



LU, Joyce head
to High Court
Page 9A

OHV access, Page 3A

County won't open Flint Creek
or Bachman Grade to ATV use

Crime, Page 11A

Marsing burglary may be linked
to several crimes in valley

Wednesday, October 10, 2007

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 41

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Grand View city ballot getting crowded

One write-in candidate
adds her name to
council mix in Marsing

Two years ago, no one in Grand View
wanted to run for public office.

Now, there will be a contest for mayor,
and three individuals have registered to run
for city council.

All five elected positions in Grand View
— mayor and four council seats — are up
for grabs in the Nov. 6 election.

Friday is the final day to register to vote
before Election Day. There will be elections

in all three Owyhee County cities — Grand
View, Homedale and Marsing. The final
day to request a mail-in absentee ballot
is Oct. 31.

— See **Ballot**, page 4A

Crapo camp expects move on Initiative before 2009

Official: Craig's reversal,
Domenici's retirement
won't impact legislation

The need to pass legislation implementing the
Owyhee Initiative before 2009 came into sharp
focus last week with major news involving two
Republican senators crucial to the survival of the
wilderness/land management bill.

"Everybody remains optimistic that we will be
reaching an agreement here to, by sometime this
fall, move something forward," Sen. Mike Crapo
(R-Idaho) press secretary Lindsay Nothorn said
Friday.

Nothorn said that weekly meetings in Washington,
D.C., continue between Crapo staff and staff from
Senate Energy Committee chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman
(D-N.M.), committee ranking member Sen. Pete
Domenici (R-N.M.), Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho),
the Department of the Interior and the Bush
administration.

"What you're seeing right now is a give-and-take
regarding language and boundaries and maps and
making sure that what we're going to bring to the
committee will sail through," Nothorn said. "And
we're still planning that that sailing is going to be

— See **Initiative**, page 5A

Fair-weather fan?



Raiders win brings warmth

A young Rimrock High School football fan snuggles with Mom during the Raiders' 52-0 victory Friday in Bruneau. Lucky for the spectators, the game was ended early on a frigid night. More on the game, **Sports 1B**. Photo by Kristi Schiermeier

Coroner, sheriff differ on protocol

Grimme hints
deputies lack
training

This summer's case of the body
of a trucker found in the Snake
River near Bruneau apparent-
ly has re-ignited a decades-old
Owyhee County controversy be-
tween the sheriff's office and cor-
oner Harvey Grimme.

In telling the Mountain Home
News that the cause of death for
Wyoming resident Dewey W. Lee
Sr. was undetermined, Grimme
also suggested that the conduct
of the Owyhee County Sheriff's
Office at the scene of the body
recovery may have destroyed im-
portant evidence.

"The identification could have
been really rough," Grimme told
The Owyhee Avalanche on Fri-
day. "They moved the body again,
which they're not supposed to do.

— See **Protocol**, page 5A

Inside
Youth bowler
sets records
Page 1B

School menu	6A	Looking Back	9B
Calendar	7A	Commentary	10-11B
Dave \$ays	7A	Legals	12-13B
Sports	1-6B	Classifieds	14-15B

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Newest member of HPD ‘proud to be here’

Perry Grant joined the Homedale Police Department in July, after nearly seven years with the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office. The 32-year-old Homedale native said that he had been considering the move for a long time.

“I’ve got some new opportunities,” Grant said.

Among the opportunities potentially available at the Homedale P.D. but not necessarily at the sheriff’s office is the possibility of moving into supervision, Grant said.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller would not comment on the possibility of Grant’s future as a supervisor with the department, saying that Grant’s role “remains to be seen”, but had good things to say about the new officer.

“Perry Grant is an exceptional officer and we were lucky to be able to get him,” Eidemiller said. “He is going to be a definite asset to the Homedale Police Department.”

Grant was equally positive in his thoughts about his new boss.

“I am excited to work for Eidemiller,” Grant said. “I really like him.”

Grant brings to his job in Homedale training in arson investigation through the Meridian

Police Department and four years’ tactical experience with the Nampa Police Department’s SWAT team.

“I do have some tactical experience, and one of the reasons Jeff hired me here is as a tactical officer,” Grant said, although that would not be the extent of his duties. “He (Eidemiller) is talking about getting me into more of the people crimes, personal crimes,” Grant said.

The new officer’s training and experience are not lost on the chief.

“That makes him a valuable asset to the department,” Eidemiller said.

Grant said that Homedale has gone through a lot of changes in recent years, and is going through some of the same kinds of growth changes that Canyon County has gone through. The challenges and the fact that Homedale is his hometown suit him.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” Grant said. “I’ve been openly welcomed by several citizens and several city employees. I’m proud to be here.”

The Homedale Police Department still needs an additional officer to replace Michelle Babcock, and according



The latest addition to Homedale’s Finest

Perry Grant stands next to his patrol vehicle. The longtime veteran of the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office joined the Homedale Police Department in July.

to Eidemiller “is in the hiring process.” Babcock was the department’s School Resource Officer, a position that has been filled on an interim basis since the beginning of the school year by Mike McFetridge.

— RTH

Canyon officials to hear Homedale impact case

The City of Homedale will make its pitch for an area of impact in Canyon County sometime next week.

On Tuesday, the Canyon County Board of Commissioners begins three days of public hearings on various towns’ areas of impact. The hearings begin at 9 a.m. in the public meeting room at the Canyon County Courthouse in Caldwell.

Canyon County public information officer Angie Sillonis said she expects Homedale officials to make their case late in the

process because the town is one of the last on the list of five municipalities looking to expand their footprint. She said the Homedale hearing most likely won’t happen until Wednesday or Thursday.

Homedale is the only Owyhee County town looking for a sphere of influence in Canyon County.

Homedale has proposed the following boundaries for its Canyon impact area:

- It begins at the intersection of Upper Pleasant Road and Fish Road

- Travels north along Fish Road to the intersection of Fish Road and Silo Way
- West along Silo Way to the Canyon County line
- Meandering in a southeasterly direction along the Canyon line to a point approximately three-quarters of a mile south of the intersection of Hoskins Road and Ruby Lane
- North to the intersection of Ruby Lane and Hoskins Road and then continuing north to a point approximately one-quarter mile north of Boehner Road

- West in a line parallel to Boehner Road to Fish Road approximately one-quarter mile south of the intersection of Upper Pleasant Ridge Road and Fish Road
 - North along Fish Road to the beginning of the boundary
- Homedale’s requested boundary will run adjacent to the southern boundary of Wilder’s proposed area of impact.
- Parma, Notus and Greenleaf also will be asking for defined areas of impact in Canyon County.

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GV Fire awaits word on new station

Plan to build near old Rimrock landfill requires DEQ approval

The Grand View Fire Department is playing a waiting game to find out if it can build a second station to reduce response time.

The department, which services a district that covers about 160 square miles, has petitioned to build a fire station near the defunct Rimrock Landfill, which Owyhee County closed a few years ago.

"We've been looking for a site for a couple of years, and it finally clicked in our head that that site may be available," Grand View Fire Chief Terry Carothers said.

But because the land the fire department eyes is part of the parcel on which the old dump stood, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality must give its approval for the transfer of land before construction of the new station can begin.

Carothers said the proposed location of the new station is ideal to improve coverage in the district. The distance from the department's lone station on Main Street in Grand View to the east side of the district is about 13 miles, he said.

"Response time getting out there is rather slow, and we have several firemen that are right there in that area," he said. "We can speed up our response time and add members in that area. And it will allow us to build resources."

Carothers said Grand View Fire averages between 12 and 15 volunteers, but he would like to build

the ranks to 20 or 30.

The department has six pieces of fire apparatus either housed at the 5-year-old station on Main Street in Grand View or stored at the old station at the end of Main Street near the river. The older station is used primarily for storage, Carothers said.

He also said that he is in the market for other pieces of equipment, and that the Boise Fire Department soon may have some surplus pieces on which the Grand View district board of commissioners will bid.

The proposed station would be close to Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School, beefing up the department's presence near the Grand View-Bruneau School District's largest campus.

Grand View Fire participated in an emergency drill at the school last month.

"I think it went exceptionally well. I was very pleased with it," Carothers said of the drill, to which his crews responded from 11 miles away. "We all learn from those type of drills, and we don't do enough of them."

"Everyone being a volunteer, it's rare that all our organizations get to work together like that."

If approved, the new station would be just a half-mile from the Rimrock school campus. It would be built on a 3-acre sliver of the 30-acre parcel the county owns, Carothers said. The station would have three bays and stand in a 40-

foot-by-60-foot building.

Owyhee County Natural Resources Committee chair Jim Desmond said the DEQ is involved in the process because of Solid Waste Rules for the maintenance of a closed landfill. The county is required to maintain ownership and conduct periodic monitoring of the site for 30 years.

"That would ordinarily prohibit transfer of the site to a new owner prior to the end of the 30-year term," said Desmond, who also works as a consultant to the county in natural resource issues.

But Desmond said there might be some wiggle room because the active landfill site at the old Rimrock dump covers a "very small" part of the county-owned 30-acre parcel on which it is located.

He said the county is working with DEQ to get approval to split a portion of land in the northeast corner of the parcel for the Grand View fire station.

"That parcel of land was never part of the active part of the landfill, where the waste is buried, and was not part of the DEQ-required buffer zone, which extends 200 feet around the active portion of the landfill."

Holladay Engineering is representing the county in talks with DEQ, according to Desmond. He said Grand View Fire Department will pay Holladay for its work in getting the parcel split and transfer approved.

Desmond said that DEQ has indicated releasing the ground for the fire station could be feasible if the county complies with certain legal conditions.

Desmond said the stipulations include:

- A legal description of the new parcel to be prepared by a licensed land surveyor.
- Assurances the parcel isn't part of the 200-foot buffer zone of the closed landfill.
- A mandate that the water supply for the new station be located so as to minimize impacts from the landfill on the station's water quality.
- The proposed parcel split cannot be a variance to the site certification approved by the DEQ upon the opening of the Rimrock Landfill in 1997.

"An engineer from Holladay Engineering and I have researched the site approval documents for the Rimrock site and believe that there are no restrictions in the original site approval which would prevent the transfer of the land and use as a fire station," Desmond said, "but DEQ has last word on that."

Desmond said the county will send a letter to DEQ seeking approval of the split and transfer of the parcel once the Holladay Engineering report is submitted.

— JPB

County won't open Flint Creek or Bachman

According to Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburne, the Owyhee County Commissioners have denied a petition to open Flint Creek Road and part of Bachman Grade Road to off-road highway vehicles.

The decision came Oct. 1, one week after a public hearing was held to compile testimony on the petition, which was brought by the Owyhee County Ridge Runners.

The OHV club proposed removal of ATV and motorcycle restrictions on Flint Creek Road from South Mountain Road to the summit of Bachman Grade Road.

The commissioners heard testimony from 15 parties present at the meeting in Murphy.

The commission discussed the possibility of extending the public comment period two weeks, but determined that ample time for input had been given.

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From page 1

Homedale Chamber plans debate

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce is planning to sponsor a mayoral candidates debate later this month.

Chamber president Gavin Parker said a tentative time has been set for 7 p.m. Oct. 22 at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Incumbent Paul Fink is seeking his sixth term as Homedale mayor. He is being challenged by former city councilman Charles Garrison and town resident Har-

old Wilson.

Parker said invitations have been extended to all three candidates and that Wilson already has expressed his willingness to participate.

The Owyhee Avalanche will be accepting questions from town residents to be asked during the debate.

Send your questions for the candidates to: The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale Mayoral Debate, P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID

83628.

Deadline for the public to submit questions is Oct. 17.

Marsing candidates forum

The Marsing Chamber of Commerce also has said it will sponsor a mayoral forum for that town between candidates James E. Thomas and Keith D. Green.

The forum is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Oct. 24 at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center.

Ballot: Write-in, mail-in ballot deadlines approaching

Incumbent Paul Spang has decided to seek a second term as Grand View mayor. He was the only person to file candidacy papers before the Sept. 7 deadline. Since then, former Grand View Water and Sewer Association board member Wally Biladeau has filed his intention to run as a write-in candidate.

Prospective candidates have until Oct. 23 to file as write-in candidates.

Two other people have beaten the write-in deadline to declare candidacy in Grand View. Linda Lewis and Patricia Beaman both have filed to run on the city council ballot with water and sewer board members Marie Hipwell and Opal Ward. All four council seats are open in the town, with none of the incumbents opting to seek re-election.

Grand View electors also will be asked to vote on three other ballot measures, including propositions to pass a \$1.6 million bond for arsenic removal from the municipal water system and a \$70,000 bond to repair the town's sewer lift station. A third measure seeks to consolidate

the Grand View Water and Sewer Association with the rest of the city government — a move that has been urged by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency as a step toward securing a favorable review for bond financing.

There have been no additions to Homedale's ballot since the first candidacy declaration deadline.

Incumbent Paul Fink will seek a sixth term as mayor of Homedale, and he will be challenged by former city councilman Charles Garrison and resident Harold Wilson. The city council seats currently held by Steve Schultz and Bill Page also are on the ballot with Donna Call, Eino Hendrickson, Kris Roberts and Aaron Tines running for those positions.

In Marsing, Marie Herman has filed write-in candidacy papers for city council. She'll challenge Stella J. Bush and Joshua Bauer.

No write-in candidates have stepped forward in Marsing's mayoral contest, in which James E. Thomas and Keith D. Green will face off.

— JPB

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Correction

In a story appearing in the Oct. 3 edition of The Owyhee Avalanche, the hometown of a boy facing charges in an accidental shooting was incorrectly reported. He lives in Bruneau, not Grand View.

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PHONE 208 / 337-4681 • FAX 208 / 337-4867
E-mail owyheeavalanche@cableone.net

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 **Member**

JOE E. AMAN, *publisher*
JON P. BROWN, *managing editor*
E-mail: jbrowneditor@cableone.net
ROB HEDDEN, *reporter*
E-mail: rhedden@cableone.net
JENNIFER STUTHEIT, *office*
ROBERT AMAN, *composition*

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(Limit 300 words, signed, with day phone number.)

Organizers hope for better Mackenzie walk weather

The date has changed, but the dedication remains the same as Jordan Valley prepares to honor the memory of a resident who died from breast cancer.

The third annual Michelle McKay Mackenzie Run, Ride and Walk will be held at 11 a.m. Friday.

For the first two years, the fundraising event was held in November and was plagued by poor attendance stemming from inclement weather.

Now, however, it coincides with Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The entry fee is \$10 per person, and participants can walk, run or ride by any

means of transportation from a horse to an ATV to a bicycle to a car.

“Phantom” riders also are encouraged. People can donate \$10 or any amount, even if they’re not taking part in the run, ride and walk. The course begins and ends at the Jordan Valley High School parking lot, with a loop around Pharmacy Hill.

Megan Mackenzie, one of Michelle’s children and a catalyst for the fundraiser, has graduated from Jordan Valley High School, but two of her younger siblings — sophomore Sonny and senior Annie — still attend the school.

Jordan Valley teacher Tara Echave has

taken the reins for the event.

The time of the fundraiser was changed from November to take advantage of better weather and to give people a chance to include the ride and walk with other Jordan Valley activities, such as the afternoon football game against Harper that kicks off at 2 p.m. The middle school football team also is playing.

“The weather should be good,” Echave said. “And we have games that day. We try to go at 11 a.m., so (participants) can walk and go to lunch and then go to the game.”

Proceeds from the event will benefit a woman fighting breast cancer in the region.

The woman doesn’t necessarily have to live in Jordan Valley, Echave said. In fact, the first woman to receive proceeds from the event was from Homedale. Two women have received more than \$2,600 in the two years of the run, ride and walk.

Echave said Oregon-Idaho Utilities is sponsoring commemorative pens for the event this year.

“They’ve just been a great sponsor,” Echave said. “A lot is asked of them, and they always come through. We couldn’t ask for anything better than that.”

— JPB

From page 1

✓ Protocol: Sheriff says his deputies handled trucker’s body properly

The coroner is supposed to be notified when they find a body, and we’re supposed to respond there.

“They moved the body differently than I would have done it.”

Grimme suggested that deputies may have transported Lee face-down because of a “lack of training.”

“I would have the body on its back,” Grimme said. “They put him face-down and tied him to a board and drove 50 miles to Murphy with him.”

Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, who has been the county’s top lawman for 10 years and has spent a quarter century in the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office overall, contradicted Grimme on the transportation of the body.

“When you find somebody in the water, you don’t pull them out of the water and roll them into the body bag,” Aman said.

“You package them into a body bag in the water to preserve anything that might be on him that could fall off.”

Aman disputed the notion that

the way his men handled the body compromised anything.

“There is no way in the world that we destroyed any evidence on Mr. Lee,” Aman said. “The man had been in the river for several weeks. He was found face-down.”

“He was packaged, and the body was taken care of to recover any evidence that may have been attached to his body. Having (Grimme) there wouldn’t have changed one thing.”

A fisherman discovered Lee’s body May 27 near the Loveridge Bridge that takes Idaho highway 51 over the Snake River. The discovery was made more than two weeks after Lee’s semi truck was found on an eastbound Interstate 84 onramp near Glenns Ferry in Elmore County.

The Elmore County Sheriff’s Office is the lead agency in the investigation. It is still unknown why Lee’s truck was parked on the freeway or how he got into the river. He had been reported missing by his employer, Triple L Transport.

Aman said his deputies fol-

lowed their training in removing Lee’s body from the river and then transporting it to Murphy. At that point, Grimme took possession of the body and transported it to Flahiff’s Funeral Chapel in Homedale for autopsy.

“The big thing is, by law, he doesn’t have to be there,” Aman said of Grimme responding to the scene. “It would cost a lot more money, a lot more time and a lot more manpower to have them come to the scene of those deaths that aren’t a big issue.”

Aman said Idaho Code mandates that the sheriff investigate deaths such as Lee’s.

Idaho Code 19-4301(2) states that when a physician does not attend a death and the cause of death cannot be certified by a physician, the county coroner must refer the investigation to the law enforcement agency controlling the jurisdiction in which the death occurred.

Nowhere in Idaho Code 19-4301 does it state that the coroner must take possession of the body at the scene of discovery.

Grimme, who has been coroner for 18 years, said he should be called to scene when a body is discovered, but he said that hasn’t always happened. He said the problem has existed for 20 years, dating back to Sheriff Tim Nettleton and before any of Grimme’s five terms as coroner.

“I’ve been coroner that many years, and they did it before with other coroners,” Grimme said. “That’s why a lot of other coroners have quit.”

Aman acknowledged that the contentious relationship between the coroner’s office and sheriff’s office regarding unattended deaths is long-standing.

“I’m still going to continue to do my job as I’m trained,” Aman said.

“I don’t fight Harvey. The scene and the body is mine until I turn the body over to him.”

Aman said the logistics of the vast county makes having the coroner at the scene for every death virtually impossible. In the case of the Lee discovery, the sheriff said waiting for Grimme to trav-

el nearly two hours to the scene could have hampered his deputies’ efforts to recover the body. He said crucial sunlight would have faded by the time Grimme had completed the trip from his Marsing home base.

“When we have an unattended death in Marsing, Homedale or some place that’s fairly accessible, we call Harvey generally right away and we have him there when we’re doing the investigation,” Aman said.

“But there are times when that is not feasible.”

The sheriff insists the situation was in good hands with his men.

“Obviously, they received some training at POST (Peace Offices Standards and Training academy), but the people who retrieved Mr. Lee have retrieved numerous bodies from the water and they have investigated numerous deaths,” Aman said.

“They are very experienced. They have literally hundreds and hundreds of hours of training.”

— JPB

✓ Initiative: Familiar staff will remain even after big changes in Senate

happening this year in the 110th Congress.”

Nothorn couldn’t predict the next move in the process, but he said progress is being made despite any perception of a snail’s pace.

“Any wilderness bill and land management bill will be looked at for what type of precedent it can set, and that means we’re having to work rather meticulously through all the language and the details,” Nothorn said.

“We’re trying to get the hard work done in advance. It took us quite a while at the state level to put this package together, and we have to do the same thing at the D.C. level.”

Progress before next year’s elections will be beneficial to the ranchers, conservationists and other stakeholders who have toiled more than six years to bring

together the Initiative. With at least five Republican senators announcing they will not seek re-election, the makeup of the 111th Congress could change dramatically.

Craig and Domenici are two of those senators not running for another term.

Even after a Minnesota judge threw out his petition to withdraw his guilty plea to a disorderly conduct charge, Craig rescinded his original plan to resign Sept. 30 and said he would complete his term in the Senate. He vowed not to run for re-election next year, though.

Craig undoubtedly has lost much power in the Senate, including seniority in his committees, but Nothorn said that even though Idaho’s senior senator is on political life support he could still help the Initiative.

“We think he can be just as effective in terms of being a partner and being helpful on the Owyhee Initiative,” Nothorn said. “Nothing has changed in our eyes.”

Nothorn did point out that the coalition developed for the Initiative throughout the committee does help balance the scales with Craig wounded.

“(The Initiative has) the strong support of Owyhee County, the state of Idaho and from the people of and diverse groups in the country,” Nothorn said. “Plus, the support we have back in Congress from other like-minded groups who are looking at similar pieces of legislation, and the support of the administration.”

Nothorn points out that there may be more bipartisan support for this bill than most other legislation because Majority

Leader Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) comes from a state that is steeped in ranching tradition and he has worked closely with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, which is a key Initiative stakeholder.

That bipartisanship may bolster Initiative supporters in the wake of last week’s announcement that the 75-year-old Domenici will retire from the Senate at the end of his current term in January 2009. Before the Democrats won a majority in the Senate, Domenici was chairman of the Energy Committee in which the Initiative implementation legislation now sits. He still retains ranking member status.

As with Craig, Nothorn believes Domenici’s departure won’t have a huge impact on the Initiative’s fate.

“The one thing that continues even though Domenici may retire

(is) his staff folks who advise him on the issue have been to Idaho, and they have come to Owyhee County and met with the constituents and heard the concerns and heard the reasons for the legislation and are very well-versed on the ground both on the Republican and Democrat side,” Nothorn said.

Nothorn said staff members remain with the committee even when senators depart.

“They have longevity in the issues,” he said. “Having the staff people from the majority and the minority come to Owyhee County, that speaks volumes about the commitment of the committee and the senators to follow through on the Owyhee Initiative, and that just doesn’t happen with every piece of legislation.”

— JPB



Homedale High Class of '52 reunites

The Homedale High School Class of 1952 recently held its 55th class reunion. Class members that were in attendance the day of the photo at the Mack and Donna Tolmie residence were: First row, from left: Margaret (Porter) King, Blanche (Crichton) Uria, Wanita (Drum) Fitzmorris, Juanita (Anderson) Godlevsky, Loretta (Dunn) McLaughlin, Marthena (Zillig) Sabin, and Donna (Thompson) Tolmie. Back row, from left: Larry Taggart, Louise (Watterson) Thompson, Rodger Nash, Ray Johnson, Marilyn (Adams) Burke, Don Olsen, Vee Davenport, and Dean Vance. Photo by Gregg Garrett

Owyhee represented at upcoming décor sale

A group of women, including some from the Homedale area, has gathered a collection of home décor, harvest decorations and humble furnishings to present at a two-day sale called Simply Content this weekend in Greenleaf.

The styles of the offerings range from Shabby Chic, French Country, Primitive and Western.

“We have created Simply Content to showcase local talent and provide an opportunity for people to decorate their homes with unique, yet affordable surroundings,” said Gayle Batt, one of the sale coordinators.

The sale will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday at the Greenleaf Community Center.

The center is located on Idaho highway 19 across from the Greenleaf Friends Church, and a reader board will announce the sale.

“I could not be more excited about this upcoming event,” said Mary Padilla, sale coordinator



Local women prepare for Greenleaf sale

Several women, including some from the Homedale area, will sell their crafts during a two-dale sale at the Greenleaf Community Center on Friday and Saturday. The vendors include, back row, from left: Mary Padilla, Monica Brixey, Heidie Nash, Keri Garrett and Sandy Sarceda; front row, from left: Michelle Larzelier and Gayle Batt. Submitted photo

from Parma. “I’ve seen some of the items provided by local talent and believe me — you will go crazy over them.”

School menus

Homedale Elementary

- Oct. 11: Chicken nuggets or finger steaks, broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.
- Oct. 12: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Oct. 15: Hamburger or fish sandwich, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Oct. 16: Chicken tenders or country-fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Oct. 17: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, churro, milk.

Homedale Middle

- Oct. 11: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Oct. 12: Chicken tenders or cf beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Oct. 15: Hamburger or hot dog, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Oct. 16: Chicken or beef nuggets, broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.
- Oct. 17: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.

Homedale High

- Oct. 11: Chicken patty or sandwich & soup, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.
- Oct. 12: Crispito or rib-b-que, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Oct. 15: Pizza, chicken bacon melt or chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, strawberry shortcake, milk.
- Oct. 16: Beef nuggets or chicken fritters, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Oct. 17: Lasagna, burrito or pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Bruneau

- Oct. 11: Chili, coleslaw, applesauce, cinnamon roll, milk.
- Oct. 12: Chicken nuggets, potatoes/gravy, veggie, pineapple cake, milk.
- Oct. 15: Beef fajita, fried rice, stir fry veggie, fruit cup, milk.
- Oct. 16: Sloppy Joe, tossed salad, fresh fruit, cookie, milk.
- Oct. 17: Chicken patty, scalloped potatoes, corn, roll/butter, fruit, milk.

Marsing

- Oct. 11: Beef nuggets, mashed potatoes, fruit, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Oct. 12: Hotdog, fruit, veggie, milk, sub sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Oct. 15: Chicken nuggets, veggie, fruit, milk. tostada delight, salad bar 4th-12th, cinnamon twist.
- Oct. 16: Texas fries, fruited jello, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Oct. 17: Corn dog, chocolate pudding, veggie, milk, egg roll, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Death notice

GEORGE W. ROLAND, 87, of Homedale, died Monday, October 8, 2007 at a Boise hospital. Arrangements pending with Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.



Aaron Tines
Morticians Assistant
Proudly serving the Community as:
Member, Homedale Chamber of Commerce
Member, Homedale Lions Club

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You can find senior menus on Page 10A today



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Your finances

Don't make life all about savings; have some fun

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are trying to work on a budget, and we're coming at it from different perspectives. He wants to put the least amount possible into the budget categories and the rest into savings. I want us to save, invest and do some other things, but now we're not doing anything but saving. We have no debt, \$100,000 in savings and we make about \$200,000 a year. I'd just like to use some of the money to buy a new couch.

— Mary

Dear Mary,

Well, it's obvious he's highly motivated by the word "savings." This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but there's got to be a balance and a strategy involved.

Savings is a very important part of any healthy financial plan. But honestly, I think it's unwise to have savings just for the sake of having savings. You need very specific goals in mind — a mission statement — like a fully funded emergency fund. Three to six months of expenses is a very tangible goal. You can work toward it and know when you have it in place. That way, when life happens — and you know it will — it doesn't turn into new debt and added stress.

You can do this with other things, too. Christmas and birthday presents are great examples, along with particular debts or items you'd just like to have once in a while — like that new couch.

Tell him that and let him know your financial counselor agrees with you, because I do! I think you need to be saving money, but you need to be saving it with a specific goal in mind, and you both need to be in agreement on where the money's going.

Otherwise, you'll turn into Howard Hughes; sitting there unhappy with big piles of money and no mental health!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My brother-in-law is giving me a hard time about my credit card. It has no annual fee, and I get money back from the credit card company for all of my charges. I only use it for bills and pay it off every month, but he tells me there's no justification for having a credit card. In this scenario, I'm getting paid back by the credit card company for using their credit card to pay my bills. So



where am I wrong?

— Chris

Dear Chris,

There is absolutely no justification for using a credit card. Why don't you just pay your bills with a debit card, and draw the money directly out of your bank account? That's better than borrowing it and paying interest on the blasted thing.

Where you're wrong is a good question, though. I've been doing financial counseling for years and worked with tens of thousands of people. During that time, I've repeatedly met folks who were doing exactly what you are and it has come back to bite them.

When you're talking about credit cards, you're talking about a multibillion dollar industry designed to do just one thing — separate you from your money. And they're very good at it! They're more than willing to pay you a percentage point back because they know you're going to stumble at some point — and that's when they pounce!

I've talked with hundreds of millionaires, and I've never met one who said credit cards were a blessing or that they got rich thanks to credit card rebates. They've all just gone about the business of earning money, living on less than they make and saving. They don't play with snakes because they know sooner or later they'll get bitten.

This is a dangerous game you're involved in, Chris. I challenge you to stop playing it, and model yourself after wealthy people!

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*. He will begin hosting a show on the new Fox Business Channel when it launches on Monday. 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

Calendar

Today

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

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

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

Thursday

Marsing Senior Center Health Fair,

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution, 11 a.m. to noon, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 337-4812

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

Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon, noon, Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 W. 1st St. (208) 337-3252

Owyhee Garden Club meeting, 1 p.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-5474 or (208) 896-4104

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.

Owyhee Conservation District board meeting, 8 p.m., 19 Reich St., Marsing. (208) 896-4544

Owyhee County Fair Board meeting, 8 p.m., county fairgrounds, Homedale. (208) 337-4575

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

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

Tuesday

Foot Clinic, 9:30 a.m., appointment required, 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

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., El-Ada Owyhee office, 15 W. Colorado Ave. Homedale. (208) 337-4812

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) 475-3733

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

Wednesday, Oct. 17

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

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

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

Thursday, Oct. 18

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

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.

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



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Read all about it
in the Avalanche!

Owyhee cities tackle improvements

Homedale P&Z panel takes up zoning changes

The Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at City Hall to consider various changes to the city’s zoning code.

The proposals to be reviewed include:

- A change to allow two signs on a building, especially a corner lot.
- A provision to allow the city building inspector to determine if a Class C mobile home is in suitable condition to be brought into the city and that those structures can be placed only in mobile home parks.
- A possible ordinance governing temporary commercial uses of land by carts, trailers, mobile homes or other structures, which would limit such items to commercial zoning districts and allow them to operate between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. for three months or less in a given calendar year.
- A proposed ordinance to restrict properties to only one use

per property, including a single commercial use for commercially zoned properties.

- A potential ordinance providing for stricter laws regarding maintenance, upkeep and appearance of the city’s airport and hangars, “especially with regard to items left laying around outside hangars that can be blown out onto the runway.”

Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Gavin Parker said he will ask local businessmen for input on the proposed ordinances during the organization’s monthly noontime luncheon Thursday at the Owyhee Lanes Restaurant. And he wants to stress that people attend Monday’s public hearing.

“I am going to encourage all members’ attendance at the hearing because these issues affect all of us,” Parker said.

The public is invited to attend the meeting and offer input to the commission.



Hearing addresses city aesthetics

The Homedale P&Z commission will discuss ordinances dealing with the use of mobile homes for commercial use as well as clutter at the airport.



City tennis courts get a new look

Left: A joint venture between the City of Homedale and the Homedale School District has resulted in resurfaced tennis courts at City Park across East Idaho Avenue from Homedale High School. Above: Cascade Fencing was the contractor for the job, which entailed cleaning up the old surface and then refinishing it with a new coat. The total cost of the project was \$24,000, which was shared equally by the city and schools. “They did a nice job,” Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said during a city council meeting last month.



Marsing plants a tree for Arbor Day

Although Arbor Day is the last Friday in April, by the time the funding came through on Marsing’s Community Forestry Grant through the Idaho Department of Lands, the summer weather was too hot for a tree to be planted. When the weather began cooling off, the city arranged for this flaming maple tree to be planted in Island Park by Lakeshore Landscape and Nursery in Nampa. The tree was planted on Sept. 27.



Middle School students work to improve appearance of shrubbery around tennis courts

A group of Homedale Middle School students, aided by city public works employees and some heavy equipment, pulled out some trees and trimmed shrubs east of the tennis courts on Friday. The project is one of several that the middle school’s student council came up with to help improve the community’s appearance.

LU, Joyce prepare for possible High Court fight

Owyhee County ranchers could be devastated if required to pay legal fees for water rights victory

by Sean Ellis

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

Apparently, you can trample your foe in battle but still lose the war. Sadly, that could turn out to be the case in a landmark water rights battle between two Owyhee County ranching families and the federal government.

In that case, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled in February that the federal government does not hold federal rangeland water rights. However, the court also ruled the ranchers were not entitled to recover attorney fees.

The families of LU Ranching Co. and Joyce Livestock Co. have appealed the second part of the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which opened its 2007 session on Oct. 1. Thus far, there is no word on the Court's intentions regarding the ranchers' case.

The two ranches in Owyhee County have challenged the government in state court for a decade and have refused to back down in a case they see as an issue of right versus wrong. But the financial future of both operations is in jeopardy as the case now heads to the highest court in the land.

For LU Ranching Co. and Joyce Livestock Co., there's no backing down now and surrendering was never an option for them.

"No. Never," says Tim Lowry, owner of LU Ranching, when asked whether he ever considered giving up. "There have been times when we have been awfully discouraged, but we knew when we went into this we were right and what the federal government was doing was absolutely wrong.

"It was a fight that needed to be fought."

The implications of the case for other landowners are huge. A victory would give other farmers, ranchers, landowners and small businesses the assurance they can stand up for what's theirs and not risk losing everything. A loss means individuals litigating against the federal government in state water rights adjudications would be better off abandoning legitimate claims simply because they can't afford to defend their rights against the government.

"Though we knew the expense of time, effort and attorneys' fees would be great, we continued on, fighting for justice and to set a precedent for all public land users that private parties do have rights on public land," states Paul Nettleton, managing partner with Joyce Livestock.

The two families earned a significant court victory earlier this year that could assist hundreds of thousands of property owners in the West in their battle with the federal government over natural resources.



Ready for the next round

Tim Lowry, owner of LU Ranching Co., is one of two Owyhee County ranchers whose case could be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court during its 2007-08 session. Submitted photo

The Idaho Supreme Court ruled in their favor in February on virtually every point in their long-running battle with the federal government over water rights on land covered by federally administered grazing allotments.

But the court also ruled they could not recoup attorneys' fees from the U.S.

If the U.S. Supreme Court doesn't take the case or rules against them, both ranches will be in deep financial trouble. Legal fees for the two families combined are nearing \$1.5 million.

Lowry says the attorney fees are about equal to the value of his ranch. If they aren't allowed to recover them, the ranch will be in big trouble financially, he adds.

"If the Supreme Court will not take this case or takes it and rules against us, I'm not real sure what we'll do," Lowry says.

The two ranches ended up fighting the government in state court after the Bureau of Land Management challenged their stock watering rights during the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

During the SRBA, the U.S. filed overlapping claims to Idaho ranchers' stockwater rights. The SRBA court ordered the parties to try to reach a settlement. Most ranchers accepted a settlement because they feared the financial risk of fighting the deep pockets of

the government. Virtually every rancher in Idaho was forced to compromise their water rights to avoid a protracted fight with the United States.

While others gave in because of the risk, LU and Joyce decided to defend their rights against long odds.

Nettleton says they knew the government's claims of beneficial use were baseless and went against Western water law.

"The Bureau of Land Management never owned a cow," he says. "How could they claim beneficial use?"

Nettleton's family has owned the Joyce operation since his great grandfather, Matt Joyce, homesteaded the land near the Snake River in 1865.

The odds against the feds are great, he adds, "but we haven't been here for 142 years by rolling over and letting folks walk on us when we know we are right."

Lowry says the settlement meetings were intimidating. Whereas ranchers walked into them alone, not thinking they would need an attorney to defend themselves against their own government, the U.S. had a fleet of BLM water rights personnel and Justice Department attorneys present.

When the government realized they weren't going to give in,

Lowry says, they resorted to what he calls extortion tactics. He says they very pointedly told him they would contest his claims all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court and that it would cost him the value of his ranch in attorney fees.

"In essence, they said, 'You'll be broke at the end of this court battle,'" Lowry says. "It was very pointed: 'If you want to go down this route, we'll break you.'"

Instead of intimidating the two ranching families, however, it made them dig in. LU and Joyce hired the law firm of McQuade, Bedford and Van Zandt on the advice of Wayne and Helen Chenoweth Hage. The Hages hired the same firm for their *Hage v. U.S.* court fight.

"It just made you mad," Lowry says. "The government must not be allowed to run over private citizens because citizens cannot afford to protect themselves."

An SRBA judge ruled in January 2005 that the ranchers did have water rights but he issued priority dates later than 1934, which made the ranchers' stockwater rights junior to the BLM. The ranchers then appealed, and the cases were litigated and appealed through state courts up to the Idaho Supreme Court.

Affirming a district court ruling, the Idaho Supreme Court ruled that the operations' predecessors staked their water claims by grazing livestock beginning in 1898. That predates the 1934 Taylor Grazing Act.

"Joyce Livestock's predecessors obtained water rights on federal land for stock watering simply by applying the water to a beneficial use through watering their livestock in the springs, creeks and rivers on the range they used for forage," the Supreme Court ruled.

They said the BLM couldn't put the water to beneficial use because it doesn't own cattle. Therefore, it can't have a stockwater right.

The court overwhelmingly rejected the United States' position and ruled in favor of the two ranches on all of their substantive water rights claims. They said the government's argument "reflects a misunderstanding of water law."

However, the court denied the families' request to recover attorneys' fees. Now the two ranches have appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

According to the Summer 2007 edition of Range magazine, the Owyhee Cattlemen's Heritage Foundation has established a water rights legal funds account to help with the mounting attorney fees. Tax-deductible donations can be sent to Owyhee Cattlemen's Heritage Foundation, attn.: water

rights case, 3946 Jump Creek Road, Homedale, ID 83628.

The ranchers base their claims to be allowed to recover attorneys' fees on the Equal Access to Justice Act, which provides for the award of attorneys' fees to individuals and small entities that prevail in litigation against the government.

In essence, Congress enacted the act to level the financial playing field between individuals and small organizations and the government and provide them the opportunity to litigate their claims against the U.S. despite their limited financial resources and the likelihood of great litigation expense.

The EAJA also is designed to deter the U.S. from litigating against private parties without any basis in law by penalizing it when it does so.

The court denied the ranchers' request for attorneys' fees based on its determination of a jurisdictional issue — whether a private citizen could receive an award of attorneys' fees under the EAJA from a state court adjudicating water rights where the U.S. appeared in the adjudication under the McCarran Amendment's waiver of sovereign immunity.

The court ruled the EAJA does not authorize state courts to award attorney fees against the U.S.

According to the ranchers' filing with the U.S. Supreme Court, the Idaho Supreme Court, by limiting EAJA to federal courts, has "created an incentive for the executive branch to engage in forum shopping when subjecting small businesses and individuals to unreasonable governmental action."

According to the filing, Congress enacted the EAJA to provide individuals and small businesses a means to combat unreasonable governmental action.

The filing states the decision "exposed small businesses and individuals ... to an increased risk of unjustified government action, directly contrary to Congress' purpose in enacting the EAJA."

In light of Congress' concerns and goals, the distinction between state and federal court drawn by the Idaho Supreme Court makes no sense, the filing adds: "Indeed, it would be utterly irrational for Congress to restrain the Department of Justice in federal courts, while leaving it free to pursue substantially unjustified litigation without penalty in state courts."

— Most of this article originally appeared in a recent issue of the *Capital Press Ag Weekly*. It was republished by *The Owyhee Avalanche* with the permission of the author.

Read Owyhee news in the Avalanche.

Senior
menus

Marsing center

Oct. 11: Roast beef, potatoes, California mixed vegetables, pea salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
Oct. 15: Breakfast to order.
Oct. 16: Hamburger pot pie, potato, peas, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
Oct. 17: Breakfast to order. Roast pork, rice pilaf, peas & carrots, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.

Homedale center

Oct. 11: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, roll, beverage.
Oct. 16: Roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas & carrots, beverage.
Oct. 17: Chili con carne, chicken patty on bun with lettuce & tomato, beverage.

Felty, Turner running for Gem board

The Gem Irrigation District announced at its monthly meeting on Oct. 2 that incumbent Dan Felty will be challenged by Dennis

Turner in the Nov. 6 election for the district's Division 3 director seat. The term of the office is three years.

Polling places for the Nov. 6 election will be announced later, but district officials announced that the polling time will be

changed from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., to allow more people to have the opportunity to vote.

Marsing couple
wins Rope and Ride
ATV

Marsing residents Jerry and Debbie Mayer stand beside the 2007 Suzuki LT500S ATV that they won in the Owyhee Rope and Ride raffle. Michael's Idaho Power Sports and Suzuki supplied the four-wheeler. Submitted photo



GV pizza feed,
dance slated

Grand View's 11th annual Halloween Dance and Pizza Feed is scheduled for 6 p.m. Oct. 31 at the town's American Legion Hall. The event, sponsored by the Grand View Fire Department and Grand View Youth Night, begins at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the all-you-can-eat pizza feed and dance benefit Grand View Youth Night. Grand View Fire Chief Terry Carothers said that 150 pizzas and 700 breadsticks will be ordered. For more information, call (208) 834-2380 and ask for Terry or Jackie.



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Chamber president captures
challenging River Bend tourney

Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Gavin Parker braved strong winds and stiff competition Sept. 30 to win the seventh annual Ball Buster Tournament at River Bend Golf Course in Wilder. "It was so nasty out there on Sunday," Parker said. "There were five guys out there with handicaps

of 3 or less, and they all shot at least 90." Parker was a scholarship golfer at Albertson College of Idaho in Caldwell, but says life and a bad back has limited his playing time to only a handful of rounds this year. He beat Brett Hogg for the Championship Flight gross

championship at River Bend. Lucio Morales defeated former Homedale High School and ACI golfer John Bideganeta for the Championship Flight net crown. Other champions included: • **First flight** — Greg Kilmer, gross; Rodney Roe, net • **Second flight** — Kent Fry, gross; Clinton Hedges, net

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Recent Marsing burglary tied to other area crimes

Sheriff still seeking info in Grand View tractor vandalism

Law enforcement officials recently made breakthroughs on several cases with Owyhee County ties.

The Canyon County Sheriff's Office confirmed last week that \$60,000 worth of survey equipment connected to Marsing-based Showalter Construction was recovered from a Caldwell residence Wednesday night.

The equipment had been stolen Sept. 22 in a car burglary that took place on Morning Dove Way in Marsing.

Canyon County Sheriff's Lt. Marv Dashiell said the property recovery was part of an ongoing investigation into a rash of burglaries. The probe began in early September and has included investigations in Owyhee, Canyon, Payette and Ada counties.

Dashiell said that search warrants have been obtained and people have been interviewed but no arrests had been made by press time.

"We're not positive how many people are involved or how widespread it is," Dashiell said. "We have about four or five people that we're looking at right now."

Dashiell said the burglaries, all of which authorities believe are related, have netted thieves landscaping equipment, computer equipment, ATVs, golf carts, survey equipment and luggage.

While progress has been made on the Showalter burglary from Sept. 22, Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said there has been little movement in the case of a second car burglary in Marsing that night. In a "smash-and-grab" incident, thieves stole a wallet and a cellular phone from a car on Edwards Street. Aman said the break-in could be related to the Showalter case.

Aman did report that juvenile petitions and an arrest warrant have been issued in connection with the vandalism and burglary that occurred at the Marsing High School football field concession stand on Sept. 22. He said that an adult and three youths are believed to have perpetrated the crime in which there was about \$300 in damage. Deputies recovered \$150 in candy soon after it was stolen from the stand.

Aman also said his deputies continue to work on solving the tractor vandalism near Grand View. The sheriff's office has offered a \$500 reward for information in the case, but there have been no leads, he said.

Anyone with information on the tractor case or any other crimes in the county should call the sheriff's office at 495-1154, Aman said.

Aman said that vigilant witnesses always should report suspicious activity, and that such reports are always welcome, even if the details don't pan out.

— JPB

Chamber invites mayoral candidates to luncheon

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce is hoping to look forward to the citywide election at its monthly luncheon Thursday.

Chamber president Gavin Parker said last week that the business organization has extended an invitation to each of the town's three mayoral candidates to attend the noontime luncheon at Owyhee Lanes Restaurant to address the town's business community.

Mayor Paul Fink is seeking his sixth term as Homedale mayor. He is being challenged by former city councilman Charles Garrison and resident Harold Wilson.

Parker also said Russell Metcalf, the new attorney in Homedale, will introduce himself to the Chamber on Thursday.

The Chamber also is scheduled to discuss the financial outcome of last month's golf tournament at River Bend Golf Course as well as the joint city-Chamber Web site and business directory that proceeds from the tournament are supposed to finance.

The floor also will be open to discuss Monday's Homedale Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on zoning ordinance amendments.

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Speak up with a letter to the editor.

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

Many parts of Three Creek look like the craters of the moon after the awful fires. As the fire raged toward the 7 Triangle Ranch, Shawn Weekes said it looked like hell on Earth. But it could have been worse. Several unoccupied buildings were destroyed, such as the post office on the inside desert and the two-story house at the Walters’ place. It at one time was one of the show places of the country and was built by George Mahoney for his son-in-law, Fred Walters. It was there that Noy and Ruby Brackett lived and raised their kids.

School has started again, and they have five pupils, Jessica and Diana Gonzalez from Aslett’s House Creek Ranch, Kodee Severe from Devil Creek Ranch, Cheryl Wilkie from Summer Camp and Chandler Rambow from Brackett’s Flat Creek Ranch. Marylin Boss is again teacher this year. She was diagnosed with cancer in June and had a rough summer, but is on the mend. We pray for her good health. She and Harland Mink are what hold Three Creek together. The school really got a going-over this year. It was rewired so they could move their computers anywhere in the room. They have brand-new computers with big screens and laptops. The school now has air conditioning (finally) and heat. It also has new chairs, new windows and new playground equipment.

Edna Emery Pollard, who was born on Cedar Creek, celebrated her 95th birthday on Sept. 23 by

going to Jackpot to gamble and eat shrimp.

My brother, Ray Colyer, came and got me and took me to their ranch for several days, and I got to take in the Bruneau Rodeo again. What a fun and exciting affair it is. So many horses and riders. After the girls rode in carrying the flags, the grand marshals came bouncing in. They were Bob and Jim Craig, who spent their younger days in Bruneau. They were riding in a wagon owned by colorful old-timer Tom Hall, with him at the reins of a pair of well-manicured mules.

Bob and Jim Craig and their father, Ed Craig, helped to start the first rodeo when it was held in a draw across the road from Ace Black’s house on the east side of the valley. The rodeo announcer, Lonnie (In The Hole) Hatch, really keeps things going. On Saturday, the rodeo officials wore blue shirts and Sunday wore white shirts presented to them by Dixie Black’s Cowboy Saloon. The funniest part of the rodeo was the Old Hide Race.

One of the most unique things I noticed was the beautiful braided hair of the little granddaughter of Judy McBride.

My latest excursion was attending the wedding of my second cousin, Shealyn Emery, and Andy Pospichal held on Sept. 22, 2007 on Cedar Draw near Filer. The bridal couple and many guests rode in on a wagon pulled by four beautiful dapple-gray horses that were hooked up abreast.

Otter steps up in Murphy fire rehabilitation effort

Governor endorses volunteer seed-collecting for burned area

Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter has announced plans to cope with wildfires such as the one that burned more than 650,000 acres this summer in a part of Idaho that included southeast Owyhee County.

Otter signed an agreement with Wyoming, Utah and Nevada that pledges cooperation in the rehabilitation of acreage burned this year and the prevention of future catastrophic wildfires.

The Murphy Complex fire that burned near Murphy Hot Springs and Three Creek and also touched a portion of Elko County in Nevada was the largest wildfire in the nation this year.

“(The Murphy Complex) was a galvanizing event that helped these four states forge this agreement to figure what collectively we can do as states that share more than just a common border but a common interest to get out in front of these things in the future,” Otter spokesman Jon Hanian told The Owyhee Avalanche late last week.

In addition to the four-state memorandum of understanding (MOU), Otter also signed an executive order to establish a Statewide Wildfire Rehabilitation Committee, which will work with similar panels in Nevada,

Wyoming and Utah on implementing the MOU.

The committee currently consists of the directors from the state departments of Agriculture, Environmental Quality, Fish and Game, Lands, Water Resources and Transportation as well as the director of the Idaho State Police and the administrator of the Office of Species Conservation.

Otter has left the door open to possibly appoint stakeholders to the committee, including ranchers, conservationists, local elected officials and Indian tribes representatives.

Several Owyhee County ranchers and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe on the Duck Valley Reservation in southern Owyhee County were hit hard by the Murphy Complex fire that burned in July and August.

Otter’s executive order creating the committee stated that one focus will be addressing the “tremendous threat to the sagebrush steppe ecosystem and other landscapes from invasive plant species and noxious weeds, including cheat grass, in the aftermath of these wildfires across Idaho.”

In addressing the sagebrush steppe ecosystem, Otter also called attention to the state’s effort to gather wild plant seed

for use in rehabilitation efforts. On Tuesday, the governor joined a call for volunteers to participate in a project spearheaded by Fish and Game to gather wild plant seeds.

The Bureau of Land Management’s rehabilitation plan calls for a mixture of drill seeding and aerial seeding in the region burned by the Murphy Complex fire.

A wildfire in Utah earlier this year depleted vital sagebrush seedbeds, so the seed-gathering effort launched this week by Fish and Game will be important to building a stockpile.

“We’re looking forward to getting out on the ground and gathering seeds to help rehab these very important lands,” Hanian said of Tuesday’s event.

The volunteers will be asked to identify seedbeds so seeds can be collected during the November harvest, Hanian added.

He said a lot of planning will be necessary to shore up the logistics of the massive effort. Special machinery, including seed drills and other equipment necessary to prepare soil in rocky terrain, must be lined up, and plans must be established to secure enough fuel for the machines.

There also is the practicality of feeding all the volunteers who will be out collecting the seeds next month.

— JPB

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Promoting Independence, Freedom & Security

Bruneau library speaker series to resume Wednesday

The Bruneau Valley Library begins the fall schedule of its “Bruneau and Beyond” program Wednesday when National Park Service Ranger Stephanie Martin will talk about her workplace, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument.

The program starts at noon with lunch served by the library board. The speaker’s presentation follows.

There is no cost for the program, but those planning to attend should contact library director

Clara Morris by Monday, so that the library can have an accurate head count for lunch.

The program will be at the library, 32078 Ruth St. in Bruneau. If the number of registrants exceeds the library’s capacity, the presentation will be moved to the Bruneau Community Church on Hyde Street. Notice will be posted at the library should the location be moved.

For more information, or to register for the program, call (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2345.

Bruneau-GV participates in Child Find

The Bruneau-Grand View Joint School District has launched its Child Find program for another school year.

The district, in cooperation with parents and non-public school agencies, engages in Child Find activities to create public awareness of special education programs, advise the public of the rights of students and alert community residents of the need for identifying and serving children with disabilities from age 3 through the semester in which they turn 21.

Anyone aware of a child in that age group who may have individual needs resulting from disabilities or developmental delays and who isn’t enrolled in a school program can call district special education administrator Penny Hines at (208) 834-2775 or the school district office at (208) 834-2253.

Affected children may have difficulty walking, talking, hearing or learning or may display behaviors that appear different from other children their age.



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Fire prevention week comes to Homedale

Members of the Homedale Fire District helped Homedale Elementary School prepare for Fire Prevention Week last week by delivering a banner will hang in the school halls this week. Taking part in the presentation were, bottom from left: Alex Muir, Lyndsey Salutregui, Austin Conant and Dakota Kelly. Children standing, from left: Adrianna Salutregui, Makayla Aberasturi, Rylee Muir, Madison Conant and Tristan Corta. Adults standing, from left: School counselor Randee Garrett, Homedale Fire Marshal Dennis Uria, Homedale Fire Chief Scott Salutregui, Homedale Fire Commissioner Ric Uria and school principal Yvonne Ihli.

Homedale Fire helps young students learn fire safety

Two kindergarten classes from Homedale Elementary School will visit the Homedale Fire Hall on Friday to culminate National Fire Prevention Week, which began Sunday and runs through Saturday.

Last week, Homedale Fire Chief Scott Salutregui, Fire Marshal Dennis Uria and Fire Commissioner Ric Uria presented elementary school counselor Randee Garrett with curriculum materials that the school's students will begin using this week in class.

"The fire department has provided us with videos to teach fire safety strategies," Garrett said. "Scott is also bringing me an activity kit for each child in the school."

The strategies that children will learn this week include basics on how to cope with a house fire and how to get out of the house safely. Tips include:

- Feeling the bedroom door if there's a fire and knowing not to open it if the door is hot.
- Have an emergency plan to break a bedroom window to get out if the house is on fire.
- Stay low and crawl to safety if

there is smoke in the house.

- Develop an escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room, and practice it at least twice a year.
- Agree on a common family meeting place once everyone is out of the house.

When she accepted the materials from Salutregui, Garrett pointed out that the videos have been hits with previous classes, and that the children pick up on the lessons quickly.

And the quick absorption of the information could be vital. According to the National Fire Protection Association Web site, home fires caused 80 percent of all fire deaths in 2006. The NFPA said roughly 2,600 people died in home fires last year, and 12,500 people were injured.

Garrett said the entire lesson plan may take two weeks to cover, but every student in the school — kindergarten through fourth grade — receives the fire safety curriculum.

The fire department officials

also presented a National Fire Prevention Week banner to school principal Yvonne Ihli and a group of students whose fathers all are volunteer firemen in Homedale.

On Friday, the kindergarten classes of Marilyn Maybon and Melanie Harper will visit the fire station on West Colorado Avenue to get up close and personal with personnel from the fire department, ambulance service, Homedale Police and the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office.

Students will take tours at 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Salutregui said.

Garrett said the safety lesson plan and firehouse tour aren't the only ways the fire department helps keep children safe in the event of fire.

"They provide smoke alarms to any child in our school whose family doesn't have one," she said. "I still have some left from last year, and they will get me more if I need them."

— JPB

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Idaho Pizza Co. opens in Homedale

Homedale's Idaho Pizza Co. franchise opened Monday to brisk business.

Owner Echo Hall said that the business in the 100 block of East Idaho Avenue across from Homedale High School averaged about 10 orders an hour between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday.

The restaurant, which has outdoor dining as well as tables and chairs inside, will be open seven days a week. Hall said home delivery also is offered.

The restaurant will be open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Hall said she has 15 employees. A grand opening is planned in a couple weeks, she said.

The Homedale location is the 13th in the Idaho Pizza Co. chain and can be reached at 337-6222.

Find out
What's happening
Read Calendar each week
in the Avalanche

Teacher cited for hard work, dedication

Longtime Homedale High School teacher Mike Greeley has received the first Award of Excellence of the school year.

Greeley was honored by his colleagues during last month's school board meeting.

"It was a humbling experience to have people say that stuff about me," Greeley said in his usual low-key way. "There were a lot of nice things said."

Greeley has taught at Homedale for two decades. He commutes 47 miles from his Rockville, Ore., home each school day to conduct industrial arts classes.

"Mr. Greeley is the epitome of the consummate warrior," former school secretary Patti Zatica said in remarks read at the school board meeting. "He is willing to take on any duty, no matter how grim, from a formal dance to a manual labor project requiring getting down and dirty."

"He is a true ally for students and staff alike — a rare commodity in personnel who knows the ins and outs of life in the real world."

Greeley, who stepped down last year after two seasons as the Trojans varsity girls basketball coach, is well-respected by fellow teachers, administrators and students.

Two years ago, students elected him grand marshal of the Homecoming parade.

"I credit the success of the art



Veteran teacher honored
Homedale High School teacher Mike Greeley, left, accepts the first Award of Excellence for the 2007-08 school year from Homedale School District Board of Trustees chair Kurt Shanley at last month's meeting. The next board meeting is at 7 tonight in the district office on West Owyhee Avenue. Submitted photo

program to Mike, who designed and built a beautiful, large, climate-controlled facility for the students and myself to enjoy and work in," high school art teacher Katy Belanger said. "It makes coming to work every day a pleasure."

In addition to teaching, Greeley

runs the family ranch. He spent some time this summer in the driver's seat of a Cat to ensure that wild fire didn't approach the forage for his cattle. His responsibility at the ranch increased with the declining health and subsequent death of his father Bud Greeley last year.

'Mr. Greeley is a lot like his dad in that when he hired on with Homedale, 'he rides for the brand.' '

— Mike Williams
HHS principal

"Mike's one of the hardest-working guys I've ever known," veteran Homedale teacher Jim McMillan said. "Not only does he give countless hours to the school, he somehow keeps a ranch going, too."

High school principal Mike Williams said that Greeley's work ethic reflects that which his father instilled on the ranch.

"This is my 11th year working with Mr. Greeley," Williams said. "During this time we have seen and dealt with just about everything possible in the student department."

"Mr. Greeley is a lot like his dad in that when he hired on with Homedale, he 'rides for the brand.' His dedication and commitment to the district and students goes above and beyond the call of duty."



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Sunnyslope Farm hosts Fall Farm Festival on Sunday

Watson's Sunnyslope Farm is having a Fall Farm Festival on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival will feature a small petting zoo, live music, and a kid's corner with face painting, story telling, and a straw maze. The farm's two corn mazes, pumpkin patch, and horse-drawn hayrides will also be available for additional fees, and food and beverages will be available for purchase as well.

The musical entertainment is scheduled to be provided by local

musician Bobby Braun at noon, followed by the Seattle-based Ian McFeron Band at 3 p.m. A family donation of \$3 for the musicians is suggested, as is two cans of food for the Idaho Food Bank.

The Fall Farm Festival entrance is free of charge. Watson's Sunnyslope Farm is located on Idaho Highway 55, 1 mile north of Marsing. For more information, call (208) 249-8760 or visit www.watsonssunnyslopefarm.blogspot.com.

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Marsing FFA travels to Ag Days

The Marsing FFA chapter delegation prepares to leave for Moscow. From left, advisor Mike Martin and his wife, Rose Martin, chapter members Shad Jensen, Andi Merritt, Taylor Sauer, Kate Blackstock, Dustin Alexander, David Laefuler, and Howard the bus driver. Submitted photo

Marsing FFA news

by Kelsey Granden
chapter reporter

The Marsing FFA freshmen just took the annual trip to Moscow. They went to the University of Idaho, home of the Vandals, for the U of I Agriculture days.

They participated in some really fun Ag related activities. Six freshmen attended this trip.

They attended nine different workshops ranging from plant propagation, bio-fuels and range management.

The first workshop was learning how to preg-check a cow using ultrasound.

“One of the coolest things I learned was how to ultrasound a cow,” chapter member Andi Merritt said.

The second workshop was biotechnology, where they cut leaves

up in a specific pattern and tamped them down in a gel.

One of the last activities they did was terminology of judging.

One other activity members always do is go to the Vandals football game. This year, they played Hawaii. The freshmen said it was a fun game to watch.

“My favorite part was the football game between the Vandals and Hawaii,” chapter member Taylor Merritt said.

Everyone said they had a fun time on the trip.

“This was a great trip, and I look forward to going next year,” first-year Marsing FFA advisor Mike Martin said.

One chapter member, Dustin Alexander, was impressed with the U of I campus, saying, “I think I will go there when I’m older.”

Homedale FFA news

With 454 million acres of rangeland under the banner of the U.S. Department of Interior in 16 states, including 84 percent of Owyhee County, there are thousands of jobs available in the western states. The Homedale FFA chapter participates in the Rangeland Analysis Career Development Event to help build job skills needed for careers in the industry.

Homedale placed first in the 10-team regional CDE held Sept. 26 on the Burgess Ranch in Homedale. The team also swept the top three individual honors with Kortney Bahem finishing first, Alysha Bahem picking up second and Annamaria Salas placing third.

Members were asked to identify range plants and determine the plants’ forage value.

Students also were asked to evaluate how many head of livestock could graze a given area, the amount of biomass available in a specified range area, how much grazing rangeland can support while still maintaining wildlife population, and how the land could be utilized for recreational use.

In addition, students were asked to work as a team to determine the best use for a given piece of land and write out a management plan.

The Homedale FFA chapter qualified for the state competition, set for Monday in Burley.

Rimrock Senior Center holds Fall Bazaar on Saturday

Rimrock Senior Center is hosting vendors of books, fresh vegetables, crafts and other items at its annual Fall Bazaar starting at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the center, 525 Main St., in Grand View.

The bazaar is being held in conjunction with a citywide flea market at Grand View’s City Park.

The senior center will be serving a lunch of chicken and noodles, salad, and biscuit, with various breads and desserts available for purchase as well.

In addition, the center will raffle off a hand-made horse quilt at 3 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the center.

HMS magazine drive payoff



Middle school students race pigs for prizes

Students who raised the most money for Homedale Middle School’s student activity fund through the sale of subscriptions to magazines and The Owyhee Avalanche earned the right to compete in pig races held in the school’s cafeteria on Oct. 1. Toeing the line with their swine are, from left, Corby Schamber, Robert Evans, Derek Hellman, Esteban Lejardi, Emylee Obregon and Sarah Verwer.



HMS crowns subscription sales champions

Deena Emry, left, and Brooke Armenta at the Homedale Middle School pig races on Oct. 1. Emry was the top seller of subscriptions to The Owyhee Avalanche, while Armenta sold the most magazine subscriptions. The sales benefited the school’s student activity fund.

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