

Caldwell BRIDGING COMMUNITY & COMMERCE PERSPECTIVE

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Edition 142 | SEPTEMBER 2026

Mayor's State of the City p5

Voter's Guide (part 1) pgs 8-9

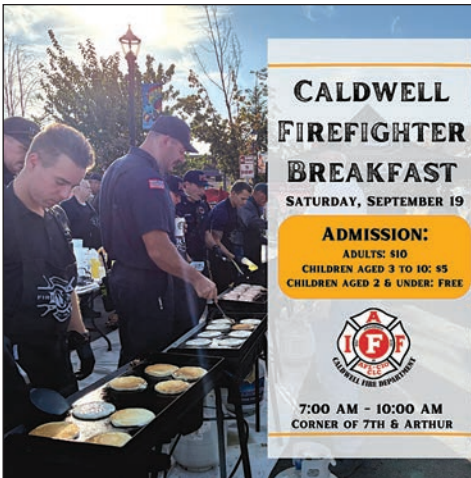
Night Market Scholarships p11

The Indian Creek Festival Continues Long-Time Traditions

Caldwell's Indian Creek Festival is back September 19 and 20 for its 23rd year with live music, a Virtual Reality Gaming experience, an electric vehicle show, a classic car show, a vintage motorcycle show, a vendor market, 4-H activities for the kids, and some great contests.

Chalk the Block is an art contest for ages 6 and up where artists create sidewalk chalk art. This year's theme is "Once Upon a Sidewalk." Prizes will be awarded for Child (6-9), Youth (10-13), Teen (14-18), and Adult (19+). Everyone can take part by voting for the People's Choice Award from 1pm-8pm on Saturday. To Register go to: caldwellfinearts.org/chalktheblock.

The Cardboard Kayak Race is a festival favorite. Contestants build their own kayaks out of nothing but cardboard, duct tape, and paint and brave the sometimes



turbulent waters of Indian Creek. Racers go in heats, and the winners move on until we have the prize winners - 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. There is also an award for most original design. The theme this year is "Once Upon a Time."

The Caldwell Fire Department will be part of the fun on Saturday as they host their pancake breakfast from 7-10am at the corner of 7th and Arthur. Kids 2 and under are free, kids aged 3-10 are \$5, and adults are \$10.

All proceeds benefit the Caldwell Firefighters Association's Burnout Fund, which provides assistance to families following a fire or major incident. The fund allows firefighters to help meet immediate needs as families begin putting their lives back together.

The Fire Department will also take part in the annual Tug-of-War (more below).

A Festival Event Older than the Indian Creek Festival Itself: The Tug-of-War

by Toni Ferro



A picture of the 1928 Caldwell tug-of-war between Dairymen and Businessmen taken from the book "Early Caldwell Through Photographs" by Ellaine C Leppert and Lorene B Thurston.



Part of the Indian Creek Festival's Tug-of-War competition in 2024.

The Indian Creek Festival's cardboard kayak race is fun to watch and is a great Caldwell tradition, but a different Festival event is an even older Caldwell tradition that also lands people in the Creek, the Tug-of-War.

The Tug-of-War is older than the Indian Creek Festival itself. The Festival started in 2003 to celebrate the daylighting of a section of Indian Creek, which had flowed under roads and sidewalks since the 50s. The Tug-of-War, however, goes back much further, back to 1928.

The 1928 Dairymen's Cooperative Annual Celebration was described by the *Statesman* as a celebration of "the third anniversary of the Dairymen's Cooperative Creamery of Boise Valley." The 1,900 members

of the cooperative and their families and friends (roughly 6000 people) attended. US Senator William Borah was the main speaker and Governor Baldrige and other State department heads were in attendance.

Most of the festivities took place in Memorial Park where families brought food for lunch and the Creamery provided "coffee and ice cream gratis."

Prior to the event, JR Brown, the manager of the Cooperative's creamery, challenged local businessmen to step up and compete with "a champion tug-of-war team" made up of dairymen. He wanted competitors that were willing to "take a chance on being pulled through Indian Creek."

The day did not turn out as Brown

expected and the *Statesman* reported that there was an amusing controversy over the outcome of the event.

"After 10 minutes' steady straining the businessmen drew their opponents into the creek and nearly across when the latter braced and began to retrieve ground. At this juncture willing hands aided the dairymen, and their opponents would have been baptized had they not let go of the rope."

Excuses were made that, "conditions for the contest were not equal," and "someone must have widened the stream just before the event," making the rope too short to go over the water and give the dairy-

men "ample space for their grips." And the dairymen were on a "slippery slope, while the businessmen had a grass sod to dig into." With the results in question, another tug of war was needed to settle the issue.

Fast forward to this year and we get to see the Caldwell Fire and Police Departments try to pull each other into the creek joined by other community teams.

This year's Tug of War will take place Saturday, September 19 at noon at Indian Creek. Due to the Kimball Bridge construction the event has been moved downstream from previous years, but it will go on as usual with some teams getting wet and others prevailing.



2 DAYS OF FUN!

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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 TUESDAYS FamilySearch Center: Free Family History Help 1-4 pm, 3015 S Kimball Local Author Signings at Shared Stories 5-7 pm, 106 S Kimball Farm to Fork Farmer's Market and Tuesdays on the Creek Concert Series at the Plaza 5-8 pm, 120 S Kimball, Free Community Dinner at Caldwell Church of Christ 6-7:30 pm, 4012 S 10th Senior Center Bingo 6-7:30 pm, 1009 Everett WEDNESDAYS FamilySearch Center: Free Family History Help 6-8pm, 3015 S Kimball THURSDAYS Coffee Klatch at the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial hall 8-11 am, 1101 Cleveland FamilySearch Center: Free Family History Help 1-4 pm, 3015 S Kimball Celebrate Recovery 6 pm, 17703 Beet Rd, Deer Flat Free Methodist Church FRIDAYS Magic the Gathering Commander Casual at Rubaiyat 5-9 pm, 314 S 6th	SATURDAYS Magic the Gathering Commander Casual at Rubaiyat 1-11 pm, 314 S 6th Caldwell Night Market 7-11 pm, 1116 E Albany Individual Events SATURDAY 9/5 Caldwell Airport's 50th Anniversary Party 10 am-7 pm, Vertical Venues 4916 E Linden Jefitos Car and Music Festival 11 am-4 pm, Memorial Park, 619 Irving St Live Music at Parma Ridge Winery, Rochelle and the James Gang 6-9 pm, 24509 Rudd Rd, Parma, \$10 cover SUNDAY 9/6 Sunday Sips & Sounds at Ste Chapelle Winery, Nikki Barrett 1-4 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd Speak Kindness Cards at Rubaiyat 1-3 pm, 314 S 6th MONDAY 9/7 Petals & Paws at Lovely Hollow Farm 9 am-3 pm, 18252 Chicken Dinner Rd TUESDAY 9/8 City Council Meeting 6:00-8:30 pm, 205 S 6th (Caldwell City Hall). Livestream: youtube.com/cityofcaldwell178/streams	WEDNESDAY 9/9 Weaver's Guild Study Group at Rubaiyat 11 am-2 pm, 314 S 6th Horror Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: The Buffalo Hunter Hunter by Stephen Graham Jones THURSDAY 9/10 Fox Paint & Sip at Williamson Orchards and Vineyards 5:30-8:30 pm, 14807 Sunnyslope Rd, \$25 FRIDAY 9/11 Huston Vineyards Fall Release Party Trivia Night 6-9 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd First Responders Night at CHS Football 7-10 pm, 3401 S Indiana SATURDAY 9/12 SIBA Field Trip to Lake Walcott/Minidoka NWR 6:30 am-2 pm, 6584 S Federal Way, Boise, Register at: SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com Caldwell FFA Fill the Boot Fundraiser at D&B Supply 8 am-3 pm, 620 Smeed Pkwy Clean up of Curtis Park, 9/11 Service & Remembrance 9am-noon, 14281 Channel Rd Down Syndrome Awareness and Fundraising Walk 10 am-2 pm, 120 S Kimball, \$25 for adults, \$18 for kids Middle Grade Book Club at Shared Stories noon-1 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: Olivetti by Allie Millington Huston Vineyards Fall Release Party noon-5 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd, Music: Lindzey Autumn The Gothic Market Caldwell/Boise noon-5 pm, Canyon County Fair Exhibit Hall A, 111 S 22nd Book of Shadows Witchy Meet-Up at Rubaiyat 1-2:30 pm, 314 S 6th Grace Lutheran Preschool 50th Anniversary Party 1-4 pm, 2700 S Kimball Saturday Spiritual Support Group 6-7pm, 211 Logan B1-1 Ste Chapelle End of Summer Concert 6-8:30 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd Paranormal Investigation at Indian Creek Museum 7pm-midnight, 1122 Main, \$20	SUNDAY 9/13 Culture in the Park - Texas Style 11 am-5 pm, Caldwell Memorial Park, 619 Irving The Gothic Market Caldwell/Boise noon-5 pm, Canyon County Fair Exhibit Hall A, 111 S 22nd MONDAY 9/14 Fantasy Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: Name of the Wind, by Patrick Rothfuss WEDNESDAY 9/16 Bilingual Historical Fiction Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: The Lilac People by Mila Tron Gardening Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: Seed Sowing and Saving by Carole Turner THURSDAY 9/17 Genealogy in the Digital Age Class Series 6:30-8:30 pm, 3015 S Kimball FRIDAY 9/18 Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 am-4 pm, 1010 Dearborn Dueling Pianos at the Indian Creek Steakhouse 7-11 pm, 711 Main, \$21 Autumn Equinox 7-8 pm, Whittenberger Planetarium, Boone Hall, Cofl, 2112 Cleveland, \$10 adults, \$5 ages 4-17 SATURDAY 9/19 Chalk the Block Art Contest 9 am-1 pm, 6th Ave Bridge, 6th & Arthur Friends of the Library Book Sale 10 am-4 pm, 1010 Dearborn Southwest Idaho Train Show 10 am-5 pm, O'Connor field House, 2207 Blaine Anime Idaho Convention 10 am-11 pm, The Center at Canyon County Fair, 110 S Georgia, \$25/day for adults, \$10/day for kids Dancer Auditions for the Nutcracker 11 am-3:30 pm, Caldwell High School, 3401 S Indiana, \$25 in advance, \$35 day of Speak Kindness Cards at Treasure Valley Artisans 11 am-5 pm, 718 Main Chicken Drop Bingo at Dunning Estates noon-6 pm, 19937 Vino Ln Huston Vineyards Sippin' in the Sunset 5-9 pm, 16473 Chicken Dinner Rd, Music: Rochelle and the James Gang	SATURDAY 9/19 (cont) Indian Creek Festival Day 1 6-9 pm, the Plaza, 120 S Kimball Observe the Moon Night 7-8 pm, Whittenberger Planetarium, Boone Hall, Cofl, 2112 Cleveland, \$10 adults, \$5 ages 4-17 SUNDAY 9/20 Indian Creek Festival Day 2 7 am-5 pm, the Plaza, 120 S Kimball Southwest Idaho Train Show 10 am-5 pm, O'Connor Field House, \$5/\$6 with card, under 12 free w/adult Anime Idaho Convention 10 am-11 pm, The Center at Canyon County Fair, 110 S Georgia, \$25/day for adults, \$10/day for kids MONDAY 9/21 City Council Meeting 6:00-8:30 pm, 205 S 6th (Caldwell City Hall). Livestream: youtube.com/cityofcaldwell178/streams Nonfiction Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball Book: When the Going Was Good by Graydon Carter WEDNESDAY 9/23 Classics Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen THURSDAY 9/24 Romance Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: The Favorites by Layne Fargo FRIDAY 9/25 Nampa Home & Lifestyle Expo noon-4 pm, The Center at Canyon County Fair, 110 S Georgia, Free ICA Finals Rodeo 5-10 pm, Caldwell Night Rodeo, 2301 Blaine, \$13-\$28 Winery After Hours at Ste Chapelle 6-9 pm, 19348 Lowell Rd, Free, music: Dale Best Combo, reservations suggested: bit.ly/4fTzIve Poetry Book Club at Shared Stories 7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: Bluff by Danez Smith SATURDAY 9/26 Nat'l Alpaca Farm Days at Yarnageddon 9 am-6 pm, 11901 River Rock Ln
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Fall Release Party
Fri Sept 11, Trivia Night 6-9 pm
Sat Sept 12, Lindzey Autumn 12-5 pm

Sippin' in the Sunset
Sat Sept 19, 5 pm
Rochelle & The James Gang

tickets and information at www.hustonvineyards.com

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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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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 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 Community Calendar continued

- SATURDAY 9/26 (cont.)**
Nampa Home & Lifestyle Expo
10 am-5 pm, The Center at Canyon County Fair, 110 S Georgia, Free
- Live Music at Dunning Estates
2:30-4:30 pm, 19937 Vino Ln
- La Sierra Truck Fest 2026
3-6 pm, Columbia Event Center, 3801 S Lake Ave
- ICA Finals Rodeo
5-10 pm, Caldwell Night Rodeo, 2301 Blaine, \$13-\$28
- Caldwell Mounted Police Gala at Indian Creek Steakhouse
5-10 pm, 711 Main St
- Brian Peck at the Chop Shop
7-9 pm, 716 Arthur
- SUNDAY 9/27**
Gold Star Family Memorial Dedication
11 am-1 pm, Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall, 1101 E Cleveland
- Nampa Home & Lifestyle Expo
11 am-4 pm, The Center at Canyon County Fair, 110 S Georgia, Free
- Silent Book Club at Bond and Bevel
5-7 pm, 107 S 7th, Chit-chat followed by reading
- MONDAY 9/28**
Sci-Fi Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: Dawn by Octavia Butler
- TUESDAY 9/29**
Mystery/Thriller Book Club at Shared Stories
7-9 pm, 106 S Kimball, Book: The Last to Drown by Noelle W. Ihli
- FRIDAY 10/2**
Brave Hearts Night at Indian Creek Steakhouse
6-11 pm, 711 Main
- SATURDAY 10/3**
Hay Day Harvest Festival
1-5 pm, the plaza, 120 S Kimball
- October edition of the *Perspective* arrives.

caldwellperspective.com/community-calendar

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

Open Sundays 2-5pm Starting 9/13

Closed Labor Day, Monday Sept 7

The Friends of the Library Book Sale is Friday, Sept 18 and Saturday, Sept 19.

MONDAYS
Baby Story Time: Sept 14, 21, 28 and Oct 5 at 10 am, 10:45 am, 11:30 am | Ages 0-2
Youth Chess Club: Sept 14, 4-5 pm | Ages 6-17
Knitting & Crochet Social: Sept 14, 21, 28 and Oct 4, 1:30-3 pm | Ages 18+
Teen Book Club: Sept 21, 5:30-6:30 pm | Ages 13-17, *Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
Little Page Turners Book Club: Sept 28, 6-7 pm | Ages 6-8

TUESDAYS
Spanish & English Storytime: Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 and Oct 5 at 10:30 am | Ages 2-6
Lego Club: Monochromatic Makerspace, Sept 8, 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 7-16
Powerful Tools for Caregivers: Sept 8, 15, 22, 29 and Oct 5, 12:30 pm | Ages 18+
Paws to Read: Read to a dog, Sept 15, 5-6 pm | Ages 7-14, Children's Area.
Master Gardeners: Sept 22, 6 pm | Ages 18+, Worm Bin
Seasonal Crafts: Sept 29, 6:30 pm | Ages 18+, Fall Wreaths
Mobile Health Clinic at the Library: Sept 1: Call 208-367-4483 for appointment.

WEDNESDAYS
Tech Lab: Sept 9, 10 am-Noon | Ages 18+
Music and Movement: Sept 9, 16, 23, and 30, 10:30-11:30 am | Ages 2-6
Afterschool Fun: Sept 9, It's Salsa Time with Jr. Master Gardeners; Sept 16, Bubble Dough Sensor Play; Sept 23, Beaded Fruit Charms & DIY Kawaii Squishes; Sept 30, Sunflower Blooms & Fall Bath Balms; 3:30-4:30 pm | Ages 5-12
Pajama Storytime: Sept 9, 16, 23 and 30 | Ages 5-12
Caldwell Public Library at the Senior Center: Sept 16, 11 am | Senior Center, 1009 Everett

THURSDAYS
K-Readiness Book Club: Sept 10, 17, 24 and Oct 1, 10:30-11 am | Ages 3-5
Teen Thursday: Sept 10, Make a Mini Museum; Sept 17, Polaroid Photo Frames; Sept 24, Build and Play a Mini Golf Course; 4:30-5:30 pm | Ages 13-17
Thursday Book Club: Sept 10, 2 pm or Sept 17, 6:30 pm | Ages 18+, *Idaho room, The Day the World Came to Town* by Jim Defede
Farmway Afterschool Program: Sept 10, 4:30-6:30 pm | All Ages, Community Room, 22730 Farmway Rd
Bookworm Buddies for Parents and Caregivers: Sept 24, 1-2:30 pm or 7-8:30 pm | All Ages

FRIDAYS
Tai Chi & Qigong: Sept 11, 18, 25, and Oct 2 at 10 am | Ages 18+
Yoga for Wellbeing: Sept 11 and 25, 1 pm | Ages 18+
Young Knitters Club: Sept 11, 18, 25, 4 pm | Ages 8-14, Idaho Room
Adult Lego Club: Sept 11, 4:30 pm | Ages 16+
Friends Book Sale: Sept 18, 10 am-4 pm | All ages
Ping Pong Club: Sept 25, 3-5 pm | All ages

SATURDAYS
Family Art Together, Sept 5, Hobbiton Art Adventure; Oct 3, TBA; 2-3 pm | All ages
Yoga Storytime: Sept 12, 11 am | Ages 6-12
Friends Book Sale: Sept 19, 10 am-4 pm | All ages
Storytime around the World – Columbia: Sept 26, 2-3 pm | All Ages

SUNDAYS
Open 2-5 pm, Starting Sept 13

Dancers at the Caldwell Night Market

Isabel Carillo, center, and dancers from the Oyamel dance group entertain the attendees of the Caldwell Night Market. Oyamel is a Nampa-based group that has been performing all over the Treasure Valley since 2012.

Caldwell Centennial Band Thanks YOU!

by Leora Summers

up in all kinds of weather, through uncertain heat and smoky times. We loved playing for you and thank you for showing up and bringing your friends! That made it all worthwhile. We take a break during the month of September and begin rehearsing for a new season come October.

Our next concert will be our Christmas concert which helps fund our band, so if you enjoyed our free summer concerts, watch for our Christmas concert date (which will be held in Caldwell High School's Auditorium) in a future *Caldwell Perspective* and check our Facebook page. We hope to see you there and thank you again!

Our Caldwell Centennial Band thanks YOU, our audience and Caldwell's Parks and Rec staff and their employees who helped make our concerts such a huge success.

YOU, our faithful audience showed

Be Part of the Magic!
Audition for Ballet Idaho's "The Nutcracker: In a Nutshell"



Ballet Idaho, in partnership with Caldwell Fine Arts, will hold auditions Saturday, September 19, for more than 50 local children to join Ballet Idaho's "The Nutcracker: In a Nutshell", returning to Caldwell for its fourth year. Auditions will be held from 10 am to 3:15 pm at Caldwell High School. Children ages 6 and older are invited to audition, with roles available for various experience levels. Younger dancers and those new to ballet are encouraged to participate. Some roles for older dancers require more experience. The audition is designed to be a welcoming opportunity without the pressure of a highly competitive audition. For generations, being part of The Nutcracker has been a treasured holiday tradition. Young dancers become part of the story as mischievous mice, graceful angels, festive party guests and more. Most importantly, they have the rare opportunity to join a professional production and share the stage with Ballet Idaho dancers. The experience goes beyond learning choreography. Young dancers make friends, work together and experience the excitement of performing in a professional production, creating memories that last long after the final curtain.

"The Nutcracker has always been more than a ballet," says Kim Hasenoehrl, Executive Director of Caldwell Fine Arts. "It's a chance for young dancers to be part of something bigger than themselves. They get to work with professional dancers, make friendships and bring a beloved holiday story to life. Years later, they may not remember every step, but they'll remember the people they met, the excitement backstage and the feeling of being part of something special!" A \$25 non-refundable audition fee is required

to register. Dancers who are cast will pay an additional \$50 participation fee, which covers costumes and rehearsals. Same-day registration is \$35. If fees or other requirements are a concern, families are encouraged to contact the audition team. Dancers should arrive 15 minutes before their audition time. All rehearsals, fittings and performances are mandatory. Rehearsals will be held at Idaho Dance Academy in Star and Ballet Idaho Academy in Boise. Performances are November 27-28, 2026, at Jewett Auditorium in Caldwell. For more information, please email nutcrackerauditioninfo@gmail.com or call 208.724.6602. Visit caldwellfinearts.org for registration, a FAQ, and other details.

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"The Let Them Theory"

by Mel and Sawyer Robbins

Review by Leora Summers

My siblings and husband were raving about this book, so I decided I better give it a read. Maybe they wanted me to read it to help keep me from trying to "help them." LOL!

This book will let you "let them" take charge of their own decisions and consequences. They are not your decisions to make or consequences to experience. Once you let others say, think and

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
A Life-Changing Tool That Millions of People Can't Stop Talking About

THE LET THEM THEORY

Mel Robbins and Sawyer Robbins

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do what they want, you free yourself and your energy on you, to let yourself focus on "let me" and your own reactions. You will be less stressed and more focused on things that really matter to you. Of course you can guide as it is your job as a parent, but be sure that you are not trying to control someone about something that really doesn't matter in the long run. Let them learn from life, but maybe help them when possibly making a critical mistake. Mel gives the example of when she tried to make her son do what she would have done to prepare for going to her high school prom, like ordering a boutonniere for his date, organizing where to go for dinner and what to and what not to wear to the prom. He already knew what he and his date and group wanted to do, but she kept pushing and pushing while her daughter kept yelling at her, "Let them do what they want! Let them!" over and over. Finally Mel relinquished and let them after she brought the boutonniere that she had bought over and handed it to his date, only to find his date had made one of her own that she wanted to wear, so his date put the other one on her other wrist. Oops! That began Mel's release of trying to control everything. "Let Them!" What a novel idea and from this experience, sprung her book. This book delves into letting people think what they think of you. You can't control that. It talks about being a people pleaser and desiring to not disappoint others at your own expense. It delves into many areas of other life situations and is great food for thought.

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

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

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

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Caldwell Mayor’s Annual State of the City Address

by Toni Ferro



Mayor Phillips awarding Silas Dulebohn the Mayor’s Community Youth Service Award.

Mayor Phillips awarding Kelli Jenkins the Mayor’s Community Hero Award.

Mayor Phillips gave his first State of the City Address on August 6 at Vallivue High School, his alma mater.

He opened by noting that his first 8 months in office had been eventful ones, “with replacing bridges..., school zones, construction zones, flood zones, flock cameras, quiet zones, budget season, fourth of July, the County Fair, and the Rodeo coming up in just over a week, and much more.”

He acknowledged that he’s faced criticism, which he said was to be expected, and that if he could sum up this year in a phrase it would be that “Caldwell continues, ... resilience isn’t measured by how little adversity we face, it’s measured by how faithfully we keep showing up.”

The City’s challenges have included “public safety, technology, train horns, infrastructure, and of course, growth.” And “reasonable people don’t always reach the same conclusions” about the best way to address these challenges “but that’s ok ... in the end we’re still neighbors, we’re still Caldwell.”

He highlighted two big City efforts. First, the work the City did to make it safer for kids to get to school after

three students were struck by cars in Caldwell school zones and second, working through the natural disaster caused by severe storms starting June 26.

The Mayor said at the schools they improved “everything from crosswalks, traffic flow, parking areas, signage, and enforcement.”

For the response to the storms, he credited the work of the Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments working with Canyon County Emergency Operations.

He then acknowledged that Caldwell’s growth is difficult for many, but that “we’re preparing for the generations who will call this city home long after we’re gone.” He noted that Caldwell is the 4th largest city in Idaho at 80,000 people and that our median household income is 68-73k annually, but not everybody has “reached that income level yet.” And so the City is improving commercial corridors and bringing more jobs to Caldwell, which will provide work for people while also relieving some of our traffic problems.

During the speech, he recognized the 24 years Mayor Nancolas served and noted

that he hoped to achieve even a fraction of what he did.

The Parks and Recreation, Streets, Electrical, Library, Airport, Fire, and Police Departments were then highlighted for their exemplary work this year.

Finally, the Mayor gave out the Community Youth Service Award and the Community Hero Award. The Community Youth Service Award went to 14-year-old Silas Dulebohn for his “remarkable composure and maturity, and his quick thinking and decisive actions” that may have saved his mother’s life when he called 911 during an emergency. And the Community Hero Award was given to Kelli Jenkins, because of her many years of service to Caldwell and “whether she’s serving through her church, collaborating with community partners, or quietly working behind the scenes, she leads with kindness, humility, and an unwavering commitment to others.”

You can see highlights of the Mayor’s Annual State of the City Address or watch the whole thing at the City’s website: cityofcaldwell.org/Government/Mayor/State-of-the-City-Address.

The City Introduces New "Caldwell Council Catch-up"



City of Caldwell Public Information Officer Providing Citizens the first "Caldwell Council Catch-up"

The "Caldwell Council Catch-up" is a new way for those short on time to catch up on City Council meetings. Jessica Watts, new Public Information Officer for the City, narrates the overview. The first one is about 2 and a half minutes long and covers a lot of ground.

Watts discusses five major happenings from the Caldwell City Council’s

August 17 meeting. A new 50-year lease with the Caldwell Night Rodeo was announced. Some service fees like library services and recreation classes were increased, as well as increased impact fees for developers. A new bucket truck was approved for delivery in 2027. Three areas, including Sisters and Mallard parks, were annexed into the Caldwell irrigation district. And finally, vendor and payroll funds were authorized.

See Watts’ full overview on the City of Caldwell Facebook page (facebook.com/reel/1046990041413175) the full minutes of the August 17 Council meeting at caldwellid.portal.civicclerk.com, and the full video of the meeting at youtube.com/@cityofcaldwell178/streams.

Road Construction Update

During September the City of Caldwell will be working on five projects and the Idaho Transportation Department on three in the area.

The new Kimball Bridge will soon be placed over Indian Creek. Meanwhile, Kimball will stay closed between Arthur and Blaine. The opening, once scheduled for mid-September, has been pushed back.

Lake Ave between Cleveland and Ustick will be closed until Sept 24 as utility lines for a new development are installed.

Lake Ave will also be closed between Homedale Rd and Karcher (Hwy 55) for installation of new utility lines.

Homedale Rd between Montana and 10th will close

Sept 22. Work nearby on 10th will start in October.

Fifth Ave between Arthur and Albany will be closed overnight Sept 9-11 for maintenance.

The Idaho Transportation Department will be working on Highway 55 between Farmway and Middleton until 2028.

Work widening I-84 between Centennial Way and Franklin Rd will continue into 2027. Expect nighttime closures or lane restrictions. The on-ramp at Centennial Way is open; the westbound ramp at 10th is not. Traffic on Hannibal and Frontage Rd is one-way.

An accident damaged the bridge over I-84 at the Notus exit badly enough that it is closed. Replacement plans haven’t been announced yet.

ALERT! Caldwell Senior Center Needs Community Support!

by Edd Kohart and Debbie Lenington, Board Members



A steady crowd on any given day at Caldwell’s Senior Center.

When the Homedale Senior Center shut its doors for months, the chairs didn’t stay empty-the need simply moved down the road.

Every week, the Caldwell Senior Center is welcoming a steady influx of seniors traveling from Nampa, Homedale, and across Canyon County. Daily lunch turnouts have skyrocketed from a steady average of 60 seniors to upwards of 100 on peak days. But while the center celebrates a growing family and new friendships, its balance sheet is feeling a critical, dangerous strain.

The crisis mirrors a worrying regional trend, following recent reports of a Twin Falls senior center fighting to survive. As the doubling

costs of groceries, gas, and packaging squeeze operations, local centers are facing a perfect storm of inflation and systemic delays. Following the 2026 Federal government shutdown, Area 3 grant reimbursements fell three to four months behind. While those funds are finally beginning to trickle in, they fail to cover the full scope of keeping the lights on.

The mathematical reality is razor-thin. It costs approximately \$9.50 to prepare and

serve a single meal. The suggested donation from seniors aged 60 and older is \$5.00, and the Area 3 reimbursement provides the remaining \$4.50. This creates a break-even scenario that covers the food alone, leaving absolutely zero funding to pay for the staff wages and utilities required to run the building.

Last year, the center served a staggering 15,350 meals to Canyon County seniors-a 5% increase from the prior year. Projections for 2026 are tracking significantly higher. Without an immediate influx

of community support, the Caldwell Senior Center may be forced to consider drastic operational cuts, mimicking the failures of neighboring communities.

Since its founding in 1976, the center has been a vital lifeline for Caldwell. It serves as far more than a dining hall; it is a safe, non-discriminatory hub where local seniors combat isolation through socialization, exercise classes, Bingo, and karaoke. It is a place where staff and volunteers act

as family-even performing critical wellness checks when a regular face fails to show up for lunch.

With traditional fundraisers falling short, the center is issuing an urgent call to action to the Treasure Valley community.

To donate, volunteer, or offer grant-writing assistance, please email: caldwellseniors@yahoo.com, or call (208) 459-0132, or visit the center directly at 1009 Everett in Caldwell.

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Caldwell FFA Students Aim for Nationals with Community Support and New Nonprofit

by Valene Ingle

The future leaders of Caldwell’s agricultural community are reaching new heights, thanks to the hard work of the Caldwell FFA chapter and the dedicated parents and alumni backing them every step of the way.

Caldwell FFA, based at Caldwell High School, is a vibrant group of 21 students led by an officer team that represents the best of the school’s diverse student body. The officer team is headed by President Annalei Segura, with Vice President Nayla Romero, Secretary Eli Ingle, Reporter Gracie Moreno, Treasurer Katherine Flowers, and Sentinel Kimberly Martinez working together to guide their peers. These students are on a mission to build leadership and public speaking skills while gaining valuable knowledge in plant and animal sciences.

At the heart of Caldwell FFA’s recent success is agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, Justin Ruhl. For the past eight years, Mr. Ruhl has devoted himself to helping students access grants, attend leadership conferences, and explore industry opportunities—experiences that open doors but often come with a hefty price tag.

Recognizing the need for additional support, Mr. Ruhl rallied parents to form the Caldwell FFA Alumni and Supporters, a nonprofit organization launched in 2024. Now a 501(c)(3), the group fundraises year-round to ensure finances are never a barrier to the FFA students’ growth



L to R: Nayla Romero (Vice President), Kimberly Martinez (Sentinel), Annalei Segura (President), Katherine Flowers (Treasurer), Gracie Moreno (Reporter) and Eli Ingle (Secretary)

and dreams. “We’re here to reduce the financial impact on parents and open these opportunities to every young person in the program,” said Valene Ingle, President of the Alumni and Supporters group. Other elected officials include Treasurer Michael Cluff and Secretary Erika Christensen.

Currently, their sights are set on sending the Caldwell FFA chapter to the National FFA Convention & Expo in Indianapolis this October—a trip that will require about \$15,000 in funding.

To help reach that goal, the group is hosting a “Fill the Boot” fundraiser on September 12th, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Caldwell D&B (620 Smeed Pkwy). All community members are encouraged to stop by, learn more about the pro-

gram, and make a donation—every dollar brings Caldwell’s young leaders closer to the national stage.

“We welcome parents and community members to get involved in any way they can,” encourages Ingle. “Supporting Caldwell FFA means investing in our kids’ futures.”

For those unable to attend but wishing to help, donations and inquiries can be sent to caldwellffaalum@gmail.com.

Together, the Caldwell FFA and their dedicated supporters are sowing seeds for tomorrow’s agricultural leaders—one fundraiser, one opportunity, and one bright future at a time.

Grow Idaho and Others Provide Students a Hands-On Ag Learning Experience

by Toni Ferro



Jefferson Middle School students looking at popcorn seeds and learning about the seed industry in the Treasure Valley.

Grow Idaho, a non-profit focused on farmland protection and agricultural education in the Treasure Valley,

hosted nearly 200 5th and 6th graders from Jefferson Middle School at a nursery to learn about local agriculture.

Many of the students had never been on a farm before and so were able to have a new experience as well as learn a lot.

Representatives of Grow Idaho, Ada County Soil and Water District, Amalgamated Sugar, Crookham Company, Idaho Mint Growers Association, and Land Trust of the Treasure Valley all spoke to the students about different agriculture topics using interactive demonstrations and hands on activities.

The students were asked to think about land use. For example, is it a good idea to put a large store in the middle of farmland? Or put a factory in the middle of a residential neighborhood? Why or why not? Then they got a chance to move model buildings

around to represent the type of zoning they think would work best.

Students also learned about where our drinking water comes from (aquifers) and what types of land uses are best for our aquifers. They saw a demonstration of water pouring through different types of land (bare soil, grass, planted soil, roof tops) and see which sent more water to the aquifers and which sent more to the creeks and rivers.

Students also got to smash up their own mint leaves and learn how their toothpaste gets its flavor; taste a slice of sugar beet and learn about how their sugar is made; turn apples through a cider press and drink the fresh juice; open up a bean seed to see the different parts of the seed;

and more. All in all it was an engaging day for the students and teachers.

Idaho’s growing pains over the last decade have had rippling effects into the state’s agricultural industry. And Canyon County is feeling the generational disconnect in farming families that’s present all over the country, so the learning event was especially relevant and valuable for Caldwell students.

Kristi Crookham, President and Founder of Grow Idaho said, “We hope they left knowing a little more about where their food comes from and who is responsible for making it.”

Grow Idaho is a Caldwell-based 501(c)3 non-profit. Learn more about them at growidaho.org.



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School Has Started, Take Care



Pedestrian-activated signal near Caldwell High School.

Pedestrian-activated beacons at Caldwell High School.

As children return to school, the City of Caldwell and the Caldwell Police Department (CPD) are pointing out the additional steps they’ve taken to help keep students, families, pedestrians, and drivers safe on their way to and from school.

Throughout the summer, the City worked to improve pedestrian safety by repainting crosswalks, increasing lighting in select areas, and installing additional pedestrian safety devices throughout Caldwell.

One of the most significant improvements is a new signal at Fair Oaks Drive and Indiana in front of

Caldwell High. The signal is pedestrian-activated and alerts drivers when someone is crossing.

The City also added rectangular flashing beacons at locations across Caldwell. These pedestrian-activated devices use rapidly flashing yellow lights to alert drivers to pedestrians crossing the roadway.

The City will continue reviewing pedestrian crossings and identifying additional safety improvements as needed.

In addition, for the first two weeks of school, the CPD will conduct targeted, high-visibility traffic en-

forcement around school-zone crosswalks.

A Reminder to Drivers

Getting students safely to and from school is everyone’s responsibility.

Drivers are encouraged to:

- Slow down and obey posted school-zone speed limits.
- Stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks and follow all pedestrian signals.
- Stop for school buses when their red warning lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended.
- Watch carefully for children who may be crossing or walking near the roadway.
- Put down distractions and keep your eyes on the road.
- Follow the directions of crossing guards and school staff.

As the school year begins, drivers should expect increased pedestrian, bicycle, bus, and vehicle traffic around schools and plan for additional travel time. The City and the CPD wish all students, families, teachers, and staff a safe and successful start to the 2026-2027 school year.

The College of Idaho's Doug Brigham Announces Retirement



Doug Brigham, College of Idaho's Chief Executive Officer, announced his plan to retire effective December 2026.

Doug's relationship with The College of Idaho is not simply professional — it is personal, lifelong, and deeply rooted. A proud alumnus, Doug met his wife, Beth '86, while attending the College and has devoted decades of service to the institution he loves.

He served 8 years on the Board of Trustees, including as Chair of the Board. In 2018, he and Jim Everett stepped in as Co-Presidents, providing steady leadership during a transformative period for the College.

Following Jim's retirement in 2025, Doug continued in a leadership capacity as Chief Executive Officer as part of a planned succession strategy

that elevated Dr. David Douglass to President.

Throughout his service, Doug has led with vision, humility, and an unwavering commitment to ensuring The College of Idaho remains a place where students can discover their potential and pursue lives of purpose.

"I feel so lucky to have had a chance to work at my alma mater, a place I consider to be second to none in terms of transforming students into leaders in every walk of life. To be able to work side-by-side with Jim Everett and more recently David Douglass has been amazing, and I feel confident that I'm leaving the College in great hands," said Brigham.

"Doug brought exactly the right set of leadership skills that The College of Idaho needed—discernment, decisiveness, and the courage to act. He is an out-of-the-box thinker, which is exceedingly rare in academic leadership," said Douglass.

Dr. David Douglass became the College's 16th president in June 2025. A longtime member of the College's leadership team, he previously served as executive vice president, provost, vice president for academic affairs, and dean. Dr. Douglass is widely recognized for his collaborative leadership, commitment to student success, and dedication to advancing the College's mission. He will continue to lead the institution following Doug's retirement.

The College of Idaho: Graduate Education in Our Own Backyard

by Matthew McDaniel, PhD
Director of the Master of Education Program at The College of Idaho



On your drive down Cleveland Boulevard, have you ever found yourself saying, "Wait...which college is that again?" The College of Idaho? The College of Western Idaho? The College of Southern Idaho? Some other college in Idaho?

The confusion is understandable. But how much do you really know about The College of Idaho, one of Idaho's oldest and most respected institutions of higher education, located right here in Caldwell?

For many longtime residents, The College of Idaho is known for its outstanding undergraduate academic programs, winning athletics tradition, and history of producing successful graduates, including eight Rhodes Scholars, 18 Truman, Fulbright and Goldwater Scholars, a Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, an Academy Award-winning composer, three governors, four NFL players, two Major League Baseball players, an NBA Hall of Fame player, and countless business leaders and innovators. It is also heralded as a top choice for first-generation students, economically disadvantaged students, and students from rural communities as it consistently ranks among the nation's top institutions for social mobility. Fewer people realize though that this hometown institution is also helping meet regional workforce needs through a growing portfolio of graduate degree programs designed to help catapult students straight to the top of their fields.

Among these graduate programs are master's degrees in Public Policy, Educational Leadership, Organizational Leadership, Exercise Science, Accountancy, Data Analytics, and Physician Assistant Studies, as well as a Doctor of Medical Science program for practicing physician assistants. Courses are structured to allow educators, healthcare professionals, government employees, nonprofit and business leaders, and other working adults to continue advancing their careers without putting their lives on hold.

The College of Idaho has also expanded opportunities for students

through innovative dual-degree pathways where students earn both a bachelor's and a master's degree in just four years and a summer through its 3+1 programs. These graduate degree programs emphasize practical application, small class sizes, and close interaction with faculty members who bring both academic expertise and real-world experience to the classroom.

In short, a student's investment at The College of Idaho is one that pays off for a lifetime. The College of Idaho delivers the kind of personal, high-impact education that leads to real-world results. And while the College's outcomes rival the best, its programs are affordable. The College's graduate tuition is below the national average for similar programs, and its undergraduate program was ranked #8 in Best Value in 2026 by U.S. News & World Report, a ranking that takes into account a college's academic quality and its cost of attendance.

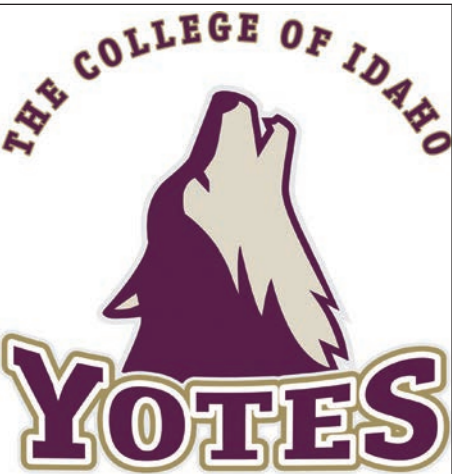
Beyond its reputation for academic excellence and exceptional value, perhaps the greatest advantage of The College of Idaho is proximity. World-class graduate education doesn't always require relocating, commuting long distances, or enrolling in a massive university system. For many Idahoans, an advanced degree is available just minutes from home.

In an era when communities are searching for ways to develop local talent and strengthen their workforce, having graduate education opportunities in our own backyard is an underrated community asset.

The next time someone asks "Which college is that again?", you might have a new answer. The College of Idaho is the one in Caldwell. It's one of the state's oldest higher education institutions. And it's helping today's professionals build the skills, credentials, and leadership capacity Idaho needs for the future.

Learn more about The College of Idaho and its graduate degree programs by visiting collegeofidaho.edu/academics/graduate/.

GO YOTES! College of Idaho Football



Oh Fun! It's that time of year again as the C of I plays football starts up! So here is the schedule for September. If you are looking for something fun to do, catch a game or two! You will see lots of your friends at the games. Go support your local college team. GO YOTES!

9/05: 12:00 pm vs Rocky Mountain College (MT) @ Simplot Stadium

9/19: 1:00 pm vs Montana State University-Northern at Havre, MT

9/26: 12:00 pm vs Montana Tech (WHITE OUT) at Simplot Stadium

10/03: 12:00 pm vs Simpson University (CA) (Purple & White/Homecoming) at Simplot Stadium

Cougars Soccer and Football



SOCCER

Caldwell High School (CHS) kicked off their soccer season in August looking to defend their title as state champions, though they have been bumped from 6A to 5A this year. After graduating some key players from last year's squad, Caldwell faces a tough start to the season playing three straight road games.

In the season opener, the Cougars were defeated 2-0 while playing against a tough Bishop Kelly team in non-league play. Caldwell then defeated Nampa 1-0 and tied Vallivue 2-2. Caldwell will finally play their first home game of the season by hosting the Columbia Wildcats September 10 at 6 pm.

Home soccer games are played at Brothers Park, 4099 S Indiana, adjacent to CHS (3401 S Indiana).

The rest of the Cougar's September soccer slate includes:

9/10: 6 pm, vs Columbia @ Brothers Park, Caldwell

9/12: 11:30 pm vs Middleton @ Middleton

9/15: 6 pm vs Capital @ Capital

9/16: 7 pm vs Nampa @ Brothers Park, Caldwell

9/17: 6 pm vs Vallivue @ Brothers Park, Caldwell

9/29: 6 pm vs Columbia @ Columbia

FOOTBALL

The Caldwell Cougars football team opened their '26-'27 season on Friday, August 28 against the Mountain Home Tigers.

Home games are played at the CHS Football Field at 3401 S Indiana.

The Cougars' early-season schedule features the following matchups:

9/04: 7 pm vs New Plymouth Pilgrims @ New Plymouth

9/11: 7 pm vs McCall-Donnelly Vandals @ CHS Football Field

9/18: 7 pm vs Jerome @ CHS Football Field

9/25: 7 pm vs Marsing @ Marsing

NOTICE:
Vallivue School Board has an Opening for a Trustee in Zone 4

Zone 4
Hwy 20-26

The Vallivue School Board needs to fill a Trustee vacancy in School Board Zone 4. The Board will be accepting letters of interest and resumes until October 8th. Contact Dalelyn Allen or Jenny Titus, at 208-454-0445 or dalelyn.allen@vallivue.org or jenny.titus@vallivue.org with questions.

What's in the Voter's Guide

There is a lot that we get to vote on this year, but don't feel overwhelmed, the *Perspective* has you covered with our handy voter's guide. This year we are dividing the voter's guide into two parts.

This month we are including the County, Federal, and State races and next month we will include the Legislative races, ballot measures, initiatives, and levies and bonds.

The information printed here is also available on our website (with hyperlinks!) at caldwellperspective.com/elections.

County Races

This page covers the contested County races (uncontested races are not included). We reached out to the two candidates running for County Commissioner District 1 and the two candidates running for County Commissioner District 2 with a questionnaire. Both of the candidates for District 1 responded, and neither of the candidates for District 2 responded (even after some nudging).

Here are the unedited answers we recieved from the District 1 candidates, and basic information about the District 2 candidates.

Federal and State Races

The following page covers the Federal and State races (all are contested). We read through the websites of each of the Federal and State Candidates and developed a two-sentence summary of what they support and oppose. We emailed each of them the information we put together and asked them to respond with any changes. We heard back from some of them, and made the updates they requested.

We used a random number generator to determine the order of each list of candidates.

We know that two sentences is not enough to express nuanced positions and ideas that have been refined over time, but we wanted to give you a preview of the candidates that will be on your ballot to help you make informed decisions on election day.

We encourage you to take the time to visit the candidates' websites and social media pages, and to reach out to them to learn more.

Canyon County Commissioner District 2

Brad Holton, Republican Party
bradholtontccc.com, fb: Brad Holton Canyon County Commissioner District 2.
Did not respond to our questionnaire.

Brian Stroops, Democratic Party
No information available.
Did not respond to our questionnaire.

Voting in Canyon County

Everything you need to know about voting can be found at the Secretary of State's voter website.



voteidaho.gov

VOTE IDAHO

- Register to vote online
- Sign up to vote by mail (absentee)
- Find out your voter registration status
- Find out your congressional and legislative districts
- Find out where and when to vote early
- Find your election day polling place
- Review a sample ballot (not yet available at press time)
- Find out what you need to take with you to register to vote
- See all dates and deadlines

County Candidates for November 3, 2026

Canyon County Commissioner District 1



Jeffrey A. Skinner, Independent
Skinner4Idaho.com, fb: Jeff Skinner for Canyon County Commissioner, District 1
Why are you running for County Commissioner?

Canyon County is at a crossroads. We are the fastest-growing county in Idaho, yet our public safety infrastructure is falling behind after years of deferred maintenance. We face critical budget challenges after years of spending that outpaced sustainable revenue. We must commit to responsible growth, protecting prime agricultural land, water resources, and the rural character our residents deeply value. That is why I am running, as your neighbor, an Independent with years of experience in solving complex problems under pressure. I am committed to providing leadership that prioritizes people and good policy. Generational planning is not optional. It is a moral obligation, and will be a defining priority of my term as your next commissioner.

What qualifies you to be a County Commissioner?

I have a unique combination of academic expertise and real-world experience. My academic background includes a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Boise State University, where I researched Idaho municipal budgets and government efficiency. I've spent thirteen years serving in the Air National Guard, working in cybersecurity and as a military chaplain, supporting complex, high-stakes, multi-million-dollar operations at the executive level. My service has included deployments from the Pacific to the Middle East, but Canyon County has always been home. For years I've also served our neighbors as a hospice chaplain, walking alongside families during some of life's most difficult moments. I know how to listen, and I know how to lead.

What is the biggest issue Canyon County is facing today and what solution would you support?

The most expensive thing our county has ever done is to fail to secure funds for a new county jail. I am the only candidate willing to have honest conversations with voters about what it's costing us. Over 700 inmates, many with felony level offenses, are out on pre-trial release due to capacity issues in our aging county jail. Short-term fixes only compound the overall cost. Inevitably, we will pay a price, through the cost of a human tragedy, litigation, or with a federal court ruling mandating property tax increases, the terms, timeline, and price tag of a solution we didn't choose. Or, we self-govern. As your commissioner, I will bring serious solutions before the voters, securing adequate funding to build and operate a new county jail.

What are two other issues that are important to you?

I am dedicated to preserving the character of Canyon County, by protecting our prime Ag land and our water resources. This means working with citizens and community stakeholders to update our Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Maps. When new development threatens our valuable, irrigated Ag land, I will ensure residents are heard, and our quality of life is preserved. Going forward, new development must be in reasonable proximity to existing infrastructure and services. As your commissioner, I will work to create a water resources task force to protect and preserve water resources for existing residents and the next generation. Our Ag land and water resources are the backbone of Canyon County's heritage, economy, identity, and future.



Stewart Hyndman, Republican Party
hyndmanforcommissioner.com, fb: Stewart Hyndman for Canyon County Commissioner
Why are you running for County Commissioner?

I'm running because I want to serve the residents of this county and be their advocate. The current board has done many positive things: one being they ended last fiscal year with a net positive in the budget, spending less than they budgeted. I'm running to protect that discipline, build on it, and to make changes where we need to. Our county is one of the fastest-growing in Idaho, and the decisions we make today will shape the quality of life for decades to come. Residents need a commissioner who will get ahead of growth, not react to it after the fact. That's the only way to preserve our agricultural roots and create opportunities for our youth to stay in Canyon County.

What qualifies you to be a County Commissioner?

My background spans three areas critical to county government: agriculture, government service, and small business. I started in the livestock industry, worked as an extension agent and associate professor at the University of Idaho in Challis, and managed Warm Springs Ranch — Idaho's third-largest cow/calf operation. As Idaho's State Marketing Director, I negotiated trade deals across three continents and served on the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's Special Committee on Agricultural Export. For nearly two decades I owned a Farmers Insurance agency in Nampa. I've also served on Canyon County's Impact Fee Committee. I believe my experience has prepared me to serve effectively as a County Commissioner.

What is the biggest issue Canyon County is facing today and what solution would you support?

Growth. Canyon County has experienced rapid growth and we must manage it responsibly, meaning it cannot outpace our services and infrastructure, and it cannot shift financial burdens onto existing homeowners. Development must pay its own way. As a member of Canyon County's Impact Fee Committee, I saw firsthand what happens when it doesn't. I also believe Canyon County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan needs serious revision. It was rushed through using outdated census data and no longer reflects the challenges we face. I will push to fix it. City impact areas also need scrutiny as they can become loopholes where growth escapes proper management.

What are two other issues that are important to you?

First, protecting agricultural land. I started in agriculture and I'm still a committed advocate for it. That acre of ground producing \$10,000–\$15,000 in revenue a year and once you put a house on it, it no longer produces anything except a residence. I also oppose the changes that have been proposed to Administrative Splits; the current rules protect our many rural residents and I will fight to keep them in place. Second, funding public safety, specifically the jail. The jail was built in 1991, and has had numerous issues over the past decade. The county recently approved \$7.5 million for a new women's facility, but that is only the beginning. Our deputies need modern facilities so that our residents continue to be safe.



Federal and State Candidates for November 3, 2026

US Senate

Todd Achilles, Independent
achillesforidaho.com, fb: Todd Achilles for Idaho
Tech Professional, College-level Public Policy Teacher
Achilles supports term limits for Congress; reducing the national debt; reducing health-care costs through increased competition and transparency; protecting public lands, gun rights, and public education; and strengthening US borders. Achilles opposes corporate money in politics, government intrusion into private lives, and endless wars.

Matt Loesby, Libertarian Party
loesby.us, fb: Matt Loesby for Idaho
Video Game Developer
Loesby supports reduced immigration, updated birthright citizenship law, and decentralized government on social issues. Loesby opposes the Federal Reserve; the drug war; intelligence agencies such as the CIA, FBI, and Department of Homeland Security; a publicly-owned education system; and civil rights.

Jim Risch, Republican Party
senatorrisch.com, fb: Jim Risch for US Senate
US Senator
Risch supports Idaho's public lands; cutting taxes and improving domestic supply chains; cutting red tape for small businesses; reducing regulations on farmers; securing the US-Mexico border; protecting gun rights; and strengthening America's nuclear energy infrastructure.

Natalie M Fleming, Independent
nataliefleming.info, fb: Natalie Fleming for US Senate
Tech professional, Single mom
Fleming supports the Constitutional limits on government, small business and local supply chains, immigration reform, shifting to local food and energy supplies, protecting public lands, veterans and first responders, and a Digital Bill of Rights. Fleming opposes corporate landlords, corporate money in government, and mass surveillance.

US House of Representatives, District 1

Brendan J Gomez, Constitution Party
Regal Theater Staff
No information available.

Russ Fulcher, Republican Party
russfulcher.com, fb: Russ Fulcher for Congress
US Representative
Fulcher supports securing the US-Mexico border with a border wall, protecting Idaho's dams, protecting gun rights, and a constitutional amendment for a balanced Federal budget. Fulcher opposes abortion and Federal control of Idaho's public lands.

Kaylee Peterson, Democratic Party
kayleeforcongress.com, fb: Kaylee for Congress
Peterson supports term limits for Congress, increased government oversight, tax cuts for the middle class, protecting public lands, and overhauling the healthcare system. Peterson opposes corporate tax breaks and subsidies, dark money in elections, and public money for private education.

Sarah Zabel, Independent
zabelforcongress.com, fb: Sarah Zabel for U.S. Congress
Retired Airforce Major General
Zabel supports preserving Social Security, reducing the national debt, tackling cost growth throughout health care, reasonable immigration reform, and small businesses. Zabel opposes broad tariffs, selling public lands to private developers, and committing military forces to extended combat operations without Congressional authorization.



Governor

Paul Sand, Libertarian Party
paulsand.org
Software engineer
Sand supports decentralizing government by transferring many of the responsibilities of the State to the counties. Sand opposes political parties, sending money and weapons to other countries, benefits for immigrants (legal or illegal), abortion, and encouraging growth.

Brad Little, Republican Party
bradlittleforidaho.com, fb: Brad Little for Governor
Governor, Owner of Little Land & Livestock
Little supports investments in education, tax cuts, securing the border, additional resources for police, scholarships for National Guard members, homes for veterans, and secure elections. He opposes State regulations, illegal immigration, tax increases, abortion and trans-women in women's sports.

John R. Stegner, Independent
stegnerforidaho.com, fb: Stegner for Idaho
Judge, District (21yrs), Idaho Supreme Court (5yrs)
Stegner supports upholding the constitution and respecting individual rights, an education system that rewards hard work and leads to opportunity, improving access to healthcare, addressing healthcare workforce shortages, and strengthening communities by supporting families, local leaders, small businesses, and educators.

Terri Pickens, Democratic Party
terriforidaho.com, fb: Terri Pickens for Idaho
Trial Attorney, Founder of Pickens Law, P.A.
Pickens supports economic growth by focusing on small businesses, education, a stable tax structure, and affordable health care. She opposes school vouchers, privatizing public lands, government overreach into civil and reproductive rights, illegal immigration, and demonizing immigrants.

Pro-Life (Marvin Thomas Richardson),
Constitution Party
prolife-idaho.com
Organic Farmer
Pro-Life supports phasing out sales, income, and property taxes and phasing out State support for education, welfare, health and recreation. He opposes birth control, abortion, transgender activity, in-vitro fertilization, and vaccinations.

Lieutenant Governor

Scott Bedke, Republican Party
bedkeforidaho.com, fb: Scott Bedke for Idaho
Lt. Governor, Cattle rancher
Bedke supports reducing government regulations, cutting taxes, supporting the police, protecting gun rights and pro-life policies, sustainable growth, balancing the demands of the State's diverse water interests, and transportation improvements.

Eric Myricks, Democratic Party
ericforidaho.com, fb: Eric Myricks for Idaho
Non-profit chair, Business owner
Myricks supports protecting the 2018 Medicaid expansion, increasing funding for public education, modernizing our water infrastructure, supporting first responders, responsible growth that pays for itself, fair and safe immigration policies, and women's right to reproductive care.

Attorney General

Lori Hickman, Democratic Party
lori4idaho.com, fb: Lori Hickman for Idaho
Attorney General
Attorney
Hickman supports strengthening efforts to combat fraud, abuse, and AI scams; preserving women's access to safe healthcare; keeping Idaho's waters under Idaho's control; defending public education; safeguarding our elections; and providing adequate funding for the entire justice system. Hickman opposes privatizing public lands.

Raul R Labrador, Republican Party
raullabrador.com, fb: Raul Labrador
Attorney General, Attorney
Labrador supports Idaho's school voucher system, the rights of gun owners, and making Idaho safer for kids by investigating and jailing child predators. Labrador opposes abortion, trans-women in women's sports, school indoctrination, and illegal immigration.

Secretary of State

Shawn Keenan, Democratic Party
Mortgage Broker
No information available.
Phil McGrane, Republican Party
mcgraneforidaho.com, fb: Phil McGrane for Idaho
Secretary of State

McGrane supports working with county clerks to strengthen training for election officials, improve election procedures, expand voter registration outreach, and confirm election accuracy through audits and recounts. McGrane also supports strengthening Idaho election law through voter ID protections and technologies for improved voter roll maintenance.

State Controller

Brandon Woolf, Republican Party
brandonwoolf.com, fb: Brandon Woolf for State Controller
State Controller
Woolf supports transparency around the State's finances, keeping government lean and efficient, timely and accurate service to Idahoans, streamlining State technology services, modernizing financial systems, fiscal discipline, and accountability to the people.

Rakesh Mohan, Democratic Party
mohan4statecontroller.com, fb: Rakesh Mohan for State Controller
Former Director of the Idaho Office of Performance Evaluations, Visiting Professor at BSU
Mohan supports fiscal responsibility, meaningful transparency, improved performance in state agencies, and true government accountability. Mohan opposes waste of your hard-earned tax dollars such as the recent IT implementation launched by the current State Controller that resulted in millions of dollars in cost overruns.

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Becky Sundin Mitchell, Democratic Party
becky4idaho.com, fb: Becky for Idaho
Educator
Sundin Mitchell supports modernizing the school funding formula, strengthening teacher support, investing in early literacy and targeted reading interventions, ensuring every student has access to behavioral and mental health treatment, and fully funding special education. Sundin Mitchell opposes school funding following political trends.

Debbie Critchfield, Republican Party
debbie4idaho.com, fb: Debbie Critchfield for Idaho
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Critchfield supports returning reading instruction to phonics; made financial and digital literacy graduation requirements; expanded technical education, career pathways, civics instruction grounded in patriotism and American principles; and keeps families at the center of education decision making.

State Treasurer

Julie Ellsworth, Republican Party
ellsworthfortreasurer.com, fb: Ellsworth for Treasurer
Idaho State Treasurer
Ellsworth supports increasing government transparency, reducing the property tax burden on local taxpayers, and honoring Idaho's veterans. Ellsworth opposes undemocratic, woke efforts to implement non-financial or subjective criteria for measuring investment options and credit worthiness of legal businesses and individuals.

Kevin Jones, Democratic Party
fb: Jones for Idaho Treasurer
Retired, Institutional Investment Manager
Jones supports evaluation of the State's investment performance against appropriate benchmarks, objectives, and risk parameters; corrective action when investments are underperforming; public disclosure of investments and their performance; rigorous examination of options for servicing the State's debt; and active protection of the taxpayer's interests.

Honor the Past, Serve the Future 25th Anniversary - September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance

by Kelli Jenkins & Jamie Wilson



Traveling Table Food Pantry at Wilson School

Each year, September 11 serves not only as a day of solemn remembrance, but also as America's largest annual day of charitable service. Formally designated as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, 9/11 offers communities across the nation a meaningful way to honor the lives lost, pay tribute to first responders, and rekindle the spirit of unity and compassion that arose in the aftermath of the tragedy.

As the anniversary approaches, organizing local efforts and connecting willing hands with genuine needs can be a challenge. That is where JustServe plays a vital role. As a free community service platform, JustServe bridges the gap between eager volunteers and non-profit organizations, faith groups, and civic leaders looking for support.

To support the 9/11 Day of Service, JustServe aggregates thousands of local volunteer opportunities into one accessible database. Community members can simply enter their postal code to discover nearby projects tailored to their schedules and skills. Whether it involves assembling care packages for active-duty military members, packing meals at local food banks, refurbishing neighborhood parks, or assisting first responder organizations, JustServe makes finding a project seamless. The Caldwell area has over 130 opportunities.

- Here are some local opportunities:
- First Responders Open House at the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall Sept 11, volunteers needed to help set up, serve and clean up, 7 to 11am or 11am to 2pm.
 - Caldwell Curtis Park Clean-Up, Sept 12, 9am-noon. Show up and clean up, raking, trimming, hauling debris, landscaping, and small carpentry projects. Bring yard tools, gloves, wheelbarrows, or cordless drills if you have them. Those with carpentry skills are especially needed.
 - 10th Annual Sporting Clay Shoot, Sept 12. Volunteers needed to run this event for the Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall.
 - Red Cross Blood Drive, Sept 17th noon to 6pm at 11792 Linden Rd. Sign up at red-crossblood.org.
 - Thrive Community Services serves individuals and families. Donate items that include clothing for adults and children, shoes, hygiene products, diapers, wipes, infant formula, blankets, bedding, towels, backpacks, and other household essentials.
 - Local Food Pantries are always in need of help; WICAP; The Salvation Army; The Traveling Table.
 - Canyon County Branch of Assistance League is collecting items for personal care kits for over 200 students from Canyon County Schools. Body wash/soap, shampoo/conditioner (12.6-16.9 oz), comb & brush, toothbrush & toothpaste, deodorant, laundry pods & fabric softener, socks, gallon zip lock bags. Drop off at City Hall 205 S 6th.
 - Advocates Against Family Violence, Donations needed for both their Hope Lane Learning Center Amazon Wish List and Hope's Door Shelter Amazon Wish List, it is super easy to donate what they need.
 - Pick apples at the Caldwell Orchard. Now until the end of October Sun-up to Sun-down If you have some time and want to be part of something special this is the place. Bring friends and family, businesses and faith groups and come make a difference.
 - Crosswalk Volunteer for Lewis & Clark Elementary. Monday 8:25am to 8:55am, a friendly responsible adult face to help our kids cross on the crosswalk in front of school on Laster St to Lewis and Clark Elementary in Caldwell. We don't need the same person every day, but we do need some consistency.
- JustServe helps turn a day of reflection into actionable kindness. Participating in the 9/11 Day of Service empowers neighbors to work shoulder-to-shoulder, transforming a moment of historical sorrow into a powerful legacy of hope, unity, and strength.

You Are Invited! Grace Lutheran Preschool Celebrates 50 Years with Open House

by Lillian Pierce



Emily and Pat would take the preschoolers every year to Emily's pumpkin patch.



Emily and Karen with their preschoolers at their end of year closing program.

Fifty years ago, two mothers, Pat Taylor and Emily Rainey, started Grace Lutheran Preschool. Pat had previously taught at Grace Elementary School, but it was closed because of financial problems. Pat and Emily believed the church should offer preschool for four and five-year-olds.

They began with materials and supplies from their own homes. Their goal was to teach Bible stories, social skills, and how Jesus would respond during play, even when children disagreed over toys. Each day began with play, calendar time, Bible stories, crafts, and lessons. After that came outdoor recess, regardless of the weather, followed by snacks, a storybook, singing, and prayers. Then the children greeted Mom, Dad, or their grandparents and headed home.

Grace Lutheran Preschool has continued for fifty more years. Over the years, a program for three and four-year-olds was added for two mornings a week. The Pre-K (four and five-year-olds) changed to three days a week and is currently now a four-day program to prepare the children for kindergarten.

Emily and Pat taught together for approximately 15

years until Pat died of cancer. Emily was then joined by Karen Alldredge, and they taught together for 19 more years. They worked together until they both retired in May of 2010.

We have had over 24 more teachers over the years--all who have helped to provide the Word of God to our children through Bible stories, social skills, and fun play for child development. God has richly blessed us and prayerfully will continue for many more years.

Celebrate Our 50-Year Anniversary with Us!

What: Open House 50-Year Celebration

When: Saturday, September 12

Where: Grace Lutheran Church at 2718 S Kimball

Time: from 1:00 - 4:00 pm



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Caldwell Night Market Awards Jose DeLeon Scholarships



L to R: Liduvina Hernandez (mother of scholarship recipient Fabian Hernandez), Angelina Gonzalez, Marcus Paredes, Mirian Aguilar, and Daniela Garita

On August 29, the Caldwell Night Market awarded six, \$500 scholarships in the name of Jose DeLeon. Fernando Saenz and his wife Jennifer Vasquez Saenz started the Caldwell Night Market last year in memory of Jose DeLeon, Fernando's good friend and mentor, who had long encouraged him to start the market. DeLeon passed away in March 2025, at just 57, of pancreatic cancer. DeLeon was a well-known and respected Latino leader and advocate. Members of DeLeon's family attended

the event to congratulate the scholarship recipients. This year the Market was able to award six scholarships up from four last year. The scholarships are paid for by the booth fees from the Market and local donors including ICCU, Clear Blue Pool, Freeze-Dried Sensations, and Pacheco Events & Design. Mayor Phillips was on hand to speak at the event and Dena Warren of Destination Caldwell helped present the scholarships. The scholarship winners were Fabian Hernandez, Angelica Guerrero, Angelina Gonzalez, Marcus Paredes, Mirian Aguilar, and Daniela Garita.

by Toni Ferro
The event was heartwarming with lots of family and community members present to show their support for these young students. Caldwell High Art Teacher, Mimi Clark, was there to support her student Angelina. Angelina is planning to follow in Clark's footsteps. Virginia Vaughn, co-founder of the Caldwell Night Market and owner of Gigi's Corner, told the winners in her opening speech, "These scholarships represent more than financial assistance—they represent a community that believes in you, your dreams and your potential. Continue learning. Continue dreaming."

Caldwell Fine Arts Brings Arts Education to the Detention Center



Artwork by the students in the Canyon County Juvenile Detention Center



CFA Outreach Coordinator, Amy Larson, teaching at the Pat Anderson School in the Canyon County Juvenile Detention Center. Caldwell Fine Arts (CFA) is an exemplary local non-profit organization that has been bringing great artists to Caldwell for the last 65 years. And that's not all they do. They partner with the local school districts, the Public Library, Destination Caldwell, the City, the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, and more, to provide arts education and exposure

to Caldwell's residents. About five years ago, CFA extended their outreach to include the Canyon County Juvenile Detention Center's Pat Anderson School. Kim Hasenoehrl, the CFA Executive Director, explained that educating students about the Arts is part of their mission and the roughly two dozen 12-18 year-olds they teach at the Detention Center each month are "students just like any other students." In fact, Hasenoehrl explained, in many cases you can see results right away with these students. CFA Outreach Coordinator, Amy Larson, taught two classes at the Detention Center on August 4 to about 14 students each. During the lesson, Larson recapped their previous lesson about artist Frida Kahlo and then introduced a new topic, Mexican folk art. Larson talked about the various characteristics and tradi-

by Toni Ferro
tions of the art style and then passed out a pre-prepped canvas of a dog along with paint pens, so the students could make their own renditions of Mexican folk art. As they worked, Larson moved about the room chatting with the students about their own pets. CFA doesn't just teach drawing and painting in the Detention Center, they also teach storytelling, poetry, illustration, and more. The project is possible because of an education grant CFA received from the Idaho Commission on the Arts that pays for their canvasses and other materials. To learn more about Caldwell Fine Arts follow them on Facebook at facebook.com/caldwellfinearts and visit their website at caldwelfinearts.org. Big thanks for Caldwell Fine Arts for bringing arts to every corner of Caldwell!



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 programs through the year.

GOLD STAR FAMILY DEDICATION

We will be holding a Gold Star Family Memorial Dedication at the Caldwell Veterans Hall to honor our fallen and support their families. Caldwell Police Department Pipes and Drum Team, Canyon County Honor Guard, and other guest speakers will join us—refreshments to follow.

Date & Time: September 27, 2026 at 11 am
Location: Caldwell Veterans Memorial Hall
1101 E Cleveland Blvd. Caldwell

FREEDOM BREWFEST

Join us for the Freedom Brewfest Car and Music Show. There will be live music, craft brews, great food, and car show prizes. Tickets can be purchased at www.freedombrewfest.com

Date & Time: October 10, 2026, from 1pm - 6pm
Location: Indian Creek Plaza



Let's Chat: Celebrate the NOW!



There was a huge milestone this year for my husband and me, our 50th wedding anniversary.

You might ask, "How did you celebrate? Did you have a big party? What?" We simply went to dinner by ourselves to a restaurant that we always wanted to try, but because it was a bit spendy, we wanted to do that for this special occasion. There was no big hoopla or cheering, just us celebrating our years together. A quiet reflective time for two. I took a "snap shot in time."

by Leora Summers
Last year we celebrated our 49th with our siblings and their spouses because I knew the phrase, "There's always next year," does not always happen. I wanted to celebrate the NOW then! We all need to celebrate the NOW. People may tell you that you can wait to celebrate this or that, or do what you want to later, but there may not be a later, so if able, do those things now, celebrate now, if you are able. It doesn't have to be big. Celebrate the small stuff! Savor those moments. Something else I do to savor those moments when everyone is well and life is good, I take what I call a "snapshot in time." It doesn't have to be done with a camera, it can just be done in your mind, remembering that time when all was good. Time is fleeting. Savor those good times. Make each day count and celebrate the NOW. Let your family and friends know they matter to you by the little things you do or say. You don't have to wait for a "special occasion" to do that. Take time to celebrate the NOW.

10

Commandments

3500 Years Old

& Still Right...

John 3:16 & 17

Caldwell Community Baby Shower Brings Gifts and Hope to Local Families

by Kathi O' Bannon

Sunlight streamed through the iconic windows of the Caldwell Train Depot, illuminating lovingly handcrafted receiving blankets, quilts, and baby clothes generously donated to the Annual Caldwell Community Baby Shower.

Held August 6, the shower was sponsored by the City of Caldwell and JustServe. Community members, churches, and service groups throughout the Caldwell area donated baby clothes, blankets, diapers, and other early-childhood essentials. The collected items were distributed to four local agencies that assist new mothers and babies: Advocates Against Family Violence/Hope's Door, the Canyon County Branch of the Assistance League of Boise, the Southwest District Health (SWDH) Family Nurse Partnership, and the Salvation Army. These organizations will ensure the gifts reach some of the community's newest and most



L to R: Organizer Heidi Wilhelmsen, Volunteer Sally Pratt, Just Serve Volunteers Kathi O'Bannon and Tracey Provost

vulnerable residents.

Volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and other community members gathered to prepare the Depot, which the City of Caldwell graciously made available for the event. Pastel decorations, stuffed animals, and flowers created a warm, welcoming atmosphere as tables filled with gifts from the hearts of community members.

Organizer Heidi Wilhelmsen shared why she continues to support the event:

"I am driven to continue this event because of the wonderful participation we get from our community. The outpouring of love is inspiring to see and encourages the organizations we help. Additionally, I love

connecting people to ways they can serve. As a follower of Jesus Christ, I recognize that serving brings us closer to Him. I love giving others the opportunity to have more of Christ's light in their lives.

"Both the giver and the receiver come away blessed. We could simply have a donation location, but by having it like a baby shower, we get to see all the good being done and show appreciation. I have heard so many heartwarming stories and seen so much good be-

ing done. I embrace life and want to help the babies in our community thrive."

The shower was the brainchild of several women who wanted to make a difference in the community during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. Residents were invited to create or purchase items and drop them off, providing a meaningful sense of connection and community during a challenging time.

The event has continued to grow as an opportunity for residents to serve local families and support organizations working with new mothers and young children. The generosity of community members demonstrates how small acts of service can come together to make a lasting difference.

Those interested in participating in next year's shower are encouraged to watch for information in July 2027 through the City of Caldwell, local churches, and the *Caldwell Perspective*.

Caldwell Night Rodeo Honored Local Children Battling Cancer

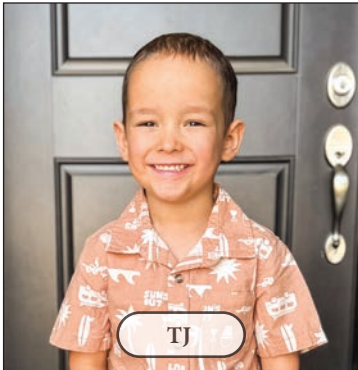
As part of its new partnership with the Golden Circle of Champions, the Caldwell Night Rodeo (CNR) hon-

ored two local children fighting leukemia in the arena during Championship Night on Saturday, August 22.

Founded in 2016, the Golden Circle of Champions is a nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness and providing funds for children with pediatric cancer. CNR connected with the organization at last year's National Finals Rodeo and is proud to bring the program to Caldwell for the first time.

"Honoring these kids on Championship Night is a reminder of what real courage looks like," said Nicole Cassidy, General Manager of Caldwell Night Rodeo. "The Caldwell Night Rodeo has always been about more than what happens in the arena, and we're proud to shine a light on these young champions."

The inaugural honorees are TJ (4) and Mia (9)



TJ



Mia

TJ loves riding his bike, playing catch, and throwing the Frisbee with his big sister. He was diagnosed with leukemia last September and recently began the maintenance phase of his treatment - which means he's finally back in preschool, ready to learn and make friends.

Mia has always dreamed of going to the rodeo. She loves

watching bull riders, biking, wake surfing, and caring for her highland bull, Duke. She's been homeschooled through fourth grade and is learning to cook.

The tips that were collected at the Championship Night during the 102nd Annual Caldwell Night Rodeo were split between the two families.

The Flying M's Community Fridge!

by Leora Summers

The Procedure on the Fridge!

1. Take what you need and leave what you can.
2. Please sanitize your hands before and after using the fridge.
3. Always date and label the content of the donation.
4. Contact for question: mutualaid2C@gmail.com
5. No alcohol please

With food insecurities on the rise for lots of folks, the Flying M in Caldwell, located by the Plaza, has joined in to help those in need.

Inside the Flying M's doors, there is a "Communi-

nity Fridge." All are welcome to take what they need with no questions asked.

Thank you Flying M for giving us another place to help others!

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Caldwell’s Senior Produce Program: The Power of Community Partnerships

by Lindsey McConnell-Soong, University of Idaho Extension Regional Health Agent



Program Information with Sponsors

L to R: From Southwest District Health Charlene Cariou (Community Health Manager) and Adriana Villamil (RN Manager) and WIC Supervisor Gretchen Migas holding program voucher dollars!

If you’ve had the pleasure of experiencing the Caldwell Farm to Fork Market on a summer Tuesday evening in the past six years, you may have noticed one particular booth with a line that stretches across the plaza – often forming well ahead of market kick-off time at 5pm. Sidle up to that line and you’ll likely hear socializing among folks whose friendships began right there. Others might be sharing about how they prepared a new veggie they tried for the first time last week. You’ll find people who have been visiting this booth for all six years of its existence, and those who are checking it out for the first time following encouragement from a friend or neighbor. This is the Senior Produce Program – a shining example of community collaboration, partnerships, and benefits with more layers than a local sweet onion. Launched as a pilot pro-

gram in 2021, Caldwell’s Senior Produce Program (SPP) was modeled after the USDA’s Senior Farmer’s Market Nutrition Program, which the state of Idaho does not participate in. While funding must be generated locally rather than supported federally, this also allows for increased accessibility for participants and simpler management for coordinators. Unlike the USDA program, Caldwell’s SPP does not require documentation of age or income. Each year, available funding determines how many seniors can be served weekly. This year, we have 150 sets of vouchers to distribute each Tuesday July-September. Adults aged 60 and older, one participant per household, are welcome to stop by the booth to receive \$10 in vouchers to purchase eligible items from the market vendors. These include fruit, vegetables, mushrooms,

herbs, eggs, food-producing plants, and honey. Seniors can spend the entirety of their vouchers weekly, or save some for later weeks (unused vouchers do not carry over to the following season). Caldwell’s Senior Produce Program was initiated, and continues to be coordinated, by the members of Caldwell Health Coalition (CHC), a mix of community partners led by Southwest District Health who are dedicated to the health and wellness of Caldwell’s residents. Because the program begins each year without guaranteed funding, its future depends on the continued generosity of local partners and community members. St. Luke’s and the City of Caldwell have been the largest and most consistent sponsors in past years, with additional support from local government, nonprofits, foundations, and community organizations. A recent addition to the

A happy senior participant!

SPP has been the Backyard Gardens Booth, located alongside the SPP booth. Collaboration with University of Idaho Extension has resulted in a produce booth stocked with beautiful varieties of surplus produce donated by your local Master Gardeners. This booth supports the sustainability of the Senior Produce Program, accepting both cash and vouchers, which are then rolled back into the program to fund more

vouchers for participants. Each year, more than 90% of the distributed vouchers are redeemed. In 2025, 342 seniors participated. Beyond the financial boost for fresh local foods and the benefits for nutrition, nearly \$60,000 from SPP vouchers since 2021 has gone directly into the pockets of our local farmers. Caldwell needed a simple, accessible senior produce program where one was lacking – and six years later, the community has built something that nourishes far more than bodies. It supports local farmers, creates connections among neighbors, and gives hundreds of seniors a welcoming place to gather each summer. With continued support, the Senior Produce Program can keep growing those benefits for years to come. Interested in supporting the Senior Produce Program or joining the Caldwell Health Coalition? Contact Daniel Adams, daniel.adams@swdh.id.gov.

Good Neighbors! People Helping People

by Leora Summers



David Goff with his prized turnips! Sometimes we tend to forget that there are some truly good people in this world. Earlier I wrote a little about David Goff and Jacob Armstrong and their Boise Valley Farms booth at our local Farm to Fork Farmers Market. The part of their mission to support those with food insecurities through their business with their farm fresh vegetables touched my heart. “Most of our produce first goes to food banks and churches in the area before going on to be sold at area Farmers Markets,” said David Goff.

One special place they bring produce to is David’s and his grandma’s church, Crossroads in Nampa, where weekly, he gives out prepped bags with a week’s worth of fresh produce. This church lets them farm the 7 acres that the church owns behind the church. It’s a “win-win” situation, of both giving back to each other. And this then helps them give to others in need. Boise Valley farms grows produce at multiple sites across Boise Valley. Their commitment is simple, “grow high quality, no spray food for local tables, and care for the land for generations to come.” They build community by connecting families with farmers and they encourage real relationships with those who grow our food and support our land. They believe in good land stewardship and in leaving the land better off than how they found it. Kudos to these young men and their mission.

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Local Dirt

by Pat King



The Good, the Bad and the Ugly! Sounds like a movie Title. Why might you ask? Well, I'm going to tell you here.

I had just thought to myself this morning, that this past 40 days was the worst stretch of weather, climate or atmospheric anomaly, I had ever experienced. And then a funny thing happened, I was scrolling through a few reels on Facebook and up comes a little documentary on the Mount Saint Helens eruption of 5/18/1980, followed by other prolonged weather situations that I had also lived through that I thought were the worst.

I was about to graduate from high school in May of 1980, when Mt. St. Helens blew her top off. My sister lived in Portland at the time and had to evacuate. They came to Twin Falls to stay with us until the air cleared up. They brought some ash for me that I still have today. A few days later, my high school baseball team was headed to Idaho Falls for the state tournament. We played the first game and beat the defending state champs and then played one more game before it started snowing and later that night, blizzard conditions canceled the rest of the tournament. Until this very moment of writing this column, did I ever think that the eruption could've had anything to do with the blizzard? I always attributed it to just being Idaho Falls. Makes you think, huh? There have been other weather anomalies that have happened and at those times, I thought they

One May, it almost rained every single day over five inches. Then one winter, we had an inversion that lasted about six weeks. So along with these 40 days of devastating fires and smoke in the valley, it's not the first time we've seen bad situations. Nor will it be the last. That probably covers the Bad and the Ugly so where is the Good?

Well in my last article, I mentioned how the smoke would have an adverse effect on fruit production. And many may have seen on Facebook or other sites, similar views on the smoke's effects. Well, I won't rehash that column. But, about a week after writing it, I had gone out to water my potted plants and I had just cleaned off my patio from previous winds, when I saw what looked like black spider web streaks all over everything. When I started watering, the streaks moved, like washing ash off after I smoke meat. It suddenly dawned on me that there was a fire in Weiser and that winds that had been blowing towards my home from there.

Now this is the Good, along with what happened after St. Helens, all the ash and soot floating around landing on the ground everywhere, is remarkably beneficial for the soil. Just go to the Palouse areas of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho and you'll see some of the richest black soil around, perfect for farming. I'm not saying we got a lot, but on the Good side it does help.

Two quick tips:

1. Water is probably being shut off a month early, so you must water your perennials and trees and shrubs and grass, minimal or not at all.
2. If the frost got your fruit trees, just let them grow and build root strength for winter. I'm predicting a hard one. Lol! I did find 2 peaches on the ground.

Until Next time, Pat

Southwest Idaho Birders' Association

by JC Clancy

So that's why they're called hummingbirds – because they make that humming sound as they zip by too fast for you to tell whether it was a Black-chinned, or an Orange-tipped rufous. At this time of year, it might be a migrating Calliope or maybe even a broad-tailed. If you have feeders or flowers, it's a great time to find hummers hovering or even sitting briefly, usually only until another one buzzes by starting a high-speed chase.

Watching their acrobatics, it's hard to believe they're supposed to be storing fat for the long flights ahead, maybe to Central or South America. In those areas, the many exotic species make our favorites look like Plain Janes or maybe Wan Johns.

Hummers aren't the only unusual small birds seen locally at this time of year. At the Lake Lowell picnic area, hikers or loungers have seen several species of warbler, Nashville, MacGillivray's, Wilson's and Townsend's as well as the Northern Yellow Warblers that have spent the summer and the Yellow-rumped that are returning for the fall. A tiny flash of yellow is usually the clue that a better look might re-



Northern Yellow Warbler

veal the Wilson's black cap, the Townsend's black mask or the MacGillivray's gray hood. These little birds may be found on any woody walk or in a shrubby backyard.

Some unusual Flycatchers have also been seen recently, including a Gray Flycatcher near the Deer Flat NWR Visitor Center. At Old Fort Boise in Parma, a couple of Lewis's Woodpeckers have been spotted, and the mudflats are hosting a variety of sandpipers and shorebirds, including several Sanderlings.

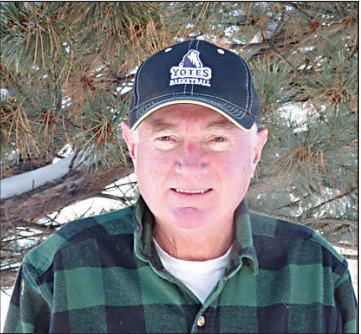
SIBA's next field trip will be Sept 12, to Lake Walcott/Minidoka NWR, meeting at

6:30 a.m. at the Liquor Store at 6584 S Federal Way, Boise, ID. Carpools will form there for the long drive. We hope to see migrating waterfowl, gulls, terns, and loons. Registration is required by email to trip leader James Jarrett at SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com. This is an all-day trip with a good bit of walking so bring hiking shoes, water, lunch, binoculars or scopes and layers for fall weather.

SIBA's next meeting at the Deer Flat NWR Visitor Center will be at 7 p.m. Oct. 8, 2026. The speaker will be announced later.

Dave's Big Backyard

by Dave McCormick



"You take it," I said, "No you get it. I got the last one," Todd replied. That's how good the Kokanee fishing was at Anderson Ranch Reservoir this last month.

For most waters in the state, the Kokanee limit is six fish per day, but Anderson has a limit of 15 per day, all due to natural reproduction. Todd and I made two trips to Anderson and brought home over 40 fish between 11-13 inches.

Fishing for Kokanee does require some specialized gear, a boat is a must. I started with the 14-foot skiff with an 18-horse Evinrude motor. Unlike trout, which can be caught on the surface, Ko-

kanees prefer deeper water. To reach that deeper water, you need trolling weights or lead core line, or a combination of both. How deep your offering descends, is still guesswork. I have caught a lot of Bluebacks using this old method.

Somewhere along the line, I upgraded to downriggers. This was a game changer. A very sage outdoor writer once lamented that people who troll with leaded lines are lonely people looking for friends who have downriggers. I was once a very lonely person.

The downrigger is a winch with a 150-lb cable and a 6-to-8-lb lead ball, clipped to the end, along with a release. The angler pays out about 30 feet of line and then clips onto the downrigger. The ball is lowered to the desired depth. When a fish strikes, the angler gives the rod a good snap and the line is pulled free of the release. Bigger fish usually pull the line free of the release without assistance from the angler.

Downriggers open up a whole new world of fishing. Lake trout or Mackinaw became much more accessible with controlled depth fishing. If you're thinking it's a lot of trouble to catch a fish, I guess you would be right, but life's vicissitudes are sometimes what makes it interesting. Overcoming difficulties like catching a Kokanee or any endeavor can be quite rewarding.

Fall is on the way and Kokanee will begin their migration up the South Fork of the Boise River and just like their saltwater cousin, the Sockeye, they will begin turning bright red with green heads. After spawning, they die and the life cycle will be complete.

Labor Day is the unofficial end of summer and there will be a host of new activities for the outdoorsman. Fishing is always good in the fall, as most species fatten up for the winter months. Bird hunting season opens for those who love the scatter gun and the list goes on and on. Gotta love fall!



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Alexa, The AQI and What It Means to You and Me!

by Leora Summers

What the heck is the AQI and why do we care? This summer I have been concerned with the AQI (Air Quality Index) for purely selfish reasons. I play in our Caldwell Centennial Band and we didn't want to cause you or our band members any harm by attending our outdoor concerts, so I kept a close eye on the AQI in Caldwell for our concert dates.

We only cancelled one concert and that was on a day when the temperature was said to top out at 102 degrees and that the air quality was going to be es-

pecially bad. There was another concert when the air quality wasn't going to be as bad, but when concert time came around, it deteriorated, but we had no time to cancel so we went for it and we still had a crowd of over 200. Our fans and band members are so loyal and we did want to protect them and us. Thankfully it all went well that day.

Every day for the week prior to our concerts I would ask Alexa what the air quality for our concert date would be. I told her that I played the clarinet in a band and that we had out-

door concerts in Caldwell, Idaho. It was a little scary because I only told her once about playing in the band and she would remember and say things like, "You should move your band to play indoors," or "Good news! You can play your clarinet outside today," and things like that.

Anyway, because of band and all the wild fires putting pollutants in the air and wanting to keep everyone safe, I researched the AQI and what it means and how it affects all of us.

The air quality changes from day to day and also

sometimes throughout the day depending on the wild-fires, the wind and inversions, so be smart and stay safe. Know what your sensitivities may be and limit your outdoor time if you are in a sensitive group during the different breakdowns.

AQI Color and Number Scale Breakdown

Green (0-50): Good. The air is clean and safe for everyone.

Yellow (51-100): Moderate. The air is okay, but sensitive people may feel mild irritation.

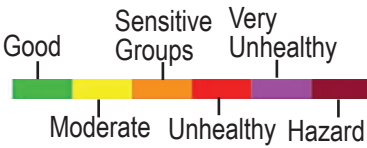
Orange (101-150): Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups. Children, older

adults, and people with lung or heart illness should cut back on hard outdoor work.

Red (151-200): Unhealthy. Everyone may start to feel sick, and sensitive groups should avoid being outside for long periods.

Purple (201-300): Very Unhealthy. A health warning is issued because the risk is high for all people.

Maroon (301+): Hazardous. This is an emergency level; everyone must stay indoors.



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



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

Leslie's 8-Year Record as Commissioner:

- Asked to resign by eight elected Canyon County officials, but refused to step down (2022).
- \$10,497,666 spent on POD 6 jail trailers; county forced to pull out of bad contract, left with no tangible asset (2024). Valuable time and money lost to inflation.
- Campaigned against securing funding for public safety; kicked the issue down the road, ensuring it did not endanger her reelection — she left the public at risk.
- Mishandled the West Valley Humane Society contract, damaging a vital community partnership (2026).
- Canyon County received a non-renewal notice on its insurance policy with ICRMP (2022).
- Salary & benefits cost to taxpayers during Leslie Van Beek's tenure: \$1,058,000.
- Commissioner Van Beek's parting gift? Trying to pick her own replacement for you.

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VOTE

Voters are choosing Independent Jeff Skinner to serve as their next Canyon County Commissioner!



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

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



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