

Oddwell BRIDGING COMMUNITY & COMMERCE PERSPECTIVE

Edition 124 | MARCH 2025



Emma Bermudez (the witch), Benjamin Hayward (the magician), Grayson Dudley (the giant), Avery Blenap and Delaney Settle (the sisters),Caleb Dickson, Abigail Christensen, and Gracie Seashore (lead tomtes)

MENTORING NETWORK HONORED Pg. 4

C OF I MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM WINS CCC CHAMPIONSHIP Pg. 6

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ROTARY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE Pg. 10

Caldwell Fine Arts Children's Theatre Focuses on Fun!



Two sisters and their argumentative family.

The lights lower, the crowd quiets, and 120 youngsters stream onto the stage and down the aisles of the Caldwell High School Auditorium to perform the opening song of "The Flower of Sunnymount Crest," this year's Caldwell Fine Arts Children's Theatre production.

During the play, sisters Kalle and Halle (Avery Belnap and Delaney Settle) journey up a mountain to find a magical flower they hope will bring harmony to their argumentative family. Aided on their way by 13 tomtes (helper gnomes), the sisters encounter a no-nonsense witch (Emma Bermudez) and her entourage of animals (about 30 cute little arctic foxes, beavers, and bears); 18 wealthy video game-playing, pizza-eating trolls; 18 shallow, Tom-Holland obsessed fairies; and a cranky giant (Grayson Dudley) with a 27-year-old toothache. Each encounter has a new set design, a song complete with choreography, and a positive message. The play is one of four that was written specifically for the Caldwell Fine Arts Children's Theatre by Caldwell writer and musician, Alison Benson Moulton. She writes these plays so that every kid who auditions will get a chance to experience

The beavers

the excitement of being on stage. This year's story encourages us all to help our neighbor when they are in need and at the same time includes plenty of humor.

The audience (made up of mostly parents of the young actors) had a great time. Emma Bermudez as the witch was especially at home on stage. After coughing during one of her lines, she looked at the audience and said "witch cough, it's going around," and the crowd loved it.

The songs were written by Moulton and her sister in collaboration with other songwriters and musicians. The standout song was the sweet Winter Lullabye, led by the beautiful voices of Avery Belnap and Delaney Settle as they sang their adorable animal companions to sleep.

Mind bogglingly, this performance, which included 10-dozen school-age kids in costume, multiple sets, songs, dances, and memorized lines was rehearsed, and performed in only six days. This astonishing feat was led by directors Jessica and Mike Nelson of Caldwell.

The tomtes

Studio Teacher in the Wilder School District where his class was honored in 2023 by the Los Angeles-based Wonder Media as the best student-run animation studio in the nation. For the last five years Jessica and Mike have worked with Caldwell Fine Arts to mount a musical stage production with an all-kid cast and crew.

Mike explains that though casting, rehearsals, and production happen fast, a lot of groundwork is done to prepare for this very hectic week. For example, the songs and choreography are pre-recorded and available on tablets so volunteer parents can hit the ground running once rehearsals start. Mike and Jessica say that managing 120 kids would be impossible without the help of the volunteer parents, many of whom have been with them for years now and so understand what needs done. The most important part of the week for Mike and Jessica is that the kids are having fun. Mike says "It's about the experience, not just the stage time. Even if they don't have a lead role, they have fun, on and off stage, and that's the point. Every kid should get a chance to get passionate about the theater." Mike also notes that they are a "farm team

for the Caldwell High School theater department" explaining that one of their leads from last year's play will be Alice in the Caldwell High School production of Alice in Wonderland this year. They feel good that they are helping kids get experience and time on stage before moving on to bigger productions.

Beca Bermudez of Caldwell, a parent of two kids in the play, says they have participated in the play for three years, because "the kids love it" and even the "auditions are fun and amazing." She says she loves the community and loves that the play is produced by Caldwell Fine Arts, a group she wants her kids to be involved with. The fact that the play is well organized and all done and over in one week, makes it easier for her family to participate than if rehearsals were more drawn out, "so many



The artic foxes



by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Poor family

The bears



Jessica Nelson has her BA in theater and her MA in education and is an instructional coach at Wilson Elementary in Caldwell. Mike Nelson is an Animation

other things are pulling on kids' schedules."

If you know school-aged kids who want to participate in next year's Caldwell Fine Arts Children's Theatre production, you can get updates by signing up for the Caldwell Fine Arts newsletter at caldwellfinearts.org, or follow their social media pages.





The fairies



March 2025

9 AM: Government Career Fair, Idaho Department of Labor WEEKLY/MONTHLY PROGRAMS Caldwell Office, 4514 Thomas MON BABY STORYTIME Jefferson St, Caldwell, ID, 83605 Looking for a rewarding career 10:30am and 11am - Stories, songs, and activities, in public service? Join us at the (ages 0-2) Caldwell Idaho Department of Labor for a Government Career 2nd Monday & Last Monday @ 1pm-2:30pm -Fair where you can explore Bring a project and make a friend at our monthly exciting careers! Connect knitting and crochet meetup. All skill levels with local, state, and federal welcome. (ages 18+) agencies offering excellent job TUESopportunities. Bring your resume and meet recruiters ready to hire! 1pm-4pm March 12 PANISH AND ENGLISH Savor the Flavors of Caldwell TORTIME Culinary Week March 12-22-10:30am on Tuesdays- Spanish English Indulge in a week-and-a-half stories, songs, and activities. (Ages 2-6) long celebration of local flavors DARD GAME NIGHT as downtown Caldwell's best 1"Tuesday @ 6:30pm - Enjoy snacks while playing eateries showcase uniquely a variety of board garnes. (all ages) crafted food and beverage EGO CLUB offerings, priced from \$5 to \$50. 2**Tuesday @ 4:30pm 5:30pm - Join our LEGO Whether you're a foodie or just Oub for big fun with tiny bricks. (ages 7-16) looking for something delicious, READ TO A THERAPY DOG there's something for everyone! 3" Fuesday @ 4:45pm-5:45pm - Practice reading Take a culinary journey through with a friendly and fluffy therapy dog. (ages 7-14) downtown, sampling exquisite WEDcreations from your favorite spots and discovering new ones 2rd Wednesday @ 10am-12pm - Get help with all along the way. Don't miss this of your technology questions. Drop in anytime during chance to experience the flavors the program. (ages 18+) that are putting Caldwell on the map! Indian Creek Plaza, For MUSIC & MOVEMENT more information visit www. 10:30am-Songs, activities, and dancing. (ages 2-6) indiancreekplaza.com AFTERSCHOOL FUN creations from your favorite 3:30pm - New activities every week. Jages 5-121 spots and discovering new ones THUR along the way. Don't miss this PRESCHOOL STORYTIME chance to experience the flavors 10:30am - Stories, songs, and games. (ages 3-5) that are putting Caldwell on the map! Indian Creek Plaza. For more information visit www. 2nd Thursday @ 2pm-Join our new Lego Club for indiancreekplaza.com adults. Big fun with tiny bricks (Ages 16+) 5:30 PM: 74th Annual Quaker Village Auction, Food Booths, 2nd Thursday @ 2pm & 3nd Thursday @ 6:30pm -GFA Spirit Booth, Live Auction Join us for a lively discussion of the book of the Preview, Silent Auction; 6:30 month. Lages 18+1 PM - Welcome, LIVE AUCTION, 7 PM - Kid Vid Time, Greenleaf 2rd Thursday @ 7pm-8pm - Learn to garden like a pro with the Idaho Master Gardeners(Ages 18+) Friends Academy, 20565 Academy Rd, Greenleaf. March 15 4:30pm - New activities every week. (ages 13-17) 7:30-9:30 AM: Pancake Breakfast, Live Action Preview, WWORM BUDDIE! 9 AM - GFA Spirit Booth, Last Thursday @ 1pm-2:30pm- A unique book Silent Auction, 10 AM - LIVE club for caregivers and their young children (All Ages) AUCTION, 11 AM - KIDS FRI-ENTERTAINMENT, Food 10am - Mindful, holistic exercise for overall health & Booths, Greenleaf Friends well-being, (Library's Community Room), (ages 18+)

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

March 6

Academy, 20565 Academy Rd, Greenleaf.

<u>March 17</u> St. Patrick's Day 6:30 PM: City Council Meeting, City Hall Council Chambers, 205 S 6th Ave, Caldwell, ID, 83605 Join the City Council Meeting to discuss important community issues and city policies. This is a great opportunity for residents to stay informed and participate in local governance. Community

| March 2025 | | | | | | |
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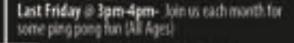


16473 CHICKEN DINNER Rd., CALDWELL + 208-455-7975 www.hustonvineyards.com • www.facebook.com/hustonvineyards

input is encouraged to help shape the future of Caldwell. creations from your favorite spots and discovering new ones along the way. Don't miss this chance to experience the flavors that are putting Caldwell on the map! Indian Creek Plaza. For more information visit www. indiancreekplaza.com March 20

March 22

Final Day of the: Savor the Flavors of Caldwell Culinary Week – March 12 Indulge in a week-and-a-half long celebration of local flavors as downtown Caldwell's best eateries showcase uniquely crafted food and beverage offerings, priced from \$5 to \$50. Whether you're a foodie or just looking for something delicious, there's something for everyone! Take a culinary journey through downtown, sampling exquisite creations from your favorite spots and discovering new ones along the way. Don't miss this chance to experience the flavors that are putting Caldwell on the map! Indian Creek Plaza. For more information visit www. indiancreekplaza.com

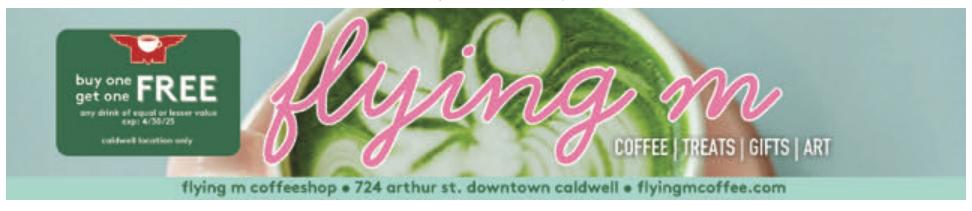


PING PONG CLUB

SAT

ART TOGETHER: FAMILY SATURDAY 1*Saturday @ 2pm-3pm - Join us each month for a new art project- fun for the whole family! (all ages) IES & CRAFTS 3rd Saturday @ 10:30am-New stories and activities each month (All Ages)





A Historic Moment for Canyon County Elections



L to R: Rick Britton, Maintenance and Facilities Director; Jess Urresti, Chief Deputy of the Clerk and Director of Court Operations; Rick Hogaboam, Canyon County Clerk; Board of County Commissioners -- Brad Holton, Leslie Van Beek, Zach Brooks; Haley Hicks, Election's Office Manager; and Greg Rast, **Canyon County Chief Operating Officer**

On Monday, February 10th, Canyon County celebrated the Grand Opening of its brandnew Elections Building at 5801-B Graye Lane, Caldwell!

This 16,500 sq. ft. facility, three times the size of the one it is replacing, is designed to enhance early voting, streamline ballot processing, and strengthen election securityensuring a smooth and secure voting experience for our growing community. Guests had the opportunity to tour the new space and see firsthand how it improves voter acces-

Caldwell Firefighters meet their

fundraising goal by donating

at: https://events.lls.org/pages/

wa/firefighterstairclimb25/

CaldwellFireDepartment.

sibility and election integrity. This \$3.6M project, funded by federal ARPA dollars, is a major investment in the future of elections in Canyon County.

Canyon County Clerk Rick Hogaboam said, "This new facility will serve as a hub for countless field trips where our

children and students in our community can learn a valuable civics lesson about elections administration."

Submitted articl

This new building will be used for this May's elections. The old elections building will be repurposed as a misdemeanor probation office.



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Caldwell Firefighters Will Climb to Support Cancer Research by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective



Caldwell firefighters will join members of over 250 fire departments from Los Angeles to the San Juan Islands on March 9th in Seattle, Washington for the 34th Annual Scott Firefighter Stair Climb. The event is a fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a nonprofit health organization that is dedicated to funding blood cancer research and providing education and patient services. Seven Caldwell firefighters will participate in the climb: Dave Evarts, Dan Garcia, Justin Hughes, Sergey Linnik, Josh Maggard, Jose Martinez, and Matthew Potter. During the event firefighters will climb to the top of Seattle's tallest building, the Columbia Center, which is 69 stories tall and over 1300 steps. And just in case the climb isn't hard enough they will be in their gear, complete with oxygen tanks and helmets

Firefighters have been raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society for the last couple of months. Some fundraising activities have included climbing on a stair climb machine in front of Albertsons and at Dutch Bros. They had an initial fundraising goal of \$5000, but surpassed that goal and have bumped it up to \$7500. You can help the



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 ap-propriate shoes and bring blankets. For more information or to make a donation, visit LizardButteSunrise.com

ie is rise

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

Wanna Stop Peeing Your Pants? Introducing The Boise Better Bladder Program"

Bladder issues are more common than you think, yet few people talk about them. It's time "You don't have to be a grandma in diapers," to break the silence, and Dr. Kimberly Thompson is here to help. Thompson is here to help.

Dr. Kimberly Thompson, well-known at Meridian Family Acupuncture for treating chronic pain, neuropathy, and weight loss, is proud to announce the launch of a lifechanging new program. The Boise Better Bladder Program^{*}!

"You're not alone," says Dr. Thompson. "I see patients every day with leaky bladders, and there's no reason to feel embarrassed. With our Freedom+ Boise Better Bladder

Take Control of Your Life

and finding real solutions. You can live a life you love-without leaking.



Book Your Free Consultation Today!

For a limited time, we're offering an incredible voucher that lets you experience 12,500 Kegels-absolutely FREE! This 15-minut demonstration on our Freedom+ "Magic Seat" is your chance to feel firsthand how effortless and effective bladder control improvement can be.

a d d e

Here's what you'll receive when you sign up:

A Limited-Time Offer: (For 10 people)

A personal consultation with Dr. Kimberly Thompson

A full evaluation to ensure the program is the best fit

Program", you can finally get rid of those 'Uh-oh' moments and enjoy life with confidence again."

Revolutionary, Modern Solutions

The Boise Better Bladder Program" offers a scientifically proven solution for pelvic floor disorders. Imagine sitting for 30 minutes while electromagnetic currents perform 25,000 Kegels for you-no effort required! It may sound too good to be true, but it's real. Developed in Germany, this FDA-approved technology for bladder control works for both men and women. Using High-Intensity Focused Electromagnetic Technology (HIFEM) and Functional Magnetic Stimulation (FMS), it delivers 25,000 perfect Kegels in just 30 minutes-comfortably and effortlessly.

Imagine a Life Without "Uh-oh" Moments

No more potty dance, urgent bathroom runs, embarrassing leaks, or constantly worrying about the nearest restroom.

Our non-invasive, FDA-approved treatment uses HIFEM to perform 25,000 Kegels in 30 minutes-while you sit back and relax.

Here's what patients are saying...

"I no longer rush home from errands yelling, "ive gotta pee!"

"On road trips, I used to stop every hour. Now I can go four hours without pulling over!"

"I used to wake up three times a night to pee. Now I sleep through the night!" "I was pleasantly surprised to feel my 'nether parts' come back to life!"

12,500 Kegels in just 15 minutes with a FREE demonstration of the "Magic Seat" (patients LOVE this!)

A detailed Doctor's Report of Findings

C Dr. Kimberty's "Wanna Stop Peeing Your Pants?" Report with at home solutions

Scan the QR code to take advantage of this opportunity! If you have questions, call us!



BoiseBetterBladder.com 208-965-3777

Caldwell Honors the Mentoring Network

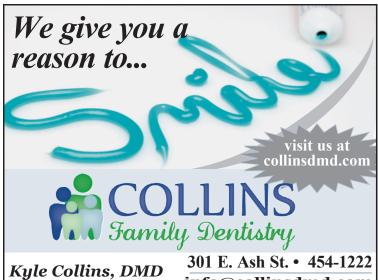
by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective

March 2025

Under the mayor's new initiative, the "Season of Caring" was kicked off on February 6th and ran through February 20th.

During this time Mayor Wagoner celebrated the proclamation of National Mentoring Month and honored Donna Shines,





info@collinsdmd.com



2025 Shotgun Raffle: \$20 per ticket. Tickets can be purchased at e 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

Marci Silva and their organization, The Mentoring Network.

For 26 years The Mentoring Network has served children with school-based mentoring in Caldwell, Nampa, Parma, Homedale and Vallivue. Children, whom their teachers feel can benefit from some additional one-to-one attention are referred to this program. Mentors are then matched with a student and work with school staff to provide one-on-one quidance and support as students pursue personal, family, and academic dreams.

After a screening process which includes a background check, mentors are matched up with their students. They meet with their "mentees" for about one hour each week in a supervised school setting on the school grounds to foster the development of academic and social skills.

Training and on-going support for mentors is provided by the program staff.

Attendance, grades, and behaviors improve when children know that someone cares to show up and be their friend. Many times, lifelong friendships develop. What a wonderful program to improve the lives of children and their families!

The City of Caldwell honored the organization with this quote, "The Mentoring Network has been shaping lives for many



Bryan Kida (City of Caldwell & MN mentor), Marci Silva (Executive Director of The MN), Joanna Bartrop (City of Caldwell & MN mentor), Donna Shines (CEO of The MN), Mayor Jarom Wagoner, Char Jackson (City of Caldwell & MN mentor) and Kaylynn Carreira (City of Caldwell) with the mayor's proclamation of National Mentoring Month.

years for so many people. What a beautiful thing than to have a safe, positive, and trusted adult walk along side a student through the good, bad, and ugly times of life. We were not meant to do life alone and the Mentoring Network ensures children have a chance to have someone in their corner cheering for them!"

If you are interested in joining the mentoring team, you can apply online at:

https://mentoringnetworkid.org anytime.

Once your application is received, they will schedule a short "Get to Know You" ZOOM session where they will share "next steps" in the process to becoming a mentor.

Community Members Protest Hotel Development



Protestors waving signs at passers by

Saturday, February On 22nd, about 150 community members protested the development of a new hotel at 21st and Stock Trail. The hotel development was approved by the City Council in a 4-2 vote on February 3rd.

Protesters expressed a number of concerns about the hotel project. Most of the protesters agreed that a new hotel in Caldwell is a good idea, but not in that location. Some explained that building a hotel on that lot will isolate the fair building away from any parking lots, making it far more difficult to bring animals into the fairgrounds. Others were concerned that the lease price is too low for such a valuable piece of land (\$5000/ year for a 3+acre lot). Others explained that the traffic was already bad in that location and adding a hotel there will only make things worse. Other protesters were concerned with the process of the approval,

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective



that even though the hotel development has been approved by the City Council, they are still hoping to have an impact on the project. They are hoping this protest and other actions will make it clear to the developer and the hotel chain that the community does not want a hotel in this location and they will opt to pull out of the deal.

City representatives have

- 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



feeling that the project has been put together hastily and without regard for how the citizens would like to see their city grow and develop.

Protest leaders explained

previously argued that the notel will bring jobs to the area and will result in a net financial and community benefit. Construction on the hotel is scheduled to start later this year.



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If you would like information about advertising or have a great story or event to share?

I would love to hear from you. Information can be found at www.caldwellperspective.com

Chantele Hensel Publisher/Advertising

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Caldwell Boxer Alyssa Mendoza selected to Team USA's Women's Elite Roster for 2025

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective



Alyssa Mendoza was selected along with 5 other USA female boxers to be on Team USA's Women's Elite roster for 2025, following the United States Olympic and Paralympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO. These ladies went through a detailed set of selection camp procedures and were selected to the USA Boxing Women's Elite High Performance team

to represent Team USA in various Boxing Cup Events in 2025 beginning in Brazil between March 31 to April 5. Then between September 4-14, the 2025 World Boxing Elite World Championships will be hosted in Liverpool, England.

Alyssa joins her teammates, Jennifer Lozano (Laredo, Texas), Yoseline Perez (Hous-



Alyssa Mendoza during her "Welcome Home" parade last year after competing in the Paris Olympics on Team USA.

> ton, Texas), Jajaira Gonzalez (Glendora, California), Morelle McCane (Cleveland, Ohio), and Isabella Winkler (Seattle, Washington), in this new challenge to represent the USA. Each of these women held national titles in their weight classes in the 2024 USA Boxing National Championships in Richmond Virginia.

and Bruce Michael Miller



Crazy Love Duo, Heather Platts



Crazy Love Duo sings Idaho Originals at the Caldwell Public Library

Crazy Love Duo and Caldwell artist Kayla Cuellar

The Caldwell Public Library recently hosted the Crazy Love Duo as part of the Inquiring Idaho program of the Idaho Humanities Council. Twin Falls musician Heather Platts started the show by looking at her partner Bruce Michael Miller and saying, "We are going to rock this library... are you ready?"

The duo then played and sang their Idaho Originals, songs they call a musical travelogue of the stories, places, and people of Idaho. The songs are emotional, modern folk rock (more rock than folk) and are inspired by personal stories of the duo's travels around our great state. The wonder of Idaho comes through in their songs that make the listener want to go visit Idaho's out-of-theway places and get to know more about Idaho's past and present.

Crazy Love Duo sings Idaho Originals

"Church" is the duo's song about Idaho's Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness area, which at over 2.3 million acres makes up the country's largest contiguous wilderness outside of Alaska. In the song they suggest Church is a fitting name for the area, referring to its beauty and vast openness as "heaven on earth" and its "crystal water, pristine meadows, cool mountain air, and Sawtooths rising like a prayer" as a sanctuary.

Crazy Love's Idaho Originals don't only deal with big stories and big places, some divulge tales of local Idaho. Their song "The White Horse of Black Daisy Canyon" tells a little-known story of a horse that walked away from a group of Washington hunters camping northwest of Mackay, Idaho in 1997. The hunters were not able to capture the horse before heading home and the horse has roamed free ever since, being sighted as recently as last spring. The

horse has become a local living legend in Mackay and the surrounding area where locals leave the horse alone to his freedom and self-sufficient solitude. The song is a dreamy ode to the horse that "made his escape and captured our hearts" now "free of ropes, spurs and reins."

Each of the songs on their Idaho Originals album comes with the story of the song's inspiration as well as art created by Idaho artists that are showcased in a 50-page book. Kayla Cuellar, a local Caldwell artist, contributed a beautiful watercolor of the White Horse of Black Daisy Canyon that is featured on screen during their show and in their book.

To learn more about the Crazy Love Duo visit their website at: CrazyLoveDuo.com.

To learn more about Kayla Cuellar visit her website at: KaylaCuellarArt.com.

Internet Situational Awareness

I read an article recently on "situational awareness" that resonated deeply with our Task Force work on Youth Internet Safety. Situational awareness is described as being tuned into your surroundings so that you know how to recognize a threat and when to act on it. The concept of assigning levels of alertness materialized out of WWIIera combat.

There are five different colorcoded levels of awareness.

 Code White is being completely relaxed and unaware, found only in the safety of one's own home.

· Code Yellow is relaxed but aware of situational surroundings such as sitting in a restaurant.

 Code Orange is a heightened sense of alertness to a potential threat that may require action, perhaps while standing in an angry crowd.

· Code Red is when a threat

doors locked, resting privately in their own bedrooms with parents in another room, falsely believing they are immersed in Code White. Youth who are then lured into a private chat room enter a Code Red situation where the more than 750,000 sexual predators-in-disguise can begin to groom and ultimately extract nude photos from these naive minors. Once that first nude is sent those youth have entered a Code Black situation. But this

by Deborah Kraft - Canyon County Anti-Trafficking Task Force scenario is avoidable.

> Parents can begin to teach this basic skill of internet situational awareness to children at home. An excellent source of information can be found on the Idaho developed website called, "Fortify Your Kids." The short sound bites of information can be easily absorbed in five minutes or less. Begin this education today at: fortifyyourkids. com, Username & Password: CanyonCounty.



Dedicated since 1911 to providing families quality care during their time of need.



Your one-stop shop for brand name

has been confirmed, requiring action as in a house fire. Finally, Code Black is panic, when unable to physically or mentally carry out a response to avoid the threat.

Now, superimpose these color-coded levels of awareness onto the World-Wide-Web. When youth pass through that portal from the dimension of the physical world into the dimension of the virtual world - the Internet, they immediately place themselves, at the very minimum, into a Code Orange situation even though they are in the safety of their own homes with

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College of Idaho Basketball and Men win CCC Conference

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective

March 2025





Yotes with their Cascade Collegiate Conference Championship banner.

Championship Winning Scoreboard

1015

Yote #22 Drew Wyman sinking a basket at **CCC Championship game!**

This past February, our women's basketball team caught fire and qualified to be in the Cascade Collegiate Conference! They finished with a 17-12 overall season with a remarkable 6 game winning-streak before going on the Cascade Conference to win their game against Eastern Oregon University on Feb.

26th with a 60-53 score. But then on March 1st, they lost in their CCC game to the No. 2-ranked undefeated (30-0) and No. 1 seed in the NAIA Southern Oregon Raiders with a 66-46 score. They are to be congratulated for hanging in there and stepping up to the challenge.

on top and won the CCC Championship. They had a 29-2 overall season and are the #1 seed for the NAIA tournament.

The semi-final game against Southern Oregon University was almost too exciting for me. The point spread was always a little too close for comfort, but YAY! The men came out in the end, we prevailed!

Then the championship game against Lewis-Clark State College was a win with a score of 86-69. Most of the time there was only a 10 point spread and in the final five or so minutes, the threat seemed to dissipate with a 20 point spread or more. There was a sign of relief!

The first two NAIA games

will be at the College of Idaho on March 14 and 15th with the final championship games to be in Kansas City, Missouri between March 20-25th. For more information you can follow the progress and schedule at: yoteathletics.com

Princess Project – **Donations Wanted** and Opportunity

City of Caldwell



The Assistance League of Boise, Canyon County Branch, is now accepting donations of new or gently used male and female formal wear shoes for their upcoming event, The Princess Project.

Donations be can dropped off at Caldwell City Hall (205 South 6th Ave, Caldwell) M-F 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. until March 14. Watch our Facebook page (City of Caldwell) for more details on the event.

The Princess Project will have an event at O'Connor Field House on March 19th for all Canyon County High School students, making gently used or new formal wear for guys and gals available for a very nominal fee. Students must show their student ID to participate. This gives an opportunity

to those who may not have considered going to prom or a formal event due to

the cost of the dress, tux

or shoes.

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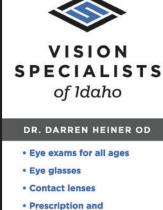




until April 9th

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- For more information, visit elevate208.org/enroll/caldwell
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Page 7 CALDWELL PERSPECTIVE

C of I Renames Basketball Arena the "Elgin Baylor Arena!"

On February 21st during our men's halftime basketball game, the basketball stadium at the J.A. Albertsons Activities Center was renamed the "Elgin Baylor Arena," honoring a most amazing basketball player of all times and pivotal figure in civil rights.

Elgin Baylor attended the C of I in 1954 and played on the basketball team along with five other black students. During that time, no other college had integrated athletics, so this was a groundbreaking move in the history of college athletics, opening the door providing opportunities for players of all backgrounds.

This was the first time Baylor had experienced an integrated community, living in the dorm, going to classes and eating together with his white classmates. He was even invited to community members' homes for dinner. He felt "included" in Caldwell, rather than how he had felt excluded in segregated Washington, D.C. Being here was a great start for a fantastic run in basketball for him and the integration of college sports.

Baylor made history as the first black player to be a first overall pick in the NBA draft. He was also the first NBA player to score 70 points in a

game. He held the record for the most points in an NBA Finals game for over 40 years, and became one of the first Black NBA coaches and general managers.

What a great way to honor the involvement our College of Idaho had in the making of history with this amazing basketball player. And what a great feather in our College of Idaho's cap to have played such an important role in the integration of college sports. It is only fitting to honor Elgin Baylor in the renaming of our basketball arena after him.

by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective



CHS Cheerleaders are Back-to-Back District Champs

by Toni Ferro



tine that includes partner stunts, pyr-

Victorious CHS Cheer team

The Caldwell High School Cheer Team had a great season once again, winning the 5A district competition to become back-to-back district champions. Cheer teams perform three different routines during competition, a 1-minute Pom Routine to music, a 1-minute Sideline Routine that engages the audience and includes some tum-

amids, and tosses. This year seven teams competed at the 5A district competition: Bishop Kelly, Caldwell, Columbia, Em-Middleton, mett,

Skyview, and Vallivue. Caldwell took 1st place in the Pom and the Show Routines and 2nd place in the Sideline Routine. After the scores were tallied, they were named the overall district champions and advanced to the state competition. Emmett placed second, also earning a trip to state.

The State competition was

held on February 28th at the Ford Idaho Center in Nampa. Caldwell took 4th place in their Show routine and placed 6th out of 16 teams overall.

This year the team says goodbye to seven seniors: Omar Gamino, Samantha Godina, Sara McLaughlin, Trenton Snodgrass, Aaliyah Montiel, Neidy Ramirez, and Gilberto Gil. Congratulations to these graduating seniors.

These remaining team members will see if their hard work can win them a third district championship in a row: Valeria Cardoza, Marisol Anguiano, Justin Frederickson, Viviana Darrington, Navaeh Dominguez, Kasen Obregon, Elyaz Mendoza, Yaslin Marroquin, Peyton Moss, Logan Ortiz,

Aunika Vasquez, Taliah Walker, Breyner Garcia, Martin Leon-Cortez, Mayra Gutierrez, Xavier Miranda, and Ysabella by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Valencia.

Congratulations to all of the CHS cheer team athletes and coaches.



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Planetarium Projectors turn 100

The projector at the C of I Planetarium



by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

On April 4th at 7pm the Whittenberger Planetarium on the C of I campus will be hosting a show about the 100th year of planetarium projectors. The show will be a fun historical look at planetariums over the last century. Learn more at: www.collegeofidaho. edu/about/campus-facilities/planetarium/planetarium-schedule.



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Our Community Caldwell Basketball Season Wrap-Up

March 2025

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective



CHS Girls' Basketball Varsity Team - Back row left to right: Lila Walker, Nevaeh Ferrer, Edalyn Lopez, Tamar Callender, Mary-Jane DeLeon. Front row left to right: Yadira Espinoza, Ashley Sauceda, Reese Stumbaugh, Liliana Hernandez, Nevaeh Jasso, Yesenia Montañez, Yazmeen Montañez

The Caldwell High Boys and Girls basketball teams have wrapped up their 2024-2025 seasons.

Two Caldwell senior girls were selected for 5A all-conference teams by the league's coaches. Tamar Callendar made the all-conference 2nd team and Payton Garcia got an honorable mention. Tamar Callendar was also selected as an alternate in the Idaho Statewide High School All-Star Game on March 15th. The two teams that play in the All-Star Game are made up of the best senior players in the state, re-



Tamara Callendar - 5A all-conference 2nd Team, Idaho Statewide High School All-Star Game Alternate, 3.75+ GPA;

gardless of league.

Coach Emilie Eckhart, a 2nd grade teacher at Wilson Elementary, coached the girls' varsity team for the first time this year. Coach Eckhart noted that though it wasn't a winning season this year, the "girls made a lot of improvements" and they made it to the third game of their district competition, which was an improvement year on year. She said that she "asked the girls to do a lot of new things and they did a great job embracing the new."

Six players were recognized



Payton Garcia -5A all-conference honorable mention, 3.0+ GPA



CHS Boys' Basketball Varsity Team - Aiden Rudan, Sergio Gaxiola, Izaiah Hernandez, Anthony Martinez, Alan Navarro, Sawyer Hope-Audet, Adam Villegas III, Peyton Walters, Anthony Barron, Jack Hunter, Chase Nelson, and Eli Arredondo



Graduating Senior, Izaiah Hernandez

for maintaining high GPAs, Yesenia Montañez with a 4.0 GPA; Yazmeen Montañez and Reese Stumbaugh with 3.75+ GPAs; and Liliana Hernandez, Payton Garcia, and Nevaeh Ferrer with 3.0+ GPAs.

The girls' varsity team will graduate a whopping eight seniors this year. Congratulations to these Caldwell athletes: Yadira Espinoza, Ashley Sauceda, Liliana Hernandez, Payton Garcia, Nevaeh Jasso, Mary-Jane Deleon, Edalyn Lopez, Nevaeh Ferrer, and Tamar Callender.

Four athletes will remain to

help build next year's team. Congratulations on a great season and Caldwell is looking forward to what you achieve in coming years: Yesenia Montañez (sophomore), Yazmeen Montañez (junior), Reese Stumbaugh (sophomore), and Lila Walker (freshman).

Caldwell High's boys' basketball team completed a solid season, improving on their records from recent years and going 10-14. Caldwell's boys' team is only losing one senior this year, Izaiah Hernandez. Congratulations Izaiah.

The boys' team will start

next year with an experienced group of athletes who are used to playing together. Congratulations to these students and we look forward to your next season: Eli Arredondo (junior), Sawyer Hope-Audet (junior), Peyton Walters (junior), Chase Nelson (junior), Aiden Rudan (junior), Sergio Gaxiola (sophomore), Anthony Barron (sophomore), Anthony Martinez (sophomore), Jack Hunter (sophomore), Adam Villegas III (sophomore), and Alan Navarro (freshman).

Another Study Shows a Link Between Hearing Loss and One of the Fastest-Growing forms of Dementia, Parkinson's Disease

Another study shows a link between hearing loss and one of the fastest-growing forms of Dementia, Parkinson's Disease.

Study Links Hearing Loss to Parkinson's Disease: New Findings from OHSU and VA Portland Health Care System

A recent study led by Dr. Lee Neilson of Oregon Health

& Science University (OHSU) has revealed a potential connection between hearing loss and the development of Parkinson's disease (PD). Published in JAMA Neurology, the study explores how hearing loss might contribute to the risk of Parkinson's, particularly in veterans.

Parkinson's disease affects

more than one million Americans, with veterans being disproportionately impacted. The collaborative research, conducted by the VA Portland Health Care System and OHSU, utilized the extensive medical records of U.S. veterans to analyze the link between hearing loss and PD. The study examined 7.3 mil-



lion veterans who had audiograms between January 1999 and December 2022, uncovering significant findings.

The results indicated that veterans with hearing loss had a much higher risk of developing Parkinson's later in life. Interestingly, those with more severe hearing loss seemed to be at an even greater risk. The study also explored the use of hearing aids as a potential preventative measure. Researchers found that individuals who received hearing aids within two years of an abnormal hearing test had a notably reduced risk of developing PD.

Dr. Neilson, the study's lead author and a neurologist at the Portland VA, emphasized that although more research is needed to understand the mechanisms behind the link between hearing loss and Par-

by Rick Fauvor

kinson's, the results highlight the importance of early hearing screenings and the potential benefits of hearing aids. "We encourage everyone to get screened and fitted for hearing aids, as there are few downsides, and it may lower the risk of developing Parkinson's," Dr. Neilson stated.

The study is the result of a collaboration among various experts, including Kelly M. Reavis, Ph.D., Jack Wiedrick, MS, and Gregory D. Scott, M.D., Ph.D. It was supported by multiple grants from the Veterans Affairs Biomedical Laboratory Research and Development, the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research, and other organizations.

For further details on the study, visit: JAMA Neurology.

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Entertainment

Caldwell Students Qualify for State History Contest

CHS History Day Winners L to R: Melanie Velazquez and Yessenia Murillo

Caldwell students impressed judges at two National History Day competitions during February. At Caldwell High School's 28th Annual National History Day on February 5th, juniors presented their exhibits on this year's theme, Rights and Responsibilities. Students worked individually or in pairs and 191 exhibits were presented.

At the event students dressed professionally and answered questions from judges who were former educators, elected officials, and businesspeople. Each judge judged 8-10 projects. Judges asked students questions such as: "What rights were challenged in your project?," "Who had the responsibility to protect those rights?," and "What is the legacy of your topic in shaping the future?"

Judges selected their top project to go on to the second round of judging. Second-round judges were professors at the College of Idaho who awarded prizes to the top three exhibits and three honorable mentions.

Congratulations to the winners of the 28th annual Caldwell High School National History Day Competition.

1st Place: Yessenia Murillo and Melanie Velazquez, Mendez v. Westminster

2nd Place: Kasen Obregon, The United Farm Workers 3rd Place: Maylee McConnell-



CHS students at Regional History Day L to R: Adriana Eldredge, Melanie Velazquez, Joryn Wright, Liz Jones, Helen Sutton, Jaqueline Aguirre, Alice Redmond, and **Jamie Diez Montes**

Soong. The Annexation of Hawaii

Honorable Mentions: JamieLee Hernandez, The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924 Jaxson Freeman and Ashley Fuller, The Cuban Missile Crisis Juan Rosas Rangel, Yellow Journalism

The first place winners, Yessenia Murillo and Melanie Velazquez, explained that their teacher, Katelyn Benavidez, encouraged them to pick a topic they truly cared about to keep them motivated to do a great job. They also said that learning about the past made them see the present day differently.

Benavidez says that many students took her advice and picked a project they were interested in, which improved the quality of their projects. Her students "had to start from scratch doing this kind of formal historical research and developing a historical thesis and argument." The students "all grew immensely in their abilities to not only convey what they learned, but also become competent historical thinkers".

Brennan Wurtz, the CHS Social Studies Department Chair, explains that "the school-level competition is our own creation. We are the only comprehensive high school of our size that does anything like that." And "in 2019,



Homeschool winners L to R: Claire **Erlendson**, Sydnee Erlendson and Harper Erlendson

we started requiring students to present their projects to the judges, which allows them an opportunity to share their passion for their project while practicing presentation and communication skills.'

Caldwell High hosted the Southwest Regional History Day competition on February 22nd. Seven Caldwell High students qualified to go to the State History Day competition. Congratulations to these Caldwell High winners!

Individual Exhibit

• 1st Place Group A: Liz Jones, "The Jungle's Influence on Food Safety Regulations"

• 2nd Place Group A: Joryn Wright, "Anything But "Adequate"

• 2nd Place Group B: Adrianna Eldredge, "Loving v. Virginia" Group Exhibit

• 1st Place: Yessenia Murillo and Melanie Velazquez, "Mendez v. Westminster"

• 2nd Place: Jazlyn Garcia and Annelisse Zirate, "The Great Molasses Flood'

Three Caldwell homeschooled sisters also qualified for the State contest; Sydnee Erlendson, Claire Erlendson, and Harper Erlendson. Sydnee won 1st place in Individual Group A with "The Love Canal," Claire won second place in the Junior Division with "The RMS

Book Review: The True Deceiver by Tove Jansson, review by Sarah Pincock



"My dog and despise them. We're hidden in our own secret life, concealed in our innermost wildness." Katri Kling, The True Deceiver

by Tove Jansson.

Enter on a small village in winter, it's inhabitants mostly hibernating; Liljeberg the boatbuilder, old maid Madame Nygard, a nosey shopkeep, a roving band of children in the snow and our four inhabitants of "Rabbit House:" Anna guage you will feel everything Aemalin, a successful illustrator of children's books and

owner of Rabbit House, Katri, and Mats. Katri, a yellow eyed girl who is naturally good with numbers, who villagers are known to meet with for shrewd advice on private matters, and who has a dog with no name. Mats, Katri's nearly silent brother whom she has raised since age 6, born with the gift of only ever thinking about one thing: boats.

It's existential noir, its biography of a village, its fablelike in its quest for something honest hidden under so much snow. It's so exact in its lan-Anna and Katri are feeling as they strike up their...contract?

Scheme? Rivalry? Friendship? Mutually-Assured-Destruction?

It's psychologically slowboiled pace reminds you of watching a crime thriller and at the same time feels as cozy and familiar as the back of your winter mitten.

The True Deceiver was translated into English by Thomas Teal and won the Best Translated Book Award in 2011.

Titanic," and Harper won 1st place in the Youth/Elementary Division with "Endangered Pandas."

The State National History Day contest will take place on April 5th at the College of Idaho.

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Winners of the State National History Day contest will go to the National History Day Contest June 8-12th at the University of Maryland in College Park.

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective

Welcoming the February 2025 release of Jansson's newest translation. Sun City, an off-beat novel about a retirement community in sunny Florida.

Knights of Columbus Special Secret Recipe For Fried Cod & Baked Cod **Alaskan Cod Fish Dinner Complete Dinner Every Friday Night During Lent** 5 PM-7 PM: March 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and April 4th, April 11th

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Entertainment

Game Review: Harmonies

by Sazia Fletcher



Caldwell Rotary Club is offering two \$1,500 Aca-Scholardemic ships and one

Voca-\$1,500 tional/Technical/Trade Scholarship for the 2025-26 school year. To be considered, applications must be postmarked by April 4th. Applications can be picked up at your school counselor's office. Applicants must be a resident of Idaho and have demonstrated a commitment to community service.

Academic Scholarship Applications are for high school seniors who have a 3.0 or higher GPA and have enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary educational institution with plans to earn a B.S. or B.A. degree and/or for those who are enrolled to begin a college degree at a junior college with plans to transfer to finish their degree at a 4-year university or college. They must attend the first semester in the fall of 2025 to retain their scholarship.

Technical/Vocational/Trade Scholarship Applications are for high school seniors, homeschool seniors or person's earning a graduate equivalency diploma (GED) by the time they receive their funds for the scholarship. They must be accepted and enrolled as a full-time student in a technical, vocational or trade school. All recipients must be attending college/vocational/ trade school and enrolled in the fall of 2025.

Caldwell Rotary Scholoarship Applications Now Available or a Summers, Caldwell Perspective

This scholarship can be used for diesel mechanics, hair, nails,

cosmetology, nursing associate, dental hygienist, etc. There are many trades that do not require a 4-year college degree. Students may apply to out-of-state schools for this scholarship.

Applications for these scholarships can be found at your school counselor's office. Mail completed applications by April 4th to:

Caldwell Rotary Club, P.O. Box 24, Caldwell, ID 83606 Incomplete or late applications will be not be considered.

Rotary's Dictionary Program Supports Education by Leora Summers, Caldwell Perspective

Harmonies is an easy to learn 1-4 player game that takes about 30 minutes to play. The rules are very straightforward and easy to understand. I loved the pattern building and strategy of this beautifully designed game. This game is perfect for age 10 and up. Harmonies is one of the few games I have run into that has a good solo play option.

Throughout the month of Caldwell Rotary February, Club distributes about 1,450 dictionaries to third graders in 17 Canyon and Owyhee County schools. This program follows on the heels of the delivery of about the same number of chapter books that were delivered to second graders in those same schools. These two programs have been going on for many years.

This year Rotarian Bob Jenkins spearheaded the dictionary project, ordering all the dictionaries, labeling them

f

and organizing the volunteers to go to the schools to deliver them. Rotarian Joyce McDaniel was his right-hand helper, calling schools to get student numbers and contact information for each school.

These are not everyday oryour dinary dictionaries. They are a wonderful teaching tool filled with all kinds

of important and fun information. One fun thing to show the students is the longest word in this dictionary. It has 1,909 letters in it. That word is a protein with 267 amino acids in it. This dictionary also includes sign language, Braille, multiplica-



Seventy Lewis and Clark Elementary students received their dictionaries on February 12th!

tion tables, the periodic table, the US Constitution, a list of the presidents of the United States, the planets, info on clouds, the countries of the world and more. Hopefully the teachers use this provided information to supplement their students' studies.



Rotarians Joyce Mc Daniel, Mary Ann Valenzuela, Milon McDaniel, Edwin Lara and Laurel Weiss delivered dictionaries to Lewis and Clark **Elementary 3rd graders.**

I only found one "fail" in this dictionary. It didn't have the word "candy" in it. Isn't that funny?

Caldwell High Men's and Women's Wrestling



Draven Johns, State Champion and District Champion; Jayce Wolf, 3rd place at State and **District Champion**



Other athletes who placed at State: Jaxson Freeman - 4th place (120), Jesus Alvarez - 5th place (165), Maritza Medina -4th place (100)

Episcopal Church

Caldwell, Idaho

Caldwell's wrestling teams have had another impressive season, making Caldwell proud once again. Draven Johns led the boys' team by winning a State Championship in the 132-pound weight class. The men's team competes in the 6A conference, the conference for the state's largest schools. Johns and Jayce Wolf (150) were both 6A District Champions this year.

Caldwell's boys' team has seventeen members, was 2nd at the district tournament, and sent a whopping 13 members to the state tournament at the ICCU Dome in Pocatello on 2-28 and 3-1. Caldwell's other state qualifiers were: Jesus Alvarez (2nd at district, 165), Liam Rodebush (3rd at district, 190), Trevor Solis (4th at district, 157), Jaxson Freeman (5th at district, 120), Joshua Rojas (5th at district, 175), Mason Lewis (6th at Villasenor (8th at

by Toni Ferro, Caldwell Perspective photos by Amber Sperry-Johns and Jennifer Martinez

Caldwell performed well at state, placing 9th out of 22 teams and with four athletes placing in the top six in their weight classes: Draven Johns state champion (132), Jayce Wolf 3rd place (150), Jaxson Freeman -4th place (120), Jesus Alvarez - 5th place (165).

The girls' team has seven members, was 5th at the district tournament and sent four individuals to the state tournament at the ICCU Dome in Pocatello on 2-28 and 3-1.

Idaho's first official state tournament for girls' wrestling was held in 2021. This year, the sport continues to grow with 74 schools fielding teams, up from 66 teams last year. Currently, all schools compete as a single state-wide division. Caldwell's state qualifiers were: Ashlyn Martin-Gomez (2nd at district, 132), Kloe Fogle (3rd at district, 138), Maritza Medina (4th at district, 100), and Sienna Sanchez-Benavidez (4th at district, 107). Other girls' team members are Paola Ruiz-Saldana, Kaylanni Brooks, and Maritza Garcia.

The girls' team also performed well at state, placing 19th out of 74 teams and with one individual placing in the top 6 at state: Maritza Medina - 4th place (100).

Caldwell's wrestling coaches also won impresive awards this year. Both Adam Freeman, the boys' coach and Sami Lusk, the girls' coach were named District Coach of the Year. Congratulations to all of these very hard-working athletes and coaches.



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Join Us For Our

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10:30 a.m.

by Dave McCormick



While looking for inspiration to write something for the March issue, I came across a log book entry dated Venite uno de Marzo (a little Spanish lingo there) 1978. My wife's brother was visiting from California, so on the morning of the afore mentioned date, we set out for Woodhead Park on Brownlee Reservoir. We were under a high-pressure ridge, so the weather that morning was cold with a very light wind. We launched my 14-foot aluminum skiff, and after a few pulls on the starter rope, my 1968 18 horse Evinrude outboard came to life.

I recall there was only two other boat trailers in the parking lot on that March morning. We began by pitching curled-tailed jigs at the shoreline and were met with immediate success, although the fish were small. Morning

Dave's Big Back Yard became afternoon and the bite slowed noticeably. When you're young, you power through and hope the bite picks up late afternoon into evening. It did and Jim caught one three-pounder and we both had a couple in the twopound range. It was near dark when we trailered the boat and had a two-hour drive ahead of us. Not a big deal. I can't recall what the limit on bass was back then, but I know it was liberal with no length restriction. I had been practicing catch and release on trout for few years, but I am sure those smallmouth went under the knife.

Brownlee is one place to lose those winter time blues, not the only place though. C.J. Strike is a well-known early spring fishery with multiple species to target. Some years, trolling for trout was fast action. Last year was not one of those years for me. Idaho Power stocked 6,850 catchable (10-12 inchers) in February. Trout grow fast in the fertile water of Strike. If not caught the first year or two, they can be 16-20 inches.

Idaho Power also stocks in the fall. Those fall trout can be 13-14 inches this spring. Trout, bass, perch, crappie and catfish are all on tap at C.J. Strike. It is no wonder that it is a favorite spring fishing destination. C.J. Strike Dam was named after Clifford J. Strike, General Manager of Idaho Power from 1938 to 1948. The reservoir was built in the early 1950s for hydro power and recreational opportunities. The latter has sure been a great addition to Southwest Idaho's fishing community. The long-range weather forecast is looking like

Trailing of the Sheep

Every year around this time Harry Soulen Jr., his wife and other helpers bring his sheep down from the family pasture where they winter out by Melba near Swan Falls and walk them to Letha to be sheared. This is the first band of 2,500 sheep. The next band comes in a couple days.

Reported by Debi Jensen last year, the sheep will then lamb in the spring pasture in the Crane Creek area. When the lambs are old enough, in about June, they will continue their journey being lead back to the back side of Brundage Mountain. Then in the fall, they will continue on to their winter pasture, near Melba. This journey is about a 550 mile round trip. Harry's grandfather, Harry Soulen Sr (now deceased), had been raising sheep in Southwest Idaho



Harry Soulen Jr.

It is so much fun to watch them when they come through Caldwell!



since 1926. It was passed on to his son Phil Soulen (now deceased), and now to his son



OUTDOORS

LOCAL DIRT

March goes on into spring and longer warmer days. I know it's always tough to plan for things that seem so far off, but it's here and it's time to start acting on what you've been thinking about.

As I've mentioned on my local radio show and podcasts in the past along with past articles, the planning of a garden during winter months is the best way to have a successful garden, whether it be a vegetable garden or a flower garden. Both need some forethought, so your end result is what you've envisioned. Any type of garden you desire needs to have the soil composition to support those plants. So know your soil's makeup. There are local labs that test your soil samples you bring to them. You'll need to take in a few samples from different spots of your garden, depending on size, to get a range of understanding of your soil's makeup. The water source is also an

important factor in the results of you garden. If you use city water, test the water for chemical treatments and levels of hardness. Hard water can dry on leaves and harm the plants productivity. Those test results will also tell you what's necessary to adjust your soil's quality for better results. Once you know those factors, selecting plants for your garden is much easier for those soil/water conditions. Research the plants needs and maturity dates so you select the best plants for vour soil.

Of course weather conditions dictate planting times. Many plants, like tomatoes and peppers, have long maturity periods for which production is optimal, so starting plants indoors is always recommended for productivity in our limited seasons. Say you want tomatoes really early and the maturity date is 86 days, you could start that tomato indoors three months in advance and then take it outside in good weather. Then in about three to four weeks after transplanting, you'd be fairly close to tomatoes ripening in May/

How many Bald Eagles have

you seen this winter? Some

folks just crossing the Lower

Dam in recent weeks have

counted 25 and more, out on

the ice, perched in trees, or

just flying by. That was how I

saw my first bald eagle in Can-

yon County, in 1999. Driving to

work just after sunrise, I saw

a giant black bird flying toward

me. As it passed at eye level

on my right, I saw the iconic

white head and huge yel-

low beak - an almost mythic

creature to me then. Now they

nest around Lake Lowell and

we could almost take them for

granted - unless we remem-

ber that for many years they

were an endangered species.

from the lake, flocks of other

water fowl start showing up;

ruddy ducks, red-breasted

mergansers, tundra and trum-

As the winter ice disappears

June and then throughout the whole summer.

Did you know that tomatoes don't have to die every year? I grew a tomato in a nursery pot supported by my trellis invention for three years because I'd bring it inside in cold weather and back outside in summer. I even put it in a shady cooler area during very high heat because tomatoes slow production down when it's really hot.

I'm a strong advocate for becoming more self reliant by growing your own vegetables

by Pat King and fruits and by taking unproductive grass areas and con-

verting to food producing areas. Need a shade tree? Put in fruit trees. Don't like the price of eggs? Raise a few chickens for eggs and meat. Want less expensive locally raised beef and pork? Find a local source and support them. Yes, you may have to buy a half a beef or pork, but knowing where it comes from and who you're supporting is well worth it.

Until next time, Pat.

March Southwest Idaho Birders Association

peter swans and many more on their spring journey north.

March is traditionally the high point for snow geese and greater white-fronted geese to pass through this area, and SIBA's annual field trip to the Fort Boise Wildlife Management Area in Parma will be on March 8. Group members will gather at the observation tower on Old Fort Boise Road just northwest of Parma at 9 a.m. to watch the flocks of geese come in. There'll be ample time also to find ducks and shorebirds, hawks and eagles, songbirds and whoknows-what else. The group will caravan from there to Martin's Landing and Roswell Marsh, expecting to find wild turkeys, sandhill cranes and more on the way. This trip may extend into the afternoon so bring food and drink for

by JC Clancy

your needs and clothing for variable weather. Registration is required. Please email trip leader James Jarrett at: SIBAFieldTrip@gmail.com.

SIBA's monthly meeting, online only, will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 13. Shannan Brimmer and husband Wyatt Tustin will share their adventures "Birding the Big Island of Hawaii." Some highlights will include Kilauea National Park, the Hakalau Forest Reserve, featuring birds and other wildlife.

Shannan is a long-term resident of Boise with a passion for travel, running, quilting and bird watching. She has four years of bird watching experience including, leading local field trips for Golden Eagle Audubon. To get the link for the Zoom meeting, go to: sibainfo1@gmail.com.

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