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## Schools, Page 10A

Third-quarter honor rolls released  
for Homedale High, HMS

## Heroes, Page 2A

County deputy, dispatcher  
earn commendations

Wednesday, April 11, 2007

Established 1865

# The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 15

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

## City asks for bids on sewer project

Homedale's multimillion dollar sewer project took a big step toward reality this week when City Hall began advertising for bids.

The bid for the \$1.2 million first phase of the overall sewer plan was published in today's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

The solicitation outlines the details of the work to construct a lift station and expand sewer service to the east side of U.S. Highway 95 as well as existing city residents on Colorado Avenue East.

Bids will close at 2 p.m. May 2, at which time Homedale city

— See *Sewer*, page 5A

## Easter breakfast?



## Homedale, Marsing children hunt eggs

One of the younger Easter egg hunters takes a nibble on his find during Saturday's event at Sundance Park in Homedale. A hunt also was held in Marsing. Photos, Page 14A

## Gem board rejects water users' petition

Document signed by 130 patrons  
asked panel to drop legal counsel,  
South Board manager issue

In front of a packed house, two members of the Gem Irrigation Board declined to consider a petition that asked the board to cease discussion of the reappointment of South Board of Control manager Rex Barrie and terminate any legal counsel hired solely by the Gem Board.

Dave Shenk of Homedale presented the petition — signed by 130 Gem district water users — during the board's monthly meeting April 3 in Homedale.

"This has been a real trying time for our community," Shenk said. "I think the problem here is there are a few people that have a personal vendetta stuck in their gut, and they've drug it down here."

**South Board  
attorney  
tries to  
set things  
straight  
Page 8A**

The board was split 2-2 in a vote to consider the petition. Gem Board chairman Tim Leavitt and director Dale Chrz voted against accepting the petition. Director Steve Nash, who made the motion to consider the petition, and

— See *Petition*, page 9A

## Inside

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## Lackluster turnout at meth conference

Organizer: Participation affected by  
community's denial, good weather

Competing with a sunny spring day, a methamphetamine education session attracted only a handful of concerned Owyhee County citizens Saturday in Marsing.

The seminar featuring recovering addicts telling their stories was presented by the Marsing School District Safe and Drug Free Schools program.

According to Charlotte Villarreal, federal programs director at the Marsing School District, the lackluster turnout could be blamed on the good

weather but also denial on the part of Owyhee County citizens.

Villarreal said that methamphetamine is a problem that goes beyond the school system.

"It's a community problem. I think there's a lot of denial," she said.

Villarreal said that in the weeks

— See *Meth*, page 5A

— Shelley Odum Mitchell  
returns to Marsing to tell  
her story, Page 5A



## Paltry attendance at Marsing seminar

Only a handful of concerned citizens turned out for a Saturday information session about the methamphetamine problem facing Owyhee County.

# Deputy, dispatcher honored for rescue roles

A pair of Owyhee County Sheriff's Office employees were honored last week for their role in saving eight family members outside of Homedale recently.

Sheriff Gary Aman and Idaho Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) Academy director Jeff Black presented Deputy Aron Streibel and Dispatcher Bev White with awards for heroic service at the April 2 Board of Commissioners meeting in Murphy.

"I have to say, this is one of the special occasions of being a sheriff," Aman said. "I kind of liken it to being a new father, or being a preacher that just married somebody. This is a very proud moment in my life — seeing individuals go beyond their required duties, and put their lives at risk. I am honored to present awards to Aron Streibel and Bev White."

Streibel received a Meritorious Service Award and a Lifesaving Award for his actions in evacuating a Homedale family from residence, which had filled with deadly carbon monoxide, on Feb. 26. Aman said that Streibel risked his own life during the ordeal, and he was treated for the effects of the odorless gas at West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.

White received a Distinguished



## Sheriff, POST Academy recognize emergency workers

**Left:** Owyhee County Sheriff's Deputy Aron Streibel, left, stands with Sheriff Gary Aman after receiving medals for his performance while saving a family of eight from a house outside Homedale that had filled with carbon monoxide gas. **Right:** County dispatcher Bev White, right, shakes hands with Idaho Peace Officer Standards Training Academy director Jeff Black after receiving a plaque for her role during the difficult February call that involved a family that spoke broken English.

Service Award for her calm actions while soliciting information and relaying facts of the case to Streibel despite a language barrier with the reporting party, who spoke broken English.

Commission Chairman Dick Freund also presented White and Streibel with letters of commendation signed by the Board.

Streibel was on patrol in Marsing when a call came in at 2:24 a.m. Feb. 26 about a medical emergency at the Quintana

Ranch off U.S. Highway 95 near Homedale. The deputy, a three-year veteran of the Owyhee office, said he was unsure of the specific situation. The female who called 911 spoke in broken English, and the only information the dispatchers had was that the woman's sister needed help.

White was able to calmly obtain information from the caller despite the highly emotional situation.

It took Streibel five minutes to respond from his Marsing location. He found a Hispanic

female in her 30s passed out in a doorway near the rear of a single-wide mobile home.

"When I got there, I was not sure if I was dealing with a drug overdose or what," Streibel said after the incident.

After Streibel entered the residence, though, it became clear that the family's use of a charcoal barbecue to heat the home had created a deadly situation. He rushed to get the family out and then open all the windows to ventilate the house.

But he soon found out his work wasn't done.

"As (Homedale Ambulance) was getting everybody oxygen, (the family members) asked (in Spanish), 'Where's the baby?'" Streibel said.

The deputy ran back into the house and, after a short search, found the infant unresponsive. Streibel said the baby began to "come around" by the time he had exited the house.

"Aron is also bilingual, and that assisted him tremendously

in dealing with these people and resolving the situation, especially that baby," Aman said.

"If he hadn't been able to understand or speak Spanish, it would have been another 15 or 20 minutes. That ability (was) extremely valuable."

Streibel said the communication barrier wasn't the biggest problem. The family members were incoherent and disoriented because of the effects of about three hours of carbon monoxide exposure.

"The fire department said levels were dangerously high," Streibel said.

All eight family members — three adults and five children — were transported to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.

"There is no doubt that without these two employees' help and sacrifice that eight people would have died that night," Aman said. "People think we're just out there arresting bad guys. We're also out there saving lives."

— JWB

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# Area resident takes fun role as mentor seriously

The program rules say one hour a week, but anyone who has met Homedale area resident Betty Arriaga knows that she doesn't color within the lines very often.

"She's so straight-up and honest, and she won't mince words," said Donna Shines, the executive director of the Mentoring Network.

As a volunteer for the Mentoring Network, Arriaga has been a guiding force for Homedale Middle School student Jorge Hernandez for three years.

And, of course, that goes beyond the short time she has spent with Jorge at school, discussing anything or just keeping him company by playing games or helping him with schoolwork.

"(Mentors) give their heart and soul to these kids," Shines said. "(Arriaga has) gone way outside the parameters of the program."

Shines more folks like Arriaga are needed in the Homedale School District, which is one of five districts encompassing 30 schools served by the program.

A native of Germany, Arriaga became involved with the Mentoring Network after hearing



## Happy to help

*Betty Arriaga has been a part of the Mentoring Network for three years. She says more volunteers are needed to help in Homedale.*

Shines speak at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center three years ago. Arriaga had just moved from Dutch Harbor, Alaska, with her husband, Frank, and was looking for a way to get involved.

"The mentor program is a good program," Arriaga said. "You have to have a lot of patience and understanding with the kids."

Arriaga understands the need for the program, though.

"... Kids now, they don't have anyone to talk to because their parents are so busy working," she said.

For more information on the program, call the Mentoring Network at 459-2844.

— JPB

# Hernandez benefit planned at City Park

The fund-raising continues for Jorge Hernandez.

The Homedale Middle School seventh-grader has been out of class since December battling a cyst on his pancreas. His teachers and classmates have rallied with numerous fund-raisers, including an Alaskan crab raffle by his mentor, Betty Arriaga.

Saturday at City Park, classmates Amanda Cook and

Lyndee Coombs and their parents have organized a Pennies For Jorge festival.

The event will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and feature more raffle tickets for the crab (\$1 each or six for \$5), a bake sale, cotton candy, sno-cones and fun events like a dart throw and football toss.

Another raffle will begin for a Barretta 12-gauge shotgun. Only 250 tickets will be sold for \$25

apiece.

Pennies, nickels and dimes will be collected to go toward the benefit fund for Hernandez at U.S. Bank.

As of last week, Arriaga said that more than \$1,100 has been deposited in the account.

Organizers are seeking adult volunteers for this weekend's festivities. Call Tam at 337-4995 for more information.

# '07-'08 kindergarten registration slated throughout county

As the 2006-07 school year winds down, several elementary schools in Owyhee County are gearing up for the next year with kindergarten registration.

In all instances, children must be 5 years old by Sept. 1 to be eligible to enroll.

Homedale Elementary will hold registration for the fall on Tuesday and Wednesday inside the school's lunchroom.

The Tuesday session runs from 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and registration will be taken from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday.

Parents must bring their child's birth certificate, immunization record, Social Security number and proof of residency to the registration. School officials ask that parents do not bring their children.

For more information, call 337-4033

Marsing Elementary will hold registration from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on April 26 and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on April 27 at the school.

The Marsing School District urges parents to make appointments by calling Angie at the elementary school at 896-4111, ext. 497.

Parents must bring their child and his or her immunization record and birth certificate.

Screening for Melba kindergarten and preschool screening and registration takes

place from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 25-26. Parents must bring their child and his or her immunization records, Social Security number and proof of address.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 495-2508.

Grand View Elementary will hold registration for preschool and kindergarten from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 24 and May 1. For more information, call (208) 834-2775.

Parents must bring their children to the school for screening and registration.

Preschool is open to children 3 years old as of Sept. 1. Preschool is also available for 4-year-olds, but no screening or registration is necessary.

Bruneau Elementary will hold registration for preschool and kindergarten from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on May 8 at the school.

Preschool is open to 3- and 4-year-olds, while children who are 5 as of Sept. 1 can enroll in kindergarten.

Parents must bring their child and their child's birth certificate and shot record to the registration.

For more information, call (208) 845-2492.

— JPB

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Protecting the public

Since the last publication of registered sex offenders in Owyhee County, one additional offender has been added to the state's registry. This list is published for the protection of the public. The complete list is available at [www.isp.state.id.us](http://www.isp.state.id.us).



**Robert Dewayne Norris**  
**Date of birth:** March 31, 1964  
**Address:** 511 South Main, Space No. 15 Homedale, ID  
**Conviction:** Lewd conduct with minor

Find out  
*What's happening*  
Read Calendar each week  
in the Avalanche

Man arrested for sex with teenager

A 23-year-old Homedale man was arrested last week for allegedly having sex with a Homedale teenager. Bryan Mendoza, 23, was arrested on the night of April 2, after Homedale Police conducted an investigation into allegations that Mendoza was having sex with a 16, year old Homedale girl. According to officials at the Owyhee County Courts, Mendoza is charged with lewd conduct with a child under 16 years

old and sexual battery of a child 16 to 17 years of age. Mendoza's bond was set at \$35,000 after his arraignment on April 3. He is scheduled for preliminary hearing on Monday in Murphy. "I was dispatched to the resi-



Bryan Mendoza

dence of the victim (in Homedale). The victim disclosed to her mother what had happened, and the mother contacted us (police)," Homedale Police Officer Ian Takashige said. Takashige said that after receiving the initial report he and Chief Jeff Eidemiller were able to coax Mendoza into leaving his residence in the 400 block of West Oregon Avenue. Officers then conducted a traffic stop on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West and arrested him on

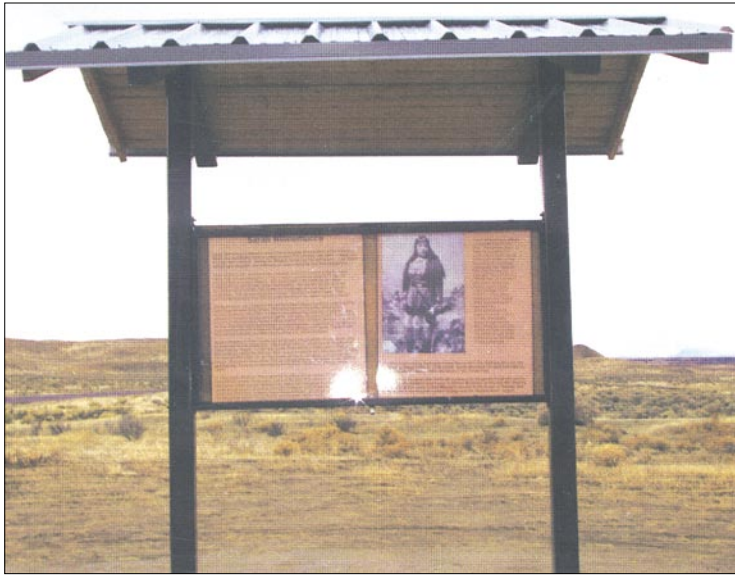
an unrelated misdemeanor warrant. He was taken to the Homedale police station for additional investigation. Through detailed interviews, officers were able to gather additional facts in the case. "An interview was conducted by both Chief Eidemiller and myself," Takashige said. "The results of the interview are such that we are confident that a conviction can be obtained in this case." — JWB

Final PC basics class planned

The final class in a four-part computer education course offered by the Homedale School District will be held Tuesday. The class will be held from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the computer lab inside the Homedale High School annex building. The final free class, "Managing Files," is designed to show PC users how to save files to specific locations on their machines for easy retrieval as well as how to create folders and subfolders for storage. Registration is available either at the school district office, 116 E. Owyhee Ave., or at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. Call Carrow at 337-4611 for more information. Registration will not be taken over the phone.

Sarah Winnemucca monument to be dedicated next month

Owyhee country historian Mike Hanley IV's dream of permanent recognition of Sarah Winnemucca will come true May 5 outside of Rome, Ore. That afternoon, The ION Heritage Council will sponsor a dedication ceremony for a monument to Winnemucca. "Probably one of the least-recognized contributors to our history in the Owyhee area is Sarah Winnemucca," Hanley said, "and this is our effort to bring her back to the forefront, especially at a time when we have more of an awareness of what people from our past have done for our history."



The ceremony is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. May 5 about 2½ miles west of Rome Station on U.S. Highway 95. Winnemucca — as Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins — published an 1883 book entitled, "Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims." The autobiography told the story of the daughter of Chief Winnemucca and the role she played in helping her tribe assimilate into the changing world in the West. In a 2003 reprint of the book, Hanley wrote a preface in which he outlined his hope to erect a monument in the Idaho-Oregon-

**Roadside recognition ready for unveiling**  
*This kiosk along U.S. Highway 95 outside of Rome, Ore., honors the contributions of Sarah Winnemucca to the survival of the native population in the changing West in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The memorial will get an official dedication May 5.*

Nevada country near the old Hill Beachy stage road that Winnemucca used on many of her diplomatic missions. The monument will be located on U.S. 95 between the Owyhee River and the junction of U.S. 78 and U.S. 95. For more information, call Hanley at (541) 586-2216.

—JPB

*'... And this is our effort to bring her back to the forefront.'*  
— Mike Hanley IV  
Owyhee country historian

# The Owyhee Avalanche

P.O. BOX 97 • HOMEDALE, ID 83628  
PHONE 208 / 337-4681 • FAX 208 / 337-4867  
E-mail [owyheeavalanche@cableone.net](mailto:owyheeavalanche@cableone.net)

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Member

JOE E. AMAN, *publisher*  
JON P. BROWN, *managing editor*  
E-mail: [jbrowneditor@cableone.net](mailto:jbrowneditor@cableone.net)  
JIM BEAUMONT, *reporter*  
E-mail: [jwbeaumont@cableone.net](mailto:jwbeaumont@cableone.net)  
JENNIFER STUTHEIT, *office*  
ROBERT AMAN, *composition*

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*From page 1*

## Marsing meth seminar

### Former Marsing resident tells of life after meth



#### Odlum teaches lessons learned

*Shelley Odlum Mitchell addresses the audience during a methamphetamine awareness seminar in Marsing on Saturday.*

On July 10, 2003, Shelley Odlum Mitchell sustained third-degree burns to more than half of her body in a methamphetamine lab explosion on 1<sup>st</sup> Street South in Marsing.

Saturday, Odlum, now 32 and displaying an energetic, triumphant smile, told others of her life's downward spiral during her 20s, and how she has rebuilt it, now helping others to avoid her fate.

"It's amazing how addiction takes precedence," Odlum said during the program presented by the Marsing School District Safe and Drug Free Schools program.

"When you deal with drugs, you get more than you bargained for."

Odlum graduated third in her class at Challis High School,

was student body president, a cheerleader and an active member of the speech and debate team.

After being awarded a scholarship, she attended Syracuse University in New York, where she studied art. Later, she attended Boise State University to continue her education. That is when she began experimenting with methamphetamine.

Eventually, to support her habit, she began manufacturing methamphetamine, using — among other things — Coleman lantern fuel, Red Devil lye and pseudoephedrine tablets.

In July of 2003, she hit rock bottom, when the situation literally blew up on her, leaving horrible scars over most of her body.

During a particularly graphic

presentation Saturday at Marsing Schools cafeteria, detailing melted flesh, blistered skin, the pain of skin grafts and having skin from a cadaver placed on burnt areas after the 2003 lab explosion, Odlum said she is a changed woman. Her mission in life is to raise her four young children — who were in the house when the explosion took place — and prevent others from following a similar path.

"Prevention is one of the biggest keys," Odlum said. "Because if you can stop it before it ever happens, it will help a lot."

Odlum said one of her biggest rewards is having viewers of her presentation tell her that she has made an impact on their life.

— JWB



*'Prevention is one of the biggest keys. Because if you can stop it before it ever happens, it will help a lot.'*

— Shelley Odlum Mitchell



## ✓ Meth: Flyers about gathering mysteriously disappear after being posted

before the presentation inside the school district complex, event flyers were plastered in conspicuous locations around town.

But within a few days they had disappeared.

Villarreal has a disturbing theory about why the flyers were torn down.

"I don't think it's that people don't want to look at the problem,"

she said. "I think it's the people that benefit financially from the product (meth).

"Those are the people that don't want people to know. It's money. It's sad that it destroys so many people's lives."

Villarreal said that drug use can be similar to the formation of street gangs because a sense of wanting to belong to a group can sometimes

drive students to use drugs.

"That is what attracts young kids and even older teenagers to an environment and a sense of belonging," Villarreal said.

She hopes to change this.

"Once you have used meth, you are always alone," Villarreal said. "Friends, family, nobody means anything. So, that sense to want to belong to a group is always an

attraction."

Villarreal said she hopes that the community will take note of the methamphetamine problem, which she says transcends racial and economic boundaries.

"One of the main things I'd like to see come out of this workshop is that meth is not a problem just for low-income, ethnic backgrounds. It happens everywhere, to many

people," she said.

Villarreal said Saturday's turnout hasn't dampened her spirits.

"I was hoping to have a larger crowd, but we are competing against the beautiful weather. I understand all of these things, but at the same time, this is a subject that can destroy more lives than a (automobile) wreck."

— JWB

## ✓ Sewer: Bids will be unsealed on May 2

officials will unseal and announce the received bids at City Hall.

It's not known when the actual construction project would begin.

The project, which city public works supervisor Larry Bauer has said is the first of a two-phase rehabilitation of Homedale's sewer system, is being backed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency. Bauer said the city will obtain interim financing from a bank to start the work, and the USDA RDA will pay off the loan when the project is completed.

City voters approved a sewer bond of more than \$2 million in

#### Council meets

The first Homedale City Council meeting of the month is 6 p.m. today inside City Hall.

The agenda includes final plat approval for the Santa Fe subdivision downtown as well as water and sewer revenue bond ordinances.

May 2006.

The work that was put out to bid today includes the construction and installation of nearly 7,500 linear feet of 8- to 18-inch diameter

PVC gravity sewer mainline that will be used to bring the sewer along U.S. 95 to a point where a lift station would be installed to pump waste uphill.

The construction of that 12-foot diameter wet well lift station is another aspect of the project to bid, as well as more than 1,000 linear feet of 8-inch PVC force mainline.

Manholes also will be built, and approximately 1,200 linear feet of sewer service connections will be installed.

Bauer has said a second phase of the sewer project to upgrade aging lines in town will be undertaken at a later date.

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# Senior menus

**Marsing Senior Center**  
April 12: Salisbury steak, potatoes, Mexican vegetables, green salad, soup, drink, dessert.  
April 16: Breakfast to order 8am-12. No lunch  
April 17: Chicken & noodles, peas & carrots, corn salad, soup, drink, dessert.  
April 18: Breakfast to order 8am-12. Hamburger or hot dog dinner 10am-12:30pm

**Homedale Senior Center**  
April 13: Over fried chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas, roll, drink.  
April 14: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes/gray, California blend vegetables, roll, drink.  
April 15: Corn beef, potatoes, cabbage, bread, drink.

# Death notice

**GENE L. LEWIS**, 82, of Murphy, died Sunday, April 8, 2007, in a Nampa hospital. Services are pending through Nampa Funeral Home, Yraguen Chapel.

## Obituary policy

Obituaries can be submitted to The Owyhee Avalanche in the following ways:

**E-mail**  
owyheeavalanche@cable one. net  
**Fax**  
(208) 337-4867  
**Mail**  
P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628

No obituaries are accepted over the telephone.  
Rates are \$3.50 per column inch and \$5 per photo.  
There is no cost for a death notice.  
All submissions are verified through the funeral home handling the services.  
For more information, call (208) 337-4681.

The Owyhee Avalanche

# School menus

**Homedale Elementary**  
April 12: Enchilada or corn dog, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, brownie, milk.  
April 13: Cheese pizza or peanut butter and jelly sandwich, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.  
April 16: No school.  
April 17: Nachos or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon stick, milk.  
April 18: Chicken nuggets or egg rolls, rice pilaf, veggie, fruit & veggie bar, fortune cookie, milk.

**Homedale Middle**  
April 12: Nachos or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, rice krispie treat, milk.  
April 13: Chicken tenders or country-fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.  
April 16: No school.  
April 17: Rice, chicken nuggets or egg roll, veggie, fruit & veggie bar, fortune cookie, milk.  
April 18: Burrito or fish sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, apple crisp, milk.

**Homedale High**  
April 12: Enchilada, pizza hot pocket, baked potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, milk.  
April 13: Chicken patty, sandwich & soup, potato wedges, turnover, fruit & veggie bar, milk.  
April 16: No school.  
April 17: Beef nuggets, chicken fritters, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.  
April 18: Lasagna, burrito, pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

**Marsing**  
April 12: Beef nuggets, veggie, fruit, milk, chicken sandwich, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.  
April 13: Hot dogs, veggie, fruit, milk, sub sandwich, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.  
April 16: No school.  
April 17: Popcorn chicken, veggie, milk, fruit, tostada delight, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, cinnamon twist.  
April 18: Mac & cheese, veggie, fruit, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

**Bruneau**  
April 12: Spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, fruit, milk.  
April 13: Fish sandwich, fries, fruit, cookie, milk.  
April 16: Mac & cheese, deviled eggs, green beans, muffin, fruit milk.  
April 17: Waffles, scrambled eggs, little smokies, strawberries, milk.  
April 18: Chili & crackers, coleslaw, applesauce, cinnamon rolls, milk.

## Homedale library sets book sale

The Homedale Public Library will hold its Spring Book Sale on Friday and Saturday at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center. Used books will be sold for 50 cents per pound at the center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. The sale runs from noon to 8 p.m. on Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call the library at 337-4228 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# Engagement

## Miller, White set May wedding in Mtn. Home

Paul and Jessie Miller of Bruneau have announced the engagement of their daughter, Anita Marie Miller, to J.T. White of Jordan Valley. The groom is the son of Jerry and Terry White of Jordan Valley. Anita is a graduate of Boise State University and is currently working at the Idaho Beef Council and Cabela’s in Boise. J.T. is a graduate of Wyoming Technical Institute and is currently employed by N.A. Degerstorm. The wedding is planned for May 26 at Our Lady of Good Council in Mountain Home.



J.T. White and Anita Marie Miller

## Homedale boy wins vacation to Disneyland

A Homedale boy, Nathan Farrell, son of Jeanette Farrell, won a trip for four to Disneyland through the Canyon County Area Immunization Coalition. Nathan won the trip during the Give Me 5! Celebration held March 31 at the Nampa Civic Center. The event was designed to celebrate children between the ages of 1 and 6 years old who are up-to-date on recommended childhood immunizations. More than 400 adults and children attended the event, according to Laurie Boston of Southwest District Health. While more than 100 prizes were awarded, Farrell was the big winner, taking home a family trip to Disnyeland valued at \$2,221.

The Canyon Area Immunization Coalition, comprised of concerned community medical providers and businesses, concentrates its efforts toward boosting immunization rates of young children through education and free immunization clinics. Since its inception in 1985, the coalition has worked steadily to decrease the risk of vaccine-preventable diseases. Coalition members volunteer their time and effort to provide no-cost medical and educational support to the communities of Southwest Idaho. For more information about immunization, contact Southwest District Health at (208) 455-5300.

## Bruneau library presents talk by exchange students

Two exchange students attending Rimrock High School this year will be the guest speakers at the next “Bruneau and Beyond” luncheon. Senior Trude Eggesvik from Norway and junior Belen Albendea Quereda from Spain will speak at the free lunch at noon next Wednesday at the Bruneau Valley Library. The library is located at 32073 Ruth St., in Bruneau.

RSVP by Monday to library director Clara Morris by calling (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2345. The lunch is free. The event will be moved to the Bruneau Community Church if the library can’t hold the audience. Notices will be posted if the luncheon is moved. Eggesvik is from inside the Arctic Circle in Norway. Quereda hails from Madrid.



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## Your finances

# Plan for retirement, but be sure to get other funds in place

Dear Dave,

Should the 15 percent of my income that I invest toward retirement be done after taxes or before? Also, should I include my company match in that amount?

— David

Dear David,

I usually put 15 percent of my gross income into retirement before taxes, but you can do it either way. I don't count the company match.

Keep in mind that with the 15 percent we're talking about a rule of thumb here. The point is to be planning for and doing something about retirement. Start doing this before you put the kid's college fund in place and pay off your home, but not until after you've got a fully funded emergency fund and all other debts paid off except the house.

Way to be thinking ahead, David!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

What happens to the money that is owed when someone files bankruptcy? Do creditors just have to write it off, or do other people pay the price through taxes or higher interest rates?

— Grace

Dear Grace,

In most cases the creditor just loses the money. That's one of the risks businesses face. Of course, any bankruptcy is also a seriously bad mark against the filer's credit record.

Chapter 13 filings may be considered a little less severe than Chapter 7 because you're showing an interest in retiring the debts. They often allow — if you have a regular income and limited debt — to keep some of the property you might otherwise lose. Also, some debt balances may be partially discharged, with the filer agreeing to make monthly payments to the trustee for distribution among the remaining creditors.

A Chapter 7 bankruptcy is a lot tougher on the one who files. It involves liquidating all assets that aren't exempt. Some of the filer's property may be sold by



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a court-appointed official — a trustee — or just turned over to creditors.

It's really a lose-lose situation, Grace. The business loses money, and the filer suffers the emotional pain of participating in a shameful process.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I'm 61 years old and just lost my job with the only company for which I've ever worked. I've got \$120,000 in my retirement fund, but I owe \$57,000 on my home and \$8,000 on a car. Should I pay off my debts using my retirement savings?

— Peggy

Dear Peggy,

Your idea makes me a little nervous if this is your only nest egg, because you won't have much money left to live on. You'll have taxes taken out, and depending on your tax bracket that will probably leave you with about \$50,000 if you pay everything off.

Now, if you've got another source of income in the home providing \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year you'd probably be OK. And if that's the case I'd say go for it. Write the checks and get the house and car off your back today!

Just be careful that you don't put yourself in a tight situation. Remember this, Peggy: Money is fun — if you've got some.

— Dave

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

### Today

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

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

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

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

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting, 7:30 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Marsing. (541) 372-5782

### Thursday

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

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution, 11 a.m. to noon, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 337-4812

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

Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon, noon, Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. (208) 337-3252

Owyhee Garden Club meeting, 1 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-5474 or (208) 896-4104

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

Marsing School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 7 p.m., district office board room, 209 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W.

Adrian School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Adrian Schools library

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

Owyhee Conservation District board meeting, 8 p.m., 19 Reich St., Marsing

### Friday

Homedale Public Library Spring Book Sale, noon to 8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-4228 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

# Calendar

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

Homedale Public Library Spring Book Sale, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-4228 between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday

Owyhee County Historical Society Spring Bazaar and Flea Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey St., Murphy

### Sunday

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

### Monday

Friends of Lizard Butte Library meeting, 6 p.m., Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 2<sup>nd</sup> St. No., Marsing. (208) 455-2550

Marsing Lions Club monthly meeting, 8 p.m., Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N., Marsing. (208) 896-4204

### 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

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., El-Ada Owyhee office, 15 W. Colorado Ave. Homedale. (208) 337-4812

Homedale Elementary School kindergarten registration, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Homedale

Elementary School lunchroom. (208) 337-4033

Managing Computer Files class, free, 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Homedale High School computer lab, 203 E. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-4611

Storytime for first- through third-graders, 4:20 p.m., Lizard Butte Public Library, Owyhee Plaza, 105 Main Street, Marsing. (208) 896-4690

Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m. (208) 880-8962

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

### Wednesday

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

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

Homedale Elementary School kindergarten registration, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Homedale Elementary School lunchroom. (208) 337-4033

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

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

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# Irrigation boards wade through mess

## Lawyer: Edited investigation can be released

South Board of Control attorney Bruce Smith told the Board of Directors at its meeting last week that directors could choose to release the 2006 investigation report, which originated with the question of whether to reappoint Rex Barrie as South Board manager.

"It is an attorney-client-privileged document," Smith told the Board. "You, as the client, can choose to release it. I have nothing to say about it, but I do advise you not to release it with employees' names in it."

Smith added that directors are not considered employees and, therefore, are not exempt from public disclosure.

South Board chairman Dan Felty said last month that he favors disclosure of the report because of the possible beneficial information it contains. At last week's meeting, he voiced his opinion that the Board should vote on the whether to release the document or not.

"There's a lot of good information in here (in the report) that will help us if we can get it so we can use it," Felty said. "We paid for it; we need to be able to use it."

Primarily because of the investigation, South Board racked up nearly \$80,000 in legal fees in 2006.

Felty also said that he would be in favor of consulting Boise labor attorney Kail Seibert in reference to how best to release the document, including possible redaction of employee information for liability reasons.

As of last week, at least 11 public requests had been made for the documents related to the investigation, including one by The Owyhee Avalanche.

The Board has yet to vote on the issue of releasing the investigation's findings.

### Manager position not 'at will'

Smith also said that it is his legal opinion that Barrie's position as manager of South Board is not an "at will" position, meaning that he can only be terminated for cause.

Smith said that he has researched the past 10 years' worth of South Board meeting minutes, and can find no evidence that Barrie's position must be renewed yearly. Smith said that "some" of the directors did not want to accept this opinion in January 2006, so an investigator was hired.

Smith also produced documents of the Board's agreement to drop the issue of Barrie's reappointment following the 2006 investigation fiasco. Smith also strongly disagreed with director Tim Leavitt's assertion that then-South Board chairman Steve Nash was responsible for the last year's investigation, which left the South Board of Control almost \$60,000 over-budget for legal fees.



### Water users confront irrigation directors

*Dave Shenk, standing, addresses members of the South Board of Control board of directors during last week's meeting in Homedale. Water users presented a petition to the Gem Irrigation District board of directors to discontinue action related to the employee status of South Board manager Rex Barrie. The petition was rejected.*

"At the January 2006 board meeting, the question came up about the reappointment and (directors) Elmon (Thompson), Dale (Chrzh) and Tim (Leavitt) wanted to not continue with Rex (Barrie) as the manager, and that's what kicked off this whole episode," Smith said. "Apparently, in talking to the newspaper (Owyhee Avalanche) director Leavitt said that 'Steve Nash did the same thing last year.'"

"Well, that is just flat wrong. That is incorrect information, Director Leavitt, because this board unanimously asked me to go out and do that initial report."

Smith further pointed out that Leavitt resurrected the issue of Barrie's employment during the March South Board meeting.

"That position (Barrie's) is not an 'at will' position," Smith said. "At the last Board meeting, Director (Tim) Leavitt reintroduced the issue of reappointment versus termination of the manager (Barrie)."

Leavitt questioned Smith's authority to conduct the investigation and claimed not to recall ever giving him the go-ahead to investigate the matter of Barrie's reappointment.

When Smith replied that the Board requested him to look into it in January 2006, Leavitt replied:

"No, the January Board meeting is the meeting we walked out on ... several of us."

Director Paul Shenk argued that it was discussed, but Leavitt still claimed not to recall giving his approval for Smith to initiate the investigation.

Smith said that his findings in the matter were identical to Seibert's, whose legal bills to the South Board totaled approximately \$33,000 in 2006.

Smith produced documentation at last week's meeting showing that, in the wake of Seibert's investigation, the directors asked the Bureau of Reclamation to evaluate Barrie's performance with the understanding that the Board would drop the matter after the Bureau's study. The Bureau found Barrie's performance satisfactory.

According to Smith, South Board chairman Dan Felty and director Steve Nash, the entire Board decided to accept the Bureau's findings at the conclusion of its probe into the issue and live with the findings.

In March, Leavitt, acting as Gem Irrigation District chair, revealed that he had consulted attorney Bryce Ferris to revisit the issue of Barrie's reappointment, accruing legal bills that must be paid by the Gem district.

In March, Leavitt stated that he consulted Ferris because he did not agree with Smith's legal opinion.

—JWB



### Several address directors

*Water user Terry Andrade was one of the men who spoke during a sometimes-contention series of meetings at the South Board of Control office early last week.*

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# Irrigation boards wade through mess

✓ **Petition:** Signees asked for annual date to evaluate SB manager and water master

From Page 1A  
director Dan Felty, who seconded the motion, were in favor.  
Director Elmon Thompson, who potentially held a tie-breaking vote, abstained without giving a reason. Phone calls to Thompson seeking comment were not returned.

The motion needed at least three ‘yes’ votes to carry.

After the meeting, Chrz explained why he cast a nay vote.

“Well, we had our (Gem Board’s) executive session, and we decided what we wanted to do and we didn’t want to get everything all ... confused,” he said.

A phone call to Leavitt asking for his reasoning to vote against hearing petitioners’ concerns was not returned.

During the meeting, Sherk said that only two water users declined to sign the petition. He expressed concern about the Gem Board’s hiring of an attorney to duplicate South Board’s efforts from 2006. South Board spent nearly \$79,000 in legal fees during last year’s investigation.

“When you bring personal baggage down here, you’ve lost sight of your obligations to the community. It’s cost us a lot of money,” Sherk said. “I’m fairly naïve, but I feel that some of the actions taken by this board (Gem) have probably jeopardized our community — or put us in jeopardy for some type of legal action.

“I think there has been a huge amount of money spent to represent a small and elite few, at the expense of our community.”

The petition requested that

*‘Well, we had our (Gem Board’s) executive session, and we decided what we wanted to do and we didn’t want to get everything all ... confused.’*

— Dale Chrz  
Gem Irrigation Board director

the Gem Board consider the following items:

- Immediate termination of any and all legal counsel hired solely by the Gem Irrigation District indefinitely.
- Cessation of all discussion concerning the manager’s employment status (hired or not hired) and agree to abide by the decision made by the Bureau of Reclamation on or about July 26, 2006.
- Agree to set an annual date in cooperation with Ridgeview Board of Directors, for manager and water master job evaluation, and recommendations lasting no more than 30 days.
- Honor and agree to fulfill fiduciary and legal responsibilities as advised by South Board counsel Bruce Smith.

In February, Leavitt sought — without the knowledge of other Gem Board members — the legal counsel of attorney Bryce Ferris in order to examine the reappointment of Barrie. During Gem Board’s March meeting, Nash objected to Leavitt consulting Ferris, saying the South Board of Control already has attorney Bruce Smith on retainer.

An audit performed at the end of Fiscal Year 2006, showed that

South Board spent nearly four times their budgeted amount of \$20,000 on legal fees.

The total was approximately \$79,000. More than one-third of that amount (\$33,000) was spent for a personnel investigation by Boise’s Kail Siebert Law Offices. Siebert is an attorney who specializes in labor law.

In July, the South Board directors agreed to abide by decisions arising from investigations conducted by the firm and by the Bureau of Reclamation.

The findings of both of those investigations found no wrongdoing on Barrie’s part and gave him passing marks in all objective evaluation criteria.

Furthermore, both Smith and Siebert held opinions Barrie was not an “at will” employee of South Board and he could only be fired for cause.

The results of the investigation from 2006 have not yet been made public.

— JWB

Buy it, sell it,  
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in the

**Classifieds!**

## Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that Owyhee Reservoir was 81 percent full and that 253 cubic feet per second of water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore. The reservoir held 578,084 acre-feet of water.

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 9 a.m. Monday:

Date	Snow Depth	Reynolds Creek			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
			Max.	Min.	
04/03	0.0	9.1	39	25	31
04/04	0.0	9.3	47	24	37
04/05	0.0	9.2	58	38	46
04/06	0.1	9.1	58	37	48
04/07	0.0	9.1	64	42	53
04/08	0.2	9.3	63	39	51
04/09	0.2	9.3	53	36	42

Date	Snow Depth	South Mountain			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
			Max.	Min.	
04/03	19.3	21.7	41	23	32
04/04	17.5	21.9	53	31	43
04/05	15.8	21.8	59	43	48
04/06	13.3	21.8	62	41	50
04/07	10.6	21.8	66	46	54
04/08	8.8	22.2	60	37	48
04/09	6.5	22.3	50	34	42

Date	Snow Depth	Mud Flat			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
			Max.	Min.	
04/03	0.0	9.6	46	28	37
04/04	0.0	9.7	59	25	43
04/05	0.0	9.6	65	38	50
04/06	0.5	9.7	68	37	51
04/07	0.5	9.6	68	36	53
04/08	0.6	9.8	66	38	49
04/09	0.3	9.7	57	37	45

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**Irrigation water creeps into Owyhee canals**  
*Water streams slowly down a canal Thursday near the intersection of Ridgeview Road and Fawn Lane near the Oregon/Idaho state line. According to South Board of Control officials, no major setbacks occurred as water filled the South Canal and its tributaries.*

## South Board irrigation canals fill up

Water filled the South Canal and its tributaries April 2, according to South Board of Control Manager Rex Barrie, things went smoothly.

“We’ve got the South Canal ran — that means the water is through the end,” Barrie said. “As we get the main canals filled, the ditch riders will start charging the laterals off of the mains. As they get the big laterals charged, and the branch laterals ultimately, we’ll be able to deliver water.”

The Owyhee Irrigation District also began filling its main canal last week Monday, but the water had to be shut off due a leaking expansion joint on the Owyhee Siphon. Last Thursday, Barrie said he had not experienced any similar problems charging the South Canal or any of its tributaries. But, he remained cautious.

“You always worry about charging up in the spring because you don’t know what the winter has done, so it’s always a concern,” Barrie said. “We get a little bit nervous when we have to bring the system in too quickly, but we just keep a watchful eye on it and if we see something start to

develop, we get our equipment in there and deal with it as fast as we can.”

South Board officials urged caution around any water-filled canals as the 2007 irrigation season begins.

Barrie said that that the Owyhee Reservoir contained enough water to last until well into the 2008 irrigation season, if need be. Barrie said at last week’s South Board of Control meeting that the reservoir was not expected to rise above the Glory Hole above the dam.

“It’s a little early to say, based on the snowpack that’s left, but we don’t believe it will spill over the Glory Hole this year,” Barrie said. “That could all change. With

these high temperatures that we are going to have, and if we had a rain event in the watershed, we could top that reservoir off in a few days.”

“We do have enough (water) to go the full season and should have carryover to take us into next year.”

The Owyhee Reservoir has a capacity of 715,000 acre-feet of water, which is a two-year supply of water for the region. As of Monday morning, the reservoir held 578,084 acre-feet, making it 81 percent full. Water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore., at the rate of 253 cubic feet per second.

—JWB

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# South Board manager urges canal safety

With warmer days and water-filled canals, South Board of Control manager Rex Barrie urges parents to keep youngsters away from the South Canal and its inviting tributaries.

“We really want to emphasize to parents to keep an eye on their children and keep them out of the canals,” he said days after South Board’s network of canals began to fill for the 2007 irrigation season.

While Barrie said that he does not recall a canal-related water accident in any of the South Board’s canals since 2000, when he was hired, he is not taking that safety record lightly.

“The canals are not for swimming in; they are not to recreate in,” he said. “We have been working with the Idaho Water Users Association to get a bill passed at the state level that says that canals cannot be used for recreation facilities, but we don’t want to lose any kids or any grown-ups in our system.”

Until laws are in place, Barrie has a simple but stern message:

“That water is moving very quickly, the banks are extremely steep, and most children — if they fall into the canal — will be swept away ... In the blink of an eye, you could lose a child.”

— JWB



**Canals are not for recreation**  
*“That water is moving very quickly, the banks are extremely steep, and most children — if they fall into the canal — will be swept away... In the blink of an eye, you could lose a child,” South Board of Control manager Rex Barrie said last week as canals filled.*

## Lizard Butte library supporters schedule next meeting Monday

The Friends of the Lizard Butte Library organization will hold its next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday.

The meeting takes place at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 N. 2nd St.

Agenda items include approval of membership brochure and

further discussion of acquiring free books from the Reading Foundation.

The meeting is open to all Lizard Butte Library District patrons.

For more information, call president Dottie Christensen at 455-2550.

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Patriotic tree dedicated

Garden club members from around the region attended the March 26 dedication of a patriotic tree at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery. The Owyhee Garden Club was instrumental in the dedication of the flowering pear tree, which was donated and planted by Lakeshore Nursery. Photo by Jan Aman

Garden club salutes patriots' sacrifices

The Owyhee Garden Club dedicated a Patriotic Tree on March 26 at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery. The club dedicated the donation of the flowering pear tree to honor those who bravely and courageously risk their lives for our protection, including all members of the United States military at home and abroad, law enforcement, fire and rescue personnel and all honorable veterans. The tree was purchased at and planted by Lakeshore Nursery. Those present at the dedication included Southwest District Garden Club director Darlene Adams, who served as speaker for

the ceremony. Also on hand was Dotty Hurd, president of Idaho State Garden Clubs. Pastor Rick Sherrow blessed the tree. The Owyhee Garden Club meets at 1 p.m. on the second Thursday at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing. New members are always welcome. The club is planning an April 21 plant sale at the Marsing Community Garden, which is next to the Community Greenhouse. Proceeds from the sale will be used to improve the garden. For more information the sale or the club, call Sharon McIlveen at 896-5474 or Judith McShane at 896-4104.



Bruneau water overhaul nears completion

Above: Construction has been completed on the structure that will house the reverse osmosis filtration system for the Bruneau water system. Below: Workers install pipe running from the water treatment building to Bruneau's town well. Submitted photos

Bruneau, GV make progress on water treatment problems

The three-part battle to bring Bruneau's drinking water is nearing completion, and officials say the new treatment system could be in place by early next month. Meanwhile, Grand View has embarked on its own odyssey to clean up the city's water. The City Council and Water and Sewer Association held a meeting in February with Dave Flesher of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Agency. Flesher educated the council and association board members on the requirements of securing funding for an arsenic abatement project, which is priced at between \$1.2 million and \$2 million, according to City Clerk Lani Race.

Race said that Grand View also is looking at community grants to help pay for an overall improvement project. She said about \$6,000 is needed to repair the town's sewer lift station, and that the money could become part of any USDA RDA loan for the water system. One aspect of making Grand View attractive to the USDA RDA — which already has a funding relationship with the city — is the consolidation of the water and sewer association with the city government. "The existing loans with the association are fairly small," Flesher said. "The proposed project(s) will be much larger — and the loans will likely be more secure if they are made with the city — who would have to pass a revenue bond to obtain the authority to incur the debt." The Grand View City Council meets at 7 tonight.



Spring cleaning in Oreana

On Saturday, 18 volunteers gathered at the Oreana Community Hall for a clean up day. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the crew worked hard to scrub the wood floors and bathrooms, repair and clean the benches in the hall and wash the windows inside and out. The biggest task of the day was scraping and painting the south and west sides of the building. The volunteers were treated to a hamburger barbecue for their efforts. Organizers want to thank the volunteers for their hard work. Submitted photo

— JPB

# Marsing gets with (dental) program

## Delta Dental brings pilot sealant clinic to school district

When a child extricates himself from Samantha Kenney's dental chair, an interesting thing happens.

"A lot of kids want to come back again," she said.

Chalk it up as another miracle of modern medicine, eh?

An extended access registered dental hygienist with Delta Dental of Idaho, Kenney is wrapping up her second week of applying dental sealants to schoolchildren in Marsing. Last week, she worked with second- and third-graders from Marsing Elementary School.

This week has been spent with seventh- and eighth-graders from Marsing Middle School.

The sealant sessions are part of a pilot program in which Delta Dental is visiting area schools to provide a free service.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for children of all economic backgrounds," Marsing Elementary principal Lillian Stewart said. "You don't have to meet any specific economic criteria."

Stewart said last week that there's a possibility that Delta Dental will return in 2009 to treat another round of second-, third-, seventh- and eighth-graders.

Marsing is the only district in Owyhee County that Kenney has visited.

"There is quite a bit of research that ties dental healthy to overall health, and this was something that we could provide to our students if the parents provided the release form," Marsing schools superintendent Harold Shockley said.

Kenney said more than 60 elementary schoolchildren climbed into her chair during



### Delta Dental brings sealant program to Marsing

*Samantha Kenney, an extended access registered dental hygienist with Delta Dental of Idaho, cares for the teeth of a Marsing Elementary School student during a dental sealant clinic in Marsing last week. Submitted photo*

the first week of the clinic. Delta Dental personnel checked the overall health of the children's teeth and made treatment recommendations, if necessary.

The sealant was used to fill superficial cracks in the children's six-year molars, Kenney said. If teeth required work beyond the purview of the program, the

parents were notified of their options, she said.

"There were quite a few kids that had never gone to the dentist," Kenney said. "And of those, their (dental) health is not where it should be as opposed to the ones who had gone."

Kenney said parents can call the Idaho Careline at 2-1-1 to get

more information on dentists.

She also said she'd like to bring the program to Homedale some day.

"Owyhee County has a lot of need, and we hope to try to get out there," Kenney said. "It just depends on the number who need it."

—JPB

## Few file to seek Adrian, JV school board seats

Both Adrian and Jordan Valley school districts have trustees elections coming up next month. But, according to officials in both districts, the elections could be relatively uneventful.

The Adrian School District has three seats up for grabs. No candidates filed for one of the three open spots. Only the incumbents filed for candidacy in the other two spots.

According to Adrian School District Deputy Clerk Darla Witty, no one filed for the Zone 3 seat, currently held by Bob Trotter.

Trotter didn't file to seek re-election for a two-year term. Witty said whoever gets the most write-in votes during the May 15 election will win the position, provided they meet requirements. If the write-in candidate declines to serve, the board can appoint a trustee.

"No one filed for that position, and the filing deadline has passed," Witty said. "Then, we have Zone 4, which is the Big Bend position. Neil Allison, which is the incumbent filed (for that position). He is running unopposed."

"Then, for Zone 5, which is the Ridgeview district, Paul Shenk has filed for that position and he is the incumbent, running unopposed."

Allison currently serves as board chairman, while Shenk also serves as football coach at Adrian High School. Both seats carry four-year terms.

In Jordan Valley, two position are open, No. 1 and No. 5. The election is May 15, too.

According to Jordan Valley School District Officials, only two candidates have filed for the open positions, both incumbents.

The filing deadline for candidates was March 15.

For the No. 1 position, incumbent Si Skinner has filed. In the No. 5 spot, Dale Johnson is the sole candidate.

School board elections in Owyhee County will be held May 15, too. Friday is the filing deadline.

—JWB

## Homeowner's tax exemption filing deadline nears

County officials remind property owners that the deadline to apply for a homeowner's exemption for 2007 is Monday.

Homeowner's exemptions may be obtained from the Owyhee County assessor's office. For more information, call (208) 495-2817.

The exemption is for owner-occupied homes and manufactured homes, which are primary dwellings.

The exemption includes the value of the home and up to one acre of land.

For the 2006 property tax year, homeowners were allowed a 50 percent exemption of the property value up to a maximum of \$75,000.

For the 2007 property taxes, which are due and payable no later than December 20, 2007 and June 20, 2008, the percentage reduction is unchanged (50 percent), but the exemption can reduce the taxable value up to a maximum of \$89,325 for the home and land.

Only people who do not currently have a homeowner's exemption need apply this year because the exemption continues year-to-year until the home changes ownership or is no longer a primary dwelling for the homeowner.

For more property tax

information for homeowners, log on to [www.tax.idaho.gov](http://www.tax.idaho.gov).

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# An Owyhee County Easter



## Youngsters in Marsing and Homedale join the mad grab for goodies

*With Mother Nature cooperating in spectacular fashion, boys and girls from Marsing and Homedale turned out in force to hunt up some fun and more than a few Easter eggs Saturday.*

**Counter-clockwise from the top:**

*Organization was the buzzword at the Marsing High School football field as the egg hunters were divided into several age groups to conquer the sectioned-off field that had been filled with hidden Easter eggs by the Marsing Lions Club.*

*At Sundance Park in Homedale, the Chamber of Commerce's Easter egg hunt was more of a free-form situation. Children rushed the softball diamonds to scoop up plastic eggs hidden earlier in the morning by members of the Homedale High School junior varsity softball team.*

*Many of those eggs entitled children to prizes, which were organized under the concession stand awning. Here, Homedale resident Maleta Henry, right, organizes some of the gifts. In the background, Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Gavin Parker discusses the day's events with two volunteers.*

*For some, the Easter egg hunt in Homedale was all about fashion, including cool cap and color-coordinated baskets and clothing.*

*For others, the order of the day was — well — order. Here, a toddler makes sure that all his eggs are in one basket, or soon will be.*



# Senior projects added to JV curriculum

by Michelle Elsner, JVHS

The Jordan Valley Class of 2007 is starting a new program this year called senior projects as a new graduation requirement. Some schools around Idaho and Oregon area already have had these projects in their schools and already have perfected them. Jordan Valley has had its problems with the program, but the seniors are soldiering through.

The seniors are required to pick a job that they want to study, such as photojournalism. After they have picked their jobs, the students have to write a 7- to 10-page essay on that specific job as well as perform a community project involving something with their job. For example, I am telling the community about our senior projects and publicizing the senior's community projects in the paper. Also, the seniors must conduct a job shadow for the field they want to enter.

All of the seniors have excellent ideas for their community services. Some are very sketchy, though, because of the full schedule the seniors have.

Holly Deen's job is advertising. She would like to do a fashion show using a clothing line. Her fashion show would be held in Jordan Valley and would cost \$2 to see. Proceeds would go to a local charity.

Tina Stanford's job is criminal investigation. She plans to work with Jerry Wroten, who wants to be a law enforcement officer, in a self-defense class and teddy bear drive. The self-defense class would be held in Jordan Valley and will be taught by Oscar Martinez. Those attending the self-defense class also must bring a stuffed bear for the teddy bear drive.

The stuffed animals will go to the Malheur County Sheriff's Office to provide comfort to small children after accidents or disasters.

Lacey Kershner, who plans to go into cosmetology, and Sequoi Trautman, who wants to study business, are planning a "Prom Make-over Day," for the girls of Jordan Valley High School.

Chelicy Payne plans to study acting, and Josh Terry wants to be a musician. The two are planning a community play and talent show for Jordan Valley. Terry plans to run the talent show with a special prize to the person with the best talent. Payne will present a play, which she wrote herself, after the talent show.

Luisa Lowry is in the process of choosing a career, but she plans on sending out surveys to people who are affected by the Owyhee Initiative. Her surveys then will be collected after a

two-week period and the results of the surveys will be sent to Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), who recently reintroduced the Owyhee Initiative implementation legislation.

Angela Larsen wants to be a massage therapist and plans to bring a professional massage therapist to teach a class on massage therapy.

Breann Hipwell plans to go to school to be a nurse and is going to volunteer at a hospital in the maternity ward.

Megan Mackenzie plans on studying elementary education. She wants to invite several schools from around Jordan Valley and the surrounding area to participate in a "Brain Teaser" contest in which the schools bring their best middle school students to win fun prizes.

Shantel Gleason plans to study equine dentistry, and she wants to have a professional horse dentist come to Jordan Valley to speak to different 4-H groups in the area.

Bailey Kershner wants to become a veterinarian and is arranging to gather supplies for an animal shelter. She is preparing to advertise around the community and have drop-off locations in Jordan Valley for donated supplies.

The dates for most of these events will be announced later.

## Kershner fund-raiser looks out for animals

by Michelle Elsner, JVHS

This week's senior from Jordan Valley High School is Bailey Kershner. She lives on a ranch on Boulder Creek and is active in volleyball, basketball, 4-H, and FFA. She plans on attending the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls to study veterinary medicine after she graduates in May.

Bailey is involved with the new Senior Project program at Jordan Valley High School. These new projects requires all seniors to chose a career and write a seven- to 10-page report on it, job shadow a professional involved in that career and create a community service activity closely related to the career chosen by the senior.

Bailey job-shadowed Julie Weikel, DVM (Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine) when she was spaying heifers at Morgan Ranches in Jordan Valley.

For the community service element of her senior project, Bailey has decided to collect

donated items for the Canyon County Animal Shelter. Some of the items she is seeking include old blankets, old towels, rags, dog and cat food, newspapers and old brushes. She will be taking donations through the middle of the month. Items can be dropped off at the high school during school hours, or Bailey will make pickups herself.

"This community service is open to anyone who wants to help the animal shelter and cares for the health and welfare of animals," Bailey said. "Please donate. Every little bit helps, and it will be greatly appreciated by the Canyon County Animal Shelter."

This community service would help the animal shelter and also get the entire community involved in the welfare and care of animals.

Call Bailey at (208) 583-3333 (home) or (541) 585-2213 (school) for more information or to have items picked up.



**Homedale schools fixture laid to rest**

Deward Bell, longtime superintendent for the Homedale School District as well as respected principal and coach at Homedale High School, was buried Thursday at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery after services at the Homedale LDS Church. **Top:** Friends and family gather for the graveside service at the cemetery. **Right:** The hearse carrying Bell leads the funeral procession the football stadium that bears Bell's name. A long line of cars made the trip from the overflowing parking lot at the church, passing by the high school and the football stadium. Bell died March 30 at the age of 83.



## Homedale band uniform featured in NNU's Music Man

Homedale High School's marching band is going places this week.

Well, not the band, per se, but one of the uniforms from the group directed by Karla Kachelmier.

Homedale resident Karolyn Munster has been working on getting equipment for Kachelmier's band program, and in her lobbying she ran across Lollie Richardson, the secretary for Northwest Nazarene University's Department of Art and Music in Nampa.

Munster has enlisted help from the NNU department for the Homedale band in the future, but for now the high school has shown good faith by loaning a marching band uniform to the university's drama department.

The uniform will take center stage beginning Friday during the three-night run of The Music Man. The play's main character, Harold Hill — portrayed by Josh Cremer in the NNU production — spends a lot of time in a band uniform, and the Trojans' colors will be flying.

In return, NNU has given the Homedale music program some complimentary tickets to the production, which will be staged at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Monday. Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$8 for students and senior citizens, and they are available through the NNU Music Department at 467-8413, or Select-a-Seat or at the door. Doors open each night at 6:30 p.m.

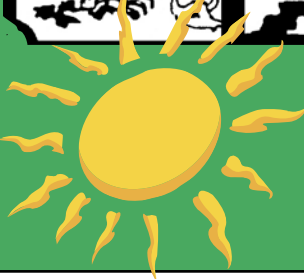
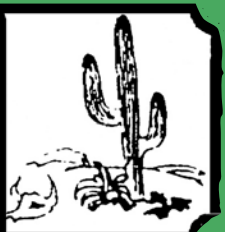
Munster said last week that she also has contacted music companies in search of a solution to the Homedale program's instrument shortage.

— JPB

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