with caring guidance from adults.

Garrett says that through this process Love & Logic hopes children will learn to see their parents as the “good guy” and the child’s poor decisions as the “bad guy.”

— JWB



Homedale Fire fights brush fire last week

Firefighters from the Homedale Fire Department responded to a small brush fire near the intersection of Johnson Lane and Stateline Road west of Homedale on Thursday. Five firefighters were able to extinguish the blaze in approximately a half-hour. No structures were threatened, and property damage was limited to a few burned railroad ties.



Homedale firefighters battle brush fire

Firefighters from the Homedale Fire Department responded to a small brush fire near the Idaho/Oregon state line Thursday afternoon.

According to Homedale Fire Chief Scott Salutregui, the blaze covered approximately 2 acres

and was caused when a controlled burn flared out of control. No structures were damaged, no injuries were reported and the only property damage was limited to minor damage to some railroad ties in the area.

“A neighbor was burning, and

it got away from him,” Salutregui said.

Salutregui said a total of five Homedale firefighters responded on two apparatus and extinguished the fire in approximately a half-hour.

— JWB

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The Vine Dinner House

The cabernet vine that decorates the subtle interior of The Vine Dinner House in Marsing, hovers above selections from local wineries. Formerly the Gateway Grill, The Vine Dinner House features outstanding upscale fare and...you guessed it, slamming local wine choices.

Restaurant offers upscale fare in downtown Marsing

In walking into Marsing’s Vine Dinner House, it is hard not to be charmed silly by the luxurious, red tablecloths, textured, earth-toned background of the freshly painted walls and prominent display of local wines. A dried cabernet vine hangs from the west wall of the restaurant, hovering over bottles of Ste. Chapelle, Parma Ridge and Koenig wines.

Peggy Prater, who co-owns the eatery once known as the Gateway Grill with her husband Jack, hopes to attract a wide range of diners to her new restaurant.

“We try to cater to everyone, and we’re very family-oriented,” Prater said. “It’s family-oriented because we’re a ‘mom-n-pop’ operation.”

This isn’t the Prater’s first venture into the business, though.

“We had a restaurant in Nampa (The Karcher Deli) for five years, and said we would never do it again ... and here we are,” Prater said with a laugh. “But, the bug bit me, ’cause I love it.”

She said that The Vine Dinner

House gives diners something unique to the small town.

“When you enter in, it’s a different world,” Prater said. “You wouldn’t expect Marsing to have (it) because it is rather elegant looking.

“It’s quite romantic, it’s kid-friendly,” Prater said. “I think it is some of the best food in the valley.”

Prater said that the name for the restaurant stemmed from its location in the heart of Idaho’s wine country.

“We’re really growing, and if you look around, they’re planning more vineyards, and I just thought it would be a perfect name and it would fit in to the area,” Prater said.

As would be expected, The Vine Dinner House has a healthy selection of wines. Strangely enough, Prater said she doesn’t have a favorite, and is not herself a wine drinker. She reserves the position of resident connoisseur for her husband, Jack.

“He’s the wine person,” Prater said. “He likes it.”

Prater said her establishment features selections from local wineries such as Bitner, Parma Ridge, Ste. Chapelle, Weston and Hells Canyon.

Prater said the only challenge facing the restaurant is finding an artist to design the perfect sign theme, which is why the signage for the restaurant has remained The Gateway Grill. Prater hopes to emulate a grape vine, but so far has been disappointed with the results.

“I can’t find anyone to come up with the design that I want done,” Prater said. “They’re having a hard time coming up with what I want — the grape vine. They’re having a really hard time coming up with something that doesn’t have a cartoon look.”

The Vine Dinner House is located on Main Street in Marsing. It is open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Sunday features a brunch from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and a buffet from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

— JWB

Homedale teachers participate in state assessment review

Three Homedale teachers met in Boise earlier this month as part of the Idaho State Direct Writing Assessment (DWA) and Direct Math Assessment (DMA) reading and scoring teams.

The educators — high school teachers Paula Leppert and Linda Kildow and Homedale Elementary Math coach Jenny Mattravers — were on hand to exam the DWA and DMA tests that were given to students in November.

The Idaho DWA is a performance-based test to assess progress toward achieving Idaho Language Arts Standards. For the past 19 years, the DWA has served as a national model for performance-based writing assessment.

The DWA requires students to plan and write an essay in response to an assigned prompt within a 90-minute timeframe. The prompts used for the DWA are developed by Idaho teachers, field-tested in Idaho schools and reviewed by the Idaho DWA Steering Committee.

Fifth-grade students are asked to write a narrative essay, seventh-grade and ninth-grade students are asked to write an expository essay. Idaho teachers score the writing samples holistically.

A language arts teacher at the high school, Leppert was asked to return as a scoring table leader. She was part of the team last year, and according to Homedale School District state and federal programs coordinator Glenda

Eubanks, participation in the program two years in a row speaks highly of Leppert’s capabilities.

Kildow, a Leppert colleague at the high school, scored ninth-grade writing. Mattravers also served as a reader and a scorer this year.

According to Eubanks, insights gained from Mattravers’ participation will add to her expertise and be a valuable asset to Homedale’s teachers and students. Mattravers is charged with scoring the sixth-grade DMA.

Luci Asumendi-Mereness, from Homedale Middle School, also has been a reader in the past. Last year, Mereness read for the seventh-grade assessment.

“These teachers join a large group of highly qualified teachers from throughout the state to evaluate the annual state assessments,” Eubanks said. “Each scoring session is three (very long and intense) days, with a separate group of scorers for each grade level of writing and math assessed.”

Eubanks also said that being included in the event is a wonderful professional development opportunity for the teachers involved and a way for Homedale School District educators to stay abreast of state and national educational expectations, connect with colleagues and share teaching strategies.

— JWB

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That’s when the Owyhee Avalanche hits the news stands

Cattlemen kick off annual truck raffle

Second half of winter meeting also includes reports on sage-grouse, introduction of new agency heads

The various reports heard by the Owyhee Cattlemen at their winter meeting earlier this month in Oreana brought some new faces into the fold.

Tom Dyer, the new state director for the Bureau of Land Management, and Celia Gould, the new director of the state Department of Agriculture, were among the people to give reports to the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association membership Feb. 3 in the Oreana Community Hall.

Of course, there were some familiar topics bandied about during the meeting, including the Owyhee Initiative, the sage-grouse conservation plan and the annual Owyhee Cattlemen's Heritage Fund truck raffle.

Heritage Fund truck raffle

Chris Collett, wife of former OCA president Brian Collett, kicked off the 2007 Owyhee Cattlemen's Heritage Fund truck raffle.

There are 500 tickets available for the raffle, the winner of which will get a 2007 Dodge pickup furnished by the Northwest Dodge Dealers. Greenfield Custom Meats in Meridian and Commercial Tire in Grand View are teaming up to provide the traditional second-place prize of beef.

Tickets are \$100 each, and the drawing will take place Oct. 21.

Collett said tickets are available from any Cattlemen's

board member or by calling Paul Nettleton, (208) 834-2237; Collett, (208) 834-2062; or Brad Huff, (208) 495-2950.

Tickets will be available at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing and The Owyhee Avalanche office. They also will be sold in the coming months at any event where the pickup is on display. Collett said the Jordan Valley Big Loop Rodeo in May probably will be the first event at which the truck will be displayed.

Finally, tickets can be obtained by sending a check payable to OCHF and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Pickup Drawing, P.O. Box 32, Murphy, ID 83650.

Collett said all but 60 of the tickets from last year's raffle were sold.

State brand department

State Brand Inspector Larry Hayburst announced that various fees, including those for horse inspections, were going up, primarily because of the cost of gas and employee benefits. But he did say that a special annual rate of \$100 was available for businesses and individuals that need several horse brand inspections throughout the year.

Hayburst also told the Cattlemen that there is a new brand inspector for the Grand View-Bruneau area.

Jake Miller has replaced Chuck Hall, who retired.

BLM report

Dyer, who is from the Payette-Fruitland area, spent much of his talk discussing the details of prescribed burns, including scheduling, funding and National Environmental Protection Act requirements.

OCA president Russ Turner said Dyer also discussed cattle guard maintenance on public roads, wild horse gathers and reproduction rates.

Sage-grouse report

Grand View's Donna Bennett, the chair of the Owyhee Local Working Group for sage-grouse conservation, lugged a stuffed three-ring binder to the podium to show Cattlemen the extent of the state conservation plan and told members that the Owyhee group met Jan. 31 in Grand View to discuss developments.

She recapped the rehabilitation efforts for sage-grouse habitat and forage grounds in the wake of last year's Chubby-Spain Fire.

Efforts to curb the invasion of whitetop in the Big Spring area include a collaboration with the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area and other agencies. The plan is to treat the whitetop with herbicide and seed the treated area with forbs to increase the sage-grouse food supply.



Grand View resident gives update on sage-grouse

Donna Bennett, the chair of the Owyhee Local Working Group for the conservation of sage-grouse, updated the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association on the situation Feb. 3 in Oreana. The next Owyhee LWG meeting is 7 p.m. March 21 in Marsing

Bennett also said that Idaho Fish and Game biologist John Rachele will continue his effort to track sage-grouse and the effects of last year's die-off triggered by West Nile Virus. Rachele plans to equip 40 birds with radio bands, which cost nearly \$200 each, in an effort to track the survival rate.

Bennett urged ranchers to attend the next Owyhee LWG meeting, which is scheduled for 7 p.m. March 21 at the University of

Idaho Owyhee Extension Office in Marsing.

She said cattlemen bring an important voice to the proceedings, and need to protect their industry against the opinions of other interest groups that attend.

"I've noticed that as the years go by, the number of ranchers attending is dwindling," Bennett said. "We need you guys to keep the balance open."

— JPB

OCA resolutions tackle controversial issues

Owyhee Cattlemen's Association president Russ Turner is upbeat after the organization's winter meeting in Oreana earlier this month.

"I felt the meeting went smoothly," Turner said. "We had positive interaction with agency personnel, covering a wide range of our members' concerns."

"I'd like to thank everyone who came and participated."

The county's ranchers received updates on several issues during their Feb. 3 gathering at Oreana Community Hall, but it was the business of the meeting that may have been the most important work of the day.

In the second session of the meeting, Cattlemen passed three resolutions regarding issues that affect not only the ranching industry but also other agricultural businesses.

The association membership originally was scheduled to consider resolutions on developing a sage-grouse captive breeding program and attempts in the Idaho Legislature to scale back or eliminate elk ranching in the state. Prior to the meeting, however,

a third resolution opposing the proposed federal Horse Protection Act was added.

All three resolutions were passed.

Horse slaughter

The Horse Protection Act, which is sponsored by Rep. John Sweeney (R-NY) and was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in September, is a broadly worded bill that would prohibit the transportation, purchase, selling or donation of horses for human consumption and other purposes.

That would make the operation of horse packing plants illegal as well as prohibit transportation of horses to Canada for slaughter.

A similar bill was introduced into the Senate in 2005 by Sen. John Ensign (R-Nev.), and is in committee, according to the legislative update Web site govtrack.us.

It's the OCA's stance that the outlaw of commercial horse packers would hasten a flood of unwanted pleasure horses being released onto grazing allotments and cause harm to permit owners and private property.

Before the horse slaughter resolution vote, State Brand Inspector Larry Hayburst told the Cattlemen during his report that a horse slaughter plant in Texas had been closed after that state's Legislature passed a law.

Turner said the discussion with Hayburst centered on the impact the outlaw would have on the humane handling of unwanted horse, including how burying euthanized horses in landfills would affect the brand department's budget.

Earlier in the meeting, John Chatburn, a legislative liaison from the state Department of Agriculture acknowledged that the outlaw of horse slaughter potentially could clog landfills.

"There are 250,000 horses in Idaho, and if the ones going through the processing plants are sent to the landfill, they're going to fill up in a hurry," Chatburn said.

Turner said another problem could be irresponsible equine owners abandoning unwanted horses like unwanted dogs or cats.

"The local sale yards are already refusing horses that cannot be ridden or used," Turner said.

"These unwanted horses could be dumped, just like unwanted town dogs and cats, in the 'country' to make their own way."

Turner said abandoned horses could die of thirst or starvation if dumped in that manner.

Sage-grouse breeding

The sage-grouse resolution supports the exploration and development of a captive breeding program to enhance the wild population of the bird and lessen any possible impact on grazing permits.

In their resolution, the ranchers assert that a captive breeding program could help western sage-grouse populations outside of Owyhee County.

The resolution calls for an implementation of the breeding program if factors, such as another massive West Nile Virus-related die-off such as the one that occurred in 2006, would warrant it to help bolster the population.

Elk ranching

The resolution opposing any attempt by state lawmakers to impact the Idaho elk ranching

industry amounted to the Cattlemen sticking up for their brethren in the agricultural community.

The OCA's resolution contends that opponents of elk ranching are using misleading information and "scare tactics" regarding the potential introduction of Chronic Wasting Disease into the state's deer and elk populations.

The OCA said research has shown that CWD can't be transmitted to humans and is not naturally transmissible to domestic livestock.

The ranchers also said in the resolution that potential risk of the disease hitting free-ranging animals is mitigated by several factors, including science, the regulation of the interstate movement of captive elk and disease management programs overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Furthermore, the Cattlemen say 86 percent of the captive herds known to be infected with CWD have been depopulated and that none of those herds reside in Idaho.

— JPB

A full-page background image showing a sunset over a body of water. The sun is a bright, glowing orb in the upper center, casting a long, shimmering reflection down the water. Two silhouetted figures are sitting in a small boat on the water, fishing with rods. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

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