



## Trojans near historic marks In Sports

Grand View, Page 12A

Livestock dead after semi  
rolls over on Idaho 78

College football, Page 1B

Former Trojans lineman says he'll  
play for Pac-10's Washington

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Established 1865

# The Owyhee Avalanche

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SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

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## Homedale's overgrown boat dock Page 8A



### Vacancy, everyone's waiting

The Owyhee County Fair Board spent about \$9,000 to move the beef barn to make room for a livestock barn expansion that now probably won't happen in time for the 2007 fair in August.

## Fair warning: It'll be tight

### Directors look for ways to make room for animals

Everyone saw it coming, but it seems efforts to accommodate the burgeoning animal exhibits at the Owyhee County Fair will fall short before the 2007 opening in August.

A lease-purchase plan to build a new barn next to the livestock arena has been stalled after — at the behest of the county commissioners — Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks

discovered the strategy was against Idaho Code.

"There's a provision in the Idaho Constitution that prohibits public entities from entering an indebtedness (without a bond election)," Faulks said.

Faulks said case law continually upholds the illegality of a public agency entering into a lease-purchase agreement in which, essentially, the bank would own county property.

Farmers and Merchants Bank was poised to

— See *Fair*, page 5A

## Otter tabs sheriff

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter has named Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman chairman of the Idaho Peace Officer Standards Training (POST) Council.

"It is truly an honor to serve the people of Idaho as chairman of the POST Council," Aman said. "I look forward to working with the fine men and women who make up the POST Academy as they continue to provide some of the best peace officer training in the nation."



Gary Aman

Otter also reappointed Meridian Police Chief William Musser to the 15-member panel, which is comprised of law enforcement leaders from throughout the state.

"Their extensive law enforcement experience will be invaluable for POST Academy leaders as

— See *Sheriff*, page 5A

## Idaho Pizza Co. on Homedale's horizon?

The news out of the Homedale City Council was tastier than usual Thursday night.

Homedale Planning and Zoning coordinator Sylvia Bahem told council members that an Idaho Pizza Co. franchisee has inquired about bringing the restaurant to the strip mall across East Idaho Avenue from Homedale High School.

Bahem didn't identify the franchisee, but did say the person bought the rights to the Homedale market from the original owner who changed his mind after receiving a promotion within the corporate structure of Idaho Pizza Co.

Bahem said a primary concern for the new franchisee is the

— See *Pizza*, page 4A

## Superintendent defends new principal

The Marsing School District looked beyond the controversy when deciding to hire a new high school principal, the district superintendent said.

And, Marsing Schools Superintendent Harold Shockley said, what has been reported in the media doesn't reflect the true circumstances surrounding a cat-shooting incident involving Wade Pilloud at his former position in a rural Minnesota school district.

Shockley said that a more

pertinent issue — and in fact the major deciding factor — in hiring Pilloud was his track record in academics. Pilloud had built an impressive resume in that area despite challenges, the superintendent said.



Wade Pilloud

"Wade's past track record is that he has spent a lot of time working with low socio-economic areas," Shockley said. "In his last school, they were very remote — it was 20 miles to a gas station. The school had not made AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress), and after Wade got there, he turned it around. He was able to move his school into where they were academically successful in AYP,

— See *Principal*, page 5A





# Business owners revive idle Marsing Chamber

Group appoints  
most officers;  
president yet  
to be named

The Marsing Chamber of Commerce is alive and well, as shown by the 10 Marsing business representatives who attended Thursday's meeting.

The meeting, held at the Essence of Life in Marsing and led by owner Cathy Streibel, had one major objective: To identify a time for the next meeting.

The time for the chamber's next meeting was scheduled for 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 16 at the Essence of Life on Main Street in Marsing. Streibel said that, at least for the next few months, meetings will be on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information on meetings or the chamber, contact Streibel at 896-7001.

"(The Chamber) is designed to promote business through better commerce, bringing the business owners together to bring more business into the community," Streibel said.

Those attending also discussed updating the chamber's website, [www.idahogateway.com](http://www.idahogateway.com). Preliminary discussions about the annual Third of July fireworks show also were held.

Cathy Streibel, who was appointed director, said the objective for the next meeting was filling additional officer and director positions.



## Idea exchange at Marsing meeting

Marsing community and business leaders hope to rejuvenate the town's Chamber of Commerce. For more information, contact Chamber director Cathy Streibel at 896-7001 or visit the organization's Web site at [www.idahogateway.com](http://www.idahogateway.com).

The lineup thus far is as follows. The president has not yet been chosen or nominated.

- Pat Bowen — Vice-president
- Rob Troxel — Treasurer
- Cathy Streibel — Director
- Melissa Streibel — Director
- Jim White — Director
- Deloris Schamp — sub-

- committee member
- Paulette Wallin — sub-committee member
- Teresa Goostrey — sub-committee member
- Libby Neeser — public relations committee member
- Jessica Parquer — public relations committee member

**Marsing Chamber takes shape**  
Cathy Streibel, left, and Melissa Streibel both were appointed as directors of the Marsing Chamber of Commerce at Thursday's meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for May 16 at 7 p.m. at the Essence of Life on Main Street in Marsing. Additional meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month.

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# Council members hear about West Nile

Homedale doctor says season will start May 10

Dr. John Noak addressed the Homedale City Council last week, offering to sponsor city officials in a training program to get ready for the anticipated second year of West Nile Virus outbreak in Owyhee County.

"The West Nile season this year will start in 14 days," Noak said to open his presentation to the council at its Thursday meeting.

By that timeline, the first hatch of culex mosquitoes — the species of the insect most frequently associated with West Nile — will occur May 10.

"These mosquitoes thrive in a water from a half-inch to 3 inches deep," Noak said.

The doctor urged people to be ready for the West Nile this year and suggested that health officials were caught off-guard by the outbreak in 2006.

"... Cases didn't increase until August," he said. "With the big spring hatch last year, the warning signs were there, but nobody did anything about it."

Although he resigned as the county liaison in charge of coordinating the fight against the virus in 2007, Noak offered his expertise and connections to Homedale.

He said he could help volunteers enlist in a training program in Canyon County — scheduled for this week — that teaches about setting traps to track mosquito habitat as well as proper application techniques for larvacide.

"I think we're missing the boat if we don't take advantage of what may be out there to help us," city public works supervisor Larry Bauer said.

Larvacide in ponds is the most effective way to battle West Nile Virus early in the season.

Bauer asked about the cost of the larvacide.

"We can get larvacide as part of a group purchase for half of



## Getting ready for the battle

Homedale doctor John Noak told the Homedale City Council about the six mosquito traps he has acquired to help track the insect's habitat, and he asked for volunteers to enter a training program in Canyon County.

what it would cost otherwise," said Noak, who admitted he didn't have an exact price quote ready for his presentation.

The doctor told council members that larvacide should be applied to area ponds and other trouble spots of standing water during the first week of May.

"Sixty days is the best way to go for the second application," he said. "The end of July; that would be a huge amount of bang for your buck."

He also said coordination is another factor in a successful battle against West Nile.

"It will help if everyone sprays their areas at about the same time," Noak said.

The doctor also said that building public awareness is key to fighting the virus in 2007.

He suggested enlisting the help of volunteers who can visit schools to educate children on how to protect themselves from being bitten by an infected mosquito.

He also offered to provide the city with literature that could be set out at City Hall, and Mayor Paul Fink suggested printing a warning about the dangers of standing water in residents' water bills.

Noak said that he would like to have two volunteers to set traps in the Homedale area.

"I have one volunteer so far," he said. "It would work out best if I had two people in the Homedale area trapping."

Noak said that he acquired six mosquito traps through some "horse-trading," and he

*'I think we're missing the boat if we don't take advantage of what may be out there to help us.'*

— **Larry Bauer**  
Homedale public works supervisor

intended to set up the contraptions in the near future.

Standing water is prime breeding grounds for the mosquitoes, and Noak said that the problem could compound in late August with the combination of stifling heat and lower water levels in the Snake River.

"The culex travels 5 miles for its bloodmeal," Noak said. "The river will be a big problem in August."

"Corn is a problem, too, because of the water there."

He said the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo during is a "bad juju" in the drive to keep residents healthy because it occurs during that pivotal first week of August.

"When it's really hot, that's when we'll get our last big hatch, and those (insects) are hungry."

Noak said another disadvantage facing the area was the fact that the confluence of the Snake, Boise and Owyhee rivers is "Ground Zero for Idaho and the United States" for West Nile Virus.

"It really is a perfect storm," he said. "The (Fort Boise wildlife area) is a mosquito factory."

"Parma, Wilder, Homedale and Marsing is where people come from who were sick and are still sick."

— JPB

# Clevenger memorial dedication Saturday

Family will plant Ponderosa pine on campus of fallen soldier's alma mater

A memorial honoring fallen U.S. Army Sgt. Ross A. Clevenger will be dedicated at 9 a.m. Saturday at Marsing High School.

A 2003 Marsing High School graduate, the 22-year-old Clevenger and two

other members of the 321<sup>st</sup> Engineering Battalion were killed Feb. 8 when a roadside bomb exploded in Karmah, Iraq, which is in the Anbar province west of Baghdad.

Clevenger's mother and stepfather Rees and Abby Bradshaw, live in the Marsing area.

Family friend Gary Lakey of Marsing has helped organize the memorial and secure donations for a rock monument, Ponderosa pine tree and a plaque to honor Clevenger.

Hopkins Evergreens, Greenleaf Decorative Stone and Rockitecture Art have donated materials used in constructing the memorial plaque.

Lakey said the memorial will be placed near the front of Marsing High School.



Ross Clevenger

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# Man faces felony sex charges

A 23-year old Homedale man will face felony charges in district court, after allegedly having sex with a Homedale teenager.

Officials at the Owyhee County Courts confirmed that Bryan Mendoza of Homedale will be arraigned in district court on May 11. He is charged with lewd conduct with a child under 16-years of age and sexual battery of a child 16 to 17 years of age.

Mendoza waived his right to have a preliminary hearing on the charges on April 16.

Mendoza was arrested on the night of April 2, after Homedale Police conducted an investigation into allegations that he was having sex with a 16-year old Homedale girl.

“I was dispatched to the residence of the victim (in Homedale). The victim disclosed to her mother what had happened, and the mother contacted us (police),” Homedale Police Officer Ian Takashige said after Mendoza’s arrest.

Takashige said that after receiving the initial report, he and Chief Jeff Eidemiller were able to conduct surveillance and observe Mendoza leaving his residence in the 400 block of West Oregon Avenue.

When Mendoza left, officers conducted a traffic stop on South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West and arrested him on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant. He was taken to the Homedale police station for additional interview and investigation. Through detailed interviews, officers were able to gather additional facts about the case.

“An interview was conducted by both Chief Eidemiller and myself,” Takashige said. “The results of the interview are such that we are confident that a conviction can be obtained in this case.”

— JWB

# Texas fugitive held on \$500,000 bond

Dispatchers’ thorough research helps HPD nab man

Homedale Police responded to a family fight in the 500 block of South Main Street on Thursday evening and left with a fugitive on the run from Texas.

Homedale Police Officer Ian Takashige arrested Arias Rodriguez, a fugitive with a history of violent crime.

According to Owyhee Coun-

ty Dispatch records, Rodriguez was wanted for a felony probation violation — which carried a \$500,000 bond — stemming from an aggravated assault charge in Texas.

“It was a good catch by our dispatcher, otherwise the warrant would have been missed because of his many, many aliases,” Takashige said.



Arias Rodriguez

“He was taken into custody without any incident, but it is probably the biggest bond amount we’ve had on a warrant arrest in a long, long time.”

Takashige said dispatchers were able to link Rodriguez to the existing warrant by a state identification number from Texas, which was found through research of the man’s criminal history.

Rodriguez was arraigned on the charge of fugitive to Idaho and awaits extradition back to Texas.

— JWB

# From page 1

## ✓ Pizza: Owner concerned about proximity to school

proposed restaurant’s proximity to the high school. Bahem said the operator intends to sell beer and wine, but state law prohibits sales so close to a public school.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller reminded council members that Idaho Code gives municipalities the prerogative to set their own guidelines on the proximity clause and that the city recently made an exception for Rebecca’s Market, which is across West Idaho Avenue from a Canyon-Owyhee School Services Agency campus.

that 13 bid holders had attended a pre-construction meeting early last week for information on Homedale’s impending sewer system expansion and lift station project.

“The interest in the project is phenomenal,” Bauer said. “We’re really hoping to get a really nice bid from this thing.”

Bids will be unsealed at 2 p.m. today at City Hall. Bauer said the council can move to accept the most desirable bid at its 6 p.m. meeting next Wednesday.

Westwood gets extension

Doug Lance, representing Homedale realtor Rick Echevarria, asked for and received a three-month extension on the completion of the infrastructure for the Westwood subdivision, which is located behind Dairyland Seed Co.

The council granted the extension even though — it was pointed out — Echevarria had received an extension in October.

Lance said paved roads and covenants should be in place within a month despite the request for a three-month extension.

Police position nearly filled

In his semi-monthly report, Eidemiller told council members that the police department is close to welcoming a new officer into the fold.

Eidemiller said the new officer — who is replacing Sgt. Mike Flores — wouldn’t be available to report for duty until after May 7.

The chief gave no other details about the new hire and wouldn’t discuss it further when contacted Monday.

Sewer project

City public works supervisor Larry Bauer told the city council

— JPB

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From page 1

Fair board adds members, begins preparations

The Owyhee County Fair Board is back to full strength after the appointments of Tiffany Hipwell and Dan Aberasturi. Hipwell, who lives in Grand View, replaces longtime board member Joe Merrick. Homedale resident Aberasturi succeeds Ray Bicandi. Both members were appointed by the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners during its April 2 meeting. Aberasturi serves a four-year term that will end on Jan. 21, 2011. Hipwell was appointed to a three-year term retroactive to Jan. 1, 2007. The first fair board meeting for Hipwell and Aberasturi comes at 8 p.m. Thursday at the fair office in Homedale. Hipwell and Aberasturi join a board that includes chair David Rutan from the Pleasant Valley/South Mountain area, vice-chair Shawn Dygert from Guffey, Mary Lootens from Marsing, Tim Mackenzie from Homedale and Kenny Tindall from Bruneau. Rutan, who succeeded Merrick as chair in

February, said the main topic for the board's meeting Thursday is continued planning of the 2007 Owyhee County Fair, which takes place Aug. 6-11 in Homedale. Fair manager/secretary Kelly Haun said she has started her search for entertainment and food vendors for the fair. "We're always looking for new and unique people locally for entertainment," she said. This is Haun's first year organizing the fair after succeeding longtime manager/secretary Teri Nielsen. Haun said there are some food vendor opportunities available this year, and she would like to attract some local merchants. She's also shopping for commercial booth tenants for the August fair. For more information on vending, entertainment and commercial booth opportunities, call Haun at 337-3888 or e-mail her at BKRHaun@msn.com or Owyheefair@yahoo.com. — JPB

Principal: Schools chief says Pilloud's administrative skills, references impressed

which says quite a bit." Shockley further described AYP as the "standard" that educators "live and die by." He added that Pilloud, whose background is in social science, also has held positions such as superintendent and dean of students. He also served in the U.S. Air Force as an air-traffic controller prior to becoming an educator. "As he came in and interviewed with us, some of his references were (school) board members from his district, and they provided him with a severance, basically about a half-year's salary, when he voluntarily resigned, and I think that says how the board felt about him," Shockley said. "Wade was very up-front and candid with the situation that had happened in his former school. It's not quite what you hear in the news right now," Shockley said last week after news of the newly hired Marsing High School principal sparked national headlines. Pilloud, 38, voluntarily resigned his position as a principal in Indus, Minn., last fall, after admitting to shotgunning two small kittens on school grounds. He was found guilty of criminal unlawful killing of animals and criminal damage to property after damaging a wall inside the school. Pilloud was court-ordered to attend three anger-management sessions after the incidents, which he recently completed. Pilloud said that even after many sleepless nights, he still doesn't see a reasonable alternative to shooting the two, possibly rabid, feral kittens living under the 35-year-old trailer house he stayed in on a rural Minnesota school campus. They would most likely have fallen victim to starvation, disease, or predators such as a weasel or coyote, he said. "Believe me, I have laid awake many nights thinking about what I could have done differently," Pilloud said. Pilloud found the kittens with their dead mother on a Thursday and states he had no alternative because he was scheduled to be gone for the next four days. There was not an animal control facility for 125 miles — even if he could have caught the two wild cats, which ran at the mere sight of a human. Pilloud said he did not have any live traps available to him, an even that single, distant animal shelter routinely euthanized stray animals. "What people don't understand is these were wild cats, not cute, cuddly kittens that climb up in your lap. They were wild cats. They were the same as raccoons or skunks. They were just that wild," Pilloud said. "I don't believe I could have found anybody to have taken them in. "I guess my best option would have been to do nothing and let nature take its course, and either they would have starved to death, dehydrated or something would have come along and ate them." Faced with the decision, Pilloud said he retrieved his 28-gauge sin-

Fair: Rise in 4-H, FFA animal exhibits triggers need for more barn space

gle-shot shotgun, which he legally stored in his part-time residence on the 40-acre school grounds. He said he was approximately 100 yards from the schoolyard, facing into the woods when he fired the two lethal shots. No students witnessed the incident, and it was after regular school hours, he said. First and foremost, Shockley said he looked at Pilloud's performance as an educator and administrator and didn't let one single incident overshadow a career's-worth of quality accomplishments. "When he came here to interview, amongst other things, (Pilloud was) very strong in academics; he believes in co-curricular areas, but at the same time, he said very candidly, 'We're about academics, and the co-curricular is important to give a well-rounded education, and in many cases, it is the 'hook' that keeps kids in school,'" Shockley said. Shockley said that Pilloud came to the interview with a multitude of positive newspaper clippings about his past performance as an educator, working with the community and uniting school staff. "The record he had, also, is bringing the staff together as a team, beginning to rebuild pride in the school and students, and also, getting the community involved in the school in a positive way. Those are some of the things that we looked at," Shockley said. — JWB finance the construction, fair board chairman David Rutan said, after US Bank had declined. The fair board already had done the preliminary work of moving the old beef barn to make room for the expansion. Fair secretary/manager Kelly Haun said about \$9,000 was spent to move the barn behind the rodeo arena a few months ago. Now the only remnants of the barn's old location are cement pylon footings and an overriding nervousness about being able to accommodate at least 229 animal exhibits poised to descend upon the Homedale fairgrounds for the Aug. 6 start. The final day to register for the fair was Tuesday, and final numbers weren't available at press time. "Last year it was cozy, and this year we're not really sure," Owyhee County 4-H coordinator Judith McShane said. "It's going to be really cozy." The 229 animal count as of Thursday doesn't include small-animal exhibits — chickens and rabbits and pygmy goats — that are a growing class, according to McShane. "The fair board is very aware of how emergent other livestock are," county clerk Charlotte Sherburn said. McShane said the fair board's agenda for Thursday's meeting includes an item to open the old "shooting gallery" building — between the Armory and Tumbleweed Theater — to the small animals in attempt to relieve congestion. "(Fair board members are) going to do their best and accommodate everyone the best they can," McShane said. The No. 1 priority is protecting the animals in the searing heat of early August, McShane said. Rutan said the board briefly considered renting a tent to cover the area south of the livestock arena. "The one tent we wanted to rent (that was) the size of the barn would cost \$18,000 for one week," Rutan said. He pointed out that a one-year payment on the new, \$120,000 barn would have been \$21,000. And Rutan lamented that construction costs continue to rise, probably pushing the price of the barn even higher when — or if — the situation crystalizes. A drastic action to keep crowding down would be instituting a county exception, which would prohibit animals from exhibitors living outside Owyhee County. Asking for bigger contributions from the animal clubs is out of the question, Rutan said, because the 4-Hers and FFA chapters already have committed to helping finance tie stalls and pens. "We felt we were leaning on the clubs enough already to help finish the project," he said. — JPB

Sheriff: Aman moves into chairmanship of academy oversight panel

they prepare Idaho peace officers for service across the state," Otter said in a press release issued Monday. "I'm very pleased that Sheriff Aman and Chief Musser agreed to take on these important roles." Aman, who already served as vice-chairman of POST Council, will provide oversight of the Idaho POST Academy, which ensures the professional integrity of all Idaho criminal justice professionals. Aman currently holds an executive certificate through the POST Academy, which is the highest level of certification awarded to peace officers in the state. In his nearly 30 years in law enforcement, Aman has been promoted within the ranks from dispatcher, jailer and patrol deputy before winning his first election to the office of sheriff a decade ago. The POST Council is made up of 15 individuals who represent organizations within Idaho's criminal justice community. The council is an essential component in helping the POST Academy staff and leadership produce well-trained peace officers, according to the press release. POST Council members serve four-year terms and do not receive compensation except for the reimbursement of travel and per diem expenses. Aman has been a member of POST Council since 2005. He succeeds Jon Heggen, chief of enforcement, Idaho Fish and Game, whose term as POST Council chairman had expired. The POST Council chairman serves for one year.







Your finances

Dave says mutual fund money market is better than a CD

Dear Dave,  
Which is safer, CDs or fixed annuities?  
— Ray

Dear Ray,  
Certificates of Deposit (CDs) are safer, but they're not necessarily better.  
A fixed annuity is basically a savings account with a life insurance company. In most cases, life insurance companies pay into a risk pool at the state level. If the company goes broke, the money in the risk pool is supposed to cover you. But if a huge insurance company went broke and drained the risk pool, it would depend on how the pool was structured as to whether or not the state would be liable and you'd get your money back.  
With CDs you're a little bit safer. You've got the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation — the government — chartering the bank and guaranteeing all depositors up to \$100,000 in the bank.  
If you have to choose between these two, I'd recommend CDs. However, I'd do neither and go with a money market account from a good mutual fund company. This will pay close to CD rates, but with no penalties for early withdrawal if you have an emergency.

— Dave

Dear Dave,  
I'm trying to get my wife on board with us getting out of debt, but she tells me that if you don't have credit you're nothing. We're Christians, we make good money — about \$75,000 a year — so why does she feel this way? What can I do to help open her eyes?  
— Jay

Dear Jay,  
Lots of people believe the only way to have good things is to have payments attached to them. Many times the only reason for this is that their parents had the same wrong idea about handling money, and it rubbed off on them. You two have a good income, so there's no reason to have payments on anything except maybe your house.  
It may be that she just needs her hope restored. That's what most people in this country need. But since you're both Christians, I think there's a chance to help her and turn this into a great spiritual discussion.  
Proverbs 13:12 says "Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes it is a tree of life." In other words, when you can see something at the end of the tunnel that's not an oncoming



train — something that's real light and real hope — you get excited. Think about it, Jay. There's not one place in scripture where God uses debt to bless his people. In fact, the Bible calls debt a curse.  
You can always crunch numbers and show someone how to save, budget or pay off debt. But I believe the easiest way to find hope or reach someone's heart is to think in more spiritual terms.  
— Dave

Dear Dave,  
I have a rental property and can't decide whether to sell it or keep it. I'm debt-free except for the rental property and make about \$75,000 a year. The rental property is worth \$60,000, and I owe \$24,000 on it.  
— John

Dear John,  
This is really a matter of personal preference. You're in pretty good shape financially and could pay off the rental property in a year or two. But there's nothing worse than being a landlord when you don't want to be one and don't love real estate. Talk about a pain in the neck!  
Ask yourself this, John. If someone offered to sell you a home just like the one you own now or right next door to it, would you want to buy the house? If the answer is no, then it's time to sell the one you've got.  
It's not a bad deal if you feel that way. You'll get the responsibility of being a landlord off your back and become debt-free all at the same time! Of course if you like the rental, then just pay it off in the next couple of years and keep it.  
— Dave

Thank You  
My very sincere thanks to everyone who brought food and contributed to the celebration for the life of Gene Lewis.  
Thank you also to the Owyhee County Museum. It was a truly special occasion.  
- Tish Lewis

Calendar

**Today**  
DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151  
Melba Cottage Library book club meeting, 7 p.m., Melba Cottage Library, 109 Charlotte Drive, Melba. (208) 495-1063  
and Kick contest and cheerleading clinic, free, 10 a.m., Marsing Elementary School. (208) 880-1099, (208) 450-9052, (208) 880-9467  
Sarah Winnemucca Monument dedication ceremony, 1 p.m., U.S. Highway 95, 2½ miles west of Rome Station, Ore. (541) 586-2216

**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**  
Marsing Lions Optimist Football NFL/Pepsi Punt, Pass

**Sunday**  
Snake River Valley Fellowship Bible study, 10 a.m., 532 W. California Ave., Homedale. (208) 475-3733  
**Tuesday**  
Bruneau Elementary School preschool and kindergarten registration, 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Bruneau Elementary School, 28541 Bernham Ave., Bruneau. (208) 845-2492  
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**  
Homedale City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave. (208) 337-4641  
DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151  
Marsing City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Main St. (208) 896-4122  
Grand View City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. (208) 834-2700, Monday through Wednesday  
Owyhee Watershed Council meeting, 7 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (541) 372-5782

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



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# Warmer weather brings questions



## Homedale boat dock landlocked by snail

*“I’m sure there are other places in that river where that snail can put up house. At some point in time, the human race has got to have a little bit of rights, too,” Homedale resident Rich Roland said last week. The Homedale boat dock is not usable, and beneficial dredging has been put on hold because of the possible presence of a microscopic snail, which is slated to be stricken from the endangered species list.*

# Resident frustrated by boat dock socked in by silt, snail

Lifetime Homedale resident Rich Roland is fed up with not being able to use the boat dock at Homedale’s Riverside Park because of the possible presence of a microscopic cold-water snail in the Snake River.

“My father (George Roland) is 88 years old, and he’s a disabled veteran and everything else, and we’ve got a perfectly good boat dock down there that we can’t use,” Rich Roland said. “He needs a dock facility so that he can get in the boat.”

Roland said his father is a combat-wounded World War II veteran and a fishing enthusiast.

“This is one of his great pleasures — to be able to go fish — It just ticks me off,” Roland said.

Roland says traveling to other fishing locations entails over an hour’s drive in any direction, something that doesn’t sit well with him, since he lives such a short distance from a potentially usable fishing location.

“I’ve got to haul him to Juntura, Ore., or over by Vale to Bully Creek or to C.J. Strike, and there is plenty of good fishing right here in this river,” Roland said. “In fact, this past summer, my wife and I, we’d usually go down there, put the boat in and go up and sit underneath the bridge in the shade, where it’s cool and catch catfish and bass and whatever, but I can’t get my dad in the boat that way.

“They’ve been telling me they are going to do something about this for two years now, and their explanation to me was that some (expletive) little, microscopic snail in there (Snake River) is the reason why they can’t just go in there and clean the mud out of there.”

But, even more, Roland is frustrated by money spent on the improvements to the area, when the boat dock is still unusable because of silt buildup.

“They’ve added new picnic stands, but why ... spend money on something we can’t use? Spend it on some way to get that thing cleaned out. It’s plumb-full of mud you can’t get down there,” Roland said. “It seems like everybody I talk to just keeps passing the buck here and there.”

Roland said he has not talked to officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about the status of the cleanup. He says the last he knew, a project involving the City of Homedale, the South Board of Control, which was to supply equipment to dredge silt from the dock, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was on hold on because of the possible presence of an endangered snail in the river. According to officials at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife’s Boise office, the process may take several more months.

Greg Martinez, an environmental specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers’ office in Boise said

last week that Homedale had withdrawn its application to have the boat dock dredged. Homedale Public Works supervisor, Larry Bauer said that the cost to have needed analysis done, due to the snail, would be too high for the city to even begin.

Roland’s hope in the situation is simple:

“I would just like to see the human race have a little bit of consideration, too, instead of it all being Mother Nature,” Roland said. “I’m sure there are other places in that river where that snail can put up house. At some point in time, the human race has got to have a little bit of rights, too.

“To have that type of facility, and to use taxpayer money to build that stuff and all, we ought to be able to use it.”

Roland said that for able-bodied folks, using the boat ramp is not difficult, and that hunters frequently use the area as a jump-off point for waterfowl hunting excursions, but for his father, who was injured during WWII, it is impossible to board a boat because of the silt-filled area.

“You go down there, especially during hunting season, and there will be seven or eight pickups parked up there at the parking lot. But, they are all younger guys that can pull up on the bank and jump in the boat, but my father just can’t do that,” Roland said.

— JWB

# River dredging still months away

Homedale Public Works supervisor Larry Bauer is well aware of the problems associated with the boat dock at Riverside Park.

But the city has no control over the dock and does not own the property, Bauer said. However, when the city tried to help dredge silt from the dock — that currently makes it unusable — officials ran into environmental and economic roadblocks and federal red tape surrounding the possible existence of an endangered microscopic snail, the Idaho springsnail.

“The picnic tables, the shelters, and the barbecue pits belong to Owyhee County Waterways,” Bauer said. “We (the city) have done the maintenance in the past. This year they underwent a bunch of upgrading, but that was totally by the waterways commission.”

“The boat dock dredging is still waiting until such time that the supposed cold-water snail is delisted,” Bauer said.

Jeff Foss, field supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Boise Office, said last week the snail’s delisting is in the works, but no firm dates are yet known.

“It (snail) is proposed for delisting,” Foss said. “The proposal was submitted for public comment on it. It is now being finalized by the Fish and Wildlife Service. I can’t give you an exact timeframe. We’re certainly months away from that being done just because of the review process.”

Foss speculated the delisting was at least three to four months away because of review through the USFWS office in Portland, Ore., and the national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Foss said that the USFWS has had little involvement because Homedale withdrew the application it had filed with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Homedale dropped the request when officials learned of the lengthy, expensive process involved because of the possible existence of the cold-water snail.

Initially, a Corps of Engineers permit was needed in order for the city to begin dredging the boat dock to clear silt and mud from the area. Bauer said one of the reasons the city withdrew the application was staggering cost associated with verifying that the snail was not present at the location.

“We withdrew our application,” the public works supervisor said. “The cost to sample the ground to find the snail was ... dumb. It made no sense. We don’t have that kind of money, and I’m sure Owyhee County Waterways doesn’t either.

“Basically, what was going to happen was South Board of

Control was going to dredge it and haul the material away. We’ve done that in the past, but because of regulations becoming more and more stringent, we had to have the Army Corps permit.”

Bauer said that the city would have been required to pay for an environmental analysis to ensure that the snail isn’t present. Bauer said the city didn’t even bother to gather the exact figures, but was told the cost would be great.

“We never even investigated it (cost),” Bauer said. “We were just told it would be ‘quite spendy.’ Very few people in the country were certified to do (testing), so we didn’t even go there.”

Last fall, Greg Martinez, an environmental resource specialist with the Army Corps of Engineers explained the need for more analysis, even though there is no proof the snail exists in the area.

“There is no evidence to suggest that the snail isn’t present,” Martinez said.

“What do you do?” Bauer asked. “You’re kinda stuck. We’ve got a really nice boat dock that is coming more and more in disrepair because it can’t be used. It is non-usable entirely right now.”

Bauer said that even though the city doesn’t have control over the situation, city personnel still have to bear the brunt of folks’ frustrations over the situation.

“They call the city. That is the first place everybody goes to,” he said. “We don’t have any control or input whatsoever down there.”

Bauer said the city tried to help in the first place because nothing was being accomplished otherwise, and the economic benefit to the city could be valuable.

“It’s kind of a sad situation, because it is a real asset to the community. Not just to locals, but to out-of-towners,” he said. “When they get done (boating), they buy a little fuel or buy a soda pop. They might buy lunch or go to the bar or something. Those people should be catered to.”

Last fall, the USFWS announced that its five-year review of the Idaho springsnail revealed that Endangered Species Act protection wasn’t warranted. Studies have shown that the snail is actually the same species as the Harney Lake springsnail in Oregon, the Jackson Lake springsnail in Wyoming and the Columbia springsnail found in Oregon and Washington.

Bauer himself is an avid boater, and he finds the situation frustrating on a personal level as well.

“The sad part is, those of us that boat, we can’t use it because of some bureaucracy,” he said. “I don’t appreciate that.”

— JWB



# Warmer weather brings opportunities

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife creates information kiosks on Snake River

*Just in time for the hot weather that will send people flocking to the water and open spaces, a federal agency has completed a wildlife information project on the Owyhee County shores of the Snake River.*

**Clockwise from right:**  
*An information display recently was completed on the riverfront in Marsing, giving a spectacularly scenic view of Lizard Butte across the Snake River in Canyon County.*

*While the construction of the information boards and refurbished picnic shelters in both Marsing and Homedale are welcomed additions, the often-abused restrooms near the swimming pool at Riverside Park remain padlocked.*

*The booths — like this one in Homedale — feature information about the Snake River and the wildlife that the ecosystem supports.*

*A new information kiosk was constructed last week along the banks of the Snake in Homedale. The work was completed by youth from the Nampa Job Corps under the supervision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*



## OWC plans annual Field Day for area 5th-graders

Area schoolchildren will be treated to the sixth annual Owyhee Watershed Council field day at Owyhee Reservoir on Thursday and Friday.

Fifth-graders will mill through several educational stations staffed by volunteers from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day in the park below Owyhee Dam.

Homedale Elementary fifth-graders are scheduled to take part in the field day on Friday.

OWC officials expect more than 500 schoolchildren at the event.

About 20 different learning stations will teach the children of different aspects of water usage, water safety and conservation.

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# Commissioners look at comprehensive county disaster plan

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners discussed the formation of a countywide All-Hazards Mitigation Plan to prepare for public safety emergencies such as floods, fires or earthquakes.

The first step is the commissioners and county emergency services coordinator Larry Howard choosing members for a committee to provide input and suggestions, County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said.

“(The board and Howard) are still trying to get a committee together on that,” Sherburn said. “They are working with Northwest Management, who did the fire mitigation plan for the county.”

Sherburn said possible committee members have not yet been named, nor has the number of committee members been decided upon; however, the group is expected to be diverse.

“(Officials) are still finalizing the list (of names). They want to get people from every entity and not leave anybody out,” she said. “They are not going to limit it (number). They are going to conduct their meetings over at the museum so there is plenty of room.”

Howard said the list potentially will include representatives

from both the public and private sector.

“It will be (members from) school board, mayors, highway districts, firefighters, EMTs, state people from Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, pretty much the whole gamut...people who live here,” Howard said. “We’re going to try to get a cross-section of most everybody, business owners, US Ecology, etc.”

“Basically, one of the main objectives is to identify places that are (public safety) problems, and through the committee, we develop plans to rectify these things before they turn into a disaster. There is federal money available to help us mitigate these problems. It is to identify and rectify things that could potentially jump up and bite us.”

Sherburn said the Board looked at a sample All Hazards plan from Ada County as a guide.

“The All-Hazards Mitigation Plan is supposed to set up a plan for anything that may happen from floods, to landslides, to earthquakes, severe weather ... any kind of disaster that may happen, and just what we’ve got as far as a plan to take care of that,” she said.

— JWB

# SCF&R gives thanks with event

Silver City Fire & Rescue held an open house Saturday at the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy as a way to acknowledge its supporters.

Jim Hyslop, president of SCF&R, thanked those who have supported the new emergency response unit. He said many professional departments have provided expertise and valuable equipment to help defend historic properties from fire.

“SCF&R is definitely an organization built on generous contributions from those who love Silver City,” Hyslop said.

SCF&R is an all-volunteer group formed to provide fire protection and emergency medical services in the Silver City and War Eagle Mountain area of Owyhee County.

Its three fire trucks and one EMS van were on display in



## Young firefighter extinguishes thirst

Nampa resident Tyler Hyslop, the son of former *Avalanche* reporter Chad Hyslop and his wife Courtney, enjoys a root beer float at the Silver City Fire & Rescue Open House held in Murphy on Saturday.

Murphy.

LifeFlight landed an air ambulance on the lawn at the

museum much to the delight of those gathered for the open house.

# Sex offender arrested after foot chase

Homedale Police arrested an unregistered sex offender in the midst of a vehicle burglary early Friday. A second burglary suspect was able to flee into the darkness on foot.

Matthew Sandberg, 19, is charged with one count of failing to register as a sex offender, one count of burglary and one count of resisting, obstructing and delaying officers after leading officers on a foot chase just after midnight Friday.

He was arraigned later on Friday, and his bond set at \$10,000 on the three charges. He is scheduled for preliminary hearing on May 14 in Murphy.

Homedale Police Officer Ian Takashige was on routine patrol when he was dispatched to a vehicle burglary in progress on West Montana Avenue.

“The reporting party just happened to be in her yard, setting up for a yard sale, when she came up to the front and observed two male subjects attempting to gain entry into her vehicle,” Takashige said.

Takashige said the vehicle own-

er called to the suspects, thinking one of them was her husband. When he turned and she didn’t recognize him, she called to her husband. Caught in the act, the two men fled on foot.

After receiving the call, Takashige approached the area quietly in his patrol vehicle.

“I approached from the most likely avenue of escape and observed two male subjects in the alley behind the post office, just off of North Main Street,” the officer said. “Because of my stealth approach, I was able to get within 200 feet of them before they noticed my vehicle.”

Takashige said the two men separated and fled. Takashige captured Sandberg after a short foot pursuit. Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller responded to assist in the appre-



Matthew Sandberg

hension and to search for the other suspect, who evaded police.

Takashige said Sandberg had been living in the Homedale area with his parents. While he originally was arrested on suspicion of burglary, a felony, and resisting officers, a check of Sandberg’s criminal history showed him to be a sex offender out of Washington state who hadn’t registered in Owyhee County.

Takashige said Sandberg was directly linked to the suspect in another residential burglary in the Homedale area but was not charged in that incident.

Takashige gives credit to the calling party for Sandberg’s arrest and hopes someone will come forward with information leading to the arrest of the second suspect.

“If the residents of Homedale were all as observant as this particular lady was, the police department would be much better equipped to respond to — and prevent — crime, as opposed to investigating crimes that have already occurred,” the officer said.

— JWB



## Notice of Request for Public Comment on Jordan Creek Watershed Assessment

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comment on a draft assessment of water quality in the Jordan Creek Watershed.

The Jordan Creek watershed encompasses a large area in southwest Idaho and southeast Oregon. The headwaters originate in the western section of the Owyhee Mountains, flowing mostly west into Oregon, entering near Jordan Valley.

Based on a recent study of the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the Jordan Creek Watershed, DEQ is proposing to develop water quality management plans for the following stream segments:

- Jordan Creek and its tributaries from headwaters to the Oregon state line for temperature based on potential natural vegetation;
- Jordan Creek from headwaters to the Oregon state line for mercury; and
- Soda Creek from headwaters to Cow Creek for sediment.

In addition, DEQ is proposing to remove the following water bodies from the state’s list of impaired water bodies:

- Cow Creek and Rock Creek for sediment;
- Louse Creek for metals, pH, and sediment; and
- Jordan Creek for oil and grease, pesticides, and bacteria.

Lastly, DEQ is proposing to add Jordan Creek from Williams Creek to the Oregon state line to the state’s list of impaired water bodies for flow and habitat alteration.

As of April 30, the draft assessment will be available for review at DEQ’s Boise Regional Office, public libraries in Homedale, Nampa, and Boise, and in PDF format on DEQ’s Web site at [www.deq.idaho.gov/public/comment.cfm](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/public/comment.cfm).

Submit written comments by 5 p.m. MDT, Friday, June 1, 2007, to:

Michael Ingham  
DEQ Boise Regional Office  
1445 N. Orchard  
Boise, ID 83706  
Phone: (208) 373-0550  
Email: [mike.ingham@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:mike.ingham@deq.idaho.gov)

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## Homedale students on EOU’s list

Three Homedale residents were among the more than 600 students enrolled at Eastern Oregon University for winter term 2007 who have been named to the dean’s list.

The Homedale students were Anna Bayes, Michelle Eby and Sara Reed.

To qualify for the dean’s list a student must have achieved and maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the duration of the term.



# Birthday

## Johnston Austad celebrates 95th with Sunday potluck in Marsing

Berniece Johnston Austad will celebrate her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday with a potluck on Sunday, May 6 at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center.

The celebration takes place from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the hall, 126 2<sup>nd</sup> St. N.

Organizers ask for no gifts please, but cards, photographs and written remembrances are welcome.

Berniece was born May 2, 1912, in Nampa.

For more information, call Valerie Cobb at 896-5795.



Berniece Johnston Austad

## Smorgasbord nets thousands for schools

### \$6,000 pledged to electronic reader board

The 2007 Homedale International Smorgasbord raised more than \$9,500 to be distributed among the town's three schools.

Kelley Hansen, who served as 2007 chair with her husband Jeff, said \$6,000 will go to the school district's efforts to buy a Daktronics lighted reader board.

The 2006 smorgasbord fund carryover was larger than usual, Hansen said, because of late donations from some corporate supporters.

When the dishwasher had settled after the 2007 dinner, which was held in February at Homedale Elementary, organizers had \$9,738.82 to split between the schools. Less than \$100 of that amount will be kept in the smorgasbord reserve account, Hansen said.

While each school — the elementary and high school and Homedale Middle School — each received \$1,082 for general use, there were other funds distributed to specific causes.

At the high school, money was distributed to Mike Greeley's

shop class and the Homedale FFA chapter.

"The chairmen gave specific amounts to Mr. Greeley's shop, Homedale FFA and art departments for their extra efforts for the Smorgasbord," Hansen said.

Specifically, high school funds will be used to buy art resources for Katy Belanger, who is responsible for the art show each year at the Smorgasbord; career planning booklets for the school's counseling center; a history field trip to the Warhawk Museum in Nampa; calculators for the Math department; supplies for a new floral design class that Lori Harrison is planning; and classroom supplies for Language Arts instructor Linda Kildow.

At the middle school, money will be used for a backstop for kickball and softball and the purchase of art resources.

Elementary school funding will include vision screening testing cards for the school nurse; television for media for parenting classes offered by Randee Garrett; and repairs to the school reader board.

Dwayne and Tracy Fisher take over as chairs for the 2008 Smorgasbord, which will be held in February.

# Engagement

## Bailey, Krenz to wed May 12 in Nampa



Daniel Krenz and Heather Bailey

Christopher and Deborah Bailey of Nampa are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Heather Dawn Bailey, to Daniel Burton Krenz, son of Harold and Jeanie Krenz of Boise.

The bride-to-be graduated from Homedale High School and will graduate from Boise State University in May with a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Art History. She is currently manager

of Mariposa in Boise Towne Square mall.

The groom-elect graduated from Eagle High School and will graduate from Boise State University in 2008 with an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. He currently works for B&W Wrecker.

The wedding has been set for May 12, 2007 at the Sand Stone Event Center in Nampa.

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An hour is sometimes all it takes to make a positive difference in a child's life. Donna Shines will tell you that when a child knows that someone cares, his or her life changes for the better.

Donna is the force behind The Mentoring Network, Inc., a non-profit, school-based program that serves children in the rural districts of Nampa, Caldwell, Parma, Homedale and Vallivue. Donna and a team of volunteers work with each school to provide mentoring to at-risk students in the first through eighth grades.

Art projects, favorite books, sack lunches and shared smiles punctuate the time spent between mentor and child. Volunteers, who range from college students and retirees to postal inspectors and entrepreneurs, spend one hour a week with the children. The results include improved attendance, better grades, stronger relationships and happier kids. For the community as a whole, the outcome is priceless.

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# Citation in livestock mishap



## Firefighters rescue cows after semi rollover

Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies, Grand View firefighters and the Grand View Ambulance responded to this semi rollover on Idaho highway 78 near Grand View last week. The semi contained 99 cattle, eight of which did not survive the ordeal. Firefighters used heavy rescue equipment, called the 'Jaws of Life' to free trapped cattle. Submitted photo

# Cattle die in GV rollover

A semi-truck rollover in Grand View on Friday killed seven cattle and resulted in the humane destruction of an eighth.

The cattle, which were en route to Colorado from Owyhee Feeders in the Wilson community, were onboard a Kenworth semi. The truck was carrying a total of 99 cattle.

According to Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron, the semi was traveling eastbound on Idaho highway 78 near Grand View, when it encountered a potato digger, driven westbound by a Simplot employee.

The semi driver drove off the right shoulder of the road to avoid the potato digger, which occupied both sides of the roadway. When the truck left the roadway, the incline of the shoulder caused the semi to rollover on its side. Authorities say the semi was traveling slowly when it left the



## No humans injured in wreck

The mangled shell of a cattle trailer lays on its side at the sight of an accident in Grand View. No one was hurt, but nine cattle perished. Submitted photo

roadway. No human injuries were reported.

Cameron said the driver of the potato digger was cited for driving on the wrong side of the road. The truck driver was not cited.

The Grand View Fire Department and Grand View Ambulance responded.

Ed Collett, assistant fire chief of the Grand View Fire Department, said firefighters were able to use extrication equipment, otherwise known as "Jaws of Life," to free the cattle trapped inside the semi

trailer. Collett said Grand View firefighters recently underwent 25 to 30 hours of training in order to use the lifesaving equipment.

Collett said that the incident was one of the biggest heavy rescues the Grand View Fire Department has ever had, and without the extrication equipment, further loss of cattle would have been certain.

Collett said a total of 10 firefighters responded.

— JWB



## FFA greenhouse open for business

Nampa resident Cindy Brown stocks up on greenery for her garden during the first day of the Homedale FFA chapter's greenhouse sale Wednesday.

# Jordan Valley FFA news

The Jordan Valley FFA gathered on April 13 to conclude a successful year for the chapter.

Several guests accompanied the FFA members for a dinner of roast beef or baked chicken from the Basque Inn, along with company potatoes.

After the dinner, several awards were given to members who went above and beyond for the 2006-07 year.

The Greenhand Degree was handed out to six freshmen, including Mattie Wroten, Bryce Kershner, Sonny Mackenzie, Tad Jones, Brandon Mackenzie and Anne-Marie Eiguren. Of the six recipients, Kershner and Eiguren were selected Star Greenhands.

A slideshow produced by Catie Kershner examined the entire year of FFA with pictures and music.

Several members earned State Degrees: Athena Beckwith, Elisa Eiguren, Bailey Kershner, Luisa Lowry, Megan Mackenzie, Sequoi Trautman and Jerry Wroten.

Wroten also received the Star Farmer Award, and Bailey Kershner earned the DEKALB award.

Proficiencies were awarded

to several worthy candidates: Megan Mackenzie (Equine Science Entrepreneurship), Bailey Kershner (Beef Production Entrepreneurship), Lacey Kershner (Swine Production Entrepreneurship), Wroten (Forage Production Entrepreneurship), Trautman (Landscape Management), Catie Kershner (Ag Mechanics Repair & Maintenance), and Elisa Eiguren (Sheep Production Entrepreneurship).

The new 2007-08 FFA officers also were installed, including president Elisa Eiguren, vice-president Athena Beckwith, secretary Catie Kershner, treasurer Annie Mackenzie, reporter Bryce Kershner, sentinel Anne-Marie Eiguren, and historian/alternate Nickie Naegle.

At the end of the ceremony, advisor Adam Ineck announced he is leaving for North Idaho to be with his wife, who is pregnant.

Ineck was one of the main contributors toward the large success of the Jordan Valley FFA (not to mention an excellent Ag teacher) and will be sorely missed by all.



## Jordan Valley FFA elects new officers

The Jordan Valley FFA chapter officers for the 2007-08 school year will be, from left to right, treasurer Annie Mackenzie, sentinel Anne-Marie Eiguren, president Elisa Eiguren, secretary Catie Kershner, reporter Bryce Kershner, alternate Nickie Naegle and vice-president Athena Beckwith. Submitted photo

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# COSSA closes auto body class

### High-tech offering to replace Homedale course

High school students will have a new education option next fall in the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency.

COSSA director Mark Cotner recently confirmed that the Homedale-based auto collision repair course will be discontinued when the school year ends next month. An automated industrial engineering class will replace the auto body class in the Homedale shop at 13 W. Idaho Ave.

Cotner said the discontinuation of the auto body program was a confluence of low enrollment figures, the changing job market and the resignation of instructor Gerri Lunt.

“We’re annually held responsible for our graduation rates and job placement, and in that program enrollment has always been very low,” Cotner said.

“That was the only program we had that didn’t have college credits availability or high student placement numbers. It just wasn’t meeting our industry and population standards.”

In light of those factors, Cotner said, the COSSA board of directors decided to implement Automated Industrial Engineering.

“It has increased emphasis on a student that’s going on in engineering in college,” Cotner said. “It’s a little different than the traditional building trades and mechanics.”

Early last week, the COSSA board approved former Micron engineer Sarah Brown as the instructor for the Automated Industrial Engineering.

“We’re pretty excited about it,” Cotner said of the new program, “and I think the instructor that we hired is exactly what we needed.”

The Automated Industrial Engineering course is available to students attending schools in the COSSA coverage area, including Homedale and Marsing.

The class is a two-year course available to juniors and seniors. There will be morning and afternoon sessions. Students have the option to take the course for one or two years.

According to the course description, the program is designed to prepare students to enter the Automation field at the Technician level. As with other COSSA courses, students can earn college credits toward Associate’s or Bachelor’s degrees through the state university system.

Subject areas to be covered during the course include electronics, hydraulics, pneumatics, programmable logic controls, robotics and industrial systems.

Students interested in the course can contact their guidance counselors at school.

“This will prepare students to go right into the workforce,” Cotner said. “We’ve had the industry’s



### Budding body men last of breed

**Above:** Marsing High School student Joe Taylor wet-sands his 1997 Acura during one of the few remaining days of the COSSA auto body class in Homedale. **Below:** Homedale seniors, from left to right, Guillermo Machuca, Gregorio Monreal and Jacob Anthony, plan to continue their education at WyoTech.



input on the curriculum.

“A lot of these students will go right into college or right to work.”

Cotner said that with Brown’s help, COSSA will develop a curriculum for the course.

“Our instructor has a lot of experience with clean rooms and (memory) chip manufacturing,” he said.

Cotner has been with COSSA four years. He taught an automated industrial engineering class for 14 years in Oklahoma.

He said graduation from the program puts students well on their way to earning a “very high” starting salary.

“We’re excited about it,” Cotner said. “This is a perfect time to switch.”

Seven students had enrolled in Lunt’s auto body class this year — six seniors and a junior. The program is being discontinued during a year in which one of the students — Homedale’s Guillermo Machuca — captured a silver medal in Auto Collision at the IdahoSkills state competition.

“We have one junior, and he’s going to look at other programs

to transfer into,” Cotner said.

“The timing was right for us to (discontinue the program). Our instructor resigned for personal reasons.”

Marsing’s Joe Taylor, one of four students from Marsing or Homedale in the course, is the lone junior. Machuca, Jacob Anthony and Gregorio Monreal all attend Homedale.

Machuca and Anthony — both of whom worked ahead in other academic areas to devote more time to the auto body program — plan to continue their educations at WyoTech in Laramie, Wyo. Monreal plans to attend the WyoTech campus in Sacramento.

While the Homedale trio will continue studying in college, Taylor is in a tough spot.

He’s customizing the paint and body on his 1997 Acura Integra, but he’s running out of daylight as the school year winds down. Taylor isn’t sure if he’ll transfer to another district that still offers auto body.

“I wanted to learn more,” he said. “Now I have to hurry up and finish.”

— JPB

# Snow, water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday, Owyhee Reservoir was 78 percent full and that 250 cubic feet per second of water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore. The reservoir held 554,903 acre-feet of water.

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 10 a.m. Monday:

Date	Snow Depth	Reynolds Creek			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
			Max.	Min.	
04/24	0.0	11.1	54	34	43
04/25	0.0	11.1	60	38	49
04/26	0.0	11.1	57	38	49
04/27	0.1	11.2	55	33	44
04/28	0.2	11.1	66	41	54
04/29	0.0	11.0	70	52	63
04/30	0.1	11.1	70	49	60

Date	Snow Depth	South Mountain			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
			Max.	Min.	
04/24	8.1	25.9	51	34	40
04/25	5.7	25.8	58	38	48
04/26	3.8	25.8	58	35	48
04/27	0.4	25.8	54	33	43
04/28	-0.3	25.9	66	43	55
04/29	-0.3	23.8	71	55	62
04/30	-0.3	23.8	68	49	58

Date	Snow Depth	Mud Flat			
		Year to Date Precipitation	Average Temp		Avg.
			Max.	Min.	
04/24	0.0	10.6	58	37	46
04/25	0.0	10.6	62	34	49
04/26	0.0	10.7	63	39	49
04/27	0.5	10.7	61	34	47
04/28	0.1	10.7	71	35	55
04/29	-0.6	10.7	78	42	62
04/30	-0.1	10.7	73	47	60

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Folks worth knowing in Owyhee County

# Jim O'Keefe

HOMEDALE BULLFIGHTER, BOXER, ARTIST

## A renaissance man of the West

He walks with the assistance of a cane, and his frame is stooped as he battles the tremors from the recent onset of Parkinson's disease.

But, even with the ravages of age pulling Homedale's Jim O'Keefe back into the ring, there's no mistaking the toughness and courage of the man standing tall after 72 years as a cowboy, rodeo clown, bullfighter, artist, poet and boxing trainer.

"My doctor said that most people would give up, but I told him, 'I don't know how to spell the word.'"

O'Keefe, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's about a year ago, continues to work his magic with miniature shadowboxes that exhibit painstaking detail.

Culling information from a lifetime of memories, O'Keefe has reproduced actual events in his artistic creations, which are made with real bear hair for a horse's mane and tail or leather for a cowboy's chaps or metal for the nearly microscopic spurs.

After spending one lunch hour with the man, though, it's not difficult to see that he has a near photographic memory.

Recently while dining at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, O'Keefe amazed old boxing buddies who had gathered for a long overdue visit.

O'Keefe, who 25 years ago was at the end of a decade-long stint as a trainer for the Marsing Job Corps boxing team, plucked names of fighters out of the air as his lunch companions were transfixed in wild-eyed amazement.

"Kids used to hide in the darkest corner of the gym, and I told them I wanted to see them in the bright lights," O'Keefe said of his philosophy of training the young fighters for a program that disappeared long ago.

Then he pulled one of those

magical rabbits out of his encyclopedic mind.

"When Eddie Serna won, he grew about 6 inches."

The meal was filled with such regalia as old boxing buddies — most of whom cut their teeth on ring posts in Montana — settled in for laughs and memories.

On hand were former Idaho Athletic Commission members Dale Trumbo and Larry Beddes, 1960 Olympic boxer Jerry Armstrong and Jim Dickey, who was a ring announcer when the group was active in the fight game.

"We've had a lot of fun over the years," O'Keefe said.

O'Keefe has lived in Homedale for 35 years with Roberta, his wife of 47 years.

They settled in Homedale when his work with the Job Corps brought him to Marsing in 1972 after stops in Washington state, Montana and Colorado.

By then, he already had led a life most people only see in the movies. His bull-riding expertise earned him a Sioux name — *Keyukangue* ("Makes Room") — from the grandson of Sitting Bull.

O'Keefe spent considerable time as a rodeo clown and bullfighter. He had a pet moose that he actually rode during shows.

He broke his back in a bucking horse accident at a Fourth of July rodeo in Chico, Mont., in 1955. Told walking again would be unlikely, he was back on his feet in short order.

Determination like that also allowed him to take the Job Corps kids on a snowy 28-mile Thanksgiving trek on horseback to Silver City each year.

"Tim Nettleton said I was the only guy who could do that," he said.

You get the feeling that could be said about a lot of things O'Keefe has tried.

— JPB



### Man for all seasons

*Clockwise from the top:*

*Friends surround Homedale's Jim O'Keefe, second from right, during a recent lunch. From left, Dale Trumbo and Larry Beddes, former Idaho Athletic Commission directors, 1960 Olympic boxer Jerry Armstrong, O'Keefe and Jim Dickey, a former ring announcer.*

*O'Keefe's highly detailed shadowbox of rodeo legend Bill Linderman from a ride during the Phoenix Rodeo in 1944. The mane and tail is black bear hair; he used real leather for the chaps and there are miniature metal spurs on the boots.*

*O'Keefe as a rodeo barrelman in Kalispell, Mont., 1964*

*The 1995 Idaho Golden Gloves belt buckle Trumbo recently presented to O'Keefe.*



## Locals to play big role in Winnemucca dedication

Idaho-Oregon-Nevada region historian Mike Hanley IV believes Sarah Winnemucca would approve.

The long-awaited dedication ceremony of Winnemucca's monument on U.S. Highway 95 west of Rome Station, Ore., takes place at 1 p.m. MDT Saturday.

"It's going to be a pretty open thing," Hanley said, "which is the way I think Sarah Winnemucca would have wanted to have it.

"She was a people person."

Winnemucca, the daughter of Paiute chief Winnemucca and granddaughter of Chief Truckee, was instrumental in trying to convince Native Americans to assimilate into the approaching culture during the late 19th century.

"She believed that for anyone to join

the American society that they should learn English first because that was the language," Hanley said. "And (because) they would be able to understand the culture more."

But Hanley thinks her impact goes well beyond the fact that she tried to teach English to her people.

"There a lot of people who are alive in the ION country that would not have been alive if not for Sarah Winnemucca," he said.

Hanley said after the Bannock War, Winnemucca worked to settle the Paiutes in the Idaho portion of the Duck



Sarah Winnemucca

Valley Reservation. She played a role in establishing the reservation by bringing her people back from Yakima after their home — the Malheur Reservation by Vale, Ore., — had been taken away.

Saturday's dedication ceremony will be a modest affair, Hanley said.

His granddaughter, Morgan Corrigan, will present at book review of Winnemucca's 1883 book, "Life Among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims."

Hanley and fellow local historian Bob Skinner will give speeches.

Bureau of Land Management archaeologist Diane Pritchard also will speak.

"And if any various kinfolk from the tribe want to, they are welcome (to speak), and we'll give anybody else in the general

public a chance to participate," Hanley said.

The dedication ceremony is being sponsored by the ION Heritage Council, which runs the fledgling ION Heritage Museum in Jordan Valley.

Hanley said the monument, which includes a board with information about Winnemucca, was built with labor from himself and neighbors.

The BLM furnished the materials for the structure, he said, and the Oregon Department of Highways also helped.

"It's just a kiosk. It's pretty simple," Hanley said of the monument. "And if it's something that we can get started, maybe we can expand it."

— JPB



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Jalapenos **99¢** lb.  
Pineapple **\$1.29** ea.  
Apples **79¢** lb.

Western Family  
**Refried Beans**



**2\$1** for  
16 oz.

Carnation 16 oz. **\$1.79** ea.  
Coffee Mate **\$1.79** ea.

Old El Paso  
**Taco Shells**



**99¢** ea.  
10-12 ct.

Old El Paso 10 oz. **\$1.19** ea.  
Enchilada Sauce **\$1.19** ea.

**Coca Cola  
Products**



**2\$9** for  
12pk 12oz Cans

2 Liter Bottle **\$1.29** ea.  
Coke Products **\$1.29** ea.

**Budweiser Beer**



**\$8.49** ea.

12pk 12oz Bottles  
18pk 12oz Cans or Bottles **\$12.99** ea.  
Coors Beer **\$12.99** ea.

Wonder Hamburger  
& Hot Dog Buns **\$1.29** ea.  
8 ct.

Gold-n-Soft  
Margarine Light Spread **\$1.19** ea.  
16 oz.

Western Family  
Cottage Cheese **\$2.29** ea.  
24 oz.

Totino's  
Party Pizza **\$1.19** ea.  
9.8-10.7 oz.

Western Family  
Ice Cream **\$5.99** ea.  
5 qt.

Fritos & Cheetos  
8.5-11 oz. **\$1.99** ea.  
Lay's Potato Chips 13.25 oz. **\$1.99** ea.

Shasta Cola  
3 Liter Bottle **\$1.19** ea.

Western Family  
Homestyle Soups **2\$3** for  
18.6 oz.

Skippy  
Peanut Butter **2\$4** for  
18 oz.

Dawn  
Dish Soap **\$2.99** ea.  
25 oz.

Tide  
Liquid Detergent **\$7.49** ea.  
100 oz.

Charmin  
Bath Tissue **\$7.49** ea.  
24 Roll

Arrowhead  
Spring Water **2\$9** for  
24pk .5 Liter Bottle

Pace  
Picante Sauce **\$2.89** ea.  
24 oz.

McCormick  
Taco Seasoning **2\$1** for  
Foil Pouch

Western Family  
Medium & Large  
Olives 6 oz. **\$1.19** ea.

Friskies Canned  
Cat Food **2\$89¢** for  
5.5 oz.

Purina  
Dog Food **\$10.49** ea.  
17.6-22 lb.

Pringles  
Potato Chips **\$1.19** ea.  
163 gr.

Western Family  
Charcoal Briquets **\$5.99** ea.  
18 lb.

M&M's Candy **\$1.99** ea.  
11-14 oz.

Western Family  
Pinto Beans **\$2.49** ea.  
4 lb.

Western Family  
Duplex Cookies **\$2.49** ea.

Planter's Mixed Nuts  
& Cashew Halves **\$4.49** ea.  
9.2 oz.

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

**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 5/2/07 thru 5/8/07**