

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 35, NO. 7

\$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

OCA honors fellow rancher Brackett

BLM field manager promises face-to-face in the field

For nearly a century-and-a-half, the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association has stood for preserving family ranches.

At Saturday's winter meeting in Oreana, ranchers took time out of their business meeting to salute one of their colleagues whose family epitomizes the deep-rooted, generation-to-generation stewardship on Owyhee rangeland.

Bert Brackett, the retiring Dist. 23 state senator, and his wife Paula, were honored with an OCA Life Member Award.

Former OCA board member Brenda Richards, a Reynolds Creek rancher whom Brackett has endorsed to succeed her at the Statehouse, presented the couple with a commemorative wooden plaque.

"This is special. I can think of no greater honor than to be recognized and honored by your peers, so this is really special coming from this

— See *OCA*, page 8A



From left: Marsing School Board members Brad McIntyre (Zone 5, chair), Jason Sevy (Zone 1, vice-chair), and Betty Ackerman (Zone 3) team up to cut the ribbon during a ceremony at The HUB on Thursday afternoon.

Marsing school officials christen The HUB

The Marsing School District unveiled the newly remodeled community school concept, called The HUB, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday at the old middle school.

The event was attended by members of the Marsing community, Christa Rowland from United Way of Treasure Valley, Jackie Yarbrough from the Idaho Foodbank, Erika Lewis from Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, and representatives from Western Idaho Community Action Partnership, Catholic Charities of Idaho, school district staff, and more.

Marsing superintendent Norm Stewart spoke to the audience, sharing the vision for The HUB, which addresses whole child, family and community services, including education, safety, and social, emotional, and physical health.

The school district offices are housed in The HUB, and the board of trustees meets there

— See *The HUB*, back page



Marsing schools superintendent Norm Stewart talks about what The Hub offers.

Homedale library makes its big move

The Homedale City Library's move to the new Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library building will take place Thursday through Saturday.

The library will be closed for the move as well as closed on Monday for the Presidents Day holiday. The library is always closed on Sundays.

With this change over the next week, Friday's Teens & Tweens and Monday's Story Time are cancelled.

— See *Library*, page 5A

CHAT on Owyhee health set in Homedale

Southwest District Health has started a program to help communities identify their biggest health concerns and find ways to solve those issues.

A Community Health Action Team (CHAT) will be discussed during a meeting from 9 a.m., to 10:30 a.m., on Thursday, Feb. 20, at SWDH's Homedale office, 132 E. Idaho Ave.

According to CHAT's vision statement, "Members can provide opportunities for education, activities, and engagement of local community initiatives for those who live, work, and play in the community."

CHATs are a diverse group of leaders from sectors of the community and can include representatives from health-

— See *CHAT*, page 5A

Grand View Lions auction pulls in \$16,000

by Mandi Boren

For *The Owyhee Avalanche*

Friends and neighbors came together Saturday at Grand View Elementary School for the annual Grand View Lions Club Auction.

Longtime club member Doug Thurman said auction proceeds totaled around \$16,000, which is very close to the amount

raised last year.

Thurman said proceeds of the auction are placed in the club's general fund to benefit causes in Grand View, Bruneau and Oreana.

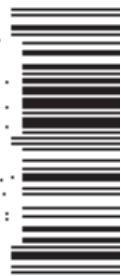
Grand View residents Laura Morrison and Dan Whitted won the Roku 55-inch smart TV and the 6.5mm Creedmoor rifle. Out-of-towner Lisa Blankenship

of Emmett won the Browning semi-automatic .22 pistol, which was donated by Grand View Gas.

Grand View Mayor Danny Martinez said he appreciates what the Lions Club does for Grand View.

"It's great what they do," he said. "They

— See *Auction*, back page



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A free lunch?, Pg. 2A: HSD official explains local program
Bruneau auction looms, Pg. 2A: Sale always has favorite lots
Doing their part, Pg. 11A: Kindergarteners help fight cancer
U of I bound, Pg. 1B: Two Trojans sign with Vandals
Obituary, 6A • Looking Back, 4B • Commentary, 6-7B

Homedale school lunch official clarifies free, reduced policies

Program serves 61 percent of students

Homedale School District’s child nutrition director, Vicki Eby, responded last week to a discussion that emerged on Facebook’s Homedale Community Awareness page. The discussion began with a question about school lunch indebtedness reported in other areas of the country and whether that situation was present in Homedale. Others who contributed to the conversation asked if there was anything to be done to help those families that may be struggling to provide lunch for their schoolchildren. The Owyhee Avalanche reached out to Eby to get some answers.

- Food Service does have a lunch charge policy of \$10 maximum per student. Communication with parents/guardians is done on a daily basis through email, phone calls, and the school’s Remind system to prevent excessive charges.

When a family is suffering from a hardship and having trouble paying for school meals, they can contact the school and/or Food Service, which will work with them on an individual basis. All information is confidential within the Food Service administrative staff.

- There is, in fact, a “donation account” that helps needy families cover lunch costs, but Eby said there are no such problems at present.

“As of right now, we don’t have any children in need,” Eby said.

Eby said the Homedale community has made “numerous and generous” donations to help when there is need. Food Service also has a partnership with Feed the Gap, a non-profit organization based in Boise that assists with preventing children from missing school meals.

But Eby said the district is in good shape with its lunch program.

“We would never turn somebody away,” she said. “We would use our donation account or Feed the Gap. We would come up with a means to feed that child.”

- Homedale School District does not currently have excessive lunch debt with approximately 1,250 meals being served daily.

Free breakfast is provided to all students in the district through the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Provision 2.

Some districts do provide free breakfast and lunch meals to all students through a USDA provision called Community Eligibility. These districts have a higher student population, in comparison to Homedale, with families who receive SNAP and other government assistance programs.

- Free and Reduced School Meal applications are available in each Homedale school office, cafeteria, and on the district website: homedaleschools.org.

Families can complete this form anytime during the school year. If a family was previously denied meal benefits and the household income has changed, the family can re-apply at any time during the school year.

Currently 61 percent of the Homedale School District population receives Free and Reduced Price benefits.

Eby said Food Service welcomes the opportunity to provide clarity or answer any questions or concerns community members have about the district’s Food Service Program.

The program can be reached at (208) 337-4033 or by email at foodservice@homedaleschools.org.

— JPB

Variety of iconic staples await at annual Bruneau Booster Club Auction

by Becky Lisle
For The Owyhee Avalanche

In its 32nd year, the Bruneau Booster Club’s annual community auction is scheduled Saturday, Feb. 22 at the American Legion Post 83 Hall at 32478 Belle Avenue in Bruneau.

A free dinner will be served starting at 5:30 p.m., with the live auction kicking off at 7 p.m. The popular event also offers a number of items via silent auction, as well as a raffle for a Ruger Predator 6.5mm Creedmoor rifle and an Aqua Plus inflatable stand up paddleboard with paddle and pump. Raffle tickets are \$2 each or six for \$10.

Funds raised at the auction have gone toward a variety of community projects and interests over the years. For example, the Bruneau Booster Club helps support the Bruneau Fire Department, Quick Response Unit, Bruneau Valley Library, and area schools. The club has undertaken a number of community improvement and preservation projects as well, such as the installation of street lights and paying the electric bill, building structures in the community park, funding the publication of the book, “Bruneau Then & Now,” and restoring and framing the Bruneau High School graduation photos that are displayed in the American Legion Hall.

Auction-goers can expect opportunities to bid on a wide

range of items from farm and ranch items and services to handmade tack, furniture, quilts and crafts. Perpetual favorites at the auction are signature homemade baked goods and confections, which sometimes sell for hundreds of dollars.

Several items have become highly coveted — even iconic — over the years.

One such item is a rare, out-of-print book titled “The Valley of Tall Grass” by Adelaide Hawes, which tells stories of Bruneau-area history. Another is a photo taken in 1994 by late western photographer David Stoecklein that features 11 of the area’s ranching patriarchs, most of whom have since passed on. These items are donated occasionally and garner enthusiastic bidding.

The auction is also one of the few ways people can buy sought-after tack handmade by local artisans, such as braided rawhide reins and bosals.

The free dinner this year will be a solomo (Basque-style pork) sandwich, Basque rice, and dressed green salad. Punch and coffee will be available. A variety of homemade pies will be for sale for \$2 per slice.

Drop off donations at Legion Hall from noon to 5 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 21, and beginning at 10 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 22.

Call (208) 845-2842 to arrange donation pickup or if you would like to buy raffle tickets.

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Fundraising Auction to follow speakers

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\$25.00 Includes Lunch

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RSVP by February 14, 2020 to (208) 250-9882
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!

Library grant among issues before Homedale council

HHS senior wants to launch city cleanup

With the opening of the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library apparently near, the Homedale City Council is scheduled to take a final look at the grant that was part of the plan that made the new building possible.

Great West Engineering representatives will visit with councilmembers about the Idaho Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant that funded the majority of the construction for the 3,600-square-foot building.

The council meeting begins at 6 p.m., today inside the magistrate courtroom on the east side of City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave.

Also on the agenda for tonight's meeting:

- Homedale High School student Garrett Elordi will seek approval for a city cleanup he plans as his senior leadership project.
- Councilmembers will participate in a discussion



Gravel around the newer hangars built at the Homedale Municipal Airport makes it impossible for lessees to taxi their airplanes to the runway without running the risk of damaging equipment. The city has been examining remedies, but tonight will talk about lease rates.

about the 2020 Census.

- The 2019 city audit will be discussed.
- Departmental reports will be presented.
- Near the end of the meeting, the council will review municipal airport lease rates.

According to a handout

provided by the city, Homedale airport tenants pay some of the lowest lease rates in the state.

City officials are analyzing the best way to pave the gravel areas in front of hangars built in the new part of the airport grounds south of the original footprint. There are 25 hangars

throughout the airport.

Tenants in the newer hangars cannot safely taxi their airplanes to the runway because propellers stir up the loose gravel, and that can damage props and engines.

Tenants pay 5 cents per square foot on their Homedale

airport leases and tiedown fees of \$2 daily or \$10 per month. The city maintains the airport grounds and continues to plan improvements.

Homedale's lease rates are tied for the lowest on a list of 17 small airports with Mountain Home, a 24-hangar facility, that charges \$15 per month for tiedown fees for citizens. Non-citizen tiedown fees are \$25 per month in Mountain Home.

Of the 17 airports in the city's survey, Challis has the most expensive lease rates per square foot at 42 cents, followed by Cascade (27 cents), Buhl (25 cents), and Caldwell (21 cents).

Homedale and Mountain Home rates are 50 percent cheaper than the next-lowest rate of a dime per square foot at Orofino and Weiser. — JPB

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Sage-grouse group to meet in Murphy

The Owyhee County Sage-grouse Local Working Group (LWG) will meet at 7 p.m., on Tuesday in Murphy.

The LWG meets at McKeeth Hall inside the Owyhee County Historical Museum, 17085 Basey St., in Murphy.

The group will receive updates on the U.S. Air Force’s plans to reconfigure training airspace Owyhee County, including allowing fighter jets to fly closer to the ground. Sage-grouse proponents worry such a change will affect the bird.

Another update will be heard on the Bureau of Land Management’s Tri States Fuel Breaks project.

The LWG also will hear more on the status of U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill’s injunction on the BLM’s attempt to implement Idaho’s state sage-grouse plan.

There are several new items slated for the busy meeting, including:

- Josh Uriarte from the Governor’s Office of Species Conservation talking about

proposed grazing regulations.

- Rachel Curtis from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will discuss the 2019 wing bee.
- Nichole Sullivan will give a report on the High Desert Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- Kelly Hopping from Boise State University will discuss the GEM3 Project.
- Brynne Lazarus from the U.S. Geological Survey will talk about Pseudomonas research.

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US Ecology rebuild OK’d

US Ecology Idaho can begin a reconstruction project.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has signed off on a Class 2 Permit Modification. USEI had filed a request last fall, and DEQ gave its approval after a 60-day comment period had expired.

USEI will build an indoor stabilization building and convert the remnants of a containment building into a covered, unenclosed containment storage area.

No comments were received during a Dec. 3 public meeting on the application, which took place at Rimrock High School in Bruneau. No other comments were received before the comment period ended on Jan. 6, the DEQ reported.

Local author discusses novel in Bruneau

Copies of book available at libraries, online

A Boise author will talk about his historical novel “Rock Creek: Water, Risk and Grit” at the next installment of the Bruneau and Beyond speaker series.

Fourth-generation Idahoan Richard “Dick” Bennett, who writes under the name RW Bennett, grew up in the Mayfield/Mountain Home area. After 20 years in the insurance business, he moved to Boise to launch his second career as an author.

Bruneau and Beyond begins at 1 p.m., next Wednesday at the Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., in Bruneau. Light refreshments will be available.

Anyone planning to attend should RSVP to the library by Monday to ensure there is enough space. Call the library at (208) 845-2131.

“Rock Creek” is a historical novel set in the late 19th century in the area from Boise to

Mountain Home.

Bennett encourages folks to read the novel before next Wednesday’s talk.

Copies are available at the Bruneau Valley Library, the Mountain Home Public Library or online. Amazon, for example, has copies available in paperback and also for Kindle.

Bennett also has a second book ready for publication.

Bennett has developed considerable knowledge of the local area and its history. His family emigrated from Cornwall, England in 1872.

The Bennett brothers first mined in Silver City then began raising sheep and settled in the Mountain Home and Mayfield area.

Weather			
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Feb. 4	39	20	.00
Feb. 5	38	26	trace
Feb. 6	33	30	.17
Feb. 7	54	33	.01
Feb. 8	59	37	.00
Feb. 9	47	31	.00
Feb. 10	46	25	.00

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

From page 1A

✓ Library: Youth programs other services on hold for brief move to east

Library director Sharla Jensen has been trying to enlist children to help move books into the new building, a *de facto* bucket brigade of books. The library will reopen on Tuesday in the new addition, and all youth programs will return to normal schedules. The library's normal hours of operation are from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., on Thursday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday, and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., on Saturday. It is closed Sundays. Call (208) 337-4228 for more information on the library and its programs.



Left: Library director Sharla Jensen (left) stands behind the new counter inside the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library as the finishing touches began on the interior of the new building. Above: The Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library stands finished to the east of the current library building on West Owyhee Avenue.

✓ CHAT: New team concept will identify resources necessary to help

care, education, elected government, law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, non-profit organizations, the public (including youth), and business. Expected at next week's meeting are Homedale High School principal Matt Holtry, a representative from the Owyhee County Sheriff's

Office, Owyhee County Dist. 2 commissioner and SWDH board member Kelly Aberasturi, and others. SWDH project coordinator Jeff Cappe will lead the CHAT formation meeting in Homedale. Among the topics will be the program's mission, which is to "identify community

needs, develop strategies to address those needs, identify resources necessary for success, and engage the community in activities that will enhance the overall health of the community." Cappe said he hopes community members interested in

developing and implementing a Community Health Improvement Plan will come out to the meeting. He said that regular CHAT meetings will follow. The specifics of those meetings will be decided on Feb. 20.

"Only the local community members and leaders will be able to identify the causes and solutions (to health challenges)," Cappe said. "That is the main purpose for organizing this CHAT."

— TK

Oreana man arrested after alleged DUI

An Oreana resident was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving after an Owyhee County Sheriff's deputy spotted a vehicle weaving back and forth on Idaho highway 78 on Jan. 28. Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said the deputy pulled over Gary King, 57, near milepost 17 of Oreana, for failing to maintain his lane in his 2017 Ford F-350. After failing a standard

field sobriety test, King was arrested for misdemeanor driving under the influence. When he was brought to the Owyhee County Jail in Murphy, King's blood alcohol concentration was tested at .12 percent, Bowman said. King bonded out of jail and appeared before Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington for arraignment on Monday in Murphy.

— TK



You are invited to celebrate...

BRUCE PETERSON'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

2:00 - 5:00pm
Saturday, February 22, 2020
Bowling Alley • Homedale

A smorgasbord will be available for everyone ON THE HOUSE

To celebrate the event, both books written by Bruce, "Gunfighter 1840" and "Bruce's Biography" will be on display

Door Prizes will be available

All the girls will receive a stuffed Teddy Bear!

Everyone is welcome



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Marsing School District is now the host of a beautiful new preschool program.
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ENROLL TODAY

Obituary

Robert “Bob” Daniel O’Malley

Oct. 5, 1938-Feb. 2, 2020
Robert “Bob” Daniel O’Malley was born in North Platte, Nebraska on October 5, 1938 to John Paul and Mary Ellen (Riordan) O’Malley. The family moved to Nampa, Idaho in 1940 for a job transfer with the Union Pacific.

Bob grew up in Nampa across the street from St. Paul’s Catholic Church and school. His father was a railroad engineer on the Idaho Northern. The family spent one summer in Banks, Idaho for work on the logging train. He enjoyed going to the Adelaide movie theater and fishing in Indian Creek. A memorable trip with St. Paul’s grade school classmate Tim Nettleton was to the Box T ranch in the Owyhee Mountains where he enjoyed steak for breakfast.

Bob commuted to St. Theresa Academy in Boise in his 1949 Ford Coupe where he graduated in 1957. In high school. He was on the football team and his favorite teacher was Sister Mercedes.

In 1957, Bob joined the Idaho Air National Guard. He went to San Antonio for basic training and stayed with the Guard until 1963. He also attended Idaho State College Technical School for Aircraft and Power Plant Federal Aviation Administration certification, graduating in May 1960. After graduation, he worked for 30 years as an aircraft mechanic



at airports in Nampa, Boise, and Caldwell.

He had a lifelong love of flying and obtained a private pilot license in Nampa at Clark’s Air Service with his beloved instructor Warren Hill. Bob joined Experimental Aviation Association in 1959 and later joined local flying clubs.

On May 13, 1967, Bob married Mary Nettleton at St Paul’s Catholic Church in Nampa, Idaho. Bob and Mary had three children. They moved to Murphy in 1972 where they had a runway and hangar for many aviation pursuits.

Bob and Mary rebuilt an original 1800s cabin in Silver City. Being just one hour from Murphy, it was a home base for hunting, snowmobiling, 4-wheeling, and other activities.

Bob was a longtime member of the Owyhee County Historical Society and the

Melba Senior Center. He was also a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana, Idaho, St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Melba, Idaho, St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Nampa, and the Knights of Columbus.

Bob was very social and kept in touch with many grade school and high school friends over his lifetime including Barbara Valdez, Joe Luque, Mike Anderson and many others.

Survivors include his wife, Mary, of 52 years; Rob (Molly) O’Malley, son-in-law Gary Long, May O’Malley (Doug Cutsogeorge); grandsons Warren and Murphy O’Malley, Chris Cutsogeorge, and granddaughter Sarah Cutsogeorge.

Bob was preceded in death by his daughter, Maggie (O’Malley) Long, who predeceased him by only eight weeks, parents John and Mary O’Malley, brothers Jim O’Malley, Bill O’Malley, and sister Peg (O’Malley) McFadden.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Bob’s name to the Owyhee County Historical Society or a charity of your choice.

A Memorial Mass will be held Monday February 17th at St. Paul’s Catholic Church, 510 W Roosevelt, Nampa at 11:00 AM. Reception will follow.

School menus

Homedale Elementary

Veggie bar, fruit bar, and choice of milk and juice
Feb. 12: **Breakfast:** Choc. Chip muffin **Lunch:** Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast
Feb. 13: **Breakfast:** Pop tarts **Lunch:** Chicken nuggets, steamed carrots, fruit roll up
Feb. 17: **No School**
Feb. 18: **Breakfast:** Toast, sausage patty **Lunch:** Hot dog, macaroni & cheese, baby carrots
Feb. 19: **Breakfast:** Mini pancakes **Lunch:** Pork chop, mashed potatoes w/gravy, hot roll

Homedale Middle

Fruit & salad bar, choice of milk or juice
Cereal option each day
Feb. 12: **Breakfast:** Breakfast on a stick **Lunch:** Spaghetti w/meat sauce or pizza hot pocket, green beans
Feb. 13: **Breakfast:** Apple breakfast bites, string cheese **Lunch:** Crispito or PB&J sandwich, string cheese, goldfish crackers, rice krispie treat, mixed veggies
Feb. 17: **No School**
Feb. 18: **Breakfast:** Breakfast sandwich **Lunch:** Spicy chicken sandwich or hot dog, tater tots
Feb. 19: **Breakfast:** Tornado **Lunch:** Taquitos or burrito, corn

Homedale High

Salad bar, fruit choice and choice of milk and juice
Cereal option, grab ‘n’ go items each day
Feb. 12: **Breakfast:** Breakfast on a stick or mini waffles **Lunch:** Chicken patty sandwich or burrito, coleslaw, rice krispie treat
Feb. 13: **Breakfast:** Little smokies & muffin or apple breakfast bites **Lunch:** Nachos or baked potato with toppings, bread stick
Feb. 17: **No School**
Feb. 18: **Breakfast:** Croissant sandwich or cinnamon roll **Lunch:** Chicken filet or mini corn dogs, twice baked potato, dinner roll
Feb. 19: **Breakfast:** Sausage plate or mini pancakes **Lunch:** Hamburger or cheeseburger, tater tots, cookie

Marsing

All entrees include choice of milk, fruit juice & fruit/veggie bar
Middle/High School each day: Classic Grab-n-go line:
PB&J Hot Grab-n-go line: Hamburger
Cold Grab-n-go line: Wrap, sub sandwich, salad
Feb. 12: **Breakfast:** Mini donuts, yogurt **Lunch sides or alternatives: Classic Line:** Burrito w/rice, baked sweet potatoes **Hot Grab-n-go:** Chicken sandwich, meatball sub served w/ tator tots
Feb. 13: **Breakfast:** Chicken waffle, yogurt **Lunch sides or alternatives: Classic Line:** Pizza, pineapple **Hot Grab-n-go:** Chicken sandwich, pulled pork sandwich w/potato wedges
Feb. 17: **No School**
Feb. 18: **Breakfast:** Whole grain pop tart, cheese stick **Lunch sides or alternatives: Classic Line:** Chicken nuggets, steamed carrots **Hot Grab-n-go:** Chicken sandwich, pizza, potato wedges
Feb. 19: **Breakfast:** Apple breakfast bites **Lunch sides or alternatives: Classic Line:** Taco w/Spanish rice, refried bean **Hot Grab-n-go:** Chicken sandwich, pizza, fries

Bruneau/Grand View

All meals: Milk and fruit offered daily
Jr.-Sr. high school: Salad bar, pizza offered daily
Feb. 12: **Breakfast:** Muffins **Lunch:** Chicken nuggets w/ whole wheat roll, mashed potatoes & gravy, steamed broccoli
Feb. 13: **Breakfast:** Mini cinnabon **Lunch:** Hamburger on a bun, tater tots, baby carrots
Feb. 17: **Breakfast:** French toast **Lunch:** Little smokies, scalloped potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll
Feb. 18: **Breakfast:** Biscuits & gravy **Lunch:** Taco salad, whole wheat tortilla chips, refried beans & salsa
Feb. 19: **Breakfast:** PB&J **Lunch:** Chicken taco, tossed romaine salad, broccoli
Feb. 20: **Breakfast:** Waffles **Lunch:** Corn dog, potato wedges, baby carrots

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337-4681

Death notice

JERRY LYNN NIELSEN, 61, of Marsing, died Monday, Feb. 3, 2020. A funeral service was held on Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Marsing. Interment followed at the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery. Arrangements: Dakan Funeral Chapel, 504 S. Kimball Ave., Caldwell. (208) 459-3629. www.dakanfuneralchapel.com

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Calendar

Today

Ladies coffee group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Marsing community pantry
9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., the HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. Call school district to arrange different time, (208) 649-5411

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

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting
4 p.m., board meets in either Marsing or Adrian, call for location each month. (541) 372-5782

Christian Life Club
4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., after-school program for kindergarten through sixth grade, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-4757, (208) 353-6024, (208) 337-3464

Melba school board meeting
5 p.m., district office, 511 Broadway, Melba. (208) 495-1141

Grand View City Council meeting
6 p.m., City Hall, 425 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2700, noon to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday

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

Jordan Valley Ambulance meeting
6 p.m., ambulance hall, 706 Main St.

Marsing Fire Commissioners meeting
7 p.m., Marsing Fire Hall, 303 Main St., Marsing.

Homedale Highway District meeting
7 p.m., Homedale Highway District office, 102 E. Colorado Ave., Homedale

Marsing School Board meeting
7 p.m., school district office boardroom, 301 8th Ave W, Marsing. (208) 649-5411

Bible study
7 p.m., various age groups, Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Thursday

Owyhee Conservation District board
Noon, USDA Service Center, 250 N. Bruneau Hwy., Marsing. (208) 896-4544, ext. 102

Pinochle games
After lunch, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922

Owyhee Gardeners meeting
1 p.m., Lizard Butte Library community room, 111 S. 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 546-1829

Senior center board meeting
1 p.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922

After-school program
4 p.m., Eastern Owyhee County Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

Teens & Tweens
5 p.m. to 6 p.m., Homedale Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228

Marsing Chamber of Commerce meeting
5:30 p.m., The Spot, 12 Sandbar Ave., Marsing. Check Facebook for updates. (208) 859-2087 or marsingchamber@gmail.com

Library board meeting
5:30 p.m., Lizard Butte Library community room, 111 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

Friday

Food giveaway
9 a.m. to 10 a.m., Homedale Assembly of

God Church, 15 W. Montana Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4458

The Landing teen support group
6 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. Contact Iliana Bialy (208) 807-0680

Teen game night
6 p.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

HHS Class of 2020 cake auction
Halftime of boys' basketball game (7:30 p.m.) tipoff, Homedale High School gymnasium, 203 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4613

Sunday

Txoko Ona mus tournament
9 a.m., registration, 10 a.m., play begins, Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., Homedale. (208) 337-3041 or (208) 573-2495

Refuge youth group
7 p.m., seventh- through 12th-graders, Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Monday

Story Time
10:15 a.m., Homedale Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228

Lincoln Day banquet
11 a.m., Republican primary candidates meet-and-greet, noon to 2 p.m., lunch and speakers, \$25, auction to follow, RSVP by Friday, Owyhee County Community Center, 423 W. Nevada Ave., Homedale. (208) 250-9882

Tuesday

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

Blood pressure clinic
11 a.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922 Tuesdays and Thursdays

Pinochle games
After lunch, Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922

Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire meeting
7 p.m., Wilson Fire Station, 10427 Johnston Lane, Wilson.

Wednesday

Ladies coffee group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Marsing community pantry
9 a.m. to 11 a.m., the HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. Call school district to arrange different time, (208) 649-5411

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

Bruneau and Beyond speaker series
1 p.m., free, RSVP by Monday, Feb. 17, Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau. (208) 845-2131

Christian Life Club
4 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., after-school program for kindergarten through sixth grade, First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-4757, (208) 353-6024, (208) 337-3464

Bible study
7 p.m., various age groups, Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

University of Idaho
Extension

Cutting the mystery out of fruit tree pruning

Now is a good time to get out and prune many types of fruit trees and berry bushes. Unfortunately, we see numerous examples of what not to do every year, and when neighbors copy neighbors, this can lead to trouble. So this week, here are the basics of what to prune, when and how to do it.



Ariel Agenbroad

Why prune?

Prune young fruit trees to develop a strong scaffold structure that will support heavy fruit loads. Pruning keeps large trees manageable, increases fruit production and quality, and opens up a tree for better light, air and spray coverage. Berry bushes are pruned to rejuvenate them and remove spent growth.

When to prune?

Fruit trees are best pruned while dormant, in late winter or early spring before buds have opened. However, dead, diseased or damaged wood can be removed at any time of year.

Raspberry and blackberry bushes can be pruned in fall or late winter. With grapevines, it's best to wait until mid-spring to reduce the chance that a sudden cold snap will damage exposed cut surfaces and tender buds.

Cherries and plums may be pruned in mid-summer to remove excess growth but often require little else.

How to prune?

Prune young trees very lightly at time of planting to direct the future shape of the tree. Prune mature fruit trees by thinning out excess growth, watersprouts, and branches that shade developing fruit below. Any suckers around the base of the tree should also be removed.

Remember that apples bear on two-year-old wood, peaches on one-year-old wood. If you must prune a very large tree to control the growth, use selective cuts to lower the overall height without "topping" the tree.

Old neglected trees should be pruned and re-shaped a bit at a time over several years to avoid undue shock and stress to the tree.

Prune summer-bearing raspberries by removing the canes that bore fruit last year and thinning out the new growth. Prune all canes of fall-bearing raspberries to the ground in late fall or early spring.

Use clean and sharp pruning tools and disinfect your pruners, loppers and saws with a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water) between cuts to avoid spreading diseases.

— Ariel Agenbroad serves southwest Idaho as an Area Extension Educator in Community Food Systems, and Small Farms for University of Idaho Extension. Her areas of specialization include home and market vegetable production, direct marketing of small farm products, organics and gardening with youth. She can be reached at ariel@uidaho.edu.

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From page 1A



Owyhee Cattlemen's Association president Paul Nettleton (left) accepts an \$11,000 donation from Jordan Valley Rodeo Association representative Vern Kershner to help with the Owyhee 68 litigation. Kershner said 20 years of the rodeo board's annual ATV raffle has raised about \$400,000 to protect multiple-use in Owyhee and Malheur counties.



Mary Huff (right) accepts the prize after winning the OCA membership bit raffle to kick off the winter meeting inside Oreana Community Hall. Local silversmith Delwyn Trefz created the bit.

✓ OCA: BLM continues work on fuel breaks, habitat improvement

group,” Brackett said.

Brackett represents the fourth generation of his family to run cattle in the Three Creek area, and there are two more generations now helping out at the Flat Creek Ranch in southeastern Owyhee County.

Brackett pushed for Richards’ election to his seat in the state Senate after accepting the plaque from Richards and OCA president Paul Nettleton.

“I just want you to know that I fully and completely endorse her, and that my mission for the next three months is to get her elected,” Brackett said. “Please help me in that regard.”

Richards’ opponent in May’s Republican primary, current Dist. 23A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett), didn’t attend Saturday’s membership meeting. Dist. 23B incumbent Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett) and the man hoping to earn the GOP nomination to succeed Zito, Mountain Home City Council president Matthew Bundy, were on hand.

Brackett took time at the podium to push for a couple more issues that are near-and-dear to residents of rural Idaho, including his legislation to establish wolf-free wildlife management zones south of the Snake River.

“We don’t have wolves now, and we don’t want wolves, and we want the state to manage according to the state wolf



Dist. 23 state Sen. Bert Brackett (second from right) and his wife Paula (right) accept a Life Member Award from OCA president Paul Nettleton (left) and Brenda Richards on Saturday in Oreana.

plan,” he said. “It may not be perfect, but it’s pretty good, and they haven’t been following it.”

The 14-year legislator also asked the cattlemen’s help in pushing the University of Idaho to find a replacement for retired range economist Neil Rimbey.

“For rural counties like Owyhee and other rural counties throughout the state, it’s critical that we have that help on the economic impact of what we do,” Brackett said, adding that he wasn’t sure if a replacement had been found.

“... If we do have someone, they need to be more visible. They need to be out in the county.”

BLM fuel breaks update

Bureau of Land Management Bruneau Field Office manager Tanya Thrift stood in for Boise District fuels management officer Lance Okeson and talked about sage-grouse habitat and rangeland improvement efforts.

Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-grouse Habitat project treatments are underway, she said, with 22,000 acres treated south of Oreana last year and another 25,000 acres of Western juniper removal planned this year.

Personnel in BLM’s national office is drafting the environmental document for the Tri States Fuel Breaks project, and Thrift anticipates the release of a

Final Environmental Impact Statement this spring.

Owyhee Field Office manager Donn Christiansen spoke for Idaho BLM state director John Ruhs, who was in New Mexico for the latest public scoping meeting regarding proposed grazing regulations.

He reiterated that the deadline to provide scoping comments is March 6.

“We need your participation,” Christiansen said. “We need you to really be thoughtful and insightful and let us know where the challenges are as well as where the solutions might be.”

“It’s not good enough just to complain about a problem, but give us an idea of how we can

solve it.”

Christiansen also relayed Ruhs’ message that the FEIS for the Great Basin Fuel Breaks project is scheduled for a Friday release. That plan covers 223 million acres in portions of Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Utah and California.

“This project will really enhance the ability of our firefighters to safely and effectively minimize the size of wildfires, and we’re looking forward to completing it,” Christiansen quoted Ruhs, adding that the Tri States project seeks similar objectives.

Ruhs also said in his statement that supplement EIS is expected later this year for the agency’s sage-grouse plans, which wound up in court after a challenge from environmentalists.

Christiansen also said that the Owyhee Field Office staff is pushing toward being on the ground this year.

Christiansen told the ranchers that his field office team has a goal of spending the majority of the field season (about two to three months) in the field and out of the office.

“So if you don’t hear from us and you don’t find us (in the office), look over your shoulder,” he said. “We’ll probably be out in the field. ... I’d rather meet you in the field than meet you in the office.”

— JPB

Local ranchers urged to chime in on feds’ reform plans

Trump NEPA proposal would mean quicker range improvements

Crucial public comment deadlines took center stage for a moment at Saturday’s Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association winter meeting.

Idaho Cattle Association past president Tucker Shaw reminded his colleagues that time is running out to provide comment on proposed federal grazing and environmental analysis changes.

The first deadline involves scoping comments on proposed changes to grazing regulations. input must be received by March 6.

“The more of us that (the Bureau of Land Management hears) from us, the better it’s going to be,” Shaw said. “They’re getting stacks of letters from conservation groups.

“They need to hear from us who live out here and are on the ground.”

The BLM seeks to identify potential changes that will update, modernize and streamline the grazing regulations and provide greater flexibility for land and resource management. Through this rule-making process, the BLM seeks to improve existing land use planning and grazing permitting procedures, while simultaneously promoting public lands conservation. The BLM hopes to improve its stewardship by strengthening controls to prevent unauthorized grazing, enhancing environmental protections across various non-grazing land-use programs, and improving public input opportunities.

For more information on the

grazing regulations, contact BLM project manager Seth Flanigan at (208) 384-3450 or sflanigan@blm.gov.

March 10 is the final day the federal government will accept comments on the Trump administration’s proposed modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act review process.

Shaw spoke about the possible NEPA rule change Saturday.

The changes are geared to improve collaboration and reduce red tape. Environmental impact statements (EIS) would have to be completed within two years, and environmental assessments (EA) would need to be finished within a year.

“It’s very important for us to supply those comments because everyone who is a member of Western Watersheds (Project), you can be [darn] sure is providing comments,” Shaw said.

“We’ve got to let them hear from us also. If they don’t hear from us, they don’t think it’s a concern of ours.”

The Idaho congressional delegation applauded the proposals, stating in a joint release that the rule change would “modernize and accelerate the antiquated” NEPA review process.

“The NEPA review process is the epitome of bureaucratic inefficiency,” Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) said. “The years-long delays in the process are costing Idaho businesses and innovators precious time and resources, and there’s next to no evidence that an environ-



Idaho Cattle Association past president Tucker Shaw (left) and Bureau of Land Management Owyhee Field Office manager Donn Christiansen both spoke to ranchers Saturday about the importance of making comments before looming deadlines.

mental review that drags on for seven years protects the environment more effectively than one completed in two years.

“The president’s proposed updates to this more than 40-year-old law will streamline the NEPA review process while ensuring we can continue to be responsible stewards of our environment.”

Ahead of Saturday’s meeting, a pair of local cattlemen heavily involved in industry policy and county government — Board of County Commissioners chair Jerry Hoagland and OCA president Paul Nettleton — voiced optimism that the rule changes would benefit ranchers.

“... Anything to improve the efficiency of getting a NEPA project approved will help greatly,” Hoagland, the Dist. 1 county commissioner, said.

“I’m sure the environmental and congressional extremists

will fight hard to prevent any changes because the current rules are money in their pockets.”

Hoagland said the current process, which requires analysis of future climatic impacts, “places a huge burden on the viability of any project.”

Hoagland is hopeful that the rule changes will go through and thus change the relationship between ranchers seeking grazing permit renewals and the Bureau of Land Management employees who ultimately place parameters on those permits.

“As to local NEPA-based decisions, hopefully grazing decisions by federal agencies will be timely and include workable flexibility in those permits,” he said.

Nettleton commented on the proposed rule change after the OCA board met on Jan. 21, and he couched his remarks, saying more details would be

needed to comment on specific local issues.

“That being said, we are sure that all BLM grazing permittees would welcome a reduction in burdensome regulations that bog down permit renewals and range improvements at present,” Nettleton said.

A faster timeline will help ranchers more effectively carry out their land stewardship efforts, he said.

“A more efficient, streamlined process will allow improvements in range conditions to occur years sooner than what’s happening now,” he said. “Currently bureaucratic red tape does not allow range decisions to be made until long after actions need to be taken to improve conditions.

“Any proposal that would streamline decision-making and free the hands of land managers I’m sure will have the wholehearted support from Owyhee cattlemen.”

Nettleton, who operates Joyce Livestock Co., with his son and former OCA president Chad Nettleton, is experiencing the drawn-out NEPA process right now.

He is in the middle of the permit renewal process on the Silver City allotment.

“I know first-hand the burdensome red tape and the voluminous documents and endless regulations that have to be adhered to in order to complete this process,” he said.

“Then it will be several years before the grazing plan can be fully implemented and the improvements put in place in order to bring some common sense to my range and a measure of profitability to my ranch operation.”

— JPB

Sage-grouse habitat improvement ROD ready for review

Bruneau-Owyhee juniper treatment closer to action

The federal government’s plan to reduce fuel loads in the Owyhees is nearing the final formative stages.

The Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-grouse Habitat (BOSH) Project record of decision (ROD) for implementation is available for review, according to a legal notice published in this week’s edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service released the notice of ROD.

The NRCS announced the availability of the ROD to provide financial and technical assistance to improve and maintain sagebrush steppe habitat through the removal of early-stage Western juniper trees to help the Greater Sage-grouse and other wildlife and to benefit privately owned lands within the Bureau of Land Management’s Owyhee and Bruneau Field Offices.

Up to 726,000 acres will be treated within a 1.67 million-acre footprint. There are 241,820 acres of private land within the project area, and landowners

can opt to participate in the treatments.

NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance through Farm Bill conservation program contracts with landowners to implement treatments.

Each landowner must ensure treatment methods meet NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications. Those landowners may do the work themselves, hire a contractor or coordinate with the BLM or its contractors to complete the work.

The NRCS adopted the BOSH Final Environmental Impact Statement to move the project into the next phase.

For more information on the ROD,

contact NRCS state biologist Trisha Cracroft at trisha.cracroft@usda.gov or (208) 378-5725.

Persons with disabilities requiring other means for communication can call the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

View the ROD at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/id/newsroom/pnotice/> or a hard copy may be requested. Documentation developed during the agency’s review of the FEIS may be reviewed by contacting Cracroft.

No administrative action on implementation will be taken for 30 days.

Sell it, trade it, find it in the classifieds: 337-4681

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Salad bar available with each meal:
Lettuce, tomato, boiled eggs, peaches, apricots, salad dressing
Milk available each day
Roll available each day except Feb. 26
Feb. 12: Hot dog, baked potato, chili, creamed spinach
Feb. 13: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, Brussels Sprouts
Feb. 18: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, mixed veggies
Feb. 19: Beef burrito, rice, bean & corn, salad
Feb. 20: Pork roast, mashed potatoes w/gravy, beets
Feb. 25: Chicken & noodles, Calif. blend veggies
Feb. 26: Ham & beans w/corn bread, peas & carrots
Feb. 27: Baked fish, mac & cheese, broccoli

Rimrock Senior Center

All meals are served with milk & fruit juice
Feb. 12: Cheesy broccoli soup, fresh veggie tray, cheese stix, variety of crackers, yogurt, bananas
Feb. 13: Creamy chicken w/rice, steamed veggies, fruited jello, bread & butter, fruit cobbler
Feb. 18: Happy Birthday Dinner: Pork roast, potatoes & gravy, green salad, spinach, applesauce, yogurt, ww roll, cook's choice soup, cake & ice cream
Feb. 19: Cream of potato soup, tortilla wraps w/lunch meat, sandwich veggies, cottage cheese, fruited jello
Feb. 20: Beef enchilada, Spanish rice, refried beans, salsa & sour cream, green salad, pears & yogurt
Feb. 25: Chicken pot pie, green salad, pineapple & cottage cheese
Feb. 26: Chicken tortilla soup, fresh fruit, green salad, sour cream, salsa, corn, tortilla chips

Looking for a Sabbath keeping church that celebrates God's annual Holy Days?

I
"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"

II
"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image"

III
"Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy GOD in vain"

IV
"Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy"

V
"Honor thy Father and thy mother"

VI
"Thou shalt not kill"

VII
"Thou shalt not commit adultery"

VIII
"Thou shalt not steal"

IX
"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor"

X
"Thou shalt not covet"

Did Jesus change or do away with any of the TEN COMMANDMENTS?

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1325 Denver St (PO Box 804) • Caldwell, ID
Call for more information: 208-459-9755.

Organizers dub Marsing Disaster Auction a resounding success

Lots in memory of departed community members big hits

Citizens of Marsing and the surrounding area again showed their generosity and heart, opening up their check-books to help those in need.

The 59th annual Marsing Disaster Auction and Sale brought in \$73,300 from auction items, raffle ticket sales, and food purchases on Feb. 1 at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Post 128 Community Center in Marsing.

Money raised by the auction is placed in a fund to help people who are displaced by fire or need help with medical bills or funeral expenses.

There were a few items donated in remembrance of people who passed away in the past year.

The first items up for auction were donated in memory of Ryan Dines and included a horse package that included handmade reins from Gfeller Casemaker in Marsing, horse-shoeing services donated by Caleb Leavitt, grain and grain bucket, and horse brush. Highest bid went to Dines' best friend, Chad Showalter, for \$1,100.

Jessica Showalter offered the winning bid on the last oil painting by Mona Lindemann.

Lindemann was Showalter's grandmother.

Jason Sevy donated a windmill in memory of his wife Stephenie, who passed away last summer. The item was sold for \$375.

Also sold was a set of original animal pencil prints by Jacq Shippy, which went for \$130.

Winners of the \$10 raffle prizes include:

- **Matt Meininger** — Front-load washer and dryer, donated by Parma Furniture
- **Bailey Bowman** — 55-inch flat screen high-definition LCD television, donated by the Usabel family
- **Rick Smith** — gun/security safe, donated by White Automotive and Rhino Metals
- **Butch Starry** — Savage Trophy Hunter 6.5mm Creedmoor rifle with Nikon scope, donated by Wayne Hunge and Dave Cereghino of Owyhee County Farm Bureau in Homedale.

Winners of the \$1 raffle prizes include:

- **Shad Byer** — \$250 cash, donated by Bobo and Sheila Carter, Russ Lindemann, and Audrey Lindemann
- **John Nederend** — \$250

Marsing shopping spree, donated by Marsing American Legion Post 128

- **Gavin Bowers** — KitchenAid mixer, donated by Kelly and Betty Ackerman
- **Penny Lebresh** — Boise getaway, donated by Liquid Laughs, Solid Grill and Bar and Hampton Inn

The student raffle sales winners were Parker Showalter (first place), Daysen Frazier (second place), Maylee Astorquia (third place), and Millie Conger (fourth place).

Disaster Auction planning committee member Cindy Floyd said that organizers were very grateful for the folks who purchased the apples, onions, and applesauce, which were auctioned and then donated to Hope House Home for Children, in Marsing.

Also sold and given to Hope House were bags of frozen French fries, which were donated by Simplot.

The planning committee also wanted to acknowledge the efforts of those who were the most visible, and certainly most audible, during the auction.

"We appreciate the work of JBS Auction and all the auctioneers who volunteered their time on Saturday," Floyd said.

— TK

Sheriff's K-9 finds cocaine, pot in car

An Owyhee County Sheriff's deputy arrested a Washington man on multiple drug charges

after a traffic stop Saturday morning.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that

Serbastian Scott Miller, 28, of Moses Lake, Wash., was pulled over at the Extra Mile convenience store west of Marsing after being clocked going 65 mph in a 55 mph zone.

Miller was charged with felony possession of cocaine after a pipe was found in his vehicle,

Serbastian Miller

with the assistance of a K-9 unit, which showed evidence of a white powder. The pipe tested positive for cocaine, and a total of .17 of a gram of the drug was found.

Miller also admitted to having a small amount of marijuana in the console of his vehicle.

Misdemeanor charges include marijuana possession and drug paraphernalia possession.

Miller made his initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington on Monday morning in the county courthouse in Murphy.

Miller is currently in custody at the Owyhee County Jail in Murphy.

— TK

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Owyhee Family Dental Center

www.owyheefamilydental.com

Snake River Concert

Saturday, Feb 15th at 2:30pm

House Concert near Givens Hot Springs

featuring pianist Lynn Tredeau & guitarist Robert Linton

more info & reserve free seats 208-258-9836

HES kindergarteners accepting pennies for cancer patients

Some students have surpassed \$100 goal

Homedale Elementary kindergarteners have begun raising money for cancer patients through the “Pennies for Patients” program.

The community service project, which runs through Feb. 21, aims to not only raise funds for cancer research but to offer young students the opportunity to assume some simple responsibilities and help others benefit in the process.

Students took home a small coin box and are encouraged to do work for family and friends to earn extra cash. They are also encouraged to create an online fundraising page with the help from family.

The goal for each child is to raise \$100.

Some students, like Peyton Lowder, 5, daughter of Zac and Megan Lowder, went above and beyond. As of Friday, Peyton had raised \$310. She also posted a video on Facebook to promote her efforts.

Peyton said she is happy to do what she’s doing.

“I’m raising money for hu-



Peyton Lowder and her fellow Homedale kindergarteners are collecting donations for cancer patients.

mans that have cancer,” she said.

Her father said that it’s a great program because it encourages children to help others.

Students can earn prizes along the way, including a glow-in-the-dark power ring for \$5 raised, a hero band for \$15 raised, a Hero Squad T-shirt for \$50, and more.

Anyone interested in helping with donations, may visit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society website, www.LLS.org, or contact one of the local participants.

— TK



Dist. 23A representative hopeful Matthew Bundy (center) and Dist. 23B Rep. Megan Blanksma (second from left) met with Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association board members (including president Paul Nettleton, left, and past president Lorna Steiner) Saturday in Oreana. Bundy and Blanksma are expected to attend Monday’s Lincoln Day luncheon.

Lincoln Day banquet set Monday

Candidate meet-and-greet, fundraiser shifts to Homedale

The Owyhee County Community Center will take center stage Monday for the biennial Owyhee County Lincoln Day Banquet.

Prospective Republican primary candidates will make their pitches, while others will announce their candidacies during the event, which starts with a candidate meet-and-greet at 11 a.m.

Lunch and speakers will run from noon to 2 p.m., at the new community center at the county fairgrounds, 423 W. Nevada Ave., in Homedale.

The Owyhee County Republican Central Committee will conduct a fundraising auction after the speakers.

The cost to attend the banquet is \$25, including lunch. RSVP by Friday by calling (208) 250-9882.

Although the official

nomination petition filing period doesn’t open for another month, many Republican hopefuls take to the Lincoln Day circuit to announce their candidacies.

Some have already thrown their hats into the ring for the May 19 primary, including:

- Reynolds Creek rancher and former Owyhee County Treasurer Brenda Richards and Dist. 23A Rep. Christy Zito of Hammett, both of whom will try to succeed retiring Dist. 23 Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson).

- Grand View resident Andrea Owens has already started her campaign to possibly succeed Zito in Seat A for District 23 in the Idaho House of Representatives. Mountain Home City Council president Matthew Bundy also will seek the GOP nomination in May.

- There are four county offices on the ballot this year, including those held by Republican incumbents Sheriff Perry Grant and Dist. 1 Commissioner Jerry Hoagland for four-year terms, and Dist. 2 Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi for a two-year term. Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Phillips also has expressed that he plans to run for his own four-year term after completing departed Douglas D. Emery’s third term in office.

Candidates can file nomination papers between March 2 and March 13 for both the primary election and the Nov. 3 general election.

The deadline to file as a write-in candidate is April 21.

Citizens have until April 24 to register to vote in the primary election. But registration will close between Friday and March 11 because of the March 10 election.

Absentee ballots can be requested until May 8.

Owyhee novelist releases second in “Granada” series

Bruneau author Tammy Miller, who writes under the pen name Lyn Miller, has released a new novel.

“Granada: Empire” is now available in paperback on Amazon.com.

A Kindle version is also available, according to Miller’s Facebook page.

The book was released last

Wednesday.

Miller placed third in the Will Rogers Medallion Awards for inspirational fiction in 2018 for her book “Addie — Courage Rides a Gray Horse.”

The recently released book is a follow-up to “Granada,” which was published in 2016.

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Courthouse report

A list of felony and misdemeanor dispositions recently completed at courtrooms in Murphy and Homedale. Infractions are not included:

Feb. 3
Toni Marie Conklin, Grand View — Misdemeanor dispensing alcoholic beverage to a minor: \$470 in fines, \$192.50 in court costs

Feb. 2
Carlos Espinoza-Garcia, San Diego — Misdemeanor commercial truck false logbook, serious violation: \$263.50 in fines, \$157.50 in court costs

Jan. 31
Balwant Singh, Ceres, Calif. — Misdemeanor commercial vehicle markings violation: \$43.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs. **Dismissed by court:** Misdemeanor failure to appear citation

Jan. 29
Colton Ray Armas, Homedale — Misdemeanor driving without privileges: \$135 in fines, \$172.50 in court costs
Carlos Cadena, Rio Linda, Calif. — Misdemeanor logbook violation, serious violation or hazardous material: \$263.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs

Oscar E. Cardenas, Wilder — Misdemeanor pedestrian under the influence of alcohol or drugs (amended from driving under the influence), resisting or obstructing officers (plea deal): 2 days in jail (served), \$235 in fines, \$315 in court costs

Carlos Eduardo Nila, Caldwell — Misdemeanor DUI: 180 days in jail (45 days to serve; 135 days suspended), 90-day driver's license suspension, 1 year supervised probation, \$197.50 in fines, \$274.50 in court costs. **Withheld judgment:** May petition to expunge record after successful completion of sentence

Edwin Pina, Caldwell — Misdemeanor excessive DUI: 180 days in jail (1 day served, 9 days to serve, 170 days suspended), 1-year driver's license suspension, 2 years supervised probation, \$797.50 in fines, \$274.50 in court costs

Matthew Alexander Renz, Marsing — Misdemeanor drug paraphernalia possession: 9 days in jail (served), \$197.50 in court costs

Joshua Lee Studer, Kuna — Misdemeanor DUI, drug paraphernalia possession: 10 days in jail (2 days served, 8 days to serve), 180-day driver's license suspension, 2 years supervised probation, \$850 in fines, \$440 in court costs. **Withheld judgment:** May petition to expunge record after successful completion of sentence. **Dismissed by prosecuting attorney:** Misdemeanor controlled substance possession

Local author tells Old West tale

Peterson to throw birthday bash in Homedale

It's never too late to be what you might have been, in the words of George Eliot.

Homedale author Bruce Peterson took those words to heart when he decided to write and publish "1840: The Gunfighter," last June through Xlibris, a self-publishing platform.

Peterson, who wrote the book under the penname Bruce Hultgren in honor of his grandfather, waited a few years to get the job done. When the book was published, Peterson was 89 years old.

He wrote the book as well as a follow-up biography ("The Life of Bruce Rutledge Peterson" was released late last year) so his grandchildren and great-grandchildren could hear his voice and read his story.

Peterson said that the protagonist of "1840," Jesse Brothernaster, an Old West gunfighter and gambler, was loosely based on the life of his grandfather, who emigrated to the United States from Sweden in the 19th century. He said that his grandfather was a gunsmith, and that his family had a business making baskets for Sweden's royal family.

Peterson was born on Feb. 20, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minn. He developed rheumatic fever and polio as a young boy and was sent in 1934 to the Phoenix, Ariz., area to stay at his aunt's citrus ranch.

Doctors at the time told him that it was unlikely he would ever be able to walk, but he said that one day, a voice came to him when no one else was around, and told him to stand up.

Peterson did as the voice told him, and he was soon able to walk.

"It was a voice from my guardian angel," he said.

He said that shortly after this experience, he returned to Minnesota and revisited the doctor that told him he would be unable to walk. After testing, there was no sign of his disease.

He struggled as he moved through school, as he was behind following his illness and trip to Arizona. He did enough to make it through, however, and even participated on his high school's golf team before graduating in 1949.

Two days after graduation, Peterson was in



Homedale resident Bruce Peterson holds the two books he self-published last year.

the United States Army, a job that would take him to various places around the world for the next 23 years.

Peterson said he was trained in electronics and worked in communications for the Army Security Agency in Ft. Gordon, Ga.

Peterson married his first wife, Elaine, in February 1957, and they were married for 23 years. From this union he had four daughters: Kathleen (born in Minnesota), Evelyn (born in Hawaii), Betty (born in Japan), and Bridgette (born in Massachusetts).

His second wife, Lorraine, passed away in 2004 from lung cancer, and Peterson found himself at a crossroads. After taking the advice of several people, and considering his desire to fish, hunt, own land, and ride horses, he moved to Homedale a year later.

He decided recently that he needed to leave behind some kind of legacy for his five grandchildren, and especially his five great-grandchildren, whom he has not met.

Peterson said that he was not especially pleased with the editing and printing work done by Xlibris, and has said that he is moving to a different publisher, called Lulu Press.

He said that he is currently working on fixing his biography, with better editing, and writing a sequel to "1840: The Gunfighter."

Peterson will celebrate his 90th birthday with a party from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, Feb. 22 at The Bowling Alley. The community is invited.

— TK

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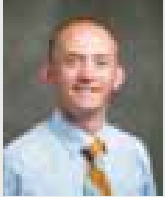
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Govt. offices, most schools to observe Presidents Day

Businesses, schools, and government offices throughout Owyhee County will be closed on Monday, in observance of Presidents Day.

- County government offices, including the courthouse in Murphy and the Marsing annex, and city halls in Homedale, Marsing, Grand View, Adrian, and Jordan Valley will be closed.
- Usually scheduled for Mondays, the Board of County Commissioners meeting has moved to 9 a.m., on Tuesday, in Murphy.
- Schools in Homedale, Marsing, and Jordan Valley will be closed; Bruneau-Grand View district schools will remain open, and Adrian schools will be closed Friday in observance.
- Homedale City Library will be closed from Wednesday to Friday to move into the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library. Library services will resume in the new location to the east of the old library on Tuesday.
- The Eastern Owyhee County Library in Grand View will be closed, but Lizard Butte Library in Marsing will remain open. The Bruneau Valley Library is regularly closed on Mondays.
- All U.S. post offices will be closed.
- U.S. Bank branches in Marsing and Homedale will be closed.
- Westowns Disposal Inc.'s trash pickup schedule will be unchanged.
- Albertsons and Sav-On Pharmacy in Homedale will be open normal hours.
- Logan's Market and the liquor store in Marsing will also be keeping its regular hours of operation.
- Homedale Drug and the liquor store will open normal hours.
- The Owyhee Avalanche will keep its normal office hours, and all deadlines will remain the same.

Solar arrays, dairy expansion before P&Z

Private solar power arrays and the expansion of a confined animal feeding operation are set for next Wednesday's Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

The P&Z board will hear three applications, including Dale VanEs seeking a conditional use permit to increase the number of cows allowed at his dairy-CAFO outside Marsing to 12,500 head.

The hearings take place inside the Owyhee County Courthouse Annex, 17069 Basey St., in Murphy.

The first hearing at 9:30 a.m., pertains to Angela Stears' application for a 16.28-kilowatt ground-mounted, residential-use solar array on an eight-acre parcel in an agricultural zone near mile marker 21.5 on Idaho highway 78.

At 10:30 a.m., another CUP for three 16.28kW ground-mounted solar arrays will come before the commissioners.

Jens Schkade wants to build on a two-acre parcel in an agricultural zone on Boundary Lane in Grand View.

At 1 p.m., the VanEs Dairy hearing begins.

VanEs already operates a 7,500-head CAFO and wants to add animals as well as corrals, freestall barns, an additional rotary milk parlor and other infrastructure to expand the Desert Drive operation.



Ainslee Evans won the Treasure Valley District prepared speech championship. Homedale FFA photo



Bailey Purdom (left) and Brianna Cayford were runners-up in Creed speaking and extemporaneous speech, respectively. Homedale FFA photo

Homedale FFA'ers excel at district speaking contest

The Homedale FFA chapter did well at the Treasure Valley District competition last Wednesday.

Ainslee Evans won the prepared speech competition and will represent Homedale and the district at the state competition in April in Twin Falls.

Bailey Purdom placed second in Creed speaking.

Brianna Cayford placed second in extemporaneous speech.

The following people received their state degree: Maggie Johnson, Weston Dorsey, Brooke Pfost, Makenna DeWitt, Caitlyn Pate, Wyatt Wetzel, Ainslee Evans, Madison Miller, and Keagen Christensen.

In order to be presented with this degree each member must meet a number of requirements:

- Passing an FFA written knowledge test with a 60 percent or better
- Having a Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE) project

Their awards will be presented at the State Leadership Conference in April.

Ainslee and State Degree winners will not be the only members representing Homedale FFA in Twin Falls.

Senior Weston Dorsey not only will be presented with his State Degree but will also represent the district as the Top Star Farmer Placement. Weston has spent many hours in SAE and has shown outstanding achievement.

In the upcoming months more members will take part in Treasure Valley District events for the chance to attend the conference at the College of Southern Idaho.



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Bipartisan caucus brings rural issues into focus

Farm, Ranch and Timber Issues Caucus will brainstorm solutions to rural Idaho’s unique problems

by Riley Haun

UI McClure Center intern

There are a lot of definitions of “rural.”

The U.S. Census Bureau defines it simply as “any population, housing or territory not in an urban area.” On a map of Idaho, only a few small pockets in the south — and Lewiston in the north — are gray urban areas in the sea of green, rural expanse.

But the difference between issues for those green areas and their gray neighbors is often more noticeable than that map lets on. Though the problems on everyone’s minds are the same, the solutions are not one-size-fits-all across Idaho.

The sheer size of so many rural Idaho districts presents a challenge in itself. Rep. Caroline Nilsson Troy (R-Genesee, Dist. 5B) said that challenge was never more apparent than when talking to a legislative colleague from a Boise-area district.

“He was telling me ‘My district is a mile to the east, a mile to the west and a mile and a quarter to the north and south,’ ” Troy said. “My driveway is a mile long. The perspectives are just different.”

Troy and fellow House member Rep. Sally Toone (D-Gooding, Dist. 26B) are working to unite both rural and urban perspectives in the Statehouse through their Farm, Ranch and Timber Issues Caucus. The project aims to create a bipartisan, bicameral forum to educate legislators from cities and farms alike on the issues that matter to rural life and industry.

Partnering for the future

Though the word “caucus” conjures images of politicians

squabbling over policy and strategy, Toone said she doesn’t want Farm, Ranch and Timber to be seen as political. Rather, she and Troy want it to be a forum for discussion and education to inform legislators’ decisions down the road.

The group’s name reflects this dual-sided approach. In its early stages, Troy and Toone referred to it as a rural caucus, but ultimately settled on Farm, Ranch and Timber to emphasize its inclusive nature.

“We don’t want to limit it to legislators from rural areas only,” Troy said. “We want it to be all-inclusive for anyone who wants to learn about issues that impact their country cousins.”

Other issues-focused, non-political caucuses have sprung up throughout the Legislature’s history but are often short-lived. Currently, there’s a caucus focused on STEM in education, among a few little-known others. Troy has been tinkering with the idea of a rural-focused caucus since taking office in 2014. But historically, Troy said, caucuses have been discouraged in Idaho’s Statehouse because they’re seen as getting legislators “off track” from their main duties — and besides, legislators are so swamped with work that there’s rarely time to workshop new projects during the legislative session, Troy said.

Troy and Toone don’t see this project as a potential distraction. They envision the caucus not as a lobbying group but rather an opportunity to share information and perspectives between rural and urban legislators. And the prospect of a joint caucus between the House and Senate

is rich with potential to Toone, who said in a statement that its uniqueness “can’t be overstated.”

Taking the long view

Toone said the caucus would remain open to partnering with legislators on specific bills, but the focus is on building awareness and brainstorming solutions over developing legislation.

“Oftentimes there’s not a legislative solution to these problems,” Troy said. “It’s a longer-term solution, maybe a local solution.”

The caucus will tackle problems shared by rural and urban areas, Troy said. For example, broadband expansion, roads, health care and education are weighing on nearly every legislator’s mind. But there will be a special focus on issues that strike close to the heart of rural Idaho.

Toone cited the example of colony collapse disorder, a common problem for beekeepers in her Southern Idaho district. Not much has been done in the Legislature to address the issue, but Toone said she thinks the problem is lack of knowledge, not apathy.

“If we get our colleagues together and present information to help them understand these specifically rural issues a little better, we’re already plowing new ground,” Toone said.

The caucus will aim to expand the horizons of legislators who often get “stuck in their silos,” Troy said. With each legislator assigned to multiple committees, there’s not a lot of time to look outside of the topics at hand. Legislators from rural backgrounds aren’t always assigned to the committees addressing rural-specific issues, and the rural perspective is often underrepresented in discussions on broader issues

like infrastructure and health care.

Ultimately, the hope is that legislators who participate in the Farm, Ranch and Timber Issues Caucus’s discussions will return to their committees with fresh perspective on how their decisions affect rural areas specifically. The caucus would also serve as a “contact point,” according to a statement released by the group’s founders, allowing concerns to be heard throughout the Legislature and other state agencies.

Discussion among the caucus would also provide a chance for legislators to share experiences from diverse rural districts throughout Idaho and compare problems and solutions.

“Maybe my district has a problem that yours has already solved, and we could learn from that,” Troy said. “Or maybe what’s a problem in mine isn’t a problem in yours at all. We’re really just testing the waters across Idaho to see what’s being done.”

Gathering support

Two members of the Senate, Sens. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson, Dist. 23) and Janie Ward-Engelking (D-Boise, Dist. 18), have joined Toone and Troy as founding members of the caucus. With support from both sides of the Capitol, the founders say they feel optimistic about the group’s ability to achieve their goals.

“Congress has its own rural caucus, but we don’t want it to be [political] like that — we want an Idaho approach,” Toone said. “We’re from rural areas — we were elected for who we are, and people trust that.”

Troy agreed, saying she thinks Idaho’s “kinder” approach to bipartisan issues is a good thing for productive discussion. Troy said she thinks a wide swath of legislators will be attracted to the caucus’s meetings, currently planned for once a week during the legislative session.

“If you eat, you’re in agriculture,” Troy said. “So I think that means we’ve got them all.”

Twenty to 30 legislators from the House and Senate attended the caucus’s inaugural meeting Feb. 3, Troy said. The attendees developed a list of general issues to be discussed, including grazing rights and the Good Neighbor Authority partnership between the Forest Service and the Idaho

Department of Lands. Idaho Department of Commerce director Tom Kealey shared updates on Gov. Brad Little’s broadband task force.

Dist. 23A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett) said she was looking forward to discussing her largely rural Southwest Idaho district’s concerns through the caucus.

“To involve the House, Senate and all political parties is politics in its greatest moment,” Zito said. “Our state is so diverse... It will be an excellent opportunity for those of us in the southwest to share the issues that are faced in our area, and to learn what issues are facing other regions of our state on a more intimate level.”

The initiative has received support from industry members as well. Food Producers of Idaho, a coalition of more than 40 commodity and agricultural organizations, provided lunch for the caucus’s first meeting.

Rick Waitley, a lobbyist representing FPI, said the organization’s members voted to provide lunch as their “blessing” to the caucus, showing industry’s support for the group’s mission. Moving forward, Waitley said FPI will support the caucus by linking them with industry members and experts from the organization’s wide network when a speaker or information is needed.

“Getting discussion going and exchanging ideas will mean only good dividends,” Waitley said. “If I were a freshman [representative] from a rural district coming in, I’d find it very refreshing that there was this nucleus of like-minded people working on the issues I care about.”

Troy and Toone said they hope the caucus will grow in numbers and eventually help in providing information on the scope of Idaho agriculture to anyone who wants it.

“In five years, I may not still be here [in the Legislature],” Toone said. “But I think we’ll have provided a resource for this way of Idaho life.”

— *Homedale native Riley Haun is one of three interns working for The Owyhee Avalanche and other newspapers around the state through the University of Idaho’s James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research. She’s majoring in Journalism with a minor in Political Science. Follow her on Twitter @RHaunID.*



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From page 1A

✓ The HUB: Partners step up for district

on the second Wednesday of the month. The board room is also available as a community meeting space.

There's an Owyhee County Sheriff's Office substation and flex office space.

Other services in The HUB:

- School-based health center
- Migrant family liaison
- Head Start preschool
- Husky Pup preschool
- Food and clothing pantry
- 21st Century/booster club
- Adult learning classroom

Stewart acknowledged partnerships integral in the development of The Hub:

- United Way
 - Idaho Foodbank
 - Terry Reilly Mental Health Services
 - WICAP Head Start
 - WICAP Project Launch
 - 21st Century Community Learning Center
 - Preschool the Idaho Way, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children
 - Lizard Butte Library
 - Idaho Public Television
 - Koenig Vineyard & Distillery
 - OCSO
 - Delta Dental
 - Marsing Lions Club
 - City of Marsing and Logan's Market, Giving Tree holiday baskets
- Stewart also mentioned ex-



Marsing Husky Pups teacher Alison Collins (left) talks with Lasli Armenta, 4, during The HUB ribbon cutting Thursday. Lasli is the daughter of Maria and Santo Armenta, of Marsing.

panded partnerships with:

- Community Schools Coalition
- El-Ada Community Action Partnership
- Catholic Charities
- St. Luke's
- Southwest District Health
- University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office
- Idaho STEM Action Center
- Area 3 Senior Services Agency
- Southwest Idaho Office on Aging
- Homedale Farmers Market
- Marsing Housing Authority
- School Mental Health State Leader Collaborative

- Idaho Lives Project
- Marsing Booster Club
- Marisng Chamber of Commerce
- Saint Alphonsus medical group
- Life Counseling Center
- Southwest Idaho Legacy Organization (SILO)
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- Blue Cross of Idaho
- Civil Dynamics
- Boise State University
- Amerigas

After the ceremony, community members toured the newly remodeled building.

For more information about The Hub, call the district office at (208) 649-5411. — TK



Molly Mulberry and Shayne Carothers display a quilt donated by Nancy Law that sold for \$375. Photos by Mandi Boren

✓ Auction: Proceeds fuel club's service program

donate so much to the town, to the kids and the schools.”

Last year, the club supported three Eagle Scout projects, Grand View greenbelt work, library books for children, little league basketball and soccer, and many other projects in the three communities.

The Lions Club sent thanks to all who came out and supported the auction

including the buyers, donors, volunteers and especially the Baker Auction Co., staffers who continue to volunteer their time each year.

— Mandi Boren, an Oreana resident, covers the Grand View-Bruneau-Oreana area for The Owyhee Avalanche. Send news tips to her at mandi@owyheeavalanche.com



Lions Club member Doug Thurman (left) stands with the Baker Auction Co., team of volunteer auction staff.

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Rimrock rallies to reach state tourney again



Rimrock junior Maddie Macmillan (21) tosses a shot toward the basket against the defense of Greenleaf Friends Academy's Sarah Ralstin on Saturday.

Girls play in third straight district title game Friday

Rimrock High School stabilized its game in the second half Saturday, cruising to a third consecutive 1A, Div. I Real Dairy Shootout girls' basketball state tournament berth.

Shaking off a mistake-filled first half, the Raiders blew out Greenleaf Friends Academy, 58-35, in a District III semifinal on Saturday at Columbia High School in Nampa.

Top-seeded Rimrock (22-1) trailed the No. 5 Grizzlies by two points at halftime, but ran through the second half at 36-11 clip to reach the district championship game for the third consecutive season.

Coach Kyla Jewett's club

— See *Rimrock*, page 8B

Melba girls making return to 2A State

Mustangs play for district crown Thursday

The bracket is chalk so far, so that means Melba High School is returning to the 2A Real Dairy Shootout girls' basketball state tournament.

Three Mustangs reached double figures during a double-overtime win over No. 4 Nampa Christian on Saturday. Top-seeded Melba prevailed, 66-59, in a 2A District III

semifinal at Vallivue High School in Caldwell.

The victory put coach David Lenz's squad (19-2) in Thursday's title game against No. 2 Cole Valley Christian, but more importantly the Mustangs also punched their ticket for a chance to improve on last year's state runner-up showing.

The district final will tip off at 7:45 p.m., on Thursday at Vallivue. The Chargers (18-4) beat No. 3 New Plymouth, 38-22, in Saturday's other

— See *Melba*, page 3B



Spencer Fisher signs his letter of intent while family and coaches look on. **Standing, from left:** Homedale High School athletic director Casey Grove, Kylee Silliman, Tyce Fisher, Devin Fisher, Trenton Fisher, and HHS football coach Matt Holtry. **Seated, from left:** Lauryn Fisher, Tracy Fisher, Spencer Fisher, and Dwayne Fisher.

Trojans sign with U of I, fulfill personal dreams, family tradition

Fisher, Frelove both had Vandals as first choice

Signing day was all about family when Spencer Fisher and Karsen Frelove committed to the

University of Idaho football program.

The Homedale High School seniors' blood family and school family turned out last Wednesday as the Trojans standouts signed letters of intent to play for the Vandals.

— See *Trojans*, page 3B



Present for Karsen Frelove's signing with U of I were, **standing**, Casey Grove and Matt Holtry, and **seated, from left**, father Matt Frelove, brother Trevor Frelove, Karsen Frelove, and mother Jamie Bahem.

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Sports

Marsing youth baseball signups open

Marsing youth baseball signups for ages 8-14 are open until March 1.

A hat and shirt are provided with registration. All season run from April through June. Hat and shirt provided.

League age for the divisions are the child's age on or before May 1. Divisions taking registration include:

- Boys' 7- to 8-year-old coach pitch — \$75
- Boys' A-Minor (8-11) — \$85
- Boys' Majors AA and AAA (11-12) — \$95
- Boys' 13-15 Babe Ruth — \$125. This season ends on May 31.

Sign-ups for younger ages will follow, according to the league's website.

Marsing Girls' Youth Softball will hold a "pre-registration" to ensure there will be enough players to fill teams.

Once the threshold is reached, organizers will contact pre-registrants to complete the sign-up process.

There may be tryouts for any age group based on the number of registrants.

Registration and more information on Marsing Youth Sports and Recreation is available online at <https://leagues.bluesombrero.com/marsingrec>.

Marsing boys maintain composure in physical loss

NC ends Huskies' 11-game winning streak

Eleven games and 64 days. That's how much time had passed since the Marsing High School boys' basketball team had experienced the bitter taste of defeat.

The streak came to an end Friday night with a rough-and-tumble 52-37 2A Western Idaho Conference loss to host Nampa Christian.

It was the first loss for Marsing (15-4 overall, 8-2 in conference) since a 44-39 setback against Nyssa, Ore., on Dec. 20 in the Truckstop.com tournament at The College of Idaho in Caldwell.

With two games left in the regular season, Nampa Christian (14-5, 6-4) forged a three-way tie for second place in the conference with New Plymouth and Cole Valley Christian.

They found the recipe for success against the Huskies with hard, physical play.

"(It was a) game in which Nampa Christian was assessed two flagrant fouls, one intentional foul/player ejection and a coach technical,"

Huskies coach Tim Little said. "We came within four points toward the end of the third quarter but could not pull off the win in this overly physical, emotional game."

Little made clear his pride with his players and their performance.

"This team, which represents the Marsing community and school, maintained their composure in a way which make myself and the coaching staff extremely proud," he said. "They demonstrated first-hand why they are a highly respected program through their actions and responses to adversity."

The Huskies received another exceptional performance from post Jacob Ankeny, who registered 17 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots. The junior was responsible for seven of the Huskies' 12 made field goals.

Senior wing Merrick Hall was the only other Husky to score in double figures, finishing with 10 points. He also had four rebounds, three assists, and pair of blocks.

Senior Cash Sevy scored all four of his points from the free-throw line, going 4-for-6. He also recorded an assist and a pair of steals.

Junior Rogelio Valadez scored three points and senior Joaquin Oliveros two.

Sophomore Dom Enrico collected five rebounds.

"These are players which I would not trade for anyone, any team or any other program," Little said. "Our fans, parents, and administration should have extreme satisfaction in the way these young teenagers handled themselves in this difficult environment."

"Even with the loss, I am more proud to be a Husky today than ever."

Marsing must win one of its last two games to take the conference — and the No. 1 seed in the 2A District III Tournament — outright. The team's first chance came Monday after deadline against Cole Valley Christian in Meridian. Results for that game were not available before The Owyhee Avalanche's deadline.

The district tournament starts Friday with games on the higher-seeded teams' home courts.

"In the big picture, this loss will only motivate us to work harder, with more determination as we get closer to the tournament," Little said.

— TK

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MARSING HUSKIES

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



Boys' basketball
Jacob Ankey, jr., P
17 points, 14 rebounds in loss to Nampa Christian



Girls' basketball
Emily Vanosdall, fr., G
10 points, 5 steals against Vision Charter



Wrestling
Isai Arriaga, jr., 170
Marsing POD tourney champion

Girls' basketball
Varsity
2A District III Tournament
(At Vallivue H.S., Caldwell)

If beat Nampa Christian on Tuesday: Thursday, Feb. 13, third-place game vs. New Plymouth or McCall-Donnelly, Vallivue H.S., Caldwell, 6 p.m.
If lost to Nampa Christian on Tuesday: Season complete — 3-20 record

Boys' basketball
Varsity
Wednesday, Feb. 12, home vs. Melba (Senior Night), 7:30 p.m.
2A District III Tournament
Saturday, Feb. 15, site, opponent, time TBA
Wednesday, Feb. 19 at neutral site, opponent, time TBA
Junior varsity A
Wednesday, Feb. 12, home vs. Melba, 6 p.m.
Junior varsity B
Wednesday, Feb. 12, home vs. Melba, 4:30 p.m.

Wrestling
Saturday, Feb. 22 at 1A/2A District III Tournament, Garden Valley



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Go Huskies!

Sports

✓Trojans: Collett signs with C of I, too

From Page 1B

“The things that have led up to this opportunity and this moment is what we all need to reflect on and think about,” Trojans 11th-year coach Matt Holtry said while kicking off the signing ceremony inside the gymnasium foyer.

“To get yourself into this position takes a lot of work. It takes a lot of work not only from themselves but everyone else in this room to accomplish what they’re accomplishing.

“And just have the opportunity to go on and play and to further their education, it takes the work of everyone, and that’s why those who can be here are here to help to support them and celebrate them and encourage them in pursuit of their dreams.”

Freelove, the Trojans’ stand-out running back, and Fisher, the team’s defensive heartbeat at middle linebacker, were joined in the college ranks when Jake Collett signed a letter of intent to play at The College of Idaho in Caldwell on Monday morning.

(See next week’s edition of The Owyhee Avalanche for more on Collett, who joins 2019 Homedale graduate Clayton Wolfe with the Coyotes).

For Fisher and Freelove, last Wednesday’s ceremony had special individual meaning, but it also meant that two lifelong friends will be taking the next step in their athletic careers together.

“Karsen’s been one of my best friends ever since I was little, so when this all worked out, it’s a great opportunity,” Fisher said.

Freelove returned to football for his senior season only after

he was cleared to play after two years sidelined with a heart condition. He was back to spearhead the Trojans’ running attack only to have his final prep season cut short by a knee injury.

After not hearing from U of I recruiters, Freelove was unsure if he’d be able to continue his career at his first-choice school.

But, after a conversation with his uncle, the senior got proactive.

“The next day I got a hold of the U of I coach, and he said he was coming down the next week to see us,” Freelove said.

Freelove visited the campus and was set. He passed up offers from The College of Idaho and Eastern Oregon University for the chance to play NCAA FBC Division football.

“It feels great. I’m happy,” he said. “I’m very excited to see what I can do up there.”

Freelove attended summer football camps in Moscow, and he said he loves the facilities and the coaching staff.

“I just liked it right away,” he said.

Freelove’s excitement also stems from the fact that he wasn’t sure if he would have an athletic future after missing his sophomore and junior seasons.

“It feels awesome. When I came back, it made me want it that much more,” he said. “Now that I’ve actually got it, it’s just a real good feeling of success.”

For Fisher, heading to U of I for an education, let alone football, seems like destiny.

“My family being so big in ag, it’s just always been a

place where I’ve seen myself wanting to go ever since I was little,” he said. “Because my sisters have been up there and both my parents have been up there.”

The recruiting process for Fisher was a fast-track. He said he had offers from the C of I and Dordt University and also some interest from Linfield College.

But it came down to one simple concept.

“I didn’t have the right feel for those colleges,” Fisher said. “I didn’t like the traditions there. I’m not bashing on them, but I didn’t feel like I would have at U of I.”

Fisher visited Dordt, the Iowa private college where former HHS teammate Carson Brown decided to go last year.

“I love the campus and everything,” Fisher said. “One of my goals was to chase my dream, and I always wanted my parents to watch me play college football.

“Being so far away from home, I felt like they couldn’t come to most of my games.”

So he reached out to the U of I, and now he’s chasing another piece of tradition that was left unfulfilled even with Homedale’s back-to-back Class 3A state runner-up trophies.

“I thought that keeping those two second places in my mind would keep me motivated,” Fisher said. “That’s really what keeps me motivated to keep playing football is I haven’t gotten that ring yet. I haven’t won that championship.

I want to go capture that.”

— JPB

Melba boys’ quest to avoid play-in takes hit

Cole Valley creates logjam for No. 2 seed

Melba High School’s attempt to climb in the conference standings came up short Friday.

The Mustangs fell to sixth place in the bunched-up 2A Western Idaho Conference boys’ basketball standings after a 51-48 home-court loss to Cole Valley Christian.

Before Monday’s game against cellar-dweller Vision Charter, coach Spencer Trappett’s squad was two games behind the second-place logjam featuring Nampa Christian, Cole Valley, and New Plymouth.

With two games left in its conference season, Melba (11-7 overall, 4-6 in 2A WIC at week’s end) may wind up in the 2A District III Tournament

play-in game against Vision Charter.

A co-game-high 16 points from Lakota Steele fueled the Chargers’ narrow victory.

Steele shared the scoring lead with Caleb Fong, who also had five assists for Melba.

The Mustangs’ Easton Bunnell put in 13 points and grabbed six rebounds.

Haydon Harmon scored 12 points for Cole Valley Christian.

Last Wednesday: Melba 60, Nampa Christian 55 — Fong’s team-high 18 points helped the host Mustangs momentarily tighten up the conference standings.

Trey Wilson added 12 points for Melba.

Joe Reiber and Bunnell chipped in eight points each.

Nampa Christian’s Rusty Vander Woude led all scorers with 20 points, while teammate Ryan Schober had 10.

✓Melba: Marsing resident scores 10 points for NC

From Page 1B

semifinal.

Kortney Trappett led all scorers with 20 points in Melba’s victory over Nampa Christian.

The Trojans, coached by Marsing resident Jaime Wood, played host to a loser-out game against Marsing on Tuesday after deadline.

Against Melba, Nampa Christian received 16 points from Ella Dejong and 10 points from Jessie Wood, the coach’s daughter.

Rounding out Melba’s standouts were Kendall Clark, with 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Kate Clark with 13 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and four steals.



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Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago	50 years ago	145 years ago
Feb. 15, 1995 Vets memorial planned for Marsing Park If the Marsing Senior Citizen Center has its way, Marsing City Park will soon become the home of a memorial honoring all the town’s residents who have served in the military. Plans call for a granite structure five to six feet long and three feet high which will rest on a concrete slab. If the center can amass the financing in time, it hopes to dedicate the memorial during the Marsing Spring Festival on May 20. The group came closer to its goal Feb. 2 when the Marsing Chamber of Commerce donated \$500 to the project. Other plans call for Marsing students to sell raffle tickets for a rifle, bike, bread-maker and other items. A request for a donation from the Marsing City Council at the council’s last meeting was denied. Chamber of Commerce elects officers The Marsing Chamber of Commerce kicked off the new year recently with the election of new officers. JoAnn Thomas, who has acted as Chamber president since the former elected president, Joe Whitten, resigned his post, was given the title officially and for the duration of 1995 at the group’s January meeting. Other officers elected were Carol Edwards, vice president; Dan Arriola, secretary; and Laura Bowman, treasurer. Merrillee Kiester, Brad Westberg and Betty Bish were all named to the current Board of Directors. City to change business district ordinances Thirty-four Homedale homes located within the city’s business district, until now, were in a bit of jeopardy. Current Homedale city ordinances don’t allow the reconstruction of homes within the city’s business districts in the event of fire or other disaster without a special use permit. Although that’s not a problem for most homeowners, those ordinances have proven a liability for some residents when they’ve tried to sell their house – and found that some local banks won’t finance the sale without a guarantee that the home can be rebuilt. To correct the problem, Homedale City Attorney Chris Nye is currently drafting an ordinance that will declare all homes built before Dec. 31, 1994 in Homedale’s business districts to be in conformity with business district qualifications. No special use permits will be required to rebuild homes in the business districts built before that date. Miracle powers HHS to piece of WIC A-3 title Hollywood couldn’t have scripted a better basketball game. The scene in Fruitland last Thursday was this: Last game of the regular season between two rival teams, with the home team holding a one game lead in the conference. The visitors, if they win, can tie the home team for the conference lead, and with a win of four or more points will automatically receive a bye in the first round of the district tournament. So the stage was set, as the Homedale Trojans (9-2) contested the Grizzlies (10-1) for the lead in the WIC A-3 and the No. 1 seed going into the District III A-3 tournament. The usual sports adjectives fail to adequately describe the outcome of the game: Homedale’s eventual 79-78 win was, in a word, inexplicable.	Feb. 12, 1970 51 pints taken at blood drawing here Monday A total of 51 pints of blood was received Monday at the bloodmobile visit, according to Reed Frye, chairman. Three gallon pins were awarded to Jack Stansell and Darrel Reisch. Assisting at the drawing were Grace Colley and Verda Johnston, numbering aides; Liz Townsend and Bobby Simon, typists; Darlene Prow, receptionist; Mabel Stevenson, Elva Scherer, Mary Prow and Erma Udlinek, canteen; Elsie Kushlan, Michie Kubosumi and Judy Tolmie, nurses. Donors were: Arlene Downing, Lewis Cegnar, Ethel Cegnar, Jolene Wells, Harriet Ezola, Bernice Runger, George Kubosumi, Phyllis Van Slyke, Keith Stansell, Royal Blacker, Dale Dobbin, Paul Thatcher; Jack Stansell, Oliver Walker, Sandra Fritzley, Tom Arima, Pat Kelly, Charles E. Yost, Larry Stansell, Tom Morris, Eloise Alora, Melba Yost; Darrell Reisch, William Stevenson, Dorrene Packer, Molly Arima, Arthur Van Slyke, Bob Mewhinney, Anton Jontar, Wilma Stansell, Florence Paxton, Frank Tanikuni; Kenneth Downing, Gordon Cahill, Robert Brownson, Reed Frye, Harold Tolmie, Forrest Henson, Helen Chadez, Patricia Chadez, Mary Inouye; Judy Tolmie, Elsie Kushlan, George Hendrickson, Ken Kellum, Daryl Kellum, Byrna L. Nation, Don Townsend, Phil Alger, Ed Alora, Henrietta Van Derhoff. Succor Crik Sam Sez: “It won’t do no good to clean up the environment ’til we clean up the people in it.” HIGH SCHOOL The Homedale School Music Department will present a band concert next Thursday at 8 o’clock in the High School gym. Participating will be the sixth-grade band, Junior High Band, Swing Band and the High School Concert Band. Heyburn firm is low bidder on highway Holmes Construction Co. of Heyburn was apparent low bidder on the Homedale-Wilder highway project, it was announced Tuesday by the Idaho Department of Highways. Holmes bid \$530,735.70, lowest of six bidders, for the work which consists of constructing the roadway, drainage and irrigation structures, a plant mix pavement and seal coat on 3.491 miles of U.S. 95, Homedale bridge to Wilder Junction in Canyon and Owyhee Counties. The work includes building approaches to the new bridge and removal of the old bridge. Kavemen downed 73-53; Pearson’s 26 paces HHS Homedale spent a good share of the evening at the foul line here Friday night, attempting 60 free throws and scoring 36 points from the charity stripe as the Trojans subdued the Middleton Vikings 78-63 in a Southwestern Idaho Conference clash. Paul Pearson canned 21 points for Homedale with Gary Vance adding 17, Stan Zatica 16 and Vern Henson 14. Rick Metzger topped Middleton with 16 points. Homedale held Kuna’s high scoring Gene Stroebel in check Tuesday night while Paul Pearson poured through 26 points to lead the Trojans to a 73-53 Southwestern Idaho Conference victory over the Kavemen.	Feb. 13, 1875 (From Tuesday’s Daily) Following is the boiled down result of an “interview” had with Dr. Colmache who has just returned from a week’s sojourn at the South Mountain: The new furnace started up last Friday and operates in the most satisfactory manner. The old furnace has stopped for repairs, but will start up very soon again. The furnaces cannot smelt the ore as fast as it is hauled, and immense stacks of it are being piled up about the works. Charcoal is coming in abundantly. One week’s run of the old furnace turned out 100,000 pounds of bullion, worth \$300 per ton in silver. The S.M.C.M. Co. paid off on the 5th inst., and sports of both sexes are on hand in great numbers to reap the harvest. Roulette, Faro, Vingt-en-un, Poker and other games are doing a thriving business. There is a good chance for an enterprising man, with limited capital, to make money in the saloon business, as there are only seven whisky shops in full blast, and eleven more going up. South Mountain wants a news depot. The health of the camp is distressingly healthy. The sleighing is excellent between Silver City and South Mountain — either by Dow Vincent’s, or by Gusman’s ranch — but expensive. PLENTY OF GAME.- Game was never known to be so plentiful in this country as it is at present. Cal Morton killed twelve deer on Reynolds Creek in one day recently. COSTLY.- The toll on the various roads between Silver City and South Mountain amounts to \$8 for a span of horses and sleigh or wagon — \$16 for the round trip. GONE TO FRISCO.- Jim Graham left for San Francisco by this morning’s stage. He will have some new trick to play on his fellow men when he comes back. PAY ROLL.- We learn that the payroll of the South Mountain Consolidated Mining Company, for the month of January, amounted to \$22,000. (From Wednesday’s Daily.) LENT.- The Lenten season commenced to-day and will last till Easter Sunday-March 28th-forty days, exclusive of the six intervening Sundays, which are not counted as a part of Lent. Whatever may have been the original object of the Lenten season, it is now generally regarded as a time met apart for repentance over the sins of the past year; while the number of forty days devoted to it is thought to have reference to the Savior’s forty days’ fast in the Wilderness, to the forty days of the deluge, the forty years’ wanderings of the Jews, the forty days granted to the Ninevites for repentance, or the time spent in fasting by Moses and Elias. We opine, however, that there will not be much sackcloth and ashes used in the observance of the Lent season in Silver City.

Sports

Steady Trojans pound Pirates, solidify boys' District III No. 3 seed

Homedale High School moved closer to locking up the No. 3 seed in the boys' basketball district tournament with a not-so-close win last week.

Garett Elordi's 10 points led a balanced night of scoring Feb. 4 as the Trojans blasted Payette, 67-21, in a 3A Snake River Valley conference game played in Homedale.

Homedale (8-11 overall, 3-3 in conference) stayed two games behind Fruitland heading into today's showdown with the 3A SRV-leading Grizzlies.

More importantly, first-year coach Cam Long's squad built a one-game edge over Parma for third place in the conference and sits a game behind Weiser for the No. 2 seed. The Trojans finish the season Friday at home with a Senior Night game against the Panthers.

Homedale burst out of the gate against Payette (1-17, 0-5 without an unreported game against Parma) and scored 23 points off the visitors' 22 turnovers.

The Trojans opened on a 19-2 tear and led by 30 points at halftime.

Homedale connected on 51.6 percent of its shots (16-for-31) in the first half and got better

after the intermission. The Trojans missed just four shots in the game's final 16 minutes (12-for-18, 66.7 percent) in their best shooting night of the season.

The team also had a season-low five turnovers.

Meanwhile, Homedale limited Payette to a shot per minute in the game (10-for-32, 31.3 percent) and held a 16-5 rebounding edge on the Pirates' glass.

All but one of the Homedale players scored in the game, and it was a night for the reserves to take the spotlight in front of the home crowd.

Top scorer Jaxon Dines and senior Nelson Lomeli played only eight minutes each and scored eight points apiece.

Ricardo Hernandez scored nine points. He shared the team long-range shooting lead with Dines and Elordi with two three-pointers each. Elordi led the team with four rebounds.

Daniel Uranga scored eight points, while Hayden Kincheloe hit a trey for part of his nine points. Kincheloe also led the team with four steals and shared the team lead with three assists (Lomeli and Milo Mertz).

Shorthanded Trojans lose dual

Senior Night today, district tourney at home next week

Dual meet struggles continued last Wednesday for Homedale High School's wrestlers.

The Trojans met Payette on the road and lost, 57-18, in a 3A Snake River Valley conference showdown.

Homedale completes the dual-meet portion of its season today with a 3A SRV matchup against Parma for Senior Night.

Payette scored 12 of the meet's first 18 points on forfeits and took down 30 points overall by forfeit.

Only one match went the

distance when Pirates' 145-pounder Blake Garcia battled to an 11-8 win over Julian Ramos.

Homedale's only points came on a pair of pinfalls and a forfeit awarded to Gracie Rotter at 106 pounds.

Rhyalee Nix pinned Deano Rodriguez at the 4-minute, 41-second mark of their 170-pound bout.

Kaydince Turner took care of Payette 140-pounder Natalie Anderson in 4:40.

Turner also picked up a pinfall victory in a 145-pound exhibition, beating Miah

Garcia.

The Trojans competed once again without junior Joseph Egusquiza.

The two-time state medalist (including a championship last year) has been sidelined with a knee sprain suffered in Lewiston.

Egusquiza returned to the lineup for Saturday's Marsing POD Tournament, and will most likely be in action tonight for the Trojans' home dual against Parma, which also serves as Senior Night.

Homedale competes in the girls' state invitational on Saturday in Pocatello.

The Trojans play host to the 3A District III Tournament on Feb. 22.

Homedale girls end season with highest scoring output

A season-high scoring output couldn't prevent the end of the Homedale High School girls' basketball season.

Gracie Dines scored nine points Thursday in the Trojans' 51-38 loss to host Payette in the 3A District III Tournament play-in game.

The Pirates moved into the double-elimination portion of the bracket, while Homedale

(1-20) saw its season come to a close.

The Trojans scored the most points of any of its previous games, but still suffered their 12th consecutive



Gracie Dines

loss. Kortney Ford ended the season as the Trojans' interim coach.

Homedale outrebounded Payette by eight boards, Ford said.

Three HHS players scored six points apiece — DeLaynie Dorsey, Mayci Cline and Ashley Moore.

Amaia Aberasturi added five points.

Homedale Trojans

Athlete Spotlight

Boys' basketball
Garett Elordi, sr., W
10 points, 4 rebounds vs. Payette

Girls' basketball
Silvia Cherchi, sr., W
Italian exchange student finished second season with a Trojans' team

Wrestling
Kaydince Turner, jr., 140 pounds
Two victories against Payette foes

Wrestling Coed
Wednesday, Feb. 12, home vs. Parma (Senior Night), 5:30 p.m.
Girls
Saturday, Feb. 15 at State Invitational, Pocatello

Girls' basketball Varsity
Season complete — 1-20 record

Boys' basketball Varsity
Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Fruitland, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14, home vs. Parma (Senior Night), 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Fruitland, 6 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14, home vs. Parma, 6 p.m.
Fresh-soph
Wednesday, Feb. 12 at Fruitland, 4:30 p.m.
Friday, Feb. 14, home vs. Parma, 4:30 p.m.

WILSON point3

GOTROJANS! Wilder • Payette (208) 482-7565

Mattesons 337-4664

HOMEDALE CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
J. Edward Perkins, Jr. D.C. 337-4900

The Owyhee Avalanche
337-4681

Farm Bureau Insurance Company
337-4041

BAUER **bryant**
482-0103

Go Trojans!

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM

On the edge of common sense Mormon boys



That they would find each other would have been as unlikely to predict as the fall of communism or the good sheep market. She was old and a lifelong Southern Baptist. They were young and on a mission for the Mormon Church.

A requirement of good “Mormonism” for young men is to serve as a missionary for the church for two years. They are expected to go door-to-door wherever they are sent and spread the gospel of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS), also called Mormons.

Now if you think that’s easy, put yourself in their place. You are 18 years old, often from a rural background, no car, in a strange place, wearing a dark suit and tie, riding a bicycle and knocking on a stranger’s door. As you know, many who open that door and find out you are “peddling religion” are not friendly.

They knocked on her door one day and explained their purpose. She said, “Well, I’m teachin’ our home Bible class.” They excused themselves and left. Later, she said to her husband, “I’ll never turn those boys away again.”

Eventually they came back down her street, and she said what she says to everybody that’s ever knocked on her door, “Have ya eaten yet?” Well, for two boys a thousand miles from home and batchin’, nothin’ sounded sweeter.

For the next eight or 10 years, the boys “stationed” in her little Oklahoma town beat a steady path to her door. They overlapped each other every few months and each new missionary was taken to meet Uncle Leonard and Aunt Effie.

Many of these boys were country-raised and homesick, I’m sure. They are not allowed to call home except Mother’s Day. Effie and Leonard were retired farmers, both in their 80s and sure knew how to cook for hungry boys. They played Skip Bo, ate fried chicken and peach cobbler, helped her with her garden when Leonard became unable, sang while she played on the piano and found an oasis from the pressure.

Uncle Leonard passed away, and when Aunt Effie was havin’ health problems, I visited her in the hospital. She talked about her Mormon boys. Her face lit up. It was obvious how much they meant to her. Some were still writing to her, and the new ones were still coming by checkin’ on her.

I’m sure they discussed religion, but as Aunt Effie told ’em, “Yer out walkin’ the streets for your Jesus, He’s my Jesus, too, and that’s more than most religious folks do. I’m proud of you.”

She saw their need and filled it the only way she knew how. She offered them kindness. And if you ever questioned that passage, “It is more blessed to give than receive,” you should have seen her face when she talked about her Mormon boys.

I don’t know if they’re better Mormons or she’s a better Baptist for knowin’ each other. And I don’t know if the leaders of the Southern Baptist convention and the Elders of the Church of the Latter-Day Saints would approve. But I do know that the human race is a little better species because these two took the time to appreciate one another as people.

— Visit Baxter’s Web site at www.baxterblack.com for more features and to purchase Baxter Black books, CDs and DVDs. His latest book is “A Commotion in Rhyme.” When you order the new book, be sure to tell them you learned about it in The Owyhee Avalanche.

Dist. 19A Rep. Lauren Necochea (D-Boise)

From the Statehouse Idahoans deserve real solutions for property taxes



Idahoans rely on effective local governments. First-responders and law enforcement keep our communities healthy and safe. Adequate roads allow residents to arrive at their destinations without harm. Libraries provide opportunities for enrichment and job training. And our courts protect our constitutional right to due process.

Unfortunately, state policies and market forces are making it extremely difficult for local governments to keep up with these vital services. State policies have dramatically shifted the property tax load away from business real estate and onto homeowners. Meanwhile, rapidly rising home values are adding to the perfect storm.

Residents are feeling these impacts as they see their property taxes rise. The state must act urgently to adjust the homeowner’s exemption in ways that protect residents and keep them in their homes, increase property tax assistance, and pass policies that allow growth to pay for growth.

Our homeowner’s exemption used to be indexed to rise with market values. That way,

when home values went up, the value of the homeowner’s exemption (the amount that wasn’t taxable) also rose. The Idaho Legislature caved to lobbyists in 2016 and capped the homeowner’s exemption. This was a big win for big business and a loss for Idahoans. We are seeing the impact play out now in our property taxes. In one Idaho county, residents paid 56 percent of the property taxes at the turn of the century, while businesses paid the rest. The portion that residents pay has risen to 72 percent today.

What will not help Idahoans is the sledgehammer approach the state is considering. Two proposals came up in the Legislature that would force cuts at the local level without offering any help or correcting the tax shift to residents. The sponsor of the bills even acknowledged that this approach would not reduce people’s property taxes. This is because home values will likely continue to rise faster than the value of commercial property.

— See Taxes, Page 7B

Glenn Mollette, syndicated columnist

The price of love Spread warmth, caring for Valentine’s Day



Valentine’s Day is a befuddling time — bewildering, confusing.

Flowers that you would buy to give to someone are probably already tripled in price. Our local grocery store sometimes sells a dozen roses for under \$30, but they will be over \$70 during Valentine’s season. You can’t go a week early and save either. They are smart about that and have already priced them higher.

Those Valentine boxes of candy have been out for a while. If you want to buy a cheap box, you had better go now. A retailing friend told me about a man walking in his store late on Valentine’s Day one year and the only boxes of candy left were the very expensive ones. He said the man stood and looked befuddled and finally gave in and shelled out the cash, but he could tell the man was feeling the pinch in his billfold.

Women like candy, flowers, cards, dinners, jewelry and all kinds of stuff. Men like stuff, too, but speaking from a man’s point of view it seems like the pressure is on us men to not foul up Valentine’s Day.

I always try to come up with the flowers and a card and usually a dinner out. My wife and I agreed a long time ago that we didn’t need candy. We figured this out the year my wife bought me a pound of really good chocolate and I ate the entire box in less than 24 hours. You see, sometimes when we are treated too good, we just make ourselves sick.

Valentine’s Day is about warm feelings, love and showing kindness to special people. It’s certainly about not forgetting the day or the warm feelings will go south. I like how we did it in grade school. We had a Valentine’s card box and my mother would buy me a cheap box of Valentine cards and we made sure everybody in the class got a card. Sometimes people would not receive as many as others and some cute girls and guys always got a few more. That may or may not have been so good.

Maybe this Valentine’s Day while you are being romantic toward your spouse or significant other you can pass some kindness and love out to some others. If you can get to the cheap boxes of candy early, you can buy several people a box. I’ve found that my coworkers love getting a small box of candy as do children and friends. It never hurts to pass the love around.

I was taught to love God and my fellowman, but I can’t love Hitler, serial killers, ISIS terrorists and a few other evil people. God has a kind of love that I don’t always understand or grasp, especially when it comes to me. Why would he ever love me? It befuddles me. This year, think about befuddling a few people as Valentine’s Day gives you a perfect opportunity.

— Syndicated columnist and author Dr. Glenn Mollette is the founder of Newburgh Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Ind. His latest book is “Uncommon Sense,” and he also has music available through iTunes and all music dealers. Visit www.glennmollette.com www.facebook.com/glennmollette.

Commentary

Financial management
Debt-free parents eat out too much to build emergency fund

Dear Dave,
I'm beginning to think we got in over our heads with our house. My wife and I make about \$125,000 a year combined, but we've never been able to put anything aside for an emergency fund. Our mortgage payment is 35 percent of our take-home pay each month. We have two young children, so we eat out a lot, but we have no debt other than our house. Do you think we should refinance our home?

— Jeff

Dear Jeff,
You two are making good money, and you're debt-free except for your home. You can't tighten up your budget enough to save up an emergency fund? Stay out of restaurants, dude! There's no law stating you have to eat out a lot just because there are kids

in the house. I mean, you've got no emergency fund. That's a pretty basic thing.
You guys need to get on a written, detailed plan, and start hitting your goals. I'm talking about a strict, monthly budget. Now, I'll admit your mortgage payment isn't exactly what I would've signed you up for. Your house payments, or rent, should be no more than 25 percent of your monthly take home pay. But your house payment isn't what's holding you two back. What's holding you two back is the fact that you haven't been willing to tighten up the finances in other areas of your life to offset biting off more than you could chew in terms of a home.
No, I wouldn't refinance. You're *fairly* close where the mortgage payments are concerned, so I think you can make it through this by



DAVE Says
by Dave Ramsey • www.davesays.org

looking at ways to increase your income and selling stuff you don't need to build an emergency fund. You two have been smarter than some, but you're really going to have to buckle down and rearrange your priorities to make this happen!

— Dave

Dear Dave,
I have around \$15,000 in a Roth IRA. I just recently started studying your advice, and I was wondering if it would be a good idea to cash it out and put the money toward debt.

— Sarah

Dear Sarah,
I teach people to stop investing *temporarily* while they attack their debt. So, I wouldn't add anything to it at this point, but the worst thing you could do is cash it out. If you do, taxes and penalties will steal a huge chunk of that cash. The only time I'd take money out of a retirement account to pay off debt is to avoid bankruptcy or foreclosure.
Start working the Baby Steps from the beginning. Baby Step 1 is saving up \$1,000 for a starter emergency fund. Baby Step 2 is paying off all debts

from smallest to largest, except for your home, using the debt snowball method. This will free up a ton of money! Then you're ready for Baby Step 3, which is increasing your beginner emergency fund to a fully loaded emergency fund of three to six months of expenses.
Now you're ready for Baby Step 4, which is 15 percent of your income going into retirement!

— 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 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.

Contacting elected officials

District 23
Terms expire 2020
Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson)
48331 Three Creek Highway
Rogerson, ID 83302
Phone — (208) 857-2217
E-mail — bbrackett@senate.idaho.gov
Committees — Transportation (chair)
Resources & Environment (vice-chair)

Seat A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett)
P.O. Box 61, Hammett, ID 83627
Phone — (208) 590-4633
E-mail — czito@house.idaho.gov
Committees — Agricultural Affairs
Judiciary, Rules & Administration

Seat B Rep. Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett)
House majority caucus chair
595 W. Thacker Road, Hammett, ID 83627
Phone — (208) 366-7976
E-mail — mblanksma@house.idaho.gov

Committees — Ways & Means; Health & Welfare; Resources & Conservation; Transportation

County commissioners
Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson)
Chairman
Phone — (208) 318-8308
Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale)
Phone — (208) 249-4405
E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com
Terms expire 2020
Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View)
Phone — (208) 834-2641
E-mail — jvmerrick@hotmail.com
Term expires 2022
Mailing address
P.O. Box 128, Murphy, ID 83650

Municipalities
Homedale City Hall
31 W. Wyoming Ave.

(208) 337-4641
Mayor — Gheen Christoffersen
City council — Mike Aebischer, Jerry Anderson, Steve Atkins, and Aaron Tines
Meetings — 6 p.m., on second Wednesday

Marsing City Hall
425 Main St.
(208) 896-4122
Mayor — Chad Sevy
City council — Chris Even, Marie Herman, Tony Malmberg, and Rachael Percifield
Meetings — 7 p.m., on second Wednesday

Grand View City Hall
425 Boise Ave.
(208) 834-2700
Open noon to 4:30 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.
Mayor — Danny Martinez
City council — John Morrison, Tom Payne, and Jon Pennington (1 seat vacant)
Meetings — 6 p.m., on second Wednesday

✓ Taxes: Mandates pressure counties, rising values pressure homeowners

From Page 6B
Those of us working in the Statehouse cannot, in good conscience, support a sledgehammer approach when we don't know what these forced cuts will mean for residents in Idaho's 44 counties. Every county faces different challenges, so we can't predict the impacts. What will happen to ambulance response times in large rural counties? Will a small county facing an expensive murder trial have to cut basic services for its grieving residents? Will we have to cut county fairs that have a strong tradition of bringing communities together to pay for law enforcement?
The state ought to collaborate with local governments, find resources for property tax reduction, and increase property tax assistance — a program that

has not been updated since 2006. Allowing the collection of new kinds of impact fees will help growth pay for itself. And it will cost the state nothing to update the homeowner's exemption to restore a fair balance of the load between residents and business.
Counties do not have a lot of flexibility in their budgets. They are mandated by the State of Idaho to provide public defense, court systems, jails, juvenile detention, and coroner services. Yet the state only provides a fraction of what it costs to provide these mandated services. Nor does the state allow counties to charge for their true cost to provide services.
For example, Ada County property taxpayers subsidize the cost of issuing every driver's license by \$7 because the state prohibits the county from charging

people for the full cost to the county. Counties do not have the ability to make "growth pay for itself" in this or many other instances. A modest increase in state support for mandated services and fee-setting flexibility could ease the pressure for all property taxpayers.
Property taxes are complex, but solutions exist. I hope the Idaho Legislature will join me in supporting them.
— Dist. 19A Rep. Lauren Necochea (D-Boise) is a first-term member of the Idaho House of Representatives. Her committee assignments include Revenue & Taxation, Local Government, and Resources & Conservation.

Sports

Two Huskies win tournament titles on home mat

The Marsing High School wrestling team posted two first-place finishers Saturday while playing host to the 13-team Marsing POD tournament.

Juniors Isai Arriaga and Troy Miller won titles.

Arriaga continued the season's domination of the 170-pound class with a championship win over Mountain View's Davin Van Den Akker by fall (4 minutes, 42 seconds). He earned his fourth gold medal of the season.

Miller took the 132A pod championship match with a 3-0 decision over Mountain View's Nestor Duran.

Arriaga got to the championship round with a pair of pins over Bishop Kelly's Jo-



Marsing's Harlee Liles looks up he battles Mountain View's Dillon Ellis in a first-round match at 170 pounds.

seph Gunderson (1:26) and Melba's Tristan Jones (2:31), and a semifinal forfeit.

Miller opened up the tourney with a 15-2 major decision over Alan Acuña Tapia of Caldwell. He followed that with a pin of Mountain View's

Joshua Moore (4:28) and a 7-3 decision over Capital's Dylan Mayfield.

Jonathan Ineck (132B) finished second when his run of four consecutive pinfalls ended against Nampa Christian's Zane Dalton. Dalton pinned

Ineck in 2:06.

Ineck's wins were over Homedale's Levi Jamisen (2:10), Capital's Aiden McCue (2:44), Melba's Skyler Vander-Zee (50 seconds), and Nyssa's Christian Bunn (49 seconds).

Ineck's brother, Justin (138A), also finished second after a 14-3 major decision loss to Buhl's Ismael Salas in the final.

Ineck got to the championship final with pins of Bishop Kelly's Cameron Wakefield (2:20) and McCall-Donnelly's Woody Pyle (1:52).

Other Marsing results:

Jacob Goins (195), third place — He pinned Bishop Kelly's Patrick Jess for the bronze medal and also pinned

Buhl's Jacob Gardner (2:16) and Mountain View's Terik Dzanic (2:08).

Evan Miller (126), third place — Closed out three-win day with a pin of Bishop Kelly's Luke Hampton (3:47) in the third-place match.

Matthew Goins (120) — Pinned Ridgevue's Samuel Joy (2:37) and beat Bishop Kelly's Ryan Vieira, 13-10.

Jaristian Fuentes (138B) — Opening-round pin of Ridgevue's Owen Coyle (1:51).

Harlee Liles (170) — Posted a 8-1 decision over Mountain View's Dillon Ellis and a pin of Bishop Kelly's Joseph Gunderson (3:00).

James Lafleur (285) — Won by default over Tyler Wuest of Ridgevue.

Homedale sophomore captures Marsing POD crown

Egusquiza just misses crown in return from injury

Willie White wrestled to a championship Saturday to lead Homedale High School's three finalists at the Marsing POD Tournament.

The sophomore pinned Ridgevue's John Hubof in 2 minutes, 28 seconds to win the 160-pound title.

Junior Joseph Egusquiza returned to the mat for the Trojans and narrowly missed a championship. Dylan Forrest of Ridgevue nipped Egusquiza, 6-5, in the 145A pod championship match.

Another junior, 220-pounder Owen Houser, lost his final round-robin match to Nyssa,



Homedale 170-pounder Keagen Christensen takes control against Bishop Kelly's Jack Marshall in a first-round bout.

Ore.'s Jesse Aragon to finish second in their division. Aragon prevailed with a pinfall in 2:46.

Homedale teammates Keagen Christensen and

Rhyalee Nix tied for fourth at 170. Both wrestled into the fifth-place match and split the prize rather than compete against one another.

Freshman Chase Cooper

pinned Buhl sophomore Tate Douglas in 84 seconds to finish fifth at 160 pounds.

White barreled into the championship match with pins of Buhl's Jesse Dominguez (1:57) in the quarterfinals and Melba's Izzy Marting (2:29) in the semifinals.

Egusquiza, who made his return from a knee injury, dominated his three preliminary opponents for the 145A championship bout.

He pinned Capital's Zaydrian Silvers in 33 seconds of their semifinal match and blitzed Mountain View's Jacob King in the quarterfinals with a 16-0 technical fall. The tournament began with a 37-second pin of Caldwell's Hayden Kinney.

Houser started his round-robin Saturday with pins of Capital's Robert Miller (1:00)

and Ridgevue's Massimo Valle (2:41).

Christensen raced into the 170 semifinals with pins of Bishop Kelly's Jack Marshall (1:46) and Marsing's Harlee Liles (48 seconds) before Mountain View's Davin Van Den Akker pulled off a pin in 3:16 of their semifinal match.

Nix also pinned his first two opponents — Capital's Collin Ferguson (3:23) and Ridgevue's Treyson Hoagland (2:55) — before a forfeit loss to eventual champion Isai Arriaga of Marsing in the semifinals.

Cooper's run to fifth place began in the consolation bracket after he lost his first match. He pinned Jesse Dominguez of Buhl in 4:14 then won a consolation semifinal with an 8-6 decision against Mountain View's Lucas Livingstone.

✓ Rimrock: Raiders, Patriots play for district title for 2nd time in 3 years

From Page 1B

meets a familiar rival, No. 2 seed Liberty Charter of Nampa (16-7), in the district championship game at 7:30 p.m., on Friday at Columbia High.

The Patriots qualified for the state tournament and the district final by crushing Ambrose, 53-20, in Saturday's other semifinal. Madison Hodnett, a 6-foot, 2-inch junior forward, led Liberty Charter with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Teammate Ainsley Johnson, a quick sophomore guard, added 13 points, seven rebounds and five steals.

The Patriots beat Rimrock

in the 2018 state tournament consolation final to avenge an earlier loss in the district championship game. The Raiders went 0-2 at the state tournament last year, entering the final eight as the district runner-up after losing the title game to Notus.

At any rate, the Columbia High hardwood has become a second home floor for Rimrock. The squad will finish a campaign in the state tournament on the Columbia court for the third consecutive season.

In Saturday's second district semifinal, Greenleaf took advantage of the Raiders'

inability to handle the ball and collect second-chance shots, capping a 7-0 run to a 20-15 lead on senior Sarah Ralstin's three-point goal 5 minutes, 15 seconds before halftime.

The Raiders went without a field goal for more than five minutes in the first half as the Grizzlies climbed back into the game.

Junior Sintia Varela popped a three-pointer with 4:57 left in the half to get the Raiders to within two points, 20-18.

Senior Hannah Field hit a layup after a Greenleaf turnover to tie the game, 20-20.

The Raiders scored 43 of the game's final 58 points,

including junior Sami Jewett's bank-shot jumper to establish the intermission score (24-22, Greenleaf) with 48 seconds left.

Field converted Jewett's missed shot, and Jewett hit another jump shot to give Rimrock a 10-7 lead nearly five minutes into the game.

Final statistics were not provided.

Thursday: No. 1 Rimrock 59, No. 8 Wilder 29 — The Raiders made quick work of the Wildcats in a first-round district game played in Bruneau.

Field scored all eight of her points in Rimrock's 19-9 start

to the game. Varela hit the first of two three-pointers and scored five points in the first eight minutes on the way to a co-game-high 15 points.

Fellow Rimrock junior Maddie Macmillan was perfect in four trips to the foul line and hit a fourth-quarter trey to amass her 15 points.

The Raiders held Wilder to five points over the final eight minutes to finish off the rout.

Jewett drained a three-pointer and three of four free throws on the way to eight points.

Senior guard/forward Kayla Kelley scored 10 points for Wilder.

Public notices

**SYNOPSIS OF OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES
JANUARY 6, 13, 21 & 27, 2020
January 6**

Approved and paid all outstanding bills from the following funds:
Current Expense \$71,211; Road and Bridge \$6,894; District Court \$2,610; Probation \$1,004; Health District \$4,603; Historical Society & Museum \$794; Indigent & Charity \$28,880; Revaluation \$448; Solid Waste \$6,684; Weeds \$1,114; 911 \$9,174; County Vessel \$4,929; Off Highway Vehicle \$368; Auditors Trust \$9,382; County Vessel Trust \$455
Approved and paid the Capital Crimes bills for Indigent and Charity in the amount of \$9,666.57.
Approved to purchase a modular building from Associated Pacific Movers in the amount of \$14,000.00 for the Grand View DMV Office.
Approved the FY19 Idaho Parks and Recreation County Vessel Fund Reporting and Remittance Form.
Approved Resolution 2020-01: Establishing Twelve (12) Voting Precincts in Owyhee County.
Re-hired Greg Bishop as a seasonal part-time Sheriff's Patrol Supervisor, to begin January 6, 2020 at \$15.00 per hour.
Approved the Sheriff's hire Shane Troutman as Court / Courthouse Security, to begin January 6, 2020, at \$15.00 per hour.
Approved a certificate of residency to the College of Western Idaho for student 20-1.
Placed a lien on Indigent and Charity case 19-64.
A public hearing will be held on March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to amend Ordinance 10-03 ATV, UTV and Motorbikes on Certain Roadways for clarification.
Approved a letter to BLM regarding the Tri-State Fuels Project.
January 13
Re-organization of the Board:
Appointed Commissioner Hoagland as Chairman of the Board.
Appointed Commissioner Hoagland as the District Magistrate Representative.
Appointed Commissioner Aberasturi as the Southwest District Health Department Representative.
Appointed Commissioner Aberasturi as the Treasure Valley Partnership Representative.
Declared Owyhee County as a noxious weed extermination area.
Appointed Commissioner Hoagland as Road and Bridge #1 Supervisor.
Appointed Commissioner Merrick as the Road and Bridge #3 Supervisor.
Appointed Commissioner Aberasturi as the Weed Department Supervisor.
Appointed Commissioner Merrick as the Solid Waste Supervisor.
Appointed Commissioner Merrick as the Planning and Zoning Supervisor.
Appointed Commissioner Aberasturi as the Probation Department Supervisor.
Set the county burial fee at \$750.00.
Declared the Owyhee Avalanche as the official newspaper of Owyhee County.
Set the mileage reimbursement

at \$.58 per mile, in accordance with the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate.
Approved a Service Agreement with TitleOne for imaging of documents.
Approved a contract with AmeriGas for fixed pricing and volume commitment for propane from February 1, 2020 through January 31, 2021, at approximately 10,700 gallon per year at \$1.213 per gallon.
Approved the Request for Extension of Agreement #14677 with the University of Idaho regarding the Socio-Economic Study.
Approved Resolution 2020-02: For the Validation of Public Rights-of Ways.
Placed a lien on Indigent and Charity case 20-01.
Approved Indigent and Charity case 19-61.
Denied Indigent and Charity case 19-62.
Departmental Quarterly Reports were presented to the Board.
The 4th quarter 2019 jail inspection was held.
Approved a letter to Jon Brown with the Owyhee Avalanche, regarding Enforcement of Zoning Regulations Prohibiting the Use of Travel Trailer and Recreational Vehicles for Permanent Residence.
Approved Request for Funds #3 for the Bruneau Water and Sewer Project in the amount of \$10,152.00.
January 21
Approved and paid all outstanding bills from the following funds: Current Expense \$121,943.69; Road and Bridge \$57,490.10; District Court \$3,433.02; County Fair \$1,002.15; Fair Grounds & Bldgs \$162.86; Probation \$2,076.26; Historical Society & Museum \$4,557.69; Indigent & Charity \$18,314.84; Junior College \$1,000.00; Revaluation \$2,355.28; Solid Waste \$10,196.02; Weeds \$140.00; 911 \$19,862.37; County Vessel \$992.14; Waterways Fund \$1,001.68; Off Highway Vehicle \$900.68; Taxing District Elections \$250.00
Approved the catering permit for the Pour House for the Owyhee Cattlemen's Association meeting on February 8th at the Oreana Hall.
Approved a BLM Right of way application IDI 33180 for Murphy Flat Road and for the chairman to sign for the Board.
Approved a BLM Right of way application IDI 36827 for Wilson Peak.
Approved a BLM Right of way application IDI 33180 for Murphy Flat Road.
Approved the State Disaster Cost Claim in the amount of \$75,339.71 for River Road Project #2.
Approved the Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc sponsor request in the amount of \$500.00.
Approved Owyhee Heating and Air Conditioning quote to replace a second furnace unit in the amount of \$6105.00.
Approved a certificate of residency for College of Southern Idaho for Student #2020-1.
Approved a certificate of residency for College of Western Idaho for Students #2020-2 & 3.
Placed a lien on Indigent and Charity case 20-02.
Amended Indigent and Charity case 19-49 to change a provider's name.
Affirmed the denial decision of

May 6th, 2019, IC 31-3502(17) Owyhee County is not the last resource in Indigent and Charity case 19-21.
January 27
Approved the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation – Recreational Vehicles Committee letter of commitment for the Fairgrounds RV Park Project in the amount of \$227,688.
Approved the LTACH Sub-Agreement for the North Fork Boulder Creek Bridge Project.
Allowed the Planning and Zoning Commission to consider the ISDA Site Suitability Determination for the VanEs Dairy.
The Board will do a site visit on February 3, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at the VanEs Dairy.
The complete minutes can be viewed online at www.owyheecounty.net or in the Clerk's office.
02/12/2020

**OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO
BOARD OF
OWYHEE COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS,
BOARD OF DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS FOR
GEM HIGHWAY DISTRICT,
and
BOARD OF DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS FOR
THREE CREEK GOOD
ROAD DISTRICT.
JOINT NOTICE OF PUBLIC
HEARING
FOR THE VALIDATION OF
PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY**
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Idaho Code 40-203A, the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners, the Board of District Commissioners for Gem Highway District, and the Board of District Commissioners for the Three Creek Good Road District have approved resolutions requesting the respective Commissions to validate several public rights-of-way, including as an R.S. 2477, as they exist across the public lands owned by the United States of America, currently managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. Any validation will not occur to the extent the rights-of-way may cross private land or Idaho State land.
A report was prepared to support these resolutions as part Owyhee County Resolution No. 2017-21 dated July 3, 2017. The report is inclusive of maps and documentation which are available for review beginning on January 22, 2020, during regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday in the Planning and Zoning office located in the annex building of the Owyhee County Courthouse at 17069 Basey Street in Murphy, Idaho. All referenced maps are also available for review on the Owyhee County web site at www.owyheecounty.net. The several public rights-of-way sought to be validated are described on the referenced maps.
A joint hearing has been scheduled on said resolutions before the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners, the Board of District Commissioners for Gem Highway District, and the Board of District Commissioners for the Three Creek Good Road District on Tuesday, February 25, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 2 of the Owyhee County Courthouse located at 20381 State Highway

78, Murphy, Idaho, at which time anyone may appear in support of or in opposition to the proposed validation as described hereinabove, as provided for by Idaho Code 40-203A(2)(e). The Owyhee County Commissioners and the Gem Highway District Commissioners will be present at the address listed above. The Three Creek Good Roads Highway District Commissioners will attend the meeting via teleconference but will be physically present at 56562 Blossom Road in Rogerson Idaho.
At the conclusion of the hearing or at such other time to is necessary to review the evidence from the hearing, the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners, the Board of District Commissioners for Gem Highway District, and the Board of District Commissioners for the Three Creek Good Road District will jointly determine whether validation of any of the several rights-of-way will be validated as public rights-of-way, including as under R.S. 2477, and whether such validation would be in the public interest in accordance with Idaho Code 40-203A(3), and based thereon, issue a joint order validating or not any or all of the several rights-of-way as public rights-of-way, including as under R.S. 2477, in accordance with Idaho Code 40-203A(3) and Idaho Code 40-203A(5).
The hearing will be held in a facility that is accessible to persons with disabilities. Special accommodations will be available, upon request, five (5) days prior to the hearing in a format that is usable to persons with disabilities. For more information, contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 208-495-2095 ext. 2, or Owyhee County Annex Building, P.O. Box 128, Murphy, Idaho 83650.
01/22,02/12/2020

**OWYHEE COUNTY
2020 REYNOLDS CREEK
ROAD PAVING PROJECT
ADVERTISEMENT FOR
BIDS**
Separate sealed BIDS for the Owyhee County—2020 REYNOLDS CREEK ROAD PAVING PROJECT will be received by Paragon Consulting, Inc., at their office located at 157 W. 4th Street, Kuna, Idaho 83634 until 2:00 p.m. local time on February 27, 2020, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

The project consists of constructing approximately 2.3 miles of a 3.5-inch thickness of asphalt paving, with a typical width of 24-feet over existing base, including:
• 2.3 miles of base preparation prior to paving.
• Approximately 6,200 tons of plant mix paving.
It is the intent of the Project Documents and Drawings to describe the work required to complete this project in sufficient detail to secure comparable bids. All parts or work not specifically mentioned which are necessary in order to provide a complete project shall be included in the bid and shall conform to all Local, State and Federal requirements.
The Work under this contract shall commence between September 1, 2020 and September 14, 2020. A Notice To Proceed date will be agreed upon between the Contractor and Owyhee County within 7 Calendar days of the issuance of the Notice of Award. Owyhee County is currently

working on the Project's roadway ballast section and, if completed ahead of schedule, the Contractor may request a Notice To Proceed date earlier than September 1, 2020. The Contractor shall achieve substantial completion within 21 calendar days of the Notice To Proceed. Once the work has started, the Contractor shall work continuously to substantially complete the work. All items will be ready for final payment within 28 calendar days of the Notice To Proceed and no later than October 11, 2020.
A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Owyhee County Road & Bridge Shop located at 17129 County Shop Rd, Murphy, ID 83650 on February 20, 2020 at 2:00 P.M. local time.
There are no Federal funds utilized in this project.
The Project Documents and Drawings may be examined at the following locations:
1) Owyhee County – 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy, ID 83650
2) PARAGON CONSULTING, INC. – 157 W. 4th Street, Kuna, ID 83634 (Issuing Office)
In determining the lowest responsive bid, the OWNER will consider all acceptable bids on a basis consistent with the bid package. The OWNER will also consider whether the bidder is a responsible bidder.
Before a contract will be awarded for work contemplated herein, the OWNER will conduct such investigation as is necessary to determine the performance record and ability of the apparent low bidder to perform the size and type of work specified under this Contract. Upon request, the bidder shall submit such information as deemed necessary by the OWNER to evaluate the bidder's qualifications.
All bids must be signed and accompanied by evidence of authority to sign.
Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security in the form of a bid bond, certified check, cashier's check, or cash in the amount of 5% of the amount of the bid proposal. Said bid security shall be forfeited to Owyhee County as liquidated damages should the successful bidder fail to enter into contract in accordance with their proposal as specified in the Instructions to Bidders.
Owyhee County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any nonmaterial irregularities in the bids received, and to accept the proposal deemed most advantageous to the best interest of the County.
Jerry Hoagland, Chairman
02/12,19/2020

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Public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE OWYHEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

On February 24, 2020, the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners will hear testimony in Courtroom 2 of the Owyhee County Courthouse located at 20381 State Highway 78, Murphy, Idaho on the following matter:

Beginning at 10:00 am, the Board will continue a hearing previously brought before them on October 7, 2019, a request filed by **H. Richard Hill and Gary L. Ackerman** seeking approval to vacate approximately 4 acres of the Trinity Rock Subdivision plat. The subject property is located at 11775 Snake River Ln. Melba, Idaho. The subject parcel, RP002700010010A, is approximately 12 acres in size and is located in an agricultural zone situated in a portion of the NW¼ of the NE¼ of Section 20, Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho.

A copy of the application is available for review in the Planning and Zoning office. For additional information please call 208-495-2095 ext. 2.
2/5,12/2020

NOTICE OF LIEN SALE
February 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at 401 S. Main, Homedale, ID 83628
1971 Holm Trailer, VIN# 12189
02/12,19/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
57-12011
MICHAEL B IHLI
LINDA M IHLI
625 S SCHOOL AVE
KUNA, ID 83634-2313
Point of Diversion NWNESE S13 T04S R01E OWYHEE County Source CASTLE CREEK Tributary SNAKE RIVER
Use: DIVERSION TO STORAGE 11/16 to 02/28 2 CFS
Use: WILDLIFE STORAGE 11/16 to 02/28 200 AF
Total Use: 2 CFS, 200 AF
Date Filed: 12/18/2019
Place Of Use: WILDLIFE STORAGE
T04S R01E S1 NWSE SWSE
T04S R01E S12 NWNE SWNE NESE NWSE SWSE SESE
T04S R01E S13 NENE NWNE
GARY SPACKMAN, Director
02/05,12/2020

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF WATER PERMIT
JOYCE LIVESTOCK CO. of 14568 JOYCE RANCH RD, MURPHY ID 83650 filed an application for amendment on October 9, 2015 to amend a water permit no. 57-7522 with a 1990 priority from groundwater totaling 3.92 cfs for irrigation. The permit provides irrigation water for property located off of

Tyson Rd in Owyhee County. The applicant proposes to amend the permit to remove the ambiguous permitting condition augmenting senior surface water flows, and to change the Place of Use to include SW NW TwN 3S, Rge 1W sec 16. Limits of the permit authorizing 3.92 cfs on 264 acres will not be exceeded.

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact Western Region office at (208) 334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s) or proposed amendment(s), please see www.idwr.idaho.gov. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code §§ 42-203A and 42-211. 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 02/24/2020. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

GARY SPACKMAN, Director
02/05,12/2020

NOTICE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A RECORD OF DECISION ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRUNEAU-OWYHEE SAGE-GROUSE HABITAT PROJECT.

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision (ROD).

SUMMARY: NRCS announces the availability of a Record of Decision (ROD) to provide financial and technical assistance, as appropriate and available, to improve and maintain sagebrush steppe habitat by removing encroaching juniper to benefit the greater sage-grouse and other wildlife to benefit privately owned lands within the Bureau of Land Management Bruneau and Owyhee field office boundaries in southwest Idaho. NRCS has adopted the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), titled “Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-grouse Habitat Project”, prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM), under the provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations and implement a portion of Alternative C1. The proposed action will improve and maintain suitable sage-grouse habitat within southwestern Idaho by removing early stage encroaching western juniper and the environmental impacts have been analyzed in the FEIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Trisha Cracroft, State Biologist

in Idaho, Natural Resources Conservation Service, at trisha.cracroft@usda.gov or 208-378-5725. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

S U P P L E M E N T A L I N F O R M A T I O N: NRCS has adopted the FEIS titled, “Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-grouse Habitat Project”, prepared by Bureau of Land Management under the EIS adoption provisions of CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1506.3) and will implement a portion of Alternative C1, the preferred and environmentally preferable alternative. Sage-grouse inhabit sagebrush ecosystems that are at risk from juniper encroachment in areas including southwest Idaho and the BOSH project area. The BOSH project will improve and maintain suitable sage-grouse habitat by removing early stage encroaching western juniper on BLM-managed lands within the Bruneau and Owyhee field office boundaries in southwest Idaho. As described in the FEIS the project is 1.67 million acres with up to 726,000 acres proposed for treatment. The area proposed for vegetative treatment was reduced from the FEIS due to concerns over lands with wilderness characteristics, therefore the treatment area was reduced from 726,000 to 617,000 acres in the BLM record of decision. Privately-owned land within the project area totals 241,820 acres. Private landowners in the project area may voluntarily choose to conduct the vegetative treatments described above on their own lands. NRCS will provide technical and financial assistance through Farm Bill conservation program contracts with landowners to implement these vegetative treatments to remove early stage encroaching juniper for the purpose of improving sagebrush habitat. Each landowner will be responsible for ensuring that treatment methods meet NRCS conservation practice standards and specifications and may choose to do the work themselves, hire a contractor or coordinate with BLM (or its contractors) to complete the vegetative treatments.

The ROD may be viewed at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/id/newsroom/pnotice/>

or a hard copy may be requested at the above address. Documentation developed during the agency’s review of the FEIS is on file and may be reviewed by contacting Trisha Cracroft at the above number.

No administrative action on implementation of the decision will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication.

Curtis F. Elke
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
02/12/2020

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Open Rate per column inch Black & White - \$7.50 1-page b&w – \$562.50 1/2-page b&w – \$281.25 1/4-page b&w – \$140.63 Business Directory per week (4-week minimum) - \$10.00	Open Rate per column inch Full Color - \$10.00 (no color charge on full page) 1-page – \$562.50 1/2-page – \$375.00 1/4-page – \$187.50
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Nonprofit Discount 35% discount for schools, churches & civic groups	Specifications Page Size – 9 3/4" X 15" 5 columns to the page 11 pica column width with 1 pica gutter Paid circulation 1,700 Wrap-Up circulation 3,904 Published each Wednesday
Preprinted Inserts Up to 8-page tabloid - \$0.075 each 12 to 16-page tabloid - \$0.10 each All inserts are subject to proper folding and overall size. Unusual sizes/shapes subject to rate adjustments.	

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1 Bedroom basement apartment for rent. Single person only. No pets. No smoking. water/sewer/garbage included. \$375 monthly plus deposit. Call 208-337-4174
4 Bedroom Remodel beautiful kitchen, family room. nice location in Marsing. no indoor pets, no smoking. \$1500 208-250-0449

HELP WANTED

Small cow/calf operation looking for someone to help feed, calve cows, general all-around ranch work. (208) 741-6850
HELP WANTED: Seeking a part time Library Director for the Lizard Butte Library in Marsing. Job duties include: Acquiring library materials; Hire and supervise library employees; Coordinate and supervise library volunteers; Serve as secretary to the Board of Trustees; Budgeting and financial management; Fund procurement practices and procedures including levy and bond elections and grant writing; Maintain an active working relationship with the educational community and other libraries; Perform public information, marketing, and community relations tasks; Technology software and hardware, mobile devices and apps; Computer skills needed: Windows 10, Quickbooks and Excel, Internet social media. 19 to 21 hours a week. Position open until filled. Send resume by mail to Lizard Butte Library, Attn: Board of Trustees, P.O. Box 60, Marsing, ID 83639. You may also Email to: lizardbuttelibrary@yahoo.com

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YARD SALE

Indoor Yard and Moving Sale 2/13 thru 2/15/20 @301 N 2nd Ave West #8 Marsing Idaho 8a.m.-4p.m. Queen sheet sets, Wrangler jeans, furniture, large dog kennel, leashes, harnesses bowls, clothes and other misc. things.

SPRING FARM & HEAVY EQUIPMENT GRAND OPENING AUCTION

Begins to Close Monday March 16, 2020 @ 6pm MST Online

Official Preview Days: March 13th & March 16th ~ 9am to 5pm
20217 HWY 95, Wilder, ID 83676
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ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS ~ Monday thru Friday – 9am to 5pm
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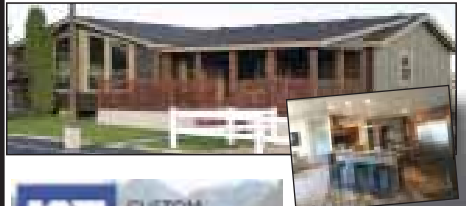
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Sports

Marsing girls make district bracket, lose to New Plymouth

New Plymouth High School pushed the Marsing girls' basketball season to the brink Thursday.

The third-seeded Pilgrims' 57-17 home-court win dropped the Huskies into the 2A District III Tournament consolation bracket.

Marsing (3-19 after the loss) traveled to Nampa Christian on Tuesday after deadline to preserve its season.

Senior Autumn Bennett, the Huskies' leading scorer, was out of the lineup for the second consecutive game.

Feb. 4: Marsing 46, Vision Charter 9 — The Huskies knocked off the Golden Eagles in the district play-in game. All three Marsing victories this season have come against the Golden Eagles.

Junior Alana Larrusea and freshman Emily Vanosdall led the Huskies with 10 points each, while Larrusea notched eight rebounds, three steals and a pair of blocks.

Vanosdall had five steals.

Senior Jessica Sevy led the team with 11 boards while



Marsing's freshman guard Emily Vanosdall (left) drives past Vision Charter's McKena Crofts on her way to the basket, in the Huskies' Feb. 4 win.

scoring three points.

Leticia Garcia had three points, three assists, and four steals.

Hailey Christiansen and

Mazzi Roper had four rebounds each, while Roper scored three points.

Junior Jade Wainman led the team with seven steals.

Other scores

Boys' basketball
Rimrock (5-12, 4-4)
Friday — Richfield 71, Raiders 52
Feb. 4 — Raiders 46, Idaho City 28
Note — Third straight 1A Western Idaho Conference

This week
Tuesday — Rimrock at Liberty Charter (n)
Thursday — at Compass Charter, 8 p.m.

Adrian (10-10, 4-3)
Friday — Crane 60, Antelopes 57
Thursday — Antelopes 76, Burnt River 19

This week
Thursday — at Harper Charter, 7:30 p.m.
Friday — vs. Prairie City, 7:30 p.m.
Note — 1A High Desert League season finale

Jordan Valley (14-7, 5-2)
Friday — Mustangs 67, Burnt River 29
Saturday — Mustangs 45, Four Rivers 40

This week
Friday — vs. Dayville/Monument, 3:30 p.m.
Saturday — vs. Long Creek/Ukiah, 3:30 p.m.
Note — 1A High Desert League season finale

Girls' basketball
Adrian (7-14, 4-2)
Friday — Crane 77, Antelopes 16
Thursday — Antelopes 45, Dayville/Monument 30

This week
Thursday — at Harper Charter, 6 p.m.
Friday — vs. Prairie City, 6 p.m.
Note — 1A High Desert League season finale

Jordan Valley (15-6, 5-1)
Saturday — Mustangs 63, Four Rivers 16
Thursday — Mustangs 52, McDermitt, Nev., 42

This week
Friday — vs. Dayville/Monument, 2 p.m.
Saturday — vs. Long Creek/Ukiah, 2 p.m.
Note — 1A High Desert League season finale

— Coaches can email results and comments to jon@owyheeavalanche.com. Call (208) 337-4681, ext. 102 for more information.

Roping events come to Homedale arena

The team roping season gets into high gear this month at the SRC Sports Badiola Arena in Homedale.

The Catch for Cash Team Roping Series begins Saturday and continues on Feb. 22, Feb. 29, March 21, and March 28.

The series is sanctioned by the American Cowboy Team Roping Association (ACTRA), and there are cash prizes for the top four placers in the series. The fifth-place team receives a Yeti cooler.

Teams must rope in four days of the series to be eligible for awards.

ACTRA memberships are required. Sign-up for #6 handicap takes place from 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m., each meet day. The #4.5 handicap entries are taken at 1 p.m.

Badiola Arena will also place host to all-girl breakaway roping at 7 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 21.

Fees are \$200. Pre-entry is required by next Wednesday to avoid a \$20 late fee on-site. Late entries close at 6:30 on the night of the event.

The purse has \$1,000 added.

For more information on either event, visit www.badiolaarena.com.

For entries on either event, call (208) 412-4112 or email badiolaarena@gmail.com.

Badiola Arena is located at 406 U.S. Hwy. 95 in Homedale.



School staff shows up to help out Homedale athletics

Homedale Elementary fourth-grade teacher Stuart Emry was one of a large, raucous slice of the community who enjoyed the Homedale Boosters Crab and Steak Feed on Friday evening at Txoko Ona Basque Center. The eighth annual event raised money for the high school's athletics programs, and featured dinner, live and silent auctions, and a raffle.

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