

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 35, NO. 20 \$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

County DMV offices to reopen Monday

Assessor envisions appointment system; no walk-ins

Many businesses and government institutions are struggling to return to a state of normalcy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, and Owyhee County's Division of

Motor Vehicles offices are no exception.

DMV offices in Marsing, Murphy, and Grand View will open to the public on Monday but with some changes.

County Assessor Toni Gruenwald said that her staff is testing out a scheduling system to assist customers and eliminate waiting lines.

"Our DMV offices are just

too small to have 50 people standing in line," Gruenwald said. "If (scheduling) does not work, we will go back to

— See *DMV*, page 6A

Owyhee County
COVID-19 cases:

8

New cases, May 4 to
May 11: 0

Source:
coronavirus.idaho.gov

Chamber scratches GV Days

by Mandi Boren

For The Owyhee Avalanche

The Grand View Chamber of Commerce announced the cancellation of the annual Grand View Days celebration early Monday morning.

Chamber president Bill Meade said because of the COVID-19 crisis the Chamber was struggling just to put together planning meetings and the fire department was hesitant to hold its annual fundraiser barbecue.

"Because of the situation with the virus, we just felt cancelling was the best choice," Meade said.

According to Meade, the Grand View Fire Department has followed that lead and cancelled the associated barbecue scheduled for the June 19-21 weekend.

Historically the small-town celebration is held annually on the third weekend in June and includes activities such as a parade, street dance, softball tournament and a fireworks show. The celebration can draw hundreds of locals, vendors and out-of-town visitors.

Meade said the Chamber looks forward to being able to resume the celebration again next year.

— Send Grand View-Bruneau Oreana reporter Mandi Boren news tips at mandi@owyheeavalanche.com



Birthday cruise

Homedale Middle School student Eelias Escalante accepts a gift from Marsing resident David VanWassenhove on Friday. VanWassenhove drove his 1967 Chevrolet pickup to join a group of hot-rodders who helped Eelias mark his 11th birthday with a cruise in front of the boy's west Homedale home. His mother, Rebecca Lopez, organized the event, which also gave local classic car owners a chance to give their rides a workout.

Homedale library fixes start Monday

City council meeting moves to Sundance Park

Officials could receive an update on the next step in the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library reconstruction at today's Homedale City Council meeting.

City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram said the reconstruction of the library roof should begin on Monday.

Subcontractor R & S

Constructors plans to fix the library construction issues to the satisfaction of building supplier R&M Steel of Caldwell. R&S Constructors owner Clint Shaffer made his pledge to R&M owner Rob Roberts and the city council during a special meeting May 7 at the library.

Today's city council meeting will take place at 4 p.m., at Sundance Park under the Johnny Krzesnik Pavilion adjacent to the snack bar. Sundance Park is located at 500 S. 1st St. W.

Pegram said it is possible that the council could meet at Sundance again in June as social distancing guidelines continue.

In another library-related item today, the council will also hear a transition plan for opening the facility and planning a summer reading program.

Council members will also hear about the Owyhee Conservation District's request to use city property to stage a

— See *Library*, page 6A

Mail ballot deadline is Tuesday

Voters or prospective voters have six days to request an absentee ballot or register for the primary election.

The makeup of the election, which will decide the District 2 member of the Board of

— See *Ballot*, page 7A

Candidates give their views
B section



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It's a go, Pg. 2A: Homedale Lions demolition derby planned
New fire station, Pg. 3A: MFD's Canyon presence nearly done
Sheriff to enforce, Pg. 12A: BOCC establishes mask rule
Rodeo on, Pg. 16B: District meets, H.S. finals rescheduled
Weather, 12A • Commentary, 13-15A • Looking Back, 12B

Homedale Lions Fourth of July derby back on track

With the Idaho Rebounds plan moving forward, the Homedale Lions Club has confirmed its annual demolition derby will be held on the Fourth of July as always.

The service club announced the annual fundraiser would go on as scheduled in a Facebook post on May 5, one day after the event and other Owyhee County Fairgrounds events were discussed at the Board of County Commissioners meeting in Murphy.

The club urged derby participants to get their cars ready in the online post.

If federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines regarding COVID-19 require a postponement, the Lions Club plans to hold the derby on Aug. 22.

According to responses to inquiries on the Facebook post,

the club also plans to hold a parade and stage fireworks, if they are available.

Web links to car-building guidelines are available on the Homedale Lions Club Facebook page.

The club has introduced a new mid-class for the 2020 derby, and those build guidelines are also on the page.

Contacts for information on this year's derby are:

- **General information** — Will Pryor at (208) 866-2629
- **Car registration** — Jeremy Townsend at (208) 573-1350
- **Ticket and sponsor/advertising** — Kimber Curt at (208) 880-0667
- **Car building** — Chester Conklin at (208) 989-2014
- **Parade** — Mike Thompson at (208) 250-9128



Dining out has a new, literal look

According to Gov. Brad Little's four-part plan to reopen Idaho's economy, restaurants with plans accepted by local health officials may open dining rooms on Saturday, but with a couple examples of ingenuity Homedale restaurants have returned to serving their customers. **Above:** Nick and Christine Ketterling and their two children enjoy a meal outside at The Bowling Alley after the restaurant set up tables and quaint tablecloths for a sidewalk café feel. **Below:** A couple enjoys a truck bed meal outside the Golden Ocean Chinese Restaurant on North Main Street in Homedale. Photo by Robert Bowman. Other businesses that have begun welcoming customers inside in Homedale include Owyhee Family Dental, the Homedale Chiropractic Center and The Owyhee Avalanche. There are social distancing guidelines in place at the Avalanche office with only one customer allowed inside at a given time. Call ahead for help at (208) 337-4681.



Courthouse report

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

May 4

Mario Balderas, Ontario, Ore. — Misdemeanor motor carrier, fail to stop at checking station or submit to inspection, grading or weighting: \$118.50 in fines, \$157.50 in court costs

Allen Lee Duby Jr., Nampa — Misdemeanor driving under the influence: 180 days in jail (180 days suspended), 6 months driver's license suspension, 1 year unsupervised probation, \$750 in fines (\$500 suspended), \$202.50 in court costs

Israel Morales, Lake Worth, Fla. — Misdemeanor commercial freight, serious coupling device violations: \$263.50 in fines, \$160.50 in court costs

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Left: Electrician Nick Harmon of Mountain Power Electric, subcontracted by Kreizenbeck Constructors, works on wiring last Wednesday. **Right:** The 4,500-square-foot fire station has been in the works for more than three years. Construction should be complete in mid-June.

Marsing Fire station in Canyon nearly done

Work is nearing completion on a new Marsing Rural Fire station at the corner of Marsing and Walker Lake roads in the Canyon County portion of the district.

Boise-based Kreizenbeck Constructors broke ground on the \$891,813 project on Feb. 20. Superintendent Jeff Weber said that the company is shooting for a completion date of June 10 on the 4,500-square-foot building.

Planning for the project began three years ago after voters approved a permanent override levy in May of 2017. Marsing Fire commissioners adopted a capital improvements plan for the collection of impact fees for system improvements after a public hearing on May 15, 2019.

The levy, which received 80 percent voter approval, increased the district’s budget by \$315,000 annually.

Fire Commissioner Jake Astorquia said that in addition to money raised from the levy, they were able to utilize some of the district’s existing funds and money received for its 2020 operations for the fire station project.

“A huge help was the assistance that R&M Steel provided with the building itself,” Astorquia said.

Much like it has elsewhere in Marsing, Homedale and Wilder, the Caldwell-based steel building manufacturer donated the metal shell for the project.

The Canyon County fire protection district developmental impact fee OK’d last spring raises \$1,238 for each new residential unit and 62 cents per square foot for new non-residential development.

The fee applies only to property developed within the Marsing Rural Fire District’s Canyon County boundaries.

“As we are seeing, and expect, continued growth in our area, especially Canyon County, the collection of impact fees will be critical in allowing to maintain expected levels of service,” Astorquia said prior to last year’s public hearing.

“We think of this in our expected response time, needed apparatus, vehicle assets, etc.”

Weber said that the construction work has been going well despite the guidelines and restrictions laid out by Gov. Brad Little in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

“We’re essential, so we haven’t had any interruptions,” he said.

— TK

Alleged drunk driver had children in car

A 39-year-old Nampa woman has been arrested after allegedly driving drunk with children in her vehicle.

An Owyhee County Sheriff’s deputy spotted Theresa Bidwell travelling at a high rate of speed at 9:20 p.m., on Sunday near milepost 21 on U.S. Highway 95, OCSO Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman said.

Bowman said Bidwell was clocked driving a 2009 Nissan Xterra 80 mph in a 65 mph zone.

The deputy pulled her over two miles down the highway at milepost 23.

Bowman said Bidwell failed her field sobriety test, and her blood-alcohol content was measured at .138 percent.

There were three passengers in the vehicle — an adult male and two juveniles.

The incident resulted in three misdemeanor charges against Bidwell — two for injury to child and a third for driving under the influence — and a speeding infraction.

Bowman said that Bidwell exited her vehicle when approached by the deputy, who reported smelling alcohol coming from the vehicle.

Bidwell admitted that she had been drinking, Bowman said.

Bidwell was arrested and brought to the Owyhee County Jail in Murphy.

Bidwell was released after posting bond Monday.

— TK

Re-Elect Kelly Aberasturi

Owyhee County Commissioner, District 2

I have been blessed to be involved with several community projects. Working on the new Community Crisis Center, improving access to Mental health resources for adults, teens and children and supporting our Senior Citizens has been most fulfilling. I will continue to be an advocate for Owyhee County.

- SW District Health Board, Vice Chair
- 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



I will continue the fight to protect our Private Property Rights and preserve the conservative lifestyle we enjoy.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It has been my honor and privilege. I ask for your continued support in this upcoming election.

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Work starts on new Marsing City Hall inside former eatery

A much-anticipated project in Marsing is finally under way.

The remodel of The Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause to convert the building into the new Marsing City Hall began on April 30.

The project should be completed July 9. “Hopefully the project is done before then but could also be extended if any major issues come up,” Marsing city engineer Kirby Cook said.

During its April meeting, the city council awarded the construction contract to Nampa-based HCD, Inc., accepting a bid of \$75,780. Homedale’s Succor Creek Construction (\$114,331.74) and Meridian’s Excelsior Construction (\$143,250) also submitted bids.

Included in the contract are a permit allowance fee of \$1,000 and a general contingency fund of \$5,000. Additionally, if the project is not substantially complete within 60 days of commencement of work, HCD, Inc. will be charged \$200 per day.

Final payment for the project — constituting the entire unpaid balance of the contract — will be made when HCD has fully completed the work, unless there are any corrections to be made. Building designer JGT Architecture must also issue the final payment certification.

- Project highlights include:
- Replacement of a section of an existing concrete walk and wood landing with a new handicap ramp to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The ramp will lead to the future council chambers.
 - Removing existing brick pavers and “The Sandbar” stone in the front of the building. Both will be salvaged for reuse by the city.
 - Modification of the counter from the existing City Hall on Main Street for use in the new City Hall’s reception area.
 - Repairing and replacing flooring and ceil-



Mike Platt, from HCD, Inc., pounds down some nails near the front entrance to the new Marsing City Hall, formerly The Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause.

ing tiles in various locations throughout the building

- Reconstructing the existing stairs to the basement.

No specific project deadlines and timelines besides the start and end dates were shared with The Owyhee Avalanche. — TK

Bruneau-Grand View tries to gauge preschool, kindergarten populations

The COVID-19 school closure has forced the Bruneau-Grand View School District to alter its annual attempt to screen incoming kindergarteners.

The district’s Child Find program seeks out and assesses 4- and 5-year-olds who didn’t attend preschool and are preparing to begin kindergarten at either Bruneau or Grand View Elementary in the fall.

With no screenings this spring, school officials are trying to find out how many students will attend preschool

and kindergarten next year.

Parents who have a 4-year-old who will enter preschool or a 5-year-old heading into kindergarten who didn’t attend preschool can call Bruneau Elementary at (208) 845-2492 or Grand View Elementary at (208) 834-2775.

Typically conducted in the spring, child screenings have been cancelled because of school closures.

Bruneau-Grand View officials hope to conduct screenings in the fall before the 2020-21 school year begins.

The Owyhee Avalanche

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Republican Candidate Lath Callaway

Marsing Idaho
Owyhee County Commissioner
District 2

“I would be honored to represent Owyhee County for County Commissioner! With Honesty, Fairness, and common sense, I would do my best to work together with the citizens and businesses, to protect and improve the rural way of life for our future generations.”

Lath has lived in Idaho for 53 years, with 21 years in Owyhee County.

Lath and his wife Stacy have enjoyed living and working in Owyhee County with cattle and custom harvesting. They have 6 children and 6 grandchildren and feel very blessed to be in this community.

Lath has enjoyed being part of the Owyhee County Fair board for the last 5 years.



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Marsing council hearings tackle property zoning, code changes

Monthly meeting available on Facebook Live

Tonight's Marsing City Council meeting will open with a pair of virtual public hearings at 7 p.m., at the site of its in-the-works offices, the former Sandbar Restaurant with a Cause, 12 Sandbar Ave. The council will also introduce to the public the city's new code enforcement officer, Cory Callison. Because of ongoing social-distancing guidelines, the meeting will be accessible to the public through Facebook Live. Community members will be allowed to communicate via email and through instant message as the meeting is streamed. Citizens will not be allowed into the meeting room. The first hearing concerns the rezone of the Marsing Housing Authority property on 8th Avenue West from residential to multi-use. The Marsing Agricultural Labor

Sponsoring Committee wants to build a new office and parking area on the property, and the current zoning does not allow that. During the second hearing, the council is seeking public input on a proposed city code amendment that would identify commercial and industrial use regulations. The goal is to ensure the infrastructure improvements — including roadways and intersections — are included whenever industrial and commercial properties are improved. City engineer Kirby Cook from Civil Dynamics will update council members on the various projects in process in the city. Included in his report will be Sandbar remodel and the Idaho Transportation Department project on Idaho highway 55 and the Snake River bridge. Maintenance supervisor Joe Heidt will update the council on various projects his crew has undertaken:

- Irrigation box repairs at City Park and Bosma Lane

- The ongoing installation of City Park playground equipment
- Installation of dog waste stations at Island Park
- Repairs to the Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant door at the Bureau of Land Management Owyhee Field Office.

Heidt will also present projects for the council's consideration:

- Installation of a man gate at the wastewater treatment plant
- A new lawn mower and a jetter sewer and drain-cleaning machine
- Repair work to the elevated water tank

Mayor Chad Sevy is expected to discuss an insurance policy renewal quote from Idaho Counties Risk Management Program (ICRMP), a Leroy Breshears Fishing Derby donation, and a quote for the use of a Brown Bus during the Third of July celebration. He will also discuss options about the future of the current City Hall building.

— TK

BLM finalizes another fuel breaks project

A wildfire prevention strategy to help protect part of Owyhee County rangeland has been finalized. The Bureau of Land Management issued the Record of Decision for the Tri-state Fuel Breaks Project last week. The project aims to reduce flammable vegetation along roadways on federally managed lands in Owyhee County and also provide safe anchor points for firefighters and strategic opportunities to more effectively limit the spread of wildfires. The Tri-state plan is a landscape-level approach to reduce fire's threat to the region's sagebrush-steppe habitat. The project aims to support sagebrush-dependent wildlife, such as the Greater Sage-grouse, as well as promote traditional land uses such as ranching and recreation. The Tri-state plan will align with fuel break efforts in neighboring northern Nevada and southeast Oregon. Implementation will begin this fall and the work is expected to take 10 to 15 years

to complete. The Record of Decision and supporting information is available online at <https://go.usa.gov/xPruu> (case sensitive). For more information, contact the BLM Boise District Office at (208) 384-3300. The federal agency will construct and maintain fuel breaks along 435 miles of existing roads using manual, mechanical, and chemical treatments, along with targeted grazing and prescribed fire. The project is part of a larger national wildfire reduction strategy guided by President Trump's Executive Order 13855 – Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk, as well as Secretary's Order 3372 – Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land through Active Management.

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From page 1A

✓ DMV: County offices move to online scheduling to eliminate lines

Owyhee County (customers) first.”

With this system, folks can visit the DMV page in the assessor’s section of the county website, pick a needed service, and choose an available time and date to conduct business at a branch. They will then receive a confirmation.

Visit <https://owyheecounty.net/departments/assessor/> to schedule an appointment.

“I am hoping that will work,” Gruenwald said. “If the calendar works how I hope it should, we will go to appointments only, no walk-ins.”

To help protect her staff, plexiglass screens have been ordered for each DMV location. The employees and customers will also be required to wear masks, Gruenwald said. This requirement was made possible because of a resolution passed to secure the protection of county facilities.

She said that it had been considered to accept walk-ins and display signs that let people know only four customers could be in the building at once. This idea was nixed because the DMV offices have no security guards, and it’s anticipated some people will not adhere to the signs and come in anyway.

“The employees of the DMV are not law enforcement and should not have to spend their time telling people that they are breaking the rule,” she said. “During these times, appointment-only would work better.”

Gruenwald said that she knows the DMV offers vital services and that things may be difficult for a couple months. She also said that expansion is highly unlikely for the foreseeable future.

“So many people need things taken care of, and our DMVs are just too small to handle our county plus the runoff of Ada and Canyon counties,” she said.

“For us to expand would put the burden of extra salaries, etc., on the Owyhee County taxpayers, not on Ada or Canyon taxpayers.” — TK

NO NEW JAIL

Vote for Jeff Taggart

Canyon County Sheriff

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Jeff Taggart for Canyon County Sheriff 2020

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✓ Library: OCD mulls tire recycling event

tire recycling event.

The district is merely exploring the possibility of the tire recycling opportunity and hasn’t made any commitments.

Today’s inquiry is to secure a site, if the event is economically feasible.

No other specific items are listed on the agenda for tonight’s council meeting, but departmental reports and reports from Mayor Gheen Christoffersen and council members are on tap. — JPB

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From page 1A

✓ Primary: Republican ballot chock full of interesting races in Owyhee

County Commissioners and who will be the next Owyhee County sheriff, was altered last month when Gov. Brad Little suspended the usual deadlines.

It became a mail-only election statewide.

While citizens have until 8 p.m., on Tuesday to either register to vote or request an absentee ballot, the county clerk's office will accept completed ballots until 8 p.m., on Tuesday, June 2.

The earliest the clerk's office can post primary election results is at 9 p.m., on June 2.

County election officials urge anyone who hasn't requested a ballot to do so as soon as possible. Contact the clerk's office at (208) 495-2421 or visit www.idahovotes.gov.

While there are actually three different ballots — depending on affiliation — and a non-partisan ballot for judges, this year's Republican primary provides a rare series of contested races.

Incumbent Sheriff Perry Grant of Homedale seeks a third four-year term against the challenge of former special deputy and Posse member R. M. "Rocky" Widner from Oreana.

Homedale resident Kelly Aberasturi is seeking re-election as the District 2 county commissioner in a primary battle against Marsing resident and current Owyhee County Fair Board chair Lath Callaway.

The only uncontested county races feature District 1

Commissioner Jerry Hoagland from Wilson, and Jeffrey Phillips, who is seeking a four-year term as prosecuting attorney after taking over last year when Douglas D. Emery resigned in the midst of his third term.

There are no Democrats running at the county level.

In the District 23 legislative election, there are two contests for the Republican nomination.

Reynolds Creek rancher Brenda Richards and Dist. 23A Rep. Christy Zito of Hammett seek to succeed Bert Brackett in the state Senate. A Three Creek rancher, Brackett announced last fall that he would retire.

The GOP primary winner will face Mountain Home Democrat Laura Bellegante in

the Nov. 3 general election.

Zito's decision to try for the upper chamber leaves the Dist. 23, House Seat A race wide open on the Republican ticket.

Grand View resident Andrea Owens is pitted against Mountain Home City Council president Matthew Bundy for the nomination.

Democrat Benjamin Lee will challenge the GOP nominee in

the fall.

Republican incumbent Megan Blanksma is running uncontested in the primary in search of her third two-year term in Seat B. But she will be in the middle of a three-way race come November with Democrat Michael Oliver from Mountain Home and Hammett Constitutional Party member Tony Ullrich.

Please help us with a birthday card shower!



It's Gail Tuttle's 90th Birthday!

Gail's family was hoping to have an open house or a celebration of some sort, but in light of what is going on in the world right now, we are postponing this.

We figured a good way to celebrate his birthday, May 13th, would be with a card shower.

Gail's address is 19931 Highway 95 Wilder, ID 83676

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University of Idaho
Extension

4-H presses on in Owyhee County

As the stay-at-home order continues, and we face many challenges because of the impact of coronavirus, Owyhee County 4-H continues to press on and stay focused on the positive.

The University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension office, our volunteers, and parents have had to quickly understand the impact and respond with innovative ways to support our youth.

I'm sure a majority of the 4-H families in Owyhee County are ready to move forward with a more typical routine when it comes to their 4-H projects. Our volunteers are doing a great job of getting creative.

We have 4-H clubs continuing to hold meetings via internet and video chatting with leaders so youth can show how their project(s) are coming along. We have also had clubs with youth working on baking projects take virtual tours of a bakery and try out their recipes at home with their families and share their results with their leaders. Other clubs are taking their club fundraiser online with an auction.



Janelle Thompson

Our Southern District Horse Judging contest will even be taking place via Zoom meeting so our youth can still participate and work toward competing at the state level.

We recognize it can be stressful for parents and families to find resources available to maintain a sense of normalcy and make sure kids don't get off track in their daily development.

We look forward to the upcoming weeks where we hope to hold our meetings face-to-face again, but for now we will continue our work to ensure our youth have the resources to stay connected and engaged throughout this time.

The 4-H program in Owyhee County is rallying together for the benefit of our youth, and together we will get through this and will continue our preparations in hopes that we will all be together for the 2020 Owyhee County Fair and Junior Livestock Sale in August.

— Janelle Thompson is the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension 4-H coordinator. For more information, you can reach Thompson at the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. The office is located at 238 8th Ave. W., in Marsing.

Historical society cancels overflowing railroad tour

Smaller tours slated next month

An unexpected glut in registration has prompted the cancelation of an Owyhee County Historical Society tour that had been planned for Saturday.

The Boise, Nampa, Owyhee Railroad Auto Tour received a lot of interest, and more than 100 people registered for the event.

A Facebook message on the Owyhee County Historical Museum's event page reads, "The museum cannot handle the tour size from logistics to issues with the state (COVID-19) regulations."

To accommodate those who

still want to partake in the tour, the historical society has scheduled two tours, the first from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 6, and the second at the same time on June 13.

Each tour will have a capacity of 50 people, so OCHS encourages folks to sign up as soon as possible. Registration began on Thursday.

"The museum did not anticipate the large attendance and we want to provide you with the best tour experience possible," the announcement reads.

To register for either of the scheduled tours, visit www.eventbrite.com and search for OCHS field trip of BN&O, or call the museum at (208) 495-2319.

Museum director Eriks Garsvo will guide the auto tour, which will begin along the former railroad right-of-way on Murray Street in Nampa. It will then head for Bowmont, Melba, Guffey Bridge, the Sheep Wreck site, and the end of the line in Murphy.

In Murphy, folks will tour the location of the old Wye track and water tower. Participants can then tour the museum and the Union Pacific caboose.

Organizers are asking that everyone have their own cars and not carpool, excepting close family to maintain COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

— TK

Calendar

Today

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. Call for accessibility options.

Jordan Valley Ambulance meeting

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

Thursday

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

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.

Tuesday

Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson Fire meeting

7 p.m., Wilson Fire Station, 10427 Johnston Lane, Wilson.

Wednesday

Marsing community pantry

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

Homedale School Dist. budget workshop

6 p.m., district boardroom, 116 E. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. Potentially meeting virtually on Google Meets. (208) 337-4611

Friday, May 22

Idaho Foodbank drop-off

9 a.m. to 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church of Homedale, 320 N. 6th St. W, Homedale. (208) 473-9331

The Landing teen support group

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

Monday, May 25

Board of County Commissioners meeting

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

Tuesday, May 26

Homedale Chamber luncheon

Noon, The Bowling Alley, 18 N. 1st St. W., Homedale.

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Salad bar: *Not Available due to the 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 13: Ham & cheese on roll, tatertots, beet salad

May 14: Stir-fry chicken w/vegetables, rice

May 19: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes w/gravy, Brussels Sprouts

May 20: Chicken & noodles, country trio, veggies

Rimrock Senior Center

All meals are served with milk & fruit juice

Curbside pickup from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or delivery only. Call (208) 834-2922 as early as possible beginning at 7 a.m.

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May 14: Chicken fried steak, funeral potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, applesauce, coleslaw, whole wheat roll, strawberry yogurt

May 19: Happy Birthday Dinner: Roast beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, veggie tray, apple & raisin salad, cottage cheese, ice cream sundae cup, cupcake

May 21: Breakfast burrito (ham, egg, cheese, salsa, sour cream, hash browns, wholegrain tortilla), yogurt, ½ banana, 1 bagel

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Grand View hearing to help shape wastewater strategy

Various alternatives to be presented Thursday

A Thursday public hearing will help city officials figure out the path forward for the Grand View wastewater treatment and collection system.

Originally scheduled outdoors at Centennial Park, the hearing was moved to American Legion Post 134 Hall on Roosevelt Avenue because of weather concerns, according to a post on the city’s Facebook page Tuesday morning.

Only 20 people will be allowed inside at one time to hear a 30-minute presentation from project engineer Mike Settell, owner of Pocatello-based Sustainable Resource Solutions. Settell will take questions for about an hour afterward, the city’s social media post said.

The engineer will present an additional hearing if more than 20 people want to hear the options.

Settell said there are four alternatives for collection system upgrades and three alternatives for treatment projects.

“Ultimately it comes down to the community,” Settell said. “Once the community makes a decision on how they want to proceed, then we’ll have a preferred alternative.”

Council members will use input from this week’s meeting

as part of the building blocks to choose the preferred alternative. The alternative could include multiple projects.

Thursday’s public hearing was originally scheduled for March, but was postponed because of the social distancing and stay-home guidelines put forth to flatten the COVID-19 curve.

Settell will be available to answer questions about the immediate and future needs of the system.

The meeting also will cover how the projects could impact user rates and examine the city’s funding opportunities and current financial outlook.

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. According to the meeting agenda, citizens are asked to choose their top two alternatives.

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.

Several project options exist, and the entire price tag is nearly \$650,000 if all the projects are approved. But the council could pick and choose what it wants to do after hearing from the community.

Settell said environmental impact studies will be required if officials choose sewer line extension projects. Once those documents are finalized, the city’s plan would be forwarded to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.

Environmental documents are necessary because the city could apply for funding from federal sources, including an Idaho Community Development Block Grant. Although the grant is awarded through the state Department of Commerce, the money comes from the federal Department of Commerce.

Unlike with the city’s Well No. 1 drinking water situation, Idaho DEQ has not put a deadline on the wastewater system mitigation.

“We don’t have a specific timeline from DEQ other than they want to see us continue moving forward,” Settell said.

The state Department of Commerce accepts community block grant applications until late November. Grants could be awarded in late winter

with funds available around May 2021. Community block grants require matching funds or in-kind matches — or both — from the agencies seeking assistance.

“We want to give the community ample time to understand what’s going on,” Settell said. “We wanted to make sure to take whatever steps we can take to minimize the hysteria.”

Project options include:

- **Roosevelt Connector (estimated cost: \$70,000)** — One option would separate a shared final 200 feet of pipeline combining the Riverside Road and Roosevelt Avenue sewer mains before entering the lift station on the way to the treatment lagoons.
- **Hill Top Connector (\$51,000)** — A plan for new construction south of the Idaho highway 78/Idaho 167 intersection would lessen septic tank infiltration into the town’s drinking water system. It would also provide a link to possible future development south of the city limits.
- **Gold Isle Extension (\$260,000)** — Another proposal to remove septic systems from the town’s wastewater collection infrastructure would also increase Grand View’s

sewer fund revenue by \$10,000 annually.

As with the Hill Top proposal, this option would protect the city’s groundwater source from ongoing septic drain field leeching.

The extension would also add 4,000 feet of sewer collection lines and provide wastewater collection to the east of the town ditch.

This project would also provide expansion options.

- **Highway 78 Extension (\$261,000)** — This option would bring 17 connections into the sewer system and eliminate septic systems for residences (14) and businesses (three) by installing sewer line.

While the work would add to the city’s sewer fund with new connections and monthly fees, the property owners would no longer have the responsibility to maintain their own septic tanks.

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

Grand View city payroll could shrink to pay for projects

The Grand View City Council could make decisions tonight on reducing the budget and updating the employee manual.

The meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m., inside City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. Attendees are asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

The council could make a decision on budget reduction proposals aimed at freeing up money to pay for looming infrastructure projects, including wastewater and drinking water well upgrades

and repairs.

Proposals to reduce expenditures include eliminating a full-time public works department position and/or hiring contractors for maintenance and lawn care.

The city council already has hired Bob Servis, retired city public works supervisor, to help with the Well No. 1 project even though Servis’ drinking water operator license expired 14 months ago.

The expenditure reduction proposals, which apparently will be undertaken without a

public hearing even though it deals with a budget issue, include reducing employee salary and benefits for employees working less than 32 hours per week. The state pension plan could be eliminated for any employees working less than 20 hours per week.

Currently there are only two public works employees on staff — Dan Whitted and Gina

Freeman.

Other meeting items tonight:

- Council members will hear about clerk and treasurer Kathy Brown’s ongoing education, which includes a budget training on May 21 and working with an information technology firm to create budget and financial reports.
- The council will discuss a letter received from Sustainable

Resource Solutions owner Mike Settell. The subject of the letter is not mentioned in the meeting agenda.

- Council members also could take action on initial approval of the building permit for the planned Owyhee County satellite office that will include a Division of Motor Vehicles office. Grand View Gas also has a building permit set for final approval.



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A volunteer presents groceries to a Jordan Valley resident during a curbside pickup in the Jordan Valley Lions Den parking lot recently. Integra Mining employees take shopping lists and head to town for the community's vulnerable population. Submitted photo

Mining firm, Lions Club look out for vulnerable Jordan Valley folks

Integra employees make weekly shopping trips

The company now controlling DeLamar Mine is teaming with the Jordan Valley Lions Club to offer free weekly grocery delivery.

The Integra Resources initiative launched in the midst of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order focuses on helping elderly and at-risk community members.

The service is entering its third week and will run until safeguards to protect vulnerable populations are lifted.

Integra and the Lions Club are working to identify Jordan Valley-area members on both sides of the state line who need a helping hand.

The program enlists volunteers to make the long drive from the area to grocery stores for shopping strips to help keep some of the most vulnerable populations at home and to reduce their exposure risk.

"It isn't unusual for anyone

Malheur County COVID-19 cases:

14

Negative tests: 343 (77 new)
New cases, May 4 to May 11: 1

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

in Jordan Valley to travel an hour or more for groceries and then have to stand in lines and navigate busy grocery stores, whereas this solution keeps them at home safe with a stocked fridge," Integra's DeLamar project operations manager Tom Jordan said.

"For those neighbors of ours who are worried about the possible risks to their health while out and about, this is just another way to make them more comfortable during these unusual times."

Here's how the service works:

- Jordan Valley Lions Club members take orders from community members during the week.
- Integra employees fill the orders and deliver them to the Jordan Valley Lions Den on Monday afternoons. The community members pick up

and pay for the groceries at the clubhouse.

Social distancing is practiced. Those picking up supplies are asked to stay in their vehicles. Integra employees and Lions Club members wear gloves and maintain six feet of distance at all times.

"This isn't just a company that is looking to come here and build a mine. This is a company that is made up of the residents who live here, and we are proud of the work we are doing as well as our commitment to the community," Integra office manager Alexis Stanford said.

"By helping with grocery runs during these times, we are hoping to eliminate any stress or concerns from our most vulnerable population and ensure that Jordan Valley stays a healthy community, as well as a community that cares about its neighbors."

WEED WATCH



Photo by Clint Shock

From Jordan Valley CWMA

Name: Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Description: The most identifiable characteristic of purple loosestrife is the striking rose- to purple-colored flowers. The flowers are arranged on a spike, which can be a few inches to 2 feet long. Each flower has five to seven petals arising from a cylindrical green tube. The plant usually flowers from late June to mid-August. The seed capsule is two celled and contains many very small seeds with more than 500,000 seeds per plant possible. Roots become thick and woody in mature plants. The aerial shoots die in the fall, and new shoots arise the following spring from buds at the top of the root crown. Stems are typically square or ridged to feel square and covered in fine hairs. Leaves are also finely pubescent mainly under, they are opposite or whorled, tapered to a point about three to four inches long.

Habitat: Will always be found in or very near water. Requires very wet mucky soils to survive.

Origin: Occurs naturally in a wide native range throughout central Europe, Germany, France, Spain, Italy and into the Baltic region on into Russia and Manchuria. Has been actively promoted as an aquatic ornamental for decades.

Control: This plant is difficult and tiresome to

remove by hand, made harder with the heavy, wet soil. In small, new infestations, some have had success using hand removal, but diligence is required. Several herbicides labeled for aquatic use work well, such as: Habitat, Garlon 3A, Accord and others. If you choose to use herbicide, it is advisable to determine where the water will end up to avoid crop damage. Biocontrol insects are available and have been very effective over the long term.

Modified from "Selected Noxious Weeds of Eastern Oregon," Gary Page, Malheur County Weed Inspector.

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

Jordan Valley — Eric Morrison, (541) 586-3000 or jvcwma@qwestoffice.net

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

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

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

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

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

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Grand View City Council hires unlicensed, retired public works chief to head up water well rehab

Former public works boss, a part-timer, makes more than full-time employee

A retired public works supervisor has been rehired to oversee repairs to the City of Grand View’s Well No. 1.

Bob Servis, who at present is not licensed as a drinking water operator in the State of Idaho, was contracted by the city council last month.

He has been tasked with getting the well in working order by June 20 (60 days after the contract was signed). Mayor Danny Martinez could extend the contract if repair elements aren’t achievable in that timeframe.

Servis was last current in Class 1 operator licenses for drinking water distribution and drinking water treatment last year. His licenses — along with Class 1 licenses for wastewater collection and treatment — expired in March 2018, according to the state’s Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses website.

Licenses must be renewed annually.

In order to renew his license, Servis must complete continuing education equal to the amount of time his license has been inactive (one year). There is a renewal fee of \$30 for a drinking water license and a \$35 reinstatement fee, according to the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses.

Martinez told The Owyhee Avalanche the city will pay for Servis’ relicensing. The mayor said Servis is currently working on reinstatement, but must take an online class because of the COVID-19 health precautions.

A state licensing division spokesperson said online classes are available on demand, but webinars have specific schedules.

The city already has a licensed water operator in Dan Whitted, but Martinez said Servis has been hired specifically for the Well No. 1 project.

“I am hoping that (with) his and Dan’s experience with the facility that we will be able to be more efficient and get the well up as soon as possible,” Martinez said.

“We also need Dan to be able to fulfill his daily job duties and other projects that the city has going on.”

According to his contract, which the Avalanche obtained with a public records request, Servis has been hired as a project specialist. He will work as a part-time employee to make sure Well No. 1 is an operational backup well.

State law prohibits unlicensed personnel from operating, offering to operate or have responsibility for a drinking water or wastewater system.

This includes making decisions about water quality and water quantity, which are part of Servis’ job duties according to his contract with the city.

Servis will work no more than 12 hours a week, earning compensation of \$30 per hour, the contract said. His hourly pay is more than Whitted’s despite a lack of licensing.

“Bob will be working one-on-one with the engineer and (Idaho Department of Environmental Quality),” Martinez said. “He will be reporting to I or the council daily.”

The engineer in question apparently is Mike Settell, owner of Pocatello-based Sustainable Resource Solutions and the project lead for the city’s wastewater facility plan.

The council could decide to eliminate one of the public works department’s two full-time positions during a budget reduction discussion at tonight’s regular council meeting. The meeting will start at 6 p.m., at City Hall, 425 Boise Ave.

Martinez said Servis will drive his own vehicle and “receives no benefits or any other incentives for his time.”

Servis’ duties will include assessing the current condition of Well No. 1 and its components. But the contract also states his duties may be amended as needed.

If issues are found, Servis will recommend options to Martinez or his designee.

The mayor clarified what “mayor’s designee” means.

“Jon Pennington (city council president) or, if both he and I are unavailable, then another councilperson,” Martinez.

The mayor didn’t mention volunteer mayoral assistant Tammy Payne, a former mayor, city clerk and wife of first-term Councilman Tom Payne, as a point of contact for Servis.

Servis also will be responsible for getting price quotes for needed work and repairs and also coordinate with repair contractors when work is needed.

He must also ensure that water pressure is adequate and all components are operating properly.

Servis is tasked to verify water flow consistency once the well is operational, and he is to write a recommendation and schedule for Well No. 1 maintenance.

The contract also points out that Servis must understand that — because of fluctuations in nitrates — that all water from Well No. 1 will be discharged into the sewer system or the irrigation canal.

— JPB

— Mandi Boren, the Avalanche’s Grand View-Bruneau-Oreana reporter, contributed to this article. Send news tips to her at mandi@owyheeavalanche.com



Marsing bus barn vandalism repaired

Bill Jones, of Nampa’s Jones Glass, uses a hammer and screwdriver to delicately remove tape from a window on the south side of the Marsing School District transportation building. Jones and his crew replaced windows that three vandals — identified by Owyhee County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman as an 11-year-old and two 12-year-olds — broke in March.

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OWYHEE COUNTY SHERIFF

REPUBLICAN

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The Owyhee Avalanche

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Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



On the edge of common sense Behind Those Eyes

Behind those eyes there shines a light
That's guided me from my first step
Down life's highway through thick and thin
So I could tell the wrong from right.

Behind those eyes there beats a heart
That taught me love is what you feel
And to be taken as it is
And not something you take apart.

Behind those eyes there lives a soul
That speaks to me from deep within
And warns me I must not despair
Those things in life I can't control.

Behind those eyes there is a love
That never lets me out of sight
And stretches from my deepest flaw
And reaches to the stars above.

Behind those eyes I see myself
The hopes and dreams she had for me
I see myself as I could be
Behind my mother's eyes.

— 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

Grant's efficiency, relationships bolster sheriff's office

Sheriff Perry Grant has done an amazing job as sheriff for Owyhee County. He is highly educated in law enforcement, works well with the commissioners and other elected officials and maintains good working relationships with other agencies and neighboring law enforcement.

Sheriff Grant runs his department on a very limited budget that is given him by the County each year. To supplement those funds, he seeks grants and other funding avenues as well as actively increasing the size of the Posse. Those volunteers provide the extra services and coverages at no additional expense to the County.

He has also brought in several part-time retired officers, with years of law enforcement experience to assist in highly recreated areas on weekends and holidays.

The citizens of Owyhee County are very fortunate to have a sheriff's department this is run efficiently and is able to meet the needs of our vast county.

I encourage you to vote with me to re-elect Sheriff Perry Grant.

Kelly Aberasturi
Owyhee County Commissioner, Dist. 1
Homedale

Dist. 23A House candidate adapts to new campaign style

As a candidate for state representative seat 23A, it has been my honor to get to know many of the great voters of Owyhee County. I love forums, social gatherings, luncheons, shaking hands and having conversations with the people, and I was fully engaged in these activities early in the campaign. It has been difficult to continue these activities in these times of social distancing, but I have used many digital mediums in my continued attempts to get out the vote. I have met many wonderful people, and I am sure when times normalize, we will be able to meet in person and have that conversation.

My message is about family, community and service to my nation and my community. I have the experience, energy and ability to take the issues from

Owyhee County and get things done in the Statehouse. I understand the proper role of government, and I will do all I can to ensure government is run in a way that allows us the freedom to make personal choices and to choose our own paths to success and happiness.

Please look at my website matthewbundyforidaho.com or email me at bundyforidaho@gmail.com and ask me questions or just get to know me a little bit better. I want to thank each and every one of you for your interest in this process and to thank you for taking the time to vote.

Matthew Bundy
Candidate, Idaho House, Seat 23A
Mountain Home

Richards will promote ag, Owyhee interests in Senate

I am asking voters to support Brenda Richards for Senate legislative seat 23.

She has fought for the agricultural industries since the mid-1990s with her knowledge, her common-sense presentations to federal officials, testimonies, and as a leader in local, state and national organizations.

She is active in Owyhee County's Natural Resources Committee, the Local Sage Grouse Work Group. She has participated in our coordination meetings with Bureau of Land Management, and in

our county commission meetings. She knows how local government works and how important from that aspect it is to be in the Idaho State Senate.

In these times of economic concerns, we need someone who understands agriculture from a local perspective.

Vote for Brenda.
Jerry Hoagland
Owyhee County commissioner, Dist. 1
Wilson

— See *Letters to the editor, Election 2020, Page 14A*

From Washington Greatness of educators clear amid COVID-19 response

As schools closed nationwide to help curb the spread of the novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, millions of school-aged children suddenly started being homeschooled. Many parents are reeling trying to juggle at-home work schedules while trying to keep on top of schooling needs. For most, this abrupt shift has not been easy, and the tremendous importance of our educators is even more acutely clear. All the while, teachers and administrators have been working hard to overcome the difficult circumstances, quickly disseminating learning materials and ensuring access to online education tools. I commend our nation's great educators for once again rising to the challenge to reach their students and the parents trying hard to fill these enormous shoes so the future of our great nation gets the educations they so greatly deserve.

Teachers across Idaho have stepped up to make sure COVID-19 does not completely disrupt children's education. Schools have quickly adjusted to ensure ongoing education opportunities for students.

Educators have creatively adapted curriculum. Teachers have sent personal videos reading to their students from afar and providing online lessons. They continue to encourage, shape and resourcefully reach their students regardless of the circumstances. Many schools also continue to offer pick-up lunches to students to ensure they have the nutrition they need to fuel their growing brains.

My mother was an English teacher, and one of my sisters also taught for many years. I have seen firsthand, not only through their examples, but also through the many teachers I have had, known and met with over the years, how deeply they care for their students. The devoted focus on students and excellence apparent in teachers radiates through our communities.

Congress and the Trump administration have supported schools impacted by COVID-19 through enactment of multiple phases of legislation providing

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

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



— See *Educators, Page 15A*

Commentary

Financial management

Stimulus check is like a refund, but it's your choice to tithe

Dear Dave,
Should my wife and I tithe on our stimulus checks? She thinks we should, but I'm not sure. In my mind, we already gave our money to Caesar — so to speak — and now he's just giving it back. What do you think?

— Luke

Dear Luke,
Well, it's *your* money you're getting back. The government doesn't really create anything, it only takes money from us. And in this case, it gave you back some of what it took. I don't really see that as a tithing circumstance.
The other side of the coin is that you really can't go wrong

being generous. The tithe is your baseline for generosity. You shouldn't tithe or not tithe because of a set of rules, but if you're having a theological or philosophical discussion about the tithe and how it works, I think your reasoning is sound.
It's certainly not a salvation issue, but generosity is a good rhythm to have in your life. And honestly, these stimulus checks are kind of like tax refunds. You gave it to the government, and now they're giving it back.
So, in my mind it's OK either way. I've just always had an attitude of when in doubt, it's better to give.

— Dave



DAVE Says
by Dave Ramsey • www.davesays.org

Dear Dave,
We make about \$70,000 a year, and we're debt-free except for our house. We're following your plan, and just started

saving for retirement, but we only have \$15,000 left on our mortgage. We can have that paid off in six or seven months, so would it be OK to go ahead and pay off our home as soon as possible before continuing to save for retirement?

— Nate

Dear Nate,
I'm generally pretty hardcore about sticking with the proper order while doing the Baby Steps. But in your case, with such a small amount left to pay on your home, I think I'd go ahead and knock that out.
Most of the people I talk to still have six figures left on their mortgages. There's a big difference between that and

the situation you two are in right now.
Think about it, you guys could be completely debt-free by Christmas, *and* you've already started to make a move on retirement planning. I say go for it!

— Dave

— *Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at [@DaveRamsey](https://twitter.com/DaveRamsey).*

Letters to the editor: Election 2020

From Page 13A

Christy Zito is the strong, principled senator Dist. 23 needs

I know, like, and personally respect both candidates for the District 23 Senate seat. I am supporting Christy Zito, but want to be clear that does not mean I am implying anything negative about Brenda Richards.
I voted for Christy when she first ran for basically the same reason I voted for Donald Trump — the GOP establishment made me do it. I was tired of the compromising of basic principles and going along to get along. Neither one has disappointed me. Both have shown the backbone and courage of their convictions to stand against the two-bit games and manipulations of the political elites. Her principled positions have earned awards and recognition from organizations like the Idaho Farm Bureau, Gun Owners of America, Idaho Library Association, American Conservative

Union, Freedom Foundation, and the endorsements of true conservatives like Congressman Russ Fulcher and Idaho Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin.
Christy has remained loyal to the positions and principles she ran on. It is my belief that if we want this from our elected officials, we need to support them when they deliver. If we don't, then I am afraid future principled candidates will be discouraged from running and the establishment will be encouraged to continue trying to influence, manipulate, and control who represents "we the people".
The Idaho Senate is in need of a strong, principled, and independent denator.
Tim & Rosa Maria Lowry
Jordan Valley

Zito will fight for conservative values Owyheean love

Have the wages and per diem gone up? I cannot believe the amount of money being spent to elect a state senator in District 23. It is almost like Bloomberg trying to buy an election. Good old Butch is entering the fray. His last years as governor weren't impressive. We have people from Jerome and Boise trying to influence our election.
For you fellow farmers and ranchers and those of you who like to eat, Christy has won the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation Friends of Agriculture award for her voting record in the Idaho House of Representatives. For you people who believe in family values, Christy has received the endorsement

of the Family Policy Alliance of Idaho. To me this speaks volumes more than endorsements from government employees.
Wake up, freedom-loving Owyhee County and the rest of you in District 23.
If you believe in limited government, liberty, conservative values, fiscal responsibility, and freedom, you will vote for Christy Zito in the upcoming election. She is a fighter, will not back down on your behalf, and she also believes in getting business open and people back to work.
P. T. Rathbone
Marsing

Brenda Richards will work hard in Senate for District 23

As we vote to elect a new senator for District 23, we have an important decision to make. Do you want the senator from District 23 to just make a statement, or do you want one who will make a difference?
Brenda Richards will make a difference.
Voters of District 23 have a clear choice between a show pony making a statement or a workhorse who

will make a difference.
Vote Brenda Richards for Senate.
Sen. Bert Brackett, Dist. 23
Sen. Lee Heider, Dist. 24
Sen. Patti Anne Lodge, Dist. 11
Sen. Jim Patrick, Dist. 25

Vote for conservatives who really fight for citizens

Every election cycle I notice there are always two very different kinds of philosophies within the Republican Party. They can be distinguished between those that call themselves Conservatives, and those that label themselves so-called "Common-Sense" Conservatives. A person could be forgiven for thinking I am splitting hairs distinguishing between them. After all, their stated positions seem similar: limited government, gun rights, traditional moral values, improved quality of public education, etc. ... What makes all the difference, however, is in how they intend to achieve their different policies.
The Common-Sense Conservative wants to wield government to solve our problems. Ultimately, this leads to bigger budgets, more bureaucrats, and, in the name of fiscal responsibility, more taxes. "Common-sense" gun legislation, "common-sense" business regulations, etc., all result in the same thing: more government control and less individual liberty.
The Conservative, meanwhile, believes the individual is best suited to govern themselves and stands up to protect their fellow citizens from government overreach. They understand correct principles and don't need to contextualize the word conservative with a subjective modifier that allows them to say they're conservative while justifying bigger and more expensive government.
I do not want to be critical of the Common-Sense Conservative and their beliefs, but it's important to know what my elected representatives stand for. This is the best country on Earth because of our founding fathers' principled leadership. I want elected officials who will stand up for those principles in the Legislature, not just pay them lip service on the campaign trail.
That is why I am voting for Christy Zito for Senate District 23, Andrea Owens for Representative District 23A, and Lath Callaway for County Commissioner.
RaeLynn Schkade
Grand View

Commentary

Letters to the editor: Election 2020

From Page 14A

Zito’s voting record should worry ag producers, educators

Voters in Legislative District 23 need to make an informed decision in the race for Senate. Brenda Richards does not have a Legislative voting record, so one can’t make a direct comparison there. However, Brenda does have years of experience, serving as Owyhee County Treasurer for 12 years. Also serving with the Owyhee Cattleman’s Association, Idaho Cattle Association, Owyhee County Farm Bureau, Idaho Association of Counties and Owyhee County Republican Central Committee.

Contrasting Richards’ record of public service with that of her opponent, there is no comparison. Her opponent does have a voting record with some votes that should make the people in the district shudder, let alone vote for her.

Examples include a 2019 vote against continued Wolf Depredation Board (S 1039). This vote should make the hair on the back of the necks of livestock operators everywhere stand up, and especially those in District 23. In 2019, she voted against S 1145, the

bill funding education and agriculture research and extensions.

In the recent session, Richards’ opponent voted against H 5230, a bill that builds long-term career path so educators can remain in the classroom, particularly experienced and effective educators. This bill had broad support and ultimately passed, providing critical investment to assist districts and charters in recruiting and retaining quality and experienced educators. This is especially a problem in rural areas of our state. Castleford and Bruneau-Grand View districts are both in District 23.

The opponent in this race voted against horse brand inspection structure changes requested by the Idaho horse industry. If this rule would have failed, it would have jeopardized the solvency of the state brand department, an essential service for Idaho’s livestock from theft and corruption.

Dan Shewmaker
Kimberly

Active, qualified Richards a perfect fit for the Senate

I am supporting Brenda Richards in the Legislative District 23 senate race.

Brenda has a record of proven leadership. She has been involved in several organizations, including the Owyhee Initiative and The Boise District BLM Resource Advisory Council. She has ascended to leadership roles in these organizations — chairman of the board for four years on the Owyhee Initiative, vice-chair for three years on the BLM Resource Advisory Council and president for two years of the National Public Lands Council.

Brenda is no stranger to public service. She served as the Owyhee County Republican treasurer for 12 years. She was elected to office three times and managed the treasurer’s office. For three years she served as chair of the Idaho Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee and was also elected to the Western Interstate Region delegate from Idaho and on the National Association of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee.

Brenda is a perfect fit for the Idaho Senate. She has a long history of representing Owyhee County, the State of Idaho, agriculture and the cattle industry in the most professional manner. Most importantly she is a good friend.

Brenda is a common-sense conservative. Please join me in supporting her in the May primary election.

Rick Pearson
Kimberly

Contacting county commissioners

Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson), chair
Phone — (208) 318-8308
Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale)
Phone — (208) 249-4405
E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com
Terms expire 2020

Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View)
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Term expires 2022
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Letter to the editor

Original Owyhee Initiative bill called for grazing allotment compensation

Recently the Owyhee Initiative committee published a response to our opinion letter about the Dist. 23 state Senate race and insinuated that we were not truthful about our claims that Brenda Richards and the board promised us compensation in return for our participation in the Owyhee Initiative (“Owyhee Initiative board sets record straight,” May 6, 2020). We would ask you kindly and fairly to publish this letter as a response. It is a letter from Sen. Mike Crapo’s office reflecting our agreement with the Owyhee Initiative committee.

Chet and Kim Brackett
Hollister

Oct. 26, 2006
To Whom It May Concern:
On August 3, 2006 United States Senator Mike Crapo introduced in the U.S. Senate the Owyhee

Initiative Implementation Act (OIIA), S. 3794. Although we expect that this bill will become law, the outcome in these matters is uncertain.

Contained in S. 3794 is a Land Exchange and Acquisition document relating to landowner compensation for those ranchers who have signed agreements, and who are participants as to receiving compensation in exchange for grazing preference loss, and for grazing preference reduction.

C.E. Brackett Cattle Co. (Chet and Kim Brackett) has signed an offer that would designate 3,061 AUMs for wildlife, watershed, and non-consumptive uses and therefore will be entitled to receive \$918,000 in compensation. Said offer will now to be added to the Land Exchange and Acquisitions portion of the bill.

Layne R. Bangerter
State Director of Natural Resources and

Environment
U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo

Sen. Crapo spokesman Lindsay Nothern provided the following explanation Thursday:

“The Bracketts did not receive the proposed buyout money because Bureau of Land Management policy would not allow federal money to be used for buyouts. In the end, the Bracketts benefitted considerably from work Crapo’s office did in support of their requests for a water line extension, road improvements and for an increase in grazing preference (more cattle allowed). Any buyouts that happened came from non-governmental organizations (NGOs); private money. Only property approved by the NGOs was involved in the transactions.

— Ed.

✓ Educators: CARES Act provides billions to maintain education

From Page 13A

federal resources to back the continuity of educational efforts amid the COVID-19 crisis. Among this assistance, in March, the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed, and President Trump signed into law, Phase 3 of the emergency coronavirus response legislation, the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act that establishes a more than \$30 billion Education Stabilization Fund. The fund includes a Governor’s Emergency Relief Fund, an Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund and a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

The resources support flexible learning options, including remote education efforts, to address the needs of students and educators. The law also provides flexibility in the application of education accountability laws to assist with the emergency shift in how students are educated. Further, the law includes childcare, child nutrition and other education-related assistance. Information about the implementation of the education provisions in the CARES Act is accessible on the U.S. Department of Education website, at www.ed.gov.

As implementation of the support already enacted into law continues and Congress and the administration

considers the need for additional resources, I will keep the needs of Idaho students at the forefront of discussions. Thank you greatly to Idaho teachers and administrators for the outstanding work you continue to do to ensure sound educations for Idaho students no matter the circumstances. You are truly making a difference.

— 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.

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Election 2020: County Commissioner

District 2 Republican Primary

Kelly Aberasturi

- **Age** — 61
- **Occupation** — County commissioner, self-employed
- **Family** — Spouse, Robin. Children. 8, grandkids, 17 or so
- **Years residing in Owyhee County** — 50-plus years. Born and raised in Owyhee County. Early 1990s farming in Southern California/Nevada. Resided previously in Homedale and Marsing, currently residing in Homedale for 18 years
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Current Owyhee County Commissioner, Dist. 2; Owyhee County rep, Western Alliance for Economic Development and Treasure Valley Partnership; county weed supervisor (volunteer position); vice-chair, advisory board and Owyhee County rep, Southwest District Health Board of Directors; executive board member, Behavioral Health Board; Children's Mental Health subcommittee; Community Health Assessment Team (CHAT) focused on promoting mental health of Owyhee County youth by providing resources in our public schools; Area 3 Senior Services Board of Directors and Advisory Board for Subcommittees for Owyhee County Seniors; Owyhee County Probation Office; past president and current member, Txoka Ona Basque Center
- **Qualifications for political office** — Previous experience as Commissioner and a dedication to service.



Lath Callaway

- **Age** — 56
- **Occupation** — Business owner, farmer, custom farming and trucking
- **Family** — Wife, Stacy Callaway. Six adult children: Cody, Casey, Josie, Curt, Wes, and Wyatt.
- **Years residing in Owyhee County** — 21. 53 in Idaho
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Current Owyhee County Fair Board chair, many years of community volunteer work
- **Qualifications for political office** — 21 years in county, common sense, honesty, and integrity



Why are you running for office?

Aberasturi — I am running to continue in my service to the citizens of Owyhee County.

Callaway — I love this county and want the best for us. Government needs new people and new perspectives from time to time.

Compare your philosophy of the commissioner's role to your opponent's

Callaway — I believe in treating people with respect and listening to what they have to say. I value different perspectives and believe we get the best outcomes when we find solutions together.

Aberasturi — I don't know what my opponent's philosophy is concerning the role of a commissioner. I have not had opportunity to hear or read anything that might shed light on his opinion.

What would you improve about the county and how would you accomplish that?

Aberasturi — Continue to work towards a more diverse tax base, attracting Ag-related and other light industry and small businesses. Continue to focus on challenges facing our youth and senior citizens.

Callaway — There needs to be a whole less talking and a lot more listening. I would seek more robust conversations with all perspectives heard and respected.

What critical issues does the county face? How will you address the challenges?

Callaway — Preserving the history and heritage of Owyhee County is a big one. Catastrophic fires are devastating to our economy and will need continued focus.

Aberasturi — The impending economic downturn is the most crucial issue we face in 2020-21. Broadening the tax base and being fiscally responsible (budget reductions) over the next years.

In what areas has the efficiency of county government improved in recent years?

Aberasturi — Infrastructure improvements had been neglected for many years. Upgrades in county buildings and overdue maintenance has been addressed. Improved communication between elected officials and departments.

Callaway — Technology has come a long way in Owyhee County. The Facebook page, recent online meetings, text alerts, and the county website are all great ways to keep the public informed.

Where can county government be improved?

Callaway — I think government can always do a better job at transparency, conducting all business in the public meetings, and listening to the citizens.

Aberasturi — There is always room for improvement. Interdepartmental communication was non-existent. As elected officials, we have worked closely together to define common goals, listen and work towards those goals.

What is your opinion of the fiscal responsibility of county government?

Aberasturi — We must spend taxpayer dollars to the benefit of the citizens. An in-depth budgeting/planning process keeps the county fiscally responsible. The new community center, built by donation (thank you, R&M Steel) and PILT building funds. No expense to citizens.

Callaway — I think the county does a pretty good job. I am a believer in focusing on services that directly help citizens and landowners of Owyhee County rather than geared at visitors.

What departments do you believe need better fiscal responsibility and why?

Callaway — I don't have a solid answer for that at this time, but I look forward to helping improve efficiencies anywhere I can.

Aberasturi — ALL departments must tighten their budget. With pending decreasing revenues, it will be a fiscally challenging time. A minimum five percent reduction in the current fiscal year and another five percent in the upcoming year is required.

What is your opinion of the in-progress county land use plan amendments?

Aberasturi — Several meetings were held to discuss amendments. Citizens were overwhelmingly supportive, so I voted in favor of them. Personally, I believe the amendments restrict private property rights and grant power to government. That I do NOT support.

Callaway — I think the county is doing a good job of ensuring public input in the process and listening to the majority vote. There's no way to make every single person happy, but we need to honor the wishes of the majority of the citizens.

What should the county do to ensure access to public lands for recreationists and ranchers?

Callaway — We need to continue to work with BLM giving our direction and input on their travel management plans and finding common-sense policies for multiple use.

Aberasturi — The RS2477 road designation project is almost complete, requiring the federal government to get approval from the county before any public roads can be closed, keeping access open to recreationists, ranchers and citizens.

What can be done in the rancher's fight against the BLM, and how can the county help?

Aberasturi — Commissioners meet with BLM regularly. I personally went to Washington DC to meet with representatives from the Department of Interior about the 68 Allotment cutbacks and have involved them with requests for assistance.

Callaway — The county should move back to a stronger stance on the formal coordination process. It proved successful for the Owyhee Initiative, and I believe it would prove successful in the Owyhee 68 grazing fight as well.

What are your stances on the following issues facing the county?

Road maintenance

Callaway — This is a huge issue facing most jurisdictions. We all want better roads, and we also want lower taxes. Properly built and maintained roads cost a lot of money. It has to be a balance of funding and efficiency.

Aberasturi — Several major projects that required complete road restructure have been completed. If revenues drop, road maintenance will be a struggle and good use of resources necessary.

— See **District 2**, next page

Election 2020: County Commissioner

District 2 Republican Primary

— Continued from previous page

Budget tightening and how the PILT fund should be utilized

Aberasturi — A minimum of 50 percent of PILT funds should be set aside for major projects/emergencies and building up of reserve funds. We may have to utilize these funds to maintain in 2021.

Callaway — The current economic situation is going to have a huge impact on county budgets. We don’t have a blank check with unlimited money, so the system will have to get more efficient with less. PILT can help get us through, but is not a long-term solution.

Law enforcement

Callaway — As the Treasure Valley grows, we see increased population and recreational use in Owyhee County. I know this has been a huge drain on the sheriff’s department for sufficient manpower to keep up with it.

Aberasturi — The challenges of such a large county and two major highways (drugs/criminal activity) are huge. Our sheriff’s department does a great job with the resources that the county is able to provide.

Other comment

Aberasturi — I have been acting as weed supervisor for several years as a volunteer position to save money for the county, but that position should be filled. We need to finish the county office project in Grand View for the DMV and other county services, including the sheriff’s department. It is important to have that resource for citizens in that area.

The state needs to address means to compensate the county for the added resources needed to deal with out-of-county DMV, and I will continue to pursue resolution to that issue.

Preparing the county for reduced revenues is a major challenge ahead.

And as always, open communication with all elected officials is key to successful leadership.

Callaway — Your vote on May 19th would be greatly appreciated.

District 1 Republican Primary

Jerry Hoagland

- **Age** — 72
- **Occupation** — Rancher
- **Family** — Single
- **Years residing in Owyhee County** — 70 years Reynolds Creek and Wilson
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Wilson precinct GOP committeeman, board of directors and chairman of Reynolds Irrigation District since 1979. Secretary, Reynolds Creek 57R since 1987, Owyhee Cattleman’s Association board of directors and president, county Planning and Zoning commissioner, Owyhee Watershed Council board of directors, Historic Silver City Foundation secretary, Owyhee Pioneer Cemetery District commissioner, Owyhee County commissioner since 2007.
- **Qualifications for political office** — Past experience with local organizations and currently Owyhee County commissioner.



Why are you running for office?

Because of my varied experience with different agricultural and historic organizations, and having served as county commissioner for the past 13 years, I am in a position to lead the county. There is unfinished business the BOCC has started to benefit the county citizens in the future that I want to finish. Specifically getting the county-maintained RS2477 roads validated so they are our roads and not in trespass.

What would you improve about the county and how would you accomplish that?

The increased recreational use on county maintained roads is causing deterioration and overwhelming our road crews. Yet all the county gets is some gas tax revenue for road maintenance based on miles, not use, I would seek additional funding for the increased use. We need more cell coverage. There is a lot of discussion, but we need it now.

What critical issues does the county face? How will you address the challenges?

Owyhee County’s current and longest lasting effect will be the COVID-19 impact on the economy. Both revenue sharing from sales taxes and Highway Users revenue/gas tax is going to be reduced significantly. Those are the county’s largest sources of income. We will have to cut back on county budgets not knowing how long till the economy rebounds. We do have good reserves and hopefully full funding of PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes). Still, that is only helpful for short term. I don’t want to increase property taxes to cover lost revenue sharing as our property owners are struggling.

In what areas has the efficiency of county government improved in recent years?

The commissioners have invested in new technology for the prosecutor’s office that greatly reduces case file workload. We have invested in a GPS system for the road districts to construct road rebuilding more efficiently and accurately. We are always looking to improve and update our communication equipment and computer systems. And recently a title company scanned all of the county files for both their access and the county’s ease of retrieval, that would have cost the county thousands of dollars to accomplish.

Where can there be improvement in the county government?

The COVID-19 is going to change how we do county business from now on. I’m impressed with Zoom meeting participation we have been using. It may be a big part of our future.

What is your opinion of the fiscal responsibility of county government?

We are collecting and spending somebody’s money. We have to spend it wisely and in the best interests of those from whom we collect. For me, that is the heaviest burden of this position.

In what departments do you believe better fiscal responsibility is needed and why?

I believe all departments are operating as efficiently as possible. The commissioners have to give them the tools to do their work, plus pay a competitive wage. Though, we can’t compete with Boise, Ada County and Nampa because of their tax base. As we start the next fiscal year’s budget, we are sure to find cuts.

What is your opinion of the in-progress county land use plan amendments?

I believe it is going great. The Planning and Zoning commission sent out surveys of what people want, has held meetings, revisited issues in certain areas to make them work, and made presentations to the BOCC for approval. I’m impressed with the huge public participation from the local areas.

What should the county do to ensure access to public lands for both recreationists and ranchers?

Prior commissioners have asserted claims to RS2477 roads and trails. This Board is taking it to the next step by validating those roads that we have evidence of use from 1948 to 1976. We are overwhelmed with recreation. Right now, we are working with major recreational organizations, Farm Bureau, Idaho Parks and Recreation and BLM to educate the public about using these lands responsibly. We don’t have issues with the organized groups, as they educate and police themselves. It is the independents that are causing the issues for law enforcement, EMS, and private property. I hope it works, as I see no reduction in numbers.

What can be done in the rancher’s fight against the BLM, and how can the county help?

The county has been coordinating with BLM since the early 1990s. I believe that all we have gained is hold the line, which is not satisfactory. Different administrations have come with differing agendas and they have a hard time understanding they have to be consistent with our county land use plan. Currently,

— See **District 1**, next page

Election 2020: Sheriff

Republican Primary

Perry Grant

- **Age** — 44
- **Occupation** — Owyhee County sheriff
- **Family** — 5 children: Alexandria 19, Slade 16, Cameron 8, Aiden 5, and Haddon 4
- **Years residing in Owyhee County** — Grew up in Homedale and has lived most of his adult life there
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — “I have been the sheriff of Owyhee County for over seven years and have served as a peace officer in the community for almost 20 years. I have volunteered and coached multiple youth and high school sports in Homedale and Marsing. I have volunteered and helped at many different civic events in the Homedale area over the last several years.”
- **Qualifications for political office that you seek** — “I meet all qualifications under I.C. 31-2201 and have the ability to run as an Owyhee County Resident. I have numerous certifications and years of experience as a peace officer and as the Sheriff in Owyhee County.”



Why are you running for office?

Grant — My goal was to help the citizens in our county by becoming sheriff and increasing services in areas that the citizens felt were needed. Working front-line and full-time in the jail and on patrol, I was able to gain this knowledge and access the needs and feasibility to perform the necessary changes. We have been able to start many programs, create space for the needed growth of the office, and automate and coordinate our services with outside agencies — because crime and criminals don’t care about borders. I believe I need at least one more term to see projects planned and underway out.

Widner — Equal, fair, ethical law enforcement. Follow the law. More than one choice

Compare your outlook about the position and duties to that of your opponent’s

Widner — Everyone needs to have the same protection and response to complaints. More patrol in outlying areas.

Grant — I have not yet had the opportunity to sit down to talk about the reasons he is running. Thus, I don’t have the ability to speak for my opponent. My outlook for the office is a progressive one. We have infused technology at the office, substations and in the field to enable employees to gather and utilize much-needed information about the people we are dealing with. We have mended our relationship with Canyon County SO as myself and then-incoming Sheriff Kieran Donahue pledged support to each other from Day 1. Our relationship with the Nampa Police Department has been critical as well. Homedale Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller and I continue to find ways to merge many of our systems to help keep costs down for all of us, and our agency’s working relationship continues to grow. With all of the support, we have also become more self-sufficient to investigate and respond to major crimes, and to see them through to completion and conviction.

R. M. “Rocky” Widner

- **Age** — 65
- **Occupation** — Semi-retired; part-time invasive species boat inspector
- **Family** — 4 children, 3 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild
- **Years residing in Owyhee County** — 14 years in Oreana (previously 10 years in Mountain Home)
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Career Air Force (1973-2001) ... 12 USAF decorations ... 17 years at Hunters Ed instructor (Director’s Award, 2009) ... Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Committee member ... American Blazer Horse Association board member
- **Qualifications for political office that you seek** — Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training certified (2011) ... 10 years law enforcement (OCSO sergeant, 2011-14) ... As sergeant, oversaw boat check stations personnel scheduling and training ... letters of recognition from past two Owyhee County sheriffs ... Developed OCSO’s police horse program ... Joined sheriff’s Posse, 2009 ... sheriff’s special deputy, 2011-19 ... Managed over 200 personnel at one time ... managed annual budget of over \$6 billion



What improvements are needed in the sheriff’s office, and how would you accomplish them?

Grant — I urge every employee to come forward when they have an idea, or witness something that works in another agency. ... I have discovered with the group of employees I have, there are many different skills to make use of. A sergeant decided to improve our firearms range. With cooperation and use of the county road district’s heavy equipment, donated lumber, a Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson water tender and a lot of man-hours, this range has been transformed into one of the better ranges for multiple weapons in the state. The same sergeant has created a tactical response team here. Two supervisors discovered the U.S. Attorney General’s office had office equipment and furniture available for free, and we have redesigned the inside of the sheriff’s office for better use of space. One detention deputy created and supervises a beneficial drone program. A previous 911 coordinator worked to update the technology in our emergency communications center, and the current 911 coordinator will see those projects through to completion.

Widner — Sally port for the jail: Safe and sheltered enclosure for import and export of suspects and prisoners.

What will be your law enforcement priorities?

Widner — Fair and equal and ethical. Update policies. Drugs. Trespass. Proper signs on roads and trails.

— See *Sheriff*, next page

Election 2020: County Commissioner

District 1 Republican Primary

— Continued from previous page

there is more communication and a little more openness, but still national regulations stifle actions on the ground. I hope that changes in the current administration’s proposed rules will be implemented.

What are your stances on the following issues facing the county?

Road maintenance

We can’t keep up with the huge increase in recreational traffic on our county back country roads. We have discussed hiring more employees, which has been impossible with current Treasure Valley growth. The same with contracting to take on some of the maintenance. Finally, we may have to use part of the PILT funds to fund what ever for the extra maintenance. The federal agencies are big users of these roads, but requests for assistance is met with their budget restraints.

Budget tightening and how the PILT fund should be utilized

Revenues will be significantly down. We have had to utilize portions or all of the PILT funds for current expense recently, when in the past good years it was placed in a building fund. If we were to lose a portion or all of PILT this year, the county would be seriously harmed by placing the burden on the local taxpayers. A lot of special services the county provides would be cut.

Law enforcement

I’m speaking as a rancher, the backcountry deputy has been one of the most effective programs the sheriff’s office has done. It has put the public on notice we are watching. Still, as big as our county is, people still push the limits. Some of our ordinances need updated for law enforcement to be more effective.

Other comment

I hope I have served the county well as I seek another term. I am humbled by the support the voters, the county employees, and elected officials have given me for the past 13 years. They are the greatest!

Election 2020: Sheriff

Republican Primary

— Continued from previous page

What will be your law enforcement priorities?

Grant — Advancing technology and continuing employee training to improve their knowledge and abilities. ... Improve resources available to keep citizens and first-responders safe, and to protect citizens’ rights. ... Continue to keep costs down by utilizing employees’ skills to complete as much work in-house as possible. This type of work has historically been hired out to general contractors and mechanics, but doing it ourselves is helping grow more knowledgeable and confident employees, and gives them a sense of ownership in a job well done. They see the training benefits as being comparable to a larger agency. Thus, we are keeping quality, loyal employees longer, even with a much lower pay scale than bordering agencies.

What will be your business priorities for the sheriff’s office and jail?

Widner — Listen to the people and the county staff, work hand-in-hand with prosecutor and commissioners.

Grant — As sheriff, I am in control of the jail, patrol, civil service, waterways, snowmobile, and 911 budgets, all of which depend on funding from taxpayers and outside revenue sources. We have done well with grants and educating our residents and outside residents how they can register their off-highway vehicles so that some of the money comes back to the county. I am always looking to add contracts for service in each division in order to bring more revenue to the county, which additional enforcement and support services for each. I’ll also utilize our employees to help come up with new ideas for funding.

What are the most crucial issues facing the sheriff’s office and jail?

Grant — We are preparing to change our records management system to one used by many other agencies in our state, including several larger jurisdictions. It will allow us to quickly gather and utilize data from other agencies for information about the people we encounter. This time-consuming project was started by then-911 coordinator Christine Ballard and continues under current 911 coordinator Sarah Kipper. It is slated for implementation late-winter/early spring of 2021. Projects to update the jail’s archaic and outdated systems will start soon. The crucial issues always seem to come back to finding ways to keep the public safer, our employees safer, and to be able to better safeguard those that we are tasked to hold in our jail.

Widner — Jail needs sally port. Another deputy on east side of county. Better coverage in Marsing; work with mayor and city council

What is the most urgent law enforcement issue that needs to be addressed in the county?

Widner — Drugs. Address continued use of public lands and waters. Trespassing.

Grant — The influx of individuals we see recreating in our county and finding the balance of enforcement needs and support for our citizens directly impacted by them. While we have many public trails, mountains, and boatable acres of water, the epidemic reminds us that Owyhee County does not have the infrastructure to deal with numbers this large for an extended period of time. With our large amount of public lands, we have a relatively small tax base. It is an ever-changing environment when continually moving resources around to do the best we can to meet the needs of the office.

What are your plans to address those challenges?

Grant — From the first year in office, I have been recruiting citizens who want to volunteer, become part-time peace officers, or finding newly retired peace officers from neighboring jurisdictions who still want to give back. For years, our Posse was the only group we could rely on, but many weren’t certified to carry out law enforcement duties. Many are now certified, and our part-time peace officer program is the envy of every smaller sheriff’s office, growing from a handful to over 30 at one point. We were much more prepared for this reason, and because of our continued training, than we had been in years past for large gatherings. I will continue to grow this program and give nearly any citizen who has the right and ability to do so a chance.

Widner — Listen to the people, surveillance, get the word out. Here to enforce the law fair, equal and ethical.

How would you improve efficiency for the sheriff’s office and jail?

Widner — Sally port. Ensure updates for equipment, cells, beds, overall safety for inmates and staff.

Grant — Efficiency will continue to improve as technology is updated to meet current standards. Our updated records management system will allow patrol deputies to complete reports from nearly anywhere in the county (they won’t have to drive to the office to do paperwork). This will improve the turnaround time for reports, while allowing deputies to remain closer to where they are needed. Ongoing training will continue to improve skills and knowledge, which also helps improve morale.

Where could budget cuts be made?

Grant — This is difficult to answer. If we cut the supplies budget in the jail, we cannot house as many inmates for Canyon County. The revenue they give us helps us keep two deputies on at one time and keeps our jail certified and insured at a high level. If we cut from the jail, there will be a quick and noticeable loss of service in the number of employees safeguarding the incarcerated, and able to quickly assist one another in the event of an incident. This creates safety issues, and the liability in lawsuits increases while insurance decreases, leaving the burden of a hefty lawsuit on county citizens. If training is cut, we lose employees and see a revolving door again, along with a safety concern and issues of keeping certifications. I don’t see how cuts can be made, but if needed, we would do so in repairs, maintenance, and equipment line items first.

The sheriff’s budget remains below the percentage of the elapsed fiscal year. Often, money is returned from each budget. There are ways to continue more in-house training and send deputies to less outside and sometimes costly training. This is a temporary solution because deputies often need to go to keep certifications. We have seen an unexpected benefit from recent travel restrictions, as many courses have become available online. We will continue to utilize these online learning opportunities, many of which are free, as much as we can.

Widner — Listen to the staff, ideas may be there to improve efficiency. Are there contracts and memoranda of understanding (MOUs) that need updates?

What’s more important in a deputy or supervisor: Experience or knowledge of community?

Widner — Both. Experience can keep situations calm. Know your area and county for quicker and proper response.

Grant — Experience doesn’t always indicate a person’s performance level. Most people I have brought in from the outside (it is difficult as well to get local residents to apply here) have experience in dealing with the public and have a solid mindset to take care of citizens’ needs. I always prefer someone having knowledge of our people and our lands, but that doesn’t always happen. You look for fresh leadership potential and train them from deputy to potential sheriff. I would give preference to motivated individuals who want to learn, be here long-term, have knowledge of or a desire to get to know our people and their needs, and who want to rise in this office.

Are law enforcement contracts necessary for Marsing and Grand View?

Grant — Contracts for incorporated cities become necessary when they prefer this office takes control of enforcement on city ordinances, and the city leaders’ voice a desire for more law enforcement patrol. Our patrol is budgeted to handle all basic patrol functions throughout the county, with the exception of Homedale. We have a current contract with the City of Marsing, which pays for ordinance enforcement and helps pay for a school resource deputy. I stated at a council meeting prior to the change of mayor that their crime statistics call for an increase in patrol. This is for them to determine. When Grand View completes changes in its city ordinances, I will revisit whether they request a contract for our enforcement assistance.

Widner — Definitely for Marsing. Grand View needs review. The Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office needs to enforce ordinances in both cities.

What must be done to stay ahead of the curve on crime created by growth and outside elements?

Widner — More vigilance by citizens: See and report problems. Better communication with groups, and proper signs.

Grant — Our current proactive and progressive policing techniques need to continue through technological advances, which allow us to gather information on individuals we come into contact with. With personnel changes, multiple attempts to increase wages, and our all-hands-on-deck approach to using employees for

— See *Sheriff*, next page

Election 2020: District 23

Senate Republican Primary

Brenda Richards

- **Age** — 57
- **Occupation** — Rancher and consultant
- **Family** — Husband Tony (36 years), sons Daniel (Bailey with grandchildren Luke and Amaya); Tom (Itxaso); and John (Ashley Geist)
- **Years residing in District 23** — 21 years Twin Falls, 23 years Reynolds Creek
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — 12 years as Owyhee County treasurer (2005-17), Owyhee County Republican Central Committee (vice-chair and precinct committee rep.), district officer for Republican Committee (2007-08)
- **Qualifications for political office** — Idaho raised with a deep commitment to Idaho. ... 12 years, Owyhee County treasurer. ... Strong leadership experience with the Idaho Association of Counties, the Idaho Cattle Association, and as a past president of the national Public Lands Council. ... Over 25 years experience working on public land issues, land use policy, and water.



Why are you running for office?

Richards — To represent the people and issues in District 23. My experience, leadership, knowledge and network will help me make a difference, not just a statement.

Zito — I would like to continue to be the voice of the people, especially for those times the backroom deals ignore them.

Compare your political philosophy to that of your opponent

Richards — A lifelong Republican and a strong conservative with willingness to take a stand, and the ability to listen, weigh all sides and pick the battles.

Zito — I am the voice of the people, not an establishment-chosen candidate. I have a lifetime rating of 96 percent with the American Conservative Union.

What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

Richards — Addressing the issues with civility and respect even when someone may have an opposing opinion or vote. Many already practice this, but all should.

Zito — One request of the citizens is to have more access to testify in committee hearings. We can, and should, offer the ability for remote testimony.

What will be your legislative priorities?

Zito — Lowering the tax burden. Stopping red flag laws. Joyce/Lowry stockwater reimbursement, which the governors and establishment legislators have refused to release.

Richards — Making sure the tools and support are there for businesses, agriculture, and schools to regain stability after the coronavirus pandemic.

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

Richards — Helping to bring in and develop small business; road and bridge maintenance; school funding; property taxes.

Zito — Tax burden, bureaucratic overreach and red flag concerns are issues discussed often at Cookies with Christy throughout the district.

How will you address those challenges?

Zito — I will continue to sponsor, co-sponsor and vote for legislation to address the challenges noted above.

Richards — To be looking for and open to ways and opportunities that present themselves to help address these challenges.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

Richards — Making a schedule to visit and be available in the different areas of our District; regular email updates and posts especially during the session; phone.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

Zito — I hold public meetings often throughout the district and have found most concerns to be consistent, which guides what I focus on.

Richards — By listening and researching the issues and seeking out people in the district who know and can speak to specific interests or issues.

Where do you stand on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

Richards — Idaho should have a far greater say in the management of public lands within the state.

Zito — Those closest to the land are in the best position to understand the land and manage it.

— See *Senate*, next page

Christy Zito

- **Age** — 59
- **Occupation** — State legislator
- **Family** — Three sons (Jared, Michael, David), two daughters (Megan and Elizabeth), and grandchildren
- **Years residing in District 23** — 17 years in Elmore County, Hammett
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Two terms, Dist. 23A representative; Elmore County Republican Party Precinct Committeewoman; Elmore County State Committeewoman; Resolutions Committee 2015, 2016; Elmore County Friends of NRA County Chairman 2011-12 (first chairman); represented Elmore County NRA at the state NRA funding convention in Weiser; First all-woman leadership charter in Idaho, and second-ever in the nation; Glenss Ferry Board of Education vice-chair; “High Schools that Work” national conference, Nashville, Tenn.; represented National Farmers Union at the rural electrification hearings in Washington DC.; Cub master; PTA president; attended Utah State University, and Boise State University studying Psychology and Biology; Bear River High School graduate
- **Qualifications for political office** — For the past four years, I have shown the people of District 23 as their representative that I am their voice in the Legislature. Sponsored and worked tirelessly on legislation to support gun owners, the life of the unborn, remove sales tax on food, lower taxes and spending, lessen burden on business owners. I have owned several businesses and understand the challenges small business owners face. I have lived and worked in farming and ranching all my life. I will continue to work to lessen the bureaucratic burden in agriculture so that our farm and ranch families can do what they do best without government interference. I love our state, our country and the people who live here.



Election 2020: Sheriff

Republican Primary

— Continued from previous page

more than what their job title states has slowed turnover and increased motivation and pride. We are gleaning results from our employees’ potential. I haven’t seen anything like this before. Proper management techniques and trusting employees to learn and better themselves by contributing ideas and undertaking projects has transformed this office into something our employees and the community can be proud of.

Other comments regarding candidate’s platform

Widner — Our volunteers are extremely important and save many tax dollars.

Grant — I’m not perfect by any means. I make mistakes, but try to learn by them to better myself, my family and this office. We have many projects lined out that I would appreciate the opportunity to see to completion. In my seven-plus years as sheriff, the critical incidents in this county have taken off. Deputies and officers have had to defend themselves and others with lethal force, large drug operations have been taken down along with interdiction hurting the drug dealers (resulting in the taking of vehicles, money and weapons), and some very sick and twisted crimes against people needing intensive investigation. Facets of this office have undergone many remodels, making it nearly unrecognizable to people who haven’t been here in a while. I can pledge to continue to grow the office, and recognize my shortcomings and improve upon them as well. It is an honor to serve my community in this fashion, and I do not take your confidence lightly. Many supporters have reached out and reminded me of why I do this.

Election 2020: District 23

Senate Democratic Primary

Laura Bellegante

- **Age** — Not given
- **Occupation** — Retired social worker and educator
- **Family** — Widowed 1989, married Samuel Meyer. 5 children, 3 grandchildren
- **Years residing in District 23** — 30 years, Glenss Ferry and Mountain Home. Idaho native
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Social worker and supervisor, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, 20 years; Colorado Northwestern Community College off-campus coordinator, 5 years; public school substitute teacher, 4 states; library trustee and president, Hayden, Colo., four years (library building project); Three Rivers Regional Library board, Colorado; Economic Development Committee, Hayden Colo.; Glenss Ferry School Board 1987-90 (school expansion project); Adult GED instructor, Boise State, Elmore and Owyhee counties; 4-H leader, Leaders Council Chair, Elmore County; volunteer services coordinator, State Hospital North; sometime news writer; educated at University of Idaho, BS Sociology, M.Ed Adult Education; graduate work Colorado State University



Why are you running for office?

Voters deserve to have a choice in elections. I believe I offer a stable, intelligent, and moderate approach to helping Idaho grow and maintain our quality of life.

Compare your political philosophy to that of the GOP primary contestants

The Legislature’s job is to manage public needs provided through the state, such as education, health and safety, roads, commerce, etc., rather than be distracted by highly charged divisive issues.

What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

Maintain open and collaborative communication and solution-focused planning with legislators and constituents. We must share, compromise and work for best outcomes.

What will be your legislative priorities?

Support for Education K-lifetime, agricultural stability and growth, viable and growing employment, technical updating across rural areas, and improvements in Corrections and Mental Health programs.

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

School funding, business health and growth in rural areas, highway maintenance, agricultural support, and communication, including internet improvements and stability of the U.S. Postal Service.

What are your plans to address those challenges?

Explore school funding formulas, encourage private/public partnerships, define development costs and support rural development initiatives.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

Establish direct contacts in each county, use state government links and social media, telephone and mail to accept input and respond to District 23.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

Ask residents for their most important issues, work with local leaders to prioritize and collaborate on common interests.

Where do you stand on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

Bellegante — Determine Idaho’s ability to support the cost of management then perhaps try a carefully planned pilot program to meet a recognized need.

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

Bellegante — Need to get more information on this issue

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

Bellegante — First, eliminate the grocery sales tax. Then identify the most important priorities and allocate accountable spending for what citizens need most, across the statewide budget.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

Bellegante — Explore the statewide funding formula to equalize funding; perhaps expand internet options in rural areas. Use the sales tax established to fund education as it was intended.

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

Bellegante — Review highway planning to be sure rural areas are getting a fair share. Require quality and efficiency standards in contracts. Assure maintenance as well as growth.

Comments regarding your platform

I trust in voters to know what we need and support moderate, forward-looking candidates. We learn from our history; we innovate for our future. Idahoans are decent, honest, and kind to our neighbors. We value working for what we get and taking care of our families and communities. We want to bring work and prosperity back into the communities we love. With both traditional knowledge and new technology, we can do this.

Senate primaries

— Continued from previous page

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

Zito — In 2017 ranchers, Fred Grant and I drafted legislation to direct the payment from the Constitutional Defense Fund. It did not receive a committee hearing.
Richards — As a precedent-setting legal victory benefiting all ranchers and water users in Idaho and the West, they should be compensated for bearing the burden.

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

Richards — Finding ways to tighten up and save within the government spending; looking at school funding formulas; analyzing property taxes.
Zito — Eliminate grocery tax, address spending on local levels to adjust property taxes.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

Zito — Update the old funding formula. K-12 should be our focus as a strong foundation is needed for education success.
Richards — Assessing and reforming the school funding formula.

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

Richards — Assuring that when general funds are used for roads those dollars are split between the state and the highway districts according to the distribution formula.
Zito — Use general fund revenue for transportation projects, redirecting money from special interest programs and projects; reduce unnecessary bureaucratic growth.

Comments regarding platform

Zito — During the last four years I have met many people, and one thing we all have in common is a desire to be in control of our own lives. Recent events have shown those in elected positions often ignore that fundamental right. My one goal is to never forget I am a servant, not a director. I am to be your voice, to serve you, to be directed by those who laws, and rules affect the most. I will continue to be a true voice for the people of the district.

Election 2020: District 23

House of Representatives, Seat A Republican Primary

Matthew Bundy

- **Age** — Not given
- **Occupation** — High school teacher
- **Family** — Wife, Colette. Daughter, Nicole (Matt). Grandchildren, Addison and Logan. Son, Nathan (Allie). Grandchild, Ivy. Son, Zane (Madison)
- **Years residing in District 23** — 21 years
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Current Mountain Home City Council president (four years on council); local economic development and infrastructure improvement committees (eight years); stationed at Mountain Home AFB as B-1 bomber aviator.
- **Qualifications for political office** — Four years on city council; eight years on steering committees



Why are you running for office?

- Bundy** — Through experience, I have learned how local government works and how to work with county and state agencies. These experiences have given me a solid understanding of how to determine what the proper level of government is and how to best implement limited government practices.
- Owens** — I am running to be a strong conservative voice for our district. My top three priorities are business, education, and the 2nd Amendment.

Compare your political philosophy to that of your opponent

- Owens** — I don’t know my opponent well enough to make a fair assessment.
- Bundy** — I will bring experience, energy, a fresh look at state government and an ability to get things done with me to the state Legislature.

Andrea Owens

- **Age** — 37
- **Occupation** — Business owner, own and manage multiple rentals and Air BnBs
- **Family** — Husband, Mark. Children, Kevin, Hailee, Emma, Lydia, and Macy
- **Years residing in District 23** — 37 (most in Grand View, a couple in Hammett and King Hill)
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Previously precinct committeeman, previously served on GOP convention resolutions committee, previous Grand View P&Z commissioner, current Owyhee County youth committee.



What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

- Bundy** — Outside agencies are gaining too much control over legislator choices. We do need to speak with experts and get advice, but we should primarily work with our fellow legislators in determining Idaho policy.
- Owens** — Better coordination between the House and Senate. This would come down to building coalitions to move important bills forward.

What will be your legislative priorities?

- Owens** — I hope to accomplish local control in the education system, keeping Idaho a business-friendly state, looking for ways to reduce the tax burden on the average citizen.
- Bundy** — Education: Provide access to higher education and increase vocational training and career ready certifications. Economy: Reduce unneeded regulations. Property tax: Fair rates that allow people to retain ownership of their homes and property.

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

- Bundy** — Property Taxes. Federal control (lands, water rights, schools). Support for Mountain Home Air Force Base and our veterans overall.
- Owens** — As a growing agricultural community, maintaining our water rights will always be a top issue.

How will you address those challenges?

- Owens** — I would work closely with the Idaho Department of Water and the Idaho Water Resource Board, to ensure everyone’s needs are met in our growing communities.
- Bundy** — The homeowners’ exemption needs to be raised to compensate for increasing home values. We have to work as a state in conjunction with county and local officials to maintain control of our lands, schools and tax structure. Mountain Home AFB is a major economic and civic component of our district. They maintain combat-ready fighters and airmen, and our mission is to support them.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

- Bundy** — As a legislator/educator, I will provide a weekly YouTube lesson about the Legislature to all public schools in the district. I will also make this available to citizens. I plan on a podcast from the Legislature. I would love to do guest articles for the newspapers also. I will honor all possible public speaking requests and visit all City Council and county commissioner meetings and community events as often as possible.
- Owens** — Connecting with my constituents has been a challenge in this time of COVID-19, besides being a large district. I have had to turn to social media and phone calls. I don’t see connecting with my constituents being a problem in the future.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

- Owens** — As with anything, you stand firm on your core principles, and be flexible enough to compromise between those diverse interests on everything else. At the end of the day, every interest group benefits from limited, fiscally responsible government.
- Bundy** — Public outreach. Please refer to how I will connect to District 23. These efforts will allow me to be in tune with the people.

Where do you stand on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

- Bundy** — Idaho needs greater input. Federal authorities need to allow greater public land input from agricultural/ranching needs and also allow continued access for hunting, fishing and recreation.
- Owens** — I feel that the people best positioned to manage and make decisions about the use and management of Idaho lands are Idahoans. The farther you get from the state, the less you know what’s happening on the ground.

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

- Owens** — The Constitutional Defense fund was set up to cover instances like this. The federal government has unlimited funds, and can bully small people into compliance with constitutionally questionable orders. They stood up for all of Idaho and didn’t back down.
- Bundy** — The CDF should pay for the legal fees for hard-working families like the Lowrys and Nettletons. The CDF was set up primarily to defend Idaho against federal government overreach in states’ rights lawsuits.

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

- Bundy** — Property tax. We need additional homeowners’ exemptions for long-term homeowners.
- Owens** — I would support a freeze on automatic increases of taxes each year. Cities can be more efficient without putting the burden on the taxpayer.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

- Owens** — The levies fund for school needs to be addressed. Some of that can be by looking at the budget and directing more toward teaching rather than compliance with federal mandates.
- Bundy** — The state Legislature needs to continue to work to get education funding right. More money is not necessarily the answer, but we do need to get control of unfunded mandates that affect rural high schools at a higher rate than other school districts. There are expenses incurred at rural schools that are not felt at more urban districts, and these costs deplete the general fund of a district.

Election 2020: District 23

House of Representatives, Seat A Democratic Primary

Benjamin Lee

- **Age** — 34
- **Occupation** — Disabled veteran
- **Family** — A mother, father, and two siblings
- **Years residing in District 23** — 14 years, at Mountain Home AFB and in Mountain Home
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Bernie Sanders state delegate, 2016; Democrat Party volunteer
- **Qualifications for political office** — Combat deployed former staff sergeant, experience working with and in small teams and large organizations



Why are you running for office?

I want to get back to serving my community and I want to tackle some of the local issues I’ve seen reported on.

Compare your political philosophy to that of your opponent

I have no opponent in my current primary election. The Republican Party is still choosing their candidate.

What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

The current trend of state and federal deregulation needs to be addressed. I would like to see a team put together to review and consolidate regulations.

What will be your legislative priorities?

My current three big priorities are cost-of-living issues, childhood health and wellness, and education.

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

The pandemic has deeply impacted our society. The long-term impact on the Elmore economy and infrastructure needs to be carefully managed & fiscal practices reviewed.

How will you address those challenges?

I want to organize a team that can quantify the long-term economic impact to Elmore from the pandemic, with the objective to head off problems.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

I would like to attempt to rotate through different areas and having volunteer points of contact from around the county for direct access to local issues.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

You can’t know what people need without asking. I intend on making repeated scheduled events & stops while elected to stay in touch.

What is your stance on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

In light of the pandemic, we need to revisit costs of managing all of the public lands in Idaho unsupported.

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

The Nettleton and Lowry case was fought hard and was a win for the entire state of Idaho. Some state support for the citizens should happen.

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

Grocery taxes need to be eliminated, and reconsideration of the corporate tax rate for companies that are permanently established like fast food and Wal-Mart.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

The state already has a mandate to fund public education and must be honored, instead of redirecting it. A review of financial efficiency should be conducted.

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

Ada County shouldn’t be the focus of the state to the detriment of the rest. Quality control of the hired contractors must be enforced.

Comments regarding platform

I feel we need more ground-level people who are willing to not only accept responsibility, but personal accountability of the office.

House of Representatives, Seat A Republican Primary

— Continued from previous page

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

Bundy — Continued cooperation with the Idaho Transportation Department and combine more county and state projects. Owyhee County does a great job of this, but we can always look for more combined projects and grants.

Owens — During the upcoming session, with a possible downturn it would be hard to talk about an increase on fuel taxes or increasing registration fees. I would focus on preventative maintenance to keep the roads in good order and work to secure any grants available.

Comments regarding platform

Bundy — I hold to the Republican ideal that government is of the people, by the people and for the people. I feel my role is to protect our liberties and freedoms and to legislate in a way that enhances our ability to choose our own endeavors and be successful.



Election 2020: District 23

House of Representatives, Seat B Republican Primary

Megan Blanksma

- **Age** — Not given
- **Occupation** — Agribusiness owner/operator
- **Family** — Husband, Jeff, Children Adrie & Tucker
- **Years residing in District 23** — 24, Hammett
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Past 4-H helper, E-911 board, Little League coach, St. Luke’s Elmore Community Board, Elmore County GOP chair, current vice-chair of Central District Board of Health, current House Republican Caucus Chair
- **Qualifications for the political office sought** — “I’m community-minded with the motivation to solve problems.”



Why are you running for office?

I believe I was an active and effective voice for our district over the past few years and feel that I still have more to contribute. I want to make sure our communities can be competitive in the larger economy while still protecting our rural way of life.

Compare your political philosophy to that of your opponent

I’ve been involved with the Idaho GOP since I was a teenager in Canyon County. The party and its platform continue to shape my views.

What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

Transparency and accountability are always key. I like to promote the legislative website and encourage people to follow the actual process and voting records, so they aren’t subject to external “spin” that comes from outside interest groups.

What will be your legislative priorities?

My priorities will continue to be the same, protecting water rights, supporting rural schools, upholding constitutional principles, promoting pro-life and family values, and supporting rural communities.

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

Our lack of basic connectivity (wireless, broadband, etc.) in large areas of the district continues to create a competitive disadvantage with the larger state economy and other counties. I think the need for expanded connectivity in rural areas has been further highlighted by the challenges that came with COVID-19 response.

How will you address those challenges?

I continue to work on ways to encourage private sector investment, particularly by limiting challenges that can be created by state regulation.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

I am constantly trying to increase community engagement through local summer town halls, updates during the legislative session, social media posts and finding new ways to connect.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

I try to interact with many different types of local interests so I can better understand problems or concerns when they arise.

Where do you stand on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

I support state management of public lands.

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

I proudly wrote and carried legislation in 2018 demanding just such an action in House Proclamation 1. It passed both houses with substantial majorities. Unfortunately, the Constitutional Defense Fund has still not acted on the directive of the proclamation, but I continue to promote it as a solution.

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

I think we need to review county budgeting processes. We also need to explore changes to the way the government calculates PILT payments to counties with large swaths of federal lands in an effort to make it more equitable to decrease the tax burden of Idahoans.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

I’m still hopeful that changes can be made to the state school funding formula that will address the problem. We need to be more deliberate with state funds and promote distribution based on need that would help our rural communities.

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

I currently sit as a member of the House Transportation & Defense Committee and am keenly aware of some of the issues of directing funds to rural districts. This year, we worked to find a long-term funding solution by creating a type of roads endowment fund. Unfortunately, the plan died in the Senate. If re-elected, I would continue to promote this as a solution.

House of Representatives, Seat B Democratic Primary

Michael Oliver

- **Age** — 46
- **Occupation** — Disabled veteran
- **Family** — Not given
- **Years residing in District 23** — Mountain Home since 2008
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — 16 years active-duty Air Force

Why are you running for office?

In these troubling times, voters deserve a new voice that will listen and fight for them. I believe I can give voters better representation of their needs. Together, we will help Idaho to grow while giving everyone a chance to better their lives.

Compare your political philosophy to that of your opponent

Legislature’s job is to manage public needs provided through the state, such as education, health and safety, roads, commerce, etc., rather than be distracted by highly charged divisive issues.

What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

Maintain open and collaborative communication and solution-focused planning with legislators and constituents. We must share, compromise, and work for the best outcomes.

What will be your legislative priorities?

Support for education from Pre K-lifetime, agricultural stability, and growth to include fair pricing. Create viable growth with stable employment that gives families a path to the American dream. Technical updating across rural areas, and needed reforms Corrections and Mental Health programs.

Election 2020: District 23

House of Representatives, Seat B Constitutional Primary

Tony Ullrich

- **Age** — 54
- **Occupation** — Semi-retired carpenter/mechanic
- **Family** — Widowed, no children
- **Years residing in District 23** — Nearly 15 years in Elmore County (Hammett, Glenns Ferry)
- **Previous political or civic involvement** — Involved since 1995 in the setup and organization of the Taxpayer Party in Oregon until its change to the Constitution Party ... currently district chair for Constitution Party Idaho, working on establishing County Central Committees in Legislative District 23. ... I prefer to volunteer my time and efforts to help those locally as I can. I am always willing to help a neighbor or community member, it feels more productive to do it outside of many groups
- **Qualifications for the political office sought** — I am not sure there is really a steadfast qualification to seek a legislative seat. Knowledge and understanding of how things affect the district and state as a whole is important. The ability to look beyond the current effects of any action, and a love of state and its true conservative values top my list.



Why are you running for office?

Idaho is quickly moving in a more politically progressive direction. This needs to stop or we will become another Oregon or Washington.

Compare your political philosophy to that of your opponent

Me: Fiscally conservative, small, defined government, power in the people, serve not rule. My opponents: One I know nothing about. The other’s record speaks for itself.

What Legislature improvements are needed? How would you accomplish them?

Legislators need to be reminded that they serve the will of the people, not lobby or big businesses. This will be a daily goal.

What will be your legislative priorities?

A complete reworking of the administrative code. Our rules and regulations are out of control. The process for approval of these rules is not acceptable.

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

Taxation and over-regulation, rural and urban growth, drugs and crime as well as management of state and federal lands.

How will you address those challenges?

Working with local/federal government to address these issues is key. Finding solutions that work for the district and state is a huge challenge.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

I plan email updates and a website to keep constituents informed. I am always willing to take calls or meet with people to discuss concerns.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

Weighing the pros and cons is really the only way, realizing you can’t make everyone happy all the time while doing your best.

— See *Seat B*, back page

House of Representatives, Seat B Democratic Primary

What are the most crucial issues facing District 23

— Continued from previous page

School funding and educational success, small business health and growth in rural areas, highway maintenance, agricultural support, and communication, including internet improvements and stability of the U.S. Postal Service to include reopening rural post offices.

How will you address those challenges?

Explore school funding formulas, expansion of successful education initiatives, encourage private/public partnerships, define development costs, and support rural development initiatives.

How will you connect with constituents in a large district?

Establish direct contacts in each county, use state government links and social media, telephone, and mail to accept input and respond to District 23. Hold online and in-person town halls to give voters the ability to be heard directly.

How will you balance the diverse interests in the district?

Ask residents for their most important issues, work with local leaders to prioritize and collaborate on common interests.

Where do you stand on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

We must manage the ability for the continued use of public lands for recreation and agricultural use. Idaho has a rich hunting tradition that I would not want to see lost. Public lands must remain public.

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

While I’m glad to see our ranchers winning the fight to keep their water rights, I do not think it would be appropriate to place the burden of paying that judgment on Idaho. Pressure needs to be placed where it belongs on the federal government to live up to its obligations.

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

First, eliminate the grocery sales tax. Then identify the most important priorities and allocate accountable spending for what citizens need most, across the statewide budget. Increase taxes on the wealthiest people and corporations in Idaho.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

Oliver — Explore the statewide funding formula to equalize funding; perhaps expand internet options in rural areas. Establish a supplemental tax on citizens that make over \$250,000 a year to fund education expansion.

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

Review highway planning to be sure rural areas are getting a fair share. Require quality and efficiency standards in contracts that provide for the extra stress that farm equipment places on roadways. Provide for maintenance as well as growth.

Comments regarding platform

Idahoans know that their voices are not being heard in the legislature and they desire leadership that will fight for their needs in the capitol, someone who understands that all they want is a fair shot and a fair working wage. I will fight to make sure that all Idahoans get that chance.

Election 2020:

District 23

House of Representatives,

Seat B

Constitutional Primary

— Continued from Page 10B

Where do you stand on the issue of Idaho managing all public lands in the state?

Sudden take over, by the state, of federal lands, would be a huge burden. It needs to be done slowly and thoroughly thought through.

What is your stance on using the Constitutional Defense Fund to help pay legal fees for Paul Nettleton and Tim Lowry?

I believe it is the states’ duty to defend its citizens’ rights against the federal government. We have a paid attorney general that should be stepping up.

What can be done to lessen the tax burden on District 23 citizens?

Fiscally responsible government, at all levels, would be the best answer. The practical answer is legislation that forces it at all levels.

What can be done to stop the cycle of supplemental levies to fund schools?

Fiscal responsibility. Prioritizing. Getting promised Lottery funds into the hands of districts that really need it instead of where it currently sits.

What steps would you take to get more funding for rural highway districts?

The state paying its share is important. Bringing more funds to districts would likely require more taxes. In lieu of that, prioritizing projects/spending is the solution.

Comments regarding platform

The Constitution Party Idaho Platform is a critical part of my personal platform. Smallest possible government, Political power inherent in the people, Idaho investing in Idaho, minimal tax burden on the people. Working for the people is an honor that is often sold by legislators to lobby and Big Business. We need to start electing those who will fight for the people and their best interests.



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Owyhee County Church Directory		
Calvary Fellowship Homedale Pastor Rich Wright 711 W. Idaho Ave. Church time is 10:00 am on Sunday & Wednesday at 7:00 pm River Youth Wednesday 7:00pm (208) 880-4033	Knight Community Church Grand View Pastor Ivan Shetter 630 Idaho Street (208) 834-2639 Sunday School 9:30am Worship Service 10:45am	Our Lady of Tears Church Silver City Mass Summer Schedule 1pm June 28, July 26, Aug. 30 <i>All are welcome</i> For more information, call St. Paul's Church, Nampa (208) 466-7031 www.nampacatholic.church
Iglesia Misionera Biblica Homedale Pastor Fernando Gomez 132 W Owyhee • (208) 337-5975 Servicios: Vier - 7pm - Oracion Mier - 7pm Predicacion Dom - 10am Esc. Dom y 6:30pm "Una Iglesia Diferente."	Golden Gate Baptist Church Wilder Pastor Robert Potter, Jr., CLP Corner of Second and "B" Streets Church time is 11:00 am on Sunday Call (208) 880-4308 for information	Crossroads Assembly of God Wilder Pastor Michael McCormick Hwy 19 & 95, (208) 890-3046 Sunday School 9:30am Sunday Morning Worship 10:30am Sunday Evening Worship 6pm Wed. Bible Study 7pm
Assembly of God Church Homedale 15 West Montana, (208) 412-2946 Senior Pastor: Ivar Moore Sunday Bible study, 9:15 a.m. Sunday and Kidz services, 10:45 a.m. Wednesday and Kidz services, 7 p.m. www.homedaleagchurch.com	Friends Community Church Wilder - Homedale 17434 Hwy 95, (208) 337-3464 Pastor: Scott Morin Sunday School 9:30 am Worship Services: 10:45 am Sundays www.homedalefriends.org	Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church Caldwell 1122 W. Linden St. (208) 459-3653 Mass: Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 9:30 am Spanish Mass: Saturday 7:00 pm Spanish Mass: Sunday Noon
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church Homedale (208) 337-4248 Sunday Services 10am Pastor Sean Rippey Adult and Children Sunday School 9-9:45am Visitors Always Welcome! Call Church for Prayer requests	Homedale Baptist Church 212 S. 1st W., (208) 960-4496 https://homedalebc.org Sunday Fellowship 11am-Noon Second Sunday soup/meal Noon Fourth Sunday Communion Celebration and shared meal Noon Pastor: Paul Chismar	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Homedale 708 West Idaho Ave (208) 337-4112 Bishop Mark Thatcher Bishop Chris Varuska Sunday 1st Ward 1pm Sunday 2nd Ward 9am
Chapel of Hope Hope House, Marsing Look for the Blue Church South Bruneau Hwy at the Hope House Welcoming Families, especially those with special needs children. Keith Croft, Pastor (208) 880-2767 Jake & Alisha Henriouille, Youth Pastors (208) 761-6747 Sunday Services at 10 am	Wilder Church of God Wilder 205 A St. E, (208) 649-7698 Pastor Ray Gerthung Sunday School 9:45am Sunday Service 11am Sunday Eve. 6:00pm Wed. Eve. 7:00pm	Mountain View Church of the Nazarene Wilder-Homedale 26515 Ustick Road (208) 337-3151 www.mvcnaz.org Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Adult & Youth Bible Class: Wednesday 7:00 pm Children's Caravan Program
MARSING APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY Asamblea Apostolica de Marsing 107 W. Main • Marsing, Idaho Pastor Jose Gutierrez (208) 461-9016 or (208) 880-6172 Sunday School 10:00 am Sunday Service 1 pm • Wednesday Service 7 pm Bilingual Services/Español	Iglesia Evangelica Wilder 317 3rd st., Pastor Ramiro Reyes 10 am Sunday School 11 am Service (208) 482-7484 Bilingual	St. David's Episcopal Church 1800 Arlington Ave. Caldwell, ID 83605 (208) 459-9261 stdavids@stdavidscaldwell.org www.stdavid.episcopalidaho.org
Christian Church Homedale 110 W. Montana Pastor Maurice Jones (208) 319-4650 Don Vanderbough (208) 867-5418 Sunday Morning Worship 11am Church school 9:45	Bible Missionary Church Homedale West Idaho, (208) 337-3425 Pastor Ron Franklin Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Sunday Evening 7pm Wednesday Evening 7:30	Assembly of God Church Marsing 139 Kerry, (208) 965-1650 Pastor Sergio Aristizabal Sunday School 10am Sunday Worship 11am Wednesday Service 7pm
Lizard Butte Baptist Church Marsing Pastor Daniel Swaim 116 4th Ave. W., (208) 859-2059 Sunday worship: Morning: 11am-Noon• Evening: 6-7pm Sunday School 9:45am-10:45am Wednesday evening 7pm-8pm	Nazarene Church Marsing Pastor Bill O'Connor (208) 649-5256 12 2nd Avenue West Worship Services - Sunday 11am and 6pm Sunday School - 9:45am Mid Week TLC Groups	Trinity Holiness Church Homedale 119 N. Main Pastor Samuel Page (208) 337-5021 Sunday School 10am Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday Evening 7pm Thursday Evening 7:30pm
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Marsing 215 3rd Ave. West, (208) 896-4151 Sunday 1st Ward, 1:00 p.m. Bishop Rowley Sunday 2nd Ward, 9:00 a.m. Bishop McIntyre	Calvary Holiness Church - Wilder Corner of 3rd St. & B Ave. Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. Sunday: 6:00 p.m. • Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. calvarypantry@gmail.com Food Pantry hours: 2nd Friday of month 5-7pm 4th Friday of month 12-2pm Calvary Holiness Food Pantry Wilder Idaho	United Methodist Church Wilder Exploring the Bible: Public Invited 2nd & 4th Tuesday: 4-5pm Corner of 4th St. & B Ave. Pastor Dave Raines (208) 880-8751 Sunday Service 9:30am
First Presbyterian Church Homedale 320 N. 6th W. Sunday Morning Worship 11am Sunday School 11am Rev. Heidi Smith-Takatori (208) 473-9331	Vision Community Church Marsing 221 West Main Marsing, Idaho (208) 779-7926 Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Adult, Kids & Youth Meetings Wed. 7:00 p.m.	Garnet Seventh-Day Adventist Church 16613 Garnet Rd., Wilder (208) 649-5280 Email: garnetSDA@icloud.com Sabbath School 9:30am Worship 10:45am Wednesday Bible Study 7:00-8 pm
Iglesia Bautista Palabra de Esperanza Homedale 711 W. Idaho, (208) 463-9569 Pastor Jose Diaz Servicios: Los Domingos 11:00 am	Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church - Oreana 2020 Mass Schedule - 10:00am on fourth Saturday of month thru November Final Mass of year is on Dec. 19 (third Saturday) All are welcome! For more information, call St. Paul's Church, Nampa (208) 466-7031	Amistad Cristiana de Wilder UMC Esquina de 4 y calle B Domingos Servicio: 12:00 pm El Ropero (Banco de ropa) Miercoles 12- 2pm Martes y Jueves: 6:30 pm Ingles Sabados: 12:00 pm Arte Infantil Todo en Espanol, Inf. (208) 989-7508
Church in the Dirt Cowboy Church Service The Tango, Homedale 406 U.S. Hwy. 95 Pastors Blaine and Molly Lilly Every Sunday, 9:30 a.m.	Praise & Worship	

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

May 10, 1995



Ambulance delivered

Homedale recently had its new ambulance delivered, and Fred Sarceda, John Kushlan, and Wendell Hyer (from left) all reached for the keys. Homedale purchased the brand-new ambulance from Pacific Emergency Vehicles, Inc., and representative Jim Lemieux (at right) delivered it Wednesday.

Homedale hosts firemen’s convention

If you’re planning on conducting a little insurance fraud, this weekend might not be the time to do it. 150 firefighters will be in town for the annual southern Idaho firefighters “fun weekend” and convention, said Homedale Fire Chief Ric Uria. Uria said the firefighters will be coming from all over southern Idaho for the event, from big fire departments and from volunteer fire departments, and will begin arriving Saturday. The firefighters will fill Riverside Park in Homedale, as well as Sunnysdale Motel for the weekend.

Rodeo season kicks off in Jordan Valley

The first rodeo of the year on the amateur circuit is also considered the best by many, and it takes place in Jordan Valley, Oregon this weekend. The Jordan Valley Rodeo is a major event in the small town just over the Oregon border from Owyhee County, and draws people from all over the West for two days of rodeo action and a unique Big Loop Contest. The rodeo will run both Saturday and Sunday, starting at 1:30pm with saddle bronc riding, bareback riding, team roping, calf roping, barrel racing, brahma bull riding, cow riding, jr. steer riding and the Big Loop event. The Big Loop event is unique to the Jordan Valley Rodeo, and was developed by early buckaroos in the area to really test roping skills. The cowboys have to spin a 20-foot loop, and one has to catch the hind first of a wild horse, while the other catches the front feet.

Homedale fares well at BPA nationals

Homedale High School’s Business Professionals of America (BPA) club enjoyed unprecedented success at this year’s BPA National Leadership Conference in Nashville, Tennessee May 4-7. Of the four Homedale students who went, two finished in the top 10 in their events — and that versus the best and brightest the nation had to offer. Janelle Bates placed somewhere between fourth and tenth in spreadsheet applications, as did Dana Marston in database applications. Homedale’s other two representatives, Jeremy Slawson and Seth Uhlenkott, didn’t place in their events, but are eager to try again next year.

50 years ago

May 14, 1970

Chamber forms boating group, presses pool drive
At the regular Chamber of Commerce meeting Tuesday Homer Anderson announced the swimming pool petitions are ready to circulate for signatures. These petitions will be circulated by Chamber members who will also have a sketch and specifications of the pool.

A boating association was activated by the Chamber with the following members elected:
Ray Tolsma, president; Clint Smith, vice president; Jim Duncan, secretary-treasurer; and Harold Tolmie.

Trojan trackmen post region meet win, records fall
Records fell “like leaves in a hailstorm” reported Pete Sawyer, Statesman sportswriter, after the Region II A-3 track meet at Nampa Saturday.

The athletes staged the worst assault on the record books since 1965, and it was Homedale, led by Paul Pearson’s double win in the field events, who managed to squeeze by Wendell by two frail points. With 36 points, Homedale reclaimed the crown Wendell took from the Trojans in 1969, Wendell winding up the day with 34 points. Pearson captured the shot put with a modest, for him, 48-4½ heave, but then he came back in the discus to set a new record, by two inches with a 159-2 spinning of the dish.

Chroniclings . . .

Someone with a sense of humor has stuck a sign up on the highway just west of the bridge. The sign proclaims “Poverty Flats” and points in the general direction of Homedale.

HIGH SCHOOL

The students selected Joni Uda to be the 1970-71 student body president in the annual election held April 21. Joni was president of his class when a sophomore and was a student council representative during his freshman and junior year. Other officers elected to serve next year’s term were: Craig Curtis, vice president; Drucy Meininger, secretary; Rhonda Lineberger, treasurer; Kevin Miyasako, Sgt.-at-arms; and Bobbi Mewhinney, historian. Next year’s varsity cheerleaders were also elected. They are Teresa Johnson, Louise Chadez, Lynne Kushlan and Amy Yost.

4-H NEWS MARSING COOKETTES

The Marsing Cookettes gave a party for their mothers on April 15 because we wanted them to see what we were doing in our 4-H cooking club. At our party we had cookies, sandwiches and relish dishes. The mothers sampled the goodies made by the Marsing Cookettes. The mothers were all delighted and so were the Marsing Cookettes. We are a first division 4-H cooking club. We love to cook and to do demonstrations. Our leaders are Mrs. Stan Shindele and Mrs. Roger Howard. This time we met at Mrs. Roger Howard’s home. The officers are: Becky Howard, president; Jennifer Shindele, vice president; Elizabeth Lootens, secretary; Annette Wette, treasurer; Diana Kawai, caller; Patricia Clagg, caller; Janna Jayo, historian. — Aileen Kawai, reporter

145 years ago

May 08, 1875

W. J. HILL Esq.
Editor of the Daily (Silver City, Idaho) AVALANCHE arrived in Merced on Monday night last. Mr. Hill can be said to be the “livest” newspaper man on the Pacific coast. He publishes a daily paper 210 miles away from any railroad and is making a complete success of it. He is here on business connected with his paper he says; but we are inclined to believe that he got tired of “batching” in Silver City, and came down to see his “better-half” who has been here about a week.

EDITOR AVALANCHE:
I find gathering items of interest to the public a very difficult business in a place as quiet as Idaho City is at the present time and particularly so when there is a tri-weekly paper running to give them to the public. Your statement that J. B. Fisher had came to Idaho City and engaged in business with J. Cave was not correct as such is not the case, such a thing has been talked of but the arrangement has not been consummated. D. B. Kimmel will in a few days open an office as a Justice of the Peace, as Idaho City finds it necessary to have two courts of justice in order to suit all parties as some are dissatisfied with the manner which Judge Moore deals out justice.

NOTHING—
Is ever sacrificed by a man doing his duty. The performance of one good action or the resisting of temptation where a spirit of self denial is practiced constitutes an act worthy of commendation. He that ruleth over his own spirit is greater than he that taketh a city. Study self entertaining habits, never be ashamed of your own company and try to be independent of the necessity of seeking diversion or company on the grounds of your inability to make yourself contented with the resources at your command.

THE LATEST NEWS.
Winnemucca, May 12.
To EDITOR AVALANCHE: Say to the people through Idaho’s live daily that I pass here on my way to Chicago, where I shall have every reason to believe I will secure the remainder of aid necessary to build the line from Silver City to Walla Walla, and that if Boise City, Baker City, La Grande, Union and Weston are true to their pledges a great artery of telegraphic communication between the northwest and Atlantic States will throb through the heart of Idaho before the end of September next. PLATT BURR

(From Thursday’s Daily)
We understand that a Woman’s Rights Convention will shortly be held in some part of this Territory. We shouldn’t object to seeing a live rat dropped through the skylight of the building in which the assemblage will be held.

PROPERTY is changing hands at South Mountain in a pretty lively manner. Among recent transfers we notice that Mike Lacy and Thos. Atkins recently transferred to the S. M. C. M. Co. some valuable mining interests. CHARMING moonlight nights are again prevailing. The twinkling stars have an inviting look, and almost tempt one to go to the top of the mountains with a pair of blankets, and there enjoy the joint companionship of Morpheas, Venus and other potentates.

Public notices

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That the election will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. The election will be held to elect the following offices:

- United States Senator

- State Representative – Position B

- United States Representative – Dist. 1

- County Commissioner, Dist. 1

- Supreme Court Justice

- County Commissioner, Dist. 2

- Appellate Court Justice

- Sheriff

- Legislative. Dist. #23 State Senator

- Prosecuting Attorney

- State Representative – Position A

- Precinct Committeeman

DUE TO COVID19 – ALL VOTING WILL BE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT

Precinct 001 – North Homedale Senior Citizens Center
224 W Idaho Avenue
Homedale, Idaho 83628

Precinct 002 – South Homedale Magistrate Court / City Hall Building
31 W Wyoming Avenue
Homedale, Idaho 83628

Precinct 003 – North Marsing Marsing Community Center
126 2nd Avenue West
Marsing, Idaho 83639

Precinct 004 – South Marsing Extension Office
238 West 8th Avenue
Marsing, Idaho 83639

Precinct 006 – Wilson Wilson School House
10427 Johnston Lane
Melba, Idaho 83641

Precinct 007 – Murphy Owyhee County Courthouse
20381 Hwy 78
Murphy, Idaho 83650

Precinct 008 – Oreana Oreana Community Center
18092 Oreana Loop Rd
Oreana, Idaho 83650

Precinct 009 – Grand View Eastern Owyhee Library
520 Boise Avenue
Grand View, Idaho 83624

Precinct 010 – Bruneau Bruneau American Legion Hall
32536 Belle Avenue
Bruneau, Idaho 83604

Precinct 013 - Absentee Voting Owyhee County Courthouse
20381 State Hwy 78
Murphy, Idaho 83650

Angela Barkell, Owyhee County Clerk
05/13/2020

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 TO CREDITORS IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OWYHEE
CASE NO. CV37-20-00136
In the Matter of the Estate of SUSAN GAIL ROBERTSON, Deceased. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that DAWN M. ROBERTSON was appointed Personal Representative of the above-named Decedent. All persons having claims against the Decedent’s estate is required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims against the Decedent’s estate must be presented to the undersigned attorney for said Personal Representative, Larry C. Ashcraft, of the firm ASHCRAFT LAW PLLC, at PO Box 506, Mountain Home, Idaho 83647-0506, and filed with the Clerk of this Court.
DATED May 7, 2020.
ASHCRAFT LAW PLLC
s:/Larry C. Ashcraft
05/13,20,27/2020

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
T04S R01E S12 NESE, 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/WRApplicationResults/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 W AIRPORT WAY, BOISE ID 83705-5082 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 5/26/2020. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.
GARY SPACKMAN, Director
05/06,13/2020

SAMPLE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT
OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO - MAY 19, 2020

Vote for such candidates as you desire by placing an X in the small square at the right of the names, or by writing in the names of the persons you desire to vote for, and place an X in the square at the right of their name.

REPUBLICAN PARTY				
CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES OFFICES			CANDIDATES FOR COUNTY OFFICES	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)			FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER First District 4 Year Term (Vote for One)	
Jim Risch.....	☐		Jerry Hoagland.....	☐
(Write-In)	☐		(Write-In)	☐
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS First District (Vote for One)			FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER Second District 2 Year Term (Vote for One)	
Russ Fulcher.....	☐		Kelly R. Aberasturi	☐
Nicholas Jones	☐		Lathrop D. Callaway.....	☐
(Write-In)	☐		(Write-In)	☐
CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES				
FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NO. 23 FOR STATE SENATOR (Vote for One)			FOR COUNTY SHERIFF (Vote for One)	
Brenda Richards.....	☐		Perry Grant.....	☐
Christy Zito	☐		Robert M. “Rocky” Widner	☐
(Write-In)	☐		(Write-In)	☐
FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NO. 23 FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Position A (Vote for One)			FOR COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY (Vote for One)	
Matthew Bundy.....	☐		Jeffrey L. Phillips	☐
Andrea Owens.....	☐		(Write-In)	☐
(Write-In)	☐		CANDIDATES FOR PRECINCT OFFICES	
FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NO. 23 FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Position B (Vote for One)			FOR COUNTY PRECINCT COMMITTEEMAN AND VOTERS’ DELEGATE TO THE PARTY’S COUNTY AND DISTRICT CONVENTIONS (Vote for One)	
Megan C. Blanksma.....	☐		(Write-In)	☐
(Write-In)	☐			

SAMPLE JUDICIAL NOMINATING ELECTION BALLOT
OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO - MAY 19, 2020

Instructions: To vote for the candidate of your choice, place an X in the small square at the right of the name of the candidate.

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT		JUDGE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS	
TO SUCCEED JUSTICE Gregory W. Moeller (Vote for One)		TO SUCCEED JUDGE Amanda K. Brailsford (Vote for One)	
Gregory W. Moeller.....	☐	Amanda K. Brailsford	☐
TO SUCCEED JUSTICE John R. Stegner (Vote for One)			
John R. Stegner.....	☐		



Public notices

SAMPLE PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO - MAY 19, 2020

Vote for such candidates as you desire by placing an X in the small square at the right of the names, or by writing in the names of the persons you desire to vote for, and place an X in the square at the right of their name.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY	
CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES OFFICES	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for One)	
Paulette Jordan	☐
Jim Vandermaas	☐
(Write-In)	☐
FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS First District (Vote for One)	
Staniela Nikolova.....	☐
Rudy Soto.....	☐
(Write-In)	☐
CANDIDATES FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICES	
FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NO. 23 FOR STATE SENATOR (Vote for One)	
Laura Bellegante	☐
(Write-In)	☐
FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NO. 23 FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Position A (Vote for One)	
Benjamin Lee	☐
(Write-In)	☐
FOR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT NO. 23 FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE Position B (Vote for One)	
Michael Oliver	☐
(Write-In)	☐

LEGAL NOTICE
SOUTHWEST DISTRICT HEALTH
PURSUANT TO IDAHO CODE §39-423

Southwest District Health Board of Health will hold their annual Budget Committee meeting and public hearing upon the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 budget of the district at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at Southwest District Health, 13307 Miami Lane, Caldwell, Idaho. The proposed budget offered by the District Board of Health may be examined at any of the Southwest District Health offices located at: 13307 Miami Lane, Caldwell; 1008 East Locust, Emmett; 1155 Third Avenue North, Payette; 46 West Court, Weiser; or 132 E Idaho, Homedale.

	FY 2021 Proposed Budget	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2019 Budget	FY 2018 Budget
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 6,775,177	\$ 6,900,085	\$ 6,825,128	\$ 7,222,197
Other expenses	3,785,345	3,576,353	2,086,602	2,120,038
Total	\$10,560,522	\$10,476,438	\$ 8,911,730	\$9,342,235

05/13/2020

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. Apetition 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

LATE SPRING HAY EQUIPMENT & RV ONLINE AUCTION

Begins to Close
MON. MAY 25, 2020 @ 6pm MST Online

~ KEEP WATCHING OUR WEBSITE FOR ANY FUTURE CHANGES Due to COVID-19 ~

Official Preview Days: May 20th, 21st, 22nd 9am to 5pm & Special Preview Sat. May 23rd – 9am to 1pm & May 25th 9am to 5pm

Partial Listing: Featuring Drilling Equipment - *Link Belt Speeder TC48 Crane *100 Ton Casing Puller *Chicago Pneumatic Core Drill *Bean Royal 20 Pumps * Hoist Horn Plugs *Well Drilling Subs *Many Drilling Bits & Down Hole Hammers *Komatsu WA380 Wheel Loader *91 Case 621 Wheel Loader * JCB 1700B Backhoe * Bobcat 853 Skid Steer *08 JLG 40' Snorkel Lift *Unused Attachments: Grapples – Buckets - Dozer Blades – Rotary Tillers - Wood Chippers *07 JD 5105 MFWD Tractor Loader *94 FORD 4630 Loader *79 JD 4440 4X4 Tractor & Loader *Kubota M7040 Tractor *JD 2280 Diesel Swather *JD 3830 Self Propelled Swather *87 NH 1118 Swather *NH 114 Hydro Swing Swather *JD 930 D Combine Header *25' Field Conditioner *Brillion Turf Maker SL208 Seeder *Sitrex Twin Hay Rakes *Rankin 5' Tandem Disc *M & M 3-Point Grain Drill *Rankin Arena-Vator II *NH 1032 Stack Liner Stack Wagon *Swather Trailers **12 IH Pro Star+ 113 6X4 Dump Truck **10 M2 Business Class Feed Truck *07 GMC Sierra 2500 4X4 Pickup *Freightliner M2 Business Class FB Truck **96 T-800 Kenworth Semi **97 Ford F-700 Flatbed Truck ** 89 Freightliner COE Hay Retriever Truck **15 Carry On Tandem Axle Trailer *07 FB Semi Trailer **03 JC Trailers DBL Drop Expanding Trailer *94 Twamco 50 Ton RGN Lowboy Trailer **85 & '83 Fruehauf Pup Trailers *84 Load King Folding Neck Lowboy *09 Passport Ultra Lite Camp Trailer **06 Harley-Davidson Motorcycle **06 John Deere Gator **05 Artic Cat 400 ATV **95 Winnebago Brave 32' Motor Home *Oakes 24' Jet Boat **05 Eagle 165G3 Fishing Boat

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 FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL: 208-455-1419
PICKETT AUCTION SERVICE LLC

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Open Rate per column inch Black & White - \$7.50 1-page b&w – \$562.50 1/2-page b&w – \$281.25 1/4-page b&w - \$140.63 Business Directory per week (4-week minimum) - \$10.00	Open Rate per column inch Full Color - \$10.00 (no color charge on full page) 1-page – \$562.50 1/2-page – \$375.00 1/4-page - \$187.50
Monthly Contract Discount Discounts are available for multiple run ads Nonprofit Discount 35% discount for schools, churches & civic groups	Deadlines Inserts – Friday noon Display advertising – Friday noon Classifieds – Monday noon Legal notices – Friday noon
Preprinted Inserts Up to 8-page tabloid - \$0.075 each 12 to16-page tabloid - \$0.10 each All inserts are subject to proper folding and overall size. Unusual sizes/shapes subject to rate adjustments.	Specifications Page Size – 9 3/4" X 15" 5 columns to the page 11 pica column width with 1 pica gutter Paid circulation 1,700 Published each Wednesday

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Vendors Needed for Homedale Farmers Market opening June 4th. www.homedalefarmersmarket.com
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Sports

Homedale, Melba athletes win state titles with grades

Spring sports have been cancelled, but two local high school team still won state championships.

Homedale High School's girls' golf team and Melba's baseball team rung up academic state titles, according to the Idaho High School Activities Association.

The Trojans' golfers compiled a grade-point average of 3.804 to top all Class 3A teams.

The Mustangs amassed a 3.464 GPA to win the 2A crown.

Melba's players shined on the field last year, winning a state championship. Homedale's golfers also placed in the 3A state tournament.

Five high school district rodeos rescheduled

State high school finals back on track

In the ever-changing sports world in the time of COVID-19, District 2 high school rodeo participants will ride again.

The District 2 board decided Thursday to hold five rodeos at locations that have yet to be determined.

Two rodeos will be held May 30-31 and the final three district competitions will take place June 5-7.

The final five rodeos will give competitors nine performances for the season.

Junior high school cowboys and cowgirls can participate, but it's not required to rodeo at district to enter the state finals rodeo, according to the District 2 Facebook post.

Entries and registration checks are due by May 20 for all five district rodeos. No late entries will be allowed.

Cutting horse competitions are planned for May 20, and reined cow horse competitions have yet to be scheduled.

The Idaho State High School Finals Rodeo has been scheduled for June 13-20 at the Bannock County Fairgrounds in Pocatello. According to the state organization's Facebook page, some physical distancing guidelines will still be observed. Earlier in May, the rodeo was in limbo because of the state's stay-home order.

The National High School Rodeo Association cancelled the Junior High School National Finals Rodeo in a May 1 letter to affiliates. That competition was planned for June 21-27 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

Meanwhile, the Silver State International Rodeo is still scheduled to take place June 28 through July 5 in Winnemucca, Nev. The qualification standards have changed this year, according to the event's Facebook page. All National High School Rodeo Association and National Junior High School Rodeo Association members who place fifth through 25th in the district or state finals rodeo will be eligible to compete at the Silver State. More information is available at ssir.us.

The top four competitors in each event at the state level qualify for the National High School Finals Rodeo, which is still on track for a July 19-25 run in Lincoln, Neb.

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Sports - from Homedale, Marsing, Rimrock, Jordan Valley and Adrian.

Events - Rodeo and fair coverage, fundraisers, public events & meetings.
- Features - Who's who in Owyhee County, Looking Back and coverage of the impacts of events on people here.

Business - Classifieds to buy and sell, business directory to find what you need, advertisements for money-saving value.

Legal Notices for Homedale, Marsing, Bruneau, Grand View and Owyhee County

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