

The Owyhee Avalanche

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018

BINDING PAST TO PRESENT



Siblings Brian Johnstone (left) and Anita Johnstone stand in front of an antique grain binder that was pulled off their family's 100-year-old farm, restored and shipped to the Owyhee County Historical Museum.

Johnstones' museum donation helps preserve Ag history

Grain binder latest piece added to Murphy collection

As agricultural equipment has evolved into larger and more complex machinery, a handful of people has tried to preserve reminders of the primitive means by which farmers worked the soil in Owyhee County's past.

The Owyhee County

Historical Museum has begun organizing a collection of farming machinery and implements to display in its new building addition in Murphy.

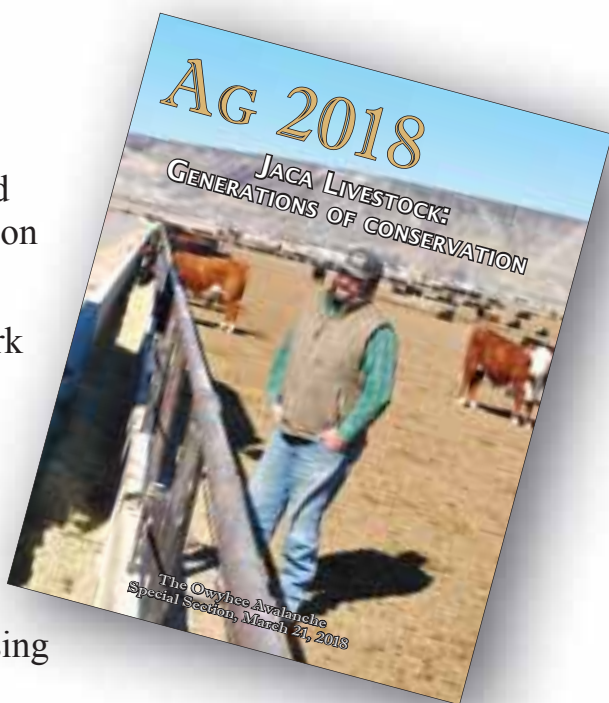
Men like Owyhee County Historical Society members Ron Kiester and Stuart

Emry have scouted possible additions to the collection. Kiester is known for a large collection of ancient farm equipment he has strewn across his acreage outside Marsing.

— See *Donation*, page 9

Special section inside this week

- Martin Jaca becomes third generation to earn conservation kudos.
- South Board's Gem 2 work part of drought resiliency program.
- Lowry, Nettleton recount water rights battle.
- Homedale man keeps Marsing farm labor and housing running smooth.



Officials listen to Homedale citizens' take on growth

Zoning proposal revamped after public meeting

Changes have been made to some proposed new zoning in the Homedale area of impact after the public process worked last Wednesday.

The city council and Owyhee County Planning and Zoning

Commission agreed to revamp a proposed zoning change after two property owners raised concerns during a public input session.

With Rich Curtis, a P&Z commissioner living in the affected area of the Homedale impact zone, voicing support, city and county officials moved the southern boundary of a proposed residential zone to

— See *Homedale*, page 12



Owyhee County Community Development coordinator Mary Huff (center) using a felt pen to change the proposed impact area zoning last Wednesday as county Planning and Zoning Commissioner Rich Curtis (left) and Homedale public works supervisor Bret Smith look on.

House panel backs reimbursing ranchers

Proclamation asks fund managers consider covering legal fees

A proclamation urging the state to consider reimbursing two Owyhee County ranchers who stood alone to defend Idaho's sovereignty has been received by the state House of Representatives.

House Proclamation 1 (HP 1), introduced by Dist. 23B Rep. Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett), cleared the Ways and Means Committee early last week before the

State Affairs Committee gave it a "do pass" recommendation Thursday and sent it to the full House.

Dist. 23A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett) is a member of the committee.

Blanksma said the House was expected to vote on HP 1 on Monday.

The proclamation supports that the Joyce Livestock Co.,

— See *Ranchers*, page 5



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GV mayoral replacement, Pg. 2: Eligibility concerns arise

OHR expands, Pg. 13: Homedale care center adding beds

Tourney time, Pg. 14: HHS baseball, MHS softball on the road

Marsing FFA, back page: Auction packs house, chapter coffer

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Angel Walk pediatric fundraiser ends after seven years

Without leadership, event scrapped ahead of its eighth year

The city of Homedale will be missing two big community draws this spring.

With the lack of volunteers to take up the leadership, the Angel Walk medical benefit fun run and bike ride, which would have entered its eighth year, has been cancelled.

With the fundraiser walk in limbo, the organizers of the corresponding Angel Walk car show decided to suspend operations in December.

The walk and car show have run in conjunction with each other since 2012.

The event raised money for one child battling medical issues each year.

Homedale Chamber of Commerce

president Gavin Parker said during the business organization's last meeting: "There is no Angel Walk this year. No one has stepped up to the plate to lead it, so it's been decided to not have it."

Parker acknowledged the importance of the event for the community and said that it should not be considered done forever.

"We need to keep it open-ended for the future," he said. "It's a pretty impressive community event."

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller, who attended the Chamber meeting in Mayor Gheen Christoffersen's stead, did not seem as optimistic as Parker.

"If there's no leadership now, we're kind of behind the curve, aren't we?" he asked.

Eidemiller reported that according to car show co-organizer Jon Brown, with no Angel Walk, there was to be

no classic car show and shine.

Luke Ankeny, pastor of Homedale Friends Community Church, congregants of which had been the primary organizers of the Angel Walk, said that those in charge were simply tired.

"Last year, I stepped in and said 'I'll lead it, if you'll help me,'" Ankeny said of the other organizers. "I took it as a one-time thing."

Last summer, he took a position with the Marsing Housing Authority. Ankeny said he came to realize with his new duties there, plus his service as pastor, he just wouldn't have the time to commit to organizing the Angel Walk.

He told community members during his church services that they wouldn't be doing the Angel Walk unless someone else steps up to lead it, and no one did.

"I've had dialogue with people about it, but then you start talking about what the job entails. It's a little overwhelming," he said.

Ankeny said he doubts there's anything that can save the fundraiser this year because they're just running out of time.

"I feel confident that these communities, Marsing and Homedale, if there's a need, these people will step up and meet it," he said.

Ankeny is disappointed, recognizing that the Angel Walk is an important event for a lot of people. He said there's a possibility it could lead to other similar events.

"Maybe Angel Walk's time is done and something bigger and better is going to come from it," he said. "Maybe next year. You never know."

— TK

Man faces felonies after waving gun at bar patrons

A man is behind bars after an incident at a bar early Sunday morning in Grand View.

Casey Smith, 26, of Grand View, had been kicked out of JC Landing on Saturday night but returned in the early-morning hours, waving a pistol at the seven patrons and staff, according to Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman.

Smith has been charged six counts of felony aggravated assault, and one count of use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a felony.

A 24-year-old Mountain Home man wrestled the gun away from Smith, Bowman said. Smith fled the scene after he was pushed out of the bar.

Bowman said Idaho State Police assisted the sheriff's office in locating Smith.

He was found at home in bed, and taken into custody without incident.

According to Bowman, authorities have video in their possession of Smith wielding the gun in the bar.

The handgun was given to a patron, who took it home. The weapon was then brought to authorities.

Smith's preliminary hearing is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April before Magistrate Judge Dan C. Grober in Murphy.

Grober sentenced Smith for driving under the influence on March 13.

— TK



Controlled burn gets out of control

Homedale volunteer firefighters put water on a line of trees bordering a field on Idaho highway 19 near the Idaho-Oregon border on March 12. A controlled burn in a field in windy conditions ignited trees west of town around 5 p.m.

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Above: Silver City Masonic Lodge No. 13 members Blake Titus (left) and George Decker unload children's bicycles at Homedale Elementary School on Thursday morning to kick off the sixth annual Bikes for Books literacy drive. **Below:** Eight bikes and helmets will be given away.

Masons launch another HES Bikes for Books contest

First-through fourth-graders in Homedale may be reading more these days because there are brand-new bicycles on the line.

Silver City Masonic Lodge No. 13 members Blake Titus and George Decker delivered eight bicycles to Homedale Elementary School last Wednesday to signal the start of another Bikes for Books contest.

Boys and girls will earn points by reading books and taking Accelerated Reading (AR) tests for each book between now at May.

The more points the students earn, the more chances they'll receive in the drawing for one of the bikes. Helmets also were purchased through special arrangement with Target stores, and one will be included with each bike given away.

"Target has been great to work with," Titus said.

One boy and one girl from each grade level will win a bicycle. The drawing takes place during the year-end school assembly in late May.

Last year, Homedale Elementary students read 30,000 books during the Bikes for Books contest period.

— JPB



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Two women apply for GV mayoral job

One candidate's eligibility for office clouded

by Mandi Boren
For The Owyhee Avalanche

After a move outside city limits prompted the early-term resignation of Mayor Edwin Collett, the City of Grand View has two candidates seeking to fill a term that has nearly four years remaining.

But there is a hiccup.

Candidates Andrea Owens and Sandra "Sandy" Skinner have submitted applications to succeed the mayor.

Owens is a 35-year-old lifetime resident of Grand View. She and her husband Mark own Integrity Factoring Group based in Grand View.

Skinner, her husband Jon and their daughter Joie moved to Owyhee County in 2014 from New Plymouth and purchased the Spivey Ranch outside of Oreana.

In May 2016 the Skinners purchased Grand View Gas and the adjacent home. Skinner and her daughter live at the home in Grand View, and she is registered to vote in Grand View.

On Friday afternoon,

Owyhee County deputy elections clerk Brook Russell told The Owyhee Avalanche that the Skinners' business and residence are just barely outside city limits, which is Idaho highway 78.

However, a search of historical records on the city's website shows Gus Gustavson, a previous owner of the gas station and former resident of the Skinners' home, served as mayor of Grand View from 1988 until he passed away in 1994.

Former gas station owner and Gus's wife Linda Gustavson believes the gas pumps are not in city limits but the station and adjacent home are within city limits.

City Council president Danny Martinez was unaware of the data obtained by the Avalanche on Sunday afternoon but said that the council is "in no big hurry to choose a mayor."

Both applicants and their eligibility will be discussed at the next scheduled city council meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 at City Hall.

As of press time, Skinner said she had not been informed by the city that her application is ineligible for consideration.

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Homedale council hears vehicle fleet updates

The Homedale City Council heard good news and bad news about the town’s vehicle fleet last Wednesday.

As public works supervisor Bret Smith raved about the deal the city got on his new pickup, Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller reported that one of his department’s patrol cars was out of commission.

Smith said the new \$27,400 Ford F-250 was a good deal for taxpayers thanks to the state bidding process.

Smith is in the process of pricing a bed liner and tool boxes for the rig.

“We’re trying to get the best value to the city and protect the investment for the citizens,” Smith said. “It’s going to be a good pickup for a long time.”

Eidemiller, meanwhile, said the cost of replacing a failed engine in a police car would likely keep the vehicle off the streets until a cheaper solution is found.

“The only number we have is not a good option for us,” Eidemiller said.

Eidemiller also reported that HPD’s newest officers — Sal Vega and Danny Zenor — have completed the eighth week of the Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training academy.

It was reported last week that the city has sold 183 dog licenses for 2018, and that residents have purchased 10 chicken coop licenses. The chicken coop licenses are required for folks who want backyard chickens within the city limits.

Call City Hall at (208) 337-4641 for more information.

— JPB

Lizard Butte Easter service platform construction campaign ongoing

Association wants to build all-metal cover

The Lizard Butte Easter Sunrise service enters its ninth decade this year.

The 81st annual event will be held at 7:15 a.m. on Sunday, April 1, on the Sunny Slope landmark on Symms Road northwest of Marsing off Idaho highway 55.

Pastor Bill O’Connor of the Marsing Church of the Nazarene will serve as speaker for the third time.

Sister’s Promise, a female singing trio, will provide special music.

O’Connor has been active in the Lizard Butte Sunrise Association since being called to Marsing in 2001. He was featured speaker for the sunrise service in 2002 and 2009, too.

Thanks to Idaho Power, the concrete cross atop Lizard Butte will be lit for one week prior to the sunrise service.

The 16-member Sunrise Association plans to install a new all-steel-roof over the platform area. The fundraising campaign for the project, which is estimated to cost between \$18,000 and \$20,000, began three years ago.

The fund is up to \$12,000,



Marsing Church of the Nazarene pastor Bill O’Connor (right), with his wife Cheri and daughter Kira, will be the featured speaker at this year’s Easter service. Submitted photo

and the association still seeks donations and tax-deductible corporate sponsorships.

Donations will be accepted at this year’s service, or people can contact the association planners by email at lizardbuttesunrise@yahoo.com.

An architect’s rendering of the proposed structure can be viewed at this year’s service.

O’Connor is vice-president for the Sunrise Association, and Fred Hill of Huston is president. Hill’s wife, Connie, serves as secretary.

Anyone who wants to participate in the Lizard Butte Sunrise Association can contact any of the three officers on the morning of the service.

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Report planned burns, reduce false fire calls

To cut down on false alarms, Marsing Fire Chief Brion Showalter is asking local landowners to alert authorities when they plan to burn. Through district secretary Stella Bush, Showalter reported his department already has responded to a number of fire calls that were, in actuality, controlled burns. Volunteer fire departments

throughout Owyhee County encounter the same issue each spring when agricultural producers begin burning their fields in preparation for the upcoming growing season. A fire department response is triggered when neighbors unaware that the fire was intentionally set and, in most cases, is being monitored, spot smoke and call Owyhee

County emergency dispatch. If landowners call dispatch ahead of time — (833) 337-4222 in the Homedale/Marsing area, and (208) 495-1154 in the rest of the county — dispatchers will know where the controlled burns are and will be able to make a decision on whether to call out a fire response when they receive reports of smoke.

From page 1

✓ Ranchers: Lawmaker voices concern, but votes to send proclamation to the floor

and LU Ranching Co., receive reimbursement from the Idaho Constitutional Defense Fund. During Thursday’s State Affairs Committee hearing, Blanksma asserted that the Joyce and LU court rulings were perfect examples of when the defense fund should be used because the victors upheld Idaho’s interests in its water. “Without the Joyce and LU cases, there would have been zero claim by the State of Idaho over its sovereignty to stockwater rights,” the first-term legislator said. Although Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry won their stockwater rights battle against the U.S. government in Idaho Supreme Court, neither man was awarded attorneys’ fees. The state Supreme Court justices ruled that Nettleton and Lowry, who had amassed legal fees of about \$1 million each before their 2007 triumph, did not qualify for reimbursement under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) because the case wasn’t argued in federal court. The men negotiated their legal fees down and then took out mortgages to pay the attorneys because, Blanksma testified, the attorneys bill was due in March 2017. The ranchers continue to pay off debt of \$300,000 each. Under questioning from Dist. 29A Rep. Dustin Manwaring (R-Pocatello), Blanksma asserted the primary message of HP 1. “The Constitutional Defense Fund has not been involved,” Blanksma said. “They’ve been reluctant to take up the issue, and this is the point of the proclamation is to show them that it’s completely appropriate under the law to look at this case and evaluate it and fund the attorney fees.” Although he supported the do-pass recommendation, Dist. 15A Rep. Lynn Luker (R-Boise)

said he had misgivings about the precedent he felt such a move may create — namely reimbursement for private causes. In discussion before the vote, Dist. 13A Rep. Brent Crane (R-Nampa) said the ranchers deserved consideration because of their sacrifice in the fight for the state’s sovereignty. HP 1 outlines the plight Nettleton and Lowry endured stretching back to the 1997 Snake River Basin Adjudication (SRBA) case in which, according to Blanksma’s proclamation, the State of Idaho failed to contest the Bureau of Land Management’s claim of a water right based on the beneficial use clause. The proclamation attempts to invoke the Private Attorney General Doctrine as a way to sway reimbursement. That doctrine provides for the recovery of attorney fees in cases where the plaintiff has shown “the strength or societal importance of the public policy vindicated by the litigation,” “the necessity for private enforcement and the magnitude” of the resulting burden on the plaintiffs, and the number of people standing to benefit from the ruling. Blanksma said more than 17,000 stockwater rights that had been claimed by the U.S. government during the SRBA will be addressed by H. 603, which was passed on to the Senate earlier in this session. During his testimony, Idaho Farm Bureau energy and natural resource specialist Braden Jensen asserted that the Idaho Attorney General’s office failed to dispute the federal government’s water claims during the SRBA. Crane (R-Nampa) asked for clarification: “The attorney general should have recognized that the federal government could not put those rights to beneficial use because they do not have

livestock,” Jensen said. “So that was an error, leaving it up to cowboys to defend a constitutional right in court.” The Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association, through president Lynn Bachman’s testimony, supported HP 1. “We believe it is in the utmost importance that the Legislature of the State of Idaho support this proclamation,” Bachman said. “The lawsuit that it references has great importance to Idaho and its constitutional right to the water within its borders.” In comments prior to the committee vote, Zito echoed the constitutional importance of the victory, saying “I believe that it is incumbent on the State of Idaho to do their part.” “These ranchers in doing this, they fought for rights that belong to every citizen in the State of Idaho,” Zito said. “They fought for the sovereignty and the 10th Amendment standing of our state against the Bureau of Land Management and the federal government.” The Idaho Constitutional Defense Fund Council, comprised of Gov. C. L. “Butch” Otter, Attorney General Lawrence Wasden, Speaker of the House Scott Bedke (R-Oakley) and Senate President Pro Tem Brent Hill (R-Rexburg), must vote on all questions of reimbursement. Otter hasn’t acted since then. Owyhee County Farm Bureau president John Richard asked the governor to consider helping the ranchers during a Capital for a Day event in Murphy more than six years ago. Bedke has said he must recuse himself from any vote because — as a rancher — he has benefitted from the court victory. That leaves a slim margin if the House passes HP 1 and the council were to heed the recommendation in the proclamation.

— JPB

School menus

- Homedale Elementary**
Veggie bar, fruit bar, and choice of milk and juice available each day
March 21: **Breakfast:** Blueberry bash, mini waffles, string cheese, pears **Lunch:** Chicken taco, corn
March 22-30: Spring break
- Homedale Middle**
Fruit & salad bar, choice of milk and juice available each day
March 21: **Breakfast:** Muffin or cereal, string cheese, pears **Lunch:** Beef taco or chicken taco, corn
March 22: **Breakfast:** Donut or cereal, yogurt, peaches **Lunch:** Pepp. pizza ripper or PB&J sandwich, tossed salad, cookie
March 23-30: Spring break

- Homedale High**
Salad, fruit choice and choice of milk and juice available each day
March 21: **Breakfast:** Breakfast casserole or mini pancakes or cereal, yogurt **Lunch:** Pork chop, dinner roll or meatloaf sandwich, roasted finger potatoes
March 22: **Breakfast:** Donut or yogurt parfait or cereal, string cheese **Lunch:** Mini corn dogs or toasted cheese sandwich, homemade tomato soup
March 23-30: Spring break

- Marsing Elementary**
Veggie bar, fruit bar and choice of milk available each day
March 21: Enchiladas & rice, sweet potatoes or PB&J, sweet potatoes
March 22: Pepperoni pizza, tossed salad or PB&J, tossed salad, rice crispy treat
March 23-30: Spring break

- Marsing Middle/High**
Veggie bar, fruit bar and choice of milk available each day
March 21: Enchiladas & rice, sweet potatoes
March 22: Pepperoni pizza, tossed salad or PB&J, tossed salad
March 23-30: Spring break

- Bruneau/Grand View**
Milk and fruit offered daily
March 21: **Breakfast:** PB&J **Lunch:** Bean & beef burrito, romaine & tomato, corn
March 22: **Breakfast:** Waffle **Lunch:** BBQ pulled pork on a bun, fries, fresh cauliflower
March 26: **Breakfast:** Cereal **Lunch:** Pizza, tossed romaine salad, baby carrots
March 27: **Breakfast:** Breakfast on a stick **Lunch:** Spaghetti, garden spinach salad, peas, breadstick (Rimrock)
March 28: **Breakfast:** Pancakes & egg patty **Lunch:** Taco salad, whole grain tortilla chips, refried beans/salsa
March 29: **Breakfast:** Biscuit & jelly **Lunch:** Chicken patty on a bun, potato wedges, baby carrots

- COSSA**
Milk and fruit daily
March 21: Crispito, Spanish rice, beans, salad
March 22: Pizza or PB&J, salad
March 23-30: Spring break

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Death notices

MATTIE P. GRIGG, 92, of Homedale, died on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at a Caldwell care center of natural causes. Cremation services: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. (208) 337-3252

RAYMOND R. SEIBER, 100, of Boise, formerly of Homedale, died on Monday, March 12, 2018 at a Boise care center. Cremation: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell. (208) 459-0833

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center
Salad bar available with each meal:
Lettuce, tomato, boiled eggs, peaches, apricots, salad dressing
Milk available each day
March 21: Hot dog on bun, baked potato, spinach
March 22: Roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas & carrots, roll
March 27: Baked ham, baked potato, Calif. blend veggies, roll
March 28: Pulled pork on roll, baked potato, beets
March 29: Roast turkey breast, mashed potatoes/gravy, carrots, roll

Rimrock Senior Center
All meals are served with milk & fruit juice
March 22: Enchilada casserole, corn, Texas coleslaw, apricots, muffins
March 27: Lasagna, tossed salad, canned plums, garlic bread
March 29: Veal steak, sweet potato fries, 3-bean salad, fresh fruit, whole wheat roll

Jordan Valley CWMA meeting to cover grants, planned weed treatments

The next meeting for the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area is set for Monday.

Jordan Valley CWMA coordinator Eric Morrison urges landowners to attend the meeting to give input on battling weeds in the area.

The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday at the CWMA office, 508 Swisher Ave., in Jordan Valley.

Attendees will hear updates on grants from both Oregon and Idaho.

Other agenda items include contractor request for proposals for treatment applications and a discussion about treating whitetop.

The latest meeting notice urges applicators to ride pesticide labels to ensure proper use.

The CWMA handout urges folks to read the product label before purchase, before application and before storing or disposing of the container.

The CWMA reminds the public that following label directions is required by law.

For more information on the Jordan Valley CWMA, contact Morrison at (541) 586-3000 or jvcwma@qwestoffice.net.

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Obituaries

Alfredo Montaño

Alfredo Montaño, 87, longtime resident of Homedale, Idaho, passed away Thursday, March 1, 2018 at his home of natural causes.

A U.S. Navy veteran, he served in the Korean War and was very proud to have served. He served as American Legion Post 32 chaplain for several years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Alfredo Sr., stepfather Leo Fernandez, mother Lupy Fernandez, sisters Marcy, Julie, Rita, and brother Andy.

He is survived by two sisters, Daisy and Mary, and two brothers Servero and Melvin, five children: Alfredo Jr., Evita, Yetiva, Alberto, Anita, and many grandchildren and



great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

A brief memorial service will be held at noon on Saturday, March 31, 2018 at Homedale City Park on East Idaho Avenue between 2nd and 3rd Streets

across from Homedale High School (weather permitting). We will then proceed over to the Homedale Legion Hall to celebrate his love of life, family and friends. He asked to be cremated and buried at sea.

Al's family wishes to thank the wonderful people of Heart and Home Hospice for the tender loving care he received from the people and volunteers, and a big thank you to our family and his friends who helped him when they could.

Condolences can be given at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com. Cremation arrangements are under the care of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. (208) 337-3252

Connie Pilar Badiola Wheeler

Connie Pilar Badiola Wheeler was born on November 4, 1959, in Caldwell, ID and grew up in Homedale. On March 12, 2018 heaven gained an amazing woman, mother, and friend with her family by her side. She's no longer in pain and is skiing, playing volleyball, cooking and being hugged by her family. A lot of her time on earth was spent helping others as a surgical tech in the E.R. in Reno, NV, open heart in Boise, ID and working ski patrol on her off days.

When she had her life-changing back injury, she didn't lose her positive attitude. She continued to care for her mother and mother-in-



law while keeping her doors open to family and friends.

Everyone was welcomed into her home and greeted with a warm meal. The Basque club was one of the places she got to share her love for cooking and Basque heritage. Her rice

pudding was widely known and highly requested.

She had an adventurous life from ski trips to snowy mountains, road trips to Minnesota with her best friend Sue, visiting relatives in Spain, and family vacations to the Oregon coast. The past few years she took many trips to spend time with her daughter, going to Disneyland and enjoying beignets on the beach.

A Celebration of Life was held on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 1pm at Mountain View Church of the Nazarene 26515 Ustick in Wilder, ID 83676. Condolences can be given at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com

Richard Allen Johnson



Richard Allen Johnson, 65, of Blanchard, Idaho, passed away March 13, 2018 at a hospice care center at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

He was born December 17, 1952 at the Navy Hospital at Corpus Christi, Texas. His parents are Harold and Blanche Johnson of Homedale.

He married Donna Ellis April 19, 1985.

He is survived by his wife Donna and one son, Skipper Ray Johnson. Brother Gary E. Johnson of Council, Idaho.

Sister Debbie (Steve) Kriegh of Adrian, Oregon. His parents Harold and Blanche Johnson of Homedale.

He was preceded in death by a brother Danny Wayne Johnson.

Richard attended school at Homedale. He spent 4 years in the Navy, and the remainder of his life in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area, where he worked in the auto body and paint industry specializing his talents on restoring antique automobiles.

He requested no services.

Read all about it
in

The Owyhee Avalanche

337-4681

Calendar

Today
Parent-teacher conferences
7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Homedale Elementary School, 420 W. Washington Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4033
Ladies Coffee Group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Story Time
10:30 a.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690
Movie time
Noon, Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785
Christian Life Club after-school program
4 p.m., kindergarteners through sixth-graders, Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. Hwy. 95, Wilder. (208) 337-4757, (208) 353-6024 or (208) 337-3464
Grand View Chamber meeting
5:30 p.m., Grand View Fire Station, 721 Roosevelt St., Grand View.

Thursday
Fit and Fall exercise
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Parent-teacher conferences
9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Homedale Elementary School, 420 W. Washington Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4033

Friday
Idaho Foodbank drop-off
9 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale.
Story Time
10:15 a.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228, afternoons Monday through Saturday
Faith-based support group
2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 455-3660 or songtobe@gmail.com
Teens and Tweens program
4 p.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228 afternoons Monday through Saturday

Saturday
Health fair
9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Two Rivers Park, Owyhee Street, Adrian.
OCHS spring bazaar
10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Owyhee County Historical Museum complex, 17085 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2319
Owyhee Off-Road Challenge
10 a.m., half-marathon, 10K, 5K runs, Two Rivers Community Park, 106 Owyhee St., Adrian, Ore. www.owyheeeoffroadchallenge.com
MRW Fire & EMS chili cook-off
11:45 a.m., chili tasting begins, \$5 donation (\$4, seniors; 12-and-younger free), cook-off entry: \$20 for first, \$10 for each additional, Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2154 or info@mrwfire.org
Free lunch
Noon to 12:30 p.m., First Presbyterian

Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-5419

Sunday
Messiah in the Passover
10:30 a.m., Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Monday
Board of County Commissioners meeting
9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. (208) 495-2421
Faith-based support group
2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 Hwy. 95, Wilder. (208) 455-3660 or songtobe@gmail.com

Tuesday
Book club
10 a.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228
Fit and Fall exercise
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
After-school program
2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Knight Community Church, 630 Idaho Ave., Grand View. (208) 845-2019

Wednesday
Ladies Coffee Group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Story Time
10:30 a.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690
Movie time
Noon, Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

Thursday, March 29
Fit and Fall exercise
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Friday, March 30
Story Time
10:15 a.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228, afternoons Monday through Saturday
Faith-based support group
2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 455-3660 or songtobe@gmail.com
Teens and Tweens program
4 p.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228 afternoons Monday through Saturday

Saturday, March 31
Marsing Lions Easter egg hunt
10 a.m., preschool through fourth grade, breakfast burritos available, Marsing High School football field, 8th Avenue West., Marsing
Grand View Lions Easter egg hunt
10 a.m., toddlers through fifth-graders, Eastern Owyhee County Library and city park, Grand View.

University of Idaho
Extension

It’s warmer, so get to gardening

With warmer weather and longer days, you may be thinking about gardening. April is around the corner, and before you know it, it will be time to start mowing the lawn, pruning the shrubs, and harvesting the lettuce.



If you are one of those people who have been gardening your whole life but keep looking for new ideas for your yard and you are not afraid to venture out to Caldwell, I’d like to invite you to our 2018 Spring Garden Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 21. This daylong event will cost \$30 and is full of learning and ideas.

There will be classes taught by University of Idaho Extension Master Gardener Volunteers on a wide array of gardening topics. From beginning gardening to starting youth gardens, to tree care and pesticide safety courses, you are sure to find classes interesting to you.

There are more than 15 courses from which you can choose. And, Master Gardener Volunteers will be selling plants to help you dig right in and garden when you get home. The plant sale is free to attend. Here are a few of the classes that interest me and may also be of interest to you:

- **Tree selection** — You know, going to the big box store or nursery and seeing all those trees can be exciting. But how do I know if I am getting a good tree?
- **Tree pruning** — I got it home and it is a wild child, but I am afraid to cut away on this tree! I’d attend this class to learn how to properly prune.
- **Dirty Dozen: common garden pests** — Maybe this will help me know what is eating my plants and how to

- control them effectively.
- **Gardening with children** — I need one for children and dogs!
 - **Vertical Gardening** — Because my small backyard is just not enough space for water-melons!
 - **Organic Gardening** — I mean, why not? Everyone seems to be jumping on that bandwagon, but what does the science say?

You can learn more about the courses and the program by calling the University of Idaho Extension Office in Canyon County at (208) 459-6003 or visiting the website at <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/county/canyon/horticulture>.

Registration is only \$30 for this all-day gardening festival. Credits are offered for teachers, Idaho State Department Agriculture, and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) professionals. Space is limited, so I would encourage you to call and register early.

Anyone attending this program that requires auxiliary aids or services should contact the U of I Extension Office in Caldwell at least two weeks prior to the event.

The University of Idaho has a policy of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, genetic information, or status as any protected veteran or military status.

University of Idaho, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Idaho counties are cooperating agencies for this event.

— *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.*

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You can find a comprehensive listing of local events online at www.theowyheeavalanche.com. Click on the “Calendar of Events” link on the left-hand side of the page.

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 (an e-mail link also is available on our Web site). For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

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Marsing students shine at state Academic Decathlon

Marsing High School's Academic Decathlon team picked up some prestigious honors at the state meet during the weekend in Pocatello.

Guided by advisor Lennie Freeman, Marsing placed ninth overall in the 26-team competition at Idaho State University, picking up first place in the SuperQuiz for small schools, and finishing runner-up in the Small School division.

Landry Villa won gold honors overall in the small school category.

- Essay**
Madison Amaya — Gold, Varsity Division
Rebecca George — Bronze, Varsity
Sefora Arriaga — Gold, Scholastic Division
Clarisa Orndorf — Bronze, Scholastic
Dalton Withers — Bronze, Honors Division
- Speech**
Jaime Gerthung — Silver, Varsity Division
Landry Villa — Bronze, Honors Division
- Interview**
George — Silver, Varsity



The Marsing High School Academic Decathlon team poses for a photo while in Pocatello during the weekend for the state championships. Submitted photo

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Division
Villa — Bronze, Honors Division
Withers — Silver, Honors Division | Division
Natalie Van Hout — Silver, Scholastic Division
Withers — Silver, Honors Division
Villa — Bronze, Honors Division | Music
Orndorf — Silver, Scholastic Division
Villa — Silver, Honors Division
Lauren Jensen — Bronze Honors | Science
Villa — Gold, Honors Division
Moreno — Bronze, Honors
Withers — Bronze, Honors
Van Hout — Bronze, Scholastic Division |
| Math
Villa — Gold, Honors Division
Anahi Moreno — Bronze, Honors
Hailey Christiansen — Bronze, Honors | Art
Gerthung — Silver, Varsity Division
Withers — Gold, Honors Division
Annie Miller — Bronze, Honors
Christiansen — Bronze, Honors | Literature
Van Hout — Gold, Scholastic Division
Orndorf — Bronze, Scholastic
Arriaga — Bronze, Scholastic
Christiansen — Gold, Honors Division | Economics
Jenny Quebrado — Gold Honors Division
Villa — Silver, Honors
Withers — Bronze, Honors |
| Social Science
Amaya — Bronze, Varsity Division
Arriaga — Gold, Scholastic | | | |

From page 1

✓ Donation: Johnstone, Eidemiller farm equipment serves as focal points

Although museum director Amy Johnson said she's not actively searching for donations for the proposed display of historical implements and machines, Kiester and Emry recently acquired a John Deere grain binder that used to work the ground on the 100-year-old Johnstone Farm outside Homedale.

"We are very grateful for the donation from the Johnstone Family," Johnson said. "We are hoping to limit our ag equipment to horse-drawn implements; however, if an item is truly unique we may consider accepting it."

The collection is still being organized as the museum already had quite a collection. Last year, Cliff Eidemiller's family donated a clover huller in his memory.

"We hope to arrange the implements in chronological order in hopes of showing the progression of agriculture," Johnson said.

Brian Johnstone followed through on a request OCHS members had made of his stepfather, George, years ago. They wanted the binder for



A Birdsell 696 clover huller that the family of Cliff Eidemiller donated will be part of the Owyhee County Historical Museum's agricultural exhibit. Submitted photo

the burgeoning collection in Murphy.

It wasn't until last year that the family had begun seriously thinking about getting the machine ready for a move.

Brian said his father, Jim, had used it on the farm. Jim died when Brian and his brother, Alan, were youngsters.

Brian said he had never seen the binder actually

operate. He figures it had been decommissioned and stored on the farm around the time of his birth in the 1940s.

"I'm 70, and I don't remember it ever being used," he said.

The machine was nearly lost to a shed collapse during last winter's heavy snows, Brian's half-sister, Anita, said. The family thought it was time to do something to preserve the contraption.

Brian pulled the binder out of its shed in early February and set out researching its components in preparation for the restoration.

Some of the work he could do himself, such as cleaning off decades of mud and dirt. Other tasks, such as making replacement parts that had been lost or had rusted away, was left to Mike's Fabrication in Greenleaf.

Brian contacted old-timers like Larry Bahem and Eddie Chadez to get some insight into what the machine's job was.

The grain binder, which is made of wood and metal, has a part resembling a vintage sewing machine arm that is painted green and embossed with the familiar John Deere emblem.

The machine could be pulled by a tractor or a horse, Brian said. It was used to cut grain and tie it in shocks that were deposited in the field for later collection.

An operator sat on a metal tractor seat, operating the binding unit as the machine was pulled through the field.

A large swathing blade moved through the field under the power of the horse or tractor and a metal wheel on the machine itself.

A large wood-and-metal paddlewheel reminiscent of a Mississippi River steamboat swept the cut grain onto a heavy, canvas conveyor belt.

The grain moved into the binder, which had box of twine and an apparatus that the operator maneuvered with his foot to bunch up the grain and then wrap twine around it.

Once bundled, the grain fell into a fork-like basket that spun and deposited the bushel back into the field ready for pick up and transport to market.

— JPB



A cement slab for the new Island Park boat ramp sits ready to be installed in Marsing.

Marsing’s many infrastructure improvements move forward

Several construction projects occurring in the city of Marsing are progressing as expected.

During last Wednesday’s city council meeting, Amy Woodruff from Civil Dynamics kept councilmembers abreast to the various changes being made to the city’s look.

The Island Park boat ramp has been constructed, according to Woodruff, but it will need to be slid down into the water and placed on an aggregate base.

The contractor had to remove more material at the bottom of the ramp than was expected because of organic material and silt near the bridge.

“Additionally, the contractor secured a permit from the Idaho Transportation Department to remove a foot of material from underneath the bridge to give space for a concrete truck to go underneath,” Woodruff said. “There just wasn’t sufficient room for them.”

The slab needed to be cured for seven days and should be placed onto its base this week.

“It’s going to be a big improvement for that landing,” she said. “We’re super excited about it.”

The City Park restroom improvement bids were opened last Wednesday. Woodruff said she did not know the results of the bids during the meeting.

“I left the meeting before Kirby (Cook of Civil Dynamics) had that finalized,” she said. “We’ll have those results for council during the next meeting.”

The plan is to tear down the old park restrooms, relocate the services and set the new CXT prefabricated building at the site where the existing one is. The building is similar to the prefab structure installed at Island Park.

Woodruff informed councilmembers that Marsing has received a joint ITD and Local Highway Technical Assistance Council grant for the Idaho highway 55 sidewalk project. The \$35,326 grant will help build new sidewalk along Main Street beginning near Lizard Butte Library.

There was a change in the amount awarded with the grant.

“It turned out that because the work is going to be done in conjunction with the ITD work, the actual grant amount was reduced, based on timing and including it in the ITD project,” Woodruff said. “LHTAC was excited, ITD was excited because they were able to fund some other projects with the money Marsing didn’t use.”

Woodruff also gave updated information about the Idaho 78 sidewalk project that will connect Bosma Lane with the labor camp down 8th Avenue West.

The project received two bids, Paul Construction and Hawkeye Construction. She said both bids were very competitive and under estimates.

“We’re working with ITD right now about the actual award, and we’ll have that before you during your next council meeting,” she said. “I believe the city will be able to get all of that work done under one contract.”

— TK

Courthouse report

- A list of felony and misdemeanor dispositions recently completed at courtrooms in Murphy and Homedale. Infractions are not included:
- March 12**
Glenn, Andrew John, Caldwell — Felony controlled substance possession with intent to manufacture or delivery (withheld judgment), misdemeanor battery, disturbing the peace, and drug paraphernalia possession: 180 days in jail, 3 years felony probation (concurrent with 2 years supervised probation), \$800 in fines and costs
Jeffcoat, Jared D., Caldwell — Felony burglary and grand theft: 3 to 5 years state prison (suspended), 10 years felony probation, \$81,890 in costs. Dismissed by prosecutor: Felony burglary and grand theft (two counts each)
Sanchez-Beltran, Floren-cia, Marsing — Misdemeanor fail to purchase or invalid driver’s license: \$500 fines and costs
- March 9**
Felty-Miller, Dannielle Ann, Homedale — Felony excessive DUI (second or subsequent offense) and misdemeanor alcoholic beverage container possession by driver: 90 days in jail (28 days served), \$245.50 costs, 5 years felony probation, and driver’s license suspended 3 years
- March 7**
Holden, Devin L., Chelan, Wash. — Misdemeanor controlled substance possession: \$497.50 in fines and costs
Kettering, Shari A., New Plymouth — Misdemeanor DUI (withheld judgment): 180 days in jail (2 days to serve, 1 day served, 177 days suspended), driver’s license suspended 180 days, \$668 fines and costs
Sharipov, Solijon, Hal-landale Beach, Fla. — Misdemeanor logbook not current to last change of duty status (withheld judgment): \$200 fines and costs
Taylor, Robert DJ, Nampa — Misdemeanor petit theft: 180 days in jail (3 days served, 177 days suspended), 180 days supervised probation, and \$375 fines and costs
- March 13**
Brown, Robert Joseph, Meridian — Misdemeanor drug paraphernalia possession and driving without privileges: 12 days in jail (served), \$700 fines and costs. Dismissed by court: Felony unlawful weapons possession
Carrell, Nicholas, Mars-ing — Misdemeanor driving under the influence: 180 days in jail (178 suspended, 2 days served), \$805 fines and costs, 9 months supervised proba-tion, and driver’s license sus-pended 180 days. Dismissed by prosecutor: Misdemeanor DWP
Cortez, Jose C., Homedale — Misdemeanor drug para-phernalia possession: 90 days in jail (suspended), \$497.50 fines and costs. Dismissed by court: Misdemeanor controlled substance possession
Mills, Chad, Bruneau — Misdemeanor DUI (withheld judgment): 180 days in jail (3 days to serve, 177 days sus-pended), 180 days supervised probation, 180 days driver’s license suspended, and \$850 fines and costs
Smith, Casey E., Grand View — Misdemeanor DUI: \$850 fines and costs
Spencer, Randy B., Jr., Boi-se — Misdemeanor driver’s license or commercial driver’s license violation: 2 days in jail (served), and \$367 fines and costs
Wells, Chad C., Payette — Misdemeanor drug parapher-nalia possession: 7 days in jail (served), and \$497.50 fines and costs. Dismissed by prosecu-tor: Misdemeanor possession or use of a legend drug or precursor without authorized prescription

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Crafts, chili on tap Saturday in Murphy

OCHS spring bazaar, MRW chili contest set

The Owyhee County Historical Society's spring bazaar takes place Saturday at the museum complex in Murphy.

On the lawn outside McKeeth Hall, the Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire-Rescue-EMS organization presents its eighth annual Firehouse Chili Cook-Off.

The bazaar will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with several vendors selling products inside McKeeth Hall. For more information on the bazaar, call (208) 495-2319.

Homemade pies and cinnamon rolls and silent

auction also will be available.

Bazaar proceeds help support the museum.

Sponsored by Young's Riverfont Ranch, LP, in Wilson, the MRW Fire and EMS chili cook-off will feature first-place awards in five categories plus a People's Choice award.

Cook-off team registration is \$20 for the first entry, and \$10 for each additional chili recipe.

Chili tasting opens to the public at 11:45 a.m., and folks can sample the offerings for \$5. Senior citizens can test the fare for \$5, and children younger than 12 can sample for free.

Late entries are accepted. For entry forms, rules or other information, call (208) 495-2154 or email info@mrwfire.org.

Nampa woman arrested while visiting county jail

Filer man arrested for DUI after swerving on Idaho 78

A Nampa woman is behind bars after visiting an offender March 13 at the Owyhee County Jail in Murphy.

Mayra Perez, 33, was arrested after deputies received a tip that she was under the influence of a narcotic. Perez admitted to authorities that she had smoked meth earlier in the day, according to Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman.

Because she had driven to Murphy in a 2003 Chevy Trailblazer, Perez was cited for misdemeanor driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

A blood draw was performed on Perez. The sheriff's office is awaiting results.

• Glade Aaron Hall, 25, of Filer was arrested on Saturday during a traffic stop at milepost 68 on Idaho highway 78.

Hall was driving a 1996 Dodge Ram flat bed pickup when he swerved into the oncoming lane in view of a sheriff's deputy, according to Bowman. He swerved back

into his own lane but had already been spotted.

The deputy said that he could smell alcohol coming from the driver. Hall failed a field sobriety test, and his blood-alcohol content read at .215, nearly three times the legal limit.

Hall was charged with misdemeanor excessive DUI and is currently not in custody.

• Duane Arnold, 19, of Marsing has been charged with misdemeanor domestic battery after a drunken altercation last Wednesday in Marsing, according to Bowman.

Arnold is accused of assaulting his two sisters, aged 20 and 18.

He is set to appear for a pre-trial conference on April 18 at the Owyhee County Courthouse in Murphy.

Arnold is not currently in custody.

— TK

Today

62°
48°

Cloudy,
showers

March 13

64° 25°

.00

Thu

63° 35°

.30

Fri

55° 36°

.18

Sat

51° 30°

.07

Sun

51° 31°

.00

Mon

52° 26°

.00

Tue

53° 25°

.04

March 14

67° 25°

.30

March 15

67° 25°

.18

March 16

53° 37°

.07

March 17

51° 35°

.00

March 18

52° 30°

.00

March 19

51° 27°

.04

SNOTEL report, Owyhee County sensors

	Snow Equiv.	Snow Depth	Year-to-date Precip.	Previous day's temperature (measured in Fahrenheit)		
		(measured in inches)		Max	Min	Avg
Mud Flat						
3/13	0.2	0	6.8	56	35	45
3/14	0.2	0	7.0	43	33	36
3/15	0.1	0	7.2	38	29	32
3/16	0.0	0	7.2	36	27	31
3/17	0.0	0	7.2	36	26	30
3/18	0.0	0	7.2	38	25	31
3/19	0.0	1	7.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Reynolds Creek						
3/13	1.0	2	9.6	51	36	43
3/14	0.5	1	9.8	42	30	35
3/15	0.2	1	10.0	39	26	31
3/16	0.1	1	10.1	36	26	31
3/17	0.1	1	10.2	35	24	28
3/18	0.0	1	10.1	38	25	30
3/19	0.0	1	10.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Mountain						
3/13	6.0	17	16.8	52	38	45
3/14	6.0	15	17.1	42	29	33
3/15	6.0	16	17.3	38	26	29
3/16	6.3	20	17.6	35	25	28
3/17	6.4	19	17.5	35	22	27
3/18	6.6	20	17.9	37	24	28
3/19	6.7	21	18.1	n/a	n/a	n/a

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation website showed that the Owyhee Reservoir was 75 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 1,259 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 33 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 530,357 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

Five years probation for felony DUI

A Homedale woman has been placed on a lengthy felony probation after her conviction for excessive drunk driving.

Dannielle Ann Felty-Miller has been ordered to serve five years probation, and Third District Judge Davis VanderVelde suspended her driving privileges for three years. The sentence came down during a March 9 hearing in Murphy.

Felty-Miller served 28 days in Owyhee County Jail after a Homedale Police officer arrested her on Jan. 7, 2016. She must still serve another 62 days and pay \$245.50 in court costs.

Felty-Miller also was guilty of misdemeanor possession of an open alcoholic beverage container while driving.

• Casey E. Smith, a Grand View resident, has been ordered to pay \$850 in fines and court costs after his March 13 sentencing for misdemeanor

DUI. Magistrate Judge Dan C. Grober presided over the case, which began after Smith's Aug. 27 arrest by an Owyhee County Sheriff's deputy

• Nicholas Carrell of Marsing must serve nine months of supervised probation and cannot drive for six months after his conviction for misdemeanor DUI. The prosecutor dropped

a second misdemeanor for driving without privileges prior to Carrell's March 13 sentencing.

Grober gave Carrell credit for two days served in county jail after his Nov. 13 arrest and suspended the balance of a six-month jail sentence. He also must pay \$805 in fines and court costs.

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From page 1

✓ **Homedale:** Light industrial rules suggested for part of impact area

Pioneer Road. Originally, the proposed residential zone's southern border had been placed midway between Pioneer and Market roads.

The council and commission also agreed that the area around Boise Cascade, Specialty Inc. Wood Products and Helena Chemical Co., in the Pioneer Road-Industrial Road area would remain open to multiple use and the P&Z would begin working on light industrial zoning rules for the area, too.

Nothing is final, and last week's second public meeting and first joint P&Z and council confab were just the latest steps in the process.

Now, the P&Z commission will make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, and it will be up to those three elected officials whether another public process will begin on possibly changing the zoning ordinance.

Curtis said that moving the southern boundary of the proposed residential zone to Pioneer Road would “square up” that zoning in the impact area.

Mayor Gheen Christoffersen agreed with Curtis' reasoning, which was triggered by one property owner's concern that his rural, agriculture-based acreage would be annexed into the city and he would have to deal with more residential development.

"I'm very happy that the P&Z is trying to protect agriculture," Councilman Steve Atkins said.

Dist. 2 County Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi said future annexation would depend on the timeline by which the inventory of empty lots within the city limits are converted to home sites.

Christoffersen said the city has no plans to annex into the area of impact, but P&Z commission chair Connie Brandau reminded those at the meeting that if they lived in the impact area there is a possibility that annexation will happen at some point.

The proposed zoning



Homedale officials, including Mayor Gheen Christoffersen, Councilman Steve Atkins, and public works supervisor Bret Smith were among the large crowd that listened to Owyhee County Community Development Department coordinator Mary Huff explain the reasons behind the meeting.



Homedale Mayor Gheen Christoffersen talks with Councilmen Steve Atkins (left) and Aaron Tines (center) during the joint meeting between the council and the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission.

also would keep residential development closer to existing city water and sewer services. Homedale public works supervisor Bret Smith said the city's infrastructure capacity could probably handle up to a 40-home development, but any high-density, large-scale subdivisions would require adding to the sewer and water facilities.

A multi-use zone would exist south of the residential zone to create a gradual buffer between the residential and ag zones in the impact area.

Last week's public meeting sandwiched between the city council meeting and a joint meeting between the P&Z and council, attracted a standing-room-only crowd into the magistrate courtroom.

Brandau led the meeting, and county Community Development Department coordinator Mary Huff explained citizens' survey results and the zoning proposals that had grown out of them.

According to survey results through last Wednesday, 93 percent of respondents believe residential development should be closer to towns to preserve ag land, and only 7 percent said ag land should be available for residential and commercial development.

Curtis and Marsing-area P&Z commissioner Scott Jensen also sat at the front of the room to hear input from residents, who packed the pews and lined the walls.

Brandau said the county's current efforts is another step to ensure that commercial and residential development in Owyhee County doesn't follow the patchwork tendencies that have been witnessed in Canyon County.

The county's comprehensive plan discourages residential subdivisions in agricultural zones, but Brandau said Idaho's growing population and people's desire to live in

the country makes regulation difficult.

“We are having the most growth in Owyhee County right here in Homedale,” Brandau said.

More than half of the respondents said they would like to see very little growth going forward.

Huff pointed out that there had been numerous conditional use permits granted over the past 20 years to allow people to subdivide agricultural land to add single-family homes.

At least two residential subdivisions proposed for rural areas northwest of Homedale have failed, leaving the ground partially developed and unsuitable for agricultural purposes.

Brandau said that the influx of family members wanting to live next to each other in rural Homedale was a primary factor in the phenomenon, and that in some cases the growth in population was causing neighbor disputes on road usage and other matters.

Under the proposed zoning change, CUPs would still be required to build residences in the ag zone, but no such extra step (or expense) would be needed to build in the residential zone between Pioneer Road and the city limits.

Aberasturi warned that restricting residential development in an ag zone could infringe about property rights. He pointed out that farmers have large tracts of land that they can't cultivate because of the range of pivot irrigation, and that those producers may want to sell off those portions for home sites.

Rural Homedale resident Harold Denney asked meeting attendees to remember that fertilizer applied to farm

ground adjacent to residential areas may eventually seep into the ground water.

High arsenic levels in ground water had ended plans to develop a residential subdivision in the Northside Road area about a decade ago.

Analyzing zoning in the Homedale impact area may be just the beginning of a county-wide process, Brandau said.

“We’re looking at the areas that will be able to handle the most growth, and that’s where the bridges are,” she said.

Bridges across the Snake River at Homedale, Marsing, Walters Ferry, Grand View and Bruneau encourage growth in those areas, Brandau said, because those are the access points to commercial services in Canyon County and Elmore County.

The longtime P&Z chair said the commission could begin looking at zoning needs in the Marsing area of impact because the widening of Idaho highway 55 through Sunny Slope and north into the Canyon County as well as the replacement of the Marsing bridge and improvements to Main Street could trigger future bedroom community development.

During the P&Z-council meeting after the public input, Brandau said she was impressed with the results of a straw poll in which citizens wanted to keep residential growth focused near the city limits.

She said that could bode well for the economic future, too.

"I don't know how much growth you want, but it seems the more bedroom community you have here, the more business you'd attract," she told the council members.

— JPB

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Owyhee Health and Rehab expands facilities, outreach

Homedale skilled care center to add new rooms

A 10,000-square-foot addition to Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation in Homedale is closer to completion.

The new space will consist of six private and six semi-private suites. Semi-private suites will be shared by two residents.

Additionally, there will be a therapy gym for both inpatient and community care. Included in this space will be physical, occupational, and speech therapies.

"The whole project has run so smooth," OHR director Melissa Truesdell said. "I can't say enough good things about Andersen Construction."

"They've done an amazing job on this project and keeping things running on time."

The project completion date is May 31.

Truesdell expressed the excitement of the staff and residents to have the addition completed.

"This building has been here a long time," she said. "Even though we have impeccable survey results — we are an award-winning facility with the state, we have great longevity with our staff — but people want to come in and see an updated building."

Truesdell said she had some difficulty pegging down exactly when the building was built but estimates it went up in the 1950s.

"Naturally there have been a few changes since then," she said.

She noted that there has been



Above: Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation director Melissa Truesdell examines the structure of one of six new private rooms in the facility's addition on West Owyhee Avenue in Homedale.

Below: The new addition will feature the facade of the original building. The new building is set to be completed May 31.

new flooring put down — tile and carpet — and various other small projects.

"We're just excited to be able to connect these two buildings," she said.

Between the private and semi-private rooms, there will be 18 spaces opened for residents. There is currently no waiting list for those spots.

"That's one of the challenges with health care," she said. "Usually when people call and need care for their loved ones, they need it today or yesterday."

Truesdell said she thinks OHR's reputation speaks for itself and doesn't think it will be long before those new rooms are filled.

The goal is to keep the six private rooms available for

short-term residents, such as post-op patients, those needing therapy for knees and hips, among other things.

"That is kind of the market demand for that: private rooms

for that purpose," Truesdell said.

Truesdell said she is happy to see the additional space and services OHR is making available, as she has worked there

since she was 16 years old. She grew up in Adrian and graduated high school there.

Her mother was a nurse at OHR when Truesdell was in high school, and Truesdell came in and started handling medical records and billing and began working her way up in the company. Her mother still works there in the role of director of nursing.

Homedale resident Lindsay Love was recently hired in an outreach capacity, and Truesdell thinks Love's mission will be invaluable.

"Even with the great reputation this facility has, it's still common for me to hear 'I didn't know Homedale had a skilled nursing facility,'" Truesdell said.

"Having Lindsay here will be vital to bringing this whole project together because she's part of the community."

Truesdell said it's important that the facility has good community integration and relationships with surrounding hospitals. Also vital, she said, is having good working relationships with other assisted living centers. — TK



Homedale Fire conducts mock evacuation at OHR

Focus of annual fire drill expands

Owyhee Health and Rehab has instituted a more comprehensive evacuation plan.

The Homedale care facility teamed up with the town's volunteer firefighters to conduct a mock fire drill last Wednesday.

Six residents were evacuated from the building and transported to the senior center during the exercise, which was headed up by OHR community liaison Lindsey Love, business office manager Stephenie Thomas and maintenance director Stan Nelson.

Other residents who were not moved off-site were transferred to a different compartment of the building as part of the drill.

Love said residents were told beforehand that a drill was planned. The six people moved to the senior center had previously agreed to be moved off-site, Love said.

The drill began as a fire alarm was pulled and a mock fire in the kitchen was reported to responding firefighters.

"We are very pleased with the outcome of our fire drill," Love said.

Afterward, Homedale Fire Chief Dennis Uria, a few other firefighters and OHR officials gathered in the kitchen to discuss the success of the drill and other aspects of emergency response protocol.

More in-depth training will



Homedale Fire Chief Dennis Uria (left) discusses protocol with Owyhee Health and Rehab maintenance director Stan Nelson, community liaison Lindsey Love and other personnel and volunteer firefighters.

take place during the fire department's next meeting, Love said.

OHR is required to do the drills annually. Love said

another drill isn't planned when the expansion opens later this year, but there will be a full-site drill carried out in 2019.

Love said last week's drill

was the first to include an evacuation component. Each annual drill going forward will include evacuation.

— JPB

Homedale softball rolls past opponents

Avalanche Sports

Adrian track benefit fun run scheduled

Homedale wrestler tabbed for Folkstyle Nationals



Joseph Egusquiza

Wrestler Joseph Egusquiza is riding a wave of momentum these days. Just weeks after finishing fourth in the 3A state tournament, the Homedale High School freshman has set his sights on bigger competition. The son of Joe and Sarah Egusquiza is training and collecting donations in preparation for a trip

the Folkstyle Nationals, which will take place March 29-31 at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Egusquiza was invited to compete for Team Idaho at the Folkstyle Nationals. The Homedale Wrestling Club is a primary sponsor for Egusquiza's trip, but he is still seeking other donations. Call the wrestler at

(208) 800-1875, Joe at (208) 697-8099 or Sarah at (208) 697-1409 for more information on how to help out. The Folkstyle Nationals will preclude Egusquiza's participation in the Best of the Northwest Tournament in La Grande, Ore., which will be held on the same weekend. High school state tournament placers from Idaho,

Oregon and Washington state are invited every year. Egusquiza will be one of five Homedale wrestlers traveling to Reno, Nev., on April 7-8 for the Reno Worlds. Also scheduled to compete are HHS teammates Jorge Vega, Savannah Turner and Kaydince Turner as well as middle school wrestler Willy White.

Sauer Memorial returns to Sundance Park on Saturday

HHS baseball takes jaunt to John Day tourney

Four local teams will compete in tournaments this weekend, including the fourth annual Taylor Sauer Memorial in Homedale. For the second year, the tournament held in memory of a former Marsing High School softball state champion will be staged at Sundance Park. Games are scheduled for Saturday. Taylor's family uses the tournament as a platform to spread the "Put It Down" message against texting and driving. Taylor made the decision to text and drive and was killed in a Jan. 14, 2012 automobile accident on Interstate 84. "As a family, we want to spread the message to PUT IT DOWN so others don't have to live with such heartbreak," Taylor's parents, Clay and Shauna, write in the tournament's introductory letter. "We miss Taylor very much and know that others can learn from the bad decision she made."

Varsity teams from Marsing and Adrian are scheduled to compete along with the Homedale junior varsity. The Homedale JV entered the week with a 3-1 record. Adrian is playing as an independent team in the 1A/2A Oregon ranks. The local teams' schedule includes:

- Marsing vs. Adrian, 9 a.m., Field 1
- Homedale JV vs. North Fremont, 9 a.m., Field 2
- Adrian vs. North Fremont, 10:45 a.m., Field 3
- Homedale JV vs. Melba, 1:30 p.m., Field 1
- Marsing vs. Kuna JV B, 1:30 p.m., Field 3
- Marsing vs. North Fremont, 3:30 p.m., Field 1
- Homedale JV vs. Rocky Mountain JV, 5:15 p.m., Field 2
- Adrian vs. Kuna JV B, 5:15 p.m., Field 3

Other tournament teams include varsity squads from La Grande, Ore., and Weiser, and the Middleton JV.

HHS baseball hits road
Homedale's baseball team hits the road for the three-day Iron Triangle Tournament hosted by Grant Union High School.

The Trojans open the tournament Thursday against the hometown team at noon MDT on Malone Field, and then will meet Harrisburg, Ore., at 3 p.m. MDT. On Friday, Homedale takes on Sherman County, Ore., at noon MDT at Malone Field. The Trojans wrap up the tournament at 1 p.m. MDT on Saturday against Bonanza, Ore., at McConnell Field.



Homedale senior Ben Lee hits the dirt as Vale, Ore., starting pitcher Karson Brown awaits the throw after a wild pitch at John Jackson Field on March 12.

HHS baseball knocks off state champ to punctuate hot start

Trojans show they can win the close baseball games, too

Homedale High School's powerful start to the baseball season had an early highlight last week. Drew Deal homered and the team hit for the cycle in a 13-3 five-inning victory over reigning

Class 2A state champion Nampa Christian on March 13. The non-conference game was the first road outing for Homedale (6-0 overall before Tuesday's 3A Snake River Valley conference opener

against Payette) and marked the team's fourth victory in the first five days of the season. Deal's two-run home run ignited a six-run fifth inning that forced the mercy rule. He also singled and scored during Homedale's four-run third that erased Nampa Christian's 3-2 lead. — See *Baseball*, page 17

Marsing athletes flash potential

The Marsing High School track team opened its season at the Ontario Icebreaker on Friday and saw one athlete finish second in an event he had only been doing for a week. Competing in the high jump for the first time in his career, sophomore Merrick Hall cleared 5 feet, 4 inches to finish second. "We are really excited about his potential once he is able to

clean up the technique a little bit," first-year coach Kurt Carey said. "That will come with time." Carey was also happy with the results posted by sophomore distance runner Reynaldo Aguirre, who finished seventh in the 1,500-meter run (5:00.6), and ninth in the 800 (2:27.76), six seconds behind winner Ivan Gonzalez from Fruitland.

"Reynaldo has a lot of potential as well, being a sophomore," Carey said. "(He) came out a little too fast in the 1,500 and ran out of steam." Carey believes that with a little seasoning and training, Aguirre could be a force to reckon with in the future. Three Huskies finished in the top 10 in the boys' long jump. — See *Marsing*, page 16

Sports

Huskies softball team’s early-season struggles continue

The Marsing High School softball team stumbled through a busy and difficult trio of games last week.

The Huskies (0-4) took a 21-game losing streak into Monday’s game at Sundance Park against the Homedale junior varsity. The game was played after press time.

Thursday: Payette 22, Marsing 0 (5) — For the second time in three days, the Pirates routed the Huskies, this time in Marsing.

The hometown squad struggled in all aspects, recording just two singles versus the Pirates’ Savannah Keen.

On the mound, Marsing allowed 22 runs on just six hits and 20 walks. Ten of the 22 runs were earned. Ashley Loucks lasted one-third of an inning, giving up two singles and four walks. She was responsible for 10 runs scored by the visitors.

Keen was in control all



Ashley Loucks puts a ball in play during Marsing’s non-conference home game against Payette. Photo by Dan Pease

game, giving up just the two hits, while allowing just one base on balls and striking out three.

March 13: Payette 16, Marsing 1 (5) — Pirates starter Alyssa Kauffman dominated the visiting Huskies, striking

out 11 and walking four during a complete-game three-hitter.

The Pirates had just four hits for the game but capitalized on 14 walks.

Marsing starter Ashley Loucks gave up six earned runs on one hit and two walks. She also hit three batters.

Hailee Bennett came on in relief and pitched four innings, allowing three hits and five earned runs, while walking eight and striking out two. She also recorded the only extra base hit in the game for the Huskies, a double.

Marsing was down 15-0 after two innings.

Anika Burke led the Pirates at the plate with a double and four RBI.

March 12: Parma 14, Marsing 3 (5) — The Panthers (2-3) jumped out to a 12-0 lead after two innings, and Marsing was never able to rally.

The Huskies eked out single runs in the third, fourth, and

fifth innings.

Marsing starter Hailee Bennett got through the first inning with just one run scored against her. In the second, however, the junior gave up seven runs without recording an out.

All told, Bennett gave up three hits, while walking six and allowing eight Panthers to cross the plate.

Sophomore Aubrey Villa relieved Bennett and fared slightly better. She pitched 2 1/3 innings, allowing just three hits but gave up eight walks and six earned runs.

One Huskies bright spot was 10 stolen bases, including three by Emily Loucks.

Freshman Mazzi Roper went 2-for-2 with a walk.

The home team recorded 14 runs on just seven hits. Parma’s starter Herrera pitched four innings, allowing three hits and two runs, while walking six and striking out five.



Adonis Stelzried



Reynaldo Aguirre

✓ Marsing: Stelzried helps Huskies medal in first meet

From Page 14

Sophomore Adonis Stelzried leaped 17-5 and finished seventh. Fellow sophomore Wes Ireland finished 1½ inches behind Stelzried, while Hall was 10th at 16-8½.

Junior shot-putters Taj Jacobi and Jeremiah Fuentes finished sixth and seventh, respectively, with throws of

36-1 and 35-11.

Junior thrower Chloe Ramirez was the only girl able to compete Friday. She finished 10th in both the shot put (25-4½) and discus (65-6).

With so many of his athletes getting experience as underclassmen, Carey is excited about the future of his squad.

“We faced a little bit of adversity

with the weather on Friday and athletes being cold,” he said. “They fought through it and rarely complained.”

Stelzried, Hall and Ireland joined forces with Matthew Lee for a fourth-place finish in the 4x400 relay (4:07.26).

— TK

MARSING HUSKIES



Baseball
Brian Purtell, sr., CF
Two hits in wild non-conference win over Parma



Softball
Autumn Bennett, so., OF
Hit and RBI in road game vs. Payette



Track
Merrick Hall, so.
High jump runner-up with PR in Ontario, Ore.

Baseball

Varsity
Wednesday, March 21, home vs. Nampa Christian, 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 22 at Wilder, 4 p.m.

Softball

Varsity
Wednesday, March 21, home vs. Nampa Christian, 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 22 at Wilder, 5 p.m.
Taylor Sauer Tournament
(Saturday at Sundance Park)
9 a.m., vs. Adrian, Ore., Field 1
1:30 p.m., vs. Kuna JV B, Field 3
3:30 p.m., vs. North Fremont, Field 1

Track and field

Thursday, March 22 at New Plymouth Invite, 4 p.m.

Golf

Boys
Tuesday, April 3 at Cole Valley Christian meet, River Birch GC, Star, 3 p.m.
Girls
Tuesday, April 3 at Cole Valley Christian meet, River Birch GC, Star, 3 p.m.

Go Huskies!



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Sports

HHS softball unloads on Oregon squads

Three home runs and Dazsha Zamora's 4-for-4 showing at the plate set the tone for Homedale High School's softball sweep Saturday in Baker City, Ore.

Zamora's second double of the game, and Dakota Kelly's three-run home run helped the Trojans invoke the 10-run rule in the first game of a non-conference doubleheader.

Before Homedale scored six times in the top of the fifth inning, Sophie Nash hit a three-run homer and Allison Shenk notched a solo shot in a 13-1 Game 1 victory.

Zamora doubled and scored on Kelly's double in the first inning.

Zamora and Grant scored three runs apiece, with Grant going 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI from the leadoff spot.

Kelly struck out 11 and walked two while throwing a three-hitter.

Homedale (5-0 before Tuesday's 3A Snake River Valley conference opener against Payette) scored 12 times in the third inning of Game 2 to roll to a 16-6 win.

Game 2: Homedale 16, Baker, Ore., 6 (5) — The Bulldogs managed 11 hits, including a home run, against Olivia Cardenas, but Baker couldn't keep up with the Trojans' explosive offense.

The Trojans trailed, 3-1, when they erupted for a dozen runs in the third inning.

Kelly and Cardenas doubled in the third inning, while Grant, Nash and Zamora scored twice in the frame and three times in the game.

Homedale sent 18 batters to the plate in the third inning and never looked back.

DeLaynie Dorsey was 2-for-3 with three runs scored and two RBI. Kendall Nash also had two singles.

March 12: Homedale 11, Vale, Ore., 1 (5) — Kelly allowed one hit and an unearned run while striking out nine at Sundance Park.

The Trojans scored all the runs they'd need in their first at-bat as Alex Grant, Dazsha Zamora and Sophie Nash started the inning with consecutive singles. Josey Hall drove home two runs with a double.

Homedale broke open the game with six runs in the third inning behind Zamora's lead-off double and a run-scoring triple from Jayci Swallow.

The Trojans ended the game with four consecutive singles to start the fifth inning. Kendall Nash led off, stole second, moved to third on Swallow's base hit, and scored when Grant singled. Allison Shenk invoked the 10-run rule with a hit that plated Swallow.

Homedale girls tee off at Weiser

Matlock helps boys finish 7th in big-school Nampa Invite

Two golfers broke 60 in Homedale High School's first girls' meet of the season.

Only three Trojans competed in the Weiser Invitational varsity competition last Wednesday at Rolling Hills Golf Course.

Shanlee Swallow fired a team-best 53 in the nine-hole tournament, while Emma Parker carded a 56 in the high school debut.

Ashlyn Miller rounded out the Homedale scoring with a 68.

The Trojans didn't put enough girls on the course to qualify for the team championship.

Fellow 3A Snake River Valley conference member Parma won the tournament behind Hope Okamura's 45, which was tied for third-lowest individually.

Payette had two golfers — Anna Holcomb and Josi Gray — score 50.

Cole Valley Christian finished second with a 213 behind Bella Huff's runner-up individual score of 44.

Carley Carter of The Ambrose School shot a 3-over-par 39 to win medalist.



Senior Scott Matlock fired a 91 last week to help the Homedale boys finish in the top 10 at the Nampa Invite.

Boys

Playing with the minimum number of players to qualify for the team championship, the Homedale boys' squad finished seventh in the 19-team Nampa Invite on March 13.

Sophomore Daniel Uranga led the Trojans with an 89 over 18 holes at Centennial Golf Course.

Spencer Fisher fired a 90, and senior Scott Matlock carded a 91 as Homedale totaled 363. The Trojans were two strokes better than Nampa.

Senior Kaden Henry rounded out the HHS effort with a 93.

Rocky Mountain from Meridian swept top honors, winning the team championship with a 340 as Elijah Senethauilay's 2-under-par 70 earned medalist.

Homedale's 3A SRV rival Fruitland finished third at 340 behind a 78 from Lucas Rynearson, and Jake O'Neil's 80.

Skyview was four strokes behind Rocky Mountain at 334.

✓ Baseball: Trojans close busy week with a pair of one-run victories

From Page 14

Nampa Christian scored three times in the bottom of the first after Homedale had seized opportunities and scored two runs in its first at-bat.

Jesse Packer singled with one out, and Deal picked up the first of his three hits to start the opening rally. Jaylon Hilton reached on an error and scored on a miscue, and Packer stole home.

Jordan Packer tripled and scored on Mason Kincheloe's base hit in the third inning. Kincheloe's two-run double brought in Jordan Packer and Jake Collett in the sixth.

Deal struck out seven in four innings to get the win.

Friday: Homedale 5, Ontario, Ore., 4 — Collett dodged trouble in the Tigers' final at-bat to keep the Trojans unbeaten at the end of the busy first week.

After closing the gap on

Noah Navarette's run-scoring double in the sixth inning, Ontario got the go-ahead run to second base on Collett's two-out balk in the seventh inning. A grounder to third base ended the game, though, and stranded runners at second and third.

The Trojans snapped a 1-1 deadlock in the bottom of the third inning. Jesse Packer scored on an error to put Homedale ahead, Deal scored on Jaylon Hilton's base hit, and Hilton scored from third base on Wyatt Wolfe's sacrifice bunt.

The game marked the second time in as many days that Homedale recorded only singles.

Deal, who led the team with a 3-for-3 showing at the plate, led off the fifth with a single and later scored on a wild pitch.

Collett pitched 2 2/3 innings to get the save in relief of

winning pitcher Ben Lee. The senior left-hander got his second victory of the year after dodging six hits and five walks in the first 4 1/3 innings. He struck out five, while Collett came on to fan four.

Thursday: Homedale 1, Melba 0 — After a string of victories with wide margins, the Trojans showed they could survive a tight ballgame, too, in a non-conference win.

The Wolfe brothers — Clayton and Wyatt — teamed up on a one-hit shutout against the host Mustangs.

Clayton struck out seven and allowed the one hit over the first five innings. Wyatt pitched around two walks to close the game with two hitless innings.

Homedale was opportunistic, scoring an unearned run in the third inning.

Leading off, Lee got aboard on a two-base error, and he

scored on Wyatt Wolfe's base hit into the left field.

The Trojans left the bases loaded, though. Mason Kincheloe jammed the bases with a two-out single as Homedale got two of its three hits in the third inning.

Jordan Packer singled in the seventh inning for Homedale's other hit.

March 12: Homedale 13, Vale, Ore., 3 (6) — The Trojans collected their third mercy-rule victory in as many outings in a non-conference game at John Jackson Field.

Clayton Wolfe smoked a bases-clearing double over the head of Vikings center fielder Tanner Hamilton during the Trojans' four-run first inning.

Wolfe knocked in seven runs in Homedale's first three games.

The uprising was fueled by Vale starter Karson Brown's wildness. He walked two

batters, hit Chase Stoddard and Jordan Packer with back-to-back pitches, and uncorked a wild pitch that allowed leadoff hitter Ben Lee to start the scoring.

Homedale ended the game via the 10-run rule by scoring six times in the sixth inning.

Jordan Packer's single — the third consecutive hit in the inning — brought home the game-ending run.

Homedale racked up four of its 11 hits in the sixth inning. Deal was 3-for-3, and Jordan Packer and Wolfe went 2-for-3. Jesse Packer scored three times.

A left-hander, Collett struck out five and pitched around three walks and two unearned runs to get the win. Wyatt Wolfe gave up three hits, but fanned three over the final two innings.

Vale's Matt McBride was 2-for-2 with a double.



South Mtn. Livestock 4-H weighs in beef

*The South Mountain Livestock 4-H club held beef weigh-ins on Saturday, March 3 at Gluch's Ranch. Each club member's fair project steer weighed less than 900 pounds, so every entry is eligible for the county fair. **First row, from left:** Cassity Gluch, Kelsey Gluch, Kyndra Williams, and Shailee Rutan. **Second row, from left:** Jayden Skinner, and Alex Williams. Submitted photo*

Grand View 4-H'er enters BLM mustang skills competition

A 13-year-old Grand View boy will show off his mustang-training skills Saturday in Boise.

Max Bearden will be part of the field in the 4-H Trail Challenge at the Bureau of Land Management Wild Horse Corrals.

The event starts at 10 a.m., at the facility, which is located off South Pleasant Valley Road in southeast Boise.

Bearden is the only Owyhee County resident in the field. He belongs to the Snake River Livestock 4-H club.

Six other 4-H clubs will be represented Saturday, and competitors will take their mustang weanlings through an obstacle course and show how well the animals have been trained to load and unload from a stock trailer.

Saturday's competition is part of a competition that will culminate with a showcase and adoption opportunity set for April 13-15 at the Idaho Horse Expo at Ford Idaho Horse Park in Nampa.

The 4-H'ers have been working with their horses since February, teaching the animals how to lead, pick up their feet and load into a trailer while honing their horsemanship skills.

"Each year since 2009, this partnership has generated such excitement around our wild horse and burro program," Boise Wild Horse and Burro specialist Raul Trevino said. "It's very gratifying to see the 4-H members grow and develop their skills while also helping us place horses into new homes."

Sports
Marsing baseball capitalizes on Parma's sloppy play

There were no issues with run production for either Marsing or Parma in a March 12 high school baseball game on the Panthers' field.

The teams combined for 28 runs on just 19 hits in the Huskies' 15-13 non-conference win. The game was sloppy defensively, particularly for Parma.

Both participants struggled on the mound, as well. Three pitchers combined for 11 walks for the visiting Huskies, while the Panthers offered up 10 free passes.

Marsing (2-0 overall) opened up a 7-2 lead in the top of the fourth. Huskies starter Alec Gibson threw two innings of two-hit, two-run ball, while also giving up two walks.

In the top of the third, the

Huskies plated four to go ahead 6-2. Jaden Kinney threw a strong third to hold the Panthers at two runs.

Then the complexion of the game changed.

After bringing in one more run in the fourth, Kinney lost control of his pitches, allowing six runs on six hits, while only recording one out. He threw 52 pitches, only 21 for strikes.

Reliever Joaquin Oliveros was charged with three more runs before finally shutting the Panthers. All told, Parma scored nine runs in the fourth, and Marsing trailed 11-7.

Marsing responded with four runs in the fifth to knot the game at 11, then knocked in four more in the sixth to pull ahead 15-11.

Oliveros remained in the

game and allowed two more Panthers to cross the plate in the bottom of the sixth.

At the plate, Marsing got two hits each from Brian Purcell, Isiah Prado, Boone Sevy, and Dwight Sevy, including Dwight's first home run of the season.

The Huskies got RBI's from hitters one through seven in the batting order, including two by Prado.

The biggest difference was Parma's 10 errors, which led to nine unearned runs.

The Huskies were set for a doubleheader in Glenss Ferry on Saturday but the games were rained out. A makeup date has been scheduled for April 30 at 5:15 in Glenss Ferry.

— TK

Adrian track project expands as Off-Road Challenge popularity soars

Fourth annual running fundraiser set Saturday

Everyday people will gather Saturday to run on all types of terrain to help the Adrian community realize a dream for an all-weather surface for high school athletes.

Proceeds from the fourth annual Owyhee Off-Road Challenge will further the Adrian Sports Boosters goal of transforming the school's oddly shaped and shorter-than-regulation track into a rubberized surface.

The Challenge includes a half marathon, and 10- and 5-kilometer races.

The fundraiser begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday at Two Rivers Community Park, which is also where the races will end.

Participants can register online at www.owyheeooffroad-challenge.com or at the park on

the day of the event.

The Adrian Sports Boosters began the campaign in 2015 to give Adrian athletes a place to practice starts, relay handoffs and hurdles. Antelopes must travel to neighboring schools to practice after the home teams have finished their workouts.

Boosters say the situation put Adrian athletes at a disadvantage in competitions.

Despite this hardship, though, coach Aimee Esplin's boys' squad won three consecutive 1A Oregon state championships between 2014 and 2016.

During that span, the Antelopes won 12 individual boys' state championships, a boys' relay state title and a girls' pole vault state championship.

The original plan was to build

a straightaway to practice, but the Boosters have expanded their goal after witnessing how the community has reacted to the Owyhee Off-Road Challenge fundraiser.

More than \$15,000 has been raised in the first three years of the Owyhee Off-Road Challenge as hundreds of runners and walkers have traversed off-road trails leading to Rimrock Butte, which overlooks the Snake River and Treasure Valley scenery.

The boosters' efforts have received support from outside the annual fundraiser, too.

Last year, two anonymous donations totaling \$70,000 were received.

An employee of Nike, Inc., in Beaverton, Ore., was so inspired after competing in last year's challenge that she helped to get the track project set up to receive charitable donations from Nike employees.

HHS golf team plans fundraiser scramble

Entries are open for the inaugural Homedale Golf Four-person Scramble.

The fundraiser tournament, set for Saturday, April 28 at

River Bend Golf Course, will help the Homedale High School team finance its season.

The cost is \$60 per person or \$240 per team. The deadline to register is Friday, April 20.

Prizes will be awarded for the first-, second- and third-place teams.

HHS coach Casey Grove said money raised will help

purchase golf bags, golf balls, team apparel and pay for state tournament travel expenses.

Checks made payable to Homedale Golf can be mailed to Casey Grove, 203 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, ID 83628.

Contact Grove at (208) 340-4611 or cgrove@homedaleschools.org for more information.

Classified deadline

Monday noon the week of publication

Legal notice deadline

Friday noon the week prior to publication

The Owyhee Avalanche

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Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

March 24, 1993

Reservoir filling fast, water supply “looks good”

Recent above normal temperatures, precipitation and gravity have sent mountain snow packs cascading down to area reservoirs.

Last Thursday, a record inflow of 120,000 acre feet pushed the water level in Owyhee Reservoir towards its capacity of 715,000 acre feet.

“It looks good,” John Ross, Owyhee Irrigation District Manager, said Monday afternoon. “I think we’ll fill. The prospects are good.”

The Bureau of Reclamation projects an additional 635,000 acre feet of water to enter Owyhee Reservoir between now and July 1. With the reservoir more than 64 percent full, the additional water will probably be put into canals or the river, Ross said.

Four honored for years of leadership in local 4-H

With a combined 80 years of involvement between them, four 4-H leaders were recognized by the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office for their commitment and service to the organization.

Awards for 25 years were given to Mary Lootens, Marsing, and VaLere Hegerhorst, Bruneau. Craig Malmberg, Marsing, and Alice Edmiston, Homedale, were cited for 15 years.

Before moving to Idaho, VaLere Hegerhorst led 4-H activities in Utah for a number of years. In Owyhee County, she completed the master knitting program and began leading the Kneat Knitters as a master knitter volunteer. She has continued to lead the club and expand the project focus over the years.

Mary Lootens has long been the leader of the Sewing Tailorettes 4-H club she started with Clara Showalter. She has also been chairperson of many 4-H activities and superintendent of 4-H clothing at the Owyhee County Fair.

Alice Edmiston’s children were in 4-H “from the time they were old enough to be in 4-H until the time they graduated from high school.” Her kids are now out of the program, but she’s still involved in 4-H because she sees potential in the kids in her group and wants to make sure they have leadership.

She’s been a state and district 4-H representative from Owyhee County. The positions she has held include past president of the county 4-H council, the international relations coordinator, 4-H camp representative, vice-president of the 4-H camp board, and the county representative to the District II 4-H Council.

After putting in 15 years with 4-H, Craig Malmberg said he’s quitting this year. Since he took over another guy’s 4-H club right out of college, he’s been primarily involved with livestock projects, “We had everything but horses.”

He was swine superintendent at the Owyhee County Fair, an event he’s been to annually since 1956.

Birds of Prey bill passes full committee

Idaho First District Congressman Larry LaRocco’s Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area bill continued on its quick pace to becoming law Wednesday when it was approved by the House Committee on Natural Resources.

The bill grants permanent protection to 482,000 acres along the Snake River in Ada and Owyhee counties, which contains the densest concentration of nesting raptors in North America. More than 600 pairs of raptors such as golden eagles, falcons, red-tailed hawks and a variety of owls, call the canyon walls home.

50 years ago

March 21, 1968

Basque dance raises \$2,100 at Marsing

Approximately \$2,100 was gained Saturday, March 9 at the Marsing-Homedale Basque Charity Dance in the multipurpose room at Marsing Elementary School, according to Julio Churruca, general chairman for this year’s event.

A large crowd attended and danced to the music of Jimmy Jausoro’s orchestra.

A yearling fat lamb, donated by Colin McLeod of the Spring Valley Livestock Co. of Marsing was auctioned during intermission. Auctioneers Bud Grant and Ellis Albright urged the highest possible price for the prize animal, then the purchaser would tell the auctioneers to “sell him again,” and the sale continued. Each time the lamb sold for between \$50.00 and \$175.00.

Purchasers included Tom Arvin of the Arvin Millwork Plant, Harold Wilson, Ideal Gas, Paul Zatica, Jess Badiola of J & D Pack, all of Homedale. Other purchasers included Dale Dobbin, Ken Bittick of Idaho First National Bank, Jim Walker of Bestway Building Center, Mel Ezell of Treasure Valley Aviation, Frank Churruca, and Challen Watson, Jr. of Hiway Services, all of Marsing., Charles Flahiff, Patterson Livestock Supply and Grant, all of Caldwell, and Albright of Nampa.

Mrs. Barayasarra was presented a cake baked in the form of a lamb for being the eldest lady in attendance. The cake was baked by Mrs. Juanita Churruca.

Proceeds from the dance are divided between the two communities and used for community projects, Churruca said.

Homedale locals

Mrs. Donald Fodge, Roseburg, Ore., is visiting this week with her son and daughter-n-law, the Rev, and Mrs. Quincy Fodge and family and with another son and family at Nampa.

Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Matteson, Owyhee Heights, arrived home last week from a two months’ trip to California and Arizona.

Mrs. Linda Price and two children returned to their home in Portland, Ore., Tuesday night by streamliner after spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. Verna Costley.

Sheila Wood is spending a two weeks’ vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wood, Jr. She is a freshman student at Temple Buell College, Denver, Colo.

Home for spring vacation from George Fox College, Newberg, Ore., are Pam Van Derhoff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Van Derhoff, and Herald Fodge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Quincy Fodge.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Kellum, Friendswood, Texas, are visiting at the homes of their sons, Daryl and Ken Kellum.

Ralph Kellum, who recently underwent surgery at a Nampa hospital, had to return there Friday for a few days treatment.

Saddle Club of Friends Church takes trail ride

The Riding Friends Saddle Club of the Homedale Friends Community Church went on a trail ride March 9.

The 24 riders and eight others who traveled by pick-up, gathered at the Art Shenk home in Ridgeview and rode toward the Alkali Springs area and had a sack lunch en route.

Mrs. Beverly Clayton is president of the club, which includes adults and children.

140 years ago

March 23, 1878

LOCAL INTELLIGENCE

MAIL CONTRACTS.—A gentleman who is well posted in all matters pertaining to the carrying of mails, expressed the belief to us recently that there would be more failures in carrying out mail contracts on the Pacific Coast the coming four years than there ever had been in the previous history of the country. The reason assigned for this belief was found in the very low prices at which contracts generally had been taken. Comparing the lists with contracts made four years ago, the amount of compensation is shown to be nearly fifty per cent less under new contracts. For instance, the route from Canyon City to Camp McDermitt is now run by a man who gets \$4,200 per annum, and he is losing money at it. The new contract for carrying the mails over that route has been awarded to one J. M. Peck for \$2,866, and if Mr. P. doesn’t lose annually just about as much as his contract amounts to it will be something of a wonder. Numerous other cases just like this could be cited. They are the rule rather than the exception under the new arrangement, and hence it is not unreasonable to predict that these low contract prices will in the end result in failures. It is a matter of general regret among the people of Idaho that the Northwestern Company did not obtain a renewal of their contracts for carrying mails on different routes in this territory. Being thoroughly organized and equipped they were in a better position to accommodate the public than new parties possibly can be for a long time to come. It is no easy job carrying mails in a country like this, especially at certain seasons of the year, but the Northwestern Company was so well fixed for the business that they have always been able to be prompt, and give satisfaction to the people. We know not how well Mr. Saulsbury and his associates are supplied with the “sinews of war,” or to what extent they are in a position to serve the public. They will certainly have to spend a big sum of money to be in as good shape as the present contractors are for performing the difficult service.

Mining Notes

It is very evident from the rich mineral discoveries that have been made in this vicinity and the general character of the ledges as far as they have been prospected, that sufficient work has not been done in the way of attracting the attention of capitalists to Idaho as a field for judicious investment in mining. Local journals are doing their utmost in the way of writing up theses resources, but in addition to this it is of the utmost importance that intelligent and energetic gentlemen should be selected to present these resources in their proper light and induce capitalists to come and see for themselves. Capital has to be approached and delicately manipulated in order to be secured, and a judicious effort in this direction would result in bringing many San Francisco capitalists to operate in Idaho who now invest their means in fields that are far less productive than those of this Territory.

The mines of Florida Mountain and vicinity are again attracting much attention, and just now we are happy to say that the outlook for the coming season in this vicinity is brighter than it has been for a long time. Mr. Graham has a force of some twenty men at work at the Potosi and vicinity and nearly 100 tons of first-class rock out. At a point about sixty-five feet north in the Knickerbocker tunnel the ore is richer than any yet taken out in previous operations and there is an immense body of it.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM

On the edge of common sense
A pox on this column



A man in Wahoo, Nebraska said he ate all the eggs he could. He felt it was his contribution to beef sales; every egg he ate was one less chicken!

People take chickens personally. My brother Bob had a rooster named Oscar. They hated each other! Lots of kids like Big Bird on Sesame Street. The state birds of Rhode Island and Delaware are both chickens; one red, one blue. Oklahoma has two cities named after the humble poul: Chickasha and Henryetta. Toledo had a minor league baseball team called the Mud Hens.

Some folks love chicken. But it’s hard to find anybody who loves a chicken! Chickens don’t make good pets. It is hard to housebreak a chicken. They don’t respond well to training. Maybe that’s why we don’t see more chicken races, trained chicken acts or seeing-eye chickens.

Chickens come several ways: as hawks, peals, pox and coffee-flavored (chicory), BBQs, fried, in little lumps called McNuggets and with their tail between their legs! You can get them in a basket, in a bucket or in a coop with fries.

The poultry industry has done well in marketing its product. Beef is distinguished in its advertising by its unique flavor, i.e. “nothing satisfies like beef.” Did you notice that **everything** tastes like chicken? When one doesn’t know how to describe the taste of some edible tidbit they claim it tastes like chicken. Octopus tastes like chicken. Rabbit, squirrel, armadillo, alligator, frog legs and squid have a chicken-like flavor. Even rattlesnake meat tastes like chicken! Some may think this comparison is fowl play, but I think it adds a little glamour to the poor ol’ chicken. It adds pizzazz to the chicken to be associated with these exotic creatures.

Chickens have made at least two historical contributions to modern civilization that I can think of: The Pecking Order and the Chicken-Fried Steak. But on the whole, the image of chickens is less than flattering, i.e., henpecked, bird-brain, egghead, chicken-hearted, chicanery, henchman, fowl-mouthed and Henry the Eighth!

In veterinary school, we had to take an extensive 20-minute course in Poultry Surgery. I had trouble with the class. I kept calling the pectoral muscle white meat. I intended to get a Master’s Degree in Poultry Medicine, but Colonel Sanders was closed when I went to enroll!

— Visit Baxter’s Web site at www.baxterblack.com for more features and to purchase Baxter Black books, CDs and DVDs. His newest book is “Scrambled Wisdom — Almost Isn’t ... Is It.”

From the Statehouse
Exempt materials from sales tax,
make rural broadband a priority

Legislative session 2018 appears to be wrapping up, and I think all of us here at the Capitol are eager to return to our “normal” lives and jobs.

The bills on the House floor are now primarily appropriations, and we appear to be on target to finish up some time around Friday. Over the break, I plan to continue to work on different projects and hope to get additional ideas from around the district.

My first priority, as it has always been, is rural connectivity. We have a real need to extend broadband and wireless services to our rural communities. Internet connections are no longer a convenience; they have become a necessity. The state needs to start viewing technological infrastructure in the same light as the rest of our infrastructure and begin to look at funding mechanisms.

One route that I think should be considered is to exempt broadband and wireless construction materials from sales tax. The method would mirror the other sales tax exemptions for the production level of goods. A broadband task force is also in the works with the Department of Commerce. I’m hopeful together we can develop a workable plan for such a major undertaking.

My other projects will include government transparency, responsible state health care plans and election flexibility for rural political subdivisions.

Dist. 23B Rep. Megan Blanksma
R-Hammett (term expires 2018)

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Committees
Health & Welfare
Resources & Conservation
Transportation & Defense



Over the next few months I plan to put forward several plans for suggestions for improvement.

Please go to my website www.meganblanksma.com or email me at mblanksma@house.idaho.gov to submit your comments and ideas. The website also has an events calendar that I will be updating, and you can sign up for the newsletter and updates over the legislative interim.

It’s been my pleasure to serve District 23 over the past two years. Thank you for your trust. I’m truly appreciative of it and will do my best to continue to earn it.

From Washington
In a refreshing twist, feds are
working to help Owyhee’s ranchers

With the media ignoring the many good things happening in the Trump Administration, I’d like to relate some great news for Idaho and the West: The U.S. Department of Interior is listening to the American people and working to restore common-sense land management.

And, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is aware of the plight of Owyhee County ranchers.

Zinke testified before the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, explaining the department’s budget request and taking questions for more than three hours.

Hearing from Zinke was a refreshing change from the Obama Administration. Instead of a recalcitrant bureaucracy determined to restrict multiple use of public lands, we now have a partner committed to working with states and localities.

The new Interior Department is reforming burdensome regulations, scaling back national monuments to reflect local concerns and moving to rescind overreaching policies on sage-grouse habitat.

Interior officials also are working to boost our economy, advance America’s energy dominance, conserve our lands, expand outdoor access and relieve a \$16 billion backlog in deferred maintenance.

I used my time Thursday to ask Secretary Zinke about two issues that don’t get a lot of attention but are vital to ranching families and rural economies across Idaho and the West. A misreading of the law by the Bureau of Land Management has resulted in restricting access to grazing lands in Owyhee County that have sustained families for generations.

Rep. Raúl Labrador
First Congressional District (Republican)

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Term expires 2018



The first problem is the BLM’s misinterpretation of the Wilderness Act; the second regards an inexcusable delay in renewing 68 grazing permits in Owyhee County that have been stalled since 1997.

I recently wrote Zinke about the wilderness issue in letter also signed by my colleague, Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho). We are asking Interior to review a BLM interpretation of congressional intent that has wrongly curtailed grazing.

Zinke’s answer was refreshingly blunt: “It is my opinion that we have not lived up to the obligation of the intent of that law. ...We’re looking at it hard and I agree, it should be looked at.”

In the case of the delayed permits of the “Owyhee 68,” BLM had repeatedly capitulated to the demands of environmental groups to the detriment of ranchers.

— See **Ranchers**, Page 21

Commentary

Financial management

Open a bank account to avoid check-cashing fees

Dear Dave,
How do you feel about check cashing companies?
— Norman

Dear Norman,
I'm not a big fan of check cashing companies. They're not nearly as bad as payday lenders, but it still seems kind of silly to me there's even a market for this kind of thing. If you want a place to cash your checks and store your money, all you have to do is walk into a bank and open an account. I realize there's a small segment of the population that some people in financial circles like to call "the unbanked." This means that, for whatever

reason, they avoid banks. That's their choice, but in the process, they leave themselves susceptible to bad deals. As I said, I don't feel the same way about check-cashing companies as I do about payday lenders. But it's still not a financially smart move to regularly pay a storefront operation fees just to cash your checks.

Dear Dave,
I'm 27 years old, and I have no debt. In addition, I have a five-month emergency fund of \$14,000. Recently, I started a new job making \$60,000. I've been offered a 401(k) with no



match, but I was wondering if instead I should open a high-yield CD.

Dear Kris,
You're doing very well at a young age. Congratulations! I'm glad you're thinking about your financial future, too. But I've got a better idea. How about opening a Roth IRA with good growth stock mutual funds inside? That would be my choice. Fund it up to \$5,500 a year, and make sure the mutual funds have strong track records of at least 10 years. This investment — growing tax-free — will be superior to a non-matching 401(k) or certificate of deposit. If you want to invest even more, you could then put additional cash into the 401(k) offered by your

company.
With your income and maturity, plus the proper investment strategy, you're likely to retire a very wealthy lady. Keep up the great work, Kris!
—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.

✓ Ranchers: Trump administration keen on cattlemen's importance

From Page 20
Zinke acknowledged the department he now runs may have acted in bad faith.
"It could have been willful and intentional to slow-roll these things," he said. "We've seen that across the West. We'll work with you on it."
The new Administration understands what Idahoans have always known — ranching families that rely on a healthy landscape to feed their livestock are excellent stewards.
"In my experience, ranchers respect the land," Zinke said. "They're good people, they work hard, they preserve the land. And, in general, if a lot of our land had ranchers on it we wouldn't have the issues we do."
What a breath of fresh air to have a federal landlord that doesn't demonize hard-working Americans who've helped build Idaho and the West. And what a difference a year makes.
— Republican Raúl Labrador has held the Idaho First District U.S. House of Representatives seat since 2011. He will be leaving the House this year. He's seeking the Republican nomination to become the next Idaho governor.

Election letters

The Owyhee Avalanche will accept letters to the editor pertaining to the May 15 primary election until noon on Friday, May 4.
The usual letters to the editor guidelines apply, including letters must be no more than 300 words and letters must include contact information, including a phone number, of the letter-writer. Submit by:
• Email to jon@owyheeavalanche.com
• Fax to (208) 337-4867
• Mail to P.O. Box 97, Homedale ID, 83628
• Or drop off at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., in Homedale
For more information, call (208) 337-4681, ext. 102.

From Washington Even with reforms, tax time is a time to be vigilant about would-be fraudsters

Enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is resulting in higher take-home pay for American workers through tax rate reductions, bonuses and wage increases. Tax reform also generates long-term economic benefits from increased business investment, productivity and jobs. As these benefits reach more American households, we must also make sure that taxpayers keep more of their hard-earned income by guarding against tax season scams.
The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is warning taxpayers about a widespread scam in which thieves are stealing taxpayer data to file fraudulent tax returns, having the tax refunds deposited into the taxpayers' existing bank accounts and then using scare tactics to take those fraudulent returns from taxpayers. The IRS has released multiple warnings about this particular scam because the number of potential taxpayer victims has jumped significantly. The IRS warns that thieves may be altering their tactics for stealing the refunds, but the agency describes two versions of the scam:
1) "criminals posing as debt collection agency officials acting on behalf of the IRS contacted the taxpayers to say a refund was deposited in error, and they asked the taxpayers to forward the money to their collection agency;" and
2) "the taxpayer who received the erroneous refund gets an automated call with a recorded voice saying he is from the IRS and threatens the taxpayer with criminal fraud charges, an arrest warrant and a 'blacklisting' of their Social Security Number. The recorded voice gives the taxpayer a case number and a telephone number to call to return the refund."
The IRS has established steps for taxpayers to return fraudulent refunds that include contacting the Automated Clearing House department of the bank where the direct deposit was received and having the bank return the refund to the IRS and calling the IRS at (800) 829-1040 for individuals and (800) 829-4933 for businesses to explain why the direct deposit is being returned. Steps and addresses are

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



also provided for returning erroneous refunds from paper checks and funds from checks that have already been cashed. The tax agency has also encouraged victims of this scam to discuss the concern with their banks "because there may be a need to close bank accounts."
The IRS has also posted information on its website, www.irs.gov, about other common tax scams that include IRS-impersonation telephone scams; scams targeting tax professionals; email, phishing and malware schemes; fraudsters posing as the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel; and other scams. The IRS also provides information to try to help taxpayers know when it is an actual IRS employee contacting them cautioning that, "the IRS does not call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer. Generally, the IRS will first mail a bill to any taxpayer who owes taxes."
The hope is that the simplification provided through the enacted tax reform will help make it not only easier for taxpayers to file tax returns, but also help make fraud more detectable and preventable. I am trying to help get word out about tax scams in the hope that that more taxpayers are not victimized by these and other tax scams and that they can hang onto more of their hard-earned income.

Public notices

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the members of the MARSING COMMUNITY DISASTER FUND, an association will be held at eight (8:00) o'clock p.m., Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at the MARSING COMMUNITY CENTER for the purpose of electing (1) director-at-large for a term of 3 years, (3) area directors for a term of 3 years. One (1) each from the communities of Lakeview area, Marsing area, and Jump Creek area. Director-at-large from within the Association boundaries, area directors, for the election of officers for the Association and any other business relative to the Annual Meeting. Jessica Showalter, Association Secretary
3/21,28/2018

LIEN SALE

Robert Monral, 2009 8th Ave. W., Williston, ND 58801. Unit F-12 items include Mongoose bike, air conditioner, microwave, misc. household goods. Items will be auctioned off by sealed bid on 03-24-2018. Bids will be accepted between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. All sales are final. Cash only. Unit needs to be emptied completely, including trash, the day of the sale. Unit is located at Hwy. 95 Self Storage, 3685 Hwy. 95, Homedale, Idaho, 83628.
3/14,21/2018

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CASE NO. CV37-18-00091**

**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 DONALD RAY BARNHILL, Deceased.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate 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 be presented to the undersigned at the addresses indicated below, and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

DATED this 15 day of March, 2018.
/s/ Jeffrey David Barnhill
5699 Old Bruneau Hwy
Marsing, ID 83639
William A. Morrow
MORROW & FISCHER,
PLLC, Attorneys for Personal Representative
332 N. Broadmore Way,
Ste. 102, Nampa, Idaho
83687. Telephone: (208) 475-2200. Facsimile: (208) 475-2201. Email: wmorrow@morrowfischer.com
3/21,28,4/4/2018

**THE FOLLOWING
APPLICATION HAS BEEN
FILED TO APPROPRIATE
THE PUBLIC WATERS OF
THE STATE OF IDAHO:**

2-10559
JUDY CAROL LOVELAND
8051 ISLAND VIEW DR
MARSING, ID 83639
Point of Diversion SWSE S26
T02N R04W OWYHEE County
Source SNAKE RIVER Tributary
COLUMBIA RIVER
Use: IRRIGATION 03/15 to
10/15 0.32 CFS
Use: STOCKWATER 01/01 to
12/31 0.03 CFS
Total Diversion: 0.35 CFS

Date Filed: 1/16/2018
Places of Use: IRRIGATION,
STOCKWATER
T02N R04W S35 L2(ENE)
Total Acres: 16

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), please see www.idwr.idaho.gov. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. 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 4/9/2018. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.
GARY SPACKMAN,
Director
3/21,28/2018

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*JD 8400T Rubber Track Tractor*69 John Deere 5020 w/Loader *63 John Deere 4010 *76 John Deere 4430*76 Massey 285 *MORE TRACTORS NOT LISTED *73 Peerless Chain Floor/Silage Trailer *42 Fruehauf 2000 Gallon Water Trailer *01 Diamond D FB GN Trailer *93 Astoria Stock Trailer *84 Blake GN Stock Trailer *85 Blake 3 Horse Slant Combo Trailer *85 Utility FB Trailer *73 Cook 33' Belly Dump Trailer *10 Dutchman Club 185 Travel Trailer *06 Alpenlite 31CK Travel Trailer *05 Keystone Sprinter Travel Trailer

*Evergreen Industrial Irrigation Reel & Gun *Big A 2500 Sprayer *JD 1380 Hydro Swing Swather *80 MF 750 Combine *Eversman Land Plane *New Holland 580 Baler *JD 467 Baler *Hesston 5530 Round Baler *Circle C Twin Hay Rake *Bedding Harrow *JD 210 Tandem Disc *JD Manure Spreader *5-Row Ontario Rotary Corrugator * Brillion 10' Seeder *11' AerWay Aerator * IH McCormick 10' Grain Drill *JD 4200 Plow *JD 915 V Ripper *MORE- MORE IMPLEMENTS NOT LISTED

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Hope House Barn Sale, Marsing. Saturday, March 24. 8am-2pm. 7696 Old Bruneau Hwy. 4 miles south of Family Dollar.
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Gem Highway District, An Equal Opportunity employer, is currently accepting applications for Road Technician. This position is an entry-level road maintenance position and offers a competitive salary and benefits package. Interested applicants can pick up an information/application packet at the district office located at 1016 Main Street, Marsing Idaho on Mondays or Wednesdays between 12:00pm and 2:00pm, emailing gemhighwaydistrict@yahoo.com OR a packet can be mailed to you by leaving your name, mailing address and phone number at 208 896-4581. Applications must be received by Gem Highway District by 5:00 PM on Monday, April 2, 2018.

The Marsing-Homedale Cemetery District Is taking applications for part-time groundskeeper. Full job description and application may be picked up at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery office, 4410 Cemetery Rd, Marsing, ID 83639. Applications must be returned by 5:00pm on March 30, 2018.

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Marsing FFA set for State after record-breaking auction



Above: FFA supporters jammed into the Marsing School District cafeteria Friday for the local chapter's annual auction and dinner. **Below:** Colton Brown (right) sits on a bicycle that was auctioned Friday while hanging out with fellow Marsing FFA members Anthony Sugai (left) and Ashley Loucks. Submitted photos



Cade Brackett tabbed as district vice-president

With the FFA state leadership conference looming, the Marsing chapter pulled off a record-setting auction Friday. “We had a fantastic auction,” advisor Mike Martin said. “This was our best auction ever, and it truly was a community-wide event.

“The FFA Alumni and Advisory board did a great job obtaining donations. The community poured out their support of our Marsing students.”

Nearly \$14,000 was raised during the auction and dinner inside the school district cafeteria with more money expected to come in.

“This money will go towards helping our students with expenses at the various leadership activities our chapter attends,” Martin said.

The dinner featured barbecued tri-tip prepared by University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension educator and Marsing resident Scott

Jensen. Martin said the dinner was perhaps the best that had been served for the event.

“This could be attributed to the fact it was the all Angus beef that Logan’s Market is now carrying,” Martin said.

Martin also announced that chapter member Cade Brackett has been elected Treasure Valley District vice-president.

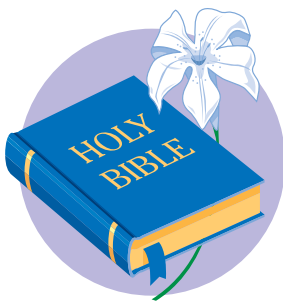
Marsing FFA will have a strong contingent on hand for the state leadership conference competitions in Twin Falls on April 4-7, including:

- **Public speaking** — Cade Brackett
- **Parliamentary Procedure Team** — Cade Brackett, chair; Constance Bowers; Carter Clay; Hannah Sevy; Amaya Mendoza; Annie Miller; and Grace Jensen
- **Horse Judging team** — Alejandra Miranda, Bailey Battaglia, and Taylor Fisher
- **Floral team** — Ashley Loucks, Desiree Komakhuk, Jessica Sevy, and Rylee Loucks
- **State Degree recipients** — Ashley Loucks, Dana McGee, Joseph Ineck, Lena Metcalf, and Logan Stansell



Marsing farmer Jim Briggs (left) reads information about an item as auctioneer Luke Nolte, who donated his time, prepares for the sale.

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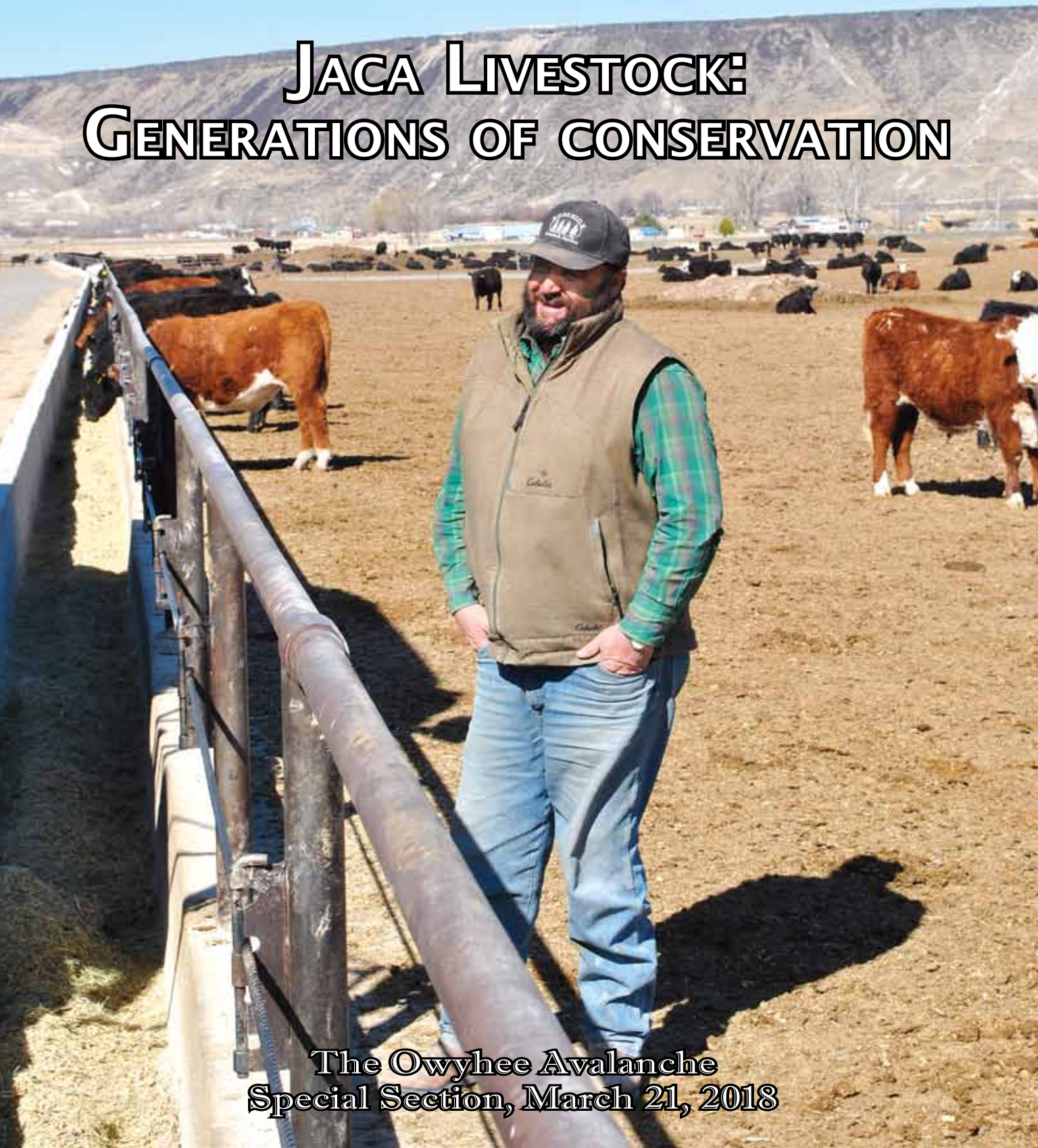
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The Owyhee Avalanche
Special Section, March 21, 2018

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AG 2018

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Homedale Farmers Market looks to help children through extra-curricular grants, educational events.

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Homedale man keeps Marsing farm labor and housing running smooth.

Page 24



The ring gate at the Owyhee Reservoir near the dam was active last spring, but it remains to be seen if the gloryhole will spill this year.

Full irrigation allotment still a possibility this year

Diminished snowpack may have more impact on 2019

As growers await two important pieces of information regarding the upcoming season, South Board of Control manager John Eells is singing the same tune he did a month ago.

He's expecting the Joint Board to set the Owyhee Project water allotment at between 3.8 and 4.0 acre-feet.

The board was scheduled to set the allotment and the turn-on date during its meeting Tuesday after deadline in Ontario, Ore.

Eells expects water to be turned into the South Canal from the Owyhee Reservoir next week with water available around April 1.

Some late-offseason work con-

tinues at the Gem Pumping Plant in Marsing, which serves the older portion of the Gem Irrigation District. Once concrete poured March 13 sets up, officials can think about pumping out of the Snake River.

Eells, however, is inclined to wait for the reservoir water to arrive to prime the Gem plant pumps.

The Owyhee Reservoir was nearly three-quarters full on Thursday thanks primarily to water created by the 2016-17 runoff and left over from the 2017 growing season.

Eells has said that growers most likely will be living off last winter's snowpack if more snow and cold doesn't visit the higher elevations of the watershed in the next couple months.

Snowpack in the Owyhee watershed is 35 percent of normal — the

— See *Irrigation*, Page 33



Owyhee Conservationist of the Year Martin Jaca stands in front of a truck at his family's feedlot near Givens Hot Springs. His father and grandfather also received recognition for their conservation efforts in the past.

Owyhee rancher, fifth-generation conservationist applauds his expert

Cattleman claims cooperation is biggest reason for OCD award

Martin Jaca was a little perplexed when the Owyhee Conservation District named him its Conservationist of the Year.

"I wouldn't say I'm the greatest farmer in the world," the fifth-generation farmer/rancher said.

Jaca's path to the honor has been one of hard work and cooperation.

"In the last several years, I've begun hiring one of my neighbors, Dean Young, and he's been custom farming my whole place," he said. "He and I get together and try to

make the decisions about what's going to take place, what we're going to do.

"That way I can concentrate on the cattle."

Jaca makes it clear how important to his operation Young has been to him in recent years. There have been so many changes and advancements in farming that it's difficult to keep up.

— See *Conservationist*, Page 5



✓ **Conservationist:** Self-sufficiency is primary goal

From Page 4

“With the new technology with seeds and farming, I get a lot of help from Dean,” Jaca said. “He’s an excellent farmer. I kind of owe a lot to him because he keeps me up on a lot of the new things.”

The Jaca Livestock Co.’s feedlot and farm sits on nearly 1,200 acres about a mile south of Givens Hot Springs. He said he has about 800 heifers and puts about 2,000 head of cattle through his lot.

All the forage they produce is for the feedlot and to stockpile to get the cattle through the winter.

“We’re trying to do the best we can,” Jaca said. “You know, they’re not making any more ground. We’re trying to grow as much as we can with what we have.”

Jaca’s family were *Basquos*, sheepherders from Spain. They settled originally in Northern Nevada, raising sheep before switching to cattle.

His wife Susan is a first-generation American who grew up in a similar world.

The couple has four children: daughters Josuna, 15, Matea, 14, and Maialen, 13, and 10-year-old son Elias.

“We’re definitely a family operation,” Martin Jaca said. “I have six employees plus my family and my parents (Elias and Inez).”

The rancher praised his father, Elias Jaca, for his work ethic and the lessons he taught.

“My dad always said, ‘You take care of the cattle and the land, and they’ll take care of you,’” Jaca said.

Elias Jaca, now into his 80s, doesn’t know when to slow down, Martin said.



Owyhee Conservation District supervisor Andrea McRae presents Martin Jaca with a plaque commemorating his selection as Conservationist of the Year during the OCD’s annual banquet, which was held in January at the Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause in Marsing. Submitted photo

“He’s over there on the farm right now, picking through rocks, driving the loader,” he said.

He added, “He’s always been really compassionate and good with the cows, and that starts with the good feed. We have to take care of the land so we can provide the best possible feed for the cattle.”

Jaca said his company is making great strides toward self-sufficiency with being able to feed the cows with just what is grown on the farm.

But they’re not quite there, yet.

“We hope to get to the point where we can grow enough right here on what we have,” he said. “We can do this with the better seeds and new farming advancements, and we’ve been switching to more of the pivot irrigation system.”

The Jaca family has a lot of ground to cover. They have the 1,100 to 1,200 acres of deeded ground at the feedlot in addition to about 5,500 acres at their ranch at Reynolds Creek.

They’re also in the Chipmunk Grazing Association where they work just short of 20,000 acres of deeded land.

Martin Jaca has cut back some of his property to provide more land for planting and to allow more movement for his pivots. He thinks they’re going to be planting more cover crops on that land but admits it will take a while to get the land producing.

He says it takes time to cultivate the land because of its lack of quality.

“We’ve had some of the poorest

— See *Conservationist*, Page 19



OCD actions encourage youth ed

Supervisors award scholarships to camp, college ag study

The Owyhee Conservation District believes that being stewards of the land begins with educating the youth.

According to its annual report, the OCD received a 2017 grant from US Ecology Idaho for \$1,500 and used the money to encourage teachers to make agricultural conservation part of their curriculum.

Agriculture and children are the future, the report states, and the county fair is the ideal place to display the OCD's educational information.

In August, the district set up an informational booth at the Owyhee County Fair, offering information about multiple things:

- A \$500 scholarship for high school students pursuing a college education in agriculture.
- A child's \$450 Natural Resources Camp scholarship.
- Support for the local junior livestock auction, contributing \$978 to sales.

The OCD also had a partnership award banquet for Farmer/Conservationist of the Year in January. The award is given to a farmer or rancher who has made exceptional effort in sustainable practices in the business.

— See *OCD*, Page 32



US Ecology Idaho human resource generalist Liz Schwager (left) presents a \$500 check to Owyhee Conservation District chair Charles Kiester in recognition of the organization's conservation efforts. Submitted photo

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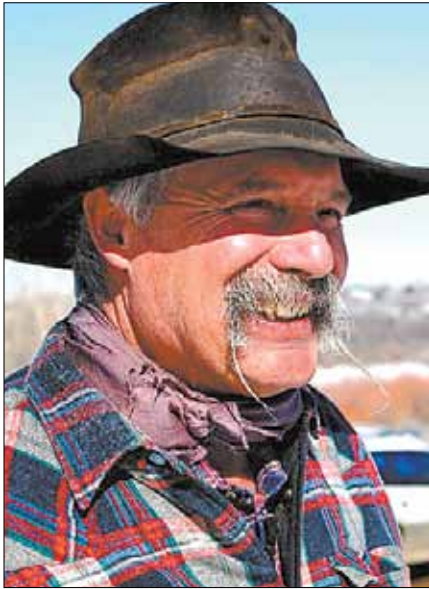


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Ranchers Tim Lowry (left) and Paul Nettleton are the driving force behind recent legislation that has solidified Idaho stockwater law. Photos by Jake Putnam / Idaho Farm Bureau and Judy Boyle / Range magazine

Carrying the water

Ranchers fought alone against feds for their rights

In the summer of 2014, the U.S. Forest Service withdrew three dozen stockwater claims in North Idaho.

The decision came after Idaho Department of Water Resources adjudication section manager Carter Fritschle wrote a letter reminding the federal agency that proof of beneficial use would be necessary to move forward with a recommendation to grant water rights.

Fritschle's two paragraphs had the strength to topple the feds' attempt because Owyhee County ranchers Tim Lowry and Paul Nettleton had spent years and millions of dollars proving what already was in state water law.

Only entities that can exercise a direct benefit can hold stockwater rights.

The law was on the books when the *Joyce Livestock Co. v. United*

States court case was argued and won in Idaho State Supreme Court, but Lowry and Nettleton still had to carry the water in the fight because — the ranchers say — the state abdicated its responsibility to its citizens and sided with the federal government during the Snake River Basin Adjudication.

The 2017 Idaho Legislature codified the men's 2007 court victory, ensuring no other rancher will face losing their water rights to the federal government.

That codification may be slow in developing, though. Earlier this year, Nettleton reported the state Department of Water Resources still had a federal government water right on file that was senior to his.

This year, Dist. 23B Rep. Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett) has introduced a proclamation urging that the

state government retroactively stand behind Lowry and Nettleton through reimbursement from the Constitutional Defense Fund. House Proclamation 1 cleared the State Affairs Committee and went to the House floor Thursday.

But, Lowry said, the current situation wouldn't be necessary had the State of Idaho asserted the states' rights concept the Founding Fathers had envisioned in the first place.

"The states were to be a buffer against power and abuse, but that only works if the states exercise their sovereignty," the South Mountain rancher said.

"And what happened in this adjudication is a shining example of the state failing in that regard."

Nettleton is less constitutional in explaining his feelings about the

— See *Rights*, Page 9



AG 2018

✓ Rights: Ranchers felt let down by state officials

From Page 8

situation that forced he and Lowry to mortgage their ranches to pay off San Francisco lawyers and to preserve the rights of their fellow cattlemen.

"I've always felt really betrayed with the State of Idaho because they should have taken up this fight, and instead they threw roadblocks in our way," the Sinkers Creek rancher said.

Lowry contends he and Nettleton never would have had to go to court to protect their rights if the leadership in the Idaho Department of Water Resources and state attorney general's office had done their job when

the adjudication process began.

Beyond state law, there was plenty of reason for the state government to side with the ranchers:

- In the 1978 *New Mexico v. U.S.* decision, the state went to bat for the ranchers when the Department of Water Resources refused the U.S. Forest Service's water rights claims.

"New Mexico did its job. Idaho didn't," Lowry said.

- The Owyhee Cattlemen's Association sent IDWR a letter in February 1993 as a follow-up to a November 1992 meeting in which the ranchers said the BLM could not make beneficial use of in-stream stockwater. The letter implored the state agency

not to recommend that the SRBA special master grant water rights to the federal government.

Instead, Lowry said, the state recommended water rights for the federal government.

He said the state attorney general lodged an objection to the water rights filings, but only disputed the priority date.

"(State officials) conceded that the feds could hold a water right. They just said the priority date could not be before the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act (1934), and they conceded the whole ballgame," Lowry said.

— See *Rights*, Page 11

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*Homedale High School Ag teacher Sue Poland (left) explains the proper way to transplant a squash plant inside the school's greenhouse. **From left:** Marysol Ramos, Bradley Kress, Omar Garcia, Caleb Smith and Poland's fellow Ag teacher Logan Kotar.*

Grants help Homedale Ag program thrive

Sue Poland strives for improvement as retirement nears

Sue Poland will retire in the spring, but she has made sure the Homedale High School Ag program will continue to grow after she leaves.

Through the school's FFA chapter, of which she is the advisor, Poland has overseen an expansion of the greenhouse and chicken coop and

the Food Sciences program. The components are tied together as greenhouse and poultry products have been used in assignments carried out by the food sciences students.

Poland confirmed her pending retirement earlier this year, and the Homedale School District is already searching for someone to join first-year HHS Ag teacher Logan Kotar in the program.

Until then, Poland will continue to help her students understand

agriculture, and incorporate science, technology, engineering and mathematics into the curriculum through hands-on projects.

The biggest part of teaching ag as the school year winds down is helping the students develop ornamental and vegetable plants in the greenhouse ahead of the spring plant sale, which will take place in April or May.

Through grants, Poland has overseen upgrades in the greenhouse, which stands behind the Ag shop at

— See *Ag program*, Page 12



✓ Rights: Court decision came too late for some

From Page 9

“Because the state didn’t object to anything as a matter of law, there was nothing the (SRBA) judge could do but rule (the BLM) had a 1934 priority date.”

Lowry said a footnote in the decision, however, pointed out that the state could have blocked the government’s water rights had it argued that an agency relationship — the feds’ contention that the ranchers were agents for the government — was not a legal basis for a water right.

“You already had valid, existing water rights that were perfected under the constitutional method,” Lowry said. “How did (state officials) imagine that those were lost, and (ranchers) became an agent of the federal government at that point?”

Lowry said the state’s inability to act cost other ranchers who were unable to fight in court. Most had made agreements with the feds before the *Joyce Livestock Co. v. United States* court case had been settled.

Those ranchers can’t benefit from

last year’s codification of the Idaho State Supreme Court’s decision, Nettleton said.

“That’s the one thing I feel really bad about, and I can’t blame (the ranchers for settling), but a lot of our neighbors basically cut a deal with the government, and they are not going to fall under the codified act,” Nettleton said.

“They made a deal with the government, and the government got their water rights.”

— JPB



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Diana Vega Ojeda holds meringue as Homedale High School teacher Sue Poland explains the intricacies of making the pie topping to her Food Sciences class on Feb. 27.

✓ Ag program: Upgrades help promote STEM ed

From Page 10

the corner of North 2nd Street East and East Owyhee Avenue.

A \$2,500 Monsanto America's Farmers Grow Communities grant helped bring new panels and shutters to the structure.

Poland used a portion of a \$10,000 Idaho Quality Program Standards (IQPS) grant, which went to only 30 teachers throughout the state, to upgrade the Food Sciences classroom with new metal cabinets for better storage of kitchen utensils. This allowed her to move pots, pans, spoons, bowls and other items from a series of bulky plastic containers into the cabinets that tuck neatly under each workstation.

Back in the greenhouse, students have begun fertilizer trials. Each student pair chose a macronutrient to study. Using sugar beets, some teams are studying toxicity, and others are studying deficiencies in the nutrients.

"This will take the rest of the semester, as it is a long-term trial for this class," Poland said. "It is just used for the students to observe



Monsanto America's Farmers Grow Communities grant sponsor Shelley Shenk (center) stands with Homedale FFA chapter president Krista Mayer (left) and chapter member Meryssa Oakley during the February Homedale school board meeting.

the effects of fertilizers, and use the scientific method."

The specimens began as unlabeled and coated seeds, and once germination began and the plants started growing, the students were able to start their trials.

The Ag program received another Monsanto grant, through the

sponsorship of Shenk Livestock, last month.

This grant will be used to further leadership in the FFA chapter as two members will travel to the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., in either June or July.

— JPB

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South Board of Control who's who, 2018

Gem Irrigation District board of directors



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Steve Clapier
Division 2
Homedale

Serving since
2016

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2020

Steve Clapier



Vice-chair

Rick Smith
Division 1
Marsing

Serving since
2012

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2020

Rick Smith



Division 3

Dennis Turner
Homedale

Serving since
2008

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2019

Dennis Turner



Division 4

Ryan Criffield
Homedale

Serving since
2013

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2018

Ryan Criffield



Division 5

Chris Landa
Homedale

Serving since
2013

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2018

Chris Landa

South Board of Control



Manager

John Eells
Marsing

John Eells

Ridgeview Irrigation District board of directors



Chair

Bret Nielson
Adrian

Serving since
2007

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2019

Bret Nielson



Vice-chair

Mark Aman
Ridgeview

Serving since
2012

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2020

Mark Aman

Directors

Chair — Steve Clapier, Div. 2
Vice-chair — Rick Smith, Div. 1
Director, Div. 3 — Dennis Turner
Director, Div. 4 — Ryan Criffield
Director, Div. 5 — Chris Landa
Director, Ridgeview — Bret Nielson

Boards' secretary/treasurer

Connie Chadez, Homedale

Office clerk

Anita Johnston, Homedale

Watermaster

Ryan Nash, (208) 412-2065

Office address — 118 S. 1st St.
W., Homedale, 83628

Office phone — (208) 337-3760

Next meetings — Starting at
7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10 at the
South Board office, Homedale

Meetings held at 1 p.m., on sec-
ond Tuesday, November to March



Director

John Lax
Adrian

Serving since
2016

Term expires
Dec. 31, 2018

John Lax

South Board of Control ditch riders

Dave Bowman
Andy Howard
Clark Maybon
Servando Salazar
Kenny Woods



Changes already afoot with irrigation districts

Another round of irrigation district elections are planned in November, but one board of directors already has seen a change since last spring.

Bruce Bradshaw was appointed Division 3 director for the Opaline Irrigation District after longtime director Jay Hall resigned.

District secretary Dan Birmingham said Bradshaw joined the board in the summer and will serve until 2019 when Hall's latest term is set to expire.

Opaline will have two directors up for re-election on Nov. 6:

- Kenneth Sevy, Division 2

• Elias Jaca, the board chair who hails from Division 5

Jaca and Sevy represent two of eight elected positions on various irrigation boards in Owyhee County that could be on the ballot in the fall.

— See *Districts*, Page 16

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 (2020)

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 — Zenaido Ponce, vice-chair (2020)

Div. 2 — Kenneth Sevy (2018)

Div. 3 — Bruce Bradshaw (2019)

Div. 4 — Charles Robertson (2020)

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

Snake River Irrigation District

Div. 1 — Ron Ridley, vice-chair (2020)

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. (April through October), 1 p.m. (November through March), Grand View Irrigation District Office, 645 Idaho Ave., 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.

Grand View Irrigation District

Div. 1 — Mark Frost, chair (2018)

Div. 2 — Buster Ridley (2020)

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 Ave., Grand View

Upper Grand View Canal Co.

Chair — Arnold Hipwell (2019)

Vice-chair — Billy Wolfe (2020)

Director — Charles Enszt (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.



AG 2018

✓ Districts: Producers go to the polls in November

From Page 15

• John Lax, Ridgeview director, lives in the Adrian, Ore., area. Election of his board position is subject to Oregon election regulations.

The 40-day filing period for the Nov. 13 mail-ballot election runs from Aug. 30 to Oct. 9.

For the Idaho-based boards in the

county, candidate nomination forms will be accepted at the respective irrigation district offices between Sept. 7 and Sept. 22:

• Ryan Crifffield, Division 4, Gem Irrigation/South Board of Control

• Chris Landa, Division 5, Gem Irrigation/SBOC

In the Gem Irrigation District, a producer gets one vote for up to 40

acres of irrigated ground, two votes if the producer runs 41 to 160 acres, and three votes for more than 160 acres.

• Dean Young, Division 1, Reynolds Irrigation District

• Mark Frost, Division 1 and chair, Grand View Irrigation District

• Dan Whitted, Division 2, Snake River Irrigation District



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South Board of Control manager John Eells stands at the rear of the Gem 2 Pumping Plant on the Snake River near Homedale. The wooden forms were used to create a new concrete structure to replace large pipes through the Snake River flowed to the pumps.

Historic Gem 2 Pumping Plant upgraded after historic low water year

SBOC doubles pumping capacity as part of drought resiliency plan

A quarter-century ago, South Board of Control officials took steps against another low water year by putting an old pumping house back online.

Now, two years removed from the lowest water year since 1992, the Gem Pumping Plant No. 2 is in the midst of another upgrade.

SBOC manager John Eells said the three-year project is part of a

drought resiliency program.

Two additional 200hp pumps have been installed into the ancient pump house nestled between River Road and the Snake River northwest of Homedale.

With four pumps, Gem No. 2 will be available beginning next year to supplement irrigation demand if low snowpack diminishes the Owyhee Reservoir supply.

“Next year, if we run into an issue where there’s not enough water in the South Canal, we can use it,” Eells said.

Concrete work has been completed, and new intakes have been installed, but Eells said the timeline didn’t work to get the \$600,000 project online for the 2018 growing season.

“I don’t know if we’ll be able to complete it this year because we have water coming in,” he said. “We can do some of that work in the summer also.”

— See *Gem 2*, Page 34



✓ Conservationist: Family raises all-natural beef

From Page 5

land around. We've run the gamut from rock, gravel, alkali, sand, (and) some good ground," Jaca said. "We've had everything here on my acres. It just takes some time."

Jaca said the cattle he raises are never given any growth hormones, antibiotics or steroids. They are all raised on his property and then shipped to Hiram, Utah, where they are harvested and shipped to Whole Foods in Florida.

There are a few factors that led to Jaca receiving the Conservationist of the Year award, he said.

"I've done a lot of things with the NRCS (federal Natural Resource Conservation Service), as far as putting in the pivots and working on more sustainable practices," he said. "We're getting the pivots down so

we don't runoff so much silt with the furrow irrigation."

According to the NRCS website, the agency provides farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to help the environment and improve agricultural operations.

Jaca figures the merits of his award go beyond the ground he works at the feedlot.

"I guess it's my work with the NRCS and my efforts with soil conservation together," he said.

"We're in a deal with the conservation service up at Reynolds Creek (the U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service) to help with the juniper invasion and to help with the sage-grouse."

Jaca currently is working a five-

year deal with the federal agency to cut back 1,600 to 1,700 acres of juniper on private and state land.

He also believes his family ties probably play a part in why he was named the region's top conservationist.

"My grandfather (Richard Gabica) was Idaho Grassman of the Year (in 1960), which is what the Conservationist of the Year used to be, and my father was also. I guess after five generations, I'm just more on their radar," Jaca said.

Ever humble, he added:

"Like I said, I'm not the greatest farmer in the world, and there's lots of guys around here who probably deserve this honor. I'm just doing my best to be a good steward."

— TK



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Vendor Becky Forth (right) completes a transaction during a session of last year's Homedale Farmers Market.

Farmers Market focusing on children

Youth vendors, Cultivate return; plant sale set May 5

Homedale Farmers Market prepares for its sixth season after coming off what market president Denise Dixon calls the program's best summer in 2017.

This year also marks the fourth season for the market's Cultivate Children Nutrition classes.

"We appreciate our community and all their support they have given the market," Dixon said.

The 2017 season saw an average of 11 vendors and 91 customers each week, resulting in gross sales of \$13,434.39. There were 18 markets last season.

The 2018 farmers market summer season will run on Thursdays from June 7 to Sept. 27 at Bette Uda City Park.

Dixon points out that the market times have changed slightly. Vendors will sell from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. each week.

A vendor training will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 24 in the park's picnic area.

"It is mandatory for all vendors to

attend," Dixon said. "The holiday markets are still in the planning stages and we should have dates by the time the summer market starts."

The market season will get an early start with the annual Spring Fling plant sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 5 at Bette Uda City Park.

"This is a great place to purchase all your gardening plants, hanging baskets for your patio and deck potting plants are also available," Dixon said.

Folks who are interested in being a vendor at the plant sale can visit

— See *Market*, Page 21



✓ Market: Double-Up Food Bucks are back for 2018

From Page 20

www.homedalefarmersmarket.com to sign up.

The plant sale vendor fee is \$10, and Dixon reminds folks that the cost is separate from the regular farmers market season fees.

Dixon reminds folks that food stamps can be used to make plant purchases at the Spring Fling sale.

Regular market vendor fees for the year are:

- \$50 for summer season
- \$10 plus five percent of sales at the end of the day for one-time vendors
- \$20 for drop-in vendors (those who do not reserve space ahead of time)
- \$25 per day for network vendors such as Scentsy and doTerra

Market features include:

- Food stamps are accepted, and further information will be available at the information booth during market hours.
- Double Up Food Bucks will go on for one more year, Dixon said.

“We will match up to \$10.00 to food stamp recipients, to spend on fruits and vegetables only,” she said.

Because it has obtained 501c3 nonprofit status, the market is eligible for funding opportunities.

“The market prides itself in giving back to the community,” Dixon said.

There is a teacher grant program for the Homedale School District Arts programs through which instructors can submit a request for items needed for their classrooms.

Dixon said the market usually gives about \$1,000 back to the community each year.

Dixon also said that there are certain staples that the market needs for its sales inventory, including corn, watermelon, peppers, honey and eggs.

Growers who produce any of those products are urged to register as a vendor at the farmers market website so Dixon can get in touch with them.

For more information on any market programs, visit the market website at www.homedalefarmersmarket.com

There are other aspects to this year’s market season to which Dixon is looking forward:

- Market organizers are hoping to expand another youth-centric aspect of the farmers market — The Youth Vendor Program — that was started last year, Dixon said.

“We had a few kids join this program (last year), but we would like to take it to a higher level this year,” Dixon said.

- Beginning Thursday, May 3, the market will introduce Youth Vendor Training for boys and girls ages 8 to 18, including high school seniors.

University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Family Consumer Science instructor Surine Greenway will facilitate the youth vendor class.

“We are grateful for her participation in our programs,” Dixon said. “We will be marketing this program through the U of I extension, 4-H programs, Homedale schools, and other resources we have available.”

The four-week class will continue on May 10, May 24 and May 31, and attendees will meet for one hour and 15 minutes each week.

“They will learn how to prepare, market and manage their funds

while selling at the farmers market,” Dixon said.

The location of the training hasn’t been finalized, but Dixon is looking for a place in Homedale close to the schools.

- Cultivate Children’s Nutrition Class

“We are looking forward to having food preparation, and cooking classes, as well as studying the Mason Bee Habitat,” Dixon said. “We will have wood mason bee kits for the students to construct and take home for them to observe and study.

“We want to bring an awareness to conservatism and the dangers that the mason bee faces.”

The students will continue to receive two \$1 tokens at the end of each class to spend in the market on fruits and vegetables to take home and share with their families.

Class registration is available at www.homedalefarmersmarket.com. Dixon said registration forms are also available at Homedale businesses and schools.

- Community garden

With a tract of donated city land near the municipal swimming pool available, establishment of the garden will rely on funding, Dixon said.

“We are hoping to have some of our Cultivate classes taught right in the garden area as well as encourage the youth to care for the garden and sell the produce at the market,” she said.

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Jordan Valley CWMA's mission goes beyond weed control

Covering a large area on both sides of the Idaho-Oregon state line, the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area has worked with people responsible for weed management in the region to develop common management objectives, set realistic management priorities and facilitate effective treatment methods.

The CWMA encompasses more than 5 million acres of state, private, and Bureau of Land Management lands in Owyhee and Malheur counties.

CWMA coordinator Eric Morrison said the objectives have been achieved through a coordinated effort with other agencies along geographic boundaries sharing similar land types, use patterns and problem weed species.

The CWMA's impact goes beyond weed control, though, as its office on Swisher Avenue in Jordan Valley is used by other agencies.

The Malheur County Vector District has partnered with the CWMA for office space, helping keep the office open and providing the Vector District a presence and phone access in Jordan Valley.

The Owyhee Rangeland Fire Protection Association holds meetings in the CWMA office, too.

"We feel that involvement in the community is vital in accomplishing our goal of working together," Morrison said.

To further its fight against noxious weeds, the CWMA has raised awareness of the problems associated with noxious and invasive weeds



Aerial spraying of whitetop on property north of Jordan Valley was one of the 2017 projects for the Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area. Submitted photo

through educational opportunities for local landowners and the general public as well as teachers and students.

The major noxious weed problems within the CWMA are leafy spurge, hoary cress, perennial pepperweed, Scotch thistle, and diffuse, spotted, Russian knapweed, along with yellow starthistle and Rush skeletonweed.

Last year, the CWMA made large-scale efforts to treat populations of leafy spurge, hoary cress and Scotch thistle. More than 2,341 acres were treated through the efforts of private landowners, Department of State Land in Oregon and Idaho, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the assistance of the Jordan Valley CWMA.

Jordan Valley rancher Dennis Stanford serves as the CWMA board's chair, and the Owyhee Cattleman's Heritage Foundation

administers the cost-share grant in Idaho and the Owyhee Watershed Council is fiscal agent for the Oregon grants.

In 2007, the CWMA entered into an agreement with the Owyhee Watershed Council to secure services for an individual to assist with the numerous noxious weed projects scheduled within the CWMA. Through this contract the OWC provided their Jordan Valley weed coordinator, to assist with these weed projects located in Idaho and Oregon.

Each April, the Jordan Valley CWMA participates in the OWC-sponsored Owyhee Field Days for fifth-graders at the Owyhee Reservoir. Of the more than 750 students in attendance, 550 visit the CWMA station to get information regarding noxious weed impacts,

— See **CWMA**, Page 26



Hemlock an early threat to humans, livestock

In an effort to control noxious weeds, the Northwest Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area (NOCWMA) will periodically release information on specific plants:

Poison hemlock is a noxious weed that is becoming quite common in southwestern Idaho. We tend to overlook this plant that grows along waterways of all kinds.

But don't be fooled by its pretty white flowers. This plant is toxic to both humans and animals, affecting the central nervous and reproductive systems.

Cases of human poisoning are generally associated with children playing with the hollow stems or



adults mistaking it for an edible plant such as parsley.

Animals tend to avoid poison hemlock unless forage options are

limited — like in the spring when hemlock is the first green plant to emerge and coincidentally at its most potent, or in the fall when it is the last green plant available. All classes of animals are susceptible from ingestion of hemlock.

Growth usually spans two years. The first year is limited to a large rosette, but the second year the plant can grow to be 6 to 10 feet.

The stems of the plant are covered with purple spots at all stages of growth.

The leaves have a fernlike appearance on seedling and mature plants. In the second year, the

— See *Hemlock*, Page 27

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Manager of Labor and Housing Luke Ankeny stands in front of the only unit currently available at the City of Marsing Housing Authority site on 8th Avenue West.

Marsing Housing and Labor continues to boom, despite ag worker shortage

When the City of Marsing Housing Authority was formed in 1970, the goal was to provide sufficient housing for agricultural workers for the area farmers and dairies.

Since that time, the development has grown to 15 two-bedroom and 25 three-bedroom homes for year-round residents.

According to Labor and Housing manager Luke Ankeny, there are some residents that have lived in their homes for 30 years.

To qualify for residency, people must receive the majority of their income from agricultural interests. It's common, Ankeny said, for one member of the family to work at a dairy, for instance, and another to

work in some other field.

The Housing Authority is under the purview of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Ankeny deals with the USDA office in Caldwell for all his reporting and coordination.

Because funds come from the USDA, the Housing Authority falls under the federal agency's guidelines and regulations.

Rent at the facility ranges from \$450 for a two-bedroom house to \$550 monthly for a three-bedroom residence. If someone's income falls below a certain amount they can qualify for a subsidy.

Conversely, people can't go above a certain income level, either.

"If someone's income gets too

high, we have to ask them to move out," Ankeny said. "There's no minimum to income, but there is a maximum, and their income has to come from agriculture."

There is a waiting list for housing. If someone is asked to move out, the open spot is typically filled quickly.

The other aspect of Ankeny's job is with Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee, Inc. (MALSC or Marsing Labor).

Marsing Labor, which began in 1948, provides 50 units for temporary housing. One and two bedroom units are available for \$52 per week and \$65 per week, respectively.

"The goal was to provide housing

— See **Labor**, Page 25



✓ Labor: Marsing residents travel the state for work

From Page 24

and labor for a work force for local farmers," Ankeny said.

MALSC is two things: the labor camp and a temporary work force that works in agriculture. According to the manager, last year there were more than 1,600 employees.

All aspects of the labor force — payroll, insurance, etc. — goes through Marsing Labor.

All the labor crews employed by Marsing Labor are temporary workers. They just move from farm to farm.

"For instance, a crew might be working in a hop field today," Ankeny said. "A farmer might not

need a full-time crew, but next week he may need 200 workers to take care of his fields real quick."

There is a long history of established relationships for MALSC.

"All of our crew bosses have farmers they've been working with for years, and (they) just take care of them," Ankeny said.

Other companies will also hire temps from Marsing Labor, and the crews can work all over the state. There's a crew currently working in Idaho Falls.

Marsing Labor is also licensed to provide labor to Oregon and Washington.

Ankeny identifies that there is a

shortage in the agricultural labor force.

"Here in this valley specifically we have hops, onions, orchards, vineyards, and seed corn, all labor-intensive, and you have to have bodies on the ground," he said. "When hops went in, they put in extra acreage that needed people, without actually having the people. It helped create a labor shortage."

Despite the difficulty of the work involved, Ankeny said there certainly are some benefits to it.

"A lot of people don't realize you can make a lot of money doing this work," he said. "Guys will tarp

— See *Labor*, Page 26

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✓ Labor: New program requires modernized housing

From Page 25

haystacks 100 hours a week in the summer, and they'll make 60 grand this year.

"But it's hard work. Back-breaking stuff. Jobs that other people don't want to do."

Member farmers can buy into the Marsing Labor Association for \$50 a year to get access to the labor for a discounted managerial and administrative fee.

Because of the labor shortage, farmers have been looking into the H-2A program, Ankeny said. H-2A is a federal program in which employers can bring foreign agricultural workers into the country for up to 10 months on a contract.

"For this program, you have to be able to provide housing," he said. "We have people struggling to provide those contracts because they don't have the housing."

The manager said the units they provide are too old to qualify for the H-2A program, and the organization

is looking to build more units to comply with federal guidelines.

"We want to do it in a way that if the program goes away, I can use those units to house a family here in Marsing," Ankeny said.

Ankeny is pastor at Homedale Community Friends Church, and he believes his background there has helped him with his job as Labor and Housing Manager in several ways.

"I believe my managerial experience, communication skills, and organization is helpful here," he said. "The most important thing is understanding cultural differences and really having empathy for these folks. The thing is, I care for and about these folks, and that comes from being a pastor."

Ankeny's job-specific duties include working with the member farmers and the accounting firm that handles payroll, and staying up to date with what's happening politically with labor and immigration laws.

He's also responsible for worker's

compensation issues and safety.

"In some areas, we're actually writing the standards, like tarping haystacks," he said. "There's no industry standard out there for safety. You can't go and find training videos for safety when tarping haystacks."

"We meet with farmers and try to ensure it's done safely. We're advocates for the workers."

Ankeny's biggest goal, he said, is to be able to continue to help the local farmer, first, and greater agricultural community so that they can keep doing what they love to do. That, in turn, helps the local economy.

"I want to be able to continue to provide jobs for people and housing because I think that's a really big deal," he said. "I would love to increase our work force and to provide more jobs for more people."

"As long as we have agricultural labor, we're going to need to have places to put the laborers."

— TK

✓ CWMA: Sage-grouse habitat work also on agenda

From Page 22

identification and control. Rangeland health and the importance of weed control are also discussed, and most groups understand the basics.

For nearly 15 years, the CWMA has hosted a Winter Weed Seminar. In February, more than 60 people attended and 180 recertification credits were earned by participants from Idaho, Oregon and Nevada. Topics are determined by the landowners and over

the years have included New Invaders, Pasture Restoration, Managing Annual Grasses, Large Scale Annual Grass Control and Poisonous Plants.

Beyond fighting weeds, the CWMA has played a hand in preserving wildlife habitat.

The CWMA has worked with the Owyhee County Sage-grouse Local Working Group by monitoring sites for weed invasion and inspecting equipment used on sites funded

through Owyhee County.

In 2014 the Natural Resource Conservation Service started requiring inspection of equipment used on NRCS contracts. Inspecting equipment for plant material, seed, dirt and mud will decrease the likelihood of noxious weed being brought to juniper mastication sites.

"Prevention is more cost-effective than treating weeds once they have been introduced," Morrison said.

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✓ Hemlock: Take precautions when removing weed

From Page 23

plant will bloom from spring until summer with small white flowers in umbrella-like clusters. Also during this time, the plant has a musty odor. All parts of the plant are poisonous, especially the roots.

MANAGEMENT: Hand removal is recommended for small infestations. Wear gloves and safety glasses to minimize contact with the toxic sap.

When pulling, the entire taproot should be removed to prevent regrowth. Do not burn plant debris because the smoke is toxic, too. Repeated mowing has worked to reduce further seed production and material for livestock grazing. Plowing or cultivation of newly germinated plants will also prevent poison hemlock establishment.

CHEMICAL CONTROL: Although several herbicides are available for controlling poison hemlock, herbicides should only be used on seedlings and small rosettes and not on fully mature plants because best results are achieved when spraying the top of the growing plant. The herbicide 2-4D is a selective herbicide that won't harm grasses and is most effective when applied in the seedling and rosette stage.

October to May is the best time to spray this winter annual.

For more information please call your local CWMA:

• **Northwest Owyhee** — Gina Millard at (208) 896-4544, ext 102 or gina.millard@id.nacdnet.net; or Tammie Hedges at (208) 845-2668 or support@newenvironment.us

• **Jordan Valley** — Eric Morrison at (208) 249-4746 or jvcwma@

qwestoffice.net

• **Eastern Owyhee** — Rayola Jacobson at (208) 338-0019 or rayola_1@msn.com

• **County weed superintendent**

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Owyhee County weed superintendent Kelly Aberasturi (left) discusses the importance of mitigating medusahead as fellow Northwest Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area board member Elmon Thompson listens during a March 7 meeting.

Area agencies put cooperation in cooperative weed management

NW Owyhee, Jordan Valley groups join forces on projects

The newest of Owyhee County's cooperative weed management areas has joined forces with one of its oldest to pursue a common goal.

Northwest Owyhee CWMA and

Jordan Valley CWMA strive to control noxious weeds in the western part of Owyhee County.

While the Jordan Valley CWMA has worked on both sides of the Idaho-Oregon state line for the past 15 years, the NOCWMA has been serving Owyhee County since 2009 and added a portion of Canyon County stretching from Homedale to Sunny Slope a year later.

The Northwest Owyhee CWMA has operated on grants from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture every year since its establishment.

The CWMA has requested \$40,000 for 2018, according to administrative assistant Tammie Hedges. That amount is nearly 43 percent more than the \$28,000 on which the CWMA has operated for

— See *Cooperation*, Page 29



✓ **Cooperation:** Targeted grazing could be a tool

From Page 28

each of its first years of operation.

“We also purchase a small amount of native grass seed to re-establish in areas that have lost the native grass species because of fire, erosion or chemical treatment,” she said.

The CWMA may seek grant funding for projects related to preserving sage-grouse habitat and the Soda Fire recovery. Jordan Valley CWMA coordinator Eric Morrison said during the March 7 NOCWMA meeting that funding could be used for buying chemical and paying for aerial spraying for species such as whitetop and Canadian and Scotch thistle.

The NOCWMA and Jordan Valley CWMA will both take aim at medusahead this year.

Morrison would like to expand a weed treatment program on Bureau of Land Management ground east to the NOCWMA.

Aberasturi sees targeted grazing as a tool to help control the weed population, too, and he pointed to the efforts of Bureau of Land Management acting Owyhee Field manager Lance Okeson and ranchers like Wilson’s Daniel Richards.

“If grazing is successful, that’s another tool we can use in higher elevations on medusahead when it’s green,” Aberasturi said.

The CWMA spends grant money on obtaining chemical, which is distributed to landowners within its boundaries to help them fight weeds.

Puncturevine is the focus of the annual Spray Day, which is set for Saturday, April 14 in Marsing and Homedale. Landowners can pick up pre-mixed Telar/Chlorsulfuron 75



Kent Curtis



Paddy Doyle



Ray Mansisidor



Elmon Thompson

Not pictured: Tim Volk

and containers of dry formulation of both Telar/Chlorsulfuron 75 and Escort/MSM60.

The ISDA requires documentation

of who is getting the chemical, so Spray Day participants must fill out applications with their name,

— See **Cooperation**, Page 32

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Joyce Livestock Co. v. United States retrospective

State abdicated sovereignty in water fight

Commentary by Fred Kelly Grant

It seems like a lifetime ago — but only fifteen years ago the U.S. government set about taking from Owyhee County ranchers their in-stream stock water rights. Lawyers for the United States set about taking those rights without compensating the ranchers who had used that water and held the rights to it for over 100 years. They set about it as though there was no property right involved at all, in clear violation of the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

The Owyhee County Commissioners at the time — Hal Tolmie, Dick Bass and Chet Sellman — Dr. Chad Gibson and I practically begged the Idaho attorney general to defend the state's sovereign rights over water rights and usage. Such defense would also have defended individual rancher rights without outlay of huge attorney's fees. But we spoke to a deaf ear. Not interested was the attorney general. Why? Because he was preparing to agree that the government owned the right. All he planned to do was object to any priority date prior to the date the Taylor Grazing Act was passed.

Turns out that the Director of Water Resources was also preparing to declare that the government owned the rights in his Report and Recommendations to the Adjudication Court. So, the State of Idaho was conceding and giving up state sovereignty and the ranchers' rights.

The action of the director, Keith Higginson, was probably predictable because his history was



Fred Kelly Grant

with the Bureau of Reclamation, a federal bureaucratic agency. But, the attorney general, first Larry Echohawk then Alan Lance, was elected and one would have thought had more interest in Idaho's historic agricultural and ranching priorities. But not so. Lance's representative said, "There is too much federal money involved."

The Owyhee Cattleman's Association, through its president Ted Blackstock, urged Higginson to reconsider his position because of the immense financial burden it would put on ranchers to pay enormous attorney's fees to fight the federal government. He pointed out that the United States could divert the water to uses other than livestock and effectively end grazing. Of course that was the goal of the Clinton administration that had taken office:

"Cattle free by '93" was the slogan of the anti-grazing fanatic architect from Sun Valley (Jon Marvel).

All to no avail. So the Special Master scheduled settlement talks for Murphy, hoping that the government would react reasonably. Again, it was not to be. By the time Jordan Valley rancher Tim Lowry got to his meeting, others had been discouraged by the threats of running up the bill and taking the cases all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Tim found the same, as the lawyers for the U.S. and Bureau of Land Management officials asked him whether he would rather stay in business or fight. They pointed out that they could make it too expensive for him to fight and stay in business.

So, the die was cast. The U.S. government versus ranchers exercising water rights that had been held and used for their ranches since the late 1800s. Lawyers had cast their lot believing that ranchers would not risk the cost to resist.

But they did not give adequate weight to the determination and grit of the Lowrys — Bill and Nita, Tim and Rosemary — and Paul Nettleton. They decided to not go with a whimper, choosing to devote their savings, their income and dollars from long-term indebtedness to which they committed their ranches, to fight the battle. Several organizations such as the American Stewards of Liberty, Idaho Cattle Association, OCA, Idaho Farm Bureau and other Farm Bureaus helped, but each encountered close to \$1 million in attorneys bills.

— See *Sovereignty*, Page 31



✓ Sovereignty: Idaho leadership continues to resist

From Page 23

And fight they did, for a long, hard time. But they won. And when they won, they won for every rancher who grazes federally managed lands and wants to claim the right. And they won for the State of Idaho in spite of the Attorney General's office and the Director of Water Resources. The Idaho Supreme Court agreed with the New Mexico Supreme Court, which had earlier ruled that the government could not hold a stock watering right because it did not own and water the livestock.

The Utah Legislature pretty quickly adopted the Nettleton-Lowry decision into a statute so that Utah ranchers would never have to face the cost of fighting for their rights. Idaho's legislature eventually got around to doing the same — as always the Utah Legislature was quicker to defend its property owners and the state's sovereignty than Idaho's.

So the Lowrys and Nettleton carried the ball, but were left holding the bag with huge mortgages on their home places.

Ironically, it should not have been necessary for them to incur such debts. When the U.S. tried the same takeover in New Mexico, the attorney general handled the defense of the state's sovereignty, and in

the process ranchers' rights were preserved, too. In spite of their loss in New Mexico, the government's lawyers took on Idaho, hoping to slip one past. And it would have worked but for the Lowrys and Nettleton.

Many of us urged them to go to the state's Constitutional Defense Council to get reimbursement. The council administers the fund established in 1995 by the Legislature to pay for the cost of defending state sovereignty. There could not be more of a distinct fit for that fund than the fight for sovereignty related to water.

But, they were turned down. The governor, attorney general, president pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House who make up the council did not think their cause worthy.

That might have been predictable, too. Since 1996 the council has not funded a winner, even though it has spent \$2 million. Nearly \$1 million has been spent on unsuccessful attempts to end same sex marriages, abortions and even to prevent a gay Vietnam veteran from having her ashes buried with her partner in a veteran's cemetery. Those causes are not more important than the people's rights to have their sovereignty as to water defended. All these council members swear to uphold the Idaho Constitution, which provides in

Article XV, Section 3 that:

"The right to divert and appropriate the unappropriated waters of any natural stream to beneficial uses, shall never be denied."

During the current session of the Idaho Legislature, Dist. 23A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett) attempted to introduce legislation to get an appropriation to reimburse the Lowrys and Nettleton. Even though a resolution favoring reimbursement was printed, she ran headlong into leadership again. The Boise "good ol' boys" club that rules the Legislature now as it has since the days when I served Govs. Cecil Andrus and John Evans. Those two managed to stand up to the Boise syndrome, but others have given in to it just as our members of Congress seem to give in to the swamp in D.C.

Maybe next year? Not as long as our present attorney general and our governor's hand-picked successor are in office. So, the ballot box may be the only answer — a spring cleaning of the Statehouse. That doesn't help the Lowrys and Nettleton right now. But, as they did during the fight, they don't whine about it. They stoically face that long-term indebtedness, hoping that a new governor and a new attorney general will make a difference. I'll do everything I can to help them with that.

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✓ **OCD:** Organization helps farmers in stewardship

From Page 6

The criteria for choosing the winner are to examine the nominee's issues and the improvements that have been implemented by them to build sustainable practices.

This year's award went to Martin Jaca for his family's generations of stewardship.

The conservation district bid farewell to Jason Miller, who had been with the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission (ISCC) but had decided to return farming and ranching.

They also announced the hiring of a new ISCC technician, Jon Beal, in the summer. He is working

throughout Owyhee, Canyon, and Elmore counties. He covers the same territory that Miller did.

According to the 2017 performance report, the OCD promotes good stewardship through coordinating partners to protect the land, water, and air; educate and assist farmers, ranchers, and landowners; and search out grants for conservation, and research alternative energy opportunities.

The report states, "The supervisors dedicate their time and energy to keep farmers and ranchers informed and competitive in the world of agriculture, forestry and rangeland."

The current board of supervisors

for the OCD includes:

- Charles Keister of Marsing, chair
 - Levi Loucks of Marsing, secretary/treasurer
 - John Cossel of Marsing, supervisor
 - Tim Volk of Homedale, supervisor
 - Brad McIntyre of Marsing, supervisor
 - Andrea McRae of Homedale, supervisor
 - Bill White of Oreana, supervisor
 - Ray Mansisor of Homedale, associate supervisor
 - Gina Millard of Marsing, administrative assistant
- White joined the board this year.

✓ **Cooperation:** Agency seeks \$40,000 state grant

From Page 29

address, phone number and a physical description of where they will apply the chemical. The description must include the approximate size of the area to be treated and the type of spray equipment that will be used.

The record-keeping is part of the cost-share compliance protocol that makes combating Idaho-listed noxious weeds on private lands possible.

Aberasturi said that the state insists that someone travel to the properties where the free chemical will be used to ensure it is being sprayed and used completely.

"I'm afraid if we don't do that as a CWMA the powers-that-be might start cutting (funding) down," he said.

The Spray Day will be held from 9

a.m. to 11 a.m. at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Service Center, 250 N. Bruneau Hwy., Marsing, and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. inside the Owyhee County Fairgrounds in Homedale.

NOCWMA co-chair Paddy Doyle will conduct an application class in Marsing prior to the distribution. Only certified containers will be filled; no milk jugs will be accepted.

If the Spray Day needs to be cancelled because of weather conditions, the NOCWMA board has agreed to hold it on April 28.

Weed awareness is another part of the NOCWMA mission.

Doyle wants to create a weed art scholarship, which would be awarded in a contest featuring young people creating photography and artwork for an annual calendar that would help landowners identify weeds.

Photos for the proposed calendar

can be sent to board member Gina Millard at gina.millard@id.nacdn.net.

Outreach would also include about \$2,500 in scholarships, a budget of \$1,000 to spend at the Owyhee County Junior Livestock Sale in August, and a poster contest.

Kent Curtis is the board co-chair with Doyle, and other board members include Aberasturi, Elmon Thompson, Tim Volk, Ray Mansisor, Chuck Kiester, Millard from the Owyhee Conservation District, and Aberasturi.

The agency met on March 7, and will meet at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month in April, May, September, October and December.

There also will be a short board meeting before the Spray Day on April 14.



Ag 2018

✓ Irrigation: Windy conditions wipe out snowpack

From Page 4

lowest in the state — according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

“More snow is needed across central and southern Idaho, and colder temperatures would help keep the snow in place until spring,” Idaho NRCS water supply specialist Ron Abramovich said in a press release.

Abramovich said a storm early in the month added water to the snowpack, but South Board of Control directors commented during their March 13 meeting that recent winds had decimated the snowpack in the Owyhees.

The Mud Flat SNOTEL site, for example, had measured 7 inches of snow depth at one point. By Thursday, the reading had been a zero for four consecutive days.

The Mud Flat site’s snowpack

reading has fluctuated all year.

The water content told a similar story, dropping from 1.6 inches on March 9 to 0.1 on March 15.

South Mountain’s SNOTEL site had shown a loss of four inches of snow depth — from 20 inches to 16 — between March 10 and Thursday. The water content remained steady, though, at 6 inches.

Water began flowing in the reservoir at a faster clip after the wind-driven run-off earlier this month. Eells reported that at one point the Owyhee River was running at 1,600 cubic feet per second, according to the gauge at Rome, Ore., the final

measuring stick before the water hits the reservoir.

The water flow dipped to just above 1,000 cfs on March 13, but was back up to 1,277 by Thursday.

Although the inflow has crept up to a high for this water year, it’s still far below last year’s flow of approximately 7,300 cfs this time last year. The 30-year average for this time of year is about 4,000 cfs.

The reservoir was 74 percent full at 526,597 acre-feet Thursday, which is 74 percent of the 715,000 acre-feet capacity designed to serve the Owyhee Project irrigators for two growing seasons.

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John Eells explains that two new 200hp pumps on either side of the existing pumps where the two pieces of plywood lay.



✓ Gem 2: Pump house was once used as cattle barn

From Page 18

South Board-area growers chipped in half of the project cost through their assessments. The federal Bureau of Reclamation is supplying the remaining \$300,000.

Eells said the Gem 2 plant will be used only in low water years because flipping the electrical switch to the four pumps would be expensive.

“If we have water in the reservoir, it’s cheaper to use gravity water,” he said. “But if we don’t have any gravity water (if it’s a short year for the reservoir), we’ll go back to the pumps.”

The project is about more than just drought resiliency, although that was the primary focus.

The new intake system will help preserve the life of the massive pumps by reducing the amount of silt drawn into the impellers. Eells said silt build-up can snap pump shafts and trigger expensive repairs.

Worker safety also will be improved.

In the past, maintenance crewmembers had to minor in being a Wallenda brother, negotiating a narrow catwalk and holding on to a wire while traversing above the intake pond to clean weeds and debris.

The new structure will have a more secure catwalk.

Still, the upgrades will help make water delivery to irrigators on the “Patch” and, if needed, the D Canal more efficient, Eells said.

Ironically, the project has stretched into a third year because the high water in the Snake River in 2017 delayed construction.

Part of the upgrade work includes removing the two large cement pipes through which the Snake River flowed into the pump house.

Eells said the Bureau of Reclamation built the pump house in

the 1930s, but the building was taken off-line and used as a cow barn by a local agricultural producer about midway through the 20th century.

After the historical low 1992 water year, the South Board reclaimed the building in 1993 as part of a new drought resiliency plan.

When Gem 2 was reconnected to the South Board system in 1995, there were only two 200hp pumps. Those machines are still in use with backup from two new pumps.

The water right was set at 21 cubic feet per second 20 years ago. Today, South Board has received a preliminary permit for 26 cfs.

Eells said the pumps are fired up each season to ensure they remain in top shape, but the facility has been used to supplement water supply only in two or three seasons since 1995, he said.

— JPB

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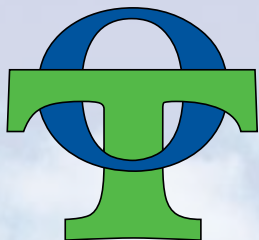
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