

# Caldwell PERSPECTIVE

BRIDGING COMMUNITY & COMMERCE

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Edition 135 / FEBRUARY 2026

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## Skål, a Celebration of All Things Viking

The Idaho Renaissance Faire, Inc. (IRFI), a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, celebrated Viking culture with their first annual Skål festival at Gabiola Field in Caldwell on a beautiful weekend in late January.

The bustling event, which drew ~2000 visitors over the weekend, included vendors, food trucks, and performers on four different entertainment stages. Performances included dancers and musicians as well as a talk on Nordic indigenous beliefs and an introduction to runes and their meanings.

The IRFI's Skål, like their Renaissance Faire, creates an engaging, immersive setting where guests can learn about a given time period and place. Skål, which means "cheers" was set around 12th century Vikings.

The IRFI has been around since 2010. They now host three annual events: Skål, a celebration of all things Viking; Beltane, a fantasy festival; and the Renaissance Faire, a festival set in a different renaissance place each year (2025's Renaissance Faire was set in 14th century Verona).

The IRFI does not have any paid staff and instead is proud to be able to pay the artists who perform at their events. In addition, they donate their proceeds at the end of the year to a school's art or theater program. IRFI President, Kathlean Danes, explained they support art programs in schools, because they are often underfunded. Caldwell's Thomas



Above and Right: Performers from the group Akashic Moves representing Norse Goddesses.

Jefferson Charter School was the recipient of IRFI's donation in 2021.

IRFI moved their festivals to Caldwell starting last October after Boise's Expo Center Idaho was no longer able to host them. In the long term they are looking to have their own site and are considering locations all over the valley, but for now



Left: Randolph Sigurdsson (Joshua Danes) and Abigail Agatha Ambrose (Kathleen Danes) presiding over the Skål festival.

Kathleen has been the Idaho Renaissance Faire's President since 2016 and Joshua is the organization's Vice President of Finance



Below: Musicians roaming the Skål grounds.



they are enjoying the many benefits of Caldwell and plan to hold events here for the foreseeable future.



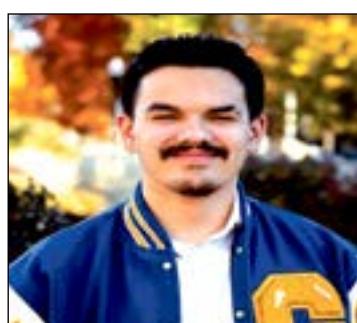
To learn more about IRFI, visit their Facebook page ([facebook.com/ida-horenfaire](https://facebook.com/ida-horenfaire)) or their website ([idahorenfair.org](https://idahorenfair.org)) where you

can donate and buy merch. Their next event is the Beltane Fantasy Festival which will be at Gabiola Field June 6th-7th.

## Two CHS Seniors Selected to Serve as Legislative Pages



Charlie Butler



Kasen Obregon

Two Caldwell High School seniors will be serving as legislative pages during the 2026 Idaho State Legislative Session. Charlie Butler and Kasen Obregon both completed a formal application process and were sponsored by current legislators.

As legislative pages, these students will gain first-hand

experience with the legislative process by attending committee meetings, preparing materials, setting up hearing rooms, assisting guests who wish to testify, and delivering messages.

This is an outstanding educational opportunity that provides an up-close look at how state government

works.

While serving at the Statehouse, both students will continue their coursework remotely with support from their teachers. The legislative page program runs for six weeks, spanning late January through late March.



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# Caldwell COMMUNITY CALENDAR



Submit calendar items to [calendar@caldwellperspective.com](mailto:calendar@caldwellperspective.com)  
 Events must take place in Caldwell, be open to the public, and cost \$25/person or less (unless also advertising).

For updates and details, visit our Caldwell Community Calendar online at [caldwellperspective.com/community-calendar](http://caldwellperspective.com/community-calendar)

## Repeating Events

### Through 2/14

**Ice Skating on the Plaza**  
 6-7:30 pm and 8-9 pm, 120 S Kimball. Cost with skates - \$7.50 and under, \$15 over 5.

### Fridays

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

### Saturdays

**Magic the Gathering Commander at Rubaiyat**  
 Competitive at 1pm, casual at 6pm, 314 S 6th Ave.

### Individual Events

#### Sunday 2/8

**Touchdown Tastings at Huston Vineyards**  
 noon-5 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd.

#### Tuesday 2/10

**Safer Internet Day**  
 Creating a safer internet, visit [safer.connectsafely.org](http://safer.connectsafely.org).

#### Wednesday 2/11

**Weaver's Guild Study Group at Rubaiyat**  
 11:00 am, 314 S 6th Ave.

### Wednesday 2/11 (cont.)

**Horror Book Club at Shared Stories**  
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. Book: *Model Home* by Rivers Solomon.

### Thursday 2/12

**Paint & Sip at Williamson Orchards and Vineyards**  
 5:30 pm, 14807 Sunnyslope Rd. \$25.

**Single and Mingle Meet Cute Night at Shared Stories Books**  
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. \$7. RSVP to [sharedstoriesbooks.com/contact-us](http://sharedstoriesbooks.com/contact-us).

### Friday 2/13

**Head Over Boots at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln. Live music and vendors.

### 2C Galentine's Marketplace

4-9 pm, 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). Free 8 and under, \$2 over 8.

### Fire & Ice

6-9pm, 120 S Kimball (the Plaza). End of skating season entertainment and exhibits.

### Saturday 2/14 (Valentine's Day)

**2C Galentine's Marketplace**  
 10 am-5 pm, 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). Free 8 and under, \$2 over 8.

**Head Over Boots at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln. Live music and vendors.

**Valentine's Dinner Party with The Bugle & Elks Lodge**

6pm, 1015 N Kimball Ave (Elk's Lodge). Reservations: 208-943-1744.

**Dry Bar Comedy Live Presented by Caldwell Fine Arts**

7-9 pm, 2112 Cleveland Blvd (Cofl, Jewett Auditorium). \$20, \$26, \$35.

### Sunday 2/15

**Lovers & Friends Brunch at Casa Añejo**  
 11 am-3 pm, 812 Main St.

**Head Over Boots at Dunning Estates Western Winery**

noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln. Live music and vendors.

### Monday 2/16 (Presidents' Day)

**Nonfiction Book Club at Shared Stories**  
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. Book: *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This* by Omar El Akkad.

### Tuesday 2/17 (Mardi Gras)

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

### Wednesday 2/18

**Board Game Day at Rubaiyat**  
 1-4 pm, 314 S 6th Ave.

### Wednesday 2/18 (cont.)

**Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) grant application workshop**  
 6:30-8:30 pm, 111 N 11th Ave.

### Thursday 2/19

**Romance Book Club at Shared Stories**  
 8-9 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. Book: *Lie with Me* by Phillippe Besson.

### Friday 2/20

**Say Cheese and Sip at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln.

**D&D Workshop at Rubaiyat**  
 6-9 pm, 314 S 6th Ave. \$8.

**Say Cheese Spring Release Party at Huston Vineyards**  
 6-9 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd.

### Saturday 2/21

**District 11 (Caldwell) Legislator Town Hall at the Library**  
 10:30 am-12:30 pm, 1010 Dearborn St.

**Say Cheese and Sip at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln.

**Say Cheese Spring Release Party at Huston Vineyards**  
 noon-5 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd.

**Music Assn. of Canyon County Concert**

6-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland Blvd (Cofl, Jewett Auditorium). \$5 seniors and students, \$25 family, \$10 general.

**Literature, Libations, and Live Music at Shared Stories**  
 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave.

### Sunday 2/22

**Say Cheese and Sip at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln.

**Silent Book Club at Bond & Bevel Coffeehouse**  
 5-7 pm, 107 S 7th Ave. Chit-chat followed by reading.

### Monday 2/23

**Filing for legislative and statewide candidates opens**  
 More at: [voteidaho.gov](http://voteidaho.gov).

### Friday 2/27

**Filing for legislative and statewide candidates closes**  
 Learn more at: [voteidaho.gov/candidate-filing/](http://voteidaho.gov/candidate-filing/)

### Sunday 3/1

**Welcome to the World of Sea Shells by LaMar Orton**  
 noon-1pm, Boone Science Hall, Cofl, Room 103. Bring your lunch.

### Monday 3/2

**Filing for county and precinct captain candidates opens**  
 Learn more at: [voteidaho.gov/candidate-filing/](http://voteidaho.gov/candidate-filing/)

### Caldwell City Council Meeting

6:00-8:30 pm, 205 S 6th (Caldwell City Hall). Livestream: [youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178](http://youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178)/streams

### Thursday 3/5

**Langroise Trio Spring Concert**  
 7:30-8:30 pm, Langroise Center Recital Hall, 2112 Cleveland Blvd (Cofl, Langroise Hall).

### Friday 3/6

**Tropical Escape at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln.

### Planetarium Centennial Celebration

7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland Blvd (Cofl, Whittenberger Planetarium, Boone Science Hall). \$5 for children 4-18, \$10 for adults.

### Saturday 3/7

**Tropical Escape at Dunning Estates Western Winery**  
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln.

### March Edition of the Caldwell Perspective arrives

**Friday, February 6th - Sunday, February 8th**  
**Touchdown Tastings, 12pm - 5pm**  
 Celebrate Superbowl weekend in Wine Country

**Friday, February 20th, 6pm-9pm and Saturday, February 21st, 12pm-5pm**  
**Say Cheese Spring Release Party**  
 Come try our new wine releases

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## HOW TO REACH US

**By mail:** P.O. Box 922  
Caldwell, Idaho 83606

**By Phone:** 208-484-8286

**Online:** [www.caldwellperspective.com](http://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](mailto:editor@caldwellperspective.com)

If you have a story you would like us to cover, email Leora Summers, [editor@caldwellperspective.com](mailto:editor@caldwellperspective.com).

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

We mail the Caldwell Perspective to over 12,000 homes and businesses each month by Every Door Direct Mail. If you are not on one of the 17 mail carrier routes the Perspective is delivered to, you can:

**Pick up a hard copy** of the paper at the Rubaiyat Bookstore (314 S 6th), Shared Stories Bookstore (106 S Kimball), or Stewart's Bar and Grill (2805 Blaine). **Subscribe** (\$48 annually) by going to [caldwellperspective.com/about](http://caldwellperspective.com/about) and scrolling down a little or emailing Toni Ferro at [advertising@caldwellperspective.com](mailto:advertising@caldwellperspective.com).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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## 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  
Books for book clubs available at the desk

Ask about reading challenges

Color Code: **Kid** **Teen** **Adult** All Ages

### MONDAYS

Closed: Feb. 16 for President's Day

**Baby Story Time:** Feb. 9, 23, Mar. 2 at 10:00 am | Ages 0-1; 10:45 am | Ages 1-2; 11:30 am | Ages 0-2

**Knitting & Crochet Social:** Feb. 9, 1:30-3 pm | Ages 18+

**Teen Book Club:** Feb. 9, 5:30-6:30 pm | Ages 13-17 Read a classic book and discuss it with friends over snacks.

### TUESDAYS

**Spanish & English Storytime:** Feb. 10, 17, 24, Mar. 3 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6

**Mobile Health Clinic at the Library:** Mar. 3: Call 208-367-4483 for appointment.

**Neurodivergent Caregivers Group:** Mar. 3, 1-2pm | Ages 18+

**Board Game Night:** Mar. 3, 6:30-8:30 pm | All ages

**Lego Club:** Feb. 10, 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 7-16 Legos for Lunch.

**Read to a Therapy Dog:** Feb. 17, 5-6 pm | Ages 7-14

### WEDNESDAYS

**Music & Movement:** Feb. 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6

**Tech Lab:** Feb. 11, 10 am -Noon | Ages 18+

**Afterschool Fun:** 3:30 pm | Ages 5-12.

Feb. 11 Master Strawberry Jam: Master Gardeners; Feb. 18 Whimsy on the Wall: Graphic Art; Feb. 25 Picasso: Caldwell Fine Arts; Mar. 4 Heiroglyphs: The Art of Communication.

**Computer Basics:** Feb. 25, 10 - 11:30 am | Ages 18+ | Idaho Room

### THURSDAYS

**Preschool Storytime:** Feb. 12, 19, 26 at 10:30 am | Ages 3-5

**Teen Thursday:** 4:30 pm | Ages 13-17. Feb. 12 Vision Boards; Feb. 19 Lego Makerspace; Feb. 26 Tiny Art Space; Mar. 5 Board Game Night

**Farmway Afterschool Program:** Feb 12, 4:30-6:30 pm | community Room, 22730 Farmway Rd. Activity" Friendship bracelets and key chains | All Ages

### THURSDAYS continued

**Thurs. Read Book Club:** Feb. 12, 2 pm or Feb. 19, 6:30 pm | Ages 18+ | Idaho room. Featured book: Mrs. Quinn's Rise to Fame

**Caldwell Public Library at the Senior Center:** Feb 19, 11 am | 1009 Everett

**Bookworm Buddies for caregivers and their kids:** Feb. 26, 1-2:30 pm. | All ages.

Featured book: The Montessori Baby **Kindergarten Readiness Book Club:** Mar. 5, 10:30 am | Ages 3-6 | They All Saw A Cat by Brendan Wenzel and Maybe by Kobi Yamada

### FRIDAYS

**Tai Chi & Qigong:** Feb. 13, 20, 27 at 10 am | Ages 18+

**Adult Lego Club:** Feb. 13, 4:30 pm | Ages 16+

**Ping Pong Club:** Feb. 27, 3-5 pm | All ages

**Friends of the Library Book Sale:** Mar. 6, 10 am-3 pm | All ages

### SATURDAYS

**Storytime around the World – Brazil:** Feb. 21, 2-3 pm | All Ages

**Friends of the Library Book Sale:** Mar. 7, 10 am-3 pm | All ages

February 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## CHS Cheerleaders Need Our Support to Get to Nationals!



Caldwell High's Cheerleaders are looking for a threepeat at District Championships this month. But that's not the only competition they will be at in February.

Later in the month they will be headed to Las Vegas to the Jamz School Cheer Nationals. They qualified late last year and businesses

like Arctic Circle and Valvoline have been helping them raise funds for their trip.

And we can help too by donating at the QR code on the right ([bit.ly/4afoNcE](http://bit.ly/4afoNcE)).

Congratulations and good luck to our CHS Cheerleaders!



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## CSD's Choir Con, A Choral Showcase

by Leora Summers



Grand Finale with all choirs, 180 students combined with student conductor Brandon Bake

What an amazing bunch of dedicated choir teachers Caldwell has! And Choir Con? It's a choir convention where all the schools in the Caldwell School District get together in one big group to have one big concert.

On January 28th, the six elementary school choirs who participated in this fantastic choral presentation for our community were Wilson 3rd & 4th grade choir, Van Buren 4th grade choir, Lewis & Clark Elementary choir, Jefferson Middle School choir, and

Syringa Middle School's chorus and chorale.

Caldwell High School showed off four of their groups which included the CHS Men's Chorus combined with 8th grade boys, the CHS Concert Choir, and the CHS Concord and the CHS Madrigals with a fun arrangement of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm."

The evening ended with a wonderful arrangement of "All At Once," combining all ten choirs. Music is alive and well in the Caldwell School District!

I almost missed the point of the whole thing. I thought I was just going to a concert, but I was wrong. What I went to, was an event that brought the littles, the middles and the high schoolers together, where the younger students could see what they could look forward to in choir as they got older.

Choir teacher, Kate Hadlerie from Wilson, who brought her 3rd and 4th grade choir, said an event like this has her kids thinking "I belong to choir and choir is cool!"

The event began for the students at 3 p.m. and while each group got to rehearse their number on the stage, the other elementary, middle school and junior high students had activity stations run by the older students including karaoke, games like "Duck, Duck, Goose," a question and answer group with the older students, a coloring station, and more. These were great team building activities and everyone was all smiles as I visited each station.

But the biggest roaring

cheer came from everyone when they heard "dinner is ready!" All met in the cafeteria to have a dinner of spaghetti, salad, a protein bar, and a beverage doled out by their teachers and other helpers. A big thank you goes to Albertsons and Grocery Outlet for sponsoring the food.

I love music and I love Caldwell Schools. Thank you for all your efforts and congratulations to all involved. Job well done!

## Driving the Yotes Legacy into the Community

by Ryan Elsberry



Alex Germer reading at Washington Elementary.



Utrillo Morris, Ethan Tinney, and Chance Winter helping in the school cafeteria.



Forward Alex Germer greeting students who were honored for their service to the community.

The Legacy Program at The College of Idaho connects Yotes student athletes with elementary schools to teach a clear idea: time is a powerful resource, and giving it to others matters. The program is delivered primarily through school assemblies, where players out-

line how students can turn small acts of service into a routine that benefits their community. It all revolves around the Colby Blaine mantra "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others."

The players' time is also given back to the students by spending a recess with the kids as well as reading to them in their classrooms. The connections built by this program inspire both the college athletes and the elementary students. The students are driven to help out their communities while the Yotes are grounded in giving back.

The Legacy Program began when the men's basketball team partnered with Caldwell's elementary schools in 2019 and visited each campus to explain the program. Those assemblies introduced a simple framework and a shared language for service, focusing on how

students can invest time to support classmates, neighborhoods and local organizations.

The structure is straightforward. Students complete volunteer hours that match their grade level, verify those hours with a teacher or organizer, and earn admission to Yotes basketball games.

Participants are recognized publicly at a game, reinforcing that community service is something schools should celebrate.

Following strong reception in Caldwell, the Legacy Program expanded to the Vallivue School District with the same assembly-driven rollout. The goal is

consistent across campuses: provide clear steps to participate, track hours and encourage students to bring a friend into the effort.

The impact arrived quickly. In its first year, more than 500 elementary students completed the program, contributing 1,750 verified volunteer hours in the local community. Those hours started with a conversation in a gym and grew into a habit schools can renew annually.

The first two nights honoring the students at the Yotes men's basketball games were on January 16th and 17th where students from Jefferson Middle School, Sacajawea Elementary, Wilson Elementary, Lewis-Clark Elementary, Washington Elementary, Van Buren Elementary, and Birch Elementary were honored during the game.

February 6th Skyway Elementary, Desert Springs Elementary, Falcon Ridge Elementary were honored. The final night, February 7th, will honor students from Lakevue Elementary, Warhawk Elementary, West Canyon Elementary, and East Canyon Elementary.

# HE IS RISEN!

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Lizard Butte Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7:20 A.M.

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For more information or to make a donation, visit [LizardButteSunrise.com](http://LizardButteSunrise.com)



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## Caldwell Fine Arts Charms Audiences with Annual Children's Show

by Toni Ferro



Left: Chloe (Esther Van Der Veen), Jack (Ammon Howard), and Riley (Abigail Christensen) sing "Grateful for" a song about realizing they were happier before their wishes were granted.

Right: Little Tappers singing their hearts out in the show's finale.

Below: Genie Intern Gini (Emma Bermudez), Genie Eugene (Caleb Dickson), Genie Genevieve (Sarah Nicholes), and Genie Jean (Azucena Hernandez)



Caldwell Fine Arts put on another incredible Children's Theatre production on January 23rd and 24th at the Caldwell High School Auditorium.

The production was *Me 'N Genie* written by local artist Alison Benson Moulton with songs by Alison and her sister Amy Benson Lacey.

The show had over 120 kids participating as leads, family and friends to the leads, runners, cheerleaders, fans, school employees, puppies, little tappers, and chorus. In addition, the play's backstage crew was made up of students. And as the directors, Jessica and Mike Nelson explained, the play was rehearsed in just four days.

*Me 'N Genie* is a play about three high school students who find magical objects

that spawn genies. The genies offer them each one wish.

Chloe wishes to have her family leave her alone (especially her little sisters), Jack wishes to be popular (even though he already has a good friend group), and Riley wishes for everything she's wanted in the last 24 hours (which was 75 things including to have lots of puppies and to go skydiving).

Over the course of the play the students realize that getting their wishes was not all it was cracked up to be. The trio sings a lovely song about opening up their eyes and seeing the goodness that surrounds them and re-

alizing how much they have to be grateful for.

Fortunately, the genies allow them to reverse their wishes and go back to their old lives with new appreciation for what they have.

The grand finale then brings all the kids to the stage and aisles once again to sing a reprise of their opening number "Ordinary Day".

*Me 'N Genie* is also chock full of jokes that the students delivered fantastically to a delighted audience.

This year's show saw the return of some of last year's



leads including Emma Bermudez (Genie intern Gini), Abigail Christensen (Riley), and Caleb Dickson (Genie Eugene). And the show introduced us to some new talent including Esther Van Der Veen (Chloe) Ammon Howard (Jack), Sarah Nicholes (Genie Genevieve), and Azucena Hernandez (Genie Jean).

This year Caldwell Fine Arts had to close audition sign ups early due to so much interest in participating in the show. So, next year be sure to register early. Follow Caldwell Fine Arts on social media or sign up for their newsletter at [caldwellfinearts.org](http://caldwellfinearts.org) for updates.



Dougie Peoples #5, making a basket against Corban.

Riley Beck #4, making a basket against Corban.

## YOTE BASKETBALL!

by Leora Summers

I went to the January 2nd men's game against Warner Pacific University (OR) and what a great game that was! It was fast-paced and the Yotes were on fire. They really played like a team. The final score was 92-71. And then the Corban game was another great one for the men that I attended with a winning final score of 72-52!

I attended the women's game against Corban which was just before the men's game and the ladies at this time were actually doing better overall in their season than the men, but unfortunately they lost this game with a 61-73 loss. However it was great to watch them play. Then by January 24th, both the men's and women's seasons had a comparable 14-6 win/loss season.

## YOTE Basketball

## Win/Loss through Jan. 31st

- Men's Basketball: Overall W-L, 15-7
- Ladies' Basketball: Overall W-L, 16-6

To keep up with College of Idaho sports, go to: [yoteathletics.com](http://yoteathletics.com) and click on the sport you want to check on.

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MARCH 20, 2026

208-717-5368 | [CaldwellFineArts.org](http://CaldwellFineArts.org)



*20th Anniversary* 

## An Evening with Robert Burns



Left: Caldwell Police Pipes and Drums band welcoming the guests to the Scottish American Society of Canyon County's Evening with Robert Burns.



Piper, Josh Agee, and performing artist, Edith Grace Dull, honoring the haggis.

Like thousands of organizations around the world, the Scottish American Society of Canyon County recently hosted "An Evening With Robert Burns" to commemorate Burns' birthday, January 25th, 1759.

The event was held just west of Caldwell at the Pleasant Ridge Grange Hall where I joined about 50 people who were in attendance.

Our master of ceremonies for the evening, Allan Laird, opened with a tribute to Burns, saying "This is the night of the celebration of the life and legacy of our national poet of Scotland. ... While working the fields Burns watched people, animals, and nature with a poet's eye. He wrote not of kings and castles, but of farmers, lovers, laborers, and even mice. ... He wrote in the language that people spoke, not the language polite society expected, and in doing so he gave dignity to everyday lives. ... He became known as the plowman's poet, because he never forgot where he came from. Burns also gave Scotland something priceless, a shared voice. Through song and verse he preserved Scot's language, music, and identity...."

The evening then proceeded as "Burns' Suppers" have for more than two centuries.

Bagpiper, Josh Agee, "piped in the haggis" (played the bagpipes as the haggis was brought in) followed by a quick "Toast to the Piper" by Lorene Oates. (Haggis is a crumbly dish made from sheep's heart, liver, and lungs cooked with fat, oatmeal, and spices in a sheep's stomach.)

College of Idaho Theatre alum, Edith Grace Dull, then charmed the crowd with Burns' "Address to a Haggis" performed in a thick Scottish brogue. The ode praises haggis as "chief-tain o' the puddin-race" that makes Scots fit and hardy unlike some French "skinkin ware that jaups in

luggies" (watery ware that slops in bowls).

Carole Munn then said grace and we ate shepherd's pie, a modern-day haggis, vegetables, and cobbler and ice cream for dessert.

After dinner there were more delightful poetry readings followed by the Caldwell Police Pipes and Drums.

Finally, we got in a circle and sang Auld Lang Syne, Burns' most famous poem and song.

Burns himself would have preferred a night that included Scotch whiskey instead of the water we toasted with, but Society President, Robin Wylie, informed us that the group hosts another annual event, a Scotch tasting.

The event includes tastings of five Scotch whiskeys paired with a little cheese and chocolate as well as some educational information about each Scotch. The cost is \$30 per person (and \$10 for each designated driver). This year's event will be March 7th, and you can

contact Robyn at [rwl1056@gmail.com](mailto:rwl1056@gmail.com) or Allan at 208-880-6069 to learn more.

The Society meets the third Tuesday of each month for a potluck and program at Christ Community Church Fellowship Hall, 603 Everett Ave. Everyone is welcome and Lorene Oates jokingly exclaimed that they "even invite the Irish".

#### Caldwell Police Pipes and Drums

I had the good fortune of sitting next to members of the Caldwell Police Pipes and Drums band during the dinner and was able to learn more about them.

Police and fire pipes and drums bands are common throughout the US, especially in the east. Ours was founded about six years ago when former Caldwell Police Chief Frank Wyant suggested the department start one.

Aron Streibel is a Sergeant with the Caldwell Police Department and is the band's Pipe Major. He saw the new police band as a good opportunity to learn the bagpipes and to connect to the community in a new way. There were four members when the band started and it has grown from there to ten.

The band rehearses once a week. Most of the members are retired law enforcement or military (but that experience isn't a requirement). They perform two or three times a month on average.

Sgt. Streibel described the importance of the band, by explaining, "Music brings people together, and bagpipes, more than any other instrument I have played, stirs the soul, and creates opportunities to talk with people and share the time-honored traditions of bagpipe music in law enforcement, and Scottish culture."

The band loves opportunities to play in the community and they are often approached by people telling them "how they love the bagpipes and asking questions about them, our kilts and the band."

The honor of performing at memorial services for first responders is one the band takes very seriously. Sgt. Streibel explained that "first responder funerals are the hardest, but also the most rewarding" as they honor the fallen and comfort "the friends and families left behind."

Last year, the band went to Washington DC for Police Week. As part of the event, Ada County Sheriff's Deputy Tobin Bolter, who

by Toni Ferro was killed in the line of duty in 2024, was added to the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial. The Caldwell Police Pipes and Drums were there to support Bolter's family and the Ada County Sheriff's Office.

While there they also met and competed with other Pipes and Drums bands from around the US and Canada and performed at the White House.

While the band is a recognized part of the Caldwell Police Department, that recognition does not come with financial support. So, they are working on making the band a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which will make it eligible for grants and tax exempt donations from supporters.

They are currently booking St. Patrick's day performances. If there are any local business, restaurants, pubs, etc. that would like to hire them for a St. Patrick's day performance, you can reach them through the Caldwell Police Honor Platoon Facebook Page ([Facebook.com/CaldwellPoliceHonorPlatoon](https://Facebook.com/CaldwellPoliceHonorPlatoon)) or by email, [astreibel@cityofcaldwell.org](mailto:astreibel@cityofcaldwell.org).



Finally, they have room for more members. If you are interested in volunteering (whether you know how to play or not) you can contact them through the Caldwell Police Honor Platoon Facebook page ([Facebook.com/CaldwellPoliceHonorPlatoon](https://Facebook.com/CaldwellPoliceHonorPlatoon)) or by email, [astreibel@cityofcaldwell.org](mailto:astreibel@cityofcaldwell.org). Members need to pass a background check and be willing to dedicate personal time to practice.

All in all, the 2026 Scottish American Society of Canyon County evening with Robert Burns was a grand success. The evening flew by and everyone seemed happy to be out, sharing a meal with others, seeing old friends, and making new ones. Sláinte!



The Caldwell Police Pipes and Drums Band in Washington DC.  
Back row (left to right): Van Bradley, Bud Lancaster, Travis Robbins, Josh Agee, Sgt. JL Davis, Sgt. Aron Streibel  
Front row (left to right): Sean Scarlett, Michael White, Ethan Streibel, Stacey Bradley

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## Caldwell Students Compete at Future City Engineering Competition



Syringa Middle School Students at the Future City Engineering Competition

Syringa Middle School 7th and 8th-grade students competed in the 30th Annual Future City Engineering Competition at Boise

State University on January 10th for designs supporting farm-to-table practices and improving food production.

The 8th grade team received a University of Idaho award for Best Multidisciplinary Solutions. Congratulations!

## Contractors Association Donates to Firefighters' Fund Drive

by Frankwin Hooglander, PR & Marketing Committee Chair 2026, Snake River Valley BCA



Members of the Caldwell Fire Department accepting a check from the Snake River Valley Building Contractors Association.

The Snake River Valley Building Contractors Association donated \$456.50 each to the Nampa and Caldwell Fire Departments'

drives supporting the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). Local firefighters have supported MDA's efforts to provide research,

care and advocacy for those suffering from this neuromuscular disease.

## Canyon County Employees Receive Honors

Deputy Darr Anderson and Canyon County Emergency Manager Christine Wendelsdorf were nominated for awards by Sheriff Donahue and were honored during an award ceremony at the Ontario Oregon Elks Lodge #1690. Anderson was nominated for "Law Enforcement of the Year" and Wendelsdorf for "Support Person of the Year."

Anderson was selected for developing "Deputy Darr's Donuts" at Vallivue Middle School. He said, "I love my job and am excited to continue working with kids and breaking the barriers between law enforcement and the students, parents, and staff." Earlier he was selected as the winner of the "Roy Hicks Memorial Law Enforcement Officer of the Year" award.

Wendelsdorf was selected for her work advancing the Canyon County Emergency Management Program to ensure that Canyon County is prepared in the event of an emergency. Christine said, "I am blessed to be part of a dynamic agency with forward thinking staff that support me in my endeavors!" Congratulations!



Deputy Darr Anderson and Canyon County Emergency Manager Christine Wendelsdorf  
Photo by Bunny Malmin, Sheriff's Executive Assistant

## There was a "Wolf Moon" arising!



Photo by Sam Summers using zoom as seen from West Easy Street in Caldwell.

The year's first full moon, January 3, was a supermoon, which appears about 14% larger and 30% brighter than most, especially when it's near the horizon at dawn and dusk. Native Americans called this a Wolf Moon because the animals would howl at the sight. (Super moons will also appear in November and December this year.)

## The Griddle Donates to Law Enforcement Foundation



L to R: Jennifer Anzaldua (Griddle Manager), Abe Aboud (Griddle Operational Manager), Deputy Chris Little, Corporal Gilbert Longoria, and Bunny Malmin (Executive Assistant for the Sheriff and CCSO). Corporal Longoria and Bunny Malmin are members of the Board of Directors for the Canyon County Law Enforcement Foundation.

The Griddle on 6th and Main recently donated \$3,970 for the Canyon County Law Enforcement Foundation's Shop with a

Sheriff program. The program gives kids funds and time with a deputy to shop for back-to-school or Christmas.

## WVMC Receives "Top Hospital" Recognition

West Valley Medical Center has been named a Top Hospital by *Forbes*, a global media company. It received the highest ranking of the seven Idaho hospitals recognized. This new national recognition honors hospitals that demonstrate outstanding quality, safety, patient outcomes and patient experience.

Data was provided by a

center within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Clinical outcomes—including survival, complication rates, infections, and readmissions were given the greatest weight, and results were adjusted to reflect the unique challenges and social factors present in each hospital's community.

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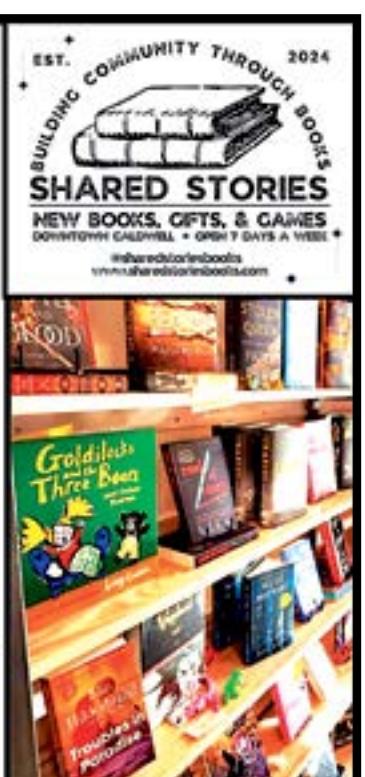
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## Destination Development Association Proposes Plan for Caldwell

by Toni Ferro

The Destination Development Association's (DDA's) Roger Brooks was in town the week of January 12th to roll out a proposed 25-year plan for downtown Caldwell and its surroundings.

While here, Brooks presented the plan to the Urban Renewal Agency (URA) and the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, and met with numerous stakeholders including City Council members and the Mayor.

The DDA was first here 14 years ago when Caldwell was very different than today: lots of empty storefronts and a relatively deserted downtown.

The plan the DDA developed back then was a three-year plan for the downtown core. That plan included what is now Indian Creek Plaza. Today, downtown has a number of thriving businesses and is a destination for people from all over the Treasure Valley.

This time the DDA has put together a 25-year plan that encompasses nearly 1600 acres of Caldwell (roughly from Centennial Way to Linden between Cleveland and the Freeway).

#### A Plan

During his presentation to the URA, Brooks explained that having a plan in place "creates a vision that everyone can work towards: Planning and Zoning, Urban Renewal, Economic Development, The City Council, the Chamber of Commerce, Public Works, the Parks Department, etc." A plan will "get everybody on the same page and pulling in the same direction."

He also said the 21st Ave hotel developers told him, if they had seen this plan they wouldn't have built their hotel near the fairgrounds. A plan is a valuable decision-making tool for City leaders, developers, and stakeholders.

#### The Goal

The primary goal of the DDA's plan is to "Improve the quality of life for Caldwell residents." To accomplish this the plan proposes building a great downtown with ample parking, adding more parks and trails, and improving neglected neighborhoods.



The DDA 25-year plan covers about 1600 acres and includes the development of three districts: an expanded Plaza District, the Garden District northeast of downtown, and the Stockyard District near the rodeo and the fairgrounds.

Parks and trails haven't been built to keep pace with our growing population. This has left Caldwell ranked "dead last" of Idaho cities over 30 thousand people in parks and trails per capita.

#### The Process

The DDA spent months developing their plan and their work involved more than cutting and pasting in parks and trails and office buildings. As part of their work they determined the "highest and best use" for each piece of property.

For example, they encoun-

tered land in a flood zone where they couldn't put buildings, but they could put sports fields. They encountered property that sits over the old location of Indian Creek. Nothing heavy can be built there, but a conference center is acceptable, because conference centers are "empty boxes."

The proposals the DDA made for each piece of property in the 1600 acres they planned was researched and investigated before they made their decisions.

In addition, they talked to as many stakeholders as

possible including City officials, developers, farmers, hotel and restaurant owners, the railroad, the Idaho Transportation Department, citizen groups, and more.

#### The Details

Taken in one sitting, the plan is overwhelming. Looking at how 1600 acres of our city may change over the next 25 years is a lot to digest. So, here I focus on the Garden District plan specifically.

The Garden District is close in to downtown on the

northeast and has already been the subject of conversation at City Council and the URA.

The area has been neglected by the City and needs some basic neighborhood amenities like street lights, sidewalks, an irrigation plan, a freeway sound barrier, and parks.

Late last year, the URA and the City Council approved a new Urban Renewal Area that covers the Garden District. This created a funding mechanism for improvements to the district. The funding will take time

(continues on next page)



A bird's-eye view of DDA's proposal for the area northeast of downtown Caldwell.

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to accrue, but with a plan like the DDA's in place the URA would have clear direction and priorities for their spending of taxpayer dollars.

The DDA proposal for the Garden District is focused in four places: the freeway border, 5th Avenue, Chicago Street, and Centennial Way.

The plan for the freeway border includes outdoor spaces for the whole family, expanding on the existing Lion's Park. The plan includes an urban forest, expanded Lion's Park, sport courts, playgrounds, a community garden, a splash pad park, picnic grounds, and a freeway sound barrier.

The plans for 5th Ave and Chicago St include changes that will make the streets safer for pedestrians with wide sidewalks, lighting, and landscaping.

Fifth Ave is envisioned as a walkable street with gardening oriented shopping including a garden center (nursery), a gardening supply store, a produce center, a plaza with room for food trucks and vendors, public parking, and two restaurants.

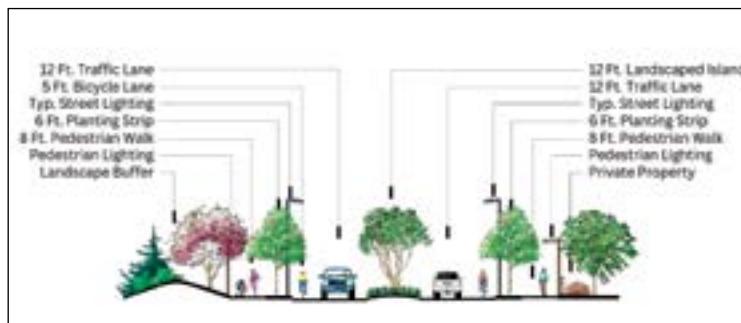
The Centennial Way area of the District is proposed as a massive sports complex complete with soccer fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, pickleball courts, a track, a pump track, lots of parking, and an adventure park.

Brooks repeatedly stated that plans like these are intended to be "living documents." Plans should be continuously revised and improved as time passes. For example, almost nobody was playing pickleball or riding around on pump tracks 10 years ago, but now those are amenities people would like to see.

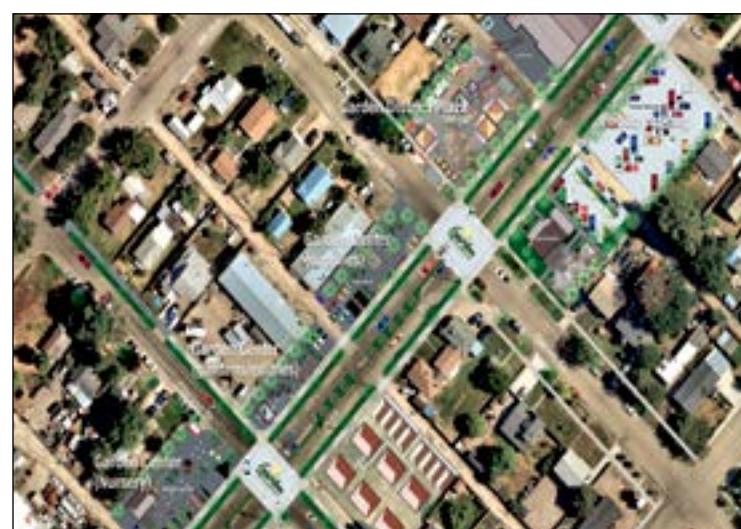
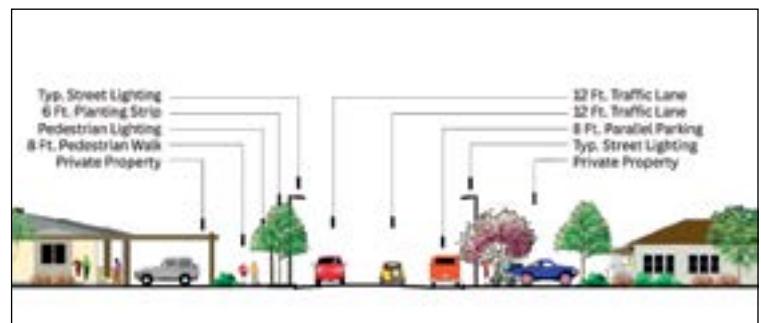
Importantly, there is still lots of time for citizens to provide input on these plans and to have an impact on what actually happens as the



DDA proposal for the freeway border in the Garden District includes an urban forest, expanded Lion's Park, sport courts, playgrounds, a community garden, a splash pad park, picnic grounds, and a freeway sound barrier.



DDA proposals for the cross sections of 5th Avenue (left) and Chicago Street (right), showing expanded sidewalks, bicycle lanes, reduced traffic lane sizes, lighting, landscaping, and parking.



DDA proposals 5th Avenue (left) and Centennial Way (right), showing shopping, a plaza, and public parking on 5th Avenue and a massive sports complex near Centennial Way.



City moves forward.

If these long-term plans are something that interest you I encourage you to view Brooks' presentation to the URA. Pop some popcorn and gather the family around a streaming device and watch Brooks walk through some ideas for where Caldwell can go in the next 25 years ([youtube.com/watch?v=KskabfWHS0U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KskabfWHS0U)).

Probably no one who has watched this presentation has liked every detail of it.

If you have some thoughts about the DDA proposal you can write to Roger Brooks yourself at [Roger@destinationdevelopment.org](mailto:Roger@destinationdevelopment.org). Input from Caldwell

citizens is critical to his planning work and he reads every idea.

In the future, we will include in these pages more parts of the DDA proposal

and highlight opportunities for getting involved in designing Caldwell's future.

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## Caldwell Lions Welcomes Salvation Army Director

by Lynn Johnson

The Caldwell Lions Club continues its tradition of community engagement and education through its weekly guest speaker program. Salvation Army Director, Captain Amy Lewis was recently welcomed. Captain Lewis spoke about the ongoing needs of the community and the local services they provide. She thanked the Lions for supporting and partnering with the Salvation Army for financial donations of \$900 and by conducting three food drives,



Caldwell Salvation Army Director, Captain Amy Lewis ringing the bells four times for their annual Red Bucket program, and supporting Christmas gift programs.

## Copper Quill Haven and Animal Sheltering Services



Copper Quill Haven is working closely with Canyon County officials to execute a contract for sheltering services and implement a thoughtful transition plan that will ensure residents continue to have uninterrupted access to animal sheltering services throughout the county.

As transition details are finalized, Copper Quill Haven is collaborating with Canyon County and West Valley Humane Society to support a responsible and well-coordinated process that prioritizes animal welfare, staff stability, and com-

munity needs.

In its proposal to Canyon County, Copper Quill Haven outlined a vision centered on strengthening shelter operations and community trust. Key benefits include:

- A commitment to high standards of animal care, safety, and disease prevention
- Thoughtful operational planning designed to improve efficiency and responsiveness
- Increased collaboration with community partners, veterinarians, rescues, and volunteers
- A focus on transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability
- Continued access to essential services for Canyon County residents

For updates visit: [facebook.com/copperquillhaven](http://facebook.com/copperquillhaven)



### VETERAN'S CORNER

Sponsored by the Caldwell Veterans Council

Additional events and information can be found online at [www.cvmh-vets.org](http://www.cvmh-vets.org).

Donations are needed, and always appreciated, to help with our outreach program through the winter months.

#### CARRIE L. FRENCH STATUE CEREMONY

The Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall will be holding a ceremony to honor Carrie L. French and her family and to thank all of the amazing supporters who contributed to the statue fundraiser!



Date: June 5, 2026

Time: 11am

Location: 1101 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell

#### 2026 COFFEE KLATCH

Join us every Thursday morning from 8 am to 11 am for our weekly Coffee Klatch get-together!

Organized by the DAV and held at the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.

1101 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell, ID 83605



## An Invitation to Serve: Idaho Steps Forward for America's 250th

by Kelli G. Jenkins



The Idaho House and Senate unanimously passed HCR22, Year of Volunteerism and launching America 250 in Idaho Service Challenge

History was made at the State Capitol on January 22—and even if you weren't there, you could feel it ripple all the way across Idaho. In a powerful and rare show of unity, the Idaho House and Senate unanimously passed HCR 22, officially declaring this the Year of Volunteerism in Idaho and launching the America250 in Idaho Serve Challenge. The vote ended with a standing ovation in the House chamber, a reminder that some moments rise above politics and speak to who we are as Idahoans.

As our nation prepares to celebrate America's 250th birthday, Idaho is proudly stepping forward to honor our past while investing in our future. Through America250 in Idaho, we are reflecting on our shared history and heritage, strengthening connections

within our communities, and living out the values that make Idaho a place we are proud to call home—for our children and for generations to come.

At the heart of this effort is a bold, statewide goal: 250,000 acts of service completed by Idahoans between now and July 4, 2026. The America250 in Idaho Ambassadors are calling on everyone to participate—students and seniors, families and farmers, veterans, business owners, faith groups, and civic leaders. Every generation has something to give, and every act of service matters.

The kickoff event at the Capitol set the tone. Legislators, constitutional officers, their spouses, and community members rolled up their sleeves and served side by side. Thanks to generous donations from residents

in Caldwell and across the Treasure Valley, along with partners like United Way Treasure Valley, the Idaho Coalition of Community Schools, and JustServe Treasure Valley, volunteers packed 250 hygiene kits filled with essential items for community schools across the state. It was a simple act with a powerful message: when we serve together, we grow stronger together.

Now it's our turn here at home. The America250 in Idaho Service Challenge celebrates the spirit that rural communities know well—neighbors helping neighbors, pitching in without being asked, and quietly doing what needs to be done. Service might look like shoveling snow, checking on an elderly neighbor, mentoring a young person, cleaning up a park, volunteering at a school, or volunteering at a local food pantry. It can be done solo or as a group, at home or out in the community.

For this challenge, an "act of service" is defined as 30 minutes of purposeful action that results in a measurable benefit to others.

#### How to join the challenge

1. Perform a meaningful act of service (big or small);
2. Find opportunities at [JustServe.org](http://JustServe.org);
3. Log your act at [IdahoKindness.com](http://IdahoKindness.com); and,
4. Watch the Kindness Counter climb toward 250,000.

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Let's fill our town, schools, churches, and neighborhoods with hope and kindness. Let's show our children what it means to serve with heart. And let's show the rest of the country how Idaho leads—together. This is our moment. Join the challenge.

## Perspective Survey Results



Thank you to the folks that submitted responses to our January survey. We're grateful for learning what parts of the *Perspective* you regularly read and how the *Perspective* can improve.

We're excited about making changes based on your comments and ideas.

We've added more events to our events calendar and changed the dates covered to fit our publishing dates better (usually the first Saturday of each month). The calendar is now also available on our website ([caldwellperspective.com/community-calendar](http://caldwellperspective.com/community-calendar)) where you can click events for more details. We'll be adding events there during the month so you can stay up-to-date between editions.

We've also created an email address ([calendar@caldwellperspective.com](mailto:calendar@caldwellperspective.com)) where you can submit calendar items as long as they take place in Caldwell, are open to the public, and cost \$25 or less. If it's happening in Caldwell, we want to know about it!

We'll be adding more of

some favorites – local history, municipal news, elections, and business news. In this issue we don't have any history, but we've followed up on reader suggestions to work with Chuck Randolph (a local retired teacher and historian) on history stories. He is happy to hear our readers are interested in Caldwell history.

We've added a section on page 3 with information about contacting us, submitting stories, advertising, finding hard copies, and subscribing.

And we'll be following up on suggestions we got to print more recipes (especially for locally grown foods), profiles of local positive people and organizations, service opportunities, service organizations, Latino events, highlights of everyday people, student accomplishments, student opportunities, and more.

We got some criticism that our print schedule is inconsistent. We've added the print date of the next issue to the events calendar and adjusted dates the calendar

covers to match.

Our printing date is tied to a day of the week not of the month. Most months the Idaho Press will print our paper on the first Thursday, go to the post office Friday, and get to mail boxes Saturday.

Some months, however, one of our key advertisers – True Value – needs its insert distributed a week later. This is especially true in November where Black Friday sales come so late in the month. Caldwell's True Value has been owned by the same local family (the Nelsons) for 41 years. They're strong supporters of our community and run a great local hardware store. And their advertising dollars help the *Caldwell Perspective* pay printing and mailing costs.

We may not manage to accommodate everyone's requests, but we will continue to do our best.

Thank you again for your ideas. If you missed the survey or think of another idea for us, don't hesitate to email us through our website: [caldwellperspective.com/about](http://caldwellperspective.com/about), or our emails: [advertising@caldwellperspective.com](mailto:advertising@caldwellperspective.com) (Toni) and [editor@caldwellperspective.com](mailto:editor@caldwellperspective.com) (Leora). You can also drop us a line at PO Box 922, Caldwell, Idaho, 83606.

## Acapulco Restaurant Makes Changes and El Burro Premier Comes to Downtown

by Leora Summers



Acapulco Cantina is renamed and not going anywhere.



El Burro Premier is expanding to the Acapulco building.

Mauricio Quintero's Acapulco Mexican Restaurant had its last day on New Year's Eve 2025. His restaurant has been a long-time fixture in our community. He felt it was time for this change that lightens his workload and gives him more time to spend with his wife.

Though Mauricio has closed the restaurant side, he kept the bar side. His bar has always been a place like the one on the TV show "Cheers," where "everyone knows your name." The bar side will be completely closed off from the restaurant side of the building. It remains open and has been renamed "The Acapulco Cantina."

El Burro Premier will be the new occupant in the restaurant side of the building. They have operated out of a food truck that sits in the parking lot of Franklin Building Supply in Caldwell.

They are happy to have this opportunity to expand their food truck business to an indoor seating restaurant that will accommodate their loyal customers. And they are excited to bring their menu in a new way to our community. They plan to open sometime in the middle of February.

Congratulations to both, El Burro Premier and The Acapulco Cantina, for their new and exciting business ventures!

## In Youth's Corner - Safer Internet Day

by Deborah Kraft – Canyon County Anti-Trafficking Task Force

of 61 such task forces in existence throughout the country and operates within the Idaho Attorney General's Office. Idaho's ICAC Task Force is comprised of officers from approximately 100 different police departments and sheriff's offices around the state, including the Caldwell Police Department.

ICAC recently released its end-of-the-year report for 2025. By year's end they received 6,117 CyberTips from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children compared to approximately 3,500 CyberTip reports in 2024. These reports involve either Child Sexual Abuse Material/CSAM, enticement or sextortion of Idaho youth, predators located in Idaho or Idaho playing a key role in an internet sexual crime involving a minor.

It's unimaginable the impact Law Enforcement must endure viewing the magni-

tude of CSAM in order to protect Idaho youth and catch these predators. Thankfully, it is mandatory that ICAC officers receive counseling on an annual basis.

They as well as all those in the judicial system and in the realm of private investigators working in this area of crime sacrifice a quality of life they will never get back.

How can we as citizens do our part to help curb this growing trend and keep our youth safe on the Internet? Education is our single most powerful tool to protect youth and becoming educated is a responsibility we cannot ignore! One place to learn about safety measures that will help protect minors is by visiting the ICAC website at: [icacidaho.org](http://icacidaho.org).



February 10, 2026 is recognized around the world as this year's, "Safer Internet Day." It has been in existence now for ten years. Many events are planned delivering safety education to help further protect our youth from the dangers posed to them lurking on the internet from the advances of sexual predators.

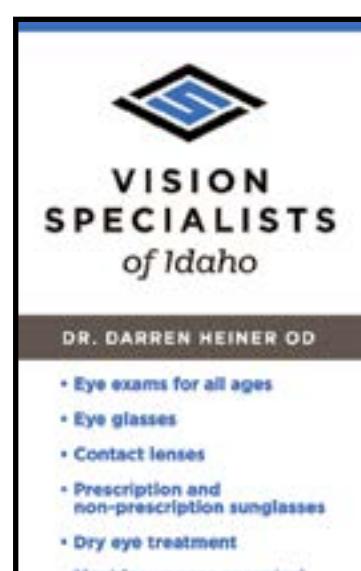
While organizations around the United States dedicated to this type of work will be participating in these events, there is none more committed to this cause in our very own state than the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC).

Our ICAC task force is one

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## Our City Leaders for 2026

by Leora Summers



L to R: Diana Register/Seat #3, Scott Tilmant/Seat #1, Geoff Williams/Seat #4, Eric Phillips/Mayor, Mike Diftenber/Seat #6, Chris Allgood/Seat #5, Chuck Stadick/Seat #2 (City photo)

Top: Newly Elected Mayor Eric Phillips  
Bottom: Newly Elected Councilor Scott Tilmant, Seat #1

On January 5th, during a packed City Council meeting, our newly elected and re-elected city officials were sworn into office. So many attendees came to this meeting that there was an overflow area with video of the meeting set up in the lobby.

Sworn into office for the first time were Eric Phillips as Mayor and Scott Tilmant, Councilor for Seat 1. Re-

elected Councilors sworn in were Chuck Stadick, Seat 2, and Diana Register, Seat 3.

Upon his swearing in, Mayor Eric Phillips, was met with tremendous cheering from the crowd. He then thanked everyone for their support and gave words of hope for a new chapter for our city.

The first action item after the swearing in was to elect a new council president.

Diana Register was nominated and with no other nominations was unanimously elected by her fellow councilors.

Congratulations to all those sworn in and may they have collaboration in working together and may they do their due diligence in researching the issues that arise before making decisions that affect all of us.

Top: Re-elected Councilor Chuck Stadick, Seat #2  
Bottom: Re-elected Councilor Diana Register, Seat #3

## Road Closures

## Blaine Street

During February work replacing bridges will close Blaine Street in two places in downtown Caldwell – at Kimball and just west of 6th Avenue (near Rubaiyat Books). To avoid stops follow the detour signs to Chicago Street via 10th and Fifth avenues. Those wanting to shop in Caldwell can get through; streets parallel to Blaine will be open as usual.

## Two Roundabouts under Construction on Linden

Work is underway on roundabouts at Linden's intersections with Ward and Middleton roads. The Ward intersection is scheduled to re-open in mid-April; the

Middleton one, in mid-May. A temporary bypass at Ward allows people driving east on Linden from Caldwell to turn north on Ward Rd to Hwy 20-26 and those driving south on Ward may turn west on Linden towards Caldwell.

The bypass on Middleton Road will allow cars driving east on Linden to turn north toward Hwy 20-26 and those coming south on Middleton to turn east on Linden toward Boise.

Other traffic is detoured to Hwy 20-26 via Smeed Parkway or KCID Road on the west and Midland Boulevard on the east.

Updates at: [cityofcaldwell.org/Departments/Street-Department/Road-Closures](http://cityofcaldwell.org/Departments/Street-Department/Road-Closures).

## Parking Changes



Clearly marked signs indicate 3-hour or 4-hour limits

Caldwell's new downtown parking plan includes three- or four-hour time limits on free street parking from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Time limits won't apply during evenings, weekends, and holidays, but

no parking will be allowed on designated streets between 2:00 and 5:00 a.m.

The goal is to make it easier for visitors and shoppers to find parking.

No time limits will apply to the parking lots at TVCC, 516 Main, or the six lots along the railroad.

The three-hour parking limit will cover the area from Kimball to 5th Avenue between the railroad and Blaine. The four-hour limits will extend from Kimball to 10th Avenue and from 5th to 4th avenues.

Signs will indicate if a block has a time limit on parking. Warnings will be issued during the first few weeks of the change.

Information is available at [cityofcaldwell.org/Visitors/Downtown-Parking](http://cityofcaldwell.org/Visitors/Downtown-Parking).



## Utility Increase

The City implemented adjustments to water, sewer, and sanitation rates in November 2025. The average residential customer has seen an increase of approximately \$20 per month on their utility bill. These rate adjustments are necessary to maintain and improve infrastructure.

The City of Caldwell's water and sewer utilities are funded entirely through user rates and connection fees, not property taxes. All costs associated with operations, maintenance, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure improvements must be covered by these fees.

Although Caldwell continues to grow and add new utility users, rates have increased due to rising operational costs that have affected nearly every sector over the past several years. Additionally, City utilities are required to meet increasingly stringent federal and state regulations for drinking water quality and wastewater treatment.

Utility rate adjustments are guided by comprehensive, in-depth rate studies conducted on the City's behalf. These studies analyze current and future operational needs to determine the appropriate revenue required to maintain service levels and plan for future infrastructure demands.

For more: [cityofcaldwell.org/Departments/Utility-Billing](http://cityofcaldwell.org/Departments/Utility-Billing).

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II. Thou shalt not make unto thee and given image	VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery
III. Thou shalt not take the Lord thy God in vain	VIII. Thou shalt not steal
IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy	IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
V. Honor thy father and thy mother	X. Thou shalt not covet

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## CPD and Drones as First Responders

by Leora Summers



The Caldwell Police Department (CPD) is pioneering a new program known as the "Drone as First Responder" (DFR) program. These drones are the newest assistive devices to be used by the CPD to help assess a situation before officers are able to arrive on a scene. Our police department is the first in our area to use drones as an assessment tool.

CPD had used drones in the past couple of years, but they were launched onsite where the action was happening with the drone operating officer also at the scene. Mayor Eric Phillips pioneered the first drone program at CPD.

Unlike the previous drones, these new DFR drones are launched from docking stations by an officer inside the station who is a certified drone pilot. The city has three docking stations from which the drones can be launched.

The drone pilot gets a head start on monitoring in real time what is happening on the ground, providing immediate visuals before officers going to the scene arrive. The drone pilot sends information to those officers before they get to the location, making it safer for them and giving them a better idea of what they will need to do once they get there.

The drone pilot then speaks to the officers on the scene once they arrive to guide them. Once the situation has been resolved, the drones are directed back to their docking station, where they can recharge before their next use.

Along with live video, these drones provide thermal imaging, which is a valuable tool when assessing a situation. The fire department has used drones for thermal and visual imaging to check to see if they need to deploy a truck to a scene that was called in. Thermal imaging is also valuable for night time incidents and search and rescue.

There are strict privacy protocols that will be followed to protect community privacy and full compliance with local, state and federal regulations. The program is expected to significantly reduce response times, increase officer and public safety, and provide more efficient support during emergencies across Caldwell.

### Name the Drones

CPD has turned to the community on social media to help name their three DFR drones. They are excited to see the creativity and fun ideas our community comes up with. The winners will be announced this month. For an update, check the Caldwell Police Department's Facebook page, [facebook.com/CaldwellPD](https://facebook.com/CaldwellPD).

## Historic Preservation Commission to Host Grant Application Workshop

On Wednesday, February 18th, the Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will host a grant application workshop at 6:30 PM at the Canyon County Administration Building, 111 N 11th Ave, Suite 130, Caldwell.

The HPC grant program awards funds to qualified nonprofit organizations within the county that aim to preserve, protect, and maintain access to historic objects, materials, or properties. Canyon County is the only county in Idaho that allocates a portion of its property tax revenue—no more than twelve one-thousandths of one percent (0.012%)—to support grants for historic preservation projects each year.

Past projects funded by this program include building improvements to the

Greenleaf Museum, the nomination of the Patricia Romanko Library building in Parma to the National Register of Historic Places, and the digitization of oral history interviews at the Warhawk Air Museum, among others.

Organizations interested in applying for funding for the 2027 fiscal year (beginning October 2026) are encouraged to attend the workshop to gain an overview of the application process and have their questions answered.

For a breakdown of the FY2027 grant timeline, visit: [bit.ly/4rgMF6k](https://bit.ly/4rgMF6k)

For more information on the grant program, visit: [bit.ly/3LJX4sr](https://bit.ly/3LJX4sr)

For questions, please contact Chelsee Boehm at [chelsee.boehm@canyoncounty.id.gov](mailto:chelsee.boehm@canyoncounty.id.gov) or 208-299-9107.

## Scammers Making Claims About Jury Duty

The State of Idaho Judicial Branch is warning Idahoans about scammers claiming that you have failed to appear for jury duty.

Do not engage with anyone sending an email, text message, or phone call who claims to be a court employee or officer of the law and asks you to provide identifying information, to transfer money for fines or fees, or to open a link.

Government officials will never ask you to pay bail, fines or other court costs using gift cards or cryptocurrency.

If you get a message related to court proceedings or court service and are unsure if it is legitimate, contact the court involved using this state courthouse directory: [isc.idaho.gov/Courthouse](https://isc.idaho.gov/Courthouse).

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## Southwest Idaho Birders' Association

by JC Clancy



Juvenile Common Loon

Canyon County always has a fair share of bird watchers, but for the past few weeks, they've definitely been on the 'loonatic' fringe. That reached a peak after Jan. 1, when at least 10 loons including 3 different species were spotted on Lake Lowell.

A Common Loon or two would be expected a few times a year. A Pacific Loon, a little smaller, might be seen briefly by one or two birders once or twice a year. But added to that, there was a Yellow-billed Loon, a little larger with a big yellow beak pointed high as if it knows its uncommon status. The three species together provided a rare sight that drew birders from way outside the county.

That bird was still being seen and photographed almost daily late into January as this was being written. The Yellow-billed, usually with other loons, was spotted at the Deer Flat Refuge's Gott's Point parking lot and later at the Upper Dam. Long-term reporting on birds in the area will show whether all this loon activity is a onetime occurrence brought on by a warmer-than-usual winter or if it's part of a trend.

January is typically a busy birding time in the Treasure Valley as Boise's Golden Eagle Audubon Society sponsors a month-long challenge for members to report the

most bird species of anyone in the state.

Getting three loon species within the first half day helped local birders get off to a great start, not that they weren't already out scouring three or more counties despite the wind and rain.

The lazy loonatic who found these loons had reasoned that given the weather, it might be possible to sit in the car close to home and find up to five species of grebes, two or three mergansers, a couple of goldeneye, a few gulls and a bald eagle without even getting wet. Or only a little wet, since rain poured in every time the window was opened for a sneak peek.

All this competition helps add to a huge database, that is available for students of ornithology and other fields, so it serves a real purpose. As of this writing, 189 species in Idaho had already been logged this year, and 127 of them in Canyon County!

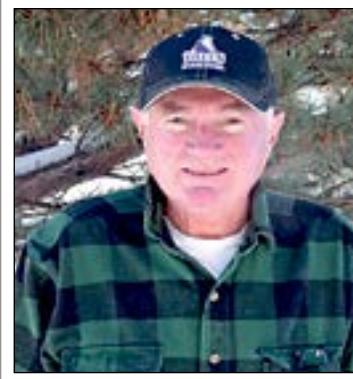
Meanwhile, SIBA is planning its annual field trip to Hagerman Wildlife Management Area on Feb. 14. Yes, Valentine's Day is for bird lovers too! Registration is required by email to trip leader James Jarrett at SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com. Birders meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Liquor Store at Columbia Marketplace off Federal Way to carpool, or at the Rest Area off Hwy 30 south

of Hagerman at 8:30 a.m.

If you plan on meeting at the Rest Area, please let Jarrett know. For last minute cancellations, please call him at 208-504-5866 so the group doesn't lose valuable birding time.

Winter birds can range from loons, scoters and gulls to orange-crowned warblers. This is an all-day trip that often starts with morning fog and wind chill, so wear layers and bring hand warmers along with lunch, snacks, and plenty of liquids.

SIBA has reorganized its schedule a bit, so while it will continue at least one field trip each month, the meetings will be held less frequently. The January meeting was by Zoom only. The club will meet in person at the Deer Flat NWR visitor center, with Zoom option, at 7 p.m. on April 9, July 9, Oct 8, and Nov 12. Newsletters will continue by email.



## Dave's Big Backyard

by Dave McCormick

as a shotgun. My old bamboo rod was paired with a Phleger medalist reel, popular for its time and relatively inexpensive. I still use the old Phleger. I'm not paying \$300 for a Lampson or an Orvis fly reel.

I guess there has been an assumption that fly fishing was reserved for aristocracy, but Neil Macleod and yours truly, a couple of rednecks with fly rods and a twelve pack of Hamm's beer, put that notion to rest. Back at Cabarton bridge I flicked out a hellgrammite and to my amazement when I tightened the line, there was weight! "Neil, I got one," I hollered.

After a spirited battle, I landed and released a 15-inch rainbow, my first on the old bamboo rod. I remember there was snow on the ground that day in February and I was wearing waders. When the weather warmed, I preferred cut offs and tennis shoes, in true redneck fashion.

Fly fishing is a rewarding pastime and can be tailored to fit any anglers budget. A starter package can be purchased for around \$100, complete with rod, reel, fly line and leaders. From there, the sky is the limit. Do not expect to find a tranquil stream teaming with rainbows in some secluded meadow. They are disappearing faster than farm ground in the Treasure Valley. Good luck!

## Local Dirt

by Pat King



I'm glad I'm not a weatherman, I wouldn't keep my job for very long based on me telling you all to button up it's going to be a cold one. I couldn't have been more wrong. That geranium guy probably could've left them out all winter. On my farm, it's so green with weeds that I can barely see parts of my driveway. I had a friend send me some pictures with weeds in his lawn, asking what they were and could he spray them?

So that brings me to this column, Early Weed Intervention! Now, typically I wouldn't be giving this information out until the April edition of this paper. But I think this is very important to bring up now because a mild winter brings up a whole bunch of other circumstances.

Mild winters, especially ones with moisture early on and then it stops, tends to bring the ugly out of nature. And the mild winter with moisture saves some more sensitive plants (zone 5-6), that get damaged when temperatures consistently stay very cold for long periods of time (10° to -10°). If temperatures stay that cold for more than a week or longer, it can kill the plant down into the roots. A lot of soil moisture followed by a deep freeze, sends the ice deep into the soil, like a wick pulling up oil in a lamp.

A dry mild winter or dry winter will greatly hurt evergreens. They need water, even in winter. You must water them every 7-10 days all winter long. Trust me, most of my firewood comes from pine trees that were too dry during the winter or deciduous trees that got a deep freeze with heavy winter moisture. So water pines throughout winter, they need it, you'll thank me later.

Now to the Intervention. Yes Kerry, you can spray your turf weeds or any other broadleaf weed now, and here's how. You'll need to make sure you are using a COOL season broad-

leaf chemical spray with a spreader sticker. Do it early enough in the day, but when the dew is mostly off the ground (you'll get your feet wet also). Then to make your mix, add a little liquid fertilizer and liberally apply to the weeds in question. As the day progresses the sun and fertilizer will activate absorption. Avoid walking through the spray. You want it to set.

Now here's the key every year, weed seeds are just waiting to spring forth to make your life less than ideal. So in a couple days after, apply a pre-emergent to all areas where you won't be planting seeds. I recommend a pre-emergent with Dimension in it. Dimension is designed for turf and ornamental applications and will give 4-6 months of protection, but if this is the first time ever using a pre-emergent you'll probably need 2, maybe 3 more applications throughout the season. Normal applications are spring and fall, mid-march and mid-October or after fall cleanup. I hope that helps.

Until next time, Pat

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## Making Sausage at Home: A Flavorful Skill for Everyone

by Surine Greenway, UI Extension Agent, Owyhee County



Advanced Master Food Safety Advisor Lana Moad leads participants through the fun of hands-on sausage making during a class in 2025.

There can be a deep sense of satisfaction in making things yourself, including sausage. From choosing the cut of meat to blending spices and filling casings, sausage-making can use

traditional methods to create endless flavors, allowing you to control the ingredients. Many people are surprised to learn that sausage making doesn't require specialized training. With sim-

ple equipment like a grinder or stand mixer attachment, a sausage stuffer, and basic supplies, home chefs can safely produce sausage in their kitchen. The key is using quality meat, keeping everything cold, and following research-based food safety practices.

One of the most enjoyable parts of sausage making is experimenting with seasonings and styles. Locally, there is access to a wide variety of supplies through specialty meat and food stores. For sausage makers looking to stock up on seasonings, casings, and other tools, a great local option is Gering & Son in Nampa. I recently became aware of this location and was surprised by the wide selection of sausage and jerk mixtures, casings, and other supplies that I now use in my kitchen. I always appreciate access to items locally and highly recommend this shop.

For those who want hands-on guidance before diving in on their own, a Sausage Making class will be offered this month for those interested in learning the

process step-by-step. This interactive class will cover meat selection, seasoning blends, grinding, stuffing, and safe handling practices. Participants can build skills, ask questions, gain confidence, and make their own sausage to take home. Registration for the hands-on Sausage Making class is limited, to learn more or sign up, visit: [bit.ly/26sausage](http://bit.ly/26sausage).

I grew up making Basque-style chorizos, but I also enjoy creating different flavor profiles for other sausages. One of our new favorites is a recipe we made ourselves, Garlic and Apple Pork Sausage.

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs. ground pork
- 1 ½ cups pureed green apple (roughly three apples)
- 4 cloves of garlic, pureed
- 1 Tablespoons Kosher salt

### Directions

1. Using a blender, puree green apple and garlic cloves. Place ground pork in a large bowl and add apple, garlic and salt. Wearing kitchen gloves, combine the mixture using your hands until thoroughly blended.

2. Leave mixture in refrigerator at 40°F or lower, for 8 hours or overnight. The mixture is then ready to form into patties to cook in a skillet to an internal temperature of 160°F. You may also stuff into sausage casings or freeze ground mixture for later use.

3. Store leftovers in the refrigerator for up to 4 days, or freeze for up to one year.

Whether your goal is to save money, avoid additives, or simply enjoy making food from scratch, sausage-making is a rewarding skill that fits into your kitchen. With basic tools, quality ingredients, and a little practice, homemade sausage can become a delicious and fun addition to your home food products.

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 and have questions, contact the University of Idaho Owyhee County Extension office at 208-896-4104 or [owyhee@uidaho.edu](mailto:owyhee@uidaho.edu).

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**Caldwell  
PERSPECTIVE**

**"What is your favorite thing to do on Valentine's Day?"**

Jennifer Tipton, Caldwell Perspective



Jennifer Tipton

Jennifer Tipton is a new addition to the Perspective team. She was out and about in January meeting people and learning about their favorite thing to do on Valentine's Day. Here's what she found out.



Eduardo Silva

Take my wife out to a nice restaurant, and then book a weekend getaway – anything with a warm beach because that's what she likes.



Ofelia Morales

I like to include the kids in our dinner plans. We'll do something special, like heart nachos. Everything revolves around the kids; I even get them little Valentine's Day gifts!



Judi Gardea

Since I'm not married, I go out with my friends. We like to go to the place that used to be Orphan Annie's, it's just down the street.



Hayden Richards

I like to take my Valentine out to dinner. We'll probably go to our favorite sushi place. It's very romantic to enjoy our favorite foods – just the two of us.



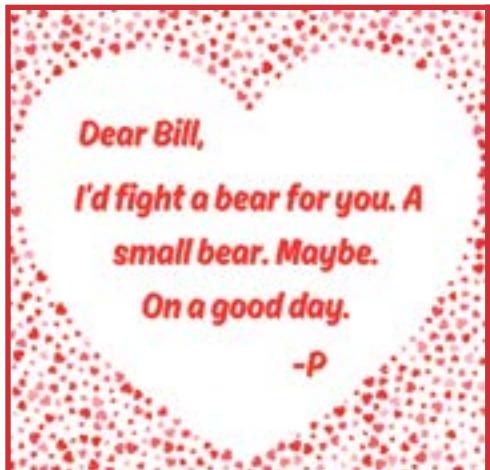
Shawn Zavala

Bartend, because that's what I do. Canyon County is my sweetheart – I love everybody here.

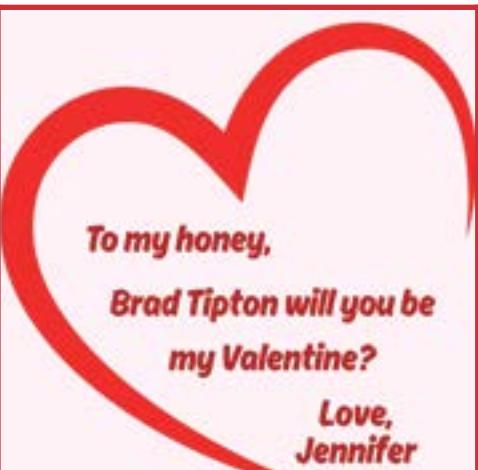


Jennifer Gray-Bendorf

Just spend time with my husband. If the weather's good enough, we like to get out there with our dogs, we have three Australian Shepherds.



Dear Bill,  
I'd fight a bear for you. A  
small bear. Maybe.  
On a good day.  
-P



To my honey,  
Brad Tipton will you be  
my Valentine?  
Love,  
Jennifer



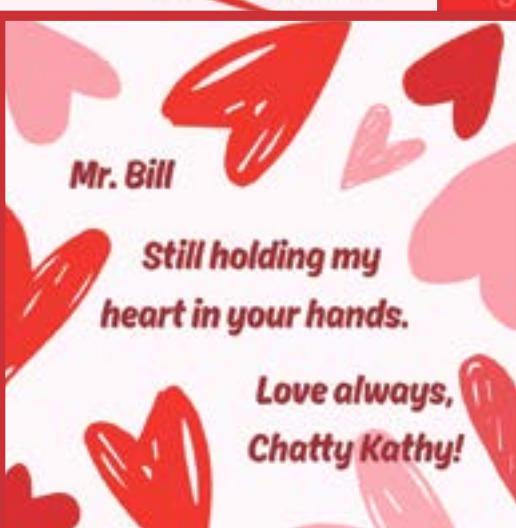
Sam Summers  
You are my sunshine!  
Will you be my Valentine?  
Leora



Mike Dittenber,  
Thank you for being my  
sweetheart.  
Love, Tam



Brent Sullivan!!  
My forever and ever  
Valentine!  
I love YOU!  
Beth



Mr. Bill  
Still holding my  
heart in your hands.  
Love always,  
Chatty Kathy!

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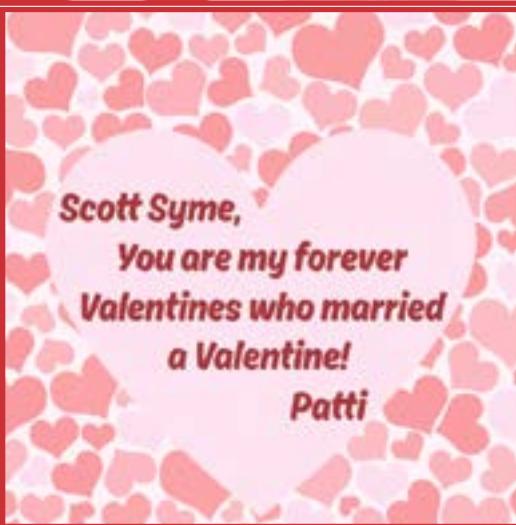
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Love Debi



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Valentines who married  
a Valentine!  
Patti