

The Owyhee Avalanche

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HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2020

State trustees close schools through April 20

Board of Ed. modifies 2020 graduation requirements

Schoolchildren in Owyhee County and across the state will be out of school

until April 20 after the Idaho State Board of Education issued operation guidelines late Monday afternoon.

"In short, it's a soft close until April 20," Homedale School District superintendent Rob Sauer said moments after state trustees adjourned.

The April 20 date is subject to review

later, according to the SBOE's press release following the meeting.

"... Soft close means no students on school grounds, no staff that's high risk. Others follow social distancing and no more than 10 people," Sauer said.

Sauer said standards are subject to change as the federal Centers for

Disease Control updates guidelines.

The Board of Ed.'s "soft closure" came when trustees approved the COVID-19 School Operation Guidance developed by Gov. Brad Little's K-12 Emergency Council — of which Sauer

— See *Schools*, page 10

Stores have special accommodations in wake of virus

Many Owyhee County businesses are providing special accommodations to help citizens trying to deal with COVID-19 precautions. For some, it's just business as usual.

Some businesses will help customers with their specific needs, including the elderly or those with compromised immune systems. This can include things such as curbside service or specific time slots during the week that focus on those with special needs.

Logan's Market — A decision has not yet been made

to make specific accommodations for the elderly or others with particular needs at the Marsing grocery store. Management has decided to close the store an hour earlier to be able to clean and put freight away. The store's hours during this time will be from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call (208) 896-4222.

Albertsons — The Homedale grocery store is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The new hours will give employees time to stock shelves each day.

— See *Stores*, page 4

Marsing has been without a post office for:

26 days

No word on P.O. repairs

The temporary loss of the Marsing Post Office has put a great deal of pressure on the Homedale outpost, which has seen a marked increase in Marsing foot traffic.

Temporary P.O. boxes for Marsing customers line the south wall of the Homedale Post Office, creating congestion when Marsing mail is delivered and Homedale P.O. box owners are trying to retrieve their morning mail.

Marsing has been without a post office since Feb. 28 when a nearby residential fire re-

sulted in smoke damage and the office's closure.

Shortly after the fire, the U.S. Postal Service decided to close the Main Street location indefinitely.

Marsing's P.O. boxes were moved to the Homedale office, which has contributed to the increase in business.

A request to the U.S. Postal Service Corporate Communications office garnered no updated information concerning repairs or a timeline for reopening.

— TK

FRED KELLY GRANT, 1936-2020



Then-Owyhee Initiative chair Fred Kelly Grant addresses the media from the governor's ceremonial office in August 2006 after Sen. Mike Crapo introduced the document into the U.S. Senate. *Avalanche* file photo

Compatriots recall Owyhee Initiative's driving force

Former county consultant Grant dead at 83

Fred Kelly Grant, the man who spearheaded the government coordination fight and helped build the coalition that led to the Owyhee Initiative law, died Thursday. He was 83.

Grant died in Nampa.

Grant's wife, Carol Souza Grant, said no services are planned at this time because of the COVID-19 coronavirus health guidelines regarding gatherings of more than 10 people.

A remembrance may be scheduled later.

Anyone who wants to provide their memories or comments about Grant may email

— See *Force*, page 10

"He had the respect and admiration of all public land advocates no matter which viewpoint they held. If Owyhee County gave out its own Nobel Prize, he would be a sure winner."



— **Paul Nettleton**
rancher, OCA board president



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County commissioners conduct coronavirus confab

Clerk: Secretary of State may postpone May primary

The Board of Owyhee County Commissioners made multiple moves in the last week in response to the spread of COVID-19 and their efforts to deal with it.

There is a possibility that the 2020 Idaho primary election, which is scheduled for May 19, may be moved to a later date.

“The Secretary (of State) is considering the option of pushing it back a month or so and weighing in with counties,” County Clerk Angie Barkell said.

She said that there should be some resolution concerning the primary schedule by the end of the week.

Rec travelers wreak havoc on Owyhee land

Commissioners also addressed the overwhelming number of out-of-county recreational travelers that inundated local land recently, perhaps in their own unique

attempt at social distancing.

With the increased off-highway vehicle traffic came a glut of reports of trespass on private lands and numerous other complaints from county residents.

An Owyhee County press release noted activity that damaged Bureau of Land Management public land, too, such camping in inappropriate areas and OHV use of trails that left extensive damage and increased refuse.

According to the county’s release, authorized Monday:

“Our message to those who traveled to Owyhee County last weekend and who may be considering it in the future: Do the right thing and stay home. Don’t endanger our citizens and our law enforcement, search and rescue, and emergency medical personnel by your selfish action. Thank you for doing your part and respecting these boundaries.”

BOCC asks public to limit county office visits

The commissioners have adopted President Trump’s Coronavirus Guidelines for America, which recommend avoiding social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.

After the commissioners adopted the guidelines in a special Friday meeting, the county issued a press release urging that all non-essential visits to the courthouse and any county offices be postponed or rescheduled. Officials recommend people take care of essential business online or by telephone when possible.

People scheduled to report as a juror or participate in any criminal court matter should call ahead of time to the court clerks’ office at (208) 495-2806 to see if the their appearance has been rescheduled.

The Homedale magistrate court office inside City Hall is closed to walk-up traffic, but phone calls will still be answered.

All Division of Motor Ve-

hicles services throughout the county are closed until Monday.

All events at the Owyhee County Community Center at the fairgrounds in Homedale and the Owyhee County Historical Museum in Murphy have been cancelled.

Clerk, emergency mgr. get purchasing authority

During their telephonic meeting on Friday, commissioners passed a resolution re-issuing a purchasing authority mechanism for County Clerk Angie Barkell and county emergency manager Jim Desmond to deal with COVID-19 emergencies.

In reinstating the power first granted in 2016, the BOCC set the emergency expenditure limit at \$30,000. The officials will be able to authorize an expenditure only if efforts to reach commissioners fail.

“At that time we had learned from the Office of Emergency Management that if we were in an emergency situation and we were submitting requests for assistance, basically re-

questing to buy things — for example, during the Soda Fire we had to authorize expenditures to bring in fire trucks,” Desmond said.

The purchasing authority will end at the conclusion of the current fiscal year (Sept. 30).

Desmond said that the first step would be to contact at least two commissioners by phone to authorize purchase. If it can’t be done within 30 minutes, Desmond or Barkell could authorize the expenditure.

“We need purchasing authority before we can pull the trigger to get (emergency items),” Desmond said. “It might not always be possible to get a concurrence of two commissioners quickly enough to get the materials needed.”

County officials decided the COVID-19 situation and its potential impact on citizens warranted reissuing the resolution.

“With what’s going on now, we thought it wise to get that updated and lodged with OEM,” Desmond said.

— TK

Virus precautions instituted at Grand View City Hall

Sewer hearing moved to April 15

Grand View’s city government has made some changes as part of COVID-19 precautions.

City Hall has been closed to the public since Monday, and although City Clerk and Treasurer Kathy Brown will be in the office, the City Hall building will remain closed until at least next Monday.

“Of course, this whole situation seems to be changing daily, so it may have to be later than that,” Brown said.

The closure also affects Owyhee County’s Division of Motor Vehicles office inside City Hall.

Residents will be able to reach office staff by phone or email during normal office

hours.

Water/sewer payments can be placed in the drop-box.

You can contact City Hall at (208) 834-2700, via fax at (208) 803-1449 or via email at cityofgrandview@speedyquick.net.

Water and sewer questions should be directed to (208) 834-2571, which is also the after-hour emergency phone line for city utilities.

The city council’s public hearing on the wastewater collection and treatment system, which was set for today, has been moved to April 15. It will be held at 6 p.m., at the Rimrock Senior Center.

Brown said the hearing was rescheduled “over concerns of COVID-19 and having a large group of people together.”

“Many of the residents of Grand View are considered

at-risk, so we wanted to try to protect everyone and just postpone the hearing,” Brown said.

During the public hearing, Sustainable Resource Solutions LLC principal Mike Settell — the man who has developed the city’s draft facility plan — will be on hand to explain the progress so far and answer questions.

— JPB

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Public schools still closed; Bruneau-GV has a plan for that

Online learning to be developed;
teachers available by phone, email

Even before the State Board of Education suspended school until April 20 on Monday, the Bruneau-Grand View School District took steps to continue the school year in an online learning mode because of COVID-19 concerns.

The board of trustees made the decision after hearing from parents, students and staff during a March 17 special meeting at Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School.

“As a result of these concerns, and to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in Idaho, BGV will close its three schools to students starting (Thursday),” Bruneau-Grand View superintendent Ryan Cantrell wrote in a dispatch to patrons after the meeting.

Students attended a full day of classes last Wednesday, so staff could test access to Google Classroom and district-issued student email addresses.

At the end of the school day, students took home a learning

device, a charger, headphones and log-in information for younger students for both Classroom and email

The district’s seniors returned to school Thursday to complete project presentations.

The plan is to return to class after spring break, and district staff deep-cleaned the high school and elementary schools in Bruneau and Grand View with that in mind.

But, in case a return from spring break isn’t viable, Cantrell is spending time this week working with various state agencies to develop the district’s online learning plan.

Cantrell anticipates an outline will be ready for teachers by the time spring break was to end originally.

With schools now closed after spring break (which had been the assumption, Cantrell told parents in his message), the work to build virtual classrooms will intensify Monday

and Tuesday.

Staff will work on site with Cantrell and principals Dale Burk (secondary) and Josh Noteboom (elementary) to develop Google Classrooms and outline lesson plans and assignments.

Originally, students were to log into Google Classroom to start their daily work with teachers next Wednesday.

But that timeline is up in the air with the soft closure.

Under the district’s plan, Cantrell says students can be expected “roughly” 4.5 hours of engagement each day.

Teachers would provide daily lesson plans and will be available via either video conferencing or telephone each day from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Cantrell pledged to provide updates as they become available.

“Although each school district is unique, we’ll all be working together to find the best solutions available to meet our student needs,” he said to close his note to parents.

— JPB

Homedale City Hall closed to public

Business can be
done over phone,
email or online

Homedale City Hall remains open, but officials ask citizens to take precautions to limit exposure.

Make payments by calling City Hall at (208) 337-4641 or using the night drop at 31 W. Wyoming Ave.

Yard sale permits will be completed by phone or email. Either call City Hall or email cityofhomedale@cablone.net or rachaelp@cityofhomedale.org.

Any forms that do not require a fee can be completed online at www.cityofhomedale.org.

Gov. Brad Little has suspended the in-person meeting requirement in the Idaho Open Meeting Law, authorizing the city council to conduct meetings via teleconference, video-calling or internet meeting applications such as ZOOM as long as the public has the ability to listen and/or observe.

City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram said Homedale officials are still working out the details on how to conduct the April 8 city council meeting, if necessary.

Marsing Lions Club’s April events still on tap

The Marsing Lions Club will move forward with its Easter egg hunt.

Club member Herb Churruca said the Saturday, April 11 children’s event at the Marsing High School football field will be held as planned.

He also said that the Lions Club will hold its final bingo session of the 2019-20 season beginning at 6:45 p.m., on Saturday, April 11 at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Post 128 Community Center.

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TIRE & AUTO SERVICE

From page 1

✓ Stores: Retailers, banks take steps to minimize employees' exposure

The company has reserved 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., every Tuesday and Thursday, to offer special assistance to senior citizens and other at-risk populations (pregnant women or those with compromised immune systems) until further notice. Shoppers are asked to respect quantity limits on high-demand items (hand sanitizers, household cleaners, toilet paper, and canned goods). Call (208) 337-4679.

Marsing Hardware & Pump—Employees will shop for customers if they call in

advance and will bring product to their vehicle. Customers can pay over the phone by credit card and pick up their items at the curb. The staff has been diligent in keeping things clean and sterilized, including the credit card machine, door handles, countertops, etc. Call (208) 896-4162.

NAPA Owyhee Auto Parts — Both Marsing and Homedale locations will continue with their current schedule but will provide customers with curbside assistance if needed. Manager Brandon

DeMond says the staff has been careful with keeping the store cleaned and sterilized, and they have made it a point to keep a safe distance from customers. Call (208) 337-4668.

US Bank — The Marsing and Homedale branches of the bank are open for drive-up services only until further notice. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (208) 896-4114 (Marsing) or (208) 337-3185 (Homedale).

Family Dollar — It's business as usual for the Mars-

ing and Homedale locations, although they're closing an hour earlier. Both stores are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., until further notice.

Matteson's — Both the Homedale and Wilder stores are making special efforts to keep things extra clean and sanitized. The employees will bring items, including pizza and sandwiches at the Wilder location, out to vehicles if the folks call ahead. The company is also willing to help folks with pumping gas if requested. These changes stand

until further notice. Call (208) 337-3464 in Homedale.

The Dog Spa — Marc Tildago has closed the lobby of his pet grooming business on West Owyhee Avenue on Homedale. He will come out to the curbside to pick-up and drop-off customers' animals. He is offering free pick-up and delivery service for Homedale, Marsing, Wilder and Greenleaf. All appointments and arrangements must be made in advance by calling (208) 789-6104.

— TK

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Corrections

The Snake River Water Trail kayakers and canoeists will camp at Marsing's Island Park on July 1.

Former City of Marsing code enforcement officer Tina Lemmon never left her job with the city's public works department. She was working part-time as both a code enforcement officer and maintenance staff. Now she is returning to only the maintenance staff.

Avalanche COVID-19 institutes precautions

The Owyhee Avalanche will observe a new office protocol in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Customer traffic at The Owyhee Avalanche office will be limited to one person inside at a time.
- If you're feeling ill, have a cough or are sneezing, please refrain from visiting and

- conduct business by phone or email.
- Please try to conduct as much business by phone and email as possible.
- Call (208) 337-4681
- Email office@owyhee.com
- The Avalanche office fax machine is non-operational at this time.

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Homedale Chamber cancels Easter egg hunt

The Homedale Chamber of Commerce cancelled Tuesday’s monthly business luncheon, and next month’s Easter egg hunt has been shelved.

Chamber president Gavin Parker said each event was cancelled because of government-suggested coronavirus precautions.

“We hope to be able to

resume our monthly meetings in April,” Parker wrote in an email to the town’s Chamber members.

The Easter Egg hunt was scheduled for Saturday, April 11 at Sundance Park.

Next month’s Chamber meeting is scheduled for noon on Tuesday, April 28 at the Bowling Alley.

Trustees OK Homedale coaching contracts

High school sports may be on hold, but there’s still the business of planning to lead the teams once athletes are in competition and practice again.

The Homedale School District board of trustees approved several coaching moves during its March 9 meeting.

As reported earlier, Scott Michaelson was hired to lead the high school tennis team.

The board also removed any interim status for Kortney Ford, naming her the girls’ basketball varsity coach.

Matt Holtry’s contract as football coach was renewed for 2020-21.

Raymond Smith was hired as a junior varsity baseball coach, and baseball volunteers approved include Jamey Smith, Jose Gonzalez, Bo Jenkins and Chad Packer. Jenkins and Gonzalez are former players for coach Burke Deal.

The eighth-grade football coaching staff was solidified for the fall, including head coach Joe Bullard and assistant coach Benji Sorenson.

Three middle school coaches resigned their positions including head coach Bobby Christensen and assistant coach Travis Kerbs (eighth-grade football) and seventh-grade volleyball coach Debby Turner.

Senior centers and COVID-19

Rimrock provides takeout lunch

All senior center activities suspended

Rimrock Senior Center is still serving meals even though all other operations have ceased in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The center suspended its congregate meals program on March 17. The plan is to resume after about three weeks at this point, but final policy is still being worked out coordinator Ellie Gillett said in an email.

The senior center’s bus service has been suspended

for three weeks, too. But if any senior citizen in Grand View, Bruneau or Oreana needs assistance for medical reasons, they can call the center at (208) 834-2922 to possibly arrange transportation.

Even though the center’s dining hall is closed, Gillett said meals are still available on Tuesdays and Thursdays via curbside service with a grab-and-go lunch.

Call the center between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., on Tuesday and Thursday to place the order.

“Please help the kitchen staff by calling in your order in a timely fashion,” Gillett said.

The lunches should be ready

for pick up around noon, she added.

All other senior center activities — congregate meals, foot clinic and games — have been cancelled for March.

There are still other events that will be held at the senior center, though, including:

- AA meetings, although Gillett asks that folks contact the meeting organizers for the schedule.
- The Mennonite Choir plans to perform at 7 p.m., on Thursday, too.

Gillett also said that the senior center’s annual spring bake sale and soup lunch is still happening on Saturday, April 11.

Homedale pickup continues through next week

The Homedale Senior Center remains closed as staffers do their part to protect the at-risk population that is the organization’s focus.

Although congregate meals are no longer available, kitchen staff still shows up for work Tuesday through Thursday to prepare meals for curbside pick-up.

Hot, fresh meals will be available for those who call ahead to (208) 337-3020.

There will be a \$1 charge to cover the cost of the to-go food containers, senior center coordinator Sandra Ledford said.

The senior center plans to

return to its normal congregate meal schedule on Tuesday, April 7.

The senior center’s Meals on Wheels program, which expanded into parts of Marsing when the Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause closed, will continue to serve shut-in seniors.

Calendar

Today Marsing community pantry 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., The HUB, 205 8 th Ave. W., Marsing. Call school district to arrange curbside service, (208) 649-5411	all non-essential visits to Owyhee County facilities be postponed. (208) 495-2421
Tuesday No activities scheduled	
Thursday Circuit Breaker property tax reduction 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Bruneau Valley Library, 32073 Ruth St., Bruneau. Call (208) 495-2817 with questions. Food bank distribution 1 p.m., to 3 p.m., (weather permitting), Jordan Valley Lions Hall parking lot, 902 Bassett St. (U.S. Hwy. 95), Jordan Valley. (541) 889-9206 or (541) 586-2562	Wednesday 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 curbside service, (208) 649-5411
Friday Idaho Foodbank drop-off 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church of Homedale, 320 N. 6th St. W, Homedale. (208) 473-9331 The Landing teen support group 6 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 807-0680	Thursday, April 2 No activities scheduled
Saturday No activities scheduled	Friday, April 3 The Landing teen support group 6 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 807-0680
Sunday No activities scheduled	Saturday, April 4 No activities scheduled
Monday Board of County Commissioners meeting 9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. The county requests	Sunday, April 5 No activities scheduled
	Monday, April 6 Board of County Commissioners meeting 9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. The county requests all non-essential visits to Owyhee County facilities be postponed. (208) 495-2421
	Tuesday, April 7 No activities scheduled

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Oregon-Idaho Utilities announces the availability of Lifeline telephone and broadband service for qualifying low income Oregon customers. Lifeline is a GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM that is non-transferable. This program is limited to one discount per household, consisting of either wireline, wireless, or broadband service. Oregonians who receive one of the qualifying benefits may receive up to a \$10.75 reduction in their monthly bill for local residential telephone service or up to a \$12.75 reduction in their monthly bill for a qualifying broadband service. Proof of eligibility may be necessary for enrollment.

The eligibility criteria for Oregon Lifeline includes the following:

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

You may also qualify if your total income is at or below 135% of federal poverty guidelines.

Please contact the Oregon Public Utility Commission at 1-800-848-4442 to request an application or visit www.rspf.org to apply online.

Submitting calendar items

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

Dormant season grazing can improve rangeland health

Universities join forces
on 10-year study near Rockville

by William Price,
April Hulet, Sergio Arispe,
and Scott Jensen

Managing rangelands for livestock production in the West can pose a variety of difficulties because of the presence of undesirable plants.

These undesirable plants may be problematic for multiple reasons such as:

- undesirable to livestock,
- poisonous, or
- they increase the risk of wildfire.

While the use of herbicides and mechanical treatments can be effective in dealing with these plants, they are often too costly and difficult to use because of the large size and rough terrain of many rangeland pastures. While undesirable and toxic plants are problematic, over the past decade the increased risk of fire has become especially concerning. Two species of particular concern are cheatgrass and medusahead. Both species are introduced annual grasses that dry out relatively early in the summer, resulting in an increased frequency and size of wildfire.

Cheatgrass and medusahead are both winter annual grasses, which means they often germinate and emerge in the fall, grow rapidly in early spring, and produce seeds in early summer. This accelerated growth cycle allows winter annuals to use the limited resources (e.g., soil moisture and nutrients) of the sagebrush steppe first, making it harder for desirable perennial species to compete. Both cheatgrass and medusahead can be nutritious forage while in the early stages of growth; however, there is a sharp decline in nutrition and desirability when they mature. This is especially true for medusahead, which has a high silica content that makes it undesirable for livestock.

These difficulties with annual grasses create the need

University of Idaho Extension

for a cost-effective method to manage plant composition in the sagebrush steppe. One tool that can fill this role is targeted grazing. Targeted grazing is the carefully controlled use of livestock grazing at a certain time, frequency, and intensity to achieve a vegetation management objective. If used correctly, targeted grazing can reduce the amount of undesirable plants on the range, allowing for perennial grasses to expand and re-establish.

A current research project being conducted by the University of Idaho, Oregon State University, Boise State University, and University of Nevada-Reno is studying the effectiveness of grazing over the winter months to reduce invasive annual grass fine fuels and thus reduce the risk of wildfire in the allotment. The research is taking place north of Rockville, Ore., on the Three Fingers Allotment managed by the Bureau Land Management Vale District very near the Idaho/Oregon border. Frequent wildfires have affected a large portion of the allotment, resulting in the widespread invasion of medusahead. This invasion has increased the risk of wildfire, increased the variability of forage production from year to year, and decreased the ability of the range to support wildlife.

This research aims to take advantage of the different growth patterns between medusahead and perennial grasses. During the winter months, perennial grasses are dormant while medusahead has new growth that is especially palatable. By grazing in the winter, cattle can utilize medusahead while it is in the vegetative stage with little harm to perennial grasses. A nutrient supplement is provided during the dormant season grazing to ensure that the cattle are receiving adequate nutrients.



Cattle on the Three Fingers Allotment in October 2019 (above) and December 2019 (below).
Photo by Will Price



Our research objectives are to measure the impacts of livestock grazing on annual grasses and fuel continuity across four treatments:

- 1) no livestock grazing (control)
- 2) traditional grazing, which occurs between May and September
- 3) dormant season grazing, which is grazed from October to February, and
- 4) traditional plus dormant season graze where livestock graze during both seasons.

This study began in 2018 and

will continue through 2028. A long-term study is necessary to account for environmental fluctuations and shifts in plant community composition. For example, May of 2019 received almost 4.5 inches of rain, which is more than half of the yearly average total. Along with this increase in moisture, we measured increases in annual and perennial plant species on all research plots. However, the increase was less pronounced in the dormant plus traditional grazing plots. These findings are not surprising based

on the timing and amount of precipitation, and reiterates the need to monitor for more than two or three years to determine causation for plant community change.

For more information on the study, contact William Price (wjprice@uidaho.edu) or April Hulet (aprilh@uidaho.edu) at the University of Idaho.

— Scott Jensen, William Price and April Hulet are part of the University of Idaho, while Sergio Arispe works for Oregon State University.

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An Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit detachment sets up ropes to remove Caldwell resident Logan Case from his predicament. Marsing Ambulance photo

Search and rescue unit retrieves Jump Creek Rec Area fall victim

A Caldwell man suffered multiple injuries after a 20-foot fall on Friday afternoon at Jump Creek Recreation Area southwest of Marsing.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that Logan Case, 21, broke both wrists, an ankle, and suffered facial injuries after losing his footing 40 to 60 feet above the falls on the east side.

Members of the Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue Unit came to the aid of the sheriff's office and Marsing Ambulance. A total of 13 responders took part in the rescue.

Sheriff's Posse members used off-highway vehicles to transport the search-and-rescue team to a spot above Case, from they rappelled to retrieve him.

Before the search-and-rescue team reached Case, patrol supervisor Greg Bishop was able to get within about 20 feet of the fallen hiker to determine that he was conscious and breathing.

A LifeFlight helicopter ultimately airlifted Case to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise.

The whole endeavor began from Case's fall at about 2 p.m. and ended at 1 a.m. on Saturday.

Bowman said that the presence and work of Idaho Mountain Search and Rescue team was vital to retrieving Case from the remote shelf.

"They did such a great job," Bowman said, noting that the team runs completely on donations.

For information on how to donate to the 501(c)3 non-profit, visit www.imsaru.org/.

— TK

NW Owyhee CWMA postpones Spray Day

The Northwest Owyhee County Weed Management Area's annual Spray Day has been postponed until a later date.

Officials cited coronavirus concern for the postponement.

Although the Spray Day has been shelved for now, some herbicide will be available for distribution after the first of April.

The chemical will have to be mixed by the person who will apply the herbicide. No premixed chemical will be available directly from NOCWMA.

Officials urge applicators to read chemical bottle labels for the correct mixture for the weeds being targeted. Following the labels is the law.

Contact any NOCWMA board member with any questions:

- Paddy Doyle, chair, (208) 337-5331 or pnsdoyle@msn.com
- Tim Volk, co-chair, (208) 999-2660
- Kent Curtis, (208) 965-9568
- Jodie Dickerson administrative assistant (968) 888-1664 or jodieray2002@yahoo.com

For chemical advice, contact the NOCWMA chemical and weed consultant, Tammie Hedges, at (208) 462-6153 or support@newenvironment.us.

Jordan Valley CWMA cancels March meeting

The Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area's monthly meeting, set for Monday, has been cancelled.

Coordinator Eric Morrison said the meeting, which is typically held at the Jordan Valley Lions Hall, was cancelled out of caution because of the COVID-19 virus spread.

Morrison continues to work out of his office in Jordan Valley, and folks with weed management questions can call (541) 586-3000 or via email at jvcwma@qwestoffice.net.

"At this point, we are planning to continue the work of the CWMA and assist landowners in noxious weed control," Morrison wrote in an email to stakeholders.

Days after Morrison's unilateral cancellation, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown issued an executive order suspending public gatherings such as meetings.

Jordan's foodbank goes on

The Southeast Oregon Foodbank delivery will go on as planned Thursday in Jordan Valley with a couple changes.

Local coordinator Bobbi Stoddart said commodities will be distributed from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., at the Jordan Valley Lions Hall, 902 Bassett St. (U.S. Highway 95).

There will be a different protocol because of COVID-19 precautions, though.

The delivery will take place in the parking lot, and the Foodbank will have prepackaged care packages ready to be placed in patrons' vehicles.

There is no need to line up or go into the Lions Hall.

For more information call the Foodbank in Ontario, Ore., at (541) 889-9206 or contact Stoddart at (541) 586-2562.

Death notices

FRED KELLY GRANT, 83, of Nampa, died Thursday, March 19, 2020. No services are planned at this time. Email memories and comments to carolsouzagrants@gmail.com. Arrangements: All Valley Cremation, 1538 11th Ave. N. Ext., Nampa. (208) 899-9361

KENNETH D. WATSON, 79, of Caldwell, who grew up in the local area and worked a Marsing dairy for several years, died on Saturday, March 21, 2020 at a local care center. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell.

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Extra steps for OHR residents’ safety
Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation community liaison Lindsey Love (left) gets her temperature checked by business office manager Stephenie Thomas on Friday. OHR staff is getting screened when entering the facility, as a means of avoiding exposing the building’s vulnerable residents to the coronavirus. OHR is currently on full lockdown, meaning only residents and essential staff are allowed in the building. The company is adhering to the policies of the Ensign Group, the Centers for Disease Control, and Center for Medicare Services.

Virus forces change in Marsing Disaster Auction annual meeting

The Marsing Disaster Auction’s annual meeting, originally set for April 7, has been rescheduled. The annual meeting will take place at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, May 5 at the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Post 128 Community Center, 126 W. 2nd St. N. The meeting was postponed because of public gathering guidelines issued in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

U. of Idaho commencement cancellation affects locals

Avalanche wants to salute graduates

Thursday’s decision to cancel University of Idaho commencement and other mass events hits close to home. According to prospective 2020 graduate Nash Johnson, several of his fellow Homedale High School graduates are scheduled to complete their degrees in time for spring commencement. But COVID-19 precautions will exclude them from a public ceremony to receive their diplomas. The Owyhee Avalanche would like to hear from students or parents of students affected by this decision. Email information to jon@

owyheeavalanche.com so we can give the students proper recognition. Send the name of your prospective graduate, the name of the local high school with which they are affiliated, the university or college from which they are graduating, and information such degree obtained, and parents’ names. Photos are welcome, too. The Avalanche will compile the list and publish a special feature saluting the graduates in May when the commencement exercises were planned. The U of I activated remote and online learning for the remainder of the semester, too. Cancellations cover commencement exercises in Moscow, Boise, Coeur d’Alene and Idaho Falls and any school events with more than 10 people. That includes the upcoming

Parent and Family Weekend at the Moscow campus. The main campus in Moscow and statewide locations are open with some modifications. The Student Recreation Center is closed. Decisions on other closures may be made as needed, according to the university’s press release. Residence halls will remain open for those students who need them. Vandals Dining will continue to offer safe options for meal services, and student safety will remain a priority, the school said. More changes may be made in the future as U of I gauges the spread of the virus. Regular U of I coronavirus updates, frequently asked questions and other information can be found online at www.uidaho.edu/coronavirus.

USEI public meeting modified

US Ecology Idaho has altered its public information meeting planned for Tuesday because of COVID-19 guidelines. The meeting, originally scheduled for Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School in Bruneau, has been transformed into a “call-in” meeting because of concerns over potential exposure to COVID-19. USEI will address permits for which it has applied for the

construction of a stabilization building slated to replace a similar structure damaged in a November 2018 explosion that left one employee dead and three workers injured. According to a notice appearing on Page 18 of this week’s The Owyhee Avalanche, the meeting will run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., on Tuesday. The public can call (888) 895-6448 and enter access code 1358295915

to participate. USEI is seeking pre-permit construction authorization, through which the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality would allow construction to begin before the final air quality permit is issued. State DEQ staff will not participate in the call. Contact Rebecca Hogaboam at (208) 834-2275, ext. 2344 for more information.



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From page 1

✓ Schools: Senior projects, standardized testing waived for 2019-20 year

is a member.

Sauer was set to send out messages with the news and the impacts on Tuesday after The Owyhee Avalanche’s deadline.

The state’s guidance directs districts to provide three essential services during the closure:

- Provide food services to underserved populations and childcare for community members who provide critical services.
- Develop and implement plans for delivering remote or distance learning strategies, such as online, video or teleconference.
- Enact a strategy to provide special education-related services.

The guidance document is available on the SBOE website at <https://boardofed.idaho.gov/resources/covid-19-school-operations-guidance/>

In addition to adoption of the guidance plan, state trustees waived certain high school graduation requirements including ISAT testing, the senior project, and the college entrance exam.

SATs have been postponed to April 28, Sauer said earlier.

“Today’s Board action is a first step towards alleviating some of the pressure our districts are experiencing,” SBOE president Debbie Critchfield said.

“Local administrators and boards are working around the clock to manage this crisis. They are dealing with a lot and we don’t want them to worry about state rules. This guidance is intended to give them more time to focus on priority services outlined by the Board and the Governor’s K-12 Emergency Council.”

Much like the governor’s emergency council, the State Board of Education plans to conduct special meetings weekly during the soft closure and possibly beyond the target April 20 date.

— JPB

✓ Force: Grant-spurred Owyhee Initiative collaboration serves as model

his wife at carolsouzagrants@gmail.com.

The Owyhee Avalanche was able to contact a few people who worked with Grant on public land issues for comment, including Owyhee Cattlemen’s Association president Paul Nettleton, Board of County Commissioners chair Jerry Hoagland, and retired Idaho Rivers United executive director Bill Sedivy.

“Fred was a great hero to the ranching community of Owyhee County,” Nettleton said. “He should be considered the father of the Owyhee County Land Use Plan that forced the (Bureau of Land Management) to sit down at the table with our elected county commissioners in the CCC process: consultation, coordination, and cooperation.

“Without his leadership many ranchers in Owyhee County wouldn’t be in business today.”

Anyone who crossed paths with Grant immediately recognized him as a champion of strengthening local government’s footing in dealings with the federal government.

In Hoagland, the BOCC has a Grant disciple of sorts. The Wilson rancher and veteran commissioner keeps his eyes peeled for policy shifts or federal language that Grant would have caught.

“Fred taught the importance of procedures in meetings, how to read law, and to look for hidden statements in a decision that could destroy a permittee’s operation.”

— Jerry Hoagland
BOCC chair, Wilson rancher

plan for both the county and the federal and state lands management that guides us today,” Hoagland said. “His knowledge on planning and its contribution to protecting our county’s custom, cultural and economic stability is his lasting contribution.”

The Owyhee Initiative was perhaps Grant’s most important work for Owyhee County residents, ranchers and recreationists.

When locals became concerned about rumblings that the Clinton administration planned to turn the Owyhee Canyonlands of Idaho into a national monument, Grant was again on the scene, building a consensus between livestock ranchers, conservationists and recreationist groups to work to preserve activities and ways of life in the Owyhee Wilderness by, as Nettleton said, hammering out “a compromise with environmental groups over wilderness and wild and scenic rivers.

“He had the respect and admiration of all public land advocates no matter which viewpoint they held,” Nettleton said. “If Owyhee County gave out its own Nobel Prize, he would be a sure winner.”

In part to recognize his role with the Owyhee Initiative Work Group, Fred and his late wife, Lodice, were named OCA Honorary Lifetime Members in 2006.

After many years of collaboration, the Owyhee Initiative was signed, and work began to turn it into law.

“Fred brought us together ... He kept us together ... He kept us all civil ... He kept us on track,” Sedivy said. “He encouraged us to compromise without yielding our principles, and he wouldn’t let us walk away from what was, at times, a very trying process.”

Parts of the Initiative became law when President Obama signed the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009.

“When other collaborative efforts across the U.S. and Idaho failed, the OI succeeded,” Sedivy said. “That’s because we had Fred Grant at the helm.”

But county officials, ranchers and others are still fighting to get other parts of the Initiative implemented today.

“For some reason, he took me under his wing and kept me informed on the issues as they arose prior to the Owyhee Initiative and all during that process,” Hoagland said. “I figured he needed someone to just unload on.

“He always told those cattlemen in planning meetings, ‘I can only get you a short reprieve before the feds take over and destroy your outfit.’ Yet, we are still buying time because of his planning.”

Beyond his governmental savvy, Grant forged friendships with the men and women he fought alongside.

“On a personal note, he was a good friend who shared his wisdom with me on several occasions when I needed good advice,” Nettleton said. “I didn’t always agree with him, but I always respected his opinions and cherished his perspective.”

Hoagland had several meetings, dinners and days with Grant as he helped the county through various issues as a consultant.

“I do miss his phone calls over the years and feel pretty honored to have been a close confidant for him,” Hoagland said.

Said Sedivy:

“Fred Grant was absolutely one of the most amazing people I’ve ever met, and I’m thankful and honored that I had an opportunity to work with him — and learn from him — throughout the whole Owyhee Initiative process.”

— JPB

“Fred Grant was absolutely one of the most amazing people I’ve ever met, and I’m thankful and honored that I had an opportunity to work with him — and learn from him — throughout the whole Owyhee Initiative process.”

— Bill Sedivy
Retired Idaho Rivers United executive director

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Homedale Elementary principal to retire at year’s end

M.S. Spanish teacher transferring to HHS

The search is on for the next Homedale Elementary School principal.

Terri Vasquez will retire at the end of the school year, closing a 31-year career in education, district superintendent Rob Sauer confirmed Thursday.

The board of trustees accepted Vasquez’s resignation during its March 9 meeting.

“Her intent is to retire at the end of her contract at the end of the 2019-20 school year,” Sauer said.

In her letter of resignation, the Adrian resident said she wanted to spend more time with her family, Sauer said.

Vasquez came from Fruitland High School to succeed Yvonne Ihli as the HES principal to start the 2012-13 school year.

Sauer said the district already has posted the job opening, and applications will be accepted until April 2.

“We’re planning on interviewing the next week with a goal of taking a name to our April board meeting,” Sauer said.

The next school board meeting is Monday, April 13.

Correa moving to H.S.

Another personnel move could change the electives offerings at the middle school.

Longtime middle school physical education and Spanish culture teacher

David Correa has been reassigned to teach Spanish at the high school beginning in August.

Correa’s move will fill the vacancy left by Clayton Hatfield’s resignation earlier this year.

“The high school is very excited to get someone of David Correa’s talents and abilities,” Sauer said. “It’s a great move for the high school.”

An opening for a middle school P.E. instructor has been posted.

Whether the Spanish offerings continue depends on the certifications that the new hire will possess, Sauer said.

“And that becomes one of the challenges in the rural schools when you lose somebody in a building or a district with multiple endorsements that

impacts some of your offerings because they take those opportunities with them,” Sauer said. “Then it becomes dependent on what the new person has with their endorsements.”

- In another move affecting the high school, English teacher Susan King also tendered her resignation.

Sauer’s contract extended

Trustees voted to give Sauer a three-year contract extension that leaves him in the superintendent position through the 2022-23 school year.

Sauer is completing his eighth year leading the district. He made \$117,000 during the 2019-20 school year, according to records found on the school district website.

— JPB

Social distancing alters how Homedale restaurants do business

All have takeout; some dining areas open — for now

While Boise restaurants have been reduced to takeout and/or drive-through, Homedale eateries are still working out how they would operate.

- **The Bowling Alley** — The restaurant closed its dining room Monday and went to a takeout-only policy in observance of health officials’ COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.
- The eatery on North 1st Street West offers a 10 percent discount on takeout orders. Call (208) 337-3424 to order.
- The bowling lanes have been closed, too.
- **Charros** — The Mexican restaurant located in the old Homedale Drive-in at the corner of North 3rd Street East and East Idaho Avenue is operating its drive-through window and accepting takeout orders.
- Call (208) 919-8526 to place an order. The restaurant is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Saturday. It’s closed on Sunday.
- **Del Rio** — Manuel Ramos, the Mexican restaurant on North Main Street, still has his dining room open. But he said most of his business lately has been takeout. Order by calling (208) 337-4240.
- **Frosty Palace** — Melani Roesberry, the owner of the restaurant at the corner of East Idaho Avenue and South 1st Street East, said the dining room will be open until further notice. Takeout and drive-

through options are available. Call (208) 337-3250 to order or for more information.

- **Golden Ocean** — The Chinese restaurant on North Main Street still had its dining room open last week, but management is closing this week for the ownership family’s annual vacation. Call (208) 337-4157 for more information and updates once the restaurant reopens.
- **Idaho Pizza Co.** — The East Idaho restaurant was still offering its lunch buffet and dine-in opportunities heading into the weekend, but assistant manager Ramona Bahem said the situation was fluid and things could change by the start of a new week. Call (208) 337-6222 for updates and information.
- **Café Leku Moxie Java Bistro** — Located at the corner of U.S. Highway 95 and Industrial Road, the restaurant offered all options – dine-in, takeout and drive-through – heading into the weekend.
- “We’re cleaning like crazy,” owner Lori Badiola said.
- Call (208) 337-5566 to place an order or get status updates.
- **Subway** — Sandwich shop owner Virginia Landa is encouraging call-in orders, although the dine-in option is still available. Call the restaurant at (208) 337-5777 to place an order. The drive-through is still open, and that also serves as the pick-up window for call-in orders.
- For now, the restaurant is keeping its usual hours (8 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.), but Landa said that may change if the situation warrants.

— JPB

Aging high school, crowded elementary spurs HSD bond talk

Trustees clear that they don’t want tax increase

Homedale High School is marking its 80th year of existence in 2020, even as the district board of trustees mulls the possibility of a bond election.

Spurred by requests from some district patrons, trustees first discussed a bond election in February.

Superintendent Rob Sauer said no progress was made during the March meeting.

“There are no updates as of now,” he said. “We’re still waiting on cost estimates from (district architectural contractor) Design West.”

But the need for a bond may be there with officials preparing to build four classrooms at the elementary school and the aforementioned high school in need of Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) retrofitting and overall updating in the 80-year-old portion of the complex. At present, the second floor of the main high school building features three classrooms and a computer lab, but if special needs students are enrolled, accommodations have to be made, Sauer said.

Property owners within the school district that straddles the Snake River and includes portions of both Owyhee and Canyon counties haven’t had to worry about a bond payment on their property tax bills since 2017 when the Homedale Middle School bond was fulfilled.

“The board has made it very clear that if we go down

this road, they don’t want an increase in property taxes,” Sauer said.

Sauer said the board’s mandate means the district wouldn’t be able to try for its full bonding capacity, which is about \$22 million at present. Staying under the bonding maximum could mean frugal planning if the bond idea advances.

But, Sauer said, unlike nearly 25 years ago when the middle school construction bond passed, the State Department of Education now kicks in funding to help districts leverage their bond monies.

School trustees recently took their annual tour of the three schools to hear about infrastructure needs and get a first-hand look at the state of education and the physical buildings in the Homedale district.

“This was Leslie Parker’s first tour as a school board member and not as an employee,” Sauer said of the retired elementary school teacher who is now the Zone 2 trustee.

“It was a great experience for her to see all three schools through the lens of a board member.”

Besides upgrades at both the high school and elementary school and new elementary classrooms, a bond could also finance a new all-weather athletic track at Deward Bell Stadium.

Years of neglect has left the running surface possibly beyond repair and in need of a complete replacement. Sauer said the estimated cost of a new track surface is \$400,000.

School districts still have four shots at passing a bond or

levy each year after the Idaho Legislature failed to act on an election consolidation proposal before *sine die* adjournment last week.

House Bill 393, of which District 23 Reps. Megan Blanksma and Christy Zito voted in favor, would remove March and August from the election calendar, requiring elections only to be held in May and/or November.

The bill cleared the House of Representatives by a 45-20-5 vote on Feb. 28, but went nowhere in the Senate Education Committee after a first reading and referral on March 3.

Another piece of legislation, House Bill 347, would have limited the repeat of a failed bond election to once every 11 months. That bill was stuck in the Senate State Affairs Committee at *sine die*. Blanksma and Zito both voted in favor of the bill on Jan. 30, but no further action was taken after it was reported out of the House on Jan. 31.

Other school board news

District building and transportation director Danny Aberasturi is coordinating the purchase of a new lawnmower for the middle school.

During its March 9 meeting, the board authorized Aberasturi to move forward with purchase. He had reported an estimated cost of between \$14,000 and \$17,000 for a new mower.

— JPB

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Power company works at becoming more efficient

Idaho Power’s John Lewellen reconfigures the wiring while replacing the light bulb on a power pole on East Idaho Avenue across from Homeale High School on Monday. Idaho Power will be replacing the existing bulbs with LED bulbs in Homedale, Marsing, and throughout the Treasure Valley.

HSD chief on Little’s virus panel

Sauer also planning district, regional strategy

Even in the middle of Spring Break, Homedale School District superintendent Rob Sauer is hard at work planning for classes to resume — or not. Sauer is immersed in formulating the statewide effort to devise a contingency plan if the COVID-19 virus becomes more entrenched across Idaho. Sauer is the president of the Region III association of school superintendents. Gov. Brad Little called last week to ask him to serve on the Governor’s K-12 Emergency Council. “This group will support and advise the governor around policy and practice as it relates to K-12 and COVID-19,” Sauer said. The task force met with a call-in session for the first time Thursday, and Sauer said online meetings — through the app ZOOM — are planned daily. Sauer also led a call-in meeting of the Region III superintendents Thursday morning — all while juggling the needs on the Homedale hometown. “There are just so many unknowns that maybe over the next week we’ll get more

District devises meal plan

The Homedale School District plans to implement a meal service program similar to summer feeding now that students will be home until at least April 20. Superintendent Rob Sauer said the meals would be available on the elementary school playground, 420 W. Washington Ave., as during the summer feeding program that usually begins in June. “We’re trying to get a waiver from the state to allow for some home deliveries outside the city limits as well,” Sauer said.

answers to,” he said. The final two days of what were supposed to be the last classroom time before Spring Break were still bustling at Homedale’s schools — even as the students were released early with tentative (if uncertain) plans to resume after the spring vacation ended. “The teachers in all three schools have spent the two days preparing for online learning and alternatives for those that don’t have access to online,” Sauer said. Parent-teacher conferences were conducted via teleconference at the elementary school. “It’s pretty quiet,” Sauer said. “We didn’t have a lot of participation in parent-teacher conferences this week.” The superintendent admitted the lack of participation was expected. Sauer said the district sent out a survey to parents to gauge which would need meals from the school district’s food service program, which children needed device for online learn, and which families didn’t have internet access at home. Meanwhile, the custodial staff was hard at work deep cleaning the schools. Bus drivers completed deep cleaning on their vehicles last Wednesday. SATs have been moved from April 14 to April 28 statewide, Sauer said. “We’re willing to go on a week-to-week basis,” Sauer said of resuming classes. “If we need to revisit this every Friday or Thursday or when information is even more readily available, we’re willing to do that.” — JPB

Man jailed for second DUI since 2018

A Melba man could spend more than a month behind bars after his second drunk driving offense. Ryan A. Zuber was sentenced on March 16 in the Murphy courtroom of Magistrate Shane Darrington. Darrington gave Zuber credit for one day served in Owyhee County Jail after his Nov. 11 arrest, but ordered the man to 39 days confinement before suspending the balance of a six-month jail term. Zuber’s driver’s license has been suspended for a year, and he was placed on supervised probation for two years. The man also must pay \$397.50 in fines and \$625 in court costs. Zuber was also sentenced for a misdemeanor driving without privileges charge levied on Nov. 22. Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Phillips dropped a misdemeanor charge of inattentive or careless driving. Zuber was convicted of misdemeanor DUI in Canyon County last year, three months after his arrest. • A Homedale man was sentenced to eight days in jail after changing his plea to a misdemeanor driving under the influence charge. Matthew J. Landa entered his plea on March 9, the same day Darrington imposed sentencing in a Murphy courtroom. An Owyhee County Sheriff’s deputy arrested Landa on Dec. 14 on suspicion of drunk driving. Darrington gave the man credit for one day he spent in jail before posting \$500 bond. The judge suspended 170 days of a six-month jail sentence, leaving the balance of time to be served. Landa also must serve two years unsupervised probation, and he had his driver’s license suspended for six months. Darrington ordered \$547.50 in fines and \$202.50 in court costs.

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March 20	60	25	.00
March 21	62	36	.00
March 22	64	31	.00
March 23	62	29	.00



Balloon builder Ron Cassidy stands inside the balloon near the aircraft's crown. Photos by Donna Fowler

Couple ground tests newest balloon

In case anyone was wondering why there was a hot air balloon peeking up above rooftops Saturday, Homedale hot air balloon pilots Ron and Sue Cassidy are a couple steps closer to finding new heights with “Owyhee Heights.”

“The design of the balloon was Sue’s idea,” Ron said. “She used Adobe Capture (computer software) to determine the primary colors of the Owyhee Mountains. We are pleased with the results.”

Sue’s balloon, which Ron built in his Homedale workshop, underwent test inflation Saturday in the Homedale area. It did not leave the ground.

Ron built the balloon, and obtained the basket, burner and fuel tanks from a hot air balloon manufacturer.

Ron says the balloon has a volume of 75,000 cubic feet. Each of the 16 vertical panels or “gores” is 80 feet high.

The balloon consists of 256 individual pieces of fabric and took about 200 hours to build and sew.

— JPB



Sue Cassidy (left) and Ron Cassidy place Donna Fowler’s grandchildren in the basket of their balloon Saturday. The children include Charley Moser (left), Jonny Moser (obscured) and Mylo Moser, whom Ron is helping into the basket.

Courthouse report

- March 16**
Ryan A. Zuber, Melba — Misdemeanor driving under the influence, second offense (plea deal), misdemeanor driving without privileges: 180 days in jail (39 days to serve, 1 day served, 140 days suspended), 1 year driver’s license suspension, 2 years supervised probation, \$397.50 in fines, \$625 in court costs. **Dismissed by prosecuting attorney:** Misdemeanor inattentive or careless driving
- March 9**
Matthew J. Landa, Homedale — Misdemeanor DUI: 180 days in jail (2 days served, 8 days to serve, 170 days suspended), 180 days driver’s license suspension, 2 years unsupervised probation, \$547.50 in fines, \$202.50 in court costs
- March 8**
Mark Allen Jestice, Mountain Mesa, Calif. — Misdemeanor motor carrier violation, false logbook, serious violation: \$263.50 in fines, \$157.50 in court costs
- March 6**
Thomas Eugene Finch, Inglewood, Calif. — Misdemeanor motor carrier violation, false logbook, serious violation: \$263.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs

- March 4**
David Chavez Jr., Homedale — Misdemeanor drug paraphernalia possession 2x (plea deal): 30 days in jail (13 days served, 17 days to serve), \$695 in court costs. **Dismissed by prosecuting attorney:** Misdemeanor driving without privileges, drug paraphernalia possession
- Yaroslav Driya, Sacramento, Calif.** — Misdemeanor motor carrier violation, fail to stop at checking station or submit to inspection, grading or weighting: \$118.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs
- Roy W. Taylor, Homedale** — Misdemeanor trespassing on cultivated property (amended from misdemeanor unlawful entry): 90 days in jail (1 day served, 89 days suspended), 1 year unsupervised probation, \$307.50 in court costs

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Churches adapt to social distancing

Online worship takes root on YouTube, Facebook

While so many of people in Owyhee County, and beyond, are huddling close to home, local churches continue to reach out to parishioners. The environment may change, but the messages remain the same.

Available worship service includes:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints — On March 12, church leadership ordered the cancellation of all services and church-related public gatherings. Call (208) 337-3924 (Homedale) and (208) 896-4333 (Marsing).

Vision Community Chapel — The church, located at 221 Main St., in Marsing, is still conducting services at 10:30 a.m., each Sunday. Call (208) 989-3885.

Mountain View Church of the Nazarene — No services will be held in the church’s sanctuary at 26515 Ustick Rd.; however, worship can be viewed on its Facebook page at 10:30 a.m., each Sunday. Call (208) 337-3151. All classes and activities at the church are cancelled until further notice.

Homedale Assembly of God — Like the Church of the Nazarene, Assembly of God will offer livestreaming of its services. You can find the services online by searching “Homedale AG” on YouTube. This livestream is avail-

able at 10:45 a.m., each Sunday. Church leadership will decide if that service needs to be extended. The church is located at 15 W. Montana, in Homedale. Call (208) 412-2946.

Homedale Calvary Fellowship — The church will continue to hold its regular services, but officials request that anyone who is not feeling well, or is around others who are sick to remain home and follow services online on its Facebook page. Worship is at 10 a.m., each Sunday. The church is located at 711 W. Idaho Ave., in Homedale and can be reached at (208) 266-3500.

Homedale Friends Community Church — Worship will be available via Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m. on Sundays until further notice. To participate, folks must ask to join the HFCC Facebook group. All group meetings will be unavailable during this time. The church is located at 17434 U.S. Highway 95 and can be reached at (208) 337-3464.

First Presbyterian Church of Homedale — All services are cancelled until further notice. Sermons can be viewed on the church’s YouTube channel. The church is located at 320 N. 6th St. W., in Homedale and can be reached at (208) 473-9331.

— TK

Differing dining policies in Marsing

Marsing’s food service establishments are doing what they can to accommodate local customers as they adapt to changes with public gathering policies.

Alejandra’s — The Mexican food restaurant’s dining room remains open, and to-go orders are being taken. The restaurant is located at 208 W. Main St. Call (208) 896-5339.

OC Coffee — The coffee shop’s dining room remains open and has a seating capacity of 10. There is also a drive-through window available. Hours remain the same: 6 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday.

Pair-A-Dice Café & Lounge — The Marsing establishment’s dining room remains open and the restaurant also offers delivery. Curbside service is also being offered for those who call ahead. Pair-A-Dice is located at 2 E. Main St., in Marsing. Call (208) 896-4182.

The Spot — Staff at the Marsing restaurant will deliver food out to customers’ vehicles if they call ahead. The dining room is staying open. Call (208) 896-5055.

Subway — Employees at the sandwich shop in Marsing will provide curbside delivery if patrons call ahead with their orders. There is no drive-through at the restaurant located at the corner of 8th Avenue West and Main Street. Call (208) 896-5525.

The Whitehouse Drive Inn — The longtime Main Street eatery is still open for dine-in options, but owner Janie Nielson said customers can call ahead and pick up their orders at the drive-through window.

Nielson said employees are sanitizing and using Lysol more than in the past, but sanitization has always been a priority.

“We try and spray down the tables and chairs each time and wipe them clean,” Nielson said. “Our rags always sit in sanitizer.”

The restaurant is also offering delivery to local customers considered at a higher risk to be affected by the virus (folks over 60 and those with compromised immune systems).

Call the restaurant at (208) 896-4130 to place an order.

Nielson added that the restaurant will be closed from April 1 to April 4 as new Owyhee County-area owners take over. On April 5-6, only the drive-through window will be open as the dining room gets a new paint job.

— TK and JPB

Marsing schools’ connectivity gap

Only about half of students have internet at home

Marsing School District is joining districts everywhere as they race to try to accommodate the needs of its students and the community as a whole.

Now that timetable to plan for meeting needs has extended to at least April 20.

Prior to Monday’s State Board of Education’s soft closure order, Marsing district staff had met and put together educational packets for students to cover a period up to two weeks beyond spring break.

Now, it appears a longer plan is necessary. And Marsing staff will meet again to discuss composing additional materials, likely in two-week increments of instruction.

Now that spring break has stretched into a soft closure, staff will be required to keep office hours. They will need to be available by phone, email, and online, through services like Google Classroom or Zoom, to meet students’ educational needs.

Parents and students will have access to staff virtually. No actual face-to-face interaction will be allowed.

“We’re looking into being able to provide other means to deliver services,” Stewart said. “I know other school districts are using online delivery, but only about half of our students have internet access at home.”

“People think, ‘Why not just go to the library?’ The libraries are closed. You can’t go there.”

Stewart also noted that Individualized Education Program (IEP) or English as a Second Language (ESL) requirements must still be met. Marsing staffers have been asked to provide enrolled students with those services in their educational packets.

The school district is also doing what it can to continue to feed students and families during the closure.

The HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., in Marsing, has expanded its availability by two hours and is now open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., each Wednesday to give families more time to take advantage of the food pantry.

Cones are set up outside the building for families to park, and food boxes will be delivered to their vehicles.

“This will minimize exposure between community members and from community members to volunteers,” Stewart said. “Until further notice, it is the only option.”

Normally, the food pantry would not open while school is on break, but it will be open today to accommodate families’ needs.

Marsing is transitioning to a program in which meals are delivered to school-aged children at multiple locations. The meals are being delivered to Marsing City Park, the Marsing Labor Camp, the junior/senior high school, and an area outside the Marsing-Homedale Cemetery, near Cemetery and Hogg roads.

Stewart said that families in the school district were called individually to check if there was a need beyond spring break for meals.

The school district will be using a school bus route delivery system to bring two meals a day for all school-aged children. A two-day supply will be provided for every school-aged child, and deliveries will be made on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Husky Pups Preschool, inside The HUB, is also closed until at least April 20.

Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP) Head Start is closed until no sooner than April 3.

— TK

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Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

March 29, 1995

Silver City road offers opportunity to get stuck

Despite a large sign clearly reading ‘Road Closed’ at least three different cars went past the signs and got stuck on the road to Silver City.

One car was driven by a young couple with two small children in ballet slippers and tutus. Their car will remain on the mountain until spring.

Another family was driving a compact car.

The third car was driven by two individuals and a child in shorts with no shoes.

None of the people had proper vehicles, tire chains, shovels, tow ropes, jacks, proper clothing, food, or any emergency equipment at all.

It’s lucky they didn’t freeze to death, said Owyhee County Sheriff Tim Nettleton. While it might seem bizarre that people that are underdressed and without the proper equipment or vehicle would deliberately pass a ‘Road Closed’ sign in the cold and snowy mountains.

Marsing still waiting for permit to drill

Marsing city councilman Harvey Grimme said the town is still waiting for a permit to drill another well to bolster the town’s water supply.

Currently, the town is crippling along with the system it has, and hoping to receive the permit from the Department of Environmental Quality as soon as possible to drill another well.

The city’s engineering firm — Holladay Engineers — said the permit was filed for at DEQ under emergency application status at least three weeks ago, yet a permit or a response has not yet been received by the city.

Marsing city clerk Janice Bicandi said she doesn’t know when they will receive the permit.

Until DEQ acts the town will have to manage on the water system they have.

4-H Gems give demonstrations

Demonstrations by Erin Fromm and Amy VanWassenhove highlighted the last meeting of the Owyhee Gems 4-H Club, which was attended by 27 members March 20 at the Owyhee County Extension Office in Marsing.

Fromm’s demonstration was on the many types of lamb breeds, and VanWassenhove’s was on hog by-products.

Members also elected VanWassenhove as the new treasurer and discussed the club’s upcoming activities and projects, which include building hog and lamb waterers at the fairgrounds and making field trips to local lamb and hog producers.

Caleb Showalter led the American pledge, and Ben Ineck led the 4-H pledge.

Homedale Trojans take swing at golf

Homedale High School offers a new sport this spring: Golf.

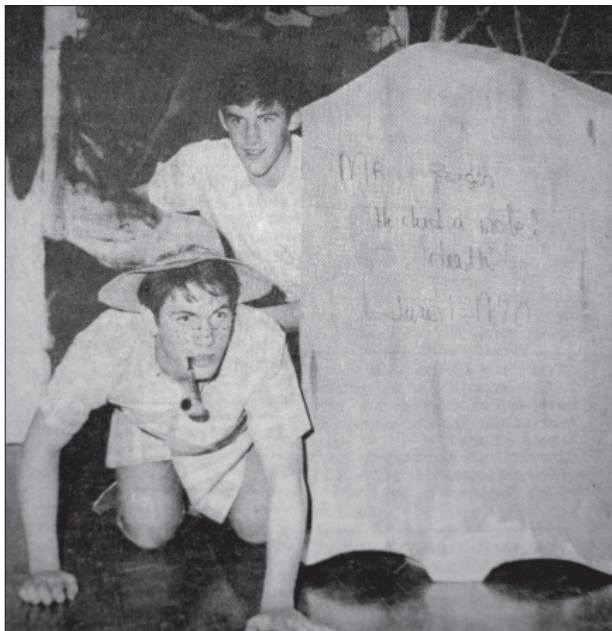
Although the sport isn’t officially sanctioned or funded by the school, four students have nevertheless formed a team and found themselves a volunteer coach, Kris Hopkins.

The team had its first tournament in Weiser Tuesday, March 21, a very cold, very wet afternoon.

Gavin Parker was the lone Homedale golfer to register for varsity play, and he came out with a 45 — right in the middle of the pack, according to Hopkins. John Cook, Seth Uhlenkott and Adam Duckett all competed at the junior-varsity level, but that may soon change.

50 years ago

March 26, 1970



ALAN ECHEVERRIA plays the role of Huckleberry Finn and Craig Curtis as Tom Sawyer in the “Tom Sawyer” play production to be presented April 4.

Ministerial Association plans Good Friday service

A Good Friday worship service will be held at 8 p.m. Friday evening in the First Presbyterian Church of Homedale.

This service is being sponsored by the Homedale Ministerial Association. It will consist of appropriate scripture reading and the presentation of sacred music.

Laymen reading the scripture will be Bill Watson, Orie Bassett, Edwin Stansell and Everett Van Slyke.

The combined choir representing five churches are: Kathy Parrill, Margie Parrill, Mary Lou Kellum, Ralph Matteson, Bryce Peterson, Doran Parkins, Kay Parkins, Lois Cole, Dave Phelps, Donna Tolmie, Rob Troxel, Sally Cantrall, Ellen Van Slyke, Gerald Little, Debra McPherson, Noreen Kellum and Virginia Phelps.

Mrs. Bonnie Jemmett is the choir director, and Mrs. Judy Phelps is the accompanist.

Participating ministers will be the Revs. Sam Cooper, Clare Willcuts, Wayne Cutshall and Ed Alora.

Monday meeting set to chart cleanup effort

Representatives of various groups participating in the clean-up campaign will meet Monday, March 23, at the city hall, according to Mrs. Joyce Blackman, city clerk.

Andy Warfield is chairman, and others include Father Francis A. Peterson, churches; Ronnie Roland, Chamber of Commerce; Dick Davies, Kiwanis club; and Mrs. Blackman, sororities.

The group plans to map out areas needing attention and asks for help and suggestions from everyone to make the forthcoming campaign a success.

Homedale Locals

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Breshears, who have been living in Texas, returned to Idaho Saturday night and will visit their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Lee until they find a new location.

Mrs. Gladys Matteson entertained the Wi-Ho supper club at her home Saturday evening. Guests were from Wilder and Homedale. Mr. and Mrs. Clare Willcuts drove to Richland, Wash., to get their three granddaughters, children of their son, Arnold Willcuts, who will spend this week here and at Nampa.

145 years ago

March 27, 1875

(From Monday’s Daily)

Some of our young folks in Silver City have hit upon a new way of courting. When the houses are in sight of each other, the young lady goes to the window and, breathing on the glass, indites epistles which are read and responded to in a similar manner from over the way by her lover. This is courting on homeopathic principles. We are stupid enough to agree with the veteran dame who liked the “old way the best.”

PASSENGERS COMING.—

Jno. Woodward and Jno. O’Neil left Winnemucca for Silver City by Saturday’s stage, and A.H. Robie and Mr. Cook were the passengers by Sunday’s stage. No passengers left Winnemucca for Silver City this morning.

MERCHANTS and business men will remember that we execute all kinds of job-printing, circulars, bill-heads etc. at the AVALANCHE office. Be sure and give us a call if you need anything in this line.

It is said that a big dose of strychnine is an antidote for alcohol and will make a drunken man sober in a few minutes. We wouldn’t advise toppers to try it, however, unless they are in a hurry to hustle themselves into eternity.

(From Thursday’s Daily)

A Hunting Expedition

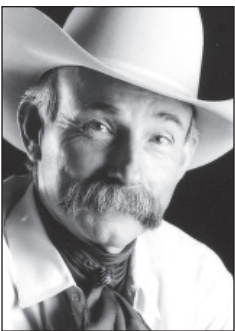
This morning a set of as jolly looking pirates as ever banded themselves together left town on a hunting expedition to the Cow Creek Lakes, with the intention of being absent about two weeks. The party consisted of Ben. Davis, Dick Pucket, Jack Stuker, Rus. Carter, Frank Hunt and Bill Gabriel who drove the team. Arrayed in their hunting rigs, with double-barreled shot guns on their shoulders and pistols and Bowie knives in their belts, they forcibly reminded us of the old Italian brigands that we read about. If the Winnemucca stage doesn’t arrive tonight, people will know what the matter is. Russ Carter took along 10 pounds of powder and 150 pounds of shot. Their commissary is reported to consist of the following articles: Five gallons whisky; 3lbs crackers; 5 gals. whisky; 1 can lard; 3 gals. whisky; 1 kit mackerel; 2 gals. whisky; 15 lbs. tobacco; 1000 cigars and one gross of matches. We hope they will succeed in having a good time rustivating, bag plenty of game and all get back home “right side up with care.”

SOME odd and curious things are sometimes sent through the mails. Not long ago a package containing six rattlesnakes found its way to the dead letter office at Washington. And now comes a box of Sour-Krout which an up-town young man received from his lady love through the post office here last night. It will most likely be followed by a dose of Limburger cheese.

A GOOD photographer would be kept busy and make plenty of money in Silver City the year round. The conditions of the atmosphere etc. are of the most favorable character and we have often wondered why a first-class artist did not locate here. According to its population, this camp would patronize a photograph gallery more than any other community in the world. People here not only want pictures to keep themselves, but they also want them in large numbers to send to friends abroad.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



On the edge of common sense Butch and Chope

Butch has a theory about hardcore *born-to-rope* ropers; as soon as they build a loop and take one swing, it kicks their brain out of gear.

To demonstrate how this theory works he told me about a friend of his. We'll call him "Chope," for short.

Butch was runnin' a ranch in the wilds of New Mexico east of Las Vegas. He'd bought a set of braymer bulls to put on his braymer cross cows and one of the bulls had turned out to be a bad actor. He'd shornuf do some damage if you cornered him.

It came time to pull the bulls. They gathered 'em in a corral along with whatever cows came along. As they were workin' the cows out the gate, one of the bulls kept tryin' to escape. It was that shornuf bad bull.

Chope was horseback watchin' the gate. The third time the bull tried to slip out, Chope, who was tied hard and fast, slapped a loop on him.

The bull turned and thundered back across the corral. Chope pitched the slack and was tryin' to square his horse around when the bull hit the end of the line. All 1,400 pounds of him.

Chope's horse had only got halfway around and was sideways to the bull when the slack ran out. He was slammed to the ground! Butch said he could see that nylon rope stretch an extra five feet as the bull was lifted off his front quarters till he looked like Trigger. At that same moment, he heard a sound like Mickey Mantle drivin' one over the centerfield fence. The saddle horn had broken off!

The rope with saddle horn attached cracked like a whip and lashed straight for a horse tied to the fence. It just missed a dismounted cowboy and coiled around the horse's pommel and saddle horn. The tail with Chope's horn still attached whopped the horse's butt. The horse bucked loose, breakin' his reins, and the bull galloped off draggin' the line.

Butch looked back to see Chope madly tyin' another rope to his saddle through the gullet.

"Whattya doin'?" Butch asked.

"I'm gonna rope him and get my rope back," Chope answered.

Butch stared at him. His broken saddle sat cockeyed, his hat was gone. His poor horse was shakin' like a front-row spectator at a rock and roll concert. You could almost hear his ears ringin'. It was like Chope was lashing him to a harpoon.

Butch placed his hand over Chope's and said, "Let's think about this a minute ... nobody's dead yet."

— 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*.

Gov. Brad Little



From the Statehouse Conduct now will influence our reaction to future crises

I've been talking to many Idahoans about the 2019 novel coronavirus. Everyone has an opinion, and most people are doing their best to stay healthy and prevent others from getting sick.

The situation with coronavirus is changing hourly, and history will remember our reaction to it. I want history to remember that Idahoans were there for each other during this very challenging and uncertain time.

Let's be mindful of our neighbors and thoughtful of our actions. If your neighbor is in the vulnerable population — the elderly or health-compromised — ask them how you can help. If you know a healthcare or public safety worker who needs childcare or help taking care of things at home, reach out to them. We absolutely need to maintain a strong healthcare and public safety workforce right now.

Individuals should not hoard groceries and household products. America's supply chain is the strongest in the world. Grocery stores will stay open and will be continually restocked. Shop for your needs and no more. You are potentially harming your neighbors when you take more than you need.

I applaud Idaho businesses, which are being as flexible as possible with their workers at this time. State and federal emergency funds are available to help businesses deal with unexpected losses. I want businesses to communicate their challenges to my office so we can work through it together.

Most people will not contract coronavirus, and the majority of those who do will experience mild

symptoms. Our focus is two-fold: to prevent spread of coronavirus to the elderly and health-compromised — who can get seriously ill from coronavirus — and to preserve capacity in our healthcare facilities. If we don't all do our part to control the spread of coronavirus to the vulnerable population, then our healthcare facilities will be overrun with too many patients in a short period of time. That's precisely what we're trying to avoid through all these preventative steps.

Idaho and public health officials have been preparing for coronavirus since January when the first case was confirmed in the United States. Our public health system and healthcare system is strong. It is not perfect, and every day we are improving access to coronavirus testing and getting closer to a vaccine. But we are far better off here than elsewhere in the world, and we need to be grateful for that.

My fellow Idahoans, let's keep everything in perspective and take a deep breath. Keep doing your part — listen to our public health experts about what to do and, most of all, "love thy neighbor."

History will remember how we dealt with coronavirus. Let's make sure future generations use it as a model for calm and compassion in a time of uncertainty.

— Brad Little (R-Emmett) is in his first term as Idaho governor. He previously served 10 years as lieutenant governor and was a state senator for nearly eight years.

From Washington Banking Committee works to move public transportation systems forward

The Senate Banking Committee recently held a hearing on the reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which expires at the end of September. The FAST Act provides long-term funding certainty for public transportation agencies across the country; funding that goes toward capital purchases and operations of the systems, and ultimately promotes safety, mobility and economic opportunity.

Public transportation plays a key role in our nation's economy. There are more than 430,000 workers employed in public transportation in the United States, and transit provides approximately 33 million trips every workday, taking many Americans to and from work, school and medical appointments. Although people typically think of public transportation as large, urban transportation systems, such as subways, transit is a critical lifeline to many rural communities as well. For example, in Idaho, where fixed-route bus service plays an important role in the more urban areas like Boise, non-emergency medical transportation is critical to the health and well-being of many elderly and disabled Idahoans, and tribal transit provides connectivity opportunities for the Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce and Shoshone-Bannock tribes.

During this public hearing, there was an appropriately

U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo

Republican (term expires 2022)

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Committee assignments — Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs (chair); Finance; and Budget

Chief deputy whip



large emphasis on the fact that we are facing yet another surface transportation reauthorization where the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund is the most significant issue that needs to be addressed in order to advance a comprehensive, long-term reauthorization bill. The Highway Trust Fund was originally intended

— See *Transportation*, Page 17

Commentary

Financial management

Old debt is still there even if it's not on credit report

Dear Dave,
Should you still pay debts that are in collections, even if they have been dropped from your credit report? The one in question is from 2011, and I assume it isn't showing on the credit report anymore because it's nine years old.

— Sam

Dear Sam,
There are two good reasons to go back and deal with this debt. One, even if it's off your credit report, you may still legally owe the money. Even if the statute of limitations has run its course, things like this have a habit of popping up and causing problems at the worst possible times. About the time you decide to buy a home, this is liable to raise

its head again and mess things up. So, the fact that something doesn't appear on a credit report doesn't mean you're not legally liable, or that they won't bother you about it later.

The second thing to think about is a simple matter of fact — you owe the money. Regardless of what the legal system or credit report says, you *morally* owe the money. I'd contact the creditor, and begin negotiations to settle the debt. You might be able to reach an agreement where they'd accept less than the original amount owed. Regardless, get any type of settlement offer *in writing*. That way, you're truly cleaning up your life and getting rid of any financial skeletons in your closet!

— Dave



Dear Dave,
I recently found out my former employer never stopped contributing to my health savings account (HSA). Apparently,

ly, this has been going on for about nine months, and they just sent me a form to sign so they can get the overpayment back. The amount totals a little over \$1,000, so should I sign the papers or is there another way to handle this?

— Ellie

Dear Ellie,
You know, if I were as incompetent as your former employer, I'd be too embarrassed to ask for the money back. But hey, the point is it's not your money. Sign the forms, and let them take the money out. Keep an eye on your HSA balance, though, and make sure they take out *only* amount they overpaid — not one penny more or less.

Keep it simple, Ellie. You didn't earn this money, and it wasn't expected or agreed upon. It was a mistake, so just do the right thing.

Control the scenario, and stay on top of this situation until everything is resolved correctly.

— 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](https://twitter.com/DaveRamsey).

✓Transportation: Questions include mobility for aging rural population

From Page 16
to be funded with federal gas and diesel taxes. However, since 1993, Congress has chosen to transfer general fund money into the Highway Trust Fund to pay for reauthorization bills. The highway account required a \$52.8 billion general fund transfer to pay for the FAST Act, and the transit portion of the FAST Act required an \$18.1 billion general fund infusion; these numbers will only continue to grow if we do not address the underlying solvency.

There have also been many changes to the mobility landscape since the last reauthorization, such as the rise of on-demand service, transitions to electric vehicles and deployment of autonomous technologies that should be addressed in a comprehensive long-term bill.

Traditional fixed-route transit service is an essential backbone for comprehensive transportation networks. However, there have been numerous

technological advances that can enable a higher quality of service at a lower cost that agencies should consider. Transit agencies should incorporate these technologies to complement fixed-route service outside of service hours, to provide non-emergency medical transportation, to bring riders to or from fixed-route service to their final destinations, and to modernize fare payment collection, just to name a few.

Federal policies should provide more certainty to transit agencies by addressing statutory and regulatory burdens in order to invite more innovation into the transit industry. Federal policies should encourage business-like operations of transit systems. This includes streamlining efficiencies, assessing current service with needs, maintaining assets in a state of good repair, leveraging resources for procurements, and seeking out partnerships with the private sector where appropriate.

Public transportation is an area of our Committee which is historically known for having overwhelming bipartisan support. I intend to continue this bipartisan tradition as we seek to balance the needs of bus and rail, urban and rural systems across the country. A long-term reauthorization bill is critical to providing the certainty and stability that transit agencies, cities and states across the country need to make responsible transportation planning decisions. While there are many challenges ahead, it is possible for the Banking Committee to produce a long-term, fiscally responsible reauthorization bill that can garner broad bipartisan support.

— Republican Mike Crapo is Idaho's senior member of the U. S. Senate. He is in his fourth six-year term and has served in the Senate since 1999. Prior to that, he was a three-term Idaho Second District congressman.

Contacting elected officials

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

Seat A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett)
P.O. Box 61
Hammett, ID 83627
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E-mail — czito@house.idaho.gov

Seat B Rep. Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett)
House majority caucus chair
595 W. Thacker Road
Hammett, ID 83627
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Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson)
Chairman
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Term expires 2020
Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale)
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E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com
Term expires 2020
Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View)
Phone — (208) 834-2641
E-mail — jvmerrick@hotmail.com
Term expires 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., Monday-Thursday
Mayor — Danny Martinez
City council — John Morrison, Tom Payne, Jon Pennington and Opal Ward
Meetings — 6 p.m., on second Wednesday



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THANK YOU

The family of Robert Grant wishes to thank all the wonderful people for the thoughtful cards, beautiful flowers, food, comforting hugs, and heartwarming conversations during his time in the hospital and ultimate passing. We are so thankful for this community of wonderful caring people. Debby Grant, Angie (Jeremy) Waters, Perry Grant, and their families



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