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Edition 125 | APRIL 2025



photo by Nick Mendez

L to R: Mr. Zattiero (Robotics Coach), Keiro Ferro (CHS Junior/Builder and Notebook), Mathew Quintero (CHS Junior/Primary Builder), Caidon Felder (CHS Senior/Builder and Driver), Omar Gamino (Assistant Coder), and Ben Ferro (CHS Junior/Coder) in January with Valley of Vex Tournament awards and their robot.

DR. MELYSSA FERRO-
ITEA TECHNOLOGY EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR

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C OF I YOTES WIN
NAIA CHAMPIONSHIP

Pg. 8

CALDWELL POOL UPDATE

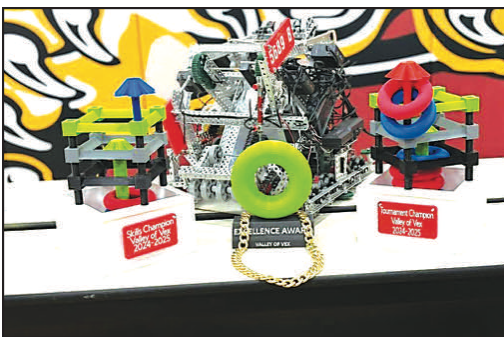
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RICE HOUSE UPDATE

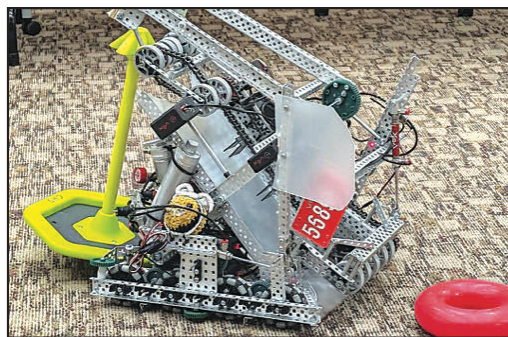
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CHS Robotics Team Wins State Championship

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective



Robotic Awards in January! Skills Champion, Valley of Vex 2024-25; Excellence Award, Valley of Vex; Tournament Champion, Valley of Vex 2024-25. photo by Mr. Zattiero



Their robot functions to scoop up rings and transfer them overhead and stacks them on the post behind. It weighs between 18.5-19 lbs. photo by Leora Summers



Robotics Team with State Championship Banner: Ben Ferro, Omar Gamino, Mathew Quintero, Caidon Felder and Keiro Ferro. photo by Talia Walker



CHS Robotic's Team brainstorming during the competition. photo by Talia Walker

Robotics is a class at Caldwell High School that is available to 9th-12th graders. Students must be in an engineering class to be in this class. In Robotics, students form teams (Caldwell has 5 teams) to design, build and code a robot that can score as many points as possible in that season's Vex VRC game.

An engineering class is a prerequisite to enroll in the robotics class. Robotics helps students form engineering skills by using the engineering design process. This class also helps students' collaboration skills in a fun competitive way that keeps them engaged in their community.

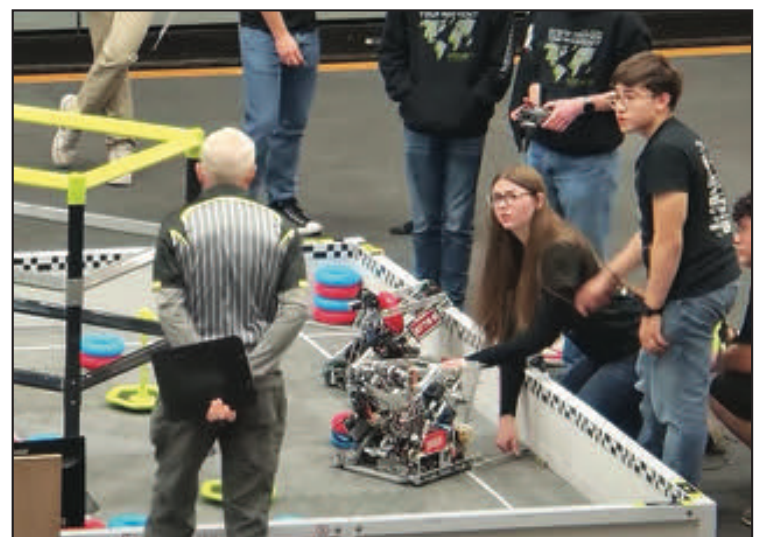
One of the first things Mr. Zattiero, the robotic teams' teacher does, is teaches them how to fundraise. They need to fundraise for the entire year's program. Each robot costs approximately

\$3,000 in parts and supplies. They use parts from earlier years but must buy parts that are missing, pneumatic pistons and solenoids for air pumps and motors. There are also costs for transportation, food, registration fees and rooms if they must spend the night somewhere. It is hard to accumulate enough money for the season. During the first two months of the school year, they fundraise and then have about one month to build their robot before the first season VEX tournament in late October to early November.

This particular team has been together for a few years. This year's VEX event's game was called "High Stakes." So the team had to develop a game for a robot to go along with that theme. Their robot scooped up plastic rings that traveled up over the body of the robot and were placed on a stake

attached to its backside. The robot kept scooping the rings up until the stake was filled to the top. The team was awarded with so many points for placing rings on the stakes. The team makes adjustment all along the way and after each tournament, they rebuild and adjust for the next one.

When I began writing this article, this team had won 7 awards from 4 competitions with one more league after school event before the State Tournament that was to be held at NNU between March 6th-7th. And WOW! They did their homework and competed well! They came out on top! During the VEXV5 State Tournament, together with their Alliance Partner team from Nampa Christian, they won the "Design Award" and won the top honor, the State VEX Robotic Championship! Congratulations are in order for sure.



Keiro Ferro with the team's robot during one of the competition's exercises. photo by Talia Walker

They are now headed to the World competition in Dallas, Texas in May. We wish this extraordinary team good luck during this upcoming World Competition! It is an international competition. At the World Championship,

they roll out the new game for the next year. After this year's events are all over, during the summer, the team will look online at other teams all over the world to see what their competition might look like for the next year.

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APRIL 2025

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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 	19
20 	21	22 	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April 1-30:
Register for for Wonder Junction Vacation Bible School, www.caldwellsda.myanswers.com/wonder-junction/ at Caldwell Seventh-day Adventist Church, Free VBS event happening June 16-20.

April 4
10 AM: Tai Chi & Qigong ages 18+, Mindful, holistic exercise for overall health & well being, Caldwell Library Community Room, 1010 Dearborn.

April 5
2-3 PM: Art together-Family Saturday: If I had Wings, Decorative Painting (all ages), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 6
National Library Week April 6-12.

April 7
10:30 AM: Baby Storytime (ages 0-1), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11 AM: Baby Storytime (1-2), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 8
10:30 AM: Spanish and English Storytime (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11:30 AM-1 PM: Noonbreak Luncheon featuring Main Street Business Academy, College of Idaho Simplot Dining Hall, 2112 Cleveland Blvd, for tickets or more information call the Caldwell Chamber of Commerce, 208-459-7493.
1-4 PM: Department of Labor at the Library, Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
4:30-5:30 PM: Lego Club: Pulley Racing (ages 7-16), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 9
10 AM-12 PM: Tech Lab (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
10:30 AM: Music & Movement (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
3:30 PM: Afterschool Fun: Magic of Microgreens with the Master Gardeners (ages 5-12), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
5:30-6:45 PM: Sabor & Success, Idaho Hispanic Community Center, for more information call the Chamber of Commerce, 208-459-7493.

April 10
10:30 AM: Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
2 PM: Thursday Read Book Club: "The Demon of Unrest" by Erik Larson (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 10 (continued)
4:30 PM: Teen Thursday: Decorate a Birdhouse (ages 13-17), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
4:30-6:30 PM: Farmway Afterschool Program (all ages), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
5:30-6:45 PM: Sabor & Success, Idaho Hispanic Community Center, for more information call the Chamber of Commerce, 208-459-7493.
7-8 PM: Gardening (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 11
10 AM: Tai Chi & Qigong ages 18+, Mindful, holistic exercise for overall health & well being, Caldwell Library Community Room, 1010 Dearborn.
3:30-5 PM: Conexiones, Ready to network with some of the most inspiring professions around? Caldwell of Chamber event, Vitalistic Wellness, 326 Caldwell Blvd.
4:30-5:30 PM: Adult Lego Club (ages 16+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 12
5:30-7 PM: A Night at the Museum, The Children's Museum of Idaho will come to life! Join us for a magical evening where exhibits transform and characters from the past and present come alive. Meet pirates seeking treasure, pilots ready for takeoff, and even Amelia Earhart herself, a Caldwell Chamber of Commerce event, The Children's Museum of Idaho, 790 S. Progree Ave., Meridian.

April 14
10:30 AM: Baby Storytime (ages 0-1), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11 AM: Baby Storytime (1-2), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-2:30 PM: Knitting & Crochet Social (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
5:30-7 PM: Dementia Friends Information Session (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
5:30-7 PM: Main Street Business Academy Workshop, Leaders Loft 704 Main Street, STE 220, Caldwell.

April 15
10:30 AM: Spanish and English Storytime (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-4 PM: Department of Labor at the Library, Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
4:45-5:45 PM: Read to a Therapy Dog (ages 7-14), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

To promote your May event on this page contact Chantele Hensel 208-899-6374 or email advertising@caldwellperspective.com

April 16
10 AM-12 PM: Tech Lab (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
10:30 AM: Music & Movement (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
3:30 PM: Afterschool Fun: Painting (ages 5-12), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 17
10:30 AM: Music & Movement (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11 AM: Caldwell Public Library at the Senior Center, 1009 Everett St.
4:30 PM: Teen Thursday: Board game night & snacks (ages 13-17), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
5:30-7 PM: Business After Hours
This casual gathering provides the perfect opportunity to connect with fellow professionals, build relationships, and learn more about local businesses in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Visit www.caldwellchamber.org to see upcoming location.
6:30 PM: Thursday Read Book Club: "The Demon of Unrest" by Erik Larson (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 18
10 AM: Tai Chi & Qigong (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
6-9 PM: Rugged Idaho Expo, Indian Creek Plaza.

April 19
10 AM-5 PM: Rugged Idaho Expo, Indian Creek Plaza.
10:30 AM: Stories & Crafts: Earth Day: The World in your Hands (ages ages), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 21
10:30 AM: Baby Storytime (ages 0-1), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11 AM: Baby Storytime (1-2), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 22
10:30 AM: Spanish and English Storytime (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-4 PM: Department of Labor at the Library, Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 23
10:30 AM: Music & Movement (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
3:30 PM: Afterschool Fun: Painting (ages 5-12), Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 24
10:30 AM: Preschool Storytime (ages 3-5), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-2 PM: Bookworm Buddies: Session A (all ages), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
4:30 PM: Teen Thursday: Crafters Choice (ages 13-17), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
6:30-8 PM: Introduction to Birding (18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
7 PM: Caldwell Fine Arts presents: Jarabe Mexicano captures the nostalgic spirit of their roots with their charismatic brand of "Bordeño-Soul," an eclectic mix of Mexican Folk, Rock & Roll, Norteño/Tex-Mex, Latin Rock, Trío Romántico, and popular Cumbia, Caldwell High School.

April 25
10 AM: Tai Chi & Qiong (ages 18+), Library, 1010 Dearborn.
3-4 PM: Ping Pong Club (all ages), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.



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Tickets available at www.hustonvineyards.com

April 26
April 25 (continued)
10 AM: World Tai Chi & Qigong Day (18+), Serenity Park.

April 28
10:30 AM: Baby Storytime (ages 0-1), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
11 AM: Baby Storytime (1-2), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-2 PM: Knitting & Crochet Social (ages 18+), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 29
10:30 AM: Spanish and English Storytime (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
1-4 PM: Department of Labor at the Library, Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

April 30
10:30 AM: Music & Movement (ages 2-6), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
3:30 PM: Afterschool Fun: Builder's Fest: Mystery Materials Markerspace (ages 5-12), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.
6 PM: Children's Day Celebration (all ages), Caldwell Library, 1010 Dearborn.

May 5
7:30 PM: Caldwell Centennial Band: A Spring Fling Concert at Jewett Auditorium, College of Idaho.

Join the Spring Prayer Walk

by Arlene Robinett

Join us Saturday April 12, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. for the Spring Prayer Walk. We start at the Caldwell Memorial Park Bandshell. People may stay at the park to pray. We walk around downtown praying at the Gazebo, the Indian Creek Plaza, the Police Station, City Hall and Fire Station and then back to the park. We pray for all peoples and all walks of life. We pray for a day shelter for the homeless, for food insecure people, human trafficking to go away, as well as the gangs to become better people, for illegal drugs and violence to disappear. We pray that gang members will be ministered to and find Jesus in their lives. Also more and more people come to know God and Jesus in each of their lives and know how much they are loved. We pray for all schools and colleges, all students, all teachers, administrators and bus drivers and that everyone everywhere will be safe. We pray for the police, paramedics, firemen, the mayor and city council members, all healthcare workers, for graffiti to go away and for all of Caldwell's businesses to do well. This is a family event for people of all ages! All are invited to come! We have a wonderful time of being together and praying for our wonderful city! A Potluck Dinner follows the walk. Those who attend are invited to bring a favorite dish to share. For more information please call Arlene Robinett at 208 391 8516. See you there!



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Upcoming Emergency Preparedness Fair Saturday, April 26th, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



72- Hour Kits



Alternative Cooking Preparedness



Solar Preparedness

Recent Natural Disasters Highlight the Importance of Emergency Preparedness. The recent wildfires in California were tragic with the loss of lives, homes, and other personal documents and keepsakes. Those people are now having to rebuild their lives and grieve over the loved ones who were lost. These same tragedies can happen here in Caldwell! A 4.2 magnitude earthquake happened on January 27th that we felt in Boise and Emmett. No one knows when the next one

will happen or how big it will be. As natural disasters continue to wreak havoc across the globe, from devastating wildfires and flooding in California, severe tornadoes in the Midwest, and earthquakes in Turkey, the need for emergency preparedness has never been more urgent. These disasters serve as a grim reminder of how quickly life can change, and how crucial it is for individuals, families and communities to be ready. Emergencies often happen without warning. Being pre-

pared can make all the difference in ensuring safety and reducing risks during these crises. Emergency preparedness involves having an action plan, necessary supplies, and clear communication with loved ones. It also means knowing what to do before, during, and after a disaster strikes, and helping to minimize panic and chaos when seconds matter most. In light of these growing concerns an Emergency Preparedness Fair will be hosted

on Saturday, April 26th, from 10:00 am to 2:00pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3015 S. Kimball Ave. Caldwell

The fair will offer valuable resources and expert advice on how to prepare for various types of natural disasters. Classes and booths with hands-on activities, hourly prize drawings, and fun activities will be available. Attendees

will learn about ensuring they have water and food resources during emergencies, assembling 72-hour disaster kits, vital document preservation, how to stay informed during an emergency, and much, much more.

Local experts and emergency response teams will be on hand to share tips and tools that can help residents protect themselves, their families, and their homes. This free event is a great opportunity for the community to come together and ensure they are ready to face the unexpected.

Don't wait for an emergency to happen to find out how prepared you are.

Please join us on April 26th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to get the knowledge and resources you need to stay safe, prepared, and not scared for any disaster or emergency that may come your way.

Caldwell has Health and Resource Fair

by Leora Summer, Caldwell Perspective

On Wednesday, April 23rd, 9am-2pm, there will be a Health and Resource Fair at O'Connor Field House (2207 Blaine, Caldwell), open to the public.

Resources included will be: Resources for Housing, Healthcare, Seniors, Jobs, Education, Transportation, Caregivers, Assistive Technology, and Disability. There will also be a Saint Alphonsus

Mammogram Coach available, a Free Vet Check for Seniors' Dogs & Cats, a Veterans Services Mobile Unit and many more services to check out.

So if you want to find out about some of the resources that are available to you, head on over to O'Connor Field house and check it out. You might be glad that you did.





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Eventually the nerves degenerate. Once the nerves "die" the patient experiences weakness, pain, numbness, tingling, and the most debilitating balance problems.

Typical "solutions" include prescriptions for medications such as Gabapentin, Lyrica, Cymbalta, Neurontin, and antidepressant or anti-seizure drugs to help temporarily reduce symptoms.

Patients report frustration because of the side effects. Sadly, your doctor, like Michael's, will tell you to continue taking these drugs, even when you feel miserable, or to just live with the problem because solutions are quite limited. Michael was told that there was nothing that would bring back the feeling or slow the progression.

It's no surprise that neuropathy patients are desperately seeking alternative solutions that actually help. Dr. Kimberly Thompson, owner of Meridian Family Acupuncture, is working with top specialists around the world to help pioneer modern integrative treatment which combines ancient **acupuncture PLUS modern electron therapy**. She has developed a system which combines acupuncture and Frequency Specific Microcurrent (FSM) to help patients get the relief they are seeking.

Frequency Specific Microcurrent treatment was **originally developed by NASA**. These advanced technologies assist in increasing blood flow to expedite recovery. The amount of treatment needed to allow the nerves to

fully recover varies from person to person and can only be determined after a detailed neurological and vascular evaluation.

Dr. Thompson explains: "While no two patients are identical, our typical patient has seen several physicians and specialists, and are **often told there's no hope**. Those are the cases that we really excel in. In our practice, we **typically see tremendous progress in 3-4 months** of treatment—depending on the severity of the nerve damage."

FINALLY a solution that really works. Dr. Thompson has been able to help patients get their lives back. They've been able to enjoy daily activities of life without the constant pain. They've regained their balance, and many were able to regain their independence.

Michael confides, "I won't lie. I was really skeptical, especially when the top neurologist in the area told me there was nothing that could be done. Then I find this doctor right here in Meridian that tells me she can help. Turns out she was right! It took about three months of treatment and I can now confidently drive myself to my appointments! It's hard to put into words how incredible this is, quite frankly [Dr. Thompson] gave me my life back."

If you, a family member, friend, or co-worker are suffering from neuropathy, please do yourself or the loved one a favor and **give them this article to read**. This month we are running a special: the normal cost for a consultation is \$250 but with the mention of this article the cost will be \$40, which includes the consultation, sensory loss exam and our best recommendation regarding a treatment plan to get you back on track.

We look forward to helping you feel the grass between your toes again!

Leadership Caldwell Visit CFD Training Facility

Press Release



The Caldwell Fire Department recently welcomed Leadership Caldwell to its training facility for an immersive experience, offering participants a firsthand look at the many facets of the fire service. From learning about each division to

suiting up in gear, attendees engaged in hands-on activities that showcased the skills, training, and dedication required to protect the community. Participants observed crews extricating training mannequins from a vehicle

using specialized rescue tools, witnessed how quickly fire ignites and how swiftly firefighters respond, and engaged in meaningful discussions about emergency response operations. The event provided valuable insight into the challenges our firefighters face with limited resources and the teamwork that is essential to keeping the community safe.

“We’re grateful for the opportunity to share what we do with Leadership Caldwell,” said Matt Shupe, Deputy Chief of Operations. “Experiences like these strengthen the connection between first responders and the community, highlighting the

importance of fire safety, emergency preparedness, and the extensive training our crews undergo.”

Kellie Smith, Home Loan Specialist with Churchill Mortgage and participant in Caldwell Chamber Leadership Caldwell, shared her thoughts on the experience: “Seeing firsthand the level of training, skill, and dedication that goes into firefighting was eye-opening. The hands-on demonstrations truly emphasized the complexity of emergency response and the commitment these firefighters have to protecting our community.”

The Caldwell Fire Department extends its sincere gratitude to Mayor Wag-

oner, the City Council, and other city leaders for their ongoing support of our agency, particularly in the development and enhancement of our training facility. Their commitment enables us to expand our capabilities, provide advanced training opportunities, and better serve our rapidly expanding community. We look forward to continuing to showcase, train, educate, and engage at our facility.

For more information about the Caldwell Fire Department and its community engagement efforts, please contact Bianca Stevenson at: bstevenson@cityofcaldwell.org.



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Caldwell Smoke Alarm Blitz

The Caldwell Smoke Alarm Blitz helps out in high-risk areas

On Saturday, April 5, the Caldwell Fire Department and the American Red Cross will collaborate with local volunteers to install free smoke alarms in approximately 100 homes during the Caldwell Smoke Detector Blitz. This effort is focused on enhancing fire safety and providing life-saving resources to residents.

The selected neighborhood, Indian Creek Estates, and surrounding areas have experienced 25 fire incidents in the past year, highlighting the urgent need for increased fire prevention measures. This neighborhood was identified as a target area using comprehensive data analysis from the Caldwell Fire Department’s ongoing community risk assessment initiatives. The initiative aims to reduce the

risk of fire-related injuries and fatalities by ensuring homes are equipped with working smoke alarms.

“We know that working smoke alarms save lives,” said Alan Perry, Deputy Chief of Fire Prevention and Investigations, Caldwell Fire Department. “Through this collaboration with the American Red Cross and the support of our volunteers, we are making a direct impact on community safety. Our data-driven approach ensures we are prioritizing the areas that are most in need of support.”

In addition to installing smoke alarms, volunteers will provide residents with valuable fire safety education, offering tips on how to prevent fires and create home escape plans.



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Caldwell Fire and Caldwell Police Promotions



Police Promotion to Lewis Sargent (Corporal) and family



Caldwell Fire (left to right): Deputy Chief Bryan Daniels, Division Chief of Training Brian Richey (new hire), Deputy Chief of Operations Matt Shupe, Fire Marshal Chief Alan Perry



Aron Streibel and family member with Deputy Chief Shawn Sopoaga



Heather Nicodemus (new Police officer hire) with Deputy Chief Shawn Sopoaga



Police Officer Paul Stevens (new hire) and family member with Deputy Chief Shawn Sopoaga

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Dr. Melyssa Ferro – IETA Technology Educator of the Year

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective

Caldwell School District's Dr. Melyssa Ferro was selected as the IETA (Idaho Education Technology Association) Technology Educator of the Year! She was nominated by Caleb Shore, Caldwell School District's IT director. The association "promotes, facilitates and sustains education technology and all its users while

enhancing the education of Idaho's students for tomorrow's technology." This award is given to someone who excels in promoting and facilitating the use of technology in Idaho education. She was nominated for both her use of educational technology to support student learning as well as her advocacy

and support for the teachers in the school district with regards to technology integration and her work around generative AI in classroom spaces. In addition to receiving this award this year, Dr. Ferro also presented during the conference on effective ways to use AI in the classroom. She teaches two periods a day at Syringa Middle School and works as a K-12 instructional coach for educational technology. She also works as a grades 5-12 curriculum capacity builder for the district science teachers. This is her 25th year teaching in the Caldwell School District.

Of the award, Dr. Ferro says, "I appreciate the recognition for my work in educational technology. I think that educational technology and generative AI will never replace the work that teachers do in the classroom, but I think that we have entered the 5th Industrial Revolution and educators who cannot or will not use technology and AI to leverage student learning will be replaced by those who can and will." Congratulations to Dr. Melyssa Ferro! This is another win for the quality of education in our Caldwell School District.



Submitted photo

Dr. Melyssa Ferro with her IETA Technology Educator of the Year award.



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Caldwell Fine Arts Presents Jarabe Mexicano

Caldwell Fine Arts proudly presents the dynamic Mexican-American border band Jarabe Mexicano on April 24 at 7 PM at Caldwell High School. Known for their electrifying fusion of Mexican Folk, Rock & Roll, Tex-Mex, Latin Rock, and Reggae-Cumbia, Jarabe Mexicano delivers an unforgettable performance filled with soulful harmonies and spirited rhythms. The evening will feature a special collaboration with the Caldwell School District Mariachi Band, adding a local touch to this musical celebration. Performing on traditional stringed folk instruments accompanied by lively percussion, the band's charismatic stage presence and bilingual vocals have captivated audiences nationwide. Jarabe Mexicano has shared the stage with notable artists such as Louie Pérez of Los Lobos and has opened for internationally renowned acts Gaby Moreno and La Santa Cecilia.



Jarabe Mexicano will perform at CHS on April 24th

Hailed as a cultural ambassador by the Mexican Consulate in the United States, Jarabe Mexicano uses every performance as an opportunity to build connections and foster community. Visit www.caldwellfinearts.org to learn more.

Caldwell Meals on Wheels

by Caldwell Meals on Wheels



THANK YOU to the Canyon County Festival of Trees for the amazing donation generated from the 2024 Festival! I know how much work goes into putting on the Festival each year and we are so grateful. This amazing gift will provide over 12,000 meals for homebound seniors!



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Caldwell Family Painting at the Library

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Caldwell Family Painting was hosted by the Caldwell Public Library, the Caldwell School District Community Schools, and Caldwell Fine Arts at the library on March 11th. The event was part of Caldwell Fine Arts 4th Annual Community Paint Project where they give away art supplies to over 1,400 students. Free art supplies are also available during the program for community members at the Flying M as well as Caldwell Family Painting at the Library. This year's theme is "Bridges."

Families at the library enjoyed painting together and with other members of the community. Andrea Vil-



Maddie and Joe Woodbridge show off their bridge paintings.



Andrea, Santiago, Miguel and Maria Elena spend some family painting time.

lanueva said she and her family came because they "wanted something fun to do and wanted to try a new activity as a family." Joe Woodbridge said he and his daughter came because she "likes art and does arts and crafts at least three nights a week." He said they

often check out books from the library, so they thought they would come to the family paint event and see what it was like. Maddie said that making art out in the community with others is even more fun than making art at home.

Some of the community members who attended Caldwell Family Painting at the library submitted their paintings to the Community Paint Project and some will be on display at the Flying M until April 30th.

CANYON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL PI DAY

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Canyon Springs celebrated Pi Day, March 14th (3.14 - get it?). As part of the day all of the students learned about the importance and history of pi and were challenged to come up with a creative way to calculate pi on their own. In addition, the three students who were able to memorize the most digits of pi got to smash a pie in the face of one of their (very very dedicated) teachers.

Pryce Moreno won the contest by memorizing 49 digits, Oliver Roblero won second by memorizing 29 digits and Gavino Torres won third by memorizing 28 digits of pi. English and Language Arts teachers, Andrew Hutchings and Justin Hand, as well as Safe School Aid Jamie Jamtas, took the pies to the face, demonstrating that they will go to great lengths to motivate their stu-



The Canyon Springs Student Council. Back Row L to R: Damian Andrade, Jorge Padilla, Kasy Transue; Front Row L to R: Angie Maltsev, Abby Schick, and Sarahi Rosales Monarrez; Not pictured: Vionni Espinoza, Brooklyn Longest, and Nathan June

dents to learn. To prepare for the day, the student council took orders for pizza pies, fruit pies, and moon pies and then delivered them to students and teachers on Pi Day. These sales were a fundraiser for the senior events the student council hosts, like prom and graduation.



Pryce Moreno, winner of the Pi Day competition, smashing a pie in the face of teacher, Justin Hand



Three very dedicated educators, Andrew Hutchings, Jamie Jamtas, and Justin Hand

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Sponsored by the Caldwell Veterans Council

Additional information and tickets can be found online at www.cvmh-vets.org.

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

OUR 2025 EVENTS

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

OUR 2025 MEETINGS

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

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





Plan to get there early and be parked around 6:30 a.m. giving yourself plenty of time to hike up the butte. You won't want to miss the beautiful sunrise! Dress warmly, wear appropriate shoes and bring blankets. For more information or to make a donation, visit LizardButteSunrise.com

HE IS RISEN!

Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled. He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock Him and kill Him. On the third day He will rise again." Luke 18: 31-34

Easter Sunrise Service On Lizard Butte

Sunday, April 20th, 7 a.m.

Parking gates open at 5 a.m.

With the help of community volunteers, this service has been made possible for over 88 years. If you would like to lend your talents to the efforts of keeping this service going, please share your contact information with us at LizardButteSunrise.com

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS! NAIA – College of Idaho Basketball

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective



Happy Yotes with the NAIA Championship banner!
Second time in 3 years!
*from College of Idaho Athletics Facebook



Coach Colby Blaine at Friends University game.
His 200th game at C of I!

WOW! What a season! The College of Idaho women’s basketball team played well winning their last 6 regular games before going to the CCC and then winning their first game there before losing the next. This did get them to the semi-finals of the NAIA conference. They were ranked No. 12 and they won their first game, in the NAIA semi-final’s first round in overtime with a final score of 58-56 against the University of Providence (MT), ranked No. 5. They lost the next game against Georgetown College (KY) with a score of 79-70, and

their journey ended there. They are to be congratulated for a great comeback season with an overall 18-13 season. The men’s team kept up their momentum all season long, winning their CCC championship title and then moved on to win their first semi-final NAIA game (as the #1 seed) on March 14th against Merced (CA) with a 75-65 win. That game was a little scary in the beginning with a tight 1-point back-and-forth spread for awhile until a couple 3-pointers in a row helping them pull away with a 24-19 score by the half.

The March 15th game against Friends University (KA) gave us a little more breathing room from the start with a final winning score of 75-65, winning our semi-finals and pushing us into the finals in Kansas City, MO. This game celebrated Coach Colby Blaine earning his 200th win as the head coach of the College of Idaho. Coach Blaine is in his 7th season, which has been 30 plus games per season. This is our 4th straight year advancing to the finals. On March 20th, we played Langston, 4th seed, (to whom we lost last year) and we played a great game, beating them with a 95-65 score. On March 22nd we beat Georgetown College, 83-71, winning our seat to the Fab Four on March 24th. It was a great game and we had breathing room. I love our team. During “down time,” they interacted with some fun basketball and other activities with a Special Olympics group. They are great guys and it meant a lot to the kids! On March 24th we played Arizona Christian University and whipped them good with a 72-45 win. On March 25th, we played the Oklahoma Wesleyan Eagles for the final Championship title. And guess



Samaje Morgan, with his trophy.
“Player of the Tournament!”

what? “We are the champions! We are the champion!” It is the second time in 3 years. Samaje Morgan was named the “Player of the Tournament” and earned the “Chuck Taylor Most Valuable Player Award” and he along with Tyler Robinett, Johnny Radford and Drew Wyman earned “First Team All-Tournament” honors.



A happy Tyler Robinett with the NAIA Championship trophy.

The Tradition Continues... Fridays through Lent
at Our Lady Of The Valley Catholic Church
1122 W. Linden St., Caldwell, ID
March 7—April 11 from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
\$8 per person • \$4 for ages 6-12 yrs. • 5 and under FREE
Pay at the door (cash or check only - no credit cards)




Enjoy homemade Clam Chowder or Minestrone Soup, coleslaw, slice of pie and a beverage

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HELLS CANYON ADVENTURE, July 8-10, 2025



A 6-hour exciting jet boat trip through wild rapids on the Snake River through the deepest gorge in North America, seeing gorgeous steep canyon walls to the Hells Canyon Dam with a lunch stop and visit to the Kirkwood Museum. You will also see wildlife, Native American pictographs and ancient rock formations.


Included in this tour:

- Bus transportation from Memorial Park
- 2 nights at Salmon Rapids Lodge
- McCall Lake Cruise
- Hells Canyon Jet Boat Tour
- Brundage Mountain Lift
- 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 1 dinner

Fee for this trip is \$995 + tax per person, based on double occupancy.

- To Reserve your spot, Call by May 1!
Call Denise: 208-455-3060

OREGON COAST TOUR, September 13-19



A seven-day vacation to the Oregon Coast, visiting Astoria, Seaside, Cannon Beach, Lincoln City and Newport.

Included in this tour:

- Astoria: A tour of Fort Clatsop, winter home of Lewis and Clark expedition, a trolley ride through town and a visit to the Columbia River Maritime Museum and Flavel House Museum
- Garibaldi: A steam train scenic coastal tour.
- Newport: The Historic Bayfront, lighthouses, whale watching on a Marine Discovery Cruise, and a visit to the fascinating Oregon Coast Aquarium.

The tour fee includes bus transportation, six-nights lodging, entrance tickets and several meals.

Fee for this seven-day tour is \$2,090 + tax per person, based on double occupancy.

- To Reserve your spot, Call by May 15!
Call Denise: 208-455-3060

The @nabc1927 (National Association of Basketball Coaches) named Samaje Morgan All-American and named Colby Blaine the NAIA Coach of the Year after having an overall 35-2 record (21-1 CCC) and his second National Championship in 3 years! And another award, Coach of the Year and Coaching Staff of the Year by the NAIA! On Tuesday, April 1st there was a celebration with our community at the JAAC at the College of Idaho where they raised the new NAIA Championship red banner! All I’ve gotta say is “WOW! WOW! WOW! And CONGRATULATIONS!”

Caldwell
BRIDGING COMMUNITY & COMMERCES
PERSPECTIVE

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Chantele Hensel
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Publisher/Advertising

Caldwell High FFA helps students find their path

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

In 2017, the Caldwell High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) program restarted after being dormant for over 60 years. Caldwell High School ended its FFA program in the late 50s after the Vallivue School District was created to serve rural students in the area. Today, Caldwell's FFA program is building and creating great opportunities for Caldwell students.

Kyera Tipper, CHS Senior, recently received an Idaho FFA Scholarship for \$1000. Idaho FFA gives roughly 45 scholarships a year to FFA students around the state. Kyera will use the money towards the Heavy-Duty Truck Technician program at CWI where she will specialize in diesel engines. Kyera will also receive her State FFA degree this year for completing specific requirements. Only 6% of FFA members achieve this degree.

Sophie Stills, CHS Junior, was recently elected by the District FFA students and advisors as one of six FFA District officers. Caldwell's FFA program is in the Treasure Valley District along with Homedale, Marsing, Middleton, Notus, Ridgevue, Vallivue, and Wilder.

Eli Ingle, CHS Sophomore, recently won a \$500 grant from the Idaho FFA to

expand his Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE). SAE projects give students hands-on learning in specific fields and SAE grants are given to students to help with project costs. Eli will use the grant money to buy new metal-working equipment like grinders and other tools for the ag-welding business he is starting out of his home.

Four CHS students will compete at Idaho FFA's state competition in Floriculture: Sophie Stills, Audrey Dowling, Diana Romero Padilla, and Hanna Young. The Floriculture competition requires students to identify plants, demonstrate skills in flower arranging based on customer needs, and prepare floral and foliage products for sale on a given budget. The Floriculture event builds skills important to careers in greenhouse and field production management and garden center and floral shop management.

Nayla Romero, CHS Freshman, will compete in Spanish Creed Speaking at Idaho FFA's state competition. The Creed competition requires students to recite the FFA Creed from memory and to answer three questions about it. The FFA Creed outlines the organization's values and beliefs regarding the industry of agriculture, FFA membership, and citi-

zenship and patriotism. Students participating in Creed Speaking learn to communicate in a powerful, organized and professional manner and build self-confidence.

Seven CHS students; Diana Romero-Padilla, Audrey Dowling, Sophie Stills, Kyera Tipper, Eliana Flores, Evie Laurenson, and Hanna Young attended the 2024 National FFA convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The event was attended by 70,000 students and supporters and provided a unique opportunity for CHS students to see new places, meet students from around the country, hear inspiring speakers, and connect with AG industry professionals.

Justin Ruhl, is the CHS FFA advisor and AG teacher. He grew up on his family farm south of Nampa and got his degree in AG Cultural Systems Management from U of I. After working at Simplot in various roles he realized that helping students learn about agriculture is his real passion. He went back to U of I and got an AG Education degree and now inspires students to get involved in AG and consider AG professions.

Mr. Ruhl teaches five different AG pathways: animal science, plant science, AG mechanics, AG leadership and communication, and food



Eli Ingle with his welding teacher, Ivak Cooper, and a \$500 grant check from the Idaho FFA



At the FFA National Convention L to R: Diana Romero-Padilla, Audrey Dowling, Sophie Stills, Kyera Tipper, Eliana Flores, Evie Laurenson, and Hanna Young

processing and preservation. He teaches a beginner, intermediate, and advanced course in each pathway. AG classes serve about 120 students per semester and about 40 students have joined FFA. Mr. Ruhl works very closely with Ivak Cooper, CHS's welding teacher.

He is especially proud to advise a student-driven organization where students learn and practice parliamentary procedure and every student gets a chance to participate.



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The City of Caldwell is proud to announce that significant progress has been made on the pool. The mechanical building is finally

complete! After months of careful planning and construction, the backbone of the pool facility is ready to serve its purpose. Workers

Caldwell Pool Update

by City of Caldwell


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moved swiftly over the past few weeks to finalize the internal systems, ensuring that everything from the filtration pumps to the heating elements are in place and functioning perfectly. The air around the site buzzes with excitement as the finishing touches are applied.

By mid-April, plastering of the pool will begin, a key milestone that signals the project is nearing its grand opening. The pool's deep end is already transforming. The slide has been installed, tall and winding, waiting for the first thrill-seekers to ride down. The diving blocks are securely in place, positioned perfectly for anyone looking to dive into the cool, clear water. And perhaps the most exciting addition: the AquaZip'n, a modern take on the traditional water zip line, stretching across the



deep end. Soon enough, it'll be the go-to feature for those looking for a little more adventure in their swim.

Meanwhile, the bathhouse is coming along smoothly. Construction is progressing well, with the framework nearly completed. By May, everything should be in place for the finishing touches: changing rooms, spacious showers, and ev-

everything needed to make poolside moments comfortable and convenient.

To ensure the pool operates smoothly and safely once it opens, the team will be hiring for several important positions. Available roles will include shift managers, lifeguards, and swim instructors. These positions will be crucial in providing top-notch service and ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable experience. If you're passionate about swimming, safety, or teaching, this is the perfect opportunity to be a part of something exciting and new for the community. Jobs will be posted in the coming weeks here: Career Opportunities | City of Caldwell, Idaho

Opening date is set for early summer, ideally in time for Memorial Weekend. We'll have a clearer picture of the exact opening date by early May.

And in May, the excitement will ramp up even further. Registration for swim lessons will open, and soon after, reservations for private pool rentals will be available. People are already eagerly awaiting the chance to book the pool for their own special events, whether it's a birthday party, a family gathering, or just a private swim.

The countdown has begun. The community can almost taste the summer fun that awaits. With each passing day, the pool becomes more than just a project—it's becoming a dream come true for everyone who's been waiting for this moment. The anticipation grows, and the summer fun is just around the corner.

ELEVATE CALDWELL LOTTERY OPEN!



Lottery registration now open for the 2025-2026 School Year

- From January 6th until April 9th
- Lottery drawing on April 16th
- For more information, visit elevate208.org/enroll/caldwell
- Contact us: (208) 779-4086



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We Want Your Good News!

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective

Music is a Lifetime Sport



Caldwell Centennial Band at a Monday night rehearsal!

Football, basketball, soccer and other sports are great to participate in, but the time you can participate in these sports is limited due to age and your physical condition. We get older and these fun things we used to do, we can no longer do. There is a short-lived time that we can participate in these sports and many others. Golf is a lifetime sport, which you can keep on doing as long as your knees and shoulders hold out.

There is another activity that you can continue to do

as long as you have breath in your lungs and your fingers still move and your brain still connects to your fingers. That sport is playing an instrument in a band! My lifetime sport is playing in a concert band! I can call it a sport if I want to! In high school, I did play the clarinet in regular band and marched and played the drums and read music at the same time in marching band. That does take coordination.

Whoever thought that something that I began doing in 1961 in the 4th grade, that I

would still be doing today? My dad bought a clarinet from Sears and Roebuck for me and I played that same clarinet for 62 years. I bought a “new-to-me” clarinet just a couple years ago. I didn’t realize that I needed a different one until I played it. I have also played an E-flat contra bass clarinet and tenor sax in college.

But today, I have been playing in our Caldwell Centennial Band since we first came together and played at the Caldwell Train Depot during the State of Idaho’s Centennial celebration in 1990. Also playing since 1990 during our band’s first summer as a band, are John Blaisdell and Todd Marshall. We are the last of the hold-outs, the OGs (Original Geezers), from that first organized Caldwell band. I say that band members never truly die, they just run out of air.

There are many volunteer members in our band today from all around our Treasure Valley and from all walks of life. We continue to play because we enjoy making music with others and love to perform

our music for our community.

Our band usually has about 40-50 members of all ages. So if you miss playing in a band, go to our Facebook page, Caldwell Centennial Band, and “like” it and reach out and we will get back to you with details.

We play 5 free concerts in Memorial Park during the summer and have two concerts in Jewett each year. If you want to check us out, we will be performing in Jewett at 7:30pm on May 5th. Come! Our music is fun and for everyone!

April Showers Came Early at the Hensel Household

by Chantele Hensel, Caldwell Perspective

Since February 2, 2024, I have been proud of my little home that I have put much love into and it needed it. My home was built in 1948 (the same year my grandparents married and I always loved that), and it sits on an acre and a half. I have created my place of solitude on my wooden deck off the back of the house with a comfortable seating area and have bulbs planted to welcome the spring. I have put in sprinklers, replaced my flooring, bought new furniture, created a soft cozy space in my bedroom that is all mine. I have looked

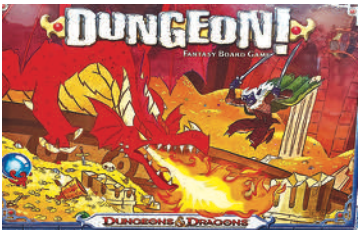
at my bathroom with disgust for a while and always shuddered when guests asked to use the bathroom. So...about a month ago, the bathtub began to drain slowly and the toilet flushed less often than it did. I called the plumber out and sure enough, there was a break. Problem is, the bathroom was built on concrete which required jack hammering. Then there was a break under my deck, so a chunk of deck was removed and the final break was under the new stamped, stained concrete Michael had put in for my outdoor kitchen before he passed. So that required a two-foot strip to be removed. I decided with the level of damage, I wanted a whole new bathroom, and take it to the bones and rebuild. I am excited it will be beautiful. But that is not the best part of the story. After the plumber fixed all the damage and set

the tub surround in place, the drywall had to come in for drywall, tape and texture. It was sure looking pretty. Then one night about two days later, I heard one of my cats meowing. They are new to our home and not very social yet. I went into the space that I heard the meow and I only saw one cat, but there was the second somewhere. As I began to call for the cat, I heard him meow again. You guessed it, he had hidden behind the tub surround before the wall were put up. At 11 o’clock that night, my plumber, who really is wonderful, came over to retrieve my cat.

Currently, the linoleum goes in tomorrow and the porta potty outside will be going away as soon as the toilet and vanity are in place. I now see light at the end of a long tunnel.

GAME REVIEW: Dungeon Fantasy Board Game

By Sazia Fletcher



Dungeon! Is a simplified board game version of the ever-popular Dungeon & Dragons table top game. This game is perfect for family game night. Hours of play for anyone 8 years old and up. I love that this game is 1 – 8 players and can be played multiple times without repeating an adventure.

Caldwell PERSPECTIVE

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Chantele Hensel
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CALDWELL CENTENNIAL BAND



“A Spring Fling Concert!”

...under Conductor Bob Armstrong

Jewett Auditorium
College of Idaho-Caldwell
May 5, 2025
7:30 p.m.
\$5.00 at the door

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Vocalist Jeannie Marie
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WOW! Amazing Blood Moon!

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective

I put this on my calendar so I would not miss it. I wasn't sure that I would see another one, so I took this opportunity. There is not always tomorrow. So when the day came, I set my alarm for 12:45am on March 14th. However, I chose to stay up instead and watch a little TV.

I went out at midnight because it was reported that it would begin around then, but it was already doing it. Alas! Clouds doggone it! I watched as the moon peeked in and out of the clouds and then low and behold, clear sky! It really was breath-taking! But I am easily impressed! I couldn't help but say "Wow!" over and over out loud. If you didn't know what was going on, you might have thought I was nuts, and some of you who do know me think that anyway.

This total eclipse of the moon causes the moon to appear a deep red color, thus the name "Blood Moon." This is caused when the earth comes between the sun and the moon causing the earth to cast a shadow upon the moon which causes the sunlight to be filtered through the earth's atmosphere creating that very cool red glow from the moon. I did not want to miss this rare event. Can you imagine what ancient cultures thought when they saw this? So if you missed it, I hope you catch it predicted to be on March 3, 2026. It is pretty cool! It is worth setting your alarm for.



Full Blood Moon Eclipse



Partial Blood Moon Eclipse

photos by Suz Hume

Southwest Idaho Birders Association

by JC Clancy

Spring glides in on shore-bird wings, even though Idaho doesn't have a lot of shore-line. Long-billed dowitchers and dunlins have already been seen from Parma to Lake Lowell's Lower Dam. Curlews, looking out of place with their long down-curved bills and long legs, have put in an appearance in farm fields south of Lake Lowell. A few sandpipers have already been seen and a wider variety will soon be found anywhere from the lowest Lower Dam steps to mud flats at Old Fort Boise.

April is an appropriate time for SIBA to welcome Tyler Archibald, Regional Wildlife Biologist with the Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game and manager at Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area since 2016. He'll have an update on migratory species including the shorebirds as well as the many thousands of snow geese and other water fowl that pass through the area every spring. He'll discuss

habitat projects, recent and upcoming, as well as provide background and general information about the WMA and its popularity with hunters and anglers as well as bird watchers. More than 75 bird species have already been reported on ebird this year with most of the songbirds and shorebirds yet to come.

Archibald is originally from eastern Idaho and now lives in Caldwell with his wife and 4 kids. He'll be speaking at 7 p.m. on April 10th as SIBA resumes its in-person meetings at the Deer Flat NWR visitor center. The meeting will also be available by Zoom. For the link, go to sibainfo@gmail.com.

On Saturday, April 12, SIBA members will head for High Valley, seeking birds of the sage grasslands and Ponderosa pine forest. They'll gather at 7 a.m. at the Triangle Restaurant, 8770 Highway 52, Sweet, ID. Registration is required by email to



trip leader James Jarrett at SIBAFIELDtrip@gmail.com. They'll carpool/caravan through the valley and up through grassland and sagebrush habitat and into the Ponderosa forest. Brewers and Vesper sparrows are often seen in this area. In the higher forest habitat, they'll look for both Black-capped and Mountain chickadees along with House and Cassin's finches. High Valley has meadow and wetland areas with a chance to see Sandhill Cranes. This will be an all-day trip so bring water, snacks, and lunch. Dress for winter and spring weather.

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CALDWELL COUNCIL 3086

by Dave McCormick

Almost like snowflakes high in the sky.
Enchanted I watched them fly by.
In great waves, they course on their way,
Cackling and chortling a shimmering display.

Some are in lines, some are V's,
Many break ranks and do as they please.
Unlike Canadas who are line dancers,
Snows are Freewheeling hip-hopping prancers.

From the south in great waves, they take flight.
Here they rest to the sportsman's delight.
Snow geese numbers are so numerous
The daily bag limit almost seems hubris.

Enough of that attempt at poetry.

On February 26th, John Rodenbaugh, owner of 4 Flyways had room in his goose blind for a couple of gunners. My son-in-law Todd Banta and I arrived at the blind around 11 o'clock just in time to see a flock of snows descend on the spread. A fierce Volley of gunfire ensued; geese were falling faster than the stock market in recent days. Todd and I missed the best time frame but still got some shooting in.

The gunners in the blind, had obligations and departed upon our arrival. We crawled into the blind and the electronic caller sounds like 3000 snow geese, the number of decoys that were spread out before us. Hunting snow geese successfully entails a



Thousands of snow goose decoys



An uncommon snow goose hybrid

commitment that most average water fowlers are unwilling to take on. John procures leases on multiple tracts of properties after weeks of scouting. Another property has 5000 decoys.

On the goose hunt I shot a blue goose, a variation of a snow. But this wasn't just a rare blue goose. It was even rarer. It had Ross goose genes as well, making it smaller and darker in color according to our guide John Rodenbaugh. It will be on the wall somewhere.

I hunted Canada geese back in the 1980s along

with Mike Smith. We had four dozen decoys, a decent spread in those days. Landowners changed. We lost our goose spot. I sold my decoys and became a more enthusiastic chucker hunter. Now my bird dog is getting old and so am I so maybe it is fitting I spend my time in the goose blind, full circle as they say.

Goose season is over but turkey season is on the horizon. I have shot a turkey or two but fishing opportunities are numerous in April and turkey season takes a backseat. April has a lot to offer! Get out there!

LOCAL DIRT PERSPECTIVE

by Pat King

March, in like a lion, out like a lamb. Or March, in like a lamb, out like a lion. I've heard these and many other seasonal clichés about the weather and for the most part I don't pay that much attention to them, but this year the March in like a lamb one holds very true. At the beginning of March I was all set to break out my shorts and tee-shirts for my daily outside work. But these last few days I've been chasing the stuff that blew off my property into the neighbors farm fields. One day I just waited as the winds shifted and blew them right back in my yard. Oh, I'm talking about tumbleweeds.

Well by now you should be seeing your grass greening up and growing even though it still seems too cold out. The grasses we grow mostly are

cool season and are a blend of Kentucky blue grass and perennial rye, usually an assortment of three or four different varieties of each of the blues and ryes. Each has a slightly different growth habit and color and also may have different tolerances to soils, water quality, temperature ranges or durability.

The Kentucky blue grass and the perennial ryes are in my opinion the best grass choices for our region. They have the best color and fill in rates and once established are very easy to maintain. One of the traits that I love about this blend of grasses is that it tolerates being cut very short. This helps us clean out things like the winter kill of grass, pine needles and other items that lead to the suffocation of

the soil, making it harder for oxygen and water to penetrate to the roots.

Another way to cleanup up winter die back is power raking. There are tremendous benefits to power raking your lawn at least every couple years. Most rental yards carry power rakes. A power rake combs through the turf down to soil and lifts up debris build-up that hasn't been or can't be broken down by nature, exposing the soil to much needed sunshine and oxygen.

Healthy soils are kept healthy with loose, sandy, organic compost, vital nutrients, anaerobic bacteria along with proper water, oxygen and sunlight. Densely covered soils can't breathe or even properly dry out. This leads to fungus and other diseases that then

require chemical treatments. Okay I don't want this to sound overly dramatic but lawns do require a little work to keep up.

Now after all that, if you have bare spots you may need to reseed but there are many blends out there that I wouldn't recommend. If you send this paper a picture I'll take a look

and give recommendation on seed. But only buy seed, not a patch mix with mulch. You don't get a lot of seed in the bag and your get too many seed varieties. Just get plain seed with Kentucky blue and perennial rye blends and no other seed types. Until next time, Pat.

The Whittenberger Planetarium - Delivering Awe and Wonder for 55 years

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Generations of Idahoans have learned about the night sky during a show at the Whittenberger Planetarium on the College of Idaho campus. The Whittenberger Planetarium is one of only five planetariums like it in Idaho and since 1970 has provided astronomy shows for school groups, scout groups, college classes, and the public.

In early February the planetarium's 45 seats were filled as the Planetarium Director, Amy Truksa, illustrated for members of the public what Caldwell's night sky would look like during February. The planetarium's immersive night-sky experience was enhanced with

overlays of constellations and a laser pointer that highlighted the planets. Visitors learned how to identify constellations including the Big Dipper, the Little Dipper, Taurus, Orion, and Draco the Dragon – and learned about the planetary alignment visible in Caldwell's night sky during February.

Juan Duran, Ana Chavez, and their three daughters attended the planetarium show, because it was Ana's birthday and she loves looking at the stars. Ana hadn't visited the planetarium since she was there with a school group. When asked what her favorite

part was, one daughter said the Taurus constellation, because that's her birth sign.

Truksa has been the planetarium director for the last 25 years and has given shows to an astonishing number of people in that time: 50,000. She says that school groups come

Continued on page 15

to the planetarium from all over the valley as well as from places as far away as Wagon tire, Oregon, southwest of Burns. In recent years, demand for field trips has increased as the population has grown.

Continued on page 15



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Whittenberger Planetarium Continued...

Truksa explains that the planetarium is a valuable resource for schools, because “astronomy is such a gateway to science.” She notes that “astronomy gets people excited. It is an introduction into the field of science whether they stay with astronomy or expand to something else.” She also points out that “astronomy is a lifelong hobby for so many people,” and notes that the Boise Astronomical Society is a thriving organization of hobbyists.

Like many planetariums, the one at the C of I was built during the excitement around the space race - the race between the US and Russia to land on the moon. The US landed on the moon in 1969 and the

planetarium installation in C of I's new science building, Boone Hall, was finished in 1970. The planetarium was a way to involve Idaho in what was going on nationally.

At that time, the management of the planetarium fell on the physics department, but the planetarium didn't come with funding for maintenance or staff. Truksa says a trove of old emails show the planetarium was a bit of a “hot potato” bouncing between departments that didn't have the means to properly manage it. It fell into disrepair until the Whittenberger Foundation granted money to get the planetarium up and running again, which is how it became the Whittenberger Planetarium.

In 1990 the planetarium got another boost when retired professor Boyd Henry got an Eisenhower grant that included funding for planetarium staff and maintenance. Henry hired Truksa as the planetarium director in 2000. She had a master's degree in Science Education and had hoped to find a job like this one, however, she hadn't been in a planetarium since fourth grade. Fortunately, her father, Gary Strine, was a physics professor at the C of I and had given planetarium shows. She said getting familiar with the planetarium was all “on-the-job training,” and it took “a couple of years really getting to know the projector as different parts would break down.”



Juan Duran, Ana Chavez and family visit the planetarium



This is what the Chavez family saw at the Planetarium

Truksa is working on getting funding to update the 55-year-old planetarium. The company that made the projector no longer maintains it, and better hybrid mechanical/digital projectors are on the market. A new projector would also require a new seamless dome.

If you are interested in learning about the planets and the

stars or would like to attend one of the public planetarium shows, go to its website at: <https://www.collegeofidaho.edu/about/campus-facilities/planetarium>. Truksa says they often add new shows, so watch their website for updates.

The Rice House Update

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective



The Rice House today, waiting for future renovations.



Work being done in the basement area under the Rice House.



Original door, hopefully to be restored.



Leaded glass window from original house



Basement apartment framed up.



Original radiators to be worked into final renovations.

Remember the “Rice House?” It is the house that was moved from the College of Idaho campus and placed on the lot on the corner of Kimball and Chicago with the intention of restoring it and converting it into five apartments and a coffee bistro. The apartments are intended to provide needed

affordable housing to first responders, nurses and educators in preference order. This move and refurbishing is also with hopes that it will be a catalyst to revitalization Caldwell's north end.

Caldwell Housing Authority moved it on June 30th in the wee hours in the morning to

the location where it sits today. Originally it was set on that lot and before beginning the remodeling, a foundation needed to be formed onto which to set it down on. On November 1st, the pre-work was finished and later the house was dropped onto its foundation.

As I have driven by from time to time, I have seen workers from Caldwell Housing Authority working under the house and in other areas. The interior structure is being reshaped with a new floor plan to redesign the house to have a commercial area for the proposed coffee shop bistro and 5 apartments (one and two bedrooms), with two apartments upstairs, one on the main floor (handicap accessible) and two in the basement. There will be a storage-laundry building with three washers and dryers and storage for the coffee shop and for each apartment. There will also be parking for the tenants.

I did a walk-through guided by Carlos Gonzales (Construction Manager) and Dominique Moreno (Community Outreach

and Development Coordinator). There is an incredible amount of work to do. The idea is to preserve some of the house's original details to be able to keep it on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as they do the work. The Rice House was listed on the NRHP on May 27, 1980. Originally it was a part of the Steunenberg Residential Historic District, but was then relocated to the College of Idaho campus before being moved to its current location.

One of the things to be restored will be the beautiful wooden flooring. It will be cleaned up, and whatever else is needed, to restore it to its original beauty. Some of the pretty glasswork in the windows will be reused and they will try to restore the original front door. Dominique wondered what that little twisty key-like thing on the door was. I told her that it was the door ringer, and that when you twisted it, it would make a ringing sound. The original radiators will also be reused. Also in order to keep the house

in compliance with the NRHP, wooden-framed windows will replace the construction windows that are there now.

A “Brick” campaign is now up and running to help complete this project. This is your opportunity to contribute to Caldwell history. You can check it out at: <https://www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/ricehouse>. If you would like a walk-through, you can contact Dominique by phone at (208) 459-2232, ext. 15 or email her at: dominique@chaidaho.org.

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Ten Commandments

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee and graven image

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

IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy

V. Honor thy father and thy mother

VI. Thou shalt not kill

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery

VIII. Thou shalt not steal

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor

X. Thou shalt not covet

3500 Years Old & Still Right...

John 3:16 & 17



Celebrate Global Youth Service Day, April 25-27, by planning now to unite youth in working together to strengthen our community. As we celebrate Global Youth Service Day, please know that service can be done all month long too! For 37 years, Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) has celebrated youth as the longest-running annual volunteer event focused on youth, ages 5-25. Originally known as National Youth Service Day in the United States, now young people around the world unite in community service, service learning, and youth voice activities to benefit their communities, their countries, and the world. Activities are organized in more than 100 countries, including Caldwell, to help mark the celebrations and engage millions of youth to serve.

When sharing thoughts about Global Youth Service Day, Jane Goodall expressed, "I have often said that every

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

Benefits for teens who serve: When we think of the benefits of service, we often focus on how service helps the person being helped. Recent research highlights that service also helps the "helper." The teenage years are often a tough time for both parents and children, and though many teens are thriving and engaging in meaningful and unique service opportunities, countless youth are struggling with mental health issues and problem behaviors.

Research shows when teenagers serve strangers, their self-esteem increases, their hope and gratitude increases, and their aggression and delinquency behaviors decrease. Teens who report high levels of service feel more grateful and more hopeful. When teens engage in serving strangers consistently, they are less likely to focus on themselves and their own problems and are more likely to see the good in what they have and feel hopeful. They also gain self-confidence by helping others and seeing that they are important and needed in their communities. Research has also found teens who serve are likely to become

connected with friends who have positive values and behaviors.

As parents and leaders, we are often looking for ways to build our youth and to help protect them against negative outcomes. Start children serving and making a difference in the lives of others at early ages as it will help them throughout their lives. Tools like JustServe are a great way to help young people get involved in serving strangers and neighbors in the community and can have a meaningful impact with positive outcomes for youth (including self-esteem, self-confidence, gratitude, and hope) as well as protecting against problem behaviors (such as aggression and poor self-esteem).

Find community service needs by visiting JustServe.org: There are many community service opportunities posted on JustServe.org and more coming for Global Youth Service Day. There is a fantastic opportunity for companies, youth groups, community members and individuals to unite and make a real impact by supporting vulnerable youth through hands-on work on the Idaho Youth Ranch Residential Center for Healing and Resilience's Tree Farm. When the Idaho Youth Ranch acquired its almost 260-acre facility in

by Kelli Jenkins, JustServe Caldwell



Caldwell, they knew it would take 100's of volunteers and community to bring their vision to life - and this year, they are turning the tree farm vision into a special space of healing and resilience. Organize a youth group, grab family & friends, and/or bring your company on any of the focus days outlined as follows:

- April 16th: Prep Work, Prep Clean (Volunteers need to be 12+ years old)
- April 17th: Heavy Equipment, Cutting Trees (Volunteers need to be 18+ years old)
- April 18th: Clean Up, Finalize (Volunteers need to be 12+ years old)

Idaho Youth Ranch needs a total of 900 volunteers to help at their Tree Farm. Visit JustServe.org to sign-up or give Nate Gilbert a call at 208-972-5373 or email: volunteers@YouthRanch.org

Start planning now to cel-



celebrate Global Youth Service Day! Youth, ages 5-25, are invited to make a difference in their community! As our youth, and others, use the JustServe.org website or app, they build habits of service throughout the year that feed back into that vision of the first and second great commandment — loving God and loving one's neighbor. Be watching for more great information on the Global Youth Service Day on JustServe Caldwell's Facebook page.

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Milestones of service and progress



1937: First and only photo known to exist of the newly constructed Peckham Funeral Chapel.



TODAY....

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2000....

We established our community center next to the Funeral Chapel to offer a comfortable space for gatherings and receptions. It was named the C.V. Peckham Community Center in memory of our founder.

1997....

T. Wilbur Dakan, the first generation of Dakan ownership, died March 3, 1997 at the age of 85.

1996....

Dakan Funeral Chapel merged with Carriage Services and longtime Dakan employees Douglas K. Reinke and Alan C. Kerrick became share holders. Carriage Services is, by most standards in our profession, a small company consisting of over 200 locations. It is a company made up of funeral homes that are considered the “best of the best”.

1972....

James R. “Jim” Dakan, son of T.Wilbur Dakan became owner and the name was changed to Dakan Funeral Chapel.

1957....

A branch facility was built in Parma, Idaho to serve the west end of Canyon, Malheur, and Owyhee Counties.

1955....

C.V. Peckham, pioneer Caldwell, Idaho funeral director, died December 23, 1955 at the age of 75 years.

1937....

Caldwell, Idaho’s pioneer funeral home was completed - Peckham Funeral Chapel. It was the first “funeral home” to be built in Idaho and was considered one of the most beautiful funeral homes in the northwest.

1935....

Mr. Peckham took on a young associate, T. Wilber Dakan. He later became a partner and the name was changed to Peckham-Dakan Funeral Chapel.

1911....

Clifford Vance “C.V.” Peckham Established Peckham Funeral Chapel and operated the business out of the basement of Peckham Furniture Stores located in Caldwell and Parma. He was the first licensed mortician in the state of Idaho and the first president for the Idaho Funeral Service Association.



Alan C. Kerrick
Managing Partner
Licensed Mortician, Managing Partner & Funeral Director.
Joined Dakan in 1981



Douglas K. Reinke
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T. Wilbur Dakan



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Nikki Taylor
Funeral Assistant-Student of Mortuary Science
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Chantele L. Hensel
Funeral Director
Resident Trainee
Benefits Coordinator
Joined Dakan in 2014



Lisa C. Kerrick
Benefits Coordinator
Administrative Assistant
Joined Dakan in 1998



Kylee Nasker
Funeral Assistant-Student of Mortuary Science
Joined Dakan in 2023



Nicki Wong
Ambassador
Funeral Assistant
Joined Dakan in 2013



Vern Vollmer
Funeral Assistant
Joined Dakan in 2012



Ben Fay
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