

# The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 32, NO. 11

75 CENTS

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017



## Come for the camaraderie, stay for the fishing

Three friends traveled from Star to fish at Marsing's Island Park on Friday. David Heiner (left) and Reno Gazzola (right) are from Star, and they've been trying to convince their buddy Dale Abbott (seated) to move north from Thousand Oaks, Calif., for years.

## Candidate filing deadline is Friday

School, library and highway trustee spots on May 16 ballot

Tuesday's school finances vote was just the beginning of the election season.

Trustee candidates in school districts, highway districts and library districts have until 5 p.m. Friday to file petitions to appear on the May 16 ballot.

The write-in candidate filing deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, April 3.

The school district elections set for May, and the incumbents in

— See **Deadline**, page 4A

## Grand View DMV to close temporarily

Longtime clerk set to retire later this month

The Grand View Division of Motor Vehicles branch will close temporarily later this month when the clerk retires.

An open house is planned to mark the retirement of DMV clerk Shirley Sargent.

She's retiring from the Grand View office after working 11 years for the Owyhee County Assessor's Office.

A retirement open house in Sargent's honor will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 30 at the county courthouse in Murphy. Anyone who wants to wish Sargent well in her retirement is welcome to attend.

The Grand View DMV office, which is located inside City Hall, will close at 1:30 p.m. on March 30. Officials say the closure

is temporary until Sargent's replacement can be hired.

The Grand View DMV branch is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

County elected officials are working on a solution to reopen the DMV office. Grand View City Council president John Morrison said last week that the plan to consolidate the city clerk job and the DMV job has been shelved because the banking situation is in flux with the pending closure of the U.S. Bank branch in town.

Anyone affected by the Grand View DMV closure has other options for vehicle registration and driver's license needs.

The Murphy DMV office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., for driver's licenses, and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for vehicle registration and title issues.

Registration renewals also can be paid for through the mail or online.



Mayor Gheen Christoffersen (left) talks about the Verizon Wireless proposal as Councilman Jerry Anderson helps hold drawings and Councilman Shane Muir looks on last Wednesday.

## Mayor shuts down Homedale's Verizon cellular tower hearing

A citizen's valid complaint forced the stoppage of a public hearing regarding a cellular tower proposed in downtown Homedale.

A new hearing could be held in April.

Mayor Gheen Christoffersen

shut down the special use permit hearing last Wednesday as the city council sat as the town's Planning and Zoning Commission.

Christoffersen originally continued the hearing until Thursday, March 23, but City

Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram said Monday afternoon that the applicant — a construction contractor on behalf of Verizon Wireless — requested a new

— See **Hearing**, page 2A



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**Fantastic frosh, Pg. 13A:** First-year players shine at Homedale  
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# Council OKs another downtown car show

## Homedale’s Riverside Park may get new playground

The fifth annual Angel Walk classic car show is a go.

The Homedale City Council gave organizers the green light to hold the show and shine on West Idaho Avenue on Saturday, May 13 in conjunction with the annual Angel Walk 5-kilometer fun run, walk and bike ride.

The Homedale Senior Center also will have a Saturday fundraiser breakfast the same day as the fun run and car show.

Car show registration will take place between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m., and the fun run route will transverse the car exhibits twice.

Fun run and car show organizers will release more information as the event date draws closer.

Council members also signed off on the purchase of new playground equipment for Riverside Park, if the conditions of a recently received grant are met.

Mayor Gheen Christoffersen said the city will try to use its \$50,000 High Five Health Collaborative award to purchase a large playground structure at a discounted cost of about \$29,000.

“Quite frankly, this is an amazing buy,” Christoffersen said.

In other parks news, city public works supervisor Bret Smith said a couple of seats in the barbecue/

picnic area at Bette Uda City Park will have to be replaced. He’s unsure how the damage happened, but he said he has reached out to Boise Cascade outside of town about the possibility of using wood laminate remnants from the plant to make the repairs.

Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller gave an update on the vehicle seizures after a recent drug bust on Kansas Avenue.

Eidemiller said the Humvee has been returned to the lienholder and work continues to get the 1985 motorhome ready for a sale.

City attorney Paul J. Fitzer said a resolution would need to be drawn up to declare the motorhome surplus property so the city can move forward with placing it in a public auction. All other departments will work on rounding up property destined for surplus so the city can put together an auction that most likely will take place online.

Fitzer also will have an updated animal control ordinance ready for review at the council’s March 23 meeting. A public hearing will be necessary to formalize any changes.

City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram reported that the City Hall has sold 161 dog licenses for 2017. The police department has begun enforcing the dog tag requirement, and City Hall staff continues to contact 2016 licenseholders to get renewals.

— JPB

From page 1A

# ✓ Hearing: Citizens turn out to complain about how tower would affect downtown

hearing for the Thursday, April 27 city council meeting.

The record for the original application has been closed, and Verizon and Technology Associates Engineering Corp. Inc. (TAEC), will have to pay the costs for a new public hearing, including legal advertising, Pegram said.

None of the citizens who spoke up during the public hearing supported TAEC’s proposal to build a 106-foot-tall, one-pole tower on the southeast corner of West Idaho Avenue and Railroad Avenue.

TAEC spokeswoman Jody Knopp said the site across Railroad Avenue from the growing Santa Fe residential subdivision was one of three options Verizon Wireless studied in a “collaborative effort” with customers to strengthen the service provider’s signal in Homedale. She said the tower would improve broadband speeds for Verizon customers within the city limits. Verizon is the cellphone service provider for City of Homedale, but has no stake in the proposal.

The closest Verizon antenna is 5½ miles east of town, Knopp said.

According to city records, Verizon actually had three other locations in mind for the new tower, including:

- South of West Idaho Avenue between 6th Street and 5th Street
- North of West Idaho in a field behind the Mormon church property
- Two blocks west of the elementary school on property at the end of West Oregon Avenue.

According to the original proposal, the tower would stretch 100 feet into the air and be topped with a 6-foot lightning rod, she said.

Knopp said the tower would be built on a 40 foot-by-60 foot footprint on private property at 300 W. Idaho Ave. The area would be fenced to protect needed infrastructure.

City resident Gary Evans’ claim that the hearing was improperly noticed led to the Christoffersen’s gaveling an end to proceedings after city officials conferred in a sidebar with city attorney Paul J. Fitzer during the hearing.

Evans said that notice of the public hearing was never posted at the proposed site, in violation of state law.

Pegram said posting a sign on the property was the applicants’ job, and Knopp said she was “under the impression” that city Planning and Zoning would do it.

City public works supervisor Bret Smith also pointed out that TAEC hadn’t researched whether underground utilities, such as irrigation infrastructure, would be jeopardized by tower construction.

“In light of the property not being posted, this public hearing will be stopped. We have to table this,” Christoffersen told the audience after the responsibility was confirmed.

Those who spoke out against the tower complained that it would be an eyesore, drive down property values and stunt the new-found growth of the Santa Fe subdivision. Later in last week’s meeting, Pegram reported that three more residential building permits have been filed for lots in the downtown development.

“Personally, I think that the tower, where they want to put it right in the middle of town across from a new subdivision still building homes, is not a good place for it,” resident Mike Aebischer said.

Evans referred to a Dave Says column that originally appeared weeks ago in The Owyhee Avalanche in which financial advice author Dave Ramsey said that buying property with a utility tower nearby was a poor investment.

Robin Aberasturi, a county resident who owns rental properties in the city limits, said building the tower in the downtown corridor would be contrary to the investment that several businesses and property owners made with assessments to the Local Improvement District about eight years ago.

“I don’t know if main street in Homedale is where I want a tower with the money that was just spent,” she said.

— JPB

03-17-17



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**Another Basque dance in the books**  
*Above: The girls from the Herribatza Dantzariak perform Kontrapas during Saturday night's 17<sup>th</sup> annual Homedale Basque Dance. Below: Herribatza Dantzariak members Xavier and Donovan Uranga stand in front of the dance banner at Badiola Arena. Submitted photos*

# Third hearing on Marsing subdivision scheduled Tuesday

Suggestions sought on how to celebrate hometown football star

Another hearing on a large residential subdivision inside the Marsing city limits will be held Tuesday.

The hearing, which will be held during a special Marsing City Council meeting, begins at 7 p.m. in City Hall, 425 Main St. The council members will be sitting as the city's Planning and Zoning Commission.

During the council's regular meeting last Wednesday, no members of the public commented at the second public hearing on the proposal.

The third hearing is necessary because the applicants had yet to meet with state officials on an important issue before the second scheduled hearing.

Marsing Mayor James Ferdinand said Les and Lavada Loucks were scheduled to meet with Idaho Transportation Department officials on Monday after deadline. The meeting with ITD was to discuss how the subdivision might impact traffic at the intersection of North Bruneau Highway and Main Street.

The first public hearing on the proposed development was held before the council's February meeting.

The nearly 59-acre parcel is located between North Bruneau Highway and the Morning Dove residential subdivision. The development would extend north to a point where the city limits meets county land and south to existing residential properties.

The subdivision would include 209 single-family home lots and eight four-plex units, for a total of 241 dwellings.

Council members also heard a report by maintenance supervisor Phillip Gibson last week.

Gibson said his crews have finished refurbishing picnic tables for City Park and Island Park, and have completed filling potholes around town. His projects for next month include seasonal maintenance and repairs on irrigation equipment and getting the two parks ready for spring. Gibson also said he's almost ready to apply ground sterilant around town to prevent puncturevine from growing.

During his mayor's report, Ferdinand asked council members if they would like to do some sort of tribute to celebrate Marsing High School graduate Shea McClellin's NFL championship as part of the New England Patriots.

"He is not particularly in favor of any kind of public parade, or celebration with him present," Ferdinand said. "He would much rather be on the sidelines."

The council decided to let the community decide how to best recognize McClellin and his Super Bowl LI win.

Suggestions can be made by email, [info@marsingcity.com](mailto:info@marsingcity.com), by calling (208) 896-4122, or stop by City Hall.

— SC

# GV in final days with U.S. Bank

When the town's U.S. Bank branch closes on March 31, Grand View will be left without a bank.

City Council president John Morrison said that Idaho First has decided against taking over the space U.S. Bank is vacating.

"The bank said they weren't able to move down here right now," Morrison said. "They're not totally disregarding us."

Founded in McCall in 2005, Idaho First has expanded to have branches in Boise, Eagle and New Meadows.

The lack of a brick-and-mortar bank put a crimp in plans to merge the city clerk job with the county's Division of Motor Vehicles position, which is housed in City Hall.

"We were going to combine the DMV and the city clerk at one time, but I don't think that's going to materialize," Morrison said.

Morrison said one hang-up was the DMV clerk needs to make daily bank deposits, while the city clerk has made weekly deposits. With no bank courier in place yet, a merger of the position is unlikely.

The city is advertising the clerk position again. Morrison said four applicants came forward in the first round of trying to fill the job vacated by Tammy Payne.

Applications will be taken until next Wednesday, and interviews begin on Thursday, March 23.

Former city council candidate Katy Carothers is filling in.

Public works supervisor Bob Servis' last day on the job is March 31. The council already has hired Grand View native Jim Hunt to succeed Servis.

— JPB

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual CHILI COOKOFF

### 25 March 2017

Owyhee County Museum, Murphy Idaho  
(On the lawn outside, In conjunction with the Murphy Spring Bazaar)

**Cookoff Team Entry Fee:**  
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Chili Tasting open to the public at 11:45 AM

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From page 1A

✓ Deadline: Bruneau library trustee retiring

each position, include:

**Homedale** — Three board members’ terms expire on June 30, including Stacy Woods (Zone 2), Dwayne Fisher (Zone 3) and Shelley Shenk (Zone 4).

**Marsing** — Three incumbents face re-election, including Jason

Sevy (Zone 1), chair Betty Ackerman (Zone 3) and Brad McIntyre (Zone 5).

**Bruneau-Grand View** — Chair Lori Bennett, who represents Zone 3, and two others, including Gary Jones (Zone 1) and Howard Field (Zone 5) are up for election.

**Melba** — Travis Christensen (Zone 4) and Owyhee County resident Mary Huff (Zone 5) face the end of their terms.

**Pleasant Valley** — Todd Gluch, the board chair from Zone 3, is up for election in May.

**Three Creek** — David Severe (Zone 1), Gus Brackett (Zone 2, chair) and Art Small (Zone 3)

Owyhee County voters in the Castleford and Glenns Ferry districts in the eastern part of the county also will vote for trustees in Zones 4 and 5 in each district.

All three library districts within in Owyhee County will have elections, including:

**Lizard Butte, Marsing** — Three at-large trustee positions will be on the ballot. Incumbents include Jamie Parkins, whose position will be a six-year term, Patricia Russell (four years) and Jean Udesen (two years). Russell and Udesen both were appointed to the board mid-term.

**Eastern Owyhee County, Grand View** — Nancy Law is

up for election as her four-year term expires. Library director Tammy Gray said trustees Sharon Carothers and Vera Lea Jayo also will face re-election after recently taking over seats from previous members who had resigned. All three women live in Grand View.

Carothers joined the board six months ago, while Jayo started her service four months ago.

All Eastern Owyhee trustees serve at-large positions.

**Bruneau Valley** — Districtwide trustee Ginny Roeder doesn’t plan to seek another term. She announced her retirement after 18 years on the board, so the hunt is on for someone to file for the position by Friday.

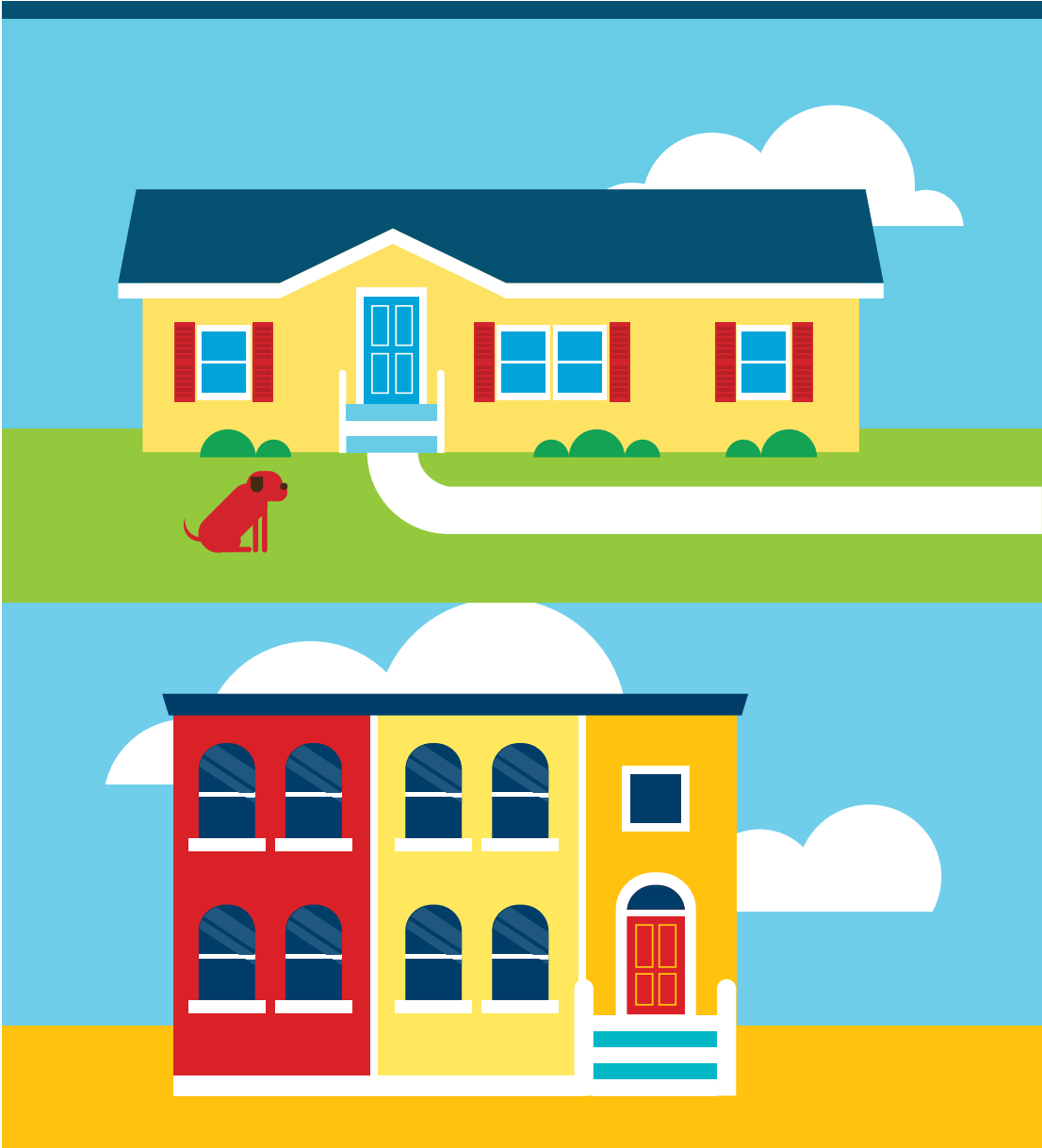
All three highway districts not overseen by the county government have board members facing re-election, too.

**Homedale** — Subdistrict 2 commissioner John Demshar must seek re-election just a few weeks after his appointment to succeed Joel Wilson, who moved out of the district.

**Gem** — Commissioner No. 1 Morris Giedd and Commissioner No. 2 Jeff Percifield are nearing the end of their terms.

**Three Creek** — Commissioners Chet Brackett and Kathy Jones are at the end of their terms.

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



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# The Owyhee Avalanche

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







# 4-H horse judging results announced

Owyhee County 4-H members took part in all four age divisions during the Multi-County Horse 4-H judging contest last month in Caldwell.

The Feb. 25 event at the Canyon County Fair building attracted 28 Owyhee County 4-H'ers to compete against youth from five other counties. Owyhee had entries in all four age divisions.

The youth judged six classes and gave oral reasons to judges on two of them. The classes included: Paint Mares, Paint Geldings, Yearlings, Western Pleasure Equitation, Trail and Western Horsemanship.

Owyhee Sage Riders Cloverbuds Baylee Harris and Kyle Montenegro earned participation ribbons for their hard work. Cloverbuds are ages 5-7.

Divisional results included:  
**Junior (ages 8-10)** — 1. Deonna Barnard, Owyhee Sage Riders; 2. Jessica Hipwell, Owyhee Outlaws; 3. Kaci Carter, Owyhee Outlaws; 4. Karlee Leffler, Owyhee Sage Riders; 5. Josie Showalter, Owyhee Silver Spurs; 6. Juli-

anna Clair, Pony Express. **Other participants:** Grace Clay, Pony Express, and Mayleigh Carter, Owyhee Outlaws

**Intermediate (ages 11-13)** — 1. Ramie Hafen, Owyhee Outlaws; 2. Fallon Wasson, Owyhee Sage Riders; 3. Merced Carter, Owyhee Outlaws; 4. Chloe Heitz, Pony Express; 5. Kate Hipwell, Owyhee Outlaws; 6. Audrie Miller, Pony Express. **Other participants:** Gene Showalter, Owyhee Silver Spurs; and Trinity Neeser, Owyhee Sage Riders

**Senior (ages 14-18)** — 1. Laurel Schroeder, Pony Express; 2. Janey Clay, Pony Express; 3. Carter Clay, Pony Express; 4. Annie Miller, Pony Express; 5. Haily Workman, Owyhee Outlaws; 6. Montana Wasson. Owyhee Sage Riders. **Other participants:** Caitlyn Fisher, Owyhee Sage Riders; Treytan Fisher, Owyhee Sage Riders; Kari Woods, Pony Express; and Tinsley Christensen, Owyhee Outlaws.

Thanks goes to event volunteers and to Canyon County 4-H for hosting the event.

## Senior menus

### Homedale Senior Center

*Milk served every day  
Salad Bar available with each meal*

*(lettuce, tomatoes, boiled eggs, peaches, apricots, salad dressing)*  
March 15: Stir-fry chicken, California blend vegetables, fried rice  
March 16: Corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, green beans, bread  
March 21: Baked ham, sweet potatoes, green beans, roll  
March 22: BBQ chicken on bun, baked potato, mixed vegetables

### Rimrock Senior Center

March 16: Corned beef & cabbage, potatoes, carrots, roll, pineapple upside-down cake  
March 21: Steak, potatoes w/gravy, mixed veggies, roll, cake  
March 23: Pizza, green salad, cookie, fruit  
March 28: Fish & chips, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw, Waldorf salad, garlic bread  
March 30: Enchiladas, green salad, corn, orange slices, brownies

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- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

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Please contact the Oregon Public Utility Commission at 1-800-848-4442 to request an application or visit [www.rspf.org](http://www.rspf.org) to apply online.

# Obituary

## Mattie Louise Ramsey Black

Mattie Louise Ramsey Black, of Bruneau and Grand View, passed away on March 8, 2017 in Caldwell at the home of her daughter Paula and son-in-law Jim. Mattie was born August 24, 1917 in Little Valley, Idaho to Mat and Lottie Dunham Ramsey. She attended grade school at Little Valley Beehive School and graduated from Bruneau High School in 1936. Mattie moved to Boise to attend Catherine Griffin Cosmetology School, graduating in 1937. Mattie married Paul Black, son of Joe and Virginia Tate Black, on April 5, 1938. They spent their honeymoon at Paul's homestead on Battle Creek, the winter in Bruneau then on to the Black Rock Desert in Nevada to run horses, where their son Michael Lavon was born. In 1941 Paul became the cattle foreman for the TS Ranch, Battle Mountain, Nevada. Two daughters were born while in Nevada, Charlotte Louise and Paula Jean. They moved back to Bruneau in 1947 and worked for Paul's brother Albert.

In 1951, they purchased the Fletcher Cullen Ranch on Shoo Fly Creek, where they raised many fine horses, cattle, pigs, chickens and peacocks. The door was always open for a hot meal, dessert and iced tea. Mattie and Paul adored each other, their children, nieces and nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mattie worked hard on the ranch they both loved, but her great love was family history. She is the family historian and the original scrapbook queen! One of her greatest accomplishments was



making each of her children and grandchildren complete history books of the Ramsey's and Black's. Everyone loves looking at Mattie's books!

Paul passed away in January of 2009, and Mattie continued to live on the ranch. After a fall at the ranch in 2013, Mattie moved to Caldwell to live with Paula and Jim. She missed the ranch, but adjusted well. She continued to work on history and scrapbook projects.

Mattie is survived by Cherry Meyers, Paula and Jim Hanks, 12 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren, 10 great-great-grandchildren, a sister, Beckie Janousek, and a sister-in-law, Arlene Ramsey, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul; son Mike and JoAnn; son-in-law Raymond Meyers; granddaughters Cheryl Meyers, Julie Meyers Lindquist; her siblings and spouses: Elva and John Guisasola,



Bud and Daisy Ramsey, Lee and Milt Taylor, Albert and Darlene Ramsey, Millie and Pat Patterson, Tony Ramsey, Bonnie and Steve Pascale and brother-in-law Clarence Janousek.

We would like to thank Horizon Hospice, especially Holly and Rocky, for the excellent care Mattie received. Memorials may be made to Grand View Ambulance, 573 No. Bennett Rd, Grand View, ID 83624, American Legion Post #83, P.O. Box 582, Bruneau, ID 83604, or Bruneau Cemetery, 30073 Hot Springs Rd, Bruneau, ID 83604.

A viewing was held March 12, from 4-6 PM at Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel, 500 N. 18th E. Mountain Home. Funeral services were held at 11 AM at the American Legion Hall, in Bruneau on March 13, with burial at the Bruneau Cemetery and then a potluck dinner was served at the Legion Hall for all our friends and family.

## Death notice

**DAVID LANG**, 69, of Tipanuk (Mountain Home), died on Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. Arrangements: Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel, 500 N. 18<sup>th</sup> E., Mountain Home. (208) 587-0612

## Service notice

**KENNETH JAMES "JIM" CASEY**, 53, of Bruneau, died on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, at his home, following an illness. A Celebration of Life will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the American Legion Hall, Post No. 83, in Bruneau. Cremation was under the care of Rost Funeral Home, McMurtrey Chapel, in Mountain Home.

### Marsing Gun Show

**Saturday, March 18 • 9 am - 5 pm**  
**Sunday, March 19 • 9 am - 3 pm**  
**American Legion Hall**  
**126 N. Bruneau Hwy., Marsing, Idaho**

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Winner must be 18 or older  
No Loaded Weapons Allowed on Premises • Security Provided During the Show  
Sponsored by: American Legion Post #0128

## HMS bands hold recitals

Homedale fifth- and sixth-grade musicians will have a chance to stretch their talents Thursday.

Homedale High School music director John Zieske, who also handles middle school talent, will oversee in-class recitals at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursday at the middle school, 3437 Johnstone Road.

The fifth- and sixth-grade bands have been working on small ensemble pieces. Duets and trios will perform at the two recitals.

Get the local news you need by subscribing to The Owyhee Avalanche 337-4681 We know what's happening.

You can, too.



# Calendar

## Today

**Coffee club**  
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Preschool Story Time**  
10:30 a.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd St. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

**Bruneau speaker series**  
Noon, free, RSVP by Monday, March 13, Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau. (208) 845-2282 and (208) 845-2131

**Preschool story time**  
3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

**Christian Life Club**  
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-4757, (208) 353-6024 or (208) 337-3464

**Grand View Chamber of Commerce meeting**  
5:30 p.m., Grand View Fire Station, 721 Roosevelt St., Grand View.

## Thursday

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meeting**  
8 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3867

**Fit and Fall exercise**  
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Senior center pinochle**  
1 p.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922 Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Property tax reduction assistance**  
1 p.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 495-2817

**Crafts for Kids**  
4 p.m., first-graders and up, Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

**Bruneau-Grand View school board meeting**  
7 p.m., Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School boardroom, 39678 State Hwy. 78, Bruneau (unless otherwise listed at [www.sd365.us](http://www.sd365.us)). (208) 834-2260

**AA meetings**  
7:30 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. 95, Wilder. (208) 337-3464

## Friday

**Story Time**  
10:15 a.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228, afternoons Monday through Saturday

**Teens and Tweens program**  
4 p.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228 afternoons Monday through

Saturday

**Marsing FFA auction**  
6 p.m., Marsing School District cafeteria, 8th Avenue West, Marsing. (208) 896-4111

**OCHS general meeting and speaker**  
7 p.m., McKeeth Hall, Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2319

## Saturday

**Free lunch**  
12 p.m. to 1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-5419

**Senior center dominoes and card games**  
2 p.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922 Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Grand View Chamber March Dinner**  
5 p.m. to 8 p.m., \$8 adults, \$6 seniors and children 4-12, free for 3 and younger; raffle tickets, \$1 each, six for \$5, American Legion Post 134 hall, 90 Roosevelt Ave., Grand View. (208) 850-2360

**Homedale Youth Sports poker fundraiser**  
6:30 p.m., doors, 7 p.m., tournament, \$30 entry, Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., Homedale. (208) 863-1400

## Sunday

**Marsing Gun Club shoot**  
11 a.m., Marsing Gun Club, Trap Shoot Road off Idaho highway 78, Marsing. (208) 941-1922, (208) 880-6543 or [marsinggunclub@yahoo.com](mailto:marsinggunclub@yahoo.com)

## Monday

**Board of County Commissioners meeting**  
9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. (208) 495-2421

## Tuesday

**Foot clinic**  
8:30 a.m., \$12, appointment necessary, Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Foot clinic**  
9 a.m., call for appointment, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922 Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Fit and Fall exercise**  
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Senior center pinochle**  
1 p.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922 Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Property tax reduction assistance**  
1 p.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.,

Homedale. (208) 495-2817

**After-school program**  
2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Knight Community Church, 630 Idaho Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2639

**After-school Story Time**  
4:30 p.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd St. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

**Eastern Owyhee Library board meeting**  
5 p.m., Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

**Sources of Strength Family Night**  
5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Homedale Middle School, 3437 Johnstone Road, Homedale. (208) 337-5780

**Marsing Lions Club meeting**  
7 p.m., Marsing Senior Center, 218 Main St., Marsing. (208) 318-3982

**Friends of the Eastern Owyhee Library meeting**  
7 p.m., Eastern Owyhee County Library meeting room, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2324, (208) 832-1949 or (208) 834-2785

**AA meetings**  
7:30 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. 95, Wilder. (208) 337-3464

## Wednesday

**Coffee club**  
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

**Owyhee County P&Z public hearings**  
10 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse Annex, 17069 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2095, ext. 2

**Preschool Story Time**  
10:30 a.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd St. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

**Financial education webinar**  
12:05 p.m. to 12:55 p.m., free, Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave. (208) 337-4228

**Preschool story time**  
3 p.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

**Christian Life Club**  
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-4757, (208) 353-6024 or (208) 337-3464

Submit information on upcoming fundraisers, meetings, reunions or community events to *The Owyhee Avalanche* by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the *Avalanche* office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to [jon@owyheeavalanche.com](mailto:jon@owyheeavalanche.com) (an e-mail link also is available on our Web site). For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

# Spring break youth workshop returns

After a very long winter is there finally an end in sight? Most of us have been counting the days when we will no longer be scraping frost from our windows, shoveling snow, trying to prevent pipes from freezing, and dressing to the point of looking like the Michelin Man. To answer the question, I have been asked more times this winter than ever before, NO I don't want to build a snowman! With the days beginning to get a bit longer, the sun shining more often and the sight of baby calves everywhere, spring must be on its way. Hip-Hip-Hooray!

As we look forward to spring, I'm sure our youth are looking

## University of Idaho Extension

forward to spring break. With school out for the week it's a great time to plan another workshop for the kids. The Owyhee County Extension Office will be holding a two-part workshop on Tuesday, March 28 at the American Legion Post 83 Hall in Bruneau and on Wednesday, March 29 at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing.

During the morning class, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., we will focus on science in the kitchen. In the afternoon, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., we'll look at science in the garden.

There will be fun experiments and hands-on activities. This workshop will show the youth that science is everywhere and how often we use science in everyday activities without real-

izing it.

Youth will be able choose between a half-day or full-day workshop. The cost is \$8 for the half-day and \$12 for the full day. All the supplies needed for the workshop as well as drinks and snacks will be provided. The youth participating in the all day workshop will need to bring a sack lunch.

Call the Extension Office today to get registered at (208) 896-4104 or for more information. The registration deadline is next Wednesday (March 22).

— Janelle Thompson is the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension 4-H coordinator. For more information, you can reach Thompson at the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104 or [owyhee@uidaho.edu](mailto:owyhee@uidaho.edu). The office is located at 238 W. 8th Ave. W., in Marsing.



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# Impatient drivers make bridge work difficult

## North-side Succor Creek girder placement slated later this month

Officials are concerned with motorists' disregard for traffic signals in the Succor Creek Bridge construction zone west of Homedale.

Meanwhile, project contractor Knife River has made more progress on the project despite the cold winter.

"The contractor was approximately 13 days behind schedule at the end of November, but by working when they could during the months of December, January and February, they have been able to catch up to their schedule and are on target for completion around mid- to late May," Idaho Transportation Department District 3 project coordinator Kelley Lower wrote last week in an email updating government officials.

Impatient drivers jumping the automatic stoplights continue to be a problem, Lower said. The state agency has asked for

an increased "drive-through" presence from law enforcement to discourage the practice.

"We are experiencing at least 15 vehicles per day that are not obeying the temporary traffic signals we have set up on (Idaho highway 19) and River Road," Lower wrote. "Drivers pull up to the signal, and if they do not see traffic coming immediately in the opposite direction, they pull on through the project instead of waiting for the next green signal to come to the light they have stopped at."

Lower said the interval from green to green on the automatic lights is about 5½ minutes.

"This is largely due to the fact that we have to program enough time for a bicyclist to traverse the length of the project before the signal changes as the project only allows one travel lane open during construction," Lower explained.

Lower said there have been no

accidents because of motorists who have jumped the lights — yet.

"But it has resulted in several incidents where either the offender or traffic that has been released rightfully has had to stop or swerve over onto the shoulder to avoid a collision," Lower said.

Lower fears the situation will only worsen as the weather warms up and more construction traffic hits the stretch of road about three-quarters of a mile west of Homedale.

As weather and soil conditions improve, Knife River construction crews will begin road shoulder work and installation of retaining walls.

"The contractor will occasionally follow the last vehicle from a given direction through the project to move materials and equipment," Lower said. "All the contractor's personnel have been warned not to be on the roadway when traffic has been released for the next cycle, but this becomes more difficult if they cannot traverse the project due to vehicles that are not obeying the

signals."

Knife River completed driving piling for the new bridge abutments and shoring walls on the north side of the construction area. Lower said crews placed concrete for the new abutments on Friday.

Girders for the north side of the new bridge should be delivered on Sunday, March 26 for the placement project on Monday, March 27.

There will be traffic delays of up to 15 minutes as girders are unloaded on March 27. Flaggers will provide traffic control that day.

The next phase after girder placement is installation of metal stay-in-place deck forms, which will be followed by setting the steel reinforcing for the deck.

During that part of the project, Knife River workers will complete the retaining walls along the roadsides in preparation for formation and placement of approach slabs. Lower said this work should be completed by mid-April.

# Solar farm developer seeks cell tower CUP

## County P&Z board to hear several permits next week

The Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission has a busy day planned next Wednesday.

The commissioners will hold a public hearing on four different items beginning at 10 a.m. inside the county courthouse annex, 17069 Basey St., in Murphy. Public testimony is welcome.

The first hearing will cover a request to split a 19.29-acre parcel to establish a single-family residence on 9.29 acres in an agricultural zone off Birmingham Road outside Marsing.

At 11 a.m., the commission will hear a CUP from Murphy Flat Power LLC to build a 100-foot broadband tower on the site of the previously approved solar power project east of Murphy.

Reynolds Creek Calf Ranch owner John Hepton wants to modify a condition in the special use permit granted to allow him to expand his feedlot. Hepton received permission to expand the lot from 15,000 head averaging 200 pounds to 35,000 calves averaging 200 pounds, but nearly two dozen special conditions were imposed.

Now, Hepton wants to modify the special condition that required the site to stay within the 35,000 animals with no animal to exceed 400 pounds and the maximum total weight to never exceed 7 million pounds of calves at one time.

The requested modification would qualify a calf as an animal less than 12 months of age.

The P&Z panel has the option to consider the proposed language, suggest its own revision or deny the request and leave the condition written as is.

The commission will review the preliminary plat for Waterview No. 2 residential subdivision outside Marsing city limits in a 2:30 p.m. hearing.

The subdivision, which was previously approved, is a 21-lot development on about 27 acres.

Copies of all applications are available for review at the P&Z office, 17069 Basey St., in Murphy during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

Call (208) 495-2095, ext. 2 for more information.

# Marsing Chamber sees membership spike

## Annual fees for businesses lowered this year

The Marsing Chamber of Commerce is hoping that a recent trend in participation continues for the rest of 2017.

During the business organization's luncheon Thursday at The Sandbar Café, new Chamber president Julie Scheu gave mem-

bers an update on enrollment numbers for the group.

Scheu said the organization currently has 30 members, or about three times what enrollment was last year.

This is the highest level of Chamber participation recently that Scheu has heard of.

"Twenty-five is the most that I think we've had in years," she said.

Businesses must be located within the Marsing Fire District to be a member of the Chamber.

Chamber membership dues has been lowered this year to \$25 from \$50. Scheu said slashing the price in half is all about further increasing the organization's ranks.

She told those attending the luncheon to spread the word about the benefits of joining the Chamber. Scheu highlighted networking connections, a Chamber certificate to post in a member business and advertising at special events such as the Third of July celebration as a few of those perks.

"Also if you've seen our Facebook page, I do features for people who join," she said. "It's been fun."

A membership form is available at the organization's Facebook page, or can be requested by email through marsingchamber@gmail.com or by calling Scheu at (208) 859-2087.

During Thursday's meeting, Scheu also took input on design ideas for a Chamber logo and a new website that is in the works.

Scheu and others around the table also briefly talked about the third annual Marsing Art in the Park scheduled for May 6 at Island Park. No new information about the event came up.

There is no vice-president or secretary on the Chamber right now. Mike Sprinkel is treasurer of the organization, while Stan Beebe serves as a director.

Scheu said she's looking to fill the open vice-president position, and would also like to add more directors.

— SC

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in the Avalanche

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## OCHS bazaar returns to Murphy

Fundraiser features MRW chili cook-off

The Owyhee County Historical Society's annual spring bazaar will be held next weekend in Murphy.

The OCHS fundraiser takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 25 at the Owyhee County Historical Museum complex. There will be about 20 vendors selling items like homemade pies, breads, and preserves. Ceramics, art and woodcraft items will also be for sale.

Vendor spots are still available for \$25 each.

Raffle tickets will also be on sale for a homemade quilt and a rifle.

Owyhee County Historical Museum director Amy Johnson said Jerry Stuart donated the gun, and Charlene Nettleton made the quilt.

Nettleton lives in Murphy and has donated several quilts to the fundraiser in prior years. Johnson added that Stuart lives in Caldwell.

Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, and the drawing will be held June 4 during Outpost Days in Murphy.

All proceeds benefit the museum, which will be open during the bazaar.

The seventh annual Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire and Rescue firehouse chili cook-off will be held in conjunction with the bazaar. The entry fee for aspiring chefs is \$20 for the first recipe and \$10 for each additional entry from the same team.

The public can taste the chili entries beginning at 11:45 a.m. A \$5 donation will be asked for the tasting.

Awards will be handed out for first place in five categories along with a people's choice award.

The cook-off is a fundraiser for MRW's fire, rescue and emergency medical services departments.

For entry forms, rules, and more information, contact info@mrwfire.org or (208) 495-2154.

A gun show to benefit the Owyhee County Historical Society will be held at the museum from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 29. Admission is \$4 for adults, and children age 12 or younger get in free. Raffle tickets for the rifle and quilt will also be sold at the gun show.

Dealer spots are \$20 for the gun show. For more information, email owyheemuseumdirector@gmail.com or call (208) 495-2319.

# Owyhee County native writes to help stroke victims

Book signing planned for next Wednesday in Marsing

The concept of never giving up has come to mean a lot for Irene Chandler over the past three decades.

In 1981, her 36-year-old husband Gary suffered a stroke.

Chandler went to the library to find information about stroke recovery but walked away empty-handed.

"I thought, 'I'll just write something about it,'" the Owyhee County native said. "Over the years, I would drop it for 10 years at a time, because of being too busy and keeping my husband on track. It took me half a lifetime to write."

Once she retired, Chandler finally had the time to finish her new book "Bolt of Lightning: The Story of a Stroke Survivor."

Chandler explained how she came up with the name of the book.

"I had always tried to think of something that would show the suddenness of the thing that happened," she said. "It just kind of struck me."

Chandler will hold a book signing event from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. next Wednesday at the Lizard Butte Library in Marsing.

Folks will be able to buy a copy of the book for \$15 during the signing.

"That covers my expenses and a few bucks more," Chandler said. "If somebody comes in and they have had a stroke, the book is free to them."

She contacted Lizard Butte Library director Janna Streibel to get the ball rolling in setting up the book signing.

"She's been so nice to answer by email, and I'm so excited about starting in Owyhee County," Chandler said.

Her next book signing will be at the Caldwell Public Library sometime in June, and other stops are in the works. Her book



Gary Chandler (left) with his wife Irene while on vacation along the Oregon coast. Submitted photo

can also be purchased online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Chandler has been married to Gary for 51 years.

She said permanent damage from the stroke includes his right arm being almost totally paralyzed.

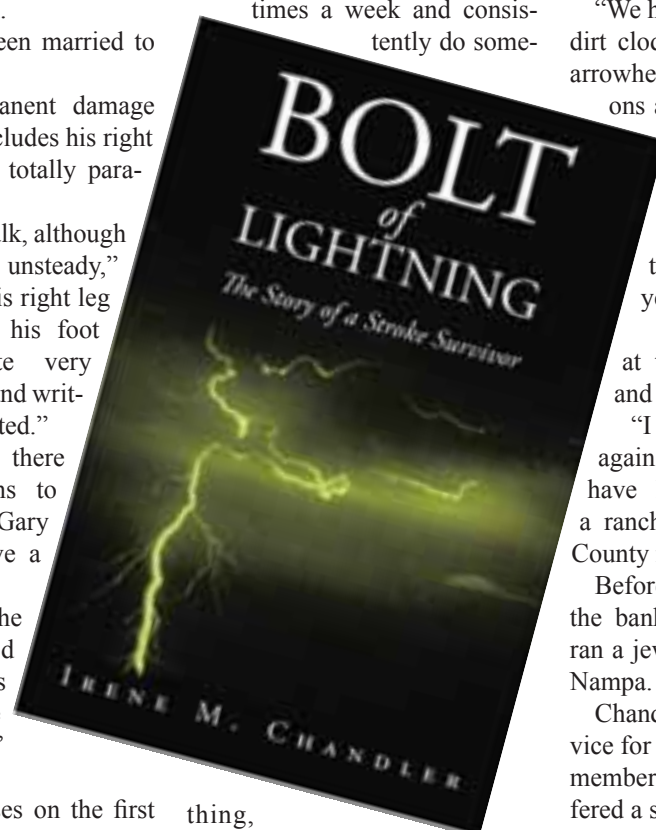
"He's able to walk, although he's a little bit unsteady," Chandler said. "His right leg is shrunken, and his foot doesn't cooperate very well. His reading and writing was very affected."

She added that there weren't any signs to indicate that Gary was going to have a stroke.

"He had just the typical childhood diseases, but this was a big surprise to both of us," Chandler said.

The book focuses on the first two years of the recovery process after Gary's stroke, with several chapters highlighting his progress in following years.

Chandler learned an important lesson about never giving up while writing the book.



"You have to sit down several times a week and consistently do some-

Castle Creek near Oreana.

"We had a lot of fun: We threw dirt clods, we searched for flint arrowheads, we picked up scorpions and stored them in jars," she said. "That's how we entertained ourselves in the old days."

Chandler lived on Castle Creek until she was 18 years old.

She then went to school at the University of Idaho and never came back.

"I never moved home again," Chandler said. "I would have loved to have married a rancher and live in Owyhee County my whole life."

Before retiring, she worked in the banking industry, and Gary ran a jewelry store in downtown Nampa.

Chandler has some simple advice for anyone who has a family member or friend that has suffered a stroke.

"You've got to have a person who will work at it," she said. "If they just sit in their chair, they're not going to get better. And, the family has to be willing to put in the time, because they will improve."

— SC

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The vendor fee will be \$10.00 plus 5% of sales at the end of the day. This fee will not go towards summer vendor fee. Register at [homedalefarmersmarket.com](http://homedalefarmersmarket.com) as well as pay your vendor fee of \$10.00 to hold your spot. If there are questions, please e-mail Denise at [ddixon222@msn.com](mailto:ddixon222@msn.com)  
**SPACE IS LIMITED  
REGISTER TODAY!**

In the event of poor weather, Market will be moved into the old gym at Homedale High School



# DARING DONKEY DOINGS DELIVER DELIGHT FOR MARSING CROWD



## Marsing FFA donkey basketball grosses nearly \$2,300

**Above:** Junior Aidreane Hatfield (left) lends a helping hand as sophomore Ashley Loucks tries to get in the saddle during the Marsing FFA donkey basketball game on March 7. Loucks was the top ticket-seller. **Below, left:** Sophomore Emily Civian celebrates after hitting a basket. **Below, right:** Freshman Brady Dines takes a shot at the basket in front of bleachers packed with fans. State FFA president Gretchen Hansten also played in the series of games. The winners were captain Rosalba Jacobo, Merrick Hall, Aubrey Villa, Emily Civian, Spencer Fisher and Wyatt Grim. Photos by Sarah Grossman / Freeze the Day Photography



# Marsing FFA holds annual auction

Marsing’s FFA chapter will hold its 10<sup>th</sup> annual auction and barbecue Friday. The fundraiser starts at 6 p.m. inside the Marsing schools cafeteria on 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue West. “This auction looks to be our best ever,” FFA advisor Mike Martin said. Proceeds help fund the majority of FFA activities throughout the year, including trips to the state and national conventions and chapter leadership programs.

The auction will feature alfalfa and grass hay, straw bales, half a beef cut and wrapped, half a hog cut and wrapped, a chain saw, a child’s rocking chair and mechanic tools. The dinner will consist of tri-tip steak, western-style potatoes, corn, cookies and ice cream. Donations are welcome for the meal. For more information, go to the Marsing FFA Alumni Facebook page, or contact Martin at mmartin@marsingsschools.org.

# HPD makes drunk driving arrest

A 33-year-old Homedale man was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving Friday night. Mike Miller was initially stopped for exhibition of speed after he burned his tires on West California Avenue, Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said. After detecting the presence of alcohol on Miller’s breath, Officer Shane Witt administered field

sobriety tests, which the suspect failed, Eidemiller said. Miller was taken into custody on suspicion of driving under the influence after giving Breathalyzer samples of .125, .127 and .148.



## Duct tape creativity at the library

Vanessa Causey (left) and her cousin, Preston Hutchings, making crafts with duct tape during Friday’s Teens and Tweens session at the Homedale Public Library. Vanessa, 10, is the daughter of James and Abby Causey. Preston, 10, is the son of Steven and Tami Hutchings.

# Homedale Story Time to focus on science, St. Patrick’s Day

Boys and girls attending Story Time at the Homedale Public Library will hear about science and St. Patrick’s Day Friday morning. The 10:15 a.m. event will feature a reading of “How to Catch a Leprechaun” by Adam Wallace. “Science Facts that will Surprise You!” by Grace Hanson will also be read. Library youth services coordinator Carol McMichael said children will also make a leprechaun trap, create a Lucky Charms graph chart, and build a

rainbow in a jar. Friday’s Teens and Tweens session will include playing with robots recently purchased with grant money. Boys and girls ages 10-17 are invited to attend at 4 p.m. The library is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday. The library is located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave. Call (208) 337-4228 for more information.

## Owyhee County fiddlers

- Little Hoedowners:**
- Emeline Hipwell — 7, Murphy
  - Colt Hipwell — 3, Murphy
  - Maizy Little — 8, Marsing

- Junior Jammers:**
- Kate Hipwell — 12, Murphy
  - Jessica Hipwell — 10, Murphy
  - Elliot Little — 10, Marsing
  - Rylee Loucks — 15, Marsing

— **Note:** The Hipwell children’s parents are Doug and Tiffany Hipwell; the Little children’s parents are Tim and Deidra Little; and Rylee is the daughter of Les and Amy Loucks.

# Young Owyhee fiddlers ready for Caldwell stage

Several Owyhee County children will play fiddles in concert this month in Caldwell. The Junior Jammers spring show, which will feature the Junior Jammers and the Little Hoedowners, will start at 2 p.m., on Saturday at Caldwell High School, 3401 S. Indiana Ave., Caldwell. Junior Jammers director Roberta Pearce has named this year’s spring show “Jamboree!”

Three sets of music will be performed, and the following songs will be part of the show: Country gospel — “Where the Soul Never Dies,” “Hope” and “Orange Blossom Special” Bluegrass — “Blue Moon of Kentucky” and “Wheel Hoss” Swing — “Lady be Good” and

“Minor Swing” The Little Hoedowners, Pearce’s group of beginning fiddlers, will perform “Pig Ankle Rag” and “Rocky Top Tennessee.” Featured guests will be the Curtis family from Nampa, and Grand Master fiddle champion Katrina Nicolayeff. Free tickets are available to nursing home and retirement home residents. Activity directors can call (208) 407-2967 or email juniorjammers@aol.com to reserve tickets. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and students, and \$6 for children 11 years old and younger. Tickets will be sold at the door starting at noon on the day of the show.





**Those daring young men trimming trees with ease**  
*Two tree trimmers from Asplundh Tree Expert Co., appear prepared for a high-wire act as they trim a tree near a power line during Friday afternoon work in the Marsing High School gymnasium parking lot on Main Street.*

# HAPPENINGS AT HOMEDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Students of the month

Homedale Middle School counselor Brooke Winston announced February’s PRIDEful students of the month. The teachers at each grade level nominate the students based on the criteria of how they exhibit PRIDE — Patience, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence.

### Eighth grade Dalton Strack

**Age:** 13  
**Parent:** Leroy Strack  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**Loves to:** Play in sports  
**Something not everyone knows:** “I am the youngest in my family.”



**Nomination comment:** “Dalton Strack has shown respect and overall PRIDE throughout this year. I have been impressed with Dalton’s behavior and attitude. He has a delightful twinkle in his eye when he smiles, and he has a great sense of humor. It truly has been a pleasure to get to know him and teach him this year.”

### Seventh grade Corben Gentry

**Age:** 13  
**Parents:** Amanda and Richard Gentry  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**Loves to:** Play video games  
**Nomination comment:** “Ben is a great leader in class, especially when helping with his peers for studying. He will try most anything new and never complains. We are proud of him for showing PRIDE on the basketball team and being on the Academic Bowl team. In Mrs. Portwood’s Science class,

he is a great leader and helper daily. His fellow students really enjoy having him in class.”  
**Note:** No photo released

### Sixth grade Jacy Parker

**Age:** 12  
**Parents:** Andrea and Gavin Parker  
**Favorite food:** Chinese  
**Loves to:** Play basketball  
**Something not everyone knows:** “I have no brothers.”  
**Nomination comment:** “She is always willing to help her fellow students and her teachers. She is kind, gracious, always happy and has a kind thing to say to everyone. She does a very good job of making sure that all students feel comfortable and confident in their classes.”



### Fifth grade Eric Cortes

**Age:** 10  
**Parents:** Marbella and Joel Cortes  
**Favorite food:** Pizza  
**Loves to:** Play sports  
**Something not everyone knows:** “I am short.”  
**Nomination comment:** “Eric Cortes has determination. He is determined to understand each lesson. He is determined to finish each assignment with high scores. Because of his determination, he is becoming a student with immense possibilities.”



## Tablet giveaway highlights family night

Homedale Middle School’s Sources of Strength group will play host to a family night. The event, which will run from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at the school, 3437 Johnstone Road, is a chance for the public to learn more about the student group. “The focus will be enjoying family and friends that are our Sources of Strength,” HMS counselor Brooke Winston said. There will be snacks, games, activities, a Sources of Strength photo station and more. Every person in attendance will have a chance to win one of two 8-gigabyte Kindle Fire tablets with a 7-inch display and wi-fi capability. The winner must be present. In addition to the activity, there will be stations for folks to learn more about Sources of Strength as well as a station with an informative video playing and materials available.

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# School menus

## Homedale Elementary

*All meals include milk variety and a free breakfast is offered to all students*  
March 15: Chicken patty, tater tots, veggie & fruit bar  
March 16: Cheese pizza ripper, tossed salad, fruit rollup, veggie & fruit bar  
March 20: Hot dog, macaroni & cheese, veggie & fruit bar  
March 21: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes/gravy, veggie & fruit bar  
March 22: Chicken taco, corn, veggie & fruit bar  
March 23-31: No school

## Homedale Middle

*All meals include milk variety and a free breakfast is offered to all students*  
March 15: Mini corn dogs or fish nuggets, steamed carrots, cookie, fruit & salad bar  
March 16: Hamburger or chicken patty, potato chips, fruit & salad bar  
March 20: Pork chop or chicken tenders, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & salad bar  
March 21: Sloppy Joe or rib-b-que, green beans, fruit & salad bar  
March 22: Popcorn chicken or hamburger, baked beans, fruit & salad bar

## Homedale High

*All meals include milk variety and a free breakfast is offered to all students*  
March 15: Chicken nuggets or chef salad, macaroni & cheese, salad bar, fruit choice  
March 16: Spicy chicken sandwich or cheeseburger, potato wedges, salad bar, fruit choice  
March 20: Pepperoni pizza ripper or dele sandwich w/chips, salad bar, fruit choice  
March 21: Chef salad or pork chop w/butter & herbed potatoes, roll, salad bar, fruit choice  
March 22: Lasagna or popcorn chicken, dinner roll, corn, salad bar, fruit choice

## Marsing Elementary

*All meals include healthy choice fruit and veggie bar*  
March 15: Beef taco, rice & beans, corn or PB&J, graham crackers  
March 16: Pepperoni ripper, tossed salad, or PB&J, cheese stick, rice crispy treat  
March 20: Fish sticks, sidewinders or PB&J, yogurt, animal crackers  
March 21: Super nachos, mixed veggies or PB&J, cheese stick, graham crackers  
March 22: Lasagna, breadstick, green beans or PB&J, yogurt, animal crackers, jello w/topping

## Marsing Mid/High

*All meals include healthy choice fruit and veggie bar; salad bar and grab-n-go lunches available daily*  
March 15: Beef tacos w/rice & beans or BBQ chicken sandwich, corn  
March 16: Pepperoni ripper or chili cheese fries, tossed salad, roll, rice crispy treat  
March 20: Fish sticks w/biscuit or chicken squealer, sidewinders  
March 21: Super nachos or chili, mixed veggies, cinnamon roll  
March 22: Lasagna w/breadstick or fish sandwich, green beans, jello

## Bruneau-Grand View

March 15: Orange chicken, stir-fry veggies, oriental rice, fruit  
March 16: Nachos, tortilla chips, refried beans, salsa, fruit  
March 17: Corn dog, fresh broccoli, sweet potato fries, fruit  
March 21: Chicken & noodles, romaine salad, baby carrots, fruit  
March 22: Chicken patty/bun, mashed potatoes/gravy, broccoli, fruit  
March 23: Soft taco, black beans, salsa, corn, fruit

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# BLM slates several prescribed burns in Owyhee County

With conditions drying out, the Bureau of Land Management is ready to move forward with a prescribed burn plan in Owyhee County.

The exact timing of the series of springtime burns is subject to weather, fuel and ground conditions, according to a BLM Boise District press release.

The burns will be conducted on public land in Owyhee County as well as inside the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area.

The objective is to reduce hazardous fuels, assist in watershed research and cut down on the encroachment of western juniper in the sage-steppe ecosystem.

For more information, contact the BLM Boise District at (208) 384-3210.

The prescribed burns, which could begin this month, include:

**Fence Line** — Work on this burn in the Birds of Prey NCA could begin this month and last until May. There will be safety flaggers and short-term travel delays in the vicinity of the burns.

The plan is to target tumbleweed, which has created unsafe fuels, along 16 miles of fence lines and roadways. The project's footprint could expand depending on the accumulation of tumbleweeds in the spring.

Firefighters will utilize snow

and green grass as natural barriers to prevent the fire's spread to adjacent open areas.

**South Mountain** — This project, which is a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service and private landowners, is located 21 miles southeast of Jordan Valley.

The BLM will conduct burns on 730 acres in four watersheds over the next five years to study the hydrological impacts of western juniper encroachment.

Smoke may be visible on the southern flanks of South Mountain during burning operations, which are expected to take place over two days between March and May.

**Pole Creek Jackpot** — This 5,400-acre burn is located 35 miles southeast of Jordan Valley on the western flanks of Juniper Mountain.

Piles of heavy, dead fuels that have accumulated from western juniper thinning projects over the past three years will be burned. The surrounding live vegetation will be kept intact.

The project expected to take place this month, and ignitions will take two to five days with subsequent mop-up and patrol continuing for several days after.

## Assessor offers property tax reduction help

Owyhee County Assessor Brett Endicott's annual push to help with Circuit Breaker property tax reduction applications begins Thursday in Homedale.

The completed applications need to be turned in by April 18.

Assessor's office staff will be on hand for the workshops:

- 1 p.m. on Thursday, and Tuesday at the Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave.
- 10 a.m. on Tuesday, March 28 and Tuesday, April 4 at The Sandbar Café, 18 Sandbar Ave., Marsing. The March 8 edition of The Owyhee Avalanche incorrectly reported that the workshops at The Sandbar Café would start at 1 p.m.
- 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 6 at Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., in Grand View.
- 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 6 at the Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St.



Rainbow trout are jettisoned from a tanker last Wednesday as part of Idaho Power's stocking of 50,000 fish in C.J. Strike Reservoir. Photo by Lon Van Wyck / Idaho Power

## Rainbow trout released into C.J.

With warming weather, Idaho Power has stocked C.J. Strike Reservoir outside Bruneau with 50,000 rainbow trout.

In preparation for spring and summer fishing, the company alternated releases between the Cottonwood and Jack's Creek accesses March 6 through last Wednesday.

"These are nice-sized fish that will provide a lot of enjoyment for folks fishing at C.J. Strike this spring and summer," said Idaho Power Biologist Ben Reingold.

Idaho Power owns and maintains four campgrounds and a day-use park at the reservoir.

Idaho Power's federal licenses to operate its hydroelectric facilities on the Snake River require the company to preserve and enhance recreational opportunities. As part of that effort, the company stocks various locations along the Middle Snake each year.

"Our trout-stocking program is one way Idaho Power balances its operations with environmental stewardship," Reingold said.

These fish are raised at a hatchery in the Hagerman Valley, and they are about 10 inches long when released. Those that aren't caught right away can grow several inches per year.

Some trout released previously have metal jaw tags.

Anglers are asked to report any tagged fish they catch by recording the tag number, date, the reward value (if any) and the approximate location where the fish was caught.

They can call toll free, (800) 388-6011, and provide information that includes their name, mailing address, telephone number and whether the fish was kept or released.

Anglers who report tagged fish through the toll-free number are entered into a drawing for \$1,000.

## No water users meeting this year

Still undecided when irrigation season will start

Farmers around Homedale and Marsing apparently are clear on what they can expect for water during the upcoming growing season.

Last month, South Board of Control manager John Eells said he wanted to know if water users would like to have a meeting with South Board officials regarding this year's irrigation season.

During the irrigation directors' series of meetings last week, Eells said he hadn't heard from any of his patrons, therefore no water users meeting will be held.

Eells previously stated that he's expecting another full season, and patrons will again receive a full allotment of 4 acre-feet.

Exactly when irrigators will start seeing water in the canals hasn't been determined.

"It's going to be closer to the

### Flows increased on Owyhee River

The Owyhee Irrigation District is warning the public about higher water levels on the Owyhee River.

On Thursday, the district increased the flow of water coming out of the Owyhee Reservoir to 955 cubic feet per second.

The flow rate is expected to increase further in the near future, and people are being asked to limit recreational activity along the river.

For updates, check the district's Facebook page, or go to [www.owyheeirrigation.org](http://www.owyheeirrigation.org).

first of April," Eells said in the water outlook article appearing in the Ag 2017 special section in this week's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

"We're going to try to do it in March, but I don't know whether that's going to happen."

Under a full-season scenario, the water would be shut off on Oct. 10, which is opening day for deer hunting.

On Friday, the Owyhee Reservoir was 77 percent full with 554,112 acre-feet of water. Water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 4,700 cubic feet

per second. Water was flowing out at Nyssa, Ore. at a rate of 951 cubic feet per second.

During the South Board's March 7 meeting, it was decided to begin holding the gatherings over the coming months at night, to allow for more time working outdoors during the day.

The next series of meetings will begin at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, April 11 downstairs at the SBOC office at 118 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. W., in Homedale. The Ridgeview Irrigation District directors start the meetings and are followed by the Gem directors at 7:15 p.m. and the SBOC at 7:30 p.m.

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A look at successful middle school athletes

Marsing golfer fires 87 in season opener

# Avalanche Sports

## Homedale track freshmen forge fantastic first foray

It didn't take long for Homedale High School track and field's ninth-graders to find their legs.

Freshmen forged impressive first meets during Friday's Parma Ice Breaker.

"Overall it was a great first meet," fourth-year head coach Heidi Ankeny said. "It was

probably the best first meet we have had since I started coaching here."

Caleb Smith and Michael Babcock flashed their quickness in three sprint events.

Smith tied senior teammate Jacob Furlott for the fastest time in the 200 meters, both

clocking 23.81-second showings.

Furlott won the 100 in 10.94, and Babcock was third at 11.46. Babcock finished fourth in the 200 at 24.01.

Babcock and Smith teamed up with Furlott and junior Max Mertz to turn in a sizzling 4x100 relay victory. Ankeny said the

quartet's 45.54 time would have brought a medal at last year's 3A state meet.

"With two freshmen on that team, there is a lot of room for growth and improvement," Ankeny said.

— See *Freshmen*, page 14A

## Uranga's debut helps HHS to second

Trojans start quest for another State golf berth

The home team finished one shot off the championship in its own Ice Breaker golf tournament Thursday, perhaps signaling another strong year for Homedale High School.

"We have qualified for State as a team the last four years in a row," fifth-year coach Casey Grove said. "If we can play the way we are capable of playing, I feel we have a good shot at qualifying again this year."



Daniel Uranga

Grove said Homedale's chances of reaching the state tournament again will come down to the play of the Nos. 4 and 5 golfers each tournament.

On Thursday at River Bend Golf Course in Wilder, two first-year varsity golfers — freshman Spencer Fisher and senior Tanner Miller — filled those final two spots as HHS finished just one shot behind Nampa Christian for the team title.

— See *Debut*, page 15A



Wyatt Wolfe fires a pitch toward the plate at John Jackson Field on Friday. The right-hander came into the game as a reliever and got the win.

## HHS roars back against state champs

Jake Deal spins no-hitter against Filer on Saturday

After a rocky start, Homedale High School took advantage of its opponent's spotty pitching and porous defense to win its opener.

Homedale scored six runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and pulled out a 9-8 non-conference baseball victory over two-time reigning Class 2A state champion Nampa Christian.

The season opener for both teams, which was played at John Jackson Field in Homedale, was halted after Nampa Christian failed to score in the top of the sixth inning.

Nampa Christian built a 7-3 lead with a three-run fourth inning, but Homedale rallied in the bottom of the fifth inning against wild relief pitching from Aidan Bradshaw.

Nampa Christian hurlers walked 12 batters with Bradshaw giving out six free passes during Homedale's game-winning rally in the fifth.

Back-to-back errors allowed Homedale to score three runs to tie and go ahead in the fifth inning. Wyatt Dorsey scored the winning run after Homedale tied the game when Jake Deal and Drew Taylor scored on the same miscue.

Drew Taylor and Jaren Mease each walked twice and scored a pair of runs for Homedale.

Jake Deal and Wyatt Wolfe singled and knocked in runs for Homedale during the winning rally. They both scored, too.

Wolfe stepped into a relief role after Nampa Christian scored four runs against starting pitcher Taylor in the top of the first inning.

All but one of the runs Taylor surrendered was unearned, but he walked four and hit a batter while throwing 51 pitchers in the opening frame.

— See *HHS*, page 15A

## Homedale softball plays to deadlock vs. Ridgevue

Homedale High School opened the softball season with a dramatic tie Friday.

Playing in Nampa against Ridgevue's first-year program, the Trojans needed two runs in the top of the seventh inning to force a 5-5 non-conference deadlock.

The Warhawks scored the game's first four runs against Dakota Kelly, who still managed to strike out 13 batters.

The Trojans scored three times

in the top of the sixth inning, but themselves down, 5-3, when Ridgevue's pivotal run in the bottom of the frame.

Sophie Nash's double was one of Homedale's six hits. She walked twice and reached base three times.

Kelly helped her own cause with an RBI, and Megan Maxwell, Josey Hall, Kaylee DeWitt and Rian Beebe also knocked in runs.

## Back-to-back champs know drill

Player of the Year Dakota Kelly returns to pitching circle

Playing for a softball state championship has become a Homedale High School habit.

The Trojans played in their sixth straight state final last spring and won the program's sixth championship, so why shouldn't this year's team think Class 3A three-peat?

"This year's (players have) set some pretty high goals and will have to work their tails off to ful-

fill them," veteran HHS softball coach Larry Corta said.

Four standout players from last year's 26-2 squad graduated soon after winning the school's second consecutive state crown, including four-year starters Tristan Corta (shortstop and pitcher), first baseman Makayla Aberasturi and all-time HHS home run and RBI leader Gardenia Machuca, an outfielder. Also missing this

year is three-year starting outfield Sydnee Shanley.

"These four girls will be very difficult to replace," Larry Corta said. "They had amazing bats and gloves, and also had a lot of softball savvy."

But, as has become the norm in Homedale, there are a few strong players ready to fill the void.

"We have a really good core of girls coming back," Corta said.

Megan Maxwell (catcher) and Rian Beebe (third base) are the

— See *Champs*, page 16A



Sports

Trojans athletes have a mix of proven, potential

State veterans return;  
speedy freshman  
transfers from Marsing

After saying goodbye to five stop seniors, Heidi Ankeny calls 2017 a rebuilding year for Homedale High School track and field.

In reality, the Trojans may only be reloading.

“The returning kids are really strong this year,” the fourth-year head coach said. “They are very comfortable with track and have a good knowledge of what it takes to make it to State and be successful.

“The new kids who may stand out are mostly freshmen and they have some learning to do, but they have started off the season strong and are excited to get out there and see what they can do.”

There are eight key returners among a

group of 45 athletes who turned out for track this season. They all competed at the 3A state meet in Middleton last May.

Five seniors also reached last year’s state meet a week before graduation.

“Last year, we had a strong group of seniors,” Ankeny said. “We took all of them to State and brought home a handful of medals and places.

“Losing that group has put us into a building year, but we have a record number of freshmen out this year and good talent across all of the events so we look good.”

Senior sprinter Jacob Furlott already has got a jump on the competitive season. He ran the 60 meters and 200 meters during the indoor season, including finishing in the top third at the Simplot Games. He’ll run the 100, 200 and relays in the spring.

On the girls’ side, junior sprinter Lainey Johnson returns after finishing fifth in the State 400 with a personal record. She also had top five finishers in the 100 and 200 at

the District III meet, including runner-up at the shorter distance.

Another junior, Eva Symms, looks to capitalize on top-10 State finishes in throws, including a fifth-place medal in the discus.

Senior Carlie Sawyer was at the state meet for the 100, long jump and triple jump last season. She finished third in the district 100 and was just out of the medals in the state triple jump, grabbing seventh.

Junior Ashley Burks is looking to build on her two-event State appearance at Middleton High School. She was a top-100 finisher in both the long jump and the triple jump.

Ember Christensen, a junior, competed in the 300 hurdles and long jump at State last season.

Senior Carli Swallow qualified for the state meet in both throws last season, and junior Max Mertz was there for the boys’ triple jump.

This year’s batch of ninth-graders brings more speed to the program with transfer students Caleb Smith from Washington state and Adonis Stelzried from Marsing. Stelzried, who is pegged for the 400 and relays, enrolled at Homedale after competing in football and making a wrestling state meet appearance for the Huskies earlier this year.

Other key freshmen include Matthew Randall, a middle and long distance runner who qualified for the 3A cross country state meet in the fall, and Michael Babcock, who will work on sprints and relays.

“This year, it looks like we will have pockets of strength in all of the event areas,” Ankeny said. “I don’t think I can say that one area will be weaker than any other this season.”

Ankeny’s assistant coaches include her husband, Luke, and Alex Willson and Starla Bender.

— JPB

### Homedale Youth Sports poker fundraiser is back

The Homedale Youth Sports annual poker tournament fundraiser takes place Saturday.

The entry fee is \$30, and there also will be a raffle and a silent auction.

Anyone wanting to donate items for the raffle or auction or prizes for the tournament winners can call (208) 863-1400.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, with the tournament starting at 7 p.m. The event takes place at the Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., in Homedale.

### Got News?

Call us! (208) 337-4681. Community happenings, events or issues.

✓ Freshmen: Boys’ 4x100 sets torrid pace

From Page 13A

Another freshman, Matthew Randall, was second in the 3,200 at 11 minutes, 38 seconds.

Smith and freshman Adonis Stelzried, a recent transfer from Marsing, served on the Trojans’ third-place 4x400 relay. Jordan Van Es started the race and Brayden Miller ran the third leg during a 4:00.4 performance.

Junior girls’ shot-putter Eva Symms fired the discus five feet than she ever had before to win that event with a personal-best distance of 117 feet, 7 inches. She also won the shot put at 32-3 with senior teammate Carli Swallow finishing second in the shot (30-6)

and fourth in the discus (87-0).

Senior Carlie Sawyer swept the girls’ sprints, taking the 100 in 13.00, and grabbing the 200 in 27.54.

Junior Lainey Johnson was second in both races with a 13.37 in the 100 and a 28.75 in the 200. Johnson finished third in the 400 at 1:06.85 with freshman Maggie Johnson taking fifth in 1:11.02.

The Johnson girls ran the final



two legs (Lainey on anchor) to help the Trojans take the 4x400 relay title. Junior Ember Christensen started the 4:43.63 effort, and Sawyer took the baton for the second leg.

Christensen finished third in the 300 hurdles at 56.97.

Sawyer finished second in the long jump (14-9½), and Maggie Johnson was third in the triple jump at 29-4½, followed by fourth-place Christensen (29-1).

Other boys’ results included Mertz finished second in the long jump at 18-4½, and sophomore Ricky Soto was fourth in the 3,200 at 12:04.0. Stelzried was fifth in the 400 at 56.79.

# Homedale Trojans

## Athlete Spotlight

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**Baseball**  
Wyatt Wolfe, jr., pitcher  
Allowed one earned run in five relief innings; RBI and run scored in comeback victory

**Softball**  
Dakota Kelly, jr., pitcher  
Struck out 13 in season-opening tie vs. Ridgevue

**Track and field**  
Caleb Smith, freshman  
Kicked off career with tie for 200M win at Parma Ice Breaker

**Golf**  
Kaden Henry, junior  
Shot an 80 for third place as team finished second in own tourney

**Tennis**  
No spotlight; season starts this week

### Baseball

Varsity  
Thursday, March 16, home vs. Melba, 5 p.m.  
Friday, March 17, home vs. Ontario, Ore., 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 21, home vs. Weiser, 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 22 at Vale, Ore., 5 p.m.

Junior varsity  
Wednesday, March 15 at Marsing, 5 p.m.  
Thursday, March 16 at Melba, 5 p.m.  
Friday, March 17, home vs. Ontario, Ore., 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 21 at Weiser, 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 22, home vs. Vale, Ore., 5 p.m.

### Softball

Varsity  
Friday, March 17, home vs. Vallivue, 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 21, home vs. Weiser, 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, March 22 at Vale, Ore., 5 p.m.

Junior varsity  
Friday, March 17, home vs. Vallivue, 5 p.m.  
Monday, March 20 at Marsing, 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, March 21 at Weiser, 5 p.m.

### Track and field

Friday, March 17 at Ontario Ice Breaker, 3:30 p.m.

### Golf

Monday, April 3 at 3A Snake River Valley conference meet (nine holes), Scotch Pines GC, Payette, 3 p.m.

### Tennis

Wednesday, March 15, home vs. Ontario, Ore., 4 p.m.

J. Edward Perkins, Jr. D.C. 337-4900

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337-4041

482-0103

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Sports

Wolfe winds up powerful Trojans JV offense

Homedale High School's junior varsity baseball team is off to an explosive start.

The Trojans had steady offensive production while beating Nampa Christian on Friday and sweeping a doubleheader against Filer on Saturday.

**Saturday: Homedale 17-13,**

**Filer 3-2** — The Trojans scored 10 runs in the fifth inning to force the 10-run rule in Game 1 as sophomore Jason Puri and freshman Karsen Freeloove teamed up on a one-hitter.

Sophomore Clayton Wolfe crushed a two-run double in the fifth inning.

In the second game, Homedale snapped a 2-2 tie with a two-run rally after Filer had turned a double play. Homedale invoked the 10-run rule with a three-run sixth inning.

**Friday: Homedale 9, Nampa Christian 4** — Homedale erupted for eight runs in the top of the fifth

inning and scored nine consecutive runs to erase Nampa Christian's 3-0 lead.

Wolfe's two-run double in the fifth snapped a 3-3 tie, and freshman Jake Collett had an RBI single in the pivotal uprising.

Wolfe smashed a run-scoring double in the fourth inning, too.

Landon Villa's 87 leads Marsing golfers

Landon Villa shot an 87 on Thursday to top Marsing High School's golfers in the season opener.

Villa was the only player in coach Scott Larsen's quintet to break 100 during the Homedale Ice Breaker at River Bend Golf Course in Wilder.

Villa was 15-over-par during the 18-hole tournament, and the Huskies scored 462.

Teammate Kyle Olson shot a 108, while junior Mason Hall was Marsing's third-best player with a 114.

Seth Ramirez fired a 153, and Ben Gerthung carded a 155.

Fellow 2A Western Idaho Conference team Nampa Christian won the tournament, which also featured McCall-Donnelly, and Cole Valley Christian. The Chargers had three players score 100 or lower and finished seventh at 399, one stroke behind Vallivue.

✓ Debut: Trojans coach optimistic about strong season

*From Page 13A*

Homedale amassed a 347 as freshman Daniel Uranga shot a 79 to tie for second-lowest individual in his first high school tournament. Grove said the accomplished youth player will be the Trojans' best golfer.

"Daniel is going to make a huge impact on our team," Grove said. "He will be competing for the individual district title and possibly the state title this year as a freshman.

"He hates to lose. Daniel will be the anchor of the varsity team."

Uranga will fill the lead spot vacated when 3A District III runner-up Chase Martell graduated after the team's trip to State.

Also gone from last year's squad are Noah Freeloove and Lawsen Matteson. Uranga's father Tony, a former Homedale athletic standout, is a first-year assistant coach.

Homedale has 11 golfers out this season, including five varsity boys, three on junior varsity and one girl each on varsity and JV.

Junior Kaden Henry returned for another season and tied for third with an 80 on Thursday.

"Kaden is an extremely hard worker and very competitive," Grove said. "I expect him to be one of our team leaders."

Grove said Henry and junior Scott Matlock, another returner, were dedicated to improving their games during the off-season.

Matlock carded an 86 last week.

"Scott brings confidence and experience to our team."

Miller is a returner, but spent most of his time on JV last season.

"Tanner is another kid who has improved a lot since last year," Grove said. "He works at a golf course in the summer. Being around the game a lot has really helped his game.

"We are going to need Tanner to step up in a big way this year for our team scores."

Fisher is one of three rookies from which Grove expects a lot.

"He shows a tremendous amount of natural talent," the coach said. "He has already shown great improvement just in the first week

of practice. I expect him to push for the No. 4 spot all year."

Ninth-grader Shanlee Swallow will be the Trojans' lone female varsity competitor.

"She likes practice and shows signs of improvement every day," Grove said. "She is willing to learn and committed to getting better."

Thursday's season opener gave the Trojans a sneak peek at their top competition in the 3A Snake River Valley conference and district.

Fruitland sophomore Jake O'Neil shot a 1-under-par 71 for medalist honors last week, clearing the field by eight shots.

Weiser was fifth in the 11-team tournament Thursday at 391.

— JPB

✓ HHS: Trojans split doubleheader on road against Filer

*From Page 13A*

Jack Castledine led Nampa Christian's offense, going 3-for-3 with a run scored. Teammate Lex King scored twice and drove in a pair of runs.

**Saturday: Filer 10-0, Homedale 0-10** — The Trojans split a pair of non-conference road games with Jake Deal throwing a

five-inning no-hitter in Game 2.

Spotted a six-run lead in the top of the first, Deal struck out six and walked three.

His sacrifice fly scored his brother, Drew, with the game's final run, which set up the 10-run rule in the fifth inning.

Jesse Packer had one of Homedale's four hits in the

nightcap and collected two RBI.

Filer got the Game 1 win in six innings, holding Homedale to just three hits. The Trojans committed seven errors behind junior Ben Lee, who allowed only one earned run.

Jake Deal lined a two-out single in the first inning, but was thrown

out at home plate to end inning as he tried to score from second on Wyatt Wolfe's base hit.

Wyatt Dorsey led off the second with Homedale's third hit. The Trojans would manage no other hits and only six other base runners the rest of the game on four walks, a hit batter and a fielder's choice.

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

MARSING HUSKIES

Athlete Spotlight

M

Baseball

No spotlight... season starts this week

Softball

No spotlight... season starts this week

Track and field

No spotlight... season starts this week

Landon Villa, sophomore

Team-low 87 in Homedale Ice Breaker

Baseball

Wednesday, March 15, home vs. Homedale JV, 5 p.m.

Friday, March 17, home vs. Glenns Ferry (2), 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Softball

Friday, March 20, home vs. Homedale JV, 5 p.m.

Track and field

Thursday, March 16 at Lynn Berhman Invitational, Parma, 3 p.m.

Golf

Varsity boys

Friday, April 5 at Lakeview GC, Meridian, 3 p.m.

Junior varsity boys

Friday, April 5 at Lakeview GC, Meridian, 3 p.m.

Varsity girls

Tuesday, April 4 at Ridgecrest GC, Nampa, 1 p.m.

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Sports



Above: The Homedale Middle School seventh-grade A team shows off its championship trophy. From left: Coach Danny Abrego, John Lejardi, Matt McBride, Josh Brown, Beeg Hockenhuil, Eli Heck, Tucker TenHulzen, Hayden Kincheloe, Willy Haun, Ethan Almaraz, Cody Liebschwager, and coach Karen Liebschwager. Right: The seventh-grade B conference champions. Top row, from left: Luis Hernandez, Rhyalee Nix, Ryker Johnson, Wyatt Cooper, and coach Karen Liebschwager. Bottom row, from left: Athen Belnap, Silvestre (Alex) Monreal, Landen Wilson, Brandon Van Es, Marcus Simmons, and Austin Franko. Not pictured: Corben Gentry. Submitted photos



Young Trojans collect middle school basketball titles

Homedale Middle School’s seventh-grade boys’ basketball teams swept the conference championships.

The unbeaten A team, coached for the second year by Danny Abrego, captured the 3A Snake River Valley conference tournament title last month. It was Abrego’s first school-ball championship; he coached the Homedale High School junior varsity during the 2012-13 season.

The Trojans (12-0) beat Fruitland, 36-33, in the title game on Feb. 23 as Hayden Kincheloe and Eli Heck hit clutch three-point goals to push Homedale into the lead late.

Kincheloe scored nine points, and Ethan Almaraz added eight points in Weiser.

Matt McBride held the Grizzlies’ top scorer to eight points after he had averaged 15 points per game against the Trojans during the regular season.

The top-seeded Trojans started the tournament on their home floor with a 58-36 blowout of Parma on Feb.22.

Kincheloe poured in 23 points, and Beeg Hockenhuil added eight.

Homedale 40, McCain-Payette 7 — Almaraz 12 points, Brown and Kincheloe, nine each

Homedale 35, Fruitland 34 — Almaraz

11, Brown seven

Homedale 44, Weiser 26 — Almaraz and Kincheloe, 18 apiece

Homedale 52, Parma 15 — Almaraz 13, Kincheloe and Hockenhuil, 10 each

Homedale 44, Ontario, Ore., 15 — Almaraz 11, Kincheloe six

Homedale 49, McCain 14 — Kincheloe 18, Hockenhuil eight

Homedale 51, Parma 15 — Kincheloe 28, Almaraz seven

Homedale 47, Fruitland 36 — Almaraz 17, Kincheloe 13

Homedale 76, Ontario 14 — Kincheloe 17, Cody Liebschwager 15

Homedale 57, Weiser 25 — Kincheloe 23, Brown 11

Kincheloe averaged 15.3 points per game to lead the Trojans. Other top scorers were Almaraz, who averaged 9.3 ppg., Brown with 5.8 ppg., and Hockenhuil with 5.7 ppg.

The B team, coached by Karen Liebschwager, went 9-1 to win its conference championship as Ryker Johnson led the team with a 7.9 points-per-game scoring average.

Marcus Simmons (41 points), Rhyalee Nix (40) and Luis Hernandez (35) were also top scorers for the Trojans.

Homedale Freestyle hopes to build on HMS wrestlers’ success

Homedale Freestyle Club kicked off the wrestling season with Battle for the Belts Greco-Roman and Freestyle tournaments at Nampa High School on March 4.

Homedale champions included Logan Wilson, Aubrey Atkins, and Hunter Bell. Isaac Bullard won a Greco-Roman crown and was runner-up in freestyle.

Bronze medalists included Shayde Volk, Andrew Marston, Raleigh Urrutia, Cole Kushlan and Joseph Egusquiza. Austin Love finished sixth.

Homedale Freestyle Wrestling Club practices every Tuesday at the high school. Contact

head coach Joe Egusquiza for information on how to join.

Many Homedale Freestyle Club competitors are coming off a successful middle school season.

Egusquiza (103 pounds) won his second consecutive 3A Snake River Valley district crown. Keagen Christensen won the SRV title at 131 pounds.

HMS missed third place in the district tournament by 3 1/2 points.

“The team wrestled hard and you can’t ask for a better group of kids,” HMS coach Ryan Nash said.

“We have a few things to work

on and too many things to mention to be proud of with these guys. Keep your eye on these kids going into their High School season it will be exciting.”

Ontario won the team title.

Christensen edged Parma’s James Takatori, 9-8, for the 131-pound championship. Egusquiza’s title came with a decision against Weiser’s Kooper Von Brethorst.

Three Trojans came away with silver medals:

- Jace Love (124), pinned by Jacob Walker from Fruitland.
- Owen Houser (170) lost to Erick Lopez of Ontario by fall.
- Dalton Strack (285) lost by fall to Zach Carlson of Ontario.

Third-place victories came for:

- Avery Volk, who needed just 11 seconds to pin Ontario’s Jeremiah Marines at 131 pounds
- Barton Strack, who pinned Dominic Lamb at 1:33 at 145
- Dakota Gammel (152), who edged Ontario’s Cristeon Rodriguez, 3-2

Fourth-place wrestlers were:

- Devin Kent lost by fall to Jasper Stell of Parma at 89 pounds.
- First-year wrestler Bryce Cornwall lost by a fall at the 2:41 mark to Malaki Lopez of Payette at 110 pounds.
- Willy Haun lost in a close, 2-1

decision at 117 pounds against Marcos Grijalva of Ontario.

- Rhylee Nix was pinned at 2:54 of his 160-pound medal match against Chris Arrendondo of Fruitland.

Rounding out the HMS roster Skylr Badiola (9-10 record), Tye Atkins going (14-9), and Obed Palacios, who posted a 7-4 record before his season ended because of injury.

Homedale had three first-time female wrestlers who turned in great seasons, Nash said.

They were all eighth-graders and included Grace Rotter, Savannah Turner, and Kaydince Turner.

Adrian Off-Road Challenge run returns

The Adrian Sports Boosters’ third annual fundraising run will be held on Saturday, March 25.

Proceeds from the Owyhee Off-Road Challenge benefit the ongoing effort to improve the Adrian High School track and field facilities.

Last year’s event attracted nearly 250 participants and raised more than \$5,000.

There will be a half-marathon and 10- and 5-kilometer events for runners and walkers.

The course takes entrants up into the hills of the Owyhees south

of Adrian, offering a scenic route with views of the Snake River Valley.

Chip timing will be provided for all three events. Runners and walkers are welcome regardless of experience.

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.owyheeffroadchallenge.com>. Participants are encouraged to register online, but can register the day of the event.

Information can also be obtained by emailing [adrianboosters@gmail.com](mailto:adrianboosters@gmail.com).

✓ Champs: SRV’s top frosh moves to short

From Page 13A

upperclassmen this year, but junior Dakota Kelly (the 3A Snake River Valley conference player of the year in 2016) will continue in leadership role as the Trojans’ top pitcher. Kelly will platoon at first base with sophomore Josey Hall, who was a junior varsity call-up for last season’s championship run.

Other key returners include juniors Kendall, a middle infielder, and outfielder/second baseman Allison Shenk, and sophomore shortstop Sophie Nash.

Kaylee DeWitt, a junior promoted from the JV last year, also is expected to contribute.

“We are pretty young, so it will be a team effort,” Corta said.

“We do still have Dakota that has thrown in a lot of big games for us. She is very confident in the

circle, and it flows to the rest of the team. Megan, Rian, Kendall and Sophie all return, and that will play a huge part in our success.”

Five sophomores move up to the varsity to fill out the roster, including Olivia Cardenas, who will play outfield and pitch, outfielders Dazsha Zamora and Jayci Swallow, third baseman Amaya Carter and utility player Paige Carter.

Sophie Nash was named conference rookie of the year in her freshman campaign, and looks to slide into the starting role Tristan Corta’s graduation created.

“Sophie has amazing quickness and speed to go along with a great glove and strong arm,” Larry Corta said. “We moved her from third to short, and she is adapting awesome.”

Her cousin, Kendall Nash, re-

turns as a first-team all-conference second baseman.

“Kendall brings an outstanding glove and bat,” Corta said. “Kendall is one of the infield leaders. If the ball is close, Kendall will come up with it.”

Shenk is moving to center field after playing in a utility role last season.

“Allison has awesome speed and gets a great read on the ball,” Corta said.

The coach figures the fight for the district championship will be difficult with strong teams hunting Homedale.

“We have to stick together and play as a team,” he said. “We know we will have a big bull’s-eye on our backs. We have to have each other’s backs.”

— JPB

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# Sports

## Study: Boaters using Owyhee waters spend money elsewhere

### State, BSU survey reveals what county officials already knew

A state survey seems to back up local officials’ assertions that recreation in Owyhee County doesn’t help the economy south of the Snake River as much as it does in other areas.

Power boat owners in all 44 counties were polled about their spending and playing habits for a Boise State University/Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation study.

The survey asked respondents to itemize how much money they spent in 2015 in their home county and how much they spent in the county they visited while power boating. Power boats are defined as anything that can be propelled by a motor or engine from personal watercraft such as jetskis to sailboats.

According to the survey, there were 626 boats registered to Owyhee County residents in 2015. The survey was sent to 213 county households, but only 24 were returned (an 11.3 percent response rate).

Based on the study, boaters visiting Owyhee County sites spent about \$3.6 million on about 9,700 outings. About a quarter of those trips were overnight excursions with an average stay of about four days, which is the eighth-highest total among the state’s counties.

About \$2.5 million of the total spent on fuel, food and beverage and lodging was reported by out-of-county residents.

That lopsided revenue seems to prove county officials’ theory that many out-of-county residents use Owyhee County waterways as their primary source of fun.

County waterways officials long have urged recreationalists to claim Owyhee as their primary place to visit on boat registrations. The county receives state Waterways Improvement Funds based on the number of primary-county claims on boat registrations, and county Vessel

Fund monies are allocated by the local Waterways Committee for boating facility improvements, such as the Black Sands Marina near Grand View and docks at Marsing’s Island Park.

Further backing up local officials’ claims, neighboring counties such as Ada, Canyon and Elmore showed greater economic benefit than Owyhee County.

There were more than 9,200 day and overnight trips reported in Canyon County in 2015 (500 fewer than in Owyhee County), but related spending totaled \$7.2 million, or twice as much as what was spent in Owyhee.

Ada County had nearly 22,500 trips resulting in about \$19 million in spending. Only about \$3 million was spent by out-of-county residents.

The out-of-county boaters vs. resident boaters ratio is similar between Owyhee County and Elmore County, although Elmore had 2.25 times more trips than Owyhee.

Of Elmore County’s more than 21,700 trips, a little more than 5,000 were overnight excursions.

Of the \$10.2 million spent in Elmore County in 2015, \$6.5 million came from out-of-county recreationalists.

The survey also looked at the economic impact power boating had in each county.

According to the study, 25.7 jobs in Owyhee County could be attributed to power boating, resulting in \$412,000 in labor income (salary and benefits). Power boating sales were \$1.22 million.

By comparison, 102 jobs resulting in \$3.185 million in labor income and \$7.74 million in sales were reported for Canyon County.

Elmore County has 64.3 jobs because of power boating with \$1.54 million in labor income and \$3.853 million in sales.



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Owyhee County Church Directory		
<p><b>Calvary Fellowship Homedale</b> Pastor Rich Wright 4220 E Pioneer Road Church time is 10:00 am on Sunday &amp; Wednesday at 7:00 pm River Youth Sunday 6:00pm (208) 880-4033</p>	<p><b>Golden Gate Baptist Church Wilder</b> Pastor Robert Potter, Jr., CLP Corner of Second and "B" Streets Church time is 11:00 am on Sunday Call (208) 880-4308 for information</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of Tears Church Silver City</b> Mass Summer Schedule 1pm June 19 • July 17 • August 14 • Sept. 11 <i>All invited to potluck after each mass in home of Dave Wilper</i> For more information, call St. Paul's Church, Nampa 466-7031</p>
<p><b>Iglesia Misionera Biblica Homedale</b> Pastor Silverio Cardenas Jr. 132 W Owyhee • 337-5975 Servicios: Vier - 7pm - Oracion Mier - 7pm Predicacion Dom - 10am Esc. Dom y 6:30pm "Una Iglesia Diferente."</p>	<p><b>Knight Community Church Grand View</b> Pastor Ivan Shetler 630 Idaho Street 208-834-2639 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am</p>	<p><b>Crossroads Assembly of God Wilder</b> Pastors Ron &amp; Martha Hwy 19 &amp; 95, 890-9132 Sunday School 9:30am Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm Wed. Bible Study 7pm</p>
<p><b>Assembly of God Church Homedale</b> 15 West Montana, 337-4458  Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am Sunday Evening Service 6:00pm Wed. Bible Study 7:00pm Wed. Children &amp; Youth Ministries 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>Friends Community Church Wilder - Homedale</b> 17434 Hwy 95, 337-3464  Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Services: 10:45 am Sundays  www.homedalefriends.org</p>	<p><b>Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church Caldwell</b> 1122 W. Linden St. 459-3653 Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 9:30 am Spanish Mass: Saturday 7:00 pm Spanish Mass: Sunday Noon</p>
<p><b>Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Homedale</b> 337-4248 Sunday Services 10am Pastor Sean Rippey Adult and Children Sunday School 9-9:45am Visitors Always Welcome! Call Church for Prayer requests</p>	<p><b>Chapel of Hope Hope House, Marsing</b> Look for the Blue Church South Bruneau Hwy at the Hope House Welcoming Families, especially those with special needs children. Keith Croft, Pastor 880-2767 Jake &amp; Alisha Henriouille, Youth Pastors 761-6747 Sunday Services at 10 am</p>	<p><b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Homedale</b> 708 West Idaho Ave 337-4112 Bishop Mark Thatcher Bishop Robert T. Christensen Sunday 1st Ward 1pm Sunday 2nd Ward 9am</p>
<p><b>Homedale Baptist Church Homedale</b> 212 S. 1st W. 739-5952  Sunday Worship 11am-Noon</p>	<p><b>Wilder Church of God Wilder</b> 205 A St. E., 649-7698 Pastor Ray Gerthung Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Service 11am Sunday Eve. 6:00pm Wed. Eve. 7:00pm</p>	<p><b>Mountain View Church of the Nazarene Wilder-Homedale</b> 26515 Ustick Road 337-3151 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult &amp; Youth Bible Class: Wednesday 7:00 pm Children's Caravan Program</p>
<p><b>MARSING APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY</b> Asamblea Apostolica de Marsing 107 W. Main • Marsing, Idaho Pastor Jose Gutierrez 208-461-9016 or 880-6172 Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Service 1 pm • Wednesday Service 7 pm Bilingual Services/Español</p>	<p><b>Iglesia Evangelica Wilder</b> 317 3rd st., Pastor Ramiro Reyes 10 am Sunday School 11 am Service 482-7484 Bilingual</p>	<p><b>St. David's Episcopal Church</b> 1800 Arlington Ave. Caldwell, ID 83605  208-459-9261  stdavids@stdavidscaledwell.org www.stdavid.episcopalidaho.org</p>
<p><b>Christian Church Homedale</b> 110 W. Montana Pastor Maurice Jones 208-319-4650 Don Vanderbough 208-867-5418 Sunday Morning Worship 11am Church school 9:45</p>	<p><b>Bible Missionary Church Homedale</b> West Idaho, 337-3425 Pastor Ron Franklin Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Sunday Evening 7pm Wednesday Evening 7:30</p>	<p><b>Assembly of God Church Marsing</b> 139 Kerry, 965-1650 Pastor Rick Sherrow Sunday School 10am Sunday Worship 11am &amp; 6 pm</p>
<p><b>Lizard Butte Baptist Church Marsing</b> Pastor Daniel Swaim 116 4th Ave. W., 859-2059 Sunday worship: Morning: 11am-Noon• Evening: 6-7pm Sunday School 9:45am-10:45am Wednesday evening 7pm-8pm</p>	<p><b>Nazarene Church Marsing</b> Pastor Bill O'Connor 649-5256 12 2nd Avenue West  Worship Services - Sunday 11am and 6pm Sunday School - 9:45am Mid Week TLC Groups</p>	<p><b>Trinity Holiness Church Homedale</b> 119 N. Main Pastor Samuel Page 337-5021 Sunday School 10am Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday Evening 7pm Thursday Evening 7:30pm</p>
<p><b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Marsing</b> 215 3rd Ave. West, 896-4151 Sunday 1st Ward, 1:00 p.m. Bishop Rowley Sunday 2nd Ward, 9:00 a.m. Bishop McIntyre</p>	<p><b>Vision Community Church Marsing</b> 221 West Main Marsing, Idaho 208-779-7926 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Adult, Kids &amp; Youth Meetings Wed. 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church Wilder</b> <b>Exploring the Bible: Public Invited</b> 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday: 4-5pm Corner of 4th St. &amp; B Ave. Pastor Dave Raines 208-880-8751 Sunday Service 9:30am</p>
<p><b>First Presbyterian Church Homedale</b> 320 N. 6th W. Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 11am 208-473-9331</p>	<p><b>Calvary Holiness Church - Wilder</b> Corner of 3rd St. &amp; B Ave. • 208-989-0196 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. Sunday: 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.  Food Pantry hours • 208-989-0226 2nd &amp; 3rd Friday of month 2pm-4pm 4th Friday of month 12-1pm</p>	<p><b>Garnet Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b> 16613 Garnet Rd., Wilder 208-649-5280 Email: garnetSDA@icloud.com Worship 9:30am Sabbath School 10:45am Wednesday Bible Study 7:00-8 pm</p>
<p><b>Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Esperanza Homedale</b>  711 W. Idaho, 463-9569 Pastor Jose Diaz Servicios: Los Domingos 11:00 am</p>	<p><b>Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church - Oreana</b> 2016 Mass Schedule - the following Saturdays at 10:00am Jan. 23 - Feb. 27 - Mar. 19 - Apr. 23 - May 28 June 25 - July 16 BBQ - Aug. 27 - Sept. 24 - Oct. 22 - Nov. 26 - Dec. 17 All are welcome! For more information, call St. Paul's Church, Nampa 466-7031</p>	<p><b>Amistad Cristiana de Wilder UMC</b> Esquina de 4 y calle B Domingos Servicio: 12:00 pm El Ropero (Banco de ropa) Miercoles 12- 2pm Martes y Jueves: 6:30 pm Ingles Sabados: 12:00 pm Arte Infantil Todo en Espanol, Inf. 989 7508</p>





Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Serve a Sensational Side

This pretty side dish is made for sharing. Made with fiber-rich, whole-wheat pasta, colorful plum tomatoes and balanced out by the crisp, bright flavors of balsamic vinegar and fresh basil, this pasta salad is perfect for outdoor events and gatherings. Find more good-for-you recipes at AICR.org.

Pasta Salad with Tomatoes

Reprinted with permission from the American Institute for Cancer Research

Servings: 8

- 8 ounces whole-wheat small pasta (fusilli or farfalle), cooked according to directions
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinegar
- 4 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil, divided
- 1 teaspoon turbinado sugar (optional)
- salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided
- 4 cloves garlic, minced and divided
- 1 medium green bell pepper, finely chopped
- 4 plum or Roma tomatoes, coarsely chopped
- 1 slice whole-wheat or multigrain bread

In bowl, cover and chill pasta. In large mixing bowl, combine vinegar, 2 tablespoons basil, sugar, salt, pepper, red pepper, 2 tablespoons oil and half of minced garlic. Whisk to combine well. Add pasta, bell pepper and tomatoes, and toss gently until well coated. In food processor or blender, pulse bread to produce coarse crumbs. In medium skillet, heat remaining oil over medium-high heat. Stir in breadcrumbs and garlic. Saute 1 1/2-2 minutes until browned and crisp. Remove from heat and let cool. Top pasta with garlic crumbs and remaining basil.

# Easy ALFRESCO Entertaining

FAMILY FEATURES

Warmer weather is often welcome for a variety of reasons, but there's something nearly irresistible about enjoying a meal outdoors. Whether you plan to gather on the patio or pack a picnic for the park, dining al fresco is an easy way to turn a meal into a full-fledged event.

Begin your meal with chicken sandwiches crafted on the grill and a seasonal pasta salad on the side then finish it with a glass of white wine and a dessert made for al fresco entertaining – cheesecake topped with fresh berries and mint.

For more al fresco recipes and entertaining tips, visit Culinary.net.

Pair Like a Pro

When it comes to pairing wine with food, even experts agree that desserts can pose a challenge. A wide variety of flavor combinations can make it hard to find the perfect selection to serve with your sweet treat. While there's no exact science to wine pairing, these simple tips can help you make your selection.

Sweet Cheesecake

A good rule: the lighter the dessert, the lighter the wine. Avoid heavy reds for a sweeter dessert and instead pair with a crisp white like Chardonnay, such as Joseph Carr from Sonoma, California.

Citrusy Lemon Meringue Pie

Lemon flavors can sometimes be polarizing, but complementing this dessert with an equally citrusy wine can work wonders. Try pairing with a food-friendly pinot grigio or a sauvignon blanc.

Rich Chocolate Cake

Red wine with chocolate seems like a no-brainer, but not all red wines are created equal. For a richer delicacy like this devil's food cake, try something like Villa Pozzi Nero D'avola, a more fruit-forward, easy-drinking red varietal.

For more tips and wine selections, visit winefix.com.



Photo courtesy of 275847/Shutterstock.com

New York-Style Honey Cheesecake

Recipe courtesy of the National Honey Board

- 2 cups graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 4 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese
- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup flour
- 5 eggs
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest, grated
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

fresh berries, for garnish

To make crust: In small bowl, stir together graham cracker crumbs and butter until well blended. Press mixture evenly onto bottom and sides of greased 9-inch springform pan; set aside. Heat oven to 350 F. To make filling: In electric mixer bowl, combine cream cheese, honey and flour. Beat until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each. Beat in cream, lemon zest and vanilla.

Pour cream cheese mixture over crust; bake 15 minutes. Lower oven temperature to 200 F and bake 1 hour and 30 minutes longer, or until center no longer looks wet or shiny. With oven off and door ajar, let cheesecake cool 1 hour in oven. Remove cheesecake to rack to cool completely. Cover and refrigerate cheesecake at least 4 hours before serving. Garnish with fruit and fresh mint. Pair with chardonnay like Joseph Carr.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Go for Grilled Chicken

Few things go better with warm weather than firing up the grill and enjoying a meal in the fresh air. These chicken sandwiches, which are topped with Brie, pesto, fresh tomato and arugula on sourdough bread and toasted on the grill, are just the excuse you need to get outside and enjoy the weather with family and friends. Find more patio-perfect recipes at chickenroost.com.

Grilled Chicken Sandwiches with Pesto, Brie and Arugula

Recipe courtesy of the National Chicken Council

Servings: 4

- 1/2 cup olive oil, divided
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 1 pound thin-cut chicken cutlets
- 1/4 cup basil pesto, divided
- 1 large tomato
- 8 slices crusty sourdough bread

- 4 ounces Brie, thinly sliced
- 1 cup packed baby arugula

Heat grill to high. Combine 1/4 cup olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt and pepper; pour into plastic zipper bag. Add chicken, seal and marinate at least 30 minutes. Grill chicken 2-3 minutes, turn and grill another 2-3 minutes, or until chicken registers internal temperature of 160 F. Remove and reserve. Spread each piece of bread with 1/2 tablespoon pesto. Slice tomato into eight slices. Place chicken on four bread slices. Top with Brie slices, arugula and two tomato slices. Top with remaining bread slices, pesto side toward tomato. Brush outside of each sandwich with about 1/2 tablespoon of remaining olive oil. Place on grill, reduce heat to medium and grill 2-3 minutes per side, or until bread is nicely toasted and cheese is melted. Remove from heat, cut each sandwich in half and serve.



# Looking back...

*from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle*

## 25 years ago

March 18, 1992

### Courts near completion

Three new tennis courts are scheduled for completion by March 30, to coincide with the end of Homedale schools’ spring break, according to tennis coach Karen Smyth. Smyth said the asphalt was poured for the courts Wednesday. The construction of the courts was a community project that began last June. It started when Jim Smyth, tennis coach, saw a late-night television newscast on a Boise developer planning to remove four tennis courts from a subdivision. Smyth contacted the developer, who agreed to donate the material from the courts to Homedale.

### Council discusses annexations

The Homedale City Council considered proposed annexations of surrounding land into Homedale city limits at Wednesday night’s monthly meeting at city hall. According to Larry Bauer, city superintendent, the annexations will include all locations that receive city services. He said the council does not plan to annex property across the river at this time.

### HES announces students of the month

Homedale Elementary School has named the Students of the Month for February. They are as follows: K1 a.m. - K.C. Miyasako, K1 p.m. - Crystal Boatman, K2 a.m. - Jason Culler, and K2 p.m. - Mark Mashburn. 1A – Michael Shenk, 1B – Lora DeGeus, 1C – Mark George, and 1D – Jeremy Leslie. 2A – Steven Dickson, 2B – Jannelle Williams, 2C – Becky Butler, and 2D – Samantha Vaughn. 3A – Tonya Grimes, 3B – Angela Kennedy, and 3C – Alicia Rojero. 4A – Jessica Washburn, 4B – Daniel Addington, and 4C – Melanie Page. 5A – Susana Castro, 5B – Amber Tackett, and 5C – Samarlita Caldwell. 6A – Noclia Elias, 6B – Kenny Thomas, and 6C – Shelly Ponder.

### Wright enjoys rodeos, futurities

Barbara Wright, Owyhee County Treasurer, has worked for the county for 19 years. Wright worked in the sheriff’s office for 14 years, before transferring to the treasurer’s office. She said she transferred so she would have an opportunity for advancement. She was elected treasurer two years ago, and said she enjoys her job because it allows her to get acquainted with people throughout the county. Wright lives in Murphy with husband Lonnie Wright, who also works for the county, as assessor. Wright was raised in Elko County, Nev., and said she loves Owyhee County because it is a lot like home. In her free time, she enjoys rodeos. She has flagged timed events for the Owyhee County Rodeo, held in Homedale each summer.

### Lady Mustangs state champions for 2<sup>nd</sup> year

The Lady Mustangs entered the State Tournament as number one in District 4-1A. They played their first game against East Linn Christian at Baker High and beat them 55-21 on Wednesday, March 4. It was a great ball game for Maria Begay, Sheila Dougal, and Kathy Arreola scoring-and rebounding-wise. Robbin Skinner played great defense on the inside. “It was a real good first round win for us,” stated Coach Joel Richardson. The State Championship game was against St. Paul, a team rated number one by everyone all year in the polls. The game ended up Jordan Valley 59, St. Paul 55. It was a great game, which Jordan Valley pretty much controlled. Robbin Skinner and Kathy Arreola made two free throws each late in the game.

## 50 years ago

March 16, 1967

### Mrs. Harold Wilson named Mrs. Congeniality

Mrs. Harold Wilson of Homedale was one of the five finalists and was selected as “Mrs. Congeniality” during the “Mrs. Idaho” contest held at the Borah High School in Boise Saturday. Mrs. Wilson was sponsored by St. Hubert’s Altar Society and Alpha Phi chapter, Beta Sigma Phi. The contest is conducted in the Northwest by the Intermountain Network and the Gold Strike Stamp Company. After a personal interview with all the Idaho contestants, the judges selected Mrs. Wilson as one of the ten finalists to compete in the state final competition. During the finals they were judged on safe driving, cooking and serving a luncheon for the five judges, arranging a floral centerpiece and giving a five minute talk on creative expression.

### Pitching machine ordered for baseball teams

Total to date on the collection of funds for a pitching machine to be used by the summer baseball leagues and the school baseball teams is \$318.00. The machine costs \$325.00 plus freight and has been ordered through the high school. The high school athletic group donated the difference to place the order. Mrs. Carl Hays and Robert Hays spearheaded the collection for the community project. Many other interested area citizens assisted. The following businesses and individuals contributed: Don Parker, J. C. Jackson, Dick Fry, Lewis Kushlan, Darrel Reisch, Rife Wilson and Przybylski, Bob Watson, Robert Hays, J. Kubosumi, Ronald Pottenger, Poke Henson, Frosty Palace, Owyhee Motor Sales, Bestway Building Center, Harold Wilson, Ray Tolsma, Mac Tolmie, Red Stone, Carroll Johnstone, Carol Hays, Frank Tanikuni, Two Boys Store, Norval Goodloe, George Murray, John Kushlan, Paul Zatica, Texaco 24 Hour Service, John Echevarria, Tom Orris, Frye Agency, Bicandi’s, Julian Landa, Dale Dickson, Darwin Drum, Frank Garrett and Charles DeGeus. Any donations received after the purchase will be placed in a fund to maintain the pitching machine. Darrel Reisch, principal of the high school, expressed the appreciation of all who were involved in the project.

### Chamber hears discussion on swimming pool

Two swimming pool contractors gave Chamber of Commerce members an idea as to what it is going to cost to build the proposed community swimming pool in Homedale at the regular bi-monthly noon luncheon meeting at Bicandi’s Café. Jack Straubher, engineer for A and J Construction Co., of Homedale, and Harvey Hoff, owner-manager of Hoff’s Better Living Center in Caldwell, were guests at the meeting and explained what would be required to build a pool in the city. Straubher had reportedly built the swimming pools in Mountain Home and Meridian and Hoff built the pool in Parma. Hoff pointed out that the entire pool complex, which would include dressing rooms for men and women, an office, lighting, fencing, sidewalks and parking area completely landscaped would cost approximately \$100,000. However, he added that there were three ways to build the pool, to have bids on it, to hire a contractor to build it, or to have the city and its organizations themselves build it. He pointed out that the latter method was probably the most feasible for the city. Hoff said that the pool itself with just the fencing to begin with could be built for about \$40,000. He went on to say that different civic organizations could then have their own project to put in the sidewalks, decking, office, dressing rooms, landscaping and parking areas. This could be done over a several year period so as not to burden the city or any organization, he added. In this way the total cost might not exceed \$60,000.

## 140 years ago

March 17, 1877

FROM AN OLD FRIEND. A gentleman writing us from the “Hub of the Universe” in Massachusetts says: It looks very much like old times to see your name hung out at the head of such a lively, newsy sheet as the Avalanche – a bouncing name that. It must have rolled off some Hill and stuck fast in Silver until it could raise Hay, none of your swale stuff but good, upland intellectual fodder “paregorically speaking,” to quote from Mrs. Partington. Your columns indicate that your have still got some flesh on your bones and are not in a degenerate frame of mind. I should like to come and see you. Have lots of leisure, and I have a regiment of friends in the same predicament. The result of the Presidential election might leave me in the enjoyment of a post tradership! Shades of Grant’s brother forbid such degradation. I have some friends who are pretty low down, whose politics lead them in that direction and who may be induced to undertake that line of business. I should want you to say a good word for the Administration and thus indirectly help them. I know that a good word from you would help anybody; also that when the Avalanche gets rolling and tumbling for anybody, that is, going for them, with you kicking it along, the best thing that such party can do is to own up squarely that the Avalanche is a power and to get out of its way and that too in a hurry. J. C. B.

THE NEW DISPENSATION. Hayes is the first President of the United States who did not receive at least a plurality of the popular vote. No other President was ever inaugurated who did not receive more votes than his opponent. Hayes is the first President ever inaugurated who did not have a majority of the House of Representatives in favor of his administration. Hayes is the first President suspected by a large majority of the people of not being fairly elected. Hayes is the first President who was not declared elected by a majority of both Houses of Congress. Hayes is the first President who owes his election to an illegal and unconstitutional returning board; and Hayes is the first President styled “His Fraudulency.”

THE ROADS. The condition of the road from here to Winnemucca is even worse than usual for this season of the year. The stages have been arriving for the last few days, later than usual, and must unavoidably be behind time for a week or two to come. They came in on runners – the Boise stage from Reynold’s Creek and the Winnemucca stage from Boonville – probably for the last time this season on Tuesday evening. From Walls to Trout Creek the mud holes are numerous and through Jordan Valley the road is almost one vast sea of mud. The position of driver is no sinecure at this season of the year. The boys have a hard time of it and are entitled to a great deal of sympathy.

THE CATTLE. Nearly all the stock men of Owyhee and Jordan Valley have been down to the Owyhee Ferry for the past two weeks looking after their cattle and making arrangements to designate and separate them for the coming season. There are several thousand head of cattle in that immediate vicinity at the present time, and the job that the owners have on hand will probably occupy most of the month of March.

MINERS’ UNION BALL. The anniversary of the Fairview Miners’ Union will be appropriately celebrated on Thursday evening next, 22d instant. There will be a ball at Hicks’ Hall on Thursday evening; the preparations for which are going forward at a lively rate. The affair has been entrusted to several energetic gentlemen whose names are a guarantee of success. The price of tickets has been put down to a reasonably low figure, which includes supper, etc. The purposes and objects of this association are such as to commend themselves to all classes of people and it is, therefore, hoped, that the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be equal to any of its predecessors.



# Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



## On the edge of common sense Miserable

March came in like a lion and left the door open  
It's blowed like a banshee for weeks  
I saddle and ride like some kind of robot  
She builds up a temper and shrieks

The constant thrumming that grates on my skin  
And pulls on my collar and coat  
Like an EPA leech that's hooked to my lungs  
And blowin' its breath down my throat

I squint through the haze for a sign of the bunch  
I'm s'posed to be checkin' the stock  
But great herds of sagebrush stampede through the dust  
And often a cow is a rock.

My patience wears thin and my horse bears the brunt  
Of frustration rubbin' me raw  
I've ground my poor teeth 'til they've taken an edge  
My reins hand is stiff as a claw

And there ain't no relief in the bunkhouse at night  
It howls and the demons rave on  
It whistles and moans through the cracks in the wall  
'Til all hope of sleepin' is gone

My ears ache like crazy. My hair even hurts  
The drumming plays on in my head  
It pounds until mornin'. It takes all my strength  
To get up and git outta bed.

I'm dry as a mummy and I plan to get up, but  
It's easy to rationalize  
And the horses need fed and walked to the creek  
So I clean the dirt from my eyes

And walk to the door. I hear the wind knockin'  
I'm filled with a big dose of dread  
I sag in my boot tops. It's miserable out  
Ya know, I could braid rawhide instead

The boss ain't comin' for a couple more days, but  
The code says a cowboy should ride  
Come heck or high water, but I think today  
I'll just be miserable ... inside

— Visit Baxter's Web site at [www.baxterblack.com](http://www.baxterblack.com) for more features and to purchase Baxter Black books, CDs and DVDs.

## Letter to the editor

### Labrador unable to find time to meet senior citizens

Congressman Raúl Labrador has again insulted Owyhee County — this time its senior citizens — by refusing to commit to a meeting with seniors to hear concerns on protecting Medicare and Social Security. Owyhee residents were previously slighted when he provided no advance notice via news media during the “tour of the counties in his district” last year.

After more than three phone calls to his D.C. and local offices — beginning in January — I was finally contacted by a staffer who schedules his Idaho appearances, who advised me to send an email, explaining our planned event.

The event would be held at least a month in advance during a “working recesses,” giving us time to place notices in monthly senior center newsletters and the weekly paper. Also, many seniors need to work around medical appointments. Those who no longer drive must arrange transportation.

The Sandbar Café management graciously agreed to hold the event in Marsing on a Saturday afternoon to avoid the busier weekday lunch crowds. Questions would be confined to Medicare, Social Security and the COLA (cost

of living allowance) formula. The president pledged during his campaign to not touch these programs, but conflicting information was coming from congress members. AARP was running commercials on TV, questioning the intent of congress.

Sounds pretty simple, right? But after three emails and four more phone calls, the congressman's office has failed to provide a specific timeframe for the next “work period,” stating only that “it's in April,” and that they “can't commit to anything more than a week or two ahead.” We have been given a “soft no”.

Remembering a famous debate several years ago, we could advertise this event, stating “Maybe the congressman will attend,” and in his absence, pose questions to an empty chair.

Just what is a “work recess” or “work period”? Don't the congress members work for the voters? Idaho residents over the age of 60 make up almost 38 percent of the registered voters. We won't forget this.

Pam Roylance  
Marsing

Sen. Mike Crapo

## From Washington

### President, Congress ready to work for economic, national security



In his recent speech before Congress, President Donald Trump outlined a message of optimism that resonated with many. He laid forth an ambitious agenda that, if we work together to implement, will strengthen America.

The president offered an agenda rooted in personal liberty and economic freedom with three bold agenda priorities:

- to strengthen our national security;
- provide for our veterans; and
- unleash robust job creation.

Many military families, including those at Idaho's own Mountain Home Air Force Base and those serving out of Gowen Field have been engaged in the ongoing global war on terrorism. We must continue our commitment to protect our communities while also providing for our military personnel who selflessly volunteer to serve, as well as their families. I also agree that we must prioritize veterans. The feedback I have received from Idaho's veteran community has focused much of my work in the Senate, and I welcome the president's plans to ensure we honor our commitments to those who have served.

The president highlighted his work to establish task forces in every government agency to reduce regulation and limit the explosive growth of our government. Further, he has implemented a plan calling for the elimination of two old regulations for every new regulation. I welcome both of these approaches that will

make government more efficient and responsive to the people it serves. The president's recent action to scale back the overreaching “Waters of the United States” rule is also welcome.

Further, the president addressed the need to repeal and replace Obamacare with a plan that offers real choice and access to many plans that are truly affordable. In Idaho, as in many states, only one health provider with costly premiums is serving some counties. During my town meetings and in the letters and emails to my office, Idahoans have shared stories about premium spikes, high deductibles, and lack of access to doctors and choices. The president also spoke about maintaining coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions, the expansion of Health Savings Accounts for individuals to purchase the plans that work best for them and their families, and for consumers to buy insurance across state lines.

Additionally, the president spoke about the urgent need to deliver real, meaningful tax reform. For our working, middle-class families and small business owners, creating a level playing field will spur economic growth and enable U.S. companies, manufacturers and service providers to compete fairly in an ever-increasing global economy. I have long supported comprehensive tax reform, and it is essential for Congress to act on this priority for our nation's

— See *Work*, Page 21A

## Americans for Limited Government

### GOP must do what's necessary to fix health care system

by Robert Romano

One obvious drawback to the new health care system proposed by Congressional Republicans from a free market perspective is the continued presence of private insurance subsidies, this time via refundable tax credits.

It raises an obvious question: If the Republican legislative plan to repeal Obamacare is a “market-based” approach to health care that will bring down costs, why do private insurance policies need to be subsidized?

Contextually, the proposed bill fails to repeal or address the Obamacare insurance regulations, the American Medical Association's monopoly on doctor certification

via control of medical schools, the Food and Drug Administration monopoly on approving new drugs, and the government-created state-by-state insurance monopolies, which appear to drive up the cost of premiums by limiting competition. It does not address medical malpractice reform.

These are some of the historic cost-drivers that make it harder if not impossible to bring affordable, alternative insurance policies to patients.

Where is the Uber of insurance companies?

We're told by GOP Congressional leaders that the reason the bill does not go after any of these cost-drivers is because

of Senate rules on reconciliation that limit votes to only tax and spending items with direct budgetary impact.

Meaning, Congressional Republicans are crafting a new national health care system — comprising almost one-fifth of the \$18.6 trillion U.S. economy — based on what the Senate parliamentarian will allow to get through on budget reconciliation. That is no way to construct a policy of such significance, but here we are.

There are other problems — such as encouraging further Medicaid expansion through the end of 2019, including the federal matching funds, and \$2 billion a year for “safety

— See *Health care*, Page 21A



Commentary

Financial management  
Warehouse stores are great, but watch your spending

Dear Dave,  
I know you're big on bargains and saving money. How do you feel about warehouse clubs, like Costco and Sam's Club?  
— Jessica

Dear Jessica,  
We have both of those in our neighborhood, and I'm a big fan. There are definitely some good buys and great bargains to be had in places like that. To be honest, my wife is probably a bigger fan than I am. I suspect we save more money from her trips than mine to those spots.  
I will advise you to watch your spending carefully in warehouse clubs. Most people overbuy in

situations like that, especially those of us who are spenders by nature. Believe it or not, I'm a spender by nature. To this day, if I'm not careful, I'm still bad about buying things I don't need — or too much of the things I do need — in warehouse clubs.  
Have fun in there, and make sure you find some steals on smart things you can stock up on. Just don't go crazy and wreck your budget by overspending!  
— Dave

Dear Dave,  
I'm 26, and I've been running my own business as sole proprietor for a year and a half. My gross revenues are about \$94,000, and



DAVE Says  
by Dave Ramsey • www.davesays.org

my personal net worth is around \$68,000. Is there an asset level

you recommend reaching before moving to LLC status?  
— Meghan

Dear Meghan,  
There's not really a magic number for this kind of thing. In your case, I wouldn't go to the trouble for an LLC right now. You don't need the hassle of extra paperwork and the expense of processing and filing fees. Just make sure you have normal, liability-type insurance in place. That shouldn't cost a lot of money.  
The main reason you would consider shifting to an LLC is if you had reached a point in life as a business owner where you were afraid you might have a target

on your back. By that, I mean you would want protection in the event of a lawsuit if your company had grown to sizable proportions and you had begun to accumulate substantial personal assets.  
At this stage, I don't think anyone's going to bother you.  
— Dave

— Dave Ramsey has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 12 million listeners each week on 575 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

✓ Work: Border enforcement key to immigration reform

From Page 20A  
economic security and prosperity.  
Finally, President Trump addressed the need to enforce our immigration laws to protect both our economic and national security.  
I have long maintained that any immigration reforms must commit the resources necessary to have the strongest possible border enforcement while reforming our screening and vetting process. I agree with the president that we can develop meaningful immigration policies that meet these priorities.  
We have our work cut out for us, but we have a great opportunity within reach to truly bring about needed changes. Many of the president's proposals echo the

concerns and questions I heard during my more than 200 town meetings across Idaho, and this agenda contains many areas for bipartisan agreement and cooperation. As the president aptly emphasized, "We all salute the same, great American flag." I look forward to working with my colleagues of both parties to find ways that Congress can move this agenda forward responsibly for the strength and prosperity of our nation.  
— Republican Mike Crapo is Idaho's senior member of the U. S. Senate. He is in his fourth six-year term and has served in the Senate since 1999. Prior to that, he was a three-term Idaho Second District congressman.

Contacting elected officials

District 23 legislators  
Terms expire 2016  
Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson)  
48331 Three Creek Highway  
Rogerson, ID 83302  
Phone — (208) 857-2217  
E-mail — bbrackett@senate.idaho.gov  
Committees  
Transportation (chair)  
Resources & Environment  
Seat A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett)  
P.O. Box 61, Hammett, ID 83627  
Phone — (208) 590-4633  
E-mail — czito@house.idaho.gov  
Committees  
Agricultural Affairs  
Judiciary, Rules & Administration  
State Affairs  
Seat B Rep. Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett)  
595 W. Thacker Road

Hammett, ID 83627  
Phone — (208) 366-7976  
E-mail — mblanksma@house.idaho.gov  
Committees  
Health & Welfare  
Local Government  
Resources & Conservation  
County commissioners  
Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson)  
Phone — (208) 318-8308  
Term expires 2018  
Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale)  
Phone — (208) 249-4405  
E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com  
Term expires 2020  
Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View)  
Phone — (208) 834-2641  
E-mail — jvmerrick@hotmail.com  
Term expires 2018  
Mailing address  
P.O. Box 128, Murphy, ID 83650

✓ Health care: Senate parliamentarian stands between reform, status quo

From Page 20A  
net funding" for non-expansion states — but they arise as political choices made by Congressional leaders not constraints from the reconciliation process.  
In 2015, Republicans passed budget reconciliation legislation, H.R. 3762, which former President Barack Obama vetoed in 2016, which included ending Medicaid expansion, premium subsidies, cost-sharing subsidies, the individual and employer mandates, reinsurance, risk corridors and risk-adjustment, and the taxes and spending from the health care law.  
This set the minimal standard for what might be achieved under the reconciliation process, but notably missing were some of the same cost-drivers enumerated above and market reforms that might address them.  
So, let us not pretend we are driving down costs — instead, we are padding these shortcomings with billions of dollars of new tax credit subsidies. It is a new entitlement. And if history is any judge, it will never go away.  
From 2000 to 2015, the nominal growth of health care premiums — individual and family — have consistently outpaced the nominal growth of household median income, according to data compiled by the Kaiser Family Foundation and the U.S. Census Bureau.  
Individual premiums grew an average 7 percent a year, family premiums grew 7.6 percent a year — but incomes

only grew 2.1 percent.  
That said, the growth rate of health care premiums was already coming down throughout the 2000s before Obamacare was enacted. In 2011, after the insurance regulations of the health care law went into effect, there was another tremendous spike in premiums.  
A cynic might suggest the now GOP-proposed tax credits appear as a tacit admission on lawmakers' parts that they do not believe costs are coming down. That must be because they do not think market-based reforms are ever going to be implemented — and so they buy into the idea that health care must be subsidized in order to be affordable.  
If the plan now under consideration truly brought down costs, nobody would think it needs to be subsidized — and nobody would be talking about future phases to get the job done.  
If the biggest impediment to real, market-based health care reform is the Harry Reid-appointed Senate parliamentarian — Elizabeth MacDonough — then it's time to overrule her and change the rules, either by expanding what types of provisions can be included under reconciliation or, ideally, by just eliminating the legislative filibuster.  
Since the advent of the cloture rule in 1917 — now 100 years old — Republicans have never had a filibuster-proof majority. And if history holds, they never will. Over that

time, the size and scope of the federal government has dramatically expanded — and been locked in — because of Senatorial supermajorities Democrats gained in the 1930s, 1960s, 1970s and in 2009-10, when Obamacare was enacted.  
The filibuster has not served to limit government. It has locked in its maximization and made the free market something of a fairy tale. Moreover, with the direct election of senators, the Senate cloture rule is an unnecessary antique, when voters can hold senators accountable via elections. Overall, eliminating the filibuster would make the government more responsive to the will of the people.  
It would also open up tax reform, entitlement reform and you name it over the next couple of years.  
If the Senate overreaches in a non-filibuster world, the American people would be able to respond at the polls — just as they will sure react if Congressional Republicans fail to keep their campaign promises.  
President Donald Trump in all likelihood will never be more powerful than he is right now. You don't get to Phase 2 if Phase 1 fails. If Senate rules stand in the way of implementing free market reforms, then change Senate rules and fix our broken health care system, including eliminating subsidies. No more excuses.  
— Robert Romano is the senior editor of Americans for Limited Government.



# Public notices

**NOTICE OF TRUSTEE NOMINATION EASTERN OWYHEE COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that nominating petitions will be accepted for the position of Eastern Owyhee County Library District Trustee on or before March 17, 2017. Petitions are available at the library at 520 Boise Avenue, Grand View, Idaho. Candidates for the position of trustee must be qualified electors and residents of the Eastern Owyhee County Library District. One (1) position is available for a six (6) year term. One position is available to finish out a term of two (2) years and one to finish a term of four (4) years. An election will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2017, if there is more than one (1) person running for any of the aforementioned positions. For further information, contact Tammy L. Gray, Clerk of the Board, 520 Boise Avenue, Grand View, Idaho, 83624.  
Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2017.  
Tammy L. Gray  
3/15/2017

**LEIN SALE**  
Market Road Storage abandoned storage sale on 3/25/2017 at 9-10am, 4595 E. Market Rd, Homedale, ID 83628.  
Kathy Harris #3-5 c/o Ashley Manor, Aaron Brook Place, 9337 W. Conley Ln, Boise, ID 83704. Unit contains household items.  
3/15,22/20170

**NOTICE**  
Bybee Air will be conducting aerial applications in and around the areas of Bruneau, Grand View, Mtn. Home, Homedale and Marsing during the months beginning March 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016.  
If you have any concerns or questions regarding operations in the vicinity or over your property, please contact your neighboring farmer or Bybee Air Service 541-372-5232 or 208-590-9792.  
3/15-4/12/2017

**THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION HAS BEEN FILED TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO:**  
NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF WATER RIGHT, TRANSFER NO. 81278  
MURPHY FLATS WATER CO INC, PO BOX 3110, PASCO, WA 99302-3110; has filed Application No. 81278 for changes to the following water rights within OWYHEE County(s): Right No(s). 2-10020, 2-2361, 2-2370, 2-7001, 57-179, 57-180B, 57-181, 57-7152, 57-7385. This transfer proposes to create a 4,687 acre POU within a 5,115 acre PPU for 9 water rights that total 4,882 acres of irrigation use. A consolidation of 195 acres is proposed. Changes to diversions or delivery methods are not included. The farm is located approximately 4 miles SE of Murphy, ID.  
For additional information

Owyhee County NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILING DEADLINE			
Pursuant to Idaho Code §34-1404, notice is hereby given for the candidate filing deadline for the following taxing districts that will be conducting candidate elections in Owyhee County on May 16, 2017. In order to appear on the election ballot, a candidate must file a Declaration of Candidacy form with the office of said districts as stated below. Declaration of Candidacy forms can be obtained at the district's office or the Election Office at the Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Highway 78, Murphy, ID. Forms are also available online at www.owyheecounty.net, elections, election forms. Declarations of Candidacy must be submitted to the District Clerk or Secretary no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 17, 2017 (Idaho Code §34-1404 the 9 <sup>th</sup> Friday prior to the Election). Individuals who run as write-in candidates must file a Declaration of Intent no later than 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2017 (this is a Saturday so Declarations can be received on Monday April 3, 2017 no later than 5:00 p.m.) (Idaho Code §34-1407 the 45 <sup>th</sup> day prior to the election).			
NAME AND ADDRESS OF TAXING DISTRICT		POSITION OPEN	
Bruneau Grand View School District			
39678 State Highway 78	-	Trustee Zone 1	
Bruneau, Idaho 83604	-	Trustee Zone 3	
	-	Trustee Zone 5	
Castlefjord School District			
500 Main Street	-	Trustee Zone 4	
Castlefjord, Idaho 83321	-	Trustee Zone 5	
Glenns Ferry School District			
800 Old Highway 30	-	Trustee Zone 4	
Glenns Ferry, Idaho 83623	-	Trustee Zone 5	
Homedale School District			
116 East Owyhee Avenue	-	Trustee Zone 2	
Homedale, Idaho 83628	-	Trustee Zone 3	
	-	Trustee Zone 4	
Marsing School District			
209 8th Avenue West	-	Trustee Zone 1	
Marsing, Idaho 83639	-	Trustee Zone 3	
	-	Trustee Zone 5	
Melba School District			
600 Broadway	-	Trustee Zone 4	
Melba, Idaho 83641	-	Trustee Zone 5	
Pleasant Valley School District			
28026 Juniper Mountain Road			
Jordan Valley, Oregon 97910	-	Trustee Zone 3	
Three Creek Elementary School			
49913 Three Creek Highway	-	Trustee Zone 1	
Rogerson ,Idaho 83302	-	Trustee Zone 2	
	-	Trustee Zone 3	
Gem Highway District			
1016 Main Street	-	Commissioner #1	
Marsing, Idaho 83639	-	Commissioner #2	
Homedale Highway District			
102 E Colorado Street	-	Commissioner Sub-District #2	
Homedale, Idaho 83628			
Three Creek Highway District			
56562 Blossom Road	-	Commissioner Districtwide (Position 1)	
Rogerson, Idaho 83302	-	Commissioner Districtwide (Position 2)	
Bruneau Valley Library			
32073 Ruth Street	-	Trustee Districtwide	
Bruneau, Idaho 83604			
Lizard Butte Library			
111 3rd Avenue West	-	Trustee (Position 1)	
Marsing, Idaho 83639	-	Trustee (Position 2)	
	-	Trustee (Position 3)	
3/8/2017			
concerning the property location, contact Western Region office at (208) 334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s) or proposed transfer(s), please see www.idwr.idaho.gov. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-222. Any protest against the proposed change(s) must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 4/3/2017. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant. GARY SPACKMAN, Director 3/15,22/2017			

## Classifieds

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Interested citizens discuss BLM travel management plans with Bruneau Field Office outdoor recreation planner David Draheim (second from left) and Bruneau Assistant Field Manager TJ Clifford (right) during at March 1 public meeting in Nampa. Photo by Michael Williamson, BLM

# Time’s running out to comment on BLM travel management

Five times as many people showed up for a travel management public meeting in Nampa than did in Grand View earlier this month even though the Bureau of Land Management proposals pertain to Owyhee County ground.

The BLM is taking public input on the Canyonlands West and Grand View TMPs. The comment deadline is Tuesday, March 28.

BLM Boise District public affairs Michael Williamson said District 2 County Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi was among

about 50 people who turned out at the Nampa Civic Center public meeting last Wednesday. District 3 Commissioner Joe Merrick was among the 10 folks who turned out for the Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School public meeting on Feb. 28.

“Nampa was a good meeting,” Sullivan said. “Lots of motorcycle interests showed up, (and there were) lots of good conversations. My impression was most of the interest was on the Grand View TMP area.”

## HOMEDALE BOOSTERS THANK YOU!

To all who gave of their time by volunteering and helping at the Booster Crab/Steak feed and auction, we thank you!!!! The combined event raised a profit of just over \$28,000. The Boosters would like to acknowledge what outstanding donations and support have been given toward this fundraiser and it definitely confirms the historic “Homedale Pride.”

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Today




64°  
44°  
Rain likely

Thu




59° 35°

Fri




67° 47°

Sat




60° 45°

Sun




61° 37°

Mon



60° 35°

Tue



60° 35°

SNOTEL report, Owyhee County sensors

	Snow Equiv.	Snow Depth	Year-to-date Precip.	Previous day’s temperature		
		(measured in inches)		Max	Min	Avg
				(measured in Fahrenheit)		
<b>Mud Flat</b>						
3/07	7.8	17	11.4	35	26	31
3/08	8.5	19	11.9	47	34	40
3/09	8.1	16	11.9	53	37	44
3/10	7.1	15	12.0	53	29	42
3/11	6.5	15	12.0	54	28	42
3/12	6.1	13	12.0	54	32	42
3/13	5.7	12	12.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Reynolds Creek</b>						
3/07	5.7	14	13.6	36	24	30
3/08	5.3	16	13.8	46	34	40
3/09	5.2	13	13.9	49	39	44
3/10	4.5	10	14.2	50	37	44
3/11	3.7	8	14.2	52	35	45
3/12	2.8	7	14.3	51	36	43
3/13	2.1	4	14.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>South Mountain</b>						
3/07	18.7	56	24.2	33	24	29
3/08	19.5	59	24.8	45	33	38
3/09	19.5	55	25.2	49	38	43
3/10	19.0	52	25.2	49	37	42
3/11	19.0	50	25.2	49	36	42
3/12	18.4	49	25.2	52	33	42
3/13	18.3	47	25.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation website showed that the Owyhee Reservoir was 77 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 4,700 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 951 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 554,112 acre-feet of water on Monday

— Information compiled from the National Weather Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Helena Chemical in Homedale

## Homedale FFA plans Ag Day breakfast

Homedale FFA will celebrate the 44<sup>th</sup> annual National Agriculture Day with a breakfast, and chapter members are encouraging their fellow students to drive their tractors to school.

National Agriculture Day takes place Tuesday and will be celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The 2017 theme is “Agriculture: Food For Life.”

Homedale’s FFA chapter will


serve a free community breakfast from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. on Tuesday inside the Homedale High School Ag shop. The menu will include serving pancakes, eggs, and sausage as well as juice and coffee as the chapter thanks folks involved in the agriculture industry.

Homedale FFA chapter advisor Sue Poland said her students are hoping to see a large turnout from the community.

The National Ag Day program

encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.



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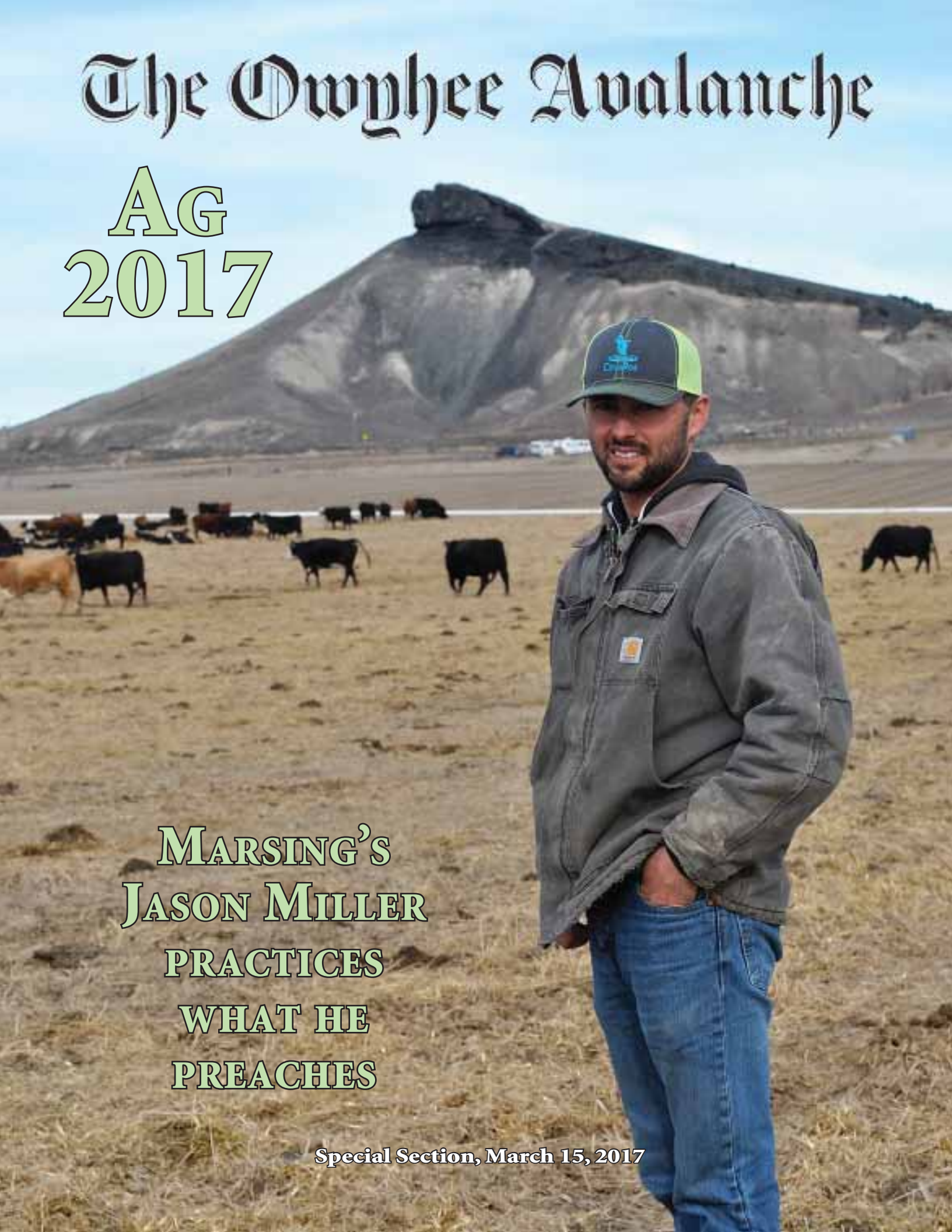


# The Owyhee Avalanche

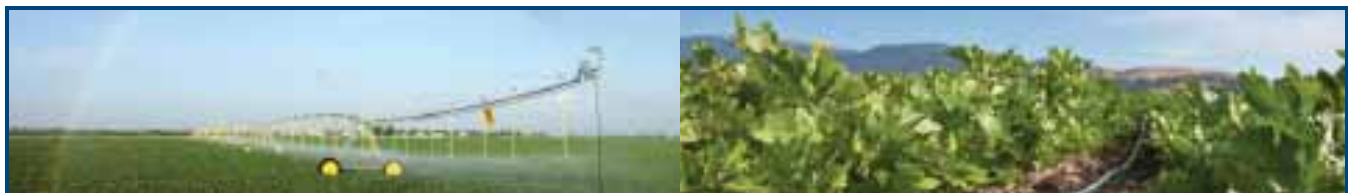
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JASON MILLER  
PRACTICES  
WHAT HE  
PREACHES

Special Section, March 15, 2017







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## By the numbers

### Where Owyhee County stands

How Owyhee County stacks up regionally and statewide in some agricultural categories, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service 2016 Idaho Annual Statistical Bulletin.

**Note** — 2016 stats for some categories aren't available yet:

#### Cattle and calves

##### Total herd

2016 — 165,000 head

2015 — 155,000 head

**Change** — Up 10,000 head (6.5%)

2016 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2016 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup>

2015 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Beef cows

##### Total herd

2016 — 48,500 head

2015 — 43,000 head

**Change** — Up 5,500 head (12.8%)

2016 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2016 state rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 state rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Milk cows

##### Total herd

2016 — 26,500 head

2015 — 26,000 head

**Change** — Up 500 head (1.9%)

2016 SW Idaho rank — 2<sup>nd</sup>

2015 SW Idaho rank — 2<sup>nd</sup>

2016 state rank — 6<sup>th</sup>

2015 state rank — 6<sup>th</sup>

#### Barley

##### Acreage planted

2015 — 2,000

2014 — 1,800

**Change** — Up 200 acres (11.1%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 state rank — 21<sup>st</sup> (tied)

2014 state rank — 23<sup>rd</sup>

##### Acreage harvested

2015 — 1,850

2014 — 800

**Change** — Up 1,050 acres (131.3%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 state rank — 21<sup>st</sup>

2014 state rank — 21<sup>st</sup>

##### Yield overall

2015 — 207,000 bushels

2014 — 89,000 bushels

**Change** — Up 118,000 bushels (132.6%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 state rank — 19<sup>th</sup>

2014 state rank — 21<sup>st</sup>

##### Yield per acre

2015 — 111.9 bushels

2014 — 111.3 bushels

**Change** — Up 0.6 bushels (0.5%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup>

2014 state rank — 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Sugarbeets

##### Acreage planted

2015 — 4,800

2014 — 4,400

**Change** — Up 400 acres (9.1%)

— See *Numbers*, page 32





*Jason Miller moves hay where he grazes cattle on ground in Canyon County just over the Snake River from Marsing.*

## Marsing farmer uses land as soil lab

### Miller earns OCD Conservationist of the Year

A familiar name in the Owyhee County agricultural community has received a unique honor from the Owyhee Conservation District (OCD).

Jason Miller, 31, has been named Conservationist of the Year. He is not on the OCD board, but frequently interacts with the directors as part of his job with the Idaho Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

This is the first time Miller has been recognized for his conservation techniques.

He was surprised to be given the annual award from the OCD.

"I feel like I'm relatively young to be receiving an award like that," Miller said. "I feel like it's an honor. It makes me want to try new things and

keep pushing the no-till and soil health aspects of what I do."

He thinks that his focus on no-till farming is part of the reason why the OCD chose him for this year's award.

"That's something that we've been trying to get going here in Owyhee County through the conservation district and the commission," Miller said. "We're trying to get farmers to utilize no-till more."

He also encourages farmers to utilize cover crops on their fields and to consider mob grazing.

The idea behind the use of no-till drills and cover crops is to minimize soil erosion. The term mob grazing refers to short-duration, high-intensity grazing

— See *Farmer*, Page 5



*Jason Miller (right) accepts his Conservationist of the Year award from Owyhee Conservation District chairman Chuck Kiester. Submitted photo*





## ✓ Farmer: Conservation promotion takes to video age, too

From Page 4

of many cattle on a small area of. The cattle are moved several times a day to new forage.

When he's not working for the commission, you'll probably find Miller at his family's farm and ranch in Marsing.

"They let me work four days a week here at the office, Monday through Thursday, and the rest of my time and the weekends is dedicated to the farm and ranch," Miller said.

He graduated from Marsing High School and earned a degree in animal science from the University of Idaho.

Miller said his job with the commission involves helping farmers improve best management practices (BMPs).

"A BMP can be anything. It can be a pivot, it can be a filter strip at the end of a field," he said. "Anything that promotes conservation is a best management practice."

Miller also recently helped make a documentary film about soil health with the Ada Soil and Water Conservation District.

"We just got the video finished, and we'll be showing it at different soil health symposiums," he said. "My portion was on cover crops, mob grazing, and no-till corn."

The ground where corn was grown with the no-till method showed 68 percent less sediment running into the waste ditch at the end of the field, compared to ground where corn was produced with conventional tilling. The net profit per acre was also higher on the no-till corn.

— See *Farmer*, Page 16



*"Most farmers are getting older now, and there's not a lot of interest from young people like us to get into the farming world in general."*

**JASON MILLER**  
OCD Conservationist of the Year

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**Left:** The water level at Owyhee Reservoir was so low on Jan. 30, 2016 that the outcropping below the dam's ring gate was visible as was the water line on the dam and shoreline. **Right:** On Feb. 25 this year, the lake's level was much higher, and the ring gate could be in operation for the first time in six years. Photos by Dave Downum

## Irrigators will see full allotment this growing season; turn-on date unknown

### Some farmers say ground too wet to plant

Farmers in the Homedale and Marsing area won't have to worry about having an adequate supply of irrigation water this year.

South Board of Control manager John Eells is telling producers that he's expecting another full season, and patrons will receive a full allotment of 4 acre-feet.

Under a full-season scenario, the water would be shut off on Oct. 10, which is opening day for deer hunting.

However, if it starts raining during the first week of October, there will be no need to keep running the Gem Pumping Plant that draws water from the Snake River in Marsing.

"Nope, we'd be shutting them down," Eells said. "But the thing is, we generally try to go to the 10<sup>th</sup> of October."

Last Wednesday, the Owyhee Reservoir was 74 percent full with 528,920 acre-feet

of water. The reservoir has a capacity of 715,000 acre-feet.

During the South Board's March 7 meeting, Eells said no water users meeting will be held this year, because irrigators already know what to expect for the growing season.

He also told irrigation directors that a lot more water could be headed to the dam.

"We've got any number that you want to pick," Eells said. "Between 600,000 (acre-feet) and (1.5 million) for water that's still in the mountains."

Data from the Bureau of Reclamation points to 600,000 acre-feet as being the most likely figure for water that could still travel through the watershed into the reservoir.

Gem Irrigation District board chair Chris Landa said numbers from the Natu-

ral Resources Conservation Service are even higher.

"They're saying that there's a 90 percent chance that there's going to be 900,000 (acre-feet) still up there to come," he said. "There's a 10 percent chance that there's (1.5 million) still up there, if it all came off right."

Eells said the Owyhee Dam glory hole would be activated to spill water out of the dam when it reaches 620,000 acre-feet.

"It's already up on the ring now," he said. "What they do is, they let a little run over the top of it and then they keep raising it."

The glory hole was last used in 2011.

Considering how quickly the reservoir is filling, a freeze-thaw pattern over the next few weeks that would keep the water in the ground could be beneficial this year.

— See *Irrigators*, Page 34



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*Cows graze in an Oreana field in February. A University of Idaho economist's analysis suggests that beef herds are growing nationwide after years of decline.*

# Harsh winter just a hiccup in trend of nationwide beef herd expansion

Ranchers rebuilding inventory after years of lag

Not all sectors of the beef industry may see adverse effects from the harsh winter, according to a University of Idaho economics professor.

Dr. Hernan A. Tejeda, an Extension specialist, concentrates on dairy and livestock economics. He has given market outlook presentations twice this winter in Owyhee County.

According to Tejeda, while high calf mortality rates could hurt the bottom lines of individual cow-calf producers, other operations down the line toward the retail market may feel less impact because of better calving success in surrounding states.

"There's a drop of 3,000 head in beef cows that calved from 2016 to this year. That definitely might be a consequence of the harsh winter," Tejeda said.

"Having said that, in Oregon, their beef cows calved 20,000 more than last year. In Washington, cows calved 2,000 more than last year."

The uptick in neighboring states follows the trend nationwide as calf

— See **Beef**, Page 9



*Ranchers had to get creative in their attempts to save winter calves from one of the coldest seasons in memory. Colt Hipwell, 3, sang and snuggled in his living room with day-old calves when his parents, Doug and Tiffany, brought the animals in to keep them warm during calving in late January. Colt began taking care of Henry the bull calf (he and his 7-year-old sister, Emeline, named him) when the Hipwells' cows calved in 14-degree weather on their Sinker Creek property. Submitted photo*





## ✓ Beef: Slaughter prices up, retail prices off slightly

From Page 8

crops begin to rise after steadily falling since the 60-year high of more than 50 million head in the mid-1970s. The 2017 average is up 2.9 percent to 35.1 million head.

Tejeda said Oregon and Washington state increases will help keep local feedlots on a solid footing even if local producers don't have inventory to send in for finishing.

Feeders will just have to hit the road to find animals to prepare for slaughter.

"Given that the markets are not so far away, I don't foresee (the lack of Idaho calves) having such a big dent on the lack of supply later down the road," Tejeda said.

That means prices, although down from more prosperous times, will remain stable.

Slaughter prices have climbed to just under \$125 per hundredweight this year, but that's about \$15 off the high point in the five-year average.

"The historical prices from a few years ago are not going to be coming back very soon," he said.

The plentiful calf supply in Oregon and Washington requires Idaho cow-calf operators to wisely market what animals made it through the winter, Tejeda said. If they push the prices too much in an effort to make up for losses, feeders may look elsewhere.

"The ones who only buy from here, they may have to face a higher price because there's not much supply," Tejeda said. "And the sellers here will have less to sell, so the buyers will have to go to the west."

Savvy cow-calf producers, however, will just ride out the impact of this historic winter.

"You can't prepare for something like this," Tejeda said. "This is like a black swan. This is unprecedented."

But there are ways to stay afloat even if calf mortality may jeopardize the short-term success of an operation.

"I would say they will have to be very

*"Given that the markets are not so far away, I don't foresee (the lack of Idaho calves) having such a big dent on the lack of supply later down the road."*

**DR. HERNAN TEJEDA** *U of I economist*

tight on their budgets and costs, and for that they will have to take advantage of the low-priced feed that's going on in the market," Tejeda said.

"They're going to have to do a lot of risk management in that sense and be very conscious of the costs."

There may be long-term good news, though.

Tejeda revealed a market analysis to Owyhee County producers twice this winter. He attended the Idaho Range Livestock Symposium in January in Marsing, and he was a presenter at the U of I Extension Winter Beef School prior to February's Owyhee Cattlemen's Association general meeting in Oreana.

In both presentations, Tejeda showed that retail prices are lower these days as they return to the five-year average. For example, the national average price of retail Choice beef dropped a dime from

\$5.76 per pound in November to \$5.66 per pound in January.

There is some good news for producers and feedlot owners, though.

Beef consumption is starting to rise again after falling to a national average of less 54 pounds per capita per year in 2015. But the 2017 average of just over 57 pounds per capita is still off the high of 68 pounds per capita in the early 2000s.

Just as consumption has increased, beef exports also have rebounded. For the second year in a row, U.S. beef and veal producers are sending nearly as much product overseas (2.75 billion pounds annually) as they were in 2011 when the export market was at a 25-year high of 2.8 billion pounds).

Meanwhile, beef imports are down to 2.43 billion pounds annual after skyrocketing to 3.7 billion pounds per year in the mid-2000s.

— JPB

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*Motorists have been known to stop in the middle of Idaho highway 78 to take a look at Bill Lacy's rock sculptures, such as this dinosaur on the edge of his Wilson property.*

## Owyhee County hay grinder turns heads with whimsical art

If you've driven by Bill Lacy's home on the corner of Idaho highway 78 and Wilson Creek Road, you probably noticed the unusual works of art around his property.

You also may have driven away wondering exactly what you were looking at.

Lacy's home is surrounded by creations of all shapes and sizes made out of rocks he found nearby.

"I've made everything: Motorcycles, airplanes, a chicken whose beak was a pair of pliers," Lacy said. "A vulture,

a cat, a butterfly, a dog with wings, a weenie dog, a dragon, a porcupine and a honeybee."

Making clever art is very different than Lacy's profession.

He started his mobile hay grinding business on Sept. 1, 1995.

"I just take bales of hay and grind them up into smaller pieces so the cows can get fed easier," Lacy said. "I hauled hay for a number of years. There was an opening for a grinder, so I bought my own and went to work."

He estimates that he's made about

55 of the rock creations. Lacy said he's sold about 12 of the art pieces, and one fetched \$250. Others have been donated to local causes.

While he knows what folks might pay for his art, he doesn't know what to call his hobby.

"No, it's just rocks," Lacy said.

He also hasn't named any of the rock creations that are held together with steel rebar or threaded metal rods.

Lacy has donated his sculptures to various community fundraisers

— See *Art*, Page 11





## ✓ Art: Bill Lacy turns dream into eye-catching artistic creations

*From Page 10*

including Outpost Days at the Owyhee County Historical Museum, the Marsing Disaster Auction and the Highway 78 Community Disaster Relief benefit.

The art all started with what he called a “silly” dream.

“I dreamt that I could make a dog out of lava rocks,” he said. “So I got up and made one. It looked like a turtle. I thought I could do better, so I made more of them and they came out a little better.”

He added that his wife, Denise, didn’t know what to make of his newfound hobby.

“I think she thought I was silly,” Lacy said.

Turning a pile of rocks into something completely different is his only artistic outlet. Lacy shakes his head when asked if he also draws or paints in his spare time.

While the rocks stay in one place, his only other hobby involved moving parts.

“I used to hot rod a little bit, and built a few race cars,” Lacy said.

Acknowledging that his creations are truly one of a kind, he also said the sculptures can be a distraction for drivers on Highway 78.

“They park in the middle of the road and jump out and start taking pictures,” Lacy said. “They say they’ve never seen anything like it.”

Besides the occasional disregard for highway safety, Lacy said he always gets a kick out of seeing someone take photos of his art.

“I do it to kill time and people seem to enjoy it,” he said. “I enjoy it, and I want somebody else to also.” — SC



*Among Bill Lacy’s charitable donations was this motorcycle chopper that was part of the 2015 Owyhee County Hwy. 78 Disaster Relief silent auction.*

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*Garrett Allen, getting help with cutting a carrot from his mom Suzy, was one of the children who took part in the Cultivate! children's program at the Homedale Farmers Market last year. Organizers plan to expand the youth offerings for the 2017 season to include vending opportunities for boys and girls. Submitted photo*

# Homedale Farmers Market helps youth learn entrepreneurial skills

## Spring Fling sneak peek set April 22

Children attending the Homedale Farmers Market this season will have a chance to learn a few things about salesmanship.

Market director Denise Dixon will launch new youth vendor days, on the second Thursday of each month during the market's regular season.

Boys and girls ages 1 to 18 can come to the market and sell produce or handmade items.

"They will not be charged a vendor fee, but they will be charged five percent of gross sales by the end of the day," Dixon wrote in an email. "This will enable them to learn about being an entrepreneur. Prior

to the market starting we will have vendor training for both adults and youth that have signed up for the market."

Dixon added that if the pilot program is successful, she will apply for a grant to expand youth vendor days in 2018.

The farmers markets will kick off with a Spring Fling from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 22 in Bette Uda City Park, or the old high school gymnasium across East Idaho Avenue from the park in the case of inclement weather.

Dixon said master gardener Jan Aman will lead a gardening class during the Spring Fling, and there will be a garden-

ing class for children as well.

The regular season of the Homedale Farmers Market will run from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., each Thursday from June 1 to Sept. 20 in Bette Uda City Park.

The fall and holiday markets are set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday in November, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the first three Saturdays in December. Those markets are held indoors at the old high school gym.

Dixon will also continue the educational program for first- through sixth-graders called "Cultivate!" The idea behind the program is to help children learn about planting fruits and vegetables and how to

— See **Market**, Page 20



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# South Board of Control who's who, 2017

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**Chair**  
Chris Landa  
Division 5  
Homedale

**Serving since**  
2013  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2018

Chris Landa



**Vice-chair**  
Ryan Criffield  
Division 4  
Homedale

**Serving since**  
2013  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2018

Ryan Criffield



**Division 2**  
Steve Clapier  
Homedale

**Serving since**  
2016  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2018

Steve Clapier



**Division 1**  
Rick Smith  
Marsing

**Serving since**  
2012  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2017

Rick Smith



**Division 3**  
Dennis Turner  
Homedale

**Serving since**  
2008  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2019

Dennis Turner

## South Board of Control



**Manager**  
John Eells  
Marsing

John Eells

## Ridgeview Irrigation District board of directors



**Chair**  
John Lax  
Ridgeview

**Serving since**  
2016  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2018

John Lax



**Vice-chair**  
Bret Nielson  
Ridgeview

**Serving since**  
2007  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2019

Bret Nielson

## Directors

**Chair** — Chris Landa, Div. 5  
**Vice-chair** — Ryan Criffield, Div. 4  
**Director, Div. 1** — Rick Smith  
**Director, Div. 2** — Steve Clapier  
**Director, Div. 3** — Dennis Turner  
**Director, Ridgeview** — John Lax

## Boards' secretary/treasurer

Connie Chadez, Homedale

## Watermaster

Ryan Nash, (208) 412-2065

**Office address** — 118 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St.  
W., Homedale, 83628

**Office phone** — (208) 337-3760

**Next meetings** — Starting at  
1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 11 at the  
South Board office, Homedale



**Director**  
Mark Aman  
Ridgeview

**Serving since**  
2012  
**Term expires**  
Dec. 31, 2017

Mark Aman

## South Board of Control ditch riders

Dave Bowman  
Andy Howard  
Clark Maybon  
Servando Salazar  
Carl Seiders  
Kenny Woods





# Irrigation directors' terms set to expire

Veteran directors on several irrigation boards face re-election this year.

Three-year terms are up on various boards, and the Idaho-based directors face a Nov. 7 election. The candidate filing period runs Sept. 8 to Sept. 28.

Mark Aman, in his sixth year on the Ridgeview Irrigation District board, could be subject to a mail ballot-only election

for Oregon-based irrigation directors with a return deadline of Nov. 14. Hopefuls can file from Aug. 31 to Oct. 10.

The term of Rick Smith, who has been the Gem Irrigation District's Div. 1 director since 2012, ends on Dec. 31.

Others up for re-election include:

- Reynolds Div. 2 director Lou Sanchez, who is also that board's vice-

chair

- Opaline Div. 1 director and vice-chair Zenaïdo Ponce

- Opaline Div. 4 director Charles Robertson

- Grand View Div. 2 director Buster Ridley

- Snake River Div. 1 director Ron Ridley, also vice-chair

## Owyhee's other irrigation boards

Owyhee County's other boards, including when directors' terms expire, meeting information and contact information.

### Reynolds Irrigation District

**Div. 1** — Dean Young (2018)

**Div. 2** — Lou Sanchez, vice-chair (2017)

**Div. 3** — Jerry Hoagland, chair (2019)

#### Secretary

Brad Huff, (208) 495-2950

#### Ditch rider

Kris Davis, (208) 250-0193

**Meeting time** — First Thursday of the month, 1 p.m., Wilson School House

### Opaline Irrigation District

**Div. 1** — Zenaïdo Ponce, vice-chair (2017)

**Div. 2** — Kenneth Sevy (2018)

**Div. 3** — Jay Hall (2019)

**Div. 4** — Charles Robertson (2017)

**Div. 5** — Elias Jaca, chair (2018)

#### Secretary

Dan Birmingham, (208) 896-5273

**Email** — opalineirrigationdistrict@hotmail.com

#### Watermaster and ditch rider

Jeanine Anderson, (208) 896-5274

**Meeting time** — First Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at 7300 Opaline Road, Melba

### Grand View Irrigation District

**Div. 1** — Mark Frost, chair (2018)

**Div. 2** — Buster Ridley (2017)

**Div. 3** — Arnold Hipwell, vice-chair (2019)

#### Secretary

Dixie McDaniel, (208) 834-2350

#### Ditch rider

Evan Shaw, (208) 599-4780

**Meeting time** — First Tuesday of the month, 11 a.m., Grand View Irrigation District Office, 645 Idaho St., Grand View

### Snake River Irrigation District

**Div. 1** — Ron Ridley, vice-chair (2017)

**Div. 2** — Dan Whitted (2018)

**Div. 3** — George Bennett Jr., chair (2019)

#### Secretary

Dixie McDaniel, (208) 834-2350

#### Ditch rider

Mike James, (208) 599-2828

**Meeting time** — First Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Grand View Irrigation District Office, 645 Idaho St., Grand View

### Grand View Mutual Canal Co.

**Chair** — Rohl Hipwell (2020)

**Vice-chair** — Randy Hipwell (2019)

**Director** — Jerry Meyers (2018)

#### Secretary

Dixie McDaniel, (208) 834-2350

#### Ditch rider

John Morrison, (208) 599-2310

**Meeting time** — First Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Grand View Irrigation District Office, 645 Idaho St., Grand View. Shareholders meeting in February.

### Upper Grand View Canal Co.

**Chair** — Arnold Hipwell (2019)

**Vice-chair** — Billy Wolfe (2020)

**Director** — Charles Ensiz (2018)

#### Secretary

Dixie McDaniel, (208) 834-2350

#### Ditch rider

John Morrison, (208) 599-2310

**Meeting time** — Annual meeting is held the first Monday in February. Special meetings as necessary.



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## ✓ **Farmer:** Young Miller hopes new blood finds farming

*From Page 5*

Miller works on 15 to 20 projects each year, and said he's always trying new techniques.

"I think why the district gave me the award was because I'm here helping them in the office, but I also have a farm and I tend to be the guinea pig for trying different things," he said. "When we decided to compare the no-till corn to the conventional corn, it worked out that I had farm ground and I was willing to try it."

He has also been involved with projects on the Jordan Creek watershed and the Middle Snake-Succor Creek area.

Miller thinks it's important for experienced farmers to encourage the next generation of agriculture producers.

"Most farmers are getting older now, and there's not a lot of interest from young people like us to get into the farming world in general," he said.

Miller added that responsible farmers have to be conservation-minded.

"Somebody has to take care of the water," he said. "I'd rather it be voluntary and non-regulatory than to have government come in and tell us exactly what we have to do and how to clean it up."

Jason and his wife Tori were married in 2009 and have a 6-year-old son, Clancy.

— SC

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Homedale High School graduate Jenny Bautista (third from left) stands next to Idaho Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter with the rest of the Idaho FFA state leadership team. Bautista's one-year term as state secretary ends next month. Submitted photo

## Bautista turns parents' sacrifice into success with FFA state leadership role

Jenny Bautista is a trailblazer who understands her journey was launched from the shoulders of others.

The 2016 Homedale High School graduate is the second person from her family to attend college and the second woman from Homedale to serve as an Idaho FFA state officer.

"It is the greatest honor of my life to be able to serve the Idaho FFA Association as the state secretary. Five years ago, I would never have imagined myself being in this position and serving at this capacity," the daughter of longtime Homedale residents Rutillo and Luz Bautista said.

*"(My parents) recognized the lack of stability in their home country and the opportunities the U.S. offered. They knew that with an education, the number of possibilities would be endless."*

**JENNY BAUTISTA** HHS grad, Idaho FFA secretary

"To know that I was able to gain and further develop skills that I attained through my participation in FFA is a feeling of great motivation to continue on and work to make a difference in my home and community."

Her sister, Norma, graduated from

Boise State University last year, and Bautista's enrollment at the University of Idaho is another big milestone for the family.

"My sister has been a role model and

— See *Bautista*, Page 19



## ✓ **Bautista: Homedale grad seeks double major at UI**

From Page 18

an example to me because she had to endure the hardships of being the first-born, but as a result (she) has guided me towards my goals," Bautista said.

The 19-year-old is a first-year student in Moscow, but is a sophomore credit-wise because of dual-credit classes she took while in high school.

She's pursuing a double major in Food Science and Spanish.

The sisters' academic accomplishments are part of an American story that began when their father entered the country illegally in the early 1980s. Rutillo was granted residency with the Amnesty Act of 1986 and later married Luz. The couple will apply for U.S. citizenship soon, Bautista said.

"When he married my mother, they both could have decided to stay in Mexico and start a family there; however, they recognized the lack of stability in their home country and the opportunities the U.S. offered. They knew that with an education, the number of possibilities would be endless," Bautista said.

She is grateful for her parents' sacrifice and dedication, working in fields, orchards, greenhouses and dairies to help their children get ahead in life. That dedication steers Bautista to a life of service.

"For me, pursuing a post-secondary education was reaping the benefits of my parents' sacrifice," Bautista said. "My education is my No. 1 priority, but I have found myself also needing to

educate the public on the importance of agriculture."

Bautista plans to stay active in FFA as an alum even after she completes her education and works to fulfill her goal of finding a food scientist job with Simplot, Chobani, Dannon or Glanbia.

"I want to use the skills and abilities I possess to help others in any way possible whether that be on a small scale or a national one," Bautista said. "My heart of service feels the need to give back and will continue to find ways to serve my community."

The desire to serve stems, in part, from her time in FFA and the contact with former Homedale advisor Lori

— See *Bautista*, Page 34

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## ✓ Market: Cultivate! youth program entry now open

From Page 12

prepare them for the dinner table.

Cultivate! classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Thursdays June 1 through Aug. 17.

Dixon is still signing up facilitators to direct this year's Cultivate! program.

"(Children) will be taste-testing many fruits and vegetables," Dixon wrote. "Learning about composting and other parts of gardening will be added. A popular class last year was making jam, so I am sure we will have something along those lines again."

Pre-registration for the Cultivate! classes is now open. There is no cost to participate in the program, but children must attend all of the classes, because limited space is available.

Boys and girls will be rewarded for participating in the program.

"We will offer T-shirts as well as shopping bags and recipes for the classes that

are cooking classes," Dixon said. "They always go home with something from the class for the week."

This is the last year that Dixon has funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the Cultivate! program.

"USDA has provided us with the materials needed to go on with this program even after the grant is complete," Dixon said. "We are applying for other grants to secure this program for many years to come."

She pointed out that the market has always been a nonprofit organization.

"Now we are formalizing it, and applying for our 501(c)(3) status," Dixon wrote. "This will open us up to many more grant opportunities to formalize as a nonprofit organization."

Funds generated by the market are used to support arts programs in the Homedale School District. Last year, the market distributed \$500 to Homedale Middle School cheerleaders, \$300 for new railings on the

steps of the old gymnasium and \$150 to buy trophies for the high school talent show.

Vendor fees from last year's markets brought in \$1,156.

"Gross sales of the market were \$11,385," Dixon said. "This is money that was made by the vendors that will be spent back in the community."

She added that average attendance at each of the markets in 2016 was 98 customers.

Food stamps will be accepted for products again this year. Dixon secured a grant from a community action agency allowing her to double the value of food stamps used at the market up to \$10.

For more information about the market, Cultivate!, youth vendor days, or to reserve vendor space, contact Dixon at ddixon222@msn.com, by phone at (208) 840-0440, or visit [www.homedalefarmermarket.weebly.com](http://www.homedalefarmermarket.weebly.com). — SC

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Lance Okeson of the BLM Boise District stands in a typical firebreak near Wickahoney Road south of Bruneau. This break was made with the use of a large mower to trim vegetation on both sides of a BLM dirt road. Mechanical and chemical methods will be employed along with grazing to repeat the concept in the Soda Fire burn area. Photo courtesy [www.LifeOnTheRange.org](http://www.LifeOnTheRange.org)

## “Mowing” cattle a tool to safeguard public lands from devastating wildfires

County rancher helps with Owyhee Front test project

by Steve Stuebner  
[www.LifeOnTheRange.org](http://www.LifeOnTheRange.org)

The Bureau of Land Management is increasingly moving toward the use of large firebreaks in strategic areas to help control range fires in Idaho and the Great Basin.

Fire breaks are often created next to existing roads to provide an anchor point for slowing down or stopping fires. The idea is to keep range fires smaller to preserve native sage-steppe habitat.

In recent years, the trend has been growing toward large, destructive range

— See *Wildfires*, Page 23

## BLM finalizes Owyhee project

The Bureau of Land Management has formalized firebreak work that began as an experiment with the help of Owyhee County rancher Daniel Richards.

The federal agency’s Record of Decision on the Soda Fire Fuel Breaks Project was released last Wednesday.

The decision authorizes the development of firebreaks in Owyhee County and Oregon’s Malheur County, areas of which were devastated by the 435-square-mile Soda Fire in August 2015.

Project implementation is scheduled to start this spring. The BLM plans to coordinate efforts with the State of Idaho to create a strategic set of fuel

breaks in key areas to minimize the potential for wildfires.

Through the plan, the BLM will develop and maintain fuel breaks along 271 miles of existing roadways on BLM ground in and around the Soda Fire burn area. The breaks will help protect stabilization and rehabilitation work already carried out on the affected rangeland.

Reducing fuel loads through strategic mowing and grazing of vegetation along existing roads will reduce flame length, which contributes to the rapid spread of

— See *Owyhee*, Page 25



## ✓ Wildfires: Richards used dozens of cattle in project

From Page 22

fires in Southern Idaho. In low-precipitation areas of the Snake River Plain, range fires are growing in size, and in some cases, they've burned the same ground repeatedly over time. When that occurs, native shrub-steppe habitat gets destroyed, and cheatgrass and invasive weeds take over.

That's why the BLM is working on creating more firebreaks and anchor points to stop range fires dead in their tracks. "As fires move into these fuel breaks, they not only break apart but the flame length gets reduced quite a bit," says Lance Okeson, assistant fire management officer for the BLM Boise District. "The land management agencies control over it is the fuel."

Fire breaks can be made by mowing vegetation next to dirt roads, planting green strips with hardy perennials, and using targeted grazing with livestock.

"Targeted grazing is a fairly new concept," says Karen Launchbaugh, professor of rangeland ecology and director of the Rangeland Center at the University of Idaho. "A lot of work has been done with sheep and goats to manage invasive plants. Now we're seeing more use by cattle because cattle eat grass, and grass is the fuel we're concerned about with wildfires."

As the BLM works on range rehabilitation in the Soda Fire area in the Owyhee Mountains, they used targeted grazing to reduce the fuels — highly flammable cheatgrass — on about 300

acres near Hemingway Butte.

"Our goal was to hit 200 feet on both sides of the road to a 2-inch stubble height. After three weeks of grazing, we hit that 2-inch stubble height," Okeson said.

To keep the cattle focused on the project area, the BLM and grazing permittee used temporary fencing, protein supplements, salt and water.

"It worked extremely well. I was very pleased with the results," said Daniel Richards, the rancher who provided 130 cattle for the targeted grazing project.

The BLM carefully monitored the project on a daily basis to make sure the objectives were being met.

Long term, the BLM hopes to set up a

— See *Wildfires*, Page 24



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Wilson rancher Daniel Richards used water troughs, protein supplements (orange buckets), salt and temporary fencing to keep the cattle (seen through a windshield) focused on 200 feet either side of a dirt road to create the fire break. They kept the cattle on the move to create firebreaks along both sides of the road for a distance of one mile. Photo courtesy [www.LifeOnTheRange.org](http://www.LifeOnTheRange.org)

## ✓ Wildfires: Fuel breaks help reduce flame length

From Page 23

major fuel break along a powerline road in the Owyhee Front to help prevent the land from burning up. Cheatgrass, an invasive weed that's highly flammable in the summer, dominates the front range in low-elevation sites.

The agency is currently working on an environmental analysis to gain approval for the fuel break.

The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association past president, Richards ranches in the Owyhee Mountains with his wife, Bailey. He thinks that more targeted grazing with cattle would work well for the powerline firebreak corridor.

"Goats and sheep are extremely good at taking care of weeds," he said. "In Owyhee County, there's an awful lot of cheatgrass in the Owyhee Front, and you'd have to have a massive amount of

goats, and they still wouldn't do that good of a job. But we do have a lot of cows in Owyhee County. And it's an extremely useful tool that we haven't been utilizing. Hopefully, we can keep it going."

Professor Launchbaugh has been doing research on cattle grazing as a targeted grazing tool in Owyhee County for a number of years. "What my research looked at is, can we slow the fire, reduce the flame length? And even at moderate levels of grazing, we were able to accomplish that," she said.

As the BLM continues to create more firebreaks, Launchbaugh sees merit in all kinds of treatments.

"Well, there are several ways to create firebreaks. Right behind us here, you can see an area that was mowed, bringing the herbaceous material down to the ground, so that's one tool," she said.

"Roads, trails, those are brown areas that can be effective. Slowing the fire as it comes across grazed area ... I think the key is to combine all of these tools. There's no one right tool, but all of these are good in different places. I think grazing is important as part of the mix."

How to compensate ranchers for targeted grazing projects has yet to be determined. Richards felt it would be valuable to participate in the experimental project in the Soda Fire zone, and see how things worked.

"It's still in the experimental stage," he said. "I'm experimenting with it, and so is the BLM."

— Steve Stuebner is the writer and producer of *Life on the Range*, an educational project sponsored by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. For more information, go to [lifeontherange.org](http://lifeontherange.org).



## ✓ Owyhee: Fuel breaks project part of ongoing rehab

From Page 22

fire. The fire breaks also will provide safer areas for rapid and effective fire suppression efforts.

In addition to the targeted grazing Richards originally employed for the BLM, the plan calls for mowing, seeding and chemical treatments to create fuel breaks.

Private contractors will do the majority of implementation work. Bidding opportunities will begin this spring and

continue throughout the project.

The fuel breaks project is the next phase in the ongoing rehabilitation of the Soda Fire burn area, and the long-term plan to prevent invasive species from replacing native grasses.

After the fire, the BLM undertook major restoration efforts, including seeding and seedling planting to improve the sagebrush-steppe habitat impacted in the Soda Fire.

Strategically placed fuel breaks within and outside the Soda Fire perimeter would limit the ability of wildland fires to burn into the Soda Fire restoration area from the outside or from starting inside the fire restorations area and burning out into intact native vegetation.

The Decision Record can be read online here at <http://bit.ly/1TbxLtp>.

For more information, contact the BLM Boise District Office at (208) 384-3393.

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*The old Stateline Grange hall on U.S. Highway 95 between Marsing and Homedale near Jump Creek Road (shown earlier this winter) is now a private residence. The hall was sold sometime after the local Grange disbanded in the 1980s.*

# Grange survives into 150<sup>th</sup> year

## Local hall closed in 1980s; some Owyheean still active

This is a big year for the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, which most folks know as the Grange.

April is Grange Month, and 2017 marks the sesquicentennial of the organization, which was founded in Washington D.C. on Dec. 4, 1867.

But few people in Owyhee County may mark the milestones. Stateline Grange No. 399, which had a hall on U.S. Highway 95 near Jump Creek Road between Marsing and Homedale, disbanded years ago.

Stateline Grange used to be an integral part of the rural community in northwest Owyhee County. Local

grangers played in a softball rec league in the 1950s. Elmer Prow, the father of Homedale Highway District board chair Larry Prow, was a former master (the equivalent of a club president) for the Stateline Grange. He was first elected in 1955.

In 1963, the Stateline Grange placed third among 81 eligible Granges in the National Grange Community Service Contest. Twin Falls No. 216 was second nationally.

Irene Markley created the scrapbook that helped Stateline's third-place bid, chronicling the local Grange's work co-sponsoring a Bloodmobile drive,

sponsoring Red Cross First Aid lessons at the hall and helping produce aspects of the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association summer meeting in Silver City.

Stateline Grange also sponsored a Rural-Urban Day to help foster relationships between farmers and businessmen.

Kuna resident Don Johnson, a former Idaho State Grange master, said the Stateline Grange closed in the 1980s.

He was one of the men who helped carry furniture out of the Stateline Grange hall when it closed. The building is now a

— See *Grange*, Page 27



## ✓ Grange: Homedale couple continues in Canyon

From Page 26

private residence, which Johnson said was the fate of many defunct meeting halls.

"Back in the Stateline time (the Grange hall) was the focus of the community," Johnson said. "At one time, we had a large number of Grangers in the state."

Grange came to Idaho in 1908, according to Johnson. He and his wife, Mary, both are past state masters.

Johnson said Grange was just a way of life in many communities.

"It was nothing for people to do chores and go to a meeting and go back home late at night and get up and do their chores again," he said.

Johnson said Grange is a family organization, but he believes that economic pressures on modern families

have reduced the time people have for clubs like Grange.

"It was the rural emphasis. It took a family to make a living," he said. "Now it takes two people to make a living."

Today, Johnson says, Grange participation suffers from the same dilemma as many organizations and activities.

"There are so much more activities oriented around school for children," he said. "Families are focused on the school activities more than the fraternal groups they belonged to back in the '30s and '40s."

"As communities change, you have to change with the communities otherwise you're left out."

The changing dynamic of Grange

is evident with Homedale residents Melanie and Barney Harper. The couple run a beef operation on their farm.

Melanie, a third-grade teacher at Homedale Elementary, has been a Grange member since childhood when her parents, brother, uncle, aunt, cousins and grandparents were all members of the Locust Grove Grange in Meridian.

"My family was always very involved with Grange," she said. "My grandfather used to play on the Grange baseball team, my mom told me."

Her family members were heavily involved in State Grange, fair booths, and Junior Grange camp for which her mother was a leader and for which her

— See *Grange*, Page 31



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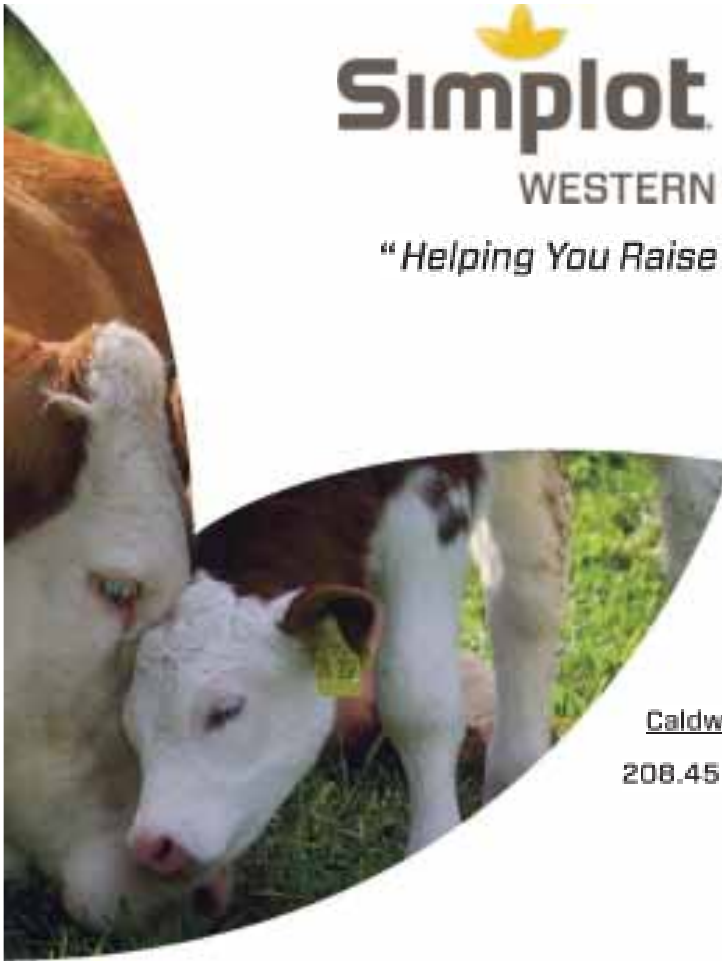
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Bruneau's Chris Black talks about how the creation of wetlands on his pasture ground has improved water and wildlife habitat. Photo courtesy [www.LifeOnTheRange.org](http://www.LifeOnTheRange.org)

## Owyhee rancher-created wetlands conserve multitude of species

by Steve Stuebner  
*Life on the Range*

In the arid West, water is key to the survival of everything. That's why early-day pioneers staked out the river-bottoms when they settled the West. It was all about water.

In recent years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been partnering with Owyhee County ranchers to create more ponds and wetlands on private lands.

"Initially, the project was focused on Columbia spotted frogs, which are a candidate species (for Endangered Species Act listing), but we recognized that many species of wildlife would benefit from the creation of wetlands," Boise-based USFWS biologist Kristin Lohr said. "These wetlands provide habitat for not just Columbia spotted frogs, but also other animals such as amphibians, birds, bats, deer and antelope.

"As we're standing here, we see red-winged blackbirds in the cat-tails, and we

heard a pacific chorus frog croaking at us earlier. So things are already moving in and using these wetlands."

The USFWS wants to create more habitat for birds and wildlife — that's a key part of its mission. But Tom Biebighauser, who taught a wetlands workshop in the Reynolds Creek area, said the projects can have a dual purpose.

"The message he gave is we can do both. You can create some wildlife-friendly improvements on your property, and at the same time, make an improvement for your operation," said John Romero, co-owner of the ZX Ranch with his wife, Kathy, and the Richards family.

Owyhee County rancher Chris Black dug a series of ponds in two different locations to create meadow habitat for wildlife and cattle.

"I wanted to create the meadow habitat because water is so scarce in the West, and water is critical to life," Black said. "So if I can create a meadow habitat, I

can create a place for sage-grouse to come in, pronghorn to come in, all wildlife to use, plus my cows have a habitat they can use. So it's good for everything in the system."

During Biebighauser's wetlands field workshop, a new wetlands pond was dug on John and Kathy Romero's ranch. Through the USFWS' "Partners in Fish and Wildlife" program, 50 percent cost-share funds are available to assist with pond construction.

"With the help of the Fish and Wildlife Service, that cost-share, particularly for any farmer or rancher who's interested, it makes it an attractive feature," Romero said.

Biebighauser says a shallow pond design is important for wildlife habitat.

"The way to do it and have more wildlife, is you get away from the cereal bowl (design) and go with a satellite dish,

— See *Wetlands*, Page 29



An excavator is used to dig out a pond that will enhance wildlife habitat. Photo courtesy [www.LifeOnTheRange.org](http://www.LifeOnTheRange.org)

## ✓ Wetlands: Wetlands work benefits ranches, wildlife

From Page 28

with more gently sloping edges, and it provides more nesting cover and hiding cover for animals,” Lohr said. “Plus, you have open water, so things like bats that like to take water on the wing, they have access to water.”

Black agrees that the design provides a comprehensive habitat.

“It becomes important to have different types of habitat. We need to have shallow water, and we need to have deep water for frogs,” he said. “The shallow water is where they breed. The deep water is where they go to escape. The shallow water is where most of the insects thrive.”

Rancher Jerry Hoagland has dug many ponds in upper Reynolds Creek for spotted frogs in partnership with the USFWS.

“We dug about 20 ponds for the Columbia spotted frog to their design, and we’ve been monitoring them for the last three years,” Hoagland said. “The population is gradually growing. We counted over 120 juveniles and I don’t know how many adults in that pond. A beaver turned four small ponds into one large pond.

That was absolutely amazing! That’s ‘Wow!’ We’re finding more frogs, and we’ll help keep it off the (Endangered Species) list.”

During the wetlands workshop, Hoagland made some more land available on his Dry Creek ranch for a pond. Art Talsma of The Nature Conservancy thinks the Hoagland pond will create valuable habitat for wildlife and livestock.

“Reynolds Creek is kind of famous. Its watershed has been well-studied, but there aren’t many pondage places in this stretch of land,” Talsma says. “The first species that I think of as benefitting is sage-grouse. We have a sage-grouse lek above here in the distance. We have sagebrush in the background. That’s where they nest, but where they raise their broods is next to these wet meadows and small wetlands.”

“And of course waterfowl come into this,” he continues. “Waterfowl in the Owyhees migrate through and need a high-energy source of food when they’re passing through, and that’s what shallow wetlands give you. Sometimes you’ll

see thousands of ducks landing on that, feeding intensely, and then heading up to Canada.”

The Romero family enjoys seeing waterfowl and other wildlife using the ponds as well.

“We are in tune with the wildlife scene,” John Romero said. “And we do like wildlife around us. We have sandhill cranes, lots of waterfowl, pheasants, quail, badgers, coyotes, Canada geese, a variety of songbirds and things like that.”

Black has created pond habitat for wildlife and as a place for his cattle to drink. But his overall objective has been to create wet meadow habitat for multiple species.

“I try to manage holistically, which means I try to consider everything when I manage,” he said. “I’m managing for wildlife. I’m managing for recreation. I’m managing for all of the things that are out there.”

Black also set up his ponds to sub-irrigate the meadows.

“I wanted them to leak. I wanted them

— See **Wetlands**, Page 30





## ✓ Wetlands: Improvements easier on private ground

From Page 29

to recharge the system,” Black says. “In the early spring, when we have runoff in this particular area, we have three to five days of heavy runoff, an immense amount of water coming down. But then we don’t have any water. So, my idea was to hold that water in the system longer, so it can build these meadows and recharge the aquifer, instead of running off.”

Black brings his cattle into the Camas Creek meadows in the spring when the meadows are full of water.

“It enables me to use pastures more effectively, and it enables me to time my use a lot more effectively,” he said. “I can use the pastures if they have water in them — use them for a short amount of time, and move onto another one.”

In Toy Valley, Black grazes his cattle in the fall, after it has been rested all summer. “As you can see, everything is at

seed ripe and at its biological potential here. As you can see from the tall (head-high) grass.”

All of the ranchers who have worked on enhancing wetlands recommend it for other landowners. A key aspect is that it’s much quicker and easier to make conservation improvements on private lands.

“Especially here in Owyhee County, water is the key thing,” Romero says. “In the West, particularly in the drier parts of the West, the valuable lands for wildlife and livestock are on the private ground. So to make improvements for wildlife, a lot of people are just discovering that if we can help out the private landowner, then we can also help wildlife.”

Indeed, a recent public opinion poll conducted by the University of Idaho for the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission found that 84 percent of the public

recognizes that private ranchlands provide important wildlife habitat. On a scale of 1-7, 68 percent rated the value of private farms and ranches for wildlife as being a 5 or higher.

“The more habitat we can create, the better we are off in the long run,” Black said. “More habitat for wildlife, the more profit you can make from cattle if you can enhance a meadow like this, or have a clean drink of water for your cow. Yeah, I would recommend it for other ranchers.”

“I think it’s positive for everybody,” Hoagland adds.

— Steve Stuebner is the writer and producer of *Life on the Range*, an educational project sponsored by the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission. This article also appeared in a recent issue of the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation’s *Producer* magazine.

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## ✓ Grange: Canyon-based group helps HES families

*From Page 27*

grandparents occasionally helped to cook meals.

"While growing up it was a big part of our life. I always enjoyed going to Grange meetings, events, and being around the people," Melanie said. "This is why I wanted to become more involved with the Grange again."

She admits her participation in the Locust Grove Grange waned because of distance and family obligations with her children.

"When Locust Grove had to close because of older members passing away and no younger members joining, I joined Pleasant Ridge Grange because it is closer to our home," she said.

She joined Pleasant Ridge a couple years ago. Located at the corner of Upper Pleasant Ridge Road and Weitz Road

west of Caldwell, it's the closest active Grange to northwest Owyhee County.

Her husband, Barney, has been a paying member for years, but doesn't attend many meetings, which are held on the first Monday of the month and are always preceded by a communal dinner.

Although in Canyon County, Pleasant Ridge Grange does have a community service presence south of the Snake River. Melanie has recruited the Pleasant Ridge Grange to sponsor two families each Christmas during the Hands Around Homedale campaign.

But, in a phenomenon harkening to the demise of the Locust Grove Grange, the Harpers' children — 24-year-old

Megan and 21-year-old Kenny — aren't members. Megan is a University of Idaho graduate working as a receptionist in the mammography clinic at West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell. Kenny is pursuing an Outdoor Parks and Recreation degree from U of I's College of Education.

Even so, there may be a resurgence in Grange, at least locally.

According to a posting on the Idaho State Grange website, the Pleasant Ridge chapter, led by Master Eileen Chavou, gained 36 members in 2015.

The 151<sup>st</sup> National Grange Convention is set for Nov. 7-11 in Spokane.

— JPB

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## ✓ Numbers: Winter wheat acreage, production down

From Page 3

2015 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — 10<sup>th</sup>  
 2014 state rank — 10<sup>th</sup>

### Acreage harvested

2015 — 4,600  
 2014 — 4,400  
 Change — Up 200 acres (4.6%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 2<sup>nd</sup> (tied)  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — 10<sup>th</sup>  
 2014 state rank — 9<sup>th</sup> (tied)

### Yield overall

2015 — 186 tons  
 2014 — 172 tons  
 Change — Up 14 tons (8.1%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 2<sup>nd</sup> (tied)  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — 8<sup>th</sup> (tied)  
 2014 state rank — 10<sup>th</sup>

### Yield per acre

2015 — 40 tons  
 2014 — 39 tons  
 Change — Up 1 ton (2.6%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup> (tied)  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 4<sup>th</sup> (tied)  
 2015 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup> (tied)  
 2014 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup> (tied)

## Spring wheat

### Acreage planted

2015 — Withheld to protect individual growers

2014 — 3,100  
 Change — N/A

2015 SW Idaho rank — N/A  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
 2015 state rank — N/A  
 2014 state rank — 17<sup>th</sup>

### Acreage harvested

2015 — Withheld to protect individual growers

2014 — 2,900  
 Change — N/A

2015 SW Idaho rank — N/A  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
 2015 state rank — N/A  
 2014 state rank — 18<sup>th</sup>

### Yield overall

2015 — Withheld to protect individual growers

2014 — 225,000 bushels  
 Change — N/A

2015 SW Idaho rank — N/A  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
 2015 state rank — N/A  
 2014 state rank — 14<sup>th</sup>

### Yield per acre

2015 — Withheld to protect individual growers

2014 — 77.7 bushels  
 Change — N/A

2015 SW Idaho rank — N/A  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — N/A  
 2014 state rank — 8<sup>th</sup>

## Winter wheat

### Acreage planted

2015 — 5,900  
 2014 — 9,800  
 Change — Down 3,900 acres (39.8%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — 17<sup>th</sup>  
 2014 state rank — 14<sup>th</sup>

### Acreage harvested

2015 — 5,500  
 2014 — 9,300  
 Change — Down 3,800 acres (40.9%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — 17<sup>th</sup>  
 2014 state rank — 14<sup>th</sup>

### Yield overall

2015 — 530,000 bushels  
 2014 — 975,000 bushels  
 Change — Down 445,000 bushels (45.6%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2015 state rank — 18<sup>th</sup>  
 2014 state rank — 14<sup>th</sup>

### Yield per acre

2015 — 96.4 bushels  
 2014 — 104.8 bushels  
 Change — 8.4 bushels (8%)  
 2015 SW Idaho rank — 6<sup>th</sup>  
 2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>

— See Numbers, Page 33



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Tons of sugarbeets remained piled at the Amalgamated Sugar Co.'s Homedale storage ground through the winter months as the snow came and went. See **Pages 3 and 26** for a look at how the sugarbeet crop changed between 2014 and 2015.

## ✓ Numbers: Rented ground was cheaper in 2016

From Page 32

2015 state rank — 10<sup>th</sup>  
2014 state rank — 8<sup>th</sup>

### Alfalfa hay

#### Acreage harvested

2015 — 46,000 acres  
2014 — 47,500 acres  
Change — Down 1,500 acres (3.2%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
2015 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup>  
2014 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Yield overall

2015 — 282,000 tons  
2014 — 250,000 tons  
Change — Up 32,000 tons (12.8%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>

2015 state rank — 4<sup>th</sup>  
2014 state rank — 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Yield per acre

2015 — 6.15 tons  
2014 — 5.25 tons  
Change — Up 0.9 tons (17.1%)

2015 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
2014 SW Idaho rank — 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2015 state rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
2014 state rank — 4<sup>th</sup>

### Cash rent expense per acre

#### Pasture

2016 — \$11.50  
2014 — \$15  
Change — Down \$3.50 (23.3%)

2016 SW Idaho rank — 4<sup>th</sup>  
2014 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>

2016 state rank — 22<sup>nd</sup> (tied)  
2014 state rank — 15<sup>th</sup>

#### Irrigated cropland

2016 — \$213  
2014 — \$161  
Change — Up \$52 (32.3%)

2016 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2014 SW Idaho rank — 4<sup>th</sup>  
2016 state rank — 12<sup>th</sup>  
2014 state rank — 13<sup>th</sup> (tied)

#### Non-irrigated cropland

2016 — \$34  
2014 — \$40.50  
Change — Down \$6.50 (16%)

2016 SW Idaho rank — 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2014 SW Idaho rank — 1<sup>st</sup>  
2016 state rank — 20<sup>th</sup>  
2014 state rank — 15<sup>th</sup>





## ✓ Irrigators: Weather must dry out for good season

From Page 6

"The Bureau of Reclamation and NRCS are still saying there's a full reservoir up in the hills," Eells said. "So we really don't want that water to come to us. We only need less than 200,000 (acre-feet) to fill."

After a drought cycle between 2012 and 2015, producers are becoming concerned about this year's abundance of moisture.

Owyhee Irrigation District manager Jay Chamberlin said he's heard from onion growers who are getting nervous about not being able to put their crops in the ground.

"It's so darn wet, I'd say that half the project is still snow-covered and the other half is just barely getting opened up to where it can start to dry out a little bit," Chamberlin said.

While he knows his patrons will receive

a full allotment, Eells isn't sure when he'll run water into the canals.

"It's going to be closer to the first of April," he said. "We're going to try to do it in March, but I don't know whether that's going to happen."

At the end of the growing season last year, the reservoir had a carryover of 166,000 acre-feet of water. Last year was the first year since 2011 for SBOC water users to receive their full allotment of 4 acre-feet.

Chamberlin expects a minimum carryover of 350,000 acre-feet when the 2017 growing season closes.

"Streamflows are going to be really good throughout the summer," Chamberlin said. "That is going to help us with that big plus at the end of the season and help the carryover immensely."

Chamberlin added that he wasn't surprised to see a second good water year in a row.

"Some of our water experts and forecasters are saying that we could be in this trend for maybe another three years," Chamberlin said.

Chamberlin said simply having enough water this growing season won't guarantee successful harvests for farmers. At some point, the sun has to come out and chase the rain clouds away.

"There's been times that we've had really good water years, but the weather conditions have been terrible, he said. "That's always a concern because we seem to be in a really wet cycle here. We've got to have a good weather year to help them have a good crop."

— SC

## ✓ Bautista: Former advisor pushed state office run

From Page 19

Idsinga, who was pivotal in convincing Bautista she had the potential to succeed Erin (Shenk) Rhodes as a state officer from Homedale. Bautista said she hadn't thought of running for state office until midway through her junior year in high school (January 2015), but she said she realized that she didn't have the right tools to serve after seeing responsibilities and skills required of the state officers.

"To me, it was impossible to even think of, but to (Idsinga) it was a reality that I needed to consider," Bautista said. "I sought state office because I felt like I could connect to those members that failed to recognize their potential."

She ran twice, winning the secretary office in her senior year.

Bautista said Rhodes, who was Idaho

FFA reporter in 2013-14, was a "huge source of valuable advice," and also coached Bautista to help the candidate showcase the skills that eventually won her the position.

"She understood how mentally and emotionally challenging the process could be and offered helpful tips and suggestions that she learned going through the process herself," Bautista said.

"By sharing her experience with the process and her state officer year, I was better able to grasp the meaning of the position, the areas of improvement I could work on, and overall prepare myself."

Her year as secretary has been a busy one. Bautista was back at her old high school last month with the rest of the

state officers for FFA Week.

"It was a blessing to be able to see friends I hadn't seen in a while and a proud moment as I showcased the wonderful kids that made up the Homedale Ag program," she said.

Bautista admits she was initially nervous to make that Homedale stop, which was part of a whirlwind couple of weeks in which she crisscrossed the state for the organization.

"I believe that my year of service has prepared me for adult life in a significant manner. Not only have I grown as a professional, but I have experienced personal growth as well, which will help me as I try to exert a positive influence in my home, my community, and my career," she said.

— JPB

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