

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 35, NO. 19 \$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

Virus shuts down Jordan Valley Big Loop

For the second time in a decade, there will be no Big Loop Rodeo in Jordan Valley.

The Jordan Valley Rodeo Board met Thursday and agreed to cancel the three-day community event because of COVID-19 concerns.

Board member Jeff Anderson told The Owyhee Avalanche that the

association's annual fall event is still a go. The Owyhee Rope and Ride is held each September and will be staged at Badiola Arena in Homedale.

The rodeo board, which is led by president Vern Kershner, will continue to sell raffle tickets for its annual ATV giveaway, too. The drawing takes place at the Rope and Ride.

Tickets for the Owyhee Defense Fund benefit, which helps promote multiple-use lands in Owyhee and Malheur counties, cost \$5 each or \$20 for five.

The grand prize is a 2020 Polaris ATV EXT 4x4, which is sponsored by Grizzly Sports in Caldwell and the rodeo board. Second prize is \$200 and

third prize is \$100.

The modern Big Loop has been held on the third weekend of May since 1962, but it was cancelled in 2011 because of an outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus-1.

This year's rodeo was scheduled for Friday through Sunday, May 15-17, at the Jordan Valley Rodeo Grounds.



Christy Cooper (right), of Homedale, peruses the choices of seed packets Owyhee Conservation District administrative assistant Debbie Abel (left, front) was giving away during Saturday's Farmers Market plant sale at Bette Uda City Park. Volunteer Emmy Noblit (left, back) kept track of the number of shoppers passing through.

Homedale Farmers Market plant sale reaches full bloom

As restrictions concerning Gov. Brad Little's stay-home order and guidelines for social distancing and public gatherings began to slowly relax, Owyhee County residents used a

beautiful Saturday morning and early afternoon to get outside and stretch at the annual Homedale Farmers Market plant sale at Bette Uda City Park.

Although held for just one

Saturday, this year's market was significantly more successful than the two-Saturday sale last year, market president Denise Dixon

— See *Sale*, page 5

Homedale seniors will receive diplomas in person, together

Outdoor ceremony slated June 26

With so many missed memories because of the premature end of the 2020-21 school year, Homedale High School

seniors got some welcome news Friday.

Principal Matt Holtry announced that a graduation ceremony will be held at 7 p.m., on Friday, June 26 outdoors at Deward Bell Stadium.

"This will allow for more

— See *Seniors*, page 6



Wind, rain wreak havoc

Nasty spring weather ignited a fire that mangled this power pole and left 200 customers without power in the Murphy area Thursday. See story, *Page 5* Idaho Power photo

Owyhee County COVID-19 cases:

8

New cases, April 27 to May 4: 0

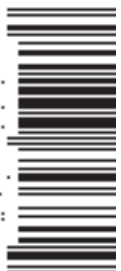
Source: coronavirus.idaho.gov

Malheur County COVID-19 cases:

13

New cases, April 27 to May 4: 6
Negative tests: 266 (27 in last week)

Source: govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19



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New library, Pg. 2: Subcontractor agrees to finish the job
Courthouse reopens, Pg. 4: Closure will congest calendar
Good grades, Pg. 7: Marsing Middle School honor roll shared
Rodeo in limbo, Pg. 14: H.S. state finals cancelled — for now
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With contractor away, new library may have remedy

Building erector tells mayor he'll do what's needed to complete job

The saga of the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library construction project took another turn Thursday, but this time the drama may be heading for the homestretch.

And, if the dispute over allegedly shoddy workmanship and poor communication does push on to resolution as was decided last week, it will be Rob Roberts riding to the rescue again.

The R&M Steel Co., owner steered the conversation back on topic during Thursday's afternoon special city council meeting inside the new library at 121 W. Owyhee Ave.

The meeting was called to primarily address an incorrectly installed roof that earlier this year led to leaks. Bent panels also were discussed.

But when Clint Shaffer, owner of subcontractor and building erector R&S Constructors, tried to ask how many leaks the building currently has, Roberts cut him off.

"Excuse me, right now what the mission is is to get this straightened and corrected," Roberts said. "Chit-chatting back and forth as to why or anything is pointless."

Shaffer, Roberts, Randy

Haverfield from Architecture Northwest, and the council gathered inside the new building to discuss a remedy to the star-crossed project that has left a sour taste in officials' mouths.

R&S Constructors representatives told the council late in the meeting that they could meet with Roberts and Haverfield later this week to get an up-close look at what all needs to be done.

Chris Waldram, owner of general contractor Excelsior Construction, didn't attend the meeting. In a string of emails to City Hall and other project officials, Waldram said he had to bid another project at the same time as the council meeting. He also earlier had made it clear that he would only deal with the construction officials without the presence of the city council or the media.

"I wished (Waldram) would have showed," Mayor Gheen Christoffersen said. "He was invited to the meeting, but he just didn't show up. He would have been able to clarify some of this stuff."

According to the mayor, Waldram had told the city that gutters laying in the library parking lot couldn't be put on the building without adding more money to the project because the subcontractor would charge him to put them on.

Incorrect window trim was also discussed, but the biggest issue is that the roof was essen-

tially installed backwards.

Barney Harper of Homedale's Succor Creek Construction was enlisted to inspect the roof. He found that some screws intended to hold the roof on the structure didn't connect with the building frame. Rubber grommets on the screws that are supposed to seal penetration holes and prevent water seepage were burned off or strewn across the roof, he said.

"The trim on the building is absolutely, completely backwards," Harper said. "Those two trims being backwards, the roofline comes down and actually lifts up."

With the wrong roofline and screws not connected, Harper said strong winds could lift the roof off the building.

Thursday's meeting was the first step in the council's attempt to avoid enacting the bonding clause in the agreement with Waldram. Library board member Janet McCornack worried that more money would have to be spent to get the itemized problems fixed.

"The cost estimate would be zero to us," Christoffersen told McCornack. "We don't have a product that (we) paid for yet, that's the deal."

"The repairs and fixing won't come to a cost to us."

Councilman Steve Atkins immediately chimed in: "But we definitely will pursue the bond direction if we can't meet in the middle somewhere."

"We won't even meet in the middle," Christoffersen said. "We'll meet on the side that's done right."

Shaffer said he will do everything necessary to deliver an acceptable finished product to the city, which has wrapped up more than \$600,000 in grants, cash, in-kind funding and donations in a building that was originally deemed substantially completed in November but hasn't reached the finish line of completion to the owners' satisfaction in the approximately five months since.

Although he has said he doesn't believe the building needs a new roof, Shaffer told Christoffersen he would install a new roof, "if that's what it takes."

"I've worked with Rob for quite a while, and I've done quite a few buildings for him," Shaffer said. "My goal is to give you guys what you expect and what you deserve."

"... Discussing with Rob, I've already agreed to replace the things that are subpar or not to industry standards."

According to Haverfield, Shaffer's company must warranty the weathertightness of the building, which Harper said requires the discussed fixes.

Although concerns were raised even before Roberts visited the site, Shaffer said he didn't know anything about the crucial and extensive work needed on the roof until last month; he had only known about the punch list presented after November's walk-through.

"I got kinda blind-sided a week and a half ago or two weeks ago when (the roof issue) came out, so this is all kind of new to me," Shaffer

said.

Later in the meeting, Atkins pointed the finger at Waldram for a lack of communication on problems with the project.

"I think a lot of our frustration has been with the general (contractor, Waldram), too, because there sounds like there's been a break in communication," Atkins said.

"There's been a huge break in communication," Shaffer said.

Side panels that Shaffer says look to have been damaged in shipping were attached to the building during construction, but apparently there was knowledge of the damage before installation.

Atkins asked why the damage wasn't noted when the panels arrived from R&M Steel's Caldwell factory.

"I did tell the superintendent (an Excelsior employee)," Shaffer said. "He knew what was going on. He noted it, and that's as far as it went. I don't know what he did with the information after that."

Councilman Mike Aebischer also pointed out the damage to a superintendent.

"New panels were offered, but nobody picked them up. Nobody did anything with it," Roberts said.

"They just said, 'Well, I'll see if I can straighten it out.' That was the decision that I heard was made. Now, clearly, that was the wrong decision, but that was the decision that was made."

Then, in his Zen-like calmness, Roberts again steered the discussion back to the topic.

"The focus, unless I'm missing it again, is to get the project done 100 percent correct where it looks sharp," he said.

— JPB

Re-Elect Kelly Aberasturi Owyhee County Commissioner, District 2

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- Western Idaho Community Crisis Center Advisory Board
- Behavioral Health Executive Board
- Children's Mental Health subcommittee
- Community Health Assessment Team (Marsing/Homedale Schools)
- SW Idaho Area Agency on Aging



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Graduation limbo

Jordan Valley High School seniors were supposed to have their commencement ceremony Saturday. Now, they're waiting for a chance to receive their diplomas. **From left:** Trevor Fillmore, Don Youren (obscured), Chase Easterday, Sandy Brown, Kort Skinner, Baylee Davis, and Becky Mackenzie. Photo by Diana Fillmore

Woman wrecks car in canal, drowns

A Marsing woman lost her life in the early evening April 28 when her vehicle slid off the road and plunged into a canal southwest of Marsing.

Owyhee County Sheriff Perry Grant said that Jeanne Percifield, 67, slid off the road into the A-Line canal, near Jump Creek and Pershall roads.

Grant said her 2000 Chevy Trailblazer overturned in the canal and Percifield became

trapped.

A bystander saw the Trailblazer in the canal and investigated, reaching into the vehicle. He reportedly felt Percifield inside and proceeded to call 911 emergency dispatch.

Grant said it's unknown why Percifield slid off the road.

Percifield was pronounced dead at the scene. She was the lone occupant in the vehicle.

— TK

Irrigation meetings available online again

Irrigation directors governing the south end of the Owyhee Project plan another round of videoconferences Tuesday.

The monthly meetings for directors from the Ridgeview and Gem Irrigation districts and the South Board of Control will be available on Zoom.

The Ridgeview directors will convene at 7 p.m.

The Gem board meets at 7:15 p.m.

The South Board of Control, which includes all Gem directors and the chair of the Ridgeview board, meets at 7:30 p.m.

Anyone who wants to attend the meetings can obtain a link by calling the SBOC office at (208) 337-3760.

Those who don't have a computer or an internet-capable phone can call the office to obtain an alternative method of attendance.



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Homedale Police makes 2 arrests after DUI tip

One traffic stop netted two arrests late Saturday night in Homedale.

Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller said officers responded to the report of a possible drunk driver at the Extra Mile convenience store on East Idaho Avenue.

The suspect vehicle was pulled over in the Badiola Arena parking lot after officers established probable cause for the traffic stop, Eidemiller said.

The driver of the vehicle, 24-year-old Zalin P. Arritola, of New Plymouth, was booked into Owyhee County Jail on suspicion of driving under the influence (second offense), possessing an open alcoholic container in a vehicle, and carrying a weapon while under the influence. All three charges are misdemeanors.

Eidemiller said police obtained a warrant for a blood draw when Arritola refused to give a breath sample. A blood-alcohol concentration number won't be known until test results are returned.

Arritola was sentenced for misdemeanor DUI in Gooding County in February 2019.

Arritola's passenger, 23-year-old Lakeview, Ore., resident Joseph T. Villagranda, was arrested on three misdemeanors — possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and passenger in possession of an open container.

— JPB

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County courthouse open again

Glut of court activity expected

The Owyhee County Courthouse is open for business again, but with some changes in security protocol in Murphy.

Courthouse security officer Pat McCormack shared details with the county commissioners on April 27 about how things would change in the building in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation came five days after the Idaho Supreme Court (ISC) modified court proceedings with an April 22 order.

The courthouse in Murphy, including court proceedings and the offices of the prosecutor, treasurer, and assessor, and the probation office in Homedale opened Friday. The clerk's office opened Monday.

All visitors must wear masks because of the Supreme Court's order last month.

Last week, county Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey Phillips suggested that Sheriff Perry Grant could arrest someone on a misdemeanor charge if they violated the court order. Phillips suggested that the county should pass an ordinance to codify the violation. Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington agreed with Phillips.

McCormack said suggested security protocols could lessen coronavirus spread to individuals coming to the courthouse for business and hearings, court personnel, and visiting judges.

He suggests each visitor be assigned a number and return to their vehicle. When the time comes, a security officer will go out and let them know they can come into the building.

McCormack said it's also important to consider priority when allowing people into the building. Those who are at the courthouse for a hearing would hold priority over those there for other business.

"It's not to slight other citizens, but it is to try to make the court as efficient as possible when some of the hearings are time-sensitive," he said.

He said security staff is trained how to appropriately sanitize all surfaces during the course of a day.

The ISC order states any person attending or participating in a court proceeding or doing court business must wear a mask, maintain appropriate social distance and comply with all court orders restricting the number of persons that may gather together. This includes court staff.

The order does not suggest

supplying visitors with masks or gloves.

"In no way, shape, or form should we be providing masks for anyone," Phillips said. "One, it opens up huge liability issues if there's any reuse (of the masks), and two, it opens up the possibility of it being mandated to provide them for everyone."

"It's like wearing pants. You should wear pants to the courthouse, but we don't provide them for everyone."

McCormack anticipates a big surge in courthouse business over the next six to eight months because of the backlog of cases because of the COVID-19 closure and future filings. The ISC has barred jury trials until Aug. 3 and civil trials until Oct. 5.

He suggested installing hands-free sanitizer stations at the courthouse entrance, on the wall outside the courtroom, and at each office.

Owyhee County emergency manager Jim Desmond pointed out hand sanitizer is at a premium, and it may be difficult to acquire as much as McCormack is suggesting.

"There will be some challenges," McCormack acknowledged. "There's a lot to coordinate."

— TK

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Storm leaves Murphy area without power

Wind, rains leave damage in Oreana

A spring storm brought enough hail to make it look like Christmas in Sinker Creek and Oreana on Thursday.

There was also storm damage reported in Oreana, according to The Owyhee Avalanche reporter Mandi Boren.

“We had two neighbors that lost windows in the storm and some broken car lights,” Boren wrote in an email.

“Ditches have to be repaired from the flood that the rains brought.”

Idaho Power reported about 200 customers in the Murphy area were without power for more than 10 hours after the storm rolled through in the afternoon.

Idaho Power spokesman Brad Bowlin said a storm-triggered power pole fire was the primary cause of the outage.

The fire began after high winds and heavy rain from the thunderstorm blew a bird’s nest into some electrical equipment, Bowlin said.

“Crews were able to safely work through the night to get everyone restored by 2:30 a.m.,” Bowlin said.

He said there were two smaller

storm-related outages south of Melba, affecting less than 20 customers each.

The National Weather Service issued a storm warning early Thursday afternoon that said the thunderstorm was moving northeast from Rome, Ore., over the Owyhee Reservoir and could cut a path as far east as Givens Hot Springs.

— JPB

From page 1

✓ Sale: Farmers market initiates online vending portal for the summer

said.

Saturday’s event drew 257 people in the first two hours alone, and 332 over the four hours it was open.

Vendors brought in \$3,064 in sales between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., a jump from \$1,913.50 in 2019. Last year’s sale saw 287 people over eight total hours covering back-to-back weekends.

Dixon said she followed the Idaho Farmers Market Association’s social distancing recommendations for the sale, which included asking vendors and clients to wear masks and

gloves, maintaining six-foot spacing in the customer line and dealing with just one group at a time at the vendor’s table.

Adherence was sporadic on both sides of the sales booths.

“As you can see, customers are not quite following the plan, but all I can do is suggest. I can’t make them,” she said Saturday.

The rush of customers when the sale began at 10 a.m. startled some vendors.

“It was more than we expected, but it was great,” Owyhee Gardeners member Barbara Swails said.

Homedale’s Brett and Carol McMichael, who sold plant and flower baskets, seemed to enjoy being out in the nice weather and visiting with customers.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” Carol said.

Dixon also discussed the online plant sale she recently began. On this platform, customers place an order that Dixon forwards to appropriate farmers to fill. After customers have paid and their orders have been filled, Dixon will meet the customers in a central location — probably the Homedale

High School parking lot — to make the delivery.

“Customers will drive up. We will stay six feet away and ask them their name,” she said. “We get them their box and ask where they would like it — in the back seat, in the trunk ...

“They don’t even have to get out of the car.”

She said that, as of Saturday, the online market had resulted in \$500 in sales.

The online portal will be available during the Farmers Market season, too. The first market is tentatively set for

Saturday, June 4. It will run every Thursday until Aug. 27.

“I’m hoping (online sales) will bring in a whole new group of customers, people who want the product but can’t come out from 3 to 7 p.m. (the normal hours for the Homedale Farmers Market),” she said.

For more information about the Homedale Farmers Market, visit homedalefarmersmarket.com. For the online ordering platform, visit homedalefarmersmarket.org/next.com.

— TK



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From page 1

✓ Seniors: Caps, gowns available Monday

adequate space to help meet guidelines that have been set forth,” Holtry said, alluding to the COVID-19 health guidelines that remain in place.

The principal said more details are forthcoming, but the date was set to ensure students and immediate family can make plans.

“We will still have a Plan B in the case that the guidelines that have been set forth are not able to be obtained in the weeks ahead,” Holtry said.

“This decision has taken a lot of thought and consideration, and we feel good about the plan moving forward.”

The reasoning behind setting a ceremony was simple.

“The seniors deserve an honest attempt at holding a special graduation ceremony after everything that has happened this semester, and holding it in this manner we feel accomplishes this goal,” Holtry said.

Seniors can pick up caps and gowns at 7 p.m., on Monday in the football stadium parking lot.

The plan had been in the works since the Idaho Light the Night event on April 10. District superintendent Rob Sauer said Holtry spearheaded brainstorming what commencement would look like.

“He cares deeply about our seniors and recognizes the impact this has on them,” Sauer said.

The State Board of Education has waived some graduation requirements for the Class of 2020 and also excused this year’s juniors from taking a college entrance exam (SAT or ACT), although the ACT apparently has been rescheduled to June 13.

The statewide SAT test day is in limbo after two cancellations.

“The (state Department of Education) is working on what to do for those juniors that still want to take the college entrance exam as it was paid for by the state,” Sauer wrote in his report for the April 13 school board meeting.

In an email to parents and staff, Holtry also outlined how the final weeks of the school year will look.

This is the final week seniors will receive class material.

“This will allow for the week of May 11th to collect last assignments and for final grades to be posted by teachers in gradebooks for seniors,” Holtry wrote.

Freshmen, sophomores and juniors will receive their last batch of new assignments Monday for completion and collection in the week of May 18.

The school also has developed a policy for Chromebook

check-in, locker cleanout and yearbook pickup.

“In order to coincide, as best as possible, with the guidelines that have been set forth, we will be holding these activities during the week of June 8,” Holtry said, promising more specifics in the coming weeks.

Sunday marked the beginning of Teacher Appreciation Week.

“It is hard for me to not get emotional thinking about the work that our teachers have done here at HHS and across the district,” Holtry wrote. “In particular the work that they, along with all certified and classified staff, have done in these past several weeks.

“I could not be more impressed by the effort that has been put forth in making the best of this unforeseen circumstance. If you have not thanked a teacher yet, this week is a great time to do so.” — JPB

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Honor roll

Marsing Middle School

Third quarter Eighth grade Principal's list (4.0 grade-point average) — Andrus, Hailey; Brackett, Chantry; Diosdado Correa, Marcela; Gheen, Tiffany; Little, Elliot; Richling, Emily; Sevy, Kally; and Trevett, Zachary High honor roll — Eells, Kayle, 3.57; Evans, John, 3.57; Ramirez Monter, Jesus, 3.57; Anderson, Oliver, 3.66; Adams, Audrey, 3.71; Bowers, Jared, 3.71; and Ankeny, Braden, 3.85 Honor roll — Binger, Jacob, 3.0; Engle, Dustin, 3.0; Griffin, Nathan, 3.0; Groat, Anika, 3.0; LaFleur, Terrance, 3.0; Mang, Salleen, 3.0; Martinez, Kaydence, 3.0; Sotelo, Jacquelin, 3.0; Freeman, Alliya, 3.14; Margarito, Diego, 3.14; Patterson, Marisa,	3.14; Campbell, Tyson, 3.16; Edwards; Leelah, 3.16; Lopez; Dulce, 3.28; Rowell; Caleb, 3.28; Molina; Maria, 3.33; Sanchez-Blaylock, Tyra-lynn; 3.33; Nielsen; Gwyneth, 3.4; Leon; Jonathan, 3.42; and Moore; Phoenix, 3.42; Seventh grade Principal's list (4.0 GPA) — Bridges-Allton, Stella; Chadez, Jace; Christiansen, Alexander; and Roberts, Katie High honor roll — Milburn, Sam, 3.57; Rodriguez, Manuel, 3.57; Pitcock, Samantha, 3.6; Black, Trinity, 3.66; Eells, Ivan, 3.66; Coffey, McKenzie, 3.8; Cuevas Contreras, Yesenia, 3.8; Thoene, Lillian, 3.83; Conger, Mason, 3.85; and Wood, Dresden, 3.85 Honor roll — Bigham, Yoni, 3.0; Clover, Raymond,	3.0; Coburn, Johnathan, 3.0; Eells, Gracie, 3.0; Ellis, Kirra, 3.0; Estrada, Jorge, 3.0; Jenkins, Chance, 3.0; Griggs, Kooper, 3.14; Molina, Juan, 3.14; Rosales Juarez, Delayla, 3.14; Villegas, Diego, 3.14; Villasenor, Amber, 3.16; McGuire, William, 3.2; Estrada, Fernando, 3.28; Fray, Cassidy, 3.28; Ayala, J, 3.33; Morgan, Jayden, 3.33; Padilla, Landy, 3.33; Vanosdall, Raylynn, 3.33; White, Caleb, 3.33; Barrett, Lorelei, 3.4; Ingersoll, Ariel, 3.4; Rodriguez, Jeremiah, 3.4; Rowland, Kamren, 3.41; Boyd, Faye, 3.42; Goostrey, Kylie, 3.42; and Sevy, Katelyn, 3.42 Sixth grade Principal's list (4.0 GPA) — Archer, Bella; Astorquia, Jaxon; Barber, Wyatt; Bowers, Brody; Cassity, Morgan;	Chadez, Adyson; Daugherty, Bailey; Jenkins, Brookly; Lemos, Raleigh; Roadenbaugh, Brooklyn; Sevy, Colin; Showalter, Josie; Thompson, Tyler; Villa Lagunas, Itzel; Worley, Alex; and Zuvela, Ethan High honor roll — Montes, Moises, 3.5; Espinoza, Yulisa, 3.57; Gebauer, Brogan, 3.57; Baxter, Ryan, 3.6; Gonzales, Ayleen, 3.66; Carrillo-Moore, Asia, 3.71; Gheen, Tracy, 3.71; Majors, Shayla, 3.71; Oliveros-Valdez, Minerva, 3.71; Prescott, Joey, 3.71; Quebrado, Ana, 3.71; Ramirez, Rosa, 3.71; Savage, Jayden, 3.71; Whitted, Terrence, 3.71; Castellon, Isaac, 3.73; Hoffman, John, 3.85; Liskey, Clayton, 3.85; Shofner, Canaan, 3.85; and White, Marcus, 3.85 Honor roll — Booth,	Brandon, 3.0; Morgan, Daisy, 3.0; Perez, Olivia, 3.0; Villa, Diego, 3.0; Villa-Diaz, Briseida, 3.0; Frazier, Jessy, 3.14; Izzard, Tristan, 3.14; Floyd, Jack, 3.16; Mang, Sohn, 3.16; Floyd, Joseph, 3.25; Burrell, Peyton, 3.28; Lopez-Solano, Cesar, 3.28; Venegas-Vega, Daniel, 3.28; Clover, Jace, 3.33; Cornia, Wesely, 3.33; Mendoza, Eliseo, 3.4; Barrett, Kalel, 3.42; Moreno, Andrea, 3.42; and Stelzer, Charles, 3.42
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Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Salad bar: **Not Available because of coronavirus*
Curbside pickup only between noon and 1 p.m.
Dessert is included in curbside lunch
Milk available each day
Roll available each day except May 6th, 13th, 27th
May 6: Sausage & biscuit, mashed potatoes w/gravy, mixed veggies
May 7: Chicken patty, hashbrown casserole, California blend veggies
May 12: BBQ pork, baked potato, peas & carrots
May 13: Ham & cheese on roll, tatertots, beet salad

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
May 7: Chicken a la king, oriental vegies, fried rice, fruit salad, chow mein noodles, vanilla yogurt, fortune cookie
May 12: Sub sandwiches (ham, turkey, cheese), potato salad, veggies, deviled eggs, pudding, wholegain roll, peach cobbler
May 14: Chicken fried steak, funeral potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, applesauce, coleslaw, whole wheat roll, strawberry yogurt

E. Owyhee library to reopen Monday

The Eastern Owyhee County Library will reopen with limited services Monday.
Library director Tammy Gray said the library will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Friday and Saturday.
According to a poster advertising the return of the library after Gov. Brad Little’s stay-at-home order, no programs for either children or adults will be offered until June.
“We are hoping to start our Summer Reading program in June, if there are no further quarantine orders and assuming there are no further outbreaks of COVID-19 after the quarantine order has been lifted,” Gray said.
The library will adhere to strict social distancing and sanitizing protocols as recommended by state health officials.
Services available at the library will include checking in items, checking out items and limited use of computers.
Library staff will also limit the number of patrons allowed into the building at any given time.
The library is located at 520 Boise Ave., in Grand View. Call (208) 834-2785 for more information.

Homedale grad makes Spokane CC honor roll

Homedale High School graduate Lainey Johnson is part of the Spokane Falls Community College winter quarter honor roll.
The daughter of Toby and Shannon Johnson is a 2018 HHS graduate.
Lainey is one of nearly 1,900 students to earn honors this past quarter for the school, which is part of the Community Colleges of Spokane system.

Thank You

Tony and Priscilla Ryska would like to thank everyone for all the cards, calls, texts & messages for our 65th Wedding Anniversary.

University of Idaho Extension

Marsing Health Coalition work continues locally, nationally

During the Feb. 6 Marsing Health Coalition meeting. Audrie Miller presented E-Cigarette and Vaping Prevention Education content to coalition members. While COVID-19 and its impact on school closures may have paused Audrie’s interactive-infused teaching plans expanding to the classroom, her leadership in this area and partnership with Caldwell teens will continue to move this work forward in new ways, with current options to create videos.



Suriñe Greenway

Audrie began this project in the fall when she was trained to teach this vaping and e-cigarette prevention content to peers. Following her training, Audrie created a plan to bring this content to Marsing. With school closure occurring in March, efforts established by Audrie were put on hold but she is investigating new methods that she can use to spread her message.
In April, the Marsing Health Coalition hosted a virtual meeting to provide updates and a check-in with members. With many opportunities to access information, not all of it is accurate and knowing research-based and current information can be key during times like this.

In addition to reviewing safe resources and information, discussion and input occurred regarding the contract work of a logo developer. The coalition obtained funds to design a logo that would be specific to the Marsing Health Coalition and represent the work occurring in the community. This logo will be completed by the end of April and will be presented during the May 13 Marsing Health Coalition that will be held via Zoom from 5:30 p.m., to 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us.
The Marsing Health Coalition is open to youth and adults. If you are interested in joining the coalition so you can learn what efforts are occurring and see how you can be a piece of positive change, contact Suriñe Greenway at surineg@uidaho.edu or call the Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104.



Above: Audrie Miller teaches her e-cigarette and vaping prevention class. Below: Grand View’s Elizabeth Bearden and Marsing’s Annie Miller attend the National Health Summit. Submitted photos



Teens represent county at national summit
February was a busy month for health efforts as the National Health Summit was held in Washington, D.C. This summit is comprised of only a couple hundred youth from throughout the nation, and this year Owyhee County sent two teens to represent our communities and the efforts we are conducting.
In January, Elizabeth Bearden of Grand View and Annie Miller of Marsing (along with Marsing resident Audrie Miller) attended a statewide Teen Health Advocate training in Caldwell.
The application process for this program includes an interview and rigorous selection process. For Owyhee County to have three teen members

represent on a statewide level is exciting enough, yet Elizabeth and Annie took their leadership to the national level. Both teens attended different workshops to build on health-based education and activities that can be shared in Owyhee County and throughout Idaho.
We are honored that we were able to have such positive representation.
— Suriñe Greenway is the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator. For more information, you can reach the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. The office is located at 238 W. 8th Ave. W., in Marsing.

Obituary

Jeanne Marie Percifield

Jeanne Marie Percifield, 67, passed away unexpectedly on April 28, 2020.

Jeanne was born February 12, 1953 to Kenneth and Virginia Belknap. She was delivered by her grandfather Horace P. Belknap at Mercy hospital in Nampa. Jeanne spent her entire life living in Owyhee County close to her family home on Jump Creek.

Jeanne joined her older brother Steve, and together they had many country adventures. Jeanne spent her childhood helping on the family farm. While her mother worked, she spent many hours with her dad listening to his many stories. Never one to sit still, Jeanne enthusiastically fed baby pigs and calves and collected eggs from the dreaded chickens. She attended grades 1-12 and graduated from Marsing High School in 1971. During her high school years, she was very active, participated in sports activities, student government, attended Girls State and was voted "Most Courteous" in her class. Following graduation Jeanne attended Medical Records training and worked at Caldwell Memorial Hospital.

Jeanne's prized possessions were her three sons Jaime, Clinton and Nicolas Wood. She was their biggest fan at least until the precious grandkids came along. Jeanne married Dan Percifield on December 12, 1981. You would find Jeanne and Dan at every sporting event or activity in which they participated. The boys will always remember looking in the stands seeing two cheerleaders instead of one. If they weren't attending sporting events they were in the Owyhees fishing, camping, and enjoying the great outdoors.

During holidays, many card games were played often into



the wee hours of the morning. Besides card playing, guests could never leave Jeanne's home without taking home delicious "scraps" to be enjoyed for lunch the next day.

Jeanne will be remembered for her big heart, overwhelming generosity and her love for family, friends, and neighbors. Jeanne loved to cook and never failed to share favorite dishes with the church and her many friends. At the first sign of need, Jeanne would be at the door with a delicious dish in hand, and warm words of comfort.

Jeanne was preceded in death by her parents Kenneth and Virginia Belknap and sister Susan Wymer. She is survived by her husband Dan, children Jaime (Lachelle), Clinton (Michelle), Nicolas (Shasta), step-son Nathan (Jolena), brother Steve (Nancy) Belknap, grandchildren Hailey, Tyler, Jessie, Dresdan, Sierra, Bell, Xander, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Private graveside services will be held at Marsing Homedale Cemetery, and a Celebration of Life will be held later. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Mountain View Church of the Nazarene or The Marsing Community Center. Condolences can be given at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com.



Storm doesn't deter teachers' salute to students
Robyn Chandler led a caravan of Homedale Elementary School teachers who decorated their vehicles in bright colors and drove through town during a rainy and windy Thursday afternoon to make clear that they cared about the students that they've been missing during the COVID-19 soft closure. About a dozen vehicles visited most neighborhoods to contact as many pupils as possible. Submitted photo

Calendar

Today

- Marsing community pantry**
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 649-5411
- Grand View Fire commissioners meeting**
5 p.m., Grand View Fire Station, 721 Roosevelt Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2511 (call ahead to ensure the meeting will be held)

Friday

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

Monday

- Board of County Commissioners meeting**
9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. Call (208) 495-2421 for accessibility options.
- Homedale school board meeting**
7 p.m., school district boardroom, 116 E. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. Board will meet virtually on Google Meets. (208) 337-4611

Tuesday

- Gem Highway District meeting**
6 p.m., district office, 1016 Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-4581

Wednesday

- Marsing community pantry**
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The HUB, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 649-5411

Melba school board meeting

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

Marsing City Council meeting

7 p.m., City Hall, 425 Main St., Marsing. (208) 896-4122 for accessibility options

Grand View City Council meeting

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

Homedale Highway District meeting

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

Homedale City Council meeting

4 p.m., Sundance Park, 500 S. 1st St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-4641

Owyhee Watershed Council meeting

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

Marsing School Board meeting

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

Jordan Valley Ambulance meeting

6 p.m., ambulance hall, 706 Main St.

Thursday, May 14

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

Owyhee Conservation District board

7:15 p.m., 250 N. Old Bruneau Hwy., Marsing. Meeting held via conference call. (978) 990-5030, access code: 468389

Death notice

JESUS GUTIERREZ ALMARAZ, 80, of Homedale, died Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at home of natural causes. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. (208) 337-3252

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C.J. Strike fight nets battery charge

A scuffle at a C.J. Strike Reservoir campground landed a Nampa man in county jail on Friday.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that Juan Luna, Jr., 35, was charged with felony aggravated battery after a fight with 70-year-old Gary Rakes of Boise late Friday night at the Bureau of Land Management Cove Recreation Area.

Bowman said dispatchers received a call concerning an armed, intoxicated suspect, although it turned out that no gun was used during the fight. Three sheriff's deputies and an Idaho State Police trooper responded to the call.

While no gun was involved, Luna allegedly struck Rakes with a shovel. Rakes apparently lost an upper front tooth, had an abrasion over his left eye, and a cut on the bridge of his nose.

Luna claimed that Rakes had been harassing young girls at the campground.

Bowman said that the fight went to the ground, and then was broken up. Luna then left the scene.

There were six people at the campground, including three juveniles, but only the two males were fighting. No one else was involved.

Both men were treated by Grand View Ambulance first-responders.

The only gun found at the camp was a BB gun, but witnesses said it was not used during the fight.

Luna was held over the weekend at the Owyhee County Jail in Murphy. He appeared before Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington on Monday afternoon and was subsequently released.

— TK



Irresponsible recreationists tore up an area seeded in an attempt to rehabilitate part of the Owyhee Front scarred by the 2015 Soda Fire. Submitted photo

Off-roaders mitigate damage in Owyhees

“Pack it Out” contest, clean-up encourages responsible recreation

With so many recreationalists seeking refuge in the Owyhees, off-road clubs and government officials are doing what they can to keep trash and resource damage at bay.

The Board of County Commissioners held a virtual meeting with several entities on April 27, and the result was a unified campaign to prevent further destruction in the Owyhees.

The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation contributed a press release and committed up to \$5,000 to fund signage and sanitation work in the backcountry, according to County Clerk Angie Barkell.

The task force plans to meet again at 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday, May 11.

The main theme of last week's meeting, according to notes Barkell provided The Owyhee Avalanche:

“We are not trying to tell recreationalists to stay out of the Owyhees, but to recreate responsibly and safely.”

Another key point was that the concept of respecting public land and adjacent private property and business operations should be something that is observed at all times — not just because more folks may have wandered out onto the land to attempt social distancing during the COVID-19 crisis.

A couple days before the meeting — and even on weekends prior to that — members from several Treasure

Valley off-road recreation groups gathered in the Owyhee backcountry to collect trash and refuse, such as discarded pieces of furniture.

Photographs also documented resource damage, such as circles of tire tracks that destroyed restorative seeding meant to heal the scarred landscape in the wake of the 2015 Soda Fire.

In a comment on the Owyhee County government Facebook page, Sheriff Perry Grant said that none of his off-highway vehicle (OHV) deputies have written citations for destruction to the public resource yet because none had witnessed the behavior first-hand.

But, Grant said, the sheriff's office will not put up with destruction or reckless activity in the backcountry.

“The majority of riders are responsible, but the actions of a careless few can tarnish the experience for everyone — and put access for all at risk,” the state Parks and Rec press release said.

While no citations have been issued for reckless and destructive recreation, deputies did respond to the report of an off-road recreational vehicle accident near Hemingway Butte after 7 p.m., on Saturday, April 25. No details were available.

Doug Stump, one of the organizers of the cleanup, echoed that sentiment in another Facebook post.

“... Trash does not belong in

our open lands and remember tread lightly or we may not have a place to tread anymore,” he wrote.

Some of the groups that tried to clean up some of the scarring included 208 Off Road, the Idaho RZR Crew and Idaho Off Road UTV/ATV.

According to Stump's email to OCSO backcountry deputy Sgt. Kenny Hoagland, the clean-up effort on April 25 covered a wide area between Hemingway Butte to Kane Springs, from the end of the payment on Reynolds Creek Road to Rabbit Creek Road and on many trails in between.

Another large group cleaned the area along Silver City Road.

“It was a great clean-up all done by folks who love the sport and love the Owyhees,” Stump wrote, adding that he appreciated Hoagland planting the idea that grew into so many off-road clubs coming together.

Now the Idaho RZR Crew and OCSO as well as participating prize sponsors have launched “Pack It Out Project” contest. The social media contest started Friday and runs through Aug. 1.

To enter the contest, you must find the “Pack It Out Project” post on the Idaho RZR Crew Facebook page and like the post.

Next, post a photo of your efforts to either pick up trash or pack out trash with an Owyhee County trailhead marker in the photo.

There is also a comment in the original post chock full of hash tags that you must copy

and paste with your entry post.

Parks and Rec's press release pointed out simple ways to enjoy the outdoors responsibly.

- Stay off closed or muddy roads, which can rut up early in the season
- Avoid damp areas and keep the riding to established trails
- Leave no trash and preserve the experience for other recreationists, either those who are on motorized vehicles, horseback or hiking
- Respect private property and stay away from livestock equipment

The Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission, in another Facebook post, asked anyone using the backcountry to leave gates as they had found them — whether that be opened or closed. Ranchers say it can take hours and days out of their schedules to gather cattle that have wandered through gates that shouldn't be open.

A couple weeks ago, rancher Paul Nettleton discussed how social distancing has affected his life in remote Owyhee County.

“I often encounter people recreating out on the range when they are supposed to stay home, but as long as they keep their distance I think I'm pretty safe,” Nettleton said.

“We are outdoors. We don't have to touch the same objects or share space.”

Nettleton said he feels safer in Owyhee County's wide-open spaces than if he lived in town.

— JPB

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GV residents have chance to see future of sewer system

Input, preferences sought for next week’s hearing

Originally scheduled for late March, a public hearing is back on the calendar to discuss Grand View’s wastewater treatment and collection system.

Project engineer Mike Settel will be on hand with the rest of the city’s elected officials to answer questions about the immediate and future needs of the system.

With social distancing precautions in mind, the hearing will be held at 5 p.m., on May 14 outdoors at Centennial Park adjacent to City Hall on Main Street.

The hearing had been cancelled, and other scheduling attempts scrapped, because of Gov. Brad Little’s stay-home order. The order expired Friday.

Owner of Pocatello-based Sustainable Resource Solutions, Settel has been working on a wastewater system facility plan for the city for some time.

Elements of that plan have been posted on the city’s Facebook page with the request the citizens “vote” for their preferences on the projects that are listed.

Last month, Councilperson Opal Ward complained that the city was paying Settel for services they didn’t need and she questioned why the city was paying the engineer so much money.

The Owyhee Avalanche’s efforts — through a public records request — to get a complete picture on how much

the city has paid Settel were unsuccessful.

Slides from Settel’s facility plan give insight into the system that Grand View now has and what some of the expansion and repair projects may look like.

According to the plan, about 10 percent of Grand View city residents still utilize septic systems that are not part of the sewer system.

Minor repairs, with an estimated cost between \$40,000 and \$60,000 are needed to the existing system, including replacing controls at the lift station, mending broken sewer lines, fixing leaks and raising a sinking manhole that allows freshwater to flow into the system.

The existing system has two main trunks — called the Riverside and Roosevelt collection systems after the streets under which they run — that connect into one sewer main that accounts for the final 200 feet of the Riverside line. In a November city council meeting, Settel suggested making two separate mains that do not connect.

There are a few proposed projects about which the council has asked for citizens’ input.

The total cost if all projects were carried out is nearly \$650,000:

Roosevelt Connector
Estimated cost: \$70,000

Building a second main and separating the Riverside-Roosevelt collection fusion near the end of the system would reduce pressure on the lower end of the Roosevelt

trunk, according to Settel’s report.

The project would also double the sewage capacity on the west side of town, which is serviced by the Roosevelt main.

Hill Top Connector
Estimated cost: \$51,000

This project, which would be constructed south of the Idaho highway 78/Idaho 167 intersection, appears to be an attempt to lessen septic infiltration into the town’s drinking water system.

According to the facility plan, the project also will provide a link to possible future development south of the city limits.

Gold Isle Extension
Estimated cost: \$260,000

This option would connect existing septic systems to the town’s sewer system and result in an estimated city sewer fund revenue bump of \$10,000 per year.

The biggest benefit of this project would be protection of the city’s groundwater source from ongoing septic drain field leeching.

The work would also add 4,000 feet of sewer collection lines to the system and provide sewage collection to the east side of the town ditch.

Like the Hill Top Connector, the Gold Isle project also would provide additional service line for future development.

Highway 78 Extension
Estimated cost: \$261,000

In another project to protect the town’s groundwater source, septic systems at 14 residences and three businesses would be replaced with sewer line.

Property owners would no longer have to pay for septic tank maintenance.

The project would connect 4,700 feet of 10-inch sewer line along the state highway with an existing 10-inch line on 5th Street.

The project would also require putting pipe under a canal at two locations.

The work may also have to be a long-term tandem project with the Roosevelt Connector to add needed capacity in the future.

— JPB

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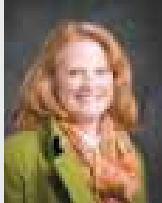
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Today	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
 68° 36° Partly sunny	 69° 40°	 77° 45°	 82° 48°	 83° 55°	 86° 53°	 77° 46°
April 28 72° 44° .05	April 29 75° 43° .00	April 30 86° 49° .00	May 1 72° 42° .11	May 2 71° 42° .00	May 3 81° 40° .00	May 4 64° 39° .00

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation website showed that the Owyhee Reservoir was 83 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 918 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 185 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 593,512 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.

Marsing Ag Labor eyes new office

The Marsing City Council will hold a pair of public hearings to start its monthly meeting at 7 p.m., next Wednesday.

The council will gather at the former Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause (12 Sandbar Ave.), which is the future site of the new city hall.

But because of ongoing social-distancing guidelines, the meeting will be accessible virtually only, as was the case for the council’s April 9 meeting. For accessibility information, contact City Hall at (208) 896-4122.

The first hearing involves the rezoning of property at the Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee on 8th Avenue West. The property is currently zoned as residential and it has been requested to rezone it as multi-use.

MALSC wants to build a new office and parking area in a different location and the current zoning is not appropriate for that move.

MALSC executive director Luke Ankeny said moving the office will be beneficial to the business.

“It’s more central, so it’s not as removed from the housing authority and it has a road presence where we can put a sign up,” Ankeny said. “It will be nice for everyone involved, I think.”

Ankeny said that once the zone is changed, he hopes that new office construction can start in July.

The second hearing invites testimony on the proposed amendment of Marsing City Code section 8-6-4, which identifies commercial and industrial use regulations.

“(The amendment) is to make sure that when industrial/commercial properties are improved, that the infrastructure is improved as well, (including) roadways and intersections, to handle the increased traffic,” City Clerk and Treasurer Jolyn Green said.

— TK

Courthouse report

A list of recent felony and misdemeanor dispositions from courtrooms in Murphy and Homedale. Infractions are not included:

April 27
Jose Aguilar Garcia,

Fresno, Calif.— Misdemeanor motor carrier, fail to stop at checking station or submit to inspection, grading or weighting: \$118.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs

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April 23

David Thomas Eyre, Fruitland — Misdemeanor motor carrier, vehicle over height violation: \$118.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs

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What’s happening

Read Calendar each week

in the Avalanche

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Legislative District 23A

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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.

Feds step up for schools feeling COVID-19 crunch

Local superintendents await news of funding amounts

The federal government has authority to help local school districts with funding crunches, but not all the money will go to the districts.

Nearly \$48 million in federal funding will be released to help public schools mitigate effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local school superintendents said it’s too early to know how much of the money their districts will receive, but Homedale schools boss Rob Sauer speculates up to 90 percent of the entire pool will wind up in local districts’ coffers.

Sauer and Marsing superintendent Norm Stewart both said the money could be used to offset this year’s one percent funding holdback and another five percent holdback that is anticipated for Fiscal Year 2021.

“In theory, the CARES Act may offset up to half of the projected \$99 million in State Department of Education cuts to education spending in the upcoming 2020-21 budget,” Bruneau-Grand View superintendent Ryan Cantrell said.

Cantrell said the state support cuts being considered “seem to include” \$10 million for classroom technology and \$4 million in information technology (IT) staffing cuts, “both of which are believed to be allowable expenses in the CARES Act,” he said.

But state Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra recommended some of the money be used to invest in a statewide Learning Management System (LMS) to improve distance-learning capabilities across the state’s public education system.

“The emphasis will be across the K-12 infrastructure system and focused on districts that do not already have a robust LMS system,” Ybarra said in a release. “We need to make sure there’s uniformity and thoroughness. That’s particularly important during this school closure.”

It’s not known yet how or if Ybarra’s plan would affect local funding allocations.

“There are only so many dollars available ...,” Sauer said. “... I don’t disagree that there could be some value in an LMS, but we currently utilize Google Classroom to meet that need.

“The real issue isn’t an LMS. It’s connectivity and bandwidth. It doesn’t matter how great an LMS system is if some of the students can’t access it.”

Stewart echoed Sauer’s sentiments almost verbatim.

State board president Debbie Critchfield asked staff to work with districts, college, Idaho Digital Learning Academy, and other stakeholders to create a framework that could be included in a statewide LMS. Staff will return at a later date with findings.

Both Stewart and Sauer said actual dollar amounts to each of their districts wouldn’t be known until the state Department of Education submits an application and it is approved at the federal level.

The Idaho State Board of Education said in a press release that allocations could range from \$14,000 for small districts to \$3 million or larger districts.

The amount a district gets will be proportionate to the share of state Title 1 funds received. Title I is designed to help schools with a high population of low-income students.

— JPB

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Some C.J. Strike closures lifted

Some C.J. Strike Reservoir access points opened Friday as part of Idaho Power’s phased plan to reopen its boat ramps and day-use areas.

Boat launches at Cottonwood Park, Crane Falls East and Loveridge Bridge (both north and south launches) are now open.

Campground access at Cottonwood Park is still closed.

Owyhee County’s public access to the reservoir from the Black Sands launch site has remained opened.

The upstream boat launch at Swan Falls Reservoir on the Snake River also is open, but park and campsite access remains closed. The reservoir’s downstream boat launch also is closed.

Some access spots at Brownlee Reservoir and the middle Snake River also have been opened.

Capacity will be restricted at some locations. Access will be limited at some sites to prevent crowding and enable visitors to follow social distancing guidelines, including with any Idaho Power employees they encounter.

“We have an obligation to limit potential exposure for our employees, especially power plant operators, who may come into contact with the public at many of our recreational sites,” Idaho Power recreation supervisor Fred Noland said. “Those folks enable us to fulfill our primary mission, which is to continue providing reliable electrical service 24–7.”

Visitors should check the list of facilities at idahopower.com to ensure their destination is open.

Idaho Power closed all of its recreation sites in March to limit potential spread of COVID-19.

According to an Idaho Power press release, several factors were considered when determining which sites to open, including guidance from the governor’s offices in Idaho and Oregon. Proximity to Idaho Power’s hydroelectric plants and the ability to control access were also key considerations.

“We have been working on a plan to reopen these sites in a way that is safe for the public and our employees,” Noland said. “We look forward to getting everything open, but we are taking a cautious approach to make sure we have the proper protocols and training in place.”

Parks and Rec sets stage to open Bruneau dunes for camping

Overnight stays return May 30

Bruneau Sand Dunes and Idaho’s other 29 state parks will reopen to limited overnight camping on May 30 in line with Gov. Brad Little’s Idaho Rebounds Plan.

Camping has been closed since late March to help contain the COVID-19 outbreak.

Day use is still available with limitations to promote health and safety.

If all benchmarks are met during the state’s reopening plan, camping will return to the Sand Dunes on May 30 — two weeks after the original reopen date, which was modified when Little unveiled his plan.

Refunds will be given for reservations canceled between May 16 and May 29.

Some lodging at parks will remain closed. While camper cabins will open, premium cabins — those with dishes, linens and bathrooms — will stay closed because of the difficulty in providing enhanced cleaning at this time.

Group camps and shelters will be opened on a case-by-case basis, following social distancing and allowable group sizes based on guidance from the Idaho Rebounds plan.

Interpretive programs will again be available, although without hands-on activities and with appropriate social distancing.

While the parks will reopen, visitors are encouraged to:

- Stay home if sick
- Engage in physical distancing of at least six feet from non-family members
- Wear face covering in public places
- Practice good hand hygiene
- Cover coughs and sneezes

The Parks Department is stocking up on personal protective equipment to conduct enhanced and more frequent cleaning of restrooms and other shared-use facilities. Campground showers will not be opened at this time because of the difficulty cleaning them to the extent recommended by public health experts.

Market Volatility: A Second Opinion



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DUI arrest, trips to hospital after Idaho 19 head-on car accident

Two people were sent to a Caldwell hospital and a man was arrested for suspicion of drunk driving Saturday after a two-vehicle accident west of Homedale.

The people involved in the wreck near the intersection of Idaho highway 19 and Purdom Lane began arguing.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Deputy Lynn Bowman said a nearby homeowner fired a shotgun into the air to stop the fight when he allegedly heard one of those involved say, “If I had a gun, I’d shoot you.”

Bowman said 55-year-old Homedale resident Michael Joseph Falls was allegedly intoxicated when he drove a 2005 Dodge R-3500 truck over the center line and head-on into a westbound 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 pickup driven by Marsing resident Amanda Atwood, 28.

Falls, who admitted he had been drinking, was arrested after he failed a field sobriety test and blew a .162 blood-alcohol content sample.

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that Michael Joseph Falls, 55, of Homedale, crashed his 2005 Dodge R-3500 head-on into a 2014 Dodge Ram 1500 driven by Amanda Atwood, of Marsing.

Falls was intoxicated and was arrested with a blood-alcohol content of .162, after admitting to drinking and failing a field sobriety test. He faces a felony aggravated driving under the influence charge.

Neither Falls nor Atwood sustained injuries but the crash sent a 16-year-old female passenger of Atwood’s to West Valley Medical Center with leg injuries.

A 27-year-old female passenger of Atwood’s, also from Marsing, was likewise uninjured.

Falls’ female passenger, Nikki Wheyland, 40, Marsing, was also transported to West Valley, with blood over her right eye and complaints of pain in her right leg and right side of her head.

Bowman said that both vehicles received significant front-end damage and Atwood’s pickup had damage to the driver’s side, as well.

Atwood reported that she was driving home from Adrian and that she spotted Falls’ vehicle swerving, drifting into her lane, and that she didn’t have adequate time to avoid the crash.

Falls said that he was travelling westbound on Idaho highway 19 when he lost control of his vehicle.

Bowman said that Homedale Police responded to the call after the neighbor’s gunshot.

— TK

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Sports

Sports leagues line out refund policies

GALS softball nixed; Co-County baseball still a go

Many youth baseball and softball seasons have been cancelled at several levels, and local organizations are sharing information how paid registration fees are being handled.

According to the Homedale Youth Sports Facebook page, the GALS softball league has been cancelled, but TBall/Coach Pitch is still scheduled to run.

Co-County Tournament Summer baseball is still a go for both Homedale and Marsing athletes.

Both Homedale Youth Sports and Marsing Youth Baseball are offering refunds or giving parents the opportunity to donate registration fees already

paid to the non-profit organizations.

HYS reported the refund checks for cancelled leagues will be mailed to parents next week. The organization was unsuccessful in trying to refund online credit card purchases.

If HYS parents want to donate their children's entry fees, they can contact Amy Fossette at calibretto74@gmail.com with their donation request.

HYS is moving forward with plans for Optimist Football/Cheer sign ups.

Marsing Youth Baseball reported on its Facebook page that Coach Pitch and T-Ball seasons are still on track, but Rookie Division, Minors Division, Majors Division, AAA-Majors Division and Prep Division all have been cancelled.

Parents can either get a refund of registration fees or make a donation to Marsing Youth Baseball

Tax-deductible donations would help the non-profit buy equipment, maintain fields, operate the concession stand and pay insurance premiums.

Refunds are available, too.

Online purchases will be refunded by check minus a convenience fee charged by third-party payment handler SportsConnect.

Parents who paid by cash or check will receive a refund in the mail in coming weeks.

"We ask that you please be patient while we get this all started as there are a lot of players fees we need to review," Marsing Youth Baseball officials wrote on the organization's Facebook page.

Parents must let the league know whether they will submit a donation or seek a refund by emailing marsingrec@outlook.com.

The body of the email should include the players name, age, division, mailing address, parents' name and phone number for direct contact, if necessary.

Any player fees not refunded or marked as a credit [after May 30] will be considered a donation to the Marsing Youth Sports Association.

Co-County Summer Tournament baseball registration is available www.cocountybaseball.com. Assessment dates, which are scheduled to begin in the middle of the month, will be announced on the site.

Player registration costs \$250, which includes a refundable \$100 deposit due on player assessment day.

For more information, contact Co-County liaison Mike Safford atmsafford@colleg-cofidaho.edu.

High school state finals rodeo cancelled

District events were planned for Homedale this weekend

High school rodeo athletes also are dealing with disappointment because of COVID-19 mitigation efforts.

Idaho High School Rodeo Association president Matt Jones announced last week that the IHSRA State Finals Rodeo, set for June 6-13, in Pocatello, has been cancelled.

The state finals cancellation comes after district rodeos were postponed until Phase 3 of Gov. Brad Little's plan to re-open the Idaho economy.

Phase 3 is set to commence between May 30 and June 12. During Phase 3 public gatherings of between 10 and 50 people will be allowed if proper social distancing can be observed.

Homedale, Marsing, Rimrock, Adrian, Jordan Valley and Melba high school cowboys and cowgirls compete in District 2.

District 2 rodeos were scheduled for Homedale on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The district finals rodeos were set for May 22-24 at Gem County Fairgrounds in Emmett.

District rodeos set for New Plymouth and Homedale were cancelled earlier this year, too.

Jones wrote that Phase 3 criteria to bring forth the rescheduled rodeos include federal guidelines must be met, local ordinances and venues must allow the events, and getting further clarification from the state on whether rodeo is allowed.

"We also have been in contact with Bannock County Fairgrounds, and they are very willing to work with us on rescheduling if we are able to do so," Jones told high school rodeo directors in his April 27 letter.

Some local high school rodeo participants this year include:

Boys — Birch Eiguren, Jace Grenke, Kort Skinner and Trevor Fillmore from Jordan Valley, Sean Schnabele from Homedale, and Cade and Zane Brackett, Ross Baldwin, and Garrett Dines from Marsing

Girls — Tayler Eiguren, Halle Burch and Kaylee Stoddart from Jordan Valley, Sydney Davis from Adrian, Grace and Gwendolyn King and Sage Badiola from Homedale, and Hannah Moos from Melba

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Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

May 10, 1995



Tag! Marsing second baseman Jodette Cooney stretches Thursday for the catch and the tag of Stacey Stansell of HHS. Despite the out, Homedale went on to win 6-2

May 20 festival features music

In recent years a major highlight of the Marsing Spring Festival has been free music performed by area musicians. Festival-goers expecting more of the same this year will not be disappointed.

In one-hour intervals beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, performers including Stets ‘n Lace, Jennie Stipich, Strings Attached, Red Lovan, Sage and Woody Purdom will play country, bluegrass, fiddle and gospel selections in Marsing City Park. The mini-concerts are free, but listeners had better bring their own chairs if they want to sit down.

Fire whistle triggered by cut phone line

The signal horn of the Homedale Volunteer Fire Department blew three times Monday afternoon, but not once was there really a fire.

According to Homedale City Clerk Pam Dugger, the false alarms were caused by a phone line accidentally cut over the weekend.

Normally firemen or city staff members can only sound the alarm by dialing in a secret code, but as a result of the cut line, anytime the fire department line was active the horn went off.

Consequently, for a brief time Monday members of the fire department had no way of knowing whether soundings of the horn required their attention or not.

Rimrock juniors compete in pageant

Seven Rimrock junior girls will compete in the 1995 Elmore/Owyhee Junior Miss Pageant, put on by the Mountain Home Rotary Club, for a chance at hundreds of dollars in scholarship awards.

The contestants will be judged on physical fitness, a panel evaluation, poise and composure and performing arts.

Rimrock girls competing in the competition include Misty Fowers, Anna Caycro, Barbara Hegerhorst, Tereasa Trent, Jessica Morrison, Estella Gilbert and Trina Hipwell.

Rimrock students take all in Elks essay contest

Several seventh graders in Ms. Madison’s English class at Rimrock Jr. Sr. High School entered essays into the Elks Lodge Essay Contest. The students wrote on the subject: “Why it is important to vote.”

The seventh graders competed against students from Mtn. Home and the Air Force Base. The Rimrock students took all the prizes.

Winners of the contest were Josh Whitworth, Kelli McBride, Cassandra Bednorz, Mark Moss, Josh Miller and Laura Ness.

50 years ago

May 7, 1970

Group advocates forming district for swim pool

The Homedale Community Swimming Pool Corporation, a non-profit area improvement group, seeks the support of local area residents in the formation of a recreation district, which will create the necessary financial vehicle to carry the repayment program and maintain the proposed swimming pool for this area.

The proposed swimming pool will be in the new city park complex located near the Homedale High School’s new football stadium and will be a very desirable addition to this complex.

The swimming pool will provide inexpensive wholesome recreation for our young people, whose activities we must seek to channel along responsible improving lines.

Mayor speaks to young citizens at grade school

Monday afternoon Mr. Les Carter came to Mrs. Brockmueller’s room. He gave a talk on the City Government and what it is for.

“He told us what he does and how we can be a mayor or Council Member. He let us ask him questions.

“He told us a little about what the council members do and about the new swimming pool and park and who builds it and who pays for it.”—Kim Matteson, reporter

Trojans win district, move up to regional

Homedale trackmen won a convincing A-3 victory over Third District opponents at Weiser Saturday to serve notice they will be among top contenders at the regional meet in Nampa May 9.

Saturday afternoon coach Daryl Kellum’s club rolled up 54 points to more than double New Plymouth’s total of 25 in second place.

The top three finishers from Saturday’s meeting — including relay teams — will compete at Nampa in the regional with the first- and second-place finishers there going to State at Twin Falls May 15-16.

KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES of 10 years ago are of junior high school age now. Homedale’s first class included, Jana Lee Durham, Wilder; Dianne Gross, Wilder; Marilyn Bolinger, Wilder; Grayl Otto, Wilder; Diane Brady, Wilder; Lori Matteson; Charles Vanderhoff, Jim Johnston, Riley Howell, Jr., Terry Huff, Wilder; Patti Tuttle, Amy Yost, Cindy Lillie, Bernard Coley, Wilder; Sandra Tharrington, Wilder; Leslie Batt, James Funk.

Council conducts studies on water, streets

Present at the city council meeting Monday night were Mayor Les Carter, Councilmen George Murray, Norm Tolmie, Andy Warfield and Allen Blessing; Warren Stimmel, Roy Rowland, and Clerk Joyce Blackman.

A delegation headed by Gene Frank met with the council to discuss airport leases for the coming year.

Irrigation tile in Block 80 was discussed, and it was decided to try and get property owners to take care of their share of tile and the city would lay the rest.

The new City Park was reported progressing very well.

Discussion of police matters including conditions in some of the bars in town was held. Dog leash law was discussed. Chief Rowland was instructed to keep on the talk of enforcing the ordinance and give citations where needed.

145 years ago

May 8, 1875

(From Monday’s Daily.)
DON’T LOOK AT THEM.—

Gentlemen, it is rather unpleasant when a lady walks along the street, to be stared out of countenance. Woman is naturally modest. That is an attribute of her sex. She dislikes being the subject of too many piercing male eyes, and persons of gentlemanly instincts will never exercise that propensity to too great an extent. There is no good reason for thus annoying ladies who walk through our streets. They like to take the fresh air and attend to shopping and marketing, but very often they are prevented from going out in consequence of this expected annoyance. It is only in small country towns where ladies are thus stared at. Silver City claims to be cosmopolitan. Therefore such rural habits should be discarded.

A poetic gem for some one’s Lady Love.—

We do not usually notice anonymous letters, but out of sympathy for some poor fellow we make a few extracts from a long string of poetry sent us, addressed “To Miss Katie Cornwell” and marked “Original.”

Here is the first verse:

“You may think I have forgot thee that I love the now no more they think thy name now holds no place down in my hearts core”

The second is pathetic and reads like this:-

“Because I never call thy name they think that I forgot but oh, they know not this fond heart that loves thee, loves the yet”

From the fourth verse it will be seen that the poor fellow doesn’t improve in his feelings.-

“Thares not a breeze that fans my brow but this poor broken heart sends forth upon his wings some word to tell how dear thou art”

We have only space for the closing verses, which “speak” for themselves:-

“Oh could they know the deep deep love that flames within my brest or could they know my misery my sorrow, and unrest”

“They then wold know those joyful looks that hide death rankling smart and that these smiles play over the grave of my poor broken heart”

We feel justified in transmitting at least a part of this poetic gem to posterity. It is written on paper well saturated with oil, and no doubt the sufferer spent many midnight hours over it. Miss Katie cannot resist such a touching appeal as this. If she does she must have a heart of flint.

THE AVALANCHE—

Published at Silver City, Idaho, is a welcome visitor to our table, and is always filled with interesting news from the West. It is published by W. J. Hill, and since the addition of Col. J. S. Hay, to the editorial staff, the AVALANCHE will compare with any Pacific Coast paper. We welcome the AVALANCHE and gladly X.—Fort Smith (Ark.) Herald.

THE postage on a copy of the AVALANCHE is one cent to any part of the United States or Canada. The best way to have the paper sent abroad is to subscribe for it at the office, from which it will be sent regularly, and the postage expense will be ours. No addition to regular rates for either the Daily or Weekly.

A PERSON who visited Silver City some months ago and went towards the coast wrote to another that he didn’t see a pretty girl while he was here. He was in jail all the time.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM

On the edge of common sense The Cowboy Ball



In the midst of COVID-19, one of the deepest psychoses is loneliness. “Social distance,” sliding take-out tacos under the door, being served pizza across the counter like a Frisbee, having to carry a measuring tape and whip it out like Marshal Dillon to confirm 6 feet every time some masked stranger comes your way ... all to prevent civil discourse and staying friends. IT IS DEPRESSING. Those of you historians familiar with the pioneers who came west know they often found themselves in the lonely isolation that some of us are feeling today. Yet we RISE TO THE OCCASION, BRAVE AND INSPIRED TO MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

Blue lonesome is dang hard to handle
Especially out where the road ends
So any excuse for a party
Is welcome, and bound to make friends.

Once, a pilgrim seekin’ some solace
Staked a claim a long way from town.
He’d come from the itch of the city
And in six months he’d settled down.

He built himself a small cabin
He sat on the porch one fine day
When he saw a rider approaching.
He saw him from miles away.

The rider said he was up country
And rarely came this way at all
But he thought he’d be a good neighbor
By throwin’ a cowboy ball!

The pilgrim inspected this stranger
Who never got down from his horse.
He looked like he needed a dentist,
His manner was rugged and coarse.

But lonesome can prey on a body
And the stranger sounded sincere
“We can dance all night if we want to,
“Play music and toast the Frontier!

“We’ll eat and we’ll drink and be merry,
“I’ve whiskey enough for us all ...
“So whattya say, are ya willin’
To come to a cowboy ball?”

The pilgrim was mullin’ it over,
“Ya say they’ll be whiskey and dance?
“And maybe a kiss in the moonlight?”
The stranger said, “Yeah, there’s a chance.”

“So what should I wear?” asked the pilgrim,
“It sounds like a pretty good do.”
The stranger said, “Heck, it don’t matter,
“ ’Cause, Pilgrim, it’s just me and you!”

— 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.

Letters to the editor: Election 2020

Richards’ experience key to deal with complex issues

I had the privilege of serving as a legislator for 15 terms. I believe my years in the Idaho House and my experience as a 16-year chairman of the Joint Finance Committee have given me the ability to recognize the need for leadership.

Brenda Richards possesses and has demonstrated her ability to guide groups on many different levels. Brenda has shown this ability in local, county, and national organizations.

With the many complex issues that face our state today and may continue to be of concern, we need a seasoned and capable candidate to replace a distinguished senator. It will take serious consideration and thoughtful actions.

Voting in lockstep with a vocal group is not the answer to addressing the serious decisions facing the state. Please request an absentee ballot and cast your vote for Brenda Richards.

Maxine T. Bell
Jerome

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.

District needs leadership of Richards, Blanksma, Bundy

Never been a big fan of politicians or politics, although I follow both with much interest. I have admired and appreciated the excellent leadership we have enjoyed in Elmore County.

For all the candidates who promise to fight for our interests, Senator Steen did literally fight in the Idaho Senate. Blessed with a different temperament, Senator Wetherell was just the best. She represented all regardless of our party and consistently did what was best for Elmore County. Wetherell was gracious and kind, even to my mother who had attempted, unsuccessfully, to unseat the good senator. I respect the work of Senator Corder and Senator Brackett.

Today, we live in a world where extremists fake hate crimes, viciously attack those with alternate views and stage confrontations with police at playgrounds.

We can debate the amount of government we need, but we do have a government and someone needs to make it work. That requires the ability to

work with everyone and find solutions. We need representatives who will study all of the issues and work with all parties to find answers.

Leaders don’t have the luxury to choose their challenges. They must adapt to the challenges that arise. No other district in Idaho has a military base which contributes so much to our local economy and our national security.

We have a chance this year to send a team to Boise who will be respected across the state, who will lead on all issues that present themselves. Their skills will gain them the confidence of their peers and help them advocate for the issues, including the air base that impacts those of us in this district. They will carry on the great traditions of our past officials without the fist-fighting.

Please vote for Brenda Richards, Megan Blanksma and Matt Bundy.
Jeff Lord
Boise

From Washington Aid programs help agriculture producers during pandemic

Idaho farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers are among those continuing to work hard every day to put food on our tables — despite the personal health threat of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, and enormous strain on the agricultural sector. The intent of this column is to help clarify some of the federal assistance available to help Idaho agricultural producers weather this storm.

Agriculture is facing tremendous disruption because of the shuttering or scaling back of restaurants, schools and other food service operations to limit the spread of COVID-19. According to the Idaho Dairymen’s Association, about half the milk used for cheese and butter typically goes to these sectors. With demand rapidly shrinking, Idaho

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 Bldg.
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



— See Agriculture, Page 17

Commentary

Financial management

Do homework before negotiating change from hourly to salary

Dear Dave,
I've always made good money at my job, but recently I was offered a promotion to a salaried manager's position. The hours and pay would be much better, and I already know the approximate pay range. Do you have any tips for negotiating salary in a situation like this?
— Natalie

Dear Natalie,
Congratulations on your move up! I'm sure you worked hard and deserve the promotion and recognition.
There are a couple of measuring sticks you can use when determining something like this. One is a quick and simple approach associated with the revenue you bring in. It's a nice, quantifiable reference point that appeals to a lot of

supervisors and business owners. The second thing you could do is research a few reputable career websites, and develop a short but detailed compensation study based on comparable positions in your area and those similar to your location. Honestly, though, if I had a valued and respected member of my team moving up from hourly to salaried, we'd have more of a give-and-take discussion and examination of the situation rather than a negotiation.
Yeah, in your position I'd create a few well-researched compensation studies. Give them to your bosses, and talk with them. I know I would be impressed by that, and depending on the size of the company, they may not have done a lot of work figuring it out.
In a way, it's kind of like



DAVE Says
by Dave Ramsey • www.davesays.org

deciding what to ask for when you sell a car. You try to appraise it for what it's worth in the marketplace to other people. That leads to a discussion. You're not telling them what to do or presenting an ultimatum, you're providing

information and conducting a dialogue in a professional and respectful way.
Good luck, Natalie!
— Dave

Dear Dave,
I will be back on active duty soon in the armed forces. I'm debt-free except for my home, have been following your plan, and I'm about to start Baby Step 3. We are provided certain relief funds based on where you are stationed and other factors. Knowing this, how should I approach the next Baby Step?
— Kevin

Dear Kevin,
First of all, thank you for your service to our country. You're on the right track. Baby Step 3 means having three to six

months of expenses set aside for emergencies. Considering the stability of your employment situation, I think you'd be OK leaning toward the three-month side of expenses. It's not like you're a straight commission sales rep whose income can fluctuate wildly from month to month, right?
You'll still have emergencies, though, and it'll be your responsibility to cover them. Some of those may need to be addressed immediately. See what I'm saying, Kevin? *Everyone* needs an emergency fund. Just make saving for it part of your budget for a while, until you have three or four months of expenses sitting in a good money market fund with check-writing privileges. You'll be glad you did!
— Dave

Letter to the editor

Owyhee Initiative board sets record straight

On behalf of the Owyhee Initiative's executive committee, we are responding to Chet Brackett's assertions against Brenda Richards and the Owyhee Initiative ("Zito will not compromise on rights of the people," The Owyhee Avalanche, April 22, 2020).
Simply put, no rancher in Owyhee County got the kind of "promise" for "compen-

sation" for "damages" that Brackett asserts he got from the Owyhee Initiative.
What did occur was over \$1.5 million paid to landowners who wanted to dispose of their private land inholdings within wilderness, on a willing-seller basis. Another \$2 million was paid to ranchers who wanted to forfeit their livestock

preferences in wilderness, again on a willing-seller basis.
The Owyhee Initiative brought real money to willing sellers in Owyhee County.
Chris Black
Dennis Stanford
Chad Gibson
Owyhee Initiative Executive Committee members

✓ Agriculture: CARES Act has billions of dollars to help producers

From Page 16
dairy producers face prices far below production costs. Live cattle prices are down about 25 percent since January, reports the American Farm Bureau Federation. The restaurant sector also accounts for at least half of the lamb industry's usual demand, according to the American Sheep Industry Association. The farmed fish industry also relies heavily on restaurant and food service sectors for the majority of its sales, as reported by the University of Idaho Extension. According to the Idaho Potato Commission, fresh potato demand at grocery and retail is way up, but food service sector demand for processed potatoes is significantly down, reflecting the slump in restaurant activity. Other fruit and vegetable producers, including onion producers now without a market, are also among those impacted by restaurant closures, reported the Capital Press. In addition, many producers are struggling to secure a needed workforce.
There has been confusion as to what in Phase 3 of the emergency coronavirus response legislation, the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, is accessible to farmers and ranchers. The agriculture relief package provided in the CARES Act will likely not completely compensate for the loss and disruption experienced by producers. Nevertheless, the intent is to help producers through this difficult time.
• The CARES Act includes \$9.5 billion to provide direct assistance to impacted agriculture producers, targeted to dairy, livestock, specialty crop and other producers supplying local food systems and farmers' markets, restaurants and schools. The U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) administers these funds. I joined Idaho's Congressional Delegation, including Sen. James Risch and Reps. Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, in sending a letter and supporting documentation to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue sharing the specific concerns of Idaho's dairy, beef, onion, potato, hops, barley, aquaculture and sheep industries. We also joined fellow senators and representatives in urging the USDA's immediate release of the funds to offer relief to Idaho's cattlemen. I joined similar efforts requesting action to help the dairy industry survive this crisis.
• The CARES Act also includes \$14 billion to replenish the Commodity Credit Corp. This fund supports farm, conservation, marketing and other program assistance.
• I continue to advocate for Idaho agriculture throughout the allocation of the direct and program funds. The USDA indicates it would like to make purchases of milk and meat products. This will assist with hunger relief and ease pressure on the agricultural industry. Information about agriculture-related COVID-19 response assistance is accessible on USDA's website at <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.
• Additionally, USDA advises, "Agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers with 500 or fewer employees whose principal place of residence is in the United States are eligible" for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), administered by the Small Business Administration. USDA's website <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus> has agricultural-sector eligibility information. To learn more about the PPP visit [priorities/cares-act/assistance-for-small-businesses or <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp>. Efforts continue in order to add additional funds to this program.
• The Economic Injury Disaster Loan program, administered by the SBA, specifically excludes farming enterprises, unless it is a nursery, aquaculture, or co-op. However, congressional pressure is mounting to make this program available to all agriculture producers.
In addition to financial support, ensuring producers have needed labor is a critical food security issue. I have contacted Trump Administration officials directly and joined multiple letters urging the timely and legal processing of seasonal worker visas. This includes joining a bipartisan, bicameral letter requesting the administration remove hurdles in order to ensure the timely processing of H-2A visa requests, which is the nation's temporary agriculture worker program, while implementing protocols to protect public health.
I will continue to work to support Idaho producers' steady work on all of our behalves. As we pray for the defeat of COVID-19 and the health and safety of loved ones, those fighting it and humankind as a whole, a special prayer goes to the agriculture producers not letting up in feeding the world no matter the obstacles.
— 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.](https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/top-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Nevada man allegedly drunk at wheel

Conservation district board plans phone meeting

Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office received a report Sunday morning of a vehicle stopped on the roadway on Idaho highway 51 near mile-post 36 in Bruneau.

Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said that Christopher Pedroza, 21, of Owyhee, Nev., appeared to be passed out at the wheel of his 2002 Mercury Grand Marquis when deputies approached.

Pedroza’s vehicle began to move northbound and finally stopped at Blackstone Road, southeast of Bruneau.

Bowman said alcohol could be detected on Pedroza’s person, and he admitted to authorities that he had been drinking.

He was arrested on misdemeanor charges of driving under the influence and possession of an open container.

He failed a field sobriety test, and his blood alcohol content measured .137 percent. The legal limit in Idaho is .08 percent.

Pedroza was brought to county jail in Murphy. He was arraigned on Monday afternoon in the court of Magistrate Judge Shane Darrington.

To accommodate social-distancing guidelines, the Owyhee Conservation District will hold its next Board of Supervisors meeting telephonically.

The meeting will begin at 7:15 p.m., on Thursday, May 14.

The board meets the second Thursday of every month.

OCD administrative assistant Debbie Abel said she is unsure when meetings will return to the normal, in-person format.

Those wishing to be a part of the teleconference can call (978) 990-5030. The access code is 468389.

— TK

Public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE OWYHEE COUNTY PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

On May 27, 2020, the Owyhee County Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public meeting to hear testimony in the Annex Building of the Owyhee County Courthouse located at 17069 Basey St., Murphy, Idaho on the following matters at the times listed below. **In accordance with current guidelines, we will offer this meeting and hear testimony by teleconference and web-based meeting in addition to in person up to 10 people. If you are interested in participating, please use the following link:** <https://zoom.us/j/94737987074?pwd=cU1PYWd0RGdHemZzeWlIQj15Tm5xdz09>

If you need assistance getting familiar with zoom, please call the Planning & Zoning office. All information and details regarding this meeting are available by calling us at 208-495-2095 ext. 2 or on our web page at: <https://owyheecounty.net/departments/community-development/public-hearing-documents/>

Beginning at 9:30 am, the Commission will review and make a recommendation on short-plat application Z20-15 filed by **Lamon Loucks** for a six-lot residential subdivision on Dunlap Road named “Grace Landing”. The subject parcel, RP03N04W283000, is approximately 12 acres located in a residential zone approximately 1.5 miles NW of Marsing, situated in a portion of the N½ of the NW¼ of Section 28, Township 3 North, Range 4 West, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho.

Beginning at 10:30 am, the Commission will hear application Z20-21 a request for a conditional use permit filed by **Paul Neill** seeking approval to install a 17 kW ground mounted solar array located on an approximately 3.5-acre parcel in the Ferry Heights subdivision. The subject parcel, RP002300000050, is located at 11763 Good Day Road Melba, Idaho in a multiuse zone in a portion of the NE¼ of Section 20, Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho.

Beginning at 1:00 pm, the Commission will hear application Z20-22 a request for a conditional use permit filed by **Random Investments LLC** seeking to establish a wireless communication tower on a 40-acre parcel owned by Gary and Mary Gill. The subject parcel, RP06S04E119000, is located in an agricultural zone near the southwest corner of Mormon

CITY OF HOMEDALE

Quarterly Revenue/Expenditure Report

2nd FISCAL QUARTER, FY 2020

FUND	BUDGET AMOUNT	Expended to Date	% of Budget Expended	Revenue to Date	% of Budget Revenue
01 General	\$ 1,046,830.00	\$ 419,867.00	40.1%	\$ 481,635.00	46.0%
03 Parks	\$ 194,725.00	\$ 52,125.00	26.8%	\$ 89,056.00	45.7%
04 Library	\$ 472,530.00	\$ 222,875.00	47.2%	\$ 246,811.00	52.2%
06 Law Enforcement	\$ 619,960.00	\$ 248,490.00	40.1%	\$ 268,000.00	43.2%
30 Airport	\$ 210,030.00	\$ 20,375.00	9.7%	\$ 9,804.00	4.7%
Sub-Total	\$ 2,544,075.00	\$ 963,732.00	37.9%	\$ 1,095,306.00	43.1%
02 Streets & Highways	\$ 303,207.00	\$ 57,236.00	18.9%	\$ 75,549.00	24.9%
60 Irrigation	\$ 195,407.00	\$ 68,621.00	35.1%	\$ 113,222.00	57.9%
25 Water	\$ 894,312.00	\$ 323,551.00	36.2%	\$ 221,503.00	24.8%
26 Sewer	\$ 846,214.00	\$ 282,622.00	33.4%	\$ 211,209.00	25.0%
27 Sanitation	\$ 138,700.00	\$ 61,210.00	44.1%	\$ 71,783.00	51.8%
	\$ 2,377,840.00	\$ 793,240.00	33.4%	\$ 693,266.00	29.2%
TOTAL (all funds)	\$ 4,921,915.00	\$ 1,756,972.00	35.7%	\$ 1,788,572.00	36.3%

The General Public is invited to inspect all supporting documents for the above Financial Statement at City Hall during regular business hours.

Signed:

Alice E. Pegram
City Clerk/Treasurer

05/06/2020

Blvd. and State Highway 78 approximately 7 miles northwest of Bruneau situated in the SE¼ of the SE¼ of Section 11, Township 6 South, Range 4 East, Boise Meridian, Owyhee County, Idaho.

Beginning at 2:00 pm, the Commission will hold a public meeting to get input on a proposed solar ordinance for Owyhee County. The proposed ordinance outlines development and would allow up to a certain size solar system to be allowed by right with larger systems subject to conditional use permits with an associated fee schedule. If you would like to review a copy of the proposed ordinance, it is available on the county website under Community Development, or you can request a copy be sent to you.

Copies of the proposed projects and solar ordinance are available for review in the Planning and Zoning office. For additional information please call 208-495-2095 ext. 2.

05/06/20

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
REZONING
FOR MULTIUSE
CITY OF MARSING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wednesday, the 13th day of May, 2020, at the hour of 7:00 o’clock p.m., at Marsing City Hall, 425 W. Main St, Marsing, Idaho, the City of Marsing will hold a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public

comments regarding the proposed rezoning for Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee located at 5758 Highway 78, Marsing. ID 83639 in regard to make it a multiuse zone. The City Council will consider and hear all comments thereto which may also be made in writing and filed with the City Clerk on or before said time.

04/29,05/06/2020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AMENDMENT OF SECTION 8-6-4 OF MARSING CITY CODE
CITY OF MARSING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wednesday, the 13th day of May, 2020, at the hour of 7:00 o’clock p.m., at Marsing City Hall, 425 W. Main St, Marsing, Idaho, the City of Marsing will hold a public hearing to take testimony on the proposed amendment to section 8-6-4 of Marsing City Code to provide for right of way improvements for commercial and industrial uses. The City Council will consider and hear all comments thereto which may also be made in writing and filed with the City Clerk on or before said time.

04/29,05/06/2020

NOTICE

The public is invited to attend a public hearing to discuss the Waste Water Treatment and Collection System on May 14, 2020 at 5pm at Centennial Park, adjacent to City Hall 425 Main

Street, Grand View, ID. This hearing will be outside in order to accommodate social distancing. Updates and information will be posted at Grand View City Hall, and at the City of Grand View’s website.

05/06,13/2020

NOTICE OF HEARING
ON NAME CHANGE
CASE NO. CV14-20-03268
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CANYON

IN RE: CAYLEE LYNN DERRICK Legal name. A petition to change the name of Caylee Lynn Derrick, an adult, now residing in the city of Caldwell, State of Idaho, has been filed in the District Court in Canyon County, Idaho. The name will change to Caylee Lynn Derrick Elordi. The reason for the change in name is: I want to take my biological father’s name.

A hearing on the petition is scheduled for 9:00 o’clock a.m. on June 03, 2020 at the Canyon County Courthouse. Objections may be filed by any person who can show the court a good reason against the name change.

Date: April 16, 2020
s:/Marisa Spencer, Deputy Clerk
04/29,05/6,13,20/2020

PUBLIC NOTICE
57-12011
MICHAEL B IHLI
LINDA M IHLI

625 S SCHOOL AVE
KUNA, ID 83634-2313
Point of Diversion NWNESE S13 T04S R01E OWYHEE County Source CASTLE CREEK Tributary SNAKE RIVER
Use: WILDLIFE STORAGE 11/16 to 02/28 260 AF
Use: DIVERSION TO STORAGE 11/16 to 02/28 2 CFS
Total Diversion: 2 CFS, 260 AF
Date Filed: 12-18-2019
Place Of Use: WILDLIFE STORAGE
T04S R01E S1 NWSE, SWSE T04SR01ES12NESE,NWNE, NWSE, SWNE, SWSE, SESE T04S R01E S13 NENE, NWNE
Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Western office at (208) 334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s), please see <https://idwr.idaho.gov/apps/ExtSearch/WRAApplicationResults/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 W AIRPORT WAY, BOISE ID 83705-5082 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 5/26/2020. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

GARY SPACKMAN, Director
05/06,13/2020



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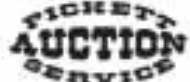
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NEW CLOSING DATE!!! Begins to Close MON. MAY 25, 2020 @ 6pm MST Online
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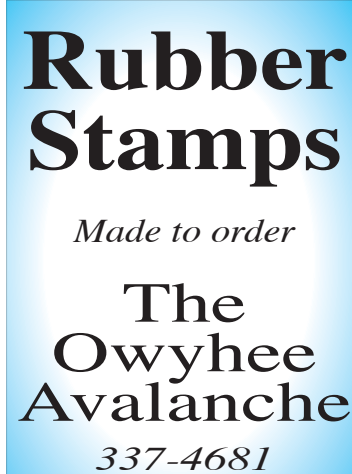
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