

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 35, NO. 17 \$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

As enrollment shrinks, Bruneau-GV chief talks consolidation

Trustees hear initial pitch at April meeting

by Mandi Boren

For The Owyhee Avalanche

Amid a steady enrollment decline in the Bruneau-Grand View School District, talks of elementary school consolidation began during the regular

board of trustees meeting on April 14.

At the best-attended meeting of the year, superintendent Ryan Cantrell opened the consolidation discussion with a slide show for trustees gathered at Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School and patrons attending remotely via Zoom.

“When we ran the numbers this year, and it indicated a projected enrollment of 110 between our two elementary

schools, it was clear (to me) that it was time to start a conversation about funding two schools of 78 and 37 compared to funding one school of an estimated 110,” Cantrell said.

Cantrell didn’t provide trustees with a suggestion about whether a consolidated elementary would be in Bruneau or Grand View but instead laid out why he felt this is a good time

to consolidate.

He acknowledged that recent successful supplemental levy elections have put the district in a better fiscal position than eight years ago. In 2012, after multiple failed levy attempts, the then-financially strapped district faced forced school consolidation.

— See *Consolidation*, back page



Graduation requirement lifted, but senior projects go on

Homedale High School student Mason Rountree uses a post-hole digger to prepare an area for another raised garden bed at the Homedale community garden. Although state officials have nixed the senior leadership project as a graduation requirement, many Homedale students are moving forward with their community service. *See story, Page 4*

Board of Ed. adopts protocol for districts to resume school

Criterion No. 1: COVID-19 restrictions lifted

Even though state education leaders have set a criteria to re-open individual school districts, Rob Sauer is skeptical that local students will see their classrooms again this spring.

“In looking at the criteria, I believe that it is a long shot for Homedale to be able to re-open this current school year,” the Homedale schools superintendent said.

“The re-entry criteria established by the State Board of Education in consultation with health officials sets a high bar.”

Gov. Brad Little’s announcement last Wednesday extending the stay-home order to the end of the April also lengthens the odds of the soft closure ending before summer break. Sauer said re-entry isn’t an option until after April 30.

— See *Protocol*, page 6

Grand View moves forward with well project

Wage, benefit changes floated to get money for infrastructure

While the city council continues to wrestle with a plan of action on Grand View’s wastewater system, steps have been taken to shore up the drinking water situation.

The city is looking for bids and statements of qualifications from engineering firms to produce a water facility plan.

Sealed bids and qualifications will be accepted at City Hall until 2 p.m., on Wednesday, May 13.

The request for bids and qualifications comes after the council hired retired city public

works supervisor Bob Servis during a special meeting held outside City Hall on Thursday morning. The meeting lasted less than two minutes.

The facility plan must be completed by the end of July, although the city has asked the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality for a second extension.

Former employee rehired

A part-time employment agreement was unanimously approved. No details of the

agreement — including Servis’ rate of pay or duties — have been made available. A public records request response reported that the agreement is in the hands of the city attorney.

The special meeting came eight days after the council’s regular April meeting, which was available on Facebook Live. A partial recording of the April 8 meeting is on the city’s Facebook page.

Thursday’s special meeting was not broadcast, but City Clerk and Treasurer Kathy Brown provided a recording in response to a public records request. There was no

— See *Grand View*, page 14

Order extension ends hope of spring sports

Avalanche plans salute to senior athletes

A week after high schools across Idaho saluted senior student-athletes, the Idaho High School Activities Association Board of Directors cancelled

— See *Sports*, page 6



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State may cut school funding more

HSD’s Sauer:
five percent
holdback possible

The COVID-19 pandemic apparently will affect school funding in Idaho into the next fiscal year.

With Homedale School District already missing between \$70,000 to \$75,000 in state funding this year because of a one percent holdback in all state agencies, superintendent Rob Sauer told district trustees last week that there is a bigger bite coming in Fiscal Year 2021.

A five percent holdback means Idaho’s teachers could feel the pinch in their paychecks.

According to Sauer’s report during the virtual April 13 trustees meeting, the state is contemplating several fiscal moves:

- Freezing salaries
- Delaying the implementation of the third rung of the teachers’ career ladder salary structure, which was approved by the 2020 Legislature.
- Suspending leadership premiums

Other budget line items could be held back to offset the overall reduction, and also create more fiscal flexibility in local districts’ budget lines to help with the holdback.

And the federal government’s COVID-19 economic package could help lessen the blow.

“We are trying to figure out how much would be offset and what type of flexibility is available on the stimulus dollars,” Sauer told the board.

District federal programs director Christine Ketterling had anticipated a drop in federal funding earlier this year. The CARES Act now is supposed to appropriate 81 percent of the Title I-A monies originally destined to districts.

The State Department of Education is still working with the federal government to make determinations in this area,” Sauer said. “We hope to have better allocation amounts by early May.”

If news of federal allocations comes down on that timeline, Homedale trustees will have some of the information needed for their budget workshop, which is scheduled for 6 p.m., on Wednesday, May 20.

Public hearings for amending the 2019-20 budget and considering the 2020-21 budget are set for the trustees’ June 11 meeting.

Last week’s meeting was held online with the five trustees at separate locations.

“The meeting went really well, especially considering all five board members were in different locations,” Sauer said.

Sauer said the next regular meeting (set for May 11) and the budget workshop also could be held during Google Meets depending on the COVID-19 situation improves.

In another funding-related matter, the district has applied for \$8,885 in No Kid Hungry grant money to help the district pay for staffing and transportation to provide meals during the soft closure.

“The application is in the review process and we hope to hear within the next couple weeks if we will be awarded the funding,” Ketterling wrote in her report to the board.

Sauer said the district is serving an average of 350 to 375 meals each day.

“However, (on Thursday), we saw an increase and served 464 meals,” he said.

The Txoko Ona Basque Center and the elementary school aren’t the only elements of the nutrition effort.

“The transportation drivers are delivering food Monday through Thursday to out-of-town kids,” maintenance and transportation supervisor Danny Aberasturi wrote in his board report. “The drivers are also doing workbooks, and online training at home to help get their hours.”

Students have checked out about 375 Chromebooks to help with distance learning, Sauer said.

Aberasturi also reported the district’s custodial crew has completed deep cleans in each school building and they have moved on to painting and floor care projects.

Athletic event fees rise

The trustees approved the first increase in sporting event admission fees in 30 years.

Adults will pay \$5 for admission in the 2020-21 school year, and students and senior citizens will pay \$4. Ticket prices increased \$1 each.

No public comment was received during the hearing prior to the vote.

— JPB

Homedale spring plant sale will go on

Farmers Market
announces
social distancing
standards

The Homedale Farmers Market spring plant sale will be held as scheduled, even if it isn’t going on as planned.

COVID-19 precautions have forced market president Denise Dixon to make a few changes to how the plant sale will be conducted when it is planned to run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, May 2 at Bette Uda Park.

“I am creating an online platform that people can go to our website purchase plants and then they can pick them up curbside,” Dixon said.

People will still be able to visit the plant sale at the park, too.

“On the day of the sale each booth will be set with a table to divide the vendor from the customer,” Dixon said.

The table will create a six-foot barrier between the customer and the booth, and two people will be working at each booth. One person will handle monetary transactions and the other will handle the plants.

“Both vendors must be wearing masks and gloves, changing them often,” Dixon said.

No more than 50 people will be allowed in the park at one time, and they must adhere to the 6-foot social distancing guideline. Spray-painted lines at 6-foot intervals on the grass will help shoppers maintain that distance, Dixon said.

There will be signs at each

booth letting folks know where the waiting line begins.

A hand-washing station will be set up, too.

“We will have someone handing out flyers to each customer explaining best practices,” Dixon said.

Farmers market board members not selling products will serve as volunteers the day of the sale helping maintain the safety precautions.

The plant sale is scheduled two days after Gov. Brad Little’s extended stay-at-home order is scheduled to expire. But agriculture operations, such as Farmers Markets, have been deemed essential under the governor’s original order.

Dixon said she shared all her safety plans for the sale with City Hall.

Plant sale inventory will include:

- Garden plants from market vendors
- Flowers, plants and more from the Owyhee Garden Club
- The Homedale FFA chapter also will provide product.

Dixon expects more vendors to sign up as the sale day approaches, and she will list the plants and flowers available on Facebook before the sale.

Anyone interested in selling at the plant sale can get vendor information or register at the market’s website, www.homedalefarmersmarket.com. Call Dixon for more information at (208) 840-0440

The vendor fee is \$20 plus five percent of sales. Dixon said the plant sale is a separate event from the market season and will not be included in farmers market vendor fees.

— JPB



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BLM launches online meeting site for Great Basin plan comments

The Bureau of Land Management has created a virtual meeting for the Great Basin fuels reduction project.

A 60-day public comment period on the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (Draft PEIS) for Fuels Reduction and Rangeland Restoration in the Great Basin began April 3.

The plan would continue conservation and restoration in sagebrush communities over 223 million acres on Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Washington, Utah, and California.

The plan would be a companion piece to BLM efforts to construct up to 11,000 miles of fuel breaks in the Great Basin. That plan was finalized with the publication of a Notice of Availability of a Record of Decision on April 2.

The Great Basin Draft PEIS virtual meeting availability began Friday and will last through June 2, when the comment period closes.

The federal agency will use substantive comments on the

Draft PEIS in its work to produce a Final PEIS by the fall.

To access the virtual public meeting, use this link: <https://www.virtualpublicmeeting.com/frrr-peis>

The virtual public meeting is a suite of information and involvement options hosted on a website. Members of the public may log on to the site, watch a message explaining the project, view photos and maps, and click on any or all of eight information stations addressing aspects of the Draft PEIS. Links will take users to specific sections of the document. The site also offers participants links to two separate email inboxes, one for questions and one for comments. BLM staff members check these inboxes daily and respond to questions as quickly as possible.

The entire Draft PEIS is available for review on the BLM Land Use Planning and NEPA register at <https://go.usa.gov/xdfgV>

For more information, email Ammon Wilhelm, PEIS team leader, at awilhelm@blm.gov.

Stranded motorist busted for pot

A man joy-riding through the Owyhees now sits in Owyhee County Jail facing misdemeanor drug charges.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that Keith Wiley Angel, 47, from Klamath Falls, Ore., was driving his Ford F-150 near Chipmunk Grazing Association ground on Saturday afternoon when the vehicle became stuck. Angel left the vehicle to find help.

A deputy found Angel walking down the road and returned to the pickup. The deputy found marijuana in the vehicle, Bowman said.

Angel was arrested on misdemeanor charges of possession of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. — TK

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Homedale seniors take new approach to projects

Some are completing work despite Board of Ed.’s decision

Because of COVID-19, Idaho’s high school seniors won’t be required to complete leadership projects to graduate.

Homedale High School students in Kristie Dorsey’s senior leadership class are still required to complete their assignments, however.

“As you can imagine, some seniors had already completed their projects, others were about halfway finished, and the rest weren’t finished because they had planned to host a community event or something similar,” Dorsey said.

She said that not all assignments were necessarily directly related to each student’s project but many were.

Dorsey has asked her students to finish their individual projects, if possible.

Mason Rountree, who expects to graduate from HHS

in May, recently completed a project involving “planting” garden boxes at Homedale’s planned community garden next to Riverside RV Park.

Homedale FFA advisor Rachel Rheuby’s students built the boxes and Rountree buried them. The project has been a bit of an ordeal for Rountree, who repeatedly ran into pieces of metal, old pipes, and more, as he dug into the hard dirt next to North Main Street.

Rountree did all the work himself, digging the holes and burying the boxes.

“I haven’t really had any help putting the boxes in the ground,” he said. “There isn’t a whole lot that can be helped about digging some holes.”

Rountree plans to work on core classes at the College of Western Idaho this fall and ultimately earn a mechanical

engineering degree.

Other projects include:

- A “hype video” for football coach Matt Holtry to show to his players prior to games
- Creating puzzles for use at the annual FFA Ag Expo
- One student is performing auto body work on his 1978 Ford pickup and hopes to have it done prior to graduation.

Other students had been working on community-based projects and would no longer be able to complete them. Dorsey has asked those students to keep track of any service hours they may be completing by helping an elderly grandparent or neighbor.

“(Anyone) who needs help with yard work, babysitting their own siblings, and/or any work or jobs that they have been doing since online schooling began,” she said.

“My hope is that even though the state is no longer requiring a senior project be completed this year, the seniors at HHS complete one anyway.

“I’ve shared this with the seniors this semester, that being able to show Mr. Holtry, (Superintendent Rob) Sauer, the Homedale School District board that even though the state isn’t requiring it, the seniors showed their true GRIT, love for their community, and desire for greatness by completing a project even if their original project was affected by COVID-19.”

Dorsey said that if school does not go back into session, she plans to have meetings via Zoom or Google Meets so seniors have the opportunity to present what they ended up doing to complete their projects.

“Seniors will also be creating a Google Slideshow that

will highlight their projects through pictures,” she said.

This will be very different from what is normally done, but I think that it will be an awesome way to highlight the accomplishments of the second-semester seniors.”

She said some seniors have given up on their projects, but said that’s OK.

“This is a tough time for them emotionally because so many things have been taken away or changed in their lives as seniors,” Dorsey said. “I’m understanding more and more how graduation is such an ‘ending’ of one time of their lives and a ‘beginning’ to the next part.

“I am happy and proud of those seniors who are diligently working to complete a senior project even though they have had to take a new approach to accomplishing a completed project.” — TK

Man leads law enforcement on chase through Marsing

A Nampa man led Owyhee County and Homedale law enforcement on a high-speed chase late Sunday evening through Marsing.

Stefan Grujic, 22, is now in Owyhee County Jail in Murphy on felony charges of cocaine possession and eluding a peace officer.

Responding to a tip a sheriff’s deputy saw two people and

drug paraphernalia in a 2004 Ford Ranger that had been reported abandoned at a Logans Market gas pump, Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said.

Bowman said the driver, identified later as Stefan Grujic, 22, then sped off with the fuel hose still in his vehicle and his headlights off.

Two Homedale Police officers joined the pursuit, which

reached speeds of 50 mph.

Law enforcement lost sight of Grujic on a few occasions but eventually picked up the trail. He was found, at various times, on 3rd Avenue West, near the retirement apartments, on Canal Street, North Bruneau Highway, and he even drove through a field.

He was ultimately stopped and arrested on South Old

Bruneau Highway, but the passenger was no longer with him. The passenger was not identified and has not been located, Bowman said.

According to Bowman, a syringe and 6.5 units of liquid

cocaine was found in Grujic’s vehicle.

Grujic also faces misdemeanor counts of malicious injury to property and drug paraphernalia possession.

— TK





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U.S.P.S. NO. 416-340
Copyright 2020 — ISSN #8750-6823

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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
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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 868

cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 179 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 607,142 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.

From page 1

✓ Protocol: No Idaho district will open before April 30

“So that means May 4th, at the earliest, for those that think that they might be able to meet the criteria,” Sauer said.

The Idaho State Board of Education on Thursday approved minimum criteria for public school districts to use in deciding whether to resume normal operations prior to the end of the current school year.

The criteria were created in consultation with state and public health and school officials, and Gov. Brad Little’s K-12 Emergency Council, of which Sauer is a member.

“Most on the council agreed that the bar for re-entry should be a high one, but that those that can meet the standard should be given the opportunity,” Sauer said. “Some members believed that re-entry should not have been an option at all this school year.”

Marsing school trustees met Monday after deadline discuss the reopening criteria.

According to Marsing High School principal Tim Little, the district does not currently meet the state board’s minimum requirements.

During Monday’s meeting, Marsing trustees discussed the soft closure extension, COVID-19 grading protocols, and were scheduled to make decisions for 2020 high school graduation.

The state board set the criteria to help districts with limited or no confirmed coronavirus cases in their local area to bring students back on campus once state or local restrictions are lifted. The guidelines include:

1. No statewide or local social distancing restrictions, including stay-home orders or extensive closures of businesses are in place.
2. Exceptions to the soft closure should continue to be considered for staff and student needs, on a case-by-case basis as determined at the local level. For example, small groups of students that can be distanced in a way that meets the social distancing criteria for the purpose of proctoring exams, or working one-on-one with special education students, as long as the district has sufficient capacity to maintain hygiene and sanitation.
3. “This alone will preclude most school districts from re-opening for this school year,” Sauer said.
4. A minimum of 14 days have passed after the peak of the state infection curve has been identified by the Idaho Department of Health.

In areas experiencing community spread, the local infection curve will be evaluated for determining the 14 consecutive days. School districts may have the 14 consecutive days criteria waived with approval from the local public health district.

3. Approval by the local public health district, after review of district cleaning and disinfection protocols.
4. Local board of trustees must approve a re-entry plan identifying minimum school protocol, including:
 - Cleaning and disinfection protocols
 - Plan for vulnerable staff and students with special emphasis on people older than 60 and those who are medically vulnerable.
 - Plan for staff duties that require close contact.
 - An absenteeism plan for staff and students whose parents do not feel comfortable returning their student to school and for students who show coronavirus symptoms.
 - A plan for informing parents and staff of district response plans, protocols, and policies to manage the impact of the coronavirus.
 - Verify point of contact of each school district for effective communication and collaboration with local public health officials.
 - Review reopening plans in consultation with local public health officials.

Additional criteria will be developed for a fall start of the school year based on conditions at the time.

— JPB

Death notices

GEORGE THEODORE (TED) PAYNE, 75, of Jordan Valley, Ore., died Sunday, April 19, 2020 at his home of natural causes. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Caldwell. (208) 459-0833.

REED RICHARD SMITH, 77, of Oreana, died Monday, April 13, 2020. A celebration of life will be held in the future. Cremation: Alsip & Persons Funeral Chapel, 404 10th Ave. S., Nampa. (208) 466-3545

New HES principal appointed

Cheer coach now leads volleyball

A man with a varied background in Treasure Valley education has been hired as Homedale Elementary School’s next principal.

The district’s board of trustees approved Tate Castleton as Terri Vasquez’s successor during an April 13 regular meeting held on Google Meets.

Castleton has worked as Tier 1 statewide coordinator in Boise State University’s Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, for which Homedale has been a pilot district.

He also served as principal of the Caldwell School District’s alternative middle school, Indian Creek Academy. He was also an instructional coach at Caldwell’s Syringa Middle School, and taught at the district’s Canyon Springs High School.

Other personnel decisions include:

- Evonne McGuire was hired as Homedale High School’s new varsity volleyball coach. She resigned from her post as HHS cheer advisor to succeed Amber Fouts, who coached the Trojans for one season.
- An online form gauging interest of athletes to participate in volleyball is available at <https://forms.gle/NwxogtUeB9yK2g187>
- Luke Crockett has been hired as a high school English teacher for the 2020-21 school year.
- Robbianne Busse resigned as the elementary school’s music teacher.

✓ Sports: “This is going to be difficult for all our athletes”

all spring sports and activities and state tournaments.

The IHSAA board announced the decision two days after Gov. Brad Little extended the statewide stay-home order last Wednesday. The order now is set to expire on April 30.

“This is going to be difficult for all of our spring sports athletes and especially our seniors,” Homedale athletic director Casey Grove wrote in an email sharing the sanctioning body’s statement with boosters and parents.

“Please be thinking of them during this difficult time.”

Now, Trojans second-year track and field coach Bobby Christensen wants to salute the seniors who have lost their final season of high school competition somehow.

The Owyhee Avalanche would like to help Christensen in his plan by gathering photos of the seniors with information about their athletic exploits — sports played, awards and championships earned — and parents’ names, and college plans to put in an upcoming issue. The plan is to honor all senior student-athletes from each school in the Avalanche’s coverage area — Homedale, Marsing, Rimrock, Jordan Valley, Adrian, and Melba.

Send photos on information to jon@owyheeavalanche.com, or coordinate submissions through varsity coaches.

The IHSAA board explained the events leading up to Friday’s decision in a statement.

“This decision was based on guidelines established by Gov. Little, the Idaho State Board of Education, as well as feedback from schools and districts throughout the state,” the board said in a statement.

“As the COVID-19 situation continued to evolve, it became apparent that these state events could not be held safely and still follow the parameters set by the governor, SBOE and the IHSAA.”

Scholastic sports competitions and practices are prohibited through May 18. The IHSAA board will continue to examine the fall no-contact period and eligibility concerns raised by member schools in recent weeks.

“The IHSAA Board’s highest priority will always be ensuring the health and safety of our student participants, schools and patrons,” the organization said in its statement. “Situations like these will allow students to use the life lessons learned in education-based activities to cope with the adversity as well as they possibly can.

“We look forward to getting together and playing when the time is right and it can be done safely.”

Obituaries

Joyce Lenora Hayward

Our precious Mom, Joyce Lenora Hayward, recently of Homedale, formerly of Star, passed away on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

Mom was born to George F. Barber and Evelyn M. Rood Barber in Grayling, Michigan on October 2, 1932. She was the oldest daughter and second child of six. When she was a young girl, her family moved to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and became Yoopers. Mom attended Powell Township School in Big Bay and Graveraet High School in Marquette.

She met her future husband, Frank A. Hayward, in Big Bay when she was only 14. They married on December 31, 1949. Dad worked in the lumber business. Once they had their first three children, Dad knew he needed a more stable way to support his family so he joined the U.S. Army. He was no greenhorn to the military as he had already served in the Army Air Corps during WWII. They were stationed in Ft. Carson, Colorado; Frankfurt, Germany; Ft. Chaffee, Arkansas; and Ft. Bliss, Texas. When Dad went to school in Baltimore,

Maryland, Mom moved back to Big Bay, Michigan with us seven kids. Dad got orders for Okinawa, Japan and we were off again. While living on Okinawa, Dad was sent to Vietnam for a year and Mom raised us kids on her own. In 1970, our family was sent to Idaho where Dad worked out of the Federal Building in Boise. They bought a home in Star and there they remained. Dad was sent to Korea for a year in 1976 and once again, Mom was raising us kids on her own.

Mom was a woman of many talents. She sewed some of her clothes, clothes for her three daughters and western shirts for Dad. Mom could also knit and crochet and was a terrific cook. She used her culinary talents and worked for the Meridian School District in the school lunch program. Later, she ran the Star Bar and Café, and people came from all around for her delicious Mexican food on Friday nights.

In later years, Mom and Dad loved to travel and made many trips to the U.P. of Michigan as well as a few trips to Florida where Dad's brother lived. In the early '90s, Mom and Dad



began attending Dad's WWII Reunions, which were held all over the United States. Dad reconnected with his Army buddies and Mom made new friends. Mom took a couple Carnival cruises with her daughters and two granddaughters. She loved to go to the casinos whether it was in Jackpot, Nevada; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Pendleton, Oregon; or Marquette, Michigan. You didn't have to ask her twice if she wanted to go.

One granddaughter described Mom as "sassy and always well put together." Her

outfits always matched and had some sort of "bling". (Many of her clothes, shoes and jewelry came from QVC where Mom spent a small fortune.) She got her hair done weekly and her nails were always painted.

Mom was witty, even up until the end. When we asked her how she was feeling, she would respond, "with my fingers."

When Mom was 75, she and her sister, Sharon, got matching hummingbird tattoos to honor their sister, Sheila, who had passed earlier that year. She got another tattoo to honor Sharon when she passed. Dad disapproved of tattoos and had already passed away by this time, but we are sure that he wouldn't have minded.

When he heard that Mom passed away, her youngest grandson wrote, "She had been around the world, seen and done a lot of things and raised a big family. She fought for a long time and lived a full life." A granddaughter wrote, "They're together in the Big Rock Candy Mountains, doing crosswords and word searches, sitting in their recliners."

Mom is survived by her seven children: Allen (Judy)

Hayward of Jordan Valley, Oregon; Leon of Wilder, Idaho; Anne (Ronnie) Stephens of Jordan Valley, Oregon; David Hayward of Star, Idaho; Doris (Richard) Hayward-Roland of Homedale, Idaho; Julie (Rex) Rettig of Nampa, Idaho; Luke (Connie) Hayward of Wilder, Idaho; 17 grandchildren; numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren; sister, Patsy West of Commerce Township, Michigan; brother, Willy (Janice) Barber of Marquette, Michigan; sister-in-law, Emma Toman of Marquette, Michigan; and her dog, Shasta.

Dad preceded Mom in death in 2008 and they had been married for 58 years. She was also preceded in death by her parents; an infant son; two brothers, Harold and Orville Barber; and two twin sisters, Sheila Hudson and Sharon St. Germain.

Due to the circumstances of COVID-19, no services will be held at this time. Mom will be buried with Dad at the Idaho State Veterans Cemetery in Boise, and a celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Condolences may be shared at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com.

Domingo Uriguen

Domingo was born in Aulisti, Vizcaya Spain on May 12, 1929 to Maria and Theodore Uriguen.

In 1958, he married Loretta Faye Nelson in Nevada.

Domingo came to the U.S. where he worked in farming and ranching. He worked for Richardson Feed Lot, Simplot Land and Livestock for 22 and half years where he retired. He came back after retirement, and worked for the State of Idaho for 10 years, and retiring for a second time.



He was a member of the Txoko Ona.

He is survived by his wife, Loretta of 61 and a half

years; daughter Susie (John) Cushman of Filer; son, Steven of Caldwell; 5 grandchildren; 6 great-grandchildren; 3 sisters in Spain; and lots of good friends.

A memorial service will be held later this year in his memory. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the TXOKO ONA Basque Center, Homedale, Idaho or the Basque Museum in Boise, Idaho. Friends can share a memory of Domingo at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com.

NO NEW JAIL

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Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Milk available each day
Roll available each day except April 29th
Curbside pickup only between noon and 1 p.m. Call ahead at (208) 337-3020
April 22: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, green beans
April 23: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, broccoli
April 28: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, beets
April 29: Taco salad, rice, salsa, chips, cheese, and lettuce
April 30: Roast pork, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, mixed veggies

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 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 wg bread, carrot slaw salad, cook's choice soup
April 30: Hot turkey sandwich, French fries, gravy, mixed veggies, melon, beets, cook's choice soup

Calendar

Today

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

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

Friday

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

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Story Time

10:15 a.m., Homedale City Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. Stories read on Facebook Live. (208) 337-4228

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

Friday, May 1

The Landing teen support group
6 p.m., Rising Light Farm Ministry, 5189 N. Old Bruneau Hwy, Marsing. Contact Iliana Bialy (208) 807-0680

Saturday, May 2

Homedale Farmers Market plant sale
10 a.m., to 2 p.m., Bette Uda Park, Homedale. (208) 840-0440 www.homedalefarmersmarket.com

Monday, May 4

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

Story Time

10:15 a.m., Homedale City Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. Stories read on Facebook Live. (208) 337-4228

University of Idaho Extension

Victory Gardens of 2020 can help boost our diets, outlook

Very few of us have been untouched by the recent global pandemic. Unemployment, food insecurity, health concerns and a general disruption of normal life are challenging many Idahoans.



What does this have to do with gardening? During the recession of 2008, the National Gardening Association (NGA) published findings connecting historical dips in economy with surges in food gardening. The NGA also found that an average home or community vegetable garden measuring 25 x 25 feet can generate, on average, \$400 to \$600 or more worth of fresh produce each year after a minor investment. More than half of us aren't getting enough fresh fruits or vegetables in our diets; gardens increase access to these healthy foods, especially if we're not eating them because of the cost. So now may be a good time to revisit the idea of Victory Gardens for 2020.

Victory Gardens, also called war gardens, were planted in backyards and community spaces in the United States and Europe during World Wars I and II to reduce pressure on the food supply. These gardens were considered civil "morale boosters," and citizens were urged to make growing a family and neighborhood effort. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that the 20 million Victory Gardens tended in 1918 yielded 9 to 10 million tons, an amount equal to all commercial production of fresh vegetables that year!

You may be thinking: "That all sounds pretty good, but don't I need a green thumb to grow a successful garden? Don't I need a lot of space and fancy equipment? Isn't it expensive? And requires a lot of back-breaking work? And if it does work, will I know what to do with all those veggies?"

These are common concerns, but it can be quite easy to grow more of your own food, and save money doing it, even in small spaces and with limited time. While our University of Idaho Extension offices across the state have had to put a hold on in-person gardening programs for the time being, we are still here to help you. In fact, we have made our popular Idaho Victory Garden class now available as a free, self-guided, online course. It consists of 10 units with videos, lectures, readings and activities covering the basics of family home fruit and vegetable production, including healthy recipes and food preservation. There is even an optional private Facebook group for students who want to connect with each other.

You will have access to the material through Dec. 31. Start here: <http://bit.ly/idahovictorygardens2020>.

There is no registration needed, just click the content links and start digging in!

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

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

House of Representatives

Legislative District 23A

Republican Candidate

www.matthewbundyforidaho.com

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COMMUNITY
Member of Mountain Home City Council. Active in local civic groups focusing on economic development and improved infrastructure.

GOVERNMENT
I support the 2nd Amendment. I believe in sound fiscal policies and I support limited government policies.

VETERAN
I spent 20 years in US Air Force as a B-1 & B-52 Bomber Aviator. I actively support our veterans and am an active member of veteran support groups.

EDUCATOR
As a teacher at Mountain Home High School, I was selected as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) State of Idaho High School Civics Teacher of the Year, for 2019-2020.

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WEED WATCH



From Northwest Owyhee CWMA
Name: Puncturevine (*Tribulus terrestris*)

Description: Puncturevine (a.k.a. goatheads) is widespread throughout our communities and is a nuisance in more ways than not. The hard, spiky seed case can injure livestock, people, and pets when stepped on and can puncture the rubber of vehicles of all kinds and sometimes even reducing the recreational potential of many areas.

Quick facts: Flowers in midsummer. ... Germinates and goes to seed in two to three weeks. ... Will produce 200 to 5,000 seeds during one growing season. Seeds may remain viable in the soil for up to five years. ... Infested areas should not be grazed by livestock. The sharp spines of the seed burr can injure the mouth and digestive tract of animals. It is particularly toxic to sheep, causing sensitivity to light resulting in skin lesions and swelling of ears and lips. Severe effects include blindness, necrosis of skin, loss of lips and ears, and death in young animals.

Habitat: Prefers disturbed well-drained sandy and loose soils. Found along roadsides, canals, in pastures and cultivated fields.

Origin: Mediterranean region of Europe and Africa.

Control: For small infestations of puncturevine in the home landscape and garden, the most effective management is removal of

seedlings and older plants by digging or hoeing, taking care to also remove any burrs that fall off the plant. This is best accomplished by removing plants before they produce seed (i.e., before or at flowering) and continuing to do so over several years. Burrs that have dropped after removing the plant may be collected and removed by sweeping or raking the ground.

For larger infestations, there are a few pre-emergent herbicides that are effective such as Telar/Chlorsulfuron that will provide partial control of germinating seeds.

Post-emergence, products containing 2, 4-D, glyphosate, and dicamba are effective when applied when the plants are small.

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

Anniversary

Ryskas to celebrate 65 years of marriage

LeRoy and Bonnie Ryska will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary on Thursday, April 30, 2020. Due to the current statewide stay-at-home order, the celebration has been halted. Mail well wishes to LeRoy and Bonnie at 9510 Jaca Lane, Givens Hot Springs, ID 83642.

LeRoy and Bonnie were married on April 30, 1955 in Boise. The couple have four children: Jim (Teresa) Ryska of Homedale, Brenda (Alan) Lish of McCammon, Tony (Priscilla) of Nampa, and their late daughter Pamela (Jay) Hall of Opaline. LeRoy and Bonnie’s children would like to congratulate them on this exciting milestone and publicly thank them for their selfless dedication to family,



friends, community and faith over the past 65 years.

They have 18 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren with six more great-grandchildren due this summer and fall throughout Idaho and Colorado.

We couldn’t have asked for

more outstanding role models in life and love. Congratulations LeRoy and Bonnie. Happy anniversary.

LeRoy was part of the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Posse. He and Bonnie both are most known for their service at the Opaline and Homedale tipping stations.

NW Owyhee CWMA distributes pre-emergent herbicide

Chemical to battle puncturevine or other state-listed noxious weeds is now on hand with the Northwest Owyhee Cooperative Weed Management Area.

NOCWMA directors are ready to distribute Chlorsulfuron 75/Telar, which is a pre-emergent herbicide.

The pre-emergent can still be used for the next few weeks, according to the CWMA.

Community members can obtain the chemical by contacting CWMA board members.

- **Paddy Doyle** — (208) 337-5331 or pnsdoyle@msn.com
- **Tim Volk** — (208) 999-2660
- **Kent Curtis** — (208) 965-9568
- **Jodie Dickerson** — jodieray2002@yahoo.com
- **CWMA general email** —

NWOWyheeCWMA@mail.com

The coverage ratio is two ounces per acre or one teaspoon of Chlorsulfuron to one gallon of water.

An in-kind report or application record is mandatory and must be returned to any NOCWMA board member after treatment. Copies of those documents are available from those board members.



School grounds trees thinned weeks after limb crashes down

Homedale School District maintenance and transportation director Danny Aberasturi cuts up a branch that had fallen off a large tree and crushed part of the elementary school perimeter fencing March 25. Aberasturi wrote in his April 13 school board report that six trees at the school have been thinned and lightened for safety. District superintendent Rob Sauer said the original collapse during spring break was the impetus for the additional work.

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ELECTRICAL PLUMBING LIGHTING IRRIGATION

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM

On the edge
of common sense
Brushes with fame



Over the years I have gotten to know, or meet or hang out with, what I call “famous people.” From movie stars, politicians, world champions, athletes, writers and moguls. Often it was just circumstance. Other times it was an intentional connection. Like being invited to be on ABC’s first DOLLY PARTON SHOW. What I remember is how small she was in person and how she could play guitar with such long fingernails. She was also very kind to Little Richard, who couldn’t get his song right after 25 takes!

Or when I sent the manuscript of my first novel, “HEY COWBOY, WANNA GET LUCKY?” to five authors I most admired — Tom Robbins, Thomas McGuane, Hunter S. Thompson, Dan Jenkins and John Nichols. I didn’t realize the disposition of unsolicited manuscripts ... the trash can! But ... Tom Robbins (“EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES”) wrote me back, quoted me to myself and gave me his agent!

I took a shot in the dark and gave the Sunbeam Clipper salesman a cassette of songs I’d written because he claimed he knew Lynn Anderson. Months later, Red Steagall ... the real Red Steagall, called me and said he liked one of my songs. He didn’t know about Lynn Anderson, but he said the Sunbeam clipper salesman gave it to him. Red has become one of my best friends. He introduced me to Reba McEntire when she was driving a Chevy van with a pick-up band. They did a show together in Fort Worth Stockyard. I held her horse. Jack, Red’s bus driver, got to hold Red’s horse. Jack claimed to be the cowboy in Gordon Snidow’s Coors painting. Gordon denied it.

Ed Bruce (wrote “Mamas, Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Cowboys”) took pity on me. He got me on the Ralph Emery Show. After the show, we went to dinner. They asked if there’s anything else that could make it better. I said it would be nice if somebody famous would record one of my songs. His wife said, “Every poet thinks he’s a songwriter, every songwriter thinks he’s a singer, ever singer thinks he’s an actor ... why can’t you just be happy with what you’re good at!”

I walked into a restaurant in Denver, and saw Denny Gentry, the man who literally made team roping the most popular rodeo sport in the world! He

drew out his plan for the USTRC (U.S. Team Roping Championships) on an envelope. “Whattya think?” he asked. I said that I didn’t think any two team ropers could ever agree on something that good and walked off. He sold it for multiple millions 20 years later.

So ... when Patrick Gottsch (inventor of the RFDtv empire) called me up and described his vision for an all agriculture/rural television network, I listened. He told me what he needed from me. I asked if this was a payin’ job. He said, “No, but it will be good for your career!” I said, “Sign me up.” RFDtv has changed agricultural marketing and become the “party line” for ag neighbors across the country, and I’m a part of it!

Walt Garrison, Dallas Cowboys professional football player and rodeo champion, does my poetry. According to his daughter, Slim Pickens read my column, Ty Murray did one of my poems at Freckles Brown’s funeral, Senator Conrad (N.D.) read one into the Congressional Record, Tom Daschle (S.D.), Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, asked me to do public service spots after the blizzard of ’97.

I’ve changed John Malone’s tire on his ranch in Raton, N.M. He’s the biggest landholder in the U.S. I made Johnny Carson laugh, roped with Fred Whitfield (he laughed!). I get my blood sugar evaluations from Wilfred Brimley. I’ve traded horses with Larry Mahan, been recorded by Ian Tyson, been quoted by Sandra Day O’Connor, Paul Harvey and Charles Krauthamer (in his last book) and shared a champagne glass with Casey Tibbs sittin’ by a campfire at two o’clock in the morning ... just me and him.

Those of you who have watched the movie “Forrest Gump” remember him as a just a regular guy who seemed to pop up in photos with presidents, performers and kings at hangings, earthquakes and county fairs. I really liked that movie. I can relate to ol’ Forrest.

— 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

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.

Letters
to the editor:
Election 2020

Zito will not compromise
on rights of the people

The upcoming Senate race offers a clear choice for the voters of District 23.

Christy Zito is an outspoken conservative who will protect our rights with action. She will vote to actually protect those rights, votes to protect, not talk then compromise at last minute to get along, go along. Be it school choice, or our Second Amendment rights, the right of the people shall not be infringed.

Reasonable gun control takes away our right to bear arms and defend ourselves.

It’s a baby not a choice; the choice was before the baby was conceived. Abortion should not be considered as a form of birth control. These are things I know Christy stands firmly for.

An example of Brenda Richards’ go along, get a long was when the Owyhee Initiative group was asking the Bureau of Land Management and private property owners to include their lands in the Owyhee Initiative, promises were made that if our lands were included, we would be compensated, made whole for any damages that might incur. I agreed to have a substantial part of my BLM grazing permit included as part of that Initiative. After my lands were included as part of the Owyhee Initiative, I was then told my agreement with the Board was not valid. My lands were included, and I received no compensation for damages to my ranch grazing. Brenda was right there telling me my lands were essential for the wilderness,

— See *Letters*, Page 11

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

Local office
251 E. Front St., Ste. 205
Boise, ID 83702
Phone — (208) 334-1776
Fax — (208) 334-9044
Washington, D.C., office
239 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone — (202) 224-6142
Fax — (202) 228-1375
E-mail — <http://crapo.senate.gov/contact/email.cfm>



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

From Washington
CARES Act helps rural health care providers

Making sure health care providers, big and small, have the resources necessary to keep those on the frontlines safe and combat the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is the most important part of the fight against this disease. The University of Chicago recently released a “U.S. COVID-19 Atlas” indicating emerging hotspots in rural areas. Many already cash-strapped rural health care providers with oftentimes only a handful of emergency medical personnel and very limited bed space are responding to critical cases that stretch or exceed their facilities and exhaust supplies. We must make certain needed resources

quickly reach rural providers and are not just focused on large providers in major metropolitan areas.

Congress and the Trump Administration worked together to enact three phases of legislation providing resources to support health care providers in the fight against COVID-19. Phase 3 of the emergency coronavirus response legislation, the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides further flexibility and funding to fight this unprecedented crisis. In addition to putting

— See *Rural*, Page 12

Commentary

Financial management Don't wait too long to buy term life insurance

Dear Dave,
Life insurance is one of those things I always said I would get around to buying someday, but for various reasons I just haven't done it yet. Is there ever a time when it is too late to get life insurance?
— Angie

Dear Angie,
First of all, I only recommend level term life insurance. It's fairly easy to get until around age 70, depending on your overall health situation. Once you get into your 70s and beyond; however, it can be more difficult to find reasonably priced coverage.
I recommend that most people

have 10 to 12 times their annual income in term life insurance. To be honest, though, you really shouldn't need life insurance if you're 70 or older. At that point, if you've saved and invested wisely over the years, you can be self-insured. By this, I mean you've got enough money in savings and investments to cover funeral expenses — plus enough for a spouse to live on comfortably after you're gone.
Don't wait any longer, Angie. Take care of this today!
— Dave

Dear Dave,
I own a small company, and we lease the building we operate from. As an entrepreneur, how



do you know when it is time to stop leasing and buy a place of your own?
— Peter

Dear Peter,
You should only buy a building when you have a solid track record of success, and a really good idea of what your building needs will be. A growing business is always a good thing, but you don't want to focus too much on real estate and not enough on generating revenue and managing that growth intelligently. You would also want to make sure you're going to be in anything you buy for a good, long while. I'm a big fan of leasing the first few years after starting your own business. It's even better if you can work out of your home, but I understand that's not always practical. Down

the road, you can choose to lease with an option to buy, or in the right situation, just buy a building.
Remember, make sure you do it all with cash. Don't add debt to the equation!
— 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.

✓ Letters

From Page 10
but no, I would not receive any compensation. Go along to get along; past promises mean nothing. It's all in doing what is needed to get it done now.
So Brenda, will this also apply to abortion, school choice, guns, right to assemble, and all the other cherished rights we have as American citizens?
Christy has proven where she votes.
Chet Brackett
Hollister

Brenda Richards understands rural challenges

We are writing to express our strong support for Brenda Richards in the 2020 election for Idaho State Senate, District 23.
During the time Brenda served as the Owyhee County Treasurer, we had the opportunity to work with her on several occasions regarding private property rights and school issues. She understands the challenges of rural communities and is a constant champion for small business, agriculture and public lands.
Brenda has proven she has the fortitude and knowledge to represent her district on a state level. She believes in lower taxes and a smaller, more affordable government. She is an effective conservative leader and deserves your support.
Thank you for your support for Brenda Richards and remember to vote in the primary on May 19, 2020.
Guy and Sherry Colyer
Colyer Herefords Angus, Bruneau

Richards can bring diverse interests together in Dist. 23

Brenda and Tony Richards attracted the attention of the ranchers in Elmore and Owyhee counties as soon as they succeeded in starting a ranch in this area. That is a very difficult thing to do. Despite being "new," her obvious talents led to Brenda being asked to take positions of some responsibility. She was asked to participate in the creation of an unusual effort to solve some dire problems Owyhee ranchers faced.
This group succeeded in getting the backing of U.S.

Sen. Mike Crapo. Brenda then helped rally ranchers and other groups to participate in the creation of the Owyhee Initiative. After taking several years to find common ground between diverse groups and resolve their differences, a comprehensive plan, the Owyhee Initiative, was created for the ecology and economy of Owyhee County. The Owyhee Initiative was then put into federal law and has succeeded in avoiding the creation of a federal monument. You have heard of the armed protests in Nevada and the occupation of the federal facility in Oregon. Brenda's efforts helped avoid such confrontation in Owyhee County. Brenda remains active in the steering committee of this amazing effort that has not been duplicated anywhere else.
We want to support the Air Force Base, as well as the competing recreational and economic issues, including the farming and ranching communities. Because Brenda has proven she can bring different interests together to get things done, that is the kind of leadership we need here.
We have the opportunity to elect a senator who has proven they can get the job done for all of the interests and issues in District 23. Brenda Richards is the candidate for Senate that we need. To vote, request an absentee ballot at idahovotes.gov.
Ted Hoffman, DVM (ret.)
Mountain Home

Richards, Bundy have right experience, judgment

As a former House of Representatives member (District 23), I have known Brenda Richards for many years and want to encourage voters to vote for her for the Idaho Senate.
Brenda is a dedicated public servant, former Owyhee County treasurer, an Owyhee Initiative leader, and a longtime Owyhee Cattlemen's Association member. She's served on public lands advisory boards and has represented Idaho well in national and regional agricultural groups. She's a longtime Owyhee conservative Republican with dedicated experience in many aspects of Southern Idaho life.
Brenda has the personal characteristics necessary to succeed retiring Sen. Bert Brackett as a real leader in Idaho's Senate. She has Brackett's support.
Brenda brings a broad array of personal traits to

this position. She's knowledgeable, and not afraid to ask questions and to learn from those around her. She's thoughtful and cognizant of her area's many constituencies. She'll listen to all sides, in the long tradition of District 23 members including Frances Field, ret.
Brenda also has a winning personality and is not afraid to listen to different perspectives on the issues. She's a strong supporter of Second Amendment rights, pro-life anti-abortion. She supports public education; she and her husband Tony have raised three sons in Owyhee schools. She's solid Republican and will be a great replacement for Sen. Brackett in the Idaho Senate.
I also offer my support for Matt Bundy, who is running for open House seat 23A. Matt has broad experience as a Mountain Home city councilman (16 years), high school teacher and Air Force veteran. He has the requisite experience and judgment to represent District 23 well.
These candidates have my endorsement for Idaho Legislature, District 23. I hope you'll support them with your vote in the spring GOP primary.
Rep. Stephen Hartgen, ret. (2008-2018)
Idaho House of Representatives
Twin Falls

Common-sense, professional Richards right for Senate

It is my honor to support Brenda Richards in the Legislative District 23 senate race. I have known Brenda for over 25 years, and she has shown her abilities and passion for making Idaho a better place to live.
Brenda has a record of proven leadership. She has been involved in several organizations, the Owyhee Initiative and the Boise District Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council. She has ascended to leadership roles in these organizations — chairman of the board for four years on the Owyhee Initiative, vice-chair for three years on the BLM Resource Advisory Council, and president for two years of the National Public Lands Council.
Brenda is no stranger to public service. She served as the Owyhee County Republican

— See Letters, Page 12

Commentary

Letter to the editor

Remembering Fred Grant’s work, wisdom for Owyhee

I recall the time Fred Kelly Grant warned us, “If you see light at the end of the tunnel it doesn’t mean relief is on the way, it could be a locomotive headed your way.” He also said, “You really aren’t paranoid if they really are out to get you.”

Fred was proud of his Owyhee County ties and came to our aid at a precarious time. Environmentalists and the Bureau of Land Management were looking toward removal of the public land-based livestock industry in the Owyhee Resource Area. He believed his experience dealing with organized crime aided him in leading efforts to re-establish order in the Owyhees.

The attempt to make a monument of the Owyhees during the waning days of the Clinton Administration led Fred, and others, to promote the Owyhee Initiative. Even though it has brought a degree of stability where there was none, Fred warned it could only be maintained by vigilance on our part.

As I write, I’m reminded of Fred’s remarks about the light at the end of the tunnel.

Michael F. Hanley IV
Jordan Valley

✓ Letters

From Page 11

Treasurer for 12 years. She was elected to office three times and managed the treasurer’s office. For three years, she served as chair of the Idaho Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee and was also elected to the Western Interstate Region delegate from Idaho and on the National Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee.

Brenda is a perfect fit for the Idaho Senate. She has a long history of representing Owyhee County, the State of Idaho, agriculture and the cattle industry in the most professional manner. Brenda is a common-sense conservative. Please join me in supporting her in the May primary election.

Remember to go to idahovotes.gov to request an absentee ballot.

Bill Lickley
Jerome

Brenda Richards understands our freedoms and liberties

I support Brenda Richards for Idaho Senate seat, District 23. Brenda understands the vital nature of private property rights to our freedoms and liberties.

She is a member of the NRA and strongly supports protecting 2nd Amendment rights. As a longtime gun

owner, she knows these rights must be protected.

Brenda values the strong family ties that Idahoans cherish. She and her husband, Tony, have three adult sons who make their living in Idaho. She is an advocate for strong families and is pro-life.

Brenda Richards is an excellent choice to represent Idaho’s District 23.

Afton Patrick
Twin Falls

Zito will fight for freedom, conservatism in Senate

I would like to write a letter on behalf of Christy Zito. Christy is a conservative Republican who believes in freedom. She has an A+ rating with the Idaho Freedom Foundation. The person whose position she hopes to succeed (retiring Sen. Bert Brackett) has an F rating. He voted for freedom only 52 percent of the time. Lots of Democrats did better than that. It scares me when he endorses Christy’s opponent. Lots of local bureaucrats and wannabes have endorsed her opponent.

Wake up, freedom-loving Owyhee County and the rest of you in District 23. If you believe in limited government, liberty, conservative values, fiscal responsibility, and freedom, you will vote for Christy Zito in the upcoming election. She will not vote with the Democrats, and she also believes in getting business open and people back to work.

P. T. Rathbone
Marsing

✓ Rural: Federal COVID-19 response includes relaxing telehealth rules

From Page 10

needed cash into the hands of American workers and families, providing relief to small businesses and helping stabilize our economy, the CARES Act sends a massive new infusion of resources to the front lines of the medical response.

- The Medicare sequester, which automatically reduces provider reimbursements by two percent, would be immediately suspended for all health care services.
- Hospitals would receive an additional 20 percent Medicare payment for the treatment of patients with COVID-19, and \$100 billion in grants to build critical infrastructure, expand the health care workforce and cover uncompensated expenses.
- The expansion of telehealth services would enable patients to consult their providers from home, mitigating the risk of exposure for vulnerable populations and keeping providers healthy.
- Providers in Rural Health Clinics and Community Health Centers would be eligible to conduct telehealth visits, and Health Resources and Services Administration grants would be reauthorized to

support the use of telehealth technology.

- New flexibilities would allow qualified physician assistants, nurse practitioners and clinical nurse specialists to order home health services for Medicare beneficiaries.
- Home health providers would also be encouraged to use remote patient monitoring and other telecommunication technologies for continuity of care.

These are some of the provisions of the bill focused on assisting rural providers. I serve on the Senate Finance Committee, and our committee’s chairman, Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), provided a summary of the provisions of the CARES Act focused on assisting patients and providers in rural areas hard hit by COVID-19. The full list of highlights is viewable at <https://www.finance.senate.gov/chairmans-news/rural-resources-in-the-coronavirus-aid-relief-and-economic-security-cares-act>.

I joined a bipartisan group of fellow senators, including fellow Idaho Sen. James E. Risch, on a letter led by Sens. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Alex M. Azar II

urging the agency to prioritize financial relief of rural hospitals. We wrote, “Right now, some rural hospitals are reporting they are running out of operating funds. This jeopardizes their ability to maintain health care services during the COVID-19 outbreak.” We requested the administration’s rapid action to sustain rural providers.

On April 10, the administration began releasing part of the \$100 billion in provider grants. Idaho is expected to receive about \$135 million in immediate relief funds from this first phase of distribution to be allocated to 1,864 Idaho providers and health systems based on 2019 Medicare fee-for-service claims. As the administration continues to allocate the \$100 billion grant program through the HHS and other resources, I will continue to advocate for the needs of all of Idaho — including our rural health providers.

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

Contacting elected officials

County commissioners Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson), chair Phone — (208) 318-8308 Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale) Phone — (208) 249-4405 E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com Terms expire 2020 Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View) Phone — (208) 834-2641 E-mail — jvmerrick@hotmail.com Term expires 2022 Mailing address P.O. Box 128, Murphy, ID 83650	Municipalities Homedale City Hall 31 W. Wyoming Ave. (208) 337-4641 Mayor — Gheen Christoffersen City council — Mike Aebischer, Jerry Anderson, Steve Atkins, and Aaron Tines Meetings — 6 p.m., on second Wednesday Marsing City Hall 425 Main St. (208) 896-4122 Mayor — Chad Sevy	City council — Chris Even, Marie Herman, and Rachael Percifield (1 seat vacant) Meetings — 7 p.m., on second Wednesday Grand View City Hall 425 Boise Ave. (208) 834-2700 Open noon to 4:30 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. Mayor — Danny Martinez City council — John Morrison, Tom Payne, Jon Pennington, and Opal Ward Meetings — 6 p.m., on second Wednesday
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Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

April 26, 1995



East Idaho Avenue, Homedale. early 1950s

At immediate left is the Morfitt Store, prior to its expansion out to the street; next, Owyhee Chronicle, then Cone Café. Homedale High School is in background. Matteson’s blacksmith shop is on the right.

Trio escapes propane fumes

Three individuals were nearly asphyxiated Saturday night while camping near Grasmere, Owyhee County Sheriff’s chief deputy Gary Aman said. Aman said the three were sleeping in a camper when propane fumes — probably from a portable heater — nearly overpowered them. Luckily, they were able to call the state police and the sheriff’s department for help. Upon arrival the sheriff’s department found that one individual was in serious condition and required Life Flight to Boise. The other two were transported to the hospital via ambulance, Aman said. All three will live.

“Spring Fling” event set for Friday at HES

At least 21 game booths and a virtually unlimited supply of corndogs and cotton candy await visitors to the first-ever Spring Fling at Homedale Elementary School this Friday. The Spring Fling, or school carnival, will be hosted by the Homedale Parent Teacher Association, which hopes eventually, if not this year, to make some money off the event. Most games and activities — everything from fish ponds to a sucker pull — will be geared toward elementary-age children, but adults will find entertainment as well, like bingo.

Homedale to open water system bids

The Homedale City Council will open bids on a new telemetry system when it convenes for its next meeting this Thursday. The council opted last month to advertise for bids on the new system, which will automatically govern the flow of water in and out of Homedale’s water storage tank. According to Larry Bauer, the city’s maintenance crew supervisor, the city’s present system is outdated and more importantly too unreliable to keep in service. Its age is such, he says, that finding parts for it is becoming increasingly difficult, and when he does find them, they’re priced extremely high.

Homedale golfers pick up first victory

The golf team at Homedale High School picked up its first win Monday, thanks to finding a fourth player again, and to some clutch putting by Gavin Parker. “Gavin sank a crucial putt on the final hole,” coach Kris Hopkins says. “It was pretty long, so he was pleased” The shot allowed him to avoid sharing medalist honors with Nampa Christian’s Isaac Kimball. Parker shot a 41, Kimball a 42.

50 years ago

April 23, 1970

Dennis Tanikuni named officer in state DeMolay Dennis Tanikuni, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tanikuni of Homedale was elected State Master Councilor of Idaho State Chapter Order of DeMolay at the 22nd annual State Conclave held in Kellogg, April 16-19.

He was one of two delegates from the state of Idaho to attend the 3rd DeMolay Congress held April 2-8 in Omaha, Neb. At the Congress, Dennis served as group discussion leader for the northwest regional conference. In Omaha, he was unanimously elected by the International Supreme Council to receive the degree of Chevalier, which is the highest award given to an active DeMolay for outstanding service.

Pool committee drafts promotional planning

Directors of the Homedale Community Swimming Pool committee will meet again today (Thursday) at 12 o’clock at the Owyhee Lanes café. At a meeting held Friday it was decided to proceed with forming a recreation district to include an area in Owyhee and Canyon counties with boundaries the same as the Homedale school district No. 370. Preliminary work of gathering material and establishing a time schedule were assigned as follows: Richard Eismann—Compiling legal descriptions, securing maps of the area and drafting petitions. Jim Duncan—Make list of organizations and meeting dates to schedule explanatory talks. Tom Arvin—Brochures explaining the pool construction, financing and operation; news reports on progress of pool. Homer Anderson—Copies of pool plan for display at meetings and at central points in Homedale and vicinity. Harold Tolmie—Secure six speakers to explain pool project at various meetings. Norm Tolmie—Secure quotes from citizens supporting the pool project.

Grand View news

Verla Robinson hosted the Knight Congregational Church Women’s Fellowship Thursday night with eight attending. The annual spring clothing drive is under way with the goods that are left to be used in a rummage sale later this year. Anyone having good used clothing can leave it at the church. The District Fellowship meeting is to be Friday, April 24, at Nampa from 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. The Elwyhee Square Dance Club will sponsor its annual Spring Fling this coming Saturday, April 25 at the Grand View grade school, beginning at 8:30 p.m.

4-H News

The meeting of the Steady Stitchers 4-H Club was called to order on Wednesday, April 15. For roll call we said how far along we were on our projects. For our club party, we decided to have a skating party on May 6. We will meet at the park at 5 o’clock and have a picnic and meeting before we go. Demonstrations were given by Debbie Jackson on “What you need to make a shift”; Pauline Salisbury on “How to use a pin”; and Patsy Salisbury on “How to sew on a hook and eye.”

145 years ago

April 24, 1875

(From Monday’s Daily.)
TO SOUTH MOUNTAIN.—

The veteran, Dow Vincent, is running a saddle train to South Mountain three times a week now, carrying the mails, passengers and express articles to that camp on horseback. On Friday morning Mr. Gardner and Jack Daniels were passengers. When they got to Cottonwood they thought they could make better time by going by way of Gusman’s ranch, and they took that route, Mr. Vincent going the usual way. Mr. V. arrived at South Mountain Friday night but his passengers, who thought they were going to do something smart by going the other way, didn’t reach there until Saturday forenoon. They were quite chop-fallen at the result, and will follow in the wake of the old gentleman next time. In a few days the mails, etc., will be carried in wagons on this route.

THE heaviest mining Superintendent in this camp is Col. Keown, of the Golden Chariot. Notwithstanding his unusual weight, the Colonel is, however, quite nimble in his movements, and goes about on horseback with all the ease and agility of a young man of seventeen. In fact the Colonel is one of the best equestrians in this Territory, and neither age nor weight prevents him from taking rank with the most active of our citizens.

TELEGRAPH TOLLS—

The cost of telegraphing ten words from Silver City is as specified to the points named below: Fairview 50cts; South Mountain 75cts; Empire City 50cts; Summit \$1.25; McDermott \$1.25; Winnemucca \$1.50; San Francisco \$2.00; Ogden \$2.50; Salt Lake City \$2.50; San Jose \$2.50; Portland \$4.00 and to either Cheyenne, Omaha, Chicago, St Louis, New York or New Orleans \$3.75.

THE Owyhee river at the point where the stages cross is higher than has been known for many years. Even the “oldest inhabitant” has never witnessed such a freshet. Andy Baker’s teams arrived there recently, and every article of freight for this place had to be carried across by boat. The teams will be at Trout Creek to-morrow.

A LADY of our acquaintance wants to know what is the meaning of “ante” and “pass-the-buck” with many other such phrases. She says her matrimonial companion uses them in his dreams, and she is afraid that they are indicative of fever or some other disease.

(From Friday’s Daily.)
ANOTHER INMATE FOR THE JAIL.—

H. B. Bell arrived from South Mountain yesterday with Isaiah Smith who is about to board at the “Hotel-de-Hays” for a brief period. He is here at the instance of William Gabriel, who recently conveyed a quantity of liquors to South Mountain, the property of Mr. Hunt, with which it is believed that Isaiah had taken an undue liberty. Anyway Mr. Gabriel thinks he has got his man. He left the stock over night at a spot about 500 yards from Smith’s saloon in South Mountain, and the next morning, 2 cases of Cutter whisky, 5 gallons of brandy and some other articles were missing. The brandy was found a short distance from Smith’s place, where it had been traced by footsteps from that point. Smith it is alleged, was seen during the night in the vicinity of the spot where the goods were deposited, by J. McLafferty and another man, and their arrival it is supposed had the effect of preventing a greater loss for Mr. Hunt.

Eastern Owyhee library remains closed

The Eastern Owyhee County Library will remain closed in accordance with Gov. Brad Little’s extended stay-home order.

Library director Tammy Gray said EOCL trustees made the decision after Little extended the statewide order last Wednesday.

“We are asking patrons to please return their books in the book drop in front of the library so that we can begin the sanitizing and quarantining process that will allow us to return the items safely to the library shelves,” Gray said.

The board of trustees will revisit the closure status at the end of the month when the stay-home order is set to expire.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m., on Tuesday, May 19 at the library, 520 Boise Ave., in Grand View.

“This, of course, depends on the COVID-19 situation at that time,” Gray said.

From page 1

✓ Grand View: Ex-mayor, wife of current councilmember, named mayoral assistant

discussion after the motion and prior to the unanimous approval.

No public comment was taken at either of the council’s most recent meetings.

Worker could be laid off

During the April 8 meeting, council members were presented a wage and benefits reduction proposal as a way to free up money for infrastructure projects.

The proposal estimates that the city must find \$50,000 for a drinking water facility plan and that the nitrate mitigation plan could cost as much as \$250,000. The city must either repair or replace one well and ensure another well is available for system redundancy.

Mayor Danny Martinez said he wanted the council to review the proposals in preparation for an action item during the May 13 meeting. There was no discussion of holding public hearing, which state law requires when budget amendments are proposed. It’s unclear if this proposal would take effect immediately or would be part of the Fiscal Year 2021 budget talks.

There are four plans on the table, including three options in which a public works employee apparently would be laid off. Under all four options, health insurance benefits would be eliminated and meter-reading could become Brown’s responsibility.

- **Plan 1** — The city would retain a water and sewer employee for 30 hours per week at a cost of \$43,244.69, including payroll taxes and state retirement contributions (PERSI), and hire a lawn care contractor for \$6,000 on a seven-month contract. This would save the city more than \$54,500 per year.
- **Plan 2** — The water and sewer employee would work only 18 hours per week, eliminating the requirement for PERSI, and a maintenance contractor would be hired at a cost of \$14,000 for seven months. Annual savings: Nearly \$66,400
- **Plan 3** — A part-time water and sewer employee (18 hours) and two contractors for maintenance and lawn care for seven months. Annual savings: More than \$58,500
- **Plan 4** — A water and sewer employee (30 hours) and a maintenance employee (18 hours) with no benefits. Annual savings: Nearly \$49,000

Contractor’s work questioned

Also during the April 8 meeting, appointed Councilperson Opal Ward questioned how much money the city has spent in contracting with Mike Settell of Pocatello-based Sustainable Resource Solutions, LLC to develop a wastewater system facility plan and find a solution to the city’s non-compliant sewer lagoons.

“My point is we’re already \$5,400 over budget that we said we were going to pay Mike Settell,” Ward said, without providing context on what the budgeted amount was. “My point is he’s doing stuff he doesn’t really need to be doing and charging us for it.”

Martinez answered The Owyhee Avalanche’s public records request with a page from the city’s Fiscal Year 2018 audit showing a \$30,229 operating income deficit in the town’s sewer fund and a \$40,087 expenditure for personal services, although it wasn’t explicit that the money was spent on Settell. No records from FY 2019 and FY 2020 were furnished.

Ward said Idaho Power could do an energy audit for free, and Bob Servis could work on the lagoon aerator for “a lot less money.”

Ward also pointed out that the city could apply for an Idaho Community Development Block Grant through the Department of Commerce to fund the treatment plant work.

“We don’t need Mike to do that,” she said.

Later in the meeting, Ward added that Tammy Payne could write the grant. The wife of newly elected Councilman Tom Payne and the town’s former mayor and city clerk was recently appointed a volunteer mayoral assistant. Martinez said it is an unpaid position.

“Tammy knows how to write grants, and there are a lot of grants out there,” Ward said.

Applications for ICDBG grants are due in late November. Funding wouldn’t be available until at least May of 2021 if the city grant were approved.

“I would like to send a letter or some kind of notice to (Settell) that ‘all we want is a facility plan for the public hearing because that’s all we hired you to do,’ ” Ward said. “And we didn’t hire him to do any of this other stuff that he’s doing.”

Mayor Danny Martinez told the council that he would send a letter.

A public hearing on the wastewater plan has been postponed because of COVID-19 social distancing requirements and Gov. Brad Little’s stay-home order. No new date has been set.

Tom Payne attended the April 8 meeting by telephone and spoke up about Settell’s arrangement.

“We need him to stop billing us any more until we have a facility plan,” Payne said.

— JPB

Public notices

GRAND VIEW WATER FACILITY PLAN REQUEST FOR BID and STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Grand View, Idaho, (City) is soliciting bids and Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) from qualified professional engineering firms for the Grand View Water Facility Plan. The Grand View Water Facility Plan scope of work generally includes: A description of the existing drinking water system. City’s population growth and future water demand projections. Evaluations of the city’s water system supply, distribution, condition of existing facilities and operation and maintenance programs.

The Grand View Water Facility Plan shall also include system nitrate mitigation plans. All parts or work not specifically mentioned that are necessary in order to provide a complete water facility plan shall be included in the bid and shall conform to all local, State, and Federal requirements. The Grand View Water Facility Plan project will be funded with an Idaho Department of Environmental Quality grant funds and local sources.

The City of Grand View is accepting sealed bids and SOQ, to be submitted to City Hall at 425 Boise Avenue, Grand View, Idaho 83624. Mailing address: City of Grand View, PO Box 69, Grand View, Idaho 83624. Sealed bids and six (6) copies of the SOQ must be clearly marked “Bid and SOQ Enclosed – Grand View Water Facility Plan”. Bids and SOQs will be accepted by the City until 2:00 p.m., MST, Wednesday, May 13th, 2020, for the following project: Grand View Water Facility Plan. Bids and SOQ received after the deadline will not be considered. The complete facility plan bid and SOQ information request is available from Kathy Brown, City Clerk, and may be requested in writing or by phone, (208) 834-2700.

Kathy Brown
City Clerk
04/22,04/29/2020

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



Are there different types of public notices?

Yes. There are many types of notices in statute and governing documents of political entities. Simply put, there are two basic types—Warning Notices and Accountability Notices.

Warning notices inform you when government, or a private party authorized by government, is about to do something that may affect your life, liberty or pursuit of happiness. Warning notices typically run more than once over a long period of time. This gives citizens an opportunity to comment, object or respond.

Accountability notices are designed to make sure citizens know details about their government. These notices generally run one time only, but are there in black and white, unchanging and archived for everyone to see. Accountability is a key to efficiency in government.

www.IdahoPublicNotices.com



This easy-to-use website is designed to assist citizens who want to know more about the actions of local, county and state government as well as events occurring in the local and state court systems.

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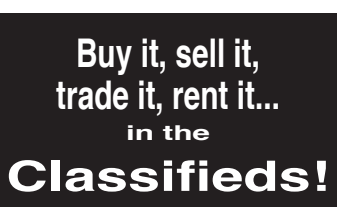
Roll ends: Great for packing material, building fires, lining birdcages or for your kids to doodle on. The Owyhee Avalanche, Homedale



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WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO ADVERTISE THIS WEEK?

From page 1

✓ Consolidation: Patrons' input sought about district's next steps

However, Cantrell pointed out that the district has seen a drastic decline in enrollment in the past 24 years. In 1996, the school district had 625 students enrolled. Within a decade, in 2006, enrollment had dropped to 448. In 2019-20, the district has just 307 students between three schools.

With declining enrollment and a projected \$19 million education funding holdback (announced March 20 by Gov. Brad Little), Cantrell is nervous about the district's financial stability beyond the upcoming school year.

Cantrell said he planned for a one percent holdback for this school year, and discussions at the state level are ongoing for at least five percent holdback for the 2020-21 school year.

In an email, Cantrell said his initial thoughts revolved around the possibility of adding an elementary campus to Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School. But his thinking shifted when

the COVID-19 crisis hit, and he realized consolidation would help ensure the district remained fiscally sound during the crisis.

"BGV has an exceptional elementary staff. I would love to see them all on one campus, collaborating and working together for the benefit of our students" Cantrell said.

Because of low enrollment, Bruneau and Grand View Elementary schools were forced to combine most of their kindergarten through fifth-grade classrooms with multiple grade levels in each.

"Our community has indicated a preference to not run combo classes," Cantrell said. "If we combine schools, we no longer have to run combo classes."

Cantrell's presentation projected 2020-21 class sizes if the district went with one elementary:

- Kindergarten — 15 students
- First grade — 18

- Second grade — 20
- Third grade — 15
- Fourth grade — 26
- Fifth grade — 16

Cantrell's plan would protect current teachers from layoffs.

"If we consolidate this year instead of next, it would allow me to decrease elementary staffing through two years of natural attrition rather than reduction in force," he said.

Josh Noteboom, who will depart next month, had split time between campuses as elementary principal. A few months ago, he was reassigned to only Bruneau.

Consolidation would mean one principal overseeing one building, but Cantrell said if the two-school plan continues the new principal would work at both locations.

Cantrell is no stranger to splitting time on multiple campuses: "I can attest that I can better lead one facility than I can two," he said.

Trustees agreed the discus-

sion was an uncomfortable one but hoped it would be productive and civil as they considered the academic and financial future of the district.

After the meeting Cantrell said, "I hope that folks will keep in mind the intent and purpose of the conversation, which is a proactive conversation to do what's right for people in the long run."

"I truly believe that our students will receive a better education if we're all on one campus."

Cantrell said patron input is being sought via trustees for the time being. Patrons should contact the trustee representing the zone in which they live:

- Zone 1 — Gary Jones, (208) 845-2115
- Zone 2 — Allen Merrick, (208) 845-2140
- Zone 3 — Raelynn Schkade, (208) 891-0853
- Zone 4 — Scott McNeley, (208) 834-2231
- Zone 5 — Steve Boren,

(208) 834-2136

Patrons, who are unsure of which zone they're in can contact the district office at (208) 834-2260.

"We've got great trustees supporting our district right now," Cantrell said. "I hope that our patrons will let them know where their thoughts are on the matter."

Cantrell also spoke about the chances of consolidation being accepted, if the option moves forward.

"I don't know if we'll get there or not, but I also know that if we can't get there with our current situation (highly functioning school board members, strong leadership, great teachers, financially stable) then it just wasn't meant to be," he said.

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

Jordan Valley food drop has new look; blame COVID-19

Food bank distribution in Homedale was held Friday — a week earlier than usual — but the Jordan Valley commodity

drop-off will go on as planned Thursday.

Distribution has been modified because of COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

The Southeast Oregon Food Bank's visit to the Jordan Valley Lions Hall will take place at a new time, between 12:30 p.m., and 2 p.m., on Thursday.

Volunteers will deliver prepackaged boxes to recipients, who are asked to

stay in their vehicles in the parking lot. Call (541) 889-92096 or (541) 586-2562 for more information.

Homedale drop-off

Volunteers at the Homedale First Presbyterian Church received a surprise on Friday morning when they found out that Idaho Foodbank was dropping off its monthly shipment a week early.

Volunteer Shelley Townsend said items were conveniently boxed up when they arrived.

"Since they had everything already boxed up, everything went really fast," she said.

News of the truck's arrival was shared on social media.

Townsend said that everything was dispersed in "about an hour."

The scheduled delivery on Friday will not happen.



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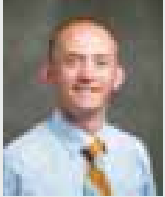
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