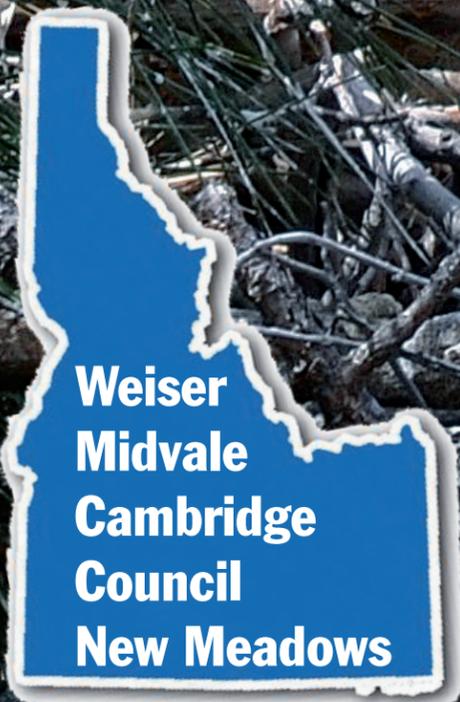




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Geoff Cole©

Welcome to Southwest Idaho

A bountiful place for Fun and Adventure

Welcome to the 2020 EXPEDITION Adventure Guide, your informed source of places to go and things to do in this remarkable part of Southwest Idaho.

The adventure begins where the Weiser River and Snake River converge along this beautiful stretch of Highway 95. Outdoor adventures and events abound in every direction, showcasing the unique communities of Weiser, Midvale, Cambridge, Council and New Meadows.

This region of Idaho shares its border with eastern Oregon and the communities of Huntington, Baker City, Halfway and Oxbow – forming a number of expeditious loops offering a diverse variety of activities.

To the people who live, work and visit here, these are our “happy places.”

From the high desert, to the dense mountain forests, to the deep river canyons and the rivers and streams flowing in between, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

From historic sites and landmarks to museums and libraries, each community offers ways to enrich your mind or escape to the great outdoors.



Whether you call this area home or are visiting for the first time, you’ll discover there’s lots to see, do, experience, and remember with a new adventure always awaiting.

Welcome to this special part of Idaho. We’re glad you’re here. From its valley floor to its foothills with mountains and rivers defining the boundaries and testing our limits – that’s Idaho.

Its many regions are filled with adventures in fishing, summer river rafting, trails for hiking and biking and in the winter enjoy alpine skiing, snowmobiling, nordic and back country skiing, overlapping with hunting, camping, and just hanging out.

Please enjoy your time here. Visit with the friendly people who make up this special part of Idaho. The great outdoors awaits you, especially during these trying times. Get out and breathe the fresh mountain air, sit by a babbling stream, catch a couple of trout for your dinner and find some peace.

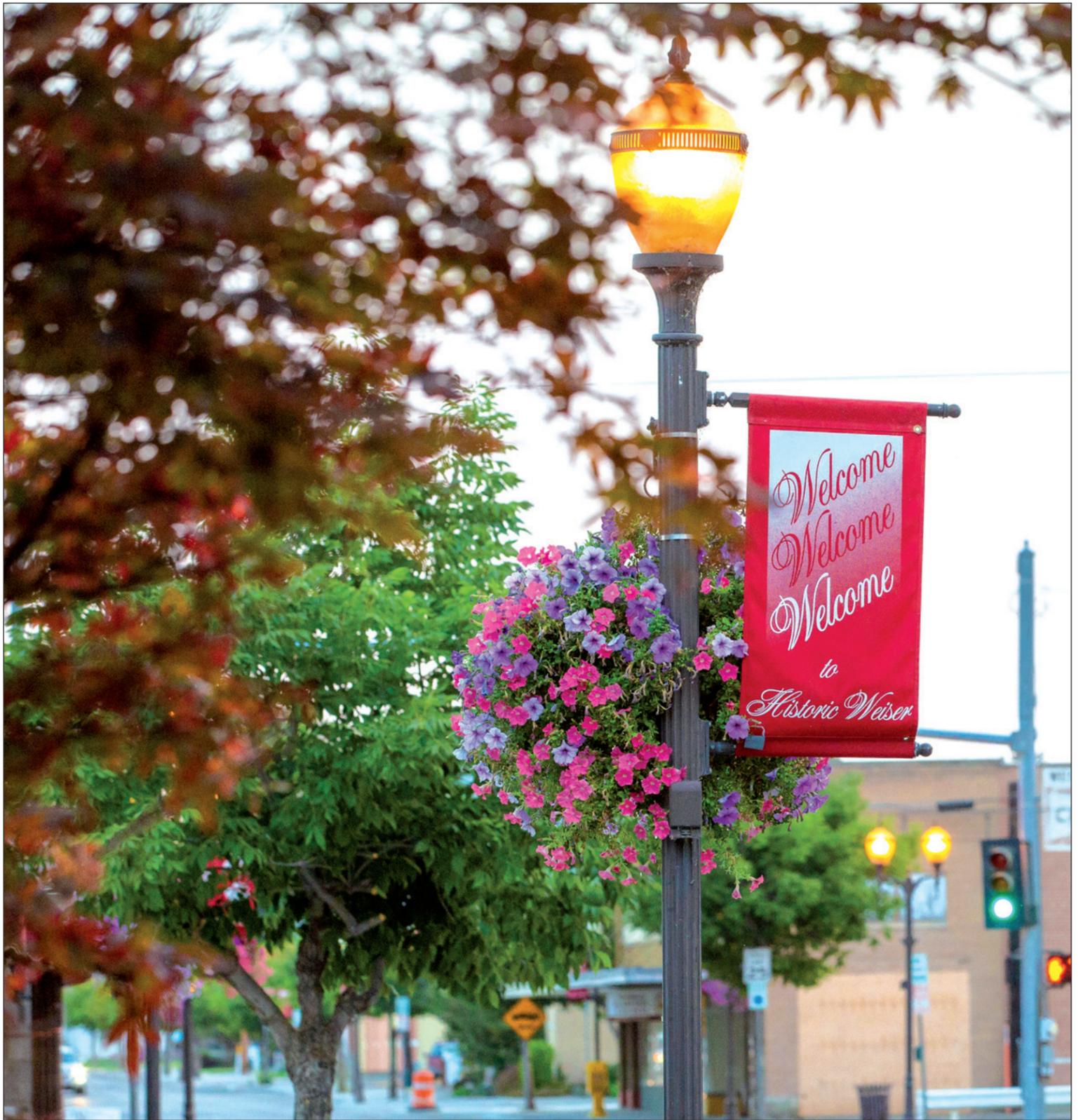
Enjoy the wildlife that abounds with over 300 species of mammals and birds to observe.

We hope you enjoy your adventure.

Cover photo: The Hells Canyon National Recreation area is home to many bald eagles. This bald eagle is pictured in a nest with one of her baby eaglets. Picture by Bill Huck.



WEISER



Weiser is an Idaho gem and a great place to start an outdoor adventure – or hang around town and eat, shop and see the local sights.

Weiser (wee-zur) is both a destination that boasts a calendar full of events and a full-service community of 5,500 friendly folks with every amenity for visitors heading to points north on U.S. Highway 95.

It's a prominent spot on the map for music fans with a world famous fiddle contest and a popular three-day music festival along the picturesque Weiser River every June.

The hometown Weiser Valley Roundup is three days of thrills and spills at the Fred Hust rodeo arena.

The city's rich history is on display downtown. A selfie in front of the Pythian Castle on East Idaho Street is a must for visitors. The iconic building dates to 1904 and the interior has been repurposed as a folk arts school and is home to a large collection of historic items from the Simpson-Vassar Collection.

Just around the corner on State Street is the old Union Pacific railroad depot, a building on the Historic Register that was saved from the wrecking ball by some civic-minded residents in the 1980s.

The Star Theater is another downtown landmark that has seen some wonderful renovations in recent

years and is planning to host even more events.

If you enjoy melodramas, then March is the time to plan a trip as the OnionSkin Players, owners of the building, put on their annual production which is a fun experience where audience participation adds to the enjoyment.

Weiser's downtown core features many unique small businesses. Stop by Weiser Classic Candy and Deli for delicious candy, ice cream, sandwiches and gifts.

For those who love coffee Weiser boasts two coffee shops. Black Sheep Coffee is located on Highway 95 and Peppers is in the heart of Weiser's downtown.

Peoples Furniture features three floors of furniture, decorating accessories, flooring and so much more.

Check out the other downtown stores for cute Idaho souvenirs and t-shirts. If your furry four-legged friend needs a bath, toys or treats, visit Pampered Pooch.

For a bite to eat, venture off of Highway 95 and you will find restaurants, each with their unique specialty. McDonalds can be found a couple blocks

west of the highway. Eateries also include JEBS Corner, Legends on Main, Golden Horse, Tiffanee's Bakery, Dominos, Homestead Cafe, Idaho Pizza Company, Los Poblanos, Farmers Cafe, Ruszonis Pizzeria, The Cook Shack on Seventh and Pioneer Express, which boasts they have the best fried chicken and JoJos.



The SNAKE RIVER HERITAGE CENTER is Weiser's local history museum and is located in Hooker Hall at the site of the former Intermountain Institute. This place has a great story to tell. Come and see the many artifacts.

Expedition

2020



There are many recreational opportunities in the area surrounding Weiser. Mann Creek Reservoir is popular for water sports, fishing and camping. Rolling Hills Golf Course, pictured below, is Weiser's 9-hole golf course.



A hub of commerce in the region, the benefactors of Weiser's early 20th century prosperity built some beautiful homes that continue to charm. The Galloway House is emblematic of the stately homes that line quiet neighborhood streets not far from Weiser's downtown.

The Four County Art Guild is active in promoting the visual arts in Weiser. Art created by members can be found in businesses around town. The art in public places can be viewed on a self-guided art walk around town. Brochures with directions can be found in many businesses.

Art lovers will also want to visit Marbella's and Artful Bon's to create their own work of art.

Weiser also has an impressive museum worth visiting called the Snake River Heritage Center. It's an easy five-minute drive from downtown to the museum located in Hooker Hall, one of a number of buildings that once made up the Intermountain Institute.

The Intermountain Institute offered frontier students a curriculum rich in the humanities, art, music, debate and literature, along with industrial arts. The institute buildings include a Carnegie Library that today is a private home.

Prominent Hooker Hall features four floors and a bell tower with four clock faces. A 240-seat auditorium inside the hall features exceptional acoustics and is the venue for many local productions and concerts.

Weiser also features a number of well-kept city parks, a municipal pool that is open for use by Memorial Day and a well-stocked community fishing pond. The city owned Vendome Events Center offers convention and meeting space downtown.

Want to hit the links for a round of golf? Rolling Hills Golf Course is located on top of the hill at the end of State Street. It is a 9-hole course and is open to the public. After playing 9- or

18-holes enjoy a beverage and snacks on their outdoor patio.

Want to get out of town for some outdoor recreation? Pick a direction and go.

There's Mann Creek Reservoir 15 miles north of town – a fast and easy getaway for a day on the water with boating, fishing and camping. A popular day-use beach can be found at the east end of the reservoir. Boat ramps are located at the north. Look for the sign on U.S. Highway 95.

The start of the 84-mile Weiser River Trail is well marked with a trailhead at the end of East Main Street. The trail gradually climbs at an imperceptible grade passing through Midvale, Cambridge and Council with unmatched scenery the entire length. Pick your non-motorized mode of transportation and hit the trail.

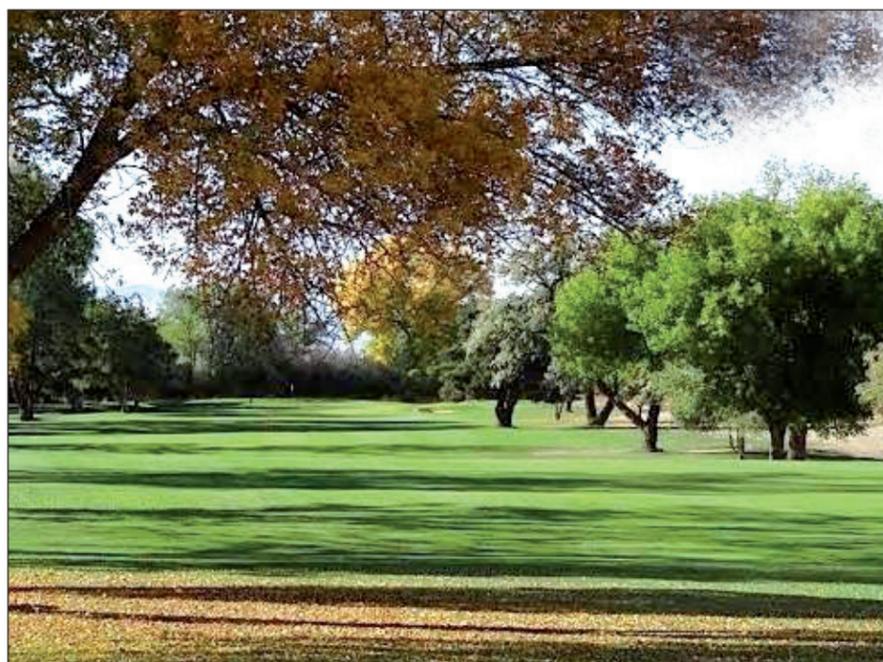
Looking for some off-road fun? The Weiser Sand Dunes is an OHV riding area located along the Snake River on the Idaho-Oregon border about 13 miles west of Weiser. The 130 acres of sand dunes offer opportunities for motorcycles, OHVs, and dune buggies to explore sand trails, hill climbs, and open areas.

The main parking area is large enough to accommodate large trailers and campers. There are

no fees to ride here but machines must have a current Idaho OHV registration sticker. Camping is allowed but the only facility is a vault toilet.

Developed camping is available 7 miles further down Olds Ferry Road at Steck Park. The campground is located on Brownlee Reservoir and offers shaded campsites, potable water, an RV dump station, and two boat ramps. Steck Park is a fee campground.

We hope you enjoyed your stay in Weiser, now off we go on our next adventure.





Weiser Signal American

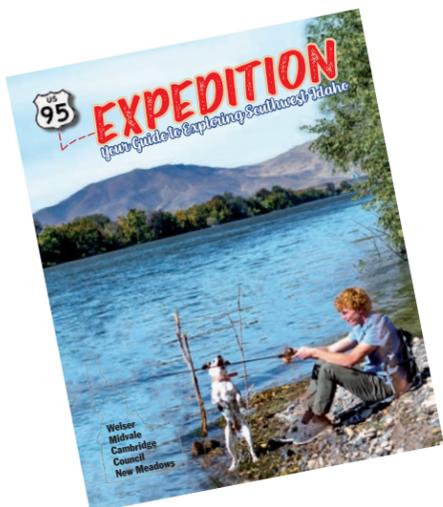
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Weiser River Trail – 84 miles of adventure



Photos by Don Dopf

The Weiser River Trail connects the four communities between Weiser and New Meadows. The trail can be picked up in each town between Weiser and Council and is accessible only by foot, bike, or horse.



Events:

- April - 50K Run
- May - Four day Wagon Train
- June - Bike Ride one day
- October - Bike Ride two days

For more information go to the website:

www.WeiserRiverTrail.org

Friends of the Weiser River Trail is a private, nonprofit organization formed to convert the old Pacific and Idaho Northern railroad grade from Weiser to Rubicon (near New Meadows) into a trail for public recreation.

The Weiser River Trail can be picked up in each town between Weiser and Council. It includes many miles of riparian habitat, an additional 1,400 acres of wildlife habitat, and provides access to 16,000 acres of BLM and State of Idaho lands currently otherwise inaccessible to the public.

Wildlife often seen along the trail include deer, elk, heron, bear, raptors and wild turkeys. The setting in the lower (southern) part of the canyon is rolling hills and open canyons topped with black lava cliffs, while the northern portion is forested.

The southernmost trailhead is accessed in Weiser on East Main Street. This area is horse-friendly and improvement plans call for horse corrals and hitching rails and a horse path alongside the first paved mile of the trail.

In Midvale, the trail runs parallel to Highway 95 and is easily accessible. Recent improvements include new restrooms adjacent to the trail and an information kiosk. There is plenty of parking

near the trail to stop and begin a biking or trekking adventure on the trail north or south.

After a fun day on the trail, there is a bed and breakfast adjacent to the trail that provides comfy lodging to rest up for the next day's adventure. The nearby Midvale Mercantile is a great stop for provisions.

The easiest trail access point in Cambridge is at the Washington County Fairgrounds. To reach it, continue north on Highway 95 to an intersection where the highway turns east. There is a kiosk there with a map and picnic facilities.

Between Goodrich and Council there is a spot on the west side of Highway 95 where the trail comes out of the Weiser River Valley and runs parallel to the highway and on into Council.

From Council, the trail heads north at an easy grade through some truly scenic country. Take in that mountain air and enjoy the solitude. The trail ends after 84 miles, just south of New Meadows from the first trailhead in Weiser.





Photo by Jodi Doggett

Midvale welcomes you!

Twenty-one miles north of Weiser along Highway 95, you'll enter the town of Midvale, Idaho.

As you slip into town after a long glide down Midvale Hill you'll see the Country Coffee Cabin restaurant on the right and an espresso window making it a perfect place to either grab a refill on the go, or stop and stay for some classic homemade cooking and check out their unique collection of gifts.

The 2010 census listed this area's population at just over 600, making it the perfect place to see nature and people at their friendliest.

In the center of town, you'll find the Centennial Pioneer Memorial in Midvale City Park near the Weiser River Trail parking area. The trail runs parallel to Highway 95 through town. The body of the town is east of Highway 95 and the trail is between the highway and the town. Park anywhere, being mindful of local traffic flow.

You'll also find yourself in the town's business center. There's a mercantile for your provisions, gifts and items you may have forgotten to pack. Tin Pan Alley is a venue for events and get-togethers and a guest house can sleep up to 18 people. Slim's Tavern is a full bar and grill. There

is also a library, post office, and even a public swimming pool.

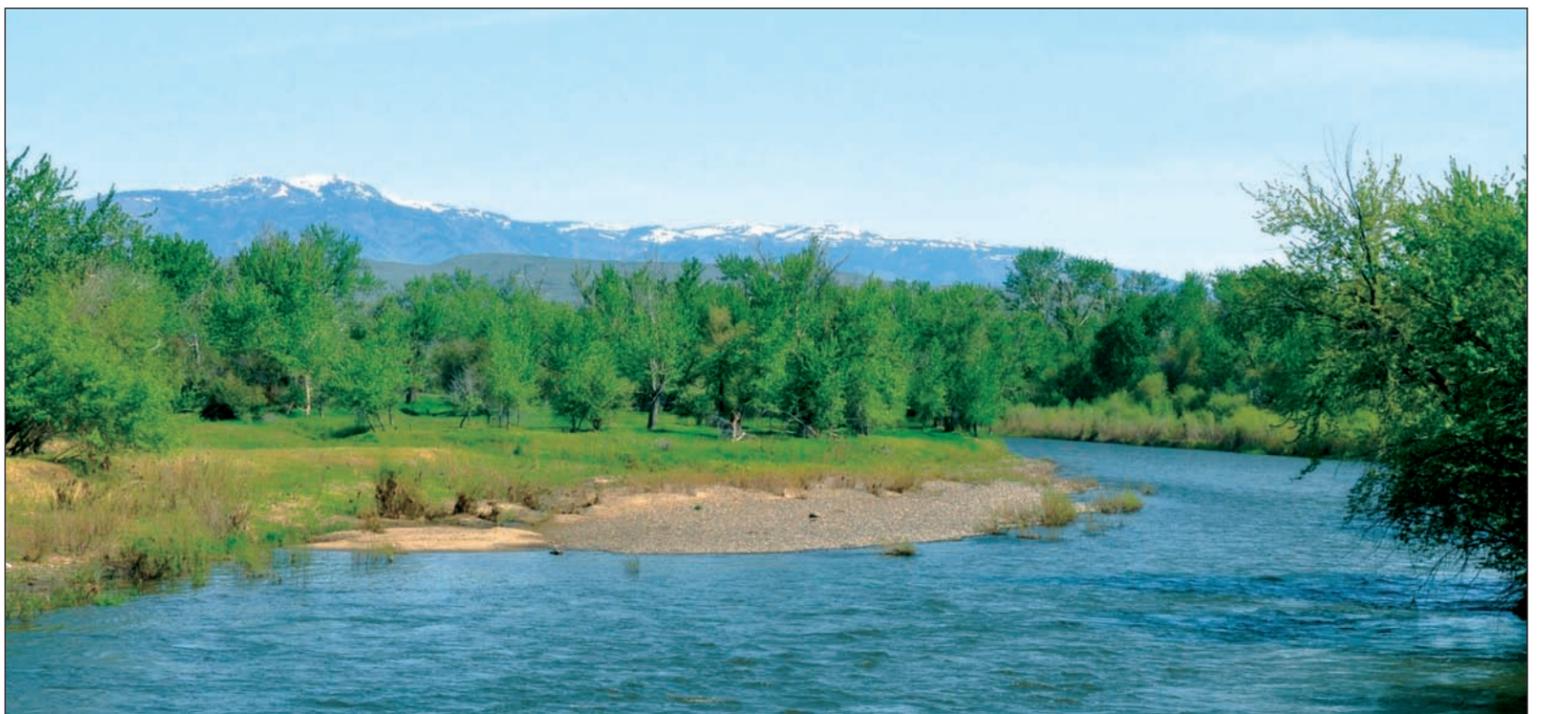
The city's swimming pool is a great place for summertime fun for all ages! The pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through the start of the school year, with general swim hours from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and adult and family swim time is from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. The cost can't be beat at a low \$3 per day! The pool is also available for group rentals on Sundays.

Midvale's pool stays strong thanks to Midvale's Fourth of July activities. Festivities kick-off with a parade at 11:30 a.m., and is followed by a community celebration featuring a

barbecue, duck race and raffles hosted by the Midvale swimming pool board to raise funds for the operation of the pool.

Agnes Keithley Park has restroom facilities and is open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The park is located next to the Weiser River Trail right off Highway 95.

From here, you can take a side trip, for bird watching or fishing at Crane Creek Reservoir, camping at the nearby Spring Creek Campground, or continue north along Highway 95 to Cambridge.



The Weiser River begins its journey to the Snake River in the Seven Devils Mountains west of New Meadows. It flows past Council, Cambridge, Midvale and enters the Snake River in Weiser. In the spring enjoy a fun rafting experience floating the river from Cambridge to Weiser.

Cambridge



Photos by Don Dopf



CAMBRIDGE

Gateway to Hells Canyon and so much more...

Cambridge is a friendly, welcoming, shade tree-lined community tucked into the west end of the Upper Weiser River valley between Cuddy Mountain, which raises its forested head to the north, and Hitt Mountain/Sturgill Peak which commands the west.

The Weiser River flows south through town and is joined by three creeks coming in from the west.

Cambridge is the supply point for numerous ranches and farms all through the green valley and has that quintessential small town friendliness that welcomes visitors like long-absent friends.

Cambridge was officially incorporated as a village in 1902 when the Pacific and Idaho Northern (P.I.N.) railroad came through, building their tracks and heading north to service the copper mines in the Seven Devils Mountains of which Cuddy Mountain is part of. Those mines have been closed for

years and not much is left of the once-thriving communities that were in the mountains above Cambridge.

The railroad has not run through town since 1997 and the old rail-bed was rail-banked and now continues as the Weiser River Trail.

Hells Canyon Days

This beautiful little city celebrates the honor of being the official gateway to Hells Canyon National Recreation Area with Hells Canyon Days. The event, with street vendors, a "Show and Shine" car show, a bull-riding-only rodeo called "Bullarama," antique power show, community breakfast, open pit barbecue, live music and many other attractions takes place the first weekend in June.

For music lovers mark your calendar for Saturday, June 5, 2021, for the Hells Canyon Jam. Next year's

featured artists include Reckless Kelly, Micky and the Motorcars, Dave Nudo Band, Dusty Leigh and the Claim Jumpers, Jesse Dayne and the Sagebrush Drifters and Corey James. The music starts at 5 p.m. at the Washington County Fairgrounds. For more information visit www.cambridgeidaho.com.

Washington County Fair and Rodeo

The town fills with spectators and fun-lovers as

Cambridge plays host to the Washington County Fair and the Cambridge Rodeo at the county fairgrounds and adjacent Cambridge rodeo arena. The rodeo is held over the last three days of the fair.

The Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department puts on a fantastic fireworks display to celebrate the Fourth of July. The display is held at the high school athletic field, with the show starting at dusk.

Right along Highway 95, you'll find a multi-

tude of businesses that offer great places to grab a bite to eat, purchase camping supplies, top off the gas tank, or find unique local handmade treasures. Cambridge has something for everyone, there is an antique shop, a quilt store and art gallery that is a must to check out. The library and museum are also both right along the main road.

Just outside of Cambridge a little ways off of Highway 95 is a nice relaxing hot springs. Mundo Hot Springs features an RV park, pool, and deli.

Now it is time to make a decision. Your travels can take you to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area to the west on Highway 71 or you can head north to the Payette National Forest. Adventure awaits you either way or maybe take a few days and visit the deepest gorge in the Northwest and then head north to the forest and high mountain lakes.



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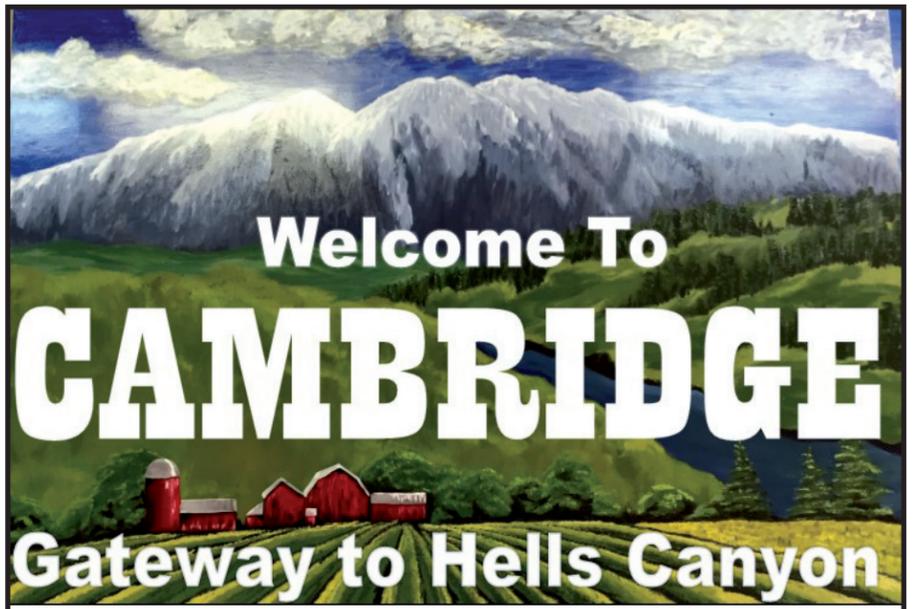
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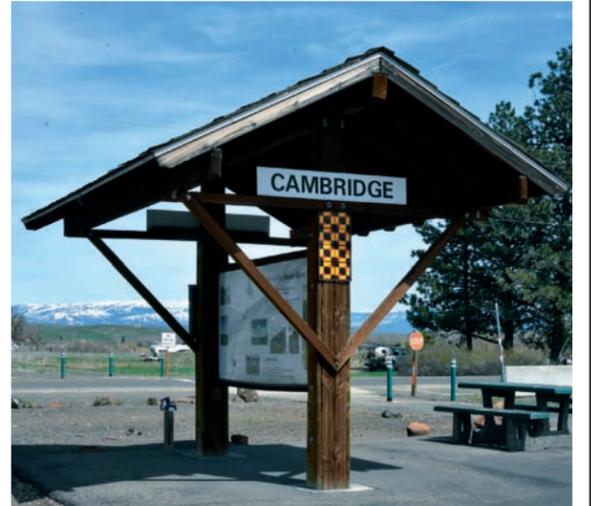
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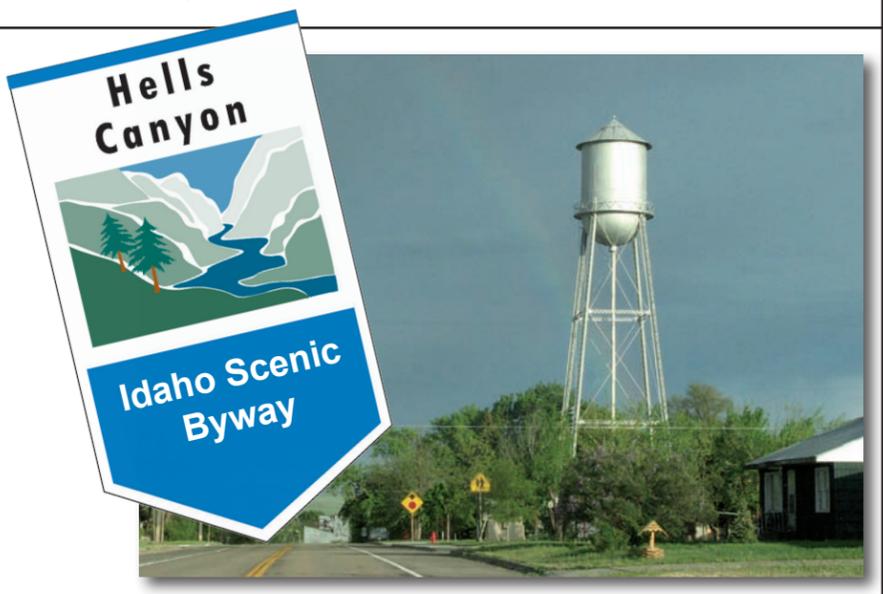
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Hells Canyon Scenic Byway

The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway winds its way along the east side of Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. This massive rift separates Idaho from neighboring Oregon. While the view from the road is breathtaking, a guided float trip or jet boat tour is a must.

Towering cliffs of black and green basalt hang so high above the Snake River and its sandy beaches that boaters strain their necks to see these places. Outfitters offer one-to-six day trips.

During the summer months, visit Hells Canyon Creek Visitors Center just below Hells Canyon Dam, the entrance to the wild and scenic part of the Snake River. The surrounding area was the home of Chief Joseph's band of Nez Perce Indians. Other tribes, including the Shoshone, Bannock, North Paiute and Cayuse Indians, were frequent visitors to the area. These tribes were drawn to the region by relatively mild winters, lush foliage and plentiful wildlife.

Today, walls of the canyon are like a museum, where pictographs and petroglyphs display evidence of the Indians' early settlements.

The Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) of 652,488 acres straddle the canyon, from the peaks of Idaho's Seven Devils Mountains on the east, to Oregon's rimrock and mountain slopes on the west.

This national showcase contains acres of beauty and adventure, where one's senses can run as wild as the landscape. The recreation area offers scenic vistas, world-class whitewater boating, fishing, and vast reaches of remote wilderness.

The most spectacular portion of Hells Canyon begins in the Wild River section of the Snake River, South Entrance of Hells

Canyon. Hells Canyon Adventures offers jet boat adventures that are fun, economical, and a convenient way to experience this remarkable remote location.

The South Entrance of Hells Canyon is a remote location, so come prepared. Have a full tank of gas, have a cooler full of snacks and drinks, and be prepared to turn off your phone because the cell phone service is spotty.

The route of the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway originating on the Oregon side is a loop that encircles the Wallowa Mountains, intersecting with Interstate 84 at La Grande and Baker City. Small towns, scattered along the drive, offer visitor services. The entire route is on a paved highway. Plan ahead - you'll find stretches of more than eighty miles without gas and with few services.

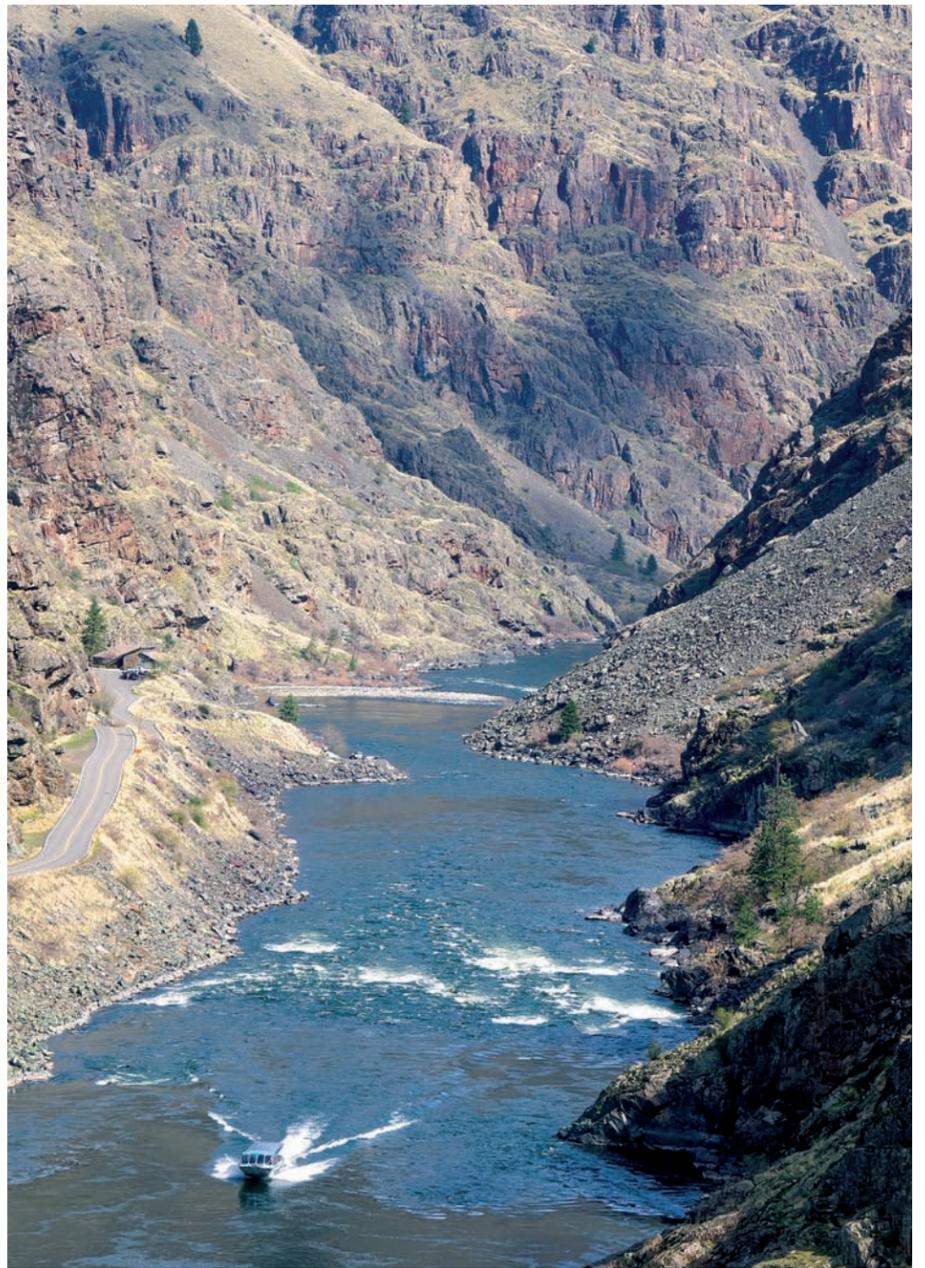
A segment of the Byway between Joseph and Halfway closes with snow in winter, but allows access to winter recreation areas, offering a whole other kind of Northeast Oregon Adventure.

Along the 218-mile route through the mountains, past rivers, and traversing the ranch lands, there are three primary Oregon communities and several small towns offering experiences for shoppers ranging from the foodie to the art collector.

You'll find "must have" items from whimsical antiques to locally created jewelry and memorable works of art.

Following the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway, shoppers will find a unique stop in the little town of Halfway. Here several shops cater to the byway traveler where you'll find a little bit of nearly everything!

For the coffee lover stop by Cornucopia Coffee House where the morning coffee is a



necessity, the afternoon cup is a luxury. Enjoy both cups at the Cornucopia Coffee House.

Looking for a fun get-away? Plan a vacation at Cornucopia Lodge where you can go horseback riding, relax in one of their cabins and explore the great outdoors. Like to visit ghost towns? The ghost town of Cornucopia is located adjacent to the lodge.

The final stop on your shopping tour of Hells Canyon Scenic Byway is in historic Baker City. You'll find a wide variety of shops to fit the desires of every member of the family;

from antiques, to candles and artwork locally crafted, to the best wine and culinary shop in eastern Oregon. The Geiser Grand Hotel offers fine dining beneath its beautifully restored stained glass ceiling in the Palm Court.

Your shopping journey along Hells Canyon National Scenic Byway is complete, but you'll be taking home (or have it shipped!) treasures discovered along the way. An antique you have been looking to find; a piece of artwork that will enhance your home; a taste of an Eastern Oregon memory!

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Council – where the evergreens begin and the mountains await

Council is the largest city and the county seat of Adams County. The name “Council” came from early pioneers who would see large groups of Native Americans gathering in Council Valley. Many came from all over the Northwest to meet.

Early pioneers worked the land by raising cattle and sheep, farming, logging and mining. Today you will still find an abundance of cattle and sheep ranches and farms. Logging and mining are also still a way of life.

The views are spectacular in just about every direction you look. In the spring, the wildflowers are brilliant in color.

In Council, you can camp, fish, hunt, hike, swim, horseback ride, and pick huckleberries. Mushroom picking is also popular from spring to fall, with morels being the favorite by most. Bird watching is also a popular hobby, and it is possible to find a vast variety of birds to identify on any sunny day.

Council’s climate makes it perfect for gardening and although, winters are far less severe than the nearby mountain communities of New Meadows and McCall, one doesn’t have to go far to find snow for cross country skiing or snowmobiling.

Council has several places for the traveller to stop and enjoy. Those looking for a bite to eat or a few supplies will find a small well-stocked grocery store. Council Mountain Coffee has ice cream, delicious baked goods and of course many varieties of coffee. There is a variety of restaurants including Shy Simons pizza, a deli and Chinese restaurant.

The Council visitor center is located at 105 N. Dartmouth in an old Forest Service building and operated by the Council Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. It is open Thursday through Sunday, noon through 4 p.m. through Labor Day.

Those looking for a little recreation might enjoy the Council Greens – which offers a nine-hole course and driving range.

Downtown Council offers two beautiful parks. The Town Square Park offers restrooms, shaded picnic areas, Wi-Fi and bike racks. While Courthouse Hill Park is a great place for tent camping.

A farmers market is held every Friday afternoon starting in May and running through October. The market offers a wide variety of produce, meat, eggs, canned food items, baked goods and arts and crafts.

Another lesser known fact about Council is that it is the proud hometown of NFL Superbowl champion Matt Paradis. Paradis, a 2008 graduate of Council High School, played 8-man football for the Lumberjacks before walking onto Boise State’s football team.

With fun events throughout the year ranging from farmer’s markets, the Adams County Rodeo, the Council Mountain Music Festival, the Fall Council Valley Heritage Festival, the lighted Christmas Parade and Craft fair, and the one of a kind world famous Independence Day Porcupine Races, Council is the perfect destination for your next mountain getaway.

The 4th of July and the World Championship Porcupine Race



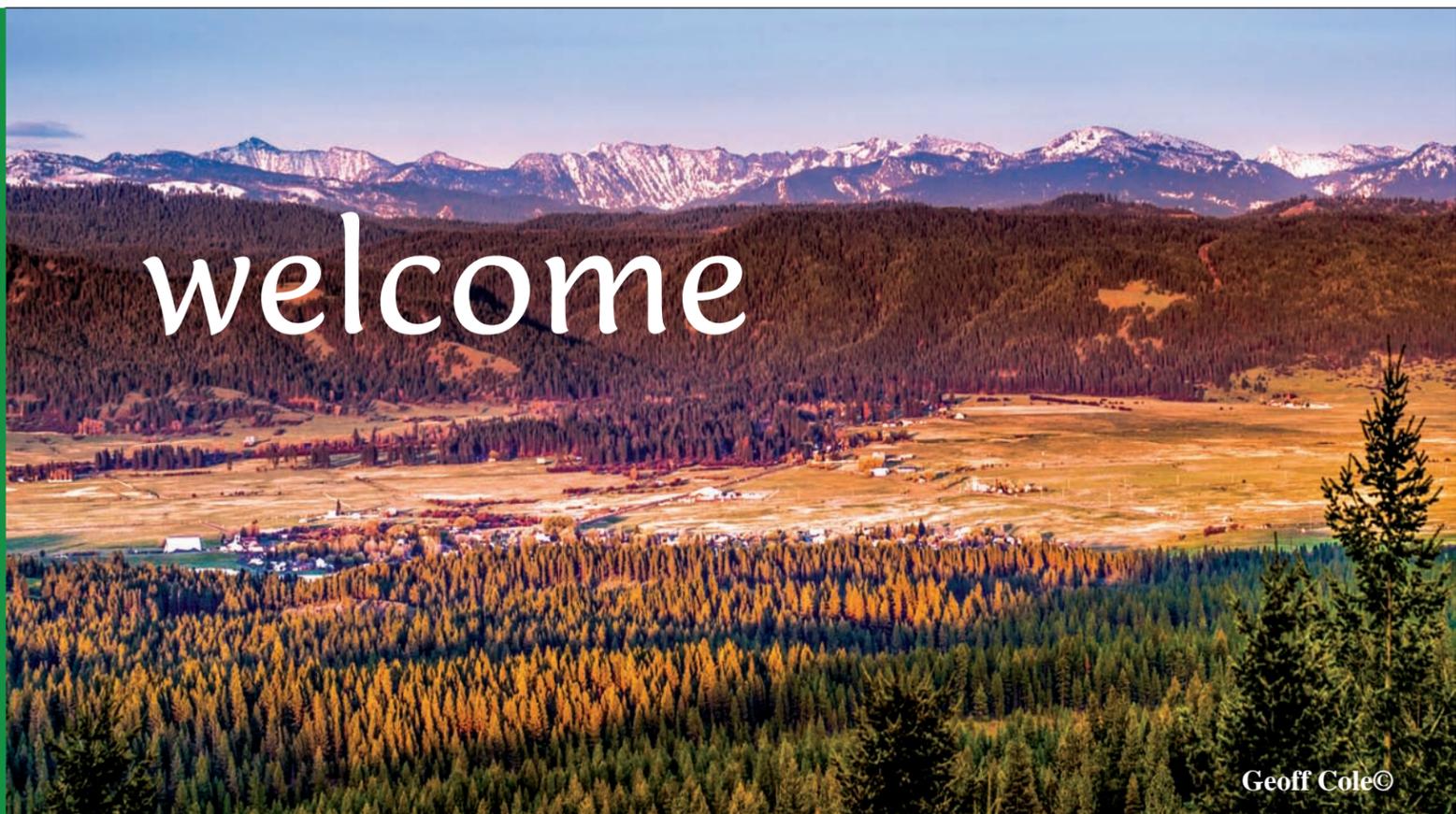
Visitors to Idaho are in for a most interesting time should they find themselves in Council during the July 4th celebrations.

Or better yet, **plan** on being there, and only there will you see the World Championship Porcupine Race.

Each porcupine has two handlers. The handlers are the men and women responsible for racing the porcupines. And also for catching the porcupines the night before.

Council has a long history of throwing spectacular Independence Day bashes – going all the way back to 1909, when over 3,000 people lined the streets to observe our nation’s birthday.

But could anyone have known in 1971 that they would soon have the one and only World Championship Porcupine Race on their hands?



Geoff Cole©

A Crossroad in the Meadowlands

Meadows Valley is the local name for this large, spectacularly scenic meadowland located in the heart of Idaho's rugged west-central mountains.

The Little Salmon River slowly winds through the pastures and wetlands of Meadows Valley and provides ample opportunities to spot bald eagles, moose, elk, and sandhill cranes.

Located at the busy crossroads of State Highway 55 and U.S. 95, New Meadows is more than just a gas station stop for road-weary travelers. As a gateway to four seasons of outdoor

adventures – including cycling, hiking, fishing, skiing, snowmobiling, and even log burling competitions – this small, friendly town is worth a stop and stay.

In the summer, drive eight miles southwest of New Meadows to Lost Valley Reservoir, where you can cast for trout, ply the smooth waters in a canoe, or camp near the quiet shores.

At the entrance to Lost Valley Reservoir stop by Huckleberry Cafe. "Bear" and Janet are famous for their huckleberry cheesecake and ice cream. They also serve lunch Wednesday through Sunday starting at 9 a.m. They also have a cute gift shop, hunting and fishing supplies and grocery items you may have forgotten.

In the winter, drive nine miles east to ski or snowboard the deep-powder slopes of Brundage Mountain Ski Resort, which has an undisputed reputation for the "Best Snow in Idaho."

After a day of outdoor excursions, explore the city of New Meadows, which offers a quiet, low-key friendliness that embodies

a small-town atmosphere.

Enjoy clean, affordable lodging at the historic Hartland Inn or stay and play at the beautiful Mead-



owCreek Golf Resort.

For a little more refined recreation, try a round of golf at MeadowCreek Golf Resort two miles north of town and, coincidentally, at the 45th Parallel, the halfway point between the equator and North Pole (www.meadowcreekgolfresort.com).

The golf course weaves in and out of the pine trees and across the verdant meadows offering changing scenery and stimulating golf at every turn.

In addition to golf, the Osprey complex features a heated swimming pool, cafe and snack bar, barbecue facilities, tennis and pickleball courts.

In the winter months there's groomed cross-country ski trails, snowshoeing, sledding and snowmobiling.

The town also has a public library, a bank, a post office, a medical clinic, auto repair and tire service shops, a recycling center, churches, restaurants and bar, a hardware store, a salon/spa, a school with athletic fields, and a city park with a playground.

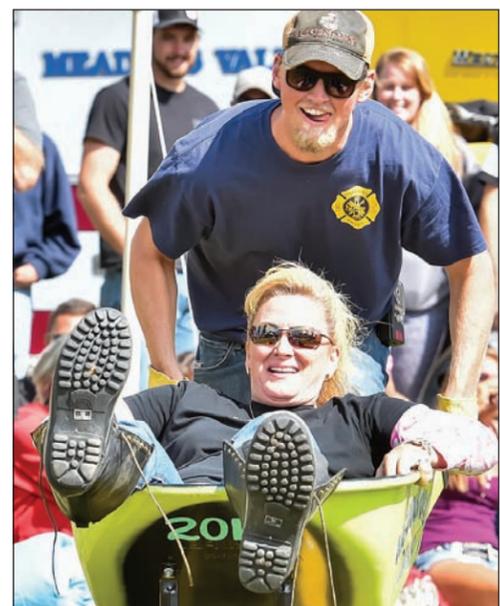
Take a stroll back in time at the newly restored historic railroad depot just west of City Park. The depot was the original "end of the line" of the Pacific and Idaho Northern Railway from Weiser built in 1911. It served as a farm-to-market railroad until 1940, and thereafter was used to transport lumber and livestock until 1979.

To celebrate the logging and ranching heritage of Meadows Valley, don't miss the annual Labor Day week-

end event of Meadows Valley Days at City Park.

If you've never seen log burling, axe throwing, or Jack and Jill crosscut saw competitions, this is the place to immerse yourself in logging culture. For more information visit www.meadowsvalleydays.org.

At the end of the day, winter or summer, treat yourself to a soak at Zim's Hot Springs, four miles north of New Meadows.





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