



HMS athletes christen track In Sports

City limits expand, Page 2A

Homedale council votes to annex properties off U.S. 95 again

County, Page 11A

Sheriff's dispatchers handle hectic, stressful job with grace under fire

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 16

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Marsing

Different well, old problem

City may have to buy filter system for new water

A Boise water resource consulting firm delivered some bad news to the Marsing City Council on Wednesday.

Tests by SPF Water Engineering reveal that the city's new well has excessive arsenic concentrations and will not produce the amount of water hoped. The firm delivered its report at the monthly city council meeting.

The report also said the quality of the water produced by the new well, located across 8th Avenue from Marsing Middle School, would be similar to water from the city's other wells and would contain aesthetically unpleasant aspects such as sand, ammonia and aluminum.

"It's like we're back where we were," councilwoman Paula Enrico said.

City councilman Ed Pfeifer said the council was cautiously

— See Well, page 5A

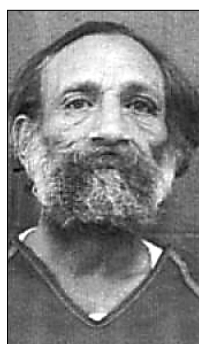
'... We had a job to do, and it was done.'



Multiple agencies track murder case

The 1996 GMC Sierra pickup owned by Reno, Nev., resident Peter Braun was processed for evidence by the Idaho State Police. ISP photo

Sheriff lauds cooperation during homicide probe



Peter Braun



Winston Kelly

The discovery of the body of a 58-year-old Reno, Nev., man in the southernmost reaches of Owyhee County last week was part of a homicide investigation that included personnel from three sheriff's offices — including Owyhee — state police officers and two federal agencies.

Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies assisted members of the Elmore and Elko (Nev.) sheriff's offices as well as the FBI and Bureau of Indian Affairs during a homicide investigation that stretched from Elmore County to northwestern Nevada.

— See Homicide, page 5A

'Joke' nets drug charges

A Wilder man was arrested last week and charged with a total of four drug charges after a traffic stop at the intersection of U.S. Highway 95 and East Idaho Avenue in Homedale.

Ventura Jr. Alvor, 26, of Wilder has been charged with felony possession of a controlled substance, misdemeanor possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

"A traffic stop was initiated at Highway 95 and Idaho (Avenue)," Homedale Police Officer Ian Takashige said. "Dispatch informed me that one of the four occupants (Alvor) of the

— See Charges, page 5A



Ventura Jr. Alvor

Battling meth

County officials, judge look for solutions in changing world of how users obtain devastating drug.

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Nevada teen dies in Idaho 51 rollover

An Elko teenager is dead after a single-vehicle rollover on Idaho highway 51 approximately 15 miles from the Nevada border on Sunday.

Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies reported that Andrew Lickly, 17, from Elko, Nev., died after the Ford F-350 pickup he was driving left the roadway and overturned multiple times at approximately 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

Owyhee County Sheriff's

Deputy Daryl Crandall investigated the crash. Crandall stated that Lickly was traveling south and was negotiating a large curve with a steep embankment on the roadside when the crash occurred.

"He veered off the right side of the road," Crandall said. "Once he went off, his back end slipped off the embankment and he went sideways down the embankment."

The vehicle overturned multiple times after leaving the roadway.

Though wearing a safety belt, Lickly died in the crash from trauma to the head and neck, according to reports. He was the sole occupant.

Crandall said the posted speed limit in the area is 65 mph. The cause of the crash is listed as inattention.

Crandall stated that the Owyhee, Nev., ambulance and fire department responded to assist. Lickly's family is from Elko.

— JWB

Homedale annexes land near U.S. 95 area — again

December vote nixed after short notice on public hearing discovered

The Homedale City Council completed a move that began in December by annexing the property of two landowners into the city limits Wednesday.

Council members unanimously approved absorbing land near U.S. Highway 95 southeast of Homedale, allowing developer Ron Woods to clear one hurdle in his bid to build hundreds of homes on more than 86 acres along Pioneer Road.

The annexation of several parcels of property originally was OK'd by the council during a public hearing in December, but city attorney Michael Duggan discovered that the public comment process had been flawed beforehand.

Property owned by Woods and his wife, Julie, and another parcel owned by Taryn White was annexed Wednesday night because

the property owners didn't object to being brought into the city limits. White, in fact, signed off on the annexation at the meeting moments before the vote.

A May 14 Planning and Zoning public hearing will address the annexation and zoning of nearby property in the owned by Cecil and Evelyn Hill, Randy and Christina Criss and Bob Allen, according to a public notice appearing in today's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

Pounds Farms, LLC, another property owner included in the first public hearing in November, was not listed in the latest hearing notice. Marlow Pounds has been a vocal opponent of annexation because he fears losing the ability to conduct a commercial operation on his property.

Duggan explained during Wednesday's meeting that the legally required 15 days' notice for a public hearing wasn't followed when the Planning and Zoning Commission set the original hearing date. The hearing was held just 12 days after the first publication of the legal notice.

"We had the hearings three days too early, and Mike Duggan wasn't comfortable with it since we had some objections," Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said. "I have asked Mike to go back and readvertise the thing."

"We want to give everybody the allotted time for the public hearings and make sure we do everything right."

The original P&Z public hearing was held Nov. 6, but the first public notice was published in The Owyhee Avalanche on Oct. 25.

Fink said a new public hearing process will be started to rectify the situation and give the remaining property owners a chance to comment on the proposed annexation.

"We're going to give them their day," Fink said. "I'm not going to predict what the council is going to do."

"We'll give (property owners) the opportunity to talk to the council and P&Z."

Fink was the only person with a copy of the ordinance Wednesday night. He said Duggan handed him the completed ordinance shortly before the meeting began, and there was no time to make copies for the council members or City Clerk Alice Pegram. All parties involved did have a chance to review the ordinance before the vote.

Fink said the ordinance virtually was identical to the document approved by the council after a Dec. 18 public hearing, save for the fact that the only properties annexed this time around were owned by Woods and White.

"We did pass it, and because we thought we were doing everything right," Fink said of the Dec. 18 action. "We thought we were giving the right notices and found out through Mike that we did not."

Woods expressed frustration at the pace of the process during Wednesday's meeting.

"We started the process for the subdivision last October," Woods said, adding that he has been unable to give interested developers an idea of when his subdivision plans will move forward because he's not clear on the legal timeline.

Woods asked when the zoning of his property would be changed to residential. Fink didn't have an answer Wednesday, but Planning and Zoning has scheduled a May 14 hearing for that issue as well, according to a public notice in today's Avalanche.

— JPB



Community turns out to help Jorge
Alicia Packer takes aim at a wall filled with balloons during Saturday's Pennies for Jorge fund-raiser at City Park in Homedale.

Benefit in the park raises over \$2,700

Chilly weather Saturday couldn't dampen the optimism of a group of folks who banded together to help a Homedale Middle School student.

The "Pennies for Jorge" fund-raiser staged at City Park raised more than \$2,700, according to Tam Coombs, the mother of one of the young organizers of the benefit.

"There are a lot of good-hearted people here," Coombs said. "It sure was nice."

Participants were able to purchase activity tickets to take part in contests or take a whack a 1964 Chrysler Imperial parked nearby.


Proceeds from the event will help HMS seventh-grader Jorge Hernandez and his family. Jorge has been in and out of the hospital with fever and infection since December. Doctors removed his gallbladder, and a cyst has been discovered on his pancreas.

Saturday's event was put together by fellow HMS seventh-graders Amanda Cook and Lyndee Coombs.

Betty Arriaga, Jorge's mentor, said Saturday that there now is more than \$2,000 in the benefit bank account she created at U.S. Bank to hold proceeds from her Alaskan crab raffle. That figure doesn't include Saturday's proceeds.

Tam Coombs said a good portion of the money was raised through the ongoing raffle of a Berretta 12-gauge shotgun. Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100, and only 250 tickets will be sold. For more information on the raffle, call Coombs at 337-4995.

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Ordinances give sheriff authority on public land

Four new statutes make enforcement easier for county deputies

Four new county ordinances give Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies more options in dealing with recreational vehicle violations on public land.

The county Board of Commissioners approved the four county ordinances at their April 9 meeting, with eyes on giving sheriff's deputies more leverage in dealing with the masses of recreational vehicles that frequent hotspots such as the Hemingway Butte Off-Highway Vehicle Open Play area off of Upper Reynolds Creek Road.

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said the ordinances have been in the works for some time.

"It's been a long time coming," Aman said. "I think the land-managing agencies, the state lands board and the BLM, are probably just as excited about it as we are. Ranchers are excited about it. It is all eventually going to tie-in to the Owyhee Initiative."

The ordinances address parking in restricted areas, disobeying posted signs, entering or crossing public lands in a destructive way, and parking on restricted lands. Law enforcement vehicles engaged in official activity are exempt from the ordinances.

Each of the violations has a fixed fine amount set of \$100 plus \$41.50 in court costs. In some cases, violators can also be liable for the cost of rescue or retrieval.

Aman said that \$100 is the maximum infraction fine amount allowed by Idaho law.

While there are current federal laws regulating these activities on federal land, they were only enforceable by federal authorities, such as Bureau of Land Management rangers, before the ordinances were passed. In essence, a deputy encountering these violations would have to call upon a ranger to issue a citation under federal statute.

Now, deputies will be able to simply write a citation on the spot.

In March, after a particularly rambunctious St. Patrick's Day weekend, BLM ranger Lee Kliman said county ordinances would make his job easier because the BLM's law enforcement arm already is stretched thin. Kliman said he and one other ranger are responsible for enforcement in a total of 10 counties in the region.

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

No parking on roadways

The first of the four new ordinances deals with parking in prohibited areas.

It is illegal to park where a government authority has prohibited parking. The registered owner of an unattended, unlawfully parked vehicle would be responsible for infractions. The penalty is set as a fixed fine of \$100 plus court costs of \$41.50.

Ordinance No. 07-01 states its purpose simply: "In order to prevent safety and health hazards which result from parking vehicles in roadway right-of-ways and on property where recreational activities take place."

The ordinance defines a "vehicle" as "any device in, upon or by which any person or property may be transported."

Disobeying posted signs

Ordinance No. 07-02 is designed to assist law enforcement and county, federal and state resource agencies (such as the BLM) in protecting public land by posting proper signage detailing where and how the land can be used.

Violation of posted signs can net a fixed fine amount of \$100 plus court costs.

Protecting public land

This ordinance states that no person shall enter or cross public land in a manner that is disturbing, harmful, damaging or destructive to the land.

In addition to a fixed fine of \$100, violators — which include the owner and operator of any vehicle operated or left unattended in violation of the code — also

'Ranchers are excited about it. It is all eventually going to tie-in to the Owyhee Initiative.'

— Gary Aman
county sheriff

will be billed for the cost of law enforcement, emergency response and any necessary rescue or retrieval operations.

Parking on restricted lands

Another parking regulation, Ordinance No. 07-04, makes it illegal to park a vehicle on public land that has been restricted through closure or other action by the managing agency of the public land. It also has a \$100 fine attached, with additional bills for emergency response and rescue or retrieval efforts connected with the violation.

The ordinance states:

"The increasing number of persons using public lands and adjoining private lands in Owyhee County have resulted in shortage of parking in signed areas, and this has caused people to drive their vehicles on to public land that has been restricted by the land manager for purposes of safety, protection of the land and the environment, and protection of adjoining private land."

"This ordinance makes it possible to protect the public land, public health and safety and private land by making it unlawful to park or operate a vehicle on restricted public land."

— JWB

Homedale PD arrests man on rape charges

A Homedale man is behind bars on a \$35,000 bond after Homedale Police received reports of a rape Sunday.

Ricardo Delgadillo of Homedale has been charged with rape after police acted on a search warrant of his residence in the 100 block of East Wyoming Avenue.

According to Homedale Police reports, the incident was reported by medical staff at Mercy Medical Center in Nampa on Sunday evening. No information about the victim or circumstances of the rape is known at this time.

After investigation, the Homedale Police Department served a search warrant at Delgadillo's residence with the assistance of the Canyon County Crime Lab.

Delgadillo was placed under arrest and booked into the Owyhee County Jail in Murphy. He was arraigned on Monday and his bond set. As of press time, he is still in custody.

Delgadillo is scheduled for preliminary hearing in Murphy on April 30 at 1:30 p.m.

— JWB



OCHS springs into field trip schedule

About 55 Owyhee County Historical Society members and guests took advantage of spring weather on March 31 to explore the rocks of lower Hardtrigger Creek Canyon. The group heard about the area's geology, learned how thunder eggs are formed and how to recognize them. The next OCHS field trip is to Lawson's Emu-Z-Um in Grand View on April 28. The group will meet at 10 a.m. at the museum, located at 22142 River Road. Entry is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. A potluck lunch will be served. For more information, call the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy at (208) 495-2319. Submitted photo

Kristin - CPhT, Vic Allen - RPh, Dennis - CPhT, Ruth - Technician, Cathy - Technician

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— JWB

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Member

From page 1

✓ Homicide: Aman calls enforcement agencies' teamwork 'picture perfect'

Peter Braun, 58, was found dead Tuesday on the portion of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation that lies in Owyhee County, approximately one mile north of the Idaho/Nevada border, according to Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman.

Winston Kelly, a 35-year-old man from McDermitt, Nev., has been charged with Braun's murder. Officials believe Braun was killed in Midas, Nev., approximately 2 hours northeast of Elko, but his body was dumped in Idaho.

Aman explained that his agency assisted with recovering the victim's body and collecting evidence, which was later turned

over to the Elko County Sheriff.

"There were five agencies involved. We processed the crime scene with the help of the others and turned it over to Elko County."

The cooperation between the agencies couldn't have gone smoother, Aman said.

"It was picture perfect," Aman said. "We've had two phone calls from Elko already thanking us for everything we've done. Nobody had an ego or anything out there. Everybody just knew we had a job to do, and it was done."

Aman said his office coordinated efforts with the Elmore County Sheriff's office, FBI, Bureau of

Indian Affairs, Idaho State Police and the Elko County Sheriff's office.

Officials state that at approximately 3:30 a.m. Tuesday, Elmore County Sheriff's deputies located Kelly in Braun's bloody 1996 GMC Sierra pickup on Idaho highway 51 in Elmore County. The truck's right side window was broken, and there was blood inside the cab and on the vehicle.

Kelly was highly intoxicated, according to reports. He was arrested for DUI and charged with Braun's murder after confessing to killing Braun and taking the vehicle.

Kelly told deputies where on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation he had disposed of Braun's body.

"Kelly confessed and drew a map," Aman said. "Within literally a few minutes, Elko County had a helicopter in the air, and within a few minutes they found the body."

Aman said deputies located evidence of the crime with the body, but the murder did not occur in Owyhee County.

"There were 62 items of evidence that we collected," Aman said. "It was a fairly small crime scene, itself, but there were a lot of items that had to be documented, photographed

and will probably eventually be fingerprinted, DNA stuff done, and blood-typing done by Elko (county sheriff)."

Although Braun's body was dumped on a reservation, legally the crime scene fell into Owyhee's jurisdiction.

"The site the body was disposed of was actually our jurisdiction," Aman said. "It's actually on the reservation, but since he was brought into the reservation, (and) he was not Indian, so it was, technically, ours."

Aman said no charges will be filed against Kelly in Owyhee County.

— JWB

✓ Well: Council receives report that water has unacceptable arsenic levels

optimistic about the new well's water quality from the start, and this is only a setback.

"You have to start somewhere," Pfeifer said. "Where we are starting is a good place to start, as far as fixing our current system. This is a preliminary report, which we are thankful for."


"It is nice to know where we stand; it is nice to know where the new wells actually sit."

Now, the city faces the dilemma of either continuing with the new well, and look at expensive treatment options, or use the \$2.7 million budgeted for the new water system to continue to upgrade the city's existing system. Thus far, the city has spent approximately \$90,000 on the new well.

No strategic decisions have been made at this time. City leaders will discuss those options at a later date.

SPF project engineer Shawn

'Where we are starting is a good place to start, as far as fixing our current system. This is a preliminary report, which we are thankful for.'



— Ed Pfeifer
Marsing city councilman

Kohtz and principal engineer Tim Farrell delivered the updates to the council last week.

In a Powerpoint presentation, Kohtz told city leaders that the new well will not produce as much water from the aquifer as originally hoped. Diagrams showed that sand layers in the aquifer were permeable, but only to a limited extent.

The new well will be capable of producing only 60 gallons-per-minute (gpm), Kohtz said. The

goal was for 100 gpm, and Kohtz said that 40 gpm is considered "absolute minimum."

Kohtz revealed that the capacity of the new well potentially could meet the city's current water needs, but would not be able to accommodate additional growth in the area. Tests showed that the aquifer itself is not suitable for more growth in the area.

With inevitable urban growth, engineers said it is imperative that city officials insist developers

to supply a treatment facility for any future developments, and that developers must be required to dig their own wells for new communities.

Tests also revealed that water from the new well contains arsenic in levels unacceptable by current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards. The new well showed arsenic concentrations of 12 parts-per-billion (ppb). The EPA requires concentrations of 10 ppb or less.

Kohtz said the city has two options with which to deal with the arsenic concentration. Officials can either install an expensive treatment facility, or blend the new well's water with water from other wells, with lower arsenic concentrations.

However, Kohtz stated that the existing wells would have to be chemically tested for their water quality. The last test on the city's existing wells was conducted in

1998.

Kohtz revealed other, disheartening news about the new water source. As it stands, the new water still will have an unpleasant taste, odor and appearance.

"Everybody wants to have better-tasting, more-drinkable water," Kohtz said. "Hopefully, we can address some of these things."

Water from the new well will likely still contain methane, aluminum and iron, which can give the water a reddish tint.

Pfeifer said the next step is additional discussion with city engineer Amy Woodruff.

"I think it's going to be presented again, through our city engineer (Woodruff), and she's going to keep us advised on what is going on, and we're going to have to make some decisions," Pfeifer said.

—JWB

HMS principal accepts job in Nampa district

Field leaves after 14 years in district

Homedale School District Superintendent Tim Rosandick confirmed last week that long-time Homedale Middle School principal Keith Field presented his resignation at a recent school board meeting.

According to Rosandick's customary memo after the March school board meeting, Field has accepted an elementary school principal position in the Nampa School District beginning in the fall.

Field has served as Homedale Middle School principal for the

past six years and he has been employed in the Homedale district for 14 years.

"Keith's contributions to this school district, both as a classroom teacher and an administrator have been valued and appreciated. His care for Homedale kids over the years has been obvious," Rosandick said last week.

"We wish Keith and his family the very best as he pursues other professional opportunities."

A special board meeting has been called at the district office tonight. Rosandick said last week that the trustees could appoint Field's replacement at the meeting.

✓ Charges: Police say search turns up meth, marijuana and pipe in suspect's vehicle

vehicle had a felony warrant out of Canyon County for eluding police. The other, a juvenile, had a detention order out of Owyhee County."

Alvor also was charged with possession of a simulated controlled substance after police found a package containing a substance resembling methamphetamine. He later told authorities it was sugar, and that he had planned to use it as a joke on a friend.

Idaho code 37-2732 makes it a misdemeanor for any person to possess any "simulated controlled substance."

Alvor later posted a bond of \$7,500 and was released from

Owyhee County Jail. He was scheduled for preliminary hearing Monday. The results of that hearing were not available at press time.

With assistance from Canyon County Sheriff's deputies, Parma Police and Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller, Takashige took Alvor and a juvenile from Caldwell into custody.

After the two were in custody, Takashige and his drug detection canine, Bosco, a black Labrador retriever, searched the vehicle.

"The canine positively alerted to the presence of controlled substance to the backseat passenger and driver's side," Takashige

said. "(The) search incident to arrest located about 20 grams of marijuana, approximately 1 gram of methamphetamine, a glass pipe with methamphetamine residue."

"Search of the adult suspect (Alvor) located a plastic tube with admitted methamphetamine residue, and a small plastic 'bottle,' which had the general appearance of methamphetamine but tested negative."

— JWB

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School menus

Homedale Elementary

April 19: Lasagna or mini corn dogs, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.
April 20: Fish nuggets or turkey sandwich, French fires, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
April 23: Sloppy Joe, hot dog, tots, fruit & veggie bar, chocolate pudding, milk.
April 24: Turkey & noodles or tuna sandwich, peas, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
April 25: Oven fried chicken or beef taco pie, roll, fruit & veggie bar, fruit roll up, milk.

Homedale Middle

April 19: Spaghetti or chicken bacon melt, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 20: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
April 23: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
April 24: Taco burger or weiner wrap, green beans, animal crackers, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 25: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit roll up, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

April 19: Chicken patty, hamburger, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, sherbet cup, milk.
April 20: Chicken taco, French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 23: Pizza, nachos, chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
April 24: Chicken nuggets, egg rolls, rice pilaf, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
April 25: Idaho haystack, burrito, pizza hot pocket, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

Marsing

April 19: Corn dog, fruit & veggie, chocolate pudding, milk, egg roll, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
April 20: Nachos, corn, fruit crisp, milk, chicken patty/bun, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
April 23: Tostada, fruit, milk, hamburger, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
April 24: Chicken nuggets, veggie, chocolate pudding, milk, chicken fajita, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
April 25: Pizza, salad, pineapple, milk, sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau

April 19: Hamburger, gravy, mashed potatoes, veggie, roll, fruit, milk.
April 20: Canadian bacon pizza, salad, corn, pineapple, milk.
April 23: Cheese yum, soup/crackers, veggie, fruit, milk.
April 24: Corn dog, potato wedges, fruit, chocolate cake, milk.
April 25: Nachos/salsa, salad, corn, bread stick, fruit, milk.

Life’s milestones

The Owyhee Avalanche welcomes any news of engagements, weddings and births or announcements of significant birthdays or anniversaries. Photos are accepted, too. Announcements must be received by 5 p.m. Friday the week before publication.

There are numerous ways to get your information to the Avalanche:
Mail — P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628
Fax — (208) 337-4867
E-mail — jbrowneditor@cableone.net
Drop off — 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale

Call (208) 337-4681 for more information on guidelines, including e-mailed photos.

The Owyhee Avalanche

Obituaries

Herbert Leslie Bennett

Herbert Leslie Bennett passed away at this home in Adrian, Oregon, Saturday, April 7, 2007, after a yearlong battle with cancer. Herb, as he was known, was born on June 14, 1928 in Gardena, California.
He lived most of his life in Southern California. At the age of seventeen, he enlisted in the Navy for two years where he learned the trade as a truck driver.
When Herb was discharged from the Army, he went back to Southern California, where he went to work as a long haul truck driver, which he did for 51 years. There he married his first wife and they had one son, and three daughters.
In 1980, Herb semi-retired, and moved to Adrian to help

his brother Glen and sister-in-law Juanita to run the Stateline Grocery Store. After Herb was here a short time the road called him back. He then took a job with Geertson Seed and Farm as their Truck Driver delivering seed and bee boards in the mid-west and northern western states. He stayed with that until June of 2000 when he was forced to retire due to a stroke.
He is survived by his wife, Marcia, a son David Bennett and his wife Lorna, daughters Alice Bennett, and Debbie Bennett, and her longtime partner Sammy Rankin, and Leslie Quintez; two grandsons, Ramon Castro Jr. & Erik Wood; two granddaughters Sarah and Cynthia Orozco; one great

grandson Rector Almanza; one great granddaughter Mirelena, all from the Southern California; also a step-daughter and her husband, Patty and Matthew Verdun, three step-grandsons Matthew, Joshua and Nicholas Verdun all from Kennewick, WA; One sister-in-law Virginia Bennett of Bakersfield, CA.
Preceding him in death were his parents John & Ruth Bailly Bennett, two brothers Glen & Donald along with Glen’s wife Juanita, who ran the Stateline Store for many years, and one sister Lorraine Bennett Taylor.
Funeral services were held at the Idaho Veterans Cemetery in Boise with military honors on Wednesday April 11th. Chaplain Fred Bassett officiated.

Gene Lewis



Gene Lewis, 82, of Murphy, passed away early Easter Sunday morning at a local hospital with his wife Tish at his side.
The youngest of 7 children he was born on February 24, 1925 in Oreana, Idaho to George and Maude Lewis and attended school in Silver City, Murphy and later in Boise. He grew up working on the ranches buckarooing for the Joyce Ranch in Sinkers Creek and the Nettleton family ranches. He knew every rock in his beloved Owyhee Mountains.
In 1944 he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force and was stationed in England with the “Bloody Hundred” as a ball turret gunner on a B17. He flew bombing missions over Germany and food drops over Amsterdam.
After the war he rodeoed quite extensively riding bucking horses and as the rider in the wild horse races.
He moved to California in the 1950s to begin an illustrious career with jumping horses as a competitor, teacher and trainer. He became an internationally

renowned horseman with horses he started and trained, going to the American, Canadian, Mexican and Japanese national teams. His horses competed at the Los Angeles Olympic Games and a Pan American Games. He returned to his native Idaho in 1990, officially retiring but still teaching and training a few horses.
In 2002 he was recognized for his services to show jumping by the American Horse Shows Association with their Medal of Honor. In 2005 the California

Professional Horseman’s Assn. honored him with their Lifetime Achievement award. In April of 2006 the Idaho Horse Council declared him an Idaho Legend. In October of 2006 he was given the Idaho Horseman of the Year Award at the Idaho Horse Park.
In addition to his wife Tish, Gene is survived by his sister Peggy Axelsen of Nampa; A daughter Kathy Papendorf, son-in-law Jeff Papendorf and grandson Kyle of Clovis, California and a daughter Karen VerHagen, granddaughters Sara and Laura VerHagen and great grandchildren Eric and Olivia, all of Lodi, California.
A celebration of his life will be held at the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy on Friday April 27th at 4 p.m. Arrangements are under the direction of the Nampa Funeral Home, Yraguen Chapel.
Remembrances may be made to the Idaho Horse Park Foundation c/o of the Idaho Center in Nampa or the Owyhee County Historical Society in Murphy.

Buy it, sell it,
trade it, rent it...
in the
Classifieds!

Melba seniors compile phonebook

The Melba Senior Center is compiling an area telephone and address directory as a fundraiser.
Residents in the Marsing area with a 896 telephone number

prefix living in the 83641 ZIP code can be included in the publication.
Interested residents are encouraged to contact Luana Capps at (208) 495-2202.

Death notice

LUCILE A. PETERSON, 92, of Homedale, died Friday, April 13, 2007, at a care center. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 21 at Cloverdale Funeral Home in Boise.



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Your finances

Several market factors can affect sale of a home

Dear Dave,

I borrowed money to build a spec home several months ago, and now I can't seem to sell it. It has a construction loan of \$78,000 against it but was appraised for \$114,000 and has been on the market over seven months. What can I do?

— Brett

Dear Brett,

If the house has been sitting there that long and hasn't sold, it sounds like the marketplace is saying the appraisal was wrong. If not, and most houses in that area are on the market for more than 200 days, then you shouldn't have built a spec home there in the first place.

Check the MLS statistic for the average number of days homes in that area are on the market. If the average number of days on the market is 38, then you know you've got either a design flaw, quality problem or a pricing problem.

I've got a feeling you're going to have to lower the price, Brett. Otherwise, the house is likely to sit there unoccupied for a long time!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My wife is a doctor, makes \$120,000 annually and she has \$123,000 in student loans. About \$86,000 of this amount are Stafford Loans on a variable rate. We were looking at having this paid off in six years. Recently, she was offered a fixed rate on these loans. Our combined income is about \$180,000. What do you think?

— Craig

Dear Craig,

There's nothing wrong with doing that, as long as the fixed rate is locked in and the company doesn't extend the terms on you. But I wouldn't wait six years to have this thing out of my life.

If you guys were used to getting by on about \$60,000 before she became a doctor, and now you're making \$180,000 that's a difference of \$120,000! I'd rather see you go back to living on a really tight budget and eating rice and beans for a year and a half to knock this debt out!

Freedom is never free, Craig. But if you guys get serious and work at it, you can get rid of that student loan debt and have lots more money in your pockets in no time!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I know how you feel about leasing a car. But what about



the car leasing programs that auto manufacturers offer their employees?

— Stephanie

Dear Stephanie,

Lots of automakers do this kind of thing, but I'd advise investigating the deal very carefully. And it wouldn't hurt to take a cold shower first — just to make sure you wash off any car fever that may be clinging to you.

Some of the automaker offers are just another way for the company to fleece drivers. But some manufacturers offer their employees programs that aren't a traditional lease. A few of them offer the use of a high-quality car for very little money per month and no hidden catches. In these cases it can work out pretty well. In some instances, you'd lose more in value every month — even if you bought a car with cash — than you would pay out under a good employee program. Some companies even offer gas and more in the deal.

Just make sure you check the details thoroughly. Use your head and a calculator — not your heart — when making the decision!

— Dave

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

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Calendar

Today

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

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

Saturday

Western Heritage Music Festival, \$10 adults, \$5 children, Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey Street, Murphy. (208) 495-2319

Owyhee Garden Club spring plant sale, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Marsing Community Garden, next to Marsing High School. (208) 896-5474 or (208) 896-4104

Sunday

Western Heritage Music Festival, \$10 adults, \$5 children, Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey Street, Murphy. (208) 495-2319

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

Tuesday

Grand View Elementary School kindergarten registration, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Grand View Elementary, First Street, Grand View. (208) 834-2775

Exercise class, 11 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center,

224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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

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

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

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

Wednesday

Melba Elementary School kindergarten registration, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Melba Elementary School, 521 Carrie Rex Ave., Melba. (208) 495-2508

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

Submit information to *The Owyhee Avalanche* by noon Fridays. 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*. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.



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Battling meth

Officials: Meth users start young

Easy addiction, meager treatment options make reform difficult

Owyhee County Probation is all-too-familiar with the local methamphetamine problem, and officials say children and adults alike are affected by abuse of the drug.

Probation officer Josh Schumacher said he has seen users as young as 12 years old. Chief probation administrator Doris Jewett said she has seen children even younger who have experimented with methamphetamine.

Jewett said the use of methamphetamine in Owyhee County transcends all age, racial and socio-economic boundaries. She added that methamphetamine use is a common denominator for approximately half of all probationers.

"I'd say more than 50 percent have tried drugs. I wouldn't say 50 percent have a drug problem," Jewett said.

Treatment options in Owyhee County are limited. With only two full-time probation officers and one part-time officer, the probation office's resources are stretched thin.

Schumacher said that of the large number of probationers who use illegal drugs, better than half are abusing methamphetamine. He said that an almost equal number of probationers admit to using methamphetamine as admit

to using marijuana.

Both Jewett and Schumacher agree that most of their probationers state that the first time they use methamphetamine is the most intense. After that, users are forever trying to regain that initial rush. To do so, users often resort to using more and more of the substance.

"The problem is that it is just such a highly addictive substance," Schumacher said. "When kids try it, they are always trying to go back and catch that first high."

"That's what they tell us in training, that the kids will do more and more, trying to get back to the original 'high.' Supposedly, it is the most euphoric thing that has ever happened to those who have tried it," Jewett said.

With such an allure, combating methamphetamine use is nearly impossible.

"It's tough," Jewett said. "We do education; we do drug testing; we check grades to make sure kids are maintaining."

"For a small town, I think we keep pretty good track of what the kids are doing, but as far as getting them to quit, we don't know how to do it."

Schumacher there are few options in Owyhee County for users who want—or ordered by the court—to get treatment.

"One of the problems is that

there's not really a whole lot of treatment out here," he said. "We do a small amount, but we don't have anybody that can actually do a complete group."

For most, the nearest options are in Canyon County.

In addition to the logistical aspects of traveling to sessions out-of-town, there are financial considerations in obtaining treatment.

Jewett said that there is some government financial assistance for treatment programs, but probationers still have to pick up a good percentage of the tab.

"There is some state funding, but they have to qualify and then they have to go to a program that is set up to accept the state funding. If they don't have that, groups can be pretty expensive," Jewett said. "It can cost them anywhere from \$40 to \$60 per session to go to group or individual counseling."

Jewett said that a typical sentence can mandate between eight and 64 hours of treatment. Schumacher said that some programs run as low as \$10 per session, but those are not typical.

While Jewett said she doesn't have answers as to how to stop methamphetamine use, she is clear about what she would like to see happen.

"I don't know a solution, but I would like to see the community come together more to help kids," she said.

—JWB



Authorities see decrease in home labs

Then-Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Dick Freund, left, and Sgt. Jim Bish, right, secure Trent Mitchell after a meth lab explosion at his Marsing home in July 2003.

Labs decline, but drug still prevalent

Mexican traffickers meet demand; abuse impacts jail's medical budget

According to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant drug that affects the central nervous system. It is usually illegally produced and distributed. It comes in several forms, including powder, crystal, rocks and tablets.

When it comes in crystal form it is called "crystal meth" or "crystal." Methamphetamine is typically ingested by snorting, smoking, swallowing or injecting it with a hypodermic needle.

Methamphetamine can be made from commonly occurring chemicals found in many retail stores and pharmacies. The most common ingredient in methamphetamine is pseudoephedrine, commonly found in original-formula Sudafed or Actifed tablets, or ephedrine, commonly found in over-the-counter asthma medications such as Bronchaid or Primatene.

Through a cooking process, the pseudoephedrine or ephedrine is chemically changed into meth.

The ingredients that are used in the process can include ether, paint thinner, Freon, acetone, anhydrous ammonia, iodine crystals, red phosphorous (a material found in matches), drain cleaner, battery acid and lithium, usually extracted from batteries.

Meth can be manufactured or "cooked" in very crude laboratories. Many of these labs, such as the one found at the Sunnydale Motel in Homedale in 2006, are not sophisticated and do not require elaborate chemistry equipment. And, the people cooking it do not usually have chemistry training.

Officials point out that this manufacturing method is quickly losing favor, in part because of stricter regulations on raw materials, such as products that contain pseudoephedrine.

The supply of methamphetamine has not dwindled, however. According to both the DOJ and Owyhee County Sheriff

— See **Drug**, page 9A

'The problem is that it is just such a highly addictive substance. When kids try it, they are always trying to go back and catch that first high.'

— **Josh Schumacher**
Owyhee County probation officer

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Battling meth

Judge: problem requires comprehensive solution

In his 12th year wearing judge’s robes in Owyhee County, Judge Thomas J. Ryan sees the effects of methamphetamine use in his courtroom on an hourly basis. Ryan is also a Drug Court judge in Canyon County, which deals overwhelmingly with methamphetamine users.

“The first part of the answer has to be ‘Where do I start?’” Ryan said. “Methamphetamine has grown into almost an epidemic in our state. There is heavy use going on in Owyhee County.

“The methamphetamine problem is affecting all of us in one way or another, whether it is because we are filling our jails with people with methamphetamine problems or filling our mental institutions, it is an increased burden to the taxpayer.”

The judge says that the state government as a whole understands the solution goes beyond locking users away.

“It’s pretty evident that our state legislature, the governor and the courts recognize that if we continue to handle the methamphetamine problem by just throwing people in jail, it’s going to cost all of us way too much money,” Ryan said.

Ryan said that the average cost of incarceration, whether in a county or state facility, is between \$50 and \$60 per day.

Ryan said that methamphetamine possession, a felony crime, often is a springboard to other problems he deals with from the bench.

“Consumption and possession of methamphetamine itself is a crime, but its use causes theft crimes because users need resources to be able to afford their addiction,” he said.

“It’s a drug that causes people to grow violent. So, not only are you talking about property crimes, but you are talking about assault and battery crimes. A lot of domestic violence issues grow out of methamphetamine use.

“It affects families. It affects children, especially. We see ‘meth babies’ born nearly every day in our community;

“It affects children because we see grandparents raising their grandchildren because the parents have been abusing methamphetamine.

“It permeates a lot of different areas of society.”

Ryan said that a comprehensive solution is the only answer. While he said that the local manufacture of methamphetamine has largely dried up because of legislation passed to restrict access to the raw materials —iodine, anhydrous ammonia and pseudoephedrine — the continued proliferation of methamphetamine from huge Mexican drug labs brings about other important questions.

And, Ryan says, it’ll take more than part-time state legislators to battle the product flowing from labs south of the border.

“It is just being imported from Mexico,” Ryan said. “When you start talking about how to address (imported methamphetamine), you really have to start talking to our congressmen and senators because we’re talking about international regulation of pseudoephedrine.”

Ryan said that to his knowledge, there are no pseudoephedrine manufacturers in the United States, and that controlling the manufacture of the drug is an international problem.

“There is no way we can attack this problem with one theory or one source,” he said.

Ryan said that education, rehabilitation and restriction of raw materials used in making the drug are three things that can help, but still there are no easy answers.

“All of these things are factors,” the judge said. “I don’t think there is any one you can look to, to be the absolute solution. We have to attack it from as many different ways as we can.”

— JWB

√ Drug: Methamphetamine’s elusive ‘high’ leads to life-threatening binges

From Page xx

Gary Aman, most of the methamphetamine found in the United States is being manufactured south of the border in Mexican “superlabs.”

“Since we have started seeing the product from Mexican superlabs, our local meth labs have dropped considerably,” Aman said. “That is the norm for all of Treasure Valley. Our last one was at the (Sunnydale Motel) in Homedale. We have seen numerous dump sites of chemicals and other materials in the last couple years.”

Superlabs produce large quantities of meth and supply organized drug traffickers, who sell the drug in communities across the U.S. The Department of Justice says most of the larger labs are controlled by Mexican drug trafficking organizations operating in the U.S. and Mexico.

Drug use affects skin, teeth

Ingestion of methamphetamine causes an immediate increase in energy and alertness, a decrease in appetite, and an intense, euphoric “rush” for a short period.

High doses of meth can elevate body temperature to dangerous, potentially lethal levels. The DOJ also states that high doses can cause convulsions.

Lisa Price, an emergency medical technician with the Homedale Ambulance, said short-term effects of large doses of meth can be devastating.

“It increases the heart rate, can cause chest pain and cardiac arrest,” Price said.

According to the government, sustained use leads to a level of tolerance to the drug, causing the user to gradually use higher doses to obtain the same effect.

Users may go on “binges” or change the way they ingest the substance. For example, a meth user may begin taking the drug orally in pill form. As tolerance develops, he or she might inject, or “slam” it to introduce it into the bloodstream faster. Addiction can follow.

The Department of Justice lists possible long-term meth side-effects as irritability, fatigue, headaches, anxiety, sleeplessness, confusion, aggressive feelings, violent rages, cravings for more meth and depression.

According to DOJ’s meth awareness Web site:

“(Users) may become psychotic and experience paranoia, auditory hallucinations, mood disturbances and delusions. The paranoia may lead to homicidal or suicidal thoughts.

“A fairly common hallucination experienced by meth users is the so-called ‘crank bug.’ The user gets the sensation that there are insects creeping on top of, or underneath, his or her skin. The user will pick or scratch the skin trying to get rid of the imaginary bugs. The scratching can create open sores that may become infected.”

The agency says the drug’s effect is not limited to the skin, but also can have a profound, destructive effect on a user’s mouth:


“Meth reduces the amount of protective saliva around the teeth. Meth users also consume excesses sugared, carbonated soft drinks, tend to neglect personal hygiene, grind their teeth and clench their jaws, leading to what is commonly called ‘meth mouth.’ Teeth can eventually fall out of user’s mouths,” the DOJ Web site states.

When meth users spend time in jail, taxpayers foot the bill for their dental bills.

Aman says it takes a chunk out of the county jail’s medical budget each year.

“The toll on county jail medical, etc., is not known, per se,” Aman wrote in e-mail. “I would estimate it at \$5,000.”

— JWB



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Senior menus

Marsing center

April 19: Oven fried chicken, scalloped potatoes, green beans, carrot salad, drink, dessert.
April 23: Breakfast to order 8 a.m. to noon. No lunch.
April 24: Fish, meatloaf, potatoes, oriental vegetables, coleslaw, soup, drink, dessert.
April 25: Breakfast to order 8 a.m. to noon. Lunch: Hamburger or hot dog.

Homedale center

April 18: Italian sausage with pepper & onion, hoagie, tossed salad, vegetable soup & drink.
April 19: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, California blend vegetables, roll, drink.
April 24: Grilled chicken breast, baked potato, green beans, drink.
April 25: Zesty taco salad with nacho chips, corn muffin, drink.

Group to hold food giveaway at Rimrock High on Saturday

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and the Idaho Foodbank will hold a food giveaway at Rimrock High School in Bruneau from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday.

Local members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and other volunteers will unload and distribute food items from a 24-foot refrigerated truck, called a "Mobile Food Pantry," at the school.

Organizers state that the truck will be filled with food items such as meat, black beans, potatoes, corn, carrots, juice, Powerbars, bread and more. The food will be given away free on a first-come, first-served basis.

Organizers expect to pack the 24-foot Thrivent Homegrown Help Truck with enough food for up to 200 families. A similar truck has been in service in North Idaho for nine months.

Rimrock High School is located at 39678 State Highway 78 in Bruneau.

According to a press release from Thrivent Financial, the Idaho Foodbank has targeted Owyhee County as one area in need of additional food supply.

The release states that more than 81,000 Idaho residents receive emergency food assistance from the foodbank one or more times a year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture rates Idaho as the eighth-hungriest state in the country.

For more information, contact Sally Shockey at (208) 587-8732 or sshockey7@msn.com.

Anniversary

Youngs set to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary

Homedale area residents Neomi and Leonard R. Young will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends on April 28, 2007.

The Youngs were married on April 28, 1947, in Burley. The couple owned the Youngs Corner store on Homedale Road in Canyon County until the mid-1970s.

The anniversary celebration will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. April 28 at the home of the Youngs' daughter, Laura, and her husband Dave Newman at 6624 Sunrise Ave. in Nampa.

The couple's other children also will host the celebration, and they include Jimmie and Barbara



Neomi and Leonard R. Young
Young, Doris Alandi and Darlene and Craig Wolford.
The family asks for no gifts.
For more information, call 249-9525.

Birthdays

Mother and son share milestones this month

Helen Floyd and her son Jerry will share milestone birthday celebrations during a gathering April 28, 2007, in the Marsing area.

Helen will turn 90 on the same day her son marks is 65th birthday.

An open house will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 28 at the home of Jerry and Sue Floyd at 9159 Riverside Road.

For more information, call 459-4959.



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Dispatchers provide lifelines, calm



Owyhee County Sheriff's Dispatch

"You've got to do what you need to do to get (the call) done, because there are lives on the line...Our No. 1 goal is to get help where we need it," Owyhee Sheriff's Dispatch supervisor Linda Gerthung said. Dispatchers like Gerthung, left, and at right in the above photo with Toni Wunsch, must perform a juggling act, taking emergency calls and communicating with emergency responders, while keeping a calm, cool head. Photos by Tiffany Walker

Unsung county workers play vital emergency role

Segregated in a small room surrounded by computer screens, police radios and telephones, Owyhee County Sheriff's dispatchers are the first link in the emergency service chain.

They obtain vital information from often hysterical callers as they dispatch law enforcement, fire and emergency medical personnel and provide them with lifesaving information.

"We have to be able to listen to the radio, focus on the officers, and also listen to what the caller is telling us," Owyhee County Dispatch supervisor Linda Gerthung said. "That is either on the phone or on the 911 system. While we're in the middle of that, we have to page out (emergency medical) or whatever is needed."

"It's kind of jumping back and forth, both on changing channels, paging out (volunteer EMS and fire crews), going back to the primary channel."

Dispatchers sometimes deal with language barriers, and in the case of a major emergency, a flood of callers reporting the same incident.

Also, they must do all of that with professionalism and accuracy.

"They are the first person the person that needs help talks to," Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said. "A lot of times, they can set the tone for the officer."

Aman said they are also the first line of defense for an officer who may be wading into a potentially hazardous situation. Dispatchers often obtain vital officer safety information, such as weapons that might be present at an emergency scene.

"They are the officer's lifeline. It takes a very special person to do this," the sheriff said.

Recently, dispatcher Bev White was recognized for her performance during the carbon monoxide poisoning incident of

a Homedale family. Her actions helped save eight lives.

Part of the ability to be able to solicit information is inherent in the special type of person it takes to be a dispatcher, but some of it is engrained through months of training.

"Actually, they undergo more training to take shift by themselves than a deputy does," Aman said. "The average training for a dispatcher is probably four to five months before they are let loose on their own."

Dispatchers' safety role is not limited to deputies in the field and citizens. Aman said they are also tasked with monitoring cameras inside the Owyhee County Jail and watching out for jail deputies' safety while they deal with sometimes-dangerous inmates inside the facility.

Gerthung said there often is only a single dispatcher on duty during the night shift. If she is lucky, a deputy from the jail will assist.

Gerthung added that in the event of a major incident such as a serious car crash or fire, there will often be many callers calling in to report the same incident. Callers often relaying different or conflicting details can flood the four 911 emergency phone lines and six non-emergency lines.

Also, citizens calling in an incident often are in a very excited emotional state, compounding the difficult job of gathering

information. The first step for dispatchers is managing to calm the calling party enough to get vital details. Sometimes that entails providing directions to the caller to give lifesaving treatment.

"We have to try and calm them down. It is amazing," Gerthung said. "I had a teenager who called one day because her dad fell and cut his head. She was hysterical because he was bleeding. I had to tell her to put some pressure on the cut."

"I paged out the ambulance to the call, and I told her 'I need you to calm down so I can understand you.' It was amazing, the switch. They listen to you, as long as you keep an even tone."

Gerthung recalled another dispatcher that used quick thinking to derail a suicidal man who was contemplating shooting himself.

"When Sherry Olson was still dispatch supervisor, she talked to the person and had him put the gun in the freezer, and that kind of 'threw him out-of-whack.' That was a life saved," Gerthung said.

Gerthung said that sometimes in the midst of an emergency — such as the drowning of a 13-year-old boy last month at C.J. Strike Reservoir — dispatchers receive non-emergency calls, such as a property-damage automobile accident, that must be placed on hold.

Sometimes the callers don't understand and take their

frustrations about their situations out on dispatchers.

"I had the (C.J. Strike) drowning call," Gerthung said. "The phones were going off-the-hook, and I had to put people on hold. There was a (non-emergency) caller on one of the lines, I asked if he could 'hold.'"

"He held, because I had a good four or five lines going. I came back and I asked if he had an emergency or could he continue to hold. He (rudely) said, 'I'm just going to hang up.'"

Aman said that often dispatchers must prioritize calls based on threats to public safety. Sometimes property-type crimes, such as burglaries or thefts, must take a backseat to a life-threatening emergency such as a severe car accident or a fire.

"They have multiple tasks to do constantly," Aman said. "Every person who calls in is important, but not every call is as important as other calls. It's a juggling act that they have to do."

Dispatchers are the unsung

heroes and heroines of emergency services. Often, callers take their frustrations out about a given situation on them, and they rarely ever get a 'thank you' for their services.

"We're kind of in the 'hole' as thank-yous go," Gerthung said. "It's gotten to where we just don't expect them, because we're just a voice."

Dispatchers face emotional challenges, as well, often dealing with tragedy on duty, then having to quickly shift gears. Gerthung said that dealing with a tragic situation on a 911 emergency can take its toll.

"Sometimes, you just go home and 'have your moment,'" Gerthung said. "One thing you try not to do is put yourself in that place (at the scene). You get in a 'zone.' You've got to do what you need to do to get (the call) done, because there are lives on the line."

"Our Number 1 goal is to get help where we need it.

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Chamber settles on its mission statement

Homedale group appoints committees to brainstorm on promotional ideas

Things look to be heading in the right direction for the Homedale Chamber of Commerce.

Business leaders showed up at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant for Thursday's monthly meeting ready to work and looking toward the future.

In addition to developing a mission statement, Chamber members also formed two committees to help bring the statement to fruition.

Nearly 20 people attended the luncheon, which was sponsored by Bowen-Parker-Day CPAs. Thursday marked the first time that any business had sponsored the luncheon — an idea suggested by Nampa Chamber of Commerce CEO Georgia Bowman-Gunstream during her discussion with the Homedale Chamber a month ago.

Homedale Chamber president Gavin Parker said businesses will be able to reserve future luncheon sponsorships with a \$50 fee that will be used to bolster the Chamber's bank account.

For the initial \$50, Bowen-Parker-Day was allowed to set up a table featuring products the company offers both in tax preparation and investing. Parker and Brad Dines told fellow Chamber members what services the firm had to offer, too.

Parker opened the luncheon by announcing that the event would be a working meeting, and Chamber members were able to get quite a few things accomplished.

Chief on the list was the

establishment of a mission statement. Parker presented attendees with four options and encouraged them to mix and match phrases to come up with a statement.

After a lengthy discussion and brainstorming session, Chamber members approved the mission statement as: "The mission of the Homedale Chamber of Commerce is to promote and effect positive change in our community's economic environment and quality of life."

The Chamber also appointed two committees to help achieve its mission as well as bolster the organization's fiscal viability.

The Chamber board, consisting of Parker (president), Dines (vice-president/treasurer) and Tami Steinmetz (secretary), will serve on both committees with help from individuals from member businesses.

Other appointments could be made at a later date, but the core committee members were set Thursday.

Maleta Henry, representing Rehab Authority, Robin Aberasturi of Alliance Title, Greg Evans of Idaho Power and Sheila Matteson from Dairyland Seed, will serve on the fund-raising and events committee.

Events could be homespun by the Chamber, such as after-hour business tours and the monthly meetings, or the organization could piggyback on city events already on the calendar, Parker said.



The perks of sponsorship

Parker-Bowen-Day CPAs served as the inaugural sponsor for the monthly Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon Thursday at the Owyhee Lanes and Restaurant. For a \$50 sponsorship fee, the company was permitted to set up a table showcasing its products and services, and representatives educated attendees of the noontime meeting about the firm.

"Every event is an opportunity to raise a little money for the Chamber," he said. "But obviously our focus is to do what we can for our businesses."

Developer Ron Mayhew, Owyhee Publishing Co. representative Rob Aman and Homedale City Clerk Alice Pegram will serve on the marketing committee.

"The marketing committee's focus is to help promote business in Homedale and promote economic change for the better," Parker said.

Parker said the marketing committee could focus on what's

unique about Homedale as a way to attract more business and tourism to town.

The marketing committee also will oversee the implementation of the Chamber's planned Web site and the development of the new business directory.

Luncheon attendees also agreed that Pegram's presence on the committee is key in recruiting new members because the first stop for most business people new to Homedale usually is City Hall.

"We're trying to make this fun, and if you have a successful business that probably means you enjoy it and have fun," Parker

said. "It should be that way with the Chamber and networking."

Parker said that the agenda for the next Chamber luncheon, scheduled for noon on May 10, will include hearing proposals from two businesses interested in producing the organization's business directory. He also said a "motivational" guest speaker could be put on the agenda, too, but wouldn't give further details.

Parker reported that the Easter egg hunt at Sundance Park on April 7 was a big success, and reminded members to pay their annual dues before the next meeting.

— JPB



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BLM: Cove Rec Site open for 2007 camping season

The Bureau of Land Management has opened Cove Recreation Site on C.J. Strike Reservoir between Grand View and Bruneau for the 2007 camping season.

The BLM began collecting fees for overnight camping and day-use on April 6. The recreation area has restrooms, fire rings/grills and drinking water.

Site fees include \$2 for day-use (park in non-campsite areas), \$5

per night for tent camping and \$12 per night for recreational vehicle camping, which is open to pickup campers, trailers and motor homes.

Sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and there is a 14-day camping limit.

Camp hosts provide general information to visitors about the recreation site, collect camp fees and keep the site free of litter. They also act as a relay point in the emergency response system by contacting BLM or the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office for medical emergencies, law enforcement assistance or other issues requiring outside help.

The sheriff's office also seeks volunteers to serve on the C.J. Strike Force. Force members must be frequent recreational users of the reservoir, and they'll help with crime prevention, litter control and maintaining safety around the reservoir, Snake River and Bruneau River.

Let our readers know

What's happening

Get in the Calendar.

Submit information on fund-raisers, dances, meetings or special events.

Call (208) 337-4681 for details



Adrian actors take the stage

Under the leadership of drama advisors Stephanie Allison and Loraine VanCorbach, the Adrian High Drama Club presented “Anything Goes” — a musical set aboard a European-bound cruise ship — on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Photos by Angie Sillonis and Adrian High Photography



SC Fire shows off equipment, gives thanks with open house

Silver City Fire & Rescue Inc., plans an open house later this month in Murphy to show appreciation for the support and donations it has received. The open house will run from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 28 at the Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey Street. The SCF&R’s three fire engines and emergency medical services van will be displayed during the open house. There will be equipment demonstrations, live music and refreshments. Silver City Fire & Rescue began 1½ years ago and has grown into a well-trained emergency response crew, according to a press release announcing the open house. Volunteers have been trained as first-responders and wildland

firefighters. Other training this spring included extrication; epinephrine auto-injector administration; the administration of cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated extended defibrillators (AEDs) and oxygen; bloodborne pathogens for the professional rescuer; and incident command IC-132. SCF&R still seeks volunteers as well as the donation of good equipment to meet fire suppression and EMS needs. SCF&R organizers say Silver City’s status as an Idaho landmark and the growth of vegetation in the area, off-road vehicle use and tourists makes the need for first response and fire control critical.

Feds to help with sage-grouse

Efforts to preserve sage-grouse habitat in the Idaho-Oregon-Nevada corner country got a shot in the arm last week when Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced \$3 million in funding for the Healthy Lands Initiative.

More than 10 percent of the money (\$380,000) is ear-marked for the southern Idaho-Snake River Plains to help restore habitat through planting of sagebrush seedlings and invasive weed control.

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Salmon Wellington
Puff pastry encloses flavorful salmon, spinach and herbs in a main dish fit for a special occasion. Wellington preparations are thought to take a great deal of time and skill to make. However, with the time saver of purchased puff pastry, it's a breeze. The bundles can be prepared up to a week in advance and then frozen. Just pop them in the oven when needed.

Note: Puff pastry must be cold (but not frozen) when placed into a hot oven in order for the pastry to become light and flaky.

- Makes: 4 servings
- 1 tablespoon sweet butter
 - 1-1/2 tablespoons shallots or onion, minced
 - 1/2 cup frozen spinach, defrosted and well drained,
 - 1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 - 1/2 tablespoon lemon zest
 - 1 teaspoon thyme or dill, minced
 - Kosher salt and cracked black pepper
 - 1-1/2 tablespoons crumbled feta cheese
 - 4 thick, skinless fillets of salmon (about 6 ounces each)
 - 2 packages puff pastry (defrosted in refrigerator)
 - 1 lightly beaten egg
 - 1 teaspoon milk

1. Heat sauté pan with butter over medium heat. Add shallots and sauté 3 to 4 minutes until softened. Reduce heat to medium-low and add spinach, nutmeg, lemon zest, thyme, salt and pepper. Sauté 2 to 3 minutes; remove from heat and stir in feta. Taste for seasoning and let cool.
2. Lightly salt and pepper each piece of salmon and top with 2 tablespoons of spinach mixture.
3. Roll out pastry sheets on lightly floured board. Cut 1 piece of pastry for bottom of each fillet — about 1 inch larger than the salmon. Cut a second piece large enough to drape over fillet and touch counter, plus 1 inch to spare all the way around.
4. Brush edge of smaller sheet with lightly beaten egg mixed with milk. Place 1 piece of salmon in center of pastry. Drape larger piece over salmon and seal the two pieces of dough together by folding and pleating like a pie crust. Repeat for each “package.” Chill at least 30 minutes or freeze up to 1 week before baking.
5. Preheat oven to 425°F. Brush top of each package with a small amount of egg/milk mixture. Put on sheet pan lined with parchment paper and a dusting of corn meal. Bake in preheated oven for 18 to 23 minutes, until golden. Let rest 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

Treat Mom

on Her Special Day

FAMILY FEATURES

What can family members do special this year for Mom? Most Moms dream of a fine meal they don't have to shop for, cook or clean up afterwards. Often going out for breakfast on Mother's Day can mean dealing with long lines and slow service. But Dad and the kids can rise to the occasion and prepare a meal themselves at home that can be a real treat.

Even the dad who only makes breakfast on weekends can cater a fine restaurant meal at home, with kids as willing sous chefs. It's easy when your family shops where the pros shop, such as Sam's Club for frozen appetizers, readymade pastry, organic produce, fine wines, quality meats, great breads and fabulous cheesecake ready to thaw and serve.

For a crowning touch, add an unexpected and affordable luxury gift and Mom just might decide to sign on for another year.

Check out www.samsclub.com — or the Sam's Club nearest you — for more great Mother's Day ideas.

Mother's Day Game Plan

Here's the game plan for catering a Mother's Day meal at home.

- Chill the champagne or make a delicious punch a few hours before the meal.
- Read the instructions on the box, then pop those frozen appetizers in the oven.
- Prepare and cook the salmon.
- Slice up some fresh fruit or bread.
- Finish with a deliciously moist cheesecake — a Mom favorite. (Remember to thaw it beforehand.)
- Serve Mom in bed — let her relax and enjoy the meal and her day.
- Have the kids clean up the kitchen.
- Watch Mom smile.

Mom's Secret Wish List

Mom usually puts the needs of her family first. But if she were really honest, she would say she'd love to have something from this list. And, Dads, when you shop smart, these become affordable luxuries.

1. **Diamonds.** They're always a girl's best friend. Diamond solitaire earrings go with everything — jeans on the soccer field, a suit at the office or workout clothes at the gym.
2. **Designer Fragrances.** Perfume and cologne in her special scent makes Mom feel pampered and special.
3. **Furniture.** Surprise her with something she's been wanting, whether it's the armoire for the great room, a new desk for the home office or even a new leather sofa.
4. **Chocolate.** Always a treat, especially now that health experts have declared that dark chocolate is actually good for us. Now, will it be Godiva or Ghirardelli?
5. **Culinary Ware.** If Mom has been trying to make culinary masterpieces from a mismatched set of cookware from her early married days, it's time for an upgrade. Or, maybe she'd love a stand mixer or a great platter.

Cranberry Splash Punch

Makes: 8 servings

- 4 cups cranberry juice
- 3 cups pineapple juice
- 1/2 cup cherry juice
- 2 cups puréed strawberries or raspberries (fresh or frozen)
- 6 cups ice cubes
- 2 lemons, sliced
- 2 limes, sliced
- 3 cups orange soda or ginger ale

Mix all juices and puréed berries and chill thoroughly. To serve, put punch in handsome container and add ice and fruit. Slowly stir in orange soda.





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Meat Bologna **\$1.19** ea.

Cucumbers **2 for \$1**
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Head Lettuce **99¢** ea.
All Varieties
Tomatoes **99¢** lb.

1 lb.
Baby Carrots **99¢** ea.
Jalapenos **79¢** lb.
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White or Wheat Bread **\$1.69** ea.

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Western Family 32 oz.
Grape Jelly **\$1.29** ea.

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Coke Products **\$1.29** ea.

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\$9.99 ea.
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Budweiser Beer **\$12.99** ea.

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Half Gallon **\$1.49** ea.

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16 oz. **\$1.09** ea.

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& Rice A Roni
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