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Caldwell
BRIDGING COMMUNITY & COMMERCE
PERSPECTIVE

Edition 144 I NOVEMBER 2026

Bluebird Confections p4 CofI International Students p6 Rake-Up Caldwell p9

CALDWELL BOYS SOCCER WINS BACK-TO-BACK STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Toni Ferro







Upper left: Caldwell Coach Rhys Yeakley accepting the 5A State Boys Soccer trophy
Upper right: Caldwell Boys Soccer Graduating Seniors
Other photos: Caldwell players fighting hard during the state championship game against the Sandpoint Bulldogs at the Field of Dreams Recreation Complex in Ponderay, Idaho

Tournament photos by Jack Freeman, Senior group photo by Jennifer Martinez

The Caldwell High School Boys Soccer team brought home a State Championship for the second year in a row after losing just one game all season, their very first game.

Coach Yeakley pointed out that losing that first game, was a wake up call for the team. After winning the 6A state tournament last year, and being moved down to 5A due to lower enrollment, the team started out feeling confident. But after that first loss, the team realized "oh, this is not going to be easy, we're going to have to work." After that first game, Yeakley says "everybody bought in and worked hard."

Yeakley explained that the top teams in the 5A division are just as good as the teams in the 6A division and so a 5A state championship takes just as much commitment and effort as a 6A state championship. And the team faced challenges this year they didn't have last year. Last year they were coming off a losing season and weren't seen as a threat. This year, they had to be ready to perform well in every game, because the other teams had their sights set on beating them.

Caldwell boys soccer will be graduating 13 seniors this year, but Coach Yeakley was quick to say that lower classmen are ready to step in and take over where these seniors have left off.

And indeed, these seniors leave behind some big shoes to fill. Senior center back and team co-captain, Sergio Gaxiola, was named the 5A District III player of the year and is one of the top two or three players in any classification in the state. (He is currently looking at colleges and we'll keep you posted on where he signs.)

Other all-conference honors went to senior Luis Alonso - 1st team midfield and team co-captain, senior Walter Romero - 1st team midfield, junior Marcelino Flores - 1st team midfield and team co-captain, junior Alex Housel - 2nd team defense, senior Joey India - honorable mention defense, senior Octavio Sandoval - honorable mention midfield, junior Uriel Amaya - honorable mention midfield, and senior Yandel Ortega, honorable mention forward.

Other graduating seniors include Angel Villafana, Oliver Porter, Alexis Garcia, and Phillip Morales.

Coach Yeakley was honored as the 5A District III Coach of the year as was Caldwell Girls Soccer Coach, Katelyn Benavidez-Schulte.

In addition, Coach Yeakley and his longtime assistant coach, Tony Villegas were recognized earlier in the season for their 200th career win. This makes Yeakley one of the winningest soccer coaches in Idaho history, though the record, held by Richard Whitelaw of Sun Valley is 360 games.

Yeakley doesn't have his eye on Whitelaw's record, but he's not planning to stop coaching soccer anytime soon. It's the kids that keep him coming back. He says many of the Caldwell kids are dealing with serious hardships in their home lives and as a result the coaching staff and the team become like family. And this family dynamic contributes to their success on the field.

Yeakley's family is a big part of the team as well. His wife handles most of the off-the-field team logistics as well as their social media page and also loves doing the work because of the kids.

Congratulations to the entire coaching staff and the entire team on another great season and another State Championship! We look forward to rooting for you again next year. Go Cougs!



Caldwell COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



Submit calendar items to calendar@caldwellperspective.com
Events must take place in Caldwell, be open to the public, be non-partisan and cost $25/person or less (with some exceptions for advertisers).

For updates and details, visit our Caldwell Community Calendar online at caldwellperspective.com/community-calendar

Repeating Events

TUESDAYS

FamilySearch Center: Free Family History Help
1-4 pm, 3015 S Kimball

Community Dinner at Caldwell Church of Christ
6-7:30 pm, 4012 S 10th

Senior Center Bingo
6-7:30 pm, 1009 Everett

WEDNESDAYS

FamilySearch Center: Free Family History Help
6-8:30pm, 3015 S Kimball

THURSDAYS

Coffee Klatch at the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall
8-11 am, 1101 Cleveland

FamilySearch Center: Free Family History Help
1-4 pm, 3015 S Kimball

Celebrate Recovery
6 pm, 17703 Beet Rd, Deer Flat Free Methodist Church

FRIDAYS

Magic the Gathering Commander Casual at Rubaiyat
5-9 pm, 314 S 6th

SATURDAYS

Magic the Gathering Commander Casual at Rubaiyat
1-11 pm, 314 S 6th

Individual Events

SATURDAY 10/31

Halloween

Spooktacular Trail Challenge
9 am-4 pm, One Mane Ranch, 29710 Farmway

Celebrate Gigi's Birthday w/ Treats and Spooky Pictures
11 am-6 pm, Gigi's Corner, 215 S 9th

Halloween Candy & Wine Pairing at Fujishin Winery
noon-6 pm, 17543 Allendale Rd, Wilder

Book and Candy Booth at Rubaiyat
noon-10 pm, 314 S 6th, show off your costume for a free book

Harvest Festival at Calvary Chapel
4-6 pm, 911 Everett

Victory Outreach Harvest Fest
5-8 pm, 2904 Cleveland Blvd

Scaryoke For All Ages at the Senior Center
5:30-9 pm, 1009 Everett, $10 includes food

Requiem Haunted House
7:30 pm-midnight, 810 Main, $25

Haunted Trails
8-11 pm, 1923 KCID, $15

Vern's Lounge Halloween Bash
8 pm-1 am, 120 S 7th

Halloween at Roots
8 pm-1 am, 508 Main St



SUNDAY 11/1

Sunday Sips & Sounds at Ste Chapelle Winery
1-4 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd

MONDAY 11/2

City Council Meeting
6-8 pm, Caldwell City Hall, 205 S 6th, Livestream: *youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178/streams*

TUESDAY 11/3

Election Day
8 am-8 pm, find your polling place at *voteidaho.gov*

WEDNESDAY 11/4

Rainbow Circle LGBTQ+ Support and Advocacy Group at Shared Stories
7-8:30 pm, 106 S Kimball

Graphic Novel Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

THURSDAY 11/5

Romantasy Book Clawb at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

SATURDAY 11/7

C of I Natural History Museum Noon Seminar: "The Ecology of Disturbance"
noon-1:30 pm, Boone 103, 2112 Cleveland Blvd

MONDAY 11/9

Canyon County Stars Square Dance Club
7-9 pm, Caldwell Senior Citizen Center, 1009 Everett, $7

Fantasy Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

WEDNESDAY 11/11

Weaver's Guild Study Group at the Rubaiyat
11 am-2 pm, 314 S 6th

Horror Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

THURSDAY 11/12

Fall Mountains Paint & Sip at Williamson Orchard and Vineyards
5:30-8:30 pm, 14807 Sunny Slope Rd

A Courtly Book Club at Shared Stories
7-8:30 pm, 106 S Kimball

Southwest Idaho Birders Association Club Meeting
7-8 pm, 13751 Upper Embankment Rd, Nampa

FRIDAY 11/13

Caldwell Holiday Craft Bazaar
10 am-5 pm, 2207 Blaine

Paint your own wood Nutcracker at Gigi's Corner
6-8 pm, 215 S 9th, $20/$30/$40 based on size

FRIDAY 11/13 (cont.)

Stories Under the Stars at Whittenberger Planetarium
7-8 pm, Boone Hall, C of I, 2112 Cleveland Blvd

SATURDAY 11/14

SIBA Field Trip to Ted Trueblood WMA and CJ Strike Reservoir
7 am-3 pm, 6584 S Federal Way, Boise, Register at *SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com*

Rock, Jewelry, and Craft Show by the Owyhee Gem and Mineral Society
9 am-5 pm, Elks Lodge, 1015 N Kimball, Free

Holiday Bazaar — Sanctuary Cowboy Church
9 am-3 pm, 912 W Linden

Community Food Drive
9 am-noon drop off, City Hall Parking Lot, 205 S 6th

Rake Up Caldwell
9 am-noon City Hall Parking Lot, 205 S 6th, call/text 208-614-8286 for more info

Caldwell Holiday Craft Bazaar
10 am-5 pm, 2207 Blaine

A Mix of Creativity Art, Craft and Gift Market
10 am-4 pm, Fortaleza Event Center, 711 Cleveland Blvd

Middle Grade Book Club at Shared Stories
noon-1 pm, 106 S Kimball

Saturday Spiritual Support Group
6-9 pm, 211 Logan St, B1-1

Trivia Night: Sports Theme at Sawtooth Winery
6-8 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd

MONDAY 11/16

City Council Meeting
6:00-8:30 pm, Caldwell City Hall, 205 S 6th, Livestream: *youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178/streams*

Nonfiction Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

TUESDAY 11/17

Puzzle Palooza at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

WEDNESDAY 11/18

Bilingual Historical Fiction Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

Gardening Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

THURSDAY 11/19

Will J. Burton LIVE at 2C Wine Down
5:30-7:30 pm, 113 S 7th Ave

Romance Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

FRIDAY 11/20 through SUNDAY 11/22

Winter Wonderland at Indian Creek Plaza
See ad on the back page

FRIDAY 11/20

Author Reading & Book Release Signing with Mitch Wieland at Shared Stories
6-7:30 pm, 106 S Kimball

SATURDAY 11/21

P.E.O. Annual Holiday Bazaar
9 am-3 pm, 603 Everett

Vallivue High School Holiday Craft Fair
9 am-2:30 pm, 1407 E Homedale Rd

SUNDAY 11/22

Liberty Quartet — Southern Gospel Concert
6-8 pm, Canyon Hill Church of the Nazarene, 903 N Michigan

MONDAY 11/23

Canyon County Stars Square Dance Club
7-9 pm, Caldwell Senior Citizen Center, 1009 Everett, $7

WEDNESDAY 11/25

Classics Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

THURSDAY 11/26

Thanksgiving

Turkey Day 5K Run/Walk
9-11 am, Memorial Park, 619 Irving, $18-$40

FRIDAY 11/27

Thanksgiving Barrel Tasting Weekend
noon-5 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner, $30

Ballet Idaho's The Nutcracker: In A Nutshell
1pm and 7pm, Jewett Auditorium, C of I, 2112 Cleveland Blvd, $19/$33/$44
caldwellfinearts.org

Resume Workshop at ID Dept of Labor
2-3 pm, 4514 Thomas Jefferson

Clara's Tea Party
2:30pm and 5:30pm, Langroise Hall, C of I, 2112 Cleveland Blvd, $16
caldwellfinearts.org

SATURDAY 11/28

Thanksgiving Barrel Tasting Weekend
10am brunch $65, noon-5 pm $30, 16473 Chicken Dinner

Ballet Idaho's The Nutcracker: In A Nutshell
1pm and 7pm, Jewett Auditorium, C of I, 2112 Cleveland Blvd, $19/$33/$44
caldwellfinearts.org

calendar continues>



YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

HOW TO REACH US

By Mail: P.O. Box 922
Caldwell, Idaho 83606
By Phone: 208-484-8286
Online: www.caldwellperspective.com

SUBMISSIONS

Stories: We welcome story submissions. Your story should be about Caldwell, be ~650 words or less, and include a photo. Submit your story idea by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next month's edition and submit the story itself by the 25th. (We reserve the right to not run stories that don't fit our mission.)
Email: Leora Summers, *editor@caldwellperspective.com*

If you have a story you would like us to cover, email Leora Summers, *editor@caldwellperspective.com*.

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LOCATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

We mail the *Caldwell Perspective* to over 12,000 homes and businesses each month through the Post Office using Every Door Direct Mail.

If you are not in our distribution area, you can pick up a copy at any of the locations below or subscribe ($48 annually) by going to *caldwellperspective.com*.

Downtown and Surroundings

Chamber of Commerce - 702 Chicago
Java Station - 1016 E Chicago
Mr. V's - 407 N 10th
Rubaiyat bookstore - 314 S 6th
Shared Stories bookstore - 106 S Kimball
Veteran's Hall - 1101 Cleveland

20-26 (East side of Caldwell)

Covey Cafe - 5017 US-20/26
Les Schwab Tires - 803 Haystack Way
La Quinta - 901 Specht
Best Western- 908 Specht
Cattleman's Cafe - 1901 E Chicago
Commercial Tire - 320 N 21st

College/Fair Area and Surroundings

Bluebird Confections - 2016 Blaine
Boise Fry Company - 2110 Blaine
Caldwell Bowl - 2121 Blaine
Les Schwab - 315 S 22nd
Mancino's - 2412 Cleveland
McLeary's Pub - 2502 Cleveland
Ron's Natural Foods - 3110 Cleveland
Stewart's Bar and Grill - 2805 Blaine
Sunrise Cafe - 2601 Cleveland
The Sweet Spot Bakery - 2514 Cleveland

Other locations

Elks Lodge - 1015 N Kimball
Jack Henry - 2621 S 10th
Marco's Pizza - 2609 S 10th
AMP Quilting and Longarming - 2603 Fallcrest

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit calendar items to *calendar@caldwellperspective.com*.

Events must take place in Caldwell, be open to the public, be non-partisan, and cost $25/person or less (with some exceptions for advertisers).



Interwest Supply

- Pivots
- K-Line
- Wheeline & More!

VALLEY

Connor Demond (208) 899-6216
Chris Hoagland (208) 880-4535
Garth Frederick (208) 899-0197

20488 Pinto Lane Caldwell, Id
(208) 453-9155

CALDWELL PUBLIC Library EVENTS

1010 Dearborn, Caldwell, ID 83605
208 454 3242
https://www.caldwellpubliclibrary.org

M-Th: 10 AM-9 PM
Fri : 10 AM-6 PM
Sat: 10 AM-5 PM
Sun: 2-5 PM

Events in the Community Room unless noted
Programs are free and open to the public
Books for book clubs available at the desk

Ask about reading challenges
Color Code: Kid Teen Adult All Ages
***Indicates a new event**

Some precincts will vote in the Community Room from 8 am to 8 pm on Tuesday, Nov 3. The library will be closed Nov 11 for Veterans' Day and Nov 26 & 27 for Thanksgiving.

MONDAYS

***Career & Professional Writing**: Nov 2, 10 am-noon | Ages 16+, Idaho Room,
Baby Story Time: Nov 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10 am, 10:45 am, and 11:30 am | Ages 0-2
Youth Chess Club: Nov 9, 4-5 pm | Ages 6-17
Knitting & Crochet Social: Nov 9, 16, 23, and 30, 1:30-3 pm | Ages 18+
Teen Book Club: Nov 16, 5:30-6:30 pm Ages 13-17, *Holes* by Louis Sachar
Little Page Turners Book Club: Nov 23, 6-7 pm | Ages 6-8

TUESDAYS

Spanish & English Storytime: Nov 10, 16, 24, and Dec 1, 10:30 am | Ages 2-6
Board Game Night: Nov 3, 6:30-8:30 pm | All Ages, at the Flying M, 724 Arthur
Lego Club: Lego Potluck Feast, Nov 10, 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 7-16
Paws to Read: Read to a dog, Nov 17, 5-6 pm | Ages 7-14, Children's Area.
***English Translation & Phrases for Spanish Speakers**: Nov 24, 2:30-3:30 pm | Ages 18+, Idaho Room
***Strategic Leadership Workshop**: Nov 24, 7 pm | Ages 18+

WEDNESDAYS

***Tiny Tunes & Tumbles:** Nov 4, 18, 25, and Dec 2, 10 am | Ages 1-2
Music and Movement: Nov 4, 18, 25 and Dec 2, 10:45 am | Ages 2-6
Afterschool Fun: Nov 4, Give Thanks with the Master Gardeners; Nov 18, Caldwell Fine Arts: Nutcracker Ballerinas; Nov 25, Fall Forest Art; Dec 2, TBA; from 3:30-4:30 pm, | Ages 5-12
Pajama Storytime: Nov 4, 18, 25 and Dec 2, 7 pm | Ages 2-6
Tech Lab: Nov 18, 10 am-Noon | Ages 18+
Caldwell Public Library at the Senior Center: Nov 18, 11 am | Senior Center, 1009 Everett

THURSDAYS

Little Learners K-Readiness Book Club: Nov 5 and possibly, Dec. 3, at 10:30 am | Ages 3-5
Teen Thursday: Nov 5, Board Games; Nov 12, Linocut Art; Nov 19, Soapmaking; Dec 3, TBA, 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 13-17
Preschool Storytime: Nov 12, 19, and Dec 3 at 10:30 am | Ages 3-5
Thursday Book Club: Nov 12, 2 pm or Nov 19, 6:30 pm | Ages 18+, Idaho Room, *Weyward* by Emilia Hart
Outreach Book Club: Nov 12, 6 pm, | Ages 18+
Farmway Afterschool Program: Nov 12, 4:30-6:30 pm | All Ages, Community Room, 22730 Farmway Rd
***Master Gardeners Movie Night**: Nov 12, 7 pm, | Ages 18+, "Farmacy of Light" in the Idaho Room
***The Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping Release Party**: Nov 19, 6:30 pm | Ages 13-17, Teen Zone

FRIDAYS

Tai Chi & Qigong: Nov 6, 13, 20 and Dec 4, 10 am | Ages 18+
Young Knitters Club: Nov 6, 13, 20 and Dec 4, 4 pm | Ages 8-14, Idaho Room
***Sensory Storytime**: Nov 6, 11:30 am | Ages 2-6
***Adulting 101**: Nov 6, Research skills, 4 pm | Ages 15+
Yoga for Wellbeing: Nov 13, 1 pm | Ages 18+
Adult Lego Club: Nov 13, 4:30 pm | Ages 16+
Ping Pong Club: Nov 20, 3-5 pm | All ages

SATURDAYS

Yoga Storytime: Nov 14, 11 am | Ages 5-12
***Family Art Together**: Nov 7, 2-3 pm | All ages
***Family Reading Week Kickoff**: Nov 14, 2-3 pm, Interactive History | All ages
Storytime around the World – United States: Nov 21, 2-3 pm | All Ages

Caldwell Community Calendar continued

SATURDAY 11/28 (cont.)

Clara's Tea Party
11:30am and 2:30pm, Langroise Hall, C of I, 2112 Cleveland Blvd, $16
caldwellfinearts.org

Dunning Estates 3rd Anniversary Party + Christmas Tree Lot Opening
noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln

Harvest Party at Huston Vineyards
noon-5 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd, $25

SUNDAY 11/29

Dunning Estates Christmas Tree Lot
noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln

Healing Hearts Grief Support Group
2-5 pm, Boone Presbyterian Church, 406 S 14th Ave

Silent Book Club at Bond & Bevel
5-7 pm, 107 S 7th

MONDAY 11/30

Sci-Fi Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

WEDNESDAY 12/2

Light the World Giving Machine Launch & Ribbon Cutting
noon-9 pm, Indian Creek Plaza, 120 S Kimball Ave

Rainbow Circle LGBTQ+ Support and Advocacy Group at Shared Stories
7-8:30 pm, 106 S Kimball

Graphic Novel Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

FRIDAY 12/4

Maximize Your Job Search at ID Dept of Labor
2-3 pm, 4514 Thomas Jefferson

Tree Lighting at the College of Idaho
6-6:30 pm, Campus Quad, 2112 Cleveland Blvd

Two from Galilee at Deer Flat Methodist Church
7-9 pm, 17703 Beet Rd

Feast of Carols, Holiday Concert at C of I
7-8:30 pm, College of Idaho, 2112 Cleveland Blvd

SATURDAY 12/5

Warm Hearts Christmas Festival
11 am-4 pm, The Center at Canyon County Fair, 110 County Fair Ave

Dunning Estates Christmas Tree Lot
noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln

Two from Galilee at Deer Flat Methodist Church
2-4 pm, 17703 Beet Rd

Christmas with the Eagles ft. Motel Kalifornia at Ste Chapelle Winery
6-9 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd

Treasure Valley Night Light Parade
6-9 pm, Cleveland and Blaine

Trivia Night: Christmas Movies at Sawtooth Winery
6-8 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd

Silent Book Club: Potluck Edition at Shared Stories
5-7 pm, 106 S Kimball

The December edition of the *Caldwell Perspective* arrives.

Caldwell's Bluebird Confections Offers Up Unique Treats



Bluebird Confections, located at 2016 Blaine



Bluebird Confections' front counter, covered in colorful caramels

Stacey Kimball started out making candy plates for friends and family at Christmas and now owns Bluebird Confections, a unique handmade-candy store that specializes in flavorful caramels, truffles and other treats.

Stacey's Christmas candy plates became so popular that friends started asking if they could buy some of her candies. So, in 2015, she started an at-home confections business while working full time as a retail store manager. The business grew as she started making treats for events and working with local retailers. In 2020 she and her family took the plunge and opened a storefront.

The unique flavors they use set Bluebird Confections apart. Stacey enjoys creating confections that combine familiar flavors with unexpected locally-produced ingredients.

Stacey also works with local distilleries and breweries to make candies infused with alcohol. The alcohol burns off during the candy-making process while the flavor is left behind. She said the alcohol flavors stand up well under the high heat required for making candies and the flavors don't end up tasting fake. Examples of these flavors include one of her fall seasonal caramels, Apple Pie Whiskey, as well as her Bourbon and Pecan Caramels, and her Beer and Pretzel Caramels (made with beer from Sockeye Brewing). She says she has made confections from nearly all of the spirits made by Caldwell's Koenig Distillery including their Huckleberry Vodka and Cherry Brandy.

Stacey's best-sellers are her Sea Salt Caramels, but her favorite thing she makes right now are her Dark-Chocolate, Black-Currant Truffles. (Favorites in our household are Licorice Caramels and Pumpkin Spice Caramels.)

If you are looking for a unique stocking stuffer, nice welcome gift for a new neighbor, or the perfect thank for your staff, Stacey has you covered. You can buy a wide variety of her confections at her shop at 2016 Blaine (there is parking on the street and in the back) and you can buy select items at other locations in Caldwell: Flying M, Lakeview Fruit, Idaho Spice Company, Koenig Distillery and Cliff's Country Market. If you are out and about in the Treasure Valley you can also find Bluebird Confections at Sweet Tea Living in Eagle, Wildflower Boutique in Kuna, and Wissel Farms or the Flying M in Nampa.

Christmas in October: Caldwell Centennial Band!

by Leora Summers

After having the month of September off, our band began rehearsing in October, not only for our upcoming Christmas concert, but also music that we will be playing for our spring and free summer concerts in Memorial Park in 2027.

It was a little early, but I would come home from rehearsal humming Christmas music in October and I do love Christmas music! Our Christmas concert is a great way to help make the season even more special with its wonderful holiday music for all.

The funds earned during this concert helps keep this city band able to provide great music for you throughout the year. We have purchased a lot of wonderful new music and look forward to adding it for your listening pleasure for this December's Christmas concert and next year's spring and free summer concerts in Memorial Park. We are bigger and better than ever!



Rehearsing for Christmas!

See our AD next month for our Christmas Concert!

Save the Date!-December 14th
Event: "A Very Merry Christmas Concert"
Place: Caldwell High School Auditorium
Address: 3401 S Indiana
Time: 07:30 pm

TUESDAY THRU THURSDAY
Open Game Room
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

FRIDAY NIGHT
Magic the Gathering and D&D
3 p.m. – 9 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHT
Magic the Gathering & D&D
3 p.m. – 10 p.m.

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Saturday 12 p.m.- 10 p.m.

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DANCER PICTURED IS ETHAN SCHWEITZER-GASLIN. PHOTO BY QUINN WHARTON

BALLET IDAHO'S
the NUTCRACKER
IN A NUTSHELL

A shorter, sweeter version that's just right for the whole family!

FRI & SAT
NOV 27-28

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MINI-BALLET LESSON
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Caldwell Night Rodeo Wins Prestigious PRCA Remuda Award for First Time



Caldwell Night Rodeo (CNR) has earned one of professional rodeo's most coveted honors, receiving the 2026 Remuda Award from the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) for the first time in its history.

This national recognition celebrates exceptional bucking horses, world-class competition, and years of investment in rodeo excellence.

Presented annually at the PRCA Convention, the award recognizes the rodeo committee and stock contractor that provide the best, most consistent group of bucking horses. Winners are selected by PRCA bareback and saddle bronc riders - the competitors who know firsthand what makes a great bucking horse.

"This is an incredible moment for Caldwell Night Rodeo," said Nicole Cassity, General Manager, Caldwell Night Rodeo. "Our production team has worked toward this goal for years, and our board has backed that commitment with some big decisions and investments. There have been plenty of challenges along the way, but we kept pushing to make this rodeo better. To have the cowboys recognize that work is a tremendous honor, and it belongs to everyone who helped make it happen."

CNR's longtime partnership with Powder River Rodeo Company, combined with horses from seven additional stock contractors, produced an exceptional lineup for the 2026 rodeo. The results included six saddle bronc rides scoring 90 points or higher in the Saturday finals, a new arena record of 92 points, and a bareback championship decided by just one point.

Behind those performances are years of investments in arena conditions, livestock facilities, and production improvements designed to give horses and riders the opportunity to perform at their best.

The award places Caldwell Night Rodeo alongside past recipients including Cheyenne Frontier Days, Black Hills Roundup, and Red Bluff Round-Up.

"Where the Cowboys Are the Stars" has long been CNR's guiding philosophy. Now, the cowboys themselves have delivered one of the sport's highest compliments.







Wendy McClain Named West Valley Medical Center's CEO



Longtime Idaho healthcare leader Wendy McClain has returned to the Caldwell facility where her hospital leadership journey began. West Valley Medical Center announced McClain as the new Chief Executive Officer for the 150-bed facility. McClain served at HCA Healthcare hospitals in Idaho from 2012 to 2024.

"I could not be more excited to be back with the people and culture that have always made this hospital so special to me," said McClain.

McClain received her bachelor's degree from the University of Tulsa, and her MBA from Western Governors University.

McClain has served numerous community alliances and non-profit organizations, including in her previous time in Idaho, where she served on the Caldwell Chamber's board, and as the past president of Destination Caldwell and the Caldwell Fine Arts Board. McClain began her new position on September 7, 2026.

Because She Asked--
New Store Commitments Reviewed

by Leora Summers

Sandra Straight reached out and wanted to know what stores had committed to build in Caldwell and what their locations were going to be, so I researched to see what I could find. Some of these stores were talked about in past editions, but now it would be nice to review them again.

Costco: No! There were rumors about a Costco coming to town, but when I researched, it was stated that there were no plans at this time to build a new Costco in or near Caldwell.

WinCo: Yes! According to the project details, a new WinCo Foods is planned for Caldwell on the Northwest intersection of Midland Boulevard and U.S. Highway 20/26 on a 35-acre site. No formal building permits or construction start dates have been officially announced yet. The city continues to work on local infrastructure and utility line extensions along the Highway 20/26 corridor.

Fred Meyer 1: Yes! A new Fred Meyer is scheduled to open around late 2026 or early 2027, after having had a ground breaking ceremony in March of 2026. It is located at the intersection of Highway 20/26 (Chinden Blvd.) and Middleton Road on the east side of Caldwell. It will be a full service Fred Meyers with all its stores' features including groceries, jewelry, pharmacy, apparel, a fuel center and more.

Fred Meyer 2: Yes again! A second Fred Meyer is in the works to be located on the northeast corner of Karcher and South Indiana Avenue. It plans to open in 2028.

Albertsons: Yes! A new Albertsons will be built on the northwest corner of Karcher Road (Highway 55) and Lake Avenue as a part of the Charles Marketplace development. This will be the third Albertsons in Caldwell, joining the one located at 2500 Blaine St and the other at 415 Cleveland Blvd. It plans to open in the Fall of 2027.

That's all I know. Thank you for asking Sandra!



C of I's International Students Represent 36 Countries!

by Hailey Arends



Students at an International Student Organization Food Fest!



International Student Organization's farewell dinner for seniors.

With 72 students representing 36 countries, international students are helping shape campus life at the College of Idaho. International students at the College bring more than academic ambitions to campus, they bring languages, traditions, perspectives and experiences that shape culture and create opportunities for connections between students and local residents.

International students come to the United States for a variety of reasons, including educational opportunities, career preparation and the chance to experience a different culture. At the College of Idaho, a small campus community and opportunities for individual attention make the school an appealing destination.

Since Fall 2000, the college has recorded 1,547 international students on campus, according to Chapo De La Cruz, Assistant Director of Inclusion and Intercultural Engagement. "While every student has their own story," De La Cruz said, many students find the path to Caldwell through educational networks and personal connections.

Toka Tumahole, president of the International Student Organization (ISO), said many international students at the college have graduated from United World Colleges (UWC), an international network of schools that offers a rigorous educational program. Through the UWC Davis United World College Scholars Program, eligible graduates can receive scholarships to attend participating colleges and universities, including the College of Idaho.

Moving to another country for college can mean leaving behind family, familiar traditions and established support systems. At the College of Idaho, international students often rely on one another and members of the local community to build a sense of belonging. Toka described ISO as a source of support for students navigating the challenges and joys of living far from home. "ISO is like a big family," Toka said. "We come from very different backgrounds, but manage to create a beautiful community full of support, love and care."

Beyond supporting international students themselves, the college's international community also influences the experiences of students and local residents. ISO organizes events such as Food Fest, Cultural Shows, Holi and celebrations connected to Ramadan. These gatherings give students opportunities to share food, music, customs and personal experiences with the wider campus community. The Food Fest and Cultural Shows have historically welcomed community members beyond the college, allowing Caldwell residents to experience cultures they might not otherwise encounter.

Through these events, international students become cultural ambassadors, introducing others to traditions and perspectives from their home countries. Students can learn about different customs through conversations and shared experiences, building connections that extend beyond the classroom. Toka said these events have become some of the community's most meaningful traditions.

International students also contribute to campus life through classroom discussions, student organizations and everyday interactions. Their experiences can introduce new perspectives into academic conversations and encourage local students to consider viewpoints beyond their own communities.

Chapo De La Cruz emphasized that international students enrich the educational experience for everyone on campus. Their presence helps students develop a global perspective and prepares the campus community to engage with an increasingly interconnected world. Toka encourages community members to attend ISO events and donate what they can to support the organization. The next Food Fest is scheduled for November 13, offering another opportunity for students and community members to connect through food and cultural exchange.

Caldwell's Alyssa Mendoza Wins Gold at 2026 Pan American Championships

Story and photos by USA Boxing



Caldwell's Alyssa Mendoza (in red) competing at the Pan American Games.

USA Boxing's Elite High Performance Team secured four gold medals at the 2026 Pan American Championships, after Alyssa Mendoza, Jajaira Gonzalez, Lorenzo Patricio and Gilbert Kabamba all earned victories on Saturday, October 24 inside the Miguel Hidalgo Gymnasium in Puebla, Mexico.

Mendoza (57 kilograms) kicked things off for the Stars and Stripes. She defeated Brazil's 2024 Paris Olympian Jucie Cerqueira by unanimous decision, winning all three rounds. Mendoza had an impressive 3-0 gold medal campaign, winning every bout by unanimous decision. Her 2026 PanAmerican Championships gold medal marks her second medal of the year.

Congratulations Alyssa, you make Caldwell proud!



Caldwell's Alyssa Mendoza (in blue) competing at the Pan American Games.





Caldwell Girls Soccer Closes Strong With Best Season in More Than a Decade

by Toni Ferro



Above: Caldwell High School Girls Varsity Soccer, 2026-2027

Right: Caldwell High School Girls Soccer Seniors L to R: Ruby Balderaz, Emmi Gutierrez, Breanna Gutierrez, and Co-Captain Yesenia Montanez

Photos by Jennifer Martinez

Caldwell High School Girls Soccer had an outstanding season. They ended the season with 8 wins, 3 losses, and 1 tie in conference play and 12 wins, 5 losses, and 1 tie overall; the best record CHS Girls Soccer has seen in more than a decade. They finished the regular season 2nd in the SIC 5A conference.

Their coach, CHS History and Economics teacher Katelyn Benavidez-Schulte, explained that the team "fought their way to the second place game in the district tournament," before "losing to Skyview one game before the state play-in game." They had beaten Skyview twice earlier in the season and so it was an exciting match-up that ultimately did not go Caldwell's way.

The good news is the team is graduating only four seniors. These seniors have been an important part of this team with three of them recieving all-conference honors this year. Graduating seniors are Ruby Balderaz - honorable mention goalkeeper, Emmi Gutierrez - honorable mention forward, Breanna Gutierrez - 1st team defender, and Yesenia Montanez - team co-captain.

Players that will be back next year include standout Sophomore Cece Ives, who was the *Idaho Statesman*'s Girls Soccer Player of the Week for September 21-27 and an all-conference 2nd team forward.

Other returning players who recieved all-conference honors are junior Giselle Araiza - 1st team defender, junior Ella Larson - 1st team midfielder and team co-captain, freshman Sweden Rodebush - 2nd team midfielder, junior Zoey Bilbrey - honorable mention midfielder, and junior Xyla Valenzuela, honorable mention forward.

Benavidez-Schulte was also honored by the 5A Southern Idaho Conference by being named the 2026 Coach of the Year.

Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff on an excellent season. We are looking forward to seeing what this team achieves in future years.

And a special congratulations to the graduating seniors!

GO YOTES! College of Idaho Football

C of I Athletics & Leora Summers



Homecoming Game vs Simpson University!

As of October 24th the Win/Loss for the Yotes was 7-0! GO YOTES!

The College of Idaho's top-ranked football team opened Frontier Conference play starting in the month of October with a crushing Homecoming win against Simpson University 56-14. That being said, Simpson did well to hit back with two touchdowns since this was only their 3rd year having football on their campus. This victory improved the Yotes' unbeaten start while showcasing one of the nation's most explosive rushing attacks.

On October 24th, the Yotes on their own turf, ran away with a 63-28 win against Eastern Oregon during their pink/black night supporting breast cancer research.

There is only one more home game and it is on November 7th. That game is also "Senior Night" and all attending are encouraged to wear camo! So for a great evening of football in your own hometown, get out and support your town's college football team.

Oct 31-Nov 14 Game Schedule

10/31: 7pm vs. Arizona Christian University at Glendale, AZ

11/07: 12pm vs. Carroll College (Montana) at Simplot Stadium
*Senior Night, CAMO OUT!

11/14: 2pm (MT), 1PM (PT) vs. Southern Oregon University at Ashland, OR

CHS Impresses at ISU Mountain West Marching Band Invitational



Caldwell High School's marching band placed second in their division at the Idaho State University Mountain West Marching Band Invitational in Pocatello on October 17th. They also recieved High Music and High Percussion honors.

Two dozen high school marching bands performed at the Invitaional, which drew bands from across Idaho as well as Nevada and Utah.

The invitational is one of the region's premier high school marching band events and provides students an opportunity to perform in a large collegiate setting with hundreds of spectators.

Congratulations to the CHS Marching Band!





Caldwell's Growing Faith Community Enters New Chapter

by Lonni Leavitt-Barker



L to R: President Jason Nielson, President Johnathan Wilford, President Steve Barela, President Matt Wright
***Photo Credit: Fabiana Loverde Huffaker**

A new place of worship, learning, and service is marking a new chapter in Caldwell's long history of faith and community growth.

The new Caldwell Stake Center, located at 2708 E Ustick, dedicated Sunday, October 18, will serve members of the newly organized Caldwell Idaho Lake Lowell Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The building, which began hosting meetings in September, provides space for weekly worship services, youth activities, classes, leadership meetings, service projects, and other activities that bring individuals and families together.

The dedication comes at a historic time for the Church in Caldwell.

In September, the Caldwell Idaho Lake Lowell Stake was organized, bringing the number of stakes in the Caldwell area to four. A stake is a geographic organization made up of multiple congregations, called wards. The reorganization also brought three new stake presidents to the area (with a fourth stake presidency remaining in place). Together the new and existing leadership will help support the growing number of Church members and congregations throughout the Caldwell community.

This growth continues a legacy that began more than five decades ago. The Caldwell Idaho Stake was organized on January 30, 1972. Shortly afterward, plans moved forward for construction of Caldwell's first stake center. A June 15, 1973, newspaper article titled "Mormon Stake Begins Building" announced the project, with completion anticipated the following year.

One statement in that article remains especially meaningful today. Then-Caldwell Mayor Charles Carpenter recognized the potential impact of the building beyond its walls:

"I consider this a great deed for the community, not only the fine building, but in providing a setting for the development of character. This is an asset to the community, something we all can be proud of. The growth of the Church is a benefit to the entire area."

More than 50 years later, that sentiment continues to resonate.

Caldwell Snake River Stake President Jason Nielsen said the new building and the creation of a fourth stake reflect the growth of both the Church and the surrounding community.

"Smaller wards and stakes help us know people personally, recognize their needs, and care for one another. Our purpose is to help each individual connect with Jesus Christ. As we love, serve, and uplift one another as He would, we become more like Him."

As Caldwell continues to grow, the new stake and its meetinghouse represent more than expanding numbers. They provide places where individuals and families can build friendships, serve their neighbors, teach future generations, strengthen their faith, and contribute to the well-being of the community.

More than half a century ago, Caldwell's leaders recognized that a church building could be more than bricks and mortar. It could be an investment in people, in character, and in the future of the community.

That same spirit continues today as Caldwell's faith community enters its next chapter.

Help Feed Our Hungry Neighbors This Holiday Season

Non-perishable Foods Needed at The Salvation Army Caldwell

by the Salvation Army Caldwell



Holiday box preparation for a past drive-through dispersement



Ready for the drive through pick-up!

Most families look forward to the tradition of sharing a delicious meal with their loved ones during the holiday season. With the increase in grocery expenses, it will be difficult for many people who are in need to provide a hearty dinner at their table. The Salvation Army Caldwell is reaching out to the entire community to provide non-perishable food to help fill their holiday food boxes.

Captain Amy Lewis, Caldwell Corps officer, estimates the demand for seasonal food boxes will be even greater this year. "We want to make sure every household has food on their table for a good holiday meal," she said. "With the rising cost of groceries, we anticipate at least a 15% increase in people lining up for a holiday food box this Thanksgiving and Christmas."

The Salvation Army Caldwell serves the community in a variety of ways, providing a monthly food box to families and individuals, educational classes for parents with babies, character building programs for youth, utility assistance to qualifying applicants, and other essential services. They also offer a variety of church programs including weekly Bible studies, youth activities, and fellowship for adults. Wherever there is a need in Caldwell, The Salvation Army is there to help.

Who can receive a Thanksgiving food box?

The Salvation Army Caldwell will distribute Thanksgiving food boxes on Tuesday, November 24, beginning at 10am The distribution is open to residents of Caldwell, Middleton, Greenleaf, Notus, Parma, Homedale and Wilder on a first-come, first-served basis. No advance registration is required.

This will be a drive-through distribution at the loading dock behind The Salvation Army's main office at 1015 E Chicago. Recipients should arrive in their vehicles and bring a photo ID and a current piece of mail as proof of residence.

How Can You Help?

Community members can help provide a complete Thanksgiving meal by donating items for The Salvation Army's holiday food boxes. Needed items include:

- Frozen turkeys
- Stuffing
- Green beans
- Cream of mushroom soup
- Chicken broth
- Canned yams
- Turkey gravy
- Canned pumpkin pie mix
- Pie crust mix

Food donations will be accepted Monday through Friday, from 9 am to noon, through Friday, November 20. Please drop off donations at the loading dock behind The Salvation Army's main office at 1015 E Chicago.

Monetary donations are also welcome and help The Salvation Army purchase food and meet holiday needs. Checks should be made payable to The Salvation Army, with "Holiday Food 2026" noted on the check.

Mail donations to:
The Salvation Army
1015 E Chicago Street
Caldwell, ID 83605





Caldwell Housing Authority Sponsored STEM Rocket Launch



L to R: Teresa Sanchez (CHA Program Specialist), Mike Dittenber (CHA Executive Director), Dominique Moreno (CHA Community Outreach & Development Coordinator)



A happy STEM student participant

On Friday, October 9th, Caldwell Housing Authority (CHA) sponsored the Caldwell School District's STEM Rocket Launch at Jefferson Middle School. This educational event gave students the opportunity to explore STEM through hands-on learning and the excitement of launching rockets.

The Rocket Launch was designed to spark curiosity, encourage creativity, and inspire students to explore the possibilities of science and engineering. By bringing classroom lessons to life, the event helped students develop valuable skills in problem-solving, teamwork, innovation, and critical thinking.

"At Caldwell Housing Authority, we believe investing in our youth helps build a stronger community. We are proud to support the Caldwell School District in providing opportunities that inspire students to learn, explore, and dream big. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers," said Dominique Moreno, Community Outreach & Development Coordinator.

CHA recognizes that strong communities are built through collaboration, education, and opportunity. Supporting programs like the STEM Rocket Launch reflects the organization's continued commitment to helping local children succeed, both inside and outside the classroom.

Caldwell Rallies for Fall Community Food Drive and Yard Cleanups

by Kelli G. Jenkins & Jamie Wilson





Above: Past Food Donations for Local Pantries and Neighbors
Below: A Past Rake Up Caldwell

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As crisp autumn air settles over the Treasure Valley, the Caldwell community is shifting its focus from seasonal reflection to active, neighborly support. A series of upcoming local initiatives invites residents and businesses to turn gratitude into action this November. It is wonderful to see neighbors helping neighbors!

Community Scouting for Food Drive

As part of the nationwide America 250 milestone initiatives, this year's local effort carries an ambitious goal to collect 250,000 pounds of food for community pantries.

- **Date & Time**: Saturday, Nov 14, from 9am to noon.
- **Details**: Scouts and community volunteers will collect donations from participating neighborhoods.
- **Drop-Off Location**: Residents not on a door-hanger route can bring non-perishable food items (canned proteins, peanut butter, whole-grain pasta, shelf-stable juices, fruits and vegetables) and hygiene items to Caldwell City Hall parking lot (205 S 6th) All items stay local to support your food pantries.

Rake-Up Caldwell Needs Volunteers

The City of Caldwell is calling on volunteers of all ages to clear fallen leaves for senior citizens and disabled residents unable to manage their own yards.

"Rake Up Caldwell has become an annual tradition that our community looks forward to each year," said Mayor Eric Phillips. "It's a great opportunity for people to come together, lend a helping hand to their neighbors, and make a difference in our community. I'm excited to be part of Rake Up Caldwell this year and look forward to joining everyone for another great event."

- **Date & Time**: Saturday, Nov 14, from 9am to noon.
- **Details**: Caldwell City Hall parking lot (205 S 6th) by 9am for check-in, treats, and supply distribution.
- **What to Bring**: Participants are encouraged to wear warm clothing and should bring their own gloves and rakes. Leaf collection bags will be supplied by the city.
- **Additional Information**: City of Caldwell's event page: *cityofcaldwell.org/City-Calendar/Rake-Up-Caldwell*, call or text: 208-614-8286, Email Gino Allen at *gallen@cityofcaldwell.org*.

More Ways to Make a Difference

Beyond the major November drives, local organizations offer other opportunities to lend a hand:

- **Decorate for Clara's Tea Party (Caldwell Fine Arts)**: Nov 24, 10am to 2pm. Help put finishing touches on Clara's Tea Party and the lobby at The Nutcracker (decorating trees and tables, wrapping gifts). Suitable for ages 14 and up (parents must accompany minors). Call 208-605-2715.
- **Empower Survivors (AAFV & Hope's Door)**: Donate gift cards for local grocery stores, gas stations, retail stores or general VISA/MC's to help survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault rebuild their independence and control over everyday choices. Call 208-459-6330.
- **FeedThe2C**: Help fill community shelves at Flying M with non-expired non-perishables, canned foods, soup, macaroni and cheese, and boxed meals. The pantry operates on a "take what you need, leave what you can" policy.

Get Involved Today

Whether you have an hour to rake a lawn, canned goods to spare, or time to volunteer with a charity, every act of kindness counts. To find more service opportunities tailored to your schedule, visit *JustServe.org* and enter your Caldwell zip code.



Treasure Valley Giving Machines Return to Indian Creek Plaza



Giving Machine

From December 1 through 14, the Treasure Valley Giving Machines will return to Indian Creek Plaza. They offer a unique opportunity for people to purchase meaningful gifts such as meals, clothing, housing assistance, educational opportunities, clean water, entrepreneurship training, and other essential resources.

After inspiring more than $2 million in charitable giving during the past two holiday seasons, the Light the World Giving Machine Initiative is returning to the Treasure Valley for a third year, inviting Idahoans to once again transform their holiday generosity into life-changing support for people in Idaho and around the world.

The impact of the Treasure Valley's generosity continues to ripple far beyond the holiday season. During the 2025 Giving Machine campaign alone, donations provided:

- 1,970 months of diapers and wipes for families with young children
- 834 nights of safety for individuals fleeing dangerous situations
- 1,120 survival kits for people experiencing homelessness
- 1,112 hearty camp meals for children with serious medical conditions
- 1,140 goats to help families in developing countries build sustainable sources of food and income

This year's participating charities are: Catholic Charities of Idaho, Jesse Tree, the Treasure Valley YMCA, JEMfriends, The Assistance League of Boise/Canyon County, and two international charities: Water for Good and The Academy for Creating Enterprise.

"With the return of the Giving Machine initiative to the Treasure Valley in 2026, we are able to support these amazing local and international charities that do so much good in our hometown and in underdeveloped communities across the globe," said Sid Sullivan, Charity Liaison for the Light the World Giving Machine Iniative. "The outpouring of generosity will relieve burdens, provide hope, and improve the overall well-being of those in need."

Together, these seven organizations address some of today's most pressing challenges—from preventing homelessness and supporting foster youth to strengthening families, providing safe drinking water, expanding economic opportunity, and ensuring children and families have the resources they need to thrive. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints covers all operational expenses, 100 percent of every donation goes directly to participating nonprofit organizations and the people they serve.

Gold Star Memorial Dedication

by Leora Summers



Gold Star Memorial, photo by Leora Summers

On September 28th, the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall held a ceremony to dedicate the Gold Star Memorial in the courtyard in front of the building. Senator Jim Risch and our Mayor Eric Phillips spoke to honor the dedication.

The Caldwell Police Honor Platoon, the Canyon County Sheriff's Office and the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall staff attended, making this ceremony special, to pay tribute honoring the Gold Star families who attended. Gold Star families are the loved ones left behind when a family member made the ultimate sacrifice of their life while serving our country.

Mayor Eric Phillips said, "As a city, county, state, and nation, we must never forget their sacrifice. I am grateful every time I have the opportunity to stand at our Veterans Memorial Hall and honor those who served, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. I encourage everyone to stop by the Veterans Memorial Hall and see this beautiful new monument for yourself. May we always remember our fallen and the Gold Star families they left behind."

This Gold Star Memorial joins the Carrie French Memorial which was dedicated earlier this summer, located in the plaza in front of Caldwell Memorial Veterans Hall, 1101 Cleveland Blvd.



Local Democrats Deliver Relief to Families in Need

by Cynthia Alleman, Treasurer, Canyon County Democrats

Canyon County Democrats reached their goal of raising $1000 in conjunction with a national effort to help neighbors confront the high cost of healthcare in Idaho. Every dollar raised will result in over $100 in medical debt relief for Idahoans.

Getting sick shouldn't send people into debt, but that outcome is far too familiar. Canyon County Democrats are part of a national campaign that shared stories and raised money to relieve medical debt for families in counties like Canyon County, all across the state. Letters sharing the medical debt relief with recipients went out in October.

"Canyon County Democrats understand that rising costs have created a hardship for many Idaho families. For some, a medical issue has resulted in a severe financial crisis," said Penny Neely, Chair of District 11 Democrats in Caldwell. "By championing this project, we are trying to take some pressure off as many Idaho families as possible."

As Idaho Democrats, access to affordable, high-quality healthcare for every resident, regardless of location or income is an issue we have always supported. As we hear people's stories it is harder to ignore what medical debt is doing to families across the state. This is our way of giving back to our community.

Canyon County Democratic Party Chair, Becky Sundin-Mitchell summed it up, "Together, we raised $1,000 to help relieve medical debt for Idaho families, including our neighbors here in Canyon County. Every family deserves the chance to move forward without the weight of unexpected medical bills holding them back. This is what Idahoans do—we show up for one another and take care of our communities."

A Big Thank You to First Federal Bank!



Thank you First Federal for the donation so we could buy new tables for our Caldwell Senior Center!

Lions Donate to St. Clare's Building Fund!

by Debbie Geyer



L to R: Lion Michelle Phillips, Lion Denise Ferguson, Margie Cowman (St. Clare's Building Fund), Lion Chris Hasenoehrl (behind), Lion President Chet Crawford, Lion Robin Crawford and Lion Debbie Lehman.



Building has begun!

The Caldwell Lions Club presented a check for $500 to St. Vincent de Paul designated to St. Clare's Pantry's Building Fund. The new building is being built on the property behind Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on the corner of Farmway Road and Ash Street in Caldwell. Thanks to Caldwell Lions Club and other donors building has begun!

St. Clare's Pantry's outreach is such a benefit to our community in this time of food insecurity for many! Thank You!

St. Clare's Pantry is a drive through with food boxes to participants. To be able to take advantage of this pantry, they will ask for some form of ID and the number of people in your family and ask you to sign a form saying your level of income. You do not have to get out of your car. They will put boxes of food in your car according to the number in your family.

The Pantry is open from 11am until 1pm every Wednesday except holiday weeks and the fifth Wednesday of every month. The address of the Pantry is1122 W Linden behind the Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church. The permanent Pantry is also being built behind the Catholic Church on the corner of Farmway and Ash.

On November 3rd

Vote

for schools
for Medicaid
for tax fairness
for infrastructure
for working families

Vote for DEMOCRATS


Joshua Preminger
D11 House


Susan Counsil
D11 Senate


Nancy Parker
D10 Senate


Beth McFalls
D10 House


Michael Hofferber
D10 House

Paid for by the Canyon County Democrats Central Committee

City Recognizes Community Members and Organizations









Top Left: Community Hero Award presented to Pedro Rodriguez and Chris Boncz by Mayor Phillips.

Top Center: Heap Herders Caldwell Car Club, Car Club of the Year!

Top Right: Rachelle Castleberry, new Treasurer/Finance Director

Bottom Center: Representatives from Advocates Against Family Violence

During the October 5th City Council meeting, several special presentations and recognitions took place, highlighting community members, organizations and City leadership.

Mayor Phillips presented the Mayor's Community Heroes Award to Chris Boncz and Pedro Rodriguez, for disarming an armed individual at Caldwell High School in 2024. They were recognized for their courage, quick response, and dedication to keeping Caldwell High School students safe.

The Heap Herders Caldwell Car Club was also recognized and presented with a proclamation honoring the club as Car Club of the Year.

October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the City of Caldwell recognized the month with a proclamation and welcomed representatives from Advocates Against Family Violence for a photo with Mayor Phillips.

The City also recognized Rachelle Castleberry as she steps into her new role as Treasurer/Finance Director. Rachelle has served with the City of Caldwell for 12 years, spending most of that time as the City's Treasurer.

The City thanks everyone who continues to serve, support and strengthen our Caldwell community!

Public Invited to Canyon County Magistrate Judge Candidate Interviews

The Third Judicial District Magistrates Commission met on Monday, October 19, to review 9 applicants for one Magistrate Judge vacancy in Canyon County, created by the retirement of Canyon County Magistrate Judge Debra A. Orr. The Magistrates Commission has selected 5 applicants to interview:

MICHAEL C. FLORIAN is a Trial Attorney 4 for the State Public Defender's Office, located in Caldwell, Idaho.

ANDREW D. HAWS is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Canyon County Prosecutor's Office, located in Caldwell, Idaho.

STEPHANIE N. MORSE is a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Canyon County Prosecutor's Office, located in Caldwell, Idaho.

BRETT M. SCHILLER is a Private Attorney at Brett Schiller, Attorney at Law, LLC, located in Fruitland, Idaho.

JOHN T. SPALDING is a Lead Deputy Attorney General for the Office of the Attorney General, located in Boise, Idaho.

The Third District Magistrates Commission selects and appoints Magistrate Judges in Idaho's Third Judicial District. The Commission is comprised of representatives from local government, attorneys, judges, and members of the public. The Commission was created by Idaho's Legislature and is set forth in Idaho Code § 1-2203.

What: Canyon County Magistrate Judge Interviews
When: November 24, 2026 beginning at 12:30 p.m.
Where: Canyon County Courthouse, 1115 Albany
Who May Attend: These interviews will be open to the public

The New Fire Station #1 Is Under Construction!

by Leora Summers



I know I saw the groundbreaking a while back, but I forgot about it and saw this building going up and wondered what it was! It is located on the corner of 5th and Blaine. And maybe you were all wondering what that building was going to be also.

Well, son-of-a-gun! It is the construction of the new building for Fire Station #1. It will be replacing the fire station on the corner of 7th and Blaine. So there you go!

Caldwell City Council Does Not Renew Flock Contract, Signs With AXON Instead

by Leora Summers

On October 5 the City Council decided not to renew their contract with Flock Safety Solutions and instead voted 4-1 to approve a 10-year contract with AXON.

Flock Safety Solutions currently provides the Caldwell Police Department with dozens of cameras that log license plate data (ALPRs), as well as data storage and search capabilities.

As of January 1, the AXON system will put all the police department's enforcement technology including drones, body cameras, tasers and ALPRs under the same umbrella while adding an additional 20 more ALPRs.

The Council decided not to renew with Flock Safety Solutions, because they have multiple lawsuits pending against them related to misuse of data.

The council approved a 10-year contract with AXON, for a cost of over $6.7 million at a 43.7% discount, rather than approving two 5-year packages which would have cost them over $5.1 million more.

In general, there was still much frustration and controversy from attendees in the room over continuing with the use of ALPRs with regard to rights to privacy issues, legality and possible misuse.

Council Members Geoff Williams, Scott Tilmant, Mike Dittenber and Chris Allgood voted in favor of the AXON package, while Councilor Diana Register was the lone dissenter. Councilman Chuck Stadick was not present at this meeting to vote.

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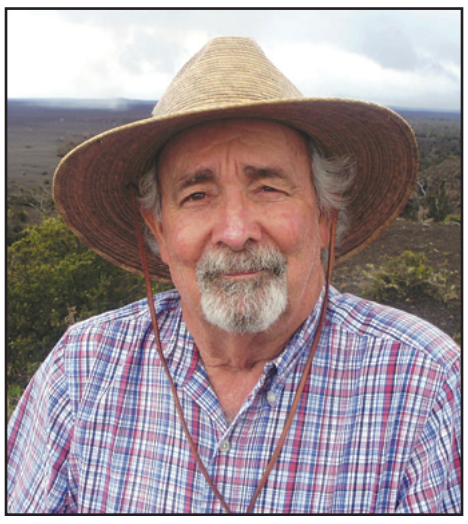
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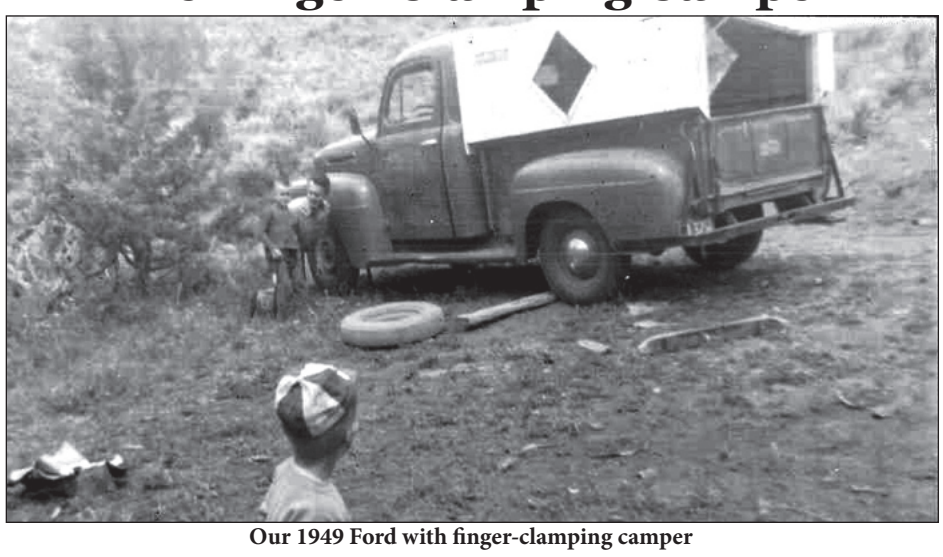
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The Finger-Clamping Camper

by Stan Soran





Our 1949 Ford with finger-clamping camper

In the late 1950's, Dad had a 1949 Ford pickup with a homemade plywood camper shell held on by gravity and the stake pockets. On a camping trip, Dad, Mom and whoever was the baby at the time, rode in the front while the rest of us kids and all the gear bounced around in the back like tennis shoes in the tumble-dry cycle.

The cabin was about 24 miles southwest of Jordan Valley, so getting there required driving old Highway 95, snaking over the mountains with a rock wall on one side, and a sheer drop off on the other. It always scared me, so bad I'd ride on the uphill side of the truck, so I didn't have to look down.

On the rough roads, we learned to keep our hands close, resisting the urge to grab onto the camper or bedrail. Eventually, inevitably, a bump was hit and the camper would bounce, and someone's fingers would be smashed. Then the yelling and pounding on the cab would begin. Dad would have to find a spot to pull over, stop, and lift the camper off the flattened fingers. If it was Danise or Renae, there was tenderness and sympathy but if it was me or Brian, there was, "Pay attention!"

Seventy years ago, there were still beaver ponds with good fishing on the creeks that drained off South Mountain. Juniper Creek, in particular, was good probably because the road to it was so horrible. Stagecoach outfits in the 1870s quit using it because it broke up their equipment. It was hardly recognizable as a road with sections of rocks, springs running through it, low hanging branches and above ground roots.

Most weekends at the cabin included a day trip somewhere in the Owyhees and also fishing on Juniper Creek. All the gear was loaded into the back of the F1 along with four kids. In the front were Dad, Mom and Danny in the baby seat optioned with his own steering wheel. For a good portion of the trip, we were being scrambled with the fishing poles, picnic basket, cooler, spare tire and tools. There was nothing to hang onto that didn't move, including the dreaded camper.

On a rocky uphill part of the road, Brian was the unfortunate that grabbed when he should have let go and got his fingers clamped under the camper. Dad couldn't stop, but the yelling and pounding on the cab let him know that something in the back was not good! I don't think it could be called lucky, but another bump was hit and Brian pulled his hand free.

At the top of the hill, Dad stopped and came back to inspect the carnage. He grabbed some ice from the cooler and wrapped Brian's mashed hand. There was still a mile or so of crappy road, but we took extra care to keep our hands out of harm's way. Once we got to the beaver pond, the fishing was good and with a supplement of hot dogs to fill it out, we had enough for dinner.

On the trip back, Renae rode in front on Mom's lap with Dad and Danny since Danise, Brian, and I asked to take our chances walking the ridgeline back to the cabin. Though it was a couple miles, it was more adventurous and no danger of mashed fingers…. At least not from the camper shell.

The Ford and camper shell was eventually traded off for a 1956 4x4 International Travel All that we called "Dumbo." This was a "Monster Truck" before the term was ever heard. It was red, tall and had seats for almost everybody, and while we still bounced around a lot, at least the top was permanently attached.

Canyon County Festival of Trees Receives Grant

The American Land Title Association (ALTA) Good Deeds Foundation announced a $6,000 grant to the Canyon County Festival of Trees during ALTA's annual conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on October 14.

Canyon County Festival of Trees was one of twenty community nonprofits across the United States to receive a grant. The nonprofits are nominated by people working as land title professionals. Grants are awarded to nonprofits working at the local level to strengthen communities and improve lives where land title professionals live and work.

The Canyon County Festival of Trees is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that raises money to support local Meals on Wheels programs for homebound senior citizens. Caldwell has an excellent Meals on Wheels program that benefits our seniors.

"The ALTA Good Deeds Foundation is built around the idea that local organizations can have an extraordinary impact when they have the resources and support to carry out their missions," said Steve Day, board chair of the ALTA Good Deeds Foundation and past president of ALTA.

British Swim School Brings Survival-Focused Swim Instruction to Caldwell

Local British Swim School owners Brad and Jamie Goodloe have partnered with The College of Idaho to offer families across Idaho's Treasure Valley access to water-safety skills at the J.A. Albertson Aquatic Center on campus.

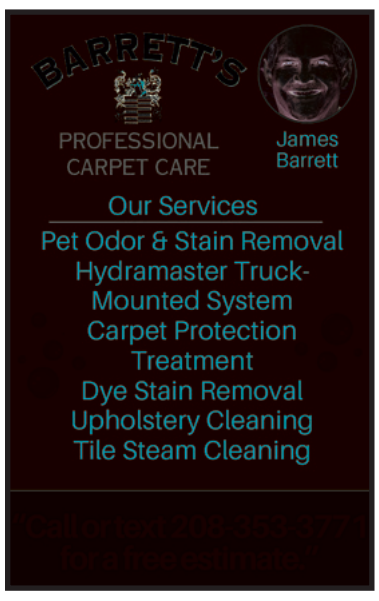
British Swim School of Canyon County is now serving families throughout Caldwell, Nampa, and Middleton with a year-round curriculum designed to help students build confidence and develop practical skills for navigating the water safely.

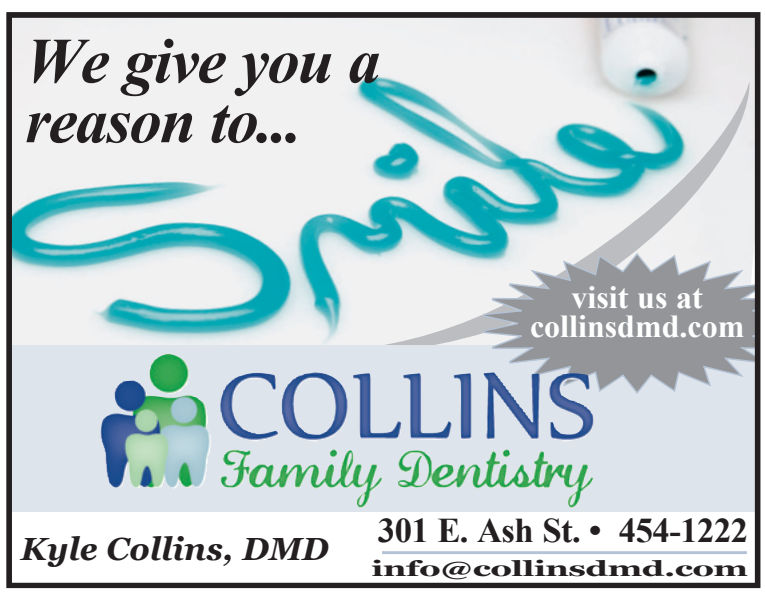
"This isn't just learning how to swim. This is learning how to survive in water and how to survive in emergency situations," said Brad Goodloe, co-owner of British Swim School of Canyon County.

Families interested in learning more can visit British Swim School of Canyon County online at *britishswimschool.com/canyon-county*.











Dave's Big Backyard

by Dave McCormick



Kelly Thompson with the 6 lb small mouth bass he caught!

In the middle of October if I'm heading north, my purpose in the past was to tangle with a steelhead. Gregg and myself, we're northbound this year, not to fish for steelhead, but to ply the waters of Dworschak Reservoir in hopes of landing one of the bruiser smallmouth that reside in this giant impoundment.

The monster reservoir was named after Henry Dworshak, who was a US Republican Senator from 1946 until his death in 1962. The Senator was instrumental in procuring funding and spearheading the project. The first bucket of concrete was dumped in June 1966, and the project was completed in the summer of 1973. At 717 feet, it's the 3rd tallest dam in the United States, with a depth around 650 feet. It's over 50 miles long and has 170 miles of shoreline. A sportsman's paradise for sure.

Kelly Thompson and his wife Teresa owned the Riverview Motel in Riggins for a number of years before retiring and moving to Orofino. I had fished with Kelly on the Clearwater for Steelhead, but had never fished the reservoir. With a cordial invitation to stay with them for a couple of days, Gregg and I decided we couldn't turn it down. We arrived at the Thompson's residence late afternoon on Tuesday. After some lively conversation, our heads hit the pillow.

The following morning, Kelly elected to put the boat in at the Dent Bridge launch ramp. Dent is approximately 15 miles up reservoir from the dam. We ran to Magnus Bay and fished in that area and caught fish, all small. We ended up running all the way to Granddad Bridge, caught fish all the way up, but no size. We fished Ned rigs, Carolina rigs, Drop shot rigs, and late afternoon, Kelly was catching fish on the surface using a Pop R.

Travis Jarvis, a friend of my son-in-law, Todd Banta, fished a tournament on Dworshak the week prior. Travis recommended a KeiTech swim-bait. Idaho Rod and Reel is a full-service tackle store with a knowledgeable staff, so that was my go-to retailer for some Keitech swim baits. I bought Sexy Shad, Electric Blue and Green Pumpkin, all recommended to catch fish on DR. They performed as advertised on undersized fish. The staff said I would catch a lot of small fish. They were right. The following day we put in at the launch near the dam. Results were similar to the previous day, lots of fish, all small.

Although no big fish were caught, it was still a really good trip. Gregg and I got a look at the reservoir from the dam up, lvvake past Grandad Bridge.

Knowledge will lead to a big fish. It would be easier to gain that knowledge if the lake wasn't 5 hours away. Kelly Thompson is one hell of a steelhead fisherman. If he keeps chasing bass, I will be up there again next year acquiring some new knowledge, and maybe, just maybe, a trophy small mouth bass.

It seems early to say Happy Thanksgiving, but next month it will be Merry Christmas! Time doesn't fly, it simply just disappears.

Southwest Idaho Birders Association

by JC Clancy



Roseate Spoonbill spotted in southern Texas by JC Clancy

Just as the year is winding down, SIBA is gearing up for some of its most important activities. At the November meeting, members get a chance to show some of the photos and videos they've been taking all year. Many of the photos will be of the eagles, grebes and backyard birds seen locally, shown to the best advantage. They might include some of the Blue Jays or California Scrub Jays seen recently, which are less common but no less colorful than Idaho's Steller's Jays.

But birders have a liking for other parts of the country and the world as well. It's likely that some photos will feature birds found in Florida, Texas, Arizona or Hawaii and rarely if ever seen here. It's possible some of the birds will have been photographed in the Galapagos, Australia or New Zealand. No matter where the photos were taken, it's a safe bet there'll be a lot of color and variety, and probably even a little humor in the presentations.

Members are invited to submit some of their favorite work as soon as possible so it can be included in the general presentation prepared by Hai and Rick Longworth each year. If information is needed on how to do that, see the SIBA newsletter or one of the board members.

Election of officers for 2027 will also be held at that meeting, at 7pm, Nov 12, at the Deer Flat NWR Visitor Center, with the option of watching by Zoom.

SIBA's next field trip will be to Ted Trueblood WMA and CJ Strike Reservoir on Nov 14. Birders will meet at 7am at the Liquor Store at 6584 S Federal Way, Boise, ID and form car pools.

Registration is required by email to trip leader James Jarrett at *SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com*.

We hope to see migrating waterfowl, gulls, terns, and loons. This is an all-day trip with a good bit of walking so bring hiking shoes, water, lunch, binoculars or scopes and layers for fall weather.

Local Dirt

by Pat King



Gobble! Gobble! Gobble! As I'm writing this, it is the middle of October and the weather is absolutely delightful. Ideal for many outdoor activities including you guessed it, gardening. The column is being requested early in light of the upcoming elections and all the printed election campaign materials that need printed.

But as I predicted, many water systems were shut off early to hold back water for next year in preparations of possibly poor snow packs in the mountains this winter. So I sure hope you've heeded my warnings about no water. And yet, warm dry weather is stressing your plants. Please hand water plants at least once a week until the weather turns to more winter-like conditions. It wouldn't hurt to water the lawn as well, but grass is far more forgiving.

A long-time friend and reader of my column had texted me a bug problem as being heavy this year. Well, with the very mild winter we had last year, it is not surprising. Whenever we have a mild, even warm winter, the bug and weed problems we normally see later in the season never die out from the harsher winter weather of more normal years. In fact fruit bearing trees suffer a bit from the lack of a good long dormant period.

This spring, my peach trees, about 25 trees, had a great abundance of blooms on them and very early in spring, but really a normal spring frost took out all but two blooms. So my trees were barren and got a much needed respite from production. Those trees took the summer off and strengthened their branch and root structure for next season.

Now the bugs, what to do to minimize them? Well now is the time to start preparing for next year's bug control. Get them where they hide for the winter. Bugs like garden debris, especially leaves and dead and dying garden plants that have been not cleared off the garden bed floors. By leaving debris, you're offering bugs a summer oasis in winter. As debris breaks down, it creates heat and keeps the bugs toasty warm. Be sure to clear out all waste plant materials and put them in a compost pile where the temperature gets so hot, bugs can't survive and weed seeds are killed off as well.

So cleanup is crucial, like keeping shrubs away from your house, reducing the size and crowdedness of shrubs and cut lawns as short as possible. That's the first step.

In season, there are many chemical treatments. but you have to apply at right times and pay attention to harvest times. There are safe methods, like organic sprays and certain plants in specific areas, and there are many books and YouTube clips that you can utilize to help you.

One really safe and natural product you can use on everything is diatomaceous earth. It is a granule material that doesn't dissolve, so it remains effective until it gets incorporated in the soil. How it works, is that the granules have sharp edges on them and the granules cut up bugs that crawl through it. So use plenty.

Until next time, Pat.

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November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month!

Info from *PanCAN.org* and others



November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness month with November 20th being Pancreatic Cancer Day.

The color Purple is the universal color worn to help create awareness of pancreatic cancer and to show support for patients, survivors, families of patients, those whom we have lost, funding for cancer research and it highlights the need for early detection.

Pancreatic cancer is diagnosed in the tens of thousands annually in the U.S. and is still one of the deadliest major forms of cancers with a five-year survival rate of around 13%.

Symptoms are often vague or unnoticed early, such as mid-back or upper abdominal pain, unexplained weight loss, jaundice, loss of appetite and new-onset diabetes. Some risk factors include smoking, obesity, family history, and chronic pancreatitis.

You can get involved and donate through leading groups like the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN) and others.

To help create awareness of this deadly form of cancer, please show your support by wearing purple especially on November 20th!

ATM Scams Costing Local Residents Millions

info@treasurevalleypartnership.org

A cryptocurrency ATM scam has cost Treasure Valley residents millions of dollars. Older adults are being hit particularly hard.

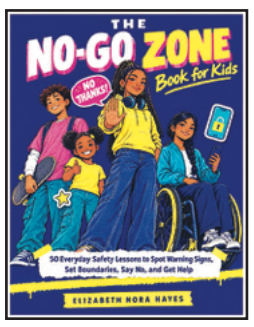
In one of the most common versions of the scam, callers impersonate law enforcement and tell victims there's a warrant for their arrest. Victims are instructed to withdraw cash and deposit it into a cryptocurrency ATM to resolve the warrant or avoid arrest. Scammers may stay on the phone throughout the transaction, using fear and urgency to keep victims from questioning what they're being told.

Caldwell has had 44 reported cases of this or a similar scam over the past three years. In Meridian, 30 victims lost a combined $1.3 million between January and July of this year alone. Approximately half of identified victims are over age 60, although people of all ages have fallen victim to these scams.

"This is a scam. Law enforcement will never call and demand money to clear a warrant, and officers will never send you to a cryptocurrency ATM," said Eagle Mayor Brad Pike. "If someone makes that demand, hang up. Call your local police department directly before you do anything with your money."

You can help by talking to your family and checking on your neighbors. Don't let a scammer catch someone you care about off guard.

The No-Go Zone Book for Kids: Review by Deborah Kraft, 2C Anti-Trafficking Task Force



As work dealing with youth safety from sexual predators evolves it seems the focus becomes more fine-tuned to the most basic needs of children. None could seem more basic than that which has recently appeared with greater frequency – boundaries.

In this day and age there needs to be a lot more conscious effort to teach youth what types of boundaries they need to set for themselves and how to help them set those boundaries.

The standalone guidebook, "The No-Go Zone – Book for Kids" by Elizabeth Nora Hayes, effectively lays out 50 different situations or lessons that would reasonably test a child's safety boundaries and provides fundamental solutions to each potentially dangerous situation. What sets this book apart is its style. It offers both a realistic situation and recommended responses by the child to the situation. Many of these situations apply to advances by sexual predators.

One situation highlighted in this book involves both in-person and online predatory action towards youth. When youth are asked by strangers (someone they've never met in-person or an in-person acquaintance they don't trust) to provide them with personal information, it should make them feel uncomfortable or as, The No-Go Zone defines it, give them a "wobbly feeling". It goes on to describe the physical experience of a tightness in the tummy or a faster heartbeat. These are sensations a child can relate to and can be taught how to pay attention to when they arise.

Each lesson has a picture accompanied by a very simple worksheet. The picture style is warm and friendly. The worksheet includes sections labeled; "The Moment", "Notice This", "Try These Words", "Your Safer Next Step" and "What Would You Do?" (a fill-in-the-blank response).

Chapters in this book most relevant to protection from sexual exploitation include, "Your Safety Voice", "Your Body, Your Boundary", "When Someone Wants You to Go Somewhere" and "Screens Have Boundaries Too".

Not to be confused with other books of the same title, this highly rated book offers a great starting point for critical conversations parents need to have with their children.

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Festival Activities | 6-9 PM

SATURDAY 11/21
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Ice Skating | 12:00 - 10:30 PM
Winter Market | 3-9 PM
Festival Activities | 6-9 PM

SUNDAY 11/22
Ice Skating | 12:00 - 10:30 PM
Winter Market | 3-9 PM
Festival Activities | 6-9 PM

CANYON COUNTY VOTERS KNOW WE CAN'T AFFORD THE STATUS QUO!



Retiring Commissioner Leslie Van Beek's handpicked replacement for Canyon County is Stewart Hyndman.



"Leslie's doing a good job. I like the way that the county is being run." "I'm not running to change course."

LESLIE'S EIGHT-YEAR RECORD AS COMMISSIONER

- Asked to resign by eight elected Canyon County officials, but refused to step down (2022).
- $10,497,666 spent on POD 6 jail trailers; county forced to pull out of bad contract, left with no tangible asset (2024). Valuable time and money lost to inflation.
- Campaigned against securing funding for public safety; kicked the issue down the road, ensuring it did not endanger her reelection — she left the public at risk.
- Mishandled the West Valley Humane Society contract, damaging a vital community partnership (2026).
- Canyon County received a non-renewal notice on its insurance policy with ICRMP (2022).
- The shadow commissioner controversy raised serious questions regarding her ability to serve independently on behalf of Canyon County (2022).
- A special prosecutor found she violated the Public Integrity in Elections Act by using the county print shop for her personal campaign materials (2024).
- Salary & benefits cost to taxpayers during Leslie Van Beek's tenure: $1,058,000.
- Commissioner Van Beek's parting gift? Trying to pick her own replacement for you.

DO WE REALLY WANT THE NEXT FOUR YEARS IN CANYON COUNTY TO LOOK LIKE THE LAST EIGHT YEARS?

VOTE

VOTERS ARE CHOOSING INDEPENDENT JEFF SKINNER TO SERVE AS THEIR NEXT CANYON COUNTY COMMISSIONER!



- Background in Cyber Security, serves as a Military Chaplain.
- Listens to Canyon County citizens and knows how to lead!
- Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Boise State.
- Committed to people and good policy. Learn more about his Contract with Canyon County Citizens at Skinner4Idaho.com

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"If elected Canyon County Commissioner this November, our family will be personally donating $250,000 of the salary this office provides to charitable causes and organizations in our community over my four-year term."

Jeffrey A. Skinner

VOTE YOUR VALUES. VOTE INDEPENDENT. VOTE JEFF SKINNER.

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