

**Idaho Press Tribune, Saturday, April 30, 2011 -- Staff report**

## Caldwell opens expanded VA clinic

CALDWELL — Military veterans have an expanded local option for health care after Friday's opening of Canyon County Community Based Outpatient Veteran Affairs Clinic in Caldwell.

The 10,000-square-foot clinic is twice the size of a smaller VA clinic that opened three years ago, also in Caldwell. The new clinic has the ability to accommodate 5,000 patients a year, Boise VA Director DeWayne Hamlin said.

Canyon County is home to approximately 100,000 veterans seeking care, Hamlin said. Often veterans are already connected to primary care elsewhere and wish to leave the VA to people who really need it, he said.

*Robert Amieva, a veteran from Nampa and an employee of the Caldwell Veterans Affairs Clinic, works behind the counter of the new 10,000-square-foot facility in Caldwell on Friday afternoon. The updated clinic will replace the VA clinic located near West Valley Medical Center in Caldwell.*



“We are here to serve anybody and everybody who is eligible, and the more they come to see us, the more we are eligible to grow,” Hamlin said. “We are serving those who have served.”

The Caldwell clinic will allow easier access to veterans across the county, especially in the winter.

“It’s a great deal to a lot of veterans who are disabled or elderly,” said VA employee Robert Amieva, an Air Force veteran. “As veterans, all of us, there is a desire to serve and this is one way of service — to help them receive medical care that they deserve. I really look forward to meeting a lot more vets when they sign on and come to this clinic; we are here to help.”