

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 35, NO. 16 \$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2020

LIGHT THE NIGHT FOR THE CLASS OF 2020



Homedale first-responders respond en masse

*Homedale High School seniors, their parents and students' friends drove past Deward Bell Stadium on Riverside Drive for 20 minutes Friday night as the town saluted the Class of 2020. The town's emergency response vehicles were lined up with sirens wailing and lights flashing to serve as the centerpiece for the Light the Night celebration. Similar events were held in Marsing and at Rimrock High School. Read the story and see more photos on **Pages 8 and 10***

Lawmen face "ethical dilemma" enforcing stay-at-home order

Homedale mayor commends community's conduct

Precautions in place to fight the spread of COVID-19 have presented dilemmas for law enforcement agencies.

Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and city attorney Paul J. Fitzer led a discussion on the pitfalls that have developed since Gov. Brad Little's stay-at-home order, which originally was supposed to last until 11:59 p.m., today. (Little has an 11 a.m. press conference planned today to address the 21-day order).

"I have an ethical dilemma that we're using law enforcement to deal with a medical issue, and that skirts martial law," Eidemiller said.

Fitzer warned that agencies that enforce the order through a criminal path are running the risk of civil rights lawsuits once the pandemic subsides.

"I would rather let Boise or one of the bigger cities deal with those lawsuits," Fitzer said.

Kootenai County Sheriff's officials recently charged juveniles with violation of the stay-at-home order after breaking up a party. Under-age drinking and narcotics violations were also alleged.

Fitzer said he is "on record" that he will not prosecute misdemeanors for any of the agencies he represents that

bring forward charges based on stay-at-home order violations.

"Unless the governor is willing to call the Legislature into session and codify it, what are we going to do?" Eidemiller asked.

The consensus during the city council's outdoor meeting last Wednesday was that law enforcement officers should appeal to folks' "moral obligation" to keep society healthy when requesting social groups larger than 10 people disperse.

Eidemiller also discussed the state of customer traffic at US Bank since the Homedale branch began operating exclusively out of its drive-up

— See *Dilemma*, page 6

Marsing holding city website photo contest

Cash for best entry; submit by Friday

The City of Marsing is looking for photos to feature on its new website, which is currently under construction, and

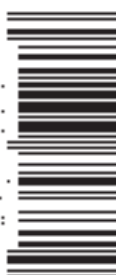
a cash award will be offered to the best submission.

Marsing has been without a city website since the January departure of James Ferdinand, who lost the mayoral election to Chad Sevy in November. Ferdinand built the site and

— See *Marsing*, page 4

**Marsing has been
without a post office for:
47 days**

**Owyhee County COVID-19 cases:
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Source: coronavirus.idaho.gov as of Monday



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Councilman resigns, Pg. 2: Marsing mayor taking applications
Marsing Third of July, Pg. 4: Committee picks up the baton
Board openings, Pg. 9: Conservation district candidates sought
Marsing schools, Pg. 18: District works, waits amid COVID-19
Obituary, 8 • Looking Back, 15 • Commentary, 16-17

Marsing councilmember resigns prior to latest meeting

Bid awarded in Sandbar transformation

The Marsing City Council was a councilperson down for its meeting, and that may continue for the next month or two.

Citing “circumstances beyond his control,” Tony Malmberg stepped down from his position after just over two years. His term was set to expire on Dec. 31, 2021.

Mayor Chad Sevy has requested potential appointees to submit resumes so the interview process can begin.

“Hopefully, this will only take a few weeks and we can have an appointment in place by the May or June meeting



Tony Malmberg

at the latest,” City Clerk and Treasurer Jolyn Green said.

Even with Malmberg’s departure, the council still had enough councilpersons for a quorum last Wednesday.

The meeting was held at the old Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause in Marsing, the future site of City Hall once the remodeling project is complete. Citizens were not allowed to attend the meeting in person, but it was available to be viewed on Facebook Live. Comments were allowed via online messaging.

Council OKs Sandbar to City Hall remodel bid

The council awarded the City Hall transformation project at the Sandbar to HCD, Inc.

The Nampa-based firm bid \$75,780 for the work.

The project contains several different aspects, including replacing damaged ceiling, rerouting and updating stairs to meet code, and installing a front desk, among other tasks.

According to city engi-

neer Kirby Cook, the HCD, Inc., bid beat out those from Homedale’s Succor Creek Construction (\$114,331.74), which built the Owyhee County Community Center in Homedale, and Meridian-based Excelsior Construction (\$143,250), which recently completed construction on the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, in Homedale.

Cook said that once the contract is put together and signed, the company will give a timeline for start and completion.

He also informed council that the Transportation Alternatives Program-funded sidewalk project on Idaho highway 55 between 8th Avenue West and 14th Avenue West has been completed.

Also, there has been very little change in the Snake River bridge project. Work is continuing on the bridge’s south side.

City’s emergency declaration extended

Council members voted

2-1 to extend the city’s state of emergency declaration to mirror that of the state, which was supposed to end today, if Gov. Brad Little pushes the deadline further into spring. Council president Chris Even voted against the extension.

City attorney Stephanie J. Bonney said the city’s emergency declaration will end when the state’s declaration expires, unless the council votes to extend it further.

“You don’t have to follow the state,” Bonney advised the council.

“If the state decided to pull theirs and the city decided, for whatever reason, that you needed to extend it, you can do that or you can revoke it early.”

Bonney said under a state of emergency, the city has greater liability protection and won’t have to comply with government purchasing laws when buying related items.

“If we need to get masks (or other personal protection equipment), we can just go

out and get them,” she said.

She also noted that the city doesn’t need a declaration to receive federal reimbursement for related spending.

Council votes to surplus out-of-use city property

City maintenance supervisor Joe Heidt told the council that it would cost about \$100 to replace the hard drive in former supervisor Philip Gibson’s computer, which is needed for Heidt and Gibson to network their computers.

Heidt had no estimates on the cost of having the networking performed.

At Heidt’s request, councilmembers declared four city-owned items surplus — a 1976 Dodge dump truck, an old red trailer that is no longer in use, a concrete mortar mixer, and a water pump.

Heidt said that he would take the items to Musick Auction.

— TK



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Homedale closer to having airport engineer

Council OKs irrigation fix; sewer repairs imminent

The Homedale City Council has taken the next step toward getting municipal airport improvements back on track.

The council voted 3-0 to begin negotiations with Great West Engineering after councilmen submitted their scoring of the firm’s request for qualifications.

Each councilman scored Great West on an overall scale of 100. Of a possible 400 points, the firm received 381 after the council members gauged the company on six criteria:

- Capability to perform all or most aspects for the project and provide consultant services (30 points maximum)
- Recent experience in airport projects comparable to those proposed and experience with the Federal Aviation Administration (20)
- Has an established and implemented affirmative action plan (5)
- Professional background/reputation and successful relevant experience (15)
- Familiarity with projects and the Homedale Municipal Airport (20)
- Demonstrated capability to properly administer projects funded by FAA (10)

Councilman Steve Atkins arrived late to last Wednesday’s meeting on the City Hall front lawn, but his scoring was tabulated with his colleagues’ results.

Great West already has a relationship with the city.

The company’s lead Idaho engineer, Andrew Kimmel, has worked with the council on several projects over the years. He is also the point man for Great West’s assistance on a series of infrastructure repairs that are in the works.

City public works supervisor Bret Smith and Kimmel discussed two sewer line repairs and three fixes needed on the irrigation system.

All the repairs would cost nearly \$147,000. If the council decides to move forward with all three projects, the money would come from the sewer fund and the irrigation fund.

Council members approved \$11,300 to repair the irrigation system. Smith planned to flush the system Monday after deadline, and said that the city customers should have full pressure by next Wednesday.

Succor Creek main

The most critical of the problems is the 12-inch force main that runs under Succor Creek and serves the city’s entire sewer system.

Kimmel told the council that the pipe isn’t buried deep enough now that the creek channel has receded nine feet.

The project, which could cost \$86,000, would require test drills to figure out if construction crews would be dealing with a clay base or a rock layer or a combination of that, Kimmel said.

Kimmel figures the 30-

foot drills would cost about \$5,000.

“We want to go down enough so that the creek channel doesn’t cut down any further,” he said.

The gravity of the situation could require the council to convene a special meeting before the scheduled May 13 regular meeting to make a decision on a contractor.

Great West could have plans to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality this week. Kimmel said DEQ is requiring that a design be submitted before work begins. The Army Corps of Engineers also has a stake in the project.

Kimmel said that the city can obtain “informal” quotes from three contractors as the plans are being readied and reviewed.

The estimated cost model is for a bore under the creekbed. Kimmel said the price tag would double if a trench were dug to lay the pipe because of temporary stream diversion and other requirements.

West Idaho main

Discovery of the Succor Creek main issue bumped the West Idaho Avenue sewer main repair project onto the backburner for now — unless council members determine that the city has enough money in its sewer fund to tackle both repairs.

The public works crew has been monitoring the West Idaho main, which is located in the Idaho Transportation Department right-of-way for Idaho highway 19.

Because of the main’s

location in the right-of-way, officials have determined the best course of action is to pipe burst to repair the deteriorating section of line. Pipe bursting consists of pushing a new pipe through the section of outdated and damaged old pipe and connecting back into the system past the point where the antiquated pipe is damaged.

Pipe bursting doesn’t require an open-trench project, which would be a difficult task in the ITD right-of-way, Kimmel said.

Pipe bursting would cost \$49,600, Smith said Thursday.

Kimmel said that the West Idaho work is of a lower priority than the Succor Creek problem because there are only 40 connections on the West Idaho sewer line.

“I just don’t want to see the city, depending on where the budget’s at, do the Idaho Avenue work and then not have money for Succor Creek,” Kimmel said.

If the West Idaho pipe failed, the city could rent bypass pumps to keep the service intact, and the repair would take about two to three days, Kimmel said.

The engineer told the council that he is waiting on a Succor Creek bid to see if the contractor would be amiable to tackling both sewer projects at once. That would save the city a second mobilization fee.

“Our thought is we can leverage the two projects together and get a better price,” Kimmel said.

Irrigation repairs

The repairs authorized by

the council will fix some long-standing leaks, Smith said.

“They are repairs that are either going to save money or time or both,” he said.

The irrigation box repair could be carried out with a polyurethane spray, according to Kimmel. Smith said the spray coating has a 10-year warranty. The spray work was scheduled Monday, and was supposed to be dry by today, Kimmel said.

The irrigation system would need to be brought off-line if another repair method was used, Kimmel said.

Smith was relieved that the council approved the pipeline fixes, saying that several repair methods had been used over the years to no avail.

It was incorrectly reported in last week’s edition of The Owyhee Avalanche that the West Idaho Avenue project would cost \$11,300, according to an estimate from Pipeline Inc.

Pipeline Inc.’s estimate — which the company labeled “Homedale sewer repair” in its paperwork — actually pertains to the work needed to shore up the irrigation system.

— JPB

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Third of July prep ongoing

Marsing’s Third of July celebration is getting back to its roots.

When the Marsing Chamber of Commerce shifted focus to city beautification, concerned citizens stepped in to preserve the town’s Third of July event.

A group that includes the town’s two most recent mayors, elected officials, city employees and others have been working on this year’s event for a couple months.

The group held its latest meeting via teleconference last week and hammered out preliminary details.

The most pressing matter, according to committee spokesman James Ferdinand, is enlisting the community’s help in keeping the tradition going.

Ferdinand is the celebration’s fireworks coordinator, taking over after John DeOsio’s retirement. Ferdinand is getting assistance from Garret Briggs.

Ferdinand said the city has pledged to pay half of the cost for pyrotechnics, but community donations are encouraged to pay for the balance of the \$6,100 estimate.

Ferdinand said he has been researching for two months the availability of fireworks in case the COVID-19 pandemic would affect imports from China. In the end, he found an American source for the fireworks.

The community can donate to the fireworks fund by calling City Hall at (208) 896-4122. Ferdinand said the city office staff — Clerk and Treasurer Jolyn Green and her deputies Kim Even and Debbie Carter — can take donations over the phone or provide information on other forms of getting donations to the committee.

Donation buckets will soon appear at businesses in town, too.

The rest of the celebration will look much like it did before the scene shifted to Island Park.

The Marsing Lions Club will provide its tri-tip dinner, and organizers are eliminating other retail food and beverage options to maximize the benefit to the service club.

Community organizations — such as the Marsing High School cheerleaders and other groups raising funds — will be allowed to set up booths, Ferdinand said.

Other details such as traffic control and the spectators shuttle are being worked out, Ferdinand said.

Ferdinand said like last year the Idaho Transportation Department will suspend construction on the Snake River bridge during the holiday.

— JPB

Marsing man arrested in neighborhood dispute

A dispute between neighbors in Marsing landed one man in hot water last Wednesday.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that a deputy was dispatched to Proctor Lane in Marsing after Patrick Patton, 38, was reported to be yelling obscenities at neighbors, including children.

Patton received a warning to stop, but six hours later a second complaint was called into emergency dispatch.

Patton was found driving reckless, spinning “donuts” in his driveway, and was consequently charged with misdemeanor disturbing the peace. He was also suspected of driving under the influence, Bowman said, and underwent a blood draw. The results of that test have not yet been returned, and DUI charge has been filed.

Patton was arrested and brought to jail and was subsequently released. He is scheduled for arraignment at 1:30 p.m., on Monday, May 11, before Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington in Murphy.

— TK

Man accused of battery

A 39-year-old woman needed medical attention after a fight with her husband Friday afternoon in Marsing.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said Humberto Gonzalez Garcia, 43, admitted putting his hands over his wife’s face and mouth — allegedly to stop her yelling — during a confrontation.

The man was charged with felony aggravated battery after deputies discovered marks on his wife’s head and face. She reported that she was unable to breathe when he had his hands on her, Bowman said.

Bowman said the case has been sent to county Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Phillips for potential further charges.

Gonzalez Garcia had minor scratches on his face. He told deputies he was trying to take some personal items from the house and leave, but that his wife wouldn’t let him leave.

After refusing medical attention, the wife went to a hospital on her own, Bowman said.

Gonzalez Garcia remains in county jail in Murphy.

— TK

From page 1

✓ Marsing: Submit to mayor by Friday

owned the contents, so the city council decided to have a new one built instead of purchasing the old site from the outgoing mayor.

As the website is being built, the city has a need for photos to use on the page. Officials seek photos that highlight the spirit of the city and its various aspects and activities.

“I am donating \$100 to the winner, who will be chosen by me and given a home page picture on our new website,” Sevy said. “We are looking for Marsing events, (such as) parades, chili feed, the fishing tournament ... any Marsing event.”



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All submitted photos will become property of the city and may be used in the website, with the photographer credited.

All photos need to be submitted to csevy@marsingcity.com by Friday.

Call (208) 896-4122 or email jgreen@marsingcity.com for more information.

— TK

The Owyhee Avalanche

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U.S.P.S. NO. 416-340
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Published each week in Homedale, Idaho by Owyhee Avalanche, Inc. Entered as Periodical, paid at the Post Office at Homedale, ID under the Act of March 3, 1879. POSTMASTER: send address changes to THE OWYHEE AVALANCHE, P.O. 97, Homedale, ID 83628.

Annual Subscription Rates*:
Owyhee County..... \$37.10
Canyon, Ada, Malheur counties.....42.40
Elsewhere 47.70
* Includes postage & tax (where applicable)

Deadlines

Classifieds Monday noon the week of publication	Display advertising Friday noon the week prior to publication
Legal notices Friday noon the week prior to publication	Inserts Friday noon the week prior to publication

Letters to the editor
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HHS principal works to give disappointed seniors a banner year

Class of 2020 to be recognized in community

Last week’s decision to continue the soft closure of Idaho’s schools through the end of the 2019-20 academic year solidified what many parents and loved ones had feared — the Class of 2020 won’t have graduation ceremonies.

Taking his cue from a Facebook post about a small town that had honored its senior student-athletes with banners on light posts, Homedale High School principal Matt Holtry reached into his own pocket to ensure that this year’s seniors will receive some type of recognition.

There are 86 seniors in the Class of 2020, and by sometime this week, a pair of 6-foot-by-10-foot banners will let the community know who they are.

“My goal is to have one at the entrance to town and another here in front of the high school,” Holtry said.

Holtry ordered the banners last Wednesday and said it would take six to eight days for them to arrive.

“I’m excited to get them here,” he said.

District superintendent Rob Sauer supports the idea, too.

“Just as a shout-out to our seniors letting them know we are thinking of them,” he said.

Several towns across the country are taking steps to make similar gestures for this year’s upperclassmen. Some are honoring the entire crop of seniors, while others have decided to single out only the student-athletes.

The Idaho State Board of Education met on April 6 and voted unanimously to continue the soft closure of schools through the end of the school year. Originally, students could have returned to class on April 20.

Districts have the flexibility to re-open its schools on an individual basis if certain criteria are met.

The Board of Ed. will meet each Monday to re-evaluate the situation. — JPB

County commissioners award Haz-Mat grants

Owyhee County has awarded three emergency service entities a total of \$38,679.62 from its Haz-Mat fund.

The funds come from a trust that is fed by money received by the state from US Ecology Idaho for commercial disposal fees. The county receives five percent of those funds.

The Board of County Commissioners awards the grants based on a scoring system in which emergency service agencies are awarded points for promising matching funds (one point), identifying the local match (three points) and matching more than 10 percent (10 points).

Haz-Mat funds must be expended for either Haz-Mat response or for preparation for or prevention of Haz-Mat incidents.

Three of the five groups that applied for funds were awarded grants, including:

- **Bruneau Fire Protection District** received a grant of \$14,999.62, with a match of \$1,666.62, for the purchase of turnout gear. Bruneau Fire had the best-scoring application.

- **Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire District** received a \$1,400 grant, with no match. MRW will use the funds to purchase two sets of four adult manikins and one infant set of four manikins. The models will be used for training.

- **Grand View Ambulance Service** received \$22,280 in partial funding with a promised match of \$10,000. The plan is to purchase a Zoll X Series monitor/defibrillator to replace the current model, which is no longer being serviced by the company.

Two applications that didn’t meet the criteria for Haz-Mat funding were denied.

The city of Marsing had requested money to buy equipment to maintain the treated water return line from the sewer treatment plant.

The Homedale Police Department was denied a grant for its “e-ticket” proposal. The county commissioners’ denial letter also noted that HPD’s application didn’t specify an amount for matching funds.

The current Haz-Mat trust balance is \$440,646. — TK

From page 1



Above: This scene from a week ago at the US Bank drive-up teller window in Homedale prompted new protocol for anyone waiting to conduct business at the branch (below).

✓ Dilemma: Precautions continue in town

window.

The line of vehicles during heavier times of business has caused congestion on West Wyoming and South Main as motorists wait their turn in a line that wraps around the corner. The long line of cars also has blocked access to the drive-up ATM.

In recent days, barricades have been placed on the south side of West Wyoming asking bank customers to wait their turn in the alleyway between the Corner Laundry laundromat and the carwash near the Idaho Avenue-Main Street intersection.

Mayor Gheen Christoffersen commended Homedale residents on their conduct during the stay-at-home order and also on how they’ve handled social distancing and panic buying in stores.

“Our community has done well since our governor did that,” Christoffersen said. “We just want to stay as healthy and safe as we can.”

Eidemiller said: “For the most part, we haven’t had any significant problems with behavior in stores.”

Fitzer and Councilman Jerry Anderson, who at 84 is considered in the COVID-19 high-risk group, wore variations of a mask to last Wednesday’s meeting. None of the other 13 attendees wore masks, but each was spaced at least six feet apart across the City Hall lawn.

“For the most part, people



are really using their heads, and that is what we need,” Christoffersen said of the community’s response to flattening the curve.

“We’ll try to do what we can to keep us all safe.”

The mayor pointed out the proximity of Canyon County, which had 161 confirmed cases and five deaths as of Monday (according to www.coronavirus.idaho.gov), and stressed the importance of mitigation efforts against the spread of the virus further into the Owyhee County population. Owyhee County had four cases as of Monday, according to the state’s coronavirus.idaho.gov website.

According to the Oregon Health Authority COVID-19 website, Malheur County — which includes Adrian and Jordan Valley — has four cases, while 138 people have tested negative.

“We don’t have the medical resources in Homedale or Owyhee County to deal with (an outbreak),” he said.

Last Wednesday’s meeting received mild disruption from truck traffic a block away on Idaho Avenue and from louder vehicles traversing West Wyoming Avenue and South 1st Street West.

Late in the meeting, a discussion was held about a more suitable venue for upcoming meetings to combat road noise. It was decided informally that the Johnny Krzesnik Pavilion at Sundance Park might be the best alternative if seating could be arranged with proper distancing.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for May 13, but the governing body could meet sooner to finalize emergency infrastructure repairs.

— JPB



Councilman Jerry Anderson (front left) and city attorney Paul J. Fitzer (standing at right) both wore protective face masks to last Wednesday’s outdoor Homedale City Council meeting.

Westowns customers asked to contain curbside trash

COVID-19 order produces more cleaning, more garbage

Sanitation workers in Homedale and Marsing are facing a new challenge with the state’s stay-at-home order. People have more time on their hands for spring cleaning, and the volume of trash being handled by Westowns Disposal Inc., crews has grown. Westowns owner Bill Pastoor brought his concerns about his crew’s safety to the Homedale City Council meeting last Wednesday. Pastoor said the volume of trash Westowns employees are handling has jumped 30 to 40

percent since Gov. Brad Little issued the 21-day stay-at-home order. And, while he said crews are more than happy to take garbage that is bagged because it won’t fit in the city-mandated 96-gallon cart, there are concerns. “There are health issues with bags and non-conforming cans,” Pastoor said. Pastoor said garbage bags and cans left unattended could be raided by dogs, and the contents scattered. His crews typically will pick up those

messes, but the health and safety of his employees are foremost on his mind. “I’m trying to protect my guys long-term,” Pastoor said. “I’m not trying to hurt anybody.” City statute requires that residents obtain only one garbage cart, but more carts would cut down on the curbside clutter, Pastoor suggested. Additional carts can be obtained for a \$2.50 monthly fee. The Homedale City Council decided to print a message on water bills reminding folks being as tidy as possible when setting out garbage. — JPB

University of Idaho Extension

4-H clubs, animal exhibitors roll with unique changes

As we all find ourselves in the midst of a very unusual time, the desire to keep 4-H thriving in Owyhee County is strong. This may not be the typical 4-H year we were all hoping for when we enrolled back



Janelle Thompson

in October; however, the positive influence on our youth is still taking place. As we work together to come up with new ways to stay connected, work toward goals, learn life skills and complete the requirements for our 4-H projects, we are all learning to be flexible in this ever-changing time. 4-H meetings are still able to take place thanks to the internet. With numerous apps and online communication options, 4-H leaders are able to check in with their members to see how their projects are progressing, to continue to offer guidance, and to answer questions. Social media has also been lending a helping hand so that youth can post videos of their oral presentations to share with their fellow club members. Because we were not able to hold our annual swine “weigh-in” this year, we requested that

all youth taking a swine project submit four photos (front view, rear view, left- and right-side view) and label the submission with their name. This will enable us to continue to prepare for the 2020 Owyhee County Fair. An email notification as well as a phone call to each family went out on March 30. By the April 6 deadline, we had received swine ID photos from all 142 4-H and FFA youth with a swine project. There is no confirmation yet for changes, if any, for the upcoming sheep and goat weigh-in scheduled to take place on May 15. All families will be notified as we draw nearer to that date. I cannot thank the 4-H leaders, parents and youth of Owyhee County enough for continuing to make this wonderful program a positive situation during a time that could easily be wasted and turn negative. This will be a year for the history books, so let’s keep the positivity rolling! — Janelle Thompson is the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension 4-H coordinator. For more information, you can reach Thompson at the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. The office is located at 238 8th Ave. W., in Marsing.

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 pickup, (208) 649-5411

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.
Story Time
10:15 a.m., Facebook Live only, Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, Homedale. (208) 337-4228
Library material pickup
1 p.m., to 5 p.m., Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library parking lot, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228 to place a check-out order

Tuesday

Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire meeting
7 p.m., Wilson Fire Station, 10427 Johnston Lane, Wilson. Commissioners request bystanders not come for social-distancing purposes

Wednesday

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

Thursday, April 23

Food bank drop off
12:30 p.m., to 2 p.m., (weather permitting; holidays could change date), Jordan Valley Lions Hall parking lot car pickup, 902 Bassett St. (U.S. Hwy. 95), Jordan Valley. (541) 889-9206 or (541) 586-2562

Friday, April 24

Idaho Foodbank drop-off
8 a.m., First Presbyterian Church of Homedale parking lot car pickup, 320 N. 6th St. W, Homedale. (208) 473-9331
The Landing teen support group
6 p.m., Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., Marsing. Contact Iliana Bialy (208) 807-0680

Sunday, April 26

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

Monday, April 27

Board of County Commissioners meeting
9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. Call (208) 495-2421 for accessibility options.
Story Time
10:15 a.m., Facebook Live only, Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, Homedale. (208) 337-4228
Library material pickup
1 p.m., to 5 p.m., Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library parking lot, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228 to place a check-out order

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 15: BBQ Chicken Breast, baked potatoes, beets
April 16: Pasta Primavera w/ham, Calif. blend veggies
April 21: Baked fish, macaroni & cheese, Brussels Sprouts
April 22: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans

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 7 a.m. to place order

April 16: Beef stroganoff, wg butter noodles, steamed carrots, wg roll, fruit salad, banana bread
April 21: Happy Birthday Dinner: Turkey dinner; scalloped potatoes & gravy, spiced applesauce, pears, stuffing, cook’s choice soup, green beans, cupcake
April 23: Hamburger w/bun (lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles, sliced cheese), cottage cheese, cook’s choice soup
April 28: Pork chops, rice & gravy, green bean casserole, applesauce, 1 slice whole-grain bread, carrot slaw salad, cook’s choice soup

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, fax them to (208) 337-4867 or e-mail them to jon@owyheeavalanche.com (an e-mail link also is available on our Web site). For more information on submissions, call (208) 337-4681.

Obituary

Ruth Evelyn Sanders

1938-2020

On April 4, 2020, beloved mother, Ruth Sanders, passed away suddenly of natural causes, at the age of 82 in her home in Nampa. Ruth had a zest for life and many adventures planned for the coming year. This was not one of them. Ruth was born on March 26, 1938, in Huntington Beach, CA to Finice James and Ruth Bennett Bishop. Her family moved to Veneta, Oregon where she was raised, along with her three younger siblings. Ruth spent her senior year with family near Adrian, Oregon where she graduated from Adrian High School in 1957. Shortly after graduation, she married her high school sweetheart, Dallas Chaney. Ruth and Dallas lived and worked on the Chaney family farm/ranch outside of Adrian where they raised three children. Farm life was hard work and Ruth wore many hats. She was an expert tractor operator and the “doctor” for injured animals and kids alike. By example, Ruth instilled self-reliance, a strong work ethic and love of animals in her children. Dallas and Ruth later divorced. Ruth continued to raise sheep on the farm and work



at Simplot Foods in Caldwell, Idaho. She retired in 2000, after 29 years of service. Ruth made several dear friends while working there and still attended the “Simplot Lunch Bunch” on a monthly basis at the time of her death. Ruth married Sam Sanders in March 2000, and gained two stepsons: Johnny, and Sam, Jr., and, over the years, their wives and six children. Ruth and Sam shared a love of the outdoors and enjoyed camping, fishing and hunting together. She loved the mountains and could shoot better than most. She took her last deer two years ago at the age of 80. Ruth was a strong, independent woman and could hold

her own in any situation. She played a mean Pinochle game and the grandkids knew to bring their “A” game! Ruth was well-known for her beautiful flowers, homemade peanut brittle, baked goods, and jalapeño jelly, which she shared often. Ruth loved making quilts and often gifted them to family and friends. Her beautiful quilts live on as a legacy of her love. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, and one grandchild, Justin Chaney. She leaves behind two sisters, Patty Molt and Betty Bishop, and one brother, James Bishop. She is also survived by her three children: Deanna and Kris Pobanz, of Ontario; Judy and Brian Byrne, of Springfield; Dan and Linda Chaney, of Eagle; 15 grandchildren; Joshua, Leslie, Kelsey, Hannah, Jesse, Amanda, Jenica, Grant, Bryce, Trent, Chase, Eli, Mike, Emily, and Jessica, and 13 great-grandchildren. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Contributions to honor Ruth can be made to your local senior citizen center or Project Linus at linusidaho.org (providing security through blankets).

RIMROCK GETS FIRED UP FOR THE CLASS OF 2020



Bruneau-GV community does its part
Fireworks were added to the Light the Night ceremony on Friday at the Rimrock High School football field to salute the Class of 2020. Photo by Heather Burbank

Food bank drop-off straight to vehicles

Monthly events to continue as planned

The monthly food bank distribution in Homedale and Jordan Valley will go on as planned next week. Both events have been modified because of social distancing guidelines to help fight the spread of COVID-19. The Southeast Oregon Food Bank’s monthly visit to the Jordan Valley Lions Hall will take place between 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m., on Thursday, April 23. The time is different than previous distribution events.

Folks seeking assistance are asked to stay in their vehicles in the building parking lot at 902 Bassett St., and volunteers will deliver prepackaged boxes to the cars. Call (541) 889-9209 or (541) 586-2562 for information. The Idaho Foodbank drop-off will begin at 8 a.m., on Friday, April 24 in the parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church of Homedale, 320 N. 6th St. W. More than 60 people turned out for assistance last month, organizers said. Patrons will receive commodities directly to their vehicles, too. Call (208) 473-9331 for more information.

Death notices

KELLY JO FILLMORE, 51, of Homedale, died Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at her home. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell. (208) 459-0833

MABLE JOSEPHINE KRATZBERG, 80, of Homedale, died Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at home of natural causes. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. (208) 337-3252

JOYCE L. HAYWARD, 87, of Homedale, died Thursday, April 9, 2020 at a local hospital. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell. (208) 459-0833

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WEED WATCH



Photo by Clint Shock

From Jordan Valley CWMA

Name: Yellow Nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus* L.)

Description: Many times referred to as the “World’s Worst Weed.” Yellow nutsedge is frequently mistaken for a grass because of its narrow, grass-like leaves. It is easily distinguished from grasses by its triangular (three-ranked) solid stem. Its leaves are V-shaped, long and slender. A perennial from 1 to 2 feet tall with a shiny, light yellow-green color. Yellow nutsedge has an extensive underground system of rhizomes and tubers (nutlets). Nutlets are brown to rust-colored, about a quarter-inch to half-inch in diameter and are usually in the upper six inches of soil. Straw-colored seedheads are formed near the top of the plant and resemble bottle brushes. Seeds are produced in the millions per acre, but are generally of low quality, making nutlets the primary source of propagation. Each plant will produce several hundred to many thousands of nutlets per season with multiple eyes each, which can persist in the soil for several years.

Habitat: Prefers soil that remains moist. Usually begins at the margins of fields where nutlets are deposited by water or machinery. Readily infests ornamental sites and lawns.

Origin: Native to every continent except Antarctica. Thought to have been native to the southeast U.S., as there is some evidence that it was used by Native Americans as food and fiber. Has since been moved, probably by accident, to nearly every state in the U.S.

Control: An intractable problem in production agriculture and extremely expensive to manage. In turf lawn and ornamental plantings, it is very difficult to control. At the first sign of invasion, it is advisable to remove as much of the plant as possible, before the formation of nutlets. If nutlets are present, removal is crucial to success, which requires the sifting of the top six inches of soil. There are some herbicide choices available; however, it would be advisable to seek professional help. In waste areas or places where they can be used, there are several effective residual herbicide choices. Dense shading crops or ornamental plants help to reduce pressure. No biocontrols are yet available. *Modified from “Selected Noxious Weeds of Eastern Oregon,” Gary Page, Malheur County Weed Inspector.*

For more information on noxious weeds, contact your local cooperative weed management area (CWMA) or county weed department.

Jordan Valley — Eric Morrison, (541) 586-3000

Northwest Owyhee — Jodie Dickerson, (986) 888-1664 or jodieray2002@yahoo.com

Eastern Owyhee — Jodie Dickerson, (986) 888-1664 or jodieray2002@yahoo.com

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

Owyhee weed supervisor — Kelly Aberasturi, (208) 249-4405

Malheur weed inspector — Gary Page, (541) 473-5102 or Gary.Page@malheurco.org

OCD looks to fill board openings

Homedale-Marsing area candidates sought for November election

With the passing of Ray Mansidor and resignation of Charles Kiester, the Owyhee Conservation District board has supervisor positions open.

OCD administrative assistant Debbie Abel is reaching out to those in the community who may be interested in serving as a board member.

Board elections are set for November, and Abel said there is no need for an election if there are two seats open and only two people file candidacy papers. If there are three or more candidates for those two at-large seats, then they will be placed on the ballot and the voters will choose who will represent them.

“We are looking for those who will not only show up to monthly board meetings but will be active in other aspects of the district,” Abel said of the ideal candidacy criteria.

Eligible candidates must live or operate a farm or ranch within the district boundaries.

She said that the board is looking for people who will attend political functions in Boise (where there is an annual fall conference) and represent, and interact with, the community, as well as attend the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo to discuss conservation with citizens.

She said the district also attends bi-annual division meetings. Each of the 11 districts in the division take turns hosting the meetings. OCD will play host to the October meeting.

The district pays supervisors for mileage and meals when travel is necessary.

The board is made up of seven members, and a quorum of four is needed to conduct a meeting and make decisions on things like expenses, personnel moves, choosing contest winners, and more.

The board currently consists of:

- Andrea McRae, chairman
- Tim Volk, secretary/treasurer

- Brad McIntyre, supervisor
 - John Cossell, supervisor
 - Levi Loucks, supervisor
- Bill White is an associate supervisor, but has no vote because he lives and ranches in Oreana.

Kiester resigned after 20 years of service, leaving the vice-chair position open.

McIntyre and Cossell have expressed the desire to run for another four-year term, Abel said.

“Owyhee Conservation District would like to thank Charles Kiester for his many years of service to conservation,” Abel said. “We all wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.”

She added, “The loss of Ray Mansidor in March creates an opportunity for at least two community members to step forward and contribute towards important conservation decisions for Owyhee County.”

Mansidor spent 60 years on the conservation board.

Anyone interested can contact Abel at Debbie.abel@id.nacdnet.net or call (208) 896-4544, ext. 102. — TK

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Banks of lights shine to complement the Deward Bell Stadium scoreboard Friday night in Homedale.

Fields light up for Class of 2020

Local schools help “Light the Night” days after Oregon cancels sports

High school sports in Idaho are on an indefinite hold as the state sanctioning body follows the State Board of Education’s lead.

For the Oregon School Activities Association, though, the decision is final — the high school sports season is over.

With the uncertainty of the spring sports season in Idaho, a statewide “Light the Night” initiative was carried out Friday. The lights at football fields across the state — including Homedale, Marsing and Rimrock — were turned on at 8:20 p.m. (20:20 military time), to pay tribute to the Class of 2020, which has lost spring extra-curricular activities and graduation ceremonies because of social distancing restrictions and stay-at-home orders sparked by the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Homedale’s emergency services agencies — Police, Fire and Ambulance — rolled out their rigs and let the lights flash and sirens blare from the Deward Bell Stadium parking lot as Class of 2020 seniors and their parents and friends drove back and forth on Riverside Drive to

celebrate for 20 minutes.

HHS principal and football coach Matt Holtry lit up the stadium scoreboard with an array of “2020” examples to further celebrate.

Some Oregon high schools also threw on football stadium lights Friday — although it’s unknown if Adrian participated, and Jordan Valley doesn’t have a lighted field. The act probably had a more poignant glow considering no more sports will be played in the Beaver State.

As of Monday, Malheur County health officials had reported four COVID-19 cases with 138 people testing negative.

Last Wednesday, the OSAA cancelled all remaining spring activities and state championship after Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced that the state’s schools will remain closed for the remainder of the school year.

“Today’s heart-wrenching decision is difficult for all members of the OSAA family,” OSAA executive director Peter Weber said in a press release on the day of the decision.

“We empathize with stu-

dents and school communities, especially our graduating seniors, but recognize that these cancellations will allow our collective focus to remain where it’s most needed at this time — on the health and safety of all Oregonians.”

Like in Idaho, Oregon high school spring sports coaches — such as those in Jordan Valley and Adrian — are prohibited from organizing workouts or practices.

“We had maintained hope for an abbreviated spring season to help bring a sense of normalcy to these uncertain times,” Weber said. “Now more than ever we need to apply the lessons learned through participation in education-based activities — teamwork, sacrifice, resilience — and play our role in adhering to the public health guidelines.

“We all look forward to the day when we play again.”

The OSAA Executive Board soon will discuss summer activities and academic eligibility pertaining to fall activities.

The sanctioning body and its member schools await guidance from the state Department of Education on credit attainment for freshmen, sophomores and juniors through the state’s Distance Learning for All initiative.



Marsing High School seniors Anthony Sugai (left) and Justin Ineck showed their support for the Class of 2020 during Friday’s celebration.



One of the Marsing High School stadium field lights shines above the Block M at the entrance to the stadium Friday.



Parents and other well-wishers congregated in the parking lot behind Marsing Elementary School to salute the Class of 2020.



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Homedale principal Matt Holtry set up the Deward Bell Stadium scoreboard with an array of 2020 examples. He jokingly said he couldn’t bring himself to put 20-20 in the score boxes because he said a tie goes against his football coaching nature.

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American Legion baseball regional, World Series nixed

State organization hopeful of local season

Although the national-level tournaments have been cancelled, Idaho's American Legion baseball organizers hope to have players on the local diamonds sometime this summer.

That would include at John Jackson Field in Homedale where the Owyhee Rivercats, coached by Homedale High School skipper Burke Deal, play their summer ball.

"We're in a holding pattern with baseball," Idaho Department Adjutant and state baseball chair Abe Abrahamson said last Wednesday.

"We're still holding out that the boys will be able to play some type of season this year."

Citing ongoing questions and concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic, the national organization cancelled this year's regional tournaments and World Series at all levels in an April 6 announcement.

The decision allows flexibility to local organizations to stage a season when it is safe to do so without the constraint of adhering to an August deadline because of the national competitions.

"As far as American Legion, the last I heard — about two weeks ago — we were in wait-

and-see mode," Deal said. "I am hoping that we have a full season, and am planning for that."

The Legion left the fate of the regular season in the hands of lower levels of the organization, including the Idaho Department.

"The baseball board doesn't believe it's fair that seniors didn't get to play their last year of high school baseball," Abrahamson said.

Of course with the uncertainty of the statewide stay-at-home order as well as the progress of the virus, there is no way to pinpoint what a season would look like. But Abrahamson said without the hard deadline to finish the season before the national tournaments, if a local season were possible it could start in June and go through the first of August.

The Northwest regional was scheduled for Aug. 5-9 in Gillette, Wyo.

Meanwhile, Deal has his fingers crossed that some sort of high school baseball season will be staged. The team was 2-2 in the coach's 13th season before play was suspended.

"I still don't know for sure if the high school season is completely cancelled," the Trojans coach said. "I am still hoping that we might have a district tournament or something."

"I am holding out hope, don't know the likelihood."

— JPB

Legion Post 128 in Marsing cancels spring gun show

American Legion Post 128 in Marsing has cancelled its fundraiser gun show.

Post 128 Adjutant Kathy Barton said that the spring gun show will not happen on May 2-3 as planned.

Barton said the local Legion

had moved the gun show from its usual first weekend in April date hoping that the statewide stay-at-home order would be lifted.

A fall gun show is traditionally held on the first weekend of October, too.

Today



64°
37°
Clouds
then sun

Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
					
61° 31°	67° 39°	70° 48°	69° 43°	72° 43°	72° 40°

Weekly weather recap unavailable

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation website showed that the Owyhee Reservoir was 85 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 1,147 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 179 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 606,900aaa acre-feet of water on Monday.

— Information compiled from the National Weather Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Helena Chemical in Homedale.

Courthouse report

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

April 6
Mario Alberto Castro, Marsing — Misdemeanor disturbing the peace (amended from felony battery-domestic violence inflicting traumatic injury; plea deal): 180 days in jail (16 days served; 164 days suspended), 2 years unsupervised probation, \$300 in fines, \$307.50 in court costs.

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Teamwork, tech smoothes HSD distance learning move

Homedale School District administrators apparently were able to flatten the learning curve in the first week of distance learning.

“Considering some obvious challenges of moving very quickly to distance learning and grab-and-go food service, we have done fairly well,” district superintendent Rob Sauer said.

“We recognize there are some gaps and bumps in the process, but we are working every day to get better and provide better support to our students.”

The food service effort ended its second week Friday, but the distance learning aspect of the district’s COVID-19 response got rolling last week.

High school principal Matt Holtry said staff members (teachers working from home and secretaries at HHS) were able to contact 95 percent of students or families during the first week back from spring break.

“It has taken a team effort, but we are used to being a team so we feel good about where we are in the process,” high school principal Matt Holtry said.

“The fact that we took the two days prior to spring break to prepare for this was helpful and to know some districts haven’t even started this journey that we started on March 30 makes us feel good about the job our district has done in providing for our kids.”

Staff meetings have been held regularly through Google Meets to keep everyone on the same page.

The district has done its part to ensure that students who don’t have internet access — the primary vehicle for the distance learning during the school shut down — are also served.

“We have some families that don’t have connectivity,” Sauer said. “That is definitely a concern, and we are working with outside groups to try and find ways to increase connectivity for those that don’t currently have it.”

In the meantime, lesson packets are available for pick up.

When the Idaho State Board of Education (ISBE) extended the soft closure to the end of the school year, a caveat was put in place that could allow individual districts to re-open to on-campus education.

“At this point, I don’t believe Homedale is a very strong candidate for re-opening for this current school year unless things change dramatically,” Sauer said.

“We are close to communities like Caldwell where there is community spread. What is happening in our neighboring communities does have an impact on us.”

Sauer said the key to any district re-opening the end of the statewide stay-at-home order and social distancing requirements and assurances that the infection curve has



While his teachers are working virtually, Homedale High School principal Matt Holtry is virtually by himself on campus during the school week. Submitted photo

flattened and new cases are “dramatically decreasing.”

So, for now—and most likely to the end of the school year — students, administrators, teachers and parents continue to adjust.

“This experience is not ideal for any of us as we get into this profession to spend time with our students and to build those relationships with them,” Holtry said.

What a school day looks like differs at each campus — from the elementary to the middle school to the high school.

The elementary has what retiring principal Terri Vasquez calls a “skeleton crew” each day. School secretary Shelley Townsend is available by email and telephone from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., each day. The food service staff prepares grab-and-go meals for the entire district from the elementary school kitchen.

Paraprofessionals’ schedules vary depending on the tasks at hand throughout the district, Vasquez said.

Middle school office staff members rotate their presence according to what tasks need completed.

“We are trying to follow the (Centers for Disease Control) guidelines and limit staff in the building working in close proximity,” HMS principal Moss Strong said.

Teachers at all three schools are working from home, but they do visit their respective classrooms to gather materials needed to continue their lesson plans.

Teachers respond to emails and phone messages between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., each day.

“Many hold classroom meetings and read-alouds in the late afternoon and early evening hours,” Vasquez said of the elementary staffers.

Strong said: “Our goal is to keep the learning going and to ensure our students have the support they need for that learning to occur.”

As expected, technology is

crucial in the success of the plan.

Elementary and middle school students have the option on online live discussions in addition to their online learning, and the teachers coordinate through Google Meets, Zoom and other online conferencing applications.

“Every day is better than the one before,” Vasquez said. “Thanks to the parents and teachers for continuing to find ways that work for all to communicate and for showing a true example of excellent teamwork.”

Strong echoed Vasquez’s sentiments about the strength of the parent-teacher community.

Most teachers in the district used technology such as Google Classroom to build class rosters and lessons plans prior to the soft closure, so that adaptation has been smooth, the building administrators said.

— JPB



Volunteers sport their masks during lunch distribution to Homedale schoolchildren last Wednesday at the Txoko Ona Basque Center parking lot. **Clockwise from bottom:** Evonne McGuire, Diana Asumendi, Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller, and Shari Jamison. Submitted photo



Homedale Elementary School paraprofessional Raymond Smith hands off meals through the makeshift drive-through window on April 7 as recent Homedale High School graduate Ivan Cortez picks up for his younger siblings.

HOMEDALE PASTORS DELIVER EASTER MESSAGES

Two Homedale churches conducted open-air Easter services Sunday while observing social distancing standards.

Clockwise from right:
Homedale Assembly of God pastor Ivar Moore delivers his message during a service in the church's parking lot on West Montana Avenue.

The Church in the Dirt music team, led by co-pastors Blaine and Molly Lilly, perform spiritual music during Sunday's drive-in Easter service in the Badiola Arena parking lot.

Church in the Dirt worshippers got comfortable in the bed of their pickup to hear the message and follow along in their Bibles.



No citations yet for C.J. Strike recreation area vandals

General recreational activity seems to have declined, but concerns have arisen about vandalism and theft at Idaho Power recreation sites at C.J. Strike Reservoir since the full closure was announced to protect against spread of COVID-19 on March 26. According to the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office, there has been an uptick in reports of vandalism to signs and barriers at the campgrounds,

but no citations have yet been written. Vandalism has been reported at the Black Sands Resort boat dock, too, sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said. Bowman said no trespassing citations have been written regarding the Idaho Power campgrounds. Idaho Power communications specialist Brad Bowlin told The Owyhee Avalanche that a few isolated

instances of vandalism to signs and barriers has been seen but, for the most part, people have been respectful despite being disappointed about the closure of facilities. "Our employees have been told to report any harassment or threats to local law enforcement," Bowlin said. "Fortunately, that has not been necessary." Idaho Power has said the closures will last through at

least May 14. "We understand it can be frustrating to forego activities we all love like camping and fishing," Bowlin said. "We hope that visitors can appreciate our desire to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19 to employees and the rural communities where our parks are located." Bowlin is hopeful that, sooner rather than later, the campgrounds can return to

some sort of normalcy. "We are looking to a point in the near future when we can re-open all of our facilities," he said. "Idaho Power's recreation staff are working hard at preparing the parks and campgrounds, so when we are able to welcome visitors again, they will be treated with exceptional facilities." — TK

Homedale library goes online during closure

Curbside pickup available on Mondays

The Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library is adapting to life with closed doors. Homedale's city library introduced two modifications Monday in an attempt to continue to serve its patrons. The library will offer curbside service from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., each Monday, and its Story Time event will be carried on Facebook Live each Monday. Library director Sharla

Jensen discussed the idea of curbside service to check out books or movies during last Wednesday's city council meeting. Patrons can call in an order of books and/or movies, or they can reserve them online. The library's catalog is available at www.homedale.lili.org. According to a post on the library's Facebook page, patrons must stay in their cars and call into the library at (208) 337-4228 to let staff know they have arrived at the library at 121 W. Owyhee Ave. The staff will then bring the items out to the parking lot.

Items may be returned to the streetside drop box in front of the old library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave. "Personally, I think it's a great idea," Councilman Mike Aebischer said. "We've got these kids at home with nothing to do and parents looking for resources." Also on Monday, youth services coordinator Carol McMichael hopped online for a Facebook Live version of Story Time. McMichael read stories and also entertained children stuck at home with rhymes and songs. Library director Sharla Jens-

en said McMichael's Facebook Live sessions will continue at 10:15 a.m., each Monday as long as the state's COVID-19 stay-at-home order is in place. Although the library has been closed because of Gov. Brad Little's order, transition from the 40-year-old Homedale Public Library to the new Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library continues. In another library-related item, the city council last Wednesday agreed to declare several old shelving units surplus. But the shelves won't be available to the general public just yet.

"I would like to offer the shelves for free to any library around that needs it," Jensen said. If other libraries reject the shelving, then the council could put the pieces up for auction. — JPB

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Locals churn out masks by the scores to fight virus

Facebook-fueled campaign helps anyone who wants protection

What started out as a trip to the fabric store to help a few fight COVID-19 has ballooned into a community service effort.

“The mask project started for me when I found out JoAnn’s Fabric store was giving out free mask-making kits to be taken home, sewn, and brought back to be dispersed by them,” Homedale resident and Owyhee Mask Makers co-founder Jessie Kerbs said.

“When I got the kit home and realized how easy they were to make, I started making some with what I had on hand.”

Homedale business owner Donna Marose jumped on board after Kerbs began searching the Homedale-Marsing community for like-minded souls.

As of the weekend, the pair and the community members who have volunteered to sew have made approximately 300 masks for family, The Bowling Alley employees and community members who have requested them through the Owyhee Mask Makers Facebook page.

Folks who would like to obtain facemasks or donate material needed to make them can contact Marose at (208) 577-7291 or thehomedalebowlingalley@gmail.com or on the group’s Facebook page.

“We still need people that are able to sew and also cut fabric,” Marose said. “We are making the priority of people working in the medical field.”

Creating masks for healthcare workers is actually how Kerbs got involved in the first place.

After buying her supplies, she found the Treasure Valley Medical Mask Sewing group on Facebook. The group is driven solely by community donations of fabric, elastic and bias

tape, much as the Owyhee group has subsequently developed.

“Through this group anyone in the medical field or that is considered an essential worker can fill out a form requesting masks,” Kerbs said of the Treasure Valley group.

Kerbs has been obtaining mask-making kits. The material in each can render 20 masks.

Locally, Kerbs and Marose have put together 12 kits with donated materials. Each of those kits can produce 10 masks, and community members have taken 10 of the kits to sew.

“That’s 100 masks out there being sewn by the kind members of our community!” Kerbs said.

Marose continues to make masks after closing the doors at The Bowling Alley out of an abundance of concern for the well-being of her employees and restaurant patrons.

Kerbs is a cosmetologist idled by the state’s stay-at-home order that has closed “non-essential” businesses such

as beauty salons and bars.

“I thought this was a great thing to be a part of — a way to feel useful and not dwell on bigger things,” Kerbs said of the mask-making community.

“I know there are so many wonderful people out here (who) would love to have the opportunity to help as well.”

That realization led Kerbs to put the information out on the Marsing and Homedale Community Awareness pages on Facebook.

Other local community members who have also sewn masks either through the Owyhee group or the Treasure Valley group include Robbie Busse, Mary Sonke, Christy Cooper, Pam Gibbens, Leslie Parker, Janette Gomez, Sam Smith, Gail Harrie, Louis Pryor, Breein North, Amy Allen, and PJ Walliser.

“You don’t have to sew to help. Some people can cut fabric and put kits together or donate elastic or bias tape or maybe even fabric,” Marose said.

— JPB

County reaffirms support for cities’ COVID-19 decisions

Still no emergency declaration from county commissioners

County commissioners signed letters April 6 supporting Owyhee County cities’ decisions about COVID-19 emergency declarations.

Last week’s meeting was held again over the Zoom web-conferencing application. No public was allowed physically into the meeting, as a precautionary social-distancing measure.

“We will support and assist you whether or not your city has declared,” the BOCC letter to the cities reads. “Please

contact us directly if you would like to discuss particular issues for your city.”

The letter states that the county has been mulling declaring a disaster emergency since the first COVID-19 cases were identified in Idaho. With each step taken by Gov. Brad Little, including his stay-at-home order, the commissioners have re-considered their position on a declaration.

“In each instance, our discussion and consideration of the benefits and negatives of

a county declaration has been thorough,” the letter reads. “Our conclusion has been that we are coping with this event sufficiently well so as to not benefit from a declaration.”

Marsing and Grand View declared disaster emergencies. Homedale’s council passed an ordinance setting up protocol for special mayoral powers but has yet to declare a disaster.

The county directed the local governments to contact Owyhee County emergency services coordinator Jim Desmond to request assistance for non-medical items if necessary. The letter stated that Desmond is already in con-

tact with the communities’ volunteer first-responders and is assisting them in the procurement of medical gear and other needs.

Desmond said that the state and federal declarations provide cost-share for local expenses incurred by the cities and counties in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“After the event is over, there will be applications through the county to the state for reimbursement,” he said.

According to Desmond, the cities and county need to carefully document expenses for which they are seeking for reimbursement. The Idaho

Office of Emergency Management has provided web-based training to the cities and county about dealing with the process.

The cities and county can purchase emergency-response items, such as personal protective equipment for responders and other equipment that is not medical-related.

They can also track the cost of additional personnel needs, if additional staff is hired to respond to the event, or they can attribute overtime hours worked by current employees in response to or in preparation for the crisis.

— TK

OCSO boat safety class nixed

The free Boat Idaho Safety class planned for May in Marsing has been cancelled.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Waterways Deputy Bill Conger announced the cancellation of the May 2 class last week. The decision came after he and class coordinator Deputy Mike Rabourn discussed the statewide stay-at-home order.

Conger said that the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation website offers three online options to obtain a Boater Education card.

Classes are more popular because the State of Oregon now requires all people boating on the state’s waterways to complete a safety class.

OHV deputies hired; rec hotline established

Sheriff’s deputies hired; road project to proceed

Two of the newest Owyhee County employees have been brought to help handle the influx of recreationists across the Owyhee Front.

County commissioners signed off on the sheriff’s office plan to hire additional off-highway vehicle staff.

William Diaz began his employment as an OHV deputy with the county on March 30 and is making \$16.74 per hour.

Joseph Bonachita was hired part-time by the sheriff’s office, also on March 30 and making \$16.74 per hour.

The county also established a recreationist hotline, too.

Folks wanting to play in the Owyhee backcountry can call (208) 495-1205 to hear a recording about the status of recreation in the Owyhees. The recording also asks people to adhere to Gov. Brad Little’s stay-at-home order and social distancing standards and asks folks to not overwhelm rural counties like Owyhee that don’t have the resources to handle a large surge in recreational activity and the emergencies that may go with it.

The recording also pleads with people not to call OCSO dispatch to complain about the governor’s order.

“Internally, we are transferring to the message when we get calls,” County Clerk Angie Barkell said. “Our dispatch center was overwhelmed by the number of calls.”

Other personnel moves

The commissioners approved Sheriff Perry Grant’s request to make Luisa Basabe a full-time sheriff’s office administrative assistant.

Formerly working for OCSO as a contractor, Basabe will work 30 hours a week and make \$20.18 per hour. She became a full-time employee on April 6.

Larry Sellers was hired to replace Robert Schaeffer at the Opaline solid waste tipping station and began his employment on March 20. He is making \$12.40 per hour.

Reynolds Creek Road work contract finalized

With the final agreement signed, commissioners gave Thueson Construction the official notice to proceed on a nearly half-million-dollar proj-

ect on Reynolds Creek Road.

Work is set to start on Sept. 1 and last until Sept. 28, with a substantial completion date of Sept. 21.

The project consists of constructing about 2.3 miles of a 3.5-inch-thick asphalt paving on Reynolds Creek Road. Approximately 6,200 tons of paving mix will be used on the \$466,990 project.

The notice to proceed date may be advanced to an earlier date, depending on the county’s road bed preparation progress and the contractor’s availability to start.

If a new date is issued, the substantial completion and final completion durations will remain unchanged and dates will be adjusted accordingly.

— TK

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

April 19, 1995



Oreana Student Body, 1950

Standing, from top, Gene Jayo, Mike Casey, Pete Aman; (Kneeling) Unknown, Mitchell Casey, Joe Aman; (Front) Elaine Casey, Unknown.

Jump Creek subject of discussion

A delegation from the Owyhee County Commission and Sheriff’s Office and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) appeared before the Homedale City Council Wednesday to ask for assistance in addressing the needs of the park at Jump Creek Falls.

The meeting duplicated one held three years ago, but according to Owyhee County Sheriff Tim Nettleton, Commissioner Dick Bass and Jay Carlson of the BLM, the problems have become increasingly worse since then, and some kind of action needs to be taken.

“We’re asking for help,” Bass said, “to work with our recreation people on our land planning committee.... I think if we can all sit down and talk about all the problems out there we can solve it.”

D.A.R.E. graduates first Homedale students

A host of sixth graders marched through DARE graduation ceremonies at Homedale Elementary Friday, before parents, teachers and community leaders.

The DARE program is new in Marsing and Homedale, and is administered by Owyhee County Deputy Dick Freund, who doubles as the school resource officer in Homedale. The Friday graduates were the first to complete the program in Owyhee County.

In earning their certificates, students had to attend the majority of Freund’s presentations, finish their DARE workbooks, write an essay on why and how they would stay drug-free, and perform an act of community service.

Sunrise service tradition continues

For the last 58 years area residents have arrived at Lizard Butte at sunrise on Easter to celebrate Christ’s resurrection, and this year was no exception.

Between 1,000 and 1,200 people attended services again this year, event organizer Connie Hill said. It was a wonderful response, she said, and the people in attendance donated generously to help with a project to fence off the privately owned butte from public access and resulting vandalism.

50 years ago

April 16, 1970

Rec district formation sought by Homedale group

A timetable for proceeding with necessary details for forming a recreation district in Homedale and vicinity is being worked out with a tentative date about mid-June for holding an election.

The district would be formed under a law passed by the last legislature in its closing days and signed by Gov. Don Samuelson.

The actual time schedule would be dependent on gathering the information and material necessary, and carrying on a program to fully acquaint residents of the aims and purposes of the proposed district.

Construction and maintenance of a community swimming pool, with repayment of a loan from FHA is the immediate goal of the Homedale Community Swimming Pool Association. The \$60,000 loan is in the final stages of approval, and the association intends to have its architect call for bids when the go-ahead is given.

Excavating work at the swimming pool site has been promised by the Marsing Job Corps, and other donation work and materials is expected to help defray the cost of building the pool.

Trojan thinclads garner 7 firsts at Fruitland

The Homedale Trojans collected seven first place finishes against Southwest Idaho League opponents to win the Fruitland Invitational track meet last Thursday with a 20-point margin.

Homedale piled up 88 points for the win to 66 for second place New Plymouth, Kuna taking third with 48. In fourth came Parma with 36, followed by Fruitland with 26 and Middleton with 19.

Homedale had no fewer than three double winners, Scott Justice earning the honor for New Plymouth.

Paul Pearson again snagged firsts in the shot put and discus, hurling the discus to a new Class B high for the season of 149 feet one inch in the process.

Wayne Alora showed his heels to the field for the Trojans in both the 220-yard dash and the 440, and Stan Zatica tied Justice for first in the 120-yard high hurdles and leaped to a first place finish in the high jump with a 5-11 mark.

High School

The Homedale High School Choir will present its Annual Spring Program, the famous musical by W S. Gilbert entitled “Creatures of Impulse” in the Homedale High School Music Room on April 16, 18, 21 and 24.

Seating capacity is only 100, so it is suggested that all those who wish to attend the program purchase tickets from any chorus member in advance. Ticket prices are: Adults \$1.25 and Students 75 cents; Pre-schoolers, free.

Leading female characters are Debra McPherson, Virginia Phelps, and Sherri Nelson. Leading male characters aare cast in dual roles. Featured April 16 and 24 will be Robert Troxel, Ken Kubosumi, and Jerry Jackson; featured on April 18 and 21 will be Robert Paxton, Craig Curtis and Joe Johnson.

Marsing Huskies grab 11 hits to rout Melba

MARSING – The Marsing Huskies jumped on Melba’s pitching for 11 hits, two of them home runs, Monday afternoon as they stopped the Mustangs 14-2 in a Treasure Valley League baseball game.

Dan Larsen and Tim Percifield both clubbed home runs for the winning Huskies as Masing jumped to a 11-0 lead after the first three innings of play.

145 years ago

April 17, 1875

Blood.—

A duel is said to be imminent between two young men of Silver City. We believe the difficulty originated in a dispute as to which of them should buckle on a certain young lady’s skates at the rink last Saturday night. Nothing but blood will satisfy them. It don’t matter much to the young lady which of her admirers is killed, as she “can be happy with either, were t’other dear charmer away.”

THE Idaho Hotel is undergoing some internal repairs and improvements. A new apartment is being fitted up and furnished in choice style, which is intended, we believe, to be used as a bridal chamber. There is a rusty old bachelor bossing the job who it is rumored will enjoy the honor with his bride of using the chamber first and getting it adapted to newly married folks.

(From Tuesday’s Daily.)

GOT A DUNKING. Mill of Trout Creek and Bill Rawlings of Silver went hunting yesterday, and while gliding down Jordan Creek, their boat upset and they lost their guns, fishing tackle, whisky and everything else. They came near going under themselves. Mills swam to the shore, and Bill clung to a willow until he was rescued from his disagreeable position. At that time, both felt in need of their lost liquor more than anything else.

PASSENGERS COMING.—

Following is a list of stage passengers who passed Summit Springs this morning and will arrive in Silver City to-morrow:

Marks Wilzinski, bound for Portland, Oregon; J.G. Walker, for same place; Samuel O’Bryant, for Boise; J.Schofield and Mr. Walker for this place.

“WHAT would Silver City be without the AVALANCHE?” Modesty prohibits us from giving a proper answer to the question. We know that there are many persons who would sooner live on one meal a day than be without their favorite journal. This speaks volumes on behalf of their good taste and judgment.

IDAHO TERRITORY yields as choice fruit as can be found anywhere on the globe, and all who are the fortunate possessors of orchards bid fair this season to have a bonanza that will add to their happiness.

AMONG the recent sojourners at the War Eagle Hotel are, W. Mayes of Colorado, T. Crowley and M. Quirk of South Mountain, Joe Jemmison, Geo. Hicks and other prominent citizens of Fairview.

SECOND VOLUME.

With this number the DAILY AVALANCHE enters upon its second volume. The enterprise thus far has been successful beyond our most sanguine expectations. Our advertising patronage is increasing and new subscriptions are coming in every day. With the facilities at our command we are giving the people a first class daily paper, and are pleased to know that our efforts are appreciated. The people of Owyhee may well be proud of the AVALANCHE. No other place in the world, with even three times the population of this, can boast of its daily paper and steam-printing establishment. In this respect we are determined that Silver City, Idaho, shall stand at the head of the list, and all we ask is that the people “stand in” with us.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



On the edge of common sense
The Lone Pine

“So, how’d yer dad git that big dent on the door?” I asked Dave. Truth is, it was quite an accomplishment for one single dent to stand out from all the other wear and tear, deterioration and assorted damage that covered his 1983 Ford Ranger diesel pickup truck like elephant tracks on a styrofoam cooler.

“It’s a long story,” sighed Dave.
Dave went with his mom and dad to gather the last of the cows off their forest permit above Feather Falls in the Sierra Madres of Southern California. Dad drove the old stock truck with racks made outta airport landing and pulled a portable Powder River loading chute with panels. Dave followed in the Ranger. It took ’em a while, but they finally loaded 16 head of cows and calves. Then Dad spotted one ol’ cow that had held back. She’d calved recently, but the calf was nowhere in sight. They had spotted lion track in the vicinity. They searched till Mom, the family tracker, found the little calf under a bush.

They could feel the storm comin’ and were relieved to get the last cow squeezed onto the load. They packed the loading chute and started down the mountain. Dave followed in the Ranger with the new calf in the cab beside him. Bear, the faithful cow dog, rode in the back. Next thing he knew, Dad waved him to a stop. There was a cow down in the stock truck. Dave pulled ahead, stopped on the steep mountain road and went back to help.

After several minutes of struggling with the down cow, Dave climbed up to say they’d need to let some of the other cows out to give her some room. It was then he noticed the Ranger, complete with dog and calf, had disappeared! Dad was hot to catch his favorite truck when Dave pointed out that wherever it was goin’, it was already there. The down cow could use some help right away.

They set up the portable chute, unloaded four cows, righted the down cow, and Dave took off to find the Ranger. He met Bear comin’ back up the road at a full gallop, tail between his legs. Around the first bend, Dave could see the tip of the pickup over the side of a canyon. It had leaped off the edge and slid sideways into a lone pine. The next stop would have been 200 feet at the bottom. The calf was standin’ in the seat lookin’ out the back window.

Well, everybody survived although the dog won’t git back in the pickup, and Dave continues to insist he left it in gear. And Dad ... Dad still takes the hammer to the side panel now and then in an attempt to make the pine tree impression blend in with the other dents.

It’s useless, though, like tryin’ to make a mastodon blend in with a flotilla of Mallard ducks.

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

Election letters to the editor

Brenda Richards’ leadership, respect will make difference

I support Brenda Richards for District 23 Idaho Senate. Brenda has the skills, experience and common sense to make a difference for us on Day One.
Brenda already has a positive working relationship with the agencies we need to address the issues we have here. We have the opportunity to elect a candidate that can get the job done for the interests and issues in District 23.
In every group she has worked with, she has risen to leadership roles. We have every reason to expect her to become a leader in the Senate and a champion for District 23. I ask you to join me in voting for Brenda Richards for Senate, District 23.
Tony Black
Bruneau

Election letters

The Owyhee Avalanche will accept letters to the editor pertaining to the upcoming primary election until noon on Friday, May 8.
The usual letters to the editor guidelines apply, including letters must be no more than 300 words and letters must include contact information, including a phone number, of the letter-writer. Submit by:
• Email to jon@owyheeavalanche.com
• Mail to P.O. Box 97, Homedale ID, 83628
• Or drop off at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., in Homedale
For more information, call (208) 337-4681.

Brenda Richards will be a strong addition in state Senate

Brenda Richards is a native Idahoan, born in Twin Falls County, a portion of which is included in District 23. Brenda is a proven leader who has represented the livestock industry well at the local, state and national levels. Brenda was Owyhee County Treasurer for 12 years and is a proven fiscal conservative. She was also president of the National Public Lands Council and is presently a member of its Board of Directors. Brenda’s background and work ethic provides proof that she succeeds at all levels in working with diverse groups to bring common-sense solutions to difficult issues.
Whether you were born here or arrived a short while ago, Brenda is the candidate that is a firm supporter of the United States and Idaho Constitutions. She will

fight hard to protect states’ rights and limit government intrusion into our lives. Brenda Richards is not adverse to engage in discussion with those who hold opposing views in a statesman-like kind of way.
We need representation at the county, state and national level. Brenda has proven she can provide common-sense solutions to difficult issues at the county courthouse and will continue at the Statehouse while supporting the White House.
You can register to vote and request an absentee ballot at idahovotes.gov. Your vote for Brenda Richards will be appreciated.
Eric Davis
Bruneau

Experience, reasonable outlook make Richards best choice

We have a very important race for the Republican nomination for District 23 State Senator.
Both candidates are conservative, pro-life, and strong defenders of the Constitution and Bill of Rights.
However, based on experience, success and leadership ability, Brenda Richards is the undeniable best choice for our district. Brenda has an impeccable public service record as Owyhee County Treasurer, a proven record of leadership defending ranchers and public lands users as president of the Public Lands Council, and impressive status as a rancher, wife, mother, and grandmother. There are some important contrasts to consider.
State sovereignty. Brenda knows that blindly tearing down state government is not the answer to federal overreach. She has testified before Congress multiple times and was instrumental in the fight for state and local control with the Owyhee Initiative. In sharp contrast, Ms. Zito voted against state funding for the Sage Grouse Initiative in 2017 (S. 1134), fortunately in the minority, as this would have paved

the way for more federal control in a fight that has been raging for decades.
Infrastructure. As Idaho grows, we must improve and expand our infrastructure to prepare for that growth. Ms. Zito voted against funding a major highway initiative in 2017 (S. 1206), a vote that would have resulted in more delays and worse roads had her vote been in the majority.
The drawback of trying to get a good score card with some of the Boise organizations is that education, law enforcement, common sense and even your own district sometimes suffer.
The Senate is a place for calm, reasoned, mature debate of issues that concern the matters of our district, state and local governments and, most importantly, the citizens. Brenda has proven over a lifetime of service in all these areas that she is the absolute best choice for State Senate.
Oscar Evans
Homedale

Background, principles put Richards at top of Senate race

Brenda Richards is a rancher with her husband Tony Richards in Murphy. Brenda is a candidate for the District 23 Senate seat currently held by Bert Brackett, who is retiring. Brenda served as the Owyhee County Treasurer for 12 years and has an accounting background. As a fiscal conservative, she believes the taxpayers’ dollars are better left in your pocket than in the government treasuries.
As a working ranch owner, Brenda Richards understands and advocates for the needs of agriculture in Idaho. She is a strong supporter of Idaho water rights and was awarded the Patrick Takasugi Agriculture Leadership Award in 2019, which “... recognizes leadership, loyalty and service to Idaho’s Agriculture Industry.”

As a gun owner and National Rifle Association member for many years, Brenda is a steadfast supporter of our 2nd Amendment rights and will fight to defend them.
Brenda is a strong supporter of President Trump, his efforts and success in creating jobs, lowering taxes, securing stronger trade agreements, and making America Great Again.
Brenda Richards is Pro-Life, Pro-Gun and Pro-Trump! Please unite with her in this support by voting for Brenda Richards in the Primary Election. Those wishing to vote can register and request an absentee ballot at idahovotes.gov.
Rayola Jacobsen
Boise

Commentary

Financial management
Family finances shouldn't help keep business going

Dear Dave,
My husband runs a small business that has never done very well. We have three kids, and I make \$55,000 annually in my job. Part of what I make has been going into the business for over a year to help keep it afloat, and we don't have a lot of money in savings. What do you think we should do?
— Stephanie

Dear Stephanie,
If you're putting other money into a business account, that's a pretty good sign you're not making money in the business. You and your husband need to sit down *together*, and do a household budget *and* a profit and loss statement on the business. You've got to get on the same page financially.
Put all his business expenses

on the profit and loss statement in detail, and write out what it would take for him to break even each month. But honestly, with everything that's been going on with your finances, if he's not at least breaking even at this point, then it's time for him to do something else for a living full-time.
I'm an entrepreneur and business owner. Trust me, I totally understand the allure and excitement that goes with running your own business. But your own household and its immediate financial responsibilities come first. The only money that should go into the business account is income the business creates.
— Dave

Dear Dave,
I own a small business,



and recently a relative asked for a job with the company. I hate to say this, but I've got reservations about hiring her. She's basically a good kid, but not the most reliable person in the world. Do you have any advice on how to handle a

situation like this?
— Bill
Dear Bill,

As an entrepreneur, you have the right and responsibility to do what's best for your company. That means you shouldn't hire anyone who isn't a good fit — even a relative.
If a relative is qualified, and the kind of person who understands they'll have to bring it every single day, performing at a level equal to or above your other team members, that can be a special and rewarding thing. But if that relative is the kind of person who expects special treatment or is a problem child, that kind of situation can be a nightmare for you, your company, and the whole family.
Would you hire this person

because they'd make a good team member? Would you hire this person if they weren't part of the family? If the answer to either of these questions is no, don't hire them. It's as simple as that.
The bottom line is you have to do what's best for your business, your immediate family, and your team.
— 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.

Election letters to the editor
Richards has strength, intelligence to serve in Senate

I am writing in support of Brenda Richards for the Senate seat in Legislative District 23. Brenda and I worked together when she served as the Owyhee County Treasurer, and I served as the Twin Falls County Treasurer. Working with her was a pleasure.
I have always found Brenda to be honest, intelligent, kind, forward-thinking and able to stand her ground and speak for what is right. It was a pleasure to serve

with her for years in the Idaho Association of County Treasurers.
I believe Brenda is the best choice to fill the Senate Seat in Legislative District 23.
Vote Brenda Richards for responsible leadership.
Debbie Kauffman
Retired Twin Falls County Treasurer
Filer

Articulate, intelligent Richards right for state Senate job

I urge all voters in District 23 to vote for Brenda Richards. I had the privilege to work with Brenda when I was an Elmore County Commissioner. At the time she served as Owyhee County Treasurer, an office she held for 12 years.
Working for agriculture, Brenda also served as national president of the Public Lands Council.

Brenda is articulate, intelligent, hard-working and holds all of the conservative values that Idaho cherishes.
Please vote for Brenda. Go to idahovotes.gov to request an absentee ballot or register to vote.
Your fellow Republican:
Arlie Shaw
Buhl

Caring, thoughtful, hard-working Bundy best for Dist. 23A

Please join me in voting for Matthew Bundy the Republican candidate for State Representative District 23A.
I have known Matt for many years. I know him to be a thoughtful and caring person. He always works to learn the facts of any circumstance to make the best decision possible. He has a lot of knowledge of how government should work and has been the government teacher for my children at our high school in Mountain Home.

He is retired military, and he is a city councilman in Mountain Home and has done a great job.
He is independent, fair, hard-working, honest and compassionate and wants what is best for Idaho and those he will represent.
I believe he will be a great representative for District 23A.
Nathan Price
Mountain Home

Letter
to the editor
We will emerge from crisis
stronger than before

These are indeed trying times for families and individuals as we work our way through what is unprecedented for our state and country. I want to encourage you to remain hopeful and optimistic. We can use this as a time to reconnect with our families near and far. A time to serve our neighbors and our community in creative ways as we continue to respect social distancing and practice recommended hygiene precautions.
This being said, our God-given constitutional rights must always be protected and preserved.
As citizens of this nation and state, we have a natural-born resilience. We will arrive on the other side of this surreal experience stronger, as we navigate the current situation with level heads and maintain an air of grace, class, and dignity. If you are able, reach out to your neighbors and community to build a network of strength. These are the times which have the ability to increase our resolve, to turn our hearts to those around us. Please join me in making this goal a reality.
If you feel you need someone to speak with, reach out. You are not alone. There is always someone there for you. I am here for you.
May God bless each of us and our families. You are in my prayers.
Rep. Christy Zito
Dist. 23A
Idaho House of Representatives

Contacting BOCC	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

Public notices

SYNOPSIS OF OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER MINUTES
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 26 & 30, 2020
March 2

Approved and paid all outstanding bills from the following funds: Current Expense \$33,514; Road and Bridge \$12,837; District Court \$921; Probation \$274; Health District \$4,604; Historical Society & Museum \$1,086; Indigent & Charity \$32,611; Jr. College Tuition \$550; Solid Waste \$6,495; 911 \$4,397; County Vessel \$1,054; Taxing District Elections \$1,935

Paid the Capital Crimes bills for Indigent and Charity in the amount of \$14,194.61.

Approved Resolution 2020-07: To sell the Owyhee County Automobile (2000 Ford Taurus) at Public Auction on March 9, 2020.

Approved Resolution 2020-08: Destruction of 2015 Indigent and Charity records.

Approved the 2019 financial audit by Zwygart and Associates.

Approved the hire of Laura Anglin, as administrative assistant for the U of I Extension Office to begin March 10, 2020 at \$14.36 per hour.

Approved the modification exercising option year 2 for the Owyhee Road Maintenance Contract for Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Continued Indigent and Charity case 19-58 until April 13, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

Approved a letter to Seth Flanigan with BLM regarding the Owyhee County scoping comment on grazing regulations revision.

March 9

Approved Resolution 2020-09: Authorizing Investigation Proceedings regarding RV's, delegating the Sheriff's Office to investigate and report violations.

Approved the 2020 Reynolds Creek Road paving project bid from Thueson Construction in the amount of \$466,990.00.

Approved the Treasurer's tax cancellation for parcel MH00750002005A, tax in the amount of \$1,499.18, and a solid waste fee in the amount of \$59.00 for a total of \$1,558.18.

Approved the Assessors lease for (3) copiers from De Lage Landen Financial Services, Inc. in the amount of \$652.84 per month (\$83.00 less than the prior lease amount).

Approved a certificate of residency to the College of Western Idaho for student #2020-06.

Denied Indigent and Charity case 20-03 per Idaho Code §31-3504(5) applicant failed to cooperate with the county.

Approved the canopy cover and bleachers at the fairgrounds with remaining Department of Commerce grant money and

insurance money received from the damage to the previous canopy project and to begin as soon as possible.

March 16

Approved and paid all outstanding bills, with the exception of (1) bill that will be discussed with the Prosecuting Attorney. Current Expense \$48,042; Road and Bridge \$11,152; District Court \$1,974; Fair, Grounds & Bldgs. \$163; Probation \$771; Historical Society & Museum \$6,988; Indigent & Charity \$6,110; Jr. College Tuition \$500; Revaluation \$162; Solid Waste \$9,568; 911 \$7,872; County Vessel Fund \$764; Off Highway Vehicles \$283; Taxing District Elections \$42; Auditors Trust \$69

Approved a pay and grade change for Paul Prohl from Chief Deputy Appraiser to Chief Deputy Assessor from a grade 8 to 9 and hourly pay from \$18.98 to \$19.62.

Approved a pay and grade change for Lesli Hinton as Mapper from a grade 8 to 6 and hourly pay from \$19.62 to \$18.58.

Approved Resolution 2020-10: Destruction of Temporary Documents from the Owyhee County Court Clerk's Office.

Approved Resolution 2020-11: Adjusting the Mileage Reimbursement Rate for Travel in Personal Vehicles, associated with County Business, and for Jury Duty Travel to the Internal Revenue Service Rate - \$.58 per mile to \$.575 per mile.

The Board canvassed and certified the ballots from the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary.

Adopted the recommendations from SWDH regarding mass gatherings and limiting them to 50 people or less for the next 8 weeks.

March 20

Approved Resolution 2020-12: Resolution Authorizing Emergency Expenditures (Up to \$30,000.00).

March 23

Approved the Schroeder and Lezamiz Law name change to Schroeder Law, and the address change from 447 West Myrtle Street, Boise, Idaho 83701 to Tulip S. Building, Suite 110 1449 South David Lane, Boise, Idaho 83705-3185 regarding the Litigation Agreement as related to W. Alan Schroeder effective May 1, 2020.

Approved the Sheriff's Dispatch hire of Julie Morgan, to begin March 25, 2020 at a grade 7 and \$15.50 per hour.

Approved the Infectious Disease Policy for Owyhee County after a short discussion regarding the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Act Policy.

Placed a lien on Indigent and Charity case 20-09 and 20-10.

Denied Indigent and Charity case 20-08 per Idaho Code 31-3511 – Applicant failed to

cooperate with the County.

March 26

A special meeting was held to discuss the Governor's Statewide Stay At Home Order. Clerk Barkell stated she is waiting on orders from the Supreme Court before officially closing the courthouse. Once the courthouse is officially closed to the public, courthouse security will no longer be needed and most of those employees will resume duties assigned by the Sheriff where needed. Various departments will be rotating employee work schedules. Offices will be covered at all times to ensure that work will continue to be completed and phone calls will be answered. Employees will be paid during this time.

March 30

Approved the TekHut (Tekfinty) Sheriff's internet contract.

Approved the Sheriff's new part time hire of Joseph Bonachita, to begin March 30, 2020 at a grade 8 and \$16.74 per hour.

Approved the Sheriff's new part time OHV hire of William Diaz for response to the COVID19 influx of recreationalists, to begin March 30, 2020 at a grade 8 and \$16.74 per hour.

Approved Resolution 2020-13: COVID19 Pandemic Employee Management

The complete minutes can be viewed online at www.owyheecounty.net or in the Clerk's office.
04/15/2020

NOTICE TO CREDITORS (I.C. 15-3-801) IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OWYHEE
CASE NO. CV37-19-419

In the Matter of the Estate of ANSELMO "SAM" ZAMUDIO, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare, has been appointed personal representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned at the address indicated, and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

DATED this 7th day of April, 2020.

s:/Aaron Howard
State of Idaho, Department of Health and Welfare

By: AARON HOWARD,
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Financial Operations,
Div. of Medicaid
04/15,22,29/2020

Stewart: Marsing distance-learning likely to continue

Board waiting to hear criteria from SBOE

Superintendent Norm Stewart said that if he had to hazard a guess at this point he would say that Marsing School District students will continue with distance learning for the rest of the year.

The decision, of course, is up to the local school trustees if the district meets the criteria to qualify for re-opening.

Last week, the Idaho State Board of Education (ISBE) decided schools would continue soft closures through the end of the year.

Stewart said that he wished that the state board would have issued a more concrete decision but understands that not all school districts are seeing the same number of COVID-19 cases, justifying the stance to put the decision ultimately on individual districts.

He said the Marsing district would wait to make a decision about extending the school's closure until after the state board's special meeting, which was held Monday after The Owyhee Avalanche's deadline.

The SBOE planned to discuss what criteria schools would have to meet to bring students back.

Stewart expects social distancing to remain a vital part of the decision.

"How can we justify large groups of students coming together if there are still social-distancing guidelines in place?" he asked. "We will have a better idea on whether or not we meet the criteria to come back (after the SBOE meeting)."

He said the fact that many Marsing teachers and other staff commute from Canyon and Ada counties should be

part of the decision.

"You're coming from other areas and bringing whatever people could be potentially exposed to in areas outside of Owyhee County to school," he said. "That has to be taken into consideration."

Stewart said that there has been a bit of a learning curve during the first few weeks of distance education, noting that there is a lot of pressure on parents, many of whom have full-time jobs.

"We have learned a lot as an educational institution and are making modifications," he said. "Elementary and middle schools will continue with the educational packets, while the high school will be trying to transition toward more online classes, focusing on Google Classroom."

He said that he has received some feedback from the community about the school district's efforts.

"I'm hoping that people will continue to be supportive and understanding and as flexible as possible in helping students and parents through this trying time," he said. "For some people, it has been a struggle, and we're concerned about what educational outcomes may be affected as far as this new learning style."

"We're in a situation where we really don't have a choice."

Stewart praised the work of school district staff and volunteers with helping students and parents navigate a difficult and unprecedented time, noting the work of teachers, child nutrition, maintenance, and custodial staff, as well as numerous volunteers.

"I've been very impressed with our district staff," he said. "We have multiple people in different positions going above and beyond to help the kids."

— TK

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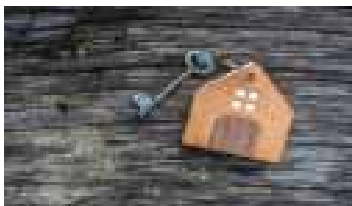
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Stay-at-home order jumbles high school rodeo season

Jordan Valley girl ranked second in all around

As with all other sporting events, the District 2 high school rodeo season has taken a hit because of the state stay-at-home order to fight COVID-19 spread. Rodeos planned for Saturday and Sunday at the Payette County Fairgrounds in New Plymouth have been postponed

according to the District 2 website. Also postponed is the second cutting horse competition. The next rodeos are scheduled for May 8-10 at the Gem County Fairgrounds in Emmett. The final rodeos are scheduled for May 22-23 in Homedale. The Friday, May 22 rodeo beginning at 6 p.m., will be for timed events only, and the same goes for the Saturday, May 23 rodeo scheduled for 10 a.m. The Sunday, May 24 rodeo starts at 10 a.m., and will

include rough stock. Reined cow horse competitions are scheduled for May 16-17 at Idaho Horse Park in Nampa, but no start times have been determined. Rounds 6 and 7 of the Reined cow horse season are pending. Organizers were able to get in two fall rodeos and the first two rodeos of the spring. Jordan Valley athletes Birch Eiguren and Jace Grenke are ranked third and fourth, respectively, in the boys' all around

standings. Two more Jordan Valley cowboys — Kort Skinner and Trevor Fillmore — and Homedale's Sean Schnabele is also in the all around standings. Marsing brothers Cade and Zane Brackett also have scored all around points. Other Marsing cowboys competing include Garrett Dines and Rossin Baldwin. Jordan Valley's Tayler Eiguren in second in the girls' all around standings. Adrian's Sydney Davis is in the standings, too.

This is Halle Burch's rookie season in high school rodeo for Jordan Valley. Other locals competing in girls' rodeo include Grace and Gwendolyn King, Sage Badiola, and Hannah Moos. *If there are any other local rodeo competitors that have been excluded from this list, please let us know. The District 2 site does not assign high school affiliations to their competitors in the standings.* — Ed.

Comment deadline on BLM sage-grouse plan extended

Supplemental documents would align with Idaho goals

The public comment period on Bureau of Land Management sage-grouse management documents has been extended. The federal agency has extended the comment period to May 21 on six draft supplemental environmental impact statements for the resource management plans for Greater sage-grouse habitat on public lands in Idaho and six other western states.

The documents remain available online, with information on methods for submitting comments, including "no-touch" online submission, alongside the documents in the BLM's ePlanning system. "The current draft SEISs draw on environmental analysis of the range of alternatives in both the 2019 and 2015 plans, to illustrate how best available science was used and

to clarify the BLM's approach to compensatory mitigation," Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Casey Hammond said. "We anticipate robust comments to result from these multiple tiers of analysis, which demonstrate the broad scope and thoroughness we've brought to this effort." Hammond said completing the documents is a high resource management priority for Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. "The BLM has worked with

our neighbors at the state and local levels of government since 2017 to ensure long-term greater sage-grouse conservation and to ensure the viability of local communities across the West," Hammond said. "This collaborative approach has continued during development of the SEISs." The BLM will use comments received by the May 21 deadline to help determine if there is a need to amend the 2019 plans, which were adopted to better align federal plans for managing

habitat with state plans for conserving the species. The 2019 plans acknowledged the circumstances and needs of each individual state and received bipartisan support from the governors who sought changes to the feds' 2015 plans for their respective states. The 2019 plans also better reflect the plan a task force put together by then-Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter developed. Dist. 23 state Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson) and Dist. 1 Owyhee County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland sat on that task force.

A QUICK STOP
FOR GROCERIES



YOUR HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING
IS IMPORTANT TO US.

Here are some additional
measures we are taking to
keep our community healthy.

- Only allowing 10 people in the store at a time to allow optimal space for social distancing
- Additional sanitizing of all customer contact surfaces every 30 minutes
- Disinfecting fuel pump handles, touchscreens, and keypads
- Closed the roller grill and the shared fresh condiment station
- Hand sanitizer provided to all stores for employee use between hand washing