

Cupboard nearly bare Page 11A

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Presidents Day, Page 2A

Find out what's opened, closed for Monday's federal holiday

Honor roll, Page 6A

Homedale High School cites its first semester best and brightest

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Established 1865

Dwyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 7

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Grant outlines recipe for Initiative success

Chair: Bill can make it to Senate vote if Work Group accepts changes

Last week's Owyhee Initiative in Washington have encouraged me meetings in Washington D.C. have left Initiative chair Fred Grant optimistic that final progress can be made in the U.S. Senate.

"The meetings held this past week

more than I have been in three years," Grant wrote in a summary report to the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners.

Now the Owyhee Initiative Work

Group faces a pivotal vote at its meeting next Wednesday. Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), the sponsor of the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act,

— See **Initiative**, page **5**A

Community flocks to 47th Smorgasbord Aman to seek



Young art lover takes in work

A boy browses some of the creations on display during the art show held in conjunction with the 47th annual Homedale International Smorgasbord on Saturday at Homedale Elementary School. More photos from the event, Page 8A

fourth term as county sheriff

27-year lawman will be challenged by deputy

Gary Aman announced Monday that he will seek a fourth term as Owyhee County Sheriff.

"I have a motto — 'Doing the right things right' — that I live by each day," Aman said. "I believe in respect, integrity, professionalism and fairness as my daily guiding principles.

"I truly love my job and serving the people of Owyhee County and look forward to the opportunity to continue that service for another four years."



Owyhee County holds its primary election on May 27. Aman will be challenged by Darryl

— See **Sheriff,** page **5**A

Caldwell constructon firm tabbed to build fair barn

Major work could start in April

The contractor that built the original livestock barn for the Owyhee County Fair also will lead the barn's expansion.

Fair secretary Kelly Haun said Monday that Arriaga Construction of Caldwell was awarded the project to increase exhibit space for the county's burgeoning 4-H and FFA population.

Haun said that the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners,

on the recommendation of the fair board of directors, voted during Monday's weekly commissioners meeting in Murphy to allow Arriaga to build the barn.

"Everybody left with a real good feeling, and we're excited to get this taken care of," Haun

15B

said after the vote.

Arriaga was one of three construction companies to submit bids for the project. The Caldwell firm bid \$99,417 for the project. Haun said that price includes engineering, site preparation and off-site prefabrication.

Haun anticipates construction to begin in April. Arriaga has a deadline of Aug. 1 so the barn is ready to go for the 2008 Owyhee County Fair, which runs Aug.

Commissioners budgeted — See **Barn**, page **5**A

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Adrian, JV start districts **In Sports**

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Classifieds

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Offices, schools close for holiday for presidents

Federal offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Washington's Birthday. State and county offices will be closed on the same day for Presidents Day, as will banks, schools, and city offices in Homedale and Marsing, along with the Homedale Senior Citizens Center.

According to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the third Monday in February is designated as Washington's Birthday, although many states and businesses celebrate Presidents Day to honor both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, whose birthdays are Feb. 22 and Feb. 12, respectively.

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

County GOP set to gather for Lincoln Day

Owyhee County's annual Lincoln Day Banquet is set for Feb. 20 at the Sandbar Restaurant in Marsing.

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) will attend the function, which starts at noon. Republican candidates for Congress as well as hopefuls for state and county offices will be in

The cost is \$15. There will be a live auction as well as music from the Huntleys.

> For FAST results... try the Classifieds!

Help is Just Around the Corne

Homedale water rehab could start today

Two crews will work in town simultaneously

Sommer Construction expects to start work on the Homedale water system improvement project as early as today.

Rob Sommer of the Nampa contractor said he will have two crews working in two different parts of town.

One crew will start at North 3rd Street East and work its way down East Owyhee Avenue toward the Snake River.

The second crew will work on a stretch of Railroad Avenue between West Idaho Avenue and West Wyoming Avenue.

Sommer and officials from the City of Homedale, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Project Engineering Consultants, Ltd., gathered Wednesday at Homedale City Hall to discuss the final details of the construction contract.

Homedale Mayor Harold Wilson and city public works supervisor Larry Bauer joined city engineer Fred Ostler and a couple of his PEC colleagues as well as USDA Rural Development specialist Heath Price and USDA RD director of community programs Dave Flesher during the afternoon meeting.

The group covered the responsibilities of the project engineer, city, RD specialist and contractor during the short meeting. Price, who is replacing Flesher in the federal agency's Caldwell office, will provide USDA RD oversight for the project.

The project is slated for substantial completion four months after the start of construction. Final completion is required in five months. Sommer Construction will pay damages of \$500 per day if the deadlines aren't met.

Rob Sommer said the only sub-



Materials continue to pour in

Sommer Construction's Rob Sommer told officials during Wednesday's preconstruction meeting that about 95 percent of the pipe and other materials needed for the Homedale water system improvement project had been delivered to town. A crew was unloading pipe outside City Hall during the meeting.

contract work expected at this point is an excavation company for the boring to make room for new pipe.

Flesher was optimistic that barring change orders in the project — the city would have money to do more work later, especially if the test well drilled recently by Stevens and Sons of Boise is satisfactory.

"If the well turns out great, maybe you'll have a couple bucks to do more work," he said.

Flesher did couch his statement, though, with the knowledge that water quality in Owyhee County isn't always the best. And Bauer said earlier that he won't know the success of the test well until studies on water samples come back.

The well won't come into play with Sommer's work until April. The firm set up construction in such a manner that some of the line and hydrant replacement, installation and rehabilitation will be completed before crews turn their attention to tapping the city's water system into the new well. The well could be placed in Riverside Park.

There should be few delays to bring materials into town — if any. Sommer said "95 percent" of the materials required for the project already is in town. In fact, a crew was unloading PVC pipe outside City Hall prior to the preconstruction meeting.

Interference from pre-existing utility rights-of-way also should be kept to a minimum. Participants at the meeting were in agreement that the Intermountain Gas Co., has a firm grasp on the location of all its underground lines in town, so there should be no interruptions from accidentally crossing paths with a gas line.

Sommer's work will rehabilitate several different water lines in town and expand and upgrade fire suppression capabilities by replacing old hydrants and installing hydrants in new locations. But the biggest benefit of the new system, according to Bauer, is the installation of valves throughout the water system.

A valving network will allow city workers to shut off a portion of the municipal system in the event of a line break. In the past, some breaks have required the city to shut down the entire water delivery network to fix a problem.

"It's really neat for the community members to have the city making some good improvements," Flesher said.

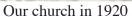
Sommer said that his employees will put door hangers on residences that might be affected by water shutoffs during the project.

Also, keep an eye on www.owyheeavalanche.com for up-to-theminute news on scheduled shutoffs and other news from the project that will affect residents.

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Crapo urges renewal of law Homedale council that buoys county budget

PILT program has brought millions into county

For a century, the federal government has been reimbursing counties for the loss of property tax revenue because of vast tracts of federal land.

Of Idaho's counties, Owyhee County has the largest acreage overseen by federal agencies, and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) on Wednesday urged Congress to renew the legislation that authorizes Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT).

"Time is of the essence for many rural communities across the nation, and this important legislation impacts millions of students and their families in more than 4,000 school districts and more than 7,000 counties," Crapo said during a speech on the Senate floor Wednesday.

"I am hearing from Idaho communities that, absent an extension, personnel layoffs as a result of program closures are expected soon. Communities in more than 40 states are facing similar pressures."

County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said no layoffs are anticipated in Owyhee County if legislation isn't passed.

Of the nearly 5 million acres that makes up Owyhee County, 3,624,133 are administered by the Bureau of Land Management. That's the largest swath in Idaho by area and the second largest to Lincoln County in south central Idaho in terms of percentage of acreage administered by the

More than 75 percent of Lincoln County is federal land, while Owyhee County sits at 73.7 percent.

Sherburn said that about 70 percent of the PILT money is used to fund current expense in the annual budget, but some of the payments have been reserved to plan for the future.

"By resolution, the Board has been setting aside a portion into the PILT Trust, which was created to offset costs for expansion due to growth, such as buildings," Sherburn said.

Currently, the PILT Trust holds more than \$1.2 million, according to Sherburn. She said that the \$250,000 offer recently made for the Owyhee Conservation District Building in Marsing would be drawn out of the PILT Trust. Sherburn said a title policy is being prepared for the property at 19 Reich St., which would house county offices currently crammed into Marsing City Hall.

Since 1998, the county has received nearly \$5.8 million in PILT money. Nearly half of that money has come into county coffers in the past four years.

Crapo's address to the Senate kicked off his push to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and PILT payments for land administered by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service.

"We must do this to prevent the closure of numerous isolated schools and to enable rural county road districts to address the severe maintenance backlog," Crapo told his colleagues.

The state's junior senator noted that the PILT program and the 2000 legislation have worked together to foster collaborative public land stewardship and fund

Payments crucial to county

A look at the Payment in Lieu of Taxes money that Owyhee County has received from the federal government in the past 10

| years. | |
|--------|-----------|
| 1998 | \$359,881 |
| 1999 | \$349,064 |
| 2000 | \$368,447 |
| 2001 | \$566,318 |
| 2002 | \$594,479 |
| 2003 | \$682,283 |
| 2004 | \$701,243 |
| 2005 | \$716,258 |
| 2006 | \$729,305 |
| 2007 | \$726,207 |
| | |

local services. Crapo said he is working with a bipartisan group of senators to extend county payments, and more must be done to extend commitment to these communities.

Crapo is the Ranking Member of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Revitalization, Conservation, Forestry and Credit.

This year marks the 100year anniversary of the original passage of the federal legislation, which required the U.S. Forest Service to return 25 percent of its gross receipts to the states to help counties that are home to national forests pay for school and road services.

The program was put in place to compensate local governments for the tax-exempt status of national

— JPB

tackles full plate

Homedale Youth Sports Inc., should hear about its proposal to act as a steward for Sundance Park during tonight's Homedale City Council meeting.

The HYS proposal to contract with the city for use of the softball and baseball diamonds is just one item on a busy agenda for the meeting, which starts at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

Other agenda items include:

- Discussion of the transportation planning study grant that the city recently received through the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council's Local Rural Highway Investment Program.
- Discussion of the enforcement of Ordinance No. 181 governing the construction and replacement of sidewalks, curbs and gutters on city streets.
- Hearing of a complaint against the Homedale Police Department from resident Deb Dickson.
- An update on the effort by Barbie Vander Boegh and Janet McCornack to bring a horseshoe sculpture of a horse-drawn stagecoach to the main entrance to town.
- Discussion of putting nearly five acres of city owned property in Canyon County up for public auction.
- Reports from the police department and public works department.

Mayor Harold Wilson said enforcement of Ordinance 181 will pertain to commercial development, but the city wants to refrain from enforcing the residential side of the ordinance until a master plan for Homedale's streets can be developed to ensure consistency in the law.

Wilson said that one commercial development has been approved by the city's Planning and Zoning Committee and is awaiting approval by the city council.

No hearing has been set yet for Ray Christensen's proposal to build a cable-making business on Utah Avenue. The mayor said with approval Christensen may build a 2,500- to 3,600-square-foot shop with a parking lot. Wilson also said the business would have five employees.

"It has been approved by

Planning and Zoning with a couple stipulations," Wilson

The stipulations include the completion of a land survey and the installation of necessary utilities.

Little is known about the nature of Dickson's complaint against the police department. She didn't return a phone call from The Owyhee Avalanche seeking comment on her scheduled presentation.

Wilson said that the council will discuss liquidating a piece of land on Ustick Road in Canyon County on the auction block. The parcel, which is adjacent to one of the city's municipal wells, is north of the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene and immediately west of the Paul Bull residence, Wilson said.

"If the City Council will agree to sell that, then we'll get an appraisal from an outside realtor from out of the area," Wilson

The mayor called the land, which is 276 feet of frontage on Ustick Road, "a weed patch."

"If we can sell that ... It's a weed patch, and the city won't have to take care of it," he said.

Wilson said the process of selling city-owned property will be followed, including a public meeting on the issue and an advertisement of the public auction. He said nothing will take place until the council approves the action.

"We'll put a minimum bid on it, and if it don't sell at public auction then we go back to the council and just put a price on it," he said.

In the fall of 2006, Vander Boegh launched an effort to bring a horseshoe sculpture created by a Caldwell-area artist Jay Russell to the town's entrance at East Idaho Avenue and U.S. Highway 95.

In the meantime, she has applied for grants to help meet the price Russell has put on his artwork, which has been as high as \$49,000. Vander Boegh approached the council during Paul Fink's administration about assistance in completing the

— JPB

Senior makes National Merit finals

Josh Klug

Homedale High School senior Josh Klug was cited Monday night by school trustees after he as named a finalist for a National Merit Scholarship.

The Homedale School District Board of Trustees awarded Klug his finalist certificate during their regular monthly meeting at the school district office.

According to the National Merit

Scholarship Program Web site, only 15,000 high school students nationwide earn finalist status.

The academic competition for recognition and scholarships began in 1955. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



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Deputies arrest three alleged sex offenders in a night

Suspects taken into custody in 10-hour span

Owyhee County Sheriff's Office personnel arrested three suspected sex offenders in a 10hour period Feb. 4-5, according to sheriff's dis-

Log reports indicate that Colley Grant Reed was arrested outside of Homedale just after 5 p.m. on Feb. 4 on a felony warrant alleging lewd conduct and sexual battery on a child under 16. The warrant stems from an incident that allegedly occurred in November.

Less than three hours later, a sheriff's deputy arrested Michael Chase Gardner in Marsing on a felony warrant that was sworn out based on an alleged January incident of lewd conduct with

A sheriff's deputy then arrested Jesus Sierra in Marsing just after 3 a.m. on Feb. 5, on a felony warrant alleging lewd conduct with a minor.

According to docket summaries from the Third Judicial District Court, Reed had a preliminary hearing before Judge Dan C. Grober at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, charged with three counts of lewd conduct with a child under 16.

Gardner and Sierra were scheduled for preliminary hearings before Grober at the same time as Reed. Gardner was charged with two counts of lewd conduct with a child under 16, and Sierra faced one count of lewd conduct with a child under 16.

The outcome of the preliminary hearings in Murphy weren't available at press time.



Michael Gardner



Colley Reed



Jesus Sierra

The Ownhee Avalanche

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Monday noon the week of publication

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Friday noon the week prior to publication

Display advertising

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Inserts

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.)

From page 1

Initiative: Work Group set to meet with Sen. Crapo next Wednesday

will attend the meeting.

The vote could propel the Initiative toward a Committee hearing in late March or early April. Grant is optimistic that the bills that survive that hearing will be sent to the full Senate for

"We will have a vote on whether to submit a bill which includes the language which I believe will get us through the Committee to the floor," Grant wrote. "If we can reach a decision that day, then the language can be handed over to the senator's staff and be turned over to the Committee staff by the end of the month."

Grant briefed the commissioners on the latest round of talks and what's next for the Initiative process during Monday's weekly board meeting in Murphy.

"After meeting face to face with the drafters of our bill as it would be presented to the Energy-Natural Resources Senate Committee, I know that if the Work Group can accept the path through and around national policy, we will have a bill before the Committee for hearing in the early spring, and then hopefully a bill on the floor of the Senate for vote before the summer break," Grant wrote in his summary report to the county commissioners.

Grant told the commissioners that he is working on draft language for review by the three county commissioners and the Initiative Work Group. He said that he believes the language will be satisfactory for staff from the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee that are bound by certain national policies from which the Senators on the Committee will not move."

In an example of continued solidarity, Grant told the commissioners in his briefing that Craig Gehrke, the executive director of the Idaho Wilderness Society, also believes the changes are necessary for success.

Also this week Grant is meeting individually with members of the Work Group in preparation for a full Work Group meeting next Wednesday

Grant said he will tell the Work Group members about the conversations representatives had with Senate Committee staff last week and outline how to receive "the result the county, landowners, recreation interests, and conservation groups are seeking."

Grant's round of discussions with Work Group members began Monday night in Jordan Valley. Grant said he already has had meetings with the Outfitters and Guides representative from the Work Group, with three conservation group representatives and Chad Gibson of the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association.

In addition to the work on the Initiative, Grant also will spend time in Northern California helping Del Norte County officials start a coordination process with federal agencies in an attempt to help preserve the county's natural resource operations and, in turn, Del Norte's economy.

"So, I really have about five days in which to get all preparation ready for the Feb. 20 meeting," he

As for specific elements of the expansive Owyhee Initiative, Grant gave these observations:

Land exchange and sale

Grant pointed out that the task of finding private funding to pay for the reduction of ranchers' Annual Unit Months (AUMs) continues to be a struggle. Private money entered the picture because Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) stands firmly against using federal dollars to reduce AUMs.

"The problem we have is that no private foundation will commit funds until they know that there is a bill on the floor which has been approved by the Committee." Grant said.

Grant said he believes the money will be provided once the bill gets through Committee. He also speculated that the actual exchanges with the ranchers who are part of the all-important compensation package will be left at the discretion of Idaho's Senatorial delegation.

Appraisals of the public lands designated for exchange and of the private property to be exchanged still must be executed, Grant said.

"As you know, some time ago a private market range was prepared by a professional appraisal firm in Boise, with the expense being shared by a conservation group and a land owner group," Grant wrote Interior to allow existing outfitting to the commissioners. "It took several months of persuasion, and personal intervention by Senator Crapo, but the (Department of the Interior) agreed to conduct the same type of market range for the public lands.

"The Department's personnel are working on that study now. The private market range was positive for the landowners, and I believe the public market range will be the same."

Science Review

"I firmly believe as a result of this past week's meetings that we can draft the Science Review and Research Center language in such a way that national policies are satisfied and the county and landowners get the result that we have sought since day one of the Initiative process," Grant wrote.

The main policy on which the Committee holds firm is that the Department of the Interior has to be involved in the establishment of any process that impacts Interior's role.

Grant said he already has composed a clause for Work Group review that satisfies the department's policy but will protect the interests of Owyhee County and the Work Group under "coordination" as defined in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act.

Grant said side contracts with the state director of the Bureau of Land Management and the University of Idaho will be necessary for Science Review and the Research Center.

"So, the question remaining will be whether the Work Group can accept the language needed," Grant said.

Transportation

Grant said he is confident the Committee will accept the Transportation language in the bill, but "we need to specify that the law enforcement money shall be provided for County Sheriff use through service agreements executed by the (Secretary of the Interior, currently former Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne).

Outfitters

Grant said that Committee staff has balked at language mandating the Secretary of the facilities to remain in Wilderness in perpetuity.

While Grant said the Committee may be agreeable to permissive language (i.e., the Secretary "may" allow ...), he also suggested that creating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in which commissioners offer to allow outfitters to present their case through the coordination process established by the county could give outfitters their desired result.

"I have presented that possibility to the Outfitters representative and alternate and they are considering it now," Grant said.

Cultural protection plan

Grant urged the commissioners to meet with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes to "reach a firm understanding of the cultural protection plan," so the Tribes can approve the draft of the legislation that emerges from next Wednesday's meeting.

Pros and cons

Grant also outlined for the commissioners the positives and negatives of the latest negotiations.

Positives:

- There will be a science review, with the Department of the Interior involved in establishing — but not operating — the review.
- There will be a research center in Owyhee County.
- · There will be limited Wilderness, with access guaranteed.
- · Owyhee County officials will have a say in implementing the Initiative Bill through coordination.
- The coordination also will mean the existence of a Board of Directors to assure the landowner and conservation voices in implementing the Bill.
- There will be a transportation plan and federal money will fund adequate enforcement personnel within the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office. Grant said the plan will "assure a balance between meaningful recreation and protection of private property rights and the natural resource."
- There will be adequate funding to implement a plan for Tribal protection of cultural sites.
- Through the exchange and sale program, compensation package

ranchers will be able to realign their allotments and maintain a viable ranch operation.

• "We will have shown that an 'impossible bill' can be passed, a bill which has been watched throughout the West, but also throughout the nation as I have found out through my (Stewards of the Range) travels."

Negatives:

Grant outlined what will happen if Initiative supporters are unable to accept the changes necessary to accommodate national policies.

- There will be a monument, consisting of half of Owyhee County, with no grazing or other uses or access guaranteed.
- There will be no science
- No allotment realignments will be achieved.
- · There will be no wild and scenic river designation to protect grazing because the BLM's monument plan will be the sole authority of what is allowed in the vast area.
- No funding will be provided to help law enforcement maintain a balance with off-road vehicles and the protection of natural resources in the landscape and protection of private property rights.
- The status quo will prevail, with no scientific review by BLM peers to offset court filings, possibly heard by federal District Judge B. Lynn Winmill.

Private property rights

Grant concludes that the Owyhee Initiative is the only way to secure private property rights in the county because without it, he says, the status quo will remain.

Grant used the fate of the Craig Amendment to the most recent Farm Bill as an example of the private property rights status quo in the Senate.

Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) introduced an amendment to protect private property from condemnation for the purpose of creating parks or open space. But in December, only 37 senators voted in favor of it.

"This is the first time that anyone secured commitment of individual senators to a yea or nay vote on specific condemnation issues in my memory," Grant said. "And only 37 Senators voted to support private property rights."

Sheriff: Primary set for May 27

Crandall, one of his deputies, in this year's election. Candidates have until March 21 to declare that they will seek office.

Aman has been employed with the Owyhee sheriff's office for more than 27 years, and he said the challenges of today are immense.

"Now more than ever, experience in county government and especially the sheriff's office is critically important,"

Aman said. "Knowledge of the people, their lifestyles and the things that are important to them while balancing the growth, new ways of thinking and technology is exciting."

Aman said he is committed to helping ensure the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office is the best it can be, and he is committed to ensuring that Owyhee County as a whole is a safe place to live and raise a family.

$\sqrt{\mathbf{Barn:}}$ Work to be done by Aug. 1

\$100,000 into the fair's grounds and building fund for the work, and Haun said the price tag was nice to see given that an original estimate last fall put the possible project in the \$120,000 range.

Haun said the county also received bids from Martin & Martin of Adrian, Ore., and Wright Brothers of Eagle. She said that the Eagle construction firm's construction manager lives in Owyhee County.

Arriaga Construction owner Antone

Gabiola said his firm does about 50 percent of its jobs in Owyhee County. He anticipates the permit process to take about two months and said the actual construction would probably take a month.

"It's going to be great because we did the original one out there, so we didn't want anyone else to add on to our project," Gabiola said.

"We do a lot of work out in that area."

Honor roll **Homedale High School**

First semester

12th grade

4.0 grade-point average — Mandy Brasher, Mark Klug, Shravan Sriganesh, Zach T. Tolmie

3.50 to 3.99 — Marisol Gonzalez, 3.857; Samuel Sanchez, 3.857; Joshua Klug, 3.833; Sarah Scarratt, 3.833; Kelsey M. Silva, 3.833; Jonathan J. Verwer, 3.80; Kortney Bahem, 3.667; Meagan M. Byerly, 3.667; Rachel J. Wheeler, 3.667; Daisy Aguilera, 3.60; Gage K. Egurrola, 3.571; Irma Benitez, 3.50; Jarrod Driskell, 3.50; Megan Leslie, 3.50; Francisco Obregon, 3.50; Belen Vega, 3.50

3.0 to 3.49 — Amy Barlow, 3.429; Nina N. Bell, 3.429; Samuel Hart, 3.429; Dayton Syme, 3.429; Jamie Uriarte, 3.429; Jonnie S. Burns, 3.4; Amanda F. Andaverde, 3.333; Katie L. Cammack, 3.333; Yerladin M. Juarez, 3.333; Taryn J. Corta, 3.286; Mathew J. Hansen, 3.286; Brittany L. Ambeau, 3.2; Jordan Pegram, 3.2; Joey D. Cline, 3.143; Herlind Garcia, 3.143; Brittany Marose, 3.143; Bryan M. Stutheit, 3.143; Alysha Bahem, 3.0; Danyel Barnard, 3.0; John Bittick, 3.0; Kyle C. Breach, 3.0; Jamie L. Cockrum, 3.0; Samantha Cuellar, 3.0; Austin J. Ferguson, 3.0; Sierra C. Hall, 3.0; Challen Lootens, 3.0; Eduardo J. Villanueva, 3.0

11th grade

4.0 GPA — Annamaria A.

3.50 to 3.99 — Ryan W. Garrett, 3.827; Rye W. Hyer, 3.857; Au-

bery A. McCutchen, 3.857; Kara McRae, 3.857; Kelsey Thatcher, 3.857; Briana M. Cornwall, 3.714; Joseph C. Eckroat, 3.714; Hannah L. Johnson, 3.714; Kali McRae, 3.714; Mitchell G. Quintana, 3.714; Kevin E. Abels Vaughan, 3.571; Sierra L. Aberasturi, 3.571; Chance Boher, 3.571; Haylie C. Freelove, 3.571; Laken A. Hiser, 3.571; Rowdy J. Lair, 3.571; Sean P. Daily, 3.5; Amanda E. Fink, 3.5; Kendall K. Rupp, 3.5; Aimee N. Steinmetz, 3.5; Gregory S. Truesdell, 3.5; Shane R. Witt, 3.5

3.0 to 3.49 — Austin Emry, 3.429; Marco Gaspar 3.429; Wesley Taggart, 3.429; Andrea Vega, 3.333; Kenny J. Cockrum, 3.286; Ryan Davis, 3.286; Stephanie D. Gomez, 3.286; Mikal L. Mackenzie, 3.286; Jessica Sotelo, 3.286; Ashley C. Thomson, 3.286; Steven R. Williams, 3.286; Trevor M. Meligan, 3.143; Ryan K. Vance, 3.143; Mario Gaeta, 3.0; Angelica Garibay, 3.0; Allen W. McAbee, 3.0; Shelby M. McCain, 3.0; Blanca Uriarte 3.0

10th grade

4.0 GPA — Kindra J. Gal-

3.50 to 3.99 — Jennifer M. Dixon, 3.857; Matthew Farrell, 3.857; Jake Tolmie, 3.857; Kortney Stansell, 3.714; Drew J. Farwell, 3.571; Megan M. Quintana, 3.571

3.0 to 3.49 — Cassandra S. Arthur, 3.429; Guadalupe I. Osuna-Garcia, 3.429; Carmen M. Zatica, 3.429; Elizabeth Baliter-

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rez, 3.286; Stefan Pippen, 3.286; Aaron Proferes. 3.286; Vanessa M. Sanchez, 3.286; Johnathan E. Page, 3.167; Ashlynne D. Uria, 3.143; Jessica L. Eubanks, 3.143; Katie M. Holloway, 3.143; Summer R. Megargee, 3.0; Kaitlyn Amos, 3.0; Corina Sanchez, 3.0; Chelsea D. Troxel, 3.0; Rowdy R. Vandeventer, 3.0

Ninth grade

4.0 GPA — Jarod S. Armenta; Megan E. Barraza; Amber Brinkerhoff (Romriell); Caitlyn Johnson; Sarah Maggard; Jonathan R. Stacy; Kirsi Thatcher; Jessica L. Westergard

3.5 to 3.99 — Sydney Cornwall, 3.857; Colin Lootens, 3.857; Summer Phelps, 3.857; Taylor Thomas, 3.857; Elizabeth Silva, 3.714; Cristina Garcia, 3.571; Gil Lootens, 3.571; Nickele J. Mainarick, 3.571; Alexandrea McRae, 3.571; Makenzie R. Tiegs, 3.571;

3.0 to 3.49 — Elizabeth Albor, 3.286; Donald Burns, 3.286; Sagan T. Condon, 3.286; Shawnee Davis, 3.286; Jordan Meligan, 3.286; Tyler E. Theile, 3.286; Norma Bautista, 3.143; Christopher Bueno, 3.143; Ada Demshar, 3.143; Trevor Gibson, 3.143; Jonathan Gonzalez, 3.143; Jessica Ann L. Henry, 3.143; Blanca Hurtado, 3.143; Noemi M. Salazar, 3.0; Liesenia Calderon, 3.0; Jessica K. Craft, 3.0; Brook A. Fry, 3.0; Alan Kennedy (Nelson), 3.0; Luis Lomeli, 3.0; Taylor Watkins, 3.0

Death

SUZANNE L. "SUE" MAYBERRY, 46, of Homedale. died Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008. Services were held at 2 p.m. at Dakan Funeral Chapel in Caldwell. Private burial took place Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Caldwell.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Feb. 13: Chicken sandwich or rib-b-que, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cake, milk.

Feb. 14: Enchilada or corn dog, scalloped potatoes, fruit & veggie bar, brownie, milk.

Feb. 15: Cheese pizza or PB&J, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie,

Feb. 18: No School.

Feb. 19: Nachos or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon breadstick, milk.

Feb. 20: Sweet & sour chicken or egg rolls, rice pilaf, veggies, fruit & veggie bar, fortune cookie, milk.

Homedale Middle

Feb. 13: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Feb. 14: Nachos or baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, rice krispie treat, milk.

Feb. 15: Chicken tenders of cf beef steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Feb. 18: No School.

Feb. 19: Chicken nuggets or egg roll, rice, veggies, fruit & veggie bar, fortune cookie, milk.

Feb. 20: Burrito or fish sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, apple crisp, milk.

Homedale High

Feb. 13: Idaho haystack, burrito or pizza hot pocket, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon rolls, milk.

Feb. 14: Chicken patty, sandwich & soup or popcorn chicken, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

Feb. 15: Crispito or rib-b-que, corn taco salad, fruit & veggie bar,

Feb. 18: No school.

Feb. 19: CF beef steak or chicken filet, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Feb. 20: Spaghetti, burrito or pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing

Feb. 13: Red Baron pizza, salad, fruit, milk, egg roll, salad bar 4th-

Feb. 14: Corn dog, veggie, fruit, tostada, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Feb. 15: No School.

Feb. 18: No School.

Feb. 19: Hamburger, potato wedges, fruit, milk, cf steak, salad bar

Feb. 20: Tacos, veggie, fruit, milk, Red Baron pizza, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Senior menu

Homedale center

Feb. 13: Sausage & biscuits, country gravy, carrots, beverage.

Feb. 14: Baked fish, baked potato, carrots, roll, beverage.

Feb. 19: Baked ham, green

beans, yams, roll, beverage.

Feb. 20: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, gravy, roll, beverage.



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



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Homedale 27 E. Owyhee Ave. - Homedale, ID 83628

(208) 337-3252

Keep up with county news in the Avalanche

Your finances

No need to buy life insurance for small children

Dear Dave,

What are your views about having life insurance on small children?

- Winfred

Dear Winfred,

I think it's a total waste of money. The only exception may be a small rider on your term insurance policy — just enough to take care of a child's funeral expenses — in the event that something awful happened. I did that for years, just a little \$15,000 rider, before I decided to self-insure on that issue.

Life insurance policies should never be used for things that this situation represents. Number one, they should never be used as an investment. They're garbage as investment vehicles.

The second reason most people buy life insurance on kids is because they're scared the child may get really sick later on and become uninsurable. The likelihood of that happening is almost zero. That's why it's so inexpensive.

The only people with a real need for life insurance are those who have others depending on them for their livelihood. These folks should carry about 10 times their annual income on a good, 20-year level term life insurance policy.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

The payments on our new car are \$336 a month over 4½ years, and we still owe a total of \$12,000. We've cleaned up our other debts, so the car is the only thing hanging over our heads. We've also managed to put \$10,000 away into savings. Should we pay off the car early, sell it or what?

— Alicia

Dear Alicia,

It sounds like you've discovered that it's virtually impossible to build wealth with stuff like car payments hanging around your neck. Congratulations on that and on putting a nice chunk of money into savings!

When you're serious about getting out of debt, my rule of thumb is to sell anything you can't pay off in 18 months or less. With a balance of \$12,000 still owed on the car, that means you'd have to write a check for about \$700 a month to pay it off in that amount of time. If you can afford it without going hungry, that's one way.

Selling the car is an option, too, but don't go to a dealer for this. Lots of times selling a car is as easy as putting a sign in the



windshield or taking out an ad in the local paper. Chances are you'll come away with a lot more money in your pocket this way, too.

Once you get the car sold, pay it off quickly. Then use about \$3,000 from your savings to buy a dependable used car. You'll be out of debt, and you'll still have the bulk of your savings in place.

Plus, you'll have the income available to refuel that savings account in a hurry!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My sister's fiancé will be bringing a lot of debt into their marriage. He has several credit cards that are all maxed out, a \$30,000 mortgage and lots of medical bills. She's quit college to work full-time and help him pay it all off. Is this a good idea?

— Heather

Dear Heather,

This is a very bad idea. Those bills will become her joint responsibility soon enough—like AFTER they're married and not one second sooner. I mean, what if something bad happens and they break up?

Once you get married, there's no "yours" and "mine" anymore. It's all OURS, and that's when you should pay everything together. Marrying someone who is in debt is OK, too. But you need to make sure the habits which caused the debt have been broken, and that you're both in complete agreement from that point on about how the money will be handled.

Your sister's biggest responsibilities right now are making sure she really loves this guy, and that they're in agreement on financial issues before taking the trip to the altar. I've seen too many people come into our offices for counseling who were broke because they paid the bills for someone who left them before the big day.

NEVER pay your fiance's bills before you get married!

— Dave

— For more financial advice, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write Dave \$ays, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Calendar

Today

Homedale City Council meeting

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

Lenten Soup and Service

6 p.m., Confessing the "What" of the Easter Season service by Pastor Ross Shaver, 7 p.m. Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 621 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale (208) 337-4248

DivorceCare recovery support group

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

Marsing City Council meeting

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

Grand View City Council meeting

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

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting

7 p.m., U of I Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (541) 372-5782

Thursday

Owyhee Conservation District board meeting 10 a.m., 250 N Old Bruneau Highway, Marsing.

(208) 896-4544

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution

11 a.m. to noon, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 337-4812

Exercise class

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

Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon

Noon, Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 W. 1st St. (208) 337-3252

Owyhee Garden Club meeting

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

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

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

Adrian School Board meeting

7 p.m., Adrian School Library

AA meeting

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

Owyhee County Fair Board meeting

8 p.m., fairgrounds, Homedale. (208) 337-4575

Friday

Celebrate Recovery 12-step program

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

Saturday

Men's Wild Game Feed

For fathers and sons, 6 p.m., \$7, guest speaker,

from men's group members, Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

auction and raffle. Tickets at the door or in advance

Monday

Marsing Lions Club meeting

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

Tuesday

Exercise class

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

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution

1 p.m. to 4 p.m., El-Ada Owyhee office, 15 W.

Colorado Ave. Homedale. (208) 337-4812 "Let's Talk About It" series, "We Are What We

Eat — Language of Baklava" 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, 111 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

Pure Word recovery meeting

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

AA meeting

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

Wednesday

Caregiver training

10 a.m. to 3 p.m., free, lunch served, registration required, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 322-7033, ext. 273

El-Ada Community Action Partnership commodity distribution

11 a.m. to noon, Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing. (208) 337-4812

Bruneau and Beyond speaker series

Noon, includes lunch, cowboy poetry by Toni McGuire, RSVP required by Monday, Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau. (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2282

Lenten Soup and Service

6 p.m., Confessing the "When" of the Easter Season service by Pastor Ross Shaver, 7 p.m. Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, 621 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale (208) 337-4248

DivorceCare recovery support group

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

Marsing Chamber of Commerce meeting

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

— Call (208) 337-4681 to submit events



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A weekend of Homedale community







Homedale students show off art skills Homedale Middle School student Whitney Uria was one of the winners in this year's Homedale International Smorgasbord art contest for her

execution of a symmetry face drawing exercise in

which students were given half a photo of the face of

a celebrity and then tasked to produce the missing

half of the face using symmetrical interpretation.

Hundreds taste the world

Above: A colorful sign greeted folks gathering Saturday at Homedale Elementary School for the 47th annual Homedale International Smorgasbord. Left: Some of the hundreds of diners to come to the event this year enjoy entrees from several parts of the world, including Asia. Tickettakers Mike and Mary Williams said an average of nearly 400 people per hour came to eat in the first three hours.



Champ serves up chorizos

Homedale Middle School sixth-grader Esteban Lejardi, who was the top ticket-seller this year, loads up the plate of a Homedale International Smorgasbord diner from the Basque booth Saturday at Homedale Elementary School.



Scores of children attend cheer camp

A group of girls perform at halftime of the Homedale-Payette high school boys basketball game Friday in Homedale. Homedale High School's annual cheer clinic attracted 49 campers, according to Trojans' cheer advisor Karolyn Munster.



HMS plans dinner with this week's conferences

Homedale Middle School will be serving a free dinner during parent-teacher conferences today and Thursday.

Conferences will run from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. both days.

Principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness said parents can pick up progress reports on their child's academic performance, along with a Student Assessment Profile outlining their child's scores on the ISAT tests, DWA (Direct Writing Assessment), DMA (Direct Math Assessment) and other info.

Asumendi-Mereness urged parents to ask questions about the assessment profile.

"It is important information, and our teachers are looking forward to answering any questions parents may have," she said. "We are projecting a good turnout and hoping to improve on our Fall Parent Teacher Conference attendance at each grade level."

The principal said the fifth-grade conferences are student-led. Flyers were sent home with fifth- and sixth-graders Friday. Reminder notes were sent home Tuesday with seventh- and eighth-graders.

The dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. each night. The menu includes teriyaki rice bowl, cabbage salad and apple crisp.



Hundreds pay final respects to woman with Homedale ties

According to estimates, more than 500 people attended the funeral of 19-year-old Jessica Hiser on Wednesday at the Homedale LDS church on West Idaho Avenue. Homedale's Subway sandwich shop, where Hiser was employed, closed Wednesday afternoon so friends and family could attend the services. A long procession of vehicles slowed traffic down Idaho Avenue en route to Hiser's final resting place at Canyon Hill Cemetery in Caldwell. Homedale Police Department officers provided an escort for the procession. Hiser died Jan. 31 in a three-car accident north of Wilder on U.S. Highway 95.

4-H'ers to learn government

Five Owyhee County 4-H club members have been selected to participate in the 2008 Know Your Government exercise, which runs Saturday through Monday in Boise.

Melba students Sammie Bass and Riley Stirm will join Homedale's Jessica Gonzalez. Erik Munson of Marsing and Chris Johnson from Greenleaf as the county's KYG delegates.

The 21st annual event will attract 160 4-H'ers ages 14 and 15 from across the state to take part in exercises to learn about the three branches of U.S. government — legislative, executive and judicial.

Top Idaho government officials, including Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice Daniel Eismann, will address the participants. Eismann

Special events

planned at

was raised in Owyhee County.

During the KYG weekend, which coincides with the Presidents Day holiday weekend, the selected eighth- and ninth-graders will hold mock committee meetings and mock trials. The group also will have breakfast with Idaho legislators and judges and observe the 2008 Idaho Legislature in session.

The delegates also will engage in a mock floor session from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday inside the Boise City Council chambers. The event will be Webcast live on www.cityofboise.org.

Stirm (Biofuel) and Gonzalez (Impact Fees) will participate in Legislative workshops. Bass (Attorney for the Defense) and Johnson and Munson (Clerk/Bailiffs) are taking part in Judicial workshops.

Bass is a member of Wilson Butte 4-H and a ninth-grader at Melba High. Another Melba ninth-grader, Stirm belongs to the Reynolds Creek 4-H. Gonzalez participates in the After School 4-H Leadership organization and is an eighth-grader at Homedale Middle School. Munson attends the Idaho Virtual Academy as a ninth-grader and is a member of the Owyhee Animal Friends 4-H. Johnson, a member of Stitch 'n' Stir 4-H, is a ninth-grader at Vallivue High School in Caldwell.

Major donors for KYG 2008 include the Idaho 4-H Endowment Board, the Second District Bar Association, D.L. Evans Bank, Idaho Grain Producers Association, Idaho Power Co., Idaho Potato Commission, J.R. Simplot Co., Land O'Lakes and Red Lion Hotel.

Malheur wildfire protection plan subject of meetings

The Homedale Senior Citizens Center has scheduled two special events for later this month.

senior center

Next Wednesday, the center at 224 W. Idaho Ave. will play host to caregiver training from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The free seminar includes lunch and will cover several topics: financial/legal information, available resources, nutrition tips, home safety and wandering issues, activities and medications.

Call (208) 322-7033, ext. 273 to register.

The senior center also has planned a steak dinner fundraiser for 6 p.m. Feb. 23 at its West Idaho Avenue location.

Seating is limited, as only 36 tickets will be sold for the dinner, which will feature a half-pound steak and all the trimmings. Tickets are \$15 per plate, and reservations can be made by calling 337-3020.

Malheur County plans public meetings Tuesday at the Malheur Educational Services District office in Vale and Feb. 21 at the Lions Hall in Jordan Valley to discuss fire Land Management will provide risk faced by communities, wildfire protection priorities, and wild-

fire-related emergency services. Both meetings begin at 7 p.m.

The county is developing a countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan in response to the devastation wreaked by last year's fires and the continuing risk of future wildfires.

Representatives from Malheur County, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Bureau of information and lead discussions Other agencies and fire departments also will be represented at the meetings.

Improved fire prevention and suppression, restored fire-adapted ecosystems, and reduced amounts of hazardous fuels are among the goals of the planning process.

PICKThePACE 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

Sheriff candidate to address Chamber

A candidate for office and the owner of a local carnival company will make presentations to Homedale Chamber of Commerce members Thursday at the monthly luncheon.

The lunch meeting will begin at noon at the Owyhee Lanes and Restaurant, 18 W. 1st St. N.,

Daryl Crandall, who Chamber president Gavin Parker said is a candidate for Owyhee County Sheriff, will introduce himself. The Grand View-area deputy will be running in the May 27 primary.

Scott Roper of Payette-based Fun Time Carnival Co., will make a presentation about what his firm can offer for a summertime fundraiser for the Chamber.

Parker also said that there will be updates on the status of the joint Web site to feature the Chamber and the City of Homedale as well as the promotional map being produced for the Chamber by Caldwell-based Hometown Maps.

GV library series continues

The Eastern Owyhee County Library presents the third installment 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 Diana Abu-Jaber book "The Language of Baklava: A Memoir." The program scholar selected to moderate the discussion has not been announced.

Participants can obtain copies of "The Language of Baklava: A Memoir" at the library, 520 Boise Ave. in Grand View.

To check out a copy of the book or to get more information on the series, call the library at (208) 834-2785.

Other discussions are scheduled for March 4 and March 18.

The series is underwritten by US Bankcorp, the Idaho Humanities Council and the Idaho Commission for Libraries.

> Buy it, sell it, trade it, rent it... in the

Classifieds!





Water report
The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday afternoon, Owyhee Reservoir was 28 percent full and that water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore. at a rate of 28 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 199,557 acre-feet of water.

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 12:00 p.m. Monday (Year-to-date precipitation is measured from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30):

| Reynolds Creek | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------|------------|------|
| Date | Year-to-Date | T | emperature | S |
| | Precipitation | Max. | Min. | Avg. |
| 02/05 | 10.7 | 21 | 15 | 18 |
| 02/06 | 11.0 | 26 | 14 | 20 |
| 02/07 | 11.0 | 26 | 17 | 22 |
| 02/08 | 11.1 | 35 | 24 | 30 |
| 02/09 | 11.1 | 35 | 23 | 28 |
| 02/10 | 11.1 | 42 | 31 | 36 |
| 02/11 | 11.2 | 41 | 36 | 38 |

Current snow depth: 22 inches. Snow water equivalent: 7 inches.

| South Mountain | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| Date | Year-to-Date | T | emperature | S |
| | Precipitation | Max. | Min. | Avg |
| 02/05 | 19.5 | 25 | 14 | 17 |
| 02/06 | 19.7 | 33 | 14 | 23 |
| 02/07 | 20.0 | 30 | 17 | 23 |
| 02/08 | 20.2 | 38 | 22 | 28 |
| 02/09 | 20.3 | 33 | 52 | 63 |
| 02/10 | 20.1 | 48 | 30 | 37 |
| 02/11 | 20.3 | 46 | 34 | 39 |
| Current sno | w depth: 3 inches Sno | w water equi | valent:16 in | ches. |

Mud Flat

| | Muu | 1 lat | | |
|-------|------------------|-------|--------------|------|
| Date | ate Year-to-Date | | Temperatures | |
| | Precipitation | Max. | Min. | Avg. |
| 02/05 | 10.5 | 30 | 04 | 20 |
| 02/06 | 10.6 | 25 | 01 | 15 |
| 02/07 | 10.8 | 37 | 19 | 26 |
| 02/08 | 11.1 | 43 | 24 | 33 |
| 02/09 | 11.1 | 40 | 21 | 31 |
| 02/10 | 11.1 | 44 | 23 | 32 |
| 02/11 | 11.2 | 49 | 23 | 34 |
| | | | | |

Current snow depth: 34 inches. Snow water equivalent: 8 inches.



Learn how to graft scions (cuttings) of apple, apricot, cherry, pear and plum onto semi-dwarf rootstocks and then make new trees for your yard or farm. Meet other fruit growers and get answers to fruit-related questions. For details and to register for the course, contact horticulturist Bob Purvis at (208) 337-3782 anytime, or e-mail him at purvisrc@msn.com before March 1.

Marsing auction numbers less than initial estimates

The 47th edition of the Marsing Disaster Auction did not break the \$100,000 mark after all, but it didn't miss by much. According to Lyle Bowers, advertising director for the 2008 auction, the event raised more than \$99,000, breaking 2007's record total of \$80,000, and setting a mark that could be difficult to top next year.

"It was a great year, raising over \$99,000," Bowers wrote in an e-mail. "Our very generous supporters came through again, as usual for this community. The faces change from year to year, as one generation follows the other generation, but all are as dedicated and supportive as the first. Some of our long-standing supporters could not make it, but they always send representatives to bid on our numerous items, to purchase raffle tickets, or to bring some wonderful hand-made item to auction off. No matter what, they are represented in some capacity. That is how dedicated our community and supporters are to this endeavor.

"The younger members step up to help each year by volunteering their time, expertise, and hard work. This event continues to grow and be very successful each and every year. That is why it is called 'Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Bowers included the following list of raffle winners with his comments on this year's auction, adding that this was the first year that all of the \$10 raffle tickets

Winners in the \$10 raffle were: Levi Bowers, who won a Remington rifle donated by Owyhee Farm Bureau and agents Wayne Hungate and Dave Cereghino; Kevin Lootens, who won a cleaning service donated



Auction sets record

Community members look on during the Marsing Disaster Auction, which raised a record amount of proceeds earlier this month.

by Karen's Custom Cleaning; Chris Salove, winner of a gun safe donated by Rhino Safe Co.; Trish Birmingham, winner of a 42-inch high-definition TV donated by Canyon County Farm Bureau and agents Don Pfost, Darin Pfost, and Kerry Harris; and Pete Smit, who won a front-loading washer and dryer donated by the Marsing Disaster Auction.

Winners in the \$1 raffle were: Wendy Coons, a \$250 Marsing shopping spree donated by Marsing American Legion Post 128; John Demshar, a Boise get-away donated by Mason & Stanfield, Inc., Engineers & Surveyors; Donna Mount, a digital camera and picture dock donated by Dick Downum and Haken Insurance Agency; and Casey Percifield, a side of beef donated by Terry and Sandy McLeod.

The top raffle ticket-seller was Kimber Bowman, who received an iPod Nano for her efforts. Jeffrey Eells was second, and won a PlayStation Portable game system, while Becky Carter and Dillon Danner, who were fourth and fifth, respectively, received cash prizes of \$100 and \$75.

In a random drawing of \$1 raffle ticket sellers, Emily Collett won \$50, Preston Hill won \$40, Meagan Williams won \$30, and Abbey Rice and Preston Hill won \$25 each.

The funds raised in the auction go to aid local families that have suffered from serious illnesses or accidents throughout the past year, as well as local service agencies. In past years, auction proceeds have gone to the United Way, Marsing Ambulance, the Marsing Senior Citizens Center, Hope House, the Red Cross, the Marsing Resource Center, the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery, Marsing Elementary School, and the Marsing Chamber of Commerce, among other groups.

- Next week Auction committee thanks community in letter to the editor







Community food bank has plenty of space

Janet Clapier stands in the barren food pantry at the El-Ada Community Action Partnership's Owyhee County office in Homedale.

El-Ada pantry sees increased demand, decreased supplies

Owyhee County's cupboard is bare this winter.

Janet Clapier said that the El-Ada Community Action Partnership has provided more assistance through its food pantry, and received fewer food donations, than at any other time in her 12 years with the agency.

"It is a double whammy," Clapier said of the food bank's increased demand and decreased supplies.

In December, El-Ada distributed commodities packages to 187 families in Owyhee County, providing food aid to a total of 397 county residents. That number includes 92 households in Homedale, 25 in Marsing, 13 in Grand View, seven in Bruneau, and 50 homebound families throughout the county. In January, 177 families received food aid, but Clapier speculates that the recent poor weather kept some eligible families from picking up food packages at the three monthly distribution days throughout the county.

El-Ada's next commodity distribution day is Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., in Grand View. Other days to pick up food come Tuesday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the El-Ada office, 15 W. Colorado Ave., Homedale, and next Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon at the Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing.

The pickup days are held on the third Tuesday of the month in Homedale, the third Wednesday of the month in Marsing and the second Thursday of the month in Grand View.

Clapier said that the food packages El-Ada puts together are supplemental, and are not designed to provide a family's full food supply. Recipients are eligible to receive commodities once per month for one year. Emergency food is available once every three months for families who have no food when they apply for aid.

The amount of a distribution varies depending on family size.

Packages are made for families of up to two people, two to four, and five or more. A standard package may last the recipient family up to one week, while an emergency package is designed to last up to two weeks.

Clapier said that El-Ada receives assistance from the federal government, but is not eligible for further federal aid until September. The county's 4-H clubs have launched food drives each of the past two years, culminating with food barrels at the Owyhee County Fair each of the past two Augusts.

Although her agency's name is the El-Ada Community Action Partnership, named after Elmore and Ada counties, Clapier said that all donations and supplies received in the Owyhee County office remain in Owyhee County. The agency originally served only Ada and Elmore counties, and when service expanded to Owyhee County, the name was not changed to reflect the addition.

RTH

Homedale gets transportation study funding

The City of Homedale has received a check representing a transportation study grant from the Boise-based Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC).

The \$50,000 grant, for which Homedale applied in November 2006, was awarded last March. The check was written from the LHTAC's Local Rural Highway Investment Program (LRHIP) on Jan. 30.

"We'll use it in the planning of how to develop the curbs and sidewalks of our streets," Homedale Mayor Harold Wilson said. "PEC (Project Engineering Consulting, Ltd.) helped get the grant, and we're surprised it come so quick."

The city wasn't required to put up any matching funds to qualify for the grant, which is one of eight transportation plan grants awarded through the LRHIP.

The City Council is scheduled to discuss the grant during its first regular meeting of the month, which is slated for 6 p.m. today at City Hall.

Wilson said the transportation study, which most likely will be conducted by PEC, will help the city in its quest to build a master plan.

The mayor said a master plan is the foundation on which clearer ordinances and other grant applications can be built. The city's current ordinance regarding side-

walks, curbs and gutters will be helped immensely by a master plan, Wilson said, and a plan also will help in re-applying for the \$500,000 Idaho Department of Commerce Community Block Grant that the council suspended in December.

According to a letter from Local Highway Technical Assistance Council asset manager Jim Zier announcing the approval of Homedale's grant, the city must complete its transportation study by Oct. 1 or request an extension.

But LRHIP grant coordinator Lance Holmstrom said Homedale might not have to worry about filing an extension.

"As long as they have a consultant and an agreement, we're not going to pull the money, as long as they are making reasonable progress," Holmstrom said.

Holmstrom said that if Homedale's transportation study costs less than \$50,000, then the balance of the grant must be returned to the LHTAC. Funds from the grant cannot be used for wages or equipment purchases, Zier's letter said.

The grant was awarded after the application was studied by the nine-member LHTAC, which consists of three county commissioners, three mayors and three highway district commissioners from throughout Idaho.

— JPB

Cox lands on George Fox University Dean's List

Chanda Lynn Cox, a 2007 List for the 2007 fall semester. graduate of Homedale High

School, has been named to the education at George Fox's main GPA or higher while taking at least George Fox University Dean's campus in Newberg, Ore.

To be included on the academic Cox is majoring in music honorroll, a student must earn a 3.5 12 graded credit hours of classes.

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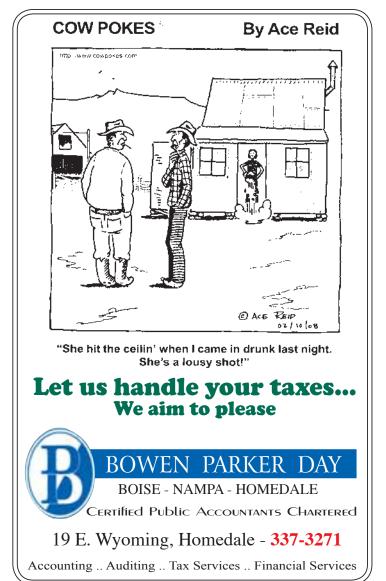
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Owyhee Democrats opt for Obama



Dems select state convention delegate

Bruneau resident Rebecca Lampman speaks during last week's Owyhee County Democratic Caucus in Marsing. She was selected to serve as the county's delegate during June's state convention in Boise.



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Barack Obama easily won the Owyhee County Democratic Caucus on Feb. 5, garnering nearly four times the number of votes received by runner-up Hillary Clinton.

Obama received 43 of 55 votes cast, or 78 percent, in the second and final roll call of caucus registrants. Clinton received 11 votes, or 20 percent. The remaining vote was uncommitted. Owyhee County's vote closely mirrored results throughout Idaho, where Obama received 80 percent of the vote to Clinton's 17 percent.

While only 61 people registered at the county caucus in Marsing, the number is thrilling to caucus chair Monica Larsen of Homedale. She said just six people attended Owyhee County's Democratic Caucus four years ago.

With the victory, Obama earned Owyhee County's single delegate to the Idaho Democratic Convention, which is scheduled for June 12-15 in Boise.

Rebecca Lampman of Bruneau was selected to be the lone Owyhee delegate.

Both Larsen and Lampman agreed with the consensus answer to the question: What's it like to be a Democrat in Owyhee County?

"Lonely," Lampman laughed.
"It's lonely."

"But it's a challenge," she continued. "You really have to stand your ground and learn to be friends with everybody. I've come to the point in my life where I want to stand up and be who I am. I'm tired of feeling like you can't really say how you feel on issues and things like that, and it's time to stand up. I think too many people quietly disagree, and it's not that you want to fight, but you need to stand up and be who you are."

Loneliness aside, the tenfold increase in county caucus participation topped off Larsen's naturally bountiful enthusiasm.

"I have such hope for the future of our country now," Larsen, a Marsing High School graduate and third-generation county resident, wrote in an e-mail. "The Owyhee caucuses have launched us, and we are off to the races.

"I was extremely gratified that all generations showed up in record numbers to participate in the process. They must finally realize that we have more to lose than at previous times in our recent past, with mounting national debts to pay back, a sick biosphere to heal. I believe Democrats and Republicans alike recognize that the essence of our democracy is at stake in Election 2008."

Lampman, who has lived in Owyhee County since 1996, was also enthusiastic about the turnout at the caucus at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center.

"I came from Bruneau to be here tonight," Lampman said. "I'm

just so excited to see everybody here, and I'm so excited for this election. I think it's time for all of us to stand up and really start trying to be active in our communities, I think it's time to start being active and participate in the process. I've never done that before.

"The issues that I would really like to see addressed, the big ones that are on my mind, are education, our educational system, our health care, and I would also really like to see energy policies, and I would like to see the new president encourage rural development in energy policies."

Lampman said that the caucus process was interesting, and she looks forward to being the county's delegate.

"I am excited to participate in the process and see what it's going to be like, just like tonight with the caucus," Lampman said. "It was neat to see how a caucus works. I've never gone to a state convention, and I'm guessing that the state convention will be similar in organization and process to the national convention, so it'll give me a really good idea what that's like

"I really want to participate in that process. I want to let Boise know and let the big areas know that there are Democrats out here. We are few and far between, but we're here."

— RTH



The Spot

Marsing history repeats itself as new eatery opens its doors

Restaurant takes
its name from
former gathering
place on same site

A piece of Marsing history has come full circle with the recent opening of The Spot Pizza restaurant on Main Street.

The newest eatery in Marsing with the clique-ish name is run by Cindy Howarth, and it brings together Marsing's future — more dining opportunities — and its past — memories of a business from long ago.

Howarth said her father, The Sandbar Restaurant owner John Salove, who owns the ground on which The Spot was built was looking to shake things up a bit.

"It was a process of elimination," she said of the decision to bring pizza to town. "Dad was getting a little bored with the status quo and wanted to bring some different to Marsing.

"Pizza was something we really liked."

Originally, the family looked at bringing a franchise to town, but Papa John nixed that idea, deciding instead to go the route of fresh ingredients and trust Cindy's kitchen talent.

After a month in business, it seems the formula is paying off.

"The only thing that has surprised me is how really busy we've been for the last month," Howarth said. "I expected a week or two where everyone would want to come see what we're doing.

"I expected a week after Christmas where it would really die off, and it did slow down, but I got some really steady customers."

So the gamble is paying off. And, although a clean pizza place with plenty of dining space (1,200 square feet) may not seem like much of a gamble, Howarth tips her chef's hat to that aspect of the restaurant biz with her menu.

On the specialty pizza menu there are the Royal Flush Combo, the Black Jack Taco, Full House Garlic Chicken and Straight Flush Veggie.

Sandwiches that the cooks deal include the Ace of Spades Roast

The Spot Pizza

Address

12 Sandbar Ave. **Phone number**896-5055

Hours

11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday; noon to 8 p.m., Sunday

Menu

Pizza, sandwiches, salad, oup

Beef, King of Diamonds Ham and Jack of Diamonds Pastrami.

"I actually got that idea from my hairdresser," Howarth said of the poker theme.

The restaurant also serves a soup of the day and soup and salad and pizza and salad combos.

Pizzas range in size from a 7-inch personal to a 16-inch large.

The poker theme may not have entirely been something that was cobbled together over scissors and a blow dryer, though, just as the restaurant name was plucked from the dusty pages of history.

"There was a building here sometime in the 1930s that was called The Spot," Howarth said. "Apparently it had a variety of businesses — restaurant, bar, slots.

"When we started talking about what we ought to name (the new restaurant), some said, 'We ought to name it that (The Spot),' and that was it."

The 1970 Marsing High School graduate, who is married to former Marsing city councilman Rob Howarth and is the sister of Marsing Hardware and Pump owner Chris Salove, said that the historic building was all but gone by the time her father started moving ground to spruce up the area around The Sandbar.

John Salove apparently dug up the remnants of the old building's foundation when he put in the park on the southwest side of the restaurant's property.

But just because the last chunks of ancient concrete were hauled off long ago doesn't mean Howarth wants to ignore her restaurant's lineage.

"I have an old photograph of the building that I'm thinking about displaying on the wall," she said. She also wants to delve into the history of the old building — when it was constructed and details of what businesses occupied the spot.

The Spot restaurant, which can be reached at 896-5055 is open seven days a week (11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday; noon to 8 p.m. Sunday), although that keeps Howarth — a former program director and registered nurse with Central Health District in Boise — and her 12 employees running.

"I left what is really a stressful full-time job to take a full-time, stressful job," Howarth said. "The only difference is the other job pays."

But Howarth's salary is supplemented by the fact that old friends have returned to check out what's going on.

"I wanted to do something totally different and I wanted to be around family and the town that I grew up in," Howarth said.

"I'm surprised at how it's been to be around people I haven't seen in a long time."

— JPB



Pizza restaurant opens in Marsing

Cindy Howarth, the owner of The Spot in Marsing, left, stands at the front door to her pizza restaurant with employees, from left, Suzy Vercele, Brooke Gibson and Steve Watson.





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Cowboy poet to visit Bruneau library for its speaker series

Bruneau Valley Library's "Bruneau and Beyond" speaker series features a local cowboy poet.

Toni McGuire will perform some of her poetry. She's originally from Unity, Ore., and moved to the Bruneau area five years ago.

The lunch and presentation begins at noon on Feb. 20 at the library, 32073 Ruth St., in

RSVPs are required to ensure enough food is available for

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

The February installment of lunch. Call (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2282 by Monday to reserve a spot.

> If the library is too small to accommodate the number of folks wishing to attend, the event will be moved to the community church and notices will be posted.

> A former "Famous Poetry Society" magazine Poet of the Year, McGuire has performed at cowboy poetry gatherings in Idaho City and St. Anthony as well as Cedar City, Utah, Virginia City, Mont., and Elko, Nev.

She has been published in magazines such as "Range" and "Famous Poetry Society," and she has released a CD featuring selected poetry readings.

Idaho Power plans C.J. upgrades

Public comment sought on park improvements

Idaho Power Co. has proposed improvements at C.J. Strike Reservoir, and the public can comment on the proposal until Feb. 26.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers distributed a public notice of Idaho Power's permit application on Feb. 5.

Idaho Power wants to build three new boat docks and a beach at the North Park Recreation Area, an 18-acre parcel in the northwest corner of the reservoir. Additionally, Idaho Power seeks permission to reconstruct three existing boat docks and dredge part of the

lake. The utility company, which owns the park, also wants to fill part of C.J. Strike with 2,500 cubic yards of heavy rock to create a temporary pad to dredge in front of and around the existing boat ramp and to allow construction of a 45- by 220-foot rock breakwater.

According to the public notice, Idaho Power proposes to begin construction in the spring, and would complete the work within a year.

Through this project, Idaho Power hopes to remove underwater hazards and improve boat access to the existing boat ramp and reconstructed boat docks as well as the three new docks proposed in the project.

The public beach would measure 300 feet long and 20 feet deep, and Idaho Power proposes using 175 cubic yards of sand and pea gravel to construct it.

Five new plastic buoys anchored by concrete on the reservoir bed also are slated for in-

Idaho Power's proposal to dredge 1,100 feet of shoreline would excavate a little over 3,000 square feet of wetlands.

According to the Corps of Engineers application announcement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the construction won't impact any threatened or endangered species. No Environmental Impact Study is required, but comments will be considered as part of an Environmental Assessment.

Most of the construction doesn't require Corps of Engineers approval, but a water quality certification from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and a permit from the Idaho Department of Lands are required.

Public comment on the water quality certification, which is mandated by the Clean Water Act, can be sent to IDEQ, Boise Regional Office, 1445 N. Orchard, Boise, ID 83706.

Comment on the Corps of Engineers permit (No. NWW-2007-1149-B01) can be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Boise Regulatory Field Office, 10095 W. Emerald St., Boise, ID 83704-

According to the Corps of Engineers permit application announcement, any concerned party may request a public hearing on the application. Requests must state specific reasons to hold the hearing and must be received by

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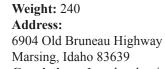
Read all about it in the Avalanche!

Protecting the public

Since the last publication of registered sex offenders in Owyhee County, the following offenders have registered in the county.

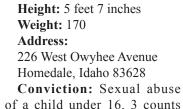
This list is published for the protection of the public.

The complete list is available at www.isp.state.id.us/sor id/.



Convictions: Lewd or lascivious conduct with a child under 14 - Fairfield, SC, 1988

Unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor — Fairfield, SC,



— Owyhee County, 1991

lascivious act with child under 14 using force — Butte County. Calif., 1985

Lewd and lascivious act with minor under 14 using force -Butte County, Calif., 1995



Roberts, Darrell Lee

Most recent registration:

Height: 5 feet 7 inches

14760 State Highway 78

Conviction: Lewd conduct

with a minor child under 16

Melba, Idaho 83641

— Ada County, 1986

Nov. 9, 2007

Weight: 150

Address:

Age: 45

Showmaker, **Donald Glen**

Most recent registration: July 3, 2007

Age: 91 **Height:** 5 feet 9 inches Weight: 200

Address: 212 Riverview Drive Marsing, Idaho 83639

Conviction: Sexual abuse of a minor under 16 — Owyhee County, 1993

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Andrews, **Daniel Graham**

Most recent registration: Nov. 27, 2007 **Age:** 55

Height: 5 feet 11 inches Weight: 175 **Address:**

4917 Edison Road Marsing, Idaho 83639

Convictions: Sex abuse of a child under 16 — Ada County,

Lewd conduct with a minor child under 16 — Ada County,



Conant, Charles Leroy Jr. Most recent registration:

Dec. 10, 2007 **Age:** 45

Height: 5 feet 8 inches Weight: 190

Address:

Gooding,

Ryan Robert

Sept 5, 2007

Weight: 270

County, Calif., 1999

Age: 29

Address:

Most recent registration:

Height: 6 feet 0 inches

404 West Utah Avenue Homedale, Idaho 83628

Convictions: Sex with a minor 3 or younger, 3 counts — Mariposa

Sexual battery — sexual

arousal - Mariposa County,

717 West Idaho Avenue Homedale, Idaho 83628

Conviction: Sexual abuse in the third degree - Malheur County, Ore., 2004



Most recent registration:

July 30, 2007 **Age:** 57

Height: 5 feet 8 inches

Weight: 185

328 West Owyhee Avenue Homedale, Idaho 83628



Address:

Convictions: Lewd



Legal notice deadline

Friday noon the week prior to publication

Classified deadline

Monday noon the

week of publication

The Ownhee Avalanche

337-4681



Brewer, Larry Lee Most recent registration:

Sept. 4, 2007 **Age:** 38

Height: 6 feet 0 inches

Weight: 190 Address:

8767 Clarke Road #20 Melba, Idaho 83641

Conviction: Battery with intent to commit a felony — Canyon County, 1999

Most recent registration:

Height: 5 feet 10 inches

Oct 4, 2007 **Age:** 56



Most recent registration: Aug. 2, 2007

Age: 71



Page, John Lowell



Miceli Vineyards Feb. 13th Wine Tasting 4-6pm

nake River Mart



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Boneless Beef

Bottom Round Steak

Boneless Pork Sirloin Chops



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| Fuji Apples | \$129 1b. |
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| Jonagold Apples | \$109 lb. |
| Roma Tomatoes | \$119 |

| Jumbo Red Onions | 49¢ |
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| Home Pride White or Wheat Bread \$1 99 20 oz. | Skippy Peanut Butter 18 oz. \$239 ea. | American Beauty Pasta 16 oz. \$19 ea. | Popsecret Microwave Popcorn \$319 6pk 3.5 oz. |
| Quaker Life & Cinnamon Life Cereal 21-21.7 oz. | Western Family Whip Topping 16 oz. \$219 ea. | Nabisco Oreo Cookies 18 oz. \$319 ea. | Red Vine Licorice 16 oz. \$169 ea. |
| Western Family Buttermilk Pancake Mix \$ 1 69 ea. 32 oz. | Western Family Pancake Syrup 24 oz. \$229 ea. | Keebler Zesta Crackers 16 oz. \$\frac{1}{99}_{ea.} | Doritos Tortilla Chips 13 oz. \$229 ea. |
| Wishbone Salad Dressing 16 oz. \$219 ea. | Kleenex Tissue \$179 ea. | Western Family Bleach 96 oz. \$\frac{1}{89} ea. | Vallentine Specials |
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