

2025

Vol. II

CROSSROADS

BY CANYON COUNTY PARKS, CULTURAL
& NATURAL RESOURCES







P. 2: Guffey Bridge from the top of Guffey Butte. Photo courtesy Kristin Stone.

P. 3:

Top: Assistant Director Mike Farrell and Director Nicki Schwend explore the Snake River Canyon.

Bottom, left: A rattlesnake in the rocks on the Halverson Bar near Celebration Park.

Bottom, right: Director Nicki Schwend and Assistant Director Mike Farrell survey water drainage areas at Celebration Park's East End Campground.





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Top: Interpretive Ranger Jenna Raino leads educational program training at Lake Lowell.

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New Atlatl Deck

The Celebration Park Atlatl Deck improvement is finally open for students and visitors to enjoy!

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Assistant Director: Mike Farrell
Historic Preservation Officer: Chelsee Boehm
Park Supervisor: Dylan Starry
Programs Manager: Hilaire Goodnight
Visitor Services Specialist: Kristin Stone
Outdoor Recreation Planner: Alex Eells
Interpretive Rangers: Zachery Burfeindt, Jessica Clark, Trasie Jarawan, Brianna Krause, Paul McGrew, Emily Stellway, Merri Melde, Jae Phelps, Jenna Raino, Jessica Sweeney, Janessa Warren



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FROM THE EDITOR:

Dylon Starry

Crossroads Magazine always has a theme. Sometimes it isn't quite as obvious as we might like, but I assure you it's there. Each year, the four themes are usually 'Education,' 'Archaeology Month,' 'What We Did This Summer,' and 'Historic Preservation/Winter.' We try to highlight these themes in the photos, articles, and events we promote. Readers with a keen eye might notice that only two issues of Crossroads Magazine came out this year, and that's due to a lot of change in our department. From new staff to new infrastructure and policy changes that will increase our professionalism and intentionality, we've undergone quite a transformation in 2025. That's why I'm making the unofficial theme of this edition of Crossroads Magazine "change."

One of the biggest changes in our department is adding new Assistant Director Mike Farrell. Mike has a long career in municipal parks across several states and brings a new perspective that has already proven to be a great asset. His experience fills



Department staff at a historical training event on Halloween.



Training is one of the department's highest priorities. River rescue just happened to be a fun training day!

a gap in what I call the “unknown unknown;” – the things we didn’t even know that we didn’t know. He also creates quite the haunted garage at Halloween, so he fits in well with the rest of the quirky staff.

Another big change is a new position, Park Supervisor at Celebration Park. With a growing populace and increased interest in outdoor spaces, the department needed another set of eyes to help oversee programs, operations, visitation, safety, and anything else that might come up. This position is filled by... me!

We’ve also promoted two Interpretive Rangers into full-time roles. Hilaire Goodnight has filled the role of Programs Manager and Kristin Stone has taken the position of Visitor Services Specialist. While they’ve only been in their new positions for a few months, they are already demonstrating excellent leadership and work ethic.

Our team has also worked hard to raise the standards of programs and visitor experience. This includes new uniform standards, field trip logistics, radio use and etiquette, and more. Full-time staff have been trained on programs to lend a hand when necessary, and this year, nearly all staff were certified in first aid, naloxone administration, and river rescue. We are always trying to increase our department’s knowledge base and safety

practices through training and look forward to continuing that trend with more education in the future.

I have been so fortunate in all of this, not only in being promoted, but to be able to come to work each day at such a beautiful place as Celebration Park. I’m in my third position now with the department, and in five years I’ve never had to change desks. I still get to look out my window and watch the river wind its way downstream. With all the changes in our little department, I want to express my appreciation to the citizens and visitors who enjoy Celebration Park and thank them for their patience and understanding as we grow and change. In order to make these big changes (like the new boater improvements at Celebration Park currently underway) we’ve had to make a bit of a mess. To make an omelet, you have to break a few eggs, as they say. We’re so grateful for everyone – the Canyon County Commissioners and the Facilities department, other partner agencies, and the staff here, but especially to the citizens of Canyon County and all the visitors from near and far who make this place special.



Views abound at Celebration Park - for campers and Park employees.



New standardized uniforms help raise professionalism across the department.

Photos on page 10 courtesy Andrew Feraci - Canyon County Constituent Services Communication Specialist.



DEPARTMENT UPDATE: On the Ground

Eagle Scout Project

Micah Stucki, a local Boy Scout, recently completed a project for his Eagle Scout rank. With a group of volunteers, he conducted invasive weed removal along the Celebration Park fire break. Together they removed several large loads of flammable cheatgrass to mitigate fire risk. Fire breaks serve a vital purpose, creating a boundary to prevent wildfires from spreading. We appreciate Micah's dedication to our parks and his service to his community. Stucki is pictured here with Outdoor Recreation Planner Alex Eells.



Shop Organization

One of our goals for 2025 has been to reorganize and improve the use of the limited space inside of the Celebration Park shop. This required new storage cabinets and shelving and staff spent several days organizing tools, equipment, and other supplies, as well as purging and disposing of old, broken, and unnecessary items past their use life. The department also invested in a new heavy-duty DR Trimmer capable of handling the vegetation growing along trails and campsites. The machine is self-propelled, which will help take care of weed infestation in areas a regular lawn mower cannot reach.

Boater Improvement Project Started

Last spring, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) awarded Veritas Facility Services & Construction the contract for the Celebration Park Snake River Boater Improvement project. The first of a two-phase grant from Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, this first phase includes replacement of the existing boat ramp, new ADA accessible boat docks, ADA accessible pathways, and improved parking. The next phase will include a barb into the river to protect the new infrastructure. The improvements come at a great time, as the current infrastructure is over 30 years old, and has outlived its useful life. This phase of construction is expected to continue through spring of 2026.



DEPARTMENT UPDATE: In the Office

Naloxone Training

Opioid overdoses have been on the rise around the country. While our Interpretive Rangers' primary focus is education, it's important that everyone in the Parks department is well-trained on how to handle emergencies of any kind. Partnering with Southwest District Health (SWDH), full and part-time staff attended an educational session this spring on overdoses and how to handle them. SWDH also restocked the department's supply of Naloxone – an opioid reversal medication.

New Rangers

We've hired several new Interpretive Rangers this year. Their experience ranges from raptor identification to geology to Great Basin archaeology. Some are fluent in foreign languages, and others are well-versed in desert biology. Our well-rounded staff keep us informed on relevant topics and help expand departmental knowledge. Several Interpretive Rangers are presenting on educational topics this winter. We are happy to welcome Interpretive Rangers (*shown here, l. to r., top to bottom*) Trasic Jarawan, Zack Burfeindt, Janessa Warren, Emily Stellway, and Jae Phelps (*not pictured*).

New HPC Member Dr. Rachel Miller

The Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is excited to welcome its newest member, Dr. Rachel Miller. Dr. Miller is an assistant professor at the College of Idaho, where she teaches US History, Cultural History, and Public History. Dr. Miller has helped local history organizations in Canyon County recruit interns – to advance the work of the mostly volunteer organizations and give students hands-on work experience. As a member of the HPC, Dr. Miller dove headfirst into work reviewing Historic Preservation Grant applications for fiscal year 2026. We're grateful to have her join our Commission!





DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Everything Else

Bridging Time

On Thursday, May 1st, Parks staff attended 'Bridging Time' – an event held by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). There, SHPO staff unveiled the design for 2025's Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month poster, featuring the Rainbow Bridge in Valley County. This year, SHPO held a contest to determine which artwork would be featured on the poster – the winner was a painting by Autumn Cole. SHPO has celebrated Archaeology and Historic Preservation month (one of our staff's favorites!) for decades. To honor this year's bridge theme, Parks staff set up a fun bridge-building activity enjoyed by many kids.



River Rescue Training

Due to the remote nature of our jobs, the best way to mitigate risk is to have well-trained staff. This summer, both part- and full-time staff had the opportunity to attend training with the Caldwell Fire Department on throw-bag rescue. These are highly effective yet inexpensive tools rescuers use to retrieve people caught in swift water on the river. The Snake River is known for being dangerous - fast, powerful undercurrents make self-rescue difficult. Throw-bags help rescuers save victims without endangering the rescuers themselves. We would like to thank Capt. Jordan Lowe and the Caldwell Fire Department for their help.



Free Fishing Day 2025

Every June, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game designates the second Saturday in June as Free Fishing Day. On this day, anyone can fish in Idaho waters without buying a fishing license (limits, tackle restrictions, seasons, and tag rules still apply). The Southwest Idaho Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC&D) helps by hosting fishing clinics at Kleiner Park in Meridian, where kids and adults can learn fishing skills, such as knot tying, fish handling, tackle selection, and more. The RC&D Council also provides loaner rods for people to try out fishing without having to make a financial investment in gear.

A New Team Player: Assistant Director Mike Farrell

I am honored and excited to join our Canyon County Parks, Cultural & Natural Resources team as Assistant Director!

My name is Mike Farrell and I am a park professional with over 37 years of experience, starting as a part-time Park Maintenance Aide to serving as a Parks & Recreation Director for over 22 years. Canyon County's unique emphasis on providing outdoor recreational opportunities and sharing and preserving cultural historic places and artifacts drew me to this opportunity.

I've held a passion for experiencing and respecting the beauty of the outdoors throughout my life, which led me to discovering a career path that I enjoy and feel lucky to have. I grew up in a small town – Zion, Illinois – halfway between Chicago and Milwaukee along the shores of Lake Michigan. When I was 11, my family moved to Monrovia, California where I adjusted from seeing flat farmlands and four seasons to mountains, oceans and year-round sun. I especially enjoyed going on summer camps in the Sierras and experiencing the beauty of camping and hiking in the outdoors. I attended Long Beach State where I received a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with a concentration in History, which I love to absorb everywhere I go. While a college student, I spent summers working part-time as a Maintenance Aide for Monrovia Parks and was initially posted at their signature park, Monrovia Canyon Park. At Canyon Park I learned how to safely (carefully!!) relocate rattlesnakes from trails and picnic sites, as well as host small groups of children for educational walks on the trails and visits to the nature center. I felt so lucky to be able to work outside in this environment that it hardly felt like a job!

This became the start of my career in parks. I then progressed to full-time work as a maintenance worker for the City and obtained certifications and licenses

in areas such as integrated pest management, irrigation design and became a Certified Arborist. After my wife, Meagan, and I were married (she loves the outdoors too!) we moved to Washington state and my career progressed, working for a few cities (Auburn, Bothell, Sammamish). During that time, I decided to obtain a master's degree in Public Administration at the University of Washington in Seattle. My career advanced to becoming the Operations Supervisor for the City of Sammamish which had only recently incorporated, so I had the opportunity to assist the Director in creating a new parks department for the young city. My family and I loved living and playing in the Pacific Northwest, enjoying hiking, camping and exploring the outdoors. I then got the itch to find a job as a Director, and found an opportunity in Hobart, Indiana, in the greater Chicago area. While there, I experienced my beloved Chicago Cubs clinching a playoff spot at Wrigley Field, which is a rare occasion for a Cub fan.



Assistant Director Mike Farrell and his daughter try out atlatl on the new range at Celebration Park.

in love with the beauty of the Treasure Valley and points beyond while visiting our daughter. That eventually led to Meagan finding a rewarding job with Canyon County two years ago. I finished up succession planning at Monroe parks and, after 19 years as Monroe's director, I found this great opportunity. Here I get to help care for and preserve beautiful parks such as Celebration Park, Lake Lowell, and Martin Landing. My family and I enjoy hiking, exploring and travelling with our female German Shepherd, Moxi, and can't wait to begin exploring around our new-found home.

In my work, I like to foster a culture of continuous learning, leading by example, and I believe strongly that our successes are due to developing strong partnerships and working together as a team to accomplish unbelievable things. I hold a deep commitment to public service, prioritizing community needs and helping to uplift those around me through my quiet, yet transformative leadership style. I am excited to be a part of the all-star team here and I look forward to seeing you in the parks!

After three years experiencing Midwest winters and even a tornado, we looked for an opportunity to move back to the Pacific Northwest. I found it, becoming the first Parks Director for the small but growing community of Monroe, Washington. There I had the opportunity to build a parks department from the ground up, expanding both park, facility and trail opportunities for the community, and also expanding programs and events. I enjoyed introducing a new dog park near one of our ballfield complexes (aptly named Wiggly Field), concerts in the park, and events such as triathlon qualifiers for USA Olympic athletes and professional wakeboard competitions. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to provide access improvements and be a good steward for our Lake Tye and the Skykomish River, two showcase waterways where bald eagles, osprey, trout, salmon, and steelhead make their home.

My wife Meagan, and daughter Lindsay preceded me in coming to the Treasure Valley in a staggered move. First, our daughter attended Boise State and now works for the Idaho State Police. My wife and I fell



Mike and his family on the Halverson Lake Trail near Celebration Park.

More Than Bricks & Mortar: The National Register of Historic Places

Whether you're walking the streets of downtown Caldwell, paddling the waters of Lake Lowell, or touring exhibits at the Lee Moberly Museum – you are taking a small step (or swim!) into history. At each of these places, you will find properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official national list of properties considered important to our collective past and worthy of preservation. Maintained by the National Park Service (NPS) and managed in partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in each

state, the registry is “part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America’s historic and archaeological resources.”¹ The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 created the NRHP, and today there are more than 100,000 listings across the United States and its territories. Certified Local Governments (CLGs) – like the Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission – also play an important role in identifying and listing properties on the NRHP.

Properties on the NRHP can be significant at the national, regional, state or local level. To be eligible for listing, properties must “possess historic significance and integrity.”² Significance is “recognized by the National Register Criteria.”³ These include:

- “Association with historic events or activities,
- Association with important persons,
- Distinctive design or physical characteristics, or
- Potential to provide important information about prehistory or history.”⁴

Defined as, “the ability to convey its significance,” integrity includes seven aspects outlined by the NPS: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Properties must meet at least one of the National Register Criteria, though they meet several of the facets described by historic integrity.

A listing on the National Register is purely honorific. It puts no restrictions on property owners, and they retain all rights to modify the property, including demolishing it. The federal government has no say on any alterations to the property, from changing the paint color to completely removing a building or other feature. Any legal requirements



Rocks stacked on the dam at Lake Lowell from the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps refurbishment. Photo credit Idaho SHPO.

1 National Park Service. “National Register of Historic Places,” <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

2 National Park Service, Cultural Resources. “How to Complete the National Register Registration Form,” National Register Bulletin, <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB16A-Complete.pdf>

3 Ibid

4 Ibid

to review building alterations or demolitions come from local ordinances, which only apply to specific structures, often those found in historic districts or neighborhoods.

While listing a property on the NRHP might not provide any formal protections – it does increase recognition for historic places that can tip the scales in favor of their preservation. NRHP properties attract tourists to their communities, as people specifically seek out and visit places listed. This boosts tourism and economic benefits for nearby businesses. A National Register listing can help local communities encourage measures to preserve the property long-term – such as local ordinances or changes in ownership. Additionally, listing a property in the NRHP may help it qualify for certain financial incentives or grant programs.

So, how is a property added to the National Register of Historic Places? Anyone can nominate a property for inclusion in the National Register, although listing a private property requires the owner's consent. To begin the process, interested parties should contact the National Register Coordinator at the Idaho SHPO. Generally, SHPO staff require completion of the state's preliminary eligibility questionnaire, providing some basic background on the property. SHPO staff review the document and determine if it meets the requirements of listing in the NRHP.

From here, the National Park Service requires the completion of a nomination form. The forms require a detailed physical description and evaluation of the property, and a narrative discussing: its historic significance, how it meets National Register Criteria, and if/how it has historic integrity. While anyone can complete a nomination, some choose to hire preservation professionals to complete the process for them. For example, TAG Historical Research and Consultants completed the recent nomination for the Melba Valley Museum building (added to the NRHP in 2024).

The Idaho SHPO works with applicants throughout the nomination process. Once completed, SHPO schedules completed drafts for review by the Idaho Historic Sites Review Board (a group of subject-matter experts from around the state). Following

a vote by the review board, the SHPO submits the nomination to the NPS for review. NPS will either list the property, issue a 'determination of eligibility' (if a property owner objects), reject the listing, or send back the nomination for additional information or clarification. The entire NRHP process typically takes about a year.

While some of the best-known properties on the NRHP are buildings, they are not the only places (or things) that can be listed. Archaeological sites, bridges, fossilized footprints, cemeteries, neighborhoods, and even boats and space shuttles can be found on the National Register. Canyon County's unique listings include ferry sites along the Snake River and the Deer Flat Embankments/Diversion Dam. Completed in 1908, the dam and embankments represent the importance of the County's agricultural history. Buildings that illustrate this facet of Canyon County's story include the Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District Office (on the corner of 1st Street South and 15th Avenue South in Nampa, pictured below) and a variety of privately owned historic barns.



Nampa and Meridian Irrigation District Office building, 1503 First Street South, Nampa. Constructed in 1919, it was designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel and added to the National Register in 1976.

The National Register of Historic Places is an important collection of properties and cultural resources, that help to tell the broad history of our country, our state, and our local communities. Listing (and protecting) properties on the National Register helps us to learn about our shared past and teach future generations. There's something special about visiting a historic space, whether it's entering an old building, walking across a century-old bridge, or seeing petroglyphs (yes, Celebration Park is part of a NRHP listing!) that cannot be replicated.





P. 18:

Top: Nampa Post Office, 123 11th Avenue South.
Constructed in 1930-1931.

Bottom: Caldwell Post Office, 823 Arthur Street. The
original portion of the Post Office was constructed in 1932,
with an addition completed in 1965. Both post offices were
added to the National Register in 1989.

P. 19:

Farmers and Merchants Bank
101 11th Avenue South, Nampa

Designed by Tourtellotte and Hummel, the Bank opened
in 1919. It was added to the National Register in 1976 and
still has its original stained-glass skylight.





Top: The Horse Barn at the Idaho State School and Hospital (now State Hospital South) was constructed in 1925-1926 and added to the National Register in 1978. Historic photo courtesy the National Park Service.



Middle: Built in 1915, the George Obendorf 'Gothic Arch Truss Barn' was listed in 1999. Historic photo courtesy Idaho SHPO.



Bottom: Constructed in 1918 and added to the National Register in 1982, the Peckham Barn still stands near Wilder. Historic photo by Jennifer Eastman Attebery, courtesy Idaho SHPO.

P. 20: The Boise River and Canal Bridge, in Caldwell, spans the River and the Notus Canal. Built in 1922, it was once part of Highway 30, until the interstate was constructed in the 1960s. It was added to the NRHP in 2007.

Where Modern Tools Meet Ancient Weapons: Building a New Atlatl Deck



Students enjoy the shade provided by the new deck at the atlatl range.

At Celebration Park, our flagship program is the archaeology field trip “Stories in Stone.” It brings local students to a place steeped in history, from geologic to paleo, and up to the recent past. Celebration Park started as a fishing access site, but as former Parks Director Tom Bicak became increasingly immersed in the site’s geology and history, he found himself giving impromptu tours of the petroglyphs and the historic Guffey Bridge. Sometimes visitors would continue talking with Tom about history and archaeology while sitting at the picnic table outside the Visitor Center. One such visitor was a fourth-grade teacher who asked Tom if he’d give an educational tour to his students since fourth grade focuses on state history. Tom obliged and word spread, leading to more requests for educational field trips.

Over time, Tom developed formal tours of the

petroglyphs and the Guffey Bridge and then expanded programming to include an atlatl range and a lithic lifeway tour to further connect students with archaeology. The ‘Stories in Stone’ field trip developed organically and it has been going strong for over 30 years now – though not without many changes. Atlatl originally took place in a wide-open space among the sagebrush. Eventually, Tom built a deck between the petroglyph trail and the atlatl range, and it was used for decades. After all those years, the decking aged and weakened, and it desperately needed replaced.

The project started with a dream. Parks staff designed their ideal deck in 3D modelling software. The vision included shade covers and ADA accessibility. With a few engineering changes, that vision became reality. Construction occurred the winter of 2024-2025. The basalt boulders under the surface were a bit of an



Interpretive Ranger Jessica Clark assists with cleaning the dust and dirt off semi-submerged basalt boulders to verify they are free of petroglyphs prior to decking construction.

obstacle, but with careful planning – and flexibility on the part of the Parks Department, Facilities Department, and construction crews – we ‘opened’ the new deck this spring.

On May 30th, 2025, members of the Canyon County Board of County Commissioners, Parks, Facilities, Constituent Services staff, and the local KIVI Channel 6 media all met at Celebration Park to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new deck. Together, we officially kicked off the next era of students and staff enjoyment of the atlatl range and petroglyph trail. Park Rangers have already lauded the new infrastructure, noting that it is much nicer to lead tours with shade opportunities. Students and teachers, too, have commended the County for this new structure, noting that student attention and satisfaction have gone up; it’s much easier to learn and focus when you’re not so hot. Students are also able to use the shade at the atlatl range as a place to eat their lunches!

We want to thank the Board of Canyon County Commissioners for their support of this project, as well as Rick Britton, Director of Canyon County Facilities, and his staff for their help. But most of all, we want to thank the citizens Canyon County and the many visitors to Celebration Park. We hope everyone will visit the park and check out this amazing new facility.



A crane lifts the shade-structure beams into place.



Bottom right: KIVI Channel 6 films the ribbon cutting ceremony with (left to right) Parks Assistant Director Mike Farrell, Facilities Director Rick Britton, Commissioner Leslie Van Beek, Parks Director Nicki Schwend, Commissioner Zach Brooks, and Chief Operating Officer Greg Rast.

CORAZÓN de IDAHO ESPÍRITU de JAIALDI

*Learning
Through
Shared
Landscapes*



At Celebration Park, we love to introduce guests to the many layers of history – from the geologic formation of the landscape eons ago, to the paleo people at the end of the Ice Age, to the fur trappers and miners of the more recent past. But there are more stories that don't have a field trip program. One of those is the history of the Basque people in Idaho.

While many Basques came to the United States during the California gold rush, the first recorded Basque people arrived in Idaho around 1890 and worked

Programs Manager Hilaire Goodnight gives a tour of the petroglyphs in Spanish to Basque visitors.

in the sheep industry. By the turn of the century, some Basques established themselves by opening boardinghouses, many of them in downtown Boise. These led to Basque enclaves and marriages amongst members of the community. Back in Spain, the dictator Francisco Franco (in power from 1939-1973) oppressed the Basque language and culture, pushing even more Basque people to move to Idaho. It's estimated that between 10,000 and 15,000 Basques now live in the Gem State.

First held in 1987, the Jaialdi festival celebrated Basque culture in Idaho. Though originally intended to be a one-time experience, it was so popular that organizers decided to hold the event every five years, beginning in 1990. Jaialdi has been canceled only once, in 2020, due to the Covid Pandemic. This year (2025) marked a ten-year gap since the last Jaialdi, and an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 people participated from around the world. The festival included Basque food and drink vendors, musical performances, farm sports competitions (things like weightlifting, wood chopping, hay bale throwing, and wagon lifting), and traditional dancing. A new addition this year was an optional field trip to Celebration Park!

On July 31st, around 50 festival attendees visited Celebration Park, most of whom were from Spain. This gave certain park staff the opportunity to try providing our standard programs in Spanish, which many Basque people know and understand! Programs Manager Hilaire Goodnight and Interpretive Ranger Trasie Jarawan are both fluent Spanish-speakers and took on the unique challenge. Hilaire worked to translate the programs ahead of time and led the petroglyph tour, while Trasie presented the atlatl program. Visitor Services Specialist Kristin Stone gave the Guffey Bridge tour with assistance from someone acting as a translator. For their work translating, preparing, and presenting the Spanish portions of the program, Hilaire and Trasie received official staff commendations.



Interpretive Ranger Trasie Jarawan spreads enthusiasm in her Spanish-language atlatl lesson.



Jaialdi participants got to experience Idaho history, making connections to their own culture.

The participants loved the tours. Several of them complimented the Interpretive Rangers, and Celebration Park itself. They were amazed that so much could be learned in such a concentrated area. One woman, an archaeologist from Spain, gushed about how exceptionally well the department presented the resources of the park. Some in the group were familiar with rock art in the Basque Country – like the paintings at Ekain (which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, dated to 14,000 years ago!). They were excited to see the rock art at Celebration Park and feel a special connection to their own homeland and culture.

Since Jaialdi only happens once every five years, it's not an annual tradition, but rather a quinquennial one. So, keep an eye out in 2030 for the next exciting Jaialdi event!

WIDE AWAKE *with* **HILAIRE GOODNIGHT**



Hilaire rescues the firefighters.

I'm Hilaire Goodnight – historian, linguist, and now Programs Manager for Canyon County Parks! I'm a Boise native who has also spent a considerable amount of my adult life exploring the world. Growing up in the natural beauty of Idaho fostered my



Hilaire loves animals - especially her cats, Potato and Forest.

appreciation for all things wild - picking huckleberries to the sound of birdsong, hiking to crystal blue glacial lakes and descending on skis from snow-capped peaks. The common sight of half-fallen barns and mining cabins also helped me develop a deep appreciation for the past, and how it continues to impact our present. I earned my bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho in 2013, where I studied history and foreign languages. Upon graduation, I chose to indulge my desire for adventure and headed out into the world. I taught English overseas for almost five years, spending most of that time in countries throughout North Africa and the Middle East. My longest residence was nearly two years in Morocco. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to study Arabic and see ancient structures and ruins that have stood for thousands of years. It was a beautiful and humbling experience.

Eventually, the love I have for my homeland brought me back to the US. I

continued to teach English and Spanish online, as well as develop local historical tours. Although I enjoyed my time abroad, I carried guilt for having seen more of the world than of my native country. With the advantage of remote work, I spent the next few years in the southeastern United States. I was impressed by the fall foliage, massive rivers and historic battlefields, but nothing could replace the high mountains or the fresh scent of sagebrush in the desert rain. In 2021, I convinced my husband to return to the Pacific Northwest and we've never looked back.

My love of plants, rocks, and fresh air drove me to look for a new position where I could spend more time in nature, and that is when I became an Interpretive Ranger at Celebration Park. I loved getting to educate students on the intricacies of Idaho's cultural heritage, from the Native American petroglyphs, to the wagon ruts left by pioneers on the Oregon Trail. I have also been thrilled to use my language skills with some of our foreign visitors. When the opportunity for advancement arose, I jumped at the chance to solidify my role in Canyon County Parks and contribute to its visions.

I embrace the challenges that being Programs Manager carries and can't wait to show visitors all the things that the Parks Department is doing to continually improve what we do! When I'm not working, you can find me reading, gardening, hanging out with my cats and chickens or, more likely, out adventuring somewhere in the backcountry.



Programs Manager Hilaire Goodnight (second from right) matching her new work besties; (left to right) Park Supervisor Dylan Starry, Visitor Services Specialist Kristin Stone, and Historic Preservation Officer Chelsea Boehm.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

2026 GRANT AWARDS

The Canyon County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), recommends and administers the Canyon County Historic Preservation Grant Award Program. The program distributes funds to non-profit organizations in Canyon County dedicated to the protection and maintenance of historic materials or properties. To do this, Canyon County sets aside a small portion (*no more than twelve one-thousandth of a percent or <.012%*) of property tax revenue every year.

The HPC received nearly \$175,000 in funding requests this year, and the BOCC approved funding for \$74,250. Below are the projects awarded funding for the 2026 fiscal year.



\$21,860

The First National Bank building, home to the Parma Library, received two awards: one for a historic building survey; and another to nominate the building to the National Register of Historic Places.



\$10,400

The American Legion Post 18 Chateau in Nampa received funding for a historic building survey of their National Register-listed property.



\$7,000

The Byway received two awards: one to install three informational signs; and another to create an audio tour featuring historic sites along the Byway in Canyon County.



\$5,900

The National Register-listed Lee Moberly Museum in Middleton received an award to design and install interpretive signs on the history of the Interurban Railway.



\$18,370

The Melba Valley Historical Society received funding to design and install three interpretive signs outside the National Register-listed Melba Valley Museum.



\$10,720

The Idaho Philanthropic Education Organization received funds to restore the dining room of their 1910 National Register-listed Chapter House, or the Dorman Mansion, in Caldwell.



BUS *Scholarships*

FALL WINNERS ANNOUNCED



10 Schools

A total of ten schools have been randomly selected to receive \$150 each to help defray the transportation costs to and from Canyon County Parks field trips at Celebration Park or Lake Lowell. Congratulations to those schools!



Wide Reach

Over the years, these awards have gone to a wide variety of schools throughout the Treasure Valley, assisting in getting as many students as possible to our outdoor educational field trips.



Generous Donors

These awards are made possible through grants and generous donations by individuals and organizations committed to ensuring that the educational opportunities we provide are accessible to the greatest possible number of teachers, schools, and students in our region.



**To make a donation to the Bus
Scholarship fund, please contact:**

208-455-6022

www.canyoncounty.id.gov/parks



P. 30:

Top: A fire in Owyhee County provides a salient reminder of the pervasive threat of wildfire even in the desert. This fire on July 31st, 2025, was fortunately contained very quickly.

Bottom, left: Visitor Services Specialist Kristin Stone presents an interpretive program at Eagle Island State Park in a partnership between Canyon County Parks and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation.

Bottom, right: Two dogs enjoy using the water fountain specifically designed for pooches.



P. 31:

Top: A visitor tries the atlatl during Owyhee County's Outpost Days this last summer.

Bottom: Interpretive Rangers Mark Masek and Trasie Jarawan show off their artistic talents creating new targets for the atlatl range.







P. 32:

Top: A massive bulldozer pushes a concrete slab into the Snake River as part of the Celebration Park Boater Improvement project.

Bottom, left: New eco-blocks and chain-link fencing at Canyon County's George W. Nourse Gun Range, both part of improvements happening to the gun range.

Bottom, right: Programs Manager Hilaire Goodnight doesn't just assign tasks to Interpretive Rangers - she joins in as well. She's pictured here digging out weeds near the Ecology Trail.

P. 33:

Water-rescue training is conducted often at the Parks Department. This year Caldwell Fire trained parks staff on the proper use of rescue throw-bags.

Top: Interpretive Ranger Emily Stellway demonstrates excellent underhand technique with the water rescue throw-bag.

Bottom: Interpretive Rangers Trasie Jarawan and Jessica Clark practice with throw-bags under the watchful eye of Caldwell firefighter Captain Justin Hughes.





CANYON COUNTY PARKS AT **CELEBRATION PARK**

STORIES IN STONE

This place-based archaeological field trip allows students to connect to where they live through exploration, observation, and hands-on experience. The program highlights how archaeologists draw conclusions from evidence left by early inhabitants.

Students will be immersed in the rich cultural and natural history of southwest Idaho. They will leave with a better understanding of how ancient cultures and lifeways relate to their lives today.

Students will learn about:

Archaeology on the
**PETROGLYPH
FIELD**

Ancient Tools in
**LITHIC
LIFEWAYS**

Mining History on
**GUFFEY
BRIDGE**

Hunting on the
**ATLATL
RANGE**

Information

- ✓ 10:00 AM—2:00 PM
- ✓ 4th Grade and up—120 students max
- ✓ Students should bring a lunch
- ✓ One lesson indoors, three outdoors

Celebration Park

5000 Victory Rd.
Melba, ID 83641

Registration Link

www.canyoncounty.id.gov/field-trips



More Information:

parksprogram@canyoncounty.id.gov

(208) 455-6022



CANYON COUNTY
PARKS AT
**CELEBRATION
PARK**

WILDLAND FIRE FIELD TRIP

A place-based ecological experience designed to teach students how they interact with fire in the natural ecosystem of Idaho, the sagebrush-steppe. While this program teaches fire safety, its main focus is on the impacts of fire in our local ecosystem.

Students will explore the Park's fire regime and learn about fire behavior. They will also learn about wildland firefighting tools and methods. Students will leave with a better understanding of how wildfire regimes relate to their lives in Idaho.

Students will learn about:

Fire Management
**FIREFIGHTING
TOOLS**

How Fire Works in
**HANDS-ON
FIRE LAB**

Fire Regimes on a
**FIRE
ECOLOGY
HIKE**

Hunting on the
**ATLATL
RANGE**

Information

- ✓ 10:00 AM—2:00 PM
- ✓ 5th Grade and up—120 students max
- ✓ Students should bring a lunch
- ✓ One lesson indoors, three outdoors

Celebration Park

5000 Victory Rd.
Melba, ID 83641

Registration Link

www.canyoncounty.id.gov/field-trips

More Information:

parksprograms@canyoncounty.id.gov

(208) 455-6022





1115 Albany St. Caldwell, ID 83605

PRESORTED STANDARD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Caldwell, ID

Permit No. 022



Interpretive Ranger Bri Krause gives her colleagues a lesson on the geology of the Snake River Plain, including information on this unique landform at Celebration Park.