



IDAHO WEEKLY BRIEFING

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In this issue



As votes start to drop, various forms of political conflict accelerate, including sharp discussion about a new form of political mailer. Meantime, the arrival of spring coincides with a renewed look at the prospects for wildfires this year.

Idaho Weekly Briefing

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Cover picture

CRAPO AT PLEASANTVIEW U.S. Senator Mike Crapo has held scores of small meetings in recent months at communities around Idaho, many of them in communities too small to be cities, sometimes in houses where no public buildings would have been available. This photo shows one of them, a constituent meeting held at a house in Pleasantview, in Oneida County (*image/Senator Crapo*)

A pattern for the ballot



For the elected officials in Boise who just wanted to pass laws as they saw fit and be done with it, the initiative had become a nuisance.

Now, there is the potential for it to become more than that - as a result of the best efforts to hack it away.

The initiative, a process that gained popularity nationally a little more than a century ago, is a way for voters to pass a state law, one with the same standing as a law passed by the legislature. It's intended to be a way for the voters to get what they want when the legislature refuses to do it. Initiatives are allowed by 24 states, each of which have different rules for getting an initiative on the ballot.

In Idaho, where 14 initiatives have passed since the process was authorized in 1912, initiative access rules have changed over time. The success of ballot measures has been a factor. The last big ballot measures contravening legislative will came in 2012, when three referenda - another type of ballot measure, aimed at rejecting (or sustaining) a legislative-passed law - killed three new laws relating to public schools. When legislators got back to Boise the next year, they passed Senate Bill 1108, which made ballot access for initiative proposals a lot harder. It made access so hard, in fact, that there have been no initiatives on the Idaho ballot since.

The rules had set the bar for ballot entry high already. Before 2013, advocates had to get petition signatures - valid ones, complying with a series of rules - from six percent of all registered voters. Since that allowed for a concentration of votes from the bigger urban areas as enough to pass, the 2013 rules added a provision that the six percent mark had to be reached in more than half of the state's 35 legislative districts (that is, 18 of them). And they had to do it within a narrow time frame.

So initiative backers this year needed to collect at least 56,192 signatures, and certain portions of them had to come from within certain legislative districts - not just any Idaho voter signatures would do.

The frustration that needed to develop before organizers were able to pull together the volunteer effort needed to accomplish this must have been awe-inspiring. And it appears to be enough. The final checks are still ongoing, but there's a good chance that the signatures turned in by the May 1 deadline will be enough to ensure a Medicaid expansion measure reaches the statewide ballot in Idaho in November.

That may make for a significant change in state law. (We'll see: A legislature and governor still have the power to repeal it.)

But more than that, it could serve as a template for political organization.

Think about what those petition signatures - the total number of names could amount to 62,000 or so - could mean. These are people who have in effect become part of an organization, a political organization, one dedicated to changing the law and politics in Idaho. Suppose, as a result of the high level of energy and skill developed, and the contacts and reach engendered, through this ballot effort, the work is turned into future ballot issues. And beyond that: Suppose it becomes the backbone of a new political organization around the state.

For a couple of decades I've suggested that one of the best organizing tools Idaho Democrats (or, really, any outsider group with a still-large base of support) could use is ballot issues, partly as an indicator of what the group is for, and partly as a tool for helping it organize.

To make that work, to make it matter, an easy process for achieving ballot status would do little good, since there would be no need for a really strong and large organization. But the harder that task is, the stronger the organization must be to get the job done.

The Medicaid expansion organization has proven itself highly capable of making a difference. The question its leaders should be asking now is: What should we do next?

– *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 29

- [Unusually large number of road projects set for this year](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Ada County highway District plans 90 road projects this year. Will the county be tied in gridlock till winter?
- ★ [Idaho faces a severe doctor shortage](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The article notes, “Idaho ranks 49th in the U.S. for residents and doctors per capita, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges. This is problematic because where a doctor does their residency is a good indication of where they’ll stay and practice, said Kelli Christensen, assistant director of the Family Residency Program at Idaho State University. Idaho, as a state, can be mostly categorized as rural, making access to physicians already difficult.”
- [Protection for grizzlies unlikely to return at Yellowstone](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The change in policy appears permanent.
- [Emergency mental health options growing in hospitals](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) They’re developing a growing number of safe rooms; this article focuses on one at Gritman Memorial, at Moscow.
- [Magic Valley runners for higher office](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) A number of candidates for high office, including governor and lieutenant governor, hail from the Magic Valley. This article profiles them.
- ★ [Profiling the run of water in the Magic Valley](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The paper launches a six-part series, largely in the form of a photo essay, about water flows through south-central Idaho.
- ★ [Idaho lacking sufficient numbers of teachers](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello) Story cites American Falls School District, which in the past often received 10 applications per opening, now more often sees one or maybe two. The superintendent, Randy Jensen, is concerned about resulting teacher quality.

April 30

- [Profiling three Democrats running for House](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) They are James Vandermaas, who backs “Medicare for all,” Christina McNeil, concerned about poverty, and Michael Smith, who wants to push the economy.
- [1st District Republicans say they’ll back Trump](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Not a lot of daylight shows between the candidates.
- [Twin Falls may fine for industrial discharges](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Some fines already are on the books, but this proposal at the city council could increase them.

May 1

- [Who’s paying departing superintendent to go?](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) A good deal of money is being paid to the New Plymouth school superintendent to depart, but the source of \$400,000 of that money, offered by someone whose identity is unknown, remains unclear.
- ★ [Medicaid expansion backers provide signatures needed for ballot status](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) They’ve submitted more than 60,000 signatures on petitions, though the margin for error – should some significant number be disqualified – remains slim. For the moment, the measure appears headed for the ballot.
- [New reactor approved for development at INL](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) These are smaller-sized reactors, approved for use at the Idaho National Laboratory by federal regulators.
- [Profiles of the four state superintendent candidates](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls)
- [Wheat farmers considering other crops this year](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Low prices for wheat are suggesting other possibilities.
- [Attorney, activist Linda Pall dies](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) She was highly active in Moscow city issues, but also a political figure and a candidate for Congress.
- [Profiling the superintendent of public instruction race](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) Incumbent Sherri Ybarra has a primary challenge, though the race likely is easier than her last one in 2014.
- [Canyon commission looks at joining opioid lawsuit](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The lawsuit is national; many other Idaho counties have joined.

- ★ [Indigent health care costs rising](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The number of health care cases needing indigent funding has spiked in recent months, notably in Canyon County.
- [Facebook battle ensues over legislative candidates](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) A Facebook post by Representative Stephen Hartgen blasts the Idaho Freedom Foundation for supporting “druggie candidates,” prompted a response from a candidate who has had a drug conviction – and is running this year against Hartgen’s wife for the House seat he holds.

May 2

- [Last debate held for three Republican governor contenders](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Early ballots are going out, and the election is just two weeks away.
- [Vista Outdoors dropping firearms builds, keeps ammo](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The corporate shift announced Monday is critical in Lewiston, one of its largest manufacturing centers.
- ★ [Businesses face pressures from thin job applicant pool](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) Low unemployment has put some strain on businesses seeking to hire. This article profiles some of the specifics.
- [Idaho Falls District 93 takes boundary change comments](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) As is often the case, changes in school boundaries has set off disagreements among parents.
- ★ [UI students research politics and vaccine attitudes](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) From the story: “People on the conservative end of the political spectrum are less likely to trust government medical officials than those on the liberal end.”
- [Debt at Washington State could see \\$30 million addition](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) Without it, employees might not be paid.
- [Canyon looks toward low-cost jail ‘band aid’](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) After observing resistance to more expensive options, Canyon officials are considering an \$11 million option.
- [Medicaid expansion activists plan their campaign](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) Signature verification is next. July 6 would be a final date for post-verification submission.
- [Star city growth approach approved](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The city’s size would double, but not include some originally-mapped out areas.
- [Two new principals hired at Cassia schools](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) A good deal of turnover seen at schools in the area.
- [Jordan slammed over ‘Dems’ e-mail](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello) Democratic gubernatorial candidate Paulette Jordan was criticized by others in her party over an e-mail some said was designed to look as if it came from party officials, which it didn’t.

May 3

- [Federal fire budgeting may ease fire troubles](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) Federal funds will be reserved for preventative measures, rather than being loaned out for other purposes.
- [New 'buddy' effort helps Idaho Falls students learn Spanish](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) It uses the help of native speakers.
- [Palouse wheat farmers meet with Japan delegation](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The relationship has been good for 60 years, but some area growers are concerned about possible trade wars that could impinge on the profitable trade.
- [Reviewing the Washington State Greek Row riot of 1998](#) (*Daily News*, Moscow) It's still well-remembered around Pullman.
- ★ [Star plan looks toward annexation of 1,500 acres](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The highly controversial growth plan now includes specific annexation and development proposals, which have aroused concern in the agricultural area.
- [Panel pushes for open talk about suicide](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune*, Nampa) The event drew a large crowd in Nampa.
- [Peter Rickards and his race for Congress](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Profiling the long-time activist, very outspoken on nuclear energy, about his race for the U.S. House. He is running in the Democratic primary.
- [Profiling Ida-Beef, a business option for culled cows](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) The firm near Burley saves dairies and others the cost of transporting culled cows, and finds alternative uses for them.
- [The race for Lincoln County commission](#) (*Times News*, Twin Falls) Five candidates are running for two seats. One candidate currently is suing the commission.
- [Arthur Vailas says farewell to Pocatello](#) (*Idaho State Journal*, Pocatello) The Idaho State University president prepares for departure.

May 4

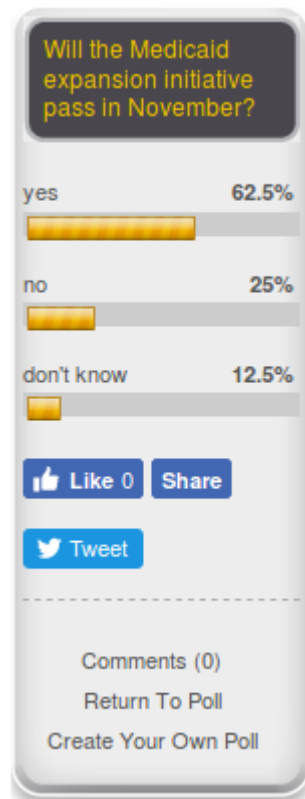
- ★ [Height and density are key issues in Boise downtown development](#) (*Idaho Statesman*, Boise) A new downtown area housing development was rejected for height considerations, which draws a number of questions.
- [Profiling candidates for lieutenant governor](#) (*Post Register*, Idaho Falls) The open seat has generated a large-population contest. This article focuses on the five Republican candidates.

- [Congressional candidate McNeil talks on various subjects](#) (*Daily News, Moscow*) An interview with with Democrat Christina McNeil.
 - [Canyon County candidates speak at event](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) A majority of the candidates were contenders for an open commission seat.
 - [Bus shuttle to grocery stores gets added funding](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) The program started in February, enabling people to get to a few major stores such as WinCo and Walmart.
 - ★ [Twin Falls candidate forums turning ideological](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) A story focuses on three local senators, Bert Brackett, Lee Heider and Jim Patrick, reported as facing challenges from the right.
 - [Reviewing the candidates for Idaho's first U.S. House district](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) It's a crowded race.
-

May 5

- [Caldwell's downtown strives for redevelopment](#) (*Idaho Statesman, Boise*) Indian Creek Plaza, on location of a former King's store, is intended to be the centerpiece of the development.
- [Trustees in District 91 will consider bond](#) (*Post Register, Idaho Falls*) Idaho Falls school leaders will decide once again whether to send a school improvement bond to the voters. The last attempt to do so failed.
- ★ [Idaho State University has lost weapons grade plutonium](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said that a small amount of weapons-grade plutonium is missing.
- [Genesee closes well heavy in nitrates](#) (*Lewiston Tribune*) Has since been reopened, with water deemed safe again.
- [District 5 legislative candidates profiled](#) (*Daily News, Moscow*) The House candidates differ on education matters.
- [Canyon coroner contender says she was wrongly fired](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) Challenger to veteran coroner says she was improperly dismissed three years ago.
- [Lots of Jackson's Food Stores to be renamed](#) (*Idaho Press Tribune, Nampa*) They will be called ExtraMile, as part of a partnership with Chevron.
- [Cassia school superintendent will retire](#) (*Times News, Twin Falls*) He's worked at the district for 39 years.

Poll



This week's question:

Where is the most likely surprise in the Idaho primary?

Cast your vote at www.ridenbaugh.com

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



Medicaid activists submit signatures for ballot status

Voters across Idaho filed the final signatures April 30 and May 1 for a November ballot initiative to bring quality, affordable health care to 62,000 people by expanding Medicaid in the state.

Over the past several months, a diverse group of volunteers, from Bonners Ferry to Driggs, have been collecting signatures from citizens covering the entire political spectrum to qualify the initiative, which would bring health coverage to residents who are caught in what's known as "the health coverage gap." They earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to be eligible for financial assistance so they can afford coverage through Idaho's health insurance exchange.

“I feel deep respect and gratitude for the hundreds of people who took time from their busy schedules to talk with me about Idaho's healthcare gap,” said Ada County volunteer **Brenda Foster**. “As people opened their front doors to me, or stopped for me on the sidewalk, they expressed genuine compassion for our 62,000 fellow Idahoans who need and deserve health insurance but haven't been able to afford it.”

“This initiative would bring health care coverage to those who need it the most, and it will allow Idahoans to decide what we want in our health care system, no matter what politicians in Boise or Washington, D.C. do,” said **Emily Strizich**, co-founder of Reclaim Idaho, the grassroots group that started the ballot campaign. “These are moms and dads who work hard in jobs that don't provide health coverage, and people who are nearing retirement who have lost their jobs. Many have been forced to put off needed care and haven't been able to see a doctor in years.”

The measure would help residents in every part of the state, including rural areas where many Idahoans have been unable to obtain health coverage.

Supporters will turn in more than 60,000 valid signatures collected from all 44 counties and all 35 legislative districts across Idaho to qualify the initiative for the ballot in November. The state requires 56,192 valid signatures, including signatures from 6 percent of registered voters in at least 18 legislative districts, to be turned in to County Clerks by May 1.

Ada County Co-Leader **Tracy Olson** along with volunteers will gather outside the Ada County Election Office located at 400

The Clerks then have until June 30 to validate the signatures. All petitions must be submitted to the Secretary of State on July 6.

- [Reclaim Idaho](#)

Democrats question statewide mailer

A 48-page printed publication called “[The Idahoan](#),” self-described as “written by conservatives, information for everyone,” was broadly distributed around Idaho last week, evoking numerous questions and an inquiry to the Idaho secretary of state's office.

The newspaper-style publication endorsed a number of candidates in current Republican primaries, including Russ Fulcher for the U.S. House (District 1), Raul Labrador for governor and Janice McGeachin for lieutenant governor. There were also many endorsements in legislative races.

The paper said it was published and edited by **Patrick Malloy** and **Lou Esposito**, both active for a number of years in Republican politics.

On May 4, state Democratic Party counsel **Sam Dotters-Katz** sent a letter to Idaho Secretary of State **Lawrence Denney** seeking an inquiry into the publication. From that letter:

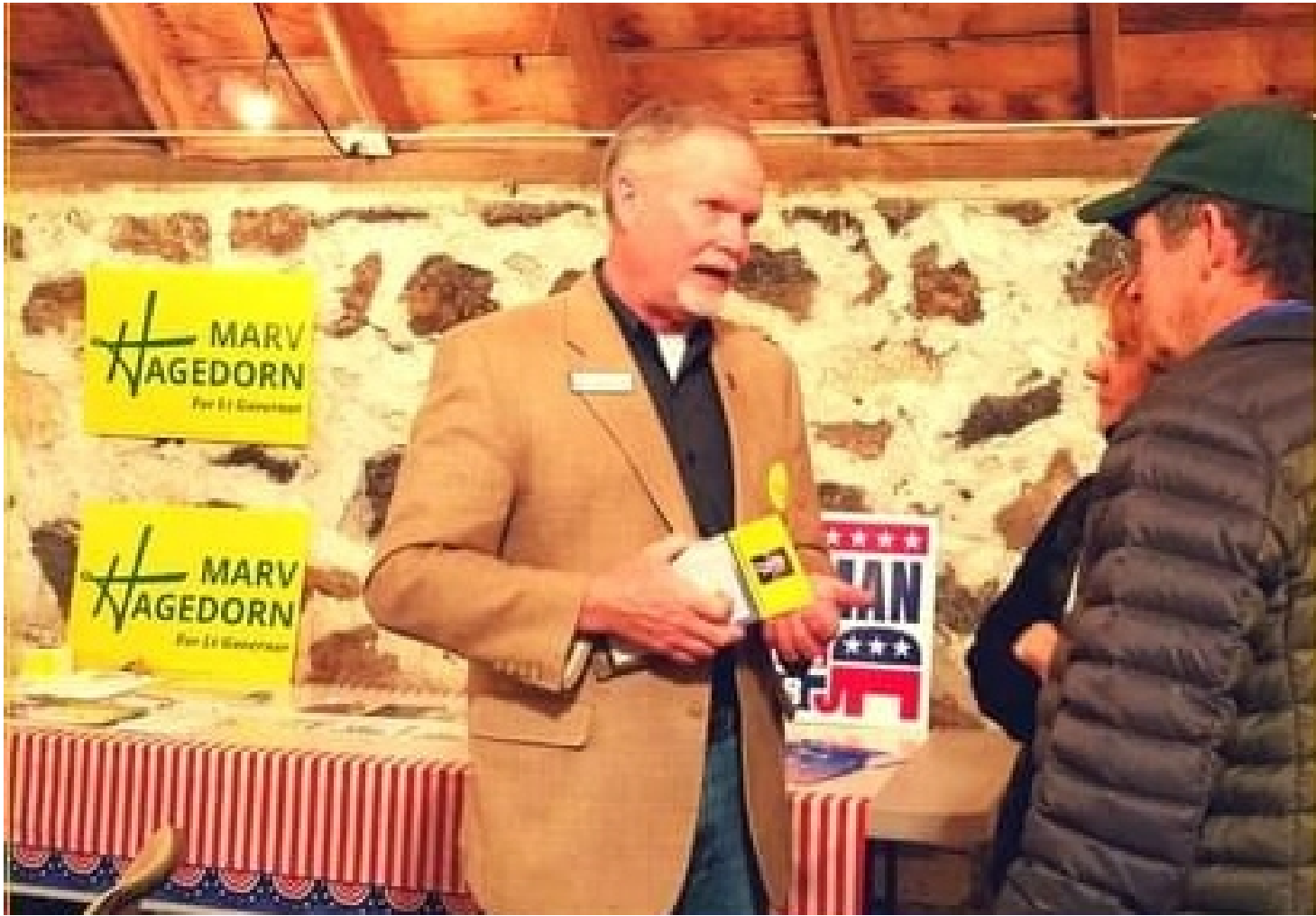
As you are aware, several longstanding Idaho political operatives and organizations have sent a statewide political mailer titled "The Idahoan" directly to residents of the state. The founders of The Idahoan have called the mailer a "newspaper," but it is clear that The Idahoan is nothing more than a campaign mailer intended to sway voters before the upcoming primary elections on May 15, 2018. I am writing you today in my capacity as legal counsel for the Idaho Democratic Party and request that your office immediately investigate the legal legitimacy of this political mailer.

The Idaho Democratic Party believes that certain conservative political organizations are funding The Idahoan and are attempting to circumnavigate campaign and election laws by improperly classifying The Idahoan as a newspaper. The ties between conservative political action committees, such as the Idaho Freedom Foundation, and The Idahoan are clear. The name "The Idahoan" was first registered with the Idaho Secretary State's Office as an assumed business name on January 24, 2007 by Wayne Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman currently serves as the Executive Director of the Idaho Freedom Foundation. Not coincidentally, Mr. Hoffman terminated his use of the assumed business name "The Idahoan" on April 19, 2018. That same day, The Idahoan, LLC was registered with the Secretary of State's office by longtime Republican political operatives Michael Oswald and Patrick Malloy.

Within three weeks of registering The Idahoan, LLC, The Idahoan, a 43-page political campaign mailer was directly mailed to a large percentage Idaho households. The Idaho Freedom Foundation and Idaho Chooses Life apparently helped fund this campaign mailer with paid advertisements in The Idahoan. Idaho voters have no way of knowing what additional individuals and entities paid for its publication. The mailer endorses numerous conservative candidates, contains political articles, and advertises the Idaho Freedom Foundation and Idaho Chooses Life. These supposed "advertisements" and behind-the-scenes donations are nothing more than a roundabout way for these two political action committees and other conservative political operatives to make a substantial contribution to various right-wing conservative candidates before the upcoming primary elections.

Idaho Code § 67-6628 requires that all expenditures relating to electioneering communications be filed with the Idaho Secretary of State's office. Idaho Code Chapter 67 Title 66 contains various other relevant statutes that The Idahoan, the Idaho Freedom Foundation, and Idaho Chooses Life could be violating with this political mailer. The importance of these election and campaign laws cannot be overstated, and an investigation into whether any of these laws have been violated with this political mailer is crucial to the integrity of Idaho's electoral process.

The Idaho Democratic Party further requests that you recuse yourself from all involvement in this investigation. The Idahoan lists its "editor/publisher" as Lou Esposito. Mr. Esposito is currently the chair of the Idaho Land PAC. The Idaho Democratic Party is aware that the Idaho Land PAC made an independent expenditure of approximately \$212,950 that supported you and other conservative candidates' in your campaigns. As Speaker of the Idaho House, you directed the Victory Fund, the House GOP leadership PAC under your control at the time, to donate \$10,000 to GunPAC. GunPAC was at the time of the donation coordinated by Mr. Esposito. For these reasons, the Idaho Democratic Party is not confident that you will be able to remain neutral in this investigation and respectfully requests that you appoint a neutral party to oversee this blatant violation of Idaho campaign and election laws.



Republican candidate for lieutenant governor Marv Hagedorn campaigns around the state as election day nears. (photo/Hagedorn campaign) .

Gubernatorial primaries hit final phase

The **Brad Little** for governor campaign released this statement last week about an endorsement from former governor **Phil Batt**:

“Governor Phil Batt knows what it means to successfully lead Idaho, and he knows that for some candidates, being conservative these days means talking a lot about individual freedom, while ignoring public responsibility. He knows that is not the case with Brad Little and that Little is a true conservative who knows the importance of balancing a budget, providing tax relief and maintaining the lightest possible hand of government in the lives of Idahoans. He also stands by his previous statements that Little recognizes state government’s responsibility for building and maintaining a first-class education system and a transportation infrastructure that meets the expectations of our citizens and businesses.”

On May 3, Little was endorsed by another former governor, Dirk Kempthorne:

“Governor Dirk Kempthorne, who led Idaho for many years with significant statewide accomplishments, announced his support for Brad Little to be Idaho’s next Governor. Governor Kempthorne and Lieutenant Governor Brad Little – then Senator Little – worked closely on many critical issues including improving Idaho’s roads and bridges, state-based solutions on public lands management and championing economic development across Idaho. ‘Brad is the right candidate to lead Idaho into the future. Being Governor is not something you just wake up and do successfully. An effective Governor needs experience, relationships and the right vision to lead Idaho. Brad was then a trusted conservative in the Idaho Senate, and he continues that as lieutenant governor, known for his fiscal responsibility and dedication to the Idaho Constitution’.”

● Little campaign

Balukoff ad. Boise School Board member **A.J. Balukoff** is out with a new ad ahead of the May 15 Democratic primary, but you'd have to be paying very close attention to know it was his. The ad consists entirely of footage of a young girl counting money while a woman narrating the spot decries the gender pay gap. Nowhere does the commercial even say Balukoff's name, and the only way you'd even know it was for his campaign is that an "A.J. Balukoff for governor" disclaimer appears on-screen at the very end. Consequently, it could be very easy for viewers to tune out such a message.

● Daily Kos, May 1

Top-ballot campaigns/2018

Incumbents in bold. Reports through April 25 unless otherwise noted.

U.S. House 1

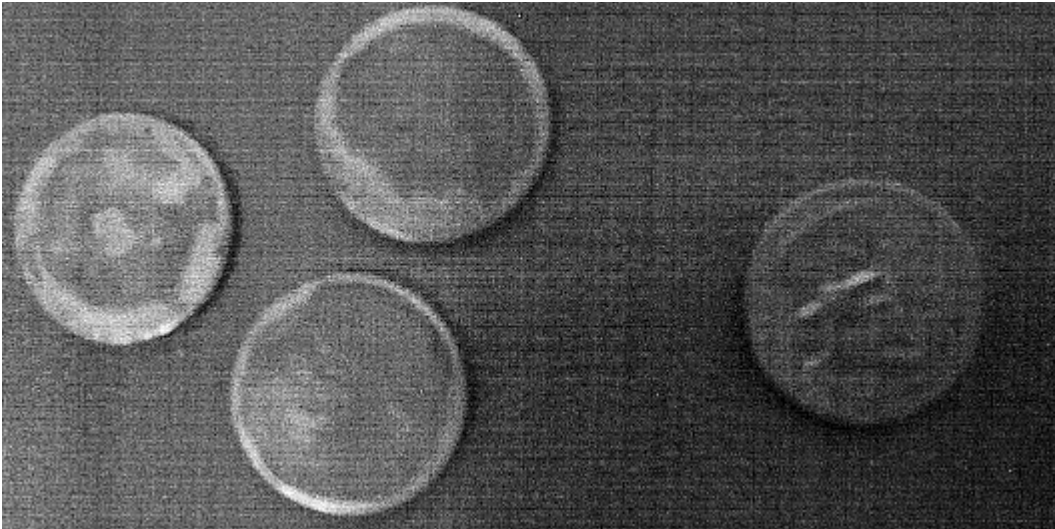
R **David Leroy:** raised \$331,872; spent \$277,267; on hand \$54,605.
Russell Fulcher: raised \$435,790; spent \$387,441; on hand \$82,030.
Luke Malek: raised \$199,939; spent \$161,445; on hand \$38,493.
Christy Perry: raised \$15,817; spent \$12,123; on hand \$3,693.
Michael Snyder: raised \$127,251; spent \$103,847; on hand \$24,403.
Nick Henderson: raised \$1,277; spent \$701; on hand \$2,076.

D **Michael Smith** has filed.
Christina McNeil has filed.
James Vandermaas: raised \$17,047; spent \$11,047; on hand \$6,000.

U.S. House 2

R **Mike Simpson,:** raised \$689,069; spent \$639,512; \$202,694 on hand
D **Peter Rickards,** Twin Falls: no FEC record..
Aaron Swisher, Boise: raised \$41,166; spent \$32,890;\$8,275 on hand.

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.



NRC proposes fine to ISU over missing plutonium

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is proposing an \$8,500 fine to **Idaho State University** for failing to maintain control and surveillance of one gram of radioactive material.

(image: plutonium sources on the left, compared in size with a quarter on the right. Image/Nuclear Regulatory Commission)

Two apparent violations of NRC requirements were identified in a Feb. 7 inspection report involving: (1) the failure to control and maintain surveillance of licensed radioactive material; and (2) the failure to provide accurate and complete information to the NRC in its inventory records.

The NRC considers the loss of control of licensed radioactive material a significant regulatory concern because of the potential for unauthorized possession or use of licensed radioactive material or the unnecessary exposure of members of the public to radiation. The NRC considers the failure to provide information to the Commission that is complete and accurate in all respects a significant regulatory concern because it affects the NRC's ability to perform its regulatory functions.

NRC staff met with university representatives on March 21 during a pre-decisional enforcement conference to discuss the proposed violations. Because the university took prompt corrective actions after the violations were identified, no fine was proposed for failing to provide accurate and complete information to the NRC. The university has 30 days in which to dispute the fine or request involvement of a neutral third-party mediator to resolve the issues.



Briefing projects ‘above average’ fire season

After more than five years of bipartisan collaboration, Senators **Mike Crapo** and **Jim Risch** joined Representative **Mike Simpson** on May 2 at the National Interagency Fire Center to mark the end of the practice known as fire borrowing. Also present was Vicki Christiansen, Acting Chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, who worked with Crapo and Risch was also on hand for the briefing.

The practice of fire borrowing ended under provisions included in the omnibus spending bill passed by Congress in late March. As wildfires intensify across the West, wildland firefighting costs are escalating and often far exceed budget estimates. The National Interagency Fire Center reports that suppression costs have

increased from nearly \$240 million in 1985 to more than \$2.9 billion in 2017. This has resulted in agencies, such as the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management diverting funds from important projects that improve the health of our forests and enable recreational activities on our public lands to covering pressing wildfire suppression costs. This practice, known as fire borrowing, resulted in less resources for the very activities that can prevent large, devastating fires, and the harmful fire cycle worsens as forest health projects are tabled. The recently enacted law not only improves federal budgeting for wildfires by permitting disaster relief funds to be accessed when fire suppression expenditures exceed their 10-year average, but also includes forest management reforms that will result in significant positive impacts on forest health.

“This has been a bipartisan bill and a bicameral bill from the outset,” said Crapo during the briefing. “The battle we have been fighting is that catastrophic fires --one percent of the fires that absorb nearly 30 percent of the firefighting costs-- have not been recognized by Congress as natural disasters or been given the funding support that they need. That has forced our agencies into the very difficult circumstance of fire borrowing, which took away from the other functions of the forest service and the Bureau of Land Management.”

“We’ve redone the way that firefighting is going to be funded, to free up the agency’s money to be used for what it should be used for - and that is land management,” Risch said at the press conference. “This has not been a Republican versus Democrat issue – it has been a great, bipartisan team effort.”

“This is perhaps the most important piece of legislation Congress has passed to help the Forest Service in the last 50 years,” said Simpson. “If we had not passed this bill, the Forest Service would have seen their fire costs grow to over 67 percent, essentially making them the Fire Service, and further decimating important programs, like trails maintenance, grazing, and recreation.”

According to NIFC predictions, large parts of the western U.S. have above average potential for significant wildfire activity this year. "National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook," released May 1, predicts above average significant wildland fire potential in about a dozen Western states at various times between now and the end of August, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

"By mid-summer, we expect warmer and drier than average conditions, large amounts of grass, melting of below average snowpack, and increasing potential for thunderstorm activity and lightning starts to create above average potential for significant wildfire activity in a large part of the western U.S.," said Ed Delgado, National Program Manager, Predictive Services, NIFC, adding that wildland fire potential depends on weather and fuel conditions, which can and often do change. As a result of these changes, NIFC issues an updated Outlook on the first day of each month.

● [Senator Crapo](#)



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.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

16-0208-1801, Vital Statistics Rules . (Temp & Prop) Establishes a process for the amendment of a gender marker on a birth certificate; requires a notarized affidavit from the applicant; prohibits the marking of the replacement birth certificate as amended; and designates that a previous or concurrent name change must not show revision history, or be marked as amended.

*16-0315-1801, Secure Treatment Facility for People With Intellectual Disabilities. (*PH) New chapter sets standards and provides the licensing requirements and the criteria for use of restrictive or secure features at this type of facility, including staffing, treatment requirements, and enforcement remedies; provides for and addresses client rights. Comment By: 6/30/18

BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Board of Dentistry. Deletes the American Dental Association's sedation-related documents as incorporated by reference; the rule regarding moderate sedation (19.01.01.060) is being amended by the addition of qualifying course requirements.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULE

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

28-0203-1801 – Rules of the Idaho Regional Travel and Convention Grant Program (eff. 3-2-18)

NOTICES OF PROPOSED PROCLAMATION OF THE FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

13-0108-1701P (amended), Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals

13-0108-1801P, Rules Governing the Taking of Big Game Animals in Idaho

13-0109-1802P, Rules Governing the Taking of Game Birds in the State of Idaho

13-0111-1802P, Rules Governing Fish

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE – NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

02-0501-1801, Rules Governing Produce Safety

DIVISION OF BUILDING SAFETY

07-0206-1702 (3rd Notice), Rules Concerning Idaho State Plumbing Code (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

07-0401-1801, Rules Governing Safety Inspections – General (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

07-0901-1801, Safety and Health Rules for Places of Public Employment (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

07-1001-1801, Rules Governing the Damage Prevention Board, Division of Building Safety (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

16-0310-1704 (3rd Notice), Medicaid Enhanced Plan Benefits (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

16-0310-1801, Medicaid Enhanced Plan Benefits (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

16-0314-1801, Rules and Minimum Standards for Hospitals in Idaho (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

STATE TAX COMMISSION

35-0102-1801, Idaho Sales and Use Tax Administrative Rules (see Bulletin for participation information)

35-0103-1801, Property Tax Administrative Rules (see Bulletin for participation information)

IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

39-0300-1801, Vehicles and/or Loads That are Required to Operate Under an Overlegal Permit (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

47-0102-1801, Rules and Minimum Standards Governing Extended Employment Services (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

58-0101-1802, Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

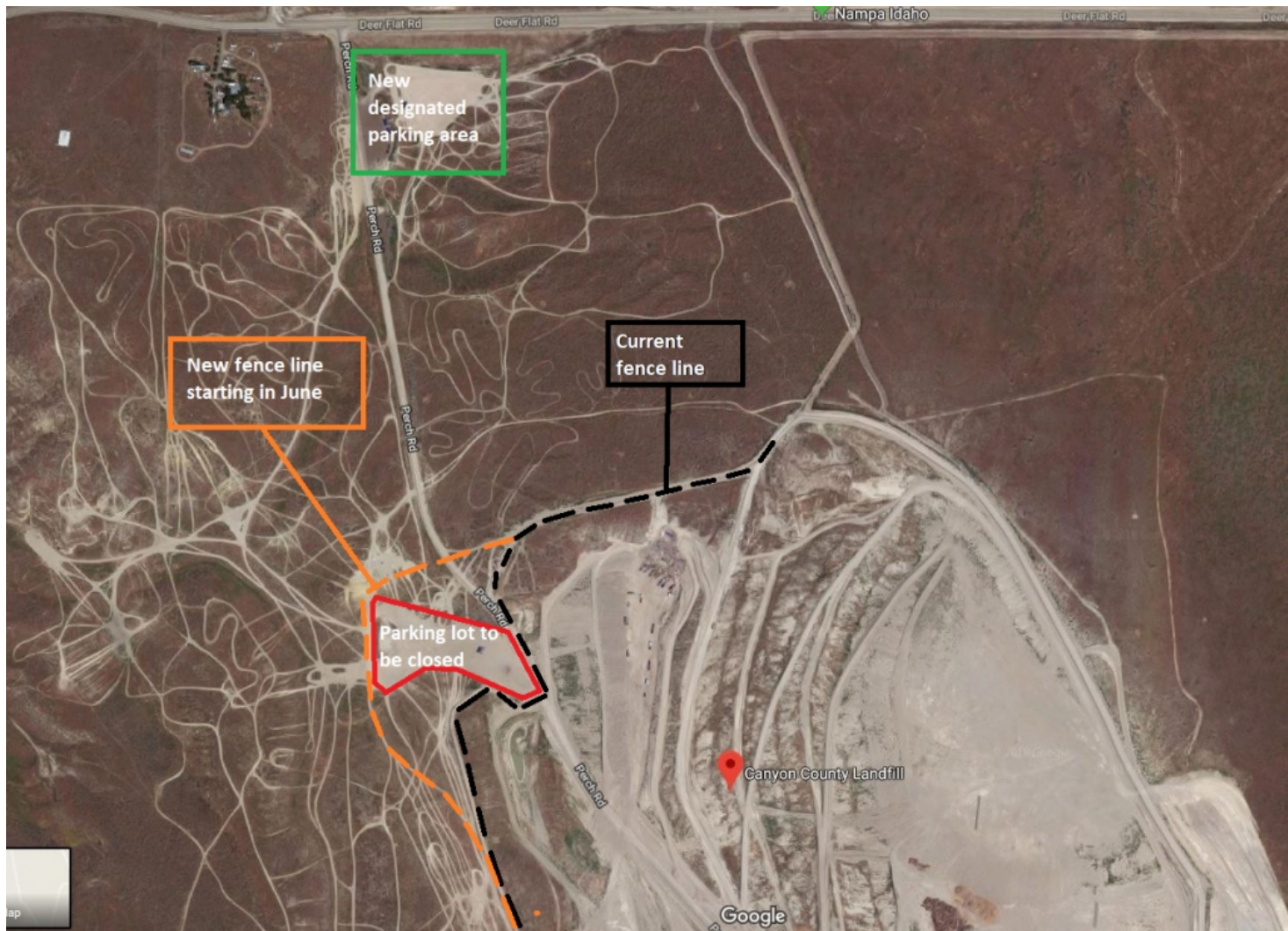
58-0102-1802, Water Quality Standards

STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

60-0501-1801, Resource Conservation and Rangeland Development Program (see Bulletin for scheduled meeting dates/times)

PUBLIC DEFENSE COMMISSION

61-0108-1801 (2nd Notice), Rules Governing the Administration of Idaho's Indigent Defense Delivery Systems – Rule Definitions



Canyon converts parking area to landfill

One of the more popular parking and unloading zones at **Canyon County's** Jubilee Park will be permanently closed starting this summer to make way for the future expansion of Pickles Butte Sanitary Landfill.

Beginning Monday, June 4, the southernmost parking lot at Jubilee Park will be fenced off to the public and no longer accessible by vehicle. That means those wishing to access the trail system at Jubilee Park for motorbike, ATV/UTV, and horseback riding will need to park and unload at the designated parking lot on the corner of Deer Flat Rd. and Perch Rd (see map above).

“This is something we knew was going to happen eventually and we have been preparing for it for the past couple years,” said **Nicki Schwend**, Director of Canyon County Parks, Cultural and Natural Resources. “The closure of the lower parking area should have minimal impact on the recreationists who utilize Jubilee Park. The trail system will remain unchanged for the most part. The only major change is that people will now have to park and unload in the upper parking area, which is just a couple hundred yards north of the parking area that will be fenced off and closed starting in June.”

To help minimize the impact to recreationists, there will be a new and improved unloading area installed in the designated parking lot on the corner of Deer Flat Rd. and Perch Rd.

Notices will also be posted along the entrance to Jubilee Park and at both current parking areas to inform citizens of the upcoming changes.

- [Canyon County](#)

Idaho Falls to rebuild 12th Street bridge

The city of **Idaho Falls** recently received funding from the Idaho Transportation Department to rebuild a 56-year-old bridge in Idaho Falls. Public input regarding the project is encouraged.

The 12th Street Bridge that crosses over the Idaho Canal is scheduled to be replaced in the fall/winter of 2019/2020.

The City of Idaho Falls Public Works Department is seeking public comment on the proposed improvements. Citizens are encouraged to provide comments or concerns on, or before, May 17, 2018, to allow time for comments to be considered prior to finalizing the design documents.

The federal-aid project will include bridge replacement and intersection improvements at 12th Street and SW/SE Bonneville Drive. The improvements will better accommodate floating debris and higher water levels, as well as heavier highway service vehicles. Construction will take approximately 4-5 months.

The canal at 12th Street will be closed during construction. Pedestrian traffic will be accommodated via a temporary canal crossing near the bridge.

- [Idaho Falls city](#)



Supreme Court decisions

Recent civil decisions of the Idaho Supreme Court.

- [***Karen Savage v. Scandit Inc.***](#) (May 1, Schroeder *pro tem*) Karen Savage appeals the dismissal of her Idaho Wage Claim Act action by the district court in Valley County. Savage brought this action against her employer Scandit Inc. in November 2016 after Scandit failed to pay her over \$400,000 in commissions and bonuses she claims were due by the end of October. The district court granted Scandit’s motion to dismiss finding that Savage had failed to allege that she had earned the commissions as defined in the 2016 Commission Compensation Plan between Savage and Scandit. The district court also denied Savage’s motion to amend, holding that the amendment would be futile. This case was decided upon Scandit’s motion to dismiss. Consequently the facts are those set forth in the complaint and attachments. ... The decisions of the district court granting the motion to dismiss the complaint and denying the motion to amend are reversed and remanded for further proceedings consistent with this Opinion.
- [***Medical Recovery Services LLC v. Yvonne Ugaki-Hicks***](#) (May 2, Schroeder, *pro tem*) Medical Recovery Services, LLC (“MRS”), appeals a district court decision that affirmed a magistrate court’s dismissal of an MRS complaint. MRS alleged a right to collect on a debt from Yvonne Ugaki-Hicks, who did not respond to the complaint. MRS filed an application for entry of default and default judgment. The magistrate court denied the request. MRS appealed to the district court which determined default should have been entered but affirmed the magistrate court’s denial of entry of default judgment. MRS appealed to this Court. ... The decision of the district court is affirmed.

Vista Outdoor dropping firearm builds, keeps ammo

Vista Outdoor Inc. on May 1 announced its strategic business transformation plan, designed to allow the company to focus resources on pursuing growth in its core product categories.

The plan is a result of a comprehensive strategic review, which began in November 2017.

"Our review identified product categories that are core to the company's long-term business strategy," said Vista Outdoor Chief Executive Officer **Chris Metz**. "We believe future investment should focus on categories where Vista Outdoor can achieve sustainable growth, maximize operational efficiencies, deliver leadership economics, and drive shareholder value."



In conducting the strategic review, Vista Outdoor management defined several criteria to evaluate whether individual product categories are part of the company's core. Vista Outdoor evaluated brands within its current portfolio based on their ability to:

- Serve the company's target consumer – the outdoor enthusiast
- Create cross-selling and other similar synergy opportunities
- Achieve market leading positions and leadership economics
- Demonstrate omni-channel distribution capabilities

As a result of this evaluation, and with support from its board of directors, Vista Outdoor will focus on achieving growth through its market-leading brands in ammunition, hunting and shooting accessories, hydration bottles and packs, and outdoor cooking products.

"Vista Outdoor is excited about the potential of each of our core businesses, particularly ammunition, which is our largest core business." said Metz. "An increased focus on our heritage ammunition business will manifest itself in more innovative and breakthrough new products introduced over the next few years. We also anticipate that by prioritizing this business, we will be able to invest more capital to further enhance and expand our global leadership position."

During the year ended March 31, 2018, Vista Outdoor recognized a \$152 million total impairment of goodwill and identifiable intangible assets.

The company previously anticipated a return to sales growth in Fiscal Year 2018 for the Hunting and Shooting Accessories and Sports Protection reporting units. However, during the quarter ended October 1, 2017, the company concluded that the return to growth for those reporting units would take longer than previously anticipated. As a result, management reduced the projected cash flows for these reporting units to reflect the lower expected sales volume and higher product discounting.

The company plans to explore strategic options for assets that fall outside of these product categories, including its remaining Sports Protection brands (e.g. Bell, Giro, and Blackburn), Jimmy Styks paddle boards, and Savage and Stevens firearms.

Vista Outdoor expects that the execution of this process will significantly reduce the company's leverage, improve financial flexibility and the efficiency of its capital structure, and provide additional resources to reinvest in core product categories, both organically and through acquisition.

"This transformation plan is a significant first step toward creating a portfolio of brands that is laser-focused on our target consumer and leverages the strengths of our combined platform," said Metz. "This renewed focus will allow us to invest in these categories and their natural adjacencies. Coupled with our previously announced sales and marketing reorganization to drive a founder's mentality back into our brands, this strategic orientation will also allow us to accelerate our efforts to expand e-commerce capabilities and increase our emphasis on market-leading product innovation. The end result will be a Vista Outdoor that lives up to the potential envisioned three years ago when the company was formed. We intend to begin the portfolio reshaping immediately, and anticipate executing any strategic alternatives by the end of Fiscal Year 2020."

Vista Outdoor also reported operating results for the fourth quarter and full Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), both of which ended on March 31.

"We completed a strong fourth quarter," said Metz. "For the second consecutive quarter, the company delivered sales and free cash flow above, and EPS within, our Fiscal Year 2018 guidance range. For the year, we generated in excess of \$200 million of free cash flow, allowing us to pay down \$206 million of debt. Importantly, we are beginning to see evidence that the market for our shooting sports and related outdoor products is leveling out, and we anticipate a return to growth in the second half of our Fiscal Year 2019."

● [Vista Outdoors](#)

Stocks

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

		Last week		Week before	One year ago
Micron Technology	MU	47.58	▲	47.52	28.20
Hewlett Packard	HPQ	21.68	▲	21.61	18.91
Idaho Power	IDA	94.04	▲	93.63	84.50
Clearwater Paper	CLW	25.00	▲	23.95	45.75
CenturyLink Inc.	CTL	18.49	▼	18.90	23.60
Boise Cascade Corp.	BCC	41.95	▲	43.15	29.55

Gas prices

Price of gasoline in Idaho increased from the week before. Source: idahogasprices.com.

Gas	Last week	Natl/St Avg	Week before
low	2.71 Coeur d'Alene (Costco, Cenex)	2.82/3/09	2.67 Coeur d'Alene (Costco, Exxon)
high	3.45 Meridian (Phillips 66) 3.45 Caldwell (Sinclair)		3.44 Lake Fork (Texaco)



Idaho comments sought on sage grouse plans

The **Bureau of Land Management** marked a milestone in the administration's effort to better align plans for managing Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on federal lands by publishing a draft environmental impact analysis of proposed changes to resource management plans in Idaho.

The BLM developed the proposed changes in collaboration with the Idaho governor, state wildlife managers and other stakeholders to align federal and state plans. State agencies are at the forefront of efforts to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations, and the BLM is being a better neighbor by ensuring that state partners are being heard.

"We are committed to being a good neighbor and respect the state's ability to manage wildlife, while recognizing the tremendous investments of effort into improving Greater Sage-Grouse populations over the last decade," said Department of the Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt. "We look forward to receiving comments on the draft."

"Idaho ranchers, sportsmen, recreationists and everyone else interested in stewardship of public lands and protecting both the species and our state's way of life should welcome this opportunity to have their voices heard," Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter said. "The Trump administration is showing greater respect for on-the-ground impacts of government actions on people and communities while restoring the important role of federalism."

"It is refreshing to see this administration working with Idaho as a partner to resolve this difficult issue," said Senator **Jim Risch**. "Idahoans built this sage grouse conservation plan and it will be Idahoans that implement it. I applaud Secretary Zinke and his team for advancing Idaho's plan through this process."

The BLM seeks to improve management alignment in ways that will increase flexibility, maintain access to public resources, and promote conservation outcomes. The proposed preferred Management Alignment alternative for BLM plans in Idaho would remove sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) designated in the sage-grouse conservation plans adopted in 2015; allow a way to modify habitat boundaries to better align with State habitat maps without requiring a plan amendment; enhance flexibility for granting waivers, exceptions, and modifications to stipulations within priority habitat areas; and consider changes to be consistent with the State's mitigation strategy.

"We've had nearly three years of experience cooperating with the state of Idaho and local partners to put the 2015 plans into action, and we've received a great deal of feedback about on-the-ground impacts and outcomes," said acting BLM State Director **Peter Ditton**. "It's important to recognize that we have not thrown out the

existing plans. We're proposing to build on and refine them to ensure continuing returns on our investments.”

In 2016 and 2017, over 431,000 acres of sagebrush-steppe were treated to restore their function as sage-grouse habitat (\$5.2 million invested). Another \$3.5 million have been obligated for habitat projects in 2018.

The proposed changes build on the 2015 plans, using feedback from States and other partners that found during implementation that the plans did not respond to local needs.

Because of that feedback, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Coordination with Western States, which prompted the Departmental review of the 2015 plans. He also tasked the BLM with implementing a strategy for Greater Sage-Grouse conservation that is done in partnership with local governments, and in a manner that allows both wildlife and local economies to thrive.

As a result nearly every governor in the 11 states in the sage-grouse range asked for changes to their plans. Now the BLM is publishing six draft plans covering seven states. The Notices of Availability will appear in Friday's Federal Register.

The BLM is accepting comments on the entire draft EIS, as well as the specific planning issues, the cumulative effects analysis, and Priority Habitat Management Area decisions through Aug. 2

- [Bureau of Land Management](#)

Parachute Fuels project comments open

The Lochsa–Powell Ranger District of the **Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests** will be hosting a public meeting May 7 to collaborate with the public and get input on the Parachute Fuels project, a proposal to evaluate treating roadside and road intersection vegetation along forest service roads near Powell.

The May 7 meeting will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (PDT) at the Powell Ranger Station, located off U.S. Highway 12 at 192 Powell Road, near Powell Campground and Lochsa Lodge. At the meeting, officials will introduce the potential project area and current resource conditions and answer questions from the public. The public is being asked to work with the forest service to develop the proposed action.

The Parachute Fuels project would address hazardous fuels and public access along roadsides and intersections on forest service roads directly north of Highway 12 near Powell.

- [Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest](#)

Renovation construction starts at Lucky Peak dam

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 efforts were scheduled to begin in mid-April, but the project has been delayed until the week of May 13th. The entire project should be completed by the end of the month. 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](#)

BLM closes Shoshone-area roads

The **Bureau of Land Management** Shoshone Field Office is issuing a temporary emergency motorized closure on public lands in Blaine County, effective May 1, 2018. The closure affects five miles of the Martin Canyon Road and will remain in effect until summer 2019.

The Martin Canyon Fire burned 4,024 acres in August 2017 and 2,517 acres were reseeded later that fall.

However, vegetation has not had time to re-establish to help hold soil in place and reduce the chances of erosion. In March 2018, over an inch of rain fell on frozen ground in the area burned by the fire east of Bellevue. The rainfall caused

significant damage to the Martin Canyon Road, making it impassable to motorized vehicles and subject to further erosion.

“This motorized closure is necessary to ensure public safety, land health and resource integrity while the area recovers from the fire,” said John Kurtz, BLM outdoor recreation planner. “We need to give the hillside vegetation time to mature to prevent additional erosion before we start repairing the road.” The closure will also help prevent new user-created routes. While the area will remain open to non-motorized uses, the BLM encourages the public to use caution while recreating.

The BLM is aware that this area is a popular shooting range. Land managers are working with members of the local shooting community to redesign the road to ensure its resilience during these types of weather events and provide a safer shooting experience for the public.

Options for repairing or rerouting the Martin Canyon Road will be considered as a part of the Wood River Valley Travel Management Plan (TMP), which is scheduled for completion in early 2019. A draft of the TMP is expected to be released to the public later this spring.

- [Bureau of Land Management](#)

■ Snowpack

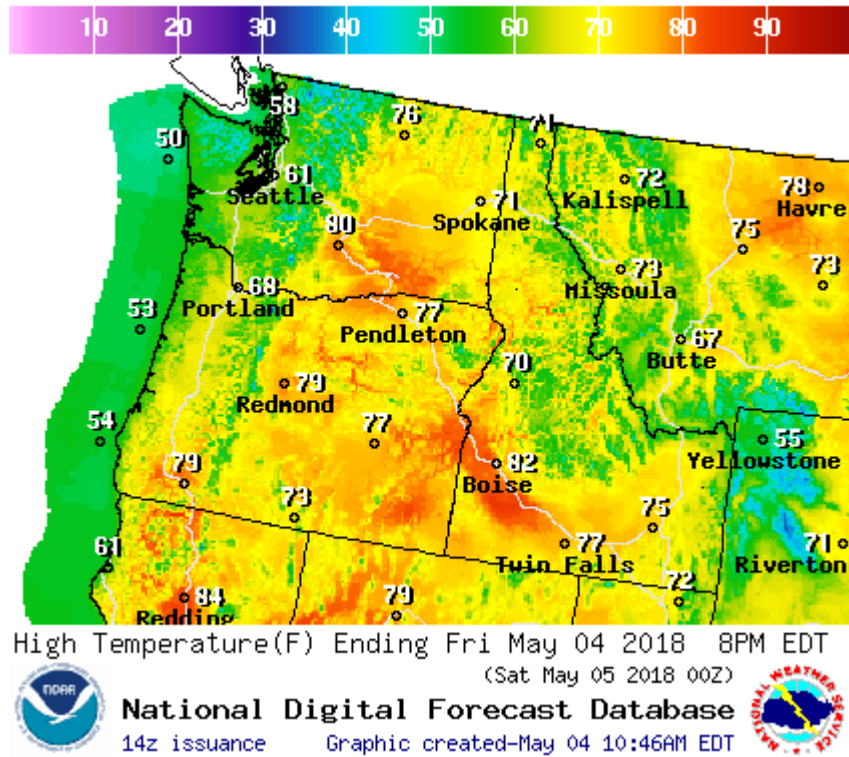
The numbers are percentages.

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	121	120	142
Spokane	116	118	132
Clearwater	125	124	123
Salmon	105	103	138
Weiser	89	90	136
Payette	93	94	148
Boise	92	97	158
Big Wood	93	97	173
Little Wood	-	96	182
Big Lost	-	98	180
Little Lost, Birch	103	103	150
Medicine Lodge, Beaver, Camas	101	104	141
Henry’s Fork, Teton	110	112	152
Snake above Palisades	107	113	164
Willow, Blackfoot, Portneuf	97	99	157
Snake above American Falls	106	110	159
Raft	89	91	152
Goose Creek	90	83	136
Salmon Falls	88	86	134
Bruneau	88	89	139
Owyhee	84	87	136
Bear River	88	87	158

Weather



From the [National Weather Service](http://www.nws.gov).

	Last week	Week before	One year ago
Boise	82/50 s	71/41 s	84/60 s
Idaho Falls	73/46 s	60/30 s	73/42 s
Pocatello	75/49 s	60/34 s	76/46 s
Coeur d'Alene	70/50 s	71/43 s	80/57 c
Lewiston	77/54 s	78/46 s	84/60 s
Twin Falls	77/49 s	65/38 s	79/53 s
Sun Valley/Ketchum	70/43 s	63/33 s	72/42 s

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



Boise State University students now have a unique opportunity to work in the field of virtual reality (VR). The university's Department of Computer Science recently was awarded 10 virtual reality headsets designed by Oculus VR and asked to join the Oculus NextGen VR Research University program, an educational virtual reality program with select partner universities across the nation. (photo/Boise State University)

BSU sends notice of data security issue

Boise State University received notice recently from Fresno State University that a theft on their campus may have potentially involved some personal information that originated at Boise State.

An external hard drive stolen sometime in the last week of December 2017 from a facility at Fresno State included personal information for some Boise State football camp attendees from 2007, 2008 and 2011 and others connected to the Boise State Athletics Department around the same time.

Fresno State, a California State University campus, notified Boise State of the data security incident on March 6 and sent letters to individuals the university could identify as having been potentially exposed. Boise State officials worked through the data a second time to determine what may have been included and whether more individuals should be contacted.

Fresno State indicated some files included personal information, such as names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth, full or partial Social Security numbers and medical information including allergies, conditions, emergency contacts, insurance information and ID numbers.

In all, the Fresno State incident involved around 15,000 people, that university reported. Of those, about 3,000 are believed to be connected in some way to Boise State. Fresno State officials are investigating the origin of the Boise State information and how it ended up in their system, but that detail has not been shared publicly.

Boise State is sending a secondary notice to those individuals whose addresses could be determined, but the contact information of approximately 600 attendees of Boise State football camps from those three years could not be confirmed by either Boise State or Fresno State, so Boise State is releasing this broader notice to alert anyone who believes they may have been affected and to outline the steps they can take to protect their personal information.

Fresno State officials say they have no evidence that the device was stolen for the information that it contained, or that any of the information has been used improperly, but the university has taken several steps to protect individuals affected.

● [Boise State University](#)

UI plans spring graduation

A total of 1,478 **University of Idaho** students statewide are eligible for graduation this spring, earning a combined 1,564 degrees.

U of I students have applied for 1,155 bachelor's degrees, 93 law degrees, 35 doctoral degrees, nine specialist degrees and 274 master's degrees. Some students will have earned multiple degrees. This year's commencement brings the university's all-time total to 117,335 graduates and 125,567 degrees.

In Moscow, 1,306 students are eligible for 1,357 degrees. Moscow graduates have applied for 1,090 bachelor's degrees, 50 law degrees, 31 doctoral degrees, two specialist degrees and 184 master's degrees.

Commencement begins with a procession down University Avenue to the ASUI-Kibbie Activity Center at 9 a.m. May 12.

This year's keynote speaker is Tom Mueller, propulsion chief technology officer at SpaceX. During the ceremony, Mueller will also receive an Honorary Doctor of Engineering from the university.

- [University of Idaho](#)

ISU plans spring commencement

A total of 2,427 graduates will receive 2,566 degrees and certificates during **Idaho State University's** spring commencement ceremonies, which will begin at 10 a.m. May 5 in Holt Arena.

One hundred thirty-two students will receive multiple certificates and/or degrees.

The breakdown of graduates includes 43 Doctor of Philosophy degrees, eight Doctor of Education degrees, four Doctor of Arts degrees, six Doctor of Audiology degrees, 17 Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees, 25 Doctor of Physical Therapy degrees, 69 Doctor of Pharmacy degrees, six Educational Specialist degrees, 462 master's degrees, 39 certificates, 1,208 bachelor's degrees, 447 associate degrees, and 232 certificates from the College of Technology.

Distinguished faculty recognized were Glenda Carr, clinical assistant pharmacy professor, Distinguished Service; Andy Holland, associate professor of chemistry, Distinguished Teaching; and Michele Brumley, associate professor and chair of the Department of Psychology, Distinguished Research.

- [Idaho State Universit](#)

IDEal program offers saving increase proposal

IDEal, Idaho's 529 College Savings Program is offering Idahoans with young children two chances to increase their savings this May—but families will have to act quickly to take advantage of the opportunity. Beginning May 1, the first 150 people to open IDEal accounts online for children five and under will receive a \$25 contribution in their new accounts.

In addition, all accounts opened online May 1st- 29th for children aged five and under will also be entered to win an additional \$800 in college savings funds—roughly the same amount as a month's worth of childcare costs in Idaho. The prize comes as part of IDEal's statewide campaign to encourage families to dream big for their children and start investing in those dreams from an early age.

“We encourage families to dream big and start saving for higher education early, but we do understand that for many—especially those paying for full-time childcare—it can be a challenge to set money aside,” said IDEal Executive Director **Christine Stoll**. “That’s why we wanted to offer families of young children a little bump to help them get started. We hope to create some momentum to get them in the habit of saving regularly and to show them that even \$25 can potentially add up fast!”

IDEal points to local examples like that of Teresa Noble, of Boise, to highlight the potential power of college savings. Noble knows first-hand of the benefits of long-time investments in Idaho’s 529 Plan. She started plans for her two daughters 15 years ago. “I am so thankful because it was a very wise investment for my family,” she said. Noble was able to pay full tuition for her daughters to graduate from college thanks to Idaho’s 529 College Savings Plan. Both of her daughters earned undergraduate degrees without debt. “Because we saved this money, they were able to do a lot of things in college they would not have been able to do, things they loved, such as jobs in social justice work,” Noble said. “They weren’t so strapped for cash.”

IDEal is the state of Idaho’s tax-advantaged 529 plan, which offers Idahoans saving and investing resources to plan ahead for the costs of education. IDEal accounts can be used for education-related expenses at any eligible higher education institution in the country. As of 2018, IDEal accounts can also be used to pay for up to \$10,000 of annual K-12 tuition, including tuition for private schools and public kindergarten. Idaho taxpayers are eligible for a state tax deduction on contributions to IDEal accounts.

● [IDSaves.org](https://idsaves.org)

Cult/Com/Trans



Mountain Home road revisions planned

The **Idaho Transportation Department** is seeking public comment on several long-range plans in Mountain Home.

The department and the city of **Mountain Home** have worked together to create concepts for the interchanges at Exits 90 (Old US-30) and 95 (American Legion) as well as access control along American Legion Blvd (Idaho Highway 51 and US-20). You can see project details and leave a comment by visiting the project website.

The redesign on Exit 90 is designed to improve the safety and efficiency of the interchange. It also accommodates a future connection to NW Mashburn Road.

At Exit 95, ITD is asking for public comment on three alternative designs. Each design has its own advantages and trade-offs. Your input will be valuable in helping to determine the best choice.

The access study is a collaborative effort between ITD and Mountain Home to provide long-range guidance on safer configurations for American Legion Blvd. The design promotes safety while ensuring the public can access businesses along the corridor.

Once finalized, this plan will provide up-front information for businesses seeking to develop in the area, enhancing the local economy.

The comment period for this study will end May 15

- [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

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.
 - U.S. State Department Townhall meeting on the Columbia River Treaty. Spokane, Washington.
- 26 Idaho Cybersecurity Interdependencies Workshop. Boise.
 - Idaho Forest Practices Act Advisory Committee meeting. Post Falls.
- 28 Add the Word Rally at the Statehouse. Boise.
 - Chinook fishing season in much of Idaho begins.
- 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.

May

- 1 Last day to submit initiative petition signatures to the County Clerk by the close of business.
 - Idaho Travel Council meeting. Boise.
 - State administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 2 Board of Correction meeting. Boise.
- 3 Last day for the County Clerk to receive written requests for the purpose of authorizing persons to act as watchers and challengers at the polling place for the May 15 election.
- 11 Last day for in-person absentee voting until 5:00 p.m. for the Primary Election.
- 15 Primary election day.
 - State Land Board meeting. Boise.
 - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
 - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
- 16 First day voters affiliated with one of the recognized political parties may change party affiliation after the Primary Election.
- 30 Last day for State Board of Canvassers to meet to canvass the Primary Election.

People

Linda Pall, 73, a Moscow attorney and veteran civic activist, died at Moscow on April 29. Her activism began soon after she moved to Moscow in 1972, with the founding of the Moscow Day School (still in operation), followed by many other community projects. She was a charter member of the Latah County Human Rights Task Force.

She served a total of 18 years on the Moscow City Council, and last year ran unsuccessfully for mayor. She also was active in state Democratic politics, and ran for the U.S. House (unsuccessfully) in 2000.

A year ago



2017: Dinosaurs may be extinct but they will live again this summer at the Idaho Museum of Natural History at Idaho State University. Discover the science of dinosaurs and their ecosystems as you walk in their footsteps, hunt, eat, hide and survive and “Be the Dinosaur: Life in the Cretaceous” by using computer simulation, interactive and traditional exhibits. *(photo/Idaho State University)*

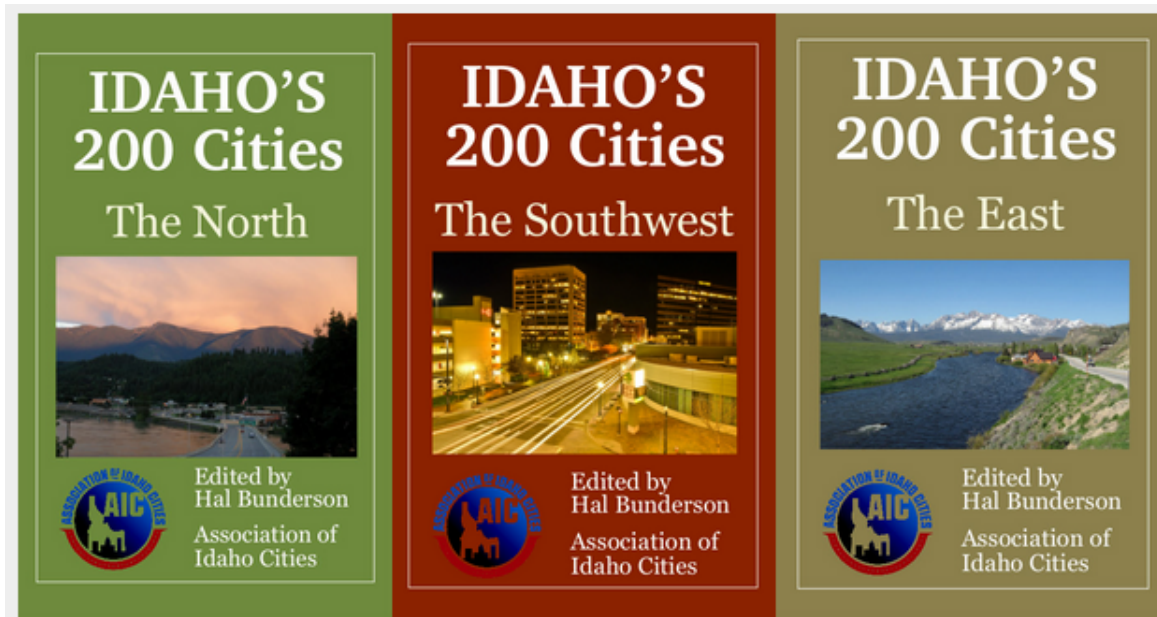
In the *Idaho Weekly Briefing*:

- Washington, and reactions to legislative actions there, dominated a lot of attention last week – notably at two packed and often angry town hall meetings hosted in Lewiston and Coeur d’Alene by Representative Raul Labrador. At week’s end, his Friday comment that “nobody dies because

they don't have access to health care” drew national and international comment – and a rain of angry tweets for Labrador.

- Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter on May 3 expressed frustration and resolve at news that the Federal Emergency Management Agency once again has denied the state’s request for disaster assistance in five Idaho counties hit hard by severe winter storms.
- Idaho consumers are expected to see their wages advance 1% per year faster than inflation through the end of the decade. Coupling those wage increases with strong employment gains of around 15,000 new jobs per year gives total real personal income a boost.
- Boise State University has begun construction on the new Center for Fine Arts, a \$42 million project on the west end of campus along Capitol Boulevard.
- On May 5, President Trump signed the Fiscal Year 2017 Consolidated Appropriations Act into law which includes Representative Mike Simpson's agreement on the Gateway West Transmission Line.
- On May 4, the U.S. House passed the American Health Care Act 217-213 with backing from both Idaho representatives.
- Data from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the Department of Health and Human Services indicate there were 662,319 Idahoans with pre-existing conditions prior to the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- McCain Foods USA will expand its production capacity for frozen french fries in North America. The location of the expansion is McCain’s current plant in Burley, Idaho where it has been doing business for 20 years.
- The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the city of Pocatello are asking local residents to join them for a discussion on the area’s urban mule deer population.
- Representative Raúl Labrador introduced H.R. 2284, a bill to reform the Antiquities Act to restrain unilateral presidential power. Labrador’s National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act requires approval by Congress and any state with a proposed national monument before the President can formally designate a monument. The legislation also requires public input.
- The Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will continue adjusting water releases from Lucky Peak Dam to target Boise River flows of 8,800 cubic-feet-per-second, as measured at the Glenwood Bridge gauge.
- The Bureau of Land Management is hosting a public meeting to present the Soda Fire rehabilitation monitoring results from 2016. Topics will also include post-fire vegetation treatments, grazing resumption objectives and other projects within the Soda Fire burned area.

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](#)).