



# IDAHO WEEKLY BRIEFING

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# In this issue



Candidate debates have become almost old hat in Idaho this cycle, since contenders for governor have been sharing stages for most of a year. But more major activity on this front is picking up, as two of the major statewide debates aired late last week.

## Idaho Weekly Briefing

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## Cover picture

**LIVE FOR 175** KSAS, 103.5 KISS FM's Morning Show Host Keke Luv (Steve Kicklighter), along with his fellow on-air hosts, Lucky The DJ and Mateo, will once again draw attention to child abuse in the Treasure Valley. As in past years, Keke will urge the community to discuss and push forth the "Cycle to Break the Cycle" message during the 175-consecutive-hours live broadcast. Keke is asking his listeners to help him achieve the community awareness goal by pedaling stationary bicycles that are each connected to a power inverter that will provide electric power to the radio station's studio custom built at the event. (*image/Townsquare Media*)

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## The Democratic contest?

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Will Idaho Democrats get a seriously contested race for the gubernatorial nomination this year? The apparent answer is yes ...

The party often has had contested primaries, in the strict sense of more than one person on the ballot. But the last time a Democrat won the nomination for governor with less than an outright landslide was 20 years ago (Robert Huntley, with 54.3%), though even that was a runaway win in a four-person field. The last close contest for the party's Democratic nomination for governor was in 1970, when Cecil Andrus won over Vern Ravenscroft, with a plurality of the vote.

Could the contest this year between A.J. Balukoff and Paulette Jordan come close?

Balukoff has some major advantages which might lead him to a decisive win. Democratic voters know him from having run statewide for the same office four years ago so he is positioned to pick up from where he left off in organizing and contacts, and an already-prepared message. And, of course, money; he has a good deal of that, and demonstrated last time he's quite willing to spend it. He has also been very civically active, on the Boise School Board and elsewhere.

In 2014 he seemed to display ambiguity about just how much of a Democrat he was (in common with the Democratic governor nominee before him, Keith Allred), but appears more aligned with the party now. On the other hand, some Republicans and some Democrats each point out that as a Boise business community kind of guy, he has been close to the Boise business Republican community; current Republican governor candidate Tommy Ahlquist donated \$5,000 to Balukoff four years ago, as many in both parties well remember.

That gets into the internal Democratic argument against him: That he might seem more like another (failed) attempt to appeal to Republicans, instead of someone who might excite Democrats.

The idea of exciting that Democratic base, modest as it might be in Idaho, is a lot of what undergirds Paulette Jordan's bid. Jordan is a now-former state representative, the last legislator (at this writing) elected in Idaho between Boise and the Canada border. She has presence (and by many accounts, some charisma), a history of actually being elected as a Democrat (in highly contested elections), legislative background (meaning experience in state government) and a life story that can hook many people's attention. She is a member of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and has won election to the tribal council.

Some party people, though, have questions about her preparation for the candidacy and the job. Her accomplishment report card as a legislator gets mixed marks depending on who you talk to. There was the confusion last legislative session, for example, about whether she would resign or not, and seeming lack of think-through about the implications of quitting or staying.

Her core stances on state issues resemble Balukoff's, but the approach and tone is different. Some politics watchers suggest that many 2016 Bernie Sanders supporters may break for Jordan, hearing from her something closer to their sensibility. Sanders did well in the Idaho caucuses in 2016, though that's a smaller group, and a different type of voter, than primary election voters.

Again, how many voters will the Democratic primary attract next month, when so many hot races are underway on the Republican side? If the number is small, who does that help? You can argue either way.

The answers may come down to what Democrats are looking for: A standard-bearer to charge with their message, or a more centrist-appealing candidate who might pick up the pieces if the Republican primary end game goes sour. Look in the answer to that question for the likely result of the Democratic primary. Which might indeed be closely contested.

– *Randy Stapilus*

# In the news

*A review, in some cases with expansion and comment, of leading Idaho news stories – excluding national or feature articles, and local crime and accidents. Generally, these were featured last week on front pages of the state’s newspapers. But the list also includes some other articles of note, including from Idaho broadcasters.*

*Please note that some links lead to newspaper pay walls. They were live at the time of publication, but may be discontinued later.*

★ *Notes an article of special interest*

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## April 8

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- [Reviewing governor candidates on gun issues](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise)  
They’re more or less where you might expect, on both sides of the aisle, and don’t differ a lot within parties.
- [No request for national guard troops from Idaho yet](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) This refers to the prospect by President Trump of sending national guard troops to the border with Mexico.
- [Ririe looks at changes in its small downtown](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls)  
Article reviews “a bar, a playground and a parking lot.”
- [Kamiah schools see prospects brighten after levy](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Voters in the district have approved a \$500,000 levy, after unsuccessful attempts. The district has 453 students.
- ★ [Valley 2.0 transit plan approved](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The planning effort has been underway for two years; it looks at expanding public transit around the western valley.
- [The special challenges faced by migrant students](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) A number of school districts in Canyon County are trying to address the difficulties.
- ★ [The divisions and unity of the Mini-Cassia area](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) A review of the sometimes complex relationship between the Rupert and Burley areas, sitting on either side of the Snake River. The article also notes how a number of issues have split the communities over the years.
- [First Muslim to serve on Pocatello city council is named](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello) She is Beenish Mannan (see last week’s *Digest*).

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## April 9

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- [Sex education laws in Idaho seen in need of change](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) The effort at reform is being led in part by a teen age mother, a student at Boise State University. A quote: “I just want the info to be available.”
- [Passengers at Lewiston airport talk about service cuts](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) They discuss what the loss of Horizon Air service to Seattle and Boise will mean in their lives. Short version: It’ll create a lot of problems.
- [UI holds its annual powwow](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) The ceremony relates to tribal heritage and history.
- [Twin Falls council will review recycling](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The drama over recycling costs continues as the council looks to see what effects its fee increase, already implemented, will have.

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## April 10

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- [Nampans complain about road work blockages](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Said one resident, “We have a 7 p.m. curfew, and I’m 58 years old. I don’t need a 7 p.m. curfew.”
- ★ [Medicaid gap organizers push for ballot status](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The issue might go on the November general election ballot, if organizers can collect enough signatures (and the right ones) in the next month.
- [Candidates Little and Ahlquist meet in another forum](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls)
- [Strong negotiations over Asotin County property](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The debate over fairground parking has gone on for a while.
- [Weedstock 2018 planned near Pullman](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) A regional marijuana-related event is set for April 20 just west of the Idaho state line. Located on private land, smoking will be allowed.
- [Sanctions imposed on two Canyon charter schools](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) They are Heritage Community Charter School, at Caldwell, and the Another Choice Virtual School, Nampa.
- [Old Idaho Department Store building at Twin Falls coming down](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) It will be replaced by a new building which may include several uses including parking. The Idaho Youth Ranch has used the structure, which is located at 160 Main Ave. S.
- ★ [Forum looks at immigration impacts on farming](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Dairy is dominant in the Magic Valley, and about 90% of the people who work in it were born in a foreign country, a speaker says.
- [More students expected in Twin Falls](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The numbers are thought likely to rise again.



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## April 11

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- [Old Boise Carnegie library building will be artist hangout](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) The historic building, Boise's main public library for seven decades, may be used for artistic work.
- [Ybarra says new test scores encouraging](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) But the Nation's Report Card, out on Tuesday, Idaho's reading and math numbers have remained static.
- [Washington 5<sup>th</sup> District race may be close](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Seattle's Elway Research shows incumbent Republican McMorris-Rodgers ahead of Democrat Lisa Brown just 44%-38%.
- [Idaho County commissioners look at road tax refund](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Federal funds weren't expected to arrive when the tax was imposed; now that the federal money is here .
- ★ [Pullman airport considering Boise flights](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) Local airport officials say demand for such flights might be sufficient to start them.
- [Pullman mayor delivers state of city address](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) Mayors says the town's Main Street may change significantly.
- [Caldwell business reviews foreign trade area designation](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) A Caldwell manufacturing area has had the designation for about seven years, but it hasn't been as much used as some business people had anticipated.
- [Former Canyon inmate sues over jail treatment](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) He says he was traumatized in the medical isolation unit.
- [Twin Falls looks at its vision for 2030](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The latest strategic plan looks into residential needs, developing the area's work force and creating a new recreation center.
- [Jerome 20/20 draws attention](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The group is aimed at economic development around Jerome County. The occasion was an annual forum on Jerome's future.
- [Idaho permitting gender change on birth certificates](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello) The change, included in a new state Department of Health & Welfare administrative rule, comes in the wake of a federal lawsuit.

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## April 12

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- ★ [Garden City pocket homes starting to sell well](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Houses in Boise are getting very expensive, but small cottages sprouting up in Garden City are filling a niche. They're also selling very fast.

- [The banking regulatory bill Crapo championed is at risk](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) The bill backed by Senator Mike Crapo is being wrapped up in a House-Senate squabble; there's an alternative House proposal in play.
- [Ground is broken for new national lab buildings](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The uses for the buildings will center on cybersecurity and some other research. About 400 more local jobs may result from the expansion.
- [School district 93 still working on school boundaries](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) They're looking at plan number three covering elementary schools.
- [Polling says Washington 5<sup>th</sup> supports change to gun laws](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) This is part 2 of an Elway survey of voters in the area.
- [Pullman buys a new city hall building](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) The location formerly was a church building (Encounter Ministries).
- [Nampa's planner reviews 40 years at city hall](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) He is Norman Holm, who started in 1978 as the city's planning officer. Operations were a lot smaller then; now he manages a substantial-sized department; he actually did planning work for the city as early as 1976. He's not yet planning to leave, though, for another three or four years.
- [Nampa and Middleton recycling up for discussion](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The two cities are considering changing some of the process and approach.
- ★ [Another big Caldwell subdivision suggested](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) This would be located toward the northern end of town; zoning would have to change from agricultural to a residential level. Expect local reaction to the additional development here.
- [Refugees arriving in smaller numbers at Twin Falls](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The numbers have diminished in recent months, owing in part to changes in federal resettlement policy.
- [Magic Valley counties link to opioid legal case](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Lawsuit targets manufacturers of opioids.

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## April 13

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- ★ [Correction officers face federal charges](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) A Boise federal grand jury has indicted four current correctional officers employed by the Idaho Department of Correction, U.S. Attorney Bart Davis announced. In another case, the grand jury indicted a former IDOC correctional officer, a former IDOC inmate and the inmate's associate.
- [Boise stadium plan moves to front burner again](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) The effort for a sports facility near downtown gains juice again.
- [INL waste-filled drum leaks](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) It contained radioactive sludge. No injuries or environmental contamination were reported after the Wednesday-night event.



- [Schweitzer Engineering reaches out to Lewiston](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*)
- [Developers argue against tiny home solution](#) (*Daily News, Moscow*) The idea of using tiny homes as a way of finding more affordable housing in the Palouse won't work, the head of the Affordable Housing Trust said. Many locals in a survey said they'd been interested in seeing the idea pursued.
- [Canyon officials talk about development at Star](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) Neighbors have been concerned about the rapid growth at Star, just across the border in Ada County. A meeting drew dozens of highly interested residents.
- [Medicaid ballot issue effort goes to work at Caldwell](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) The Caldwell stop comes this weekend.
- [Wages gradually rise in Idaho](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) They're growing at a notable pace around Twin Falls.
- [Efforts begin for Bear River Massacre interpretive center](#) (*Idaho State Journal, Pocatello*) The center will be located near Preston.

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## April 14

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- [Turner's Sportsfair will be ending business](#) (*Idaho Statesman, Boise*) It's a long-standing business on State Street; it's a bar and sporting goods shop.
- [New zoning ordinance approved for Idaho Falls](#) (*Post Register, Idaho Falls*)
- ★ [Lands department again looks at Lochsa land swap](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The exchange mainly would involve state and federal lands.
- [Wine tasting room may open at Genessee](#) (*Daily News, Moscow*) It would open in what has been a gas station.
- [College of Osteopathic medicine prepares for opening](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) The college is planned to open at Meridian in September.
- [Four contenders compete for 5<sup>th</sup> District judgeship](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) Reviewing the candidates.
- [Democrats choosing delegates to party convention](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) The event will be in June at Caldwell.

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## Poll

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**How should Idaho respond to the need for additional housing, and high housing costs, together with the need to preserve farm land?**

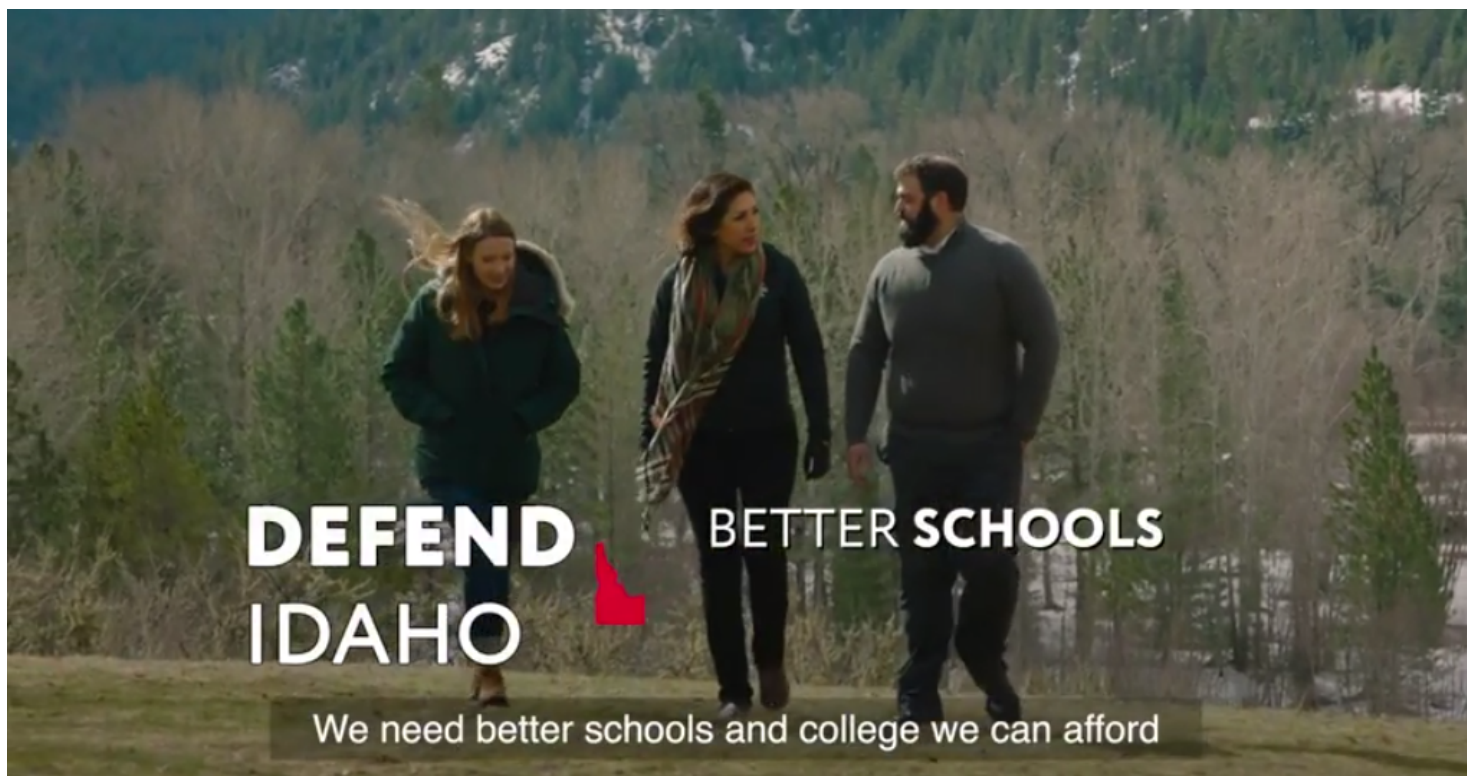


This week's question:

**The selection process for new university presidents this year has drawn some criticism. What do you think?**

Cast your vote at [www.ridenbaugh.com](http://www.ridenbaugh.com)

Have a question you'd like us to ask? [Tell us about it.](#)



Democratic gubernatorial candidate Paulette Jordan on April 10 released her first television ad, “Defend Idaho.” It was released primarily through social media.

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## Otter officially endorses Little for governor

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Idaho Governor **C.L. “Butch” Otter** has been very open about his support for Lt. Governor **Brad Little**, and on April 10 he makes his endorsement official.

“Brad is a true Republican, a commonsense conservative, and the one you want leading Idaho. No one knows this state better, and no one has a better understanding of the issues that matter most to residents in every corner of our state, from Porthill to Paris and Mud Lake to Murphy. Brad knows and understands water rights, rural communities, business, economic development, immigration, and education.

“In fact, he’s the only candidate with a real plan for continuing to improve education in Idaho,” Otter said. “Brad has taken the bull by the horns on the healthcare debate and really put Idaho on the map – not accepting ‘no’ when the feds failed to repeal the outrageous experiment they call ‘affordable’ that in reality

is driving healthcare costs through the roof faster than ever. Instead, Brad took our Idaho solution all the way to the White House.”

- [Little campaign](#)

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## Top-ballot campaigns/2018

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**Incumbents** in bold. Reports through December 31 unless otherwise noted.

<b>U.S. House 1</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>David Leroy</b> : raised \$189,161; spent \$121,938; on hand \$67,223. <b>Russell Fulcher</b> : raised \$267,245; spent \$106,116; on hand \$161,129. <b>Luke Malek</b> : raised \$144,317; spent \$52,137; on hand \$98,120. <b>Christy Perry</b> declared on November 14. <b>Michael Snyder</b> : raised \$74,441; spent \$33,820; on hand \$40,621 <b>Nick Henderson</b> has declared for the seat.
	<b>D</b>	<b>Michael Smith</b> has filed. <b>Christina McNeil</b> has filed. <b>James Vandermaas</b> has filed.
<b>U.S. House 2</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>Mike Simpson</b> , Blackfoot. Simpson: raised \$532,617; spent \$452,734; \$233,019 on hand
	<b>D</b>	<b>Peter Rickards</b> , Twin Falls, has announced. <b>Aaron Swisher</b> , Boise.
<b>Governor</b>	<b>R</b>	Incumbent C.L. “Butch” Otter not seeking re-election. Candidates: <b>Raul Labrador</b> , U.S. representative. <b>Brad Little</b> , lieutenant governor. <b>Tommy Ahlquist</b> , Boise businessman
	<b>D</b>	<b>A.J. Balukoff</b> has filed. <b>Paulette Jordan</b> has filed.
<b>Lt Governor</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>State Senator Marv Hagedorn</b> , Meridian former legislator <b>Janice McGeachin</b> , Idaho Falls <b>State Senator Bob Nonini</b> , Coeur d’Alene State Representative <b>Kelley Packer</b> , McCammon Former Idaho Republican Party Chair <b>Steve Yates</b> , Idaho Falls
	<b>D</b>	<b>Jim Fabe</b> has filed. <b>Kristin Collum</b> has filed.
<b>Supt of Public Instr</b>	<b>R</b>	Incumbent <b>Sherri Ybarra</b> has filed. Wilder School Superintendent <b>Jeff Dillon</b> has filed.
	<b>D</b>	<b>Allen Humble</b> has filed. <b>Cindy Wilson</b> has filed.



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## INL breaks ground on two research buildings

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**Idaho National Laboratory**, together with the Idaho State Board of Education, is breaking ground on two new research facilities: the Cybercore Integration Center and the Collaborative Computing Center.

On Wednesday, April 11, key stakeholders and elected officials celebrated the beginning of a strategic partnership to advance research and educational collaboration in Idaho.

“Supporting this collaboration is about much more than new facilities; we are investing in Idaho’s future,” Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter said. “The Lab is a major employer in its own right and has a global reputation that benefits many other Idaho businesses. But in addition to the INL’s continuing economic importance, this partnership provides Idaho universities with an important edge in preparing tomorrow’s world leaders in cybersecurity and nuclear energy research.”

Cybercore Integration Center will host advanced electronics labs for industry, government and academia to work together to systematically engineer cyber and physical security innovations to protect the nation’s most critical infrastructure, like the power grid.

The Collaborative Computing Center will provide a modern computing environment, hosting research collaborations and opportunities that would otherwise not be possible – a place where INL researchers, Idaho universities, and industry will explore computer modeling and simulation to develop new nuclear materials, advance nuclear energy concepts and conduct a broad span of scientific research.

“We are working with Idaho’s universities to strengthen partnerships, for example, by tailoring internships for students seeking advanced degrees in nuclear engineering, mechanical engineering, materials science, chemical engineering and computer science,” INL Director Mark Peters said. “

Idaho State Board of Education will retain the economic benefit that will be created by the financing, construction, and operation of these facilities. This endeavor enables educational opportunities, globally significant research, and economic opportunity. Off-site computer users, such as students and faculty at Idaho’s universities and colleges, will also have remote access to the high-performance computing systems in the Collaborative Computing Center through the Idaho Regional Optical Network

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## Radioactive waste container ruptures at INL

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The **Idaho National Laboratory** reported that on the evening of April 11, a barrel containing radioactive sludge ruptured when it came into contact with air.

The agency said that no injuries were reported and no waste escaped into the outside environment. Some emergency operations were undertaken on April 12, but those were concluded by the day's end.

*From the INL Fire Department:*

The Idaho National Laboratory Fire Department responded to a fire alarm late Wednesday night at the Accelerated Retrieval Project (ARP 5) containment structure at the Idaho Cleanup Project's Radioactive Waste Management Complex involving release of material from a drum on the Department of Energy's INL Site.

There were no reports of injuries. The surrounding area is being monitored, and no contamination has been detected outside the facility. The ARP 5 facility is engineered with specially designed high-efficiency particulate air filters, which are designed to trap contamination.

There was an indication that a waste drum inside the facility had an elevated temperature and was breached. INL's Emergency Operations Center and Joint Information Center were both activated and remain operational in support of Fluor Idaho, the clean-up contractor at the Idaho Site.

Employees are reporting to work per their normal shifts. Some operations at RWMC are temporarily restricted.

The Radioactive Waste Management Complex is located 55 miles west of Idaho Falls on the DOE's INL Site. Since the 1950s, the Department of Energy has used the RWMC to manage, store, and dispose of waste contaminated with radioactive and hazardous elements generated in national defense and research programs. The RWMC comprises 177 acres and includes three main areas: The operations and administration area, the Subsurface Disposal Area, and the Advanced Mixed Waste Treatment Project. ARP 5 is used to process waste drums for eventual shipment out of the state of Idaho.

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## Snake River dam bill moves through committee

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The House Committee on Natural Resources on Wednesday approved a bipartisan bill to restore multiple-use management of the Columbia and Snake rivers, bring relief to electricity ratepayers, maintain navigation and prohibit potential court-ordered destruction of four dams crucial to Idaho's economy. Representative **Raúl Labrador** voted for the bill, which is expected to get a vote on the House floor soon.

H.R. 3144, cosponsored by Labrador, would set aside a 2017 ruling by Obama-appointed U.S. District Judge Michael Simon ordering spillage over Columbia and



Snake River dams. Spillage began last week and is estimated to cost Northwest ratepayers \$40 million in 2018 alone as water bypasses hydropower turbines.

“U.S. taxpayers built and maintain a working river system that is key to the Northwest’s diversified economy,” Labrador said. “Congress must exercise its responsibility to set policy, not defer to unelected liberal judges citing dubious science. Thousands of Idaho jobs and our very way of life are at stake, and I will continue to fight for common-sense river management.”

H.R. 3144 was introduced last year after Simon’s ruling to overturn the consensus of the four relevant federal agencies. The Bonneville Power Administration, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service all agree that the court-ordered spillage is unnecessary to help young salmon reach the ocean. An average of 97 percent of young salmon successfully make it past the dams.

Last year, the Trump Administration’s Bureau of Reclamation expressed support for the goals of the legislation. Earlier this month at a House Appropriations Committee hearing, U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry pledged to work to prevent additional spill and protect the hydropower dams.

But last week, the liberal U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals rejected an appeal of Simon’s order to spill from April until June. Ignoring the consensus of agency science, Simon ordered wasting the water based on science submitted by environmentalist plaintiffs.

The states of Idaho, Washington and Montana and Idaho’s Kootenai Tribe were among those opposing the court-ordered spillage, along with consumer-owned utilities and transportation and agricultural groups.

- [Representative Labrador](#)

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## Delegation touts appropriation bill results

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*From an April 13 statement by Representative **Mike Simpson**:*

“Idaho’s history of agriculture excellence is critical to our economy, accounting for 20% the state’s gross state product. With over 25,000 farms and ranches and 185 different commodities, it isn’t just Idaho that we are feeding – it is the world.

“No doubt that ideal climate conditions, irrigation systems, and generations of family farmers are responsible for this agriculture dominance. However, the state also needs cutting edge research and fair cooperation on reasonable rules and regulations for farmers and ranchers to succeed. The recently passed appropriations bill for fiscal year 2018 included big wins for Idaho agriculture. I was proud to champion many of these efforts so Idaho can continue to lead in agriculture production.

“We don’t have to look any farther than our license plates to know the potatoes are world famous. The key to continuing this tradition is ensuring adequate funding for research that protects Idaho crops from disease. Included in the

agriculture section of the appropriations bill is targeted funding to accomplish just that. Specifically there is increased funding for potato breeding research, plus additional money for a geneticist that accelerates the process for finding resistant potato varieties to combat some of the worst diseases that threaten not only annual harvests, but trade access with global partners.

“The bill also contains money for advancing wheat research that will assist farmers in updating the falling numbers test that has cost growers millions of dollars in discounts. The research will help us better understand the various causes of low falling numbers and how it impacts end-use products that almost every Idaho consumer buys at the grocery store.

“The livestock industry is also well represented through a vitally important bipartisan provision that exempts ranchers and dairy farmers from EPA reporting requirements. The provision clarifies that Congress did not intend for a law aimed at regulating toxic waste and superfund sites, to apply to agriculture operations. The bill also recognizes challenges livestock farmers and ranchers face through money to compensate losses due to livestock killed by wolves.

“Idaho’s dairy farmers also benefit from this bill through language that directs the FDA to develop a standard identity for dairy based products. The language is a good first step to solving the recent surge in mislabeled imitation products and compliments legislation I support known as the DAIRY Pride Act, which also has the backing of Idaho Senators Risch and Crapo.

● [Representative Simpson](#)

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## Reclamation bridges will close

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The **Bureau of Reclamation** is temporarily closing Lake Way Bridge and Cascade Dam Spillway Bridge April 11, to perform routine inspections near Cascade Dam in Cascade.

“This action is necessary to allow work crews to access the bridge safely,” said Brent Jensen, facility supervisor. “Normal traffic use will resume as soon as the work is completed.”

The closure is estimated to last from approximately 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. as crew members inspect the bridges. Vista Point Boulevard can be used to bypass the traffic delays.

Cascade Dam was constructed in 1948 and serves as a multipurpose facility, providing water for irrigation, hydropower, recreation, and flood control.

● [Bureau of Reclamation](#)



Idaho's northernmost city, Moyie Springs, hosted the Capital for a Day event on March 16. Otter's office said "The main topics in Moyie Springs included school safety, timber regulations and water-and-sewer issues." (*photo/Governor Otter*)

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## State Regulation

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Published rules appear in [the administrative bulletin](#). No proposed rules appeared in the April 4 Administrative Bulletin.

An index reflecting rule changes for the previous year was included.

The next publication will be on May 3.



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## Idaho Falls breaks ground on new park

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The city of **Idaho Falls** and its partners on April 12 held a groundbreaking ceremony for the city's newest park – Heritage Park, at Snake River Landing.

The 14-acre Heritage Park is made possible by land donations from the Stafford and Woody Smith families and commitments by private and nonprofit partners including Snake River Landing and Ball Ventures, the Rotary Club of Idaho Falls as well as the owners of the Jackson Hole Junction Commercial Center.

Located just south of Snake River Landing and north of the Sunnyside Bridge, the property and donated funds are valued at more than \$2.5 million dollars.

The Heritage Park theme was inspired by our city's unique heritage, rich in Native American history, agriculture, as well as nuclear and hydroelectric power. In addition, the park will play an important role in the city's larger regional Greenbelt and River Walk system.

The Heritage Park Master Plan, approved by the Idaho Falls City Council in 2016, will be completed in phases as financing is secured. Upon completion of all phases, the park will include an expansion of the River Walk, nature trails and walkways, heritage stops, a nature themed playground area, an interactive stream designed for youth water play, surface water gardens, island exploration, a promontory, shelters, lighting, benches, parking and other features.

- [Idaho Falls city](#)

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## Boise launches biennial survey

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The city of **Boise**'s biennial citizen survey is now open to all members of the public interested in participating.

This survey is the seventh broad-based, scientific survey conducted by the city since 2005, when it was initiated as part of an effort by Mayor David Bieter and the Boise City Council to give residents stronger input into how their city government is conducted. By conducting the survey every other year, local leaders can track public opinion and adjust the city's priorities accordingly.

A random, scientifically-valid sample of 15,000 households throughout the city was invited to participate in the survey last month. With the completion of that portion of the survey on April 9, the city is now opening the survey to all who'd like to participate.

Those interested in participating can visit [BoiseCitizenSurvey.com](http://BoiseCitizenSurvey.com).

"We want as broad of an understanding about residents' opinions as possible," said Mayor David Bieter. "With this feedback, we can gain the best possible perspective of what Boiseans expect from their city government."

The 15-20 minute web survey asks respondents for their opinions on:

- How well Boise provides access to public services
- How safe residents feel in their neighborhoods
- Budget priorities
- How accessible local leaders are
- Access to natural amenities
- Transportation issues

All survey responses are anonymous.

- [Idaho Falls city](#)





On April 8t at approximately 8:55 a.m. an injury crash occurred on Bryden Canyon Road near 8th Street in Lewiston. A Lewiston Police Officer was parked on the side of the road with all emergency lights on, assisting a motorist. A silver 2006 Dodge Durango driven by Patrick A. Sanchez, 31, of Clarkston, WA was traveling eastbound on Bryden Canyon Road when he struck the back passenger side of the parked patrol vehicle. Both vehicles came to rest in the eastbound lanes of Bryden Canyon Road. Both drivers were wearing their seatbelts. (photo/Idaho State Police)

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## Federal charges hit state corrections officials

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A Boise federal grand jury has indicted four current correctional officers employed by the **Idaho Department of Correction**, U.S. Attorney **Bart M. Davis** said. In another case, the grand jury indicted a former IDOC correctional officer, a former IDOC inmate and the inmate's associate.

Both cases were indicted on April 10, and all seven defendants were arrested earlier. One indictment charges four IDOC correctional officers with several federal offenses:



- IDOC correctional officer Timothy Landon, 35, of Boise, is charged with two counts of conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of controlled substances and one count of possession and transportation of contraband cigarettes;
- IDOC correctional officer Richard McCollough, 36, of Boise, is charged with one count of conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of controlled substances, two counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and one count of distribution of cocaine;
- IDOC correctional officer Eric Thompson, 38, of Star, is charged with one count of conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of controlled substances, two counts of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and one count of distribution of cocaine; and
- IDOC correctional officer Robert Wallin, 35, of Boise, is charged with one count of conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of controlled substances and one count of possession and transportation of contraband cigarettes.

The case arose out of the defendants' willingness to participate in a large-scale drug trafficking organization and to use their positions as IDOC employees to assist in illegal activity.

The charges of conspiracy to aid and abet the distribution of controlled substances and distribution of cocaine are punishable by a minimum of ten years in prison up to life and a \$10,000,000 fine. The charge of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime is punishable by a minimum of five years in prison in addition to the sentence for the underlying drug crime.

A second conviction for this offense carries with it an additional 25-year prison sentence to run consecutively to the first conviction for this offense and the underlying drug crime. The charge of possession and transportation of contraband cigarettes is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The second indictment charges former IDOC correctional officer Joshua Barney, 43, of Boise, former IDOC inmate Colin McIntyre, 27, of Stanfield, Oregon, and McIntyre's associate, Tiffany Culbertson, 23, of Meridian, each with one count of conspiracy to commit Hobbs Act extortion under color of official right, two counts of Hobbs Act extortion under color of official right, one count of conspiracy to use a facility in interstate commerce in furtherance of unlawful activity and two counts of use of a facility in interstate commerce in furtherance of unlawful activity.

This case arose out of the defendants' scheme to smuggle contraband into an IDOC prison facility. Hobbs Act violations are punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Conspiracy to use, and using, a facility in interstate commerce in furtherance of unlawful activity is punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The indictments resulted from an investigation initiated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at IDOC's request to address concerns of corruption among IDOC correctional officers. In addition to the FBI, the Boise Police Department, the Meridian Police Department, and the Ada County Prosecutor's Office participated in the investigation.

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## Supreme Court decisions

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*Recent civil decisions of the Idaho Supreme Court.*

- [\*Department of Health & Welfare v. John Doe\*](#) (April 13, Brody) This is an expedited appeal from a magistrate court's judgment terminating John Doe's parental rights as to his minor children KB and AB. ... the Court vacates the judgment terminating Doe's parental rights and remands the case with instruction to enter a judgment for Doe, *nunc pro tunc* to December 9, 2016, consistent with the order finding that IDHW had not met its burden to show that termination was in the Children's best interest.

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## PUC approves Rocky Mountain Power long-range plan

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Regulators have accepted a long-range planning document outlining how **Rocky Mountain Power** intends to meet the demand for electricity among its customers over the next 20 years.

Rocky Mountain Power's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) represents a "cost-conscious plan to transition to a cleaner energy future," according to the company, which serves approximately 75,000 customers in eastern Idaho.

The IRP anticipates significant reductions in coal generation along with investments in renewable resources, transmission infrastructure and energy efficiency programs. Regulated electric utilities are required to submit an IRP every other year. It serves as a status report outlining the company's ongoing plans for providing adequate and reliable service to its customers at the lowest cost and least risk during the planning period.

The Commission's acknowledgement of an IRP does not necessarily mean the projects highlighted will be completed, but rather that the utility has met its long-range planning requirements.

Rocky Mountain Power's 2017 IRP was developed with input from a diverse group of stakeholders, including customer advocacy groups, regulatory staff and other interested parties. It identifies "the company's plans to provide reliable and reasonably priced service to its customers."

Those plans call for the retirement of more than 3,500 megawatts of coal-fired generation, anticipating that it will be replaced primarily with renewables such as wind and solar. Efficiency measures, two new natural gas facilities and wholesale power purchases are expected to help meet the demand for energy through 2036.

The IRP's action plan, which outlines the company's plans for the first 10 years of the planning horizon, includes what the company refers to as its Energy Vision 2020 projects, which calls for the addition of 1,100 MW of new wind resources and 905 MW of upgraded or "repowered" wind resources, and construction of a transmission line in Wyoming. The wind projects must be operational by the end of 2020 in order to receive the full benefits of federal tax credits.

The electricity generated at the new wind facilities would be carried via a 140-mile, 500-kilovolt transmission line in Wyoming that is expected to relieve congestion on Rocky Mountain's transmission system.

After 2020, the utility's preferred portfolio calls for 859 MW of new wind generation, including the addition of 774 MW in Idaho in 2036. The IRP also anticipates 1,040 MW of new solar resources to come online between 2028 and 2036, with the majority installed in Utah beginning in 2031.

The first new natural gas-fired resource is expected to be added in 2029, a year later than anticipated in Rocky Mountain's 2015 IRP.

Demand-side management resources, which include energy efficiency and conservation, are also expected to play a key role in helping the company meet customers' demand for electricity. The IRP indicates incremental energy-efficiency resources are expected to provide a 2,077 MW reduction, enough to meet 88 percent of the forecasted load growth through 2026.

Aside from energy efficiency, the company's DSM resources include load control programs capable of shifting energy use away from periods of peak demand for energy. This shift helps the utility avoid or defer the need for new power plants.

Customers enrolled in load control programs allow the utility to remotely curtail their energy use – shutting down irrigation pumps, for example - in exchange for incentives such as reduced rates or a bill credit.

Rocky Mountain does not anticipate upgrades to coal plants in order to meet environmental regulations, a decision that will "save customers hundreds of millions of dollars," according to the company. Instead, the IRP calls for the retirement of those coal-fired units.

Commission staff asserted that more analysis should have been conducted in order to better gage the economics of coal plant retirements, including earlier closure of some units, to ensure that Rocky Mountain identified the least-cost generation resources. The company agreed to conduct additional analysis of its coal plants as it prepares its 2019 IRP.

The company expects to offset a portion of the lost coal generation throughout the planning period with market purchases, although Rocky Mountain intends to construct two new natural gas facilities – a 200-MW frame simple cycle combustion turbine in 2029, and a 436-MW combined combustion turbine in 2030.

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● [Public Utilities Commission](#)

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## Micron partners with video surveillance firm

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**Micron Technology** on April 10 announced general availability of the 128GB and 256GB density of edge storage microSD card solutions and collaboration with several leading video surveillance solution providers to promote surveillance-grade edge storage.

Built on Micron's industry-leading 64-layer 3D TLC NAND technology, the newly released solutions enable greater capacity in a smaller space, delivering up to 30 days of surveillance video storage in the camera itself.

Over 98 percent of all microSD cards sold globally in 2017 were used in consumer applications, according to IHS Markit<sup>1</sup>. These consumer-grade memory cards are not designed and validated for commercial use in video surveillance applications. Micron's industrial microSD cards are designed specifically for professional video surveillance use cases and include a three-year warranty for

24x7 continuous video recording usage. The Micron microSD card design and firmware is optimized to ensure a reliable, robust and low-maintenance system design that delivers 24x7 continuous recording capability with minimum video frame drops.

“Due to a lack of surveillance-grade solutions, organizations have relied on the use of retail microSD cards that are not optimized for 24x7 recording. As a result, these cards may fail earlier and also experience video frame drops as high as 30 percent<sup>2</sup>,” said **Amit Gattani**, senior director of embedded segment marketing at Micron. “With a strong industry trend toward more analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) in surveillance cameras, there is a growing demand for higher reliability and higher density storage in the cameras. Micron is addressing this need with industry-leading density of 256GB in a surveillance-grade microSD card.”

● [Micron Technology](#)

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## Idaho Power looks for residential rate decrease

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**Idaho Power Company** has asked state regulators to approve a decrease to an annual rate adjustment mechanism that allows the utility to recover the fixed costs of delivering energy when energy sales decline due to reduced consumption.

If approved by the **Idaho Public Utilities Commission**, the annual Fixed Cost Adjustment would lead to a decrease of 3.6 percent for residential customers and 3.73 percent for customers in the small general service class as of June 1. For the typical residential customer using 950 kilowatt-hours per month, that represents a decline of \$3.60 on the monthly power bill.

The FCA is a cost-recovery mechanism that allows the utility to recover a Commission-authorized amount of fixed costs per customer. It is adjusted each spring based on changes in energy use among customers over the previous year.

If the fixed costs recovered from customers are less than the fixed costs authorized in the most recent rate case, residential and small-commercial customers get a surcharge via the FCA. If the company collects more in fixed costs than is authorized by the Commission, customers receive a credit.

The intent of the FCA is to remove the financial disincentive for Idaho Power to invest in energy efficiency programs or encourage customers to use energy more wisely, since those programs can lead to a decline in energy sales.

While customer energy use fluctuates, the utility’s fixed costs remain relatively flat. The FCA lets the utility separate energy sales from revenue, removing any disincentive to promote efficient use of energy among customers without compromising the utility’s ability to recover its fixed costs of doing business.

The Commission views cost-effective energy efficiency programs, and programs that help reduce the demand for energy among customers, as an integral part of providing electric service at the least cost.

In its application requesting Commission approval to lower the FCA for the coming year, Idaho Power said its customers used more energy in 2017 than in 2016, even though its energy efficiency programs saved 12 percent more than in 2016. As a result, the company's proposed FCA for the coming year would decrease revenue by \$19.3 million.

If approved, the new FCA rate would be 0.2943 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) used for residential customers and 0.3704 cents per kWh for small general service customers. The current FCA is assessed at 0.6728 cents per kWh for residential customers and 0.8576 for small general service customers.

A year ago, the Commission approved an FCA increase of 1.29 percent after Idaho Power's residential energy sales in 2016 declined by approximately 245,000 megawatt-hours from 2015 levels.

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● [Public Utilities Commission](#)

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## Intermountain Gas asks for infrastructure surcharge

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State regulators are accepting comments on an **Intermountain Gas Co.** proposal to help the company speed replacement of aging infrastructure and enhance safety of its distribution system, while addressing the increasing impact of regulations.

If approved by the **Idaho Public Utilities Commission**, the proposed Infrastructure Integrity Management Mechanism would allow Intermountain Gas to recover from ratepayers the costs incurred on infrastructure improvements made during the previous calendar year.

Intermountain would file the proposed recovery amount for commission review and approval each May, and any approved adjustment to customer rates would take effect Oct. 1.

In seeking commission approval to implement the IIMM, Intermountain Gas said it has developed practices to more proactively replace equipment that has a potential risk of failure, but budgetary constraints have led to a less aggressive replacement schedule than is preferred.

The IIMM would allow Intermountain's capital and O&M budgets to grow, accelerating infrastructure replacement while allowing the utility to "stay ahead of schedule on these important replacement projects," according to the application.

The commission is accepting public comments on the proposal through May 2.

If it is approved, the IIMM would not be used to recover investments and expenses related to incremental growth on the company's system.

Intermountain's application cites the need to replace a type of pipe that is prone to failure as an example of a project that would be completed faster if the IIMM is implemented.

The company estimates that there are approximately 600 miles of this type of pipe in its system and that its replacement would cost approximately \$158.4



million. As a result of the expense, Intermountain replaces about 4-5 miles annually.

Intermountain said an increasing regulatory burden at the state and federal levels are also a factor in the need for the IIMM, which the company said would provide more flexibility to invest in projects that result from regulatory action while undertaking other projects.

At the state level, the company said additional employees have been hired to help enforce and inform the public of Idaho's damage prevention law, which was passed in 2016 and created civil penalties for those responsible for damaging underground facilities such as natural gas pipelines.

If the commission were to approve the IIMM, the projects and expenses proposed for recovery through it would be reviewed and discussed with the Commission's Pipeline Safety Division.

- [Public Utilities Commission](#)

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## Boise Cascade buys Lumberman's Wholesale

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**Boise Cascade Company** announced an agreement to acquire Lumberman's Wholesale Distributors, a distributor of engineered wood products, commodity lumber items, and specialty building materials in Nashville, Tennessee.

"We are very pleased to welcome the Lumberman's associates to Boise Cascade. They have been an excellent distributor for nearly 50 years," said **Nick Stokes**, Executive Vice President, Boise Cascade Building Materials Division. "This location will allow us to strengthen our nationwide presence and satisfy a growing demand for our products and services in the Tennessee Valley and Central Kentucky markets."

"We are excited to join Boise Cascade," stated **Garey Keltner**, President, Lumberman's Wholesale. "We believe there is a strong cultural and strategic fit that will allow us to grow and continue to serve our customers."

The acquisition is expected to be complete in the coming weeks.

- [Boise Cascade](#)

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## Staker Parson may build at Idaho Falls

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The **Idaho Department of Environmental Quality** is seeking public comment on a proposed air quality permit to construct for Staker Parson Companies, Idaho Falls. The proposed permit will regulate emissions from a portable concrete batch plant.

DEQ has reviewed the permit application and determined that construction and operation of the equipment under the proposed permit conditions will not cause or contribute to a violation of any ambient air quality standard and will not injure or unreasonably affect human or animal life or vegetation.

- [Department of Environmental Quality](#)

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## Stocks

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*From late in the week, as reported through Google. Prices on stocks were mixed by the end of last week. (Google finance) Up ▲ Down ▼*

		Last week		Week before	One year ago
<b>Micron Technology</b>	MU	52.20	▲	48.46	26.74
<b>Hewlett Packard</b>	HPQ	21.77	▲	20.78	18.20
<b>Idaho Power</b>	IDA	85.74	▼	87.25	84.71
<b>Clearwater Paper</b>	CLW	37.75	▲	37.20	54.50
<b>CenturyLink Inc.</b>	CTL	17.05	▼	17.21	25.12
<b>Boise Cascade Corp.</b>	BCC	40.25	▲	39.80	28.80

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## Gas prices

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Price of gasoline in Idaho decreased slightly from the week before. Source: [idahogasprices.com](http://idahogasprices.com).

Gas	Last week	Natl/St Avg	Week before
low	2.49 Coeur d'Alene (Zip Stop)	2.69/2.95	2.57 Coeur d'Alene (Costco)
high	3.29 Boise (76)		3.23 Meridian (Phillips 66)



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## Construction starts at Lucky Peak Reservoir

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Construction work will soon begin to complete the last piece of a multi-year project which allows deer and elk to safely migrate across State Highway 21 between Lucky Peak Reservoir and the Wilderness Ranch area.

Contractors working for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will be installing specially fabricated “wildlife guards” across Spring Shores Road to prevent big game animals from entering the highway via the access road. “Most people are familiar with cattle guards that prevent livestock movement from one area to another,” Fish and Game habitat biologist Krista Biorn noted. “These wildlife guards are simply a modified design.”

Construction begins on Monday, April 16th and will continue through May 1. During construction, which will not occur on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays, Spring Shores Road will be reduced to one lane with flaggers regulating traffic.

More than 7,000 mule deer and nearly 1,500 elk spend the winter months on the Boise River Wildlife Management Area and surrounding foothills, browsing, resting and waiting out the long, cold winter season. State Highway 21 bisects this winter range area, and the number of wildlife/vehicle collisions and close encounters has increased steadily as more motorists use the highway.

In 2010, the Idaho Transportation Department completed the construction of a wildlife crossing structure under State Highway 21 at mile post 18.2. In the years that followed, crews installed miles of fencing on both sides of the highway to funnel deer and elk to the underpass.

The effort has proven effective at greatly reducing the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions on this section of the roadway and maintaining habitat connectivity.

● [Department of Fish & Game](#)

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## ■ Snowpack

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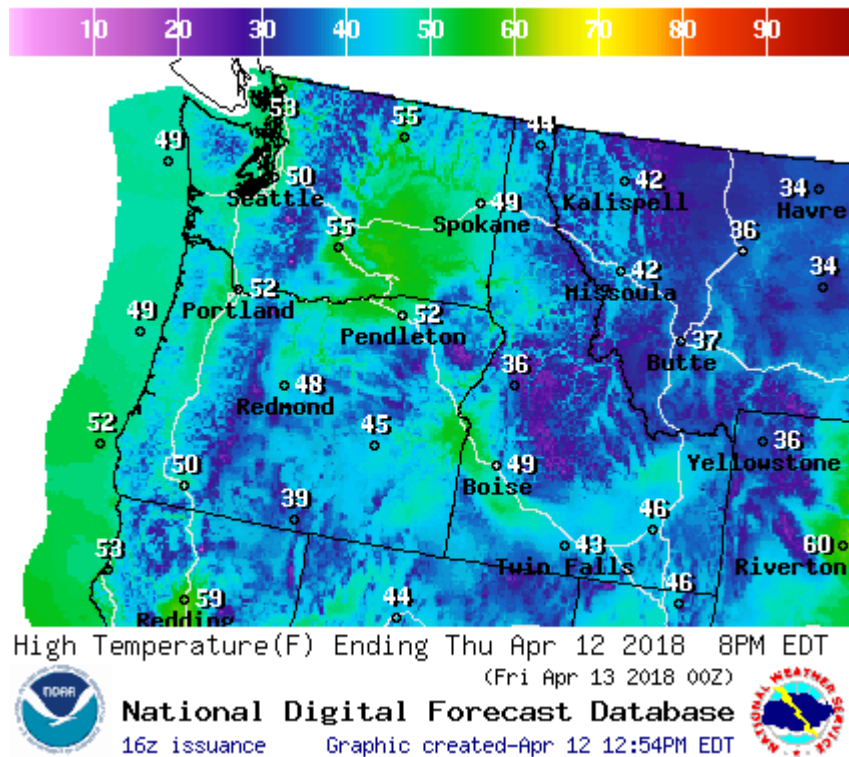
The numbers are percentages.

From the Natural Resources Conservation Service: “The Accumulated Precipitation Percent of Average represents the total precipitation (beginning October 1) found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day.”

**Note:** The new water year began on October 1. Normal would be 100. Much higher can mean flooding; much lower, drought. [From the Natural Resources Conservation Service](#). The percentage represents total precipitation (beginning October 1) at selected SNOTEL sites near the basin compared to average value for those sites.

basin	Last week	Week before	1 year ago
Northern Panhandle	114	113	142
Spokane	114	110	130
Clearwater	122	118	122
Salmon	103	98	137
Weiser	91	87	133
Payette	94	90	144
Boise	96	94	160
Big Wood	94	94	180
Little Wood	97	96	195
Big Lost	99	99	192
Little Lost, Birch	102	102	157
Medicine Lodge, Beaver, Camas	101	99	145
Henry’s Fork, Teton	109	103	151
Snake above Palisades	113	107	167
Willow, Blackfoot, Portneuf	98	94	158
Snake above American Falls	109	104	161
Raft	91	85	146
Goose Creek	85	82	133
Salmon Falls	88	87	132
Bruneau	92	92	140
Owyhee	89	87	130
Bear River	87	84	160

## ■ Weather



From the [National Weather Service](https://www.weather.gov/).

	Last week	Week before	One year ago
<b>Boise</b>	50/30 r	56/40 s	56/39 r
<b>Idaho Falls</b>	45/29 p	47/34 s	74/35 c
<b>Pocatello</b>	44/32 r	48/39 s	66/38 r
<b>Coeur d'Alene</b>	47/31 r	46/35 c	50/35 c
<b>Lewiston</b>	54/36 c	54/42 c	56/41 c
<b>Twin Falls</b>	43/30 r	53/36 s	54/34 r
<b>Sun Valley/Ketchum</b>	40/21 p	39/27 s	54/27 r

s- sunny; c - cloudy; r - rainy; p-snow





# Health/Ed



This May, Idaho State University anthropology students will participate in the 2018 ISU Archaeology Field School. Students will spend four weeks in Kimberly at the Olsen Mammoth Site looking for the remains of a Columbian Mammoth. The Olsen Mammoth Site is located at the edge of the Snake River close to Shoshoni Falls. In 2012, the Olsen family was building a pond and encountered large bones while digging. Those bones ended up being a mammoth tusk, a partial jaw and vertebrae. Only 10 to 15 percent of the mammoth was recovered at that time. Andy Speer, assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and Director of the Archaeology Field School, acquired funding to conduct a ground penetrating radar study to see where the remainder of the mammoth were located. The GPR broadcasts an ultra-high frequency (UHF) radio signal into the ground to reflect off of materials that might be hidden in the soil. The data recovered from the GPR will help direct precision excavation of the site with less chance of damaging the finds. *(photo/Idaho State University)*





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## ISU launches new pharmacy at Kendrick

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After living without pharmacy services for three years, residents in the rural towns of **Kendrick** and **Juliaetta** now have reason to celebrate. A local pharmacy has now returned to the area, through a partnership with **Idaho State University's** Bengal Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy, and Gritman Medical Center in Moscow.

After ISU representatives worked for several years to change the Pharmacy Practice Act in Idaho, allowing a pharmacist to dispense medications remotely via video conferencing and telecommunications, a fourth telepharmacy location operated by Bengal Pharmacy staff opened in Kendrick in January. Representatives from each partner group, along with city officials and residents of the Kendrick/Juliaetta area, came to cut the official ribbon during the grand opening April 5. Several dozen people were in attendance to participate in the opening, and citizens will no longer have to make the nearly 30-mile drive to Lewiston or Moscow to pick up their prescription medication. The rural Idaho towns of Challis, Council and Arco celebrated similar openings of Bengal Telepharmacy locations in the last five years.

This new pharmacy in Kendrick operates on a different model than the Red Cross Pharmacy, in the same building for about 50 years prior. Telepharmacy is the delivery of pharmaceutical care using telecommunications and other information technologies to patients in locations who do not have direct contact with a pharmacist. **Misty Lynam**, a pharmacy technician in Kendrick, works with a pharmacist or student pharmacy intern at Bengal Pharmacy in Pocatello, using still and video cameras, telephone and email to verify a patient's medication.

The prescriptions, pill bottles, medication labels and even the tablets themselves, are placed below a camera by Lynam, and viewed by pharmacists in Pocatello for accuracy before being dispensed to the patient. Each time a new patient, or an existing patient taking a new medication, fills a prescription there, they are offered a consultation with that pharmacist. The consultation takes place in a private room, via video conferencing.

Both Shanna O'Connor, director of clinical services and Brett Jacobson, pharmacist in charge at Bengal Pharmacy in Pocatello say patient counseling is not only a requirement under state law, but it's something they love to do. O'Connor offers prescription counseling to nearly every patient she sees, just to ensure there aren't going to be any unwanted side effects or complications.

"Some of my highly complex patients who are dealing with chronic conditions such as heart disease are taking anywhere between seven and thirty medications at a time," O'Connor said. "Many people think pharmacists are trying to push drugs to their patients, but that isn't the case. I'm an advocate for controlling chronic disease with as few medications as possible, even zero if possible. Drugs are the answer for some things, but not everything."

When the previous pharmacy in Kendrick closed, Gritman Medical Center purchased the building and called Idaho State University right away.

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● [Department of Education](#)

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## Education progress scores hold steady

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The "nation's report card" is in — and Idaho scores remained stable and solid.

"Overall, I'm pleased," state superintendent **Sherri Ybarra** said of the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores, released Tuesday.

One recurring comment on Idaho's report card: "statistically insignificant." In other words, most Idaho scores more or less line up with the national numbers — and in most cases, Idaho's scores really didn't change much from the last NAEP test in 2015.

NAEP is a closely watched exam, because a cross-section of students across the nation take the test every two years. That means the test allows comparisons between states — hence the nation's report card moniker — as well as comparisons over time.

Here are a few key takeaways from the new NAEP numbers:

In all four test areas — fourth- and eighth-grade math and fourth- and eighth-grade reading — Idaho's scores slightly exceeded the national averages. Those gaps were small, as low as one point on a test with a 500-point scale. In most cases, these differences are so small that they are not statistically significant.

There is one exception: eighth-grade reading. Here, Idaho's students posted an average score of 270, exceeding the national average by five points and ranking No.

8 in the nation. The national scores improved from 2015 — the one significant change, and Idaho’s scores kept pace.

The percentage of Idaho students scoring “proficient” or “advanced” improved slightly from 2015 — but none of these upticks were large enough to be statistically significant. NAEP scores do not translate to grade level scores, since every state defines grade level differently. But proficiency is a key yardstick, measuring “solid academic performance demonstrating competency over challenging subject matter.”

● [IdahoEdNews](#)

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## E. coli infections coming from Yuma

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Public health officials in Idaho are investigating an outbreak of *E. coli* infections that are linked to a national outbreak affecting at least 10 other states.

At this time, eight Idaho residents have become sick with *E. coli* infections. All eight people who have become ill report eating romaine lettuce in the 10 days prior to becoming ill. Three individuals were hospitalized, and two have developed kidney failure linked to the *E. coli* infection. All hospitalized individuals were adults between the ages of 20 and 55. No deaths have been linked to this outbreak.

Initial investigations by the Centers for Disease Control and public health officials in affected states indicate that chopped romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Ariz., growing region, could be contaminated with *E. coli* O157:H7 and causing illness. No common grower, supplier, distributor, or brand has been identified yet.

The chopped romaine lettuce has been consumed at restaurants and at people’s homes. As the investigation continues, public health officials at the CDC and Idaho are advising against eating pre-chopped romaine lettuce from the Yuma, Ariz., growing region until further information is known.

Public health officials in the Idaho Division of Public Health and multiple Idaho public health districts are continuing to work with the Food and Drug Administration and CDC to investigate the cause of the illnesses. Pre-chopped romaine lettuce is sold in restaurants, delis, supermarkets, and specialty food stores throughout Idaho. Public health officials advise people who have pre-chopped romaine lettuce from Yuma or an unknown source to throw it out, even if they have previously consumed the romaine without becoming ill.

*E. coli* O157:H7 is a type of bacteria that can cause bloody diarrhea, severe abdominal cramps, vomiting and low-grade fever

Most people recover from *E. coli* O157:H7 infection in five to seven days, but for some the infection can be severe and life-threatening, especially for very young children and the elderly.

● [Department of Health &Welfare](#)

# Cult/Com/Trans



Planning is underway toward developing a Bear River Massacre interpretative center in rural Franklin County. A design was developed by GSBS Architects of Salt Lake City after consultation with the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation. The tribe purchased land for the site in January. The center will review the killing of between 350 and 500 Shoshone in January 1863 by federal troops.

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## Ski areas

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Information from the [SkiTiger.com](https://www.skitiger.com) Northwest ski site.

Ski area	Open	Snow depth (in)	Snow depth year ago (in)
Schweitzer	open	159	45
Silver Mountain	open	154	-
Brundage	open	87	66
Bogus Basin	open	57	-
Sun Valley	open	46	-
Tamarack	open	38	-



<b>Soldier Mountain</b>	open	38	-
<b>Kelly Canyon</b>	open	-	-
<b>Pomerelle</b>	open	31	-

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## Bestselling books

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Top selling paperback non-fiction, from the [Pacific Northwest Independent Bestseller List](#), by IndieBound and the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, based on reports from regional independent booksellers.

\*Regional bestseller not on national IndieBound list.

1. Russian Roulette – Michael Isikoff, David Corn, Twelve, \$30, 9781538728758
2. The Subtle Art of Not Giving A F\*ck – Mark Manson, HarperOne, \$24.99, 9780062457714
3. Educated – Tara Westover, Random House, \$28, 9780399590504
4. I'll Be Gone in the Dark – Michelle McNamara, Harper, \$27.99, 9780062319784
- \*5. The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning – Margareta Magnusson, Scribner, \$18.99, 9781501173240
6. Enlightenment Now – Steven Pinker, Viking, \$35, 9780525427575
7. 12 Rules for Life – Jordan B. Peterson, Random House, \$25.95, 9780345816023
- \*8. Things That Make White People Uncomfortable – Michael Bennett, Dave Zirin, Haymarket Books, \$24.95, 9781608468935
9. Astrophysics for People in a Hurry – Neil deGrasse Tyson, Norton, \$18.95, 9780393609394
- \*10. Heart Berries: A Memoir – Terese Marie Mailhot, Counterpoint, \$23, 9781619023345
- \*11. The Common Good – Robert B. Reich, Knopf, \$22.95, 9780525520498
- \*12. Braving the Wilderness – Brene Brown, Random House, \$28, 9780812995848
13. Make Trouble: Standing Up, Speaking Out, and Finding the Courage to Lead – Cecile Richards, Touchstone, \$27, 9781501187599
14. The Hidden Life of Trees – Peter Wohlleben, Greystone Books, \$24.95, 9781771642484
- \*15. So You Want to Talk About Race – Ijeoma Oluo, Seal Press, \$27, 9781580056779

# Calendar

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## March

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- 1 Last day for the County Clerk to receive written requests for the purpose of authorizing persons to act as challengers at the polling place for the March 13 election.
  - Joint Legislative Oversight Committee meeting (child welfare). Boise.
  - Respectful workplace task force committee meeting. Boise.
  - Idaho State University's International Affairs Council, 47th annual Frank Church Symposium. Pocatello.
- 2 Legislative committee target for rules review.
  - Board of Education meeting. Boise.
- 5 Legislative transmittal deadline (general) between chambers.
- 6 Regulatory Reform Joint Subcommittee legislative meeting. Boise.
- 7 State administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 9 Last day for filing declarations of candidacy for candidates, including independents, with secretary of state or county clerk for the Primary (May 15) and General (November 6) Elections.
  - Last day for Early Voting until 5:00 p.m. for the March 13 election at the Early Voting polling place.
  - Budget setting target deadline in JFAC.
  - Water supply committee meeting, Boise.
- 12 Statewide labor force, nonfarm employment data for January 2018 released.
- 13 Special election day.
  - Joint Legislative Oversight Committee meeting. Boise.
  - Regulatory Reform Joint Subcommittee legislative meeting. Boise.
- 14 Board of Transportation meeting. Boise.
- 15 Health Care Rally calling for action on the Idaho Health Care Plan. Boise.
  - Board of Education meeting. Boise.
- 16 Capital for a Day at Moyie Springs.
- 17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 19 Last day for the Secretary of State to certify candidates to the County Clerks for the Primary Election.
- 20 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
  - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
  - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
  - Board of Health & Welfare meeting. Boise..
  - Board of Correction meeting. Boise.
- 21 Fish & Game Commission special meeting. Boise.
- 22 Water Resources Board meeting. Boise.



- Idaho Economic Advisory Council meeting. Boise.
- 23 Last day a partisan candidate may withdraw before the Primary Election.
  - Target deadline to complete legislative session business.
  - Last day for the Board of County Commissioners to meet and canvass the vote for the March 13 election.
- 27 Legislative target for sine die adjournment.
- 28 2018 Serve Idaho Conference, focus on Diversity and Inclusion. Boise.
- 31 Last day a candidate for political subdivisions may withdraw before the May 15 election.

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## April

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- 4 State administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 5 Last day for the Secretary of State to provide form of sample Primary Election (May 15) ballot.
  - State Workforce Development Council meeting. Meridian.
- 6 Board of Dentistry meeting. Boise.
- 12 Last day for a candidate or a ballot measure interested party for the March 13 election to request a recount with the Attorney General.
  - Idaho Water Supply Committee meeting. Boise.
- 13 Fish & Game Commission meeting (conference call).
  - Capitol for a Day event scheduled at Declo.
- 15 Last day for County Commissioners to set polling place for Primary Election.
- 17 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
  - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
  - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
  - Nampa state of the city address by mayor.
- 18 Board of Education meeting. Moscow (University of Idaho).
  - Idaho Transportation Board meeting. Lewiston.
  - Idaho Public Utilities Commission workshop, Avista/Hydro One merger. Coeur d'Alene.
- 25 I-90 Aerospace Corridor Conference & Expo. Spokane.
- 26 Idaho Cybersecurity Interdependencies Workshop. Boise.
  - Idaho Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee meeting. Post Falls.
- 30 Last day to begin Early Voting at the Early Voting Polling Place for the Primary Election for those counties who elect to conduct Early Voting.

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## State Appointments

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Recent appointments to state boards and commissions by Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter.

- **Contractors Board** – David Shurtleff, Boise
- **Children at Risk Task Force** – Melissa Osen, Jerome
- **Hazardous Waste Facility Siting License Application Review Panel** – Suzanne Budge, Boise; Dr. Jay Kunze, Pocatello; Mark VonLindern, Lewiston
- **Health Quality Planning** – Dr. Kenneth Bramwell, Boise
- **Idaho Rural Partnership** – Trent Clark, Soda Springs
- **Infant Toddler Coordinating Council** – Dr. Omair Shamim, Meridian
- **Lava Hot Springs Foundation** – Jeff Hough, Pocatello
- **Pacific States Marine Fisheries** – Virgil Moore, Boise
- **SERVE Idaho** – Donald Heuer, Caldwell; Michael Jensen, Boise; Kristi Keeler, Grangeville; Kristen Tracy, Boise
- **Sheep and Goat Health Board** – Glenn Dalling, Hamer
- **State Independent Living Council** – Sean Burlile, Meridian
- **Travel Council** – Lonnie Allen, Warm River
- **Uniform State Laws** – David Jensen, Boise
- **Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education** – Dr. Richard Aman, Ammon

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### ● Governor Otter

Idaho Commerce Director Bobbi-Jo Meuleman has named **George Lynch** as Senior Economic Development Advisor, effective April 17. In this new position, Lynch will work with partners throughout the state advising the director on policy initiatives for issues such as broadband access, affordable housing, and other key challenges the state faces in furthering economic development.

He joins Idaho Commerce after three years at Bloomberg Law as a Senior Legal Editor where he specialized in state and local tax law and regulations as well as international and U.S. privacy and data protection laws.

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### ● [Department of Commerce](#)

# A year ago



**2017:** The Idaho Panhandle National Forests experienced flood damage in several drainages, including significant damage to Lightning Creek Road (FSR #419). The forest closed it between milepost 7.5 to the junction of FSR #275 at milepost 18.0, for public safety. The damages include the loss of four large concrete box culverts, three segments of road washouts, and bridge damage. The estimated cost of repairs in the Lightning Creek drainage is approximately \$1.9 million. (photo/Idaho Panhandle National Forests)

In the *Idaho Weekly Briefing*:

- Idaho Republican Party Chairman Steve Yates said on April 10 that he intends to step down as state party chairman effective April 24.
- Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter on April 11 vetoed legislation which sought to exempt grocery purchases from the state sales tax. He also allowed to become law, without his signature, a measure substantially expanding spending on state highways. The grocery sales tax measure had cleared the Senate on a vote of 25-10 and the House by 51-19.

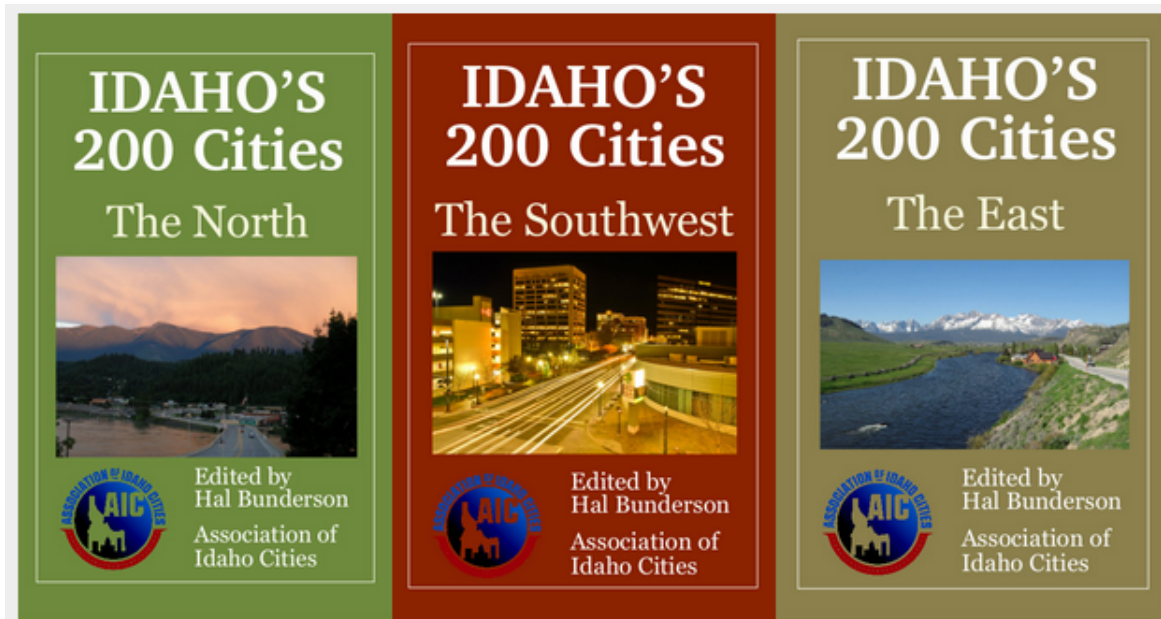
- Canyon County voters in six precincts will have new polling places beginning with the May 16 election. To better comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards as mandated by the U.S. Department of Justice, Canyon County elections officials have made agreements with five public schools and the Nampa Public Library to use those locations as polling sites for future elections. The Canyon County Board of Commissioners officially approved the changes in April.
- Idaho Supreme Court Justice Daniel T. Eismann said that he plans to retire from the court on August 31. Candidates for the position will be reviewed and nominated by the Idaho Judicial Council.
- Reservoirs are filling across southern Idaho, and fisheries managers are looking forward to the benefits that big water brings. “When we have these great water years, we have so much more habitat,” said Dave Teuscher, fisheries manager for the Southeast Region. “And the amount of forage is just incredible.”
- Idaho Power Company is asking state regulators to approve an average 1.3 percent increase in an annual rate adjustment mechanism that allows the utility to recover its fixed costs of delivering energy when energy sales decline due to reduced consumption.
- Idaho Power Company is asking state regulators to approve a sales agreement with a Burley area project that converts landfill gas to energy.
- In the final days of the 2017 Idaho legislative session, lawmakers approved a change in state law to allow people or entities to apply for the temporary use of surplus water to prevent flood damage, recharge ground water, or work on ground or surface water-quality remediation.
- The Minidoka Ranger District will host a community meeting to discuss the Albion-Raft River Aspen Restoration Project proposal on the evening of April 26.
- The U.S. Small Business Administration announced this week that the first stop of their annual 11-state, 15-stop road tour will be held at Boise State University on May 2.
- Work will occur at the junction of U.S. 95 and U.S. 20/26 and include the reconstruction of the Union Pacific Railroad overpass, Sand Hollow Creek Bridge and nearby pavement rehabilitation.
- Four University of Idaho students were transported to Gritman Medical Center Thursday night after an experimental rocket exploded in a parking lot on the Moscow campus.
- The University of Idaho has launched an online photo gallery collection to assist members of the media with high-resolution photos depicting UI events, people and news stories.



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## Idaho's 200 Cities – North, Southwest and East

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Three new books arriving this week: The series of Idaho's 200 Cities, with one title each focused on the norther, southwestern and eastern parts of the state.

And more than that too: There are also three books of Idaho trivia, a challenge for anyone who thinks they know the state.

The books are the culmination of a decade of work by the Association of Idaho Cities, spearheaded by former legislator Hal Bunderson. The books were written in part by Bunderson and in part by people all over Idaho, in cities from Moyie Springs to St. Charles.

The detail is startling, and the insights often surprising - there's a lot more to these communities than almost anyone but locals know (and not all of them). One of the most useful parts of the books is the section on turning points, describing the developments and events that caused the city to grow and change, for better or worse, the way it has. A of lessons can be found there.

If Idaho is of interest - and if you live there it ought to be - then these books belong on your bookshelf. They're available now, and in both paperback and full color hardbound flavors.

[You can find out more about them, and order them, here.](#) (They're also available [at Amazon.com](#)).