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Coffee with Kim

By Kim Holland



Meet Adriane DeKalb

Adriane is one of those rare people who manages to be both deeply studious and effortlessly creative. It's a balance that shows up in her time at the University of Oregon, where she majored in Anthropology and minored in Dance. Not just any dance, either, she immersed herself in modern, ballet, and West African styles.

After undergrad, Adriane wasn't quite ready to jump into the traditional 9-to-5 lifestyle. Instead, she chose a different kind of education: wait tables, save money, travel, repeat. That season of life took her to some incredible places, including Senegal in West Africa (twice) and Morocco.

After Adriane got out her travel bug, she headed to NYU for grad school. At NYU she would study and earn her master's degree in Social & Cultural Analysis. She did manage to squeeze in some travel during that time, too, spending a semester studying in Ghana. Young, curious, and completely in love with New York City, Adriane decided to stay. She landed a role connected to the United Nations, working with an NGO (non-governmental organization) helping to put on and manage women's advocacy events.

But that creative pull never really goes away, does it? Adriane did a 180 and jumped into yoga teacher training, completing 500 hours and teaching prenatal and Vinyasa in a large Yoga studio in NYC. Since then, she's continued her studies and has over 650 hours of training. She went on to teach both prenatal and vinyasa classes at a cozy little studio in NYC.

In 2011, Oregon called her home. Having grown up in Bend from the age of ten, settling in Portland felt like a natural next step. It was there, while teaching yoga in that ever-evolving, quirky city, that she met her future partner, John. True to her principles, Adriane had a strict no-dating-students policy... which meant John had to give up her yoga classes before he earned that first dinner date.

Portland also became the place where Adriane connected with Yogi Tea, where she has now spent 15 years as a Marketing and Community Engagement Specialist on their Brand Experience team.

Adriane and John spent a decade in Portland and welcomed their daughter, Lilly, during that time. By 2021, they were ready for a change. With Adriane's early roots in Ontario, Oregon, the Treasure Valley felt like the perfect place to raise a family. When they drove into Avimor for the first time, Adriane felt an immediate sense of peace and they just knew...this should be their home.

If you've spent any time at an Avimor bazaar, you've likely seen Adriane and her daughter, Lilly, behind their sweet little setup, ADRIA LILLY. Together, they create delectable bath and body products, such as soaps, body butters, and lip balms—all made with natural ingredients and no synthetic colors or fragrances. Think essential oils, charcoal, rose petals... natural and beautiful.

Adriane is also an avid hiker and hits the Avimor trails often. When she's not hiking the trails or dreaming up a new ADRIA LILLY creation, you might find her playing her n'goni, a West African harp, and singing, adding yet another layer to her creative spirit.

For interest in ADRIA LILLY products, contact Adriane at adrianedekalb@gmail.com, as she loves connecting the Avimor community with her products.



Meet Steve Schwickert

I had a feeling Steve had a few tricks up his sleeve, which was confirmed after he showed me a painting he did in his garage. The painting is of our beautiful red barn at Howell Station. From the front of his townhome, he has a picturesque view of the barn, and it seemed a little unfair that you couldn't enjoy that same view from the back. So, if you're driving by the townhomes on Glass Ave. and find yourself doing a double take... that's Steve's handiwork.

He's also quite the woodworker, building shelves, cribbage boards, planter boxes, and more. All with a lot of style, I might add.

Steve grew up in the Buckeye State, spending the first 25 years of his life in Ohio cheering on the Ohio State Buckeyes and attending Ohio State University. Shortly after graduating and getting married, he made the move to sunny California. He spent 32 wonderful years in San Diego, raising his two kids, Chelsea and Brian, along the way.

Steve had a long career in...can you guess? I bet you'll never guess—he worked in the lottery industry! I'll admit, I hadn't given much thought to the business and technical side of the lottery before meeting Steve. He worked on the technical side, often traveling internationally to places like Vietnam and China. Lottery systems handle enormous volumes of transactions and require the highest levels of accuracy, security, and reliability, so there's very little room for error. The stakes are high, and so is the pressure on the teams keeping everything running smoothly.

I'm always curious how people landed in their careers. Steve actually fell into this career in high school if you can believe it. Going to the horse races was a popular pastime in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio. One crisp night, a racing inspector he knew invited him along, and he went. It's funny how small decisions can shape the direction of your life. Horse racing and the lottery are surprisingly similar on the technical side, both relying on incredibly precise systems. Steve worked in the horse racing totalizer business through high school, college, and a few years beyond. (A totalizer, for those wondering, is the system that manages bets and payouts.)

Cathy and Steve joined the Avimor community in 2024 and are celebrating 37 years of marriage. They're fully embracing this season of life, splitting their time between Avimor and their home on the Big Island of Hawaii. Being near the ocean brings him so much joy, but he says it always feels like coming home when he returns to Avimor.



Meet The Cashmans

Gary and Kathy quietly moved into Avimor a few short months ago, but I have a feeling they are going to make a big impact. After spending a lovely couple of hours with them over coffee (and bonding over some funny military quirks), it is clear they are driven to contribute, connect, and make things better for the people around them.

They had quite different upbringings, with Kathy growing up in the same area, Renton, WA from the age of 4 through adulthood. Gary grew up overseas on an American Air Force base in Tokyo, attending international school and experiencing a globally rich upbringing. While he didn't officially live in the U.S. until he was 37 years old, American culture was always a part of his life growing up.

At the University of Washington, Kathy studied graphic design. She landed a job right out of college with a Seattle private design firm, staying there for 12 loyal years until her path evolved alongside technology. Kathy became deeply immersed in User Experience Design (UX), helping to shape how people interact with the digital world. Over a 20-year career in UX, she worked for major companies like Amazon, Microsoft, Atlassian, and T-Mobile. She held some high-ranking positions along the way, leading the Outlook design team, and serving as Amazon's only print designer for a period.

After high school, Gary was certain about his next move, and he promptly enlisted in the Army. He built an impressive military career, beginning in the infantry before volunteering for and successfully completing the rigorous Special Forces Assessment and Selection process. He went on to earn the Green Beret, serving on a Special Forces Team for the remainder of his career. If you know anything about achieving entry into Special Forces, it is designed to accept only those with exceptional mental strength and elite physical toughness. Tearing you down to build you up is an understatement. After 14 years of service, Gary medically retired, but he is still driven to serve others. Gary

has since dedicated himself to supporting veterans, working as a mental health specialist, leading transition programs, and serving as a suicide prevention advocate. His passion lies in helping others rediscover purpose and direction in their lives.

In a unique way, Gary has transformed one of his hobbies into a tool for mental wellness. His home features an incredibly advanced car racing simulator. Not just for fun, but as a way to teach focus, emotional control, and resilience. The system tracks heart rate and performance, reinforcing a powerful lesson: you can't improve if you quit, and you can't succeed without learning to stay calm under pressure.

Kathy is transforming her own area of the house into something she's passionate about, which is being creative. She has always found joy in creating and connecting, in the past traveling to creative workshops and launching her own blog about the craft community. Her new craft room will give her the perfect space to tap back into that crafty side again.

Since moving to Idaho, Gary and Kathy have felt their stress levels melt away, a noticeable shift even with a typically stress inducing milestone right around the corner; their wedding. In October 2026, they will be saying "I do" at one of the most unique venues I have ever heard of, Treehouse Point, tucked into the enchanting forests of Snoqualmie Valley, Washington. It is not just a venue, it is an experience. Guests, along with Gary and Kathy, will stay in beautifully crafted treehouses, surrounded by the magic of the forest. Their vows will be exchanged among the trees, creating what can only be described as an unforgettable, storybook setting.

We are truly lucky to have creative, thoughtful souls like Gary and Kathy in our community. I cannot wait to hear all about what is sure to be a magical wedding.



Kim is a longtime Avimor resident, wife, mother of two, and your local Avimor realtor with Homes of Idaho. She can be reached at kimsellsboise@gmail.com or 208-559-2842.

The Calico Cat



The calico cat appeared at first light.

Our Avimor home backs up to the foothills so we sometimes see deer or the occasional fox. These wild animals are usually on the move heading somewhere else. This particular tri-colored cat was so still and camouflaged by the surrounding sage brush that I almost didn't notice her at first. It was only when she turned her head toward me that I realized what I was seeing.

An unfamiliar calico cat.

I opened the French doors and stepped out onto the patio. I gave out a few well-rehearsed barks. The cat barely acknowledged my flawless imitation of a miniature Schnauzer. She remained aloof and beyond reach; a tame thing in the wild.

I pointed the cat out to my wife Jan. She was sitting at the breakfast table enjoying her morning coffee. "That cat is sitting there for a reason," I stated with the conviction of the delusional.

"It's just a cat," Jan replied.

"I don't think so."

Thank God for artificial Intelligence. Now every marriage has a third party opinion. Our phones are all-knowing and beyond question. The entire universe can be held in the palm of our hands. I punched in a precise search. My years as a big city newspaper reporter had made me a wizard of inquiry.

"AI says the unexpected sighting of a calico cat at dawn is a sign of impending good fortune," I informed my wife of over fifty years.

"In Japanese they are called **mikeneko** and are often referred to as money cats."

Jan shrugged. "Guess we'll have to wait and see what happens."

It was a Mah Jongg Monday in Avimor. The ancient Chinese game is a true and accurate barometer of how your luck is running. The difference between a Mah Jongg blessing and a Mah Jongg curse is clearly defined. The game is rarely vague and often uncommonly precise. Its omens are clear to those who wish to see.

***If your tiles are disorganized
you're doomed.***

"I'm feeling lucky, sweetie," I said with a smile. "I'm going to crush them this afternoon."

"I hope you do, Billy"

Four hours later I arrived at our spacious community center. Rob was behind the counter at the entrance making sure everything was on track. Lately, he'd been taking an interest in my Mah Jongg exploits.

"You going to beat the pants off them today, Billy?"

I leaned on the counter getting close and speaking low.

"I saw a calico cat this morning on the hill behind my house. Some people think that's a sign of good luck. What do you know about calico cats?"

Rob smiled. "I know ninety-nine percent of them are female."

"Right."

On many occasions I'm the only male to show up for Avimor Mah Jongg. The ladies tolerate me, but sometimes I feel like an old man missing a much needed nap. The moment I sat down I began to inform everyone about the calico cat. I went into elaborate detail regarding the symbolism and the miracle of luck I envisioned in my immediate future.

The group was mildly amused but unconvinced.

"It's going to take more than a calico cat for you to win, Billy," one of the better

players informed me with a grin.

"You doubt the power of the calico cat?" I asked.

No one replied as the tiles were shuffled.

I lost game one.

I lost game two.

"Where's all that good fortune you were bragging about, Billy?" asked the winner of the latest game.

I held the calico cat in my mind's eye. I sensed a far off purr of alignment. When you know, you know.

I won game three,

"Dumb luck," the ladies all agreed.

I won game four.

Silence as quarters were passed over to me.

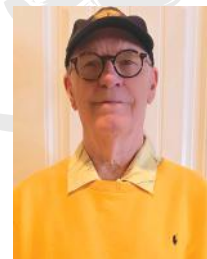
I won game five. It marked the first time I'd ever won three in a row. A hush fell over the table.

Destiny was revealing itself.

"Maybe there is something to that calico cat thing," one of the losers admitted begrudgingly.

I smile knowingly.

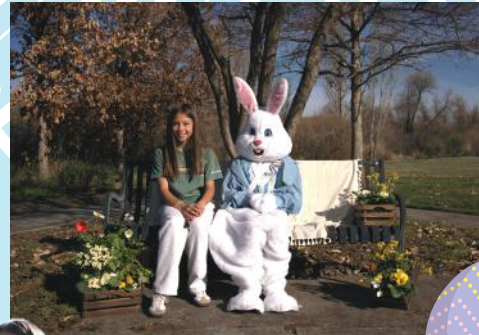
I lost game six.



**BILL
ENGLISH**

Bill English is an award winning journalist and former writer for the San Francisco Chronicle. His novels include The Cultivator, The Find, and Forgotten Strokes. He lives in Avimor with his wife Jan.

Easter In Avimor



Balance & Mobility

The Hidden Keys to Living Longer and Living Better

When most people think about longevity, they think about eating healthy, taking supplements, or exercising regularly. While those are all important, one of the most overlooked predictors of healthy aging is something much simpler: **balance and mobility.**

The ability to move confidently, maintain stability, and stay active throughout life plays a major role in preserving independence, preventing injuries, and maintaining overall quality of life. In fact, **research continues to show that mobility is one of the strongest indicators of long-term health and vitality.**

Think about the activities that make life enjoyable in communities like Avimor: hiking the trails, biking, golfing, gardening, playing with grandchildren, walking the dog, or simply enjoying the outdoors. All of these activities require a foundation of balance, coordination, strength, and mobility.

Unfortunately, modern lifestyles often work against us. Many people spend hours sitting at desks, driving, or looking at screens. Over time, muscles become tight, joints lose mobility, and balance begins to decline. These changes may happen gradually, but they can significantly impact how we move and feel as we age.

Mobility - refers to the body's ability to move joints through their full range of motion with control and stability. When mobility decreases, simple activities such as bending down, climbing stairs, reaching overhead, or getting up from the floor become more difficult. Restricted mobility can also place additional stress on joints and contribute to aches, pains, and injuries.

Balance - is equally important. Every year, falls are one of the leading causes of injury among older adults. The good news is that balance can be improved at any age. Just like strength and endurance, balance responds positively to consistent training and practice.

Simple activities can make a tremendous difference. Walking on uneven trails, standing on one foot while brushing your teeth, practicing yoga, performing balance exercises, and participating in strength training can all help improve stability and coordination.

Regular movement also supports another important aspect of health: longevity. Studies consistently show that individuals who maintain physical function and mobility tend to remain independent longer, recover more quickly from illness, and enjoy a higher quality of life as they age. One area that many people overlook is the connection between mobility and confidence. When individuals feel steady and capable, they are more likely to remain active and engaged in the activities they love. This creates a positive cycle: movement improves mobility, mobility improves confidence,

and confidence encourages even more movement.

A simple daily routine can go a long way. Consider incorporating:

- Daily walks
- Gentle stretching
- Balance exercises
- Strength training two to three times per week
- Mobility exercises for hips, shoulders, and ankles
- Recreational activities that challenge coordination and movement

"The goal is not perfection. The goal is maintaining the freedom to do the things you enjoy for years to come."

At the end of the day, longevity isn't just about adding years to your life—it's about adding life to your years. By investing

in balance, mobility, and movement today, you're building a foundation for a healthier, stronger, and more active future.

Your future self will thank you for every step you take today.

Yours in Health,
Dr. Rosie Main, DC,

CCCN, CFMP
MainHealthSolutions.com





Avimor Academy

Officially Opens It's Doors to Local Families

There is something special happening in the heart of the Avimor community — Avimor Academy is officially open, and families are already settling into their new routines with happy children, caring teachers, and beautiful classrooms designed specifically for early learning.

Located near the entrance of Avimor at 18551 N McLeod Way, Avimor Academy was intentionally created to provide high-quality childcare and preschool opportunities closer to home for families in Avimor, Eagle, Boise, Garden City, Horseshoe Bend, and surrounding communities.

After years of planning and construction, the Academy is now serving children from infancy through elementary school age with a warm, relationship-centered approach focused on safety, communication, education, and community.

“Our first weeks have been incredibly exciting,” says owner Ms. Rachel. “Watching children build friendships, settle into routines, and genuinely love coming to school has been so rewarding for our team. We are deeply grateful for the support we’ve already received from local families.”



One of the Academy’s newest offerings launching this fall is its Half-Day Preschool Program for children ages 3–5. Designed for families seeking a more intentional preschool experience without needing full-day childcare, the program offers both morning and afternoon session options focused on kindergarten readiness, social development, hands-on learning, and structured routines in a small-group setting.

Because class sizes are intentionally limited, families interested in half-day preschool are encouraged to schedule tours soon before fall enrollment fills.

Avimor Academy is also actively enrolling infants and toddlers, with immediate openings currently available in select classrooms. Infant and toddler care programs focus heavily on relationship-building, communication

with families, sensory exploration, language development, and creating a calm, nurturing environment for young children during their earliest years.

For working families with elementary-aged children, Avimor Academy also offers before and after school care for students attending Idaho Novus Classical Academy and Seven Oaks Elementary. These programs are designed to support busy families with safe, dependable care close to home, including care options during many school breaks and no-school days.

Families touring Avimor Academy will quickly notice the intentional details throughout the campus. The brand-new facility includes secure keypad access, visitor screening technology, campus-wide camera monitoring, nature-inspired classrooms, secure playgrounds, and a parent communication app called Playground that allows families to receive updates, photos, messages, and daily activity reports directly from teachers.

Nutrition is also a major focus of the program. Tuition for full-day schedules includes breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack, with meals designed around whole foods, reduced preservatives, and child-friendly healthy options whenever possible.

As enrollment continues to grow heading into the fall season, the Avimor Academy team encourages interested families to begin the tour process early.

“We know that choosing childcare or preschool is one of the biggest decisions parents make,” says Ms. Rachel. “Our goal is to create a place where children feel safe, loved, excited to learn, and where parents truly feel supported as partners.”

Families interested in scheduling a tour or learning more about enrollment opportunities can visit

www.avimoracademy.com

or call

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RANCHER JOHN PETERSON'S ANNUAL SHEEP RELEASE IN AVIMOR





Summers in Avimor have a magical rhythm — early hazy mornings on the trails before the heat sets in, yards bursting with color gently swaying in the afternoon breeze, and that golden-hour light that falls over the foothills as the temperatures finally drop. In this issue we're talking all about helping your landscape keep pace: smart watering, a few late-summer pruning tips, three plants we love right now, and the tiny garden helpers doing more work than you'd think. Grab some iced tea and let's get into it.

Beating the Heat: Smart Summer Watering



If your lawn's looking a little tired by mid-afternoon, you're not imagining it — July and August in Idaho ask a lot of our landscapes. The good news is that a few small adjustments to how and when you water go a long way. Here's roughly what your landscape needs week to week:

JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
1" / WEEK	1.5" / WEEK	1.5" / WEEK	1" / WEEK

Timing matters more than people think. Watering between 4 and 8 a.m. gives your lawn and shrubs the best shot at soaking it in before the sun pulls moisture back out, and it keeps fungal disease at bay. Because so much of Avimor sits on clay-heavy soil, we're also big fans of the cycle-and-soak approach — run your sprinklers for 5 to 10 minutes, let that water settle in for half an hour or so, then run it again. It's a little more hands-on than one long cycle, but it keeps water from running off instead of soaking in. And it's worth walking your system once a month, too; a single clogged or broken head can quietly over- or under-water an entire zone without you noticing until the damage is done.

Trees and established shrubs actually prefer the opposite of a quick daily sprinkle. You'll want to give these guys a slow, deep soak once or twice a week to encourage roots to grow downward and outward, which helps the plant handle drought far better in the long run. And if any of your planter beds aren't on drip irrigation yet, this is a great season to do it — drip gets water straight to the roots, keeps foliage dry, and wastes a lot less water along the way. Which is very important here in the high desert.

 **WATER BETWEEN
4 A.M. – 8 A.M.**

A quick Firewise note: well-watered plants really are more fire-resistant, but more isn't always better. Soggy, oversaturated plants can develop disease and weak structure, so the goal is healthy and hydrated, not dripping.

Plant *Spotlight*:

THREE SUMMER STARS

Looking to add a little more color and life to your beds this summer? These three are proven performers in Avimor's climate and soils — and all three happen to be favorites of the bees and butterflies too.

Red Valerian *Centranthus ruber* 'Coccineus'

If you want color that just keeps coming, this is the one. Red valerian blooms almost continuously from late spring all the way through summer, with dense clusters of deep rosy-red flowers held above blue-green foliage. It's a tough, easygoing plant that genuinely prefers being left alone — give it full sun and well-drained, even poor or rocky soil, and it'll reward you with months of color and a steady stream of butterfly visitors. Water needs are moderate while it's settling in, but established plants handle dry spells with ease; just watch out for overwatering, since soggy soil can lead to crown rot. After the first big flush of blooms in midsummer, cut the stems back to encourage a second round and to keep it from self-seeding more than you'd like.



Rocky Mountain Penstemon *Penstemon strictus* 'WWG06'

This native beardtongue brings some of the most vivid blue-violet color you'll find in a summer garden. Tall, branching spikes of tubular flowers rise above neat, evergreen foliage from late spring into summer, drawing in bumblebees and hummingbirds in steady numbers. It's a true western native — easy to grow, long-lived, and very drought-tolerant once it's established, though it appreciates regular water through that first season while roots are getting settled. Plant it in full sun with well-drained soil, and after the main bloom period, snip off the spent flower spikes to encourage another round and keep it tidy. Avoid rich, heavily amended soil — penstemon actually prefers to grow a little lean.

Cheyenne Mock Orange *Philadelphus lewisii* 'Cheyenne'

As Idaho's state flower, Lewis' mock orange has a well-earned place in any local landscape, and the Cheyenne selection is one of the best forms available. In late spring, this billowy native shrub fills with pure white, citrus-scented blossoms that perfume the whole yard — it's worth planting somewhere you'll actually walk past and catch the fragrance. It's far tougher than its soft, romantic look suggests, tolerating poor or heavy clay soil and a wide range of sun exposure from full sun to partial shade. Established plants are quite drought-tolerant, though a little extra water during bloom season helps it put on its best show. Prune right after flowering, since next year's blooms form on this year's growth — wait too long and you'll cut away next spring's display.



PEARL'S STORY

Vanished Without a Trace

Part 1:

Gaze into the crystal ball of your mind's eye, and imagine Avimor, circa 2126. The convenience store, the brewery, the coffee shop, the community center, the pool, the houses, the schools and the parks are gone. Nothing left except green hills, rocks, the creek and the dusty, hot wind blowing through the sage brush. Vanished without a trace.

This fate awaited the town of Pearl which thrived just four miles northwest of where Avimor stands today. According to a USGS estimate, about 22,000 ounces of gold was mined in the hillside across Idaho-55 from Avimor, worth about \$90 million today.¹ Cresting between 1894 and 1908, an estimated high of 1,300 people lived in the hills between ID-55 and ID-16.

Saloons and taverns were never in short supply, but churches, charitable organizations and schools also dotted the hill above Willow Creek. As the noon dinner bell sounded, miners swarmed from mining shafts like ants from a hill. A school teacher rang the bell for the children to come to the schoolhouse. A parson opened the church on time on Sunday morning for services. Boarding houses, stables and shops sheltered teeming life among the tumbleweed and sagebrush. All the pieces and parts of life marched along there over the hills, just west of State Road.

An Unnamed Cowboy Sees Gold

Intrigue in Pearl paydirt began long before Colin McLeod set foot in America. It wasn't a miner at all who first glimpsed gold veins branching the granite gulch rising above Willow Creek. Like the early missionary De Smet, who mentioned a mysterious glistening in a mountain stream near Orofino, the first eyes to behold Pearl's treasures did little more than that. This lonely cowboy had halted his journey to sit by the creek and cool his heels over a lunch while his stock hydrated in the shade of a cottonwood nearby. Undated and undocumented, it is unclear who, when or where this white man first saw gold among the shadows of Willow Creek.² Still, legend has it that locals in the know whispered about gold in the hills northwest of Avimor for decades before the founding of Pearl.

Official Discoverer: Dry Creek Stage Station Master

One December day in 1867 the station master at Dry Creek turned up with two quartz rocks he found in Willow Creek with an alluring gold thread twisting among the ashen gray.³ Word traveled quickly, and Willow Creek's proximity to Boise and Horseshoe Bend drew enthusiastic interest. Other mining camps like those in the Boise Basin and Silver City were distant, and often dangerously elevated, which made access and supplies a challenge. By contrast, prospectors of every stripe had no trouble at all ascending the gentle hills leading to Spring Creek Summit, from Horseshoe Bend, Emmet, Star or Boise.

¹ Koschmann, A.H., Bergendahl, M., *Principal Gold-Producing Districts of the US: USGS Professional Paper 610*, 283, doi.org/10.3133/pp610.

² Harper, Janis E., "Pearl: Ghost Town of Gem County," Dr. Barnes, *Idaho and Pacific Northwest*, May 1, 1969.

³ *Idaho Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, Robert E. Ballard, Caxton Press (2023), page 255.



Pearl 1902 -- Gem County Museum

Over the next two decades, a number of unattached miners erected shacks and tents along Willow Creek. The 1880 Federal Census records twenty-nine people dwelling off of what is today Pearl Road, all male, including fifteen Chinese. At this time, the mining operations were small in scale, and involved only panning for gold. These men might hear of some gold and make their way over, ideally reaching the site before anyone else, bringing just what they could carry on their backs, intending to stay just for a season. This type of mining is known as placer mining and can be done by a single miner on his own with just a pick ax and a gold pan. These men might hear of some gold and make their way over, ideally reaching the site before anyone else, bringing just what they could carry on their backs. A ghost town is unlikely to form from solely placer mining activity, because serious investment of money and people isn't needed for it to work. Impromptu gatherings of a few dozen men panning for gold in the stream was all the "settlement" Pearl saw prior to the mid 1890's.

A Vagabond Goes High Brow

It was the summer of 1894. A down-on-his-luck railroad man named Dan Levan wandered into the hillside with his wife and children. He had just been laid off from his job at the short line for the mishandling of fares. He needed quick money. A camp of cowboys had assembled in a grove of cottonwoods, cheerfully greeting the family as it made its way into the valley.

"This may be your lucky day," cheered one of the cowboys. "This creek is rumored to be full of gold. You just missed the last crew of panners. They were ready to move on, but there may yet be gold in these waters!"

Levan felt sure he had received an answer to prayer. He wasted no time in building a quick shelter, settling his livestock, and getting into that creek. The cowboys even helped him set up for the summer and bid his family farewell before they rode off to the north for greener pastures for their own herds.

"Good luck!" One called as they departed, but Levan didn't answer; he was hunched over the creek, eyes riveted on the gravel creek bed, busily panning for his second chance at a respectable livelihood.

The following season the same cowboys passed by the crossing of Willow Creek, and found something surprising;

POSTED: KEEP OUT! D. LEVAN MINING DISTRICT.

Levan, the recently unemployed and homeless railroad worker had

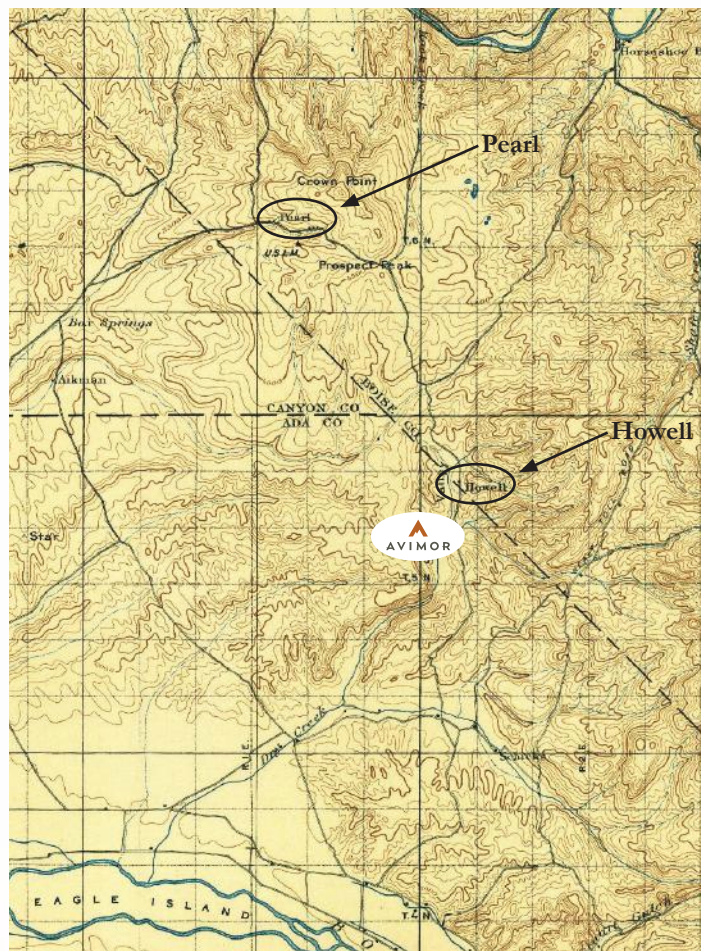
gone highbrow as one contemporary put it. At this time Levan and his wife were making about \$5 per day just panning for gold in Willow Creek, about \$200 when adjusted for inflation.

Interestingly, a fence and a no-trespassing sign around the “D. Levan mining district” spurred renewed interest in Pearl. Moreover, the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act in 1893 caused prices of silver to drop making silver mining unprofitable.⁴ With silver prices plummeting that year, many miners turned their attention to gold. The fence and sign, together with the silver crash, attracted prospectors from the east with power and means of which poor Levan could only dream. These bigwigs sought to launch large scale lode mining, requiring huge work crews, dynamite, stamp mills and the infrastructure and equipment to support it.

One of the cowboys who returned in late Spring of 1895 was especially blindsided by Levan’s show of strength in posting the sign. He himself owned a claim on Willow Creek. He filed a lawsuit to eject Levan from his property.

Levan had made enough money that winter to hire excellent attorneys, and his opponent, with the help of deep-pocket investors who were equally interested in booting Levan and his family off Willow Creek, was able to hire decent counsel himself. In those days as now, all legal business conducted in Boise County had to be settled in Idaho City, the county seat. The court date was set, and Levan and his team of attorneys, as well as some supporters and witnesses, left bright and early to make the lengthy, dangerous and uncomfortable pack mule ride into the mountains.

⁴ *Idaho Ghost Towns*, Ballard, *id.*



The same day, Levan’s opposition, headed by a man named Pullman, made its way to Idaho City, to prosecute the case. Pullman’s team, experienced mining attorneys, sent a youth ahead of the entourage to reserve meals for the party of fifteen, who were ready for supper after the arduous journey. Levan’s group arrived at this sole half-way house only to be told Pullman’s group had reserved dinner and no food was left for Levan’s party. Worse still, Pullman’s messenger had thought to reserve rooms for the night for his own party, leaving no accommodations for the Levan party.

The defendants were ready to fight and win the next morning in court. After a sleepless night camping in Idaho City, the Levan side acquitted itself from the claims of Pullman, arguing that Pullman hadn’t adequately worked his mining claim to the point required by the law to maintain his title. Fierce combatants testified on both sides, and the judge issued a continuance, meaning the decision would be announced the next day.

Once the judge had vacated the chamber, the bailiff suggested that all of the old boys head downstairs for a drink at the bar, which was customary in those days after a day at court. Both groups quickly heeded the invitation, tempers still running high after the sleepless night and tense day of testimony. One character from the Pullman party sauntered up to a Levan man, and threatened to take him out back and mop up the dust with him. The Levan supporter shrank in fear, sure the fellow could easily mop the dust with him, and not wanting to be party to such an undertaking.⁵

The next morning both parties assembled to hear the judge’s decision: he had decided to dismiss the case against Levan. Ironically, this victory marked the end of Levan’s lucky streak: he was forced to sell his claim to pay his attorney’s fees. Shortly after winning his case against the Pullman gang, Dan Levan, the unwitting “founder” of the town of Pearl, vacated the valley for good.

Part 2: Willow Creek Bonanza and the Rise of Gem County’s Ghost Town coming Fall 2026.

The author is grateful to our neighbor Robert Ballard, a local writer and Idaho ghost town enthusiast, for his assistance in researching this article. Mr. Ballard’s own book, *Idaho Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*, is available through Caxton Press.

⁵ Cox, Anderson. “Strategy Fails to Win Case for Basin Miner,” *Idaho Statesman*, March 18, 1934. This fascinating account of the claim dispute which plays a major role in the founding of Pearl was written by the fellow who didn’t care to be mopped with, written about three decades after the incident.





WHERE NEIGHBORS BECOME FRIENDS

Since launching our soft opening in May, we've had the privilege of meeting hundreds of neighbors and becoming a small part of their weekly routines.

We've learned which kids make a beeline for their "pink drink" and the play area before their parents have even fully walked through the door. We've learned that retirees make some of our favorite customers because, as more than one has told us, "We've already done all our work. We shouldn't have cook anymore either."

That makes us laugh, and honestly, we have to agree.

One of the coolest parts of opening Gather has been watching familiar faces become regulars and getting to know their families.

We meet someone one night, and they're back a few days later with their spouse. The following week they're introducing us to visiting family members. Before long, we're greeting their children by name and hearing about birthdays, vacations, and summer plans. Many of the faces we met during our first weeks have since become familiar friends. We see them while we're out walking, run into them around town, and catch up when they stop by for dinner.

Some nights it feels less like a brewery and more like a neighborhood block party, and we absolutely love it. Parents are catching up with each other while kids play on the wood logs. Neighbors introduce neighbors. Families bring visiting friends and relatives when they're in town. We've even watched complete strangers pull tables together and spend the evening talking.

One thing we definitely didn't have on our Gather bingo card was the number of people who have thanked us

for not having TVs! More than once, we've heard someone say, "It's nice to be somewhere people are actually talking to each other. Just look around!" And honestly, they're right.

If there's one thing we're most proud of so far, it's the atmosphere.

Our team has worked incredibly hard to create a place that feels welcoming, relaxed, and comfortable. A place where people aren't rushed out the door. A place where kids are welcome. A place where you can stop in for a beer and end up staying for dinner because you ran into three people you know.

Part of a soft opening is to give ourselves time to iron out some kinks and see what areas need to be improved. We've been hiring, training, expanding hours, adding menu items, and making adjustments almost daily. Every week we sit down and talk about feedback, reviews, and ways we can continue improving as we prepare for our grand opening.

Thankfully, this community has been incredibly gracious with us along the way.

You've been patient as we've found our rhythm. You've offered thoughtful feedback. You've celebrated our wins and extended grace when things weren't perfect. That's not something every new business experiences, and we don't take it for granted.

Because of your support, we've been able to continue growing. We're now open Wednesday through Sunday beginning at 11 a.m., and we're continuing to expand our team, menu, and offerings.

This July, we're excited to introduce a few new ways for neighbors to gather. Run Club meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m., followed by Trivia Night from 6-8 p.m. We'll also be welcoming local musicians for live music on Friday evenings from 5-8 p.m.

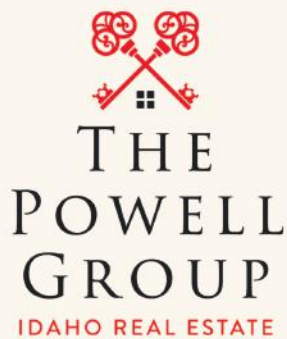
And on July 18, we're excited to celebrate our Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting, live music, and lots of giveaways!

Thank you, Avimor, for welcoming us so warmly. We can't wait to see what the next few years bring.

Five years from now, if someone asks what we hope Gather becomes, the answer is pretty simple:

"The place where neighbors become friends."





SUMMER IN AVIMOR IS HERE

Are You Thinking About Your Next Move?

As we head into Summer, we want to take a moment to say "thank you" to all of you amazing friends and clients in Avimor. The trust you've placed in us – whether buying, selling, or simply asking questions, means everything to us.

Let's connect to see how we can help you with your real estate needs!

real LUXURY

Stop by one of our upcoming Open Houses or meet us at Gather; we'd love to catch up and share what we're seeing in the current real estate market.

WHAT WE BRING TO EVERY LISTING:



Cinematic Video & Drone
Aerial and walkthrough footage that stops scrollers



Professional Photography
Lighting and composition that elevates every room



Interactive 3D Tours
Let buyers explore before they ever step inside



Out-of-State Buyer Outreach
Targeted exposure to buyers actively relocating to Idaho



Social Media Marketing
Area-focused campaigns reaching both local and national audiences



Concierge Communication
You are never left wondering; we keep you informed at every step.

THIS SEASON, TIMING MATTERS

As your trusted team in Avimor, we have our finger on the pulse for you! More buyers are actively looking. More homes are coming to market. Demand in Avimor remains strong for homes that are well-prepared and strategically priced.

If you've been even slightly thinking about selling, this is the season where strategy makes all the difference. Let's connect to help you move on with your life!



Kirsten & Rick

Call/Text: 208.757.7667

sold@powellgroupidaho.com





Sheep in the Foothills:

A Celebration of Agriculture & Community



JUNE 20TH
2026

LIVE FROM THE BARN

5:00PM
TIL 10:00PM

AARON GOLAY
& THE ORIGINAL SIN
JAY WILLIAM MILLER
ANDY CROSEY & COREY JAMES CRUEE

FREE ALL AGES EVENT
FOOD & DRINK VENDORS:
BIG BEANTZ TACOS • BIG JUD'S BURGERS
GYRO SHACK • GATHER BREWING CO.
SIP SISTERS MOBILE BAR • CJ'S COOKOUT

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Introducing the BIGHORN



A new era of living



This Is What You Moved to Idaho For

Featured in the 2026 Spring Parade of Homes, this mountain-modern floor plan was designed to impress. At 3,158 sq. ft., the **Big Horn** offers 4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, two ensuites, and a 3-car garage. The result is a home that feels as intentional as the landscape surrounding it. Whether you're upsizing, relocating, or simply ready for something extraordinary, this is the floor plan worth a closer look.

With the warmer summer weather finally here, there's no better time to get outside. If you haven't yet checked out the Avimor Trail System, it's currently in peak condition for both morning hikes and evening mountain bike rides. After your outdoor excursion, head down to **Gather** for a hand-tossed pizza, a cold craft brew and some live music.

Stop into the sales office to learn more! 208-939-5360 sales@avimor.com



AVIMOR HELPING HANDS: A COMMUNITY THAT SHOWS UP FOR EACH OTHER

What if the help you needed was just a neighbor away?

A neighborhood becomes a community the moment people start paying attention to the needs of those around them. That spirit is at the heart of a brand-new initiative launching right here in Avimor: **Avimor Helping Hands**, a neighbor-to-neighbor program designed to connect residents who need a little support with local volunteers who are ready and willing to provide it.

Life gets complicated. A recovering knee surgery makes mowing the lawn impossible. A diagnosis means driving to appointments becomes a daily stress. An aging parent living alone just needs someone to sit with over a cup of coffee. These are needs that don't require a professional – they require a neighbor. Avimor Helping Hands makes that connection official, easy, and reliable.

HOW IT WORKS

Through the Avimor community app, residents can submit a simple form describing their need. Once submitted, the request is routed to a volunteer coordinator who reviews it and connects the right volunteer based on their skills and availability. No lengthy process, no red tape – just practical, timely help from someone who lives right here in the community.

The range of services the program covers is broad by design, because real life doesn't fit neatly into one category. Home and yard support addresses some of the most common day-to-day needs: lawn mowing, light home repairs, snow shoveling, leaf raking, pressure washing, and even getting trash bins to and from the curb. Transportation assistance – rides to medical appointments, pharmacy pickups, grocery runs, and general errands – can make an enormous difference for residents who are temporarily or permanently without a reliable way to get around.

For those navigating a difficult stretch – recovering from surgery, managing an illness, or adjusting to life with a new baby – volunteers can deliver home-cooked meals, help with grocery shopping, or simply drop off a care package. Pet owners can request dog walking, pet sitting, or a ride to the vet. Families may find help with short-term babysitting or school pickup and drop-off.

The program also addresses two needs that often go unmet: companionship and technology. Friendly check-ins, visits, and accompaniment to community events can make a meaningful difference for

residents who are isolated or going through a tough time. And for those who find modern technology frustrating, volunteers with tech skills can help set up devices, troubleshoot smartphones and tablets, or walk someone through an unfamiliar app. Even light skilled trades are part of the mix – basic handyman tasks that don't require professional licensing. The program's general rule is straightforward: if it's something a capable, willing neighbor can reasonably handle, it belongs here.

GETING INVOLVED

On the volunteer side, signing up is equally straightforward. Residents choose the types of help they're comfortable offering and set their own availability. There are no minimum hour requirements or long-term commitments. When a need comes in, the volunteer coordinator reviews the request and reaches out to the right person based on their skills and schedule. The program is designed to fit into real life, making it possible for anyone to contribute in a way that works for them.

Avimor has always been more than a place to live. It's a place where community is intentional – where the trails, the events, and the gatherings are designed to bring people together. Avimor Helping Hands is the next natural chapter in that story.

**TO REQUEST HELP OR VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME,
VISIT THE AVIMOR APP AND FILL OUT THE FORM
— IT TAKES JUST A FEW MINUTES.**

AVIMOR FIRE PLAN

The Avimor Fire Plan provides guidelines for homeowners and steps to be taken by the homeowner's association (HOA) to mitigate or reduce the potential risk of wildfire and to create and maintain survivable/ defensible space around the home.

SURVIVABLE/ DEFENSIBLE SPACE

DEFINITION:

It is the buffer zone created between your property and the surrounding wildland area, where vegetation and combustible materials are managed to reduce fire hazards.

PURPOSE:

This space slows or stops the spread of wildfires and protects your home from embers, flames, or heat.

FIREFIGHTER SAFETY:

Adequate defensible space ensures the safety of firefighters defending your home during a wildfire event.

MANAGEMENT:

Treating, clearing, or reducing vegetation and debris to minimize fire risks.



DEFENSIBLE SPACE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



Give your home an increased chance of surviving a wildfire, even if firefighters cannot reach your home.

THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST WILL BE USED TO DETERMINE IF THE HOME SITE AND ADJACENT OPEN SPACE IS MEETING REQUIREMENTS IDENTIFIED BY THE AVIMOR FIRE PLAN, OR IF ADDITIONAL WORK OR MAINTENANCE IS NECESSARY:

- Zones 1 and 2 will be maintained by the homeowner at a minimum 30-feet or to the property boundary.
- There are no contiguous fuel sources that connect Zone 2 with the structure.
- There are no ladder fuels that connect Zone 2 to the structure.
- Trees and shrubs are properly thinned and pruned within defensible space. Slash from the thinning is disposed of off-site, except for limited mulching.
- Roof and gutters are to be clear of debris in the spring and checked regularly throughout the fire season.
- There should be no branches overhanging the roof or chimney (10 feet of separation with the structure).
- Grass is mowed to a maximum height of 4 inches. Short-stature ornamental bunch grass must be fire-wise recommended and limited to Zone 2 or 3. Some grass may be allowed in Zone 1, but they need to be away from windows and trimmed annually.
- An outdoor water supply is available, complete with a hose and nozzle that can reach all parts of the structure.
- Road signs and access requirements are met, see DCPUD design guidelines, and house numbers are posted and easily visible.
- Trash and debris accumulations will be taken off site, and restricted from storage on site, except for limited mulching.
- Non-combustible materials, such as stone or irrigated lawn, shall be used to create a five-foot buffer around the base of the foundation. Landscaping within this area will be restricted to widely spaced foundation plantings of low growing grasses, forbs, or shrubs that have low ignition thresholds.
- Decks, benches, and outdoor storage units shall be constructed of non-combustible materials, such as fire-rated composite products.
- Non-combustible materials, such as decorative rock, gravel, irrigated lawn, and steppingstone pathways shall be used to break up the continuity of the vegetation and fuels. This can modify fire behavior and slow the spread of fire across property.

AWW, GO CLIMB A HILL



Years ago, my daughter went to Peru to attend a friend's wedding. During that trip she had an opportunity to climb to Machu Picchu, the 15th-century Inca citadel in the mountains of southern Peru. Things got in the way, and she wasn't able to make the climb. However, the desire never left her bucket list. So, when I saw that ZERO Prostate Cancer (ZERO serves as the nation's leading prostate cancer organization) was offering a chance to trek to the site AND raise awareness of prostate cancer, I thought she might be interested. I sent her a text, "Hey, there's an opportunity to go to Machu Picchu!" That's what started this. A chance to achieve two goals at once: raise awareness of prostate cancer AND visit the elusive Machu Picchu citadel. It has turned into so much more.



After Cynthia accepted the challenge of a few days and a relatively easy trek to Machu Picchu, ZERO added the Ausangate Trek which made the trek nearly 40 miles with climbs to elevations over 17,000 feet, sleeping in tents along the way. Cynthia says, **"It's been 17yrs since my dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer. We take it 1 step at a time & ... it's been long, twisted,**

confusing, overwhelming, exhausting and at times feeling it's headed in the wrong direction. All along the way we have been together ... always picking each other up & learning skills needed to keep on hiking. ... This challenge is beyond anything I've been called to do. ... it has aligned with a greater sense of purpose."



After an auto accident when she was 16 years old that broke her back, this trek was no small feat. She trained for months with Brandon Peters, a trainer here in Avimor, and worked on physical therapy with Dr. Rosie Gallegos-Main, a chiropractor living here in Avimor. There were therapeutic massages from Jamie Testin, a massage therapist here in Avimor. And of course, walking mile after mile of the fantastic Avimor trails and the nearby area. To date she has raised over \$11,000.

Cynthia Wilson has also arranged the Avimor Prostate Cancer Walk for 5 years in a row. Number six is coming up this September 19th. Mark your calendars and plan to participate. If you would consider being a vendor, sponsor, or



volunteer please contact Cynthia by email at Unique.Imaging@yahoo.com. Her efforts are to raise awareness that prostate cancer is a BIG deal. Men need to be aware. As common among men as breast cancer is among women, it is the most diagnosed cancer in men, after skin cancer. It is also the most common cause of cancer deaths in men, after lung cancer. However, when diagnosed early, it is nearly 100% survivable! Awareness leads to early diagnosis, and early diagnosis leads to survival.

It's ironic that when I walked these foothill trails, my daughter couldn't. Now that my prostate cancer has progressed and limits my ability to walk (temporarily I hope), she is walking them for me - and for everyone else that is affected by prostate cancer. Could a father be more proud?



BY DARRELL WILSON



SUMMER 2026 ACTIVITIES



AVIMOR™

COMMUNITY CENTER



WEEKLY CLASSES & GROUPS



MONDAY

Water Aerobics 7:00-7:45A
Pati · 208-713-3581 · pati.stewart@yahoo.com

Water Aerobics 8:00-8:45A
Sharil · 208-921-9715 · stbd143@outlook.com

Tai Chi w/ Gloria 9:00-9:45A
707-628-7712

Women's Only Karate 10:00A
Sensei Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

Mah Jongg (1st & 3rd Mondays) 1:00P
Sylvia · 801-244-1067

Food Truck Monday @ the Brewery 4:30-6:30P

TUESDAY

Lap Swim 5:00-9:00A
Lane marker available at front desk

Knitting Group w/ Vickie 1:00-3:00P
760-822-7239 · vickiedandridge@yahoo.com

Kids Karate (Ages 8-12) 5:00P
Sensei Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

Adult/Teen Karate 6:00P
Sensei Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

WEDNESDAY

Water Aerobics 7:00-7:45A
Pati · 208-713-3581 · pati.stewart@yahoo.com

Water Aerobics 8:00-8:45A
Sharil · 208-921-9715 · stbd143@outlook.com

Tai Chi 9:00-9:45A

Women's Only Karate 10:00A
Sensei Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

Book Club (2nd Wednesday) 12:00-2:00P
Maureen Rose · marose@att.net

Senior Coffee and Cribbage 1:30P
Kristin Goodwin · 208-861-9558

Bunco (2nd Wednesday, \$5 to play) 7:00P
Robin Ballard · 909-816-7185 · rballard5@earthlink.net

THURSDAY

Lap Swim 5:00-9:00A
Lane marker available at front desk

Stamping w/ Blythe (1st & 3rd Thurs) 1:00-3:00P
209-352-1059 · blythe@stampingwithblythe.com

Hand & Foot Canasta (2nd Thurs) 2:00-4:00P
Jane Ezratty · 619-246-7152 · jane@ezratty.net

Kids Karate (Ages 8-12) 5:00P
Sensei Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

Adult/Teen Karate 6:00P
Sensei Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

FRIDAY

Water Aerobics 7:00-7:45A
Pati · 208-713-3581 · pati.stewart@yahoo.com

Water Aerobics 8:00-8:45A
Sharil · 208-921-9715 · stbd143@outlook.com

Tai Chi w/ Gloria 9:30-10:15A
707-628-7712

Creative Movement (18mo-6yrs) 10:45-11:15A
Elizabeth Barreto · 541-805-5775

SATURDAY

Lap Swim 5:00-9:00A
Lane marker available at front desk

EVENTS & RESERVATIONS

To reserve space, please complete the form at www.avimor.com/community-center and return it for approval. (Verbal reservations are not accepted) Fees and deposits are due once approved. For questions, call 208-917-8454.

Check the current class schedule at the Avimor Community Center. Some activities may include a fee—contact the listed instructor for details. For more info about these and other Avimor Art of Living activities, visit the Avimor App.

ONGOING KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAMS *Contact for days and times*

Kids Swimming Lessons (Fall & Winter)
Bob Swim · bobswimco.com
info@bobswimco.com

Kids Dance Classes
StudioMove · studiomoveboise.com
studiomoveboise@gmail.com

Yamashita Martial Arts
(Kids & Adults)
Kelly Tovey · 951-285-8974

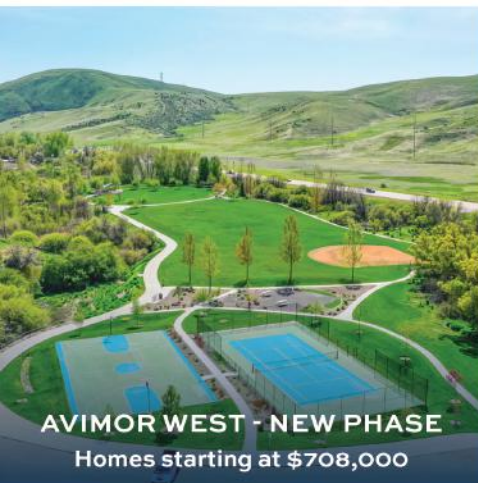
LIVE LIFE OUT LOUD



Adventure starts at Avimor

Surrounded by scenic foothills, winding trails and thoughtfully designed neighborhood hamlets, Avimor offers a lifestyle centered around connection, outdoor recreation and everyday comfort. As one of Eagle's most highly amenitized master planned communities, residents enjoy access to pools, fitness amenities, parks, gathering spaces and miles of open space to explore.

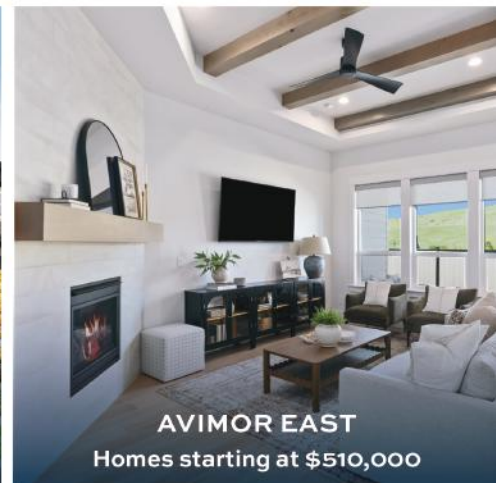
ELEVATED DESIGN • FUNCTIONAL LIVING • QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP



AVIMOR WEST - NEW PHASE
Homes starting at \$708,000



AVIMOR TOWN CENTER
Homes starting at \$499,000



AVIMOR EAST
Homes starting at \$510,000

For more than 15 years, Tresidio Homes has been creating homes for Boise area residents with a commitment to more included features, elevated finishes and thoughtful details designed to deliver lasting comfort and everyday livability.

VISIT OUR MODEL HOME
6543 S Evie Way

Sunday–Friday: 12–5 PM
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**TOUR YOUR ON
YOUR TIME**
7 days a week from
8 am until 8 pm



Speak with an online concierge
today 208.917.7500
[Tresidio.com](https://www.Tresidio.com)

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS



Ada



Apollo



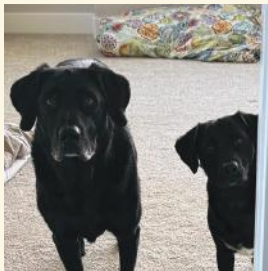
Bella



Belle



Bindi



Blue & Jack



Booker



Bridget



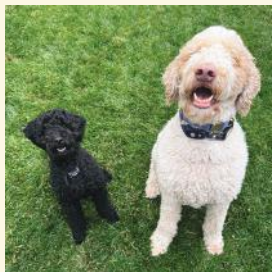
Buddy



Chief



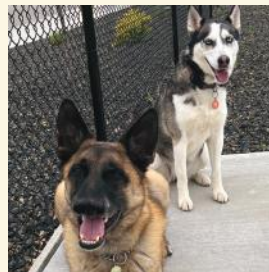
Cosmo & Bayou



Cubby & Gary



Evie



Fish & Loba



Fred



Haley



Jaco & Sneffles



Jax



Kobe & Titan



Koda & Ruby



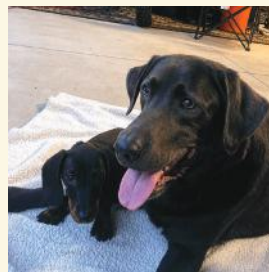
Lily



Luna



Moxie



Murphy & Smokey



Nala



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Nola Mae



Nya



Olive



Opal



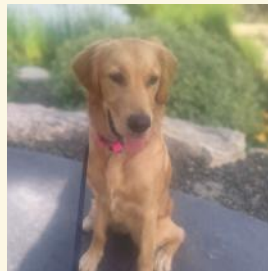
Riggins & Filson



Riley



Roger



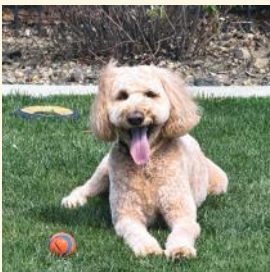
Rosie



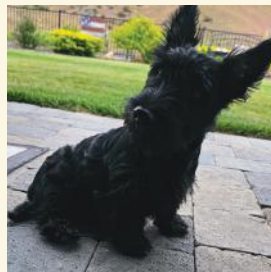
Ruby



Scout



Scout



Skye Isla



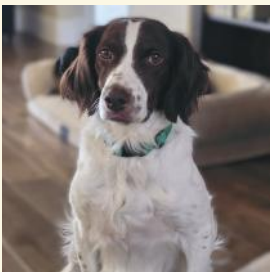
Tessa



Titan



Tucker & Bella



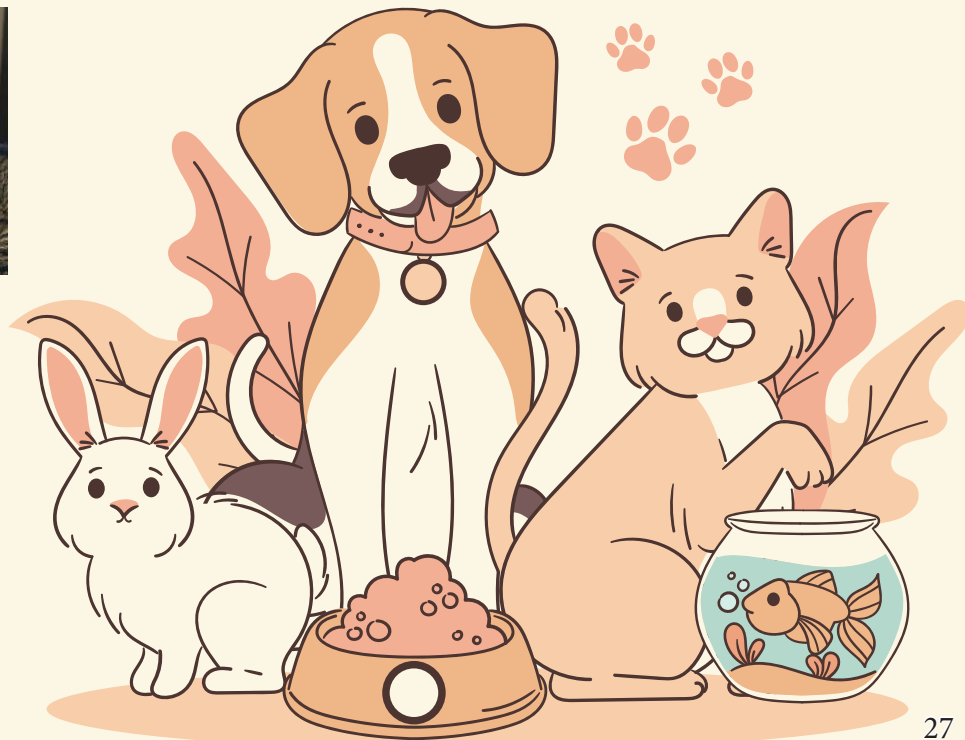
Tucker



Zoe

Thank you to all of our dog and cat owners who submitted photos of their beloved pets.

If you haven't sent yours yet, please send them to artofliving@avimor.com for future issues.



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The Memory Bear Maker Comes to Avimor

How one neighbor is turning grief into something you can hold

Imagine holding a teddy bear for the first time and recognizing the fabric – the worn flannel your father wore every Saturday morning, the soft cotton of your grandmother’s favorite blouse. The stitching is careful and new, but the smell, the pattern, the thread-bare elbows, those belong to someone you love and miss. That small bear holds more than stuffing. It holds a story. And now, the woman who makes them lives right here in Avimor.

Michelle Sebern spent decades in nursing, rising through leadership roles and traveling the country as a travel nurse before retiring during the pandemic. Nursing was never just a job for Michelle, it was showing up for people at their most vulnerable times. When she discovered memory bears, a craft that blended her love of fiber arts with her commitment to community, it felt like a natural continuation of the work she had always done.

A memory bear is a handmade teddy bear sewn entirely from a deceased loved one’s clothing. She works with whatever clothing a person brings -- T-shirts, sweaters, flannels, dress shirts -- and adds small personal touches, like a heart stitched onto the bear’s foot in the loved one’s favorite color. Michelle says, “grief can feel overwhelming, but holding a memory bear made from a loved one’s clothing brings that loss into a form we can hold and touch.” She loves the stories in the clothes themselves: paint spatters from a weekend project, an elbow worn thin from years of leaning on a desk, a pattern chosen so many times it became a signature. And she has one firm request for every person who brings her fabric: don’t wash it. “You don’t want to pick the clean fabric,” she says. “You want the fabric with the most memories intact.” Each bear takes about six hours to make, usually spread over three days. They sit 12 inches tall, and their arms and legs are fully jointed so they can move.

Michelle is intentional about not charging for the memory bears. “There’s a lot of expectations that come with money,” she explains. “There’s a lot of people that might not take the time to engage in getting a memory bear made for themselves during their grieving process if it costs money.” She funds her materials through community donations made through Venmo and is grateful for the support. I retired from nursing with intention,” she says. “I was driven by the almighty dollar and by my ego in nursing. When you decide to stop that, it’s nice to do things you want to do with intention.”

Now, settled in Avimor after moving from Sandpoint, Idaho where she made over 100 bears. Michelle wants to do what she came here to do-- make bears for her neighbors. If you have a cherished piece of clothing tucked away in a drawer or hanging in a closet you don’t want to get rid of, she would love to turn it into something you can hold close. Avimor is exactly the kind of place where this project can flourish: a neighborhood where people show up for each other, where a knock on the door might bring a casserole or a conversation or a quiet gift that says, **I see you. I’m here.**



Connect with Michelle

Website: thememorybearmaker.com

Facebook: Search “The Memory Bear Maker”

Email: thememorybearmaker@gmail.com

Michelle was recently featured on the [End of Life University Podcast](#) (Episode 498), available wherever you listen to podcasts.



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Aesthetics by Alli	Alli Godfrey	208-629-4147	
Aiden's Handyman Business	Aiden Niehaus	214-973-3660	
Amy Gatherum Allstate Agency	Sharon Summers	208-202-3012	sharonsummers@allstate.com
Art By Davina Parypa	Davina Parypa	208-991-6114	davinaparypastudio@gmail.com
Assistance By Sadie	Sadie Bonnette	208-371-3821	
Authentic Handyman	Don Cook	208-713-9463	doncook1@protonmail.com
Avimor Chiropractic & Optimal Health	Dr. Rosie Main, DC, CFMP	208-859-6170	rjmaindc@yahoo.com
Avimor Pet Care & Dog Boarding	Julie Petrie	208-801-3325	idahodianjules@gmail.com
Boise Bike Academy	Carter Edmiston	208-718-1242	info@boisebikeacademy.com
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Cabi	Jodie Clark	951-757-2123	jodie@uniquesolutions.us
Calhoun Tractor Services	Brett Calhoun	208-781-2213	calhountractorservices@gmail.com
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Coldwell Banker Tomlinson	Tim Johnson	208-484-1763	tjohnson@cbboise.com
Crowfoot Range, Inc.	Bill Godfrey		admin@crowfootrangeinc.com
Cruise Planners	Verena Bailey	208-999-6699	verena.bailey@cruiseplanners.com
Crystalline Window Cleaning LLC	Trevor Jue	(986) 200-2914	trevorjue711@gmail.com
Culinary Delights With Gwen	Gwen Drake	208-912-5070	culinarydelightswithgwen@gmail.com
Custom Made By Us	Nathan & Jodie Clark	986-213-4900 ext. 704	nate@custommadebyus.com
Dailey Insurance Exchange & Dailey Real Estate	Joseph & Luisa Dailey		joseph@daileyinsuranceandrealstate.com
Delux LED	Jason Weaver	805-358-0196	jweaver@deluxleds.com
Donna's Home Made Dog Food	Donna Calderon	951-973-2133	sewtosuit@aol.com
Dr. Lindsey Friedman LAC DACM	Dr. Lindsey Friedman	760-505-7848	friedman.acu@gmail.com
Dwell Inspect Idaho	Kevin Robins	208-391-2131	info@dwelinspectidaho.com
Essential Bodywear	Lisa Atkinson	208-400-0028	
Fabrications by Vickie	Vickie Dandridge	760-822-7239	vickiedandridge@yahoo.com
Finance: Classy	John Rogacki		jrogacki@gmail.com
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GDD Photography	Gwen Drake	208-912-5070	gddphotography@gmail.com
GRC Consulting	Greg Ritter	951-704-0696	sharksdef@hotmail.com
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HD Home Solutions	Brian Halford	208-969-9241	brian@satellitehomesolutions.com
HK Investigations	Sharon Kerbow & Brenda Harrington	208-939-0464	blharrington1@gmail.com
Home Body Organization & Design	Desiree Bernesque	208-906-7090	homebodyorganizationanddesign@gmail.com

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Homes of Idaho	Ron Vidergar	913-515-7786	agentronvidergar@gmail.com
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Phoenix Rising Fitness (Life Coach)	Wendy Myers	971-707-0910	Contact@phoenixrising.fitness
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Summer Pruning: *What to Cut, What to Leave Alone*

Pruning in the middle of summer makes a lot of homeowners nervous — what if you cut at the wrong time and lose next year's blooms? It's always best to know what you have in your yard and what you're pruning, but the truth is for light pruning, a few simple rules will keep you on track.



WHAT TO CUT

Go ahead and deadhead your flowering perennials — coneflower, yarrow, salvia, and the like all respond well to having spent blooms removed, and it keeps them flowering longer. If your lilacs, forsythia, or spirea have already finished blooming for the year, now's a good window to lightly shape them; just keep the cuts light so you don't sacrifice next year's bud set.

Dead, damaged, or diseased wood is the one thing you shouldn't wait on — it's both a fire hazard and an open door for pests, so remove it the moment you spot it. And if your trees have low branches creeping toward the ground, raising that canopy is one of the simplest, most effective Firewise steps you can take this season.

WHAT TO LEAVE ALONE

On the flip side, a few things are better left alone for now. Late-summer bloomers like roses of Sharon and butterfly bush are actively setting this year's flowers, so heavy pruning now means giving those blooms up.

Evergreens like spruce and pine are best left untouched during the hottest weeks of July and August, since the stress of pruning combined with extreme heat can actually damage or kill branches.

And if you've planted anything new this year, hold off on significant pruning altogether — let those roots get established first.



Keep sight lines clear and clean up debris under shrubs as you go through the season. Defensible space isn't a once-a-year chore — it's something that pays off when you keep at it all summer long.

THE GOOD GUYS IN YOUR GARDEN

Not every bug you spot in the garden is a problem — in fact, most of what you'll see this summer is quietly working in your favor. Bees, both native and honeybee, are doing the heavy lifting on pollination, and interestingly, native species like mason bees and bumblebees are often even more efficient at it than honeybees. If you see ladybugs on your roses or shrubs, leave them right where they are — a single ladybug can eat hundreds of aphids in a day, making it some of the best pest control you'll ever get for free.

Lacewing larvae do similar work on aphids and whiteflies, and the adults will stick around if you keep flowers blooming nearby. Underground, ground beetles patrol at night for slugs and grubs, and tiny parasitic wasps — completely harmless to people — keep caterpillar and aphid populations in check, especially if you've got small-bloom flowers like yarrow around to attract them.



Fun fact: all three of this issue's plant picks — Red Valerian, Rocky Mountain Penstemon, and Cheyenne Mock Orange — are also some of the best plants in Avimor for supporting these very garden allies. Plant for beauty, and the pollinators come along for free.

Supporting these garden allies doesn't take much. Lean toward native plants like coneflower, yarrow, and penstemon, which offer the richest nectar and pollen. Skip broad-spectrum pesticides where you can, since they don't distinguish between the pests and the helpers — if you're dealing with a real infestation, it's worth calling in a professional for a more targeted approach instead. Leaving a small patch of bare or lightly mulched soil gives ground-nesting native bees a place to settle in, and a shallow dish of water with a few pebbles for landing spots is a simple way to give thirsty pollinators a break on a hot day.

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT YOUR LANDSCAPE THIS SUMMER?
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