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## CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

April 4, 2024

On April 10 at 9:30 a.m., the Caldwell Police Department along with representatives from Advocates Against Family Violence (AAFV) will plant blue pinwheels in front of police headquarters (110 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.) to raise awareness for child abuse and sexual assault prevention.

Mayor Jarom Wagoner has proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month in the City of Caldwell, the proclamation will be read at the event. This coincides with National Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Awareness Month. The City, Caldwell Police, and AAFV urge all citizens to become a part of an effort to make our community safe.

**Child Abuse Prevention:** This month is an opportunity to educate others and raise awareness about the importance of preventing child maltreatment. According to the latest national data, an estimated 1,990 children died from abuse and neglect in the United States in the federal fiscal year 2022. Approximately 3.1 million children across the country received either an investigation or an alternative response by child protective services, and 558,899 children were found to be victims of child maltreatment.

**Sexual Assault Prevention:** This month aims to raise public awareness about sexual abuse, harassment, and assault and educate communities about how to be involved in prevention. It calls on each of us to work together to prevent sexual abuse, harassment, and assault. We believe when anyone experiences sexual violence, every community member is affected. We must strive to build more connected, respectful, and inclusive communities to promote our collective well-being and protect against the risk of sexual violence.

In 2023, AAFV provided 16,713 individual services to local area residents. Of those reporting, 405 Caldwell residents received services from AAFV.

1. 70 child abuse-related cases were reported to include child physical abuse, child pornography and child sexual abuse/assault.
2. 45 sexual assault cases were reported in addition to the child abuse report. These were adult sexual assault cases which included human trafficking.

“Every child matters and no child will ever be left alone or suffer in silence,” said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Chief of Police. “As a father, I understand, firsthand the challenges that parents might face with raising

children. If you ever feel overwhelmed or helpless, please ask for help or seek assistance from the resources listed below.”

AAFV, they are available 24-hours a day, seven days a week. [Home - Advocates Against Family Violence \(aafvhope.org\)](http://aafvhope.org)

To report suspected child abuse, neglect or abandonment call: Statewide: 855-552-KIDS (5437)  
Treasure Valley: 208-334-KIDS (5437)

To report an assault or abuse case call 911 or dispatch at 208-454-7531.

*All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.*