



Adrian  
boys  
win  
Cove  
title  
In  
Sports

County crime spikes during the weekend, Page 2A

Givens home invasion, GV burglaries keep sheriff's office busy

Idaho Energy Complex, Page 5A

County says owner of proposed  
site violated zoning ordinance

Property taxes, Page 3A

Melba schools boss fields  
numerous calls on higher bills

Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Established 1865

# The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 50

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

## County tax revenue jumps 36.5%

Explosion in property values  
brings in more revenue despite  
lower levy rates

This isn't just the season of giving  
in Owyhee County. With property  
tax bills due on Dec. 20, it's also the  
season of questions.  
"We're getting numerous phone

calls every day with questions, and  
taxpayers have a right to ask those  
questions," county Treasurer Brenda  
Richards said.  
And the phone calls seem to be

multiplying, just as the county's tax  
revenue did this year. With assessments  
throughout the county increasing,  
— See *Tax*, page 11A

### Santa gets in some practice



#### Homedale parade attracts hundreds of children

Jolly Ol' St. Nick stopped off in Homedale on Saturday to ride in the annual Chamber of Commerce Homedale for the Holidays parade and hand out 300 goodie bags to boys and girls. More from the parade, **Pages 9-10A**

## County steps into energy forefront

Two-day summit  
in Homedale will help  
outline innovative plan

Several experts on myriad energy sources will visit  
Homedale this week for the Owyhee County Energy  
Summit.

The summit is a byproduct of the Energy Plan recently  
adopted by the county Board of Commissioners.  
Owyhee is the first Idaho county to pass a document  
outlining energy policy.

The summit, which is mandated by the plan, will  
begin at 8:30 a.m. both Friday and Saturday at the  
Homedale Senior Citizens Center. The cost is \$10  
per day to cover the cost of lunch at the daylong  
meetings.

Pre-registration for the summit is available at [www.OwyheeEnergySummit.org](http://www.OwyheeEnergySummit.org).

Topics to be discussed at the summit include nuclear  
energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, solar, biofuels  
and biomass and anaerobic digestion.

Panelists will make presentations, followed by an  
opportunity for audience members to ask questions.

According to a press release, county commissioners  
feel that the summit will provide officials and citizens  
valuable input to help establish priorities and policies  
to help implement the energy plan.

Several experts will speak at the conference.  
Expected to make appearances are:

— See *Summit*, page 5A

## Company withdraws water bid protest

Whatever hurdle that may have  
presented itself to impede progress  
on Homedale's water line replacement  
project seemingly has disappeared.

The City Council could accept  
Sommer Construction's bid of  
\$1,159,126 formally as early as

tonight at what probably will be the  
body's final regular meeting of 2007.  
The meeting begins at 6 p.m. today  
at City Hall.

City engineer Fred Ostler said  
Friday that Nampa-based contractor  
Pipe, Inc., had withdrawn its protest

of the apparent low bid by fellow  
Nampa company Sommer, and he  
doesn't expect the firm to take the  
matter to court.

"(Pipe, Inc.) brought up a

— See *Water*, page 5A

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# Meeting addresses airport's future

More than 20 airport tenants, community leaders, and concerned citizens gathered at Owyhee Lanes & Restaurant last week to discuss the future of Homedale's airport. According to a printed agenda, this was the first of many meetings planned to decide the direction of the airport's development.

The initial meeting was called to create a list of issues to be addressed and for airport stakeholders to come up with recommendations for the city of Homedale with regard to the airport's future. Attendees created an airport advisory board at the meeting. The members of the nine-member committee include John Rogers, George Stone, Craig Paulsen, Ed Leavitt, Bruce Hubler, Carl Johnson, Phil Lootens, Wayne King, and John McBean.

Mayor-elect Harold Wilson, councilman-elect Aaron Tines, and Larry Bauer represented the city at the gathering.

The primary concern expressed by those at the meeting is to determine what property is within the airport's boundaries, and devise a plan for the best use of the available land. Access, drainage, and development of available land were listed as priorities.

Some suggestions for future development included commercial development on property adjacent to Highway 95, the creation of a fueling station, and the building of additional hangars. Other areas of improvement include a grass safety area, lights, a wind sock light, security fencing, and pavement of airport property. The advisory board will be tasked with coming up with a list of improvements that would be most beneficial to the airport, and going after available funding to make the improvements.

Larry Bauer said that previously Homedale has looked at the airport as a "money pit," but the city is now starting to realize that the airport is an asset that can bring money into the local economy.

Bauer also brought handouts to the meeting showing that the city's airport budget was only \$5,115 for the current year, and that the airport charges much less than other airports in the region for leased property. Nampa, for example, charges \$0.16 per square foot for building space, Caldwell charges \$0.13 per square foot, Mountain Home charges \$0.05 per square foot, but Homedale charges only \$0.025 per square foot. One implication of the figures is that the airport could increase its lease charges to raise revenue for improvements and still remain an attractive, lower-cost option for potential future tenants.

# School patrons dazed by higher taxes

## Higher assessments in Melba district help negate benefit of lower levy

Melba School District superintendent Robert Larson can sympathize with the flood of phone calls coming into the county treasurer's office.

Property tax time in Owyhee County compounded by misunderstandings of the process of how tax bills are compiled has resulted in a torrent of questions from taxpayers flooding into the school district's headquarters.

Larson's office has been inundated with phone calls about patrons' tax bills. He said some callers suffering from the sticker shock of higher tax bills are under the impression that the district raised its levy more than was authorized by voters during an election for an \$859,906 supplemental levy earlier this year.

But Larson says that's simply not true.

Larson said the bills, which are due Dec. 20, are higher because property values in the district skyrocketed, which also sent upward the amount that each owner pays to support the district.

Owyhee County Treasurer Brenda Richards explains that each taxing district has a net market value that it can levy against. For example, Melba School District's total net market value encompassing all three counties it serves (Owyhee, Canyon and Ada) is about \$213.4 million for 2007. Its levy rate is about 5 cents per \$1,000 of net market value, which will bring in more than \$1.14 million in 2007 taxes for district operating expenses in 2008.

That's a tax revenue increase of

more than 24 percent even though Melba's levy decreased.

The taxable property value in the district, or the amount after tax exemptions are deducted, increased nearly 26 percent (or \$44 million) this year — from approximately \$169.4 million in 2006 to \$213.4 million for 2007.

The increase can be traced to an across-the-board hike in property values in the district, but most significantly in its Canyon and Owyhee sectors, where the majority of the district's patrons live.

Owyhee County's net taxable market value in the Melba district jumped nearly 53 percent from more than \$34.1 million in 2006 to more than \$52.3 million in 2007, an increase of more than \$18 million. Conversely, Canyon's market value rose about 26 percent to more than \$125 million.

Richards, who lives inside the Melba district boundaries, said that a little less than 50 percent of her total tax bill will go to the school district. That phenomenon may be another reason taxpayers have been firing angry calls to the school district office.

Richards explains that the tax increase is spread over fewer property owners in Owyhee County than it is in more densely populated Canyon, so the individual burden is greater on this side of the Snake River.

"It does make a difference when you take the 5.34 cents per \$1,000 and spread it over fewer people," she said.

But the Melba district's levy rate has been in a steady decline even as property values have soared.

## Pay with plastic

Through state agency Access Idaho, the Owyhee County treasurer's office has made it possible for property owners to use a debit card or credit card when paying their tax bill in person at the office in Murphy or over the phone or by fax.

The county will accept Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express as well as traditional cash and check payment forms.

The first part of the payment or the full payment of tax bills is due Dec. 20. The second half of the payment is due June 20. Monthly and partial payments are accepted by the treasurer's office, but Richards said the total amounts due on Dec. 20 and June 20 must be received by those dates to avoid late fees and interest.

Larson points out that in 2006 Melba's Owyhee County patrons paid 7.9 cents per \$1,000 on a net taxable market value of \$29.1 million. A year later, the levy rate had plummeted to 5.4 cents per \$1,000, but the market value edged up 3 percent to \$34.1 million. This year, the levy ticked down slightly again, but the 53 percent increase in property values flattened any chance of taxes going down.

"The fact is, the Melba School District Board of Trustees has worked hard to keep levy rates, for the operation of the schools, as level as possible for many years," Larson wrote in a press release.

The superintendent also pointed out that the Melba district has been forced to enact two emergency levies to keep up with population growth in the system. The district also has been forced to employ

supplemental levies for school supplies and capital expenses because of the continued drop in funding from the state government and the expiration of the district's plant and facility levy. Voters have rejected attempts to replace that levy with a 10-year version.

"The Melba School District is very appreciative to the patrons of the district for their support in the passing of the supplemental levies and helping to ensure a good education for their children," Larson said. "The district is committed to doing all it can to keep the cost of education as reasonable as possible."

Larson encouraged patrons to call the district office at 495-1141 and address questions and concerns to either him or district business manager Norman Hogg.

— JPB

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in  
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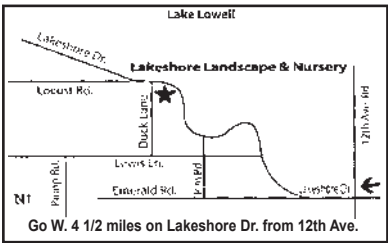
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# County passes two building ordinances

## Board of commissioners adopts addressing fee, building code

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners has enacted a fee schedule to help pay for new addresses added to the rural county address system, which is an integral part of the 911 grid.

Ordinance No. 07-07 was one of two new county laws passed Dec. 3.

Commissioners approved the rural county addressing fee after a public hearing and resolved to establish a \$70 fee for the GPS mapping and signing of all new rural addresses in the county. The address posts are essential for emergency crews to find locations during 911 dispatches.

County building official Arlyn Tietz created the fee schedule after a request from the commissioners, sheriff's office and assessor's office in the summer.

The one-time fee will be charged as part of the building permit process for new construction, Tietz said earlier. The new fee will be payable when a new address is

requested for both residential and commercial developments.

The fee schedule will be available at the county clerk's office in Murphy.

The commissioners also adopted the International Building Code 2006 edition with Ordinance 07-06 on Dec. 3.

The ordinance empowered Tietz to enforce the new code, which amends several sections of the International Building Code.

One of the key amendments to the code allows Tietz to refund no more than 80 percent of a plan review fee when no work has been done after a building permit is issued. All permittees must request refunds in writing.

The ordinance allows permittees to appeal a building department decision within 15 days of the ruling. The appeal would be heard by the county Planning and Zoning Board. Likewise, P&Z board decisions can be appealed to the Board of Commissioners.

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215/70SR-16 B 97.36

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# School menus

## Homedale Elementary

- Dec. 12: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, churro, milk.
- Dec. 13: Spaghetti or pizza hot pocket, French bread, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 14: Ham & cheese or turkey sandwich, yogurt, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 17: Wiener rap or chicken bacon melt, mac & cheese, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, rice krispy bar, milk.
- Dec. 18: Beef or taco chicken, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 19: Chicken sandwich or rib-b-que, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cake, milk.

## Homedale Middle

- Dec. 12: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.
- Dec. 13: Lasagna or pizza hot pocket, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, bread stick, milk.
- Dec. 14: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Dec. 17: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Dec. 18: Fish nuggets or mini corn dogs, rice, fruit & veggie bar, brownie, milk.
- Dec. 19: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

## Homedale High

- Dec. 12: Lasagna, burrito or pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 13: Chicken patty or hamburger, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, sherbet cup, milk.
- Dec. 14: Chicken taco or French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 17: Pizza, nachos or chef’s salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Dec. 18: Chicken nuggets or egg rolls, rice pilaf, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 19: Idaho haystack, burrito or pizza hot pocket, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

## Marsing

- Dec. 12: Red Baron pizza, pineapple & salad, cookie, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Dec. 13: Burrito, strawberries & banana, corn, milk, baked potato, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Dec. 14: Wiener wrap, fruit, veggie, milk, chicken nuggets, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Dec. 17: Chicken patty/bun, fruit, veggie, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Dec. 18: Red Baron pizza, fruit, salad, milk, baked potato, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.
- Dec. 19: Hamburger, veggie, dessert, milk, hot dog/chorizo, salad bar 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, roll.

## Bruneau

- Dec. 12: Ham & beans, tossed salad, cornbread, fruit, milk.
- Dec. 13: Chicken patty, potatoes & gravy, peas, roll/butter, fruit cobbler, milk.
- Dec. 14: Nachos & salsa, tossed salad, corn, bread sticks, fruited jello, milk.
- Dec. 17: Chicken wrap, rice, stir fry veggies, mandarin oranges, fortune cookie, milk.
- Dec. 18: Lasagna, tossed salad, garlic bread, fruit, milk.
- Dec. 19: Hamburger, tots, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

# Obituary

## Mary Loretta Hill

Mary Loretta Hill, 86, of New Plymouth, passed away Monday, Dec. 3, 2007 at Royal Villa Care Center in Payette of complications from Alzheimer’s. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 8, 2007 at Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, New Plymouth. Interment followed at Park View Cemetery, New Plymouth. A visitation was held from 1-1:45 p.m. prior to services. Arrangements are under the direction of Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, New Plymouth. Condolences may be made to the family at [www.shaffer-jensenchapel.com](http://www.shaffer-jensenchapel.com).

Mary was born Sept. 19, 1921 at Williams, Montana, the daughter of Robert and Mora Davis. She attended several area schools, Valley View, Arcadia, Ten Davis, and Lincoln. She graduated from Ontario High School. She married Cecil Hill in Payette and they farmed near Fruitland for many



years. She helped on the farm hoeing many acres of sugar beets, doing tractor work and driving truck to haul corn and sugar beets. Mary worked various places, Ore-Ida, Payette Valley Creamery, and in the office of J.C. Watson in Nyssa.

She loved the outdoors and spent many hours working in her yard and garden. Some of her other hobbies over the years were horseback riding, camping, and

snowmobiling. She also loved to sew, crochet, macramé and care for her many houseplants. Mary was a wonderful cook and she liked to can.

She loved her cats and the other farm animals. Mary was always happy to have her grandchildren spend time in her home and always found time to entertain them.

Mary is survived by her three children, Lin Lentfer of Homedale, Jana Hill of Hilo, HI and Bob Hill (Sandi) of Summerville, OR; six grandchildren, six great grandchildren and a new great-great granddaughter.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Cecil; her parents; two brothers, Herb and Bob Davis; and a sister, Maxine Westcott.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer’s Foundation, c/o Shaffer-Jensen Memory Chapel, P.O. Box 730, Payette, Idaho 83661.

# Death notices

**CARMEN M. ELORDIACARREGUI**, 98, of Jordan Valley, died Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007, in Boise. Funeral Mass was at 1 p.m. Saturday at St. Bernard’s Catholic Church in Jordan Valley. Burial was at Jordan Valley Cemetery. Summers Funeral Homes, Boise Chapel, handled arrangements.

**EDD RIPPEE**, 85, of Homedale, died Monday, Dec. 10, 2007 at a Homedale care center. Arrangements are pending with Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

# Engagement

## Martinat, Eiguren set wedding for Dec. 29 in Nampa church

Tony and Kim Martinat of Marsing have announced the wedding of their daughter Tonijo Martinat to Elias Eiguren, son of Fred and Kristie Eiguren of Arock, Ore.

The groom is a 2002 graduate of Jordan Valley High School and a 2007 graduate of Oregon State University in Animal Science.

The bride is a 2004 graduate of Homedale High School and is currently employed as a cosmetologist.

The wedding is planned for Dec. 29, 2007, at St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Nampa.

The couple will honeymoon in Seaside, Ore.



Tonijo Martinat and Elias Eiguren

# Senior

# menus

## Marsing center

Dec. 12: Breakfast to order. Lasagna, spinach, garlic bread, tossed salad, soup, dessert, beverage.

Dec. 13: Pepper steak, potatoes, broccoli, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.

Dec. 17: Breakfast to order.

Dec. 18: Liver & onions or chef’s choice, mixed vegetables, potatoes, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.

Dec. 19: Breakfast to order. BBQ ribs, baked potatoes, spinach, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.

## Homedale center

Dec. 12: Stuffed manicotti shells, salad, bread, beverage.

Dec. 13: Beef burritos, refried beans, rice, beverage.

Dec. 18: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, California blend vegetables, roll, beverage.

Dec. 19: Sausage & biscuits, country gravy, carrots, beverage.

## Woody Purdom to perform at seniors dance

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center will hold a Christmas Dance on Saturday.

The dance will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and feature live music from Woody Purdom’s band.

Admission is \$3, and a potluck meal will be served at 8:30 p.m.

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# Your finances

## Investment capital better than taking loan for tax break

**Dear Dave,**  
We're in the process of building a house. There's no need to take out a mortgage, because we're in the top tax bracket. We could pay for it all out-of-pocket, plus we have no debt. But our financial advisor says we should get a mortgage anyway, invest the money into mutual funds and get a great tax deduction. Does this make sense?

— Alvin

**Dear Alvin,**  
No, it doesn't make sense. Neither does your financial advisor. Get rid of him today!  
Let's say you take out a \$200,000 mortgage at 6 percent. Twelve thousand dollars would go to the bank in interest payments alone. Since you're in the top tax bracket, you'd be able to write off \$4,200 of that \$12,000.  
So in layman's terms, your "advisor" told you to take out a mortgage and pay the bank \$12,000 in interest so that you can avoid sending \$4,200 to Uncle Sam. Now do you see why I'm saying this guy needs to take a hike?  
Very few people are blessed enough to be in your situation, Alvin. Pay cash for the house. Then you'll be debt-free, and you can invest like a crazy man and retire mega-wealthy!

— Dave

**Dear Dave,**  
My husband passed away unexpectedly five months ago at age 30. He had life insurance, so I was able to pay off all our debt and have about \$110,000 left. I'm drawing enough Social Security to pay the bills and have a little left over for me and our two children, ages 5 and 2. People are telling me I need to go back to work. What do you think?

— Sharon

**Dear Sharon,**  
I am so sorry you have to go through this. Thirty is way too young for anyone to leave this life.  
You don't need additional money right now. Your husband was smart enough to make sure he provided for you guys. Now, there's nothing wrong with going back to work if you feel the need to do something to occupy your time and your mind. That's between you and God. You're dealing with a terrible loss right now, and sometimes we all need a distraction when life gets hard.  
But I'm guessing those little ones really need their mommy right now. I'd hug and love on them a lot, and be there for them every second I could. Plus, all those hugs will help YOU get



through this bad time, too.  
If I were you, I'd invest the \$110,000 in good mutual funds and just let it grow. It can give you enough to retire on comfortably, and send your kids to college when the time is right.  
Just think and pray a lot on what's right for you, Sharon. If you want to go back to work later on, that's fine. But you don't need to do it for the extra money right now.

— Dave

**Dear Dave,**  
My girlfriend lives in Massachusetts, and I'm planning to move there when we get married. I know I love her, but I'm worried because she not very responsible with money. Lots of times she'll do things like get her nails or hair done instead of paying bills. What can I do?

— Langston

**Dear Langston,**  
You mentioned marriage, so that tells me that you're not talking about just dating for fun. This is the process of finding out if you want to spend the rest of your life with this girl.  
If I were you, I'd move slowly until she gets her spending under control and see if she gets past this immaturity. Sometimes when things like this happen it's just a situation where a person needs to grow up and learn how to do things the right way.  
If this is the case, you could talk to her about it gently and help her make out a monthly budget. That way, once she understands the process and value of having a plan and spending her money on paper before the month begins, it will be easier for her to stick to it.

But if it doesn't work, and this turns out being a character flaw, then it will cause issues later on — and in other areas — of your relationship. And someone like that just isn't good marriage material!

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover* and host of *The Dave Ramsey Show* that airs at 6 p.m. daily on the Fox Business Channel. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to [syndication@daveramsey.com](mailto:syndication@daveramsey.com) or write Dave Says, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

**Today**  
DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151  
Homedale City Council meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave. (208) 337-4641  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Advent dinner and service. Dinner, 6 p.m.; service, 7 p.m. (208) 337-4248  
Marsing City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Main St. (208) 896-4122  
Grand View City Council meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. (208) 834-2700, Monday through Wednesday

**Thursday**  
Owyhee Conservation District board meeting, 10 a.m., 250 N. Old Bruneau Highway, Marsing. (208) 896-4544  
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 County Fair Board meeting, 8 p.m., county fairgrounds, Homedale. (208) 337-4575

**Friday**  
Owyhee Energy Summit, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., lunch \$10, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.  
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  
Owyhee Watershed Council meeting and Christmas potluck, 3 p.m. meeting, 5 p.m. potluck, Jordan Valley Lions Den, 902 Bassett, Jordan Valley, Ore. (541) 372-5782

**Saturday**  
Owyhee Energy Summit, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., lunch \$10, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.  
Homedale American Legion Post 32 Christmas dinner, 4 p.m., Homedale American Legion Post 32 hall, 14 E. Owyhee Ave. (208) 337-3686  
Christmas Dance, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., \$3; potluck dinner, 8:30

p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

**Monday**  
Marsing Lions Club monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 2nd St. N., Marsing. (208) 896-4204

**Tuesday**  
Foot Clinic, sign up at the front desk, 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, Dec. 19**  
El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution, 11 a.m. to noon, Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing. (208) 337-4812  
Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Advent dinner and service. Dinner, 6 p.m.; service, 7 p.m. (208) 337-4248  
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, Dec. 20**  
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.  
Christmas dinner and party, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

**Friday, Dec. 21**  
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, Dec. 24**  
Mountain View Church of the Nazarene Christmas Eve candlelight service, 7 p.m., 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

**Tuesday, Dec. 25**  
Christmas Day

**Wednesday, Dec. 26**  
DivorceCare recovery support group, 7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

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 [jbrownditor@cablone.net](mailto:jbrownditor@cablone.net). For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

## Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Dec. 4	57	43	.00
Dec. 5	60	31	.00
Dec. 6	55	29	.04
Dec. 7	47	31	.16
Dec. 8	no reading taken		
Dec. 9	no reading taken		
Dec. 10	40	19	.33

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# Homedale parade kicks off holiday

## Spectators greeted with chilly weather

People braved the cold Saturday to line the streets in downtown Homedale for the annual Chamber of Commerce Homedale for the Holidays parade.

Santa Claus led the parade down West Owyhee Avenue and then up Idaho Avenue, riding on a Homedale fire truck.

Children riding on the fire trucks and participants riding on or driving other floats threw candy and stuffed animals to the children in the crowd.

Three prizes were awarded for the top floats. The Girls Scouts won the first prize, followed by the Homedale School Band and the Les Schwab Tires float.

The Girls Scouts threw stuffed animals from their float. The band played holiday songs. Les Schwab's entry was adorned with different types of tires and a metal structure made to look like a dragster with large tractor tires simulating racing slicks.

After the parade, Santa Claus stood between two fire trucks on North Main Street and doled out about 300 goodie bags filled with candy and oranges as a serpentine-like throng of children wound around the emergency vehicles parked closely side by side.

Members of the Shoo-Fly 4-H Club gathered at the Bowen-Parker-Day CPAs Homedale office Friday afternoon to stuff the sacks full of goodies.

A drawing was held after the parade in front of the Homedale Post Office, with the winners either getting a gift basket or a turkey from several participating Homedale Chamber of Commerce member businesses. The winners:

- NAPA — Gorden Maxwell
- Flahiff Funeral Chapel — Lynn Fry
- Owyhee County Realty — Keith Stansell
- Frontier — Antonia Vasquez
- Kitfox Aircraft — AB Mitchell
- Moxie Java — Carol Ebbers
- Tolmie's Hardware and Appliance — Jennifer Conner
- Zions Bank, Wilder — Terry Mahler
- Owyhee Publishing — Tonya Garrison
- Subway — Riley Grimes
- Homedale Drug — Lesli Kube
- Pick Up the Pace — Margaret George
- Rapha Massage — Marty Geselle
- Dairyland Seed — Annamosa Escutia
- Alliance Title — Betty Arriaga
- Cathy Smith, ReMax River Valley/Santa Fe — Barbara Hall
- Idaho Power — Brenda Watts
- Paul's Market — David Stricklin
- City of Homedale — Teresa Armenta
- Rehab Authority — Roy Hunt
- Matteson's Owyhee Motors — Debby Webb
- Intermountain Community Bank, Caldwell — Becky Barkell
- Bowen-Parker-Day CPAs — Elaine Lawrence
- Owyhee Lanes & Restaurant — Debbie Tennis
- Owyhee Avalanche — Carol Motz
- Homedale School District — John McBride
- Turkey winner — Delores Rice
- Grand prize, Homedale Senior Center — Lauren Westby



**Santa gets it rolling**  
*Top:* Santa was one of the first to complete the parade route.  
*Above:* The Girl Scouts float was top vote-getter on the judges' ballots.  
*Right:* An elf riding on a unicycle was a big hit among the children lining Idaho Avenue and Owyhee Avenue for the parade.  
*Bottom:* The Homedale School Band marched in frigid conditions and earned a judges' award.





# Homedale parade kicks off holiday



Mayor-elect makes an appearance

**Right:** Homedale Mayor-elect Harold Wilson was all smiles as he waved from a horse-draw carriage sponsored by Alliance Title. **Above:** Some interesting placement of rubber and steel earned Les Schwab Tire Center a judges' award.



Young and old make the trip

**Above:** Five-year-old AJ Robinson rode her pony in the parade. **Right:** Craig Lane tosses candy from the 1959 International-Harvester American LaFrance fire engine still in use by Wilder Fire Department.



Getting ready for the big day

**Left:** Greg Evans of Idaho Power places a Christmas wreath on the front end of a boom truck his company entered in the parade. **Above:** Shoo-Fly 4-H members, clockwise from left, Karl Henry, Megan Aman, Jessica Henry and Lydia Aman, stuff oranges, candy canes and other goodies into bags Friday afternoon.



# Gift drives wind down as Christmas nears

## Nursing home residents’ lists still unfulfilled; Homedale gift, food given out this week

Seasonal Homedale gift and food drives wrap up this week with distribution expected for two major drivers this weekend.

The annual Wish Tree presents drive coordinated by Beta Sigma Phi is open until Thursday, with tags with the Christmas wishes of needy children affixed to a tree at Paul’s Market and a wreath at the Homedale Post Office.

The first phase of the Wish Tree project was successful as the annual Casino Night

fundraiser was another big hit, according to one of the organizers, Diana Maxwell.

Lori Badiola, another organizer for the charity drive, said proceeds from the Casino Night helped Beta Sigma Phi purchase about 70 sweaters for the gift drive. Many presents were wrapped Thursday night, she said.

Beta Sigma Phi members along with Homedale Police and Homedale Fire personnel will distribute gifts Saturday.

Saturday also is the pickup day for boxes of food made possible by the Hands Around Homedale drive. Coordinator Randee Garrett said that volunteers will spend Friday stuffing food boxes at Homedale Elementary School.

Pickup will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday at the elementary school.

All three Homedale School District campuses have participated in the food drive again this year. National Honor Society members from Homedale High School will help the Caldwell Basque Charities organization pick ham and turkeys from Paul’s Market on Thursday

morning.

Presents for the annual Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation Center gift drive are slow to come into the office of The Owyhee Avalanche. Each year, the newspaper sponsors an effort to fill wish lists of residents at the Homedale nursing home.

This year’s wish list appears on Page 16B in this week’s edition. Presents can be dropped off at the Avalanche office on East Idaho Avenue in Homedale through Dec. 21.

The Homedale FFA chapter also will bring its Gift of Green to a needy family on Dec. 21.

### Casino Night benefactors

A list of businesses and individuals who donated to the annual Wish Tree Casino Night at Txoko Ona:

Allendale Produce, Tolmies Ace Hardware, Alliance Title, Westtowns Disposal, Bauer Heating & Cooling, Zions Bank, Owyhee Family Dental, Dewyne Trefz, Bowen-Parker-Day,

CTI/SSI, Bull Realty, Snake River Co., L.L.C., Burton Post & Pole, Moxie Java Bistro - Homedale, Campbell Tractor (Nampa), Homedale Lions Club, Dairyland Seed, Donna & Stuart Batt, Farm Bureau (Caldwell), Gypsy Jackson, Flahiff Funeral Home, Julie & Scott Ryel,

Frontier Telephone, Donna Haylett, Get-R-Done Jewelry (Sumr Pruett), Robyn & Dirk Tolmie, Homedale Chiropractic, Diane & Paul Carlsen, Homedale Drive In, Dan & Peggy Campbell, Homedale Drug, Cindy Mavey, Idaho Pizza, Pilar Badiola, Idaho Sporting Clays,

Jim & Teresa Ryska, Helena Chemical, JZ Auto Sales, Jackson Food Stores, Kates Place, Kens Tent & Canvas, Teresa & Tony Larrocea, Les Schwab Tire, Dennis Pruett, Munsters Ink, NAPA, Owyhee Motor Sales, The Owyhee Avalanche, Owyhee County Realty,

Charlene & Rufus Uranga, Lori & Ben Badiola, Diana & Ray Maxwell, Owyhee Sand & Gravel, Pauls, Owyhee Truck, L.L.C., Producers Supply, Rafter 4 Feed, Rehab Authority, River Bend, Snake River Lumber, Specialty Inc., Subway

## Children are big winners during Casino Night



### Gaming for a good cause

Several folks turned out to shuffle up and deal at the annual Wish Tree Casino Night earlier this month. From left, Deanna Robinson, Robin Robinson, Jim Ryska, Jenny Atkins, Bryan Badiola and Florentina Badiola await cards from dealer Greg Kelly. Submitted photo



### Before and after shows Wish Tree’s impact for children

**Left:** Each Christmas season, benevolent folks pluck tags off the Wish Tree at Paul’s Market or the wreath at the Homedale Post Office and turn the lists into the presents. **Right:** The items are wrapped and some are placed under a tree during Casino Night. Whatever tags are left get filled by the Beta Sigma Phi women’s club. Submitted photo



## HOMEDALE DRIVE-IN Makes Dinner Easy!

### Bucket of Chicken Meal Deals!



**12 Piece Chicken Bucket**  
12 Pieces of Broasted Chicken  
10 Broasted Potato Wedges  
Pint of Specialty Cole Slaw  
**Only \$15.37**

**8 Piece Chicken Bucket**  
8 Pieces of Broasted Chicken  
5 Broasted Potato Wedges  
Pint of Specialty Cole Slaw  
**Only \$12.00**

**8 Piece Chicken only: \$6.99**

Our family at the Homedale Drive-In would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas!



Floats in a Traditional Coca Cola Glass

**Homedale Drive-In • 337-4243**  
**305 E. Idaho Ave. • Homedale**

Winter Hours: 5 am - 9 pm Mon-Sat • Sunday 6 am - 4 pm



From page 1

✓ Tax: Dec. 20 deadline to pay Owyhee County property tax bills

Owyhee County reports its levy will draw 36.5 percent more tax revenue than a year ago. The combined levy includes county expenses and road and bridge expenses for District 1.

“Our phone has been ringing off the hook,” Richards said, “and that’s OK because it is a shock when taxes go up.”

Assessments have increased significantly in Owyhee County, raising tax revenues even as many levies go down.

The county’s net market value has soared 34.6 percent in one year. In 2006, Owyhee County levied against a total net market value of \$457.2 million. The figure was \$615.7 million this year.

The biggest revenue hike will come in the Lizard Butte Library District, which will see a 150 percent increase thanks to higher property values and the bond patrons passed to build the new library in Marsing. The net market value of property in the district, which includes parts of Owyhee and Canyon counties, rose 35.6 percent.

The tax levy that funds Owyhee County operations rose slightly from 3.37 cents per \$1,000 in net market value in 2006 to 3.44 cents per \$1,000 in 2007. The new levy will increase county tax revenue — including current expense and road and bridge — from about \$1.6 million last year to a little less than \$2.2 million.

Randy Nelson, president of the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho, said that the \$2,199,279 that the county has budgeted for the next year is less than \$100 below the ceiling allowed by state law. The maximum allowable budget as mandated by Idaho Code can increase only 3 percent each year.

The net market value, which is the amount on which Owyhee County can levy a tax after all exemptions are deducted, has taken a significant jump since 2005.

The county’s net market value has increased 52.6 percent in the past two years, from \$403.3 million in 2005 to just less than \$615.8 million this year.

Owyhee County’s government and the Lizard Butte Library District aren’t the only taxing entities taking a significantly larger chunk of the pie this year:

- Melba School District’s tax revenue will increase 24.4 percent to more than \$1.14 million. The district’s net market value is up almost 26 percent since last year.

- Marsing School District’s revenue is set to rise 23.5 percent to \$988,753. The district’s net market value soared 47.6 percent in the past year.

In contrast, the Homedale School District, which like Melba

County tax revenue — 3-year comparison

Owyhee County			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$615,793,313	0.003447703	\$2,123,072
2006	\$457,241,166	0.003378621	\$1,544,845
2005	\$403,389,388	0.004459887	\$1,799,071
City of Homedale			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$66,766,888	0.00491179	\$327,945
2006	\$50,435,574	0.006041093	\$304,686
2005	\$44,601,771	0.00654187	\$291,779
City of Marsing			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$32,785,206	0.003497888	\$114,679
2006	\$22,693,806	0.004862471	\$110,348
2005	\$19,418,025	0.005469815	\$106,213
City of Grand View			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$9,729,775	0.000655102	\$6,374
2006	\$8,636,708	0.000685215	\$5,918
2005	\$7,535,712	0.000754673	\$5,687
Homedale School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$252,324,017	0.002919591	\$736,683
2006	\$186,863,250	0.003731654	\$697,309
2005	\$164,283,672	0.007096663	\$1,165,866
Marsing School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$235,819,544	0.004192837	\$988,753
2006	\$159,805,543	0.005007905	\$800,291
2005	\$138,295,640	0.008530348	\$1,179,710
Bruneau-Grand View School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$173,134,990	0.002178745	\$377,217
2006	\$155,675,897	0.001951316	\$303,773
2005	\$144,213,554	0.005250539	\$757,199
Melba School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$213,433,141	0.005345435	\$1,140,893
2006	\$169,461,644	0.005410445	\$916,863
2005	\$160,298,590	0.007975035	\$1,278,387
Pleasant Valley School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$11,266,848	0.000705965	\$7,954
2006	\$10,568,468	0.000659793	\$6,973
2005	\$10,167,741	0.006507148	\$66,163
Three Creek School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$10,826,296	0	\$0
2006	\$8,934,591	0.00253386	\$22,639
2005	\$8,494,739	0.002937583	\$24,954
Note — Three Creek has no levies for 2007, according to the county clerk's office			
Glenns Ferry School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$210,516,081	0.001477055	\$310,944
2006	\$190,338,190	0.001357935	\$258,467
2005	\$181,509,275	0.004625669	\$839,602
Castleford School District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$100,805,482	0.002727351	\$274,932
2006	\$89,845,167	0.002465241	\$221,490
2005	\$88,403,610	0.005473374	\$483,866
Marsing-Homedale Cemetery District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$387,050,815	0.000073494	\$28,446
2006	\$265,672,551	0.000099028	\$26,309
2005	\$227,838,356	0.000108941	\$24,821
Owyhee Pioneer Cemetery District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$103,559,447	0.000016937	\$1,754
2006	\$82,903,653	0.000020192	\$1,674
2005	\$74,245,448	0.000021604	\$1,604

Bruneau Cemetery District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$55,556,111	0.000150586	\$8,366
2006	\$49,281,663	0.000165153	\$8,139
2005	\$45,390,127	0.000179312	\$8,139
Riverside Cemetery District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$50,599,739	0.000066917	\$3,386
2006	\$43,564,433	0.000074258	\$3,235
2005	\$40,951,505	0.000075602	\$3,096
Homedale Fire District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$248,685,058	0.000788044	\$195,975
2006	\$179,509,717	0.001059926	\$190,267
2005	\$157,416,385	0.001127658	\$177,512
Marsing Fire District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$300,396,603	0.000148184	\$44,514
2006	\$220,882,277	0.000588797	\$130,055
2005	\$201,448,016	0.000626101	\$126,127
Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$66,275,679	0.000449697	\$29,804
2006	\$41,189,254	0.000678648	\$27,953
2005	\$34,432,846	0.000754367	\$25,975
Grand View Fire District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$56,311,691	0.001566708	\$88,224
2006	\$50,807,464	0.001683355	\$85,527
2005	\$47,169,112	0.001711437	\$80,727
Bruneau Fire District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$32,903,899	0.00008616	\$2,835
2006	\$26,704,604	0.000101743	\$2,717
2005	\$24,895,806	0.000104395	\$2,599
County Road and Bridge			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$234,693,602	0.000324708	\$76,207
2006	\$192,614,839	0.000344812	\$66,416
2005	\$175,960,008	0.001068106	\$187,944
Gem Highway District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$178,383,292	0.000261846	\$46,709
2006	\$119,568,400	0.000362387	\$43,330
2005	\$100,393,802	0.00040368	\$40,527
Homedale Highway District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$194,228,426	0.00028865	\$56,064
2006	\$138,369,428	0.000373204	\$51,640
2005	\$120,883,333	0.000406251	\$49,109
Three Creek Highway District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$8,492,810	0.00227463	\$19,318
2006	\$6,688,498	0.002800628	\$18,732
2005	\$6,152,244	0.002951769	\$18,160
Lizard Butte Library District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$295,905,009	0.000371247	\$109,854
2006	\$218,103,826	0.000200005	\$43,622
2005	\$197,450,794	0.000202014	\$39,888
Eastern Owyhee Library District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$103,491,454	0.000265432	\$27,470
2006	\$93,638,182	0.000278636	\$26,091
2005	\$86,903,767	0.000291483	\$25,331
Bruneau Valley Library District			
Year	Net market value	Levy	Tax revenue
2007	\$38,978,304	0.000236619	\$9,223
2006	\$33,124,855	0.000270219	\$8,951
2005	\$30,592,732	0.000277615	\$8,493

Source — Owyhee County Clerk

and Marsing, draws its tax base from more than one county, will see an increase of only 5.6 percent in its revenue.

Owyhee County’s three cities also are seeing a mixed bag of tax monies.

Homedale’s city levy dropped from 6.04 cents per \$1,000 last year to 4.9 cents per \$1,000 this

year. But a 32.3 percent jump in assessments has pushed the revenue up 7.6 percent.

On the other end of the municipal spectrum, Grand View, which has struggled to get the ball rolling on much-needed repairs and upgrades to its water system, is collecting only \$6,374 in property taxes this year on a levy of a little

more than half a cent per \$1,000 of net market value. Still, that’s a revenue increase of 7.7 percent.

Marsing’s net market value rose 44.4 percent, but the city’s tax revenue will increase just 3.9 percent because of a significant reduction in the town’s levy.

While the city tax revenue ticked up for Marsing, the Marsing

Fire District levy took a nosedive, taking the tax revenue with it despite a 35.9 percent hike in net market value. The district will see its revenue plummet 65.7 percent as the levy fell to less than 0.15 cents per \$1,000 (down from a 2006 levy of 0.58 cents per \$1,000).

— JPB



## Mtn. View Nazarene plans Dec. 24 service

The Mountain View Church of the Nazarene will present its annual Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

The celebration begins at 7 p.m. at the church on the corner of Ustick Road and Batt Corner north of Homedale in Canyon County.

The public is welcome.

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## SAUSA paid through Owyhee gets to work

Suspects nabbed in early-morning arrests in Canyon County on Dec. 6 will be prosecuted with help from the Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) hired earlier this year through funding based in Owyhee County's budget.

Christian Nafzger will serve as co-counsel in the prosecution of the federal criminal case against Alfredo Esparza Sr., his son, Lucio, and others. Nafzger was hired as a Boise-based SAUSA after funding was secured through the state as well as the Treasure Valley Partnership.

Owyhee County agreed to handle the funds for the position through its budget, but no funds originating in the county are being used for the salary.

A multi-agency investigation resulted in the execution of four federal search warrants on residences in Nampa and Caldwell last week. Agencies involved included the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, Caldwell Police Department, the Canyon County Sheriff's Office and the Metro Violent Crimes Task Force.

Nampa Police and Idaho State Police officers provided additional support during the raids.

All subjects arrested last week were charged with distributing methamphetamine, but additional charges are expected, according to a press release.

## Feds to update Murphy Complex rehab Thursday

### Meeting scheduled for Twin Falls Farm Bureau building

The Twin Falls District Bureau of Land Management plans a meeting Thursday to update the public on rehabilitation efforts in the wake of this summer's devastating Murphy Complex Fire.

The meeting is scheduled from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Farm Bureau Insurance building, 2732 Kimberly Road in Twin Falls.

District management staff will give a 45-minute presentation on the progress of the Murphy Complex fire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation (ES&R) efforts this fall. Resource specialists from Jarbidge, Burley and Shoshone field offices also will be on hand to answer questions about rehabilitation progress around the district.

The final 45 minutes of the meeting will be reserved for questions and discussion.

ES&R efforts include drill and aerial seeding, seedling planting, temporary protection fence installment, existing fence repair, noxious weed treatment, and soil stabilization projects.

According to Jarbidge Field Office manager Rick VanderVoet, in addition to being informative, this meeting will give the public an opportunity to provide input into the remaining planned rehabilitation actions.

"We invite continued public involvement as we move forward with post fire management

actions," VanderVoet said.

For more information about the meeting, please contact Heather Tiel-Nelson at (208) 736-2352.

Firefighters sought for 2008 wildfire season

The Twin Falls District also announced that it is recruiting young men and women to fill firefighting and support positions for the 2008 wildfire season.

According to a press release, the BLM is looking for those who are interested in a challenge, have good work ethic and character and want to earn a good wage through the summer.

Applications are accepted only online through Jan. 31. Log on to [www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov) to apply.

Positions will be filled in the suppression, prevention, fuels, aviation and dispatch programs. Applicants must be 18 years old by the first day of hire in late May, be a U.S. citizen and have a high school diploma or GED. BLM fire jobs offer excellent summer earnings, possible continuous summer employment based on performance, annual and sick leave benefits, and travel to other districts or states.

A recruitment information line at (208) 732-7299 is also available for more information regarding temporary, seasonal employment with the BLM.

For further information, contact Tiel-Nelson at (208) 736-2352.

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**Web designer spins the possibilities**  
*Gini Carrow of Creative Web Design points out some of the features available for a Web site during a planning meeting of the Homedale Chamber of Commerce's marketing committee Thursday.*

# Homedale city, Chamber logs on with Web site idea

Business owners can expect to hear about the Homedale Chamber of Commerce's continuing effort to market the town during Thursday's monthly luncheon.

Joe Rowley, owner of Caldwell-based Hometown Marketing, will give more information about his efforts to create a map of Homedale replete with advertising from local businesses.

Also on the agenda is an update from the marketing committee about the joint Web site venture between the Chamber and the City of Homedale.

Chamber members met with Creative Web Design owner Gini Carrow of Caldwell to go over design ideas and costs of the Internet site.

Committee members voted to secure [www.cityofhomedale.org](http://www.cityofhomedale.org) and [www.cityofhomedale.com](http://www.cityofhomedale.com) as domain names for the proposed Web site. Discussion of content centered on a directory of all the town's businesses — with Chamber member businesses highlighted — as well as community events and a portal to city services and forms. A page with information on the city, including history, also was discussed.

"This is a good idea," Homedale public works supervisor Larry Bauer said. "Almost every city — even those smaller than Homedale — has a Web site."

Bauer was among a city contingent that included City Clerk Alice Pegram, deputy clerk Marsha Hays and Mayor-elect Harold Wilson. The city will

share the cost and duty of content development on the Web site.

Chamber president Gavin Parker said proceeds from the organization's golf tournament earlier this year will be used to help pay for the Web site.

Carrow, who also works as the Instructional Technology Integration and Support Specialist for the Homedale School District, estimated that the top end price for the Web site design and launch would be around \$3,000, not including the price for the domain name (\$10 per address) and a hosting contract (about \$70 a year for a premium package with a site-visit counter).

Carrow said the price could go lower depending on how much content the city and Chamber can provide.

A second meeting with Carrow was scheduled Tuesday to review the Web site's concept. A final estimate and the first part of the payment is expected Friday.

The site could be launched as early as Feb. 22, according to a proposed schedule of events supplied by Carrow.

In addition to review of the Web site project, the Chamber will kick off its 2008 membership drive during Thursday's meeting. Parker urged businesses to pay their 2008 dues by the January meeting so a final list for businesses for the proposed map, the Web-based directory and the planned business directory booklet can be secured.

— JPB

# Marsing FFA embarks on charity drive

*by Kelsey Granden, chapter reporter*

The Marsing FFA chapter is planning a food, clothing, and toy drive next week.

On Monday, FFA members will go door-to-door asking people for donations. Children clothes, toys and non-perishable foods will be accepted.

The chapter members are using a scavenger hunt theme for the drive.

All the items collected will be given to needy families around the valley, and the items will be given out several days before Christmas.

If you would like to donate something, call (208) 896-4112, ext. 188, and a Marsing FFA member will visit you home for pickup.

# Marsing boosters raising money for school athletics and clubs

The Marsing Paw Parents and Community Caring for our Kids (P.A.C.K.) is a new booster club created to help support school activities and athletics in town.

"The Marsing community really stands behind their kids," Marsing Paw P.A.C.K. president Shauna Sauer said. "They have been very supportive, and we tried to come up with a name that included everyone helping the kids — Parents And Community Caring for our Kids."

The Marsing Paw P.A.C.K., has launched a fund-raising effort that includes selling clothing, stickers and raffle tickets. Money will go to school athletics and clubs.

Items include sweat shirts, long- and short-sleeve T-shirts, hats, and window stickers. Basketball shirts and football shirts are on sale.

The Paw P.A.C.K. is raffling off a pontoon boat donated by Buck's Bags. Tickets are \$5 each, or five for \$20. A prize drawing will be held at the end of the Marsing High School basketball season.

The organization already has paid for new football uniforms, video equipment for use by all sports teams and canopies for the track and field team. The group also sponsors sports banquets and supports Marsing's Business Professionals of America chapter and yearbook class.

For information on the fund-raising efforts or the organization, contact Sauer at 455-2899 or e-mail [swsauer@yahoo.com](mailto:swsauer@yahoo.com).

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Group makes history at Homedale Middle School

Members of the first Homedale Middle School inductees into the National Junior Honor Society in more than a decade are all smiles after Wednesday's ceremony. Submitted photo

# HMS re-establishes national honors group

Wednesday was a historic day at Homedale Middle School as the school restored its chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). A group of 26 eighth-graders were inducted into the honor society during a ceremony hosted by the Homedale High School Honor Society. It marked the first time in 15 years that Homedale has had an NJHS presence. "We are very proud to recognize these outstanding members of our student body. National Junior Honor Society members are

chosen for and then expected to continue their exemplary contributions to the school and community," Homedale NJHS adviser Carri Lauson said. Homedale's NJHS members were selected by the chapter's Faculty Council for meeting high standards of scholarship, service, leadership, citizenship, and character. "It is an honor to be a part of inducting our first group of students into the National Junior Honor Society. Checking as far back as I can, it has been

15 years since the junior high, now Homedale Middle School has recognized students with an induction ceremony," HMS principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness said. "Our hope is that they will uphold the ideals of the Honor Society and they continue to work hard in school, challenge themselves academically, not letting the fear of failure get in the way of the kind of greatness that awaits them." Asumendi-Mereness said this year's group of inductees have set a precedent for all their classmates. "As the first inductees, it is incumbent upon them to 'blaze a trail' that will embody the positive role modeling that their peers need to see."

The inductees include: Kylie Farwell, Ashley Leslie, Deena Emry, Kylie Kushlan, Kate Eaton, Raven Kelly, Brenda Vega, Rachel Gonzalez, Phaedra Stevenson, Justine Calzacorta, Carissa Gardner, Laurien Mavey, Aubrey Nash, Katie Price, Nahum Bermudez, Casey Christoffersen, Bodie Hyer, Brett Ryska, Anthony Adams, Lane Matteson, Kyle Purdom, Zachary Lowder, Dominic Christiansen and Angel Jr Salazar. Homedale's 2007 NJHS inductees will welcome the next group of seventh- and eighth-grade honor society students in April. The first group of NJHS inductees came from Homedale Junior High during the 1963-64 school year.

# Owyhee residents dot BLM panels

Three people from in and around Owyhee County have been appointed to the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Advisory Council for the Boise District. Murphy area resident Brenda Richards, Grand View's Donna Bennett and Ted Howard from Owyhee, Nev., were among the appointees announced last week by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne. Richards began her third term on the Boise District RAC in September. She will retain her position as vice-chair. "My hopes from serving on the RAC have been to bring balanced, informative information forward for the multiple use of the resource, and since I serve on the RAC in the Public Lands Grazing capacity, to assure that public lands grazing continues to be represented on this RAC," Richards said. Like Richards, Bennett is a Category 1 member, representing grazing interests. Ted Howard, the cultural resources director for the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, is a Category 3 member, which includes elected officials, tribes and the public-at-large. Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman is a member of the Boise District RAC from Category 3. "The BLM's Resource Advisory Councils are excellent examples of a collaborative approach to public land management and conservation," Kempthorne said. "I welcome our new RAC members, commend them for their willingness to serve and look forward to their counsel as we work together to improve the health and productivity of the public lands." The BLM's RACs, composed of citizens chosen for their expertise in natural resource issues, help the BLM carry out its stewardship of 258 million acres of public lands. The BLM, which manages more land than any other federal agency, has 24 RACs across the West, where most BLM-managed land is located. Each RAC consists of 12 to 15 members with an interest in public land management, such as ranchers, conservationists, outdoor recreationists, Tribal officials, state and local government officials, academics and others. Rogerson rancher Marc Brackett was appointed to the BLM Twin Falls District RAC to represent grazing interests. BLM Director Jim Caswell said, "RAC members come from a variety of backgrounds and bring a wide range of perspectives to each of our councils. This diversity results in a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to manage the public lands for multiple uses."

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## OWC plans meeting, potluck

The Owyhee Watershed Council has rescheduled its monthly board meeting to coincide with a Christmas potluck in Jordan Valley. The OWC meeting and Christmas potluck will take place Friday at the Jordan Valley Lions Den at 902 Bassett off U.S. Highway 95 on the north end of the town. The meeting begins at 3 p.m., with the potluck to follow at 5 p.m. The OWC meeting had been scheduled for today at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing, where the council holds regular meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. For more information on the meeting and potluck, call (541) 372-5782.

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**Homedale sixth-graders cheer seniors**  
*A group of Homedale Middle School students from Pat Warren's sixth-grade class took part in the 18<sup>th</sup> annual concert of Christmas songs for people at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center and Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation Center. Submitted photo*

# HMS sixth-graders thank seniors with holiday songs

Homedale Middle School students brought a little holiday cheer to their town on Dec. 4 with their 18<sup>th</sup> annual concert.

Sixth-graders performed songs in eight different languages for senior citizens at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center and the Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation Center.

The students had practiced since the middle of October and were excited to bring their music to the seniors.

Students also brought greeting cards they made to hand out to those present as well as those who receive Meals-on-Wheels.

Songs included “Ring, Christmas Bells,” a song from the Ukraine.

The Russian version was supplied several years ago by a

foreign exchange student from the Ukraine who attended Homedale High School.

Another favorite song was “The Angel Gabriel,” a Basque carol translated by Gloria Lejardi especially for the sixth-grade concerts.

The students were led by two student helpers, Cheyenne Steinmetz and Destiny Long, during the performance of “Let There Be Peace on Earth” in American Sign Language. Debby Turner provided the correct signing for that song.

The students’ teacher, Mrs. Pat Warren, says that the concert provides an opportunity for students to give something back to the community, recognizing the valuable contributions of our senior citizens.

## Landmark adorns Christmas card

The historic Silver City Church, as rendered in an oil painting by Silver City and Wilder resident Cheryl Burrell, adorns Christmas cards that Silver City Fire & Rescue Inc., is selling to raise funds. For more information on how to buy the cards, contact SCF&R at [scfr@heritagewifi.com](mailto:scfr@heritagewifi.com) or 11618 Emerald Road, Nampa, ID 83686.



# OCSO steps in for starving cattle

The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office on Saturday seized 46 head of starving cattle from an Owyhee County man who has had starving cattle taken away from him in the past, according to dispatch logs and Sheriff Gary Aman.

One of the animals has since died of starvation, along with five others who died before the cattle were seized.

George Beck, of Homedale, could face the misdemeanor charge of animal cruelty for his treatment of the cattle. He could be charged with one count of cruelty for each of the starving animals he owns.

Aman said that Beck has had cattle taken away from him at least six times since 1995. Authorities have repeatedly confiscated starving cattle from Beck and fed them back to health. Aman said that a lien is placed on the animals to pay for their food, and if necessary, the cattle are sold to recover feeding costs.

Aman said that a local veterinarian and a veterinarian from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Animal Health division confirmed that the seized animals were starving. Aman also said that, although they are now being adequately fed, more of the cattle were likely to die as the result of their treatment by Beck.

— RTH

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# Farm can continue hauling cheese waste

Falcon Butte Farms spreads byproduct on Murphy Flat Road land

A court settlement finalized Thursday will allow an Owyhee County farm to haul dairy waste from a Canyon County cheese factory at least until late January.

County Planning and Zoning coordinator Mary Huff confirmed the settlement between the county and Falcon Butte Farms. Representatives from Falcon Butte Inc., Food By-Product Management LLC and the county prosecuting attorney's office were in district court in Murphy on Thursday to finalize the settlement.

An e-mail to county prosecutor Matthew Faulks seeking comment on the settlement wasn't answered by press time.

In essence, the agreement extends Falcon Butte's conditional use permit (CUP) until at least a Jan. 23 county Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in Murphy. Under the agreement, Falcon Butte can accept a maximum of 10 truckloads daily, based on a 30-day rolling average. The operation will submit a summary of the loads and other records to the county.

The agreement also protects Falcon Butte from any criminal or civil liability, fines or penalties dating to the Sept. 25 expiration date of the original CUP allowing shipment of cheese byproduct from the Sorrento Lactalis plant in Nampa. Falcon Butte applies the waste to its land located off Murphy Flat Road.

Falcon Butte filed an appeal with the county commissioners after the P&Z board had denied an application to extend the original CUP. In the meantime, Falcon Butte obtained temporary restraining order to continue operating under the original permit while it sought an injunction.

During its Nov. 26 appeal hearing before the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners, Falcon Butte presented new evidence to support its claim that the CUP should be granted. Following county code, the commissioners remanded the issue to the P&Z board, which could hear it at its Jan. 23 meeting in Murphy. Falcon Butte has the right to appeal any subsequent P&Z decision to the county commissioners.

If an extension is denied, Falcon Butte will have six months to cease shipments.

— JPB

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18pk 12oz Cans or Bottles  
Coors Beer **\$1299** ea.

Western Family Sour Cream 24 oz. <b>3 for \$5</b>	Western Family Light Amber Walnuts <b>\$509</b> ea. 16 oz.	Swiss Miss Hot Cocoa Mix <b>\$129</b> ea. 10 ct.	Western Family Apple Juice & Cider <b>\$189</b> ea. 64 oz.
Home Pride White or Wheat Bread <b>\$199</b> ea. 20 oz.	Western Family Milk & Semi Sweet <b>\$129</b> ea. Chocolate Chips 11.5-12 oz.	Western Family Canned Tomatoes <b>59¢</b> ea. 14.5-15 oz.	Green Giant Vegetables <b>79¢</b> ea. 11-15.25 oz.
Top Ramen Noodles <b>10 for \$150</b>	Western Family Oats <b>\$189</b> ea. 42 oz.	Western Family Peanut Butter <b>\$349</b> ea. 40 oz.	Rold Gold Pretzels, Quaker Snack Mix, Munchies 9-16 oz. <b>2 for \$4</b>
Christmas Candy Asst'd Varieties <b>\$299</b> ea.	Hershey's Orange Balls <b>\$269</b> ea. 6 oz.	Western Family Snack Crackers <b>\$199</b> ea. 14.5-16 oz.	Lay's Potato Chips & Tostitos Dips <b>2 for \$5</b> 12.5-15.5 oz.
Maxwell House & Yuban Coffee <b>\$699</b> ea. 33-36 oz.	Sara Lee Pies <b>\$329</b> ea. 37 oz.	Western Family Whip Topping <b>99¢</b> ea. 8 oz.	Whisker Licken Cat Food <b>4 for \$5</b> 2-3 oz.
Chinet Paper Plates <b>\$279</b> ea. 15-25 ct.	Kleenex Facial Tissue <b>\$229</b> ea. 180-280 ct.	Western Family Creamy Select Ice Cream 56 oz. <b>2 for \$6</b>	Ocean Spray Cranberry Juices <b>\$309</b> ea. 64 oz.

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

**WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 12/12/07 thru 12/18/07**