

Serving the Needs of Canyon County Veterans

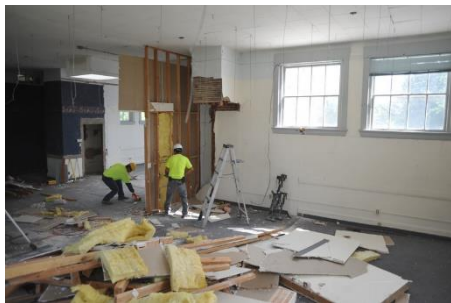
# Transforming a 101 year old library into a veterans' resource center

By W. John Muirhead

## WORK BEGINS WITH A SLEDGE HAMMER

### Demolition of the old to make room for the new

Mike Dittenber, Director of the Caldwell Housing Authority (CHA), in the above picture demonstrates the proper use of a sledge hammer in removing a non-structural wall in the Caldwell Carnegie Library building. Mike and a number of his friends and colleagues are donating their personal time to assist in the demolition of the interior walls in preparation of the building to construct offices, meeting rooms, a dining hall and kitchen.

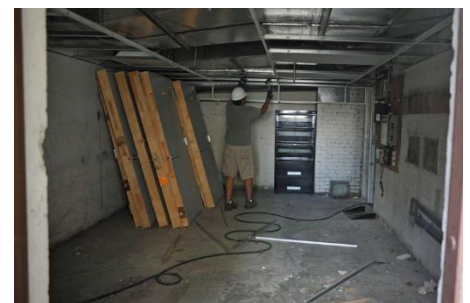


A team of CHA members form a bucket brigade to remove wall sections and building materials from the building.



CHA technicians carefully remove the building's mechanical components such as: heating ducts, suspended ceiling grid, and non-structural wall sections.

## VETERANS' SERVICES



On September 25<sup>th</sup>, a work crew that included volunteer veterans, Caldwell Veterans' Council members and six members of the Canyon County Sheriff's Labor Detail, demolished most of the remaining non-structural walls and removed four tons of

debris from the building. The building is now ready for reconstruction activities.



Retired Army Lt. Colonel Terry Harrell, Chairman of the Caldwell Veterans' Council describes, in the picture below, the building plans to Caldwell Mayor Garrett Nangolas.



The City of Caldwell purchased the old Carnegie Library building, which is located



at 1101 Cleveland Blvd, from the Caldwell School District and agreed to designate it as the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall. Under a 100 year lease agreement with the City of Caldwell and the Caldwell chapters of the Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, this building will be utilized by all veteran organizations and the partnership of organizations prepared to provide a wide variety of programs and services. The plan is to provide local assistance with education, employment and career development, counseling and health care issues, family programs, homelessness, addictions, abuse and humanitarian needs for a part of our society that are under-served and limited at times because of handicaps, economic issues

or ability to get through often confusing and complicated processes. Not only are the veterans of the west-end of the Treasure Valley in need of an entity to provide unique specialized services, but widows and family members of military personnel deployed, retired or deceased are in need of a facility where they will be understood and their needs, issues, and benefits can be addressed and provided.

### Where are the Canyon County Veterans?

The 2012 census identified 123,600 veterans living in Idaho, of that 14,470 live in Canyon County, 12% of the veteran population. Of this group of veterans 2,590 or 17.9% have disabilities, 1,534 are disabled female veterans. It is estimated that there are 57,880 family members also impacted by the lack of adequate programs and services. The long-term projected outcome of the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall is programs and services that directly contribute to improved conditions and quality of life for our veterans. The efficient and effective execution of programs and services will give veterans the skills, knowledge, positive behavior and confidence to be an active participating member of the community.

### Planned Capital Improvements

The below listed items represent the capital improvements planned for the transformation of the Caldwell Carnegie Library building into the Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall.

- Install four ADA Compliant Restrooms
- Asbestos Removal
- Build a Memorial Park: Relocate two monuments to the CVMH
- Build Partition Walls
- Install Carpeting
- Electrical Renovation
- Establish ADA Parking
- Foundation Repair
- HVAC Replacement of 4 AC units and heaters
- Refurbish the front entrance steps
- Install an ADA compliant Elevator to serve both floors
- Install a fire alarm system
- Install Gas Lines to serve the new heating and cooking equipment
- Install a full function Kitchen

- Paint interior walls and trim Training Room
- Furnishings, tables, chairs, lamps and couches
- Refinish Upper Level Floors
- Remove Main Entry Pillars and roof
- Roof Repair; replace damaged sheet metal caps and wooden nailer boards
- Strip and Refinish Woodwork, stair handrails, baseboards and doors
- Upgrade Plumbing; install new sewer lines under the basement floor
- Window Refurbishment
- Lobby Furnishings; chairs, couches, lamps and tables
- Meeting Room Furnishings
- Office Furnishings: VFW, AL, DAV, NSO and Day Officer Offices

### Veterans' Services

The Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall, when complete, will offer a wide range of services for Treasure Valley veterans and their families. The Hall will be occupied from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM daily, Monday through Friday. A Veterans Service Officer will be available throughout the week with a National Service Officer on site one day per week to finalize or initiate support for veterans or beneficiaries requiring assistance.

#### Typical Activities

- Daily Veterans' Day Officer On Duty
- Weekly Veterans' Coffee
- Weekly Veterans Service Officer Onsite
- Monthly Spouses' Luncheon
- Monthly Volunteer's Rally to participate in community projects
- Monthly Tai Chi lessons
- Monthly Featured Speaker

Monthly Training Session in the CVMH training room Partnerships

- DAV National Service Officer
- Disability Claims

- Education Benefits
- Death and Burial Benefits
- VA Home Loans
- Insurance
- Department of Labor
  - Jobs Training
  - Resumes
  - Job Search
- Boise Rescue Mission
  - Indigent Services & Humanitarian Aid
- Vet Center
  - Counseling
- VETS4Success
  - Humanitarian Aid
- DAV Transportation Shuttle

**Programs**

- Mentorship of Young Marines and Youth Activities
- VETS Court-Mentorship and Counselling
- Disabled Veterans Memorial Garden

**Services**

- Children & Family Services
- Clothing Assistance
- Crisis Assistance
- Dental Care
- Education Services
- Emergency Shelter
- Family Assistance
- Day Officer/Veteran Service Officer

**How long does the VA take to process a claim?**

As of September 23, 2014, the VA Regional Office in Boise reports the following figures. The average time to process disability claims is:

Boise/ Nation

Original claims (7 issues or less):

121 days/ 159 days

Original claims (8 issues or more):

122 days/ 147 days

Reopened and claims for increase:

109 days/153 days

As of September, the Boise VA Regional Office has 1,806 disability claims pending an average of 114 days. Of those, 580 (32%) have been pending more than 125 days, and

**Putting the Fun in Fund Raising**

Coupling a barbeque with a demolition event was a good way to not only raise some funds but introduce the project to the community. The Caldwell Fire Department stopped by for lunch and the Caldwell American Legion Post did the setup, cooking and cleanup.



**Nothing wasted**

All salvageable materials that were removed from the building were donated to the local Habitat For Humanity ReStore. A comprehensive estimate of the building contents donated totaled over \$31,000.

Volunteers load wall sections into the ReStore truck.



A fully loaded ReStore truck leaves the building to unload at the Habitat For Humanity Warehouse.

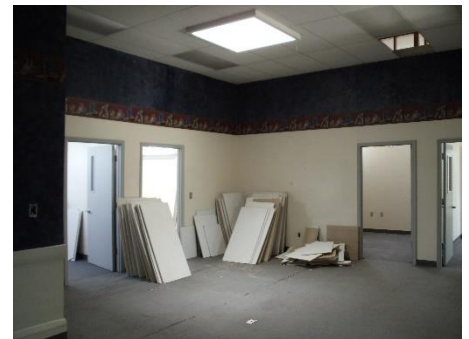
only 30 (1.66%) have been pending more than one year. In August and September, the VA Regional Office conducted 946 personal interviews with an average wait time of less



Ceiling grid components staged for shipment to the ReStore warehouse.



Ceiling Tiles staged for shipment to the ReStore warehouse.



than two minutes. The worst time to visit the VA Regional Office? The first three days of the month and any Monday. As of September, it took approximately 36 days

from receipt of an application for vocational rehabilitation to the date the VA notified the veteran of the decision on eligibility. There are approximately 138,320 veterans currently residing in Idaho, and 20,262 of them are in receipt of disability benefits. The VA also issues monthly benefits to 350 widows, orphans, and dependent parents of Idaho's veterans. In 2013, VA issued monthly benefits amounting to \$20.9 million to Idaho's veterans. This amount equals over \$250 million per year to support Idaho's disabled veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

### Dates to Remember

- October 13** . Columbus Day, U.S. Navy established, 1775
- October 14** . Star Spangled Banner adopted as National Anthem, 1931
- October 19** . Revolutionary War ends, 1781
- November 2** . Daylight-saving time ends, set clocks back one hour
- November 4** . Election Day
- November 10** .U.S. Marine Corps established, 1775
- November 11** Veteran's Day
- November 19** Lincoln gives Gettysburg Address, 1863
- November 27** Thanksgiving Day
- December 7** Pearl Harbor bombed, 1941
- December 13** Army-Navy Football Game, Baltimore, MD, 3:00 p.m. EST
- December 16**.. Boston Tea Party, 1773
- December 25** Christmas Day

### Convention Schedules

#### American Legion

- Mid-Winter .....January 15-18, 2015, Boise, ID
- State .....July 8-12, 2015, Mountain Home, ID
- National.....August 28-September 3, 2015, Baltimore, MD

#### AMVETS

- National.....August 15-23, 2015, Birmingham, AL
- Catholic War Veterans of the United States
- National.....August 6-10, 2015, Las Vegas, NV

#### Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

- Mid Winter .....October 24-25, 2014, Boise, ID
- State .....April 30-May 2, 2015, Coeur d'Alene, ID
- National.....August 8-11, 2015, Denver, CO

#### Marine Corps League

- State .....May 7-9, 2015, Lewiston, ID
- National.....August 9-15, 2015, Scottsdale, AZ

#### Military Order of the Purple Heart

- National.....August 5-9, 2015, Denver, CO

#### Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)

- Mid Winter .....January 15-18, 2015, Boise, ID
- State .....June 7-10, 2015, Jackpot, NV
- National.....July 18-22, 2015, Pittsburgh, PA

### DAV Van Schedules To and From VA Medical Centers

#### BOISE & SURROUNDING AREA TO BOISE VAMC

All appointments for rides must be made 72 hours in advance.

For more information call Jim Rossette at the Boise VA Medical Center (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

Homedale, Marsing, and Canyon County: Call Laverne Gillum (208) 422-1000 ext. 7555.

Pickup points: Star..... Star Merc

Middleton ..... Downtown Shell Station &

..... Shell Station at exit 25 of I-84

Notus..... Shell Station

Parma..... M&W Market

Wilder..... Shell Station

Homedale..... Shell Station

Caldwell..... Chevron at 10th Avenue South & the freeway

..... Emergency entrance of West Valley Medical Center

..... Maverick at 10th Avenue South & Ustick

..... 20248 Hoskins Road

Nampa..... Karcher Mall near Ross Dress for Less

..... Albertson's at 7th Street & 12th Avenue South

..... D and B Supply on 12th Avenue South

Melba/Bowmont..... Chevron at Greenhurst & Southside

..... McDonalds at exit 38 of the freeway

Kuna ..... West side of the Winco parking lot

Weiser, Payette, Ontario, Emmett, and surrounding area: Call Lori

Walla (208) 919-5733

Pickup points: Emmett ..... Tom's Cabin Restaurant

..... Subway near Albertson's

..... Stinker Station

Fruitland..... Shell Station at Palisades Corner

..... Shell Station at the highway

Middleton (Caldwell)..... 44 Quick Stop

New Plymouth..... Lowell's Market at 5 Corners

..... Hamilton Corners at Highways 52 & 30

Nyssa ..... Anderson Corner

..... McDonalds at West Park Plaza

Ontario..... McDonalds at West Park Plaza

..... McDonalds at K-Mart

..... Shell Station at the freeway

..... Shell Station on Idaho

..... The Elk's

Payette .....Albertson's

.....Jerry's Market on 6th

..... Kings Variety/Maverick at Highway 95

Weiser..... Sinclair Station at Highway 95

..... Maverick Station at Highway 95

..... Chevron Station

..... Pioneer Market

..... Ridley's Market

Twin Falls, Jerome, Lincoln, Gooding, and Elmore Counties: Call Cheryl

Ringenberg (208) 733-7610.

Pickup points: Twin Falls..... Sheriff's Office

Filer..... Logan's Market  
Buhl..... Oasis Stop-N-Go  
Jerome ..... Ridley's Market  
Gooding..... Ridley's Market  
Wendell ..... Farmhouse  
Bliss..... Ziggy's  
Hammett..... Valley Market  
Glenns Ferry ..... Shell Station  
Mountain Home ..... Foothills Chevron, Albertson's, & Exit 90  
Chevron/Burger King  
Cassia, Minidoka, and Blaine Counties: Call Georgia Greenwell (208)  
678-3599 or 878-2565.

Pickup points: Burley..... Sheriff's Office  
..... Exit 211 Wayside  
..... Exit 208 Hub 66  
..... Greenwood Store  
Southeast Oregon - Baker City, Haines, Halfway, Huntington, John  
Day:  
Call Carl Swinyer (541)-894-2546, Robert Warner (541)523-5340 or the  
VFW Hall (541) 523-4988.

## Caldwell Veterans' Memorial Hall

### Caldwell Veterans' Council, LLC

PO Box 1535  
Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Visit: [cvmh-vets.org](http://cvmh-vets.org) to learn more about the CVMH  
project

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#### Serving the Needs of Canyon County Veterans

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French #1**

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