

The Owyhee Avalanche

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75 CENTS

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017



John Lejardi (left) begins installation of a solar power generator on the Homedale Middle School Future City model as fellow second-year member Téa Uranga explains other elements of "Phosphora," the team's fictional Future City based in New Zealand. Also pictured are Emma Thornton, next to Uranga, and Abigail Henry. Thornton is an eighth-grader while the other three students are in seventh grade.

Siblings carry on Future City tradition

HMS team back for regional in Boise

Several materials used to build components in last year's model are in use again, but perhaps family ties are the biggest renewable resource for the Homedale Middle School Future City team.

Four teammates heading to Saturday's regional competition at Boise State University are familiar with the process because their siblings had gone before them.

Seventh-grader John Lejardi is hoping to repeat what his brother, Michael, did in 2012, and help the team advance to the national finals in Washington, D.C., for the third time in program history. HMS won

back-to-back regional championships in 2011 and 2012.

A win Saturday inside the BSU Student Union Building would secure a Feb. 18-21 trip to the nation's capital and the first berth in the nationals for a team advised by Science teacher Kim Portwood. Portwood is

— See *Future City*, page 16

Oregon media: Canyonlands monument won't happen

Crapo, Risch reintroduce bill to change process

Even as media outlets report President Obama won't reserve the 2.5 million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands, Idaho's senators pushed back again on national monument designation.

Republicans Mike Crapo and Jim Risch reintroduced S. 132, the National Monuments Designation Transparency and Accountability Act one week after they and two dozen other GOP senators co-sponsored the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act.

The latest announcement about trying to limit presidential power related to national monuments came after President

— See *Canyonlands*, page 5

Aberasturi reappointed BOCC chair

Commissioners, sheriff, prosecutor take oaths of office

The Owyhee County commissioners held their annual board reorganization Jan. 10 during their regular weekly meeting.

The board was reorganized after District 2 Commissioner Kelly Aberasturi and District 3 Commissioner Joe Merrick took their oaths of office. The men were re-elected after running



unopposed in the November election.

Sheriff Perry Grant, Prosecuting Attorney Douglas D. Emery, and Coroner Aaron Tines also were sworn in during the Jan. 3 meeting, which was pushed back a

— See *BOCC*, page 5



Workers and heavy equipment from Qualitree operated in frigid temperatures Friday to continue demolition of the old Idaho highway 19 bridge across Succor Creek west of Homedale. A girder of the new eastbound span was exposed after a section of the old bridge was destroyed earlier in the week. A worker tries to manipulate a tangle of concrete reinforcement bar.

Bridge project chiefs have high water in mind

Principals are meeting to discuss how to cope with high water flows at the Succor Creek bridge replacement site west of Homedale.

Representatives from the Idaho Transportation Department and project contractor Knife River are to meet "in

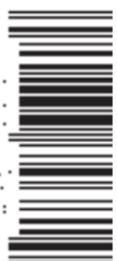
the coming days" and talk about stream diversion and how to deal with run-off season, ITD spokesperson Jennifer Gonzalez said in an email Thursday.

Meanwhile, a passing motorist reported that one of the bridge culverts had been pushed downstream during last week's

heavy rains and snow. The Owyhee Avalanche was unable to reach Gonzalez to confirm this.

Gonzalez said high water shouldn't affect some of the construction, such as the mechanically stabilized earth (MSE)

— See *Bridge*, page 5



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Marsing's snow fight delays other projects

City buys snow blower, surpluses road grader

The City of Marsing recently purchased a snow blower to help combat the historic winter.

During a discussion about winter maintenance last Wednesday, Mayor James Ferdinand told council members about the machine.

"It's fairly large and self-propelled," Ferdinand said. "It has a crank so you can shoot the snow one way or the other. We got a pretty good deal on it, \$1,000."

News of the snow blower came when city maintenance supervisor Phillip Gibson briefed council members on his department's battle against the recent heavy snow. No council vote was necessary because a

budget line was appropriated earlier so Ferdinand could buy equipment as needed.

Gibson said his crew hasn't been doing anything not related to weather lately.

"Basically we moved snow," Gibson said. "We also cleaned out the shops. Next month, we'll do what we were supposed to do this month, like refurbish picnic tables."

Councilman Chris Even asked Gibson about a non-functional road grader the city owns.

"When a previous employee that no longer works here went to start it, he pumped it full of ether and blew out all the seals in the fuel system," Gibson said without identifying the former employee. "Plus it's a 1965, so it's been through the Vietnam War."

The council agreed to declare the Caterpillar No. 12 surplus and sell it at an upcoming auction.

— SC

Marsing inks Gem Irrigation deal

New fee proposal would raise rates

Marsing City Council members signed off on an agreement with Gem Irrigation District during last week's meeting.

In October, the council agreed that it is in the citizens' best interest for the city to continue performing billing and maintenance services for Gem Irrigation within the city limits.

Marsing originally sent a letter to the Gem district in July stating that the city would terminate its arrangement on Nov. 1.

City attorney Stephanie J. Bonney said Gem Irrigation directors only requested one change to the document for the city to maintain its irrigation system.

"In the event that they put a lien on somebody's property for the unpaid assessment, both the city and the district have to agree for them to foreclose on the property," Bonney said.

The district only charges Marsing a single account fee of \$65 annually because the city's municipal irrigation system is treated and maintained as a single account.

If the city had chosen to turn maintenance and billing duties over to the district, each property receiving irrigation water would have been assessed an annual \$65 account fee. That charge

would have been on top of the patron's typical water delivery assessment.

Now, the council will begin work on an irrigation plan, which Bonney hopes is developed within two months. The first step is establishing a maintenance fee, which has been proposed not to exceed \$20 per acre per month. Even under the monthly proposal, which would eliminate the current annual System Operation fee of \$100 per acre, bills will increase.

The city will set up an enterprise fund to receive maintenance fees and pay for system improvements.

A public hearing for the maintenance fee will be held during the council's Feb. 8 meeting, which will be held in the Phipps-Watson Marsing American Legion Community Center, 126 2nd St. N.

Instead of the annual operation fee, patrons would pay up to \$20 per acre each month for maintenance and to finance the enterprise fund. That fee would be in addition to the delivery assessment.

Bonney said it would cost \$13.72 per acre each year for maintenance, including materials and manhours. The additional fee above \$13.72, but not to exceed \$20, would finance the enterprise fund.

Bonney explained that people

owning less than an acre will only pay a portion of the new fee.

"If you have half an acre, you pay half of that," Bonney said. "If you have a quarter acre, you pay a quarter of that."

The city pays \$14,500 to Gem Irrigation for its water supply. The patrons' annual \$60-per-acre delivery assessment would switch to a monthly scale, meaning folks will pay \$5 per month for water.

Under the current billing structure, a customer with a full acre pays \$160 annually. Under the enterprise fund proposal, the bill for an acre of ground would jump to \$300 annually paid at a monthly rate of \$25 per month.

During his mayor's report, Ferdinand told the council that he has received a \$2,000 check that he won in the 2016 Mayor's Walking Challenge. A Blue Cross of Idaho representative was unable to make the trip for a check presentation in December because of inclement weather.

Ferdinand previously said he would like to use the money to start work on some sort of city greenbelt.

"I do want to put together a citizens advisory committee for the pathway," Ferdinand said. "We're going to use that as seed money to put a plan together for a greenbelt."

— SC

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HMS to host day of chess Saturday

Whether a beginner or a expert player, people of all ages are invited to a special morning of chess games on Saturday.

The "Day of Chess" will be held from 9 a.m. to noon at Homedale Middle School, 3437 Johnstone Road.

People attending the three

hours of competition will also enjoy a free pizza lunch.

Community members, families, and students in fifth grade and above are invited to attend.

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Council praises Homedale crew's snow cleanup efforts

Sheriff's office receives report of plow damage

The City of Homedale has to replace a snow blade worn down during cleanup from the recent snowfall, and authorities are investigating reported damage from the town's snowplow.

Chief Deputy Lynn Bowman confirmed Friday that the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office was looking into a report that a vehicle had been damaged by a passing snowplow early last week.

When reached Friday evening, Homedale public works supervisor Bret Smith said he had not heard of the report of damage. He added that an OCSO investigator had yet to contact him.

Bowman said the owner of a 1991 Pontiac Grand Am reported the vehicle was damaged in front of a North 1st Street East residence. He said the vehicle had a sheet over it and the passenger-side window apparently had been broken out.

The report was still under investigation, and Bowman said it was unknown if the alleged damage was caused by a rock or possible impact from the city vehicle or by something else.

In an unrelated development, Smith has had to order a new snow blade after heavy use of the



Homedale public works supervisor Bret Smith checks for westbound traffic while clearing snow from the center of East Idaho Avenue on Jan. 10.

city's current one as crews tried to clear streets last week. The part costs between \$500 and \$600, Smith told the city council during last Wednesday's meeting.

Smith said the public works budget is still looking good, but could be affected if the winter gets worse.

Mayor Gheen Christoffersen and city council members commended the public works crew's efforts during snowstorm cleanup. It was pointed out that the maintenance staff is working a man down with Jack Ulrich on medical leave.

"I have received a bunch of nice phone calls for the job

you're doing," Christoffersen told Smith.

Christoffersen pointed out that folks haven't seen such snowfall in decades, and thanked community members who stepped up to help neighbors whose vehicles had become stuck in the white stuff.

"Bottom line, we have to do what the good Lord intends us to do," Christoffersen said. "We have to look out for our neighbors."

Councilman Steve Atkins expressed gratitude for the contractors in the community, such as Rick Echevarria, Ric Uria and Mansidor Excavation, who stepped up to help clear streets.

Smith said resident Shane

Murray has been helping clear driveways, too.

Resident Jim Salisbury questioned the city's strategy of plowing residential streets by moving the snow to the curb, which made getting vehicles out of driveways and setting out trash difficult.

Smith pointed out that traffic couldn't pass if the city plowed to the center of residential streets, which are more narrow than thoroughfares such as Idaho Avenue. As it was, some residential streets were narrowed by snow buildup anyway.

"We would cause more issues plowing to the middle of the street

as we would solve," Christoffersen said.

Smith discussed the potential of flooding. He said that Idaho Avenue storm drains are clear, but they are at or near capacity.

He said that anticipated freezing temperatures will help keep the water at bay, but people would have to be careful as they drove or walked downtown because of slick conditions.

Recent frigid temperatures also resulted in one to three water shutoffs each day because of broken pipes, Smith said. Although no water meters had frozen, he expected some would need to be replaced at some point.

The snow buildup also has caused the police department to temporarily abandon its fenced parking lot. The vehicles have been parked in the familiar location in front of the magistrate courtroom part of City Hall to prevent them getting stuck in the parking area.

Council members discussed the possibility of installing a drainage system in the parking area in the future.

In one piece of business unrelated to the weather, the council unanimously reappointed Debbie Packer to the Homedale Public Library board of directors. Packer's first full term will end in October 2020.

— JPB



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Grand View mayor tips hat to civilians for snow help

The price tag of Grand View's snow cleanup isn't known yet, but the town's mayor is sure the bill won't be nearly as much as it could have been.

Ed Collett said community members stepping up helped an overwhelmed maintenance staff that was in transition already.

"Just like every community, we had to pitch in and get the snow cleared from town," Collett said.

The cleanup came as Jim Hunt joined the public works staff. Hunt will eventually take over the supervisor job when Bob Servis retires later this year.

But, Collett said, many of the folks helping with cleanup weren't drawing paychecks or

driving city equipment.

"A lot of people just volunteered it. It was just donations to come and do it," Collett said of clearing streets.

"We haven't trickled in any bills. I offered anybody that wanted any kind of compensation, and they just said, 'No, we're donating our time.'"

Collett said he anticipates a need to buy more sand, but it'll be a couple months before the total cost of the cleanup and maintenance is known.

The mayor said he knew of no property damage from snow accumulation, although a few water pipes burst because of frigid temperatures.

— JPB

HHS slates talent show auditions

Auditions for Homedale's annual talent show will take place next week.

Tryouts are scheduled from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, Jan 26.

The auditions, which are open to all community members, will take place inside the high school band room.

This year's talent show has four categories, and students and adults are invited to perform.

Homedale High School music director John Zieske said community members can contact him at jzieske@homedaleschools.org to schedule an audition during another time.

Divisions this year include elementary school, middle school, high school and adults.

The talent show will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10 inside the HHS old gymnasium. There will be first- through third-place honorees in each division.

Admission is \$3 for students and senior citizens, \$5 for adults and \$15 for families.

A dress rehearsal will be held at noon on Friday, Feb. 3.

Grand View, county consider combining clerk, DMV jobs

The Grand View City Council is considering teaming up with Owyhee County to fill its city clerk position.

Mayor Ed Collett revealed the idea after last Wednesday's council meeting. He said negotiations with the Board of County Commissioners are planned.

"What we're looking at with the county is to try to combine the DMV and the city clerk job into one person so we can make it a more desirable position," Collett said.

Former City Clerk Tammy Payne worked 32 hours each week, Collett said.

The county's Division of Motor Vehicles clerk works out of a City Hall office half a day four days a week Monday through Thursday.

Collett said the DMV clerk is planning to retire in a few months, and he would like to see the city and county work on consolidating the two jobs into a 40-hour weekly position with the two governments sharing the payroll.

"We'll try to work out how the one person can wear two hats," Collett said. "We're hoping to work out a description that can

keep everybody happy and make a better job of it."

County Assessor Brett Endicott discussed the idea with county commissioners on Jan. 10, echoing Collett's idea of making the job more attractive for potential applicants.

The council hired former city council candidate Katy Hazlett as the temporary city clerk during last week's meeting. Hazlett stepped in to the role on an emergency basis after Payne resigned with three days' notice in a phone call on Dec. 30, Collett said.

The mayor said Payne did not submit a letter of resignation. Her last day was Jan. 5.

The pending March 31 closure of the town's U.S. Bank branch also was discussed last Wednesday.

"We're trying to do our best to find another bank entity," Collett said. "We're trying to send out letters to any and all possibilities that may be interested."

Collett said the council also is trying to reconcile with U.S. Bank, but the mayor admits he's not optimistic about changing the branch's fate.

— JPB

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Grand View Lions Club gearing up for annual auction

Raffle tickets are on sale and auction items are being sought for the annual Grand View Lions Club Auction.

The auction takes place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Grand View Elementary School. A lunch precedes the auction beginning at noon.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5, and the prizes include a .308 Ruger rifle

and a Traeger grill.

Lions Club treasurer Doug Thurman said tickets are now being sold at Grand View Gas (formerly Gus's Gas) and the Y Bar & Café. Beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 1, tickets will be available for purchase from fourth- and fifth-graders attending Bruneau and Grand View elementary schools, Thurman said.

Anyone interested in donating auction items can call Thurman at (208) 834-2442.

The Grand View Lions Club formed in 1956. More than \$10,000 is raised each year during the club's auction.

Among community events that the Lions sponsor is the annual Easter egg hunt.

Past auctions have furnished proceeds to finish a cement pathway through down-

town Grand View, fund scholarships for Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School graduating seniors and continue the Lions Club's commitment to provide eyeglasses to Treasure Valley children.

The Lions Club meets at 11:30 a.m. on the second Friday of the month at the Grand Owyhee Restaurant, 230 Main St., in Grand View.

From page 1

✓ BOCC: Re-elected incumbents take oaths; assignments still the same

day after the county courthouse was closed because of dangerous roads.

Grant and Emery were re-elected after running unopposed in November.

However, County Clerk Angie Barkell confirmed the swearing in of Tines was put on the agenda in error, because he was not on the November ballot. Tines was elected to his four-year term in 2014 and will be up for re-election in 2018.

Although the Board of Owyhee County Commissioners (BOCC) reorganizes each January, not much changed last week.

Aberasturi, who served as board chairman throughout the past year, was reappointed to the position.

Merrick made the motion to reappoint Aberasturi, which was seconded by District 1 Commissioner Jerry Hoagland.

"Thank you, I appreciate it," Aberasturi said. "I'm very humbled, and I thank you."

Committee and department assignments were also set for 2017.

Aberasturi will continue as the representative to the Southwest District Health Board, Treasure Valley Partnership and Western Alliance for Economic Development.



Owyhee County officials who won re-election in November took their oaths of office last week during the the Board of County Commissioners annual reorganization meeting.

Clockwise from top left:

District 3 Commissioner Joe Merrick (left) receives the oath of office from County Clerk Angie Barkell.

District 2 Commissioner and board chair Kelly Aberasturi (right) administers the oath to Prosecuting Attorney Douglas D. Emery.

Kelly Aberasturi (left) swears in Sheriff Perry Grant.

Aberasturi will also continue as the county's representative on the Third Judicial District Magistrates Commission, which — among other things — fills vacancies on the magistrate bench throughout

the district.

Aberasturi will serve as supervisor for the Probation Department and the Weed Department.

Merrick will continue as supervisor for County Road and

Bridge District 3, the Solid Waste Department and the Planning and Zoning Department.

Hoagland remains County Road and Bridge District 1 supervisor.

The county's indigent burial fee remains \$750.

Commissioners also re-affirmed The Owyhee Avalanche as the official county newspaper.

— SC

✓ Bridge: Some type of work will continue throughout winter months

retaining walls.

Knife River employees will work on the MSE walls will coincide with other elements of the project, Gonzalez said.

"While they are working on the rip rap armor for the abutments, they will also be

completing the bottom layers of the MSE walls," she said.

"The bottom of wall elevation is several feet above the normal water line, so the water level can rise quite a bit and still not affect the walls."

Once the rip rap is installed, the project focus will be able to move out of the creek bottom, Gonzalez said.

If weather or conditions prevent Knife River from working on the bridge, Gonzalez said, construction can still continue on

River Road.

Work will continue through the winter, she said, adding, "They won't shut down completely at any time."

— JPB

✓ Canyonlands: Malheur County residents continue to fight designation

Obama declared five new national monuments Thursday. The outgoing Democrat hasn't made a move on a request to designate the Owyhee Canyonlands, but he can sign executive orders right up until Donald J. Trump succeeds him on Friday.

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Oregon), however, some Oregon media outlets have reported, says the Obama Administration will not designate the Owyhee Canyonlands.

Expansion of the Bill Clinton-created Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in forestland straddling the Oregon and California border

was among the moves Obama made last week.

"Regardless of your opinion on this use of presidential power, the outgoing Administration has locked up more acres of public land for monument designation than any in history," Crapo said. "These designations can be made with no input from local residents, elected leaders and those who use the public lands and their representatives in Congress. This recent activity makes this legislation more important than ever."

The senators' reintroduced bill would mandate local input

and approval and require congressional approval in the designation process, the same objective as legislation introduced earlier this month.

"This legislation would allow for greater transparency in the monument designation process and would allow Idahoans to have greater input on monument proposals," Risch said.

"Further, congressional authorization would be required before any national monument can be declared on public land, which would prevent the president from designating a monument based on the administration's agenda."

Obama has made no indication on whether he will accede to supporters who want to create a 2.5-million-acre Owyhee Canyonlands national monument in Malheur County. The proposal, backed by environmentalists and a Portland-based footwear company, is opposed by Malheur County ranchers and elected officials.

Malheur County residents and their supporters have organized the Owyhee Basin Stewardship Coalition, and a website, <http://ourlandourvoice.com/>, to help beat back the effort to designate a canyonlands national monument.

Donations are sought, and there is a petition to sign.

Organizers also urge folks to call Oregon elected officials, such as Gov. Kate Brown and U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Merkley — all Democrats — to voice opposition to the proposal.

The website also features stories of people who call the canyonlands home and gives a sense of how their lives and livelihoods would be affected by designation. Jordan Valley ranchers Mark Mackenzie and Sean Cunningham and Adrian outdoorsman Ken Davis are among those profiled.

Obituary

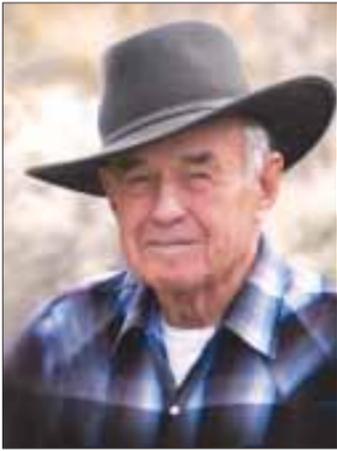
Marion Call Smith

Marion Call Smith, 92, of Boise, passed away on January 12, 2017. The son of Andrew Patrick Smith and Olive (Babe) Grace Call Smith, Marion was born in Boise November 28, 1924 into a family rich with Idaho pioneer history.

Dad grew up in the Highland Valley, the current site of Lucky Peak Reservoir. The family home was at the mouth of Mores Creek. Growing up, he did the work of men, whether it be traveling solo on horseback through the high country of Idaho at age 11, or supervising a fire crew at the age of 17.

Schools attended included the Call School and Highland School, North Junior High, graduating from Boise High School in 1942. He won the prestigious Union Pacific Scholarship to University of Idaho, but due to the war, was unable to accept it. Brothers Neil, Larry and Ben joined the military, and his wish was to join the Navy. Instead it was determined that his duty was to remain behind to help the ranching families of the Highland Valley in the absence of those called to serve. Marion joined the newly formed Idaho Volunteer Reserve Cavalry.

After attending Boise Junior College, Marion worked at the Hanley Ranch in Jordan Valley, Oregon. He and his brother Larry also ran the Hardisty Ranch at Cliffs, Owyhee County. In addition to ranching, Marion also worked in the mines of Gabbs, Nevada, and as a welder/mechanic for MacGregor Triangle and Idaho Bit and Steel. In the 1970s



he briefly returned to ranching in the Jordan Valley area.

Thought to be a confirmed bachelor, he met Betty Hance Jenne at the Eagles Lodge, and with their marriage he became an instant father of five to Larry, Vickie, Kathy, Sue and Tim. The family moved to the Spivey Ranch in Oreana where daughter Patricia joined the family.

Dad reinstated the family mining claims of the Greyhound Mine in Custer County, Idaho, which was founded by his grandfather Steve Smith. For many years, our family made the yearly trip by truck, then horseback and mule to the Greyhound to complete the mining assessment work. He enjoyed fishing, camping, boating on Lucky Peak, and sailing with his brother Ben.

Marion loved sharing his wisdom and wit with his family and countless others in his journey through life. If you had the opportunity to hear a few of his stories, count yourself lucky. He

was a rare gem; tough as nails, infinitely patient with a kind and gentle soul. He was incredibly influential in many lives. He helped us understand that even if you were cold, wet, tired and hungry all at once, you still didn't have anything to complain about.

Marion was preceded in death by his parents, Andy and Babe, and brothers Neil, Larry and Ben. In addition to a joyful reunion, we expect him to be in the saddle again on his mustang Pedro with his legendary dog Pooch keeping the cattle in line. Happy trails to you, Dad.

This amazing man will be remembered and loved always by his wife Betty, and children Larry (Deana) Jenne, Vickie (James) Olsen, Kathy (Bill) Amlin, Susan (Galen) Jolly, Tim (Paula) Smith, Patricia (James) Barnes, 23 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren, his sister Marygrace (Earl) Elsner, and numerous nieces and nephews and cousins of the Smith, Call and Dowling families.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests making a donation to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Vigil will be held Friday, January 20, 2017 at 7 pm at Sacred Heart Church, 811 S. Latah St., Boise, ID. Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 11 am at Sacred Heart Church. He will be buried at Oreana Pioneer Cemetery.

Arrangements are through Summers Funeral Home, 1205 W. Bannock St. Boise, ID 83702 (208) 343-6493.

Birthday

Helen VanWassenhove ready to celebrate 80th

Helen VanWassenhove will celebrate her 80th birthday on Friday, Jan. 20.

Helen graduated from Marsing High School in 1954 as Helen Wilson. After graduating from Peacock Beauty College in Nampa, she bought Tinny's in Homedale.

Helen was married and had two sons. After two years, she sold the salon and moved to Nampa as a stylist and later managed a beauty school.

After 18 years, she was divorced and met Joe VanWassenhove from Marsing. They were married at St. Paul's Catholic church. Joe had six children: Paul, Jayne, Mike, Margaret, David, and Joanne, who welcomed her to the family. Joe and Helen were very busy with family functions, the Lions Club, and church. They also were involved with sheriff's Posse activities through Joe's membership and also enjoyed



Helen VanWassenhove

family campouts and deer hunts.

After Joe passed away in May 2010, Helen moved to an apartment in Meridian. Helen says she is very happy and in good health, and she looks forward to celebrating her 80th birthday with family.

Cards may be sent to: 1103 W. Pine Ave., Apt. 119, Meridian, ID 83642.

Senior menu

Homedale Senior Center

Milk served every day

Salad Bar available with each meal

(lettuce, tomatoes, boiled eggs, peaches, apricots, salad dressing)

Jan. 18: Spaghetti & meat sauce, green beans, rolls

Jan. 19: Roast pork, mashed potatoes/gravy, broccoli, roll

Jan. 24: Taco salad, salsa, chips

Jan. 25: Grilled chicken breast, baked potato, beets, roll

Jan. 26: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas & carrots, roll

Death notices

GERALD "JERRY" ECKHOUT, 73, a Homedale resident formerly of Nampa, died Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017 at a Nampa hospital. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20, 2017 at the Nampa First Christian Church. Arrangements: Nampa Funeral Home, Yraguen Chapel. (208) 442-8171

GERALD "JERRY" LEE FLOYD, 75, of Marsing, died Friday, Jan. 13, 2017. Arrangements: Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. (208) 337-3252

CONNIE TRUNNELL, 64, of Homedale, died on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017 at a Caldwell hospital. Cremation is under the care of Flahiff Funeral Chapel, Homedale. (208) 459-0833

Service notice

AYAKO TAKASUGI, 94, former Wilder resident, died Friday, Nov. 4, 2016 in Bellevue, Wash. A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at Dakan Funeral Chapel, Caldwell. A dinner will follow at Orphan Annie's restaurant in Caldwell.

Homedale actors give gift of reading

Ticket sales finance local book donations

The next Homedale High School Drama Club production goes beyond the footlights.

Although the club has struggled with the weather to fit in rehearsals, advisor DeAnn Thatcher said preparations continue for two performances of Chris Colfer's book "The Land of Stories: The Wishing Spell."

The play will be performed at 7 each night on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 27-28.

"In place of royalty fees, we have been asked to purchase and share books with libraries, schools or hospitals," Thatcher said. "Our shipment of books has arrived, and we are excited to begin deliveries."

Working with Colfer's agent, Rob Weisbach, the club purchased various titles written by the former "Glee" actor.

The books will be delivered to all three Homedale public schools as well as the town's library and possibly a hospital, Thatcher said.

Proceeds from admission prices will be used to reimburse the money used to buy Colfer's books. Tickets are \$5 for adults, and \$3 for students and senior



Homedale High School Drama Club members Lindy Phariss, Wyatt James and Conner Slater try out Big Bad Wolf Pack costumes while preparing for next week's production. Submitted photo

citizens. A family ticket is available for \$15.

"This play is a huge undertaking. We have had a few set backs that pushed us into January, and now this weather interrupting practices is a challenge," Thatcher said.

"The Land of Stories" is a six-book series from Colfer. The final book in the series is scheduled for release this summer.

"The Wishing Spell" is the first book in the youth reading series, and it was released in July 2012.

Containers can put chemicals in food

In the last five years there has been quite the issue over Bisphenol A (BPA), the chemical that is traditionally used to harden plastic food containers and lines most metal cans to prevent corrosion with the contents inside. The concern with BPA is the fact that it can create a harmful estrogen-mimicking effect, which can cause early puberty as well as lower sperm counts. This has also been found to increase risk of obesity, diabetes and some types of cancers.



Surine Greenway

Because of these rising issues with the product, many manufacturers have made the decision to change to a BPA-free alternative to use in their

University of Idaho Extension

processing. Fast-forward to a few years later, and research is starting to show that the alternative chemicals may be equally as detrimental. A study conducted on more than 450 plastic containers that were both contained BPA and were BPA-free found that almost all leached chemicals that imitate estrogen.

There are two main products that are used to replace BPA, Bisphenol S (BPS) and Bisphenol F (BPF). While studies are limited to animals, they found that both chemical alternatives disrupt the hormone balance in these test animals, sometimes comparable to BPA, and some tests showing that the effects were worse than the use of BPA.

What does this mean for you and the foods that you eat? The take-away here is that just because a product is BPA-free

does not mean that it is going to be chemical-free. While there is preliminary testing of the BPA substitutes, it is still unclear of the complete effects on human health. If you are trying to reduce the risk of these ingredients in your food, try to minimize the heating of your food in plastic products and attempt to use glass and stainless steel for food storage in your home. To minimize the risk, you should also avoid purchasing foods in these plastic packages from the store.

— Surine Greenway is the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension Family and Consumer Sciences educator. For more information, you can reach Greenway at the U of I Owyhee County Extension Office at (208) 896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. The office is located at 238 W. 8th Ave. W., in Marsing. Column source: Brierly Wright, M.S., R.D., editor for eatingwell.com

School menus

Homedale Elementary

All meals include milk variety and a free breakfast is offered to all students

- Jan. 18: Chicken patty sandwich, tater tots, veggie & fruit bar
- Jan. 19: Cheese pizza ripper, tossed salad, fruit rollup, veggie & fruit bar
- Jan. 23: Hot dog, macaroni & cheese, veggie & fruit bar
- Jan. 24: Chicken tenders, mashed potatoes/gravy, veggie & fruit bar
- Jan. 25: Chicken taco, corn, veggie & fruit bar

Homedale Middle

All meals include milk variety and a free breakfast is offered to all students

- Jan. 18: Mini corn dogs or fish nuggets, steamed carrots, cookie, fruit & salad bar
- Jan. 19: Hamburger or chicken patty, potato chips, fruit & salad bar
- Jan. 23: Pork chop or chicken tenders, mashed potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & salad bar
- Jan. 24: Sloppy Joe or rib-b-que, green beans, fruit & salad bar
- Jan. 25: Popcorn chicken or hamburger, baked beans, fruit & salad bar

Homedale High

All meals include milk variety and a free breakfast is offered to all students

- Jan. 18: Chicken nuggets or chef salad, macaroni & cheese, salad bar, fruit choice
- Jan. 19: Spicy chicken sandwich or cheeseburger, potato wedges, salad bar, fruit choice
- Jan. 23: Pepperoni pizza ripper or deli sandwich w/chips, salad bar, fruit choice
- Jan. 24: Chef salad, or pork chop w/butter herbed potatoes, roll, salad bar, fruit choice
- Jan. 25: Cheesy lasagna or popcorn chicken, dinner roll, corn, salad bar, fruit choice
- Jan. 26: Nachos or chef salad, salad bar, fruit choice

Marsing Elementary

All meals include healthy choice fruit and veggie bar

- Jan. 18: Beef tacos, rice & beans, corn, or PB&J, yogurt, animal crackers
- Jan. 19: Pepperoni ripper, tossed salad or PB&J, cheese stick, rice crispy treat
- Jan. 23: Fish sticks, sidewinders or PB&J, yogurt, animal crackers
- Jan. 24: Super nachos, mixed vegetables or PB&J, yogurt, animal crackers
- Jan. 25: Lasagna, breadstick, green beans or PB&J, cheese stick, animal crackers, jello

Marsing Middle / High

All meals include healthy choice fruit and veggie bar

- Jan. 18: Beef tacos, rice & beans, corn or BBQ chicken sandwich, corn
- Jan. 19: Pepperoni ripper, tossed salad or chili cheese fries, roll, tossed salad, rice crispy treat
- Jan. 23: Fish sticks, sidewinders, biscuit or mailbu chicken, sidewinders
- Jan. 24: Super nachos, mixed vegetables or chili, cinnamon roll, mixed vegetables
- Jan. 25: Lasagna, breadstick, green beans or fish sandwich, green beans, jello
- Jan. 26: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, corn, roll

Bruneau-Grand View

- Jan. 18: Lasagna, spinach salad, peas, breadstick, fruit
- Jan. 19: Beef & bean burrito, romaine & tomato, corn, fruit
- Jan. 20: Ham/cheese on bun, potato wedges, broccoli, fresh fruit
- Jan. 24: Stromboli, tossed salad, baby carrots, fruit
- Jan. 25: Little smokies, scalloped potatoes, green beans, roll, fruit

Mr. Rimrock contest Saturday

Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School will hold the inaugural Mr. Rimrock competition Saturday. a limited number of tickets will be available at the door the night of the contest.

The talent show and teacher performance, themed "Cowboy Up," will be held at 7 p.m., at the high school, 39678 Hwy. 78, Bruneau. Candidates include seniors Rigo Lino and Laureano Rodriguez, junior Lewis Rutan, and sophomores Todd Marvin, Dalton Allison and Ray Draper.

Tickets are \$5 general admission and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Proceeds benefit the Rimrock Student Council. Organizers urge folks to buy pre-sale tickets because only Judges include school board member Scott McNeley and local residents Bronc May, Diane Blank, former Rimrock English teacher Cheryl Whiteside and Rimrock graduate Chris Hipwell.

Calendar

Today

- Coffee club**
9 a.m., Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
- Preschool Story Time**
10:30 a.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd St. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690
- Financial education webinar**
12:05 p.m. to 12:55 p.m., free, Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave. (208) 337-4228
- Christian Life Club**
4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-4757, (208) 353-6024 or (208) 337-3464
- Grand View Chamber of Commerce meeting**
5:30 p.m., Grand View Fire Station, 721 Roosevelt St., Grand View.

Thursday

- TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meeting**
8 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-3867
- Senior center pinocle**
1 p.m., Rimrock Senior Center, 525 Main St., Grand View. (208) 834-2922 Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Bruneau-Grand View School District board meeting**
7 p.m., Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School boardroom, 39678 State Hwy. 78, Bruneau (unless otherwise listed at www.sd365.us). (208) 834-2260
- AA meetings**
7:30 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. 95, Wilder. (208) 337-3464

Friday

- Story Time**
10:15 a.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228, afternoons Monday through Saturday
- Teens and Tweens program**
4 p.m., Homedale Public Library, 125 W. Owyhee Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-4228 afternoons Monday through Saturday

Saturday

- Fundraiser breakfast**
7 a.m. to 11 a.m., \$7 per plate, Homedale Senior Center, 224 W. Idaho Ave., Homedale. (208) 337-3020
- Free lunch**
12 p.m. to 1 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 320 N. 6th St. W., Homedale. (208) 337-5419

Men's wild game feed

6 p.m., \$15 adults, \$5 children, Mountain View Church of the Nazarene, 26515 Ustick Road, Wilder. (208) 337-3151

Mr. Rimrock competition

7 p.m., \$5 adults, \$3 students and seniors, Rimrock Jr.-Sr. High School, 39678 Hwy. 78, Bruneau.

Sunday

Marsing Gun Club shoot

11 a.m., Marsing Gun Club, Trap Shoot Road off Idaho highway 78, Marsing. (208) 941-1922, (208) 880-6543 or marsinggunclub@yahoo.com

Monday

Board of County Commissioners meeting

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

Homedale Talent Show auditions

4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Homedale High School band room, 203 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale. jzieske@homedaleschools.org

Marsing Fire Department meeting

7 p.m., fire hall, 303 Main St., Marsing.

RS2477 right-of-way public meeting

6 p.m., Owyhee County Courthouse annex, 17069 Basey St., Murphy. (208) 495-2095

Tuesday

Homedale Chamber of Commerce luncheon

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

After-school program

2 p.m. to 6 p.m., Knight Community Church, 630 Idaho Ave., Grand View. (208) 834-2639

Homedale Talent Show auditions

4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Homedale High School band room, 203 E. Idaho Ave., Homedale. jzieske@homedaleschools.org

After-school Story Time

4:30 p.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd St. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

AA meetings

7:30 p.m., Homedale Friends Community Church, 17434 U.S. 95, Wilder. (208) 337-3464

Wednesday

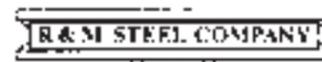
Coffee club

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

Preschool Story Time

10:30 a.m., Lizard Butte Library, 111 3rd St. W., Marsing. (208) 896-4690

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Homedale schools resumption delayed by facility issues

Instructional calendar still intact, but COSSA may see changes

Schoolchildren were finally set to go back to class Tuesday in the Homedale School District after two weeks marked by snow and weather-related facilities damage.

Little discussion was held about the seven consecutive snow days during the trustees' January meeting last Wednesday. But superintendent Rob Sauer itemized some of the problems for The Owyhee Avalanche after the sparsely attended board meeting broke up.

Students were held out of class last Wednesday and Thursday because of a natural gas leak at the middle school and roof leaks in two of the high school's main buildings, Sauer said. A burst water pipe also flooded a classroom at the middle school. No major problems were reported at the elementary school.

The lingering road conditions and winter weather also played a part in the final two emergency closures, he said.

Trustees officially declared emergency closures during last week's meeting, which itself had been postponed from Jan. 9

because of road conditions. The seven closures covered Dec. 15, Jan. 4-5 and Jan. 10-12.

School was in session only one day after Christmas break (Jan. 2) before the series of storms dumped several inches of snow and triggered the closures.

Sauer said, despite missing eight days of class time, there is still enough instructional hours built into the 2016-17 calendar that no additional days need to be added.

The second of three rounds of Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) student assessments must be rescheduled at all three schools, however. High school athletic director Casey Grove has been busy juggling winter sports schedules, too.

If more closures are necessary, the school calendar could see changes, Sauer wrote in his report to the school board.

"Looking forward, if we need to add days, we can add some Fridays or even Presidents' Day rather than extending the school year," he wrote.

The effects of heavy snowfall, melt and freeze kept transportation



A Homedale High School staff member helps shovel snow from the library roof Jan. 10.

and maintenance supervisor Tom Muir's crew busy throughout the emergency closure.

"I want to thank Tom and his crew for all the work they have put in over the past week," Sauer said in his board. The trustees echoed his sentiment after reading his memo during the 14-minute meeting.

Homedale High School football coaches and players were among the students and staff that pitched in Jan. 10 to remove snow from the secondary school's flat roofs while maintenance workers spent

time checking roof drainage and trying to locate leaks.

"This is a historic weather situation for all of us, and everyone is doing what they can to work through it," Sauer said.

In addition to district employees clearing snow, equipment and crews from Mansidor Excavation and Vance Dairy Construction were enlisted.

The three trustees at last week's meeting all agreed that this winter marks the most snow on the ground they have seen in Homedale. All three — chair Kurt

Shanley, vice-chair Shane Muir and Shelley Shenk — have spent most of their lives in town.

Shenk recalled that there were severe snowdrifts during a 1981 storm, but not as much accumulation as this year. Shanley said he measured about 18 to 19 inches of buildup on his property west of town.

Trustees Stacy Woods and Dwayne Fisher were excused absences from the meeting. No building administrators or staff members were present either.

Not everything is going smoothly in local education in the wake of the snowfall, though.

Trustees discussed the state Department of Education's apparent denial of a Canyon-Owyhee School Service Agency request for a credit hours waiver in light of the weather emergency.

COSSA Academy students must make up missed class time by attending school on Fridays, Shenk said. A similar waiver was granted last year, she said.

Sauer pointed out that the SDE does allow credits to be awarded based on mastery instead of "seat time." It's unclear why the state agency is taking an apparent hard line on class time with COSSA, though.

— JPB

Public invited to scrutinize county's final RS2477 quads

Owyhee County's long RS2477 journey is nearing a new chapter.

The Board of County Commissioners' final public meeting to establish a baseline for rights-of-way categories on federal lands will be held Monday in Murphy.

A group of U.S. Geological Survey map quadrants titled "Jarbidge Field Office Area" is the focus of the 6 p.m. meeting inside the Owyhee County Courthouse annex building at 17069 Basey St.

The Jarbidge Field Office area encompasses public land in the eastern portion of the county from a point west of Idaho highway 51 to the Twin Falls County line and from the Snake River south to the Nevada state line.

Proposed maps are available for viewing during regular business hours at the county Planning and Zoning office located inside the county annex in Murphy. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

County Planning and Zoning coordinator Mary Huff, who has been heading up the project, said this is the final meeting regarding a specific area.

"After this meeting, we will finalize the maps and have on last meeting on the full set of proposed final maps," she said.

The final public meeting to analyze the overall group of 161 USGS quadrants hasn't been scheduled, but Huff suspects it'll happen sometime in the spring.

County commissioners have held a series of meetings to tap the public's knowledge of roads in an attempt to classify them in one of

five categories. Institutional and historical knowledge is necessary because the BOCC abandoned most public roads in 1948, and how those roads were used over the next 28 years is crucial to establishing the rights-of-way.

Angie Barkell created the proposed maps in a role prior to assuming the county clerk position.

None of the groups cover rights-of-way on private lands.

Once all the quadrants have been scrutinized one final time, county commissioners will move

forward with asserting the rights-of-way in federal court.

The process began with the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009, which made the Owyhee Initiative law and created the Owyhee Wilderness. The commissioners have until 2019 to validate rights-of-way in court. Forty of the 161 maps contain wilderness areas, and validation would help prevent closure of existing roads in wilderness as well as in future BLM travel management planning.

The commissioners have re-

tained Boise-based public lands attorney W. Alan Schroeder, and he has attended previous meetings to explain the classification criteria:

• **Group A** — Rights-of-way to be ratified at RS2477, including those that cross federal land and public roads that were established prior to Oct. 21, 1976.

• **Group B** — Rights-of-way that cross federal land to provide access to private property or state lands that were established before Oct. 21, 1976.

• **Group C** — Rights-of-way

across federal land that existed before Oct. 21, 1976 for administrative and management established through BLM grazing permits. These rights-of-way also include water and mineral rights.

• **Group D** — Rights-of-way to provide livestock trailing across federal land that included grazing and stock water rights that existed before Oct. 21, 1976.

• **Group E** — Rights-of-way across federal land that doesn't qualify for the other four groupings.

— JPB

5TH ANNUAL HOMEDALE BOOSTERS CRAB & STEAK FEED



ADVANCE TICKETS
\$45.00
Tables of 8 available
See your local Trojan Athlete for tickets or message the Homedale Boosters' Facebook Page

THE EVENT
Dinner
Raffle
Silent Auction
Live Auction

BENEFITING
Trojan Athletics
Through the work of our parent, teachers, coaches, alumni, businesses and community we will strive to support the Homedale School Sports programs through fundraising and the tradition of Homedale Pride.

WHEN
Saturday Feb 11, 2017
Doors open at 6:00pm

WHERE
Txoko Ona Basque Center
333 Main St. Homedale, ID

Doors Open at 6:00
Dinner at 6:30
Live Auction begins at 8:00



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Marsing library art exhibit showcases teacher, student

Latest Friends of Library honorees' work to hang for four months

An art teacher and her student are the current Friends of the Lizard Butte Library featured artists.

Art projects from Ginger Lantz and her student, Donna Hazard, will hang for the next four months in the Marsing public library, 111 3rd Ave. W.

The Lizard Butte Library is open from noon to 6 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from noon to 7 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday. Call (208) 896-4690 for more information.

Owner of Ginger's Fine Art, Lantz was always drawing during a childhood spent surrounded by artists. The seeds for realizing her potential were sown through her parents — mother an artist, father a saddle maker.

After taking one year of art in high school, Lantz stopped drawing after high school and concentrated on raising her son. At 46, she picked up a pastel pencil and started drawing again.

A self-taught artist, she learned by studying artists, watching You Tube videos, taking a few classes and workshops, and reading art books. Her go-to-book was "Painting Animals that Touch the Heart" by Lesley Harrison, as she hoped one day to take Harrison's workshop and meet the highly regarded pastel artist.

Now back in the art world, Lantz works in soft pastels, charcoal, graphite, acrylic, watercolor and colored pencils. She took the plunge and became a full-time artist in 2009. She also teaches classes and workshops using her techniques.

It takes hours for Lantz to get the realism she wants in her paintings. She's an animal lover and grew up on a ranch, so she has chosen to paint animals and western art. She has added pan pastel portraits to her artwork, classes and workshops.

Lantz is a member of the Colored Pencil Society of America, Northwest Pastel Society, Treasure Valley Artists Alliance and

the Nampa Art Guild, where she served as a vice-president for one year. She was a chairman in the 2011 Nampa Art Guild Centennial Juried Art Show.

She has shown her artwork in several shows in the Treasure Valley, winning several ribbons and prizes.

Like Lantz, Hazard comes from a talented family.

Now a student of Lantz, Hazard always had a love for art and design, but never expanded on it until retirement. She has always admired her uncle, brother, cousin and now a grandson for their expressions of pencil drawing.

Although Hazard was creative as a child, her artistic side only started to come out when she took an art class in high school. She dabbled in tole painting, which won first place at the fair.

She started to follow her dream in art/design when she started working for a degree in interior design at the local college. That ended when she took time out to raise a family.

The love and appreciation for art came back to her after moving to Caldwell in 2009. One cold, snowy day and bundled up by the fire in 2011, Hazard decided to pick up a pencil and draw something — anything. She took pictures off the wall and began to draw.

After realizing she needed professional help, Hazard started looking around for an art instructor. After coming across Lantz, who taught at the Hasbrouck House in Nampa, Hazard fell in love with different mediums Lantz introduced, such as pan pastels, colored pencils, water colors, charcoal and graphite.

Hazard's favorite form of expression is drawing realistic portraits and animals in charcoal and graphite.

After taking many classes and workshops, Hazard has always placed in the few art shows she enters. She takes pride



Ginger Lantz (above) and her student, Donna Hazard, (below) are displaying their artwork at the Lizard Butte Library in Marsing. Submitted photos



in two drawings that took first- and second-place ribbons overall in her category plus provided a little cash for her graphite and charcoal animal portraits.

Hazard says being married to her husband, Charlie, has been a blessing. She said his influence and encouragement has

given her the desire to want to continue to make art part of her life in every way.

Hazard's future goal is to draw something for every family member as a reminder of her love for them.

She has been a member of the Nampa Art Guild for several years.

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SBOC chief: 2017 may be a good water year

Landa remains chair, Lax named Ridgeview chair

South Board of Control (SBOC) manager John Eells says he is "very optimistic" about snowpack levels that will supply the Homedale-Marsing area with irrigation water this summer.

He gave a brief water report during the monthly meeting of local irrigation directors.

Eells said that on Jan. 10, 2016 the Owyhee Reservoir was 11 percent full. The reservoir was 31 percent full at the time of last week's meeting, exactly one year later.

Recent precipitation in the area has helped boost storage numbers.

"We're getting some in the reservoir," Eells said. "It's looking good. We're way better off than we were last year."

By press time Monday, the Owyhee Reservoir was 32 percent full with 227,499 acre-feet of water. Water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 751 cubic feet per second. Water was flowing out at Nyssa, Ore. at a rate of 25 cubic feet per second.

Eells hopes this proves to be a good year for irrigators, but he said it is still too soon to make any predictions.

"Until the water starts moving, it's freeze/thaw, and you don't get a lot of water," Eells said.

The reservoir provides water for 118,000 irrigated acres around Homedale and Marsing and in Malheur County, Ore.

To guarantee a good water supply year, the reservoir needs about 450,000 acre-feet of storage water.

A new report from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service says currently the highest snowpacks are in the state's Owyhee and Upper Snake River basins.

The Owyhee Basin is second only to a portion of the Upper Snake River Basin for the state's highest average above 30-year median snowpack.

The Owyhee Basin registers at 132 percent of average, and the Bruneau Basin logs in at 111 per-

cent of average.

"January 15th marks winter's halfway point for the winter's snowfall in our mountains," NRCS water supply specialist Ron Abramovich said in a press release. "The recent warmer temperatures and rain allowed the mountain snowpack to settle for the first time this season."

The lowest snowpacks are between 65 and 80 percent of average in the state's Panhandle region.

Abramovich added that he will be keeping a close eye on snow totals and storm activity as the second half of winter starts this week.

"The intensity and the type of precipitation (rain versus snow) may make the next three months of this water year as interesting as the first three," Abramovich said.

During last week's meetings at the SBOC office in Homedale, irrigation districts were reorganized for the new year.

Reorganization of the Ridgeview board began with returning director Bret Nielsen taking the oath of office. He ran unopposed in November. John Lax was named chairman of the Ridgeview district, and Nielsen was named vice-chair.

Gem district board reorganization started with the swearing in of Dennis Turner, who has been Gem Irrigation District's Div. 3 director since 2008. Turner was also unopposed in November.

Chris Landa returns as chair of the Gem board, and Ryan Criffield will serve another term as vice-chair.

The directors reappointed Connie Chadez as secretary/treasurer for the Gem and Ridgeview districts.

When the South Board was reorganized, the consensus was to have the same chairman, vice-chair and secretary/treasurer as the Gem District.

The South Board's Joint Board representation was set as Nielsen and Landa, with Criffield to serve as the alternate member. The men will sit on the Joint Board with Owyhee Irrigation District officials to govern operation of the Owyhee Project.

— SC

Today	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
34° 31° Cloudy	37°	27°	36°	25°	37°	24°
	35°	24°	36°	15°	29°	14°

SNOTEL report, Owyhee County sensors

	Snow Equiv. (measured in inches)	Snow Depth (measured in inches)	Year-to-date Precip. (measured in inches)	Previous day's temperature (measured in Fahrenheit)		
				Max	Min	Avg
Mud Flat						
1/10	5.5	23	7.1	36	29	33
1/11	6.0	25	7.7	35	7	28
1/12	5.7	26	7.6	30	8	19
1/13	5.8	25	7.6	28	13	19
1/14	5.8	25	7.6	30	16	22
1/15	5.8	25	7.6	22	-3	11
1/16	5.7	25	7.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Reynolds Creek						
1/10	6.0	26	8.3	33	27	31
1/11	n/a	37	9.2	33	18	26
1/12	8.6	35	9.1	30	14	21
1/13	8.6	34	9.1	32	13	20
1/14	8.5	33	9.0	27	13	18
1/15	8.5	32	9.0	35	13	22
1/16	8.5	32	9.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Mountain						
1/10	9.5	36	12.4	33	27	31
1/11	11.4	44	13.7	32	18	26
1/12	12.1	47	14.6	30	18	22
1/13	12.0	45	14.7	35	16	24
1/14	12.1	44	14.7	36	25	29
1/15	12.1	43	14.7	36	21	26
1/16	12.1	43	14.7	n/a	n/a	n/a

Water report

The Bureau of Reclamation website showed that the Owyhee Reservoir was 32 percent full and that water was flowing in the Owyhee River above the reservoir at Rome, Ore., at a rate of 751 cubic feet per second. Water is flowing out at Nyssa, Ore., at a rate of 25 cubic feet per second. The reservoir held 227,499 acre-feet of water on Monday.

— Information compiled from the National Weather Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Helena Chemical in Homedale

Murphy DMV closed next week

The Murphy Division of Motor Vehicles office will see a remodel.

The branch, which is located in the Owyhee County Assessor's Office inside the county courthouse, will be closed Tuesday through Friday, Jan. 27.

The Assessor's office will not be closed during next week's DMV remodeling project.

Citizens needing assistance with DMV business can visit satellite offices in Marsing or Grand View next week.

The Marsing DMV office is open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and is located in the county annex building at 19 Reich St. The phone number is (208) 896-4210.

The Grand View DMV is open from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday inside City Hall, 425 Boise Ave. The phone number is (208) 834-3333. The branch is closed Fridays.

The Murphy DMV can be reached at (208) 495-2817.

Jordan Valley fuel break meeting rescheduled

A Bureau of Land Management scoping meeting originally scheduled for last Thursday has been pushed back to next week.

After locals asked for the change, the Tri-State Fuel Break Project meeting in Jordan Valley has been moved. It'll be held from noon to 2 p.m. on Tuesday inside the Jordan Valley Lions Hall, 902 Bassett St. (U.S. Highway 95).

The meeting was moved back because of the closure of U.S. Highway 95 west of Jordan Valley.

The federal agency is taking comment on the project's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) until Feb. 3.

Similar public meetings on the plan to reduce wildfire fuel loads

in the Idaho-Oregon-Nevada region were held last week in Boise and Murphy.

Low attendance at last Wednesday's meeting in Murphy was blamed on road conditions.

Public comments are welcome on issues that will be analyzed in the plan's EIS. Possible alternatives also are welcome.

Submit comments via:
• Email: blm_id_tristate@blm.gov

• Fax: (208) 384-3489
• Postal mail: 3948 S. Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705

Information on the Tri-state Fuels Break Project can be found on the BLM ePlanning website through <http://bit.ly/Tri-StateFB>

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Jordan Valley M.S.
girls rolling along

Avalanche Sports

Trojans' losing streak
ends vs. Payette

Fouls foil Huskies against WIC elite

Farrens gets more double-doubles

Snow postponements didn't make the challenge of the conference's best teams any easier for the Marsing High School girls' basketball team.

The Huskies saw their losing streak stretch to five games Saturday after closing out back-to-back games against the 2A Western Idaho Conference's leading programs.



Mackenzie Farrens

Coach Jake Dugger's team (7-8 overall, 2-3 in conference) slid into a third-place tie with New Plymouth after narrow losses to Cole Valley Christian at home on Friday and Melba on the road Saturday.

Saturday: Melba 60, Marsing 54 — The Huskies scored 20 points in the second quarter to grab a 31-25 halftime lead, but couldn't hold off the Mustangs.

Capitalizing on several Marsing fouls, Melba players knocked down 15 of 27 free-throw attempts in the second half and scored 20 fourth-quarter points to erase a three-point deficit.

Back in the MHS lineup after an absence, Mackenzie Farrens scored 18 points and snagged 15 rebounds before fouling out. The Huskies' top scorers were hampered by foul trouble with

— See *Huskies*, page 14



Homedale's Kendall Frelove (right) goes to the rim ahead of Parma's Payton Pinz during Thursday's 3A Snake River Valley conference game.

Best efforts can't end HHS skid

Trojans compete strong against top SRV squads

After struggling through its early season, the Homedale High School boys' basketball team played conference opponents tough.

On Saturday, the Trojans held 3A Snake River Valley conference co-leader Weiser to its second-lowest point total of the season, but suffered their sixth consecutive loss, 47-43, at home.

Homedale rallied from a first half of few shots to storm back down the stretch, but couldn't overcome a lack of free-throw opportunities.

The Wolverines (11-1 overall, 1-0 in conference

after the victory) saw an 11-point lead dissipate in the fourth quarter as Homedale's Mason Kinch-elo scored eight of his 12 points.

Junior post Scott Matlock hit a three-point play and notched five of his team-high 13 points in the final period, while Nelson Lomeil connected for the last of his three three-point goals in the Trojans' comeback attempt.

Weiser built a 10-point halftime lead on free throws and three-pointers. Bridger Bumgarner converted a trey and half of his four foul shots in a first half in which he scored nine of his game-high 14 points. Sanchez dropped another trey to

— See *HHS*, page 15

Adrian girls beat Jordan in battle of top 10s

Mustangs stay unbeaten among HDL boys

In a showdown of two of the top 1A high school girls' basketball teams in Oregon, Adrian nipped Jordan Valley on Saturday.

The Antelopes, who were ranked one spot ahead of the Mustangs in the most recent coaches' state rankings, prevailed, 45-44, in a 1A High Desert League home game Saturday afternoon.

Adrian (11-2 overall, 3-0 in league) won its fifth consecutive game and remained a half-game behind Crane.

The Antelopes are No. 6 in the latest poll, one point behind fifth-ranked Hosanna Christian.

Jordan Valley (8-3, 2-2) began the week ranked seventh in the state coaches' poll, but lost back-to-back league games by a total of three points by week's end.

The Mustangs fell to ninth-ranked Crane, 51-49, on Friday. Jordan Valley has lost three of its past five games after starting the season on a six-game winning streak.

Boys: Jordan Valley 56, Adrian 38 — The Mustangs won their seventh consecutive game and completed a weekend sweep of 1A HDL games.

Jordan Valley (9-2, 5-0 in league) beat visiting Crane, 53-34, on Friday.

Adrian (3-7, 1-2) has lost five of its past six games.

Mason Hall leads five Marsing Magic Valley medalists

Gonzalez wrestles to third at 160 pounds

Mason Hall finished second at the Magic Valley Classic after breezing through his first three matches.

Marsing High School's junior 220-pounder lost Saturday's championship match at Wendell High School when once-beaten Rhett Daniels of Malad pulled off a 13-4 major decision.

Hall was one of five Huskies to finish in the top six of their respective weight classes.

Senior Oscar Gonzalez avenged a quarterfinals loss when he beat Oakley's

Jaxson Douglas, 8-5, for third place at 160 pounds.

Sixth-place wrestlers included Justin Ineck (113), Adonis Stelzried (132) and Jaden Kinney (170).

Hall marched into the 220 final with first-round pinfalls against Jacob Housley of Soda Springs (56 seconds), Jerome's Michael Arnt (1 minute, 53 seconds) and Declo's Dawson Osterhout (1:07) in the semifinals.

Gonzalez pinned fellow District III

wrestler Parker Pyle of McCall-Donnelly at the 3:08 mark of their second-round match, but fell into the consolation bracket when Douglas pulled off a pin at 3:05 in the quarterfinals.

Gonzalez kept winning the hard way with decisions over two Jerome wrestlers (Ulises Gonzalez, 5-0; and Karson Hanni, 8-1) to set up his rematch against Douglas.

Kinney wrestled into the semifinals at 170, but lost his shot at a finals berth when

North Gem's Trenton Thompson got the pin in 1:14.

Kinney needed just 43 seconds to pin Filer's River Hammett in the consolation semifinals before losing to Declo's Jacob Thompson, who got a pin at the 2:22 mark of their fifth-place bout.

Kinney reached the semis with first-round pins against Wendell's Luis Gonzales (1:09) and quarterfinalist Jeremiah Hansen of Soda Springs (59 seconds).

Ineck rallied from a championship-bracket loss (North Gem's Michael Barfuss got him in 38 seconds) to pin two consecutive consolation-bracket opponents.

— See *Marsing*, page 16



Mason Hall



Oscar Gonzalez

Sports

Trojans' Swiss student wins twice at Skyview

Martin gets pin in team's victory over Timberline

Homedale High School beat Timberline of Boise in Saturday's Skyview Duals in Nampa.

The Trojans competed against programs from larger schools, knocking off Timberline, 54-24, and wrestling former conference foe Emmett to a 42-42 tie.

Homedale 54, Timberline 24 — The Trojans won all its matches by pinfall, including three in a row in the middle weights to secure the victory.

Michael Babcock needed just 12 seconds to beat Tyler McFarland at 132 pounds

Shane Keller won at 152 with a pin at 3 minutes, 32 seconds against Dmitri Nelson.

Joel Padilla, a transfer from Middleton, pinned Phillip Rahn at 4:00 of the 160-pound bout.

Swiss exchange student Gabriel Martin pinned Kade McCall in the first round of their match at 170.

Homedale 42, Emmett 42 — Bodee Walker pinned Huskies' 182-pounder Logan Sandall at 4:49 to guarantee the Trojans a tie.

Jaegar Rose pinned Koalii Harriet in 76 seconds to win the 138-pound match, while Keller picked up a pin at 1:32 of his 152-pound bout against Drake Nabinger-Villarín.

Martin pinned Emmett 170-

pounder Jake Johnson at 1:18.

Ridgevue 42, Homedale 30 — Wrestlers from the Vallivue School District's new high school pulled out a victory with forfeits in the three of the final four matches.

Robert Nix put Homedale ahead, 30-24, when he pinned 195-pounder Iain Brickey at 4:58.

Babcock scored the Trojans' first points of the dual with a 2-1 overtime victory over Quinn Rodriguez at 132.

Rose got Homedale to within nine points, 15-6, with an 11-5 decision against Austin Forrest at 138.

Keller (152) and Padilla (160) pulled off back-to-back pins to tie the dual, 18-18.

Bodee Walker (182) pinned Kirk Richardson in 1:15 to knot the score again at 24-24.

Skyview 63, Homedale 24 — Padilla and Walker got pinfalls for the only points the Trojans earned on the mat against the tournament hosts.

Padilla pinned Jadon Webb in 1:37 at 160 pounds, while Walker got Tucker Tentinger nine seconds before the of the opening round of their 182-pound match.

Nyssa, Ore., 64, Homedale 6 — Jorge Vega earned a forfeit at 113 pounds for the Trojans' only points.

The closest match of the dual came at 160 pounds when Nyssa's Adam Simpson needed overtime to beat Padilla, 3-1.

Homedale Boosters bring back popular raffle

Tickets aren't the only things on sale ahead of the fifth annual Homedale Booster Club Crab and Steak Feed.

Boosters are selling entries for a giveaway that was quite popular in its first year in 2016.

Club president Keri Brown said the Boosters have brought back a deck o'cards raffle. A card from the deck costs \$20, and the winning card will be drawn from another deck of playing cards. The winning card-holder will take home a gun safe.

"We held this same raffle last year, and it was a great success," Brown said, adding that there will be no smaller raffle items.

A rifle is among the live auction items, and themed baskets created by each sports team will be available. Brown said the club is gathering more donations.

The Boosters board consists of Brown, vice-president Matt Dorsey, secretary Nikki Hilton, treasurer Jane Pfof and members Oscar Evans, Ami Packer and Carina Purdom.

Student-athletes continue to sell tickets for the dinner, the proceeds from which benefit school athletics. As in years past, the boy or girl who sells the most tickets to the dinner will win \$100.

Advance tickets are \$45, or a limited number of tables that

seat eight people are available for \$400.

In addition to purchase through student-athletes, tickets can be obtained by posting a message to the Boosters Facebook page or by contacting HHS athletic director Casey Grove at cgrove@homedale-schools.org or (208) 340-4611.

The dinner, live and silent auctions and raffle takes place on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the Txoko Ona Basque Center, 333 S. Main St., in Homedale. The event benefits Homedale school sports programs.

The doors open at 6 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. The live auction begins at 8 p.m.

Homedale tackles scheduling issues

Trustees approved Homedale High School's spring sports schedules last week with one exception.

The school board is still waiting to hear about the self-funding effort for the golf team before approving that season.

Years ago, trustees axed golf, cross country and soccer from the athletic budget because of tight fiscal times. Cross country has been reinstated as a school-funded activity, but golf boosters still must pay for that team to hit the links. Soccer has never returned with some athletes playing as cooperatives at nearby schools such as Vallivue in Caldwell.

A financial report on the viability of a golf program could be heard at the trustees' next meeting in February.

The HHS spring sports

season begins March 10 when the baseball team plays host to Nampa Christian at John Jackson Field, and the track and field team participates in the Parma Ice Breaker meet.

The softball and tennis teams are scheduled to start their seasons on March 14.

Coach Larry Corta's reigning 3A state champions open the softball campaign at Vale, Ore., while the tennis squad plays host to Ontario, Ore.

During their meeting last Wednesday, trustees approved Casey Grove as the high school junior varsity girls' basketball coach, and hired Dennis Ankeny as the eighth-grade boys' basketball coach at the middle school.

In his capacity as HHS athletic director, Grove has been busy juggling sports schedules.

The girls' basketball team has had to jettison non-conference games against New Plymouth and Marsing in order to free up make-up dates for 3A Snake River Valley conference games lost to weather postponements.

The Trojans' conference game against Fruitland, originally scheduled to be played in Homedale, was switched to a road contest last week. That means the Grizzlies will come to the HHS gymnasium during the second half of the 3A SRV girls' basketball season.

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Homedale Trojans

Athlete Spotlight



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BOWEN PARKER DAY
BOISE - NAMPA - HOMEDALE

337-3271



337-4681



337-4664



337-4866



Boys' basketball
Kendall Freelove, sr., power forward
Scored 7 points in limited minutes in two 3A SRV games



Girls' basketball
Faith Jacobson, jr., guard
Averaged 6.5 points and hit a pair of 3-pt. shots in in return from injury



Wrestling
Jaegar Rose, so., 132 pounds
Collected two victories, one by pinfall, at Saturday's Skyview Duals

Boys' basketball
Varsity
Saturday, Jan. 21 at Nampa Christian, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24, home vs. Vale, Ore., 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Saturday, Jan. 21 at Nampa Christian, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24, home vs. Vale, Ore., 6 p.m.
Frosh-soph
Saturday, Jan. 21 at Nampa Christian, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24, home vs. Vale, Ore., 4:30 p.m.

Wrestling
Thursday, Jan. 19 at Parma, 5:30 p.m.
Friday, Jan. 20 at Padilla Invitational, Parma
Saturday, Jan. 21 at Padilla Invitational, Parma

Girls' basketball
Varsity
Thursday, Jan. 19, home vs. Weiser, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21, home vs. Payette, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24 at Vale, Ore., 7:30 p.m.
Junior varsity
Thursday, Jan. 19, home vs. Weiser, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21, home vs. Payette, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24 at Vale, Ore., 6 p.m.
Frosh-soph
Thursday, Jan. 19, home vs. Weiser, 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21, home vs. Payette, 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24 at Vale, Ore., 4:30 p.m.



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Sports

Physical Pilgrims pummel Huskies

Playing for just the third time in 16 days, the Marsing High School boys' basketball team logged its lowest point total of the season Saturday.

New Plymouth dominated the middle 16 minutes at home for a 58-37 2A Western Idaho Conference victory.

The Pilgrims broke open a game tied after one period by outscoring Marsing, 36-19, over the second and third quarters.

"New Plymouth's physical defense caused us issues and got us out of our game by making us shoot quick shots and turning the ball over," MHS coach Tim Little said.

Enrique Quebrado, who led all players with 24 points, was the only scorer in double figures for Marsing (6-5 overall, 1-1 in conference). Little said Tyler Simonson and Dakota Hardy were the only Huskies with successful field-goal

attempts during the middle portion of the game.

The Pilgrims (5-5, 2-1), meanwhile, remained one game behind Cole Valley Christian in the conference standings as Riley Harris paced three double-digit scorers with 16 points.

After holding five of its first nine opponents under 50 points, Marsing has surrendered an average of 63.6 points to its past three opponents. New Plymouth's 58 points was the third-highest total the Huskies had given up this year, and Saturday's game was the second straight loss in which Marsing's margin of defeat was 20 points or greater.

"Defensively, once again we gave up over 50 points, and it is obvious that I have to go back to teaching some fundamental defensive pride points in which I apparently have allowed us to waver on," Little said.



Tim Little



Enrique Quebrado

✓ Huskies: Slow start hurts vs. Cole Valley

From Page 12

Sheyanne Glorfield, Elsa Margarito and Alex Grant all playing with four fouls.

The Mustangs were 19-for-32 from the foul line, making more than two times as many trips to the charity stripe as Marsing (6-for-13) and neutralizing the benefits of the Huskies' 50 percent showing (8-for-16) from beyond the three-point line.

Eleven of Farrens' rebounds came on the defensive glass, but Melba still was able to score more second-chance points (six) and more points off turnovers (16) than Marsing, which managed just eight points total in those categories.

Marsing connected on half of its 40 field-goal attempts, including Margarito going 5-for-7 for 13 points. Glorfield's only successful shots were from long range, and she scored seven points. Grant finished with six.

Kori Pentzer, a junior transfer from Oregon, led Melba (14-2, 6-0 at week's end) with 30 points.

Friday: Cole Valley Christian 53, Marsing 46 — The Huskies' fourth-quarter comeback fell short as the Chargers tried to keep pace with league unbeaten Melba.

Marsing couldn't overcome a low-scoring first quarter, and Cole Valley (12-2, 4-1 at week's end) held a 10-point halftime lead despite shooting just 24.3 percent (9-for-37) in the first 16 minutes.

The Huskies didn't take a free throw in the first half, and converted just seven of 33 shots (21.2



Junior wing Elsa Margarito scored 13 points in Marsing High School's hard-fought loss to Melba. Photo by Dan Pease

percent).

Farrens filled the stat sheet with a double-double of 16 points and 11 rebounds. She had one of her best defensive games of the year with six steals, two blocked shots and five rebounds on the Chargers' glass.

Grant led the team with seven

steals while scoring 11 points despite four fouls.

Glorfield scored two three-pointers on the way to 10 points. She also blocked three shots.

Paige Albers scored 21 points for Cole Valley to lead all players. Teammate Holly Golenor added 12 points.

Read all about it
in
The Owyhee Avalanche
337-4681

MARSING HUSKIES

Athlete Spotlight



Boys' basketball
Tyler Simonson, sr., wing-post
Notched 5 pts., 7 rebounds in loss to New Plymouth



Girls' basketball
Sheyanne Glorfield, sr., shooting guard
Averaged 8.5 pts., 2.5 assists, 2 blocks and 2 3-pt. goals in two losses.



Wrestling
Jaden Kinney, jr., 170 pounds
Reached semis and finished 6th in Magic Valley Classic

Boys' basketball

Varsity

Friday, Jan. 20, home vs. Melba, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 23 at Wilder, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 at Cole Valley Christian, 7:30 p.m.

Junior varsity A

Friday, Jan. 20, home vs. Melba, 6 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 23 at Wilder, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 at Cole Valley Christian, 6 p.m.

Junior varsity B

Friday, Jan. 20, home vs. Melba, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 25 at Cole Valley Christian, 4:30 p.m.

Girls' basketball

Varsity

Thursday, Jan. 19 at McCall-Donnelly, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21 at New Plymouth, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24, home vs. Melba, 7:30 p.m.

Junior varsity

Thursday, Jan. 19 at McCall-Donnelly, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21 at New Plymouth, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 24, home vs. Melba, 6 p.m.

Wrestling

Wednesday, Jan. 18 at tri-meet vs. Columbia and Mtn. View, Nampa, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 21 at Mile High Duals, McCall, 10 a.m.



896-4162



896-4815



896-4331



482-0103



WHATEVER IT TAKES.



337-4041

Sports

Homedale girls extend Payette's skid to 37 games

All but two players scored as Homedale High School snapped a six-game girls' basketball losing streak Saturday on the road.

Josey Hall's 11 points led 10 Trojans' scorers as Homedale ripped Payette, 52-33, in a 3A Snake River Valley conference game played on the Pirates' floor.

Homedale (4-8 overall, 1-4 in conference) ended a conference-opening losing streak with its first win since Dec. 1.

After a close first quarter, the Trojans took control with a 32-13 run over the second and third quarters. The team committed a season-low six turnovers and more than doubled the Pirates' rebounding effort with 32 boards.

Senior Carli Swallow scored

eight points and snagged four of her five rebounds on Payette's end of the floor.

Faith Jacobson scored seven points, while Carlie Sawyer chimed in with six points and two steals.

Payette (0-16, 0-4) was paced by Kadee Winn with nine points and four defensive rebounds.

Friday: Parma 58, Homedale 25 — The Trojans struggled to score while playing the first of back-to-back road games because



Carli Swallow

of a schedule jumbled by weather cancellations.

Homedale fell behind by 22 points by halftime after shooting 18.2 percent (4-for-22) in the first 16 minutes.

Hall was the team's best shooter, hitting four of 10 shots on the way to a team-high nine points.

Carlie Sawyer and Ashley Burks evenly split eight of Homedale's 12 offensive rebounds with Sawyer leading the team with seven boards.

Madison Jackson (14 points)



Josey Hall

and Ashley Gentry (12 points) led an opportunistic Parma offense that scored 12 points off 15 HHS turnovers.

The Panthers outscored the Trojans, 114-48, to sweep the conference series.

Thursday: Fruitland 43, Homedale 33 — Jacobson's return to the lineup couldn't help the Trojans end their losing streak.

The road setback marked just the second time during a five-game overall losing streak that Homedale had scored more than 30 points.

Homedale traveled to face the Grizzlies for a game originally scheduled for the Trojans' floor.

Jacobson, who has been sidelined with an ankle injury, hit two of her three shots in 10 minutes,

30 seconds of action, scoring six points.

Ambyr VanWinkle, who had missed time with a head injury, played 10 minutes and notched two points and two rebounds.

Homedale fell behind early, but rallied to within four points, 27-23, after three quarters.

Hall and Ashley Burks scored seven points apiece to lead Homedale. Carli Swallow added five points and five rebounds. Hall led the team with six boards, while Jayci Swallow grabbed four rebounds.

Fruitland's Caitlin Rice and RaAnna Dahle led all players with a co-team-high 10 points each. Teammate Madison Pedracini chipped in eight points and four rebounds.

Jordan Valley Colts girls' hoops rolling in league play

Long campaign ahead for varsity, JV squads

The Jordan Valley Middle School girls' basketball varsity team has done exactly what the players set out to do after a season-opening loss.

The Colts, coached by Todd Gluch and Doug Rutan, extended their win streak to four games with a hard-fought 37-33 win over league rival Crane on Friday.

"The varsity team had their work cut out for them," Gluch said. "The Colts successfully took the lead and kept it throughout with a narrow victory, but a great game."

Jordan Valley (4-1) opened the season with a narrow 32-28 setback against non-league foe Melba.

"We came away with a list of things to improve on, but we are very optimistic of having a successful season," Gluch said in a press release about team's outlook after the opening loss.

After the Nov. 10 defeat, the Colts reeled off three consecutive wins against Greenleaf Friends Academy (52-22), Adrian (33-20 against what Gluch called a well-conditioned, seasoned Antelopes squad) and 48-24 over Prairie City.

The junior varsity team snapped a two-game losing streak with a 44-19 win over Prairie City on Jan. 7 then extended the winning with a 28-19 win over Crane, which Gluch said was the team's toughest opponent thus far.

The JVs barely missed in their opener with a 28-27 loss to Greenleaf and suffered

24-9 setback against Adrian.

"We are playing better every day, and we are excited for the rest of the season," Gluch said.

Participation is strong, Gluch said.

"The Colts team had a great turnout of girls this season," he said.

The program includes:

Eighth-graders — Tina Gammett, Kate Gooch, Desi Keller and Kianna Quintero

Seventh-graders — Taylor Eiguren, Cassidy Gluch, Kelsey Gluch, Kaylee Stoddart and Mia Woodbury

Sixth-graders — Halle Burch, Jill Gammett and Oksana Hodson

Fifth-graders — Shailee Rutan and Katie Stoddart

Remaining dates for the Colts include:
4 p.m., Thursday — Huntington at

home

1 p.m., Saturday — Harper at home

4 p.m., Tuesday — at Four Rivers

4 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 26 — Willow Creek at home

11 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 — at Prairie City

3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 3 — at Harper

4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 9 — at Willow Creek

1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 10 — Burns at home

11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 11 — at Crane

11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 13 — at Huntington

4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 14 — Four Rivers at home

Friday-Saturday, Feb. 24-25 — at Huntington Tournament

✓ HHS: Matlock perfect from field vs. Parma to ignite strong stretch



Homedale junior Scott Matlock tries to execute an offensive putback as Parma's Brayden Jensen (24) boxes out Thursday on the Trojans' floor.

From Page 12

hold off the Trojans in the fourth quarter and finished with 10 points.

The Wolverines got the upper hand at the intermission despite one of Homedale's best field-goal shooting halves of the season. The Trojans took only 13 shots in the first 16 minutes, but nailed five baskets (38.5 percent). Weiser sank seven of 20 attempts (35 percent).

The Trojans put together their best shooting night of the year, knocking down 17 of 39 field-goal attempts (43.6 percent).

Weiser took more foul shots (7-for-15) than Homedale (4-for-9), and the Trojans missed three of five free throws in the fourth quarter.

Thursday: Parma 67, Homedale 53 — Tough defense put the brakes on the reigning 3A state champions' offense in both teams' conference opener in Homedale.

The Panthers (9-5, 1-1 after Saturday's 66-61 3A SRV loss to Fruitland) entered the game averaging 77.8 points in their previous five victories, but the Trojans held Parma under 20 points in each of the first three quarters as Matlock spearheaded a ball-hawking and rebound-minded defense.

Taking advantage of Homedale's early shooting woes, Parma grabbed control with an 11-point halftime lead, 33-22. The

Trojans managed just eight points in the eight minutes before intermission.

Matlock scored a season-high 16 points on 8-for-8 shooting and also pulled down a key defensive rebound in the first quarter as Homedale bounced back from Parma's early 9-0 run.

Matlock and Lomeli scored layups off turnovers at the tail end of the opening quarter to get Homedale to within a basket, 16-14.

Matlock's offensive putback and turnaround jumper gave Homedale a 4-0 lead out of the gate. The junior's post defense also limited Jared Nielsen early. Nielsen missed four of his first five shots before rallying to finish with 17 points.

Sophomore Braydon Jensen hit a three-point goal and led Parma with 18 points.

Homedale's field-goal percentage improved as the Trojans knocked down 23 of 57 shots (40.4 percent). The team missed 26 of 41 shots over the first three quarters and went 9-for-16 down the stretch.

Kincheloe missed his first nine shots, but rallied to hit five of seven attempts in the fourth quarter to end the night with 12 points.

Carson Brown nailed a pair of three-pointers as part of his 11 points. Kendall Frelove scored five points, but was 1-for-5 from the foul line.

Sports

Marsing High juggles sports schedules

The recent snowstorms have cost the Marsing High School girls' basketball team one non-conference game.

Homedale had to cancel a game on the Huskies' floor scheduled for Tuesday in order to make room for conference makeup games.

MHS athletic director Tim Little has scrambled to rewrite basketball schedules after three 2A Western Idaho Conference games were postponed because of school closures and road conditions last week.

Coach Jake Dugger's girls' squad lost a home game against New Plymouth on Jan. 5 and a road game against Melba on Jan. 7.

The Huskies made up the Melba game Saturday and were scheduled play host to New Plymouth on Monday after deadline.

Little's boys' basketball team fared slightly better, and had to shuffle only one game after McCall-Donnelly's trip to Marsing set for Thursday was cancelled. The three games (varsity and two junior varsity) will be played on Feb. 4.

No wrestling competitions were affected by the snowfall.

Updated sports schedules are available on the Marsing School District website, www.marsing-schools.org, by clicking on the "athletics" link inside the "high school" directory.

Adrian basketball hammers Burnt River

When Gene Mills coached football, he was known for his old-school grit, so of course he likes to see defensive effort.

On Friday, the veteran Adrian High School girls' basketball coach got exactly that out of his players in a 59-14 shellacking of visiting Burnt River.

The Antelopes held the Bulls scoreless in the first quarter of the 1A High Desert League game, and racked up 19 steals.

Adrian shot better than 50 percent, converting 27 of 52 field goals (51.9 percent), and Mills was able to give his younger players plenty of exposure.

Gracie Morton came off the bench and shared top scoring honors with her sister, Carlee. They scored 10 points each with starting guard Carlee knocked down half her shots. Gracie led the team with five assists.

Shyanne Allaire led the way with four steals, while bench play-

er Sundee Speelmon collected a team-high five boards.

Morgan Bayes was 4-for-4 from the field for her eight points.

Boys: Adrian 62, Burnt River 20 — Miller DeMark posted a double-double and led two other teammates in double-digit scoring as the Antelopes snapped a four-game losing streak.

DeMark grabbed nine of his 12 rebounds on the Bulls' end of the floor as Adrian held a 45-23 rebounding edge.

He led everyone with 14 points. Reserves Andy Walker and Roberto Ramirez scored 12 and 10 points, respectively. Kevin Rodriguez snagged a team-high 13 rebounds, and Kenny Purnell led the defense with five steals.

The Antelopes built a 31-point lead by halftime and scored 16 points off turnovers.

Marvin Danek and Tyler Belveal scored six points each for Burnt River.

✓ Marsing: Joseph Ineck pins way into quarterfinals

From Page 12

Maxwell Long of Soda Springs Malad's Chris Jacaway went away at 4:23, and Oakley's Erik Koellen lost at 4:35.

Declo's Caden Crider pinned Ineck in 33 seconds in the fifth-place match.

Stelzried lost in sudden-death overtime to Dakota Peterson of Challis, 8-3, in the 132-pound quarterfinals. He rallied with a 4-3 win over Glenns Ferry's Roberto Ramirez and a pin of

Maxwell Long of Soda Springs (4:13) before losing the fifth-place match in sudden death to Bruin Bradshaw. The Challis wrestler prevailed, 3-1.

Joseph Ineck picked up a second-round victory at 145 pounds with a 78-second pin against Garden Valley's Michael Morgan. He lost in the quarterfinals.

Anthony Sugai (126) and Hayden Kish (138) collected consolation-bracket victories.

From page 1



Third-year advisor Kim Portwood (right) gives the Homedale Middle School Future City presentation team pointers after Friday's rehearsal for this weekend's regional competition at Boise State University. The presentation team is, from left, Makenna DeWitt, Téa Uranga and Emma Thornton. Ryker Johnson also is part of the team with Thornton serving as an alternate. DeWitt and Thornton are eighth-graders, while Uranga and Johnson are seventh-graders.

✓ Future City: D.C. trip on line Saturday

in her third year heading up the school's Future City program, which is a semester-long elective class.

Other students whose siblings took part in past Future City endeavors include second-year members Téa Uranga and Abigail Henry and fellow seventh-grader Ryker Johnson, who is on the team for the first time. Téa and Abigail had brothers (Daniel and Kaden, respectively) who served on previous teams, while Ryker's sister Maggie is a Future City alum.

Téa caught the Future City bug when she and the rest of the family watched Daniel compete at BSU.

"Even though I would play on a tablet and was bored (while at BSU to support Daniel), I thought, 'I'd like to do that someday,'" Téa said.

The 2016-17 group began planning for the competition, themed "The Power of Public Space," with the start of school in August.

Eighth-grader Makenna DeWitt and seventh-grader Belisia Larzelier round out the second-year members, while this is eighth-grader Madison Miller's third year on the team.

The students must write an essay and produce a Sim City computer version of their fictional community, both of which are judged before the regional contest. The final pieces of the competition come together Saturday when students give an oral presentation while unveiling the physical model of their town, "Phosphora," which is a make-believe futuristic city in New Zealand.

Téa said the town's name was selected because of the use of solar energy to power the community. The Latin word "phospho-

rous" means "light-bringing." The town's solar power generators were built using fiber-optic light clusters crammed into a plastic-domed structure.

The group selected New Zealand as the location for the Future City because there are large geothermal reserves under the island nation.

The team built other town features out of several elements that typically would wind up in the trash after their usefulness had passed.

An old ammunition holder was repurposed and painted — appropriately enough — green to serve as the town's recycling center.

A CD holder serves as an apartment building, and the panel from a solar-powered patio light has been transformed into a movie theater.

Even one thing obtained for the 2015-16 model — the container for glitter used to decorate an element last year — was put in service for this year's Future City.

Other Phosphora features include hover buses for public transit, a mall and a town hall.

The town's biodome is perhaps the most appropriate structure given that the students had battled winter weather to get their project done and were spending last Friday inside a classroom socked in by snow.

"When it's summer in the city, it's winter in the biodome with skiing and other winter sports," Téa said. "And it flips for summer activities, such as beaches, in the winter."

As in every year since HMS began fielding a Future City team, Homedale resident Don Vander Boegh has spent time as a consulting engineer.

Portwood said Vander Boegh was especially enamored with the convertible stadium John created.

A small motor John designed makes the entire structure retract into the ground when it's not in use. It just takes the flip of a switch to bring the stadium's roof — which has a park and water fountain (perfect for the contest's "public space" theme) — flush to the ground. The concept is an example of conserving acreage and creating open space.

"Don Vander Boegh says that's the best moving part they've had since beginning Future City here," Portwood said.

Different students took on different assignments for the competition.

Each student was responsible to build at least one model for the city, while specific team members tackled other components.

"Téa and Belisia were 'floaters,' who helped with different teams," Portwood said. "They were also responsible for the project plan."

Madison also was a floater, but she was a principal member of the model team John led. Ryker was in charge of landscape development, while seventh-grader Amiya Aberasturi also served on the model team.

Abigail, eighth-grader Laney Swallow and seventh-grader Emma Thornton spent between 15 and 20 hours writing the essay.

McKenna led the Sim City team, which also featured eighth-grader Ventura Martinez Sanchez, seventh-grader Eli Heck and Emma Criffield.

Ryker, Téa and McKenna will make Saturday's presentation, which is patterned after a newscast. TV interviews of prominent citizens such as the mayor and the town engineer will help judges understand the town's innovations and features. Emma Thornton is an alternate on the presentation team.

— JPB

Got News?

Call us! (208) 337-4681. Community happenings, events or issues.

Owyhee County news online - when you need it
www.owyheevalanche.com

Looking back...

from the files of The Owyhee Avalanche and Owyhee Chronicle

25 years ago

January 22, 1992

Finalists named in chief search

Authorities in the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement have been asked by Homedale city officials to run background checks on two finalists for the position of Homedale police chief, Don Nelson of Boise and Robert Fitzgerald of Coeur d'Alene.

Mayor Paul J. Fink said Monday that the two finalists are both former county sheriffs and Fitzgerald has additionally served as the police chief in Osburn, ID. The Idaho Blue Book, 1989-90 edition, sets the 1986 population of Osburn, located in Shoshone County, at 1,950.

Taggart serving at legislature

Tami Taggart, a senior at Homedale High School, is the latest local student to be picked to serve as a legislative page at the ongoing session of the Idaho Legislature.

Taggart is working in the House of Representatives at the statehouse in Boise through an appointment from State Rep. Dorothy Reynolds of Canyon County. Her period of service began Jan. 6 and runs through Feb. 14.

Assistant HHS-HJHS Principal Dean Vance informed trustees on Jan. 13th that this is the fourth year running that Homedale has had a page at the legislature.

Locals on UI dean's list

Eight area students were listed on the University of Idaho, Moscow, Dean's List for the 1991 fall semester:

College of Agriculture, Wendy C. Swenson, Grand View.
College of Engineering, Roger A. Edmiston, Homedale;
Brad R. Huff, Melba; Todd A. Gooding, Wilder.
College of Letters and Science, Denise R. Sonke and Allison D. Thomas, Homedale; Jon E. Thompson, Marsing.
College of Business, Kent L. Noe, Melba.

School board considers fencing playing fields

The Marsing School Board was asked to consider fencing the school's baseball diamond and possibly the football field at its regular meeting January 14.

Dwayne Gibson of the Marsing Booster Club said the fields are being damaged from people driving on them.

Gibson said the Booster club recently spent \$3,700 upgrading the baseball diamond, and asked that the school board at least fence it so the investment will not be wasted.

Gibson obtained bids from two companies on installing chain-link fencing around the area.

The cost would be \$2,500 to \$3,000 to fence just the baseball diamond, and \$6,500 to \$7,700 to fence the baseball diamond and football field.

The cost would include one or two admission gates.

Gibson said fencing the entire area would be necessary if the district ever planned to host playoffs.

HJHS students win Academic Bowl

Homedale Junior High students taking part in a five-school Academic Bowl here Monday night took first place with 245 points, according to Mary Pratt, secondary teacher and advisor to the group.

"The kids were in fine form. They did a wonderful job," Pratt said yesterday, adding that there was a "good turnout of parents and students" to watch the competition.

Other schools participating included Parma, Marsing, Fruitland and Melba. This was the second such bowl held recently, with more to come. The next one will be at Marsing on Feb. 10 starting at 6pm, probably in the high school cafeteria, Pratt said. At the first meet in Wilder, the local competitors drawn from the eighth grade honor society missed placing first by only five points.

Homedale's participants who competed on one or the other of two alternating teams Monday night include: Barry Bean, Jeff Eason, Erica Maggard, Dana Marston, Stephanie Skeen, Camille Uranga, Tony Quintana, Dustin Batt.

Corby Garrett, Tara Cornell, Tracy Sarceda, Truitt Vance, Melissa Bates, Lara Eidemiller, Eric Roesberry, Kelly Smyth, Joanna Zattiero and Maria Tumicio.

50 years ago

January 19, 1967

Treasure Valley C of C election held at Marsing

Herman Voss of Caldwell was elected president of the Treasure Valley Chamber of Commerce at their meeting Monday night at Marsing, according to Roger McGinnis, Boise, who was re-elected as secretary treasurer.

Voss replaces Perry Ward, Parma, outgoing president. The new vice president is Rudolph I. Upton, Boise. Installation of the newly elected officers will be completed at the Feb. 20 meeting at Caldwell.

Speakers for the meeting Monday were Ed Elliott, Burley, president of the newly organized South Idaho Chamber of Commerce, and Jesse Wilson, Owyhee County farm agent.

Test holes for new Highway 95

State Highway Department crews are working on Highway 95 this week north of Homedale running test holes for the new highway construction sometime in the not-to-distant future, highway officials have reported.

Drilling of test holes will begin next week in the Snake River just south of the Homedale Bridge for the engineers to determine what type of pilings to use on the new Homedale bridge.

Homedale falls Marsing 36-20

Despite Homedale forfeiting three weight classes, the other nine matmen came through with six pins, two decisions, and only one loss to fall Marsing 36-20.

Marsing's Joe Shea, wrestling at 136 lbs., was the only one to score for Marsing with a pin. The team standings were as follows:

98- Mike Kelly (H) got a forfeit. 106- Phillip George (H) pinned Cossel in the 3rd. 115- Steve Higgins (H) pinned Andrus in the 3rd. 123- Larry Maybon (H) dec. Swinney 5-2. 130- Marsing got a forfeit. 136- Joe Shea (M) pinned Terry Arrizabzlaga in the 1st. 141- Marsing got a forfeit. 148- John George (H) dec. Whittaker 2-0. 157- Eddie Fisher (H) pinned Fergert in the 2nd. 168- Marsing got a forfeit. 183- JackKershner (H) pinned Gaines in the 3rd. HVY- Steve Fisher (H) pinned Case in the 3rd.

Senior Rod and Gun club scores

The first .22 shoot for the senior Homedale Rod and Gun club members was held at the Owyhee County Armory Monday night immediately after the junior shooters.

Scores are based on targets shot at 50 feet from each of the following positions: prone, kneeling, sitting and off hand.

Scores made out of a possible 400 were:

Dick Fry 379, Gary Malmberg 365, Louis Breshears 361, Luther Hasselbring 333, LeRoy Breshears 314, Aaron Bright 297, Z. S. Knight 289, Mark Stimml 282, Boyd Jemmett 227.

Leavitt Bros. on EWSC honor roll

Two Homedale students at Eastern Washington State College, brothers Michael Leavitt and Theodore L. Leavitt, have been named to the EWSC fall quarter honor roll. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Legrand Leavitt, and are graduates of Homedale High School.

Michael is a junior majoring in political science; Theodore is a senior majoring in mathematics and physics.

Kiwanis Lt. Gov. Smull installs new officers

Homedale businessman Merrill Baigrie was installed as the new president of the Kiwanis Club at the Wednesday night dinner meeting by Neil Smull, Boise, lieutenant governor of Division 6 of the Utah-Idaho district, installing officer.

Kiwanis and their wives attended the dinner and installation meeting held at the Masonic Hall.

George Murray was installed as vice president, Jim Duncan, treasurer, and Gary Schoemaker, secretary.

The board of directors are: Doyle McPherson, Andy Warfield, Ray Tolmsa, Allen Baldridge, Vic Uria, Boyd Jemmett, Homer Anderson and Gaylord Harwood.

140 years ago

January 20, 1877

EDITING A NEWSPAPER. To many people the editing of a newspaper seems to be the easiest thing in the world. Well posted on one particular point, they are apt to judge the work of editing by their own knowledge of a certain subject as in comparison with the same idea written up by a newspaper editor. Nothing could be more erroneous. After years of drilling the news man has to scratch his head every night, after his daily labor is over, to think of something for the morrow. The novice, full of accumulated ideas of a lifetime, starts in brilliantly and as quickly subsides. Very soon the brain gives forth its hoarded ideas, and then the worker has to eke out new ideas. Things, that come to the most of men, come more painfully than the drawing of teeth. To be a successful editor requires a special gift, and to presume otherwise, leads many to be charged with incoherent idiocy.

A FORTUNE IN TOOTHPICKS. It seems that it was not the invention of the wooden toothpick, per se, that netted the inventor \$50,000, but the idea of making the toothpicks out of soft, brittle wood. It is said when they were first brought out they were made of hard, fibrous wood; this would not pay, as the picks lasted too long, and he went to pine. It now takes four sound picks to get the broken end of one out from between the teeth; and it is the latter discovery that is said to have realized the inventor his fortune.

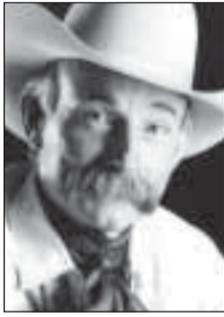
IDAHO AND HER LAW MAKERS. The recent legislative session was not prolific in auspicious results. True, there were many local measures adopted that will be productive of immediate benefit in the several counties interested, but we look in vain among the list of acts passed for any recognition of the paramount necessity of doing something for Idaho. The men who filled the position of legislators seemed to be incapable of grappling with this important question. They even refused to entertain a proposition calling for the appropriation of a small sum of money to aid in making known to the world our unrivalled resources, with a view of adding to our wealth and population. A more contemptible and parsimonious spirit was never evinced by any legislative body, and while saying this we do not wish to be understood as making indiscriminate censure. There were some good men in both branches of the legislature, both Republicans and Democrats, but the majority of them lacked the caliber to meet the pressing demands of the situation. Some of them found fault with this journal for the plain language its columns evoked in the discussion of this subject. We did not expect our independent talk and action would meet with the approval of thin-skinned ignoramuses, who are lamentably deficient in everything calculated to make efficient legislators. We gave them a fair trial and did not condemn them until they were found wanting. The popular verdict is against them. This paper is not in the habit of puffing everything and everybody indiscriminately. It can discern the difference between the bogus and the genuine. One edition of this paper does more good for Idaho than some of the dunghills of the Legislature have done for their entire lifetime. If they had proved themselves men, and aimed to do something for the future welfare of the Territory, we would have been the first to acknowledge it, and, bestowed upon them all the commendation that meritorious services warranted.

LOUISIANA AND South Carolina are now enjoying the luxury of dual State governments. Packard claims to be the bona fide Governor in the former State and Chamberlain the same in South Carolina. Their rival claimants, however, are collecting and paying out the taxes. It is within the range of possibility that the United States may be supplied with a similar double-headed institution before long.

BREVITIES. There is about a foot of snow on the ground here at present.

Commentary

Baxter Black, DVM



On the edge of common sense Keeper of the key

There's a strange group of people who speak in sacred tongues.

They gather in convention halls and really test their lungs.

And to those on the outside, they're god-like and they're wise

As they try to win a convert with passion in their eyes.

They begin to speak of bloodlines, of cows their bull has sired

With evangelistic reverence, they truly are inspired.

Recounting her performance and weight per day of age

They rattle off her record, reciting page on page.

Her progeny's outstanding. Their birth weight's sure to please.

She's ranked above the average in relative calving ease.

She might be Black or Brahmer, Gelbvieh, Maine Anjou,

Simmental or Santa, just to name a few

Herefords, polled or muley, some foreign soundin' name.

It doesn't make much difference, the story's all the same.

They breed the purebred cattle and know their cows by heart.

And they'll talk yer dang fool leg off, if you let 'em start!

But I got to give 'm credit 'cause resting in their hand

Is the blueprint of the future for cows throughout the land.

So I'll try to learn the business, call a bull by name

But I've made one observation 'bout people in this game;

Listenin' to these purebred folks makes me think right now

New Delhi's not the only place they have a sacred cow!

— Visit Baxter's Web site at www.baxterblack.com for more features and to purchase Baxter Black merchandise, including his newest release, "Tinsel, Mistletoe and Reindeer Bait!", and other books, CDs and DVDs.

Wayne Hoffman, Idaho Freedom Foundation executive director



Eye on the Statehouse Will lawmakers balk at or buy Otter's behemoth budget?

"We are waiting to get our marching orders," one legislator said Jan. 9 while awaiting the arrival of the governor, who was about to give his State of the State address at the Capitol. This is wrong thinking.

Lawmakers are not supposed to serve as rubber stamps or potted plants. If they truly believe in conservative principles — and most of them profess to do — they still have to prove it, regardless of what Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter says.

Below is the governor's proposed big-spending budget, by the numbers. This shows why it's important for lawmakers to get their jobs right.

- **9 percent.** That's the actual increase in general government spending over the current base appropriation contemplated by the governor. Not 5.9 percent, the figure reported by both the Otter administration and the press. Mind you, 5.9 percent is still a big leap in government spending, but Otter's \$3.5 billion spending blueprint covers up the true 9 percent number simply by hiding a lot of general fund spending in other government accounts.

- **49 percent.** If lawmakers approve the governor's budget, it will represent an increase of 49 percent over what they approved just seven years ago. Moreover, the state's reliance on the federal government would increase by about 3 percent, making it a cumulative 55 percent

increase over the past decade.

- **390.** The number of new state employee positions requested by the governor. That's an increase of about 2 percent and would bring the projected total number of state employee positions from about 18,930 to about 19,320 — more than work for Idaho's two largest private employers (St. Luke's hospital system and Walmart) combined.

- **44,541.** The number of state and K-12 education employees included in the governor's budget. If that were a city, it would be Idaho's eighth-largest, just behind Twin Falls but slightly bigger than Lewiston.

- **\$267 million.** The actual size of Idaho's projected budget surplus in the 2017-18 budget. Otter's budget for next year proposes using all but \$199 million of that figure, leaving \$68 million unspent.

- **\$11 million.** That's the amount of money Otter's proposed 2018 budget recommends spending on new automobiles, furniture, computer and other equipment for state agencies.

- **\$12 million.** This is the Otter administration's current estimate of how much the corporate welfare program, known as the Tax Reimbursement Incentive, costs taxpayers. Otter has proposed expanding the program

— See *Budget*, Page 19

Sen. Mike Crapo

From Washington Time running out to shore up Medicare fund's solvency



I recently wrote about the need to heed the Social Security Trustees' warnings and shore up Social Security. Like the requirements for the Social Security Trustees to annually assess the state of the trust funds that support the Social Security program, the Medicare Trustees are also required by law to report to Congress on the state of the Medicare trust funds. In June, the Medicare Trustees reported that Medicare's Part A Trust Fund is expected to be bankrupt in 2028, two years earlier than the trustees projected the previous year. That means that if left unfixed, the Medicare program will be unable to assist the many seniors and disabled who depend on it.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services report that 55.3 million people utilize Medicare at a cost of \$648 billion. As explained in the Trustee's report, Medicare is financed through two trust funds. The Hospital Insurance Trust Fund (HI), known as Medicare Part A, assists with hospital, home health services following hospital stays, skilled nursing facility and hospice care expenses. The Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund (SMI), which supports Medicare Part B and Part D, helps cover physician, outpatient hospital, home health, subsidized access to drug insurance coverage, cost-sharing subsidies for low-income enrollees and other expenses. Medicare Part C, which enables enrollment in private Medicare Advantage and other health insurance plans, is supported by funds from both HI and SMI.

The Trustees found that 46.3 million Americans aged 65 and older and 9 million who are disabled, receive health care through Medicare, which is at serious risk if changes are not implemented. The Trustee's report included the following concerning projections in need of timely action:

- As in past years, HI is not adequately financed over the next 10 years;

- Expenditures will increase in future years at a faster pace than either aggregate workers' earnings or the economy overall;

- Medicare spending growth, if realized, would substantially increase the strain on the nation's workers, the economy, Medicare beneficiaries and the federal budget;

- HI tax income and other dedicated revenues will fall short of HI expenditures in most future years;

- The sooner solutions are enacted, the more flexible and gradual they can be.

While 12 years may seem like a long time to fix the problem, it is not when considering how long it takes to build consensus on solutions, and with each passing year, the options for addressing the issues dwindle and become more painful. To prevent Medicare's insolvency, we must address its cost burden now.

Time is wasting, and the Medicare Trustees are not alone in sounding the alarm. The Joint Economic Committee, reflecting on the Trustees' findings and similar projections by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, also noted the expected cuts to Medicare through Obamacare that will make it harder for seniors to access services and advised that "sensible reforms now would prevent more drastic measures in the future."

The Medicare Trustees called on Congress and the executive branch to "work closely together with a sense of urgency" to address the depletion of the trust fund growth in expenditures. We must listen to their warnings and act now.

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

Commentary

Financial management

Time for tough love with financially irresponsible father

Dear Dave,

My dad has been really bad with money his entire life. Anytime he would get into trouble, my grandparents would always bail him out. This time, he came to my wife and I, asking for \$350 to get out of overdraft at the bank. We're trying to live on a budget and get control of our finances, and \$350 would make things kind of tight at the moment. What do you think we should do?

— Jeremy

Dear Jeremy,

I understand feeling an obligation to help your dad. But there's a lesson here that Dad needs to learn, and it's something that goes much deeper than the money or helping out a family member.

You have to do the right thing, no matter how Dad reacts to this. Right now, the right thing is taking care of your family and

not putting them in jeopardy. So my answer to Dad would be, "No." Another thing that needs to happen is for the definition of "help" to change. When you say he has been irresponsible with money his whole life, giving him \$350 won't help — and it will make you an enabler. Just handing him \$350 will actually hurt him, and it will give him the idea he can continue being dumb with money and hit you up for cash anytime.

Like I said, I understand the pull of helping out a parent. So if you feel this is something you absolutely must do, I would advise making the \$350 contingent on the fact that he begin and complete a financial counseling course. Be gentle when you talk to him, and let him know it hurts to see him struggling. But let him know, too, it's his responsibility to work through his debts and take care of his own finances!

— Dave



DAVE Says
by Dave Ramsey • www.davesays.org

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are debt-free, plus she has a business giving music lessons. We formed an LLC last year when she had several students and was making over \$3,000 a month, but that all changed when our first baby

arrived. Now, she has only a few students, and they bring in around \$700 per month. Should we dissolve the LLC?

— Ben

Dear Ben,

First, congratulations on being debt-free and new parents. Happy New Year to you all!

In most states, the only upfront cost for an LLC is the money you pay for the initial set-up. There may be a small fee for a business license and subsequent annual renewal, but that generally doesn't add up to much. Then, there's the money you pay for filing your tax return on the LLC once a year. Even if you live in a state where there are other fees to consider, as long as the cost of maintaining the LLC wasn't killing you, I'd recommend keeping it in place. You went to the trouble of opening it, and you

just might use it again someday. Even if your wife is staying home with the baby, she just might be able to take on more students again as time goes by.

Just be reasonable and use common sense. If you spend \$3,000 to stay open, and you're making \$700, you'd dissolve it, right? But as long as you don't have fees that are making you cringe, I'd probably leave it in place.

— Dave

— *Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 12 million listeners each week on 575 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

✓ Budget: Governor's proposal lacks tax relief for state's citizens again

From Page 18

and adding yet another corporate welfare program, for so-called data farms.

\$58. That's the amount per month the typical state employee pays for health insurance, thanks to taxpayers, who pay the rest. A typical plan for a self-employed person can be as much as 10 times that per month.

About \$11,000. The amount of taxable income you need to earn to reach the state's top tax bracket, 7.4 percent — the highest in the intermountain region.

About \$19 million. The actual tax relief the general public has seen in the past decade of Otter's leadership. Otter said Jan. 9 that he's provided \$1 billion in tax relief.

But most of that is reflected in the increased grocery tax credit, which was raised in 2008 in order to relieve the effects of raising the sales tax from 5 percent to 6 percent in 2006. According to his office, Otter has provided more than \$213 million in general tax relief. Most of that has been erased by \$194 million in tax and fee increases Otter and lawmakers approved in 2015 for transportation.

And the most incredible number in Otter's 2018 budget is ... drumroll, please:

Zero. That's the amount of general tax relief the governor proposed last year and proposes this year.

Here are two more numbers: **20** and **105**. There are 20 legislators who will initially consider the governor's budget

recommendations and come up with a budget of their own. All 105 state lawmakers will vote on how your money will be spent, and all will have a part to play in how big the government grows, how much you pay for it and how much of a tax break — if any — you will get. This means, we anxiously await the next number: The number of statesmen who will question the governor's approach and the number of rubber-stampers who will just do what they're told.

— *Wayne Hoffman of Nampa is president of the Idaho Freedom Foundation, which on the IFF website is described as a non-partisan educational research institute and government watchdog.*

Letter to the editor

Resident: Homedale responds quickly to snow needs

In the world of negative spins and the fate of all-ahead leaders trying to take away the power of optimistic thinking, this note is to share with my community that I made one simple phone call our mayor's office as to our street being impassable.

I was greeted with a professional and bright voice. Explained by this voice: Sorry they were facing 30-year

freak weather.

But in spite of this, in less than one hour our street in the city limits was plowed.

Thank you to all our workers, and let's start making the news positive.

Bud Ambeau
Homedale

Letters to the editor

All letters to the editor submitted to The Owyhee Avalanche must be no longer than 300 words, signed and include the writer's address and daytime phone number.

The deadline for submitting letters is noon on Friday. Letters can be submitted in these ways:

- E-mailed to jon@owyheeavalanche.com
- Faxed to (208) 337-4867
- Mailed to P.O. Box 97, Homedale ID, 83628
- Dropped off at the Avalanche office at 19 E. Idaho Ave., in Homedale

For more information, call (208) 337-4681.

Contacting elected officials

State representatives

All terms expire 2018

Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter

Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720
Phone — (208) 334-2100
E-mail — see <http://gov.idaho.gov>

District 23

Sen. Bert Brackett (R-Rogerson)

48331 Three Creek Highway, Rogerson, ID 83302
Phone — (208) 857-2217
E-mail — bbrackett@senate.idaho.gov
Committees — Transportation (chair); Resources & Environment

Seat A Rep. Christy Zito (R-Hammett)

P.O. Box 61, Hammett, ID 83627
Phone — (208) 590-4633
E-mail — czito@house.idaho.gov
Committees — Agricultural Affairs, Judiciary, Rules & Administration; State Affairs

Seat B Rep. Megan Blanksma (R-Hammett)

595 W. Thacker Road, Hammett, ID 83627
Phone — (208) 366-7976
E-mail — mblanksma@house.idaho.gov
Committees — Health & Welfare; Local Government; Resources & Conservation

County commissioners

Jerry Hoagland, District 1 (R-Wilson)

Phone — (208) 318-8308
Term expires 2018

Kelly Aberasturi, District 2 (R-Homedale)

Phone — (208) 249-4405
E-mail — kraberasturi@yahoo.com
Term expires 2020

Joe Merrick, District 3 (R-Grand View)

Phone — (208) 834-2641
E-mail — jvmerrick@hotmail.com
Term expires 2018

Mailing address

P.O. Box 128, Murphy, ID 83650

Public notices

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On Thursday, the 6th day of April, 2017, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m. of said day in the lobby of the Owyhee County Courthouse, 20381 State Hwy. 78, Murphy, in the County of Owyhee, State of Idaho, Ryan M. Fawcett, as Successor Trustee, will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States, all payable at the time of sale, the following described real property situated in the County of Owyhee, State of Idaho, and described as follows, to-wit:

Lot 3 in Block 1 of Santa Fe Subdivision, according to the official plat thereof, filed as Instrument No. 260827, Official Records of Owyhee County, Idaho.

The Successor Trustee has no knowledge of a more particular description of the above-referenced real property, but for purposes of compliance with Section 60-113, Idaho Code, the Successor Trustee has been informed that the street address of 307 Rio Grande Ct., Homedale, Idaho, is sometimes associated with said real property.

Said sale will be made without covenant or warranty regarding title, possession or encumbrances to satisfy the obligation secured by and pursuant to the power of sale conferred in the Deed of Trust executed by JOLENE K. MAXWELL, an Unmarried Person, Grantor, to Ryan M. Fawcett, Successor Trustee, for the benefit and security of IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION, recorded September 17, 2008, as Instrument No. 266270, Mortgage records of Owyhee County, Idaho. THE ABOVE GRANTOR IS NAMED TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 45-1506 (4)(a), IDAHO CODE. NO REPRESENTATION IS MADE THAT SHE IS, OR IS NOT, PRESENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS OBLIGATION.

The default for which this sale is to be made is the failure to pay when due, monthly installment payments under the Deed of Trust Note dated September 15, 2008, in the amount of \$891.00 each, for the months of July through November, 2016, inclusive; and for each and every month thereafter until date of sale or reimbursement. All delinquent payments are now due, plus accumulated late charges, plus any costs or expenses associated with this foreclosure. The accrued interest is at the rate of 6.08% per annum from June 1, 2016. The principal balance owing as of this date on the obligation secured by said Deed of Trust is \$110,965.27, plus accrued interest at the rate of 6.08% per annum from June 1, 2016.

DATED This 6th day of December, 2016.

RYAN M. FAWCETT, a Member of the Idaho State Bar, SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE
1/4, 11, 18, 25/17

MALHEUR COUNTY Local Work Group Meeting Announcement

Who – All, the public is invited.

What - Malheur County Local Work Group Meeting

Where – Malheur County Extension Office, 710 SW 5th Ave, Ontario, OR

When – February 9, 2017, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Why – USDA-NRCS is holding a local work group meeting to gather input from farmers, ranchers, state and federal agencies,

agriculture and conservation organizations regarding natural resource conservation priorities and opportunities to invest collaboratively in Malheur County.

Contact: Lynn Larsen; District Conservationist - Malheur County; USDA-NRCS, 2925 SW 6th Avenue, Ste. 2, Ontario, OR 97914, 541-889-7637 x103 lynn.larsen@or.usda.gov
1/18/2017

THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN FILED TO APPROPRIATE THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF IDAHO:

55-13929, BILL WILLARD, RORRIE WILLARD, PO BOX 2312, NYSSA, OR 97913

Points of Diversion L3(NWNENW) L9(NENWNW) S4 T05S R04W OWYHEE County Source SPRING Tributary JORDAN CREEK

Use: DOMESTIC 01/01 to 12/31 0.04 CFS

Use: IRRIGATION 04/01 to 10/31 0.02 CFS

Total Diversion: 0.06 CFS

Date Filed: 11/28/2016

Places of Use: DOMESTIC, IRRIGATION

T05S R04W S4 L10(NWNW)

Total Acres: 2

57-11885, HOOK LAND CO LLC C/O CONNIE HOOK,

20509 UPPER REYNOLDS CR RD, MURPHY, ID 83650

Point of Diversion L1(SESE) S36 T01N R03W OWYHEE County Source REYNOLDS CREEK Tributary SNAKE RIVER

Use: IRRIGATION 03/01 to 11/15 3 CFS

Total Diversion: 3 CFS

Date Filed: 10/3/2016

Place of Use: IRRIGATION

T01N R03W S36 L3(NESW) L3(SESW)L2(NWSE)L2(SWSE) L1(SESE)

T01S R03W S1 L2(NWNE) L3(NENW)

Total Acres: 150

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGE OF WATER RIGHT

TRANSFER NO. 81191, NEDEREND FARMS LLLP,

4998 HOGG RD, HOMEDALE, ID 83628; has filed Application No. 81191 for changes to the following water rights within OWYHEE County(s): Right No(s). 57-10655, 57-7045; to see a full description of these rights and the proposed transfer, please see www.idwr.idaho.gov/apps/wr/QueryNewTransfers/QueryNewTransfers.aspx. The purpose of the transfer is to add potentially two more wells and more accurately describe the existing commercial and stockwater use. Water will be used at the current place of use near the intersection of Hogg and E Thompson Rd approximately 3 miles west of Marsing.

Permits will be subject to all prior water rights. For additional information concerning the property location, contact Western Region office at 208-334-2190; or for a full description of the right(s) or proposed transfer (s) please see www.idwr.idaho.gov/WaterManagement/WaterRights. Protests may be submitted based on the criteria of Idaho Code §§ 42-203A and 42-222. Any protest against the approval of the application(s) must be filed with the Director, Dept. of Water Resources, Western Region, 2735 Airport Way, Boise, ID 83705 together with a protest fee of \$25.00 for each application on or

before 2/6/2017. The protestant must also send a copy of the protest to the applicant.

GARY SPACKMAN, Director
1/18, 25/2017

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT: Notice of Amended Proposed Withdrawal, Release of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and Notice of Public Meetings, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming

SUMMARY: This notice announces the amendment of the September 24, 2015 application by the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management to withdraw approximately 10 million acres of public and National Forest System lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat. The amendment adds 387,981.42 acres in the State of Nevada and refines the proposed withdrawal boundaries in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. In addition, this notice announces the release of the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for public review, which analyzes and discloses the impacts of the proposed withdrawal.

DATES: Comments must be received by March 28, 2017. Meetings will be held to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed withdrawal amendment and the draft EIS. Please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for the locations, dates, and times of the scheduled public meetings.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent to Mark Mackiewicz, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) WO, C/O Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501 or submitted electronically to sagebrush_withdrawals@blm.gov. Please see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for an electronic link and office locations where specific legal descriptions and maps of the lands may be reviewed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark A. Mackiewicz, BLM, by telephone at 435-636-3616, or by email at mmackiew@blm.gov. Persons using a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 800-877-8339. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 24, 2015, a Notice of Proposed Withdrawal was published in the *Federal Register* (80 FR 57635), as corrected (80 FR 63583), which provided notice of the proposal to withdraw the identified lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws for 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. As a result of a request submitted by the State of Nevada, the BLM (applicant) petitioned the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management to amend the original proposal through the addition of 387,981.42 acres of lands in that state. These lands represent a proposal by the State of Nevada to substitute for withdrawal 487,756 acres of high mineral development

HOMEDALE HIGHWAY DISTRICT NO. 1 BALANCE SHEET - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

General

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$341,702
Receivables:	
Property taxes	5,568
Other	151,746
Inventory	12,859
Total assets	511,875
Liabilities and fund balance	
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	1,670
Salaries and benefits payable	7,791
Total liabilities	9,461
Deferred inflows of resources	
Deferred inflows of future revenues	5,281
Fund balance:	
Nonspendable	12,859
Restricted	
Committed	
Assigned	
Unassigned	484,274
Total fund balance	497,133
Total liabilities and fund balance	\$511,875

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes In Fund Balance - Governmental Funds For the Year Ended September 30, 2016

General

Revenues	
Local revenue	
Property tax	\$65,572
Interest Income	449
Other	7,089
State revenue	
Highway users apportionment	602,791
Sales tax	15,232
Ag replacement	2,492
Other	1,022
Total revenue	694,647
Expenditures	
Labor and salaries	143,813
Legal and accounting	5,571
Repair and maintenance	13,741
Gas, oil, and tires	15,999
Construction materials	234,277
General supplies and miscellaneous	3,333
Payroll taxes and benefits	54,252
Telephone	1,326
Equipment purchases and lease	10,966
Equipment rental	565
Utilities	2,466
Signs	496
Insurance – general	5,340
Insurance - workers comp	6,317
Office expense	994
Cell phones	662
Engineering fees	775
Dues and publications	2,958
Weed control	12,171
Total expenditures	516,022
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	178,625
Fund balance - beginning	318,508
Fund balance – ending	\$497,133
Terri Uria, Secretary/Treasurer Publish 1-18-2017	

potential areas in Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs) for areas adjacent to SFAs that contain high value habitat and identified Greater Sage-Grouse populations. This petition also amends the original withdrawal proposal by adjusting the boundary of lands located in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming as a result of legal land description refinements that defined the proposed withdrawal boundaries utilizing the public land survey system standards. The boundary adjustments resulted in a slight decrease in overall acres proposed for withdrawal, though refinements vary section-by-section.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management has approved the BLM's petition. This action therefore, constitutes a withdrawal proposal of the Secretary of the Interior (43 CFR 2310.1-3(e)). Exhibit "A" of the application amendment describes the proposed additional public lands in Nevada being considered for withdrawal.

Exhibit "B" describes all of

the lands in both the original withdrawal application and the proposed withdrawal amendment under consideration by the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The withdrawal amendment includes 387,981.42 acres in the State of Nevada and the boundary adjustment of lands located in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming that were identified as a result of legal land description refinements.

The written legal land descriptions and the maps depicting the proposed withdrawal for both Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" may be found on the BLM internet website link: <https://www.blm.gov/node/3282>

The maps, legal land descriptions, and records relating to the amendment application may be examined at the following BLM State Offices or USFS Regional Offices or by contacting Mark Mackiewicz at 435-636-3616.

Idaho State Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Boise, ID 83709.

— Continued next page

Public notices

From previous page

U.S. Forest Service, Region 1, 200 E Broadway St, Missoula, MT 59802 (northern ID)

U.S. Forest Service, Region 4, Federal Building, 324 25th Street, Ogden, UT 84401

The withdrawal proposal (including the amendment) will be processed in accordance with the regulations set forth in 43 CFR part 2300.

The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat from adverse effects of locatable mineral exploration and mining.

Publication of the notice in the *Federal Register* segregated the lands described in the amended withdrawal application from location or entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights, until September 24, 2017, unless the withdrawal application is denied or cancelled or the withdrawal is approved prior to that date. All of the lands (unless otherwise subject to an existing withdrawal) will remain open to the public land laws, leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and disposal under the mineral material sales laws.

Non-Federal mineral lands located within the boundaries of the proposed withdrawal areas will not be affected.

Licenses, permits, cooperative agreements, or discretionary land use authorizations may be allowed during the temporary segregative period, but only with the approval of the authorized officer of the BLM or the USFS.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency or cooperative agreement, or surface management by the BLM under 43 CFR 3715 or 43 CFR 3809 regulations will not adequately constrain nondiscretionary uses, which could result in loss of critical Greater Sage-Grouse habitat.

There are no suitable alternative sites for the withdrawal.

No water rights would be needed to fulfill the purpose of the requested withdrawal.

The proposed action analyzed in the draft EIS considers a withdrawal of approximately 10 million acres of Federal lands from location and entry under the United States mining laws for a maximum period of 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. The lands included in the proposed action are National System of Public Lands and National Forest System lands administered by the BLM and the USFS. Public scoping for this project began on September 24, 2015, and closed on January 15, 2016, with the publication in the *Federal Register* of the Notice of Proposed Withdrawal; Sagebrush Focal Areas; Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming and Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS. During public scoping there were 5,078 unique letters submitted. The issues identified include, but are not limited to:

- Development of Federal mineral resources is authorized by law on BLM and National Forest System Lands; restrictions or closures may decrease the ability to provide mineral resources;
- The proposed action could affect the social and economic conditions within the analysis area, particularly in smaller communities;
- The proposed action could reduce the potential

for disturbance to vegetation communities and habitat alteration and fragmentation that otherwise might have occurred from mining activity; and

- Mineral exploration and development has the potential to impact wildlife, including special status species and associated habitat within and adjacent to the proposed withdrawal area.

An interdisciplinary approach was used to develop the draft EIS to consider a variety of resource issues and concerns. Based on internal and external scoping, the issues analyzed in detail in the draft EIS include:

- Geology and mineral resources;
- Vegetation, including special status plant species;
- Wildlife and special status animal species, including Greater Sage-Grouse; and
- Socioeconomic conditions, including environmental justice and human health and safety.

In addition to the proposed action, the draft EIS analyzes and discloses the potential effects of the No Action alternative, State of Nevada alternative, High Mineral Potential alternative, and State of Idaho alternative.

Under the No Action alternative, the proposed withdrawal area would remain open to location and entry under the United States mining laws. New mining claims could be located and the BLM and USFS would continue to oversee and regulate locatable mineral exploration and development in accordance with existing programs, policies, and regulations.

Under the State of Nevada alternative, 487,756 acres of lands in Nevada, that are part of the proposed action would not be withdrawn and 387,981.42 acres of priority Greater Sage-Grouse habitat located contiguous to but outside the SFAs in the State would be included in the withdrawal. Nevada suggested that this alternative be considered to reduce the anticipated economic effect of the proposed withdrawal to the State of Nevada while still meeting the purpose and need for the proposed action.

Under the High Mineral Potential alternative, all areas within the SFAs that contain lands with high mineral potential, as defined by the Sagebrush Mineral-Resource Assessment prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey, would not be withdrawn. Under this alternative, 558,918 acres of high mineral potential lands in the six states that are part of the proposed action would not be withdrawn.

Under the State of Idaho alternative, 538,742 acres of economically developable lands in the State of Idaho that are part of the proposed action would be excluded from the proposed withdrawal and left open to location and entry under the United States mining laws. The State of Idaho identified these areas as economically developable. No additional lands are being proposed for inclusion in the withdrawal under this alternative.

Thirty-one agencies and two American Indian Tribes have entered into Cooperating Agency agreements with the BLM for this EIS effort. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal (40 CFR 1508.5). Cooperating agencies participate in the preparation of the NEPA

analysis and documentation. Cooperating agency status does not imply the agency supports the proposed action.

The BLM also contacted 53 American Indian governments via letter or face-to-face meetings during scoping and prior to the release of the draft EIS. The governments were provided a project update, an offer to provide more information, and an offer for government-to-government consultation.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1), the BLM determined that the proposed SFA withdrawal is an undertaking that has no potential to affect historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present, and therefore the agency official has no further obligation under the National Historic Preservation Act. The BLM informed 53 American Indian governments; the Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming State Historic Preservation Offices; and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation of this determination of effect.

The draft EIS is available at the following libraries and offices online at: <https://www.blm.gov/node/3282>

IDAHO BLM Offices

- Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705
- Owyhee Field Office, 20 First Avenue West, Marsing, ID 83639
- Idaho Falls District Office, 1405 Hollipark Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83401
- Pocatello Field Office, 4350 South Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, ID 83204
- Twin Falls District Office, 2878 Addison Ave. E, Twin Falls, ID 83301
- Shoshone Field Office, 400 West "F" Street, Shoshone, ID 83352
- Salmon Field Office, 1206 South Challis Street, Salmon, ID 83467
- Burley Field Office, 15 East 200 South, Burley, ID 83318
- Challis Field Office, 1151 Blue Mountain Road, Challis, ID 83226

U.S. Forest Service Offices

- Caribou-Targhee National Forest, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401
- Salmon-Challis National Forest, 1206 S. Challis Street, Salmon, ID 83467
- Sawtooth National Forest, 2647 Kimberly Road East, Twin Falls, ID 83301

Libraries

- Mountain Home Public Library, 790 N 10th E Street, Mountain Home, ID 83647
- Boise Public Library, 715 S Capitol Boulevard, Boise, ID 83702
- Twin Falls Public Library, 201 Fourth Avenue East, Twin Falls, ID 83301
- Idaho Falls Public Library, 457 W Broadway Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
- Malheur County Library, 388 SW 2nd Avenue, Ontario, OR 97914

You can make a difference by providing the BLM with your specific comments or concerns about the proposed withdrawal. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen the proposed withdrawal's environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure

consideration of your comments on the proposal in the final EIS, it is important that the BLM receive your comments before March 28, 2017.

After the comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, modifications are made to the draft EIS, and a final EIS will be published and distributed. The final EIS will contain the agency's responses to timely comments received on the draft EIS.

In accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR 2310.3-1(b)(2)(iv) and 40 CFR 1506.6(b), for a period until March 28, 2017, all persons who wish to submit comments, suggestions, or objections in connection with the proposed withdrawal amendment as it relates to the lands in the six states and/or the draft EIS may present their views in writing to Mark Mackiewicz, BLM WO, C/O Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501, or by email to: sagebrush_withdrawals@blm.gov or by attending one of the public meetings on the dates and times as noted below.

Notice is also hereby given that public meetings in connection with the proposed withdrawal and the release of the draft EIS will be held on the following dates, times, and locations:

Thursday, February 16, 2017
from 5 to 7 P.M. – Shiloh Suites Conference Hotel, 780 Lindsay Blvd., Idaho Falls, ID 83402

Friday, February 24, 2017
from 5 to 7 P.M. – Best Western Vista Inn, 2645 Airport Way,

Boise, ID 83709

The public will have an opportunity to provide oral and written comments at the meetings. All comments received will be considered before any recommendation concerning the proposed withdrawal is submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management for final action.

Comments including names and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Washington Office at the address noted above, during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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Snow challenges county crews

Heavy snow accumulation has posed an array of issues for Owyhee County Road and Bridge crews this month.

District 1 supervisor Phil Rittenhouse said his employees battled the snow with three road graders, one plow truck with a sander, and a couple of front-end loaders and backhoes.

Rittenhouse said his crews put a lot of extra hours on the district's equipment.

"This last pay period, we probably put in double our regular running time," Rittenhouse said. "So, about 80 hours."

Rittenhouse estimates that he has used about 60 tons of material, including salt and sand, at a cost of about \$12,000.

He and his employees have worked several 17- or 19-hour days over the last couple of

weeks.

"We would start at three or four in the morning, and then quit at midnight or something like that," Rittenhouse said. "Whenever we got tired."

He added that the long hours were not necessarily because of the snow.

"It's the wind," Rittenhouse said. "It blows right back in out here in some of the areas we have, like Murphy Flat and Reynolds Creek. We were having some pretty significant snow drifts."

Where to put the snow wasn't an issue for Rittenhouse. His crews simply dumped it onto the side of the road. In town, Homedale and Marsing workers had to move snow to other locations to keep storm drains and gutters clear.

While the recent snowfall kept

him busy, this wasn't the worst Rittenhouse has ever seen in the county.

"In Jordan Valley, this is pretty common," Rittenhouse said. "On an average year they get two or three feet out there."

Between Jan. 3 and Jan. 9, SNOTEL monitors at South Mountain and Reynolds Creek reported an increase of seven inches in snow depth over the six-day period at each location.

Rittenhouse affirmed that Reynolds Creek was one of the most difficult spots in the county in terms of accumulation.

"We had a little bit of drifting off the Soda Fire land," Rittenhouse said. "There's no vegetation left to catch the snow, so it would keep blowing until it found a home."

— SC

Snow takes toll on Homedale district

Homedale Highway District crews have already mobilized to handle snowy and icy roads as much as they did all of last winter.

Director of Highways Stewart Constantine said between materials, replacement parts and labor, the district has spent nearly \$18,000 this year battling snow accumulation and trying to keep driving surfaces safe.

Constantine shared the impact of the snowstorms with the board of commissioners during a Thursday meeting.

He also looked ahead to possible flooding when the thaw comes, and received unanimous approval to purchase a diesel-powered pump for \$500 from the federal government surplus outlet. Constantine said the pump, which is still in its original shipping crate and has never been used, retails for about \$1,800. The commissioners — chair Larry Prow (Subdistrict 1), Joel Wilson of Subdistrict 2 and

Scott Salutregui of Subdistrict 3 — approved the purchase contingent on whether the machine is self-priming.

The pump, which moves water at a rate of 125 gallons per minute, will give the district two machines to fight excess water.

Areas where Constantine anticipates flooding include River Road and crossings at Homestead Road and West Market Road, Gem Road and U.S. Highway 95, and Graveyard Point Road and Sage Road.

Constantine figures crews were either sanding or plowing 15 days between Dec. 14 and last Wednesday. He apologized for icy roads on Dec. 15, saying that he didn't mobilize his crew fast enough to fight the freeze.

The district has used about 510 cubic yards — or 408 tons — of sand, Constantine said.

"You guys are doing a real good job getting the roads clear," Salutregui told Constantine. "I'm proud of what you've done."

The district maintenance crew has racked up 123 hours of overtime while working on the 92 miles of roadway. Constantine told commissioners that while the crew was hard at work on the snow, the added maintenance has taken its toll on the equipment.

Replacing cutting edges and plows will cost \$3,500, he said.

Two district dump trucks have required repairs, and the loader also began to malfunction. Constantine put the total cost of repairs at \$629, and said the City of Homedale loaned equipment so the district could continue to load sand to place on roadways.

Constantine also took advantage of the federal government surplus sale to purchase several items for the district, including a rotating emergency beacon for a vehicle as well as hand tools, a portable air compressor, air hose, nail gun and extension power cords. He said he spent \$72 for a lot of equipment that is worth about \$930.

— JPB

Gem road crew logs long hours

With just two snowplow trucks and a front-end loader, Gem Highway District crews have been busy lately covering the 60 square miles within the district.

Road superintendent Rick Meade said the recent snow around the Marsing area was the worst he's ever dealt with.

"I'm guessing we did probably three seasons worth of work so far, compared to the average normal year," Meade said.

He estimates that his workers have put down more than 300 yards of sand since snow started falling this winter. Meade did not have a dollar figure on how much he has spent on sand.

He also has spent some money replacing parts and sharpening scraping blades.

"We've probably put in an extra \$2,000 back into our equipment," Meade said.

Getting snow off the roads across the district was no easy

task and required his crews to get up early and stay up late.

"Some of those days never ended," Meade said. "If the school busses are running, we try to get going around three or four o'clock (in the morning). We go until everything is cleaned up and we feel safe."

He added that it wasn't unusual to work until midnight and start again just few hours later during the weeklong snow event.

"Sometimes we just go home and grab something to eat, and take a cat nap, and get back up and go again," Meade said.

While the hours were long, at least it wasn't difficult for Meade and his workers to find a place to put the snow.

"We really don't have any gutters or storm drains within our district," Meade said. "We've just been pushing it to any open area that we know will drain off the side of the road."

— SC

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Owyhee County Assessor's office is accepting applications for a full-time position as a Motor Vehicle Technician in Marsing. Applicants must have computer and bookkeeping skills. Applications may be picked up at the Owyhee County Assessor's office in Murphy or at the Motor Vehicle Department in Marsing. Completed applications must be received at the Assessor's office by Monday the 23rd of January 2017. Owyhee County is an equal opportunity employer.

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Speaker has return engagement for Mtn. View Nazarene's game feed

In many respects, Tom Claycomb is no stranger to the hunters who may show up for Saturday's 14th annual Men's Wild Game Feed at Mountain View Church of the Nazarene.

The local freelance outdoors writer has served as keynote speaker in the past, and chances

are the men who will be on hand at 6 p.m. on Saturday have read his insights about their favorite hobby.

Tickets for the dinner and auction inside the church's Fellowship Hall are \$15 for adults, and \$5 for children age 10 and younger. The church is located

at 26515 Ustick Road north of Homedale in Canyon County.

Call the church at (208) 337-3151 for more information or to obtain dinner tickets.

Proceeds from the event help the Men's Group in its work focusing on the well-being of widows and orphans.

A Meridian resident, Claycomb will share several outdoors stories. The Texas native has been spreading the message of Christ for about 35 years, whether it in the beet-packing industry or visiting with outdoorsmen in his journalistic capacity. Claycomb also teaches seminars on outdoor

sports and equipment.

This year's Men's Wild Game Feed will feature a silent auction with about 25 items rather than the usual live auction.

Door prizes will include a Marlin Model 60 .22 rifle. People must be present to win the door prizes.

Homedale library sets puppet show

Friday morning's Homedale Public Library Story Time will be transformed into a puppet show.

The show starts at 10:15 a.m. and for two stories — "Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears."

Youth services coordinator Carol McMichael said children will also make their own puppets to take home.

Friday's Teens and Tweens session will focus on a "humanitarian" project. McMichael said the youth will help finish a blanket to be given to someone in need.

Boys and girls ages 10-17 are invited to attend at 4 p.m.

The library, located at 125 W. Owyhee Ave., is open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Wednesday, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday. Call (208) 337-4228 for more information.

Specter of Soda Fire returns after heavy snow

Snow melt has officials bracing for potential flooding

All this snow on the ground now could create problems for Owyhee County residents once temperatures warm up.

County emergency services coordinator Jim Desmond said property encompassing the 280,000 acres burned by the Soda Fire in August 2015 will be especially prone to flooding.

"Any of the land that burned and lost the brush component is more at risk of post fire flooding since there is less vegetation to slow or hold water," Desmond wrote in an email. "We have already seen flooding in the Givens Hot Springs area on Oct. 19, 2015 that was made worse from the burn."

Desmond said that, depending on when seedings were done, seed could be lost to runoff and

there may be impacts to rooted — but not well-established — plantings that were placed during rehabilitation efforts after the 280,000-acre fire.

Desmond said county residents who live near lands burned by the Soda Fire can start preparing now for potential flooding.

"If they are downslope or downstream, they should look at their property and anticipate where the flows may be worse based on what normal flows usually are," Desmond said. "I would be looking at how to divert water away from structures, and if possible, access routes."

Owyhee County Road and Bridge District 1 supervisor Phil Rittenhouse pointed out some of the areas that could be affected by swift-moving runoff water.

"Reynolds Creek coming out of China Ditch, and Givens, that's where it will impact residents the most," Rittenhouse said.

Desmond reminded residents that with the snowpack and stronger runoff there will be increased flows on all drainages

in the county, whether they were in the Soda Burn or not.

"Anywhere a drainage crosses a road is an area subject to problems," Desmond said.

On Dec. 31, 2005 there was a rain-on-snow event that caused major flooding and cut through Silver City Road.

"It did major damage to the road and was a lengthy recovery process, but was essentially localized to that area," Desmond said. "That's the worst snow/flooding event I can recall."

The Bruneau River, Sinker Creek, Reynolds Creek, Jacks Creek and Castle Creek jumped their banks and flooded highways and county roads. Jump Creek swelled and washed out a culvert on Thompson Road, and sent a motorist to the hospital after his pickup fell through the compromised roadway.

The flooding prompted a disaster declaration that gave then-Sheriff Gary Aman access to emergency money from the county, state and federal governments. The Board of

County Commissioners declared a disaster emergency last week, too.

Motorists need to be mindful when the current snowpack starts to melt.

"Basically look carefully at roadways where drainages meet and be expecting large flows," Desmond said.

"The National Weather Service has a 'Turn Around, Don't Drown' program that is aimed at awareness of the extreme hazard of water on roadways. It doesn't take much water to move an automobile off the road to disaster."

A former Owyhee County Sheriff's deputy was killed in June 2009 when a wall of water from Scorpion Creek pushed his vehicle off Idaho highway 78 and into the Snake River during a flash flood.

— SC

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