

Here's What's Happening

Kendrick-Juliaetta & 7 Ridges Community News

kendrick-juliaetta.com, kj7newsletter3@gmail.com

Distinguished Young Woman 2027

The Kendrick-Juliaetta Distinguished Young Woman program for 2027 will take place on March 21st at 7:00 PM in the Kendrick High School Gym. This year's theme is "Let's Go Girls!" (90s Country). The DYW Committee will award over \$6,000 in scholarships this year.

The participants and their escorts are as follows:

Julianna Kelsey of Kendrick (Escort: Malaki Johnson), daughter of Sandra and Bobby Coleman



Aaliyah Rex of Juliaetta (Escort: Maddox Kirkland), daughter of Brad Rex and Amy Hunsaker



Chloe Marshall of Kendrick (Escort: Landon Sneve), daughter of Kenneth and Christine Marshall



Mia Ingalls of Genesee (Escort: Keegan Anderson), daughter of Keith and Jennifer Ingalls

Join us as these smart, talented, and hardworking country girls showcase their best selves in fitness, self-expression, talent, interview, and scholastic achievement!

Entry prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$6.00 for 1st-12th grade students, and free for children 5 and under.

Angie Cannon

COMMUNITY STAR 2025 HONOREE

On behalf of the Kendrick-Juliaetta 7 Ridges Board of Directors, we are proud to congratulate Christine Prokay as the Community Star for 2025.

Christine is well known throughout both the Kendrick and Juliaetta communities for her tireless dedication to service, leadership, and entrepreneurship. Her contributions have touched countless lives through CPR training and community preparedness, local community fundraisers, launching the Juliaetta Street Market, leading Silver Sneakers exercise classes, and providing youth training at Juliaetta Elementary.

A proud veteran who faithfully served our country, Christine continues to share her time, energy, and gifts with others. She is currently fulfilling a lifelong dream by opening her own Alternative & Holistic Health Spa, where she offers a wide range of wellness services designed to support the health and well-being of her clients.

The Kendrick-Juliaetta Community Development Association will be celebrating Christine in the coming months. In the meantime, we encourage everyone to thank her for the many ways she has strengthened and enriched our communities whenever you see her. Please join us in congratulating her. *Sherill Calhoun*



City of Juliaetta News

April Clean-Up Month

Take advantage of Household Waste Clean Up Month at the Juliaetta Bulky Waste Site, April 4th and 18th from 8am -4pm. On these dates only, household waste will be accepted at the site, including all plastic and rubber items, hot tubs, glass, solidified paint, small appliances, dishwashers, microwaves, railroad ties, tents, tarps/canvas, insulation, STYROFOAM, stereos, and contaminated waste. Keep in mind that large loads will have to be taken to the Transfer Station. The weather will be getting nicer, and it will be a great time to clean up your sheds, garages, basements, and yards and help keep Juliaetta a beautiful place to live! Please contact City Hall with any questions.

Brush Bin Returning in March

The brush bin located near the sewer plant will be returning in March and is available to all Juliaetta residents. Please remember this bin is only for yard waste and not household garbage items. If you have any questions, please contact City Hall.

Spring Seed & Plant Swap

There will be a Spring seed and plant swap Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 6:00pm-7:30pm at the Juliaetta City Park!

City Council Meetings & Closures

Upcoming regular City Council meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, and Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Meetings begin at 7:00 pm. Agendas are posted in the window at City Hall, at the Post Office, and on the City's website. If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact City Hall no later than the Monday the **week before** the meeting. *Cheyane M. Nelson, City Clerk*

City of Kendrick News

Notice for Loose dogs in the city:

The city has received numerous complaints about loose dogs. We would like to remind you of the need to license your dogs. If your dog is picked up and taken to the humane society by the city, you will be responsible for the release fee, the citation, and if unlicensed, the fee for the licensing. The fee is \$25.00 for a lifetime license. Please make sure your pets are secure in their yards and licensed. We have had repeat offenders off leash and knocking down garbage cans.

Danean Schmidt has just completed an audit of garbage receptacles in the city. If you have a Sunshine Garbage collection issue, please contact City Hall.

Chris Evans has been hard at work re-painting and fixing the picnic tables in the park.

Please add phone numbers and or current email addresses to City Hall by phone or email at cityhall@cityofkendrick.com. If there is an emergency and we need to contact you, it makes it easier and more efficient for you. City Hall office hours are 9 am-3 pm Monday through Thursday and 9:00 am to 12 Noon on Friday. We thank you for your cooperation.

We are gearing up for the upcoming pool season; if you know of any potential lifeguard candidates or office clerks, please contact Rose Norris at 208 816-6116.

Rose Norris

JK Fire News

Spring forward March 8th and check your batteries in your smoke alarms.

Watch for the upcoming firefighter breakfast this Spring. Date to be announced on Facebook.

Kendrick Fire News

On February 15th the Fire Department welcomed a new Engine to the department. We said goodbye to our 1974 American La France Engine 22 who was with the department for 52 years. We did one last trip through town and blasted the siren. Our new engine is a 1998 Spartan/Darley 1500 gallon per minute pump with 500 gallons of water on board with a four-person cab. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 6:30 pm and are actively seeking members. We need new members to add to our roster and encourage citizens to volunteer. Last year we had 28 service calls. Please seriously consider donating your time. We know your time is valuable but having enough members is important. *Val Norris*



Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran Church

March and April are always a special time in the church year. It is the season of Lent and Easter. The 40-day Lenten season prepares us for the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord. We focus on what God has done for us in Christ. “¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.” John 3:16-17

Regular Sunday worship services begin at 10am. There is also an adult Bible Study group that meets at 9am on Sunday morning before worship. All are welcome at Cameron Emmanuel!

On March 22, our congregation will honor our KHS graduating seniors with a special 10am service and potluck lunch to follow. All seniors and their families are welcome as well as the larger community. Pastor Wes Howell, who is a dynamic speaker, will be providing pulpit supply for this service as well as our Palm Sunday service followed by brunch on March 29. Easter Day service will be at 10am on April 5 and all are welcome to come celebrate the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Our WELCA members collect items for Lutheran World Relief personal care kits during Lent. Kits include a bath towel, a toothbrush, a comb, a fingernail clipper and 2 bars of soap. These kits will go to those in need all around the world.

On Wednesdays, the basement of the church comes alive with ladies working on WELCA projects. Our quilters have already been busy working on quilts for the annual Turkey Dinner and Auction set for Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026. Mark your calendars for this special annual event! If you are interested in quilting, tying LWR quilts or helping put kits together, you are welcome on WELCA workdays. You don't have to be a member of the church to attend. If you have questions or are interested in joining, you can contact Joanne Gertje at jgertje28@gmail.com. *Joanne Gertje*

New at the Museum

After the completion of the window installation, thorough cleaning was performed at the museum. Thanks to Kay Roberts, Jan Patterson, Jayne Weber, and Janell Chilberg. We did **tours** on Valentine's Day during the Grange Sweetheart Breakfast.

At our annual meeting in January, we made plans for a very ambitious and active year. The officers serving on our board are Sharon Harris, Pres.; Mark Mustoe, V.P.; Jan Patterson, Sec.; and Kay Roberts, Treasurer.

Once again, we want to focus on cleaning up cemeteries. This year's workday will be Saturday, **April 18th**, **beginning at 9: a.m. at Gold**

Hill Cemetery. We ask for your help. Please bring tools, a power washer (if you have one,) rakes, chain saws, shovels, brushes, scrapers,



work gloves, and anything else that might be helpful. We will purchase the epoxy to fix broken stones. If you have relatives buried at Gold Hill, this is your chance to honor them.

Our **windowsills** need to be painted since the installation of the new windows. We are looking for volunteers to help us with that project. Or, if you are a contractor, give us a bid.

In addition to our displays and activities at Locust Blossom Festival and Blackberry Festival, we are planning an **Open House**, an **Ice Cream Social** slotted for August, and a **Fall Walking Tour** featuring the history of Kendrick.

We have two books in the making that will be released soon. ***Tales Worth Remembering, Volume 8, and A Comprehensive History of Early Cedar Ridge, Crescent, and Linden.***

We appreciate your donations greatly. They can be mailed to JKHF, Box 37, Kendrick, or dropped at Furry Tales or Hardware Brewing.

We have been working on **our website:** www.jkhfoundation.com. Check it out. We have added a **Donate Here** button for your convenience for online giving. Also, follow us on our Facebook page for historical photos and more. *Sharon Harris*

Grange Sweetheart Breakfast

On Valentines Day, the Grange served a wonderful breakfast for their guests to enjoy. This fund-raising event was a huge success thanks to your generosity. The proceeds benefit the building, which is always in need of repair and updating. We have a huge bill for insurance annually. Thank you for supporting this effort to provide a beautiful gathering place for community events. Young and old alike, enjoyed the breakfast.

There is a new display in the front window for your enjoyment. Cheryl Rumboltz has shared her collection of evening purses. Stop and view it. We have a wonderful front window suitable for showcasing local collections. Let us know if you have a collection you would like to share.

The Grange received a helping hand from some youth from Troy who wanted to do some community service. Volunteer help is always welcome but rare. Thanks to youth of the Mormon Church there. *Sharon Harris*



Lions at your Service

Sharlene Mitchel and Deana Nelson (The Furry Tale Girls) have agreed to be co-chairs of the upcoming Locust Blossom Festival. The club chose the theme Happy Days. Plans are underway for our annual community celebration May 23, 2026. Save the date.

Lions are continuing to sell tickets for their raffle featuring a gun, and tamarack wood. The proceeds will benefit the George Brocke Memorial Clock on Main Street. We have just passed the \$16,000.00 mark on our way to our goal of \$22,000.00.

The big news is that we have gained six new members and welcome them to our service organization. Welcome Heather Britton, Deana Nelson, Sharlene Mitchell, Jamie Mattoon, Christine Marshall, and Brian Woodbury "Woody."

A reminder, your old glasses and hearing aids can be dropped in the collection box at Latah Credit Union to be recycled.

Lion Darrell Brocke sponsored another life-giving blood drive on February 20th. He reported it as an outstanding success, having collected 14 liters.

Mark you calendars for Charity Bingo at the Old Towne Tavern on March 14th. This will help fund the clock for Main Street. *Sharon Harris*



Brian "Woody" Woodbury, Heather Brittan, Deanna Nelson, Sharlene Mitchel, and Christine Marshall. Not pictured – Jamie Mattoon

**ANNUAL SPRING
SEED/PLANT and EDUCATION EXCHANGE**

The Hill and Valley Garden Club in conjunction with community libraries in Kendrick and Troy are planning the Annual Seed/ Plant and Education Exchanges.

Kendrick-Juliaetta Community Library---Thursday, April 8th from 3:00-5:30 p.m.

Troy Community Library—Thursday, April 15th from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

These are free events. Bring seed packets and/or plants that need to be divided, and pick up some new varieties to take home with you. Plant and

seed choices include house plants, perennials, annuals, and vegetables. The Garden Club will

provide seed catalogues to preview, information on University of Idaho

Extension classes, spring preparation of gardens, information on beehives, recycling, and more.

We look forward to seeing you there! *Kathy Cassin*

Juliaetta Clean Up Day: Neighbor helping Neighbor

With Spring around the corner, mark your calendars for April 18th. We're bringing back Juliaetta's **Community Clean Up Day!**

If you have unused items, debris, or yard waste to clear out — or if you know someone who could use a helping hand — let's step up for one another. Sometimes the biggest difference we make starts right next door.

Working side by side, we can keep our town looking its best. This is a great opportunity to serve, connect, and make a visible impact in just a few hours.

If you'd like to volunteer your labor, bring a truck, or if you are someone in need of assistance, please contact Amanda Fletcher at 208-659-4442 or Facebook Messenger.

You may also reach Rich or Stephanie Tackett via Facebook Messenger or by email at Stephanie_ Tackett @outlook.com.



The KJ Foundation was established by generous families in our communities: The Benscoter, Lyle, and Lesley Gold Kopp families. These families understand the benefits of furthering ones education, in particular young adults.

The KJ7 Education Foundation is preparing to receive senior scholarships. The Foundation provides significant scholarships to seniors graduating from Kendrick High School. This year we are making available several thousand dollar scholarships to each and every graduating senior. The process is simple and only requires an application that can be obtained from either the website or from the high school advisor. Your student can also apply by contacting any of the board members below.

As we have reviewed our scholarships over the years we have started to see some trends. First trend that we have encountered is that a significant amount of the scholarship funds awarded has gone unspent. One area we uncovered was due to a student who chose to enter the military and requested his scholarship be deferred until he leaves the military. Each student awarded a scholarship has up to 5 years to use the funds. If they are not used by the end of the 5 years they forfeit the award. To date the Foundation has awarded over \$400,000 since 2014. The amounts not used to date are approximately \$211,000 and the amount that has been forfeiture is approximately \$58,000.

Please encourage your students to apply for the KJ Education Foundation scholarship and to be sure they use it within the 5 years. These funds can be used for almost any continuing education. If you have any questions contact any of the board members.

Check out our website for more information, <https://www.kj7educationfoundation.org/> The Foundation is also encouraging juniors and seniors to apply for positions our community needs, such as lifeguard, EMT and CNA, and will help support the cost of those trainings.

We are also hosting one Friday a month career day for students to hear from local businesses and entrepreneurs. The first three were very successful with great attendance and questions from the students.

JK Education Foundation Board

Becky Loomis 360-359-1628, beckyloomis@outlook.com, Member

Amber Witt 208-790-8938, anwitt04@gmail.com, President

Tawnya Denny 208-669-0271, tawnya.denny05@gmail.com, Vice President

Kari Galloway 202-288-2022, gallowaykari@yahoo.com, Member

Sher Bollack 208-816-0051, sherb83537@gmail.com, Secretary

Dirk Hammond 208-553-0525, dirkhammond@gfbrocke.com, Treasurer

JCIA News

The Juliaetta City Cemetery is getting an upgrade! Recently, the Juliaetta Community Improvement Association was fortunate enough to receive a grant from the Scott family, who have extensive history in Juliaetta. The Scott family dedicated these funds to the Juliaetta City Cemetery. We will replace the current wire fence with one made of wrought iron and replace the existing flag-pole with a larger one. The JCIA would like to recognize Juliaetta resident Zane Hadley and Gateway Materials for their work in fabricating and installing the new fence. Please keep an eye out for these improvements in the upcoming months!

The Juliaetta Community Improvement Association will be conducting a highway cleanup on **March 1, 2026 at 10:00am**. If you wish to participate, please show up at the Juliaetta Centennial Park at 10:00am to receive a high visibility jacket and instructions. In the event of inclement weather, we will reschedule. *Kathy Groseclose*

KJ Senior Center

Friday, March 6 and Friday, April 17 are upcoming BINGO dates. Join the fun at 11:30!

Friday, March 20, we will have piano tunes by Brian Smith. Come enjoy! At the end of February our piano was tuned, so if other folks out there want to come tickle the ivories for our seniors, that would be great!

Margarita Thurston, some call her Marguerite, has been at the Senior Center 13 years next November. She first started as a volunteer helping out in the kitchen and in the dining area. After some time, she began cleaning the Center. About 10 years ago, she was asked to take over in the kitchen cooking, but she recommended Chris Schmiedel instead, and now they're both here!

"I've stayed so long because I love it here and I got attached to so many people. The best part of being here is making the people laugh. I love music. And I love dancing...sometimes I'll be over in the corner dancing and doing my own thing and it puts a smile on their faces."

"My son keeps saying, mom, you need to retire!!, but I'm not ready yet to retire...I have a couple more years. I love everyone that I work with...all of them, and I don't want to leave. I used to have a cleaning business and my chiropractor said I needed to do something else, so here I am!" *Kari Galloway*

Four Corners Land & Livestock: Local Beef You Can Feel Good About

If you've ever wondered where your beef comes from, Four Corners Land & Livestock is proud to make that answer simple: right here at home. Built on generations of hard work and stewardship, this family-run ranch is committed to raising cattle the right way while responsibly caring for the land.



At Four Corners, cattle are raised on open pasture with plenty of space, clean water, and low-stress handling — because better care leads to better beef. Every calf is born and raised on the ranch, giving customers confidence in exactly where their food comes from and how it was produced.

The ranch offers premium beef directly to local families, processed at a USDA-inspected facility, frozen for freshness, and packaged with care. Because the beef is USDA inspected, Four Corners is also able to sell to local grocery stores, restaurants, and other retailers — creating more opportunities for the community to enjoy locally raised beef while supporting regional agriculture.

Ready to order? Visit www.fourcornerslivestock.com to learn more about available packages and current inventory. You can also reach out directly to **Ryan Lawrence at 208-827-1876** to ask questions, inquire about wholesale options, or reserve your beef.

When you buy from Four Corners Land & Livestock, you're not just purchasing great beef — you're supporting a local family and the agricultural tradition that keeps our community strong. *The Lawrence Family*

Good Samaritan Food Bank

Serious matters first...Jerry Galloway has been happily overseeing the food bank for 5ish years. He has been able to get volunteers to take over many of the duties, which has been awesome, but the time has come for him to step down as overall coordinator. Currently he figures that it takes him approximately 16 hours per month to manage everything. If you can see yourself helping your neighbors and friends by stepping into his big shoes, please give him a call at 208-301-7634.

Thanks to the new volunteers who are doing the monthly commodities, weekly bread and weekly food rescue. Also appreciated are the new volunteers who help at the weekly Friday distribution. Everyone pitching in helps us better serve more folks in our community! *Kari Galloway*

Bear Ridge Hall

Upcoming events at the Big Bear Ridge Community Hall (on Hwy 3 halfway between Kendrick and Deary):

Join us **March 14** for St. Patty's Potluck & Board Games, to include seed exchange (bring your prize-winning seeds to share) and food drive (bring cans, pastas or dried goods to benefit the Good Samaritan Food Bank). Corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, bread and cookies provided. Saturday, March 14, lunch at 1-2 and games 2-5p, entrance donations accepted. Fun for the whole family and you don't have to cook (games will be provided)!

Time for Highway 3 clean-up again, **Saturday, April 25**, 9-noon, meet at Community Hall for assignments. Potluck at the Hall to follow!

Thanks to everyone in our community that came to our January 10th dinner and auction. It was a HUGE success and helped us raise LOTS of \$\$ for our needed upkeep and renovations at the Hall! Over 100 people attended and gave generously for the yummy soups, salad and desserts!

For our silent auction, we had 38 big-hearted donors who gave us prizes and 52 total items to sell! Many thanks to the following: Dan Budvarson, Dareld Hazeltine, Mark Strayley, Mattoon Family, Morning Glory Farm, Galloway Farms, Price Family, Chris & Lorri Tretter, Sarah Acord, Ray Day Jr. Logging/Jr. Day, Sheila & Delbert Harris (all from Big Bear Ridge); Carpenter's Daughter/Janice Westbrook (Big Bear Ridge/Kendrick); Deary Saw & General Store, Deary Napa, Pie Safe Bakery, White Pine Foods, The Locals Coffee Co. (all from Deary); Doug & Sharon Harris, The Coffee Stop, Four Corners Land & Livestock, Taylor Gravel, Furry Tales Mercantile, McGregor Co., Hardware Brewing, JK Heritage Foundation, North Central Idaho Properties, Moscow Family Dentistry, Kendrick Ag (all from Kendrick); H+O Wellness (Southwick), Nutrien Ag Solutions (Pomeroy), Patt's Nursery (Clarkston), Rivaura Estate Vineyard & Winery (Arrow/Juliaetta), Rustic Salon at the Y (Troy), Safeway (Moscow), Schweitzer Engineering Labs (Moscow/Pullman), The Beauty Shop (Troy), Effie's Tavern and Clearwater Canyon Cellars (Lewiston). *Kari Galloway*

Library News

Spring is just around the corner, and while you are waiting, we have lots of fun and engaging activities coming up at the Kendrick Library!

Book Talk – March 3 & March 17 at 4:30 PM

Join us for Book Talk, where we chat all about books, share recommendations, and discuss what's new on the book scene. Whether you're a lifelong reader or just looking for your next great read, everyone is welcome!

Paint Night with Abby Wincentsen – March 9 at 4:00 PM

Get creative with us during a guided paint night led by local artist Abby Wincentsen. Participants will paint a beautiful spring landscape featuring dandelions. All materials are provided, and is aimed at ages 18+. Space is limited to 10 participants, and **sign-up is required**, so be sure to reserve your spot early!

Seed & Plant Exchange – Coming in April

Our popular Seed and Plant Exchange is returning in April! Hosted by the Hill and Valley Garden Club. Start gathering your seeds and plant starts now so you are ready to swap and share with fellow gardeners.

New & Fun Items to Check Out

We have lots of great **NEW** items available for checkout, including board games, Itty Bitty Brain Boxes, video games, book club kits, and Dungeons & Dragons beginner sets. Stop by and explore something new!

Thank You, Community!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated to our Community Coat Drive and Animal Rescue Drive in December and January. Your kindness makes a big difference in our community.

Public Access Computers & Printing

As always, we offer public computers and printing services for your convenience.

We look forward to seeing you at the Kendrick library soon!

Open hours: M-W:2-6pm, TH: 10-4pm *Erin Davis*

Supporting Young Children and Families

The KJ7 Early Learning Collaborative (ELC) works to ensure every child in our community has a strong start before kindergarten. With support from the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children (IDAEYC), we work with educators, child care providers, and community partners to support early learning and family engagement.

Throughout the year, we host family events like our Summer Safety Expo and Parent's Night Out, offer READY! for Kindergarten workshops for families birth-5, promote our Read, Talk, Play program, and connect families with valuable early learning resources.

We offer support to our FREE preschool program as well! Registration for Preschool & Kindergarten will be held on March 13th at Juliaetta Elementary School. Please contact the office to schedule your time.

Together, we're building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

Follow us on social media to stay updated on upcoming events, workshops, and resources for families!

Jessica Clemenhagen

WHAT IS #ORANGEONTOP?

KENDRICK JT. SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 283 IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF OUR "ORANGE ON TOP" CAMPAIGN. THIS INITIATIVE IS DESIGNED TO SHOWCASE THE STRENGTH OF OUR DISTRICT ACROSS ALL GRADE LEVELS, IN EVERY ACADEMIC SUBJECT, AND IN ALL OF OUR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. WE FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT, NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE HAVE THE STRONGEST DISTRICT IN THE STATE OF IDAHO. THIS BELIEF IS BACKED BY PHENOMENAL ACHIEVEMENTS REACHED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS:

- 95% AVERAGE GRADUATION RATE
- JES "LEADER IN ME" SCHOOL (ONE OF A FEW IN THE STATE)
- MULTIPLE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS RECEIVED DISTRICT-WIDE
- OVER 1,190 DUAL CREDITS RECEIVED IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS
- HIGHEST IDAHO LAUNCH COMPLETION RATE IN THE STATE OF IDAHO
- NUMEROUS LEAGUE, DISTRICT AND STATE ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS
- \$317,000 AVERAGE IN SCHOLARSHIPS PER GRADUATING CLASS
- GRANT FUNDED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM (FREE TO FAMILIES)
- #1 EDUCATION FOUNDATION IN THE REGION FOR GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS
- 88% OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Idaho Legislators Hard at Work in Boise

As the 2026 Legislative Session gets underway, Idaho lawmakers are already deep into the work of reviewing budgets, setting priorities, and safeguarding taxpayer dollars. Local legislators are spending long days in Boise carefully evaluating how state funds are spent and ensuring government operates efficiently and responsibly.

The Joint Finance–Appropriations Committee (JFAC), is working to set a **conservative revenue target** for the upcoming fiscal year. This early decision places a firm cap on spending and requires state agencies to live within their means much like Idaho families and businesses do every day.

JFAC is currently reviewing the Governor's proposed budget and hearing from key state agencies, including Health & Welfare, the Department of Correction, K-12 Education, and the Judicial Branch. These hearings focus on maintaining essential services, supporting classrooms and public safety, and finding efficiencies that protect taxpayers while caring for Idaho's most vulnerable citizens.

In addition to budget work, legislators are also recognizing Idaho's strong community spirit. A resolution designating **2026 as the "Year of Volunteerism"** encourages Idahoans to serve their neighbors through simple acts of kindness and community involvement, with a goal of 250,000 acts of service by July 4th.

There are also opportunities for the public to stay engaged. JFAC hearings are streamed daily, and residents are encouraged to follow along, review legislative materials, and remain informed about the decisions shaping Idaho's future. Together, these efforts reflect a Legislature focused on fiscal responsibility, public safety, education, and the values that make Idaho strong.

The official website for the Idaho Legislature can be found at: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2026/legislation/>

Daniel D. Foreman(R) DForeman@senate.idaho.gov for District 6

Brandon Mitchell(R) BMitchell@house.idaho.gov for District 6 - House Seat

Lori Ann McCann(R) LMcCann@house.idaho.gov for District 6 - House Seat A

Lori Warner – Kendrick PCO 208-791-5208

Rick Lawless – Juliaetta PCO 208-305-6516

Becky Loomis – Linden PCO 360-359-1628

Hill and Valley Garden Club News

Club members enjoyed their annual Holiday Party at the January meeting with good food and a fun gift exchange. At the February meeting, Master Gardeners from the U of I gave an informative presentation on soil and seedling prep for productive gardens. Coming up in March, members will sharpen their flower arranging skills and in April will learn a bit about design and use of water features in the landscape. Club meetings are the last Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the Grange Hall. New windows in the clubhouse have been a blessing to club members, letting in more light to work by and more energy efficient. If you are interested in joining or coming to a program, please contact club president Amy Haukeness at haukenessr@gmail.com

Joanne Gertje



Plant Corner

I figured this time around it would be great to talk about starting our planting season off with seed starting and cold weather flowers. Early in the season when the soil is still cool and the nights are cold, many gardeners begin by planting seeds indoors. Starting vegetables early gives them a strong head start so they are ready to move outside once the weather is nice enough. Tomatoes, peppers and beans may not be planted out early but planning and sowing can begin. You can pretty much source seed from anywhere you like. Pansies, violas, and primrose tolerate frost and chilly weather quite well and can be added to beds and containers now. Patt's Garden Center is a great resource for early spring color in our area. These flowers provide color and interest during late winter and early spring while everything else remains dormant. This time of year is about preparation and patience. Seeds for summer crops are started. Cold weather flowers are added for some cool season color.



For now, the combination of early seed starting and tough cold-tolerant spring flowers keeps the gardening season under way even while the weather is still cool. Happy planting. Rich Tackett

Branch On Us...

Invite your friends & neighbors
for our annual community brunch!
Southwick Community Center
Saturday, March 21st
Brunch served from 9-10:00 a.m.

To participate in the
"Sweet Treat" Dessert
Contest, please bring
an item to share!

HISTORICAL TRIVIA
FOLLOWING BRUNCH

donations always appreciated!
Follow us on our Facebook page or inquire at southwickcommunitycenter@gmail.com

A historical black and white photograph of a street scene. In the foreground, a horse-drawn carriage is being pulled by a horse. In the background, there are several wooden buildings, likely a town square or a main street from a past era.

HELP!

You never know who might come to your door in need of aid and assistance. It was a sunny day in January, right after the windstorm, when someone rang our doorbell. Doug went to the door and there stood a very black man from Georgia.

Doug asked what he could do for him and he replied, "I need some help. I am stuck."

They went out and loaded into the Toyota pickup and Doug said, "Let's go see if I can pull you out."

They proceeded up Texas Ridge about a third of the way, when they came upon his nice shiny Ford pickup truck parked in the middle of the road. All the way to his pickup he talked about the dangerous roads, with no guard rail, etc. He was absolutely petrified to proceed any further, so parked his pickup in the road and walked the mile and a half to our house.

Doug asked him what he was doing on Texas Ridge and he replied that his GPS had taken him there. He was an insurance adjuster assessing wind damage. He was supposed to be on Highway 3 going to Deary. Doug pointed across the canyon and said, "That is the road you should be on...and it has guard rails."

Doug got in the fellow's pickup and took it to Riley Road to turn it around for him. His parting words were "Thank you so much. You saved my life."

He then drove away, hugging the inside lane all the way down the hill. God is merciful and there was no oncoming traffic to hit him head-on.

One other thing he said, "I'm not ever coming here again." *Sharon Harris*

Community Listening Session with Candidates

Please join a group of your friends/neighbors for a 'Community Listening Session' on April 6th at 6:30p at the Kendrick Grange. Juliaetta and Kendrick will host a local "Listening Session" for Democratic (and hopefully also Independent) candidates from our District 6 to hear from community members about their needs, dreams, and hopes. A host will explain the guidelines for the discussion to ensure civility and a chance for all to be heard.

The idea of a session like this is that the candidates' roles would be as 'listeners' who will only ask questions to help them really understand people's hopes, dreams, and concerns. This will help candidates understand the issues that are important to their potential constituents, and it will allow community members to feel that they have been heard and understood.

Questions from candidates will focus on community needs but will start with, "What do you love about your community?" Other questions will include: "What are some needs in your community that should be addressed to make things better for everyone? Are there any barriers to reaching community goals? What do you wish the Idaho legislature would do to make your lives or your community even better?"

Please take advantage of this opportunity to let these potential state leaders learn about our communities. All are welcome to come and share their concerns!

Please contact Andrea Masom at 208-882-1289 and Justin Cope at 208-816-3244 for more information. We look forward to your attendance. *Kari Galloway*

American Coot

What is a coot? It may be easier to list what it is not. It is not a duck, a goose, a pelican or any other frequently seen water bird, although it is often seen in company with them. Coots are actually in the rail family.



A full-grown coot is about the size of a crow. The adult body is dark charcoal gray shading into black. The beak and forehead are white. Eyes are red and feet are yellow. Body shape is more chicken-like than duck-like. When flying, coots appear clumsier than ducks.

Coot (plural: coot *or* coots) can be seen walking along shores, swimming in wetlands from potholes to swamps, sewer ponds and large lakes or making themselves at home on golf courses or in city parks. Transitioning from swimming to flight requires raising themselves from the water and running furiously across the surface, flapping madly, before becoming airborne. Several other features such as bill shape differentiate coots from ducks. Ducks have flattened bills designed to filter food from the water; coots have conical pointed bills much like those of chickens. They are used to grab morsels on land or in the water. Duck feet have the toes webbed together. Coot feet have several webs on each individual toe. When coots dive for food, they often float back to the surface, rump first.

These birds are omnivorous with an appetite for all sorts of vegetation plus insects, tadpoles, fish, worms, snails, crayfish and eggs of other birds.

Nesting habitat generally includes heavy stands of aquatic vegetation such as cattails, bulrushes, and pondweeds. Both members of a pair build their nest on a floating platform of dead cattails and other marsh vegetation with the whole structure anchored to upright stalks. The female lays from 6 to 11 eggs. When more than 11 eggs are found in a nest, some of the eggs were probably contributed by a different female.

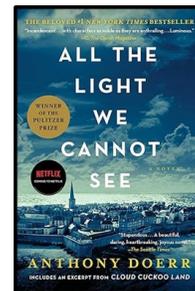
Eggs hatch after about 3 weeks. The downy young begin life as redheads. They are able to swim soon after hatching and able to fly when 7 or 8 weeks old.

Coot are found across the contiguous US with the exception of a fairly narrow band from Indiana to Maine. Northern birds migrate to warmer areas, generally flying at night. Western populations and those in Florida are year-round residents. *Nora Abbott*

The Book Nook

From Sharon Harris:

This stellar book comes to us from a Boise, Idaho author, Anthony Doerr. It was ten years in the making and has won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize. It is easy to see why, once you read it. (The trouble with reading a really good book is that you cannot find another to compare once it is finished.)



The fabric of the story follows the life of Marie-Laure, a blind French girl who lives with her father in Paris near the Museum of Natural History.

The other lead character is Werner, an impoverished orphan who has more than normal gifts with knowledge of science and radios. Hitler's rise to power found use of Werner's talents and we follow his travels through the war.

It has been made into a Netflix limited series.

From Cheryl Rumbolz

The Nine by Gwen Strauss. The true story of a band of women who survived the worst of Nazi Germany. Their stories are both horrifying and heroic.

The Plot by Jean Hanff Korelitz. A writer is mentally stuck and is feeling the pressure of needing to write his next novel. A student shares an incredible story that he was working on...then suddenly DIES and his teacher starts to see a way out of his slump. Suddenly he is successful again, until he starts to get messages that someone else knows what he did. This book has a great unexpected twist at the end that is worth staying up all night to see what happens!

The Last Flight by Julie Clark. Two women who are both in a bad spot in life and need to disappear. A chance meeting at the airport, and suddenly BOTH of their lives are turned upside down! Great character building by this author with a strong ending.

Nobody's Girl by Virginia Roberts Guiffre. One of the first victims of Jeffrey Epstein shares how he and his female accomplice took advantage of young women for their own personal perverted lifestyle. She shares how it happened, how she broke away, and how she finally found the courage to share her story & warn the world!

The Bridesmaid by Cate Quinn. This is a suspenseful thriller about a forensic attorney, Holly Stone, who goes undercover as a bridesmaid for a high-society wedding after one of the original bridesmaids (who was her former boss & friend) is murdered! Lots of twists and turns to discover who the killer really is.

Gratitude for Our Supporters—and a Call for More Voices

As we continue into this new year, the KJ7 Community Development Association wants to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who makes “Here’s What’s Happening” possible.

Our newsletter reaches over 1,100 households free of charge, thanks to the generous financial support from individuals, businesses, and organizations across Kendrick, Juliaetta, and the 7 Ridges. Your contributions—whether large or small—cover printing, mailing, and other costs, allowing this all-volunteer effort to keep connecting our community with local news, events, updates, and stories that matter. We are truly grateful for every bit of support that helps sustain this vital link in our local communication network.

What truly brings the newsletter to life, though, is the content shared by our community—and right now, we’re eager to hear from even more of you to make future issues as vibrant, informative, and representative as possible. Our readers especially value insights and updates from elected officials on local projects or services, school staff or PTO members on student achievements and events, business owners on new offerings or community involvement, and representatives from clubs, churches, volunteer groups, and other organizations on meetings, fundraisers, service projects, or traditions.

These kinds of direct voices from those leading and serving in our community help everyone stay informed, feel more connected, get involved, and celebrate the good things happening right here. Whether it’s a brief note on upcoming road work, a school program highlight, a club tradition, or a way your group is giving back, your perspective adds real value and builds our shared sense of community pride.

Newsletter Submissions

January/February issue: December 15th

March/April issue: February 15th

May/June issue: April 15th

July/August issue: June 15th

September/October issue: August 15th

November/December issue: October 15th

Submission may be sent to: kj7newsletter3@gmail.com

News from South Latah Highway District

Kevin Renfrow, Commissioner of South Latah Highway District, was awarded the Commissioner of the Year Award at the Idaho Association of Highway Districts (IAHD) Convention held this past November in Boise, for his achievements and dedication regarding the Highway Districts. The IAHD is comprised of 63 Highway Districts throughout the state of Idaho, which has jurisdiction over approximately 12,000 miles of county roadways. Kevin is the current 1st Vice President of IAHD and has served in all capacities of the association.

Kevin is also the current Chairman of the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) which administers the Federal funding for the Idaho Transportation Department that goes to the Cities, Counties, and Highway Districts. The 564 million dollar funding, that Governor Little appropriated for the Leading Idaho Local Bridge Program to repair or replace aging bridges throughout the state, is also administered by LHTAC through legislative action.



IMPORTANT DATES

New Location

Free Shred Day April 25th

- 9am-3pm at Latah County DMV parking lot
1313 Blaine Street, Moscow, Idaho
- **All** Latah County residents. **No** commercial.

Tire Amnesty Day May 30th

- 8am-4pm at the Transfer Station and *Latah County rural city bulky waste sites
*Rural bulky waste sites will **ONLY** accept tires
- Free tire disposal for **ALL** Latah County residents
- Passenger vehicle tires only. **No** commercial
- **No** rims, tractor or semi truck tires
- Haul extremely large loads to the Transfer Station

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Hill and Valley Garden Club
J-K Heritage Foundation
J-K Senior Meals
Juliaetta Church of the Nazarene
Juliaetta Community Church
Juliaetta Community Improvement Association
Juliaetta Kendrick Recreation District
Juliaetta Kendrick Firefighters Association
Juliaetta Volunteer Fire Department
Kendrick Grange
Kendrick Lions Club
Kendrick Volunteer Fire Department
Leland Community Church
Southwick Bible Church
Southwick Community Center
The Kendrick Fellowship Group
VFW Post 3913

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