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on horseback  
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County club tabs best-looking  
gardens in Marsing/Homedale

Utility companies eye Northwest  
Owyhee for distribution corridors

**Wednesday, September 24, 2008**

**Established 1865**

# The Owyhee Avalanche

**VOLUME 23, NUMBER 39**

**HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO**

**SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS**

## Millions in marijuana uncovered



### Thousands of plants hauled from Silver City area grows

*Members of the multi-agency task force that raided two marijuana grows south of Murphy load up part of the nearly 7,400 plants uprooted from illegal gardens around Scotch Bob and Stobie creeks. Staff photo*

## Rugged area can't hide pot

Officials: People who find illicit fields should get out quickly, make report

### Bust by the numbers

**\$14,690,000**

Value of plants found

**7,345**

Number of plants found

**4,000**

Approximate yield, in  
pounds, of seized grows

**Seven**

Agencies involved

**35**

Agency personnel on ground

**Top two**

Where Wednesday's find  
ranks among Owyhee County  
raids in the past three decades

More than the law is violated by massive marijuana grows like the ones found in the rugged terrain around Silver City last week.

Members of the law enforcement agencies responsible for finding 7,345 plants valued at nearly \$14.7 million say that such use of the land also violates the public's right to enjoy pristine lands and their safety when doing so.

"These people are destroying our public lands, and we're seeing this throughout the entire West," Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman said.

"It puts legal users of the land at risk."

Aman, who led off a press conference Thursday at the Idaho State Police Region 3 headquarters in Meridian, spoke of violence associated with marijuana grows on public

land in places like California. But he obviously was upset that people had come into his county and laid down roots for an illegal drug trade.

"We want people to call us and tell us when they see something out of the ordinary, but these people (the growers) have no conscience when it comes to the destruction of our lands."

"I know that's a big issue with the Bureau of Land Management also, but this was in my backyard, too. We're going to do everything we can to keep arresting people and taking bad guys off the streets."

Loren Good, the special agent in charge of BLM law enforcement, echoed Aman's sentiment about the scarring of the land by marijuana grows. He cautioned folks

— See *Pot*, page 5A



*J. Santoyo-Villa*

## Otter to visit Monday

'Capital for a  
Day' program  
comes to town

Homedale will be the center of state government for a few hours Monday.

Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter and several government department heads will hear from all walks of life during "Capital

— See *Otter*, page 4A

## New court hours start next week

Beginning Monday, the Homedale Magistrate Court will be closed on Mondays and Fridays.

Because of Owyhee County budget constraints, the court at 31 W. Wyoming Ave., will be open only three days a week — Tuesday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The office is closed from noon to 1 p.m. to for lunch.

Any court business on Monday or Friday will be handled through the Owyhee County Courthouse in Murphy. The court can be contacted for information at 208-495-2806 or 208-337-5522.

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# County garden club honors top green thumbs

Businesses, residents cited for eye-catching landscapes

The Owyhee Gardeners recognized those responsible for the best gardens in the area this month with its Good Neighbor award. Winners came from both Homedale and Marsing. Each winner took home a plaque touting their triumph and a sign for their home to declare their winning status.

Mary Lootens of 5204 Edison Road, tied with Roy and Jeanette Graybeal of 508 Morning Dove for the residence award in Marsing.

The Orchard House restaurant, located next to the Sunnyslope Market on Idaho highway 55, won among Marsing businesses with many words of praise from the board at the presentation.

Homedale winners included the “hidden garden” of Sharon Frost and Judy Hanson of 24378 Sweetwater Road, Homedale. The Owyhee Gardeners described the site as a treasure. Frost and Hanson have added walking paths, arbors with trumpet vines, benches, birdhouses and feeders, an orchard and a rose garden.

Bok and Yung Ho Park of 516 N. 2nd St. W., in Homedale were also honored. The couple, who moved to the United States from Korea, “sculpted ... ordinary bushes into beautiful show-pieces,” the

Gardeners said in a press release. The garden is ornamented with a fishpond, complete with large koi, arbors covered with different flowering vines and “a beautiful vegetable garden.”

A special Honorable Mention went to the Boks’ neighbors, Wade and Marie Nichols of 519 N. 2nd St. W., in Homedale.

Wade, 92 and Marie, 87, have been married for 69 years.

“They still maintain an immaculate yard,” the Owyhee Gardeners reported. “(Their) garden and their home is beautiful. Everything is manicured; beautiful flowers, geraniums that Marie saves from year to year, a garden with no weeds, planter boxes — every inch of space has been used.

“This couple was not interested in a plaque, but we really wanted to honor their beautiful garden, so we insisted that they be our Honorable Mention choice.”

Homedale’s Dairyland Seed Co. Inc., located at 504 W. Idaho Ave., took the honors in the business category for its landscaping efforts.

Anyone with an interest in gardening may reach the Owyhee Gardeners’ president, Sharon McIlveen, at 896-5474.

The Gardeners formerly met as the Owyhee Garden Club. The club still meets monthly at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing.

— MML

## Gardener spotlight: Sharon Frost and Judy Hanson



### A garden for the seasons

Sharon Frost shows off the wonders of her two-acre garden, winner of one of the Owyhee Gardeners Good Neighbor Awards this year. Frost, along with Judy Hanson, has worked on the garden steadily to bring it to the state it enjoys today.

## Spurring neighborhood earns pair a Good Neighbor Award

Sharon Frost built her home on Sweetwater Road 27 years ago. It is located on the site of an older orchard, and the two acres still support rows of fruit trees, and much more.

“Each year you just add a little more to it,” she said. “And you contain the weeds as best you can.”

Frost and Judy Hanson both have certifiably green thumbs. The yard behind the trim two-story home is a combination of neatly-mown grassy pathways, arbors thick with trumpet vines, benches, stretches of natural (if carefully chosen) bushes and plants, a cluster of birches and a grove of pines; U.S. Forest Service seedlings planted over two decades ago and now providing shade and home to numerous birds, four resident squirrels and an owl. Two trees — a peach and a plum — are originals from the days when the land was an operating orchard. A rose garden runs along the west wall of the house, providing shade and flowers as well.

With better than a dozen fruit trees, each a different variety, Frost and Hanson have all the fruit they can handle in the fall, and share it with coworkers and neighbors.

The garden is at its best in spring and fall, Frost said.

“We tried to do a lot of spring and fall colors,”

she explained. Even in September, golds and reds are beginning to dominate and provide highlights among the green.

Despite its size and beauty, the garden takes only a few hours per week to keep in shape, now that it’s well established, Frost said.

What was the inspiration for the garden?

“Judy and I like to get outdoors, and birds, and doing things that would bring the wildlife in,” she said. “Also, it keeps it nice for the neighbors.”

Why garden at all?

“So we can get outside — so we don’t have to stay in the house. The smell of burning leaves, the vegetables and fruit,” she explained. “Part of it, too, is because the neighbors enjoy seeing it.”

Having a gardener neighbor, she said, helps everyone find the enthusiasm to do their own projects.

Is gardening a lost art?

“Sometimes I think so. Sometimes I see some houses ... I’m appalled that people can live with that much non-respect for their neighbors,” she said.

Thanks to Frost and Hanson, their neighbors on Sweetwater don’t have to wonder the same thing.

— MML



### Fruit for all

Sharon Frost points to fruit trees in her award-winning yard. Homedale residents Frost and Judy Hanson have more than a dozen fruit trees on their property on Sweetwater Road.

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# Robbery suspect acquitted

## Defense saw case as one of incorrect ID, prosecution blames witness

Two days into the scheduled trial of Billy Charles Williams, the accused in the January 2007 robbery of the Snake River Mart in Marsing, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty and the accused was acquitted.

The jury returned with the not guilty verdict in just under two hours.

How the verdict came about is something on which the prosecutor and defense have apparent differences of opinion.

For the defense

Williams, who was identified in a lineup by one eyewitness, though not by a second, was acquitted because of a lack of confidence in his identification as the perpetrator, public defender William Wellman said in a telephone interview with The Owyhee Avalanche on Thursday.

The investigation into the robbery went unrewarded until June, a year-and-a-half after the event, when Williams “had made some statement to the effect that he was involved in the robbery while he was in jail,” Wellman said.

“From that point, a photographic display was assembled, it was shown to the store clerk, and she identified Mr. Williams. It was shown to the assistant manager and she could not identify him in the lineup,” the public defender said.

The county investigated and made the arrest, and the Owyhee County Prosecutor’s Office decided to pursue the case in the courts. The jury heard the evidence and decided that Williams was not the long-sought robber.

“In my view, it was a misidentification,” Wellman said. “The suspect that was described at the time of the event was 5-8 and 150 pounds. Mr. Williams is 6-2 and 210.”

That discrepancy of six inches

and 60 pounds was the crux of the matter for the defense.

“That was our theory; that they had the wrong guy, and the jury was not persuaded that they had the right one,” he said.

“Identification testimony, you have to be cautious with that,” Wellman said. “We’ve seen a lot of capital cases turned around on subsequent DNA analysis, that were basically ID cases with nothing else to go on, so I think the jury was cautious not to put too much stock in the identification.

“I feel badly for the people from the store, but I feel satisfied that Mr. Williams wasn’t wrongly convicted,” Wellman said.

For the prosecution

In a statement released Monday by county Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Faulks, the charges against Williams were enumerated — two counts of aggravated assault for threatening Snake River Mart employees with a firearm as well as the robbery charge itself.

“Two employees of Snake River Mart ... testified and positively identified the defendant as the person who held a gun on them at the robbery,” Faulks states in the release.

Faulks confirmed that the defense counsel, Wellman, had focused much of his argument on the differences between the originally reported 5-foot-8 height of the suspect and Williams’ height of more than six feet.

He also explained the remark that had led to the initial investigation of Williams.

“A young man who had been in jail at the same time as the defendant testified that he had heard the defendant brag about performing the robbery,” Faulks wrote, adding that, “Another inmate who was reportedly present for the conversation testified that

he had never heard the defendant say he committed the robbery.”

The conflicting witnesses to the statement reputedly made by Williams did not receive the prosecutor’s blame for the case’s failure, though — Sgt. Jim Bish of the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office did.

“One part of the case that became a disappointment and a detraction was the testimony of Sergeant Jim Bish,” Faulks wrote. During cross-examination, Bish “gave an embarrassing account of his lack of knowledge about his own investigation on the case.”

The points discussed at length under defense questions involved Sgt. Bish’s investigation and how height and weight descriptions were gathered and used, the prosecutor said.

“Those who I spoke with ... were concerned by his (Bish’s) negative impact on the case,” Faulks wrote. “The information I received from the jury room indicated that jurors were not impressed with the testimony of Sgt. Bish and his lack of knowledge of the information and contents of his own reports.”

The prosecuting attorney said that Bish had also begun discussing a prior arrest of the defendant before the jury. Faulks pointed out that “at a jury trial parties are prohibited from presenting evidence of prior wrongdoings” unless by specific approval of a judge or existing legal exception.

“In this case, the defense raised the issue of a mistrial, but it was not pursued further due to other circumstances,” Faulks wrote.

Faulk’s press release was read to Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman for comment.

“That (the release) is not the information I received from other people in the courtroom. The word I got from people within the courtroom does not reflect the prosecutor’s statements,” Aman said.

— MML

# From page 1

## ✓ Otter: Numerous state officials scheduled to attend

for a Day” event to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., in Homedale.

Otter also is expected to sign a proclamation declaring Homedale “Capital for a Day.” That has been customary during other stops on the capital tour in places like Fairfield and Parma.

Chances are local government officials from all over Owyhee County could bend the governor’s ear during his stay in town, which marks another in a series through Otter has tried to bring the Boise governmental offices to other parts of the state.

Homedale Mayor Harold Wilson, who worked with his campaign manager Pat Reilly, to bring the governor to town, said he will invite elected officials from other parts of Owyhee County to participate.

In addition to Otter, others scheduled to attend the outreach program at Txoko Ona include:

State Department of Labor director Roger Madsen, Col. Bill Shawver, the director of the state Bureau of Homeland Security; Bill Deal, director of the Idaho Department of Insurance, a former legislator and father of Homedale High School baseball coach

Burke Deal; Brian Oakey, deputy director of the state Department of Agriculture; Margie Gonzalez, the executive director of the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs; Donna Denney of the Idaho Commission on Aging; Tiffany Floyd, the deputy regional administrator for the Department of Environmental Quality; Idaho Fish and Game Commissioner Bob Barowsky; Scott Reinecker, the regional supervisor for the state Department of Fish and Game; Scott Stokes, the deputy director of the Idaho Transportation Department; Dave Jones, district engineer of ITD; and Bob Ford, the director of business, trade and rural development for Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho).

According to Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Gavin Parker, the “Capital for a Day” event at Txoko Ona will be divided into three segments, including a 9 a.m. session during which concerned citizens can meet with the governor and other state officials on a first-come, first-served basis. Those meetings will continue after a lunch attended by local and county officials.

— JPB

# Library keeps doors open longer

The Homedale Public Library will extend its hours on Oct. 1.

The library, located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave., will be open

Monday through Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., as usual, but also has added hours on Thursday, staying open from 1 p.m. to 8

p.m., and Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The change in the Friday and Saturday schedule reflects an earlier opening for the library.

“Extended hours are offered thanks to the City Council who responded to citizen requests for more convenient hours for those who work,” library director Margaret Fujishin.

Fujishin said the budget also has additional hours for a part-time staff member to make the extended hours of operation possible.

For more information, call the library at 337-4228.

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*What’s happening*  
Read Calendar each week  
in the Avalanche

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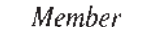
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## From page 1

# Bringing down illegal marijuana fields

*"A lot of times, the reports we get are from hunters who stumble into these gardens, so we urge anyone who does to get out immediately and contact local authorities."*

— **Loren Good (left)**  
BLM special agent-in-charge



*"... this was in my backyard, too. We're going to do everything we can to keep arresting people and taking bad guys off the streets."*

— **Gary Aman (right)**  
Owyhee County Sheriff

## ✓ Pot: Discovery one of the largest in Owyhee County in past 30 years

vigilant yet careful when they're out hunting and hiking.

"Fall in Idaho is when they process the marijuana and pack it out, but also it's full swing for hunting season for big game and also gamebird hunting season," Good said.

"A lot of times, the reports we get are from hunters who stumble into these gardens, so we urge anyone who does to get out immediately and contact local authorities."

Good said marijuana growers re-route streams, diverting water to irrigate their gardens. Agents also have found fertilizer, rat poison and Miracle-Gro at marijuana grow campsites. Good said grows have been found in areas not associated with marijuana gardens, such as the rugged drainages and ravines in the Owyhee Desert.

Authorities said camping equipment and elaborate irrigation systems were found Wednesday when about 35 agents from six law enforcement organizations coordinated to dismantle two large marijuana grows in areas above and below Silver City Road. Aman said the grows were about 15 miles south of Murphy.

In what the sheriff characterized as one of the two biggest marijuana seizures in his 28 years with the sheriff's office, a total of 7,345 plants were pulled up and hauled out of gardens near Stobie Creek and Scotch Bob Creek. The terrain, spanning both BLM land and private land, was so rugged that the plants were airlifted out of the crime scene by helicopter, Aman said.

"It takes about an hour and a half to walk downhill to the grow from the nearest road, so it's really ugly down there," Aman said.

The sheriff drove the remote nature of the area home with a simple observation about the land's grazing permittee.

"The Stobie Creek grow, pretty much they don't even tend to their cattle down there," he said. "They just put them in there and catch 'em when they're coming out because it's so steep in there."

Owyhee County Sheriff's Sgt.

Jim Bish said the plants were destroyed Thursday.

"We did a good job with what we were seeing and what we were hearing," Bish said of the investigation that resulted in one arrest, the discovery of about 150 pounds of dried marijuana product ready for street distribution and, finally, the two grows in Owyhee County.

Idaho State Police Capt. Kevin Hudgens, who leads that agency's Region 3 investigations unit, said the harvest from the plants found at the Stobie Creek and Scotch Bob Creek sites would have yielded about four tons of marijuana on the street.

Hudgens said the watering technique used by the growers was elaborate, helping plants to reach six and seven feet tall.

"It's amazing, the piping. They have the feeder tubes coming off that piping into each individual plant," Hudgens said. "The fertilizer and those types of things; the foodstocks, the tents and the sleeping bags. They know what they're doing."

Authorities found no one at the campsite even though they suspect caretakers staffed it as recently as a day before the raid. In fact, the lone arrest made last week probably involved a man who was bringing product out of the area and also bringing in supplies for the crew, Aman said.

Jose Abraham Santoyo-Villa, a 28-year-old Nampa man, was arrested on a Sept. 15 traffic stop performed near Marsing by ISP and OCSO personnel. Law enforcement agents found 25 pounds of dried marijuana buds and a weapon in the car. One hundred fifty pounds of additional street-ready product was found when Canyon County Sheriff's deputies searched the man's Nampa-area residence.

Santoyo-Villa was booked into Canyon County Jail on drug trafficking charges. He also is subject to a federal immigration hold, according to the Canyon County Jail Web site.

In addition to the Owyhee and Canyon sheriff's offices, ISP and BLM, other agencies involved in

last week's operation included the federal Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Forest Service.

"It was exceptional police work by all those agencies," Aman said. "I want to thank them personally. Sad to say, I wasn't able to be there, but it's good to know that when the boss is gone that work still gets done (with) all the effort of the BLM and ISP and everybody that was involved."

Aman added that the volunteer Silver City Fire and Rescue also provided assistance.

"They are quick response folks, so if anybody got hurt they were readily available," Aman said. "We call citizens up ... and they'll come and help us. We have a good working relationship."

Aman said similar cooperation among the agencies was key in bringing down the two grows that were separated by four miles of rugged terrain.

"None of this could have been done without absolute 100 percent cooperation between the agency heads and the employees of all these agencies," Aman said. "I just can't say enough about how well they work together."

The sheriff, who was conferring with BLM brass in Washington, D.C., when the Silver City-area grows were taken down, said word of the successful operation whispered through the halls of the federal buildings in the nation's capital.

"Within a few hours visiting senators throughout the Senate building, it was out that Owyhee County had made this huge bust on public lands," he said.

— JPB



### Daylong operation removes evidence

**Top:** A helicopter brings in a bundle of seized marijuana plants into a loading area Wednesday outside of Silver City. **Above:** A Posse member helps guide some of the plants toward an area used to load trailers. **Below:** Irrigation equipment used to feed individual plants with water lay in stacks ready to be moved out. Staff photos









# Your finances Life insurance linked to mortgage doesn't make sense

Dear Dave,

My husband and I both work, and we just bought a great house for \$150,000. He makes \$50,000 a year, and I make about \$30,000. We've been getting lots of different mortgage life insurance offers in the mail. They say they will pay off the house if one of us dies. Do you think we should take advantage of this?

— Blasha

Dear Blasha,

No! These kinds of offers are terrible, unless you're uninsurable. Here's why.

Mortgage life insurance is about five times more expensive than term life insurance. You and your husband both need about eight to 10 times your annual incomes wrapped up in good, level term policies.

Forget that overpriced stuff. These will take care of you both and the house for a lot less if something unthinkable happens.

— Dave

Dear Dave,

I'm a new doctor, and I drive a car that's nine years old, has over 200,000 miles on it and a few dings in the doors. I've heard image is everything when you're a doctor, but I like not having a car payment. Should I just get over being self-conscious about the fact that my car is surrounded by fancy doctors' cars every day in the parking lot?

— Mario

Dear Mario,

I like not having a car note, too. I'd walk, ride a bike or drive a nine-year old car with over 200,000 miles on it and a few dings in the doors before I had a car payment!

As a new, young doctor you've probably got six figures in student loans hanging over your head right now. So you need to get out from under all that before you start thinking about driving something fancy.

If this car is truly on its last legs, then I'd say save up for a few months and upgrade to a decent, used \$3,000 car. A Mercedes doesn't prove you're a doctor, and you need to be worrying about what's smart for YOU instead of what other people think!

— Dave



Dear Dave,

I'm a sales rep, and I've come across an opportunity to work as an independent phone rep in a different industry and region. Do you think it would be unethical to take advantage of this part-time opportunity, as long as it doesn't interfere with my current, full-time job?

— Mike

Dear Mike,

I think the best way to answer these kinds of questions is to reverse them. Ask yourself, if you were the boss and someone on your team wanted to do this, how would you feel?

When members of my team travel and I pay for their tickets, meals and hotels, I expect them to work for me. That's only reasonable. Now, if one of them was going out of town and asked if they could meet with someone about a side deal after hours, after our business was taken care of, and it wouldn't affect my company, then I'd be OK with that.

But I probably wouldn't be too thrilled if I found out they were just working a side deal on my nickel!

Really, I think the Golden Rule applies here. Go talk to your boss, and be honest. If you'll do this, then I think you'll probably be cleared to rock and roll with this thing.

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is the best-selling author of *The Total Money Makeover*. He also is the host of *The Dave Ramsey Show* that airs at 6 p.m. daily on the Fox Business Channel. You can find tools to help with finances or previous columns at [davesays.org](http://davesays.org). For more financial advice, visit the Web site or call (888) 22-PEACE. Have a question for Dave? Send correspondence to [syndication@daveramsey.com](mailto:syndication@daveramsey.com) or write *Dave Says*, 1749 Mallory Lane, Brentwood, TN 37027

# Calendar

## Today

### AARP Driving Safety Program

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10, Marsing Senior Center, 218 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-4634 or (208) 337-4647

### Homedale Chamber of Commerce golf tournament

2 p.m. shotgun start, 5 p.m. barbecue, \$35 per person for golf, \$7.50 for dinner only, hole sponsorships available, River Bend Golf Course, 18981 Fish Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3271

### DivorceCare recovery support group

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

## Thursday

### AARP Driving Safety Program

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$10, Marsing Senior Center, 218 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-4634 or (208) 337-4647

### Exercise class

10:45 a.m., free, 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

### TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)

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

### AA meeting

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

## Friday, September 26

### Jordan Valley Rope & Ride

9 a.m., cow dog trials, muley and horse roping, stock saddle bronc riding, Jordan Valley Rodeo Arena, Jordan Valley, Ore. (541) 586-2551 or (208) 337-4094

### 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

### Family Farm Days and Music Festival

6 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-5407

## Saturday, September 27

### Jordan Valley Rope & Ride

9 a.m., cow dog trials, muley and horse roping, stock saddle bronc riding, Jordan Valley Rodeo Arena, Jordan Valley, Ore. (541) 586-2551 or (208) 337-4094

### Family Farm Days and Music Festival

10 a.m., carnival and flea market; 5 p.m., pig barbecue, \$2; 6 p.m., live auction, Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-5407

## Sunday, September 28

### Jordan Valley Rope & Ride

9 a.m., cow dog trials, muley and horse roping, stock saddle bronc riding, Jordan Valley Rodeo Arena, Jordan Valley, Ore. (541) 586-2551 or (208) 337-4094

### Parenting class

9:30 a.m., "Parenting with Love and Logic", Homedale Friends Church, 17434 Hwy. 95. (208) 337-3464

### Family Farm Days and Music Festival

9 a.m., free pancake breakfast; 10 a.m., open-air Sunday service; carnival and flea market, Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-5407

## Tuesday

### Exercise class

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

### Pure Word recovery meeting

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

### AA meeting

8 p.m., Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224

W. Idaho Ave.

## Wednesday

### DivorceCare recovery support group

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

## Thursday, October 2

### 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. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Homedale. (208) 482-6893

### Homedale Rod and Gun Club meeting

7 p.m., Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 N. 1<sup>st</sup> St. E., Homedale. (208) 463-4383

### AA meeting

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

## Friday, October 3

### 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

## Sunday, October 5

### Parenting class

9:30 a.m., "Parenting with Love and Logic", Homedale Friends Church, 17434 Hwy. 95. (208) 337-3464

## Monday, October 6

### Owyhee County Board of Commissioners meeting

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

## Tuesday, October 7

### Exercise class

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

### Pure Word recovery meeting

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

### Marsing PTA meeting

7 p.m., Marsing High School Commons Room, 208 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4273

### Ridgeview Irrigation District board meeting

7 p.m., 118 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. W., Homedale

### Gem Irrigation District board meeting

7:15 p.m., 118 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. W., Homedale

### South Board of Control board meeting

7:30 p.m., 118 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. W., Homedale

### AA meeting

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

## Wednesday, October 8

### AARP Driving Safety Program

10 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$10, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020 or (208) 337-4647

### Homedale City Council meeting

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

### Marsing City Council meeting

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

### Grand View City Council meeting

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

### Owyhee Watershed Council meeting

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

### DivorceCare recovery support group

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

For more information on calendar submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

Read all about it  
in  
**The Owyhee Avalanche**  
337-4681



# Owyhee honors its heritage



**Sometimes you go eight seconds, sometimes you don't**  
*The 25th annual Bruneau Roundup on Saturday and Sunday saw tough cowboys on tough horses. Not all the riders stayed on for the full eight, but all of them tried their best to do so. This year marks the silver anniversary for the event, held every September.*  
*Above, Pat Tindall takes a short flight toward the hard ground, photo by Kristi Schirmeier; Below, Shawn Morehead of Bruneau in his 83-point ride on Slash T Rodeo Co., stock, photo by WT Bruce photography.*





**Branding hits Homedale on Sunday**

Team branding comes to the Derrick Ranch on Pioneer Road west of Homedale on Sunday.

The event begins at 9 a.m., and two-man teams of ropers may bring their own ground crew or choose from help available at the ranch. The entry fee is \$50 per man. First place will pay 30 percent of the total entry fees paid with second place to pay 20 percent.

The entry fee includes three calves. Ropers may enter as many times as they like subject to calf availability and the total number of teams entered.

For information, call Steve Derrick at (208) 337-3023.

Photo by KC Kelly

## Family Fun Fair and Roundup roping winners

The Mountain View Church of the Nazarene’s pastor, Chuck Ryan, said the event was a great success with a strong sowing from the local community as well as people who attended from Eagle and the greater Treasure Valley area. He estimated that attendance for the cowboy worship service saw at least 430 participants.

“As the Senior Pastor, I have observed many people who have been discourage and depressed due to the economic down turn,” Ryan said in a release to The Avalanche.

“God laid it on my heart to prepare a message on ‘Encourage’. Hopefully the reminder that God knows and cares about our personal needs, and is always with us, will help sustain people in these difficult times.”

Final estimates put total attendance at around 650 persons for the roping events and the multiple concerts.

“It was the goal of the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene to share the love of Christ with our friends and neighbors of the surrounding area,” Ryan said. “We wanted to make it fun and affordable for the entire family. Through out the day numerous individuals shared with me

positive comments and then added ‘We hope you do this again next year’. With the many compliments, and the fact that a couple of our food venders sold completely out of food, and many people (still) stayed for the entire day, speaks highly of the fair’s success.”

To many who attended the fair, and those who wished they had, pastor Ryan said that the third annual Family Fun Fair and Round Up is already in planning for next year.

“I want to say thanks to the numerous volunteers, both from the Church and our great community, for the hours and money donated to make this fun event possible,” he said. “May this event continue grow, that all may come to experience the love of Christ exemplified through His Church!


**Team roping** — 1. Stephanie King and Tom Flenagen; 2. Stephanie King and Bobby Davis and Jeff Flenagen; 3. Garth Millard and Greg Garrett

**Breakaway roping** — 1. Maddy Pendergrass; 2. Gloria King; 3. Stephanie King; Fastest time: Ginger Loucks

**Novice breakaway roping** — 1. Quincy Pendergrass; 2. Shawna Widdick



*Above: Team roping winners at the Family Fun Fair and Rodeo were presented with the hand-crafted silver buckle by organizers.*



**Silver City schoolhouse gets its crown**

Crews put in place the schoolhouse bell on Sept. 13 during the Silver City Open House. The belfry, inset, had been sitting near the schoolhouse as officials prepared for the topping ceremony during the annual Open House. Restoration spokesman Marty Peterson said the schoolhouse bell was rung promptly at noon.

Submitted photo



# Adventures with Festus and Mr. Doodles

## Oklahoman slices through Owyhee on horseback trek

Vermont native set out for Washington state 3½ months ago

Like many cowboys, Mark Ryan takes a literal slant on life.

So when a buddy in Washington state told him to get on his horse and visit sometime, Ryan lined out a plan to do exactly that.

His map started about 40 miles northwest of Oklahoma City.

More than three months ago, the 46-year-old cattleman and farrier saddled up Mr. Doodles, his 8-year-old horse, packed supplies on a 7-year-old mule named Festus and left his home in Kingfisher, Okla.

"It takes a lot of faith for a guy to get up and head down that road," he said.

Ryan figures his 2,500-mile trail will end in Ferndale, Wash. — "20 miles from Canada and the same distance from the Pacific Ocean", he says — in the next two months.

He spent one day early last week traversing a sliver of Owyhee County to end the Idaho leg of his journey.

"He's traveling with literally the clothes on his back and a few things packed in his bags," Marsing resident Tim Dines said.

Ryan watered his animals at Dines' place before heading via Pershall, Jump Creek, Cemetery and Johnstone roads for the night's resting spot on land near Succor Creek.

"I sure appreciate being able to stop and get some water from him," Ryan said of Dines.

According to directions on Google Maps, it should take a person on foot about 28 days to make the trip from Kingfisher to Ferndale. But Ryan is taking his time on a more indirect route, seeing the land and trying to stay out of the way.

"We take as much backroads as we can," Ryan said, adding that the strategy for avoiding most automobile traffic has worked so far.

"The scary spots are on bridges. But the majority of the traffic is really kind to you," he said. "But like everything else in life, you've got some boneheads."

He said he has county maps for every stretch of road he has taken.

Ryan financed his leisurely journey — he covers anywhere from 12 to 35 miles each day — by getting off the road. He sold his Harley to come up with the funds for what is just another segment of a journey that seemingly has been heading west since he left Vermont at the age of 17.

"I knew more than anybody else there, so it was time to leave," Ryan said. "I left with two pairs of jeans, two shirts and \$20 in my backpack."

Helanded in Oklahoma and spent time climbing communications

towers before settling into a life of cattle and horses.

"I fell head over heels in love with the life," he said.

But even cowboy life in the Sooner state seemingly couldn't curb Ryan's wanderlust. He has participated in the long-distance Old Chisholm Trail Ride several times.

"I kept doing that trip for several years to learn how to spend more time with my horse," he said.

Turns out, the current trek has created quite a bond with his pack animal, Festus, on whose back is ferried a water filtration system, clothing, cold-weather gear, camp food, bedding and all the other necessities of the trail.

"The mule has done very well. The horse doesn't have the stamina the mule does," Ryan said. "I can see why people put the mule over the horse."

Ryan said Festus is becoming more and more affectionate — seemingly the opposite of the mule stereotype — as the trip wears on.

"The mule is incredible. He gets to be more and more like a dog," Ryan said. "We camp out every night, and he will stand over the top of me and eat his feed, then he'll go back and get another mouthful and stand over me and chew."

But it hasn't been all mules and horses for Ryan since he started his marathon trip six months ago.

"The people I've met and been involved with have been endlessly super to us," he said. "I want to say thank you to all the people in Idaho."

Just like the quirky personalities of motorists he has seen, though, there has been at least one Idahoan who wasn't neighborly. But that only made Ryan a reluctant celebrity.

West of Declo, his request to spend the night on one farm rejected, Ryan found himself on the ranch of Magic Valley TV and radio personality Zeb Bell. In the morning, as Ryan readied for the trail, he got an invitation to chew up 10 minutes of Bell's talk radio program.

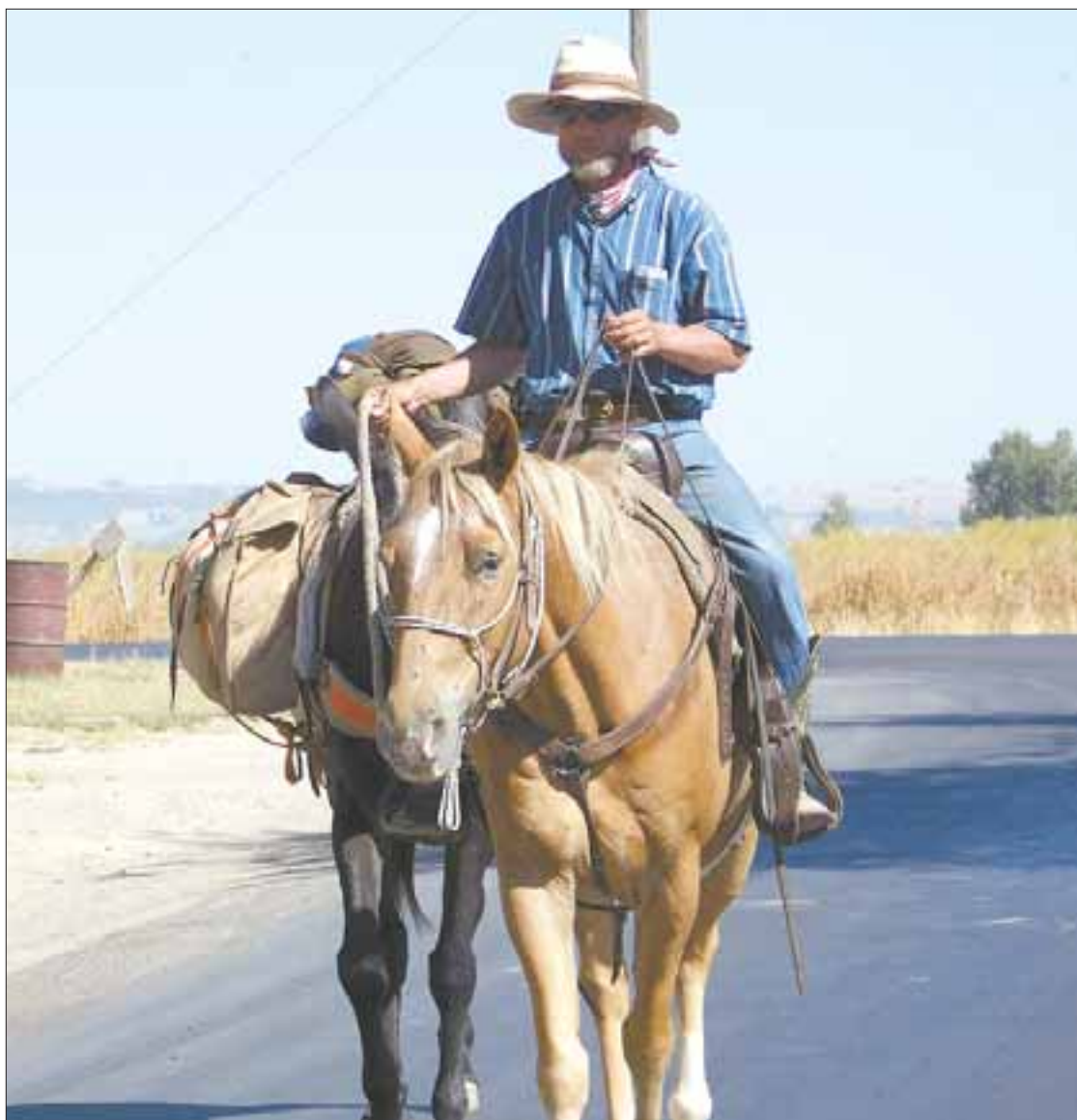
"I was so nervous," Ryan said.

But he got through the conversation and moved down the road to his next brush with Idaho hospitality.

"A week ago, I was at a QuikStop looking for a place to camp out. A gentleman told me about a creek with good water, shade trees and plenty of tall grass," Ryan said.

"Later on, he shows up with sandwiches, fruit and drink and three postcards — each with a stamp."

The appearance on Bell's radio program has been one of the rare occasions that Ryan has



### Seeing the sights, cowboy style

Mark Ryan rode through the Marsing-Homedale area last week as part of his 2,500-mile journey from his home in Kingfisher, Okla., to Ferndale, Wash. Part of his course through Owyhee County took him around the corner at Jump Creek Road and Cemetery Road south of Homedale.

allowed the spotlight to fall on his travels.

"We're not looking for self-glorification," Ryan said. "This isn't, 'Look what I'm doing.'"

If anything, the long dusty trail across half a continent has given Ryan time to get away from the typical trappings of modern life.

"There are lots of little reasons for getting out over the country," he said. "It's provided a lot of time to read my Bible and to think about myself. All the stuff you've saved up is at home, and if you think about that you start thinking about going back."

"I plan on going home. I just don't know when."

— JPB





Have a news tip?

Call us!

337-4681

# Family Farm Days coming this weekend

The annual Family Farm Days and Music Festival is set for Vision Community Church in Marsing this weekend.

The festivities begin at 6 p.m. Friday with a free ice cream social, live music and a preview of Saturday's live auction.

Saturday's schedule starts at 10 a.m. and includes live music, carnival games such as a dunk tank, paintball and face painting, a yard sale and flea market, pig barbecue and live auction.

The barbecue starts at 5 p.m. and is priced at \$2 per plate.

The live auction begins at 6 p.m., and lots include tools, ladders, clothing, quilts, furniture, gift baskets, baked goods and fresh fruit, dolls, gift certificates, collectibles, outdoors gear, a 1977 Ford pickup and more.

A free pancake breakfast will be served beginning at 9 a.m. Sunday, followed by an open-air Sunday service and the carnival and flea market.

Vision Community Church is located a 221 W. Main St., in Marsing. For more information, call 896-5407.

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# COSSA conceives corridor for companies, tech ed

### Cotner and cadre seek volunteers for steering committee

The regional professional technical education program for high school students — Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency (COSSA) — is exploring a centralized location for classes within a few miles of Homedale.

Mark Cotner, COSSA executive director, spoke at a Sept. 16 educational summit at Homedale High School and expanded on the plans to construct a professional technical center that would be centrally located with room for additional classes as well as sites for light industry and manufacturing, encouraging a synergy between employers and grads with skills. He also sought members for the project’s steering committee, saying that he wanted business involved “to help hold our feet to the fire.”

About 50 educational and business leaders attended last week’s summit at the high school. At least eight signed up to be involved with the committee.

Cotner first told Homedale business leaders of the plan to build along Idaho highway 19 in Canyon County during the Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon earlier this month.

Residents of Owyhee and Canyon counties are familiar with COSSA, a cooperative effort of five

school districts targeted at helping high school students to graduate with technical skills. Founded in 1969, COSSA has classrooms and shops scattered across the Homedale, Marsing, Wilder, Notus and Parma areas — the districts that form the association. COSSA hopes to centralize itself in the future, and is studying the feasibility of an educational and commercial corridor located between Wilder and Greenleaf on the north side of Idaho 19, though nothing is set in stone, planners agreed.

COSSA’s goal is to involve companies in the corridor, along with the centralized tech center, to both train students and create nearby jobs for them. The corridor would ensure that graduates are groomed for, and experienced, in their fields of study, Cotner said.

He stressed COSSA boasts a 96 percent placement rate for grads in a job market that has shifted over the years.

Ron Nilson, owner and founder of Ground Force Manufacturing in Coeur d’Alene and head of the North Idaho Manufacturing Consortium, spoke on a similar trade-skills program that he is working with in the panhandle.

“This program needs to move to the next step, past words to ac-



**Bringing it all together**  
*Mark Cotner, COSSA executive director, addresses the audience of 50 or so businessmen and educators at Homedale High School.*

tions,” he said. “There’s an inseparable link between high quality education and a robust economy. If you neglect one, the other is going to suffer.”

Nilson argued that industry must be involved in programs like COSSA — that classes have to be based on industry demands if young workers are going to be able to find satisfying, well-paid work.

In 1950, he said, the workforce consisted of 17 percent professionals, 17 percent skilled workers and 66 percent unskilled labor. In 2000, 20 percent of hires were professionals, 15 percent unskilled and 65 percent skilled labor. Educators, industry and the public should be conscious of this

and focus on training that allows a graduate to get a start on a career, Nilson said.

“What are the United States, the state, the local businesses doing?” he asked. “We’re shipping jobs to China (by failing to educate skilled workers). We don’t have the self-discipline to teach our kids the skills they need to work.”

“Stop being the silent majority,” Nilson said. “Get engaged with the private sector; talk to schools, get other business involved. Do it for the kids, and do it for the future.”

Organizations like COSSA, on which Nilson based some of his own project, the Advancement of Technical Trades and Citizens for Kids, are the way to address

that lack of targeted education, he said.

A high-school and technical education, both stressed, was more than simply pre-college preparation. In Idaho only 57 percent of the population has a high school degree, versus 80 percent nationally, Cotner said. Raising that percentage was something that Nilson addressed in depth.

Educators and legislators have said that high school needed to be more rigorous and relevant to encourage students to stay through graduation, but “if you show students the relevance (through programs like COSSA), they will supply the rigor themselves,” he said.

A high school diploma, if a purely academic one, was not, Cotner said, a guarantee of success. A valedictorian graduating with honors, he asked, was qualified to work where?

“They’re qualified to work at McDonald’s or Wal-Mart,” he said.

A graduate who had completed a course of training through COSSA, in contrast, would be ready to enter the nursing field, or enter work as a diesel mechanic or welder.

The next steps for the project will be to secure property and funding, as well as rounding up interested companies.

— MML



## Family Farm Days & Music Festival

Brought to you by: **Vision Community Church**  
**September 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



**FRIDAY – 6:00 PM**  
\* Free Ice Cream Social!  
\* Auction Preview!  
\* Live Music!



**SATURDAY – 10:00 AM**  
\* Live Music!

\* Old Fashioned Carnival Games!  
(Dunk Tank, Paintball, face painting & more)  
\* Giant Yard Sale & Flea Market!  
\* Pig BBQ! (\$2.00 per plate) - 5:00 PM  
\* Live Auction! - 6:00 PM



**SUNDAY – 9:00 AM**  
\* Free Pancake Breakfast! - 9:00 AM  
\* Open Air Sunday Service! - 10:00 AM  
\* Live Music!  
\* Old Fashioned Carnival Games!  
\* Giant Yard Sale & Flea Market!

## Family Farm Days AUCTION

**Vision Community Church**  
**221 W. Main St.—Marsing, ID**  
**Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



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# Better late than never

## HHS' Greeley earns awards for skills, shop program

Mike Greeley never has to worry about being the topic of gossip. Apparently, his peers have nothing but good things to say about him even when he isn't in the room.

At the past two Career and Technical Educators of Idaho (CTEI) summer conventions, his colleagues have awarded him an accolade.

On both occasions, the veteran Homedale High School industrial arts instructor was away on other business.

Nevertheless, two years ago the Technology Education Association of Idaho (TEAI) named him Senior High Teacher of the Year for 2006-07.

A few months ago, he earned the 2007-08 Senior High Program of the Year award from the TEAI, which is part of CTEI.

"It just validates you're doing the right thing at the end of your career; that you've learned what you're supposed to do and doing what you're supposed to do and delivering to the kids at the end of your career," Greeley said.

Fortunately, Greeley, who has taught for 27 years, didn't have

to wait for retirement to get his props.

But he nearly had to wait until retirement to get his hands on the commemorative plaques.

"A year ago, (fellow industrial arts teachers) nominated and selected me teacher of the year, and they never told me," Greeley said.

"That was the year my dad died, and we were short-handed at the ranch."

This summer, a long-planned family fishing "trip of a lifetime" to La Paz, Mexico, fell squarely on the week of the summer meeting in Boise.

"We spent a week in Mexico and caught 11 different species of fish," said Greeley, who traveled with his wife and two children and some close friends. "It was awesome down there."

Having not attended either the 2006-07 meeting in Coeur

d'Alene or this summer's convention in Boise, Greeley didn't learn of the accolades until he began preparing for the new school year.

"A colleague gave them to me this summer in July," Greeley said, adding that a change in the CTEI administration at the state level delayed notification of his awards.

Greeley has taught industrial arts — covering wood shop, drafting and carpentry — for 24 years, and he has been in the Homedale shop since 1987.

He also has a certification in metal works, but Homedale FFA advisor Lori Harrison handles that part of the school's curriculum.

Years ago at Homedale, Greeley earned his first nod of recognition from the TEAI when he won the award for program of the year for a teacher with less than five years' experience.

"I've got good students and good learners, and they're learning what I'm teaching, basically," Greeley said in explaining the ingredients that go into a teacher of the year candidate.

"I've got a good curriculum, and the kids are learning from the curriculum and doing well at State."

An aspect of the program of the year criteria is how well a school's curriculum fits the needs of the community. Greeley's students always have applied their knowledge to community service projects. In 2005, they banded together to build a wheelchair ramp for classmate Jonathan Page, who



### Homedale teacher recognized by peers

Veteran industrial arts teacher Mike Greeley recently received two plaques that his peers awarded him during the past two Career and Technical Educators of Idaho summer conferences.

had been seriously injured in a swimming accident that summer in Oklahoma.

"I was one of only 20 programs in the state (cited) for a well-rounded program to meet the parameters from the state office and in the community," Greeley said.

Additionally, Greeley's instruction seemingly always produces top-notch competitors in state Technology Students of America contests.

In March, a group of Greeley disciples will attend the TSA state

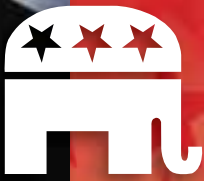
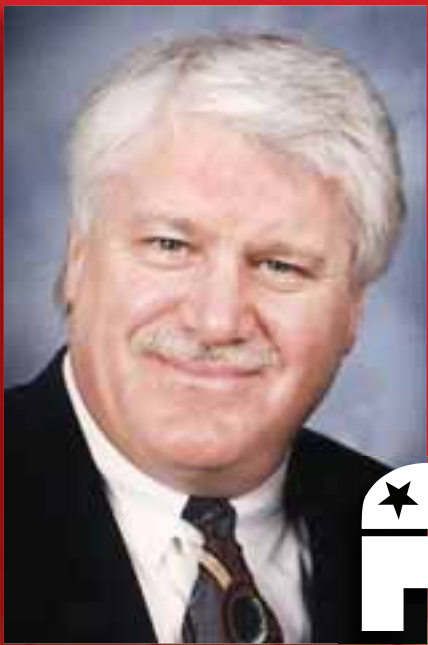
meet. In 2006, Homedale finished second in the state's Technology Bowl and also grabbed runner-up honors for Engineering and Spontaneous Problem Solving.

"We've got a great community and good kids to work with," he said. "I've got one of the best facilities in the state. And that's something else the judges looked at — square footage (of the work area) and (quality of) equipment — and I've got one of the best shops in the state."

— JPB

## Owyhee and Twin Falls County Voters...Keep....

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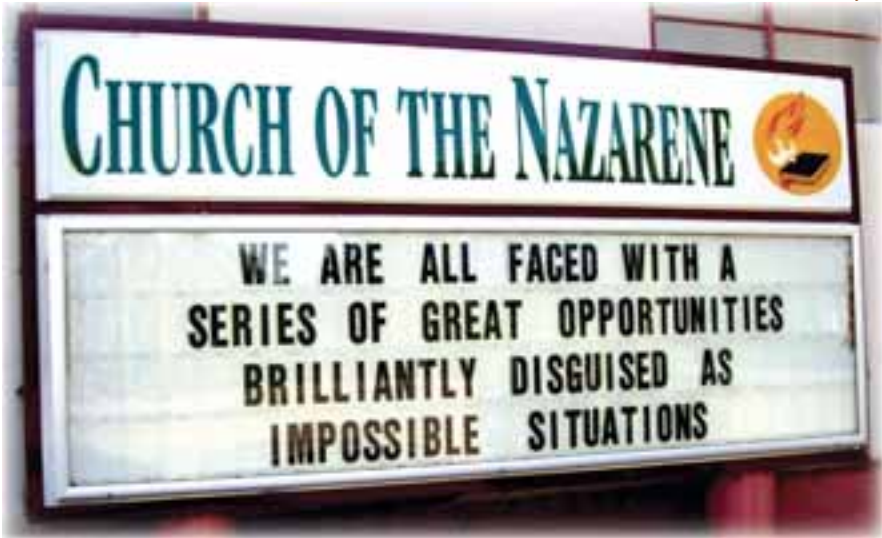
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# Utility rights-of-way could affect Owyhee land in coming years

The increasing demand for power in the West could affect what the future landscape of northwest Owyhee County looks like.

Two proposed projects — one for electricity transmission and one for the delivery of natural gas — will cut swaths through that part of the county, impacting both public and private land.

Southwest of Homedale, officials from Sunstone Pipeline LLC visited landowners late last week to discuss survey permission on the possible siting of part of an underground 585-mile natural gas pipeline on their property.

One landowner who could be affected said Sunstone representatives told him it would be approximately three feet underground.

The Sunstone Pipeline project, a joint venture of Williams Gas Pipeline Co., LLC, TransCanada PipeLine USA Ltd., and Sempra Pipelines & Storage, would ship up to 1.2 billion cubic feet of natural per day from Wyoming across southern Idaho to customers in the West and Northwest, according to a information packet distributed to property owners whose land is being eyed for right-of-way.

A letter from Sunstone's James Goudreau to property owners stated that the project will undergo "a rigorous permitting and environmental review process" before construction, which is set to begin in July 2010. Goudreau's letter also said that the pipeline could be in service as early as mid-2011.

Sunstone said once the list of proposed landowners is narrowed after the surveying process, the company will contact those on the short list and discuss compensation to develop easements. A frequently-asked-questions section on the project Web site, [www.sunstonepipeline.com](http://www.sunstonepipeline.com), stated that more than one pipeline can be sited on and often more than one company can utilize rights-of-way.

Civil and archaeological surveys are planned, according to Sunstone's information packet. Wetlands and wildlife habitat also will be mapped, and

other environmental surveys of vegetation, wildlife habitat and streams also may be needed, Sunstone said.

The company also stressed in its information that survey work "generally causes little or no disruption to landowners".

The Bureau of Land Management recently announced the completion of the scoping report for the Gateway West Transmission Line Project. The report outlines a plan for nearly 1,000 miles of high voltage transmission lines stretching from southern Wyoming to southern Idaho and is the first step in developing a draft environmental impact study (DEIS).

The project, a joint effort between Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power, requires right-of-way grants on public land administered by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service. It will connect Idaho Power's proposed Hemingway substation in Owyhee County with a substation proposed near Glenrock, Wyo.

While the public comment period on the scoping report has closed, the public can review the document online at [www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway\\_west](http://www.wy.blm.gov/nepa/cfodocs/gateway_west), and submit questions through that Web site or by e-mailing [Gateway\\_West\\_WYMail@blm.gov](mailto:Gateway_West_WYMail@blm.gov). BLM Wyoming also said in a press release that the public can stay involved in the process by writing Bureau of Land Management, Gateway West Project, P.O. Box 20879, Cheyenne, WY 82003.

A 60-day public comment period will be open again after the release of DEIS next spring. Public hearings also are planned at that time.

Have a news tip?

Call us!

337-4681

# Final historical society trip details Owyhee CCC projects of 1940s

by Mary O'Malley  
The last field trip of the Owyhee County Historical Society 2008 season was a beautiful trip around the Mud Flat Road led by Nick and Dolores Ihli.

This road, also called the Owyhee Uplands Back Country Byway, wends its way 105 mostly dirt miles from Jordan Valley to Grand View through some of the most remote, historic and scenic high desert country in Idaho.

Almost 50 OCHS members and guests met in Jordan Valley and stopped several places for historical and geological talks.

A most scenic and interesting stop for the usual excellent potluck lunch was at the Bureau of Land Management Mud Flat Administrative Site. This was originally established as Camp Mud Flat, a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp, used in the summer months of 1940 and 1941. Nick presented information on camp life from a camp inspection report, which included menus of the camp, classes offered, and entertainment, in addition to the work the CCC members accomplished.

Work completed included building of concrete troughs, truck trails, stock reservoirs, and drift fences, in addition to fire suppression, spring development



**Members learn about conservation corps**  
Close to 50 Owyhee County Historical Society members and their guests turned out to hear Nick Ihli's recital of the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940s Owyhee County. Submitted photo

and road work. The 2009 field trip schedule will be mapped out at a meeting sometime after the first of the year. Suggestions for trip destinations are welcome.

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# One-car accident puts Boise man in St. Al's

Anthony Hofer of Boise was involved in a one-car accident Sunday morning, called in at 8:11 a.m., near the intersection of Idaho highway 78 and River Road in Grand View.

Hofer, who reportedly fell asleep, ran off the left side of the road in his Toyota pickup, dropped into an irrigation canal, and, after traveling better than 200 feet, struck the culvert running under a driveway and flipped the truck back out of the ditch and into a yard.

Responders reported him as non-responsive initially, and bloodied from a split lower lip. Air St. Luke's was called, but was cancelled en route.

Grand View Ambulance took Hofer to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. St. Al's officials didn't return phone calls Monday seeking an update on Hofer's condition.

An Owyhee County Sheriff's Office official said no citation was issued in connection with the accident.

# School trustees honor employee of the month

## Superintendent: Schools see benefit of open-enrollment policy

The 2008-09 school year's first distinguished employee of the month was honored during September's Homedale School District board of trustees meeting.

Tammy Glaser, who has taught at Homedale Elementary for seven years, was presented a plaque by school board chair Kurt Shanley after elementary principal Yvonne Ihli gave a nomination presentation.

"Her teammates write, 'Tammy is a team player,'" Ihli said in her remarks to the board, quoting Glaser's grade level team. "She is willing to put in the extra time and stay late to plan with others. She is always an advocate for her students and wants to do whatever it takes for each student to be successful."

"She's a go-getter."

A first-grade teacher at Homedale, Glaser has taught primary education for 17 years, and Ihli said she has taught at Homedale longer than any of her other stops.

Ihli said Glaser has taught all different combinations of first through third grades.

"She is full of energy and can be seen continually moving

around the room monitoring kids' progress when she is not in front of the room teaching," Ihli said.

Other developments from the recent school board meeting included a report from Homedale Middle School principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness that her campus now offers advanced classes such as Pre-Algebra for sixth-graders, Algebra 1 for seventh- and eighth-graders, and Accelerated English in which seventh-graders follow an eighth-grade level curriculum.

Asumendi-Mereness also reported that there are three advanced classes to prepare eighth-graders for high school courses, including Pre-AP (advanced placement) English, Advanced Science and Pre-Engineering.

Homedale School District superintendent Tim Rosandick told trustees that after three years, the open-enrollment policy continues to show dividends.

He said a 19.7 percent jump in the number of out-of-district students enrolled in the school for 2008-09 has been helpful in maintain revenue amid falling enrollment.



Tammy Glaser

"Many of these students are solid students with supportive parents," Rosandick wrote in his monthly meeting synopsis. "The 'opening of the district' that occurred with a policy change three years ago has helped abate a trend of declining enrollment."

There are 103 out-of-district students in Homedale schools this year, only five fewer than the 1994-95 numbers, Rosandick reported. This year's non-resident students hail from several outside districts, including 14 percent from Marsing and a 54 percent majority from Wilder. Other districts represented include Val-livue (16 percent) and Nampa (seven percent).

The superintendent said the state funding influx that has accompanied the students allows the school district to maintain programs.

"Every classroom of students translates into about \$95,000 in funding to the district," he wrote, adding that each classroom encompasses between 25 and 30 students.

In personnel news, the school board approved the appointment of Johnny Lane and Nathan Endicott as middle school football coaches. Linda Miklancic was named HMS Academic Bowl advisor.

The next board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Oct. 13 at the district office, 116 E. Owyhee Ave.



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# ION museum presents quilt show

The I.O.N. Heritage Museum in Jordan Valley will be open regular hours during the next month for a quilt show.

The museum, which 502 Swisher Ave., next to the Pelota court, usually is open for private tours and by appointment. However, until Oct. 27, the museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday through Saturday and from 1

p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. A quilt show will be held until Oct. 27.

Spokesperson Adele Payden said old and new quilts and quilts loaned to the museum from private collections will be displayed.

A wool blanket made by Pilar Elorriaga Tucker also will be available in a raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5. Tucker is the sister of former US Bank chief executive and Jordan Valley native John Elorriaga, who donated his family's home for the museum. Tucker also used to own Pilar's Hair Salon in Jordan Valley, and Payden said that much of the antiques and memorabilia in the museum can be

traced to Tucker's business as well as her private collection.

"She was talented not only musically, but was an artist, sewed, crocheted, needlepoint, embroidery, did all sorts of handcrafts, wrote poetry, canned, quite the cook, held dances once a week," Payden wrote in an e-mail.

The museum also needs volunteers. For information on the show, raffle or to volunteer, call Payden at (541) 586-2818, curator Joanne Cunningham at (541) 586-2984 or the museum at (541) 586-2100. More information on the museum is available online at [www.cityofjordanvalley.com](http://www.cityofjordanvalley.com).



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## Melba FFA news

by Erica Smith, reporter

The Melba FFA Chapter Traveled to Columbia High School in Nampa on Sept. 8 to attend the Boise Valley District Leadership Workshops.

The Boise Valley Leadership Workshops are open to FFA chapters within the Boise Valley.

These leadership workshops help FFA members come to a better understanding about the FFA organization, and all the opportunities within it.

Along with the leadership workshops, there was also a barbeque, which sponsored by the donations we receive.

This year from the Melba FFA Chapter, there were 18 attending members at the workshops. In total from the local valley, there was an attendance of 175 FFA members.

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



Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation Web site showed that, as of Monday morning, Owyhee Reservoir was an “unknown” percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 118 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore. at a rate of 212 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held an unknown number acre-feet of water due to a sensor issue. The following statistics were gathered from the National Resources Conservation Service Web site at 8:30 a.m. Monday (Year-to-date precipitation is measured from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30).

SNOTEL report, Owyhee County sensors

	Snow Equiv.	Snow Depth	Year-to-date Precip.	Previous day's temperature		
	(measured in inches)			Max	Min	Avg
				(measured in Fahrenheit)		
<b>Mud Flat</b>						
09/16	0.0	0.0	16.3	84.2	39.1	62.1
09/17	0.1	1.7	16.2	86.8	45.4	66.4
09/18	0.1	1.1	16.3	79.9	47.1	65.4
09/19	0.1	1.1	16.3	81.7	48.8	66.1
09/20	0.2	1.1	16.3	80.2	52.5	63.2
09/21	0.2	1.8	16.4	63.5	46.5	53.3
09/22	0.2	2.1	16.4	60.3	38.6	48.8
<b>Reynolds Creek</b>						
09/16	0.0	0.0	18.1	76.7	53.7	65.5
09/17	0.1	0.1	18.1	78.5	54.6	66.0
09/18	0.1	0.1	18.0	78.4	57.4	67.9
09/19	0.0	-0.3	18.1	77.6	58.8	67.6
09/20	0.1	0.3	18.2	77.2	53.2	64.4
09/21	0.0	0.1	19.1	57.3	42.5	48.0
09/22	0.0	0.0	19.1	53.3	39.8	45.4
<b>South Mountain</b>						
09/16	0.0	0.0	34.3	77.6	55.5	64.6
09/17	0.1	-0.6	34.3	78.9	58.5	66.4
09/18	0.2	-0.3	34.3	71.7	56.4	63.3
09/19	0.1	-0.6	34.3	76.5	55.6	63.8
09/20	0.2	-0.1	34.5	72.6	48.4	61.4
09/21	0.2	0.0	35.0	53.0	41.5	45.8
09/22	0.2	0.0	34.9	53.1	39.2	43.9

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
Sept. 16	92	40	.00
Sept. 17	93	41	.00
Sept. 18	90	41	.00
Sept. 19	94	49	.00
Sept. 20	no reading taken		
Sept. 21	no reading taken		
Sept. 22	92	46	.87

Local students earn EOU degrees

A batch of local students recently graduated from Eastern Oregon University in La Grande, Ore., as part of the 2007-08 academic year.

Most of the students were among the 618 graduates who completed bachelor’s degrees during the summer term (another 76 earned master’s degrees):

**Homedale** — Michelle Eby, Bachelor’s of Science (B.S.) in Multidisciplinary Studies;

Michael Eby, B.S. in Business Administration; and Jessica Ulrich, B.S. in Physical Activity and Health

**Caldwell** — Brian Cuddeback, an HHS graduate, B.S. Multidisciplinary Studies; Andrew Endicott, an HHS graduate, B.S. in Multidisciplinary Studies; Katie Wilson, B.S. Multidisciplinary

Studies; Nicole Adamson, Master’s in Teacher Education; Andrea Jakubowski, B.S. Physical Activity and Health; and Mark Schimmels, B.S. in Business Administration

EOU spokesperson said the Caldwell-based students requested their achievements be published in The Owyhee Avalanche.

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**\$3<sup>59</sup>** lb.

**Acorn, Spaghetti & Butternut Squash**



**69¢** lb.

50 lb. Jumbo  
**Red or Yellow Onions**



**\$10<sup>99</sup>** ea.

Bar-S 3 lb.  
**Sausage** **\$4<sup>19</sup>** ea.  
**Beef Stew Meat** **\$2<sup>89</sup>** lb.  
**Deli Burritos** **49¢** ea.

Western Family 8 oz.  
**Shredded Cheese** **\$2<sup>19</sup>** ea.  
Western Family 5 oz.  
**Burritos** **3\$<sup>1</sup>**  
Better Buy 10.23 oz.  
**Cheese** **99¢** ea.

**Green Peppers** **2\$<sup>1</sup>**  
**Extra Large Roma Tomatoes** **79¢** lb.  
**Local Peaches** **69¢** lb.

**Large Avocados** **\$1<sup>59</sup>** ea.  
**Cauliflower** **79¢** lb.  
**Local Gala Apples** **99¢** lb.

**Stagg Chili**



**\$1<sup>49</sup>** ea.  
15 oz.

Western Family 28 oz.  
**Baked Beans** **\$1<sup>39</sup>** ea.

Western Family  
**Mayonnaise**



**\$2<sup>59</sup>** ea.  
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**Shasta Soda** **\$1<sup>49</sup>** ea.

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**Pepsi Products** **\$1<sup>39</sup>** ea.

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Western Family Milk - 2%, 1%, Skim Gallon <b>\$3<sup>19</sup></b> ea.	Hunt's Ketchup 24 oz. <b>\$1<sup>59</sup></b> ea.	Western Family Hot Cocoa 10 ct. <b>\$1<sup>29</sup></b> ea.	Starbucks Double Shot Energy Drink 15 oz. <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> ea.
Western Family Cottage Cheese 24 oz. <b>\$2<sup>79</sup></b> ea.	American Beauty Pasta 24 oz. <b>\$1<sup>59</sup></b> ea.	Taco Bell Refried Beans 16 oz. <b>69¢</b> ea.	Lay's Potato Chips 11-12 oz. <b>\$3<sup>49</sup></b> ea.
Western Family Light Soft Spread 48 oz. <b>\$1<sup>99</sup></b> ea.	Prego Pasta Sauce 26 oz. <b>\$2<sup>19</sup></b> ea.	Taco Bell Taco & Fajita Seasoning 1.25-1.4 oz. <b>69¢</b> ea.	McCormick Grillmates Seasoning Asst'd .71-1.06 oz. <b>59¢</b> ea.
Rice-A-Roni & Pasta Roni <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> ea.	La Victoria Enchilada Sauce 19 oz. <b>2\$<sup>3</sup></b>	Stouffer's Frozen Entrees Asst'd <b>\$2<sup>89</sup></b> ea.	McCormick Mexican Seasoning Asst'd <b>2\$<sup>1</sup></b>
ALL 2x Liquid Laundry Detergent 50 oz. <b>\$5<sup>49</sup></b> ea.	Kellogg's Special K Cereal 12 oz. <b>\$3<sup>29</sup></b> ea.	Lean Cuisine Frozen Entrees Asst'd <b>\$2<sup>89</sup></b> ea.	Kraft Salad Dressing 16 oz. <b>\$2<sup>89</sup></b> ea.
Western Family Beef Jerky 4 oz. <b>\$3<sup>69</sup></b> ea.	Alpo Dog Food 13-13.2 oz. <b>89¢</b> ea.	Western Family Premium Ice Cream 56 oz. <b>\$3<sup>59</sup></b> ea.	Hot, Croissant & Lean Pockets Asst'd <b>4\$<sup>9</sup></b>

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