

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOL. 40, NO. 3

\$1

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025



Even in winter, there are several recreational vehicle users staying at the Shady Lane RV Park in Homedale.

Recent RV ordinance not enforced

Neither private park nor Homedale's city spaces have been in compliance

A request from RV park managers revealed that a recent Homedale ordinance isn't being enforced.

Shady Lane RV Park managers Allan and Laura Marcus sought permission to lengthen the maxi-

mum allowable length of stay at the privately owned facility at the east entrance to town during last Wednesday's city council meeting.

Turns out, the park has already been out of compliance with a city

ordinance passed when the original conditional use permit was issued for the RV park.

"We've had some people there six or seven months," Allan Marcus said.

The council passed the ordinance to assuage residents' fears that the

— See *Ordinance*, page 18

Bachman to chair BOCC

Holton succeeds Hoagland in District 1

"Madam chairman."

With those words, well-wishers who packed into Owyhee County Courtroom 1 witnessed another slice of history Monday in Murphy.

Dist. 3 Cindy Bachman became the first female chair of the Board of County Commissioners after nomination from Dist. 2 Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi.

New Dist. 1 Commissioner Walt Holton cast an affirmative vote for Bachman in his first official action as a BOCC member.

"I'm very blessed and humbled," Bachman said before moving to the center of the dais. County Clerk Angie Barkell then called the Bruneau Republican "Madam chairman" for the first time and handed Bachman the gavel.

There was some levity in the moment when Bachman remarked about the low

— See *BOCC*, page 2

Ginger Loucks presented 4-H Distinguished Service Award

A woman with a lifelong history of involvement with the organization has been given Owyhee County 4-H's Distinguished Service Award.

Marsing resident Ginger Loucks received a certificate of recognition during the Jan. 7 4-H leaders meeting at the Marsing HUB.

The selection announcement said Loucks was honored for her "unwavering commitment" as an Owyhee County 4-H volunteer for 20 years.

Loucks began her volunteer service with 4-H shortly after graduating from the role of 4-H participant.

She is currently a leader for the Owyhee Silver Spurs.

The former Owyhee County Fair Board secretary and fair manager has been a longtime organizational leader in the 4-H program.

She has worked to provide exciting educational opportunities, mentorship, and support to countless youth as well as parents and co-leaders over the years, the county 4-H said.

"We are grateful for the selfless dedication that she has committed to others in the 4-H program throughout her years of service," University of Idaho Owyhee County Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Educator Suriñe Greenway said in a press release.

The Owyhee County 4-H

Distinguished Service Award (DSA) is the highest honor bestowed upon 4-H volunteers.

The DSA recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service in supporting the 4-H program. Recipients are acknowledged for their participation, leadership, initiative, and dedication to youth development through 4-H. The DSA not only acknowledges individual achievements but also highlights the vital role of volunteers in advancing the mission of 4-H.

The award promotes continued excellence and inspires others to contribute meaningfully to the development of youth through 4-H.



Right: Owyhee County 4-H program coordinator Synovia Bates (left) presents the Distinguished Service Award to Owyhee Silver Spurs organizational leader Ginger Loucks. Submitted photo



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RV vs. car crash on U.S. 95 sends pair to hospital

A juvenile female was flown to a Boise hospital after a two-vehicle accident closed U.S. Highway 95 south of Homedale for about an hour Thursday.

First-responders rushed to the scene around 6 p.m., on Thursday, and U.S. 95 between Market Road and Graveyard Point Road was closed in both directions for about 70 minutes.

Owyhee County Sheriff's Civil Deputy Tabettha Bailey reported Monday morning that a 2006 Toyota Camry driven by 44-year-old Guadalupe Riviera of Homedale swerved into the southbound lane, leaving the driver of a northbound motor home with no place to go.

The driver of the motor home, 44-year-old Michael Haakenson of Kamiah, tried to take evasive action by driving

the vehicle off the roadway. But the Toyota crashed into the RV as it was heading to the east shoulder of the highway.

The female juvenile was LifeFlighted to Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise, and the female driver of the Camry was transported to St. Al's by ground ambulance.

Neither Haakenson nor his passenger, 42-year-old Tracy Gardner of Kamiah, were in-

jured in the crash.

Responding agencies included OCSO, Homedale Police Department, Homedale Ambulance, Marsing Ambulance, and Homedale Fire.

At press time, it was unknown if citations would be issued.

The highway was reopened at 7:30 p.m.

- The sheriff's office also handled a property damage

accident apparently involving two vehicles at same time Thursday near Y Road and Graveyard Point Road south of Homedale.

Bailey said the damage from the accident totaled less than \$1,000.

Information on the drivers, possible passengers and the vehicles involved wasn't provided.

— JPB

✓ BOCC: New District 1 commissioner cognizant of possible conflicts

From Page 1

position of the office chair formerly occupied by retired Dist. 1 Commissioner and board chair Jerry Hoagland.

Holton also mentioned the condition of his chair.

"That chair has needed to be replaced for a long time," Aberasturi said, drawing laughter.

Bachman presented Hoagland with a Leatherman tool as a gift of appreciation for his 18 years of service.

"So that you can spend your Mondays at work," Bachman said while handing the tool

to Hoagland. The retiring commissioner received a standing ovation from most of the people in the room.

Before the BOCC annual reorganization, Hoagland reflected on his time on the board.

"Since I'm going to be a citizen here shortly," he began.

"I appreciate all the department (heads) and all the elected officials from all my terms for the past 18 years. I am thoroughly humbled by their contributions they've all made to the county.

"It's been an honor and a privilege that I'll respect for the rest of my life. Thank you all."

Aberasturi had been Hoagland's colleague for 14 years.

"Thank you for your time and service, Jerry," Aberasturi said as Hoagland stepped down to make room for Holton. "It's been an honor working with you."

Hoagland's farewell came after Holton and Bachman took the oath of office. Also sworn in were Sheriff Larry Kendrick and Prosecuting Attorney Chris Topmiller.

Aberasturi kicked off the board reorganization with a historic nomination.

"I would like to have the honor of nominating the first female commission chair in Owyhee County of Cindy Bachman," he said.

- As BOCC chair, Bachman will represent the county on the Third District Magistrate Commission.
- Aberasturi will continue as the county's rep on the Southwest District Board of Health. He most recently served as chair.
- Aberasturi relinquished his role in the Treasure Valley Partnership to Holton. The Homedale Republican said it was too difficult to attend the Monday meetings because of the BOCC conflict.
- Aberasturi will remain weed department supervisor for 2025, but after a discussion about open meeting law, Holton agreed to train under

the District 2 commissioner for the next year and work towards herbicide certification so he can assume the role next year.

The weed department supervisor, which must have the certification, is responsible for enforcing noxious weed laws in the county. The supervisor can either fine property owners for violations or spray the weeds and charge the owner. If the owner doesn't pay, a property lien can be issued.

Aberasturi said he doesn't plan to renew his applicators license in 2026, so either another commissioner would have to train up or the county would have to hire a qualified weed supervisor.

- Bachman nominated Aberasturi to serve as Road and Bridge District 1 supervisor even though he is in District 2. She surmised that the redrawing of the commissioner boundaries puts much of the west county's roads in Aberasturi's district anyway.
- "I agree," Aberasturi said. "I would just like to have Walt ... work together with Road and Bridge. I've got two more years then we need someone to work in there."
- Aberasturi said he will still huddle with Hoagland (his predecessor as road supervisor) and the District 1 road boss if questions arise.
- Bachman will serve as Road and Bridge District 3 supervisor.
- Aberasturi will continue as solid waste supervisor with Holton shadowing him in

preparation to take over the job.

- Bachman was appointed Planning and Zoning supervisor.
- Bachman initially nominated Holton as Building Department supervisor, which oversees — among other development issues — building inspector Jim King.

Holton raised the possibility of a conflict of interest because he still plans to build homes in Owyhee County as part of his business, so Aberasturi was appointed Building Department supervisor.

- Aberasturi will be the Buildings and Grounds supervisor with Holton shadowing.
- Bachman will serve as the fair board representative, but Aberasturi said he would like to continue to attend meetings as "an interested party."
- Aberasturi will serve as probation department supervisor.
- The commissioners opted to talk about the indigent burial fee at next week's meeting, which will be held at 9 a.m., on Tuesday because of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

"I would highly recommend that we raise that rate," Aberasturi said while acknowledging that it would have to be a regular agenda item.

The burial rate has been \$750 for at least 18 years, he pointed out.

- The Owyhee Avalanche remains the county's official newspaper.
- County employees will be reimbursed mileage at a rate of 67 cents per mile, which is the same as the State of Idaho.

— JPB

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Gov. Brad Little is greeted with applause as he walks into the chamber to deliver his 2025 State of the State address Jan. 6 at the Statehouse. Photo by Michael Paz / UI James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy

Little maps 2025 in State of State

by Michael Paz
UI McClure Center for Public Policy intern

“Keeping Promises” is the name of the game for Gov. Brad Little, who gave his annual State of the State address in Boise on Jan. 6.

The State Legislature convened its 2025 session at noon on Jan. 6 followed by the governor’s address in the House Chambers at the Statehouse. With a joking reference to Idaho’s government efficiency, Little spoke for only 25 minutes.

Little’s primary focus was on keeping promises, both a reference to personal character and his 2025 budget plan. His first promise was tax relief, which included offering \$100 million in tax relief to Idaho families. Other plans were outlined during the speech, including government efficiency, education, and natural resources.

Government efficiency — The governor focused on the idea of reducing bureaucratic red tape and removing needless laws. Little mentioned Elon Musk’s praise of Idaho’s efforts to curb excessive government footprint, and that President-elect Donald Trump is looking towards Idaho to establish a blueprint for his “Department of Government Efficiency,” or DOGE.

Education — Little said he supported charter schools and school choice, offering \$50 million to “further expand education opportunities for Idaho families.” He further stated the plan would not take

away public school funding, which he calls a “constitutional and moral obligation,” and proposed to commit \$150 million to public schools. He said he remained committed to closing gaps in rural school education, saying the best education is in a public school. Little also reaffirmed his support of LAUNCH, the program designed to get students into trades.

Natural resources — Another subject Little touched on was the state’s aquifers, praising farmers for securing a new water rights deal. His plan mentioned tackling a backlog of unfunded water projects to save the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, which he said is “the lifeblood of Idaho agriculture.” Little’s plan also outlines a strategy to provide bonuses to firefighters and increase the fire suppression budget in an effort to more aggressively support wildfires.

Safety — Alongside fighting cyberattacks, combating illegal drugs was another big item on Little’s list. He mentioned hiring a new prosecutor in North Idaho who would crack down on drug traffickers, and said

state troopers who were earlier deployed at the border would bring expertise in how to find and handle dealers. He mentioned an unspecified amount of investment into corrections, ensuring “those who want to become productive members of society have an off-ramp to a better life.”

Housing — To combat the rising demand for housing, Little proposed removing housing barriers to keep up with the need through permitting reforms.

One item mentioned in a later press release from the governor’s office but not in the speech was a plan to commit \$9.6 million to support Idaho’s foster care system.

The full speech transcript can be found at the Idaho governor’s website: <https://gov.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-sots.pdf>

— Michael Paz, an undergraduate student from Moscow, is the University of Idaho James A. and Louise McClure Center for Public Policy Research intern for the first session of the 68th Idaho Legislature.

BLM geothermal leases up for bid

County commissioners were expected to finalize comments Monday regarding a proposed geothermal lease sale.

Today is the last day for public comment on the Bureau of Land Management’s proposal covering more than 50,000 acres in Owyhee County.

The proposed lease area includes 109 parcels south of Idaho highway 78 between Little Jacks Creek to the east and Castle Creek to the west in the Grand View vicinity, according to BLM documentation.

The parcels overlay an area that is traversed by Oreana

Cut-Off Road and Mud Flat Road, which intersect in the south-central portion of the proposal area.

An environmental assessment could be completed by September.

Submit comments online at [eplanning: blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2035812/510](https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2035812/510) or by email at BLM_ID_BruneauOffice@blm.gov.

Leases are for 10 years for energy development purposes followed by an option to use the developed resource for 35 years and a right of renewal for 55 years.

County: Watch out for sheriff/courts scammer

Owyhee County officials are asking citizens to beware of a scam that is circulating.

Apparently there is an individual claiming to be Lt. Jim Vincent from the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office who is making bogus phone calls.

“Lt. Vincent” calls individuals and claims that they have missed jury duty, or have outstanding warrants or

outstanding citations. The scam caller then requests money to settle the legal matters.

Officials want to make clear that no one from the sheriff’s office or the county courts will call citizens and request payment pertaining to legal matters.

If you suspect a scam, call the OCSO non-emergency line at (208) 495-1154.



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If you have the time and desire to continue your small

farm educa- tion this win- ter, you're in luck! Univer- sity of Idaho Extension Small Farms and our part- ners at the soil and wa- ter conserva- tion districts have some great classes and conferences lined up and now is the time to regis- ter and get these events on your calendar. What's coming up? I can't wait to tell you!

First up, we have lowered the price and expanded the availability of our Cultivating Success Whole Farm Planning Course that I mentioned last month. While you're on the Cultivating Success website, you will also want to check out the information about our "Whole Farm Planning" course, the next step in the journey. This essential course



Ariel Agenbroad

University of Idaho Extension

will walk you through the steps to prepare a well-thought-out plan for your land, life, and business, using a whole-sys- tems lens to create a living plan for your farm future, designing for capacity and sustainability. Over an introductory webinar and three live, in-person course sessions in Emmett, we will cover:

- Sustainability concepts
- Whole farm planning
- Evaluating resources
- Enterprise assessment
- Marketing strategies
- Crop production
- Sustainable and diversified livestock production
- Equipment and facilities
- Enterprise budgets

The course dates are:
• **Introductory webinar** — Noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 23

• **In-person workshops** — 10 a.m., to 5 p.m., on Friday, Jan. 31; Friday, Feb. 28; and

Friday, March 28

• **Class presentation/cel- ebrary day** — 10 a.m., Friday, April 25

The program costs \$120 per farm, and that covers up to three people.

The live and in-person course will take place in Emmett, but a Zoom-only distance option is available for those who would prefer not to travel.

Learn more and register today at <https://www.cultivating-success.org/whole-farm-planning-course>

Soil health event

For growers of all sizes and scales who want to learn and connect with others at an in- person event with fantastic speakers, panels, hands-on workshops and tons of net- working, check out the 14th annual Soil Health Symposium hosted by the Payette Soil and Water Conservation District at

the Four Rivers Cultural Cen- ter in Ontario, Ore. on Thurs- day, Feb. 6. Organizers have engaged two renowned and in- spiring speakers who are lead- ers in regenerative and organic agriculture. Get information at <https://www.payetteswcd.org/soil-health-symposium>.

On Friday, Feb. 7, you'll find one of these speakers present- ing again at the Harvest and Hearth Conference at The Col- lege of Idaho in Caldwell. The Ada Soil and Water Conserva- tion District-organized event brings together local producers for a full day of agricultural education and connection.

This conservation-focused conference includes presenta- tions on livestock, crop pro- duction, and our connection with the community and eco- system around us.

This year's keynote speaker is Dan Kittredge, an expe- rienced regenerative farmer and founder of the Bionutrient Food Association. Registra- tion includes lunch and costs

\$40 for students with a valid ID and \$75 for all others. To learn more or register online, visit <https://www.adaswcd.org/harvest-and-hearth>.

We'll be sharing more op- portunities as they are planned this spring, so stay tuned! And be sure to watch our Extension calendar for additional ways to learn: <https://www.uidaho.edu/extension/news/calendar>.

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

Deadline looms for 4-H'ers dreaming of fair

Animal weigh-in dates announced; poll launched

To retain eligibility to show at this year's Owyhee County Fair, youth must be enrolled with 4-H by Saturday, Feb. 1. Enrollment is available in ZSuite.

For more information, contact the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104.

The county's 4-H program coordinator is Synovia Bates, and she can be reached at synoviabates@uidaho.edu or (208) 369-2163.

The Extension Office is located at 238 8th Ave. W., in Marsing.

The Owyhee County Fair, which is themed "Red, White, and Blue," takes place between Monday, Aug. 4 and Saturday, Aug. 9 at the fairgrounds in Homedale.

For animal exhibitors, Owyhee County 4-H has

announced initial weigh-in dates:

- Market beef on Friday, Feb. 28
- Market swine on Friday, April 4
- Market sheep and market goat on Friday, May 9

The Owyhee County Fair Board meets at 7 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month inside the Owyhee County Community Center, 432 W. Nevada Ave., at the fairgrounds.

A community survey was

launched on Jan. 6 with the fair officials seeking input on what fairgoers would like to see at the 2025 fair.

The poll on the Owyhee County Fair Facebook page asks respondents to vote either for different food vendors or more entertainment for children.

As of Thursday, 56 percent of respondents were interested in more children's entertainment, while 44 percent of the 111 people who answered sought different food vendors.

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Grants support rec and education while protecting resource

A portion of \$600,000 in Foundation for America’s Public Lands grants will have an impact in Owyhee County.

The inaugural grant cycle for the Lands to Love Catalyst Fund will help partners get the matching dollars necessary to achieve more financing.

The first grants align with the foundation’s area’s of focus: Public lands access, stewardship and awareness.

The foundation is a charitable partner of the Bureau of Land Management and provides focus on the work of BLM and its employees to encourage additional support for public lands and waters.

Four grants have been allocated to organizations supporting BLM-managed initiatives, including:

- **Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area (NCA)** — The Birds of Prey NCA Partnership received \$350,000 to start an outdoor classroom in the area that straddles the Snake River in Owyhee and Ada counties.
- The hands-on learning initiative will provide students from middle school to college the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and engage in stewardship work. They’ll get involved in monitoring local ecosystems, learning about the lands, waters, plants, and animals that make this region special.
- “The Lands to Love grant comes at a perfect time for our fast-growing organization,” Birds of Prey NCA Partnership president Steve Alsup said. “Our partnership with the Foundation for America’s Public Lands will greatly expand our ability to bring

quality STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) educational opportunities to students across the Treasure Valley.

“The aim of our new outdoor classroom program is to introduce as many high school- and middle school-aged students to the NCA as we can, while also providing a more intensive, internship-style opportunity to two undergraduate students each semester.”

- **Wilson Creek Travel Management Area** — The Wilson Creek Trail Coalition received \$15,000 to enhance trail safety, improve user experience, and foster a sense of community and stewardship among trail users in and around the BLM-managed Wilson Creek Travel Management Area in the Owyhee Desert.
- The area offers opportunities for hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails.
- The grant will help protect the resource by keeping folks on designated trails.
- “The Lands to Love Catalyst grant will enable the Wilson Creek Trail Coalition, in partnership with the BLM Owyhee Field Office, to invest in fireproof signage and walk-through gates that will help keep trail users and animals safe, while minimizing off-trail damage and enhancing the outdoor experience for all visitors,” coalition member Susan Kolbay said.
- “These long-term investments — even simple ones like these — highlight the importance of collaboration in caring for our public lands, ensuring they remain sustainable and accessible for generations to come.”

Owyhee Gardeners set 2025 meeting schedule

The Owyhee Gardeners have announced the club’s 2025 meeting schedule.

The garden club meets at 1 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month at the Sandbar Community Room inside Marsing City Hall, 18 Sandbar Ave.

Anyone interested in gardening, regardless of skill level, is welcome to attend the meetings.

The first meeting of the year

took place Thursday, and the next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13.

The schedule includes:

March 13
April 10
May 8
June 12
July 10
Aug. 14
Sept. 11
Oct. 9
Nov. 13
Dec. 11

Calendar

Today

Ladies coffee group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Food distribution
9 a.m. to 10 a.m., for school families only; 10 a.m., to 1 p.m., for general Marsing community. The HUB food pantry, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 649-5411

Bingo
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Labor Dept. bilingual employment services
Noon to 4 p.m., Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 364-7781 or canyoncountymail@labor.idaho.gov for appointment or information.

Teen Book Club
4:30 p.m., ‘Among the Hidden, by Margaret Peterson Haddix,’ Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228

Thursday

Fit and Fall exercise class field trip
9:30 a.m. (pick-up), 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (class), Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (Class held at Wilder Fire Station, 601 Patriot Way, Wilder.)

Bingo
10 a.m., free, Melba Valley Senior Center, 115 Base Line Rd, Melba. (208) 495-2168

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 class
10:30 a.m., free, Melba Valley Senior Center, 115 Base Line Rd, Melba. (208) 495-2168

Early childhood learning class
10:30 a.m., to 11:30 a.m., ages 0 through 5 (parents must attend with children), Eastern Owyhee County Library meeting room, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

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

Young Mom’s Bible study
4 p.m., The Rock, 310 E. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. Information: Kathy Deal, (208) 794-1048

After school Bible club
4 p.m., to 5 p.m., ages 5-11, Eastern Owyhee Library, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. Information: Cyndi Fullmer, (208) 599-2790 or Amber Good, (208) 585-7694

Teens and Tweens
5 p.m., to 6 p.m., ‘IDPTV visit — STEM activity,’ The Gathering Place, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228

Saturday

Homedale Senior Center thrift store open
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Card games
Noon to 4 p.m., free, Melba Valley Senior Center, 115 Base Line Rd, Melba. (208) 495-2168

Sunday

Marsing Gun Club
8 a.m., sign-up; 10 a.m., shooting starts; Marsing Gun Club, 7598 Trap Shoot Rd., Marsing.

Awana youth Bible club
5 p.m., to 6 p.m., ages kindergarten through high school, Valley Christian Fellowship, 37866 Hwy 78, Grand View. Information: Amber Good, (208) 585-7694

Monday

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

Opal Nash Story Time
10 a.m., ‘Snow’, Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228

Tuesday

Foot clinic
8:30 a.m., appointments necessary, foot exams, \$25; ear cleanings, \$30, Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. Information/Appointment: (208) 337-3020

Fit and Fall exercise class field trip
9:30 a.m. (pick-up), 10 a.m. to 10:50 a.m. (class), Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (Class held at Wilder Fire Station, 601 Patriot Way, Wilder.)

Fit and Fall class
10:30 a.m., free, Melba Valley Senior Center, 115 Base Line Rd, Melba. (208) 495-2168

Early Childhood Learning class
10:30 a.m., to 11:30 a.m., ages 0 through 5 (parents must attend with children), Eastern Owyhee County Library meeting room, 520 Boise Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2785

Treasure Valley Ramblers perform
11 a.m. to noon, Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

School Talks forum
6 p.m., to 7 p.m., ‘Long Range Facility Planning,’ Rimrock High School, room 102, 39678 State Hwy. 78, Bruneau. (208) 834-2260

Book Page wreath making class
6 p.m., to 8 p.m., \$5 (returned upon attendance), reservation by Jan. 17 required, Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228

Wednesday

Ladies coffee group
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Food distribution
9 a.m. to 10 a.m., for school families only; 10 a.m., to 1 p.m., for general Marsing community. The HUB food pantry, 205 8th Ave. W., Marsing. (208) 649-5411

Field trip
10 a.m., to 3 p.m., destination TBD, Melba Valley Senior Center, 115 Base Line Rd, Melba. (208) 495-2168

Bingo
10:30 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020

Labor Dept. bilingual employment services
Noon to 4 p.m., Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 364-7781 or canyoncountymail@labor.idaho.gov for appointment or information.

Ridgeview Irrigation District
1 p.m., South Board of Control office boardroom, 201 W. Wyoming Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3760

Gem Irrigation District
1:15 p.m., South Board of Control office boardroom, 201 W. Wyoming Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3760

South Board of Control
1:30 p.m., SBOC office boardroom, 201 W. Wyoming Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3760

Obituaries

Garry Anthony Boeger

Garry Anthony Boeger, 87 years old, passed away peacefully with family by his side on December 15, 2024.

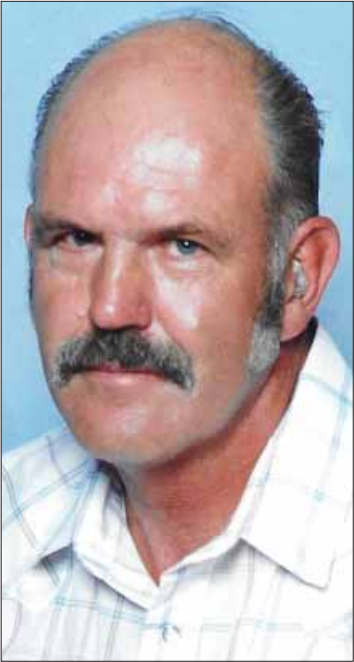
Garry was born on March 11, 1937, in Martinez, California, to Tony and Sally Boeger. He spent his childhood, high school, and young adult years in Northern California. He graduated from Alhambra High School in 1955, where he was a standout track and football star.

In 1956, Garry married Joann Donaldson. Their parents were best friends, and the two of them grew up hunting and fishing together. They welcomed two sons, Larry, in 1957 and Donald, in 1960. Garry worked hard to provide for his family. He worked at Shell Oil for almost 20 years. In 1970, he started his own rotavating and grading business. Garry has always had a strong love for the Lord and his Christian Faith. He attended Concord

Evangelical Free Church for 20 years. He played a vital role sharing his faith with young people as a high school Sunday School Teacher.

In 1979, he and Joann moved to Oreana, Idaho. They settled on the Old Hyde ranch. Garry farmed and ranched in Oreana for many years. He became an involved and valued member of this small community. He attended Knight Community Church and Valley Christian Fellowship, where he was a bible study teacher for the youth. He continued to be a role model for many young people throughout his life. He worked as a carpenter for several companies, ending his career at Best Bath in Boise. Once he retired, he became an active member at Rimrock Senior Center in Grand View.

Garry was an avid hunter and fisherman. He and Joann took their sons, several nephews,



and friends on a trip of a lifetime to Alaska. He loved spending time outdoors. In 1995, he drew a once-in-a-lifetime California Big Horn Sheep tag. He harvested and made the Idaho record book, coming in 6th with a score of

155. This is something he was very proud of. Later in life, he returned to Alaska with his youngest son, Don, where the two of them were able to make lifelong memories fishing the Alaskan shores. He also enjoyed many deer hunting trips with his brother Jack and nephew Jackie. He loved football and was able to attend several College of Idaho football games to watch his nephew Hank Boeger.

Garry's passing was preceded in death by his parents, Tony and Sally Boeger, brother Robin Boeger, Joann Polk and son Donald Boeger. He is survived by his son, Larry Boeger; brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Froni Boeger; brother, Wayne Boeger; sister-in-law, Sue Boeger; daughter-in-law, Carmen Boeger; daughter-in-law, Monica Pelzl Stringer; grandchildren, Brandee and Ricky Brittell, Amanda and

Beau Hamilton; and great-grandchildren Marlee and Aubree Hamilton and Charlee Brittell.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 11 a.m., at Valley Christian Fellowship, 37866 Highway 78, Grand View, ID 83624.

Special thanks to Horizon Palliative Care and Hospice, Luna House, Nate and Lavonne Good, Lindy Luttrell (he loved your cookies), Elaine, John and Jason Bean, Jim Markham, Mike and Joanne Headrick, and Robin and Terese Holmquist. You were all ANGELS when he needed someone!! He was truly blessed to be loved and cared for by many.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Garry's name to Valley Christian Fellowship, 37866 Highway 78, Grand View, ID 83624, or Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View, ID 83624.

Richard "Dick" Swisher

Richard "Dick" Swisher was born February 3, 1934, to Jack and Carrie Swisher in Jordan Valley, Oregon, where they lived on the Grassy Ranch out of Danner. He went to Antelope School until he was a freshman. From there he went to Cow Creek School. It was about 7 miles from home to school. He would often take a shortcut across Jordan Creek. Then he would be all wet when he got to school! His family moved to Wells, Nevada where he completed his junior and senior years. He graduated from Wells High School in 1951.

Growing up, he worked for his father Jack until the age of 12. They learned then that he had hay fever, so he couldn't work in the hay field. He still had to work, though, so his job changed to wrangling the horses. At about age 15, he was starting colts. There weren't a lot of fences back then, and as the tradition went starting colts, you would use the colts to wrangle the horses. Dick

would cover a lot of country to gather horses and sometimes on a colt he would end up in the middle of the herd as they came into the corral!

Dick liked to trot everywhere on his horse. His little sister Mary would ask him, "Why do we need to trot all the time? I have such a side ache!" He always replied with, "it helps our horses last all day".

A lot of local ranches could count on Dick for help, all the way from Grassy Mountain (approximately 22 miles south of Vale, Oregon, and roughly 70 miles west of Boise, Idaho) to the Owyhee Desert.

In 1954 Dick married Sharon Kershner in Winnemucca, Nevada. While newlyweds, they worked at the Walt and Agnes Bowden Ranch out of McDermitt, Nevada. From there they went on to work at the Cross Ranch on Mary's River, near Deeth, Nevada where Dick started all the work horses. He always said, "they were good horses, but sometimes it was wild mowing the hay!"



In 1957, Dick went to work for Evan and Tilly Zimmerman at the Disaster Peak Ranch near McDermitt. Evan and Dick were quite the team. They both liked to trot. Every fall, Dick would take the neighbor's cattle, driving them from Disaster Peak to Bengoa's, meeting about halfway, and then to the Whitehorse Ranch in Southeastern Oregon. Then he would drive the Zimmerman cattle back to Disaster Peak.

In 1961, Dick began working for Bob Campbell at the Lucky 7 Ranch. This was his dream job as he got to trot all the time,

covering a lot of countries in the Owyhee desert. As his kids grew up, the first thing they learned was how to keep their horses at a trot so they would last all day. Being a humble man, Dick would ask his hired hands if they would mind gathering cattle in certain areas, not tell them where to gather.

When he left the Lucky 7 in 1975, he went to work for McDermitt Mine. He continued to help all the nearby ranches move cows and brand their calves when he could. After retiring from the mine, Dick helped his sons and other ranchers around the Elko area, including Bill McKnight and the Key Ranch and Stitzel's of the Devils Gate Ranch. Every fall he would travel to Nebraska to help his son Chad feed cows, then he would return to Elko in the spring, just in time to help everyone brand calves.

Dick always loved his horses big and long-legged. "That way", he said, "you still had a good horse at the end of

the day, as when you started at the beginning of it". As he became older, he said, "maybe they don't need to be so tall anymore!"

All the Swisher kids, Dixie, Chad, Chuck, Jack and George, all agree that they had the best childhood and the greatest memories growing up in the saddle with their dad. "They just don't make hands like our dad anymore!"

Dick was honored as the Nevada Cattlemen's Association 2018 100,000 Mile Club inductee.

Dick was preceded in death by his mother Carrie, Father Jack, brothers Charlie, Pete, George and Jack Jr. Swisher, and his sister Bertie Munger.

He is survived by his longtime friend, Sharon Swisher, his children, Dixie, Chad, Chuck, Jack, his wife Joan, and George Swisher (companion Val), two grandsons Sam and Martin, five granddaughters Cassie, Diana, Adrian, Quinn, Hayley, Amanda, and his loving sister, Mary (Lavon) Martinat.

Death notices

HERBERT DAVID KILLAM, 87, of Wilder, died on Dec. 27, 2024 in Homedale. Burial with military honors will take place at 9 a.m., on Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025 at Terrace Lawn Memorial Gardens, 4225 Fairview Ave., Meridian. A celebration of life will follow at 11 a.m., at Central Valley Baptist Church, 600 N. Ten Mile Rd., Meridian. Arrangements: Cloverdale Funeral Home Cemetery and Cremation, 1100 N. Cloverdale Rd., Boise. (208) 375-2212

PATRICIA ANN WELSH, 86, of Bruneau, died on Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024. Arrangements: Rost Funeral Home and Crematory, 500 N. 18th E., Mountain Home. (208) 214-4348

CHARLES RAY WILSON, 74, of Homedale, died on Monday, Jan. 6, 2025. Arrangements: All Valley Cremation, 1538 11th Ave. N., Nampa. (208) 899-9361

Graduation

JV alum gets college degree

A 2022 Jordan Valley High School graduate has earned a degree from South Plains College.

Birch Eiguren received an Associate of Arts degree in General Studies in the fall of

2024.

Eiguren was among 400 students who graduated this fall.

South Plains College is located in Levelland, Texas, which is 30 miles west of Lubbock in northwest Texas.

Fast Forward propels Rimrock junior to computer certification

by Ulices Rivera
Rimrock Journalism

Carlos Escobedo is the first Rimrock High School student to receive computer certification through a new program at the College of Southern Idaho.

The junior received his programmer and networker certificate during a Dec. 14 ceremony at the CSI campus in Twin Falls.

The ceremony culminated 1½ years of work for Carlos.

The certification opens opportunities to getting jobs in the computer science field when he graduates.

Carlos took three dual credit classes to earn his certification at CSI: Intro to

Programming, Networking, and Cyber Security.

Carlos knew about CSI before he was enrolled at the junior college, but he grew interested specifically in the programming certificate when he found the classes he liked were required.

Katy Carothers, Rimrock’s Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) teacher, helped Carlos get into CSI. His tuition was paid through the state’s Fast Forward funding program.

Carlos said that understanding the college material was the hardest part of the process.

He added that he’s proud that he took the time to achieve this big accomplishment.



Carlos Escobedo stands with the CSI mascot, Gilbert the Golden Eagle, after receiving his certificate during a Dec. 14 ceremony in Twin Falls. Submitted photo

Religious Expression

When did “yes” become “yeah”? Vocabulary, dress degenerates

“Blessed is the man who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.”

— Psalm 1: 1-2

Throughout the boomer generation, we have seen a progression into sloppiness in our dress, our health/diet, our attitudes and our language. We must not also



Van Yandell

allow sloppy Christianity to invade the church and our lives.

I have a picture of my dad walking on a sidewalk in Paducah, Ky., probably in the 1940s. He was wearing a sport jacket, white shirt and tie. His shirt-tail was tucked; was buttoned to the top and his tie was tightened up to his neck.

His pants had no holes, were ironed, and he was wearing a sporty little hat. Actually, he looked very dapper and handsome.

Many men wore ties and sports jackets to go most any place, and to dress in less than one’s very best for a church service, a wedding or a funeral was unheard of.

My teaching career began in the fall of 1969. Many men wore buttoned shirts, ties and sports jackets. The women wore dresses or skirts, blouse tails were tucked; shoes were dress, and belts were worn.

Religious Expression

“Religious Expression” is a way for Owyhee County 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.

Men were men, women were ladies, and children were mostly behaved and respectful. Discipline in the classroom wasn’t much of a problem. Usually issues had to do with chewing gum or excessive talking.

As the years have passed, the forms of dress and haircuts digressed into caveman style. Americans became so morbidly obese, the clothing styles evolved into loose fitting in order to conceal the weight. The word “shaming” was coined and redefined to discourage anyone from mentioning the health and other problems that were developing from our bad habits.

To buy clothing that actually fit characterized one into nerd or prep. Both those were intended as insults, not compliments. And to tuck a shirt-tail was as unstylish as a striped pants and a plaid jacket.

Also our speech habits degenerated into slang, and attitudes that the only point was to “get the point across.” High school students were required to earn four years of English credit, but many eventually graduated without the ability to write or

speak a complete sentence. “Seen” for “saw” and “a lot” for “many” became so common, many never, and never will, learn the difference.

Being an industrial educator, I was particular about terminology. The misuse of a single word could change the entire meaning of a design for a final product. For the concepts of materials, tools and processes there is, in many cases, only one word that applies.

The elegance of our Old Country ancestry was gradually passing into oblivion because of our slothfulness. “Child” became “kid,” “yes” became “yeah” and our vocabularies degraded at light speed. Reading was deemed by many as a waste of time, and the television became our baby sitters and primary sources of knowledge.

Mankind is expected to evolve into something better not digress into sloppy, degenerate clods. Well, it certainly looks like we’ve missed the mark! It appears that being sloppy has become a competitive sport.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel (idiom)! Televi-

sion and movies have become so predictable and repetitive, many people are actually beginning to read again. Often I say, or think, I’m looking for a movie to sleep by, and it’s really easy to find one.

Perhaps vocabularies will eventually return to the 1800s elegance because of the reading and writing skills that many are choosing to engage.

Our Christian lives and the life of the church has suffered immeasurably as a result of our uncaring and slovenly careless attitudes.

God’s word is all powerful, and the authority of it is unsurpassed for truth and accuracy. If one is seeking truth, the answers mankind desires is to go to church.

”For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

— Hebrews 4:12

Truth and validity in today’s world is difficult to find. I have long believed the Bible proves itself from within itself. Students of the Bible have found prophesy is happening as we speak (or write). God knew things thousands of years before mankind was able to discover them. Science and prophesy verify this.

A part of the Bible structure is the Old English wording. Many become discouraged attempting to read the King James Version (published in 1611), but it is simply written

the way the British talked in that era.

As mankind degrades further into chaos and sloppiness, we may find ourselves communicating in grunts and ugs as did cavemen.

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

— 2 Timothy 3:16

There is a possibility for improvement for mankind rather than the consequence we seem to be producing for ourselves. That solution is to read and study the Word of God and teach others of its validity and authoritative nature.

We must not allow the Word of God and His church to devolve into the sloppiness the world has become. The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith-based belief (Ephesians 2:8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27:35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4:25) and resurrected (Matthew 28:6).

“Yes” may have become “yeah,” but don’t allow your faith to degrade into lukewarm (Revelation 3:15-16). We often hear the words “urgent” and “critical.” They definitely apply to our current degenerative state.

— Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. Reach him by email at vmy2121@outlook.com

C.J. Strike boat ramp, campground reopen

The North Park campground and boat ramp are open again at C.J. Strike Reservoir.

Idaho Power announced the completion of renovations at the park last week.

North Park was closed to make way for heavy equipment and materials that were needed to remove old boat

docks and install new ones, Idaho Power communications specialist Brad Bowlin said.

The docks went in between the campground and the Air Force marina.

“We upgraded those docks because we have changed operations at C.J. Strike in recent years to generate additional

electricity from the power plant, especially during the critical summer months,” Bowlin said.

“This means reservoir levels can fluctuate more than they have in the past.”

The old docks, installed in 2008, were unable to float to accommodate changing water levels. The new docks will rise

and fall with the fluctuations, and they’ll withstand strong winds that frequently occur at the reservoir, Bowlin said.

“We know these facilities are important to anglers and other boaters, so we appreciate the public’s patience during the installation,” Bowlin said.

“Hopefully they will provide

many years of service and will improve the experience for visitors to Strike.”

The work is part of multi-year upgrades at the lake’s rec areas. New docks are planned for Cottonwood Park, The Narrows, and Loveridge Bridge.

Bowlin said there will be some bank stabilization work near Black Sands Resort, but the timeline isn’t known.

— JPB

Senior menus

Homedale Senior Center <i>Served at noon</i> <i>Milk available each day</i> <i>Roll/bread available each day</i> Jan. 15: Deli sandwich, coleslaw, potato salad Jan. 16: Baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, beets Jan. 21: Baked fish, sweet potatoes, California blend vegetables Jan. 22: Hot dog with bun, baked potato, corn	broccoli, green salad, whole wheat roll, chunky applesauce
Rimrock Senior Center <i>Served at noon</i> <i>All meals are served with milk & fruit juice</i> <i>Call (208) 834-2922 as early as possible to place order to go</i> Jan. 16: Salisbury steak, broccoli and cauliflower, garlic bread, fresh fruit, pudding Jan. 21: Beef roast dinner, steamed vegetables, mashed potatoes, roll, yogurt, fruit, cake and ice cream Jan. 23: Taco bar, taco fixings, green salad, cottage cheese, pears	
Melba Valley Senior Center <i>Meals served at noon (Salad bar at 11:30 a.m.)</i> <i>Phone ahead (208) 495-2168 same day for complete menu</i> <i>Payment by donation. All ages welcome</i> Jan. 16: Pineapple chicken Jan. 21: Baked ziti Jan. 23: Biscuit and gravy bake	

Learn to make page wreaths at library

Interested crafters have until Friday to sign up for a wreath-making class at the Gypsy Jackson Memorial Library.

The Homedale district library will play host to an instructional event showing folks how to make a heart-shaped wreath by hand using book pages.

The book lovers crafting exercise will run from 6 p.m., to 8 p.m., on Tuesday.

The class costs \$5, and the library must receive an RSVP by Friday. The fee will be refunded once people attend the class.

The home décor class is appropriate for both beginners and seasoned crafters.

The library isn’t closing for the Martin Luther King Jr.

Day holiday. Instead, retired schoolteacher and Friends of the Homedale Library member Steve Belknap will read about snow during the Opal Nash Story Time for preschoolers.

Story Time starts at 10 a.m.

Story Time will have a guest reader on Monday, Jan. 27 when Owyhee Conservation District board of supervisors chair Andrea McRae reads “Grandpa’s Tractor” by Michael Garland.

• The library is in the midst of a Teen Winter Reading Challenge, too.

There are several prizes available for boys and girls ages 13-18 who sign up at the library, 121 W. Owyhee Ave.

Call the library at (208) 337-4228 for more information.

School menus

Homedale Elementary <i>Choice of milk and juice</i> <i>PB&J sandwich, and vegetable and fruit choices offered daily</i> Jan. 15: Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, whole grain toast, applesauce Lunch: Chicken fried fingers, country gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered corn Jan. 16: Breakfast: Texas toast, Yami yogurt, pineapple tidbits Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, pineapple tidbits, garden salad, Jello Jan. 20: No school – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 21: Breakfast: Sausage breakfast pizza, orange slices Lunch: French toast sticks, sausage patty, hash brown patty Jan. 22: Breakfast: Buttermilk pancakes, syrup cup, Yami yogurt, sliced peaches Lunch: Spaghetti, seasoned green beans	Homedale High <i>Choice of milk and juice, yogurt, string cheese or hard-boiled egg</i> <i>Vegetable and fruit choices offered daily</i> <i>Cereal option, Grab ‘n’ go items each day</i> Jan. 15: Breakfast: Cheesy scrambled eggs, blueberry muffin, fruit smoothie Lunch: Corn dog, curly fries <i>Grab ‘n’ go:</i> BBQ chicken wrap Jan. 16: Breakfast: Breakfast on a stick, Yami yogurt Lunch: <i>Grab ‘n’ go:</i> Ham and cheese sub or pepperoni pizza slice, garden salad Jan. 20: No school – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 21: Breakfast: Texas toast, sausage patty Lunch: Garlic cheese French bread pizza, marinara sauce cup, crinkle fries <i>Grab ‘n’ go:</i> Turkey bacon sub Jan. 22: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, string cheese Lunch: Chicken or spicy chicken sandwich, curly fries <i>Grab ‘n’ go:</i> Chicken bacon wrap	Jan. 16: Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, string cheese, whole wheat toast, mixed fruit cup Lunch: Pepperoni pizza ripper, pineapple tidbits, tossed salad Cold Grab-n-go: Cub sub Jan. 20: Breakfast: Texas toast, string cheese, applesauce Lunch: Chicken or spicy chicken sandwich, Tater Tots Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, buttered corn Hot Grab-n-go: Mini pepperoni pizza Jan. 21: Breakfast: Sausage patty, biscuit, country gravy, peaches Lunch: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, country gravy, buttered corn Hot Grab-n-go: Malibu chicken sandwich Jan. 22: Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, string cheese, mixed fruit cup Lunch: Jan. 23: Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, Yami yogurt, grapes Lunch: French toast sticks, sausage patty, hash browns, strawberry cup Cold Grab-n-go: Chef’s salad
Homedale Middle <i>Choice of milk and juice, yogurt or string cheese</i> <i>Cereal option and PB&J offered daily</i> <i>Vegetable and fruit choices offered daily</i> Jan. 15: Breakfast: Texas toast, string cheese, sliced pears Lunch: Chicken fried steak, country gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, whole grain roll Jan. 16: Breakfast: Croissant breakfast sandwich, apple Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, pineapple tidbits, seasoned green beans, Jello Jan. 20: No school – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Jan. 21: Breakfast: Frudel, grapes Lunch: Popcorn chicken, buttered carrots, whole grain roll Jan. 22: Breakfast: Cheesy scrambled eggs, blueberry muffin, diced pears Lunch: Mac-n-cheese, garlic toast	Marsing <i>Meals include choice of milk, fruit juice, fresh fruit & vegetables</i> <i>Elementary each day: Breakfast: Cereal option</i> <i>Middle/High School each day: PB&J option</i> <i>Cold Grab-n-go line: Wrap, sub sand., salad</i> <i>Hot Grab-n-go line (varies): Cheeseburger, chicken dish (reg./spicy sandwich; nuggets; bites), Pizza (varies), chicken rice bowl, potatoes (varies), bread (varies)</i> Jan. 15: Breakfast: Glazed donut, Yami yogurt, sliced apples Lunch: Orange chicken, steamed rice, spring roll, steamed broccoli Hot Grab-n-go: Ranchero pizza	Bruneau-Grand View <i>All meals: Milk and fruit juice/fruit offered daily</i> <i>Jr.-Sr. high school: Pizza offered daily</i> Jan. 15: Breakfast: Strawberry mini bagels Lunch: Spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic bread, garden spinach, mixed vegetables Jan. 16: Breakfast: French toast stick Lunch: Hamburger gravy with biscuits, romaine salad, peas Jan. 20: Breakfast: Chocolate donuts Lunch: Ham and cheese sandwich, Tater Tots, baby carrots Jan. 21: Breakfast: Yogurt parfait with granola Lunch: Chili, coleslaw, applesauce, celery sticks, cinnamon roll Jan. 22: Breakfast: Apple frudel Lunch: Pizza, romaine salad, corn

Marsing girls get bad news about standout

Avalanche Sports

Melba wrestlers split dual meets

HHS wrestlers take fourth in Buhl behind two titles

Two of the three Homedale High School wrestlers who reached Buhl Invitational title bouts were successful Saturday.

And, yes, freshman Jakobe Valle was one of them.

Again.

Valle (25-1) cut through the 51st annual tournament’s round robin format at 98 pounds to win his third championship of the 2024-25 season.

The freshman pinned HHS

teammate Ryker Layne in 1 minute, 39 seconds to kick off his march to the crown.

Layne (2-2) picked up his first two victories of the season to finish third in the weight class.

Sophomore Trevor Paynter (19-3) pinned Marsh Valley’s Hunter Solomon three seconds before the final horn of their championship match to win the 113-pound championship.

Another ninth-grader, Porter

Swan (19-5), reached the 106-pound title match, losing a close 4-0 decision to unbeaten sophomore Kole Younger from Marsh Valley (12-0).

— See **Wrestlers**, page 13

Marsing boys give Melba a 3A WIC battle

Even with a couple early double-digit leads, Melba High School needed to hold on against the Marsing boys’ basketball team.

The Mustangs kept the Huskies at arm’s-length in the second half of a 3A Western Idaho Conference game, pulling off a 63-58 victory in Marsing on Jan. 7.

Melba (3-8 overall, 2-2 in conference) led by as many as 10 points twice in the first half — first on Tavin Heritage’s offensive put-back then when Carsten Volkers hit a free throw after getting hammered on a rebound.

But the Huskies (7-4, 3-2) served notice they’d be hanging around.

Teagan Kinney canned a three-point goal, Moe Montes converted three free throws, and Levi Aristizabal banked in a layup off Kinney’s pass as Marsing scored eight of the final 12 points in the first half.

Kinney led all players with 16 points and capped a double-double with 13 points despite fouling out. He also came up with four steals and swatted away six passes.

Marsing trailed, 31-27, at the intermission, but Melba got enough stops to stay in front. The first of those defensive plays came when Heritage blocked Juan Ponce’s shot with 69 seconds left in the first half.

When Isaiah Shoemaker and Juan Ponce started the game trading three-pointers, it looked like the contest would be a free-for-all. The game had that feel (without the scoring) for the first 16 minutes, but the teams couldn’t maintain a footing because of sloppy ball-handling.

Ponce hit another three-pointer for Marsing’s 6-3 lead, but Melba went on a 7-0 run with a three-pointer, Owen Hansen’s layup and Rhett Franklin’s jumper off Rylan Frank’s assist.

Melba led, 18-8, on Heritage’s put-back

— See **Marsing**, page 13



Marsing 6-foot, 3-inch center Levi Aristizabal goes up in a crowd during last week’s home game against Melba.

Trojans turn Tigers inside-out

Homedale High School dominated inside to blow out Ontario, Ore..

Led by 6-foot, 5-inch junior post Lukas Hall, the Trojans poured in 21 points in the paint and romped to a 62-21 non-conference boys’ basketball win.

Hall converted 11 of his 17 shots and dropped in a pair of free throws en route to a career-high 24 points.

Homedale (5-5 overall) held a 19-2 edge on Ontario’s glass with Hall, Jace Clover and Luke Henry each collecting three of rebounds in enemy territory. Henry had a co-team-high four steals, too.

Hall had five boards, and Clover led the team with seven. Alec Campos snagged five of his six rebounds on offense.

The Trojans took control with a 17-3 run through the second quarter and allowed just a free throw in the fourth.

Keaton Sorenson converted four of five shots for eight points, and Homedale was on fire in the first half, connecting on 15 of 28 tries from the floor (53.6 percent).

Elijah Alexander scored six points and dished three assists. He also had four rebounds.

McCoy Swallow had a trey and seven points.

Ryder Larson scored eight points for Ontario, which struggled from the floor (7-for-32, 21.9 percent), missed all 12 of its three-point attempts, and committed 26 turnovers.

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Sports

Opportunistic McCall downs HHS girls

Homedale High School was unable to catch up with its late-arriving girls' basketball opponent Thursday.

Conference-leading McCall-Donnelly was late to the party inside the Trojans' gymnasium because of transportation problems, but the Vandals still motored to a 48-33 4A Snake River Valley conference victory.

In a game featuring 53 turnovers, McCall-Donnelly (8-7 overall, 4-0 in conference a week's end) scored 22 points off Trojans (6-8, 1-3) miscues.

The Vandals also ruled in the paint, holding a 26-10 scoring edge and a 42-28 rebounding advantage (including 21-10 on Homedale's end of the floor).

Zoe Spangenberg scored 13 points for the visitors, and her game-high nine rebounds all came on offense.

Tiana Sorenson had four of her five rebounds on the defensive end, and the Trojans post paced all scorers with 18 points. She had a pair of three-point goals.

Belen Asumendi scored six points, and Stephanie Quezada added five points for Homedale, which suffered a

lopsided 64-34 conference loss at home against Fruitland on Saturday.

Lexie Arnold fired in three three-point goals and led McCall with 17 points.

Jan. 7: Homedale 44, Nyssa, Ore., 42 — The hometown Trojans pulled off a dramatic comeback with a 14-0 run over the non-conference game's final 3½ minutes.

The Bulldogs owned a 42-30 edge with 3 minutes, 22 seconds left in the game.

"The Lady Trojans showed some true grit," Benji Sorenson said. "Our ramped-up defense led to timely forced turnovers."

Nyssa had 24 turnovers in the contest, including Quezada's four steals to lead Homedale's effort.

The Trojans also ruled, 12-2, in transition points.

Quezada sparked the comeback with a backdoor cut on an inbounds play. The bucket was part of her team-high 12-point performance.

Asumendi went on the fast break for back-to-back baskets. She finished with nine points.

Tiana Sorenson, who also

scored nine points, then hit a layup to convert her steal to cut the lead to 42-38 with 100 seconds remaining.

After the defense rose up to force a 10-second backcourt call on the Bulldogs, Stella Heck popped a three-point goal from the right wing to make it a one-point contest.

Freshman Whitlee Burch hit a 15-foot jump shot with less than 30 seconds left to put Homedale ahead for good.

"Whitlee Burch hit the clutch shot that gave us the lead at the end," Benji Sorenson said. "A very big moment for a freshman to come through in that spot."

Homedale's defense went back to work, keeping Nyssa out of the frontcourt for the final 30 seconds.

Burch finished with seven points, and Heck had six rebounds and six assists to go with five points and five pass deflections.

Asumendi corralled six rebounds, and Sorenson blocked six shots.

Junior post Chloe Johns scored 14 points for Nyssa to lead all players.

Trojans work quickly in close dual victory

Homedale High School's young batch of wrestlers piled up points last Wednesday before holding on to defeat their hosts.

The Trojans edged Nyssa, Ore., 41-36, in a non-conference dual meet.

Porter Swan posted a 9-2 decision over the Bulldogs' Jose Jimenez.

After winning a pair of tournament championships at 98 pounds recently, freshman Jakobe Valle wrestled at 113 pounds and pulled off a technical fall against Juan Santos. Valle prevailed, 17-2.

Trevor Paynter pinned Nyssa 120-pounder Adan De La Fuente in 4 minutes, 54 seconds.

Braelyn Arredondo pinned Alijah Oviedo in 79 seconds for an HHS triumph at 126.

Wylee Bidiman (138) dominated Nyssa's Nathan Beck with a 12-1 major decision.

Nathan Marston posted a technical fall victory over LeRoy Phillips-Yale at 150.

The Homedale wrestler ended the 17-2 rout at the 3:49 mark.

Grady Walgamott (215) pinned Nyssa's Rafael Gutierrez in 1:18.

There was a slew of extra matches during the dual meet, and Homedale wrestlers posted eight victories by either pinfall or technical fall.

126 — Asa Black pinned De La Fuente (3:42).

144 — Jaimison Valle blew out Mason Savage, ending the match at the 2:32 mark with an 18-0 technical fall.

144 — Khyler Maxwell pinned Savage at 2:42.

165 — Ty Cooper got a pinfall against Myles Alcoser three seconds before the end of the first period.

175 — Peyton McCarney put Layne Fleharty on his back at 2:42.

190 — Armondo Rodriguez (Homedale) pinned Joshua Debudge 38 seconds into the third period.

215 — Walgamott pinned Israel Lopez in 4:35.

Homedale Trojans

Athletes of the Week



Boys' basketball
Lukas Hall, jr., P
24 points in rout of Ontario, Ore.



Girls' basketball
Mattea Dimick, jr., G
3 rebounds in 8 minutes vs. McCall



Wrestling
Trevor Paynter, so., 113 pounds
5 pins; Buhl Invitational title

Inspired Portraits by Kyla



SPORTS SCHEDULE

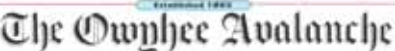
Girls' basketball Varsity Friday, Jan. 17 at Weiser, 7:30 p.m. Junior varsity Friday, Jan. 17 at Weiser, 6 p.m. Frosh-soph Friday, Jan. 17 at Weiser, 4:30 p.m.	Boys' basketball Varsity Thursday, Jan. 16, home vs. Weiser, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at Payette, 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at McCall-Donnelly, 3 p.m. Junior varsity Thursday, Jan. 16, home vs. Weiser, 6 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at Payette, 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21 at McCall-Donnelly, 1:30 p.m. Frosh-soph Thursday, Jan. 16, home vs. Weiser, 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at Payette, noon Tuesday, Jan. 21 at McCall-Donnelly, noon
Wrestling Coed Wednesday, Jan. 15 at tri-meet vs. Ridgevue and Vallivue, Caldwell, 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 18 at Skyview Duals, Nampa, 9 a.m. Girls Friday, Jan. 17 at pods tournament, Nyssa, Ore., 1 p.m.	



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Boise Cascade

Sports

Huskies battle tough vs. Melba’s Carter

Melba High School needed every bit of Tariah Carter’s massive performance to hold off Marsing.

The senior poured in 28 points on Jan. 8 as the Mustangs survived with a 46-36 win in a 3A Western Idaho Conference girls’ basketball game inside Potter Gymnasium.

Adyson Chadez led the Huskies (7-7 overall, 1-3 in conference) with 15 points, nine of which came on three-point goals.

Ashlyn Porter drained a pair of treys on the way to 10 points for Marsing.

The Huskies battled tough against the second-place Mustangs (11-3, 4-1), who ended the week on a four-game win streak. Josie Showalter pulled down five of her six rebounds on the Melba glass.

Three other Huskies snagged four rebounds each — Chadez, Raylynn Vanosdall, and Lily Thoene. Chadez also knocked away seven Melba passes.

Parma edges Melba boys for share of 3A WIC lead

Melba High School finished a huge week of boys’ basketball with a missed opportunity.

Isaiah Shoemaker led three Mustangs in double-digits, but Melba fell to visiting Parma, 59-58, on Saturday.

After three conference games in five days, Melba (3-8 overall, 2-2 3A WIC) landed a half-game behind fourth-place Marsing.

The Panthers (7-5, 3-1) forged a three-way tie for the 3A WIC lead.

Shoemaker scored 20 points against the Panthers, who are atop the 3A WIC standings with The Ambrose School and Nampa Christian.

Carsten Volkers scored 17 points, and Wyatt Hansen had 11. Parma’s Nathan Compass led all scorers with 22.

Thursday: Ambrose 63, Melba 50—Shoemaker scored 18 points, but the Mustangs fell to the Archers at home.

Lincoln Mathis had 22 points for the Archers (7-4, 3-1).

Volkers added 16 points for Melba.

Double-doubles help Marsing boys nearly double-up Vision Charter

Juan Ponce has been a scoring tear this season, but Lamon Loucks said he’d be happy with a lower output as long as Marsing High School got the “W.”

The first-year boys’ basketball coach got that wish Thursday in a 63-33 3A Western Idaho Conference blowout against visiting Vision Charter.

The Huskies held a 25-point halftime lead, 40-15.

Ponce still took his shots, but connected on just three three-point goals. The nine points stand as one of his lowest totals of the season thus far.

Meanwhile, Teagan Kinney and Dresden Wood both came up with double-double performances in the Huskies’ rout.

Kinney had 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Wood came up with 14 points and 14 boards.

Ponce had three rebounds and two steals.

Mason Conger came through with nine rebounds and seven points.

Jace Chadez anchored the defense with eight steals and three pass deflections. He also scored eight points.

Strong defensive play lifts Marsing girls

Knee injury ends junior starter’s season

Marsing High School collected its first 3A Western Idaho Conference girls’ basketball victory Friday.

The Huskies edged Nampa Christian, 30-26, in a defensive 3A Western Idaho Conference battle in Marsing.

Kaitlyn Smith stood up on defense with a team-high three steals and one pass deflection to help Marsing (7-7 overall, 1-3 in conference) drop the Trojans.

Adyson Chadez led Marsing with 11 points and as one of three players with nine rebounds. Her strength on defense came through with eight boards, a pass deflection and two steals.

Lily Thoene and Josie Showalter also pulled down nine rebounds apiece. Thoene had eight boards on offense and scored eight points.

Coach Jake Dugger’s team will play the rest of the season without Bailey Daugherty. The junior forward suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament tear in her left knee after less than a minute of playing in the Jan. 4 non-conference game in Fruitland. Daugherty went down without contact early in the 61-31 loss. She originally injured the knee in Marsing’s 38-35 win over Wendell on Dec. 21.

Melba girls win 4th straight

Tariah Carter poured in 24 points Friday to spark Melba High School’s fourth consecutive girls’ basketball win.

The senior also collected nine rebounds in a 73-32 3A Western Idaho Conference whipping of The Ambrose School in Meridian.

Ellie Johnson tallied 18 points and three rebounds for the Mustangs (11-3 overall, 4-1 in 3A WIC). Darby Lowber had 15 points and nine boards.

MARSING HUSKIES

Athletes of the Week



Boys’ basketball
Dresden Wood, sr., G
Averaged 11.5 points and 8.5 rebounds in 2 games



Girls’ basketball
Kaitlyn Smith, sr., G
6 steals, 3 points in 2 games

Wrestling
Boys
Friday, Jan. 17 at Magic Valley Classic, Wendell, 1 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 18 at Magic Valley Classic, Wendell, 9 a.m.



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Emergency network plans Marsing fundraiser

Citizens group aims to help authorities during disasters

A group of volunteers dedicated to helping in emergencies will hold a fundraiser later this month.

The Marsing Emergency Network will host a baked potato feed at 1 p.m., on Saturday at Vision Community Church, 221 W. Main St., in Marsing.

Tickets cost \$5 per person and \$20 per family. Raffle items also will be available. Chances to win cost \$1 apiece.

The network has 40 members, according to co-organizer Paul Smith. Marlene Moore, another Marsing resident, is also an organizer.

Smith said the organization was started with an eye toward helping the community during emergencies such as power outages and severe weather.

The group has made presentations to the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners, Marsing City Council, Terry Reilly Health Services, Southwest District Health and the American Red Cross.

Officials from TRHS, Southwest District Health and the Red Cross were part of the group that met with Marsing

Emergency Network members last year at the church. Other organizations represented during the Oct. 1 meeting included the Marsing Chamber of Commerce and the Western Idaho Community Action Partnership (WICAP).

Moore led the meeting with the mission of setting up a protocol in case of a mass casualty event. One incident scenario developed during breakout meetings included the town being cut off because of blockage at the Snake River bridge to the east and on Idaho highway 55 to the west.

Moore offered the church building as a triage area, and the Terry Reilly clinic down the block on Main Street could be utilized, too. She said a memorandum of understanding with TRHS would be necessary.

“We want to help the sheriff’s office facilitate a response in an emergency,” Moore said of the volunteer group’s goal.

Dist. 1 Commissioner-elect Walt Holton attended the meeting, and Marsing Fire Chief Jerry Mayer and Marsing Ambulance emergency medical services coordinator J.D. Phipps were also on hand. Although she is a Marsing city councilperson, Lynette Enrico said she attended the meeting as a town citizen. Marsing schools superintendent

Norm Stewart also attended.

Phipps warned against the well-meaning volunteers getting in the way when emergency responders are the trying to deal with an incident.

“The best help is to create that gathering point for triage,” he said. “I applaud 100 percent the ability to create those (triage areas) and provide those, but just not at the incident or event.”

While a triage area was suggested for the TRHS clinic, Enrico pointed out that discussions with Sheriff Larry Kendrick revealed the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Post 128 Community Center has been designated as a triage area.

Phipps also pointed out that trained volunteer emergency medial service responders would provide triage assessment, not CERT members.

No protocol was established nor agreement entered during the meeting. Neither Sheriff Larry Kendrick nor county emergency manager Jim Desmond attended the October meeting.

Moore asked those in attendance to identify potential threats and develop an inventory of resources available to mitigate the situation. She also urged the development on an emergency operations policy.

“I’m grateful that a new Owyhee

County Commissioner Holton and Councilmember Enrico has joined our efforts,” Moore said during the meeting.

In addition to her role with the Marsing Emergency Network, Moore is a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) coordinator in Marsing. During the October meeting, she mentioned that Southwest District Health had donated emergency supplies — backpacks, flashlights, batteries, helmets, whistles, glow sticks and visibility vests — to the community group.

The CERT has regular training sessions open to the public in Marsing. The trainings take place at 11 a.m., on the third Saturday of each month at Vision Community Church, and Moore said more trained volunteers are needed.

“Most of the people who have completed the training have either moved or passed away,” she said.

The training curriculum includes modules on search and research and medical training, Moore said.

Classes for modules not offered locally can be found on the Introduction to CERT education section of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website, Moore said.

— JPB

Sports

✓Wrestlers: Three reach Buhl title bouts

From Page 10

The Trojans’ medal-round performance sewed up Homedale’s fourth-place finish in the team standings. Fruitland won the championship.

Freshman Braelyn Arredondo (21-8) captured the bronze medal at 126 pounds, beating Elko, Nev.’s Gabriel Flores, 5-0.

At 190 pounds, senior Caden Layne just missed a third-place medal when McCall-Donnelly’s Avery Riggs pulled off a 4-1 sudden victory in extra time.

Junior Grady Walgamott finished fourth at 215 pounds after Payette’s Talon Heinley posted a 12-9 victory in the bronze medal match.

Besides beating his teammate in the first round of 98-pound matches, Valle pinned division runner-up Bradley Nelson of Elko in three minutes and stopped Weiser’s Sean Elliott in 32 seconds. He also pinned Spring Creek, Nev.’s Diesel Clark in 1:51.

Layne also pinned Clark in 1:18 and took down Elliott with a technical fall with a 19-4 score at the 4:20 mark.

Paynter pinned his way through the 113 bracket, including a pin of Elko’s Carlos Marquez at 3:41 of their semifinal. He also ended the quarterfinal bout against Declo’s Austin Grant in 49 seconds. Paynter also pinned Weiser’s Wyatt Black in 1:13.

Swan pinned Declo’s Riggins Peterson in 47 seconds in the quarterfinals and posted an 8-0 major decision over Fruitland’s Braden Griffith in the semifinals.

Arredondo wrestled into the semifinals with a pin of Spring Creek’s Trent Whiteley (1:14) and a technical fall of Marsh Valley’s Jed Townsend (20-2 at 4:00). He then rebounded with a pin of Marsh Valley’s Seth Lish in the consolation semifinals.

Layne had a long road into the third-place match a quarterfinal loss. He dominated Burley’s Ozmar Rocha for a 15-0 tech fall (3:14) and beat Quinton Cornelison of Twin Falls with a 13-1 major decision.

Walgamott received byes into the quarterfinals and then had byes in the consolation bracket before he pinned Elko’s Raymond Bowser (4:26) in the semifinals.

Melba wrestlers knock off Adrian

A forfeit was the difference in Melba High School’s wrestling victory over Adrian last Wednesday.

Dylan Fahey was awarded six points at 215 pounds to give the Mustangs what they needed for a 39-34 non-conference dual meet win.

The dual meet was part of a tri-meet with Parma

Fahey’s forfeit gave Melba a 39-22 lead before Adrian’s Juan Rico pinned Ethan Emery at 285 (3 minutes, 27 seconds) and the Antelopes’ Emma Nicholes got a forfeit at 98 pounds.

Colt Dean beat Adrian’s Clayton Ineck, 13-8, at 150 pounds.

Melba’s Brendan Svetich pinned Adrian’s Derek Faulconer in 1 minute, 35 seconds.

Adrian’s victories included Tyson Rios’ pinfall over Justin Forsgren (3:30) at 113.

Wyatt Thomas (165) pinned Melba’s Tyler Forsgren in 3:22.

Braysen Jordan (190) notched a major decision for Adrian, beating Hunter Metcalf, 13-3.

Parma 51, Adrian 22 — In another non-conference match, the Antelopes managed three victories on the mat.

Tyson Rios (113) posted an 18-6 major decision against Wesley Gentry.

Mannie Mulrony (138) pinned Wylee Allender in 4:27.

Braysen Jordan (190) stopped Liam Sutherland just seven seconds before the end of the first period of their bout.

Parma 63, Melba 24 — Three of the Mustangs’ three victories were pinfalls, including two in the first round.

Fahey pinned Parma 215-pounder Mark Jackson in 18 seconds.

Scott Brown (126) pinned the Panthers’ Nate Murdock in 3:09.

Ethan Emery (285) put Parma’s Hunter Butkess on the mat 17 seconds before the end of the first period.

The Mustangs’ Luke Clark collected a pair of victories in extra matches at 175 pounds.

He beat Jackson Kaylor, 16-0, with a technical fall that ended the match at the 2:28 mark.

Clark pinned Corbin Green in 2:59.

✓Marsing: Foul trouble hampers Huskies

From Page 10

with the 1 minute, 35 seconds left in the opening quarter.

The spurt allowed the Mustangs enough equity to survive.

Volkers and Shoemaker led Melba with 15 points apiece.

The Volkers-Shoemaker tandem fueled Melba’s offense throughout. A guard, Shoemaker led his teammates with four assists. A forward, Volklers dished three assists while grabbing a team-high eight rebounds. Shoemaker also had six boards.

Senior guard Kasen Post contributed 10 points and four rebounds.

Kinney drained four three-point goals, but Ponce struggled with foul trouble and didn’t hit another trey after the early minutes of the first quarter.

Ponce managed 10 points, while Jace Chadez scored 12 points.

Dresden Wood fouled out after scoring nine points.

Commentary

Mtn. States Policy Center
A monumental day for education choice in Idaho

The first day of the 2025 Legislative Session in Idaho may well be remembered as the day education choice took a giant step forward.

Mountain States Policy Center was honored to host the education choice policy forum in the Lincoln Auditorium at the Statehouse, attended by 160-plus legislators, lobbyists, citizens and business owners.

The event featured former Republican Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, one of the most successful conservative governors in our nation’s history and the man who led the charge in Arizona for the advancement of education savings accounts (ESAs).

He showcased the Arizona reform effort, and urged lawmakers to expand options for families, noting that school choice is not anti-public schools. It’s pro-public education, and a more flexible system to educate our children.

The event was followed by a news conference and announcement by Dist. 32B Rep. Wendy Horman (R-Idaho Falls) of a bill that will be introduced to fund an education choice tax credit, capped at no more than \$50 million per year. Families would be eligible to take a credit worth \$5,000 to help cover the cost of education expenses outside of the public school system.

“For many, many years, (Dist. 22) Sen. (Lori) Den Hartog (R-Meridian) and I have been partners in trying to advance opportunities for all our children,” Horman said. “We’re not giving up until we succeed.”

Just a few hours later, in his State of the State address, Gov. Brad Little announced his support for an education choice expansion of the same \$50 million number, noting that legislation must be fair and accountable.

The proposals by Little and Horman coincide with the release of MSPC’s 2024 Idaho Poll, which showed strong support among all political parties for an education choice tax credit.

— See *Education*, Page 15

Chris Cargill
Mountain States Policy Center, president and CEO

About Mountain States Policy Center

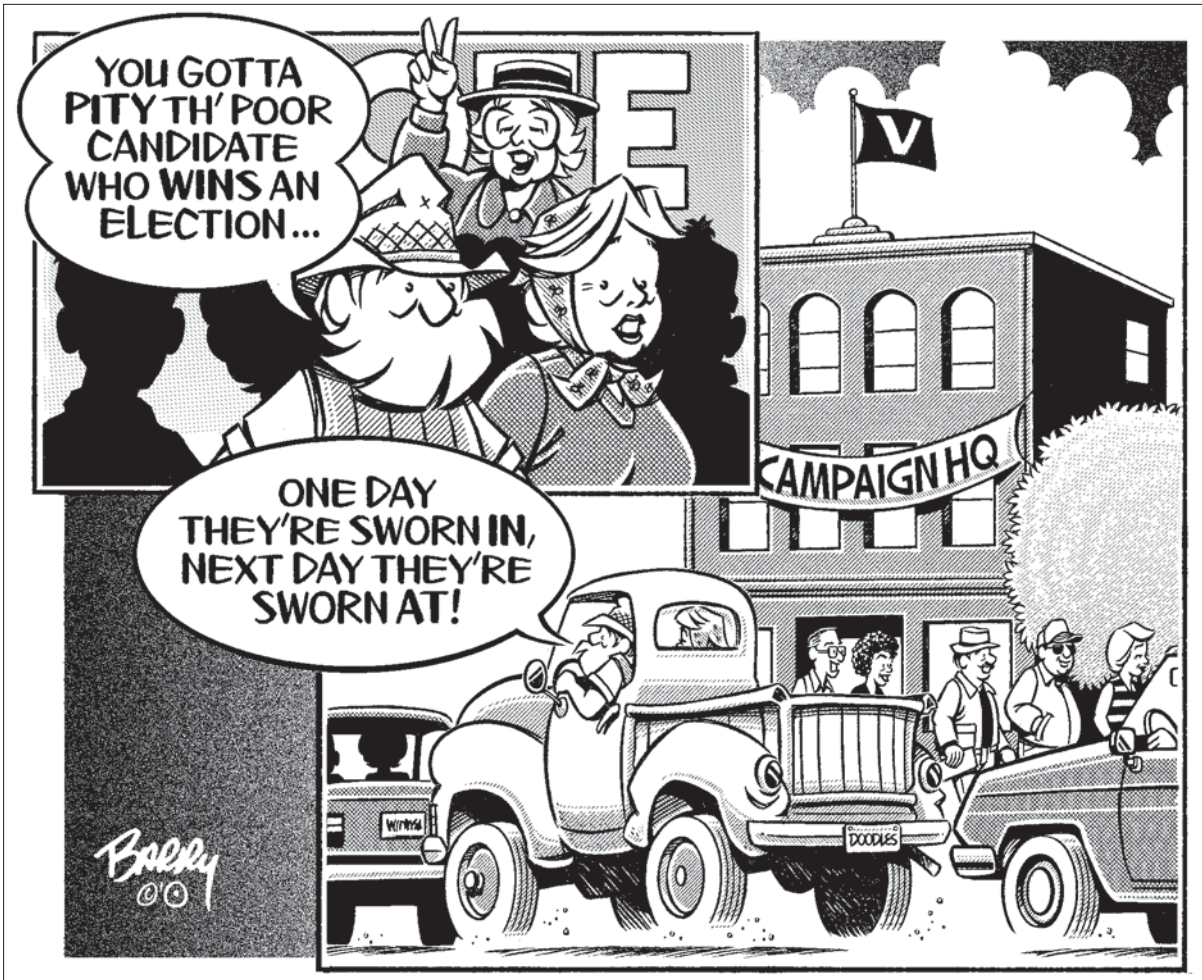
Founded in 2022, Mountain States Policy Center is based in Boise and Coeur d’Alene, and is an independent think tank that believes in providing research and recommendations to lawmakers, the media and the public, based on facts — not emotion. Harnessing the power of publications, conferences and video events, MSPC brings forward free market solutions to our region’s biggest challenges and will be a watchdog to improve government transparency and effectiveness. Our mission is to empower those in the Mountain States to succeed through non-partisan, quality research that promotes free enterprise, individual liberty and limited government.

Homedale resident Oscar Evans is on the board of directors.

Learn more at mountainstatespolicy.org.



JP Doodles



Montana-based syndicated editorial cartoonist Barry McWilliams passed away in August 2021. 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.

Americans for Limited Govt.
MAGA’s America First priorities are reshaping the Right and the country

by Bill Wilson

Not only have America’s priorities shifted as a nation — as evidenced by President-elect Donald Trump winning the popular vote on a largely conservative populist set of priorities — but divisions are emerging between conservatives who consider themselves part of “MAGA” (Make America Great Again) and those who do not.

The 2024 election was a powerful nationwide referendum on the decades-long failed globalist experiment, with voters strongly aligning with President Trump’s populist, America First platform.

The Manhattan Institute’s post-election survey of more than 2,000 voters outlines just how strongly the American people rejected the globalist Harris-Walz agenda and embraced Trump’s America First priorities on everything from energy independence to the border.

Indeed, the survey found Americans broadly support Trump’s positions across a multitude of issues. Eighty-one percent of Americans support Trump’s plan to reduce inflation and make America affordable again, 80 percent support Trump’s plan to rebuild cities and make them safer, 73 percent support Trump’s plan to stop migrant crime, cartels, and gangs



and lock up violent offenders, and 70 percent support making America a dominant energy producer.

Another 68 percent of Americans support keeping men out of women’s sports, 65 percent support sealing the border and ending illegal immigration, and 54 percent support the largest deportation of illegal immigrants in history. America is very much on board with Trump’s core ideology — putting the American people first.

While Trump is already gearing up to fulfill his promises on many of these issues, a skirmish has emerged between MAGA conservatives and more business-first members of the right.

This is evidenced in the battle over H-1B visas for “skilled workers,” which recently pitted conservatives intent on protecting American workers against the nation’s H-1B visa program, which provides temporary employment to foreign workers.

The spat reached a temporary ceasefire when Trump’s pick for government efficiency lead, Elon Musk, admitted in a post on X that the H-1B visa program “is broken and needs major reform.”

Americans agree with that sentiment. The Manhattan Institute survey found by well over a 2-to-1 margin (55 percent to 21 percent) that Americans endorse requiring visa applicants to disclose their views on Hamas and ISIS, signaling a desire to properly vet and reform the visa program.

However, the continued battle over whether immigration is a net benefit or burden for the United

— See *Priorities*, Page 15

Commentary

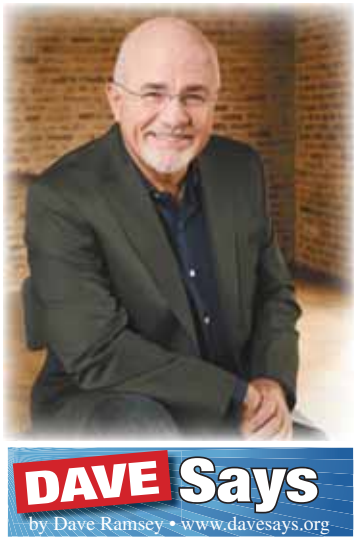
Financial management

Focus on obligation eventually stretches tight dollars

Dear Dave,
I can't afford my student loan payments. Is the best approach to send them what I can afford, even if it's not the minimum payment, or not send anything at all until I'm in a better financial position?
— Sydney

Dear Sydney,
Here's the deal. Those guys aren't going to stop calling and bugging you, no matter which of those options you choose. But then, you probably already know that. The benefit, however, of sending them \$20 or \$25 — if the minimum payment is \$50 — is you're

forcing yourself to start thinking in terms of planning and living on a budget. My advice? Do everything you can to honor your commitments. That's the moral, legal and spiritual thing to do in these kinds of situations.
You know, lots of times when people say they can't afford something, what they're really saying is they don't want to give up fun stuff in order to honor their obligations. If that's the case, I'm not the guy you need to be talking to or want on your team. You accepted the responsibilities that came with borrowing money. That means if you don't get to eat in restaurants,



go on vacation or buy cool new gadgets until you repay the debt, that that's how it is.

However, if you're already living on a crazy-tight, rice-and-beans budget, and \$20 is literally all you can squeeze out, then give them \$20 a month. That way, at the very least, you're trying to honor your obligation. And you can tell them with a clean conscience it really is all you can afford.
But there's a bright spot in all this. If you're already scrimping and saving and paying all the money you have — first toward running your household, then secondly to your creditors — you'll find an amazing thing starts to happen. Your dollars start to stretch a little bit further. This will help

you clean up your student loan mess and enable you to have a little better life in the process.
Good luck, Sydney. You can do this!
— Dave

— Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people take control of their money, build wealth and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO for Ramsey Solutions.

✓ Education: Proposed tax credit would help middle class with choice

From Page 14
It appears, for the first time, that legislative leaders are in step with the governor's office on at least one plan, increasing the likelihood of an agreement before the end of session.
It should be noted that an education choice tax credit is not a voucher, despite the continued effort by some to mislead and call it such.
Why is education policy and education choice so important?
First, it's about improving outcomes. Far too many children are being left behind. Far too many are stuck in an educational environment that doesn't fit their needs. They are truly the square peg that we're trying to fit in a round hole.
Second, it's the civil rights issue of our time. As

former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice observed, the rich already have education choice. They can afford to send their child to whatever school works best for them. It's the middle-income families, the families struggling to make ends meet, that we're really talking about.
Third, the overwhelming research shows it works. Providing more options helps advance the educational outcomes of all children. Not just some, all. Parents must be in charge of their child's education.
Finally, it is one of the largest line items in any state budget. We can no longer accept the premise that if we just increase funding, outcomes will improve.
One thing you will notice is that no one — no one — is talking about shutting down public schools.
Public schools are part of education choice. Public

schools and thousands of dedicated teachers work well for many students. Most parents like their public schools and want to keep that public school.
But we must also acknowledge that they might not work for everyone.
I have an autistic son, and if you've met one person with autism, you know that you've met one person with autism.
Every child is different. Every child learns differently. We must do everything in our power to give them every possible avenue to succeed.
Although Idaho has a robust charter school system, it has been more reluctant in the past to further expand choice options for families. Based on day one of the session, however, that may be about to change for the benefit of all students.

✓ Priorities: Homegrown skilled labor, U.S. business buy-in are crucial

From Page 14
States highlights the growing tension between MAGA conservatives and the business-first wing of the Republican Party.
There is broad consensus among conservatives — and the nation at large — that illegal immigration is a growing burden that must be addressed, and support for securing the border is at a peak.
However, there is still much to debate over "legal" immigration. For six decades, Congress has largely operated under a system that allowed American businesses to benefit from cheap foreign labor after the passage of the 1965 Immigration Act. The middle class has largely paid the price while businesses have profited.
Cheap foreign labor, even if it is "highly skilled," directly competes with job-seeking Americans. According to the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS), the share of working-age men born in the U.S. who were in the labor force was lower in 2000 than in 1960, and in all states except for one that number has fallen further in the past two decades. In other words, Americans are being displaced in the workforce.
CIS reports that U.S.-born men have been taken out of the labor force in nearly every state. In 1960, 44 out of 50 states had healthy labor participation rates above 85 percent, but that number fell to only five states in 2023. The number of U.S.-born men without jobs increased by 13.8 million individuals from 1960 to 2023, and the number of immigrant men in the labor force rose by nearly the same number, 13.7 million.

We have a growing population of Americans who have been displaced because of cheap foreign labor, causing a host of ramifications social scientists are just beginning to unpack.
What we are witnessing is a battle between prioritizing the needs of American workers and prioritizing the needs of American businesses.
Conservative populists take a pro-worker angle and point out that allowing even "skilled" foreign labor into the country at the current level displaces American workers. Businesses argue that to remain globally competitive they need to be able to rely on skilled foreign labor.
At the end of the day, it is indisputable that programs like the H-1B visa program displace American workers — if they could not secure foreign labor, companies would have to do everything they could to train and adequately compensate Americans to fill the gap. This could take shape in higher business investment in education and vocational training programs to create the proper talent pool.
At minimum, Americans can agree to review and reform the H-1B program and ensure these programs are not being exploited.
However, MAGA conservatives are dedicated to scaling back the reach of foreign labor and forcing businesses to invest in American workers. This goal has a longer timeframe to profitability for businesses, as it requires investment in education and training programs as well as competitive compensation packages.
However, the long-term benefit is a more educated

and highly employed American workforce. It is hard to argue against the societal benefits that could be reaped from increasing American employment and job stability, but businesses will likely fight against this because they are the ones footing the bill after getting a "free ride" with cheap labor for decades.
A cessation to the assault on our southern border is necessary, and after four years of the Biden Administration's disastrous Open Borders experiment, the public is largely unified behind securing the border and deporting illegals.
The "skilled labor" debate is more nuanced and requires balancing the immediate operating costs of American businesses with investment in the long-term economic health of our society and workforce.
By reducing unnecessary regulatory costs on businesses, Congress may be able to offset some of the costs to businesses as they are weaned off cheap foreign labor.
Immigration policy is an ever-evolving landscape, and its goals should be aligned with those of the American people first and foremost. There may come a time where increasing the number of foreign workers is both necessary and beneficial, but we have lived under a cheap-foreign labor experiment for 60 years, and it is time to review the repercussions and design an America First approach to immigration that does not leave segments of our population behind.

— Bill Wilson is the former president of Americans for Limited Government.

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

January 19, 2000

Marsing C of C plans 2000 year

The Marsing Chamber of Commerce set into motion plans to make the Chamber a larger, more community-involved group with a new president and plans for several new activities. Representatives for the Chamber said the goal of the group is to make the community a better place to live and work. The Chamber plans to become more representative of the people who live and work in the area.

Cookie Brown of “Cookie’s Nook” took over the presidential seat for the Chamber last week and began plans for several new activities as well as selected dates for annual activities the Chamber will be involved with this year.

“Cookie sees the need to involve more people in the Chamber’s efforts,” Tom Gaskins, Chamber member, said. “She has established a tourism committee, a Chamber of Commerce website to draw more visitors to our area, and several other activities.”

Bruneau water users seek management district

Ground water users in the Bruneau area have formally petitioned state water managers to establish and ground water management district covering a 57-square-mile area, the Idaho Department of Water Resources announced last week.

The area involved includes land in Sugar Valley, Little Valley and along the Bruneau River near its confluence with Hot Creek.

If created, the district could levy assessments against water users in the District area. The funds generated then could be pooled to repair or abandon wells that are declining in water levels or pressure because of flows, leaks and waste due to improper well construction, maintenance and operation.

By forming a ground water management district and paying assessments, well owners would be protected from a state requirement to repair their wells.

Student saves two lives at Givens springs

Homedale High School student Michelle Wiggins is not like most other high school students; she saves lives during her part time job. Wiggins is a licensed lifeguard and has worked for Givens Hot Springs pool for one month. She also spent last summer as the lifeguard for the Homedale City Pool.

Last Sunday evening Wiggins’ training was put to the test with the near drowning of a four-year-old boy and an adult man in a diabetic seizure.

“I was watching the little boy move along the wall trying to get to his dad,” Wiggins said. “He got out in the pool where the water was above his head and tried to get to his dad when he went under. I jumped in and pulled him up and took him to his father.”

Less than an hour later Wiggins’ assistance was called upon again.

“This boy kept coming out of the dressing rooms to buy candy and pop,” Wiggins recalled. “Finally I asked him what was going on because he had bought so much sugar. He said his dad was having a diabetic reaction and he wasn’t keeping any of the sugar down.

“I tried to give him sugar and he couldn’t keep it down. I called Murphy dispatch and they told me to put some syrup on his gums. I did that and he still got sick so I don’t think it helped.”

“She did exactly what her training had taught her to do,” Marsing Ambulance Emergency Medical Technician Donna Churruca said.

40 years ago

January 16, 1985



Owyhee County Commissioner Don Davis (left) administers the oath of office to Sheriff Tim Nettleton at the first meeting of the year Monday at Murphy.

Don Davis re-elected commission chairman

Don Davis, long-time Owyhee County Commissioner, was again elected to chair the three-member board Monday.

The action came after the swearing in of the other two Commissioners, Dick Bass and Woody Purdom.

In other business, the county opened bids for two new pickups, and awarded a bid for a half-ton pickup to Happy Day Ford, for \$8,806; a ¾-ton pickup bid was awarded to Mountain Ford at a cost of \$8,588 after a trade-in allowance.

An application to replace siding and paint the Masonic Hall in Silver City was referred to the Historical Advisory Committee.

Marsing Council works with Feds on park

The Marsing City Council may have “ironed out” the last few problems with the National Park Service on the river park.

In a letter to Mayor Roy Herman, the Interior Department agency thanked Marsing for working with the Park Service. A representative from the Park Service had visited Marsing recently to view their riverfront park, and a letter was sent that if Marsing did not improve the looks of the area, it would be sold to a private party.

The city countered that if the Park Service wanted the park, and all the problems of vandalism and flooding, they could have it. The City Council and Federal Government are now considering different recommendations on fixing up the site and still keeping a Marsing park.

Herman outlined how the park would be improved. One, the shower and camping facilities would be removed. The walls would be knocked down on the red building, but the roof would be left as a shelter.

Next, another roof might be constructed on the shelter built by the Lions Club.

Jordan Valley, Pleasant Valley school news

—By Todd Gluch, Sr. at the High School

On Jan. 11, J.V. Elementary’s basketball teams came to Pleasant Valley to compete with our kids. On the 14th, Arock traveled to P.V. also to play our team. Results of these games later.

The P.V. school’s mothers donated cakes for both games for cake raffles. The proceeds will help finish paying for uniforms, kitchen equipment or other needs of the school.

Pat Stanford, coach, has set Monday and Wednesday nights at 7 until 9 p.m. for the P.V. mixed boys’ and girls’ teams to practice. It takes them all to have a team!

150 years ago

January 16, 1875

Local Intelligence.

FUNERAL.—Jacob Haab, who was killed by a snow-slide on War Eagle Mountain last Friday afternoon, was buried under the auspices of the Fairview Miners’ Union and the Independent Order of Good Templars, in the Miners’ Union Cemetery at 4 o’clock this afternoon. The funeral was delayed thus long in order to communicate with the relatives of deceased, and find out what disposition they wished made of the remains. At first his father thought of having the body sent to San Francisco for interment, but finally decided to let the burial take place here.

FROM SOUTH MOUNTAIN.—John Catalow arrived at Wagontown from South Mountain on horseback about half-past ten o’clock last night. He left Dow Vincent’s ranch about dusk and had a hard time of it in crossing the ridge, as it was very dark and a fearful storm of snow and wind was raging at the time. Had it not been that he was able to trace his way by the telegraph poles, he says he certainly would have got lost and been compelled to remain out in the snow all night. Mr. Walls brought him up to Silver City to-day in a sleigh.

SIGNS OF WAR.—We noticed this morning a large hole in one of the glass doors of the Idaho Hotel, with shreds of clothing, locks of hair and pieces of skin hanging on the jagged ends of the glass looking as though somebody had come out of there in a hurry.

ICE IN SNAKE RIVER.—Snake river is still full of floating ice, and the ferry boat cannot cross. The mail from Boise City was brought over in a small boat at a late hour last night and did not reach here till noon to-day.

ROUGH WEATHER.—Although the sun has been shining all day, yet it has been blowing and drifting terrifically, forcibly reminding one of the genuine old Owyhee winters.

BORROWED OR STOLEN.—Somebody has either borrowed or stolen a pair of snowshoes from A. V. Bradley, without so much as saying, “by your leave,” all of which is very bad conduct.

THE WEATHER.—Clear and calm here last night, bright sunshine this forenoon and cloudy this afternoon, looking as though there were another storm brewing.

IN TOWN.—Mr. and Mrs. Skinner, of Trout creek, are in town to-day; also Mr. Walls of Wagontown.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN NEWS.

SOUTH MOUNTAIN, I.T., Jan. 12.

The South Mountain Consolidated Mining Company have their furnace running successfully. They have fifteen tons of bullion ready for shipment.

The prospects are favorable for plenty of charcoal.

Messrs. Lent, Boyd and Minear will probably remain here several days on business connected with the Company.

The weather is quite stormy, with 18 inches of snow on the ground.

Public notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE OWYHEE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

On January 27, 2025 at 10:00 am in courtroom 2 of the Owyhee County Courthouse at 20381 State Highway 78, Murphy, Id., the Owyhee County Board of Commissioners will hold a public comment meeting regarding a proposed Agricultural Protection Area ordinance in conformance with Idaho Code 67-9701. The purpose of the proposed ordinance is to provide for a voluntary process through which agricultural and timber producers of Owyhee County may make application to commit lands actively devoted to agriculture for future agricultural use. An APA designation aims to protect productive farmland, rangeland, and forest land; encourage best farming practices; support the local agricultural economy; and provide for long-term planning stability. This ordinance sets out the process for creation of Agriculture Protection Areas.

A complete copy of the proposed ordinance is available for review on the county web site at www.owyheecounty.net or at the Community Planning office located at 17069 Basey Street in Murphy, Idaho. You may request an electronic copy via email from mhuff@co.owyhee.id.us

For further information on the proposed ordinance please call the Community Planning office at 495-2095 ext. 2.

01/15,22/2025

NOTICE OF LETTING

Leading Idaho Local Bridge Program project for Owyhee County, proposal number 28299-47. This proposal will remove and replace the existing bridge on Salmon Creek Road over Reynolds Creek.

Sealed proposals will be received either electronically through QuestCDN (www.QuestCDN.com) or at the office of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, 3330 W Grace St, Boise, ID 83703 until 2:30 p.m. MST on January 30, 2025. LHTAC's QuestCDN Number is 8010870.

01/15,22/2025

BOARD OF OWYHEE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS December 2024 Synopsis December 2

-Approved Grand View Ambulance District's Request for Funds in the amount of \$82,773.

-Approved the claims report as presented in the amount of \$125,507.65: Current Expenses-\$6,095; R&B Fund-\$3,602; Health Dist.-\$9,397; Historical Society & Museum-\$285; Revaluation-\$225; Solid Waste-\$10,643; Waterways Fund-\$212; Off Hwy Vehicles-\$80; Capital Project Fund / ARPA-\$94,744; Child Safety Fund-\$42; SCAPP Program / Aliens-\$183.

-Approved the minutes from the November 25th, 2024 meeting.

-Approved the Bruneau Water & Sewer Dist. re Region IV Development, CDBG Drawdown #16, in the amount of \$477,181.86.

-Approved Desert View Construction's final pay application for the County Fair Ground well house & piping project in the amount of \$16,148.50.

-Approved the Nevada Street Notice of Conflict and Waiver, between Prosecutor Topmiller and

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that in accordance with Title 43, Chapter 7, of the Idaho State Code, on February 11, 2025, the period of redemption for delinquent entries, shall expire. Idaho law authorizes the Board to take back the water from the land so that it is no longer appurtenant to your property. The Board decided at its October board meeting to take back the water rights appurtenant to the property described below and leave you with title to the property without any water rights I.C. §43-716. The property described below may be redeemed on or before February 11, 2025, by paying to the Gem Irrigation District at its office in the City of Homedale, County of Owyhee, the delinquent assessments for which the delinquent entries were made, plus a penalty of two percent (2%) thereon, interest on the total at the rate of one percent (1%) per month from the day said delinquent entries were made until the day of redemption, and recording and publication costs. Direct any inquiries to Gem Irrigation at the above address.

Person Assessed	Property Description	Delinquent Year Assessed	Delinquent Assessment
Forest & Sharon Abbott	Part NESE, 3N5W Sec. 7,	2021-2024	\$ 861.46
German Martinez	Pt.SWSW, Sec. 4-2N-4W	2016-2024	\$2,602.73
Chasm I LLC	Sec 15 T3N R5W PT. NW¼ NE¼	2021-2024	\$3,651.27
Ignacio & Martha Castillo	Pt. W1/2 NWNE, Sec. 15-3N-5W	2019-2024	\$6,593.93

Dated this 3rd day of January 2025

01/08,15,22,29/2025

his brother in law, Chad Packer.

-Approved the All Hazards Mitigation Plan Update Contract with Northwest Management, Inc.

-Approved the Sheriff's new hire of Marshall McKinley for full-time jailer at the pay rate of \$23.84 per hour, effective December 9, 2024.

-At 10:50 a.m. went into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (f) confer with legal counsel regarding pending litigation. Open session was resumed at 11:45 p.m. No action taken.

December 9

-Approved the claims report as presented in the amount of \$130,619.62: Current Expenses-\$56,418; R&B Fund-\$17,500; Dist. Court-\$9,067; Fair, Grounds and Buildings-\$175; Probation-\$1,003; I&C-\$10,920; Revaluation-\$650; Solid Waste-\$11,396; Veterans Memorial-\$600; Waterways Fund-\$1,267; Off Hwy Vehicles-\$173; Capital Project Fund/ARPA-\$16,149; Child Safety Fund-\$900; Emergency Medical Services-\$4,400.

-Approved the minutes from the December 2nd, 2024 meeting.

-Approved 2025 Liquor License Transfer No. 33 for Cowboy's Pastime in Bruneau.

-Approved Idaho Electrical Service bid for the Owyhee County Courthouse and Jail in the amount of \$23,000.

-Approved the Idaho Office of Emergency Management 2024 Homeland Security Grant (No. 24EMPG073) in the amount of \$25,765.66, with the Chairman's signature for the Board.

-Approved submitting the Leading Idaho Local Bridge Program Grant Application to replace Sheep Camp Road & River Road Bridges.

-Approved Resolution 2024-42 - Ratification of the signing of a Catering Permit for The Spot Pizza Place. The event took place on Saturday December 7th at the Owyhee County Museum Christmas Bazaar.

-Approved the Nevada Street Utility Easement to Chad Packer for the compensation amount of \$5,000 to install, operate and maintain utility facilities over, across and under property.

-Approved the reappointment of Jim Hawe to the Owyhee County Historic Preservation Committee effective January 1, 2025 to serve for a period of four years.

-Approved the Idaho Parks & Rec County Vessel Fund Reporting & Remittance Form FY2024 in the amount of \$138,618 with

NOTICE OF PENDING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEED GEM IRRIGATION DISTRICT P.O. Box 67 Homedale, ID 83628 Owyhee County, Idaho

the Chairman's signature for the Board.

-Approved the homeowners' tax and solid waste cancellations for the following parcels.

-Approved the Ford Extended Service Plan with a Power train care coverage that expires on 09-27-2029 or when the vehicle has reached 100,000 miles with the Chairman's signature for the Board.

-At 9:45 a.m. went into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (p) personnel. Open session was resumed at 10:00 a.m. No action taken.

-Approved the bid from Desert View Construction Inc. for the Owyhee County Courthouse and Jail Sewer Project in the amount of \$1,223,238.

-At 10:54 a.m. went into recess as BOCC and reconvened as Board of Equalization for Hardship Tax Cancellation from Jeff Lovin.

-At 11:08 a.m. went into recess as Board of Equalization and reconvened as BOCC.

December 16

-Approved the claims report as presented in the amount of \$87,323.78: Current Expenses-\$43,445; R&B Fund-\$25,195; Probation-\$569; Historical Society & Museum-\$1,415; Revaluation-\$250; 911-\$300; Waterways Fund-\$174; Capital Project Fund/ARPA-\$15,977.

-Approved the minutes from the December 9th, 2024 meeting.

-Approved County Resolution 2024-44 - Ratification of Signature for LHTAC Joint Application 404 Permit - Reynolds Creek Bridge Replacement 28298.

-Approved the Order Organizing the Marsing Ambulance EMS District.

-Approved County Resolution 2024-43 - Resolution of the Owyhee County Commissioners Dissolving the Marsing Ambulance District.

-Approved setting closed office hours for December 19th Employee Holiday Luncheon for off-site County offices from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Bachman motioned to amend the closed office hours for December 19th Employee Holiday Luncheon for off-site County offices from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

-Approved the re-appointment of Planning & Zoning Commissioners Robert Thomas, Dean Young & Chad Nettleton for three-year terms, beginning January 1, 2025.

-Approved the Chairman's signature for the Board on the re-appointment letters for Robert Thomas, Dean Young & Chad

Nettleton.

-Approved the 2024 Public Defense Annual Report with a corrected amount of \$474,631.00.

-At 10:47 a.m. recessed as Board of County Commissioners and reconvened as Marsing Ambulance Board of Commissioners.

-Approved the homeowners' exemptions and homeowner tax reduction for the following parcels.

Commissioner Aberasturi motioned to amend the agenda to add County Resolution 2024-47 – Close Portions of Cow Creek Rd, Flint Creek Rd, & Juniper Mtn. Rd. due to hazardous road conditions.

-Approved County Resolution 2024-45 - Close Bachman Grade & Silver City Roads.

-Approved County Resolution 2024-46 - Close Mud Flat Road, Starting at Perjue Canyon Rec Site.

-Approved County Resolution 2024-47 – Close Portions of Cow Creek Rd, Flint Creek Rd, & Juniper Mtn. Rd.

December 23

-Approved the minutes from the December 9th, 2024 meeting.

-Approved the 2024 Annual Road & Street Report.

-Approved the Acceptance of 2024 State Homeland Security Program Grant No. 24SHSP073 in the amount of \$30,234.02 for September 19, 2024 through February 28, 2027.

Elite Design & Remodel Estimate for new dispatch floor tabulated for further information.

-Approved the Amended Memorandum of Understanding with Indigent Healthcare Solutions for jail indigent health care pricing not to exceed \$5,000 for any single medical bill, being reduced from \$7,800 on the original memorandum of understanding.

-Approved the Sheriff's 'Graduation from Patrol Academy' wage adjustment request for Phil Overlin, from \$21.29 to \$22.00 per hour, effect December 30, 2024.

-Approved the solid waste cancellation on parcel RP01N03W171800 in the amount of \$32.50.

-Approved the tax cancellations below in the total amount of \$1,806.02.

-Amend the agenda to include the Idaho Power Equalization Property Tax Appeal as the Board is not meeting on December 30, 2024 and the appeal needs addressed before the start of 2025.

-Approved a payment to

GEM IRRIGATION DISTRICT
Sherry Maxwell, Treasurer

Idaho Power in the amount of \$228,336.85 for the Idaho Power Equalization Property Tax Appeal.

-Approved the claims report as presented in the amount of \$131,320.65: Current Expenses-\$86,240; R&B Fund-\$24,817; Dist. Court-\$212; Probation-\$200; Historical Society & Museum-\$140; I&C-\$312; 911-\$6,369; Waterways Fund-\$854; Elections, Taxing District Fund-\$176; Capital Project Fund/ARPA-\$12,000.

-Approved the Chairman's signature for the Board on the agreement between Desert View Construction and Owyhee County for the Courthouse & Jail Sewer Project.

-At 11:45 a.m. went into executive session pursuant to Idaho Code §74-206 (a) personnel and (f) possible litigation. Open session was resumed at 12:45 p.m. No action taken.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Please be advised that a public hearing will be held before the Homedale City Council on Thursday, January 30, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Homedale City Hall, 31 W Wyoming Ave. Homedale, Idaho.

The subject matter of this hearing is the application for a commercial subdivision filed by Ahlquist, LLC for the property located at 401 US Highway 95, Homedale, Idaho, parcel #RPA001000G000A. They are requesting the parcel be subdivided into four (4) separate, buildable lots. A map of the plans is available at Homedale City Hall.

The public is invited to attend and offer input. Written testimony may also be emailed to alicep@cityofhomedale.org.
Alice E. Pegram
City Clerk
City of Homedale
01/15/2025

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Private road paves way for more homes

Homedale council OKs Packer Lane

Homedale is gaining a new street, but it won’t be traveled by many motorists. A month after establishing a private road policy, the city council approved its first application during last Wednesday’s meeting.

A private gravel road between North 3rd Street West and North 4th Street West near the Owyhee County Fairgrounds will be called Packer Lane. The road is named for Chad Packer, who is building starter homes in the area with his development partner Todd Ostrom as OPS LLC. The developers’ second choice was Ostrom Way. The 20-foot-wide road was made

possible through a purchase agreement with Owyhee County. The county bought the property from Homedale last year after Ostrom and Packer tried to acquire the ground at a discount. The land is necessary for OPS LLC to build more homes, Ostrom told the city council last year. County commissioners acknowledged a conflict of interest prior to the sales

agreement because Packer is Owyhee County Prosecuting Attorney Chris Topmiller’s brother-in-law. The private road will allow OPS LLC to build eight more homes north of West Arizona Avenue. City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram confirmed there are existing water sewer service lines under the ground, which the county originally purchased to use as a parking lot for the fairgrounds. The parking lot will remain to the north of the private road. — JPB

Public notices

NOTICE OF HEARING ON NAME CHANGE CASE NO. CV37-24-00389 IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT FOR THE STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF OWYHEE MAGISTRATE COURT IN RE: JACQUELIN ANN SOTELO

A petition to change the name of, Jacquelin Ann Sotelo, now residing in the city of Homedale, State of Idaho, County of Owyhee. This notice has been filed in the District Court in Owyhee County, State of Idaho. The name change will be to, “Jacquelin Ann Montgomery.” The reason for the name change will be to establish her identity, to reflect her relationship to Jason Montgomery (Step-Father), and Brenna Montgomery (biological mother). A hearing on the petition is scheduled for 10:45 o’clock a.m., On January 21, 2025, at the Owyhee County Courthouse located at 20381 ID-78, Murphy, Idaho; 83650. This hearing will be held in front of the Honorable Judge Shane Darrington. Objections may be filed by any person who can show the court a good reason against the proposed name change. Date: 12/5/2024 s:/Lena Johnson, Deputy Clerk Angela Barkell, Clerk of the District Court 12/25/2024;01/01,08,15/2025

NOTICES OF CLAIMS TO A WATER RIGHT

The following Notices of Claims and Motions for Determination of Deferred De Minimis Domestic or Stock Water Use to a water right have been filed in the Snake River Basin Adjudication. Note that the place of use is in Owyhee County. For information specific to each individual claim search here: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/apps/ExtSearch/WRAJSearch/WRADJSearch.aspx>

Water Right: 55-14052
NAME & ADDRESS: INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC
2700 TROUT CREEK RD
SOUTH MOUNTAIN ID 97910
SOURCE: SOUTH BOULDER CREEK TRIBUTARY: BIG BOULDER CREEK
PRIORITY DATE: 11/06/1882
POINT OF DIVERSION: T07S R04W SEC 29 SESW (BEGINNING)
T07S R04W SEC 32 NENW (ENDING)
P U R P O S E O F U S E : STOCKWATER

PLACE OF USE: T07S R04W SEC 29 SESW
T07S R04W SEC 32 NENW
Water Right: 55-14053
NAME & ADDRESS: INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC
2700 TROUT CREEK RD
SOUTH MOUNTAIN ID 97910
SOURCE: SPRING TRIBUTARY: SINKS
PRIORITY DATE: 11/06/1882
POINT OF DIVERSION: T07S R04W SEC 29 SWNW
P U R P O S E O F U S E : STOCKWATER
PLACE OF USE: T07S R04W SEC 29 SWNW

Water Right: 55-14054
NAME & ADDRESS: INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC
2700 TROUT CREEK RD
SOUTH MOUNTAIN ID 97910
SOURCE: SPRING TRIBUTARY: COYOTE CREEK
PRIORITY DATE: 11/06/1882
POINT OF DIVERSION: T07S R04W SEC 30 NENE (BEGINNING)
T07S R04W SEC 30 NENE (ENDING)
P U R P O S E O F U S E : STOCKWATER
PLACE OF USE: T07S R04W SEC 30 NENE

Water Right: 55-14055
NAME & ADDRESS: INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC
2700 TROUT CREEK RD
SOUTH MOUNTAIN ID 97910
SOURCE: UNNAMED POND, SPRINGS
TRIBUTARY: SINKS, SINKS
PRIORITY DATE: 11/06/1882
POINT OF DIVERSION: T07S R04W SEC 30 NESE
T07S R04W SEC 30 SESE
P U R P O S E O F U S E : STOCKWATER
PLACE OF USE: T07S R04W SEC 30 NESE

Water Right: 55-14056
NAME & ADDRESS: INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC
2700 TROUT CREEK RD
SOUTH MOUNTAIN ID 97910
SOURCE: SPRING TRIBUTARY: SINKS
PRIORITY DATE: 11/06/1882
POINT OF DIVERSION: T07S R04W SEC 31 NESE
P U R P O S E O F U S E : STOCKWATER
PLACE OF USE: T07S R04W SEC 31 NESE

Water Right: 55-14057
NAME & ADDRESS: INDIAN MEADOWS RANCH LLC
2700 TROUT CREEK RD
SOUTH MOUNTAIN ID 97910
SOURCE: UNNAMED POND

TRIBUTARY: BOULDER CREEK
PRIORITY DATE: 11/06/1882
POINT OF DIVERSION: T07S R04W SEC 32 SWSW
P U R P O S E O F U S E : STOCKWATER
PLACE OF USE: T07S R04W SEC 32 SWSW

Any objection against these proposed claim must be filed with the Clerk of the District Court, Snake River Basin Adjudication, 253 3rd Avenue North, PO Box 2707, Twin Falls, ID 83303-2707 on or before March 3, 2025 01/15,22,29/2025

LEGAL NOTICE

The following application(s) have been filed to appropriate the public waters of the State of Idaho: 57-12103 KENNY UNRUH 21674 RIVER RD GRAND VIEW, ID 83624-5100 Point of Diversion L2 (NENW) S27 T04S R02E OWYHEE County Source SNAKE RIVER Tributary SNAKE RIVER AQUIFER Use: STOCKWATER 01/01 to 12/31; 0.25 CFS Total Diversion: 0.25 CFS Date Filed: 08-24-2024 P l a c e O f U s e : STOCKWATER T04S R02E S27 NENW, NWNW, SWNW, SENW, NESW, NWSW, SWSW, SESW, SWSE T04S R02E S28 NENE, SENE, NESE, SESE T04S R02E S34 NENE, NWNE, SWNE, SENE, NENW, NWNW, SENW

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact the Western Region office at (208)334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s), please see <https://idwr.idaho.gov/apps/ExtSearch/WRAApplicationResults/>. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code § 42-203A. Any protest against the approval of this application must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 W AIRPORT WAY, BOISE ID 83705-5082 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or before 2/3/2025. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant. MATHEW WEAVER, Director 01/15,22/2025

✓ Ordinance: City RV limit to be enforced in the spring

From Page 1

RV park would devolve into an eyesore with cluttered spaces and run-down travel trailers.

But it also came to light that the maximum 28-day stay rule hasn’t been enforced because people have been allowed to stay past that maximum length at the city’s own RV sites at Riverside Park.

After the meeting, City Clerk and Treasurer Alice Pegram said public works supervisor Jake Hyer will rein in the out-of-compliance stays when the city-owned park opens again in the spring.

Compounding the situation, the Shady Lane managers said they were unaware of the 28-day ordinance. Apparently, the original owners who secured the CUP and triggered the passage of the ordinance sold the property, and the new owners are unaware of the ordinance.

It is unclear if the new owners signed off on accepting the CUP as required by Idaho law.

The Shady Lane managers wanted to extend the maximum allowable stay to as many as two years in light of a large construction project in Boise and the prevalence of traveling nurses and other temporary workers who have been living at the park.

The RV park is located on either side of East Owyhee Avenue between North 4th Street East and U.S. Highway 95.

Laura Marcus said she and her husband run a tight ship, requiring driver’s license and employment history from prospective tenants as part of background checks. The managers also keep an eye on the

tidiness of the RV spaces.

The out-of-compliance stays at park came as a surprise to Councilman Michael Aebischer.

Allan Marcus told Aebischer about half of the people in the RV park are extended-stay customers.

“I’ve seen RV parks with extended stay with bicycles strewn outside, and it looks junky,” Aebischer said. “I’m not saying that’s happening here.”

“I know what you’re talking about, and we don’t have a trashy trailer park,” Laura Marcus said.

City attorney Paul J. Fitzer pointed out that the 28-day ordinance doesn’t require RV users to vacate the park entirely. They can merely move their rig to another space to reset the clock.

“If you can’t move an RV every 30 days, you’re a little lazy,” Mayor Gheen Christofersen said.

The managers pointed out that some of the people living in the park got help to get their rigs to their space and have no means to move the RV again.

Both Fitzer and Police Chief Jeff Eidemiller expressed concerns about RV tenants being able to establish residency, which would make it difficult for the park managers to have problem guests removed.

The married management team pointed out that there are clauses in the guest agreements to protect against establishing residency. All long-term guests must also get their mail sent to a post office box. No mail is received at the park.

— JPB





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Well-received grant revives county broadband expansion

A technology project that fizzled after a false start has roared back to life.

Crews recently spent time installing fiber optic lines in Murphy as part of the grant-funded work spearheaded by White Cloud Communications.

“The project is a long time in the making,” White Cloud’s Eric Smallwood said.

Smallwood said the Murphy work is part of a phased approach to improving broadband in Owyhee County.

The grant financing comes from the Idaho Broadband Advisory Board, and the work aims at improving connectivity in rural areas.

Awarded in December 2023, the \$4,357,749 grant was part of \$120 million allocated to fund 18 broadband projects

throughout Idaho.

Owyhee County emergency management director Jim Desmond said the county’s grant application was the top-ranked proposal the state committee considered.

During the Murphy work, which started Dec. 10 and was expected to last to the end of the year, crews ran conduit to carry the fiber.

Desmond said White Cloud engineers huddled with Civil Dynamics engineers to ensure last month’s trenching wouldn’t cross the right-of-way for the planned pipes connecting the county jail to the new sewer ponds across Idaho highway 78 from the county complex.

Similar projects are planned in Grand View and Bruneau, and Smallwood said his company is working on Bureau of Land Management permitting for other areas.

By the time the project concludes, fiber could be available in the Rimrock High School and CJ Strike Dam areas, he said.

More coverage will be provided through towers, which

will provide wireless access to the expanded service.

Eventually, White Cloud will market residential service, Smallwood said.

Desmond, who recently signed another contract to work for the Board of County Commissioners, said that the late Joe Merrick, who hailed from District 3, was instrumental in getting the broadband project off the ground.

“Joe really put a ton of effort into this project,” Desmond said.

The idea of expanding broadband connectivity in Owyhee County began to take shape when the federal government began doling out infrastructure money related to the COVID-19 economic recovery effort.

“The first thing that happened is the administration said, ‘We’ll push the money out for broadband improvement in underserved areas,’” Desmond said.

During the 2020 opportunity, then-Owyhee County Sheriff’s dispatch supervisor Sarah Kipper worked on a couple projects.

Three projects were envi-

sioned, including broadband from the edge of Marsing to Murphy and broadband from Murphy to as far as possible toward Grand View.

The only project completed under that first wave of money was the new communications tower in Murphy.

Grants were received for the broadband projects, but the vendor selected to do the work couldn’t pull off the task before the expenditure deadline for the \$5.7 million in grants because necessary rights-of-way hadn’t been secured, among other factors, Desmond said.

White Cloud entered the scene after officials learned that the company had accomplished some projects under the 2020 funding despite the limitations.

“Eric Smallwood and Joe Merrick spent a lot of time driving around looking at sites and talking to people who owned property (for rights-of-way),” Desmond said.

Desmond said some of the fiber infrastructure between Marsing and Murphy will follow Idaho Power right-of-way along Idaho highway 78.

— JPB

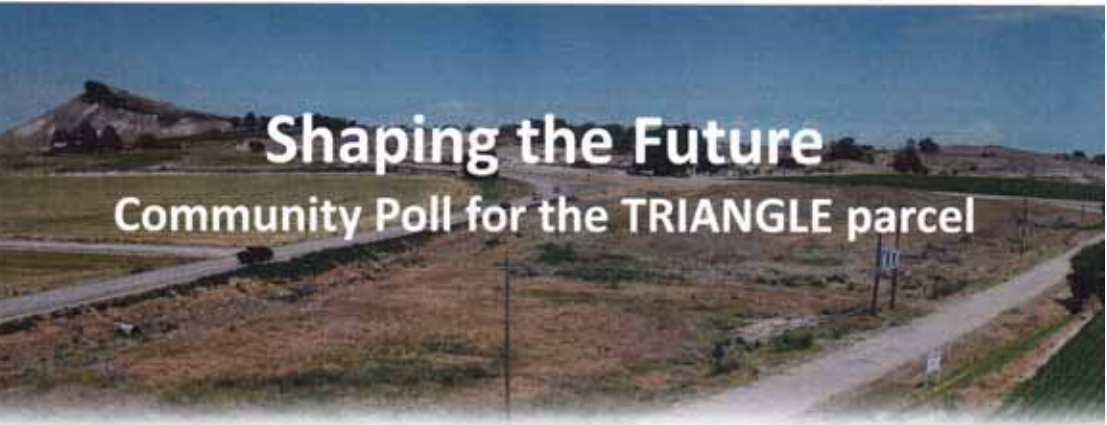
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Shaping the Future
Community Poll for the TRIANGLE parcel

The purpose of this POLL is to involve us, the residents of the City of Marsing, Owyhee and Canyon Counties, and the greater Sunnyslope area, to identify possible developments for the TRIANGLE that would emphasize our special location in Southwest Idaho. We have highlighted the area's history below, followed by a short poll.

To emphasize: our beautiful and unique area IS being developed. The development and passing of the 2030 Canyon County Comprehensive Plan provided a blueprint to preserve and enhance our unique environment. Your involvement will be for all our benefit, and this POLL is a step in that direction. This POLL specifically identifies THE TRIANGLE. We have passed this +- 9 acres every time we drive over the new Marsing Bridge.



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THE TRIANGLE
Churruca Lane
Marsing Road

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If you want to learn more, in the afternoons of Thursday and Friday, January 16th & 17th, I, Bill Werhane, will be in the Sandbar Community Room at Marsing City Hall (18 Sandbar Avenue, Marsing) to discuss this POLL and the advancement of our community.

Please complete the poll via QR code and submit it by January 17, 2025.

The poll can be accessed via the QR code to the left or call:
Bill & Gina Werhane, owners, Sunny Slope (208) 861-7897
Elizabeth Allen, Bristlecone Land Use Consulting, (208) 477-1059