



# Gem State News

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## Choose from the Following List and Brighten Someone's Day! "Random Acts of Kindness"

1. Spend time with your grandparents
2. Bake cookies for the elderly
3. Serve at a homeless shelter
4. Donate your old clothes to the Salvation Army
5. Send a letter to a good friend instead of a text
6. Pick up litter at the park
7. Let someone go in front of you in line
8. Give a stranger a compliment
9. Make dinner for a family in need
10. Insert coins into someone's parking meter
11. Buy flowers to hand out on the street
12. Leave letters of encouragement on people's cars
13. Buy a movie ticket for the person behind you
14. Pay for someone's meal at a restaurant
15. Write letters to soldiers
16. Prepare a meal for your family
17. Participate in a fundraiser
18. Use your allowance to donate to a charity
19. Hold open the doors for people
20. Wash someone's car

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### Upcoming Events:

- Children's DD Enhancement Project begins July 1st
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RANDOM ACTS OF  
**KINDNESS**

## Our Kids Are Going on Safari this Summer

A wild Safari is on the horizon! Get ready to hear the lions roar or the cheetah sprint past the African grasslands! Our summer program is going to be the best yet. It will be jungle-themed and the children will learn about the different jungle animals and their habitats. While learning about the animals, children will continue to work on their individual goals and daily living skills. Kids will learn and practice their skills through games, crafts, and other wild activities that are planned. So, pack your bags and don't forget your binoculars because it is going to be a wild ride. The summer safari train awaits!

### Fun Safari Facts:

- Giraffes have blue tongues and are 50cm long. They are this color because the melanin provides extra UV protection so that they will not get sunburnt.
- Ostriches can run over 45 miles per hour. However, the fastest ostriches can run up to 60mph in short bursts.
- Lions sleep for 20 hours a day. Also their roar can be heard up to 5 miles away.
- Elephants use their ears to keep themselves cool on a hot day. It's like having a fan on both sides of your head.
- Leopards don't roar. They bark and snarl. When they are happy they purr like house cats do.



By Michael Walker

# SUMMER Crossword

# summer

Complete the crossword and find the secret message.

The secret message is \_\_\_\_\_



## GSDC's Incredible Miss Amazing Contestants

### Check Out What Our Miss Amazing Women Thought About the pageant.

Brenda really enjoys the social aspect of the Miss Amazing Pageant. She has many other friends who participate in or attend the event every year. Brenda was most excited about the talent portion of the evening, where she performed "Back Streets Back" a hit from the 90's boy band Back Street Boys.

Brenda performed well, and received a heartwarming applause. Brenda said, "It's my favorite song to sing and the people clapping for me, made me really happy!" At the end of the event Brenda was awarded the people choice award for her charm and wonderfully entertaining performance.



By Lori Jo Poole



We all got trophy's and crown's at Miss Amazing even the little girls that were there.

I plan on going next year again.

By Suzanne Allen

I have participated in Miss Amazing pageant 3 times. Once I won runner-up. When you participate in Miss Amazing, everyone is a winner! Everyone gets a trophy and a crown! It's really hard to win Queen. But that doesn't matter, its all about fun! Don't forget about the talent show! The talent show is your chance to shine! For my talent I did the cupid shuffle! It was really fun! The talent show, you can pick any talent you choose so go out and show your spirit. Miss Amazing is a great opportunity for teens and adults who have disabilities, so go out and enjoy Miss Amazing!

By Mia Homeister



# What I Like About Gem State Developmental Center!

## About Gem State activity.

I come after school at the center.

I like to come here because I get computer time after I do my programs.

I like going bowling and shopping with my staff.

I liked art project in meridian.

Now we plan a craft project for Easter.

Everything is fun at Gem State!

By Austin Andersen

& Rodica Ghimbasanu



I like Gem State because we have time to go somewhere to get snacks. At break time, we do what we want, I use my free time to write or color pictures. I like Gem State because I get to go out for lunch and volunteering. We don't always have free time. Sometimes I have to work on my programs. Stuff like money, tax, food or crafts. I made a Mason jar to put candy inside for St. Patrick's Day and painting the picture last month. This year we made Easter Critters to celebrate Easter and it was so fun making the craft.

By Anna Esparza



## My Projects

In February we painted flowers on our craft project for Valentine's Day.

In March we made a mason jar chock full of chocolate coins and CANDYS.

This month we are doing another project for Easter "animal critters."

I'm excited for the project this month and Easter.

By Emily Wheeler



## Mneme Therapy & Art for ALL!

GSDC participants from Nampa and Meridian centers were able to enjoy a Mneme therapy experience with Mary Jussel, from Art Without Boundaries, a non-profit organization. Spring break was a great time to make art while also practicing listening skills, how to follow directions and learning how to paint your own creation!



**Timbr, Nampa**



**Andre, Meridian**



**Peggy, Meridian**



**Kim, Meridian**



**Austin,  
Nampa**

# The beautiful ocean scenes!



**Michael,  
Meridian**



**Rick,  
Meridian**



**Andre,  
Meridian**



*Nampa Adult—Arts & Crafts*

**The luck of the Irish!**



Nampa Adult participants **STRIKE GOLD!** For St. Patrick's Day, they made their own pot o' gold filled with gold chocolate coins.



*Anna*



*Velma*



*Natalie*

*The artist bug must be floating around this spring!*



Participants at the Nampa Adult center have been learning about painting. Rodica Ghimbasanu, Developmental Specialist, was assisting with instruction to make these beautiful flowers!



*Emily*



*Bill*



*Yolanda*

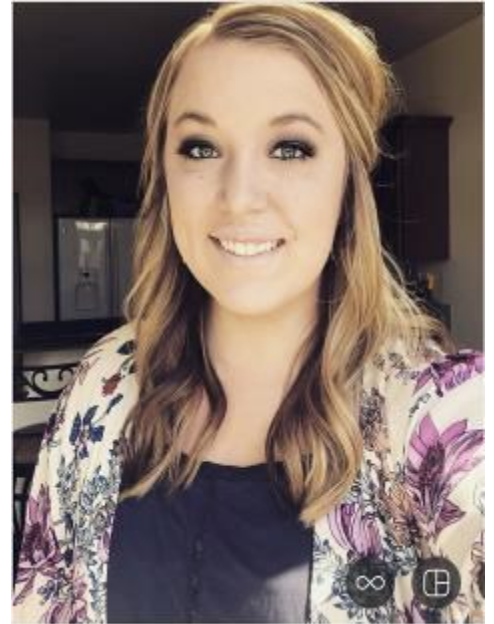
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## Intern Spotlight: Shelby Mathews!

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Each year, GSDC is lucky to have students from area colleges and universities that complete service hours or student internships.

Completing my internship at Gem State has been great! The learning that has taken place is learning that has prepared me to enter my career as an MSW. I absolutely love working with and advocating for the population that this agency serves and have seen growth in many of those individuals throughout my time spent here. The relationships with our participants are ones that I am going to miss tremendously! I had previously worked with the agency while getting my undergraduate degree, as a developmental technician providing habilitative support in the children's program, and didn't know how much I would learn about developmental therapy services as a result of my internship. I've learned a ton about how services are first established, how programs are developed, and how goals are monitored. I have also learned a lot about teamwork and management. I will be forever grateful for the experience that Gem State has provided me and for all of the people that I got the chance to meet and interact with while completing my program! Who knows, I may end up back here at some point!



**BOISE STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

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SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL WORK





## Intern Spotlight: Edward Robertson!

Each year, GSDC is lucky to have students from area colleges and universities that complete service hours or student internships.

I have enjoyed my time working with Gem State Development Center. Between the clients who are a joy to be with to the staff that have hearts of gold, I would suggest that everyone that has any intention of working with people do at least a 6 month internship with GSDC. Between learning compassion for those who are in need to learning how to best help those same people is invaluable. Part of the learning includes how to communicate with those who have limited communication skills. Being able to learn how to read non-verbal cues as well as translating otherwise unintelligible verbal ones will provide an improvement in communication with those who are able to communicate clearly. Providing



physical assistance to those who are unable to care for themselves in that way has taught me how to have dignity and help the person in need feel dignified in otherwise undignified situations. Conversing with those who verbal skills has taught me to be observant of my speech in making sure that I mean what I say and say what I mean. I am also aware of talking to both adults and children as people instead of use of "baby talk" which can be demeaning of the person, as well as myself. I have also learned to take time away from serious matters to enjoy life,

especially with the participants. To constantly be in a "business" state of mind is taxing and can

overburden anyone, especially those with limited attention spans. Life is just more fun when you can take a breather now and again. These are just a



NORTHWEST NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

few of the lessons I have learned from the participants at GSDC, let alone the care, concern, and willingness to help those who are in need of it from the staff. I will never be the same person I was before I started working at GSDC.

# SUMMER Crossword Answers and Miscellaneous Information

Try our new QR Code!



Use: QR Code Reader by Scanmobile or  
QR Reader for iPhone by Tap Media  
They work great and are free to download.



## We're Hiring

Visit [www.gsdccda.com](http://www.gsdccda.com) for details.

Complete the crossword and find the secret message.

The secret message is we love going to the beach.

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