



**Election
preview
Section C**

**Only one school board
election planned next week**

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**Young Homedale wrestlers
qualify for regional meet**

Page 1B

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Established 1865

The Owyhee Avalanche

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 19

HOMEDALE, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

Homedale businessmen to address land buy

During tonight's Homedale City Council meeting, local businessmen are scheduled to address the city's purchase of a 7-acre parcel of land that it subsequently agreed to lease to Snake River Lumber.

The Homedale City Council will gather at 6 tonight for its regular monthly meeting at City Hall, 31 E. Wyoming.

Steve Zatica of Paul's Markets, Dennis Pruett of Pruett Tire Center and Dirk and Robin Tolmie of Tolmie's Hardware are among those listed on the agenda.

The meeting's agenda was posted last week and includes:

- Approve agenda
- Approve meeting minutes from 4/12/06
- Approve meeting minutes from 4/27/06
- Ed Holder-Local Motion Westwood Subdivision extension of time-Rick Echeverria
- 7-acre land purchased by city-Steve Zatica, Roland Radford, Ben Badiola, Dennis Pruett, Dirk and Robin Tolmie, Bill Pastoor, Hal Tolmie.
- Public works report
- Police department report
- Mayor and council reports
- Old Library property sale, approve resolution 6105
- Amend meeting minutes Oct 19, 2005
- Proposed Ordinance 364-allowing council to establish fees by resolution
- P&Z fee schedule approval to process a resolution for next meeting
- Further business
- Approve bills

— Agenda for tonight's
Marsing City Council meeting,
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Tragic teaching tool



Deadly accident sends sobering message to seniors

Homedale High School seniors look at the mangled car that was involved in an accident that killed two men in 2004. The vehicle was part of a presentation warning of the possible results of drunk driving.

Nampan shares pain of losing son

Drunk driver who killed Daniel Lew, himself began drinking in Homedale

In front of Homedale High School on Friday, motorists may have seen a severely mangled vehicle on the back of a flat bed trailer.

The car was involved in a drunk driving accident in 2004 that took the life of Daniel Lew from Nampa, and on Friday the vehicle served as the centerpiece of a presentation of high school students graphically demonstrated the dangers of drinking and driving.

Lew's mother, Anita, put on the demonstration for graduating seniors as part of the presentation, which was coordinated by Homedale Police Department School Resource Office Michelle Babcock.

"We hope that the students will remember what they have seen here today before getting in a vehicle after drinking or driving themselves," Babcock said Friday. "Visualizing something like this makes more of an impact than

to just tell them not to drink and drive, and it shows the kids that just because they have not been drinking, the dangers are still out there."

Lew was 23 years old when he died July 6, 2004, after the vehicle he was driving was struck a car driven by a drunk driver traveling in the wrong direction on Interstate 84 near Nampa.

"Daniel was not drinking," Anita told the class. "He had no alcohol, drugs or anything out of the ordinary in his blood test, but the other driver did. His blood

— to page 5A

City to present bond info Thursday

Homedale plans public meeting for water, sewer ballot proposals

The City of Homedale will present details of its proposed water and sewer bonds to the public during an informational meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday at Homedale High School.

City officials are hoping voters will approve nearly \$4.5 million in two bond elections to be held during the May 23 primary. If approved, the bonds will help shore up Homedale's deteriorating water and sewer systems and add new water and sewer lines.

Voters will be asked to pass \$2,265,000 for installation of new components and improvements to the existing water system. The sewer system bond is totaled at \$2.1 million.

Homedale Mayor Paul Fink said water and sewer fees will not increase because of the bond, at least not during his term in office. He said current fees will be able to cover the payments.

The water bond will be used to install a new domestic well,

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Bruneau-GV to hold school election May 16

Homedale, Marsing and Pleasant Valley school board seats filled

The deadline to file as a write-in candidate for Owyhee County school board elections came and went last week with only one school district needing to hold an election.

A late contender filed candidacy papers for the Zone 1 seat in Bruneau-Grand View School District. An election with two choices on the ballot will be held Tuesday.

Under Idaho Code, school districts are not required to hold an election if only one candidate files for the position. Homedale, Marsing and Pleasant Valley only received one petition for candidacy per board opening and will declare the candidates the winners later this month.

Marie Robertson, from Bruneau, will seek the Zone 1 seat in Bruneau-Grand View against Russell Erwin, who filed for candidacy last month. The winning candidate will replace Stacy Buckingham, who declined to run for another term. Buckingham was appointed to replace Russ Turner, who lost a recall vote in 2005.

Homedale will swear in Tim Quintana to replace Allen Hays in Zone 2. Hays, who was elected in 2003 to replace the retiring John Demshar, did not file to seek another term.

In Marsing, Joe Usabel is

unopposed for another term and will be sworn in during a July meeting. Usabel has been on the board of trustees for Zone 1 for 15 years.

Pleasant Valley also will not need to hold an election because Joan Hebison is the only candidate. Hebison was previously appointed for Zone 2.

Voters in Zone 1 of the Bruneau-Grand View School District will vote at the Bruneau Elementary School from noon until 8 p.m.

Qualified electors who expect to be absent from the district, or who will be unable, because of physical disability or blindness, to go to a polling place, may vote by absentee ballot. Written application for an absentee ballot may be made to the Clerk of the Board of Trustees on a form made available at the district office, 660 Boise Ave., Grand View, Idaho on Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. Monday.

Electors applying by mail should submit their requests as soon as possible. The clerk must receive completed absentee ballots no later than 8 p.m. Tuesday.

— CAB



Volunteer aid

Homedale Ambulance crewmembers assist an injured bull rider during Sunday's District II high school rodeo event at the Owyhee County Fair and Rodeo grounds. Tyler Hall was stepped on by a bull and received injuries to his shoulder. The ambulance service is on stand-by during high school rodeos, but also has an additional ambulance in case other emergencies arise.

Homedale to observe EMS Week

Ambulance crew plans free health checks at Paul's

Along with recognizing the efforts and dedication of its members and volunteers, Homedale Ambulance Service will offer health checks during Emergency Medical Services week, which runs Sunday through Saturday.

The National Emergency Medical Services Department says that EMS Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and to honor the dedication of those who provided the day-to-day life-saving services on medicine's "front line."

Homedale Ambulance Administrator Lisa Price said this year's theme is "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

"Because so many of our patients are our neighbors or people that we know," Price said of the theme. "Living in a small community allows us to get to know many people, and it helps patients to see a familiar face in

their time of need."

On Saturday, the crew will gather in the parking lot of Paul's Market from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and give free health checks to patrons.

The crew will provide free blood pressure checks, health information handouts and tours of the ambulance.

The service currently has 14 volunteer members and one paid administrator. It is part of the Homedale Rural Fire Protection District, which is governed by a board of commissioners consisting of three elected officials.

Price said certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) spend approximately 110 hours obtaining their initial training, followed by a national written test and skills test.

In order to obtain a state certification, EMTs must pass the national tests and affiliate with a local EMS agency. Every two years, a 24-hour refresher class must be taken, along with an additional 24 hours of continuing education classes.

Price said two EMTs have gone on to become paramedics employed with other agencies. Three EMTs received their advanced EMT certification, while one is currently enrolled in nursing school.

Price said progressive changes have been implemented over the past several years.

Volunteers began receiving compensation for each call to

which they responded in 2000. Although the volunteer spirit of service still runs strong in members, the monetary stipend helps with retention of our valuable members who have other jobs and busy lifestyles, Price said.

In some cases, the money is used to pay for childcare costs that the volunteers incur in order to respond on calls or attend training classes.

Another change was the purchase of a second unit in 2004. The second unit is utilized approximately one to two times a month when another emergency call comes in while the first unit is already on a call.

Recently, the State EMS Bureau implemented a new protocol that allows the ambulance to carry Epi-Pens used for allergic reactions and the EMTs are now allowed to administer them to patients.

"We are happy to serve our neighbors and the community we live in," Price said.

Last year, EMTs responded to a record 278 calls. Price said this year the number of calls will go even higher.

"We switched dispatch centers to the Owyhee County Sheriff's Office with the implementation of county-wide 911," Price said. "This resulted in a more expedient dispatch time as well as the ability to communicate with our dispatch center via our handheld radios."

— CAB

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Marsing City Council holds meeting tonight

The Marsing City Council will gather tonight for its regular monthly meeting. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at City Hall (425 S. Main St.).

The following is a copy of the agenda posted last week.

Note — All matters listed within the Consent agenda have been distributed to each member of the Marsing City Council for reading and study, they are considered to be routine, and will be enacted by one motion of the Consent Agenda and placed on the Regular Agenda by request.

- Consent Agenda
- A. Approval of April 12, 2006 regular Meeting Minutes 7:00 p.m.
 - B. Approval of April 25, 2006 special Meeting Minutes 7:00 p.m.
 - C. Approval of April 25, 2006 claims against the City

Public input

- A. Deputy Olsen
- B. Public (Members of the public are allowed to address the Council on any topic not already on the agenda. The Council will not take action on any item raised during public comment, but may place the issue on an upcoming agenda for discussion and action.)

- Old business
- A. City engineer – monthly Report
 - B. City attorney – lease

- agreement/addendum Bayer Crop Science
- New business
- A. Fun Run / banner on railroad crossing – Jana Streibel
 - B. Hidden Hollow Sub. irrigation – Daniel Carlson
 - C. Morning Dove Sub. irrigation – Jim & JoAnn Thomas
 - D. Leroy Breshears Fish Day/ June 3, 2006/request Island Park and donation

- Reports
- A. Superintendent Danny Martin
 - B. Mayor – Homeland Security
 - Define special meeting Marsing Chambers
 - donation fireworks
 - Vacation of a portion of sanitary easement
 - Marsing railroad structures
 - Vacant house/out of town owners
 - Executive session Idaho Code 67-2345 (c) Acquisition of real property.

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Homedale student protests demonstrators

Andrew Felty, Homedale, shows his support for an illegal immigration bill currently in Congress during an afternoon demonstration held by students at Homedale High School earlier this month. Nearly two dozen students walked out of school May 1 to protest the proposed legislation, but several supported Felty's efforts. High school principal Mike Williams said the students organized the rally and were informed of the procedures and guidelines for attendance in the student handbook. Monday, he said the attendance report showed 33 students absent all day and 25 students absent for a half-day. "These numbers are for all students and activities at the high school not just the Hispanic students," Williams said.

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Jarbridge management plan meetings set later this month

Several open house scoping meetings for the Jarbridge Resource Management Plan are schedule this month to comply with a settlement agreement.

The meetings are planned to provide information for people interested in learning about the process and to submit feedback on the RMP and the preliminary issues and planning criteria.

The last of the four meetings will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on May 24 at Three Creek School at 499909 Three Creek Road.

The series of meetings begins Tuesday with a gathering from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Red Lion Hotel, 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd., in Twin Falls. A second meeting is scheduled from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. May 18 at the 8th Street Center in Buhl (200 North 8th Street).

On May 23, the open house will be held in Glenss Ferry from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the History Center at Three Island Crossing State Park located at 1083 South Three Island Park Drive. Park entrance fees will be waived.

Jarbridge RMP planning area boundaries

The Jarbridge Resource Management Plan planning area extends from Salmon Falls Creek on the east to the Bruneau River on the west and from the Snake River on the north and to the northern boundaries of the Bureau of Land Management's Elko Field Office and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest on the south.

The area is located in Twin Falls, Owyhee, and Elmore counties in Idaho, and Elko County in Nevada. The area encompasses 1.366 million acres of federal land.

The planning effort is the result of a September 2005 stipulated settlement agreement in the case

of Western Watersheds Project against former Bureau of Land Management Idaho State Director K Lynn Bennett. A provision of the agreement is that the Jarbridge Field Office updates its RMP by the fall of 2009.


"To achieve this, we are enabling specialists in the field office, along with BLM employees from other offices, to be dedicated solely to this RMP effort," Nick Vander Voet, field manager for the Jarbridge Field Office said in a newsletter released last week.

"We are confident that we can accomplish all that needs to be done in the time available. Many cooperators and collaborators will be involved in this effort as well, including federal and state agencies, affected city and county governments. We will work together with these partners to ensure that the final RMP represents a collaborative planning process."

For more information, call the Jarbridge Field Office at (208) 736-2350 or e-mail ID_Jarbridge_RMP@blm.gov.




New look at Homedale business
Crews put some finishing touches on the Matteson's Owyhee Motor Sales convenience store and repair shop in downtown Homedale on Friday. New signage and lighting, and a new facade greet customers and wraps around to include the new addition on the north side of the building at the corner of Main Street and Idaho Avenue includes




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Chip Roser, M.D.
Faith Peterson, MS, FNP
Janine Franco PA

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108 E. Idaho
Homedale, ID 83628
Phone: 337-3189

HOURS
Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri.
8:30 AM-5:00 PM
Tue. 8:30 AM-9:00 PM
Chip Roser, M.D.
Dick Ernest, FNP
Janine Franco, PA


Correction

In an article published on May 3 pertaining to the Kids Club program at Homedale Elementary School, it was later learned that Pam Silveria is now married and her name is now Pam Bowman, and Dan Moore is no longer a part of the program.

The Owyhee Avalanche

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From page 1

✓ Death

alcohol was nearly three times the legal limit, and it all started here.”

Lew’s mother said that Aguirre reportedly began drinking earlier in the day in Homedale with friends.

Anita told the students that reports showed that 24-year-old Beau Aguirre of Meridian entered I-84 traveling eastbound in the westbound lane of traffic.

He crashed head-on into Daniel who was driving in the westbound lane. Both drivers were killed in the crash, and debris from the impact reportedly hit a third vehicle causing minor damage.

“Someone in this city knows what happened that day,” Anita told the students. “Someone here could have kept him out of the vehicle. When Beau hit my son, he was estimated to have been traveling about 90 miles per hour.”

The accident was reported at 12:39 a.m.

Idaho State Police Office Mike Nauman also spoke to the students and said that if he can keep one teen from drinking and driving, he has made his point.

“We can’t stop everyone,” Nauman said.

“But if we can stop even one student from getting into a vehicle or drinking at a party, we are making an impact. It is worth the effort.”

“Daniel, though taken so young, managed to pack a lot of life in his short one,” Anita told the students. “In his many activities, including music and most especially jazz music, tennis and ballooning, he made many, many friendships. Daniel didn’t have limits; whatever he wanted to do he did and with great success. His short life was filled with awards and accomplishments that brought great pride to him and his family.”

Daniel left behind a 3-year-old daughter, Kiaya Maire, who his family said was the “light of his life.”



A mother’s story

Daniel Lew’s mother, Anita, shows students where her son was sitting in this mangled vehicle at the time of his death when he was involved in a deadly drinking and driving accident in July 2004. Anita spoke to seniors at Homedale High School last week about the accident that killed her 23-year-old son.

— CAB

✓ Bond

replace transmission and service lines, valves, hydrants and meter boxes. The interest rate anticipated is 4.5 percent a year. Along with an existing indebtedness of \$200,827, the city will repay about \$4,172,130 if the bonds are passed by a majority vote.

If approved, the sewer bond will fund the replacement or reconstruction of approximately 15,500 linear feet of transmission lines, provide money for a sewer trunk line system with collectors, pay for construction of a new lift station and replacement of a force main between the primary lift station and the treatment plant.

The last bond passed in the city for water or sewer was in 1979.

— CAB

County historical society members make learning trek to Oreana

The Owyhee County Historical Society field trip to Oreana on April 29 was a great success, according to coordinator Mary O’Malley.

More than 30 OCHS members and guests from the Knights of Columbus gathered at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church in Oreana for a tour of the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The group spent the rest of the morning cleaning the Oreana Pioneer Cemetery, removing greasewood and trimming weeds.

A potluck lunch was held at the Oreana Community Hall.

The next field trip is May 20 when society members travel to the 45 Ranch.

For more information, call the Owyhee County Historical Museum at (208) 495-2319.

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School menus

May 11-17

Homedale Elementary

May 11: Chicken or beef nuggets , broccoli, cinnamon roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 12: Pizza or popcorn chicken, salad, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 15: Hamburger or fish patty/bun, fries, cookie, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 16: Chicken tenders or country-fried beef steak, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 17: Crispito or tst cheese sandwich, taco salad, churro, fruit & veggie bar, milk.

Homedale Middle

May 11: Chicken tenders or cf beef stk, potatoes/gravy, roll, fruit bar, milk.
May 12: Lasagna or hot pocket, French bread, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 15: Hamburger or hot dog, fries, fruit bar, cookie, milk.
May 16: Rice bowl w/chicken or egg rolls, steamed veggies, fruit bar, fortune cookie, milk.
May 17: Burrito or fish patty, corn, fruit & veggie bar, turnover, milk.

Homedale High

May 11: Chicken patty or hamburger/bun, potato wedges, fruit & veggie bar, dessert, milk.
May 12: Chicken taco or French dip sandwich, corn, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 15: Pizza or quesadilla or chef’s salad, dessert, milk.
May 16: Chicken nuggets or egg rolls, rice, green beans, fruit & veggie bar, milk.
May 17: Idaho haystack or burrito, fruit & veggie bar, cinnamon roll, milk.

Marsing

May 11: Enchilada, buttered rice, salad, milk, egg rolls, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
May 12: Tacos, veggies, fruit, milk, chicken nuggets, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
May 15: Burritos, buttered rice, fruit, milk, hamburger, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
May 16: Red Baron pizza, salad, fruit, milk, baked potato & chili bar, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.
May 17: Sloppy Joes, fruited jello, veggies, milk, chicken patty/bun, salad bar 4th-12th, roll.

Bruneau

May 11: Ham & cheese bun, macaroni salad, fruit, cookie, milk.
May 12: Weiner wraps, fries, veggies, fruit, brownie, milk.
May 15: Chicken wrap, fried rice, stir fry veggie, fruit, milk.
May 16: Turkey sandwich, carrot sticks, raisins, oranges, cookie, milk.
May 17: Cook’s choice



Anniversary surprise

After 41 years of marriage, Homedale resident Patsy Renfro’s request for a riding lawnmower finally becomes a reality. Her husband, Dan, presented his bride with a brand-new riding lawnmower built and designed especially for her by Dan and family friend Larry Bauer, also of Homedale.

Grant helps Homedale library add audiobooks on CD to its collection

Visitors to Homedale Public Library soon will see more new audio books recorded on compact discs available for checkout, The CDs were furnished through funding from the Idaho Community Foundation, US Ecology Idaho and individual donors. The library has purchased 21 new unabridged audio books on CDs. “Books recorded on CDs are expensive,” librarian Margaret Fujishin said. “We appreciate very much receiving funds to help us purchase these popular items.” The library received \$200 from the Idaho Community Foundation as its share of a group grant received by the Valley Mountain

Library Consortium, a 15-member group of libraries in southwest Idaho. The consortium received \$3,000 from the Walter and Leona Dufresne Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation, which was to be shared equally among the 15 libraries. Consortium libraries are located in Homedale, Payette, Parma, Midvale, Garden Valley, Notus, Idaho City, New Plymouth, McCall, Council, Cascade, New Meadows, Emmett, Cambridge and Middleton. The Homedale library received \$250 for audio books from US Ecology Idaho, a hazardous waste management facility located in Owyhee County. The remainder of the project was funded by individual donations totaling \$47.47.

The library staff has noticed an increased demand for audio books on CDs in recent months. Patrons who have made use of the new items include an elderly sight-impaired woman whose favorite entertainment is listening to recorded books, and a young man whose brain was injured in a near-drowning. Other users of the new CDs include commuters who like to listen to books while driving to work. Many new cars are equipped with only CD players now, so the library’s books recorded on cassettes can’t be used. The new CDs include books in the genres of westerns, mysteries, humor, science fiction, short stories, suspense and general fiction.

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Aaron Tines
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Landowners group wants lawmakers to scrap species act

Idaho's Stewards of the Range among foes

“Fed up” landowners have said “enough” to feeble efforts by Congress to “fix” the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Now a coalition of property rights groups, led by the American Land Foundation, Stewards of the Range, the American Policy Center, Liberty Matters, and the PFUSA Grange have gathered more than 6,300 signatures to a letter calling for repeal of the ESA.

The letter is being delivered to Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. His committee will soon consider legislation championed by Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) to “update” and “improve” the ESA.

The House already has passed the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act (TESRA). The Senate is considering a bill sponsored by Crapo called the Collaboration and Recovery of Endangered Species Act (CRESA). While the House version makes at least a weak attempt to compensate landowners when the ESA is invoked, the Senate version offers nothing for them.

Both bills confirm the worst fears of landowners about how serious Congress is to actually addressing the real problems of the ESA.

The coalition opposes those legislative efforts to “fix” the ESA and, instead is calling for outright repeal of the existing law, saying there can be no fix of the

worst legislation ever produced by Congress.

Since its enactment in 1973, the ESA has penalized landowners unlucky enough to have an endangered species on their land. Farmers, ranchers, tree farmers, homeowners and others who harbor endangered species or habitat on their property are subjected to severe land-use restrictions that can lead to economic ruin.

“Rather than a solution to helping endangered species, the ESA has become a very powerful tool, used by radical environmentalists who want to stop literally any use of certain lands for any purpose,” said Dan Byfield, president of the American Land Foundation of Taylor, Texas. “The entire community of Klamath Falls, Ore., was literally choked to death as its water supply was shut off to protect a sucker fish that isn’t endangered.”

Yet, as Coalition leaders point out, all of the pain caused by the ESA to landowners is really for nothing as far as endangered species are concerned. “In the 33 years since the ESA has been on the books, just 34 of the nearly 1,300 U.S. species listed have made their way off of the endangered list,” said Margaret Hage Byfield, executive director of Stewards of the Range based in Idaho.

“Of this number, nine species are now extinct, 14 appear to have been improperly listed in the first place, and just 9 (.6 percent of all species listed) have recovered.”

The landowners’ letter to Congress can be viewed and signed online at www.repealesa.us.



Rodeo scholarships

Members of the Owyhee County Rodeo Board were on hand last weekend to award the board’s annual scholarships to three local athletes. This year’s winners are Homedale High School seniors Hailee Garrett, Wade Hyer and Kalon Lord. Left to right: director Jeff Hall, president Fred DeGeus, Hailee Garrett, Wade Hyer, Kalon Lord and director George Hyer. To be eligible, seniors must participate in rodeo, maintain at least a 2.50 grad- point average and submit their accomplishments along with an essay detailing their future plans. The scholarships are open to high school seniors from Marsing, Melba, Homedale, Rimrock and Jordan Valley. Photo by Gregg Garrett

Homedale schools to offer summer food service

The Homedale School District will present a summer food service program from June 12 to July 14.

Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m., and lunch from 11 a.m. to noon each day.

Meals will be served at Homedale Elementary School, 420 W. Washington Ave.

For more information on the summer food service program, call the Homedale School District office at (208) 337-4611.

Adrian High School seniors living it up

by AHS Journalism

The Adrian FFA chapter held its annual Open House Banquet. Guests at the banquet enjoyed pit-roasted pig and all the trimmings. The club continues to sell plants grown in its greenhouse as a fund-raiser.

The day all seniors have anticipated is here and, surprise, it is not graduation! Senior Project presentations are Friday.

Lagoon Beach and Lagoon

Park will be filled with screams of joy from Adrian High School seniors as they enjoy themselves Sunday through Tuesday on senior trip.

May is always a busy month as school comes to a close. Class night is May 23. Students are officially released on May 25. Graduation will be held at 6 p.m. May 28.

Visit www.adriansd.com/ for more information on Adrian High School.

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Pig weigh-in a sign of upcoming fair

As soon as one Owyhee County Fair is over, the next one is in the works. That's true not only for fair coordinators but also for the hundreds of children who show livestock during the weeklong event in Homedale.

In March, cattle were herded into the fairgrounds for the first weigh-in. This year, 29 cattle are enrolled for showing, which is only three more than last year.

But, swine and sheep numbers are up drastically from last year. Last week, 190 pigs were

weighed but only 116 are enrolled. 4-H members can have two animals before fair but only one animal will be allowed to show in August. Last year, 99 pigs were enrolled, three died and five did not make weight.

Sheep are also on the rise with 68 currently enrolled for the fair. Last year, 42 were enrolled, two died and five did not make weight.

The next weigh-in will be held June 2-3 for the sheep.

— CAB



Making weight

Chris Salove, Marsing, holds a pig as Scott Jensen, Owyhee County Extension Educator, gives it a shot and tags the animal. Over 190 pigs were weighed last week, which is in preparation for this August's Owyhee County Fair in Homedale. Submitted photo



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Schoolchildren learn from inaugural Homedale FFA expo

While most of their classmates were scouring town doing cleanup for Trojans Pride Day, members of the Homedale FFA chapter spent Friday passing on their knowledge.

Advisor Lori Harrison’s charges held an Ag Expo at the Owyhee County Fairgrounds for elementary schoolchildren from Homedale and Middleton.

It was the first Ag Expo for the 2-year-old chapter.

“We’re going to try to set it up every year,” Harrison said.

The Homedale Ag Expo was held the same day as the Marsing FFA Ag Expo. Harrison said while there were discussions with the FFA chapters in Marsing and Notus about a combined Ag Expos, this year worked out fine considering the cost of diesel fuel.

“We didn’t have to pay for any gas for our kids because they just walked down,” Harrison said, alluding to the close proximity of the county fairgrounds to the elementary school on Washington Avenue.

The Homedale FFA students gave presentations on different aspects of the livestock and agriculture industries, briefing the second- and third-graders on details of raising beef and dairy cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, horse and even bees. Another station dealt with the local apple industry, giving the children a chance to sample homemade apple sauce.

Harrison said the first part of the day was hectic for the Homedale FFA group. Middleton bused in about 100 children — more than were expected — so there was some improvisation. An extra learning stop — Harrison called it “an impromptu roping station” — was set up to entertain some of the children to prevent gridlock at the other stations.



Shaken and stirred

Homedale Elementary School students took a field trip down the street to the Owyhee County Fairgrounds on Friday where they learned about different aspects of agriculture during Homedale FFA’s first Ag Expo. Here, children shake jars of cream to create butter.

Children were ushered in small groups from station to station by two FFA chapter members.

But in a bit of comic relief, the roping station came in handy when one of the lambs got loose and FFA members had to rope and control the animal.

Harrison said the FFA spent about a week working on designing the stations and preparing their presentations. FFA boosters also helped by providing livestock for the event.

At the dairy station, the children learned about different dairy products and even got the opportunity to “churn” their own butter. The children vigorously shook jars filled with cream to mimic the churning action. Once the butter had set up, the children spread it on saltine crackers to sample their creation.

Harrison said about several

parties were contacted to help with the expo.

Campbell Tractor loaned a John Deere for one FFA member’s presentation on tractor safety.

Harrison’s family shipped cotton bolls from West Texas for another agricultural station where children were able to pick their own cotton.

The Idaho Beef Council provided a display designed to teach good eating habits by showing exactly how much fat content several foods have, including beef, McDonald’s fries, Fritos corn chips, Top Ramen and other items commonly found in supermarkets.

The Idaho Honey Association provided a box of bees and the display where students heard information on how much effort insects put into making honey and how important the bees’ act of pollination is for other agricultural industries to thrive.

Sue and Dave Williams from Owyhee Dairy supplied pigs and cattle, while George and Dolly Hyer furnished horses and sheep were provided by Duane and Tracy Fisher.

“We had awesome adult help,” Harrison said.

— JB

Homedale FFA news

The Homedale FFA’s banquet was held on April 27, and was a spectacular ending to a great year.

Food was served to all who came, and the ceremony began immediately afterward. Everyone also had the great pleasure of listening to the guest speaker, Sara Malaisi, this year’s Idaho state FFA president.

Afterward, FFA members received many different awards, as well as the superb people who have sponsored and have helped out the Homedale FFA through the year.

The award recipients were:

Discovery Degree — Nikole D’Alessio; Jessie Eubanks; Megan Harper; Dylan Kushlan; Summer Megargee; Ashlynn Uria

Greenhand Degree — Sierra Aberasturi; Rachelle Christoffersen; Bri Cornwall; Taryn Corta; Kindra Eidemiller; Austin Emry; Laken Hiser; Rye Hyer; Hannah Johnson; Ashli Kesler; Mikal Mackenzie; Mitch Quintana; Kendall Rupp; Erika Shanley; Victoria Stephens; Greg Truesdell; Ulysses Vargas; Jessica Will; Steve Williams

Rye Hyer and Kendall Rupp both received the Star Greenhand award, for their outstanding performance on their supervised agriculture experience (SAE) projects and their hard work throughout the year.

Chapter Degree — Cheyanne Andrade; Alysha Bahem; Kortney Bahem; Sarah Black; John Bittick; Jason Christoffersen; Mandy Gibbs; Jessica Hansen; Mat Hansen; Wade Hyer; Treece McClintic; Jacob McRae; Heath Phelps; Ryan Rupp

Scholarship Awards (3.0 or higher cumulative GPA) — Jessie Eubanks; Ashlynn Uria; Megan Harper; Dylan Kushlan; Summer Megargee; Alex Mereness; Sierra Aberasturi; Rachelle Christoffersen; Bri Cornwall; Taryn Corta; Austin Emry; Rye Hyer; Hannah Johnson; Ashli Kesler; Mikal Mackenzie; Mitch Quintana; Kendall Rupp; Erika Shanley; Alysha Bahem; Kortney Bahem; Sarah Black; John Bittick; Mandy Gibbs; Jessica Hansen; Mat Hansen; Wade Hyer; Jacob McRae; Ryan Rupp; Heath

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Letter Awards (outstanding participation and SAEs) — **First-year recipients:** Jessie Eubanks; Megan Harper; Dylan Kushlan; Summer Megargee; Taryn Corta; Austin Emry; Laken Hiser; Hannah Johnson; Ashli Kesler; Ulysses Vargas. **Second-year recipients:** Rye Hyer; Rachelle Christoffersen; Mitch Quintana; Kendall Rupp; Erika Shanley; Steven Williams; Cheyanne Andrade; Kortney Bahem; Sarah Black; John Bittick; Mandy Gibbs; Jessica Hansen; Mat Hansen; Wade Hyer; Jacob McRae; Heath Phelps; Ryan Rupp

Top individuals on each Career Development Events were recognized with the CDE Award: Rangeland Evaluation — Wade Hyer; Farm Business Management — Jessica Hansen; Foods — Kortney Bahem; Landscape Design — Mandy Gibbs; Dairy Cattle — Jessica Hansen; Ag. Mechanics — Matt Hansen; Extemporaneous speaking — Kortney Bahem; FFA Creed — Mitch Quintana; Prepared Speaking — Jessica Hansen; Ag. Sales — Ulysses Vargas; Job Interview — Kortney Bahem

Other awards included:

Kortney Bahem received the Star Chapter Farmer award for her hard work and dedication to the chapter. Mandy Gibbs received the Work Horse award, for her participation and work she put into the chapter. Jessica Hansen won the Dekalb Award, sponsored by the Monsanto Inc., and received a \$200 scholarship sponsored by the chapter for winning the Dekalb.

Proficiency awards were given out to members with the most outstanding SAE projects:

Beef Entrepreneurship: Jessica Hansen

Horse Entrepreneurship: Kortney Bahem

The Star Agribusiness award was received by Jessica Hansen.

Kurt Shanley and Dwayne Fisher both received embroidered coats this year for being the top buyers at Homedale FFA’s annual slave auction.

Honorary Degrees were also given to Patti Zattica, Dave and Sue Williams, and Ken and Sylvia Bahem for the donations, time and hard work they contributed to the Homedale FFA Chapter this year.

The ceremony ended with the Honorary Degrees. Thank you to everyone who has helped the Homedale FFA Chapter through the second year, and we hope to have your help in our upcoming year.

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Contributions galore for Marsing Ag Expo

More than 500 students attend two-day event to learn agriculture

by CC Zanardi
Marsing FFA

Oh my goodness what is that smell? That smell was the farm animals brought to the Marsing Ag Shop for the annual Ag Expo last week.

Marsing FFA hosted the annual Ag Expo on Thursday and Friday and invited more than 500 children to get a hands-on experience with different kinds of animals, such as pigs, sheep, cows, horses, rabbits, chickens and even donkeys.

Not only did the students get a hands-on experience with the animals, they also got to play with siphon tubes and make agricultural bracelets.

The Ag Expo is a great time to show kids what life is like with the animals and teach them about each aspect of agriculture, event coordinators said.

Jessica Elsberry and Bobby Carter co-chaired this event, putting countless hours of preparation in the months leading up to the expo.

Daniel Ineck, Alicia Ponce, Bethany Sevy, Ellie Collett, Breanna Cobiskey, Josefina Jacobo, Kelsey Cook, Megan Anderson, Dana Bramlette, Marcus Miller, Jennifer Pfeifer, Dixie Kent, Zanardi, Carter, Ethan Sauer, Andrea Evans and Kaya Stahle, volunteered to help with the expo.

Some of the animals' owners are Kallie Roeser, bringing LaFaunda, the goat, Teresa Eells, who brought five rabbits and Yoda, the goat. Sean Finley proudly brought Princess and her 10 Lab puppies.

Neils and Bernard VanEs brought three Holstein calves from the VanEs Dairy. Idaho Fish and Game Hatchery delivered a tank full of trout that will later be released into the Marsing Island Park Pond.

"Again this is just the few of many people who volunteered to bring their animals for the kids," Zanardi said. "Marsing FFA members in the greenhouse taught kids about all the different kinds of plants and how we use the greenhouse in Botany class. As well as, members taught kids about tractor safety (and) helped them make agricultural bracelets."

During the Ag Expo, Marsing FFA advisor, Jason Nettleton barbecued for all the hungry volunteers, and members said he was a good cook.

"Lets just say I would eat his hamburgers over any fast-food restaurant any day," Zanardi said.

"We at the Marsing FFA chapter would like to extend a huge thank-you to all the great support that so many people have given to make this such a wonderful event."



Learning about Ag life
Top: Marsing FFA member Sean Finley plays *Batter Up For Beef*, a game to help elementary school students learn about the benefits of beef. **Below:** Marsing FFA chapter member Daniel Ineck speaks to elementary school students about tractor safety. Photos by Kallie Roeser



Ag jewelry
Bethany Sevy, left, and Dixie Kent from the Marsing FFA chapter help students build agriculture bracelets during the Ag Expo last week. Photo by Kallie Roeser



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Owyhee Reservoir nears capacity

Officials: Expect a huge water year

With a little rain Sunday and Monday and melting snow in the higher elevations, Owyhee Reservoir is now full.

Less than an inch of rain fell in the area during the weekend, but warm temperatures brought snow levels down to nearly nothing on South Mountain. At the beginning of the week, Snowpack Telemetry, also called SNOTEL, sites recorded 18.1 inches in the area, but by Monday, only 3.8 inches remained on the ground.

Officials recorded water entering the basin at the rate of 4,885 cubic feet per second at Rome, Ore. Water is being released from the Owyhee Dam at the rate of 2,810 cfs — 115 percent of a 30-year average. The reservoir is about two-tenths of a percent from capacity, holding 712,451 acre-feet of water.

Rain is not expected for the remainder of the week, but temperatures are expected to climb to near 80 degrees by the weekend.

Water levels on the Snake River will continue to run high for at least the next 30 days while officials try to open additional storage in the Upper Snake River

Weather

	H	L	Prec.
May 2	72	30	
May 3	62	28	
May 4	68	33	
May 5	70	33	
May 6	no	read	
May 7	no	read	
May 8	79	35	.30

region.
Ron Abramovich from the Natural Resources Conservation Service said last week that Idaho is experiencing its most positive water year since 1999.

“This is a change from the last seven years where water users weren’t necessarily receiving all of their allocation,” said Abramovich, an NRCS water supply specialist. “We could easily be there again next year, depending on precipitation and snow pack.”

Abramovich said while the above-average stream flows are causing flooding in some areas, water users such as farmers, irrigators, river runners and hydropower producers, will have plenty of water to meet their needs this year.

Abundant moisture in April made streams rise and brought

more snow to melt this year. Rain combined with low-elevation snowmelt produced rapid increases in stream flows and flooding in some basins.

All this means big water for 2006, Abramovich said.

“The highest stream flow forecasts are at 170 percent of average for Salmon Falls Creek and Oakley Reservoir inflow,” Abramovich said. “The Big Wood, Little Wood and Big Lost rivers are forecast at 150-165 percent of average while the Salmon, Weiser, Payette and Boise rivers are forecast at 125-140 percent.

Additional releases are being made from most of Idaho’s reservoirs to provide room for the high runoff.

The good conditions offer a variety of choices for recreation. Some resort skiers and backcountry skiers will enjoy an extra month or more of skiing.

Meanwhile, river runners can expect a prolonged season — beginning with early desert canyon streams, then mid-season high water runs, prolonged above-average flows through late summer on the main Salmon, and then early fall in the Payette and South Fork Snake rivers.

— CAB

Water report

Reynolds Creek

Date	Snow Depth (inches)	YTD Precip. (inches)
05/02	0.0	18.9
05/03	0.0	18.9
05/04	0.0	18.9
05/05	0.0	18.9
05/06	0.0	19.1
05/07	0.1	18.9
05/08	0.0	19.3

South Mountain

Date	Snow Depth (inches)	YTD Precip. (inches)
05/02	18.1	38.5
05/03	15.9	38.6
05/04	12.9	38.6
05/05	11.6	38.6
05/06	8.2	38.6
05/07	5.4	38.6
05/08	3.8	39.0

Mud Flat

Date	Snow Depth (inches)	YTD Precip. (inches)
05/02	0.0	20.1
05/03	0.0	20.1
05/04	0.0	20.1
05/05	0.0	20.1
05/06	0.5	20.1
05/07	0.1	20.2
05/08	0.5	20.2

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Fifth-graders experience nature's resources during Owyhee Field Day

High-water changes can't dampen lessons

During the past five years, the Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) has given fifth-grade students from Idaho and Oregon a first-hand look into the world of agriculture.

Nearly 600 students from 14 schools in the area traveled to Owyhee Reservoir on Thursday, and to Ontario's Beck Kiwanis Park on Friday, for the annual Owyhee Field Day event, which is hosted by the OWC's education committee.

High water forced some changes to this year's event, which was moved from its usual locale at Owyhee Dam Park to a park above the dam and to the park in Ontario. Coordinators said although the move made for hectic logistics, the event was still a huge success.

Stations were set up throughout the park Thursday as students from schools in Homedale, Arock, Pleasant Valley, Jordan Valley and elsewhere attended the all-day event.

Water quality, irrigation management, water use and water sources were manned with professionals who were able to introduce watershed management to the students. Additional stations included rangeland management, officials from the Bureau of Land Management showed students how crews fight wild fires, and officials on crop and livestock production and noxious weeds introduced the children to their professions in agriculture.

Students were treated to a short boat trip on provided by the Malheur County Sheriff's Office, a rafting ride with Ryan Martin, Tiffany Hipwell and Lloyd Lamb, and backcountry survival

training with the Malheur County Search and Rescue Team. Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center's Life Flight even made an appearance.

Jordan Valley Historian Mike Hanley also attended with his wife Linda's Yellowstone Stagecoach pulled by four thoroughbred horses. Hanley also gave students a quick history lesson.

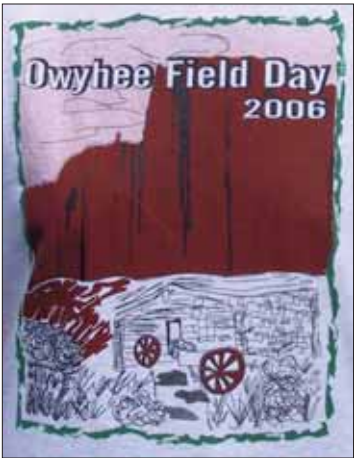
Trish Nixon from the Peregrine Fund brought Chase, a falcon, and showed students how a bird of prey is built for hunting with its talons, vision and its ability to see in every direction by turning its head in all directions.

"It gives Owyhee and Treasure Valley fifth-graders a day of fun, hands-on and place-based education," Jennifer Martin, coordinator from the OWC said. "The Owyhee Watershed Council aims to promote balanced information about the natural resources that the local people depend on and work to protect."

Other agencies represented at the event were: the Oregon State University Malheur County Extension Service and Experiment Station; the University of Idaho Extension Service; government trappers; the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; the Vale District and Idaho BLM; the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District; the Owyhee Irrigation District and South Board of Control of the Owyhee Project; Jordan Valley Cooperative Weed Management Area; Malheur County Weed Board and Idaho Weed Awareness Program.

Each year, students from the area submit sketches to be considered as artwork for T-shirts given to each schoolchild who participates in the field day. This year, Irene Stanford from Arock won with her rendition of a farmhouse at the base of a rock cliff.

— CAB



Children learn about watershed

Clockwise from top: Rex Barrie, South Board of Control and Jay Chamberlain, Owyhee Irrigation District, explain the importance of the aquifer. Ryan Martin, Owyhee Watershed Council and Mark Carpenter, Soil Water Conservation District, show students how to start siphon tubes at the irrigation station. The contest-winning T-shirt designed by Irene Stanford from Arock.



River runners

Fifth grade students paddle rafts on Owyhee Reservoir Thursday with instructors Steve Boren, Tiffany Hipwell and Lloyd Lamb during the fifth annual Owyhee Watershed Council field day.

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Walnut-Balsamic Vinaigrette

- 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1/3 cup walnut oil
- 2 1/2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon roasted garlic purée
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 pound grilled chicken breast strips
- 3 cups fresh California strawberries, stemmed and sliced
- 3 cups thoroughly cleaned, thinly sliced fennel bulb
- 3 cups shredded radicchio
- 3/4 cup basil leaves
- 1 1/2 cups toasted walnut halves

To make vinaigrette, in blender or food processor, purée oils, vinegar, garlic purée, salt and pepper until emulsified. In large bowl, toss chicken, strawberries, fennel, radicchio, basil and walnuts with vinaigrette. To serve, mound equal amounts of salad on 6 plates.

Makes 6 servings

Berry Delicious

Fresh, gorgeous-red California strawberries can brighten Mom's Day and any occasion all year-round.

Did you know that ...

- A healthy indulgence, one serving of strawberries has more vitamin C than an orange and less sugar than other top fruits.
 - Strawberries can be enjoyed for breakfast, lunch and dinner in both sweet and savory dishes.
 - Strawberries and cream is the classic English dessert served at Wimbledon.
 - Strawberries also pair well with lemon, rhubarb, vanilla, chocolate and other berries in desserts.
 - Kids rate strawberries as their favorite fruit. (USDA fruit and vegetable research)
 - A daily serving of strawberries may reduce the risk of heart disease and some cancers, and improve memory.
- For hundreds of strawberry recipes, check out www.calstrawberry.com.

Take a Sip of the Land Down Under

Food and Wine Pairing Guide

From South Australia's finest vineyards comes Black Opal wines — rich, sophisticated, smooth and remarkably friendly. Their Chardonnay, Cabernet Merlot, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Shiraz deliciously complement foods not only for summer entertaining but for all seasons.

- **Chardonnay** is crisp with aromas of peach, melon and citrus. Pair with a Chicken, Strawberry and Fennel Salad.
- **Cabernet Merlot** is rich with cherry and plum flavors, a hint of chocolate and a subtle touch of oak. Enjoy with sweet and spicy ribs.
- **Shiraz** is rich with aromas of blackberry, pepper and spice followed with rich plum flavors to round out the palate. Serve with spicy grilled meats or seafood.
- **Cabernet Sauvignon** is a classic Australian red wine made from the world's most noble red variety. Pair with a celebratory prime rib or a great steak.
- **Shiraz Cabernet** is a rich wine full of berry, pepper and spice. Enjoy with grilled steak and roasted vegetables.

For more information, visit www.blackopalwines.com.

FAMILY FEATURES

Try a new menu idea for Mother's Day — or bridal showers, graduations, dinner parties and other festive summer occasions — by pairing sweet bites with savory sips. The combination of ruby red strawberries and smooth, friendly wines might sound unique, but the pairing goes back hundreds of years. Noted 16th-century herbalist John Gerard wrote that together, strawberries and wine “make the heart merry.” That's just what you want when you celebrate life's most cherished moments.

So surprise your guests with a Roasted Strawberry Sundae and its deep, rich chocolate sauce heightened by Shiraz. Pour a glass of Chardonnay to enjoy with Chicken, Strawberry and Fennel Salad. Or simply heap fresh strawberries in a glass bowl and splash them with Cabernet Merlot. Then, raise a glass to a long and happy life!

Roasted Strawberry Sundae

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 25 minutes

Roasted Strawberry Sauce

- 4 1/2 cups (about 1 1/2 pounds) fresh California strawberries, stemmed and quartered, divided
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 vanilla bean

Chocolate Sauce

- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 3 tablespoons water
- 3/4 cup heavy cream
- 5 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 tablespoon Black Opal Shiraz wine
- 9 cups vanilla ice cream
- 1 1/2 cups (about 1/2 pound) fresh California strawberries, stemmed and quartered

To make strawberry sauce, heat oven to 350°F. In blender, purée 1 1/2 cups strawberries; strain through fine-meshed strainer, pushing on strawberry purée with spoon. Combine purée with remaining strawberries and sugar. Slit vanilla bean lengthwise and scrape out seeds; add bean and seeds to strawberry mixture. Let stand 10 minutes.

Remove vanilla bean and transfer mixture to shallow baking dish large enough to hold strawberries in one layer. Roast in oven about 20 minutes, or until strawberries are cooked and juices have reduced to syrup.

To make chocolate sauce, in saucepan bring sugar and water to boil. Reduce heat and simmer until sugar dissolves. Add cream and chocolate. Cook over low heat, stirring, until chocolate melts. Remove from heat; add wine.

Spoon 2 tablespoons chocolate sauce in bottom of each of 6 sundae glasses. Add 3/4-cup scoop ice cream; top with 2 tablespoons strawberry sauce. Repeat layers. Top with 1/4 cup fresh strawberries.

Makes 6 sundaes





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