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CALDWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

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The Caldwell Fire Department (CFD) and Canyon County Paramedics (CCP) honored several YMCA staff members, on November 6, whose quick response saved a man's life earlier this fall.

The incident occurred when a man fell off equipment, and staff quickly recognized he was in cardiac arrest. Without hesitation, they initiated CPR and deployed an AED. Their fast, coordinated response ensured he was stabilized until first responders arrived. CFD Chief Shupe, Captain Harris and Captain Smith from CCP, presented the honorees with CFD Citizen Hero certificates and special tokens of appreciation, underscoring how their swift efforts made all the difference.

The recognized YMCA staff include:

- **Shellye Wilson** (Administrative Assistant) – who recognized the seriousness of the incident and promptly called the Code.
- **Eric Guilliams** (Personal Trainer) – who first arrived, securing the area and ensuring quick access to the victim.
- **Dana Dufoe** (Healthy Heart and Lung Group Exercise Instructor) – who immediately began CPR, acting as the first responder.
- **Kiersten Lancaster** (Aquatics Coordinator) – who provided essential relief CPR, maintaining continuous chest compressions.
- **Kaylee Bullard** (Senior Head Lifeguard) – who administered the AED, delivering a shock to help restart the heart.
- **Cameron Leonard** (Head Lifeguard) – who administered oxygen, assisting in further stabilizing the man until paramedics arrived.

“These YMCA staff members truly embodied what it means to be a Citizen Hero,” said Captain Harris. “Their quick thinking and teamwork in initiating CPR and using the AED directly saved this man's life. Without their actions, even with the fast response of our first responders, the outcome could have been very different.”

This incident is a powerful reminder of the life-saving potential of public CPR training. CFD and Canyon County Paramedics urge the community to consider learning CPR, as it empowers bystanders to step in during critical moments and make a life-or-death difference.

For those interested in becoming CPR certified, be on the lookout for Caldwell Fire's upcoming CPR classes beginning in 2025! In the meantime, visit the American Red Cross to learn more about current certification options and how you can be prepared to help in emergencies.