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Council agrees to help pay for leveling, 5A

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Department-by-department
rundown of FY 2009 budget

Silver anniversary Bruneau
Roundup's a-comin'

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 37

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS



BLM photo

BLM ignites juniper near Silver City

Crews from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Boise District began a scheduled juniper-thinning project in the Owyhee Mountains on Saturday.

The Indian Meadows Prescribed Burn, set for 3,943 acres and located about 25 miles south of Silver City, was ignited with "black-lining" burning to provide an adequate buffer along the established perimeter. The "black-lining" took place Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, crews began aerial ignition on the interior. The operation was expected to conclude by today.

Junipers have been encroaching on areas that have historically been occupied by sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen and bunchgrasses. According to a BLM press release, the reduction of juniper will improve habitat for sage-grouse, elk, mule deer, antelope, migratory birds, amphibians and reptiles by creating and maintaining a mosaic of different habitats across the landscape.

Ranchers will benefit from the elimination of the juniper because the tree often sucks up available water used to keep forage for livestock animals viable.

Fuel surcharge on Idaho traffic citations mulled

Legislators express concern over perception of ticket quotas

In line with growing concerns over fueling costs for law enforcement, an idea is being discussed, prior to crafting legislation, by several local political and police leaders.

The possibility of adding a \$10 surcharge to each and every citation or crime for which a party is found guilty is on the table— with the funds from said surcharge applying directly to a fuel fund for state, county and local law enforcement.

Wendell Mayor Rick Cowen, also a deputy sheriff in Jerome County, is one of the prime movers behind the concept, with input from Homedale Mayor Harold Wilson, Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and Gooding Police Chief Jeff Perry.

"Once we have some discussion and forward thinking on this, I think it's something that most everyone will be in favor of,"

— See *Fuel*, page 10A

Homedale City Council

Water, sewer rate hikes on horizon

City fathers set Monday workshop for vending license proposal

The Homedale City Council is expected to vote on raising water and sewer rates at its meeting tonight.

Public works supervisor Larry Bauer presented a fee schedule that would raise rates for both utilities a total of 5 percent. Bauer said he split the rate hikes (3 percent for sewer and 2 percent for water) to avoid the threshold at which Idaho Code requires a

public hearing.

With the total increase at 5 percent, the council can raise the rates with a resolution tonight.

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

Bauer urged the council to pass the resolution to avoid "heart-ache" for a future council that could face the possibility of a

— See *Hikes*, page 5A

Commissioners OK budget

The budget Owyhee County commissioners approved last week took bites out of departments beyond a reduction in workforce.

The commissioners approved the fiscal year 2009 budget Thursday after reconvening a budget hearing begun earlier in the week.

A budget that is more than 15 percent leaner than 2008 means several departments will see less money

for fiscal year 2009.

Diminished revenues from dwindling fees and other income sources forced some tough decisions for the commissioners as they hammered out a budget of less than \$7.5 million, board chair Jerry Hoagland said during the Sept. 2 hearing in Murphy.

"This has been an interesting process and

— See *Budget*, page 8A

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at Homedale
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Homedale Police sees busy week in battery

Couple throw down over toppings, second pair battle in a pickup at park, patrons brawl behind Last Chance

A Homedale woman was taken into custody Thursday afternoon after struggling with a Homedale Police officer who was investigating a public disturbance across from Homedale High School.

Angelique Nix faces charges of simple battery and resisting and obstructing an officer after an incident in which witnesses say she was kicking her boyfriend, Shannon Burton, as he drove a Ford pickup and pulled a trailer east on East Idaho Avenue.

According to witnesses, Nix was kicking Burton in the head, and he pulled the truck over in an attempt to diffuse the situation. Authorities said Nix's children were in the pickup at the time.

Officer Mike McFetridge responded to the incident, and talked to both Burton and Nix. When the officer attempted to handcuff Nix, she began to fight him.

"I got her one hand cuffed, and when I tried to get the other she started saying her arm was broken and pulling away," McFetridge said, adding that Nix admitted she had been drinking.

McFetridge got Nix under control, but not before the woman was face-down on the City Park retaining wall, across the sidewalk from where McFetridge had tried to handcuff her originally.

She was complaining of arm pain, and McFetridge dispatched Homedale Ambulance to check her out. Authorities said she refused treatment at the scene.

"She said she had a preexisting injury" McFetridge said, but added that prior to being cuffed she was freely waving both arms and gesturing energetically.

McFetridge originally started out for Owyhee County Jail in Murphy, but took Nix to West Valley instead. Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron said when a jailer apprised him that Nix was complaining of a possible broken arm, McFetridge was asked to go to Caldwell.

"We would have been responsible to get her checked out had she been booked," Cameron said.

Cameron said Nix was diagnosed with a broken collarbone at West Valley.



Battery suspect brought under control
Homedale Police Officer Mike McFetridge finishes handcuffing Angelique Nix after a brief struggle.

"It's our understanding that it's an old injury that could have been aggravated due to her resisting and being uncooperative toward the officer," Cameron said.

Burton was compliant and cuffed up for safety, McFetridge said. He was released at the scene after the officer took photos of his injuries. McFetridge said Burton reported being kicked in the face during the fight. A family member took the children away from the scene.

McFetridge said Homedale Police Cpl. Perry Grant used belly chains because of Nix's injury when he arrested her on a Canyon

County warrant months ago.

A pizza to go — to jail?

A couple came to blows over pizza toppings on Sept. 1, outside Idaho Pizza Co., in Homedale.

At 7:50 p.m., Homedale Police received a report of "a man punching his wife out in the parking lot in a gray minivan," according to dispatch records.

Chief Jeff Eidemiller and Officer Atanacio Montes responded, as did Homedale Ambulance, after Montes' report of the woman having minor injuries. She was not transported.

Officers arrested Nicky Dean Wilkes, 39, of Homedale, for domestic battery and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was out on bail Wednesday.

The fight began verbally inside the restaurant, as a disagreement over pizza toppings, authorities said. Once the pair had exited, the argument flared up and escalated to blows, Montes said.

"They were fighting over toppings," he said. "Both were somewhat intoxicated. I think one thing led to another. She wanted pineapple, and he didn't."

Showdown at Last Chance

At 1:16 a.m. on Wednesday, HPD Officer Jeff Wasson responded to a report of two men fighting behind the Last Chance Saloon on West Idaho Avenue. The pair had been arguing all night, according to the initial call, and had gone out back after quieting down, only to end the evening in a fistfight.

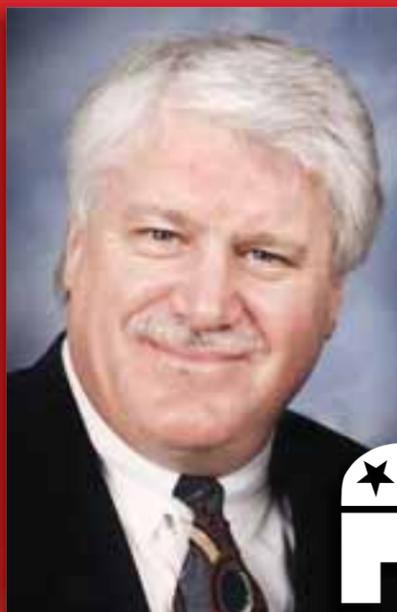
Both men were present when Wasson arrived, and one initially wanted to press charges, though Wasson did advise dispatchers that it was a "mutual combat" — in other words a fight in which both parties entered conflict and neither attempted to break off or retreat.

In cases of mutual combat, according to general legal definition, the plaintiff usually cannot lodge a complaint of assault or battery unless the defendant beat the plaintiff excessively or used unreasonable force.

— JPB and MML

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Stephen Hartgen



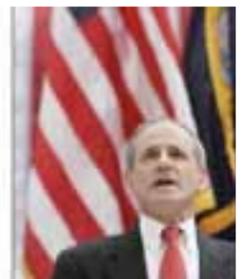
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Three subdivisions greenlit

P&Z OKs final plats, opening way for developers; commercial park plat awaits second hearing

Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission approved three residential subdivision final plats on Sept. 3, and took under advisement an initial application from Dickerson Investment Group (DIG) for a commercial park.

"The application was taken under advisement, the commissioners recessed, and they (DIG) have to come back with a modified development agreement as to several concerns that were raised," hearing officer Fred Grant said.

A date for approval won't be set until DIG comes back with a revision.

The initial concerns expressed by the P&Z commissioners included a possible widening of a curve in the road, where Poison Creek Road joins with U.S. Highway 95, and the addition of berms and landscaping around the lots. The P&Z board wanted to see attention paid to the appearance of the commercial park, Grant said, to avoid a site that was no more than a cluster of box-like warehouses. Questions as to whether there would be restrictions on the size of buildings, as well as what, if any, covenants, conditions and restrictions companies would have to adhere to on the site, would be addressed in the second hearing.

Planning and Zoning had not initially OK'd DIG's application for conditional use for the commercial park, as the property in question is in an agricultural

zone southwest of Marsing. After the P&Z board denied his permit application, developer Jerry Dickerson appealed to the Board of County Commissioners, which found in favor of Dickerson and allowed the exemption.

"(Former Idaho attorney general) David Leroy argued the case, and he did a good job of arguing," Grant, hearing officer and county consultant, said.

Leroy, an attorney based in Boise, argued successfully for DIG that the commissioners could allow the conditional use given the lack of a history of sustainable agriculture on the land.

The plat for DIG includes 30 acres now operating under conditional use as commercial property, with 18 of those acres platted as three-acre lots, an additional 10 acres of ground south of the lots not included in the plat, which are also available for future commercial use, and 19 acres zoned for residential use south of the commercial zone, Grant said.

Dickerson hasn't released his

plans for the commercial park yet, and specifics didn't arise in the hearing, Grant said.

"He plays that petty close to the vest, but I don't pry," he added.

The three residential subdivisions approved cover a total 186 acres.

Sunset Meadow Subdivision, located south of Marsing off Idaho highway 78, is a 43-acre parcel to be subdivided into numerous three-acre lots. The final plat was issued to Allen and Debra Lindner. The development is situated in a residential zone.

Hidden Valley Estates, Jess Van Hall's project, had its phase four subdivision final plat approved. The subdivision, located near Sunset Meadow, covers 37.2 acres and will be divided into 19 residential lots. The development is situated in a residential zone.

The third subdivision final plat approved applied to River Shores Estates, a project of Kastera Development LLC. The property consists of 106 acres, to be subdivided into 28 lots of three to five acres each, located in an agricultural zone but operating under a conditional use permit. It is located northwest of Homedale, off River Road and Northside Road.

—MML

HHS Homecoming hits high gear today

Homedale High School's Homecoming festivities get into full swing today with a pep rally and class competitions at Deward Bell Stadium.

Sports and themed dress days have marked the week thus far.

The Homecoming king and queen will be crowned Friday before a 7 p.m. football game against Melba at the stadium. A Homecoming dance will be held from 9 p.m. to midnight Saturday.

Tonight's pep rally starts at 6:15 p.m., and will be followed by tug of war and soccer competitions.

The powder puff starts at 6:45 p.m. Admission is \$1.

Thursday's schedule includes cross country and girls soccer events in Weiser and a boys soccer

game against Weiser at Sundance Park. The junior varsity football team travels to Melba.

Friday morning, the different classes will compete in a football throw (seniors), volleyball (juniors), shuttle run and field goal contest (sophomores) and basketball shooting (freshmen).

The Homecoming parade will be held at 2:15 p.m. Friday, 30 minutes after lineup begins.

Homedale High School principal Mike Williams said the Board of Trustees at its Monday meeting was scheduled to approve new parade guidelines in response to last year's pre-parade accident that seriously injured a freshman girl. Results from the meeting weren't available at press time.

Chamber sets its luncheon

Members of the Homedale Chamber of Commerce will hear about Treasure Valley Community College's expansion into Canyon County during the organization's monthly luncheon this week.

The meeting takes place at noon at Owyhee Lanes Restaurant.

According to an e-mail sent to Chamber members by Western Alliance for Economic Development coordinator Mike Pollard, there are 89 Homedale-area students currently enrolled at TVCC, which is headquartered in Ontario, Ore.

Pollard said that during the Chamber lunch TVCC Caldwell campus director Bruce Schultz will cover:

- A brief history of the TVCC Caldwell Center
- Current plans for growth and expansion
- An overview of customized training programs available for business organizations
- TVCC's professional technical degree programs aimed at workforce development and preparation

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Adrian man hurt in collision with Homedale city backhoe

A 68-year-old Adrian man was transported to a Caldwell hospital Thursday morning after the minivan he was driving collided with a Homedale City backhoe.

Gilbert Roy Enyart was transported to West Valley Medical Center by Homedale Ambulance after the accident during which the Dodge Caravan he was driving ran into a backhoe with city crewman Brad Hunt at the wheel. The collision occurred at the corner of 6th Avenue and Idaho highway 19 just after 9 a.m.

Enyart was groggy but conscious at the time of his transport. He was treated and released on Thursday. His uninjured passenger, a developmentally disabled young man named John, was transported home to Adrian by emergency services personnel.



Above: Gilbert Enyart of Adrian was treated and released after transport to West Valley Medical Center. Below left: Brad Hunt examines the damage to the backhoe.

Hunt said he was driving the 310SE John Deere backhoe westbound on Idaho 19 with a bucket-load of gravel. The accident occurred as Hunt was attempting to turn left onto 6th Avenue. Enyart was attempting to pass the piece of heavy machinery, according to statements from Hunt and as reported by Enyart to Homedale Police Officer Mike McFetridge.

"I was turning left and never even saw him," Hunt said at the scene. "I just felt something ... the back end shifted over a bit."

The Caravan suffered damage to its front right quadrant, and the driver's airbag had deployed. The 14,000-pound earthmover's left side step was crushed back against the diesel fuel tank of the machine, but had otherwise suffered little damage.



Young mountain biker airlifted to St. Alphonsus

On Saturday, Owyhee County Sheriff's Deputy George Reed radioed Silver City Fire and

Rescue on an incident involving a 12-year-old male who had crashed his mountain bike.

The youth was initially reported as possibly having a broken arm and a request for a ground ambulance was made.

That initial request was cancelled, and a request for an air ambulance was issued due to concerns of possible internal bleeding.

The injured boy was airlifted to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

No details were available as to name or status of the minor as of Monday.

Corrections

Devin Clagg, 23, of Homedale was misidentified as male in a news brief on the Interstate 84 pileup published last week, and was additionally the victim of a typographical error in her name. Clagg also gave an update to last week's story. She was transported to West Valley Medical Center, treated and released. An existing hip injury was exacerbated by her involvement in the five-car pileup, and she is seeing a chiropractor as well. Also not reported by the authorities was the fact that Clagg's 2-year-old niece also was in the vehicle at the time of the accident. Khloe Clagg was also treated and released.

The story on page 22 of the Sept. 3 issue of The Owyhee Avalanche covering the Owyhee County 4-H horse judging team was based on an e-mail erroneously attributed to Ann Rutan; the information and quotes were actually supplied by Leslie Jayo.

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City to help pay for airport ground work

Agreement struck last week stipulates money to be paid back at first of year

After proceeding in fits and starts, the Homedale City Council approved a general fund drawdown to bolster the municipal airport's effort to get development grants.

Councilmen unanimously agreed to spend \$4,000 in economic development funds to help finance leveling of a section of land adjacent to the airport that will be used for expansion. The approval came during a special meeting Wednesday and included the stipulation that the money will be repaid as the city receives fees from developers building new hangars and the airport lease rates double come Jan. 1.

Neither the development fee schedule — preliminarily set at \$1,000 per hangar — nor the lease increase from 2.5 cents per square foot to 5 cents per square foot has been approved by the council yet.

But one airplane enthusiast, Ron Warren of Washington state, already has presented the city with a check for \$3,000 to book three hangars on the new ground once it is leveled. Mayor Harold Wilson showed off Warren's check prior to Wednesday's vote.

The council accepted a bid of \$10,000 from New Plymouth-based Shippy Bros. Construction to level a patch of ground measuring just under three acres that will be dedicated to airport expansion as laid out in a map presented at the meeting by city public works

supervisor Larry Bauer. Months ago, the council agreed to devote 3½ acres to airport expansion.

Bauer said Shippy Bros. also will smooth out the remaining land in the seven-acre parcel that sits southeast of the airport.

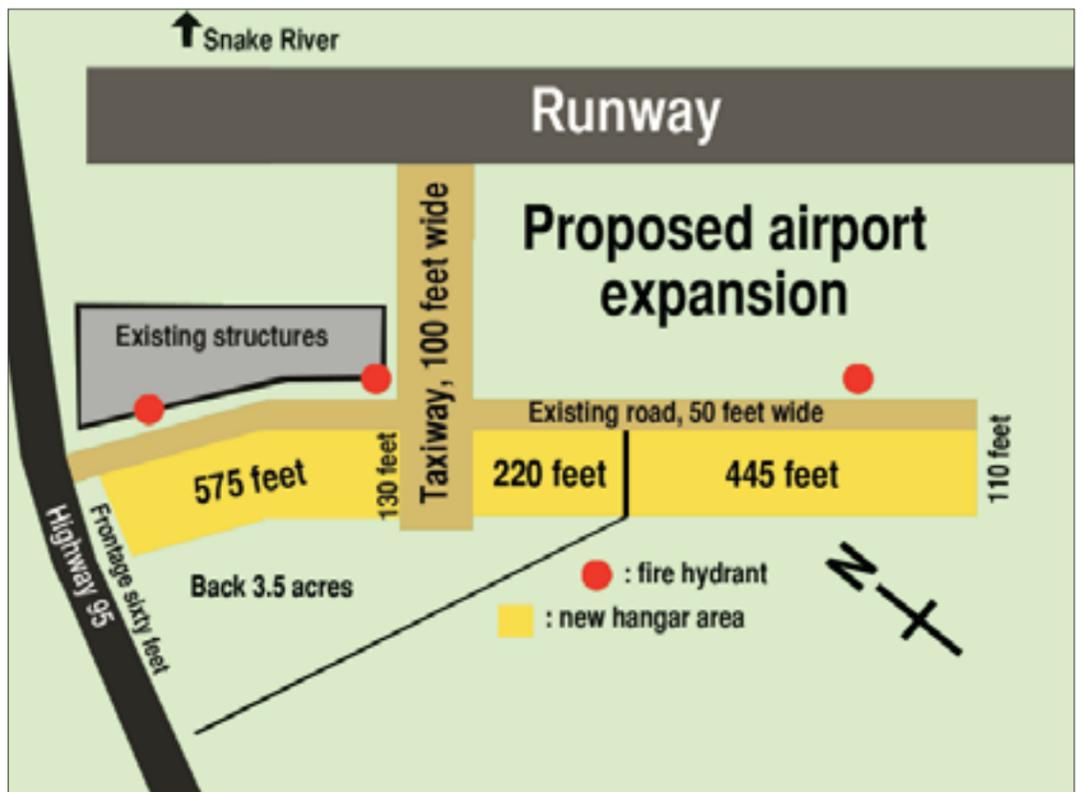
To finance the balance of the project cost — \$6,000 — the city will use proceeds from Warren's check and some money out of the airport fund. Local businessmen Ed Leavitt and Wayne King reportedly are interested in building hangars, too, which would result in another \$2,000 in development fees.

Although no formal vote was taken on increasing the lease rates, Bauer said the majority of the 13 tenants currently at the airport verbally agreed to go along with the plan. No motion was made on a suggestion to get the commitment in writing.

Councilman Aaron Tines, however, stressed that he wanted to see new leases drawn up with input from City Attorney Michael Duggan.

The city council, which has been locked in a fight to get funding for the leveling for more than a month, agreed to free up the money after hearing testimony from Bauer as well as Western Alliance for Economic Development coordinator Mike Pollard.

Pollard related a correspondence with the Idaho Department of



City unveils plan for airport

Homedale public works supervisor and airport manager Larry Bauer presented the City Council with a map of how the airport will use the three acres that have been approved for leveling.

Commerce, which contacted him asking about the progress of Homedale's application for a \$50,000 Gem grant.

"Frankly, we would be disappointed if Homedale did not proceed with the project," Pollard said, reading an e-mail from a Commerce official.

"That tells me they're pretty much on board with you," Pollard said.

Apparently Commerce was getting antsy because there is

a shelf life once a Gem Grant. Pollard stressed that the city should apply for the grant only when plans are in place to proceed with a project to pave around existing hangars at the airport because funds must be spent in the same fiscal year in which the grant is awarded.

In addition to the Gem Grant, the city has examined a larger grant from another state agency.

Any city-owned gravel not used in the leveling and smoothing by

Shippy Bros., could be sold to help raise about \$62,500 needed in matching funds for a \$187,500 state Division of Aeronautics grant, which has a three-year application window. The city doesn't have to apply for the full grant amount, which would lower the matching criteria.

"A lot of gravel will be left over," Bauer said. "And a lot of labor can be invested (for the aeronautics grant)."

— JPB

From page 1

✓ Hikes: Tonight's council meeting also will include transportation study update

massive rate hike to keep up with inflation.

He also suggested placing a clause in any new resolution that stipulates annual increases each Oct. 1 to battle inflationary trends.

Any rate increase approved by the council would go into affect for the new fiscal year Oct. 1. If approved, the resolution would increase the base monthly rate

for water users to \$19.29, and the base sewer fee would rise to \$10.46 per month. The total increase of the combined base rate would be 69 cents.

The city last raised rates for the utilities in 2006.

Also on tonight's agenda is a report on the highway transportation study being compiled for the city by Project Engineering Consultants, Inc.

The rest of the schedule includes reports from city departments and elected officials.

On Monday, the council will hold a workshop to give business owners an opportunity to provide input on the city's proposed vending license ordinance.

The workshop will be held at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

— JPB

EPA cites subdivision builder

A firm developing two residential subdivisions in Owyhee County has been fined by a federal agency for Clean Water Act violations.

Braman-Lambdin Enterprises, LLC, which runs construction sites for Bella Vista and Rio Vista Estates near the intersection of Idaho highway 78 and Idaho 45, paid a \$13,000 penalty to settle an enforcement case brought by

the Environmental Protection Agency.

An EPA press release said a routine inspection by EPA Region 10 officials found that Braman-Lambdin Enterprises failed to:

- Apply for permit coverage
- Adequately prevent erosion
- Include permanent storm water controls in its Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

The EPA's inspections assessed

compliance with the nationwide storm water Construction General Permit (CGP).

The permit requires construction site operators to plan for and implement storm water controls to protect surface waters from common construction pollutants such as sediment, oil and grease and concrete washout.

The EPA program has been in place for five years



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Obituary

Marjorie L. Crill Transue

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 2008, at Canyon Hill Cemetery, Caldwell.

Marge passed away July 26 with family by her side. She was born August 4, 1919, at home in Ontario, Ore., to Ray and Bessie Parsons.

Marge graduated from Kuna High School in 1937. In the summer of 1939 her Kuna softball team, for which she was catcher, went to Chicago to play for National Championship.

In September 1939 she married her high school sweetheart, Bernerd "Bud" Crill. They farmed in Kuna until moving to Caldwell in 1947, where they owned a milk hauling business. Bud passed away December 1956, leaving her to run the business and raise three children. She worked at the Canyon County Sheriff's office.

In 1961 she married Howard

Transue. He passed away in 1980. Marge moved to Homedale in 1981 and lived there until 2000, then moved back to Caldwell.

Marge made the best pie and when you visited, you could expect a piece of pie and a cup of coffee.

She was a member of the Gem of the Mountain Rebekah's, where she held many offices; also a member of Eastern Stars.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, brother Joe, sister and brother-in-law, Helen and Bob Davis and grandson Andy.

She is survived by daughters Wanda and Chuck of Homedale, Carra and Ellis Pennington of Wilder, son Jim Crill, nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild, several nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to Homedale Fire and Ambulance or your favorite charity.

Senior menus

Homedale center

Sept 10: BBQ beef, baked potato, peas & carrots, roll, beverage.

Sept 11: Spaghetti & meat sauce, tossed salad, roll, beverage.

Sept 16: Beef burritos, refried beans, rice, beverage.

Sept 17: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, grilled onions, California blend vegetables, roll, beverage.

Marsing center

Sept 10: Chicken pot pie, potato, salad w/egg, pork & beans, jello w/fruit, orange juice, berry crisp.

Sept 11: Roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, green salad, peas, roll, cake & ice cream.

Sept 15: Breakfast or order.

Sept 16: BBQ chicken, tater sticks, winter blend veggies, carrot-raisin-pineapple salad, roll, jello cake.

Sept 17: Lasagna, green salad, squash, French bread, cookies.

AARP driver course set for Marsing

The AARP Driving Safety Program returns to Owyhee County on Sept. 24-25 with a course at the Marsing Senior Center.

Ervin Gifford, the Area 3 district coordinator for the AARP education program, announced the lessons last week.

The class begins at 9 a.m. each day. Each session will last four hours. The course costs \$10. Call the center at 896-4634 or Gifford at 337-4647 to register.

Gifford said that although the class is tailored for drivers 55 and older, drivers of all ages can attend to erase three driving points from their record. Class size is limited to between 20 and 25 students, and registration will be taken until the class is filled. Gifford said registration might be available the day of the class, depending on how many sign up.

Gifford said that many insurance carriers offer discounts for drivers 55 and older who take the course every three years.

A Homedale class is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Oct. 8-9 at the senior center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. Call 337-4647 or 337-3020.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Sept. 10: Chicken nuggets or finger steaks, broccoli, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

Sept. 11: Chili or beef taco pie, roll, fruit & veggie bar, fruit rollup, milk.

Sept. 12: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

Sept. 15: Hamburger or fish sandwich, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

Sept. 16: Chicken tenders or country fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 17: Crispito or toasted cheese sandwich, tacos salad, fruit & veggie bar, churro, milk.

Homedale Middle

Sept. 10: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit rollup, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 11: Idaho Haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 12: Chicken tenders or chicken fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 15: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.

Sept. 16: Lasagna or pizza hot pocket, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, bread stock, milk.

Sept. 17: Enchilada or chicken & noodles, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.

Homedale High

Sept. 10: Enchilada, burrito or pizza hot pocket, baked potato, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 11: chicken patty, sandwich & soup or popcorn chicken, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.

Sept. 12: Crispito or rib-b-que, corn, taco salad, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 15: Pizza or chicken bacon melt, fruit & veggie bar, strawberry shortcake, milk.

Sept. 16: Beef nuggets or chicken strips, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Sept. 17: Lasagna, burrito or pizza hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Marsing High

Sept. 10: Pizza, garden salad, sandwiches, salad bar, milk, fruit bar.

Sept. 11: Rib-b-que, salad bar, milk, fruit bar.

Sept. 12: Cheese burger, potato wedges, chicken salad wrap, salad bar, milk, fruit bar.

Sept. 15: Turkey, roll, chicken fried steak, salad bar, milk, fruit bar.

Sept. 16: Wiener wrap, veggie, dessert, sandwiches, salad bar, milk, fruit bar.

Sept. 17: Chicken burger, veggie, soup & sandwiches, salad bar, milk, fruit bar.

Bruneau

Sept. 10: Chili & crackers, coleslaw, applesauce, cinnamon roll, milk.

Sept. 11: Chicken nuggets, potatoes/gravy, green beans, peaches, roll/butter, milk.

Sept. 12: Hamburger/bun, pasta salad, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

Sept. 15: No school.

Sept. 16: Haystacks, corn, mixed fresh fruit, spiced cake, milk.

Sept. 17: Corn dog, tots, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

Sept. 18: Cheese yum, chicken noodle soup, celery & peanut butter, fruit, milk.

Sept. 19: Chicken wrap, fried rice, stir fry veggie, fruit, cherry crisp, milk.

Death notices

STEPHEN CHARLES ERICKSON, 53, of Marsing, died Saturday, Aug. 9, 2008, in Marsing. Arrangements are under the direction of Newton-Bracewell Chico Funeral Home in California.

RUBY ELLEN FISHER, 84, of Garden Grove, Calif., passed away on Sept. 5, 2008 at a Garden Grove care center. A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery. A viewing will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008, at Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

BONITA "BONNY" C. WILLER, 64, of Caldwell, one-time secretary for the Marsing Senior Center, died Monday, Sept. 1, 2008, at home. Arrangements are through Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell.

BETTY LOU YOSHIKANE, 75, of Melba passed away Monday, Sept. 8, 2008, at the home of her son. Arrangements are pending under the direction of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale.

Friends church parenting class begins eight-week run on Sunday

An eight-week parenting class begins Sunday at the Homedale Friends Church, which is located north of Homedale over the river at 17434 Hwy. 95.

The course, entitled "Parenting with Love and Logic", will run from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. each Sunday through Nov. 2.

Homedale Elementary School counselor Randee Garrett will facilitate the course.

The class will emphasis an

approach to raising children that provides loving support from parents while at the same time expecting kids to be respectful and responsible.

Any parents with children of any age are welcome to participate in the class.

The church also will have Sunday School for all ages, and nursery care is available.

For more information, call 337-3464.

Flahiff Funeral Chapels & Crematory

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(208) 459-0833

Homedale

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



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Your finances Simple factors play large role in inflation

Dear Dave,

What exactly is inflation, what causes it and what can we do to stop it?

— Janine

Dear Janine,

Basically, inflation is the increase in the cost of something. For example, if the inflation rate of gasoline is 10 percent, that means the cost of gas went up by 10 percent.

There are a lot of variables involved when the price of a product increases. One of these is simple supply-and-demand economics. This means that if there's a shortage of a product, it's perceived to be more valuable. The result of this is almost a bidding war of sorts, and it will cause prices to go up.

The opposite is true if there's an over-abundance of a product or item. If you've got 10 people wanting 100 items, then you've got a soft market, and the prices will go down. That's called "deflation."

That's a pretty simple factor, but the variables can get complicated and interconnected. If you're buying food from another country, that particular country's economic situation affects our economy because it's a component of our economy.

Or let's say you're building a house, and shingles for the roof are more expensive than they used to be. Well, there's oil in shingles, and the price of a box of shingles may have gone up because the price of oil went up. So then, you're looking at a scenario where oil caused housing prices to rise.

Great question, Janine!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My husband and I have our emergency fund in place, and we're about to start the debt snowball. We're also doing a budget, but we still have trouble finding money to put toward our lowest debt. Plus, Christmas is getting closer. The company we financed our car with allows us to skip a payment once a year. What do you think about using that to help out?

— Sarah

Dear Sarah,

What do I think? I think you guys need to create some income.

The issue here is that you're trying to treat the symptom instead of the problem. The symptom is that you guys are tight on money. The problem is that you have too



much debt versus income. In this kind of situation, you've got to either create extra income or get rid of some stuff. Just skipping a payment won't do that for you. All that does is postpone the inevitable. But getting rid of a big car payment — now THAT helps solve the problem!

It may take a little while to get these things going — and you guys may have to go easy on Christmas this year — but once you do these things you'll find some wiggle room where your money is concerned!

— Dave

Dear Dave,

My wife and I bought a house last year when we were making \$50,000 a year. Now, we make \$120,000 a year, and we'd like to move up in house. The problem is that we still have \$23,000 in other debts. What's your rule for determining when you're ready to move up?

— Dustin

Dear Dustin,

Congratulations on raising the income! You guys have really been kicking it.

If it were me, I'd wait until I had the first three Baby Steps in place — start out with a \$1,000 emergency fund, pay off all debt except the house and then fully fund your emergency fund with enough money to cover three to six months of expenses. After that, save up to make a 20 percent down payment on the house you want.

I'll tell you something, Dustin. If you move into a home with an emergency fund in place and no payments, that home will really be a blessing to you. But until then you're just begging Murphy to move into your spare bedroom!

You're not quite in the driver's seat yet, but you can be soon. And it will feel really good!

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*. For more financial advice, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to syndication@daveramsey.com or write *Dave Says*, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

Calendar

Today

Homedale senior center board meeting

1 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Homedale City Council meeting

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

HHS Homecoming pep rally

6:15 p.m., rally, class tug of war, soccer competition and powder puff football, Deward Bell Stadium

DivorceCare recovery support group

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

Grand View City Council meeting

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

Marsing City Council meeting

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

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting

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

Thursday

Exercise class

10:45 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

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) 337-3271

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 Conservation District board meeting

8 p.m., 250 N Old Bruneau Highway, Marsing. (208) 896-4544

Owyhee County Fair Board meeting

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

Friday

Mentoring Network fundraiser

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Paul's Market, 20 E. Wyoming Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3164

HHS Homecoming parade

2:15 p.m., downtown Homedale

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

Jim Risch for U.S. Senate fundraiser

6 p.m., dinner and music, \$20 for adults, children younger than 12, free, Sandbar Restaurant outdoor park, 18 1st Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 834-2275, ext. 342

Saturday

Silver City Open House

Noon to 5 p.m., tickets: adults, \$10; children younger than 12, \$5 (available noon to 4 p.m.), Silver City. (208) 583-4104

Senior Soiree Night Out fundraiser

5 p.m., dinner show to benefit Homedale Senior Citizens Center and Meals on Wheels, \$35 couples, \$20 adults, \$10 children younger than 12, Homedale Seniors Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3164 or (208) 559-0914

Sunday

Parenting class

9:30 a.m., "Parenting with Love and Logic",

Homedale Friends Church, 17434 Hwy. 95. (208) 337-3464

Silver City Open House

Noon to 5 p.m., tickets: adults, \$10; children younger than 12, \$5 (available noon to 4 p.m.), Silver City. (208) 583-4104

Monday

County commissioners meeting

Courtroom 2, Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy

Homedale City Council workshop

7 p.m., vending license ordinance, City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave. (208) 337-4641

Marsing Lions Club meeting

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

Tuesday

Exercise class

10:45 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

El-Ada commodity distribution

1 p.m. to 4 p.m., El-Ada Owyhee office, 15 W. Colorado Ave. Homedale. (208) 337-4812

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

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, September 18

Exercise class

10:45 a.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

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

AA meeting

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

Friday, September 19

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, September 20

Bruneau Round Up rodeo

12:30 p.m., Bruneau Rodeo Grounds

Bruneau Round Up barbecue

5 p.m., Bruneau American Legion Post 83 hall

Homedale FFA Harvest Auction and Dinner

6 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. auction, Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., Homedale.

Dance

7 p.m., live music, admission \$3 and finger food, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave. (208) 337-3020

Bruneau Round Up dance

9 p.m., Bruneau community park

Bruneau Round Up midnight breakfast

Midnight, Cowboy's Pastime

How to submit information: Drop off at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jbrownditor@cablone.net. For information, call (208) 337-4681.

How the county's budget shapes up

Clerk/auditor

The county clerk's office payroll was reduced from \$287,326 in FY 2008 to \$262,547 for the year that begins Oct. 1 with the reduction in the days of operation in the Homedale Magistrate Court. That reduction forced cutting a part-time clerk from four days per week to one, and trimming the full-time court clerk's hours to three days per week.

The total clerk budget was cut 11.2 percent to \$368,766.

Assessor

Reorganization of the assessor's office workforce helped knock \$44,045 out of the department's FY 2009 budget, a dip of 15.7 percent.

One deputy assessor position was moved to the revaluation side of the county ledger, while another deputy assessor post that had been contracted for a time during FY 2008 wasn't funded for full-time. Those moves accounted for more than \$34,000 in the total budget reduction.

The commissioners also refused to fund the bulk of a \$28,500 capital outlay request from Assessor Brett Endicott. Endicott received just \$1,500 of the request. He said during the budget hearing that he requested \$14,000 for a new filing system and he added that he didn't spend \$13,000 granted in FY 2008 in preparation to buy office furniture for the expanding Marsing branch of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

As of Aug. 28, Endicott had only spent 2 percent of his more than \$18,000 in capital outlay funds for the current year.

Meanwhile, the telephone toll line item in Endicott's budget, which he requested be set at \$1,200 as has been the amount since at least FY 2006, ballooned to \$16,000. Sherburn said the commissioners raised this line item to fund utility costs for all departments that will use the new Marsing satellite office in the old Owyhee Conservation District Building. Sherburn said that the move was made because of how late in the fiscal year that the OCD deal was closed and that the individual utility bills for each department using the building will be re-figured for the FY 2010 budget.

Treasurer

The payroll drops 14.3 percent to \$85,759 after the commissioners didn't fund a deputy treasurer position present in the FY 2008 budget. The total budget for the office of treasurer and tax collector goes down 15.2 percent (\$22,179).

According to the budget worksheet available at the budget hearing, the treasurer's office was over budget for telephone toll calls by 53 percent (\$1,220.55 on a budget of \$800).

Sheriff

The sheriff's office budget has been reduced 4.6 percent (or \$57,973), and Sheriff Gary Aman said that has forced cuts in overtime, training, search and rescue funding, patrol hours, office supplies, dispatch sup-

plies and tires.

The fuel budget will skyrocket 53.8 percent to \$90,000. With a month left in the fiscal year, the sheriff's office had spent 140 percent of the fuel budget allocated for FY 2008, but overall the office was 14 percent under budget as of Aug. 28.

Aman said that his budgets have been traditionally lean with few unspent funds (what he terms "turn-over"). Aman said he has begun curbing costs on cell phones and training in preparation for the FY 2009 crunch.

Adding to the office's budgetary constraints will be personnel drawbacks with the courts requesting more security. Aman told District Three trial court administrator Dan Kessler during the budget hearing that supplying full-time security for the courts would mean putting a deputy in a courtroom 12 days out of every 28. On average, deputies work 14 days out of every 28, so Aman said court security will "pretty much" require a full-time person, drawing resources away from patrol.

"This is going to be the biggest challenge I have seen in the last 12 years," Aman said.

Commissioners

One of the few budgets that increased (up 18.3 percent), the board of commissioners budget rose in large part because of the addition of \$20,000 for professional services contracts.

The increase is to help the commissioners bring in legal advice when the prosecuting attorney is unable to attend meetings or is unavailable for consultation. Last year, \$30,000 was placed in the prosecuting attorney's budget to hire a deputy PA to fill that role, but incoming PA Douglas Emery has said he will try to perform those duties in addition to the criminal aspects of the office.

Coroner

Longtime county coroner Harvey Grimme had his budget cut 19.3 percent, which equates to cuts in training, supplies, travel, meals, tires and office equipment. The budget worksheet also reflects the commissioners denied a request to more than double the salary budget for deputy coroners from \$4,200 to \$8,500.

Grimme said that Canyon County may reinstate a staff pathologist in its coroner's office, which would reduce the cost of such procedures for Owyhee County. Ada County staff helps with autopsies now, which Grimme said is more expensive than transporting to Canyon for tests. Grimme's autopsy budget is set at \$13,500, but he less than \$3,000 of that same amount as of Aug. 28 for FY 2008.

Prosecuting attorney

The budget with which incoming PA Douglas Emery will have to work is 9.1 percent leaner than FY 2008, equating to a cut of \$26,564, or a little less than the \$30,000 budgeted last

year to hire a deputy prosecutor.

If District 2 Commissioner Harold "Hal" Tolmie has his way, though, the prosecutor's budget will lose another \$105,000 sometime in January, although none of that money actual comes out of county coffers.

In the regular commissioners meeting held prior to the budget hearing, Tolmie made it clear that he wanted the administration of the Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) position transferred to Canyon County.

"I'll go to the next Treasure Valley Partnership meeting and tell (Canyon) that it's their baby now," Tolmie said.

The SAUSA position was requested by TVP's membership entities to help fight crime in the valley. Owyhee County has administrated the salary and benefits for the position through its budget, but the funds come solely from TVP and the state. The county does absorb the costs of administering the salary through its payroll, though.

District 3 Commissioner Dick Freund said incoming Canyon prosecuting attorney John Bujak has expressed an interest in assuming administration of the SAUSA position, adding that Ada County or the Idaho State Police could take on the responsibility, too, because those entities also benefit from the federal attorney's work.

Meanwhile, the budget worksheet revealed that the PA's office was 41 percent over budget for benefits for FY 2008 as of Aug. 28. The largest over-runs were seen in medical insurance, retirement and Social Security.

Building and grounds

Despite being 78.6 percent over budget on expenses for the Armory building in Homedale, the overall Building and Grounds budget was cut 9.8 percent for FY 2009. County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn reported that the Armory, which is still owned by the National Guard, brought in \$12,500 in rental fees to the county in FY 2008.

The budget for heating fuel was increase from \$14,500 to \$20,000 as that line was over budget by more than \$2,300 in FY 2008 as of Aug. 28.

One of the largest cuts in the budget was dropping the salary for a part-time employee from \$3,000 in FY 2008 to \$1,000 in '09.

Civil Defense

By cutting funds available for education programs by \$5,000, the commissioners slashed the Civil Defense budget by 9.5 percent. Little else in the budget changed.

County agent

The commissioners decided to continue funding for the 4-H coordinator position through the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office. It was feared that the state would discontinue money for the position, putting the entire burden on the county to keep the coordinator

position — currently filled by Judith McShane — in existence.

But the state came through with funding to help UI continue the program in its extension system, and the commissioners OK'd more than \$26,000 for the position. Sherburn said the university will pay \$13,000 of the FY 2009 salary. Furthermore, Freund said the commissioners changed their stance on eliminating the position when it was discovered that McShane coordinates a program that involves 750 children in the county and also provides an after-school curriculum.

As of Aug. 28, the 4-H coordinator position was 26.6 percent over budget for FY 2008. Additionally, the county agent budget had an over-run of 30 percent in salaries for part-time help.

Even with the continuance of the 4-H coordinator position, the county agent overall budget was trimmed 8.2 percent, or a little more than \$10,500.

Elections

The budget through which the county pays for elections, such as the general election coming up on Nov. 4, dipped 5 percent to \$19,800. Meanwhile, some audience members asked if more money could be saved in the future if the Idaho Legislature finally approved the mail ballot option statewide.

Sherburn said that legislators are growing less agreeable to such a system. "They think there's too much chance of fraud," she said.

"We try to save as much as we can on elections, but you still have to be very careful," Sherburn said. "Everyone deserves the right to vote."

Building department

Even with a stipulation to retain a deputy clerk slated for layoff until Dec. 31 to lessen the burden on other workers in the Building and Planning and Zoning departments, the Building Department will see one of the most drastic cuts, 28.6 percent or \$30,962.

Building Inspector Arlyn Tietz will have his hours cut from eight per day to 7½ per day.

The cuts were necessitated because fewer permit filings have reduced the department's revenue stream, Sherburn has said.

Planning and Zoning

The Planning and Zoning budget has been slashed by nearly the same amount as was slated for professional services in FY 2008 when the Idaho Energy Complex had filed a conditional use permit application to build a nuclear power plant near Bruneau.

The budget drops 63.5 percent from more \$466,412 to \$170,437. Commissioners pared a request for a \$50,000 professional services budget down to a little more than \$26,800 for FY 2009.

Erwin questioned the role of Fred Kelly Grant as both a hearing officer and legal counsel for the Planning

and Zoning Commission, contending that the county would be wise to have both a hearing officer and counsel to prevent awkward conflicts.

Freund said that Emery's goal come January is to have expert counsel available for those P&Z hearings at which legal questions arise.

"The plan for the new prosecutor is to have several people of different expertise on retainer — I guess you'd call it — to bring in for advice on hearings," Freund said.

The county needs legal representation at most hearings nowadays, though, because applicants consistently bring legal counsel, prosecuting attorney Matthew Faulks said.

Erwin suggested that legal experts don't have to be present at the hearings, but should be available telephonically if a question arises during the proceedings.

More professional services may be needed as the county begins to review its comprehensive plan in 2009, Freund said.

General

While the professional services budget for the Planning and Zoning Department was curtailed, the same budget line under the General budget in the Current Expense portion of county finances rose nearly 140 percent over FY 2008's \$20,000 allotment. Only about \$3,500 had been spent as of Aug. 28.

The rise in the professional services budget made up for a shift of Owyhee County Natural Resources Committee director Jim Desmond's salary from a dedicated "OCNRC director" line item into the Professional Services column. Freund said the commissioner moved the money to get more flexibility because Desmond deals with so many different agencies as a liaison for the county.

The contract of public defender William Wellman also is paid out of this budget item, which was slashed by about \$23,000 in total.

Technology

As of Aug. 28, two line items were a total of 223 percent over budget for FY 2008 as the county spent more than anticipated on computer software and computer repairs and maintenance (about \$24,000 compared to a budgeted figure of \$13,500).

The commissioners compensated in FY 2009, slashing \$27,000 out of computer hardware and computer support contract budgets as compared to 2008. The cuts helped trim the total budget by about 10 percent.

Jail

Commissioners ordered more than \$11,600 cut out of the budget Sheriff Gary Aman uses to run the county jail. The sheriff said the jailers took a hit in their overtime allowances, which was cut in half from \$20,000 in FY 2008 to \$10,000 for the new fiscal year.

According to the worksheet, the

— See *Overview*, page 13A

From page 1

✓ Budget: Commissioners take 2 meetings to pass FY 2009 spending plan

a tough one," Hoagland said. "We've had to make some serious decisions."

The commissioners didn't approve the budget after a 2½-hour hearing on Sept. 2. Chief probation officer Doris Jewett questioned whether state tobacco settlement funds were being properly used in her budget,

and the board decided to recess the hearing until more discussion could be held Thursday. Jewett has been in negotiations with the commissioners throughout the budget process in an attempt to save a position in her department that has been slated for elimination.

County clerk Charlotte

Sherburn said the commissioners reconvened Thursday for further discussion on the probation department budget, but approved the overall budget without any changes at the end of the session.

The budget approved last week upheld the job cuts originally ordered by the commissioners,

including three full-time positions in the road districts, a full-time position in the probation department, one full-time position the weed control department, two part-time jobs in the court clerks staff and a part-time job in the building department.

Furthermore, any non-essential positions that become vacant

during the year will not be filled, according to Sherburn. Among those positions will be the post currently held by sheriff's Deputy Daryl Crandall when he is sworn in as sheriff in January.

For a department-by-department look at how funding has changed from FY 2008 to FY 2009, see Page 8A.

MRW auction fest finds funds for firefighters

Bidding cards waved, voices called and money changed hands to the tune of \$11,000 at the annual Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson (MRW) and Central Owyhee Quick Response Unit auction at Givens Hot Springs on Saturday.

The event attracted more than 900 bidders, family and friends, MRW Fire Chief Jim Mackenzie said.

The array of items up for bid was staggering. Everything from plane rides to furnishings, from art to leather Harley-Davidson halter-tops, came under the gavel of Parma's Col. Bob Hopkins. Hopkins kept up a rapid-fire patter and moved through the hundreds of donated items with skill and style.

The \$11,000 earned is a whopping 33 percent of the MRW's annual budget, Mackenzie said.

"It was absolutely phenomenal ... we had people there until 9 or 9:30," the chief added.

"That money will cover our budget for the rest of the year, on fuel and everything," he said. "We usually have \$34,000 or \$36,000 a year to work with. So we really appreciate all the support from everyone that showed

up and all our sponsors."

The auction helps keep the MRW units on the road and equipped, as well as helping to amass the funds needed to replace or refit equipment. It's also a good chance for a geographically spread-out area to come together and form a community bond, Mackenzie said.

Those who weren't there for the big event still profited from the MRW free barbecue that accompanied the event.

"All our leftover food went to the Hope House (in Marsing)," Mackenzie said.

There wasn't a whole lot left over, though. The crowd, who ate for free, consumed the bulk of a 171-pound roast pig, two 30-pound beef roasts, two 30-pound buffalo roasts, a case-and-a-half of hamburger patties, 400 pieces of chicken and 300 hot dogs. The MRW had to send people to town to load up on extra hot dogs at one point, Mackenzie said.

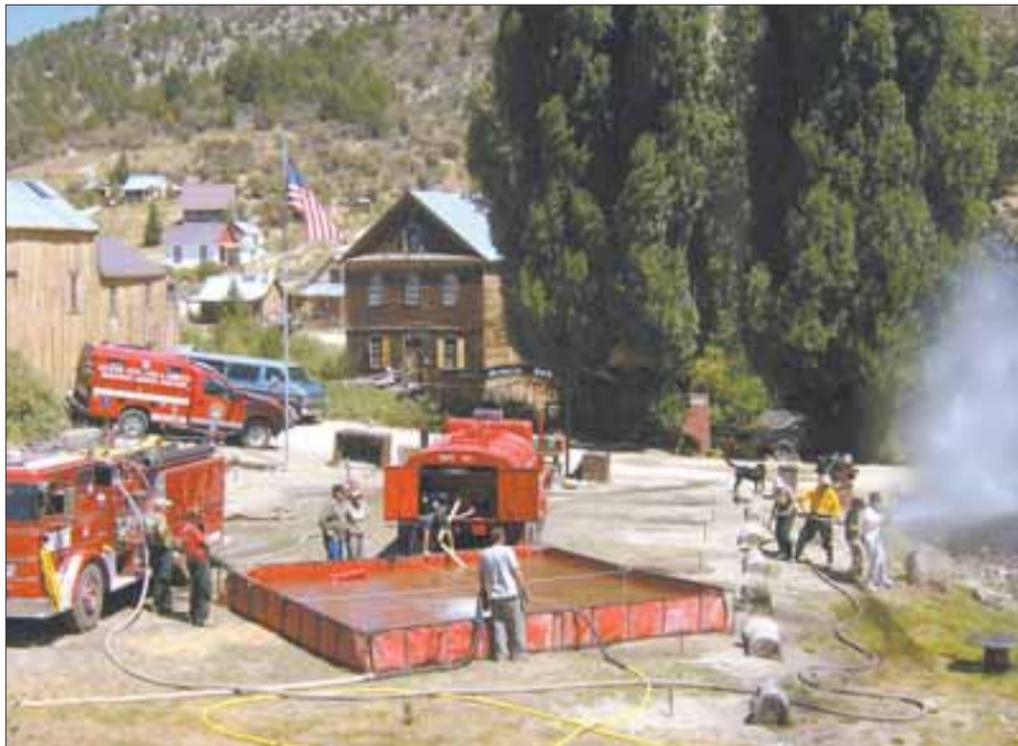
"It was a huge success," he added. "People we didn't even know were helping us to set up. We're doing it the same weekend next year — the Saturday after Labor Day."

— MML



Fishing for bids

From left: Auctioneer Col. Bob Hopkins of Hopkins Auctioneers out of Parma, Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire Chief Jim Mackenzie and firefighter Wes Anderson put in a long day of high-energy auctioneering at the annual MRW auction at Givens Hot Springs on Saturday. The auction saw a crowd estimated at 900-plus and sales totaling more than \$11,000. The St. Luke's Air medical helicopter made an appearance, but was called away after an hour to perform a transport.



SCF&R demonstrates its new portable tank

Submitted photo

Silver City Fire and Rescue rolls out gear for field day

Volunteers from the Silver City Fire & Rescue Inc., showed what the agency's equipment can do during a Wildland Field Day last month in Silver City.

The firefighters pumped and sprayed 27,000 gallons of water during the Aug. 16 event. SCF&R president Jim Hyslop said no water from the town's distribution system was used, with all the water coming from a nearby creek.

"Even when the water level in the creek is low, SCF&R can provide fire protection in Silver City," Hyslop said.

The field day helped complete SCF&R's match for a Bureau of Land Management Rural Fire Assistance Grant. Three BLM personnel attended the Field Day. J

"I feel confident in what I see here," BLM Boise District Fire Operations representative Josh Renz said.

The field day began with a video presentation in the Masonic Hall encouraging property owners to create defensible space around their homes for protection from a wildfire.

SCF&R staged their 1964 Howe Defender structure fire truck next to a 5,000-gallon portable water tank. A portable pump helped fill the tank from nearby Long Gulch Creek.

Two water trucks took turns off-loading water into the portable tank before returning to Jordan Creek to be refilled by the agency's 1973 American General fire truck.

A 2,100-gallon portable tank was set up across from the Masonic Hall and filled from Jordan Creek. SCF&R's 1984 Chevrolet brush truck pumped water from the portable tank to a progressive hose lay. A similar hose set up could provide protection from fire brands for a number of homes at one time, an SCF&R official said.

"For the first time, SCF&R has put all our equipment in use showing our capabilities," fire chief Doug Trosky said. "This day's activities showed us where we are and where we need to go."

The field day ended with a potluck barbecue at the home of David and Sara Miller.

Silver City Open House offers tours of history

The general public will get a chance to tour historic buildings normally off limits this weekend in Silver City.

The annual Silver City Open House will take place from noon to 5 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets — available for donations: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children younger than 12 — will be available until 4 p.m. both days. Proceeds help finance a watchman to protect existing buildings against vandalism and fire.

All the buildings in the open house are privately owned, many by descendants of the original families.

Food and drinks are available at Idaho Hotel.

For more information on the open house, call the hotel at (208) 583-4104.

The former county seat of Owyhee County, Silver City was established in 1864 and became a boomtown because of mining operations.

25th Bruneau Roundup a go

The date has changed, but the tradition goes on Sept. 20-21 for the 25th annual Bruneau Roundup rodeo.

The entry books open today. Call Lez Rahn at (208) 845-2670 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. to enter stock saddle bronc and local roping events. Call Juanita O'Maley of Slash T Rodeo Co., at (208) 934-0939 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. today to enter saddle bronc, bareback and bull riding.

Several other events are related to the rodeo weekend, including a barbecue, a dance and a midnight breakfast on Sept. 20.

The rodeo will begin at 12:30 p.m. both days at the Bruneau Rodeo Grounds.

Admission is \$6 for adults each day. Senior citizens get in for \$5 each day, and children ages 7-12 will be admitted for \$4 daily. Children 6 years old and younger get in free. Proceeds go toward the rodeo pot, improving the rodeo grounds and planning for next year's rodeo.

Rahn said the second annual old hide race will be held both days. The race is open to women 40 and older, and entries will be taken both days of the rodeo at the beer booth.

New for this year is the Women's Lottery Dash. Women 18 and older will get a chance to hop the fence and run into the rodeo arena to collect as many Idaho Lottery scratch tickets as they can.

Dale Blanthorn and Ron Prow, who worked with the original Roundup's rodeo predecessor, will be honored as grand marshals to lead the grand entrance each day of the rodeo.

On Sept. 20, a barbecue dinner will be served at 5 p.m. at the Bruneau American Legion Post 83 hall with proceeds going to the American Legion.

The barbecue will be \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12. Kids younger than 6 eat for free.

A dance will be held at Bruneau Park from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., on Sept. 20. Admission is \$5 per person or \$8 per couple.

A biscuits and gravy breakfast will be served at the Cowboy's Pastime from midnight until closing for \$5.

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association also will sell raffle tickets for its annual Dodge pickup giveaway to benefit the Owyhee Cattlemen's Heritage Foundation.

From page 1

√ Fuel: Proponents differ on breadth of violations that would carry fee

Cowen said.

"If you look at the way fines are set up in this state, a very small amount of the actual fine is a fine. Ninety percent of that goes back to the jurisdiction that issues the citation, the rest of the structure is set up for fees that go to EMS, the POST academy and so on."

It wouldn't be an unusual fee; it would just be one more attached to a traffic citation or a criminal offense, he explained. The fee wouldn't be a new concept; it's just an addition that would go toward a specific fund.

The legislation will likely be introduced in some form during the 2009 legislative session, which begins in January in Boise.

"I've talked to some people, and we're just waiting for the legislative period to start," Cowen said.

While Cowen would like to see the surcharge on all citations and convictions, Eidemiller argued for limiting the additional fee to moving violations and vehicular misdemeanors, saying that it was important to tie the funds to the patrol activities that directly correlated.

"It's got to be traffic. We'd have to be able to directly relate it to the cost of fuel — which to me would

be any traffic infraction or traffic misdemeanor," Eidemiller said. "To me that's the way it would make sense.

"Make the added fuel burden go back to the people that are responsible — make the people who are getting the citations pay the costs, not the taxpayers at-large."

The chief stressed that income from the added surcharge would be dedicated to keeping law enforcement vehicles running.

"It's important that people know it's not meant to be a revenue generator — the funds could only be used for maintenance, gas and vehicles," Eidemiller said. "The intended purpose is to try and find a way to manage the fuel costs without passing all of the associated costs on to the taxpayers, because we're burdening the taxpayers to death, and that's a concern."

"Basically what they're trying to do is to look at moving violations and put a surtax on there of \$10," Perry said. That money, under the plan, would go directly to the agency to their budgetary line item for fuel.

The idea is new, and was only really discussed informally as of the end of August. At this point,

those working on the possible legislation are drumming up support and seeing who would be willing to get on board with the idea, Perry said.

Perry, who is his district's vice president for the Idaho Chiefs of Police association, has begun contacting chiefs in the area to gather opinions and get input. So far, there has been interest in the idea, and in how it would be legislated, he said.

The "how" of the legislation will be the crux of the matter, according to legislators.

Depending on how it's going to be written, the surcharge could lead to fears of departments encouraging a quota system on ticketing to ensure they have additional funds for fuel. Legislators and organizers both were clear on this specific concern. How to avoid the appearance of encouraging citations is the primary worry at this stage.

"That's going to be a little difficult — that's our main concern, the language. Also how to legally direct funds into a budgetary line item," Perry said.

Still, it's a tempting prospect. "I can't say we're a hundred percent behind it; it'll depend on how it's drafted," Perry said,

speaking for his local department and Mayor Duke Morton of Gooding. "So far we're leaning toward it, but it all depends on how it's drafted."

Legislators themselves were cautiously interested.

District 23 state Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson) had not heard about the proposal.

"It's an interesting concept. I'd be interested to hear more about it. There's no doubt that higher fuel has stretched all the budgets, and law enforcement is no exception," Brackett said. "We either need to increase revenue or find other ways to cut, which, now, comes as fewer patrols and fewer hours, which at some point affects public safety. It's city, it's county, it's across the board — I think we need to put most everything on the table and take a comprehensive look."

If the legislation could be drafted as it has been discussed, Brackett thought there was something to be said for a system that would put the onus for fueling police on those offenders they have to drive around to deal with.

He did express caution that any piece of new legislation would have to be examined closely.

"I think we need to take a comprehensive look — we can get unintended consequences, and we don't want any surprises as to what this might do, but on the surface it seems to have merit and it's certainly worth considering," Brackett said.

District 23 Seat A House Rep. Jim Patrick (R-Twin Falls) was cautionary, as well. He expressed some serious worries over the possibility of abuse that might arise, though he hoped the legislation could be written in such a way as to avoid the problem.

"I haven't heard of any movement to do that (adding a surcharge), though I knew the Twin Falls County sheriff had suggested that the county be able to keep the fees (from citations) for costs — which they haven't been able to do," Patrick said.

"Part of the problem that I see, and maybe it could be written where it wouldn't be, but if you give an incentive to give tickets, that isn't exactly good, either. There's always resistance to some sort of incentive for tickets. That's a concern. It would be for a lot of

people."

The Idaho State Police were possibly going to see its fueling budget line moved under the general fund of the state in an effort to deal with gas costs, Patrick said, admitting that that didn't address the fuel cost problem felt on the local level. The possible additional charge attached to offenses might, though he was cautious of endorsing the concept glowingly.

"It's an idea," he said. How to ensure that any legislation that came about would be both even-handed and not easily abused would take considerable discussion before the legislation could even be submitted, Patrick said.

"We do have a problem with fuel costs for local law enforcement agencies. And we don't want them sitting at home with no fuel. We need to address this somehow. I don't know if adding to the tickets is the correct answer, but if we could put some sideboards on it (the legislation) so as to not encourage excess ticket writing just for the money, then it might work," Patrick said.

"I hate quotas. Sure, if someone's breaking the law, they deserve a ticket, but sometimes there's a fine line."

Patrick stressed his disdain for quotas would fire up his scrutiny of any legislation.

"That would be the hang-up I would have, as to its possible abuse," he said. "But if it could be written to avoid that — I think we have to do something. I do support law enforcement, but I'm just not sure how to make that (the additional cost) work right."

Cowen agreed that the phrasing of the legislation was important, but didn't see the quota issue — outside a possible perception problem — as being something that would actually need much management.

"I understand the concern over ticket quotas, but I've been in law enforcement over 20 years — that's my real job — and I don't know of an agency out there that actually requires quotas for traffic citations or arrests or anything else," he said.

Mayor Wilson declined to comment in deference to Cowen.

— MML



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Raffle winner donates prize

June Briggs of Marsing won a redwood arbor in a raffle drawing and promptly donated the structure to the Owyhee Gardeners' beautification project at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds in Homedale.

Owyhee Gardeners president Sharon McIlveen announced that Briggs had won the club's raffle while thanking everyone who had entered. She also thanked Briggs for the donation of the arbor to the fairgrounds project.

Keep up with county news in the *Avalanche*

Three Creek

by Lola Blossom

Most all of the ranchers have their hay up and report a good crop. Right now the biggest worry is the big fire burning close in the Jarbidge Wilderness area.

Santa Valdez, who worked many years for Bert Brackett's Flat Creek Ranch and then left for a while, is back working for Ira Brackett at Roseworth. He and Elvira now have three children.

Drew Elsner is a cowboy for Simplot's Seven Triangle outfit.

The Diamond A outfit had the crickets descend upon them earlier. Manager Kevin Chapin is trying to get the Nevada Fish and Game to issue more cow elk permits. The elk are multiplying too fast.

Mary Bess of Buhl is returning to her old home in Jarbidge and will soon be postmistress of the village. As the daughter of Judge Johnny Williams, she went all through grade school at the Three Creek school. At the eighth-grade graduation party, the whole town of Jarbidge turned up at the school for the event. Mary got lots of cash.

The crickets made it to Jarbidge this year.

My latest fun excursion was when I got to tour the new Twin Falls LDS Temple. Irene Barton and daughters Linda Nilson and Bonnie Bandy came and gave me the tour. It was awesome. Not only the Temple itself but the beautiful flowers on the grounds. 160,000 visitors went through there between July 8 and Aug. 16. There are 128 temples in the world. After the tour, Bonnie treated us to lunch at the new Crestview Inn. As we ate, we could look into the pretty Snake River Canyon and watch them play golf.

Go to 'jail', help mentors

The Mentoring Network will hold a fundraiser Friday at Paul's Market.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., volunteers will be "jailed", with proceeds from bail contributions going to the non-profit organization that provides one-on-one mentoring for middle school and high school students in the Homedale School District and other area districts.

Paul's Market is located at 20 W. Wyoming Ave.

Fundraiser organizer Betty Arriaga said Paul's Market assistant manager Jerry Dalton approached her about possibly staging the jail event during the store's Beef Stampede promotion.

Arriaga now is looking for city dignitaries and ordinary citizens to volunteer to do some time for the cause.

Call 337-3164 for more information.

Homedale bridge plan moves forward

Boise firm gets low bid; no timetable on rehab project start

Concrete Placing Co. Inc., of Boise, has been announced as the apparent low bidder for a planned U.S. Highway 95 construction project outside Homedale.

The Idaho Transportation Department last month opened sealed bids for rehabilitation work on the Homedale bridge over the Snake River.

Concrete Placing bid \$638,815.40 for the resurfacing project. ITD spokesman Reed Hollinshead said Wednesday that he hadn't yet heard if the construction would start this fall or next spring.

Hollinshead said Concrete Placing was one of six bidders.

The state agency will review the bids to ensure there are no irregularities and that the cost falls within acceptable parameters, Hollinshead wrote in an e-mail. After the review, a contract will be drawn up and a pre-construction meeting held.

Hollinshead said the Homedale bridge work is expected to take "a few months" and that the width

of the bridge will be restricted during construction.

The project includes rehabilitation and overlay of the bridge deck, including the two 16-foot lanes and sidewalk on the west side of the span.

According to ITD's June 2008 project report for District Three, which includes Owyhee County, this is the first such project on the Homedale bridge since it was built 39 years ago.

Other aspects of the project include an extra inch of pavement to the deck and repaving the north and south approaches for 50 feet.

Bridge joints will be replaced and one of the piers will be patched.

The work also will replace 50 feet of curb and gutter, and 27 feet of guardrail will be reset.

The state transportation department also has scheduled rehabilitation of a nine-mile stretch of pavement on Idaho highways 78 and 45 to Murphy.

The project is in the concept phase now, with work scheduled to begin in 2010.

Snake River bridge retrofit



Gas pipeline brackets replaced

Intermountain Gas Co., employee Jeff Jacobs, top, struggles Wednesday to erect scaffolding as part of a project to replace existing clamps holding the company's natural gas line coming into Homedale with padded roller clamps (inset). Co-worker Dave Drake, lends a hand.

Bruneau-GV celebrates Healthy Harvest Month

Bruneau-Grand View School District is planning a Healthy Harvest lunch featuring local produce as part of a back-to-school open house Friday.

The lunch is part of the district's observance of Healthy Harvest Month, a September promotion devised by the State Department of Education and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

Bruneau-Grand View food services supervisor JayDene Aquiso said the lunch and open

house makes the district eligible for the state agencies' regional contest for promoting Healthy Harvest Month.

The winning district in each region — north, central and east — will earn a personalized visit from a local chef, who will demonstrate healthy cooking with local Idaho foods.

Idaho Preferred also is a sponsor of the contest.

Other criteria for the contest includes serving Idaho foods to

students either as a meal or a snack and including and Idaho food-themed topic as an education component in the classroom curriculum.

Possible topics suggested by the state are Idaho foods, nutrition, where foods come from or daily announcements regarding Idaho foods.

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Beyond the Classroom: Leading by example

Motivated HMS student meets world at summit

Mariza Fernandez of Wilder has seen her world expand through volunteerism.

The 13-year-old incoming eighth-grade student at Homedale Middle School returned last month from the People to People Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The summit is a 10-day intensive program that brings students with leadership skills together to foster their awareness of the world and their own roles within it.

It was also a whole lot of fun, Mariza said.

She, along with 149 other young leaders from Norway, South Africa, Fiji and many other places, got together July 7-16 at George Washington University in the nation's capital. She was nominated as a delegate by one of her teachers, Barbie Vander Boegh, who has known Mariza since kindergarten. Mariza began raising the \$2,500 tuition this summer.

"She was doing yard sales and more to raise money," Mariza's grandmother, Maria, said.

While the fund-raising was going well, it went even better when Mariza received a full scholarship for the tuition amounts from People to People. With the scholarship fund at \$50,000 for 150 students, only 20 would receive a grant, and Mariza was one of the

lucky recipients this year.

Student leaders attended workshops on leadership skills, team-building, how to choose a college, applying for college, making a difference alone or as part of a community service project, networking, interviewing, public speaking, negotiation and more.

"The most important thing I learned is that, before you can lead other people, you have to learn to lead yourself, and be a person others can respect," she said.

In addition to all this work — and assignments that had to be done before the summit even began — Mariza and all the other delegates had to develop and plan their own community projects. Hers involved bringing senior citizens and younger kids together to interact, talk and share time.

"I think seniors have lots to offer. I planned out ways to transport kids, and designed it so that the kids were involved and voted on how the project would work," she said. It was a complex and painstaking plan, and her facilitators and advisors liked that about it, she said.

Delegates didn't just study. They also helped on the organization's farmlands, weeding and working. Produce from the farms is donated to food pantries all over the world, Mariza said.

Despite growing up in Homedale and Wilder, Mariza had never worked on a farm before. She got a chance this July.

"At first I thought it (the farm)

wasn't so big, until I saw all the fields behind," she said. "I didn't know fields could be so big!"

While she got used to the heat and humidity, it was tough at first, she remembered.

"At first it felt like I couldn't breathe," she said. She and the others persevered, and had fun, though some big-city girls were a bit put off by the concept of bugs, she said.

"There were a lot of screaming girls that day."

The chance to meet people from around the world excited Mariza, and was a little bit scary as well.

"I was so scared everyone would be so different and that it would be awkward and I wouldn't know what to do," she said. "But I was surprised at how much we were the same. Music was definitely the universal language."

It was a good chance to meet with other young people from all around the world, many of whom had traveled before.

"A lot of the older kids had traveled widely. One boy had been to Brazil, France and Italy," Mariza said. "I was the only one from Idaho, so I told everyone they should visit."

Most of the delegates were from large cities around the world, and Mariza found herself to be something of a standout, just for being from a rural area.

"I think it's a great experience for any student that goes," Maria said. "Besides being educational, it's an eye-opener for the world



Mariza Fernandez helps stock shelves at the Wilder-sited Calvary Holiness Church Food Pantry.

that's around you. I was at first very leery — 13 is too young, I thought — but she came back so insightful about so much stuff."

The summit counted as 55 high school credit hours — the equivalent of a semester of a class — and logged

10 service hours, though Mariza has plenty of hours of community service outside the program. Her own time is spent on a variety of causes. Last week, she was helping stock shelves at the Wilder-sited Calvary Holiness Church Food Pantry at the corner of 3rd and B Avenues in Wilder. The pantry is open on the second and fourth Friday of every month, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The food bank serves Wilder and Homedale,

and anyone interested in donating goods or time may call 482-7499 for more information.

People to People International

was founded in 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and, to quote PTPI's Web site, the organization

was launched in order "to enhance international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural and humanitarian activities involving the exchange of ideas and experiences directly among peoples of different countries and diverse cultures."

The Leadership Summit hosts nominated delegate youngsters from sixth grade through high school.

— MML

"The most important thing I learned is that, before you can lead other people, you have to learn to lead yourself, and be a person others can respect."
— Mariza Fernandez

Fire, disease slash county sage-grouse season length, limit

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission recently solidified the 2008 Owyhee County sage-grouse hunting season.

As expected, the lingering effects on habitat and populations from West Nile Virus and last summer's Murphy Complex Fire

played a role in the shaping of the rules.

The season opens Sept. 20 throughout the state, and there are varying lengths of season depending on the region.

Eastern Owyhee County is closed to sage-grouse hunting.

Owyhee Local Working Group chair Donna Bennett of Grand View told the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association at its annual summer meeting in July that the sage grouse population is still recovering from the Murphy Complex Fire.

The Owyhee County sage-grouse hunt south of Mud Flat Road will run 23 days, with a two-bird bag limit.

The hunt north of Mud Flat Road is just one week with a one-bird bag limit.

According to Fish and Game

records, the sage-grouse harvest dropped nearly 3,000 birds from 12,500 in 2006 to 9,800 in 2007. The 2006 harvest was the most plentiful since 17,500 were taken in 1998, which was 22,000 fewer birds than were taken in seven years before.

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Homedale FFA sets annual Harvest Auction

With two teams set to attend next month's national convention, the Homedale FFA chapter is ready for its annual Harvest Auction.

Proceeds from the Sept. 20 dinner and auction will help send the chapter's Livestock judging

team and Horse judging team to national contests during the 81st annual convention, which is set for Oct. 22-25, in Indianapolis.

The Harvest Auction dinner starts at 6 p.m. on Sept. 20 inside the Txoko Ona Basque Center at 333 S. Main St., in Homedale.

The auction kicks off at 6:30 p.m.

Items on the auction block will include:

- Labor from 50 Homedale FFA members
- Apples
- Straw
- Hand-crafted jewelry
- Livestock animals such as calves, fair pigs and sheep

In addition to financing travel to state and national conventions, proceeds from the auction will benefit scholarships for members as well as the chapter's annual Meat the Need and Gift of Green community service projects.

The Homedale FFA teams heading to Indianapolis for national competition include:

- Livestock — Mat Hansen, Kortney Bahem, Rye Hyer and Drew Farwell
- Horse — Alysha Bahem, Kali McRae, Aubrey Nash and Summer Megargee

BRUNEAU ROUND UP

25TH ANNUAL OPEN RODEO

September 20 & 21, 2008

Rodeo starts at 12:30 pm

BBQ - Saturday 5:00 American Legion Hall

Dance - 9:00 pm to 1:00 am

Saturday Night at the Park

Music by "Runnin' for Cover"

Overview

From Page 8A

Jail's overtime budget was in the red by 57 percent as of Aug. 28.

Aman said he anticipated possible revenue from housing inmates from the overcrowded Twin Falls County Jail, and that federal inmates also could provide income at the rate of \$86 per day per prisoner. He said federal prisoners housed in Owyhee County Jail would be low-level, long-term inmates.

As of Aug. 28, the county had received only \$45,870 in boarding fees for out-of-county inmates after hauling in \$116,120 for boarding prisoners in FY 2007.

Road districts

The elimination of two positions in Road District 1 constituting more than \$58,000 in salary in FY 2008 and slashing the capital outlay budget by \$131,000 helped trim that district's overall budget by more than \$450,000 or 37.2 percent.

Fewer highway user funds are coming into the county coffers, so cuts had to be made, Sherburn has said.

At the budget hearing, Freund suggested that the Bureau of Land Management should help pay for part of the work on Pleasant Valley Road because a portion of that roadway has been designated as scenic byway by the feds.

Hoagland said the county could see more grant funding in the future once its highway transportation plan is complete.

A position was cut in Road District 3, and both districts saw a drastic reduction in their capital outlay funds, which would pay for new heavy equipment.

All told, more than \$500,000 was cut from the overall budget for the two road districts.

Airport

The county airport budget fell 64.3 percent. Sherburn said that department's 2008 budget was inflated in relation to the '09 budget because of a chip-sealing project at the county airstrip in Murphy.

The repair/maintenance budget exceeded the FY 2008 allowance by three percent, but commissioners cut the fund 66 percent to \$5,000 for FY 2009 because of the completion of the airstrip rehabilitation project.

Sheriff Gary Aman, who oversees the airport, told commissioners that there are plans in FY 2009 to re-paint the identification numbers at the end of the airstrip.

Courts

The \$87,465 district court budget for the court possibly could have been lightened by a few thousand dollars, if the budget hearing discussion between District 3 trial court administrator Dan Kessler and county clerk Charlotte Sherburn is any indication.

Kessler pointed out that the \$8,000 line item built into the Owyhee County budget for his position was superfluous because most of the county's portion of his budget already is paid through the \$10,273 funded for law clerks.

Sherburn said the situation was remedied by leaving \$1,200 in the trial administrator fund and moving the remaining \$6,800 into the reserve line item. The reserve now sits at more than \$21,000, and Sherburn said that money is used to cover unforeseen trial expenses that may crop up during the year.

The professional services line for the district court was set at \$25,000 after the county went more than \$15,000 over budget in FY 2008. The county spent \$30,520 on professional services in 2008, primarily because of the return of the Maxwell Hoffman murder case to the county, prosecuting attorney Matthew Faulks said.

Faulks said that two people are serving as Hoffman's defense counsel because of their familiarity with the 20-year-old case. Faulks added that cost to the county for resumption of the Hoffman case will be less than originally anticipated because the state has dropped its attempt to seek the death penalty.

"It's still going to cost money, but it will be a fraction of what it would have if it had remained a capital case," Faulks said.

The magistrate court budget was set at \$88,750, a reduction of 18.9 percent compared to the FY 2008 budget. Commissioners cut the juvenile detention contracts fund in half compared to last year, budgeting only \$25,000 after the magistrate court spent only \$15,834 of the \$50,000 budgeted for FY 2008.

County fair

The commissioners approved a \$41,750 budget for the county fair, rejecting a request for \$60,000. The FY 2008 budget was set at \$47,500.

The commissioners also set the fair grounds and buildings budget at \$50,000, half of the FY 2008 primarily because the capital fund has been set at \$38,000 as compared to last year's \$88,000 to help fund construction of the new barn. According to the county worksheet, the FY 2008 capital outlay fund was over-budget by more than \$11,000 as of Aug. 28.

Probation

Department chief Doris Jewett argued that some state monies from the tobacco settlement fund weren't placed in the proper line items in her FY 2009 budget, which was approved at \$207,861. The budget is 19.5 percent or \$50,289 leaner than the FY 2008 allowance.

Jewett's department will lose a probation officer in the wave of countywide layoffs.

When Sherburn said that a state official had told her that tobacco grant money can be used to fund a probation officer, Jewett said:

"I would rather readjust the budget to keep the probation officer because we're not going to be able to do it with two people."

But redistributing an estimated

\$37,600 in tobacco fund revenue is easier said than done, according to trial court administrator Dan Kessler.

"You cannot supplant what's already in place as far as juvenile services," he said, adding later, "Unless you have unanticipated revenue, you can't reopen the budget."

Commissioners denied Jewett's proposal to cut the rent budget from \$10,800 to \$6,600 by abandoning part of the Homedale building that the county leases for the probation department. She also proposed cuts in the budget for consulting, which the commissioners cut even further.

Commissioner Dick Freund argued that Jewett's proposal to readjust her budget didn't reach Murphy until the morning of the hearing, giving the board precious few hours to come up with compromises.

"Waiting until the last minute doesn't give us much time," Freund told Jewett. "If you had had this on your mind, it would have been helpful."

Health District

The county's share of the budget of the Southwest Health District ticked up by \$567 to \$50,807. As of Aug. 28, only 84 percent of the FY 2008 budget had been spent (\$41,981.37).

Historical society and museum

Commissioners approved a budget that was 13.9 percent less than the \$61,791 budget for FY 2008. The county worksheet revealed that the society and museum were over-budget on two B budget line items as of Aug. 28, including 51 percent over budget — a total of \$1,268.24 — for its miscellaneous line item, and eight percent over on a line item for tele-

phones and other utilities.

Overall, the department was still under budget for FY 2008 as of Aug. 28.

For FY 2009, commissioners cut salary for a part-time employee and carved the B budget miscellaneous item from \$2,500 last year to \$500 for the upcoming year.

Indigent and charity

The FY 2009 budget is only about \$6,000 less than the FY 2008 allowance. Sherburn said the unpredictable fund has a good cash carryover from last year.

However, the expense worksheet revealed that the county has spend nearly twice as much on catastrophic medical program premiums in 2008 as was originally budgeted.

Junior college tuition

This fund has risen 20 percent, or \$5,000, over last year's \$25,000 budget. The county receives money from the state liquor sales fund for this budget.

"Liquor money funds it," Sherburn said, "and there seems to be more all the time. We have a good cash balance."

Even though Sherburn said the commissioners receive more and more requests, only 40 percent of the FY 2008 funds to help county residents pay for college were distributed as of Aug. 28.

Pest

Freund said a dearth of requests for the county to spray for mosquitoes triggered a smaller budget. The pest control line item was whittled to \$500 from \$2,000 in FY 2008.

— See Overview, page 15A

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Dental sealant clinic heads for Homedale Middle School

Delta Dental's community outreach program will bring its free dental sealant program to Homedale Middle School during the week of Sept. 22.

The free Cavity Prevention Program is open to all seventh- and eighth-graders.

Sealants are a thin, plastic coating that is painlessly applied to the back teeth as a way to help prevent cavities. If a child already has sealants, the Delta Dental staff will examine the applications and make necessary repairs for free.

Children with braces can still

receive sealants.

Students can only receive the sealants after their parents or guardians signs a completed health history and permission form, which will be sent home with students as well as available at HMS, 3437 Johnstone Road.

If you did not receive a form or want more information, call Homedale School District nurse Nancy Malmberg at 337-4033.

Sealants usually last five or more years and fill in the grooves of the back teeth where bacteria thrive and cause cavities. The

sealants help teeth stay clean.

During the sealant clinic, Delta Dental's staff will provide one-on-one instruction on good dental care. Each student taking part in the clinic will receive a toothbrush and a two-minute timer to encourage proper brushing time.

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Family Fair attracts crowds, money for ministries

The Owyhee County Fairgrounds echoed with the sounds of gospel, children's laughter and the shouts of the crowd watching ropers compete during the second annual Mountain View Church of the Nazarene Family Fair and Roundup on Sunday.

More than 545 attendees had arrived by mid-afternoon, according to reports, and the event was estimated to have attracted about 650 total. Publicist Jo Howell was happy with the turnout and the weather as well.

"It was phenomenal. It was such a blessing. The day was beautiful, people seemed to be relaxed and enjoying themselves, and the biggest security thing we had was a dog on the property that didn't belong to anybody, but was trying to get everybody to feed it," she said.

"It's a really nice way to spend the afternoon with family and friends," Howell said Sunday as she made her way through the crowds of running children and chatting grown-ups along the concessions row. She praised the efforts of the church's membership, who supplied the hundreds of items given as door prizes throughout the day.

"All the prizes were donated by church members. Nothing was solicited from businesses," she said.

The prizes were the icing on a huge cake of entertainment.

The event opened at 9 a.m., and things got into full swing an hour later with the Cowboy Church service held in the arena.

Team roping ran from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. and dozens competed in breakaway and team roping.

Music was on hand nearly all day long, with appearances from the reunited Daybreak Trio, the Fiddling Loucks of Marsing, Wilder's Jourdan Alley, Traditions out of Nampa, No Other Name, Marsing's John Neil, Homedale's Cooper Family and Meg Dawson. Every hour of the event had a different musical act entertaining at the Tumbleweed Theatre.

"Everyone seemed to be having a good time. Everyone kept saying 'Oh, I'm going to go tell somebody, I'll bring so-and-so next year,'" Howell said afterward. People from outside the

area who had seen the signs on the highway had come to the event, and several related that they'd be sure to bring their families next year, she said.

"Some of the ropers in the arena said this was more fun, and better, than a lot of the more organized events, and they said they were telling their friends and coming back next year," Howell added.

The wide variety of food offered helped to fund the church's various missions.

"The barbecue profit, after the cost of the meat, all goes to the men's ministries," Howell explained. The men do a variety of good works, she said; everything from building ramps for wheelchair access to roofing, to helping out families who have seen their father go overseas on military duty and need a little male muscle to help out on a project. These helpful projects aren't limited to people in the church, either, but are done throughout the community.

Other concessions helped different ministries, such as the tacos, nachos and drinks sold at the Celebrate Recovery Booth, which helps to fund the church-sponsored program that helps anyone "with hurts, hang-ups or habits," as Howell put it.

The food went very well. In fact, by 5:30 p.m., there was nearly none left, she reported after the event.

In addition to music, games and good food, there was also roping.

Team and breakaway ropers competed for handcrafted silver buckles for first place, conches for second and spurs for third. Gene King of King Cattle Co., provided the stock for the roping events.

Roping results weren't available at press time.

"Looking back, it was just a wonderful day," Howell said.

Organizers have plans to hold the third incarnation of the Family Fair next year, probably at about the same time of year, and Howell hopes it will grow step-by-step.

"We'd like to see the whole arena filled one day," she said. "That's the goal."

— MML



Fair-weather fun

From top: Music accompanied all the activities, and the reunited Daybreak Trio of Caldwell were just one of eight musical acts to perform during the fair.

Those attending the fair had a chance to sit and enjoy the barbeque, tacos, nachos, hot dogs and other treats in the shade while serenaded by live music at the Tumbleweed Theatre.

Local ropers of all ages and abilities showed their stuff from 1 to 6 p.m., with prizes going to the top three finishers in both breakaway and team roping.

√ Overview

From Page 13A

With the gopher control budget falling from \$7,000 last year to \$4,000 for FY 2009, the overall budget was reduced 38.1 percent to \$7,300.

Revaluation

This budget dipped only \$9,000 compared to FY 2008 as the commissioners moved a deputy assessor out of the Assessor budget into this fund. The fund paying for contract work, travel, supplies and vehicle fuel and maintenance, was cut from

\$78,400 in FY 2008 to \$31,972 for the upcoming year.

Solid waste

A huge cut in capital outlay funds helped trim this budget from more than \$414,000 in FY 2008 to \$365,770.

As with most other departments, fuel and vehicle repair increased — from a total budget of \$10,000 in 2008 to \$13,500. County expense reports show that the solid waste department was 80 percent over its budget for those two items as of Aug. 28, having spent about \$14,000 on fuel and repairs in the previous 11

months.

Weed department

The reorganization of the weed control department resulted in a 33.4 percent drop in its budget. A part-time position was eliminated as revenue recedes. Sherburn said requests for weed spraying on private property have curtailed.

With fuel and vehicle repair costs busting their respective budgets in FY 2008, commissioners looked for places to cut for the upcoming year. They found it by eliminating a full-time weed control specialist and cutting \$1,000 out of the vehicle

repair budget.

In all, the weeds budget was reduced nearly \$30,000.

The biggest over-budget situation as of Aug. 28 was \$5,359.60 spent on vehicle repairs, nearly \$2,400 more than had been budgeted. The commissioners approved \$2,500 for FY 2009.

Meanwhile, during the Sept. 2 regular meeting before the budget hearing, the commissioners agreed to a deal with the Bureau of Land Management. The federal agency will pay the county \$25,000 over three years for weed abatement services in

the Jarbidge Field Office area of the Twin Falls District.

"It makes a good deal for us because we have some guaranteed funding down there," weed control director Bruce Siebert told the commissioners by telephone during the meeting.

911

This budget was increased by \$2,000 by adding that amount into the miscellaneous expenses line item. The total budget for FY 2009 is \$97,900.

— JPB

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