

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 32, NO. 52

75 CENTS

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017



The Homedale Fire Department's 1930s-era siren once again can be heard wailing from its perch on the city's landmark water tower.

Homedale Fire siren roars back to life

Caldwell firm repairs 1930s-era device that summons volunteers

After being silent for about a year, the Homedale Fire siren is wailing once again.

It was most recently in use Dec. 18 when volunteers were summoned to battle a hay fire late at night.

Fire Chief Dennis Uria said the alarm had been out of commission — and actually out of town — as workers at Priest Electric of Caldwell overhauled the 1930s-era air raid siren.

"They got it done and did a really good job, and (Priest Electric staff) said it was a unique siren," Uria said.

Earl Priest, who owns the Caldwell-based company, said his technicians worked on the siren whenever they had time over a nine- or 10-month period.

"We took it on as kind of a challenge to put it back to what it was," Priest said, adding that his staff had fun with the project and the idea of restoring a piece

of Homedale history.

No one knows what brand of siren the device is, and that made finding parts impossible.

Priest said internet searches for parts and/or information was futile, so employees had to rebuild some damaged non-metal parts that were attached to the siren's brass components. The fabrication took place at

— See *Siren*, page 5



Marsing children ring in the season with red noses

Marsing Elementary students, under the direction of Liz Lacer, donned homemade reindeer masks — and some red noses — to perform during the school's annual Christmas program on Dec. 19. Photo by Dan Pease

HHS senior takes reins of Hands Around Homedale

**Food drive
culminates
with Friday
distribution**

The community rallied for another Hands Around Homedale food drive this holiday season.

This time, though, a Homedale High School

student took charge of the annual attempt to help the community's less fortunate.

Tony Baltierrez coordinated the food drive at all three schools as part of his senior

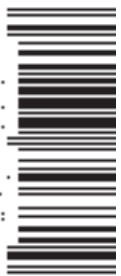
project, elementary school counselor Randee Garrett said.

Garrett has been the main conduit between the food drive and the Wish Tree gift

gathering for years. She still serves in that capacity, but Baltierrez's involvement took some items off her plate.

Garrett said this year's annual

— See *Homedale*, page 4



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Ask IDFG, Pg. 9: Hunting passport perfect for first-timers

Girls roll, Pg. 12: Homedale, Marsing beat conference foes

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OHR gifts picked up and delivered

Penny Riley (left) and daughter Layne Barajas picked up gifts at The Owyhee Avalanche office on Thursday for delivery to Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation in Homedale. The annual gift drive provided a happier Christmas for more than 30 OHRs residents. Community members “adopted” a resident by purchasing gifts from their specific wish lists. The residents received their gifts Sunday during a Christmas Eve party at the West Owyhee Avenue facility.

Volunteers spread cheer at OHR

Local children showed up at Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation on Saturday to celebrate the holidays with residents.

Nearly a dozen boys and girls ranging from toddlers to high school age engaged in various activities with residents, including arts & crafts, music, and simply socializing.

The children colored holiday-themed pictures and crafted reindeers and snowmen. Music was ever-present at the Homedale facility, thanks to the piano playing of Gage Purdom, who performed many Christmas standards, such as “Silent Night” and “We Three Kings of Orient Are.”

Organizer Megan Harper brought the youngsters together with OHR residents to spread holiday cheer and to create a few memories.

Organizing these kinds of activities don’t always go according to plan, though.

“Not nearly as many kids showed up as I thought were going to, but the residents seemed



Megan Harper (left) works on an art project with OHR resident Jill Berry on Saturday.

to really enjoy it,” the 2010 Homedale High School graduate said.

Harper said she enjoyed it as well and is planning another activity at OHR next summer.

— TK

Class resumes next week for most schoolchildren

Govt. offices closed Monday for New Year’s

Monday brings New Year’s Day holiday closures to government offices throughout the Owyhee country region, but most schoolchildren will be one day closer to returning to class.

Law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services will be available Monday, but all other Owyhee County departments will be closed.

The Board of County Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday. Commissioners meetings are typically held on Mondays.

City halls in Homedale, Marsing, Grand View, Adrian and Jordan Valley also will be closed. The Jordan Valley city offices are typically closed on Mondays.

School resumes Tuesday for students in the Homedale, Marsing and Adrian districts.

Jordan Valley schoolchildren are back in class next Wednesday, but the Bruneau-Grand View district doesn’t start up again until Monday, Jan. 8.

Homedale City Hall will close at noon Friday for Christmas. The office will reopen at 8 a.m. on Tuesday.

Public libraries in Homedale, Marsing (Lizard Butte) and Bruneau will be closed on New Year’s Day.

The Eastern Owyhee County Library in Grand View will be closed Friday through Monday.

Albertsons in Homedale is open regular hours (6 a.m. to 10 p.m.) on New Year’s Day, but the Sav-On Pharmacy inside the store will be closed. The pharmacy is always closed on Sundays.

Logan’s Market in Marsing is closed New Year’s Day. It’ll be open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on New Year’s Eve (Sunday).

Homedale Drug will be closed New Year’s Day.

The Homedale Senior Center and the Rimrock Senior Center in Grand View are typically closed on Mondays.

The Owyhee Avalanche office will be closed on New Year’s Day.

The classified advertising deadline for the Dec. 3 edition noon Friday. All other deadlines remain the same.

Txoko Ona prepares for Three Kings meal

Folks have a week to get their reservations in for the annual Three Kings Day Dinner.

The dinner will be held on Saturday, Jan. 6 at the Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., in Homedale.

The doors open at 5 p.m. Dinner will start at 6:30 p.m.

Next Wednesday is the deadline to reserve tickets at the door by calling either Tony Larrocea at (208) 337-3041 or John Lejardi at (208)

337-3840. Tickets also can be purchased from any Txoko Ona board member.

The meal costs \$20 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6-12. Children 5 and younger eat for free.

Chef Jesus Alcelay will prepare lentil soup, onati salad, bread, shrimp pil pil, beef tongue in Biscayne sauce, chicken with mushroom sauce, paella, profiteroles with chocolate sauce, wine and coffee.

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Gem Highway District faces challenges

Money is always tight; S. Bruneau Hwy. work awaits

Gem Highway District secretary and treasurer Stella Bush has seen an ongoing theme in her 10 years with the agency: a marked lack of appropriate funding.

She says the biggest obstacle facing the district is using a nearly static budget to maintain roads in the Marsing area at a safe level as maintenance costs continue to rise.

“We have managed to stretch the budget to manage the maintenance needs by cutting back on administrative costs and non-essential needs,” Bush said.

The district covers 60 miles of roads in the northwest part of Owyhee County.

While Bush reports it’s a constant challenge to keep all district roads in good shape, some stand out more than others.

Buntrock, Poison Creek, and South Edison roads seem to require constant attention because of the increasingly high volume of agricultural truck traffic.

The district has been around since the 1920s. It’s bordered on the north and east by the Snake River, to the north and west by Market and Gem roads, and to the far west by a point west of Jump Creek Road. The district’s jurisdiction stretches as far south as Givens.

District commissioners include:

- Chairman Jay Hall, whose subdistrict is the Opaline area, has been on the board for more than 20 years;

- Morris Giedd, whose subdistrict is south of Idaho highway 55, has served on the board for around 18 years;

- Jeff Percifield, with a jurisdiction north of Idaho 55, has also been on the district board for 18 years. He also serves as a Marsing Fire District commissioner.

The board meets at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting takes place on Jan. 9 at the district office, 1016 Main St., in Marsing.

Road foreman Rick Meade has been with the highway district for 16 years.

Gem has many projects upcoming, Bush said.

“Replacing pipe at the canal crossing on Poison Creek is the highest priority at this time,” Bush said.

The district awaits funding for a project to widen South Bruneau Highway and upgrade the roadway’s shoulder. This project will require the relocation of signage out of the right-of-way at the Gem Irrigation pump house.

Bush reported that the district hopes to get back to the seven-year sealcoat rotation that has been scaled back in recent years because of budget constraints.

There is always one constant, though.

“Always on the list is meeting the needs facing us from the increasing traffic impact on our roads,” she said.

— TK

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Local VFW post awards civics awards

Samuel C. Phillips III Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11065 Cmdr. Daniel Carlson stands between the district’s top speakers and essayists during a Dec. 9 Christmas banquet in Marsing.

At left: Homedale High School students who finished first through third, respectively, in the Voice of Democracy speech contest were, from left, Shantelle L. Conger, Jenna D. Rupp and Abbie Gray. All three are students in Ed Lee’s class.

At right: The top three entrants in the Patriot’s Pen essay contest for middle-schoolers were included, from right, first-place Kathryn Olivia Brown, and second-place Emily Jeane Thoene, both from Juanita DeLeon’s Marsing class, and third-place writer Maylisa Hodges of Julie Green’s Hope Christian Academy class.

Submitted photo

Feds to help HPD pay 7th officer

Newest patrolmen head for academy next month

The Homedale Police Department has received federal funding to help support its payroll.

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded a three-year grant out of its Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS).

This is the first time that HPD has received a COPS grant.

The grant will pay for 75 percent of new Officer Sal Vega’s salary (up to \$37,350 per year) for the next three years. The total amount of the grant is \$112,051.

Homedale will be respon-

sible for \$37,350 total over the next three years.

“It’s a super-great deal, and it’s a long time coming,” Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said. “I’ve applied for it for the last 11 years in a row.”

The city must retain Vega’s position on the force for one year after the life of the grant, paying 100 percent of his salary.

The city council already had established a budget line for a seventh officer in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget. With the COPS grant in place now, planning for the fourth year will be a snap, Eidemiller said.

“We already budgeted this year. If we just continue to budget throughout that time for the \$37,000 for the next three years we will have budgeted for his fourth year of wages,”

Eidemiller said.

Eidemiller said the city’s citizens and taxpayers are “the winners” in the light of the city winning the grant. Less tax base will be needed to pay for the officer over the next three years than originally anticipated.

Vega and Danny Zenor, the department’s sixth officer, will begin Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training academy on Jan. 22. They’ve already been in the HPD field training program.

Eidemiller introduced Vega to the city council at its Dec. 13 meeting.

A U.S. Army veteran, Vega has seen three combat tours and also recently completed service in the Idaho National Guard, Eidemiller said.

— JPB

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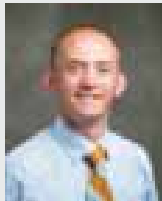
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A group of seven students, four men and three women, are posing outdoors in a parking lot. They are holding various cardboard boxes, some of which are labeled 'Amazon' and 'Target'. In the background, a white pickup truck is parked, and a red 'DO NOT ENTER' sign is visible. The students are dressed in casual winter clothing, including jackets, sweaters, and jeans. The ground is covered with patches of snow and grass.

Homedale High School senior Tony Baltierrez (second from left) and some of his classmates drop off proceeds from the Hands Around Homedale food drive at the Presbyterian Church. Submitted photo

Ric Uria made the delivery to the school last week, and other members from the Homedale-Marsing area include Tim Quintana, Mike Frank, John Indart, Simon Landa and Mark Araquistain.

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

Homedale gets insurance help on sewer pump failure

Mayor: Regular checks will extend device life

Insurance will pay for some of the sewer lift station repairs that forced the City of Homedale to rent a costly pump this year. The city already has received a check for nearly \$23,000 from the Idaho Counties Risk Management Program, according to public works supervisor Bret Smith. “No matter what, it’s better than us footing the whole bill, but that is helping to offset those costs and hopefully we will continue to see some more to offset the further costs,” Smith said. Another insurance claim has been filed, but city clerk and treasurer Alice Pegram said word on whether it will

be accepted hasn’t been received. The city has spent more than \$52,000 on the sewer lift repair this year, including:

- More than \$21,700 for a new pump
- More than \$8,700 for pump rental for nearly three months from August through the end of October
- More than \$22,000 in pump repairs

The city has a \$50,000 contingency fund in its sewer budget to take care of such unforeseen repairs, which Smith previously had said were brought about because of a lack of regular maintenance. “We’ve learned on some of this stuff. And we have learned that there has been stuff that has never been done down there (at the lift station),” Mayor Gheen Christoffersen said during the last city council meeting.

“Those motors should come out every four or five years and rotate through.” Christoffersen said the city plans to get on a maintenance schedule that will require one pump to be pulled about four years from now and sent into the shop to be inspected, fixed if necessary, and sent back. The other pumps would be sent for inspection and necessary repairs in Years 5 and 6. The public works crew is hand-inspecting the pumps two times a week to ensure they are in working order, Christoffersen said. The city now has two pumps in use at the lift station, and there are three pumps total. One of the pumps is new, and two have been rebuilt. The pumps on loan from United Rentals have been returned.

— JPB

County retains funding with more waterways projects in mind

With the close of the calendar year, Owyhee County has asked to retain more than \$60,000 in 2017 Waterways funds. The Board of County Commissioners signed off on the request to the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation during their Dec. 18 meeting in Murphy. Waterways monies, which are kept in the county vessel fund, come from the state as a percentage of boat registrations on which people list Owyhee County as their primary county of use. The county wants to retain \$61,068 in Waterways funds. Officials will be submitting a grant proposal for the dredging of Black Sands Ramp inlet, and most of the retained Waterways funds would be used as a grant match if successful. The sheriff’s office has purchased an inflatable rescue sled for \$10,000, and some of the retained funds could be used to equip the vessel for law enforcement and rescue use. OCSO is responsible for patrolling 123 miles of the Snake River, as well as the whole of CJ Strike Reservoir, part of the Owyhee River, and the Bruneau River. As a result of increased population

in surrounding counties and waterways use, the sheriff’s office deemed it necessary to purchase the additional boat, according to the county’s letter seeking retention of funds. The inflatable rescue sled is the third vessel in the OCSO fleet. Additionally, according to the funds request, the Marsing boat storage facility is in need of a heating source. The sheriff’s office is obtaining bids, and the estimated cost of purchase and installation is expected to be around \$5,000. There are also ongoing waterways projects in Marsing and Grand View. County Clerk Angie Barkell said that either city could request money from the county Vessel Fund to pay for aspects of their boat ramp projects.

- County commissioners are in the beginning stages of a relationship that will establish a high-precision GPS network in county buildings in Homedale and Murphy.

Sean Fernandez, state cadastral surveyor from the Utah Automated Geographic Reference Center (AGRC) presented a plan to the Board of County Commissioners that will improve the quality of geographic information system (GIS) data. Fernandez met via telecon-

ference with the commissioners during a Dec. 18 meeting in Murphy. According to Fernandez, the plan will better the productivity, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of government services. The plan calls for small antennae to be installed on top of county buildings and a receiver placed in an IT closet within each facility. The receiver would then be plugged into the county IT switch to provide internet service. “It only requires 500 bps (bits-per-second) streaming, which is extremely small and won’t slow down (the county’s) current internet service,” Fernandez wrote in an email. Fernandez assured commissioners that there would be no cost to the county, and all equipment would be supplied by AGRC. Further, Owyhee County would get two free subscriptions to the service that can be used by any county department. The Utah AGRC now has several stations throughout eastern and southern Idaho, from Soda Springs to Meridian. County commissioners are currently exploring this plan further and exploring appropriate places for the antennae.

— TK

Bruneau ready to celebrate New Year’s

Live music and a good time for all ages will help Bruneau ring in the new year Sunday. Faith, Family, Fun Night, an alcohol-free New Year’s Eve celebration, will start at 7 p.m. on Sunday inside the American Legion Post 83 Hall, 32548 Belle Ave. Blaine and Molly Lilly are putting together the party,

which will feature live music and dancing. Folks are asked to bring an appetizer or finger food for admission. Children are welcome to attend the evening. Blaine & Molly Lilly & Friends will provide the live music. Bo and Cathy Lowe round out the band.

Library to host New Year’s activities

Homedale Public Library will bring in the new year with a Teens & Tweens celebration on Friday. There will be fun and games, including New Year’s Minute to Win It games such as Ball Drop, Pop the Confetti, New Year’s Eve Countdown, and others. The fun will begin at 4 p.m. Also Friday, the library will be hosting Story Time, reading

two stories that rhyme. The first story read will be “The Bickleby’s Birdbath,” followed by “Llama Llama and the Bully Goat.” There will also be a rhyming activity, and afterwards there will be a New Year’s craft for the children. Story Time will commence at 10:15 a.m. The library is located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave.

Grant helps extend Bruneau library speaker program

A \$1,000 grant will help the Bruneau Valley Library continue its monthly speaker luncheon program. The library received support for its Bruneau and Beyond program through a Idaho Community Foundation grant from its Southwest Region

Unrestricted Fund, the library announced in a press release. The speaker program features a free luncheon and presentation at noon on the third Wednesday of every month. The next program will be held on Jan. 17 at the library, 32073 Belle Ave., in Bruneau.



✓ Siren: Familiar wail again emanates from water tower

the Caldwell shop. “We hand-made the pieces that went back in,” Priest said. The siren hadn’t been heard from for months because it was broken, Uria said. He added that Priest Electric staff had to research and hunt parts for the vintage siren. Uria figures the siren had been on the water tower since the 1930s. “Some of the original guys on the fire department put that up,” he said. Even with technology such as pagers and cellphones and text messaging, the siren is sometimes still the most effective way to get volunteer firefighters’ attention, Uria said, especially in a community

where volunteers might be on a noisy tractor and not hear their phone or pager. “When I first got on (the fire crew), that’s the only way we knew that there was a fire,” Uria said. “Now we’ve got the technology and stuff, but you’d still hear that fire siren go off.” Uria said he can hear the siren at his house two miles outside of town. The siren was removed from the water tower about August 2016 when Jace Davis’ Valspec Painting LLC began painting the landmark. Uria said the city public works crew reinstalled the siren about five weeks ago.

— JPB

Succor Creek Canyon

The Ranch on Flint Creek was the favorite gathering place of the extended Townsend clan, but a close second was Succor Creek Canyon. The majority of Easters were spent celebrating in that Canyon.

My memories were from the mid-'50s to mid-'60s. Succor Creek dam had not been constructed and there was no official park. We picnicked at the current park location, but it looked a whole lot different then. After the spring run-offs and floods, that area was just a rock-laden wide spot in the canyon.

One of the activities other than eating was a softball game. Teams were chosen, and the men and older teens attempted to play the game around and over the boulders and other debris from the recent high water. It was serious business, and a lot of effort went in to win. Because of the terrain there were always sprains, scrapes and bruises on most of the players after the games were over. Injuries or not, it was always exciting.

We younger kids were kept busy with Easter egg hunts, real Easter eggs, and just having kid fun. One of the main events for us was to try and climb the West Canyon wall behind our picnicking spot. This was a challenge, and if we actually made it to the top we were truly king of the hill. One trip resulted in some of the older boys getting stuck on a narrow ledge and having to be rescued, another was one of my younger cousins falling down and breaking a leg. You can't say we didn't know how



Reminiscing Owyhee memories by Terry Simon

to have fun.

The event that sticks the most in my mind was the time the older teenagers decided to cross Succor Creek even though it was flowing very fast and high. These are the same bunch, known for trouble, which were paid to throw some of the older men into Flint Creek one summer. They took a rope and tied it to each other and started to wade across. The water would knock one down, but they were able to get him or her up and on they went. They actually crossed over to the other side and back. That really was quite a feat.

I recently heard from one of my relatives that the

trip across Succor Creek was to rescue a couple lambs the teenagers saw and figured they were trapped. They did indeed get the lambs to a local rancher but later found out that rancher didn't actually own the sheep. It would appear that the teenagers were unknowing sheep rustlers.

I wondered why the adults would let them try such a stunt but then remembered these are the same teenagers that threw grown men into Flint Creek, so maybe the adults figured, "What would be the loss?"

My Grandmother Charlotte Townsend Kershner and her siblings were the glue that held this branch of the Townsend clan together. They were the ones who organized the outings to Flint and Succor Creek. Family was a very large part of my growing-up experiences. As these wonderful people passed on and television and the electronic media became popular, these outings became less and less frequent. There is still a bond amongst us who were part of that generation, but it is growing weaker as we age, and I fear our children will never share the happiness that comes from being rooted in such a large, close-knit clan from Owyhee County.

— Terry Simon was raised in Homedale, and his family has deep roots in Owyhee County. For more information on submitting your memories of Owyhee country for the Reminiscing feature, call (208) 337-4681, ext. 102 or email jon@owyheeavalanche.com.

Keeping your Christmas plants viable year-round

The holiday season is a time of year when we buy a lot of houseplants. Poinsettias, Christmas cacti, orchids, and others adorn our homes and are given as gifts to friends, family, and co-workers. What do you do with them after the holidays? Composting them is one option. But let's look at less drastic measures. Let's take a look at what you can do to keep them alive all year and make them re-bloom in the future.



Rich Guggenheim

The first general rule of plant care is "Right Plant, Right Place." I once had a college roommate who purchased an

enormous star pine for a college apartment. It took up the whole living room, and we were in a basement apartment. Star Pines like lots of direct light and warm environments. They grow on the coast of Southern California, Florida, and Hawaii. Knowing where a plant is native to can give important clues as to the type of care it will need to survive. A Star Pine is probably not the best choice for a small poorly lit, drafty college apartment.

Plants growing indoors require several things to be happy:

Right light — Most plants prefer a well-lit window or area next to a window. Intensity of light includes "foot candles," the amount of light measured by one candle one foot away, or how bright the light is.

University of Idaho Extension

Plants also require specific length of light. Some plants are long day, others bloom during short days, like poinsettia and Christmas cactus. These plants need 14 hours of uninterrupted dark for about six weeks to bloom. Getting up and turning on the light when you have a midnight snack will disrupt the blooming of plants.

Right water — Some plants like a lot of water, some like it very dry. Remember to think about where the plant is native to. Poinsettias are closely related to cacti, and like well-drained soil that will dry out in between watering. How much and how frequently you water will depend on several factors, including the potting medium

(soil), what the pot is made of, temperature of the room your plant is in, and amount of light your plant receives. A plant in a sunny, warm room will use more water than a plant in a cool, shady room.

Another important issue with house plants can be controlling insect pests. Common pest problems include fungus gnats, aphids, and scale. There are a number of cultural ways to manage them, including proper light, water, and keeping them clean. When needed, there are several insecticides that can be used to control pests. Be sure to read and follow label instructions when using any pesticide. One way to keep pests in check is to scout plants regularly for problems such as insects or disease. Do this once a week when you water, dust,

and turn your plants and you can spot potential issues before they become a big problem. Hand removal of insects, or parts with problems can be an effective way to control pest and disease.

For more information on growing plants indoors, check out the University of Idaho Extension gardening website at <http://web.cals.uidaho.edu/idahogardens/>

— Rich Guggenheim is the horticulture Extension educator for the University of Idaho Canyon County Extension Office, 501 Main St., Caldwell. He can be reached at (208) 459-6003 or richg@uidaho.edu. If you have a topic you'd like to see Rich cover in his column, email suggestions to jon@owyheeavalanche.com.

Southern Gospel group to sing at Mtn. View church

A Meridian-based gospel vocal group is making a return visit to Mountain View Church of the Nazarene.

Liberty, a quartet that performs Southern Gospel, will provide music during the church's morning worship

service at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 7.

The performance is free and open to the public.

A love offering will be accepted for Liberty's Ministry.

Liberty features Royce Mitchell, bass; Paul W. Ellis, lead; Derek Simonis, baritone; and Philip Batton, tenor.

The church is located at 26515 Ustick Road (on the corner of Ustick Road and Batt Corner Road) between Homedale

and Wilder.

For more information about the church, call (208) 337-3151.

For more information on Liberty, visit www.libertyquartet.com or call (208) 938-9364.

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Sheriff envisions county fitness, training facility

Grant: More fit deputies will help in mission to protect citizens

Owyhee County Sheriff Perry Grant has been pushing for a workout facility for his deputies.

He identified this as a real need and thinks it would be a good idea to open it to all county employees as a means to promote health.

In addition to physical fitness activities, the facility also could be used to further deputies' training in other aspects of law enforcement, including driving under the influence detection, use of Tasers and other means of subduing suspects.

"A training room is needed for this, along with being able to convert it into other styles of training when we bring instructors in," Grant said.

The physical fitness training aspect mirrors what other jurisdictions already have, the sheriff said.

"Many law enforcement agencies have workout facilities that they offer employees," Grant said. "I don't anticipate many issues."

He said he hasn't had the opportunity yet to speak with county attorneys about any possible liabilities.

"I can anticipate, with a signed waiver, it will be a go," he said.

County employees currently have other, less convenient options. The YMCA offers a discount to Owyhee County workers, but the closest center is in Caldwell. Grant doesn't think that is a viable solution.

There are actually several certified fitness instructors working for the county, but they lack the facilities neces-

sary.

Grant notes that the law enforcement environment has changed significantly over time, and there is a constant need for training. A dedicated exercise facility would help immeasurably in that regard, he said.

There is an open bay at the Murphy boat shed that may be used to house the equipment, according to an email Grant sent to other county officials recently.

He said he has been looking for equipment to use in the facility as well. He mentioned that it is common for smaller agencies to purchase and use surplus equipment.

Grant has found an elliptical machine and a total system gym for \$500. New, the equipment costs close to \$10,000, he estimates.

He said because every department in his office, as well as other county offices, can benefit from access to the equipment, he may ask if any of them want to pitch in for additional future items.

"I envision one day to be able to set up a full training facility for our employees," Grant said.

He further added, "It's all about keeping our citizens and employees safe."

Grant understands there is a trust given to his office, as an elected official, and that he will figure out the best way to use resources granted to him to improve services.

The proposed weight room and workout facility has a great deal of meaning to the sheriff.

"It's a start for achieving the goals of healthier and more fit deputies to help the citizens and a continuation in the evolution of law enforcement in Owyhee County," he said.

— TK

Passport perfect to hook hunters

Ask the conservation officer

Question: Can you tell me more about the Idaho Fish and Game Passport Hunting Program?

Answer: The Idaho Fish and Game Passport Hunting Program has been around for a few years and provides an excellent avenue for first-time hunters to try out hunting in Idaho for the first time without the requirement of taking a traditional or online hunter education course. It is a pretty neat program, and it is a great way to introduce a new hunter to the safe, ethical and responsible aspects of hunting by using the close supervision of an adult mentor.



Craig Mickelson

New hunters can buy the hunting passport license as early as age 8, and even adult hunters can take advantage of this passport hunting license as long as they are first-time hunters. You are not eligible for this passport hunting license if you have held a hunting license in Idaho or any other state.

There are a few restrictions with this license.

- These hunting passports are only available to first-time hunters.
- The passport hunting license holder also must be accompanied in the field by a licensed adult hunter, and the adult hunter needs to be close enough to be within normal conversation or hearing range without shouting or the aid of electronic devices. This is so the adult license hunter can mentor the new passport hunter and teach them all the aspects of hunting, which could include gun



Columnist Craig Mickelson's 11-year-old son, Louie, hunts pheasants with the family dog, Georgia. Submitted photo

safety, zones of fire, wildlife laws, survival, field dressing wildlife, muzzle control and conservation aspects.

Another cool deal is the low cost: a whopping \$1.75. These hunting passports can be purchased at any Idaho Fish and Game vendor, online, or at any Idaho Fish and Game office.

The hunting passport license is valid through the calendar year and expires on Dec. 31 of the year it was issued.

I have seen a few violations with this hunting passport license. One of the violations I witnessed occurred as I was on jet boat patrol along the Snake River near Givens Hot Springs. I observed a hunter shoot from a vehicle and shoot across a paved road (publicly maintained road).

When I contacted the hunter he admitted to hunting rabbits, had an Idaho hunting passport license and was not accompanied by a licensed adult hunter.

The hunter knew it was unlawful to shoot from the vehicle. However, he did not know it was unlawful to shoot across/ from a publicly maintained road. This is a huge safety factor and an innocent motorist or jogger could have been hit. The hunter also had an unregistered vehicle and no insurance for the vehicle. I issued one citation, several warnings and sent the hunter on his way.

If you have any questions drop me a note and I will try to respond with a future article. I can be reached at craig.mickelson@idfg.idaho.gov.

— Craig Mickelson is a Senior Conservation Officer covering western Owyhee County and the Lake Lowell section of Canyon County. Craig currently serves as a firearms instructor, field training officer and was recently selected as a K9 handler for Idaho Fish and Game.

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MAKING CHRISTMAS BRIGHT



Coaches and players from the Marsing High School boys' basketball program put together care packages during Thursday's organization for the community's Giving Tree service project. Presents and food were gathered at the school district cafeteria for distribution.



Above: Marsing Middle School guidance counselor Carrie Patterson (left) and Jolyn Green were two of dozens of volunteers gathered to help gather and package Christmas donations for more than 30 Marsing families on Thursday at the school district's cafeteria. Left: Marsing Elementary School principal Dr. Glen Croft (left) wraps presents for needy Marsing families on Thursday.



Above: Homedale Police Officer Andrew Arnold hangs out with Santa during the annual Shop with a Sheriff event for needy children held Dec. 16 at a Nampa Walmart. Right: HPD Sgt. Mike McFetridge and his wife (left) also participated. The Owyhee County Sheriff's Office and sheriff's Posse also sponsored children during the early-morning shopping spree and breakfast.





From left: Sophomore Cade Brackett (16-year-old son of Kim and Ira Brackett), juniors Logan Stansell (16, Wendy and Eric Stansell) and Ethan Archer (16, Amy and Arless), and sophomore Isaac Morgan (16, Nancy and Shaun Morgan) stand next to their project tractor.

Marsing FFA rallies for Giving Tree

Chapter undertakes tractor restoration project

When the Giving Tree volunteers gathered to make care packages Thursday in Marsing, they were able to use nearly 1,300 food and clothing items from Marsing FFA.

The FFA chapter collected canned food, dry goods, blankets and toys as part of a “Stuff the Tractor” Christmas drive.

The winning team of Kyle Olsen, Robert White, Taylor Fisher and Bailey Battaglia collected 294 items.

“As a reward for the efforts, students were treated to a barbecue of homemade chili and cheesecake,” Marsing FFA advisor Mike Martin said.

With the food and gift drive complete, a handful of FFA students dropped by the school ag shop after Christmas break officially ended last Wednesday to continue work



The food collected by the Marsing FFA was distributed Thursday as part of the Wish Tree project. Submitted photo

on a new project.

A retired Nampa Police officer, Paul Quintero, recently donated a 1947 International Harvester Cub tractor to Marsing FFA.

Chapter members Logan Stansell, Cade Brackett, Ethan Archer and Isaac Morgan have torn down the tractor’s engine, and they’ve also labeled all the

electrical components for easy reassembly.

Martin said Quintero approached Marsing student Alejandra Miranda in a store when he spotted her wearing an FFA jacket.

According to Martin, Quintero had purchased the tractor for his wife years ago. The tractor hasn’t been in operation for at least 12 years, Martin said.

Quintero also gave the chapter some implements, such as a bottom plow, belly scraper and side sickle as well as a John Deere windrow.

Christopher Even and Colton Hutchings have been refurbishing the side sickle.

Once the restoration projects are complete, the FFA chapter hopes to auction the IH tractor and its implements and the John Deere windrow as a fundraiser.

Martin said the John Deere implement will be sold separately from the IH equipment.

— JPB



Christopher Even (left) and Colton Hutchings, who are 16-year-old juniors, are working on a side sickle for the tractor. Even’s parents are Kim and Chris Even, and Hutchings’ parents are Dorothy and the late Curtis Hutchings.

Proposed mental health crisis center could benefit county

Funding push could come in 2018 Legislature

Southwest District Health is leading a drive to get a mental health crisis center up and going for Region 3.

Owyhee County officials say such a facility will save time and money compared to the existing system.

The crisis center, which probably will be located in Canyon County, is to be mainly used as a 24-hour processing and holding facility to help combat mental illness issues.

It is quite common for patients to require a short stay to get back on medications or to have their medications adjusted.

“The whole idea is that when people haven’t been using their medications properly it might just take a day or so to get them back to their lives,” District 2 county Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi said.

“You sure don’t want them sitting in the emergency room because that’s a tremendous cost to the county.”

Aberasturi noted that often times those costs end up being covered by the county’s medical indigency fund and pointed out that a stay at Intermountain Hospital can cost \$950 per day.

Sheriff Perry Grant said having a nearby facility for short-term holding could limit the time commitment for deputies by several hours per incident. This would help ensure the county is not losing valuable man-hours by dedicating officers to the care of those struggling with mental illness.

Currently, deputies must stay with patients when they are transported for a temporary hold. On-site deputies would take custody of patients at the crisis center.

“When we go on a mental hold,” Grant wrote in an email, “we could be gone for hours at a time locating a bed (sometimes going as far as Twin Falls) for people who have been deemed a possible risk to themselves but not a criminal risk to the public.”

The Idaho Peace Officers and Standards Training (POST) academy spends only a few hours on training law enforcement personnel to handle

these involuntary holds.

Grant said there are also many mental illness trainings for peace officers but the real problem is the loss of manpower on the beat during these holds.

Nikole Zogg, director of Southwest District Health, presented a plan to Owyhee County commissioners in November that would ask for funding from the state, Region 3 counties (Adams, Canyon, Gem, Owyhee, Payette, and Washington), the cities of Nampa and Caldwell and from the Saint Alphonsus and St. Luke’s health systems.

There is a call for the state to commit to funding for longer than two years. The current plan is for Idaho to pay half of the \$1.5 million that is estimated to be ongoing costs. The rest would come from the other entities.

There is no indication how much each county would pay at this point.

Program funding will be sought during the 2018 Idaho Legislature.

If funding is locked down, the center will need to be up and running by the end of next year.

Aberasturi said there are often waiting lists to get into some psychiatric facilities, such as Intermountain Hospital, and those facilities typically want to take just the most acute cases. The need for short-term care is the driving force behind the crisis center concept.

“When we went to the Idaho Falls crisis center, that’s the model we want to go after,” Aberasturi said.

When a police officer or sheriff’s deputy drops off a subject at a crisis center, there is already a guard there. That allows the lawman to return to the duties in his jurisdiction.

Of course, many patients will need more than the 24 hours allowed. When this happens, they will be discharged as they approach that deadline and simply re-admitted.

If the center is approved, it will likely be located in Caldwell or Nampa near the bulk of the Region 3 population.

— TK

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

Homedale boys build winning streak

Avalanche Sports

Homedale, Marsing athlete spotlights



Tim Little coaches up his Marsing High School boys' basketball team in a timeout Saturday during the Nampa Christian Christmas Tournament championship game.

Hot defense keeps cold MHS boys in running for NC title

Trojans take advantage to win their own tournament

For all the fatigue and missed field goals and foul shots, Marsing High School still had a shot at a championship Saturday. Then Nampa Christian's best player seized control of the title game of his school's Christmas tournament. "Griffin Carson is an all-state player, and when he decides to take over a game he does," Huskies coach Tim Little said. Carson scored 17 points in a 25-6 run that cemented Nampa Christian's 49-28 victory Saturday afternoon. He led all scorers with 23 points. Marsing (4-5 overall) had pulled to within four points, 21-17, on Dwight Sevy's second-quarter layup. The basket was part of a 6½-minute stretch in which the Huskies scored 14 of the game's 18 points. Marsing roared back despite connecting on just three of 22 field-goal attempts in the first half. By the time the Huskies got within four points, they had missed five of 11 free throws and 20 of 25 field-goal attempts (including 16



Marsing senior Tyler Wood takes a shot over a Nampa Christian defender late in Saturday's title game.

of their first 17). Marsing shoots 66 percent from the line as a team this season. An 83 percent foul shooter, junior Enrique Quebrado converted just five of nine free throws against the Trojans. "That's a sign of being tired and being worn down," Little said.

Quebrado was Marsing's high scorer with nine points. He also had six rebounds. Fellow starter Landry Villa chipped in six points, while Tyler Wood put in five. Sevy led the team with seven rebounds.

— See *MHS boys*, page 14

Trojans girls cruise past Weiser at home

Betancourt spreads playing time around

Homedale High School cruised to its second girls' basketball conference win in as many outings. Amaya Carter led a balanced and well-rested attack as the

Trojans walloped Weiser, 41-24, in a 3A Snake River Valley conference home game. Josey Hall played the most minutes of any of coach Joe Betancourt's squad as Homedale led by as many as 23 points. The junior post player scored seven points and grabbed five rebounds in 25 minutes on the

— See *Trojans*, page 13

Marsing girls pick up first 2A WIC victory

Long-range offensive attack vanquishes Vandals

A second-half three-point barrage carried Marsing High School to its first girls' basketball conference victory. Trailing by three points to visiting McCall-Donnelly at halftime, the Huskies converted on half of their 10 shots from behind the three-point line to pull out a 50-41 2A Western Idaho Conference victory. Elsa Margarito and Emily Loucks put in two treys apiece to lead last Wednesday's effort. Marsing (8-4 overall, 1-2 in conference) fell behind early and faced a 24-21 deficit at the break. The Huskies collected only one more field goal after halftime than they did in the first half (10 to nine), but drilled four more three-point goals in the final 16 minutes and dropped in four of five free throws.

Marsing clawed to a 36-32 lead by the end of the third quarter. Margarito led the team with 14 points and four steals. Loucks and Mackenzie Farrens came up with three steals each as the Vandals (6-4, 1-2) were forced into 19 turnovers. Marsing scored 14 points off those miscues. Autumn Bennett scored nine points and had five rebounds, while Gabriela Rodriguez and Loucks scored eight points



Marsing's Gabriela Rodriguez launches a shot over a McCall-Donnelly defender. Photo by Dan Pease

apiece. Loucks also led the team with four assists. McCall junior Lauren Hansen, an all-conference player last year, led all players with 15 points. The Vandals' shooting accuracy dropped off considerably in the second half. McCall-Donnelly hit on 10 of 24 field-goal attempts in the first half (41.7 percent), but missed 19 of its 26 shots (26.9 percent) after the intermission.

Sports

Homedale boys rev up after slow opening

Matlock leads the way with 15 points

A 19-point second quarter allowed Homedale High School to end 2017 with a winning streak.

After both teams slogged through the first quarter, the Trojans took control for a 48-31 non-conference victory over host Vale, Ore.

Senior post Scott Matlock's season-high 15 points helped Homedale (3-7 overall) end Vale's two-game winning streak.

The Vikings (2-5) came into the game with back-to-back victories against Melba and Payette.

Homedale and Vale played a scoreless first five minutes.

Junior Carson Brown (not to be confused with Vale senior Karson Brown) nailed his only field goal of the game from three-point range to get half of the Trojans' first-quarter points.

Matlock scored six points in the second quarter, and Nelson Lomeli added four.

Sophomore Daniel Uranga also fueled Homedale's biggest quarter of the game with a three-pointer and five points in the final eight minutes before halftime.

Mason Kincheloe scored eight points for the Trojans.

Francisco Medrano paced Vale with 11 points, while Kade Haueter added eight points.

Vale's Karson Brown scored five points as the Vikings rotated only seven athletes in the game.



Homedale senior post player Scott Matlock (center) fights toward the basket through the defense of Vale's Francisco Medrano (21) as the Vikings' Kade Haueter looks on. Photo by John Braese / Malheur Enterprise

✓ Trojans: Amaya Carter paces scorers again

From Page 12 floor. She also blocked two shots, as did senior guard Faith Jacobson.

Carter and Weiser's Brittany Hickey shared scoring honors with nine points each. A junior, Carter played just under 12 minutes because of foul trouble.

Jayci Swallow and Lainey Johnson knocked down two three-point goals each. Swallow scored eight points, and Johnson had six.

Homedale (7-6 overall, 2-0 3A SRV) converted 34.8 percent of its shots (16-for-46), but only five of 22 in the second half.

Weiser (1-13, 0-2) went 9-for-41 from the floor (21.9 percent).

In other games involving 3A SRV teams, Payette snapped a 54-game losing streak with a 67-27 drubbing of Harper Charter in Thursday's opening round of the Nyssa tournament.

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Girls' basketball
Jayci Swallow, jr., G
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8 points vs. Weiser



Boys' basketball
Scott Matlock, sr., P
Season-high 15 points vs.
Vale, Ore.

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Girls' basketball
Varsity
Thursday, Jan. 4 at New Plymouth, 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Thursday, Jan. 4 at New Plymouth, 6 p.m.
Frosh-soph
Thursday, Jan. 4 at New Plymouth, 4:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball
Varsity
Friday, Jan. 5 at Baker, Ore., 8:30 p.m. MST
Junior varsity
Friday, Jan. 5 at Baker, Ore., 7 p.m. MST
Frosh-soph
Friday, Jan. 5 at Baker, Ore., 5:30 p.m. MST

Wrestling
Friday, Jan. 5 at Rollie Lane Invitational,
Ford Idaho Center, Nampa
Saturday, Jan. 6 at Rollie Lane Invitational,
Ford Idaho Center, Nampa

Go Trojans!

Sports

✓ MHS boys: Huskies buying into coach's concepts in time for conference

From Page 12

The Huskies' weary legs were a byproduct of playing three games in 30 hours, but perhaps the most important factor was leaving everything on the floor in a 55-52 overtime victory against Payette in the semifinals.

It was the first time in three gut-wrenching encounters that Marsing had been able to knock off the 3A Snake River Valley conference stalwart, the Pirates had been ranked fifth (along with Kellogg) among the state's Class 3A teams heading into the tournament.

"That was a good thing for the third time out to get those guys," Little said. "The whole tournament was positive. Horseshoe Bend was unbeaten (before Marsing's 52-43 win Thursday afternoon)."

Little said Marsing's defense rose to the occasion against Nampa Christian. While misfiring on offense, the Huskies were able to contain

the Trojans long enough to claw back into the game.

The Huskies held a 16-8 rebounding edge on Nampa Christian's glass. At points in the first half, the Trojans had just as much trouble putting the ball in the basket as Marsing.

"We're seeing the progress we've been trying to put down in practice, strengthening our fundamentals and reducing the turnovers," Little said.

"This is a good way to go into break for us."

The team will focus on learning from Saturday's experience during the holiday. The Huskies open the 2A Western Idaho Conference season at Nampa Christian on Jan. 4.

Friday: Marsing 55, Payette 52 (OT) — The Huskies' defense stiffened late in the fourth quarter, and culminated with a shutout in the extra period.

"During the four-minute overtime, it was traditional Marsing basketball," Little said. "We controlled the ball and played very fundamental while Payette only had the ball for two possessions in the OT."

The score was still knotted, 52-52, with 30 seconds left in overtime when Quebrado got to the line after drawing a foul with penetration.

The junior hit both free

throws to put Marsing ahead, 54-52.

The defense showed up again when, according to Little, the Huskies did a good job of contesting Payette's shot on the ensuing possession and Tyler Wood grabbed a defensive rebound, got fouled and sank one of two free throws.

"Our hard work in practice is showing as we controlled the ball the last six minutes, limited our turnovers in the overtime — we had zero — and focused on one possession at a time," Little said.

"It's nice to see the improvement because the boys have been really doing what we ask and pushing themselves in practice."

Marsing's defensive stand started near the end of regulation with a couple of stops.

The Huskies had a chance to end the game at the fourth-quarter buzzer, but Wood couldn't put back Quebrado's attempted game-winner.

The Pirates had won this year's previous meetings, including a 59-57 win in regulation on Nov. 28 and a 59-52 triumph on Dec. 7.

On Friday, Marsing led by as many as 11 points in the third quarter. The Huskies held a 45-37 advantage before Payette closed the third on an 8-0 run to tie the score.

Colton Lewis, who hit three three-point goals and all of his two-point shots, led all scorers with 19 points and carried the Pirates during their third-quarter comeback.

"We weathered the storm and had a huge spark from Dwight Sevy at the start of the fourth quarter," Little said.

The junior scored six points and snagged a steal and two rebounds in the span of a minute early in the fourth.

Wood and Sevy shared Marsing scoring honors with 13 points apiece. Sevy led the way with seven rebounds.

After Sevy fouled out with four minutes left, Landry Villa picked up the slack defensively. He took a charge and deflected a pass, both of which led to Payette turnovers.

"Our bench played very well again," Little said.

Junior Heath Milburn dropped in all four of his free-throws, senior Colby Loucks was 2-for-2 from three-point range, and sophomore Joaquin Oliveros hit a three-pointer for the 14 bench points.

Thursday: Marsing 52, Horseshoe Bend 43 — Quebrado was a bright spot during a poor shooting game for the Huskies in a matinee in the tournament's first day.

The junior scored 22 points as Marsing ended the Wildcats' season-opening five-game

winning streak.

"Horseshoe Bend was a great test of us," Little said.

The Huskies held the Wildcats 17 points under their average of 60 points per game and also limited Horseshoe Bend's best scorers below their average.

Marsing connected on only 27.4 percent of its shots (17-for-62).

"Although we're still struggling with our shooting a little, our defense was solid," Little said. "All shots by Horseshoe Bend were contested, and we controlled the boards."

Marsing held a 2-to-1 rebounding edge on the Wildcats' glass, coming down with 22 boards.

Sevy added nine points and led the team with seven rebounds.

Merrick Hall led the rebounding with eight boards, and Wood chipped in seven rebounds.

Oliveros was 3-for-4 from the foul line and nailed one of Marsing's four three-point goals for his six points.

Other bench players rising up included Milburn with five points and Loucks with three points and two assists.

"Those three combined for 14 points and only two turnovers, plus excellent defense," Little said.

Garage full?
Sell it in the
Classifieds
337-4681

MARSING HUSKIES



Girls' basketball
Gabriela Rodriguez, jr., G
8 points, 7 rebounds vs.
McCall-Donnelly



Boys' basketball
Colby Loucks, sr., G
Came off bench with 4
3-pointers, 2 rebounds, 2
assists in three games.

Girls' basketball
Varsity
Friday, Jan. 5 at New Plymouth, 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Friday, Jan. 5 at New Plymouth, 6 p.m.

Boys' basketball
Varsity
Friday, Dec. 29 at Wendell, 6 p.m.
Junior varsity A
Friday, Dec. 29 at Wendell, 4:30 p.m.
Junior varsity B
Friday, Dec. 29 at Wendell, 3 p.m.

Wrestling
Varsity
Friday, Jan. 5 at Rollie Lane Invitational,
Ford Idaho Center, Nampa
Saturday, Jan. 6 at Rollie Lane Invitational,
Ford Idaho Center, Nampa
Junior varsity
Saturday, Dec. 30 at Golden Wings Tournament,
Vallivue H.S., Caldwell

Go Huskies!



896-4162



896-4815



896-4331



482-0103



337-4041

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

December 30, 1992

Orange sale shows plenty of appeal

Proceeds from the Homedale Volunteer Fire Dept.'s annual orange sale are nearing the \$500 mark, firefighter Darren Krzesnik said.

"It went better than we expected."

Fire chief Ric Uria said the 18 members of his department involved in the fundraising effort sold 70 cases this year.

They sold out after only traveling down five or six streets in town. In the past, volunteers have tried to get to every house in town.

"It's getting better every year. They really support us in about everything we do," Uria said.

Krzesnik said the group could have sold another 20 cases.

Firefighters have been selling the oranges annually since 1988 as part of their fundraising efforts to purchase equipment. Last year, the department purchased an \$800 radio for one of the trucks.

This year's sale took place Dec. 14, 15 and 16.

Dairy woman of the year named

A Homedale woman was honored for her involvement in the Idaho Dairy Industry recently.

Mary Ann Richards, Homedale, was recognized as the Idaho Dairy Woman of the Year at the United Dairymen of Idaho annual meeting in Sun Valley recently.

Richards has been in her local "Udder Half Dairy Wives" unit since moving to the area in 1978. She held various offices in the organization, including president. She has also held several offices in the state organization, served as chairman of the Real Dairy Cook-Off and has participated in many other activities on the local and state level.

Local breeders compete nationally

Colyer Herefords, Bruneau, won the senior yearling bull award with an entry at the Western Nugget National Hereford Show held recently in Reno, Nev. Also, at the 111th annual meeting of the American Hereford Association in Kansas City recently, Guy Colyer, Bruneau, was elected to serve on the board of directors of the association.

Wildcat team wins over Trojans 70-59

Aided by a 28-point performance by their big man — 6-foot-5 exchange student Anestis Tsakalaidis — and a disappointing second-half showing by the Trojans, the Wilder Wildcats clawed their way to a win over Homedale 70-59 in non-conference play.

The Wildcats' impressive, Dec. 22 win is indicative of the team's potential to repeat as A-4 state champions.

"They're the best A-4 team in the state ... going for three in a row," said Homedale coach Eric Kennedy after his team's loss.

In Tuesday night's game everything went Homedale's way — at least in the first five minutes of the game. Matt Pearson hit for two buckets, while Shane Dines had the touch from outside to nab eight points in the first quarter, including two 3-pointers, as Homedale chalked up a 22-13 first quarter lead.

The game tightened up in the second period. Carlos Ramirez had the hot hand for the Wildcats, matching Homedale's Dines from three-point range. The score stood at 26-20 with 4:14 left in the half. With 1:16 left in the half, the Wildcats tied the game. But a stubborn Trojan team tacked on four more points to go into the locker room ahead at the half 36-32.

50 years ago

December 28, 1967

Trojans Defeat Payette 55-54

A game Payette rally in the last quarter failed to stand up in the Pirates' game against Homedale Friday night. Homedale finally emerged with an extremely hard-fought 55-54 win.

With 1:30 left in the last quarter Gary Vance converted a jumper from 15 feet out to put the Trojans ahead 52-51.

After another Trojan basket, Phil Meador of the Pirates closed the gap to the final 55-54 by hitting the bucket with but four seconds showing on the clock.

Mitch Stanton let all scorers with 26 points for the Pirates, while Vance paced the Homedale crew with 20 garnerers from the field.

Homedale now has a 5-1 showing while Payette stands 1-5 on the year. The Trojans visit Parma Jan. 5, in their first A-3 league test.

Jobies to install Marcia Richards Honored Queen

Marcia Richards will be installed as Honored Queen of Homedale Job's Daughters Bethel No 31 at ceremonies tonight Thursday, Dec. 28 at the Homedale Masonic hall.

Miss Richards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Richards, is doubly honored as she has also been chosen Chapter Sweetheart of Gem chapter, Order of DeMolay.

As Chapter Sweetheart, Miss Richards is now eligible to compete with other chapter candidates for "State Sweetheart" during the state conclave to be held in Pocatello in March.

Becky Carter, past Honored Queen of Job's Daughters, closed out her reign with a recent "kidnap breakfast," a Secret Fathers banquet and a "Go to Church Sunday" at St. David's Episcopal church, Caldwell.

Masons install Silver City Lodge officers

Marvin Haney was installed worshipful master of Silver City Lodge AF&AM at an open installation held Saturday evening at the Homedale Masonic hall. Installing officer was Gifford Shaffer, Payette, grandmaster of the Masonic Lodge of Idaho. Installing marshal was Homer Judy, also of Payette and grand historian. Other officers are William Moore and Joe Bennett, senior and junior wardens; Robert McArthur, secretary; Homer Anderson, treasurer; Tom Arima and Willis Titmus, junior deacons; Paul Akichika and Floyd Breach, senior and junior stewards; Lorrain Upton, chaplain; William Danforth, marshal; and Willie Hawes, tyler.

Dennis Watson in Vietnam

Army Private Dennis R. Watson, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Watson, Homedale, has arrived in Vietnam with his unit, the 101st Airborne Division. Pvt. Watson is a rifleman in Company D, 1st Battalion of the division's 306th Infantry.

Opaline-Givens

By Mrs. Berry Givens

After zero temperatures and snow and icy roads, Christmas morning was warm and almost clear of fog, allowing everyone to make early-morning trips to nearby towns to attend church services, family get-togethers and dinners and swims at Givens Springs.

Calvin Johnston spent Christmas Eve with his aunt Cecelia Givens and Christmas Day drove to Boise to join his sister Mrs. B. Boston and Mrs. Al Curtis and their families for dinner.

140 years ago

December 29, 1877

Wagontown Mines

Wagontown, Dec 21, 1877.

Editor Idaho Avalanche:

Mining operations at this camp have not been prosecuted with great energy for some time past, but things are assuming a more healthy aspect. Jones & Adams are at work crushing a number of lots of good ore from various mines in this vicinity. They will soon go to work on ore from the Black Jack mine on Florida Mountain. I believe this mill has succeeded working the ore from that mine closer to the pulp assay than any other mill that has tried it; the lot they worked yielding \$46 per ton and working up to nearly ninety per cent of the pulp assay. Crushings have been made recently from the Webfoot, Crown Prince, J. B. Dodd and other mines on Webfoot Hill of this district.

The Crown Prince, owned principally Wm. Babcox, the Webfoot, owned by Thomas Walls, T. B. Warren, Jim Lee and others, being two of the principal mines here, are idle at present, with the probability of work being resumed on the latter shortly. They are both large ledges, with true walls, containing heavy bodies of good ore, but neither of them extravagantly rich; each, however, sufficiently rich to pay a handsome profit on economical working; the former having been tested to a depth of sixty and the latter ninety feet.

Brockey and Mace are at work in the Henrietta and Furen and Shuster in the St. John. The ore comes from these mines in limited quantities and is sold at the rate of about a thousand or fifteen hundred dollars a ton and shipped below for reduction, those selling the ore only receiving fifty per cent of the assay value.

What I regard as the best mine in camp for ready money is what is known as the Ohio mine, owned by Frank Lepley, Esq., who discovered it a little more than a year ago. The Stoddard brothers had a lease of it and worked it for about 4 months, took out 104. One hundred tons of this was worked at one of the Silver City mills. It pulped, according to the sampling of the mill men, a little more than \$60 per ton, of which they only saved about \$22. Four tons of the same lot was by accident or chance left at another mill and was worked by it, pulping \$87 per ton, of which \$45 was saved. The Stoddards lost on this, 104 tons of ore about \$5,000 that should have been saved. Other parties took hold of the mine for the next month and a half and with three or four men working and the ore being worked to a little over fifty per cent of the pulp assay, cleared \$1,700. The best that has been done with this ore by any mill has been to save sixty per cent of the metal. The tailings have been saved from that worked at Jones' mill and will shortly be re-worked. Mr. Lepley is working the mine himself now, being assisted by Brown and Martin, who are sinking a winze and taking ore at a depth of about 60 feet from the surface. Stepping into the mine recently I found the ledge to be about 2½ feet wide with a smooth clay seam root wall, the ore being "frozen" in the hanging wall.

The mine is situated on the eastern slope of the hill. The ledge dips east at a slight angle while all the other mines on the hill that dip at all, dip west. Its general direction is more nearly due north and south than any of the others.

BREVITIES

Idaho is larger than the whole of New England. It is one of the easiest things in the world to catch a cold.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



On the edge of common sense Down on the farm

It's Christmas time again in the city. Street lights, store windows, parties, jolly songs are being sung, TV and radio commercials are pronouncing its coming! Most of the attention centers around giving and receiving gifts, cards, trees, eggnog, turkey dressing, decorations and company coming. And in the midst of all this joyous chaos of celebration, someone is bound to remind us of the "real meaning" of Christmas: the birth of Jesus Christ.

It's understandable that we need reminding. We get so busy just being "busy" about earthly stuff that it comes between us and our Maker. It is especially true if our world circles around skyscrapers, big malls, traffic jams and 8 to 5 commitments.

Folks who live in the country have the opportunity to be a little closer to God. Not that they always take it, but the opportunity is there. We get to witness a brand-new life begin. A baby calf, a litter of pigs, corn sprouting, apple blossoms, a staggering colt. Sometimes we get to help God create these miracles. He even allows us to take partial credit, but lest we get too cocky, He doesn't allow us to take it for granted. A hailstorm, a case of killer scours, or drought reminds us who's really responsible.

Because farm and ranch people have chosen to work directly with God, we get a closer look at life than most folks. We are not insulated from its precarious nature. Yet, in return we are exposed to the beautiful sunrise, the smell of rain, the quiet snow and the satisfaction of saving a life now and then.

Christmas (not Xmas) honors the life and teachings of God come to earth. God went out on a limb sending His son. He took a chance that we'd believe enough in Him to believe in His son. I guess He expects us to believe in miracles. Maybe that's why most country people are church-goin' Christians; we get to see His miracles on a regular basis.

I am sure God spends time in the city. He's there working in the shopping mall, the factories and the office buildings that speckle our wonderful nation. But I figger He must commute; 'cause I'll bet when He goes home for Christmas, He goes to the country.

— Visit Baxter's Web site at www.baxterblack.com for more features and to purchase Baxter Black books, CDs and DVDs. His newest book, just in time of Christmas, is "Scrambled Wisdom — Almost Isn't ... Is It."

Letters to the editor

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

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

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

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

Letters to the editor

Homedale council's Verizon meeting ignores law, people

Please say it isn't so that the Homedale City Council held a meeting and allowed Verizon to make a cell phone tower proposal without proper legal notification being posted in advance of the meeting. This meeting, according to an article published in The Owyhee Avalanche, was apparently held at City Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2017.

We're not necessarily opposed to the cell phone tower, provided it's located in an appropriate area and in an aesthetically pleasing manner. What we are opposed to is our City Council being so ignorant of laws concerning public meetings, the legal process and respect for Homedale's citizenry.

How are our city council and Verizon going to justify holding a future hearing involving a possible conditional use permit and variance, when they've already violated the public hearing process and public trust by hearing a Verizon proposal without first seeking public testimony?

In case the citizens of Homedale haven't noticed, our City Council is now meeting one day a month. This means that the mayor will make \$400.00 for one hour or less of work. The council members will make \$281.00 for one hour or less of work. Do the taxpayers of Homedale make this kind of money?

Maybe the Council should consider holding a few workshops on how to hold a proper public hearing.

How much longer will the citizens of Homedale tolerate a City Council that's so ignorant of the law and works so little? If past history of citizen caring is an example, it could be until the 12th of never. Wake up. Good government must start locally.

Gary Evans
Homedale

Avalanche again portrays Christmas' true meaning

I always look forward to the Christmas edition of The Owyhee Avalanche, and this year's paper did not disappoint. How nice it is to read about the true meaning of why we celebrate this time of year.

It was so good to read Joe's article telling of his Christmas memories, both past and present. It was also good to see his smiling face!

My family and friends on the western side of my state would love to read something like that in, say, The Oregonian, but it will never happen.

I think I'll buy a few extra copies to send to them.

Merry Christmas!
Ellen Reed
Jordan Valley, Ore.

From Washington Fixing broken tax code benefits taxpayers, will boost economy

A typical family of four will get a \$2,059 tax cut. Lower-middle and middle-income families can save time and money on tax preparation because of the near-doubling of the standard deduction and other simplifications. According to more than 100 economists, "economic growth will accelerate" under the tax relief legislation passed by Congress, which will give Americans access to higher wages, greater job opportunities and a more vibrant economy.

There is no need to take our word for all of this; just look at your W-2 paycheck starting in February, and you will see more take-home pay. We were proud to support these and more reforms for all Idahoans:

Lower taxes for all Americans — Americans in every income group will see significant reductions, not increases, in their tax burden, with those in lower-middle and middle-income categories seeing the greatest percentage reduction, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation, the official revenue scorekeeper for Congress. Lower income earners will continue to pay zero percent and those with children will see a larger tax credit of \$1,400 per child from the government. The Tax Foundation also analyzed the effects of tax reform on various model families with different incomes and found "a reduction in tax liability for every scenario we modeled, with some of the largest cuts accruing to moderate-income families with children."

New jobs and growth — The National Taxpayers Union finds tax reform will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs. The Tax Foundation estimates 1.5 percent higher wages and 339,000 new jobs. In a recent survey by the National Association of Manufacturers, almost 54 percent of small and large manufacturers said they would hire more workers, and nearly half said they would increase employee wages and benefits as a result of tax reform.

U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo *Republican (term expires 2022)*

Local office

251 E. Front St., Ste. 205
Boise, ID 83702
Phone — (208) 334-1776
Fax — (208) 334-9044

Washington, D.C., office

239 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone — (202) 224-6142
Fax — (202) 228-1375
E-mail — <http://crapo.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>



U.S. Sen. Jim Risch *Republican (term expires 2020)*

Local office

350 N. 9th St., Ste. 302
Boise, ID 83702
Phone — (208) 342-7985
Fax — (208) 343-2458

Washington, D.C., office

483 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Phone — (202) 224-2752
Fax — (202) 224-2573
E-mail — <http://risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email>



Deficit reduction — Not surprisingly, the estimates delivered by liberals and the national media have vastly understated the strong economic growth expected because archaic congressional rules require flawed static modeling instead of dynamic scoring.

— See *Tax code*, Page 17

Commentary

Financial management

Be persistent, but not pushy, when following up on interview

Dear Dave,
What is the proper etiquette after the job interview process? I recently had an interview for a sales management position. I've sent a couple of follow-up emails in the past few weeks, and I know I'm still under consideration, but I'm not sure what to do now.

— Krista

Dear Krista
Next time, because you obviously have a sales background, how about treating it like a sales call? If you're on a sales call, and the customer needs to perform some due diligence before deciding, a smart salesperson will ask to schedule a follow-up. Ask if checking back on a certain day in the next week or two will work. You don't want to be obnoxious, but you want an appointment of sorts — a

time frame — so you'll know when to follow up without being pushy.
In this situation, I would recommend sending another email. You want to walk right up to that fine line that separates bold from obnoxious, because that's one of the things a good sales manager should be able to do. Respectfully tell them you understand the decision-making process takes time, but you need to know when you can expect an answer.
Use the idea that you're a great sales person, and you're treating this as a professional sales call. And don't be afraid to have a little fun with it. If you're still under consideration, that means they like you. You could even hint at the fact they don't want to hire a sales manager who doesn't know how to follow up!

— Dave



DAVE Says
by Dave Ramsey • www.davesays.org

Dear Dave,
What's an appropriate amount for gift cards to send each of our five grandchildren for Christmas?

— Liz

Dear Liz,
How much do you spend on your grandchildren? Enough to

make their parents nervous!
Seriously, I think it depends on two things. First, are you two debt-free, or at least able to provide gifts without going into debt or hurting yourselves financially? There's nothing wrong with spoiling the grandbabies once in a while. But don't use Christmas as an excuse to lose your minds, blow your budget, or go into debt every December. The amount you spend on gifts? I would suggest making it reasonable, not over the top, and relative to your income and that of the household in which the kiddos live.
The second thing I wonder about is the ages of all the grandchildren. I can't imagine a 4-year-old getting excited over a gift card. So, if that's the general age range we're talking about, have some fun with it! Head down to the store, and really

put some thought into these decisions. On the other hand, it might be just the thing for a teenager — especially if you know where they like to shop and hang out. Older kids want to make their own decisions, so depending on the personality of the grandchild, a gift card might be the way to go.
But if your grandkids are still little, *please* don't give them gift cards. No, grandma. No!

— Dave

— *Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 13 million listeners each week on 585 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

✓ Tax code: Reform will bolster household income, infuse U.S. economy

From Page 16
Dynamic scoring takes into account behavioral changes like how the policy affects jobs, wages and investments when estimating revenue. Static scoring doesn't allow for that. To support that claim, the Treasury Department estimates that taking into account tax reform and other economic policies, revenues will increase by \$1.8 trillion over 10 years with only an annual 2.9 percent economic growth rate; it can and will be higher than that. Growth of 2.4 percent would make the legislation revenue neutral.
Improved competitiveness—American businesses are taxed at the highest rate in the industrialized world. This has resulted in 4,700 companies leaving the U.S. in the past 13 years, according to the Business Roundtable. The tax relief legislation reverses that trend, creating a more competitive tax code that

better enables capital formation resulting in new companies being formed, staying here and expanding job opportunities. The Council of Economic Advisers reports significantly reducing the tax burden on American businesses would increase average household income in the U.S. by "very conservatively \$4,000 annually."
If we do nothing, the Congressional Budget Office has projected that our economy would struggle along at just 1.9 percent annual growth for the next decade, well below our historic average. This stagnates wages and wealth creation and is simply unacceptable. If we want to balance our budget, provide the necessary resources for our national defense and protect our safety net programs from looming insolvency, we need an economy growing at more than that measly rate. Historically, growth has been over three percent

in every decade but one since World War II. We are Americans; we can do that again! We all want our country to be strong. We all want Americans to be able to keep more of their hard-earned income. The tax relief passed by Congress will reshape our tax policy to the benefit of the American people and help make the United States more competitive.
— *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.*
— *Republican Jim Risch is in his second term as Idaho's junior senator. He previously served as Idaho governor and lieutenant governor as well as state senator on two different occasions.*

Contacting elected officials

State representatives
Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720
Phone — (208) 334-2100
E-mail — [see http://gov.idaho.gov](http://gov.idaho.gov)
Term expires 2018

District 23
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
Term expires 2018

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
Term expires 2018

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
Term expires 2018
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

Public notices

OWYHEE COUNTY ELECTION CALENDAR 2018

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the following elections will be held in Owyhee County during calendar year 2018:

ELECTION NAME	ELECTION DATE	DECLARATION OF CANDIDACY FILING DEADLINE
Primary Election - Office of County Clerk - Office of County Treasurer - Office of County Assessor - Office of County Commissioner District 1 (2 Year Term) - Office of County Commissioner District 3 (4 Year Term)	May 15, 2018	March 9, 2018
General Election (with political Subdivisions listed below)	November 6, 2018	March 9, 2018
Owyhee Soil Conservation USDA Service Center, 250 North Bruneau Hwy. Marsing, Idaho 83639	November 6, 2018	September 4, 2018
Bruneau River Soil & Water Conservation Dist. 31811 Colyer Rd. Bruneau, Idaho 83604	November 6, 2018	September 4, 2018

Declaration of Candidacy forms for all County Offices are available at the Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Highway 78 Murphy, Idaho or at www.owyheecounty.net under the ‘Elections’ link. Political Subdivision forms may be obtained at the addresses listed above.
12/27/2017

NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Bruneau Buckaroo Ditch Company will be held at the Bruneau Emergency Center on Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.
Chris Alzola
Secretary
(208) 587-2789
12/27/2017

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CASE NO. CV37-17-01593
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF
OWYHEE

In the Matter of the Estate of ROBERT G. FLORA, Deceased Person.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred.
Claims must both be presented to the Personal Representative of the estate at the law offices of David E. Kerrick, Post Office Box 44, Caldwell, Idaho, 83606-0044, and filed with the Court.
DATED this 6th day of December, 2017.
/s/ Brett R. Fiora, Personal Representative

12/13,20,27/2017

THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATIONS HAVE
BEEN FILED TO
APPROPRIATE THE
PUBLIC WATERS OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO:

2-10547
SEVY DAIRY INC
7808 SOMMERCAMP RD
GIVENS HOT SPRINGS, ID 83641
Point of Diversion L4(SWSE)
S26 T02N R04W OWYHEE
County Source SNAKE RIVER
Tributary COLUMBIA RIVER
Use: IRRIGATION 03/01 to 11/15 2.83 CFS
Use: STOCKWATER 01/01 to 12/31 1.2 CFS
Total Diversion: 4.03 CFS

Date Filed: 11/22/2017

Places of Use: IRRIGATION,
STOCKWATER
T02N R04W S26 NWSW
SWSW
T02N R04W S27 SENE NESE
SWSE SESE
T02N R04W S34 NWNE
SWNE NW(ALL)
T02NR04WS35 SWNE SENE
NW(ALL) NESW NWSW

Total Acres: 628

NOTICE OF PROPOSED
CHANGE OF WATER
RIGHT
TRANSFER NO. 82044

SEVY DAIRY INC, 7808 SOMMERCAMP RD, GIVENS HOT SPRINGS, ID 83641; has filed Application No. 82044 for changes to the following water rights within OWYHEE County(s): Right No(s). 2-10540, 2-10541, 2-10544, 2-2305. The purpose of the transfer is to create a 486.7 acre limit place of use within a 628 acre permissible place of use. The remaining 141.3 acres are being applied for by application for permit 2-10547. Water will be used at the current place of use 4.5 miles south of Marsing, off the west banks of the Snake River.

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information 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 §§ 42-203A and 42-222. Any protest against the approval of the application(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 1/8/2018. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.
GARY SPACKMAN, Director
12/20,27/2017

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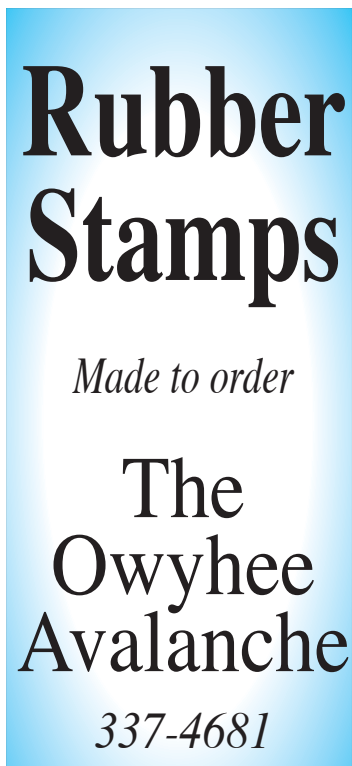
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Three Creek continues role in rolling out mastery ed

Students return from Christmas break Tuesday

When Three Creek School students return to class Tuesday with only a few days to wait until the end of the semester and the annual Magic Mountain ski trip.

The snow the children will enjoy on Jan. 11 has already visited the school site near Rogerson.

Teacher Dena Pollock said in her monthly newsletter that the school has experienced power outages for “planned and unplanned reasons.”

The weather has slowed progress on completing the new classroom, but other improvements are continuing.

“We have moved some supplies into the new classroom and have several plants growing there,” Pollock wrote in her latest newsletter. “It seems to be working well as a greenhouse.”

Cilantro, garlic, buckwheat, sunflowers and other green plants have been sprouting and growing this month, she said.

Pollock thanked Cheryl Whiteside, who supplied a gift card, and other donors who helped stock the kitchen inside the Harlan Mink Community Center.

The center, which is dedicated to the memory of the late school board chair, played host to a Christmas dinner and auction Friday. The Parent Teacher Organization provided the main course and guests brought sides and desserts.

Students recited narrative poems after the dinner.

The school continues as a proving ground for the Idaho Mastery Education program.

The students could show their successes to legislators on Feb. 23 at the Statehouse in Boise, Pollock said

A computer program called Mastery Connect is being implemented at the school. The program tracks mastery of each standard in each subject.

Staff must enter each test or quiz being used in the curriculum.

“Although that part is time consuming, the curriculum maps for each level and each topic remain intact from year to year,” Pollock said. “Information can be added to or deleted as needed.

“This works very well for the Mastery concept as students can continue to move through the work at their own pace without having to skip chapters.”

A local man, Todd Jones, brought pelts, traps, clothing and other items used by the original trappers in Idaho.

“Mr. Jones allowed students to ‘try on’ an authentic buffalo robe,” Pollock said. “He discussed ways of removing the pelts from the animals and demonstrated setting several types of traps.”

With Jones reading from a trapper’s diary, the visit allowed students to learn and discuss the difficulties trappers experienced while trying to make a living in the Idaho fur trade.



Homedale firefighters train water on the Hyer Ranch hay to keep it cool.

Fire chief: Neighbors help save haystack

A livestock operation west of Homedale lost half of its haystack last week, but Homedale Fire Chief Dennis Uria said the damage could have been worse.

Between 300 and 400 tons of hay went up in flames late on the night of Dec. 18 at the Hyer Ranch off Gulley Road four miles west of town.

A total of 800 tons of hay was stored in the stack. That’s about 1.6 million pounds of feed.

“We got it contained, and in all honesty between the fire department putting water on it and cooling it off, and we had the neighbors come with loaders, and that’s what saved half the stack,” Uria said.

Loaders from nearby Purdom Farms, Turner Dairy and Rick Echevarria were used to try to separate the fuel supply as the

fire raged around midnight.

“They just started moving hay and made a gap in between and probably saved half of their hay,” Uria said.

The chief said the spontaneous combustion is to blame for the fire, which was called into Owyhee County Sheriff’s dispatch before 11 p.m. The fire smoldered for a couple days after the original call.

A crew of 20 Homedale volunteer firefighters with every piece of equipment in the district was on the scene until about 3:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Water tenders from Marsing and Wilder were also called in, and Homedale Ambulance was on standby in case any of the firefighters or civilians battling the blaze were either hurt or became exhausted.

— JPB



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