

Agriculture 2008
A look at the industry in Owyhee County

**Ag special
section
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Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 12

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Airport aspirations



Plan proposes hangars on land adjacent to airport

Ed Leavitt, who says he has been trying to find land at the Homedale Municipal Airport to build a hangar, presented the City Council with this illustration showing where about 40 hangars can be build on the seven acres southwest of the airfield. Submitted illustration

Firms want commitment

Businesses ask city to designate seven acres
for aviation; say it would help Homedale economy

Homedale Municipal Airport businessmen told the city council Wednesday night that expansion of the airport into an adjacent seven acres would only benefit the city's coffers.

Ed Leavitt, who is trying to build a hangar at the airport, made the presentation on behalf of the airport businessmen, and told the council that the city must make a commitment to the

airport or risk losing future aviation-related businesses to area airports such as Parma.

"I have an opportunity to put

— See *Airport*, page 5A

Ex-commissioner enters primary for District 2 seat

Hopefuls have
until 5 p.m.
Friday to file

Former District 2 Owyhee County Commissioner George Hyer has decided to run for office again.

Eighteen years after he beat Hal Tolmie for the District 2 seat, the Homedale-area resident will challenge the incumbent Tolmie in the May 27 Republican primary.

Hyer was one of three men to file nomination petitions with the county clerk's office last week. Marsing resident Joe Gannuccio filed to seek the Democratic

nomination for the District 1 commissioner job currently held by board chair Jerry Hoagland, and Owyhee County Sheriff's Deputy Daryl Crandall made it official that he will challenge incumbent Gary Aman for the county's top law enforcement job.

"I'm running because I've always had the desire to serve," Hyer said. "It's just something in

— See *Primary*, page 4A



George Hyer

Easter celebrations set throughout region

Easter egg hunts galore; Lizard Butte service celebrates 71st year Sunday

Every Owyhee County town will hold youth Easter egg hunts Saturday, while the 71st annual Lizard Butte Sunrise Service will greet folks on Easter Sunday.

Homedale, Marsing and Grand View all will hold Easter egg hunts Saturday. Jordan Valley will hold its Easter egg hunt at 9 a.m. Friday at the high school football field.

The Homedale Chamber

of Commerce plans a plastic egg-stuffing gathering at noon Thursday at Alliance Title Co. Chamber members are invited, and lunch will be served.

The Chamber also is looking for 10 volunteers to help during Saturday's Easter egg hunt at Sundance Park. Volunteers also will distribute prizes. The hunt

— See *Easter*, page 5A

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IEC permit
undecided
Page 3A

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Crapo aide: Initiative hearing could come in April

Owyhee Initiative Work Group members have been urged to plan a show of solidarity next month in Washington, D.C., when the final Senate committee hearing on the legislation is expected.

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) Boise office chief of staff John Hoehne told the work group that a committee hearing could be held in mid- to late April, with the fate of the implementation bill hanging in the balance.

He also said that two work group trips to Washington were planned in April, and that the members need to remain vigilant.

“(Officials in Washington) need to keep hearing from us out here on a sustained basis,” Hoehne said.

With that in mind, work group chair Fred Kelly Grant suggested that Reynolds Creek rancher Inez Jaca serve as the voice of the Initiative in any committee hearing and urged that as many work group members as possible make the trip to Washington for the hearing.

A favorable nod from the committee would put the Initiative in the last round of land use bills to hit the Senate floor in the 110th Congress.

“It has to be passed then or it won’t be in the last bunch of land bills,” Grant said. “And if it’s not in that package, then we won’t get it passed in 2008.”

Hoehne spoke to the work group during a Thursday meeting in Grant’s downtown Nampa office. The work group also reviewed the first bit of feedback from Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff on proposed changes to legislative language.



Initiative group gets update on legislation timeline

Sen. Mike Crapo’s Boise office chief of staff John Hoehne gestures as he tells the Owyhee Initiative Work Group about the upcoming schedule in Washington, D.C.

David Brooks, the chief of staff for committee chair Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), sent back comment on just one of the seven changes that the work group had proposed during its Feb. 20 meeting. Feedback on the other changes are expected to trickle in, Grant said.

But Grant said that the change Brooks did address was the most pivotal language in regards to continuing the seven-year process.

The ranching contingent — represented Thursday by Inez Jaca, Brenda Richards, Tim

Lowry and others — reiterated its concern about the language seemingly linking Science Review and the Research and Conservation Center. Science Review has been the lynchpin for the cattlemen’s continued participation in the process that will designate 517,000 acres of wilderness in Owyhee County.

“They are two distinct things,” Jaca said. “The Science Review is totally different than what the Research Center is going to be doing.”

The group agreed to give Science Review priority in further

negotiations with committee staff, leaving the establishment of the research center to the work group once the Initiative becomes law.

Grant said that the work group would have more control over establishment of the Research Center if its implementation were left out of the legislation. The Research Center would be established through the coordination process after the Initiative becomes law.

“If the bill will establish it, the (Bureau of Land Management) will be involved,” Grant said. “The solution is to work it out in coordination with the Secretary

(of the Interior), the state and the (Shoshone and Paiute) Tribes.

“They’ll turn it over to us and we can do it the way we want it, but the burden would be on us to make it happen.”

Richards agreed with that strategy, saying the Science Review was the trade-off for the establishment of wilderness.

“If we’re going to have wilderness, we must have Science Review,” she said. “I’d rather do the conservation through agreement rather than having the Science Review screwed up.”

— JPB

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County P&Z delays IEC permit decision

Nuclear power plant firm's rep objects to Weatherby's claim during towers hearing that officials have misled

The Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday took under advisement the permit application of the Idaho Energy Complex for two meteorological towers and two construction trailers that already have been built on land near Bruneau.

The commission's decision came after a two-hour hearing in Murphy during which IEC representative Doug McConnaughey said several times that the application was a "sincere, good-faith effort" to follow county procedure in the conditional use permit process.

Don Gillispie, the chief executive of IEC, attended the application hearing but didn't testify.

Hearing officer Jim Desmond has given IEC and the county until 5 p.m. next Wednesday to file proposed findings of fact in conclusion and special conditions for the permit.

"I just can't believe that they have to take time to make a ruling on something this simple," Gillispie said after the hearing. "But that's the way they do things around here."

Desmond limited the scope of Wednesday's testimony to the towers and the trailers. Even though the towers will be used to gather data for IEC's Combined Operating License application to the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Desmond cautioned attendees that testimony could not address the larger issue of the \$4.5 billion, 1,600-megawatt nuclear reactor IEC has proposed for the land near Bruneau.

Desmond also rejected strenuous and numerous objections from McConnaughey and allowed into the record opposition testimony from former P&Z commissioner Joe Weatherby of Marsing.

Weatherby, who in the wake of his March 5 resignation has been replaced on the P&Z board by Homedale resident Jeff Christensen, focused his opposition on the permit process.

McConnaughey objected to Weatherby's testimony, in part, because he felt it went beyond the scope of the hearing.

"From my perspective, to say that these towers are not the first phase in developing a nuclear power plant is ludicrous," Weatherby said after the hearing. "I have to take exception to that position by the P&Z commission. All I've tried to do is to get this CUP application out in the open."

Weatherby said county residents weren't being allowed to view the application process in the context of the proposed nuclear power plant.

"This is one of the most significant events in this county's history, and it's not being allowed to go through the standard process that you see with any CUP," he said.

On Wednesday, Weatherby first drew McConnaughey's objections when he alleged that the first time a tower CUP application was heard, the applicant said "the towers didn't have anything to do with the nuclear power plant."

"It was only after 15 to 20 minutes of questioning that the applicants came clean," Weatherby said before McConnaughey's objection.

jection.

"I don't think that's in evidence here," McConnaughey said. "First of all, that application back in August ... unless you have some evidence to point that out, that's simply hearsay."

Weatherby also accused IEC officials of being untruthful about the existence of a cellular service provider to take advantage of the tower that was proposed in a July 2007 CUP.

McConnaughey again objected, and P&Z board chair Connie Brandau eventually asked for a recess to defuse the situation. Desmond directed Weatherby and his attorney to examine his planned written testimony to make sure that it pertained only to the CUP application at hand.

"I had 25 pages of testimony, and I barely got through less than two pages," Weatherby said.

McConnaughey opened his testimony on behalf of the IEC with an eye on clearing the record on the history of CUP applications for the towers and trailers.

"There's been all sorts of information released outside of proper channels. I hope today that we're able to rectify that situation and address specifically what is in this application," he said.

"I would like to go through the application facts as we see them because undoubtedly some questions regarding that will arise, and I would like to — at least from our perspective — honestly and openly address the facts as we see them."

McConnaughey said that the original CUP application for the

meteorological tower and a cellular phone tower was submitted in July 2007. Filed by Gillispie for IEC, the application was denied by the P&Z commission after a hearing in August.

"We did not reapply nor did we appeal this application as the location for the met towers was changed," McConnaughey said.

McConnaughey then said that landowner James Hilliard and his attorney, Jay Clark, submitted an application in October to build two meteorological towers. Clark's family leases Hilliard's land for agricultural purposes, and until earlier this year the Mountain Home attorney served as project manager for IEC.

McConnaughey said that Clark also had construction trailers built on the site.

"Through their determination (Clark and Hilliard) felt that no permit was required," McConnaughey said. "The property owner ... and his attorney withdrew the CUP application one week before the hearing."

McConnaughey said that shortly after Hilliard and Clark withdrew their application, the county sent IEC a letter stating that the towers and trailers were in violation of county code.

He then said that, in December, IEC submitted building permits and corresponding fees for the trailers and towers "because IEC does want to conform both to the expectations of the county and the Planning and Zoning Commission."

McConnaughey said the towers will benefit farmers in the surrounding areas because of the weather data that will be gathered, and that the data also will help in IEC's federal licensing process.

Mark Pecchenino of Pecchenino & Associates answered questions about the construction, design and safety of the towers and trailers. Pecchenino has been involved with IEC since at least July 2007 when he, Jay Clark and IEC reps Gillispie and Greg Holtz met with the Elmore County Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss the proposed nuclear power plant.

According to minutes from the July 16, 2007, Elmore County P&Z meeting, Pecchenino said that IEC officials also were looking at locations in Elmore County in the event that the Owyhee County plan fell through.

Owyhee County Board of Commissioners hopeful Joe Gannuscio — like Weatherby a Marsing resident — spoke in opposition of the permit, while two others signed into the opposition column of a signup sheet but waived their opportunities to address the commission. None of the 10 people who signed up to support the CUP application chose to speak.

Gannuscio questioned the record of application fee payments, but county planning coordinator Fred Kelly Grant presented evidence showing that IEC had made the payments. A Democratic candidate for county commissioner this year, Gannuscio also was concerned about the seismic integrity of the structures.

"Are they earthquake-ready?" Gannuscio asked the P&Z commissioners. "Because they are situated in an earthquake fault."

Desmond said that the geological questions of the CUP application would be addressed when the application is sent on to the county commissioners.

— JPB

Homedale schools plan dodgeball tournament Friday at high school

Homedale High School football coach Rob Kassebaum is calling out all playground warriors for a school district-wide dodgeball tournament Friday.

The tournament is open to all ages and to any student from any school. The event will raise funds to purchase weight room equipment.

The tournament will begin at 9 a.m. at the high school. The entry

fee is \$30 per team, which will be made up of an eight-person roster. Rosters must be finalized by Thursday.

Six team members will play at a time, and each game will last three minutes or until all players are eliminated.

There will be four divisions: varsity for 11th- and 12th-graders, junior varsity (JV) for ninth- and 10th-graders (although those

students can play up in the varsity level), coed for boys and girls of any grade, middle school for seventh- and eighth-graders, and grade school for third through sixth grades. Players can compete in multiple divisions, but must serve on only one team in each division they enter.

Complete rules are available at

www.homedaleschools.org.

The grade school division will play with a foam gym ball, while the older divisions will use rubber playground balls with a foam outer layer.

Kassebaum said in a flyer announcing the event that another tourney for area football teams might be held later this year.

For more information or to get an entry form, e-mail rkassebaum@homedaleschools.org, or call Kassebaum at 249-0267.

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HMS students place signs in business windows

From left, Christian Hurtado, principal Lucy Asumendi-Mereness, Alejandra Alamaraz, Nathan Tomlinson, Emileen Noblit, Marco Padilla, and Erik Aragon of Homedale Middle School asked Homedale businesses to display signs designed to help the community to focus on virtuous ideals.

Middle school presents virtues

Consideration. Caring. Forgiveness. Generosity. Each word, along with 46 others, represents an ideal described in The Virtues Project, a personal, professional, and family development group that professes that the virtues are “the essence of the human spirit and the content of our character at the heart of all spiritual traditions.”

Homedale resident Colleen Trefz, a trained Virtues Project facilitator, has brought the words to Homedale.

Six Homedale Middle School students, accompanied by Trefz and HMS principal Lucy Asumendi-Mereness, recently visited Homedale businesses,

asking the business owners to display the virtues in their windows.

The students, fifth-graders Alejandra Almaraz and Marco Padilla, sixth-graders Emileen Noblit and Nathan Tomlinson, seventh-grader Christian Hurtado, and eighth-grader Erik Aragon, were selected at random to participate, according to Asumendi-Mereness.

Trefz said that the signs are part of a program called Be Real — It’s Game Time, presented by Nampa-based Game Time International. Trefz is the program’s school outreach coordinator. Trefz said that she implemented the sign program in Moses Lake, Wash., in

1996 to help the town’s recovery from a shooting incident at her son’s junior high school. She has also presented the program in Caldwell and Nampa.

Trefz said that the project usually continues for a year, with different students visiting businesses and changing virtues signs every month.

“It sends a message,” Trefz says of the signs. “To even people who come through town. It’s a silent reminder of what is important in life.”

— RTH

— HMS eighth-grade class president Deena Emry’s letter to the editor on “Forgiveness,” Page 7B

From page 1

Primary: County’s state reps will run for re-election

my makeup.”

Hyer served as District 2 commissioner for two years in the early 1990s, running as a Democrat and beating Tolmie in November 1990.

The 51-year-old Hyer and his wife, Dolly, have six sons, and own Hyer and Sons Ranch. A member of the Owyhee County Rodeo Board, Hyer said he spent 20 years with the county sheriff’s posse and also once sat on the Homedale School District Board of Trustees.

Candidates for county office have until 5 p.m. Friday to file nomination petitions. Hyer, Crandall and Gannuscio were the only candidates to file by the end of last week, according to County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn.

In the race for the Idaho Legislature, all three Republican incumbents who serve Owyhee County constituencies have filed

notice to seek re-election with the Secretary of State’s office.

Rogerson’s Bert Brackett will seek to retain his District 23B seat in the Idaho House of Representatives, while 23A representative Jim Patrick of Twin Falls has filed to seek another term. State Sen. Tom Gannon of Buhl also will seek re-election.

Twin Falls podiatrist Peter Rickards, an opponent of the Idaho Energy Complex nuclear power plant proposed for Bruneau, also told The Owyhee Avalanche last week via e-mail that he will challenge Patrick for the District 23A seat.

The list of candidates on the Secretary of State’s Web site confirmed Monday afternoon that Rickards had declared his candidacy as a Democratic challenger.

The Democratic primary also will be held on May 27.

— JPB

The Owyhee Avalanche

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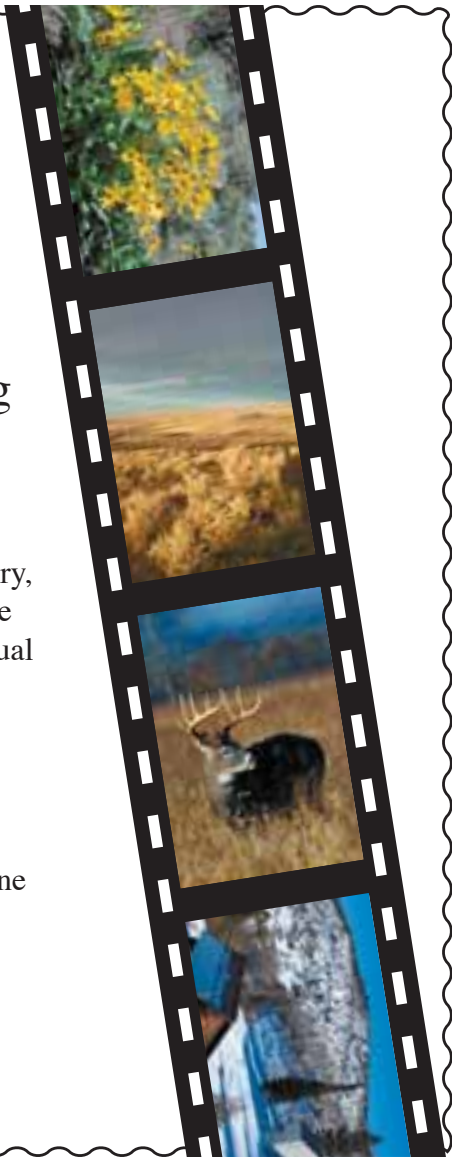
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From page 1

✓ **Airport:** Kitfox owner says eight parties want to build hangars now

a hangar in Parma, but my business is in Homedale," Leavitt said. "I'd like to have my hangar in Homedale."

Leavitt said he has been frustrated for about a year because there is no land at the Homedale airport on which to build.

Leavitt and Kitfox Aircraft co-owner John McBean both said that a formal designation of the land for airport development is necessary to move growth forward.

"We need to bring facilities in, but we'll have a hard time proceeding if it's not designated for airport use," Leavitt said.

Mayor Harold Wilson said that grants would help with growth, and that a designation would strengthen the city's appeal to those awarding money.

"It'll be tough to do without grants, and it's hard to get grants without a (land) designation," he said.

McBean said the opportunity for potential expansion already is knocking at the city's door.

"Currently there are eight people talking about putting up hangars," McBean said. "Some businesses are being proposed already."

Citing data from the federal Department of Commerce and the state's Economic Impact of Airports studies from the 1990s, Leavitt said that expansion would benefit the Homedale economy.

"Idaho did an Economic Impact of Airports in the (1990s) and determined at that time that Homedale [airport] contributed \$818,000 to the local economy," according to a handout Leavitt provided council members.

Airport development brings grant opportunities

Business development at Homedale Municipal Airport has opened the eyes of government agencies in charge of giving grants, city public works supervisor Larry Bauer said.

"Through the efforts of the businesses down there, the FAA has seen potential," Bauer told the city council Wednesday.

Addressing the Homedale City Council on Wednesday, Bauer said that a Federal Aviation Administration grant opportunity has emerged, and that the money can be used to finance a tarmac drainage project. Bauer said the city should apply for a \$300,000 grant to help pay for improvements that improve drainage — and eliminate potentially damaging gravel from in front of airport businesses — by paving the tarmac between hangars and the airport runway.

"They appreciate what they see happening at the airport,"

Bauer said of the FAA, "and now we have some businesses showing that they care and that goes a very long way with (the FAA)."

Bauer said the grant requires a match — either cash or in-kind — of about \$70,000, and that there is an Idaho Department of Commerce Gem Community grant valued at between \$30,000 and \$50,000 that is available.

At Bauer's behest, the council approved \$500 to hire grant writers from Sage Community Resources to steer an application for the Gem grant.

Bauer said the project would entail excavating the existing tarmac and putting in pit run gravel that's already available to the city, meaning that there will be little in construction supply costs.

"It's an opportunity to proceed without a lot of cash outlay," Bauer said.

— JPB

"Today, we currently have four aircraft businesses located at the Homedale facility. In the '90s, we had only one, so obviously more businesses attract more dollars to the community."

Leavitt's handout also claimed that the U.S. Department of Commerce speculates that every dol-

lar spent at an airport brings \$2.15 into the local community. He also said that the department said that figure could be as high as \$5.

Also citing Department of Commerce figures, Leavitt said the average visitor to an airport spends \$70 per day in the geographical area, aviation facilities

attract new industries and every airport job creates nearly three other positions in the visitor-related economy.

But Leavitt also told the council that Homedale's inactivity on the land has created competition from other airports seeking new tenants.

"Either expand the airport or people like me are going to take our business to Parma," Leavitt said, adding that the airport in western Canyon County is willing to work with businessmen to bring in development.

Leavitt presented an aerial photo illustration showing space for nearly 40 hangars or other airport-related structures in the triangular piece of land that the city bought from the state nearly two years ago. Mayor Harold Wilson reiterated that a public hearing notice on the purchase of the land published during the Paul Fink mayoral administration stated that the land would be used for airport expansion.

"I'm for giving you the ground," Wilson told Leavitt.

But, led by Councilman Eino Hendrickson, the council balked at the idea of designating the entire seven-acre plot for airport development immediately.

"I feel that we don't want to lock up all the land," Hendrickson said. "You're not going to put up 40 hangars tomorrow."

Leavitt conceded that point, and McBean said the plan was to build in phases. But both men insisted that no progress could be made unless the city at least committed to using the land expressly for airport expansion.

But McBean said the commit-

ment was necessary because of the history of the land since it was purchased. King's Department Stores was in talks with the city to build a store on the land, and local real estate agent Alan McRae also had presented the previous administration with clients who wanted to bring non-aviation businesses to the land.

"You don't want to start planning to get stuff done and create an environment to bring people in and get it pulled out from under you," McBean said.

Hendrickson expressed concern about the cost of building infrastructure for the proposed growth — supplying city services, altering airport access of U.S. Highway 95, leveling the land and bringing in rock and other construction materials.

But when he asked if it was possible for a detailed plan, McBean said such a study would cost time and money and the businessmen were reluctant to spend the resources without a commitment of ground from the city.

Councilman Tim Downing floated the idea of designating two or three acres, while Wilson suggested giving the entire seven acres to airport expansion on a two- to three-year basis.

"Give us a growth period so the airport can show its growth potential," Leavitt said. "The dollars say it's good for the city and it's good for the county."

The council voted to table the issue and bring it back for discussion at its March 27 meeting. The issue of airport security, scheduled for discussion Wednesday, also was tabled.

— JPB

✓ **Easter:** Every Owyhee town has hunts; Holy Week lunches scheduled



Jordan Valley Easter egg hunt on tap

Members of the Jordan Valley High School FFA chapter help out with that community's Easter egg hunt. This year's hunt takes place at the high school football field Friday. Submitted photo

begins at 10 a.m., and volunteers should arrive at 9:45 a.m.

The Homedale Easter egg hunt is open to children in fourth grade and younger.

The Marsing Lions Club will present its community Easter egg hunt at 10 a.m. at the Marsing High School football field off 8th Avenue West. There will be four age groups, and the hunt is open to children in fourth grade and younger.

The Lions will serve breakfast at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 N. 2nd St. W., before the Easter egg hunt. The breakfast menu runs from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Saturday and features a menu of pancakes, eggs, ham, coffee, juice and milk. Adults eat for \$4, and the cost is \$2 for children 12 and younger.

The Grand View Lions Club will present an Easter egg hunt of its own at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Grand View City Park.

Toddlers through sixth-graders can participate in the hunt for candy-filled eggs. The Easter bunny also will be present.

In Jordan Valley on Friday, candy and Easter egg baskets will be awarded by random drawing. Age groups include preschool through kindergarten, first- and second-graders, and third grade through sixth grade.

The Lizard Butte Sunrise Service begins at 7 a.m. Sunday at Lizard Butte just outside of Marsing in Canyon County. Access is off Idaho highway 55. Organizers ask guests to dress warmly.

For more information on the service, call 454-9001.

The Holy Week Luncheon series at First Presbyterian Church in Homedale, 320 N. 6th St. W., continues daily through Easter Sunday. A freewill offering is suggested for the meal, which begins at noon each day.

Honor roll

Jordan Valley

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Third quarter high honors | Brandon Mackenzie, Sonny Mackenzie and Mattie Wroten | 11th grade — Alek Quintero |
| 12th grade — Athena Beckwith, Elisa Eiguren, Annie Mackenzie and Jessie White | Eighth grade — Meagan Fillmore and Haley Hebison | 10th grade — Anne-Marie Eiguren and Michelle Telleria |
| 11th grade — Kayla Cuvelier, Emma Johnson, Catie Kershner, Nickie Naegle and Cole Scown | Seventh grade — Tom Nelson and Tyrell Warn | Ninth grade — Garrett Williams |
| 10th grade — Bryce Kershner, | Third quarter honors | Eighth grade — Jordan Matteri |
| | 12th grade — Tim Eiguren | Seventh grade — Kierstyn McEwen |

Birthday

Alma Eells’ family set to celebrate her 90th with Saturday dinner

The children of Alma Eells are celebrating their mother’s 90th birthday with an open house on March 22, 2008.

A 54-year resident of Marsing, Alma was born on March 25, 1918, in Dacoma, Okla. She has four children, 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

The celebration will be held from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center at 126 W. 2nd St. N. The family asks that no gifts be presented.



Alma Eells

Marsing schedules kindergarten signups

Marsing Elementary School will hold kindergarten registration and screening for the 2008-09 school year next month.

Two sessions are planned — from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., on April 24, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., on April 25. The sessions take place at the school, 207 8th Ave. W., both days.

Call school secretary Angie Malmberg at 896-4111, ext. 497 to schedule an appointment. Each registration/screening will take about 30 minutes, according to school principal Lil Stewart.

Parents must bring a valid, state-issued birth certificate and immunization record for each child they will register.

Read all about it in the Avalanche!

Extension offers pasture education

Treasure Valley residents who want to learn how to manage their irrigated pastures for best results can register now for the introductory class in pasture management to be held later this month in Canyon County.

The classes, which will cost \$50, will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, March 27-28 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 29.

The pasture management classes include instruction in basic soil management, pasture establishment, grass varieties and seed selection, irrigation, weed control, animal nutrition, electric fencing and grazing management.

For the Saturday session, participants will tour several local pastures to see how the concepts presented in class can be applied on the ground and to get ideas for managing their own land and livestock.

The cost of the class covers all materials plus lunch and transportation Saturday.

For more information or to pre-register, call Scott Jensen at 896-4104 or go the Owyhee County Extension Web site at <http://extension.ag.uidaho.edu/owyhee>.

School menus

Homedale Elementary
March 19-31: No school.

Homedale Middle
March 19: Burrito or fish sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, apple crisp, milk.
March 20: Spaghetti or chicken bacon melt, bread stick, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
March 21-28: No school.
March 31: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

Homedale High
March 19: Spaghetti, burrito or pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
March 20: Chicken patty or hamburger, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.
March 21-28: No school
March 31: Pepperoni pizza or chicken bacon melt, fruit & veggie bar, strawberry shortcake, milk.

Marsing
March 19: Waffles, scrambled eggs, ham, strawberries, milk, sandwiches, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
March 20: Chef’s choice, milk, soft taco, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
March 21-28. No school.
March 31: Burrito, buttered rice, fruit, milk, hamburgers, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau
March 19: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, roll/butter, fruit crisp, milk.
March 20: Chili & crackers, coleslaw, applesauce, cinnamon rolls, milk.
March 21-31: No school.

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center
March 19: Baked fish, macaroni & cheese, carrots, roll, beverage.
March 20: Baked ham, green beans, yams, roll, beverage.
March 25: Beef burritos, refried beans, rice, beverage.
March 26: Sausage & biscuits, country gravy, carrots, beverage.

Marsing Senior Center
March 19: Chicken, potatoes/gravy, peas/carrots, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
March 20: Pork roast, sweet potatoes, corn & green beans, carrot salad, soup, dessert, beverage.
March 24: Breakfast to order.
March 25: Fish or chef’s choice, potatoes, lima beans w/bacon, salad, soup dessert, beverage.
March 26: Chicken pot pie (chicken, potatoes, peas), broccoli, salad, soup, dessert, beverage.



I’m Not There

“Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow;
I am the diamond glints on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain;
I am the gentle autumn’s rain.
When you awake in the morning’s hush,
I am the swift uplifting rush of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft star that shines at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry.
I am not there; I did not die.”

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Your finances

Checkbook duty isn't a he/she thing in marriage

Dear Dave,

Does it matter whether it's the husband or the wife who keeps the checkbook and pays the bills? Lots of people say that kind of thing is the man's job, but I was curious about what you think.

— Daniel



Dear Daniel,

I don't think it matters one bit, and here's why:

In each family there's a nerd and a free spirit. The nerd is good at keeping track of things and putting everything in its place. The free spirit is just the opposite. They are not detail-oriented. Now, this doesn't make them irresponsible or mean that they don't care. It's just that they aren't blessed with a gift for administration. They want things to be good and right just as much as the nerd, but they don't get a rush when the checkbook balances out.

But just because the nerd keeps the checkbook doesn't mean he or she gets to make all the financial decisions. In a marriage, those decisions should be made together with input from both the husband and wife. Remember, God didn't unite some kind of joint business venture. He made you as one — together. When you do a budget each month, you should both sit down and come to a mature, reasonable and respectful agreement on where the money's going.

So when it comes down to the act of keeping the checkbook, I think whoever is the more organized of the two should handle this duty. But if you include these other principles you'll experience more unity in your daily lives together AND have better communication in your marriage!

— Dave

realized your mistakes and want to change means there's hope. And that's always a good thing.

The first thing you're going to have to do is get another job — maybe two or three part-time jobs if you can't find full-time work. You also need to save up quick for a cheap little car to get you around. If you work this plan for about a year and a half, you'll probably be able to pay off all the Stupid Tax you've accumulated.

I'm not picking on you, Stephanie. I've done stupid stuff, too, trust me. Stupid with lots more zeroes on the end than you're talking about. But when you do dumb things, you have to pay the consequences. It's all part of being an adult. And no matter what age you are, debt is a dumb thing.

It sounds like you realize that you left your integrity on the sidelines, too. So doing the right thing really needs to be a priority from this point on. The cool thing about the issues you mentioned, like finding a permanent place to live, something to drive and paying off the debt, is that these things will all get better now that you've made the decision to get better.

I think finding a good church and having a talk with the pastor would be a big help, too. Any good minister would be willing and honored to have an opportunity to pray with you and for you as you get your life back on track.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I've been pretty rebellious for the past year, not listening to my parents and doing other dumb things. Now I've got \$8,000 in debt from running up credit card bills and writing bad checks. I also totaled my car the other day, and I lost my job, too. I'm going to lose my apartment from all this, also, and I'm only 19 years old. A friend said I could stay with her for a while, but my parents won't help and say I need to clean up this mess on my own. Do you have any advice?

— Stephanie

Dear Stephanie,

Rock bottom is a scary place to be, isn't it? But here's some good news. The fact that you've

— 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. You can find tools to help with finances or previous columns at Davesays.org. For more financial advice, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write Dave Says, 1749 Mal-lory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Buy it, sell it,
trade it, rent it...
in the
Classifieds!

Calendar

Today
El-Ada Community 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
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
TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)
5:30 p.m. weigh-in, 7 p.m. meeting, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St., Homedale. (208) 482-6893
AA meeting
8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Friday
Candidate filing deadline for May 27 primary
Filings taken for Owyhee County District 1 and District 2 commissioner, sheriff and prosecuting attorney; library board positions for Lizard Butte, Eastern Owyhee and Bruneau Valley districts.
Jordan Valley Easter egg hunt
9 a.m., Jordan Valley High School football field
Holy Week Luncheon
Noon, freewill offering suggested, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3301
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
Marsing Lions Easter breakfast
7 a.m., all-you-can eat, \$4 adults, \$2 children, Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 N. 2nd St. W., Marsing
Marsing Lions Easter egg hunt
10 a.m., fourth-graders and younger, Marsing

High School football field, 8th Avenue West
Homedale Chamber Easter egg hunt
10 a.m., fourth-graders and younger, free. Sundance Park
Grand View Lions Easter egg hunt
11 a.m., toddlers through sixth-graders, Grand View City Park
OCHS field trip
Our Memories Indian Creek Museum tour, 9 a.m., 1122 Main St., Caldwell; 11 a.m. Nampa Train Depot Museum tour, 1200 Front St., Nampa. (208) 495-2319 or (208) 495-2232
Holy Week Luncheon
Noon, freewill offering suggested, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3301

Sunday
71st annual Lizard Butte Sunrise Service
7 a.m., Lizard Butte off Idaho 55. (208) 454-9001
Holy Week Luncheon
Noon, freewill offering suggested, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3301

Tuesday
Exercise class
11 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020
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
DivorceCare recovery support group
7 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Submit information on upcoming fundraisers, meetings, reunions or community events to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jbrowneditor@cablone.net. For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

Keep up with county events in the Avalanche

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Cleaning up the community



Familiar theme turns dangerous

Rival vandals seem to be bent on spraying symbols throughout Homedale, but recently an ominous trend emerged with threatening “187 Pig Killa”, left, painted in an apparent reference to killing police officers (the California penal code for homicide is 187).

Chief speaks out on vandalism spree

The Homedale Police Department continues to battle the rash of vandalism that has plagued the city since at least December.

Chief of Police Jeff Eidemiller alerted the City Council on Wednesday that he has focused manpower on the problem in hopes of ending the outbreak of graffiti throughout town.

“It’s a two-pronged fork,” Eidemiller said of the spray-painting. “Not only is it illegal, but it’s very disrespectful to the neighborhoods and it’s destructive and ugly and juvenile and childish.”

Eidemiller said that there were reports of seven new “tags” in town last week. He told council members that the damage flared up again after “we got a little bit of a reprieve.”

“We’re investigating every single call and take each one seriously,” Eidemiller said. “The most important thing citizens can do is they need to let us know when it happens.”

In a previous council meeting, Eidemiller lamented the fact that not all residents see the vandalism as a blight on the community. Some examples of the graffiti have stayed visible for weeks with seemingly no effort to paint over the symbols.

The vandals that struck in



No structure is safe from spray paint vandals

A long string of graffiti recently was sprayed on the fence of the Owyhee County Rodeo grounds.

December, spraying symbols on four commercial buildings on Main Street and East Owyhee Avenue, were caught and helped paint over the graffiti. But subsequent tags are still visible throughout town.

“I don’t want to challenge them, but it’s to the point where we don’t have much in town that’s not

covered,” Eidemiller said.

More recent vandalism has taken on an ominous tone. The chief reported one tag read, “187 Pig.” The California Penal Code designation for homicide is 187, and “Pig” is a derogatory term for a police officer.

“Basically what they’re doing is assaulting my officers, and I take

that very seriously,” Eidemiller said.

The chief said he is utilizing his full-time officers as well as reserves and volunteers in an attempt to curb the vandalism, which is a misdemeanor offense.

“We’re making every effort that we can to catch these guys,” Eidemiller said.

The chief told council members last week that the department’s officers would be accruing “comp” time during the campaign to stop the vandalism.

“The only way I can think to curb it is to throw manpower at it,” Eidemiller told the council Wednesday.

— JPB



Some marks remain months later

While the graffiti on the left was painted over soon after it was discovered (and other examples were covered by the vandals after they were caught by Homedale Police), some buildings in town still bear the scars of a vandalism spree that has been raging in town since at least December.



Cleaning up the community

4-H club plans Marsing spring cleaning

The Jump Creek Wranglers 4-H group is planning a “Clean Up Marsing” community service project for Saturday, April 19.

Ken Feaster-Eytchison, who is organizing the project along with Tammy Bowman and Kimberly Williams, described the community service idea to the Marsing Chamber of Commerce at a recent meeting, and asked if the Chamber would like to participate.

According to Feaster-Eytchison, the Chamber liked the idea, as did the Marsing City Council. The council and Chamber have signed on to provide a post-cleanup barbecue for participants. Feaster-Eytchison said that the Boy Scouts and around 50 students at Marsing High School have expressed interest in helping out as well.

The plan is to pick up trash along Marsing’s main city corridor, and in both parks. Feaster-Eytchison said that the Wranglers will contact the Marsing Senior Center to see if they can get a list of seniors who would like to have volunteers do various light yard work projects, and that work crews would wash sidewalks in front of local businesses, if the stores provide hoses.

Because of the Marsing High School Prom, the high school group will actually do its cleanup on April 16. Everyone else will meet at the Marsing High School Gymnasium at 7:30 a.m. on the April 19, work until noon or 1 p.m., and then meet for lunch at City Park. The high school group will join the other workers for lunch.

Feaster-Eytchison said that the Jump Creek Wranglers would like to encourage all Marsing residents to spend some time that weekend in their own area of town to clean their yards and streets.

He added that the Wranglers would like to extend an invitation to any other 4-H club, school service club, or other interested group that might like to participate.

For more information, contact Ken Feaster-Eytchison at 371-6860 or e-mail eytch_a_sketch@hotmail.com.

HMS students get OK on courts beautification



Existing steps will be incorporated
According to Homedale Middle School eighth-grade president Deena Emry’s plans, left, the wooden steps at the City Park tennis courts, above, will be preserved as part of the improvement project.

Eighth-grade leadership reveals plans for ongoing project

Two Homedale Middle School eighth-grade student body officers gained approval to make the city tennis courts spectator-friendly Wednesday night.

Class president Deena Emry and class vice-president Kylie Farwell presented the Homedale City Council with a plan to tear out overgrown juniper bushes on the east boundary of the City Park courts and replace them with more attractive foliage, decorative brick and benches for fans to watch tennis action.

“I think this sounds like a great idea,” council president Dave Downum said.

Emry and Farwell asked for the city’s help in hauling off the junipers and other debris after removal.

Councilmen gave unanimous approval to the request after Emry and Farwell addressed the panel with HMS principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness looking on.

City public works supervisor Larry Bauer said that the city would pay as much as \$150 to repair the irrigation sprinkler system already in place. The city backhoe and dump truck would be used in the removal and disposal of the old bushes.

Emry and Farwell told the council that car washes were planned to get money for sod, seed and sprinklers.

“The parks budget is always tight, and if there are some fundraisers we can help with, let us know,” Bauer said.

Bauer was receptive to the idea because it would save the city money, but he did have one concern.

“We need to make sure it’s a low-maintenance forever situation,” he said, adding that subsequent HMS classes may not be as ambitious as these eighth-graders.

The girls, who later presented the council with a project drawing designed by Emry, said that flowers and low-lying shrubbery would be used to make it easier for city maintenance workers to move around.

Another aspect to the plan is utilizing existing steps in the area that have been overrun by the juniper.

The girls said they would approach welding instructors Lori Harrison of Homedale High School and Mark Bauer from the Canyon-Owyhee School Services Agency about building metal benches for spectators.

The rest of the eighth-grade student council includes secretary Janette Hurtado, historian Laurien Mavey and reporter Ashley Leslie.

“The tennis courts are the first things you see when entering Homedale, and the overgrown bushes don’t look very good,” the officers said in a release for the Homedale School District’s winter newsletter.

“We want to change that area, clean it up, landscape it and make it look better and be more useful. This is our chance to contribute to our community and make our town look better.”

— JPB



Student leadership makes its pitch to Homedale council
Homedale City Councilman Eino Hendrickson, left, listens as Homedale Middle School eighth-grade class president Deena Emry, right, and vice-president Kylie Farwell make their presentation to the council Wednesday. HMS principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness stands between Hendrickson and the girls.

Marsing’s initial water system work nearly done

Council donates \$100 to Lions Easter egg hunt

The first phase of Marsing’s water system improvement project is nearing completion, but it still could be summer before construction is wrapped up.

At Wednesday’s meeting, Marsing city engineer Amy Woodruff told the city council that SPF Engineering submitted 90 percent completion plans to the city on March 1. The city has until the end of March to review and comment on the proposed course of action. SPF will then make any required revisions and submit the plans to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality no later than April 15. Then, DEQ has up to 42 days to review the project documents before approving or rejecting them. Woodruff said that she had not as yet reviewed the paperwork submitted by SPF.

If the DEQ mandates changes to SPF’s proposal, SPF will have to make the required changes and re-submit the documents for approval. According to Woodruff, there is usually a minimum of two sets of revisions prior to final approval on projects of this complexity.

“It’s a little hard to quantify, Mayor,” Woodruff said in response

to Keith Green’s question of when construction could begin. “I really don’t know. You’ll be looking at a summer bid and late summer to fall construction, but it’s a little hard to define. It’s an unknown.”

Woodruff said that tests on well No. 9 were in, and results both in capacity and water quality were as expected.

“The new well came in with capacity sustainable at 40-60 gallons per minute, right where we thought it was going to be,” Woodruff said. “Water quality, we’re not surprised about. Elevated hardness, elevated total dissolved solids, but the water in Well 8 is nice and soft so those two together will kind of offset each other. The arsenic levels are fine. The nitrates are fine.”

Woodruff said that design work on the water distribution system enhancements, the second phase of the improvement project, is on hold until photogrammetric survey maps come in. The required mapping is due back this week. Woodruff said that she would give the council updated project details once the maps are in.

Woodruff also told the council that the city is required to notify all city water customers that Marsing has gotten a waiver of the DEQ redundant pumping capacity requirement. The DEQ requires that city water systems be able to maintain water-flow capacity

to meet peak-hour demand or maximum day demand plus equalization storage while the largest pump is out of service, but Marsing got around the rule because the Marsing Rural Fire Commission agreed to a waiver. City clerk Janice Bicandi said that the notifications would go out to customers with March water bills.

Woodruff also said that the city put a very specific scope of work proposal to J-U-B Engineers, Inc., for a wastewater treatment plant upgrade design. J-U-B responded with a revised scope of work and an estimate in the amount of \$85,000. The project would be funded with \$35,000 from the City of Marsing, a \$35,000 matching grant from the DEQ, and \$15,000 in grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture brought to the table by J-U-B.

According to Woodruff, the revision to the scope of work mainly excludes extensive flow monitoring that the city had requested on its collection system.

“The scope of work has been modified somewhat. In talking with J-U-B, it is their opinion that the type of analysis that was in the original scope of work maybe isn’t warranted,” Woodruff said. “I don’t think there is any fat in their budget. It was a tough scope of work, and they have done a

good job of trying to meet that. But I want to be clear that you’re not going to get a full-on analysis of the collection system. There’s three local sub-basins in town where we know we have problems with infiltration and inflow, and I think it’s important for the council to know that.”

The council voted to pursue a contract with J-U-B using the revised scope of work. Green was pleased with the J-U-B effort.

“The scope of work that Amy had put together was really, really extensive,” Green said. “They came back, and they met everything that we wanted on the scope, as far as I could see. They did what was asked of them for the contract, and they even went out and found more money so that they could do the job.”

The council also voted to pay, subject to USDA Rural Development approval, a number of SPF bills totaling \$92,151.73, and a request from Sage Community Resources in the amount of \$9,625 for grant-writing services. Some of the billing statements had been processed incorrectly and dated back to October, according to Green and Bicandi.

The council voted to negotiate with the Bureau of Land Management to try to come up with a solution to the BLM’s file storage problem. The floor of the

BLM building is buckling under the weight of files stored there. Woodruff said that the only long-term solution is to move the load to a floor that could withstand the weight. The council considered an option of putting additional supports under the building at a cost of around \$10,000, but Woodruff said that even with additional supports the current floor would continue to sink. The council decided to level the building at an approximate cost of \$1,000, ask the BLM to share the cost of the leveling, and talk to the BLM about building adequate storage space designed to carry the heavy file load.

Also at the meeting, Josh Bauer, representing the Marsing Chamber of Commerce, asked the council for permission to hold a car show at Island Park in conjunction with the Chamber’s spring festival on June 14. The council requested that cars be parked in a specially designated area so as to avoid damaging the park’s sprinkler system, and that the Chamber help with the cost of extra portable bathrooms for the event.

The Marsing Lions Club requested a \$25 donation from the city to help pay for the club’s Easter egg hunt. The council unanimously voted to make a \$100 donation for Saturday’s event.

— RTH

Homedale Chamber nears launch of map, Web site

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce’s map of the city has gone to the printer and should be out this week, according to Chamber president Gavin Parker.

Parker told Chamber members at Thursday’s luncheon that the first 2,000 maps will be mailed

to all Homedale and some Wilder residents. The remaining maps will be available for distribution to the city and interested business owners.

Homedale’s revised Web site is nearly ready to go live, too. The Chamber is looking for pictures of Homedale landmarks and

community events to enhance the site’s visual appeal. Photos can be e-mailed to Parker at gsparker72@yahoo.com. The Web site is a joint effort between the Chamber and the City of Homedale.

Donna Shines, executive director of The Mentoring Network, Inc., described her organization to the Chamber, and urged members to participate. The program is a non-profit, school-based program serving Homedale, Caldwell, Nampa, Parma and Vallivue schools. The

group’s mission is to strengthen communities by promoting and nurturing friendships between youth and responsible, caring adults.

Shines said that typically a mentor spends 45 minutes once a week with a child. The program currently has five mentors in Homedale. Shines said that every child can benefit by having a mentor, but because of the low number of volunteers the program is only providing mentors to children in crisis situations. All

mentor volunteers undergo brief training and a background check prior to working with a child.

Anyone interested in being a mentor should contact Shines at 459-2844 or e-mail her at donna.shines@mentoringnetworkid.org.

Jim Manion, AAA’s Idaho Division president, gave an inspirational speech on luck and the power of positive thinking.

The next Chamber meeting is scheduled for noon April 10 at Owyhee Lanes and Restaurant.

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Holy Week 2008

Maunday Thursday - March 20

Church Services 7:00 pm with Holy Communion.

Good Friday - March 21

Church Services 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday - March 23

10 Am Easter Morning Services with a special presentation by the Mount Calvary Choir.

For more information contact, Reverend Ross Shaver , Pastor

Church phone # 337-4248

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Most groups must pay for board
The Homedale City Council set a \$35 rental fee for the reader board that stands on the south side of East Idaho Avenue near the main entrance to town. Youth civic groups are exempt.

Homedale council sets board fee

The Homedale City Council has set a policy for public use of the city-owned reader board on East Idaho Avenue.

Following up on a request from city staff to establish a fee schedule, the council voted unanimously to charge most advertisers \$35 to use the reader board on the south side of Homedale’s main drag for three weeks.

The council passed a fee schedule at Wednesday’s meeting that would exempt only youth civic groups.

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Seniors host class on arthritis pain

Southwest District Health is sponsoring a six-week Arthritis Foundation Self-Help Program at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center beginning next Wednesday.

The free class aimed at providing knowledge and skills to better manage arthritis will be held each Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. through April 30. The senior center is located at 224 W. Idaho Ave.

Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. While the class is free, an optional supplementary manual will be available for \$15.

Call 455-5332 to register or to get more information.

Developed at Stanford University, the program is taught by certified leaders from the Arthritis Foundation and has been proven to lower arthritis pain, increase self-management skills, and reduce doctor visits. In one study, those who attended the six-week program reduced their pain by 20 percent and reduced physician visits by 40 percent.

Through small group discussion and easy-to-understand course materials, class members learn useful tips and techniques to take control of their condition. Classes address ways to reduce pain, lower stress, cope with fatigue, and use medications

wisely. The program is suited for both the newly diagnosed as well as those seeking more aggressive management.

The Arthritis Foundation Self-Help Program is one of several arthritis health education and exercise programs in the Life Improvement series offered by the Arthritis Foundation to help people take greater control of arthritis.

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‘Anything for reading’

Accelerated Reading gives principal elevated office for day

The reading performance of his students sent Paul Webster through the roof on Friday.

Well, more precisely, how many books his Marsing Middle School’s advisory group classes read in the past quarter sent the school’s principal up on the roof.

Despite frigid temperatures and the threat of rain, Webster took his office outdoors for about seven hours.

It was Webster’s way of paying up on a challenge issued to his students to excel in the school’s Accelerated Reading (AR) program.

“Each quarter this year, we have done some sort of competition,” Webster said. “We’ve set a goal or a challenge for reading in the previous two quarters.”

In the past, the students who amassed the most AR points won prizes. But things changed for Webster around Christmas, when the winning students got a chance to shave their headmaster’s head.

“I would say having my head shaved at Christmas was probably about as crazy,” Webster said from the rooftop, his voice belying the brisk wind all around him.

“They got to cut it however they wanted, and I knew it would come out bad. But it was really ugly.”

Even after that experience, Webster decided to raise the bar for this quarter — the whole school reaching a score 20 percent higher than the past.

“I knew when I did that, it was going to be mid-March and I was taking a bit of a gamble,” Webster said.

And so there he was on the roof — away from the office — on a late winter’s day.

“I actually have been getting a lot of work done,” Webster said by cell phone from the roof. “I have been accessing e-mail, running reports, doing some test coordination stuff because I have some pretty decent wireless access up here.”

“Up here” was the roof of the middle school building. Webster set up a student desk and a chair facing 8th Avenue West and spent the day doing his normal routine.

Outside. In a drizzle. In the



Students send principal to roof

Clockwise from top: Marsing Middle School principal Paul Webster communicates with the world below on a laptop computer from atop the school building Friday. He had pitched a tent in case it rained, and brought a lawn chair to catch some rays in case it was sunny.

Webster chats with a group of the students who made his daylong rooftop stay possible.

Webster didn’t get a day off from work just because he was out — er, on top of — the office. He stayed in touch by cell phone and computer.

wind.

“I was anticipating rain a little bit ago so I set up a tent,” Webster said.

Oh yeah. The tent. And let’s not forget the bucket and rope to transport needed supplies. The rope technique is also how the fourth-year MMS principal furnished his rooftop.

And the facilities?

“I gave myself three breaks, and I’ve used one of them,” Webster

said before lunch. “I’ve brought a sack lunch — vanilla wafers, which aren’t approved, a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and a couple oranges.

“The lack of facilities made me leave my coffee at home.”

But the sacrifice was worth it. Marsing Middle School students are reading more.

“Our librarian said, ‘These kids just won’t stop bugging me for books,’ “ Webster said. “Traffic

in the library is a lot heavier, and they’re really taking a lot more books.”

Webster likened the voracious readers to dedicated athletes training for their sports.

“The more they do, the more they’re going to grow and, hopefully, we’re going to verify that on ISATs this year because I think they’ve read a lot more this year than in years previous,” Webster said.

There were other rewards to spending the day on the roof. Webster has found some long-lost athletic and academic equipment.

But there is one part of his daily routine — besides the coffee — that Webster couldn’t pull off.

“I thought about doing morning announcements from up here, but I couldn’t do it,” he said.

So, no bullhorn?

— JPB

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Eagle Scout enjoys fruits of labor

Marsing High School student Andre Heidt, far right, poses with folks who helped him build a fire bowl at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge in Caldwell. The benches were transplanted from Melba's Celebration State Park. Submitted photo

Student attains Eagle Scout

Marsing High School junior Andre F. Heidt earned the Boy Scouts of America's highest rank late last year after community service work in Canyon County.

Heidt, who serves with BSA Ore-Ida Council Venturing Scout Crew 412, will receive his Eagle Badge at 7 p.m. today in a Court of Honor at the Marsing LDS Chapel, 215 3rd Ave. W.



The son of Stephen and Alexandra Heidt, Andre was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on Dec. 12 after completing a project that included removing park benches from Melba's Celebration State Park and relocating them to the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge in Caldwell.

The relocation of the benches were part of Heidt's plan to form a fire bowl and flag ceremony site at the wildlife refuge.

The 17-year-old Heidt has been in Scouting since 1998.

He also participates in the Sons of the American Legion of Marsing, the National Honor Society at Marsing High School, and the Sons of the American Revolution.



Landscaping part of the project

Top: Heidt and a co-worker clean around the outer edge of the fire bowl and flag ceremony location at the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge. *Above:* One of the refurbished benches Heidt moved from Melba. Submitted photos

He also qualified for last month's 2A state tournament in Nampa as a member of the Marsing wrestling team.

Heidt's future plans include serving an LDS Church mission,

learning a foreign language and studying medicine in Portugal.

Crew 412 is co-sponsored by the LDS Church Marsing 1st Ward and Marsing American Legion Post 128.

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday afternoon, Owyhee Reservoir was 35 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 1,290 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 250,876 acre-feet of water.

The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 10:30 a.m. Monday (Year-to-date precipitation is measured from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30):

| Date | Reynolds Creek | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | Year-to-Date Precipitation | Max. | Min. | Avg. |
| 03/11 | 12.2 | 48 | 31 | 41 |
| 03/12 | 12.1 | 47 | 34 | 42 |
| 03/13 | 12.1 | 46 | 32 | 39 |
| 03/14 | 12.3 | 42 | 30 | 33 |
| 03/15 | 12.6 | 34 | 24 | 38 |
| 03/16 | 12.6 | 35 | 23 | 26 |
| 03/17 | 12.6 | 33 | 22 | 27 |

Current snow depth is 16 inches, with a snow water equivalent of 6 inches.

| Date | South Mountain | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | Year-to-Date Precipitation | Max. | Min. | Avg. |
| 03/11 | 22.7 | 52 | 35 | 43 |
| 03/12 | 22.6 | 47 | 33 | 40 |
| 03/13 | 22.7 | 49 | 33 | 40 |
| 03/14 | 23.0 | 39 | 28 | 33 |
| 03/15 | 23.5 | 38 | 24 | 28 |
| 03/16 | 23.5 | 37 | 22 | 26 |
| 03/17 | 23.6 | 36 | 21 | 26 |

Current snow depth is 54 inches, with a snow water equivalent of 19 inches.

| Date | Mud Flat | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|------|------|------|
| | Year-to-Date Precipitation | Max. | Min. | Avg. |
| 03/11 | 12.0 | 50 | 25 | 38 |
| 03/12 | 12.0 | 53 | 32 | 42 |
| 03/13 | 12.0 | 51 | 29 | 40 |
| 03/14 | 12.3 | 46 | 22 | 36 |
| 03/15 | 12.5 | 45 | 24 | 31 |
| 03/16 | 12.4 | 42 | 17 | 29 |
| 03/17 | 12.5 | 41 | 20 | 30 |

Current snow depth is 29 inches, with a snow water equivalent of nine inches.

Weather

| | H | L | Prec. |
|----------|------------------|----|-------|
| March 11 | 62 | 24 | .00 |
| March 12 | 64 | 28 | .00 |
| March 13 | 62 | 29 | .16 |
| March 14 | 57 | 32 | .04 |
| March 15 | no reading taken | | |
| March 16 | no reading taken | | |
| March 17 | 54 | 24 | .07 |

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Historical society announces 2008 field trips, book release

The Owyhee County Historical Society is ready for another season of discovery with the release of a special publication and the return of monthly field trips.

The first field trip is Saturday in Canyon County.

The OCHS publications committee announced recently the availability of the book, "The Archaeology of the Owyhee Country," at the museum bookstore in Murphy.

The book was written by Dr. Mark Plew, Boise State University professor of Anthropology and the chair of the school's Department of Anthropology.

Plew has written more than 340 professional papers, many of which deal with the Owyhee County area.

"The Archaeology of the Owyhee Country" is available at the bookstore for \$6.

Bookstore hours of operation coincide with that of the neighboring Owyhee County Historical Museum, which is located at 17085 Basey St., in Murphy. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information about the book or the museum, call (208) 495-2319.

The historical society also released its schedule of field trips for 2008, beginning Saturday with a tour of two museums in Canyon County. The schedule includes seven trips in all stretching from March to September.

General information on the field trips can be obtained by calling the museum at (208) 495-



New book released
"The Archaeology of the Owyhee Country" is a publication written by Boise State University Anthropology professor Dr. Mark Plew. Submitted illustration

2319 or Jim and Kathy Skelton at (208) 495-2232.

The schedule includes:

- **March 22** — A tour of the Canyon County Historical Society's newest museum, Our Memories Indian Creek Museum at 1122 Main St., in Caldwell. Tour participants will meet at the museum on the corner of 12th and Main in Caldwell at 9 a.m. A tour of the Nampa Train Depot Museum will be held at 11 a.m. at 1200 Front St., in Nampa. Lunch will not be provided.
- **April 19** — The historical society will tour a wind power plant currently under construction near Mountain Home. Participants will gather at 9 a.m. at AJ's Restaurant in Mountain Home. The restaurant is located at Exit 95 on Interstate 84 across from the Pilot truck stop. John Steiner

is the host for the tour, which will be led by Nick and Dolores Ihli. There will be a potluck lunch. For more information, call (208) 495-2537.

• **May 17** — Tour participants will learn about the history of the train in Murphy as well as the ranches on Sinker Creek. Mary O'Malley and Dave Wilper will lead the tour, which begins at 9 a.m. at the museum in Murphy. There will be a potluck lunch, and more information can be obtained by calling O'Malley at (208) 495-2122.

• **June 14** — This month's tour takes in the Josephine Ranch with leader Mike Anderson. The group will meet at the Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana at 9 a.m. High-clearance vehicles with 4-wheel-drive are recommended for this trip. A potluck lunch will be served. For more information, call (208) 495-2122.

• **July 12** — Mick Berger will lead a tour of the Afterthought Mine outside Silver City. High-clearance, 4-wheel-drive vehicles are preferred for this trip. The group will meet in Silver City.

• **Aug. 4-9** — The historical society co-sponsors the Oregon-California Trails Association National Convention at the Nampa Civic Center. Bus field trips include excursions to the Utter Disaster site at Castle Creek and other Oregon Trail sites in Owyhee County on Aug. 7 and Aug. 9. There will be lunchtime stops at the Owyhee County Historical Museum both days.

The convention at the Nampa Civic Center will include talks and workshops on Oregon Trail-related topics on Aug. 6 and Aug. 8. Entertainment also is planned.

For more information, visit www.idahocta.org.

• **Sept. 6** — Nick and Dolores Ihli lead a tour of the Owyhee Backcountry Byway (Mud Flat Loop). Passenger cars will be able to make this trip, and there will be a potluck lunch. Call (208) 495-2537 for more information.



Churches plan to advertise at town's entrance

Homedale civic activist Barbie Vander Boegh told the city council Wednesday that the town's 13 churches have agreed to place medallions on the frame that's now devoid of insignias on East Idaho Avenue.

Council refuses to rent sculpture

Former Homedale Middle School teacher Barbie Vander Boegh renewed her attempt to bring a horseshoe sculpture to town during Wednesday's City Council meeting.

Vander Boegh reported that the Caldwell artist who has created a seven-piece horseshoe sculpture of a stagecoach and six horses is willing to rent the artwork to the city.

She said it would be a good move to stir the community support needed to get grant funding to buy the sculpture.

"Unless the community sees it, I'm not going to get a grant from the state of Idaho because no one (in the community) will donate unless they see it," Vander Boegh said.

Vander Boegh said that she received previous approval from the council to proceed, and she also asserted that former Mayor Paul Fink said city funds were available to help bring the sculpture to town.

"The way it was explained to me is there was \$10,000 of city money to go to this," Vander Boegh said.

Vander Boegh proposes putting the sculpture on the south side of East Idaho Avenue near the intersection with U.S. Highway 95.

She also said that an Idaho Humanities Council grant for which she plans to apply requires only a showing of community interest and no matching funds. However, the grant is only for \$10,000 and the sculpture price tag has been reported as high as \$49,000.

But the Homedale City Council

rejected a request to pay the \$100-per-month rental fee. Business owner Del Motz said it would be a wise move to get donations to pay for the rent because the sculpture could help bring new customers into town.

"God only knows we need something to give this town a lift," Motz said.

Although the council rejected the request for rent, councilmen did leave the door open for Vander Boegh to return to the council to report on fundraisers, etc.

Before the council denied the request for rent, Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller also expressed concern about public safety in the event that a piece of sculpture toppled. Vander Boegh said the sculpture can be anchored in cement or tied down in another fashion, if the area isn't cemented.

Homedale Planning and Zoning administrator Sylvia Bahem asked about city liability in the event of vandalism, and city clerk Alice Pegram said she could check with ICRMP for that answer.

In addition to her drive to bring the horseshoe sculpture to town, Vander Boegh said she also has received confirmation from Homedale's 13 churches that they would be willing to have medallions made for a "local churches" sign near the main entrance to Homedale.

Vander Boegh said each church would pay for its medallion and the signpost already exists from a previous civic organizations sign near the "Welcome to Homedale" sign on East Idaho Avenue.

— JPB



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Seniors, faculty face off



Basketball game, basket auction raises money for grad night
Above: Homedale High School senior Daniel Valadez tries to fend off the defense of Homedale Middle School math teacher Taci Morris during Wednesday's charity basketball game.
Right: Senior John Bittick can only watch as Homedale High School football and track assistant Tyson Stimmel soars to the basket.



FFAs accept four-legged challenge



Incredible donkey drop-step
Right: Homedale High School senior Kendall Rupp, attempting to maintain ball control and a precarious perch on the back of a ballin' beast of burden, drives the lane in the second half of the donkey basketball fundraiser at Homedale High School on March 10.
Above: Rupp fires in an outside shot.





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