

Abigail Manery, A Story of Resilience and Determination

by Leora Summers



Abby Manery, lifeguard and lifeguard instructor at Caldwell's YMCA.
Photo by Erik Bullock, YMCA Director



Lifeguard Abby watching swimmers at Caldwell's YMCA.
Photo by Erik Bullock, YMCA Director

Abby's story is one of resilience and determination and nothing short of AMAZING! I met Abby shortly after she was crowned Miss Amazing Teen Idaho at age 17. She went on to win the National Miss Amazing Teen Pageant and she is one of our own, from Caldwell, Idaho.

Abby was born in Bulgaria and due to health issues diagnosed at birth, spent two years in a hospital before being placed in an orphanage there. At age 4, she was adopted by a family in Idaho for a very brief time, but due to her high medical

and developmental needs, they placed her for adoption. Through Abby's mom's best friend, who worked for an adoption agency. Abby was then placed with her parents, Lisa and Chuck Manery from Caldwell. Abby became the youngest of six children. Abby has since had a chance to connect with her birth family who continue to reside in Bulgaria. She learned she is the oldest of 3 children and has biological family all over the world.

Abby went to Vallivue Schools. School was difficult for Abby and she strug-

gled academically, socially and with self-confidence. She was nonverbal up until age 6 and had cognitive and learning difficulties. But something changed as she moved from grade to grade. She worked hard to prove herself and grow.

In 2017, she entered Idaho's Miss Amazing Teen Pageant for girls and women with disabilities. She played her trumpet for her talent, and she won the Queen title for "Miss Amazing Teen Idaho." She went on later that summer, to represent Idaho in the National Miss Amazing Teen Pageant, held in Chicago, where she won the national crown. What a proud moment that must have been for Abby and her family.

Regarding those pageants, Abby said, "Public speaking was scary at the beginning, but as I did it more, it was less scary." As part of the pageant, Abby was also featured in a documentary called the Road to Miss Amazing, which can be seen on YouTube.

Beyond the pageants, Abby went to CWI (College of Western Idaho) to prove to herself and to others, that she could "go to college and succeed!" And that, she did! She earned a Liberal Arts associate de-

gree without any special accommodation made for her, other than a little help from her professors.

While in high school, Abby worked for a time at Deseret Industries, and later in May, after the 2017 Idaho pageant, she worked at Kohl's as a cashier. While preparing for the Miss Amazing Pageant, Abby worked out at the Caldwell Y with a personal trainer. That's where Erik Bullock, our YMCA's Director, met her. When he saw her working the register at Kohl's, he told her that she should come work for the Y! She told him that she liked her job at Kohl's and let it go.

Later, she began getting migraines and her doctor told her that they were due to stress at work, so Abby changed jobs. She began working at Chic-fil-A for about 3-4 months, where she began picking up illnesses, so she then applied at Caldwell's Y (without telling Erik).

I visited with Erik Bullock, Caldwell's YMCA's Director, and he had nothing but praise for Abby.

He reflected the following about Abby: "When Abby first stepped up to the podium at a Caldwell Chamber Luncheon, she spoke with a confidence that immedi-

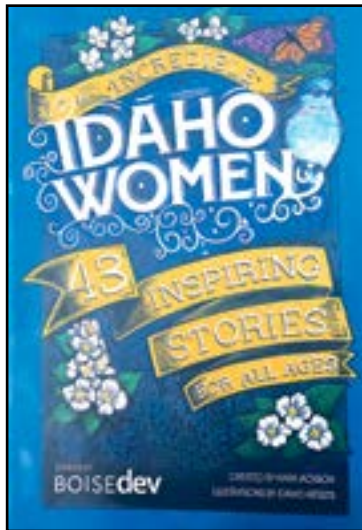
ately captured the room. Sharing her journey of becoming Miss Amazing Teen Idaho, she inspired community leaders and businesses alike. I thought to myself, 'She is going to do great things and speaks for so many who don't share their voice.'"

"That moment was only the beginning. Abby went on to win the National Miss Amazing Pageant, a life-changing experience that showcased her resilience and determination. In preparation, she trained regularly with a personal trainer at the Caldwell Y, pushing herself to be ready for the challenge ahead."

"Her growth has been visible to all who know her. Abby began as a lifeguard at the Y, then advanced to swim instructor, head lifeguard, and now serves as a lifeguard instructor. Abby continually challenges herself and those around her. She's a reflection of resiliency and reaching your full potential."

"Beyond titles and roles, Abby represents something larger, the power of perseverance and the importance of giving voice to those who may not always be heard." "How lucky are we to have her in our community," one supporter remarked.

Her story is inspirational and sharing her story should inspire all who struggle to achieve to their potential. Abby is featured in a book launched by BOISEdev called "Incredible Idaho Women, 43 Inspiring Stories for all ages."



Abby is featured in this book of inspiring women of Idaho.



Abby and Lisa Manery (her mother), and Mayor Garret Nancolas in 2017 after winning the Idaho's "Miss Amazing Teen" pageant.
Photo by Leora Summers

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December						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23			26	27	28	29
						

December 8
10-10:30 AM: Baby Storytime 1, (ages 0-2), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
10:30-11 AM: Baby Storytime 2, (ages 0-2), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11-11:30 AM: Baby Storytime 3, (ages 0-2), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-2:30 PM: Knitting & Crochet Social (ages 18+), Bring a project and make a friend at the monthly knitting & crochet meetup, Library, 1010 Dearborn.
7:30 PM: The Caldwell Centennial Band Presents “A Merry Christmas Concert”, doors at 7pm, \$10 at door, Caldwell High School Auditorium, 3401 S. Indiana.

December 9
10:30-11 AM: Spanish and English Storytime, 1010 Dearborn.
4:30-5:30 PM: Lego Club, Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 10
10 AM-12 PM: Tech Lab, Drop in to ask your technology questions and get one-on-one assistance from a staff member, (ages 18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
10:30-11 AM: Music & Movement (ages 2-6), Library, 1010 Dearborn St.
3:30-4:30 PM: Afterschool Fun (ages 5-12), Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 11
10:30 AM: Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5), Kids engage in fun learning activities (stories, songs, rhymes, and play) designed to help them grow in kindergarten readiness, language, literacy, and social skills needed for school success. Library, 1010 Dearborn.
2 PM: Thursday Read Book Club, (ages 18+), Idaho Room, Library, 1010 Dearborn.
4:30-6:30 PM: Farmway After-school Program (all ages), Farmway Village Community Room, 22730 Farmway Rd.
4:30-5:30 PM: Teen Thursday (ages 13-17), Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 12
10-11 AM: Tai Chi and Qigong, (ages 18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
4:30-5:30 PM: Adult Lego Club, (Ages 16+) Haunted House! Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 13
2-3 PM: Art Together Family Saturday. Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 14
4-10 PM: Christmas Without Borders/Navidad Sin Fronteras, 5214 Cleveland Blvd.

December 16
4:45-5:45 PM: Read to a Therapy Dog. Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 17
6:30-8 PM: Seasonal Craft: Glass Plate Etching (ages 18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 18
11 AM-12 PM: CPL at the Senior Center, 1009 Everett St.
12 PM Caldwell Public Library Board Meeting, Library, 1010 Dearborn St.
5:30 PM: Mariachi Christmas Concert, Caldwell High School Auditorium, 3401 S Indiana, \$10 at door.
6:30 PM: Thursday Read Book Club, (ages 18+), Idaho Room, Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 19
10-11 AM: Tai Chi and Qigong, (ages 18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 26
10-11 AM: Tai Chi and Qigong, (ages 18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
3 PM: Ping Pong Club, Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 29
1-2:30 PM: Knitting & Crochet Social (ages 18+), Bring a project and make a friend at the monthly knitting & crochet meetup, Library, 1010 Dearborn.

December 30
11 AM: New Year's Eve Party: Once Upon a Noon Year, Library, 1010 Dearborn.



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The Rasgorshek Family is the Farm Family of the Year

by Toni Ferro



Angie, Kyle, Marilyn and Paul Rasgorshek - Farm Family of the Year

The Crookham Co. sponsored a Chamber of Commerce lunch event on November 10th to honor this year's Canyon County Farm Family of the Year, the Rasgorshek family. Paul Rasgorshek's par-

ents moved to Idaho from Nebraska in the 60s when Paul was a kid. Later, Paul took over his parents 160-acre farm and has since grown the farm to 4500 acres. Paul's wife, Marilyn, grew up in a farm family

here in the Treasure Valley and when she married Paul, she handled their books for 25 years until they hired a bookkeeper. Their son, Kyle, is now in his 30s. He worked a desk job for a couple of years af-

ter college until he decided that he missed farm life. Then he came back to work on the farm alongside his father. Kyle said "It's been fascinating to learn everything he's [Paul] learned over the years. I still have a lot to go. There's a lot that goes into farming."

Kyle also explained that farming in Idaho is something that has impacts around the world, "What we're doing is not just for the local community, it's for the global community. We're feeding a global population."

Paul feels it is important to educate people about how farms operate here in Idaho and so he has given tours to a number of different groups and organizations including the Chamber, State legislators, and the Environmental

Protection Agency. Congratulations to the Rasgorshek family for their accomplishments. Thank you for all you do for our community and beyond. If you would like to watch a short video interview with the Rasgorsheks, you can go to bit.ly/4oYk6tY or scan the QR code below.



The Farm Family of the Year is awarded by the Caldwell-Nampa Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee.

The Idaho Farmer Veteran Coalition: Helping Veterans Become Farmers and Ranchers

by Toni Ferro



Introducing the Idaho Farmer Veteran Coalition

The Caldwell Chamber of Commerce hosted a welcome event for the Idaho Farmer Veteran Coalition on November 25th. The Coalition's mission is to "help

veterans connect with the resources necessary to be successful" in agricultural industries. They do this by "providing mentorship to new veteran farmers,"

acting as a "networking resource for funding and training opportunities," and establishing "partnerships with private, state, and federal entities to assist farmer

veterans." Connie May, President of the Idaho Farmer Veteran Coalition, explained that if veterans want to "start your own farm, or backyard garden, or cottage industry, we can help you with that." And "if you are someone that is looking to get started we've got risk management education to help you mitigate your risk in getting up and running." Qualified veteran farmers can use the "Homegrown by Heroes" seal as a way to differentiate their products in the marketplace.

To learn more go to the Idaho Farmer Veteran Coalition website at idahofvc.com or subscribe to the Idaho Harvest Heroes podcast at rss.com/podcasts/harvestheroes.



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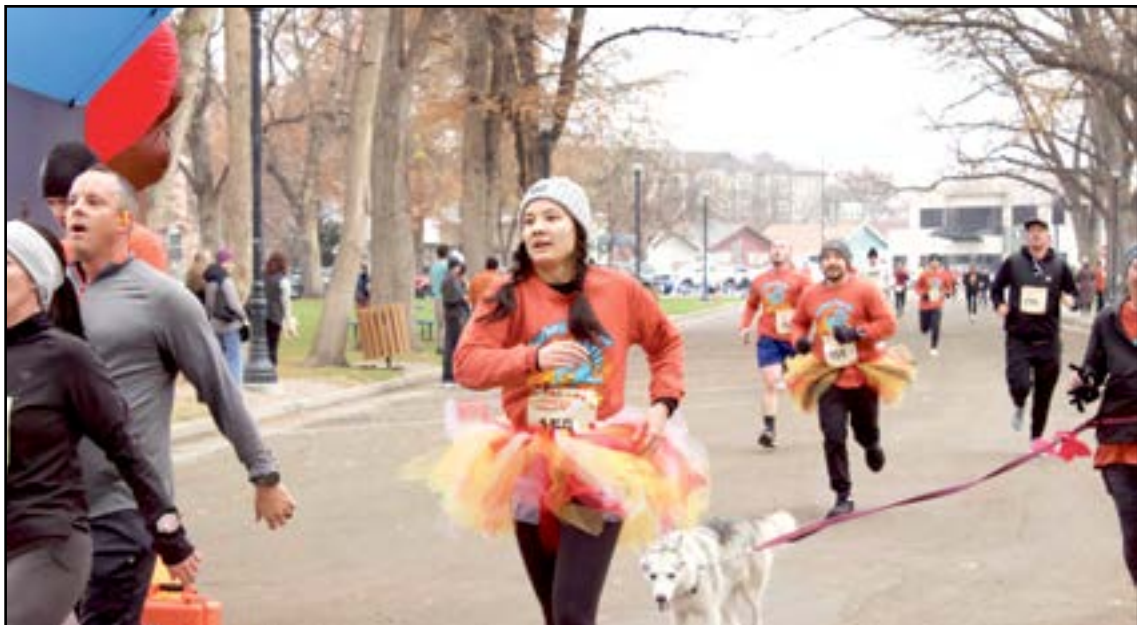
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On Thanksgiving morning, about 1200 adults, kids, and dogs braved the 37 degree cold to run Caldwell's Turkey Day 5k. Good job guys, you earned that extra piece of pumpkin pie!



Spectacular Lights at 16540 Oak Street, Caldwell! This display took Rick Lundberg two months and over 200 hrs to put up. Thanks for the Christmas cheer Rick!

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Aurora Borealis Sightings

By Debi Jensen on 11/12, on top of Homedale Rd, Caldwell using a DSLR Pentax with settings ISO 1600, F4.5, 13 seconds. "The Northern Lights are gorgeous again tonight! Notice the Big Dipper on the left! We were blessed 2 nights in a row to see them!"

By Jim Thomssen on 11/12, out south of McIntyre Farms, corner of Nash and Deerflat Rd using his Samsung 22 phone on the night setting. "Much better views tonight! We saw a Starlink train, dozens of other satellites and a shooting star too!"

What a wonderful show we had in November. So many people were able to see the Aurora Borealis in our area.

The Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, are caused when a solar flare, a sudden explosion of particles due to the instability of the magnetic field of the sun, spews solar particles riding on the solar winds through our solar system. When

these particles meet the earth's magnetic field, they collide with molecules of oxygen and nitrogen gases, causing them to burst into lights in colors like green, red, blue and purple. When colliding with oxygen, they burst into the green and red light. When colliding with nitrogen particles, they burst into the blue and purple light, as well as pink and red.

Indian Creek’s Winter Wonderland Never Disappoints!

by Leora Summers



Indian Creek’s fire-breathing dragon



Thomas the Train rides around the “Singing Christmas Tree”

On November 21st Caldwell’s “Winter Wonderland” kicked off with the spectacular lighting up of our city’s holiday lights, transforming our city into a most amazing and special place. Over one-million lights lit up our downtown area, making it magical for all to enjoy.

The skating ribbon was open and skaters were taking to the ice. The fire-breathing dragon was thrilling everyone again and when I didn’t think any more could be done to make it more spectacular, more was added.

At the place where the singing Christmas tree is located, Disney princesses greeted children, more vendors were added and a train ride for the kids circled the musical tree! What a special night that was!

Caldwell’s “Winter Wonderland” lights will run through mid-January, so you have plenty of opportunity to enjoy them. This is the best light display in Treasure Valley and I encourage you to take your families and friends downtown to see them.



Sam and Leora Summers in a lighted tunnel



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For questions, please contact Josh Engler at jengler@caldwellschools.org

CNR Named Idaho's Top Large Rodeo of the Year



Angelique Rood (Caldwell Night Rodeo Board of Directors President), Paul Adams (Caldwell Night Rodeo Board of Directors), and Nicole Cassity (Caldwell Night Rodeo General Manager) accept the award for Idaho's Top Large Rodeo of the Year.

The Caldwell Night Rodeo (CNR) has been named Idaho's Top Large Rodeo of the Year at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Wilderness Circuit Finals, a distinction decided by PRCA cowboys and cowgirls across Idaho, Nevada, and, Utah. Unlike many awards, this one isn't decided in a boardroom, it's voted on by the cowboys and cowgirls themselves, the competitors who know what it takes to put on a great rodeo because they live it.

This year's honor comes during the 50th anniversary of the PRCA circuit system, adding another layer of significance to a milestone year for rodeo in the West. The Wilderness Circuit includes 51 professional rodeos across Idaho, Nevada, and Utah, making this statewide award both competitive and deeply meaningful.

"This award hits home in a different way," said Angelique Rood, President of the CNR Board of Directors. "When the cowboys and cowgirls say you're doing it right, that the ground is good, the stock is strong, the production is sharp, the fans bring the energy, that means we're honoring what rodeo stands for. That's the highest compliment we could receive."

CNR has long been known as the rodeo where the cowboys are the stars. That mantra is more than a slogan. It drives decisions, investment, and culture. From building a new announcer stand to enhancing athlete spaces, CNR's ongoing \$7.5 million capital campaign to modernize and expand its historic rodeo grounds centers on the competitor experience just as much as the fan experi-

ence.

"We carry a legacy here," said Nicole Cassity, General Manager of the Caldwell Night Rodeo. "This rodeo has been part of Idaho's identity for more than a century. Our commitment to the athletes and their fans is to honor Western heritage and advance it into the future. To be recognized by the cowboys and cowgirls who ride in our rodeo each year means we're honoring that promise."

That recognition is felt deeply by the athletes themselves, especially those who grew up in this arena.

"Caldwell is home for me," said Megan McLeod, CNR Ambassador and National Finals Rodeo Qualifier. "I grew up in these stands, in this dirt, and in this community. I've ridden here my whole life, and I can tell you firsthand, this rodeo puts the cowboys and cowgirls first. You feel supported here. You feel seen. To have the athletes vote CNR as the top rodeo in Idaho says everything about the heart of this place."

CNR accepted the award at the Wilderness Circuit Finals in Heber City, Utah.

About the Caldwell Night Rodeo

The Caldwell Night Rodeo has been an iconic Idaho tradition for more than 100 years, drawing thousands of competitors and fans from across the nation to experience the thrill of rodeo and celebrate Western culture. Known for its electrifying atmosphere and ranked among the top rodeos nationwide, CNR is dedicated to offering an unparalleled rodeo experience while fostering community engagement and economic growth in Idaho.

Caldwell Night Rodeo: Countdown to 2026 Starts Now

by Ysabel Bilbao

Tickets for the 2026 Caldwell Night Rodeo (CNR) officially went on sale Monday, December 1. Fresh off being voted Idaho's Top Large Rodeo of the Year at the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Wilderness Circuit Finals, CNR is gearing up for its 102nd year of rodeo under the lights and fans are encouraged to reserve their seats early.

Last year, Friday and Saturday nights sold out well ahead of rodeo week.

"This rodeo is a homecoming for so many people — the athletes, the fans, the families, and the volunteers who return year after year. There's nothing quite like

the energy that fills this arena, and we're already feeling that spark as we look ahead to August in 2026," said Nicole Cassity, General Manager of Caldwell Night Rodeo. "We invite everyone to claim their favorite seats early and be part of the moments that make this rodeo so unforgettable. Tickets also make a great holiday gift, a little piece of summer excitement to look forward to all year long!"

The 2026 Caldwell Night Rodeo will take place August 18-22.

The new announcer stand debuted earlier this year, and phase two, which includes additional arena improvements, is underway.

Tickets are available at caldwellnightrodeo.com, with options ranging from reserved grandstand seating to premium experiences and general admission. Group seating and multi-night packages are also available.

"Every person who buys a ticket is helping keep this tradition alive," Cassity added. "We're proud of where this rodeo has been for more than 100 years — and we're even more excited about where it's going."

For ticket details, seating questions, or group reservations, visit caldwellnightrodeo.com or call the CNR office at 208-459-2060.

Slamming the Door Shut

by Deborah Kraft – Canyon County Anti-Trafficking Task Force



We recently shared a post on our Facebook page from Million Kids (millionkids.org), an organization committed to fighting predators victimizing children. The post focused on the digital battle being waged between child predators and those trying to protect youth from such dangerous and deadly online advances. A particular focus was how these highly sophisticated predators infiltrate homes through the Internet to exploit children.

One video clip we've used in our presentations depicts a young teenage girl sit-

ting alone in her bedroom, communicating through a group chat on her tablet with numerous predators representing themselves as her peers. Next you see many older men walking through the front door of this teenager's house, past the clueless parents sitting in the living room, up the stairs and into her bedroom. So packed are these predators in her bedroom (though invisible to her) that the viewer must peer over their shoulders to hear the conversation taking place. As she stares at her screen one man says to her, "Don't be shy ..."

The truth is someone physically knocking at the front door or ringing the doorbell of a child's home compared to someone connecting with that same youth on the Internet are one and the same action — that child has secretly invited some

very dangerous people into a private home space who can inflict emotional, physical and psychological harm. No parent greeting such predatory strangers at the front door face-to-face would ever let them in and might even call the police to report their malicious intent.

To help shut and lock this online door from predators, experts strongly recommend:

- Ongoing conversations with the child about their Internet activity and close monitoring of their use.
- No electronic devices in the bedroom, ever.
- No social media accounts for a minor under the age of 16.

The upcoming audio & digital book, "Digital Warfare – Our Kids on the Frontline" by Opal Singleton will teach every adult how to prepare for what Million Kids describes as a tsunami of destruction already shattering our youth.

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Hooray for Rotary's Commitment to Education!

Leora Summers



Rotarian Book Crew at Lewis and Clark Elementary: Milon McDaniel, Edwin Lara, Cathie Besheer, Carl Anderson, Valerie Hansen, and Dennis Ghormley.

And the winners are 1,196 second graders in Canyon and Owyhee counties! Beginning in September and through November 20th, Rotary volunteers visited 56 second grade classrooms in 18 different elementary schools in Canyon and Owyhee counties.

To prepare for this, Milon and Joyce McDaniel order chapter books appropriate for 2nd grade readers, then take them to the schools for teachers to select for their individual students according to their interests. The teachers then

put their students' names on their selections. The books are then bundled up according to classrooms for Rotarian volunteers to come back and hand out each book individually to each student. It is a joyful day for Rotarians, students and teachers.

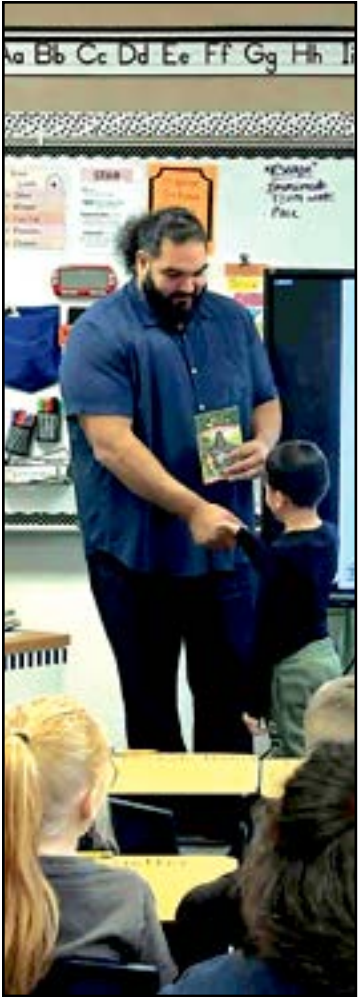


Books laid out at Lakevue Elementary for teachers to select for individual students. Photos by Joyce McDaniel

Education is a high priority for Rotary International and Caldwell Rotary Club takes this very seriously. This second grade book distribution is a part of this commitment to the youth in our area. Milon and Joyce McDaniel have been organizing this project for many, many years.

The funds for this program are raised with the money earned through Caldwell Rotary's concession booth at the Caldwell Night Rodeo and through a matching grant through Rotary's District 5400 in Idaho.

The next arm of Rotary's commitment to education and learning for the youth in our area will begin in February with the distribution of dictionaries to 3rd graders in those same schools.



Rotarian Edwin Lara at Lewis and Clark Elementary giving a 2nd grader a brand new chapter book.

Caldwell Teacher named "Idaho VFW Elementary Teacher of the Year"

by Toni Ferro



Dave Cole

The Idaho Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) selected Van Buren music teacher, Dave Cole, as their "2024-2025 Elementary Teacher of the Year."

This award is given to "teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette and patriotism" through activities like community volunteer projects, inviting veterans to the classroom, and fostering democratic values and beliefs through special projects.

In talking to Dave, it is clear that he deserves this award, though he said he can't shake the feeling that veterans giving him an award is backwards. He feels that instead of veterans thanking him for his work teaching our kids about freedom and democracy, he wants to be thank-

ing veterans for the sacrifices they made to defend freedom for all of us.

Dave has taught music at Van Buren for 23 years and incorporates teaching about democracy and freedom into his curriculum at every grade level. He talks to his students about what a veteran is and about what our flag means.

He has volunteered to coordinate Van Buren's Veterans' Day assembly for many years. Students are encouraged to invite the veterans in their family to come speak about their experiences during the assembly and Dave has been very impressed with the students because they "are always so respectful and quiet" when the veterans are there.

Dave also wrote a song about veterans for the kids to sing on Veteran's Day. In 2016 and 2023 he had the students draw pictures about how they felt about veterans and he made a video of the students singing while the pictures were displayed. You can see these videos on Youtube at youtube.com/@davidcole6475.

In addition, every year Dave takes his choir students caroling to the Fire Department, the Police Department, the school district

office, City Hall, and more. The students prepare for the shows during the year, and then give up two lunch-time recesses to thank people in their community with carols.

Dave grew up in Middleton and wanted me to thank Caldwell for him saying he "has fallen in love with the kids here and the community" and is "honored to be accepted in the community and to get to teach here."

Dave is not the first Caldwell teacher to win the Idaho VFW Teacher of the Year award. In 2022-2023, Van Buren teacher Kelly Garey, won the Idaho state award and went on to win the national "VFW Elementary Teacher of the Year" award.

Kelly is a retired Navy veteran, who won the award for "her dedication to fostering patriotism, passion for serving her country and local community, and for her continued efforts to organize field trips, activities and services to help her students learn about and recognize America's veterans and their military service."

Congratulations to Dave and to Kelly and thanks for all of your great work teaching our kids.

Two Caldwell Students Win Local VFW Awards

by Toni Ferro



Jefferson 6th grader, Eric De La Cruz

Jefferson Middle School 6th grader, Eric De La Cruz, and Caldwell High School junior, Alice Arnold, recently won local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) essay



contests and were awarded \$150. Each year, the VFW awards a total of over \$2 million dollars in scholarships to students around the country.

The scholarships are awarded to winners of an essay contest, the Voice of Democracy for high school students and the Patriot Pen for middle school students.

This year's theme for the contests is "How Are You Showing Patriotism And Support For Our Country?" Last year more than 60,000 students nationally participated in the contests.

Students start by entering their essay through our local VFW Post 3886, which covers Caldwell, Middleton and Star. The local winners move on to the district level, then the state level, and finally the national level.

Kelly Garey, Eric's science teacher, said that she encouraged Eric to apply, because she sees him show his patriotism in class. She teaches her kids to stand at attention and recite the Pledge of Allegiance in a series of calls each day and she says that Eric loves to give the calls. In addition, he supports veterans in the community by taking time out to thank them, and he likes making thank you cards for veterans.

Now that Eric and Alice have won locally, their entries will go on to the district competition, which includes Mountain Home, Meridian, Kuna, and Nampa.

Congratulations and good luck Eric and Alice!



Ten Commandments

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee and graven image

III. Thou shalt not take the Lord thy God in vain

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

V. Honor thy father and thy mother

VI. Thou shalt not kill

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery

VIII. Thou shalt not steal

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor

X. Thou shalt not covet

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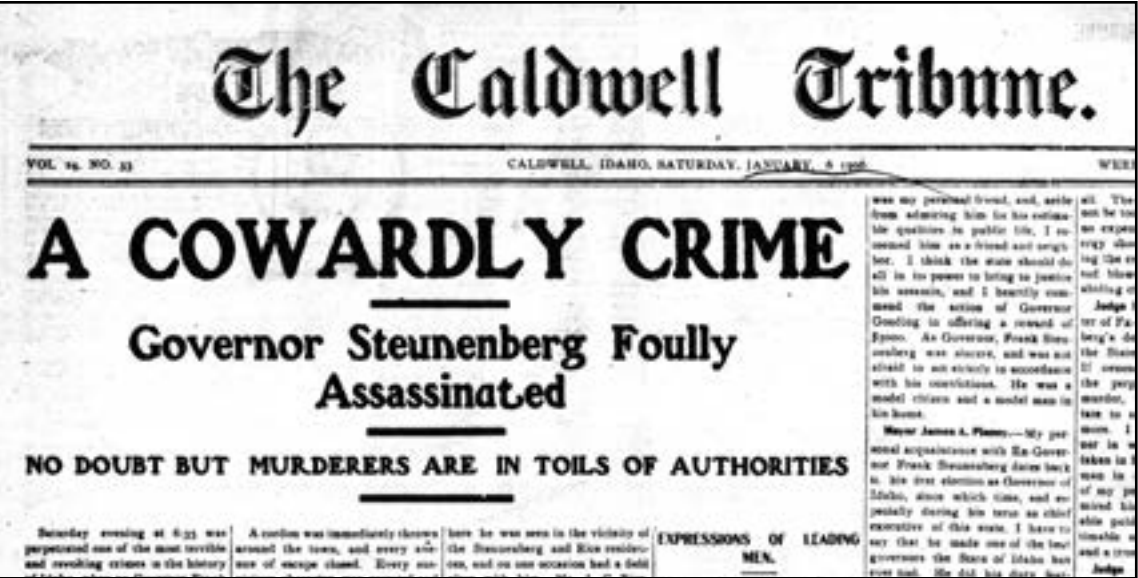
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“One of the Most Terrible and Revolting Crimes in the History of Idaho”

by Robert Sobba



The January 6th, 1906 headline of “The Caldwell Tribune”

This month marks the 120th anniversary of the assassination of former Governor Frank Steunenberg outside his house here in Caldwell. To commemorate the historic event, we are re-running this story about the murder written by Robert Sobba.

If this story catches your interest and you want to learn more, you can book Robert to present a more detailed version of the story with slides to your group through the Idaho Humanities Council (idahohumanities.org).

The “Cowardly Crime”

Saturday, December 30th, 1905, was a cold day in Caldwell, then a quiet town of two thousand people. Frank Steunenberg and his five brothers had moved to Caldwell in the early 1880s. They prospered as sheep ranchers, merchants

and in real estate. Frank ran the local bank and his brother, A.K., was the editor of a local newspaper. They were active in local politics and Frank served two terms on the city council, was a member of the state legislature, and served a term as county auditor.



Frank Steunenberg

In 1894, Frank ran for governor and upset the leading contenders in the Democratic primary, then beat the

Republican candidate in the general election to become, at age thirty-eight, Idaho’s youngest governor. After two terms, he returned to banking and the other family businesses.

That afternoon, Frank began his walk from his new home to his downtown bank. He was meeting an insurance agent to purchase a life insurance policy. Little did the agent know that the ink would hardly dry on the document before he would have a death claim.

Frank then went across the street to the Saratoga Hotel, one of the finest hotels in the state. As Steunenberg returned home and opened his front gate, he tripped a wire that detonated ten sticks of dynamite planted under the sidewalk.

The explosion broke all the windows in the Steunenberg home and knocked his five-year-old son unconscious, Frank died within minutes.

Various suspects in Caldwell were detained and interrogated, but Governor Frank Gooding and the Steunenberg family had strong suspicions of who was responsible.

The Motive

As the industrial revolution took hold at the end of the nineteenth century, many laborers began to organize into unions in an effort to obtain better pay and working conditions.

As labor unrest grew, so did incidents of violence. The term ‘dynamiters’ was used to describe individuals who used dynamite to destroy the mining equipment of owners who were unresponsive to labor’s demands.

As the violence escalated, supervisors, guards and other workers also became the targets of the dynamiters. The Western Federation of Miners (WFM) soon had the reputation of being a leading perpetrator of labor-related violence and the use of dynamiters was often attributed to them.

Seven years previously, in Steunenberg’s last year as governor, the WFM led a strike in Idaho’s Shoshone County, the site of several silver mines. As violence and vandalism became more rampant, the mine owners demanded protection from the state.

On day three hundred of the strike, drunk, armed, and

angry miners hijacked a train, loaded it with stolen dynamite, and proceeded to the Bunker Hill mine near Kellogg, Idaho. They used the dynamite to destroy a quarter million dollars of mining equipment and buildings.

Governor Steunenberg then made a decision that was to have national implications and eventually cost him his life. He declared martial law in Shoshone County.

Because Idaho’s National Guard had been called up for the Spanish-American War, Steunenberg requested federal troops from President McKinley, who granted the request.

In a short time, the troops, all African American soldiers, had arrested over a thousand miners. The troops restored order without any major incidents and only a few detainees ever went to trial. However, the union leaders were outraged; not only with martial law, but that black troops had been sent to quell the chaos.

The national media had a heyday and even Steunenberg’s own Democratic Party questioned his judgment. Over the years he received many death threats and he often stated he “was a marked man.”

The Investigation

Jasper Nichols, the Canyon County Sheriff, quickly took charge of the investigation. Within a short time, Thomas Hogan rose to the top of their list of suspects.

Staying at the Saratoga Hotel, Hogan came to town with plenty of money, claiming to be a sheep man, but made no effort to buy or sell sheep. He also slept every day until 11am, which brought him to the attention of the hotel management.

A day or two prior to the murder, a Japanese janitor at the Saratoga found gun cotton (a substance used to ignite dynamite) in Hogan’s room. The janitor had worked in mines, so was familiar with the unstable substance.

When Hogan was placed under surveillance, Baker County Sheriff Harvey Brown recognized him as a miner going by the name of Harry Orchard, who had been working in the Baker area.

When Hogan next left his room, authorities searched it, found more gun cotton, and found plaster of Paris in his bedpan. Dynamiters often placed sticks of dynamite in plaster of Paris so when it hardened, it kept the elements of the bomb together.

Later, authorities went to the nearby railroad station where they located Hogan’s luggage. In a leather valise, they found a sawed-off shotgun, a pistol in a shoulder holster, brass knuckles, and nippers used to set caps in dynamite, a fishing reel with the string removed, and four containers of explosives.

Hogan was picked up and arrested for the murder of Frank Steunenberg. He denied being Harry Orchard or the murderer of the former governor.

Despite the fact that Hogan

was being held incommunicado, the next day a lawyer from Spokane arrived, claiming he had been retained to represent the suspect. The lawyer’s firm had close ties to mining unions and often represented WFM in civil and criminal cases.

Investigators located witnesses who identified Hogan as a person they had seen near the Steunenberg home. Some stated that he was accompanied by another man. Based on the witnesses’ descriptions, authorities suspected the other man was Jack Simpkins, the Idaho district leader for the WFM. His photo was obtained, and he was identified as the second suspect.

Governor Gooding became increasingly concerned the case was rapidly going beyond the scope of what Idaho authorities could handle. Idaho did not have a state police organization at that time, and it would be several years before the FBI was operational.

Gooding decided to retain the Pinkerton Detective Agency to control the investigation. He insisted that the head of the Western Pinkerton Office, James McParland, handle the case personally.

McParland was a long time Pinkerton agent who many admirers called “The Great Detective” because of his many years of success. Over the years, McParland was considered an expert at interrogation and in developing networks of informants and spies.

McParland had Hogan moved from the small Canyon County jail to the Idaho Penitentiary in Boise, where he personally handled his interrogation. In a short time, Hogan confessed his real name was actually Albert Horsley, and that he had gone by Harry Orchard for many years. He admitted to planting the bomb that killed Steunenberg, and he named Jack Simpkins and a man named Steve Adams as his accomplices.



Albert Horsley, aka Harry Orchard, aka Thomas Hogan

He also admitted to seventeen other murders. They included the bombing of a Colorado train station that killed thirteen non-union workers brought in by mine owners to fill in for striking miners.

Orchard also confessed that he had placed a dynamite bomb under the porch of a Colorado judge who had given opinions unfavorable to the WFM, though that

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OUR 2025 EVENTS

- Veteran's Memorial Bricks:** \$100 - Purchased an engraved brick and help support our heroes.
- May 26:** Memorial Day (set up American Flags on May 23rd at Canyon Hill Cemetery. Remove Flags May 27th).
- June 7:** DAY breakfast fundraiser - 8-11am at CVMH
- July 4:** Independence Day Parade - 9am
- September 13:** 9th Annual Sporting Clay Shoot - Tickets can be purchased on our website.
- December 24:** Christmas Eve Dinner - 11:30am - 5pm (open to the public)
- 2025 Shotgun Raffle:** \$20 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at the Veterans Hall or on our website.

OUR 2025 MEETINGS

- Veterans Service Officer:** Mon-Fri - 8 am-5 pm by appointment (Kelly - 208-616-0622, Able - 208-793-1226)
- Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings:** Every Thursday - 6pm at Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.
- Behavioral Health and Wellness:** Mon-Fri - 8 am-5 pm by appointment at Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.
- VET Center Counseling:** Mon and Tues 8 am-5 pm by appointment at Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.
- Veterans Coffee and Doughnuts:** Every Thursday - 8 am-11 am at Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.
- DAY Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of the month - 6pm at Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.
- Building Stronger Veterans:** Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm at The Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Phone: 208-402-6590
- Email: caldwellveterans@gmail.com
- Website: www.cvmh-vets.org
- Address: 1101 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell, ID 83605



Orchard in the light suit on the left, testifying at the trial of Bill Haywood.

bomb never exploded. He claimed he had a “hit list” of people, which included Steunenberg, all who were considered enemies of the WFM. He revealed that he had been hired to kill these people by WFM president, Charles Moyer; vice president, George Pettibone; and secretary, Bill Haywood. When transcribed, the amazing confession was sixty-four pages long.

The WFM Arrests

McParland devised a plan to obtain Idaho murder warrants for the trio of union bosses, then travel to Colorado to get the proper approvals for the extradition, arrest them, and immediately put them on a train for Idaho. Idaho’s Governor Gooding appointed two prominent Boise attorneys, William Borah and James Hawley, to assist with the prosecution. To prevent legal delay tactics, a special train was secured to transport the prisoners, and the railroad management gave the train priority clearance traveling to Idaho. The Denver authorities arrested all three suspects and quickly loaded them onto the train bound for Idaho. The train trip took only twenty-seven hours—nine hours less than a normal Denver to Boise ride.

When the train arrived in Canyon County, the three men were arrested by the sheriff and immediately taken to Boise and jailed. The WFM sent Edmund Richardson, the Denver lawyer who had often represented their legal interests, to Idaho. The union also retained the nationally famous attorney, Clarence Darrow. Darrow was well known for his “win at any cost” approach. The defense immediately filed petitions with the court, claiming the three union bosses had been kidnapped and were “denied due process.”

An Accomplice

Meanwhile, Sheriff Brown in Baker, Oregon, was busy arresting Steve Adams, whom Orchard had named as his accomplice. Adams was extradited to Idaho and with a little prodding, McParland was able to get him to confess his part in the Steunenberg murder. Adams also confessed that the three WFM leaders had hired him to kill Steunenberg, as well as commit other acts of violence. Adams’ testimony was paramount to the case. Under Idaho law, like many states, a conviction in a conspiracy case required more evidence than the word of only one co-conspirator. Presumably to eliminate Adams as a witness, Darrow traveled privately to Baker, Oregon, and talked with Adams’ uncle. Shortly thereafter, the uncle arrived in Boise and conversed with Adams. It was no surprise that Adams then recanted his previous confession. One can only speculate as to what took place between Darrow and Adams’ uncle. However, McParland always seemed to have another card to play. In this instance, he had obtained a warrant from Shoshone County, Idaho, charging Adams with an unrelated double murder. After the judge released Adams, he was immediately arrested for those murders. Darrow then countered by hiring a lawyer to represent Adams in Shoshone County. McParland thought once Adams was convicted of murder, he would agree to testify in the Steunenberg case. However, Adams’ murder trial ended in a hung jury, and Adams was lost as a witness for the prosecution.

The Trials

Within the year, the Idaho and U. S. Supreme Courts ruled that all suspects in the Steunenberg murder trial

could be tried in Idaho, and preparation for the trial finally commenced. The court decided each defendant should be tried independently, starting with Haywood—one of the WFM bosses. As the trial date neared, reporters from around the world descended on Boise. Eight additional telegraph lines were set up in town to handle the media. The Associated Press sent three senior reporters and two telegraph operators to cover the proceedings. On May 10, 1907, the trial of union boss Bill Haywood commenced. Two hundred and forty-eight potential jurors were interviewed. The prosecution eliminated anyone with union connections or sympathies; the defense excused any bankers or businessmen; and thus, the final jury consisted mainly of farmers and ranchers. During the trial, the prosecution stated that this was a murder trial and nothing else. The defense called it a biased trial against unions, declaring that Haywood was a martyr for their cause. No matter what kind of trial it was, everything rested on Orchard’s testimony. Orchard’s testimony lasted for twenty-six hours, during which time he described in great detail his efforts to murder ex-governor Steunenberg. He described the bomb construction as: *A wooden box about eight inches square. In the box we (he and Simpkins) packed ten pounds of dynamite and about a hundred fulminating giant caps, over which we placed a piece of cotton saturated with cyanide of potassium and sugar. Slanting over the cotton was a bottle containing sulphuric acid sealed with a cork. In the cork was a pin, and attached to the pin was a piece of*

wire, the end of which was stretched across the footpath just outside the governor’s residence about four inches off the ground. When the governor passed on his way to his garden gate, his foot would trip the wire, which would draw the cork from the bottle, discharging the acid, which mixing with the saturated cotton would cause the caps to ignite and explode the dynamite. Orchard went on to say a first bomb was planted, but never ignited. He and Simpkins retrieved it only to discover that the wire had snapped, leaving it inoperative. Fearing someone would recognize him, Simpkins left town; and Orchard spent the next several weeks stalking Steunenberg, until he was at last able to again place the bomb and complete the murder. Richardson handled the cross examination for the defense; but, despite all his skills, he was unable to shake Orchard’s testimony. One newspaper reported that Orchard was “the most remarkable witness that ever appeared in an American court of justice.” Mid-July was stifling hot in the Ada County Courthouse, when for several days the lawyers made their closing arguments. The jury deliberated all night and by morning had reached their decision. While everyone was expecting a hanging, it was not to be. The jury came back with a not guilty verdict. Idaho citizens and much of the world were shocked. The jurors had concluded they could not hang Haywood only on the word of Orchard—a confessed mass murderer. Without additional testimony from Adams or Simpkins or other collaborative evidence, the prosecution was doomed. In January, 1908, George Pettibone stood trial and was also acquitted. At that point, the state dropped all charges against Charles Moyer.

The Conclusion

So, were they guilty? Orchard’s confession went into

great detail describing the Steunenberg murder as well as other crimes that he surely had committed; none of which he had any motive to commit, unless paid or coerced by others. Witnesses had placed Simpkins with Orchard at the scene. Simpkins was a member of the WFM board of directors and after Orchard was arrested, he sent union funds to retain the Spokane attorney. It is unlikely Simpkins would have undertaken the assassination without the knowledge of the WFM leadership. The jurors were very aware that the dynamiters had waited seven years before murdering Steunenberg. Could they have been worried that if they issued a guilty verdict they might face the same fate? Shortly after the Haywood trial, Baker County Sheriff Brown, who had helped with the investigation, returned to his home in Oregon. As he passed through his front gate, he tripped a dynamite charge and died of his injuries three days later. No one was ever arrested for his murder. In May 1908, Orchard pled guilty to the murder of Steunenberg. He was sentenced to hang, but surprisingly, his sentence was commuted to life in prison. While he was in prison, the media had a heyday over his conversion to the Seventh-day Adventist religion—the religion of Mrs. Steunenberg. Stories persisted for years that she had forgiven him for killing her husband. Several Steunenberg family members later claimed that the media had exaggerated this point. While in prison, Orchard authored two books, *Confessions of Harry Orchard* and *The Man God Made Again*. He eventually was made a trustee and lived outside the prison walls, where he became an authority on raising chickens and enjoyed working in the prison garden. He was eighty-eight years old when he died. He had spent almost fifty years behind bars.

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Caldwell Receives Global JustServe City Award

by Kelli G. Jenkins, JustServe Caldwell



Food Drive Results! Fantastic!

We are pleased to announce that the City of Caldwell has received the Global JustServe City Award at the National League of Cities Convention. This recognition was given to five global cities and the City of Caldwell was one of four awarded in the nation for of our community's exceptional spirit of volunteerism and compassion. This honor reflects the combined efforts of our residents, civic leaders, nonprofits, and faith-based organizations who work hand in hand to lift others. Together, we continue to show what is possible when a community unites for the common good.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who responded to the urgent call to support local food banks through last month's Community Food Drive and Scouting for Food Drive. Your generosity made a meaningful difference. The success of these events—along with "Rake-Up Caldwell"—brought joy both to those who served and those who were served.

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, we remember the angels' message:



Community volunteers helping with the food drive.

"Peace on earth, good will to men." That promise remains unchanged. By extending kindness and serving as He served, we can close out this year with renewed hope.

There are many opportunities this season to continue spreading that hope. The Salvation Army welcomes volunteers to unload toys on December 6, sort toys on December 12, and help distribute Christmas food boxes on December 15.

All food pantries are also in ongoing need of donations. Aspen Creek Senior Living is seeking stocking stuffers for its 60 residents, and the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall invites volunteers to help serve Christmas dinner on December 24.

You can support the Traveling Table Food Pantry on December 10, assist individuals learning English, or donate hygiene items to Caldwell AND Vallivue school districts.

Trivium Life Services needs clothing, shoes, and household goods to support individuals working through mental health and substance-use challenges.

The Feedthe2C Community Fridge at the Flying M

relies on regular stocking, and volunteers are needed for both the Treasure Valley Night Light Parade on December 6 and the new Winter Nights & Magical Lights celebration.

At JustServe, we believe nothing should stand between a willing heart and the opportunity to serve. Through Mayor Wagoner's Seasons of Caldwell initiative, December has been designated as the Season of Giving—something our community embraces wholeheartedly. "We are excited to keep the Seasons of Caldwell going as a way to deepen our connections with each other and our community," said Mayor Jarom Wagoner. "Each season offers an opportunity to give back, learn something new, or simply care for our neighbors. Together, we can make Caldwell a better place for all."

As this Christmas season comes to a close, may we each echo the angels' call for "Peace on earth, good will to men." Visit JustServe.org to find even more opportunities to bring hope and light to someone in need.

Free Food Pantries in Caldwell



Volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul, St. Clare's Food Pantry. Photo by Sheila McGregor.

- **St. Vincent de Paul St. Clare's Food Pantry**, 1122 W Linden St, Caldwell. Phone: 208-919-2940. Open Wednesdays, 11:00am - 1:00pm.
- **WICAP Caldwell**, 204 W Kearney St, Caldwell. Phone: 208-454-0675. Food Pantry: Distributions different times and locations.
- **Community Council of Idaho**, 317 Happy Day Blvd, Suite 180, Caldwell. Phone: 208-454-8604. Food Pantry: Monday - Friday 9am-4pm.
- **Oasis Worship & Food Center**, 506 W. Simplot Blvd, Caldwell. Phone: (208) 459-6000. Food Pantry: Every Wednesday 12pm - 2pm & Every Thursday 4pm - 6pm; Free Meals: Lunch Every Wednesday.
- **Wilson Elementary Food Pantry**, 400 E Linden St, Caldwell. Open Wednesdays from 4pm-6pm, except on the second Wed. of each month when a mobile pantry is held in a different location instead.
- **Caldwell Salvation Army Food Pantry**, 1023 E Chicago St, Caldwell. Phone: 208-459-2011. Call for hours.
- **New Life Celebration**, 1201 Arthur St, Caldwell. Phone: 208-454-0800. Food Pantry: Last 2 Thursdays of each month, 1-3pm.
- **World Harvest Church of God of Prophecy**, 803 Main St, Caldwell. Phone: 208-899-5894. Food Pantry: 3rd Saturday of the month, 10am-12pm *call for appointment.
- **Farmway Village Mobile Pantry**, 22730 Farmway Rd, Caldwell. Phone: 208-519-9770. Food Pantry: 4th Thursday of the month, 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- **The Traveling Table Mobile Food Pantry**, 400 E Linden St, Caldwell. Food Pantry: 4th Wednesday of the month, 12:15pm-2pm.

Shout Out to the Worleys and their "Share Stand!"

by Leora Summers



The Worley's "Share Stand" at 624 W Linden St during the summer.

Dawn and James Worley are to be commended and thanked for their generosity during the summer months. They live on West Linden Street and for many years they have planted a huge garden and share their bounty with our community through their "Share Stand."

During the summer, people are invited to drop by and take what they want or need. They may also leave produce from their gardens to share. All kinds of goodies are there all summer long during the growing season like zucchinis, cukes, tomatoes, green beans, peppers, some fruits and much more!

All summer long the variety changes and many people drop by to take advantage of this compassionate and helpful community service. Neighbor Rick Mack asked for us to give this "shout out" to his neighbors across the street for their kindness.



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Holiday Fun with Food Safety in Mind

by Surine Greenway,
Family & Consumer Sciences Extension Educator, University of Idaho



Food Preparation using food safety practices

In the fall and winter, many of us spend extra time in the kitchen preparing traditional family recipes. Cooking at home allows you to create meaningful homemade gifts, choose the ingredients you use, and adapt recipes to accommodate food sensitivities or allergies. Whatever your reason for cooking this season, following four food-safety practices can help keep you and your loved ones healthy:

- Clean: Wash hands and surfaces often
- Separate: Don't cross-contaminate
- Cook: Cook foods to safe internal temperatures
- Chill: Cool foods promptly

Although these steps seem simple, it's easy to overlook them in the excitement and pace of holiday cooking. Starting with clean hands, surfaces, utensils and food is the foundation of safe food preparation. To prevent cross-contamination, prepare fresh produce before handling raw foods to be cooked, and use separate cutting boards for raw and ready-to-eat foods, especially when multiple people are cooking at once.

Using a food thermometer is one of the best methods for ensuring foods reach a safe internal temperature. Visual cues such as color or texture are not reliable indicators of doneness. Keep in mind that each type of protein has its own recommended temperature. Recommendations from the Food Safety and Inspection Service are below:

Safe Minimum Internal Temperatures

- Beef, pork, veal & lamb (steaks, chops, roasts): 145°F and rest at least 3 minutes
- Ground meats: 160°F
- Ground poultry: 165°F
- Ham – fresh or smoked (uncooked): 145°F and rest 3 minutes
- Fully cooked ham (to re-heat):
 - *140°F if packaged in a USDA-inspected plant
 - *165°F for all other hams
- All Poultry (Breasts, Whole Bird, Legs, Thighs, Wings, Ground Poultry, Giblets and Stuffing): 165°F
- Eggs: 160°F
- Fish & shellfish: 145°F
- Leftovers: 165°F
- Casseroles: 165°F

Additionally, foods should not sit at room temperature for more than two

hours. Refrigerate leftovers promptly to keep them out of the “danger zone,” a temperature range of 40°F to 140°F where bacteria grow quickly. When hosting gatherings, pay attention to safe handling practices during preparation, serving, and when storing leftovers. Also, it is important to re-heat leftovers to 165°F.

These recommendations help prevent foodborne illnesses, which is any illness caused by eating contaminated food. Foodborne illness symptoms such as headache, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea are often mistaken for the “stomach flu,” which is actually a respiratory illness unrelated to food. Another challenge is timing: although people often blame the last food they ate, symptoms of foodborne illness may not appear for 24 to 36 hours or even several days after exposure.

In the U.S., an estimated 48 million cases of foodborne illness occur annually. That means 1 in 6 Americans will be affected annually. Of these, approximately 128,000 people are hospitalized, and 3,000 will die from complications.

Keeping holiday meals both delicious and safe is easy when you follow these four simple steps. With a little extra care, you can enjoy the season's celebrations with confidence.

University of Idaho Extension provides research-based information on preparing and preserving foods at home. If you'd like to ensure you are using safe practices, contact the

Great Recipes for the Holidays

Candied Pecans
from *Tastes Better from Scratch*
recipe by Lauren Allen



*photo from Tastes Better from Scratch

Editor's Note: This is a wonderful Christmas treat to give to friends. These are crunchy and totally addictive. My friend Ellen Batt introduced me to these years ago when she gave me some as a little Christmas treat. And when you make them, oh my, your house smells so good!

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1 tbs ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 16 oz unsalted pecan halves (about 4 cups)
- 1 large egg white
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 tsp water

Instructions

- Preheat oven to 300 degrees F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Add granulated sugar, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt to a bowl and stir to combine.
- In a separate large bowl, beat the egg white, vanilla, and water until stiff peaks form.
- Add the pecans to the egg whites mixture and gently toss to coat. Add the cinnamon sugar mixture and stir gently until the pecans are well coated.
- Spread the pecans into a single layer on the prepared baking sheet. Bake for about 40-45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.
- Remove from the oven and allow the pecans to cool completely on the baking sheet.
- When completely cool, store in an airtight container for up to 1 month.

Voilà! You can divide the finished candied pecans up and put them into smaller size containers to give to friends for Christmas!

Hot Buttered Rum Batter
by Leora Summers



This is a recipe that was given to me years ago and it is a fun one to give to friends for Christmas. I like it best with a dark rum, like Meyers Rum. To make it more special when giving it to a friend, include a small bottle of rum in a Christmas gift bag with it.

Ingredients

- 1 lb. butter (soft)
- 1 lb. brown sugar
- 1 lb. confectioner's sugar
- 1 qt. vanilla ice cream, softened (I buy a half gallon and cut it in half)

Instructions

- Mix brown sugar and confectioners' sugar together.
- Mix softened butter into this mixture.
- Fold in softened vanilla ice cream.
- Mix with electric mixer until smooth and creamy.

To Make the Drink...

- Put one heaping tbs. of rum batter in a coffee mug.
- Pour boiling water into the cup leaving enough room for one oz. of rum.
- Stir until batter is melted.
- Pour in 1 oz. of rum. (Myers dark rum is awesome)
- Sprinkle top with nutmeg.



University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension office at 208-896-4104 or owyhee@uidaho.edu. Additionally, if you are passionate about food and interested in learning how to safely handle and preserve a wide variety of foods while serving your community, consider the Master Food Safety Advisor program. A new training series will begin in January 2026.

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The Mentoring Network Receives Big Donation

by Leora Summers



A check for \$90,441.89 was presented to The Mentoring Network (TMN) on November 17th by Mayor Jarom Wagoner at City Hall. The funds were raised through Mayor Wagoner's Charity Golf Scramble which was held this past summer. The scramble brought members from our community and businesses together to raise money for such a great cause. Due to the incredible support, generosity and donations of so many, this final Mayor Wagoner Charity Golf Scramble surpassed \$100,000.

Mayor Wagoner thanked everyone who participated, sponsored, and supported this event and said their generosity helps make a lasting difference in the lives of Caldwell's young people.

Johnson Thermal Systems (JTS) was the Title



L to R: Cory Gerard (CFD), Bryan Daniels (CFD), Bianca Stevenson (mentor), Donna Price (TMN), Mayor Jarom Wagoner, Eric Blechinger (JTS, Title Sponsor), Marci Silva (TMN-CEO), Char Jackson (mentor), Debbie Geyer (mentor), Josh Engler (TRIO) and Brian Kida (mentor). *Photo by Leora Summers

Sponsor for this year's scramble. Eric Blechinger from JTS, told attendees that his company wanted to give back to our community and this project touched his heart. Of The Mentoring Network he said, "You guys are heroes and we can't thank you enough. We are very proud to be a part of this community and we are not going anywhere!"

During the past four years of Mayor Wagoner's Charity Golf Scramble, over

\$250,000 was raised for deserving local organizations, due to the generosity of staff and many amazing community partners.

The Mentoring Network is a wonderful non-profit which provides youth in our community and surrounding towns with positive mentoring relationships that foster growth, confidence, and leadership. Students who may benefit from a healthy adult friendship and are referred by school counselors.

Donna Price Shines, who had been at the helm for over 20 years, passed the baton over to Marci Silva in August of 2024. Marci started out as a mentor 10 years ago in the organization. She still has contact with her first mentee, who is now 19 years old and lives back east. Marci's mentee told her that she knows that no matter what her problems are, she knows she can always call her. They have made a lifetime

friendship all due to a one-hour a week program they participated in from grade school through high school. Donna talked about how she never worries about money for the organization because she knows that God will provide through local, like-hearted individuals, family foundations, and businesses. She has been involved for almost 22 years. She said, "Every day feels brand new to me. My whole passion is people and relationships and building relationships through community."

Want to get involved?

The Mentoring Network could always use more mentors. If you are interested in joining the mentoring team, you can apply online at mentoringnetworkid.org anytime. Once your application is received, they will schedule a short "Get to Know You" Zoom session where they will share "next steps" in the process to becoming a mentor.

Welcome to Our New EMS Training Captain



The Caldwell Fire Department has a new EMS (Emergency Medical Service) Training Captain, JD Hendrick. This is a newly created role for the Department.

JD brings 28 years of

fire and EMS experience, most recently serving as the Division Chief of EMS with Meridian Fire Department. As this is a newly created role for Caldwell Fire, we are thrilled to welcome JD and look forward to the impact he'll make.

JD and his wife Tristi have three daughters. As a family, they enjoy traveling, going to the lake, exploring the Idaho mountains, and playing pickleball. JD also loves to golf in his spare time.



City News



City of Caldwell Improves School Zone Safety

The City of Caldwell is improving school zone safety by installing new flashing light systems at 17 schools across the community.

The project is part of an ongoing effort to increase visibility, reduce speeding, and ensure safer routes for students, families, and staff. The lights were paid for using a Child Pedestrian Safety Program grant through the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council, and with City funds.

Scam Alert

Every few months, the Caldwell Police Department and the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce receive calls from individuals across the country inquiring about the legitimacy of a local business listing. Unfortunately, many of these turn out to be scams.

Here's how it works:

Scammers create polished, professional-looking

websites claiming to sell items like classic cars, farm equipment, or other high-value goods. They list a Caldwell address to appear credible, then ask buyers to send large deposits, sometimes \$20,000 or more, before disappearing without a trace.

One recent example involves a fake company called Morgan Field Equipment. The address listed online appears to lead to a farm, but no such business exists.

Here's what you can do

- Before sending money or personal information, verify the business.
- Search for official business registrations.
- Check Google Street View for real locations.
- Call the Chamber of Commerce at 208-459-7493 if you're unsure; they can help verify if it's legitimate.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don't fall victim to online scams - call first, not after.



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Sound Hound Stereo Celebrates 30 Years in Business

by Toni Ferro

Thirty years ago Byll and Michele Thies opened their mom-and-pop car stereo shop, Sound Hound Stereo, at 6302 Caldwell Blvd.

Both Michele and Byll grew up with the hard work and the risks that come along with owning your own business while they were growing up. Michele's father was a successful businessman, who owned Royce's Furniture as well as a number of buildings downtown (including what is now Indian Creek Steak House). Byll's father was in construction and owned a couple of small businesses in Caldwell and Nampa over the years.

I sat down with Byll to talk about Sound Hound and what it has been like to keep a local car stereo store afloat for three turbulent decades. He attributed Sound Hound's success to a willingness to work hard and an understanding of the adjustments needed during market changes and disastrous events like 9-11.

When they first took the leap into business ownership, Byll quit his job at Car Phonics in Boise while Mi-



Sound Hound Stereo owners, Byll and Michele Thies, with their son Zach

chele kept her job managing the books at her dad's furniture store. Unfortunately, the construction of their new store took longer than expected. Instead of going without a paycheck, Byll got a job with the builder working on the construction of the store.

Once the building was complete, Byll saved the business a lot of money by personally building most of the interiors in the store including the sales counter and the displays.

Sound Hound grew steadily until 9-11 followed by the Shoe Bomber (the guy who put a bomb in his shoe sole and planned to

set it off on a plane) tipped their business into a five-year decline.

The Thies family didn't give up. They adjusted the business so they were selling products to fit every budget instead of only more expensive brand name items and they diversified a bit. With those changes, they "made the turn and started growing again."

Ten years later the pandemic brought global problems with electronics suppliers that left Sound Hound and other technology retailers "crunched for products." They couldn't source enough audio decks, and without the decks no one

would buy the speakers and other components of the audio system.

At a time when lots of businesses went under, they again, didn't give up. They purchased all the decks they could find from places like Best Buy, Amazon, and eBay, which allowed them to sell full car audio systems.

Byll said they "weren't getting rich by any means, but guys were getting paid and we were keeping the lights on."

The internet and businesses like Amazon have

also made the business environment trickier for retail shops, especially, mom-and-pop shops like Sound Hound. (Analysts talk about the "Amazon Effect" and the "Retail Apocalypse").

Staying on top of technology changes has been important to business as well. In the beginning, Sound Hound sold lots and lots of cassette tape decks, then CDs came along and then they went too. Now Sound Hound sells a lot of double-sized, touch-screen decks.

In the end, the Thies' hard work and creative thinking when times were tough has meant that Caldwell still has an awesome mom-and-pop car stereo shop after 30 years.

And the good news is they are planning to sell their business on to their son Zach, who works with his parents at the store now.

Congratulations to the Thies family for 30 years in business, we look forward to many more!

MOSAICS Public School Receives \$3,000 Grant from the Idaho Lottery

MOSAICS Public School in Caldwell is excited to announce that it has been awarded a \$3,000 grant from the Idaho Lottery to purchase new children's books for its school library. The grant, written and submitted by MOSAICS librarian, Kymber Peay, will allow the school to expand its collection and provide students with an even greater variety of engaging, age-appropriate reading materials.

"This grant will make a meaningful difference for our students," said Mrs. Peay. "Access to a rich and diverse library collection helps foster a lifelong love of reading, curiosity, and learning. We are so grateful to the Idaho Lottery for supporting literacy in our school."



Mrs. Peay accepts a check from the Idaho Lottery to purchase new books for MOSAICS Public School's Library.

MOSAICS create robots, code computer programs, and construct real-world solutions to real problems as a part of their education. Also embedded into the school's projects are a

service component, where community members partner with students to help them discover how they can better the area through the wise use of time, talents, and resources.

Executive Director Anthony Haskett added, "We are proud of Mrs. Peay's initiative in securing this grant. Her dedication to our students' learning and her vision for a vibrant library directly support our mission of inspiring curiosity and innovation."

The new books will be added to the MOSAICS library later this school year.

For more information about MOSAICS Public School, visit www.mosaicsps.org.

About MOSAICS Public School

MOSAICS offers a project-based education centered on science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) and community stewardship. Along with studying reading, writing, and math, students at



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Southwestern Idaho Birders Association

by J C Clancy



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock



Blue-Footed Booby

SIBA rejoiced at the re-opening of the Deer Flat NWR visitor center in November, even though it was too late for the monthly meeting. It WILL be the gathering place for the annual Nampa Christmas Bird Count on Dec. 27.

About 60 of the Treasure Valley's most experienced and enthusiastic birders will don their warmest apparel and fan out in a large circle, intent on walking wooded trails and scanning lakes and rivers in Nampa, Caldwell and Marsing. They'll be trying to document not just every species, but also every individual bird that can be seen or heard.

The thousands of Canada Geese, Snow Geese and Mallards make up a

high percentage of the birds. They also account for most of the noise! But finding more than 100 species means spying out a Western Screech Owl well camouflaged in a tree cavity, spotting that flash of blue that identifies an uncommon Eastern Blue Jay or Western Bluebird, and finding not only the limited number of winter Killdeer but also that Least Sandpiper that may show up with them. With luck, there may even be a single Anna's Hummingbird.

You don't have to be a club member to join the hunt. If you think you'd like to try it, email sibainfo1@gmail.com.

For a less challenging but highly rewarding bird watching event, you might

try the club's Zoom meeting at 7 p.m. on Dec. 11. For the link, email sibainfo1@gmail.com. You can sit by your fire and let speakers Shannan Brimmer and Wyatt Tustin take you away to the Galápagos Islands and the cloud forests of North-west Ecuador.

They'll also explore vibrant marine life seen while snorkeling, discover unique wildlife on land and at sea, and highlight some of the remarkable bird species found in Ecuador's lush cloud forest.

Shannan and Wyatt, of Kuna, Idaho, are passionate birders who have spent the past four years immersing themselves in the world of avian discovery, from local habitats to extraordinary destinations. With boundless enthusiasm, they have "jumped in with both feet," embracing the challenges and joys of birding. Along the way, Wyatt has captured stunning photographs that highlight the beauty and diversity of the species they encountered. Together, Shannan and Wyatt look forward to sharing not only these images but also the stories and experiences that made their adventure unforgettable.

Local Dirt

by Pat King



dening questions might they want answered. He asked, "When should I bring in my geraniums for the winter?" I was perplexed, as I have rarely heard of many that know you can save your geraniums and your tomatoes if you wanted to. I told him, like right now! We've been very lucky that we haven't had a hard frost which would've killed them. "How do you have them now," I asked. He said, "I have them in pots and I've brought them in like that, and they struggle when I put them back out." I told him that if you're going to bring them into the garage or somewhere warm and in soil, you must water them every ten days or so and offer light and keep them away from very cold drafts, like the garage door opening regularly.

But you can, as my mom used to do, take the geraniums out of the soil, rinse the dirt off the roots and dry them. Then you place the roots down in a brown paper bag, tie a string around the bag between roots and stems and hang the bag upside down in a cool dry darkened area until spring. Then take them back outside and replant them in your favorite container or ground. Removing the soil allows you to rejuvenate the area you want to replant them in, and you'll save a lot money and time getting big geraniums. Until next time, Pat.

Merry Christmas and a happy birthday to all the December babies, like me and my oldest brother. We were born two days apart, four and six days before Christmas, but 6 years apart. I like to remind my mother that we were the gift that kept on giving, but not according to her grocery bill though!

When you're the middle child of seven, you kind of get lost in the shuffle of family life, especially around Christmas. Christmas is still one of my favorite times of year. It may be because I spent 40 years of my life landscaping and the cooler weather and snow allowed for some good respite till spring. So I looked forward to Christmas every year.

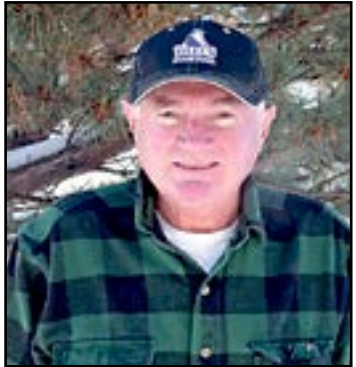
When I lived in Palm Springs, California for eleven years, the seasons rarely saw change. You never saw a naked tree in the winter or grass that was not green for very long. Most lawns down there were Bermuda grass. In the summer and then in the fall, we scalped them and reseeded them with perennial rye grass, and in about three weeks, presto-change-o, we had golf courses ready for golf and front lawns again. Geraniums were as big as shrubs and never had to be brought in to survive.

This brings me to a conversation I had at a restaurant while waiting to see the musical at the Morrison Center, "Need a little Christmas." It was time to write another column for December and I hadn't realized that the month of November was almost already over. My editor reminded me it was due very soon.

Well, I was eating at the bar counter as I don't like tying up a table with just myself, and another couple sat next to me. We eventually struck up a conversation and I asked them what landscape or gar-

Dave's Big Backyard

by Dave McCormick



December, a month of unbridled consumerism. I guess that is, it keeps our economy humming along.

As a youngster it was a much-anticipated holiday. I remember having a calendar with little tabs to be pulled, counting down the final days until the hallowed event. The days between Thanksgiving and Christmas seemed like an eternity. Now it seems that once the turkey is carved, it's time to write a check to the IRS.

Then there is gift giving, which is a form of reciprocity. Upon receiving a gift, it's a custom to purchase a gift in return, but the gift must be near the monetary value of the gift received, otherwise much stress during this season of good cheer.

Some individuals are just adept at selecting the right gift for a friend or family member. It need not be expensive to connect with the feelings of the recipient. I am for the most part, not that person, however there are times that my selection is met with heartfelt approval.

I'm passed reciprocal gift giving in my family, even with my wife. I might buy her a token gift and she me, but we don't agonize over the perfect gift for each other.

Kids and grandkids and great grandkids are simple. All is needed, is a pocket

full of Benjamins.

I don't mean to disparage December. I like Christmas music, Christmas movies, Christmas dinner, and Christmas giving. I prefer to donate anonymously to toys for tots, food drives and always dropping some folding money in the Salvation Army's kettle.

If you donate to a political party by mail, as a retired rural mail carrier, trust me, the begging never stops. More! More! More! There I go rambling again.

I hope everyone has a great December. There are chukars to chase. Waterfowl season is in full swing and hopefully we will have some snow on the ski slopes.

For those who are traveling, be safe! Merry Christmas Treasure Valley and God bless.



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GO YOTES! NAIA Time!

Overall Win/Loss as of Dec. 5th: 10-1

The mighty Yotes gave everyone a bit of a scare on November 15th when they played Southern Oregon University on our own home field at Simplot Stadium during their Senior Day game.

They were behind, but were able to score twice in the final 10 minutes of the game to win against Southern Oregon University with a final score of 24-21. This was a little too close for comfort, but they got the job done. With this win, they clinched the first Frontier

West Division championship since the league's restructuring.

The College of Idaho hosted the second round of the NAIA Football Championship Series on Saturday, Nov. 29, when the No. 8 Yotes welcomed No. 9 Morningside University from Iowa to Simplot Stadium. The Yotes won that game with a 37-19 win.

The Yotes advance and are headed back to Butte, MT to avenge their only loss in a rematch against the Montana Tech Orediggers on Dec. 6th. You can watch this game on the Urban

Edge Network (UEN) or to view results after the game, Google: 2025 College of Idaho Football Schedule. Then click on 2025 Football Schedule.



by Leora Summers

Canyon County Clerk Rick Hogaboam's Resignation Intention Notice



Rick Hogaboam

Canyon County Clerk Rick Hogaboam announced his intention to resign effective January 5, 2026, after his successful election as the Mayor of Nampa on November 4, 2025. His last working day as Canyon County Clerk will be January 4, 2026.

The notice of his future vacancy starts the statutory process for finding a candidate to fill the position of Canyon County Clerk. Since Hogaboam is a registered Republican, the responsibility for providing three nominations must come from the Canyon

county Republican Central Committee. The Board will work with the Central Committee to assign a successor, with the appointment starting the day after the office is vacated.

"It has been my great joy and honor to serve as the County Clerk for nearly two years. My departure is bittersweet," said Clerk Hogaboam. As he reflected on his time here in the County, he showed appreciation to the current County Commissioner, Elected Officials, and County Staff; "It has been a personal pleasure and professionally rewarding to work with the current commissioners and all the elected officers and employees at Canyon County. I look forward to healthy collaboration as I transition to my new role."

The Canyon County Board of Commissioners will coordinate with the Canyon County Republican Central Committee in accordance with Idaho law to ensure the timely appointment of a qualified successor.

As Football Ends, C of I Basketball Begins!

by Leora Summers

Overall Win/Loss: 5-3

The two most fun games to watch of course, are the Mayors' Cup games, where the C of I plays back-to-back games against rival NNU.

The first game was held at the C of I where the Yotes were victorious with a 75-64 win. But, the November 18th game held at NNU had a different ending, with the NNU Nighthawks taking the Yotes with a 91-74 win.

With the big turnover of players from last year, this

year will be more challenging for the Yotes. To see their wins and losses, go to: yoteathletics.com/sports/mens-basketball/schedule/2025-26.

Upcoming Men's Schedule

- Dec. 5:** 2pm vs. Walla Walla University (WA) @ C of I
- Dec. 6:** 5pm vs. Lewis-Clark State College @ C of I
- Dec. 19:** 8:30pm vs. the Evergreen State College (Olympia, WA)
- Dec. 20:** 6:00pm vs. Northwest University (Olympia, WA)

Dec. 30: 7:30pm vs. Eastern Oregon University @ C of I

Jan. 2: 7:30pm vs. Warner Pacific University (OR) @ C of I

To view all C of I sports results, go to: yoteathletics.com, click on "menu" and then click on the sport you want to check on. The C of I has students, both men and women, involved in many sports worthy of your attention.

Go Yotes!



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Caldwell High School Legends from 100 Years Ago

by Toni Ferro

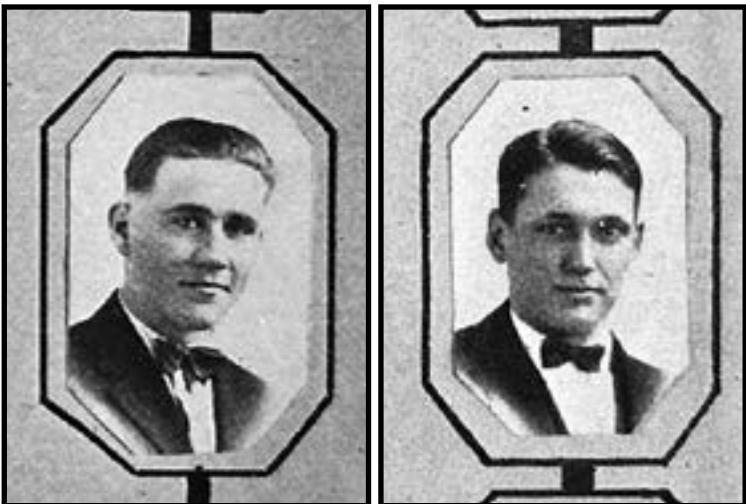
Here at the Caldwell Perspective we would be remiss to let 2025 go by without mentioning that 100 years ago two Idaho business giants, whose legacies are still with us today, graduated from Caldwell High School: Joe Albertson (1906-1993) and George Crookham Jr. (1907-1999). Joe's family moved to Caldwell from the Oklahoma Territory in 1909, when he was three. After graduating from CHS in 1925, Joe went to the College of Idaho for a couple of years. While there, he met his future wife Kathryn McCurry. He worked as a dorm janitor, but eventually his money ran out and he decided to leave school and go to work at a grocery store. He thought the grocery business was a safe bet, because "In good times, or bad, people have to eat."

of the biggest grocery store chains in the nation with stores in 36 states, and a revenue of over \$80 billion this year. Joe and Kathryn were also renowned philanthropists, donating tens of millions to the College of Idaho, donating a 41-acre park to Boise, and creating the JA and Kathryn Albertson Foundation that is still going strong. George Crookham's mother was Jennie Grace Steunenberg, the youngest sister of former Governor Frank Steunenberg. She

ness partner purchased Crookham Company from his father. George married his high school sweetheart, another CHS '25 graduate, Bernice Robinson, in 1931. In 1932, the Crookham Company produced the first hybrid sweet corn seed in the Treasure Valley.

two-term incumbent Governor, Robert Smylie. George was a member of the local Kiwanis Club and was instrumental in initiating the first Kiwanis Chuckwagon Barbecue, which is still held annually during rodeo week and which supports youth scholarships. George was granted honorary doctorates from the University of Idaho and the College of Idaho. When his wife Bernice died of Alzheimers in 1984, he married long-time family friend and Crookham Company corporate secretary, Norine Springer Carl-

I imagine them together, walking the same streets we all walk today talking about their hopes and ambitions and encouraging each other. Both were active in high school sports, Joe played football and baseball and George played football and basketball (except during his senior year when he broke a bone in his ankle in a football game against Emmett and had to settle for the job of basketball manager.) Joe was on the student council senior year and George appears to have been a pretty serious over-achiever. George was frequently in the newspaper because he was on the debate team, and the yearbook says he was in Glee Club, acted in school plays ("All at Sea", "Crimson Eyebrows", and more), was president of the Hi-Y Club,



Joe Albertson and George Crookham Jr. from the 1925 Caldwell High School Yearbook



Joe Albertson from the book "Memories, Joe Albertson"



Joe and Kathryn Albertson from jkaf.org



George and Bernice Crookham from the George L Crookham Papers at Oregon State University



George Crookham from the George L Crookham Papers at OSU

He worked his way up at Safeway until he was managing more than a dozen stores. Then, using his entire life savings along with a loan from his wife's aunt, he and a business partner opened the first Albertsons on 16th and State in Boise. Joe was a grocery store innovator. He put grocery stores in neighborhoods with families, he had free parking, a bakery, and ice cream cones. All things other stores didn't offer. Today, Albertsons is one

met George's father in Knoxville, Iowa where they were originally from. The couple married here in Caldwell in 1900, but didn't settle here until 1909, when George was two. His father founded the Crookham Company soon after, in 1911. After graduating from CHS in 1925, George went to the College of Idaho and Oregon State University where he studied corn breeding. In 1929, at just 22, George and a busi-

Today roughly two-thirds of the world's supply of sweet corn starts with seeds developed in Canyon County and the Crookham Company exports seeds to six different continents. George made policy impacts on the city and state as well. In 1945 he ran unopposed for Caldwell Mayor and served for two years. He represented Caldwell in the State Legislature from 1955 to 1961 and in 1962 he lost the Republican nomination for Governor to

son. They were married fifteen years when he passed in 1999. In 1925 Caldwell High gave the world two remarkable businessmen. Joe and George were friends and played together on the CHS football team. And Joe sometimes worked shelling popcorn after school with George and his brother Frank.

Athletics editor of the yearbook, and a member of the High School Minstrels. Let's let the stories of these two exceptional Caldwell High students inspire us and remind our kids that anything is possible with hard work and good people around you.

Have a local story you want to tell in The Caldwell Perspective?

Email Leora Summers at editor@caldwellperspective.com

Merry Christmas from the Valli family

Red Cross Blood Drive

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Merry Christmas

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