



## Rodeo results In Sports

## Evans, Emry bring home State track gold, 1B

Law enforcement, see below  
Scuttling of HPD sees opposition

Holiday closures, Page 5A  
Government, banks shuttered

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# The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 24, NO. 20 75 CENTS

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009

## Bridging the decades

### Traffic flowing again on U.S. 95 bridge

The first work on the Homedale Snake River bridge in 40 years is nearly completed.

On Thursday, Concrete Placing Co., crews removed the temporary signal lights from the north and south sides of the bridge. Both lanes of traffic are open during non-working hours. Flaggers guide traffic during working hours.

Idaho Transportation Department spokesman Reed Hollinshead said plans to re-stripe the pavement Thursday were delayed by a rainstorm.

"Some work remains on the bridge deck joints and a few odds and ends, but they are getting close," he said.

The \$639,000 project should be finished by Memorial Day.



#### Then and now

*Above: Longtime Owyhee County resident Leroy Ellis took this photo of the old narrow bridge over the Snake River in 1952. Below: Work crews put the finishing touches on the refurbished modern bridge last week, the first major work on the span since it was built in 1969.*



## Girl, 14, charged in accidental shooting

After repeatedly calling the fatal shooting of Marcos Jaramillo an accident, Owyhee County Sheriff Daryl Crandall has decided to pursue a misdemeanor charge of negligent discharge of a firearm against the 14-year-old female who shot her 12-year-old friend May 10.

Both attended Homedale Middle School.

Owyhee County Prosecutor Douglas Emery confirmed the girl had been charged on Thursday, and that she had retained counsel.

The charge recommendation went to Emery on May 12.

On Thursday, an OCSO release said  
— See *Charged*, page 5A

## Legion ready for Memorial Day events

Two north county American Legion posts — Homedale Post 32 and Marsing Post 128 — will conduct traditional ceremonies to observe Memorial Day on Monday.

Members of the Marsing post also will place flags on veterans' graves Saturday at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery and then man an information booth at the cemetery from 9 a.m. to noon on Monday to help visitors locate veterans' graves and to hand out information on eligibility requirements for government headstones.

— See *Memorial*, page 5A

## Sparse turnout for HPD debate

### Coverage, safety, reinstatement costs among concerns

City politicians and residents alike spoke out Wednesday in opposition of any notion that the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office should take over law enforcement duties

in Homedale.

Public safety, round-the-clock coverage and what would happen if the relationship between the sheriff's office and the city soured were the three biggest concerns uncovered in a lengthy, sometimes-heated discussion.

Council president Dave Downum worried that the discussion was focused more on fiscal concerns than the citizens' well-being.

"We're not talking about safety," council

president Dave Downum said. "If there's one death or if one person gets hurt, is that worth saving \$100,000?"

There were no specific numbers offered on what fiscal impact a law enforcement contract would have for the city.

Mayor Harold Wilson opened the discussion by insisting the councilmen vote

— See *HPD*, page 5A

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## Inside

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scheduled  
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# Lori Otter to address HMS graduates

Marsing, Homedale high schools hold commencement this week

Seniors from Marsing and Homedale high schools will graduate later this week, but it's the Homedale Middle School eighth-grade graduation that has pulled off a guest speaker coup.

HMS principal Luci Asumendi-Mereness confirmed Monday that Idaho First

Lady Lori Otter will give the keynote address during the school's eighth-grade commencement at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.

"This is the second year that HMS has honored its eighth-graders with a graduation ceremony," Asumendi-Mereness said. "We are looking forward to this evening."

The middle school graduation caps a busy week of year-end activities for Homedale-Marsing schools.

Marsing will hold its high school commencement at 7 p.m. Friday inside the high school gymnasium on Main Street.

Homedale's seniors graduate at 2 p.m. Saturday inside their gym.

Also on Tuesday, Homedale Elementary School will hold kindergarten graduation. The morning session students graduate at

9:30 a.m., and the afternoon students will hold commencement at 1 p.m.

On Thursday, HES will hold a talent show at the school, 420 W. Washington Ave., beginning at 1 p.m.

Adrian High School's graduation ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Sunday inside the school's gymnasium.

Adrian will hand out year-end awards and announce scholarship winners at 7 p.m. Friday inside the gym.

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# Commissioners formally appeal Murphy TMP

County board, BLM differ on key Initiative component

Owyhee County and the Bureau of Land Management seemingly aren't seeing eye-to-eye on two important issues.

On Thursday, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to send a notice of appeal to the BLM regarding the recently released Murphy Subregion Travel Management Plan (TMP).

The county has 30 days from the notice to file a formal appeal citing grievances pertaining to the Owyhee Field Office manager Buddy Green's decision record, which was released last month.

Hoagland said the notice of appeal was sent to the BLM by overnight mail, and he also hand-delivered copies to the state and Boise District offices in Boise and the Owyhee Field Office in Marsing on Friday.

While the commissioners began the appeal process on the TMP, they also discovered a point of contention during their coordination meeting with the BLM's Twin Falls District Office, which was held in the afternoon on May 11.

Apparently there is disagreement between on whether the Owyhee Initiative law actually discontinues wilderness study areas in the county.

District 2 Commissioner

George Hyer said Jarbidge Field Office manager Rick Vander Voet told the board of the BLM's stance on the WSAs.

"On the WSAs, we thought there would be no more in Owyhee County, and the BLM interpretation is different," BOCC chair Jerry Hoagland said. "They think there still can be study areas. The law was supposed to end all future WSAs, but federal solicitors are advising (BLM officials) different."

"I don't know if they're trying to make this a test deal for future initiatives."

Hyer said it seems to be a matter of letter of the law to the feds.

"They're saying if it does not say it specifically in the bill, then they don't have to implement it," Hyer said. "It's not showing the good faith that we all believed that (ending WSAs) was going to happen."

Hyer said that he hopes the issue can be resolved through future meetings involving BLM state leaders, the Owyhee Initiative Work Group and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes.

"This came out of the Jarbidge Field Office, so we're going to have to find out if Boise feels the same way," Hyer said. "With (BLM Boise District manager) Aden Sedlitz, we have a good working relationship with him."

"The problem is there are some people still in the Boise District that former commissioners dealt with that (the BLM officials) have a bad taste in their mouth."

— JPB



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# Comments taken on proposed impact area

Marsing's proposed area of impact is the subject of a joint public hearing before the Planning and Zoning commissions from Marsing and Owyhee County.

The hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 2nd Ave. W., in Marsing.

The hearing will cover proposed boundaries of the impact

zone as well as a comprehensive plan and ordinances specific to the area.

Copies of the materials to be covered in the hearing are available at the county P&Z office, 17069 Basey St., Murphy.

Comments can be mailed to Owyhee County Planning and Zoning, P.O. Box 128, Murphy, ID 83650, and must be postmarked by May 28 to be considered.





Students deliver words of wisdom

Homedale students distributed the latest batch of inspirational words to town businesses recently. Dropping off window signs downtown were:  
Front row, from left: Tori Thomas and Mykal Hill  
Back row, from left: Maggie Escutia, Miranda Miklancic, Lizzie Farrell, Jessica Gonzalez, Mariela Vega and Valeria Garcia

Court briefs

A Homedale man was ordered to serve two consecutive prison terms of five to 10 years after an agreement in which he entered a guilty plea to a pair of felony enticement over the Internet charges.



Third District Judge Renae Hoff sentenced Arthur Gene Schmierer on Monday in Caldwell. He made a deal with Canyon County prosecutors earlier this month and already was serving a two-to-five-year sentence for a felony accessory injury to a child charge. Hoff sentenced him on that charge, stemming from a July 2007 arrest, on March 13.

Monday’s sentencing means Schmierer will spend at least 10 years behind bars.

Schmierer originally was charged with enticement and lewd conduct with a child under 16 related to his arrest at a Nampa McDonald’s after arranging over the Internet to meet an undercover officer posing as a 13-year-old girl.

The Third District Court saw a

cluster of drunk drivers sentenced this week, including three felony DUI convictions.

Grand View resident David Jay Jenkins was found guilty of two felony counts of DUI, arising from two arrests just two weeks apart in December and January.

Appearing before Judge Gregory Culet, Jenkins was sentenced to 3 to 10 years on the first charge, and 5 to 10 on the second. He will lose his license for five years, as well. The sentences specify retained jurisdiction, which allows Culet leeway to revisit and alter the sentencing in six months.

During the retained jurisdiction period, an alternative available only for felony cases, the defendant will first spend two weeks in a diagnostic unit of the penal system. If he or she is determined not to be dangerous, the defendant will go on to the North Idaho Correctional Institution at Cottonwood. There, the defendant will undergo psychiatric and other testing and may participate in rehabilitation programs. At the end of the retained jurisdiction, the judge will decide, based on the Board of Corrections’ evaluation of the individual during the period, whether the remainder of the sentence should be suspended.

Jenkins also has a misdemeanor

DUI conviction in Elmore County, as well as one for second-degree stalking.

Rodney Steven Derrick of Silver Creek, Wash., was convicted of felony DUI on a citation issued in January of 2007. He was sentenced to two years of probation and 30 days in jail by Judge Dan C. Grober. Derrick will also lose his license for six months, and will serve his jail time in Lewis County, concurrently with a Payette County charge. The total cost to Derrick, after forfeiting a \$500 bond, will be \$1,000.

Wilder resident Charles Muschbacher was charged with misdemeanor DUI following an arrest in March. The charge was amended to careless/inattentive driving, and he was sentenced to a year of probation by Grober, and faces \$200 of fines and fees.

Lucio Matinez-Martinez of Mountain Home was arrested for driving under the influence last June. Following his conviction before Grober of misdemeanor DUI last week, he faces fees and fines of \$500 and 18 months of probation. He will additionally lose his license for six months, and be on probation for 18 months.

Council OKs car show, ponders event center

The Marsing City Council approved a request by local businessman Josh Bauer for a permit to hold a classic car show at Island Park on June 20.

This is the second year that Bauer has organized a show.

Mayor Green and the city

council discussed the possibility of repairing and refitting the sewer system in Island Park — a system originally shut off due to water levels during the spring runoff on the Snake River.

The concept of refitting and opening an event center in the

park met with general interest and is being examined.

An event center, Green pointed out, would both bring more events to the venue and help raise the funds needed to finish the north side of the park, on the far side of Idaho highway 55.

ATV accidents usher in start of busy rec season

Incident logs received May 12 showed that the ATV season may be warming up in Owyhee County.

Boise resident Renae Goodwin-Ware was involved in a recreational vehicle accident on the Silver City Road on May 9. The call was received by Owyhee County dispatch at 3:48 p.m. Officers, Grand View Ambulance and the Central Owyhee Quick Response Unit responded to the incident. Goodwin-Ware was transported to Saint Luke’s by helicopter.

On the same day, less than four

hours later, Richard Bedendorfer of Nampa was cited in another recreational vehicle accident on Upper Reynolds Creek Rd. in the Melba area.

A Sheriff’s deputy spoke informally on the upcoming season, predicting the potential for a large number of incidents as recreationalists seem even more numerous this year. With the state of the economy making trips far from home problematic, camping and ATV excursions could see an increase, he said.

Calls for further information were not returned by the Sheriff’s office.

Homedale man, two others arrested for meth in Caldwell

Leroy Strack, 46, of Homedale, and two Canyon County residents were arrested on drug charges Saturday by Caldwell police.



Officers arrested two men and a woman at approximately 10:30 p.m. after witnessing “suspicious behavior” at a convenience store. When the vehicle that Strack, Arthur Stuart, 23, and Tina Martin, 45 — the latter two both residents of Caldwell — was pulled over, a drug dog

showed a positive response. A search discovered drug paraphernalia in the car.

Martin was arrested on charges of delivery of a controlled substance, a felony, possession of drug paraphernalia, carrying a concealed weapon and concealing evidence.

Stuart and Strack were charged with possession of paraphernalia and a controlled substance, initially identified as methamphetamine.



Marsing women take part in MS Walk

Several women and a couple children from Marsing helped raise more than \$325 during the April 18 MS Walk in Boise. The team walked five kilometers in honor of Tammy Bowman’s sister-in-law Denise Finley, who has multiple sclerosis.

The Marsing team included, from left: Bowman, Lela Aspiazu, Kimber Bowman, Bailey Bowman (in wagon), Megan Bowman, Laura Bowman, Sandy Prall, Leslie Dudman and baby Jade and Annie Finley. Submitted photo

Read all about it in the Avalanche!



# Sheriff discusses interagency MOUs, gun locks

## BOCC accepts new agreement with BLM

The Board of County Commissioners voted to accept two agreements related to the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office at its meeting last week.

The memorandum of understanding between the Bureau of Land Management and OCSO was accepted after Prosecuting Attorney Douglas Emery amended the lifespan of the MOU from five years to make it renewable at the end of each fiscal year.

Under the new MOU, the BLM

law enforcement personnel will take "mutually agreed upon" actions to respond to "officer in need" requests, to detain anyone suspected of violating county laws and the witnesses to such acts until a state or local officer with primary jurisdiction arrives to take custody of the subjects, and to arrest and release to a OCSO deputy anyone wanted on a state or local warrant.

The commissioners also accepted a MOU with Canyon County that will give the Owyhee sheriff use of repeater stations as well as three 700 megahertz frequencies licensed to Canyon for transmitting in the eastern half of Owyhee County.

"This is going to give us

extra channels and save us five repeaters," Owyhee Sheriff Daryl Crandall told the commissioners. "It will give us coverage on the populated part of the west county and three channels on the eastern half of the county."

Crandall also gave a report on calls to which his deputies had responded during the previous week, including the Owyhee River rescue of an injured kayaker on May 4 and two ATV accidents on May 9.

"It was fairly mundane. Little things. Nothing real big," Crandall said in the May 11 BOCC meeting.

District 3 Commissioner Dick Freund then asked Crandall about his office's policy on gun locks,

an issue that Crandall publicized later in the week during media coverage of the May 10 fatal accidental shooting of Homedale Middle School sixth-grader Marcos Jaramillo.

"We have cases of those that we love to give away," Crandall said. "Every time that people come in to get a concealed weapons permit, we issue them. Free of charge, no questions asked."

Crandall said his office does "a lot of community service projects, putting out information to a lot of people" on several issues, including gun safety.

"We feel real strongly on that we should be protecting our youth and one of them is gun safety," the sheriff said. "This is a very

gun-active county."

District 2 Commissioner George Hyer said that, even though the sheriff didn't mention the Jaramillo shooting in his open-meeting report, Crandall did inform the commissioners of the incident in the moments before last week's BOCC meeting began.

"It's just how he is running his department," Hyer said. "He's giving as little information as he possibly can."

"I really feel like he's giving more (information), but the man still isn't trusting. Unfortunately, he's still fighting the election, which is sad."

— JPB

# More property owners paying taxes on time

## Treasurer: People making homes priority during tough economic times

As notices that the second half of Owyhee County property tax payments are due hit the mail, county Treasurer Brenda Richards reports increased collections.

Richards said the second-half notices were mailed Friday. The second half of 2008 property tax bills is due by June 20. She told the Board of County Commis-

sioners on May 5 the county saved money by not printing return envelopes for the second-half invoices.

The treasurer's office had to pay more in postage to send out the notices because of the first-class postal rate change on May 11, Richards told commissioners on May 11.

Richards said that the overall tax collection to date is at 60 percent, which includes delinquent taxes owed at the beginning of the tax year.

A little less than half of the total tax bills for 2008 — 48 percent — has been collected on time this year, she said.

Current tax collections are outpacing the rate of collection in each of the past two years.

At this time last year, only 32 percent of 2007 tax payments had

been collected. In 2006, collection was at 35 percent.


"The 60 percent shows that people are also making an extreme effort to get caught up on any back taxes they may have owed," Richards said. "I was somewhat concerned about how the tax collection would be this year with the economy in the downward fall it has been in. But it seems that when it comes to items to be budgeted for and paid, property taxes are a high priority for property owners."

Richards also speculated that

the financial troubles reported by mortgage companies also may have spurred people on to make sure their property taxes were covered.

County taxpayers still have the option of debit/credit card payments either at the treasurer's office in Murphy or by phone. Access Idaho enables the county to offer this service through a 2.75 percent handling fee that goes to the company, not the county, Richards said.

— JPB




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**Letters to the editor**  
Friday noon the week prior to publication  
(Limit 300 words, signed, with day phone number.)



From page 1

✓ **Charged:** Sheriff says accountability and justice demand charge filing

the charges were “on hold until Monday” and reported that the girl, whose identity has not been released, was seeking counsel.

A few hours later, Emery confirmed charges had already been filed.

Crandall explained his stance in filing a charge recommendation in an interview with The Idaho Statesman. Two calls for additional information on the case by The Owyhee Avalanche Wednesday morning, and two Thursday, were not returned. Inquiries with the prosecutor’s office have found the older sister of the 14-year-old present in the home was 19, rather than 17 as reported earlier by OCSO.

“We have a duty and a responsibility to ensure accountability and justice, and to be sure everyone is treated fairly and correctly,” Crandall reportedly said. He pointed out that while there had been no intent of harm, the girl had shown

### Jaramillo memorial fund established

A memorial fund to help Marcos Jaramillo’s family with medical and funeral expenses has been established by a Marsing church.

The fund for the family of the 12-year-old Homedale Middle School student who died from an accidental gunshot early last week has been set up at Marsing’s US Bank branch, according to a press release faxed from the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office on Wednesday.

The treasurer of the Lizard Butte Baptist Church will handle the account, and all proceeds will go to the family.

Donations can be made at any US Bank branch or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 722, Marsing, ID 83639.

Call Lizard Butte Baptist Church pastor Dave London at (208) 859-2059 with any questions.

negligence in the handling of the firearm.

“We have to hold her accountable, as painful as that is,” he was quoted as saying.

Emery examined the case and said there were a few possible charges that might apply to the girl. While the most serious was involuntary manslaughter, he said that charge would not be pursued in this incident. The

misdeemeanor charge of injury to another through negligence in firing a weapon was the more likely option, he said, given that there was no apparent malice or argument involved.

That is the route the court took.

The weapon was not in an open common area, which is a mitigating factor in the defense of the young man whose gun it was, Emery said. No charge appears likely against him, as the weapon was in a closet, where the visiting 14-year-old found it.

“If you took a cross-section of a good number of the citizens in this county, I think you’d find a good number of people feel it’s their right to have a loaded gun within their house, and they make reasonable precautions so that it isn’t accessible in the common areas,” he said.

“By the same token, they want to have ready access to that weapon in the event of an intrusion. As a prosecutor, I have to weigh both extremes of that — that it’s not readily accessible in common areas and, by the same token, it seems to me at least, that an adult should have the ability to put something in his area that’s not readily accessible to the general public or others in the common area.”

As to what profit to the public would come from charging the girl, Emery spoke of the possible negligence involved in the shooting.

“There should be some potential consequence for negligence or gross negligence in the handling of a weapon,” he said. “That statute is clearly on the books and, I believe, perhaps drafted for this very situation. I’m concerned a bit, I guess, about the casual nature in which people use weapons. There are very dire and serious consequences.”

— MML

✓ **HPD:** Sheriff’s official scheduled to attend May 28 council meeting

to even take up the debate, a proposal that Councilman Tim Downing opposed.

“This should have been discussed with the council before talking to the sheriff,” Wilson said.

Said Downing:

“I disagree. I just wanted to get a dialogue going. To deny us having an open discussion on it, Harold, I don’t agree with that.”

Few citizens turned out for the meeting, but Downing and Wilson both said they had heard from constituents before the meeting.

Wilson also said that he had spoken with Sheriff Daryl Crandall, who apparently said he would visit a meeting to enlighten council members only if they agreed they wanted to hear from him.

By the end of the discussion, it was agreed — without a vote — that Crandall would be invited to talk about what the sheriff’s office

could offer in the way of coverage. It was also suggested that the Board of County Commissioners and government officials from Marsing, which contracts with OCSO, should be invited.

City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram confirmed Monday morning that sheriff’s office representatives are scheduled to address the council during its May 28 meeting.

But Downum and Councilman Eino Hendrickson voiced opposition to disbanding the police department and contracting with the sheriff’s office.

Resident Gene McAbee, a former law enforcement officer, supported keeping the police department when other towns’ arrangements — such as Glens Ferry and Eagle — were brought into the discussion. Glens Ferry is patrolled by Elmore County Sheriff’s deputies, and the Ada

County Sheriff’s Office provides law enforcement in Eagle.

“Eagle is different,” he said. “They have officers stationed there and they stay there. That won’t happen with the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office. They’ll be on the outskirts.”

Councilman Aaron Tines raised the question of how a contract with the county would be affected when a new sheriff’s administration and new councilmen and mayors come on board.

“We may not be here, and the sheriff may not be there,” he said. “But the citizens will always be there, and they should be considered.”

Wilson said he had spoken to business owners who were against dissolving the police department, and Idaho Avenue merchant Del Motz echoed that sentiment during his remarks to the council.

“We’re kind of in a growing

mood in Homedale, and I think we should look at keeping the police department,” he said. “As long as we’re in a growing mood, we shouldn’t get rid of the police department.”

Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller asked if any money saved by the city through contracting law enforcement services would be returned to the taxpayers.

“There will be no tax savings, it’ll just be shifted some place else,” he said. “Is there a plan for cutbacks in other departments?”

Eidemiller, who was joined at the meeting by some of his officers, also cautioned against the idea of putting the issue to a city-wide vote, a suggestion floated by Hendrickson.

“If the citizens say they don’t want to have a police department, then you’ve bound future mayors and councils to the sheriff’s office,” Eidemiller said, suggesting

that any future reversal would require another ballot initiative.

The veteran chief also said the city would have no recourse if the sheriff’s office found that a higher fee would have to be charged to pull off the job of protecting Homedale. Thursday, he touched on what he called the “financial devastation” a simple vote from the council could cause if a future council wanted to reinstate the police department. He said that buying just three new police cars — only a small part of starting a department — would cost as much as \$150,000.

Downing acknowledged that disbanding the police department would be a difficult path from which to return.

“I understand if we disband the police department, it’ll be cost-prohibitive to bring it back,” he said.

— JPB

✓ **Memorial:** Traditions live on

The Marsing Auxiliary will provide coffee and donuts Monday.

At 10 a.m., the Marsing Legion and Homedale American Legion Post 32 will perform a wreath laying at the cemetery’s Veterans Memorial.

The Homedale Legion also plans wreath ceremonies at Wilder Cemetery at 9 a.m., at the Homedale U.S. Highway 95 bridge at 9:30 a.m., and at the Homedale City Park at 10:30 a.m.

A Memorial Day breakfast will be served at the Legion Hall at 14 E. Owyhee Ave., in Homedale starting at 10:30 a.m. Donations will be accepted.

The ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary plan to be at Paul’s Market in Homedale on Saturday with the traditional poppy displays. Those stop-

ping by with a small donation can pick a poppy to wear and remember those honored by the holiday.

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 128, based in Marsing, will assist the Caldwell VFW post in placing flags on graves in a Caldwell cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.

Bruneau American Legion Post 83 will hold a service at the Bruneau Cemetery at 11 a.m. Monday. The ceremony will include a salute from riflemen, taps, speakers and a singer. A potluck will follow at the Legion Hall on Belle Avenue. For more information, call (208) 845-2842.

Grand View American Legion Post 134 has no events planned, according to spokesman Bob Swenson.

**Memorial Day closures**

Government offices, schools, banks and The Owyhee Avalanche office will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

Deadlines for the Avalanche’s May 27 issue will be altered slightly because of the holiday, too.

The display advertising deadline remains noon Friday. The deadline for classified ads will be 5 p.m. Friday, instead of the usual noon Monday.

Paul’s Market in Homedale and Snake River Mart in Marsing will be open normal hours Monday.

Homedale Police Department and Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office will be available for law enforcement calls.

*The Owyhee Avalanche*

*Owyhee County’s best source of local news!*





**Classmates organize benefit for friend’s memorial scholarship**  
*From left: Homedale High School students Deena Emry, Casey Christoffersen, Trey Corta, Zach Mereness and Alex Mereness put together tonight’s event at Mountain View Church of the Nazarene.*

## Landa scholarship event today

Alex Mereness and friends decided Homedale youth needed a time to relax after the recent tragic events that have struck the community. Starting from an idea sparked by Colleen Trefz, Mereness, brother Zach, Trey Corta, Deena Emry and Caset Christoffersen put together the plan for tonight’s get together at the Mountain View Church of the Nazarene.

Despite being hosted by the church, “I want to stress that this isn’t a religious thing,” Alex said Monday. “It’s not a second funeral for Conner, it’s to celebrate his life.” Reece Landa is Alex’s best friend, and making sure the event comes off is something that is important to him, Mereness said. “Our community is definitely going through a tough time ... this is a chance to relax.”

The five students took their lunch hours to organize the event, design and distribute flyers, and spread the word.

The community youth event will be held at the church, at 26515 Ustick Road, tonight at 6:30 p.m. The event will be open to students from seventh grade through high school. Funds raised will go toward two \$500 Conner Landa Memorial Scholarships. Any donations are highly appreciated.

“If they could even bring \$2, that would be awesome,” Mereness said.

The event will be a chance to listen to music, relax, and share memories in a positive way.

“I think that hopefully a lot will be there,” Emry said. “If they want to tell a story or speak to his parents, they’ll be there to do that.”

The Nampa rock band Ardent will provide entertainment, and there will also be speakers and refreshments afterward.

For more information, contact Trefz at 337-6285.

— MML

## School menus

### Homedale Elementary

May 20: Oven fried chicken or beef taco pie, roll, potato salad, fruit & veggie bar, fruit rollup, milk.  
May 21: Lasagna or mini corn dog, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.  
May 22: Fish nuggets or turkey sandwich, French fries, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.  
May 25: No school.  
May 26: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, fruit & veggie bar, cookie, milk.  
May 27: Ham/cheese or turkey sandwich, potato chips, apple, ice cream bar, milk.  
May 28-29: No school.

### Homedale Middle

May 20: Idaho haystack or split top sandwich, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.  
May 21: Beef or chicken taco, corn, fruit & veggie bar, fruit rollup, milk.  
May 22: Chicken tenders or chicken fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.  
May 25: No school.  
May 26-27: Cook’s choice.  
May 28-29: No school.

### Homedale High

May 20-22: Cooks choice.  
May 25: No school.  
May 26-27: Cooks choice.  
May 28-29: No school.

### Marsing

May 20: Cook’s choice  
May 21: Cook’s choice  
May 22: Breakfast only, last day of school.

### Bruneau

May 20: Pizza, tossed salad, pineapple, milk,  
May 21: Hamburger/bun, chips, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.  
May 22: Early release. Popcorn chicken, fries, veggie, fruit, cookie, milk.

## Homedale reading signups near

Registration for the Homedale Public Library’s summer reading program begins Tuesday.

The program, “Be Creative @ Your Library”, will feature weekly one-hour programs through June. The readings and activities begin June 3 are open to children in preschool through sixth grade.

The program begins at 3:30 p.m. each Wednesday in June.

Diane Williams is coordinating the program for the library, and more information can be obtained by calling the library between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The library is located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave., and can be reached at 337-4228.

The program includes:

- **June 3: “I’ve Got Rhythm”** — Participants will make musical instruments.
- **June 10: “Ham It Up”** — Children will be encouraged to use their imaginations and create aquariums for the play “The Three Little Fishes and the Big, Bad Shark”.
- **June 17: “Now You See It”** — Children will get a chance to try their art skills.
- **June 24: “Games — All Around Fun”** — Children can have fun playing various games in the program finale.

## Homedale High School Class of ’67 plans reunion

The Homedale High School Class of 1967 will have a potluck 42<sup>nd</sup> reunion later this summer.

Friends from other classes and past teachers also are being invited to the 1 p.m., Saturday, July 18 gathering at Homedale City Park.

Attendees are asked to bring a main dish and a salad or dessert as well as table service, drinks, lawn chairs and “tons of gossip”.

For more information, call Tresa at 896-4245 or Charlotte at 649-5210.

## Senior menus

### Homedale Senior Center

May 20: Baked fish, baked potato, carrots, roll, beverage.  
May 21: Roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, beets, roll, beverage.  
May 26: Baked ham & yams, green beans, roll, beverage.  
May 27: Chicken patty/bun, lettuce, tomato, beets, beverage.

### Marsing Senior Center

May 20: Baked potato bar /bean soup, broccoli, fruit, bran muffin.  
May 21: Roast pork, mashed potatoes w/gravy, baked squash, sauerkraut salad, apple & raisin salad, roll, fruit crisp.  
May 25: Closed for Memorial Day.  
May 26: Hot pork sandwiches, potatoes/gravy, broccoli, cauliflower & carrots, peach crisp.  
May 27: Tuna noodle casserole, spinach, tossed salad, wheat roll, apple raisin bar.

## Death notices

**PAULINE “POLLY” DILLINGHAM**, 91, of Marsing, died Monday, May 11, 2009, in a Nampa care center. Funeral services are private with arrangements through Accent Funeral Home, Meridian.

**MARCOS JARAMILLO**, 12, of Homedale, died at a local hospital Monday, May 11, 2009. A viewing was held Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at Flahiff Funeral Chapel Homedale. A graveside service was held Thursday, May 14, 2009 at Wilder Cemetery.

*Read all about it*  
**in the Avalanche!**

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**Aaron Tines**  
Mortician's Assistant  
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Member, Homedale Chamber of Commerce  
Member, Homedale Lions Club



# Calendar

## Today

**Bruneau and Beyond speaker luncheon**  
11:30 a.m., David Leroy on Abraham Lincoln and the Idaho Territory, free, RSVP by May 18, Bruneau Valley Library, 32068 Ruth St., Bruneau. (208) 845-2131 or (208) 845-2282

**Line dancing lessons**  
1 p.m. to 2 p.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Government accountability group**  
6:30 p.m., Owyhee County Citizens for Accountability in Government meeting, Desert High Real Estate, Marsing.

## Thursday

**NOCWMA puncture vine spray day**  
10 a.m. to noon, Marsing USDA Service Center, 250 N. Old Bruneau Hwy., Marsing; 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Homedale Armory, Owyhee County Fairgrounds, Nevada Avenue

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

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

**Narcotics Anonymous book study**  
8 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17454 Hwy 95 S., Homedale

## Friday

**Marsing High School graduation**  
7 p.m., Marsing High School gymnasium, Main Street, Marsing.

## Saturday

**Homedale High School graduation**  
2 p.m., Homedale High School gymnasium, 203 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale.

## Tuesday

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

**Senior citizens card games**  
1p.m., bridge and pinochle, free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Children’s story time**  
4:15 p.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 W. 3rd St. S., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

**Mental health support groups**  
6 p.m., Marsing Nazarene Church, 112 W. 2nd

Ave., Marsing. (208) 896-5630

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

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

## Wednesday

**Line dancing lessons**  
1 p.m. to 2 p.m., free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

## Thursday, May 28

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

**Homedale City Council meeting**  
7 p.m., Homedale City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4641

**Grand View-Bruneau school board meeting**  
7 p.m., location varies, [www.sd365.us/index.htm](http://www.sd365.us/index.htm) or (208) 834-2253

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

**Narcotics Anonymous book study**  
8 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17454 Hwy. 95 S., Homedale

## Friday, May 29

**Fair livestock weigh-in**  
7 p.m., 4-H and FFA sheep, Owyhee County Fairgrounds, Homedale. (208) 896-4104

## Monday, June 1

**Narcotics Anonymous open meeting**  
8 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church

## Tuesday, June 2

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

**Senior citizens card games**  
1 p.m., bridge and pinochle, free, Homedale Senior Citizens Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

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

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



## Bet You Didn’t Know Root beer ingredient also used for soap — explains the foam

So how did they make root beer? Well, it used to be made partially from various oils, birch, ginger, anise, lemon oil and then mixed with the root of the sassafras tree. That’s where the “root” came from. Nowadays it’s made from the sap of a desert yucca bush. The Native Americans used to use this same sap for soap. Tasty.

If you think you have a dog that’s overweight ... listen to this one. The heaviest one on record that I’ve been able to find was a 310-pound St. Bernard.

We get the word “eavesdropper” from Old Saxon times in England. Seems you couldn’t build your house right up against the property line. You had to leave room for the rainwater to drip from the eaves. This space was called the “eaves drip”. Naturally a person that placed himself in the “eaves drip” to be able to overhear something became known as an eavesdropper. Makes sense to me.

The coldest place in the United States? Well, that’d be International Falls, Minn. They have an average, get that ... average mean temperature of only 36.8 degrees year around. I don’t know if anyone lives there. The coldest inhabited place in the world is located at Noriskl,

Russia. Stays a brisk 12.4 degrees average year around. Don’t look for me there anytime soon.

If you had leprosy (Hansen’s disease) the only American hospital that could treat you is located in Carville, La.

Franklin Pierce, the nation’s 14<sup>th</sup> president. Seems he has been the only president we’ve had thus far that served his entire term without changing any member of his original cabinet. I wonder if this was a good or bad thing?

The Second Continental Congress established the first United Sates Navy in October 1775. It was disbanded after the Revolutionary War. The present day United States Navy was established on April 30<sup>th</sup> of 1798.

There is a higher voter turnout for any election among the age group of 55- to 64-year-olds. Seems something like 71 percent of this age bracket vote on a regular basis. The lowest (34.2 percent) was among those 18 and 19 years old.

— For more information on Peary Perry or to read more of his writings or to make a comment, visit [www.pearyperry.com](http://www.pearyperry.com)

**OUR HEARTFELT THANKS**

*Our family of Conner Lee Landa would like to thank family members, friends, and the entire community for the tremendous outpour of love and support given to us throughout this difficult time.*

*The hugs, food, flowers, cards, help and all the wonderful thoughts and prayers have been amazing!*

*With all our love and gratitude,*

*The Landa and Frerichs Families*



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# Library to get new employees, AC and heat system

## Council gives \$150 to 4-H, FFA

The Homedale City Council on Wednesday made two decisions that will affect Homedale Public Library.

By a 4-0 vote, councilmen authorized contracting with Bauer Heating and Cooling to install a new air conditioning and heating unit in the library at 125 W. Owyhee Ave.

Public works supervisor Larry Bauer brought three bids to the council for a job that he said would cost less than \$6,000, and recommended hiring Bauer

Heating and Cooling — which has no relation to the city employee — to install a natural gas-fired heating unit and an electric air conditioning system.

The city also consulted with Air Comfort and Right Now on whether to repair the aging unit or go with a new setup.

“All three said it would be ludicrous to invest into the equipment we have now,” Larry Bauer said.

The project will be paid for out of library funds.

By unanimous decision, the council approved the hiring of three part-time employees to take the place of Ann Umphreys, who

left her job with the library at the beginning of the month. She began employment at the library in 2005.

Two of the new hires previously served as volunteers.

Two of the new employees — Mary Ann Pegram and Laryssa Takashige — will work four hours each week. A third hire, Sara Miller, will work 11 hours each week.

Umphreys had worked 19 hours per week.

It also was announced the library will scale back its Saturday schedule by two hours until the new employees are completely trained. The library now will be

open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. each Saturday instead of 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Council gives to groups

The city council unanimously agreed to donate a total of \$150 to three 4-H and FFA groups after Planning and Zoning administrator Sylvia Bahem, who also is involved in the Owyhee County 4-H horse program, made a request Wednesday.

The groups — Homedale FFA, Owyhee County 4-H horse and the Owyhee County 4-H horse judging team — will receive \$50 apiece.

A three-person 4-H horse judging team has qualified for a national competition set for next month in Jackson, Miss. Bahem said the team is the first in a decade to reach the 4-H nationals

from Owyhee County.

Bahem also lobbied for \$50 for Homedale FFA because she said the chapter receives no funding from the Homedale School District. She also said that chapter advisor Lori Harrison has sent teams to the national convention in four of her five years at the helm. Each trip to nationals, Bahem said, costs about \$5,000.

“I have a strong feeling there are no better kids than 4-H and FFA kids,” Bahem told the council.

City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram told the council she was unsure where the money would come from in the current fiscal year 2009 budget, and she suggested the council establish a set amount for such donations in future budgets.

— JPB

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BUSINESS MEETINGS

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## COOKING CLASSES

These fun and interactive classes are taught by Chef Cordel Knight. \$35 per person includes instruction, recipes, drinks, and food sampling.

- May 20  
“Weekend BBQ”  
Greens with Dijon Balsamic Vinaigrette  
Duxelle Stuffed Beef Tenderloin with Mushroom Jus, Myzithra and Herb Dressed Fettuccini



**First and third Wednesdays from 6:30-9:00pm.**  
Seating is limited.  
Reserve a spot today!

## Today is final day to sign up for babysitter training courses

For babysitters-to-be of age 12 and up, the University of Idaho Extension Office is offering a babysitting day camp from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on May 30 that will educate sitters in the finer points of their craft.

There are 15 spots open for youths to be trained in age-appro-

priate care, how to resolve potentially dangerous situations, make nutritious snacks and more.

Those desiring to attend should contact Judith McShane or Dre’ Castaneda at (208) 896-4104. Registration must be received today. Attendees should bring a bag lunch.

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This very beautiful gem (‘...the queen of gems’) is found as a secretion of the shelled “mollusca” which dwell in the sea and also fresh water, but only in a certain genera. For example pearls are not commonly found in the types of oysters served in restaurants but, instead, come from seven other genus of mollusks. The great conch (Strombus giagas) found in waters off the Florida coast furnishes some pearls, as does the abalone from the Gulf of California, both of which are mollusks. Additionally, the genus “Unio” which is a fresh-water mollusk produces the white pearl and can be found in North America and in Europe. If the gem is irregular in shape and attached to the shell it is called a “blister pearl.” And if it is buried among the soft tissue parts and not attached to the shell it is called a “cyst pearl.” Cyst pearls may either be round, or quite irregular in shape. If irregular they are called “baroque pearls.” And all of them are simply beautiful! If you have additional questions about “the queen of gems” then I invite you to call me or stop by the store.

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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## *Keep up with county news in the Avalanche*



## Steiner graduates Air Force Academy

John R. Steiner of Oreana graduates next Wednesday from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado, with a business management major and a minor in Arabic. The 2005 Rimrock High School grad will then move on to the Air Force Office of Special Investigation (AFOSI).

To quote the AFOSI Web site, the organization “provides professional investigative service to commanders of all Air Force activities. Its mission is to identify, exploit and neutralize criminal, terrorist and intelligence threats to the U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense and U.S. Government.” If it sounds a bit like the NCIS TV show, it is.

John, usually called JR, is the son of John and Lorna Steiner. Steiner, who academy administrators believe might be the first Owyhee County resident to graduate the school, spent a semester in Morocco, polishing his language skills, as well as time in Egypt, his mother said.

Having served four years at the academy, Steiner will now serve five years active duty with AFOSI in exchange for his schooling. He has been on the academy Dean’s List for all four years of his enrollment, as well as being twice included on the academy’s Commandant honor list for those in the top percentile for combined academic, athletic and military achievements.

He’s also a member of the “three-percent club”—a reference to only three percent of academy grads managing to make their personal relationships outlast training. Steiner plans to marry his eighth-grade sweetheart, Samantha Jones, this July. Steiner and Jones were the Rimrock valedictorian and salutatorian for 2005. Jones graduated from Idaho State University - Boise this year, with a degree in speech pathology.

Rimrock has another student in a military academy at this time — Leigh Martin is currently enrolled at the United States Merchant Marine academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

— MML

## JV grad doubles up on school Dean’s List

Jordan Valley High School graduate Luisa Lowry was placed on the Dean’s List at Covenant College for both semesters during the 2008-09 academic year.

It was recently announced that Lowry was named to the spring Dean’s List for achieved a grade-point average of 3.30 or higher while enrolled in 12 o more credit hours at the Lookout Mountain, Ga., school.

The daughter of Miren Lowry and granddaughter of Tim and Rosa Maria Lowry — all of Jordan Valley — Luisa is a sophomore majority in Elementary Education.

## Historic preservation panel has openings

The Owyhee County Historic Preservation Commission for Owyhee County has two openings, according to county historic preservation officer Thom Couch.

The commission is a panel of volunteers appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to review and make recommendations on building applications in the historic districts in Owyhee County.

The volunteers also are involved in identifying and helping preserve historic sites in the county. Couch assists the commission in its duties.

Anyone interested in serving on the commission can call Couch at (208) 495-2319.

## Block party to feature carnival, yard sales

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce is planning a package of early June things to do as summer weather arrives.

The chamber’s Block Party will be held in the Homedale City Park on June 6, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dealer tables will be \$10 for Chamber members, and \$15 for others. Dealers can contact Chamber president Gavin Parker at 337-3271 to reserve a spot.

June 6 will also see the Homedale citywide yard sale event, with participating homeowners holding their yard sales on that date. Those holding yard sales should be aware that a permit is required, at no cost,

from the city.

Payette-based Fun Time Carnival will return to Homedale, setting up in Riverside Park between June 3 and June 7. Parker said last year’s carnival, held at the Amalgamated Sugar Co. beet dump, raised \$600 for the Chamber.

While last year’s carnival proceeds were based on a percentage of the gate, the Chamber will make a set amount of \$850 this year, according to Parker.

Parker said that this year’s Block Party won’t include the beer garden or stage entertainment that was featured last year.

## Homedale Chamber still seeks new VP

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce is in the market for a vice-president after the resignation of developer Ron Mayhew.

Mayhew, who has an office in Eagle but has developed the Santa Fe Subdivision in downtown Homedale, resigned the post earlier this year after it became clear a consulting job with Exxon-Mobil in Texas would require him to move there.



Ron Mayhew

At last week’s Chamber luncheon, Chamber president Gavin Parker asked to hear from anyone interested in the post. If he receives no candidates, Parker will open the position to nominations at the June 11 meeting. Call Parker at 337-3271 for information.

The rest of the board of directors, which was installed in January, remains intact with Maleta Henry serving as treasurer.

## Hearing moved again because of oversight

Vending ordinance issue to be heard May 28

A public hearing on proposed amendments to the Homedale Planning and Zoning ordinance has been rescheduled a third time.

It’s now set for 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 28, during the city council’s second May meeting.

Originally scheduled for April 23, the public hearing on temporary vendor regulations and making

airport hangars an allowed use in an industrial zone had been set for last week’s council meeting.

Both postponements were triggered by procedural oversights by city attorney Michael Duggan, City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram confirmed. Duggan failed to send out proper notifications to entities that would be affected by the changes, such as the fire department and school district.

Pegram said Duggan paid for the legal publication appearing in last week’s edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

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# Commissioners advised against OCSO canine

## Sheriff: Program created with donated supplies, training

One of the newest members of the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, a canine named "Goose", recently made a public appearance in a Triad-led community outreach event.

However, District 3 County Commissioner Dick Freund said last week that the Board of County Commissioners recommended the sheriff's office not add a canine unit because of economic liability.

Freund said one of the fears was that a deputy could file a claim against the county for compensation related to the 24-hour nature of handling the dog. District 2 Commissioner George Hyer voiced a similar concern in a Thursday interview.

"I don't even know where the canine came from. It just showed up," Hyer said, adding that he only knew it as a rumor until he saw a photo of Goose in last week's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

Freund said the commissioners never approved the canine program, adding that he was unsure whether the program needed BOCC approval. He said he still must check with Prosecuting Attorney Douglas Emery on the issue.

After citing statutes in Idaho Code title 31 governing the conduct of the sheriff and commissioners — which includes a requirement of proper Idaho Peace Officer Standards Training for the dog — Emery told the Avalanche:

"I am aware of no controlling case law articulating that elected officials are required to seek pre-approval to undertake a lawful function of a given department."

Goose, a German shepherd, is the partner of Deputy Slade Heeb.

At the May 8 Stranger Danger event with the Homedale Elementary School kindergarteners, Heeb said the canine program was sup-

ported solely by donations from businesses and individuals.

There is no line item in the sheriff's office budget for a canine program, and all revenue — including in-kind donations — must be accounted for in departmental financial ledgers.

"The donations would not show in the budget, but in revenues — probably in a miscellaneous revenue account," Owyhee County Clerk Charlotte Sherburn said. "The next year, an expense line would be created during budgeting to bring the revenue from the prior year in to be expended."

She added that a line item would have to be created for the fiscal year 2010 budget if any costs are anticipated.

Given the current financial climate, Hyer expressed skepticism that there would be room in the fiscal year 2010 sheriff's budget for the dog if it became necessary to use county resources to support the program.

"The budget is going to be tight and, maybe it's wrong, but if there is any extra money at all, it needs to go to the employees," he said.

"We're going to look at a lot of different ways of saving money, and that's going to be tough."

Freund also questioned how the sheriff's office would pay for the canine program if donations dry up.

The dog is used for drug searches and to locate suspects, the animal's trainer, Rick Wiley, told kindergarteners during the Homedale presentation. Wiley also played the role of a "suspect" as Goose showed off his take-down skills for the Homedale students.

"I don't know how necessary it is," Hyer said of the canine unit. "We really don't have that kind of crime where we need to go in and get people out."

Crandall said that Heeb and Goose were scheduled to attend a similar community outreach program in the Bruneau-Grand View area last week.

Crandall said Goose and his partner are certified.

"Fully certified by the state," Crandall said. "They were certified in January, I believe."

Heeb said he and the dog were certified in March after Wiley

donated the German shepherd and the required training, which Crandall said took about two months.

"I would estimate that training was worth about \$10,000," Crandall said.

Heeb said the dog stays with him around the clock, as is the case with canine-officer pairings. He said that other support has come from Simplot Co. and Western Stockmen's Inc. (veterinary supplies), Collett Fly Guy (kennel) and D&B Supply and private parties (food).

Crandall said that a horseshoe tournament is planned in Grand View to raise more money for the program. But the sheriff's office also welcomes donations.

"If anyone wants to make a donation to feed the drug dog they can either contact us, or if they'd just like to ... buy some lamb and rice dog food and drop it off here we'd be more than happy to take it off their hands," Crandall said. "It's been a real good program, and it hasn't cost us anything."

— JPB and MML



The five Marsing Elementary School teachers were able to tour George Washington's Mount Vernon estate during their trip.

## Marsing teachers visit Washington D.C.

Marsing Elementary sent five staff members to The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) National Convention in Washington D.C. from April 21 to April 25. The teachers who attended were Loretta Rost, Cindy Osgood, Rebekah Miller, Wendy Stansell and Elementary Principal Lil Stewart. The Marsing delegation attended many workshops, gaining valuable ideas and instructional strategies to bring back to Marsing Elementary, Stansell said.

The mission statement of

NCTM is to provide a public voice of mathematics education, providing vision, leadership and professional development to support teachers in ensuring equitable mathematics learning of the highest quality for all students.

Before the conference began the Marsing group was able to tour Mount Vernon, Va., the home of George Washington.

They ended the conference week with a tour of our nation's Capitol building and visits to many historical monuments.

## Large turnout for trail ride

Submitted by Mary Blackstock

A brisk morning did not stop the loyal riding enthusiasts as they arrived to enjoy the sixth annual Wilson Butte Cowboy Trail Ride at the Blackstock Ranch on April 25.

One hundred-thirty horseback riders followed the course that put their skills to the test. Tension grew about who held the top poker hand as riders returned to the campfire and cards were tallied. Chelyah Volkers landed the top hand, choosing the headstall followed by Becky Carter, breast collar. Cowboy Beans and cowchip cookies were served up as the Sevy Family Band entertained and played country music.

Dan Sevy and his crew received a big thank you, along with a

token of appreciation for their support the last six years. Our group just has fun. We all come together, everyone goes to their stations and everything runs smooth.

The best dressed little buckaroo contest was a hoot as the little ones gave their best "YEE HAW." Justin Ineck came out on top winning the trophy, with Dwight Sevy in second.

The Wilson Butte 4-H club appreciates our Gold donations of \$100 or more from Calloway Trucking, Ada County Farm Bureau, Western Stockman Supply, Bass Auto Body, Benson's Truck Washout and Snake River Correctional Institute.

We also thank Caba's, D&B Supply, Essence of life, Don

and Cindy Roberts, The Spot pizza, Gibbons Scott & Dean, Bolkhie Angus, Betz Supply, Nampa Livestock, Earl Elsner, Leslie Jayo, Wildflower Cottage, The Willow Tree, Simplot, Li'l Oasis Farm, The Volkers family, emergency medical technicians Jason and Kelly Ineck, Rock-n-Laurie Smith, The Army National Guard-Matt Wilson and all the participants.

Raffle winners were drawn. Carrie Dines won the beautiful bench. Tanya Good and Fran Murkowski each won a half of pork cut and wrapped, and Deb Holzhey was top draw for the quilts.

We thank all our supporters. A great western day was enjoyed by all.

## Scores mount up for Wilson Butte ride

### Photos submitted by Mary Blackstock



Above: Riders work their way down the trail during the sixth annual Wilson Butte 4-H Cowboy Trail Ride at the Blackstock Ranch on April 25.

Left: Participants find some wide-open spaces during the event.



# Rimrock grad wins SkillsUSA title

Rimrock High School graduate Nate Hofer pulled off an unusual feat recently at the Skills USA cabinetmaking regional competition last month.

A freshman at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Hofer won the regional cham-

pionship, an accomplishment usually achieved by second-year participants in the college-level contest, said his former Rimrock High teacher, Gary Jones.

Hofer, a 2008 Rimrock grad who won scholarship money from his high school's wood shop pro-

gram this year, now moves to the national competition, June 22-26 in Kansas City, Mo.

He is in his first of Cabinetmaking and Millwork studies at CSI.

"This is a great accomplishment and a direct reflection on our program," Jones said.

## Rimrock FFA news

*Submitted by Jackie Thurman*

The 2009 annual FFA banquet was held on May 5. Many awards were given out for different Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects and the new officers took their office.

The 2009 Rimrock FFA officer team is president Jackie Thurman, vice-president Anna Cantrell, secretary Connor Merrick, treasurer Clay Cantrell, reporter Kody Schiermeier, and sentinel Ethan Thomas.

We also welcomed in our new honorary member, Vicki Theodozio.

Next up is FFA State June 2-5 in Moscow. Good luck to all the team competing at state.



## Snake River Livestock 4-H news

*by Keni Meyers*

The Snake River Livestock 4-H Club in Grand View is off and running with another great year. We have elected officers: Nick Bennett, president, Keni Meyers, vice-president and Crystal Good, secretary.

Our club has nine members with projects, including rabbits, goats, pigs and sheep.

Our meetings are the second Monday of each month, so our next meeting is June 8 at 7 p.m. at the city library. We are working on fundraising and club demonstrations.

## Rimrock students head to Boys' State in Nampa

Bruneau American Legion Post 83 has selected Rimrock High School students Justin Black and Brian Simper, both juniors,

to Boys' State next month in Nampa.

Black and Simper recently completed their junior years at the

Bruneau school.

Boys' State will be held June 7-13 at Northwest Nazarene University.

# County 4-H clubs apply fresh paint to fair buildings



*From left: a united group of 4-H clubbers put a fresh coat of paint on the horse stalls, while the Jump Creek Wranglers and Wilson Butte 4-Hers touched up the goat stalls*

*Submitted by Megan Volkers*

On April 18, the Jump Creek Wranglers and Wilson Butte 4-H clubs gathered at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds in Homedale to volunteer to repaint the Goat

Barn.

The group, headed by goat superintendent Kennon Feaster-Eytchison, spent a good part of the day scraping and fixing the barn so that they could repaint

it. When the project was completed it looked fantastic.

That same day was county horse judging at the fairgrounds, and following judging members from 4-H clubs countywide, led

by Ann Rutan, got together and repainted the horse stalls next to the Goat Barn.

They finished it off with green handprints signifying "Hands, to larger service" from the 4-H

motto.

It was a fantastic community service project and wonderful way for the 4-H youth of Owyhee County to give back to the fair for all it does for them.

## South Mountain Livestock 4-H elects 2009 officers, decides on demos

*Submitted by Ben Telleria*

This year we have the most kids, so the South Mountain Livestock is off to a good start.

Five kids enrolled beef and seven enrolled sheep.

At our most recent 4-H meeting, we elected officers: Bryce Kershner, president; Nathan Elsner, vice-president; Stephanie Youren, secretary; Tom Nelson, treasurer; and Cutis and Ben Telleria, reporters.

This year for community

service, we are going to make a Welcome to Jordan Valley sign.

We also welcomed our new kids and introduced them to some of the activities we do.

For our fundraisers, we sold programs at the Jordan Valley Rodeo.

We talked and decided on club activities, and the majority decided to do club demonstrations.

By no doubt, this is going to be an exciting year, and we are looking forward to it.



**2009 South Mountain Livestock 4-H introduced**

*Front row, from left: Natalie Waddington, Abby Waddington, Kasen Skinner, Garrett Youren, Taylor Warn and Regann Skinner. Back row, from left: Curtis Waddington, Ben Telleria, Nathan Elsner, Tom Nelson, Bryce Kershner, Stephanie Youren and Sage Raine. Submitted photo*





### HES kids get out and active at annual Field Day

*Homedale Elementary students turned out Tuesday and Wednesday and enjoyed activities ranging from footraces, streamerball, games combining math and running madly, tug-of-war and more.*

*The two-day event gives students and teachers a time for athletics, sportsmanship and just plain fun.*



## Elementary talent show set for Thursday

Lee Savell, the general music teacher for kindergarten through sixth grade in Homedale, has teamed with Homedale Elementary School staff to present a talent show Thursday.

Savell said that the show "will bring smiles and laughter where they are much needed" in a town that has been affected by several tragedies in the past month.

The talent show will be held at 1 p.m. Thursday at Homedale Elementary School, 420 W. Washington Ave.

The show will include 50 students singing, dancing, playing

instruments such as piano and recorder, telling jokes, staging a play, performing gymnastics and magic tricks.

"With the help of the entire staff, we are proud to continue to develop and build upon Homedale Trojan Pride," Savell said.

Savell calls the event "a wonderful opportunity to connect with the community in a positive and lasting experience, especially at this time, when the students of Homedale need a reassuring and uplifting ending to their school year."



## Adrian class graduates Sunday

*From left: McKenzie Purnell is class valedictorian for Adrian High School. This year's salutatorian is Claudia Beltran. The two can be heard on Sunday at the school's gym.*

The Adrian High School Class of 2009 will hold its graduation ceremony at 6 p.m. Sunday in the high school gymnasium.

McKenzie Purnell is the class valedictorian and the 17-year-

old daughter of Adrian principal Kevin Purnell and Heidi Purnell. She achieved a 4.0 grade-point average.

Salutatorian Claudia Beltran is the daughter of Marcelino and Rosa

Beltran. The 18-year-old holds a 3.96 GPA.

Adrian's Class Night for end-of-the-year awards and scholarship announcements will be held at 7 p.m. Friday inside the school gym.

## Workshop tonight ponders land use at MHAFFB range

A public meeting held today in Boise will help the Idaho Department of Commerce hear from the public, landowners and developers on the planning of a study involving land surrounding the Air Force's Mountain Home Range Complex (MHRC), part of which lies in Owyhee County.

The workshop takes place at the Idaho Department of Commerce offices, 700 W. State St., Boise. For more information on the specific start time, visit [www.commerce.idaho.gov/communities](http://www.commerce.idaho.gov/communities) under Quick Links. Call contact Gloria Mabbutt or Greg Seibert at (208) 334-2470 with any questions.

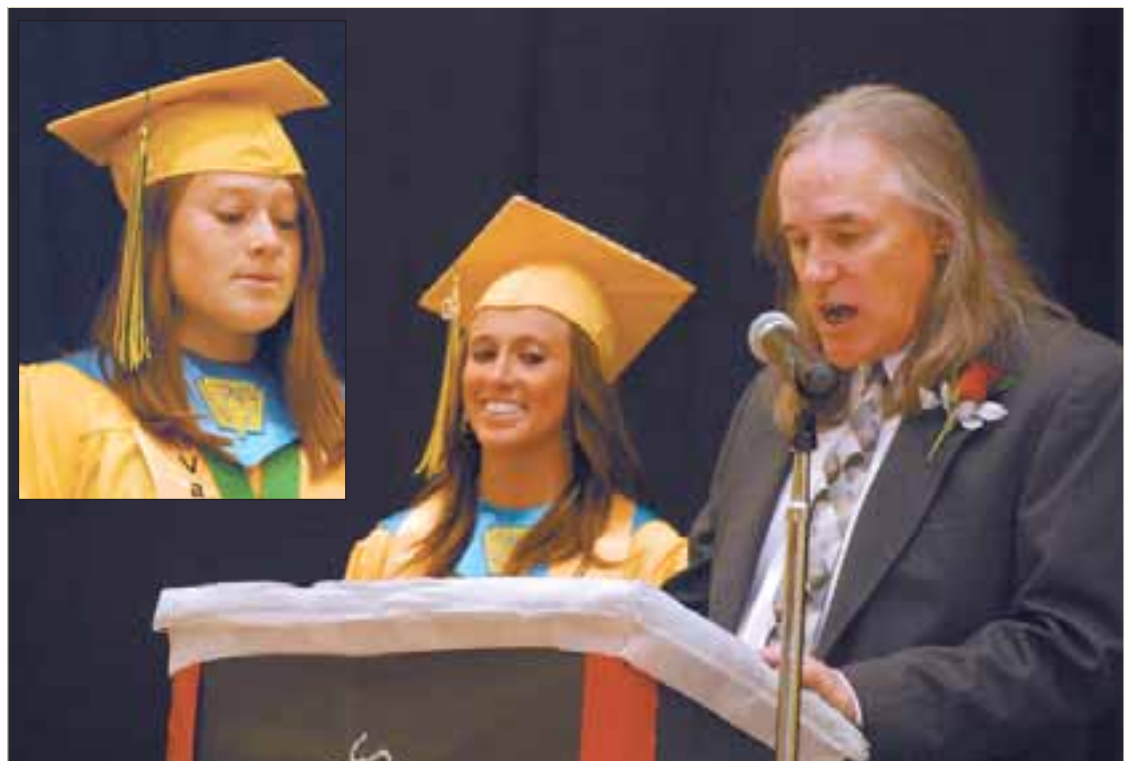
The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) workshops also will cover land adjacent to Gowen Field in Boise.

Compatibility in relationship

to the JLUS is the balance and compromise between community and military needs and interests. Finding this balance promotes an environment where both entities can successfully co-exist.

The workshop will look at how these areas will be developed in the future, potentially impacting the public, environmental groups, businesses, landowners, tribal leadership and other stakeholders.

A Policy and Technical Advisory Committee has been created for each area of study. Go to [www.landusecompatibility.com](http://www.landusecompatibility.com) and follow the link to Idaho for a description of committee responsibilities and the 24 existing or potential compatibility factors that apply to all Joint Land Use Study projects.



### Rimrock holds graduation

*Inset: Valedictorian Lee Gray addresses her classmates during Sunday's commencement in Bruneau. Right: Salutatorian Sierra Ridley looks on as counselor Wade Harper delivers his keynote address. Photos by Dale Gray*



THE OC

Folks worth knowing in Owyhee County

STEPHANIE GEORGE, HOMEDALE  
U.S. Navy lieutenant

Know someone worth knowing? Contact the Avalanche with feature ideas at jon@owyheeavalanche.com or (208) 337-4681.

# HHS grad rubs shoulders with military brass

George helps coordinate visits of dignitaries, including foreign ministers

Navy Lt. Stephanie George walks a fine line every day at work in Norfolk, Va.

As protocol division officer for the U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM), the 2000 Homedale High School graduate sometimes has to (delicately) tell a superior officer what is expected of them during dignitary visits and public ceremonies.

"When you come from a ship where most of the crew is junior to you, and then you have (interaction with a) captain, it's really different to work in an environment where you're coordinating visits and briefs with (higher-ranking officers)," she said.

"That is different. You just want to make sure that you're professional and not telling them the way it is."

Still, the 26-year-old daughter of Homedale's Patricia and Philip George and granddaughter to Homedale's Margaret George didn't hesitate to liken her job — which she says is akin to an admiral's aide — to "herding cats" at times.

"You're making sure the event goes smoothly," USJFCOM's lead project officer said.

George interacts with flag and general officers as well as foreign ministers of defense and foreign military dignitaries while helping stage social and professional events as well as local community functions with a military brass presence in Norfolk, such as a Salute to Veterans concert and a holiday open house for community leaders hosted by the JFCOM commander.

"Usually people know that that's what your job is, and you're not telling them what to do," she said.

"You're leading them through it. It's kind of interesting, and I hope I'm humble about it."

Humility is a trait that George's mother mentioned, saying that her daughter might not be interested in drawing attention to herself even after she was named the USJFCOM Joint Junior Officer of the Year for 2008 — despite having been at her current post for a little more than nine months during that calendar year.

"It meant a lot because I was awarded that, and I hadn't even been here the entire year," Lt. George said.

She has been the protocol division officer since September, but was pressed into duty prior to that because the office was undermanned.

George gave credit to her boss, a civilian named Gayle Lemieux, and the group she works with in the protocol division.

"She's really guided me and been an awesome leader," George said of Lemieux. "I have a great team. There's eight of us in this office, and we work together really well. And there is no way I could have done all the accomplishments without them."

"I definitely owe them a lot of thanks."

She also can thank her older brother, Navy Lt. Cmdr. Christopher George, whom she visited at the U.S. Naval Academy during his plebe (freshman) year.

"I don't think I ever really thought about (a Naval career) until I was in high school," she said.

George, whose younger siblings — Lt. Mark George and Midshipman 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Jennifer George — followed her into the Navy, made up her mind to join



## Homedale graduate coordinates dignitary events

Navy Lt. Stephanie George, left, a 2000 Homedale High School graduate, reviews the upcoming dignitary visit with Navy Chief Petty Officer Corey Sheeley and Air Force Staff Sgt. Joan Frantz in the Protocol Office of U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Va. Photo courtesy USJFCOM

*"I don't think I ever really thought about (a Naval career) until I was in high school."*

— Lt. Stephanie George  
HHS graduate

the Navy after a family visit to Annapolis, Md., in the last days of Christopher's first year there.

"I was really drawn to the academy, and you kind of feel pride and that it's a neat place to be a part of," said George, whose father also was stationed in Norfolk during part of his six-year hitch as a nuclear electricians mate.

She applied to the Naval Academy and the Air Force Academy in Colorado, but Christopher suggested a better route would be soaking up college experience before joining the Navy. So Lt.

George enrolled at Villanova University in Philadelphia on a Navy ROTC scholarship.

"I felt that a way of getting out of Idaho and to see the world was to get the Navy ROTC scholarship," she said.

She began a five-year Naval commission at the rank of ensign in 2004 after graduation from Villanova.

Her first ship tour was aboard the destroyer USS Okane based out of Pearl Harbor. Her other tour was aboard the USS Nashville based in Norfolk.

George's commission has ended. But she is still under orders with her USJFCOM shore duty, which she would like to extend until December 2010.

At that time, she'll have a big decision. She's engaged to a Navy man, Lt. Matthew Cox, who is also in the surface warfare community and is deployable.

"I really like the Navy and I would like to stay in, but I also want to have a family," George said.

"So I really haven't made the hard decision, though. But I think there are a lot of opportunities in the Navy other than being in my community — the surface (warfare) community — that I might be able to do. And if not, I definitely want to go into the reserves."

— JPB

## Three Owyhee FFAs receive corporate donations

Three Owyhee country FFA chapter recently received part of a \$10,360 donation from Caldwell-based Western Stockmen's Inc.

Homedale, Rimrock and Jordan Valley were among the eight local FFA chapters to receive \$1,295.

The chapters and its student members can use the funding for help with classroom materi-

als, educational opportunities, travel to the national convention and more.

"These funds have allowed the Jordan Valley FFA chapter to create a fund to support travel and encourage members to attend State and National conventions, as well as summer leadership conferences. We are grateful for Western Stockmen's participa-

tion in this program," Jordan Valley FFA advisor Nick Usabel said.

Sierra Ridley, Rimrock FFA chapter president, said:

"For a small community like ours with limited funding, this will really help us travel to several competitions. We are very grateful to Western Stockmen's and Pfizer for this program."

"We're excited to be able to support our local FFA chapters," said Ramona Ridley, marketing solutions manager at Western Stockmen's. "The FFA teaches our youth invaluable leadership, personal growth and career success skills, and we're proud to contribute to their efforts".

The donations were made possible by a Pfizer Animal Health

program.

For eligible purchases of Pfizer Animal Health cattle vaccines, a donation of 3 percent was made on behalf of the above listed FFA chapters.

If you are interested in supporting the organization through a donation or volunteering, contact your local FFA chapter, or visit FFA.org for more information.

Owyhee County news online - when you need it  
***www.owyheeavalanche.com***









# Snake River Mart



## Memorial Day



<div>Boneless Beef <b>Top Sirloin Steak</b> <b>\$349</b> lb.</div>	<div>Pork <b>Spare Ribs</b> <b>\$179</b> lb.</div>	<div><b>6" Mums</b> <b>2 \$10</b> for</div>	<div>Seedless <b>Watermelon</b> <b>39¢</b> lb.</div>
<div>Boneless Beef <b>Tri-Tip Steak</b> <b>\$449</b> lb.</div>	<div>Tri-City Meats 3 to 1 <b>Hamburger Patties</b> <b>\$249</b> lb.</div>	<div>Fresh <b>Corn on the Cob</b> <b>3 \$1</b> for</div>	<div>5 lb. <b>Idaho Potatoes</b> <b>\$119</b> lb.</div>
<div>Bar-S 16 oz. <b>Franks</b> <b>89¢</b> ea.</div> <div>Western Family 8 oz. <b>Shredded Cheese</b> <b>\$159</b> ea.</div> <div>Western Family 48 oz. <b>Fish Sticks</b> <b>\$699</b> ea.</div>	<div>Gold-N-Plump Chicken <b>Thighs or Drums</b> <b>\$399</b> ea.</div> <div>Hormel <b>Sizzlers</b> <b>4 \$5</b> for</div> <div>Johnsonville <b>Bratwurst</b> <b>\$359</b> ea.</div>	<div>Sliced &amp; Whole 8 oz. <b>Mushrooms</b> <b>2 \$4</b> for</div> <div>Red Cluster <b>Tomatoes</b> <b>\$109</b> lb.</div> <div>Red Ripe 1 lb. <b>Strawberries</b> <b>2 \$5</b> for</div>	<div>Jumbo <b>Yellow Onions</b> <b>39¢</b> lb.</div> <div><b>Cantaloupe</b> <b>69¢</b> lb.</div> <div>River Ranch <b>Salad Mix &amp; Coleslaw</b> <b>\$119</b> ea.</div>
<div>Kraft <b>BBQ Sauce</b> <b>\$129</b> ea. 18 oz.</div> <div>Wonder 12ct Hamburger Buns &amp; Hot Dog Buns 16 ct. <b>\$269</b> ea.</div>	<div>Meadowgold <b>Twin Popsicles</b> <b>\$179</b> ea. 18 ct.</div> <div>VanCamp 15 oz. <b>Pork &amp; Beans</b> <b>79¢</b> ea.</div>	<div><b>Pepsi Products</b> <b>2 \$7</b> for 12pk 12oz Cans</div> <div>2 Liter Bottle <b>Pepsi Products</b> <b>4 \$5</b> for</div>	<div><b>Budweiser Beer</b> <b>\$1399</b> ea. 18pk Cans 20pk Bottles</div> <div>18pk Cans 20pk Bottles <b>MGD Beer</b> <b>\$1399</b> ea.</div>
<div>Western Family <b>Sour Cream</b> <b>\$109</b> ea. 16 oz.</div> <div>Western Family <b>Orange Juice</b> <b>\$249</b> ea. 64 oz.</div> <div>Western Family <b>Refrigerated Biscuits</b> <b>99¢</b> ea. 16 oz.</div> <div>French's <b>Yellow Mustard</b> <b>\$199</b> ea. 20 oz.</div> <div>Nalley <b>Dill Pickles</b> <b>\$299 - \$389</b> ea. 46 oz.</div> <div>Capri Sun <b>10 ct.</b> <b>\$269</b> ea.</div>	<div>Gatorade 32oz. <b>Propel 710ml</b> <b>\$139</b> ea. <b>\$119</b> ea.</div> <div>Kraft <b>Salad Dressing</b> <b>\$219</b> ea. 16 oz.</div> <div>Bush's <b>Baked Beans</b> <b>\$219</b> ea. 28 oz.</div> <div>Betty Crocker <b>Suddenly Salad</b> <b>\$169</b> ea. 6.2-8.3 oz.</div> <div>Pace Salsa &amp; <b>Picante Sauce</b> <b>\$289</b> ea. 24 oz.</div> <div>Jet Puff <b>Marshmallows</b> <b>\$189</b> ea. 16 oz.</div>	<div>Amp &amp; No Fear <b>Energy Drinks</b> <b>\$159</b> ea. 16 oz. Can</div> <div>Shasta Soda <b>6pk Cans</b> <b>\$159</b> ea.</div> <div>McCormick <b>Grillmate Packets</b> <b>79¢</b> ea. .71-1.25 oz.</div> <div>Planter's <b>Peanuts</b> <b>\$309</b> ea. 16 oz.</div> <div>Western Family <b>Ice Cream &amp; Sherbet</b> <b>\$689</b> ea. 5 qt.</div> <div>Ore-Ida <b>Potatoes</b> <b>\$309</b> ea. 20-32 oz.</div>	<div>Lay's <b>Potato Chips</b> <b>\$259</b> ea. 11.5 oz.</div> <div>Doritos <b>Tortilla Chips</b> <b>\$349</b> ea. 14.5 oz.</div> <div>Marie Callender's <b>Pies</b> <b>\$699</b> ea.</div> <div>Solo Plates, <b>Cups &amp; Bowls</b> <b>\$289</b> ea. 20-50 ct.</div> <div>Diamond Heavy <b>Duty Spoons &amp; Forks 48 ct.</b> <b>2 \$3</b> for</div> <div><b>CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATE CATRIONA ROST!</b></div>

HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Sunday 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
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