



**Trojans open season
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Homedale rallies for stricken woman, 4A

County election, Page 2A

Nuclear power, Page 9A

RV park owner makes run
for county commission seat

Idaho Energy Complex CEO
speaks; county hearing today

Wednesday, March 12, 2008

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The Owyhee Avalanche

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Areas of county still closed

Commissioners
decide to check
status next week

The recent stretch of nice weather and windy conditions nearly prompted the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners to open nearly 6,000 square miles of public land Monday.

But the commissioners passed an afternoon resolution during its weekly meeting that will keep more than 3.2 million acres of

— See *Closed*, page 5A

Outspoken P&Z panelist resigns post

E-mail from anti-nuke activist says
Weatherby could reveal 'important
problems' at today's hearing

Marsing resident Joe Weatherby has retained an attorney after resigning last week from the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission.

Weatherby confirmed his resignation Monday morning, less than a day after Twin Falls nuclear power opponent Peter Rickards leaked the information in an e-mail to The Owyhee Avalanche and other undisclosed recipients.

"This has been a difficult decision for me," Weatherby said, adding that his resignation was "the culmination of a number of issues."

He pointed out that the resignation was his idea and was not the

product of coercion from anyone related to the county.

"I also want to make it clear this should not reflect poorly on the

other P&Z commissioners," he said. "They put in an incredible amount of time on some very difficult issues."

Weatherby, who was in the second year of a three-year term on the all-volunteer planning board, said he submitted his letter of resignation seven days ago.

Weatherby wouldn't give any specifics about the reasons why he

— See *Resigns*, page 5A

— P&Z commission hears
IEC application today, page 9A



Joe Weatherby

Auction brings out all ages



Scores turn out for farm equipment sale

Cody Linquist, 3½, of Homedale tries out a John Deere 4030 tractor during Saturday's annual consignment auction at the Homedale sugar beet dump. Cody and his father, Tim, were checking out the merchandise at the event presented by the Baker Auction Co., of Ontario, Ore.

Work group meets with Initiative in home stretch

Latest word from Washington bolsters chairman

Members of the Owyhee Initiative Work Group will gather Thursday to discuss the latest correspondence with federal legislators.

Owyhee Initiative Work Group chair

Fred Grant told the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners in a memo that the work group has received the first response from Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff regarding language

changes the work group members proposed for the Owyhee Initiative Implementation Act.

The work group made the latest changes during a Feb. 20 meeting in Nampa. Members will meet again at 1 p.m. Thursday in Grant's Nampa office to discuss the

Senate committee's response.

Grant told the commissioners that committee staff had a favorable view of the work group's proposal to establish Science Review through coordination between

— See *Initiative*, page 5A

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Firm asks Marsing to pay \$92,000

Water project nearly complete

At its monthly meeting tonight, the Marsing City Council will consider a request for payment from SPF Engineering for work on the city's water system improvement project.

The request for payment, in the amount of \$92,151.73, is subject to U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development approval, as the bulk of the improvement project has been funded through USDA RD grant money. City engineer Amy Woodruff will give the council a status update on the nearly completed project.

The council is also scheduled to hear a proposal from the Bureau of Land Management regarding the floor of the BLM's Owyhee Field Office in Marsing. The floor apparently is sinking under the weight of BLM files stored there.

Also on the agenda:

- Reports from Owyhee County Sheriff's deputy Gary Olsen, city superintendent Danny Martin and mayor Keith Green
- A Marsing Lions Club request for a \$25 donation for the club's annual Easter Egg Hunt
- A request by the Western Idaho Community Action Partnership to use Island Park on April 12 for its Spring Fling celebration.

Sign set to change



California firm buys Marsing plant

The Bayer CropScience facility at 410 Simpkins Lane in Marsing has changed hands, with the American Vanguard Chemical Corp., subsidiary of Newport, Calif.-based American Vanguard taking control. A person at the Marsing plant said the sign outside the plant should be changed in about a month. No other information on the impact of the sale of the facility, which employs about a dozen folks, was available. The former Gustafson and Crompton Corp., facility will continue to produce some Bayer products to help with a seamless transition, according to an industry press release.

Council tackles full plate again

Homedale improvement projects to be discussed tonight

Measures to improve several areas of Homedale could be discussed at tonight's City Council meeting.

The first meeting of March begins at 6 p.m. at City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave.

According to an agenda furnished by City Hall, the council will hear about development and security at the Homedale Municipal Airport as well as the possibility of an Idaho Department of Commerce Gem Grant to help the city enhance the airport.

The hearing about development and security was rescheduled for tonight after no representatives showed up on Feb. 29 for the original discussion.

According to public works supervisor Larry Bauer, the Gem Grant, if awarded to the city, will enable Homedale to resurface a part of the tarmac on the south end of the airport to help improve drainage.

Bauer said an added benefit of the improvement would be new tarmac in front of the growing businesses at the airport, eliminating the gravel that can cause costly damage to airplanes and airplane props.

Bauer said Garden City-based Sage Community Resources probably would handle the grant writing. He also said the grant is

available a year ahead of schedule, according to Bill Statham of the Idaho Division of Aeronautics.

Bauer said the project probably would require a \$300,000 grant.

Homedale resident Barbie Vander Boegh is scheduled to continue her push to bring a horseshoe sculpture created by a Caldwell artist to town as a centerpiece to the main entrance to Homedale. Her presentation originally scheduled for Feb. 29 was delayed.

Members of the Homedale Middle School Student Council will present plans for the area around the City Park tennis courts.

HMS principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness said students will make the presentation with the hope of obtaining the City Council's approval to continue their project of removing the junipers around the courts and replacing them with a more spectator-friendly environment.

Some of the trees were pulled away from the courts' chain-link fence in the fall with help from the city.

"This is a great idea, very much needed, and a huge commitment on the part of the HMS Student Council," Asumendi-Mereness said. "I am extremely proud that they've chosen to take on this project."

The rental policy for the city's reader sign also will be reviewed as will the plan to install streetlights at two crosswalks on East Idaho Avenue, including one near the tennis courts.

— JPB

New members sought by gun club

Big prizes are available Sunday during the Marsing Gun Club's annual membership shoot.

The shoot begins at 10 a.m. at the gun club's range on Idaho highway 78, three miles south of Marsing.

In addition to trying to attract new members, the gun club will elect a new board of directors.

Current board member Tim

Dines said the club is a family-oriented organization, and that the public is invited to come out Sunday and find out what the club is all about.

One-year memberships will be available for \$25 per family, and an all-you-can-eat dinner also will be served at the event.

The club will hold a raffle, with a grand prize of a \$500 gift

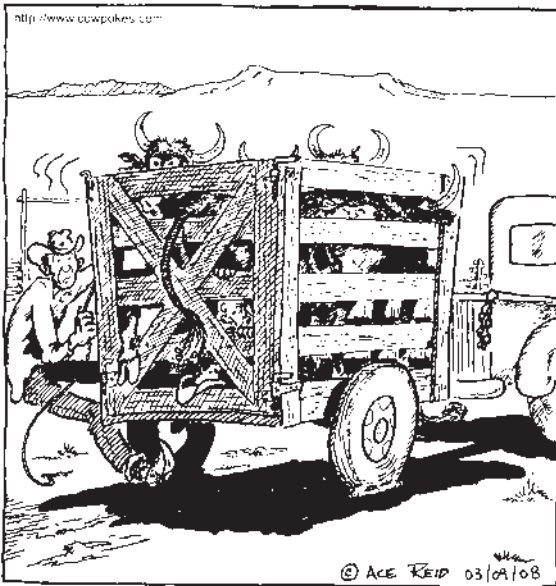
certificate to the Sportsman's Warehouse. Other raffle prizes will be available. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.

A 10-22 rifle will be awarded in a raffle among gun club members, including those who sign up Sunday.

For more information, call Dines at 573-3321 or Marty Floyd at 573-3533.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



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Owyhee groups get ready for Easter fun

Children's egg hunts planned in four communities

Plans for community Easter egg hunts and related activities in Owyhee County have been set.

Easter egg hunts are planned in Homedale, Marsing, Grand View and Jordan Valley next week.

• Jordan Valley gets the festivities started at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 21 with an Easter egg hunt on the high school football field.

Candy and Easter egg baskets will be awarded by a random drawing. Age groups include preschool through kindergarten, first- and second-graders, and third grade through sixth grade.

• The Marsing Lions Club will hold its annual breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 22, at the Phipps-Watson

Marsing American Legion Community Center. The menu includes pancakes, eggs, ham, coffee, juice and milk. Prices are \$4 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and younger.

At 10 a.m. on March 22, the Marsing Lions' Easter egg hunt begins at the Marsing High School football field.

There will be four age groups, and the hunt is limited to fourth-graders and younger.

• The Homedale Chamber of Commerce will hold its Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. on March 22 at Sundance Park. More details will be available after the Chamber's monthly luncheon Thursday.

• The Grand View Lions Club will present its annual Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. on March 22 at Grand View Centennial City Park.

The Easter bunny will be on hand, and children will search for candy-filled eggs.

Benefit to help coach's wife

The Homedale High School track and field team will participate in a multi-team jog-a-thon on April 14 to raise funds to help the family of the Trojans' head coach.

Homedale athletic director David Hart announced Monday that the event will take place at 4:30 p.m. on April 14 on the Deward Bell Stadium track. As of Monday, fellow 3A Snake River Valley conference teams Fruitland and Payette also were scheduled to take part.

Sherry Thomas was hospitalized Feb. 24 after suffering a stroke caused by a dissection of the carotid artery. The district's media center specialist, who is based out of the Homedale High School library, remains at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise after being moved from the hospital's intensive care unit on Feb. 29.

"She plays an important role in terms of instructional tools and resources that students and teachers have access to, and she

does her job well," Homedale School District superintendent Tim Rosandick said.

Each athlete will be required to run a minimum of 10 laps in 30 minutes during the jog-a-thon. Athletes will raise money by securing pledges from the sponsors. Each athlete is required to raise at least \$50, and a sponsor can donate as little as \$1 per lap. Donations not tied to per-lap performances also will be accepted.

There will be prizes for the three athletes who complete the most laps — \$100 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third.

Rosandick said events such as the jog-a-thon show how much the Homedale community comes together for neighbors in need.

"It's truly amazing how this community rallies around people in need," he said. "We've seen several examples of that over the years with students in need or students who have been injured or sick. And we have a staff member that the community has rallied

around." Rosandick said staff and students at the district's three schools have undertaken support efforts for the Thomas family.

"The district, as a group, has provided a great deal of support for the family," Rosandick said. "Each school has put together support baskets, gifts cards to help defray the costs of eating out of town and those kinds of things.

"There has been an overwhelming, overflowing demonstration of support for Sherry and her family."

Rosandick said updates are distributed "almost daily" throughout the district so co-workers can track Sherry Thomas' condition.

"We're very pleased with the reports we're getting back from Thomas, her husband, and others," Rosandick said. "It seems she's doing much better on the road to recovery, and we look forward to her coming back to work."

— JPB

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Trojans baseball team sells outfield ads

The Homedale High School baseball team has launched an effort to raise funds by selling advertising on the outfield fence at the team's field on the corner of North 4th Street East and East Owyhee Avenue.

The banners, which measure 4 feet-by-8 feet, will hang on the

fence throughout the season.

Sponsors who have purchased banners in the past can renew their advertisement for \$175.

New advertisers pay \$300 for the first year with the option to

renew in subsequent seasons for \$175.

For more information, call the office of Trojans baseball coach Burke Deal at Idaho Custom Homes, 337-3444.

90th Anniversary Homecoming Concert

Sunday, March 16, 5:00 p.m.





Featuring
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12 Second Avenue West, Marsing, Idaho

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From page 1

✓ **Resigns:** Weatherby retains attorney after resignation letter submission

left the P&Z board, but he said he did not resign from his position as chair of the county's Energy Plan Committee.

"I'll have a meeting with the Board of Commissioners as soon as I can to talk about that," Weatherby said.

As of press time, The Owyhee Avalanche hadn't received a response to a call to the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning office and a request for a copy of Weatherby's resignation letter.

Weatherby wouldn't discuss

the details of why he resigned. He had been critical of the proposal to bring a nuclear power plant to the county.

"I'm trying to do this without blowing the county up," he said. "I've worked my butt off to try to do the right thing for the county, and most of the time I get kicked in the teeth."

According to Rickards' e-mail, Weatherby plans to address the P&Z commission during today's 3 p.m. hearing on a conditional use permit (CUP) application from

Idaho Energy Complex regarding two meteorological towers and two temporary office trailers on land near the site of the proposed \$4.5 billion, 1,600-megawatt Idaho Energy Complex nuclear reactor near Bruneau.

The meeting will take place in the county annex building, 17069 Basey Street, in Murphy. The day begins at 10 a.m. with a series of non-related hearings.

"Joe is the main author of the squelched, but wonderful Owyhee Energy Plan, and most likely, im-

portant problems will be revealed, that should be witnessed and reported," Rickards wrote of Weatherby's possible testimony before the commission today.

While Weatherby wouldn't talk specifics, Rickards' e-mail suggested that part of the problem lies with the permit process for the Idaho Energy Complex nuclear power plant.

"Given Joe's quiet, straight-forward independent approach, he is not alerting the media," Rickards wrote, "but my ears tell me there

will be a meltdown of problems revealed if the permit for the nuclear tower is allowed."

Today's CUP hearing pertains to meteorological towers to be used in the gathering of data for IEC's licensing permit application with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In a terse e-mail back to Rickards, Weatherby expressed his displeasure that Rickards had broadcast the news of his resignation.

— JPB

✓ **Initiative:** Chair says committee hearing could be held in coming weeks

Owyhee County, the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, the state and the Secretary of the Interior. The group also suggested that public input would be on a consultation basis with the University of Idaho, grazing permittees and other federal and state agencies and the public. In the original language, the university was included as a party to the coordination process.

Grant said that committee staff still is studying other proposals from the Feb. 20 meeting, but he expects responses from staff members in a week to 10 days.

Grant also told the commissioners that a committee hearing on the Initiative could be a little more than a month away — with movement to the Senate floor and ultimate passage by the end of 2008 on the work group's wish list.

"It may be that we are looking at a hearing before the Committee as early as the third week in April," Grant wrote. "If we can come to agreement with staff as to the language that will be finally proposed, the hearing can be held, and hopefully the bill moved to

the floor of the Senate for vote.

"The Work Group, the Committee staff and (Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho) are moving as rapidly as possible now to make that schedule work so that we have a bill voted on in the Senate in timely enough fashion to permit passage by Congress before the end of 2008."

In the meantime, Grant said, the work group continues to tackle other details connected to the passage of the bill.

"We have asked Sen. Crapo's staff to request maps from the

Department of the Interior which show the proposed wilderness designations, the wilderness study areas proposed for release to multiple use, and the wild and scenic rivers designated," Grant said. "It is important that we see and approve those maps before we reach a vote in the Senate, and only the senator can request them."

The work group continues to search for support of the legislation. During last week's meeting, members learned that trips to Washington, D.C., will be in the works for April and May. At that

time, work group members will meet with senators and staff, and some will testify at any scheduled hearing on the Initiative, Grant said in his memo.

Grant also has plans to visit Silver City, N.M., at the end of the month to speak on coordination. He said he also will meet with the executive director and other members of the New Mexico Stockgrowers Association in a continued effort to gain that group's influence with Energy and Natural Resources chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.).

✓ **Closed:** Despite wind, warming trend, areas still susceptible to damage

backcountry closed for at least another week.

Sheriff Gary Aman said that the commissioners will re-visit the issue during their next meeting Monday at the Owyhee County Courthouse in Murphy.

"It's still closed as it was for the last two weeks," Aman said. "There still is a lot of damage, and some of the areas of closure have received severe damage."

"To move the closure is going to take some work, further looking at the resource damage, so they voted to leave it as is."

According to the resolution, the commissioners came to the decision after conferring with Aman and District 1 road manager Larry McDaniel.

"The Board ... has found that weather, snowpack, run-off and mud conditions have not stabilized sufficiently to permit rescission of the Emergency Area Closure of Feb. 25, 2008," the commissioners stated in the resolution.

When it looked liked the commissioners would open the areas earlier in the day Monday, Aman said that the recent windy conditions have helped dry the low country out.

But with the closures still in place, Aman and other county officials urged the public to remain patient and, once again, praised the cooperation they

have seen thus far.

"The majority has really respected (the closure), and we appreciate that," Aman said.

Aman also said that a portion of the paved part of Silver City Road is closed because the asphalt is breaking apart. The closed stretch of the paved road runs from the Idaho highway 78 junction to Diamond Basin.

"The asphalt is breaking apart really, really bad, and (officials) want to get it fixed before they open it back up."

Bachman Grade Road also remains closed above Brown's Creek, the sheriff said.

In a joint press release issued Wednesday by the county and the Bureau of Land Management, both governmental bodies praised the public's cooperation.

"Public safety and protection of natural resources, as well as protection of the taxpayers' investment in roads and trails are prime considerations," BLM Boise District manager Jerry Taylor said.

The press release said that, even with the closures, there are still areas available within the county for recreational use. The release also directed the public to www.owyheecounty.net or the sheriff's office at (208) 495-1154 in order to receive updates on the status of closed areas.

— JPB

Areas of county remain closed



Commissioners will wait another week

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners decided Monday it will re-examine the emergency closure of more than 6,000 square miles of backcountry at its next meeting Monday.

Clockwise from above:

The green-colored area of the map shows how much area in Owyhee County has been closed off to recreationists.

A sign on Whiskey Mountain Road near Murphy warns recreationists. Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron stands amid the snow and mud on Whiskey Mountain Road on Friday.

Photos by MJ Byrne, BLM



Your finances

Tax rebate plan should focus on eliminting debt

Dear Dave,

I'm curious as to how you feel about the government's stimulus tax rebate plan. Our household income is over the maximum income amount to receive the rebate, so we'll be getting nothing but the bill — again. It seems that those who will receive this money are encouraged to do nothing but spend it. Does this bother you, too?

— Keith

Dear Keith,

I'm not crazy about this plan, either. I don't like the idea that my money could be going to help someone else buy a big-screen television or whatever toy they've got in mind. I understand that the "rebate" is designed to stimulate the economy and pull us away from a possible recession, but it sounds a little like socialism to me — and that's just the opposite of capitalism.

The whole idea — increased consumer spending giving the economy a boost — sounds good in theory. But I think a much better idea would be to encourage freedom from debt. THAT would increase consumer spending, and in turn, cause the economy to flourish.

I'm sure, too, that a lot of people have already spent this money in their minds. That's a really bad idea! It's an open invitation for Murphy to move right into their spare bedrooms lock, stock and barrel. I'm still amazed that so many people waste this "free" money instead of making it work for them by paying off debt or investing.

Think about this. If you invest this chunk of money in a good mutual fund for a few years you'll receive a lot more free money than just the original \$600 or \$1,200. Let's say you get \$600 back and park it in a mutual fund averaging 12 percent. In 10 years that investment will grow to about \$2,000. Leave it in there for 20 years and it'll be worth \$6,500. For married couples that \$1,200 can grow up to \$13,000 over 20 years.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not a total scrooge, and there's nothing wrong with having a little fun with your money.

But the quicker you get out of debt, the quicker you can have the fun stuff, change your family tree and bless others!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

We couldn't afford a 15-year mortgage, so we financed our house on a 30-year note. Now,



even after doing this, we're still having trouble paying our debts, saving and making the house payment every month. Do you think we should sell the house?

— Larry

Dear Larry,

If you couldn't afford the house on a 15-year mortgage, then you couldn't afford the house. Period.

When you can't save or get out of debt because you're being strangled by your house payment, you are what's called "house poor."

This usually happens when your payment is 30 to 35 percent — or more — of your monthly take-home pay. That's why I recommend your mortgage payment be no more than about 25 percent of this figure.

There are lots of cases where I tell people to sell stuff to get out of debt. But having to give up your home is an emotionally and spiritually damaging experience. Try everything else that makes sense first before you give up your home!

I want you to try living on a really tight budget for the next six months. Give every dollar a name and spend everything on paper before the month begins. It'll be tough.

You may have to cut out cable television, stay away from restaurants and put vacations on hold for a while.

Then, take a really close look at the situation and see if you're getting out of debt and into savings. If not, then you may have to consider selling the house.

— Dave

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

Buy it, sell it,
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Classifieds!

Ramsey classes come to town

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU), which helps families get out of debt, will begin a run today at the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene in the Homedale area.

The 13-week course has helped more than 400,000 families change their financial futures, according to a press release from Ramsey's company.

The Homedale classes at Mountain View, 26515 Ustick Road, near the corner of Ustick and Batt Corner roads, will be held each Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. beginning tonight.

For information or to register, contact Lamon Loucks at 896-

5180 or loucks@frontiernet.net.

Each class participant needs a kit for the course, and special rates for the course can be found at www.daveramsey.com or by calling (888) 227-3223. The kit is currently priced at \$149 on Ramsey's Web site.

Purchase of the kit includes a lifetime family membership to FPU, which allows participants to return for refresher courses. The kit also includes an FPU workbook, FPU envelope system, 13 audio lessons, a bonus CD, budgeting forms, debit card holders and Ramsey's best-selling book, "Financial Peace."

Ramsey began teaching FPU

classes in 1994 and released the course on video in 1997.

The program consists of 13 lessons that Ramsey often touts in his "Dave Says" newspaper column, his radio program and his nightly television program on the Fox Business Channel:

- Save for emergencies
- Budget
- Relationship
- Buying big bargains
- Getting out of debt
- Understanding investments
- Understanding insurance
- Retirement, college planning
- Buyer beware
- Real estate mortgages
- Careers and extra jobs

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 "How" 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., University of Idaho 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 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

Brenda Watts benefit

3:30 p.m., Spaghetti dinner and auction, \$5 donation, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-4466, (208) 337-5432 or (208) 337-4183

Marsing American Legion Post 128 stew feed

6 p.m., social hour, 7 p.m., free dinner, auction and raffle follows, Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N., Marsing. (208) 695-7481

Sunday

Church of the Nazarene 90th anniversary

10 a.m., celebration service, 5 p.m., homecoming

— See *Calendar*, page 10A

BOWEN PARKER DAY

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Deputies handle variety of incidents

Assaults, accidents
keep sheriff's staff
busy all week

Two Homedale men face serious charges after a pair of violent incidents in the city last week, while Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman grapples with administrative demands.

Landon Dorman and Steve Burch were arrested after separate incidents last week.

Canyon County Sheriff's deputies arrested Dorman on March 3 after he allegedly assaulted two women at a house on Montana Avenue in Homedale and then fled Owyhee County. Neither victim in the alleged assault re-



Landon Dorman

quired medical treatment. Dorman is currently held in the Canyon County Jail on charges of Battery, Injury to Children, and Intentional Destruction of a Telecommunication Line or Telecommunications Instrument.

Homedale Police and Owyhee County Sheriff's personnel apprehended Burch on Friday after he allegedly pointed a gun at one of his ex-wife's friends. Burch is being held in the Owyhee County Jail on a charge of Aggravated Assault. No injuries were reported in the incident.



Steve Burch

Injuries, DUI from crashes

Also last week, three automobile accidents on county roadways sent two people to West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell

for treatment of minor injuries, and one person to the Owyhee County Jail on suspicion of Driving Under the Influence.

On Thursday, Marsing Ambulance personnel treated and released Marsing resident Lester Moore, 76, after he suffered a minor head wound when his car went off the road near the intersection of U.S. Highway 95 and Percifield Road west of Marsing.

On Friday, Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies arrested 27-year-old Joseph Bailey on suspicion of DUI after the Nampa man wrecked his semi on Idaho highway 78 between Murphy and Murphy Flat Road.

On Sunday, Owyhee County Sheriff's deputies, the Homedale Rural Fire Department, and Homedale Ambulance responded to a single-car rollover accident on River Road in Homedale.

Two of the three teenagers involved in the crash suffered minor injuries and were transported to West Valley by Homedale Ambulance.

Sheriff deals with turnover

Meanwhile, Aman has two vacancies to fill in the Sheriff's Office workforce. The sheriff said he will be conducting interviews this week in hopes of filling a jailor position at the county jail in Murphy and a patrol position based in Grand View.

The sheriff said he recently provided the Department of Homeland Security with a list of appropriate county contacts in the event of a major flood of the Bruneau River. Aman said that his office has an emergency contact list, and the idea for a modified version of that list specific to flooding of the Bruneau came out of a meeting with Homeland Security, the governor's office, the Idaho Transportation Department, the National Guard, J.R. Simplot Co., and landowners in the Bruneau area.

The sheriff said that the county is trying to come up with a solution to the Bruneau River's erosion of Idaho highway 51.

— RTH

Accidents shake up drivers, occupants



Three injured in accidents

Clockwise from above: Owyhee County Sheriff's Deputy Lynn Bowman photographs Marsing resident Lester Moore's car.

Marsing ambulance personnel treat Moore, 76, for a minor head wound at the scene of the one-car accident on U.S. Highway 95 near Marsing.

A Homedale Police car is parked on River Road above a ravine into which a car carrying three teenagers rolled on Sunday.

The car rests on its side after the one-car accident. Two of the three teens involved required treatment at West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.

Nuclear power in Owyhee County

IEC's use permit for towers to be heard today



Plant reps seek towers permit

The Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission will hear a conditional use permit application from representatives of the proposed Idaho Energy Complex at 3 p.m. today in Murphy. The CUP is for meteorological towers and office trailers.

Officials for the proposed 1,600-megawatt Idaho Energy Complex nuclear power plant go before the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission today seeking a conditional use permit for structures that already have been built.

The hearing is scheduled to take place at 3 p.m. in the Annex Building at the Owyhee County Courthouse in Murphy. Three other unrelated hearings will be held beginning at 10 a.m.

Jim Desmond will serve as hearing officer for the IEC permit because regular county hearing officer Fred Grant is assisting P&Z with the case. Grant said it's not unusual for CUP

applications to be filed after the fact.

According to a legal notice filed by the county, IEC is seeking a permit to allow two meteorological towers and two temporary office trailers near the Bruneau-area site of the proposed \$4.5-billion plant.

The stated purpose of the towers, which already have been erected, is to gather data for the proposed facility. The data would be used in IEC's licensing application with the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Months ago, Mountain Home attorney Jay Clark, representing IEC, wrote in a letter to the county that a CUP wasn't required because the towers would help gather data for use

with the land's existing agricultural use. The original permit application was withdrawn at that time, but the towers and the trailers already had been erected.

The CUP application that P&Z commissioners will hear today was filed by IEC and Pecchenino & Associates, Inc. Representatives are listed as Don Gillispie, the proposed power plant's CEO, and Mark Pecchenino.

According to the legal notice, the trailers will be used by IEC staff and consultants while working on site. The trailers and towers are located on 320 acres of a portion of the Crystal Springs Ranch on C. Tindall Road in Bruneau.

Plants remain profitable for those committed to success

Alternative Energy Holdings, Inc., chief executive officer Don Gillispie wrote the following opinion in response to Owyhee County Energy Task Force chair Joe Weatherby's opinion appearing in the Feb. 6 edition of *The Owyhee Avalanche* ("Mid-American pull-out should show IEC that Idaho plant isn't feasible").

—Ed.

by Don Gillispie

We hear a lot about global warming and greenhouse gases from fossil power plants. You can thank extreme environmentalists for that, since their rabid opposition to nuclear left us no other choice to provide reliable, affordable electricity. Yet coal's days are numbered and even natural gas emits about half the CO2 of coal and drives up heating costs.

What are we to do? The U.S. Energy Information Agency predicts demand for energy will grow 40 percent by 2030. Wind farms, when they aren't killing birds and bats, work 17 percent of the time, solar works 25 percent, hydro 30 percent and all take huge tracts of land and face stiff opposition when proposed. Idaho's Raft River geothermal plant was recently approved to sell electricity for 61 cents

a kilowatt hour, more than 10 times Idaho Power's average residential rate.

Nuclear power, on the other hand, needs little area to produce massive amounts of energy and does it with 90 percent reliability, zero greenhouse gases, very little waste (all of it low-level and recyclable) and all for about 3 cents per kilowatt hour.

The American nuclear industry's stellar safety record over 50 years is one of the reasons why, according to a recent poll, 70 percent of Americans and an increasing number of mainstream environmentalists are supporting it.

It is no surprise that companies are lining up to build nuclear plants.

Since 2005, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has received applications for at least 21 reactors, representing some \$60 billion to \$80 billion in value (that's



Don Gillispie

not counting the Idaho Energy Complex, proposed for Owyhee County). While renewables still receive the heaviest government subsidies (but return the fewest kilowatts), recent changes to federal energy policy are leveling the field.

Oddly, some people claim the recent decision by MidAmerican to end plans for a nuclear plant in Payette County really means the entire industry is doomed. Warren Buffett ultimately made the decision and who are mere mortals to question his business savvy?

While nuclear plants are quite profitable when operating, the overwhelming commitment to build one is not for the skittish or those wanting immediate investment rewards. I think Buffett, a newcomer to the nuclear energy field, realized he was in for a long haul and left to look for easier profits. I know I am right because there are more than 21 other companies eagerly moving to plants.

Also, we know our site is the perfect place for a reactor. Preliminary studies show it has stable geology, and we have more than enough water rights for our dry-type reactors. Mountain Home Air Force Base is nearby, making it quite secure.

Due to the extraordinary technical and

regulatory factors involved in nuclear power, a development team with considerable experience is necessary for success. The board of Alternate Energy Holdings, the parent company of the IEC, has nearly 200 years of combined experience in the development, operation and regulation of nuclear power plants. Buffett is a great investor, but nuclear industry experience is earned, not bought.

Also, it's duplicitous for nuclear opponents — a few of whom hold official positions — to do all they can to drive up the cost of nuclear plants, then turn around and claim nuclear power is too expensive. It's also duplicitous for them to label nuclear energy developers as greedy merchants, then claim their plants can never be profitable. Which is it?

The American nuclear power industry has a strong record of safety and efficiency and a bright future. We are doing our part and remain committed to meeting the energy needs of Idaho, the West and nation.

— Don Gillispie is president and CEO of Alternate Energy Holdings Inc., which seeks to build the Idaho Energy Complex (www.idahoenergycomplex.com), a 1,600-megawatt advanced nuclear reactor near Bruneau.

No county official leaked IEC information to media

by Fred Kelly Grant

Many of the people in Owyhee County have known me for a long time. They know my family's longtime, personal and property-owning relationship with the county. Most ranchers in the county know that I have stuck with their fight for property rights, through bad health and difficult times, largely because I love the county and its traditions. They also know that I believe in hitting the bottom line of any issue as quickly as possible.

So, to the bottom line: Mary Huff, the county's Planning and Zoning administrator, did not leak information in the case involving the application for conditional use permit for a nuclear site. She did not leak information; she was not reprimanded; she was not threatened with termination.

Speculation that she was the person alluded to in a recent television program as a person who leaked information and has been reprimanded is pure fiction — it is inaccurate, and it has been publicly harmful to her and to due process of law.

Some people seem determined to try the merits of the pending application in the news media. That's unfortunate. State law and the county ordinance require that the merits be tried in public hearings before an unbiased, non-conflicted Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of County Commissioners. The Supreme Court of Idaho has declared that a case involving an application is a quasi-judicial process, in which due process of law must be followed. From the standpoint of the County — planning and zoning staff, consultants, and commissioners — that means that the merits must be dealt with in



Fred Grant

accordance with law — in public hearings where witnesses testify under oath, not in the media.

Mary Huff understands that law better than most lawyers in the state. She is dedicated to following the law, and is resolved not to let herself or her staff be used by those who would prefer to try the case outside the process established by law.

Those of you who know me know that I have worked with, for and against government for nearly five decades. In all those years, I have never worked with any person in government who tried harder than Mary to follow the law, to respect private property rights, and to offer assistance to citizens trying to work their way through a complicated zoning process. She believes fully in the concept that government proceedings should be open to the public, and she follows the law as to openness. She constantly works to better her knowledge of all the nuances related to balancing state zoning requirements with property rights.

I trust Mary implicitly and so do all

members of the Board of County Commissioners. She has done a remarkably fine job as planning and zoning administrator — for the County and for the citizens who lawfully seek to exercise their property rights under Idaho law.

She stands her ground when someone tries to evade, avoid, or even shy away from the legal process.

The people of Owyhee County should be proud to have such a dedicated person standing the watch with the future of the county on the line. But, I'm sure that those who would skirt the law and try to influence decisions through the media are not real glad that she is there to see that the law is followed.

— Fred Kelly Grant is the Owyhee County planning coordinator. While he has been the hearing officer for several Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission hearings, he has removed himself as hearing officer from any further hearings regarding the proposed Idaho Energy Complex.

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

John Ash, who has been with the Bureau of Land Management at Twin Falls and in the Three Creek area for the past 17 years recently retired. He worked 32 years for the government — six years for the Forest Service and 26 for the BLM. The first years were in Arizona where he and his wife Susan are from. They met at Flagstaff. His wife Susan is a cute redhead who is Twin Falls City library director. They raised two pretty daughters, Amy who is going to college in Arizona and Valerie who is married and is a Dental Assistant in Las Vegas. John helped many Three Creek ranchers iron out their problems and had projects going at the school such as climate monitoring, rain gauges and such. He called Harlan Mink the mayor of Three Creek, which was a good handle because he is road supervisor and on the school board. John now has his CDL for a truck driver. He plans to drive truck locally until Susan retires from the library and then they could go for long-haul

truck driving and see a lot of the good old U.S.A.
John is a good guy and rates right up there with the best such as Tom Blessenger, Bob Ramsey, Chuck Jones and John Biar and he brings me Krispy Kreme doughnuts.
Danelle Nance is taking over some of his duties and seems to be doing OK.
Harlan Mink says the earthquake really shook his trailer house at the road yard and the school yard fence was swaying back and forth.
The coyotes are trying to get a meal out of Ray Jackson’s calves at Roseworth.
Marylin Boss is back on the job teaching school after having cancer surgery at Boise. She is now cancer-free. Her husband Charley Boss had a total knee replacement at Boise and has suffered a lot of pain.
Ted Clark of Castleford filled in teaching for Mrs. Boss. He batched with Shawn Weekes at the Seven Triangle ranch while he was here.



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About the Rising Cost of Gold

When we opened LaDon's Fine Jewelry in the summer of 2003 the price of gold was hovering around \$350 an ounce, and today it is fast approaching \$1,000 per ounce with no indication the price will fall. In fact, I predict the price will continue to escalate. The direct impact on the retail jewelry industry is that manufactures are being forced to devise ways of holding down costs. The first is to make a lighter weight product, simply using less gold, and the second is to employ a greater use of a manufacturing process called "Electroforming." This allows for gold jewelry to be manufactured with centers that are hollow - you know, like a straw is hollow. Moreover, the gold itself can be cast extremely thin. In laymen's terms "Electroforming" is the process of coating a desired mold with a very, very, thin coat of metal, in this case gold - in just about any shape or size imaginable. "Electroforming" has been around for many years, industry wide, and is very popular with earrings, but has its limitations with other forms of personal jewelry such as rings, bracelets, and neck chains.

LaDon Reames, owner of LaDon's Fine Jewelry in the WinCo/ShopKo Center has been a Nampa jeweler for thirty-three years. She is a certified diamontologist and gemologist. She can be reached at
208-461-0677
On the web @ www.Ladonsfinejewelry.com

✓ Calendar: Find out what’s going on

From Page 7A

concert, Marsing Church of the Nazarene, 12 2nd Ave. W., Marsing (208) 896-4184
Messiah in the Passover
10:30 a.m., love offering will be taken, Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Monday

Holy Week Luncheon
Noon, freewill offering suggested, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3301
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
Holy Week Luncheon
Noon, freewill offering suggested, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3301
El-Ada 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 — We Are What We Ate” 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

El-Ada commodity distribution
11 a.m. to noon, Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing. (208) 337-4812
Holy Week Luncheon
Noon, freewill offering suggested, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3301
Bruneau and Beyond speaker series
Noon, “Things the Rain Brings,” slideshow by Colleen Sweeney, free, Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau. RSVP by Monday at (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2282
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

Thursday

Owyhee Conservation District board meeting
10 a.m., 250 N Old Bruneau Highway, Marsing. (208) 896-4544
El-Ada commodity distribution
11 a.m. to noon, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 337-4812
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
Adrian School District Board of Trustees meeting
7 p.m., Adrian School Library
Owyhee County Fair Board meeting
8 p.m., fairgrounds, Homedale. (208) 337-4575

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Keep up with county news in the Avalanche

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday afternoon, Owyhee Reservoir was 32 percent full and that water was being released into the Owyhee River at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 33 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 230,699 acre-feet of water.

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

Date	Reynolds Creek		Temperatures		
	Year-to-Date Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.	
03/04	12.1	39	23	31	
03/05	12.0	31	22	25	
03/06	12.0	34	21	27	
03/07	12.1	42	27	34	
03/08	12.2	44	33	39	
03/09	12.1	39	30	34	
03/10	12.1	42	30	35	

Current snow depth is 17 inches, with a snow water equivalent of seven inches.

Date	South Mountain		Temperatures		
	Year-to-Date Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.	
03/04	22.0	46	22	32	
03/05	21.9	34	20	25	
03/06	22.0	38	19	27	
03/07	22.0	44	27	34	
03/08	22.1	49	34	40	
03/09	22.6	40	30	33	
03/10	22.6	46	27	35	

Current snow depth is 51 inches, with a snow water equivalent of 18 inches.

Date	Mud Flat		Temperatures		
	Year-to-Date Precipitation	Max.	Min.	Avg.	
03/04	11.9	43	13	29	
03/05	11.8	40	17	29	
03/06	11.8	41	14	26	
03/07	11.8	48	11	27	
03/08	11.9	52	21	36	
03/09	12.0	47	27	37	
03/10	12.0	47	18	32	

Current snow depth is 30 inches, with a snow water equivalent of nine inches.

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
March 4	50	29	.00
March 5	50	21	.00
March 6	54	18	.00
March 7	60	19	.00
March 8	53	22	.01
March 9	no reading taken		
March 10	61	22	.00

OWC plans monthly meeting

The Owyhee Watershed Council will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday in Marsing.

The meeting begins at 3 p.m. at the University of Idaho Owyhee

County Extension office, 238 S. 8th Ave. W.

For more information on the OWC, call its office in Adrian at (541) 372-5782.

Bruneau speaker series brings visions of spring

Freelance photographer Colleen Sweeney has been booked for a return engagement to the Bruneau Valley Library “Bruneau and Beyond” speaker series.

Next Wednesday, Sweeney will present a slideshow entitled “Things the Rain Brings,” which will include images of mushrooms, butterflies and flowers, among other things.

The free lunch and presentation will be held at noon at the library,

32073 Ruth St., in Bruneau. If there is an overflow crowd, the event will move to the Community Church and notice will be posted at the library.

Participants must RSVP by Monday to ensure that enough food is prepared. Call (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2282 to reserve a spot.

Specializing in wildlife and nature photography, Sweeney spoke to the Bruneau library

group last year, focusing on her slide collection of birds.

Sweeney is retired after teaching at Boise State University and working at the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. She also has conducted nature surveys.

Her retirement is filled with speaking engagements.

Sweeney said she always strives to stimulate people to get out and really look at the natural world around them.

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Find out about friends in the Avalanche

Cookies sell ‘like hotcakes’



Local Girl Scouts trying to keep up with demand

Members of Girl Scouts Silver Sage Council Troop 372 thank Kathleen Pershall, right, for buying cookies at Paul’s Market on Saturday. Pershall’s 2-year-old son, Carter, holds the goods. Parent Angela Correa helps 9-year-old Shantel Neil count change for Pershall. Other Girl Scouts taking part in the sale included, from left, Tanis Lentfer, 9, Maya Correa, 9, Elizabeth Hernandez, 9, Julia Correa, 7, Jennifer Hernandez, 11, and Monique Davis, 10. Cookies also were sold at Snake River Mart in Marsing.

Angela Correa said the cookies were “selling like hotcakes,” and the troop was quickly running through its supply after tripling the order it made

last year.

“The people of Homedale have been good to us,” Correa said.

If any cookies survived last weekend’s sales, Correa said the troop will hold another sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Paul’s Market only.

Proceeds from the cookie sales will help pay for Troop 372’s trip to Troop Camp, which will be held from July 18 to July 20 near McCall.

There are 28 girls in Troop 372 this year, Correa said. Brenda Stuart is the troop’s cookie manager, and Karen Lentfer also is involved in the group’s activities.



Marsing Pride Paws winners announced
Back row, from left: Mike Moore, Brian Galligan, Lindsay Whitaker and Kacie Hull. Front row, from left: Devon Cook, Amy Beagley, Kaya Stahle, Candy Leon and Analee Ponce. Not pictured: Maria Martinez, Joe Daniel and Mayra Rodriguez. Submitted photo

Winners help make MHS a better place

Another batch of Marsing High School students recently earned Pride Paws awards as part of a recognition program for students who exhibit good citizenship and good study traits.


Here is a list of the winners, with reasons for their nominations:

- **Kacie Hull** — “Her positive attitude and hard work make her an outstanding candidate. She earns high marks, helps students in need, and is a role model for other students in the class.”
- **Analee Ponce** — “She is working hard in math.”
- **Amy Beagley** — “For her outstanding creativity and leadership abilities on the Kennedy Assassination project. Furthermore, her loyalty and assertiveness with her duties as yearbook editor this year.”
- **Maria Martinez** — “She is a 10th-grade student. Maria diligently completes all of her class assignments. She is a good example to her peers, often helping them with work that she has already mastered.”
- **Joe Daniel** — “He volunteered to stay after school one day and





help set up the computers in the lab.”

- **Mike Moore** — “He has put extra effort into his grades and into wrestling. He has been improving his citizenship.”
- **Devon Cook** — “He woke up late and ran three miles to school on slick roads.”
- **Mayra Rodriguez** — “Very hard working, respectful and stays after her basketball games to help be manager for varsity girls.”
- **Candy Leon** — “She was a big help in the Algebra I class when I was gone and had a substitute.”
- **Kaya Stahle** — “For her enthusiasm and creativity on writing projects.”
- **Brian Galligan** — “He has good leadership qualities, including the ability to motivate and inspire his fellow classmates.”
- **Lindsay Whitaker** — “For always being willing to volunteer and help, being a responsible young adult and a very positive role model for her classmates as well as younger students. She is always wearing a smile and has a positive attitude.”

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Read all about it in the Avalanche!



Children enraptured by storytelling

Left: Boise author and storyteller Joy Steiner entertains children gathered for the Jordan Valley Elementary School's observance of Read Across America on March 3. Above: Jordan Valley School District superintendent Mike Sessions wears a hat to get in character during his stint as a storyteller. Submitted photos

Jordan Valley Elementary holds Family Literacy Night

Jordan Valley Elementary School celebrated Read Across America on March 3 with Boise author/storyteller Joy Steiner. She worked with students throughout the day, conducting writers' workshops and giving storytelling performances. Seven preschoolers also attended. Every child was given a book of their own, provided by the Idaho State Commission

for Libraries. That evening, schools superintendent Mike Sessions and Steiner gave storytelling performances at Family Literacy Night, which was coordinated by Jordan Valley first- and second-grade teacher Juli Matteri. According to Matteri, the event attracted 19 of the school's 26 students, and the grades represented spanned kindergarten

through sixth grade. "The intent was to emphasize the importance of literacy to the children and their families," Matteri said. "We were pleased that we were able to invite an author, and feel that the children were inspired by her guidance and enthusiasm." The children sang "In the Pages of a Book." Fifth-grader Sandy Warn and

second-grader Cheyenne Davis won books in a drawing. Paul's Market of Homedale provided refreshments. The day of reading was part of the National Education Association's Read Across America, which is held each year to coincide with the birthday of Dr. Seuss — Theodore Geisel. Geisel was born on March 2, 1901.

Grazing litigation on docket for BLM advisors

Litigation on grazing allotments in the Bureau of Land Management's Owyhee Field Office will be a hot topic today when the BLM's Boise District Resource Advisory Council meets in Boise. The public meeting, scheduled to start at 9 a.m. and adjourn by 3 p.m., will be held at the federal agency's Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise. Also on the agenda:

- The West-wide Energy Corridor Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and public meeting
- The final EIS for the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan (RMP)
- The prep-plan for development of the Four Rivers Field Office

Draft EIS and RMP. The public is invited to address the RAC at the meeting, and time has been blocked out in the agenda immediately before and immediately after the group's working lunch. Depending on the number of people who wish to speak, time for oral comments may be limited. Members of the public also may submit written statements for the RAC's consideration. For more information about the RAC or this meeting, call MJ Byrne, Boise District RAC coordinator, at (208) 384-3393. The BLM also is seeking nominations for its RACs

throughout Idaho. There are 21 vacancies on four councils, including five each in the Boise District RAC and Twin Falls District RAC, both of which impact BLM land in Owyhee County. The deadline for nominations is April 14. Nomination forms are available at BLM district or field offices or online at www.blm.gov/id/st/en.html. Completed application packages must be submitted to the BLM's Idaho State Office (ID-930), 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709, Attn.: Mikell Galloway. Several people with ties to

Owyhee County serve on the Boise District RAC, including cattlemen Brenda Richards and Donna Bennett, county Sheriff Gary Aman and Ted Howard from the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes. Each RAC has representatives from three categories. The Boise RAC will have one vacancy in Category 1 (currently held by Idaho Outfitters and Guides executive director Grant Simonds), three vacancies in Category 2 (currently held by Boise Better Business Bureau CEO Dale Dixon, a former Homedale resident, John Robison, the public lands director for the Idaho Conservation League, and Nate Helm, the executive

director of and a consultant for the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife), and one vacancy in Category 3 for the public at-large (currently filled by Margaret Soulen-Hinson, who is on the advisory board for the Center of Conservation Incentives and also involved with the University of Idaho's College of Natural Resources). The Twin Falls RAC will have two vacancies each in Category 1 and Category 2 and one vacancy in Category 3. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne makes the final appointments, and each member's three-year term will begin on or about Oct. 1.

Have a news tip?

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Bruneau Canyon 4-H news

by Analeise Mills

The Bruneau Canyon 4-H Club held our 4-H meeting in the public library Feb. 25. We elected officers for the year:

- President** — Ariel Turner
- Vice-president** — Zack Tindall
- Secretary** — Savannah Richardson
- Treasurer** — Johannah Mori
- Reporter** — Analeise Mills
- Scrapbookers** — Jackie Prow and Analeise Mills
- Event coordinator** — Kaitlin Erwin
- Callers** — Garrett Prow and Travis Erwin.

Our annual Easter egg hunt is coming up. It will be held at Bruneau Elementary School at 10 a.m. on March 22. Participants should bring a sack or a basket.

The Bruneau Canyon 4-H also will hold a park cleanup day at 9 a.m. on March 21.

GV library’s food talk ends

The Eastern Owyhee County Library wraps up its 2008 Let’s Talk About It series Tuesday in Grand View.

“We are What We Ate” by Mark Kurlinsky will be the topic of the final installment of the five-part series, which began in January. The discussion will be held at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the library, 520 Boise Ave.

Hot and cold drinks and food samplings will be part of the discussion.

The book of discussion is available at the library, too. Call (208) 834-2785 for more information.

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

Holy Week lunches set

The Homedale Ministerial Association sponsors Holy Week Luncheons in town from each day from Monday through March 23.

The meals, which are provided by Homedale-area churches, will be served beginning at noon each day at the First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., in Homedale. A free will offering is suggested.

Call 337-3301 for more information.

Homedale FFA news



FFA members up to the Fear Factor challenge

Above: Homedale High School junior Kendall Rupp takes part in the ice-water challenge during the Homedale FFA chapter’s observance of National FFA Week. **Below:** Jacob Lowder tries to keep down caramel-covered vegetables in another FFA Fear Factor challenge. Submitted photos

Messy, chilly activities help ring in FFA Week

On Feb. 18-22, the Homedale FFA chapter participated in National FFA Week. The week consisted of a variety of fun activities for all FFA members.

Greenhand members painted their hands green, and put their handprints on the walls of the ag classroom as a mark of their membership into FFA. Tractors were driven to school, and irrigation boots were worn.

To end the week’s celebrations, FFA members participated in FFA Fear Factor. Members were

required to eat caramel-covered apples and onions, as well as eat bean, corn, and pea baby food pies covered in whipped cream.

FFA Fear Factor winning team included Drew Farwell, Austin Emry, Ryan Garrett, and Rye Hyer.

Team members earned gift certificates to Idaho Pizza. The second-place team consisting of Ulysses Vargas, Megan Harper, Jessica Eubanks, and Nestor Machuca, received movie tickets.



Presbyterian church plans Friday concert

The First Presbyterian Church of Homedale will present a concert at 7 p.m. Friday at 320 N. 6th St. W.

The public is invited to the free concert, which will feature hand bell soloist Phyllis Tincher and pianist and organist Sean Rogers.

According to a press release from the church, Tincher and Rogers tell the saving story of Jesus Christ through contemporary praise songs, hymns and reflective pieces.

In addition to his role as

accompanist, Rogers will perform a few piano solos.

Tincher rings three octaves of hand bells and mixes in two octaves of hand chimes.

The concert is sponsored by the First United Presbyterian Church of Nampa and through a grant from the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Tincher has been solo ringing since 1997 and directs two hand bell choirs at the First United Presbyterian Church in Nampa. She has served as guest conductor at festivals and

taught may classes at hand bell conferences and workshops. She is very active in the Northwest area of the America Guild of English Hand bell ringers and served as the chair for the area in 2001-2002. Tincher said she enjoys using her musical talent in service to God and hopes her programs help the listeners focus on and praise God.

Rogers serves as Minister of Music at Nampa First United Presbyterian Church. He also works as a music coach and

accompanist for opera singers and instrumentalists and teaches piano and theatre organ. He performs as a soloist and accompanist with all styles of piano and organ from jazz to classical.

Rogers has been involved in ministering through his music since the age of 8 and continues his music ministry to many churches. He holds four bachelor degrees from The College of Idaho in Religion, Sacred Music, Organ Performance and Piano Performance.

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Infrastructure improvements continue



Crews keep plugging away at water project

If you thought that Sommer Construction was the only firm tearing up streets around Homedale, think again.

While the Nampa-based general contractor continues to install more new pipe and valves for the municipal water system, city public works supervisor Larry Bauer reports his crew is hard at work with a few irrigation projects before the watering season begins.

Bauer said that Sommer’s crews completed another five blocks of system rehabilitation last week.

“We got 25 to 30 residences hooked up to the new system, and we’ll have a bunch more hooked up next week,” Bauer said.

Water was shut off citywide on March 4 as part of a scheduled outage, but Bauer said the city went without water again for about 20 minutes Thursday.

The Thursday outage was necessitated by a leak in the system on East Washington Avenue. Bauer said that an old service line that once was connected to a house that no longer exists had pulled loose.

Bauer said residents can expect a few shutoffs during spring break for the Homedale schools later this month.

Meanwhile, Bauer continued to dump construction waste into a tiled irrigation ditch at the corner of North 2nd Street West and West Nevada Avenue. The city has an easement on the property of Margaret Arbuckle, and Bauer said last week that dumping the waste into the ditch is part of the plan to eventually cover it with dirt and level it.

Bauer said using asphalt from irrigation improvement projects as well as the remnants of an old well house helps the city save on resources such as fill dirt.

— JPB



Work continues throughout town

Counterclockwise from top:
A worker pumps water from a trench on West Washington Avenue into Riverside Park on Thursday after an unused service line was pulled loose.
Water rushes from the fire hydrant at the corner of Idaho Avenue and Main Street after the unscheduled citywide water shutoff Thursday. Opening the hydrants flushes the entire system.
Homedale public works supervisor Larry Bauer dumps asphalt and other construction debris from an irrigation system project into a tiled irrigation canal near the fairgrounds.
Sommer Construction crews work near Main Street and Wyoming Avenue on March 4.



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