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Caldwell Wrestling Club Hosts Cradle For The Cure Wrestling Tournament

by Elizabeth Freeman



Below: Little wrestlers in the Cradle for the Cure Wrestling Tournament

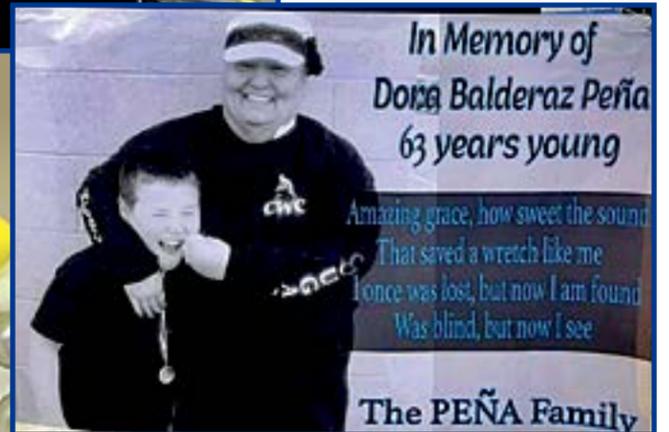


Left: Caldwell Wrestling Club Board and members present \$37,110 check to a St. Luke's Cancer Institute representative

Below: In memory of Dora Balderaz Peña, Jaun Peña's mother



Wrestler Ezra Denny, a childhood cancer survivor from Washington who travels to support and compete in the tournament each year, with Caldwell Wrestling Club Director Adam Freeman



This year the Caldwell Wrestling Club (CWC) will be hosting the 10th Annual Cradle For The Cure Wrestling Tournament and will be bringing awareness to blood cancers. The tournament is to raise both money and awareness for St. Luke's Cancer Institute.

The yearly event brings in kids (ages 5 through high school) and families from a dozen western states as far away as Missouri and Alaska to compete in wrestling. The tournament caps at 1500 wrestlers each year. The Cradle For The Cure Wrestling Tournament has become the marquee event

for the club and Idaho Youth.

Ten years ago, the mother of Caldwell Wrestling Club Director Adam Freeman was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Unfortunately, at the exact same time two longtime Caldwell Wrestling Club coaches, Juan Peña and Steven Bidleman had just lost their moms to cancer.

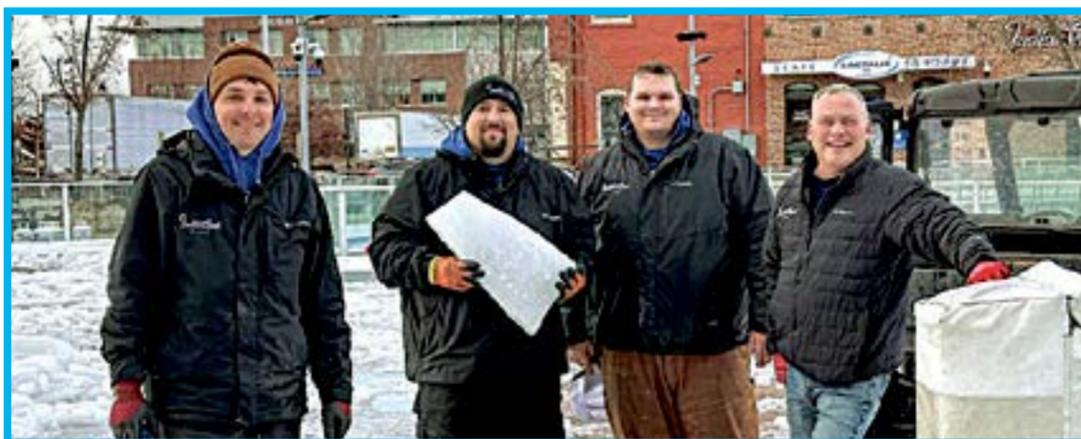
With three coaches so

closely affected by cancer at the same time they were compelled to do something to help raise awareness, and money, to help others also going through what they were experiencing. Out of this tragedy, the Cradle For The Cure Wrestling Tourna-

ment was born. Each year proceeds from the tournament support both youth wrestlers, and local families/organizations touched by cancer. Last year, thanks to the support of the CFTC, USA Idaho Wrestling, and the Caldwell Wrestling Club the event donated \$37,110 to the St. Luke's Cancer Institute. In the nine year history of the event, total donations have come close to \$250,000. The organizers of the CFTC

are extremely proud to put on an event that supports both our passion to grow youth wrestling, and raise cancer awareness. Money donated has gone to support the St. Luke's Patient Assistance Program, a program that helps those experiencing the tragedy of a fight against cancer. All the donations to the Patient Assistance Program stay to help local families in need.

If you'd like more information, or would like to make a donation please email Adam Freeman at afreeman@caldwellschools.org.



Time To Hang Up Your Skates

by Jennifer Tipton

Todd Toy, Andrew Lopez, Tyler Charters and Corey Turner were "caught in the act" of ice removal at the Plaza's downtown ice ribbon on February 18th.

They are the guys preparing the Plaza for warmer

weather activities. (We can't wait!)

Funny though, that it just so happened on the day that Caldwell got snow for the first time in a very long time. Ironic, isn't it?

Left: Indian Creek Plaza employees Todd Toy, Andrew Lopez, Tyler Charters and Corey Turner working on ice removal.

Caldwell COMMUNITY CALENDAR

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



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

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

Repeating Events

THURSDAYS

Coffee Klatch at the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial hall
 8-11 am, 1101 Cleveland Blvd.

FRIDAYS

Lenten Lunches at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church (through 3/27)
 11:30 am-1 pm, 1122 W Linden St. Free 5 and under, \$4 6-12, \$8 over 12.

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

SATURDAY 3/7

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Show
 10am-6 pm, 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). Free 10 and under, \$5 over 10.

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

SUNDAY 3/8

Owyhee Gem & Mineral Show
 10am-5 pm, 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). Free 10 and under, \$5 over 10.

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

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

Make and Take Speak Kindness Cards at Rubaiyat: Lucky Theme
 1-3 pm, 314 S 6th Ave.

Roots Chili Cook-Off
 3-5 pm, 508 Main St. (Roots & Co.)

WEDNESDAY 3/11

Horror Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave, Book: *Hollow Kingdom*.

FRIDAY 3/13

Filing for county and precinct captain candidates closes
 Learn more at: voteidaho.gov/candidate-filing/noon-6-9pm

D & D Workshop at Rubaiyat
 6-9pm, 120 S Kimball. \$8.

SATURDAY 3/14

Nutrition Series at Cliff's Market
 10-11:30 am, 217 Blaine St.

MONDAY 3/16

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

Non-Fiction Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave, Book: *The Anthropocene Reviewed*.

TUESDAY 3/17 (St. Patrick's Day)

WEDNESDAY 3/18

Prom clothing sale: student ID required
 1-6 pm, 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). Items are \$10.

Babysitting Training for Ages 12-16; Bring a bagged lunch
 1-3:30 pm, 504 Grant St. (kitchen at Roberts Recreation Center) contact Canyon County Extension Office at 208-459-6003 or carriej@uidaho.edu. \$25.

Gardening Book Club at Shared Stories
 7-9:30 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. Book: *Propogating Plants*.

Bilingual Historical Fiction Book Club at Shared Stories
 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. Book: *Las Madras*.

THURSDAY 3/19

Romance Book Club at Shared Stories
 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball Ave. Book: *Just for the Cameras*.

FRIDAY 3/20 (First Day of Spring)

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

Idaho UTV Expo
 3-8 pm, 110 County Fair Ave.

FRIDAY 3/20 (continued)

Caldwell Fine Arts: Take 3 Trio
 7-8:30 pm, 2112 Cleveland Blvd. (CofI, Jewett Auditorium)

SATURDAY 3/21

Adult Coed Softball Tournament
 Smeed and Skyway (Pipe Dream Park), Email caldwellrec@cityofcaldwell.org.

Idaho UTV Expo
 10 am-6 pm, 110 County Fair Ave.

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

Wine Warehouse Mini Market at Williamson Orchards and Vineyards
 noon-5 pm, 14807 Sunny Slope Rd.

Idaho Vintage Motorcycle and Bicycle Rally
 1:30-8 pm, 17969 Can-Ada Rd. (Union Motorcycle Classics)

Music Assn. of Canyon County Concert
 6-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland Blvd (CofI 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 3/22

Adult Coed Softball Tournament
 Smeed and Skyway (Pipe Dream Park), Email caldwellrec@cityofcaldwell.org.

Idaho Vintage Motorcycle and Bicycle Show
 8:30-11:30 am, 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). \$5 for adults, children under 13 free with adult admission.

TUESDAY 3/24

March Mystery Thriller Book Club at Shared Stories
 7-9 pm 106 S Kimball Ave.

FRIDAY 3/27

2C Wild West Spring Event
 10 am-6 pm 2207 Blaine St (O'Connor Fieldhouse). \$1.

Winery After Hours at Ste. Chapelle (RSVP)
 6-9 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd. RSVP: exploretock.com/ste-chapelle-winery-caldwell

March Poetry Book Club at Shared Stories
 7-9 pm 106 S Kimball Ave, Book: *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*

SATURDAY 3/28

Cars Line Downtown Streets
 9 am-noon 120 S Kimball (the Plaza).

Egg Hunt at St. Chapelle (RSVP)
 noon-4 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd. RSVP: exploretock.com/ste-chapelle-winery-caldwell/event/594600/3rd-annual-easter-egg-hunt

SUNDAY 3/29

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

WEDNESDAY 4/1 through SATURDAY 4/4

Gigi's In Shop Easter Egg Hunt
 11 am-6 pm, 215 S 9th.

FRIDAY 4/3

Brave Hearts Night at Indian Creek Steakhouse
 6-11 pm, 711 Main St.

SATURDAY 4/4

Caldwell Easter Egg Scramble
 noon-6 pm, 619 Irving St. (Memorial Park)

Linda Hamilton: Fourth Wife, Author Release + Q&A with Steph Nelson
 5-7 pm, 106 S. Kimball (Shared Stories)

April Edition of the Caldwell Perspective arrives.

SUNDAY 4/5

89th Annual Lizard Butte Easter Sunrise Service

Huston Vineyards
 Open Daily
Monday-Sunday
 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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

By Phone: 208-484-8286

Online: www.caldwellperspective.com

SUBMISSIONS

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

Email: Leora Summers, editor@caldwellperspective.com

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

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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 and scrolling down a little or emailing Toni Ferro at advertising@caldwellperspective.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submit calendar items to calendar@caldwellperspective.com.

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

CALDWELL PUBLIC LIBRARY

EVENTS

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

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

Events in the Community Room unless noted
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:** Mar. 9, 16, 23, 30 Apr. 6 at 10 am | Ages 0-1; 10:45 am | Ages 1-2; 11:30 am | Ages 0-2
- Knitting & Crochet Social:** Mar. 9, 1:30-3 pm | Ages 18+
- Teen Book Club:** Mar. 9, 5:30-6:30 pm | Ages 13-17 Read a book in verse and discuss it with friends over snacks.
- Patriot Chest presented by Idaho Sons of the American Revolution:** Mar. 23, 4 pm | Ages 5-12
- Chess Club:** Apr. 6, 4-5 pm | Ages 8-17

TUESDAYS

- Spanish & English Storytime:** Mar. 10, 17, 24, 31 Apr. 7 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6
- Mobile Health Clinic at the Library:** Apr. 7: Call 208-367-4483 for appointment.
- Neurodivergent Caregivers Group:** Apr. 7, 1-2pm | Ages 18+
- Board Game Night:** Apr. 7, 6:30-8:30 pm | All ages
- Lego Club:** Mar. 10, 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 7-16 Pick a Card.
- Paws to Read:** Mar. 17, 5-6 pm | Ages 7-14 Read to a dog.

WEDNESDAYS

- Music & Movement:** Mar. 4, 11, 18, 25, Apr. 1 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6
- Tech Lab:** Mar. 11, 10 am -Noon | Ages 18+
- Afterschool Fun:** 3:30 pm | Ages 5-12.
- Mar. 11 Master Gardeners: What is Soil Made of?; Mar. 18 Art on a Shell; Mar. 25 Caldwell Fine Arts: Michelangelo; Apr. 1 The Great Egg Canvas.
- Caldwell Public Library at the Senior Center:** Mar. 18, 11 am | 1009 Everett

THURSDAYS

- Kindergarten Readiness Book Club:** Apr. 2, 10:30 am | Ages 3-6 | Featured: *Too Many Carrots & Golden Acorn*
- Preschool Storytime:** Mar. 12, 19, 26 | 10:30 am | Ages 3-5

THURSDAYS continued

- Teen Thursday:** 4:30 pm | Ages 13-17. Idaho Room | Mar. 12 Perler Beads; Mar. 19 Exquisite Corpse Poetry & Art; Mar. 26 DIY Friendship Bracelets; Apr. 2 Board Game Night
- Thurs. Read Book Club:** Mar. 12, 2 pm or Mar. 19, 6:30 pm | Ages 18+ | Idaho room. Featured book – *The House in the Cerulean Sea*
- Farmway Afterschool Program:** Mar. 12, 4:30-6:30 pm | Community Room, 22730 Farmway Rd. | All Ages
- Gardening Film: The Biggest Little Farm:** Mar. 12, 6:30-8:30 pm | Ages 18+
- Bookworm Buddies for caregivers and their kids:** Mar. 26, 1-2:30 pm. | All ages. Featured book – *The Power of Showing Up: How Parental Presence Shapes Who Our Kids Become*

FRIDAYS

- Tai Chi & Qigong:** Mar. 13, 20, 27 Apr. 3, 10 am | Ages 18+
- Adult Lego Club:** Mar. 13, 4:30 pm | Ages 16+
- Ping Pong Club:** Mar. 27, 3-5 pm | All ages
- Sensory Storytime:** New program | Apr. 3, 10:45 am | Ages 2-6

SATURDAYS

- Art Together: Family Saturday:** 2-3 pm | All Ages | Mar. 14 Superheroes Vs. Villains: Masked Mayhem; Apr. 4 The Egg-Spectacular Art Show
- Beginner Yoga Class:** Mar. 14, 28 11 am-noon | Ages 18+
- Storytime around the World – Japan:** Mar. 21, 2-3 pm | All Ages

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				

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- Peoples Choice
- Cafe Racer
- Moped/Scooter
- Best Survivor
- Competition
- Off Road
- American
- European
- British
- Asian

Caldwell, Idaho – March 21 & 22 2026

For more information contact 208-514-8953 - spudhead304@gmail.com
www.idahovintagemotorcycleclub.org

Mayor's Message for 2026



Caldwell has always been a place where people look out for one another. Our strength comes from families who have planted deep roots here, from the generations who built our agricultural heritage, and from the new residents and businesses who add energy and opportunity to our community. We sit at the heart of some of the most productive farmland in the country; just minutes away are mountains, rivers, and open spaces that remind us why Idaho feels like home.

Inside the city, you find a community that is proud of its identity. Indian Creek, our neighborhoods, our schools, and our local busi-

nesses create a setting where life moves at a welcoming pace. Caldwell is growing, but we remain committed to the qualities that define us, safety, fairness, transparency, and a genuine respect for the people who call this place home.

As Mayor, I carry forward a simple belief: public service begins and ends with the people. Every decision we make should strengthen the city you live in, work in, and trust us to safeguard. That means responsible growth, strong public safety, accessible government, and a renewed focus on preserving what makes Caldwell unique while preparing for the future with care and intention.

I was born and raised here. My wife and I are raising our son here. This community shaped my life, and it is the honor of a lifetime to serve you. Together, we will continue building a Caldwell that protects its heritage, values its residents, and provides every family with a safe and promising place to call home.

Recipes for Your Complete St. Patrick's Day Dinner

by Jennifer Tipton



Guinness-Glazed Brussels Sprouts

Here's a St Patrick's Day recipe from a cooking class I once attended. The recipe is adapted from *Bon Appétit Magazine*, and it's absolutely delicious! If you don't like brussels sprouts, this may just change your mind!

Ingredients

- ¾ cup chicken or vegetable broth
- 2/3 cup Guinness (or any other stout beer)
- 1/3 cup orange juice
- ½ stick unsalted butter (2 ounces)
- 2 ½ tbsp. packed light brown sugar
- Kosher salt to taste
- ¾ tsp. black pepper
- 3 pounds brussels sprouts, cleaned and halved if large

Instructions

1. Combine the first six ingredients in a large pot and boil until very thick and syrupy (about 14 minutes). The sauce can be made a day ahead. Cover and refrigerate. Bring back to a simmer before continuing again.
2. Add the brussels sprouts to the sauce. Cook over high heat, stirring often until the brussels sprouts are tender and the sauce is thick enough to coat (about 12 minutes).

* **Note:** sauces with sugar will burn easily. Stir to avoid burning on the bottom and adjust the heat if the mixture is boiling too hard. The key is to thicken the sauce even if it takes a little longer.

Fun fact! Brussels sprouts are named after Brussels, Belgium where they were popularly cultivated as early as the 13th century. The "sprout" refers to the small, bud-like cabbage heads that grow along the stalk of the plant. And yes! They grow well in Caldwell too!



Guinness Corned Beef

I've tried baking and boiling Corned Beef, but this is by far the tastiest way to prepare it! The flavor is sweet, and the secret ingredient is (you guessed it) Guinness beer! This recipe slowly braises the corned beef at a low temperature, resulting in corned beef so tender it melts in your mouth!

Ingredients

- 4 pounds corned beef brisket
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1 12-ounce can or bottle Guinness Beer (or any Irish stout beer)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees.
2. Rinse the brisket thoroughly, then pat with paper towels and place on a rack in a roasting pan or Dutch oven. Rub brown sugar all over the brisket. Pour beer around and gently over the brisket to wet the sugar.
3. Bake, covered in the preheated oven until tender, about 2 ½ hours. (A meat thermometer inserted into the center of the brisket should read at least 190 degrees.) After removing it from the oven, allow it to rest for 5 minutes before slicing. Serve with mustard, it's the traditional condiment for corned beef!

***Note:** During the last hour of cooking, you may add potatoes cut into 2-3 inch chunks, wedges of green cabbage, and sliced carrots, but you may need to add a little more beer.

Enjoy!



Irish Colcannon Potatoes

Here's a recipe for a classic Irish dish that combines creamy, red-skinned mashed potatoes with sautéed cabbage, crumbled bacon, and green onion. It's so delicious that you'll never do potatoes and cabbage the boring way again!

Ingredients

- 2 ½ pounds red-skinned potatoes – scrubbed and quartered
- 3 tsp. salt - divided (more to taste)
- 6 tbsp. butter
- 2 tsp. minced garlic
- ½ of a large head of green cabbage – roughly chopped (about 5 to 6 cups)
- ½ tsp. fresh ground black pepper (more to taste)
- ½ to ¾ cup slightly warmed milk
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 4 slices of bacon - cooked
- 2 green onions - thinly sliced

Instructions

1. Place potatoes in a large pot or Dutch oven and cover with an inch of cool water. Add 2 tsp. of the salt, cover, and cook on high until the water just reaches a boil. Immediately reduce the heat to medium and continue to cook at a low boil for 15 to 20 minutes, or until the potatoes are just tender when pierced with a fork (not mushy). Remove from heat and drain well. Transfer to a bowl and set aside.
2. Add 2 tbsp. of the butter to a clean, dry pot. Place over medium heat, and add the garlic once melted. Sauté until fragrant, add the chopped cabbage. Cook while stirring, for about 5 minutes (or until softened). Season with ½ tsp. salt and ½ tsp. pepper. Remove from heat.
3. Add the cooked potatoes to the pot with the cabbage. Pour in about half of the milk, onion powder, and the remaining ½ tsp. salt and the remaining 4 tbsp. butter. With a potato masher, smash the potatoes to a slightly chunky consistency. Add additional milk as needed.
4. Taste and season with additional salt and pepper as desired. Crumble the cooked bacon and sprinkle it over the potatoes. Garnish with the green onion.

Enjoy!



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Happy
St. Patrick's
Day

Shamrock Shortbread Cookies

A cookie so good, even a leprechaun would enjoy them! Super easy. Super good. Super green.

Ingredients

- 2 sticks of softened butter
- ¾ cup sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and sugar using an electric mixer.
3. Add the eggs and vanilla and beat another 1 to 2 minutes or until light & fluffy.
4. Gradually add the flour and continue to mix until well blended.
5. Form the dough into 2 balls, wrap in plastic wrap, and chill for at least 2 hours.

6. On a lightly floured surface, roll each ball of dough to 1/4-inch thickness using a rolling pin.

7. Cut with a cookie cutter or knife into shamrock shapes, and place on a baking sheet one inch apart. If using green sugar sprinkles, do it now (before baking).

8. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until the edges are golden brown. Then cool on a wire rack.

9. If you prefer to frost and decorate the cookies instead of the green sugar sprinkles, wait until the cookies are completely cooled.

***Note:** If you share these cookies with a leprechaun, he might be more inclined to tell you where he hid his pot of gold! But if not, at least you'll have cookies — enjoy!

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Senior Spotlight on Melva Allen Ax, Water Color Artist

by Leora Summers



"Spring Daisies," Melva's "negative painting" mode



Melva Allen Ax in her art room in her Caldwell home

Who says you have nothing left to do at the age of 93? Not Melva! She says she has not lived in Caldwell for very long, but has actually lived in the Caldwell area since 1979, so 47 years! When you are 93, time is relative.

She was raised in Eagle Point, Oregon, graduated from high school in 1950, and then by August of that year, moved to Maryland, to live with an

aunt and uncle. While there, she worked for an auto insurance company and later returned to Oregon, got married and had two boys. After some hardship, she moved back to Maryland, had another son, and when her baby boy was 18 months old, divorced and moved back to Oregon.

She met her husband George Allen there and two years later, they married. When they got

engaged, instead of a ring, he got her a car because she said she needed one. The year they married, was the year that the first man walked on the moon.

During their marriage, they moved back and forth from Alaska to their places in Oregon whenever and wherever the opportunities for George's excavating business took them.

When in Oregon, George and a carpenter friend built a house for George's family and later George traded it for an 80-acre farm. Together, they raised 5 boys and while in Alaska, they opened their home to some students, who lived in small villages without high schools, so they could go to the high school in Anchorage.

They moved from Alaska to Caldwell in 1979, first out where the Timberstone Golf Course now is and then in 2009, they moved into town. She and George were married for 56 years before he passed. She later married Ray Ax with whom she lives with today.

Melva has been a long time

collector of art, picking up pieces here and there from places where she has lived or traveled to. After moving to Caldwell, a friend of hers had her join the Idaho Water Color Society, and then she later joined the Nampa Art Guild, began taking water color classes and then even began teaching some of them. Once, she went on an art tour to the Greek Islands. She has now been painting for 47 years and

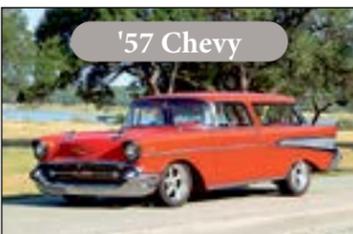
continues to do so. Melva said, "I don't paint just like other people. I don't draw it out. I draw with my brush." Her favorite mode of painting is "negative painting," where you highlight the negative spaces behind the subject. "This is how I really love to paint!"

She is a charter member of the Idaho Water Color Society and let her membership go just this past year. She has belonged to Art Source in downtown Boise, which was owned by the artists, where they could put up whatever they wanted to show.

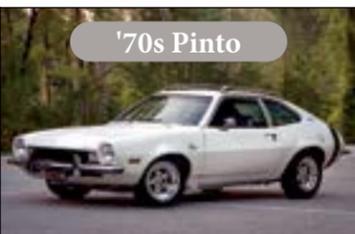
Melva's work has won numerous awards and she has shown her work in many different venues. She is still a member of the Nampa Art Guild, though she says she is not as active in the group as she was when she first joined. Melva donates one of her paintings almost every year to the Republican Ladies' Lincoln Day fundraiser.

Melva is still a busy lady. She said, "I cannot believe how busy I am at this age!. It's been a wonderful life!"

The Sales Pitch



'57 Chevy



'70s Pinto

By the summer of 1974 I had finished engineering classes at Oregon Tech in Klamath Falls and was facing classes in accounting, economics, technical writing and speech. The writing and speech classes were taught by the same professor. A good motivator. She would say, "Write what you know!" I figured I'd have to narrow my focus a lot since there wasn't much that I didn't know everything about.

One speech class assignment was to give a convincing sales pitch complete with supporting props, visual aids and a follow-up question and answer session. I decided on a subject near and dear to me, rebuilding an old car with modern upgrades to the drivetrain, safety, and comfort. I would be comparing the cost of modifying and restoring a 1957 Chevrolet to the purchase of a new car of similar size like a Chevelle SS.

I was already sold on the project, but convincing prospects would be a far taller order. The country had just endured the "gas shortage," so I completely left things like gas mileage out of the talk, since

no one I knew ever got an adrenaline rush from getting 25 MPG. Going zero to 60 in 3 seconds is what quickens my pulse.

I shopped at the local Chevrolet dealer and priced out a Super Sport Chevelle with just about everything important to me on the option list. I added in air conditioning for those sissies who wanted power-robbing accessories. The price of this mid-size gas guzzler was way out there for the 70s, but it reflected my taste. And gas mileage was never much of a consideration in my book even after having to sit in lines on odd or even days to get 10 bucks worth of OPEC's finest at the outrageous price of 50 cents per gallon.

I then set about making the price list to put together a comparable tri-five Chevrolet using the same accessories and drivetrain. I will confess that some of my data and specifications were drawn more from the voices in my head than from actual facts. That was ok though. Like the teacher said, "Write what you know," and at this point I figured I was getting information from an expert.

The summer school speech

Short Story by Stan Soran classes were small, only about 10 students who listened intently to each of their classmates talk. My spiel was the last one and I expected a good question and answer session afterward. Everyone would want to know more about this golden opportunity!

When I finished the speech and invited questions, I was a little surprised that I wasn't greeted with a show of hands. Just one guy in an army jacket stood up to say he wouldn't waste a dime fixing up some old piece of junk and would do the responsible thing by purchasing a new car with better gas mileage and less pollution.

Stunned, I felt myself glowing hot at the outrage from this cretin. This son of Satan had blasphemed one of Chevrolet's most sacred icons. All I could do was lamely blurt out, "Ok, (Mister Fatigue Jacket), just what would you buy instead?" He proudly announced that he had just purchased a new Ford Pinto. At that time the Blue Oval's subcompact wasn't the 4-wheeled punchline that it would become in the future, but even then the statement this car made about its owner was "I don't expect much."

Fifty years later, the market for 70-year-old Chevys is great with finished examples selling well into the five figure range, while most new car values drop thousands each year.

And have you seen any Pintos lately?

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Non-Profit Offers Chance at Home Ownership

by Toni Ferro



First Story, an Oregon-based 501(c)(3) non-profit, is trying to get the word out about two homes they have available in Caldwell for \$0 down and 0% interest for 30 years. (You read that right.)

I recently spoke with the Kisky Holwerda, the First Story Business Development Manager, about First Story and the homes they have available in Caldwell.

Holwerda explained that First Story's mission is to provide homeownership opportunities to "families who have worked hard but are left behind by the housing market: nurses, teachers, service workers, people who really hold our communities together, but aren't able to get in the door to owning a home."

To buy a First Story home, buyers need to meet requirements including being a first-time homeowner and making at or right below 80% of the "Area Median Income" (about \$86,000/year for a family of four in Caldwell).

First Story wants to give families a chance to build long-term equity, even if they don't have thousands of dollars to put down on a house or don't qualify for a market-rate loan.

The houses are just like any other house in the neighborhood and are move-in ready, landscaped, and have appliances.

First Story is able to offer long-term, interest-free home loans through private donations and "people

coming together to make a difference in the community." They were founded by Hayden Homes and have other community partners in the housing industry. Holwerda said "it takes a village to make our homes possible."

If you are interested in applying to buy a First Story Home, you can review the requirements and the application process on their website (firststory.org/states/idaho).

If you are interested in donating to First Story or becoming a community partner, you can go to their website (firststory.org/donate) or contact them at info@firststory.org.

KeyBank Clothing Drive for Farmworker Awareness Week



Farmworker Appreciation Clothing Drive

Donate between February 25 and March 25 to support local farmworkers.

All Treasure Valley KeyBanks are collecting clothing contributions until March 25th as part of their participation in National Farmworker Awareness Week.

The month-long clothing drive will provide added comfort and protection from the elements to those who feed us.

What to donate

New or gently used adult clothing:

- Long sleeve t-shirts
- Pants
- Gloves
- Shoes
- Boots
- Hats

Preferred sizes: Adult S-XXL
Donation condition: Clean and wearable

For more information or to arrange a drop-off, contact

Virginia Fuentes at 208-453-4630 or virginia_fuentes@keybank.com, and she'll coordinate a convenient time.

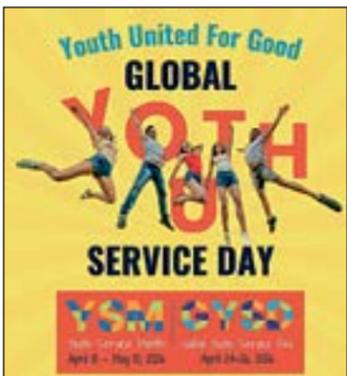
KeyBank has held a clothing drive to support farmworkers for the last 5 years.

Clothing will be distributed on March 27th at the Farmworkers Appreciation Day event at Wilder High School from 3-6pm.

KeyBank provides a cooked meal at the event and other community partners provide food boxes. Terry Reilly will be providing vaccines. Idaho Department of Labor, The Migrant Program, and Western Idaho Community Action Program will all be there providing resources as well. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

Global Service Day is April 24-26

by Kelly Jenkins, JustServe Caldwell



Start Planning Now for Global Youth Service Day!

Mark your calendars for April 24-26 and start planning now to celebrate Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) in Caldwell. While

the official celebration takes place that weekend, service projects can be done all month long!

For 37 years, Global Youth Service Day has brought together young people ages 5-25 in what is now the longest-running annual volunteer event focused on youth.

What began as National Youth Service Day in the United States has grown into a worldwide movement. Today, youth in more than 100 countries participate in service projects, service-learning activities, and youth-led initiatives that strengthen

their communities, their countries, and our world — and Caldwell is proud to be part of that impact.

Jane Goodall once said, "Every individual counts, every individual has a role to play, and every individual makes a difference. Global Youth Service Day proves it."

When we talk about service, we often focus on the people receiving help. But research shows that the benefits of service are just as powerful for the one giving it — especially for teenagers.

The teen years can be challenging for both youth

and parents. While many teens are thriving, others struggle with anxiety, discouragement, and problem behaviors. Studies show that when teens serve others — particularly people they don't already know — their self-esteem increases, along with feelings of gratitude and hope. At the same time, aggression and delinquent behaviors decrease.

Young people who consistently serve are less likely to focus solely on their own problems and more likely to recognize the good in their lives. They gain confidence

by seeing that they are capable, needed, and able to make a real difference. Service also helps connect teens with peers who share positive values and healthy behaviors.

As parents, educators, and community leaders, we are always looking for ways to build resilience and protect youth from negative outcomes. One of the most effective ways to do that is to start early. When children grow up serving others, that mindset becomes part of who they are. It strengthens them for a lifetime.

Tools like JustServe make it simple to find local opportunities to serve neighbors and strangers alike. Whether it's helping at a food distribution, supporting a community event, or assisting a local nonprofit, there are opportunities for every age and ability.

Start planning now to celebrate Global Youth Service Day! Visit JustServe.org to find local projects, and watch the JustServe Caldwell Facebook page for updates and new opportunities.

Finally, SHARE YOUR IMPACT. Join thousands of Idahoans by recording your acts of kindness at IdahoKindness.com as we work toward 250,000 acts of service in honor of America's 250th birthday.

Let's unite our youth — and our community — through service this April.

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The FBI is alerting parents about a recent uptick in violent online networks targeting and exploiting children.

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Watch for signs of victimization including:

Changes of behavior, appearance, eating, or sleeping habits

Cruelty to animals or younger siblings

Cuts, scars, bruises or other wounds

Unexpected texts or phone calls about the child and unexplained gifts or packages to the child

Learn more at <https://www.fbi.gov/how-we-can-help-you>.

The 1st step in prevention is awareness



Caldwell School District Moves to New Admin Building

by Leora Summers



Above: Holding the scissors in front of the newly re-named Darrell Deide Administration Building are Dr. Shalene French, CSD Superintendent, and Erin Smith, CFEO's CEO. They are flanked by Caldwell Chamber Ambassadors and Mayor Eric Phillips (behind Erin Smith to the right).



Left: Lexi Garza, CHS ASB Co-President

Right: Kelsie Smith, CHS Class of 2025

On February 6th, Mayor Eric Phillips joined the Caldwell School District (CSD), the Chamber of Commerce, the Caldwell Foundation for Educational Opportunity (CFEO), and community members for the ribbon cutting of the new Darrel Deide Administration Building.

The CSD administration and the CFEO are now located in that building. It was an opportunity to learn more about how we're working together to support students and education in Caldwell.

CFEO grants about 60 scholarships a year. It awards about \$75,000 annually.

Presentations about where CFEO made an impact, were given by two students. Lexi Garza, CHS Associated Student Body Co-President, spoke of the financial help that the CFEO gave the Student Council so they and others could attend a meeting in Moscow, Idaho where they received the Outstanding Student Council Award and the Spirit Supreme Award. Lexi said this event "helped shape our future as students and leaders."

Kelsie Smith, 2025 CHS graduate, won several CFEO scholarships last year. She is now a 1st year student at BSU. The dollars helped her with tuition, books, room and board and made it possible for her to live on campus. She said that CFEO is a great resource for students within our community and some come back to Caldwell to give back to our community.

The Chamber members and business attendees mingled and connected after the presentations.

HCA Healthcare Foundation Awards \$25,000 to Treasure Valley Family YMCA



Check presenter Kaycee Emery (WVMC) presenting award to Erik Bullock (YMCA, CEO). They are flanked by YMCA leaders and program advisors and WVMC leaders, Cardiac Services Team, and cardiac recovery patients. *photo by Leora Summers

West Valley Medical Center (WVMC), as part of HCA Healthcare, announced Thursday that the HCA Healthcare Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant to the Treasure Valley Family YMCA for a new heart health maintenance program at the Caldwell YMCA.

The grant announcement was made during a check presentation and facility tour at the Caldwell YMCA and aligns with American Heart Month, reinforcing both organizations' shared commitment to improving community health outcomes.

The grant supports a new program designed to help individuals in the community maintain cardiovascular health after completing cardiac rehabilitation or medical treatment. Through supervised exercise, education and peer support, participants gain the tools and confidence needed to sustain long-term healthy habits.

"This collaboration allows us to extend care beyond the hospital setting," said Angie Merrell, Chief Nursing Officer at WVMC. "By partnering with the YMCA, we're supporting a continuum of care that empowers individuals to actively manage their heart health."

The Caldwell YMCA's upcoming Phase 3 cardiac and pulmonary fitness program is scheduled to launch this fall of 2026 with continued collaboration from WVMC's Cardiac Services team.

The four-week program includes weekly 60-minute

sessions focused on cardiovascular and strength training, lifestyle education and social connection. Participants also receive access to YMCA facilities between sessions to practice skills learned under supervision.

"This program fills an important gap in care," said Erik Bullock, Executive Director of the Caldwell YMCA. "Too often, people finish rehab and aren't sure what comes next. This partnership provides a safe, supportive environment to continue strengthening heart health and overall wellness."

"As a YMCA program advisor and someone who has personally experienced a heart attack, I understand how difficult the transition out of cardiac rehab can be," added Mary Biddle, Treasure Valley YMCA. "This program creates a bridge, so people aren't navigating their recovery alone."

Funding the Healthier Tomorrow Fund at the HCA Healthcare Foundation is one example of the many ways HCA Healthcare is making a positive impact in the communities it serves. HCA Healthcare contributed more than \$48.5 million to community organizations in 2024. And last year, 21.2% of WVMC employees logged over 3,500 hours of community service.

"HCA Healthcare is driven by our mission to care for and improve human life," said Virginia Tenpenney, Vice President at HCA Healthcare. "That mission extends outside the walls of our facilities and into our communities."

Bud's Marketplace Comes to Caldwell

by Toni Ferro



Brock Obendorf of Obendorf Farms cutting the ribbon surrounded by employees, city dignitaries and chamber members.

During February, Caldwell welcomed a new Bud's Marketplace on the corner of Hwy 55 and Farmway. Caldwell's Bud's Marketplace is the third one after Nampa's (16345 N Merchant Way), which opened in 2019 and Eagle's (8301 W Beacon Light Rd), which opened in 2024.

Bud's Marketplace locations are owned by Obendorf Farms in Parma, a local farm family since 1948. Brock Obendorf explained that in recent years they made the decision to diversify their business and so opened the Nampa Bud's Marketplace, a gas station convenience store with fresh food items like pizza and fried chicken.

The Caldwell Chamber of Commerce hosted the bus-

ing grand opening, which included free food samples

and giveaways. Welcome to Caldwell!

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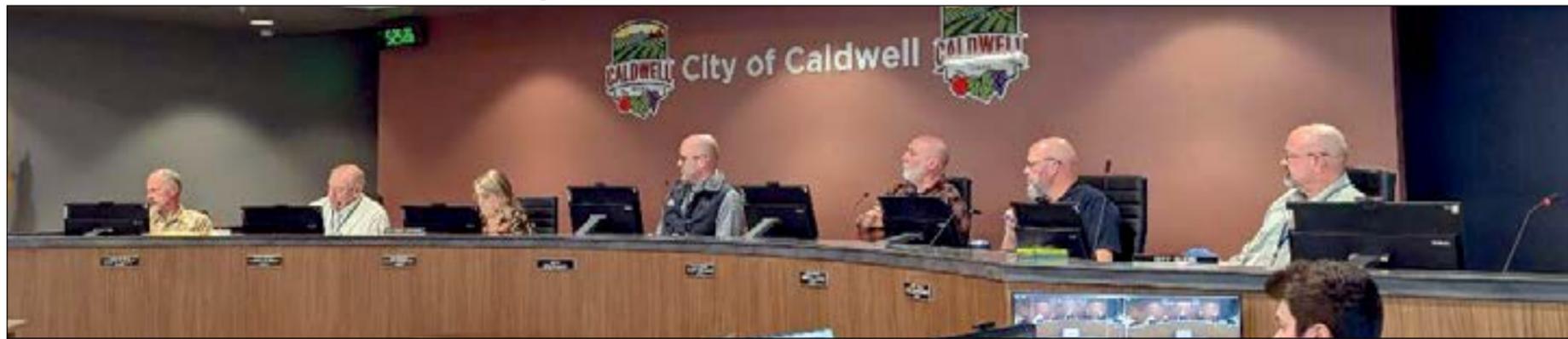
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Railroad Quiet Zone - To Blow or Not To Blow?

by Leora Summers



L to R: Scott Tilmant, Chuck Stadick, Diana Register, Mayor Eric Phillips, Geoff Williams, Chris Allgood, and Mike Dittenber. photo by Leora Summers

Town hall meetings were held on February 26th and 27th so the City Council could hear staff updates and public input about the proposed Railroad Quiet Zone (QZ).

The QZ would eliminate the requirement that trains blow their whistles at the following 7 crossings: 5th, Kimball, 9th, 12th, 21st, Linden and Ustick. In QZs horns are not prohibited and are still used when issues arise needing that extra warning. Fog is one of those special circumstances where the whistle would be blown.

On the 26th, Caldwell Deputy Director of Transportation, Bruce Mills, presented up-to-date information about the QZ project, including where we were in the process, safety features, and costs. Mills stated that the City already has most of the required safety features

in place and would install median barriers to prevent vehicles from driving around gates and eliminate some driveway access near the tracks. Warning signage would be installed for both vehicles and pedestrians and raised detectable warning devices would be placed on sidewalk approaches to the tracks. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has already approved the QZ for Caldwell and the City has already budgeted for the \$238,000 bid for the QZ.

Retired RR Engineer Steve Brumbaugh spoke and said that with regular whistle blowing, there are no snap judgments needed to be made by the train engineers, and that the routine to blow the whistle was automatic and reflexive. With a QZ, engineers had to be extremely alert with what

they were watching and recognizing when to make those quick decisions while attending to their regular tasks.

Questions from the councilors were asked of both Mills and Brumbaugh and input from the public followed. Those speaking were given a 3-minute time limit and councilors followed with questions for some. During both nights, opinions both in favor of and opposed to the QZ were presented.

The option of pedestrian gates was raised, especially for the crossing at 21st near a close-by senior living center. It was noted that some have mobility issues that may cause them to not have enough time to cross the tracks once they begin. There would be additional costs to add these gates. There were two different types

of gates discussed with differences between their styles and costs.

There were discussions of the nostalgia of hearing the train whistle that community members have loved and heard for years versus the increased positive business atmosphere allowing business owners to conduct business without those noise interruptions throughout their workday caused by the whistle. Trains come through our town 17 times a day.

Positive financial impact to the downtown core was brought up with a QZ, as it would be more attractive to bringing in new business, thus creating a stronger tax base for the City and reducing the need to increase property taxes.

The already severe shortage of parking spaces was brought

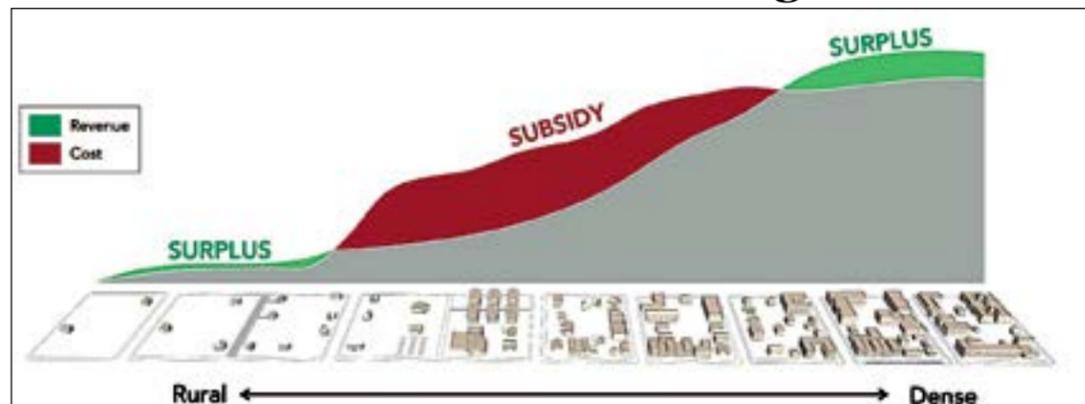
up, as the enhanced safety features would take away 7 more parking spaces due to the added curbing feature that would be necessary.

A 2020 study Mills quoted "Trespass Risk in Quiet Zones" stated "there was no statistically significant difference in trespass casualties before and after the establishment of the quiet zones." Trespass casualties actually decreased by 42.1% after the establishment of the QZs. He said, "This is the method being used for Caldwell's QZ." However, others brought up conflicting statistics.

Safety is of the utmost concern to everyone and everyone has lots of thoughts and opinions, so let's watch how this plays out. The ball is now in the City Council's court.

Local Groups Educate About the Economic Impact of Converting Farmland to Residential

by Toni Ferro



Graphic illustrating that ag lands and dense commercial areas provide surplus revenue to municipalities, while low- and medium-density residential areas require more public services than their taxes cover. Graphic Courtesy of Urban3 (urbanthree.com).

Growing Together Executive Director, Keri Smith, and Board Member, George Crookham, recently spoke at the Nampa Chamber's annual Ag Forum about the state of agriculture in Canyon County. The talk, titled "Growing Together: Agriculture is Alive & Well in Canyon County", presented ideas for how municipalities, farmers, and business leaders can work together using data-driven approaches to grow smarter here in Canyon County.

Growing Together is an advocacy organization that educates and engages the public on farmland preservation and balanced growth, collaborates with local leaders, monitors Canyon County development trends, and advocates for policies that protect working lands and rural economies.

I recently sat down with George Crookham in his Caldwell office to discuss the presentation.

Crookham explained that Canyon County is uniquely

situated for excellent seed production (a desert with access to water), and Canyon County's seed production is great for our economy (hundreds of seed varieties bring dollars from over a hundred countries to our community). Therefore, as we plan for continued growth, we need an approach that includes the economic impact that converting agricultural land to residential land has on our cities and the County.

The economics of growth

For every dollar a municipality spends on services to support a farm or business they receive more than that dollar back in taxes.

Conversely, for every dollar a municipality spends on services to support residences (especially low-density residences) they receive less than that dollar back in taxes.

In a nutshell, residences need more services like roads, fire, police, water, and sewer than their taxes cover and our agricultural and commercial businesses make up the difference in our city and County budgets.

This is normal when we have a good balance between housing, ag, and commercial.

However, without data-driven planning, the balance between ag, commercial, and residential can get out of proportion, which spells financial trouble for municipalities. Especially when land that was providing a surplus to the

municipality (farmland) is converted to land that causes a deficit to the municipality (residential). And residences built in areas with no existing services cost municipalities even more.

As farmland is converted to residential, the amount of taxes received to cover services gets reduced, and municipalities are left with two options to deal with their shrinking coffers: raise taxes to increase income or reduce the quality of services to lower expenses (or some combination of these). (And nobody likes high taxes and low-quality services.)

Going forward

Crookham noted that the decisions we make today will have impacts for the next five generations. Agriculture is thriving in Canyon County and is an important source of economic security for our municipalities. Now is the moment to make plans for the future that incorporate the economics of growth.

Grow Idaho, Inc., another ag-oriented 501(c)(3), recently sent a letter to Caldwell Mayor Eric Phillips and Nampa Mayor Rick Hogaboam arguing that sprawl is unsustainable for our municipalities. They ask the city leaders to work with Urban3, a consulting company that has done revenue modeling and cost of service analysis for municipalities all over the globe.

Learn more at growingtogetheridaho.com, growidaho.org, and urbanthree.com.

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WITCO, A Wonderful Legacy

by Leora Summers



MC Niland

Have you ever wondered what Witco is? You can see the Witco building at 3919 E. Ustick. It is the Western Idaho Training Company.

Mary Carol (MC) Niland, Witco's founder, developed the program in 1974 and it was so strong, that it still stands today; a program that has stood the test of time due to her unwavering dedication to helping folks with disabilities work to reach their potentials.

She was tireless in her efforts in making the lives of others have meaning.

Witco has been a staple in our area since its beginning in 1974. I remember going to the first Witco building, which was closer to town and then later, to the newer one on Ustick, to have tro-

phies made for our Local Legends Concerts and to buy popcorn for organizations and family events.

MC retired from Witco in 2016, leaving Witco in a strong position to continue on with Maureen Niland-Stokes at the helm.

Following her time at Witco, MC was involved in many other organizations and causes, up until she passed away in the fall of 2025, leaving the world a better place because she was here.

Witco's mantra is "where ability meets opportunity!" Those individuals benefiting from this program, are people with severe physical, mental health and/or cognitive disabilities, who want to develop skills to help them reach their full potential.

Through a variety of job training opportunities, these folks learn skills, earn a paycheck, gain self confidence and become a bigger part of our community.

Within this training center, these clients also gain self-reliance and a sense of family working together for a common cause. They may now have an oppor-

tunity and possible path to become integrated into a career within our community.

A wonderful byproduct of this program is the opportunity to gain a sense of purpose and pride from their efforts and successes.

Witco values their employees and the contributions of people who live by Witco's mission statement which emphasizes day-to-day that "everyone has value and potential." It is the mission of Witco to see that potential developed.

What a wonderful not-for-profit organization MC Niland started in 1974! And may it continue its mission for years to come, especially when in this day and age, non-profits may suffer funding issues. God bless MC Niland and may her legacy and mission for the disabled remain strong.



Remembering Mr. B and Mrs. P

by Leora Summers



Mr. Bill Buckendorf, "Mr. B"



Mrs. Pat Papapietro, "Mrs. P"

Mr. Bill Buckendorf, better known as "Mr. B," has left a huge imprint on the hearts of many students who went through Caldwell High School. Especially those who participated in the choirs, madrigal groups and the 26 musicals (with 80-100 students) that he organized for the 28 years that he was there.

His musical groups earned gold medals and superior ratings at numerous state and national festivals and received several invitations to "Festivals of Gold" held in Washington D.C. and New York City.

His groups sang the National Anthem for many community and state events and even for two Oakland Athletics and two Seattle Mariners games. In the past, he has been honored as one of Caldwell High School's Teachers of the Year. His motto was, "Don't just teach music--teach people." Mr. B passed away on February 7, 2026.

Mrs. Pat Papapietro, better known as "Mrs. P," also left a huge imprint on the hearts of Caldwell's students, having taught for many years in the district before moving on to teach at-risk students in the SW Idaho Detention Center in Caldwell.

Her students learned much more than the subjects that she taught in her classes. She had a heart of gold, a big sense of humor

and a great and understanding way of working with students. Mrs. P loved making a difference in the lives of her students and she definitely did this through her love and humor.

She had been honored during her time in the Caldwell School District as the District Teacher of the Year. Mrs. P passed away on December 9, 2025, but her students are all the better because of having had her in their lives.

We sometimes forget what a dramatic impact teachers have on our children's lives. Both of these people had encouraged, nurtured and loved our children. That nurturing helped them develop into the adults that they are today.

Both Mr. B and Mrs. P have been blessed by the paths they crossed with their students and their students have been blessed by having had them in their lives. Their legacy lives on through the lives they touched.

Rest in peace Mr. B and Mrs. P. You have been loved by many!

Caldwell Celebrated Heart Month

by Jennifer Tipton



Heart Panelists L to R: Lyndon Box MD (Cardiac Interventionist), J'Cinda Bitters MD (WVMC Family Medicine), Jocene Skinner MD (Full Circle Health, Family Medicine) and Kaycee Emery (WVMC/Moderator)
*photo by Jennifer Tipton

On February 10th, the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce hosted a panel discussion presented by West Valley Medical Center (WVMC). With February commonly known as Heart Month, the chosen topic was appropriately called "Love Your Heart."

The speakers were hand-selected from the very best at WVMC. They included Interventional Cardiologist, Dr. Lyndon Box, Family Medicine Chief, Dr. J'Cinda Bitters, and Family Medicine Physician, Dr. Jocene Skinner. Joining them was Kaycee Emery MBA, the hospital's Medical Officer, who served as the panel moderator. Topics discussed included the risks of heart disease and preventive measures. This was followed by a Q&A session with the audience.

Dr. Box began the discussion by saying he hoped

the audience would leave feeling empowered by recognizing the steps they can take to reduce their risk of cardiac problems. He stated that if you have a close biological family member with heart disease, it contributes a significant increase in your risk of developing problems yourself. The biggest risk, he said, is if you have had heart problems yourself in the past. He said an important part of heart health is being educated. It's important to know the questions to ask your doctor, such as, "What is my blood pressure?" and "What should my blood pressure be?"

Dr. Skinner added, "We all have a tendency to think it's not going to happen to me, because heart disease is what happens to old people!" Dr. Skinner stated that if you're in your thirties or forties, it's important to

continue seeing your physician to monitor risk factors such as blood pressure and cholesterol. "A heart attack," she said, "doesn't always feel like chest pain; sometimes it feels like heartburn or shortness of breath." She agreed that it is important to heighten your awareness and added, "When in doubt, check it out!"

Dr. Bitters informed the audience that another big risk factor for heart disease was stress. She emphasized that those who have difficulty managing stress and anxiety are at higher risk of developing heart problems. Sleep disorders also contribute, as poor sleep is hard on the heart.

When the discussion turned to prevention, the physicians all agreed that the one thing everyone can do to improve their heart health, with or without risk factors, is to eat a healthy diet and exercise. Exercise should ideally be thirty minutes/day, but going from nothing to something is an improvement!

Dr. Bitters added, "And put the smartphone down! Doomscrolling only decreases the time to do positive things for our health."

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States.

Take the Heart Risk Assessment and learn what you can do to lower your risk of cardiovascular disease by visiting: westvalleymedctr.com/healthy-living/health-assessments.

**Celebration of Life
for Bill Buckendorf**

**Saturday, April 11
2pm**

**Caldwell High School
Auditorium
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Lizard Butte Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 5th, 2026 at 7:20 A.M.

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For more information or to make a donation, visit LizardButteSunrise.com

CHS Hosts Impressive National History Day



Connor Fullerton & Cash Dougherty advance to the State competition with their National History Day poster on The Church Committee.

On February 4th, Caldwell High School (CHS) held their 29th annual National History Day competition where juniors presented exhibits on this year's theme "Revolution, Reaction, and Reform."

Judges from the community heard presentations, asked questions of students and picked the top project from their group of ten to move on to another round of judging.

The second round of judging was done by local historian Chuck Randolph and a contingent of history professors from the College of Idaho. The top three finalists won scholarships of \$500, \$300, and \$200, respectively, courtesy of a grant from the Whittenberger Foundation.

Congratulations to these exceptional students.

Finalists

- 1st Place - Skylar Hoogstraten for Native American Boarding Schools
- 2nd Place - Cash Dougherty and Connor Fullerton for The Church Committee

3rd Place - Suridt Gaitan for La Violencia

Honorable Mentions

- Arevalo Oretga for 1965 Delano Grape Strike
- Margarita Munoz Vela for Madigal v. Quilligan
- Kyndell Robles for The Creation of the AMBER Alert
- Maizy Little for 1968 Florida State Teacher's Strike

In addition, some students opted to enter their exhibits into the Southwest Regional National History Day competition held at CHS by the Idaho State Historical Society.

Conner Fullerton and Cashlan (Cash) Dougherty were among the students who competed at Regionals. They won 1st place in their grouping and so will advance to the state-level competition held at the College of Idaho on April 4th.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated and good luck at the State competition!

CHS Robotics Students Are Back-to-Back State Champs



L to R: Ben Ferro, Keira Ferro, Matthew Quintero, Rigoberto Cortez, previous coach Dennis Zatterio, Eric Foster, Cael Manning, Rolando Carriollo, Coach Ryan Smith

For the second year in a row, Caldwell Robotics students are Idaho State Vex V5 Champions.

They will be heading to the World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri April 21-24.

Congratulations to these hard-working students and coaches and good luck at Worlds!

CSD Selects New Superintendent



Incoming Caldwell School District Superintendent, Scot Montoya

On February 27, after an eight-hour, twenty-minute executive session meeting, the Caldwell School District (CSD) Board of Trustees voted to approve Jeremy "Scot" Montoya as the next Superintendent of the Caldwell School District.

The Board will now begin contract negotiations and they expect to finalize an

agreement in the near future.

Two candidates, Montoya and Julie Mead (Chief Officer of Students Services at CSD), participated in the final round of interviews, which included meetings with staff, students, and the community. Comment cards were collected at each meeting for the Board to review and discuss.

Montoya currently serves as the Mountain View High School Principal in the West Ada School District. In that position he leads the largest high school in the state.

He oversees a team of 168 teachers and staff members. He also leads the AVID program (a college readiness program), ensures opportunities for students to participate in a variety of classes including Career

Technical Education (CTE) courses, college and career programs, and more. He serves on multiple district-level leadership committees.

Prior to his position at Mountain View, he served as a Middle School Principal, a High School Administrator and a Middle School Administrator in the West Ada School District.

He also has served as a teacher and coach in the Emmett and Cascade School Districts.

He holds an Education Specialist degree, Master's degree in Educational Leadership, and a Bachelor's degree in Technology and CTE.

Montoya will replace outgoing Superintendent, Dr. Shalene French, who announced her retirement last August.

VETERAN'S CORNER

Sponsored by the Caldwell Veterans Council

Additional events and information can be found online at www.cvmh-vets.org.
Donations are needed, and always appreciated, to help with our outreach program through the winter months.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAG SETUP

The Caldwell Veterans Council is looking for volunteers to help with the Memorial Day flag setup on May 23, 2026 at Canyon Hill Cemetery.
Volunteers must arrive by 9 am sharp.
To sign up, please call (208) 402-6590 or email caldwellveterans@gmail.com

PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Poetry and creative writing workshop to help Veterans safely process trauma.
Notebooks will be provided to all who attend.
Thursdays from 1 pm - 3 pm at the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall
1101 Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell, ID 83605

2026 COFFEE KLATCH

Join us every Thursday morning from 8 am to 11 am for our weekly Coffee Klatch get together!
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Book the Caldwell Pipes and Drums Band for St. Patrick's Day!

We will be playing around town on Saturday, March 14th and Tuesday, March 17th.

A 15 minute-ish performance is \$200, or 2 performances for \$300.

Contact Michael White at mhwhite1@gmail.com or (208) 963-2236 to book your performances.

CHS Wrestlers Excel At State, Bring Home Two Individual State Championships

by Toni Ferro



Above: 2026 CHS Boys Wrestling Team
Below: 2026 CHS Girls Wrestling Team



Caldwell High School (CHS) qualified 17 boys and 10 girls to the Wrestling State Championships at the Idaho Center in late February.

Two CHS wrestlers walked away from the event as State Champions. Senior Jaxson Freeman won the 6A State Championship for the 126 lb weight class. This is Jaxson's fourth trip to the State Championships. In previous years he placed 2nd (twice) and 4th. Placing at State all four years is an outstanding accomplishment and walk-

ing away this year with the State Championship just adds to Jaxson's already phenomenal wrestling resume.

Jaxson has signed to Western Colorado University, an NCAA Division II school, and was voted as the 6A District 3 wrestler of the year.

Sophomore Maritza Medina won the girls State Championship for the 100 lb weight class. She has been wrestling well all season long. Last year she placed 4th at the State Champion-

ships. She's got two more years of high school wrestling ahead of her and we look forward to seeing all that she accomplishes.

Other State placers this year were Rodrigue Enock - 4th (126), Joshua Rojas - 4th (175), Liam Rodebush - 4th (215), Anyah Dransfield - 4th (120), Aiden Valerio - 5th (150), and Ashlyn Martin Gomez - 6th (135).

Other CHS students who qualified for state are Abner Spencer, Fernando Garza, Francisco Delira, Jalen Mar-



Jaxson Freeman, Idaho 6A State Wrestling Champion (126 lb)



Maritza Medina, Idaho State Wrestling Champion (100 lb)



CHS Wrestling Seniors, L to R Back: Jaxson Freeman, Jalen Marquez, Amia Linze, Jesse Pedraza, Ruben Rodriguez

L to R Front: Cobin Burch, Fernando Garza, Bruno Rendon, Jonathan Banosquez, Jesus Alvarez, Jesus Lechuga, Jonathan Banos, Kasen Potts, Lucas Atkinson, Lucas Rosario, Titan Kampe, Tyler Perez, Abigail Jackson, Amea Whittington, Annabelle Harmon, Dianna Medina Robles, Gracelynn Farrand, KeAnna Cenicerros, Maritza Garcia, and Nataly Delira.

In addition, the girls team won the District 3 title and was 4th at State out of 67 teams. The boys team finished 2nd at District and 6th at State out of the 21 6A boys teams.

Congratulations to all of these student-athletes, their coaches, and families.

YOTE BASKETBALL!

by Leora Summers



Dogie Peoples #5, makes a 3 pointer against Evergreen on Feb. 7th!

Men's Basketball: Season Overall W-L, 20-10

I went to the February 6th men's basketball game against the Northwest Eagles (Kirkland, WA) and what a tense game that was to watch. We were back and forth with the lead and it was getting quite scary! In the end, we prevailed with a 78-73 win.

Then on February 7th, we played the Evergreen Geo-

ducks (Olympia, WA). It was as fast-paced as the game the night before, but we had the lead throughout the game, and then had a huge lead and by the end of the game, we hit 100 points to their 52!

On February 25th, the men won their quarter-final Cascade Collegiate Conference Championship game against Oregon Tech in

Klamath Falls, 74-70.

Unfortunately on February 28th, they lost their semi-final game against Lewis-Clark, 74-62.

Check the men's schedule to see if they get invited to the NAIA games. Men's NAIA games will be held on March 14th & 19th (TBD).

Ladies' Basketball: Season Overall W-L, 21-8

On February 27th, the women lost their Cascade Collegiate Conference Championship game against the #4 seed team Oregon Tech, 71-57.

Women's NAIA games for women's basketball will be held on March 13 & 14 (TBD) and on Mar 19 & 24 (TBD). You can check to see if they are invited.

To keep up with College of Idaho sports, go to: yoteathletics.com.

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II. Thou shalt not make unto thee and graven 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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Caldwell's America 250 Celebration Logo



"America's 250th anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on where we've been and look ahead to where we're going," said Mayor Phillips. "This logo represents Caldwell's pride in our shared history and our commitment to building a strong future together as a community."

The logo's use signals the beginning of a multi-year celebration that will highlight Caldwell's past, present, and future.

This year's Fourth of July celebration will be the first to reflect the America 250 theme, with enhanced elements and special touches that kick off Caldwell's commemoration in a bigger, more meaningful way. The amplified celebration will set the tone for additional activities and events leading up to the official 250th anniversary.

The City looks forward to celebrating this historic moment together and invites the community to join in as Caldwell honors America's legacy—past, present, and future.

As the nation begins the countdown to America's 250th birthday in 2026, the City of Caldwell is introducing a new America 250 logo that residents will begin seeing across City communications, events, and materials.

The logo reflects Caldwell's strong sense of community,

history, and patriotism. It will serve as the official visual identity for Caldwell's participation in the national America 250 commemoration, honoring 250 years of our country's founding while celebrating the people, places, and values that make our community unique.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

DRIVERS ALWAYS STOP FOR SCHOOL BUSES!

STOP

BEFORE THE BUS ARRIVES
Wait for the bus at least 10 feet — 5 giant steps — away from the curb.

GETTING ON AND OFF SAFELY
Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver says it's OK to get on or off.

USE CAUTION
Never walk behind a school bus.

YELLOW flashing lights mean the bus is preparing to stop. You should slow down.

RED flashing lights and extended stop arm means you must stop and wait.

IN EVERY STATE
IT'S ILLEGAL TO PASS A SCHOOL BUS WHILE THE STOP-ARM IS EXTENDED AND THE RED LIGHTS ARE FLASHING.

MAKE EYE CONTACT
with the bus driver BEFORE CROSSING IN FRONT OF THE BUS

KIDS ARE MOST AT RISK
WHEN APPROACHING OR LEAVING A SCHOOL BUS.

DROP SOMETHING?
Don't try to pick it up! The bus driver might not see you.



May 19th Is Election Day

The primary elections for Federal, Statewide, County, and Legislative offices will be May 19th. We at the *Caldwell Perspective* will do our best to help you feel informed as you head to the ballot box.

Our April issue will include our handy pull-out Voter's Guide and our website will include general information as well as

candidate information at caldwellperspective.com/may-19-election.

Below is some of the candidate information available so far. (County offices and party precinct captains had not yet completed filing by our press date.) For complete information on who has filed to run for what go to: run.voteidaho.gov/search.

The Candidates

Legislative District 11

(most, but not all, of Caldwell)

State Senate: Esther Ma (Constitution), Susan Council (Democratic), Camille Blaylock (Republican), Chris Trakel (Republican)

State Legislature Seat A: Carlos Hernandez (Republican), Kent Marmon (Republican), Marissa Wilson (Democratic)

State Legislature Seat B: Joshua Preminger (Democratic), Debbie Geyer (Republican), Lucas Cayler (Republican)

Statewide

Governor: Sixteen candidates have filed to run: 8 Republican, 4 Democratic, 2 Libertarian, 1 Constitution, 1 Independent.

Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Controller, State Treasurer, and Attorney General: Two candidates have filed to run for each of these seats: 1 Democratic, 1 Republican.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction: Three candidates have filed to run: 1 Constitution, 1 Democratic, 1 Republican.

Federal

US Senator: Ten candidates have filed to run: 4 Republican, 3 Democratic, 2 Independent, 1 Libertarian.

US Representative District 1 (all of Canyon County is in District 1): Seven candidates have filed to run: 3 Republican, 2 Democratic, 1 Constitution, 1 Independent.

City Update on Pedestrian Safety



The City of Caldwell continues to improve pedestrian safety near schools.

- A new crosswalk sign with lights activated by push-button where Indiana and Fair Oaks cross.
- Increased nighttime lighting levels at several crosswalks near schools.
- Signs and flashing beacons (20 mph when flashing) on Homedale Road adjacent to Vallivue High School.

The city now has twenty school zones with flashing beacons. Several schools also have new sidewalks and protected walking paths.

Drivers can help prevent accidents by slowing down, putting phones away and staying alert, especially when light is low and schools are near.

Pedestrians can help by wearing light-colored or reflective clothing, carrying a flashlight, and making sure vehicles have stopped before crossing.

City Accepting Mural Proposals

The City of Caldwell invites artists and artist teams to submit proposals for a 30'x10' postcard style mural celebrating the identity and vibrancy of Caldwell. The large-scale, postcard-inspired mural is intended to showcase local culture, landmarks, and community pride. This public artwork will welcome visitors and residents with bold, colorful imagery that says: Greetings from Caldwell. The mural will be located at 812 Main Street on the wall of the alley.

The goal of this project is to inspire civic pride, beautify the city, and create a new landmark photo location.

The city encourages professional artists or artist teams to apply. Those with large-scale mural experience are preferred.

- The submission deadline is March 13.
- Artist Selected: April-May 2026, top three finalists will receive a \$200 cash stipend
- Design review board for final approval: March-April 2026
- Mural Completion: May-June 2026 (weather dependent)
- \$7200 – Covers artist fee, materials, supplies, and related expenses
- Artist(s) required to agree to the terms outlined in a city contract for services

Submission Must Include

- Artist statement and bio
- Concept sketch of mural
- Portfolio (five images)
- Resume or CV

Send all materials by March 13, 2026, to: Ofelia Morales, omorales@cityofcaldwell.org.

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New Sheriff's Admin Building

by Aaron Williams/Canyon County



New Sheriff's Administration Building on Albany between 12th and 13th

On January 30, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met with Okland Construction for a quarter-four update on the Sheriff's Administration Building located on Albany between 12th and 13th.

The project has reached several major milestones. These include completion of the remaining roofing, installation of standard cement paneling, ongoing window installation and testing, re-asphalting of 12th Street, and the addition of bulb-outs at crosswalks.

Albany Street has been brought up to grade for future use. Crews have installed all heating and air-conditioning units on the roof and completed tile work on levels two and three of the building.

The exterior of the building is fully wrapped, with most of the air-barrier installation complete. This progress allows crews to move forward with interior finishes without weather-related delays.

The project timeline was extended by 50 days to accommodate additional scope. Added items include asphaltting the parking lot across the street from the Sheriff's Administration Building, currently a mix of asphalt and dirt, and completion of the building's audio-visual build-out. Funding for these additions is anticipated to come from project contingency funds and will not result in additional costs.

Currently, the project continues to move steadily toward completion. Even with the added scope, the contractor is still targeting a Spring 2026 completion date, in line with the original contract. This project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), part of the \$1.9 trillion federal stim-

ulus package passed in 2021.

"It's been great working with Okland on this project; they have done a fantastic job," said Rick Britton, Public Works Director for Canyon County.

As construction enters its final stretch, the Sheriff's Administration Building is taking shape as a modern, efficient facility that will serve Canyon County residents for years to come.

For more information, please contact Aaron Williams at Aaron.williams@canyoncounty.id.gov or at (208)-614-5011.

West Valley Humane Society to Continue Animal Shelter Services



Canyon County, in coordination with the City of Nampa and the City of Caldwell, announces that West Valley Humane Society (WVHS) will continue providing animal sheltering and related services throughout the remainder of Fiscal Year 2026 (Sep. 30th, 2026). Services will remain at the current contracted amount, which represents a combined 400% increase in funding from all participating entities compared to the prior year.

This decision comes after

recent discussions regarding the transition of services to Copper Quill Haven (CQH). After CQH backed out from negotiations on February 9, 2026, the County and cities agreed that maintaining continuity of services with WVHS is in the best interest of the community and the animals served for right now. The County and participating Cities are committed to humane and compassionate practices and are working diligently to ensure the well-being of the animals and expectations from the community are met.

Beginning in March 2026, the entities will schedule and host monthly coordination meetings with WVHS. These meetings are intended to support collaborative, community-focused discus-

sions addressing both short- and long-term solutions to improve animal welfare services throughout the county.

Canyon County appreciates WVHS's willingness to continue this partnership through FY2026. The Board of County Commissioners, City of Nampa, and City of Caldwell are committed to working in good faith with each other and non-government partners to ensure animal welfare services remain stable, responsive, and adaptable to the unprecedented growth occurring county-wide.

Further updates will be provided as discussions continue.

For more information, please contact Aaron Williams at Aaron.williams@canyoncounty.id.gov or at (208)-614-5011.

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SWDH Water Sample Drop-off Changes

Effective April 1, 2026, Southwest District Health locations will be sending samples to the Idaho State Lab on Wednesdays only. This will affect water and biological samples dropped off at each of their Caldwell, Weiser, Payette and Emmett offices. Sample fees and drop-off times will remain the same.

Should you have an urgent need to have samples analyzed on days other than Wednesday, you can take them to the Idaho State Lab at 2220 Old Penitentiary Rd., Boise, ID 83712.

Local Dirt

by Pat King



like gas instead of bad gas that can ruin your carburetor. I don't know if I can describe the smell of bad gas, but it is significant.

Change oil and check and blowout air filters. Brush off the channels on the engine from oil and dirt build up. Most small engines are air cooled and these fins are located just below the pull start fan cover, so the air flows down through those fins pushing the heat coming off the engine housing.

If those fins are packed with leaves and dirt (it's usually oily), your engine will overheat, shortening the engine's life.

My engines were over \$2,000 per engine and my engines still perform as new, 25 years later. One thing I started doing was using a synthetic oil in my engines and that made a significant difference in longevity in oil viscosity which is very important to engine life.

Tighten bolts and check wheels and most likely you'll have a trouble-free season and one less thing to worry about.

Now let's look at the rest of your tools. If you did as I have instructed in past articles of putting your tools away properly in the fall, then you'll be the one out there chopping away at those unruly shrubs at the first opportunity and done, while others are considering just replacing those rusty pruners they left outside last fall.

With all that done, you can sit with interested parties and argue over what you want to plant this year, unless you've read my other previous articles and are already done. Then I have nothing for you, you can stop reading my articles, but don't!

Until next time, Pat

Well, I'm give up trying to predict this weather, so I'm just going to do SPRING.

I've been watching the plants response to this unseasonal weather, observing plant buds swelling much earlier than normal. Fortunately the weather has cooperated thus far with no deep freezes that could really hurt fruit tree crops this year. What we don't need at this late date, is a sustained deep winter cold period. If that were to happen, I will write a column about some of the damage and repairs for that.

With the days getting longer and warmer, you should be getting your tools and equipment prepared for the upcoming spring. Better to find out now your lawnmower won't start and get it in a shop before everyone else does.

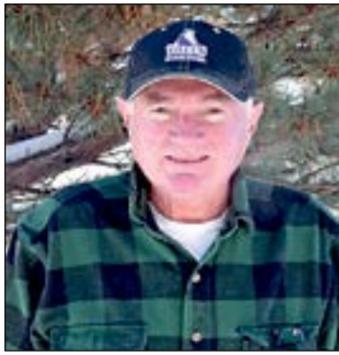
Get your blades sharpened. I always had at least one set of extra blades ready to go in case of any kind of damage to a blade while in use. Nothing can ruin your day's momentum of completing honey-dos than an unplanned, unprepared-for equipment failure.

In my business, I had back-up equipment at the shop ready to go and extra blades and belts, etc. on their trucks for on-the-fly repairs to keep my crew on schedule.

Make sure the gas smells

Dave's Big Backyard

by Dave McCormick



bound (couldn't help myself).

As you might know, I shot a young buck a couple of years ago. The kill was made near Poison Creek, close to home. The deer was gutted, skinned and hanging in my storage barn in under two hours, clean as a whistle! It was the best venison I have ever tasted! I whipped up a stir-fry and used some of the back strap instead of beef for the meat. My wife loved it, even though I forewarned her that meat was venison; proof positive that good table fare is dependent on the care taken after the kill is made.

Although I was a fry cook at the Golden Pheasant Restaurant during my high

school years, after marriage my wife loved cooking and was good at it, so mostly the cooking responsibilities fell on her shoulders.

As we have aged, she has become less enamored with culinary endeavors. I try and fill in when we are dining on something requiring hot oil.

Here's a thumbnail sketch of my recipe using venison. Make your stir-fry sauce first. I just Googled the recipe (no big secret).

Well, there you have it. Strike is fishing well, Hardy anglers are catching bass at Brownlee. Some crappie are being caught at Owyhee.

Happy St Patrick's Day!

"I'm going to fry up a pheasant," I said. "Don't include me," my wife responded. "Ok, you get a Ball Park Frank!" I quipped.

Karen has been adverse to consuming wild game since she chipped a tooth on a number six-shot. If it comes to the table by a hook and reel, she's good. If down by a firearm, she's grocery store

Stir-Fry Sauce

Whisk stir-fry sauce ingredients in a small bowl and save.

- ½ cup soy sauce
- ½ cup hot water
- ¼ cup hoisin sauce
- chopped garlic clove
- TBS cornstarch
- TBS brown sugar
- 1 tsp. shredded ginger

Meat & Veggie Ingredients

- 12 oz. of thin (1/4 in. thick) sliced venison strips, about 1.5 to 2 inches long. (goose or duck breast would also work)
- Snow peas, broccoli, sliced carrots, mushrooms, bell and red peppers. You decide on quantity. I like to add bean sprouts. If you like crunch, add water chestnuts and bamboo shoots. The veggie mix can be anything you like. Use the amount you want. I cheat and use one of Albertsons' stir-fry kits and use about half of it.

Stir-Fry Instructions

In a wok, sauté the meat. Remove meat from the wok and set aside.

In the wok, add a small amount of oil (determine amount of oil as needed) and stir-fry the broccoli and carrots for about two minutes and then add the rest of the veggies and continue stir-frying until cooked to your desired doneness.

Add sautéed meat to veggies and stir-fry together. Cook all until tenderness you like.

Stir the stir-fry sauce one more time, then add to veggie-meat mix in the last 2-3 minutes of cooking. Simmer until glossy and coats all the ingredients.

Rare Bird!

by JC Clancy



Long-Tailed Duck



Green Heron

Rare Bird! The words are a shot of adrenaline. This time it's reported that a green heron has been photographed at Island Park in Marsing, actually between Marsing and Caldwell, so almost in our Canyon County backyard! Within an hour, 4 SIBA members are there, loaded for bear – er, bird. For hours they scan the target shoreline with binoculars, scopes and cameras, and find – nothing.

Well, that's not quite accurate. James Jarrett, SIBA's field trip leader, had spotted another rare species, a couple of long-tailed ducks, swimming in the river nearby so it was a win for everybody.

The next morning, Jarrett and others were back on the island and there was the elusive green heron, right where no one had been able to see it the day before. It's amazing how well camouflaged these birds are.

Since then, a few dozen avid birders have journeyed to Island Park, some from out of state, to see a bird

that's fairly common in many eastern states, but uncommon here.

One of the earliest reports of a green heron at Island Park was on Oct. 21, 2000. As described by Dave Trochlell and RL Rowland, one of the founding members of SIBA, on the website "ebird": "This was a "stakeout" bird here; it had been discovered and reported by others before us. The bird was a small, dark, and skulking heron that was crouched under a tree canopy along the edge of the channel. It was a dark bluish color with a Rufous colored neck and it had a relatively long, dark bill."

A green heron appeared on the island again in 2008 and was included in Christmas Bird Counts that year and again in 2009, so a number of SIBA members have pleasant memories of the bird, and some even have their own photos from back then.

The next SIBA field trip will be the annual trek to Parma's Fort Boise WMA

to view thousands of snow geese that pass through our area during their spring migration north to their nesting grounds. Registration is required by email to James Jarrett at SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com.

Birders will meet at the observation tower 2 miles W of Hwy 95 on Old Ft. Boise Rd. at 9 a.m. Sat., March 14.

They'll expect to see Ross's Geese, Canada Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes and Wild Turkeys. There should also be numerous raptors, ducks and shorebirds in the area.

The group will continue on to Martin's Landing and Roswell Marsh for more birding opportunities. This trip may extend into the afternoon so bring food and drink for your needs.

SIBA won't have another official meeting until April, but will have at least monthly field trips, and the occasional "flash mob" gathering whenever the call goes out "Rare Bird!"

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What do you look forward to the most about Spring?

Jennifer Tipton



Diane Dalton

"I really look forward to the plaza being busy with all the summer and spring events coming up. I look forward to the Tuesday night Farmer's Market. I do love it when the ice skating rink goes in, but I'm ready to see the sunshine and people eating outside again!"



Tatiana Morales

"I'm looking forward to preparing a garden! I bought a house, so this is the first time I'll be doing it on my own. I want to plant some fruit trees, and all different kinds of herbs and vegetables. I want to create a space for myself and my neighbors to trade vegetables - it'll be a lot of fun!"



Sam Davidson

"I look forward to walking my dog without a coat on. I live between the plaza and the college, and one morning, it was maybe 16 degrees - that was the coldest it got this year. I don't really mind when it's cold; it just shortens my walk." (Sam clarified that he's the one who wears the coat - not the dog).



Corey Turner

"As the plaza's facility manager, I'm looking forward to our summer concert series! May 19th begins our Tuesdays on the Creek this year. Over the last eight years that I've been doing this, I've met so many people and made so many new friends - friendships that have lasted."



Courtni Smith

"Springtime's my favorite time of year! I love it when the sun comes out and everything blooms! I'm excited to walk the Greenbelt and see everything change; it's so pretty and green!"

Quick Bites for Spring - Free Trees and Stocking Rotary Pond

This spring, the nonprofit Trees Idaho is offering a free tree to residents in Caldwell, Nampa, and Meridian who live within a specific boundary. You can check to see if your address is eligible for a tree by visiting TreesIdaho.org/SpringGiveawayMap.

Our free trees are a gift to residents to help beautify their yard, bring cool shade in the hot summer months, and provide habitat for city wildlife - all core benefits to a thriving community

forest in your home and neighborhood," Trees Idaho's website says.

Sign-ups open at 9 a.m. on March 9 at TreesIdaho.org/FreeTrees.

Previous trees provided through the giveaway have

included goldenrain, chokecherry, tulip tree, linden, and Kentucky coffeetree. Trees are large: between 4-10 feet tall and in 7-15 gallon pots, the website says. (courtesy of BoiseDev.com)

Idaho Fish and Game will be releasing rainbow trout into the Caldwell Rotary Pond during March. The pond is located just north of Whittenberger Park which is on Centennial Way.

Business Directory

1x2.5 for \$25 or 2x2.5 for \$50 per month

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Caldwell's Part In The First Cross-Country Trip by Automobile

by Toni Ferro



Bud, the adventure bulldog from Caldwell, Idaho



Bud represented in the "America On The Move" Exhibit in the National Museum of American History.



Bud, Magazine Cover-Dog

In 1903, Caldwell played a not unimportant role in American transportation history.

This story takes place back before gas stations with convenience stores were at every freeway exit (and before gas stations and before freeways), before windshield wipers (and before windshields), before we all had handy roadmaps in our pockets (and before roadmaps and before roads as we now think of them).

According to the book, *Horatio's Drive* by Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns, the story starts in a bar in San Francisco where Horatio Nelson Jackson was arguing with other patrons about the fate of "a new machine that only recently had been show-

ing up on the Streets of major American cities - the Automobile."

A majority of the bar patrons felt that the automobile was a "rich man's toy" that would only be used for short, luxury rides. One patron bet \$50 that "no one could drive to New York City in less than three months."

Jackson took the bet and only four days later, on May 23, he started what would become an historic journey. He hired mechanic Sewall K. Crocker to make the trip with him and they drove a Winton motor carriage. They removed the backseat to hold their gear including sleeping bags and cooking equipment.

They had to cross mountains where they "climbed steep, rocky trails no auto-

mobile had ever traveled... and that required frequent stops for Crocker to fix the clutch" and patch tire inner-tubes that were punctured by sharp stones.

Nearly three weeks into their journey, they drove into Caldwell where they stayed at the Pacific Hotel, across the tracks from the Train Depot.

The next morning they drove out of town a few miles, but turned back to get Jackson's coat that he had left at the hotel.

Jackson wrote to his wife that "On our way back, we were stopped by a man and asked if I didn't want a dog for a mascot... we were glad to get him... So, Bud is now with us."

By all accounts Bud enjoyed the journey. Especially

after his owners noticed that his eyes were getting irritated in the wind and so gave him a pair of goggles like their own.

Their trip was not an easy one, they dealt with blown tires, broken axles, frequent clutch fixes, clogged carburetors, dead batteries, worn out hubs and bearings, delays waiting for parts, and much more.

People were fascinated with their journey and by the time they reached Omaha, they were celebrities. Jackson wrote his wife that half the town had turned out for their arrival and that he received "bushells of telegrams from all over."

And Bud and his goggles always featured prominently in news stories. As the party got closer and closer to

their destination they were met with cheering crowds in towns and cities and "Bud - with and without his goggles - was a news photographer's dream come true".

They arrived in New York 63 days, 12 hours, and 30 minutes after they began their journey and Jackson, Crocker and Bud were the "toast of the town".

And that is how a bulldog from Caldwell, Idaho became written into history as part of the first journey across the US by automobile. And, as far as I can tell, Bud is the first dog to wear goggles (because he was the first dog to need them).

To learn more about this story, read *Horatio's Drive* or watch the PBS documentary of the same name (featuring Tom Hanks).

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