

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 35, NO. 15 \$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2020



There's a good chance public works supervisor Bret Smith will be wiping down the picnic tables at City Hall with disinfectant again today ahead of the Homedale City Council's April meeting.

Homedale faces costly infrastructure repairs

Council meeting set today on City Hall lawn

While other governing boards are heading online for their regular public meetings, the Homedale City Council has decided to go outside.

Today's monthly meeting will be held at 4 p.m., on the City Hall lawn, just as the council met on March 26 to pass a mayoral special powers ordinance.

City Hall is located at 31 W. Wyoming Ave.

Public works supervisor Bret Smith will bring three infrastructure repair projects

to the council today, including two sewer repairs that may cost \$97,000.

The sewer main in the 700 block of West Idaho Avenue has been in need of repair for a few weeks. The city has received an estimate from Pipeline Inc., that the project will cost \$11,300.

A second sewer system problem has been discovered. It could cost the city nearly eight times as much as the West Idaho Avenue work.

Reconstruction of the city's force main under Succor Creek must be approved by the Idaho Department of Water Resources

— See *Repairs*, page 18

Schools to stay closed

Idaho schools' soft closure will last until the end of the school year, but local districts have the discretion to bring children back to class.

— See *Schools*, page 6

SBOC gets "all clear" after post-quake check

Irrigation directors to meet via internet

Owyhee Project personnel have completed a survey of the local irrigation system after

last week's earthquake.

South Board of Control manager John Eells said the Five Mile Tunnel received no damage from the tremor, which hit just before 6 p.m., on March 31.

Previous inspections

— See *SBOC*, page 9



A handwritten note on the door of the Bowling Alley's restaurant entrance broke the news to disappointed patrons.

Homedale eatery, doctors offices close temporarily

Chamber president supports decision, lauds SBA assistance

While most Homedale businesses deemed essential are trying to stay open, at least three have closed or altered their practices temporarily for the safety of their employees.

And another has modified its hours.

The ExtraMile convenience store in Homedale, and the Jacksons Food Store in Wilder will be open from 5 a.m. to midnight until further notice, according to a post on the Homedale Community Awareness Facebook page. The new hours went into effect Friday.

In this week's edition of The Owyhee Avalanche, Owyhee Dental Center announces that all elective and routine

— See *Close*, page 18

State: Get absentee ballots ASAP

May 19 primary now a vote-from-home affair

Gov. Brad Little has suspended usual deadlines for obtaining absentee ballots and participating in the May 19 primary election.

Little's proclamation, dated last Wednesday, solidified the state's mail-ballot primary

election after Secretary of State Lawrence Denney had released details on how citizens could obtain mail-in absentee ballots.

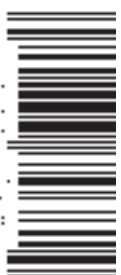
Denney and Gov. Brad Little decided on the exclusive mail-ballot voting to try to keep the

state's population safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Little's proclamations, there are new deadlines for the May 19 primary:

- Citizens have until 8 p.m., on May 19 to register to vote and to request an absentee ballot either through the

— See *Absentee*, page 18



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Virus cases at 2, Pg. 2: Homedale grocery worker positive
Sr. center nutrition, Pg. 3: OHR raises \$1,260 for lunches
Homedale schools return, Pg. 10: Meals, lessons distributed
Remembering Fred Grant, Pg. 14: Friends reflect on impact
Obituary, 6 • Looking Back, 15 • Commentary, 16-17

Albertsons associate positive for COVID-19

Employee split time between Homedale, Kuna; county cases at 2

Just three days after learning that Owyhee County had its first positive test for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, residents learned on March 31 that an Albertsons employee had also tested positive.

It is unclear if the Albertsons employee is an Owyhee County resident.

Southwest District Health has confirmed two COVID-19 cases in Owyhee County. The latest was announced on the Owyhee County Facebook page and confirmed by County Clerk Angie Barkell on Thursday evening.

According to information Albertsons spokesperson Kathy Holland shared with KIVI Channel 6, the employee most recently worked at the Homedale store on March 25.

“We have learned that an associate who worked at our store on East Wyoming in Homedale has a confirmed case of COVID-19,” Holland said in a press release. “First and foremost, our thoughts are with the associate who tested positive, and we hope for a full recovery.”

The same Albertsons em-

ployee last worked at the Kuna store on March 24.

The associate is receiving medical care and, according to guidelines laid out by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Albertsons Crisis Response Team may recommend additional members of the stores’ teams self-quarantine.

Employees who do self-quarantine are eligible for 14 days quarantine pay.

“The store has been through multiple cycles of our enhanced cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting process since the associate’s last day of work,” Holland told The Owyhee Avalanche. “In an abundance of caution, we conducted a thorough cleaning and disinfection with guidance from third-party sanitation experts.”

The Homedale store remains open and continues to follow the cleaning process throughout every department.

Holland said that the company has reaffirmed with all associates the need to wash hands and disinfect check stands hourly and to continue to practice social distancing. Sneeze guards also have been installed at the check stands.

Associates have also been reminded to pay attention to symptoms associated with respiratory illness, including cough and shortness of breath, and if they do have those signs, they need to stay home and contact their health care provider.

— TK

Marsing council meeting goes virtual

The Marsing City Council will convene at 7 tonight in a decidedly different environment.

Because of social distancing standards and Gov. Brad Little’s stay-at-home order, the council’s April meeting will be streamed on Facebook Live. No public will be allowed physically in City Hall.

According to City Clerk Jolyn Green, the public will only be allowed to communicate via mail, email, and through instant message on Facebook Live as the meeting is being streamed on the City of Marsing’s Facebook page.

The meeting’s virtual attendees can expect to hear updated information concerning Mayor Chad Sevy’s recent state of emergency declaration for the city. This information will be discussed during city attorney Stephanie J. Bonney’s monthly report.

Marsing has been without a post office for:
40 days

Also on tonight’s agenda, city engineer Kirby Cook of Civil Dynamics will provide updates on the city’s multitude of projects still in the works or near completion.

He is expected to bring his recommendation to the council for the Sandbar restaurant remodel project. The Sandbar will become the new Marsing City Hall when renovation is done.

Cook received three bids for the project, from Nampa-based HCD, Inc. (\$75,780), Homedale’s Succor Creek Construction (\$114,311.74), and Meridian-based Excelsior Construction (\$143,250).

The project consists of re-

placing damaged ceiling upstairs and downstairs, updating stairs to meet code and reconfiguring them to run in the opposite way than they are now, and install a front desk, among myriad other tasks.

Cook will also update the council on the Idaho highway 55 sidewalk project.

The purchase of gloves the code enforcement officer will use for animal capture will be addressed. A new cofficer has been hired and will be introduced at the May meeting.

During the mayor’s report, the council will make plans to schedule budget workshops ahead of the new fiscal year.

— TK

Caregiver charged with fraud

A Marsing woman faces multiple fraud charges and has been accused of exploiting an 83-year-old woman in her care.

According to Owyhee County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman, Miche Nielsen, 41, was arrested on March 28 on felony charges of acquiring a financial transaction card with intent to defraud and criminal possession of a financial trans-



Miche Nielsen

action card or number.

She also faces misdemeanor charges of fraudulently obtaining goods or services and exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

County Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Phillips said that Nielsen was the victim’s caregiver.

The prosecutor said deputies identified 181 unauthorized transactions spanning several months with receipts showing purchases of fuel, alcohol, and tobacco, along with other household items.

At least one healthcare service and at least one hotel stay was allegedly paid for, too.

According to Phillips, Nielsen

left the victim’s employ in June but kept the financial transaction card and repeatedly used it for her own goods and services. A family member of the victim contacted law enforcement after locating the charges during a financial records review.

Nielsen was identified using the card in several locations by signature, video, and/or personal identification.

She has been released from jail and will appear before Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington for her preliminary hearing at 1:30 p.m., on May 4, at the county courthouse in Murphy.

— TK

Under advisement of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, our office is currently postponing elective procedures, surgeries, and non-urgent dental visits.

If you are having a true dental Emergency you can contact our office. Our staff will contact all patients with scheduled appointments during this time to reschedule once we are fully open.

If you have a dental emergency, please contact us at (208) 337-4383. We will continue to keep you informed of our status as it changes. Thank you for your understanding.

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Senior centers continue curbside lunch service

Owyhee County’s senior centers continue to serve the public with takeout lunches.

The Homedale Senior Center offers curbside pickup between noon and 1 p.m., in front of the building at 224 W. Idaho Ave.

A donation is suggested for each meal, and folks are asked to call ahead of time to order their lunch.

The senior center’s phone number is (208) 337-3020.

Coordinator Sandra Ledford said the menu remains the same except the salad bar is no longer an option.

The senior center’s Meals on Wheels program serving Homedale and Marsing continues as well.

Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation completed a successful fundraiser to help folks pay for their senior center lunches.

OHR community liaison Lindsey Love presented Ledford a \$1,260 check Thursday morning.

“I was thoroughly surprised,” Ledford said of the total. “I just never, ever expected that kind of money from the community in such a short while.

“It’s going to help a lot. We have such a great



Homedale Senior Center coordinator Sandra Ledford (left) accepts a donation from Owyhee Health and Rehabilitation Center community liaison Lindsey Love on Thursday morning. OHR raised community contributions to help the center’s nutrition program. Submitted photo

community.”

Ledford said the money will be used for the senior center’s nutrition program, including the curbside meals and the Meals on Wheels program. There are about 40 stay-at-home seniors who are helped by Meals on Wheels, she said.

“This will help us give meals to folks that have come up on hard times and had their income cut due to the circumstances,” Ledford said.

Ledford also said that the senior center board of directors has suspended its meetings for

the foreseeable future.

Rimrock Senior Center

The Rimrock Senior Center in Grand View is offering curbside pickup or delivery of Grab-N-Go lunches on Tuesday and Thursday. Call (208) 834-2922 as early as possible on those days to place an order. Meals are ready at noon.

“We ask that orders be phoned in early,” coordinator Ellie Gillett said. “Staff is available to take your order as early as 7 a.m.”

Meal pick-up at the center’s

front door is available between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

“Folks can honk for someone to come outside to hand-deliver the meal,” Gillett said. “We’ve seen our Grab-N-Go meals grow in numbers steadily with each meal.”

The hand-delivery of meals is part of social distancing measures.

“We practice, encourage and enforce the personal six-foot distance bubble. Gillett said. “Elbow bumps all around.”

The senior center is also able to get meals to the homes of

those who can’t make the trip to the building.

“Delivery of meals has been smooth with the assistance of our volunteer force,” Gillett said.

Gillett pointed out that calls later in the morning will make it difficult to build meals.

The senior center discontinued the new Wednesday lunches when the COVID-19 information became available, Gillett said.

The senior center bus was “grounded” in the third week of March through a mandate from the state and federal agencies that fund the center.

“These same agencies have stepped up food donations available to us as well as additional funding to ensure our part with providing this essential service,” Gillett said of the nutrition program.

Gillett stressed that the meals are available for everyone.

“It is very important for our community to understand that age and income are not factors for who can receive meals,” she said. “Your community center is here to assist in this difficult time.”

— JPB

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ATV clubs honor county’s request to curb recreation

But other recreationists not heeding BOCC plea

Days after seeing an influx of out-of-county recreationists teeming over Owyhee County’s public lands, county commissioners spoke out against conduct that seemingly ran contrary to Gov. Brad Little’s stay-at-home order.

The Board of County Commissioners issued a press release to answer questions on how Little’s order might affect the popular outdoor recreation folks seek on the Owyhee Front and on other Bureau of Land Management lands.

With no action from the BLM Boise District, the commissioners sought to clear up confusion and encourage citizens to stay home to help flatten the coronavirus curve.

In the wake of Little’s proclamation “many people are asking questions of our county and of local BLM offices regarding whether they can still travel to Owyhee County for recreation,” the

commissioners wrote in the release.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s backcountry deputy Kenny Hoagland said the number of folks recreating in the county had dropped significantly after the BOCC release and the governor’s order.

“When the commissioners put out that notice all the (off-road) clubs said they would honor it and the governor’s request to stay home,” Hoagland said.

But on Monday, BOCC chair Jerry Hoagland said there were still plenty of people busy finding their social distancing solution in the Owyhee Front.

Kenny Hoagland said that in the days after the BOCC letter a few families camped and rode bikes, motorcycles and UTVs.

“The biggest issue was Silver City Road,” he said. “With only one sign as (you) pull off the pavement, most people don’t pay attention to it, so

they think they are going to drive up to Silver City.

“The word is not out that the road is closed. Facebook is great, but unless you watch the Owyhee County website and Facebook, you don’t know it’s closed.”

He said three vehicles got stuck in the snow toward Silver City the first weekend after the governor’s order.

He also reported that almost all of the people he turned around from Silver City Road had Ada County license plates.

Curious recreationists can visit a frequently-asked-questions page on the State of Idaho’s coronavirus website, https://coronavirus.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/127/2020/03/032520_Order-FAQ_updated.pdf

“The questions and answers make it clear that the Governor’s intent in allowing some recreation was the recreation you could do without getting in your vehicle and driving to a location away from your home,” the

commissioners wrote.

• **Question:** “Do I have to stay home and inside, or can I go outside for exercise and recreation?”

Answer: “Outdoor activity near your home is OK, but you should keep a distance of 6 feet from people outside of your household.”

• **Question:** “Can I drive to a mountain town like McCall or Stanley? There aren’t many people in those communities, so social distancing should be easier.”

Answer: “Generally, no. The point of the order is to keep people home and slow the spread of COVID-19. All non-essential travel must be avoided. Please stay home so you don’t overwhelm the limited resources in small towns and communities who are also staying home to slow the spread.”

The county urged citizens to follow the instructions and intent of the governor’s order.

— TK

Avalanche office still closed to customers

The Owyhee Avalanche newspaper is still operating, but the Homedale office is closed to foot traffic during the state’s stay-at-home order.

The newspaper will continue to operate, so advertising, obituaries and news announcements will still be accepted. Send items for publication

via email to jon@owyheeavalanche.com.

Send legal notices and classified advertising requests to office@owyhee.com.

Display advertising can be sent to rob@owyhee.com.

In any correspondence, include a phone number so we can call back to arrange payment or get more information.

Call (208) 337-4681 with any questions or to conduct business.

The Avalanche office fax machine is non-operational at this time.

OCD board to meet by phone next Wednesday

The Owyhee Conservation District board of supervisors will meet via conference call next Wednesday.

District administrative assistant Debbie Abel said the meeting will be brief, but is necessary to conduct some business.

The meeting will start at

7:15 p.m. The call-in number is (978) 990-5030, and the access code is 468389.

Among the agenda items is a discussion about a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service.



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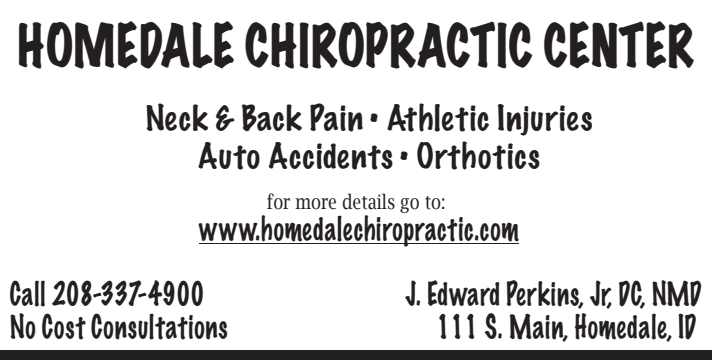
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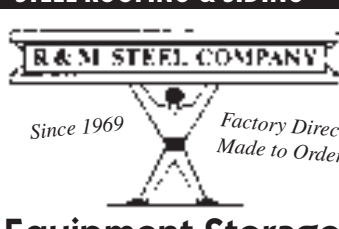
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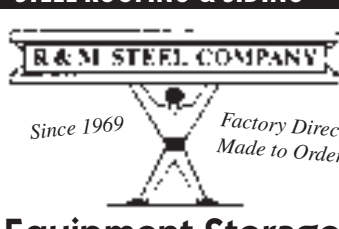
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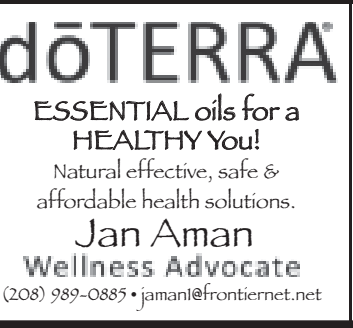
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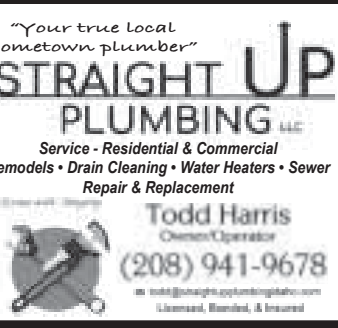
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Tri-State wildfire strategy out for public review

BLM releases
Final EIS for
Owyhee, Malheur
prevention plan

Completing a flurry of wildfire prevention-related activity at the end of the week, the Bureau of Land Management released the Tri-State Fuel Breaks Project Final Environmental Impact Statement.

The project aims to reduce fuel loads near roadways in parts of Idaho and Oregon.

According to the release announcing the plan, fuel

breaks can also enhance firefighter safety and provide strategic opportunities to limit the spread of wildfires.

A 30-day public review period began Friday. The Final EIS and supporting information is available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xPruu> (case sensitive). If you are unable to access the documents online and would like a paper copy, contact the BLM Boise District Office at (208) 384-3300.

The Tri-State project is a component of the Trump administration’s national wildfire reduction strategy guided by a presidential executive order and a

Department of the Interior secretarial order.

The landscape-level project area encompasses about 3.6 million acres in Owyhee County and Malheur County where wildfire is the primary threat to sagebrush-steppe habitat and the Greater sage-grouse. The plan also aims to protect land uses such as ranching and recreation.

The system of fuel breaks will integrate with existing breaks in northeastern Nevada to improve firefighting efficiency.

“The Tri-state Fuel Breaks Project will provide wildland firefighters with additional opportunities to contain

wildfires and reduce impacts to working landscapes and wildlife habitat,” BLM Deputy Director for Policy and Programs William Perry Pendley said. “These fuel breaks will also improve safety for first responders, including Rangeland Fire Protection Associations and others in the firefighting community.”

The Final EIS outlines five alternatives, including a No Action Alternative (no fuel breaks). Under the four action alternatives, fuel breaks would only be implemented alongside existing roads and would extend up to 200 feet on both sides of roadways on BLM-administered lands. Fire

suppression experts identified roads based on their strategic importance for accessing and responding to wildland fires.

The Final EIS introduces the preferred alternative, Alternative 5, which proposes a strategic fuel break network that addresses impacts to wildlife and cultural resources based on the analysis in the Draft EIS and comments received during the comment period. This alternative modifies the fuel break network from routes analyzed in the Draft EIS under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. The preferred alternative would result in a fuel break network of 47,213 acres along 987 miles of existing roads.

Interior secretary signs off on regional fuel breaks plan

Public can get
more info through
online resources

A West-wide public lands fuel breaks strategy with roots in Owyhee County has cleared its final bureaucratic hurdle.

Last Wednesday, Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt signed the final decision to construct and maintain 11,000 miles of fuel breaks in the Great Basin, a region that includes Idaho and Oregon.

On Friday, the Bureau of Land Management released its Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the plan.

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the BLM will set up online opportunities for the public to get more information and ask questions, rather than the usual series of public meetings.

Links to virtual public

meeting materials will be available on the BLM Land Use Planning and NEPA register by April 18 at <https://go.usa.gov/xdfgV>. Electronic copies of the Draft PEIS and other documents are available at the site now.

The public comment period will last 60 days.

If you are unable to access the documents online and would like a paper copy, contact the project staff by email at BLM_PEIS_Questions@blm.gov or phone at (208) 373-3824.

You may also email questions to that address.

The system of fuel breaks will be implemented to combat wildfires across 223 million acres. The region also includes parts of Nevada, Washington, Utah, and California.

Targeted grazing, like that carried out by Owyhee County cattlemen on the Owyhee Front in recent years, is one of the tools designed to create the breaks.

Bureau of Land Management

district and field offices will use manual, chemical and mechanical treatments such as prescribed fire, grazing and seeding.

The fuel breaks will be built along roads and rights-of-way on BLM-administered lands in an effort to minimize new disturbance and wildlife fragmentation while maximizing accessibility for wildland firefighters.

“This is a major step in fulfilling the president’s commitment to western communities by implementing more effective wildfire treatments that will better protect Americans, their property and their lands,” Bernhardt said.

The BLM has extensively documented that fuel breaks and other types of treatments are effective. Since 2002, the agency has assessed more than 1,400 fuel breaks and other types of fuel treatments that intersect with wildfires and determined that 79 percent

of fuel breaks are effective in helping to control wildfires and that 84 percent are effective in helping to change fire behavior.

Existing fuel breaks and the Great Basin fuel breaks plan will help maintain sagebrush communities that have been fragmented or destroyed by large and severe wildfires, the spread of invasive annual grasses and the encroachment of junipers.

About 45 percent of the historical sagebrush habitat, home to more than 350 species of plants and wildlife — including the Greater Sage-grouse — has been lost.

“Constructing a system of fuel breaks is a critical first step to reduce the risk of more catastrophic wildfires in the remaining intact sagebrush communities, but we can’t stop there,” BLM Deputy Director of Policy William Perry Pendley said.

“Fuel breaks will be most effective when combined with

fuels reduction and rangeland restoration treatments, and we’ll soon release a draft plan to provide for those in the Great Basin as well.”

Last week’s Record of Decision for the Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Fuel Breaks in the Great Basin was based on public input through an open comment period.

The PEIS does not authorize any specific projects. Local BLM district and field offices within the Great Basin will use the PEISs to comply with National Environmental Policy Act requirements when planning and analyzing specific fuel break, fuels reduction and rangeland restoration projects to allow for more rapid implementation.

An electronic copy of the ROD, the Final PEIS for Fuel Breaks in the Great Basin and associated documents are available at <https://go.usa.gov/xnQcG>.

From page 1

✓ Schools: Criteria under which individual districts can re-open TBD

The State Board of Education unanimously agreed Monday to extend the soft closure during a Monday meeting.

But individual districts will have the flexibility to open facilities later this spring or continue remote operation until reopening with a traditional schedule in the fall.

The districts will have to meet criteria to reopen. The

standards for resuming a traditional schedule will be developed in conjunction with state and local health officials in accordance with national guidelines, according to the Board of Ed’s press release Monday afternoon.

The soft closure originally was set to end on April 20.

In other motions from Monday’s meeting, the board

waived the requirement that a high school semester credit hour equal 60 hours of total instruction while schools deal with the disruption from Covid-19 and transition to distance learning. This will eliminate the need for individual districts to request waivers from the state Department of Education.

In other action, board members agreed to ask

Gov. Brad Little to use his executive powers to waive minimum instructional hours and requirements for a high school civics exam and an elementary reading test as part of the student-performance accountability measures Idaho schools are judged on.

Schools can still administer the Idaho Reading Indicator, which is scheduled next month

for kindergarteners through third-graders — remotely if school buildings haven’t reopened — to help teachers and families gauge student progress. The scores, however, won’t be factored into the school’s accountability report card.

The Board of Ed. will meet at 3 p.m., each Monday going forward.

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Obituaries

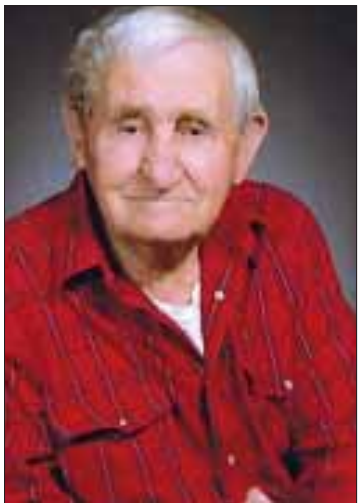
Gene Marshall Clapier

Gene Marshall Clapier, 90, passed away March 30th in Marsing surrounded by his family. He was 2 days shy of his 91st birthday. Gene was born in Ogden, Utah on April 1, 1929 to Archemad and Lida Clapier.

When he was 3 years old his mother and baby brother died from complication of childbirth and he and older brother, Dwaine, then went to live with their grandparents for a few years. Gene loved his grandparents and he had very fond memories of them. In 1934 his father married Donna Jenkins and they had 4 children, Brent, Lauralee, David & Steve. In grade school in Ogden, Gene was referred to as Tunney, after Gene Tunney the boxer because he was considered the toughest kid in school. He grew up during the Depression and times were very hard for his family.

He found his first job at a brick yard. In the early '40s the family moved to Nampa, then Marsing. When he found out he wasn't eligible to play football at Marsing High School due to the move, he quit school. He hitchhiked to California with a friend and worked at Santa Anita Racetrack as an exercise jockey for racehorses. At 19, he joined the Army and served from 1948-1952, playing football for the Fort Benning Dough Boys and later playing football in Germany to help build relations with the country. After the Army he returned to Marsing and he started farming.

At a New Year's Eve dance in 1954 in Jordan Valley, Oregon he met the love of his life, Ruth Loveland. They married later that year when they eloped to Reno and had a double ring ceremony with their best friends, Fred (Jr.) & Billie Johnson. In the early years of their marriage Gene farmed in Marsing and they had 5 children, Rochelle, Lynnette, Bodie, Craig & Yvonne. In the '60s the family moved to Arock, OR where Gene worked on a cattle ranch and later, they moved to Caldwell where he worked for the Idaho Highway Department. In 1969 they moved back to Marsing for good and they farmed and ranched there for the next 40 years. In the '80s they also owned Owyhee Feed and Seed and V&F Produce. Gene's preferred occupation was farming and ranching, he loved dirt and cattle. In his earlier years he participated in rodeo events. Bareback bronc, big loop roping and



team roping.

Gene loved football and enjoyed watching professional, college and Marsing High School teams play. He especially liked watching his sons play. Besides football he enjoyed watching the LDS General Conferences, Billy Graham Crusades, Lawrence Welk, old westerns, old movies and anything with John Wayne. He loved the Big Band music and the Crooners: Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra. He was a great jitterbug dancer. Gene was active in the American Legion. He will be remembered for his love of his family, love of his dogs, love of horses and cattle, his honesty, his sense of humor, his outgoing personality and him never meeting a stranger.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth, daughters: Rochelle Gastaldi (Jeff), Lynnette Clapier and Yvonne Rose; sons: Bodie Clapier (Tina) and Craig Clapier; 9 grandchildren: Lyndsey Clapier, Quincy Clapier, Gena Gastaldi, Angie Gastaldi, Hannah Gastaldi, Marshall Abbott, Garrett Abbott, Scott Rose, and RyeLea Rose; 2 great-grandchildren: Cash & Frankie; brothers: David Clapier (Connie), Steve Clapier (Janet); sister: Lauralee Foote (Derrell); sister-in-law: Judy Clapier; and his beloved dog, Reba. He was predeceased by his father: AD Clapier; mothers: Lida Clapier and Donna Clapier; brothers: Aaron Clapier, Dwaine Clapier (Rip) & Brent Clapier; and son-in-law: Ryan Rose.

We would like to thank Heart'n Home Hospice Caldwell for their loving care. Memorial donations can be made to the American Legion Community Hall or the Marsing Disaster Auction.

Due to the coronavirus, there will be no service at this time. When circumstances allow, a Celebration of Life will be held in remembrance of Gene.

Colleen Combs

Surrounded by her family, during the morning hours of Sunday, March 29, 2020, Colleen Blessing Combs left us to be with her heavenly father.

Colleen was born in Watonga, Oklahoma on January 1, 1934 to Harley and Emma (Woodruff) Blessing. She was the middle of six siblings: Allen, Jack, Robert, Mildred, Maudine and Lois.

Colleen and her family grew up traveling as field workers to earn a living. Though most would consider this a difficult period to overcome, if you asked Colleen, these times were only cherished as some of the most treasured times of her life.

Colleen married Lloyd E. Parrill in June of 1951. They had four children who were the most important part of her life. She later married Delbert F. Combs and they added three more children to the family, Donna, Frank and Dennis. They remained married until his passing.

Colleen and her children



moved to Homedale in 1966 where she worked at Logan's Variety for several years. She then gained employment at Wonder Bread Hostess Cake where she managed the thrift store. All of the children in Homedale looked forward to Halloween each year because she passed out Twinkies and Ding Dongs for trick or treats.

She worked for Wonder Bread until her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents, several siblings and her beautiful daughter, Margie Gray. Colleen left a legacy to keep her spirit and memory alive. She is survived by her children: Kathy and John Robling, Donna and Larry McBride, Frank and Sherri Combs, Dennis and Sheila Combs, Danny and Sherry Parrill, Teresa Yost; brother, Jack Blessing; sister, Lois Erickson; 22 grandchildren; and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Colleen was a loving, kind, beautiful and generous person who genuinely cared for everyone she met. She was known for her sweet disposition and giving heart.

She will truly be missed by all, especially her faithful companion, Baby.

Condolences may be left for Colleen's family at www.flahiffuneralchapel.com.

Honor roll TVCC winter quarter

A handful of local students earned spots on the Treasure Valley Community College winter quarter honors list:

President's List (4.0 grade-point average) — Michaela Lynn Stoddart, Jordan Valley; and Carlota K. Wietzel, Marsing

Honor Roll (3.5 to 3.74 GPA) — Joseph Virgil Ineck, Marsing; and Emileen Isabella Noblit, Homedale

Death notice

EDNA MAE GALLUP, 82, of Grand View, died March 24, 2020. Arrangements: Cremation Society of Idaho, 5541 W. Overland Road, Boise. (208) 322-3590

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Submitting calendar items

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

Submit information on upcoming fundraisers, meetings, reunions or community events to The Owyhee Avalanche by noon Fridays for inclusion in the calendar. Drop off press releases at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale, mail them to P.O. Box 97, Homedale, ID 83628, 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.

University of Idaho
Extension

Online resources can help you safely preserve food at home

It's an interesting time, to say the least. With the current COVID-19 situation, I have seen, as I am sure you have, major concern regarding access to typical household items. Unfortunately, this includes



Suriñe Greenway

food. It is during this time that I have seen an influx of inexperienced or new canners accessing several different home-based food preservation social media pages to receive canning information. Just as social media can be a great tool to access current-day information, it can also be a means of retrieving information that is inaccurate and potentially dangerous when coupled with a lack of experience or knowledge regarding the methods and science involved with home food preservation recommendations.

This brings up the need to understand that when handling food for shelf-stable storage, many factors can impact the safety of the product, and deviating from scientifically tested steps in a recipe can severely impact the safety of a home-canned product. When handling food for shelf-stable storage, it is important to follow up-to-date, research-based recipes that can guarantee that if the recipe is followed, it will yield a safe product. This means that when someone may have a "homemade recipe to can (insert product name)," this may not always be a safe product.

If you are wondering where to access easy-to-follow research-based resources, many

are available online for FREE. You can check out the following publications and many more. A full list of Food Preservation and Safety Publications & Resources from University of Idaho is available at <https://www.extension.uidaho.edu/youthfamilyhealth.aspx>

- PNW 214: Freezing Fruits and Vegetables
- PNW 296: Freezing Convenience Foods that you've prepared at home
- PNW 355: Pickling Vegetables
- PNW 361: Canning Meat, Poultry, and Game
- PNW 397: Dehydrating Fruits and Vegetables
- PNW 421: Using and Caring for your Pressure Canner
- PNW 612: Storing Food for Safety and Quality
- PNW 632: Making Jerky Safely at Home

The National Center for Home Food Preservation is an additional research-based resource that can be found online, and each different section can be viewed, downloaded or printed at home. Visit this site for access: https://nchfp.uga.edu/publications/publications_usda.html

If you have questions regarding home food preservation (including freezing, dehydrating and canning), contact the Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104.

— Suriñe Greenway is the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator. For more information, you can reach the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. The office is located at 238 W. 8th Ave. W., in Marsing.

U of I winter grads announced

The University of Idaho's spring commencement has been cancelled, but the winter graduation ceremony went off as planned on Dec. 14.

A handful of students with Owyhee County ties received some of the 421 degrees distributed.

Cristian Ayala — A Grand View resident who graduated from Rimrock High School completed a Bachelor's in Exercise Science and Health after studying in the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

Diego Elizarraras — The Bruneau resident and Rimrock High School graduate received a Bachelor's of Business in Accounting from the College of Business & Economics.

Courtney P. Bryant — The Caldwell resident, who graduated from Marsing High School, earned a Bachelor's in Art from the College of Art & Architecture.

Kyler J. Landa — The Homedale High School graduate earned a Bachelor's in Marketing from the College of Business & Economics.

Isaac W. Riley — The Murphy resident earned a Bachelor's in Animal and Veterinarian Science with a pre-veterinarian option from the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences.

Ramon Salinas — The Grand View resident earned a Bachelor's of Education in Physical Education from the U of I's College of Education,

Health and Human Sciences.

— *The Owyhee Avalanche is accepting information about all Owyhee country residents who may be graduating in May but will not have the thrill of a commencement ceremony. Email the name of the student, their school and the degree earned to jon@owyheeeavalanche.com. Please include a photo of the prospective graduate, information about their high school and hometown, parents' names and any other college-related details, such as grade-point average or number of times the student qualified for the Dean's List. Call (208) 337-4681 for more information.*

Calendar

Today

Marsing community pantry

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. Call school district to arrange curbside service. (208) 649-5411

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting

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

Grand View City Council meeting

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

Homedale City Council meeting

4 p.m., City Hall, 31 W. Wyoming Ave., Homedale. Meeting will be held on City Hall front lawn. (208) 337-4641

Marsing City Council meeting

7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Main St., Marsing. Meeting can be viewed on Facebook Live only. (208) 896-4122

Homedale Highway District meeting

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

Marsing School Board meeting

7 p.m., school district office boardroom, 301 8th Ave W, Marsing. Meeting is accessible online only. Visit marsingschools.org or call (208) 649-5411 for details.

Friday

The Landing teen support group

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

Monday

Board of County Commissioners meeting

9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381

State Hwy. 78, Murphy. Call (208) 495-2421 for accessibility options.

Homedale school board meeting

7 p.m., school district boardroom, 116 E. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4611

Tuesday

Gem Highway District meeting

6 p.m., district office, 1016 Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-4581

Ridgeview Irrigation District meeting

7 p.m., South Board of Control office boardroom, 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale. Meeting accessible by Zoom only. Call (208) 337-3760 for link to meeting.

Gem Irrigation District meeting

7:15 p.m., South Board of Control office boardroom, 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale. Meeting accessible by Zoom only. Call (208) 337-3760 for link to meeting.

South Board of Control meeting

7:30 p.m., South Board of Control office boardroom, 118 S. 1st St. W., Homedale. Meeting accessible by Zoom only. Call (208) 337-3760 for link to meeting.

Wednesday

Marsing community pantry

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. Call school district to arrange curbside pickup, (208) 649-5411

OCD conference call meeting

7:15 p.m., call (978) 990-5030, access code 468389,

Friday, April 17

The Landing teen support group

6 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. (208) 807-0680

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Community rolls with quake, virus

First COVID-19 and the stay-at-home order, now an earthquake. But Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Gavin Parker isn't worried about his hometown.

"These are really scary times, but I've seen our community come together many times before," he said. "I know this time will be no different. I think there's a sense of determination that we will get through this together."

"On the bright side, it has been an opportunity for all of us to refocus on what's truly important in our lives."

Parker said he had not heard of any damage from the 6.5-magnitude earthquake that shook the Treasure Valley on March 31. Although the quake's epicenter was west of Challis, the trembler and its aftershocks were felt in Owyhee County.

There were no reports of damage in Owyhee County, and based on some folks' reaction the earthquake provided a little levity in a tense time.

The earthquake may have provided a bit of a distraction from the coronavirus pandemic

locally, but life was back to the new normal quickly.

Homedale School District staffers tried to create something as close to normal for their students. Several fanned out to the Txoko Ona Basque Center parking lot and the elementary school staff parking lot to distribute meals to families with boys and girls 18 and younger.

Many districts have started what amounts to a summer feeding program while applying for U.S. Department of Agriculture waivers.

Teachers began working with students through online resources and take-home packets March 30. Find a link to an Idaho Digital Learning Academy parental resource center at www.homedaleschools.org.

Parker has children in the Homedale district, too, but he is looking at the bigger picture of the entire community getting through the current situation.

"I'd just say that we all need to be patient and kind with each other," he said. "Fear tends to show through as anger, and that's the last thing we need right now."

— JPB

From page 1

✓ SBOC: Updates available online, too

Regular maintenance last week included burning vegetation on canal banks.

Eells said the system should be charged by Friday and no later than next Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the men who govern the local irrigation districts will convene a video conference for their April series of regular meetings.

The three meetings, which will be held beginning at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, will be available online and through smartphones on Zoom.

Anyone who wants to virtually attend any of the meetings can call the South Board office at (208) 337-3760 to receive a link and connecting instructions.

If anyone does not have connectivity either through a smartphone or a computer, they can call the office to set up an alternative method of attendance.

The Ridgeview Irrigation District directors will begin the series of meetings at 7 p.m., followed by the Gem Irrigation District board at 7:15 p.m. The South Board meeting is set to start at 7:30 p.m.

Water users who want to keep up-to-date with emergency notices or other news can visit www.southboardofcontrol.com.

— JPB

revealed cracks in the cement lining of the Five Mile Tunnel, which carries irrigation water from the Owyhee Reservoir to the South Canal.

Irrigation water is already flowing in the tunnel, so workers had to find other ways to see if any of the cement had broken free.

"We checked and made sure the elevations didn't change in the canal and went up and checked that there was no sediment in the water," Eells said. "The water was clean, so that meant nothing fell."

Crews checked the water levels and sediment two or three times during the night after the quake, Eells said.

"This morning (last Wednesday), we checked the numbers and everything was the same as they were (the night before)," he said.

Eells said Owyhee Irrigation District workers were dispatched soon after the earthquake to inspect the 78-year-old Owyhee Dam.

"Those guys were up there around 10 o'clock when they called me and said, 'All clear,'" Eells said.

South Board crews spent last Wednesday checking the integrity of canals and pipelines, he added.

"Everything looks good," Eells said.

Owyhee County news online - when you need it

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Miranda Sanders, 12, receives a bag with two meals from volunteer Chelsea Johnson on Monday morning in the Txoko Ona Basque Center parking lot. Miranda is the daughter of Melissa Reisinger. Meals are available between 11 a.m. and noon Monday through Friday at the Basque Center and Homedale Elementary. The meals are being offered to any child 18 and younger to replace ones lost while school is out of session.

HSD goes on with life in the time of COVID-19

Even as Homedale School District employees are moving ahead with educational duties, officials are looking ahead to what lies beyond COVID-19.

Homedale superintendent Rob Sauer, who has been immersed in the response on the local, regional and state level, said the soft closure may stretch on to the end of the month and districts already know to brace for a financial impact.

Sauer said that school districts, like all other agencies that receive state funding, already are coping with a one percent funding holdback for the current year. That amounts to between \$70,000 and \$75,000 for this year, he said.

“With that said, there are federal stimulus dollars that will offset some of that,” Sauer said. “We are trying to figure out how much would be offset and what type of flexibility is available with stimulus dollars.”

But the current holdback could be just the beginning.

“We are anticipating a greater holdback in state dollars in the next school year,” he said.

Even with bleak financials looming, the job of looking out for the welfare of the district’s schoolchildren is still at hand.

Sauer said the district served 1,174 meals between Monday and Thursday last week. Some were deliveries, but the bulk grab-and-go meals distributed by district staffers at parking lots at Homedale Elementary School and Txoko Ona Basque Center.

“We expect that number will increase over the next few weeks,” Sauer said.

The meals are available for any child 18 and younger.

The district checked out 325 Chromebooks for students’ at-home learning over a three-day period last week.

“Staff are rallying to provide online learning opportunities for students and packets for those that don’t have connectivity,” Sauer said.

A link to an Idaho Digital Learning Academy parental resource center is available at www.homedaleschools.org.

The at-home learning could last longer. The Idaho State Board of Education was to meet Monday to discuss extending the soft closure to April 30.

“... but we are preparing for the soft closure to continue for the remainder of the current school year if that is the directive from the State,” Sauer said.

Meanwhile, the business of preparing for the next school year goes on.

Sauer said district officials still plan to hold interviews in search of Terri Vasquez’s successor as elementary principal.

“Those will take place in a virtual setting,” Sauer said. “We received 22 applications for the position.”

Sauer also said the Homedale board of trustees will hold Monday’s monthly meeting online via Zoom, and the Idaho School Board Association led a training for district office staff on that application last week. A link to the meeting will be established this week, he said.

— JPB

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Homedale women team up to make protective masks

Jessie Kerbs and Donna Marose are involved with Homedale businesses that have closed because of the effort to flatten the COVID-19 curve.

But the Homedale community members are turning their attention to lifting spirits and helping out.

Kerbs, who is a cosmetologist at The Beauty Shop on North Main Street, and Marose, who owns The Bowling Alley, began making cloth masks independently to help the drive in the Treasure Valley to donate to healthcare workers.

But with the Centers of Disease Control suggestion that everyone should wear the masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the pair have joined forces to start Owyhee Mask Makers, a Facebook group that strives to build masks for anyone who needs them.

Kerbs is on her way to completing close to 300 masks.

“We are hoping other crafters will join us in the effort to pitch in and offer these (for no charge) to our community,” Marose wrote in an email.



The material varies, but each mask that Jessie Kerbs and Donna Marose create serves the same crucial purpose. Submitted photos

As of now, only Kerbs and Marose are sewing masks. The women aren’t taking cash donations, but do seek contributions of labor for sewing, bias tape and elastic. Marose said there is an acute need for the bias tape and elastic because those materials are unavailable in stores.

Others involved in the effort include Robbie Busse, Mary Sonke, Christy Cooper, Pam Gibbens, Leslie Parker, Janette Gomez, Sam Smith,

Gail Harrie, Louise Pryor, Breein North, Amy Allen, and PJ Walliser.

Visit the group’s Facebook page to find out how you can help with either making the masks, cutting fabric or in other ways.

— JPB

— Read more about the effort and Kerbs’ and Marose’s path to helping out in the April 15 edition of The Owyhee Avalanche.



Homedale community garden work steams ahead

HHS senior builds garden boxes

With social distancing the name of the game lately, Homedale Farmers Market president Denise Dixon is looking ahead to the implementation of the town’s community garden.

And she’s hoping that folks will buy into the community concept and respect the area.

“We want to make the garden inviting to the community and the RV park,” Dixon said. “We will be putting in an honor box for people to pay for produce. The fencing we have will be used if necessary.”

No fencing is planned at this time for the garden, which is being installed adjacent to the RV spaces at Riverside Park.

“We are trying the garden without a fence, hoping the community will be respectful,” Dixon said, asking that materials that will be delivered be left alone.

Homedale High School senior Mason Rountree continues to work on boxes for the raised garden beds, half of which have been buried. Dixon said during Saturday’s garden committee meeting that she’ll



The Homedale Community Garden is taking shape in a corner of Riverside Park near the foot of North Main Street. The City of Homedale public works department, led by Bret Smith, helped fill the boxes with top soil last week.

ask Rountree to finish burying the other boxes.

At Saturday’s garden committee meeting, held over Zoom, it was decided there would be seven boxes in use this year:

- One cold box for red cabbage, lettuce and peas
- Two hot boxes for tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers
- Two root boxes: One for potatoes and one for carrots, beets, radishes, and arugula
- A pollinator box in which flower seeds will be planted

after the irrigation system is installed.

- A “three sisters” box for Indian corn, beans and squash.

The next garden committee meeting will be held over the internet at 8:30 a.m., on Saturday.

Top soil was delivered March 31. City of Homedale public works supervisor Bret Smith filled the boxes, Dixon said.

Dixon also said that garden committee member Sherm Takatori, the husband of First Presbyterian Church Pastor

Rev. Heidi Smith-Takatori, delivered pallets that will be used to build a compost bin.

Committee members who attended Saturday’s meeting via internet included Dixon, Smith, Tanya Quigley, Marilyn Evans, and Debbie Abel.

This week, Dixon was to sit down with Orchard Valley Irrigation personnel to map out a watering system design.

Dixon was also working on getting a sign or banner built for the garden and figuring out if Homedale FFA plans to grow

garden plants in its greenhouse this year.

Also discussed during Saturday’s committee meeting:

- Dixon said Smith offered to put together two trellises with material already on hand.
- The garden banner should arrive this week.
- Dixon has received word on available plants from Homedale FFA Rachel Rheuby: beefsteak and cherry tomatoes, a variety of peppers, and cucumbers.

— JPB

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Milk available each day
Roll available each day except April 8th, 16th, 29th
Curbside pickup only between noon and 1 p.m.
Call ahead at (208) 337-3020

- April 8: Grilled hot dog on bun, tater tots, chili, creamed spinach
- April 9: Baked ham, hash brown casserole, and mashed sweet potato
- April 14: Pork chop w/cream of mushroom soup, rice, peas & carrots
- April 15: BBQ Chicken Breast, baked potatoes, beets

Rimrock Senior Center

All meals are served with milk & fruit juice
Curbside pickup from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or delivery only. Call (208) 834-2922 as early as possible beginning at a.m. to place order

- April 9: Lasagna w/meat, green salad, fresh fruit, pudding, bread, cook's choice soup
- April 14: Pork stir fry, egg rolls, pork pot stickers, Chow Mein noodles, mandarin oranges, fortune cookies
- April 16: Beef stroganoff, wg butter noodles, steamed carrots, whole-grain roll, fruit salad, banana bread

C.J. Strike rec closure extended

Idaho Power recreation sites will remain closed through May 14.
The closure affects all Idaho Power campgrounds, parks, day-use areas and boat ramps, such as those at C.J. Strike Reservoir near Bruneau.
Anyone with reservations for the time before May 14 will automatically receive a full refund, according to Idaho Power spokesman Brad

Bowlin.
“These closure dates are in line with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation’s campground closures and are necessary to protect essential employees and critical infrastructure,” Bowlin said.
Idaho Power had closed its recreation sites as part of the company’s social distancing measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Courthouse report

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

- March 27**
Pedro M. Salazar Cortes, Haines City, Fla. — Misdemeanor commercial vehicle violation, no logbook: \$263.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs. **Dismissed by prosecuting attorney:** Misdemeanor failure to appear citation
- March 25**
Luis Alberto Castro, New Plymouth — 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
- March 23**
Aaron Richard Waltz, Boise — Misdemeanor driving under the influence (amended from misdemeanor DUI, second offense), misdemeanor driver in possession of open alcoholic beverage container (plea deal): 180 days in jail (8 days served, 2 days to serve, 170 days suspended), 2 years supervised probation, 6 months driver’s license suspended, \$1,097.50 in fines (\$300 waived), \$390 in court costs.
- March 20**
Tony J. Easter, Caldwell — Misdemeanor motor carrier violation over weight (4,001 pounds or over) exceed allowable gross loads: \$376 in fines, \$157.53 in court costs
- March 18**
Molly Anne Jefferson Hernandez, Homedale — Misdemeanor petty theft: \$250 in fines, \$157.50 in court costs. **Dismissed by prosecuting attorney:** Misdemeanor failure to appear citation



Left: Owyhee Candle Company co-owner Vance Barowsky plants Yoden the gnome for one of the business’ citywide gnome hunt on March 19. **Right:** The gnome’s location wasn’t unknown for long as Carmen (left), 8, and Tyler Jacobs, 12, found the figurine created by Nikki Barowsky. The gnome was found taking a swing at Homedale Elementary School.

Homedale candle company trudges on through pandemic

Gnome hunts provide social distancing distraction

Most Owyhee County businesses are struggling to remain viable, while others are just trying to keep from completely folding in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
These facts are even more daunting for companies that are still trying to get a foothold in their respective fields.
Owyhee Candle Company began operation two years ago and quickly ingratiated itself into the Homedale community.
The company just recently opened a shop on Idaho Avenue, behind the Idaho Street Medical Clinic in Homedale, and the struggles began almost immediately.
“We have had our four biggest shows canceled so far this year,” co-owner Vance Barowsky said. “As a small business, we count on these shows to keep us growing and to afford to keep ingredients in stock.
“This has been an awful situation for us.”
Barowsky grew up in Fruitland and owned a candle company for six years in Spokane. When he moved back to Idaho, people asked him about his candles, so he and his wife, Nikki, decided to start a new company with the goal of being able to work for themselves.
The couple began offering candles and melts using all-natural ingredients and premium wax blends. They also sell

car air fresheners, magnets, handmade signs, and more. Some of the products have been sold at Homedale Drug.
The business took an interesting turn last year when Nikki had an idea for a new product.
“She had a crazy idea one day to make a gnome,” Vance said. “That idea sparked a part of our business I never saw coming.”
Vance and Nikki saw the gnomes as a way to provide their community with a change of pace, something fun and different to do. And so, the gnome hunts were born.
“Nikki had inspiration from God to make several gnomes and hide them around town,” Vance said. “After the first day, we were hooked (when we saw) the smiles and joy on the kids’ faces.”
The Barowskys have done the hunts for two years, including five last year and two thus far in 2020. The recent hunts were launched as a way to battle boredom sparked by the stay-at-home days of the community’s COVID-19 response.
The most recent gnome hunts involved the couple asking a trivia question on Facebook, followed by further clues to those who answered the question correctly.
“The hunters are incredibly talented at finding the gnomes,” Vance said. “We plan to continue the hunts, but

I have to admit it’s very challenging for us to make them challenging and fun for the hunters.
“They amaze us at how quick they find them.”
He said that getting supplies for his business has been difficult, particularly the beans for the gnomes’ bodies, though they have received donations of beans from the community.
“Our major suppliers have been out due to the hoarding panic,” Vance said. “We are not able currently to order ingredients from our suppliers due to the shut-down order.
“We only order from suppliers in the USA, most of which said they would be back offering shipments by mid-April.”
Owyhee Candle has been involved with the Homedale Farmers Market summer and holiday events and Outpost Days in Murphy. The company has also donated baskets to several local fundraisers for schools, sports, and churches.
Owyhee Candle Company recently launched a “Social Distancing” line of candles with three new scents.
“(We hoped) it might bring smiles to people in these troubling days,” Vance said.
He said that, although the business world is in a bit of a holding pattern, the Barowskys plan to continue with their company.
“We plan to grow this business and bring more notoriety to this amazing county we live in,” he said.

— TK



Today

69°
43°

Sunny,
pleasant

March 31

61° 41°

.31



Thu

73° 42°

April 1

53° 31°

.06



Fri

75° 45°

April 2

47° 26°

trace



Sat

68° 43°

April 3

50° 24°

.00



Sun

63° 39°

April 4

53° 24°

.00



Mon

61° 32°

April 5

61° 25°

.00



Tue

62° 33°

April 6

56° 33°

.03

SNOTEL report, Owyhee County sensors

	Snow Equiv.	Snow Depth	Year-to-date Precip.	Previous day's temperature		
	(measured in inches)			Max	Min	Avg
				(measured in Fahrenheit)		
Mud Flat						
3/31	0.0	0	8.2	46	29	37
4/1	0.0	0	8.2	34	22	28
4/2	n/a	0	7.9	37	19	28
4/3	n/a	n/a	8.1	42	21	32
4/4	n/a	n/a	8.2	50	24	36
4/5	0.0	n/a	8.5	51	31	41
4/6	0.0	0	8.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Reynolds Creek						
3/31	0.0	0	10.5	43	24	32
4/1	0.0	0	10.5	28	18	23
4/2	0.0	0	10.7	36	19	26
4/3	0.0	0	10.7	40	24	31
4/4	0.0	0	10.7	45	26	35
4/5	0.0	0	10.9	45	32	38
4/6	0.0	0	11.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Mountain						
3/31	13.6	30	18.3	40	24	33
4/1	14.5	34	19.2	35	19	25
4/2	14.6	35	19.4	36	19	25
4/3	14.6	35	19.4	41	22	30
4/4	15.1	35	19.4	45	25	34
4/5	15.1	35	19.7	48	32	38
4/6	15.1	33	19.7	n/a	n/a	n/a

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation website showed that the Owyhee Reservoir was 84 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 807 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 159 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 603,608 acre-feet of water on Monday.

Calibrating pesticide sprayers

Backpack or hand sprayer calibration

This is an easy method of calibration that involves very little math or formulas. It is based on the following principle: Because 1 gallon = 128 ounces and the test area to be sprayed is 1/28 of an acre, therefore ounces collected = gallons per acre.

Step 1: Make sure your sprayer is clean and rinsed out — Use straight water – NO herbicide for this procedure. Make sure your sprayer is working properly — good pressure, a clean spray tip and good pattern.

Step 2: Measure out an area equal to 1/128th of an acre, which equals 340 square feet. An area 18.5 feet by 18.5 feet, 10 feet by 34 feet or 1.5 feet by 228 feet

Step 3: Record the time it takes to spray the measured area. Repeat several times and take the average time. Try to maintain constant pressure in the sprayer.

Step 4: Spray into a container for the average time it took to spray the measured area. Measure the water collected in ounces. The amount collected in ounces equals gallons applied per acre.

Example: Backpack / hand sprayer

Step 1. Make sure your sprayer is clean and rinsed out.

Step 2. Measure the area 18.5 feet by 18.5 feet = 340 square feet

Step 3. Average time to spray 18.5 x 18.5 area = 51 seconds

Step 4. Amount collected in container in 51 seconds = 40 ounces

Therefore, **40 ounces = 40 gallons per acre**

ATV boom sprayer calibration

Step 1: Make sure your sprayer is clean and rinsed out. Use straight water – NO herbicide for this procedure. Adjust the sprayer pressure and check nozzles for uniformity.

Step 2: Measure the spray bandwidth of one nozzle in feet, or nozzle spacing on the boom in feet, to determine the distance to travel. The area **MUST** equal 1/128th of an acre or 340 square feet.

Spray width of one nozzle, or nozzle spacing in feet	Distance to travel
1.67 feet (20 inches)	204 feet
2 feet (24 inches)	170 feet
2.17 feet (26 inches)	157 feet
2.33 feet (28 inches)	146 feet
2.5 feet (30 inches)	136 feet

Step 3: Drive the ATV the distance to make 1/128th of an acre and time yourself. Drive at the speed you will be spraying. Keep the speed of the ATV constant. Repeat a few times to get an average time.

Step 4: Catch the spray from **ONE** nozzle for the average time required to travel the needed distance at a desired speed you will be spraying. Measure the spray collected in ounces. The number of ounces collected is the same as the number of gallons per acre.

Example: ATV boom sprayer

Step 1: Rinse and clean the sprayer. Adjust the sprayer pressure and check nozzles for uniformity.

Step 2: Determine the distance to travel to make 1/28th of an acre. If your nozzle spacing is 2.5 feet (30 inches) you need to travel 136 feet on the ATV to make 1/28th of an acre (340 feet).

Step 3: Time how long it takes to travel the 136 feet at a desired speed. Travel this distance several times and get an average time. Say it takes an average of 31 seconds to travel the 136 feet.

Step 4. Collect the spray from one nozzle in a container for 31 seconds. Measure the water collected on ounces. The amount collected in ounces equals gallons per acre. If in 31 seconds you collected 20 ounces, your sprayer output would be 20 gallons per acre.

The Owyhee Avalanche

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Get a head start on noxious weeds

Although its Spray Day has been cancelled, the Northwest Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area continues to help control weeds.

The CWMA board and staff reminds landowners and producers that it's not too early to apply pre-emergent chemicals for weed control.

Regardless of what month it is, once the ground starts to thaw from winter freezes and there is some precipitation, the time is perfect to apply chemical to control those nuisance weeds folks fight throughout the year.

Pre-emergents are a great tool when used properly. Remember to always read the chemical label for proper rates and weed species you are wanting to control.

Chlorsulfuron/Telar has been a great success the past few years in controlling targeted weed species. The chemical not only controls puncturevine but also morning glory/bindweed, whitetop and perennial pepperweed.

Each year, the Owyhee-area CWMAs apply for grant money supplied by ISDA's invasive weed species program. This money is to be used to purchase chemical to treat noxious weed species for the citizens of Owyhee County and a small portion of Canyon County that was annexed into the CWMA. Contact the NOCWMA to make sure you are within the allotted boundaries.

For information, contact your local CWMA:

Northwest and Eastern Owyhee CWMA:

Jodie Dickerson, NOCWMA/EOCWMA administrative assistant: Jodieray2002@yahoo.com

Kelly Aberasturi, Owyhee County weed supervisor: (208) 249-4405 or kaberasturi@co.owyhee.id.us

Tammie Hedges, weed and chemical consultant: (208) 462-6153 or support@newenvironment.us

Jordan Valley CWMA:

Eric Morrison, JVCWMA coordinator: (208) 249-4746 or jvcwma@qwestoffice.net

Marsing junior receives another athletic distinction

Marsing High School boys' basketball junior post Jacob Ankeny capped off a season that saw him named 2A District III player of the year with a first-team nomination on Thursday to the All-Idaho team.

Ankeny is the only Owyhee County basketball player named to an All-Idaho team. Melba senior Caleb Fong was named to the second team.

At right: Marsing junior post Jacob Ankeny swats away a jump shot from Melba's Trey Wilson on Feb. 12.



Reflections of Fred Kelly Grant



Fred Kelly Grant (far right) stands at the U.S. Capitol steps with other principals who worked to get the Owyhee Initiative introduced into the U.S. Senate as part of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009.

A positive impact on Owyhee, many others

Almost immediately, I began to reflect on the extraordinarily positive impact Fred had on so many people! He masterfully provided local leadership at a critical time in the history — and future — of Owyhee County. We knew him best during the many years of sustained effort on the Owyhee Initiative, yet we are aware that his life reached many people well beyond that important work.

In the short days since Fred’s passing, I have been flooded with notes from people all around the country who were influenced and helped by Fred. What those messages have in common are words describing Fred — perseverance, remarkable intelligence, created lasting friendships, wisdom, deeply caring, empathetic, perceptive, quick wit ... and love. All of these characteristics and more are but a start in describing Fred.

Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho)
Introduced Owyhee Initiative into U.S. Senate

A mentor and nurturer

It is not often that we have the opportunity to have someone like Fred touch our lives — and what he was able to teach and instill continues to have a lasting effect on what we do today and how we are able to do it. Hopefully we are able to pass some of that on.

Fred was truly one of those people who helped each of us dig down deep, find what we have to offer — to solutions, to others, and to our community — and he encouraged each of us to continue to learn, grow, and serve. He saw potential and nurtured it, whether it was in a land use plan or regulatory comments, or in people working to get results needed to keep their communities vital.

Each of us that were lucky enough to have Fred Kelly Grant take us under his wing to teach and mentor us is a better person for it, a better public servant — and hopefully we will be able to help pass it on.

Fred was truly one of a kind and will be missed by many from many different walks of life and many different places, and my life definitely would not be the same without having been able to know, work with, and learn from Fred.

Brenda Richards
Reynolds Creek
Chair, Owyhee Initiative Inc.

Friend and one of God’s good gifts

“When the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer for the children of Israel, who delivered them: ... ” (Judges 3:9 and elsewhere)

We are reminded in the Bible that God, in His mercy and grace, from time to time raises up people with the gifts and talents that are needed to lead in difficult times. While I would not equate Fred with an Old Testament prophet, and Fred would rebel against any such comparison, I do believe that Fred was a gift from God to Owyhee County and to all who were privileged to work with him.

Fred is widely known as and will be remembered as a champion of the Constitution, of civil liberties, and local government. His legal acumen, tenacity, and commitment to Owyhee County were what was needed at a critical time.

I was able to visit Fred in the hospital a few days before he passed. Even then, he was thinking of Owyhee County and reminded me, and all of us, that there was a lot of work left to be done.

Fred was a leader, visionary, and mentor, but above all a friend and one of God’s good gifts.

Tim and Rosa Maria Lowry
Jordan Valley

The glue that held the Initiative together

I will never forget Fred Grant. He’s integral to all my memories of a nearly decade-long effort to protect the Owyhees landscape and the local way of life. From the first time I met him, it was clear that he was the “glue” that could keep so many different interests at a negotiating table. Fred was tough, but fair. Add to this equation smart, funny, and a problem-solver. I’m forever grateful to Fred for his hard work and commitment to the Owyhee Initiative.

Marcia Argust
Director, Restore America’s Parks
The Pew Charitable Trusts
Washington, D.C.

Unifying all ideologies for conservation

I’d been tracking Fred a bit on Facebook, and he was obviously not doing well. That said, he still had some notable Fred spark.

For the last three nights I was camped in the Owyhee Canyonlands. I just got back to town. I’ve listened to the choruses of meadowlarks in morning and dusk. The descending trill of a canyon wren. The sound of Big Jacks Creek winding around a steep canyon wall. Having two herds of mule deer wandering by, big bucks still in full antler and yet to shed.

As I’ve said many times, I got into this work to protect special places, but it was the many special people who kept me in it for so long, and in a sense, still in it. I met Fred in the Bruegger’s Bagel Shop, that memorable first meeting that arguably started a chapter of the Owyhee Initiative. I’d later stand with Fred in the East Room of the White House as President Obama signed the Owyhee bill. As we prepared to enter the room, Fred brought me over to meet with Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Of all people to bring me to meet Pelosi, it was Fred Grant! The reason? Fred and Pelosi’s Baltimore heritage; Fred knew Pelosi’s family way back when. After a few good laughs, we went in the East Room and watched history get made. The bagel shop meeting leading to a conservative activist introducing me to Nancy Pelosi leading me to reflect just yesterday on the stories behind the Wilderness signs scattered throughout the county ... all pretty special.

Rick Johnson
Portland
Principal, Rick Johnson Consulting Group

“We are all better off” for his guidance

Fred understood people and communities. He had a remarkable ability to bring people together to find and work for a shared vision.

Wallace Stegner once said, “One cannot be pessimistic about the West. This is the native home of hope. When it fully learns that cooperation, not rugged individualism, is the quality that most characterizes and preserves it, then it will have achieved itself and outlived its origins. Then it has a chance to create a society to match its scenery.”

Fred brought us all together, and we are all better off for it.

John Robison
Boise
Public lands director, Idaho Conservation League

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

April 12, 1995

Sororities join for ‘musical evening’

Both Homedale chapters of the Beta Sigma Phi sorority met for an evening of music and socializing at the Presbyterian Church in Homedale recently.

The evening was hosted by the Laureate Rho Chapter, whose president Patti Rash served as Mistress of Ceremonies and gave a musical reading of “I’ll Love You Forever.”

Other entertainers included Judy Phelps, who performed three classical pieces on the piano; Mary Jo Larzelier, who sang three songs including “Crazy,” popularized originally by Patsy Cline; and the Jefferies family of Wilder, which performed four songs on violin and guitar.

The Preceptor Iota Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi has hosted many activities this spring, including a corned beef and cabbage dinner at the home of Polly Saunders, a prime rib dinner at Owyhee Lanes, and a Valentines Day luncheon at the Sandbar restaurant in Marsing.

School board sponsors cross country teams

The Homedale School Board voted unanimously at its Monday meeting to add a new sport to the district’s list of sponsored high school activities: cross country.

The sport was a “semi-official activity” last year, Superintendent Dick Peters told the board, adding, “The request is to add that to our sponsored activities, and I do recommend that we do that.”

Last year’s boys and girls teams paid all of their own expenses and were coached by Amy Christoffersen, who received no financial compensation for her work. The boys ended up eighth in the state and second at district, and the girls won district and finished second at state.

Homedale Elementary recognizes students

Following are the students of the month for March at Homedale Elementary School:

Kindergarten: Sarah Ethington, Kory Nielsen, Bonnie Price, and Eric Eoff.

First grade: Jennifer Pfeiffer, Brett Hopkins, Willy Baber, and Andrea DeAugustineo.

Second grade: Kyle Christoffersen, Crystal Boatman, Kolby Buck, and Lacey VanderBoegh.

Third grade: Andrea Morris, Senaida Rangel, Jacob Halbert, and Jessica Roberts.

Fourth grade: Travis Hyer, Marcela Toleda, Vonnie Harkins, and Damien Alambra.

Sixth grade: Danessa Miyasako, Jammie Simmons, Tara Roland, and Jamie Johnson.

Trojans tennis team shines in 10-2 victory

The Homedale tennis team got in one match last week and took full advantage, claiming a 10-2 victory over Weiser.

Some highlights: Tara Cornell’s 6-0, 6-1 defeat of Melanie Petty in the number two girls singles slot, and Chad Hopkins’ 6-1, 6-2 decision over Nick Toennis in the number two boys singles slot.

The Homedale duo of Zac Ross and Tony Quintana also defeated Weiser’s Todd Huck and Brian Hibbard 6-0, 6-3.

Homedale girls experience first softball losses

Homedale (4-2) experienced its second defeat of the season on Monday, as the Trojans lost a 6-5 decision to Adrian in a makeup game from last Thursday.

“It was a really good game to watch,” Homedale coach Jim McMillan says. Charity McMillan recorded 14 strikeouts for the Trojans.

50 years ago

April 9, 1970



WINNERS in the annual essay contest conducted for Homedale Junior High School students under the sponsorship of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union are, from left, David Takasugi, a 7th grade student, first; Doug Cook, 7th grade, second; Judy George, 8th grade, third; and Melody Williams, 7th grade, fourth. The essays were written on the subject “To Smoke or Not to Smoke.” Poster winners were Matt Paxton, first; Richard Fritzley, second; Randy Maybon, third; and Sherry Quintana, fourth.

Chroniclings...

Plenty of activity is evident around Homedale besides the unusual amount of real estate moving about from spring winds . . . The road contractor is making the dirt fly between Homedale and Wilder . . . The new bridge only lacks the approaches to be put into use . . . The “What is it” addition is going up rapidly next to Paul’s . . . Carpenters are busy renovating Bicandi’s following the café fire . . . The foundation is poured east of the high school for a drive-in and a building moved on . . . Frank Toston’s new house in Riverview is nearing completion . . .

Succor Crik Sam Sez:

“Adrian band is on its way to Washington. It’ll be a relief to hear ’em after listenin’ to them politicians tootin’ their own horn.”

Trojans rap Parma pitchers for 11-3 victory

Homedale’s Trojans jumped on a pair of Parma pitchers for a 9-0 lead after three innings and went on to take an 11-3 Southwest Idaho League win Tuesday.

Homedale, led at the plate by Ray Garcia, Ken Kubosumi, Dan Uranga and Vern Henson, is now 2-0 in the SWI and the Panthers are 1-1.

Winning hurler Alan Echevarria was in control all the way, yielding only two hits and not surrendering an earned run in getting the win.

Grand View news

Mrs. Serena Tippin celebrated her 103rd birthday April 4 at the Parkview Manor Nursing Home. She was born in 1867 in Iowa. She married in Kansas in 1888 to Riley Tippin and they homesteaded on the Cherokee Strip in Oklahoma Territory. They came to Idaho in 1901. She is the last of a family of 14.

153 years ago

April 6, 1867

THE OWYHEE AVALANCHE

LAND REGISTER.—Mr. R. H. Brown, of Silver, has been notified that he is appointed and confirmed Land Register for the District of Idaho, and that upon the return of the prescribed bond and oaths, his commission will issue—dating from Feb. 25th, 1867, and to continue four years from that time. This will be the length of his term and the tenure of office bill gives him confidence to go ahead and become proficient in the duties without fear of removal before fairly installed therein. We believe Mr. B. is fully competent and will make an upright officer, and so believing are pleased to announce his appointment.

In the order of business connected with placing the Idaho lands in the market, the Register’s office will hardly be opened for business for a year to come, as the initial steps toward the public surveys have just been commenced.

WASN’T LOST.—In the early part of the week a reasonable fear was entertained for the safety of Messrs. Hastings and Burns, who started for Flint on Sunday and did not arrive at their destination for over two days, whereas they should have done so the same day. The day was stormy and they went too far east and lost their way, but were found luxuriating on a healthy diet on East Creek. Too much care cannot be exercised by travelers in the mountains on stormy days.

For a brief and pointed statement of military affairs in which we are all interested, read Mr. W.J. Hill’s letter. The necessity for a well supplied Post high up in the Malheur region, forcibly appears in the General’s returning to Boise, hundreds of miles from the Indians home. He remained with them until recruiting became a necessity — a necessity hastened by unlooked for cold and storms. From Winthrop, access to the headwaters of the Owyhee is easy and comparatively near.

MR. MONAHON informs us that travel has set in over the new route crossing the Snake by his Ferry, and the enterprise prospects as satisfactorily as could have been expected. Leaving Jordan Creek, the road leads over the mountain to Snake River Valley from the N.Y. & O. Mill. The Road Company have been granted the right (by the County Commissioners) to collect tolls on this road for five years, which is an inducement to go in and make a good thoroughfare.

ALL-FOOLS’ DAY passed off without any serious accident to any one that we have heard. Several merchants attempted to fill bottles containing a hole in either end, and others, whose propensity is to drink on all occasions, partook of various liquids no wise agreeable to their tastes.

SITUATION OF COUNTY OFFICERS CONSIDERED.—“A dangerous and unscrupulous clique” are making “an infamous attempt” to get control of affairs in Owyhee County, at least we have the authority of 231 citizens that such is the case, as will be seen by reference to a petition and signatures thereto in this paper. The language is mild to that used in conversation on the subject.

To state the case clearly, it is proper to say that the board of County Commissioners has entertained a proposition to declare several of the County Offices vacant upon the flimsy, unmanly and unjust pretext that the officers bonds are not as prescribed by law.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM

On the edge of common sense
His Father's Son



Mary waited for Jesus outside the cave
The promised resurrection meant He was saved.
While others waited a savior to come
Mary awaited her son.

The baby she had called Jesus stood in a crowd
Others gathered around Him. She was so proud.
She always worried in spite of His good
That he'd be misunderstood.

Mary, it's nothing you've done
He always marched to some other drum
You did all any mother could do
He was His Father's son.

Mary carried his sandals. Stood by his side.
Memories, sweet reflections, shone in His eyes
"Take care of Mary, for my time has come
"I'll always love you, Mom."

Mary, it's nothing you've done
He always marched to some other drum
You did all any mother could do
He was His Father's son.

— Watch the music video online on YouTube at https://youtu.be/aDCXRgGV_xo. Or type in "Baxter Black's His Father's Son." Visit Baxter's Web site at www.baxterblack.com for more features and to purchase Baxter Black books, CDs and DVDs. When you order merchandise, be sure to tell them you learned about it in The Owyhee Avalanche.

Letter to the editor

Local girl's crusade against ag suicide commendable

I want to commend Ainslee Evens for her article and speech in the Ag 2020 insert of The Owyhee Avalanche regarding the farmer suicide crisis ("Homedale girl strives to shed light on farmer suicide issue," March 18).

My hat is off to her for tackling such a difficult issue and for her obvious passion to be involved in helping find answers to this tragic circumstance.

I did not know that suicide in the agriculture community was an issue of that magnitude. As the conclusion of her speech stresses, we all need to be ready to step up and help our neighbors and hold them up in prayer.

Ainslee, keep up the good work and you have done Owyhee County proud!
Tim and Rosa Maria Lowry
Jordan Valley

Homedale Sr. Center grateful for community support

We want to thank our wonderful community for their donations to the Homedale Senior Center.

It will go toward meals to help cover cost of food and give meals to people that has come upon hard times, lost their jobs, or had their income cut.

Again thank you for your support.
Sandra Ledford
Homedale Senior Center coordinator

Glenn Mollette, syndicated columnist

Staying positive
We still have the good news of Easter to celebrate Sunday



Because of COVID-19, many churches will not be in their sanctuaries for Easter, April 12, 2020.

Easter Sunday can fall on any date between March 22 and April 25. The dates change because Easter happens on the Sunday following the Paschal Full Moon. The word Paschal means "Passover" in Greek, which is a transliteration of the Hebrew word *pesach*. The Paschal Full Moon is the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This is sometimes referred to as the Egg Moon. This moon sometimes occurs in March and sometimes in April. So, April 12 is not locked in for Easter every year, but it is the date for 2020.

Easter 2020 will be remembered for a very long time as the Sunday America had no Easter. Or, the Easter when churches did not gather in small and large buildings. This is disappointing to multitudes. It is the "one" Sunday that many Americans attend

church. Globally, churches pull out all the stops for presenting their best music. Ministers have been working the past several weeks polishing up their sermons. But it's the same story, the old story that, once a year, people come to hear.

Some people still buy new clothes for Easter. Americans are more casual than ever, but retailers still make out good for Easter. But not this year. Macy's and other retailers just furloughed hundreds of thousands of workers. For these retailers, Easter has been cancelled, and they are feeling it in their pocketbooks.

The first Easter didn't have a date of April 12. We don't know the date. We do know that the followers of Jesus were terrified. They had just watched him crucified on a cross, and they feared they were next.

— See *Easter*, Page 17

From Washington
American spirit battles COVID-19

As the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, has spread across our world, our communities have confronted this unprecedented challenge head-on. In the face of adversity, we are seeing innovation and compassion from those working hard to contribute to the solution — the American spirit at its best.

Our public health providers, including doctors, nurses, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, laboratory technicians, emergency medical technicians and others, are working diligently to mitigate the spread of the virus and treat those affected. Their strength and skill are central to an effective response, as they work tirelessly to treat patients, identify therapeutic medications and develop vaccines. Public and private laboratories are also increasing the ability to address testing needs.

Individual Idahoans have been stepping in to help

— See *Spirit*, Page 17

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

Local office
251 E. Front St., Ste. 205
Boise, ID 83702
Phone — (208) 334-1776
Fax — (208) 334-9044
Washington, D.C., office
239 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone — (202) 224-6142
Fax — (202) 228-1375
E-mail — <http://crapo.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>
Committee assignments — Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs (chair); Finance; and Budget
Chief deputy whip



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

Local office
350 N. 9th St., Ste. 302
Boise, ID 83702
Phone — (208) 342-7985
Fax — (208) 343-2458
Washington, D.C., office
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone — (202) 224-2752
Fax — (202) 224-2573
E-mail — <http://risch.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=Email>
Committee assignments — Foreign Relations (chair); Energy and Natural Resources; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; Select Committee on Ethics; Select Committee on Intelligence
Member — Senate Caucus for International Narcotics Control



Commentary

Financial management

Determining when it's time to use your emergency fund

Dear Dave,
My husband and I just completed Baby Step 3, and we have six months of expenses saved for an emergency fund. How should we determine when something is actually an emergency?

— Riley

Dear Riley,
Congratulations on doing the work, being disciplined, and saving like crazy! Now you've got peace of mind, and a pile of cash, that will help turn an emergency into nothing more than an inconvenience.

There's no shame in using your emergency fund if you really need to. That's what it's

there for. Just remember to ask yourself a few questions anytime something pops up to make sure you've got a real reason to use it.

Is the expense really unexpected? Christmas happens on Dec. 25 every single year. You know your semi-annual car insurance payment is coming, too. Make sure things like this are part of your regular, monthly budgets. Some examples of unexpected expenses might be a job loss or pay cut. Emergency medical expenses and car accident repairs might fall into this category, too.

Is it absolutely necessary? Most people say they know the difference between a want and



a need, but that's not always the case. Replacing your only mode of transportation would be a need. Upgrading to a

newer, fancier car is not. If your car goes down for the count, you need transportation. Use your emergency fund to buy something affordable and reliable you can pay cash for. But don't dip into it just to upgrade your decent car for one with a million bells and whistles.

Is it urgent? Practice the art of patience whenever possible. If your home's air conditioning unit goes out in the middle of summer, that's probably an urgent fix. But hearing about the "sale of the century" at your favorite retail store? Grabbing the newest, hottest cellphone when yours works just fine? Nope!

Your emergency fund is all about long-term security, not

instant gratification. Don't blow it impulsively, but don't be afraid to use it when it's really needed. Be wise, and ask those three questions. Check yourself so you don't wreck yourself — or your budget!

— 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.

✓ Spirit: Work to keep small businesses going during this uncertain time

From Page 16
neighbors, those struggling with lost jobs and wages, and banding together as communities to fill the needs and keep others afloat. Idahoans have donated masks, gloves, food and other resources. They have opened their doors to offer shelter for those in need. Volunteer firefighters have shopped for vulnerable residents. Student groups have helped restock grocery shelves and handed out food at a local foodbank. Many school districts are providing free lunches to feed hungry students while schools are closed. Educators have provided resources for students to continue learning while at home.

Local small businesses are collaborating to provide the ventilators, hand sanitizers, protective gear and other medical equipment our health care providers need. Our food service providers and grocers have come together with their communities to find ways to meet demands and limit exposures. Many businesses have also reached out to say they are keeping workers on payrolls, despite strain from severely reduced operations or closures. We are hearing from small businesses whose entire livelihoods are on the line. Thousands of mom-and-pop restaurants, barber shops,

hardware stores, and stores that have served their towns for generations are days away from shutting their doors for good, taking with them scores of local jobs and their immeasurable community value.

The situation we find ourselves in today as COVID-19 impacts our state, the nation, and the world, demands bold and immediate action to save the economic future of Idahoans and our great country. We have worked with our colleagues in the Senate and the Trump administration over the past several weeks to provide needed resources to health care providers, bolster states' responses, advance research to develop a vaccine, fund community health centers and provide for other emergency response mechanisms. We have worked to secure meaningful relief for Idaho's small businesses, workers and families to help businesses keep their doors open and keep employees on the payroll.

The legislation we have passed is by no means perfect. The price tag on these emergency bills is sobering, and we must redouble our efforts to lower the federal deficit. However, right now, Idahoans need a lifeline. The CARES Act, along with the two previous coronavirus emergency bills approved in March, will deliver rapid assistance to small

businesses through low-interest business loans that can be used to pay employees, cover utilities, pay a mortgage and much more. The legislation also extends direct assistance to workers and families in the form of direct checks, while greatly expanding our ability to deploy resources and medical supplies to the health care workers on the front lines of this pandemic.

We have considerable work ahead to minimize this health threat and ensure families and small businesses thrive. The immense fortitude we are seeing in all sectors of our communities is at the heart of the American spirit propelling our nation's response and ensuring our recovery.

— Republicans Mike Crapo and Jim Risch comprise Idaho's U.S. Senate delegation. Crapo is 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. Risch is nearing the end of his second six-year term and is running for re-election. Prior to his time in the Senate, he served as Idaho's governor and lieutenant governor and was a state legislator.

✓ Easter: Jesus' words are appropriate during coronavirus pandemic

From Page 16
Financially they were struggling because they had left everything to follow Jesus. They had "sheltered" themselves in fear of the religious opposition.

That first Sunday morning Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. In the middle of her sorrow, Jesus appeared, spoke her name, and Mary realizing it was Jesus, called him "Teacher." She must have put her arms around Jesus because he said, "Don't hold onto me, I have not ascended to my father." John 20:17

Essentially, he said, "Don't touch me!" This story is more relevant all the time. The saddest weekend of Mary's life turned into the greatest day of her life as she became the first witness of the risen Jesus, later exclaiming to the disciples, "I have seen The Lord!" Wouldn't you like to have that kind of Easter? We will miss gathering in church this Easter but experiencing Easter and the risen Christ can happen even if you are alone.

There will be Easter on April 12. There will be Easter for every person on the planet who will take

the time to celebrate the old story, the good news of Easter wherever you are and whatever your situation, this Easter 2020.

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

Contacting county commissioners

Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson) Chairman Phone — (208) 318-8308 Term expires 2020	Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale) Phone — (208) 249-4405 E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com Term expires 2020	Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View) Phone — (208) 834-2641 E-mail — jvmerrick@hotmail.com Term expires 2022
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From page 1

✓ Repairs: Airport engineer may be chosen

and the Army Corps of Engineers before any work can proceed, according to email correspondence between the city and Andrew Kimmel, lead municipal engineer in Idaho for Great West Engineering.

Ontario, Ore.-based Warrington Construction has estimated it will cost about \$86,000 to replace the 12-inch pipe. Warrington’s estimate includes boring the pipe under the creekbed.

There are three different areas in town where irrigation ditch repairs are needed. No price tag has been announced.

The council may have to take action ahead of the start of city irrigation, which South Board of Control manager John Eells

said could start flowing within the city system between Friday and next Wednesday.

Also on the agenda:

- The council is scheduled to select an engineering firm in an attempt to get municipal airport projects back on track.

The process will include grading those firms that have submitted qualifications and then voting to begin contract negotiations with the company deemed most qualified to carry out the tasks the city would like to accomplish at the airport.

- The council will make a decision on whether to surplus old shelving from the Homedale City Library.

The shelving includes 15

single units that are 84 inches tall; 18 double shelving units that are 90 inches tall; 194 metal shelves and 388 metal shelving brackets; 24 36-inch canopy tops; six 24-inch-by-82-inch end panels; six 87x13 end panels; and one self-standing, double-sided shelving unit with 10 shelves measuring 38.5 inches high and 24 inches wide.

- The final order of business before paying bills will be to set Aug. 12 as the date for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget hearing.

The city will sanitize the benches prior to the meeting just as Smith had done by wiping down the tables with disinfectant spray prior to the March 26 meeting. — JPB

✓ Close: Community supports decision, too

appointments will be rescheduled. Only emergency procedures will be conducted.

Homedale Chiropractic Center on South Main Street closed on March 31 with plans to remain shuttered until at least April 16.

Also on March 31, The Bowling Alley closed until the end of April.

“In an effort to keep our employees & their families safe we have decided this decision will help us all stay home and not take unnecessary risks,” read a post on The Bowling Alley’s Facebook page. “Thank you all for your support and we look forward to serving our community as soon as we can!”

The restaurant closed at 8 p.m., on March 31. The plan is to reopen on April 30. The bowling lanes also are closed.

Homedale Chamber of Commerce president Gavin Parker

said he understood the business decisions both Homedale Chiropractic Center owner Dr. J. Edward Perkins and restaurant owner Donna Marose made.

“This is clearly an unprecedented situation where difficult decisions have to be made. I haven’t spoken to Ed or Donna regarding their decisions to close, but I’m sure they did what they felt was in their best interests and the best interests of their employees,” Parker said.

“I am a bit disappointed with The Bowling Alley closure because I had been enjoying their takeout.”

There were about three dozen comments on The Bowling Alley Facebook page supporting the decision, and the owners individually answered nearly every one of them.

“We need to be aware of our local businesses that are struggling through this and do our best to support them once they reopen,” Parker said.

“In a small community, the key is always about being intentional with doing business locally.”

Parker also said that there are many local businesses applying for Small Business Administration loans through one of the two programs available since Congress passed and President Trump signed the COVID-19 economic stimulus and stability package.

“It really has been amazing the speed at which these funds have been made available,” Parker said.

“Although I’m not necessarily a fan of government bailouts and the associated costs to taxpayers, these potentially forgivable loans can really be a godsend to our local businesses.” — JPB

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✓ Absentee: June 2 deadline to return ballot

Owyhee County Clerk’s Office or online at www.idahovotes.gov.

- Citizens have until 8 p.m., on Tuesday, June 2 to return their absentee ballot to the county clerk’s office.

Denney and Owyhee County Clerk Angie Barkell implore voters not to wait until the last minute to either request a ballot or return it, though.

- The earliest primary election results can be posted is 9 p.m., on June 2.

Those voters who request absentee ballots will receive one in the mail and can fill it out and return it using the provided pre-addressed envelope.

“We will be sending an

absentee ballot request to every registered voter that has NOT already requested a ballot for May, so if you can’t access IdahoVotes.gov, you don’t need to worry,” Denney said in a release. “We will send you a request form to your registered address by mail in the next roughly 10-14 days.”

Denney’s office finalized the new voting plan in a press release last Wednesday.

“Given the growing number of coronavirus cases in Idaho, it simply was not safe for voters, election workers or the larger community to hold in-person voting for the May primary,” the release reads.

“Having Idahoans request

an absentee ballot and vote at home will protect the health of Idahoans, slow the spread of COVID-19, allow the election to move forward as scheduled and ensure that everyone can still exercise their right to vote.”

The secretary of state’s office urges voters not to wait until June 2 to return their ballot. As soon as an absentee ballot is received, voters can fill it out and mail it back.

Any voters who typically request assistance for voting or have accessibility concerns should call the county clerk’s office immediately to discuss accommodations.

The clerk’s office can be reached at (208) 495-2421.

Public notices

SUMMARY OF CITY OF HOMEDALE EMERGENCY POWERS ORDINANCE NO. 426

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF HOMEDALE, O W Y H E E C O U N T Y, IDAHO, ENACTING A NEW CHAPTER 24 TO TITLE 2, HOMEDALE CITY CODE, ENTITLED EMERGENCY POWERS; SETTING FORTH THE AUTHORITY, PURPOSE AND INTENT; DEFINITIONS; DESCRIBING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDERS; PROCESS FOR ENACTING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDERS; PROVIDING FOR EXCLUSIONS; PROVIDING FOR SUSPENSION OF SERVICES; FORCE MAJEURE CLAUSE; PENALTY; SUNSET PROVISION; PROVIDING FOR A WAIVER OF THE READING RULES; PROVIDING FOR A SUMMARY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE UPON PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR POSTED AT CITY HALL.

A summary of the principal provisions of Ordinance No. 426 of the City of Homedale, Owyhee County, Idaho, adopted on March 26, 2020, is as follows:

Section 1. Enacts Title 2, Chapter 24, Homedale City Code, with the following sections:

CHAPTER 2-24 EMERGENCY POWERS

2 - 2 4 - 0 1 L E G A L AUTHORITY

2-24-02 PURPOSE AND INTENT

2-24-03 SCOPE

2-24-04 DEFINITIONS

2-24-05 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDERS

2-24-06 PROCESS FOR ENACTING PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY ORDERS

2-24-07 EXCLUSIONS

2-24-08 SUSPENSION OF SERVICES

2-24-09 FORCE MAJEURE

2-24-10 PENALTY

2 - 2 4 - 1 1 S U N S E T PROVISION

Section 2. Declares all conflicting ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts thereof as void.

Section 3. Provides that the ordinance shall be effective upon its passage and proclamation of the Mayor with publication via posted notice at City Hall.

City attorney
04/08/2020

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE CASE NO. CV37-20-90 IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OWYHEE

IN RE: BRENNA FERRON INECK Legal name. A petition to change the name of Brenna Ferron Ineck, an adult, now residing in the city of Homedale, State of Idaho, has been filed in the District Court in Owyhee County, Idaho. The name will change to Brenna Nora Ineck. The reason for the change in name is: Middle name family name, family disowned, chose family name on father’s side.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for 10:30 o’clock a.m. on April 20, 2020 at the Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 ID-78, Murphy, Id 83650. Objections may be filed by any person who can show the court a good reason against the name change.

Date: March 09, 2020

s:/Lena Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Angela Barkell, Clerk of the District Court

03/18,25,04/01,08/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE 55-13989

CHARLENE R DOUGAL STANFORD

36693 JUNIPER MOUNTAIN RD

JORDAN VALLEY, OR 97910-9508

Point of Diversion SWSE S1 T09S R06W OWYHEE County Source CHERRY CREEK Tributary OWYHEE RIVER

Use: STOCKWATER 01/01 to 12/31 0.06 CFS

Total Diversion: 0.06 CFS

Date Filed: 02-24-2020

P l a c e O f U s e : STOCKWATER

T09S R06W S11 NESE

T09S R06W S13 NWSW

T09S R06W S24 NESW

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Western office at (208) 334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s), please see <https://idwr.idaho.gov/apps/ExtSearch/WRApplicationResults/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 W AIRPORT WAY, BOISE ID 83705-5082 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 4/20/2020. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

GARY SPACKMAN, Director

04/01,08/2020

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in

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Looking for Person to build small shop w/bathroom. Homedale area 208-250-4937
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4.75 Acres with Motor Home, power, 1000 septic tank, 30'x60' foundation in good condition. \$160,000 OBO. 9546 Hardtrigger Rd. Melba 208-896-4643



HELP WANTED
Owyhee County Solid Waste is now accepting applications for a Transfer Station Attendant. The position is part time, 3 days per week at the Opaline Transfer Site. The successful applicant will be responsible to ensure that the transfer station is open and operational on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays. Applicant may also be required to fill in at the Homedale facility. A complete job description and application can be found at www.owyheecounty.net Applications should be returned to the Owyhee County Clerk, PO Box 128, Murphy, ID 83641 or emailed to abarkell@co.owyhee.id.us by close of business Friday, April 24, 2020. Owyhee County is an equal opportunity employer.
Small cow/calf operation looking for someone to help feed, calve cows, general all-around ranch work. (208) 741-6850



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Bulls for Sale: yearlings and 2 year old Angus. All virgin Bulls. Semen and trich tested and delivered. All top Angus calving ease Bulls. Reasonable Prices. 208-741-6850
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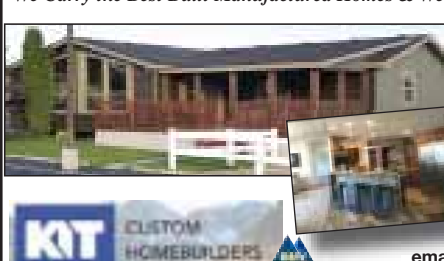
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Nampa, Idaho
email: ufhomes@qwestoffice.net
<http://www.unitedfamilyhomes.com>



WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO ADVERTISE THIS WEEK?

LATE SPRING HAY EQUIPMENT & RV ONLINE AUCTION

Begins to Close Mon. MAY 11, 2020 @ 6pm MST Online GOING ON NOW!

~ KEEP WATCHING OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY FUTURE CHANGES ON AUCTION CLOSING DATE~

Due to COVID-19 Auction Close Date is Subject To Change

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Canyon colleagues’ exposure triggers change in first-responder protocol

Marsing, MRW crews initiate COVID-19 steps

Marsing Ambulance and Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Emergency Medical Services have changed response protocol because of COVID-19.

MRW EMT and Fire Capt. Louis Monson announced the protocol changes in an email issued hours after Canyon County paramedics were exposed to a possible COVID-19 patient on the morning of March 28.

Monson said the Canyon County first-responders didn’t wear personal protective equipment (PPE) because the subject had denied COVID-19 symptoms when the call was dispatched. When the paramedics arrived on scene,

it was apparent the patient had symptoms.

According to Monson, new response guidelines for Marsing Ambulance and MRW EMS includes:

- MRW personnel will wear an N-95 mask and eye protection for the duration of every call for service.
- Crews should wear full PPE and follow COVID-19 response procedures if a patient is suspected of having the virus based on dispatch information and responders’ initial assessment and screening.
- If the screening reveals the patient isn’t suspected of having COVID-19, the N-95 masks can be re-used on the next call. Those masks can be re-used for a week if no patients encountered were suspected of having COVID-19.
- If the screening reveals the patient may be infected,

crews must dispose of the N-95 masks after the call.

- Crew members should store the masks in their vests between calls. New masks may be obtained when the previous mask becomes unserviceable or soiled.

“We have plenty of masks in stock and more on the way,” Monson wrote in the email. “We just don’t know how long this pandemic will go on and want to be judicious with what we do have.”

- In the final part of the protocol, only one EMT will enter a structure and all EMS bags will stay outside with the other responders until the patient is cleared of possible COVID-19 infection.

MRW board meeting

The MRW Fire and QRU board of commissioners meeting will go on as planned at 7 p.m., on Tuesday, April 21.

Monson said bystanders are asked to not attend the meeting, which takes place in the Wilson Schoolhouse on Johnston Lane, to keep the attendance down to essential personnel.

Some seating space is being added to adhere to social distancing guidelines, he said.

Rural grade school meets new normal

Three Creek School has made provisions in light of the State Board of Education’s decision to close Idaho schools until at least April 20.

Three Creek teacher Dena Pollock said her students had completed the third quarter before the closure.

Students and parents were contacted last week to start the distance-learning phase of the school year necessitated by the state Board of Ed. decision and Gov. Brad Little’s stay-at-home order.

Each family that has internet service picked up a school laptop to work on learning programs already on the laptops.

Pollock said local internet service provider Filertel has been “fantastic” in helping the school prepare for this unprecedented educational endeavor.

“They suggested a great resource for us to use for video chatting and have helped each family get their machine configured,” Pollock said. “They are willing to speak with us by phone or communicate through email.

“With all the delays in shipping and missing items on grocery shelves, it has been wonderful to access a real person with a great attitude and the patience to help the students.”

During regular school days and hours, each family with internet access will be able to video-conference with the school and each other in real time, Pollock said.

Other materials are available, too.

“We have student folders set up at our front entrance. We have sent home textbooks, workbooks, and supplementals for students to complete at home,” Pollock said. “Completed work will be turned in to the folders and new assignments will be picked up the same way.”

Even with the system in place, Pollock and others involved with the school are aware that nothing is constant as citizens do their part to flatten the COVID-19 curve.

“We are trying to stay flexible as everything changes by the hour and day,” she said.

The school-owned laptops also will be used to help the PTO and school trustees maintain their regular meeting schedules remotely.

Back at the school, the custodian is working daily — and during non-school days — on daily sanitation. A deep clean was carried out during spring break.

Pollock said the school community’s rural setting makes following the new rules easier than it might be in more populated areas.

“It is easy for us to keep social distancing with our families. Most of us do not go into town more than once a week or less anyway,” she said.

“We are all keeping track of each other and helping where ever and how ever we are able while staying safe.”

— JPB



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