

To: Santa Claus
From: Owyhee kids

Santa letters
B Section

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

County crime spree, Page 3A

TRIAD kudos, Page 3A

Suspects arrested in connection
to string of burglaries, car thefts

Volunteer agency names
Owyhee lawmen of the year

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

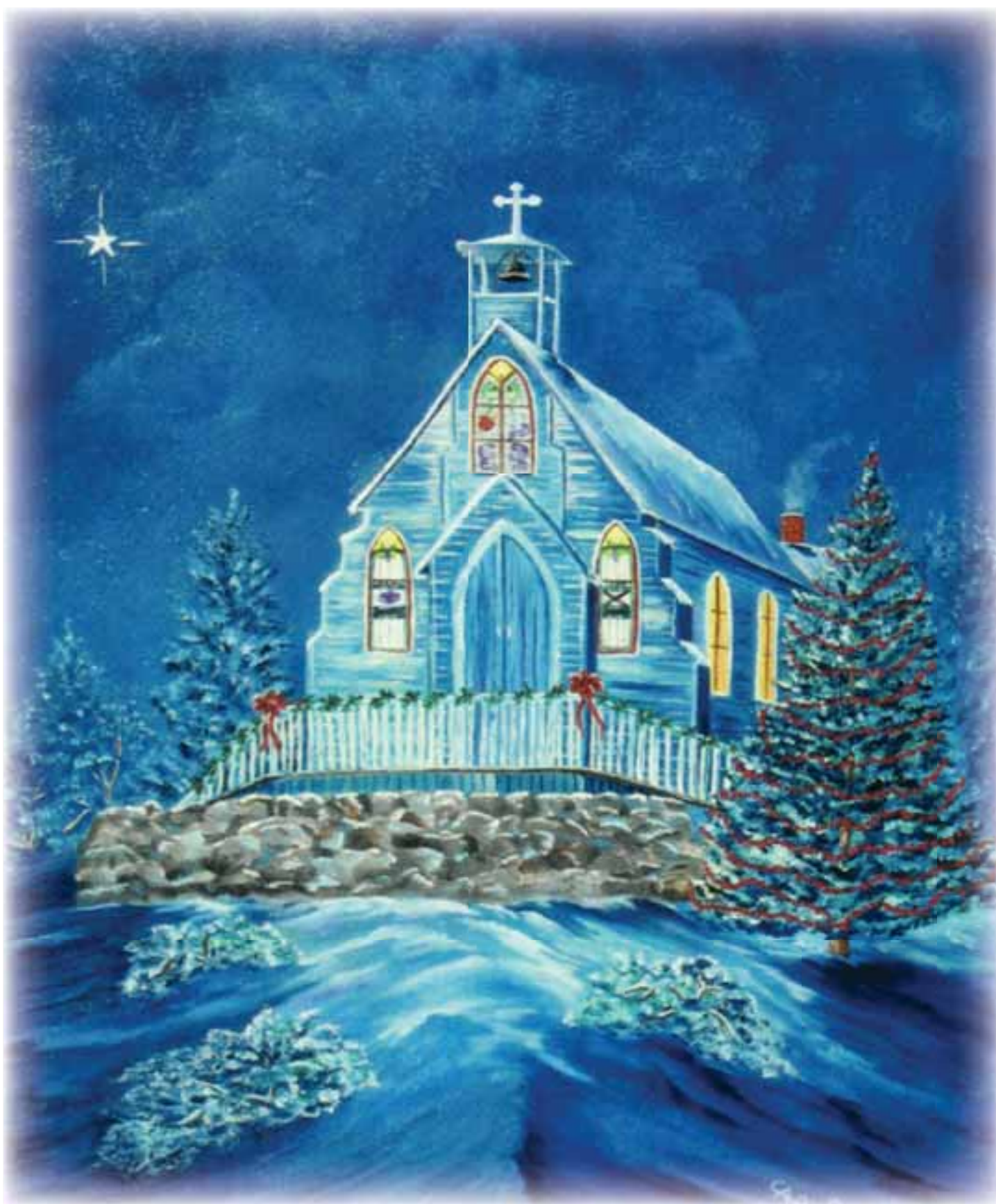
Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 51

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



Gifts of the magi

*And when they
were come into the
house, they saw the
young child with
Mary his mother,
and fell down, and
worshipped him
and when they had
opened their treasure,
they presented him
gifts; gold, and
frankincense, and
myrrh.*

St. Matthew 2:11

ABOUT THE PAINTING

*This artistic rendering of the
Our Lady of Tears Catholic
Church in Silver City was painted
by Wilder resident Cheryl Bur-
ril, who is an owner of the Peer
House in the Silver City.*

*The Silver City Fire and Res-
cue, Inc. commissioned the paint-
ing from Burril to use in Christ-
mas cards sold as a fundraiser.*

More on Burril, Page 10A

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City gives
land for office
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Christmas from the pages of The Owyhee Avalanche

December 24, 1870

Merry Christmas

The angel’s hymn, which eighteen hundred years ago was wafted o’er Juda’s plains to the shepherds, proclaiming the birth of Israel’s King, and chanting “Peace on Earth, Good Will to Man,” has reverberated all those centuries through the corridors of time, and strikes our ears with renewed sweetness as on the threshold of another Christmas we stand. The Christmas light is breaking upon us, and even now we seem to catch the first strains of “Gloria in Excelsis,” and with rapturous hearts we swell the notes “Glory to God in the Highest.”

In the home of the rich, where wealth supplies every want, and where blessings are manifold; in the hovel of the poor, where perhaps the only Christmas light is the smiling face of an innocent babe, glad voices raise their praise, and the song is still the same. We stand upon the verge of another Christmas.

A year has passed since last we mingled in its festivities, and we are brought again to share its pleasures. We know that it is at hand, for the stores are teeming with beautiful presents -- windows glitter with their wealth of costly goods, which seem to smile as we look at them; Christmas trees are being prepared; the churches throughout the land are being



Another view of the Our Lady of Tears Catholic Church in Silver City with a dusting of snow all around.

decorated; nimble fingers twine the bay, and young faces are breaking into ripples of joy at the anticipated visit of “Santa Claus.”

To the young the charm of Christmas lies in the number and beauty of the presents it brings; to the older it has a far deeper significance. Who can forget the feelings of his earlier years as Christmas was announced? The expectations, the longings, the hopes, the fears, the desire to sit up and see the man who filled the stockings; to watch him come down the chimney; to witness his departure over the roof, with his “Dancer and Prancer,” and “Donder and Blixsen.” But watch ever so closely we could never

catch him, for the eyes would grow weary, and the little head drop over, fast asleep.

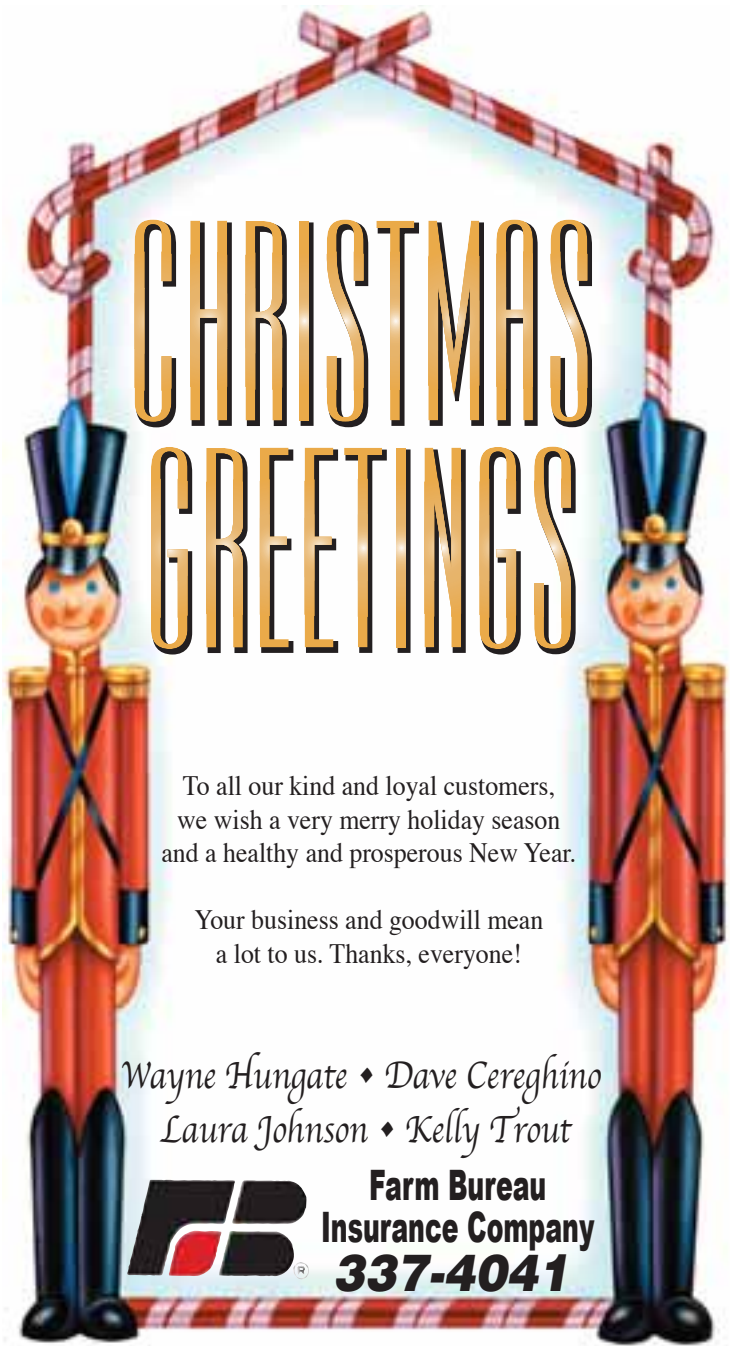
O, who can forget the joys on awaking on Christmas morn, with the Christmas light falling upon stockings swelled with Christmas gifts, with candies and other precious sweet-meats! and a jumping jack staring right at you! There would be dolls for the girls; dolls with rubber heads and red dresses; dolls that would cry; and new dresses -- and away down at the bottom, down in the toe, candy always. For the boys there would be jackknives, glittering and sharp; monkeys with grotesque faces; popguns to satisfy the martial mind; marbles by the dozen -- and -- candy at the bottom. O, happy, happy moments, when children count their gifts and wonder how the treasure man could so well anticipate their wishes! And these pleasures outlive childhood; we do not bury their joys in the

childhood’s flower-decked tomb. They grow upon us, and we live them over again, when we hear the merry laughter of children on Christmas morn.

Then comes the Christmas dinner, glorious feast! Another Utopia where children revel, whose airs are redolent with the flavor of roast turkeys; whose rivers flows with oyster soup, through whose mist may be seen the marsh of cranberry sauce, with its floating island, and, towering high beyond, the mountain of plum cake; the ruddy flow of old Java pouring from the side of a bounteous reservoir. And then to see them swim the river, wade the marsh, clamber upon the island, scale the mountain, and drink from the crimson stream! Say that children do not revel in such scenes, and you deny the existence of childhood. There is the Christmas tree, with its installment of gifts; the little ones

puzzle their brains to know how “Santa Claus” got them there, for they surely have kept watch and ward. The little tapers burn cheerily, and the limbs spring back as their burdens are removed. The dolls are gone, the candy eaten, the books distributed, the wooden horses have galloped away -- and nothing remains but the pine branches.

The little ones are put to bed; they lie down and dream -- of what, the little mind only knows. There are many about us, who are looking forward to Christmas with joyful expectations; there are the young and the old -- the young to stockings corpulent with presents -- the old to a happy reunion with friends. Already the Christmas tree begins to bend beneath its precious burdens, and Christmas dinners preparing. Let us romp with the children and live again the pleasures of youth. From every home let the shout go up, “Laus Deo.” From the field, the workshop and the mine, let the laborer cry “Laus Deo.” From the halls of splendor and the habitations of poverty let frail humanity sing “Laus Deo.” From the priest, and from the congregation, let “Laus Deo” arise in one grand harmonious pean to the Throne above. Yes, “Praise God” for the Christmas light, and teach your little ones as they grow up the deep significance of the word, and the value of God’s gift to man. “Wreath the holly, twine the hay, Christ was born on Christmas day,” and, whether at home or abroad, in church or out, do not forget the angel’s song, “Peace on earth, good will to men.”




CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To all our kind and loyal customers, we wish a very merry holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Your business and goodwill mean a lot to us. Thanks, everyone!

Wayne Hungate ♦ Dave Cereghino
Laura Johnson ♦ Kelly Trout



Farm Bureau Insurance Company
337-4041

SEASON'S GREETINGS



Wishing you all the best this Holiday Season



Owyhee Auto Supply
Homedale 337-4668
Marsing 896-4815

Sports, Page 1C

Future of power, Page 13A

Holiday hours, Page 4A

JV boys ride to top of the HDL East

County summit attracts experts from all energy fields

What's open, what's closed for Christmas, New Year's

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

A SECTION, 16 PAGES

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

DAVE SAYS COLUMN, PAGE 7A

Giving a hand to a helping hand



Volunteers prepare food boxes for Homedale's needy

Marisol Gonzalez, left, a Homedale High School senior and vice-president of the school's Future Hispanic Leaders of America chapter, helps Bill Meldrum from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church load bags of oranges into boxes Friday at Homedale Elementary School. The boxes were distributed to needy Homedale families Saturday. More photos from the preparation and the season, **Pages 8-9A**

3 arrested for Owyhee crime spree

Authorities made three arrests Monday in connection with a western Idaho crime spree that included several incidents in Owyhee County.

Two men and a woman were apprehended in Nampa after a multi-agency investigation that began when the first crimes were reported Dec. 8-9.

"I can't say enough good about the working relationship with Elmore County, Nampa and Canyon County. There has been just a lot of hard, honest, old-fashioned police work," Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said Tuesday.

"Through evidence and photographs, we identified the three people responsible for our home invasion robbery and several other burglaries of residences or vehicles."

The suspects, all of Nampa, are Josh Larrea, Anthony Bernal and Sara Zavala. In Owyhee County alone, they are believed to be responsible for at least 10 burglaries, a home invasion in which an 82-year-old woman was handcuffed to a bed for 11 hours, and three vehicle thefts.

Most recently, they are con-

nected to a car theft in Marsing on Friday and two vehicle burglaries last weekend in which property from crimes committed in Canyon County were recovered, Aman said.

The sheriff said the trio are suspects in a string of crimes stretching from Ontario, Ore., to Hammett.

Aman said the group faces counts on several felonies, including kidnapping, vehicle theft, burglary and robbery. Additional charges are expected.

Authorities recovered numerous weapons when the three were taken into custody at separate residences in Nampa.

Property from crimes in Owyhee, Elmore and Canyon counties was recovered during the Monday arrests, Aman said.

"Some of the burglaries we weren't even aware of yet," Aman said.

Aman said Larrea originally refused to exit the building in which he was found. He was captured trying to escape out a back door as the Nampa Police Department's SWAT team was being deployed at the location.

Lawmen cited for saving lives

TRIAD splits its Owyhee officer of the year award

Two Owyhee County law enforcement officers were saluted Wednesday by TRIAD with county officer of the year awards.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Deputy Aron Streibel and Homedale Police Officer Mike McFetridge were presented with plaques by Ervin Gifford of TRIAD for their actions in live-saving situations in 2007.

"He's a hero in my eyes, and I hope in your eyes, too," Gifford said while presenting McFetridge's award during Wednesday's Homedale City Council meeting.

Streibel also attended McFetridge's award ceremony, hours after his own plaque presentation at the sheriff's office in Murphy.

"I think it's awesome. He deserves it," Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said of McFetridge's honor after the meeting.



Group shows gratitude for patrolmen

TRIAD representative Ervin Gifford stands between the 2007 officer of the year award recipients, Owyhee County Sheriff's Deputy Aron Streibel, left, and Homedale Police Officer Mike McFetridge.

"I appreciate the fact that TRIAD took time to recognize that he did outstanding work that day. He does outstanding work every day."

Streibel was concise in his humility over earning the award, which is given annually by Triad

and usually only to one recipient.

"I'm honored," the 3½-year sheriff's office veteran said.

Streibel was singled out for his actions in saving eight members

— See **Lawmen**, page 11A

Homedale pledges land for county office

Over Downing's plea for hearing, council votes to give an acre for annex

During a chippy Wednesday meeting, the Homedale City Council approved a pledge of an acre of land to the county for a government annex building.

Despite pleas for a public hearing on the matter, Mayor Paul Fink asked for a motion donating one acre of the controversial 7-acre parcel southeast of the airport to Owyhee County.

"I think it's a good program for the City of Homedale and a great asset for the people," Fink said of consolidating county offices in town.

Councilmen Bill Page and Dave Downum voted to pledge the land to the county after a lengthy and sometimes-heated discussion highlighted by input from an

— See **Land**, page 5A

During this busy holiday season take some time to relax and enjoy your family and friends. Reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the true reason for celebration!



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

Luke 2:8-14



Merry Christmas from all of us at...

BOWEN PARKER DAY

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337-3271



Offices set to close for pair of holidays

Avalanche sets special deadlines

Federal, state, and county offices will be closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, as will banks, schools, and city offices in Homedale and Marsing. Homedale’s city hall also will be closed on Christmas Eve and will close at noon on New Year’s Eve.

Paul’s Market in Homedale will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve, closed on Christmas Day, and open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on New Year’s Day.

Snake River Mart in Marsing will be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve and from 8 a.m. to noon Christmas Day.

Public safety agencies such as Homedale Police, the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office and county fire departments will be available for emergency calls.

The Owyhee Avalanche office will be closed on Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Deadlines for the Dec. 26 edition are noon Friday for display advertising and legal notices. The classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday.

For the Jan. 3 edition, deadlines for display advertising and legal notices will be noon on Friday, Dec. 28. The classifieds deadline will be 5 p.m. on Dec. 28.

County sets ’08 election schedule

Owyhee County announced the election calendar for various taxing districts this week.

County elected offices also will be on the 2008 ballot, including positions currently held by Sheriff Gary Aman, Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks and commissioners Hal Tolmie (District I) and Jerry Hoagland (District 2).

In a legal notice published in this week’s edition of The Owyhee Avalanche, County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn announced that a May 27 board of directors election will be held for three county library districts, including Lizard Butte in Marsing, Eastern Owyhee in Grand View and Bruneau Valley in Bruneau. The candidacy filing deadline for the three elections is March 21.

Elections for three cemetery district boards and the Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire District commission is scheduled for Nov. 4. Filing deadline is Sept. 1 for candidates wishing to serve on the MRW commission or the boards of Marsing-Homedale, Owyhee Pioneer or Bruneau cemeteries.

The candidacy declaration window for county offices is March 10 through March 21.

The county primary will be held on May 27, and the general election is Nov. 4.

The Owyhee Avalanche

P.O. BOX 97 • HOMEDALE, ID 83628
PHONE 208 / 337-4681 •
FAX 208 / 337-4867
E-mail

owyheeavalanche@cableone.net

U.S.P.S. NO. 416-340
Copyright 2007—ISSN #8750-6823

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

Published each week in Homedale, Idaho by Owyhee Avalanche, Inc. Entered as Periodical, paid at the Post Office at Homedale, ID under the Act of March 3, 1879. POSTMASTER: send address changes to THE OWYHEE AVALANCHE, P.O. 97, Homedale, ID 83628.

Subscription Rates:
Owyhee County..... \$31.80
Canyon, Ada, Malheur
counties 37.10
Elsewhere in Idaho..... 42.40
Elsewhere (outside Idaho)
..... 40.00

Deadlines

Display advertising

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Inserts

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Classifieds

Monday noon the week of publication

Legal notices

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Letters to the editor

Friday noon the week prior to publication
(Limit 300 words, signed, with day phone number.)



Member

Have a news tip?

Call us!

337-4681

County's revenue spike feeds burgeoning budget

As many folks get ready to pay their property tax bills before Thursday's deadline, they may be wondering about exactly where the money will be going this year.

Owyhee County's tax revenue will increase 36.5 percent this year between Road District 1 and other county government expenses. But that extra money will come in handy because the board of county commissioners passed a fiscal year 2008 budget in September that spends about \$1 million more than FY 2007.

The \$8.8 million county budget required officials to levy to within less than \$100 of the maximum amount allowed by state law this year.

Each year, counties are allowed to levy 3 percent more than the maximum allowable amount from the previous year plus factor in the value of new construction. According to Associated Taxpayers of Idaho president Randy Nelson, Owyhee County was able to legally exceed the 3 percent threshold because officials had a foregone amount of \$189,183 that carried over because the county had budgeted below the maximum allowable amount two years ago.

The increased revenue will be spread throughout county departments, with the Planning and Zoning wing seeing the largest budgetary jump.

The P&Z department has an

FY 2008 budget that has more than tripled from the 2007 budget. A 325 percent increase in the budget line has been contributed to anticipated expenditures related to the conditional use permit application process for the Idaho Energy Complex, a 1,600-megawatt nuclear power facility proposed for the Grand View area.

The commissioners also approved a 75.4 percent increase in the county fair and fairgrounds budget. This week, the fair board has announced a solicitation for bids to build the overdue livestock barn expansion in time for the 2008 fair.

The county's junior college tuition fund to help residents attend College of Southern Idaho

in Twin Falls was expanded nearly 39 percent, from \$18,000 to \$25,000.

The Road and Bridge budget line increased 33.7 percent to just under \$2 million.

The Civil Defense budget rose 30.1 percent to \$55,559.

The commissioners approved a 24.3 percent increase in the probation office's budget to \$258,151. And now there is talk of moving the probation office into a new building, which could cost the county more than \$250,000 whether a new building is built on land donated last week by the City of Homedale or the probation office moves into the existing Owyhee Conservation District building at 19 Reich St.

in Marsing.

Other budget lines with large increases included:

- County agent: From \$104,559 to \$129,180 (23.5 percent)
- Building department: From \$89,180 to \$108,435 (21.6 percent)
- Technology department: From \$131,300 to \$159,500 (21.5 percent)
- Pest control: From \$9,800 to \$11,800 (20.4 percent)
- Weed control: From \$111,046 to \$133,389 (20.1 percent)
- Tort: From \$115,000 to \$138,000 (20 percent)
- County clerk/auditor: From \$346,272 to \$415,356 (19.9 percent)

— JPB

From page 1

✓ Land: Tolmie wants to consolidate probation, DMV in Homedale

unusually large crowd in the magistrate courtroom.

City councilman Tim Downing silently abstained from the vote after raising concerns that a public hearing should be held before the council commits to donate land bought with taxpayers' money.

"We're not donating anything tonight to the county," Fink said in response to Downing's concern. "All we're making is a pledge that we will donate an acre of ground."

"That sounds like a commit," Downing said.

"It is a commitment," Fink responded.

The motion passed was to donate the land only if the county Board of Commissioners approves the consolidation of the county Department of Motor Vehicles and probation office in a new building in Homedale.

Downing said he was concerned that the donation of land for government use would make a piece of prime real estate exempt from property taxes.

District 1 commissioner Hal Tolmie is pushing to consolidate county offices in Homedale and Marsing under one roof in his hometown for the convenience of his constituency.

"My constituency is the Homedale-Marsing area, and we have about 30 percent of the county's population in the Homedale area," Tolmie said.

"I just thought it was a good idea not only for the citizens of Homedale, but for the taxpayers by saving their money."

Tolmie said the county won't use the land unless the commissioners approve a plan that would include the construction of a building at an estimated cost of between \$265,000 and \$280,000.

The new building would house the license bureau now located in cramped Marsing City Hall as well as the county probation office — and its classroom — which is



Commissioner presents plan for annex

District 1 Commissioner Hal Tolmie holds up part of the architectural rendering for a structure he wants built to house Owyhee County services in Homedale.

located on the northwest corner of West First Street and West Idaho Avenue in Homedale.

Tolmie said that the plans he has had drawn up have a provision for a satellite office for the sheriff, even though that office would be located closer to Homedale, which has its own police department, than to Marsing where more deputy patrols are made.

Tolmie said the consolidation in Homedale could give area residents a better chance to get on the county payroll.

"What it would do is give a chance of more locals in this area to apply for jobs when they come open," Tolmie said. "In fact, I'd like to move the county seat to Homedale or Marsing."

Asserting that Homedale has about 30 juveniles in the probation system compared to 10 from Marsing, Tolmie also said that keeping the probation office in the county's largest city would encourage those juveniles in the system to continue to attend class at the facility.

The veteran commissioner said he supported the Homedale branch rather than relocating to the existing vacant building

owned by the Owyhee Conservation District in Marsing because it would mean less fuel costs for people in the probation system as well as Homedale residents needing to renew their driver's licenses and automobile registrations.

The option of buying the OCD building would cost the county \$250,000 to \$260,000, Tolmie said. But he said the Homedale layout would provide more room for parking at a 3,600-square-foot facility.

"I think it would be a terrible thing if this thing is processed and put in Marsing because the probation office has several employees that live around here and most of the kids — that's not saying too much maybe for Homedale — but most of the kids in that probation department is Homedale kids, and that means a lot of transportation back and forth to the probation office," Fink said.

Tolmie said his idea also would move the services closer to the population center of this part of the county.

"All we're trying to do is to support the most population for the least amount of money," he said.

Council grants water project

The Homedale City Council officially awarded the water line replacement construction project to Sommer Construction during its Wednesday meeting.

City engineer Fred Ostler of PEC, Inc., said all that's left now is the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development to sign off on the bid. USDA Rural Development has final approval because it is backing the bond for the construction.

Nampa-based Sommer had a low bid of a little more than \$1.15 million for the job, which will include replacing old lines and putting valves throughout the Homedale system.

A separate project will be awarded to drill a new well. Stevenson & Sons of Boise has earned the contract to drill the test well.

Although the motion passed with Page and Downum's affirmative votes, Fink cast what he called a tiebreaker vote. With two of the three councilmen approving the deal, Fink's vote was unnecessary. He also pointedly asked deputy city clerk Marsha Hays if she recorded Downing's abstention.

Fink pledged his support for moving the county annex to Homedale beyond his time in office, which ends when Harold Wilson assumes mayoral duties next month.

The five-term mayor told Tolmie that he would attend any per-

tinent commission meetings in Murphy.

Several people spoke out on the issue during Wednesday's meeting, including Mayor-elect Wilson and City Councilman-elect Eino Hendrickson.

"The property, as I understand, was purchased for airport development," Wilson said. "I don't see how we can give the county or anybody else an acre."

Hendrickson asked Tolmie if bringing the motor vehicles division to Homedale would be stealing anything from Marsing.

"They stole the license bureau from Homedale to start with," Tolmie said.

Fink and Wilson argued after the current mayor brought up a recent meeting with Kings Discount Department Stores owner Tom King, who has expressed interest in using a minimum of two acres on the parcel for retail development.

"Tom still wants to come to Homedale, but I'm getting feedback that as soon as my term is up that all negotiations is going to be suspended," Fink said.

"It will if I'm going to have something to say about it," Wilson said from the gallery.

"It sounds to me like you want to back this city up about 25 years," Fink fired back.

"I'm not backing anything up," Wilson responded, adding that he was against minimal leases for the land to allow outside businesses to compete with existing firms that have spent "hundreds of thousands of dollars" to bring their business to town.

"Where have you been? Have you been in the dark?" Fink asked Wilson. "There are hundreds of thousands of dollars that (the city) would have taken in taxes and rent."

At that point, Downum stepped in and steered the debate back toward the issue of the county office relocation.

— JPB

Obituary

Ida J. Burt

Ida J. Burt, 73, of Homedale went to be with the Lord on December 15, 2007. Viewing was held on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 9:30 AM till service time at the church. Funeral Service was Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 10:30 AM at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, First Ward, with Bishop Alan McRae officiating, 708 W. Idaho Ave, Homedale. Internment followed at Wilder Cemetery. Services are under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

Ida was born on July 26, 1934 in American Fork, Utah to Rulon & Ruby Chadwick. She lived in Homedale for Twenty-Seven years. She loved and spent most of her time



to support various organizations and people in the community, among some were Crisis Hotline,

EMT- Homedale Fire Dept., and teaching at various schools in the Homedale District. Ida loved playing cards and games.

She is survived by her children, Ruby & Kit Heston, Judy & Fred Kenney, Edward & Melissa Dimick, Leanna & Gary Mathews, Ronald Dimick, 20 grandchildren, 29 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren. Ida was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Burt, sisters Joann Swigart and Carol Richards, a brother, Rulon Chadwick, great granddaughter Danaughlynn Nix. In Lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to The Homedale Fire Dept or Homedale First Ward Fast Offerings.

J. Max Collett

J. Max Collett, whose life has touched so many, died December 1, 2007 and was laid to rest Friday, Dec. 7th in Grand View, Idaho. Max was born the 2nd son to Daniel and Vernetta (Buchanan) Collett in Paul, Idaho on November 27, 1926. He spent his youth on the family farm in Glenns Ferry. He enlisted in the Navy at age 17, serving on the USS California during WWII.

After the war, he returned back to Idaho and attended Boise Jr. College for a time before working full-time at the 1st Security Bank in Boise. During this time, he fell in love with his wife of 60 years, Joyce Mathis of Glenns Ferry and Boise. They often joked about meeting each other when he was in the 4th grade and she in the 2nd. Max and Joyce married on June 26, 1948. When the family farm became available, Max quit the bank and moved his new bride to Grand View. He would spend the rest of his life doing what he loved best, farming. Always a good steward and still in his 70s, he spent the last 10 years of



farming growing organic alfalfa and wheat.

Max exemplified a life full of zest and was loved by all who knew him. He traveled with Joyce extensively at numerous places in the world before choosing Honolulu, Hawaii, for the last 20 years to spend the winter months while his farm was at rest. He was a pilot, frequently flying to their cabin in McCall to escape the summer heat of Grand View.

Max was active in many civic organizations, including the local chapters of Lions Club, Elks, and American Legion. He was a co-founder of the Valley Medical Clinic in Grand View, a legacy he was quite proud of.

For the many who knew him, Max held on to his sense of kindness, sense of humor until the very end of his life. He touched almost everyone he met with a smile and a hand shake. A man's caricature is often defined by his friends, family, and stories left behind; All who knew him would agree that Max was special and beloved by many.

Max is survived by his loving wife, Joyce; his daughter, Diane Matthews and husband, Darrell, of Boise; his son, Steven Max and wife, Maggie, of Grand View; a brother, Bob Collett and wife, Ruth, of Oreana; a brother, Gary Collett and wife, Julie, of Sammamish, WA; a sister, Donetta Clark and husband, Marlin, of Boise; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Death notices

LUKE M. DROEGE, infant, died in Homedale on Dec. 9, 2007. Graveside services were held Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at Marsing-Homedale Cemetery.

FRANK DUANE SMITH, 71, of Adrian, Ore., died Sunday, Dec. 9, 2007, in Caldwell. Visitation was held Thursday, Dec. 13, 2007, at Lienkaemper Chapel in Nyssa, Ore. The funeral was held Friday,

Dec. 14, 2007, at the Owyhee LDS Ward in Nyssa. Burial was at the Owyhee Cemetery in Nyssa.

JOHN T. SQUIRES, 75, of Marsing died Sunday, Dec. 16, 2007, at a Boise hospital. Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. Interment will follow at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery, Marsing. 337-3252



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

Flahiff Funeral Chapels & Crematory

Since 1952, Flahiff Funeral Chapels have been dedicated to providing the families of Canyon and Owyhee Counties with a caring and professional environment to celebrate the life of a loved one. We offer services that are tailored to meet the individual needs of each family.

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Caldwell
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(208) 459-0833

Homedale
27 E. Owyhee Ave. - Homedale, ID 83628
(208) 337-3252

School menus

Homedale Elementary

- Dec. 19: Chicken sandwich or rib-b-que, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cake, milk.
- Dec. 20: Turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, fruit salad, roll/jelly, pumpkin pie, milk.
- Dec. 21: Cheese pizza or PB&J, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Dec. 24-Jan 4: Christmas vacation – No school.

Homedale Middle

- Dec. 19: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 20: Nachos or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, rice krispie treat, milk.
- Dec. 21: Turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, fruit salad, roll/jelly, strawberry short cake, milk.
- Dec. 24-Jan 4: Christmas vacation – No school.

Homedale High

- Dec. 19: Idaho haystack, burrito or pizza hot pocket, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.
- Dec. 20: Turkey/gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, jello fruit salad, roll, pumpkin cake, milk.
- Dec. 21: Crispito or rib-b-que, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Dec. 24-Jan 4: Christmas vacation – No school.

Marsing

- Dec. 19: Hamburger, veggie, dessert, milk, hot dog/chorizo, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Dec. 20: Turkey, fruit, corn, milk, chicken fried steak, salad bar 4th-12th, maple bar.

Bruneau

- Dec. 19: Hamburger, tots, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.
- Dec. 20: Turkey dinner, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas, roll/butter, fruit, dessert, milk.
- Dec. 21: Corn dog, fries, fresh veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

Senior menus

Marsing Senior Center

- Dec. 19: Breakfast to order. BBQ ribs, baked potatoes, spinach, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
- Dec. 20: Hams, yams, peas, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
- Dec. 24-27: Closed.

Homedale Senior Center

- Dec. 19: Sausage & biscuits, country gravy, carrots, beverage.
- Dec. 20: Christmas dinner — turkey & trimmings.
- Dec. 25: Closed.
- Dec. 26: Baked fish, macaroni & cheese, carrots, roll, beverage.

Marsing US Bank fires up ATM

The US Bank Marsing location on Main Street will unveil a new piece of technology during a ribbon cutting and open house at 10 a.m. today.

The Marsing US Bank branch has received an automated teller machine (ATM), which will be put

into service officially today.

An open house will be held from 10 a.m. 2 p.m., starting off with the ribbon cutting.

This is the second ATM in Marsing. The bank branch has operated for years without a machine.



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Your finances Planning for funeral is fine, but don't pre-pay

Dear Dave,
Is it advisable to buy a pre-arranged or pre-paid funeral?
— Jane



Dear Jane,
There's nothing wrong with pre-arranged funerals. A pre-arranged funeral just means that you've made all the plans ahead of time. This way, your family knows if you want the upscale mahogany casket or the budget model, where you want to be buried and things like that. Basically, it's just shopping around and making decisions in advance.
But I would never pre-PAY a funeral. On average, funerals increase in cost by about 5 or 6 percent a year. You can make more than that on your money by investing wisely.
If you pre-pay your funeral instead of investing that money, you're losing about 5 to 10 percent each year. So, if you pre-pay an \$8,000 funeral, it's costing you about \$400 to \$800 per year of lost interest. The funeral home gets the benefit of using your money instead of you!
Now, this is supposing you invest wisely. If you have all of your money tied up in Certificates of Deposit earning 2 percent a year, then you would come out ahead pre-paying your funeral because the yearly increases in costs outweigh your savings.
But I hope you're seeing a better return on your investments than 2 percent. You certainly should be!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
My father owns a lot in town and recently received a notice that there is a property tax lien against it.
Are any of the penalties associated with this lien negotiable?
Also, someone was telling me that individuals can actually invest in tax liens. Is this true?
— Louis

Dear Louis,
I've never heard of a municipality negotiating those liens, so I'd have to say probably not. If you think about it, they really have no reason to do that. Sooner or later someone will be willing to come

and pay that amount when the municipality seizes that land and auctions it off.
With regard to investing in tax liens, it's true that in some states you can invest in them. Certificates are issued that investors can purchase, and if your father had a tax lien on a lot they would issue a certificate on the tax lien instead of selling the property. An investor can buy the tax certificate, and will become the owner of the property in a year or two if the tax debtor doesn't pay off the certificate holder.
Now, if the tax debtor wants to keep the property, they have to pay the certificate holder the amount owed plus interest — which is where the investing part comes into play. In some states, the interest can be as high as 10 to 12 percent.
I don't fuss with that type of investment because the return is just not worth the hassles associated with them. Trying to make sure you have a clean title to a property and finding one you really want is like searching for a needle in a haystack. Plus, lots of the interest and questions regarding the subject of investing in real estate tax liens are generated by those questionable late-night real estate guys selling tapes.
Can it be done? Sure, but to me it's just way too much trouble for such marginal returns.

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*. He also is the host *The Dave Ramsey Show* that airs at 6 p.m. daily on the Fox Business Channel. 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

Read all about it
in
The Owyhee Avalanche
337-4681

Calendar

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
Holiday Dance, 7 p.m., bring finger foods, 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

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County's Christmas spirit

Hands Around Homedale drive another success

The community of Homedale came through once again for its needy neighbors with the annual Hands Around Homedale gift and food drive.

Sixty-six families picked up holiday care packages stuffed with food during Saturday distribution at Homedale Elementary School.

The annual Wish Tree gift drive presented by Beta Sigma Phi also culminated Saturday with Homedale Fire and Police personnel handing out presents to dozens of needy children from the Homedale School District.

Food drive coordinator Randee Garrett, Homedale Elementary counselor, said 66 families were served during Saturday's three-hour food pick-up.

Food collected by students at all three schools in the Homedale district was transferred to the elementary school, where volunteers swarmed over tables of

canned goods, dry goods and fresh fruit and vegetables to compile gift boxes. Garrett said the sorting and stuffing was completed by 5 p.m. Friday.

"I had great help from students in all three schools, as well as staff that pitched in," Garrett said. "It's definitely a collaborative effort, and with everyone's help it runs pretty smoothly."

More than 1,500 pounds of food came from the high school, which is the only one of the three campuses that weighs its contribution, Garrett said.

As has become a bit of a tradition, Mike Greeley's class won the high school's competition for food collection. Aided by 495 pounds of onions, Greeley's students brought in more than 530 pounds of food.

Melinda Lathrop's students were second with a haul of 182 pounds, followed by Miren Lejardi (143.6 pounds), David

Hart (93.3 pounds) and Bridgett Paluzzi (43.5 pounds).

Students from the National Honor Society chapter gathered at Paul's Market on Thursday to help Tim Quintana of the Caldwell Euzkaldunak Charity Organization pick up dozens of meat items that were presented to the food drive.

Among the items that Homedale seniors Dayton Syme, Joshua Klug and Mark Klug helped pick up were 16 turkeys, 24 hams and 36 gift packs that included chicken, hamburger and hot dogs. Garrett said the meat donation probably put the total contribution of food at about three tons.

The three seniors were doing the deed as part of the community service requirement for the honor society, but Syme cut through that with a simple utterance:

"It's something good to do."

— JPB



Volunteers sort food

Homedale High School librarian Sherry Thomas, left, and elementary school teacher Mary Jo Larzelier organize food at the end of a long line of tables.



Schools triumph over hunger

Clockwise from above:

Canned goods piled up around the Christmas tree near the main office of Homedale Middle School before the food stocks were transferred to Homedale Elementary for distribution Friday.

Homedale High School National Honor Society members helped move meat donated by the Caldwell Euzkaldunak Charity Organization from Paul's Market to the elementary. Toting the load were, from left, Joshua Klug, Mark Klug, Stan Zatica, Dayton Syme and Tim Quintana.

The teachers of the top four classes in the high school's annual food drive contest posed with about 1,500 pounds of food. From left, Bridgett Paluzzi, David Hart, Mike Greeley, Melinda Lathrop and Miren Lejardi.

County's Christmas spirit



Marines make a toy pick-up

Donna Fisher, left, and Mary Burman, right, present two Marines reservists with toys for the 60th annual Toys for Tots drive during lunch at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center on Dec. 11. The Marines accepting the donations are SSgt. Aaron McNeal, left, and LCpl. Max Boots.

Senior citizens help Toys for Tots

The Marine Corps local Toys for Tots drive got a shot in the arm last week from Homedale's senior citizens.

Donna Fisher and Mary Burman donated seven bags of toys to the annual effort during the Homedale Senior Center's luncheon on Dec. 11.

Two Marines from Gowen Field accepted the toys. 1stSgt. Kraig M. Laskowski of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots drive at Gowen said the toys would help the organization meet its goal of gathering toys to help between 18,000 and 20,000 children from an area as far north as Orofino and as far south as Elko, Nev., and as far west as Burns, Ore., and as far east as Twin Falls.

Laskowski said the Marine reservists working the phones at Gowen Field received more applications for toys from service groups than they expected this season. He attributed the increased demand to the squeeze gas prices, Micron layoffs and the housing market slump has put on economic realities of families in the region.

This is the 60th anniversary of the Toys for Tots campaign. Although applications for toys have been closed, Marines are accepting toys to fill the orders until Dec. 21, Laskowski said.

SSgt. Aaron McNeal said that Fisher and Burman contacted

Toys for Tots to contribute stuffed animals and other toys left over from the annual giveaway that took place during the Homedale for the Holidays parade. Fisher said the Girl Scouts threw about 440 stuffed animals from their award-winning float to children lining the parade route on Dec. 8.

McNeal and fellow reservist, LCpl. Max Boots, accepted the toys last week. An impromptu singing of the Marine Corps Hymn by the seniors gathered for lunch brought McNeal and Boots to attention before the presentation.

Although some toys will go to Owyhee County kids through the efforts of groups like Helping Hands Across the Valley, there aren't any drop sites for toys in the county.

The closest drop sites to western Owyhee County are in Nampa and Caldwell. The closest drop sites to the Grand View area are in Mountain Home. A complete list of drop sites in the region is available at www.toysfortots.org.

The Marines hold between 85 and 90 events per year to collect toys, include Stuff the Bus in Boise and Christmas in the Nighttime Sky, which took place Saturday at Memorial Stadium in Boise.

— JPB

Spirit on display with huge batch of house decorations

Marsing resident makes it a priority to out-do himself every year

Josh Bauer calls it a present to the community. The gift is an enormous display of Christmas lights at his home at 108 Patton St. in Marsing.

"It's got 17,500 lights total," Bauer said. "Everything's got lights on it everywhere. It's pretty lit up at night."

The dazzling display is not merely a feast for the eyes. About 6,000 lights in the center of the display are synchronized to Christmas music. Bauer broadcasts the music via a low-power FM transmitter with a range of about 200 feet. A lighted sign in front of the house gives passersby the frequency of the broadcast. The display is on from

about dusk until 10 p.m. daily.

Bauer is serious when he says that everything's got lights on it. His home and yard are not large, but nearly every square foot of the property appears to be festooned with Christmas decorations and lights, from stars on the rooftops to ornamentation in the yard, and everywhere in between. Incidentally, Bauer said that he plans to add even more decorations in the future.

"I'm going to shoot for 30,000 next year," he said.

This is the second Yuletide extravaganza for the Bauer family, the first with musical accompaniment. Last year's display had 5,000 to 6,000 lights.

The family lived out in the country prior to that, and the Christmas decorations were much smaller.

"We would put up a couple of strings for the kids, but nothing this elaborate," Bauer said.

He said that he is a member of a group of Christmas decoration enthusiasts through a Web site called planetchristmas.com.

"There's about 6,000 members that are Christmas nuts, and I'm one of them," Bauer said.

It took Bauer five weekends to set up the show. He said that he enjoyed every bit of it, and doesn't even add up the cost of the decorations.

"I had a blast," Bauer said, adding, "If it puts a smile on people's faces, then it's well worth it."

— RTH



4-H club holds holiday party

The Dust Devils 4-H club held their Christmas gift exchange and potluck dinner on Dec. 2 at Ken's Custom Tent Shop. Attending the Christmas party were: front row, from left: Kirsten Egurrola, Curtis Westergard, Josey Hall, Rachel Robinson, Jaeden Vincent, Jordyn Vincent, and Megan Bettleyon; middle row, from left: Konner Bahem, Alec Egurrola, Adrianna Salutregui, Tristan Corta, Lauryn Robinson, Caitlen Westergard, Lyndsay Salutregui, and Carlie Purdom; back row, from left: Gil Lootens, Kortney Bahem, Mandy Brasher, Quincy Hall, Shelby Lee, and Kyler Eidemiller. Submitted photo



Homedale band, choir presents holiday concert

The Homedale schools band and choir presented a program of Christmas songs Thursday inside the Homedale Middle School gymnasium. **Left:** Seventh-grade trombonist Mariza Fernandez studies her sheet music while playing one of four selections that closed the show. **Right:** Homedale music director Karla Kachelmier, left, conducts the high school choir during its portion of the performance.



Bus driver's brush immortalizes Silver

Wilder resident provides artwork
for benefit Christmas card

Cheryl Burril drives a school bus in Homedale, but there is something about the Wilder resident that many of her riders may not know.

When she parks the bus between the morning and afternoon routes, she goes home and picks up a paintbrush.

And, this Christmas season, there's a chance that the families of those students may receive a greeting card with her artwork on the front.

Burril was commissioned in October to create a painting that Silver City Fire & Rescue Inc., has placed on cards it is selling as a fundraiser. Burril has painted a nighttime scene of the Catholic Church in Silver City adorned in Christmas glory.

"(SCF&R representatives) had kind of talked to me about it and (said), 'It would be really neat



Cheryl Burril

to make a Christmas card with the church on it,'" Burril said.

Working off a photo of the church taken during the daytime, Burril said she worked about a month on the church painting. She worked three or four hours each day, usually in between her tours with the Homedale School District bus service.

"I also took pictures of the windows so I knew what colors to put in the window," she said.

The painting was completed just before Thanksgiving, and SCF&R printed 500 greeting cards with the artwork on the front. The cards are blank inside to allow personal greetings.

The cards have been available through the non-profit, tax-exempt SCF&R for a tax-deductible contribution.

For more information on the card or the fire and rescue service, which also provides emergency medical services in the area, write 11618 Emerald Road, Nampa, ID 83686 or e-mail scfr@heritage-wifi.com.

"This is the first time for me to create a greeting card," she said. "I was surprised. And I guess they're selling real well."

Burril said the fire and rescue service sold the cards during last month's bazaar at the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy.

And she is willing to make the one-of-a-kind artwork for greeting cards and annual thing.

"I hope so," she said, adding that she also has been kicking

around ideas as well as thinking of other subjects for an all-occasion card.

Silver City is a predominant theme in Burril's paintings. She, her husband Pete and SCF&R member Dave Wilper have been owners of the Peer House in Silver City since 1979. Cheryl Burril also has sold her creations from her front porch in Silver during the summer months.

"Because I was so interested in Silver City and the old-time stuff, I started doing the buildings up there," she said.

"Lately, that's pretty much been what I've been concentrating on."

Burril gains inspiration through her many visits to Silver City.

"I take lots of pictures during the summer, and we also snowmobile up there in the winter," she said.

She has been painting oils since the 1980s when an elderly Homedale resident named Eva began to tutor her.

Her paintings, mainly landscapes, hang throughout her home at the top of Garman Hill north of Homedale.

Burril has been driving bus in Homedale for the past seven years. She drove bus for 15 years previous in Homedale, too, and worked for NAPA Auto Parts in Homedale and Parma for 27 years. Her sons, Scott and Shawn, both attended Homedale High School.

In her living room hang paintings of Cumberland Mill, which used to stand near Cinnabar Mountain, and Jordan Street in Silver City.

"It's the first view you get as come up over the hill with (Idaho Hotel) and the main street," Burril said of the Jordan Street painting. "I've done four of those, and I've sold all but one."

She also has paintings of buffalo in a snowy pasture and another painting of a farmhouse with an old buckboard in the field out front.

The Cumberland Mill no longer exists, but Burril said she used an old postcard to design her painting. She also has used vintage photos and clippings from The Owyhee Avalanche to recreate many long-forgotten structures around Silver City.

She sold a painting of the Silver City Masonic Hall earlier this year to a person visiting the his-



Artist shows off Silver City stylings

Wilder resident Cheryl Burril spends a lot of time in Silver City, and she has spent many years transferring the sights of the old Owyhee County mining town and general western sights onto canvas through oil paintings.

Clockwise from top:

Burril sits in her living room with four of her creations behind her, including, clockwise from left: The Cumberland Mill in winter, at wintry scene of Jordan Street in Silver City, buffalo in a snowy pasture and a winter scene painted onto a saw blade.

The artist uses old photos and clippings from The Owyhee Avalanche to find her inspiration for subjects. She painted the Cumberland Mill from an old postcard.

A generic farm scene hangs elsewhere in her house.

In addition to canvas, Burril also puts her touch to various types of saw blades.

toric mining town.

Free enterprise never was on her mind when she began painting.

"I really enjoy doing it," Burril said.

"I was just kind of doing it for myself, and then I would end up painting them to sell when people see them."

While drawing inspiration from

the structures in Silver City, Burril also said seeing what author Mildred Adams wrote about the history of the Owyhees drove her.

"I knew Mildred Adams, and she was always writing about history," Burril said. "When I'm painting, my picture tells the story."

— JPB



HPD officer gets promotion

Grant bumped to corporal after 4 months on job

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller promoted Perry Grant to corporal during Wednesday's City Council meeting.

Prefacing the presentation by saying that he was taking "disciplinary action" against Grant because he was "out of uniform," Eidemiller said the promotion was the culmination of a path outlined when he hired Grant, a former Owyhee County Sheriff's deputy, at the end of August.

"Perry has been outstanding help," Eidemiller told the council.

The promotion to corporal moves Grant into a supervisory role in the five-person department.

"He has taken the bull by the horns, and he's proved I've made the right choice," Eidemiller



Grant earns his stripes

Homedale Police Cpl. Perry Grant, right, grins as Chief Jeff Eidemiller pins corporal stripes on the lapel of his uniform during Wednesday's City Council meeting.

said.

"He's an asset to the community, an asset to the people, an asset to

the police department and an asset to the City of Homedale."

— JPB

Lizard Butte Library readies for Marsing move

The Lizard Butte Library in Marsing will be closed from Dec. 24 through Jan. 6 in order to move into the new library building behind the fire station. The library will open at the new location on Jan. 7.

Library Director Janna Streibel said that a grand opening would be held later in January, after things are settled from the move.

The library's hours will remain the same for the time being, but hours will be expanded in the coming months, Streibel said. The library is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, and from noon to 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Streibel said that the library is looking for volunteers to help with the move beginning at 10 a.m. on Dec. 29.

The library needs people to help move boxes, as well as trucks and/or trailers to get the boxes from the old building to the new one. Volunteers should sign up in advance, as pizza will be served to the work crew.

Streibel also said that the library will be liquidating its current shelving, and anyone interested in any or all of the shelving should make the library an offer.

To sign up to help in the move, or for information on the shelving, call the library at 896-4690.

From page 1

✓ Lawmen: Quick action saved many lives during '07

of a family living outside Homedale in February.

A charcoal barbecue being used to heat the mobile home gave off potentially deadly carbon monoxide fumes.

When Streibel arrived at the home on the Quintana Ranch early in the morning of Feb. 26, he found a Hispanic female passed out near the rear of the dwelling. He rushed the family out of the house only to learn that an 18-month-old baby still was inside.

The infant regained consciousness after Streibel had exited the home.

Streibel was given a Meritorious Service Award and a Lifesaving Award during an April Board of Commissioners meeting.

McFetridge was honored for his heroics months earlier in saving an infant that was choking on a piece of a burrito. After McFetridge's administration of the Heimlich Maneuver saved the life of a 1-year-old on Jan. 5, Eidemiller nominated the officer for meritorious awards similar to those earned by Streibel.

McFetridge has been on the force for 26 months.

— JPB

'I appreciate the fact that TRIAD took time to recognize his outstanding work.'

— Jeff Eidemiller
Homedale Police Chief
on Mike McFetridge's award

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Christmas Eve Services
6:30 pm
with Reverend Ross Shaver residing
Christmas Day Services
9:00 am
with Reverend Ross Shaver residing



Marsing's water project suffers another setback

Cost of mandatory backup pump will slash funds for distribution system

In yet another blow to Marsing's water improvement project, city engineer Amy Woodruff told the City Council at its Wednesday meeting that the city may be required to buy another pump for its new water distribution system, at a cost of around \$100,000.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality requires public water systems to have the ability to maintain its water-flow capacity to meet peak hour demand or maximum day demand plus equalization storage while

the largest pump is out of service. Marsing's water system would be unable to meet that requirement under the current design. A new pump would need to be added to the system, with the cost of the new pump coming out of the budget for water distribution system enhancements.

Woodruff said that Marsing's fire protection commission had been asked to waive the requirement for pumping redundancy, but that the commission had rejected the idea. Woodruff added that she

thought that the commission may have misunderstood the request, because some fire authorities in the area had waived the requirement in other instances.

Commissioner Bob Malmberg, however, said that the fire protection district board understood the requirement and the request to waive it. Malmberg said that the DEQ mandates a backup pump for the system.

"They have to have two. It's in the code," Malmberg said. "If the code says it, we aren't backing off of what the code says."

Malmberg said that the board of directors was unwilling to take on the liability of having no backup in an emergency if the main pump were to fail.

The added expense will cut sharply into the water distribution system's portion of the \$3.1 million project. Shaun Kohtz of SPF Engineering had projected at the council's Nov. 9 meeting that there would be between \$371,000 and \$563,000 available for the distribution system. The \$100,000 setback also comes after a contract amendment added \$144,800 to the cost of the project Oct. 1, and the decision in October to drill a ninth well at a cost of up to \$90,000.

Also at the meeting, the council learned that Melissa Enrico is resigning from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Enrico is leaving the volunteer position to devote more time to her family.

— RTH

Crime and punishment

Man involved with runaway pleads guilty

Probation revoked for woman in standoff

Gregorio Diaz Monreal, who was arrested in Homedale following a tip that he was living with a 15-year-old runaway from Las Vegas, pled guilty to a charge of statutory rape in Owyhee County District Court on Friday.

Diaz Monreal, 27, was arrested on Aug. 14 at a mobile home park on South Main Street after Homedale Police received a report that he was at the park in the company of a 15-year-old runaway from Las Vegas who was listed on the Web site of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Diaz Monreal appeared before Judge Gregory M. Culet charged with kidnapping and lewd conduct with a child under 16. The kidnapping charge was dismissed after Diaz Monreal pled guilty to statutory rape.

Diaz Monreal's sentence hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Feb. 8 in District Court.

Also at Owyhee County District

Court on Friday, Jaime Castro was sentenced to serve 180 days in the Idaho Department of Corrections after being found guilty of two counts of delivery of a controlled substance.

Also, Carol Marie Geshick's probation was revoked after a hearing on charges of aggravated assault, resisting arrest, use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony and other charges. Geshick was on probation for charges stemming from a standoff with Homedale Police and Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies during which she brandished a weapon.

Geshick originally entered a guilty plea to charges of felony aggravated assault and misdemeanor resisting and obstructing a police officer. She held personnel from the Homedale Police Department, Owyhee County Sheriff's Office and the sheriff's posse at bay in February 2006.

Idaho officials are working with officials in Minnesota to arrange Geshick's transport to that state to face charges there. Geshick is scheduled for a sentencing hearing at 9 a.m. on Jan. 11 if she is still in Idaho.



Gregorio Monreal Diaz



Carol Geshick

U of I Extension offers Living on the Land series once again

As Americans continue their exodus from metropolitan areas in search of the American dream of living on the land, they discover how little they really know about rural life. The University of Idaho Extension educators recognize an opportunity to assist these landowners understand how to make sound stewardship decisions on small acreages.

Need and opportunity met six years ago to create a new, widely successful educational series called Living on the Land. The UI Extension program offers in-depth information to fill the need for small-acreage landowners.

The Living on the Land course is divided into 18 sessions with topics that range from budgets, equipment needs, water issues,

soil, grazing management, market gardening and more. Participants pay a \$275 program fee per unit (two attendees), which includes a complete set of materials, and professional analysis of water, soil, and forage on their land. Scholarships are available for Youth/Adult partnerships.

The class will be offered in three areas of the Treasure Valley, starting the week of Jan. 7 and running for 18 weeks: Caldwell, Monday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Emmett, Tuesday afternoons 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., and Fruitland, Thursday evenings 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 25.

For information or to register, contact the Ada County Extension office at (208) 377-2107.

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Owyhee County Energy Summit

Event provided valuable information on our options

by Joe Weatherby
The Energy Summit was a landmark event for Owyhee County. It displayed a wide range of energy options for the county. It was presented by some of the best in the business.

Ted Howard from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes kicked off the summit with an excellent opening and prayer in the native Shoshone language. Bob Ford from U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo's office gave us an excellent update on the current bills working their way through Congress and the Senate and the current status of things in the "Beltway".

The nuclear power panel included: Dr. Ralph Bennett, Ph.D. from the INEL, Dr. Arjun Makhijani from the Institute of Energy and Environmental Research, and Martin Johncox, the press agent for Alternate Energy Holdings Inc. Don Gillispie, the CEO of AEHI and the proposed Idaho Energy Complex, was ill and had to cancel at the last minute.

The presentations by Drs. Bennett and Makhijani were very useful in providing solid data, which can be used in evaluating the pros and cons of a nuclear plant in Owyhee County.

Pete Pengilly of Idaho Power, along with Dan Landa of Landa Farms, and Jeff Burns from Renewable Energy Resources, presented a broad outlook on the potential for energy efficiency options from upgrading existing houses to irrigation projects. One of the highlights was Landa's discussion of what can be done with pivot systems to save both water and energy. Not to leave out, Pengilly's very broad and informative review of the energy efficiency programs offered by Idaho Power, nor Burns's presentation on the efficiencies of ground source heating and cooling technology. This panel offered some great information on what can be done to reduce not only current energy usage, but also to help reduce the growth of new energy usage. Many practical solutions were discussed, many of which were simple things that pay dividends for years to come in the form of dollars back to the consumer or farmer.

State Sen. Kate Kelly (D-Boise)

Next week in the Avalanche
A closer look at the nuclear power debate

gave us great background on the Idaho energy direction and the inner workings of the Idaho Legislature's effort on the energy plan this year, providing good information on Idaho's energy plan and its value to Idaho.

Several people, including Gerald Fleischman of the Idaho Office of Energy Resources, Rich Rayhill of Ridgeline Energy and John Steiner of Idaho Wind Farms, provided fantastic information on wind potential both nationwide, statewide and specifically Owyhee County. The information showed clearly that Owyhee County could be the Saudi Arabia of Idaho energy production if the farmers and ranchers choose to implement wind energy production. There are already wind farms being investigated in Owyhee County, and one thing that came through loud and clear is that Owyhee County should get in the race. For there is a race for wind development, and Owyhee County has some of the best wind areas available. It could, in fact, help farmers, ranchers, and all Owyhee County citizens.

Morris Huffman, bio-mass coordinator of Woody Biomass Utilization Partnership, part of SAGE Community Resources, Idaho Department of Commerce presented information and fielded some excellent questions regarding rangeland junipers.

Saturday morning started out with the geothermal portion of the program by Dr. Roy Mink, Ph. D., a geothermal consultant. He, along with Ken Neely from the Idaho Department of Energy Resources, discussed the vast geothermal potential of Owyhee County. Both Mink and Neely discussed the broad range of potential uses for geothermal

energy from greenhouses. They discussed everything from raising shrimp and alligators to generating power. They discussed both the potential and the pitfalls involved with geothermal and the potential to actually utilize geothermal resources while actually reducing the impact to the Bruneau's hot springs snail. This could be a win-win-win situation.

One of the highlights was a discussion by Garnette Monnie, owner of Edwards Greenhouses in Boise, on the realities of geothermal use. Her message: "Geothermal is a wonderful resource," which Edwards Greenhouses has been using for many decades, but you can't approach it without access to expertise and forethought. Overall, that was a consistent message about geothermal. Tremendous potential, but for those who want to use it, be sure to do it right, access the expertise available. It is available. Do it right the first time.

At first, it may have seemed that Monnie threw cold water on geothermal use. But in reality, Monnie's presentation was the absolute pinnacle of what the Owyhee Energy Summit was all about. Good solid truthful information for Owyhee County citizens and government. And that is what was delivered.

Saturday afternoon started out with fine presentations by John Crockett with Idaho's Department of Energy Resources, and Eugene Rhoads from Desert Hot Springs Nursery, on Bio-fuels. The two covered all aspects of bio-fuels from ethanol from corn and switch grass, to bio-diesel generated from algae. They fielded a great many questions and did the county a real service by exploring these very important issues, including

covering some of the latest information on the economics and potential in this area.

Crockett then pulled double duty with Winston Inouye, a consultant with Vector Management, LLC, as the pair covered all aspects of anaerobic digestion, including what works, what doesn't work, and everything from the environmental aspects of its use, the economics, power generation and creating gas pipeline-quality fuel.

Last but not least, our two solar panelists included John Weber, a Boise solar enthusiast and businessman, and Jeff Burns of Renewable Resources (he also pulled double duty after presenting ground source heat pumps on Friday). Weber and Burns covered all aspects of solar from the nuts and bolts of installing solar to what is coming down the line on a national and international basis. Both did a wonderful job of delineating just how powerful solar energy is and how much more it can be, as well as the downside, which, for now, seems to be the initial cost. However, it appears that cost of solar appears to be the only energy costs that have been consistently dropping dramatically, and is apparently seen to be well on its way to changing into one of the most cost-effective methods of power generation.

The moderators for the two-day summit included Col. Bruce Wong (U.S. Air Force, ret.), Jon Duane and Boise City Councilman Jim Tibbs.

I want to personally thank each and every one of our presenters, and participants alike. I would also like to offer special thanks to my wife, Gayle, and my son David for helping in innumerable ways before, during and after the summit, over the many weeks it has taken to put together the Energy plan, and this event together and for helping me with the logistics of the summit. I would also like to thank the Owyhee County commissioners for having the vision to enable this summit, Fred Grant, county Treasurer Brenda Richards, and fellow Energy Task Force members Clay Atkins and Dan Landa.

And there were a great many people who helped and deserve a great deal of credit behind the scenes, including: Brad, Noah and Mary Huff, Roark Cooper, Gerry Galinato Riva Tobias, Hope Reinertson, Jon Brown, Doug McConnaughey, and Shirley McAbee from the Homedale Senior Citizens Center for allowing us to use the facility on very short notice.

Thanks also to Stacy Grant and the Stewards of the Range for providing lunch both days.

And thanks to all of the people who provided other help and encouragement to complete this event, and all the people I have not specifically named but to whom I am no less grateful.

— Joe Weatherby is the chair of the Owyhee County Energy Task Force, and served as coordinator for the Owyhee County Energy Summit.

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County seeks public comment on disaster plan

The public review period for the county's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan began Thursday, and copies are available at various locations throughout Owyhee County.

According to a press release from Moscow-based Northwest Management, Inc., the company helping county officials develop the plan, the Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP) has been developed to reduce the risk and lessen the potential impact of hazards on Owyhee County residents, landowners, businesses, communities, local governments and state and fed-

eral agencies while maintaining emergency response capabilities and natural resource management policies.

Copies of Volume 1 of the plan are available for review at the following locations:

- Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 Hwy. 78, in Murphy
- Marsing City Hall, 425 Main St.
- Homedale City Hall, 31 E. Wyoming Ave.
- Rimrock Senior Citizens Center, 525 Main St., in Grand View
- The Owyhee Avalanche office, 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale

The document is available on-

line at www.owyheecounty.net.

The deadline for public comment is 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 18.

Comments can be sent to Tera King of Northwest Management, Inc., at P.O. Box 9748, Moscow, ID 83843 or via e-mail at king@consulting-foresters.com.

Call Owyhee County Emergency Manager Larry Howard at (208) 896-5034 for more information on the plan.

Volume 1 of the document, which weighs in at 152 pages, puts forth mitigation plans for flood, landslide, wildfire, earthquake and severe weather.

A second volume outlining a terrorism and civil unrest mitigation plan has been distributed in a limited scope, according the foreword of the MHMP.

The MHMP has been developed through a committee comprised of Owyhee County officials, fire and emergency response personnel, representatives from state and federal agencies, land managers, law enforcement and school district representatives as well as the city governments in Homedale, Marsing and Grand View, local business leaders and county residents.

Local agencies that helped with the development of the plan included the Owyhee Conservation District, the Bruneau-Grand View, Homedale and Marsing school districts, rural fire departments in Homedale, Marsing, Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson, Grand View and Bruneau, Silver City Fire & Rescue Inc., Shoshone-Paiute

Tribes Fire Management and the Mountain Home Air Force Base Fire Department.

Several public meetings have been held during the development of the plan, which has been mandated by the federal government as a prerequisite for the county to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grants to implement projects and mitigation efforts outlined in the plan. The plan also is part of the required steps for the county to remain eligible for emergency assistance in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Northwest Management also said that the document will provide "valuable information" to help the county plan for the future.

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Fair board opens barn bid process

The Owyhee County Fair Board opened its livestock barn project to construction bids this week.

According to a legal notice appearing in this week's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche, sealed bids must be received by mail at the fair board office in Homedale by Feb. 6. The bid opening is scheduled for 11 a.m. Feb. 11 during a Board of County Commissioners meeting at the Owyhee County Courthouse in Murphy.

The fair board is seeking bids on a 120-foot-by-100-foot metal building with open walls to be built as an expansion of the existing livestock barn. The new barn will stand 12 feet, 4 inches high.

The fair board requires submitted bids to include concrete piers and pads, freight, engineering, drafting and permit fees as well as site preparation costs.

Bids are to be mailed to fair secretary Kelly Haun at the fair office, P.O. Box 695, Homedale, ID 83628.

Crews moved the Beef Barn last year in anticipation of expansion of the livestock barn, but the fair board was unable to secure financing for the project in time for the 2007 fair in Homedale.

With a bump in the fair budget, the fair board has set an Aug. 1 deadline for completion of the livestock barn extension at the fairgrounds, just in time for the 2008 fair.

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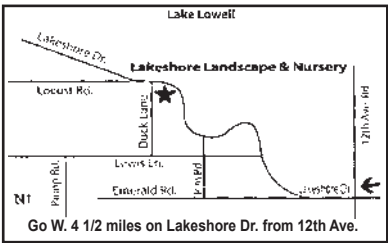


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The Owyhee Avalanche

Ruling doesn't shock sage-grouse group

When a Ninth Circuit judge ordered that the federal government re-examine its decision not to list the sage-grouse as endangered or threatened, at least one Owyhee County group trying to preserve the bird's numbers was not caught off-guard.

"It has come as no surprise that certain entities, such as Western Watersheds Project (WWP), wish to list the sage-grouse as endangered," Owyhee County Local Working Group (OCLWG) chair Donna Bennett wrote in a press release.

"They have made it clear for many years that their goal is to remove cattle from the western rangelands, and they see a listing decision as helping achieve that goal."

Bennett and other members of the OCLWG met Thursday to discuss, among other things, Ninth Circuit Judge B. Lynn Winmill's 35-page ruling, which was filed Dec. 4.

In his decision, Winmill sided with the Hailey-based WWP and ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to take another look at how it reached a 2004 decision that the sage-grouse shouldn't be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Winmill said the feds didn't use the best science available to arrive at their decision; didn't properly document the opinions of scientists

who were consulted; and didn't properly analyze the effect of several factors on the decline of sage-grouse habitat and populations, including grazing, development of utility corridors and residential areas, wild fires, invasive vegetation species and West Nile Virus.

Most pointedly, he wrote that the opinion of scientists was omitted from the record during the status study, and that Julie MacDonald, then a deputy assistant secretary in the Department of the Interior, had a heavy-handed role in the composition of the 2004 decision.

"... MacDonald ... who was neither a scientist nor a sage-grouse expert, had a well-documented history of intervening in the listing process to ensure that the 'best science' supported a decision not to list the species," Winmill wrote.

"Her tactics included everything from editing scientific conclusions to intimidating FWS staffers. Her extensive involvement in the sage-grouse listing decision process taints the FWS's decision and requires a reconsideration without her involvement."

Bennett said Winmill's decision pushes the Jon Marvel-led WWP one step closer to its environmental-extremist agenda of wiping the ranching lifestyle off the western landscape.

And, Bennett said, she knew

that a ruling such as was rendered earlier this month lurked even in the days after the 2004 decision, when she spoke at an Owyhee Cattlemen's Association meeting.

"At that time, despite my belief that the scientific evidence does not support listing and the Fish and Wildlife Service had made the right decision not to list, I felt we were only given a breather," Bennett said.

"Because of the anti-grazing agenda of the WWP, I knew it was only a matter of time before another attempt to list the sage-grouse would occur."

Bennett insists that the majority of factors affecting habitat cited by Winmill in his ruling cannot be laid at the feet of the ranchers.

In fact, many cattlemen say that the Bureau of Land Management's grazing allotment policies — not grazing itself — contributed to the vast devastation of the 650,000-acre Murphy Complex Fire that burned in southeast Owyhee County this summer.

"The past years of West Nile Virus and the devastating fires have been a product of nature, and have not been a result of any misuse of the local land users, but they will be the ones who will bear the brunt of any listing if it should occur," Bennett said.

"It is up to us, as members of the LWG, to make the public

aware of what we have all done throughout the West, not to have the bird listed, but to help it."

Bennett said the LWG and others have done much to help preserve and bolster habitat for the sage-grouse since the 2004 decision. Efforts have included re-seeding areas burned by wild fires with native sagebrush and an attempt to remove invasive junipers from the sagebrush steppe system. Earlier this fall, volunteers gathered sagebrush seed to be used to help rehabilitate part of the area

destroyed by the Murphy fire.

"The local ranchers have stepped up to the plate and have offered the use of their private lands as well as help the (Bureau of Land Management) and the Fish and Game with their studies of the sage-grouse," Bennett wrote.

— JPB

— ICA president: Decision could make sage-grouse Idaho's spotted owl.
Commentary, Page 8C

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