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CALDWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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Today, in the Third Judicial District of Idaho, appearing in front of the Honorable Thomas Whitney, Ethan Almaraz was sentenced for the murder of Jose Hernandez and the serious injury of Axel Martinez-Salceda. Almaraz was convicted by a Canyon County jury for the shooting, following a trial in October of 2022. He was 17 at the time the crimes were committed, but was tried as an adult.

The convictions and sentences are as follows:

Count I: First-Degree Murder; 32 years fixed + life indeterminate; gang and firearm enhancement.

Count II: Aggravated Battery; 7 years fixed + 9 years indeterminate.

Counts III & IV: Aggravated Assault; 4 years fixed + 6 years indeterminate.

The Honorable Thomas Whitney stated during the sentencing, “It may be that if there were a harsher sentence at the onset of your juvenile crimes, perhaps today there would have been a different outcome.” He continued by saying to Almaraz, “Your utter lack of remorse for killing Jose was chilling.”

“Today, justice has prevailed in the sentencing of Mr. Almaraz. Throughout his juvenile life, Mr. Almaraz has been the beneficiary of judicial discretion that allowed him to continue to threaten and harm our community, ultimately leading to the tragic murder of an innocent life and the destruction of multiple families. I want to personally thank our Caldwell Police Detectives, the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, and the Honorable Judge Whitney. Judge Whitney, thank you for giving the voiceless a voice, the hopeless hope, and for applying the scales of justice fairly with the community at the forefront,” said Rex Ingram, Caldwell Chief of Police.