

Huskies hammer foes Page 1B

Off-road access, Page 3A

Ranchers say keep Flint Creek, Bachman Grade closed for safety Homedale P&Z, Page 11A

Commission ready to take up vending, signage ordinances

Wednesday, October 3, 2007

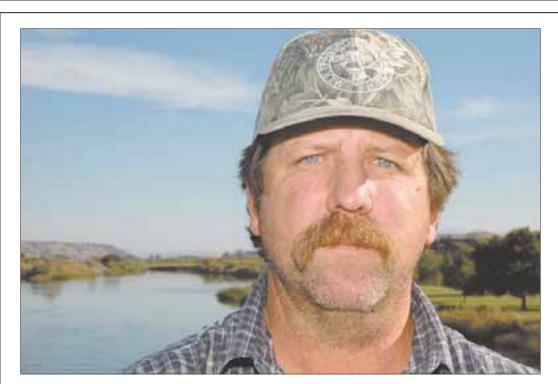
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Dwphee Avalanche

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 40

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



Marsing resident hailed as hero Owyhee County Sheriff's Posse veteran Tony Malmberg stands on the Marsing bridge last week in about the same spot where he had talked a man out of jumping into the Snake River.

Coffee and a chat

Posse member's calm words coax man off bridge

Tony Malmberg was just doing what he does every day — driving to work.

But there was something different about the morning of Sept. 25 as the Owyhee County Sheriff's Posse member was commuting to Caldwell over the Idaho highway 55 Snake River bridge.

A man wearing no clothes was positioned outside the railing on the south side of the bridge at about the midway point of the span. "I parked in the middle of the bridge, got out and asked him what he was doing," said Malmberg, who had called the incident in to Murphy dispatch before parking. "He said he wanted to take his own life."

'Tony definitely saved the man's life," he said. "I am extremely proud of Tony.'

> - Gary Aman Owyhee County Sheriff

Homedale sewer expansion nears completion

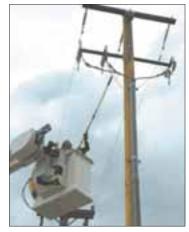
Officials ready to turn attention to upgrading water system

Work has progressed swiftly on the City of Homedale sewer project that voters approved nearly a year-and-a-half ago.

Homedale public works supervisor Larry Bauer reported to the City Council on Thursday that nearly all the work is complete on the \$1.2 million project. Eastern Oregon Construction, which began the project in June, has completed the lift station at the foot of East Owyhee Avenue near the U.S. Highway 95 bridge, and the sewer extension along U.S. 95 is done.

"The sewer protect is virtually done," Bauer said.

On Friday afternoon, a threeman crew from Idaho Power Co.,



Sewer powered up Torrey Leach of Idaho Power Co., connects electricity to the new Homedale sewer lift station at the end of East Owyhee Avenue on Friday.

— See Sewer, page 4A

Luau benefit infuses Murphy with Polynesia Annual fundraiser people for whom the county and

Calling on his training as an eight-year member of the posse, Malmberg talked to the man - identified by Sheriff Gary Aman as 56year-old Ronald Schofield of Pennsylvania - for

about 20 minutes in the chilly morning.

"I started talking to him, and when the deputy arrived the guy tensed up," Malmberg said. "Gary's always preached to listen to what people have to say and try to help them."

So Malmberg listened, and he struck on an

— See Chat, page 5A

on tap Saturday

The annual luau fundraiser for the Owyhee County Historical Society is on tap for the museum in Murphy this weekend.

That means another chance to experience the culture of the the mountains are named.

The fourth annual "Aloha! from the Owyhees" kicks off at 6 p.m. Saturday with a social hour inside the Owyhee County Historical Museum complex, 17085 Basey St., Murphy.

"It is a great event and it is

— See Luau, page 5A

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Council calls Legion on the carpet

Latest property damage incident prompts Homedale veterans group to raise deposit on hall

Homedale American Legion Post 32 leaders told city officials Thursday that they will take steps to crack down on unruliness at hall parties.

But the Legion representatives, which included Rod Cain and adjutant Jim Gammett, balked at the city's suggestion that they require security at all parties.

"I think we have bent over backwards," Cain said. "We can't afford to provide security every time we rent the hall."

Cain also said that if the American Legion forces renters to provide their own security, those partiers will seek other accommodations and dry up a big source of revenue for the local Legion.

For now, the Legion will increase the security deposit it charges hall renters to \$300. The current deposit is \$200.

"We can go further and require security, but all that is going to do is eliminate us renting our building," said Cain, who added that hall rental and the beer garden during the Owyhee County Fair are about the only streams of revenue for the Homedale American Legion post.

Cain said the Legion has taken other precautions to quiet the rowdy parties, including banning alcohol in the hall.

"We had done that several years ago," Cain said, "but we've only been enforcing it in the last 60 days."

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said that eliminating alcohol was a big step toward solving the problem.

Cain said party-goers self-police the alcohol ban, but there is no control over other attendees drinking alcohol on adjacent property, such as the parking lot of Paul's Markets corporate office or the alleyway south of the Legion Hall.

"All we can say is you can't have alcohol there, but we're not going to have someone there," Cain said.

Cain and Gammett said the problem doesn't lie with the people who rent the hall for their parties, but troubles come from uninvited out-of-town "entities" that disrupt the gatherings.

"The major problem is people from Nampa and Caldwell crashing the parties," Gammett said. "That's where a lot of the problems come with the stabbings and fights."

The legionnaires attended last week's council meeting in the wake of the latest incident stem-



Hall party spawns more damage

Revelers at a recent party at the Homedale American Legion Post 32 Hall broke windows in the apartment above the old Rosebud Cleaners, shown behind the Legion Hall on East Owyhee Avenue.

ming from a party for which the hall had been rented.

"This has been an ongoing issue," councilman Steve Schultz said, adding that there have been complaints of noise and damage to cars. "We need to do something to get a handle on it."

In the latest incident, windows were broken out of the apartment above the old Rosebud Cleaners building that sits directly east of the Legion Hall on East Owyhee Avenue. Cain said the legionnaires have replaced the windows and are seeking reimbursement from the group that booked the party.

Gammett said the total cost of replacing the windows came out to about \$250, which is \$50 more than the security deposit that was in place. "Whenever somethin

"Whenever something has happened, we've taken care of it," Gammett said, adding that the Legion also has cleaned up graffiti on the walls of neighboring buildings, even though a connection to any Legion Hall party couldn't be made.

A midnight curfew has been placed on all parties, too, the Legion said.

"You can start with baby-steps and tell them, 'At midnight, the police will be there,' and that we will be holding them accountable for damages and (litter)," Eidemiller said.

It also was suggested that those responsible for the parties should call the police whenever unwanted guests arrive, but Mayor Paul Fink cited previous incidents to point out the hazards of outnumbered police personnel responding to an unruly crowd at the Legion Hall.

"It's too dangerous for one officer (to respond)," Fink said.

Homedale Police Officer Mike McFetridge was injured in 2006 when he responded to a report of a fight and stabbing during a party at the Legion Hall. McFetridge was at the hall on two occasions after midnight on July 3, 2006.

In February, McFetridge was on scene again after a 25-year-old Wilder man was stabbed during a birthday party for a 15-year-old.

In both instances, the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office provided backup.

— JPB



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PAGE 3A

Grand View boy heading to trial in shooting death

A 17-year-old boy will face trial in front of a judge in November on a charge stemming from the shooting death of his teenage uncle.

The boy, whose name hasn't been released because of his age, will stand trial for involuntary manslaughter in juvenile court at 9 a.m. Nov. 15 in Murphy.

"The involuntary manslaughter charge alleges that the juvenile caused the death of another by the operation of a firearm in a reckless, careless or negligent manner," Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks wrote in an e-mail.

The court date was set during a pre-trial conference in Murphy on Sept. 24. The proceedings will be held before a judge with no jury because of the age of the defendant, deputy court clerk Jamie Wylie said. The boy was charged with involuntary manslaughter on Aug. 27 after the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office completed an investigation into the Aug. 6 death of 15-year-old Henry Smith.

Smith died from a gunshot wound to the head suffered when the weapon discharged as the two boys were looking at it inside a Grand View home.

In keeping with his policy, Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks declined the discuss facts of the pending case. He previously stated that if convicted, the boy could face a penalty ranging from probation to commitment to the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

Faulks did confirm that the defendant has a prior history in the juvenile court system.

— JPB

Homedale seniors dancing on Saturday night once again

The Saturday night dance has returned to the Homedale Senior Citizens Center, the organization announced last week.

On Oct. 20, anyone can dance to live music from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the center at 224 W. Idaho Ave. Admission is \$3 and finger foods.

Other events at the senior center this month include:

• Saturday and Sunday — A clearance sale in the center's second-hand store. It runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

• **Monday** — The center's van will embark on a shopping trip. Call (208) 337-4737 or (208) 337-3020 to reserve a seat.

• **Tuesday** — A blood pressure clinic from 9:30 a.m. to noon

• Tuesdays and Thursdays — An exercise class open to the public is held from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

• Oct. 16 — The monthly foot clinic will be held at 9:30 a.m. Call the center (337-3020) to make an appointment or sign up at the center's front desk.

Ranchers: Keep roads closed

ATV riders not optimistic after public hearing

Ranchers voiced safety concerns during last week's public hearing investigating the wisdom of opening two county roads to offhighway vehicle traffic.

Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said cattlemen held the large majority of the 15 people who spoke at the Sept. 24 meeting in Murphy.

The Owyhee County Ridge Runners have petitioned the board of commissioners to open portions of Flint Creek Road and Bachman Grade Road to OHV users. The public hearing, which was held inside McKeeth Hall at the Owyhee County Historical Museum, was required because a county ordinance would have to be amended to open the Oreanaarea roads.

"The biggest problem is access in Owyhee County for ATV people, and I had a couple of them that were concerned because (the road closure) cut off access to riding areas," Ridge Runners club president Meril Ebbers said.

A Homedale resident, Ebbers said he doesn't ride in the area but he said he filed the petition to amend the ordinance on behalf of the club members who like the open spaces in that region. Ebbers said a letter of support from county Sheriff Gary Aman accompanied the petition.

District 2 Commissioner Jerry Hoagland and commission chair Dick Freund, who represents the area encompassing the roads, presided over the 2-hour meeting. Sherburn said no decision was made, and the commissioners took the proposal under advisement.

After listening to the testimony, neither Ebbers nor Carl Bloomquist, vice-president of the Boise chapter of the Idaho ATV Association, were optimistic about the chance for change.

"From the comments out of

the meeting, it doesn't seem very favorable," Ebbers said.

Bloomquist said the state ATV association would have a difficult time justifying appealing an unsatisfactory opinion because of the case laid out by the ranchers.

"We're always disappointed when roads are closed off to ATV use," Bloomquist said. "We would prefer that they were open; however, it's hard to argue with (ranchers') concerns."

According to Sherburn, the ranchers who spoke at the hearing worried about the safety of the roads if ATV users were allowed access. The off-highway riders would use the roads to cut down on ride time between favorite trails.

Ebbers, who has been a member of the Ridge Runners for more than 10 years, said he doesn't use the area, but he asked for the opening of the roads as an agent for some folks not affiliated with the club who had expressed concern about the lack of access.

"I'm just transferring on the concerns of other people who go hunting up there," he said.

The Ridge Runners are county-based, not a Boise-based organization as the Avalanche incorrectly reported previously.

Ebbers said that the closure of the roads limits access to nearby open space and puts pressure on other areas that are more accessible. He said opening the two roads would help relieve congestion in other OHV areas.

But Oreana resident Lorna Steiner, who has lived in the area for 27 years and ranches with her husband, John, out of the Triangle Ranch, testified that the larger concern is the danger that would be created with ATV riders sharing the road with ranchers' rigs.

Steiner, who says her husband has been in the area since 1950, said the roads never have been open to off-highway vehicles, but enforcement has been lax until the proliferation of ATVs and the population explosion necessitated a change.

"From our family to the others that we've talked to, there have been so many could-have-beens," she said, "and trespassing gets worse every year, especially with the rise in four-wheelers."

Both Bloomquist and Ebbers said careless ATV riders who damage gates and land and don't ask permission to cruise on private land give the law-abiding and conscientious riders a bad name.

Steiner said that one stretch of Bachman Grade Road, formerly known as Triangle Road, is steep and windy. Another portion of the road has blind corners and large juniper trees obstructing the view of ranchers driving trucks pulling trailers full of cattle or horses, she said.

Steiner said some of the close calls have involved ranchers encountering ATV riders parked in the middle of the road or hunters being distracted by their search for game and not concentrating on possible traffic.

"That seemed to be the biggest concern of ranchers up there," Ebbers said. "I can't solve that problem. There are areas on that road that you have to go pretty slow on, and we'll have to educate (riders) about those areas.

"An ATV is not a real good match for a pickup or truck."

Steiner said the problem is especially harrowing when hunting seasons begin. Antelope season in the area start Sept. 25.

"It has never been open," Steiner said of the road. "(Authorities) just hadn't enforced it too much.

"With so many people coming out, they're starting to enforce it with so many close calls." — JPB







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From page 1

Sewer: Official says new system will accommodate future town growth

was in the process of hooking up electricity to the lift station, which measures 12 feet in diameter and is located between Owyhee Avenue and the Snake River.

"It's 100 percent what the people voted for," Bauer said after Thursday's meeting. "It's not

only taking care of the residents Pioneer Road. in town, but it's taking care of the future plans of the community."

Bauer said once the new sewer system goes online that it will be able to accommodate new development as well, such as the subdivision Ron Woods plans on

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Bauer also said that the project is coming in under budget by as much as \$100,000.

"Our cost projections have worked out," he said.

Bauer also reported that the city is close to seeking construction

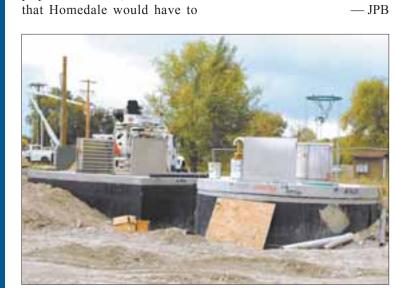
bids on the first phase of Homedale's \$2.3 million upgrade to the municipal water system.

He said city officials, including engineer Fred Ostler, have met with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to hammer out details of elements required before the project is sent out to bid.

Bauer said Thursday night that a huge hurdle was cleared when DEQ agreed to use previous data to determine the viability of the project. For a time, it was feared that Homedale would have to

shell out an additional \$50,000 to prove that the water pressure capacity would meet state fire suppression regulations among other criteria.

Bauer told the council that he was optimistic the city could get a good deal on the project because of the current economic ebb in the construction industry. He mentioned that Snake River RV Park has received as many as 20 bids to complete its portion of the sewer project.



Project nearly ready to go

Eastern Oregon Construction has completed construction on the Homedale sewer extension project, including this lift station at the end of East Owyhee Avenue.



The Owyhee Avalanche

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Letters to the editor

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From page 1

Chat: Deputy takes man to West Valley for evaluation after bridge ordeal

Deputy Chris Even's arrival spooked Schofield, who had told Malmberg he was a Vietnam veteran.

"When I got him over the rail, I yelled at Chris, 'Hey we're going to get some coffee," the 43-yearold Malmberg said.

Even, who had noticed Schofield's reaction to his arrival, disappeared behind Malmberg's vehicle to further calm the man.

Malmberg, who works at Custom Glass and Automatic in Caldwell, was true to his word to Schofield. The two men climbed into Malmberg's vehicle and went through the drive-thru at In the Grind Espresso and picked up a muffin and coffee. The pair then traveled to the parking lot behind City Hall, where even and other deputies took Schofield into custody.

County dispatch logs show Even transported Schofield to Caldwell for treatment of mental health issues.

"I just wish him the best," Malmberg said of Schofield. He said that he believed the man was living in the Sunnyslope area across the Snake River from Marsing.

Aman made no bones about the crucial role Malmberg played on the bridge.

"Tony definitely saved the man's life," he said. "I am extremely proud of Tony and all the Owyhee County Posse members who contribute so much to this county and our communities."

Malmberg also said though Schofield was ready to leap into the chilly Snake River, the man took care to make sure his dog wasn't going to be harmed. He had tied the dog to the bridge so it wouldn't wander into traffic.

"He wanted me to take care of his dog," Malmberg said. "I said

idea to defuse the tension when West Valley Medical Center in I couldn't because I was allergic to them."

A father of three who has been married to his wife, Angie, for 14 years, Malmberg joined the Posse after returning after 15 years in Europe. He had worked in construction in Germany after his discharge from the U.S. Army while stationed there. His father, Bob, also is a member of the volunteer sheriff's support group.

Malmberg said he had never encountered a suicidal subject who wanted to jump off the bridge.

"I've had people that wanted to shoot themselves," Malmberg said. "That was the first one when I was on my own, but it goes back to the training the sheriff's office gives you.

"They tell you to be a listener and go slow with stuff like that."

[—] JPB



Pennsylvania man considered jumping

Owyhee County Sheriff's Posse member Tony Malmberg was heading into Canyon County to work last week when he spotted 56-year-old Ronald Schofield on the south side of the Marsing bridge.

$\sqrt{\text{Luau}}$: Silent auction, raffle also planned as part of Saturday's shindig



Pacific Pearl incorporates next generation

A Pacific Pearl performance is a family affair with the group members' children getting in on the act. The children include, from left: J.T. Ti'a, Ami Ti'a, Mattea Chipman, Lagi Church, Amanda Chipman, Siolo Church and Fili Church. The women of the group are, from left: To'aga Ti'a, Louise Church and Heidi Chipman. Pacific Pearl Entertainment LLC photo

tons of fun," event coordinator Debra Lindner said. "The food is awesome, and we have some fun new activities."

The group providing the night's entertainment, Pacific Pearl, will present a history of the hula at 6:30 p.m., and the luau will start at 7:15 p.m. The Polynesianthemed entertainment will take place during dessert beginning at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$30 per person and reservations are required. Call (208) 495-2319 or (208) 495-2809 for more information or to make reservations.

All proceeds from the evening will benefit the museum building fund. A progress report on the construction will take place at 7 p.m.

Lindner said the museum needs to pay off \$70,000 related to the construction, but that the project is nearly completed.

Pacific Pearl returns at 8 for a Polynesian dance show. The Boise-based outfit — which has been together for two years and formerly performed as Pacific Rhythm — will bring the "grace, pride, beauty and laughter of the Islands" to the proceedings, according to information provided by Lindner.

said. "Dance is an integral part of our culture."

The entertainment group, which encompasses dance and song traditions from Hawaii, Tahiti, Samoa, Tonga, New Zealand, Fiji and the Marquesas, has performed at community events, weddings, birthdays, retirements, graduation parties, anniversaries and other fundraisers.

"Our children are an important part of our show," Chipman said. "We love the fact that we can teach part of our culture to them by having them perform with us."

This year's authentic luau menu will include a Polynesian-roasted pig, teriyaki beef, rice, salad, Hawaiian taro bread, fruit and dessert.

A raffle also will be held, with tickets available for \$5 each. Prizes include a night's stay at the Snake River Log Bed and Breakfast dinner for two at the Blue Canoe restaurant, a handpieced quilt and a wine basket. Hawaiian appetizers, or pupus, and wine will be served during the social hour. A silent auction also will be held. Owyhee County and the mountains that make up its primary geographic feature are named for the band of Hawaiian fur trappers who perished in the mountains while working for the McKenzie expedition in 1818. Owyhee is a spelling variation for Hawaii.

Pacific Pearl to perform at OCHS luau

Members of the Pacific Pearl Polynesian dance group who will perform Saturday at the fourth annual Aloha! from the Owvhees fundraiser in Murphy include, from left, Heidi Chipman, To'aga Ti'a, Louise Church and Harland Ah You. Pacific Pearl Entertainment LLC photo



"Of course, the entertainment is wonderful," Lindner said. "We love Pacific Pearl."

The group includes Harland AhYou, Heidi Chipman, Louise Church and To'aga Ti'a, all of whom are of Samoan descent. All the group members have lived in Hawaii, too. AhYou's mother is Hawaiian.

"We have all been performing since we were children," Chipman — JPB



The Ownhee Avalanche

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Oct. 4-5: No school.

Oct. 8: Sloppy Joe or hot dog, tots, fruit & veggie bar, chocolate pudding, milk.

Oct. 9: Turkey & noodles or tuna sandwich, peas, fruit & veggie bar, goldfish crackers, milk.

Oct. 10: Chili or beef taco pie, roll, fruit & veggie bar, fruit roll up, milk.

Homedale Middle

Oct. 4-5: No school.

Oct. 8: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk

Oct. 9: Wiener wrap or sloppy Joe, green beans, animal crackers, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Oct. 10: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit roll up, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

Oct. 4-5: No school.

Oct. 8: Pizza, mini corn dogs or chef's salad, fruit & veggie bar, brownie, milk.

Oct. 9: Oven fried chicken or wiener wrap, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, fruit roll up, milk.

Oct.10: Enchilada, pizza hot pocket or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Bruneau

Oct. 4-5: No school.

Oct. 8: Chicken sandwich, potato wedges, veggie sticks, apple, cookie. milk.

Oct. 9: Taco & fixings, chips & salsa, corn, pears, milk.

Oct. 10: Turkey & noodles, salad, roll/butter, cherry cobbler, milk.

Marsing

Oct. 4-5: No school.

Oct. 8: Hamburger, potato wedges, fruit, milk, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, cinnamon twist.

Oct. 9: Ham & cheese sandwich, potato wedges, fruit, milk, cf steak, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Oct. 10: Taco w/fixings, veggie, fruit, milk, Red Baron pizza, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Senior menus

Marsing center

Oct. 3: Breakfast to order. Pork chops, potatoes, beets, soup & salad, fruit, dessert, drink.

Oct. 4: Baked chicken, a gratin potatoes, broccoli, carrot & onion, cabbage salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Oct. 9: Chicken & noodles, broccoli, beets, salad, soup, dessert, drink.

Oct. 10: Breakfast to order.

Homedale center

Oct. 3: Stuffed manicotti, salad, bread, drink.

Oct. 4: Beef burrito, refried beans, rice, drink.

Oct. 9: Over fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, roll, drink.

Oct. 10: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, gravy, broccoli, roll, drink.

Obituary

Ruth Nadine Huddleston

Ruth Nadine Huddleston, a longtime resident of Idaho, passed away on September 25, 2007, of the West Nile virus at the age of 79. She was lovingly surrounded by her family and husband Don, with whom she was married for 61 years.

Ruth was a great lover of animals, plants, and the land surrounding her. Her family and friends were all very important in her life. Ruth and Don lived up Little Willow Creek out of Payette for 33 years.

She was born as Ruth Nadine Davenport in Parker, Idaho on April 3, 1928 but grew up mostly on a farm near Homedale, Idaho, graduating in 1946. Shortly afterwards she married Donald Huddleston, also of Homedale and within 3 years moved to Salem, Oregon where they lived for 25 years before moving to Payette, Idaho.

Ruth and Don are the parents of six children, 18 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren Richard (Paula), Homedale, ID; Debra (Myron) Whitehead, Wenatchee, WA; Blake, Payette, ID; Rochelle Horstman, Gresham, OR; Melissa (Dale) Smith, Payette, ID; Lane (Joyce), Payette, ID.

Funeral services were Saturday, September 29, 2007 at 11:00 AM at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Payette.

A viewing was held at the church on Saturday from 10-11am. Burial followed at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery at 2pm. Funeral services were under the direction of the Haren-Wood Funeral Chapel, Payette.

Murphy nurse recognized for contributions to industry

Murphy resident Mary O'Malley Health Services. She then worked recently received the Nurse Practitioner Lifetime Achievement Award at a statewide Nurse Practitioner conference in Boise.

The award is given by the Nurse Practitioners of Idaho, a group representative of the almost 1,000 nurse practitioners in Idaho.

O'Malley received the award "for her significant contributions to the status of health care delivery and the practice of Nurse Practitioners."

O'Malley began her career as an NP in 1973 at the Homedale Clinic, then part of Community Health Clinics, now Terry Reilly

at the Nampa Clinic for more than 20 years before retiring.

During her professional career, Mary served on the Advisory Board of Region III Health and Welfare, the Board of the Idaho Rural Health Coalition and the Board of Valley Crisis Center. She also served on the Boards of several nurse practitioner organizations as well as the Idaho State Board of Nursing.

Since her retirement, O'Malley has been active in the Owyhee County Historical Society, serving on the Board of Directors and on several committees.



O'Malley honored Mary O'Malley, N.P., left, poses with Nurse Practitioners of Idaho representative Kate Martin, N.P. Submitted photo

HMS offers after-school assistance

Second session of parent-teacher conferences held tonight

Homedale Middle School is offering an after-school program from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Teachers will be available to help fifth- through eighth-graders in any subject they need help in. A bus is provided on both days

to get the students home.

"I hope parents will seize the opportunity we are offering their Luci Asumendi-Mereness said.

Students will receive small group instruction, and they can utilize PLATO, a computer software program that assists students in their academic achievements in Reading, Language or Math.

The after-school program will be offered until April.

Forms are available from the school, or during tonight's parent-

"We urge parents to visit the school, talk to the teachers, pick up grade reports, learn about the after-school program and get to know us better," Asumendi-Mereness said of the parentteacher conferences.

The parent-teacher conferences began Tuesday night.

For more information on the after-school program, call the school at 337-5780.

Find out What's happening

Chili w/tomato & cheese, salad, pears, soup, dessert, drink.

academic courses," HMS principal from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at HMS

child to receive extra help in their teacher conferences, which run

Read Calendar each week in the Avalanche





<u>Your finances</u> Even pizza job could help laid-off exec's bottom line

Dear Dave,

My husband was laid off a month ago from an executive job making \$80,000 a year. We've got no debt except our house. We owe \$82,000 on it, but it's worth about \$300,000. We've also got a \$30,000 emergency fund in place, and I work part-time making \$2,000 a month. It's difficult to find positions to what he did for a living, and it doesn't help that he's over 50. He's even tried getting lower-level jobs, but no one wants to hire him for those because they know he'll take a better job if one comes open. Do you think we should we sell our house? We've also got a boat worth about \$18,000 we could sell.

— Sheila

Dear Sheila,

I'd get rid of a boat long before I sold my house. Boats are luxury items, and selling them isn't nearly as traumatic as having to give up your home.

You've got a nice, fat emergency fund sitting there, but I'd rather see your husband go out and find some kind of work in the meantime. It may not be the position or money he's used to, but there are responsibilities to be considered here. I know delivering pizza isn't an \$80,000 a year glamour job, but the cash will help out a lot.

You can dip into your emergency fund a little bit, and you may have to before it's all over. But I'd love to see him doing this and you guys living on a really tight budget! Understand, too, Sheila, that he's going through an emotional and psychological crisis after losing a big job like that. Encourage and support him all you can.

As long as he's being diligent seeking a new job and you're doing the right things like budgeting and watching what you spend, then you should keep the house. Take



since stopped doing business with the city. In fact, I've stopped doing business altogether. Is there a time limit on settling the account with them? I once wrote them a check for an overpayment, and a year later they still have not cashed it.

— Nathan

Dear Nathan,

The first thing I'd do is notify the city that if they don't cash the check very soon it's probably not going to be any good because you're going to close the account. Let them know if they need another check — if they've lost the original — that's fine, but you need those people to get their act together!

You wrote them a check because you owed them money. It's aggravating that they haven't cashed the check in a year, but if you close the account make sure you still have the money available. Morally, you should pay.

Could they come back at you for the money later? Sure. After all, you owe the amount. Whether or not there's a statute of limitations or time limit on the debt depends on the state in which the transactions occurred.

You really need to consult an attorney, but my guess is the check isn't big enough to warrant going to war over. Try to force their hand by asking them to cash it by a specific time, otherwise you're going to close the account.

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the bestselling author of The Total Money Makeover. He will begin hosting

Calendar

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

Thursday

Today

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

Summer reading activity day, 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

Owyhee Mountain Trail Challenge, 7:30 a.m. registration, 8:30 a.m. clinic, 9 a.m. show, 28098 Fox Lane, Wilder. (208) 337-3231 or (208) 249-6889

The Owyhee County Historical Society's Aloha! from the Owyhees Luau and Dinner Show, 6 p.m., the Owyhee County Historical Museum Complex, 17085 Basey St., Murphy, reservations required. (208) 495-2319

Monday

Homedale School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 7 p.m., district office board room, 116 E. Owyhee Ave.

Melba School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 4 p.m., district office board room, 600 Broadway Ave.

Tuesday

Blood Pressure Clinic, 9:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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

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. Snake River Valley Fellowship, 16613 Garnet Road, Wilder. Homedale. (208) 475-

ow, 3733

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

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

Wednesday

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

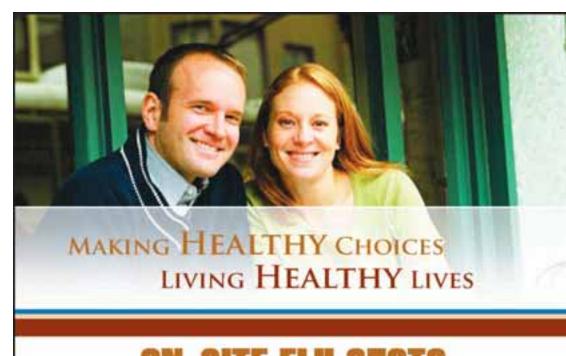
DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

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

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

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, meetings, reunions or community events to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.



a deep breath, and hug each other a lot. Chances are, everything will work out just fine!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I used to do business with a major city. Every now and then they would overpay me or underpay me. This went on for about a year and a half, and I've a show on the new Fox Business Channel when it launches on Oct. 15. 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 \$ays, 1749 Mallory

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Prepared for anything

Public agencies test their response, organization in mock emergency

'We can't be prepared enough'

At 1:30 p.m. on Friday, September 28, a call of shots fired from the science room of Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School was broadcast by Owyhee County Dispatch.

What followed was an exercise — and only an exercise — to gauge the preparedness of the emergency personnel that services the Grand View-Bruneau area.

Any manner of disaster situations greeted responders, the first of which arrived in less than 10 minutes. Personnel hailed from the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, Grand View and Bruneau fire departments, Grand View Ambulance and Bruneau Quick Response Unit.

"It's always impressive how small communities work together," said James Van Dinter, the southwest area exercise coordinator for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security.

The state agency coordinated the disaster drill that enlisted the acting skills of teachers and students alike on the campus midway between Bruneau and Grand View.

"The kids were wonderful. I was impressed with the teachers. It was outstanding the way they responded," Bruneau-Grand View School District superintendent Vickie Chandler said.



'Victim' removed from disaster scene

Medics and firemen bring a "victim" to an ambulance, which was parked on the southwest corner of the Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School campus. Photo submitted by Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

Drill conducted at Rimrock school

Authorities plan similar exercises at all county schools

Owyhee County's disaster preparedness was evaluated in a multi-agency emergency response exercise coordinated by the Department of Homeland Security on Friday.

An official said the mock disaster, which had been in planning stages for more than a year, was the first of its kind to take place in Owyhee County. According to James Van Dinter, MEP, southwest area exercise coordinator for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, the scenario involved a simulated shooting and fire at the school that sits on Idaho highway 78 between Bruneau and Grand View.

Agencies joining Homeland Security in the exercise included the Bruneau Fire Department, the Bruneau-Grand View School District, the Bruneau Quick Response Unit, the Grand View Fire Department, Grand View Ambulance, the Idaho State EMS Communications Center, Owyhee County Dispatch, Owyhee County of everyone involved.

"The exercise tested interagency coordination, communication and cooperation between the participating departments and the school district," Van Dinter said.

The simulated incident began at around 1:30 p.m., according to Bruneau-Grand View School District superintendent Vickie Chandler. Five students and a teacher were made up to appear to have suffered various injuries in the simulation, from gunshot wounds to blunt-force trauma

and the school was evacuated. Next, Sheriff's Office personnel secured the building. Finally, emergency medical responders treated and transported the victims.

Aman said that the actual emergency response activity lasted less than an hour. Including an on-site "hotwash," or evaluation session at the conclusion of the simulation, though, the exercise lasted approximately three hours. Van Dinter said that a more detailed emergency response evaluation report will be issued by the Bureau of Homeland Security in mid-November and distributed to participating agencies.

Emergency Management, and the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office.

County Sheriff Gary Aman said that Larry Howard, Owyhee County emergency services coordinator, spearheaded the coordination effort, but to make it work required the cooperation to the chest, to burns and smoke inhalation.

"There's a progression of events that takes place," Chandler said. The shooting and fire, which took place in a science classroom, first was reported to the school office. The office then called 911

Reaction to the pseudoemergency was positive.

"It's always impressive how small communities work together," Van Dinter said.

Chandler praised the school's response.

"The kids were wonderful. I was impressed with the teachers. It was outstanding the way they responded. They did a great job of getting the students off campus," Chandler said. "Every agency needs to be commended because they did a great job."

"All in all, I think it went — See **Drill,** page **9**A



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PAGE 9A

Prepared for anything

Public agencies test their response, organization in mock emergency





Response coordinated inside and outside the school

Above: A medic treats an oxygen mask-clad victim on the grass in front of Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School during Friday's mock emergency drill. **Below:** Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies walk through a smoke-filled hall making sure that all students and personnel have evacuated the building after shots were fired. A gas leak also was reported during the exercise. Photos submitted by Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security

$\sqrt{\text{Drill:}}$ Officials pleased with execution, coordination

From Page 8A

really well," Aman said. "We found areas of improvement, and that's what we were doing it for. Training like this is greatly needed throughout the county."

Chandler agreed.

"I think every agency found some aspect of communication that can be improved upon," she said. "It was very timely. We can't be prepared enough."

Aman said that participating agencies are currently writing response plans for future exercises.

"We plan to do this at every school in the county once a year."

— RTH



Teachers, emergency personnel react

Top: An "injured" teacher takes care of two "injured" students found lying in the hallway at Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School during Friday's emergency drill. **Above:** First-responders from Grand View

Ambulance prepare to enter the high school after being called to the scene by Owyhee County Dispatch. Photos submitted by Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security





Lizard Butte Library project on pace

Marsing's new library building, which has been gradually taking shape throughout the summer on South 3rd Avenue, is on schedule to be completed before the end of this year.

Lizard Butte Library director Janna Streibel said she is pleased with the pace of the project's progress.

"It's going really good. It's all framed up, and we have windows in," Streibel said.

Streibel said that the new library is scheduled to be finished on Dec. 15.

Once construction is complete, it will take two or three weeks to move the collection of approximately 10,000 books to its new home.

"It will probably be the middle of January before we move in," Streibel said. "We're going to have a grand opening, but we haven't set a specific date or made any plans for what we're going to do."

She said the library's current location at 429 Main Street will close while the books are transferred to the 4,750-squarefoot building that is situated behind the Marsing Rural Fire District station.

Voters in the library district overwhelmingly passed a 21-year, \$775,000 bond to pay for the construction of the library during a Feb. 6 election.

KMO Construction won the bid to build the project in July. Meridian-based Design West is the architect of the building, which will include a community room for public gatherings.

— RTH



Lizard Butte Library taking shape

The new 4,750-square-foot building that will house the Lizard Butte Library has gone from bare ground to a structure in a few short months. KMO Construction is the contractor for the project, which is being financed by a 21-year, \$775,000 bond.



August — **The foundation begins** *The Marsing Rural Fire District station was still visible when construction crews began putting in the footing for the new library.*





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P&Z to address vending, airport codes

Public hearing also covers signage, mobile homes in Homedale

The Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to analyze proposed changes to the city's zoning ordinance at its Oct. 15 meeting.

The meeting, which also includes a separate public hearing on a proposed fabrication business, will begin at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

The amendments address several issues, including placing time limitations on the operation of temporary commercial business such as hot dog vending carts or

mobile Mexican food vending locations; limiting the places within city limits where older mobile homes can be placed; and stricter regulations regarding clutter at the municipal airport.

Five specific changes or additions to the zoning ordinance are on the agenda, including:

• Enacting an ordinance that would restrict temporary commercial use of land by businesses operating out of a cart or mobile home to be limited

between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m., and only be allowed for three months or less within a calendar year. The commercial operations would be allowed only within areas zoned for commercial use

• Changing the sign ordinance to allow two signs on a building, especially on a building occupying a corner lot. Currently, city code allows for only one sign on a building, but there are several commercially zoned corner lots in the city, including the proposed Idaho Pizza Co. franchise on East Idaho Avenue and East 2nd Street South, the AutoZone auto parts

store on Main Street and Colorado Avenue and the Family Dollar store on West Idaho Avenue and West 2nd Street North.

• Mobile homes built before 1976, commonly known as Class C mobile homes, can be placed only in mobile home parks at the discretion of the park owner as single-family homes. All such mobile homes must be approved by the city building inspector.

If the building inspector deems the structure is suitable to be brought into the city limits, a building permit must be obtained before the mobile home is placed in the park.

• Tightening rules at the airport regarding the upkeep of property. The concern is items located around hangars that may blow onto the runway. Maintenance, upkeep and appearance of hangars also would be addressed by the proposed ordinance.

In addition to the public hearing on the zoning ordinance, the P&Z commission will hear the special use permit application filed by Kelly Miller and Tammy Dulin.

Miller and Dulin want to operate a fabrication, welding and PC repair shop at 602 W. Idaho Ave., which currently is zoned residential.

Man to be arraigned in teen runaway case

preliminary hearing had been continued twice will face arraignment on a felony lewd conduct charge on Oct. 12.

Gregorio Diaz-Monreal will be arraigned on a charge of lewd conduct with a child under 16 at 9 a.m. Oct. 12 in Murphy.

According to county Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks, Diaz-Monreal waived his right to a preliminary hearing on Sept. 17. Diaz-Monreal was arrested on

A Homedale man whose Aug. 15 in a Homedale mobile home park after police received a tip that a missing teenager had been spotted in one of the units.

> Diaz-Monreal is accused of lewd conduct with a 15-year-old runaway from Las Vegas.

> According to court records, Diaz-Monreal's preliminary hearing originally was postponed on Aug. 27 because the prosecution couldn't arrange transportation for a key witness. The hearing was continued again on Sept. 10.

Man gets probation for family fight

WYHEE COUNTY

HERIT'S DEPT

A Homedale man received two years probation recently after a felony charge of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon was amended to a misdemeanor.

Robert Lester Cohagan, 62, whose given address is a post office box in Homedale, was arrested by Homedale Police on July 8 after an altercation involving his family.

Cohagan faced the felony count with an enhancement of use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony.

Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks

said Cohagan originally was suspected to have brandished a knife during the altercation, but no weapon was 1414 81081 recovered.

Appear-Robert Lester ing before Cohagan Owyhee

County Magistrate Dan C. Grober on Sept. 19, Cohagan was placed on two years probation and ordered to pay \$75.50 in fines and

court costs. Most of a 90-day jail term was suspended, and Cohagan was credited for the 12 days he served in Owyhee County Jail.

Faulks dismissed the enhancement because the crime was reduced to a misdemeanor.

"The victim on this matter agreed that the charge as amended was adequate, although I believe that the victim may have wanted to see more controls out of probation, particularly regarding alcohol use by the defendant," Faulks said.

— JPB



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Homedale musicians ready for prime time

The Homedale school band, led by drum major Katie Holloway, marches in the Homedale High School Homecoming parade.

Band ready for competitions

The Homedale Schools is comprised of middle school marching band begins a busy month Saturday in Caldwell.

Second-year band director Karla Kachelmier has a full slate of competitions planned this year.

The band is scheduled to perform at the U.S. Scholastic Band Association-sanctioned event at Caldwell High School on Saturday.

According to a tentative event schedule on the USSBA Web site, Homedale's band, which

through high school musicians, will be the first to perform at 2:30 p.m. The school is located at 3401 S. Indiana in Caldwell. Other bands listed on the competition list include Timberline of Boise, Ontario, Ore., Middleton, Weiser, Kuna, Mountain Home, Eagle, Skyview of Nampa, Burley, Fruitland and Caldwell.

Each band is slotted for a 15minute performance. Awards will be handed out at 5:45 p.m.

The Trojans band also will

compete at the Battle of the Bands Competition in Ontario, Ore., on Oct. 15 and the District III Marching Competition at Boise State University on Oct. 20.

To bolster numbers, Kachelmier has combined all grade levels into one band this year.

"I'm really proud of the work the kids are putting in this season," Kachelmier said.

"They're finding out how much work it takes to do this gig and, hopefully, they will discover the payoff."





County clerks push permanent absentee ballots

Making elections easier and cheaper for county governments was a primary topic for county clerks during the recent Idaho Association of Counties conference

Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said association

members set a legislative agenda that puts permanent absentee ballots on the top of the list.

Representatives from member counties passed a resolution during their Sept. 19-21 gathering in Moscow that urges state legislators to look at making changes to voting law when they convene for the 2008 Statehouse session in January.

Sherburn said a revised mail ballot resolution struggled for acceptance, while the permanent absentee ballot suggestion received greater support. The permanent absentee ballot measure would do away with the statute requiring eligible electors to register as absentee voters before every election for which he or she is eligible.

"There's still not enough trust in our election system and how (voter fraud is) handled out there," Sherburn said of the reasoning behind the failure of the vote-bymail resolution.

The ballot-by-mail resolution had been modified from the 2006 measure that also failed to gain support. This year's proposal would have called for the counties to have the option to use mail-in ballots for all non-candidate elections, such as bond issues and other special elections.

The Idaho Association of County Recorders and Clerks contended in their mail-ballot resolution - which was sponsored by Nez Perce County Clerk Patty Weeks — that the option would increase voter turnout and provide a better-educated electorate because voters would have more time to study the ballot and the issues.

because of federal initiatives that have been passed to combat botched elections in recent years.

"The primary reason is cost, and we're getting more and more mandates from the federal government on how to handle our

elections," Sherburn said. "They're telling us that every county is going to have to have a paper trail. Owyhee County will be all right because we have paper ballots."

Charlotte

Sherburn

There also is less concern about the validity of absentee ballots because of the system the county already has in place, she said.

"We have the safeguards in place where we are checking the signature on every absentee ballot that comes in," Sherburn said.

Still, the new technology bred by new federal guidelines are putting a squeeze on election budgets.

The 11 electronic voting machines supplied to the county through the Help American Vote Act (HAVA) continue to cause headaches for county election workers. Although the federal government supplied the 11 machines, counties this year will be responsible for the maintenance contracts for the first time. Sherburn said that will add \$3,500 to the county's election budget.

The cost of maintaining the contraptions is the only drawback. The county clerk said that only three voters used the machines during the last election.

Then there's lugging the 45- to 50-pound machines to precincts and storing them until the next election.

Sherburn said the county has kept costs down through the generosity of the Owyhee County Historical Museum and the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office.

Storage space has been set aside

The permanent absentee ballot resolution accepted by the IAC membership was floated for the same reason as the mail-in ballot — to save the county money on running elections. Sherburn said election costs have climbed

at the museum in Murphy, and one of the sheriff's emergency response trailers was used to ship the machines around the county.

"It's costing us more manpower and a lot of more headache," Sherburn said.

— JPB





Pleasant Valley students take in history

Children from Pleasant Valley Elementary School recently took a field trip to many historic buildings in the Jordan Valley area. The participants included, back row from left: Orrie Lowry, teacher Penny Larrusea, Wyatt Stanford, Patty Smith, Jordan Jones, Lee Stanford and Mike Hanley. In the middle row are, from left: Latigo Sherman, Chase Filmore. Sage Sherman and Lewis Rutan. In the front row are, from left: Riatta and Dally Rutan. Submitted photo

Pleasant Valley schoolkids enjoy history field trip

by Jordan Jones Hazel Fretwell-Johnson was Pleasant Valley School's guide for a local history field trip Sept. 20.

She told us of the history of the following buildings: Gusman Ranch, Stateline Ranch, Hanley Ranch, Catholic Church, Jordan Valley Jail, Rock House, Methodist Church, Elementary School and Museum.

We also looked at the Jordan Valley Cemetery.

At the end of an interesting day, we all enjoyed refreshments at the Rock House Coffee Shop.

Homedale grad completes combat training

Army Pvt. Tommy R. Waters, a 2006 Homedale High School graduate, has completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Knox, Kv.

Waters is the son of Terry and Kimberly Waters of Homedale.

During the nine-week training period, Waters received instruction in drill and ceremony, weapons, rifle marksmanship and bayonet training, chemical warfare, field training and tactical exercises, armed and unarmed combat, military courtesy, military justice, physical fitness, first aid, and Army history, traditions, and core values.

IV mounts cancer benefit again

The third annual Michelle McKay Mackenzie Run, Ride and Walk will be held at 11 a.m. Oct. 12 in Jordan Valley.

The walk, started by Mackenzie's children to raise breast cancer awareness, is sponsored by Oregon-Idaho Utilities. Mackenzie died from breast cancer in 1995.

The event is open to walkers, runners and riders on horseback. bicycle or ATV.

The route starts in the Jordan Valley High School parking lot, winds around Pharmacy Hill and ends at the school.

The entry fee is \$10 per person. Proceeds will benefit a local resident fighting breast cancer.

County FFA'er places third in judging Homedale chapter finishes fourth swine species. against regional competition

member placed third this summer at a regional livestock judging camp that attracted nearly 100 people from five states.

Homedale's Kortney Bahem finished third in the overall individual judging contest. She was third in the judging only category, too.

Homedale's FFA chapter warmed up for the school year by finishing fourth in the team competition at the inaugural Southern Idaho Livestock Judging Camp held July 16-18 at the University of Idaho Extension in Jerome.

The Casper, Wyo., FFA A team

A Homedale FFA chapter won the team championship. The Casper chapter brought a B team as well and dominated the competition.

Other competitors from Homedale included Drew Farwell, who placed 20th in judging, and . Mark Williams, who was 26th

Livestock judging coaches from Oregon State University and Casper College taught youths age 13-18 techniques to build their oral reasons and animal evaluating skills. They also learned how to take effective notes during judging classes.

The participants spent two days in the classroom and barns learning about breeding and market quality in beef, sheep and

Producers who brought livestock to the clinic included Mavencamp Livestock, Thayne Egbert, Spring Cove Ranch, David Andreason, Shooting Star Ranch and Lazy Heart J.

The second annual Southern Idaho Livestock Judging Camp is scheduled for July 8-10, 2008.

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BLM completes Owyhee burns after litigious delay

Judge blocks environmentalists' attempt to halt agency's effort to improve range health

Bureau of Land Management crews continued a series of prescribed burns near Silver City on Thursday after a federal judge denied an environmental group's last-minute attempt to block the action.

Judge B. Lynn Winmill on Sept. 25 ruled against Western Watersheds Project's request for a temporary restraining order to halt the BLM's long-planned Castlehead-Lambert burn.

The 2,539-acre burn was resumed Thursday, according to BLM Boise District spokesperson MJ Byrne.

Byrne said Winmill's decision came just in the nick of time.

"The window for being able to conduct the prescribed burn is shutting because we have to meet prescription," Byrne said. "It has to be dry enough and not raining. The colder it gets, the higher the humidity will be. The R value (the ability for the vegetation to resist fire) goes up, and it gets harder to get into a good burn.

"Even if you're able to burn, it's difficult to get a hot enough burn to be successful."

Byrne said the BLM was fortunate that Winmill ruled as quickly as he did. She said the forecast beyond Thursday had called for a cold front, which would have wiped out any chance of completing the burn.

Part of Winmill's decision against WWP was anchored in the fact that the Hailey-based environmental group had filed its injunction request late in the game.

The TRO request was filed Sept. 22, just four days before the BLM was scheduled to "blackline" the fire, or set up a buffer for the burn area.

The burn area was located about 38 miles south of Silver City.

The Castlehead-Lambert prescribed burn was the last of three such fires conducted by the BLM in September. The first two — the West Antelope, 15 miles south of Silver City, and the Upper Sheep, 7 miles north of the old mining town - were designed to consume 822 acres. Those fires were the first ones ignited during the week of Sept. 17.

Winmill, who has ruled in favor of WWP on several occasions, denied the Castlehead-Lambert request because the group essentially had a year to oppose the action. The BLM announced plans for the burns in September 2006.

Winmill also said that the BLM's actions were within the 1997 Idaho Sage-Grouse Management Plan, which supports prescribed fires as a means to reduce juniper encroachment, restore normal fire activity and promote the growth of a variety of vegetation.

Junipers threaten native vegetation, such as sagebrush, because the trees dominate moisture supplies.

Winmill also rejected WWP's contention that the federal agency's prescribed burns were

for vegetation management. The BLM had said the burns are meant to reduce hazardous fuels — which includes annihilating Western Juniper — in that part of southern Owyhee County.

"We are pleased with the judge's decision and thankful for the opportunity to proceed," BLM Boise District Manager Jerry Taylor said. "This project is important to the health of the land, and the associated research will help inform future management decisions."

University of Idaho range economist Neil Rimby is involved with the Sagebrush Steppe Treatment Evaluation Project (SageSTEP) currently being conducting in a 1,000-acre swath of the Castlehead-Lambert burn site.

"That burn site is one of about six to eight around the western United States, and what (researchers) are doing is looking at cheatgrass and juniper invasions into the sagebrush steppe ecosystem," Rimby said.

"We're looking at what happens before the burn and after the burn."

Rimby is focusing on the ranch-level economic impacts and alternative management scenarios that will be borne from the research.

He expects U of I researchers to study the area next spring and summer when plants have grown back. The study will examine how the fire has changed the vegetation and the landscape, Rimby said.

Rimby said the researchers are in the first year of the four- to five-year project.

— JPB



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'Rolling for Meals on Wheels' rolls in dough

Bob Hulse and Jim Duncan's traveling circus rolled from the Wilder Market on U.S. Highway 95 to the Homedale Senior Citizens Center on Saturday, as Hulse, 67, pushed Duncan, 84, in Duncan's wheelchair on the 5-mile jaunt to collect pledged donations for the center's Meals on Wheels program.

The pair called their effort "rolling for Meals on Wheels." They were joined along the way by friends, relatives, well-wishers, patrol cars from three different police departments, a couple of livestock trailers, a marine, and a beauty queen, among others. Hulse had said that he was going to do the walk in a dress in order to collect on a \$25 pledge, but in the end opted for the slightly more conventional toga and red

long johns.

Oh, and the caravan brought in more than \$1,000 in pledges for the Meals on Wheels program.

According to Shirley McAbee, the senior center's coordinator, the response was better than expected.

"It was very successful. We were all very happy with it," McAbee said. "There were pretty close to 20 people who joined them."

Duncan's and Hulse's wives were right behind the men in a van, according to McAbee. Gordon Maxwell had a wagon pulled by a pony. Jimmy Andrews was also in a wagon, his pulled by a mule. Bob Elliott, a marine from Boise walked alongside Hulse and Duncan, as did Jane Thiel, Ms. Idaho Senior America 2006. The

procession was escorted front and back variously by cars from the police departments of Homedale, Parma and Wilder-Greenleaf.

McAbee said that the center receives about 48 cents from the government for each Meals on Wheels meal provided. The center is dependent on fundraisers and donations to cover the remainder of the program's cost. McAbee added that the containers in which the meals are delivered cost about 35 cents each, leaving just 13 cents per meal for food and delivery costs.

For more information or to further support the Meals on Wheels program with a donation, contact the Homedale Senior Citizens Center at (208) 337-3020.



Duo raises \$1,000 for Meals on Wheels Bob Hulse and Jim Duncan are flanked by U.S. Marine Bob Elliott (left), Ms. Idaho Senior America 2006 Jane Thiel and three other walkers during their fundraising trek from Wilder to Homedale along - RTH U.S. Highway 95 on Saturday.



Information sought in latest vandalism

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office is looking for witnesses who might have something to add to the investigation into the shattering of windows in this backhoe near Grand View. Photo from Owyhee County Sheriff's Office

County sheriff seeks help to catch vandals

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office is asking the public to assist in its efforts to catch the person or persons responsible for causing \$2,350 in damage to a backhoe in the Bruneau-Grand View area.

The vandalism occurred some

west of Grand View.

Anyone who may have seen or heard anything unusual or suspicious during that time is encouraged to contact the sheriff's office.

"This is the kind of case that can grant, in spite of the fact that the the organization received its and epinephrine auto-injector time on the weekend of Sept. 15 be solved by someone reporting (Owyhee County commission) medications, Hyslop said. non-transport First Responder a license plate number," sheriff's and was reported on Sept. 17. voted 2-1 to refuse to endorse Money for Idaho State EMS unit license a year ago. The outfit Nine windows and a tire were shot Det. Jim Bish said. "We really SCF&R's grant application to grants is raised through a currently operates four fire trucks State EMS," a SCF&R press \$1.25 EMS fee on state vehicle and two EMS vehicles. out of a backhoe that was in a field need the public's help with this."

SCF&R trains in mountain rescue

Silver City Fire and Rescue continues to build its education base through training exercises with other emergency agencies.

On Sept. 8, five SCF&R volunteers trained with Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue near the Cumberland Mill site on War Eagle Mountain.

The volunteers were trained in basic rope rescue techniques with an emphasis on safety, according to a news release from the Silver City organization.

The non-profit corporation has seven first responders, and seven crewmembers trained as wildland firefighters.

According to Jan Hyslop of SCF&R, the organization plans to add a structural firefighting training session in the winter.

She said other volunteers help with fundraising, including the acquisition of grants such as the 2008 Idaho State EMS grant to buy an emergency medical services vehicle. As previously reported, SCF&R plans to buy a 4-wheel-drive pickup with a utility bed.

"SCF&R received the secondhighest point score on the vehicle



Silver City volunteers get rope training

Five Silver City Fire and Rescue (SCF&R) volunteers underwent rope rescue training with Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue (IMSAR) on Sept. 8 on War Eagle Mountain. Attending the training were, standing from left, Phil Sander of IMSAR and SCF&R personnel Dave Wilper, Chief Doug Trosky, Jesse Hyslop, Jim Hyslop and Jan Hyslop. Kneeling, from left, are: Bob Meredith, Eric Zuber and Owen Miller, all of IMSAR. Submitted photo

release stated.

Another Idaho State EMS grant will be used to buy 12 D-size oxygen tanks with regulators

registration.

According to the release, SCF&R personnel have responded to 11 EMS calls since

Children enjoy Homedale puppet show

A group of children watch intently during Thursday's Little Red Riding Hood puppet show at the Homedale Public Library. The children included, from left, 4-year-olds Evelvn Hill, Damon Schumacher, Jayden Rose, Jaired Riddle, and 3-year-olds Ryan Simah and Mikayla Smith. Most of the children at the show were from Donna's Daycare under the supervision of teacher Amanda Geary.

Homedale Public Library director Margaret Fujishin narrated the puppet show by reading from author Armand Eisen's 1988 adaptation of Little Red Riding Hood. The 15-minute show was powered by the talents of puppeteers Diane Williams and Ann Umphrey.

Afterward, the children perused the library's selection of books dealing with the Brothers Grimm fairytale.



