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**Wednesday, April 25, 2007**

**Established 1865**

# The Owyhee Avalanche

**VOLUME 23, NUMBER 17**

**HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO**

**SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS**

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mechanic  
to nationals  
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## Educator moving on



### Field gets on the court

*Outgoing Homedale Middle School principal Keith Field doesn't like being behind a desk, so he gets out and plays basketball with his students any chance he gets.*

## Principal recalls 13 years in Homedale

The end of the 2006-07 school year marks the end of Homedale Middle School Principal Keith Field's tenure at the Homedale School District.

The 13-year Homedale educator will leave the district in June to pursue a position as the principal of Park Ridge Elementary in Nampa.

He will be replaced by Luci

Asumendi-Mereness, who now serves as language arts and literature teacher at Homedale Middle School, as well as athletic director.

Field recalled his tenure with Homedale, from his start here in 1993 as a math teacher to his current slot at the middle school.

"In the fall of 1990, I was at

South Junior High in Nampa, now it's a middle school," said Field, who was a math teacher at South. "I did that for three years. I taught a mix of seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade, and I did a little bit of tennis coaching as well. Then,

— See *Principal*, page 5A

— *Trustees approve successor*, page 5A

## County WNV liaison quits

Homedale's Dr. John Noak, who was placed in charge of spearheading Owyhee County's West Nile Virus (WNV) campaign, resigned his position earlier this month.

Noak, who was appointed as liaison at the end of March, cited a lack of desire to head a committee to combat the spread of WNV in 2007.

"I'm not angry, not disappointed, not bitter ... none of that," Noak said.

"When they (county commissioners) directed me to form a committee ... that is an impossible thing for me to do."

In a resignation letter dated April 6 and obtained by The

— See *Liaison*, page 5A



*John Noak*

## Lengthy sentence for sex offender

A Nampa man was sentenced to up to 12 years in prison in Owyhee County courts this month.

According to a press release from Owyhee County Prosecutor Matthew Faulks, George L. Scott, 62, will spend at least the next two years in the state penitentiary as part of a plea agreement.

On April 13, District Judge

Gregory M. Culet sentenced Scott on the charge of lewd and lascivious conduct with a minor under the age of 16.

Scott was sentenced to a total of 12 years with the Idaho Department of Correction, with two years of that sentence fixed.

— See *Sentence*, page 4A

## Fink strives to expand city's options

When it comes to economic development, the City of Homedale's philosophy seems to be you can never have too many irons in the fire.

Days after announcing that Burley-based King's Discount Stores had taken a step toward becoming chief developer of commercial property near the airport, Mayor Paul Fink held two more meetings to discuss the town's economic future.

In the past two weeks, Fink has met with the executive director of the Boise Valley Economic Partnership (BVEP) and the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners in an effort to build options for Homedale.

Homedale is poised to join a group of small communities in Canyon and Owyhee counties that will apply for a state grant to hire an economic development officer for the region.

"This individual will be working for, I believe, Grand View, Marsing and Homedale," Fink said. "We'll become a joint partnership with Canyon County. I think that helps us a lot."

Sage Community Resources will be writing the application for an annual grant of \$41,500 from the Idaho Department of Commerce & Labor to finance

— See *Options*, page 4A



## Effort to revive Marsing Chamber begins

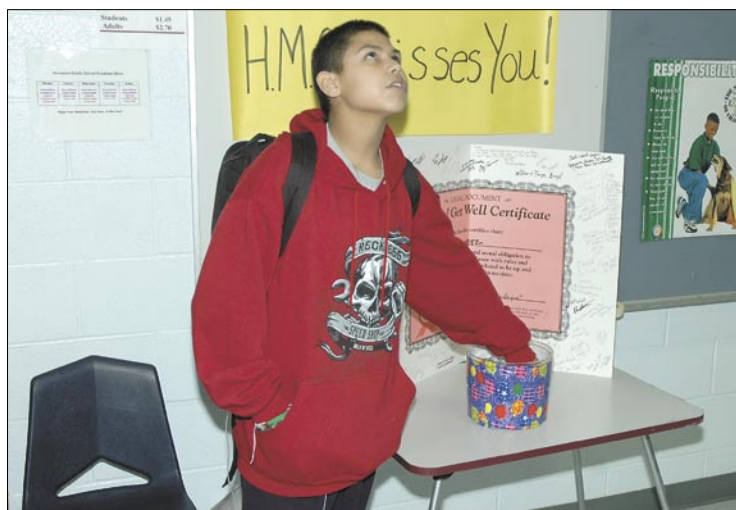
After months of inactivity, the Marsing Chamber of Commerce will try to kick-start its organization during a meeting Thursday.

Chamber officials have invited business owners or representatives to a 7 p.m. meeting Thursday at the Essence of Life on 111 Main St.

The purpose of the meeting, according to a flier being circulated, is to "revise and restart" the organization, which had played a big part in the city's Old Time Festival and Doodlebug Race in the past.

Organizers are seeking ideas and support from the local business community.

"Now is the time to voice your opinion and make a difference," the flier states.



### Hernandez back in school for day

**Top:** Homedale Middle School seventh-grader Jorge Hernandez, center, is all smiles as he poses with classmates Amanda Cook, left, and Lyndee Coombs on Friday. Cook and Coombs helped organize a benefit in City Park for Hernandez. **Above:** Hernandez draws one of the winning raffle tickets.

## 111 HMS student returns to draw winning ticket

Homedale Middle School seventh-grader Jorge Hernandez returned to campus Friday during lunch to draw the winning tickets in a raffle started by his mentor, Betty Arriaga, to raise money to help Hernandez's family with medical bills.

Hernandez has been out of school since December fighting infection after doctors removed his gall bladder and discovered a non-cancerous cyst on his pancreas.

Fund-raisers such as Arriaga's raffle for 25 pounds of Alaskan King crab, a carnival organized by classmates Amanda Cook and

Lyndee Coombs and a series of bake sales have raised nearly \$6,000.

During lunchtime in a crowded cafeteria Friday, Hernandez drew a ticket owned by Sherry Schoonover for the crab. Shelley Blodgett won second prize of a sampler of smoke salmon from Yakatak, Alaska, which is near Arriaga's former hometown of Dutch Harbor.

"I cannot believe that people in Homedale would help me and my family," a soft-spoken Hernandez said after calling Schoonover and Blodgett to personally deliver news of their good fortune.

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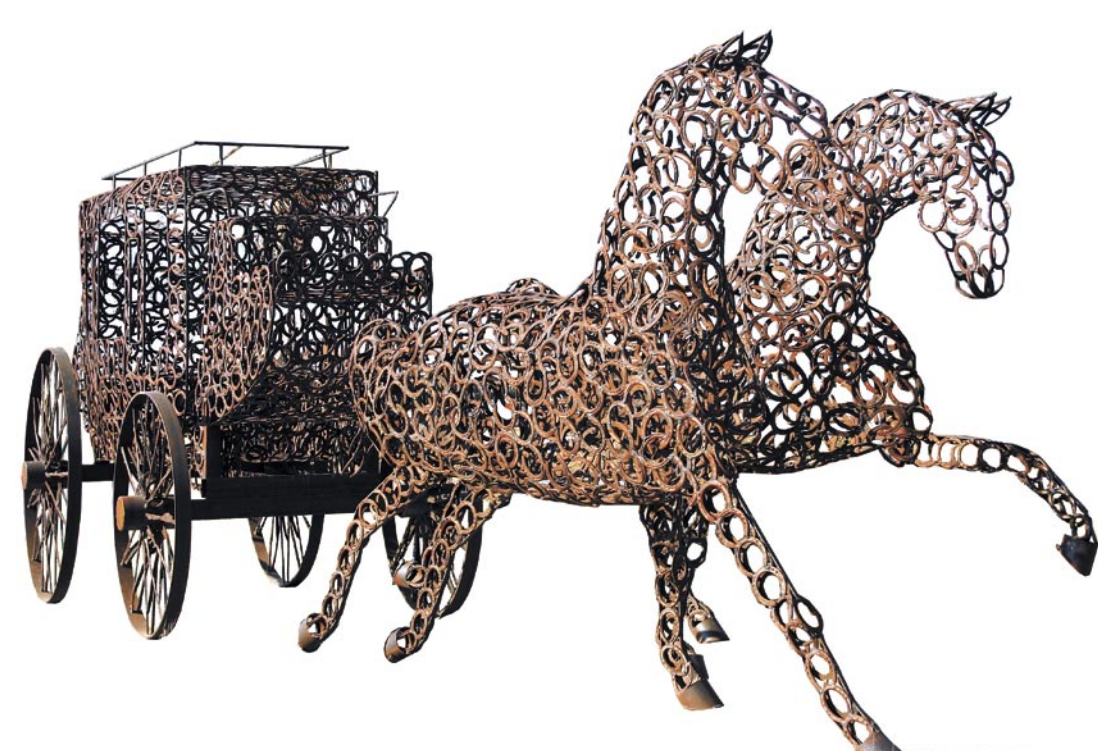


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Two (or more) horses for Homedale?

Homedale Middle School teacher Barbie Vander Boegh wants to start a drive to raise money and attract a grant to buy a horseshoe sculpture made by a Caldwell artist.

Teacher seeks sculpture grant

Vander Boegh strives to place unique artwork at town’s entrance

A Homedale resident wants to bring the stage back to town, but she needs community support to pull it off.

Barbie Vander Boegh, a teacher at Homedale Middle School, is trying to secure a grant to buy — either in part or whole — a horseshoe sculpture by a Caldwell artist. Her objective: Park the sculpture of a stagecoach and up to six horses on land near the city’s “Welcome to Homedale” sign at the intersection of U.S. Highway 95 and East Idaho Avenue.

“That would dress up our town so people wouldn’t pass us by,” Vander Boegh said of the sculpture created by Jay Russell.

“We they started taking down the wrecking yard, it seemed like something that could happen.”

Vander Boegh said that Russell’s asking price for the sculpture — actually a series of seven individual creations — is \$7,000 per piece. The complete life-sized sculpture would cost

\$49,000, but Vander Boegh said the stagecoach and two horses — valued at \$21,000 — would work fine for a focal point on the highway.

As a way to start building funds for the purchase, Vander Boegh has applied for \$5,000 grant from the Idaho Community Foundation.

The application deadline is July 1, but Vander Boegh said the guidelines of the ICF grant requires applicants to show community support and input for the project between May 1 and July 1.

Vander Boegh’s idea to show that support is setting up donation cans around town. City Hall staff also has agreed to accept donations for the cause.

“We do have a donation line item now,” Homedale City Clerk Alice Pegram said. “Apparently (city officials) have used that in the past for other types of things when people have made donations

to a specific cause.”

Receipts will be given for any donations at City Hall because the donations are tax deductible.

Vander Boegh said she still is trying to round up collection cans to place in local businesses, too.

The ICF grant board will make a decision in October on which causes in the Southwest Region will get money. Vander Boegh said if the city is successful in its pursuit of the grant, the money will arrive in December.

Vander Boegh said she missed the deadline to file for Idaho Humanities Council grant by one day. She will be re-applying for that grant because the \$5,000 ICF grant won’t be enough to buy even one piece of the sculpture.

Vander Boegh originally brought the sculpture idea to the city council last year.

— JPB

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County puts limits on ATV speeds, truck weight on some roads

ATV, motorbike and utility-type vehicle (UTV) operators in Owyhee County now have to obey a 25 mph speed limit while traveling on county roads.

At its April 16 meeting, the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners passed resolution No. 07-04, which set a speed limit for various recreational vehicles.

The Board also passed Resolution No. 07-05, which sets weight limits for vehicles allowed to travel on Juniper Mountain and Pleasant Valley roads. The limit will be 16,000 pounds per axle.

County Ordinance resolution No. 07-04, which went into effect on April 16, makes it an infraction to operate “any UTV, motorbike or ATV for travel upon any highway or road in the county at a speed greater than 25 miles-per-hour.”

The resolution makes a violation of this section an infraction. Offenders could face a fixed fine of up to \$100, plus court costs.

The resolution also provides legal definitions for ATVs, motorbikes and UTVs.

According to documents received from Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn, an “All-terrain vehicle (ATV)” is defined as “any recreational vehicle with three or more tires, under 850 pounds and 48 inches or less in width, having a wheelbase of 61 inches or less, traveling on low-pressure tires of 10 psi [per-square-inch] or less.”

A “motorbike” is defined as “any self-propelled two-wheeled motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, excluding tractors, designed for or capable of traveling off developed roadways and highways and also referred to as trailbikes, Enduro bikes, trail bikes,

motorcross bikes or dual purpose motorcycles, where such vehicle is not registered for use on the highway.”

A UTV is defined as any recreational motor vehicle other than an ATV, motorbike or snowmobile, defined for and capable of travel over designated unpaved roads, having four or more low-pressure tires of 20 psi or less and a maximum width of 94 inches.

Golf carts, vehicles designed to carry a disabled person and farming implements are not defined as UTVs.

Weight limits set on roads

Commissioners also passed a resolution to limit axle weight on Juniper Mountain Road and Pleasant Valley Road.

After consulting Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman and County Road District No. 1 supervisor Larry McDaniel, officials found that truck traffic is causing significant damage to the two roads. Weight limits were set in an effort to avoid further damage.

Vehicle weight limits on Pleasant Valley Road and Juniper Mountain Road were set at 16,000 pounds per axle.

The ordinance authorizes weight limit violations to be classified as either an infraction or misdemeanor. If a truck’s weight exceeds the set limit by 10 percent or more, the driver can be slapped with a misdemeanor charge.

The penalty for an infraction is a \$100 fine plus court costs. A misdemeanor conviction carries a sentence of \$300 fine and up to six months in jail and a \$300 fine.

— JWB

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From page 1

✓ Sentence: Prosecutor says Nampa PD, Freund teamed on investigation

“The charges were initiated by an indictment handed down by an Owyhee County Grand Jury on Aug. 23, 2006, for two counts of lewd and lascivious conduct,” Faulks wrote in a press release. “The conviction is a result of a plea agreement where Mr. Scott, age 62, pled to one count of lewd and lascivious conduct

in exchange for dismissal of a second count.”

Faulks further stated that the victims were two early school-age children.

“Detective Brandy Sutherland of the Nampa Police Department was instrumental in completing the investigation, which spanned Canyon and Owyhee Counties.

Richard Freund, then-Owyhee County Chief Deputy Sheriff, assisted in the investigation from Owyhee County,” Faulks stated in a press release.

Freund, who retired from the sheriff’s office in January and now serves as chairman for the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners, commended

Faulks’ diligence in obtaining a guilty plea in the case.

“I think he (Faulks) should be commended because it was a difficult case to prosecute because of the circumstances of the case. The victims were from out of town, and the suspect had medical issues.

“The circumstances of the case

made it difficult to prosecute, and I think he (Faulks) did an excellent job.”

As part of Scott’s sentence, he also will be required to register as a sex offender and to submit a DNA sample to the Bureau of Forensic Services of the Idaho State Police.

— JWB

✓ Options: Executive likes Homedale’s chances to bring businesses here

the salary of an economic development professional. The application deadline is May 15.

At their April 16 meeting, county commissioners agreed to serve as the grantee if the local partnership gets the grant. Fink had a follow-up meeting with the commissioners Monday in Murphy.

Results of that meeting weren’t available at press time, but County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said last week that one item left to be decided was how much money the county would put up for the effort.

Participating governments must contribute a total of \$12,000 annually in matching funds.

“It will relate back to our population as far as Homedale’s share,” Fink said.

“It could be as much as a dollar for each person in town for participation, which the city would probably have to come up with, which would mean about \$3,000 for the City of Homedale.”

The state grant, part of the Rural Idaho Initiative, will run for two years. According to a Commerce & Labor press release, the current round of funding covers the span from July through June 2010.

This new attempt at a grant comes on the heels of Homedale missing out on a \$500,000 Community Block Grant that Fink had hoped would finance street improvements and the building of a greenbelt in the area surrounding the old Homedale Auto Wreckers property.

Fink said at a recent city council

meeting that the grant board suggested Homedale resubmit its application for July’s round of awards.

“It looks like we have a good possibility to get the grant in July,” he said.

Even without the \$500,000 grant, things could be looking up for the city’s economic future.

Fink announced at the city council meeting earlier this month that he and City Councilman Steve Schultz had a meeting with King’s Discount Stores chief executive, Tom King, at which King unveiled plans for a retail development near the airport. King didn’t return a message seeking comment.

And, if the economic development professional grant is awarded, the situation could be even rosier.

Paul Hiller, the executive director of the BVEP, seemed upbeat after a meeting with Fink, City Councilman Tim Downing

and developers Ron Mayhew and Brad Condie.

“I think there’s some potential there to attract some industry, although it’s going to be a bit of a narrow focus in terms of the kinds of projects that will come in and take a look, but I think there will be some,” Hiller said in the days after his City Hall meeting and tour of the town and surrounding area.

Hiller said Homedale would be a good fit for small- to medium-sized manufacturing facilities and distribution centers.

Hiller’s organization is poised to use a \$5 million war chest to go out and find all forms of industry to woo to the area for member communities. Homedale isn’t yet a member, but Hiller said the membership fee for each community is negotiable.

He also said Commerce & Labor awarding a grant to Homedale’s consortium would make it easier and more attractive

for Owyhee County’s largest city to join BVEP.

Fink was cautious in the wake of the meeting with Hiller.

“It was interesting,” Fink said. “I don’t think a whole lot came out of it.

“But it’s all helpful.”

Hiller said that initially he was discouraged by the town’s distance from Interstate 84, but seeing the Filler-King Co. laminated truss plant and trucks heading out to all points changed his mind on that aspect.

The vastness of land available also made him a fan of Homedale’s potential.

“Especially those operations where they are going to need a little extra acreage ... that need some outdoor storage and it doesn’t cost an arm and a leg for that land,” Hiller said. “(Homedale) has got kind of a leg up on the competition.”

— JPB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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From page 1

District puts familiar face in middle school top job

Luci Asumendi-Mereness will be the new Homedale Middle School principal beginning next fall.

The Homedale School District Board of Trustees approved Asumendi-Mereness' hiring during a special meeting Wednesday. She will replace outgoing Keith Field for the 2007-08 school year.

"Luci's leadership abilities, her strong work ethic and her unwavering commitment to the children of the Homedale community will be traits that will serve her well as she takes on her new role at the middle school," Homedale Schools superintendent Tim Rosandick wrote in a press release.

Field has been HMS principal for the past six years, but is leaving the district to accept a position as principal of Park Ridge Elementary in Nampa.

Asumendi-Mereness' career in education spans over 20 years. She holds a bachelor's of science degree from Boise State University and a master's of education from Albertson College of Idaho. She has been an English teacher at HMS since 1996, and has served as the school's activities director for the past three years.

Asumendi-Mereness is a mother and grandmother. She has one adult daughter and two school-aged sons.

— JWB

Principal: Field prepares to take over elementary school in Nampa

I moved out to Homedale High School, where I was also a math teacher.

"I taught math at the high school and a couple periods at the junior high. That was when we had a combination of 7 through 12 all in the same building," said Field, who arrived in Homedale in the fall of 1993.

Linda Miklancic, registrar, who has worked with Field since his start at Homedale, recalled the past 13 years working with Field.

"I have worked with Keith since August of 1993. He is a very dedicated and caring individual. He has set a great example to our students and staff by his high moral standards," Miklancic said. "His calm and cool demeanor has made him an exemplary role model to all that he comes in contact with. He will be greatly missed here at Homedale Middle School."

He will also be remembered by the students.

"The Homedale Middle School student body would like to congratulate Mr. Field on his long career with Homedale," student body president Jordan Meligan said.

"He has been an inspiration to all of us, and is always willing to give a helping hand to anyone in need. He will be truly missed. We wish him good luck for whatever his future may bring."

Six years ago, Field took over the principal's office at the middle school. But he admits that it is not behind a desk where he is happiest.

"Probably, my most favorite times are out playing at recess with the kids, playing basketball with the kids. Those are things that I will always fondly remember," Field said.

"I think that when I started as principal, were the beginnings of the school-improvement time. We'd started in with Albertson's Foundation, and they were trying to help us improve. And the No Child Left Behind program came along shortly after that, and so there has been a whole lot of improving instruction in the school and improving the way we do things."

Field said that he feels fortunate to have been on the "ground floor" of these and other programs. He said that in recent years student reading proficiency scores have risen from a dismal 30 percent to almost 80 percent.

The principal hopes that memories of him in the community will be fond. He said he has strived for fairness at all times during his career.

"I think I would like to be remembered as a person who was fair, compassionate and who cared about the kids and the teachers, and was always willing to help when someone needed help and was always willing to come up with solutions that maybe weren't in the traditional," Field said.

As far as Homedale Schools Superintendent Tim Rosandick is concerned, Field already has met that goal.

"What I will remember about Keith Field is that his care for his teachers and his concern for the students that went to that school was very evident," Rosandick said.

"He exhibited a lot of patience and kindness towards all the people that inhabited his building, that worked or attended his school. In the two years I have worked with him, he exhibited the highest levels of integrity in terms of his dealings with others."

"One of the things that he is ushering in is the new promotion/retention policy that the Board of Trustees approved last fall. In most recent memory, that is one thing that has really required his time and expertise."

As an educator, Field said that sometimes he, himself, became the student and agreed that he often learned as much or more from his students as he taught.

"I think probably some of the biggest lessons I've learned have been from the kids: That is, a lot of times 'Don't take yourself so seriously,' he said.

"There is a whole lot more going on inside some of these kids than we really give them credit for. They might not be performing in a class, they might be disruptive, but there's a whole lot more going on inside of them than we ever know. Taking the time to sit down and talk to them is something that I have learned over the years, because of them. Because I've had to ... Sit down and listen to somebody before you make a judgment."

Field lives in the Nampa area with his wife and three children. His wife, Anita, is also an educator.

— JWB

Liaison: Commisisoner denies calling Noak incompetent or a liar

Owyhee Avalanche last week, Noak wrote:

"My first duty is to the health of my patients, so I am resigning from the Owyhee West Nile Committee."

Elsewhere in the letter, Noak specifically directed pointed comments at District 1 Commissioner Hal Tolmie.


"I am formally requesting that Commissioner Hal Tolmie refrain from his longstanding pattern of stating that I am medically incompetent and/or a liar while in the course of his duties as commissioner," Noak wrote in his letter to the commissioners.

Tolmie, who is as representative on Southwest District Health's Board of Health, flatly denied the accusations.

"I deny both of those comments he (Noak) made," Tolmie said last week. "I disagreed with him on a couple of issues. I never inferred that he was not telling the truth, and I didn't question his ability as a doctor."

On Thursday, Noak warned that everyone in Idaho will know

*'What we're trying to do in the county is educate the people against the problem. That's about the best step we can do, I guess.'*



— Hal Tolmie  
District 1 county commissioner

someone with WNV by the end of the season.

Noak said he decided to resign after his last meeting with the county Board of Commissioners on April 2.

"The last time I was over there, I was instructed to form a committee that included (Bureau of Land Management), Forest Service and every other agency you can imagine," Noak said. "I am getting really busy with patients, and there is just no way."

"Another thing, I just don't work well with committees, because they don't ever accomplish anything."

Noak planned to launch a widespread attack on WNV-carrying mosquitoes, which included preventive education, identification of mosquito breeding grounds and applying larvacide to breeding areas that harbor the insects.

One of Noak's strategies was to enlist the aid of volunteers to place mosquito traps, which would help to study mosquito populations and identify breeding grounds.

Noak projected the ideal time to capture infected mosquitoes as May 10 through May 14, which he

calls the "window of opportunity" to identify breeding grounds and capture and study infected mosquitoes.

While Noak has resigned his official position with the county, he still offers his help to Owyhee County residents.

"I have had some contacts from people in various towns in Owyhee County," Noak said. "So, that is my 'game plan,' to move forward with any individuals or any towns that want my help."

Noak is scheduled to meet with the Homedale City Council in reference WNV during its 6 p.m. Thursday meeting. He said he didn't know what the content of that meeting will be, but offered to answer any questions posed by city officials.

Tolmie said the county's WNV plan is uncertain at this time, but any program will begin with education.

"We still don't know where we would put a mosquito abatement district. It is a tough problem," Tolmie said. "The Southwest District Health (SWDH) is going to go to all the different schools and talk to all the schools and tell them about West Nile, and tell them about what they can do to prevent getting bit."

"What we're trying to do in the county is educate the people against the problem. That's about the best step we can do, I guess."

Tolmie said that he will contact Noak and get updates on Noak's strategy for 2007.

Tolmie agreed that Noak is a valuable asset in the fight against WNV in Owyhee County and hopes to coordinate with Noak to set mosquito traps.

"We're all in it for the same thing. That is to prevent people from getting West Nile," Tolmie said.

— JWB

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

**Classifieds!**





Homedale FFA preps for sale

Above: Homedale FFA chapter members Mandy Gibbs, left, and Kaitlyn Amos, right, help advisor Lori Harrison arrange plants in the on-campus greenhouse. Below: Marigolds, petunias and alyssum are just some of the plants that will be available during the annual greenhouse sale, which begins today.

Homedale FFA kicks off annual plant sale today

Homedale FFA advisor Lori Harrison says there are plenty of reasons for folks to browse the chapter’s second annual greenhouse sale, which begins today.

Besides helping fund the greenhouse and other horticulture-related activities by the FFA, the sale also gives residents an opportunity to buy their plants in Homedale because Paul’s Market has discontinued its greenhouse this spring during the store remodel.

“The Greenhouse class has filled our greenhouse to capacity again, and we are ready to sell all sorts of plants and empty it now,” FFA advisor Lori Harrison said.

Sale hours will be 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Harrison said she will be at the



greenhouse until 7:30 tonight.

The greenhouse is located Owyhee Avenue behind the school’s shop building.

FFA members were busy late last week sprucing up the greenhouse and arranging merchandise. Proceeds from the sale will help operate the greenhouse as well as fund the community planters that will be dotting downtown soon.

Here’s a list of items available, including prices:

Hanging baskets (petunias, geraniums and millionbells), \$12
Marigolds, \$1.50
Pansies, \$1.50
Millionbells (singles), \$2
Petunias, \$1.50
Wave petunias (singles), \$2
Tomatoes, \$1.50 to \$2
Peppers (bell and Basque), \$1.50
Cucumbers, \$1.50
Geraniums, \$1.50
Ivy Geraniums (singles), \$2
Alyssum, \$1.50
Lobelia, \$1.50

Death notices

<b>DONNA L. BARNES, 71,</b> of Homedale, died Monday, April 16, 2007. Services were held April 19 at Terrace Lawn Memorial Gardens in Boise with arrangements through Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel.	<b>DONALD L. BURDINE JR., 35,</b> of Homedale, died Monday, April 16, 2007. Arrangements are pending through Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale, 337-3252	<b>WILLARD R. CRAVENS, 92,</b> former storeowner in Walters Ferry, died Saturday, April 14, 2007, at his Nampa home. Graveside services were held at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 19, at Dry Creek Cemetery in Boise.
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School menus

Homedale Elementary

April 26: Chicken nuggets or finger steaks, broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

April 27: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

April 30: Hamburger or fish sandwich, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 1: Chicken tenders or cf beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

May 2: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, churro, milk.

Homedale Middle

April 26: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

April 27: Chicken tenders or cf beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

April 30: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 1: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

May 2: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, fruit & veggie bar, cherry turnover, milk.

Homedale High

April 26: Chicken patty sandwich & soup, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

April 27: Crispito, rib-b-que, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

April 30: Pizza, popcorn chicken, chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 1: Country-fried beef steak, chicken filet, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

May 2: Spaghetti, burrito, pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

April 26: Burrito, corn, strawberries & banana, milk, baked potato & chili bar, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

April 27: Weiner wraps, vegetables, fruit, milk, chicken nuggets, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

April 30: Turkey noodle soup, corn, fruit, milk, cf steak, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, maple bar.

May 1: Hamburger, veggie, fruit, milk, hot dog or chorizo, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

May 2: Chicken patty/bun, veggie, fruit, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

Bruneau

April 26: Ham, scalloped potatoes, veggie, fruit, roll/butter, milk.

April 27: Crispy chicken/bun, fries, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

April 30: Stromboli, tots, salad, fruit, milk.

May 1: Haystacks, corn, cinnamon twists, fruit, milk.

May 2: Chicken nuggets, potato wedges, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

Senior menus

Marsing Senior Center

April 26: Chicken pot pie, broccoli, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

April 30: Breakfast to order, 8 a.m. to noon. No lunch.

Homedale Senior Center

April 26: Pork chow mein, fried rice, stir fry vegetables, drink.



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# DUI dangers

## Homedale PD sees surge in arrests

Homedale Police officers made seven DUI arrests in the first two weeks of April.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said, luckily, none of those drivers have been involved in injury accidents, or deaths, or even property damage crashes. The same can't be said for DUI cases handled by Eidemiller's counterparts in the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office.

Eidemiller said he doesn't know why his agency is seeing a surge, but feels it may partly be because of the early spell of mild, sunny weather that Homedale recently enjoyed.

"We might get one or two in a month," Eidemiller said of the historical number of DUI arrests made in the Homedale city limits.

"The common denominator is that it starts to get warmer out and they tend to migrate from hibernation, so to speak. In 15 days, that (seven) is quite a few."

Of the seven DUI arrests Homedale Police made during the first two weeks of April, the ages of suspects have ranged from 21 years old to 67 years old, and most are from the area. Officer Ian Takashige made six of the seven arrests himself, and assisted reserve officer Christopher Steed on the seventh.

Eidemiller said that times have changed, and DUI is no longer considered a minor crime.

*'The common denominator is that it starts to get warmer out and they tend to migrate from hibernation, so to speak. In 15 days, that (seven) is quite a few.'*



— Jeff Eidemiller  
Homedale Police Chief

"What's important is that people need to remember that the penalties for DUI are harsher and harsher every year," Eidemiller said. "The civil penalties as well as the criminal penalties (are becoming harsher). The fines have increased."

"Basically, DUI is not looked at as a 'social crime.' This isn't 25 years ago. DUIs are serious business, especially with alcohol-involved fatalities."

Eidemiller pointed out that the Idaho Department of Transportation — and the court system — often will suspend a driver's license after a DUI as part of punishment. A suspended license for a Homedale resident could be a logistically difficult given the town's lack of a taxi or bus service.

While there has been a surge in the number of DUI arrests made by Homedale officers lately, Eidemiller said there has not

been a DUI-related fatality in Homedale in recent history. He attributes that fact largely to the slow speed limits.

"The speed limits on the streets here are low enough that most crashes are relatively low-speed, but my concern is that when (drivers) get out on the highway," the chief said. "They are only in Homedale a very short time, then they are in Owyhee County or Canyon County, in a 50 to 65 mph speed limit."

"While we all know you can receive injury in a low-speed crash, they just aren't as prevalent as a crash on the highways."

Decision-making is part of prevention

Eidemiller stressed that decision-making is a large part of the issue, and that once a person begins drinking, bad decisions can

follow. He firmly states that most of the DUI offenders he has encountered have been good people, who have made a bad decision.

"Even though a person may feel that they are OK to drive, that is one of the first issues: their ability to make a rational decision. You need to know your limits, have a designated driver or call for a ride," Eidemiller said.

"The common denominator with all the people we catch is, typically, most of them felt they were OK to drive. You hear everything from the standard, 'I've only had two beers' to 'I thought I was OK to drive,' 'I haven't had a drink in several hours,' 'I haven't had a beer in several hours.'"

"We know that alcohol is a central nervous system depressant, so it will slow down your thought process."

Eidemiller is not judgmental of any of those arrested recently, but that does not decrease his firmness or the seriousness of driving after drinking.

"I'm not telling everybody that they shouldn't go out and have a good time," the chief said. "But if you are going to drink, be responsible. These people are good people. They just had a lapse in judgment."

"Call for a designated driver; call for a taxi; call a friend. Just make that call. It's a lot easier to call someone to come get you than it is to call a bail bondsman."

— JWB

## Several DUI crashes on county roads this spring

Like Homedale Police, the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office also has experienced a significant number of under-the-influence drivers on the roadways.

"It seems like we've had a rash of alcohol-related injuries and deaths from accidents," Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said. "Average-wise, we're probably not too far over what we usually do, but it seems like they've all come within a short period of time."

"My guys are out there, doing DUI arrests as much as possible."

Several of those drivers have caused serious injury or fatal crashes, such as one on March

24 on Idaho highway 78, near milepost 7, in which 19-year-old Victoria May Shafner of Nampa died after the 2000 Chevrolet passenger car in which she was riding crashed and burned.

The driver of the vehicle, 20-year-old Tyra Clements of Boise was charged with vehicular manslaughter. Aman said the crash was alcohol-related, and additional charges may be forthcoming when blood test results are available.

Clements will appear in district court for arraignment May 11. She waived her right to preliminary hearing on the felony charge during an April 16 hearing.

Aman said there is no common

thread between all the recent DUI-related crashes or arrests, but he noted that some intoxicated drivers had attended private parties before their mishap or arrest. Therefore, he cautions hosts to watch their guests.

"Several of them (DUIs) have come from private parties," Aman said. "People that host those parties need to realize they can be held liable for that just like a bar can."

"They need to know that if they are having a private party, and somebody leaves there intoxicated — and gets killed or kills somebody else — they can

— See **County**, page 9A



### Alcohol factors in fiery crash

A 19-year-old Nampa woman died when this 2000 Chevrolet caught fire after an accident on Idaho highway 78 near Marsing. Tyra Clements, 20, of Boise faces vehicular manslaughter charges stemming from the crash. Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman says alcohol was a factor in the mishap. Photo courtesy Owyhee County Sheriff's Office

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**Homedale Elementary student helps Middleton**  
*Ismael Fernandez from Homedale Elementary School presents Middleton Schools superintendent Rich Bauscher with a check for \$285.72. Ismael initiated a penny drive at the elementary school to assist the Middleton school district with the re-building of its burned-out high school. All students, kindergarten through fourth grade, and elementary staff contributed to the cause. Submitted photo*

## Pioneer Days carnival benefits Marsing schools

A spring carnival to raise money for Marsing schools will be held May 4.

The Owyhee Pioneer Days Carnival will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the Marsing Elementary playground and inside the school's cafeteria.

The activities planned for the carnival include a dunk tank, football throw, basketball hoops, cakewalk, pie-eating contest, bingo, fishing for prizes, face painting and more.

Food items such as hamburgers, hot dogs, chorizos, tamales and dessert items will be available.

For more information, call Sarah Grossman at 896-4273 or Muriel Briggs at 896-4574.

## OWC seeks weed coordinator for Jordan Valley cooperative

The Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) is seeking someone to serve as weed coordinator for the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area.

The OWC is a non-profit organization serving farmers, ranchers and residents of the Owyhee River Basin in a three-state Malheur, Owyhee and Elko counties.

The weed coordinator position will consist of office management, educational outreach and fieldwork duties.

The full-time position will be located in Jordan Valley.

The application period ends May 9.

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to the Owyhee Watershed Council by mail to P.O. Box 275 Adrian, OR 97901, or by e-mail to [jmartin-owc@qwest.net](mailto:jmartin-owc@qwest.net).

For more information, call (541) 372-5782.

# DUI dangers

## ✓ County: Party hosts can be held responsible for drunk driving mishaps

*From Page 8A*  
be held liable.”

Because most of Owyhee County is rural, and there are no means of public transit, or a taxi service, the old advice of “call a cab” often is not practical, forcing someone who has indulged to make tough decisions about driving. Both Owyhee law enforcement agencies are quick to lend a hand to prevent a dangerous situation.

“We’ve given a lot of rides home over the years to people that are too drunk to drive, and they know it and they call,” Aman said. “We can’t be a ‘taxi service,’ but on the other hand, we would rather give someone a ride home than let them out on the street.”

The Homedale Police Department also has given rides

to people with no alternative to driving after consuming alcohol.

With the prevalence of cell phones, the sheriff says Owyhee County Dispatch gets frequent calls reporting instances of suspected drunken driving. According to dispatch records, at least three such calls were received during the past weekend.

The sheriff has tips on what to do — and what not to do — when reporting a suspected drunk driver. He specifically recommended including the following in any report to law enforcement:

- License plate number
- Location
- Direction of travel
- Description of car
- Description of driver (if possible)

• What the driver is doing (i.e., crossing center line, running off the road, driving slow).

Aman specifically warned against attempting to stop the driver before law enforcement officials arrive or trying to pass the suspect vehicle and forcing them to slow or stop.

“Just keep them in sight, and let us get them,” Aman said.

— JWB

*‘We can’t be a ‘taxi service,’ but on the other hand, we would rather give someone a ride home than let them out on the street.’*



— Gary Aman  
Owyhee County Sheriff

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Marsing grads reunited

Two Marsing High School graduates met up at the annual Idaho Association of Counties meeting in Boise. Commissioner Jennifer (Churruca) Barrett for Latah County and Commissioner Rick Yzaguirre, Ada County. Jennifer is the daughter of Joe and Bette Churruca and graduated in 1965. Rick is the son of Justo and Julie Yzaguirre and graduated in 1968.

South Board plans executive session meeting on Thursday

The board of directors of the South Board of Control will hold a special meeting at 8 p.m. Thursday at its office, 118 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street West in Homedale.

South Board chairman Dan Felty has declared the meeting an executive session, according to Idaho Code 67-2345(b).

No further information about the meeting’s agenda was released.

According to Idaho State Statute, 67-2345(b), the topics that may be discussed in this executive session are: “the evaluation, dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought

against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent, or public school student.”

Irrigation boards plan regular meetings

The boards of directors for local irrigation districts will hold regular monthly meetings Tuesday at the South Board of Control office.

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

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

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

Children can get free meals at Homedale school in summer

The Homedale School District once again is participating in the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Summer Food Service Program.

Breakfast and lunch will be served at Homedale Elementary School, 420 W. Washington Ave., Monday through Friday from June 4 to June 29.

Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., and the lunch hour is 11 a.m. to noon.



COSSA diesel students among best

Steve Eells, left, a senior at Marsing High School, and Kevin Nettleton, a senior at Homedale, took two of the top three spots in the recent Idaho SkillsUSA Diesel Equipment Technology state competition in Boise. Eells was the champion, earning a trip to the SkillsUSA national championships in Kansas City, Mo., in June.

COSSA students excel at state skills challenge

At first glance, you’d be hard-pressed to dispute that Steve Eells and Kevin Nettleton aren’t seasoned diesel mechanics.

Both carry themselves with the demeanor of a man who makes his living turning wrenches, getting greasy and solving problems.

Both speak in a tone that conveys the serious nature of their craft — and its importance to sustaining the agriculture and trucking industries.

But neither is certified to work on diesels — yet.

And one, Eells, only turned 18 on April 8.

Both are seniors in high school — Eells at Marsing and Nettleton at Homedale.

And both have their sights set on igniting their budding careers with schooling at the prestigious Wyoming Tech — WyoTech to those in the know.

Eells is well on his way to achieving his goal to “just work on trucks.”

He won the recent Idaho SkillsUSA Diesel Equipment Technology competition in Boise. The victory netted him a full-ride scholarship to WyoTech and a spot in the SkillsUSA national championships in Kansas City, Mo., in June.

Nettleton grabbed third place in the state competition and earned a partial scholarship to WyoTech.

Both are merely continuing a tradition of winning for instructor John Montana’s Canyon-Owyhee School Services Agency diesel technology program.

“We have more tools in this shop than most shops in the valley,” Nettleton said of the advantage COSSA students have over other vocational education students and even some professional mechanics.

Montana’s COSSA program has a Cummins diesel engine inside the shop for a learning tool, and there also is a Kenworth semi parked in an adjacent lot for students to practice other elements of diesel technology, including full vehicle inspections.

The state competition included 10 stations dealing with various aspects of diesel technology. Each station was worth 25 points, and contestants had 15 minutes to complete their work.

The pressure left Eells lacking confidence in his performance, despite notching a perfect score in the micrometer portion of the competition.

“I thought I was horrible,” he said. “I was very surprised.”

Guillermo Machuca, another Homedale student, was a silver medalist in the Collision Repair Technology competition.

— JPB

Library plans Native American puppet show

The Homedale Library continues its series of children’s puppet shows at 10 a.m. Thursday.

Library staff will perform “Iktomi and the Kettles,” a puppet show adapted from a Lakota legend. According to library staff, the theme for the performance deals with a “hard-learned lesson of sharing.”

It’s further described in a press release issued by the library:

“Iktomi and the Coyote are both often regarded as tricksters in many Native American cultures. This show is no exception, when Iktomi, who is not willing to share, learns from nature the consequences of his actions.”

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

The library is located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave.

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Rimrock FFA news

by Chelsey Lemon, chapter reporter

On April 12-14, the Rimrock FFA chapter traveled to Twin Falls for the 76<sup>th</sup> annual state convention.

Sixteen members attended this convention.

The Horse Team placed 26<sup>th</sup> in the state competition in Twin Falls. The team consisted of Riley Timmons, Jay Long, Geoff King and Sierra Ridley.

Jay Long and Leigh Martin received their State Degrees. Long also received his Star Farmer in Ag Placement for the Boise Valley District.

Chelsey Lemon competed in Scrapbook, and placed second in District 2, which is open to chapters with 50 members or fewer.

Rimrock FFA chapter members attended workshops held by past state officers as well as a national officer and two state officers from Oregon and one from Washington.

The members also were able



**Rimrock FFA attends state conference**

Members of the Rimrock FFA chapter recently attended the state conference at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls. **Back row:** Allen Martin, Ariel Turner, Shawn Servis, Kody Schiermeier. **Front row:** Jerrica Wolfe, Derrick Meyers, Jay Long, Leigh Martin, Jackie Thurman, Chelsey Lemon. Submitted photo

to see many of the competitions that were held at the College of Southern Idaho.

The members had an enjoyable time and can't wait until next year's convention.

Owyhee County Gems 4-H news

by Hayleigh Green

The Owyhee County Gems 4-H club held a meeting on April 1. Topics addressed were swine projects.

Children in 4-H are scheduled

to receive pigs by the end of the month.

Also discussed were beef projects and early preparations for the Owyhee County Fair in August.

John Larson presented a demonstration on pig anatomy, and the group also enjoyed a roller skating party, in which Seth Green won third place in a skating race.

Homedale gets a charge out of 4th place at Academic Bowl

Homedale Middle School's Academic Bowl team geared up to play host to the District III finals next month by finishing fourth in a meet Wednesday in McCall.

The Trojans overcame season-long struggles in the lightning — or buzzer — round during the monthly competition.

"Those great kids," HMS Academic Bowl advisor Barbie Vander Boegh said. "They were so happy. They actually answered one question in the buzzer round, and it was correct. They were dancing like they had won the thing."

The team that traveled to Payette Lakes Middle School last week included one eighth-grader, Sagan

Wade, and sixth-graders Reed Maggard, Marissa Fernandez, Jacob Murray, Karissa Webb and Fletcher Kelly.

Each school is allowed to field a team of no more than six participants. Academic Bowl teams take turns leading commuter pools to the tournaments. Last week, it was Homedale's turn to do the driving, and organizers report

that in addition to improving in the competition, the Trojans made some new friends on the long ride to McCall.

The McCall date was the final regular-season meet. Homedale plays host to the 3A District III finals at 4:15 p.m. May 16.

"We are looking forward to hosting district," Vander Boegh said.

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Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday, Owyhee Reservoir was 79 percent full and that 250 cubic feet per second of water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore. The reservoir held 563,415 acre-feet of water.

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 8 a.m. Monday:

		Reynolds Creek			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
04/17	0.0	10.0	55	29	43
04/18	0.0	10.1	50	29	39
04/19	1.2	10.6	31	26	28
04/20	0.1	10.6	40	22	30
04/21	0.1	10.7	45	26	35
04/22	0.3	10.7	51	32	41
04/23	0.4	10.8	42	34	37

		South Mountain			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
04/17	4.2	23.4	54	28	42
04/18	4.6	23.5	54	29	40
04/19	17.5	25.1	31	23	28
04/20	13.5	25.1	42	21	29
04/21	10.9	25.2	50	25	36
04/22	9.1	23.4	46	34	39
04/23	9.1	23.7	44	33	37


		Mud Flat			
Date	Snow Depth	Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		
			Max.	Min.	Avg.
04/17	0.0	9.9	61	25	44
04/18	0.0	10.0	62	35	43
04/19	1.2	10.3	37	25	33
04/20	1.1	10.3	43	19	32
04/21	1.2	10.3	52	26	39
04/22	0.5	10.5	53	28	42
04/23	0.6	10.6	46	36	40

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
April 17	66	34	.02
April 18	56	38	.14
April 19	50	30	.04
April 20	57	29	.00
April 21	no reading taken		
April 22	no reading taken		
April 23	69	30	.10

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Fish and Game

Sage-grouse leks, Owyhee Gumbo provide info, lessons

by Craig Mickelson

Biologists, wildlife technicians and conservation officers are conducting sage-grouse surveys in April and May on historical lek grounds to see if populations have increased or decreased. This is done every year to accurately document population trends. A portion of my job involves assisting wildlife staff with wildlife population surveys in my patrol area.

Leks are traditional display grounds where male grouse try to attract their female counterparts by strutting and fanning their tail feathers.

Another peculiar part of their courtship display involves inflating loose skin (baffles) around their neck, then violently expelling this air to make burping sounds. If you have never seen this before, it is quite a sight to see the males strutting in circles inflating their baffles on their necks. At times, males will fight each other to determine dominance.

Sage-grouse surveys need to be conducted a half-hour before sunrise to one hour after sunrise. I decided it would be easier to find the leks in the daylight rather than in the dark, so I set out one morning to find all four of my assigned leks.

The first site was on a tributary to Cow Creek, right off the road and relatively easy to locate in the dark. The second one was more remote and required a short half-mile hike to the site. I hiked to the lek and kept jumping curlews as I walked. I also spotted 16 antelope near the lek.

Leks three and four proved more difficult to find. Navigating to the first one, I took two wrong turns but finally arrived at the site near Jackson Creek.

Driving to the final lek site was a different story. I was driving parallel to a wet creek bed when I had to cross a soft spot on the road to get to the lek. As the front end of my truck dropped into the soft spot, it sank a few inches, but I was already in 4-wheel-

drive so I thought I'd have no problem driving out. As the rear end went into the soft spot, it sank a few more inches and held me in the soft spot. Owyhee County soils are legendary for being difficult to traverse when wet. The nickname "Owyhee gumbo" is well deserved; the stuff sticks to everything.

I should have stopped right there and laid the tire chains out and backed into them, but I decided to try to back out of the soft spot. I put the truck in reverse and promptly sank further into the soft spot. All four tires were stuck.

Mistake No. 2 was not fitting the tire chains prior to my departure for the desert. I pulled out my tire chains and they did not look right; far too wide and far too long. In fact, they were chains for a dually truck!

Luckily, I carry a chain or bolt cutter in the back of my truck, so I began modifying the chains to fit my tires. I chained up the first tire with ease, with just a bit of excavating around the tire needed. The second front tire was a little more difficult to chain up, and I went through three pairs of gloves and several breaks to clean the mud off the shovel, which quickly attracted 25 pounds of Owyhee gumbo. Finally, I placed boards under each tire for traction and drove out of the soft spot.

Two days later, I headed to the lek sites on Cow Creek armed with a new, long-handled shovel and a new set of tire chains. I took the temperature for the survey, and it showed a chilly 22 degrees Fahrenheit. I scanned left to right with my binoculars trying to find sage-grouse but the first site was vacant of any grouse.

At the second site, I threw on a jacket and made the brisk hike to the lek. I could hear the familiar burping of sage-grouse males, and finally I saw a lone male displaying. It was pretty neat to see the sage-grouse going through its courtship display. At



Sage-grouse show mating rituals

Biologists, wildlife technicians and conservation officers currently are surveying sage-grouse lek grounds to determine if populations have increased or decreased. The studies are done every year. **Above:** Sage-grouse found in the Owyhees earlier this spring. Photo by Noppodal Paothong, Missouri Department of Conservation. **Below:** A male sage-grouse displays as part of the mating ritual. Photo by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

times, I could see male sage-grouse bumping each other for dominance. At final count, I saw 22 males and six female sage-grouse at this site.

I then drove to Jackson Creek for the final two lek surveys. At the third site, I found no grouse. I hiked in to the final lek and found a lone male sage-grouse on the ridge looking for females. I watched him for 10 minutes until he spooked and flew across the drainage.

If you would like to see video of sage-grouse displaying on leks, you can go the Internet and type in [www.sltrib.com/outdoors/ci\\_5593984](http://www.sltrib.com/outdoors/ci_5593984).

When you are out exploring the Owyhee desert, remember to be prepared; bring a shovel, properly fitted tire chains, a sleeping bag, maps, GPS, food and water. It is also a good idea to tell a friend or spouse where you are going and when you plan to return home.

— Craig Mickelson is a conservation officer out of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Southwest Region office. He serves Homedale and Marsing.





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Wednesday morning in Owyhee County



That's when the Owyhee Avalanche hits the news stands



# Oregon monument to honor Paiute progressive

## ION Heritage Council plans May 5 dedication near Rome Station

One of the most progressive women in the 19<sup>th</sup> century West will receive a monument May 5 along the highway that winds toward the town bearing her father's name in Nevada.

Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, the daughter of Piute (Pauite) Chief Winnemucca and the granddaughter of Chief Truckee, was instrumental in educating Indians to try to soften the cultural shock to come from the encroaching white settlers.

An informational kiosk bearing a picture of Sarah Winnemucca will be dedicated along U.S. 95 at 1 p.m. MST on May 5. The monument has been built through the efforts of Idaho-Oregon-Nevada region historian Mike Hanley IV, and the dedication ceremony is being sponsored by

the ION Heritage Council.

The actual monument will be located 2½ miles west of Rome Station, Ore., just north of where U.S. 95 crosses over the Owyhee River.

For more information on the dedication, call Hanley at (541) 586-2216. He stresses that there are no restrooms at the dedication site.

Winnemucca received support from 19<sup>th</sup> century transcendentalist Elizabeth Palmer Peabody — the sister-in-law of author Nathaniel Hawthorne. Peabody, who established the first English-language kindergarten in the United States, was a proponent for the Piute Indians late in life.

In 1886, eight years before her death, Peabody published an article in the Weekly

Oregonian newspaper detailing Winnemucca's efforts to educate the Piutes and defend the rights of her people.

Three years earlier, Winnemucca had published a memoir, "Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims," which was the first book credited to an Indian author.

According to a preface Hanley wrote in a 2003 reprint of Winnemucca's book, the monument will be near the point at which the old Hill Beachey stage road crosses U.S. 95. Winnemucca used the Hill Beachey road to travel during her diplomatic missions to the East during which she discussed the plight of her people with bureaucrats and President Rutherford B. Hayes.

"I believe that her desire to keep her students' culture intact while teaching them in preparation for the new should have been followed, for it would have gone a long way in breaking the

cycle of despair seen on many reservations today," Hanley wrote in a letter accompanying a copy of Peabody's 1886 newspaper article.

Winnemucca was honored with 2005 with a statue at the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

She died 1891 of tuberculosis.

Hanley said that Winnemucca's quest to educate her people made her a source of controversy among Indians and white men alike.

"History has shown, though, that she was ahead of her time, and the same things she advocated are topics of discussion today," Hanley said. "Her serving as a go-between during the Indian wars saved a lot of lives on both sides, and she did her best to make the best out of a bad situation."

"Had her dreams been accepted, I'd like to think things would be much better for her people today."

— JPB

## Head Start application deadline this week

Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP) Head Start in the Marsing and Homedale area is accepting applications today and Thursday for enrollment for the 2007-08 school year.

To be eligible, children must be 3 or 4 years of age before Sept. 1, 2007.

Registration will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday. Appointments are necessary.

More information and appointment bookings are available by calling 896-6041 in the Marsing area or 482-7223 in the Homedale area.

Head Start is a preschool child development and family involvement program that provides children with nutritious meals, individualized learning, transportation in certain areas, socialization experiences, health services, social services and special services for children with disabilities.

Families that apply must bring proof of their household's gross annual income, children's birth record and immunization records to their appointment for evaluation.

Acceptable documents for verification of income are W-2s, 1040 tax forms, wage stubs, statements from employer, or a statement from Health and Welfare.


Enrollment priority is given to families whose income meets established federal poverty income guidelines and to children who are 4 years old.

### Owyhee Cattlemen's Association

### Heritage Fund

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Property Rights

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(That's better odds than at Reno!)

**Tickets are available from:**

Paul Nettleton - 834-2237

Chris Collett - 834-2062

Brad Huff - 495-2950

Owyhee Avalanche - 337-4681

or any Cattlemen's board member.

or send check payable to **OCHF** and a self-addressed stamped envelope to: **PICKUP DRAWING**, P.O. Box 32, Murphy, ID. 83650



# Style in the saddle

## JV craftsman mixes form with function

Jordan Valley saddlemaker Thomas Angle first tried his hand at leatherwork in the early 1960s, while growing up in Indiana, back when the Midwest cattle industry was strong.

“I started working leather when I was about 15,” Angle said. “I learned to work leather (after) my dad wound up an invalid in ’62 or ’63.

“I had an Ag teacher that was a leather worker. Mom and I were trying to run the farm; Dad was in bed. He (his teacher) said ‘I know a way you can make some money for Christmas.’ So, he started us working in leather, and took us down and got us kits and tools to make leather.

“Within weeks we were selling billfolds, belts and purses and stuff like that,” Angle said.

While the pragmatic aspects of leatherwork may have been, and

are, his livelihood, the creative aspects of the craft are not lost on him.

“Of course, I studied art all through high school. I was lucky. My school had hired a lady that was actually a very talented artist to be an art teacher,” he said. “I had four years with her of really high-quality art education.”

Through years of ranching and working with cattle and horses, Angle has learned what it takes to make a good, functional saddle. And, while some of his designs feature intricate, artsy carvings, these saddles are designed to work. Angle says that in 23 years of saddlemaking, he has never had a failure of one of his designs.

While Angle is likely to have a sample or two on hand in his Jordan Valley shop, his goal is to custom-make each saddle, based on a customer’s needs

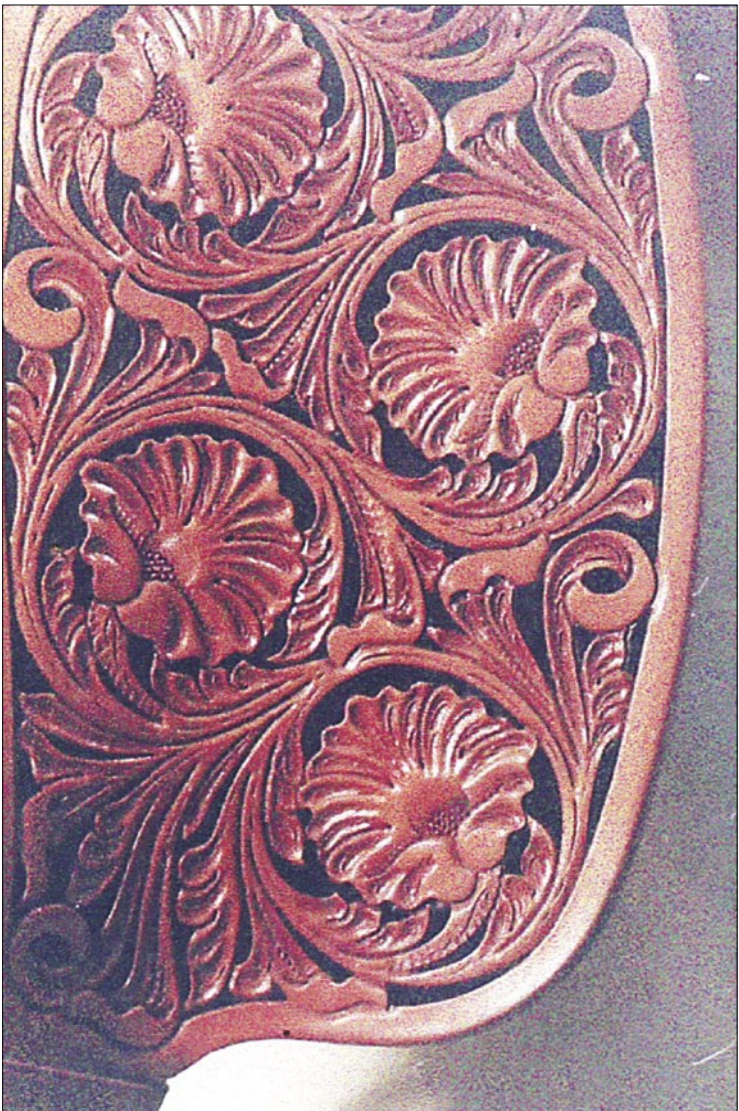
and pocketbook. His handmade saddles take between 48 and 96 hours build. Angle’s saddles start at around \$2,500 for a basic model.

His saddles come “ready to ride.” There are no hidden charges for cinches or stirrups. His saddles are made-to-order and feature an options list that is virtually endless.

Thomas Angle and his wife, Carleen, also incorporate woodworking into their business. They also create custom cabinets, bed frames and tables at their shop in Jordan Valley. Thomas and Carleen divide their time between woodworking and leatherworkings.

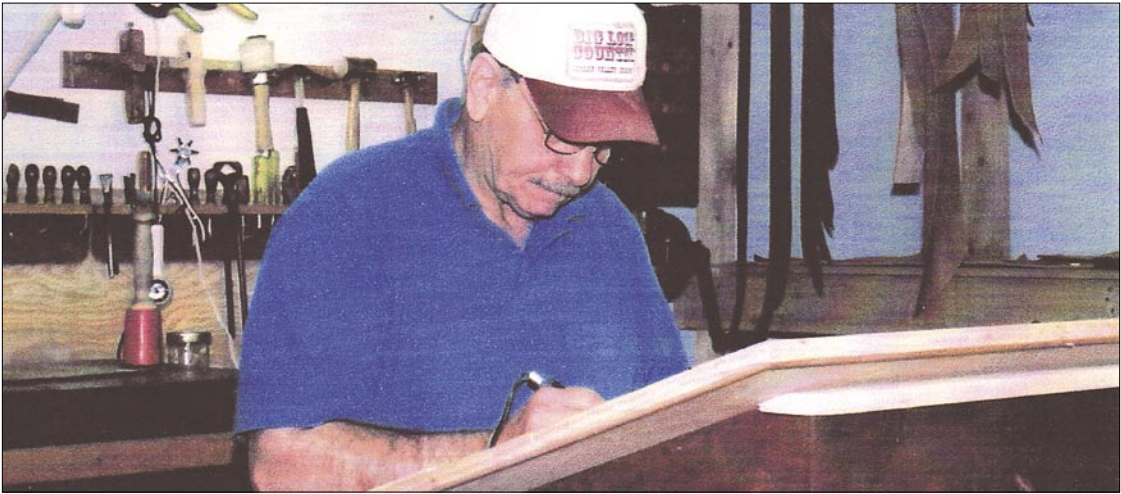
For more information, contact Thomas Angle Saddlery at (541) 586-2259 or visit [www.cowboyshowcase.com](http://www.cowboyshowcase.com).

— JWB



### Intricate attention to detail

**Left:** Thomas Angle, a Jordan Valley woodworker and saddlemaker, sketches a design. **Top:** Angle has been working with leather for more than 40 years. His saddles are custom made-to-order and begin at around \$2,500 for a base model. He began making saddles in 1983. Submitted photos



### Owyhee Design woodworking

Angle blends both of his loves in his business. **Left:** Thomas Angle Saddlery builds custom saddles. **Above:** As proprietor of Owyhee Design, Angle also creates custom furniture, often with the same western flair found in his leatherwork. Submitted photos



# Museum seeks \$150,000 for improvements

Upgrades continue at the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy, and museum officials hope the state of Idaho will help foot some of the bill.

Museum organizers have applied for a \$150,000 grant through the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor. The grant would be used to upgrade parts of the library complex.

According to museum curator Dr. Thom Couch, the grant funds — if awarded — must be matched through cash or in-kind proceeds. But Couch said museum activists already have more than accounted for the needed match through donations and work.

“We have been very fortunate in having a lot of people contribute cash and in-kind contributions to the project, Couch said. “We were more than able to meet the match requirement.

“This project is ahead of schedule and under budget, and that is in large part due to the largess of the people of Owyhee County.”

The grant must be routed through county channels.

So during a February meeting the Board of Commissioners pledged its assistance and authorized the museum to go ahead with the grant application process.

The museum could have the funding as early as this month if the state approves the application.

Couch said the funds would help finance upgrades, including handicapped-accessible ramps into the community center as well as outside landscaping improvements and new flooring inside McKeith Hall on the museum campus.

“What we have prioritized this



## Owyhee County Museum

*Museum organizers have applied for a \$150,000 grant through the Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor to upgrade parts of the library complex. Submitted photo*

grant for is — because we want this to be used as a community center. We wanted to make it (the center) more user-friendly, particularly for handicapped people, Couch said.

Couch said that scheduled plans for upgrades are not lacking.

“Included in that, is the leveling and paving of the parking lots with handicapped accessibility (and) a power door so people can get into the building easier.”

McKeith Hall was named for Norris McKeith, a Grand View farmer, who upon his death left his farm to the Owyhee County Historical Society. Proceeds from the liquidation of the farm have been instrumental in the construction and operation of the hall. The community center room was named in honor of McKeith.

Couch said that McKeith Hall is not simply an extension of the museum itself. He said the 1,500-square-foot area is a multipurpose community center with a kitchen and storage facility. Couch said the hall has been used for fund-raisers, parties, wedding



## Grant will improve McKeith Hall

*Owyhee County Museum Curator Dr. Thom Couch said the funds would help finance upgrades, including handicapped-accessible ramps into the community center as well as outside landscaping improvements and new flooring inside McKeith Hall on the museum campus. Submitted photo*

receptions, business meetings and other special events.

Couch said that a community center in Murphy was long overdue.

“In this part of the county, there really isn’t anything available for the public to use,” Couch said. “We were looking at what we have and sharing it with the county in a way that will draw people to Murphy.”

Couch said the museum is not totally unselfish in wanting folks to come to the center for community and social functions. He hopes it will lure some to the museum and its attractions.

“We’re fulfilling our duty as a public entity, but we’re also encouraging people to see what we have,” he said. “When you have a wedding reception here, for instance, and 150 people are here, we have the museum open so people can take a tour.”

Couch said grant funds are awarded on a competitive basis and must be matched, but he said the museum has a good chance because of the volume of donations and services provided by volunteers.

“It’s an extraordinarily competitive grant — we don’t know that we’re going to get it

— but we’re hoping,” Couch said. “I think we have an extraordinary chance.

If obtained, the grant money will be administered by the county, Couch said.

“The county didn’t have to do this for us but they did, and they’ve been very good to us,” he said.

For more information about the Owyhee County Historical Museum and the Owyhee County Historical Society, visit [www.owyheemuseum.org](http://www.owyheemuseum.org), or call (208) 495-2319.

— JWB

# Conservation district ready to tackle work plan

The public will get a chance to review work plans for the Owyhee Conservation District at the next board of directors meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. May 10 at the Marsing U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, 19 Reich St.

Copies of the OCD’s Annual Resource Conservation Work Plan are available by calling the district’s administrative assistant, Gina Millard, at 896-4544. Call Millard to reserve time to speak during the next board meeting, too.

Priorities in the Fiscal Year 2007 work plan include:

- Improving water quality in the district

through several ongoing programs. The goal is to reduce irrigation-induced soil erosion on 1,250 acres to “tolerable limits” by 2010.

The work plan states the objectives of the plan are to increase the beneficial use of irrigation water, to preserve a local voluntary approach for control and abatement of agricultural non-point source pollution and implement watershed plans for streams classified as pollution-impaired by Section 303d of the federal Clean Water Act.

Some of the actions suggested to meet those objectives include protecting farmers and ranchers who voluntarily implement water quality Best Management Practices,

developing a TMDL implementation plan for Jordan Creek and developing nutrient management plans for dairy farms and concentrated animal feeding operations that are participating in the water quality project.

- Continuing a public awareness and education program through several events and sponsorships.

The OCD will maintain an informational display during the Owyhee County Fair in August in Homedale. The district also purchases 4-H projects during the fair’s Junior Livestock Auction.

Other OCD public awareness activities include its annual Conservationist of the

Year, donations to local school libraries to purchase “environmentally friendly” materials, at \$500 agriculture-related scholarship for a graduating high school senior in Owyhee County, a \$100 FFA scholarship for county schools and several other programs at the elementary and middle school levels.

The OCD also has set forth plans to ensure water supplies to irrigators, to control the spread of noxious weeds, to restore and maintain rangeland values, to protect stream channels and riparian areas and to address rural development within the OCD’s boundaries by encouraging open space with subdivision development.

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