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Bayview Community Council
OCTOBER 2026

Meet Ryan Booth, Bringing People Together Through Music *By Sheryl Puckett*



For Athol resident, **Ryan Booth**, music has been a passion for more than four decades. It is also his full time business now called **Family Friendly DJ.**

Ryan moved to Post Falls in 1997 and built his home in Athol in 2015. Having grown up in a small town in Montana, he says, "I always enjoyed small town life, the country and the peace and quiet of the area."

His journey as a DJ began about 24 years ago when he started providing music for groups at a local church. He began doing weddings in 2008 and quickly discovered how much he enjoyed being part of these special moments.

Today, Ryan's DJ business is pretty much full time, along with teaching private music lessons.
"I really care about my community family and want to provide a professional service at a reasonable cost," Ryan said. "I believe in building personal connections with my clients and community."

Weddings are among his favorite events, but he also enjoys private parties, especially when karaoke is involved. Every event is different and Ryan spends considerable time creating playlists tailored to the clients and their wishes.

He says one of the secrets to keeping a dance floor busy is learning how to read the room. After many years as a DJ, he has developed a few tricks of his own, but he gives much of the credit to the people on the dance floor.

"I could write a book" about the funny and unexpected things that have happened at events, Ryan said. Those unpredictable moments are part of what makes the job so much fun.

Ryan uses several different setups depending on the event, including Yamaha powered speakers and a Pioneer XDJ-RX3, along with Recordbox or Serato. He is also a big fan of uplighting, which he says can dramatically change the atmosphere of a venue.



Ryan points out that being a DJ can mean very different things depending on the type of work. While many people think of radio or club DJs, those are very different from the work he does at weddings, private parties and community events.

Being a people person has helped him succeed. He also shares a piece of advice with his music students: "Successful people are simply willing to do what unsuccessful people will not."

One of Ryan's favorite local events is the annual Tunnel to Towers 5K, where he volunteers his time as the DJ and MC. The organization honors first responders, a cause Ryan has tremendous respect for.

"I have a great respect for those first responders who dedicate their time to serving others and often sacrifice so very much, even their own lives," he said.

As for his favorite song, Ryan admits that is nearly impossible to answer. After 42 years as a musician and more than two decades as a DJ, his musical tastes cover just about everything, from Journey, Toto and Elvis to Metallica, Rush and Iron Maiden.

At a gym, he leans toward classic rock and metal. In the car, it may be pop or rock. And as a DJ, he especially enjoys the pop and dance music of the '80s, '90s and 2000s.

"I truly love almost all music," he said.

For Ryan, being a DJ is about much more than playing songs. It is about bringing people together, creating memories and being part of some of life's happiest occasions.

Ryan ended the interview by saying how grateful he is for the support of his amazing wife. "I honestly could not do this without her," he said.

To learn more about Ryan Booth and his DJ services, you can contact him at:
www.familyfriendlydj.net
https://www.facebook.com/familyfriendlydj
https://www.instagram.com/familyfriendlydjbooth/

Preserving the Harvest

By Constance Kaltenbach

If you have never preserved food before, now is the time to start thinking about it! There is still time to preserve vegetables and fruits from your garden—or to purchase them from your favorite local homesteaders or at the grocery store when they are plentiful and on sale.

Here in North Idaho, we have one growing season followed by a long winter, so having a pantry stocked with delicious, healthy, homemade food is especially rewarding.

After attending the Modern Homesteading Conference in Coeur d'Alene and learning from friends, books, and online resources, I decided to dive in and learn more. And I discovered that food preservation is fun!



It combines creativity, a little science, and the wonderful satisfaction of stocking your pantry with food you have grown or prepared yourself. Colorful jars of sauces, pickles, jams, and other preserved foods make quick, healthy meals and wonderful homemade gifts.

After all the time we spend tending our gardens, it feels good to preserve the harvest and enjoy it throughout the year. It also saves money and makes cooking from scratch easier.

The pantry becomes our grocery store!

A Few Tips to Get Started:

- **Start small, but dream big!** Begin with one or two recipes and build your skills over the years.
- **Team up with a friend.** Learn from each other and trade your creations. You make the applesauce; your friend pickles the beets!
- **Plan ahead.** Gather your supplies and ingredients before you begin, and give yourself plenty of time, especially when you are learning.
- **Don't overlook freezing.** It is quick and convenient for berries, vegetables, and meats. Remember to blanch vegetables first to help preserve their quality.
- **Learn from others.** Take a class, watch a few videos, find a good book, and ask friends to share their favorite recipes.

One of my favorite recipes so far is this canned spaghetti sauce, which has become a staple in my pantry: https://www.favfamilyrecipes.com/canned-spaghetti-sauce/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

There's something very satisfying about opening a jar of summer in the middle of winter.
Happy preserving!

Bret and his Sidekick – We do everything! *By Ali Spahn*



Bret Berens was born and raised in Southern California. After graduating from college, he joined the United States Navy, gaining discipline, reliability, and problem solving skills that later shaped his career as a contractor.

Following his discharge from the Navy, Bret and his wife, Ashley, welcomed their first child, Noah. Their family journey took them from California to Utah, and Texas as Bret worked demanding oil field jobs, roles that kept him away from home and conflicted with his desire for a family centered life.

As their family grew with daughters Salah and Delilah, Bret and Ashley moved to northern Idaho in 2020 to be closer to extended family. They purchased a five acre property in Athol, embracing another new chapter.

Bret worked as a foreman for CDA Structures before deciding to pursue greater flexibility and more time with his family. In September 2024, he founded **Northern Glory Contracting & Handyman Services**, a business built on skill, honesty and a neighborly approach. He serves clients from Sandpoint to Coeur d'Alene and especially enjoys working in Bayview, appreciating its slower pace and friendly community.

Bret has completed a wide range of projects, from roofs to float homes, demonstrating versatility and creativity, especially when working on unique structures.

A notable client, Sheri Hickman, hired Bret to handle all handyman and construction needs for her *Visit Bayview Vacations* Airbnb houses and float homes. Bret enjoys the challenge of float homes, noting that their unique nature requires creative problem solving. Currently, the Bayview Community Center board hired Bret to work on beautifying the Center's garden area.

One of the most meaningful aspects of Bret's work is the involvement of his 16 year old son, Noah. Bret describes their time working together as "home schooling at its finest."

"It's been a blessing having Noah work with me. We have a great time together: He's my buddy; my sidekick," smiled Bret. You can contact Bret at 208-920-3941.

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