

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 37, NO. 26 \$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022

SUMMER'S SIZZLING EVENTS



St. John the Baptist's (San Juan's) Fire

Oinkari Basque Dancers Michael Lejardi and Kristina Franzoia perform San Juan Zortziko in front of the bonfire during Saturday's San Juan Eguna festival at the Txoko Ona Basque Center. Breeana Lootens / Breeana Lootens Photography More photos, see **Page 11**

BBQ, fishing contests highlight Marsing Centennial weekend

Lions have new leader for derby

Mike Shenk went out a champion in the 2020 Homedale Lions Club Fourth of July Demolition Derby.

Now Lions president, the longtime Homedale resident is ready to oversee

— See **Derby**, page 2

With the Marsing Centennial celebration just days away, organizers are urging folks to sign up for the contests.

The catfish and carp fishing derby will kick off Friday night in the Snake River with awards handed out Saturday at Island Park.

1st Avenue West will be blocked off to make room for centennial events, including a street dance on Friday and a barbecue competition at City Park from 4 p.m., on Friday

to 4 p.m., on Saturday.

Competitors will be required to fix up 10 pounds each of beef brisket and chicken thighs.

The Grill Master champion will earn \$500 with second place bringing \$300 and third place \$200.

The entry fee for the barbecue competition is \$50.

The contest winners will be decided by people's choice.

— See **Centennial**, page 16

Commissioners admit low morale in sheriff's office

Supervisor's demeanor blamed for exodus that has devastated certain budget lines

Sheriff Perry Grant's administration has three areas of concern — morale, management and money.

Although the Owyhee County commissioners can't do much about the first two problems, they do have a say in the third.

But, at this point, although Grant's jail and dispatch center expenditures are grossly over budget on personnel lines, all

three members of the Board of County Commissioners say he is still within his overall budget and no action is necessary.

"As of today, the Sheriff's overall budget has not gone over what was budgeted to his department. As long as he stays within his budget, I don't believe it is my place to say any-

— See **Morale**, page 12

New Bruneau-GV superintendent set to take reins Friday

Law enforcement, education experience bring variety to position

by **Mandi Boren**

For *The Owyhee Avalanche*

The Bruneau-Grand View School District will welcome a new superintendent to the team Friday.

According to a June 15 post on the district Facebook page, Jeff Blaser has been hired to succeed Dr. Todd Shumway, whose one-year contract was not renewed by trustees earlier this year.

Blaser brings a wide variety of experience to the rural district, including law enforcement, school administration and teaching and coaching.

Blaser began his career in

education in the 1980s as a teacher and coach. He said he learned to work with diverse students as a teacher, coach and professional technical club advisor.

After 13 years teaching and coaching, Blaser transitioned to law enforcement and worked with youth for 10 years as a school resource officer, a Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) instructor and a juvenile detective. Blaser was also a member of the Metro SWAT Team.

"After many enjoyable and rewarding years, I realized

— See **Superintendent**, page 18



Jeff Blaser

S. Canal allotment jumps again

Despite a dark forecast in late winter, local producers could still have water into October.

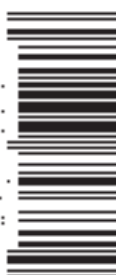
South Board of Control manager John Eells confirmed last week that the Owyhee Project Joint Board agreed to raise the 2022 irrigation allotment from the South Canal to 3.1 acre-feet.

"We didn't gain any water in the (Owyhee)

Reservoir, but we didn't lose any," Eells said Friday. "We were at minimum flow up until this week."

The Joint Board met in Nyssa, Ore., on June 21.

— See **Allotment**, page 4



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Derby diplomacy, Pg. 8: German national ready for the Fourth 4-H contests start, **Pg. 9:** Oral presentation winners named Godspeed, Baxter, **Pg. 10:** Final words from Baxter Black Religious Expression, **Pg. 16:** Jack Muldoon writes again Obituaries, 7 • Commentary, 14-15 • Looking Back, 17

PILT money can help with plenty of Owyhee projects

Owyhee County PILT funding

Fiscal year	Payment
2022	\$1,573,666
2021	\$1,538,565
2020	\$1,513,440
2019	\$1,484,775
2018	\$1,367,534
2017	\$1,340,027
2016	\$1,312,017
2015	\$1,187,555
2014	\$1,303,868
2013	\$1,216,850
2012	\$1,245,549
2011	\$1,221,211
2010	\$1,209,356
2009	\$1,181,049
2008	\$1,151,480
2007	\$726,207
2006	\$729,305
2005	\$716,258
2004	\$701,243
2003	\$682,283
2002	\$594,479
2001	\$566,318
2000	\$368,447
1999	\$349,064
1998	\$359,881
Total	\$25,640,327

— Source: Department of the Interior

County receives annual public lands compensation

Owyhee County has received another record Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) from the federal government this year.

The Department of the Interior announced Thursday how much money will be going back to local governments across the country to make up for lost property tax revenue because of large swaths of tax-exempt federal public lands within their boundaries.

Owyhee has the second-largest federal lands area in Idaho with about 3.6 million acres. The county government received the sixth-highest compensation among the state's 44 counties at \$1.573 million.

The figure is the largest amount Owyhee County has received since the PILT program began 45 years ago.

Clerk Angie Barkell said the county received its money Friday.

Owyhee County typically uses part of the annual payment to bolster its general fund and whatever is left has been placed traditionally in a PILT trust used for capital improvements or purchases, such as the home where the prosecuting attorney's office is in Murphy or the land for the Murphy post office or the building on North 2nd Street West in Homedale where the probation office is housed.

Of the FY 22 PILT check, \$800,000 was anticipated as 2022 revenues for use in the current budget, Barkell said Thursday.

The remaining amount, \$773,000, will be placed in the capital expenditures fund (formerly known as the PILT trust).

Ongoing projects for which the money may be used include the Homedale Judicial Center, which is a planned consolidation of court and probation activities in the building on the west side of downtown Homedale. The money also could help with ongoing improvements at the fairgrounds and the needed water and sewer upgrades in Murphy, Barkell said.

Matching funds and other

needed money for another project, the Black Sands boat dock and dredging on the edge of C.J. Strike Reservoir for which county commissioners accepted a series of Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation grants last week, will come out of the county's Waterways Fund, Barkell said.

Only Idaho County has more federal public lands area (4.5 million acres) than Owyhee County among the state's counties.

PILT is formulated according to public lands acreage and population based on the U.S. Census.

Four of the five counties receiving more money than Owyhee had smaller swaths of public land, including:

- **Elmore** — \$2.715 million for 1.357 million acres
- **Cassia** — \$2.49 million for 918,850 acres
- **Blaine** — \$2.41 million for 1.3 million acres
- **Idaho** — \$1.9 million for 4.5 million acres
- **Bonneville** — \$1.565 million for 589,659 acres

Idaho counties received \$35.8 million for 32.6 million acres of public lands.

Nationwide, the Department of the Interior distributed \$550 million in FY 22 PILT checks.

Among Oregon counties, Malheur received the second-largest compensation at \$3.008 million for nearly 4.3 million acres.

Harney County has the most federal public lands area in Oregon (4.46 million acres), and Deschutes County received the biggest check (\$3.134 million for nearly 1.45 million acres).

The Interior Department collects more than \$12.1 billion in revenue annually from commercial activities on public lands. A portion of those revenues is shared with states and counties. The balance is deposited into the U.S. Treasury, which in turn pays for a broad array of federal activities, including PILT funding.

— JPB

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From page 1

✓ Allotment: SBOC chief says full year is possible

Eells said the wet weather enabled operators to keep the system at minimum flows, which is between 175 and 200 cubic feet per second in the South Canal and running just one pump for each the A, B, and C canals to keep the system charged.

South Canal flows were as low as 165 CFS for one week, he said.

But now the system is going full bore.

South Board personnel cranked on all nine Gem Pumping Plant machines last week, and the South Canal is flowing at 490 CFS.

It's all great news for irrigators.

"We'll end up going to a full season," Eells said.

That means water will be in ditches into the latter part of September and even the first part of October, Eells said.

Eells added that the allotment is rosier than last summer.

"We got by last year on 3 acre-feet, and we're at 3.1 now," he said.

— JPB

Holiday alters garbage service, Grand View Irrigation meeting

The Fourth of July holiday will trigger some of the usual closures as well as a couple of schedule delays.

Republic Services garbage pick-up in Homedale and Marsing will move back one day because of Monday's holiday. Homedale pick-up will take place next Wednesday, and Marsing's will take place Friday next week.

The Grand View Irrigation District's monthly meeting, usually scheduled for the first Monday of the month, will be moved back one week. The board will meet at 11 a.m., on Monday in the district office at 645 Idaho St., in Grand View.

The Owyhee County Courthouse is closed Monday, and the Board of County Commissioners meeting has been moved to 9 a.m., on Tuesday inside Courtroom 2. The next motion day for Courtroom 1 is Monday, July 11.

The county satellite offices in Marsing and Grand View, and the magistrate court clerk's office and probation office in Homedale are also closed.

Emergency dispatch through 911 and non-emergency dispatch through (208) 495-1154 is available at the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's deputies, Homedale Police officers, and first-responders from the Homedale, Marsing, Grand View, Bruneau, and Murphy-Reynolds-Wilson volunteer fire departments will be available for calls of service as will the ambulance crews in Marsing, Homedale, and Grand View, and quick response units with MRW and in Bruneau.

Also closed Monday are city government offices in Homedale, Marsing and Grand View. City Halls in Adrian and Jordan Valley are typically closed on Mondays.

With Marsing City Hall being closed, there will be no congregate meal at the Sandbar Community Room.

Senior centers in Owyhee County — Rimrock in Grand View and the Homedale facility — are always closed on Mondays.

Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library in Homedale, Lizard Butte Library in Marsing, and Eastern Owyhee County Library in Grand View are closed Monday. The Bruneau Valley Library in Bruneau is always closed on Mondays.

US Bank in Homedale is closed.

While Albertsons in Homedale will be open regular hours, the Sav-On Pharmacy inside the grocery store is closed Monday.

Also closed Monday is Homedale Drug and its liquor store.

M&W Market in Marsing and its state liquor store are both open regular hours Monday.

The Owyhee Avalanche office also will be closed on Monday. Deadlines for non-breaking news items, calendar items, legal notices, letters to the editor and display advertising remains noon on Friday. The classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m., on Friday.

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To enter a car , call Jeremy Townsend at 208-337-4668
Kaleb Hotchkiss 208-965-7457- Car Build Questions • Josh Love 208-880-8483 - Food Booths
To place an ad in the program, call Will Pryor 208-866-2629
Parade:Text Heidi at (208) 600-5683
General Questions, call Mike Shenk (208) 573-7233 • "Like" Homedale Lions Club on Facebook!

The Owyhee Avalanche

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Friday noon the week prior to publication
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Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center

Salad bar: Not available
Curbside pickup only between noon and 1 p.m.
Phone ahead 208-337-3020 to order
Dessert is included in curbside lunch
Milk and roll available each day.
June 29: Pork chops, scalloped potatoes, sautéed cabbage
June 30: Beef and broccoli, rice
July 5: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes with gravy, Malibu blend vegetables
July 6: Tuna salad on roll, macaroni and cheese, peas and carrots
July 7: Baked ham, sweet potato, green beans

Sandbar Community Room

Noon to 12:30 p.m., inside Marsing City Hall
Milk available each day
Suggested donation: \$4 (60 and older), \$6 (59 and younger)
June 29: Chicken noodle casserole, carrots, spiced apples, green salad, wheat roll
July 1: Polish sausage with sauerkraut, roasted potatoes succotash, fresh fruit, rye bread
July 4: CLOSED – Independence Day
July 6: Creamy Tuscan sausage pasta, broccoli, carrots, rye bread
July 8: Herb salmon over rice pilaf, green beans, peaches, whole wheat roll

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 at 7 a.m. to place order
June 30: Cheese stuffed shells with meat sauce, green salad, garlic bread, Jello fruit, cottage cheese, cupcakes
July 5: Sweet and sour meatballs, fried rice, green salad, cottage cheese, mandarin oranges, whole grain bread, pineapple
July 7: Chicken a la king, biscuits, green salad, fresh fruit, pudding, stuffed celery

Melba Valley Senior Center

Meals served at noon
Phone ahead (208-495-2168)
same day for complete menu
Payment by donation. All ages welcome
June 30: Fish dinner
July 4: Fried chicken — 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
July 5: Beef lunch
July 7: Chicken lunch

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The eligibility criteria for Oregon Lifeline includes the following:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Food Stamps (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- Veterans and Survivors Pension Benefit

You may also qualify if your total income is at or below 135% of federal poverty guidelines.

Please contact the Oregon Public Utility Commission at 1-800-848-4442 to request an application or visit www.rspf.org to apply online.

Calendar

Today

PiYo exercise class
8 a.m., to 9 a.m., pilates and yoga, The Rock of Homedale, 310 E. Owyhee Ave.
Ladies coffee group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Food distribution
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The HUB food pantry, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 649-5411
Summer reading program
10:30 a.m., up to eighth-graders, City Park, 1st Avenue West and 2nd Street North, Marsing. (208) 896-4690

Thursday

PiYo exercise class
8 a.m., to 9 a.m., pilates and yoga, The Rock of Homedale, 310 E. Owyhee Ave.
Fit and Fall Proof exercise class
10 a.m., to 11 a.m., free, old Marsing High School gymnasium, 800 Main St., Marsing. (208) 296-0847
Fit and Fall exercise
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Summer reading
1 p.m., to 2 p.m., ocean theme, Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228
Homedale Community Market
3 p.m., to 7 p.m., Bette Uda City Park, 200 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale. markettophat@gmail.com, markettophat.com

Yoga class
4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St., Homedale
ION Heritage Museum board meeting
6 p.m., Jordan Valley Elementary School library, 604 Oregon Ave., Jordan Valley. (541) 586-2100
Marsing Chamber of Commerce meeting
6 p.m., Sandbar Community Room, Marsing City Hall, 18 Sandbar Ave., Marsing
Alcoholics Anonymous
7 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 Hwy. 95, Wilder.

Friday

Adrian Community Market
3 p.m., to 7 p.m., Oregon Street, Adrian. (208) 573-3272
Marsing Centennial Celebration
6 p.m., to 10 p.m., street dance, City Park, 2nd Avenue
8 p.m., fishing derby begins, Snake River

Saturday

Free lunch
11:30 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-5419
Marsing Centennial Celebration
9 a.m., to 11 a.m., Marsing Beautification Project breakfast, City Park
10 a.m., Centennial Parade, down Main Street to City Park
11 a.m., time capsule placement, City Park pavilion, 1st Avenue
Noon, duck races, City Park, 1st Avenue
2 p.m., fishing derby awards, Snake River
4:30 p.m., barbecue competition Grill Master Awards, 1st Avenue
7 p.m., ice cream social, City Park, 2nd Avenue
8 p.m., free movie, “Back to the Future,” City Park, 2nd Avenue
Snake River Country Market
9 a.m., to 5 p.m., live music, City Park, 1st Avenue West, Marsing. (208) 880-4580

Sunday

Marsing Lions Club barbecue
5 p.m., Island Park
Third of July fireworks
10 p.m., over the Snake River, Marsing

Monday

Homedale 4th of July parade
8 a.m., lineup at Deward Bell Stadium, 9 a.m., parade starts west down Riverside Avenue
Adrian Community Market
9 a.m., to noon, Oregon Street, Adrian. (208) 573-3272
Homedale Lions demolition derby
10:30 a.m., pits open, 4:30 p.m., gates open, 5 p.m., grand entry, \$20 admission (\$18 for military), Owyhee County Fairgrounds, 420 W. Nevada Ave., Homedale. (208) 573-7233 or (208) 866-2629. Tickets: <https://homedale-demo-derby.ticketleap.com/>

Tuesday

Board of County Commissioners meeting
9 a.m., Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy. (208) 495-2421
Region III assistance assessments
Noon to 3 p.m., appointments necessary, Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 495-5688
Fit and Fall Proof exercise class
10 a.m., to 11 a.m., free, old Marsing High School gymnasium, 800 Main St., Marsing. (208) 296-0847
Fit and Fall exercise
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Grand View Irrigation District meeting
11 a.m., district office, 645 Idaho Ave., Grand View.
Yoga class
4 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St., Homedale
Alcoholics Anonymous
7 p.m., open to alcoholics, their families and those contemplating recovery, Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 Hwy. 95, Wilder.
Opaline Irrigation District meeting
7 p.m., 7300 Opaline Rd., Melba.

Wednesday

PiYo exercise class
8 a.m., to 9 a.m., pilates and yoga, The Rock of Homedale, 310 E. Owyhee Ave., Homedale
Ladies coffee group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
Food distribution
9 a.m. to 1 p.m., The HUB food pantry, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 649-5411
Snake River Irrigation District meeting
1 p.m., Grand View Irrigation District Office, 645 Idaho Ave., Grand View.
Grand View Fire commissioners meeting
5 p.m., Grand View Fire Station, 721 Roosevelt Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2511 (call ahead to ensure the meeting will be held)
W. W. Jones school board meeting
7 p.m., W. W. Jones Schoolhouse, 3513 Arock Rd., Arock. (541) 586-2325

Thursday, July 7

PiYo exercise class
8 a.m., to 9 a.m., pilates and yoga, The Rock of Homedale, 310 E. Owyhee Ave., Homedale

Obituaries

Jerry Alan Pierce Jr “Jake”

Jerry Alan Pierce Jr “Jake,” was born on the 7th day of March in the year of our Lord 1962 to Jerry and Beverly Pierce. The world has never been the same after that day.

Jake is survived by his mother, Beverly Jean Bulman, sister, Sonja Pierce, brother, Jesse Gonzalez, aunt, Jo Ann (Don) Porter, uncle, Roy “Bud” (Marilyn) aunt, Louanna Zunwalt, one niece and three nephews and numerous cousins.

Jake graduated high school from Kuna High School in 1980 and promptly joined the Coast Guard where he served his country until 1985. He then moved back to Kuna, Idaho and started a long career driving truck and delivery.

Jake is a true American Hero, not just because he served his country or made sure we all received what is needed for day-to-day life. Jake is a hero for the way he took care of the community, his friends and family.

In Jake’s world never would there be a person in need. Jake always helped everyone he could at any time, monetarily, emotionally, and for simple advice. This is why he is a



true hero, something we can all learn from.

Jake passed away on the 15th day of June in the year of our Lord 2022 at his home in Homedale, Idaho at 7:00pm with his mother by his side. The world will never be the same.

Jake is now in Heaven fishing on a lake in a canoe with his beloved dog Sami by his side.

We will always love and miss you Jake.

A celebration of life memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at 11:00am at the Basque Center in Homedale, Idaho. Condolences can be given at www.flahifffuneralchapel.com

Donald Henry Sweep

BURLEY — Donald Henry Sweep passed away peacefully in Ogden, Utah, on June 16, 2022, at the age of 84.

He was born March 10, 1938, to Henry B. and Mildred Louise Janssen Sweep in Caldwell, Idaho. He was a devoted husband and father to his wife and children, working a lifetime to care and provide for them.

Don grew up as a happy boy on the farm in Homedale, Idaho, surrounded by aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. He loved that he was known by many as Mini Hank as his dad took him everywhere with him. He always said his dad was an easy person to be around.

Don attended school in Homedale where he was active in athletics and student council as Senior Class President. While still in high school, he joined the National Guard. He then went on to attend the University of Idaho where he was active in the Army ROTC and graduated with a degree in Range Management in 1960. From there, Don served his country as an officer in the Army. He did a tour in Korea before being stationed back in the United States at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to finish out his active duty and then was a member of the U.S. Army Reserve for a number of years.

Don began his career with the Bureau of Land Management in the Burley, Idaho area. While in Burley, he met and married Joyce Ward, and they began their 55-year adventure together. His career took him across the country to various



places including Washington DC; Coeur d’Alene, Idaho; Shoshone, Idaho; Cheyenne, Wyoming; Rock Springs, Wyoming; Jackson, Mississippi; Denver, Colorado; and finally Boise, Idaho. He was known throughout his career as being able to effectively manage people and calm intense situations. He was often called into a new place to repair difficult circumstances among various types of people and organizations. After he retired, he and Joyce moved back to Burley where they enjoyed living near family.

Don’s life was spent helping others to be happy. He was an optimist, always working to find the good things in difficulty. His greatest love was in working to help his wife and family find joy. He loved the roles of bedtime story reader, game playing companion, front-yard ball tosser, swimming official, and unofficial coach of anything his kids were playing. He traveled the state of Wyoming

countless times to watch his kids in all their activities. And, no matter what his grandkids wanted him to do... even if it meant playfully tying Grandpa up, he was up for it to put smiles on their faces.

Don also loved the outdoors and took great pride in his beautiful yard and plentiful garden. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, wood gathering, golfing, and going for walks to see new things. He was also an avid reader, devouring books of history and historical fiction ... particularly of the old West.

Don is survived by his daughter, Kristi (Jon) Marr; son, Justin (Angela) Sweep; and daughter, Rena (Cheston) Wittwer; along with seven grandchildren: Benjamin Marr, Caden Sweep, Kayla Wittwer, Kira Marr, Jaxon Sweep, Lexi Wittwer, and Addelyn Sweep. He is also survived by his sister, Delores (Ross) Spaulding as well as cousins, nieces, and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Joyce, and his parents.

The funeral was held at 10 a.m. Monday, June 27, at Rasmussen-Wilson Funeral Home, located at 1350 E. 16th St., in Burley. Military honors by the Mini-Cassia Veterans Group concluded the service. Family and friends were received from 9 until 9:45 a.m. prior to the funeral service. Following the services, Don was laid to rest at Grandview Cemetery in Elba.

A live webcast of the funeral was available and will be maintained at rasmussenwilson.com.

Summer menus

Meals will be provided free to all children, ages 1-18
All meals **MUST** be eaten on site.
Parent may purchase a meal for \$4.50
Includes milk each day

Homedale

Breakfast (7:30 a.m.-9 a.m.), lunch (11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.)
at HES cafeteria

June 29: Chicken sandwich, corn, peaches
June 30: Corn dog, tortilla chips, wedges, orange slices

Marsing

11:15 a.m.-noon, City Park; 12:15 p.m.-12:45 p.m., labor camp
June 29: Chicken sandwich, carrot sticks, grapes
June 30: Corn dog, fries, orange slices

Death notice

SYLVAN W. TAGGART, 91, longtime Homedale/Wilder area resident, died on Thursday, June 9, 2022 at Creekside Care Center in Jerome. Graveside services will occur at a later date.

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HOMEDALE**

4-H county oral presentation champions crowned

Owyhee County 4-H’s Oral Presentation Contests are an educational opportunity that allow our members to develop their abilities in public speaking. Presentations offer 4-H members an avenue to share their skills and knowledge of their projects to others.



Madi Anderson

The objective of these competitions is to provide an opportunity for youth to share their passion and knowledge while honing their abilities and confidence speaking in public. The contests were held in Bruneau on June 4 and in Marsing on June 16. Sixty-three youths gave presentations on topics ranging from Homemade Horse Treats to Types of Leathercraft Tools. The Owyhee County Extension Office would like to extend our utmost gratitude to the volunteers who donated their valuable time to judge our Oral Presentation Contests. Without our volunteers, this opportunity for our youth would not have been possible. We would also like to thank American Legion Post 83 Hall in Bruneau and Marsing Elementary School for allowing us to use their facilities to hold the contests.

Congratulations to our top speakers:

- **Junior Division champion** — Bailey Moos, Wilson Butte
- **Junior Division reserve**

- University of Idaho Extension
- champion** — Bryer Metcalf, Wilson Butte
 - **Junior Division Horse champion** — Lcee Loucks, Owyhee Silver Spurs
 - **Junior Division Horse reserve champion** — Alicia Worley, Reynolds Creek
 - **Intermediate Division champion** — Hayden Higgins, Wilson Butte
 - **Intermediate Division reserve champion** — Colby Starbuck, South Mountain Livestock
 - **Intermediate Division Horse champion** — Emeline Hipwell, Owyhee Outlaws
 - **Intermediate Division Horse reserve champion** — Grace Clay, Pony Express
 - **Senior Division champion** — Hannah Moos, Wilson Butte
 - **Senior Division reserve champion** — Ainsley Erwin, Bruneau Canyon
- She was elected the 2022-23 Idaho 4-H State Teen Association Southern District representative later in the month.
- **Senior Division Horse champion** — Jessica Hipwell, Owyhee Outlaws
 - **Senior Division Horse reserve champion** — Kate Hipwell, Owyhee Outlaws
 - **Champion TV commercial** — Rhett Brackett, Wilson Butte

— Madi Anderson is the 4-H program coordinator at the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office. Contact her for more information on 4-H at (208) 896-4104 or madisona@uidaho.edu.



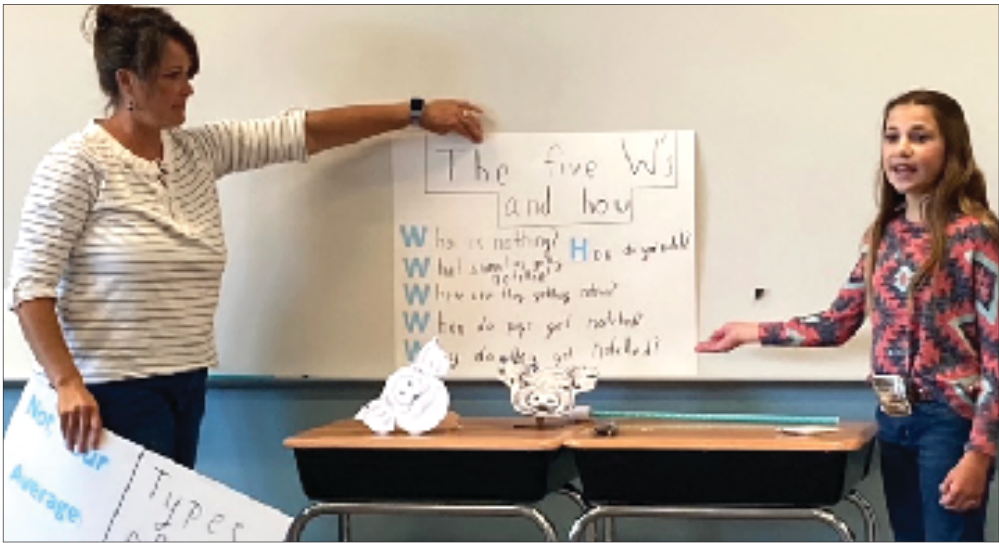
Jordan Ineck brought his puppy Sophia along for his Junior Division presentation “Stay Out of the Doghouse: Train Your Dog.” Jordan is a Clover Crew club member. Submitted photo



Senior Division reserve champion Ainsley Erwin of Bruneau Canyon 4-H club. Submitted photo

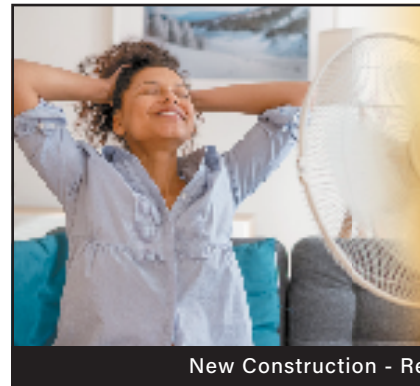


Hannah Moos of Wilson Butte 4-H club gave her Senior Division-winning presentation on leathercraft. Submitted photo



Left: Junior Division champion Bailey Moos of Wilson Butte 4-H club got some help with her presentation of pig notching. Right: Brother and sister Garret and Allison Hubler represented the Pony Express 4-H club in the Junior and Senior divisions, respectively. Submitted photos





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THE COWBOY POET RIDES AWAY

Baxter Ashby Black

On June 10th, 2022 Baxter Ashby Black, large animal veterinarian, cowboy poet and philosopher, husband, father and papa rode his old horse on home. Just before sunrise on that day, Jesus signed on one more ol’ cowboy to ride the Golden Fields across the Jordan.

The iconic cowboy poet and storyteller had humble beginnings. He was born to Robert and Teddie Black at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital just before the end of World War II. He was the first of what would eventually be four brothers: Baxter, Bob, John and Stephen. The family traveled through West Virginia, Texas and ended up in Las Cruces, New Mexico where Baxter would call home. When Baxter was 15 years old his life changed dramatically as his father, Robert, who was the youngest Dean of Agriculture at New Mexico State University, passed away unexpectedly and he became the man of the house. All while doing his part for the family, he continued to play the guitar among many other things but he always went to church on Sunday.

He made his first attempt at writing in high school where, as he would recall, “I wrote something religious I think...” His teacher’s encouragement, after marking an F the size of Texas in red on the paper, was, “Baxter, write about what you know.”

As Baxter began college he started wondering about what he would major in. His first love was agriculture. There was also a war going on again, and he didn’t want to get drafted. He did go in on more than one occasion and take his physical for the Navy. He “wanted to fly one of those big planes” is what he would tell those recruiters.

His decision to apply for Veterinary School came when he realized that no matter what came about he could always “fix your cow.” He applied to Colorado State University. He was accepted providing that he finished a few math classes. At the end of his third year, the only thing standing between he and vet school was a 58 percent in “triggernometry” (60 percent was passing). He went “begging” his teacher to give him that D. The graduate teacher finally conceded as long as he vowed to “never take Calculus or Trigonometry again.” He kept that promise the rest of his life!

Veterinary school saw his jovial and entrepreneurial spirit and vigor take flight again. Baxter made and sold leather belts, brewed coffee in the mornings, cut hair, and did laundry, all for those willing to pay a few cents. He even counted ants one summer for a grad student’s research project. He also earned a few dollars playing in a band with a couple of his classmates on the weekends.

Baxter graduated from veterinary school in 1969 and eventually ended up in Idaho working as the company vet for the J. R. Simplot Co. It was while out

there driving around and talking to the old cowboys where his storytelling started to take root. There were no TVs and very few radios in those days, so he would take his guitar and tell stories. He found that he could take the cowboys’ stories, write a poem about it, tell it back to them and they loved it. In 1980, he ended up in Denver, Colo., working as the troubleshooting vet for a pharmaceutical company. Baxter’s reputation as an entertainer spread. Soon the constant requests for his brand of poignant, insightful and hilarious programs allowed him to transition from part-time cowboy poet to full-time cowboy entertainer.

Shortly after forming the Coyote Cowboy Company, he married his wife of 39 years, Cindy Lou, and became the father of Jennifer. A decade later his son Guy was born, and after Jennifer graduated high school they moved down to Benson, Ariz.

Over his 40-year career, Baxter wrote about what he knew: cowboys, cowgirls, rodeo, cattle, horses and ranch life. He wrote with a flair that still captures the imaginations of everyone who reads his stories today. He spoke throughout the United States, Canada and Australia. His column was printed in more than 130 newspapers and his radio program was on 150 stations through the years. He sold more than 2 million copies of his books, CDs and DVDs. He was on the Johnny Carson show on several occasions and was a regular commentator on NPR’s Morning Edition for 20 years.

He lived his life guided by a simple faith in Jesus and his admonishment to, “Love God, practice forgiveness and mercy to all who offend, and to care for the least of these.” No one was a stranger to Baxter, whether you sat next to him on the airplane for 30 minutes or knew him for decades. Every person he met was a friend.

Something that Baxter would always say after getting home from one of his frequent trips seems profoundly fitting for his journey through this life. Should Jesus look at him and say, “How’d it go?” it is easy to imagine Baxter, with a beaming smile shining out from under his mustache saying, “Lord, I made ’em laugh, and that’s all that matters.”

Baxter is survived by his wife, Cindy Lou Black; his daughter Jennifer Cabbage, husband Will, and their children William and Savannah; his son Guy Black, wife Jessica, and their children Gwendolyn and Magnolia; his two brothers, Bob and Steve, and his two dogs, Solomon and Rudy.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the J. F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center, 26284 Oso Road, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675; Canine Companions, 2965 Dutton Ave, Santa Rosa, CA 95407, or to a favorite charity of your choice.



I Know You’ll Miss this Man

by Baxter Black, DVM

The Lord spoke to the heavy hearts that stood with hats in hand:

“Your sadness pains me deeply and I know you’ll miss this man
But, it’s true what you’ve been hearing, Heaven is a real place.
That’s no small consolation. You should use that fact to face

The emptiness his parting left that seeps into your bones
And draw on it to ease your pain. For he is not alone.
You see, all his friends are up here and all his loved ones, too,
’Cause it wouldn’t be a heaven without each one of you.

And heaven for a cowboy is just what you might expect,
It’s horses that need tunin’ up and heifers that need checked.
It’s long rides with a purpose and a code that lights the way
And a satisfying reason to get up every day.

It’s the ranch he’s always dreamed of and never knew he’d find
And if you think about it, you can see it in your mind.
Him, leanin’ in the saddle with his ol’ hat on his head,
Contentment set upon his face like blankets on a bed.

The leather creaks a little as he shifts there in the seat.
The bit chains give a jingle when his pony switches feet.
And you somehow get the feelin’ that he’s sittin’ on a throne
A’gazin’ out on paradise just like it was his own.

I can promise you he’s happy, though I know you can’t pretend
You’re glad he made the journey. It’s too hard to comprehend.
The earthly way you look at things can never satisfy
Your lack of understanding for the answer to the ‘Why?’

So, I offer this small comfort to put your grief to rest,
I only take the top hands ’cause my crew’s the very best.
And I know it might seem selfish to friends and next of kin
But I needed one more cowboy and Baxter fit right in.”

SAN JUAN EGUNA

SATURDAY, JUNE 25 AT TXOKO ONA BASQUE CENTER



Herribatza Dantzariak performs Ikurina during Saturday's inaugural San Juan Eguna festival at the Txoko Ona Basque Center in Homedale.



From left: John Lejardi, Mike Franzoia, Andres Lejardi, and Jose Eguren play a game of mus Saturday on the Txoko Ona Basque Center patio.



Blanche and Floyd Uria dance to live music provided by Rochelle & The James Gang.



Herribatza Dantzariak performs Irunatarra.

Photos by
Breeana Lootens

Breeana Lootens
Photography

From page 1

✓ **Morale:** Handful of part-timers paid higher hourly wage than deputies

thing about budget lines, and if he has gone over those lines,” Dist. 2 Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi told The Owyhee Avalanche in an email last Wednesday.

“If the department goes above what was budgeted then he will have to have the opening of the budget and explain to everyone why he had to open the budget to add taxpayers’ dollars to the Sheriff’s department.”

In actuality, Grant is on budget on two of his three major operations.

The dispatch center is on pace to be over budget, but the sheriff has until the end of the fiscal year (Sept. 30) to rein in costs.

With 70 percent of Fiscal Year 2022 elapsed, Grant’s dispatch center is over-budget on its bottom line with 73 percent, or \$269,358.64, of the \$370,951 appropriation being spent.

That leaves about \$101,000 to get through the final three months of the fiscal year.

The \$1.095 million sheriff’s office budget is at 65 percent with \$586,638.03 spent.

The \$930,664 jail budget is at 66 percent with \$612,760.28 spent.

So, two budgets for which Grant is responsible remain within overall parameters, but that doesn’t mean at least two commissioners aren’t worried about the situation that has led to over-spending in budget lines pertaining to uniforms, overtime, and personal leave.

In a May article about the

“People are desperate. They like their job. They like their work here. But they can’t tolerate what’s going on.”

— **Jerry Hoagland**
Dist. 1 county commissioner



Idaho Attorney General’s Office investigation into the sheriff, it was reported that there was an exodus of employees between September and November.

The departures, in turn, led to soaring budget lines.

The major budgets controlled by the sheriff — sheriff’s office, jail and dispatch center — have paid out \$17,710.16 to employees who have terminated their employment during FY 22, including \$15,219.13 for departed jailers and dispatchers. While the number is still within the budget line for the sheriff’s office, the jail and dispatch lines for unused vacation and other obligations paid at termination are a combined \$11,219.13 over budget.

Through 70 percent of FY 22 there are several overruns:

- **Jail uniforms** — \$4,500 budgeted, \$9,430.75 spent (210 percent of appropriation, or \$4,930.75 over budget)
- **Jail salaries and personal leave (paid on separation from county employment)** — \$3,000 budgeted, \$11,636.52 spent (388 percent, or \$8,636.52 over)
- **Dispatch overtime** —

\$8,000 budgeted, \$21,375.12 spent (267 percent, or \$13,375.12 over)

• **Dispatch salaries and personal leave** — \$1,000 budgeted, \$3,582.61 spent (358 percent, or \$2,582.61 over)

• **Dispatch uniforms** — \$500 budgeted, \$904.94 spent (181 percent, or \$404.94 over)

• **Jail overtime pay** — \$6,000 budgeted, \$8,338.18 spent (139 percent, or \$2,338.18 over)

• **Sheriff overtime pay** — \$12,000 budgeted, \$14,205.09 spent (118 percent, or \$2,205.09 over)

• **Jail part-time salaries** — \$5,000 budgeted, \$5,403.60 spent (108 percent, or \$403.60 over)

“The excess overtime is a result of employees leaving and others having to fill those duties until a replacement is found,” Dist. 1 Commissioner Jerry Hoagland said.

According to human resource department exit interviews, the substance of which was revealed in the AG’s investigation, many departing employees said management, not compensation, was the reason they left OCSO.

There have been 33 employment terminations in the sheriff’s office, jail and dispatch center since 2019, according to records obtained by the Avalanche.

Dist. 3 Commissioner Joe Merrick, the Board of County Commissioners chair, said that the management issue leading to last fall’s exodus didn’t necessarily have a direct correlation to Grant’s leadership.

“I have an idea of the reason for the turnovers, and (the OCSO patrol supervisor) is one of them,” Merrick said. “(It’s) his method of leadership.”

The OCSO patrol supervisor is a retired Nampa Police officer who is part of a wave of Public Employees Retirement System of Idaho (PERSI) retirees Grant has hired.

“You don’t have to pay benefits, but they are getting higher wages,” Hoagland said.

“I don’t mind him working, if we can afford it.”

But the part-time supervisor’s hourly wage — which is now over \$26 — bothers Hoagland: “You could have a full-time person do that probably for less money.”

Because he is a PERSI recipient, the patrol supervisor is required to take 28 days off after each four consecutive months of employment.

“I don’t know who’s managing the office there when (the patrol supervisor) is not there,” Hoagland said, adding that he has heard that even when on the mandated 28-day hiatus, the supervisor may be involved with the office, which goes against PERSI regulations.

Hoagland, like Merrick, believes the supervisor’s workplace demeanor has contributed to low morale and job satisfaction among employees.

“People are desperate,” Hoagland said. “They like their job. They like their work here. But they can’t tolerate what’s going on.”

Each time the supervisor, or any other PERSI-related personnel, returns to county employment, Grant files a pay authorization for BOCC approval.

During the March 28 commissioners meeting, Merrick voted against authorizing the pay for the returning patrol supervisor. Although the record reflects Hoagland also voted against the request, the longtime commissioner said he never submitted a “yea” or “nay” vote.

“I said in the meeting, ‘It’s a done deal’ the way the prosecutor at the time was explaining we had no choice,” Hoagland said. “The minutes reflect my ‘done deal’ vote as a yes.”

Aberasturi was the only commissioner in favor of the authorization.

After the commissioners denied the authorization, however, then-Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey L. Phillips spoke up.

Merrick said Phillips told the commissioners they had no jurisdiction over who a department head hires.

“We can recommend and counsel, but that’s as far as we can go, according to our prosecutor,” Merrick said.

Hoagland was more blunt: “The guidance from the prosecutor was not helpful.”

The patrol supervisor, who has been promoted from sergeant to lieutenant during his time with OCSO, makes \$26.25 per hour after compensation increases implemented because of

the recent county government-wide wage study. He is the third-highest-paid employee in the sheriff’s office behind the sheriff (\$36 hourly, if his exempt salary is extrapolated to hourly), and the chief deputy (\$29.16 hourly).

Grant has received a “second wave” of more than \$52,000 to bump employees’ salaries, but the county’s HR department has yet to receive any guidance from the sheriff on how that money will be used.

Even after new hourly wages were put in place — with the lowest-paid deputy making \$19.13 per hour — there is still grumbling apparently.

“There’s some talking from the Sheriff’s employees about numerous things, but what I hear mostly is the dissatisfaction from the wage study and the compensation to the longer-termed employees being unsatisfactory to say the least,” Aberasturi said.

Hoagland said he hopes the sheriff uses the second wave of payroll infusion to bolster the salaries of long-tenured employees.

Four part-timers in the sheriff’s office, including at least two PERSI employees, make more in hourly wages than full-time deputies.

Most full-time detention deputies and dispatchers make \$19.13 per hour, but there is a part-timer retiree who has been given the rank of corporal and an hourly salary of \$20.08. Another part-time bailiff and retiree makes \$20.31.

Each county department head submits pay authorizations whenever there is a new hire or a change in pay.

From the start of 2019 to the end of May of this year, the BOCC has voted on 107 pay authorizations submitted by Grant. Pay authorizations from every other department combined has totaled 74 during that same 41-month timeframe.

The 108th personnel move took place Monday when the county commissioners approved a dispatcher’s move back to part-time at \$19.13 per hour. The dispatcher was hired as a part-timer on Feb. 28 at \$15.50 per hour then became full-time on May 16.

During Monday’s meeting, Grant told Merrick that he still needs a full-time dispatcher, but that one of two current part-timers could move up to the job.

— JPB



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Avalanche Sports

Homedale youths wrestle for Idaho pride in Utah

Three Homedale boys made history last week representing Team Idaho in youth wrestling championship tournaments.

The Western States Championships were held Thursday through Saturday, and Turf Wars were held June 20-21. Both competitions took place inside the Legacy Event Center in Farmington, Utah.

Hunter Bell and Micah Higley wrestled in both tournaments, while Wynn Watson joined his Homedale teammates in the Western States event.

According to coach Joe Egusquiza, this is the first time Homedale has placed more than one wrestler on Team Idaho for the Turf Wars duals. No Homedale representation had been selected for years.

Western States

Wynn Watson won the 6-and-under 50- to 56-pound championship in Thursday's Greco-Roman tournament.

He pinned Team California's Roman Ayala in eight seconds and posted a 12-1 technical fall against Montana's Connor Sweat.

Hunter was runner-up in the 12U heavyweight class. He pinned Idaho teammate Dillon Henson in 1 minute, 11 seconds in his opening match

Wynn and Hunter both earned medals in Friday's freestyle tournament.

A seven-second pin of Ayala highlighted Wynn's third-place finish in the 6U 48-56

division

Hunter took fifth at 12U 120-plus with a 37-second pin vs. California's Apollos Galvan.

Higley wrestled in the 12U age group at 75 pounds, getting a 6-1 decision against Chase Austin.

Wynn pulled off a pin at the 2:27 mark against Connor Sweat on his way to a runner-up showing in the Kinder and Below division's 50-58 weight class during Saturday's Folkstyle tournament.

Hunter also competed in the 5- to 6-year-old 120-plus division Saturday.

"These boys fought hard and battled the entire tournament," coach Lance Bell said.

Turf Wars

The long week in Utah began for Hunter and Micah with Greco-Roman and freestyle duals.

Team Idaho finished third in both tournaments.

In the freestyle tournament on June 21, Hunter and Micah each went 3-2 as Team Idaho won three of five duals.

Idaho beat Alaska, 34-16, Hawaii, 43-15, and Nevada, 35-24.

In the June 20 Greco-Roman tournament, Micah won two of five bouts, and Hunter lost two matches on the mat and got three forfeit victories.

Idaho beat Nevada, 33-23, Hawaii, 36-21, and Alaska, 30-25.



Above: Hunter Bell and Wynn Watson after the first day of Western States wrestling Thursday. Below: Micah Higley gets instruction from coaches Joe Egusquiza and Kip Watson. Submitted photos



Rivercats reverse their fortunes, end three-game slide

by John Bruyninckx

For The Owyhee Avalanche
Payton Fine's one-hitter helped the Owyhee Rivercats snap a three-game losing streak.

The Homedale-based Single-A U18 American Legion squad beat the U17 Summer Bull Dogs, 12-0.

Fine notched seven strikeouts, while walking only one batter. Kai Ogan lined a single with one out in the bottom of the fourth inning for the Bull Dogs' only hit. Fine retired the next two hitters on a pop fly and a swinging strikeout.

Owyhee (11-9-1 at week's end) backed Fine with sound defense, committing just one error.

Andrew Marston, Xavier Uranga and Dillon Fine led the Rivercats' offense. Marston was a perfect 3-for-3 with a double, two runs scored and two RBI. A shortstop, Uranga went 3-for-3 and scored three times.

Dillon Fine's only hit in two trips to the plate was a two-run double lined into center field.

The Rivercats scored at least one run in every inning.

Saturday: Gems 10, Riv-

Jr. Legion squad brings drama

by John Bruyninckx

For The Owyhee Avalanche

Todd Thatcher's walk-off single in the seventh inning gave the Owyhee Rivercats Junior Legion 16U squad a win Sunday.

Aron Sotelo tied the score on a passed ball in the bottom of the seventh before Thatcher's hit sealed a 6-5 win over P-Town.

The teams split a doubleheader.

Thatcher went 3-for-3 and scored twice. Center fielder Dylan Arnold scored and knocked in a run for Owyhee (9-3-1 at week's end).

Dawson Parkins, pitched a complete game to pick up the win, striking out six and walking four. Only two P-Town runs were earned. Parkins threw 100 pitches.

Sunday: P-Town 9, Rivercats 6 — In the first of two games Sunday, P-Town jumped out to a 9-0 lead, then held off a furious six-run rally in the bottom of the seventh, to hold on for the win.

Thursday: Rivercats 26, Melba 7 (4) — Parkins drove in four runs for the winning squad, which picked up 11 hits in the rout.

Tyler Magdaleno doubled and homered for the Colts.

Three pitchers toed the rubber for the Rivercats with starter Dylan Arnold getting credit for the win despite only pitching one inning.

ercats 7 — The Gems scored four runs in the top of the sixth to pull away.

Owyhee's first three hitters — D'Orr Packer, Marston and

Dillon Fine — went a combined 7-for-8 with seven runs scored, five stolen bases and two RBI. Starting pitcher Oklin Carson, who took the loss,

also contributed two RBI.

Saturday: Rainier Elite 9, Rivercats 8 — Rainier Elite 16U/18U scored five times in the bottom of the fifth then held off Owyhee's late rally.

The Rivercats scored three runs in the top of the seventh, but Ben Stebbins' fly ball to center ended the game and stranded Marston at third base representing the tying run.

Friday: Kennewick, Wash., 10, Rivercats 0 (5) — Kennewick Phantoms AA pitcher Ambrose Driver threw a gem, allowing just one hit, while striking out eight batters and walking none.

Marston's ground-ball single with one out in the bottom of the first was the Rivercats' only hit.

Marston, who started on the mound for Owyhee, was saddled with the loss.

Thursday: Rivercats 13, Legacy Juniors 16U 6 — After jumping out to a 6-0 lead, Owyhee almost found itself in a tie game when Legacy scored five runs in the top of the fourth.

The Rivercats scored six times in the bottom of the sixth to put an end to Legacy's

comeback hopes.

Dillon Fine and brother Payton went a combined 6-for-8 at the plate, scoring seven runs and driving home five. The winning pitcher, Dillon also hit two doubles.

Carson contributed in a big way, going 3-for-3, including a triple. He also scored twice and drove in three runners.

June 21: Rivercats 15, Emmett 7 — After Emmett tied the game with a single run in the top of the fifth, Owyhee scored eight times in the bottom half of the frame to take the game back and set up the victory.

Three Emmett pitchers combined to walk five Rivercats in the fifth inning.

Catcher Lukas Hall went 1-for-3 with four RBI to lead Owyhee's offense.

June 21: Emmett 8, Rivercats 5 — Emmett broke open a 4-4 game with four runs in the top of the seventh to steal the victory.

Packer went 3-for-4 from Owyhee's leadoff spot and scored three runs.

Payton Fine took the loss, allowing eight runs in 6 2/3 innings.

Commentary

Letter
to the editor

Criminal punishments
still soft after PA’s departure

Am I the only person in Owyhee County that is alarmed at the lenient sentences given in our court? It seems our judges are from the Garscon School of Justice.

Last week, they had two felons, one with a weapon, who could have gone to the state pen for two to five years. Instead they got probation, community service and a fine. We aren’t in Los Angeles County. The felon in Los Angeles plea bargained and was out on the street where he killed two police officers.

Poor Joshua Walker spent 88 days in jail and a fine for misdemeanor drug paraphernalia possession.

Which is worse, the felons, one with a weapon, or the poor druggie?

I thought that when we got rid of (former county Prosecuting Attorney Jeffrey L.) Phillips, things would improve, but I guess not. Who appointed these soft on crime judges? Do we ever collect the fines?

P. T. Rathbone
Marsing

Americans
for Limited
Government
Global conditions
warrant tapping
conservation farms

by Robert Romano

The federal government continues to pay farmers not to farm on some 22 million acres of farmlands that are a part of the voluntary Conservation Reserve Program, established in 1985 to address soil erosion and other environmental impacts caused by farming, even as the global supply crisis, the war in Ukraine and bad weather are all combining to reduce global agriculture production in 2022, threatening starvation in the Third World.

In any given year, before the COVID supply crisis or the war in Ukraine, 9 million people were already starving to death each year, according to global health estimates by the United Nations and the World Food Programme.

Now, that crisis could get even worse, as global wheat production is taking a major hit, according to the latest data by the Department of Agriculture in May: “Global production is forecast at 774.8 million tons, 4.5 million lower than in 2021-22. Reduced production in Ukraine, Australia, and Morocco is only partly offset by increases in Canada, Russia, and



JP Doodles



Montana-based syndicated editorial cartoonist Barry McWilliams passed away in August. The McWilliams Estate has given The Owyhee Avalanche permission to publish his cartoon. McWilliams’ cartoons appeared in more than 1,500 newspapers, and he visited hundreds of elementary schools teaching children to draw.

From Washington
Investigating how \$350 billion
in COVID relief funds has been used

Last year’s partisan, nearly \$2 trillion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) gave \$350 billion to governments of states, localities, territories and Tribes, but lacked any oversight mechanism to ensure the funds were properly used. As Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, I am asking the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to help ensure proper oversight and accountability to Congress and the American people.

Ensuring taxpayer funding is properly used and accounted for is an important responsibility that cannot be sidestepped. Unfortunately, ARPA, unlike the bipartisan Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, did not contain a meaningful built-in nonpartisan oversight mechanism that allows for necessary congressional oversight, resulting in a lack of transparency on uses of the funds provided to various governments.

Despite several discussions with officials at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and materials provided from the department, there remains insufficient information on details, and reporting that is publicly available to date indicates erroneous reporting that Treasury appears to take with casual indifference. For instance, in a document detailing obligations and expenditures, there were several instances where expenditures exceeded obligations, a seeming accounting impossibility. Treasury officials have indicated no desire to request corrections of known reporting errors, and Treasury’s position appears to be to treat errors as bygones to ignore.

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

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



Such a practice does not adhere to principles of sound federal financial management.

Because of the lack of information on the uses of and accounting for these federal funds, we requested the GAO help ensure proper oversight of, and financial controls over, at least \$350 billion of ARPA funding for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and necessary accountability to the American people.

We asked the GAO for a prompt assessment of the Treasury Department’s administration of state and local funds as it assists in investigating a series of

Commentary

Financial management
Budgeted or not, money gambled is money wasted

Dear Dave,

Sometimes on vacation trips I like to check out casinos. I always account for the money I wager in my budget, and I never spend more than I've allotted. How do you feel about gambling at a casino, as long as you limit your spending this way?

— Carson

Dear Carson,

OK, I'm going to be honest about this. When someone tells me they gamble for fun or recreation, my first thought is they're crazy — crazy enough to think they'll actually come out

ahead. I mean, you might see a news story once in a while about someone winning big money in a casino, but that almost never happens. Think, too, about how much cash those folks flushed down the toilet previously while gambling. In reality, there's a strong chance they didn't really "win" anything. They probably just recouped a small portion of their previous, substantial losses.

I know, all this probably makes me sound old and out of touch. But I just don't get the concept of gambling "for fun." I don't find it thrilling or exciting to lose money I've worked



hard to earn, even if there are flashing lights and a party going

on. Don't get me wrong, my wife and I include "fun money" in our budget every month and do things we enjoy. But, to each his own, I guess.

Still, my advice would be don't waste your time and money on that stuff. One way or another, the house always wins. It's your money, and you can what you want with it, Carson. But think about this: Why do most of the folks sitting at slot machines and card tables look like they can't afford to lose money? The majority look desperate, some even angry, and that's sad. I don't know, maybe it's the lighting or some

other strange coincidence.

Yeah, I don't think so.

— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is a seven-time No. 1 national best-selling author, personal finance expert, and host of The Ramsey Show, heard by more than 18 million listeners each week. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today Show, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business, and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

✓ Conservation: Secretary of Ag has all requirements to implement rule

From Page 14

the United States. Production in Ukraine is forecast at 21.5 million tons in 2022-23, 11.5 million lower than 2021-22 due to the ongoing war."

Recently, wheat has been particularly hard hit, with U.S. wheat production down 15 percent since 2019, from 1.93 billion bushels in 2019 to 1.64 billion in 2021, according to data compiled by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

According to a March Department of Agriculture release on prospective plantings, "All wheat planted area for 2022 is estimated at 47.4 million acres, up 1 percent from 2021. If realized, this represents the fifth-lowest all wheat planted area since records began in 1919."

Just on June 7, Peter Sands, the executive director of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, told Reuters that the current global food crisis could kill just as many people as COVID. To date, almost 7 million people have died globally from COVID.

Sands warned: "Food shortages work in two ways. One is you have the tragedy of people actually starving to death. But second is you have the fact that often much larger numbers of people are poorly nourished, and that makes them more vulnerable to existing diseases... It's not as well-defined as some brand-new pathogen appearing with distinctive new symptoms. But it could well be just as deadly."

Meaning, millions more could starve — more than usual — if global agriculture production does not soon catch up to demand.

So, what are we doing about it? On May 11,

President Joe Biden told the nation that U.S. farmers were "expanding production and feeding the world in need" this year. But so far, Biden only pointed to a federal insurance program to incentivize farmers in the short term to engage in double-cropping, whereby fields are planted twice in a season and harvested early.

That might help. But what about the 22 million acres that the federal government is sitting on as a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program? Why aren't we tapping that as is already allowed under federal law?

Specifically, 16. U.S.C. section 3833(b)(1)(B)(i) (I)(cc) allows the Secretary of Agriculture to allow for farming on lands in the Conservation Reserve Program when there is a drought or another type of emergency: "The Secretary... shall permit certain activities or commercial uses of established cover on land that is subject to a contract under the conservation reserve program if... the Secretary... includes contract modifications ... without any reduction in the rental rate for ... emergency haying, emergency grazing, or other emergency use of the forage in response to a localized or regional drought, flooding, wildfire, or other emergency, on all practices, outside the primary nesting season, when... the Secretary ... determines that the program can assist in the response to a natural disaster event without permanent damage to the established cover..."

We have all of the above. There's a drought in the southwest United States presently. There's too much rainfall in North Dakota. There's also the overall global supply crisis and the war in Ukraine.

Overall U.S. agriculture production has been down, with planted acres recently peaking at 319.3 million acres in 2018, according to data compiled by USDA. In 2019, amid flooding, it was down to 303 million acres planted, 310 million acres planted in 2020 during COVID and 317 million acres planted in 2021.

And that is far below the level of farming that used to take place here. Acres planted actually peaked in 1932 at 375 million acres planted. That was right before the Dust Bowl of 1934, which drove planting down to 339 million acres planted before recovering to 361 million acres planted in 1935.

Then, with the advent of suburbs, agriculture production took further hits in the 1960s, when annual land planted was down to less than 300 million acres. It experienced a resurgence in the 1970s and then peaked again at 361 million acres planted in 1981.

Those numbers took a big hit, though, after the 1985 Conservation Reserve Program was established. In 1985, before the program took effect, 353 million acres were planted. In 1986, that number immediately dropped to 338 million acres planted. And in 1987, it was down to 315 million acres planted.

If there ever was a valid basis for President Biden and the USDA to take exception to the Conservation Reserve Program, this is it. These farmlands should be planted before it is too late. My worry is that we will look back on this situation in a year or so and ask, "Why didn't we plant more?"

— Robert Romano is the vice president of public policy at Americans for Limited Government.

✓ COVID: Administration has many questions to answer about funding

From Page 14

oversight questions, including:

- Whether Treasury is ensuring efficient and transparent use of taxpayer resources;
- How Treasury has tracked whether states have satisfied an arbitrary requirement that funds not constitute a "tax cut," and whether the requirement served any useful purpose;
- Information on reporting errors, and whether the practice of ignoring such errors adheres to principles of sound federal financial management;
- What controls have been established to ensure reported expenditures by states and localities abide by the restrictions on uses put in place in ARPA;

• How has Treasury enforced a legal restriction against a government using state and local funds for deposit into pension funds; and

• How much of the \$350 billion allocated by Treasury to state and local governments has been recouped to date, and how can Congress and the American people monitor any such recoupments?

This recent inquiry is part of my longtime concern with oversight of these taxpayer dollars. In March of 2021, as ARPA became law, I urged U.S. Department of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen to follow a strong oversight framework, similar to that employed under the CARES Act, to ensure proper oversight and taxpayer protection. I followed this with another

March 2021 letter to Secretary Yellen requesting details and clarity on how the Department would implement the state and local provisions in ARPA, and I continue to press the Biden Administration to share needed details. Taxpayers deserve oversight, accountability and transparency of this massive spending, and I will not let up in working to ensure these questions are answered.

— 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.

Religious Expression

Jesus is God in the flesh

by Jack Muldoon

The Gospel of John is a persuasive argument for the deity of Jesus. It concentrates on presenting Jesus as the Word, that is, God who became a man. Thus, John meticulously records the statements and describes the miracles of Jesus that can only be attributed to God Himself.



Jesus did not say He gave bread; He said He is the Bread which gives life. Jesus was in the beginning, He was with God, and he was God.

“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”

— John 1:3-5

“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, not of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

— John 1:12-13

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

— John 3:16

Awareness of God’s victory over the Antichrist and all evil gives assurance to believers that both the present and the future are firmly in the grasp of God. We should be concerned about the Antichrist, because he provides insight into the mystery of lawlessness and crime that is already at work.

“By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God,

and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard is coming and is now already in the world.”

— 1 John 4:2-3

“And be not conformed to this world: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

— Romans 12:2

The Bible tells us we can know that we have eternal life. With absolute certainty, we can know that Jesus died on the cross, that He rose from the dead, and that He is coming again. We can know whether we have said yes to Him. Going to Heaven is not a matter of guesswork or chance: “I hope I am going to make it... I think I have done the right thing.” No, Jesus did the right thing when He went to the cross and died in our place, when He took the wrath of God against us on Himself, and when He rose from the dead to give us the gift of eternal life. You and I must put our faith and trust in what He did.

The Bible is telling us the truth that, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

— Romans 10:13

We can know that we are ready to meet the Lord because we have chosen to put our faith and trust in Him. The Bible says hope comes from God. He wants us to know that death is not the end and we were meant to live forever with Him. God placed within our hearts a yearning for Heaven. Lord Jesus, thank You for Your Word and for Your mighty power at work in us and through us. Help us make the most of every opportunity for ministry that You open to us today.

— Jack Muldoon is a long-time Marsing resident who has been instrumental in the non-denominational prayer breakfast staged at the Nazarene church as well as the annual Marsing High School all-alumni picnic in August.

It’s not dead yet: Marsing merchant schedules Chamber revival meeting

Public meeting set Thursday

At least one Marsing business owner has taken exception with the dissolution of the town’s Chamber of Commerce.

Gfeller Casemakers co-owner Steve Derricott has put together a meeting to talk about reconstituting the Marsing Chamber of Commerce.

“The Chamber has not been dissolved and cannot be dissolved the way it was done for the simple reason that the Chamber president tendered her resignation on Facebook at the

end of April,” Derricott said.

Derricott contends that because Brooke Lynes resigned on social media in April, she was not the president during the May 4 meeting at which she and two other directors decided to dissolve the Chamber and donate the organization’s remaining funds to the Marsing Disaster Fund.

Derricott said he has spoken with the Chamber treasurer and secretary and they have agreed to continue their roles “for the time being.”

Meanwhile, Derricott invites all Marsing businesses to attend a special meeting to

discuss reviving the Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting will be held from 6 p.m., to 7 p.m., on Thursday inside the Sandbar Community Room adjacent to City Hall, 18 Sandbar Ave.

“Lack of interest and/or participation has damaged the Chamber and caused it to become ineffective,” Derricott wrote in a letter to businesses.

“I believe the Marsing community deserves better and the Chamber of Commerce can be an important resource for the local economy.”

— JPB

Centennial celebration schedule

Friday
4 p.m. — Barbecue competition begins, City Park
6 p.m., to 10 p.m. — Street dance with DJ music from David Quiroz and Jaylen Harris, 2nd Avenue West
8 p.m. — Catfish and carp fishing tournament begins, Island Park

Saturday
9 a.m., to 11 a.m. — Marsing Beautification Project breakfast, \$3 per person, City Park. The meal will cost \$3
9 a.m., to 5 p.m. — Snake River Country Market, live music from The Sofisticats, City Park
10 a.m. — Centennial parade from high school football field to City Park
11 a.m. — Time capsule interred near City Park pavilion
Noon — Marsing Beautification Project duck races, seven heats, \$2 per duck per race,

\$5 for three ducks, City Park. Register at www.marsingbeautificationproject.com
2 p.m. — Fishing tournament awards
4:30 p.m. — Barbecue competition awards
Note — Contest awards and time capsule sponsored by Pacific Steel

Sunday
5 p.m. — Marsing Lions Club barbecue, Island Park
5 p.m. — Island Park Third of July Celebration
Vendors — Wild Lotus, Holy Oly O’s, Ankeny Brothers Kettle Corn, Left-handed Body Art, Peterson Lemonade, Below Zero Snowcones, Best for Less (toys and light strips), youth train, Pair-a-Dice (beer and wine), Carla’s Sparkling (jewelry), and Idaho Central Credit Union
10 p.m. — Fireworks over the Snake River

✓ Centennial: Sponsor steps up for awards

From Page 1

Any barbecue teams that want to sell to the public must have a food license.

Registration forms and rules and regulations are available at City Hall, 18 Sandbar Ave. Contact Justine at (208) 760-7712 with questions.

The fishing derby champion will reel in \$250 and a trophy. Runner-up earns \$100, and the third-place entry gets \$50.

Check-in will be held from 6:30 p.m., to 7:45 p.m., on Friday at Island Park. The tournament begins 15 minutes after the close of registration

and lasts until 1 p.m., on Saturday.

Anglers — either solo (\$10) with two rods or a two-person team with one rod each (\$20) — will be able to fish only in their designated block. Blocks will be drawn at random before the tournament.

As qualifying fish are caught, they will be brought to the tournament supervisor to be weighed.

All catfish will be released back into the Snake River, while carp will be disposed of.

The awards ceremony

will take place at 2 p.m., on Saturday at City Park.

Call William Linker for more information at (208) 614-7110.

Trophies for both the fishing derby and the barbecue competition were donated and built by Pacific Steel.

Other sponsors of the centennial celebration include Integra Resources, the operator of the DeLamar Mine, and MSBT Law.

For questions about the celebration or information on being a vendor, call City Hall at (208) 896-4122.

Find out
What’s happening
Read Calendar each week
in the Avalanche

Religious Expression

“Religious Expression” is a way for pastors to deliver a message to our readers.

We encourage religious leaders to email their writings, of no more than 500 words, and a photo plus personal information and information about their church and its services. The hope is to have a regular column rotating among the area’s pastors, published occasionally in conjunction with the Avalanche’s Owyhee County Church Directory.

Contact managing editor Jon P. Brown at jon@owyheeavalanche.com or (208) 337-4681, ext. 102.

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

July 2, 1997



Not just for show...

Homedale's new fire truck has arrived in town, after a tour of the shows in several western states. The vehicle is equipped with the latest in fire fighting technology, and will provide the volunteer force and the public with an extra measure of safety.

Homedale Fire takes delivery of new pumper

Taxpayers of the Homedale Rural Fire District who supported an override levy last fall to purchase a new vehicle for the city's volunteer fire fighters are paying for much more than a mere fire truck.

They're getting the latest in 21st century fire fighting technology.

This truck has everything: Automatic hose and ladder racks. A 1,000-gallon tank and a 1,250-gallon per minute pump. A five-man cab with an intercom system. A control panel located behind the cab where the operator can control various functions. Automatic chain-up of the rear tires for icy roads. Lights underneath the truck for better visibility while fighting fires at night. Plenty of storage space for needed equipment.

And the taxpayers are getting a vehicle that looks like a show truck.

That's because it is. Or, was.

Before the city took delivery of its new wheels, Boise Mobile Equipment took a chassis built in Wyoming, Michigan and transformed it into a state-of-the-art fire fighting apparatus, complete with powerful floodlights, striping and chrome everywhere.

And then they took it to the shows — in California, Oregon, Utah and back to Idaho, breaking in the powerful Cummins diesel engine and Allison transmission.

But for anyone who sees the new rig and feels perhaps Homedale spent too much money on a truck too fancy for the city's needs, guess again.

Because the truck was a demonstrator model, all the extras came free of charge.

The total cost isn't in yet, said Homedale Fire Chief Dan Parrill, but it's expected to come in at less than the \$198,000 authorized by last fall's levy election.

BLM transfers land to Grand View

Under the authority of the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act, the Bureau of Land Management recently transferred public land to the city of Grand View for its existing sewage treatment facility.

The R&PP patents transferred 15.52 acres to Grand View. Until recently, the facility had operated on public lands under R&PP leases. The land transfer will not only allow the city to update or change its existing sewage treatment operation under existing EPA and DEQ regulatory requirement without further BLM review, but will also reduce federal liability for future potential hazardous material contamination.

50 years ago

June 29, 1972



NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS of the Idaho Junior Hereford Association are Clay Harrison, Heyburn, president; Eric Davis, Bruneau, first vice-president; Mike Kendall, Emmett, second vice-president; Debbie Howard, Murtaugh, secretary-treasurer; Patricia Larsen, Burley, reporter; and directors Barbara Swan, Oakley; De Ann Scott, Hazelton; Ken Rice, New Plymouth; and Rona Breckenridge, Tetonia. Chris Chadwick (right), Twin Falls, is the newly selected Idaho Hereford Queen.

Commission favors survey for zoning ordinance

The Owyhee Planning Commission met on June 12, at Murphy and after hearing a discussion on the merits of securing a comprehensive plan upon which to base a county zoning ordinance, recommended to the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners that the firm of Stephens, Thompson and Runyan of Boise be hired as consulting engineers to draft such a plan for the county. Cost is not to exceed \$5,000.

Dick Day of the Boise firm stressed the need for a good plan in order to be eligible for federal funds for projects, and to base a zoning ordinance.

He said tools to implement the plan include 1. zoning; 2. subdivision regulations; 3. housing codes; 4. capital improvement programming; 5. redevelopment programs.

Elements of a good plan include 1. land use; 2. transportation: streets and highways, railroads, airports and waterways; 3. public facilities: water and sewer systems, schools, public buildings, parks and open spaces; 4. housing.

Basic data needed for planning include 1. history and location; 2. physical features, topography; 3. analysis; 4. alternatives; 5. plan preparation; 6. revisions; 7. final plan.

Information already available through various agencies is to be used in preparing the plan. The board decided to meet again July 10 to review maps available through the soil conservation service.

Day was accompanied by Jack Peterson, a former member of the Idaho Water Resource Board, now a member of the engineering firm. Also present were Bruce Wheelwright of the state health department, Townsend, Blackstock, Pitman, Johnstone, Robinson, Sweep of the planning commission, and County Commissioners Don Davis and Frank Jayo. — Nick Ihli, secretary.

Symms tells party members of his philosophy

MARSING — Steve Symms, candidate for Congress in Idaho's First District, speaking before a group of Republicans at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P.T. Rathbone, stressed the fact that he is the candidate that represents a choice for the voters.

Symms stated he is the only candidate so far that understands and believes in the free market system. All the other candidates keep talking about improving the government — Symms is the only candidate who has consistently talked about reducing government.

Other candidates' statements reflect a belief that change takes place because of government action, but Symms is the only candidate who recognizes that change occurs from new ideas and that these new ideas always come from the free and private sector of the economy.

155 years ago

June 29, 1867

W.B. CRANE, Superintendent, informs us that the Ainsworth Mill is being put in order for business and will be started up the ensuing week. Ore from the North Star ledge is now being hauled to the mill. The Ainsworth donkey engine for hoisting is to be placed on the Oro Fino works and as soon as possible the Ainsworth Mill is to have a constant supply of Oro Fino rock to crush. A contract to this effect has been entered into.

The Owyhee Mill starts up on Monday.

The Minear commenced on Whisky Gulch ore, but broke some machinery and is temporarily stopped.

HOME NEWS FROM ABROAD.—We find some of this in a New York correspondence (dated May 12th) of the *Oregonian*. As follows:

G. Collier Robbins went out on this steamer. After a brief sojourn in Portland he will proceed to Owyhee and commence operations for his company and will also commence work on the War Eagle ledge, for which he has ordered a mill from this city of the style known as the "Little Giant" — a species of crusher or grinder. In a future letter I will give a full description of this mill and what it professes to do.

Among the old Oregonians recently settled in this city as their future home, is Col. D. Wm. Douthist, who took to himself a wife just one week ago, and has gone on living in style. There is something almost romantic about this marriage. About a month ago he left the hotel and concluded to take board in a private house, where he could have more comfort and quiet. Accordingly he came across a suitable place. The landlady was a charming widow with a few children — enough for a start, where he pitched his tent, and after partaking of her sumptuous hospitalities and enjoying her precious smiles for three weeks, she, with all her loveliness and children, suddenly became his own.

There is a large number of Oregonians, Idahoans and Californians in the city who came here to make their fortunes, but only succeeded in spending what little they had, and are now too poor to get away and almost too poor to get their daily bread. One of the great California stock operators, who formerly counted his money by the thousands and had good credit, went home yesterday as a steerage passenger, and may be regarded as exceedingly fortunate in being able to do that. These men are all regarded as "dead beats," and may be seen at all times loitering about the large hotels, picking their teeth and "striking" every man who has a little money for "a few dollars" for a "few days," until they "close up their sale." This is not confined exclusively to those from the Pacific Coast, for the city is full of them, from all parts of the country. If we go to the Stock Exchange in Broad Street we can find swarms of these "lame ducks" and "dead beats" — men who have been famous at the rat pit, but have since been "cleaned out." Being unable to settle their "differences" they are not allowed to come inside an iron railing which separates them from the "operators." Nevertheless, they cannot keep away from the place of their former glory. Day after day they come and range themselves along their iron grating and look over at the rat pit with the strongest expressions of intelligent vacancy and longing despair that can be found this side of purgatory. Indeed, they seem to be part of the furniture of the room. I write this as a warning to the ambitious Webfooter who has longings to come East where they can shine in proportion to their abilities.

From page 1

✓ Superintendent: New schools boss comes from Cascade district

my training and skills could be used more effectively by engaging youth within the school community,” Blaser said of his transition to a law enforcement career.

Following his law enforcement work, Blaser spent 11 years as a middle school and

high school assistant principal in the West Ada School District.

Most recently, Blaser was Cascade schools superintendent from 2018 to 2021. Cascade is a small rural district similar in size to the Bruneau-Grand View district.

“As superintendent of a rural school district, I have had the opportunity to lead important and necessary changes, which have resulted in continuous academic achievement, improved staff morale, financial stability, and greater community trust,” Blaser said.

Blaser and his wife Marla have been married for 39 years and have four adult children. He enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, trail running, sport shooting, reading and spending time with his family.

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

Public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE OWYHEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

On July 5th 2022 beginning at 10:00 am, the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners will hold a public meeting in courtroom 2 of the Owyhee County Courthouse located at 20381 State Highway 78, Murphy, Idaho on the following matter at the time listed below.

Beginning at 10:00 am, the Board will hold a public comment meeting on the final draft of the zoning map for the Oreana and Grand View areas. The proposed map is the result of previous public meetings of citizen input. This meeting is for unincorporated Owyhee County only and does not pertain to any land inside city limits.

Copies of proposed map is available for review in the Planning and Zoning office and can also be viewed at www.owyheecounty.net under the Community Planning tab. For additional information please call 208-495-2095 ext. 2.

06/08,29/2022

BOARD OF OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS April 2022 Synopsis April 4

-Approved the agenda as presented.

-Paid all outstanding bills as presented: Current expenses-\$20,539; R&B-\$3,247; Dist. court-\$1,105; Probation-\$586; Health dist.-\$7,118; Historical-\$1,155; I&C-\$11,113; Revaluation-\$1,092; Solid waste-\$15,503; 911-\$1,790; Off Hwy. Vehicles-\$783; Elections-\$175; Capital project fund-\$1,615.

-Approved the March 28, 2022 meeting minutes.

-Approved the GIS contract with Jay Young for the Sheriff's Office.

-Approved the Crushing Project Contract (#00720-1) with Robison Logging and Excavation.

-At 9:25 a.m. went into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (a) personnel and (f) regarding possible litigation. Open session was resumed at 9:33 a.m.

April 8

-Met with BLM to coordinate the grazing permit renewal on Sierra del Rio.

-Met with Clerk Barkell and

NOTICE OF FEE INCREASES				
The Homedale Jt. School District #370, Canyon and Owyhee Counties, proposes to increase the following fee by an amount that exceeds one hundred five percent (105%) of the fee charged last year. The proposed percentage increase of the fees is listed below.				
	Current (2021-22)	Next Year (2022-23)	Percent Increase	
Fee	Fee	Fee		
Elementary Breakfast	\$0.00	\$1.75	100%	
Elementary Lunch	\$2.05	\$2.10	2.44%	
M.S. & H.S. Breakfast	\$0.00	\$2.00	100%	
M.S. & H.S. Lunch	\$2.30	\$2.60	13.04%	
This fee is being increased due to Federal Regulations.				
All citizens are invited to attend a public hearing on the increased fees request. The hearing will be held on July 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Homedale School District Board Room, 116 East Owyhee, Homedale, Idaho.				
Debbie Denney Business Manager 06/29,07/06/2022				

HR Director Fahey to discuss the wage study presented on April 4.

April 11

-Set the agenda as presented.

-Approved the April 4th, 2022 minutes.

-Approved a private road name Llaew Lane.

-Approved Owyhee County Resolution 2022-10 to transfer the duty weapon to retiring employee Perry McCormack.

-Approved Resolution 2022-11 requesting that the Department of Agriculture form a CAFO Siting Advisory Committee to review an application submitted by Reynolds Creek Calf Ranch.

-Approved sending a letter to the Department of Agriculture to request that they form a CAFO Siting Advisory Committee to review an application submitted by Reynolds Creek Calf Ranch.

April 18

-Approved the agenda as presented.

-Paid all outstanding bills as presented: Current expenses-\$58,781; R&B-\$104,027; Dist. court-\$2,401; Fair-\$203; Probation-\$651; Historical-\$360; I&C-\$5,773; Revaluation-\$291; Solid waste-\$3,709; Weeds-\$170; 911-\$5,476; County vessel-\$174; Waterways-\$396; Off Hwy. Vehicles-\$331; Elections-\$1,368; Capital project fund-\$10,088.

-Approved the April 8th, 2022 meeting minutes.

-Approved the April 11th, 2022 meeting minutes.

-Approved the JGT Architecture fee proposal for the Owyhee County Justice Center remodel.

-Approved the Jess Payne Appraisal Service contract for a restricted appraisal on 128 W. Idaho Ave, Homedale.

-Assessor's new hire-J. Redford-Davis; promotion-T. Bailey; and reassignment-E. Black have been tabled until after the April 18th discussion.

-Approved the Sheriff's rehire of Shane Troutman for full-time seasonal work.

-Approved the Sheriff's rehire of Richard Demurjian for full-time seasonal work.

-Approved 5 retail alcoholic beverage licenses.

-Approved the lien on I&C case 22-05.

-At 10:42 a.m. went into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (a) personnel and (f) regarding possible litigation. Open session was resumed at 10:59 a.m.

-Boise District BLM meeting is postponed until April 25, 2022.

-Approved the Assessor's promotion of Tabitha Bailey from DMV Clerk to DMV Supervisor.

-Approve the Assessor's reassignment of Elaine Black to DMV Clerk 2.

April 25

-Set the agenda as presented.

-Approved the minutes from the April 18, 2022 meeting.

-Approve Resolution 2022-12 – County Pay Grade & Salary

Schedule.

-Approve two 2023 liquor license renewals.

-Approved the Assessor's new hire of Jennifer Redford-Davis for the position of Deputy Assessor.

-At 9:35 a.m. went into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (a) personnel and (f) regarding possible litigation. Open session was resumed at 9:55 a.m.

-Met with the Boise District BLM for monthly coordination meeting.

06/29/2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR INTENT TO SELL CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 201st Ave. W. CITY OF MARSING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wednesday, the 13th day of July, 2022, at the hour of 7:00 o'clock p.m., at 18 Sandbar Ave., Marsing, Idaho, the City of Marsing will hold a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comments regarding the proposed Intent to Sell 201st Ave. W., Marsing as the time and place when and where the City Council will consider and hear all comments thereto which may also be made in writing and filed with the City Clerk on or before said time.

06/29;07/06/2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL EVENTS LICENSE REQUIRED ORDINANCE

Please take notice that a public hearing before the Council of the City of Marsing will take place at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm at Marsing City Hall located at 18 Sandbar Ave., Marsing, Idaho to consider a proposed adoption of a new Title 2, Chapter 6 entitled "Special Events".

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MARSING, IDAHO CREATING A NEW CODE SECTION REQUIRING LICENSES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIALEVENTSCOMMITTEE; REQUIRING A SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE APPLICATION; PROVIDING FOR LICENSE FEES; REQUIRING PROOF OF INSURANCE; PROVIDING FOR LICENSE RESTRICTIONS; PROVIDING FOR OUTDOOR EVENTS; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; REPEALING

ALL ORDINANCE(S) IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

All persons desiring to be heard concerning the proposed adoption should be in attendance at the hearing. The file relating to this proposal is available for review in the office of the City Clerk at Marsing City Hall. Written comments may be submitted prior to the Council meeting, but must be received by the City Clerk no later than 3:00 pm, Friday, July 8th, 2022 in order to be considered as part of the record. Written comments can be mailed to Marsing City Hall, PO Box 125, Marsing, ID 83639 or emailed to office@marsingcity.com.

06/29;07/06/2022

PUBLIC HEARING City of Grand View proposed rate increase

The public is invited to attend a public hearing to discuss the impending sewer/water new hook-up rate increase on July 13, 2022, 6 pm at Grand View City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. Grand View, ID. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines, masks are suggested.

06/29,07/06/2022

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. CV37-22-00204 In the Matter of the Estate of PAUL RAYMOND SPANG, Deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative of the above-named decedent. All persons having claims against the decedent or the estate are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this Notice or their claims will be forever barred. Claims must be presented to the undersigned at the address indicated, and filed with the Clerk of the Court.

DATED: June 13, 2022

/s/ Verla A. Robison
c/o STEVEN R. RAUSCH
Attorney for personal representative
1673 W. Shoreline Drive, Suite 140
Boise, Idaho 83702
Ph. 208.350.7320
06/22,29;07/06/2022

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WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO ADVERTISE THIS WEEK?



Sunlight heats up Bruneau auction

by Becky Lisle

After missing a year due to COVID-19, the Bruneau Booster Club's 33rd community auction came back strong, grossing more than \$38,000 total from the auction, monetary donations, raffle ticket sales, and pie and beverage sales.

The all-time record grossing auction was in 2020, with \$43,960 earned.

"The money raised would be right in with the amount that's been raised in the past, and we had less auction items," booster club president Katie Colyer said.

Funds raised go toward a number of community support and improvement projects. Some future projects planned include adding a shelter to the park, sealing the rock wall around the park, and adding

a history timeline. The club also routinely donates to other various community endeavors.

This year's auction was held the evening of June 10 in the Bruneau park with an estimated 300 in attendance. This year's event featured a free baked potato bar dinner with food items donated by various area businesses.

The high-selling auction item was Fern Graham's famous red velvet cake made by Lez Rahn. The cake brought \$2,100.

Other high-selling items included a Bruneau boys calendar made by Reva Tobias (\$1,700), a Brazzen dog kennel donated by Matt Tindall (\$900), five hours of electrical labor donated by JAG Electric (\$800), and a human hair mecate made by Jim Hanks (\$800).



Part of the crowd of 300 people that showed up for the Bruneau Community Auction, which was held under a new schedule and blue skies. Submitted photo

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