



IDAHO WEEKLY BRIEFING

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In this issue



Campaigns for major office in Idaho roared ahead this week, with a number of major debates in many of the top contests held, and a string of new television spots released. Little additional polling has surfaced, however.

Idaho Weekly Briefing

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Cover picture

REFORESTATION As soil temperatures rise and snow melts, reforestation efforts are underway on private lands burned in the 2015 Clearwater Complex Fire. The Idaho Department of Lands in partnership with the Idaho County Soil and Water Conservation District is leading the tree replanting effort. Approximately 27,000 Ponderosa Pine seedlings were just planted on 90 acres of private land in the Lolo Creek drainage. The seedlings are part of a larger project that will bring more than 130,000 seedlings to private forestlands hardest hit by the 2015 catastrophic fires in the Clearwater basin. The project targets non-industrial private lands that are at extreme risk of landslides, insect and disease outbreaks, and weed invasions post-fire. (*image/Department of Lands*)

A Meridian milestone



This seems too significant a milestone in Idaho history to go unheralded - and noted for what Idaho is becoming.

From the Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS), on Tuesday:

“In 1990, the City of Meridian had a population of less than 10,000. Today we estimate a population of 106,410 – a leap of more than 10-fold in 28 years, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the nation.”

That’s not exactly an official number, since it isn’t a U.S. Census statistic, but it’s probably pretty close. Likely it means that after the 2020 census, Meridian will be reported with a population well over 100,000, and Nampa, which will be in third place among Idaho cities, has a good chance of clearing 100,000 as well. (Below that the numbers will fall steeply, down to Idaho Falls at probably about 65,000.)

The city on top, Boise, now is estimated at 232,300 people.

This means those three largest cities, all within a few miles of each other, between them will be home to nearly a half-million people. But even that understates the picture, since COMPASS also estimates the current overall population of Ada and Canyon counties at 688,110. At the current growth rate, if that number is a good estimate, then those two counties may account for close to 750,000 people by the time of the next census.

Idaho’s total population is now estimated at 1.75 million by the Census. If COMPASS is right, then Ada and Canyon alone now account for 39.3 percent of the state’s population. In, say, 1980, that percentage was 27.1 percent.

Put another way, Ada and Canyon together are becoming a much bigger piece of the Idaho population. A generation ago, it accounted for about a quarter of the Idaho population; not many years from now, it may account for half. This is a long-term trend, and it will change Idaho.

What does the future of Idaho look like?

Look at Meridian. When I came to Idaho in the early 70s, Meridian's population was under 6,000 people; now, you have to add 100,000 to that. They live mostly in a vast expanse of subdivisions and other housing developments.

What has generated that development? At core, it isn't business or government growth. Lots of businesses and government (and educational and health facilities) have sprouted, but they're mostly there to service the people who moved to the area. These people moved to a sprawling field of suburbia, a relatively affordable place with lots of new housing and new services. It is a bedroom community, serving the nearby area and its own internal growth.

Don't expect this to end soon. In the new book (put together by the Association of Idaho Cities and which - disclosure here - I published) called Idaho's 200 Cities, Meridian saw its future this way: "By 2050 Meridian's population will more than double with many of its boundaries abutting those of neighboring cities." That does not sound like an unreasonable projection from where we are now.

The smaller-population areas of Idaho that also have been growing quickly - around Twin Falls and Coeur d'Alene, for example - are similar: Suburbs that look a lot like Meridian.

The people of Idaho were once, in large part, cowboys, farmers, miners and loggers. Some still are, but increasingly they are suburbanites. Look upon Meridian, and see Idaho's future.

– *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*

April 15

- [Medicaid ballot initiative forging ahead](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) The organizers are moving steadily toward ballot status. See also the [Idaho Press Tribune](#).
- [Top of ballot candidates engage in debates](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Candidates for governor and the District 1 U.S. House seat, the top two primary contests in the state, meet to debate. Candidate Raul Labrador says he’s the lone conservative in the race, say contender Tommy Ahlquist has repeatedly flip-flopped. Ahlquist said he comes from “the real world” while candidate Brad Little argues that Idaho’s working pretty well.
- [Numbers of refugees in Idaho declining](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The number was said to decline to a “trickle.”
- [Idaho Falls schools may add all-day kindergarten](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) It’s under discussion in District 91, though whether it will be adopted is unclear.
- [Asotin County library moves toward reopening](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The library has been undergoing an extensive remodel. Managers hope to have it back up and running by sometime this summer.
- [Many seniors using RV parks for affordable housing](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) It’s a response to the lack of other affordable housing.
- [High school referee numbers in decline](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The numbers have been falling rapidly.
- [College of Southern Idaho may get gender-neutral bathrooms](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) This would be in common with a growing number of institutions around the country.
- [Feds investigate hazing at high school volleyball team](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello)

April 16

- [Counties join suits of opioid makers](#) (Idaho Statesman, Boise) This is part of a large national effort, centered in an Ohio court, to go after manufacturers and marketers of OxyContin and other products.
- [New Catholic school planned for next school year](#) (Lewiston Tribune) The Lewiston school is called All Saints Catholic School, and opening is expected for September. Construction is still underway.
- [Republican legislators blast dam water spill ruling](#) (Daily News, Moscow) The ruling from a federal judge has drawn legislation as a counter, from a number of Pacific Northwest House members.
- [Twin Falls Council may change parking rules](#) (Times News, Twin Falls) The council may change rules on all-day parking and other provisions.

April 17

- [Hunter-environmentalist alliance develops on lands](#) (Idaho Statesman, Boise) Rocky Barker column: Younger outdoors people are finding increasing common cause.
- [Medical school nearly finished](#) (Post Register, Idaho Falls) The Meridian-based institution is planned to open in September; it's associated in part with Idaho State University.
- [Counties suing drug companies](#) (Post Register, Idaho Falls)
- [Lewiston Christian school turns 100 years old](#) (Lewiston Tribune) It's still in operation in the Lewiston Orchards.
- [Moscow school district advises calm after threat](#) (Daily News, Moscow) The superintendent at the Moscow School District, Greg Bailey, spoke in response to parental concerns.
- [Waste disposal rates in flux](#) (Daily News, Moscow) Moscow has been getting good rates on waste, and hopes to continue that.
- [Nampa will hold bond election for wastewater facility](#) (Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa) It will be a big bond proposal - \$165 million.
- [Magic Valley student enrollments likely to increase](#) (Times News, Twin Falls) Overall in the region, the student population is rising. That isn't uniform, however, and many smaller districts are seeing little or no growth.
- [Cassia County governments review waste transfer](#) (Times News, Twin Falls) Burley is looking into options for waste transfer stations.
- [Parents irked at Pocatello schools treatment on autism](#) (Idaho State Journal, Pocatello) Relates to expulsion of an autistic student.

April 18

- [Agency says Meridian passes 100,000 people](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise). The measure by a local government organization (not the Census) tracks with recent population estimates. Nampa might hit 100k as well by 2020.
- [Library director on administrative leave](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Lewiston Library Director Alexa Eccles was put on leave by the governing board, but no explanation was forthcoming.
- [Exact location of gray wolves kept close](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The wolves wear tracking collars, but the data about where exactly they are is kept on a down-low basis. They're reviewing what and where it is shared.
- [Tuition increase for full-time students sought at UI](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) The Board of Education will be considering the request; it's meeting this week at Moscow.
- [Levy planned for health science center](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The College of Western Idaho is looking at adding a large new building at Nampa. State funding of \$10 million out of \$49 million already is in.
- [Nampa mayor delivers first state of city address](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) Mayor Debbie Kling spoke about needs in emergency services and local planning.
- [Rock Creek Canyon trail expanded](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) This is a new trail south of the existing one.
- [Recall petition in Albion declared void](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Not enough signatures were obtained in the effort to recall Mayor Sharon Hardy-Mills Wilmot.
- [Medical school almost finished](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello) The Meridian-based institution is planned to open in September; it is associated in part with Idaho State University.

April 19

- [Activists want to cap Idaho oil and gas development](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Activists around Payette and Ada counties are trying to develop local ordinances and requirements to limit oil and gas activity near their homes and businesses.
- [Stadium opposition turns angry at hearing on proposal](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) From the article: "Geoffrey Wardle faced an angry crowd Tuesday night that jeered him, cheered his detractors, cursed and slung occasional insults." They also called out as a "carpetbagger" the representative of a company that wants to develop a near-downtown Boise stadium.

- [Fish and Game grizzly proposal emerges](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The Department of Fish and Game has developed its plan for grizzly bear hunts in parts of the state.
- [Acting library director named at Lewiston](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Aaron Butler, a supervisor, was given the role on an interim basis; reasons for the absence of the last director still aren't clear.
- [Initiative effort for Idaho Medicaid nears climax](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The effort needs about 5,000 more signatures, and efforts are focusing on Canyon County. The signatures need a specific geographic distribution, a set percentage in 18 legislative districts.
- [Tuition and fees rising again at higher ed institutions](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The numbers are continuing to rise. See also *Idaho State Journal*, *Idaho Press Tribune*.
- [The Star battle on new development in perspective](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The newish city on the Ada-Canyon border is the center for a big dispute over large-scale development of farm land.
- [Gateway West project gets Interior approval](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) Formal federal approval, which had been in the works for a couple of years, has been received.
- [Reviewing local legislative primaries](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Several strongly-competitive Republican contests have developed around the Magic Valley, including two for retirees' seats.
- [Rate cuts proposed at Idaho Power](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Local residential rates would be cut modestly.

April 20

- [Anti-abortion rhetoric picking up in state races](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise, *Lewiston Tribune*) Idaho is highlighted in this story about Republican candidates around the country calling for criminal charges for patients and physicians involved in abortions.
- [Nampa's new mayor reflects on a year in office](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Debbie Kling talks about law enforcement and downtown revitalization a year after taking office, and on delivery of a state of the city speech.
- [Labrador holds event at Ammon elementary](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) Raul Labrador held a campaign event at the elementary school at Ammon.
- [Legislator responds again on residency question](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) State Representative Priscilla Giddings, who represents a northern Idaho district, claims a homeowners exemption in Ada County; this story outlines a letter she sent to Ada County about that claim. Ada has rejected the exemption.
- [University students reconsider Lewiston's water access](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) What might Lewiston look like if the four lower Snake River dams were eliminated? Washington State students consider the options.

- [Moscow Urban Renewal may expand](#) (*Daily News, Moscow*) Talks center on inclusion of a Main Street area.
- [Gas prices shoot north of \\$3](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) The state gas price average is about 18% above its levels a month ago.
- [Star holds off comprehensive plan changes](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) The controversial impact area expansion is dropped for now, but could be revisited.
- [Major ski lodge at Ketchum burns](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) This is the Warm Springs Lodge, which had been open for business this winter.

April 21

- [Many seniors using RV parks for affordable housing](#) (*Idaho Statesman, Nampa*) It's a response to the lack of other affordable housing.
- [Idaho Falls school bond under discussion](#) (*Post Register, Idaho Falls*) The school board is talking with residents about it to gauge support.
- [Conservative think tank hits dam study](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The Washington Policy Center, a "free market" group, says the study calling for dam breaching underestimates the impact of loss of electric power from the four Snake River dams.
- [Weedstock sees initial low attendance](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The marijuana event is slated for this weekend near Colfax.
- [Four GOP candidates running for county treasurer](#) (*Daily News, Moscow*) The Latah race is highly active.
- [Unemployment at only 2.6% in Magic Valley](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) The region's labor force is estimated at more than 100,000.
- [Aquifer recharge effort proves highly successful](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) The goal for the year has been passed already.

Poll



This week's question:

Who will win the contest for the Idaho 1st congressional district Republican nomination?

Cast your vote at www.ridenbaugh.com

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



Otter officially endorses Little for governor

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](#)

SIMPSON ENDORSEMENT Representative **Mike Simpson** on April 17 issued the follow statement on Idaho’s Republican primary campaign for Governor:

"With millions of dollars already being spent on negative advertising, it’s clear that some accusations need to be addressed. The inflammatory attacks on Brad Little are simply not true. He deserves better, and so do Idaho voters! Attacking Brad’s conservative record and achievements for Idahoans is more than misleading, it is wrong. Brad Little is the most qualified, honest and hard-working candidate running for Governor. I join many other Republicans in supporting Brad because his record is solid and distinguished. There is no question where Brad will stand as Governor - he will stand for Idaho."

Top-ballot campaigns/2018

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

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



Interior okays last pieces of Gateway line

The Department of the Interior's **Bureau of Land Management** has approved routes for segments of the Gateway West electric transmission line project on public lands in southwestern Idaho, connecting previously authorized routes in southern Wyoming and eastern Idaho. The project will improve the nation's energy infrastructure and boost the economy in the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain West.

"President Trump has been clear -- we need to bring our infrastructure, including our energy infrastructure, into the 21st Century," Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke said. "The Gateway West electric transmission line is an example of the President's vision in action, and it will help power the American West for years to come, as America achieves energy dominance. I thank the State of Idaho and the other partners with whom we worked so closely to get this done."

The Gateway West project supports the President's America First Energy Plan while furthering the administration's priorities of achieving energy dominance, modernizing the nation's infrastructure, creating jobs and providing economic opportunity.

The transmission line is expected to deliver enough power to supply 975,000 homes and generate an estimated 3,100 jobs during construction and operation, including more than 1,360 connected with segments 8 and 9 in southern Idaho, for a total labor income of \$23.1 million.

"Throughout his time as Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Zinke has put an emphasis on working with federal, state, and local partners to achieve mission success," Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash said.

Balash signed a Decision Record authorizing the BLM to offer rights-of-way on public lands for segments 8 and 9 of the project to Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power and amending applicable BLM land use plans to accommodate these ROWs.

"We spent eight years in the wilderness, fighting an uphill battle against entrenched regulators in the Obama administration to get this essential piece of energy infrastructure approved. Now, in just over a year under the Trump administration, we've seen a 180-degree change in the federal approach," Idaho Governor **C.L. "Butch" Otter** said. "I'm grateful for the recent rebirth of federalism we've seen, and for the Interior Department's understanding of this project's importance throughout the region."

"Approval of segments 8 and 9 is welcome news in Idaho and I thank Assistant Secretary Balash for following the intent of my legislation," said Representative

Mike Simpson. “This Idaho solution is good for the economy, conservation, and ratepayers who will benefit from lower rates and transmission reliability.”

Simpson sponsored legislation in 2017 that was signed into law as part of the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act. The legislation resolved concerns about effects to the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area and allowed the transmission line to be routed using the BLM Resource Advisory Council’s (RAC) preferred alternative, which was also supported by the State of Idaho.

“Completing these two segments of transmission line will deliver reliable power to southern Idaho while also creating good paying construction and ongoing maintenance jobs,” said Senator **Mike Crapo**, Chairman of the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee. “The approval of these final segments is testament to the success in the collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management, State of Idaho and surrounding communities who best understand how to protect and preserve lands while supporting needed energy infrastructure.”

“The decision advances a common-sense solution between federal, state, and local representatives to best provide for Idaho’s energy needs and promote the region’s energy infrastructure moving forward,” said Senator **Jim Risch**.

“Gateway West is critical to Idaho’s economy and it’s great news that the final two segments have been approved,” said Representative **Raúl Labrador**. “The route now reflects a solution crafted on the ground in Idaho that fairly reflects local needs while clearing the way for an important regional energy project.”

Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power first proposed the 500-kilovolt, 10-segment Project in 2007 as a 10-segment, 500-kilovolt transmission line originating near Glenrock, Wyoming, and terminating at the Hemingway substation, 20 miles southwest of Boise. The BLM authorized public-land ROWs for segments 1 through 7 and 10 in 2013, but deferred a decision on segments 8 and 9 to examine additional routing options.

The BLM analyzed a range of alternative routes for segments 8 and 9 in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

A subsequent Environmental Assessment led to a Finding of No New Significant Impact beyond those disclosed in the Supplemental EIS. The EA follows appeals of the January 2017 Record of Decision from the State of Idaho, Owyhee County Commissioners, and three environmental groups, along with requests for reconsideration from Governor Otter and the project proponents, PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power and Idaho Power.

As part of a larger effort to modernize the grid in the Pacific Northwest, the Project furthers America’s energy security and transmission reliability. Authorizing the final segments of the Project will make 7,191 acres of Federal lands within the ROW available to transmit electric power generated from both traditional (i.e. coal-fired and natural gas-fired) generation facilities and renewable sources (i.e. wind generation facilities) in Wyoming and Idaho.

● [Bureau of Land Management](#)

Risch backs Syria air strikes

Senator **Jim Risch**, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, issued the following statement about the air strikes in Syria:

"I strongly support the action taken last night by the US-UK-France alliance in response to the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons against its own people. This type of behavior has become a pattern for the Assad regime and I sincerely hope last night's strikes reinforce our determination to confront those who would use chemical weapons. Russia and Iran share responsibility for Assad's brutal treatment of Syrian civilians; they must ensure Assad never uses chemical weapons. It's never an easy choice to put our military in harm's way but I am grateful to all those involved and continue praying for their safety."

- [Senator Risch](#)



State

State Regulation

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.



Work starts on key Pocatello interchange

One of **Pocatello's** busiest intersections will be getting a facelift.

Starting April 23, crews will begin work on the intersection of East Alameda Road, Jefferson Avenue, Hilina Road, and Pocatello Creek Road.

The reconfigured design includes the elimination of left-hand turns on Hilina Road and Jefferson Avenue near the intersection, better pedestrian crossings, more signage, and updated curb ramps that conform to Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines. A sound reduction wall will also be installed from Wayne Avenue to the canal.

“The safety of the travelling public is a priority with the city of Pocatello,” said **Jeff Mansfield**, Public Works Director/City Engineer. “The safety features will help reduce the number of accidents and congestion at the intersection.”

From 2011 to 2016, there have been 80 accidents in the project area according to data compiled by the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council. A road safety audit was completed in September 2015 and identified features that would improve the intersection.

Work is scheduled to be completed in July but due to unforeseen circumstances or inclement weather, the project may be delayed. The total cost of construction is \$1,080,472.50 with \$79,306.68 coming from the city of Pocatello and \$1,001,165.82 from federal and other sources.

● [Pocatello city](#)



File

INMATE SUICIDE At the request of the **Department of Correction**, the Ada County Sheriff's Office is investigating the apparent suicide of an inmate at Idaho State Correctional Institution. At 4:21 p.m. Tuesday, a correctional officer found Francisco Martinez Parreira, 27, unconscious in his cell with a sheet tied around his neck. Ada County paramedics transported Mr. Parreira to a Boise hospital where he remained until he was pronounced dead at 8:25 p.m., Thursday, April 19, 2018.

- [Department of Correction](#)

Supreme Court decisions

Recent civil decisions of the Idaho Supreme Court.

- [Diane Brooks v. Wal-Mart Stores](#) (April 19, Bevan) This is an appeal from a grant of summary judgment dismissing an action originally brought by Diane Brooks against Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., based on injuries Brooks received when she slipped and fell on a puddle of water near a Rug Doctor self-service kiosk inside the Wal-Mart on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho. Brooks bases her claims on premises liability and negligent mode of operation, alleging Wal-Mart knew or should have known that water could spill or leak onto the floor near the kiosk. Wal-Mart moved for summary judgment, arguing that Brooks failed to establish Wal-Mart had actual or constructive notice of the condition that caused her injury. This is because there was no evidence showing where the liquid came from, how long it had been on the floor, or what it was. The district court agreed. Because we find material issues of fact exist, we reverse the district court.
- [Budget Truck Sales LLC v. Kent Tilley](#) (and related cases) (April 20, Bevan) This is an appeal out of Cassia County from a judgment enforcing a settlement agreement between Kent Tilley and Budget Truck Sales, LLC, Brek A. Pilling, Brian L. Tibbets, and Mike Tilley. The Budget Parties appealed alleging that the parties' settlement agreement was void because it was procured by fraud. According to the Budget Parties, Tilley proposed to convey title to a CAT 950 front loader, but Tilley misrepresented the loader's condition. We vacate the judgment and remand for further proceedings.

Jobless rate stays in cellar at 2.9%

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dipped to 2.9 percent in March, ending a six-month run of 3 percent and remaining at low levels last seen in 2007 and 2008.

The state's labor force – the total number of people 16 years of age and older working or looking for work – increased by 1,646 from February to March for an all-time record high of 848,097.

Total employment increased by 1,963 to 823,423, while the number of unemployed dropped by 317 to 24,674.

Idaho's labor force participation rate held steady at 64 percent for the third consecutive month.

Over the year, statewide labor force for March was up 22,745 (2.8 percent), total employment was up by 25,582 (3.2 percent) and there were 2,837 (10.3 percent) fewer unemployed persons.

According to the Conference Board, a Washington, D.C., think tank, there were 22,100 online Idaho job openings in March compared with 23,136 a year ago. Of these postings, 4,608 were classified as hard-to-fill, down from 5,008 in March 2017. Hard-to-fill positions are those continuously posted for 90 days or more. Health care occupations, including physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists, occupational and physical therapists and support positions, represent about 23 percent of all hard-to-fill online job openings.

Total nonfarm jobs increased by 1,400 jobs in March. Seven industry sectors – natural resources; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and other services – all exceeded seasonal expectations. Three sectors – information; professional and business services; and education and health services – decreased by a total of 500 jobs from February, while government employment remained unchanged.

Year-over-year, the state continued to see strong job growth. Total nonfarm jobs grew by 3.3 percent for a total of 23,300 jobs – the fastest growth rate in the nation for the second consecutive month. Construction jobs led the way with the largest percentage growth of Idaho's industry sectors at 8.6 percent for an additional 3,800 jobs. Financial activities, other services, manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality rounded out the remaining top five growth industries with over-the-year job gains of more than 4 percent.

Monthly job gains were also reported for five of Idaho's Metropolitan Statistical Areas – Boise (+900), Pocatello (+400) and Idaho Falls (+100). Coeur d'Alene and Lewiston experienced a combined loss of 400 jobs.

Over the year, Idaho's five MSAs all experienced gains in nonfarm payroll employment. Boise added 12,400 jobs, Idaho Falls added 2,200 jobs, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello each added 1,400 jobs and Lewiston added 600 jobs.

Annually, unemployment insurance benefit payments were down nearly 23 percent - from a weekly average of \$2.6 million a year ago to \$2 million for March 2018. The number of claimants dropped by almost 24 percent to 6,300 from a weekly average of 8,300.

Twenty-three of Idaho's 44 counties had unemployment rates above the state rate in March. Six counties experienced rates at or above 5 percent: Clearwater at 7 percent, Shoshone at 5.7 percent, Lewis and Adams at 5.3 percent, Benewah at 5.1 percent and Boundary at 5 percent. Madison County's unemployment rate remained the lowest at 1.8 percent.

Nationally, March's unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent for the sixth consecutive month. Total nonfarm payroll employment increased by 103,000. Labor force participation decreased slightly to 62.9 percent.

April's 2018 labor force and nonfarm payroll data for Idaho will be released on May 18.

● [Department of Labor](#)

Regulators approve Hells Canyon financing plan

State regulators have approved a settlement agreement in a case involving the relicensing of **Idaho Power's** largest hydropower complex.

The settlement allows approximately \$216.5 million in expenditures related to the relicensing of the Hells Canyon Complex to be designated as prudently incurred and eligible for inclusion in customer rates at a later date.

That is a decrease of almost \$5 million from Idaho Power's initial request to the **Idaho Public Utilities Commission**, filed in late 2016.

The commission issued its order on April 13, 2018. An errata issued April 16 corrected typographical errors in the original order but did not change its substance.

The Hells Canyon Complex consists of the Brownlee, Oxbow and Hells Canyon dams and is capable of providing 1,167 megawatts of energy. That is approximately 70 percent of Idaho Power's annual hydroelectric generation and 30 percent of the company's total generating capacity.

While the commission is charged with determining whether efforts to relicense the plant can be included in customer rates, the licensing process falls under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Idaho Power began its efforts to relicense Hells Canyon in 1991. The complex has been operating under annual licenses since its previous 50-year license expired in 2005.

Idaho Power sought the prudence determination before the relicensing effort was complete, and in advance of a general rate case, primarily because company representatives and key subject matter experts who have been working on the relicensing process for almost three decades are on the verge of retirement but also because a prudence review outside of a general rate case allowed commission staff to focus solely on the “extensive data” associated with HCC relicensing costs incurred over nearly three decades.

The relicensing process has been slower than expected due to the fact that more than 100 species with endangered, threatened or protective status are present in and around the HCC.

As a result, Hells Canyon must comply with various provisions of the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act.

The company does not expect a decision from FERC on a new long-term license until 2021, at the earliest, but the commission expressed optimism that FERC will see the value of the HCC to Idaho Power’s customers and issue the license at its earliest convenience.

“We are optimistic that, after the extensive efforts undertaken by the utility, interested parties, multiple state agencies and several state commissions, FERC will allow the relicensing process to finally come to a successful conclusion,” the commission said. “Customers have benefited from the dam complex for decades and, since the license expired in 2005, customers have continued to benefit despite the fact that relicensing expenditures are not presently recovered in rates.”

Staff’s audit led to adjustments for transactions that lacked an invoice or were not adequately documented, adjustments that should have been categorized as general operating costs rather than capitalized and the exclusion of transactions that have been traditionally removed from the revenue requirement on which rates are determined. Staff’s audit also included a review of prior staff audits, to verify expenses related to labor, materials, purchased services and overhead.

“In sum, we find that the extensive audit captures only expenditures that were made as part of the HCC relicensing process, and eliminates dubious or questionable expenditures, or those that lack independent verifiable support,” the commission said, adding that it expected Idaho Power to “review and revise this policy and not repeat this mistake again.”

The settlement agreement approved by the commission was the result of settlement talks held in late 2017.

All parties to the case - Idaho Power representatives, commission staff, Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association and Industrial Customers of Idaho Power (ICIP) – participated in the settlement talks and agreed that the costs were prudent.

ICIP declined to sign the settlement agreement, however, contending that there was no legal basis for the company to seek, or for the commission to grant, a prudence finding before HCC is relicensed.

Instead, the organization asked the commission to make “a prudence finding that is EXPLICIT contingent upon a future commission’s finding that (a fully

relicensed HCC) is a prudent investment,” is used and useful, and providing service to future ratepayers in Idaho Power’s system.

The commission rejected ICIP’s assertion.

“Rather, we find this commission has ample authority to determine prudence now, and that now is the appropriate time to make that judgment,” the PUC said.

As part of the settlement agreement, Idaho Power agreed to take steps to ease the prudence review of future HCC relicensing expenses by, in part, filing its next request for prudence determination on relicensing costs incurred after Dec. 31, 2015 no later than five years after the date of the order in this case.

The prudence review in this case began in December 2016, when Idaho Power asked the commission to designate \$220,845,830 in relicensing-related expenses through Dec. 31, 2015 as prudently incurred.

The settlement approved by the commission calls for \$213,606,878 in direct relicensing expenses, and \$2,897,267 in costs tied to a settlement agreement the company reached in 2003 with Oregon’s Baker County to mitigate the economic impact of the HCC dams on the surrounding communities.

The settlement calls for the establishment of a regulatory asset for expenditures related to the Baker County settlement agreement that were incurred through Dec. 31, 2015, and for the inclusion of additional amounts in the regulatory asset to be reviewed for prudence in a future proceeding.

Idaho Power has been recovering from customers a portion of expenses related to HCC relicensing for almost a decade, after a 2009 Commission order authorized the collection of approximately \$6.5 million annually as Allowance for Funds Used During Construction. As of Dec. 31, 2015, customers had paid nearly \$59 million. The settlement agreement calls for the company to continue to collect, and separately track, AFUDC costs from customers.

If FERC issues the license in 2021, the company projects relicensing-related expenses to range from \$350 million to \$400 million.

Even with the relicensing costs, Idaho Power contends, and the commission agrees, that the continued operation of the Hells Canyon Complex is a cost-effective resource for its customers.

Assuming relicensing costs of \$400 million, Idaho Power estimates the capital cost for the HCC to be \$358 per kilowatt. By comparison, the estimated capital cost for a combined cycle natural gas combustion turbine is \$1,145 per kilowatt, according to the company.

● Public Utilities Commission

Clearwater Paper reports flat quarterly results

Clearwater Paper Corporation on April 19 reported financial results for the first quarter of 2018.

The company reported net sales of \$437.0 million for the first quarter of 2018, essentially flat with net sales of \$437.5 million a year earlier. Net earnings for the first quarter of 2018 were \$2.6 million, or \$0.16 per diluted share, compared to net earnings for the first quarter of 2017 of \$7.5 million, or \$0.45 per diluted share.

The decrease in net earnings was due primarily to challenging industry-wide economic conditions, which include lower non-ultra grade tissue pricing and higher input costs for transportation, wood fiber, external pulp and chemicals. In addition, shipment volumes were lower and the company incurred reorganization related expenses associated with its selling, general and administrative cost reduction efforts. Those items were partially offset by higher paperboard pricing, operating productivity improvements, improved product mix for both businesses, and a lower tax rate.

- [Clearwater Paper](#)

Stocks

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 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------|---|-------------|--------------|
| Micron Technology | MU | 50.62 | ▼ | 52.20 | 27.32 |
| Hewlett Packard | HPQ | 21.53 | ▼ | 21.77 | 18.29 |
| Idaho Power | IDA | 89.08 | ▲ | 85.74 | 85.24 |
| Clearwater Paper | CLW | 26.85 | ▼ | 37.75 | 48.50 |
| CenturyLink Inc. | CTL | 17.61 | ▲ | 17.05 | 25.32 |
| Boise Cascade Corp. | BCC | 41.85 | ▲ | 40.25 | 30.35 |

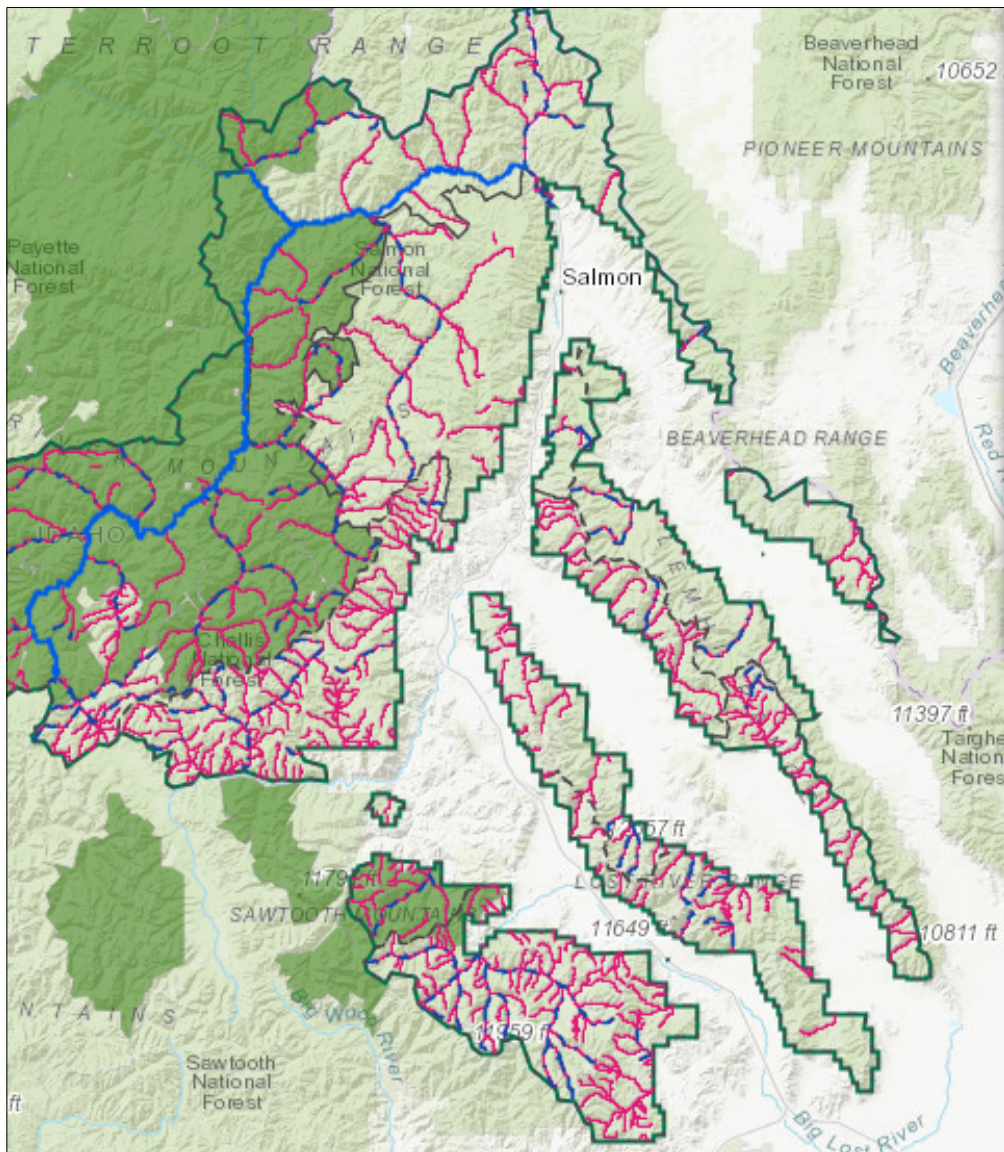
Gas prices

Price of gasoline in Idaho dropped on the low end, increased for premium from the week before. Source: 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) |



Erosion and debris flows over the past two weeks have severely damaged the Martin Canyon road, about 3 miles east of Bellevue. The damage to the road is directly associated with the loss of vegetation resulting from the 2017 Martin Canyon Fire. The fire burned away vegetation which normally holds soil in place during the spring snow-melt and rainfall. The road is currently impassible, with ruts and eroded gullies more than six-feet deep in places. The BLM's Shoshone Field Office staff is assessing the extent of damage to the road this week. The road's seasonal closure was scheduled to be lifted on May 1. However, the extent of damage might now preclude the lifting of that closure. *(photo/Bureau of Land Management)*



Salmon-Challis rivers plan comment period open

The Salmon-Challis National Forest announced they will be extending the comment period on the Wild and Scenic River Draft Eligibility Report to July 16, 2018. The Forest was originally seeking comment by May 4.

“There has been a great deal of interest in the Wild and Scenic River eligibility process that is required as part of our forest plan revision process,” said **Chuck Mark**, Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor. “One of the goals of plan revision is to hear from interested members of the public, and I want to make sure we are allowing adequate time for that. This extension is intended to allow us to tap into the local knowledge people have of rivers and streams that are so important to this area.”

Mark said that once the eligibility report is finalized, a comment period will begin about a river or stream's suitability under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The comment period for suitability will begin on July 17, 2018, and go through October 17, 2018.

In general, suitability asks whether designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is the best method for managing the river. To answer this question, the Forest Service will evaluate the potential physical, biological, economic, and social impacts of adding the river to the National Wild and Scenic River System, its landownership status, and public support. The suitability step provides the basis for determining which eligible rivers the Forest Service should recommend to Congress as a Wild and Scenic River. While the Forest Service may recommend certain rivers, only Congress can designate them. However, Forest Plan Revision Team Leader Josh Milligan said, "Once we have a Final Environmental Impact Statement and a Record of Decision, rivers that are identified as suitable would be managed to protect the values that made the rivers suitable." Milligan expects the Salmon-Challis will complete have a Record of Decision in 2020.

The Draft Eligibility Report and other information about the Wild and Scenic Rivers process is available on-line from the Salmon-Challis Forest Plan Revision website, and an interactive StoryMap can be found at <http://bit.ly/SCNFWSRStoryMap>.

- [Salmon-Challis National Forests](#)

Bumblebee research project underway

A new project launched to harness the volunteer power of citizen scientists and help map bumble bees in the Pacific Northwest, and anyone with a camera and computer can contribute. This region is home to nearly 30 species of these charismatic and easily recognizable bees, and many of them face an uncertain future.

People can learn more about the project and how to contribute at the Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas Project website.

The Pacific Northwest Bumble Bee Atlas is spearheaded by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, and the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. The partners are collaborating with citizen scientists to collect information on bumble bees, including Species of Greatest Conservation Need, in Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

"While it is important to understand how well human-influenced landscapes affect bumble bee populations, we also need to know what is happening outside of towns and cities," said Ross Winton, Fish and Game Regional Wildlife Biologist. "These larger patterns will help us to understand how bumble bees are faring under larger landscape pressures like climate change and drought."

In recent years, the importance of pollinators and their essential role in keeping our environment healthy by pollinating flowers in natural areas and contributing to successful harvests on farms has been recognized, as has their vulnerability, in large part because of widespread losses of bees.

Declines of pollinator populations are alarming. Much attention has been given to the plight of the introduced European honey bee. Less publicized, but no less important, is the parallel decline of native, wild bee populations, particularly bumble bees.

While this project will target all species of bumble bees, there are three species whose population declines are of particular concern: the western bumble bee (*Bombus occidentalis*), Morrison's bumble bee (*Bombus morrisoni*) and the Suckley cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*).

“Washington, Idaho and Oregon are large, and include both heavily populated and wild areas, so we need an army of trained volunteers equipped with cameras to help survey the entire region,” said Rich Hatfield, Senior Conservation Biologist at the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. “With the help of citizen scientists we can cover all three states quickly, collect high-quality data and contribute information that will aid in conservation.”

- [Department of Fish & Game](#)

■ Snowpack

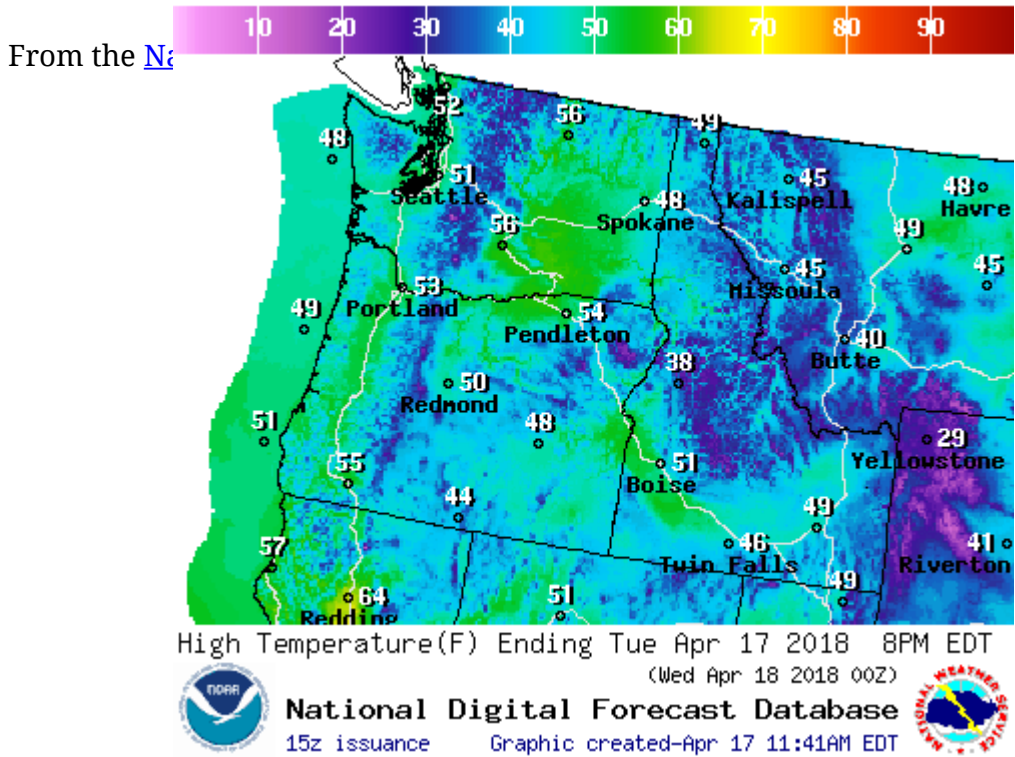
The numbers are percentages.

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 | 122 | 114 | 142 |
| Spokane | 120 | 114 | 130 |
| Clearwater | 124 | 122 | 122 |
| Salmon | 105 | 103 | 140 |
| Weiser | 92 | 91 | 137 |
| Payette | 96 | 94 | 149 |
| Boise | 99 | 96 | 161 |
| Big Wood | 99 | 94 | 180 |
| Little Wood | 98 | 97 | 192 |
| Big Lost | 100 | 99 | 190 |
| Little Lost, Birch | 105 | 102 | 158 |
| Medicine Lodge, Beaver, Camas | 102 | 101 | 143 |
| Henry’s Fork, Teton | 109 | 109 | 149 |
| Snake above Palisades | 113 | 113 | 163 |
| Willow, Blackfoot, Portneuf | 99 | 98 | 156 |
| Snake above American Falls | 110 | 109 | 158 |
| Raft | 92 | 91 | 148 |
| Goose Creek | 86 | 85 | 134 |
| Salmon Falls | 89 | 88 | 133 |
| Bruneau | 93 | 92 | 140 |
| Owyhee | 90 | 89 | 135 |
| Bear River | 88 | 87 | 158 |

■ Weather



| | Last week | Week before | One year ago |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| Boise | 52/34 s | 50/30 r | 60/40 r |
| Idaho Falls | 47/29 c | 45/29 p | 53/38 r |
| Pocatello | 48/30 c | 44/32 r | 53/40 r |
| Coeur d'Alene | 47/32 r | 47/31 r | 54/38 r |
| Lewiston | 53/36 c | 54/36 c | 63/43 r |
| Twin Falls | 47/28 c | 43/30 r | 56/36 r |
| Sun Valley/Ketchum | 42/19 c | 40/21 p | 43/30 r |

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



Health/Ed



A new health science structure is planned for the College of Western Idaho, at a location in Nampa. A rendering of the project was released last week. The project is estimated to cost \$49 million overall; some of the money already has been provided by the state of Idaho.

Tuition and fees rise again at colleges and universities

The Idaho State Board of Education on April 19 voted to increase tuition and fees for fulltime undergraduate resident and nonresident students at each of Idaho's four-year institutions effective in fall 2018.

| | Resident | Nonresident |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Lewis-Clark State College | 4.5% | 4.5% |
| University of Idaho | 5% | 8% |
| Boise State University | 5% | 5% |

“We as a board have a duty to keep costs as low as possible for our students,” board member **Andy Scoggin** said. “It is our responsibility to strike a balance between that duty and the need to provide the resources that our institutions need to accomplish their missions. We have heard from both student body leaders and university administration representatives today and we need to trust the people we have charged with efficiently managing their limited funds while moving toward our stated goal of increasing the number of degree holding citizens in our state.”

The board deliberated the requests for several hours before reaching consensus. Board member **Richard Westerberg** called tuition and fee increase proposals one of the “most solemn decisions board members are asked to make.” The requests were based on increased costs of doing business including an increase in the cost of employee compensation recently approved by the legislature.

“We operate one system but each institution has its own characteristics and needs,” board vice president **Debbie Critchfield** said. “It is imperative that each college or university communicate with their students so that they understand why tuition and fees are going up and why it matters to them.”

● Board of Education

Board approves rules for adult scholarships

The **Idaho State Board of Education** on April 19 adopted temporary rules enabling the board’s Opportunity Scholarship to be offered to adult learners beginning July 1, 2018.

The board action amends student eligibility and application requirements to allow a portion of the Opportunity Scholarship fund to be used to help adults who earned 24 credits or more before “stopping out” of college or a career technical program, to resume their education.

The temporary rules for these students include:

- Lowering applicants’ minimum GPA from 3.0 to 2.7
- Requires students to have “stopped out” for two years or more
- Allows students to attend part-time
- Pro-rates the award amount based on credits enrolled in
- Requires students to show progress in order to maintain eligibility
- Allows eligible students to apply up to three weeks prior to the start of the term

Governor **C.L. “Butch” Otter** and Idaho lawmakers approved legislation last month allowing up to 20 percent of the Opportunity Scholarship fund to be used for

adult learners. They also increased the annual appropriation by \$3.5 million for a total of \$13.5 million.

Although the temporary rule takes effect immediately, the board will consider formal rules in August after board staff work with stakeholders through the negotiated rule making process. If approved by the board, the proposed rule will then be submitted to the legislature for consideration early next year.

Last year, 3,716 Idaho students received an Opportunity Scholarship. The maximum award for a scholarship is \$3,500 annually for up to four years.

● Board of Education

ISU SCHOLARSHIPS Idaho State University is giving more than \$14 million in Idaho Resident four-year recruitment, Step Ahead and Honors Scholarships to more than 2,500 new, incoming Idaho students who are admitted to enter ISU fall 2018.

“The amount of money that Idaho State University gives to Idaho students is substantial and our numbers are up in scholarship offers compared to previous years,” said Debbie Green, ISU director of scholarships. “We want these Idaho students to come to Idaho State University, graduate and, eventually, work in Idaho. ISU invests in Idaho students.”

These scholarships are available to any new, first-time, incoming freshmen who are graduating from an Idaho high school or equivalent and who have applied to ISU by Feb. 15 with at least a 3.0 unweighted grade point average and/or 20 or greater ACT composite (1020 SAT). Home-schooled students or students who have received their GEDs in state are eligible for consideration if they have an ACT or SAT score on record.

“We’ve awarded these incoming freshman scholarships to students from 147 different high schools in the state,” Green said. “They’ve been given to students from small schools and big schools.”

These incoming scholarships are awarded annually for four years as long as recipients meet the requirements of the program. Details on the program are located online at www.isu.edu/scholarships.

Dollar amounts awarded annually range from four years of full tuition for Tier One students who have 4.0 GPAs and exceptional SAT or ACT scores, to Tier Five students with 3.0 GPAs and lower SAT or ACT scores who receive a Bengal Incremental Scholarship. Tier 2-4 range from \$1,000 per year to \$4,000 per year depending on where a student falls on the awarding index using their GPA and highest ACT or SAT score as of the deadline. The amounts awarded are based on ISU’s Idaho Award Index located online at https://www.isu.edu/media/libraries/scholarships/AwdIndx_IdRes.pdf.

“We are very competitive compared to other state institutions when it comes to the amount we offer, when it comes to four-year scholarships,” Green said. Students have until May 1 to accept their four-year offer(s).

Students Step Ahead Scholarships of \$1,000 additional dollars are available to new incoming first-time Idaho Resident students who have graduated from an Idaho high school or equivalent and have taken college credits while in high school. “This is an added incentive for high school students to encourage them to take

college credits during high school, and then admit to ISU post high-school,” said Debbie Green.

The Idaho Resident Awards and Step Ahead Scholarships are in addition to need-based scholarships and other scholarships that are available at ISU through the Bengal Online Scholarship System (BOSS).

- [Idaho State University](#)

BSU presidential finalists named

Five finalists have been named in the search for **Boise State University's** next president. 53 candidates applied for the position. The Boise State Search Committee picked the finalists from a list of 9 semifinalists interviewed late last week.

They are:

- Dr. James Lentini - Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Oakland University
- Dr. Kevin Reynolds - Vice President for Finance and Administration, Portland State University
- Dr. Jack Thomas – President, Western Illinois University
- Dr. Robbyn Wacker – Senior Campaign Advisor for Development and Alumni Relations, University of Northern Colorado
- Dr. Daniel Weeks – President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Northern British Columbia

Arrangements are underway for the finalists to visit the Boise State campus starting next week. Open forums are planned for students, faculty and staff as well as a public receptions for community members to meet and hear from the finalists.

There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback online to the selection committee about each candidate.

- [Boise State University](#)

State schools link with Harvard teaching program

In September, 20 Idaho high school teachers will travel to the Harvard Business School for an all-expense-paid opportunity to help pilot a new way to teach teenagers about American democracy: the High School Case Method Project.

“Through the Case Method, high school students will learn history in the present tense, stepping into the shoes of historic decision-makers grappling with the quandaries of their time,” Superintendent of Public Instruction **Sherri Ybarra** said.

“This partnership with Harvard Business School is a fantastic way for Idaho teachers to immerse themselves in an approach that emphasizes learning through experience and critical thinking. This is a great way for us to further our goal of helping Idaho teachers and students excel and succeed, and we are honored that Professor David Moss has extended this rare opportunity to Idaho educators,” Ybarra said.

In the Case Method, teachers and students learn through groundbreaking cases from U.S. history, spanning topics that range from the writing of the U.S. Constitution to the 19th century secession of the South and the 20th century struggle for voting rights.

Teachers of U.S. history and government from all parts of Idaho are invited to apply for the three-day professional development opportunity through the State Department of Education. The application deadline is May 23.

The SDE will cover expenses for the selected teachers to travel to Boston for the Sept. 23-25 workshop, and Harvard Business School will provide lodging, meals and materials while the teachers are there.

The 20 Idaho educators will be part of a 100-member cohort from across the nation. Previous workshops led by Moss have been limited to teachers from the Eastern United States.

● [Department of Education](#)

BSU college gets special accreditation

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business has granted Boise State University’s College of Business and Economics a full reaccreditation.

“I am so pleased with this fantastic accomplishment. AACSB Accreditation represents the highest standards of achievement for business schools worldwide, with less than five percent of all business schools earning accreditation,” said **Ken Petersen**, dean of the College of Business and Economics.

The college has maintained accreditation since 1979 and is one of even fewer schools to achieve AACSB accreditation for both the business school and the accountancy program.

As part of the reaccreditation process, AACSB assesses the college’s ability to perform in critical areas, such as teaching, research, curricula development and student learning. Undergraduate and master’s degree programs both must pass rigorous standards. Factors reviewed include the quality of programs, achievements of faculty, academic performance of students, the number of international students, the number of employers that recruit from the college and the salaries of graduates.

● [Boise State University](#)

Cult/Com/Trans



The first Idaho High School eSports Tournament, hosted by Boise State's College of Education, College of Innovation and Design and the Department of Educational Technology, comes to campus on April 21. More than 140 high school eSports players representing 20 schools from across Southern Idaho compete in League of Legends, Overwatch, Rocket League and Super Smash 4. Nearly all schools in the Treasure Valley will participate, as well as schools from Blackfoot, Gooding, Middleton and the Idaho Virtual Academy. (photo/Boise State University)

Meridian reported as second Idaho six-figure city

The Board of Directors of the **Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho** accepted the 2018 population estimates for Ada and Canyon counties in its board meeting on April 16, 2018. While the estimates reflect the significant growth throughout the valley, the city of Meridian stands out with a significant milestone: surpassing a population of 100,000.

“In 1990, the city of Meridian had a population of less than 10,000,” states COMPASS principal planner and demographer **Carl Miller**. “Today we estimate a population of 106,410 – a leap of more than 10-fold in 28 years, making it one of the fastest growing cities in the nation.”

While the city of Meridian has reached a significant milestone, it is not the only city in the region to experience noteworthy growth. The city of Nampa is close to the 100,000 mark at 98,370 – it will likely top 100,000 by 2019 – while the city of Caldwell surpassed 50,000 in 2015 and the city of Eagle surpassed 25,000 in 2016. The city of Boise also continues to grow steadily, reaching 232,300 this year. The total population for Ada and Canyon counties combined is estimated at 688,110 as of April 1, 2018.

COMPASS updates its population estimates as of April 1 of each year using the most recent decennial census count (2010) as the base. Building from this, COMPASS updates the information using local building construction permits, revised household sizes and vacancy rates, and recent annexations (expansions of city limits). COMPASS will update its “baseline” data again following the 2020 Census.

“The US Census Bureau also develops annual population estimates. While the estimates are similar, they are developed using different methods,” explains Miller. “COMPASS relies on local information while the census uses broader, regional data.”

In other business, the COMPASS board of directors approved funded and unfunded transportation projects for inclusion in Communities in Motion 2040 2.0 – the update to the regional long-range transportation plan – as well as approved an amendment to the budget of federally funded transportation projects.

● COMPASS

UI waiver on athletics deficit extended

The **Idaho State Board of Education** on April 19 gave the University of Idaho three additional years to eliminate a budget deficit in the University’s athletic department.

The deficit is projected to be just under \$1 million dollars in state fiscal year 2018, which ends June 30.

“This board has no interest in causing harm to student athletes, cutting athletic programs, or to micromanage this,” State Board Chairman **Linda Clark** said. “We do need to grant university leaders a fair amount of time to consider all factors and develop a plan. The onus for the plan falls on the University of Idaho.”

U of I leaders were directed to develop a plan that will eliminate the athletics department deficit by the end of state fiscal year 2021. The board also directed university leaders to deliver annual progress reports at board meetings each April, and mid-year updates to the board’s Business Affairs and Human Resources Committee.

A half-dozen student athletes, parents, and coaches testified in support of various sports that university leaders said they might have to cut.

- [Board of Education](#)



Coeur d'Alene bridge work underway

Repair work on the westbound bridge over Blue Creek Bay on Interstate 90 is anticipated to begin Monday, April 23 and last until October. After a winter shutdown, work will begin on the eastbound bridge next spring and continue through the fall.

Work this year will focus on the deck and support structures of the westbound bridge. Traffic will shift to the eastbound bridge and be reduced to one lane in each direction.

Work on the westbound bridge deck will cease this October, but work on the support structures underneath both bridges will continue. Four lanes will be open for traffic during the winter shutdown.

Once work starts on the eastbound bridge, traffic will be reduced to one lane and shifted onto the westbound bridge.

While work is underway, those recreating on the water will be directed away from the construction zone for safety reasons.

- [Idaho Transportation Department](#)

Ski areas

Information available on the SkiTiger.com Northwest ski site. Details return in the fall.

Bestselling books

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

March

- 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.

April

- 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.

People

Sarah Seymour, owner (with her husband) of an eastern Magic Valley farm, was on April 18 named the new president and CEO of the Mini-Cassia Chamber of Commerce. She will replace Kyla Sawyer, who left the region.

Michael Southcombe, 82, a veteran attorney and a former member of the Idaho Tax Commission, died at his home in Boise on April 4. Before entering private practice, he was a deputy attorney general and provided legal help for the Idaho Legislature. He was also highly active in the state bar association.

A year ago



2017: High water levels on the Boise River damaged parts of the Boise Greenbelt, and its bike path is partly closed to pending repairs. (photo/Boise Police Department)

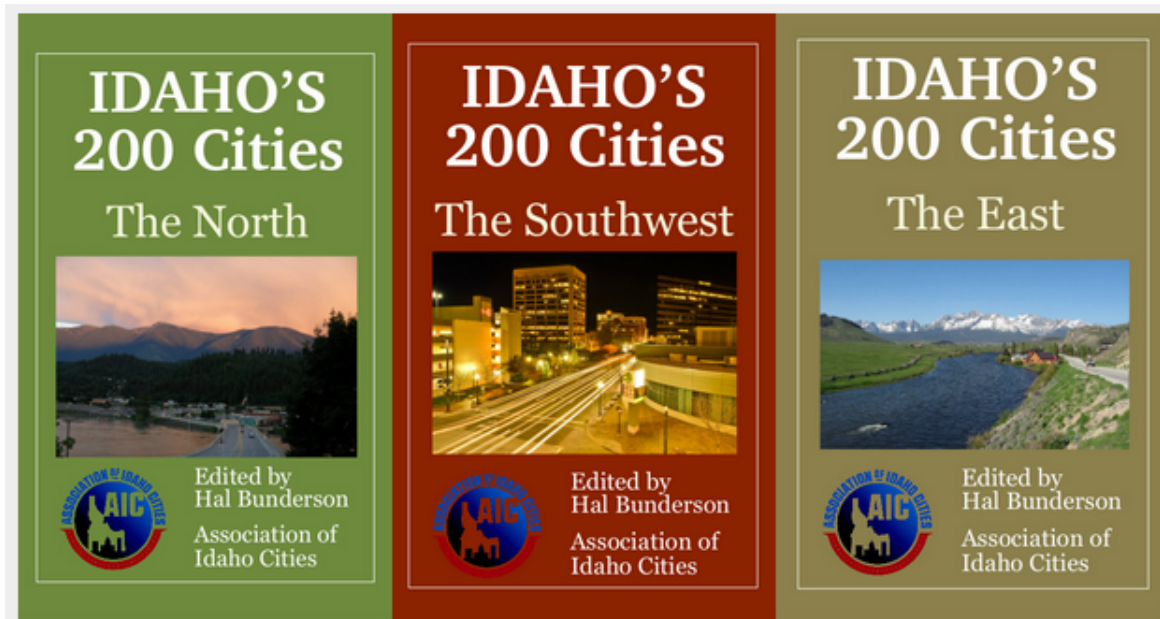
In the *Idaho Weekly Briefing*:

- On Earth Day, April 22, science enthusiasts joined to show their support for science with a national march in Washington D.C. and satellite events around the globe. In Boise, hundreds of supporters met at the Idaho State Capitol for speakers and then marching through the streets of downtown

Boise. Speakers included professional scientists working in agriculture, medicine, climate, engineering, and education.

- The State Board of Education approved resident student tuition and fees for the 2017-2018 academic year at Idaho's public, four-year higher education institutions and Eastern Idaho Technical College.
- Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped to 3.5 percent in March, down one tenth of a percent from 3.6 percent in February. March marks the 78th straight month of over-the-year labor force gains. However, preliminary numbers for March show Idaho's first labor force month-to-month decline in two years with a decrease of 600.
- President Donald J. Trump signed a Presidential Disaster Declaration on April 21 for 11 southern Idaho counties, triggering the release of federal funds to help communities repair public infrastructure damaged by severe winter storms and related flooding from February 5 through March 3.
- Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter urged Idahoans today to exercise increased caution and keep a close eye on the increasing risk of flooding along many of the state's waterways – from the Boise, Payette, Big Wood and Little Wood to the Bear and Upper Snake river basins.
- Soon the Fort Hall Replica, Bannock County Historical Museum, and Pocatello Junction will be under the same umbrella. At Thursday's Pocatello City Council meeting, council members voted to approve a memorandum of agreement between the City of Pocatello and the Bannock County Historical Society.
- The Boise National Forest has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the North Pioneer Salvage and Reforestation Project.
- The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will increase flows from Lucky Peak Dam Friday, April 21 due to a continued wet pattern forecasted for the Boise River drainage.
- Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter on April 20 named Gene Petty, a veteran Ada County deputy prosecutor, to fill the Caldwell-based Third District Court vacancy left by the recent retirement of long-time Judge Juneal Kerrick.
- Boise State University's spring Commencement ceremony — the university's 100th — will honor graduates in a traditional ceremony on "The Blue" at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, in Albertsons Stadium.

Idaho's 200 Cities – North, Southwest and East



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](#)).