



**Huskies
wrestler No. 1
Page 14**

State No. 2 Jordan Valley on roll, In Sports

County annex update, Page 3
Marsing DMV office to close while
equipment goes to new location

Homedale, Page 2
Mayor withdraws reimbursement
claim after council balks at bill

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The Owyhee Avalanche

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009

Commissioner disputes sheriff's claims

**Crandall report
lists equipment
difficulties**

A county commissioner is disputing allegations Owyhee County Sheriff Daryl Crandall leveled in a report of his first week

on the job, which he described as "trying."

"We're running a little bit behind in our transition," Crandall told the Board of County Commissioners. "We've run into some problems."

Crandall didn't name any member of former Sheriff Gary Aman's administration when

detailing accusations of missing phone jacks and wires on the county dispatch phone line, "scrubbed" computer hard drives, off-line printers, inaccessible computers and case files, altered personnel files and a disorganized petty cash fund.

In the days after the meeting, District 3 Commissioner Dick

Freund had been in contact with members of Aman's administration and called unfounded Crandall's assertions that the previous administration did a variety of things to impede the transition of power.

Freund said what Crandall identified as petty cash actually is a "pop" fund to make change

for the county-owned vending machine.

Crandall read from a series of notes during his report to the commissioners during the Jan. 20 meeting. Freund requested a copy of the notes and said he was furnished with the request later.

— JPB

— More on claims, page 5



Landowners affected by the proposed Boardman-to-Hemingway 500-kilovolt transmission line route examine a map provided by the South Board of Control manager Ron Keister at a Thursday meeting at the Homedale Senior Citizens Center.

Residents band together to move B2H

Despite freezing rain and treacherous roads, more than 80 landowners and concerned residents attended the first meeting of an as-yet unnamed organization that seeks to have Idaho Power relocate its proposed 500-kilovolt (kV) Boardman to Hemingway Transmission (B2H) line route corridor.

The meeting was held at the Homedale Senior Citizens

Center on Thursday night.

In addition to landowners, Roger Findley of Stop Idaho Power, Malheur County Judge Dan Joyce, Ron Keister of the South Board of Control and Owyhee County District 2

— See **B2H**, page 13

Prison time for gunman

**Homedale molestation
suspect pleads not guilty**

Juan Carlos Meza, 19, of Homedale, was sentenced following a guilty plea on one of two counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for an incident that occurred in Homedale in July. Meza discharged a handgun multiple times toward a pickup carrying two adults and 10 children, according to Homedale Police. One bullet passed through the cab of the vehicle, between the driver and passenger. No one was injured in the incident.

Meza was sentenced Friday to 1½ years fixed, 7½ years indeterminate.

It's not the first time Meza has appeared in court. He has a long history of run-ins with the law in Owyhee County, according to court records.

In 2002, he was sentenced to 10 months probation as a juvenile for violating curfew.

In 2003, he was charged as a minor with alcohol, two more curfew violations and frequenting a place where controlled substances were used illegally. The prosecutor dismissed all those charges in October 2003.

— See **Prison**, page 4



Juan Carlos Meza

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Obituaries

6

Calendar

7

Peary Perry

7

Sports

14-17

Commentary 18-19

Looking Back 20

Legals 21-22

Classifieds 22-23

Inside

**Melba holds
auction
Page 10**

Mayor writes check to end catering bill flap

A day after controversy nearly derails city business again, Wilson pays \$280 tab

A week after a flawed motion process prevented the City of Homedale from paying bills, the City Council voted to pay all bills for the month except the mayor’s claim connected to a prime rib dinner for the police department.

When it came time to approve paying bills during Thursday’s meeting, none of the four council members spoke up.

“I guess we don’t pay the bills this month,” Mayor Harold Wilson said after his call for a motion went unanswered twice.

Then Councilman Aaron Tines moved to pay all the bills listed for Thursday’s meeting and all but a \$280 claim submitted by Mayor Harold Wilson as part of his expense account.

Tines said that he would like to see further review of the mayor’s submission before the council made a final decision.

The issue now appears to moot. City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram confirmed Monday morning that Wilson wrote a personal check to cover his expense

account reimbursement on Friday.

The at-times testy review of the bills capped an otherwise uneventful council meeting.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller reported he had met with Owyhee County Sheriff Daryl Crandall about the possibility of merging the two agency’s computers to streamline report work for his officers. He said preliminary discussions are under way to set up a system by which county dispatchers would generate one report for an incident and his officers would add the narrative. Currently, the officers also file a report duplicating what the county dispatchers have.

“It would be a benefit and a cost savings as far as the officers not even having to come into the office to do reports other than narratives,” Eidemiller said.

Eidemiller said he would have to do more research before bringing a price tag to the city council.

“The benefits are going to far out-run the short-term costs,” he said.

Public works supervisor Larry Bauer suggested the city council begin looking at replacing the roof on City Hall in coming years. Currently there is a leak in the building that is running down the wall into the window for the court clerk’s office.

— JPB



Smorgasbord Week 3 winners tabbed

Top-selling sixth-graders for week three of the Homedale International Smorgasbord fund-raising effort were, from left, David Chavez (Lesa Folwell’s class, \$63), Katlin Carbone (Pat Warren’s class, \$28), Victoria Nash (David Hann’s class, \$47) and Kellie Barraza (Kelly Schamber’s class, \$252). Barraza accounted for more than half of the school-best \$549 raised by Schamber’s class in Week 3. Schamber’s class also has raised \$1,387 during the pre-sale of tickets.

The 48th annual Homedale International Smorgasbord, themed “For the Love of Education”, will be held from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Valentine’s Day at Homedale Elementary School.

Judge yet to make decision on lawsuit against Homedale

Ruling expected Feb. 10; if city loses motion, case will continue

A trial in front of a judge or arbitration are two likely scenarios if a judge doesn’t grant the City Homedale’s motion for a summary judgment in a lawsuit filed by a construction firm owned by a town native.

Attorneys for Homedale and John Badiola’s Lurre Construction argued their cases in a Caldwell courtroom on Friday afternoon. Homedale was asking Third District Judge Gregory M. Culet to grant a summary judgment motion to stop a lawsuit connected to the 2007 bid award to Eastern Oregon Construction for the city’s sewer lift station near U.S. Highway 95.

Culet said he would issue his decision on the city’s motion in a telephonic hearing at 9 a.m. on Feb. 10. But he also offered the opportunity of arbitration if he denies Homedale’s motion, which would keep the case on course for a Feb. 18 trial date that has been on the docket since April.

claimed that the city was biased in its decision to award EOC the job after Lurre appeal the decision to the council.

Trout said the motion should be denied because Lurre had a contract right and was low-bidder.

Lurre has argued from the beginning of the proceedings in May 2007 that EOC’s bid was incorrect because a clerical error on a unit price actually set the full bid price in the neighborhood of \$6.7 million. But the city council maintained EOC was low bidder because the bottom line was still \$857,380 because EOC simply put the total cost of the item in the unit price rather than the piece price.

Lurre had bid \$886,166.

Arguing on behalf of the city, Boise attorney Steven Kraft pointed out that Homedale was’t notified of a claim against it or the damages sought. He also said that low-bidders are always decided by looking at the final amount, not adding unit prices.

“It goes back to the total bid, and the low bid was EOC,” Kraft said.

Kraft also said that the argument of bias on the part of the council was off-base because the city’s final responsibility is to the taxpayer.

During Kraft’s presentation, Culet referred to a letter from city engineer Fred Ostler that seemed to suggest the council should award the bid to Lurre.

Friday’s hearing came 20 months after Lurre Construction began legal proceedings against Homedale in the wake of the bidding for the sewer rehabilitation project.

Lurre Construction requested a trial on Jan. 29, 2008, more than six months after District Judge Dennis E. Goff denied the company’s motion for a preliminary injunction on June 6, 2007.

— JPB

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in the Avalanche

Marsing DMV office closes during move

The Division of Motor Vehicles office inside Marsing City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday as equipment is moved to the new county assessor’s satellite office at 19 Reich St.

County Assessor Brett Endicott told the Board of County Commissioners last week that personnel from the Idaho Transportation Department would move computer equipment from City Hall to the old Owyhee Conservation District building during the two days of closure.

Endicott told The Owyhee Avalanche that there is an outside chance that the Marsing DMV could be closed Monday, too. But he added that DMV offices in Grand View and Murphy will remain open.

Endicott also reported that the remodel by Shurtleff Construction continues on course. He said the counters and cabinets in the DMV portion of the building are completed.

The assessor also reported that county Coroner Harvey Grimme has moved into his office, and that a telephone subcontractor could put as many as two new separate phone lines in the building.

Feds seek people to get census word out

Preparation for 2010 count begins with promotional effort in county

The federal government has kicked off a campaign to make sure Owyhee County residents take part in Census 2010 next year.

Zee Quintana of the Census Bureau is seeing a chair to head up a Complete County Committee Program and avoid a paltry 63 percent response rate seen in Owyhee during the 2000 Census.

Quintana said that the numbers derived from a census are the basis of how federal and state agencies distribute funding for programs. She said a more accurate population count would bring more money into the county.

Quintana said that each person not counted in a census could cost the county up to \$308 annual in government funding. Because parameters are set after each census, that could mean tens of thousands of dollars of lost money for a county for Health and Welfare programs, funding for emergency services such as fire and ambulance districts, school districts and many other services, Quintana said.

The effort to get a more complete count in Owyhee County on Census Day (April 1, 2010) begins with the Complete Count Committee, Quintana said.

County Treasurer Brenda Richards has been appointed the government contact with the Census Bureau, but Quintana is seeking a person in the county

to head up the Complete Count Committee.

Quintana described the committee as a “community-based promotional program to promote the impact of Census 2010 in the local area.”

The Complete Count Leader in the county would be responsible for organizing a committee staffed by representation from faith-based organizations, community organizations, local government, school districts and others.

The objective of the committee is to spread the word on the importance of getting full participation in the census questionnaires.

Quintana said Owyhee County’s rural makeup, and the vast area over which the population is spread, poses a unique challenge.

“My goal is to find someone who’ll take the lead in the cities and towns and spread out in the rural areas,” she said.

The local committee will develop the plan to get the word out, Quintana said, and the committee leader will be responsible for convening the committee about four times in 2009 and ensuring that the plan is carried out. She also suggested that each group represented in the Complete Count Committee should form a subcommittee to better reach their segment of the population.

More information on being part of the Complete Count Committee, including the leader, or on becoming a census taker, which is a paid position, can be obtained by calling (866) 861-2010 or by contacting the local Census Bureau office in Boise.

— JPB

Weather			
	H	L	Prec.
Jan. 20	31	25	.00
Jan. 21	30	25	.00
Jan. 22	30	26	.00
Jan. 23	33	27	.07
Jan. 24	no reading taken		
Jan. 25	no reading taken		
Jan. 26	41	21	trace

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Law enforcement briefs

At 10:47 a.m. on Jan. 20 a man was arrested following a traffic stop on U.S. Highway 95 at milepost 9. The individual was wanted on a grand theft warrant out of California, and Idaho State Police took him into custody, with the help of OCSO deputies. The vehicle involved was towed. The individual arrested was listed in ISP records as Johnathan Perez.

A 6:39 a.m. call on Wednesday, listed as an incident of road rage on the dispatch log, turned out to be a verbal argument between truckers at the ION truck stop between Marsing and Homedale. One of the two disputants was cited for not having insurance, but the argument itself resulted in no charges.

A single-car rollover was reported on U.S. 95 at approximately mile marker 3 on Thursday at 9:09 a.m. ISP responded, and the Marsing Ambulance was dispatched but cancelled by ISP request. ISP was the only listed responding agency. On inquiry, ISP said there were no injuries in the incident.

Friday saw another single-car rollover, this one at milepost 48 on Idaho highway 51 at 9:53 a.m. No injuries were reported, and the driver called in the incident.

A call logged on Saturday at 10:34 p.m. listed Christy Vance as missing, last seen driving a late 1990s Toyota Camry.

Sunday morning saw a third single-car rollover, this one at mile marker 57 on Idaho 78 at 10:16. The log reported no injuries in the accident, and that an unspecified citation was issued.

— The Owyhee Avalanche did not receive OCSO comments on the weekend incidents before Monday’s deadline.

— Ed.

Rod and Gun Club plans benefit poker

The Marsing Rod and Gun Club has decided to take a popular route for next fund-raising event.

The club, located 2.9 miles south of Marsing on Idaho highway 78, will hold a Texas Hold ’Em poker tournament at 7 p.m. Saturday.

The entry fee is \$30 per person, and prizes will be awarded through 10th place. The top prize is a \$250 gift certificate to Sportsman’s Warehouse.

The club’s range also will open at 2 p.m. for fun shoots.

The public is invited to participate. For more information, call Tim Dines at 573-3321.

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Homedale teacher honored

HES pursues
after-school
activities grant

The Homedale School Board recognized 20-year second-grade teacher Mabel Itano for her decades of effort in teaching Homedale students. The board presented her with a recognition plaque at its January meeting.

Itano began her career in a two-room schoolhouse in the Vallivue School District. She has four children and three grandchildren. All of her children graduated from Homedale High School.

The board read a letter from one of Itano’s team members, which praised her dedication and long hours, and her “attention to every student’s progress.” Her involvement outside class was also

stressed, remembering her involvement with the yearly Homedale International Smorgasbord and other community affairs.

Itano will be retiring at the end of this school year, according to the Homedale School District meeting memo.

Yvonne Ihli, Homedale Elementary principal, reported on parent surveys taken in December. The surveys examined the need for and interest in an after-school program for which a grant is now being sought.

The surveys indicated that 79 percent of parents responding believed their children would participate in an after-school program, though 34 percent would need the program to provide transportation; 30 percent were interested in adult literacy and/or computer classes; 92 percent of responding parents said they had never been

part of a parent-teacher organization (PTO); 49 percent would be interested in involvement with a PTO, and 15 percent would be interested in having a leadership role in a Homedale PTO.

The Homedale Middle School Future City Competition team — coached by Jennifer Martin — showed off its finished project and awards at the meeting. The team took second out of 28 schools at a regional competition in Boise.

In other news, work continues on the replacement of heating units in the high school gymnasium. One of the old units has been removed entirely, and work is slated to continue as soon as the new gas heaters are received.

The Homedale School District is due for an on-site federal program review beginning March 3. Schools are reviewed at least once every six years, and programs using the \$600,000 provided by federal funding will be examined.

In action items, personnel hired included Maureen Holden (HES, kindergarten/first grade); Heather Mullins (HHS, English); Norma Carlisle (Limited English Proficiency outreach coordinator); Monica Ueberuaga (HHS library aide); KaLynn Lauson (GearUp site coordinator); Thomas Thomas (seventh-grade boys’ basketball); Superintendent Tim Rosandick’s contract renewed through June 2012.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9 at the district office, 116 E. Owyhee Ave.

From page 1

✓ Prison: Trespasser to pay restitution; DUIs sentenced

In April 2006, he was arrested as a juvenile for battery. Meza did not contest the charges, but was released and ordered to serve 30 days of community service and write a letter of apology to the victim.

In July 2006, he was charged with battery of a corrections officer, still as a juvenile. He did not contest the charges, spent 30 days in jail and was put on two years of supervised probation.

He has an additional sealed juvenile case in Ada County, and one in Canyon County, for which no details are available.

he reportedly was selling at a yard sale in October, had those charges dismissed by the court. He was, however, found guilty on a second charge also dating to October, that of trespass, for which he is liable for \$75 in fines and \$2,182.37 in restitution in a deal that resulted in the dismissal of the theft charge. The restitution addressed property associated with the dismissed theft case. Miller also will serve 20 hours of community service and will be on probation for six months.

Jordan Valley, Marsing men sentenced for DUI

Jeffery B. Anderson, 25, of Jordan Valley was found guilty of misdemeanor DUI stemming from a traffic stop in November. Anderson will be on probation for two years, has lost his driver’s license for six months and faces fines and court fees of \$750.

Kevin Bradley Scholtka, 24, of Marsing, was found guilty of excessive DUI following a stop on Sept. 24. Scholtka was sentenced on Jan. 12 to two years’ probation, will lose his driver’s license for six months, and will face fines and court fees of \$600.

— MML

Quintana pleads not guilty to two counts

Anthony Quintana, 30, formerly of Homedale, will stand trial after entering a plea of not guilty on two counts of Lewd Conduct with a child under 16. A trial date for the case, which involves the alleged abuse of two children, ages 8 and 10, has not yet been set.

Miller convicted of trespassing

Martin Guy Miller, 50, of Homedale, accused of theft by receiving/possession of stolen property in connection with items

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Freund: Communication could have smoothed transition

District 3 County Commissioner Dick Freund said last week that communication could have answered questions raised by a portion of Owyhee County Sheriff Daryl Crandall’s report at last week’s commissioners meeting.

Crandall said that he has enlisted the help of former Sheriff Tim Nettleton to audit the office’s property. Crandall said Nettleton is not being compensated and is being supervised by Chief Deputy Bill Detweiler.

“Daryl wanted an audit of everything before the changeover,” Freund said. “I’ve never heard that being done anywhere.”

Freund said former Sheriff Gary Aman followed transition protocol by furnishing Crandall with an inventory of property, equipment and vehicles. The commissioner said that the incoming sheriff has to sign the document as part of the transition.

“He (Aman) gave him tons of information, but he refused to meet with Gary to go over the inventory,” Freund said, adding that Aman eventually gave the document to the board of commissioners without Crandall’s signature.

Crandall also reported on the condition of the petty cash fund.

“He’s trying to insinuate all this was in disarray, and that’s just a blatant lie,” Freund said of Crandall’s assessment of a “pop” fund that Freund said is used to get change for the county-owned soda vending machine.

Freund said the difficulties could have been avoided if Crandall had communicated with his predecessor during the transition or talked to hold-over employees during his first week on the job.

Crandall also told the commissioners that he would stop payment on two checks for reimbursement to a former Posse member and a former deputy to buy two fully automatic weapons. He cited a 2001 sheriff’s policy prohibiting the use of county funds to buy guns for personal use.

“A reserve and a full-time officer bought automatic weapons for use in vehicles and building searches. The county couldn’t afford them,” Freund said.

Citing an agreement that Aman made with the individuals, Freund explained the buy-back plan.

“You buy it, but it has to be in the county’s name,” Freund said. “The agreement was that when they left, they would leave the gun with the county and the county would reimburse them.”

Freund said “several posse members” also did that.

Crandall suggested that one of the men was trying to sell the gun for more than it’s worth.

“One (check) was for \$700, and the gun is only worth \$400,” Crandall said. “I’m not going to let them cut a profit.”

Treasurer Brenda Richards spoke up to inform Crandall that all stop payment requests must go through her office, and the sheriff said he didn’t think the checks had been written yet.

Freund explained to Crandall that the two men purchased the weapons for county use and were required to sell them back to the county when they left the force. He also disputed Crandall’s appraisal of one of the weapons.

“I don’t know where you can buy a fully automatic for \$400,” Freund said.

Crandall told the commissioners that he still had the guns.

Freund told Crandall that the men’s verbal agreement with Aman could be binding, and suggested bringing Prosecuting Attorney Douglas Emery, former Sheriff Aman and the others together to clarify the situation.

Freund told The Owyhee Avalanche that Crandall’s intention to stop payment potentially could put the county in a legal bind.

“What they will probably end up doing is suing, and the county will pay for the guns and attorney fees,” Freund said.

— JPB

Sheriff’s claims of computer, phone alterations questioned

Owyhee County Sheriff Daryl Crandall recited to commissioners a litany of first-week difficulties that he said were caused by altered computer hard drives, software and disabled phones.

In his first weekly departmental report to the commissioners on Jan. 20, Crandall said that hard drives were erased, personnel files were altered, cell phones disabled and a dispatch phone line taken out of commission.

District 3 Commissioner Dick Freund, after conferring with former Sheriff Gary Aman’s administration, said the claims were unfounded.

“Nobody cleaned any hard drives. No personnel files were changed. That didn’t happen,” Freund said.

Freund said personal information was removed from computers, but the hard drives weren’t completely cleaned and the deleted information had no bearing on sheriff’s office business.

“Computer Arts erased personal information off his hard drive,” Freund said, referring to former Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron’s work station. “They erased e-mails, personal information.”

Freund said county employees are allowed to operate the computers for personal use if they have the OK of an elected official.

Reading from notes that were later requested by Freund, Crandall alleged software was removed from county cell phones.

“The sim cards in our cell phones were taken out,” Crandall said, holding up an array of cards. “Former Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron brought them back and this is them.”

“They took the sim cards out of our cell phones so they wouldn’t work.”

Freund explained why the sim cards were removed.

“Bruce had them erased because they had personal information on them,” Freund said. “There were confidential informant phone numbers, private phone numbers.”

“Bruce brought them back. The phones were not disabled.”

Crandall said that Qwest communications technicians visited to determine why a phone line to reach dispatchers, 495-1155, wasn’t working properly. The primary phone number is 495-1154, but calls are supposed to route to the 1155 number when the line is in use to prevent a caller receiving a busy signal. Several times in recent weeks, the 495-1154 number was busy when The Owyhee Avalanche called to request dispatch logs.

“We had Qwest out,” Crandall said. “They looked at the control panel and said the jacks are gone, the wires are gone. It wouldn’t work. We had to have that redone.”

When Freund asked what was wrong with the phone line:

“Wouldn’t work,” Crandall answered. “Everything was transferring over to the other phones because that phone line was unwired. You have to go through two locked doors to get to that control panel.”

A day later, Freund still was puzzled by the assertion.

“The phone line. I have no idea what he was talking about. Gary Aman has no idea what he was talking about,” Freund said.

— JPB

Commissioners approve pay for three deputies

Sheriff to board: Sgt. Bish isn’t on vacation

The employment status of an Owyhee County Sheriff’s deputy was the subject of discussion during last week’s commissioner’s meeting.

District 3 Commissioner Dick Freund questioned Sheriff Daryl Crandall on whether Det. Sgt. Jim Bish was on vacation during a discussion of Crandall’s pay authorization request for three deputies.

Crandall received approval by a 2-1 vote for his salary requests for newly installed patrol sergeants Perry Grant and Russ Turner as well as Chief Deputy Bill Detweiler. District 1 Commissioner George Hyer voted against the request, citing his concern that employees were being brought in at a higher pay rate to fill positions that weren’t authorized for pay raises in the fiscal year 2009 budget.

But during a discussion of the pay line items for different positions in the sheriff’s office, Crandall clarified the employment status of Deputy Chris Even.

“Chris Even has not quit. He is on vacation,” Crandall said.

“I thought Sgt. Bish was on vacation, too?” Freund asked.

“No. We give him a letter from ICRMP (Idaho Counties Risk Management Program), and he didn’t respond,” Crandall answered.

“I understand from him that he asked Bill Detweiler for two weeks’ vacation, and Bill approved it,” Freund said.

“No. Bill didn’t approve it,” Crandall said.

In a Jan. 14 article, Crandall told The Owyhee Avalanche that Bish had until 3 p.m. on Jan. 13 to make a decision after he was reassigned to the patrol sergeant position in the south end of the county. At that time, Crandall said that if Bish declined the reassignment, he would be let go and Turner would be given the sergeant position.

In the Jan. 20 commissioners meeting, the sheriff said that he moved Bish’s previous position as investigator to patrol sergeant, which Turner has filled. He said that he must still fill a dispatcher position and a patrol deputy position in the Bruneau-Grand View area.

All five sheriff’s office employees that Crandall reassigned — Bish, Even, former Chief Deputy Bruce Cameron, records chief Sherry Olson and administrative assistant Tiffany Walker — were seen being called one-by-one into an executive session Friday afternoon at the county courthouse in Murphy. Prosecuting attorney’s office secretary Lynda Freund said that her boss, Douglas Emery, also was in the series of meetings.

When contacted by The Owyhee Avalanche by e-mail, Crandall didn’t answer questions regarding the Bish situation or the five employees gathered outside the courtroom.

In the Jan. 20 commissioners meeting discussing salary authorization, Crandall argued for hourly wages of \$18.15 apiece for Grant and Turner and \$21.61 for Detweiler.

The sheriff said he was asking to pay Detweiler \$2 per hour more than his predecessor (Cameron).

“Bill’s more qualified. He has a considerable amount more experience,” Crandall said. “He’s worked here before, and he knows our systems.”

Freund questioned the increase over the previous chief deputy salary based on Detweiler’s lack of experience as a chief deputy and also because the county pay scale has three specific ranges by which department heads are to set their employees’ wages.

“I hate to be the one who always says something, but this pay scale was set up for a purpose and there was a hire range and proficient range and market range, and there’s a number of years of experience required to get into those ranges.”

Crandall defended his request by saying that Detweiler has been involved with SWAT operations and grant writing and “quite a bit of administrative things” for the past seven years with the Elmore County Sheriff’s Office. He also pointed to Detweiler’s conduct during a situation in Riddle during the first week of the administration in which the sheriff’s office helped locate six children and move them into state custody.

Crandall said he set Detweiler’s salary in the market range, and Freund reminded the sheriff that that pay range was for someone with four to five years’ experience in their position.

Hyer took a fiscally conservative view on the requests, tailoring his questions to ensure the salaries wouldn’t run afoul of the sheriff’s budget.

“We had a group of people who were making \$40,000-plus. Those people are gone,” Crandall said. “We have new people that have come to fill that same slot that are making (\$38,000).”

Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said that her payroll figures showed that Grant would be making more than the person who was in the pay slot he is filling — Aron Streibel, who now works for the Caldwell Police Department. Crandall confirmed that Streibel made \$37,000 when asked by Freund.

The sheriff specifically addressed his requests for Grant, who will be the north county patrol sergeant, and Turner, who will fill the same position in the south. He said he was bringing them in at beginning-level pay for sergeants.

“Even with the increase in their rate, it’s still less than what the previous sergeants were making and it’ll save us money in the long run,” Crandall said.

Freund, who made the motion to approve the request, said after the meeting that his discussions with ICRMP revealed that as long as the money is in the budget, the commissioners would have a hard time denying the request.

— JPB

Calendar

Today

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

Thursday

Women’s exercise course
9:30 a.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4104

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

Senior citizens lunch
Noon, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View

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

Children’s story time
10 a.m., free, Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate Recovery 12-step program
6 p.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3520 or (208) 337-3151

Saturday

Marsing Rod and Gun Club fund-raiser
7 p.m., Texas Hold ‘Em Poker Tournament, \$30 entry fee; range opens at 2 p.m. for fun shoot, Marsing Rod and Gun Club, Idaho highway 78, south of Marsing. (208) 573-3321

Monday

County Board of Commissioners meeting
Courtroom 2, Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy

Tuesday

Women’s exercise course
9:30 a.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4104

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

Ridgeview Irrigation District board meeting
1 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale

Gem Irrigation District board meeting
1:15 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale

South Board of Control board meeting
1:30 p.m., 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale

Senior citizens dinner
6 p.m., Rimrock Senior Citizens Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2808

Marsing PTA meeting
7 p.m., Marsing High School Commons Room, 208 S. 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4273

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

Wednesday

TRIAD meeting
1 p.m., Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing. (208) 337-4466

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

Homedale American Legion meetings
7 p.m., American Legion and Auxiliary meetings, Homedale American Legion Post 32 Hall, 16 E. Owyhee Ave.

Thursday, Feb. 5

Women’s exercise course
9:30 a.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County

Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4104

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

Digital TV convertor workshop
Noon, Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing

Senior citizens lunch
Noon, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View

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

Homedale Rod and Gun Club meeting
7 p.m., Owyhee Lanes Restaurant, 18 N. 1st St. E., Homedale. (208) 463-4383

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

Friday, Feb. 6

Children’s story time
10 a.m., free, Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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, Feb. 7

University of Idaho winter beef school
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Community Hall, Oreana. (208) 896-4104

Marsing Disaster Auction
10:13 a.m., auction and raffle, Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N., Marsing. (208) 896-4562, (208) 350-9137, (208) 454-5404 or (208) 863-8742

Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association winter meet
1:30 p.m., business meeting, 5 p.m., social hour, 6 p.m., potluck dinner, 9 p.m., dance (\$5), Oreana Community Hall. (208) 896-4104

Monday, Feb. 9

County Board of Commissioners meeting
Courtroom 2, Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy

Melba school board meeting
4 p.m., district office board room, 600 Broadway Ave.

Homedale school board meeting
7 p.m., district office board room, 116 E. Owyhee Ave.

Tuesday, Feb. 10

Women’s exercise course
9:30 a.m., University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office, 238 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4104

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

Senior citizens dinner
6 p.m., Rimrock Senior Citizens Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2808

Marsing Legion and Auxiliary meeting
7 p.m., Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N., Marsing

Marsing school board meeting
7 p.m., district office board room, 209 8th Ave. W.

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

You can find a comprehensive listing of local events online at www.theowyheeavalanche.com. Click on the “Calendar of Events” link on the left-hand side of the page. E-mail calendar submissions by noon Friday the week before you want it published to jon@owyheeavalanche.com. For Calendar submission guidelines, call (208) 337-4681



Bet You Didn’t Know Ben Franklin learned from predecessors’ shocking key mistakes

Remember those old drawings of Ben Franklin flying a kite with a key attached to it trying to test electricity? Well, old Ben wasn’t anyone’s fool. He was very careful. Seems the first two guys that tried this got themselves electrocuted.

Blue laws ... those laws that regulate what we can or can’t do on some days like Sunday ... were called that because they were first written on blue paper back in 1665.

Don’t laugh; Sylvester Stallone’s first job was that of a lion-cage cleaner.

That’s not as bad as the first one that Mick Jagger landed. He was a porter at a mental hospital.

The blesbok is the only purple animal ... lives in South Africa.

Ever wonder why seagulls all face in the same direction? It’s because of the way they’re built, heavy in the front and light in the rear. They get less wind resistance when they face into the wind.

The reason worms come out of the ground after a rain is fairly simple. Their holes are full of water.

— *For more information on Peary Perry or to read more of his writings or to make a comment, visit www.pearyperry.com*

Oreana Mass schedule set for ’09

The 2009 Mass celebration schedule is under way at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana.	April 25, May 9, June 13, July 11, Aug. 15, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 29 and Dec. 26.
Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. on one Sunday each month through December.	The church located next to Oreana Community Hall is one of the few buildings in Owyhee County listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
The first mass was held Saturday, and the next is set for Feb. 28.	For more information, call St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Nampa, 466-7031.
Other dates include March 28,	


Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Jan. 28: Beef fajitas, tater tots, California blend vegetable, beverage.
Jan. 29: Meatloaf, potatoes/gravy, carrots, salad, roll, beverage.

Marsing Senior Center

Jan. 28: Savory swiss steak, baked potato, green beans, almandine, carrots w/onions, bread, golden pineapple tidbits.
Jan. 29: Rosemary roast pork, scalloped potatoes, spinach casserole, applesauce, whole wheat bread, cranberry juice.



**HAPPY
50th
BIRTHDAY
MOM!!**

Love, Teresa

Read all about it in the Avalanche!



Wilson Butte 4-H elects officers

The 2009 class of officers for the Wilson Butte 4-H are, from left, president Kate Blackstock, vice president Haley Brisbin, treasurer Annie Bass, and sergeant-at-arms Jackie Phillips. Secretary Lacey Usabel isn't shown. Submitted photo

Wilson Butte 4-H news

Submitted by the club

The Wilson Butte 4-H Club held its first meeting of the year. Members paid dues, filled out their project and enrollment forms, and went over the club's expectations.

Elections were held, and new officers are as follows: President: Kate Blackstock; vice president: Haley Brisbin; secretary: Lacey Usabel; treasurer: Annie Bass; and sergeant-at-arms: Jackie Phillips. The best acceptance speech went to Annie Bass as she blew kisses, wiped tears and thanked everyone.

We welcomed new members, Samuel Anderson — Cloverbud — and Evon Timmons with her horse project.

There was lots of excitement with projects, plans and activities for the New Year. Our sixth annual cowboy trail ride and fun run date is set for April 26. Prizes are already being gathered with thoughts for new trail obstacles.

Megan Volkercrated our club's Web site, <http://wilsonbutte4-hclub.blogspot.com/>, and has been adding pictures. Check it out. It is awesome. It's neat to see our photos, club activities and 4-H experiences. We're looking forward to a great 4-H year.

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

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Rebecca Ratcliff, MD
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Thursday 8:00 am - 9:00 pm

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Aman's departure opens seat on BLM resources committee

Officials have taken steps to keep Owyhee County's presence on a local federal advisory panel strong.

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners voted to submit District 3 Commissioner Dick Freund's name as a possible replacement for Gary Aman on the Bureau of Land Management's Boise District Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Freund had volunteered to apply.

Aman resigned his seat as a Category 3 representative (elected official, tribes, members of the public or academia) when his term as county sheriff ended.

"We encouraged him to continue with us even if he wanted to until another individual was chosen, but he felt like (because) he was no longer truly an elected official that he should resign, and he did," BLM Boise District public affairs specialist MJ Byrne said.

"He was great to have on board, he was an active participant. He participated in the meetings and gave us good input, and we really appreciated having him on the council. Unfortunately it was short."

Byrne said the notice of vacancy was published in the Federal Register on Jan. 15, initiating a 45-day application period.

County consultant Jim Des-

mond also spoke to Byrne by phone during the meeting.

"(Byrne) is delighted to learn that Commissioner Freund was interested," Desmond said.

Each RAC member serves three years. Aman was appointed by then-Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne in 2006, and the term expires on Sept. 30.

Byrne said it was possible that the RAC still could meet with fewer than its standard 15 members, but that if fewer than a majority from any of the three categories couldn't make a meeting, no quorum would be achieved and no business could be conducted. She said the next meeting has been scheduled tentatively for March 4 in Boise, at which time only four Category 3 members would be on board.

Byrne outlined the qualifications for a person interested in serving as an interim Category 3 member, and for anyone who wanted to seek nomination for the full term when it begins again Oct. 1.

"They have to be residents of the state of Idaho, and we encourage them to be residents of our district," Byrne said. "We also certainly look at their knowledge of natural resources in the area for which they are applying, which would be the Boise District."

Treasurer Brenda Richards,

who is a Boise District RAC member representing the cow/calf industry, suggested that the commissioners obtain a letter of recommendation endorsing Freund's bid for the appointment.

Donna Bennett of Grand View also is a member of the RAC representing the cattle industry.

According to the BLM Web site, the 15-member RAC provides advice and recommendations to the federal agency on resource and land management issues across more than 5 million acres of land in the Boise District.

A joint subcommittee of the Boise District and Twin Falls District RACs will meet at 10 a.m. on Feb. 5 in Boise to gather public input on proposed fee changes in recreation sites managed by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. No changes are proposed in the Boise or Twin Falls districts, however.

The meeting of the Recreation RAC Subcommittee takes place at the Boise District BLM, 3948 S. Development Ave., Boise.

Written statements also are encouraged because the time for oral comment may be limited.

For more information, call Byrne, at (208) 384-3393 or Twin Falls District RAC coordinator Heather Tiel-Nelson at (208) 736-2352.

— JPB

OCA to honor key supporters of ranching

Winter meeting set for Oreana on Feb. 7 after U of I beef school

Milestone achievements and careers will be honored during next month's Owyhee Cattlemen's Association winter meeting.

The OCA has carved time out of its Feb. 7 agenda to pay tribute to former three-term Owyhee County Sheriff Gary Aman, retired Owyhee Backcountry Deputy George Reed and award winners Donna Bennett of Grand View and Chris Black of Bruneau.

The business meeting takes place from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oreana Community Hall. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m.

Before the business meeting, the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension will conduct its winter beef school between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Topics to be covered include Idaho Beef Quality Assurance Certification, the factors affecting beef eating quality from the consumer's perspective and Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), including

packing, retail and feeding aspects. Lunch will be provided.


Other topics to be covered in the meeting include updates from the Idaho Beef Council, the Owyhee Initiative and a presentation on mosquito abatement.


A resolution to support a mosquito abatement program in Owyhee County will be proposed, and several other resolutions will be recommended for sunsetting.

The OCA also may revisit a 2005 resolution asking the Idaho Fish and Game Commission to direct the Department of Fish and Game to halt its pursuit of modifications in allotment management in areas where hunting seasons exist in light of the success of livestock management practices regarding sage-grouse habitat. Another resolution on the agenda is a 1982 measure regarding the Bureau of Land Management's Bruneau-Kuna draft environmental impact study (EIS).

The business meeting is scheduled to adjourn in time for a 5 p.m. social hour followed by a 6 p.m. potluck dinner.

A dance to the music of 'Runnin' for Cover will begin at 9 p.m. Cost is \$5 with proceeds going to the upkeep of the Oreana hall.





LaDon's
Corner

A Few Facts About Gold

Part One of Three


I love working with gold, not only because of its historical value but because of its versatility, its extreme natural beauty, and because of its many innovative uses in the manufacturing of fine jewelry. Gold has an atomic number of 79, with an atomic symbol of Au. It's atomic weight is 196.9665 and has a melting point of 1064.18 °C. The most commonly agreed upon explanation for the creation of gold is the collision of neutron stars during the "Big Bang" of the universe.

When found in the earth gold is almost always associated with quartz or pyrite, with one exception. I'll bet you didn't know gold is associated with sea water to the extent of 0.1 to 2 mg/ton. However there is no known process to extract gold from seawater with profitably.

If you were to gather all the known gold in the world that has been refined it would fit into a single cubical measuring 60 feet wide. About 2/3 of the world's gold comes from mines in South Africa, while about 2/3 of the total U.S. production comes from mines in South Dakota and Nevada. Last fall Russia announced a new discovery of gold being found in Siberia. Here's a fact of Idaho historical value: Gold found at Idaho City was used to bring closure to America's Civil War.

LaDon Reames has been a retail jeweler in Nampa, Idaho for 36 years. She owns and manages LaDon's Fine Jewelry in the WinCo/ShopKo center, 2108 Caldwell, Blvd., off Interstate exit 33, in Nampa. Store hours 10:00 – 6:00 M-F, and 10:00 – 5:00 Saturday.

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Melba auction set for Saturday

The Melba Community Auction holds its 60th anniversary celebration Saturday in Melba.

The annual event, which benefits groups in Owyhee and Canyon counties, begins with an 8:30 a.m. auction preview and food sales. It takes place in the Melba Middle/High School Commons Area, and the auction starts at 10 a.m. in the cinder parking lot. The indoor portion of the auction begins at 11 a.m.

Items include a scenic flight over the Owyhee Mountains and horseback riding in Silver City.

The outdoor auction features livestock, hay, straw and feed.

The indoor auction will include popular theme baskets created by Jana Moore and Melba Elementary students as well as handmade items such as one-of-a-kind birdhouses and quilts made and donated by local individuals and organizations.

Another featured item is an Old World Chip Carving Cane handcrafted by a local gentleman who participated in Melba’s first auction 60 years ago.

Other lots include decorated cakes, hunting and fishing adventures, Bogus Basin ski lift tickets, Idaho Steelheads hockey tickets and a vehicle donated by the City of Melba.

Raffle items this year will be different, organizers said. Prizes include a 20-gauge youth shotgun, a 12-gauge 870 Remington Express, 25 pounds of sausage and 50 pounds of bacon in addition to the traditional pig and half beef raffles. All tickets are \$1.

The Wilson Sage Hens’ “General Store” will be stocked with all the usual goodies. The Women’s Committee will begin serving Turkey and Noodles at 11 a.m. Hamburgers, chorizos, potato salad and chips will be on the menu, too. Homemade pies and scones will be available. Donated pies (no cream pies, please) are encouraged.

Melba Middle School students also are selling cash prize raffle tickets with a \$1,000 grand prize, \$500 first prize; \$300 second prize; and \$200 third prize. The top three ticket-sellers win prizes.

The Community Auction is a 501(c) non-profit organization and has been providing disaster relief and support for 60 years. Victims of fire, catastrophic illness and other calamities are beneficiaries of auction funds. The auction also supports our Melba Quick Response Unit, volunteer fire department and other Melba organizations.

For more information on the auction, donating items or volunteering, call Jason Tully at 442-5170, Edith Pease at 495-2204 or Jody Moos at 495-2784.



More than noodling in the kitchen
Owyhee County resident Earl Elsner was among the men who helped make noodles nearly two weeks ago with the Wilson Sage Hens. Submitted photo

Sage Hens’ noodle journey helps auction

Submitted by Megan Volkers

On Saturday, Jan. 17, I had the unique opportunity to participate in the annual noodle making process at the Walters Butte Grange in Melba.

Myself along with 30 other women and men, from the Melba Grange and Wilson Butte Sage Hens assembled at the Grange Hall at 9 a.m. Aprons in hand and all smiles, we began our task. Four and a half hours later and 35 dozen eggs we shut off the mixer, satisfied that we had logged another year in history. The history, the noodles, a staple of the Melba Community Auction, and this was just the beginning of their journey.

During my time at the Grange I was introduced to Oleta Ball, 94 years young, head noodle maker. Now some might think this isn’t the most flattering of titles, but today it was quite an honor and legacy that these ladies have built for us. Mrs. Ball told me of the Journey of The Noodle. It started some 40-plus years ago when she was a cook for the Melba Schools and she and two of the cooks decided to make some noodles for the annual auction. That year, they started with 60 eggs, and their turkey noodle soup sold out at the very beginning of the auction. From that point on, their batches grew and the noodle making moved to the Grange. Over the years, their noodle sales have helped sustain the Grange Hall and finance service projects. Their Famous Turkey Noodles can always be found at the Melba Community Auction, and if you’re early enough, you can purchase a bag or two of the noodles from the Country Store.

As I left the Grange Hall that day I reflected back on the days’ events, listening to the ladies catch up on each others’ lives as they kneaded dough and separated strands of noodles. I watched new friendships made between my friends that had come to help and the ladies who are always there, who so selflessly give of themselves for this event. I can still hear the humming of the presses and see the smiles of everyone there. I left filled with a strange feeling that warmed my heart.

With our simple ingredients of eggs, flour and water, we had created these simple noodles that will in return, nurture, nourish and support so many in this community. They become more than The Noodles, they are the friendships, memories and futures of so many.

This year the Melba Community Auction celebrates its 60th anniversary beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday at Melba High School. The auction provides financial support to countless organizations in both Owyhee and Canyon counties and throughout the communities, and this year with financial times the way they are need the support more now than they ever have. I am honored to have been a part of such a special process and invite you to help in the next step of The Noodles Journey.

Grant buys children’s books

The Bruneau Valley Library has announced how it used a \$300 grant from U.S. Ecology, Inc.

The grant will be used to buy non-fiction children’s books.

Morris said the library’s children section is so well used that the grant will allow welcomed new additions to the collection.

The Bruneau Valley Library is located at 32073 Ruth St., in Bruneau.



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Owyhee senior centers unsure of funding future

Transportation cuts could leave seniors isolated

All three Owyhee County senior centers — Rimrock, Homedale and Marsing — are hoping that some solution will be found to make up for the loss of more than half their transportation dollars in 2009. The solution is unknown — the consensus among care providers is that the cuts are insupportable as proposed.

The announced reduction of 57 percent in transportation funds disbursed by the Southwest Idaho Area Agency on Aging (SWIAAA) is hitting rural senior centers especially hard. Center vehicles are the only means of travel some seniors have in areas without public transport, like Owyhee County. A cut of more than half the budget will leave some centers unable to fuel and insure the buses let alone pay drivers, leaving some seniors without a ride to the doctor, the pharmacy or the grocery store.

Carolyn Larson, Rimrock Senior Center coordinator, said cuts could park the Grand View facility's bus for the foreseeable future.

"It's going to impact us greatly I'm afraid," Larson said. "It affects salaries, insurance, things like that for our vehicles. If we ... can't insure our bus, we'll just have to park it in the garage. We can't afford to pay insurance on the bus — it's a new bus, and it's pretty expensive."

While volunteers may be found to chauffeur Grand View riders, Larson believes that center pickups in Mountain Home, Bruneau and other outlying areas will stop, leaving those people to find transportation on their own.

Homedale center receives Lions Club donation

The Homedale Lions Club has challenged other service organizations to step to the plate and help regional senior citizens centers in light of a possible reduction in funding.

Lions secretary Mike Conant said that the club decided earlier this month to donate \$1,500 to help the Homedale Senior Citizens Center's Meals on Wheels program keep rolling.

The club, led by president Rob Townsend, challenged other civic organizations to also contribute to what Conant said are programs that help out so many people from the community.

Funding cuts are threatening transportation services, including buses and Meals on Wheels programs, at all three senior centers in Owyhee County — Homedale, Marsing and the Rimrock Senior Center in Grand View.

Last week, U.S. Ecology Idaho parent company, American Ecology, announced it had awarded the Rimrock Senior Center a grant, part of which will be used for fuel for the center's bus.

Those outlying pickups have been a monthly chance for seniors in remote areas to access health care and do shopping. Fundraising isn't likely to solve the problem, she said, as the center's monthly utilities are already paid for largely through donations, so that local market is already tapped.

The directors of all the centers, and coordinators of state programs, are encouraging residents, relatives and members of the community to write letters to their legislators asking that cuts in senior services not be pressed.

"We serve as a civic center here, and transportation for people who have no access. You don't have to be a certain age to ride our bus; we allow the public to sign up for it. We deliver Meals on Wheels, and provide meals to those who need it," Larson said. The center serves 30 or 40 meals every Tuesday and Thursday, helping those in need regardless of age.

Just what effects the cuts will

have on meal accessibility at the Rimrock center isn't yet known, she said.

Alana Squires, Marsing Senior Center coordinator, also expects impacts to be serious. Marsing, she pointed out, is in an enviable position, as the center receives support from the annual Marsing Disaster Auction, but she expects the impacts will still be felt.

"Any kind of cut right now, where it's pretty lean, it's really going to have an impact on our agency," Squires said.

The transportation cuts will make it more difficult to get seniors where they need to go, to get their meals to them, and — should the pickups stop — there may be other, less immediately obvious effects and risks. For some seniors, the Marsing center's vehicle and driver are their only regular contact with those outside their homes. Drivers, more than once, have helped alert families and officials to problems or wor-

ries over the health and safety of a regular. Last year, in a one-week period, a Marsing transport driver found two seniors with broken bones, unable to call for help on their own, Squires said.

Marsing's transport program covers a 10-mile radius around the city, including the Sunnyslope area in Canyon County and some pickups past Givens, she said.

Homedale Senior Center director Shirley McAbee expects there to be heavy impacts as well, which may be felt directly by the center's members.

"These seniors, if they can, are going to have to start to pay (for fuel and transport) — but so many of them can't. It's really going to hurt," she said.

The 5.8 percent cut Meals on Wheels faces will be another hit to the Homedale center, as more than half of McAbee's seniors can't pay at this point, even with the center trying to hold costs to \$3 per meal.

"All we can do is hope for the best," she said. McAbee is hoping the funds set aside for the program will arrive in March as slated.

"But I'll bet you we don't get it. 'I wonder how ol' Butch Otter would like his mother to go hungry or not be able to get to a doctor?'"

She plans on writing the governor a letter, she said.

The transportation budget wasn't the only cut handed down by the SWIAAA as its own budget took an \$87,630 loss in state funds and a \$20,000 reduction in its last payment for the federal Nutritional Supplemental Incentive Program (NSIP). The first NSIP payment for 2009 is down \$86,000 from last year, SWIAAA director Lori Brelia said, "a 45 percent decrease in funds that go directly to help pay for food."

The full magnitude of the federal funding reduction will not be known until the spring, she said. Idaho will lose an additional \$84,125 if the proposed state holdbacks from the 2010 budget year are carried out, Brelia said.

The transportation cuts could cause the loss of 63,043 riders in the coming year, she said, which affects the accessibility of services and groceries to seniors.

The loss of the transport program would cost senior programs even more, as the money is used to secure matching funds.

"The state funding is also utilized to leverage other funds to provide services," Brelia said. "If the transportation program is eliminated, an average of \$154,538 in local cash and \$18,194 of in-kind services will also be lost."

In other words, a savings of \$86,000 to the state would inflict costs of twice that on the already-strained system.

SWIAAA pass-through funding and administration was \$2.1 million in 2008, more than half of parent organization Sage Community Resources' overall \$3.9 million budget. Of that \$2.1 million, close to \$1.9 million was sent on to senior centers and Elderly Opportunity Agency (EOA) personnel.

Donna Waters, director of the EOA — the organization which disburses SWIAAA funding to the centers, and which pays many staffers — wondered about the targeting of transportation in order to balance the budget.

"Three years ago, SWIAAA conducted a study and determined senior transportation was the number one most valuable service our seniors needed," she wrote in a press release. "How can they now justify a 57-percent cut in funding?"

— MML

Commissioners reauthorize fees for county services

The Owyhee County Board of Commissioners has set fees for various services.

As part of board reorganization, the commissioners unanimously reauthorized:

- A charge of \$50 per hour for labor and equipment and 45 cents per mile for county crews to abate weeds from private property. The minimum charge will be \$50

and does not include the cost of herbicides.

The commissioners also established the entire county as a noxious weed extermination area, which enables weed management areas and the county weed department to place a tax lien on properties if landowners fail to pay after requesting weed removal service.

- The county will charge no more than \$800 for indigent burial.

None of the fee schedules changed from last year's

reorganization.

The commissioners also named The Owyhee Avalanche as the official newspaper for publication of county legal notices and

publications.

The mileage reimbursement for county officials using their private cars for business continues to be 45 cents per mile.



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Record numbers reported at Homedale library

Facility offers Story Time, adds computer lessons

Homedale Public Library director Margaret Fujishin says that the economy could be a factor in her facility's record-breaking performance during the final quarter of 2008.

In a recent report to the Homedale City Council, Fujishin said tighter budgets could have contributed to nearly 1,000 items checked out of the library in the month of December as well as an increase in the number of DVDs being borrowed by patrons last year compared to 2007.

Fujishin said that December visitation numbers were at an all-time high, too, with 711 visits recorded, a 55.6 percent increase over the previous December.

Attendance for the last quarter of 2008 was up 25.3 percent over 2007.

The library has had nearly 1,800 borrowers active in the past three years, according to Fujishin's report. More than 77 percent of those people live within the city limits, while the remaining 410 people are outside the city limits and pay an annual non-resident fee of \$28 per household.

With more visits came more checkouts, too, between October and December. The total of 2,797 items taken off the premises by library card holders was 33.6 percent higher than the same three-month period in 2007. There were more children's books checked out last year than in 2007, but Fujishin said that 69.2 percent of the nearly 7,900 checkout last year were for adult items.

And it is mostly adults who are using the library's three

computers, she said.

Fujishin said usage of the public access computers at the library located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave., remained the same in the fourth quarter as it was in the final three months of 2007. But she attributed that more to the lack of stations than a moderation of demand.

"The only way the numbers could go up is if we had more computers available or were open more hours to the public," Fujishin told the council.

The city council approved funding to expand hours for fiscal year 2009 during the budget process last year.

Her report showed that 27.1 percent of the 7,151 visitors to the library in fiscal year 2008 used a computer.

Fujishin said the computers in use at the library were updated in 2005 with money from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

She added that there isn't enough room in the current library building to add more stations if more computers were obtained.

With computers in mind, the library has opened its doors to a local woman who has 13 years' experience as a computer instructor.

Rebecca Prall is offering free computer lessons during library hours. Each lesson is one hour, and Prall can be reached at 407-9392 for availability and to schedule a lesson.

While more adult materials are checked out and more adults use the computers, the library still attracts children. And the library has received funding to facilitate the continued service to the children of the community.

Fujishin's report showed that a \$1,000 grant from the Idaho Community Foundation was used to buy children's books and

audiobooks while a pair of \$200 grants, one from the Caldwell-based Whittenberger Foundation and another — announced last week — from Grand View's US Ecology Idaho — have helped purchase board books for toddlers.

Another \$1,000 grant from the Caldwell Community Foundation has been used to buy large-print books.

The library continues to offer weekly Story Time events for children of all ages at 10 a.m. each Friday.

This week's installment features "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs". There will be singing and refreshments, too.

For more information on the library or any of its programs, call 337-4228 afternoons 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

— JPB

45 Ranch earns OCD conservation award

Thursday night's Owyhee Conservation District (OCD) annual awards banquet saw the 45 Ranch, LLC rewarded for its outstanding conservation efforts. The 45 Ranch is located in southern Owyhee County, approximately five hours out of Rome, Ore., and is owned by Charles Conn and Dennis Fitzpatrick. Art Talsma of the Nature Conservancy accepted the award, which was presented by OCD Supervisor Rick Smith.

The 45 Ranch "demonstrated the cooperation between the owner, private, local, state and federal entities working together to address numerous concerns" on the 130-acre area, an OCD release said. Work included dam diversions, wetlands restoration, streambank protection, road improvements and pasture seeding.

A second award went to Sherry Trotter, NRCS soil conservationist, "for outstanding efforts and dedication to the farmers and ranchers of Owyhee County as well as our natural resources," according to the release from the OCD, which recognized Trotter's dedication and conscientiousness.

Fifty-five people attended the banquet, including keynote speaker District 23 Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson) and wife Paula, and District 23B Rep. Stephen Hartgen (R-Twin Falls).

Charles Chadez, OCD chairman, recapped some of the district's accomplishments in 2008.

The most significant natural resources accomplishment is the 40-acre Homedale Wildlife Refuge northwest of town.

The wildlife pond in the refuge acts as a catch basin for sediment prior to the water entering the Snake River at Homedale, and the OCD reports that tail water sediment is being reduced by 90 percent thanks to the pond — a direct effect on the Total Maximum

Daily Load reduction quotas on the watershed. Additionally, the wetland acts as a stopover point for migrating birds.

In water quality, three grants (one state and two federal) provided nearly \$950,000 for Best Management Practices on about 3,440 acres in the Jump Creek and Succor Creek watershed and the Owyhee watershed. Fencing, filter strips, irrigation conveyance, sprinkler systems, nutrient management, sediment basins and streambank protection helped reduce soil erosion by approximately 62 percent, the release stated.

Data from an irrigation drain inventory in the Jump and Lower Succor Creek areas can be used to create maps and analyze data on condition of the drains as well as water quality and quantity, the report said. In total, 94 drains were inventoried over 31.4 miles, 216 inflow points were logged with GPS, 226 photos were indexed and two BMP monitoring points were established.

OCD personnel also participated in the Southwest Rural Community Development group, which led to an opportunity to apply for a \$50,000 grant for a possible Homedale park "Cat Fish Landing" on the Snake River.

The park, a dream of OCD administrative assistant Gina Millard would include lawn, lighting and bathrooms along Snake River frontage flanking Homedale airport. Millard and others have applied three times for the grant, and continue to do so.

"We're not giving up," she said. The group is collecting seed money, in hopes that the additional commitment will encourage RCD and Wal-Mart, the funding agency of the grant, to approve their request. Those interested in helping out may contact Millard at 896-4554 (line 3).



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Idaho Power sought current route discussion

As the heat over the possible route of the Boardman to Hemingway (B2H) and Gateway West transmission lines increases, Idaho Power has said that public input — hot or not — is exactly what it wants.

Eric Hackett, head engineer for the B2H, answered several questions Monday, in an interview with The Owyhee Avalanche.

The utility’s decision to plot the route where it is currently shown was not, Hackett said, an attempt to avoid lawsuits and injunctions from environmental groups, should the route be planned on BLM ground.

“We had two end-points, Sand Hollow and Hemingway (substations),” he said.

With those destinations, planners drew the route around spots they knew would have issues as far as sage-grouse and resources went, and basically waited to see where people would demand it be moved.

The B2H route is being adjusted already, Hackett said. Idaho Power will be releasing updated maps, probably in late February, along with the Bureau of Land Management’s Environmental Impact Statement.

How the route was chosen is something Hackett fears has been misunderstood.

“We start with a couple of end-points, and those are the only fixed locations we have,” Hackett said.

Idaho Power, or any utility, then proposes a corridor route using data from government agencies (federal, state and municipal) and private concerns. They plot restrictions and then try to “draw as straight a line as possible,” he said.

“We’ve tried to be clear on the fact that there is a lot of private ground on this, but pri-

vate versus public ground wasn’t a constraint or opportunity that was looked at,” Hackett said. “The property lines weren’t even shown until we had the corridor map.”

As to whether Idaho Power preferred private to public land to avoid legal issues with environmentalists, “that’s certainly not the case,” Hackett said. “We just routed to what the different constraints were.”

While the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) doesn’t stipulate where Idaho Power plots its line, the utility does have to argue why the line needs to be there, or to be moved to a location, and has to show valid reasons for doing so, Hackett pointed out.

That’s where public input can address the route as it stands.

“There was so much controversy over the route at a local level (in the planning stages),” Hackett said. “We would have gotten nowhere if we’d said ‘here’s Boardman, here’s Hemingway, tell us where to put it’. We’d get 5,000 different routes. We can do a lot of work in the background, eliminating a bunch of areas because it makes absolutely no sense to go through this or that, so then we start with a corridor, and then we go to the public and say ‘tell us the problems with this corridor or tell us the reasons why this is the right corridor’. Obviously, that’s the process we’re in right now — a lot of comments back and forth.

“That’s about how it boils down, we pick a starting point and then start shooting arrows at it and seeing where it’s strong and where it’s not so strong and start looking for different route alternatives, or even moving

the preferred route,” he said.

So it boils down to Idaho Power drawing a line and asking concerned parties ‘is that OK’?

“I really, really hope that’s how people look at it,” Hackett said. “If we’d gone to the public with a specific centerline, it would have implied that we were much further ahead in the process, so we’re kind of in a catch-22 of what to take to the public, and we felt the best option was to go to the public with a wider range of alternatives.”

Can the corridor, as currently drawn, move?

“It already has. I’ve been telling everyone who has called me that nothing is set in stone until those transmission towers are in the ground and there’s electricity flowing. Those corridors have already moved based on the public comment that’s coming in. That will all become public information as soon as we have it (compiled),” Hackett said.

“There will be some significant changes based on input people have given us.”

When asked about the difficulties and costs involved in crossing the existing PacifiCorp transmission line — something which would be necessary should the B2H run along the West Wide Energy Corridor south of the older line — Hackett said that neither cost nor engineering difficulty were really limiting factors.

“It’s a reliability concern,” he said. “Anytime you have two very high-voltage, highly utilized transmission lines crossing each other, that’s never a beneficial thing.”

Whenever lines cross one another there is a potential for any catastrophe affecting an area to destroy both lines.

Still, Hackett said Idaho Power is “taking a lot harder look” at a route that does go on the south side of PacifiCorp’s lines.

Part of any decision to move the line south, Hackett warned, involves interests outside Idaho Power. With two crossings necessary to reach the Sand Hollow and Hemingway substations, Idaho Power would have to prove the need for the crossings to the Western Electrical Coordinating Council.

The WECC, an advisory body with members from utility companies throughout the West, is “responsible for coordinating and promoting electric system reliability” — to quote the WECC Web site. The private corporate peer group issues its own reliability standards in line with those of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The issue arises from the concerns that require parallel lines to run a minimum of 1,500 feet apart in order to avoid single events interrupting both lines.

“Crossings, I’m sure, are looked at a little differently than running miles and miles and miles of line on adjacent spans, but I’m just not sure what those (concerns) are yet, so we’re trying to do some research with WECC to find out how those can be mitigated,” Hackett said.

“Often, a single crossing makes sense, but when you’re crossing and you know you’ll have to cross again? Well, we’ll just have to see what they’re going to say about it,” he said.

— MML

✓ B2H: Opponents don’t oppose transmission line, just placement in county

Commissioner Jerry Hoagland were in attendance.

Barney Harper of Homedale acted as moderator, setting out the evening’s goals: to inform landowners of the B2H project and organize a group to present a united voice in requesting the reassessment of the route chosen for the line. The route presently puts more than 80 percent of the line on private property.

Malheur County’s Ontario-based Stop Idaho Power (SIP) officers were present to lend their experience and advice. Findley, president of SIP, explained the steps his organization had taken in Oregon to have the route moved.

Findley asked the crowd how many had received the letter announcing the October project scoping meeting in Marsing. Of the 80 present, four raised a hand.

He went on to ask the question that affected residents have echoed repeatedly in Owyhee County.

“We have to ask ourselves why the line didn’t go out there (on Bureau of Land Management land),” he said. Why a public utility wouldn’t be better sited on public land is a question landowners in both counties have asked repeatedly.

While no official answer has comprehensively addressed that question, Findley said that those in the know have unofficially confirmed that the decision was likely made in an effort to avoid the years of entangling lawsuits that would arise had Idaho Power chosen to put the line on public

land, where environmental groups might have sought injunctions.

“We have to be harder to go through than public land,” he said. It was, he added, a David and Goliath battle, and one that would reward a willingness to continue fighting.

“We have to keep throwing a lot of rocks, until we have the right rock hit Idaho Power in the right place.”

To be harder to go through requires unity, an unwillingness to allow easements, and commitment to a long process, he explained.

Concerns and objections raised

While SIP does not oppose the power line in theory, the organization opposes its placement, and Findley listed some of the impacts the line could have along its route.

A 500kV line, the largest allowed by most states, is sensitive to dust and smoke — common around farm land. The particulates in the air encourage arcing, he explained; The Bonneville Power Administration’s safety rules recommend no object taller than 14 feet below a power line, which could be problematic with large agricultural equipment; OSHA rules stipulate that hired agricultural workers have to be 100 feet away from a transmission line; childhood leukemia and Alzheimer’s rates have risen in areas close to lines, some studies have shown; towers could interfere catastrophically with

pivot or wheel irrigation; towers and lines can make delivering chemical sprays by aircraft difficult or impossible.

Keister, manager of the South Board of Control, spoke to the assembly as well. Prior to the meeting, Keister and Idaho Power engineer Mike Berry toured the proposed route so Keister could voice the concerns of the irrigation district. Keister was cautiously optimistic that Berry had taken away some inkling of the problems that could arise, but warned of mixed messages from Idaho Power in the past.

During the BLM-run October scoping meeting, Keister asked Idaho Power consultants about the probable location of the line.

“I was told it would be 1,500 feet from the existing (PacifiCorp) line,” he said. This tends to run counter to Idaho Power’s later assertions that the final route for the line was not set within the corridor, but Keister said he asked, and received the same answer at least three times.

Impacts on the Ridgeview Irrigation District in Oregon are severe, he said.

“It just tears Ridgeview up — it’s terrible,” he said. Talk of limiting or mitigating impacts did not impress Keister.

“If even one acre is lost, it affects the irrigation district and everyone else,” he said.

Keister finds the current choice of route across irrigated farmland incomprehensible.

“If you followed the other

line, above the South Canal, you’d cross the other line once, and wouldn’t hurt anything,” he said.

Lack of information, involvement rankles

Homedale’s Dennis Turner, an SIP member and affected landowner, accompanied Keister and Berry on their tour. He commented on the initial lack of information shared by Idaho Power, and posited that the lack was intentional to make it easier to establish the desired route.

Despite that statement, Turner avoided demonizing Idaho Power employees, and expressed understanding that the line was a valuable project.

“They are good people, and we need the power, but I’m very disappointed with how the siting was done, and that they didn’t involve us in the process,” he said.

The original Treasure Valley Electrical Plan advisory committee was composed of residents of Canyon and Ada counties only. There was no representation from Malheur, Payette, Gem or Owyhee counties, and that lack of a voice irks Turner, Findley and many of those affected.

“I remember a tea party in Boston a few hundred years ago over taxation without representation,” Findley said, to general applause.

“No entry. No easement,” Turner told the crowd. “If we follow that cause, we’ll have a voice (in the process).”

“These are good people,” Turner reiterated, “but they have 300 miles of good people they are dealing with. If we stay together and get this done, we might have a chance.”

What can people do?

Findley, Harper and Keister all said that writing to state legislators, to Idaho Power and to the BLM offices in charge authoring of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was vital. Harper, formerly of Fish and Game and familiar with organizational habits concerning letters, stressed the importance of numerous single letter-writers rather than a single letter from a board — no matter how prestigious.

“It’s the number of letters for or against,” Harper said. “No one reads all of them, they basically just count them.”

Harper warned that he has had inside information that Idaho Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter is strongly in favor of the project, and because of that landholders will have an uphill battle in a letter campaign.

Harper and Owyhee County organizers want to follow SIP’s lead in forming a similar organization in Idaho. Thursday’s meeting was a first step, and organizers and speakers were pleased to see the turnout and interest from local residents.

The next meeting of the Owyhee County group is tentatively scheduled for Marsing or the Grand View/Bruneau area.

— MML

Homedale JV boys
heat it up in hoops

Avalanche Sports

Rimrock girls upset
by Notus in 1A WIC

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2009



Raymond Evans is climbing to the top over a mountain of defeated opponents in the 1A/2A 112-pound class with yet another win.

Evans shows why he's No. 1

Raymond Evans' ascension in the ranks of high school wrestling continues with two big milestones.

Days after being installed as the top 112-pound wrestler among the 1A/2A ranks in Idaho, the upward-bound Marsing High School freshman won his second tournament championship in as many weeks Saturday.

Evans beat Rocky Garcia from tournament team champion Nyssa, Ore., to back up his No. 1 ranking and the title won at the

Magic Valley Classic in Wendell on Jan. 17.

The Magic Valley title win over Zach Starr of Malad pushed Evans into the top spot in the state. Starr was previously No. 1. The Idaho Wrestling News issued the newest state rankings a week ago.

Evans' wasn't the only Huskies wrestler to make a splash during Saturday's Padilla in Parma.

Senior 152-pounder Mike Moore lost the division's championship match by decision to Vale ninth-grader Austin Tolman.

Evans' week began Jan. 20 with a 17-17 major decision over fellow state-ranked Dustin Gentry (No. 6) in the Huskies' 63-16 dual-meet loss to Parma on the road.

Austin Glenn, who would be ranked sixth among the state's 1A/2A wrestlers a day later, dropped a decision to his Parma opponent on Jan. 20.

Marsing travels to Ontario, Ore., on Thursday for a tri-meet against the host Tigers and McLoughlin from Milton-Freewater, Ore.

No. 2 Jordan still on a roll

Forty-eight first-half points set a devastating tone as the Jordan Valley High School boys' basketball team lived up to its No. 2 ranking in the latest 1A Oregon coaches' poll with a couple lopsided league wins last weekend.

The Mustangs (16-1 overall, 10-0 1A HDL at the end of the week) actually received more first-place votes than the state's top team — Columbia Christian (14-3) — in Jan. 20 voting.

Saturday: Jordan Valley 77, Huntington 30 — Tad Jones fired in three three-point goals on the Locomotives' floor and finished with 13 points for the Mustangs. Teammate Logan Hardin added 12 points, and Zac Fillmore grabbed 11 rebounds.

Huntington, which trailed by 35 points at halftime, was paced by Kyle Harp, who counted a pair of treys among his game-high 16 points.

Friday: Jordan Valley 76, Burnt River 47 — Defense sparked another quick start for the Mustangs, who received 27 points from Alek Quintero in Unity, Ore. He also had eight of his team's 18 steals.

Quintero nailed seven of eight foul shots and a pair of three-pointers.

Fillmore chipped in 16 points, and Cole Scown had 13 points and 10 of his team's 43 rebounds. Dusty Easterday had 10 boards and six blocked shots, but was only 1-for-12 from the floor shooting.

Coach Mike Workman said one of his big men, Koehl Trautman, missed both games because of a weak ankle.

"Cole Scown and Dusty Easterday filled in nicely," the coach said.

Aaron Walker bombed away from the outside as his four treys carried him to a Burnt River-leading 20 points.

Girls

Saturday: Jordan Valley 30, Huntington 25 — Both teams were sluggish for an afternoon game, but the Mustangs claimed a 1A High Desert League girls' basketball victory with key rebounding and clutch free-throw shooting.

The Mustangs (11-5 overall, 8-2 1A HDL) got very little sleep after returning early in the morning from Unity, Ore., then hitting the road for the Locomotives' gymnasium. Huntington also had a long day after a trip

— See JV rolls, page 17



Homedale's Alex Mereness fights for a loose ball against Payette's Tyler Kuder during the Trojans' conference road. Photo by Gregg Garrett

Grizzlies and Trojans tangle for SRV lead

Calling Thursday's Homedale-Fruitland high school boys' basketball showdown the biggest game in a decade may not be far off.

"I don't think we've beat them since 1998, and they haven't lost a conference game in a long time," Trojans third-year coach Kenny Thomas said.

After pulling away from Payette for a 50-42 3A Snake River Valley conference victory on Jan. 20, Homedale travels to settle a tie atop the standings with the Grizzlies. Tip off in Fruitland is 7:30 p.m.

The Grizzlies (12-2 overall, 3-0 3A SRV) is the defending state champions. The Trojans (12-3, 3-0) is tasting wild success after a winless conference campaign a year ago.

"It feels great," Thomas said of the team's season. "One thing is I think they have an expectation to win this year."

That expectation — or determination — came through last week in the road win over the Pirates.

With Alex Mereness and Grant Sweet providing defense against Payette star Tyler Kuder, Ryan Garrett and Austin Emry hit crucial three-point goals to break up a game that had several lead changes.

The Trojans were 18-for-23 from the foul line, with Emry going 4-for-4 and Tyler Gibson 6-for-6.

— JPB

Mustangs top Huskies with late rush

Husky boys stay ahead of Parma for WIC win

Coming off their first league win against Parma, the Marsing varsity boys basketball team, coming off its 59-55 win over Parma on Tuesday, ran into a tough Melba squad Saturday night and, plagued by ball handling issues, gave up the win 65-45 in a game-ending scoring run by the Mustangs.

Marsing (2-9, 1-3 WIC), only six down at the end of three, watched Melba (6-7, 3-1 WIC) add 14 points to its lead in the final period, taking the game out of reach.

"We struggled to take care of the basketball," Marsing head

coach JW Chadez said. "If we limit out turnovers, we will have an opportunity to finish some of these games with a win."

Jose Paramo led Husky scorers with 19 points, and Ethan Salove had nine points and six rebounds.

Full team statistics were not available.

Marsing will host a tough Nampa Christian on Thursday, before travelling to Cole Valley on Saturday.

With a focus not seen earlier in the season, Marsing hoopsters stepped out to an early lead against the Parma Panthers on Jan. 20, and never looked back. The Huskies logged the 2A Western Idaho Conference win at home, 59-55, to stay in the hunt this season.

— See Huskies, page 16



Marsing's Jose Paramo goes up for a shot against Parma's Sam Johnson last week on the Huskies' floor.

Sports

Crane girls beat Adrian in battle of top-five teams

Antelopes lose piece of first; boys rally vs. Harper

A battle of two top-10 1A Oregon squads went down to the wire Saturday with No. 4 Crane High School settling a tie atop the 1A High Desert League girls' basketball standings with No. 5 Adrian.

The Mustangs erased a three-point deficit in the fourth quarter to post a 52-51 victory and move ahead the Antelopes by a half-game. Crane (15-1 overall, 8-0 1A HDL) has won 15 consecutive games, including a 49-44 victory over Adrian on Dec. 20 in the championship game of the Mustangs' Christmas tournament on Dec. 20.

Sophomore guard Hannah Buermann counted the last of her four three-pointers as part of a seven-point burst in the

fourth quarter to help Crane surge ahead. She scored a game-high 20 points.

Adrian (13-3, 8-1) was paced by 18 points each from Terra Rust and McKenzie Purnell. The Antelopes knocked down 18 of 22 free throws (81.8 percent), including 8-for-9 from Purnell and 4-for-6 from Rust. Purnell, however, managed just one field goal in the final 16 minutes, scoring six points from the foul line in that span.

Purnell rounded out an impressive double-double with 17 of her team's 38 rebounds. Andrea Shenk carded six steals.

The two teams will meet for the second time in the league season on Feb. 12 in Adrian.

Friday, Adrian 42, Harper 30 — The visiting Antelopes couldn't shake the pesky Hornets until Terra Rust scored five of her game-high 16 points in the fourth quarter to fuel an 11-4 run down the stretch.

Jan. 20, Adrian 62, Marsing 38 — Purnell notched a double-double with 19 points and 11 rebounds as the Antelopes took down the visiting Huskies in a non-league game.

Three players reached double figures, with Rust pouring 10 of her 16 points in the second half and Shira adding 11 points with a strong nine-point second half.

No statistics for Marsing were provided.

Boys

Saturday: Crane 79, Adrian 50 — The Mustangs, ranked 11th in the latest 1A Oregon coaches' poll, moved out of a tie for third place with the Antelopes in convincing fashion at home.

Both teams entered the game with a piece of third in the 1A HDL behind leader Jordan Valley and second-place Spray.

Crane (13-4 overall, 7-2 1A HDL) scored at least 20 points in each of the first three quarters

against Adrian (11-6, 6-3), taking ultimate control with a 24-9 run through the third quarter.

"They out-hustled up the court for a lot of easy transition points," Adrian coach Brent Ishida said. "They also controlled the offensive boards, enabling them to score."

Royal Henricks scored 19 points to lead three Crane players in double figures.

George Ellsworth paced Adrian's effort with 20 points and nine rebounds.

Friday: Adrian 44, Harper 33 — The visiting Antelopes started slow and found themselves in the hole at halftime.

Adrian collected 19 steals to spark a transition game that resulted a 25-25 tie heading into the final quarter.

Blake Purnell scored 12 points, and teammate Kyle Dondero added 10 points and eight rebounds.

Josh Mitchell led the Hornets with 10 points.



Ranea Orosco looks to pass the ball as McKenzie Purnell moves to the basket during Adrian's narrow loss to Crane. Photo by Angie Sillonis

Mills wins Hoop Shoot

A Bruneau girl has won the 11- and 12-year-old girls' championship at the Mountain Home Elks Lodge No. 2276 Hoop Shoot Competition.

Analeise Mills won the local title Jan. 17 in Mountain Home, but didn't advance out of Saturday's districts in Caldwell.


The local competition featured about 900 children from Grand View and Bruneau Elementary, Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School and Mountain Home schools.

Mills was the only Owyhee youth to survive the round.


Also competing Jan. 17 were Bruneau's Julianne Mori (8-9 girls'); Garrett Prow of Bruneau and George Maverly of Grand View (8-9 boys'); Diego Elizarraras of Bruneau and Nick Bennett of Grand View (10-11 boys'); Bonnie Standlee of Bruneau (12-13 girls'); and Dillon Pena of Grand View, Kaleb Burbank of Bruneau and Glenn Olsen from Rimrock (12-13 boys').

Meet your hometown tax experts

Mikeal D Parker CPA



Mikeal D Parker has over thirty years experience in tax services, auditing, estate planning, financial consulting and investment management. His experience includes a broad range of industries emphasizing agriculture and small businesses. Mike graduated from Idaho State University with a degree in business administration with an emphasis on accounting. Mike holds a certified public accounting certificate from the Idaho state board of accountancy and from the Oregon state board of accountancy. He is a member of the AICPA and ISCPA as well as being a licensed financial advisor. Mike started his career working for James Duncan of Homedale in 1978. In 1984 he purchased the business and later merged his practice with Ron Bowen in Nampa and Terry Day in Boise. Mike and his wife Leslie live on the same family homestead on which he was raised. Leslie has taught and counseled in the Homedale school system for 28 years. He and Leslie have 3 children and 4 grandchildren. Mike enjoys being a "papa" and aspires to someday be a scratch golfer!



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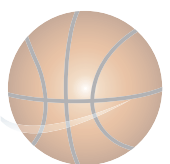
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Trojan Winter Sports



BASKETBALL

Boys basketball

Varsity
Thursday, Jan. 29 at Fruitland, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31 at McCall-Donnelly, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Weiser, 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Thursday, Jan. 29 at Fruitland, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 31 at McCall-Donnelly, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Weiser, 6 p.m.
Freshman
Thursday, Jan. 29 at Fruitland, 4:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 3 at Weiser, 4:45 p.m.




Girls basketball












Varsity
Friday, Jan. 30, home vs. Fruitland, 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Friday, Jan. 30, home vs. Fruitland, 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 2, home for 3A District III Tournament, 6 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4, home for 3A District III Tournament, if in championship game, 7:30 p.m.
Freshman
Friday, Jan. 30, home vs. Fruitland, 4:45 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 2, home for 3A District III Tournament, 3 p.m. or 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 4, home for 3A District III Tournament, if in championship game, 6 p.m.

WRESTLING

Saturday, Jan. 31, home for Homedale Team Duals



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Sports

Second-half treys help Notus down Raiders girls

Notus High School engineered a shocking win Jan. 20 with a second-half surge at home against Rimrock.

The Raiders lost for the second time in league play, with the Pirates coming away with a 44-40 1A WIC victory.

Rimrock (9-2 1A WIC) owned a 22-17 lead at halftime, half the margin by which coach Mike Chandler's team had prevailed in the first meeting with Notus on Dec. 4 in Bruneau (47-37).

But Notus (7-3 in conference) outscored Rimrock, 11-6, in the third quarter to tie the game, 28-28, before inching ahead in the fourth as Terra Anderson hit a pair of three-pointers.

For Rimrock, Randie Denton led points with 13, followed by Shoni Gennette with 11. Gennette was the leader on boards, with 19 for a double-double — eight of them defensive boards — closely followed by Anna Cantrell, with 15 rebounds of her own.

Boys

Friday, Rimrock 43, Greenleaf Friends Academy 29 — Cody McCarthy scored 12 points as the Raiders shook off a four-game winning streak with a lopsided victory over the visiting Grizzlies.

Rimrock (5-10, 3-5) owned a commanding 14-2 lead after eight minutes.

Wednesday, Garden Valley 61, Rimrock 43 — The Wolverines jumped out with a 25-5 first quarter and led by as many as 22 points in the first half to cruise to a victory in Bruneau.

Garden Valley kept the Raiders at bay from the outside, nailing six three-point goals. JC Tucker scored four treys in the first half on the way to a game-high 28 points.

“We played with them in the second, third and fourth quarters, outscoring them in the second half by four points,” Rimrock coach Gary Jones said. “I was proud of the effort our kids gave in the second half. They did not give up and played with passion and

intensity.”

Rimrock's Roger Pena hit his team's only three-pointers and finished with six points.

Dary Langfitt led the Raiders with 11 points. while Sam Richardson pulled down 10 rebounds.

Rimrock struggled with ball control, committing 25 turnovers to Garden Valley's two.

Jan. 20, Wilder 60, Rimrock 28 — Limited to just 38 shots in 32 minutes, the Raiders dropped a conference decision on the road to their rivals.

The Wildcats steadily built a lead in the first half before putting a lock on the game with a 24-4 burst through the third quarter.

“We let that game get away from us,” Jones said. “But give credit where credit is due. Wilder is a very well-coached, disciplined, sound team. I expect them to go deep into the state tournament.”

Miguel Rodriguez scored a game-high 19 points for Wilder, and teammate Josh Rivera chipped in 14.

Rimrock was 12-for-38 from the floor and won the battle of the boards, 27-21.

Cody McCarthy grabbed nine of his team-high 11 rebounds on the Raiders' glass. Ricardo Araujo and Antonio Garcia both hit three-point goals and finished with seven points each for Rimrock.

Antelope wrestlers shine at unofficial 1A “State”

Oregon's 1A wrestlers within range congregated Saturday at Crane, Ore. for the unofficial 1A State championships, a yearly tournament that acts as a stop-gap for small-school Oregon wrestlers. While not an official Oregon State Athletic Association (OSAA) event, 1A schools visit Crane to have a tournament of

their own. In the OSAA sponsored state meet, 1A and 2A are combined and compete together.

At the 1A almost-State, Adrian turned in a solid performance, going 7-5 and racking up 79 points while only giving away 30.

Mark Ishida won the 119 in a major decision, 14-5, over Crane's Dan O'Crowley. Daniel

Lode (160) won both his matches by fall, James Pretchel (171) beat Gilchrist's Drew McDermott 11-6, and 189 Jake Matthews won three of his four matches, losing only to North Lake's Tylor Bryant.

Lode was ranked first for the 171-pounders; Ishida and Pretchl took second in their weight classes; Jake Wilde, Jesse Olsen and Matthews each took third place finishes home.

“The boys are opening a lot of eyes every week as they get better and better,” Adrian coach Eddie Kinkade said. “It is great to see their hard work starting to pay off. The team placed fourth overall behind Crane, Lowell, and Pine Eagle.”

The Antelope wrestlers are car-

rying forward some momentum from a successful tournament at Joseph, Ore. where the team placed fifth, behind Joseph, Grant Union, Baker, and Pomeroy, Wa.

Lode took third at Joseph, while Ishida, Wilde and Olsen had fourths, and Pretchl was fifth.

“The boys wrestled really tough at this tournament,” Kinkade said.

✓ Huskies: Team has best shooting night

From Page 14

“Even though it wasn't terrific, I think that was our best turnout for shooting,” Marsing coach JW Chadez said. The team shot 40 percent, versus a bleak 28 percent earlier against Cole Valley Christian, and Chadez credited the win to his team's keeping its collective head.

Marsing never lost the lead through the game, though Parma's height advantage showed in the fourth quarter, with the Panthers beginning to gain control of the boards — but it was too little, too

late.

Husky senior and lead shooter Jose Paramo had 20 points on the night, was an impressive 6-for-7 at the free-throw line and had five steals. Mitch Green, also a senior, stepped up his offense, with 13 points, including three three-pointers, and six boards. Junior



Mitch Green

Tony Beagley had two from outside the arc and three steals. Junior Ethan Salove had seven points and four boards.

Coming off the win, Chadez hopes the team will keep its momentum, and carry confidence into the rest of the season.

“Our league is pretty even. Whoever shows up, plays hard and plays the whole game is going to be able to win,” he said.

“Nampa Christian's lead scorer is out for the year, I think. They'll beat Parma by four or five.”

— MML

MARSING HUSKIES

BASKETBALL

Boys basketball

Varsity

Thursday, Jan. 29, home vs. Nampa Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at Cole Valley Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Junior varsity

Thursday, Jan. 29, home vs. Nampa Christian, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at Cole Valley Christian, 6 p.m.

Freshman

Thursday, Jan. 29, home vs. Nampa Christian, 4:45 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at Cole Valley Christian, 4:45 p.m.

Girls basketball

Varsity

Friday, Jan. 30 at Nampa Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 3 at 2A District III Tournament, site TBA, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 4 at 2A District III Tournament, site TBA, 7 p.m.

Junior varsity

Friday, Jan. 30 at Nampa Christian, 6 p.m.

Freshman

Friday, Jan. 30 at Nampa Christian, 4:45 p.m.

WRESTLING

Thursday, Jan. 29 at Ontario tri-meet vs. Ontario and McLoughlin, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31 at New Plymouth Invitational

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Sports

HTAA elects officers, winter coaches give reports

The Homedale Trojans Athletics Association (HTAA) met and elected five executive board officers Wednesday night, during the scheduled meeting of the new booster organization.

Yearly membership fees were set for the organization — \$20 for an individual or \$30 for husband and wife. Winter sports coaches also addressed those attending, giving a glimpse into the personalities behind the teams, and the team expectations for the remainder of the season.

Nominees placed on the board were Homedale wrestling coach Toby Johnson (two-year term), varsity girls’ basketball coach Jeremy Chamberlain (remainder of this year), Eric Kushlan (two-year term), Brandon DeMond and Teresa Gibson (remainder of this year).

Johnson, Chamberlain and varsity boys’ hoops coach Kenny Thomas gave the coaching presentations. Each addressed their resume and experience, and went on to detail where they believed their programs to be at present.

With 13 years coaching in high school wrestling, Johnson recapped Homedale’s wrestling history — its conference wins in the 1970s, the long drought and the return of the title in 1999. During Johnson’s stint, the team has had six finishes in the top six at State, and this year has a 7-2 record in duals, winning the last five in a row, and stands at 2-0 in the 3A Snake River Valley conference dual standings.

“We want to be a good seed going in and play each team competitively,” he said. He added that the team is headed in a way he likes at present, though he is somewhat concerned over numbers; Homedale will be graduating nine of his senior players this year.

The girls’ teams are sitting well moving into the late season. The freshman girls are second in the standings, and the varsity girls sit in third in a tight SRV division where any game — on any given night — can be taken by any team, Chamberlain said.

Homedale native Kenny Thomas, varsity boys’ coach, talked about his squad and himself. His team is currently ranked first in the SRV.

Thomas fell into coaching. He graduated the University of Idaho with degrees in agriculture and economics, and “no plans to be a coach at all,” he said. He coached two years of freshman hoops, having been talked into it as a helper, and is now in his third year of varsity basketball coaching.

“We’ve struggled a bit in the past with numbers as seniors graduated,” he said. The Trojans went 2-6 in his first year, and last year were 0-8 in SRV and 0-2 in 3A District III Tournament play, but looking back, those numbers fail to show the progress the program had made, he said.

“Looking back on the book, seven of those losses were by 10 points or less,” Thomas said. The team started on its winning season the day after the District loss last year, he remembered. Returning players got together and swore to improve, he said, attending summer hoops camp and bringing their mental focus to a new level.

The boys are 12-3 (3-0 SRV) heading into Thursday’s showdown with Fruitland, which has won its first two conference games and is 11-2 overall.

The next scheduled meeting is 6 p.m. on Feb. 11 at the HHS Library.

The HTAA will meet again at 6 p.m. on March 2 to finalize plans for promotion of the organization through District events.

The HTAA will also be finalizing a plan for a tentative April fundraiser that will launch the organization’s public efforts at the meetings. Parents, coaches and interested community members are invited. For more information on the HTAA, call Hart at 337-4613.

— MML

Teamwork takes Homedale JV boys to new heights

Kenny Esparza came within one act of thievery of notching a triple-double Jan. 20, but it couldn’t prevent the first loss of the conference season for the Homedale High School boys’ basketball team.

Coach Jason George’s squad had won 13 of its first 14 games before falling, 57-48, to Payette in a 3A Snake River Valley conference game played in Payette.

“We struggled all night from the field,” George said.

But Esparza was masterful. He scored 17 points, snagged 12 rebounds and notched nine steals. Trevor Gibson and Mario Gonzalez had eight points each for the Trojans.

Homedale slipped to 2-1 in conference with the loss and now stands at 13-2 overall heading into a Thursday night matchup against Fruitland.

Regardless of the loss to Payette, George is high on his charges this season.

“We are playing really good team basketball right now,” he said. “I have a group of guys that play very well together. We consistently rotate about 8-9 guys who contribute night in and night out.”

Before the start of the conference season, Esparza was leading the team with 15 points a night. There were three players averaging in double figures, with Walter Almaraz scoring 11 points and dishing five assists each night, while Trey Corta is averaging a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds a game. Gibson also is scoring eight points and grabbing between nine and 10 rebounds each night, George said.

The coach said the tenacity on the glass usually swamps opponents.

“We consistently double up our opponents on the boards out-rebounding them and even when we have an off shooting night we seem to step it up defensively,” he said.

George singled out Jake Tolmie as a sparkplug.

“Jake Tolmie is playing great defense every night and brings a lot of mental toughness to the floor,” George said.

The coach added that Mario Gonzalez, Jonny Stacey and Manuel Castijella are giving solid minutes off the bench.

Before the Payette setback, Homedale’s only loss of the season came against Cole Valley Christian, but the Trojans turned around and avenged the defeat by beating the Chargers by 37 points in their next meeting, George said.

“Like I said my guys respond well to a challenge. Even the guys who aren’t getting a lot of playing time are practicing hard, getting better, and have great attitudes,” George said. “It’s all about the team.”

The team concept shone through in the team’s first conference victories earlier this month.

Trailing by a point at halftime on Jan. 17 against Weiser, Homedale played what the coach characterized as the team’s best half of basketball to pull out a 73-58 victory, outscoring the Wolverines, 45-29, over the final 16 minutes.

“We shot 57 percent from the floor and 86 percent from the line while holding Weiser to 35 percent from the floor,” George said.

Almaraz fired in 19 points to lead five Trojans in double figures (Esparza 17, Trevor Gibson 14, Mario Gonzalez 11, and Trey Corta 10). Corta and Esparza collected eight rebounds each.

“I really believe we played with a new level of intensity against a very good basketball team,” George said.

Homedale shot 60 percent from the field in a 60-31 victory over visiting McCall-Donnelly on Jan. 16. Gibson led the way with 16 points, while Esparza kicked in 10. Gonzalez came off the bench to score eight points.

Trojan grapplers top Melba, go to five straight wins

Despite a 3-for-5 performance on Jan. 20, the outnumbered Melba Mustangs wrestlers gave Homedale High School grapplers their fifth win in a row this season.

While, individually, Melba turned in some solid efforts, their short roster’s seven wins by forfeit meant the Trojans took home the win.

The Padilla Invitational in Parma this weekend gave the Trojans a chance to face off against some bigger guns, with Homedale finishing sixth with 108 points in a field of 17.

Todd Bahem finished fourth among 112-pounders; Justin Ensley (ranked third statewide in 3A at 119) took second in the 125s; Danny Zenor (145) finished fourth in his class; in the 160 bracket Ulysses Vargas and Kevin Mercado finished in the top 6, as did Kevin Abels in the 171s. Kyle Ables (215) took a fourth; Wes Taggart (215) finished in the top six, and Brandon Valadez (285) took fourth.

Homedale High School set to host 3A District III hoops for freshmen and JV

Homedale High School will play host to the 3A District III Tournaments for freshman and junior varsity girls’ basketball next week.

The action begins Monday with first-round games in the single-elimination tournaments for both games. The freshman semifinals will be played at 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., with the JV semifinals tipping off at 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The No. 2 seed and No. 3 seed will meet in the first game of both tournaments (3 p.m. and 6 p.m.), and the regular-season champion from the 3A Snake River Valley conference will meet the fourth-place squad in the second semifinal of each tournament (4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.).

The matchups won’t be finalized until after the regular season ends Friday, according to a handout released by tournament manager David Hart, the HHS athletic director.

The championship round will be held next Wednesday with the freshman title game at 6 p.m., followed by the 7:30 p.m. JV final.

Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and students without activity cards, \$3 for students with activity cards and senior citizens, and Idaho High School Activities Association pass-holders get in free.

√ JV rolls: Mustangs hold on to lead to beat late-charging bulls 43-40

From Page 14

to Crane.

“After getting back from Unity at 2 a.m., we were on our way to Huntington by 10:30 a.m. — short night, long bus trips,” Mustangs first-year coach Chris Elsner said. “Huntington had a long trip to Crane on Friday, so both teams were slower than usual — hence the low score.”

But Meagan Fillmore snagged important rebounds down the stretch, finishing with seven, while Jordan Valley teammates Catie Kershner and Nickie Naegle combined to hit seven of eight free throws to seal a narrow win.

Kershner, who was 5-for-6 from the stripe, finished with 14 points, while Kayla Cuvelier notched eight points. Ashley Hebison also had seven rebounds, and Naegle had five assists and six rebounds.

Friday: Jordan Valley 43, Burnt River 40 — The Mustangs led wire-to-wire but had to hold on as the young Bulls cut into a lead that was as many as 13 points in a 1A HDL game in Unity.

“We led all the way, and they stayed right with us,” Elsner said.

Kershner scored 13, and Anne Marie Eiguren added 10. Naegle and Cuveiler each scored nine points and grabbed 10 rebounds. Naegle paced the defense with eight steals.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



On the edge of common sense

A calvin’ lesson

Winters can be cold along the Hi Line of Montana. It’s a place where neighbors help neighbors. Survival often depends on it.

Dan and Jay were havin’ a big time in town. They had the night off, these cowboys did, and were makin’ the best of it. At closin’ time, they jumped in their pickup and headed back to the ranch in good spirits. It was 19 miles of gravel road to their hometown address that gave their county a zip code, and another seven miles out to the ranch. Snow on the ground, half-moon, plowed road, broken clouds. 6° above zero.

Ten miles from home they passed ol’ Tom, a neighbor. He was headed for town in his 4-wheel-drive pickup with a deer guard on the front and stock racks in the back. Dan noticed Tom was haulin’ a cow. Cowboy intuition clued our heroes that they might be able to help. They turned around, caught up with Tom and hailed him down. Turns out he was headed to town with a cow that needed a C-section. During his midnight heifer check, he’d shined the flashlight on her, watched her strain for a bit then called the vet, loaded the cow and headed to town.

Well, Jay and Danny, bein’ the good Samaritans they were, offered to trade rigs. They’d take care of the cow and ol’ Tom could take their truck and go home. They had ulterior motives. The DVM was new to the area, and she deserved a better look.

Doc, or Doctress, I should say, met them at the clinic. The boys unloaded the cow and did all they could to be pleasant and useful. The new Doctress had been thrown feet-first into the whirlpool of calvin’ season, which meant, among other things, that she was sleep-deprived.

Professionally she dropped the sidebars on the squeeze chute, clipped, prepped and blocked the surgical field on the left flank. With a boldness that impressed our two lads, she made an incision like she was drawing on a blackboard. Within a short minute, her plastic-sleeved arm was elbow deep inside the cavernous cow. She swept to the left. She swept to the right, then looked at the cow’s tail head and at the boys...” Gentlemen,” she said, “there is no calf here.”

It was a long trip back to Ol’ Tom’s ranch, for the boys and ... for the cow. When they unloaded her, she had icicles on her eyebrows and ears. She looked a little worse for the wear when they put her back in the calving lot. She mooed a tired moo, then the boys heard her calf bawl back.

They didn’t bother to wake Ol’ Tom.

— *Can’t get enough Baxter? Visit his Web site at www.baxterblack.com for more features, merchandise and his new book, “The World According to ... Baxter Black Quips, Quirks & Quotes”.*

Letters to the editor

All letters to the editor submitted to The Owyhee Avalanche must be no longer than 300 words, signed and include the writer’s address and daytime phone number.

The deadline for submitting letters is noon on Friday. Letters can be submitted in the these ways:

- E-mailed to jbrowneditor@cableone.net
- Faxed to (208) 337-4867
- Mailed to P.O. Box 97, Homedale ID, 83628
- Dropped off at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., in Homedale

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

Jon P. Brown, managing editor

The way I see it
Dizzying day in the life



It’s said that gray hair and hair loss are occupational hazards of the newspaper business.

It may not be noticeable in the above photo, but my hair is graying.

I’m not sure if the aging of my follicles has accelerated in the past two weeks, but I wouldn’t be surprised if a connection could be drawn.

During the past two weeks, Homedale Mayor Harold Wilson has taken the nervous system of this newspaper veteran through its paces.

First came the controversy over what I’m sure was his well-intentioned attempt to reward Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and his officers for their work during a personnel shortage.

I said in this space last week that, while Wilson probably should have discussed the matter with the City Council, no laws were broken. Turns out, the first-term mayor may have violated Idaho Code 18-1359(1)(e) when he let his son buy, barbecue and deliver prime rib for the police dinner. Not only is there the nepotism factor, but Idaho law requires the city to contract with a local caterer unless there are three or fewer such establishments within a 15-mile radius. In Homedale and Marsing, you have at least three — Caba’s in Marsing, Owyhee Lanes Restaurant and Homedale Drive-In.

No matter now. Wilson apparently has decided to pay the money out of his own pocket after the council balked again Thursday at paying the bill.

But now there seems to be another case of not-so-open communication between the mayor and the council.

Apparently, Wilson has been trying to secure land for a new library — something he has failed to bring up in any council meeting I’ve attended since he took office last January.

Last week, the mayor acknowledged he had been looking at the possibility of acquiring land, if the library board

wanted to use its funds to build a new facility.

And where did he look? Next door to City Hall, just as he had when he floated the idea of putting a county probation office there.

And, just as with the probation office plan, he tried to get US Bank to give up its 90-foot easement behind the Homedale branch.

This is where the gray hairs start.

During the second half of a 15-minute interview Thursday morning in his office, Wilson seemingly had three answers to the same question regarding land for the library:

Avalanche: Have you discussed with anyone the possibility of acquiring land for it?

Wilson: Uh, I have not. Until they’re ready to use the money they’ve got for what it’s to use for, that’s up to their board of directors. It isn’t up to me.

Avalanche: So you haven’t talked to anyone about getting land?

Wilson: I’ve discussed it with probably different people.

Avalanche: Which people?

Wilson: I don’t recall. I can’t do anything unless the library board wants to use their money up front. I’ve discussed it with them. That’s who I discussed it with.

After revisiting the probation office proposal, Wilson was asked more questions regarding the US Bank easement.

Avalanche: You discussed with US Bank at that time (during the probation proposal) about that 90 feet.

Wilson: Then, and I got nothing from them.

Avalanche: Who did you talk to?

Wilson: That I don’t recall. But I can tell you who I’ve been talking to here two weeks ago. I talked to a district manager by the name of Kermit. (Caldwell-based Kermit

— *See Dizzying, next page*

Wayne Cornell

Not important ...
but possibly of interest

So much to see, so little time



The Summer Palace, near Beijing, is as popular with Chinese tourists as with foreign visitors. Even in October, the number of buses loading and unloading outside the entrance makes the place scary for pedestrians. We wait for an opening in traffic and dash across the street. I’m surprised everyone survives.

We wait outside the main gate while our guide gets our tickets. As was the case at the Forbidden City, we are objects of curiosity for the 5,000 or so tourists from China’s hinterlands who also are waiting to enter. They edge closer to us, point and take pictures. Everyone is friendly and most seem thrilled if we smile or wave. But I can’t help remembering that the Chinese word for someone from the West translates as “Big Nose” — not the most endearing description although our guide, Chris, tells us we shouldn’t take it personal.

The Summer Palace, or “Gardens of Nurtured Harmony,” covers about 2.9 square kilometers. About 2 square kilometers of the area is a man-made lake. The Emperor Qingyi Yuan ordered construction of the palace in 1750, and it took 15 years to build it. Ornate temple-like buildings are on tops of hills that were made from the dirt dug out to make the lake.

We follow walkways along the edge of the lake. Many of the walks are barely wide enough for people going in opposite directions to pass. The Chinese tourists give us

a really close examination as we pass. Apparently, the number of Western tourists has declined since the end of the Olympics two months ago. Actually, it’s rather nice. I suspect at the height of the tourist season we would spend most of our time surrounded by visitors who look just like us.

Our Summer Palace visit is brief. Our bus takes us back into the city. We pile into bicycle-powered rickshaws for a ride along a small lake and through one of the historic areas of the city where people live as they did 50 years ago. The rickshaw drivers are a cheerful group even though it’s no easy task to haul two Westerners around on the rough and winding streets. The average driver probably weighs 110 pounds and the bikes have only one speed.

As we board the rickshaws we are set upon by several “Mosquitoes” — street sellers. When we move out, several women follow us on bikes, riding beside us trying to sell us scarves and other trinkets. When we enter the old section they disappear. Apparently, peddling isn’t allowed there.

We leave the rickshaws and walk into the old town where a retired Chinese couple — probably about our age — serve us lunch in their home. The house consists of three rooms — maybe 400 square feet total. In the evening, the dining area is converted into additional sleeping area. Six people

— *See Time, next page*

Commentary

Financial management

Find ways to get past friends-or-business awkwardness

Dear Dave,
I'm starting a photography business on the side to help generate extra income. I have friends who've told me they'd like to use my services. However, I feel weird about charging them, because they're friends. How do I get past that?

— Daniel

Dear Daniel,
I understand how you might feel weird taking money from friends, yet you're providing a service, and you've opened this business to make money. They're going to pay another photographer if you don't do the job, so why shouldn't they have



the fun of working with someone they already know and like?
There's a psychology at work here. If you comp or discount them now, they may never see you as a true professional. But if you charge them a fair price, you'll be establishing yourself as a pro.
Still uncomfortable? Tell them you'll do the work free of charge this time if they'll help you find

six new clients.
There's nothing wrong with a trade, especially when you're starting out. Just make sure you get something worthwhile in the deal!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I make \$60,000 a year, and I have two cars. One is paid for, and I owe \$23,000 on the other. These are my only vehicles. I'd like to sell the one I still owe money on, but no one wants to pay that much. I have enough money in savings to cover the difference on one of the offers, but I was wondering if there's a rule of thumb to determine whether to sell a car in

this kind of situation?
— Josh

Dear Josh,
Here's how I look at it. If you really love the car, and by really focusing and saving like crazy you can pay off everything else in your life – except the house – in 18 to 24 months, then I'm OK with keeping the car. If you can't, it's time to sell!
It also may be time to sell if the if the total value of all your vehicles – cars, trucks, boats, jet skis, and their sisters – is equal to half, or more than half, of your annual income. These are things that depreciate like crazy. You don't want half of your income

wrapped up in things that are going down in value.
Josh, you can pay this thing off in two years or less if you haven't got a bunch of other debt. But if you don't like the car, or you don't want to work that hard to keep it, then sell the thing and write a check for the difference. Then re-build your savings in a hurry by putting what would have gone for car payments into *your* bank account!
— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is 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.

✓ Dizzying: Mayoral interview symptomatic of city communication woes

From previous page
Scarborough, who declined to comment on the matter when contacted by the Avalanche).
Avalanche: What did you talk to him about?
Wilson: To see if he would donate that land if we wanted to build a library. But he said the bank don't ... is not in the habit any more of giving land away.
Then Wilson was posed a question based on a call the Avalanche had received earlier that day.
Avalanche: You didn't apply any pressure to US Bank about possibly giving the land to the city?
Wilson: No.
Avalanche: There were no threats made about pulling the money from the bank?

Wilson: No. I made no threats at all. I told you I don't make threats.
At about 1:30 p.m., however, Wilson called back and said he had reviewed his notes from his conversation with Scarborough.
Wilson: All I said is there are other banks in this area.
Avalanche: And why did you say that to him?
Wilson: Just let him know that we're looking.
Avalanche: And you said that to him after he turned down your request?
Wilson: He didn't turn down my request. I asked him to, uh, he told me that he didn't think they would do it. Now, he didn't turn it down. I asked him to go to his superiors.
Avalanche: And then after he said that to you, that's

when you told him ...
Wilson: Yeah, I said, yeah, there are other banks. And he said, 'You trying to pressure me?' And I said no I just want to let you know there's other banks, but, hey, we're going to do business at home.
Avalanche: OK
Wilson: And if other banks want to come in, then we might, I didn't say any of that to him, but I'm telling you this. If other banks come in here, then we'll take a look. But we're not going to do business out of town. And don't plan on it. We'll try to keep all our business in town if we can.
After a head-spinning exchange like that, it's little wonder that communication problems appear to be gumming up the wheels of Homedale's government.

Letter to the editor

School funding cuts may save money, but will hurt children

I am dismayed at the prospect of a five percent cut in the education budget for the coming year. The state is looking at three different areas in which they can try to save money, and all of them adversely affect our children.
The state is looking at shortening the school year as a way to make these cuts. This is unacceptable. Children already have summers off and numerous days throughout the year and are lagging behind the rest of the industrialized world. Less time in the classroom should not be an option.
The other option is to reduce the amount of teachers that we have. My daughter is already in a classroom that has had as many as 31 students. It is difficult enough for our teachers to carry that load. How can children get a quality education that meets their needs when there is so much overcrowding?
The third option for cutting the budget is to cut transportation costs. This is probably the most viable place to make any cuts, but remember that more children walking across our busy streets will be less safe.
While I understand the need to balance the budget in a worsening economy, I believe that the State of Idaho will be adversely affected for years to come if they turn their back on our children's future by reducing the funding for our public schools. There has to be some other solutions. Go to www.legislature.idaho.gov to contact your legislators and share your thoughts and ideas with them.
Rebecca Lampman
Bruneau

✓ Time: Just part of the package: Ordinary couple cooks for masses

From previous page
live in the house. There is running water and electricity, but the owners must use public restrooms on the street about 100 yards away. They do have a tiny black-and-white TV set and a small microwave — probably necessary to prepare meals for groups like ours. The people who live in these houses choose to do so. I have read where in some parts of the city, authorities have had to force residents to leave these homes for modern apartments.
The couple prepares a meal for 19 people — one of the best we had during our China visit. All our communication with them is through a translator, but I wish we had time to sit down for a visit as they seem like really nice folks.
— Go to www.theowyheeavalanche.com to link to some of Wayne's previous columns on his Internet blog. You'll find the link in the bottom right-hand corner of the home page.



Rickshaw drivers in China are slight, making it a wonder they can pedal with larger Americans in tow.

*Let your voice be heard
in the Avalanche.
Write a letter to the editor*

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

February 1, 1984

Pilots from Homedale airport commission

An eight-member commission has been formed, subject to City Council approval, for managing operations at the Homedale Municipal Airport.

That commission, created last week during a special meeting at City Hall, will seek approval during a regular session of the City Council on Wednesday, Feb. 8, according to Jim Evans, assistant airport manager.

Evans, working under the direction of Jay Jackson, airport manager and Homedale contractor, has spearheaded the formation of the Homedale Airport commission after being urged in December by the City Council to improve the facility’s operations.

Evans and six other pilots formed the commission subject to City Council approval during a meeting that was called to begin working on operational and facility improvements at the municipal airport.

Joining Evans on the newly organized airport commission are Michael Middleton, Darrel Cox, JC Jackson, Gary and Bill Hubler and Floyd Wood — all Homedale-based pilots utilizing the facility for private or commercial aviation.

City’s housing needs may double by 2005

If population growth projections hold, Homedale will need about 890 new housing units within the next 20 years. That number of additional housing units would more than double the number reflected in the 1980 US Census.

In 1980, 808 housing units were listed within the city. That figure represented a 58 percent increase over the 1970 count of 511 units.

By 2005, Homedale’s housing units could total 1,700 if current growth rates continue for the southwestern Idaho community.

Planning for that kind of growth is analyzed in Homedale’s proposed comprehensive plan, which is the subject of a public hearing at 8pm in the City Hall Wednesday, Feb. 1.

The public hearing will give local residents another opportunity to provide city officials with input on the future of Homedale as the city begins the process of building planning and zoning ordinances to guide development in the decades to come.

Certainly some of the past increase in Homedale’s population came from annexations to the city, but most of the new housing units were simply additions to the city, the proposed comprehensive plan indicates. Currently, the number of housing units is listed at 820. And, if the residential growth rate continues, the city will need about 300 acres of land to accommodate the new units expected over the next 20 years.

“It must be recognized that income levels in the community vary greatly and low, moderate and high income housing should be developed,” the city comprehensive plans states.

“Mobile homes have proven to be a viable housing alternative for many families, and designations allowing this housing form should be provided,” the comprehensive plan analysis continues.

“In addition to adequate numbers of residential units, the city must also be concerned with the condition and quality of housing,” the report states. “Many of the existing dwelling units within the area of impact are older housing stock and are in poor condition.”

Police log

An unidentified flying object over Homedale last Friday remains a mystery to sky watchers in this end of the Treasure Valley.

Several local residents, including JC Bryant, a Homedale police officer, and his son, Wes, reported seeing the object as it smoked a trail across the southwestern skies from Homedale toward the Owyhees.

“It looked like a blue ball with a red glow around it,” Wes Bryant told The Owyhee Chronicle.

50 years ago

January 29, 1959

Rosalind theatre to be made over into super market

Announcement of the closing of the Rosalind theatre on Feb. 17 and disclosure of plans to remodel the building into a supermarket was made this week by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wegman, Winnemucca, Nev.

The new super market will be established by Paul Zatica, who will move his Groceteria to the building on completion. He has operated in the Vanderford building for the past three years.

The building will have 5,000 feet of floor space with a side entrance on the north facing the parking lot. Mr. Wegman is purchasing the parking lot area from Harold Peterson.

Vic Uria, who has managed the theatre for Mr. and Mrs. Wegman for the past two years, announced a moving picture will be shown each night until the theatre closes. Previously the theatre operated only on week ends during winter months.

Owyhee Telephone co. converts to new dial system

New dial equipment of the Owyhee Telephone company at Homedale was converted to use Monday, thus bringing improved telephone service to approximately 1,000 local subscribers, according to Harper Saunders, owner and manager.

“Putting in use this new dial system at Homedale is a part of our half-million dollar expansion program aimed at furnishing the latest and best possible telephone service in the Homedale-Wilder-Marsing area,” Mr. Saunders said.

The new dial equipment, which is housed in the new telephone building on north Main street, is as up-to-date as modern equipment anywhere and embodies all the advanced features in telephone efficiency, Mr. Saunders stated.

Among features of the new dial system are direct distance dialing (now available on incoming calls and will apply to all calls as soon as a similar conversion of new equipment is made at Wilder); full selective ringing (those on party lines hear only their own ring); service without charge between Homedale, Marsing and Wilder; improved outside plant service (use of cable will cut to a minimum the trouble caused by weather conditions).

Among features of the complicated inside system is an automatic switchover to battery in the case of power failure, so no interruption of telephone service will be experienced if the power goes off.

New telephone books have been distributed to subscribers and the new numbers should be used for Homedale and Marsing calls.

Grade school pupils listed on first semester honor roll

At the end of the first semester, the following students of the Homedale Junior high and Lincoln elementary schools are on the honor roll.

To be on the honor roll, a student must have B’s or better in all major subject fields.

8th grade – Karen Bergeson, Terry Levanger, Glen Nichols, Jay Olsen, Bonnie O’Neal, Sue Steward, Linley Thompson, Carl VanSlyke, Althea Wirth.

7th grade – Floyd Breach, Bill Cegnar, Ray Dewey, Janet Dowty, Jim Dowty, Nancy Echevarria, Carol Edick, Julie Egurrola, Sue Eidemiller, Joan Eismann, Terry Finn, Joan Kinder, Dennis Martin, Donna Martin, Carolyn Metcalf, Gary Scherer, Ruth VanSlyke, Fred Wood.

6th grade – Elain Eidemiller, Danny Eismann, Doralee Jemmett, Janet Kinder, Sharon Martin, John Pettit, Larry Stansell.

5th grade – Kathy Brown, Judy Chandler, Pete Echevarria, Steven Inouye, Kenny Kushlan, Marlene Pierce, Vicki Smith, Ann VanSlyke, Margaret Wheeler, Leonard Wilson, Penny Wolff.

4th grade – Roger Flygare, Jack Kershner, Sherry Kushlan, Jack Matteson, Merrilee Metcalf, Sheila Wood.

140 years ago

January 23, 1869

WAR EAGLE TUNNEL. The Boise Statesman, of the 19th, makes the following sensible and well timed suggestions in reference to this great and important enterprise, which are eminently true in every particular:

“Congressman Ashley of Nevada has introduced a bill to loan five millions bonds of the United States to aid in the construction of the Sutro tunnel. We vote yea on that question. Far better that Uncle Sam’s greenbacks be spent in developing mines than squandered upon commissions and salaries for useless purposes, or for appropriations that are no better than highway robbery. U.S. bonds have built the Pacific railroad for private corporations, why not now develop mines for individuals? But while the subject is under consideration would it not be well to put in the claims of the War Eagle Tunnel? No one can examine the two enterprises without coming to the conclusion that the War Eagle tunnel would develop a hundred times more wealth than the Sutro, or rather the advantage in favor of the former is so great that it cannot be estimated. Let the five millions of bonds by all means be issued to the Sutro tunnel, but let us at the same time have ten millions for War Eagle.”

A SCARE. Quite a scampering took place among the hands working in the Ida Ellmore Mine one day last week, occasioned by one of the men accidentally dropping a lighted candle into a box containing several pounds of giant powder. On learning of the accident, the men who were working near the scene at the time, broke furiously for the shaft, expecting every second to be blown into the middle of next summer; and it is well they did so, for the fumes arising from the burning powder were intolerable. All of the men were more or less affected by the terrible stench before they could be drawn up, and two of them were so nearly suffocated that they were not able to resume work for several days.

OUR DANCING SCHOOLS. We have two dancing schools in full running trim. Messrs. Bohen & Bello, have an excellent class, mostly of our younger folks; it makes old toes tingle to be in a room full of these skipping juveniles. We were present on Wednesday evening, at the regular soiree of this school and just unhinged our self. It was gay.

Messrs. McMahon & King have a fine class of the more advanced dancers — the larger juveniles, and those who will be juveniles no more forever on this side of the River. We attended the soiree of this school, Thursday evening, and we must say that we cannot think of anything pleasanter than these socials. Parents, send your children, go with them and dance. We are fond of dancing — believe it a good thing.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN. From a gentleman who has just returned from South Mountain we learn that the new mines now being worked there look very promising indeed. The Galena and Original are very wide and rich ledges; and the Young America, a later discovery, is said to exhibit some of the finest prospects of any lode yet discovered on this Coast. The lode is twelve feet wide and the ore assays \$208 per ton. If this ledge was located at White Pine, men here would half starve themselves to death and freeze their feet off, trying to get to it to stake off an extension.

MARRIED. January 18th, 1869, at Boise City, by His Excellency Governor Ballard, Mr. A. C. Springer and Mrs. Millie Grant, both of Silver City.

Through the politeness of Mr. Pollard, this office was made the recipient of a bountiful supply of cake and wine, for which kind remembrance the happy couple will please accept the thanks of the Avalanche crew, jointly and severally, We have searched in vain the records of press and realms of poesy to find suitable language in which to shape our thanks to the bright-eyed young lady who sent us that extra supply of cake.

Public notices

OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2009 OWyHEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE MURPHY, IDAHO

Present were Commissioner’s Hoagland, Tolmie, and Freund, Commissioner-elect Hyer, Clerk Sherburn, Assessor Endicott, Sheriff Aman, Treasurer Richards, Prosecutor-elect Emery, and Jim Desmond.

The Board upheld the appeal by Clarence Orton for his building permit in Silver City, to add the additional 5 feet on the deck because of a safety issue.

Newly elected officials sworn in to office were Sheriff Daryl Crandall, Commissioner Jerry Hoagland, Commissioner George Hyer, and Prosecuting Attorney Douglas Emery.

Reorganization of the Board: Chairman - Hoagland, Magistrate Commission Representative-Hoagland, Southwest Idaho Regional Juvenile Detention Center Representative-Freund, Western Alliance for Economic Development Representative-Hyer, Joint Land Use Study Representative-Freund, Southwest District Health Representative-Tolmie until 2010.

Mileage \$.45 per mile, Weed Spraying Charges \$50 per hour.

Road District 1-Hoagland, Road District 3-Freund, Weed Department-Hoagland, Solid Waste-Hyer, Planning & Zoning-Freund, Building Department-Freund, Probation Department-Hyer.

Indigent burials \$800. Owyhee Avalanche is the official paper for county publications.

Discussion on submitting Freundis name as a recommendation to serve out the remainder of Amanis term on the RAC. Letters of recommendation will be submitted to the Governor.

Owyhee County and Gem Highway District were awarded a \$50,000 grant each from LHTAC for completion of a transportation plan.

Approved a tax cancellation on Parcel No. RP03N05W160035A, the adjustment is \$156.12.

The Board approved the Annual Juvenile Justice Report to Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections after removal of the supervision fees.

A coordination meeting was held with the Twin Falls District BLM.

The Board recessed until 10:00 a.m. to meet at the Boise District BLM office for the quarterly Wings and Roots meeting.

The complete minutes can be viewed in the Clerkis office. s/s: Jerry Hoagland, Chairman Attest: s/s: Charlotte Sherburn 1/28/09

NOTICE TO CREDITORS CASE NO. CV08-0875 IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OWYHEE

In the Matter of the Estate of HAROLD A STEINER, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named Estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the

CITY OF HOMEDALE Quarterly Expenditure Report 1ST FISCAL QUARTER, FY 2009

FUND	BUDGET AMOUNT	Expended to Date	% of Budget Expended	City Support	Revenue to Date	% of Budget Revenue
01 General	\$ 543,000.00	\$ 69,429.00	12.8%	\$145,260.00	\$91,025.00	16.8%
03 Parks	\$ 126,295.00	\$ 7,555.00	6.0%		\$2,219.00	1.8%
04 Library	\$ 81,518.00	\$ 11,035.00	13.5%		\$9,206.00	11.3%
06 Law Enforcement	\$ 328,154.00	\$ 74,246.00	22.6%		\$4,151.00	1.3%
30 Airport	\$ 5,160.00	\$ 873.00	16.9%		\$7.00	0.1%
Sub-Total	\$ 1,272,184.00	\$ 180,189.00	14.2%	\$145,260.00	\$127,194.00	10.0%
02 Streets & Highways	\$ 188,057.00	\$ 17,051.00	9.1%		\$20,586.00	10.9%
60 Irrigation	\$ 111,967.00	\$ 26,025.00	23.2%		\$44,997.00	40.2%
25 Water	\$ 310,500.00	\$ 26,686.00	8.6%		\$85,276.00	27.5%
26 Sewer	\$ 211,100.00	\$ 34,892.00	16.5%		\$51,363.00	24.3%
27 Sanitation	\$ 96,000.00	\$ 7,760.00	8.1%		\$26,694.00	27.8%
TOTAL (all funds)	\$ 2,001,751.00	\$ 275,552.00	13.8%		\$335,524.00	16.8%

The General Public is invited to inspect all supporting documents for the above Financial Statement at City Hall during regular business hours. Financial figures may include fund transfers, service charges, refunds, reimbursements and other accounting procedures.

Publish: January 28, 2009

Signed: ALICE E. PEGRAM City Clerk-Treasurer

*City Support includes the City support for the Library, Parks and Rec and Law Enforcement Funds

first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must both be presented to the Personal Representative of the Estate at the law offices of White Peterson, 5700 East Franklin Road, Suite 200, Nampa, Idaho, 83687-7901 (208-466-9272), and filed with the Clerk of the Court. Dated: December 15, 2008 /s/Dorothy J. Steiner Personal Representative 1/14,21,28/09

PROPOSED CHANGE OF WATER RIGHTS

Michael L. James of 21610 Robinson Road, Oreana, Idaho, 83650 filed Application No. 74511 to transfer three water rights with 1969 priority dates from the Snake River totaling 2.48 cfs. The transfer proposes to split two of the rights, retire 123 acres and provide 2.48 cfs for irrigation of 123 acres from an existing point of diversion southeast of Castle Butte. The unchanged portion of the rights will remain on land adjacent to the Castle Creek Drainage.

For specific details regarding the application, please contact the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Western Region at 208-334-2190 or visit www.idwr.idaho.gov with detail provided under “new water right applications.” Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Sec 42-222, Idaho Code. Any protest against the proposed change must be filed with the Director, IDWR Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise ID 83705-5082 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before February 9, 2009. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

DAVID R. TUTHILL, JR., Director 1/21,28/09

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE

Notice of Trustee’s Sale Idaho Code 45-1506 Today’s date: January 5, 2009 File No.: 7023.14172 Sale date and time (local time): May 07, 2009 at 11:00 AM Sale location: in the lobby of the Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Highway 78, Murphy, Idaho 83650 Property address: 2049 Patriot Lane Homedale,

ID 83628 Successor Trustee: Northwest Trustee Services, Inc., an Idaho Corporation P.O. Box 997 Bellevue, WA 98009 (425) 586-1900 Deed of Trust information Original grantor: Lloyd W. Anderson, a single person Original trustee: Pioneer Title Company Original beneficiary: Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, Inc. Recording date: January 29, 2004 Recorder’s instrument number: 246586 County: Owyhee Sum owing on the obligation: as of January 5, 2009: \$85,781.87 Because of interest, late charges, and other charges that may vary from day to day, the amount due on the day you pay may be greater. Hence, if you pay the amount shown above, an adjustment may be necessary after we receive your check. For further information write or call the Successor Trustee at the address or telephone number provided above. Basis of default: failure to make payments when due. Please take notice that the Successor Trustee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for certified funds or equivalent the property described above. The property address is identified to comply with IC 60-113 but is not warranted to be correct. The property’s legal description is: Parcel I: A parcel of land being a portion of the Southwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho, and more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a brass cap marking the Southwest corner of the said Southwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Boise Meridian; thence along the Southerly boundary of the said Southwest Quarter of Section 31 North 90 degrees 00’ 00” East 1657.86 feet to an iron pin, said pin also being the Real Point of Beginning; thence leaving said Southerly boundary North 00 degrees 58’ 51” East 658.03 feet to an iron pin; thence North 89 degrees 26’ 42” East 175.07 feet to an iron pin; thence South 01 degree 50’ 04” West 52.65 feet to an iron pin; thence South 87 degrees 25’ 01” East 336.57 feet to an iron pin; thence North 72 degrees 30’ 43” East 204.11 feet to an iron pin; thence South 85 degrees 07’ 40” East 88.22 feet to an iron pin; thence South 00 degrees 19’ 24”

West 645.70 feet to a point on the said Southerly boundary of Section 31, said point marking the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 31; thence along said Southerly boundary South 90 degrees 00’ 00” West 799.81 feet to the Point of Beginning. EXCEPT the following Parcel, more particularly described as: Beginning at a brass cap marking the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Boise Meridian; thence along the Southerly boundary of said Southwest Quarter of Section 31 North 90 degrees 00’ 00” East 1657.86 feet to an iron pin; thence continuing along said Southerly boundary North 90 degrees 00’ 00” East 799.81 feet to an iron pin; thence leaving said Southerly boundary North 00 degrees 19’ 24” East 645.70 feet to an iron pin, also being the Real Point of Beginning; thence South 00 degrees 19’ 24” West 36.00 feet to a point; thence South 86 degrees 23’ 03” West 282.94 feet to an iron pin; thence North 72 degrees 30’ 43” East 204.11 feet to an iron pin; thence South 85 degrees 07’ 40” East 88.22 feet to the Real Point of Beginning. Parcel III: Together with a non-exclusive easement for ingress and egress described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of the Southwest Quarter Southwest Quarter, Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho; thence South a distance of 50.00 feet; thence North 89 degrees 58’ 59” East a distance of 1617.00 feet; thence South 07 degrees 23’ 49” East a distance of 565.64 feet; thence South 00 degrees 58’ 04” West a distance of 56.84 feet; thence North 89 degrees 26’ 42” East a distance of 65.00 feet; thence North 00 degrees 58’ 04” East 90.00 feet; thence South 89 degrees 26’ 42” West 37.00 feet; thence North 07 degrees 23’ 49” West a distance of 582.50 feet, more or less, to a point on the North line of the South One-half of the Southwest Quarter, Section 31, Township 4 North, Range 5 West, Boise Meridian; thence South 89 degrees 58’ 59” West a distance of 1645.50 feet, more or less, to the Point of Beginning. The sale is subject to conditions, rules and

procedures as described at the sale and which can be reviewed at www.northwesttrustee.com or USA-Foreclosure.com. The sale is made without representation, warranty or covenant of any kind. (TS# 7023.14172) 1002.79097-FEI

1/14,21,28;2/4/09

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Owner: City of Marsing, PO Box 125, Marsing, ID 83639

Separate sealed Bids for the construction of:

Upgrades to existing Well 1 and Well 7 Pump Facility including replacement of intermediate booster pumps, new flow meters, equipment relocation and removal, well pumps replacement, well column pipe replacement and VFD controllers, pitless unit, electronics, PLC Programming, and all associated appurtenances as described in the Plans and Specifications.

Will be received by: The City of Marsing, Idaho at the office of Marsing City Hall, c/o Janice, Bicandi, City Clerk and Treasurer.

Date and time of bid opening to be February 24, 2009 at 3:00 PM, MST.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

SPF Water Engineering, LLC, 300 E. Mallard Dr., Suite 350, Boise, ID 83706

A pre-bid conference shall be held at Marsing City Hall on 2/10/09 at 3:00 PM, MST. The pre-bid conference is mandatory.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the Issuing Office located at:

SPF Water Engineering, LLC, 300 E. Mallard Dr., Suite 350, Boise, ID 83706 upon payment of \$40 for each set.

June 14, 2009 /s/Keth D. Green, Mayor 1/28;2/4/09

LEIN SALE

16 ft. Zeaman utility trailer. Saturday, February 7, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. located at 89 South Bruneau (Old Hwy), Marsing ID 83639. 1/28;2/4/09

Public notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE

Notice of Trustee’s Sale Loan No. 2002133540 T.S. No. ID-08-218716-TD On 5/6/2009, at 11:00:00 AM (recognized local time), at the following location in the County of OWYHEE, State of Idaho: In the lobby of the Owyhee County Courthouse Located on the corner of highway 78 and Halley Street., known as 20381 Highway 78, Murphy, ID 83650, First American Title Insurance, as Trustee on behalf of CitiMortgage, Inc.. will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, the following real property, situated in the County of OWYHEE State of Idaho, and described as follows: LOT 13 OF REICH’S FIRST ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF MARSING, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO, ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL PLAT THEREOF, ON FILE AND OF RECORD IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER FOR OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO. The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above referenced real property, but for purposes of compliance with Section 60-113 Idaho Code, the Trustee has been informed that the address of 411 1ST ST N, MARSING, ID 83639 is sometimes associated with said real property. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the Deed of Trust executed by MARIA LORENA GONZALEZ, A MARRIED WOMAN AS HER SOLE AND SEPARATE PROPERTY as Grantor/Trustor, in which CITICORP TRUST BANK, FSB, is named as Beneficiary and LAND AMERICA TRANSNATION as Trustee and recorded 7/2/2007 as Instrument No. 261573 in book -, page - of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of OWYHEE County, Idaho. Please Note: The above Grantors are named to comply with section 45-1506(4)(A), Idaho Code, No representation is made that they are, or are not, presently responsible for this obligation set forth herein. The Default for which this sale is to be made is the failure to pay when due, under Deed of Trust and Note dated 6/18/2007. The monthly installments of principal, interest, and impounds (if applicable) of \$641.78, due per month for the months of 8/22/2008 through 12/15/2008, and all subsequent installments until the date of sale or reinstatement. The principal balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust is \$68,318.57 together with interest thereon at the current rate of 10.4969 per cent (%) per annum from 7/22/2008. All delinquent amounts are now due, together with accruing late charges, and interest, unpaid and accruing taxes, assessments, trustee’s fees, attorney’s fees, and any amounts advanced to protect the security associated with this foreclosure and that the beneficiary elects to sell or cause the trust property to be sold to satisfy said obligation. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder’s sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 1/5/2009 By: First American Title Insurance as Trustee Quality Loan Service

Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101, as Agent By: Tara Donzella, Assistant Vice President ***For Sale Information Call: 714-730-2727 or Login to: www.fidelityasap.com If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder’s rights against the real property only. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# 2966766
1/21,28;2/4,11/09

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE’S SALE

Trustee’s Sale No. 02-FMB-65303 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, PIONEER LENDER TRUSTEE SERVICES, LLC, the duly appointed Successor Trustee, will on April 14, 2009, at the hour of 11:00 AM, of said day, FRONT STEPS OF THE OWYHEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE, 20381 STATE HWY 78, MURPHY, ID, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, the following described real and personal property (hereafter referred to collectively as the “Property”), situated in the County of OWYHEE, State of Idaho, to-wit: A parcel of land situate in Government Lot 1, Section 36, Township 2 North, Range 4 West, B.M., Owyhee County, Idaho, more particularly described as follows: COMMENCING at the Southwest corner of said Government Lot 1, the Quarter Section corner common to Section 35 and 36, T2N, R4W, B.M., marked by a found 5/8 in P.L. S. 269, (ROS Instrument No. 162134, records of Owyhee County); thence South 89°59’40” East, 465.00 feet, along the South line of said Government Lot1, to a point, marked by a set 5/8 in. I.P and cap, L.S. 874, the POINT OF TRUE BEGINNING; thence North 31°30’50” East, 118.26 feet, to a point, marked by a set 5/8 in. I.P and cap, L.S 874; thence North 08°38’47” East, 92.15 feet, to a point, marked by a set 5/8 in. I.P and cap L.S. 874; thence North 00°24’25” West, 66.97 feet. to a point, marked by a set 5/8 in. I.P. and cap, L.S 874; thence North 28°51’42” West 46.94 feet, to a point, marked by a set 5/8 in. I.P., and cap L.S 874; thence South 89°59’40” East, 521.23 feet, along a line parallel to, and 300 feet northerly of the South line of Government Lot1. to a point on the Westerly bank of Snake River, marked by a set 5/8 in I.P and cap, L.S . 874; thence along said Westerly bank South 56°01’31” East, 536.92 feet, to a point on the South line of Government Lot 1 marked by a set 5/8 in I.P, and cap, L.S 874; thence, along said South line of Government Lot 1, North 89°56’40” West, 1019.02 feet, to the POINT OF BEGINNING The Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above-referenced Property but, for purposes of compliance with Section 60-113 of Idaho Code, the Trustee has been informed that the address of 8682 HWY 78 MARSING, ID 83639, is sometimes associated

with said real property. Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the Deed of Trust executed by ADAM JOSEPH MCKEE, A SINGLE MAN, as Grantor, to LANDAMERICA TRANSNATION TITLE, as Trustee, for the benefit and security of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC. AS NOMINEE FOR ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 10/27/2006, recorded 10/3012006, under Instrument No. 258650, Mortgage records of OWYHEE County, IDAHO, the beneficial interest in which is presently held by INDYMAC FEDERAL BANK, FSB. THE ABOVE GRANTORS ARE NAMED TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 45-1506(4)(A), IDAHO CODE. NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT THEY ARE, OR ARE NOT, PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OBLIGATION. The default for which is sale is made is the failure to pay when due under the Deed of Trust Note dated 10/27/2006, THE MONTHLY PAYMENT WHICH BECAME DUE ON 2/1/2008 AND ALL SUBSEQUENT MONTHLY PAYMENTS, PLUS LATE CHARGES AND OTHER COSTS AND FEES AS SET FORTH. Amount due as of Delinquent Payments from February 1 payments at \$2, 634.35 each 10 payments at \$2, 673.95 each (02-01-08 through 12-08-08) Late Charges: Beneficiary Advances: Suspense Credit: TOTAL: December 8, 2008 01, 2008 \$2, 634.35 \$26, 739.50 \$1, 162.50 \$44 00 \$0 00 \$30, 580.35 All delinquencies are now due, together with unpaid and accruing taxes, assessments, trustees fees, attorneys fees, attorneys fees, costs and advances made the security associated with this foreclosure. The principal balance is \$372,000.00, together with interest thereon at 7.500% per annum from 1/1/2008 to 3/1/2008, 7.500% per annum from 3/1/2008, until paid. The Beneficiary elects to sell or cause the trust property to be sold to satisfy said obligation. Anyone having any objection to the sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the same. DATED: 12/8/2008. PIONEER LENDER TRUSTEE SERVICES, LLC Trustee By: Kara Lansberry, Assistant Trustee Officer c/o REGIONAL TRUSTEE SERVICES CORPORATION 616 1st Avenue, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98104 Phone: (206) 340-2550 Sale Information: http://www.rtrustee.com ASAP# 2949737
1/21,28;2/4,11/09

NOTICE

On February 11, 2009, at 7:00 pm, the City of Marsing will hold a public hearing for an application to rezone the following parcel from Residential to Commercial Industrial:

The parcel is described as Lots 19-24, Block 20, Revised Townsite of Butte, (now the City of Marsing), Owyhee County, Idaho, according to the amended plat thereof, on file and of record in the office of the Recorder, Owyhee County, Idaho. The property is also known as 20 1st Ave. W.
1/28;2/4/09

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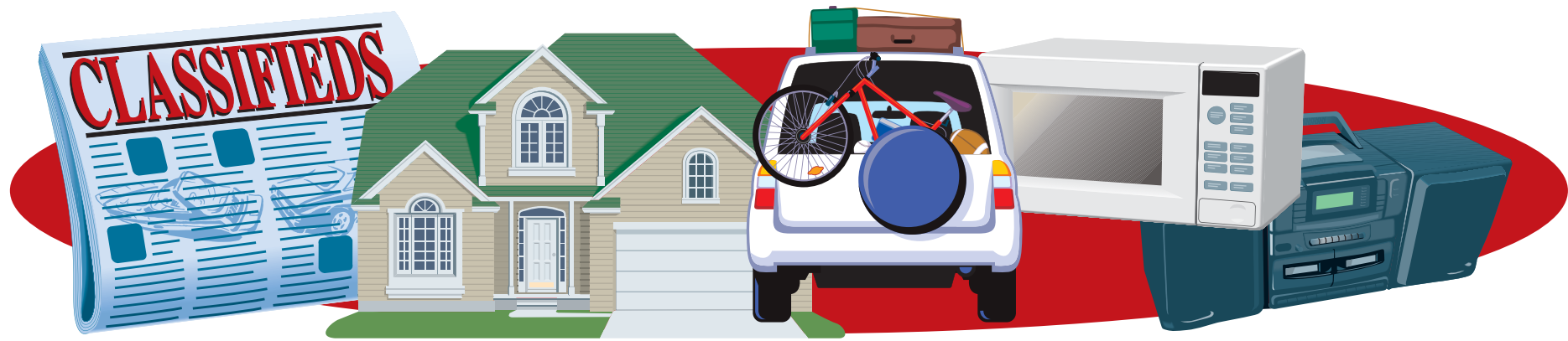
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For sale: 30 head of one iron cows, mostly younger, bred to start calving end of Feb. 482-6039

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30-60 acres of established hay ground, w/sprinkler irrigation. Wilder, Homedale, Greenleaf, Marsing area. Please contact Don Woods 208-899-1229 or Cody Woods 208-866-4342

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3 bdrm 2 bth house in newer subdivision \$800 + dep. 1004 N Rodeo, Parma. Avail. Feb 15th. Call Dave 208-573-1704
Rental/ office/ storage space available, Marsing 466-6142, 250-6228
Studio apt, furnished, dish TV, internet, all utilities, Nampa 466-6142, 250-6228
Newer 3 bdrm 2 bth house, irg sprinklers, fenced back yard, garage, \$700 + dep. Located at 100 Silver Sage, Homedale 573-1704
Jump Creek Storage. Residential/ commercial steel concrete units, 5x15, 10x5, 10x25. Vehicles, construction equip allowed, gas ok! 509-539-6010, 208-250-2461
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Storages for rent, Pioneer Mini Storage, 4155 Pioneer Rd, Homedale. 208-337-4589, 208-573-2844
2 & 3 bdrm mobile homes in town. \$395 (and up) + deposit. Please call 208-850-4117, 208-340-9937
Homedale, 1 & 2 bdrm apartments avail. Rent from \$395-\$550 plus deposit. Allen Property Mgmt 467-2132
Priced reduced! 40x60 shop 20 ft ceilings. For ag storage, commercial or contractor. Office, bthrm, sits on .25 ac, Homedale area, \$500/mo + dep. *Discounts available* 208-573-1704
Marsing Storage, Inc., Hwy 55 & Van Rd. Boat & RVs welcome. Call 867-2466, 830-1641

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Lazy Boy couch & love seat, both w/built in recliners. Very good condition. New \$1500 sell \$400; Conneley 7' (bar size) pool table. Best balls & cloth w/accessories. New \$3000 sell \$1500 OBO; Kitchen aid washer & dryer. Ex cap, works great. Asking \$350; full size pillow top mattress & box springs. Excellent condition \$200. Call 936-8052
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2 Yorkies left! 1-male & 1-female, AKC, \$800/ea. 482-6770, 409-4457
Mini Australians, 3-males. 2 red-merels & 1 red-tri, \$350/ea. Registered NSDR. 482-6770, 409-4457

FOR SALE
Microfiber couch & love seat, stain resistant, lifetime warranty, brand new in boxes. Retail \$1399. Must sell \$450. 208-888-1464
Bedroom set 7-piece cherry set Brand new in boxes. List \$2250. Must sell \$450. 208-888-1464
Bed-queen pillowtop mattress Brand new, still in plastic, warranty. Sacrifice \$109. 208-921-6643
King-sized pillowtop mattress New, in bag, with warranty. List \$750. Sacrifice \$199. 208-921-6643
Cherry Sleigh bed solid wood w/mattress set. Brand new in box. \$299. 208-888-1464
Used tractor parts 100's of salvaged farm tractors and combines. Nampa Tractor Salvage, 9055 Hwy 20, Nampa, ID 83687 (208) 467-4430
Roll ends: Great for packing material, building fires, lining birdcages or for your kids to doodle on. The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale

SERVICES
House Cleaning, whether one time "spring" cleaning or on a regular basis - Treat Yourself! Excellent refs! 337-4816
Crystal Bell Window Cleaning. Locally owned, call for estimate. Discount if before Jan. 31st! 208-573-8099 ask for Kevan munked@speedyquick.net
Local junk car & truck removal service. Free removal, can pay cash for some. Call Bill 208-724-1118
Top soil, fill dirt and all kinds of gravel products delivered and/or placed. Jim 573-5700
Backhoe, trackhoe, grader, dump truck or belly dump services for hire. Demolition, driveways & general excavation. Jim 573-5700
Daycare, all ages, ICCP approved, all meals provided, lots of activities, preschool available, 3 full time staff. Some evenings & overnight avail. Call Donna 337-6180
Technical Computer LLC, repairs, tune-ups, backups, upgrades, networking. Call Tom or Colette 896-4676 or go to technicalcomputer.com
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*GREAT BUY: for 1422 sq. ft. on fully fenced large lot near College of Idaho in immaculate condition - \$149,900
*PRICE REDUCED: Room for horses on 2.62 ac. w/3 bed/2.5 ba home on Wilder rim w/shop - ~~\$299,900~~ \$279,900
*PRIVATE RANCH: on Succor Creek with lovely 3 bed/3 ba home in paradise- call for more info on cow/calf set-up
*AG OR DEVELOPMENT: 38.68 ac with CUP approved for 3 splits on Ustick/Fish near golf course – MAKE OFFER!

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Cordon Bleu **99¢** ea.

Western Family 6 oz. Fresh
Parmesan Cheese **\$1.99** ea.
Western Family 8 oz.
Shredded Cheese **\$2.19** ea.
Bar-S 3 lb.
Corn Dog **\$5.99** ea.

Extra Large
Roma Tomatoes **79¢** lb.
Tangelos **\$1.09** lb.
1 lb.
Baby Carrots **\$1.19** ea.

Dole
Salad Blends **2 for \$5**
Large
Granny Smith Apples **89¢** lb.
Green Cabbage **59¢** lb.

Totino's Pizza

\$1.59 ea.
10.4 oz.
Western Family 24 oz.
Beef Stew **\$1.89** ea.

Campbell's
Chunky Soup

\$1.99 ea.
18.8 oz.
16 oz.
Pace Picante Sauce **\$2.29** ea.

Coca Cola
Products

\$4.99 ea.
12pk 12oz Cans
2 Liter Bottle
Coke Products **\$1.39** ea.

Coors Beer

\$13.99 ea.
18pk Cans 20pk Bottles
12pk 12oz Bottles **\$8.99** ea.
Michelob & Rolling Rock Beer

Western Family
Butter Quarters **\$2.59** ea.
1 lb.
Western Family
Sour Cream **\$1.19** ea.
16 oz.
Gatorade
\$1.39 ea.
32 oz.
Propel Water
\$1.19 ea.
Old El Paso
Enchilada Sauce **\$1.49** ea.
10 oz.
Hidden Valley
Ranch Dressing **\$3.29** ea.
16 oz.

Lay's
Potato Chips **\$2.59** ea.
11.5 oz.
Nabisco
Crackers **2 for \$5**
8-9.5 oz.
Chex Mix
\$1.69 ea.
8.75 oz.
Rice & Pasta Roni
Asst'd **2 for \$3**
Western Family
Baked Beans **\$1.39** ea.
28 oz.
KC Masterpiece
BBQ Sauce **\$1.69** ea.
18 oz.

Powerade
Liquid Hydration **89¢** ea.
Energy Drink
McCormick Seasonings
Chili & Taco **59¢** ea.
1.25 oz.
M&M
Valentine Bag **\$3.09** ea.
12.6 oz.
Western Family
Ice Cream **\$6.99** ea.
5 qt.
Jalapeno Poppers
\$3.29 ea.
8 oz.
Marie Callendar's
Frozen Pies **\$6.99** ea.
36-46 oz.

Budweiser Beer
18pk Cans or **\$13.99** ea.
20pk Bottles
Solo Plates,
Cups & Bowls **\$3.19** ea.
16-30 ct.
Pop-Secret
Microwave Popcorn **\$1.89** ea.
3 ct.
Western Family
Throat & Cough Drops **\$1.09** ea.
25-40 ct.
Don't forget
your Valentine!
Flowers *Gifts
Candy *Cards


HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Marsing, Idaho

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES AND CORRECT PRINTED ERRORS • PRICES EFFECTIVE 01/28/09 thru 02/03/09