

It Takes a Village

Thank you to those who have donated, participated and helped clean up after an event. We could not be successful with you.

Fall is upon us bringing cooler weather, beautiful fall colors and time that seems to slow down a bit. We have much to be thankful for which we celebrate during Thanksgiving Day. Ralph's Café, owned by Kevin and Daveana Huff each year host a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Center for families and friends in our surrounding area. Through donations during this lovely dinner, the Huff's again give back to the community through the Center. A new class is on the horizon to join the Center, Robin Viera will host a "Paint & Sip" water color class, hopefully in November. I don't have it on the schedule yet, but check the calendar regularly. In December please be watchful for a "Christmas Bell Choir" program. The Bell Choir has a large youth group ranging from 4 years to 20 years old who play a Bell instrument. Included in this group is a talented Harp player.

Please check our website to view this month's scheduled events at:

bayview.community.center@gmail.com then click on the calendar.

Upcoming Events this month

- Nov 2nd - Silver Water Dist. Mtg. @ 2pm.
- Nov 4th - Election Day @ 8am.
- Nov 4th - Bayview Chamber Board Mtg. (Downstairs) @ 6pm.
- Nov 6th - BAB Holiday Faire @ 11am.
- Nov 9th - North Id. Church of God @ 1pm.
- Nov 10th - Community Ctr. Board Mtg. @ 10:30am.
- Nov 11th - Bayview Chamber Mtg. @ 7pm.
- Nov 15th - Bayview Bible Church Christmas Craft (Open to the Public) @ 1pm.
- Nov 17th - The Timberlake Fire Commissioners meeting will be held @ 3pm at the Athol Fire Station.
- Nov 18th - BAB Mtg. @ 9am.
- Nov 20th - BW&S monthly meeting will take place at 3:30pm. You can attend in person at their Office or attend online. Check their website for the link.
- Nov 27th - Happy Thanksgiving Meal provided by Ralphs's Café at the Center @ 12pm.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at:
prtonhofer@gmail.com or call (208) 683-8040



November 2nd



Bayview Bylines

The best little newspaper in Bayview

Editor: Norma Jean 208-819-6282
email: njyesca6@gmail.com

Articles provided herein are by local citizens and reflect differing views. Articles are to inform and not necessarily the views of the Editor or the Bayview Chamber of Commerce.

For more information:
www.bayviewidaho.org
Many thanks to Mike Maxson for maintaining our website.

Advertising Rates

BUSINESS ADS:

\$50 (12 issues) 2. x 3.5"

\$7 (one-time) 2. x 3.5"

Can be seasonal & altered as needed

CLASSIFIEDS:

20 words or less \$3 per/mo

Additional words 10¢ each

Add one photo for \$1.00

FREE Lost/Found Ads

Mail checks to:

Bayview Chamber of Commerce
address below & above.

Bylines are published at the beginning of the month. Please submit articles no later than

November 23rd

for the December 2025 issue.

Email: njyesca6@gmail.com

Mail: Bayview Chamber of Commerce, P.O 121,
Bayview, ID 83803

November '25 EVENTS AROUND TOWN

(held at the Community Center unless noted)

Sun	11/2	2pm	Silver Water Dist. Mtg.
Tue	11/4	8am	Election Day
		6pm	Bayview Chamber Board Mtg. (downstairs)
Sat	11/6	11am	BAB Holiday Faire
Sun	11/9	1pm	North Id. Church of God
Mon	11/10	10:30am	Community Ctr. Board Mtg.
Tue	11/11	7pm	Bayview Chamber Mtg.
Sat	11/15	1pm	Bayview Bible Church Christmas Craft (Open to the Public)
Mon	11/17	3pm	Timberlake Fire Commish. Mtg. Athol Fire Station.
Tue	11/18	9am	BAB Mtg.
Thu	11/20	3:30pm	BW&S Meeting Zoom and at the office. Check their website for the link.
Thu	11/27	12pm	FREE Thanksgiving Meal sponsored by Ralphs Café at the Center.

Community Ongoing Events

Tue	12:00pm	Mah Jong**
	3:00pm	Functional Strength Cardio (FIT) **
Wed	6:30pm	Bayview Bible Service*
Thu	12:00pm	Mah Jong**
	3:00pm	Functional Strength Cardio (FIT) **
Fri	9:30am	Tai Chi**
Sun	8:30am	Bayview Bible Service*
	10:30am	Bayview Bible Service*
	7:00pm	AA Meeting (lower)

*Please check with your Church Leader for monthly schedule changes.

** Please check with your group leader for any schedule changes.



Chamber Chatters & Chuckles

Some of Bayview's town concerns were discussed at the last meeting. The 5th Street Easement, east of the Buttonhook, and issues associated with the Public Boat Launch will continue to be investigated. Any updates, or new information, will be given at future meetings.

Kevin Elmore shared progress, regarding the next Lake Bed cleanup. It is being planned for the spring of 2026. Besides individual volunteers, many agencies will be involved in the actual task. A huge appreciation is going out to the Captain's Wheel, Taverna and Ralph's, who have all agreed to provide lunch for the entire volunteering group.

One of the cleanup crew's ideas is to use a 50-gallon, handle equipped tote, to collect the numerous smaller items. Once it is filled, it can then be hoisted to the surface, to be emptied. This simple convenience will save the divers an untold amount of time, allowing them to clean more areas, since they will not have to constantly swim to the surface to dispose of debris.

The Captain's Wheel is planning to host a Fireworks Fund Auction in the very near future. Currently, a possible date is Saturday, December 5th, 2025, but check with the staff for the actual date and time of the event.

Kevin and Davina Huff and their staff from Ralph's, Marie Streater and the Captain's Wheel staff, along with Chad Cadnum, as the announcer extraordinaire, have produced some impressive results from their previous Fireworks Auctions. Their combined efforts, along with the many generous donations, have given the fireworks fund totals some tremendous and much needed financial boosts.

So far, the total amount collected, for next year's show is sadly lacking. If we can't possibly triple the already collected amount, we will probably have to cancel next year's event. At today's cost of fireworks, \$13,270. would not provide much of a display. This would really be a shame since 2026 will be our country's 250th anniversary. We only have the upcoming months of November and December to correct this shortfall.

Each year the Chamber donates money toward the *Community Center's* upkeep. This year the members have voted to also include *Timberlake Fire District*, for their paramedic training, *Bestowing the Basics* and *Dogsmile Adventures* as recipients of these donated funds.

The annual Garden Award was presented to Lisa Cook for her constant display of flowers, throughout the summer, along MacDonald's Hudson Bay Resort docks. Everyone who visits or passes by the docks appreciates the beauty, resulting from all of her efforts. Thank you Lisa!!

*Why was the turkey in the band?
Because he had the drumsticks.*



The District is accepting applications to fill one seat on the Board of Directors.

Bayview Water & Sewer District is committed to the continued delivery of safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water and environmentally responsible sewer service to our customers.

If you are a passionate and involved member of the Bayview Community the Board would like you to consider becoming involved in the decision-making process for the future of one of the most vital components, and the backbone of our beautiful community. We are looking for someone who comes with a new perspective, opinions, and insight. We would love to welcome you to our team.

If you would like to be appointed to a director seat position you are encouraged to contact the District with a letter of interest.

- a) District Office: 16401 E. Emerson Dr., Bayview, ID 83803 (inside or through the mail slot)
- b) Email: BWSD637@gmail.com
- c) Traditional Mail: P.O. Box 637, Bayview, ID 83803

You must be 18 years of age & a member of the District and within District boundary. (*Please see the website for a map of the District Boundaries*).

Thank you and we look forward to meeting you!

Ted Bare has been on the Bayview Water & Sewer Board for many years. With the completion of the Water Project Ted is stepping down from the Board. Ted can now enjoy time fishing, boating, skiing and Faye's yard sales! He has helped in many other capacities while living in Bayview. We want to thank him for his many years of dedication to this project and the Bayview Community as a whole.

Thank You



Joyful Denim Angel Ornament Craft Day Event Details

Celebrate the season with Bayview Bible at a cheerful craft day! Join us for a festive gathering to create charming denim angel ornaments. The event will take place from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, November 15th at Bayview Community Center. Ladies from across the community are warmly invited to come and share in the joyful spirit.

What to Bring

Bring along 1 to 2 denim pockets cut from a pair of jeans—everything else you need to craft your angel will be provided, along with holiday cheer!

Festive Activities

Indulge in delightful treats, enjoy laughter and creative fun, and perhaps even make a new friend as you celebrate together. The atmosphere will be brimming with joy and camaraderie, perfect for embracing the festive season.



Cost

This merry event is completely free of charge—just bring your creativity and holiday spirit!

Baking Soda Galaxy Ornaments

The kind of rainy day fun that's better than cartoons.

Ingredients:

- Clear plastic or glass ornaments
- Baking soda
- Acrylic paint (black, blue, purple, pink, and gold)
- Fine glitter (silver, holographic, or iridescent)
- Optional: clear glue or Mod Podge
- Cotton swabs or small paintbrushes

These delightful galaxy ornaments are a charming way to bring a bit of the universe into your home. Start by removing the tops from your clean, dry ornaments. Add a couple teaspoons of baking soda inside each to create a soft and cloudy texture. Then, squeeze in a few drops of each paint color, using black for depth and the other shades for beautiful space tones. Seal the top with your thumb and shake gently or swirl the colors together. After adding a pinch of glitter to mimic shining stars, let the ornaments dry for a few hours before replacing the tops. Finally, string them up and find a lovely spot to display your cosmic creations! Make a memory today, not just a mess.



Restaurant Hours
Sun—Thu 11am-8pm
Fri & Sat
11am - 9pm
208-683-6504



“Mouse-in-a-Corner”

**Daughters
are a blessing**



Woof! Even though Norma Jean isn't fetching papers for the Chamber anymore, Huckleberry (that's me!), Mom, and my human are still busy working on the Bylines. Marsha keeps sending her barks from Arizona, while Dad (Dean) prints things with Lucas's paws helping out. Jenny and I both wag our tails for Lucas—his support deserves a treat!



READER BOARD for RENT

The Reader board at the entrance to Bayview is available for rent

\$20/ week facing SW (viewed coming into town)

\$20/ week facing NE (viewed leaving town)

Application and instructions are available
on the Chamber website:

www.bayviewidaho.org



Bayview Chamber of Commerce Board Members:

President:
Vice President: Jackie Beaudry 509-998-4146
Secretary:
Treasurer: Sue Damon 208-683-8608
Pro-Tempore: Larry Pegg 208-249-0538
For Chamber issues, use this email address:



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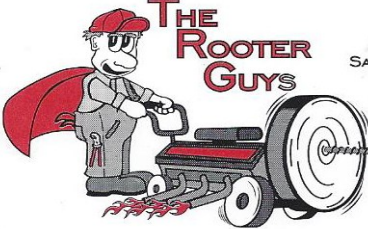
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Bayview Notaries

There are times we all need a Notary

Bayview now has 4 notaries

Keen Word Processing. Dorothy 208-683-2405

Nanci Walton Cisneros 406-314-1015

*Nanci's service is free for residents of Bayview

Jessie at Bayview Water & Service

Maureen Carl 509-993-4723 (new)

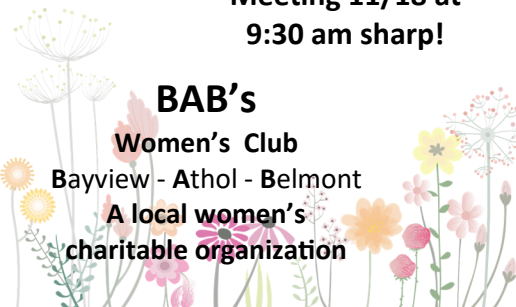
Thanksgiving:
 Our family celebrates
 Thanksgiving by focusing on
 gratitude for the present, not on
 historical events. I'm sharing a
 passage from *Native Hope*
 because its message about caring
 for our home resonates with
 our beliefs and faith.
 "Thanksgiving is simply a chance to
 appreciate the good things in life,
 like family, community, and the
 riches of the land. Long before
 settlers arrived, Native tribes
 celebrated the autumn harvest and
 the gift of Mother Earth's
 abundance. Native American
 spirituality, traditionally and today,
 emphasizes gratitude for
 creation, care for the
 environment, and recognition of
 the human need for communion
 with nature and
 others." (Native Hope)



President - Martha Bowman - 916-591-3720
 Vice-president - Vickie Sella - 425-422-9314
 Secretary - Susan Esteph - 208-691-5177
 Treasurer - Linda Grage - 206-714-3462

Meeting 11/18 at
 9:30 am sharp!

BAB's
 Women's Club
 Bayview - Athol - Belmont
 A local women's
 charitable organization



American Legion Auxiliary
 Unit 149
 In Athol

Hwy 54 between the RR tracks

Regular Meeting Nov 1st 9 am
 Veteran's Dinner Nov 8th 6pm
 Auxiliary Dinner Nov 29th 6:00pm

Janette Sleep, President 720-560-0961

Jan Powell, Membership Chairman 208-667-2737

Legion Phone: 208-683-2614




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 onto Howard, go 1.8 miles to Tiara Lane,
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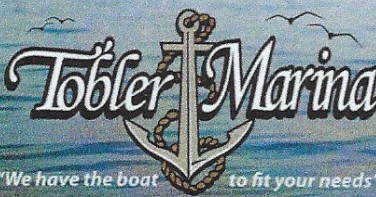


Bayview, Idaho

Business Directory

Local Businesses

Bayview Community Center	208-683-8040
Bayview Post Office	208-683-2733
Bayview Water & Sewer	208-683-3948
Bitter End	208-683-2534
Great Northern Nautical	208-682-0770
Cadnum Construction	208-755-2864
Captain's Wheel	208-683-6504
Christine Brochier	208-964-2136
C & L	208-683-2730
Cole's Automotive & Towing	208-651-4780
Companions Animal Center	208-772-4019
Country Boys Cafe	208-683-2363
Country Clinical Massage	208-755-6301
Dave Vig	208-217-4934
Doc Holly Vet	208-772-3221
Farragut State Park	208-683-2425
Farragut Shooting Range	208-683-1499
Grease Monkey	208-966-6100
Iron Pizza	208-561-5211
Jazzy Janitorial	208-262-6506
Keen Word, Notary	208-683-2405
Kootenai Electric	208-765-1200
Lakeland RV Park	208-683-4108
Lakes Hiway District	208-772-7527
Lazy Bear Rentals	208-683-7018
Log Spirit B & B	208-683-4722
MacDonald's Resort	208-683-2211
Mercantile	208-683-1011
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Unlikely Visitor

An interview from the desk of Huckleberry Ace-woof reporter, with Pam Tonhofer Deer-Whisperer

“My husband and I heard talk of a fawn becoming trapped on the Naval Base in Bayview. Who knows how this incident occurred, but it was true. We live across from the Base on Hudson Bay Road. While sitting on our patio, we actually watched a little fawn behind the fencing waiting, as if looking for something. After a time, a large female with two yearlings and a fawn walked up to the fence to sniff and touch noses with the trapped fawn. As fate would have it a car drove by scattering the family. The Base was aware of the fawn and did try to open the gate and release it but the fawn becomes spooked and run away.

I started writing down times the deer family would gather at the fence. It was usually after the workers left and traffic was scarce. I noticed over time the trapped fawn still had its spots and was smaller than it’s sibling who was about 2 inches taller and the spots were fading. I felt I had waited too long to inform someone of the situation. The weather had changed, rain came and daylight was fading earlier.

Not knowing what to do I called Norma Jean to tell her my story and ask for the name of someone to contact at the Navy. She referred me to Marian McComb, who is the Admin/Tech Specialist at the Navy Base. I emailed Marian at 9:00am that morning because of my concerns: with the time frames the fawn would be at the fence near the side gate, and a plan to release the fawn through the gate by the Naval Police. But the key would be to monitor the gate at a distance as quietly as possible and wait. To my delight, I received an email back from Marian later that day to advise me I should see the fawn hopefully reunited with its mother soon. The fawn was free! Marian’s an amazing individual; I hope to meet her someday.

A few days later, not even a week, a mother, two yearlings, a larger spotted fawn and a small one with spots were all on the side of my house eating grass. I was so thankful the fawn found its family.

I sleep so much better now. I saw the family today, mom evidently told the yearlings it was time to be on their own so she can concentrate on her little ones.”

Thank you, Pam, Dennis, Marian, and Navy Base Staff,
Huckleberry Bylines Reporter



Woof! Ace Reporter Huckleberry

Woof! I'm Huckleberry, a rescue pup with epilepsy—don't worry, I've got more bounce than your neighbor's trampoline. My Mom scooped me up when I was just a pupper, and Jenny taught me all sorts of tricks, including the ever-popular "run away and give everyone a cardio workout"—though oddly, my family is not a fan.

On our last stroll, we discovered a new art form: poop bag sculptures tied up along Perimeter Road. Mom says leaving them there is littering (who knew, right?). Since Bayview doesn't have magical street-cleaning unicorns, it's best to pack out the poo like you're hiking at Farragut State Park. Trust me, nobody wants a surprise squish.

Also, pro tip for drivers: the streets aren't racetracks! We've pulled off some impressive emergency halts while trying to cross because folks think 25 mph signs are just "friendly suggestions." Let's all slow down—my paws can only move so fast!

Another thought. There are some who think I, Huckleberry have AI write my articles however I want all to know that I have a translator because not everyone understands woo-woo language except Mom!

Huckleberry, Canine Reporter
(now promoted to Chief Sniffer of News)

Lake Pend Orielle Yacht Club

October 5th, 2025 marked the conclusion of the second and final day of the Commodore's Cup, which proved to be an exceptional event on the water. The steady breeze and clear conditions contributed to ideal sailing throughout the day.

In the Red Fleet, Black Sheep exhibited outstanding proficiency, securing first place with five wins over the weekend. The contest for second and third was decided by a competitive tie-breaker, with Dogsmile earning the runner-up position over Breakaway by virtue of one additional first-place finish.

Competition in the White Fleet was even more closely contested. Mr. Pringles achieved first place by a single point, narrowly surpassing Show Faith and Journey. A further tie-breaker awarded Show Faith second place over Journey, supported by two first-place finishes.

With this successful weekend at Lake Pend Orielle, another year concludes with memorable sailing and participation from our club members. Appreciation is extended to all competitors and to the many volunteers who ensured the smooth operation of the event. The dedication and camaraderie demonstrated each year are integral to the club's ongoing success.

On a personal note, serving as Commodore for the past three years has been both an honour and a pleasure. I value both the sailing opportunities and the connections forged within this community.

The Committee boat signs off for this season - looking forward to seeing everyone in the spring, with hopes of welcoming even more boats and skippers.

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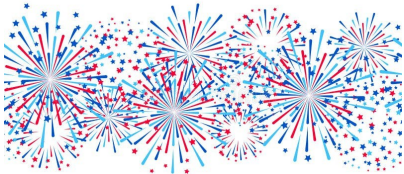
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(208) 683-1962

The Chamber is thrilled to invite you to the upcoming Fireworks Auction on December 5th at the Wheel - details on the exact time will be shared soon! To make this event truly sparkle, we're reaching out for your help. So far, only 4 items have been collected, and we'd love to see that number grow! As you tidy up closets or peek into storage spaces, please keep an eye out for donations. Popular auction items include gift baskets, artwork, local services, and collectibles - plus anything unique or special you might be willing to share. The Wheel is accepting all of your wonderful donations Your generosity is the heart of our community, and we simply couldn't do this without you. Thank you for bringing your spirit and kindness to this event - we can't wait to celebrate together!





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Functional Strength Cardio Classes

*****NEW TIME*****

*Starts Oct 7th at the
Bayview Community Center
*Tuesday and Thursday 3 - 4

Come join us in building and maintaining a healthy mind and body so you can stay active, complete everyday tasks, and enjoy doing the things you love. Create better balance and stronger bodies.

You can work at your own pace and join at any time. Hate to say it but it's true...if you don't use it, you lose it. And hey it's fun!

Bring a mat, water, and weights if you choose to use them. There is no charge.

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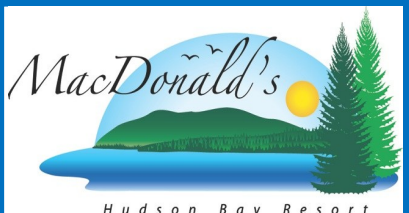


IRON PIZZA
NORTH IDAHO LOCAL & SOCIAL

LUNCH SPECIAL \$15
7" TWO TOPPING PIZZA, HOUSE SALAD, SODA

OPEN DAILY
NOON TO 9PM

EAT . DRINK . STAY TO PLAY
CORN HOLE . POOL . GAMES .
GIANT JENGA & CONNECT FOUR .
CRANE GAMES . PINBALL . ARCADE



MacDonald's
Hudson Bay Resort

A full-time Marina with moorage, cabins, gas & diesel, fishing supplies, mechanics, parts, snack food & beverages and **Fishing Licenses**.

Call their friendly staff at:
683-2211
Cabins
683-0661

CITIZEN LAKE RESPONSE GROUP

This group was formed due to the 2008 Thanksgiving Day deadly boat fire. If you know of a **LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY** on the lake, **first call 911**, **then** call someone on the list. While boating, monitor **CH16** and be prepared to pass on info by radio/cell phone.

MacDonald's Hudson Bay Resort (208-683-2211) will serve as the headquarters to coordinate rescue efforts. DO **NOT** call for mechanical problems or lack of gas. This group is for **LIFE-THREATENING** emergencies only.

Bayview residents with **boats in the water** can volunteer to be available to respond to Lake Emergencies. Call Chris Hansen 208-659-8091 to add your name.

Current "Good-Samaritans" are:

Chris Hansen	659-8091	Jim Woods	683-2294
Tim Meyer	683-1986		
Cam Bond	682-0770		



EXCEPTIONAL HOMES by John L. Scott

BAYVIEW & ATHOL AREA MARKET

Live & Work Locally
Resale Only

OCTOBER 2025 RECAP

New Listings	Reported Pending	Active Inventory	Sold Listings
2	3	17	3

The air turned crisp, but the housing market stayed warm – October kept the momentum brewing!

My hometown can be your hometown!




CHRISTINE BROCHIER
CRS, RSPS, ABR
208-964-2136
CBROCHIER@JOHNLSMOTT.COM





Santa makes a special appearance for
Cookies and Cocoa with

SANTA

AND the renowned NOTEABLES

December 6th 1:00 p.m. at the

Bayview Community Center

Sponsored by the

Bayview Chamber of Commerce

We have been doing this for years, nothing fancy,
just good old fashioned fun and presents!

HELP BAYVIEW REACH OUR GOAL

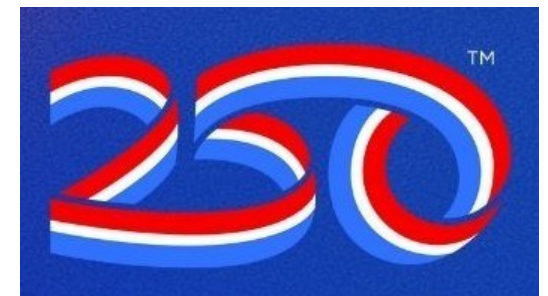
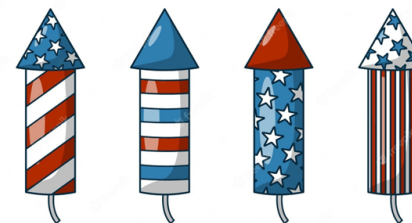
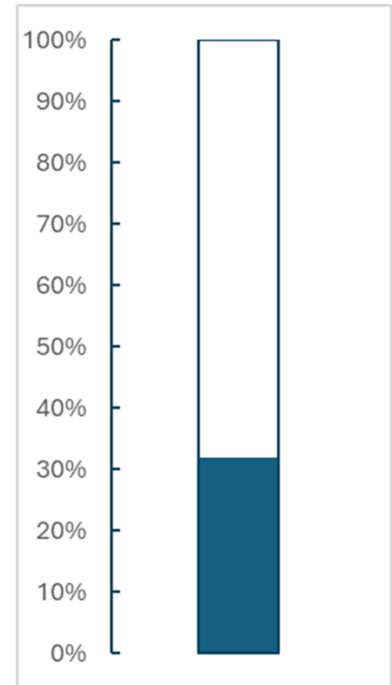
OUR Fireworks Fund is currently at
\$13,210.95 or 31.8% of our
goal for 2026.

Our goal is \$40,000. The big question
now is are we going to have a Fireworks
show in 2026? No donation is too small!

With everyone's help we can have the
Bayview Fireworks the best in the
Inland Northwest while celebrating our
Nation's 250th birthday

Donation cans are located in businesses
throughout Bayview, or a check can be
sent to the Chamber PO Box 121,
Bayview, ID 83803.

Our QR code is still active.





Ralph's Coffee House & Café Presents

Their 8th Annual

Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Thu Nov 27th Noon – 5 pm

At the Bayview Community Center

Menu

Turkey/Ham – Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Candied Yams, Stuffing, Cranberry Sauce

Green Beans AND Pumpkin Pie

Free To All - Home Deliveries Provided

Donations appreciated but not expected

For more information:

Ralph's Coffee House & Café – 208-683-2218

On Thanksgiving Day Call -

Bayview Community Center 208-683-8040

For info or to request delivery

Thank you to all.

Thanksgiving Day

BAB's Annual Holiday Faire



Join Us at the Bayview Community Center

Saturday November 8, 2025

11 AM – 2 PM



ALL YOU CAN EAT



Homemade Soups, Salad, & Bread

Adults - \$10.00 Children under age 12 - \$5.00

COME SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



BAKE SALE - 50/50 RAFFLE

LOCAL CRAFTS & OTHER GOODIES

GIFT BASKET RAFFLE

Bring an item for the Foodbank & receive a raffle ticket for the Basket Drawing

Purchase your Raffle Tickets for this year's Handmade Christmas Quilt - Queen Size & Reversible



Bayview Athol Belmont Women's Club

(A Charitable Organization, Supporting Veterans, ABC Food Bank, Local Schools, & More)

HOW WOULD WE RATE OURSELVES?

Halloween isn't even over when the Christmas displays begin showing up in every store imaginable. We shake our heads and wonder what happened to the Thanksgiving decorations? All of a sudden it seems like life has really jumped into the fast-lane. The to-do lists are being created, annual recipes are being brought out, so the food shopping lists continually grow and the brain goes into overtime – what to give as gifts and what have we forgotten to remember?

Of course, all of this activity creates massive stress and the big question becomes how well will we handle it? As we stand in checkout lines, will our tempers continue to climb the longer we have to wait, or will we use that time to calmly go over our lists to see what we have forgotten. Will we be patient with the slow or undecided individual in front of us, or will we create more stress for them with our loud sighs and unkind comments?

Do we recognize those moments when we are upset about something and the harder we try to correct whatever it is, the worse the situation gets? Can we see how our impatience leads to intensifying a problem for the individual in front of us? The harder they try, the worse it gets.

Years ago, one of the biggest annoyances was being in the checkout line and watching an individual waiting until their last item was rung through before they even took out their checkbook. Now we can tap our credit or debit cards, which makes completing the transaction much faster but invariably something will happen to slow the progress. Maybe the card doesn't work, for any number of reasons. It could be the wrong card or lack of funds or who knows what, but the bottom line, how will we react to the delay? What can we do to be helpful or do we just stand there glaring, or commenting and continue to increase another person's stress?

At this time of year even traffic becomes a menace. How often do we use our horns, when in slow traffic situations? How forgiving are we when someone unintentionally cuts us off or pulls in front of us. Whether we want to admit it or not, we will all make a driving error at one time or another. One of the most aggravating situations seems to be the lack of turn signals or one blink of the blinker as the vehicle moves into our lane. We can understand an "oops" much better, if the offending driver is trying to alert us to their changing circumstances. Of course there is always the option of driving further ahead until we have the opportunity to go around the block.

Regardless of the situation, if we concentrate on keeping our own tempers in check and either give a helping hand, a chance to change lanes or just giving others the benefit of the doubt, maybe we can make stressful times more bearable for not only ourselves but also others. This is definitely the time of year when a smile, or a bit of kindness, can really go a long way.

This is supposed to be an extra happy time of year but as we all know challenges have a way of surfacing, so if we all try, maybe we can help everyone through this time of life.

Look Up – Keep a Happy Heart



With the passing of Halloween, we have entered the *Holiday Season* once again. That time of year when families gather to celebrate with an untold amount of food, goodies and even presents. Happiness for all, correct? Well, that sounds wonderful if we have families, or food, or even the time and/or place to gather.

Over the years it seems like our families have scattered to the four winds, or sadly diminished in numbers. So, is this a time to be happy or sad? What is the true definition of family? If we don't have traditional foods, are our gatherings lacking? Is it a holiday meal if we don't have the so-called traditional foods? Is it really a "gathering" if we only have ourselves or maybe one or two others? Truthfully, we can make it whatever we want, whenever we want.

For many years the word FAMILY was defined as those people related only by blood. However, as with many things, in this ever-changing world, the definition has changed tremendously. We now have families consisting of half-siblings, an untold number of step-relatives, in-laws and even dear friends. A friend can be someone we've known for many years or a new person we just had the privilege of meeting. *A family member can now be defined by anyone we welcome into our hearts.*

What it comes down to is *how big are our hearts* and *how much love do we have to share* with others? How many people do we have to have together, before we consider the time spent a gathering? How much food do we have to have to create a feast? What type of food do we have to have before we consider it a holiday meal? Are we able to create our own happy celebration if we are spending time alone?

We can snuggle down in our PJ's and read a good book or watch a favorite movie and call it a Thanksgiving celebration! We can cook a pot of spaghetti, or hot dogs, or even make tacos and call it a feast. We can be by ourselves or invite one or more over for a visit and call it a gathering. Our possibilities are endless and defined only by our own imaginations.

Somehow, over the years, it was implied that if we were alone our lives were lacking and sadness was our only option. For some that feeling was so overwhelming that they chose suicide as their only solution. Why should we be sad, just because we are alone, when we are the only ones who can be responsible for our own happiness? If we take the time to share our love, with a phone call, a text, an email or even an old-fashioned letter, we can give happiness to others which in turn gives us happiness as well.

We can create our own new definitions, and traditions, for any holiday word or custom and give a happy heart to anyone we encounter! Happy Thanksgiving and be thankful for Happy Hearts!