

# Press Release

## Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration set for the Grove Plaza November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Downtown is getting ready for the Holidays, and Boise Mayor Dave Bieter will light the City's official holiday tree at the Zion's Bank Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration in the Grove Plaza on **Friday November 25<sup>th</sup> 2005. The event runs from 5 to 7pm.** The 30ft Blue Spruce tree donated by Keena & Trevor Just and decked with lights sponsored by JR & Esther Simplot will be displayed through January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 in the Grove Plaza.

*"Boise's tree has become the centerpiece of our downtown holiday festivities, and the tree-lighting event is a wonderful way for the whole city to come together in celebration of this special time of year."* Mayor Dave Bieter.

The Zions Bank Holiday Tree is also a **Giving Tree that supports the families and programs of the Women's and Childrens Alliance.** From the 2004 Giving Tree, over 1000 WCA wish list tags were taken and generously filled. 144 Families with 325 children were sponsored during the 2004 holiday season. The basic needs and "wishes" of their two shelters and two transitional homes were met.

As part of the celebration, attendees will be treated to live holiday music provided by the Encore Theatre Carolers, The Celebration Band, Scott Riggan and God's Kids. Food and beverages will be available from the Brick Oven Bistro, the Nut Hut, Murphys Mini Donuts, Java and Square.

The official Zions Bank Holiday Tree lighting will kick off by lighting 2500 audience candle cups. Boise City Mayor Dave Bieter and emcee's Carolyn Holly of KTVB Idaho's NewsChannel 7 and Ken Bass of 94.9 The River will then start the countdown to illuminate the 30 - foot Community Tree, officially kicking off the holiday season.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a new unwrapped toy for the Great Idaho Toy Drive to the event to help bring Holiday cheer to needy children and families throughout the Treasure Valley.

There is no charge to attend the festivities, and attendees are encouraged to park in the Downtown Boise Public Parking garages where the first hour is free.

## **Entertainment for the Evening Provided by:**

### **Encore Theatre Carolers**

The 16 member Encore Theatre Carolers are part of the Encore Theatre Company. They are a madrigal, "a cappella" choir dressed in 19<sup>th</sup> century Dickenson costume providing holiday, musical entertainment with a theatrical flair and are bringing holiday cheer all over the Treasure Valley.

### **The Celebration Band**

The Celebration Band gathers together some of Boise's finest musicians to entertain us this year as we welcome in the Christmas season. They are especially pleased to welcome special guest, Sandon Mayhew on saxophone. Gail Bonine leads the band and is back for her 4th year with our Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration.

### **God's Kids**

God's Kids are making their fourth appearance at the Holiday Tree Lighting. This interdenominational community-wide children's choir represents over 38 churches in the Treasure Valley and is led by Gail Bonine.

### **Scott Riggan**

Although singer/songwriter Scott Riggan spends over 100 days a year traveling throughout the country, he's happy to call Idaho his home. "There's nowhere else I'd rather be," Riggan explains, "I've been pretty much everywhere, and Idaho's just a great place to live and raise a family." Until recently, Riggan was based in Nashville, Tennessee, where he served as a staff songwriter for a publishing company. He recently returned from a tour of Southeast China, where he performed concerts at schools and universities as a guest of the Chinese government. Riggan has plans to return to China in the spring for an encore tour, after a brief visit to Ghana, West Africa in February.

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