



**Homedale
golf starts fast
Page 1B**

Business, see below

**Analyst: Homedale not ready
for motel; restaurant still planned**

Homedale, Page 2A

**Man faces slew of felonies
stemming from alleged kidnapping**

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

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The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 12

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Dugger's charges dismissed; AG appeals



Pam Dugger

Judge: Canyon grand jury lacked jurisdiction to indict former Homedale city clerk

All charges have been dismissed against former Homedale City Clerk Pamela Dugger.

Bob Cooper, spokesman for the Idaho Attorney General's office, said last week that charges were dismissed by Third Judicial District Judge Gordon Petrie in a Canyon County courtroom on Jan. 30.

The Attorney General's office has filed an appeal in the case to the Idaho Supreme Court. Documents supporting the appeal are not yet finished, but must be filed by May 16, at which time dates for further proceedings will be set.

Dugger was indicted on nine felony counts in July of 2006, including

eight counts of misuse of public money and one count of grand theft by embezzlement. Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said he was "fairly disappointed" by the decision, but is hopeful that justice eventually will be served through the appeal process. Fink said he was told the appeal could take up to a year.

"It will take some time — about a year — for the appeal process. It'll be long, drug-out mess, but she's not out of it," Fink said.

"It's been over three years ... it'll eventually get there," Fink said Thursday. "It seems like the courts

— See *Dugger*, page 5A

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**A look at
Owyhee's
search team
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Spring skiing in Homedale

It wasn't spring on the calendar, but that didn't stop a group of Homedale Elementary School second-graders from getting out for some exercise on West Idaho Avenue on Friday. See story, Page 6A

Tree memorial planned for fallen soldier

**Plaque will be
placed at
Island Park**

The Marsing City Council unanimously approved a request by Marsing resident Gary Lakey to plant a tree in Marsing's Island Park as a memorial to fallen U.S. Army Sgt. Ross Clevenger.

Clevenger, 21, was a 2003 Marsing High School graduate. He was killed in February along with two other Idaho soldiers when a roadside bomb exploded in Iraq's Anbar province.

"His dreams were always to go lay underneath Ponderosa pines, and that is where he spent his time when he was out in the woods," said Lakey, who is a friend of the family. Clevenger's mother, Abby Bradshaw, and stepfather, Rees Bradshaw, live near Givens Hot Springs.

The tree also will have a memorial plaque. Details of the plaque are being finalized.

Marsing city superintendent Danny Martin received a letter from Lakey requesting



Ross Clevenger

— See *Tree*, page 5A

Developers scrap plans to build Homedale motel

**Plaza partners still
focused on retail
development**

A new motel won't be built in Homedale by the developers planning a restaurant and retail development on East Idaho Avenue.

Ron Mayhew of Homedale

Plaza Partners LLC said last week that a recently completed feasibility and marketing study concludes that the town still is a few years away from being the type of community that can

support a motel. Steve Thomas and Brad Condie also are partners in the venture.

"We were all disappointed,"

— See *Motel*, page 5A

Homedale man faces kidnapping, rape charges

An Owyhee County grand jury found sufficient evidence to indict a Homedale man on several felony charges after allegedly holding a female against her will — at gunpoint — for four days inside a city residence.

Salvador Garcia Serrano was arraigned before Judge James C. Morfitt on March 9 in the Third District Court in Murphy on several charges, including aggravated assault, battery, kidnapping, rape and penetration by foreign object, after a grand jury handed down indictments on the violent crimes.

The 45-year-old Serrano had been

arrested by Homedale Police on Jan. 30 and held in the Owyhee County Jail on a grand theft charge.

He is currently being held in county jail on a \$250,000 bond. He is scheduled to stand trial July 24.

The charges stem from an incident in late January, where, according to Owyhee County dispatch records, staff from Boise's Saint Alphonsus



Salvador Garcia Serrano

Regional Medical Center reported that a female patient in the emergency room told hospital personnel that she had been held against her will at gunpoint for four days at a residence in Homedale.

Homedale Police responded and interviewed the victim. Officers were able to determine that the suspect was Serrano and that the crime occurred at his residence in Homedale.

Homedale Police are not releasing further details about the case at this time and referred all comment on the matter to Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks.

Faulks confirmed the indictment in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller did state that the entire Homedale Police Department contributed to the investigation and eventual apprehension of Serrano.

Serrano was previously arrested in Homedale in August of 2005, after a four-hour standoff with Homedale Police. In that incident, Serrano allegedly also had firearms in the residence. Officers had initially responded to reports of a domestic altercation at Serrano's residence on North 4th Street West.

— JWB

Marsing marijuana grower busted

A Marsing man is scheduled for a preliminary hearing in Murphy on Monday after his arrest on drug charges earlier this month.

Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Thomas J. Patanjo, 19, of Marsing on March 9 on charges of manufacture and possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver. He also was charged with misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

A 17-year-old minor was also arrested for possession of marijuana. His name is not being released.

In the early afternoon on March 9, Deputies responded to the 400 block of Mountain View Drive in Marsing to curtail the activities of a suspected marijuana grower.

According to Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, deputies were acting on a search warrant obtained through an investigation regarding Patanjo, after a confidential informant notified authorities

of suspected drug sales.

"He had growing equipment and evidence of recently harvested marijuana," Aman said. "It was an indoor 'grow.'

He had fluorescent lights, a book on how to grow marijuana, lights, fertilizer and seeds, potting soil, smoking devices."

The lead deputy on the case is Aron Streibel. Other sheriff's personnel, including Sgt. Jim Bish, Sgt. Gary Olsen, Cpl. Kenny Hoagland and Deputy Lynn Bowman, and sheriff's Posse members also assisted.

Apparently, deputies caught the would-be marijuana dealer while planning his next sale.

"He had four bags on him,



Thomas Patanjo

packaged, ready for sale," Aman said. "He had a small bag of marijuana, four bags of hashish and seeds on him."

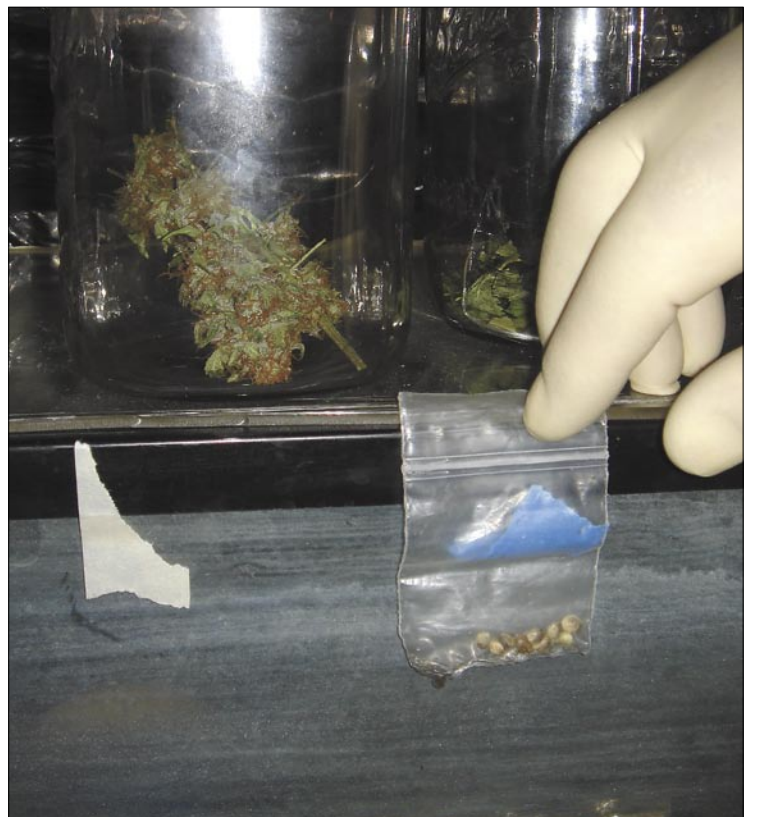
Aman said Patanjo's live marijuana plants already had been harvested, and that the amount of marijuana in Patanjo's possession at the time of arrest was definitely more than "personal use."

Aman said details provided by the confidential informant were crucial in the development of the case.

"We had information he (Patanjo) was growing. We had a good informant, and we got a search warrant," the sheriff said.

Aman declined to estimate the marijuana's street value, but said it was not a "huge amount."

Patanjo was booked into the Owyhee County Jail after his arrest. He was later released after posting bond.



Evidence seized in search

Marijuana seeds and other contraband were found by investigators during a search of a suspect's house in Marsing last week.

— JWB

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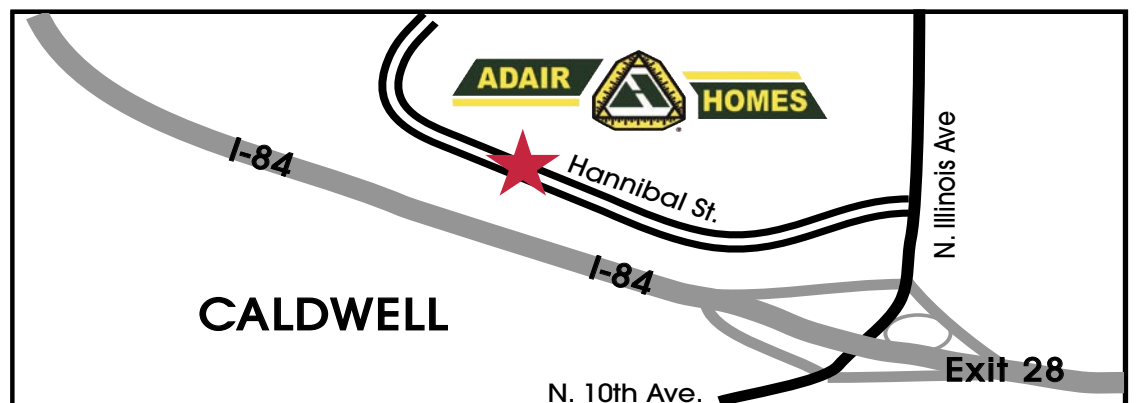
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Mayor signs papers for sewer loan

Construction bid process
could start in next two weeks

Infrastructure was a primary topic Wednesday during the Homedale City Council's first March meeting.

Council members authorized Mayor Paul Fink to sign the loan resolution that would fund the city's water and sewer projects, which are priced at nearly \$3.5 million combined.

The mayor's signature sets the stage for Homedale to receive \$1.2 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency funds for the sewer expansion along U.S. Highway 95 and construction of a lift station.

Once the sewer project is complete, the federal government will release more money — nearly \$2.3 million — to help the city build up its water system.

While the mayor signed the paperwork Wednesday, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality representative Peter Bair said that his approval letter is ready to go as soon as city engineer Fred Ostler of Project Engineering Consultants clarifies that pump capacity for the lift station will be adequate to handle the peak flow of 753 gallons per minute.

Verifying city right-of-way is another detail to be sewn up before the project can be opened for bids from construction companies. Public works supervisor Larry Bauer reminded city attorney Michael Duggan of the importance of legal verification of right-of-way at Wednesday's meeting.

USDA RDA representative Dave Flesher told the council last month that his agency won't release the funding until the city proves that it has access to all the property that will be affected by the sewer project.

"(The USDA RDA) requires that our attorney prove that we have right-of-way, either state ITD (Idaho Transportation Department) or city," Bauer said. "That's our last requirement."

Bauer said bids could be

solicited once the right-of-way documentation is received from Duggan.

"Barring any bumps, bids will go out no later than two weeks and probably (as early as) next week," Bauer said.

Previous reports state that the city will pay back a total of \$3.77 million on the 30-year sewer bond. Bauer said Homedale will obtain interim financing from a bank to pay for the project. The USDA RDA will pay off the city's obligation upon the completion of construction, at which time the city will make payments to the federal agency.

Bauer said the sewer project will include the lift station and U.S. 95 work as well as bringing service to city residents who don't have it now. He said the majority of those residents live along Colorado Avenue on the east side of town, and that they will be allowed to hook into the city sewer system for \$700 apiece, which is comparable roughly to the hookup fee of the early 1970s, when most of the homes in that area were built.

"The first stage is the lift station, expansion and service to people we don't have (online) now," Bauer said. "There are about 25-30 city residents or businesses inside the city limits (that don't have service)."

Sewer coverage for the expected yet disputed annexation of parcels east of U.S. 95 also is part of the project, Bauer said.

"That's almost secondary," he said. "(The primary focus) is to get the residents that don't have sewer."

Bauer said rehabilitation of existing sewer lines is envisioned as a second phase for the project. But he said that work isn't covered by the USDA RDA money and will be put on hold, even though the city's residents approved a total sewer bond of more than \$2 million in May 2006.



City to repave street?

Homedale public works superintendent Larry Bauer has received permission from the city council to explore repairing this portion of South 1st Street West.

"In order to get the other \$1 million we would have had to raise rates \$10 per month," Fink said during Wednesday's meeting.

Bauer said that with the expected growth, it's possible the city could earn that \$1 million in the next few years without increasing rates drastically.

When the bond was passed, Fink said at the time that Homedale expected to earn \$14.3 million in sewer fees during the life of the 30-year bond.

"It's probably a win-win for everyone down the road. As new people come on, they'll pay (for the further expansion)," Bauer said.

First Street repaving

Bauer also brought up during Wednesday's meeting the subject of repaving about a half-block of South 1st Street West between Idaho Avenue and Wyoming Avenue.

"It's a mess. It needs work," Bauer said. "It's a street maintenance necessity, whether it happens today or not."

Bauer said he still was trying to firm up a price for the job from local asphalt companies. The stretch is approximately 1,560 square feet (130 feet long, 12 feet wide), and Bauer said one of the highest prices he has heard is \$3,900 (or \$2.50 per square foot). He said he was skeptical of a price of between \$1,500 (96 cents per

square foot) and \$2,000 (\$1.28 per square foot) that he had heard floating about.

Bauer told the council that he is looking at ways to pull money from the city's Streets and Highways budget to pay for the project.

"I've got some money there," he said Thursday. "It's whether I want to divvy out from other areas. A lot of cash is in the reserve fund for gravel replacement."

But Bauer said siphoning money from that fund could leave the city in a bind when it comes time to buy a large quantity of road-mix gravel, which is used to fix potholes and back fill and is also used in road grading.

Bauer told the council that if the city could afford the job, repaving would work hand-in-hand with the new sidewalk being installed on the corner by the owners of J Z Auto Sales.

Bauer told the council that the project would help in the overall effort to beautify the city.

"We're cleaning up our town. That's what we're trying to do," Bauer said. "I think (city officials) have to put a leg forward, too, if we can."

— JPB

Warm weather creates 'chaos' for deputies

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office stayed busy during the especially warm St. Patrick's Day weekend.

Sheriff Gary Aman reported that he and his deputies encountered so many law violators near recreational areas that there wasn't enough time to issue citations to most offenders. He said he simply used the weekend as an information session because of the volume of people.

"It was uncontrolled chaos," he said. "I can't begin to keep up."

"If I'd of had time to stop and write tickets, I probably could have written \$8,000 to \$9,000 worth of citations."

Aman said offenses included ATVs on paved roads and off designated trails, children riding without helmets and parking violations.

Aman included the difficult weekend in his report to the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners on Monday.

"I told the commissioners this morning that this recreation stuff is totally out-of-control," Aman said. "The county has got to do something. I had myself and two full-time deputies out (and) the (Bureau of Land Management) had a ranger out, and it was non-stop morning to night."

Aman said a 59-year-old Nampa woman was transported via air-ambulance after a recreational vehicle accident near Hemingway Butte, and two people had to swim from the Snake River near Walter's Ferry after their boat capsized and sank. Aman said excessive speed caused the boating mishap, but no citations were issued.

Aman said only one of the violators he encountered was from Owyhee County.

— JWB

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Carbon monoxide

Sheriff: Safety, common sense can prevent tragedy

by Gary Aman

Since the tragedy that took the lives of the father and daughter on War Eagle Mountain within the last three weeks, and the near death of eight residents near Homedale prior to that, the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office has received numerous inquiries into the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. As a public service, I decided to try and educate and possibly save some lives with this article.

Carbon monoxide is a tasteless, odorless, colorless and non-irritating by-product or exhaust of burned fuel. This can include

wood, gas, propane, barbecue briquettes — basically anything that burns. It produces weakness and confusion, depriving the person of the ability to seek safety. It especially affects small children, the sick and elderly. It is very quick acting. For example, one study found that in a 1,000-cubic-foot room, with a 5-horsepower, 4-cycle gas



Gary Aman

engine, it took less than 1 minute to reach the Immediate Dangerous to Life and Health levels, and in a 10,000-cubic-foot room less than 8 minutes.

Often, prior use of equipment without incident has given users a false sense of safety; learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of CO overexposure: headache, nausea, weakness, dizziness, visual disturbances, changes in personality and loss of consciousness. Any of these symptoms can occur within minutes with the use of such equipment, and the symptoms can last for days or weeks.

Because of their potentially deadly exhaust, lanterns, stoves, ovens, heaters, gas-powered tools and gas-powered engines and generators are all very dangerous if used improperly. Venting is a must. Any use of this type of equipment must have adequate ventilation. An open garage door may not be adequate ventilation. Always follow the manufacturer's warnings.

Old appliances that may have worked well for years and not caused problems and equipment not used for their intended purpose are all suspect. Keep all equipment maintained. If the equipment says

"Do Not Use Indoors," then don't use indoors. Good common sense is vitally important. The "It can't happen to me" attitude will get you killed.

If you are involved in an incident or see someone with symptoms of carbon monoxide overexposure, get fresh air immediately. Seek professional medical help. If your home, tent, camper or shop uses fuel for any reason, buy a CO detector. They are very cheap compared to a funeral bill or medical bills.

Be safe out there.

— Gary Aman is Owyhee County Sheriff.

P&Z sends subdivision request to Homedale council

Landowners clear first obstacle to building hundreds of home sites

A proposed subdivision on 86 acres east of U.S. Highway 95 outside of Homedale cleared one hurdle last week and now is heading to the Homedale City Council.

Landowners Ron and Julie Woods want to build a 200-plus-home residential subdivision on 86 acres that lie east of the

highway and north of Pioneer Road.

The Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing on March 12 regarding the proposed subdivision, and decided to send it on to the city council. It's not known when the council will take up the issue, although council members already

have given preliminary approval to annex the area in which the subdivision will be built.

"It was passed on to the city council, so they will be having a public hearing. Either it will be approved or not approved," Homedale P&Z Administrator Sylvia Bahem said of the proposal. "Whatever the Planning and Zoning hears, (applicants) also have to have a public hearing before city council. The city clerk publishes it, sends it out

to property owners again and schedules it."

Homedale City Clerk Alice Pegram said the council isn't scheduled to take up the subdivision at Thursday's meeting.

At their Dec. 18 meeting, council members voted unanimously to annex the area into the city.

Property owner Marlow Pounds, who is an Ontario, Ore., resident, and owns commercial property near U.S. 95 and Pioneer Road, opposes the new subdivision.

In a letter provided to The Owyhee Avalanche, Pounds states that Woods' request for subdivision will adversely affect his ability to use his property along U.S. 95.

"The best interests of the city's growth are not what motivates him (Woods)," Pounds wrote. "For him, it is only about getting the most money possible and moving away to California."

— JWB

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205/65HR-15	102.57	235/60HR-16	133.41
205/65TR-15	99.80	215/60HR-17	155.04
215/65TR-15	108.09	225/60HR-17	160.32
205/65TR-16	124.09	225/60HR-18	205.07
215/65TR-16	125.56	205/55HR-16	124.67
225/65HR-16	137.39	215/55HR-16	125.02
235/65TR-16	158.78	215/55VR-17	174.38
215/55TR-17	158.20	225/55HR-17	168.35
195/60VR-15	89.80	225/55VR-17	178.60
195/60HR-15	88.07	235/55HR-17	188.21
205/60HR-15	94.33	225/55TR-18	193.53
215/60TR-15	103.98	205/50VR-17	157.10
205/60HR-16	120.82	245/50VR-17	186.86
205/60VR-16	125.66	245/50VR-18	237.52
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(Limit 300 words, signed, with day phone number.)

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From page 1

Homedale in final running for big grant

As the City of Homedale prepared to enter an agreement to pay for water and sewer upgrades, Mayor Paul Fink announced that the city is in the final pool of competitors for a \$500,000 community block grant from the state.

Fink said after Wednesday's city council meeting that Sage Community Resources representative Pat Engel informed him Homedale was among the finalists during a meeting regarding the Canyon County impact area earlier that day.

The \$500,000 grant, which has a matching-funds stipulation, is scheduled to be awarded by the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor no later than April 18, Fink said.

Fink wants to obtain the grant to help finance street improvements and the construction of sidewalks and gutters around the old Homedale Auto Wreckers property bordered by East Idaho Avenue, 4th Street and East Owyhee Avenue.

Fink also announced during Wednesday's council meeting that the city has been awarded a \$50,000 non-matching grant by the Boise-based Local Highway Technical Assistance Council to conduct a traffic study.

During a November city council meeting, Fink said the grant would be used to study the layout of the city's streets and help Homedale plan better for growth.

— JPB

Melba school levy passes easily

Patrons of the Melba School District approved a two-year \$300,000 supplemental levy during an election Friday.

The measure, which replaces a supplemental levy that expired on Dec. 31, passed with 64 percent of the vote.

Melba's district serves students in parts of Owyhee, Canyon and Ada counties.

√ Motel: Developers have many other plans for the area

Mayhew said. "But we feel we just had the cart before the horse for 2007.

"We are interested in providing locations for businesses needed in Homedale that can also make a profit."

Mayhew said analyst Tom Kennedy of the Seattle-based firm of Kennedy and Mohn, P.S., visited Homedale in January and gave a verbal report to the development team.

"He gave us a verbal that Homedale was really too young and early in its development to support a motel at this point," Mayhew said.

"He was excited about what was happening in Homedale. But because it's not on an Interstate, it's really more of a destination location, and there needs to be more amenities there to support a motel, for example a restaurant."

According to Mayhew, Kennedy is regarded as the motel industry's best analyst in the Northwest. As part of his study, Kennedy talked to folks in Homedale, Marsing and Wilder and examined motels along Interstate 84 in Caldwell and Ontario, Ore., Mayhew said.

Kennedy's report also noted that more residents in a 10-mile area and a more active Chamber of Commerce to market Homedale to tourists are ingredients that will help bring a motel to town.

"We were excited at the turnout, energy and participation at the March 8 meeting," Mayhew said, referring to the Chamber meeting earlier this month.

Mayhew said Kennedy suggests that the concept of a new motel in Homedale be revisited in three to five years, and that the ideal location would be anywhere along U.S. Highway 95 from the Snake River south to the road's intersection with Main Street near Valley Machine Shop.

In the meantime the Homedale Plaza partnership will proceed with plans to build a restaurant on the three parcels it purchased last year at the main entrance to town. Negotiations to find a restaurant operator are chugging along, he said.

"Ideally, I'd like to see two restaurants there," Mayhew said. "We're looking at having small retail units."

The rest of the property bloc, which includes the former auto salvage yard and the former Gladys De Augustineo and Norris properties, will be filled with commercial development. Mayhew said the company also is working with the city to build a park that stretches to Homedale airport. That echoes Mayor Paul Fink's hopes of building a greenbelt from the end of East Owyhee Avenue under the Snake River bridge to the northwest corner of the airport. That plan would utilize the \$500,000 community block grant for which, Fink said at Wednesday's city council meeting, Homedale is a finalist.

"We're going to match what the city needs," Mayhew said of the site's development. "Really it would be helpful to me if I got input (on) what the citizens of the, I'll call it, the Homedale metropolitan area want to see."

Mayhew said residents interested in bringing a business to town or who have suggestions for what business is needed in Homedale can write him at the Homedale Plaza Partners LLC office at 3294 S. Eagle Road, Eagle, ID 83616. The office phone number is 938-4160, and the fax number is 938-4162.

Mayhew, Thomas and Condie have various development projects around town either jointly or separately. Thomas is responsible for the construction of the mini-mall across from Homedale High School, and Condie and Mayhew are partners in the Santa Fe subdivision near the southwest edge of downtown Homedale.

Another company in which Mayhew has an interest, BRS Northwest LLC, received final approval for the operation of a gravel excavation plant southwest of Homedale from the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday. The plant is located near Pioneer Road.

Mayhew likened the development of Homedale to the age-old riddle of the chicken and the egg.

"Where do you start?" he asked. "So the subdivision is our start, No. 1, and then the mini-mall. The old salvage property is No. 2. And we're trying to put a restaurant there, No. 1 ... and then small retail."

Mayhew said the Santa Fe subdivision project is steaming along. Gravel, from the quarry on Pioneer Road, will be placed for roadbeds this week, and paved streets should be completed by the end of the month, he said.

There also are plans to build four model homes for the subdivision.

— JPB

Marsing seniors plan fund-raiser

The Marsing Senior Center will hold a corned beef and cabbage fund-raiser from noon to 1:30 p.m. at 218 Main Street.

Cost is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children, children 5 years old and younger are free.

For more information, contact the Marsing Senior Center at (208) 896-4634.

√ Tree: Idea came from family friend

permission to plant the tree and place the memorial plaque. Martin presented the letter to the council at its March 13 meeting, and council members immediately approved the memorial.

Plans have not yet been finalized as to where in the park the tree will be planted or when the planting and memorial dedication will take place. Lakey said there will be a flag ceremony at the time of the memorial's dedication, in coordination with the Marsing American Legion Post No. 128.

— JWB

√ Dugger: Attorney general has handled case since 2004 investigation

take an awful long time to do anything."

A 25-page court document written by Petrie, provided by the Idaho Attorney General's office, gave reasons for the dismissal:

- Credit cards did not constitute "public moneys" during the timeframe the first seven counts of misuse of public money allegedly occurred.
- The Canyon County grand jury that indicted Dugger lacked jurisdiction to deal with Owyhee County criminal matters.

According to Petrie's decision, seven counts of misuse of public funds by a public official are not chargeable under Idaho Code because the specific code section did not go into effect until July 1, 2006. Dugger's alleged offenses occurred in 2002 and 2003, when she worked as Homedale's city clerk.

The one remaining count of misuse of public funds and the charge of grand theft by embezzlement allegedly occurred in Owyhee County, and therefore the Canyon grand jury that returned the indictments in the case "lacked power and duty to return an indictment containing Owyhee County charges," Petrie wrote.

"Because this court concludes as a matter of law that credit cards did not mean 'public moneys' at the time of the alleged commission of the first seven counts charged against Dugger, the court must dismiss these counts," Petrie wrote in his decision.

With regards to the jury's lack of jurisdiction in the case, Petrie cited Idaho Criminal Code supporting his decision. He wrote that one of the key elements — "That the offense was committed at some place within the jurisdiction of the court" — required to make the Canyon grand jury's indictment valid was not present, rendering the indictment insufficient.

The original charges stem from questionable spending reports in 2002 and 2003 during Dugger's tenure as Homedale City Clerk.

The city of Homedale turned over investigation of financial irregularities to the Attorney General's office in 2004.

The Special Prosecutions Unit of the Attorney General's Criminal Law Division took over the case at the request of the offices of the prosecuting attorneys in Owyhee and Canyon counties.

Dugger allegedly illegally obtained advances for travel and meals to attend an out-of-state seminar and used a city credit card on that trip.

The grand theft charge stems from accusations that Dugger charged more than \$1,000 to her city credit card to pay for gasoline for her personal vehicle and for unauthorized travel. Dugger also was accused of using a city credit card to buy personal items at a Wal-Mart store in Caldwell.

Before the dismissal, Dugger

was scheduled to appear at a pre-trial conference Monday and had a trial date set for early April.

If found guilty of the alleged offenses, Dugger would be barred from ever holding public office in the state.

The maximum penalty for each of the eight counts of misuse of public funds is 10 years in the state penitentiary. The charge of grand theft carries a maximum of 14 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

— JWB

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Obituary

Helen Scott Troy

Helen Scott Troy, 85, of Lake Stevens, Washington passed peacefully March 10, 2007. She was born July 12, 1921 in Mountain Grove, Missouri, the daughter of Pearl and Roscoe Scott, living in Mountain Grove, later moving to Homedale, Idaho where she graduated from high school. She married Donald C. Troy June 25, 1946.



Helen worked for Homedale Senior Center as a cook. She was a member of the Rebecca's and Unity Church of Everett, Washington. She enjoyed being a homemaker. Helen loved her family and touched the hearts of all she knew. She always was ready with a hug, a smile and a kind word. She passed away unexpectedly but peacefully when the Lord called her home.

She is survived by two daughters, Susan Winkler and Donna Baker; two grandchildren, Barbara Winkler and Shawn Baker; one great-grandchild,

Aaron Reifentahl; and her sister Carol Casey. She was preceded in death by her loving husband Don, her brothers Emmett, Everett, Earl, Charles, R.C., Art and Paul.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 18th at Unity Center for Positive Living, Everett, WA with a reception following at Helen's Home, 423 103rd Ave. NE, Lake Stevens, WA 98258. Memorials are suggested to Silent Unity (24 hour prayer hotline), 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, Missouri 64065-0001.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

March 22 - 30: No school.

Homedale Middle

March 22: Spaghetti or chicken bacon melt, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

March 23- 30: No school.

Homedale High

March 22: Chicken patty, sandwich & soup, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

March 23 – 30: No school.

Marsing

March 22: Tacos, chocolate pudding, vegetables, fruit, milk, chicken patty, roll, salad bar 4th-12th.

March 23- 30: No school.

Bruneau

March 22: Crispy chicken/bun, potato wedges, fruit, cake, milk.

March 23- 30: No school.

Children take to slopes, er, streets

Exercise class involves walking with cross-country ski poles

With the weather warming up, schoolchildren tend to get a little stir crazy in the classroom.

Homedale Elementary School physical education instructor Dan Moore has a remedy — cross-country skiing.

“It’s a way to get the kids outdoors,” he said. “The kids are hyper, and it’s getting warm.”

The cross-country “skiing” actually entails Moore’s students walking down Idaho Avenue while using ski poles modified with

rubber stoppers on the ends.

Moore, who also offers a walking exercise at the elementary school, said the skiing activity has been part of his curriculum for nine years. He added that the equipment already was at the school when he arrived in Homedale.

The activity, which is undertaken by students from first grade to fourth grade, has more benefit that getting out in the sunshine.

“It’s a good workout for the

upper body, and we work on their coordination,” Moore said.

According to the instructor, research has shown that cross-lateral training, such as the cross-country skiing motion, is valuable in helping children sharpen their reading skills, too.

And the exercise isn’t just for the kids. Moore said a group of senior citizens use the walking sticks during their early-morning fitness routine around town.

— JPB



Rimrock FFA finishes fourth

The Rimrock FFA chapter’s parliamentary procedure team finished fourth at a recent competition. From left to right are, Leigh Martin, Jay Long, Cole Merrick, Bobby Jackson, Kody Schiermeier and Geoff King. Submitted photo

Rimrock FFA news

by Chelsey Lemon
chapter reporter

Last Wednesday, six members of the Rimrock FFA chapter traveled to Vallivue High School for Parliamentary Procedure.

The team consisted of Leigh Martin, Jay Long, Cole Merrick, Bobby Jackson, Kody Schiermeier and Geoff King. This was a new experience for most of the FFA members. But considering that,

they did their best and placed fourth.

District officer sifting was also going on during this time. Cole Merrick is the new district sentinel.

Honor roll

Jordan Valley

The third-quarter honor roll for Jordan Valley High School and Jordan Valley Middle School:

High honors

12th grade — Michelle Elsner, Breann Hipwell, Bailey Kershner, Lacey Kershner, Luisa Lowy,

Megan Mackenzie, Tina Stanford and Jerry Wroten

11th grade — Athena Beckwith, Elisa Eiguren and Annie Mackenzie

10th grade — Kayla Cuvelier, Catie Kershner and Nickie

Naegle

9th grade — Anne Marie Eiguren, Bryce Kershner, Brandon Mackenzie, Sonny Mackenzie and Mattie Wroten

8th grade — Shelly Payne and Garrett Williams

7th grade — Meagan Fillmore and Haley Hebison

Honors

12th grade — Holly Deen and Angela Larsen

11th grade — Tim Eiguren, Kelsey Prescott and Jessie White

10th grade — Emma Johnson and Cole Scown

9th grade — Katrina Moran and Michelle Telleria

8th grade — Taylor Lucas

7th grade — Jordan Matteri

Classified deadline

Monday noon the
week of publication

Legal notice deadline

Friday noon the week prior to publication

The Owyhee Avalanche

337-4681



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Your finances

Hubby should get name off parents' business accounts

Dear Dave,

My in-laws had a small business, and my husband's name was on their checking account so he could sign checks or pay bills if they weren't in. Now, they're about to declare bankruptcy. Will his name being on that checking account affect us in any way?

— Elizabeth

Dear Elizabeth,

You guys need to go to the bank, and get his name off that account now!

If his name is on the checks, then he's probably one of the owners of the account. And if this is the case, he could be liable for overdrafts or anything else associated with it.

You'll also want to look into whether or not they've used that account to pay payroll taxes. There's a chance that the federal government might try to come after the account those payroll taxes were written on.

But if the payroll taxes are current and he gets his name off the account, I don't think you guys will have any liability. Check with an attorney to be sure, though.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

We're trying to sell our house, and it doesn't seem like our real estate agent, who is also the owner of the real estate company, is doing much to facilitate the process. He said he'd do lots of things to help us sell the house, but we didn't get any of those promises in writing. We signed a six-month listing contract. Is it possible to get out of this?

— Shelly

Dear Shelly,

You may have to ride this one out. Usually, in a case like this you can appeal to the owner of the company. But since the owner is also the one not getting the job done, you might have trouble.

Try to schedule a face-to-face, sit-down meeting with this guy. Confront him about the broken promises he has made to you, and tell him he should do the right thing and let you out of the contract.

Then, if he's not willing to do the right thing let him know that you'll just flat-out pull the house off the market.

And from this point on, Shelly, get everything that happens in writing!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I have three stepchildren, the oldest of which is in the Army and stationed in Japan. He's also



married and has a little baby. But the only time we hear from them is when they want money. We don't mind helping out once in a while, but his wife just seems lazy. She stays at home all the time and doesn't help bring in any money. What can we do to fix all this?

— Cindy

Dear Cindy,

When your relationship with someone is based on you giving them money, then you don't have a relationship. But there may be other reasons they aren't calling very much.

If you say things about his wife being lazy when you do talk, it probably makes them both angry. If this is the case, they may only call when they're desperate enough to put up with your comments about her. Plus, taking care of a baby is one of the hardest full-time jobs around. The value or importance of what someone does isn't always reflected in a paycheck.

But I don't think you should be giving them money all the time either. You could try gently giving advice instead. Maybe they need to be on a budget, or perhaps they should be spending less.

Regardless, I'm always against perpetuating relationships that are based on handing out money.

— 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

Have a news tip?

Call us!

337-4681

Calendar

Today

Bruneau and Beyond luncheon speaker series, noon, free (RSVP required), Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau. (208) 845-2131 or (308) 845-2345

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution, 11 a.m. to noon, Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing. (208) 337-4812

Circuit Breaker property tax relief signup, 1 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

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

Owyhee Local Working Group sage-grouse conservation meeting, 7 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing

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), 5:30 p.m. weigh-in, 7

p.m. meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St., Homedale. (208) 482-6893

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

Marsing FFA donkey basketball, 7:30 p.m., \$6 adults, \$5 students, Marsing High School gymnasium, Main Street. (208) 896-4825

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

Bruneau Booster Club meeting, 7 p.m., Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau

Sunday

Snake River Valley Fellowship

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

Marsing Senior Center fund-raising corned beef and cabbage dinner, noon to 1:30 p.m., \$6.50 for adults, \$3.25 for children, free to children 5 and younger. Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St. (208) 896-4634

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.

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Anatomy of a backcountry search

Missions are complicated, dangerous

While the recent deaths of two Boise snowmobilers were not attributed to their being lost in the Owyhee backcountry, the incident brings to the forefront one of the facts of life for the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office: Lost recreationists and backcountry searches.

Bruce Cameron, sheriff's office chief deputy, discussed the many elements that go into orchestrating a backcountry search. Most operations have a positive outcome, he said.

"There have been many successful events, and very few failures," Cameron said.

With growing population throughout the state, searches are likely to become more frequent, he warned.

"Owyhee County is, in the past and even more so now, becoming a recreational playground for the state," Cameron said.

Because of the vastness of Owyhee County's backcountry, it is helpful when the sheriff's search-and-rescue detail can pinpoint a place to kick off a mission.

"If we need to mobilize a large search, once we get an idea where we're looking, we would try and find the last known position or area, and we would start there and then work our way out," Cameron said.

One other key element in managing a large search is keeping track of the resources the sheriff's office can bring to bear, including full-time deputies, posse members and sometimes other community members who donate their time and resources to assist with a search.

To that end, a mobile command post is utilized to coordinate searchers, equipment allocation and communication. The sheriff's office has two command trailers equipped with extra fuel, generators, maps food, water and other essential items required for several days' worth of searching. The trailers are identical. One is located in Marsing and one in Murphy.

Searchers' safety, preparedness is Job No. 1

Cameron said that a lost or injured searcher hampers the entire rescue effort and can make the situation worse for the lost person. Conditions dictate the extent of a search personnel are able to mount and when they are able to act.

Searchers have to maintain a delicate balancing act between continuing a rescue operation, and holding back to ensure searchers don't become lost or hurt themselves.

"Officer safety is going to be the first consideration. That is something you have to evaluate right away," Cameron said. "We're

not going to send somebody into harm's way in any event. It's all based around safety."

Cameron said family members sometimes don't understand this factor, and that can put additional pressure on searchers. He recalled a situation when a person was lost on War Eagle Mountain in mild weather. Night was rapidly approaching, and the sheriff's office was not willing to risk the safety of rescuers by sending them on a nighttime search. Such an operation also would have detracted from their ability to find any signs of the lost party, such as footprints.

"The rescuers said, 'No, we're not going to go out there and stumble around in the dark.' The family was fairly upset. The temperatures were mild," he said. "There's no sense in somebody going down there and losing an eye in a tree branch in the middle of the night. And, if there's any tracks there, we want to find them."

Cameron said that, at first light, searchers were able quickly find the lost man, unharmed from his overnight stay in the wilderness.

"It's a tough pill to swallow as a family member," the chief deputy said. "But when they sit and rationalize it, they realize it's the best decision. Obviously, when it's a child it can be a different situation. Everybody's a family member."

In any search situation, Cameron said he is ready for an extended stay in the backcountry on a moment's notice.

"In any event like that, we would hope for the best, but plan for the worst," he said.

Cameron makes sure he is outfitted for a mission.

"One of the things that I do, when I'm told we're going on a search, is I take a bedroll and throw in a change of clothes and foul-weather gear," he said.

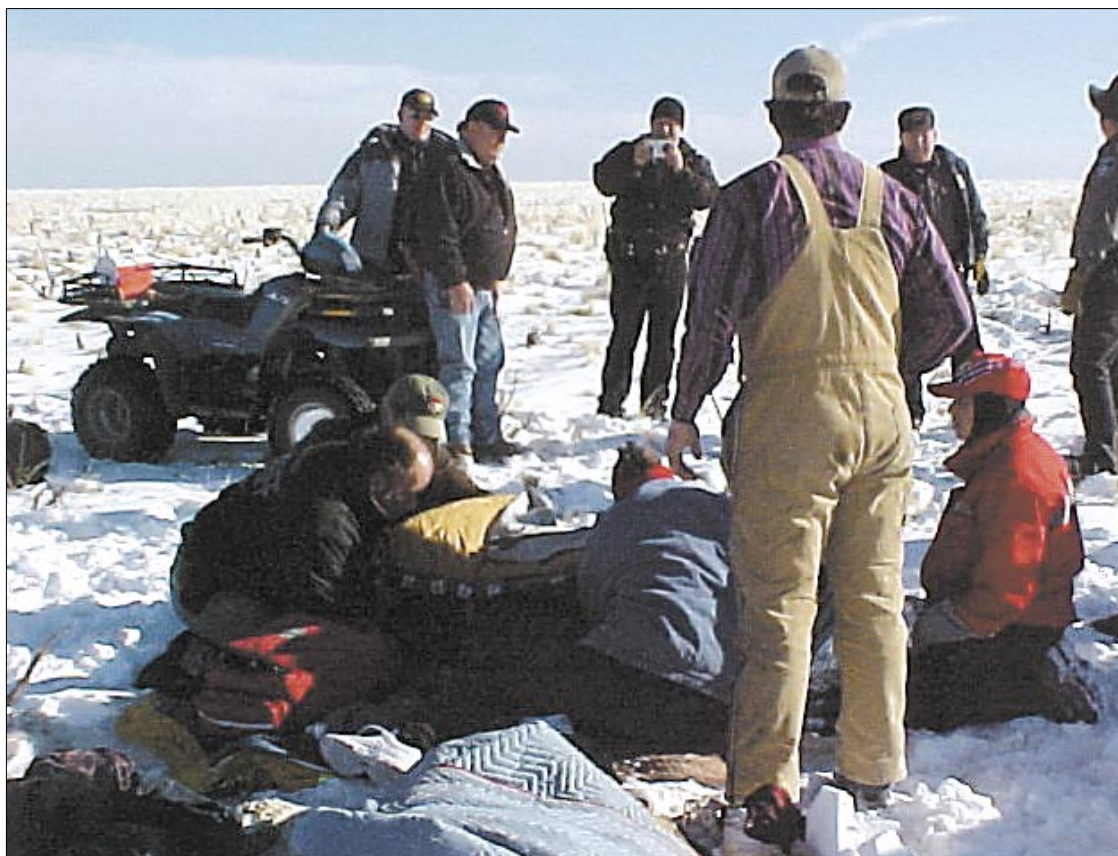
"I've got a 'grab bag' that I can grab, and it's got socks, shoes ... a lot of us carry MREs (military meals ready-to-eat) in our ATV bags. I try and take extra fuel, radios, extra batteries, etc., etc."

In the event of an extended stay or emergency in the wilderness, Cameron said property owners in the remote reaches of the county routinely give deputies access to cabins.

"I don't think there is a cabin back there we don't have access to," Cameron said.

"We have a real good rapport with the ranchers in the backcountry. A lot of our officers know them on a personal basis."

Cameron gives partial credit for the strong relationship with property owners in remote areas to backcountry deputy George



County rescue produces happy endings

Above: Owyhee County Sheriff's Posse members stabilize Rose Swan for transport in this March 7, 2004, photo. Swan spent three days lost in the Owyhee desert west of Castleford before rescuers located her. **Below:** A snowmobiler is reunited with a loved one after county search-and-rescue crews located him in the wilderness.

Reed and his familiarity with residents.

Cameron said that if Reed doesn't know a property owner off the beaten path in Owyhee County, they must have just moved to the area.

Cameron said that rapport is not limited to Reed and that every member of the agency is usually familiar with ranchers in the area. Deputies often call upon ranchers' familiarity with the area during a search.

"It's possible they (ranchers) may have seen something or heard something in the area when they are up there on horseback in their day-to-day business," Cameron said. "We use local information as much as possible. Based on the information we have, we go from there."

Communication is another challenge in backcountry searches.

The radio repeaters used by Owyhee County Dispatch don't always reach remote areas. Deputies often are forced to communicate on mobile radios without the aid of a repeater.

In these cases, Cameron said searchers are paired and able to communicate with each other, if not always with dispatch.

"Communication is a priority," he said. "If we get into an area where we don't have repeater coverage, then we can go to a different channel where we can talk car-to-car. That is, radio-to-radio."

"We have our radios set up to where we can operate off of multiple repeaters."

He added that oftentimes searchers also carry personal



radios to communicate between themselves.

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said communication in the backcountry always will be an issue for emergency first-responders.

"We will never have 100 percent (repeater) coverage," Aman said, adding that he hopes to have 85 to 90 percent of the county covered within the next few years.

— JWB

Anatomy of a backcountry search

Posse invaluable resource when someone is missing

County volunteers donate time, equipment during search and rescue

Without reservation, both Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman and Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron are quick to point to the 26 current members of the Sheriff's Posse as instrumental in the ability to conduct an extensive backcountry search in a time-efficient manner.

"There is no way we could operate without the posse. The equipment they donate, the time they donate, is just invaluable to the people of this county," Aman said. "I just can't say enough good about my posse."

Cameron is also quick to give credit to posse members, and added that with the agency's finite budget, posse members' willingness to use individual resources, such as four-wheelers and snow machines, is a vital asset.

"The county has limited funds. It would be great if we had a dozen snow machines and a dozen ATVs, but we don't," Cameron said. "My hat's off to the posse. Every time they're called on, they come up."

"At the lake, they donate their time, their campers ... (they) put their families on the back burner to help total strangers."

While not a posse member,

Owyhee County resident Ed Dickman donates time, his decades of backcountry flying skill, and the use of his specially equipped personal aircraft for backcountry searches.

He only charges the county for fuel, and has never turned the county down when the sheriff's office is in need of an aircraft for an air search.

Both Cameron and Aman realize posse members' time is valuable. Sheriff's posse members outnumber fulltime, paid deputies almost 2-to-1 at the sheriff's office.

"Gary (Aman) told me last year that the posse put in between 8,000 and 9,000 man-hours, and that is all-volunteer," Cameron said. "That includes, gas, wear and tear on their rigs, tires, time away from work."

"A lot of (posse members') employers have been very, very helpful by not docking some of these people's time by the hour."

Cameron speaks from personal experience on this very subject. His former employer, US Ecology, has assisted posse members and other volunteer emergency services personnel by paying wages for time spent volunteering during an emergency that leaves



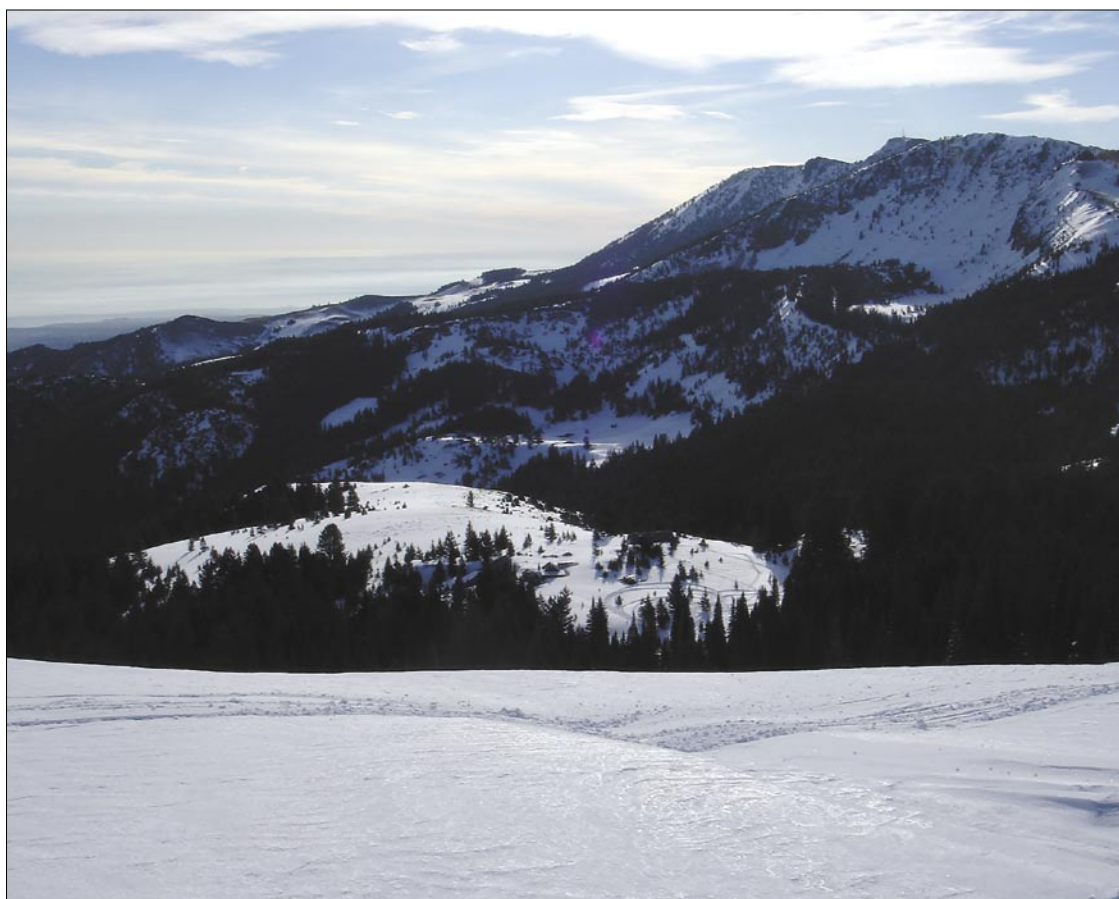
Volunteers, command posts help in searches

Above: Sheriff's deputies, Posse members and volunteers carry out an injured person after a successful operation in July 2004. **Below:** The two mobile command post and supply trailers built for the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office are shown before official decals were placed on them.

an employee absent.

"Where I came from with US Ecology, they never docked my time at all," the former volunteer marine deputy and posse member said. "If I was gone for a day, I put in eight hours, and they considered it community service."

— JWB



Searchers deal with rugged terrain

This photo of the wilderness near Silver City gives an indication of what workers are up against during many backcountry searches. The cabin where two Boise residents died because of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning is located in the trees on the right-hand side of the photo. Photo by Joe Aman

Hints for being safe in the backcountry

- Leave a detailed trip plan, including time of departure and estimated return, with someone. Note any stops planned on the way. If you can't give the list to someone, leave it in a conspicuous place at home where it can be found by emergency workers.
- Take an emergency kit with 72 hours' worth of supplies, including water, survival blankets, knives, rope, first aid equipment and essential medications.
- Pack extra clothing, socks and shoes.
- Carry a cell phone and extra battery.
- Take fire-making equipment, including possibly highway flares.
- If you do get lost, remain with your vehicle and remain stationary. If the situation requires you to leave your vehicle, let searchers know where you went. If possible, leave a written note or draw arrows on the ground to indicate your direction.
- If you reach a phone, immediately contact the sheriff's office and inform officials of your location and condition.

For more information, a comprehensive list of backcountry emergency preparedness tips is available on the Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Web site at www.imsaru.org.

'There is no way we could operate without the posse. The equipment they donate, the time they donate, is just invaluable to the people of this county. I just can't say enough good about my posse.'

— Gary Aman, Owyhee County Sheriff



Students pass time during lock-in
Jordan Valley High School sophomore Cole Scown tries his hand at lacrosse, one of the many events that went on during the FFA chapter's lock-in earlier this month. Submitted photo

Jordan Valley FFA news

by Elisa Eiguren, JVHS
Jordan Valley's FFA chapter held its annual "Lock-in" at the Jordan Valley High School from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. on March 8. All high school students were invited to participate in this night filled with fun and games. First of all, students were divided up into two equal sides

to begin a competitive game of dodgeball. After two hours, both teams were declared winners. Then, an intense tournament of 3-on-3 basketball began in one gym while in the other gym students battled for the pickleball championship. Finally, everyone settled down to eat cinnamon rolls and

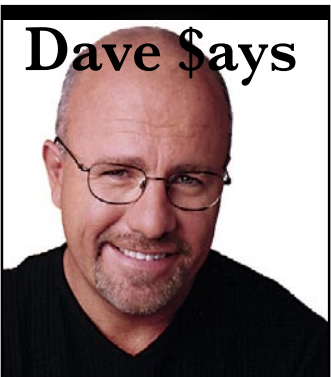
enjoy a few laughs during the night's feature movie of "Open Season." At 6 a.m., the doors were opened and students headed home to sleep the day away. The Jordan Valley FFA wants to thank everyone who brought food and chaperoned and helped make the lock-in a success.

Marsing schools to host meth crisis discussion

Marsing School District's Safe and Drug-Free Schools program is planning a workshop and information session about the methamphetamine problem facing the community. The event is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 7 at the Marsing School District cafeteria. Recovering addicts will provide personal testimony into their personal struggle with methamphetamine use. Information will be provided on how drug abuse influences public safety, and the financial and social impacts drug abuse has on the community. Law enforcement and prevention also will be discussed. Lunch will be provided. No children younger than 12 will be allowed to attend. For more information, contact Marsing School District federal programs director Charlotte Villarreal at (208 896-4111, ext. 146.

Info sought by sheriff in weekend livestock shooting

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said his office is seeking information in a livestock shooting incident during the weekend near the intersection of Idaho highway 78 and Short Cut Road. Aman reported that a bull owned by Don Barnhill was shot from the highway at approximately milepost 47. Owyhee County Dispatch reports indicate the animal was shot in the lower abdomen. The bull was destroyed. Aman said the incident still is under investigation, but as of now there are no suspects in the case. According to Aman, it appeared to be a random act of animal cruelty. "It looks like they just stopped in the middle of the highway, leaned out the window and shot it," he said. It is not known what type of firearm was used in the crime. The sheriff's office received the call at approximately 8 a.m. Sunday. Aman said Monday that no reward amount has been specified for information, but as the case develops, a reward is likely. Anyone with information should contact the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office at (208) 495-1154 or (208) 337-4222. —JWB



How much should I save for retirement?
When should I buy life insurance?
What's a Roth IRA?
What about co-signing a loan?
Is a credit card for my kid a good idea?

Dave's got the answers to financial riddles each week in the The Owyhee Avalanche

Maurer set to celebrate 90th

Evelyn Maurer of Wilder will celebrate her 90th birthday on Sunday, March 25, 2007, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at her residence. Maurer's home is located at 19532 Highway 95 between Homedale and Wilder. Maurer's family is holding an open house for the occasion. The family requests no gifts, but cards from friends and family are welcome. For more information contact her daughter, Linda Simmons, at (208) 375-3022.

Senior menu

Homedale center
March 22: *Fourth annual Appreciation dinner.* Baked ham, potato, vegetables, roll, drink.
March 27: Italian sausage – spaghetti, tossed salad, bread, drink.
March 28: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, broccoli, bread, milk.
March 29: Chicken cordon blue, scalloped potatoes, green beans, roll, drink.

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Large crowd attends historian’s talk
Regional historian John Hiler, whose family was one of the first to settle in the Bruneau Valley, enlightened Owyhee County Historical Society members in Murphy on Friday. Submitted photo

Historical society draws big audience

by Mary O’Malley
OCHS

More than 50 members and guests attended the Owyhee County Historical Society’s meeting and program on Friday.

John Hiler, a member of an extended Bruneau family, gave an interesting presentation on his childhood experiences. He told of his mother’s mulberry pies and told where the mulberry trees are still standing. Hiler explained how the temperature and humidity are carefully regulated in a root cellar.

The talk ended with his memories of the sacrifices and adventures of the war effort and how it affected his German family and their Japanese neighbors.

The next OCHS event will be a field trip to view the geology of Hardtrigger Creek on March 31.

For more information call the museum at 495-2319.



International Dinner deemed successful
On St. Patrick’s Day, the Jordan Valley High School Class of 2007 hosted the annual International Dinner inside the school’s gymnasium. Many people came out to enjoy various ethnic foods, basketball games and entertainment on the stage. Pictured is Pat Wroten, left, serving from the “American” booth, which she shared with Mindy Kershner. Organizers said the event was highly successful and fun for everyone involved. Submitted photo

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Fire crews hone valuable skills
Members of the Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Rural Fire Department and Silver City Fire & Rescue hone their extrication techniques during a recent exercise. From left to right, Wes Anderson and Terry Davison from the M-R-W crew work with Dave Wilper of the Silver City agency to pop a door. Submitted photo

Fire crews learn extrication

Firefighters from two Owyhee County agencies teamed up earlier this month to train on extricating accident victims from vehicles.

Members of the Marsing-Reynolds-Wilson Rural Fire Department and Silver City Fire and Rescue attended classes March 9-10 that were taught by Middleton Rural Fire Chief Brad Trosky. M-R-W chief Jim MacKenzie and Silver City chief Doug Trosky were instrumental in getting the training session.


Nine M-R-W firefighters and five Silver City crewmembers comprised the class.

Trosky emphasized that extrication is done solely to allow access to a patient who is trapped inside a car, and that the exercise should be undertaken to prevent further injury to the accident victim.

Trosky, who is a 22-year veteran of the emergency services industry, said each accident presents different challenges and requires a creative approach to the extrication.

Trainees received hands-on training with extrication techniques using an array of tools during practical training on vehicles donated by Van Polley. The extrication tools class took place March 10 at Polley’s auto salvage yard, which is located on Idaho highway 78 about five miles west of Murphy.

The two-day seminar began March 9 at the Wilson Fire Station with a classroom session.



Treasure Valley Engineers, Inc. is pleased to announce that Dave Short, P.L.S., Director of Land Surveying, is among the first group of sixty-nine professional land surveyors nationwide to receive a new federal certification from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. Mr. Short was among the beta test group of selected land surveyors to participate in the new program called CFedS for Certified Federal Surveyor.

The CFedS program, which has been approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, was designed specifically to enhance the level of knowledge and expertise in the professional land surveying community for survey work performed on federal lands and especially on Indian trust lands. To earn the CFedS designation, professional land surveyors must complete approximately 120 hours of course materials prepared by the BLM’s National Training Center, in Phoenix, Arizona, and pass the certification examination. To maintain the certification, a CfedS must complete 10 hours of continuing education annually.

The new certification is intended to be a significant addition to the resume and credentials of the private professional land surveyor and Tribal surveyors. It is expected that in the coming years, the list of CFedS will grow larger as will the demand for their services.

Please come by and congratulate Dave on his achievement. Dave can be reached by phone at 463.0305, by e-mail at dshort@TVEInc.com, or find out more about Treasure Valley Engineers, Inc. at their web site: www.TVEInc.com

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Southwest District Health stresses ground water safety

As part of a recent campaign, Southwest District Health (SWDH) is highlighting the importance of ground water as one of our most important natural resources.

Ground water lies in aquifers beneath the Earth's surface. In a press release issued by SWDH last week, it is noted that nearly 95 percent of Idahoans depend on ground water as their drinking water source, primarily through private well use.

According to Laurie Boston, SWDH spokesperson, high levels of nitrates have been detected in ground water in Owyhee County in Homedale, Marsing, Bruneau and Grand View.

Ongoing work in the Bruneau-Grand View area is aimed at reducing the nitrate levels, and voters in both Marsing and Homedale recently have passed bonds to address their municipal water systems.

Boston described the following details about the hazards of nitrates in an e-mail:

"Nitrates are normally caused by fertilizers, herbicides, human and animal sewage. Nitrate levels in excess of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) in water can interfere with the delivery of oxygen in baby's blood if given to infants less than 6 months old. This illness is referred to as methemoglobinemia or 'blue baby syndrome' and can be fatal. Bottled or treated water should be used to make baby formula or cereal if nitrate levels exceed 10 mg/L. Pregnant women should talk to their doctor if their drinking water is high in nitrates."

Water from private wells is not monitored, tested or regulated by any public entity. The responsibility to protect your family from potentially dangerous contaminants rests with the private well owner. Choosing to have private wells tested by a state certified laboratory every year, and ensuring all potential contaminants are kept well away from drinking water sources are important ways to protect ground water supply.

According to SWDH, most acute illnesses caused by disease-causing organisms in drinking water produce gastrointestinal

symptoms such as abdominal discomfort or cramping, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, weight loss and fatigue.

Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, infants, children, pregnant women, and individuals with compromised immune systems are more susceptible to illness from water contaminants.

Well water contaminants common in Southwest Idaho include fecal coliforms such as E Coli, nitrates, arsenic, fluoride and uranium. All of these can be harmful if present in high levels.

SWDH recommends following these guidelines:

- Contact local waste authorities for proper disposal of leftover paint, chemicals, oil fertilizer, antifreeze and pesticides. Don't dump hazardous substances in or on the ground.
 - Don't pour hazardous substances into drains or sewers.
 - Use recommended amounts of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers and don't over-apply.
 - Try to keep at least 50 feet between a well and any kennels or livestock operations.
 - Handle hazardous substances over cement to avoid runoff.
 - If you are a private well owner, get your well tested yearly. Test immediately if there is a change in the odor, taste or smell of your water, or if there are any unexplained illnesses in the family.
 - Periodically check the well cap to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached.
- SWDH offers further information on ground water testing and the harmful effects of high levels of ground water contaminants.

To get information on what to test, locating a certified lab or understanding water test results contact SWDH at (208) 455-5400.

*Buy it, sell it,
trade it, rent it...
in the*

Classifieds!

Mayor: Drive-in owner wants Sundance lease

The Homedale City Council may have found someone to take over the concessions operation this year at Sundance Park.

Council members instructed city attorney Michael Duggan to draw up a lease contract allowing Homedale Drive-In owner Pat Shenk to operate the concession stand at the city softball fields during non-high school-related events.

Mayor Paul Fink told the council at its Wednesday meeting that Shenk would like a month-by-month lease on the franchise. Fink suggested a lease of \$50 per week plus utilities. The utilities

would include electricity, natural gas and garbage because of the nearby dumpster.

The council stipulated that the contract also should make Shenk responsible for maintenance of the appliances already in place at the snack shack.

The proposed contract would run from April to July — about 14 weeks — and the details of the agreement could be revisited at the end of this season. The total cost of a 14-week lease, not including utility bills, would be \$700.

Fink originally said the city has netted \$2,000 per year from

operation of the concession booth, but then stated, "I don't think we made very much last year. It was very little."

"There's a risk both ways," Fink said. "It's not cut-and-dried. (Shenk) could bring a crew in, and games could get canceled."

Shenk was not at the meeting, but Fink asked for an agenda item for Thursday's council meeting so the Homedale restaurant owner can discuss details with the city.

Also on the agenda Thursday is discussion on selling city-owned property on California Avenue to Robert Paasch.

— JPB

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Grant helps GV Fire upgrade equipment

The Grand View Fire department recently received grant for approximately \$100,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant program.

According to Grand View Fire Chief Terry Carothers, the money will be used to purchase a thermal imaging device, new firefighting personal protective gear, or turnouts, and new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA).

“It’s going to buy 20 sets of turnouts and 10 SCBAs,” Carothers said last week. The new turnouts, including boots and helmets, and SCBAs will replace aging, worn items.

“This is a very major jump for Grand View,” assistant fire chief Ed Collett said. “One of the many steps we’re working on — equipment. We’ve got our personal protective gear up to standard now.”

Collett said the equipment the department is currently using is over 15 years old and will be replaced. One of the advantages, Collett said, is that all equipment in the department will be standardized.

Included with the SCBAs, are new personal alert safety systems (PASS) devices, which emit a high-pitched alarm if a firefighter remains motionless for an extended period. The device can also be activated manually.



Fire-vision superpowers ... activate

Grand View firefighter Chris Collett looks through a new thermal imaging device, which was later purchased by the department during a recent expo from fire equipment vendors. The department was able to purchase one of the \$10,000 devices through a federal grant.

In the event a firefighter is lost or injured, the device can be used to alert other firefighters to the downed firefighter’s location.

“It’s all integrated into the same system now,” Collett said. “These systems, if we have someone go down, it will start recognizing it.”

Collett said the new SCBAs automatically adjust to the firefighter’s rate of breathing and able to gauge exactly how long the firefighter’s air supply will

last. Collett said the department will also receive a firefighter emergency rescue bag, which includes items used to rescue a downed firefighter.

Carothers said the department’s other large purchase will be an MSA thermal imaging device, which will cost approximately \$10,000. The department has not had a thermal imaging device before.

Thermal imaging devices detect temperature differences



Grand View firemen get new clothes

Grand View firefighter Todd Ensz tries on a new set of “turnouts” or firefighting personal protective gear. In the background, Charles Ensz tries on a set, as well. A federal grant enabled the department to purchase 20 new sets of turnouts including boots and helmets.

radiating from different objects, enabling firefighters to see in complete darkness or thick smoke. Firefighters can locate fire victims, or hidden fire inside walls, ceilings or other places not visible to the naked eye.


Carothers said the all-volunteer department has 18 current firefighters. Firefighters train every two weeks. Approximately half of the firefighters in the department have completed Idaho Emergency Services Training

Firefighter Level 1 training, making them state-certified firefighters. Several members of the department are also emergency medical technicians.

The department currently has 6 apparatus, including two brush firefighting trucks, a tanker and three pumper trucks.

Carothers said the department responds to approximately 30 calls for service per year.

—JWB



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A diamond’s brilliance really isn’t the stone you are looking at but, rather, it is the reflection of white light that we see when we look at a diamond, meaning to say a good cut will reflect light back up through the diamond whereas a poor cut will lose light. Here are some examples. Light traveling through a shallow cut diamond is lost out of the bottom of the stone, and light traveling through one that is cut too deep escapes out the sides. Hence, a good *diamond cut* will reflect light back up through the stone to the viewer. If you have any questions about a diamond’s color, clarity, cut, symmetry, or even scintillation please feel free to call me.

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

208-461-0677

On the web @ www.Ladonsfinejewelry.com

Homedale students unearth ‘fossils’



Dinosaur bones located at Homedale Elementary?

The discovery probably wasn't a dinosaur bone, but second-grader Alexis Conner was no less excited with the fossil she found during a digging expedition on the Homedale Elementary campus of Homedale Elementary. Six Anthropology students from Boise State University created the mock fossil digs, in coordination with Homedale teacher Kristie Garrett.

Anthropological jackpot

Patrick McMichael, a second-grader, proudly displays a “fossil.” During the exercise, students learned about how older objects are found deeper underground, as layers of sediment build.

Look for the Avalanche every Wednesday morning

Tips for Sharing Easter Joy from BrightIdeas.com

FAMILY FEATURES

Warm spring breezes carry the promise of rebirth and new life. Spread the spirit of loving kindness this Easter season by making an extra Easter basket. Give it to someone who’s not expecting it, or drop it off at a local shelter, home or school where someone is in need. This simple act of kindness will inspire others to pass along their generosity too.

Spread the spirit of kindness

- Get the kids into the Easter spirit. Encourage them to make baskets for the lunchroom monitors, the janitor or the crossing guard.
- Throw an “Add A Basket” party. Your guests will make treat baskets to give away to local charities.
- Send an Easter e-Basket. Create a beautiful, virtual e-Basket with a message of kindness to friends and family. They just might “spread it forward.” Go to www.BrightIdeas.com/addabasket.
- For e-Basket links, special basket tags, themed invitations for “Add A Basket” party and more creative ideas for an eggs-traordinary Easter, visit www.BrightIdeas.com.

Funny Bunny Cookies

Why not create these hilarious Easter bunnies with your little ones — and make up a story about them, too!

Makes 18 bunnies
Prep time: 20 minutes
Baking time: 12 to 15 minutes
Decoration time: 30 minutes
Difficulty: Moderate

- 1 bag M&M’S Milk Chocolate Candies for Easter
- 1 bag Starburst Fun Size Fruit Chews for Easter, unwrapped
- 1 tube or bag M&M’S Minis (optional for the bunny’s basket)
- Yellow and orange food coloring
- 1 18-ounce package refrigerated cookie dough
- 1 16-ounce container white frosting

1. Thinly roll cookie dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Press out two sizes of cookies: 3-inch cookies for bunnies’ bodies, and 1-inch cookies for bunnies’ heads.
2. Arrange cookies on baking sheet, placing smaller cookies next to larger cookies. Press edges of two sets of cookies together. Bake in preheated 350°F oven 12 to 15 minutes, then cool.
3. Divide icing into 3 small bowls. Tint one bowl with a few drops of orange food coloring and one with yellow. Frost 1/3 of cookies orange, 1/3 yellow and 1/3 white.
4. Soften the Fruit Chews for Easter in microwave for 10 seconds. Mold candy into bunny ears and feet, then press into iced cookies to attach. Dot bunnies’ faces with Milk Chocolate Candies for Easter for eyes, noses and mouths.

For the bunny’s basket: Soften one unwrapped Fruit Chews for Easter piece in your hand (or for 5 seconds in the microwave) and divide into two equal parts. Shape half into 1-1/2 inch handle. Shape other half into semi-circle for basket body. Make diagonal marks across semi-circle with tip of knife. Press rope into two outside edges of semi-circle, making a basket. Place basket on frosted cookie and fill with several M&M’S Minis.

For the bunny’s carrot: Soften one unwrapped, orange Fruit Chews for Easter piece in your hand (or for 5 seconds in the microwave) and shape into 1-inch-long cone to resemble a carrot. For carrot top, soften one green Fruit Chews piece for Easter in same way, then flatten and cut into spiky fronds. Press to attach them to carrot and put carrot on cookie.

Spring Bud Cupcakes

Welcome spring with a blossoming batch of cupcakes.

Makes 24 cupcakes
Prep time: 20 minutes
Bake time: 17 to 21 minutes
Decoration time: 20 minutes
Difficulty: Easy

- 1 bag M&M’S Milk Chocolate Candies for Easter
- 2 cups chopped 3 Musketeers Minis for Easter
- 1 18.25-ounce box yellow cake mix
- 2 12-ounce cans whipped vanilla frosting
- Red, blue, yellow and purple food coloring

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Line cupcake pan with paper cupcake liners.
2. Prepare cake mix according to package directions, folding in chopped candy.
3. Divide batter evenly between cups; bake until golden (about 17 to 21 minutes). Transfer to wire rack; cool completely.
4. Divide 1 can vanilla frosting into quarters, tinting one red, one blue, one yellow and one purple.
5. With remaining vanilla frosting, cover tops of cupcakes. Fit resealable plastic bags or piping bags with star tips. Spoon one color of tinted frosting into each bag. Pipe yellow frosting centers, and then pipe colored frosting rosettes around edges. Decorate cupcakes with coordinating colors of M&M’S on tops of rosettes.

Bright Ideas for Every Season

Don’t miss out on creative, fun ideas designed especially for every season. Sign up for seasonal newsletters, special recipes and entertaining party ideas complete with invitations and party favors. Visit www.BrightIdeas.com for tastefully sweet ideas for year-round celebrations.



Cookie Garden

Fill a beautiful basket with yummy, homemade treats. Take the wonderful centerpiece to a special family gathering.

Makes 12 cookies
Prep time: 15 minutes
Bake time: 10 to 12 minutes
Decoration time: 30 minutes
Difficulty: Moderate

- Assorted Starburst Jellybeans, M&M’S Milk Chocolate Speckled Eggs and Dove Chocolate Eggs
- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- 1 16-ounce container white frosting
- Assorted food coloring
- 12 lollipop sticks
- Small basket, Styrofoam or green floral oasis and Easter grass (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Roll cookie dough to 1/4-inch thickness.
2. Using your favorite holiday cookie cutters, press out cookies from each shape. Press lollipop sticks into bottom half of cookies.
3. Bake 10 to 12 minutes; cool completely on wire rack.
4. Color frosting with a variety of food coloring. Frost cookies and press on assorted jellybeans and speckled eggs.
5. For display, press Styrofoam into a basket and cover with Easter grass. Arrange cookie pops by pressing sticks into Styrofoam. Decorate grass with sprinkling of jellybeans and chocolate eggs.



Envelope Bunnies

Here’s a special delivery filled with first-class Easter treats.

Makes 1 bunny
Prep time: 20 minutes
Difficulty: Easy

- Assorted candies like Fun Size Starburst Jellybeans, Dove Milk and Dark Chocolate Eggs, and Fun Size M&M’S Milk Chocolate Candies for Easter
- 1 10- by 13-inch envelope
- 1 piece each pink and blue felt, construction paper or foam
- 1 cotton ball
- 3 large chenille pipe cleaners
- Non-toxic glue
- 2 google eyes

1. Using printable template (http://www.brightideas.com/easter/pop_1396.shtml) as a guide, cut envelope into shape of bunny face with ears. Cut pink felt into two ear shapes, and glue them onto bunny ears.
2. Twist two pipe cleaners together in middle, forming an “X” for nose and whiskers. Glue pipe cleaners at twist onto center of bunny face. Glue cotton ball on top of twist.
3. Cut two small hearts from blue felt for eyes. Glue them just above whiskers. Glue a google eye in center of each felt heart.
4. Shape remaining pipe cleaner into a smile, and place it just underneath whiskers.
5. Fill opening at top with Easter grass and an assortment of candy.



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Deli Corn Dogs **49¢** ea.

8 oz. pkg.
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Salad Mix **\$1²⁹** ea.
1 lb.
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18 Pack

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Sour Cream **\$1⁵⁹** ea.
Pint

Western Family
Light Soft Spread **\$1⁵⁹** ea.
48 oz.

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Luncheon Meat **\$2²⁹** ea.
12 oz.

Dinty Moore
Beef Stew **\$1¹⁹** ea.
15 oz.

Lay's
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