



**Raiders ready
for district
In Sports**

Owyhee Cattlemen meet Saturday, 5A

Columbine’s legacy, Page 8A

Sundance Park, Page 2A

**Adrian, Homedale students hear
message of compassion**

**Homedale group, city could enter
contract for baseball, softball**

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Hot dogs on a cold day



Vendor braves cold to catch lunch rush

Steam rises into the crisp afternoon air as Tom Murray plucks a hot dog out of his steamer while building chili dogs Jan. 22 for Chris and Randy Miyasako on East Idaho Avenue in Homedale. Murray said the temperature was 16 degrees when he set up across from Homedale High School. By the lunch hour, the temp had crept to 20 degrees, according to the HHS reader board (inset).

Auction’s history of helping adds chapter Saturday

**Gavel drops on the Marsing Disaster
Auction at 10:13 a.m.**

Although the “Neighbors Helping Neighbors” theme of the Marsing Disaster Auction stretches to the event’s roots, it has grown in scope just as the auction itself has.

According to this year’s advertising chair, Lyle Bowers, the Marsing Disaster Auction got its inspiration from a similar 1959 event in which farmers and ranchers donated several goods from their operations for an auction to help a woman from the Canyon County side of the Snake River.

A year later, tons of hay, sacks

of grain, wheat and barley, dozens of eggs, sacks of corn and calves, sheep and goats were put on the block for the first Marsing Disaster Auction at the town’s grade school.

Original organizers included Roman Usabel, Julio and Juanita Churruca, Dave Haken and Boyd Peterson. Usabel is involved in the auction to this day.

The auction has gone through many changes since 1960 — it has been moved from the old grade school to the Phipps-Watson

— *See Auction, page 5A*

Blaze destroys Adrian onion shed

Crews from five firefighting agencies battled a blaze in an onion storage shed Wednesday afternoon in Adrian.

The building, part of a complex of sheds that lines Oregon highway 201 — the main drag in Adrian — caught fire after an explosion around 4:30 p.m., according to Adrian Rural Fire District Chief Robert Webb.

Webb said Adrian volunteer firemen received mutual aid from Parma, Nyssa, Vale and Ontario in knocking down the blaze in about two hours.

Heat from the smoldering ruins still was sending voluminous

steam high into the air at 9 a.m. Thursday.

“There still are hot spots,” Webb said Thursday morning. “We’ll start to break that down when we can get some machinery in there.”

Craig Froerrer, who leases the building that is owned by a Texas company, said about 1,400 crates of onions were in the building at the time of the fire. He said the loss to a young area farmer whose crop was in the shed will probably run about \$70,000.

Froerrer said the building can hold about 1,800 crates of onions. He didn’t anticipate any major

economic impact from the crop loss because of the large yield from the past onion season.

Webb said it’s believed the fire began when a propane tank connected to a heater inside the building exploded. The farmer recently had placed the heater in the building to keep the onions from freezing.

Freezing temperatures turned water dripping from the crates into icicles by Thursday morning, and they could be seen hanging from the wood throughout the rubble.

— JPB

More photos, Page 9A



Crew heads out for mop up

A large plume of steam dominates the sky as volunteer firefighters from the Adrian Rural Fire District trudge back to the job to await heavy machinery for cleanup on a frigid Thursday morning.

**Inside
County OKs
polling places
Page 3A**

School menus	6A	Looking Back	9B
Calendar	7A	Commentary	10-11B
Dave \$ays	7A	Legals	12-13B
Sports	1-8B	Classifieds	14-15B

Subscribe today

*Get the news source of the Owyhees delivered
directly to you each Wednesday*

Only \$31.80 in Owyhee County

Call 337-4681

For Your Valentine...

**Thursday - Sunday
February 14-17**

4 Course Meal
\$39⁹⁵ per couple

Choose from : Steak & Shrimp, Prime Rib, or Ribeye Steak
Appetizer - Salad - Main Course - Dessert
includes: Baked Potato & Cooky's Famous Applesauce

**WE SERVE
USDA CHOICE
BEEF**

**COOKY'S "FAMOUS
& STEAK
POTATO" HOUSE**
14949 Sunnyslope Rd (Hwy 55)
Between Nampa & Marsing

459-8200
Next to Sunnyslope Market

**CALL TO STAKE
YOUR CLAIM NOW!**
(RESERVATIONS STILL AVAILABLE!)

**REGULAR MENU
ALSO AVAILABLE!**

Homedale hires building inspector

Police chief seeks technology upgrade, new car

The Homedale City Council unanimously approved Rod Roberts as the town's new building inspector during Thursday's meeting.

According to City Clerk Alice Pegram, Roberts will be a contract employee for the city. He'll earn 50 percent of the proceeds from permit and plan review fees.

The Homedale resident replaces Dave Free-love, who was filling in on an interim basis after the dismissal of Mike Millward in October. Millward left after he failed to get the proper certification to continue in the position.

Roberts said Thursday that he doesn't have full certification yet, but is in the process of securing the proper endorsements to continue in the job.

His employment status with the city will be reviewed at the end of six months on the job, Pegram said.

The city council also passed a contingency resolution authorizing the payment of recurring bills such as utilities without a vote from the council members.

HPD seeks grants

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller reported that he has applied for two grants to strengthen his department's infrastructure. Eidemiller said he only recently filed the grant applications and no status updates are available yet.

The larger of the two grants, a \$29,340 chunk of money from the Department of Homeland Security, is earmarked for updating and upgrading the department's computer-aided dispatch system, the chief said.

The smaller grant — valued at \$4,200 — would be used consolidating video and audio equipment used to record each officer during calls.

Eidemiller said if the money came to the department, it would be used to buy seven video microphones — one for each full-time officer and a reserve device — which would replace the two-piece camera-and-microphone setup currently used.

Eidemiller also announced he is poised to send out bid invitations to Ford and Chrysler in the quest for a new patrol car. He said the invitations will ask for a vehicle at a price no higher than the \$24,000 allowed in the current budget.

The chief also reported that his department has made some progress on locating the vehicle involved in a recent hit-and-run accident with a Homedale School District bus.

"We have a license plate number, and hopefully we'll get that resolved for the school district because it's important to them and it's important to us," he told the council.

Water project creeps closer

City public works supervisor Larry Bauer told council members that the water system improvement project awarded to Sommer Construction of Nampa will begin soon.

He reported that Boise well-drilling outfit Stevens and Sons had begun work on the test well at Riverside Park early last week, but the crew was hampered by the weather after drilling 30 feet. Bauer said he expected the well-drilling to resume this week.

Sommer and city officials will attend a pre-construction meeting Feb. 7 as a precursor to the water infrastructure construction, Bauer said.

Bauer also said that the city could apply for grants through the Idaho Rural Water Association to close four city wells that have been capped.

— JPB

Election season begins to bloom

Dems plan Feb. 5 caucus; commissioners set polling places for 2008 elections

While the national election picture still may be foggy, folks involved in the political process in Owyhee County have set plans for the primary season.

The Owyhee County Democratic Party will hold its county caucus on Tuesday in Marsing.

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners recently set the polling places for the nine precincts to be used for the May 27 primary and the Nov. 4 general election:

- **North Homedale** — Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.
- **South Homedale** — Magistrate Court Building, 31 W. Wyoming Ave.
- **North Marsing** — Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N.
- **South Marsing** — University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W.
- **Wilson** — Wilson Fire House, Idaho highway 45
- **Oreana** — Oreana Community

Hall

- **Murphy** — Owyhee County Courthouse, Idaho highway 78
- **Grand View** — Eastern Owyhee Library, 520 Boise Ave.
- **Bruneau** — American Legion Post 83 Hall

During the primary on May 27, voters will be asked to cast ballots for GOP presidential hopefuls, county sheriff, county prosecuting attorney and commissioners for District 1 and District 2.

The general election is set for Nov. 4.

Next week's Democratic Caucus will begin at 6 p.m. at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center. The doors will be closed promptly at 7 p.m., and no other participants will be allowed in.

The community center is located at 126 W. 2nd St. N.

County party chair Monica Larsen said that anyone can participate in the caucus so long as they will be eligible to vote in the Nov. 4 general election and sign a sheet affirming they will vote in November. According to the state Democratic Party

Web site, participants needn't be registered voters at the time of the caucus nor do they have to be registered as Democrats to take part in the caucus.

The party Web site also encourages high school students to take part in the caucus. Any 17-year-old who will be old enough to vote by the Nov. 4 general election and intends to cast a ballot can participate in the caucus.

The caucus will work much like it did in Iowa earlier this year. Participants will be polled on their preference for a Democratic presidential nominee, then the room will be divided along lines of preferences.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Idahoans to have a real say in selecting our next president," Larsen said.

"We're expecting a great turnout, so we encourage people to get there early."

The Phipps-Watson center is the only place where Owyhee County Democrats will caucus.

For more information about the caucus, contact Larsen at (208) 337-3904 or cllarsen@yahoo.com. Additional information about the caucus process is available by contacting the state Democratic Party at (208) 336-1815 or info@idaho-democrats.org.

Grand View library series continues

The Eastern Owyhee County Library presents Round 2 of its Let's Talk About It Series on Tuesday in Grand View.

"We Are What We Eat" is the theme for this year's series, which runs on selected Tuesdays through

the middle of March.

The next discussion, scheduled for 3 p.m. on Tuesday is on the Madjur Jaffrey book "Climbing the Mango Tree." Sue Norton will lead the discussion.

Participants can obtain copies

of "Climbing the Mango Tree" at the library, 520 Boise Ave., in Grand View.

To check out one of the pertinent books or to get more information on the series, call the library at (208) 834-2785.

Water boards plan to meet

The regular monthly meetings of the Ridgeview and Gem irrigation districts and the South Board of Control are scheduled for 1 p.m., 1:15 p.m., and 1:30 p.m., respectively, on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 118 S. 1st St. W. in Homedale.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"Maw, can't you shake out that cake a little faster? This heater's broke and I'm about to freeze!"

Don't make your spouse do all the hard work!

Let us prepare your taxes!



BOWEN PARKER DAY

BOISE - NAMPA - HOMEDALE

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS CHARTERED

19 E. Wyoming, Homedale - **337-3271**

Accounting .. Auditing .. Tax Services .. Financial Services



TacoTime

Taco Meal

10 Crisp Tacos • 1 Nachos Deluxe • 1 Crustos

Only \$16.99

Hours: Mon - Th 10:30 - 9 • Fri 10:30 - 10 • Sat 11-9 • Sun 12-7



HOMEDALE LOCATION
101 E. IDAHO AVE. • 208 337-5639

Commissioners approve road work

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners met on Jan. 14, and in that meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved several expenditures and reorganized individual responsibilities for 2008.

The commission approved buying culverts for a pair of road projects, to pay the contract of the Probation Department's support services coordinator, and to pay for a weed control agreement with the Bureau of Land Management.

The commissioners approved a payment of \$11,161 to Treasure Valley Pipe of Caldwell for the culverts. The culverts will be used in repair projects on Bailey Road and Juniper Mountain Road. According to county clerk Charlotte Sherburn, increased traffic on Bailey Road has necessitated the road's resurfacing. Juniper Mountain Road has not seen increased traffic, but has been unable to handle its current traffic

load, and is also being resurfaced to eliminate some large potholes, Sherburn said.

The repairs to Juniper Mountain Road also include bridge work, and the commissioners approved putting the required bridges out for bid. The bid opening is scheduled for March 10.

The independent contractor agreement between the county and Tessa O'Donnell, the Probation Department's current support services coordinator, was renewed through September 2008 — the balance of the current fiscal year — in the amount of \$20,800. O'Donnell, the daughter of Probation Officer Doris Jewett, already has been paid for the first four months of fiscal year 2008.

O'Donnell coordinates training opportunities for the advancement of department staff and conducts victim/offender counseling and other outreach programs.

The weed control contract with the BLM was approved in the amount of \$10,144. The commission also set the noxious weed control area to include all of Owyhee County.

In 2008 board reorganization, District 1 commissioner and commission chair Jerry Hoagland was named supervisor for Road and Bridge District 1 and the Probation Department. He also will serve Owyhee on the Joint Policy Board for Southwest Idaho Regional Juvenile Detention Center, and is the Magistrate Court commissioner representative.

District 2 commissioner Hal Tolmie is Weed Department and Solid Waste supervisor, while District 3 supervisor Dick Freund is Planning and Zoning Department supervisor, Building Department supervisor, and supervisor of Road and Bridge District 3.

— RTH

P&Z waiting on contingency from power plant firm

The group seeking to build a 1,600-megawatt nuclear power plant near Bruneau has yet to follow through on an agreement to pay thousands of dollars to cover expenses incurred by the county during the permitting process.

Owyhee County Planning and Zoning administrator Mary Huff confirmed last week that the Idaho Energy Complex has yet to provide a \$50,000 contingency fund to help the county defray the costs of the permit application process.

Huff said that IEC representatives, including chief executive Don Gillispie and Doug McConaughy, agreed to create what amounts to an escrow account during a Dec. 13 meeting in Nampa with Huff and county consultant Fred Grant.

"It would be put into an account and as we incurred expenses, they would be given an accounting," Huff said.

The Owyhee Avalanche contacted IEC's information officer seeking comment, but the company's official response wasn't received by press time.

Zoning ordinance comment deadline nears

The public has until close of business today to submit comments on the county subdivision and zoning ordinance amendments discussed during a Jan. 9 public hearing in Murphy.

Comments should be sent to Huff at the county Planning and Zoning Department in Murphy.

Commissioners overturn P&Z's CUP denial

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners has overturned a Planning and Zoning Commission decision to deny a conditional use permit to a property owner who was seeking to subdivide a 24-acre parcel south of Marsing.

The overturn came at the end of a appeal hearing during the commissioners' Jan. 14 meeting.

The property owner, Scott Grinstead, wants to create four lots on 24 acres of ground located south of Marsing off Idaho highway 78 and Pershall Road.

Huff said the P&Z commissioners originally rejected the permit application because they found the residential use of the productive agricultural ground inconsistent with the county's comprehensive plan.

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

JOHN DEERE SPRING FILTER SALE
Save 12% when you buy any combination of 12 or more John Deere Filters!
Through February 29, 2008



Stock Up Now and SAVE!

Top quality filters at spectacular savings!

Stop in today and take advantage of these special savings. Pick up filters for all your farm and home vehicle needs.

And be sure to check out the savings on John Deere oil, too!



CAMPBELL TRACTOR CO.
JOHN DEERE
Treasure Valley John Deere
www.campbelltractor.com
Homedale, Idaho • 337-3142

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



Member

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

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.

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

Deadlines

Classifieds	Display advertising
Monday noon the week of publication	Friday noon the week prior to publication
Legal notices	Inserts
Friday noon the week prior to publication	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.)	

OCA to tackle zoning ordinance changes

Cattlemen convene winter meeting Saturday in Oreana

The Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association will address a wide-ranging batch of issues Saturday at its annual winter meeting in Oreana.

The program begins at noon with registration at the Oreana Community Hall. The evening concludes with a dance from 9:30 p.m. to 1 a.m. with music from Runnin’ for Cover.

The meeting will be called to order by OCA president Dana Rutan at 1 p.m. for the silver bit drawing.

Admission to the dance is \$5 per person.

Foremost in the minds of area ranchers this year are resolutions addressing proposed amendments to the Owyhee County Code that deals with agricultural zones and an effort to double Idaho’s beef checkoff fee.

In a tip of the hat to ranching’s heritage and toward the more practical ideal of ending confusion, another resolution aims to clarify the definition of membership in the 129-year-old association.

Discussion and voting on the resolutions is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Owyhee cattlemen are poised to release unified opposition to amendments to the county code Section 04-03-A just three weeks after a lengthy Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing in Murphy. The deadline for public comment on the changes is today, although it’s possible that further hearings will be held.

Colyer firm pulls a top calf at Denver sale

An Owyhee County cattle operation had one of the high-selling animals at the recent Mile High Night National Hereford Sale in Denver on Jan. 18.

The pick of the fall-born calf crop at Colyer Herefords of Bruneau sold in Denver for \$20,000 to Curtis and Jackie Castle of Crawford, Okla.

The Castles’ purchase helped the Mile High Night National Hereford Sale post the highest selling bull and highest average of the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). The sale grossed \$533,950 and averaged \$25,426.

In a concise resolution, the OCA bases its opposition to the changes on the fact that “it is a private property owner’s right to sell the land as they see fit” and asserts that Section 04-03-A amendments limits the sale of small parcels of land zoned as agriculture.

The National Beef Checkoff increase resolution follows a similar article drafted by the Idaho Cattle Association at its November 2007 meeting. Owyhee ranchers

will vote Saturday on whether to support the \$1-per-head increase in the fee that finances, among other things, the “Beef, It’s What’s for Dinner” ad campaign.

But the OCA directors want to get input from the cattlemen on how to use the money generated by the increase before approving the resolution. There will be a question-and-answer period led by ICA representatives before the resolution vote.

The ICA supports doubling the fee, and the OCA agrees with its state brethren that a portion of that money should be used for production-related research and ensuring the safety of U.S.-raised beef. Currently, law prohibits investing checkoff dollars in production research.

The beef checkoff hasn’t been raised since 1985, when it was doubled from 50 cents. But supporters of an increase say that inflation coupled with a 20 percent drop in collections in Idaho since 2001 — a phenomenon mirrored in the national market, too — makes an increase necessary.

In fact, the ICA reports that inflation has sliced the value of the checkoff fee from \$1 in 1985 to just 48 cents today.

The ICA resolution states that 72 percent of cattlemen nationwide believe that if the purveyors of the industry don’t promote themselves, no else will help subsidize the advertising.

The ICA also says that there is a shortage of funds for Idaho Beef Council programs for beef supply

Malheur cattlemen discuss ecosystem at winter meeting, Page 14A

chain research and promotion to build beef demand.

The OCA’s resolution asks members to support a fee of no more than \$2 total.

Owyhee’s cattlemen also face a proposal to amend and re-affirm a Country of Origin resolution originally passed in 2003.

The amendment to the original resolution would add language attesting to the fact that U.S.-raised beef is the safest in the world and that “the most important thing to the beef consumer today is food safety.”

There will be a campaign to change Resolution 1994-5 to clarify the meaning of “membership.”

The resolution asserts that a livestock operation must be a family business by definition in order to be successful, and that the ranching industry must have a political voice that is strong in numbers as well as unity.

To that end, the resolution seeks to clarify that membership in the OCA is on a family basis, not an individual basis.

Both spouses have full membership rights and responsibilities, including voting rights. Additional family members or employees who are at least 18 years old can be listed as members and receive full membership

rights and a vote for a fee of \$5 per person. Family members and employees who are minors can be added as Youth Members, with full rights and responsibilities except for voting.

Other items on the agenda Saturday include:

- Laura Wilder of the Idaho Beef Council is scheduled to give a presentation on the beef checkoff program at 1:30 p.m.

- At 2:30 p.m., OCA board member Chad Gibson will give an update on the Owyhee Initiative legislation now in the U.S. Senate.

- Owyhee Sage-grouse Local Working Group chair will give a progress report at 2:30 p.m.

- After a 15-minute break at 3 p.m., Idaho Cattle Association District II rep Paul Miller and ICA Cow/Calf chair Charlie Lyons will lead a question-and-answer session on the beef checkoff program.

- After the resolution vote at 4 p.m., there will be reports and updates and the completion of old and new business.

- After adjournment, a 5 p.m. social hour will be held followed by a 6 p.m. potluck. While table service and drinks will be provided, attendees are asked to bring a dish for the dinner.

— JPB

From page 1

✓ Auction: Tradition of homemade food and products nears 50th year

Marsing American Legion Community Center and the date has migrated from late March to early March to early February — but there also has been a willingness to give.

This year’s auction starts at 10:13 a.m. Saturday. Bowers said the doors will open at 8 a.m. so folks can examine the lots available for the auction.

Other changes for the auction includes the stable of auctioneers. For about the first 10 years of the event, Ellis Albright and Bud Grant were the only auctioneers. Now several auctioneers rotate throughout the day.

The inventory has changed, too. As to be expected from a farming community, the bulk of the auction lots in the early days were agriculture-related. Bowers said that the livestock auctioned off were kept in pens in the grade school playground for bidders to inspect while the rest of the auction was held in the school’s multipurpose room on 8th Avenue

West.

Today, there are still farm items, such as the three dozen eggs donated by Three Brothers Eggs, but the items up for bid have expanded as the community has become more diversified.

The Stitch and Lunch Bunch — Clara Show, Betty Peck, Maureen Johnson, Terry McClellin, Sandy Praul and Ruth Clapier — create a California King-sized quilt each year. This year’s quilt is hanging at the Essence of Life on Main Street.

Bowers and other auction committee members embark later this week on a shopping spree to local businesses — including home improvement centers — to buy other items for the auction.

The diverse collection continues to attract heavy bidding. Last year, the auction brought in more than \$80,000 for the disaster fund. The winning bids are listed on a computer now; in the beginning, Bowers said, members of the Marsing American Legion Ladies

Auxiliary used to write the inventory by hand.

Other money is raised through the sale of homemade food during the auction, another tradition that stretches to the 1960s, Bowers said.

The famous turkey and noodles have been prepared by hand for years by Mary Blackstock. Bowers said she used to cook the food at the Marsing Senior Citizens Center, and Clapier would make hourly runs between the auction site and the senior center to deliver fresh turkey and noodles.

Clapier has been making chili since 1972, and she used to cook it in the school kitchen then bring it to the event.

The Ladies of Riverside, a group from the Riverside community, makes the doughnuts each year.

Other items for sale Saturday, include tacos from Elita Rios and chorizos from Marsing City Clerk Janice Bicandi.

— JPB



Another Stitch and Lunch Bunch creation
Six ladies from the Marsing community have created a California King-sized quilt each year for many years for the Marsing Disaster Auction. This year’s quilt is on display at Essence of Life.



Smorgasbord Week 3 winners crowned

Homedale Middle School sixth-graders brought in \$838 during the third week of ticket sales for the 47th annual International Smorgasbord. The winners were, from left, Terry Mahler of Lesa Folwell’s class (\$136), Dylan Sharp of Pat Warren’s class (\$77) and Riley Maggard-Qualls (David Hann’s class, \$192). The major fundraiser for the Homedale School District will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 9 at Homedale Elementary School. Tickets are \$28 for families, \$7 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens, \$4 for students in first through sixth grades and \$2 for preschoolers. Tickets are available from any HMS sixth-grader.

Senior menus

Marsing center

- Jan. 23: Chicken & dumplings, yams, applesauce, green salad, dessert, beverage.
- Jan. 24: Roast pork, potatoes, gravy, carrots, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
- Jan. 28: Breakfast to order.
- Jan. 29: Stew, biscuits, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
- Jan. 30: Roast pork, potatoes, gravy, corn/green beans, carrot salad, soup, dessert, beverage.

Homedale center

- Jan. 26: Chicken chow mein, fried rice, stir fry vegetables, beverage.
- Jan. 27: Hearty beef stew, roll, beverage.
- Jan. 28: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed vegetables, bread, beverage.

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Jan. 22	30	13	.00
Jan. 23	29	4	.00
Jan. 24	20	0	.00
Jan. 25	no reading taken		
Jan. 26	no reading taken		
Jan. 27	no reading taken		
Jan. 28	49	3	.15



Shoo-Fly 4-H elects new officers

The 2008 officers for the Shoo-Fly 4-H Club were elected earlier this month at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center. Back row, from left: Kolbie Gerdes, reporter; Megan Harper, vice-president; Megan Barraza, historian; Gabby Nash, president; and Riley Maggard-Qualls, treasurer. Front row, from left: Kenny Harper, sergeant-at-arms; Morgan Nash, secretary. Submitted photo

Shoo-Fly 4-H news

by Kolbie Gerdes, reporter
On Jan. 13 at 3pm there was a Shoo-Fly and Clover Bud 4-H meeting held at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center. The Shoo-Fly club will be doing their community service project on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. by helping to clean up at the International Smorgasbord. The next meeting is Feb. 10 at 4 p.m. at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center. Members will be meeting with their project leaders, filling out county enrollment forms and paying their dues.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

- Jan. 23: Orange chicken or egg roll, rice pilaf, veggie, fruit & veggie bar, fortune cookie, milk.
- Jan. 24: Lasagna or mini corn dogs, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.
- Jan. 25: Fish nuggets or turkey sandwich, French fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Jan. 28: Sloppy Joe or hot dog, tots, fruit & veggie bar, chocolate pudding, milk.
- Jan. 29: Turkey & noodles, or tuna sandwich, peas, fruit & veggie bar, goldfish crackers, milk.
- Jan. 30: Chili or beef taco pie, roll, fruit & veggie bar, fruit rollup, milk.

Homedale Middle

- Jan. 23: Burrito or fish sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, apple crisp, milk.
- Jan. 24: Spaghetti or chicken bacon melt, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 25: Pizza or popcorn chicken, tossed salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Jan. 28: Chicken patty or rib-b-que, tots, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Jan. 29: Weiner wrap or sloppy Joe, green beans, animal crackers, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 30: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit rollup, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale High

- Jan. 23: Spaghetti, burrito, pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 24: Chicken patty, hamburger, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
- Jan. 25: Crispito, rib-b-que, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 28: Pepperoni pizza, mini corn dogs, chef salad, fruit & veggie bar, brownie, milk.
- Jan. 29: Oven fried chicken, wiener wrap, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
- Jan. 30: Enchilada, burrito, pizza hot pocket, baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

- Jan. 23: Red Baron Pizza, pineapple, salad, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Jan. 24: Burritos, corn, strawberries & banana, milk, baked potato & chili bar, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Jan. 25: Weiner wrap, veggie, fruit, milk, chicken nuggets, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Jan. 28: Turkey soup, corn, fruit, milk, cf steak, salad bar 4th-12th, maple bar.
- Jan. 29: Hamburger, veggie, fruit, hot dog or chorizo, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
- Jan. 30: Chicken patty/bun, veggie, fruit, soup & sandwich, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau

- Jan. 23: Chicken Caesar wrap, fried rice, veggie, fruit, milk.
- Jan. 24: Pizza, salad/croutons, corn, pineapple, milk.
- Jan. 25: Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, peaches, milk.
- Jan. 28: Mac & cheese, little smokies, green beans, muffins, fruit, milk.
- Jan. 29: Tacos, chips & bean dip, corn, pears, milk.
- Jan. 30: Lasagna, salad, garlic bread, peaches, milk.

Death notice

DALE TETER, 84, of Adrian, Ore., died Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, at home. Services were held at 1 p.m. Monday at the Church of God in Wilder. Interment followed at the Wilder Cemetery. Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell, directed.

Read all about it
in the Avalanche!



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



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.
Traditional & Alternative Services
Canyon and Owyhee Counties' locally owned Crematory
Pre-Arrangements by Licensed Funeral Directors

Caldwell Homedale
624 Cleveland Blvd. - Caldwell, ID 83605 27 E. Owyhee Ave. - Homedale, ID 83628
(208) 459-0833 (208) 337-3252

Your finances

Take over existing business gradually to avoid debt load

Dear Dave,

I've got the opportunity to take over my father's small engine shop. He's semi-retired and doesn't make a lot with it, but he's got about \$10,000 to \$20,000 in inventory already stocked. He might even just turn it over to me, but I'd have to expand it to really make a living. How can I do this and avoid going into debt?

— Mark

Dear Mark,

Let's be realistic. If you were going to start this business from the ground up, you could make almost as much with it. And if that were the case you could just buy your inventory as needed, right?

In this situation, you're looking at having to buy inventory in advance that you may not have bought in the first place. In essence, you'd be buying a business that's struggling.

You might try making an arrangement with your dad based on the inventory sold instead of buying it all outright in the beginning. Maybe you could structure it to where you'd buy the first \$10,000 of inventory that leaves the shelves from him.

That way you don't have to worry about financing the business and running into debt, because you're buying it gradually.

Good luck, Mark!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

What's the minimum age at which you recommend buying life insurance? I'm 27 years old and married, no kids and we're doing pretty well with our debt-reduction. Currently, we only have \$10,000 in debt remaining and this includes some student loans and a mortgage.

— Sheldon

Dear Sheldon,

Your wife's current lifestyle is dependent on your income, so you definitely want to look into getting some life insurance at this point. After all, you want her to be well taken care of financially if something happens to you.

The need may not be quite as pressing as if you had children, but it would be bad if you died prematurely and she found herself saddled with a bunch of debt on top of losing you. Grief plus financial hardship is a recipe for disaster!

At your age, good, level term life insurance is not very expensive. If you're healthy, you can get around \$400,000 in coverage for \$25 or \$30 a month.



You've got responsibilities to think about, Sheldon!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My grandson is 9 years old. I'm afraid I spoiled him in the past, because if he wanted something all he'd do is ask and I'd give it to him. I've decided I need to change this behavior, but I'm not sure how to start. I especially want to teach him some responsibility where money is concerned.

— Lisa

Dear Lisa,

If I were you I'd sit him down and let him know you'd made a mistake in handling some things. At his age, he's old enough to understand this. But it's not going to be painless — for either of you — because he's been cruising along getting pretty much whatever he wants up to this point.

Let him know lovingly, but firmly, that the mistake you made was spoiling him and that the world doesn't work that way. Explain to him that you love him very much, and that you're not doing it to be mean, but you're doing it because you want him to grow up to be a responsible adult and have a wonderful life.

Don't be too hard on yourself, Lisa. We're all guilty of this kind of thing when it comes to kids and grandkids. Believe me, I've got kids who don't hear the word "no" often enough, and when one of them does hear it they always get this strange look on their faces like they don't understand English.

But "no" can be a good word. Lots of times it'll keep people out of trouble!

— 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

Calendar

Today

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

Thursday

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

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

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

Friday

Celebrate Recovery 12-step program, 6 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3520 or (208) 337-3151

Saturday

47th annual Marsing Disaster Auction, 10:13 a.m., Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N.

Tuesday

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

Ridgeview Irrigation District monthly board meeting, 1 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale

Gem Irrigation District monthly board meeting, 1:15 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale

South Board of Control monthly board meeting, 1:30 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale

Eastern Owyhee County Library "Let's Talk About It" series, "We Are What We Eat — Climbing the Mango Tree" discussion, 3 p.m., free, Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

Storytime for first- through third-graders, 4:20 p.m., Lizard Butte Public Library, Third Street, Marsing. (208) 896-4690

Owyhee County Democratic Party Caucus, 6 p.m., Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N. (208) 337-3904

Marsing PTA meeting, 7 p.m., Marsing High School Commons Room, 208 S. 8th Ave. W., Marsing

Pure Word recovery meeting, 7 p.m. Snake River Valley Fellowship, 20 E. Oregon Ave, Homedale. (208) 475-3733

Marsing School District Board of Trustees monthly meeting, 7 p.m., district office board room, 209 W. 8th Ave. W.

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

Wednesday, Feb. 6

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

Thursday, Feb. 7

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.

Friday, Feb. 8

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

Submit information on upcoming fundraisers, 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@cableone.net. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

REINKE® PUTS YOU IN CONTROL

Increased water regulations and rising production costs affect us all. Our new Reinke Precision Management (RPM) control panels put the power of efficient, accurate application in your hands. Choose from three levels of control—RPM, RPM Advanced or RPM Preferred. Each features the latest precision irrigation technology in an easy-to-use interface. Powerful options include our exclusive Reinke Navigator™ GPS guidance and remote monitoring. See your Reinke dealer today for more details. RPM puts the power in your hands.

RPM Preferred RPM Advanced RPM

Rain for Rent

1303 N. 20th St. • Nampa, Idaho
466-8929

Call Us for a Pivot Quote! Government assistance available.

Tackling social concerns

Community responds to inspiring presentation

Adrian, Homedale students attend
Rachel's Challenge assembly

by Jinell VanCorbach. AHS
Rachel Joy Scott was the first victim killed in the Columbine High School shootings on April 20, 1999. Before her death, she theorized that if one person would be kind and compassionate to another person, it would create a chain reaction of kindness and compassion that would spread throughout the world.

Rachel had a positive influence on many people in her life, and she continues to touch millions of other lives through the Rachel's Challenge organization.

Last Wednesday, the Adrian middle school and high school students and faculty and community members listened to the moving presentation of Rachel's Challenge.

Cody Hodges, a former Texas Tech quarterback who has played professional football, presented two Rachel's Challenge assemblies inside the Adrian High School gymnasium.

Students and faculty from Adrian, Homedale and Harper (Ore.) schools attended the afternoon assembly.

Community members from Adrian, Homedale, Parma and Nyssa, Ore., attended the evening presentation.

"I thought the presentation was very well done," Adrian High School principal Kevin Purnell said.

"People should take the message seriously. They should take the five challenges to heart. It would make the world a better place."

The five challenges, according to RachelsChallenge.com:

1. Eliminate prejudice by

- looking for the best in others.
2. Dare to dream by setting goals and writing in a journal.
3. Choose your influences — Input determines output.
4. Kind words — Small acts of kindness equal huge impact.
5. Start a chain reaction with family and friends.

The Adrian Associated Student Body members, under the direction of advisors Stephanie Allison and Lorine VanCorbach, organized the event. Prior to the first presentation, the ASB members held a small assembly for the middle school students to prepare them for the presentation. The assembly began with a short video about the Columbine shootings, and later the students were divided into their separate grades where a discussion about bullying took place.

Adrian's leadership class first heard of the Rachel's Challenge presentation in November when class members attended the annual fall conference of the Oregon Association of Student Councils.

The leadership class members heard a presentation by Darrel Scott, Rachel's father, at the conference. Scott left such a huge impression on the leadership students that they felt the need to share it with members of their school, community and surrounding area.

With the help of sponsors, fundraisers, and the support of the Adrian school district, the leadership class was able to bring this message of hope and inspiration to their school and community.



Columbine victim's message resonates

Above: Students from Adrian, Homedale, and Harper gather to sign a banner and commit themselves to accept Rachel's Challenge. **Below:** Adrian High School student leaders, officers and leadership advisors stand with Principal Kevin Purnell (back row, far right) and Rachel's Challenge speaker Cody Hodges (blue shirt and tie) behind the banner after Hodges' presentation at the school. AHS Photography



Homedale families turn out for Family Fun Night



Fun and a forum

Above: Local children get help with activities from members of Homedale's chapter of the Future Hispanic Leaders of America. **Left:** Around 40 residents attended the community improvement forum.



Family Fun Night, a community event held at the Homedale Elementary School on Thursday, offered good food, fun and games, and a community improvement forum to attendees. Organizers of the event proclaimed it a success, with more than 200 residents attending.

"We had a great response despite the snowy weather," University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension 4-H coordinator Judith McShane said. "It was a very positive atmosphere. The teens received great input and support from the community."

Homedale High School's chapter of the Future Hispanic Leaders of America (FHLA), the 4-H Engaging Youth, Serving Communities (EYSC) program, and the I Can Do Kids Club presented the affair.

The evening started at 6 p.m. in the school cafeteria, with a free dinner catered by Del Rio Restaurant. The fare included

carnitas, rice, beans, and salad.

At 7 p.m., the fun and games, presented by the I Can Do Kids Club, began in the lunchroom while the FHLA-run community forum started in the library.

In the lunchroom, game and activity tables were arranged along the perimeter of the room. Children created jewelry, worked with leather, learned about scrapbooking, played with robots, or tried their luck at games such as ring toss, bean bag toss, or fishing for prizes.

Approximately 40 community residents attended the forum in the school library. Members of the FHLA moderated the discussion, which focused mainly on generating ideas for improving opportunities for Homedale's youth.

Ideas brought up at the discussion included improving Riverside Park and its swimming pool, a city cleanup day, and suggestions that more after-school activities be

provided for Homedale's young people.

According to McShane, the next step for the FHLA is to categorize the ideas from the forum, and prioritize them in order of importance and feasibility.

The group will hold another forum to present the prioritized list of ideas to the community, and then present the ideas to the Homedale City Council. At that point, the hope is to work with the city to implement one or more of the ideas, McShane said.

The EYSC program is designed to help rural youth to work with adults to enrich their lives by improving their communities. Young people partner with civic-minded adults, first with community forums, then in developing and implementing community improvement action plans.

— RTH

Smoldering fire spews steam



Adrian onion shed fire — the day after

Left: A large steam cloud rises into the air after 9 a.m. Thursday, about 14 hours after firefighters from three Oregon agencies and one Idaho department put down the blaze along Oregon highway 201 in Adrian. Above: Crumpled and charred crates of onions smolder. Fire personnel were waiting on heavy equipment to demolish the wreckage and put out hot spots later Thursday.

Frigid temperatures form icicles

Sub-freezing weather conspired with water used by firefighters to create icicles on scorched crates of onions just inside what used to be the wall of a storage facility in Adrian. The man who leases the building said a young area farmer had about \$70,000 worth of onions in the building.



Fire diverts traffic in downtown Adrian

This steam cloud could be seen from miles away Thursday morning. The fire, which started at about 4:30 p.m. Wednesday after a propane tank exploded next to a heater, forced the closure of Oregon 201 for a time.

Forms due for 2008 fair livestock border exception

The deadline to petition for a 4-H border exception for this year's Owyhee County Fair is Friday.

Any exhibitor living outside the county who intends to show animals at this year's fair must file for a border exception with the fair board.

Forms can be turned in either at the fair board office in Homedale or at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office.

Forms are available online at extension.ag.uidaho.edu/owyhee/4hforms.htm or at the leaders meeting, which is scheduled for the extension office, 238 8th Ave. W., in Marsing, on Tuesday.

The new leaders training begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, followed by the planning meeting at 7 p.m.

Idaho Power plans crucial substation in Owyhee County

The long process of bringing more electricity to the region took a small step recently with an open house in the Wilson community.

Idaho Power spokesperson Lynette Berriochoa said that about 16 people attended a Jan. 15 open house at the Wilson schoolhouse to outline plans for the Hemingway transmission station, which is slated to be completed in eight years.

About a dozen of the people who showed up for the two-hour open house owned property adjacent to the proposed station site, which is about a mile northeast of the schoolhouse and a mile southwest of the Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson fire station.

Berriochoa said there weren't any concerns voiced from the open house audience.

"Just some questions about the project and some positive comments about the displays — and a preference for a substation over a subdivision," Berriochoa said.

Preliminary plans have Idaho Power placing the substation on 46 acres in Owyhee County, but Berriochoa said the size of the land could change after designers begin their work on topography and access.

The station will convert 500-kilovolt electricity to 230-Kv for transmission to the Treasure Valley from the Hemingway station to the existing Bowmont station in Canyon County.

Berriochoa said the Hemingway station is part of a larger \$1 billion project, announced in May, that will serve the entire region's growing hunger for power.

"It will help meet the increasing demand for electricity as well as increase transmission capacity and reliability," she said.

"It's like adding a freeway to a highly congested traffic area."

Berriochoa explained that adding another transmission line will reduce the congestion on power lines during peak periods such as summertime. She said it will make moving domestic electricity or electricity imported from Wyoming or Oregon easier.

Berriochoa said the entire project won't be completed until 2014. Work to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act will last through mid-2010, obtaining right-of-way for transmission lines from the Bureau of Land Management will last from 2009 to 2012, the permitting process will go from 2008 to 2011 with engineering and design from 2008 to 2012 and construction from 2011 to 2014.

"We're trying to move as quickly as we can while also working with our local jurisdictions and the public to answer questions, take comments and feedback and work as collaboratively as possible," Berriochoa said.

— JPB

Mark your calendars!



Sunday, February 3rd
Super Bowl
Pizza Party!
Drink Specials
Games - Giveaways
Starts at 2:30



MARDI GRAS
Winter Carnival
Saturday, February 9th
Drink Specials! DJ James!
9 pm - 1 am
Beads! Fun!
Games! Prizes!



Valentine's Day
Thursday, February 14
5:00 to 9:00 pm
Flat Iron Steak
& Shrimp Dinner
\$25/couple
Reservations Recommended, but not necessary

Caba's Restaurant & Lounge

2 E. Main, Marsing • 896-4182



BEST PRICES OF THE YEAR!

HUGE SALE!

NAPA GOLD FILTERS TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Call or Stop In Today to Check Out NAPA's Once-A-Year Special Pricing!

FEBRUARY 1st - 11th, 2008

OPEN HOUSE...

Marsing Location: Thursday, Feb. 7

Homedale Location: Friday, Feb. 8



Save BIG on TOP QUALITY NAPAGold Filters!

GREAT FILTERS. GREAT PRICE.

NAPA Filters keep your engines running. At our NAPAGold Filter Sale Event, you can save on every kind of filter. If it's a NAPAGold Filter, it's on sale.

Feb. 1st thru Feb. 11th

FREE BATTERY, ALTERNATOR & STARTER TESTS

FREE BATTERY CHARGING

MACHINE SHOP
WE RESURFACE DRUMS, ROTORS AND FLYWHEELS

WE MAKE HYDRAULIC HOSES IN STOCK: HEAVY DUTY TRUCK PARTS AG BEARINGS • ROLLER CHAIN WELDING GASSES & SUPPLIES



AUTO PARTS

LOCALLY OWNED SINCE 1977

Owyhee Auto Supply

4 E. Idaho Ave • Homedale - 337-4668
202 Main St • Marsing - 896-4814

Digital imaging class available free to Marsing High students

Marsing High School will offer a digital photography and videography workshop next month after school.

The free classes are open to any Marsing High School student and have been underwritten with a grant from the University of Idaho Extension's 4-H Youth Development and Operation: Military Kids Program.

Students will learn to edit and manipulate digital pictures, edit and splice videos, add music, and create a final video project.

The classes will be held Tuesday, Wednesday, Feb. 8, Feb. 12, Feb. 14, Feb. 19, Feb. 20 and Feb. 22. Classes will run from 3:05 p.m. to 5 p.m. each day. They'll be held in Room 102 inside the high school on 8th Avenue West.

Students who are interested should contact teacher Brandy Smith or principal Wade Pilloud at Marsing High School.

10% OFF:

- All Wood Pellets While they Last!
- Wild Bird Seed & Wild Bird Blocks
- Black Oil Sunflower Bird Feed



3441 Hwy 95
Homedale
208-337-5706



Grand View Lions plan another community auction

The annual Grand View Lions Club auction is set for Feb. 9 at the Grand View Elementary School gymnasium.

The day starts with lunch at noon, and the auction starts at 1 p.m.

The Baker Auction Co., is providing the auctioneers.

Auction items include 20 tons of hay in an assortment of bale sizes, handmade furniture, handmade pen sets, batteries, tires, oil, clothes, gift certificates, high-quality tools, dog food, homemade pies, honey and much more.

A raffle also is planned. Prizes include a Mossberg Model 835 12-gauge shotgun with a 28-inch barrel, ACCU-mag choke tubes, and the gun can use lead or steel shot, and a six-burner Kenmore propane gas grill with a warming rack and electrode ignition.

Raffle tickets will be available at the auction or can be obtained from any Lions Club member or sixth-graders from Grand View



Grand View Lions plan auction

Displayed is a batch of items that will be up for bid Feb. 9 during the annual Grand View Lions Club auction. There also will be a raffle. Submitted photo

and Bruneau elementary schools. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5.

All money raised through the auction is returned to the community.

Last year, proceeds helped pay off a drain ditch project in Grand View, bought books for both elementary schools, helped fund 4-H activities and an Eagle

Scout project and also helped sponsor little league basketball and baseball at the schools.

Grand View Lions auction organizers thank those who come out to support the auction and the community.

For more information, call (208) 834-2442 or (208) 599-1014.

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

Three Creek got 4 inches of fresh snow on Jan. 21. Harlan Mink, the road supervisor, hopes the wind doesn't blow because if it does he will have a time. Since the big fires burned all the brush last summer the snow all blows into the roads.

Teacher Mrs. Marilyn Boss and her four pupils are doing fine. Jessica and Dianne Gonzales got to spend their Christmas vacation in Mexico and attend their uncle's wedding. On Jan. 10, they went skiing at Magic Mountain. Earlier they were on TV. Brittany Cooper of Twin Falls station KMVT Channel 11 came out and filmed them.

Rolly Patrick at age 91 is still enjoying his Devil Creek Ranch. He and his helper drove over to Murphy Hot Springs lately and got to see around 95 elk all in one bunch.

Thelma Severe, 87 of Oakley, passed away recently. She was the mother of Keith Severe of Devil Creek Ranch.

Shirley Kinyon, 71 of Castleford, passed away Dec.

26, 2007 after a long battle with cancer.

The Kinyons have run cattle on these ranges for years.

Herschel Boydsten, 89, who had all the fish in ponds at Steele Springs, passed away Dec. 18, 2007

I turned the big Nine-O on Jan. 18, 2008 and celebrated for three days. On Thursday, I went to a luncheon at Buhl with friends; on Friday I enjoyed a fabulous dinner prepared at their home by my sister-in-law Leah Colyer.

A party was held at my home on Saturday that was given by Bethene Brewer and Mrs. Kim (Ira) Brackett. Dear ladies attending besides the hostesses were Marilyn Ramsey, Leah Colyer, Helen Marshall, Shirlee Hawes Coiner, Shana Brewer Kerbs, Linda Barton Nilson and Kelsie Robinson. Six cute kids romped around and had fun. Altogether I got five birthday cakes and five beautiful bouquets of flowers and other gifts.

Kim Brackett read a list of events that happened in 1918, which was really interesting.

Trustees honor Homedale High School fixture

Homedale High School staff members turned out last week to honor a colleague who cringes at the slightest hint of the spotlight.

Jim McMillan was saluted for his dedication and longevity Jan. 14 at the Homedale School District Board of Trustees meeting.

"Jim, being the humble man that he is, will be absolutely miserable receiving this award, but the rest of us are proud of him and know he deserves to be recognized," counseling office secretary Gloria Lejardi said.

McMillan has served in several capacities at Homedale High School in the past 26 years, including a respected history teacher and a state championship-winning football and softball coach.

"Yes, he excelled as a football coach and a softball coach here at HHS, but his most important contribution to the district is what most patrons don't see, and that is his consistent work in the classroom," Lejardi said.

As part of the Award of Excellence presentation, McMillan's colleagues poked fun at his humil-

ity while shining a bright light on the dedication he has shown to the school and its students for more than a quarter-century.

"Those of us who work with and know Jim understand that being here tonight as the center of focus has probably made him lose sleep and put a serious knot in his stomach," Homedale High principal Mike Williams said.

McMillan began his teaching career 28 years ago at Vallivue, his alma mater. He came two years later, back when both high school and junior high school classes were held on the East Idaho Avenue campus.

Beyond the good-natured ribbing, though, was a tribute to a man who puts in long hours to ensure that his students excel. He has taught Lifetime Physical Education, Fitness Training, Weight Training, Health, U.S. History and American Government.

"Mr. McMillan is an understanding, intelligent and compassionate professional who is aware of the needs of the students, parents and community," Williams said.



History teacher earns award

Jim McMillan's colleagues recognized his long tenure at Homedale High School during a ceremony earlier this month.

"Jim challenges his students with relevance and rigor in the classroom while making his classes interesting and reward."

Last school year, he served as the advisor to the school-based community service group Teens Making a Difference, or TMD.

"Jim McMillan is the ultimate professional," Industrial Technol-

ogy teacher Mike Greeley said. "He is the kind of teacher who goes above and beyond what the job calls for and spends countless hours of his free time preparing lessons and working with students.

"He is what we should all strive to be as professionals. You won't find many people more dedicated to the Homedale community than

Jim McMillan."

Leanda Uranga, who works in the school's front office and serves as bookkeeper, pointed out that McMillan walked the walk, too, choosing to raise his children in the Homedale community and involve himself not only with his high school students, but with younger children in town.

Twice a week he serves as tutor and advisor and plays soccer with a group of elementary and middle school students.

For his efforts as a coach and an athletic director in 25 years of service, McMillan was presented a Lifetime Pass from the Idaho High School Activities Association a few years ago.

"As a parent, I appreciated the fact that Jim coached as he lived," Uranga said. "He was a very smart football who led football teams to victory without bragging or show-boating.

"He taught his players the game and how to play it fairly without demoralizing the opponent."

Relaxing not only makes you feel better but it promotes a healthier day where you can be free from stress, worry, and bodily aches. This Valentine's Day, if you are looking for something special to give, consider massage.

Valentine Special!
Couple Massage only \$95

Bring your honey, your best buddy, your mom or your daughter for this side by side treat with two massage therapists.
Normally \$110.00 per couple.

Rapha Therapeutic Massage

Offer Valid Through 02-29-08
Call us for an appointment today!

Stacy Fisher, CMT • 208-695-7228
Mandy Shenk, CMT • 208-919-3782
www.raphamassage.com
6 West Owyhee • Homedale
(by appointment only)

BUY OUR GIFT CERTIFICATES ONLINE at www.raphamassage.com! Now accepting all major credit cards

When you're looking for a home loan, it's nice to have a Loan Officer close to home.

Golf offers hundreds of loan programs, including Zero Down, FHA/VA and custom loans to build your dream home.

Doug Cook
Loan Officer
C: (208) 989-0644
O: (208) 337-5770
F: (208) 337-5787
dcook@golfsavingsbank.com

Golf Savings Bank
Everything you'd never expect from a mortgage lender.
www.golfsavingsbank.com
A SUBSIDIARY OF STERLING FINANCIAL CORP.

Homedale Branch Office • 114 W Idaho Ave

School leaders weigh in on teacher pay plan

As could be expected, there are two distinct camps when it comes to the state education chief's plan to increase teacher pay.

In the Homedale School District, superintendent Tim Rosandick welcomes the attempt to retain instructors and to encourage teachers to get certified to fill multiple positions — both vital goals in rural school districts.

"In our business, we have con-

tinually argued that higher teacher pay is critical for us to attract and retain the brightest and best to serve kids," Rosandick said.

Originally slated to pump \$60 million into the statewide salary structure, the Idaho State Teacher Advancement and Recognition System (iSTARS or SB 1310 in the Idaho Legislature) proposed as part of Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna's

budget to the 2008 Idaho Legislature was scaled back to about \$46 million last week in an attempt to garner support from the Legislature and Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter.

Rosandick said that the plan that Luna pitched in Homedale last month is "the boldest innovation ever proposed to enhance teacher salaries in a very significant way" that he has seen in 25 years in the education business.

But Homedale School District Education Association president Nick Schamber says teachers are concerned about elements of the plan that would seemingly force teachers to give up tenure in order to be eligible for increased pay.

"My overall feeling would be that most teachers are apprehensive about the plan," Schamber said. "When talking to other staff members, they do cite some good qualities within the plan.

"However, there are other parts to the plan that are unclear or disagreeable."

Under the iSTARS plan's "Career Opportunity" option, teachers who choose to move away from tenure and enter contracts similar to those signed by administrators now would be eligible for further incentives. According to Luna, teachers with three years or more on the job would be offered two-year contracts, while teachers with 10 years or more would be offered three-year contracts. A



Tim Rosandick



Nick Schamber

year could be added to the contract at the end of each year, Luna said in a video presentation outlining iSTARS.

"The part of the plan that asks teachers to forgo their property rights to their contract is probably the most difficult piece to swallow," Schamber said. "If you choose this option, you essentially give up your property right to the contract."

Schamber points out that each school board has local control over the length of contract offers.

Similarly, each school board also can identify the most scarce positions in its district and allocate the bonuses to those "hard-to-fill" positions, or the "Expertise" tier of the iSTARS model.

Another tier of salary incentives is dubbed "Leadership" for instructors who take on mentoring roles with their co-workers.

But the incentive packages for Expertise and Leadership tiers will be open only to those teachers who agree to the Career Opportunity option.

"The part about job scarcity and leadership roles seems a bit ambiguous," Schamber said. "Other monies are available to teachers who fit these categories. Consequently only 30 percent of the staff can be compensated in a leadership role."

Schamber, who teaches at Homedale Middle School, said the staff threshold for leadership roles could create inequity.

"If there are more than 30 percent of staff members fulfilling a leadership role, some may end up not being compensated," he said.

The iSTARS plan creates higher "foundation pay" through rewards for improvement in ISAT scores.

Schamber said the teachers' union, Idaho Education Association, has a proposal called we-

TEACH (SB 1290), which would increase base pay for teachers and does have some performance-based components.

If a teacher new to the business chose to waive his or her chance at tenure — something Schamber says would be lost forever — and obtained certifications to teach several subjects, the starting salary could be as high as \$33,400, Rosandick said.

"That's an 8 percent pay increase," he said. "To put this in context, over the past 10 years or so, the Legislature has approved increase in salary support funding in the 2 to 3 percent range."

Homedale teachers received a 3 percent raise for the 2007-08 school year.

Rosandick said that iSTARS would push the salary of the highest-paid teacher in the Homedale district from \$52,446 to \$65,646. But, the superintendent said, no more than 10 percent of Idaho's teachers would be eligible for that 25 percent increase.

"Superintendent Luna understands that in order to attract and retain bright, talented and dedicated people into the teaching profession, salaries have to be competitive," Rosandick said.

"He also understands that the public wants outstanding teachers to be rewarded for their performance."

Schamber said if the Legislature passes the iSTARS aspect of Luna's budget proposal this year, teachers may be slow to warm to the idea.

"I think there will be a lot of teachers, not just in Homedale, but in Idaho who will take a wait-and-see approach," Schamber said.

"If this plan passes, I feel that many will want to see how things go for a couple of years, and if it is working well, then more may jump on board."

— JPB

We're Branching Out!



We're extending our reach, so we can better serve our customers' heating and cooling needs. Now more homeowners can expect the quick response, caring service and reasonable rates our customers have come to expect.

Newly Expanded Service Area!

HOMEDALE • MARSING • PARMA

\$30 Off Any Service Call

Offer valid with this ad only. Not valid with other offers or prior services. Limit 1 coupon per service call

Furnace Inspections • Sales & Repairs
Emergency Service Available • Free Estimates
GAS • ELECTRIC • OIL • HEAT PUMPS

AIR COMFORT

820 E. CLEVELAND BLVD • CALDWELL • 459-7463

BEAR MOUNTAIN ANGUS

PUREBRED REGISTERED ANGUS CATTLE

RANGE READY



Repeat Buyer Discounts 100% Guaranteed

BULL SALE

At the Ranch, Melba, Idaho

Sale at 1:00 pm

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2008



WWW.BEARMOUNTAINANGUS.COM
CALL FOR "CATTLE-LOG"

Gary, Brian and Davy Stoller
12562 Cattle Drive
Melba, Idaho 83641
Phone: (208) 495-1122
Gary Cell: (208) 250-1454
Brian Cell: (208) 941-5272
Fax: (208) 495-1134
bearmtnangus@msn.com

Two Homedale students make EOU fall semester dean's list

Two Homedale High School graduates qualified for the Eastern Oregon University dean's list in La Grande, Ore., after the fall term.

Dean's list members from Homedale included Michelle Eby and Sara Reed.

To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the duration of the term.

Visit our new Design Center before building or remodeling your home!

We sell carpet, blinds, lighting, windows, laminate floors, tile, granite, cabinets... We can help with just about everything you need for your next project!

Free Estimates • Idaho Owned



4523 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell 454-8626

Read all about it in the Avalanche!

COSSA welders save money

Ball rack, wheelchair ramp are latest projects for Homedale

In addition to teaching practical skills, Mark Bauer strives to instill a sense of community in the students who come through his welding program in Homedale. The Canyon-Owyhee School Services Agency Southern Idaho Technical welding students' latest contribution to the community is a basketball rack built for Homedale Middle School.

"There are a lot of needs in our schools," Bauer wrote in an e-mail. "We can help them save dollars. At the same time, we are saving tax dollars."

"We are able to train welders and fabricators for industry. We are giving these students a chance to learn a great trade. It's a great arrangement."

Bauer's Welding 1 and Welding 2 students built the basketball rack, which was in use during Thursday's season-opening eighth-grade boys basketball games at HMS. The longtime trades instructor figures the project saved the school district about \$200.

"It is a huge benefit to have programs such as COSSA, and the welding classes that can contribute to the school district in ways that are cost effective, and provide additional learning opportunities for students," HMS principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness said. "Mark took this on without hesitation, and the ball holder they created is much better than the one we bought, and significantly more cost-effective. I hope the middle school can partner with Mark and his classes on other projects."

Asumendi-Mereness said the middle school purchased another ball rack for about \$300 to store smaller basketballs used by the seventh-grade boys and girls basketball teams.

The COSSA project for the eighth-grade boys basketball holder was more than just bending metal and welding.

"The material for the rack was purchased from our steel distributor," Bauer said. "I have the students call up the distributor and place the order."

Adding that the most expensive part of the project was the wheels, Bauer said the materials bill was \$91. No labor is ever charged, saving those who commission projects a chunk of money.

Eight students from Homedale, Marsing, Wilder and Centerpoint high schools and one home-schooled student put time in on the project.

"The reason for so many students working on the project was to develop the skills of being able to replicate pieces," Bauer said. "After all the pieces were fabricated, it was just a matter of welding it together."

Bauer said the project took four class periods to complete. Students spend about one or two days a week on projects while learning Welding Competencies during the other days. Each class period runs three hours.



COSSA students help school's bottom line
Above: Homedale Middle School eighth-grade basketball player Michael Vigil grabs a ball out of the school's new basketball rack during practice prior to the team's season opener earlier this month. *Below:* Marsing High School student Logan Glenn works one of the chutes for the rack in Mark Bauer's COSSA welding class in Homedale. Submitted photo



Students used bending tools to form the circles that make up the frame of the rack. The parts were welded together with short circuit wire feed.

Bauer's COSSA program draws students from six schools. Students working on the basketball rack project included Cody Gardner, Jonathan Verwer, Nestor Machuca and Dustin Regis (Homedale), Logan Glenn (Marsing), Antonio Ramirez (Wilder), Amanda Smith and Daryll Huffman (Centerpoint) and Shalen Bennion (home-schooled).

"We have a great group of future welders and metal workers in our communities," Bauer said. "The welding industry is very short of people to do this type of work."

Bauer's students recently completed building a wheelchair ramp for Homedale Elementary School. The ramp cost about \$15 for materials.

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

"We are always ready to help any of our schools or the towns the schools are in," Bauer said. "We have built many pieces of equipment for athletic departments over the years."

— JPB

Fun at the library



Homedale library holds puppet show
Above: Librarian Margaret Fujishin shows an illustration to children gathered for Thursday's "Rumpelstiltskin" puppet show at the Homedale Library. Ann Umphrey and Diane Williams served as puppeteers for the brief show. *Below:* Among the children enraptured by the show were, in the front row, from left: Daymen Schumacher, Jaden Rose, Tommy Muir, Ryan Aman, Chase Chavez and Jazmyn Schumacher. Children sitting on their mother's lap are Belisia and Isana Larzelier.





PICK UP THE PACE
30 Minute Workout for Women
4 W Owyhee Ave • Homedale, ID ~ 337-4040
24/7 Access for members • Childrens Play Area
WE HELP WOMEN LOSE FAT & TONE UP!
We accept Sterling Insurance
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm • Mon - Fri • For men and women
TANNING • SPRAY TANNING • MASSAGE THERAPIST

Read all about it
in the Avalanche!



Before
After

Use your tax return to
bring value, style and
elegance to your home!

We stand behind our work!
Professionals that care!
For a free estimate,
call **208-407-2902**
Remodeling or
New Construction

- Stone
- Brick
- Block

Campbell Masonry

Skinner's honored by Malheur cattlemen

Members also hear about several issues facing industry

The contributions of a historical family were saluted during Thursday's Malheur County Cattlemen's Association winter meeting at the Lions Den in Jordan Valley.

The Skinner family was presented with an iron ranch sign in recognition of Skinner Ranches' long-standing dedication to the sustainability and promotion of the cattle industry in the county and on a state level.

"The Skinners have helped the Oregon Cattlemen's, the Malheur and Owyhee Cattlemen's, and we do appreciate all they've done for the livestock communities over the years," MCCA president Wannie Mackenzie said during the sign presentation.

Bob and Sara, Bob and Karen, Silas and Tracy and Mike and Kelsi Skinner accepted the iron sign during the presentation.

Kelsi Skinner supervised the freshman class from Jordan Valley High School as members prepared the roast beef for the dinner served before the business meeting.

Another presentation during the business meeting came from Vern Kershner, the president of the Jordan Valley Rodeo Board.

Kershner handed Mackenzie a check for \$10,000, proceeds generated from September's Owyhee Rope 'n' Ride at the

Jordan Valley Rodeo Grounds. Kershner reported that the Rope 'n' Ride has raised about \$300,000 for Owyhee and Malheur county ranchers during the past nine years.

Jeff Palmer was elected an MCCA vice-president during the business meeting, which attracted 37 association members and their guests.

The association also agreed to host another barbecue at this year's Malheur County Fair.

One of the final pieces of business was donating \$200 to the Beef Field Day, scheduled for Marsing later this year. Anna-Marie Chamberlain, who works in the Malheur County Extension Office, said that this year's event will focus on carcass quality and traits. The field day attracts 4-H and FFA students and their families from Owyhee and Malheur counties.

There were several informational presentations during the afternoon portion of the meeting:

- Two Oregon State University scientists shared research that they have been conducting.
- Dave Bohnert, from Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC) in Burns, discussed several feed trials held at the station. He discussed methods to cheapen winter

feeding costs in cattle and also gave a quick demonstration of the "Cowculator" ration formulating computer program that is available to producers.

Multiple producers requested copies of the software as a way to lower costs in their own ranching operations.

Tim DelCurto from EOARC-Union Station is superintendent of both research centers and his field of focus is Range Beef Cattle Nutrition and Management. He discussed several projects that have been conducted for grazing and riparian area management.

He pointed out that researchers have discovered that cattle shouldn't be fenced off from streambeds. In fact, the streambeds have had faster recovery and are easier to manage with the presence of cattle.

DelCurto also said that older cattle have the knowledge to better use forages in pastures than their younger counterparts. He also pointed out that the body temperature of a cow affects how the animal grazes throughout the day and in different seasons.

- Christian Hagen from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) gave an overview of the sage-grouse program in Oregon. He also introduced a graduate student who is mapping the grazing patterns of pronghorn antelope in southern Malheur County.

Hagen touched on the recent

decision by Judge B. Lynn Winmill in which he ruled the federal government's research into the possible Endangered Species Act listing of the sage-grouse was flawed.

Hagen said cooperation between ranchers and county and federal agencies is important, and that the role of the rancher and cow in sage-grouse management also is crucial.

- Jordan Valley veterinarian Dr. Frank Beckwith stressed the need to follow a strict vaccination program to ensure the best results from livestock. He also emphasized that utilizing trichomoniasis vaccine can be effective if additional management tools are in place. Beckwith said use of the vaccination alone for prevention is a waste of time and money.

He also stressed that ranchers must communicate with their vets to follow a vaccination program that will add value to the herd and help raise a safer product for the consumer.

- Malheur County Sheriff Andy Bentz shared information about the recent discovery and seizure of a marijuana grow in the Whitehorse area. He said that growers visit Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service Web sites to track the lands from which cattle have been removed and then target those sites for their grows.

He also emphasized that the

issue of cattle theft in the county is a great concern for his office and that communication among ranchers is a vital key in stopping the thieves.

- Wes Jennings, the new Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Program Director, introduced himself and touched briefly on programs available to producers. He focused on the livestock compensation program triggered when Malheur County received a natural disaster declaration for 2007. If producers can demonstrate loss or hardship because of fire or drought during 2007, they will receive compensation on a per head basis.
- Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) president Bill Moore discussed current legislative activities, and emphasized that producers should join the OCA to ensure a voice in the Oregon Legislature, which has gone into its 2008 session.

Moore said there are several water issues on the agenda this session but added that the cattlemen have a great advocate in former state Rep. Jim Welsh (R-Elmira).

Moore also discussed recent Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) inspections conducted in Malheur County by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The issues of wolves, cougar predation and water quality also were discussed.

MCCA president: Ranchers are best stewards

In some cases, federal grazing plan has brought management full circle

The old issue of self-management and governmental intrusion was a major topic during last week's Malheur County Cattlemen's Association winter meeting in Jordan Valley.

Rodger Sheley from the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Burns, Ore., opened the guest speaker portion of the meeting with an overview of invasive plants and the problems they cause.

He introduced a planned multimillion-dollar project in five watersheds in the Great Basin, including Jordan Valley.

The multiyear project will focus on the eradication of Medusahead and cheatgrass from private property. Ranchers have been asked to attend a meeting next month where the drainage and landowners for the program will be selected.

There is \$500,000 available for weed control.

Malheur County Cattlemen's Association (MCCA) president Wannie Mackenzie said that involving private landowners and the livestock they raise is an ideal way to restore the ecosystem.

Mackenzie pointed out that

Malheur County ranchers have spent the past century using varied practices to improve the ecosystem.

"It's all about the rancher and the cow," he said.

But in the past 50 years, the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service has become active in range and forest management. The plans are updated every 10 years, resulting in the closure of grazing lands.

Mackenzie asserted that — beyond the obvious economic impact — if the rancher and his cattle are removed from the land, the ecosystem will suffer. But Mackenzie warned the repercussions won't be seen right away. It could take up to 25 years before the effects of the lack of rancher-cattle-generated land management is seen.

A decade ago, the cattle were removed from rancher Bob Davis' land, Mackenzie pointed out. Now, he says, the land is solid weeds and a "waste of grass." The Oregon state parks system purchased the land.

Leslie Gulch land has lost all forbs and wildlife, creating a fire danger and public safety issue.

The same situation has emerged in Birch Creek 20 years after the former working cow ranch was shut down after the federal government bought it. Mackenzie said the BLM spends \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year working on fire and weed prevention.

"Cows could do this for free," Mackenzie said.

Cows were removed from the Owyhee River area 10 years ago, and Mackenzie said invasive weed species such as Canadian thistle and bull thistle have moved in, forcing the wildlife up the canyon.

The watershed has been depleted at Steens Mountain in the 10 years that cow and rancher have been removed, Mackenzie said. Stock ponds have dried up, and the wildlife has left.

And Mackenzie said the rancher management of the area goes beyond keeping the ecosystem balanced and the juniper away.

"Without the rancher, there is no one to maintain the roads and water systems," he said.

Other examples cited by Mackenzie included Donner-Blitzen, the upper stream banks and willows of which have either remained the same or declined in the past 13 years. From 1979 to 1995, Mackenzie said, the stream banks were rated as "stable

to improving" while there was moderate to heavy utilization by ranchers.

More recent areas closed by grazing plans include Louse Canyon, which Mackenzie said now has wasted grass, fire danger, weeds and loss of wildlife just 10 years after closure.

The Trout Creek Mountains area can be saved from a similar fate, he said.

"It's been about 17 years in a new management plan, and we need to increase the use of cattle if we're going to improve the ecosystem," Mackenzie said.

Mackenzie also pointed out long-range effects of federal management.

In the past 25 to 30 years, the Hart Mountain region has declined from the best range in Oregon with the removal of cattle. Mackenzie said when grazing ended, the antelopes became weak and non-productive, with the herd moving to other habitat in Roaring Springs and neighboring ranches.

For 15 years there was no management in the Malheur Refuge, Mackenzie said, and Canadian thistle and other weeds thrived, choking off wildlife and birds. He said the forage became so dense that sunlight couldn't reach the plants below to

encourage native growth.

In the past decade, though, management practices have included burning the invasive weeds then spraying weeds for three years before haying and grazing.

"We've come full-circle back to the way our forefathers did it," he said.

Mackenzie also pointed out that inconsistent management policies have threatened the salmon population in the John Day River and the community it flows through.

Ranchers and the Bureau of Reclamation spent \$3 million building water bars to raise the water table and they also repaired stream banks with rocks.

The result was a 100 percent salmon spawning rate in the river.

Under a new plan, the water bars were removed and replaced with fresh-cut logs. The project was undertaken in the middle of the summer, Mackenzie said, and thousands of salmon perished.

Mackenzie warned that high runoff is possible with a record snowpack this winter, further endangering the area.

"Who knows what the runoff will do and how it will affect the John Day community?" he asked.

RACs to discuss proposed rec access tax repeal

Litigation on Owyhee grazing allotments also on Thursday’s agenda

The Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) for the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM’s) Boise District will meet Thursday to discuss proposed legislation to repeal the federal law authorizing the recreation access tax.

Discussion about litigation on grazing allotments in the Owyhee Field Office also is on the agenda.

The RACs will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday at the Boise BLM’s District Offices. The public meeting should adjourn by 2:30 p.m. There will be opportunity for the public to address the RAC.

Members of the Council will be discussing the possible repeal of the Federal Lands Enhancement Act, which was passed in 2004. A representative for Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) has been asked to attend the meeting to provide information about the proposed legislation.

Sen. Crapo has joined Sen. Max Baucus

(D-Montana) in supporting the proposed legislation. RAC members are concerned about lack of funding for deferred maintenance projects that were brought to their attention in the Payette, Boise and Sawtooth National Forests. In November, the Boise and Twin Falls RACs voted to support increased fees at a number of recreation sites in the Payette and Boise National Forests.

Also on the agenda is the West Wide

Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and public meeting.

Depending on the number of persons wishing to comment, the time for oral comments at Thursday’s meeting may be limited. Members of the public are also invited to submit written statements for the RAC’s consideration.

For additional information about the BLM Boise District RAC or this meeting, call MJ Byrne, Boise District RAC coordinator, at (208) 384-3393.

Another week, another storm



Homedale gets more snow

Motorists on Idaho Avenue in Homedale were greeted with more snow on the pavement Thursday as another storm made its way through the area. Snow also fell overnight Sunday.

Grade school taking shape



Adrian school project progresses

Workers from Ontario, Ore.-based Mid Valley Construction discuss aspects of the Adrian Grade School construction project Thursday morning. Adrian School District Clerk Darla Witty said that the new school should be completed on time in May. The \$3.37 million construction project began in mid-July after district patrons approved it as part of a \$3.785 million bond.

OWC grants available for water quality restoration projects

Owyhee County landowners and operators have until Feb. 20 to apply for the Owyhee Restoration Incentive cost-share program.

The program is funded through \$150,000 in Idaho Department of Environmental Quality 319 funds and helps finance water quality restoration projects on private/public lands within the Upper Owyhee, Middle Owyhee, Mid-Snake Succor, and Jordan subbasins of Owyhee County.

The goals of the program are to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners for the implementation of on-the-ground restoration projects; to demonstrate feasible and effective solutions for addressing water quality concerns; to promote coordination between local, state, and federal agencies and organizations within Owyhee County; to increase public awareness of local water quality issues, as well as local actions being taken to address those issues; and to promote the implementation of specific Best Management Practices (BMPs) as a means of addressing water quality concerns.

Program priorities are based on TMDL plans / implementation plans developed by the IDEQ and are designated by area as follows:

- Middle Owyhee Subbasin** — Temperature (improve riparian conditions)
- Upper Owyhee Subbasin** — Temperature (improve riparian conditions) and Sediment (reduce sediment inputs)
- Mid-Snake Succor Subbasin** — Temperature (improve riparian conditions); Sediment (reduce sediment inputs); Bacteria (reduce animal waste contamination of waterways); Nutrients (reduce nutrient inputs); and Streambank Erosion (reduce erosion)

Jordan Subbasin — Temperature (improve riparian conditions); Sediment (reduce sediment inputs); Bacteria (reduce animal waste contamination of waterways); Nutrients (reduce nutrient inputs); Streambank Erosion (reduce erosion)

While the above is a list of program priorities, all projects proposing to improve water quality within of the eligible subbasins will be considered for funding.

Examples of eligible project types include: Off-site water development (pipelines, troughs, solar pumps, etc.); grazing management; Replacement of temporary diversions with permanent diversions; Streambank stabilization projects; Animal waste containment projects; Riparian fencing; Riparian planting; Sediment basins; and Tailwater recovery projects

The Owyhee County Small Grant Team, made up of one local representative from each subbasin, will review and approve applications.

Individual grant applications cannot exceed \$20,000 in requested funds. Applicants are required to provide a 40 percent match for their proposed projects. This match may be in the form of cash or in-kind services such as labor, equipment use, etc.

Grant applications are available at the Farm Service Agency Office in Marsing, the Bruneau River Soil Conservation District office in Bruneau, from your local committee representative, or by contacting the Owyhee Watershed Council at (541) 372-5782.

Mail applications, postmarked no later than Feb. 20, to Owyhee Watershed Council, Attn: Jennifer Martin, P.O. Box 275, Adrian, OR 97901

For more information, call the OWC at (541) 372-5782.

The Owyhee Avalanche

Owyhee County’s best source for local news!!



Snake River Mart



Super Sunday

Marsing Disaster Auction

Feb 2nd

Please Come & Support
Your Community

Boneless Beef
Top Sirloin Steak
 **\$2.99** lb.

Bone-In Pork
Shoulder Roast
 **\$1.29** lb.

CLIP'S CHOICE Valentine's Day Feb 14th
Cards • Candy
Flowers
Balloons

Fresh
Navel Oranges
 **59¢** lb.

Red Baron Pizza
 **4 for \$10**

Country Style
Pork Spare Ribs
 **\$1.59** lb.

Extra Large
Roma Tomatoes
 **79¢** lb.

Apio
Veggie Tray
 **\$6.99** ea.
22 oz.

Pork Shoulder Steak	\$1.49 lb.
Western Family 8 oz. Cheese Cuts	\$1.79 ea.
Market Pack Sausage	\$1.59 lb.

John Morrell 16 oz. Franks	69¢ ea.
Western Family 8 oz. Shredded Cheese	\$1.79 ea.
Johnsonville Bratwurst	\$3.49 ea.

Lettuce, head	99¢ ea.
1 lb. Baby Carrots	99¢ ea.
Limes	4 for \$1

Large Avocados	\$1.29 ea.
Cilantro	59¢ ea.
5 lb. Potatoes	\$1.49 ea.

Nalley Chili
 **\$1.19** ea.
15 oz.
23.7 oz. Propel Flavored Water **\$1.19** ea.

Campbell's
Chunky Soup
 **\$1.69** ea.
18-19 oz.
Asst'd Varieties Kellogg's Cereal **\$3.79** ea.

Pepsi Products
 **\$2.99** ea.
12pk 12oz Cans
2 Liter Bottle Pepsi Products **\$1.29** ea.

Keystone Beer
 **\$10.49** ea.
24pk 12oz Cans
18pk 12 oz Cans Coors Beer **\$12.99** ea.

Western Family Sour Cream 16 oz. \$1.09 ea.	Lay's Potato Chips 12.5-13.25 oz. \$2.19 ea.	Gatorade 32 oz. \$1.29 ea.	Miller Lite Beer 30pk 12oz Cans \$17.49 ea.
Western Family Margarine Quarters 16 oz. 79¢ ea.	Doritos Tortilla Chips 13 oz. 2 for \$5	Kraft Salad Dressing 16 oz. 2 for \$5	Pop Secret Microwave Popcorn 3 Pack \$1.29 ea.
Home Pride White or Wheat Bread 20 oz. \$1.99 ea.	Tostitos Chips, Salsa & Dips 2 for \$5	Hot - Lean - Croissant Pockets 9 oz. 4 for \$9	Red Vine Licorice 14-16 oz. \$1.69 ea.
Chef Boyardee Pasta 14.75-15 oz. \$1.29 ea.	Nabisco Crackers 7-10 oz. \$2.19 ea.	Marie Callender's Pies 36-42 oz. \$5.69 ea.	Western Family Daytime Cold Liquid 6 oz. \$2.99 ea.
Prego Pasta Sauce 26 oz. \$1.99 ea.	Heinz Ketchup 32-36 oz. \$2.09 ea.	Meadowgold Ice Cream 56 oz. \$3.39 ea.	Lysol Cleaners & Wipes Asst'd Varieties \$2.79 ea.
Pace Picante & Salsa 16 oz. \$1.89 ea.	McCormick Mexican Seasoning Mixes Asst'd 2 for \$1	Western Family Large Conservation Hearts 16 oz. \$1.89 ea.	Hefty Foam Plates & Bowls 25-50 ct. \$2.29 ea.

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 1/30/08 thru 2/05/08