



New Fish and Game column
In Sports

Homedale, Page 3A

City council, rec board rekindle
thoughts of taxing district

Sports, Page 1B

School board confirms coaches
for Trojans soccer, volleyball

Wednesday, March 28, 2007

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Growth spurs idea of county EMS

Marsing Ambulance floats idea at meeting; sheriff says it's time

The impending growth in Owyhee County has at least two emergency services agencies

thinking about a countywide emergency medical services (EMS) system.

During a March 14 meeting, Marsing Ambulance representatives discussed the

possibility of a consolidated,
— See EMS, page 5A

Rec's impact

EMS agencies aren't the only entities feeling the pressure of the county's growth. Sheriff tries to keep up with growing recreation use.

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Two-vehicle crash mangles signs

A traffic accident at the intersection of Industrial Road and U.S. Highway 95 early last week damaged a stop sign and destroyed a street sign. There were no injuries. More on crash, Page xA

Woman killed in accident

A Boise woman faces charges after a fiery weekend automobile accident claimed the life of a 19-year-old woman on Idaho highway 78 south of Marsing.

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said alcohol may have been a factor in the crash, which occurred Saturday night near milepost 7.

Victoria May Shafner of Nampa, who was a passenger in the 2000 Chevrolet, died at the scene after being trapped inside the burning car.

The driver, 20-year-old Tyra Clements of Boise, and her

— See Accident, page 4A



Betty Arriaga, left, and Jorge Hernandez

HMS rallies for classmate

Bake sales raise nearly \$1,000
for seventh-grader

When one of their classmates became seriously ill, students at Homedale Middle School sprang into action with a highly successful bake sale.

Seventh-grader Jorge Hernandez has missed months of school. He visited a specialist in Seattle when doctors thought he had contracted cancer. Surgeons removed his gallbladder, and a noncancerous cyst was found on his pancreas. A football player for the Trojans'

seventh-grade squad in the fall, Jorge has lost 50 pounds.

"He has missed several months of school," HMS counselor Brent Meiser said. "He did try to come back on a partial schedule."

Now, he is fighting to get healthy on the fourth floor of St. Luke's Regional Medical Center in downtown Boise.

Naturally, the medical bills are piling up for Jorge's parents, Rosa and Pedro.

To help out, the school organized a bake sale. Staff and Jorge's fellow students supplied baked goods for a series of sales. The sales and other donations from the school staff have resulted in \$965.

"This town just rallies," Homedale School District superintendent Tim Rosandick said. "That's the beauty of a small community. You're not anonymous, and people will rally around you when you need help."

"We're looking forward to

— See Classmate, page 5A

Commissioners discuss leases at meeting

Board also examines shrinking space in county offices

Space in county buildings, new sheriff's vehicles and a Bureau of Land Management land lease were topics discussed at the March 19 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners in Murphy.

The Board discussed a potential new three-year county lease of land managed by the BLM, which has been leased by the county in the past to store gravel and sand.

There are two areas currently under consideration, which total approximately 10 acres. County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said the commissioners chose to make a decision on the lease at a later date.

"It's actually up Reynolds Creek Road, and there is another one up Silver City Road," Sherburn said. "It's a lease to put

gravel and sand on their (BLM managed) property."

Sherburn said that District 1 commissioner Jerry Hoagland discussed the possibility of the BLM's willingness to waive the fee for use of BLM-managed land. Sherburn said the total cost of the proposed three-year lease is \$1,050.

While looking at extending that lease, Sherburn said commissioners also discussed options in dealing with limited space in government buildings in the county seat.

"We're just getting so cramped," Sherburn said. "We're really running out of room. With this structure (current county courthouse) we don't know if we can go up or what."

"Right now, we've got four people in the clerk's office, and we're all cramped. Records are cramped. In the courts, we've got issues with (storage space) files."

"The judge is cramped, and when we have a jury trial it's difficult to keep the jurors separated from everybody in the

courthouse."

Sherburn said the problem extends to all county offices, so the Board has asked department heads to determine their space needs for the future. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to discuss the situation.

The Board discussed a future meeting with the Treasure Valley Partnership. The county received a bill for approximately \$1,200 in dues.

"Treasure Valley Partners sent a bill to the county, as part of their (the county's) dues in the amount of \$1,200, so the two new commissioners (Hoagland and chairman Dick Freund) wanted to meet with Treasure Valley Partners and find out what we were paying for," Sherburn said.

"It's (for) the population outside of the incorporated cities (the Treasure Valley Partnership is) interested in."

Sherburn said the amount equates to approximately 12 cents per person in rural Owyhee County.

"I think there are going to be some very

helpful things that come out of the Treasure Valley Partnership, some of their issues are growth in the counties, air quality, transportation, crime, and flood control," she said.

Treasure Valley Partnership is helping fund the Special Assistant United States Attorney position that will be paid through the county payroll. All funds for the position are paid with money from either the Treasure Valley Partnership or the state. No county funds will be used.

The Board also discussed a lease for three new vehicles for the sheriff's office through Ford Motor Credit.

"We go through Ford Motor Credit, and it is a lease, owing \$1 at the end of three years," Sherburn said. "The total amount was \$76,043 for three Ford pickups." The county will essentially own the vehicles at the end of the three-year lease.

The new vehicles will be delivered to Dan Wiebold Ford in Nampa.

— JWB

Rubber Stamps

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Marsing mayor takes part in National March for Meals Day

Marsing Mayor Don Osterhoudt joined forces with the town's senior center last week to take part in National March For Meals Day.

A component of that event, Mayors For Meals, encouraged the chief executives of cities to participate in Meals on Wheels deliveries in their communities.

Osterhoudt rode with Marsing Senior Center driver, Juan Delgadillo, center coordinator Alana Squires and center public relations person, Bonny Willer, to visit one of our many Meals On Wheels recipients, deliver our great lunch and share a little conversation.

Marsing center officials said their program delivers approximately 27 meals per day,

Mondays through Thursdays, as well as meal delivery on weekends for people who need food.

The Marsing Senior Center's Meals on Wheels service area includes residents within a 10-mile radius of the center at 218 Main St. and the Sunnyslope area across the Snake River in Canyon County.

For more information at the center or its Meals on Wheels program, call 896-4634.

The Homedale Senior Center also delivers Meals on Wheels to the town's elderly and shut-ins.

For more information on the Homedale programs, call 337-3020.




Osterhoudt shows he's a mayor for meals

Marsing Mayor Don Osterhoudt, left, and Alana Squires, right, deliver a meal to a Marsing senior during National March For Meals Day. Submitted photo

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Rec taxing district in Homedale's future?

Sundance snack shack discussion evolves into broader budget debate

Thursday's sometimes contentious meeting between the Homedale City Council and members of the recreation board may have produced the idea to revisit an old option.

Mayor Paul Fink suggested to rec board members that the best way to prevent future battles over control of the finances at Sundance Park is to establish a recreation tax district to fund all aspects of the city's recreation program.

City public works supervisor Larry Bauer pointed out that four decades ago Homedale residents Spud Murphy and Norman Tolmie were instrumental in the passage of the state legislation that allows cities to establish recreation districts.

Fink added irony to Bauer's comments when he pointed out that the idea of a taxing district to help support Sundance Park didn't progress to the ballot when the softball and soccer complex was first built.

The rec board members present at Thursday's meeting, including president Larry Corta, Greg Kelly, Tom Pegram and Bart Deal, were agreeable to the idea of trying to put a taxing district initiative on the ballot.

Further details of any such effort weren't available.

The idea was sparked when board members complained about a lack of control over the finances at Sundance and that the burden of supporting Sundance activities falls on city taxpayers while residents outside the city limits can take advantage of the park and its programs tax-free.

"We're hoping we can find a way to make money, but we want the money to go back into the park," Pegram said.

Although the discussion turned to the taxing district option, members of the recreation board turned out at last week's council meeting to fight for the right to keep

the Sundance Park concession stand. A week earlier, Fink had reported that Homedale Drive-In owner Pat Shenk was interested in leasing the concessions operation this spring.

Fink told the board members that the city was considering a lease to Shenk because of the lack of participation from summer rec supporters in the concession stand last season.

"One or two people can't do it all down there," he said.

Said Deal: "The rec board met last week, and there are a lot of people who signed up to be involved."

Although Shenk was at Thursday's meeting, he never was afforded the opportunity to address the council about a possible lease.

"Really the decision is in the council's hands, and they're going to see fit as far as what's best overall," Shenk said, adding that the fact he didn't get to speak really didn't bother him.

"By the time they actually got down to the Sundance Park issue, it had gotten late and I had things I had to do, too. It was one of those deals that, yeah, I would like to have given a presentation, but the order of business is the order of business."

Deal said the rec board would survey summer rec coaches at Friday's player draft to gauge interest in helping with the sale of concessions.

Board members were invited to schedule a meeting with the council to further discuss the future of the stand. No plans were known at press time.

While the topic of discussion was slated to be the Sundance Park concession stand lease, Thursday's meeting was dominated by the rec board's frustration with the city's control of the finances at Sundance Park.

"The board would like to have input on the budget," Deal said.



Concession stand topic ignites larger issue

Members of the recreation board first squabbled with the city council over budget concerns Thursday before both sides landed on the renewed idea of establishing a taxing district to pay for activities at Sundance Park and other areas.

Fink said rec board members were welcome to attend city budget hearings later this year to ensure they had a say in setting the budget for Fiscal Year 2008.

"What we wanted to do is see if we could get a budget for field maintenance for Sundance," Deal said.

"And if we did have the concession stand, we think we can be self-sufficient."

The city wants to make the summer rec operation more efficient in the wake of a loss of nearly \$3,700 last season.

"We didn't make money, but we worked a lot of hours," said Fink, who mentioned that he even flipped burgers in the summer to help the cause.

Fink said he believed one of the reasons the concession stand didn't make much money was the lack of practical scheduling of games. He said that when

games to be played closest to the concession stand at the multi-field complex were canceled last year, games on outer fields weren't shifted and fans were less inclined to visit the concession stand.

All involved in the discussion expressed hope that the new summer rec coordinator, Brian Beard, would schedule games closer to the concession stand in the event of cancellations.

According to a balance sheet, the Sundance Park concession stand itself lost about \$3,400 in 2006. That was just part of an overall loss of more than \$39,000 for Sundance Park last year.

"How are we going to solve the deficit if you take the concessions away from us?" Pegram asked

Fink.

Shenk said the rec district idea would best serve the taxpayers within the Homedale city limits, many of whom don't have children who take advantage of the park.

"It seems to make sense to me that if you're going to try to run something and make it pay for itself, (a taxing district is) the only way it's going to work," Shenk said. "You get a petition signed, draw up a referendum and get it on the ballot."

"And it makes more sense. Why should the elderly taxpayers who have no children have to pay?"

— JPB

— More council news, page 11A

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Deadline to file for school board elections approaches

Four Owyhee County school districts are seeking applicants to fill trustee positions

Deadlines for filing nominating petitions for the upcoming school board elections in all districts is 5 p.m. April 13.

The Homedale School District seeks to fill soon-to-be open trustee positions in Zone 1 and Zone 5. Both Homedale positions carry three-year terms. Board chairman Kurt Shanley currently serves in the Zone 1 slot, and Shane Muir serves in the Zone 5 spot.

Pleasant Valley seeks to fill one two-year seat in Zone 2 and a three-year position in Zone 3.

Marsing School District also seeks to fill two trustee positions, a three-year position for Zone 2 and a three-year spot for Zone 4.

The Bruneau-Grand View School District will seek candidates for Zone 2 and Zone 4, to serve a three-year term each. Dixie Black holds the current Zone 2 position, and Jeff Knight is in the Zone 4 spot.

Any person legally qualified to hold office of school district trustee in these districts may file a declaration of candidacy for the office. The declaration of candidacy must bear the name of the candidate, state the term for which the candidacy is made, and bear the signature of at least five school district electors that reside in the zone in which the candidate resides.

Declaration of candidacy forms may be obtained at the respective school district offices.

— JWB

From page 1

✓ Accident: Driver arraigned Monday

3-month-old infant escaped and were treated at a Caldwell hospital for minor injuries.

Clements was arrested on a vehicular manslaughter charge and booked into the Owyhee County Jail. Aman said additional charges may be forthcoming pending the results of a blood test. Those results were not available at press time.

“She basically ran off the road on a curve. The car went down into



Tyra Clements

‘She basically ran off the road on a curve.’

— Gary Aman
County sheriff

the barrow pit, came up against an embankment, went airborne, landed back on its wheels and caught fire,” Aman said Monday.

“The driver (Clements) got her baby out and couldn’t get the other girl out because it (the car) was already on fire.”

Clements was arrested and booked into the Owyhee County Jail for vehicular manslaughter.

Her bond was set at \$10,000 during a Monday arraignment.

Clements is scheduled to appear for preliminary hearing on April 16 in Murphy.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s deputies, Homedale Police officers, Idaho State Police and Marsing Fire and Ambulance crews responded to the incident at approximately 11 p.m. Saturday.

Clements and her baby were transported to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell and treated for minor injuries.

The Idaho State Police is performing an accident-reconstruction investigation, Aman said.

— JWB

Full stomachs, full heart School excellence winner does more than cook

You know you’re doing something right when a middle school student gives positive feedback — especially when it comes to food.

As Homedale Middle School kitchen supervisor, Young Ho Park oversees an operation that feeds more than 400 students and staff members every day.

And she gets rave reviews.

“She and her staff provide excellent meals every day, taking care to present them efficiently and attractively,” middle school principal Keith Field said.

“I have heard students talk about

the food being good, which is unusually high praise from a middle school student.”

Field’s comments came during the Homedale School District Board of Trustees March



Young Ho Park

meeting during which Park was announced as the month’s recipient for the Employee Excellence Award.

As has become a hallmark for the monthly award, Field said Park goes above and beyond in her job, showing great concern for the students she feeds as well as those who help out in the kitchen.

Field told the trustees at their March 12 meeting that Park teaches students the proper way

to serve others and holds them accountable for their mistakes.

She also polices her lunchroom with an even hand, he said.

“She consistently is willing to confront students as they come through the lunchroom for inappropriate behavior,” Field said. “At the same time, she is also careful to reward good behavior.”

Field said Park hands out citations for good behavior during the school’s year-end awards ceremony.

But the mother hen in Park goes behind the fifth-, sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders who sit down for meals in her lunchroom each day. Field said she has been known to create special lunches or treats for staff members and students despite the inconvenience it may create for her.

“She will take time to make special treats for staff when she knows of special occasions,” Field said. “I know that everyone across the district is envious of our holiday buffet when Young Ho signs up for a day.”

Field isn’t shy about boasting that Young Ho’s presence scores points for the middle school with school board members.

“It is also not an accident that the trustees’ tour of the district ends at the middle school at lunchtime,” Field said. “The middle school is a desirable place to hold district meetings in large part due to the food that is prepared and how it is presented.”


Field even said that when school officials make plans without consulting the kitchen, Park takes it all in stride.

“In every instance, Young Ho has been gracious and will go to extra effort to make the event successful,” he said.

The Owyhee Avalanche

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From page 1

✓ EMS: Officials want to discuss future county service with commission

countywide EMS program sometime in the future. Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman is convinced there is an imminent need.

It's all related to gearing up for the growth that inevitably will come in light of increased recreational use and a surge in the number of residential subdivision proposals the county has received.

"I have been telling the commissioners this for years," Aman said. "You need to start planning for a countywide, sponsored program. The commissioners are bound by Idaho Code to provide emergency medical service to the county."

Marsing Ambulance administrator Betty Ackerman said that EMS coverage may be compromised if a solution is not reached to compensate for increased demand on volunteer crews. The Marsing Ambulance routinely responds to medical emergencies far outside its current ambulance district, which ends nearly 20 miles west of Murphy.

"As the population grows, Marsing — with only one ambulance — we would not be able to continue to offer that service, because as (population) grows in areas that don't have coverage, we would be leaving our actual ambulance district uncovered," she said.

"To have a countywide ambulance service would provide ambulance service to those areas that it (service) is only being provided to on a courtesy basis."

Ackerman, who is a full-time emergency medical technician with the 10-person Marsing department, and Marsing Ambulance president Rich Dines both stressed, however, that Marsing Ambulance would continue to provide emergency services to surrounding areas if requested in an emergency or mass-casualty situation.

Benefits of a countywide system would include 24-hour full-time EMS coverage and wider ambulance services throughout Owyhee County.

Ackerman said that any formation of a consolidated

system is years down the road. The idea is in its embryonic stages at this point.

"As far as Marsing, (consolidation) is something we have looked at and discussed as a future possibility," she said. "This would be something that, to put together, would be several years away, but you have to start with an idea."

Dines said the agency plans to bring the idea to the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners in the near future. No firm dates for that presentation have been set, but Dines said that ambulance coverage in Owyhee County is a critical issue facing residents.

"We're just going to the commissioners to see what their thoughts are and to make them aware," Dines said. "There's no question: It's not a problem down the road. It's a problem today."

"(EMS coverage) is a problem with everybody. The sooner it's done the better, I think, for the whole county."

Ackerman said a consolidated EMS system would help provide consistent coverage for all of Owyhee County, but it would have to be paid for by taxpayers. Marsing is not tax-based. The ambulance service receives funds on a per-call basis, wherein the patients are billed for services.

The decision to form a comprehensive system ultimately would rest with the commissioners and leaders from all EMS agencies in the county. Also, it would not happen overnight.

Aman said Idaho law already obligates county government to provide EMS service throughout Owyhee. The fast-growing Murphy area is especially in need of more ambulance coverage.

"The Murphy area does not have a designated EMS system," Aman said. "We're always bringing Marsing up. I don't even have a close EMS system for my jail. I've got to call Marsing Ambulance. They've got to drive 30 miles up here and 30 miles back to a hospital."

Aman said it's only a matter of time before a countywide system is in place.

"The demands for (EMT)



EMS services may need to expand

A Marsing Ambulance crew responds to an accident in July. Representatives from the agency discussed the possibility of a future countywide emergency medical services organization during a recent meeting.

training are increasing. Demands for their time are increasing. (Consolidation) is going to happen in Owyhee County," he said.

Aman said in the past he has urged the county commissioners to pre-plan for growth, and a countywide EMS system is part of that preparation.

Aman pointed to county-based EMS systems in Ada and Canyon counties as models for what Owyhee County may use someday. He estimated a consolidated system would come into being in the next five to six years.

One of the biggest, most tangible benefits county residents would realize is round-the-clock EMS crews on staff.

While volunteer crews are willing to respond at a moment's notice, sometimes work and other issues can lead to longer response times. Full-time members' jobs would be responding to emergencies, whether from home or from a station designed to house crews on duty.

"It would have to be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a

week, because when you tax someone for the service you need to make sure you can provide it," Ackerman said.

The Homedale Ambulance is tax-based but also bills patients for services. It is staffed at all times. Homedale Ambulance administrator Lisa Price said that Homedale does not currently face the same challenges as Marsing, and has part-time, paid personnel.

Price said it is not a priority for Homedale in the near future.

"I'm not sure what it would provide for us," Price said. "Right now, we've got quite a few personnel on our unit."

"There are a lot of issues to be addressed in regard to consolidation. Agencies can consolidate, but we see no added benefits for our agency at this time."

Owyhee County has seven EMS agencies. But only Homedale, Marsing and Grand View are ambulances capable of patient transport.

The Marsing Ambulance is the only transport service between

Marsing and Grand View, meaning that although there are other emergency service agencies, such as the Oreana QRU and Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire District, Marsing is the closest outfit that can actually transport a patient. The agency also covers the area south of Marsing to the Oregon state line along U.S. Highway 95.

While the Marsing Ambulance officially covers approximately 110 square miles, Ackerman said the actual response district is closer to 400 square miles.

"Right now, our actual ambulance district goes out to Highway 78 out to the tomato sheds (approximately milepost 8)," Ackerman said. "That is actually as far as our ambulance district goes. But, we respond out as far as Murphy, and we have even responded out as far as Silver City."

Ackerman said the Melba QRU also responds to the area near Murphy, but does not transport patients.

— JWB

✓ Classmate: Mentor establishes benefit account through U.S. Bank

having Jorge back in school."

Betty Arriaga, who has helped Jorge for three years through the Mentoring Network, also has kicked off a raffle for 25 pounds of Alaskan crab. Arriaga is a Homedale resident, but previously lived in Alaska for more than 20 years.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

On Friday, Arriaga set up a benefit bank account for Jorge

at U.S. Bank. Donations can be made to the Jorge Hernandez Benefit Fund, account No. 153353073924, at any U.S. Bank branch.

"Betty has really stepped beyond the role of a school-based mentor," Mentoring Network executive director Donna Shines said. "She's a go-getter. She gets on something, and she won't give up."

Neither will the school staff

members who know Jorge, not only as a student but also as the son of Rosa, who is a janitor at HMS.

"Her absence this last winter did not go without notice, and we were pretty devastated to learn about Jorge being hospitalized," HMS sixth-grade teacher Pat Warren said. "(Jorge's sixth-grade homeroom teacher David Hann) and I decided to have a bake sale as soon as possible to help defray

(the family's expenses)."

Usually a benefit bake sale is held for only one day. The HMS organizers couldn't settle on one day, so sales were held on March 9 and March 16.

"The kids were great, bringing in an abundance of food and buying it. The office could not have been more cooperative, and (HMS secretary) Linda Miklancic was especially helpful with organizing and cleaning up."

Warren said school bookkeeper Margaret Lejardi helped count the money raised.

"We had no particular goals in mind as far as money, and many people bought a cupcake and handed us a \$10 or \$20 bill with instructions to, 'Keep the change,'" Warren said.

"What a terrific bunch of people we have here."

— JPB

Obituary

Ruby O’Neal

Graveside service for Ruby O’Neal, 95, of Richland, Washington formerly of Homedale, Idaho, will be held at 10:30 A.M. Wednesday, March 28, 2007 at Canyon Hill Cemetery, Caldwell. A Memorial service to follow at 1:00 P.M. Wednesday at Flahiff Funeral Chapel in Homedale. Friends called from 4:00 to 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

Ruby (Johnson) O’Neal was born at Kisse Mill, Missouri to Arter and Lucy Johnson on August 3, 1911 and entered into rest at Richland, Washington on March 21, 2007. She graduated from Forsyth High School May 1930. She received a Teacher’s Certificate and taught all eight grades in one-room schools in Missouri.

On November 3, 1934, she married Jim O’Neal at Taneyville, MO. Four daughters were born to Ruby and Jim: Thelma Joan, Leona, Caroleta and Bonnie. Jim and Ruby moved from Missouri to Homedale, ID in August 1951. Ruby was a homemaker until 1955 when she went to work for Homedale school district as a cook in the hot lunch program. After selling her home in 1995, she moved to Melba to live with daughter Caroleta (Dennis) Palmer. In June 2003 she moved into Assisted Living, Tri-Cities, WA near her daughter Bonnie.

So many wonderful friends and her loving family will miss Ruby. Surviving members of her family are her three daughters and spouses: Leona (Ted) Neef,



Eugene, OR; their sons Carl Neef, Bellevue, WA; Jimmy (Jennifer) Neef, Mason, Corbin, and Kendyl, Eugene, OR; Caroleta (Dennis) Palmer, Melba, ID; Bonnie (Don) Williams, Pasco, WA; daughters Tanya (Steve) Smith, Richland, WA; Tami (Brad) Jahn and Caleb, Bend, OR; Son-in-law Dorwin Drum and wife Vicki, Homedale, ID; and their families: Don (Shannon) Drum, Katie and Mason, Meridian, ID; Suzanna (Ron Brockett), Jared and Brandon, Homedale, ID; Holly (Dean) Phelps, Meridian, ID; and Kristy Drum, Kent, WA. Many cousins, nieces and nephews also survive her. Her husband Jim, daughter Thelma Joan Drum, granddaughter Ginger Drum, grandson Calvin Palmer and sister Bertie Day preceded her in death.

Memorials may be given to American Heart Association or your favorite charity.

School

menus

Homedale Elementary

- April 2: Hamburger or fish sandwich, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- April 3: Chicken tenders or CF beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- April 4: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, churro, milk.

Homedale Middle

- April 2: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- April 3: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.
- April 4: Enchilada or chicken& noodles, corn, fruit & veggie bar, cherry turnover, milk.

Homedale High

- April 2: Pizza, popcorn chicken, chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- April 3: CF fried steak, chicken filet, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- April 4: Spaghetti, burrito, pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

- April 2: Burritos, buttered rice, fruit, milk, hamburger, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- April 3: Pizza, salad, fruit, milk, baked potato & chili bar, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- April 4: Chicken nuggets, veggie, fruit, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau

- April 2: Chicken nuggets, potatoes/gravy, veggie, fruit, roll/butter, milk.
- April 3: Cook’s choice.
- April 4: Weiner wraps, tater wedges, carrot sticks, fruit, milk, brownie, milk.

Marsing Gun Club plans Owen memorial shoot

The Marsing Gun Club will hold the Pete Owen Memorial Buddy Shoot on Sunday at the trap club’s range on Idaho highway 78 outside of Marsing.

Owen, who passed away in January, was a member of the Marsing Gun Club.

Doors open for the Buddy Shoot at 9 a.m., with the competition starting at 10 a.m.

Gun club representative Bud Zarbnisky said the contest is open to both members and guests of the gun club.

The entry fee is \$10 per two-man team or \$5 per person. There will be two divisions for competition:

A class — Registered shooters

and known ability

B class — Non-registered shooters and known ability

Each team will shoot 10 clays from 42 yards and can shoot as many times as desired within the time frame allowed.

Only factory shells will be allowed, and spent shells must hit the ground.

Other fun shoots will be held throughout the day, and one contest will be for a pair of belt buckles.

Caba’s BBQ will provide ham and beef with all the trimmings.

The Marsing Gun Club is located on the southern side of Idaho 78 about 3 miles outside of Marsing.

For more information, call (208) 896-4780.

Owyhee gears up for Easter activities

The Easter activity calendar is filling up, with events announced for Homedale, the Marsing area and Grand View.

Easter Sunday is April 8. Most of the events will occur April 7.

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. at Sundance Park on April 7.

Also on April 7, the Marsing Lions Club plans its traditional breakfast and Easter egg hunt.

The breakfast will take place from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center at 126 N. 2nd St. The cost is \$4 for adults and \$2.75 for children 11 years old and younger.

The Marsing Easter egg hunt begins at 10 a.m. at the Marsing High School football field. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved to the high school gymnasium on Main Street.

The Grand View Lions Club kicks off its Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. on April 7 at Grand View City Park.

The 70th annual Lizard Butte Sunrise Service will be held at 7 a.m. on April 8 at Lizard Butte across the Snake River from Marsing. Organizers stress that attendees should dress warm. For more information, call 454-9001.

Holy Week meals relocated

The annual Homedale Ministerial Association Holy Week Luncheon series has been moved this year.

The freewill lunches, which will take place from noon to 1 p.m. each day from Monday to April 6, will be held at the Seventh-Day Adventist Church at 16613 Garnet Road. Turn right onto Garnet from Homedale Road.

For more information, call Lillian Troxel at 337-3301.

Death notices

JAMES BENNETT HAMPTON III, 66, of Bruneau, died Saturday, March 24, 2007, at home. Services under the direction of Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel, Mountain Home.

WILLIAM H. MCNEMEE, 65, of Marsing, died Sunday, March 18, 2007, at home. At his request, no services were held. Cremation is under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell.

OLIVE PORTER, 94, passed away on Wednesday, March 21, 2007. Graveside memorial services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 31, 2007, at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery, Marsing.

Read all about it
in the Avalanche!



Aaron Tines
Morticians Assistant
Proudly serving the Community as:
President, Homedale Chamber of Commerce
Member, Homedale Lions Club

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Your finances

Do homework before hiring real estate agent

Dear Dave,
I'm thinking about selling my house. Should I put it on the market myself or hire a real estate agent?
— Ann

Dear Ann,
You definitely need a high-quality agent. I'm not talking about some guy who hands out business cards and only sells a dozen homes a year. You want someone who works his tail off and knows the business inside and out.
A good realtor can give your home more exposure than you can. They also can get the house priced right and sold faster.
Schedule a meeting with three or four successful agents in your area and ask these questions:

- Why should I list my home with you?

Find out what the agent will do to help your home stand out.

- What's your company's track record and reputation?

If one agent or company sells more than the rest, ask why and what they're doing differently.

- Does your broker control the advertising or do you?

If your agent doesn't control the advertising, your home may compete for ad space with listings from every other agent in the brokerage.

- On average, how close is the selling price to the asking price?

This information is available from your local Real Estate Board. The agent's performance in this area can help predict how much you'll get for your home.

- On average, how long does it take your listings to sell?

This information is also available from the Real Estate Board. It will help determine about how long your home will be on the market.

- Do you have a reference list of clients I could contact?

Make some phone calls. Ask them to describe their experiences with the agent.

- What if I'm not happy with the job you do?

See if the agent will cancel your contract without penalties if you're not satisfied with the service they provide.

Their answers can help you decide who is best for the job!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
My wife and I are about to



have our first child. She'd like to stay home with the baby after it's born, so we'll be losing about half our income. We've looked at our budget, and we can stay in the house but things would be very tight. I'll make \$42,000 this year, with a potential bonus of \$23,000 at the end of the year. Our house payment is \$1,550 a month. Do you think we should downsize to a smaller home and live more comfortably?

Dear Mike,
I hate it when people have to leave their homes. It can be a hurtful thing to the heart and spirit.
If you had \$65,000 as a steady income, the house payment wouldn't be a big deal. But you can't count on a potential bonus, and from your guaranteed income more than half your take-home pay will be wrapped up in a house payment. You'd probably have to take a part-time job, or save any bonus you get to subsidize your income just to have a realistic chance of making ends meet.
I'm all for Mom staying home with the kids — especially a little baby — whenever possible. But when it comes right down to it, Mike, you and your wife have to decide if it's worth the part-time work and budget hassles to stay where you are.
Moving is no fun, especially when it's something you're forced to do. But you don't want to be a slave to your house payment either!

— 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

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

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
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

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

Tuesday
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
Ridgeview Irrigation District

Kids reading set at library
The Melba Cottage Library is getting behind two summer reading programs for youth this summer.

Passport to Reading is a program being hosted by Melba Middle School for "youth to young adult" readers, according to the library's newsletter.
The library will present a children's summer reading program entitled Swing into Reading.
Prizes and incentives for reading are part of both programs. The summer will be capped with a raffle and a play.
The Melba Cottage Library is open from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturdays.
It's located at 109 Charlotte Drive in Melba. For more information, call 208-495-1063.

Calendar

monthly board meeting, 7 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale
Gem Irrigation District monthly board meeting, 7:15 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale
South Board of Control monthly board meeting, 7:30 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale
AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Wednesday, April 4
Melba Cottage Library book club meeting, 7 p.m., Melba Cottage Library, 109 Charlotte Drive, Melba. (208) 495-1063
DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Thursday, April 5
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
AA meeting, 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Friday, April 6
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, April 7
Homedale Chamber of Commerce Easter egg hunt, Sundance Park
Grand View Lions Club Easter egg hunt, 11 a.m., toddlers to sixth-graders, City Park
Marsing Lions Bingo season finale, 6:45 p.m. early bird, 7 p.m. regular start, Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 2nd St. N., Marsing. (208) 896-4815

Sunday, April 8
Lizard Butte Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., Lizard Butte off Idaho highway 55 near Marsing
Snake River Valley Fellowship Bible study, 10 a.m., 532 W. California Ave., Homedale. (208) 475-3733

Submit information to *The OwyheeAvalanche* by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off: 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale; mail: P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628; fax: (208) 337-4867; e-mail: jbrowneditor@cableone.net. For information, call (208) 337-4681.

WILDER COMMUNITY MEETING

regarding service changes at the
Wilder Post Office
TODAY - 6 p.m., Wednesday, March 28
Wilder High School gymnasium • 210 A Ave. E.
Anyone in the Wilder ZIP code, 83676,
is encouraged to attend the meeting.

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9-1 Sat.

Read all about it in the Avalanche!

Forecast calls for crowded rec areas

Emergency services reel as busy spring arrives

Sheriff's office gets glimpse of the season to come during St. Patrick's Day weekend

With the arrival of warmer spring weather, Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said his deputies are bracing for the ever-increasing hordes of recreationists that use the county as a playground and create headaches for the small agency.

Marsing Ambulance administrator Betty Ackerman said the explosion of recreational activity in Owyhee County also places a strain on emergency medical personnel.

According to the sheriff, the problems have mushroomed in the 10-plus years since he took office.

"I can't give a ratio, but it's a hundred times worse," Aman said in comparing today's recreational environment to that of a decade ago.

"The more people that move into the Treasure Valley, they have to recreate; they have to go somewhere. Springtime, it really hits us hard, because a lot of the places up in the mountains are not open yet. There's still snow, campgrounds closed. Everyone comes out here to recreate."

Aman said that he plans to schedule extra deputies to patrol recreation areas in the coming months to help with the extra

call volume. Still, recreational problems occur, and the sheriff has said they usually are caused by those who are visiting from outside Owyhee County.

Over the warm, sunny St. Patrick's Day weekend earlier this month, the sheriff responded to a number of recreation-related incidents, including a dirt bike accident near Hemingway Butte. In the wake of that mishap, a 59-year-old Nampa woman was transported by air-ambulance. Aman said March 19 that of all the folks he contacted over the weekend, only one was from Owyhee County.

The sheriff's office also responded to a boat accident near Walter's Ferry in which a 12-foot airboat with two passengers capsized as a result of excessive speed. The two occupants were forced to swim to safety.

Aman said last week that there were so many off-road vehicle violations in popular recreation areas such as the Hemingway Butte Open Play Area that he didn't even have time to issue citations to most violators.

And the recreationalists scouring the Owyhee landscape for enjoyment weren't limited to the Hemingway Butte area.



Recreation accidents strain emergency services

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, in white shirt, helps flight paramedics load a patient after an off-road motorcycle accident during St. Patrick's Day weekend. Bureau of Land Management photo

"It was all the way from C.J. Strike...C.J. Strike was full of boats. The hills were like 'anthills;' there were people absolutely everywhere," Aman said.

The extra call volume has put a financial drain as well as a physical burden on his agency,

Aman said.

"I am just eating up my budget trying to keep up. I can't begin to keep up," he said.

Aman said that recent improvements to the Hemingway Butte Open Play Area, such as designated off-highway

vehicle (OHV) crossings and fences restricting access to Upper Reynolds Creek Road have helped, but have not solved the problems associated with recreational vehicle use.

— JWB

Man airlifted after mishap

A 50-year-old Meridian man was transported via air-ambulance after a recreational vehicle accident Sunday afternoon near the Caine Springs area.

According to Owyhee County Dispatch reports, the man required medical attention after a recreational vehicle accident.

The nearest road to the accident location is Rabbit Creek Road.

The man complained of back and shoulder pain. Dispatch logs indicate the man was treated for a possible punctured lung.

— JWB

Resources, response time hamper ambulance

Marsing agency copes with its vast service area

Emergency medical personnel also are feeling the pinch as the spring recreation season erupts in the Hemingway Butte Open Play Area and other recreational attractions.

The Marsing Ambulance is the nearest medical provider capable of transporting an injured patient from much of Owyhee County's recreational hotspots.

Like Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, Marsing Ambulance administrator Betty Ackerman also has seen an increase in the volume of recreationists in recent years.

The main liability for the emergency service crews is the time involved in responding to a remote location and providing emergency care. Lengthy response times means a crew is unavailable to respond if a local emergency occurs.

The end result to county residents is fewer emergency services resources available. In the case of the Marsing Ambulance, crews often spend a big chunk of time on recreation-related calls because they often occur miles from their actual ambulance district.

"It takes a lot of time to do (respond), even though we do not transport," Ackerman said. "As there are more and more of those calls, that is going to keep us out of district (Marsing) more and longer."

Even though Marsing Ambulance responds to the far reaches of the Owyhee recreation areas, Ackerman said the calls often end in air-ambulance transport because of the out-of-the-way locales.

"Of course, as there is more and more influx of recreational opportunities — people that come in and avail themselves of our recreational areas. We respond out into those areas. It's a time-crunch," she said.

"Most of the time, we end up flying the patient just because of

the remoteness."

That remoteness often requires ambulance crew to load equipment on to other vehicles and lug it to the site of the incident.

"There are numerous times when we can not actually reach the patient with our ambulance," Ackerman said.

"So, we respond as far as we can, we transfer our equipment and our personnel into a sheriff's four-wheel-drive vehicle. We get as close as we can with that. If we can't get all the way, we'll use four-wheelers or something."

Ackerman said there may be a day when ambulance crews will not be able to respond because of other demands on the system.

— JWB

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Forecast calls for crowded rec areas

Ordinances aimed at streamlining enforcement

Language allowing deputies to cite violators on BLM land heads to commission

Plans are in the works to protect Owyhee County's public lands further from the ravages of recreational vehicle use.

Drafts of new county ordinances designed to curb recreational vehicle offenses were to be presented to the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners at Monday's meeting. Results of that meeting were not available at press time.

Without the ordinances, Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies have had to call upon Bureau of Land Management rangers to enforce the federal statutes against abuse of public land. If the ordinances are passed, deputies will have the option of issuing a citation for a violation of county ordinances — which will mirror federal codes — rather than wait for a ranger to arrive.

Federal law requires ATV and motorcycle riders to remain on designated trails, road, or sand-washes in Owyhee County's many recreational vehicle areas managed by the BLM. In the near future, those federal laws will be backed by county ordinances, allowing Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies to issue citations.

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said those that decide to travel "cross-country" may have to pay a hefty fine if they choose to blaze their own trails in the Owyhees.

"If someone goes out cross-country and tears things up, (disturbs) ranchers' grazing, or defacing public lands, we will have a county ordinance that we can deal with that issue," Aman said.

Aman said the ordinances likely will be

classified as infractions — with a fixed fine amount attached that can be mailed in to the courts — rather than a misdemeanor, which would require multiple court dates by a defendant and a greater burden on the court system.

If the ordinances are passed, fine amounts will be set at a later date.

"We've discussed a couple-hundred bucks as a penalty. That is up to the commissioners," Aman said. "The reason we're making it an infraction instead of a misdemeanor is we don't want to overwhelm the courts. But, we also want a penalty that is stiff enough it's going to get someone's attention."

Aman said he hopes to have ordinances in effect in the next few weeks.

"I hope the commissioners will have a draft copy Monday (March 26). They will have to approve it and publish it," the sheriff said. "I hope it's on the books in a month."

Aman gave examples of some of the proposed ordinances.

"The county and BLM puts up signs to control recreation, like 'no parking' or 'no four-wheel-drive vehicles on motorcycle trails,' 'emergency vehicles only'... We've got the signs up, we just need an ordinance so we can enforce them," Aman said.

The sheriff said some of the ordinances directly relate to the Owyhee Initiative, which has been re-introduced to the U.S. Senate.

"We are also looking at a 'cultural

protection ordinance' that enhances or strengthens the state cultural protection law," Aman said, adding that the current state statute in place is obscure and seldom used.

"In the recreation plan in the Owyhee Initiative, we are going to need these ordinances so we can abide by the Owyhee Initiative."

BLM ranger Lee Kliman said the proposed county ordinances will make his job easier, as the BLM's law enforcement arm is stretched thin. Kliman said he and one other ranger are responsible for enforcement in a total of 10 counties in the region.

Kliman said offenders currently can be issued federal citations, the penalties for which start at a fixed fine of more than \$200.

"Depending on the severity, it can have a court appearance and can go a lot higher," Kliman said.

As it stands now, a sheriff's deputy must contact at BLM ranger to issue a citation under federal statutes when he catches a violator on federal land (such as Hemingway Butte). The reverse is true for federal law enforcement personnel who witness illegal acts on non-federal land, Kliman said.

"Rangers don't have authority to write state violations, and deputies don't have authority to write federal violations," he said. "Some of our codes overlap each other. What Owyhee County is trying to do is bring some more similarity between the two."

— JWB



New ordinances in sight
The Owyhee County commissioners were scheduled to receive drafts of county ordinances designed to make it easier for sheriff's deputies to deal with recreation vehicle offenses on BLM land.

BLM rangers feel crunch of 'spring fever' at off-road sites

Lee Kliman, a 21-year veteran Bureau of Land Management law enforcement ranger, has been stationed in the Boise area for several years. He said the use of the Owyhees' recreation areas has increased several-fold in just the past year.

"I would say that in just this year, (use of) our areas are four times higher, in comparison with last year," Kliman said. "It is significant. You are talking hundreds of vehicles at Hemingway Butte."

Like Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, Kliman said the warmer weather has brought hordes of off-road enthusiasts to the Hemingway Butte Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Open Play Area off Upper Reynolds Creek Road. Kliman worked alongside Aman during the busy St. Patrick's Day weekend to curb off-road violations and protect the public.

"It's like 'spring fever' everywhere," Kliman said. "I had people in every area and corner, traveling, and I was trying to keep up with all the calls and so forth. I couldn't keep up."

"At Hemingway Butte there

were (ATV) vehicles driving on the road, driving everywhere they shouldn't be. Hemingway Butte is our most developed off-road vehicle site."

Like his county sheriff's counterparts, Kliman didn't even have time to write tickets to most of the violators he encountered.

"Certainly we could have written lots of violations, but we had to focus on the bigger picture — public safety," he said.

Kliman explained that stressing safety often meant issuing a warning then moving on to the next hazardous situation.

"At Hemingway Butte, we had basically three violations," Kliman said. "There were off-road vehicles driving on the paved



Hemingway Butte
The Hemingway Butte OHV Open Play area attracts off-highway vehicle enthusiasts in droves, as a jumping-off point to miles of Owyhee County's motorcycle and ATV trails.

road (Upper Reynolds Creek Road); there were large four-

wheel-drive trucks driving on motorcycle/ATV trails— which is just an accident waiting to happen; and there were off-road vehicles driving completely off the trail, driving cross-country."

Kliman said the recent improvements at the Hemingway Butte OHV Open Play area have been a double-edged sword for law enforcement: The improvements have made it safer for OHV operators, but the improved facilities also bring more people to the area.

"It is kind of give-and-take," he said. "They're designed to make the area safer. They try to keep people from getting on the road, where highway vehicles travel on (Upper) Reynolds Creek Road,

especially over at Hemingway Butte.

"It is also designed to try to keep four-wheel-drive trucks off the ATV and motorcycle trails, so that is making it safer for the ones that want to abide by it. It does help guide them along."

While bringing more folks out, the Hemingway Butte work also could help tone down the amount of riders in restricted areas.

"But, by doing that, when you do improvements, they (recreationists) will come. People want to know where they can go to ride, and if they have a clear place they understand it is legal to ride there, then they will go there."

— JWB

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GOOD FRIDAY

Service April 6, 2007
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Contact Cookie Brown for information 880-6528

Irrigation meetings set

The boards of directors for local irrigation districts will hold monthly regular meetings Tuesday at the South Board of Control office at 118 S. 1st St. W., in Homedale. Irrigation meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month.

The Ridgeview Irrigation District board meets at 7 p.m.

The Gem Irrigation District board meets at 7:15 p.m.

The South Board of Control meets at 7:30 p.m.

As of press time, the agenda for the meeting was not yet finalized. South Board secretary Connie Chadez said that agendas are posted at the South Board office one week prior to the meetings.

Nominations sought for dairy products board

The United Dairymen of Idaho announced last week that nominations are being sought for the seat that represents Owyhee County on the Idaho Dairy Products Commission.

Each commissioner serves a three-year term, and District I, which includes Owyhee, has one vacancy.

The nomination deadline is May 4. The Idaho State Department of Agriculture conducts elections in the state's three districts each year.

Each district chair is responsible for submitting three eligible dairy producers for inclusion on the ballot.

Qualified producers are citizens older than 25 who are residents of the district they will represent. Nominees must be involved in dairy production for five years prior to nomination.

The District I commissionership of Art Lee of New Plymouth is expiring this year. Lee is eligible to be re-nominated for another term.

The District I chair is Tom Kasper of Melba.

Nominations should be sent to him at 3349 Hill Road, Melba, ID 83641.

Kasper or the state Department of Ag can be contacted for further information on the elections.

4-H club news



4-H club members thank senior center

Shoo Fly 4-H Club members, from left to right, Megan Barraza, Megan Harper and Shelby Criffield present Homedale Senior Citizens Center coordinator Shirley McAbee with a crock pot. The club showed its appreciation to the center for the use of the building for its monthly meetings. Submitted photo

Shoo-Fly Livestock

by Victoria Nash, club reporter

Some of the officers from the Shoo-Fly Livestock 4-H club presented Shirley McAbee of the Homedale Senior Center with a new crock pot as a thank-you to the center for its use. The club wanted to show its appreciation for being allowed to hold monthly meetings at the center.

Also during the 4-H meeting, Bud Anderson from Rafter 4 Feed came to talk to the members about rationing and feeds available at the store. Morgan Nash and Kellie Barraza gave a project report about beef weigh-in that happened on March 3.

Tyler Theile also reported on the Beef Field Day that was held in Marsing on March 10.

Megan Harper gave a presentation on 4-H Camp and promoted it to the club. She will be a leader at camp this year.

Members were reminded of important dates to keep in mind: Swine weigh-in on April 30 and sheep weigh-in on June 2-3. The meeting was adjourned and refreshments were served.

Individual Project groups met, and Sue Williams helped us with Hoard's Dairy Judging.

The club will have a bowling party on Sunday at Owyhee Lanes. Demonstrations and a club meeting will be held at 3 p.m. on April 11 at the Homedale Senior Center.

Owyhee County Gems

by Hayleigh Green, club reporter

The Owyhee County Gems had another meeting Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. We talked about the new rabbit leader, Wendy Stansel and Logens new rabbit, Jake.

Beef members also have started getting their animals, and swine kids should be getting their pigs in April.

The Owyhee County Gems club also does a lot of fun activities.

For example, we recently had our annual roller skating party.

We also would like to welcome our newest member, Megan Green. She will be taking a hog.

We added an educational game to our normal monthly meetings. It was called 4-H cranium. It was thought up by Josh and Jake Larson with the help of their mom, Monica.

It was a lot of fun for everyone.

Meeting will cover changes at the Wilder post office


A community meeting regarding service changes at the Wilder Post Office has been scheduled for 6 p.m. today at the Wilder High School gymnasium at 210 A Ave. E.

Anyone in the Wilder ZIP code, 83676, is encouraged to attend the meeting.

The lease on the post office building is up, and operations at the current location will halt on April 14.

Postal Service officials will seek public input on any changes during today's meeting.

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Homedale

Fire district tries to stay ahead of growth

Agency provides fees to council to ensure it has a say in future development within city limits

Representatives of the Homedale Fire District on Thursday asked the Homedale City Council to keep them “in the loop” with future development within the city limits.

Ric Uria, Tom Pegram and Scott Salutregui presented council members with a 2-year-old fee schedule that they said has been used in helping developers in the Owyhee and Canyon county portions of the district plan their subdivisions according to international fire code.

“These are basically fees that will help offset the cost of runs to those homes,” fire chief Salutregui said.

The fees, which range from \$150 plus \$1 per lot for preliminary plat review to \$400 for the construction phase, also are used to offset ambulance

service to those homes, Salutregui said.

When Mayor Paul Fink pointed out that the council hadn’t heard about these fees in the past, Uria said the schedule was passed after a public hearing before the fire commission on April 11, 2005.

But Uria said the spike in new development in town spurred the fire department to bring the schedule to the attention of the council.

“With all the building and stuff coming in, we’re getting left out of the loop,” Uria said, pointing out that the fire department never had a chance to comment on the details of the 45-lot Santa Fe subdivision in downtown Homedale.

Salutregui said the fire department has had contact with city planning and zoning

administrator Sylvia Bahem and building official Mike Miller on most new development in town.

The fire department is concerned that all construction follows international fire code. The code helps ensure that there will be sufficient water supply and waterflow, an adequate number of hydrants and that the streets are wide enough to allow emergency vehicles to maneuver within the subdivision.

“We’re contacted by the agency, and we comment in writing,” Salutregui said. “All we’re commenting on is straight-forward right out of the code.”

The chief said Miller and Bahem are doing a “terrific” job in keeping the fire department abreast of the new development.

Salutregui said the fire department should be involved from the beginning when new development is planned. Each building permit includes a \$25 emergency vehicle access fee to guarantee that streets will be wide enough for fire trucks and

ambulances.

“The emergency vehicle access needs to be done before a stick of lumber hits the ground because brand-new homes burn down just like ones that have been there,” Salutregui said.

“(The permit) is for our own safety. It’s there for everyone’s safety.”

Salutregui said the fire department isn’t concerned about the Santa Fe subdivision construction not meeting code, even though the proper channels weren’t followed.

“I believe they’ll be fine,” he said. “And the reason being is that the city and county are well above what we require in fire code.”

Most recently, the department was allowed to comment on the proposed Woods subdivision on Pioneer Road in which Ron Woods proposes to build nearly 300 homes. The council voted to annex the property into the city limits in December, but the fire district originally was contacted by the county planning

and zoning department because the property still was outside city limits when Woods began the permit process.

“A 300-home subdivision is a very large (emergency services) infrastructure,” Salutregui said.

And there could be a bigger challenge facing the fire district within the Canyon County portion of its boundaries.

“As Ric mentioned (at the meeting), there’s a proposed Polo Cove subdivision that would be a substantial community,” Salutregui said.

Even though the 1,800-home subdivision could have its own fire station, fire protection still would be the responsibility of the Homedale district.

Salutregui said the continued growth in the fire district eventually could demand that the on-call volunteer service actually become a fire protection and emergency services agency with paid, full-time employees.

— JPB

City will settle copier lease dispute

Homedale council votes to pay \$6,500; business agrees to help city pave part of West First Street

The Homedale City Council cleared up a few issues during its Thursday meeting, including the future of litigation regarding a copy machine and the status of city-owned property on California Avenue.

Dugger-era lease update

Council members decided to accept a settlement in a pending litigation case stemming from a lease developed during the tenure of former city clerk Pam Dugger.

City attorney Michael Duggan told council members that the company holding the lease for a copier once used at City Hall would take \$6,500 to settle the original \$13,000 payoff. The city returned the piece of equipment to the leasing company after Mayor Paul Fink took office.

“I suggest the council vote to pay it, and that will be one more mess cleaned up,” Fink said.

Duggan advised the council to accept the settlement offer because he suspected the total cost of a trial could be \$19,000 if the city lost.

“I think this is the cheap way out,” Fink said.

The council was unanimous in accepting the plaintiff’s offer after Duggan said the city had until April 10 to answer the offer or request an extension.

Property stays with city

Robert Paasch learned Thursday

night that a stipulation in the donation of some California Avenue property to the city prevented the council from moving ahead with any effort to sell the parcel to him. State code would require the city to open the parcel for public bid if any sale was proposed.

Paasch said he wanted to look into buying the property so he could build his house there, but Fink said he had learned that the city was obligated to either build a park on the property or return it to the family of the person who bequeathed the land to Homedale.

“Homedale was going to put a gun club for kids and hunting safety there,” Fink said.

Fink announced the park stipulation when Paasch asked, “So what does the city plan to do with it? Build a park or let it grow weeds?”

“It says right on the deed that if the city doesn’t build a park, the property goes back to the heirs,” Fink said.

City public works supervisor Larry Bauer told the council that at this point building a park on the property would be too costly.

“It would cost \$5,000 to \$6,000 for sprinklers and grass for the park plus maintenance,” he said.

Auto dealer to help pave

Bauer told the council that the owner of J Z Auto Sales at the corner of West Idaho Avenue

and West First Street South has agreed to help the city pay for the repaving of about half a block of First Street.

Bauer said Adil Zyadeh agreed to pay \$800, leaving the city to pay the balance of the project price. The city’s share of the asphalt job could be between \$1,300 and \$1,500, Bauer said.

Bauer also reported that paving of the streets in the Santa Fe subdivision was expected to be undertaken early this week, and that the connecting city streets would be reopened soon.

7 acres revisited

Fink discussed the cost of leveling a 2-acre piece of the infamous 7-acre parcel of city-owned land near the airport to prepare the ground for more airplane hangars.

Deeming the two acres in question undesirable for commercial development, the mayor said it would cost about \$4,000 to level the ground. The council took no action after the discussion.

“This would clean up some loose ends down there and promote growth,” city councilman Steve Schultz said.

— JPB

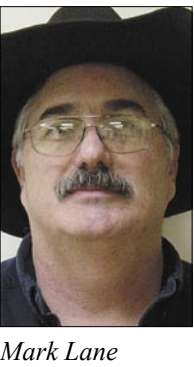
BLM appoints new manager for Owyhee office in Marsing

Mark Lane, the new BLM Owyhee Field Office manager, began work this month at the federal agency’s Marsing office.

Lane succeeds Jerry Taylor. Taylor replaced Mitch Jaurena, who had served as acting field manager after Ron Kay retired at the end of July.

Lane comes to Owyhee County from Socorro, N.M., where he worked as assistant field manager for renewable resources. His responsibilities included range, wildlife, fire, wild horses and forestry.

Lane began his career as a student trainee range conservationist in Colorado, graduating from Colorado State University.




In the past, Lane worked for the U.S. Forest Service and BLM in Colorado, Texas, Arizona, Northern California and New Mexico.

Lane is married and his wife, Anne, also majored in Range/Forest management at Colorado State University. They have one son, Jared, who presently attends New Mexico State University.

Mark Lane also has two dogs, two cats, a mule and a horse.

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Library plans puppet show

The Homedale Library will present a children’s puppet show featuring The Boy Who Cried Wolf at 10 a.m. Thursday. The free puppet show will be presented by library staff.

The library is located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave.

For more information about the presentation, call the library at 337-4228 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Homedale man earns college certificate

Nicholas Scoyni of Homedale recently earned a degree from Kaplan University, which is based in Davenport, Iowa.

A commencement ceremony for online students was held at Coral Springs Center for the Arts in Coral Springs, Fla., and Scoyni received a Terrorism and National Security Management certificate.

More than 2,300 online graduates were honored during the ceremony, and Newsweek chairman and editor-in-chief Richard M. Smith served as commencement speaker.

Mining firm targets Owyhee

An Elko, Nev.-based mining company has staked claims near Clover Mountain, which is about 40 miles south of Oreana.

Thunder Mountain Gold, Inc., has staked 40 lode claims on approximately 800 acres. According to a press release generated by Thunder Mountain Gold, the area produced gold and silver ore in 1917.

The company plans soil sampling and mapping this spring. The press release said the 800-acre area shows signs of gold, copper and zinc.

Homedale-based class saves city money

COSSA students create water meter covers for public works

Mark Bauer always is looking for a good project to help his welding students learn practical applications.

The bonus in the latest assignment for a couple of Bauer’s Canyon-Owyhee School-Service Agency (COSSA) students is the City of Homedale will save a chunk of money.

“We’ve done projects for the city before, such as the wrought-iron rail around City Hall and work at Sundance Park,” said Bauer, who has taught COSSA welding for nine years.

This year, two high school juniors — Jonathan Verwer from Homedale and Centerpoint student Jake Black from Parma — have put about two weeks’ worth of class time into building water-meter covers for the city.

With the aid of a computer, the students have been cutting circles of varying diameters out of 3/16-inch-thick black iron. Then, the students manually cut other holes in the meter covers and weld on handles.

Bauer said the boys are utilizing a \$20,000 piece of Computer Numerical Control cutting equipment that guides a plasma torch over a pattern to cut round pieces out of the slab of iron.

“It’s a lot like computer-aided drafting,” Bauer said. “The students map (a pattern) out on metal, and the torch cuts it.

“The kids program that machine to cut out the circles. This is the first time they have used the computer for this.”

Bauer said his shop rarely receives projects that allow the students to use the computerized torch for anything other than making ornamental art.

“This is real-life. This is practical application,” he said. “It’s pretty cool.”

Verwer, who is the son of Benjamin and Caroline Verwer, said the work that he and Black have done on the meter covers helps him in his quest to get certified as a

‘This is real-life. This is practical application. It’s pretty cool.’

— Mark Bauer
COSSA instructor

welder with an eye on becoming an aviation technician.

“Mr. Bauer said if you can work a machine like that, you can get paid real well,” said Verwer, whose previous in-school computer experience came in business class.

Like Verwer, Black — the son of Larry and Tiffany Black of Parma — is on a path to welding certification. He made the cutting process sound like a walk in the park.

“You just press buttons, and basically (the torch) does it for you,” he said.

Bauer pointed out that the students do have to guide the arm of the machine to ensure the proper distance between the metal and the torch.

Black may make the work sound simple, but the dozen or so covers that have been built so far will make a difference in the bottom line for the city.

Homedale provided the raw material and provided \$185 to cover the shop’s cost for items consumed in the process of cutting and welding.

Bauer said that the work by Verwer and Black has saved the city nearly \$500 thus far.

“The value is my students are getting experience with practical application by using the computers,” he said.

The savings isn’t lost on the city.

“To buy (covers) outright from the dealership was \$45,” Homedale public works supervisor Larry Bauer said. “It should be in the neighborhood of \$7-8 apiece if the class does it.”

— JPB



Juniors’ work benefits public works
Top: Jonathan Verwer of Homedale, left, and Jake Black of Parma stand behind some of the water meter covers they recently fabricated inside Mark Bauer’s COSSA welding shop in Homedale. *Middle:* Black stands watch as Verwer guides the arm of a Computer Numerical Controlled plasma cutter over a slab of black iron to cut out a disc that would be come a meter. *Above:* Once the meter cover is cut, Black does additional work. Submitted photos

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Circuit Breaker tax relief deadline looms

The final day to file income taxes isn’t the only deadline looming in the tax world these days.

Applications are available through the Owyhee County Assessor’s office in Murphy.

The Idaho State Tax Commission has issued a reminder about the Circuit Breaker property tax deduction option for qualified homeowners.

The deadline to submit an application to the assessor’s office is April 16.

Benefits apply to property taxes on a homeowner’s primary residence, which must be in Idaho.

Qualifying homeowners can

reduce their property taxes by up to \$1,320.

Eligible applicant must have no more than \$28,000 in income for 2006 after deducting medical and other allowed expenses that weren’t reimbursed.

As for Jan. 1, 2007, qualifying homeowners also must be in one of the following categories:

- Age 65 or older
- Widowed, any age
- Disabled, as recognized by the Social Security Administration, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board or the Federal Civil Service
- Blind
- A fatherless or motherless child under 18 years of age

• A former prisoner of war or hostage

Homeowners unable to obtain their complete income information by April 16 still must apply for the Circuit Breaker program by the deadline.

Afterward, they must get the required information to the assessor as soon as possible.

For more information about property tax reduction, call the assessor’s office at (208) 495-2817 or the Idaho Tax Commission at (208) 334-7736 or toll free at (800) 334-7756.

Information also is available at tax.idaho.gov by clicking on “Property Tax” then “Property Tax Relief.”

Sage-grouse group talks conservation

West Nile Virus and sage-grouse habitat rehabilitation were among the topics of discussion during the Owyhee Local Working Group meeting last week in Marsing.

Subjects discussed included the study of the devastating effects of West Nile Virus (WNV) on Owyhee's sage-grouse population, rehabilitation after last year's Chubby/Spain fire, and a presentation from the Bureau of Land Management about its plan to hand-cut juniper trees this summer in the Upper Castle Creek area.

The group met Wednesday at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension office.

In the wake of the cancellation of the 2006 sage-grouse hunting season in Owyhee County, one of the LWG's priorities has been to study the impact of West Nile Virus on the area's sage-grouse population.

"We decided to put together a little scientific background information before we decided to treat ponds (for West Nile infected mosquitoes)," Owyhee sage-grouse LWG chair Donna Bennett said. The challenge of the project was inherent with the vastness of the county because there are thousands of square miles to study.

Nailing down the actual mosquito habitat is part of the difficulty.

"We found out last time that the mosquitoes that carry West Nile Virus don't actually live in the ponds," Bennett said, adding that the problem critters gravitate towards open, wet meadows.

Part of that education has been to capture sage-grouse and tag the birds using radio collars. When the birds are caught, Idaho Department of Fish and Game workers also test for evidence of exposure to WNV.

In southern Owyhee County, near Grasmere, Fish and Game thus far has tagged 25 sage-grouse.

The population consists of 13 females and 12 males. So far, none of the captured birds have tested positive for WNV antibodies, which according to F&G sage-grouse research biologist Michelle Commons-Kemner, means that none of the birds trapped show signs of exposure to the disease. But that information does not show that the birds trapped are capable of survival if exposed to the virus. Had the birds been exposed and

survived, they would have at least shown signs of exposure, Commons-Kemner said.

"For every bird (F&G officials) catch, they are taking throat swabs and blood samples," Bennett said. "The sage-grouse doesn't have any immunity to West Nile at all. They've had tests in Colorado where (researchers) purposely had them in pens and took samples. Every bird that contracted West Nile died."

Bennett said LWG members hope to find birds with some level of exposure to WNV, presenting the possibility that the birds have developed antibodies against the disease.

"If perhaps (researchers) find some birds with an exposure level to it (WNV), and then they'll pass that on to other birds," Bennett said. "You can't just vaccinate them for it, but they have to be exposed to the virus in order to pass on the genes to eradicate it in the body."

Bennett said that researchers plan to track the birds throughout the summer to see if they are exposed to WNV. She said it is too early in the year to tell what type of sage-grouse hunting season Owyhee County may have in the fall, or if the season will open at all.

Other items covered

Working group members Jim Desmond and Art Tolsma inspected the habitat damaged by last year's Chubby/Spain fire and reported that the area has begun to turn green.

Bennett said that it is too early in the year to tell if the recent sagebrush reseeding efforts will be successful in overcoming the damage of the August 2006 fire, which scorched nearly 6,100 acres near Cow Creek.

Last year, BLM officials said the area will be "rested" from grazing for at least two grazing seasons.

Mitch Jaurena, the manager of the BLM Bruneau Field Office, reported to the LWG that BLM crews will be undertaking a juniper hand cutting project near Upper Castle Creek in order to thin the Juniper population in the area.

The LWG also scheduled its next meeting for May 16.

For more information about the sage-grouse LWG or for volunteer opportunities, contact Bennett at (208) 834-2398 or Desmond at (208) 495-1483.

— JWB

Sheriff honors men



Pair with posse ties presented with commemorative buckles

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman presented Joe Aman and county commission chair Dick Freund, right, with belt buckles as a commendation for their service to the county. **Left:** Joe Aman receives a buckle to mark 20 years as a member of the Owyhee County Sheriff's Posse. **Right:** Freund shows off a buckle presented to him for his time with the posse. Freund was a posse member before he joined the sheriff's office full-time. He spent more than 20 years as a full-time sheriff's employee before retiring after being elected commissioner. Submitted photos

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Rimrock
FFA news

by Chelsey Lemon,
chapter reporter

One member of the Rimrock FFA chapter will be one of the new district officers. Cole Merrick will fulfill this role as the new sentinel.

Merrick currently serves as the FFA chapter's vice-president. He's a junior at Rimrock High School and enjoys most of his time in the Ag Shop, either welding or working on his pickup.

One of the most enjoyable things Cole does for fun is singing. Well, not really. When Cole was asked to sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" during the interview for being an officer, some of the sifting officers found out that wasn't one of Cole's many talents. His peers tease him at school, saying American Idol judge Simon Cowell wants Merrick in Las Vegas for the competition. Merrick doesn't think that is such a great idea.

Merrick said he is excited to serve his district and has many ideas for the upcoming year.



Cole Merrick

U.S. 95 crash mangles street signs

A two-car crash briefly blocked the northbound lane of U.S. Highway 95 outside of Homedale on Thursday.

According to an Idaho State Police dispatch report, the vehicles involved were a 2005 Chevrolet Suburban driven by 72-year-old Mabton, Wash., resident Jack Sharpe, and a 2006 Chevrolet "dually" pickup driven by Marsing's Craig Brasher, 49.

No one appeared to be injured in the crash, which occurred at approximately 11:30 a.m. at the intersection of U.S. 95 and Industrial Road.

Although details from the official reports were sketchy, both vehicles apparently were traveling northbound on U.S. 95. Sharpe's SUV suffered damaged on the driver's side front fender, while the front passenger-side tire of Brasher's truck was punctured. Brasher's vehicle also sustained damaged on the passenger-side front fender.

Brasher also was pulling a livestock trailer.

Sharpe's Suburban was parked in the grassy area between the shoulder and the property line for the Les Schwab Tires dealership, while Brasher's vehicle came to rest in the intersection and blocked traffic. Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and Officer Michelle Babcock parked their patrol cars to divert traffic around the accident as they conducted a preliminary investigation.

The street sign on the northeast corner of the intersection completely was demolished in the collision. The stop sign standard was bent as well.

This was the second accident near that intersection in the past six weeks.



Accident ties up highway

Above: Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller takes photos at the scene of a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Industrial Road and U.S. Highway 95 on Thursday. **Below, left:** The street sign marking the intersection lays in the grass after being demolished by the impact of a vehicle. **Below, right:** The driver's side fender and front bumper of Washington state resident Jack Sharpe's Chevy Suburban sustained damage when he collided with a Chevy truck driven by Marsing's Craig Brasher.



While Eidemiller and Babcock investigated the crash, ISP is the primary agency handling the incident because it occurred completely on the highway.



Further information on the crash from ISP was unavailable at press time because a report hadn't been filed.



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Homedale FFA news

The Homedale FFA chapter recently participated in various Career Development Events (CDEs) in preparation for the next month's State Leadership Convention in Twin Falls.

Drew Farwell participated in the Creed speaking CDE, and Kortney Bahem took second in extemporary speaking.

Homedale's parliamentary procedure team placed third, and consisted of Karly Bertagnolli, Anna Salas, Bri Cornwall, Kortney Bahem, Alysha Bahem and Drew Farwell.

Meanwhile, the sales team consisting of Josh Ryska, Ulysses Vargas, and Laken Hiser placed fourth at The Boise Valley District competition.

During the State Leadership

Convention, Homedale chapter members Mat Hansen, Kortney Bahem and Mandy Gibbs will receive their state degrees. The qualifications for a state degree require a parliamentary procedure exam, FFA knowledge test, and keeping three years of financial records that show the members earned at least \$1,000 with their projects.

The three are looking forward to walking across the stage and receiving their degrees.

The chapter would like to give a special thanks to the judges involved in the speech competitions — Chris Salove, Gayle Batt and Joey Agar. The Homedale FFA members greatly appreciate their time and support.



Homedale FFA members to get degrees
FFA Boise Valley District representative Daniel Ineck from Marsing, right, greets Homedale FFA members who are on track to receive their state degrees. From left to right are Kortney Bahem, Mat Hansen and Mandy Gibbs. Submitted photo

Look for the Avalanche every Wednesday



Homedale car wash reopens

Tom Gaskins, who with his wife Joan is a new co-owner of the Mr. Bubbles Buggy Wash car wash on Main Street in Homedale, works on the vending machine in front of the automatic wash. The business reopened Thursday. Gaskins, who lives across the Snake River from Marsing, bought all three businesses in the corner suite. He said he plans to rename the car wash Classic Wash, but the former TC's 24-7 convenience store and former Cahill Oil Co. office will remain closed for now. The Gaskins also own the car wash facility on Main Street in Marsing.

Seniors hold appreciation luncheon

Homedale Senior Center members showed appreciation for community leaders Thursday by serving lunch at the west Homedale facility. A handful of community leaders, including Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller, Owyhee County Commissioner Hal Tolmie, Assessor Brett Endicott, Homedale public works supervisor Larry Bauer and Homedale City Clerk Marsha Hays as well as corporate sponsors of the Homedale Senior Center, took the seniors up on their offer and were treated to appetizers, lunch, dessert and musical entertainment. Businesses that have helped the senior center in the past year received certificates of appreciation.



Lunch on Homedale Seniors

Homedale Senior Center members showed appreciation for their benefactors Thursday with a luncheon. Many of the attendees ate at tables recently purchased with a grant from US Ecology. The Homedale Senior Center is located at 224 W. Idaho Ave. in Homedale. For information on programs, services or volunteer activities, contact coordinator Shirley McAbee at 337-3020.

Owyhee Desert hikes start next month

A gaggle of conservation and outdoor recreation groups have teamed up to offer a series of free educational adventure hikes in the Owyhee Canyonlands in April and May. Many of the groups sponsoring the hikes also are involved in the Owyhee Initiative effort. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) reintroduced the implementation legislation for the Owyhee Initiative earlier this month. Desert plant, wildlife and geology experts will lead the hikes. The series begins April 7 with a pre-dawn trip led by Idaho Rivers United executive director Bill Sedivy and Idaho Department of Fish and Game wildlife biologist Michelle Commons Kemner. Hikers will explore sage-grouse habitat and see the unique birds strut their stuff in mating displays. Although the hikes are free, space on each trek is limited and advance registration is required. Contact Brenda Bielke at (208) 343-8153, ext. 10 or brenda_bielke@tws.org to register. Registered participants will receive a confirmation letter with details on where to meet and what to bring. More information is available at www.owyheeinitiative.org. The hikes will continue through May 12 and include visits into the heart of bighorn sheep habitat, hikes to the rim of North Fork Owyhee River and views of the botanical wonders of spring in the desert. Organized by Idaho's leading conservation and outdoor recreation organizations, the series is designed to give backcountry enthusiasts, from beginners to experienced outdoorsmen, a chance to experience the spectacular plants, animals and landscapes in the Owyhee Canyonlands. "The public lands in the Owyhees are one-of-a-kind, even among this country's wild places, and are practically in our own backyard," said Brad Brooks, conservation associate with The Wilderness Society in Boise.

ATV farm accident kills Bruneau man

A 66-year old Bruneau man died in an ATV accident last Saturday. James Hampton died when his ATV overturned on his farm in Bruneau. Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said Monday that Hampton was spraying weeds with the ATV when he ran off a ditchbank.

— JWB

Snow water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir was 80 percent full and that water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore., at the rate of 250 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 573,127 acre-feet of water. The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 8 a.m. Monday:

Date	Snow Depth	Reynolds Creek			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
03/20	0.2	8.7	60	41	50
03/21	0.0	8.7	49	28	39
03/22	0.2	8.8	40	20	31
03/23	0.0	8.9	50	28	41
03/24	0.1	8.8	55	35	45
03/25	0.1	8.8	63	39	52
03/26	0.2	8.6	55	32	47

Date	Snow Depth	South Mountain			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
03/20	25.6	20.6	58	42	48
03/21	26.5	20.6	46	28	36
03/22	26.6	20.6	41	22	30
03/23	25.2	20.7	53	32	42
03/24	23.7	20.7	54	38	45
03/25	22.3	20.7	60	40	50
03/26	21.3	20.6	55	32	45

Date	Snow Depth	Mud Flat			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
03/20	1.3	9.3	64	34	49
03/14	1.2	9.3	52	33	43
03/15	1.3	9.2	47	27	35
03/16	0.7	9.3	55	25	42
03/17	0.9	9.3	58	35	46
03/18	0.2	9.3	65	30	48
03/19	0.9	9.3	60	35	48

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Mar 20	77	29	.00
Mar 21	59	28	.00
Mar 22	55	23	.00
Mar 23	61	23	.00
Mar 24	no reading taken		
Mar 25	no reading taken		
Mar 26	75	22	.00



Owyhee Truck

L.L.C.

Homedale, ID. 337-6183



Bryan Badiola, Owner

Car & Truck Accessories

Window Tinting

Stereo Systems

Auto Detailing

Auto Security Systems

Flat Beds Installed

Spray-In Bedliners



Snake River Mart



April Showers of Savings

4-7 lb.
Turkey Breast

\$119
lb.

Cook's Bone-In
Ham Shanks

\$109
lb.

Butts
1²⁹
lb

Seedless
Grapes

\$119
lb.

Salad Mix

\$119
ea.

Farmland Boneless
Hams

\$159
lb.

Boneless Beef
Cross Rib Roast

\$229
lb.

1 lb.
Baby Carrots

99¢
ea.

Bedding Plants
Now Available!

Boneless Pork
Sirloin Chops **\$1⁹⁹**
lb.
Western Family 12 oz.
Bacon **2^{\$4}**
Oscar Mayer
Lunchables **\$2¹⁹**
ea.

Kraft 12 oz.
Cheese Singles **\$2⁸⁹**
ea.
Western Family 24 oz.
Fish Sticks **\$3⁴⁹**
ea.
Market Pack
Cheese **\$2⁴⁹**
lb.

All Varieties
Tomatoes **99¢**
lb.
10 lb.
Potatoes **\$1⁸⁹**
ea.
Cauliflower **\$1²⁹**
ea.

Avocados **99¢**
ea.
Bananas **39¢**
lb.
8 oz. pkg.
Mushrooms **\$1³⁹**
ea.

Western Family
Seasonings & Gravy Mixes

3 for 89¢
Foil Pouch
Western Family 16 oz.
Stick Margarine **2^{\$1}**

Western Family
Frozen Waffles

99¢
ea.
10 ct.
Western Family 24 oz.
Pancake Syrup **\$1¹⁹**
ea.

Pepsi Products

3 for \$11
12pk 12oz Cans
2 Liter Bottle
Pepsi Products **\$1²⁹**
ea.

Coors Beer

\$12⁹⁹
ea.
18pk 12oz Cans or Bottles
24pk 12oz Cans
Hamms Beer **\$9⁹⁹**
ea.

Wonder
Whole Grain Bread **\$1⁶⁹**
20 oz. ea.

Western Family
Marshmallows **\$1¹⁹**
16 oz. ea.

Western Family
Flour **\$1¹⁹**
5 lb. ea.

C&H Brown &
Powdered Sugar **\$1⁷⁹**
32 oz. ea.

Western Family
Vegetable-Canola-
Corn Oil 48 oz. **\$2⁶⁹**
ea.

Doritos
Tortilla Chips **\$2⁴⁹**
13 oz. ea.

Western Family
Milk **\$1⁴⁹**
1/2 Gallon ea.

Western Family
Cottage Cheese **\$1⁷⁹**
24 oz. ea.

Cup Noodles **3^{\$1}**
2.25-2.5 oz.

Western Family
Creamy Select
Ice Cream 56 oz. **\$3²⁹**
ea.

Western Family
Ocean Fish Flavor
Cat Food 14 lb. **\$5⁹⁹**
ea.

Atta Boy
Dog Food **\$6⁴⁹**
17.6 lb. ea.

Nalley Chili **\$1¹⁹**
15 oz. ea.

Heinz Ketchup **\$1⁹⁹**
32-36 oz. ea.

Jolly Time
Microwave Popcorn **2^{\$3}**
3 Pack

Western Family
Frosted Animal
Cookies 11 oz. **2^{\$3}**

Lysol Cleaners &
Glass Plus
Asst'd **2^{\$5}**

Pinesol & Formula
409 Cleaners **\$2⁹⁹**
Asst'd ea.

Hunt's
BBQ Sauce **\$1³⁹**
21.6 oz. ea.

Hunt's
Manwich Sauce **\$1³⁹**
15.5-16 oz. ea.

Gatorade **2^{\$4}**
64 oz.

Western Family
Dry Roasted Peanuts **3^{\$5}**
12 oz.

Kids 12 & Under!
Enter to Win
Giant Stuffed
Easter Bunny
& Easter Duck

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

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 3/28/07 thru 4/3/07