



**Salute to the
Class of 2007
Inside today**

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Ontario company wins bid
for sewer construction project

High school sports, B section

Extensive roundup of District III
championship competition

Wednesday, May 16, 2007

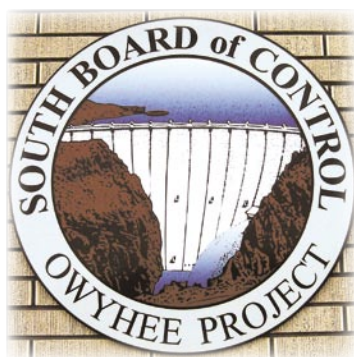
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The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 20

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



More rough waters for South Board

Ridgeview board resigns

All three members of the Ridgeview Irrigation District Board resigned during a special meeting held at the South Board of Control office in Homedale on

May 7.

Board chairman Mike Pendergrass and directors Paul

— See *Ridgeview*, page 5A

Attorney's letter rips director

Boise labor attorney Kail Seibert blasted South Board of Control Director Tim Leavitt after the 2006 investigation that cost water users \$33,000 and claims

Leavitt's sole goal in 2006 was the termination of South Board of Control (SBOC) manager Rex Barrie.

Last week, The Owyhee

Avalanche obtained a letter written by Seibert addressed to the South Board of Control

— See *Letter*, page 5A

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**NCAA football
calls ex-Trojan
Page 1B**

Touching up Paul's new look



Homedale store's renovation moves along

Homedale resident Luke Jeffries concentrates as he trims the new blue stripe on Paul's Market on Wyoming Avenue on Thursday. Jeffries and his brother, Joel, were doing the job for Greenleaf's Valspec Contracting, Inc. Paul's exterior now boasts new signage and the distinctive stripe.

Marsing Chamber cancels festival

Reorganization
leaves no time
to plan

Life has gotten in the way of the Marsing Old Fashioned Festival — at least for this year.

Chamber of Commerce director Cathy Streibel said last week that the reorganization of the business group has forced the postponement of the event used for the past three years as a fundraiser for the city's "Kick Off Your Fourth in Marsing on the Third" fireworks show.

"We've decided to scratch it for this year," Streibel said. "With the reorganization of the Chamber, there's no way we'll get it going."

Streibel said the fireworks display will go on as planned on July 3, with the Chamber using existing funds to finance it.

— See *Festival*, page 3A

Nuclear plant developer plans public meeting

The Virginia-based company with plans to build a nuclear power plant in Owyhee County near C.J. Strike Reservoir has planned a public meeting this week to discuss details.

Alternate Energy Holdings, Inc., will hold a meeting for residents of Owyhee and Elmore counties who are living near the 4,000 acres where the proposed 1,600 megawatt power plant will be built.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 31 at Rimrock Junior-Senior High School.

Officials will discuss the Idaho Energy Complex and answer any questions from the audience.

Homedale awards sewer project

Eastern Oregon Construction wins job over John Badiola’s Lurre

The Homedale City Council selected a construction company to build a lift station and expand the municipal sewer system.

But, as has become a hallmark of the process, Eastern Oregon Construction of Ontario, Ore., didn’t get the job without a little controversy first.

Before the city council voted to award the job to Eastern Oregon, which had the lowest submitted proposal of \$857,380, the second-lowest bidder lodged a mild protest.

Lurre Construction representative John Badiola contended that his company should be awarded the job because of an error in the bid documents Eastern Oregon had submitted to the city. Lurre’s bid was \$886,166.

Eastern Oregon’s unit price for some of the pipe to be used in the project actually was listed as more than \$40,000, but the bottom line of the bid still worked out correctly.

City officials said it merely was a case of Eastern Oregon accidentally putting the entire price of the pipe for the project in the wrong column.

Badiola said that the error should invalidate Eastern Oregon’s bid, thus giving the job to Lurre.

But, with a ruling from city attorney Michael Duggan in hand, the council members voted unanimously to award the job to Eastern Oregon.

The vote included an unusual twist as City Councilman Steve Schultz voted via phone from Chicago.

The motion made by councilman Tim Downing also included a provision for the city to provide nearly

\$9,500 to satisfy a contingency requirement by the USDA RDA.

“I’m looking out for the people of Homedale, and I believe we need to go with the lowest bid,” Mayor Paul Fink said.

It was unclear if Lurre Construction would pursue the matter through legal channels, but Roger Sorenson of Homedale’s engineering firm — Project Engineering Consultants, Inc. — said that legal precedence rested with the city.

He added that the bottom line in such rulings is what is in the best interest of the taxpayers.

“A bond attorney and (U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency) counsel also looked into it,” city public works supervisor Larry Bauer said.

When Badiola brought up a question of how Eastern Oregon would handle the lengthening of the sewer pipe bore under U.S. Highway 95, Eastern Oregon representative Weston Wettstein pledged his company would charge the city a lump sum for any additional pipe for that part of the project.

Mosquito abatement

Bauer reported that city worker Scott Mahler represented Homedale at a recent free training session in Nampa dealing with the application of insecticide to help fight the mosquito species that carries West Nile Virus.

But Bauer said he was skeptical about using larvacide to help combat the start of the virus season.

“The problem with larvacide is I can’t identify any place that has standing water,” Bauer said.

Bauer didn’t expect to spray any time soon because of the lack of “stagnant” water where mosquitoes can breed.

But Bauer agreed with Fink that some spraying should be done in the vicinity of Sundance Park if the cost of chemicals wasn’t too prohibitive.

— JPB

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Marsing council hears library plan, OKs fishing day

The Marsing City Council heard public input on the new Lizard Butte Library facility at last week’s Council meeting.

The council also gave approval for the Leroy Breshears Fishing Day, to be held Saturday at Marsing’s Island Park.

While the room was packed with library supporters, three of whom gave testimony, no one voiced opposition to construction of the new Lizard Butte Library facility, which will stand on property behind the Marsing Rural Fire District Station on Third Street. The library district has owned the property for approximately 10 years.

Supporters of the library’s plans all voiced the same opinion, that it has been a long time coming. One supporter stated that it has been “her dream” to have a new library in Marsing big enough that the community can use it for gathering purposes.

Architect Jim Main from Design

West Architects, a Meridian-based architectural firm, showed a floor plan. Main said that Design West will coordinate with city engineer Amy Woodruff to finalize construction plans regarding the building.

Voters in the Lizard Butte Library District overwhelmingly approved a \$775,000 bond to build a new library during a Feb. 6 election.

The new library is expected to sport an open floor plan with room for more patrons and 10,000 books. A floor plan released by Design West Architects shows a building that would house a 4,750-square-foot library as well as a 1,000-square foot community room.

The next Marsing City Council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. June 20 at the Marsing City Hall.

— JWB

— More on annual Breshears Fishing Day, page 8A

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Speaker urges Chamber to act with vision



Homedale Chamber gets motivated
City resident Jeff Blodgett was the guest speaker at last week's Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He urged members to have a vision when carrying out the organization's mission statement.

If the goal of Homedale Chamber of Commerce officers is to bring more entertainment and excitement to the organization's monthly luncheons, they could do worse than invite Jeff Blodgett back.

Blodgett, a Homedale resident who works in sales for Adair Homes, also dabbles in motivational speaking with his side business Just Believe In.

During Thursday's luncheon at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, the energetic Blodgett was forthright when he admitted he was there to promote his businesses — both his own and the one for which he works.

But Blodgett also brought something beneficial for the members both professionally and personally.

"If we have to go to work, why not go to work passionately?" Blodgett asked when addressing the age-old problem of people falling into ruts with their jobs.

"Someone once told me that a rut is just a grave with both ends knocked out," he said. "You can't see up and you can't see out."

Blodgett said that folks should

focus on a catch-phrase, "People, Potential and Possibilities," in their quest to break free from monotony.

"The world is full of opportunity," he said.

Seizing on the fact that Chamber of Commerce recently adopted a mission statement, Blodgett said there is more to the concept than just a bunch of words aimed at showing a direction.

"Businesses create mission statements, but stop there and don't allow for the vision statement," he said.

Blodgett explained that in order to have a mission statement, a business — and even individuals — must have vision and values.

He likened the mission statement to the wind, the vision to a sail on a ship and values to a rudder to help guide the business or person through life.

Ever an enthusiastic inspirational speaker, Blodgett said that the success of the Chamber and the businesses within it will only increase as the organization continues to regain members and the city's economy continues to expand.

"People will move here and put money here as you grow (the town)," he said.

To that end, developer Ron Mayhew enlightened the Chamber about the Boise Valley Economic Partnership and the \$5 million it has earmarked to help grow businesses throughout the region.

He mentioned that it may cost the city about \$3,000 to join, but that is a small price to pay for the possible exposure.

"This will give people from out of state or North Idaho an opportunity to see what we have to offer," he said.

Alliance Title sponsored the luncheon, and Robin Aberasturi announced that the business was celebrating its one-year anniversary and had just signed a six-year lease on its office building.

Chamber treasurer/vice-president Brad Dines also presented members with an updated financial ledger that showed a balance of \$1,829.36 as of the meeting date. That included a deposit of \$420 worth of dues and expenditures for Easter candy, advertising and Christmas turkeys.

—JPB

From page 1

✓ Festival: Chamber continues rebuilding efforts with meeting tonight

"We have ordered the fireworks and talked to the fire department, and they're going to go ahead with it for us," she said.

Chamber members hope to elect a president and solidify a board of directors during a meeting scheduled for 7 tonight at the Essence of Life on Main Street, Streibel said.

"From there, we'll go forward," she said.

"We're looking to make it a fully functional Chamber again and benefit businesses as it had in the past."

Streibel said Chamber members recently voted to hold meetings at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month.

The Chamber went into dormancy in November when then-president Bill O'Connor stepped down and moved to Nampa. O'Connor still serves as pastor of the Marsing Nazarene Church.

"I had been president for four years, and I felt that was long enough," O'Connor said. "I was hoping for more support and wasn't able to achieve that."

When informed that Streibel and others were trying to revive the organization, O'Connor wished them the best of luck and expressed a wish that they get the necessary support.

Streibel said that O'Connor's resignation came a month before officer elections were to be scheduled.

She said the elections were

never held as many members were taken away from Chamber business by outside forces. For example, she and her daughter, Melissa, were focused on changes in their business, Essence of Life.

"There were a lot of things going on with the directors," Cathy Streibel said. "We had illnesses, and one was moving. And, as for Melissa and I, we were

moving our businesses.

"We just needed to have a couple of months of a short standstill, and it slipped into dormancy."

Now, Streibel and other business owners have brought the Chamber, which has been part of Marsing since the 1970s, back online.

"We just decided to go forward and see what we can do with it and

have support and have new ideas because the old ideas weren't working," she said. "We're looking forward to making it a better Chamber."

While several offices were filled in elections at the Chamber's previous meeting, Streibel said the position of president was left vacant deliberately.

"We left it open, seeing if there was someone willing to step up to

the plate," she said. "If not, I'm sure one of us as a director will step forward."

"It's something at this point I'm not willing to let die unless there is no support at all. But there is support, and there are areas we can beautify and make work for the commerce community and the town."

—JPB

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— JWB

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Member

Commissioners receive FY 2006 audit

Owyhee County's finances for Fiscal Year 2006 were in good shape, members of the Board of County Commissioners learned at their May 7 meeting in Murphy. Representatives of Nampa certified pub-

lic accounting firm Bailey & Co., presented their audit of the county's FY 2006 finances during the meeting, pointing out that the county government's assets exceeded its liabilities by nearly \$9.5 million despite a

drop in the net property taxes the county received from FY 2005. The report showed that FY 2006 net property taxes slipped by more than \$20,000 compared to the previous year.

The closing balance for the county's general fund was nearly \$3.5 million, the report pointed out. Copies of the report are available for viewing at the county offices in Murphy.

From page 1



More rough waters for South Board

✓ Letter: Attorney says some members returned investigation document

Board of Directors regarding the investigation that caused the district's legal bills to exceed budgeted amounts by nearly four times. Leavitt declined to comment on the content of the letter, citing the document was considered attorney-client privilege. "I'm not sure how to handle it (the letter). I'm apprehensive about making any statements without going through the Board," Leavitt said last week. "My impression is, I'm not going to comment on it. I don't know if it is part of that 'attorney-client privilege' package." Seibert says Leavitt's behavior on South Board resulted in time wasted, and Leavitt's goal was to terminate Barrie without cause, regardless of the repercussions to water users. Seibert stated in the letter that after the Board's June 12, 2006 meeting she left frustrated that she was unable to present findings from the investigation to the SBOC directors. She lays blame for the waste solely on Leavitt's shoulders. "Due to the dynamics among directors and the behavior of Mr. Leavitt, my report was not fully given or discussed and much time was wasted," Seibert wrote. "Notwithstanding the

desire of the majority of the Board to perform their duties and manage District business, it is nearly impossible. With the exception of one, the Directors were genuinely interested in what I had to report." Seibert also stated that if all the directors of the SBOC were to put the interests of the irrigation district before self-interests, and conduct themselves in a business-like manner, many of the problems the Board faces would be diminished or eliminated. Seibert stressed accountability for actions from all individuals associated with the district, including directors, users and employees. She also emphasized the need for more public exposure of SBOC dealings. Seibert stated that making issues public would result in less accusations and misstatement of facts. Seibert stated that her investigation was not centered on Barrie's reappointment, because the Board had agreed to allow the Bureau of Reclamation to make the determination of Barrie's reappointment. Seibert said that the sole reason she even dealt with the issue of Barrie's reappointment is the "accusation or suspicion" that SBOC's employees and Board were guilty of favoritism, which Seibert found not to be

true. "I did not find evidence of favoritism in services provided," Seibert wrote. "To the contrary, his (Barrie's) technical skills are excellent." Seibert: Leavitt's sole purpose was to fire Barrie "It became clear to me that Director Tim Leavitt has his own agenda, was not interested in my investigation, report or suggestions," Seibert wrote. "Mr. Leavitt would make no comment unless my statements related or addressed his sole agenda, the termination of Rex Barrie." Seibert said that comments not presented to portray Barrie in a negative light were construed by Leavitt as "lobbying" for Barrie, and yet the attorney said Leavitt provided no motivation for her to lobby for Barrie. Seibert wrote that Leavitt refused to consider legal opinions when they contradicted any of his positions, and totally dismissed the specific fact that Barrie made "significant contributions to the district" and wanted Barrie terminated without any justification. "Mr. Leavitt refused to provide any basis for his positions or disagreement with mine," Seibert said in the letter. "He was either unwilling or unable to articulate

the specific problems he felt justified immediate termination of Mr. Barrie." Seibert asserted that Leavitt "openly" lacked objectivity in considering alternative opinions or options regarding Barrie and ignored all other topics or suggestions, regardless of the ultimate cost to water users. "He (Leavitt) ignored the fiscal impact on South Board of discharging Barrie without cause," the attorney wrote. "Even if Mr. Barrie could be discharged without cause, to do so would represent poor business judgment due to the actual and potential fiscal repercussions. ... His sole goal is to discharge him (Barrie) whether or not it is in the best interest of SBOC." Seibert went on to state that she believed the Board should comply with their decision to abide by the Bureau of Reclamation's findings regarding Barrie's employment. Attorney criticizes board members' conduct Seibert expressed frustration with the manner in which Board members operate and treat each other or any other item. "The tension and animosity among the Board members was so tangible that I felt to call Mr. Leavitt on his behavior, which I

normally would have done, would have merely fueled the fire in the room," Seibert wrote. Seibert stated that it was her understanding that some directors returned copies of her investigation report simply to avoid accusations they had released confidential information. "I believe this action merely underscores that total lack of trust among the Board," Seibert wrote. Seibert wrote that she was concerned that the Board has been placed into a position of possibly wasting the money it has spent on the investigation, and she urged each and every director to read the report in detail. Seibert urged the Board to consider a list of suggestions in detail, for approval or disapproval. She also urged that directors citing reasons for disapproval should be required to articulate in detail the basis for their criticism or opposition. While the letter lists better cooperation and trust as something that would help the Board, Seibert specifically named Leavitt as standing in the way of progress. "At SBOC, the only person I identified as refusing to be objective and move forward is Mr. Leavitt." — JWB

✓ Ridgeview: Two of three replacements named; 3rd seat may stay open

Shenk and Rod Price stepped down during the afternoon meeting. Pendergrass also served as Ridgeview's sole representative for the South Board of Control. Replacements for two of the three spots on the Ridgeview board were named during last week's special meeting. Garold Johnston will replace Shenk, and John Lax will replace Price. Both men will serve out the remainder of their predecessors' terms. Lax's term expires Dec. 31, 2009. Johnston will sit on the board until Dec. 31, 2008.

Officials at the South Board of Control stated that Lax will serve as Ridgeview board chairman and also will hold Ridgeview's seat on the South Board of Control Board of Directors, previously held by Pendergrass. No replacement has been named for Pendergrass, but Ridgeview district secretary Connie Chadez said the board still can conduct business because its required quorum is two board members, who can appoint a third. The term for the seat formerly held by Pendergrass expires on

Dec. 31, 2007. A replacement for Pendergrass has not been named. An election is scheduled for this fall, if petitions are received from potential electors. All three former members declined to comment further on reasons for resignation. South Board of Control manager Rex Barrie's resignation took effect Friday. He has been replaced by former watermaster Ron Kiester, who will serve as interim manager. Kiester has been South Board watermaster since 1985. Chadez, who also serves as

South Board secretary, reported that the Gem Irrigation District Board of Directors didn't accept her resignation during its special meeting May 7. Chadez had submitted a letter of resignation only for her Gem post during the board's regular meeting on May 1.

Chadez will continue her duties as secretary for the Gem and Ridgeview Irrigation districts, as well as South Board. The area's three irrigation boards next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday June 5. — JWB

*Read all about it
in the Avalanche!*

Church plans Argentine mission

Mountain View will raise funds for trip with huge auction

A large contingent from the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene has plans for a missionary trip to South America in January.

More than 30 people from the church will travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina, early next year to help build a community center and pastor training center in the area around the South American country’s capital.

The Work and Witness Trip will last 17 days in January and also include missionary work at a vacation Bible school for local children. The church also plans to build one of six living quarters for pastors-in-training. Construction will cost \$6,000, according to church member Jo Howell.

Howell said that between \$2,300 and \$2,600 must be raised per person to send each missionary to South America.

“Parents will be taking their young teens so they can know what it feels like to give of themselves,” Howell said.

The Mountain View Church of the Nazarene will hold a benefit auction at 10 a.m. Saturday to help raise funds for the trip and construction. The church is located north of Homedale on the corner of Ustick and Batt Corner roads.

The event is chock full of items that will hit auctioneer Bobby Hopkins’ block. There will be no buyer’s premium.

Auction lots have been added



Nazarene church ready for auction
From left to right, Janice Holton, Jo Howell, Eulah Dunn and Mary Watson display some of the items that will be auctioned off Saturday at the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene. Submitted photo

steadily to the list. Two recent additions include 800 feet of 6-inch gate irrigation pipe and 900 feet of wheel line.

Dozens of other items will be up for bid, including household items, furniture, appliances, animal products, guns, vehicles, jewelry and collectibles and miscellaneous items.

Some of the highlights include:

Household and furniture — Handmade quilts, clothes dryers, handmade pole bed, televisions, barbecue, organ, rocking chair, wall pictures and a cedar chest

Animals — Three-year-old paint mare, cow dog puppies, 6-foot-by-8-foot dog kennel, donkey

and dog house

Guns, vehicles, equipment — 1951 Ford 2-ton dump truck, Remington 870 Express Magnum 12-gauge shotgun, Winchester .177 air rifle, self-propelled lawnmower and composter

Collectibles and jewelry — Antique bottle collection, porcelain doll, antique Bulgarian tapestry and multiple sets of jewelry

Miscellaneous — Beauty salon services, window and house cleaning services, firewood, children’s horse rides, yard work, babysitting, gift baskets and a five-course meal for four served at home

— JPB

Sunny spring day punctuates OCHS field trip

Saturday, the Owyhee County Historical Society (OCHS) ventured back in time on its latest field trip into the Owyhee outback.

Bob Skinner led more 30 OCHS members to the site of the Trout Creek Station on the 141-year-old Skinner Toll Road. Skinner is a descendent of Silas Skinner, who opened the then-new wagon route in 1866.

According to the Idaho State Historical Society, work began in 1865 from Ruby City on the route, which descended Jordan Creek to Wagontown, then crossed over to Trout Creek to the Baxter’s

Ranch on Jordan Creek. From the mouth of Trout Creek, the road led to Jordan Valley, and on to the Owyhee River.

After securing a franchise from the Third Idaho Legislature, which allowed him to charge a toll on the Idaho portion of the road, Silas Skinner opened his new route on May 19, 1866.

During Saturday’s tour, Bob Skinner revisited the days of the road’s formation through stories passed down through several generations of his family, detailing freighters, Indians, cavalry and other stories.

According to OCHS board

member Mary O’Malley, Al Larson showed a group of Mountain Bluebirds, the Idaho State Bird, nesting and told of his efforts to help the bird flourish in Owyhee County and all of southern Idaho.

The group then toured Pleasant Valley School and the school’s new museum.

The next OCHS field trip is destined for the old stage station and post office at Wickahoney, and will include a visit to the Tom Hall Museum.

The trip launches from the Bruneau City Park at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 16.

High clearance vehicles will be required, but carpooling will be possible.

For more information, contact the Owyhee County Museum at (208) 495-2319.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

May 17: Lasagna or mini corn dogs, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.

May 18: Fish nuggets or turkey sandwich, French fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 21: Sloppy Joe or hot dog, tots, fruit & veggie bar, chocolate pudding, milk.

May 22: Baked ham or tuna sandwich, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 23: Oven fried chicken or beef taco pie, potato salad, fruit & veggie bar, fruit roll up, milk.

Homedale Middle

May 17: Spaghetti or chicken bacon melt, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

May 18: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 21: Chicken patty or rib-a-que, tots, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 22: Taco burger or wiener wrap, green beans, animal crackers, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

May 23: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit roll up, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

May 17: Chicken patty, hamburger, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, sherbet cup, milk.

May 18: Chicken taco, French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

May 21: Pizza, nachos, chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

May 22: Chicken nuggets, egg rolls, rice pilaf, fortune cookie, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

May 23: Haystack, burrito, pizza hot pocket, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

Marsing

May 17: Corn dogs, veggie, fruit, milk, chicken fajitas, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

May 18: Sloppy Joes, veggie, fruited jello, milk, chicken patty/bun, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

May 21: Cook’s Choice!

May 22: Field Day! Hamburgers

May 23: Cook’s Choice!

Bruneau

May 17: Spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread, fruit, milk.

May 18: Cook’s Choice.

May 21: Nachos & salsa, tossed salad, fruit, cake, milk.

May 22: End of year BBQ!

May 23: Pizza, tossed salad, pineapple, milk.

Senior menus

Marsing

May 17: Pork chops, potatoes & gravy, beets, salad, soup, fruit, dessert, drink.

May 21: Breakfast to order 8 a.m. to noon

May 22: Swiss steak, potatoes, gravy, vegetables, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

May 23: Breakfast to order 8 a.m. to noon. Hamburger or hot dog dinner served until 12:30 p.m.

Homedale

May 17: Beef burritos, rice, carrots salad, drink.

May 22: Hot turkey sandwich, mashed potatoes/gravy, salad, drink.

May 23: Chili, ham & cheese on bun, macaroni salad, drink.

To the members of the Marsing ambulance crew, Marsing Firemen, and the Owyhee County Deputies, and the concerned customers and friends who came to his aid the day our brother needed help. You are all heroes in our eyes and angels in our hearts. To the employees of Snake River Mart, you have been the greatest support and loyal friends our family could ever ask for. To all of you who sent cards, flowers, food and prayers, your kindness will never be forgotten.

Thank You,
Kevin, Jo, Trent, Kathy Lootens
Raymond Johnston
The family of Jon Johnston



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Classifieds!

Your finances

Run, don't walk, away from interest-only loan

Dear Dave,

My father-in-law is telling us we should apply for an interest-only loan when we buy a house and then pay extra on the principal. What do you think about this idea?

— Nick

Dear Nick,

Interest-only mortgages are horrible. Stay away from them!

Lots of folks get into these traps by promising themselves they'll pay extra on the principal. But according to FDIC statistics, 97 percent don't pre-pay on their loans.

Some lenders will also try to use a flashy or "sophisticated" analysis to convince you this is a great way to get into a great house. But the funny thing about most of these sales pitches is that there's no mention of the fact that you've exponentially increased risk. And risk can be mathematically entered into the equation, making your supposed gains disappear.

The best thing you can do — short of saving up and paying cash for a home — is make a huge down payment on a conventional 15-year, fixed-rate mortgage. Then, pay it off as quickly as possible.

When you have an interest-only loan, you end up paying only on the interest. And that's a great way to find yourself in debt for the rest of your life!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I'm a senior in college, and my roommate just got a credit card that features airline miles. He wants me to get one, too, so we can take a trip together at the end of the year. What do you think about this idea?

— Tim

Dear Tim,

This is a bad idea on so many different levels. First, you're close to graduation and beginning your real life. You don't want to start out with a bunch of credit card debt hanging over your head.

Second, have you seen the restrictions on airline miles lately? Jupiter has to align with Mars while you're standing on one leg to cash in on those things. It's ridiculous! Plus, statistics from Consumer Reports show that 78 percent of all airline miles are never redeemed. What does this mean? It means in most cases people end up with no cool trip and a bunch of debt.

I'm not against going nice places and having fun, and you probably deserve to celebrate a



little after finishing college. But going into debt for it is a really bad idea.

Just save up and pay cash for a trip, Tim. Today, many debit cards have airline miles associated with them. So there's no reason to take a chance with credit cards.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My husband is 31-years-old and has been offered long-term disability insurance through his employer. It only costs \$25 a month, but we're trying hard to live on a budget and get out of debt. Is this coverage worth it?

— Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

Yes!

Long-term disability insurance is a fantastic buy. It's inexpensive, and in return it will pay you about 60 to 70 percent of his salary if something bad happens and he becomes disabled. That's not a bad deal for just \$300 a year.

Statistics show that a man in his early 30s is 12 times more likely to become disabled than to die before the age of 65. Everyone needs to have long-term — not short-term — disability insurance.

Hopefully, you'll never find yourselves in a situation where you have to use this type of policy. But in the event that something awful does happen it can help save you from financial ruin!

— Dave

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

Have a news tip?

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337-4681

Calendar

Today

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

Marsing Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting, 7 p.m., Essence of Life, 107 Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-7001

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

Thursday

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

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

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

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

Friday

Celebrate Recovery 12-step program, 6 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-

3520 or (208) 337-3151

Monday

AARP driver safety class, \$10, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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

Tuesday

AARP driver safety class, \$10, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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. 532 W. California Ave.,

Homedale. (208) 880-8962

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

Wednesday

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

Thursday, May 24

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

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


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

Submit information on upcoming fund-raisers, reunions or community events to *The Owyhee Avalanche* by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar.



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Weather warms up, calendar fills up



Pond stocked for special day

Volunteers from the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, sheriff's Posse and Idaho Department of Fish and Game will lend hands Saturday for the annual LeRoy Breshears Fishing Day at the Marsing Island Park pond. The event started

Youth fishing day ready to cast

Children can plan on catching plenty of fish — or at least the chance to hook quite a few — when the annual LeRoy Breshears Fishing Day is held in Marsing on Saturday.

The eighth free fishing clinic held in honor of the longtime Owyhee County hunting education instructor runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Marsing Island Park pond.

While the event is free, organizers stress that children should arrive before the 9 a.m. start time for registration. Signing up will give volunteers a chance to ensure that all participants have

a fishing pole and the appropriate gear.

Personnel from the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, sheriff's Posse and Idaho Department of Fish and Game are scheduled to teach children the finer points of catching the big one.

And there will be a few to reel in. Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron said last week that about 800 fish have been purchased for the event and that there will be 20 fish weighing 5 pounds or more planted for the weekend.

No children will be turned away as organizers will have plenty of fishing poles for those kids who

haven't brought them.

Cameron said the fish were bought with funds from the county's Children Safety Fund. He said donations to the fund always are welcome. The fund helps support children's activities in the county, such as the fishing day, scholarships and the annual county fair livestock auction.

Anyone who wants more information or is interested in helping out at this year's fishing day can call Cameron at 495-1154 or Fish and Game Homedale/Marsing conservation officer Craig Mickelson at 989-9328.

— JPB

Murphy Outpost Days set for June

Preparations have entered the home stretch for the annual Outpost Days in Murphy, an event scheduled for June 2-3.

The festival, which is sponsored by the Owyhee County Historical Society, begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 2. The traditional cattle drive will punctuate the arrival of the two-day event at noon. The action is expected to continue through Sunday afternoon, ending with the 24th annual Great Horny Toad Race and the OCHS fund-raising quilt raffle.

This year's quilt is themed "Steamboat Shoshone and Local Ferries" and was made by Lyn Blanchard. A brief history of the subject matter will accompany the quilt. Tickets for the raffle may be purchased for \$1 each or six for \$5. The quilt drawing will be held immediately after the Horny Toad Race and auction, at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 3.

Demonstrations, including antique engines, vehicles, cowboy poetry, dancers, local artists and miniature horses, will be offered free of charge throughout the weekend. Food, crafts and services may be purchased from various vendors. For vendor information, call Doris Ann Hukill at (208) 703-5852.

Prize drawings will be held throughout the two-day event, and tickets will be handed out at the information booth. Free dry overnight camping will be available on-site in a designated area of the museum facility's gravel parking lot.

This year's special edition print is themed "Owyhee County" and was created by local artist Jim Paxton. Paxton will be available

during the festival to sign 100 numbered prints, which will be sold for \$10 each. Proceeds from the art sale benefits the OCHS.

A chuckwagon beef barbecue will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 2. The meal is sponsored by Owyhee Feeders, Wild Hog BBQers and the Blue Canoe restaurant. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, and \$5 for children 10 and younger.

This year's dance will be held at 8:30 p.m. Saturday at McKeeth Hall. Cost is \$5 per person. Irish dancers also are scheduled to perform Saturday, and musical acts scheduled throughout the event include: Senior Friends, Kelly and Friends, Lady Lane, Blue Dove, Bona Fide, Heatherwood Swingers and ID Country Western Dancers.

"Lost Art" demonstrations will detail commonplace skills of yesteryear that have fallen from favor with the rise of technology, including blacksmithing, cattle drives, dog and sheep trials, goat packing, gold panning, horse hair braiding, knapping, mule packing, saddlemaking, spinning, wagoning, stagecoach operation and a special performance by the Treasure Valley Gunslingers.

The OCHS raises funds through the auction, quilt raffle, museum book and gift shop and the pie shop. Proceeds from the event will be used to fund programs and activities of the Owyhee County Museum and Library Complex and the OCHS.

For more information, contact the OCHS at (208) 495-2319, or visit the Owyhee County Museum's Web site at www.owyheemuseum.org.



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COSSA is more than just souped-up shop class

While proponents of a community college in the Treasure Valley have thrown around hundreds of thousands of dollars ahead of Tuesday’s election in Canyon and Ada counties, the Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency stands as the precursor to the concept.

COSSA director Mark Cotner recently pointed out that — class space permitting — his organization helps adults further their educations, too, not just high school students from places like Homedale and Marsing.

“We’re working with Idaho State University and Boise State University, and we’re starting to work with Lewis-Clark State College now where we’re allowing adult students to enroll in our program,” Cotner said.

In fact, Cotner said, one woman in her 30s currently is enrolled in the diesel technology program based in Homedale.

“What we’re pushing for is to utilize our existing facility rather than build a new building,” Cotner said when asked to compare COSSA to the community college push.

“We take care of our students first, but if there’s room we allow adults.”

Cotner said that beginning in the fall, adults will be allowed to enroll in COSSA courses dealing with auto-diesel repair, medical records, nursing and industrial welding. The caveat, however, is “pending space availability.”

“We’re taking enrollment now,” he said.

High school students can contact their guidance counselors, while adult students can contact COSSA directly or go through Boise State University.

“We’re about providing opportunities,” Cotner said.

The agency plans a “summer camp” June 4-8 to raise awareness of the programs among high school students and their parents. Cotner said space is limited to just 100 students for the camp that will give kids hands-on looks at the various courses. The camp will be open to all high school students from ninth to 12th grade.

“They’ll spend a half-day in each of our program areas,” Cotner said. “It’s give them a sense of what our programs are about to see if they want to enroll.”

He said interested students should contact their guidance counselors for more information.

While high school students can earn college credits at a reduced fee, Cotner said adult students will pay the full college course fee to enroll COSSA programs.

“We’ve enrolled (high school) students in around 300 college credits this year alone at a savings of \$58,000,” Cotner said. “They get to pay the reduced rate because they’re still in high school.”

As an example, Cotner said a high school student taking COSSA’s Introduction to Health program pays \$15 per credit,



A tradition of vocational technology
While some voters in the Treasure Valley prepare to decide the fate of an initiative to create a community college, students in Homedale and Marsing have had similar classes in their back yard for years.

while the student’s parent would pay \$200 per credit to take the same class on a college campus. That option has softened the vocational education stereotype

of years past that branded such students as unable to hack it in “real” school. “It’s not the old articulation,” Cotner said. “We are literally

signing kids up in college while they are here.”

There is another advantage for high school students who enroll in COSSA courses. Cotner said the first-year college dropout rate for students who have been through the COSSA program is lower than for other demographics.

“A high percentage of our students do finish college because they know what to expect when they get there,” he said.

Cotner says COSSA is the oldest such consortium in the state, and attracts students from Homedale, Marsing, Wilder, Parma, Notus and Greenleaf.

“These professional-technical programs have been in place since 1969,” Cotner said. “They’ve changed over the years, of course, because we try to stay current with the industry needs.”

Beginning in the fall, students

will be able to earn math credits by attending any COSSA course, Cotner said.

“They can earn a technical math credit, and that’s in response to the increased graduation requirements,” he said.

Cotner said Homedale School District has the largest enrollment in COSSA primarily because of the student population and the proximity of many programs, such as Industrial Welding, Auto Body Repair (to be replaced by Automated Industrial Engineering next year) and Auto-Diesel.

He said COSSA teachers also go on the individual campuses to teach introductory classes to sophomores. Those classes are required for students to enroll in the pro-tech courses as juniors and seniors.

— JPB

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THE OC

Folks worth knowing in Owyhee County

Homedale 4th-grader takes community service to heart

Meet community activist and future president Ismael Fernandez.

He’s a fourth-grader at Homedale Elementary School, and the level of his community activism belies his tender young age.

“I’m not a normal kid,” he says.

Indeed. While most children his age are using television as a video-game medium, he’s using it to absorb information on his next project.

“I try to think of things, and sometimes it involves the school and sometimes it doesn’t. I watch the TV news and think of things myself,” Ismael says with an energetic smile, likely thinking up his next project to help the community.

Ismael has dedicated his young life to helping others and hopes to be president.

“But, before that, a history teacher,” Ismael said.

Ismael’s mother Alicia Serrano, said that Ismael’s normal routine is to come home and immediately delve into homework and reading, rather than jump right into television and video games. His “theme music” are classics from the 1950s, ’60s and ’70s, but admits his favorite artist is Elvis Presley.

“He tries to help everybody he knows, like his friends and stuff like that,” Alicia said.

Alicia said that Ismael’s next project is to earn \$3,000 for his older sister, Homedale Middle School sixth-grader Mariza Fernandez, to enable her to attend a People

to People summer leadership program in 2008 that will include a trip to Harvard University.

Alicia figures Ismael inherited his drive for community service from his father, who died when Ismael was only 6 months old.

“I think he got it from his father, because he (Ismael’s father) was very friendly, and he also was like him...he liked to help everybody,” Ismael’s mother said.

And Ismael’s compassion extends to everyone he knows.

“When he was 5, at Christmas, some of his friends didn’t have money, so he came to the house and asked me if we could get some toys for his friends,” Alicia said. “So I took him to the store, and he got toys for his friends.

“So he’s been like that since he started going to school. He just wants to help everybody he can.”

Ismael carries himself like a boy well beyond his years, and that fact isn’t lost on his mother.

“I think he’s a very unique boy, and I’m very proud of him,” she said. “And I know if his dad were alive, he would be, too.”

Homedale Elementary counselor Randee Garrett said Ismael has a never-ending supply of ideas to help others, and he has helped significantly with community outreach projects.



Ismael Fernandez

“He helped me at Christmas time when we do the food drive and pack all the food boxes, and he was the only student here at the elementary that stayed for that entire time on a Friday afternoon, and helped fill all the food boxes and helped sort things. He just kinda likes to be involved,” Garrett said.

He participated in the February Jump for Heart fundraiser, skipping rope in honor of Homedale Post Office worker Larry Sitts, whose son, Kevin, teaches with Ismael’s grandmother in Parma.

“He had heard me come home and tell my husband about (Larry Sitts),” Ismael’s grandmother, Maria Fernandez, said. “He wanted to jump in honor of Mr. Sitts, but I told Ismael he had to ask him first.”

Sitts allowed Ismael to jump in his honor and even sponsored him during the jumping.

Ismael’s recent penny-drive raised more than \$285 for Middleton High School in the wake of the devastating fire on that school’s campus earlier this year.

“He kind of initiated the penny-drive for Middleton High School. He just comes to me every now and then and says ‘Mrs. Garrett, I have an idea.’ It isn’t always something feasible that we can do right then, but I helped him put together that penny drive, so he could actually see one of his ideas through to completion.”

— JWB and JPB

County won’t endorse SC Fire & Rescue grant

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners refused to endorse a grant application by Silver City Fire & Rescue at its May 7 meeting.

Two of three Board members voted against SCF&R’s request to endorse the grant, saying the decision was linked to public comment against the formation of a fire and rescue organization in the historic mining town.

Commission chairman Dick Freund voted to endorse the application. Commissioners Jerry Hoagland and Hal Tolmie voted against it.

“I’m pretty frustrated that two commissioners couldn’t see that we are a service to them,” Hyslop said. “The county commissioners are responsible for emergency response to medical calls in the county, and two of those commissioners ignored that.”

SCF&R representatives said the endorsement would help secure a \$60,000 state grant that would be used to purchase a new rescue truck and additional rescue equipment. The proposed vehicle is a 1-ton four-wheel-drive truck, which would replace the organization’s van, which is 20 years old and only two-wheel-drive.

Jim Hyslop, president of the seven-person, all-volunteer agency, says a new vehicle would provide better emergency response. He said the vehicle would be a Quick Response Unit (QRU) that would provide fast, emergency response capabilities to remote areas.

“The right thing (to do) is to get people out in a medical emergency as soon as they can get care,” Hyslop said, adding the Silver City area is at least an hour away from any other type of medical emergency response, and personnel has trouble accessing remote areas in the aging van, which makes responses even longer.

Hyslop said that the agency still will apply for the grant, which is awarded through the Idaho State Emergency Medical Services Bureau, but without the county’s endorsement. Hyslop explained that the grant-approval process is competitive, and an endorsement from the county would have given SCF&R a higher score in receiving the grant.

The county will have to provide a written reason for failing to endorse the application, for which Hyslop said SCF&R still is waiting. Grant application materials are due in June, he said.

Freund echoed Hyslop, saying the benefit would have been better emergency response capability. He added that all that was needed was a letter of endorsement from

the county. It would have cost the county nothing, and the county would incur no liability associated with the vehicle or services provided, he said.

“Because they (Silver City Fire) are out of an incorporated city, they have to have a legal entity — either a community or a county — endorse it, so in case they go defunct in five years, that they can give the QRU unit to the endorsing entity, and the endorsing entity can give it to another ambulance district within that endorsing entity’s authority,” Freund said.

“That’s all it is, so that Silver City Fire and Rescue, if they were to go defunct, we (county officials) could then give that QRU unit to Bruneau, Grand View, Homedale, Marsing or whoever. We’re not endorsing ambulance service. We’re just simply saying ‘Yes, we’ll take it and give it to someone else’ if they go defunct.”

Freund, who retired as chief deputy of the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office in January after 27 years as an emergency service worker in the county, said the only consideration he made in voting to endorse the grant application was emergency response capability.

“(Silver City Fire Rescue) can respond quicker (to areas surrounding Silver City) than Bruneau QRU or Grand View Ambulance or Marsing Ambulance to incidents in that area and several miles of that area, and probably save lives,” Freund said. “I don’t understand why people are fighting over a service that can save lives.”

Tolmie said his decision not to endorse the fire service’s grant application was linked to the Board’s decision in 2006, which was not to promote the Silver City Fire and Rescue’s efforts to form and maintain a non-profit, all-volunteer fire and rescue service.

“The people up there (Silver City) didn’t want us (the commissioners) to get involved and promote the fire and rescue people. We just upheld a decision we made nine or 10 months ago not to get involved with the fire and rescue at Silver,” Tolmie said.

Hoagland said his reason to vote against endorsing the grant was also a practical one.

“We thought that kind of a rig wasn’t really appropriate (the four-wheel-drive truck). A lot of that country is pretty inaccessible. I was thinking one of those little UTVs with a van or something behind it would be about as practical in that country, and then Jim (Hyslop) said he would fall back to using his Jeep to get back in there, so it kind of seemed useless that way,” Hoagland said, adding that he also did not want to endorse the Silver City Fire & Rescue, in light of public comment against the organization.

— JWB

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What’s happening

Read Calendar each week

in the Avalanche

School music program begins to rebound under Kachelmier

Rebuilding effort only a start as HMS band prepares for year-end concert

Musicians from the Homedale School District music program recently scored impressively at a music festival in Ontario, Ore.

Under the direction of Karla Kachelmier, middle school and high school band and choir musicians drew high marks from the judges during the festival.

In competition against Oregon schools such as Nyssa, Adrian and Vale, the Homedale musicians earned the following marks from the judges:

- High school choir — Excellent, Superior, Excellent-plus
- High school band — Excellent-plus, Excellent-plus, Superior-minus
- Seventh- and eighth-grade choir — Superior-minus, Superior, Excellent
- Seventh- and eighth-grade band — Excellent-plus, Excellent-plus, Excellent-minus
- Sixth-grade band — Excellent, Excellent-plus, Excellent

Judging guidelines say that Superior is the second-highest rating a band can receive, indicating a near-flawless performance with only minor problems.

An Excellent rating indicates minor technical or musical problems.

The high school band received an overall rating of Superior.

“That was really significant for them,” Kachelmier said. “We are small, but the quality is coming along. And that was crucially important for this year.”

The high school musicians held their year-end concert Tuesday in the high school. The high school artists tackled some “pretty significant” pieces, including the Beatles’ “Let It Be” arranged for a string quartet and an original jazz composition by Kachelmier.

Kachelmier is in her first year as director for the music program, which spans sixth through 12th grades.

“Karla has a monumental job before her: to rebuild our music programs and it is one that will require all of us to participate in a support role if our music programs are going to improve,” Homedale Middle School activities director Luci Asumendi-Mereness said.

Kachelmier has tried to build the numbers in her music program since coming to Homedale. She also is trying to build up the program’s musical equipment stockpile and recently acquired an upright piano from the Idaho Youth Ranch.

In addition to the Youth Ranch’s donation, Kachelmier has received support from several area music-oriented businesses as well as other school-based music programs in the Treasure Valley.

American Music of Caldwell has agreed to fix any instrument donated to the Homedale Music Department free of charge. Kachelmier said that will be of great benefit because she already has committed \$1,800 to instrument repair this year. Donations can be made directly to the school or dropped off at American Music with the stipulation that the instrument is for the Homedale program.

Blue Rider Music and Instrument Repair of Meridian also has agreed to give the Homedale program price breaks on new instruments. For example, Kachelmier said, the program will be able to buy a trumpet that lists for more than \$1,700 for about \$750.

“We don’t have any money to buy that right now, but if we have individuals that want to contribute funds for that, we’ll welcome it,” she said. “We need quality instruments, particularly at the high school.”

Kachelmier stressed that brand-new instruments aren’t necessary, but students will be less

discouraged if they can learn on a quality instrument.

“With student models, you fight intonation problems and tone quality when learning,” Kachelmier said. “Quality instruments are important, especially in an area like this where a kid can go on to some college or get a scholarship.”

The biggest need for the music program, Kachelmier said, is brass instruments. She said a couple clarinets, which are wind instruments, were donated earlier in the school year.

“We’re in very severe need of brass instruments,” she said. “We have virtually no school trumpets, and our trombones aren’t in the best of condition.”

She said trombones are crucial to the field presence of Homedale’s marching band because the instruments create large sound despite small numbers.

Kachelmier said that the music departments at both Northwest Nazarene University and Boise State University have pledged support for Homedale music.

Kachelmier also is weighing the idea of creating a color guard, but no instructor has been hired. She did say that new high school cheerleader advisor Carolyn Munster has offered to help out with the concept, though.

To bolster the music program, Kachelmier is considering running a summer band program as a way to build the numbers and proficiency.

“Karla is a gifted musician and is doing a great job juggling her time between two buildings and six grade levels,” Asumendi-Mereness said. “Beyond her knowledge of music, she brings so much to the program.

“(She has a) desire to give our kids an appreciation for the arts, along with helping them become talented musicians. Karla’s energy, passion and desire to share her love of music with our middle school kids is a gift that will enrich their lives.”

Birthday

Ruby Kiester to celebrate 85th birthday on May 26

Ruby Kiester, a longtime Marsing resident, will celebrate her 85th birthday Saturday, May 26, 2007 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center. Family and friends are invited to attend.

Ruby was born in Redmond, Ore., in 1922. Her children include Ronnie and Carol Kiester, of Marsing, Allen and Trish Kiester of Pine, Caroline Kiester of Nampa and

great grandchildren, and was one of the early pioneers of the Jump Creek area. She and her husband, Howard, took their farm from



Ruby Kiester

sagebrush land in 1942. Though surrounded by modern houses, the original farm structure still stands, a half-mile south of the Marsing/Homedale cemetery.

Ruby was the rural mail carrier in Marsing for 20 years, retiring in 1981.

Friends and family are requested to attend, or cards may be sent to P.O. Box 992, Marsing, ID 83639.

Adrian band takes fifth at State meet

by Kat Sillonis, AHS

For the first time since 1990, the Adrian Advanced Band made it to the 1A/2A Oregon State Band Championships in Corvallis, Ore.

The band placed just out of the trophies, with Corbett High School winning the division, during the competition Thursday.

With 46 musicians ranging in grades seventh through 12th, under the direction of Lorine VanCorbach, the Adrian band made a good showing at the State level, being the only 1A school in the 1A/2A combined competition, and finishing fifth overall.

The band left Adrian on Wednesday and traveled to Corvallis. The group performed Thursday at the Laselles Stewart Center auditorium at Oregon State University.

Adrian played three selections

to fill its required 25 minutes of performance time: Invicta by James Swearingen; Two Gaelic Folk Songs by Thomas Tyra; and Suite From Bohemia by Vaclav Nelhybel.

After each band finished playing on the main stage, members were shepherded into a smaller room to sight read for a judge.

Each band was given a song they’d never seen before, then given 15 minutes to prepare and play for a judge.

The Adrian band loses only two seniors, Kat Sillonis and exchange student Kayo Saiki, so there are high hopes for a return trip to Corvallis next year.

After spending the day in Corvallis, the band returned home Friday to prepare for its spring concert, scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday inside the Adrian High School gymnasium.

Homedale P.O. nets half-ton of food

The Homedale Post Office and the El-Ada Community Action Partnership food pantry held a food drive last Saturday that netted a total of 1,380 pounds of food for needy folks serviced by the Owyhee County branch of El-Ada.

According to Owyhee El-Ada coordinator Ricardo Vargas, 100 pounds of food will go to the Homedale Senior Center and the rest will go to the El-Ada food pantry.

Vargas said the event was a big success, stating that postal

workers Rob Herndon, Nicki Lootens, Rayme Linder and Judy Purdom were instrumental in making it happen.

The drive took place most of the day Saturday and included residents from Homedale, Marsing and Adrian.

Art, cabinetry on display at Rimrock High

The 26th annual Rimrock High School Woodworking and Cabinet-making Show will be held Thursday at the Bruneau school.

Works created by students of

Rimrock teacher Gary Jones will be on display in the halls of the school from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Creations by the school’s art students will be on display in the cafeteria during the same time.

Rimrock’s chapter of Family Community Career Leaders of American (FCCLA) will present a barbecue from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information, call the school at (208) 834-2260.

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Homedale FFA news

by Alysha Bahem
chapter reporter

The third annual FFA Banquet was a smash hit for the Homedale FFA and all who attended. The FFA members and guests were entertained with a prime meal, entertainment and stories that brought delighted laughter and good memories. Thanks to Doug Larzelier for making the exceptional meal possible, and to Kara McRae for providing first-rate entertainment. To add to the lively banquet mood, many awards were given out to hard-working FFA members and guests who were a huge asset to the Homedale FFA this year.

The Discovery Degree is a degree for the middle school FFA members, and the recipients that received this degree included Konner Bahem, Sydney Cornwall, Payton Herman, Caitlyn Johnson, Summer Phelps and Brittany Wentzill.

The Greenhand Degree was received by first-year high school members, including Kaitlyn Amos, Nickole D’Alessio, Jessica Eubanks, Drew Farwell, Ryan Garrett, Megan Harper, Nestor Machuca, Summer Megargee, Alex Mereness, Josh Ryska, Ryan Ryska and Annamaria Salas.

FFA members who were active in the chapter for two years of high school received the Chapter Degree. The recipients included Sierra Aberasturi, Rachelle Christoffersen, Bri Cornwall, Austin Emry, Laken Hiser, Rye Hyer, Hannah Johnson, Ashli Kesler, Kendall Rupp, Greg Truesdell and Ulysses Vargas.

The Star Greenhand Award was given to Drew Farwell and Annamaria Salas. Both members stood out with their hard work and unflinching strive for success.

The Star Chapter Farmer was given to Kendall Rupp. Rupp was easily selected as the recipient of this award for her outstanding supervised agricultural experience (SAE) project and her winning attitude.

The Work Horse Award is an award saved for a junior or senior member who contributes titanic amounts of work into the chapter. Kortney Bahem was the hard-working individual who received this award.

The Ken Tamura Memorial

Scholarship and Dekalb Award were scholarships awarded to outgoing seniors who managed to maintain their sanity, GPA, and FFA involvement throughout the year. Sarah Black and Jacob McRae received the Ken Tamura Memorial Scholarship awards and a \$100 scholarship, and Mandy Gibbs received the Dekalb Award and a \$200 scholarship.

The Scholarship Award was awarded to the FFA members with a 3.0 grade-point average or higher throughout their high school career. The bright individuals that received this awards included Sierra Aberasturi, Alysha Bahem, Konner Bahem, Kortney Bahem, Karly Bertangolli, Sarah Black, Bri Cornwall, Sydney Cornwall, Austin Emry, Jessica Eubanks, Drew Farwell, Ryan Garrett, Mandy Gibbs, Mat Hansen, Laken Hiser, Caitlyn Johnson, Hannah Johnson, Ashili Kesler, Jacob McRae, Summer Phelps, Mitch Quintana, Kendall Rupp, Josh Ryska and Annamaria Salas.

The Letter Award was given to the members who have remained involved in FFA throughout the year in three main areas: SAEs, Career Development Events (CDEs) and fund-raisers and community service. Each activity was worth points and the top 60 percent of the chapter received the award. The recipients were:

First-year recipients — Kaitylyn Amos, Karly Bertagnolli, Bri Cornwall, Drew Farwell, Corey Hall, Nestor Machuca, Annamaria Salas

Second-year recipients — Megan Harper, Laken Hiser, Hannah Johnson, Ashli Kesler, Summer Megargee and Ulysses Vargas

Third-year recipients — Alysha Bahem, Kortney Bahem, Sarah Black, Rachelle Christoffersen, Austin Emry, Mandy Gibbs, Mat Hansen, Rye Hyer, Jacob McRae, Mitch Quintana, Kendall Rupp and Steve Williams

Proficiency Awards were given to the individuals who had outstanding SAE projects. The hard-working members who received these awards were fit into four different categories, including entrepreneurship, placement, and research or exploratory. The recipients were:

Horse Placement Award — Kortney Bahem

Beef Entrepreneurship Award — Mat Hansen

Sheep Entrepreneurship Award — John Bittick

Star Agribusiness Award

— Kortney Bahem

Star Production Award — Mat Hansen

The Top Shop Student Award was given easily to Jacob McRae. This award is for the students who have advanced shop skills and amazing talent.

The Homedale FFA members weren’t the only ones getting the spotlight during the banquet. People who have helped the Homedale FFA with donations or inspiration were cited for their much-appreciated contributions.

Each year, the Homedale FFA holds an annual Harvest Auction to raise money for the Gift of Green Program, a scholarship to the Dekalb Award recipient, and for contests and conventions. Sean and Jill Farwell were the top buyers at the Harvest Auction, and they received an embroidered coat for their contribution.

Honorary Degrees are given to the farmers, school principals, chapter advisors, teachers, business people or anyone that has served as an asset or inspiration to the Homedale chapter. The deserving recipients of this degree in included school board president Kurt Shanley, Homedale schools superintendent Tim Rosandick, Devra Christoffersen, Elaine Black, Debbi Gibbs, Alan and Andrea McRae.

The banquet was concluded with the retiring address of the outgoing Homedale FFA officer team, and with the placement of the new officers.

The new officers included: Mat Hansen, president, Kortney Bahem, vice-president, Laken Hiser, secretary, Kendall Rupp, treasurer, Alysha Bahem, reporter, Drew Farwell, sentinel and Ulysses Vargas and Hannah Johnson, historians.

Congratulations to all the hard-working members and people who received awards, and thanks to all that attended the Homedale Annual FFA Banquet, and to those who made our year possible and worthwhile.

Greenhouse sale — Homedale FFA advisor Lori Harrison reported last week that the chapter raised about \$1,300 with its annual greenhouse sale. Those totals didn’t include the hanging baskets sale that chapter members mounted Saturday on East Idaho Avenue in a big push before Mother’s Day.

Harrison said the funds raised will help pay the gas bill for the greenhouse and will leave some seed money for next year’s greenhouse effort.



Rimrock FFA elects new officers

The Rimrock FFA chapter’s officers for 2007-08 are, from left to right, Cole Merrick, president, Ellie Cantrell, vice president, Jackie Thurman, reporter, Anna Cantrell, treasurer, Sierra Ridley, secretary, and Kody Schiermeier, sentinel. Submitted photo

Rimrock FFA news

by Jackie Thurman
chapter reporter

On May 2, the Rimrock FFA chapter held its annual FFA banquet. At the banquet, we handed out the year awards to the FFA members and the 2007-08 FFA officers were announced.

The officers include: president Cole Merrick, vice-president Ellie Cantrell, secretary Sierra Ridley, reporter Jackie Thurman, treasurer Anna Cantrell and sentinel Kody

Schiermeier.

The Rimrock FFA chapter would like to thank the old officers for doing a job well done. We also would like to thank our advisor, parents and others for all the help and support we received this year.

We look forward to having another great year.

Last Wednesday, the Rimrock FFA Meats team attended Gem Pack in Boise.

JV ambulance seeks more EMTs

Class planned for fall aimed at bolstering volunteer force

The Jordan Valley Ambulance Service faces several factors while covering an area that stretches from South Mountain in Owyhee County across southeastern Oregon to McDermitt, Nev.

Beyond the wear-and-tear on the district’s two ambulances, the toll on the all-volunteer crew must be calculated.

That’s why the service wants to bolster its volunteer ranks.

“We’re just so short right now,” ambulance board of directors member Terry White said. “We’re just constantly running the same (crew members), and there are some of us with 20 years (of service) or more.”

The service has a veteran crew of first-responders to complement two intermediate personnel and three emergency medical technicians, but White says the board would be more comfortable with a larger stable

of EMTs.

There’s one ambulance stationed in Jordan Valley, and a second rig in Rome, Ore., to handle the southern portion of the district.

White also said that the service dispatches air ambulance and does ground transport to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell or the Boise hospitals.

With the assistance of grant money, the ambulance service will co-sponsor a free EMT training class in the fall, White said.

The class will be held at Jordan Valley City Hall, but White said an exact time and date hasn’t been hammered out yet.

At this point, the board wants to get the word out to anyone interested in learning the ropes of being an EMT.

White said many of the first-responders who already work with the service are planning to take the course.

But she said there is no limit to the number of students who can take the class, and she encourages as many folks as possible to enroll.

For more information on the EMT training, call White at (541) 586-2816, Helen McDonald at (541) 586-2805 or Beth Hassler at (541) 586-2641.

— JPB

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Supporters hope library can serve Murphy, Melba

Cottage Library officials announce youth summer reading program

While efforts continue to create a three-county taxing district for the Melba Cottage Library, supporters of the establishment announced a summer reading program.

Library supporters are preparing to petition the boards of commissioners in Owyhee, Canyon and Ada counties to hold an election to decide whether a public library district should be formed.

According to a press release from the library, the Murphy/Melba area is one of the last communities in the state in which residents don't have access to a public library and the local and state services it can provide.

"In the meantime, the library hopes to give Melba and Murphy area residents a taste of what a public library can provide, so that we can all make an informed

decision about what having a library means to everyone," the press release stated.

The library plans its inaugural summer reading program for children ages 2-10. This year's theme is "Get a Clue," and children will be able read as well as take part in games and other activities, including solving puzzles and riddles.

The program is sponsored by the Melba Community Auction, the Idaho Commission for Libraries, Melba Middle School and its principal, Kelsey Williams, Wal-Mart and Costco. Private citizens also have contributed time and money, library officials report.

Registration begins Tuesday. Signups already are being taken for the middle school and high school reading program, "Passport to Reading."

And end-of-the-summer

celebration is planned on Aug. 7, at which time prizes such as a Nintendo Wii video game, Roaring Springs water park passes, movie tickets, model trucks will be given away. Officials say children have more chances to win with the more books they read.

For more information on either program, call the library at 495-1063.

The library is located at 109 Charlotte Drive, next to the Melba Senior Center. Library hours are 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays.

Library officials welcome volunteers.

"We look forward to a future in which a public library can offer everyone in the Melba and Murphy area books by mail, access to books from all over the state, and expanded literacy programs in addition to the books, high-speed Internet, and preschool programs currently offered," officials said in the release.

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday, Owyhee Reservoir was 74 percent full and that water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore., at the rate of 249 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 527,597 acre-feet of water.

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

Reynolds Creek				
Date	Year to Date Precipitation	Max.	Average Temp Min.	Avg.
05/08	11.4	63	44	54
05/09	11.4	71	51	61
05/10	11.4	69	50	60
05/11	11.4	72	49	60
05/12	11.4	71	51	60
05/13	11.4	73	52	63
05/14	11.4	59	40	49

South Mountain				
Date	Year to Date Precipitation	Max.	Average Temp Min.	Avg.
05/08	26.6	63	41	51
05/09	26.6	70	49	59
05/10	26.6	70	50	60
05/11	26.6	68	50	58
05/12	26.6	74	51	61
05/13	26.6	71	47	59
05/14	26.6	57	39	47

Mud Flat				
Date	Year to Date Precipitation	Max.	Average Temp Min.	Avg.
05/08	11.1	69	43	55
05/09	11.1	76	42	61
05/10	11.1	78	47	63
05/11	11.1	76	47	63
05/12	11.1	80	45	63
05/13	11.1	78	44	63
05/14	11.1	64	42	53

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
May 8	80	45	.00
May 9	89	52	.00
May 10	88	51	.00
May 11	88	48	.00
May 12	no reading taken		
May 13	no reading taken		
May 14	91	42	.00

JV hands out Class of '07 awards

by Michelle Elsner JVHS

The year has wound down for the Jordan Valley Class of 2007, making it one of the best years of the seniors' high school careers. High school staff and coaches have said they are sad to see the seniors go.

The class has been highly successful, making three state tournament appearances in athletics and winning the 1A Oregon volleyball championship.

But even if the Class of 2007 may seem like the prodigal group, they won't take all the credit because their underclassmen have been their backbone throughout the entire year.

The year was summed up at the annual awards assembly on Thursday. Many seniors were recognized for their skills and talents on the field and on the court.

Jerry Wroten was named Mr. Mustang and was given the All-Around Male Athlete award for the 2006-07 school year. Michelle Elsner was named All-Around Female Athlete and received the annual journalism award. Lacey Kershner was given the year's citizenship award for the year, the Agricultural award, and she was inducted into the National Honor Society.

Bailey Kershner was named Student of the Year and received a \$50 savings bond. Bailey also received the Decal Ag award and was Salutatorian for Tuesday's graduation ceremony.

Breann Hipwell was named Ms. Mustang and the High Honor award. Lusia Lowry is the Class

of 2007 Valedictorian, and she received the Economics award. Megan Mackenzie received the International Studies award from the Social Studies teacher Ms. Douglass.

Holly Deen was given the top business award from Business and computers teacher Ms. Ellis and was on Honor Roll.

Sequoi Trautman was given Student of the Month award from Mrs. Chamberlain in the Botany/Horticulture Class.

Chelicy Payne received the Most Inspirational Senior Award, the Drama Award and High Honors.

Tina Stanford received the Marketing Award for her creative commercial, her second-year

scholar pin and High Honors.

The senior class would like to extend its thanks to the community of Jordan Valley for all its help and support throughout high school. Without the backing of the community, teachers, friends and family, the students say they wouldn't have made it this far in life.

The students also would like to send special thanks to class advisor Tara Echave. Without her support and drive, the class would have never made it to Hawaii and back.

— *Editor's note: This was the final high school article written by Michelle Elsner, who would like to thank everyone for reading her articles through the year.*



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Tractor enthusiasts hitch up and ride



Saturday's top pulls

John Deere, Farmalls, oh my
Above: Vintage farm tractor fans of all ages turned out Saturday for the Treasure Valley Antique Power Association tractor pull at the Homedale beet dump. *Right:* This whimsical sticker belies the brute force that made John Deere a popular make at the pull.

- 2C — Guy Stauffer, Adrian, 1947 Farmall BN, 161.6 feet
- 2 Weight — Brent Fillmore, Nampa, 1941 Allis Chalmers B, 120.1
- 3 Weight — Gary Enzminger, Star, 1953 Farmall SC, 135.1
- 3 exhibition — Norm Keesler, Nampa, 1952 Ford 8N, 208.8
- 4C — Stan Stevens, Eagle, 1950 International Harvester H, 151.11
- 4LM — Enzminger, 1953 John Deere 40, 1501.1
- 4 exhibition — Keesler, 1962 Ford 4000 Diesel, 142
- 5A — Ernie Phillips, Eagle, 1937 John Deere A, full pull
- 5C — Stan Shupe, Ontario, 1948 John Deere B, 151.11
- 5 exhibition — David Watson, Ontario, 1949 John Deere B, 125.3
- 6LM — Marshall Smith, Parma, 1955 John Deere 60, 156.3
- 6 Weight — Dirk Veenstra, Emmett, 1954 Fordson Major D, 155.9
- 6 exhibition — Smith, 1955 John Deere 60, 168.11
- 7C — Shupe, 1952 John Deere A, 200
- 7LM — Roger Tish, Greenleaf, 1953 Minneapolis Moline UB, 111.7
- 7 Weight — Shupe, 1952 John Deere A, 124.7
- 8FS — Stauffer, 1963 Case 730 propane, 131.9
- 9LM — Stauffer, 1955 Case 500, 87.3
- 9 Weight — Paul Randolph, Sun Valley, 1956 John Deere 60, 80.6
- 10C — John Phelps, Ontario, 1950 Cockshutt 40, 129.3



It's never too late to pull
David Watson, an Ontario, Ore., resident who grew up on a farm in Marsing, reportedly climbed into the seat of a tractor for the first time in more than 40 years Saturday. He pulled the weighted sled 148 feet with a 1949 John Deere B. It was the second-longest pull in the 4C class, second only to a 151.11 by Stan Shupe of Ontario.

Just a leisurely drive
Homedale resident Bob Stuart seemed entirely too relaxed as he piloted his 1949 John Deere B in the 5C class Saturday. Stuart waved at the crowd in the early-goings of his 120.9-foot pull, which was good for fourth in the division. Stuart, fellow Homedale resident Denny Lentfer and former Marsing resident David Watson were the only competitors announced with Owyhee County ties.



Showstoppers
Above: Adrian resident Guy Stauffer brought this propane-powered 1963 Case 730. *Left:* Norm Keesler of Nampa kicks up some dust with one of the more powerful tractors on display Saturday, a 1962 Ford 4000 Diesel. Keesler used the tractor's 28 horsepower to pull the sled 142 feet.

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Boneless Beef
London Broil Steak




\$2.29
lb.

Pork
Shoulder Steak



\$1.39
lb.

Large Slicing
Tomatoes



89¢
lb.

Flowers & Soil Products

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Western Family 16 oz.
Jumbo Franks



59¢
ea.

Pork Country
Style Ribs



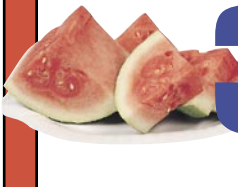
\$1.59
lb.

1 lb.
Baby Carrots



\$1.09
ea.

Seedless
Watermelon



39¢
lb.

- Gold-n-Plump Drums, Thighs or Wings **\$1.89** ea.
- Hi-Grade Link Sausage **\$2.59** ea.
- Western Family 16 oz. Cheese Cuts **\$2.99** ea.

- Western Family 8 oz. Cream Cheese **\$1.29** ea.
- Western Family 48 oz. Fish Sticks **\$5.99** ea.
- Market Pack Sausage **\$1.49** lb.

- Green Beans **99¢** lb.
- 10 lb. Bag Potatoes **\$1.99** ea.
- New Crop California Onions **49¢** lb.

- Asparagus **\$1.39** lb.
- Bell Peppers **69¢** ea.
- Roma Tomatoes **99¢** lb.

Lay's
Potato Chips



2\$4
for
Asst'd 13.25-13.75 oz.

Nabisco 14.4 oz. Honeymaid Graham Crackers **\$2.89** ea.

Fritos



2\$3
for
Asst'd 8.5-11 oz.

Asst'd 8.5-11 oz. Cheetos **2\$3**

Coca Cola Products



2\$9
for
12pk 12oz Cans

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

MGD Regular/Light Miller Light Beer



\$7.99
ea.
12pk 12oz Bottles

12pk 12oz Cans MGD/Miller Lite Beer **\$8.49** ea.

Western Family Non Dairy Whipped Topping 7 oz. 99¢ ea.	Western Family Microwave Popcorn 3pk 3-3.5 oz. \$1.19 ea.	Shasta Soda 12 Pack 12 oz Cans 2\$5	Gatorade 64 oz. \$2.19 ea.
Kellogg's Pop Tarts Asst'd 14.7 oz. 2\$4	Jet Puff Marshmallows 16 oz. \$1.39 ea.	Hunt's BBQ Sauce 21.6 oz. \$1.19 ea.	Dole Frozen Juices 12 oz. \$1.19 ea.
Van Camp Pork & Beans 15 oz. 2\$88¢	Western Family Dill Pickles Asst'd 46 oz. 3\$5	Chef Boyardee Pasta 15 oz. 99¢ ea.	Western Family Mayonnaise & Salad Dressing 32 oz. \$1.79 ea.
Ragu Spaghetti Sauce 16 oz. \$1.88 ea.	Western Family Squeeze Mustard 24 oz. 88¢ ea.	Rosarita Refried Beans 16 oz. 5\$5	Dixie Paper Plates 22-60 ct. 2\$5
Western Family Pasta Asst'd 12 oz. 69¢ ea.	Hunt's Ketchup 20-24 oz. \$1.29 ea.	Western Family Milk 1/2 Gallon \$1.39 ea.	<div>SRM COUPON</div> <div>Peat Moss</div> <div>50¢ off</div> <div>2.2 cu.ft.</div>
Western Family Paper Towels 1 Roll 59¢ ea.	Western Family Adult Cat Food 14 lb. \$6.99 ea.	Darigold Sour Cream Pint 2\$3	

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 5/16/07 thru 5/22/07