

Caldwell Teacher Inducted into the National Teacher Hall of Fame



Dr. Melyssa Ferro surrounded by her Syringa Middle School students and holding her National Teachers Hall of Fame plaque.

Caldwell native Melyssa McDaniel Ferro is now one of just 160 teachers nationally that have been inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame in its 37 years. She joins one other Idahoan, Jennifer DeGrassi Williams of Nampa, who was inducted 10 years ago.

Dr. Ferro has taught science at Syringa Middle School for 26 years. Currently, she teaches two advanced classes and spends the remainder of each day mentoring other teachers. She helps 5th through 12th-grade teachers with curriculum, field trips, and access to equipment. She is also an instructional coach for education technology, generative AI, and computer science for all of the District's teachers.

We got a chance to ask her a few questions about herself and her career.

Q: You have said that you were originally planning to become a scientist, but you were pulled to teaching. What kind of science were you planning to do? Was there a specific a-ha moment that made you shift gears into teaching?

A: I was every little science-nerd kid ever. When I was really little, I wanted to be a paleontologist and I was obsessed with dinosaurs. By middle school, I wanted to be a marine biologist and study whales and dolphins and sea mammals. By high school, I was starting to fall in love with genetics right as the whole "decoding the human genome" was happening.

By college, I was starting to love anthropology and forensic sciences and contemplated being a medical examiner or a forensic anthropologist like Bill Bass.

The pull to education found me during sophomore year of college when I realized that I found so much joy in sharing science with others that maybe it was more important for me to teach the next generation of scientists and engineers than it was to become one myself.

Q: You are a graduate of CHS (go Cougs!), how did Caldwell schools prepare you to be one of the best teachers in the nation?

A: I had great science teachers here at Caldwell. Jan Adams in 7th grade at Wilson Middle School (who became my mentor during my first years at Syringa) taught me that science could be fun and colorful and interesting.

Bob Frank in 9th grade at Jefferson Junior High taught me that science was all around us. He

brought mummified cats and tons of rock samples into class and he also took us to the Bruneau Sand Dunes to see geology in action here in our own Idaho backyard.

Winston Tilzey in 11th grade at CHS was willing to reteach and reteach and reteach until everyone got it and would spend entire class periods wandering down storytelling pathways about science in his own life experiences.

And Paul Broomhall in 10th and 12th grade at CHS, who worked summer internships before those were common, to bring high tech and expensive lab equipment into our classrooms. (I ran a Western Blot DNA test before I even started college.) And Broomhall took us to California to explore marine biology.

These teachers showed me how science can and should be taught, students need to touch science and not just read about it. I want my students to experience that same adventure!

Dr. Melyssa McDaniel Ferro's education

Caldwell High School Class of 1994
Bachelors: Boise State University, 1999
Biology and Secondary Education
Teaching Certificate: Biology and Natural Sciences grades 6-12
Masters: Walden University, 2006,
Middle Level Education
Doctorate: Walden University, 2019
Learning, Instruction, and Innovation
Dissertation – Place-based learning and under-represented student populations in STEM

Q: You come from a teacher family, tell us about your parents, Milton and Joyce McDaniel.

A: Yes, both were long-time Caldwell School District educators!

My dad started teaching industrial arts technology at Minidoka High soon after his graduation from BYU. In 1976 he took the same position at Caldwell High School. I practically grew up in the back parking lot at CHS. Ten years later Dad's doctor told him that he had the lungs of a coal miner and his work could kill him. So, Dad became a counselor at Jefferson Junior High until he got his admin certificate and became the vice principal at Syringa Middle School. In 1999 he became the principal at Canyon Springs Alterna-

tive High School until he retired.

Mom finished her degree in elementary education right after my younger brother Matt was born in 1983. She taught second grade at Van Buren for quite a while and then got her counseling degree. She was a counselor at Marsing Elementary until the counseling job at Van Buren came open. She happily served there until she retired around 2012 or so.

Q: Continued learning is a big part of your life, tell us about the importance of continued learning for you.

A: I am not sure that I have a fantastically special answer to this question but growing up in a family of educators, lifelong learning was always on the table and was the expectation and the norm for our family.

There is so much to understand in our world. I love knowing more about the systems of our planet. My favorite sciences are biology, ecology, and environmental science because they really seem to show up all around us.

Continuing to grow and explore outside of my classroom and participate in professional learning at the state and national level is definitely on the menu for me!

Q: What do you say to young people who are interested in going into teaching?

A: Teaching is hard work but it is so rewarding. This is a really challenging time to recommend the teaching career to college students. Teaching is under fire and the public seems to be pretty divided about the value of what I do for a living.

At the same time, recommending teaching is important because I think kids need good teachers now more than ever before. Public education is how we level the playing field and how we create equity.

I think that being a teacher is almost a personality trait and a calling rather than a career. Some people just belong in a classroom!

Dr. Melyssa McDaniel Ferro's honors

2015 Presidential Award for Math and Science
2016 Idaho State Teacher of the Year
2025 Idaho Education Technology Association
Technology Teacher of the Year
2026 Horace Mann Award and the Travelers
Award for Teaching Excellence from the
National Education Foundation

the Y

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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
 Pick up the Caldwell Parks & Rec Summer Activities booklet at the Library or Rec Office

Repeating Events

WEEKDAYS

Early Voting
 Until May 15th, 8am-5pm,
 5815 Graye Lane

TUESDAYS

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

Farm to Fork Farmer's Market and Tuesdays on the Creek Concert Series
 Starts May 19, 5-8 pm, 120 S Kimball (The Plaza), free

THURSDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

SATURDAYS

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

Individual Events

SUNDAY 5/3

Farmway Village Carnival
 noon-5 pm, 22730 Farmway
Sunday Sips & Sounds at Ste. Chapelle Winery
 1-4 pm, Timothy Swanson, 19348 Lowell Rd, Free, reservations suggested
75th Anniversary Open House at the P.E.O. Chapter House
 2-5 pm, 114 East Logan

SUNDAY 5/3 (continued)

Rubaiyat Community Garden Fae Ball
 4-7 pm, 314 S 6th, buy tickets at the Rubaiyat

Magic Hunks Australian Takeover

8-10:30 pm, The Palace, 815 Arthur St, \$22.63

MONDAY 5/4

City Council Meeting
 6:00-8:30 pm, 205 S 6th (Caldwell City Hall).

Livestream: youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178/streams

Caldwell Centennial Band May The 4th Be With You
 7:30 pm (doors at 7), 3401 S Indiana (CHS Auditorium), \$10

Sinfonia Orchestra
 7:30-9 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

TUESDAY 5/5

Cinco De Mayo
 5-9 pm, 120 S Kimball (The Plaza), free

Laz Sevy Senior Recital
 7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

WEDNESDAY 5/6

Graphic Novel Book Club at Shared Stories
 7pm, 106 S Kimball Book: *Watership Down Adaptation*

Wind Ensemble Concert
 7:30 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

THURSDAY 5/7

Candidate Forum for Canyon County Commissioner
 6-8 pm, 205 S 6th (Caldwell City Hall).

THURSDAY 5/7 (continued)

Romantasy Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: *Pass the Plate*

Caldwell Fine Arts presents Truman Walker, pianist
 7-9 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Jewett Auditorium, Coffi, for tickets: caldwellfinearts.org

C of I Choir Concert
 7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

FRIDAY 5/8

Sip, Solve, & Celebrate - Trivia at Huston Vineyards
 6:30-9:30 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd, tickets at hustonvineyards.com

Percussion Ensemble Concert
 7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland, In front of Blatchley, Coffi, free

Planetarium Centennial Celebration

7 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Boone Science Hall, Coffi, \$10 adults, \$5 kids, tickets at bit.ly/42ER4FW

SATURDAY 5/9

Mother's Day Market
 10 am-3 pm, 120 S Kimball (The Plaza), free

Mothers Day Brunch at Huston Vineyards
 10 am-noon, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd, Tickets at hustonvineyards.com

Rosé Open Croquet Tournament at Huston Vineyards
 noon-5 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd, Tickets at hustonvineyards.com

Mother's Day Saturday at Dunning Estates Western Winery
 noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln
Moms and Mutts at Free Dog Wines
 noon-6 pm, 15993 Sunny Slope Rd

Poetry Keepsake: Craft Day at Shared Stories
 3:30-6:30 pm, 106 S Kimball, attendance limited, \$35

C of I Honors Recital
 7-8:30 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

SUNDAY 5/10

MOTHER'S DAY Mother's Day Brunch at Kindred by the Creek
 10 am-2 pm, 616 Main St

C of I Chamber Music Concert
 3-4 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Jewett Auditorium, Coffi, free

MONDAY 5/11

C of I Voice Recital: T. Duff
 7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

Fantasy Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: *Kings of the Wyld*

TUESDAY 5/12

Karla & Charlie Recital
 7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

WEDNESDAY 5/13

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

Horror Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: *Japanese Gothic*

Bryce Leifeste's Piano Recital
 7:30-8:30 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

THURSDAY 5/14

Soren Keene Wilson's Voice Recital
 7-8 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

Romance Book Club at Chop Shop
 7 pm, 716 Arthur, Book: *Start at the End*

FRIDAY 5/15

Author Orin Steele at Shared Stories
 6-7:30 pm, 106 S Kimball

K. Trone Percussion Recital
 7:30-8:30 pm, 2112 Cleveland, Langroise Center, Coffi, free

SATURDAY 5/16 SW ID Birders Association Field Trip

7:30 am-noon, Walter's Ferry parking lot, Hwy 45 at the Snake River, email: SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com

Idaho Spring Expo at the Canyon County Fair Bldg
 11 am-4 pm, 110 County Fair Ave, \$5, kids 12 and u free
Literature, Libations, and Live Music at Shared Stories
 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball

SUNDAY 5/17

SW ID Birders Association Field Trip
 8-10 am, Parking lot at the south end of Tio Lane in Nampa, email: SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com

Idaho Spring Expo at the Canyon County Fair Bldg
 11 am-4 pm, 110 County Fair Ave, \$5, kids 12 and u free
Worship Night and Potluck at Dunning Estates Western Winery
 5-7 pm, 19937 Vino Ln

MONDAY 5/18

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

MONDAY 5/18 (continued) Nonfiction Book Club at Shared Stories
 7, 106 S Kimball Book: *On Democracy*

TUESDAY 5/19

Election Day
 8 am-8 pm, see voteidaho.gov

WEDNESDAY 5/20

Bilingual Historical Fiction Book Club at Shared Stories
 7, 106 S Kimball Book: *Palace Walk*

FRIDAY 5/22

Winery After Hours at Ste. Chapelle (RSVP)
 6-9 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd. \$25, RSVP: exploretock.com/ste-chapelle-winery-caldwell

TUESDAY 5/26

Mystery Thriller Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: *Liliana's Invincible Summer*

WEDNESDAY 5/27

Classics Book Club at Shared Stories
 7 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: *East of Eden*

THURSDAY 5/28

Movie Night on the Plaza
 6-8 pm, 120 S Kimball (The Plaza), free

FRIDAY 5/29

Special Olympics Statewide Torch Run
 11 am-1 pm, downtown

SATURDAY 5/30

2nd Annual Roper Romp
 120 S Kimball (The Plaza)

SUNDAY 5/31

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

MONDAY 6/1

Monday Fitness at the Plaza
 9-10 am, 120 S Kimball
City Council Meeting
 6:00-8:30 pm, 205 S 6th (Caldwell City Hall).
Livestream: youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178/streams

TUESDAY 6/2

Rose Garden Ramble at Luby Park
 10 am and 6:30 pm, \$15, tickets at preservationidaho.org/archwalks-2026

FRIDAY 6/5

Carrie L. French Statue Dedication Ceremony
 11am-noon, Veteran's Hall, 1101 Cleveland

SATURDAY 6/6

June Edition of the Caldwell Perspective arrives.

Fri. May 8th
 6:30pm - Trivia Night With Mom

Sat. May 9th
 10 am - Brunch in the Vineyard
 12 - 5pm - Rose' Open Croquet Tournament

Sat. May 16th
 Sippin in the Sunset

tickets and information at www.hustonvineyards.com

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HOW TO REACH US

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

By Phone: 208-484-8286

Online: www.caldwellperspective.com

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).



EVENTS

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

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

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

Ask about reading challenges
Color Code: **Kid** **Teen** **Adult** All Ages
Youth Program Break May 10-31

MONDAYS

Baby Story Time: May 4 and June 1 at 10 am | Ages 0-1; 10:45 am | Ages 1-2; 11:30 am | Ages 0-2

Youth Chess Club: May 4, 4-5 pm | Ages 8-17

Knitting & Crochet Social: May 11, 1:30-3 pm | Ages 18+

Teen Book Club: May 11, 5:30-6:30 pm | Ages 13-17, outside. Read a fantasy book and discuss it with friends over snacks.

Closed: May 25, Memorial Day

TUESDAYS

Spanish & English Storytime: May 5 and June 2 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6

Mobile Health Clinic at the Library: May 5 and June 2: Call 208-367-4483 for appointment.

Neurodivergent Caregivers Group: May 5, 1-2pm | Ages 18+

Board Game Night: May 5, 6:30-8:30 pm | All ages

Lego Club: May 12, 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 7-16 School's out for summer.

Elections: May 19, 8am-8 pm | ages 18+ Precint 21-11

Paws to Read: May 19, 5-6 pm | Ages 7-14, Children's Area. Read to a dog.

WEDNESDAYS

Music & Movement: May 6 and June 3 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6

Afterschool Fun: 3:30 pm | Ages 5-12.
May 6 Salt and Color Art Studio; May 13 Master Gardeners, Let's Plant A Garden; June 3

Tech Lab: May 13 10 am -Noon | Ages 18+

Caldwell Public Library at the Senior Center: May 20, 11 am | 1009 Everett

Summer Bingo: May 20, 6:30-8 pm | Ages 18+

Puzzle Exchange: May 27, 6-7 pm

THURSDAYS

Kindergarten Readiness Book Club: May 7 10:30 am | ages 3-6. Current book: *Waiting on Mr. Sloth & Mindful Mr. Sloth*

THURSDAYS continued

Teen Thursday: May 7 and June 4 at 4:30 pm | Ages 13-17, Idaho Room

Thurs. Read Book Club: May 14, 2 pm or May 21, 6:30 pm | Ages 18+, Idaho room. Featured book – *The Shadow of the Wind*

Farmway Afterschool Program: May 14, 4:30-6:30 pm | All Ages, Community Room, 22730 Farmway Rd.

Gardening: May 14, 7-8 pm | Ages 18+

Bookworm Buddies for caregivers and their kids: May 28, 1-2:30 pm. | All ages

FRIDAYS

Tai Chi & Qigong: May 8, 15, 22, 29 and June 5, 10 am | Ages 18+

Adult Lego Club: May 8, 4:30 pm | Ages 16+

Ping Pong Club: May 22, 3-5 pm | All ages

SATURDAYS

Beginner Yoga Class: May 9, 11 am-noon | Ages 18+

Celebrating Mom! May 9, 2-3 pm | All ages

Storytime around the World – The Philippines: May 16, 10:30-3 pm | All Ages

Summer Reading Kick Off: May 30, 10 am-5 pm | All ages Track your reading and participate in special programs and activities to earth prizes. Ends Aug. 5. No library card is needed.

SUNDAYS

Starting May 24, the Library will be closed on Sundays for the summer.

University of Idaho, Owyhee County presents

Idaho's Crop Spotlight
Growing, Harvesting, and Preserving Onions

May 20, 12:30-2:00 pm

Caldwell Public Library
1010 Dearborn

Come See What's Possible for Caldwell's Future

by Bob Carpenter on behalf of Envision Caldwell



Plaza District Restaurant Row Rendering

Mark your calendars, because on Tuesday, June 2nd, from 6-8 pm at the Caldwell High School auditorium, Roger Brooks of the Destination Development Association (DDA) will be presenting the results of Envision Central Caldwell 2050, to the community. As part of the year-long project, the DDA researched nearly 1600 acres of central Caldwell and spoke with stakeholders including City officials, developers, farmers, hotel and restaurant owners, Canyon County Fair, College of Idaho, Caldwell Night Rodeo, the railroad, the Idaho Transportation Department,

citizen groups, Sunnyslope Wine Trail, and many others to determine "the highest and best use" for each acre of central Caldwell.

After the presentation, attendees will have time to look at conceptual designs of key elements of the presentation and provide further input using comment cards.

The presentation will include detailed ideas for the future of the Plaza District, the Garden District (the area just northeast of downtown), and the Stockyard District (the area southeast of downtown that includes the Fair and Rodeo grounds).

The goal of the effort is to get all of the organizations that impact Caldwell's future on the same page and pulling in the same direction. To create a vision of where Caldwell can be over the next 25 years, to provide a needed baseline blueprint for Planning and Zoning, Urban Renewal, Economic Development, City Council, Chamber of Commerce, Public Works, the Parks Department, and more. It is a "wish list" for our community.

The presentation is not a fixed plan and instead is a vision, that over time will be further explored, discussed, and shaped by our City leaders and community. The vision offers a starting point for ideas that will evolve over time through local input and thoughtful decision-making.

Imagine a three-mile, fully accessible Indian Creek Promenade—connecting the fairgrounds through downtown and beyond—creating a continuous, walkable experience for residents and visitors alike. Picture a vibrant downtown supported by additional public parking that unlocks new private investment, helping local businesses grow and thrive. Caldwell has always been

rooted in agriculture, community, and hard work. This vision builds on those roots while opening doors to new opportunities—for families, for businesses, and for future generations.

Roger Brooks and the DDA were first here more than a decade ago when Caldwell looked very different from what we know today. There were empty storefronts, few restaurants, and no place to gather. It was a time when people avoided downtown. Brooks is largely credited with providing then City leaders with a vision for Caldwell's Renaissance and the Caldwell we enjoy today. Additionally, the impacts of the DDA's work back then had

ripple effects that are seen all over Caldwell and beyond. For example, Chantele Hensel, the founder of the *Caldwell Perspective*, credits a Brooks presentation all those years ago with the creation of the newspaper. She says she watched Brooks speak at the College of Idaho, and was so inspired that she drew up the masthead for Caldwell's hometown newspaper that same day.

We hope you will come to the presentation and get inspired about Caldwell's future. If you cannot attend, the presentation will be available at envisioncaldwell.com in the future. And, you can submit feedback and ideas to info@envisioncaldwell.com.

3110 Cleveland Blvd. Ste. J3
Caldwell, ID 83605 (208) 459-0372

What's the best piece of advice your mother gave you?

Jennifer Tipton



Michelle Rios

"My mother always told me to work hard. She's a hard worker herself; she's a server. I've been working since I was fourteen."



Jacob Alger

"My mother says to always trust in your instincts. You can try and be perfect, but attaining the best you can be is better than aiming for perfection."



Bobbi Obraza

"She said to learn to cook at home. My mom cooked, my grandmother cooked, and my daughter went to culinary school. It's in the blood!"



Mike Williams

She depended on God for her strength, and that was the message she would always give me. She was a single mom, and so, she really depended on that.



Gregg Alger

"The one thing that my mother probably pounded into my head more than anything else is that your word is gospel – don't ever lie!"

Advice from My Mother

Leora Summers

I have a friend who once said to me, "If he loved me, he would know what to do and help me without me having to ask him." Well, whoever believes that, is in for big trouble in their relationship. Anyone who holds a grudge with a spouse for not knowing what to do to help them without asking, is asking for a world of miscommunication and disappointment.

My mother, bless her heart, once told me, "People are not mind-readers, you need to tell them what you need or want from them." Though, she never was quite able to do that for herself, it made an impression on me. You can't hold someone responsible for not knowing what you need, unless you tell them. And if you did tell them, they can't play dumb, and you can hold them accountable. It goes both ways. So talk to each other. Listen to each other. And then help each other. It makes it easier to keep loving each other.



An Easter Special! Five Generations

Matriarch Diane Briggs (seated) had a special day when Carla Berg (her daughter), Troy Berg (her grandson), Kira Evans-Berg (her great-granddaughter) and Joslyn Evans-Berg (her great-great-granddaughter) all came together on Easter Sunday at Carla's house bringing all five generations together for a wonderful shared Easter meal. Ten family members attended and everyone brought something to add to this special Easter meal. What a privilege it is to experience five generations here on earth all at the same time. On April 16th, Diane turned 94 years old.

About Mother's Day

by Jennifer Tipton



Mother's Day is a beautiful tradition. It's the one day a year when mothers everywhere are celebrated for their unconditional love, unwavering devotion, and the ability to locate lost shoes telepathically. One time, I found a missing shoe in the refrigerator – true story. It's also the one day a year when someone else loads the dishwasher – incorrectly. But we let it go because it's Mother's Day.

When my boys were little, it meant homemade cards with misspelled words, backward letters, and glitter that went everywhere (that I had to clean up, of course). Breakfast in bed was always eventful, with undercooked eggs, burnt toast, and a cup of coffee that I strongly suspected was sweetened with Kool-Aid. But it was perfect, because nothing says I love you like watching your child carry orange juice down the hall like they're defusing a bomb.

As they got older, the homemade cards became coupons for "One Free Hug" and "One Free I'll Do the Dishes Night." I still have a baby food jar containing some of these unclaimed coupons. I wonder if it's too late to cash out? It's tucked away in a box somewhere, along with baby teeth, locks of hair, and other weird stuff that only a mother would treasure.

These days, I watch my phone all day for the "Happy Mom's Day!" text, or if I'm really lucky, a phone call. Ei-

ther way, it counts. Because the truth about motherhood is that we spend years teaching them how to walk, talk, and chew with their mouth closed, then we spend the rest of our lives hoping they'll just call and say "hi."

You see, Mother's Day isn't about the flowers or brunch reservations. It's about remembering the woman who loved you first and who knew where your birth certificate was, even when you couldn't find matching socks. It's about the one person who can look at you across the room and communicate an entire paragraph with her eyebrows. It's about love that is fierce, forgiving, and occasionally sarcastic.

And here's the secret that nobody tells you: Mothers don't need perfection. We don't need elaborate plans or expensive gifts (though that foot bath one year was sure nice). We just want effort – a call, a hug, a text (that doesn't ask for money).

So this Mother's Day, celebrate the woman who raised you, fed you, prayed for you, and occasionally threatened to turn the car around (she meant that by the way). If you are a mom reading this, I hope you get the homemade cards with glitter, the coupons for hugs and chores (use them, they might expire), and a text or call before noon. And may someone else finally figure out how to load the dishwasher! Happy Mother's Day!

Camille Blaylock
IDAHO SENATE, DISTRICT 11

SMART GROWTH & LOW TAXES

KEEP IDAHO SAFE & FENTANYL OUT

DEFEND IDAHO VALUES

VOTE MAY 19

PAID CAMILLE FOR IDAHO **GARRET NANCOLAS, TREASURER**

Spinach and Mushroom Crustless Quiche

by Jennifer Tipton



Spinach and Mushroom Crustless Quiche (made by Jennifer)

Adapted from *mediterraneanandish.com*. It is vegetarian, gluten-free, low-carb, and so very delicious! Enjoy!

Here's a great recipe for any Sunday brunch. After making frittata after frittata, I wanted to try something new.

I thought that a frittata and a quiche were similar, but I discovered that a frittata is an Italian egg-based dish, similar to an omelet, whereas a quiche is a French tart. Although a quiche does contain eggs, its consistency is more like custard.

There's yet another similar dish called a strata! A strata is an American casserole that, while it also contains eggs, is similar to bread pudding. The lesson proved beneficial because this Spinach Mushroom Crustless Quiche is easy, creamy, and incredibly delicious!

Ingredients

- 5 eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 4 ounces of cheese, cubed (I used Swiss)
- 1 - 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 8 ounces sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1 1/2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
- 2 cups packed baby spinach leaves

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
2. Spray a nine-inch pie plate with nonstick cooking spray and set it on a baking sheet.
3. In a large bowl, whisk the eggs and milk together.
4. Heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat, and add the mushrooms, onion, and garlic.

5. Sprinkle the thyme, salt, and pepper over the vegetable mixture and continue cooking until the mushrooms shrink and the onions are translucent - about 10 to 15 minutes.

6. Drizzle with the balsamic, stir, and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes.

7. Add the spinach and stir until wilted approx. 3 minutes.

8. Transfer the vegetables to the pie plate, sprinkle with the cubed cheese, then pour the egg mixture over the top.

9. Bake for 35 minutes or until the center is set. Cool for 10 minutes before serving.

Note: Not a fan of spinach and mushrooms? Try substituting asparagus and cubed ham. The options are endless - gruyere cheese would be fabulous!

Strawberry Lemon Scones

by Jennifer Tipton



Strawberry Lemon Scones (made by Jennifer)

a generously floured board and pull it together into a 3/4 inch thick circle. Cut into 12 equal-sized wedges and transfer them to the parchment-lined baking sheet.

8. Brush each wedge with milk and sprinkle with coarse sugar.

9. Bake at 400 degrees for 15 to 16 minutes or until puffed and golden. Allow to cool on a wire rack.

Instructions for the Glaze

1. Simply stir the powdered sugar and lemon juice together. If it seems too thin, add a little more powdered sugar; and if it seems too thick, add a little more lemon juice. I also added 1 Tbsp. of King Arthur's Lemon Juice Powder for extra tartness.

2. Transfer the glaze into a small plastic bag and just barely cut one corner off at the bottom. Squeeze the glaze over the cooled scones in a zig-zag pattern, as I did, or spread a thin layer over each scone with a butter knife or a rubber spatula. Enjoy!

Note: This recipe isn't limited to strawberries! You can substitute other seasonal berries for the strawberries - blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, and cherries are also amazing!

Ingredients for the Glaze

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 1/2 Tbsp lemon juice (bottled or fresh)
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice powder (optional)

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.

2. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.

3. Add the diced butter and cut it into the flour mixture with a pastry blender until it looks like coarse crumbs.

4. Gently toss in the chopped strawberries and lemon zest.

5. In another bowl, beat the 2 eggs, then stir in the heavy cream.

6. Add the egg mixture to the flour mixture, and stir gently just until moistened. Do not over-mix.

7. Place the dough onto

Recipe adapted from *Natasha's Kitchen*.

Strawberry season here in Caldwell generally runs from May through mid-to-late June. What a perfect way to celebrate the peak of these sweet, juicy berries than to bake them into something wonderful. These scones are sweet with just a hint of tart lemon. They are a treat truly meant to be shared!

Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 Tbsp. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (chilled and diced)
- 1 cup chopped fresh strawberries
- zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream (chilled)
- 1 Tbsp. milk to brush the tops
- 1/2 Tbsp. coarse sugar to sprinkle the tops

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Congrats to the CHS Fine Arts Faculty and Students

The Caldwell High School Fine Arts Departments wrapped up their 6-night run of the Addams Family on April 18th with hundreds of pleased audience members in attendance. The show was a delightful comedic romp with multiple interwoven storylines and happily ever after endings. Standouts included seniors Brandon Bake as Gomez (standing center) and Joryn Wright as Morticia (seated left of Gomez). Both Brandon and Joryn are headed to BSU in the fall where Brandon will be studying Film and Television Arts and Joryn will be studying History. Congratulations to the entire cast and crew and their families.



Caldwell Public Library History Lecture

On April 14th, Dr. Ross Peterson (center) spoke at the Caldwell Public Library about the circumstances and the uniquely American laws that allowed for the US's rapid westward expansion and Idaho's statehood after the Revolutionary War.

Dr. Peterson is a native of Montpelier, has written numerous books on the West including "Idaho, a Bicentennial History," and had a distinguished career in higher education as a professor and college administrator.

He is shown above with his nieces Marcene Taylor (left) and Lori Purcell (right). Marcene and Dr. Peterson are holding a copy of a draft of the Declaration of Independence that includes hand-written notes by Thomas Jefferson and others. Lori is holding an original military discharge document for a Revolutionary War soldier signed by George Washington.



World Malbec Day Was A Great Learning Experience

At Huston Vineyards during World Malbec Day on April 17th lead winemaker, Jacob Alger, hosted a vertical wine tasting where over twenty of us sampled their 2022, 2023, and 2024 Malbecs. Although the production styles were similar, each wine was unique, strongly influenced by the weather conditions in the year the grapes were grown.

Very knowledgeable about the wine-making process, Jacob said there are three things they look for in a wine: sugar, acid, and flavor. That dry, slightly bitter flavor predominantly found in red wine is due to tannins. Tannins are natural polyphenols that act as antioxidants. They are naturally present in the grape skins and seeds, or are added by the oak barrels in which the wine is aged. After the wine is bottled, its flavors slowly develop over time. Jacob said, "You see some wines holding up for 10 – 15 years, but Malbec is one of the grapes that doesn't age well. It tastes better in that first 10-year range."

You can sample these tasty wines for yourself at Huston Vineyards, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd., Caldwell.



Annual Caldwell School District Art Show

Caldwell School District's Annual Art show was themed Under The Sea and showcased the talents of hundreds of Caldwell's Middle School and High School students.

The event filled the stage of the Caldwell High School auditorium with interpretations of undersea life from floor to ceiling.

Pictured here are students who were recognized for outstanding student achievement.

Jessica Watts, the District's Communications Director described the event as "a lively and well-attended celebration of creativity" that "fostered a sense of pride and connection within the entire district."

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Ten Student Athletes Sign with Colleges at CHS Signing Day



State Champion wrestler, Jaxson Freeman (center), surrounded by friends and family on signing day.

It was a celebratory atmosphere on April 13th at Caldwell High School, as ten Caldwell Cougars signed to continue their academic and athletic careers at colleges across the country.

In the Caldwell High gym, each athlete sat at a table decorated in the colors and gear of their future school. Coaches spoke briefly about each student-athlete, highlighting their academic and athletic accomplishments, as well as their future plans. The ceremony concluded with each signee signing with their next school as friends and family cheered from the bleachers.

After a historic career at Caldwell, All-American wrestler Jaxson Freeman signed with Western Colorado University (NCAA Division II) in Gunnison. Jaxson finished with a 157-16 record, becoming just the fourth wrestler in school history to reach 150 career wins. Despite missing the state tournament one year due to injury, he reached the state finals three times and won a state championship his senior year. Jaxson also maintained a 4.0 GPA and set the Caldwell record for most tech

falls in a season and career.

Two players from Caldwell's 6A state championship soccer team will continue on together at Walla Walla Community College (NAIA) in Walla Walla, WA. Center back Isaac Ariza and goalkeeper Horacio Hernandez were part of two state title teams at Caldwell, winning championships their freshman and senior years. This duo anchored a dominant defense this season, allowing just two goals in district play and one in the state tournament. They said Walla Walla feels like a "home away from home" with a strong connection to Caldwell soccer.

Three Cougar cheerleaders will continue their careers at the collegiate level. Aunika Vasquez signed with Northwest Nazarene University (NCAA Division II) in Nampa. She is Caldwell High's first athlete recruited to a collegiate stunt team.

Teammate Taliah Walker will continue her cheer career at the College of Idaho (NAIA), staying in Caldwell. Both Aunika and Taliah cheered all four years, helping lead the program to back-to-

back district titles, three state appearances, and a second-place finish at nationals.

Additionally, Justin Fredrickson signed with Westcliff University (NAIA) in Irvine, CA. He made Caldwell cheer history as one of the first cheerleaders to perform an individual push liberty lift in competition. Justin is excited to join a national championship team that recently won the National Cheerleaders Association competition in Daytona Beach, FL.

Three Caldwell High football players also signed to play at the collegiate level. Sawyer Hope-Audet will play wide receiver at Valley City State University (NAIA) in Valley City, ND. Ruben Rodriguez is heading to Lewiston to play at Lewis-Clark State College (NCAA Division III). While at Caldwell, Ruben played on both sides of the ball, on the offensive and defensive lines.

Offensive lineman Joe Black signed with Eastern Oregon University (NAIA) in La Grande after a four-year varsity career and receiving ten collegiate offers from across the country.

Cross-country runner Camus Book signed with Montana State University (NCAA Division I) in Bozeman. He holds Caldwell's 5K record at 15:15. Camus also trained with Boise State's cross-country team in early-morning workouts before school. His coach described him as "everything an athlete should be."

Congrats to all these athletes on great high school careers and best of luck in your next chapters!

Caldwell School District Staff Member Named Idaho Mother of the Year



Kari Palmer, 2026 Idaho Mother of the Year

Kari Palmer, Caldwell School District's Early Learning Project Manager was named the 2026 Idaho State Mother of the Year by the American Mothers organization.

Her bio on the American Mothers website gives insight into Kari's selection.

"Kari Palmer has a lifelong passion for helping people, especially parents and their young children. She believes that the earliest years — from birth to age five — are the foundation for a child's lifelong learning and well-being.

Her mission is to ensure that every young learner has a positive, joyful early learning experience.

"For 14 years, Kari owned and operated Wiggles and Giggles Preschool, creating a nurturing, play-based environment... She has also poured her energy into her community through years of leading Vacation Bible School, teaching Sunday school, and volunteering in her own children's classrooms.

"Beyond the classroom, Kari has supported parents by teaching parenting classes, offering guidance, and fostering a strong sense of community...

"Whether she's teaching, mentoring, or celebrating, Kari's heart is always for the children and families she serves."

You can learn more about the American Mothers organization and Kari Palmer at americanmothers.org.

Congratulations to Kari and her family!

Caldwell High Wrestling's All-American Honorees

This historic year for Caldwell High's wrestling program continues with five Cougars earning All-American status at national tournaments in Iowa and in Virginia Beach. Top wrestlers from every state compete in these tournaments, but only the top eight finishers earn All-American status. This year's honorees include Amea Whittington, Annabelle Harmon, Maritza Gar-

cia, Liam Rodebush, and Maritza Medina, a repeat All-American. They join current CHS students Jaxson Freeman, Ashlyn Martin-Gomez, Maritza Medina, and Joshua Rojas, who all earned honors in 2025. With eight of Caldwell's fourteen All-Americans in school history still on the roster, the Cougars are enjoying one of their strongest stretches ever.

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Rotary Donates to Veterans' Organizations

by Bob Jenkins



Holding the check for \$8,000 to CVMH are Bob Jenkins (Rotary), Randy Jensen (CVMH), and Scott Ray (CMVH) flanked by Rotary and CVMH members.



Holding the check for \$2,000 to VFW are Rotarians Bob Jenkins, Jerry Bauman and Bob Piazza (also VFW) flanked by other Rotary and VFW members.

The Caldwell Rotary Club and its foundation recently presented donations to two local veterans organizations, recognizing their partnership in this year's Freedom Brewfest and Car Show.

The Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall received \$8,000, while the VFW Post 3886 of Caldwell/Middleton was awarded \$2,000. Terry Harrell, Randy Jensen, Scott Ray, and Kristi Amerson accepted the check on behalf of the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.

Commander Mike Weir and fellow Rotarian Bob Piazza represented the VFW.

Dr. Jerry Bauman, who celebrated his 90th birthday earlier this year, was also on hand to present the VFW check.

Rotary members expressed appreciation to both organizations for supporting the Freedom Brewfest and Car Show, an annual event that funds various community projects throughout the year. These projects include the Second Grade First Reader and Third Grade Dictionary programs, which serve more than 19 elementary schools across Caldwell, Notus, Wilder, Home-

dale, Marsing, the Vallivue School District and several charter schools. Additional efforts include college and trade scholarships and other community awards.

The Caldwell Rotary Club consists of local volunteers dedicated to serving the community. Its primary fundraiser, the Freedom Brewfest, is held each year as one of the final events at Indian Creek Plaza. This year's event is scheduled for Oct. 10 from 1 to 6 p.m.

For more information about the Caldwell Rotary Club, contact Carl Anderson at (208) 608-4569.

Optimists Award Claire Ruehl Memorial Scholarship

by Ivy Hunt



Kim Ruehl Teske, Kensington Kerr and Brian Ruehl

The Caldwell Optimist Club is proud to announce the 1st place winner of the Claire Ruehl Memorial Scholarship for 2026. Applicants were asked to reflect and submit an essay describing acts of service and community understanding. The Caldwell Optimist Club received many qualified ap-

plications and ultimately awarded the 1st place scholarship of \$1,500.00 to Kensington Kerr from Vallivue High School. The Caldwell Optimists are excited to contribute to the success and future of the youth in our community. We are proud to see them achieve their goals and stay optimistic!

Teen Receives a Truck Make-Over From Make-A-Wish Idaho



Uriel and his "Wish Truck"

Eighteen-year-old Uriel's wish for a Truck Make-Over was granted by Make-A-Wish® Idaho on April 25 at the Heap Herders Spring Bling Car Show in Caldwell. The complete car makeover includes tinted windows, bodywork, and a new stereo system provided by area merchants.

Custom tires and wheels were provided by King's Tire Pros in Nampa. Owner Chris King, said, "I'm a car guy, so

when I was asked by Make-A-Wish Idaho to provide custom tires and wheels, I knew that I wanted to do everything in my power to turn his truck into his dream vehicle."

While undergoing treatment for a brain tumor, Uriel learned he was eligible for a wish. His first and only desire was upgrading his 2010 Chevy Silverado into his "Wish Truck."

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Caldwell Rises To Idaho's Service Challenge

by Kelli Jenkins & Jamie Wilson, JustServe Caldwell



Lasagna Love Service

Something remarkable is happening across Idaho—and it's rooted in something simple: service. As our nation approaches its 250th birthday, Idahoans are stepping forward in a way that reflects the very best of who we are. Through the America250 in Idaho Service Challenge, residents across the state have already shared more than 170,000 acts of service, each one a small but meaningful contribution to stronger communities.

The goal is ambitious: 250,000 acts of service by July 4. But if the early momentum is any indication, it's well within reach.

This effort is part of a broader vision. In recognition of America's 250th anniversary, 2026 has been

declared the Year of Volunteerism in Idaho—a reminder that honoring our nation's past isn't just about reflection, but about action. Service connects us. It builds bridges between neighbors. It creates the kind of unity that can't be mandated, only lived.

And Idaho is leading by example, and so much good is happening right here in Caldwell. You have shared over 4,500 acts of kindness! Our youth have stepped up with over 2,000 acts! And you can be sure there are so many more that are serving their neighbors that haven't been recorded.

Every act of service — large or small — may not always make headlines, but they are shaping the kind of

community we all want to live in.

Here are just a few wonderful examples of kindness right here in Caldwell:

"Babysat nephew for free while sister went to work."

"I helped an elderly couple with their groceries."

"I handed out thank you notes to teachers."

"I helped my mom with dinner and this took place at home. One person can't do everything."

"I said 'hi' to someone who dropped their books and helped them clean up."

"I was at school and I was helping the teacher move paper files."

Caldwell Lions Donate Storage Shed to Support GALS Program

by Lynn Johnson



Lions VP Chet Crawford, GALS President Al Mendiola, Lynn Johnson, Denise Furguson, Robin Crawford

Continuing a long tradition of community service, the Caldwell Lions Club has donated a new storage shed to the GALS (Girls Athletic Leadership Softball) program, providing a secure space for equipment. GALS, a local softball program focused on leadership and skill development, serves girls throughout Idaho and

Eastern Oregon with about 70 teams. Access to reliable storage has been an ongoing need as participation continues to increase.

The shed was formally dedicated during a small morning ceremony attended by members of the Lions Club and GALS president, Al Mendiola. The Caldwell Lions Club has supported

GALS for several years, contributing both time and resources to help sustain youth athletics in the community. The new shed marks another step in that ongoing partnership. "Our goal is simple: we serve," Lions VP Chet Crawford, said. "If we can help create better opportunities for kids in our community, that's what we're here for." "This kind of support makes a real difference," Al Mendiola said during the dedication. "Having a dedicated place for our equipment helps us stay organized and focus on what matters most—supporting these athletes."

The partnership between the Lions and GALS is expected to continue as both organizations look for new ways to support Caldwell's youth.

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"I gave a customer a free drink at work."

"Youth Volunteers came in and helped clear out trees, weeds, and debris. LOTS of it! This space is a community space out at Idaho Youth Ranch! This also will be used to help youth and Idaho Kids use the power of healing in nature to support resilience!"

"I am 91 years old and wanted to knit hats for children that are underserved. I knitted 20 hats and gave them to children that were in need in a school that had a clothing closet."

"14 women came together to make twenty 9x13 pans of lasagna for people they didn't know, knowing there was a need and desire to help. Kindness and action makes a difference. So inspirational!"

"I made 'We love you' cards. I struggle with many physical challenges but I

want to keep serving. Making things from home and sending them to foundations that have more ability to reach people helps me feel useful."

"Took an elderly lady to lunch."

By simply logging your efforts, you become part of a growing, statewide story of generosity and impact. It's not about recognition; it's about momentum. The more we see what others are doing, the more inspired we are to join in.

For those looking to get involved, JustServe.org offers an easy way to find local opportunities, from one-time projects to ongoing needs. Whether you have an hour to give or a day to dedicate, there's a place for everyone.

Celebrate America's 250th birthday not just with words, but with action. Thank you, Caldwell, for spreading all this goodness.

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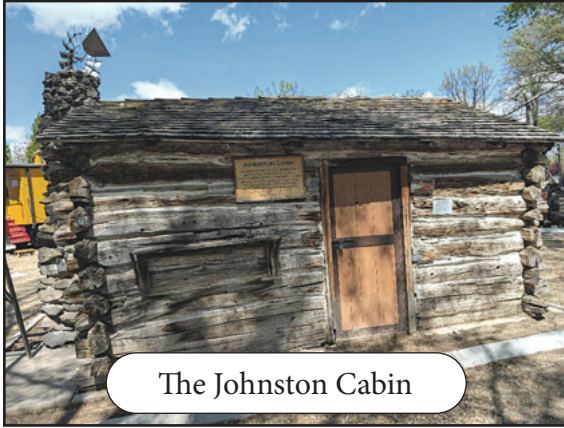
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Native Daughters of Idaho Invitation

by Leora Summers



The McKenzie Cabin



The Johnston Cabin

The Native Daughters of Idaho invite you on May 30th at 1:00 p.m., to join them at the Van Slyke Historical Park located in Caldwell Memorial Park (intersection of Kimball/Grant) to celebrate their efforts in saving the little log cabins within that park.

There are two little log cabins there. The McKenzie Cabin is the pioneer home of Robert McKenzie. It was built near Middleton in 1864. The other was the Johnston Cabin, the pioneer home of the Johnston brothers, Tom, Den, and Dave. It was built in the upper Dixie

community in 1864. Both were moved by the Native Daughters of Idaho to be preserved as a memorial to the Early Pioneers of the Boise Valley.

The Van Slyke Historical Park will be open and the cabin doors will be ajar so people can view inside them. A flax spinning wheel donated by Ronalee will be displayed within one of the cabins among other pioneer fixtures.

This would be a great opportunity to bring your children too to see a little bit of history in their own backyard. This park showcases local pioneer history and farm equipment.

KFC Foundation Awards \$20,000 Scholarship to Local Student



A surprised Promise Gonzalez receiving a \$20,000 KFC Foundation Scholarship check from KFC Employees Chris Harn and Anne Mehl.

The KFC Foundation surprised Caldwell KFC employee Promise Gonzalez with a life-changing \$20,000 KFC Foundation Scholarship to further her educational dreams on April 6.

Promise is a first-generation Hispanic college student, graduating from Northwest Nazarene University this spring. For the past four years, she has paid for college herself by working two jobs at KFC and the local library. The scholarship will help pay for her first year of graduate school

at the University of Texas, where she plans to continue her studies in kinesiology.

In April, the KFC Foundation granted more than 300 KFC® restaurant employees nationwide a total of \$2 million in scholarships. Promise is one of only 11 to receive the top \$20,000 award based on a personal essay and demonstrated financial need. Since its inception in 2012, the program has awarded over \$25 million in scholarships to more than 8,500 KFC restaurant employees.

Caldwell's Elite Boxer Performs Well at the World Boxing Cup - Stage 1

by Leora Summers



On April 21st, during Stage 1 of the World Boxing Cup in Brazil, Alyssa

Mendoza (57 kilograms) set the tone for Team USA with an impressive victory over Ireland's 2024 Paris Olympian, Michaela Walsh. The Caldwell, Idaho native dominated every round, earning a unanimous decision to advance to the quarterfinals. On April 24th she lost (3-2) to Chinese Taipei's Shih Yi Wu.

Fans can stay updated on the USA Boxing High Performance Team at the World Boxing Cup - Stage 1 on the USA Boxing website. Brackets, broadcast information, daily schedules, and daily results will be updated on the 2026 World Boxing Cup - Stage 1 event page.

Vote May 19th



caldwellperspective.com/may-19-election

The primary elections for Federal, Statewide, County, and Legislative offices will be May 19th.

Our April issue included our handy pull-out Voter's Guide and our website lists every local candidate in every local race along with links to their websites and Facebook pages (if they have them) caldwellperspective.com/may-19-election.

The best sources for voting information are voteidaho.gov (Secretary of State site) and elections.canyoncounty.id.gov (Canyon County elections site).

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City Updates

April 26 to May 3 was a “Week of Remembrance” nationwide to honor fallen firefighters and emergency service personnel who have died in the line of duty. The Caldwell Fire Department honored Brad Trosky-Johnson, a Caldwell deputy chief who died in 2022.

On April 22 the Caldwell Fire Department hosted a groundbreaking and demolition ceremony for the new Fire Station 1 at 423 Blaine. In 2023 Caldwell voters approved making fire department infrastructure meet the city’s growing needs. Other projects underway include remodeling to create a Fire Administration building and construction of Fire Station 4.

On April 16 the City of Caldwell honored and congratulated Caldwell Parks and Recreation Superintendent Denise Milburn, on her retirement. “For 23 years, she has served Caldwell with excellence, vision, and heart. Her impact on our parks, programs, and community will be felt for years to come.”

On April 11 the Caldwell Fire Department – in collaboration with the American Red Cross, the City of Greenleaf, and the Caldwell Rural Fire Department – installed 65 smoke alarms in 24 homes in a Greenleaf community outside the area that firemen can reach in eight minutes. Among those helping were volunteers from the



Denise Milburn

CPD Explorers, Boise State University, Caldwell Public Library, CORE, and BBSI. The Idaho Central Credit Union donated \$1,000 for smoke alarms.

On April 10 Caldwell HS Softball honored the city’s first responders at a game. Police were present and displayed that they protect citizens on foot, on patrol, and on horseback.

The Caldwell Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Caldwell Class of 2025 -2026 saw demonstrations by the Caldwell Police, Caldwell Fire and Sheriff’s departments this month. One focus was the specialized training and real ordeals of the police SWAT team.

In March the Caldwell Fire Department hosted the Chamber of Commerce Noon Break Luncheon. Department members shared accounts of recent challenges – like back-to-back house fires – and of the upcoming station rebuilds to enhance response times.

Road Closures

Roads blocked for Construction

Three areas should be opening now: Albany from 12th to 15th; Main from 15th to 19th; and Linden at Ward Rd.

Scheduled to open soon are Arthur between 5th & 6th (May 5); 10th from Grant to Dearborn (May 8); and Stock Trail Rd. (May 8).

Other roads closed now that are due to open in May include Midway from Homedale to Moss (May 16) and Moss from S Indiana to Celestial (May 24).

Construction extending throughout May includes a roundabout at the Middleton and Linden intersection (June 12); a roundabout and irrigation changes on Middleton Rd between Highway 20-26 and Skyway (June 12); and a bridge replacement on Kimball north of Blaine (Sept 18).

Roads closed nights from 7 pm to 6 am

Road improvements and updated parking formats are underway in key areas of downtown Caldwell. All work is being done at night so on-street parking is restricted from 5 p.m. to 6 a.m. in work zones, except on May 5. Vehicles left in restricted areas will be towed, though the city and Caldwell police will make efforts to contact vehicle owners in advance.

Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District Preparing for Challenging Season



Due to record dry winter conditions and a below-normal snowpack across the Treasure Valley, the Caldwell Municipal Irrigation District (CMID) is preparing for a challenging season.

Here is what you need to be prepared for:

- Lower pressure: Expect reduced delivery and lower-than-normal flows.
- Shortened season: There is a possibility the season may end early.
- No change in billing: Assessments pay for access to the system, not a guaranteed amount of water.

To keep pump stations from overloading and shutting down, CMID recommends an odd/even watering schedule. Odd address? Water on odd-numbered days. Even address? Water on even-numbered days. Some types of sprinkler timers have an odd/even setting; if not, set sprinklers for every other day.

During the drought, run sprinklers about 15 minutes per zone, 2-3 times per week to encourage deep roots, targeting 1-2 inches of water per week. (If after 15 minutes, you notice water running over the sidewalk then cut the watering time back to 12 minutes.)

During business hours, repairs to main lines and leaks take priority over restarting pump stations. We’ll get to the pumps as soon as a technician is free. For safety, our crew does not restart pumps at night, but wait until the following morning.

For updates, check our website, cityofcaldwell.org/Departments/Irrigation.

Jose Orozco--Canyon County's Newest Director of Juvenile Probation

Canyon County is thrilled to announce the appointment of Jose Orozco as the county’s newest Director of Juvenile Probation, effective April 2, 2026.

Jose previously served as the county’s interim Director of Juvenile Probation, bringing over 25 years of experience in Juvenile Probation and 15 years’ experience with county government. Together with his team, Jose is proud to continue spearheading the department’s mission to protect the community and emphasize accountability and resilience for Canyon County’s youth.

Outside of the role, Jose considers himself a dedicated adventurer and family man, with some of his most exciting memories being his recent trips with his wife to Guatemala and Belize.

Learn more about Jose, his team, and the mission of Canyon County’s Juvenile Probation Department on our website: canyoncounty.id.gov/elected-officials/commissioners/juvenile-probation/



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Indian Creek Hair & Nails: Keeping Caldwell beautiful since 1999

by Jennifer Tipton



Matriarch Eleanor Puccinelli



Chellsi, Kathy, Nancy, and Nikki. Photo in the barber's chair of Eleanor Puccinelli, the matriarch of Kathy's family (her graduation photo from beauty school).

Indian Creek Hair & Nails, a charming little salon, has been located on the corner of Kimball and Arthur in the heart of Caldwell since 1999. It all started when Nikki Love, who has been doing hair since the early nineties, was walking to the post office one day and saw the space was for rent. The rest is history – and what a history! Nikki and Kathy Timinsky (who graduated from beauty school in 1989) are co-owners of this quaint little business with a hometown feel.

Doing hair is nothing new for Kathy. Her dad, George Timinsky, was a barber at

Lloyd's Barbershop in Nampa, and George's mother, Gladys Timinsky, had her own beauty shop here in Caldwell. Gladys did hair for over fifty years, as did Kathy's grandmother on her mother's side, Eleanor Puccinelli.

Currently, Kathy's mom, Nancy, and Kathy's daughter, Chellsi, work alongside her at the salon. Nancy Timinsky is quick to admit that she was the only one in the family who had no interest in doing hair! But, nevertheless, Nancy comes in two days a week to launder towels, sweep the floor, and help the gals. Just like she used to

help her husband at his shop. Chellsi, who graduated from beauty school at just 17, has been at the salon since 2008.

When I asked Kathy how it was working with her daughter, she said, "Words can't describe. It's a blessing. Except there was that one time when she made me so mad, I threw a bottle of shampoo at her." To which Chellsi responded, "Only your mother would do that! But it's ok, 'cause I ducked."

Although Nikki doesn't have family members working at the salon, she does have a very handsome father, who occasionally drops by and gets the ladies all "twitterpated." (Thank you, Nikki, I love that word!) I've seen her father, and this is no exaggeration. His name is Tom Love, and he is 100% cowboy. At 77, he still rides and raises horses. He is not only handsome, but charming as well. Nikki also has 8 granddaughters and 5 grandsons. She says she hopes that one of them will go into hair because, "I need a retirement plan!"

There is one more very special lady at the salon who deserves recognition. Her name is Judi Gardea, and she has been doing hair in Caldwell for fifty-eight years! Judi was inspired to join the beauty business after working as a nanny for Alice Linder, who ran a shop from her home in Homedale. Judi was just in the ninth grade. Judi proudly shared, "Some of my ladies I've done for fifty-eight years!" Small town. Hometown. Special people.



Christian Brothers Automotive Opens in Caldwell

On April 7th, the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Caldwell's new Christian Brothers Automotive. The ceremony was attended by city officials, Caldwell Chamber members and Christian Brothers Automotive employees.

The business is located at 11096 Nunemacher Lane (Middleton Rd and the 20-26) and is led by local husband-and-wife team, Rich and Tina Martinez. It is the Martinez family's second location in the area, after their Meridian shop.



'Wind Phone' planned for Caldwell cemetery

The Caldwell Board of Realtors® (CBOR) is working to put a "Wind Phone" at the north end of Canyon Hill Cemetery. The wind phone will be a private space with a disconnected receiver where individuals can speak to lost loved ones. A Japanese concept, a wind phone is meant to help individuals grieve and heal.

The CBOR is inviting community members to participate by contributing financially and assisting with assembling the pergola. For more information, contact Jo Anne Lowe at (208) 866-2393 or Carla Berg at (208) 573-4236.



West Valley Medical Center Auxiliary Awards \$9000 in Scholarships

The WVMC, Auxiliary, Inc. awarded \$1500 scholarships to six area students pursuing a medical education. Recipients include volunteers, employees and children of colleagues. The recipients were (from left to right) Dylan O'Brien, Olivia Rushton, Emily Davis, Kathryn Hostetler, Angie Newbold, and Karley Nancolas.

Funds raised by the Auxiliary through sales at the WVMC gift shop support these scholarships.

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AT 5815 GRAYE LN. CALDWELL, ID 83607

Warm & Furry Safety Tips

by Deborah Kraft – Canyon County Anti-Trafficking Task Force



A page from ICAC's new internet safety guide for kids, "K9 Badger's Internet Safety Adventure"

It's not often that we are able to put a friendly face on the task of dealing with the Internet crime of Child Sexual Exploitation. However, that opportunity recently arose thanks to the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force or Idaho's ICAC.

On April 1st through the Idaho Attorney General's office, ICAC published a safety guide for kids: "K9 Badger's Internet Safety Adventure!" The introduction to this guide states that its purpose is to, "... help kids build smart and safe online habits in a fun and engaging way."

Clearly, ICAC has achieved its goal with this booklet. ICAC uses the image of their very own Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) dog, K9-Badger as the narrator for this activity guide. Each page contains not only an image of K9 Badger for coloring but also a safety message and reinforcing fun activity that begins to train children on internet safety.

Among the messages included within these pages are; what information is safe to share on the Internet versus personal information that should never be made public, when a child should seek help from a trusted adult if something makes them

uncomfortable online, how to safely play games online by limiting who they chat with when interacting with others, and how to report questionable activity.

Perhaps the hidden gem in this activity guide is that it offers parents a creative and comfortable way to begin those critical discussions with their children on how to use the Internet in a safe and responsible way when first starting out online. Such conversations will serve to strengthen trust in the parent-child relationship. This early education can also help build a strong foundation for safety skills that will serve youth well in later years.

Children can follow the work of K9 Badger on his very own Instagram account under his name. Knowing that there is a real live K9 Badger will help validate the messages he shares with readers through his guide. You can access his Internet Safety Guide at: bit.ly/4vP0xb4.

Share the Road

by Jennifer Tipton



As the weather warms up, our motorcycle enthusiast friends eagerly take to the road. Did you know that in Idaho, there are 5.3 motorcycles for every 100 people? The national average is 3.5.

In fact, Idaho ranks 5th in the country (tied with South Dakota) for the number of motorcycles per capita. And it's certainly no surprise, because while most motorcycle enthusiasts prefer riding the back roads to highways, Idaho offers some of the most beautiful, scenic roads found anywhere across the country.

Often, a motorcycle is simply a more fuel-efficient way to commute. With the warmer, longer days of spring, you've likely noticed many of our motorcycle riding neighbors out sharing the road with the rest of the traffic.

But here's the thing - cars and motorcycles behave differently. And it is only by understanding each other's challenges, that we can significantly reduce the risk of accidents. Motorcycles can accelerate quickly, stop faster in some conditions, and maneuver more easily around obstacles. However, they also come with greater vulnerability.

One of the most common factors in motorcycle-related accidents is visibility. Motorcycles are significantly smaller than cars, making them easier to overlook - especially in blind spots or during quick lane changes.

Drivers often misjudge the speed or distance of an approaching motorcycle, leading to dangerous situa-

tions, especially at intersections and when merging.

Motorcyclists, in turn, must ride defensively by wearing bright or reflective gear, using headlights (even during the day), and positioning themselves strategically within a lane to increase visibility.

According to the Idaho Transportation Department, the greatest potential for conflict is at intersections. Statistics show that roughly 40% of motorcycle accidents occur when a car turns left in front of a motorcycle. Motorcycles are smaller and harder to spot, requiring drivers to look twice at intersections.

The key for the motorcyclist at an intersection, is to see as much as possible and to be seen by others. For the driver, the key to safety is to treat motorcycles with the same respect as any other vehicle. Clear communication can prevent misunderstandings. Both riders and drivers should use turn signals well in advance and check mirrors before turning or changing lanes. Motorcyclists can also use hand signals, if needed, especially where visibility is limited.

Make eye contact if possible, and a simple wave of acknowledgment can go a long way in fostering mutual respect.

To all our motorcycle-riding friends, the Idaho Motorcycle Riders Handbook explicitly states that the following are illegal: lane splitting (weaving between moving traffic), lane filtering (picking a path through slow-moving or stopped traffic), lane sharing with cars, and riding on the shoulder of the road.

To all the drivers out there, please know that the best way to share the road with motorcycles is to give them extra space. Space is safety. Experts recommend a minimum of 4 seconds of space between your vehicle and the motorcycle ahead. Avoid sudden lane changes, frequently check blind spots, use turn signals early, and never assume a motorcycle will move out of the way. Motorcycles need a full lane just like cars do.

Ultimately, safety is a shared responsibility. For both motorcyclists and drivers, understanding how to safely share the road is not just courteous - it's critical.

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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
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Local Dirt

by Pat King



see a totally different outcome in our agricultural production but also for our own homes as well.

Most subdivisions built today are on former productive farming acreage and instead of just forfeiting the water shares on that acreage, it has been smartly retained and redistributed to the individual homes and common areas of each subdivision. This process makes watering a lawn during our very hot and dry summers (usually about a hundred days without rainfall), not only lush and green, but it also replenishes the ground water for later consumption instead of letting all the water head out to the ocean.

So now that you know where most of your water comes from, you should have a better idea of how the very low snow pack in the mountains will greatly affect the upcoming water usage season. It will be difficult to manage your limited water properly this season.

Now the water available for each subdivision and your home will be dependent on the irrigation district you are in. Some older irrigation districts have earlier water rights, so they may have fewer restrictions on usage. We have been blessed this early spring with almost 4 inches of rain in the valley and over two feet of new

snow in the mountains, and we're not quite out of the wetter part of spring yet. So pray for precipitation.

Managing your water, based on your irrigation provider restrictions, can if enforced, cost you money through citations and other considerations. Water rights and share uses of water can be a very volatile issue. Many blows over the course of history have come from the misuse of water. So please know what the restrictions, if any will be, before you set your timer this season.

Most tend to over water, so minimize that, and if you can, water during the heat of the day as that is when all plants are in the most need of water. That cooling down will last into the evening when the atmosphere is naturally cooling off. Also watering at night causes more diseases and growth of wet areas for mosquitoes. Your lawn and plants don't need to be watered at night. Just think of when you consume the most water, out in your garden weeding or at night in bed asleep. If you're thirsty in the heat, so are your plants. Water wisely. Also, if need be, you can hand water your more demanding garden needs with city water or well water.

Until next time, Pat.

Dave's Big Backyard

by Dave McCormick



Our neighbor, Nancy Baxter, had one of the furry little rodents take up residency in her backyard. Nancy asked me what would be a proper course of action. I told her the varmint would probably move on, if not, I would take care of it.

After five days the chuck was in an Arborvitae cluster and Nancy wanted him gone. I had the perfect weapon for rock chuck removal, a Weihrauch H W100 in 22caliber complete with 4 by 12 telescopic sight. The problem was, my rifle was being resealed. My son in law, Todd, had a similar rifle. I told Nancy that I would borrow his rifle and the offending rodent would be dealt with promptly.

Spring brings rock chucks out of hibernation, more correctly identified as yellow-bellied marmots, these stocky rodents inhabit nearly all the Northwest. Going on a rock chuck hunt was once a much-anticipated event. It was always a way to make sure your hunting rifle was sighted in properly, and to hone your shooting skills. My hunting rifle at the time was a Browning BAR (Browning Automatic Rifle) in 243 caliber. It was not a tack driver, but a rock chuck at 250 yards or less was probably going to have a bad day.

The friends that hunted the rodents with me had loose rules of engagement. For a rock chuck under one hundred yards, a high powered rifle was not permitted, it was deemed as violating the rules of "Fair Chase." The only way the chuck could be fired upon, was with a rifle with open sight or a handgun. I owned two Smith and Wesson Revolvers, a 22mag and a 22jet, either was capable of humanely dispatching a marmot.

I haven't hunted rock chucks in years, but recently I was pressed back into service.

The following afternoon around 4:30 I strolled toward Nancy's house as she was calling my wife to inform me that the rodent had left the comfort of its lair. Upon stepping onto Nancy's deck, I spotted the intruder. I rested the rifle on the deck rail. When the crosshairs came to rest, I squeezed the trigger and an 18 grain JSB pellet found its mark! Lights out! Nancy is a wonderful neighbor. So eliminating one small rodent was just reciprocity.

With such mild winters, fishing is already well under way. It's been reported that a four pound plus largemouth was caught in Lake Lowell's opening tournament. The Snake is producing smallmouth in good numbers. At the time of this writing, I have no reliable reports on Kokanee fishing, but I'm sure they are starting to bite. Enjoy May! Take a mom fishing!

Southwest Idaho Birders' Association

by JC Clancy



Pied-Billed Grebe

to 6 feet when it takes flight. It's unlikely that the fishermen are aware of a different kind of family drama going on in the smart weed just a few feet away. A pair of Pied-Billed Grebes has built a nest and is incubating a half dozen eggs just inches above the choppy, chilly water.

These little brown birds are about a foot long with virtually no tail and a stocky body. Their most eye-catching feature is a stout, light-colored beak with a black ring around it. They are multi-talented divers, able to slowly sink into the water without a trace or to splash-dive at a speed that earns them the nickname of "hell-diver." Their voices rival the haunting

calls of loons and are sometimes compared to howler monkeys, a shocking sound to come from an inconspicuous little bird.

Just now, they are busy as beavers as one bird repeatedly dives to pick up some murky matter and use it to reinforce the nest. Meanwhile the other bird rises enough to readjust the circle of eggs so large that one still gleams white at the edge after the grebe settles back down on them.

The Pied-Billed Grebe is just one of several grebe species that nest on Lake Lowell. The black and white Western and Clark's Grebes are about twice the size and a lot more conspicuous as they carry on their courtship and nesting, and all contribute to the delight of spring birding.

SIBA offers 2 field trips in May to help birders make the most of the season. On Saturday, May 16, they'll gather at 7:30 a.m. at the Walter's Ferry parking lot, where Highway

45 crosses the Snake River, and head south to Bachman's Grade.

Gaining elevation into the Owyhee Mountains, they'll look for Black-throated Sparrow, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Green-tailed Towhee, along with other sparrows and Mountain Bluebirds. This will be a full day with some walking, so bring sun protection as well as plenty of water and lunch. Registration is required, by email to trip leader James Jarrett at SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com.

The next day, May 17, birders will meet at 8 a.m. and hike East Dike Road in South Nampa, starting at the parking lot at the south end of Tio Lane. About a mile and a half walk in 2 hours, this is a great trip for beginners. Between the marsh and the woods, there's potential for a great variety of birds

including wrens, warblers, water fowl and blackbirds. There's the outside chance of an owl or hummingbird. You might even see a Pied-Billed Grebe, or hear one howl. Bring plenty of water and your favorite bug spray as there often are mosquitoes. Registration is required by email to James Jarrett at SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com.

SIBA's next meeting at the refuge visitor center will be July 9 at 7 p.m. Meanwhile, the monthly email newsletter will help you keep in touch. If you're not getting it, check at Sibainfo1@gmail.com.

The Snake River Raptor Fest will be 12-5 p.m. on Saturday May 30, at the Indian Creek Winery in Kuna. SIBA will have a booth there. Check it out, or volunteer a couple hours to help with it!

A small fishing boat works its way into the shallows of Lake Lowell near the Lower Dam. The fishermen focus on a small circle of water where the boat pauses. Maybe the fishermen notice a Great Blue Heron fishing nearby. It's easy to notice a bird that stands 4-5 feet tall and spreads its wings

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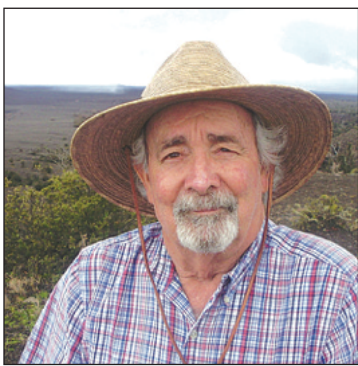
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Mom's Hot Rod

by Stan Soran



Dad was working on the cookhouse at the cabin and had run out of contact cement so a couple friends and I took a break from setting off firecrackers in the driveway, loaded the station wagon, and headed south for a fun overnigher at the cabin.

It was an uneventful trip to Jordan Valley where we were to meet my Uncle Bill at Corta's service station. While waiting, we thought we should liven things up by throwing firecrackers out the window of the car. This brought on our first encounter with Sheriff Castro who was most renowned for the speed trap at the north end of town. The timely intervention of Uncle Bill kept the sheriff from arresting us for disturbing the peace

and we got away with only a scowling lecture from Bill, Castro, and my mom. Though I didn't say it at that time, I later often told Mom at moments like this, "Well, you wanted kids!"

By this time, there was enough traffic going to and from the mine to warrant keeping the road in good shape and it was passable by most cars. We had even towed our camp trailer in without a problem. Somehow though, Mom drove over a good-sized rock and it dented the floor and tore a hole in the muffler. Always trying to be helpful, I told Dad that if he would pay for it, I would take care of getting it fixed so he didn't have to take time off work when we got back to town on Monday.

Here's where I need to describe Mom's car. It was the first new car she and Dad had ever owned and it was a dark blue 1966 Impala station wagon with a 396 V8 engine in it. I remember popping the hood on it and telling Dad, "I think it's a HEMI!"* With 325 horsepower, it moved pretty well

for a car weighing over two tons.

I once asked Dad if it would be OK to use it to go "watch" the races at Thunder Ridge since my car was broken, and to my surprise, he said yes. He never specifically said NOT to race it and he knew he was dealing with a speed-crazed teenage gearhead. If you think about it, I was only doing what was expected of me.

Without doing much more than throwing out a bunch of weight-like seats, tire and jack, it ran a high 15 second quarter mile and embarrassed a couple hot shoes in a GTO and a 442. Far from being surprised, Dad asked how it did in the quarter mile when we got home. He then sternly told me not to do it again.

Once at Willmorth's muffler shop Monday, I hatched my plan to make Mom's car a little quicker at the strip, should the opportunity arise to race it again. Along with the new muffler, I had Steve slice the pipes and install some flanges so the exhaust could be opened up for free-flowing engine music.



Fast forward about a year and brother Brian has his driver's license. Being a baseball player, he could hang it out a little further than me and get away with it, at least with Dad. One Saturday night, Brian was "Cruisin' the Curb" in Mom's car and decided to open the pipes for some beautiful noise. Unfortunately, Brian was less than responsible and didn't close up the exhaust after an evening of motorized hijinks.

On Sunday morning, everybody was dressed and loaded into the car ready to go to Mass. Dad hits the key and, "BAAAWHOOOMAAA!" Everybody in the car jumped off their seat. Brian looked at me. I looked at him. Dad

looked at me. I looked at him. Brian almost got the phrase, "Sounds pretty neat huh..." out of his mouth before Dad shot him a glance that said, "Shut Your Mouth!"

I guess since it was Sunday, he was more calm than he usually would be and just sort of muttered under his breath. We roared into St. Mary's parking lot sounding like a Super Stocker.

On Monday, Dad personally took the car to Willmorth's and had them weld the exhaust flanges together.

*Hemi: a highly efficient hemispherical combustion chamber with a spark plug at the top and the valves on opposite sides that gave even heavy cars fast pickup.

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- Others will grow government quietly.
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- I will stand firm for tax payers.
- I will trim the budget.
- I will NOT be coerced by PAC's or lobbyists.
- I will keep the County safe.

- **Growth** Must Pay For **Growth!**
- No More Subdivisions
- Defend Home Owners From Overreach
- Deliver On Congestion And Traffic Issues
- Cut Wasteful Spending At The County

Scott Brock is a local leader, business owner, and an Idaho native who will stand up for voters. Committed to keeping Canyon County great.

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