

ALL STATION CONCERT RUN DOWN

Ford Idaho Center in Nampa: www.fordidahocenter.com

- 04/7 – 04/08 – PBR Unleash the Beast
 - 04/23/2023 - Kane Brown
 - 06/04/2023 – Matchbox Twenty (Rescheduled)
 - 06/14/2023 - Dirty Heads
 - 07/08/2023- Slightly Stoopid and Sublime with Rome
 - 07/14/2023 - Hank Williams Jr.
 - 07/18 – 07/22 – Snake River Stampede
 - 07/28/2023 - Rain - A Tribute to the Beatles
 - 07/29/2023 – Parker McCollum
 - 08/05/2023 - Luke Bryan
 - 08/10/2023 - Dierks Bentley
 - 08/17/2023 - ZACH BRYAN
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- Extra Mile Arena in Boise: www.extramilearena.com
 - 03/23/2023 – Winter Jam 2023 with We The Kingdom, Jeremy Camp and more!
 - 04/13/2023 – Journey w/special guest Toto
 - 05/20/2023 - Luke Combs w/ Riley Green, Laniey Wilson, Flatland Clavary and Brent Cobb
 - 6/28/2023 - KELSEA BALLERINI AT IDAHO BOTANICAL GARDEN
 - 07/14/2023 - BERT KREISCHER: FULLY LOADED COMEDY FESTIVAL

- 07/21/2023 – Dude Perfect Tour
- Knitting Factory – Boise www.knittingfactory.com
- 03/23/2023 -BOOGIE T AT TREEFORT 11
- 03/25/2023 -BABYJAKE, BUTCHER BROWN, MIZU, N3PTUNE & RUSTY STEVE AT TREEFORT 11
- 03/29/2023 – Jerry Cantrell w/Thunderpussy
- 03/30/2023 - SULLIVAN KING: THRONES OF BLOOD TOUR
- 03/31/2023 - SHREK RAVE
- 04/01/2023 - DREW LYNCH
- 04/04/2023 - GIRL NAMED TOM, MARIELLE KRAFT
- 04/07/2023 - PAUL WALL & LIL FLIP
- 04/10/2023 -SNOW THA PRODUCT – THE QUINCE I NEVER HAD TOUR
- 04/12/2023 - KAYZO, RAY VOLPE, AUTOMHATE
- 04/14/2023 - REGGAETON NIGHT
- 04/16/2023 - NOEL MILLER: EVERYTHING IS F**KED
- 04/17/2023 - DEMON HUNTER - TWENTY YEARS IN EXILE TOUR
- 04/18/2023 -TENNIS POLLEN 2023 TOUR
- 04/21/2023 - GOOSE SPRING TOUR 2023
- 04/23/2023 - WARREN ZEIDERS, BRYAN MARTIN
- 04/25/2023 - NOTHING MORE, CROWN THE EMPIRE, THOUSAND BELOW
- 04/28/2023 - GIMME GIMME DISCO

Morrison Center – Boise www.morrisoncenter.com

- **03/24/2023 - Hairspray**
- **03/25/2023 - Hairspray**
- **03/28/2023 - Black Violin**
- **04/01/2023 - Altered Landscape**
- **04/06 - 04/07/2023 -Gene Harris Jazz Festival**
- **04/20 - 04/23/2023 - Pretty Woman: The Musical (Touring)**

Revolution Concert House – Garden City: www.cttouringid.com

- **03/18/2023 - BORGORE**
- **03/20/2023 - UNDEROATH**
- **03/31/2023 - YEAT**
- **04/02/2023 - Sabrina Carpenter: emails i can't send Tour**
- **04/13/2023 - Dizzy Wright**
- **04/20- 04/22/2023 - Chelsea Handler: Little Big Bitch**
- **04/26 -04/27/2023 - Trevor Noah: Off the Record**

Vivint Arena in SLC: www.vivintarena.com

- **03/25/2023 – Reba McEntire w/Terri Clark and The Isaacs**
- **04/20/2023 - Muse with Special Guest Evanescence and Highly Suspect**
- **05/17/2022 – Andre Bocelli**
- **07/27/2023 - Paramore with special guest Foals & The Linda Lindas**

- **08/19/2023 - Sam Smith**
- **09/20/2023 – Arctic Monkeys**

Usana Amphitheater – www.livenation.com

- **05/24/2022 – Shania Twain**
- **06/13/2023 - Garbage & Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds**
- **06/28/2023 - Charlie Puth Presents The "Charlie" Live Experience**
- **07/06/2023 - Nickelback: Get Rollin' Tour**
- **07/07/2023 - Fall Out Boy - So Much For (Tour) Dust**
- **07/09/2023 - Slightly Stoopid and Sublime with Rome wsg Atmosphere, The Movement**
- **07/11/2023 - Snoop Dogg, Wiz Khalifa, Too \$hort & More - H.S. Reunion Tour 2023**

The Depot - SLC - www.livenation.com

- **03/22/2023 - Godspeed You! Black Emperor**
- **03/24/2023 - Watch What Crappens: The Cheater Brand Tour**
- **03/25/2023 - Betty Who**
- **03/31/2023 - Club 90s Present The 1975 Night & Tumblr Party**
- **04/01/2023 - Gimme Gimme Disco**
- **04/02/2023 - Steel Panther - On The Prowl World Tour**
- **04/07/2023 - Royal Bliss Survival Tour 2023**

Cactus Petes - www.cactuspetes.com

- **03/24 - 03/25/ 2023 - BONKERZ COMEDY SHOW - James BIGFOOT Scott**
- **04/07- 04/08/2023 - The Grass Roots**
- **04/21 - 04/22/2023 - BONKERZ COMEDY SHOW - Steve Mcinelly**
- **04/28 - 04/29/2023 - Sugarhill Gang**
- **05/19 - 05/20/2023 - Shades of Billy: Billy Joel Tribute**

Egyptian Theatre - <https://egyptiantheatre.net/>

- **03/22 -03/25/2023 - Treefort at The Egyptian Theatre**
- **04/07/2023 - Dr. Strange love**
- **04/08/2023 - Jimmy Failla**
- **04/11/2023 - Joanne Shaw Taylor**
- **04/14/2023 - Readings & Conversations with Ruth Ozeki**

Mountain America Center <https://mountainamericacenter.com/>

- **03/24 - 03/25/2023 - East Idaho fLY Tying/Fly Fising Expo**
- **04/30/2023 - Jeff Dunham: StillNot Cancelled**
- **05/02/2023 - ZZ Top**

Community Events

03/25/2023 - Rupert Square -The Carney Real Estate Team will be having our Ice Cream With The Easter Bunny Event March 25th. Egg Hunt will start at 11:00 with ice cream being served directly after. Come get the kids pictures with the Easter Bunny, enter raffles and visit food trucks all located at the Rupert Square.

03/31/2023 - Orpheum Theater 146 Main Ave N

The Gentleman stand up comedy tour. The show starts at 7:00pm. The Gentleman," is Heath's hilarious introspective deep dive into the pains, trials, tribulations of life. This isn't a tour to be missed! Standard Seating: \$17.50, Mezzanine Seating\$23.50, and Box Seating (Seats Two People): \$66.50

04/2023 - Lulus -Ink and EAT

Brunch with Lulus, Ink with Paige from Fine Line Ink and Permanent Jewelry with Linds! Brunch is \$35 includes 2 mimosas, ink starting at \$80 with deals if booked in advanced and permanent jewelry stating at \$35. Call Lulus to reserve your spot for brunch! 208-678-1612.Come join and do all three or just book 1.... We will have something for everyone!! From 10:00am-2:00pm.

04/01/2023 -Boat Safety Class at Cassia County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Building

Free Boat Safety Class 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. All classes will be held at the Cassia County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Building located at 129 East 14th Street, Burley, ID 83318 All classes are from 9 am to 5 pm please register first with Shannon Taylor (208) 878-1136 or staylor@cassiacounty.org

03/24/2023 Cat Got Your Tongue? 4-H Presentation Camp

10 AM – 2 PM Youth ages 8-18 are encouraged to attend this day camp to improve their communication skills. There will be classes on: tongue twisters, skits & games, resumes, social media, attire & etiquette, and radio broadcasting. Lunch will be provided. The cost is only \$5.00. At 85 E Baseline Rd, Rupert, ID, United States, Idaho

03/24-03/25/2023 - 4-H Spring Break Mini Classes at McGregor Center

Classes include: Survival, Cats, Wildlife, Bicycle Rodeo, Candymaking, Food Science, Gardening, and Pom Pom Gnomes. The cost for these classes is \$10.00 per person (take 2 classes or all eight for only \$10). All classes will be held at the McGregor Center located at 85 East Baseline (Fairgrounds) in Rupert. Youth will need to bring a sack lunch each day.

04/01/2023 -Jokes in the Hole Cornhole Fundraiser

Jokes in the Hole Cornhole Fundraiser beginning at 9:30 a.m. with registration and competition starting at 10 a.m. There will be a raffle, a silent auction, as well

as game play for the teams. Lunch will be provided for the participants and available for purchase from spectators. Awards will be given to the top 3 teams in each age division. Entry Fees are Junior 8-18, \$20/team; Adults 19-65, \$40/team; and Seniors 65 and older, \$30/team. To purchase raffle tickets contact any Right on Track 4-H Club members or Tosha at 208-260-8793, Mona 208-312-6535, or Jay at 208-654-8107. The raffle is for a cornhole game set. Do not need be present to win. If you want to Venmo for raffle tickets, @ToshWolfe. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. All Right on Track members will have tickets available for purchase. Contact Tosha if you are wanting to donate an item or purchase tickets, pre-register, or have any other questions. At Rupert Fairgrounds 85 East Baseline, Rupert.

03/18/2023 Daring Greatly performing at Koto Brewing Co. 156 Main Ave W Twin Falls - Daring Greatly is performing at Koto Brewing Co. from 8to 11 pm. Daring Greatly has accomplished much in their eight years together. They have released multiple albums and singles, performed at renowned venues across Western United States and Canada, and have garnered a devoted fan base.'

03/18/2023 - Misfits Meet and Greet at Fan Zone Athletics

Misfits Meet and Greet at 6:30 at Fan Zone Athletics. For all you U16 softball girls interested in playing travel ball! Come to the Misfits Meet and Greet to learn more!Meet the coach and learn more about the misfits.

04/15/2023 - Burley Mom Prom at Shanty Bell 1357 E Main st in Burley - We are so excited to bring you the 3rd annual Burley Mom Prom! Grab your gal pals, some neon and let's party for a cause! Limited tickets available.

04/05 - 04/09/2023 Easter @ Grace Church in Rupert Idaho

Easter is kind of a big deal at Grace Church. All of our events are free and open to absolutely everyone. Wednesday April 5 at 7:00pm Thursday April 6 at 7:00pm, Friday April 7 at 7:00 pm BREAKFAST & EASTER EGG HUNT Join us for a free community breakfast and A Walk With Jesus - an interactive family experience - followed by an Easter egg hunt! Saturday, April 8 Breakfast 9 - 10:30 am Easter egg hunt 11:00 am EASTER SERVICES Join us as we celebrate our risen Lord! Services at 8:45 am & 10:45 am.

04/08/2023 - Easter Egg Hunt at the Boathouse in Burley

Free Event! Starting with 2-7yr olds at 11am (2, 3 and 4 year olds will have colors to get that the bigger kids can't get) then with 8-12 yr olds at 1130am (8, 9 and 10 yr olds will have colors assigned that the bigger kids can't get). Eggs will be filled with candy and prizes! and the Easter Bunny will be there for pictures!

March 2nd - 4th - Minico High School Musical

Come see the classic Disney movie Freaky Friday come to life. March 2-4 at 7:00pm and March 4th at 1:00 at Minico High School. Tickets at \$5 for students and \$10 adults.

March 10th and 11th - CSI Rodeo at the CSI Evans Expo Center

Put this on your Calendar! The 46th annual CSI Intercollegiate Rodeo .Doors open at 5:30, Rodeo starts at 7:00 Get your tickets at Vickers in Twin Falls or The Shoe and Tack in Jerome.

March 2nd- 5th - Dilettante Group of the Magic Valley at the Collage of Southern Idaho's Fine Art Theater in Twin Falls

You wont want to miss this Spring show, The Titanic the musical. Evening performances are March 2,3,& 4th at 7:30pm and Matinee Performances are March 4th & 5th at 2:00pm. Tickets available at the CSI's Box office online at tickets.csi.edu. Tickets are \$15

March 3rd and 4th - The Drowsy Chaperone. At the King Fine Arts Center in Burley.

If you love a musical with laughter you wont want to miss this one. Get your tickets at kingfineartscenter.ticketleap.com

March 11th- Comedy Tour in Rupert Wilson Theater 7:30

Comedian Jeff Leeson comes to Rupert Idaho for One Night Only March 11! With Over 50 Million Views of his stand up clips online Find Out Why This Comedian is One of the most requested acts in North America!!

This is One Show You Do NOT Want To Miss!

www.historicwilsontheatre.com/tickets-and-pricing

March 11th - "Gardening Always in Style" at Morey's Steakhouse in Burley.

Registration opens at 8:30 am and the event begins at 9:00 am. Presentations will be offered on water conservation, native plants, pollinators, garden planning, Integrated Pest Management, and fruit tree care. There will be door prices, a silent auction, and lunch is provided. The cost is General Admission \$45, Certified Master Gardener \$40, Students \$25, At the door \$50. Early bird registration ends March 1, 2023. To register call (208) 734-9590 or email Andy West @ andywest@uidaho.edu

This event is for all gardeners young and old, lifetime and beginner gardeners. Come learn from professionals and get to know fellow gardeners in the area. This is a fun and educational event for anyone interested in gardening.

Friday March 3rd - ToySoup w/ Beans - Improv, Music & Comedy 8:00pm - 9:30pm at Big Papa's, 213 5th Avenue South, Twin Falls, ID

ToySoup with Beans! Salt Lake City trio connects music, sketch, and improv comedy into a performance full of creativity and laughter. This is certainly a must-see show. So go ahead and nab your tickets as soon as you are done reading.

Plus enjoy some local flavor to open the show. It's Impulse Comedy: your local improv group doing short-form improv games. This show is 21+ Show at 8/Doors at 7:00

<https://www.eventbrite.com>

March 18th - Basque Dinner and Auction at Rupert Elks at 6:00pm - 8:00pm

St. Nicholas Catholic Women will hold their annual Basque Dinner and Auction at Rupert Elks March 18th at 6:00-8:00 and auction and raffle at 8:30

March 11th - Spring Mini-Cassia Craft Fair 9am to 4pm at the Oregon Trail Recreation District in Burely.

There will be something for everyone and It will be bigger than ever with 100+ vendors at this event! Come find some new decorations, the perfect give for a loved one, homemade body care products or treats to pamper yourself with and so much more!

March 9th - Minico High School Transition Fair at Minico High School at 4:30 PM - 8:30

Mini-Cassia and Minidoka come join us at Minico High School and meet with agencies to discuss your child's future. Future schooling, FAFSA, and careers can seem overwhelming so be sure to come to our Transition Fair and get your questions answered.

March 18th - 11th Annual Spring Fling Saturday 10:00am - 4:00pm at Gathering Place - Party Center, 215 Eastland Dr, Twin Falls, ID

There will be a variety of vendors and crafters for your Easter, Mother's Day, Graduation & Father's Day Gifts. We will have Spring ideas for you.

There will be door prize drawings every 15 to 20 minutes throughout the day and you can register for the Grand Prize - \$50.00 shopping card to Fred Meyer. FREE ADMISSION - plenty of parking.

March 4, 2023 - 4-H/FFA Beef Weigh In this Saturday, from 8am-10am at the Minidoka County fairgrounds.

The Official initial weigh in for Market Beef at the Minidoka County Fair is on Saturday, March 4, 2023 from 8am-10am at the Minidoka County fairgrounds.

4-H/FFA members must be enrolled with dues paid at least a week prior to the weigh in (February 24). Steers can be any weight. Official Bill of Sales are required along with a brand inspection. Ultrasound fees of \$4.00 per steer will be collected.

Steers must weigh a minimum of 1150 pounds and have an average daily gain of 2.0 at Fair weigh in

March 3rd - Country Swing Lessons at 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM at Spud Cellar Lounge & Bar

Country Swing Dance Lessons for all ages and dance levels!!! Food and drinks available for purchase

MARCH 3rd - 4th - OTRD Indoor Classic Pickleball Tournament at Oregon Trail Recreation District

March 3rd 6:00PM :: 4.0+ team tournament (1 team consists of 2 women and 2 men) limited to 6 teams, \$60/team

March 4th 8:00AM :: 3.5 women's doubles, 3.5 men's doubles, limited to 6 women's teams and 6 men's teams, \$30/team

11:30AM :: 3.0 women's doubles, 3.0 men's doubles, limited to 6 women's teams and 6 men's teams, \$30/team

3:00PM :: singles tournament, 2 divisions (<4.0 and >4.0), limited to 12 individuals, \$15/person

Sign up at <https://www.otrd.org/>

MARCH 15 - WEDNESDAY, 2023 AT 6:30 PM – 8:00PM Cards for Kids Variety Show and Silent Auction at Wilson Theater At the Rupert Square

This is a show that is filled with nothing but local talent. There is a \$5 admission at the door, and all proceeds from this fun show go to kids that are battling cancer and their families. We will be putting the silent auction items on the page the day of the show, and you can bid for them there.

MARCH 11th and 12th - Magic Valley Gem Show at 10:00 AM – AT 4:00 PM at Twin Falls County Fairgrounds

Mark your calendar and join us Saturday and Sunday for our annual gem show. We are excited to announce we will be bringing back our black light display!

MARCH 7th -10th at 7:00 PM – Bye Bye Birdie a Musical Theatrical Performance by Declo High School at Declo High School

Declo High School is excited to perform Bye Bye Birdie. Come see the toe tapping, hilarious, and fun loving musical March 7-10th. Buy tickets or donate at <https://www.successfund.com/dhsbyebyebirdie>

MARCH 4th - Those Two Chicks Spring Bazaar AT 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Join us for a fun family friendly spring craft show! We will have local crafters and artisans there with their amazing products!

Friday 033123

A bill that would criminalize helping minors obtain an abortion without parental consent won final passage in Idaho's legislature yesterday and is headed to the desk of Republican Gov. Brad Little. The measure would be the first of its kind in the U.S. It seeks to restrict travel by creating the crime of abortion trafficking. Those breaking the law could spend 5 years in prison.

A critical access hospital near Boise will no longer deliver babies after June 1. Valor Health's will stop offering labor and delivery care in Emmett. The Idaho Legislature is on track to defund research into preventing maternal deaths; as state lawmakers have banned nearly all abortions; and as Idaho chooses not extend its postpartum Medicaid coverage. Bonner General Health in Sandpoint announced March 17 it will no longer provide delivery services.

The weather is making headlines in southern Idaho this morning. Forecasters say expect winds gusting up to 50 miles an hour till about noon today especially in Eastern Magic Valley. There's a winter storm watch with up to 15 inches of new snow expected in the Raft River, Albion Mountains, Sun Valley and Stanley Basin areas through tomorrow night.

Idaho parents have even more school choice options on top of a long list of education alternatives in the State of Idaho after Governor Brad Little signed Senate Bill 1125 into law this week. Senate Bill 1125 allows parents to send their child to any public school in Idaho regardless of where they live.

The Idaho Senate passed the fiscal year 2024 Medicaid budget by a single vote yesterday as they prepare to wrap up this year's session. The fiscal year 2024 Medicaid budget includes funding for five programs, including expanded Medicaid coverage for qualifying Idahoans.

One woman died from police gunfire yesterday morning in Bonneville County. At about 3:30 am, a Bonneville County Sheriff's Deputy checked on a vehicle parked at the Gem State Park. Police determined the woman inside the car had a warrant. Shots were fired and the woman died later at a nearby hospital.

Thursday 033023

The Senate finished off a rare veto override yesterday, and a far-reaching property tax overhaul is now on the books. The Senate upheld House Bill 292 which promises \$355 million in immediate property tax relief, but has huge implications for public schools. The law earmarks \$100 million that schools must spend on property tax relief, perhaps by paying down existing bonds or levies. But the law also eliminates the standalone March election.

Idaho lawmakers are considering making it illegal for an adult to help a minor procure an abortion without parental consent. To sidestep violating a constitutional right to travel between states, the state law would make illegal only the portion of a trip to an out-of-state abortion provider that takes place in Idaho. People convicted of breaking the law would face two to five years in prison. The law would be the first of its kind in the U.S.

Lori Vallow, the woman charged with murdering her two children and her husband's ex-wife, appeared in Ada County Court yesterday where her defense argued to exclude most family members from watching portions of her trial on April 3. Judge Steven Boyce issued an order to exclude witnesses from sitting in on others' testimony in order to prevent issues down the road of potential testimony changes.

New court documents in the case of Bryan Kohberger the man accused of killing four University of Idaho students show Latah County prosecutors are sharing new evidence regarding an officer involved with the case. Prosecutors told the court the information is related to a "confidential internal affairs investigation" involving the officer and is "potential Brady/Giglio material." The documents have been sealed from public view.

A 53 year old Jerome man is facing felony charges of attempted strangulation and domestic Battery in the presence of a child. Herman Bennett was arrested at a residence on Pheasant Way.

Area dog owners are being reminded to keep their pets on a leash. The warning comes after increasing reports of coyote and fox activity around Twin Falls and other areas of Magic Valley.

Wednesday 032923

A bill heading to Idaho Gov. Brad Little is necessary to keep Idaho's psychiatric hospitals and behavioral health centers in operation. But one sentence written into the legislation could have far-reaching consequences. It includes a new restriction on who can receive free naloxone kits capable of reversing the fatal effects of an opioid overdose. The bill says that those kits shall be available only to first responders in the state of Idaho.

The Idaho House of Representatives voted yesterday to override Gov. Brad Little's veto of a property tax bill, setting up a late-session showdown between the two chambers of the Idaho

Legislature and Little. During its morning floor session, the Idaho House also voted to reject the Senate's new property tax counterproposal. It all started on Monday, when Little vetoed House Bill 292 after saying he opposed a section of the bill that removed the March election date that school districts use for bond on levy elections. Yesterday the Idaho House responded by voting to override Little's veto.

Idaho gas prices have gone down another four cents over the past week. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.58, nine cents less than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average sits at \$3.44 per gallon.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little will have the final say on whether to criminalize gender-affirming care for transgender youth now that both legislative chambers approved an amended version of House Bill 71. It now heads to Little's desk where he can sign it into law, let it become law without his signature or veto it.

A resolution asking state officials to explore available legal options to stop the construction of hundreds of wind turbines on Idaho's public lands is ready to be adopted after passing through the Senate. An application is pending before the BLM to approve the placement of approximately 400 wind turbines in Jerome, Lincoln, and Minidoka Counties that would consume over 200,000 acres.

Tuesday 032823

Twin Falls sheriff deputies arrested a 23 year old man after discovering he had over one million dollars' worth of drugs in his car. On Sunday authorities stopped Jorge Morales Martinez of Chihuahua Mexico on Pole line Road near Parkview drive. He faces trafficking charges involving Heroin, Meth and Fentanyl.

Jerome's former mayor Gerald Ostler passed away Friday. The 88 year old also was the counties Coroner for a time.

A Forest Service employee has been missing for two weeks after setting out on his snowmobile in Boise County. Tyler Beyer left his Lowman home on Sunday, March 12, by snowmobile. On Monday, the Lowman Ranger District reported that Beyer didn't show up for work.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little vetoed a major property tax bill yesterday, calling on the Idaho Legislature to get the property tax issue right. The Idaho Senate had already advanced a counter proposal that will be sent to the Idaho House of Representatives today. Little opposed a section of the bill that would eliminate the March election date local school districts.

The Idaho Senate yesterday voted to pass a bill criminalizing gender-affirming healthcare for minors, one month after the state House passed similar legislation. Doctors prescribing hormones or blockers could be charged with a felony and face prison time.

25 year old Dylan Wormsbaker of Twin Falls has passed away after spending a week in the hospital, following a motorcycle crash. The incident happened at the intersection of Martin Street and Shoup Avenue West in Twin Falls.

Low-income renters in Idaho have less affordable housing options than in previous years, according the Idaho Asset Building Network. The group says Idaho has 38 affordable rental homes for every 100 households with extremely low incomes a decrease from 2022 when there were 42.

Traffic on I-84 just outside of Jerome was slowed yesterday morning after an axle caught fire on a semi truck trailer. Westbound traffic was diverted while crews worked to douse the flames.

Monday 032723

Two people died after a head on crash yesterday afternoon just before 5 in Bingham County. Police say the accident occurred on I-15 and closed all southbound lanes for about three hours.

Gov. Brad Little signed a bill allowing execution by firing squad, making Idaho the latest state to turn to older methods of capital punishment amid a nationwide shortage of lethal-injection drugs. The Legislature passed the measure March 20 with a veto-proof majority. Under it, firing squads will be used only if the state cannot obtain the drugs needed for lethal injections.

A new bill designed to provide for a “tightly regulated system” of medical cannabis was introduced Friday morning in the Idaho House of Representatives. Under the new Idaho Medical Cannabis Act, patients with a significant medical condition would be eligible for a medical cannabis card that would be valid for up to one year before renewal.

Republican legislative leaders missed their nonbinding target to wrap up Idaho’s 2023 legislative session on Friday. Despite the late date, the Idaho Legislature has not yet passed most of the 2024 fiscal year state budget. The state’s largest budgets the K-12 public schools budgets and the Medicaid budget that has now been rewritten twice have not been taken up yet.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little will have the final say in whether Idaho’s presidential primary election is moved to late May. If passed into law, the bill would move Idaho’s presidential primary election back on the calendar from its current date on the second Tuesday in March until the third Tuesday in May.

Starting today, St. Luke’s Magic Valley and Wood River medical centers will require the use of guest badges. Those arriving for lab testing, diagnostic imaging, other outpatient procedures and all visitors will need to obtain a guest badge upon entry.

Idaho's unemployment rate fell slightly for the month of February, according to the Idaho Department of Labor. Unemployment fell one tenth of a percent for an overall total of 2.6%.

The drought in Idaho could be over soon. Last month, most of Twin Falls and Cassia counties were listed as being in a severe drought, despite snowpack being well above normal. That has now been changed to moderate.

Friday 032423

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is suing Attorney General Raul Labrador's office to halt its investigation into the agency's administration of \$36 million in federal childcare grants. That move comes after IDHW received two legal analyses from the attorney general's office both prior to Labrador's inauguration and after he took office saying the way the grants program was run "does not appear to violate federal and state guidelines."

A rural hospital in northern Idaho will stop delivering babies or providing other obstetrical care, citing a shifting legal climate in which recently enacted state laws could subject physicians to prosecution for providing abortions, among other reasons. Bonner General Health in Sandpoint will discontinue obstetrical services in mid-May.

Idaho legislators have asked the Office of Performance Evaluations to produce reports on the Idaho Health Data Exchange's bankruptcy, Medicaid hospital rates and forensic death investigations. The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee that oversees the Office of Performance Evaluations voted Thursday to request separate, formal reports on each of the three topics that will be delivered to the 2024 Idaho Legislature.

A bill designed to block foreign governments from purchasing agricultural land, water rights, mining claims and mineral claims is advancing to the Idaho Senate floor for a vote. If the bill is

signed into law, it would prevent a foreign government or foreign state-controlled enterprise from purchasing, acquiring or holding any interest in agriculture land, water rights, mining claims or mineral rights in the state.

A house bill is making its way in Boise that would appropriate 750 thousand dollars to build a firing squad facility in Boise. Right now, executions in the state are being paused due to Idaho not being able to acquire the drugs needed for lethal injections.

The latest stolen vehicle report has been released by the Twin Falls Police. In 2022, there were a total of 91 stolen vehicles reported in Twin Falls and only less than a dozen in 2023 so far.

Thursday 032323

A 27 year old Buhl man died yesterday morning when the car he was driving collided head on with a Semi Truck hauling straw bales. Police say the accident on US 30 happened just outside of Buhl around 9:30 am.

A bill to provide state-funded private school grants appears dead for the 2023 session. The abrupt move could also bring the Legislature's protracted debate over school choice to a grinding halt.

Governor Brad Little vetoed HB 133, a bill that would have allowed parents to teach their kids to drive. On the same day, House Representatives tried to override the veto, but the vote 39-29, was not enough to overturn the governor's decision. The Idaho transportation Department estimated the cost to the state would have been \$96,000.

Documented Norteno gang member Ethan Alamaraz will spend 32 years in prison for first-degree murder, aggravated battery, and aggravated assault. Almaraz was arrested on a felony warrant in October of 2021 after being indicted by a grand jury for his role in a Caldwell gang homicide that occurred on September 17th, 2021.

Governor Brad Little signed Senate Bill 1129 into law, adding another \$125 million to improve broadband infrastructure throughout the state as part of his "Idaho First" plan. A total of \$225 million in new funding for broadband expansion in Idaho could be added if approved.

The Idaho House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass a bill that would establish a process to shield the home addresses and telephone numbers of judges and their families from public disclosure. If passed into law, it would allow judicial officers to submit an application to have public agencies exempt their street address and telephone number and those of their family members from public disclosure.

22 year old Angeleah Cryts of Twin Falls is facing grand theft charges following multiple burglaries reported in Twin Falls and Filer. In one of the burglaries, a safe containing 10-thousand dollars was missing along with documents, handgun and tools. Some items were found after being advertised on facebook marketplace.

Wednesday 032223

Idaho's Joint Finance And Appropriations committee has advanced Governor Brad Little's recommendation to bolster the rainy day funds and pre pay the fire suppression fund. \$61.7 million will go to the rainy day funds 68.7 million will go to the wildfire fund.

The Idaho House of Representatives narrowly killed a bill Tuesday that would have eliminated registered voters' ability to sign sworn affidavit to verify their identity and vote in elections. It would have repealed a section of Idaho law that allows registered voters to provide their name and address and complete a signed, sworn affidavit attesting to their identity instead of presenting photo identification.

In a 32 to three vote, the Senate cleared the way for a tax relief bill sending it on the governor's desk. It would provide up to 355 million in property tax relief.

The judge in the Lori Vallow Daybell murder case has dropped the death penalty option. The defense filed a motion said there was late discovery given past the deadline. Mental status and media saturation was also part of the request.

The city of Twin Falls agreed to renew its minimum revenue guarantee with SkyWest for the second quarter of 2023. Under the agreement, SkyWest must earn \$188,775 from operating its daily service from the Magic Valley Airport to Salt Lake City. Any amount that revenues fall short, the city and the county will split evenly. Airport Director Bill Carberry said he anticipates writing a check for almost the full \$200,000.

A federal judge paused the Biden administration's waterway protections in Texas and Idaho as Republicans across the country challenge the environmental regulations as vague and argue the rules would create economic burdens. Roughly half of all U.S. states are taking part in lawsuits challenging the rule.

The possibility of a third crossing for the Snake River Canyon is being discussed by Twin Falls, Jerome and the Filer highway district. The cost of a third crossing is expected to reach in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Tuesday 032123

A complicated property tax overhaul is headed to Gov. Brad Little's desk. After an hour's debate, the Senate overwhelmingly passed House Bill 292 which promises up to \$355 million in immediate property tax cuts. The bill promises to provide about \$100 million to schools. It would also eliminate the March school election date. Last week, school districts asked for \$1 billion in ballot measures; about \$275 million of the proposals passed.

Mountain Rides will start up their shuttle service between the Wood River valley and Twin Falls next month. The company discontinued service in January. Now they will be using a van instead of a bus and will run only when a ride is booked.

Governor Brad Little signed Senate Bill 1129 into law today, adding another \$125 million to improve broadband infrastructure

throughout the state as part of his “Idaho First” plan. Another \$100 million is nearing legislative approval, for a total of \$225 million in new funding for broadband expansion in Idaho.

Idaho drivers continue to see savings at the pump as economic fears drive down the cost of crude oil. Today, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.62, which is five cents less than a week ago, seven cents less than a month ago, and 74 cents less than a year ago.

A complicated property tax overhaul is headed to Gov. Brad Little’s desk. After an hour’s debate, the Senate overwhelmingly passed House Bill 292 which promises up to \$355 million in immediate property tax cuts. The bill promises to provide about \$100 million to schools. It would also eliminate the March school election date. Last week, school districts asked for \$1 billion in ballot measures; about \$275 million of the proposals passed.

Idaho is poised to allow firing squads to execute condemned inmates when the state can’t get lethal-injection drugs, under a bill the Legislature passed Monday with a veto-proof majority. Firing squads will be used only if the state cannot obtain the drugs needed for lethal injections.

The Ada County Coroner has identified the man involved in a suspicious incident on Interstate 84 this past weekend. 25-year-old Victor Lindsey of Twin Falls died at the scene after allegedly exiting a moving vehicle. A 23-year-old Twin Falls woman was the driver. The incident occurred Sunday morning on eastbound I-84 in Boise.

Monday 032023

Police are investigating what they are calling a suspicious incident that happened yesterday morning just east of Boise in the eastbound lanes of I-84. Authorities say a 23 year old woman from Twin Falls was driving when her passenger a 25 year old male also from Twin Falls, opened his door and exited the vehicle while it was in motion. He died at the scene.

A 16 year old Idaho Falls girl won a ticket to the next rounds of American Idol on national TV last night. Paige Anne is headed to

compete in Hollywood after performing Pink's hit What About Us. Before she sang, she shared her specialty Sour Patch Snow Cones with the three judges. Judges Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie approved of Paige Anne's audition, while Katy Perry said she was not ready.

A few Idaho state senators from both major political parties said in a committee hearing that they can't support an existing bill to criminalize all gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth but the committee's Republicans were open to supporting an amended version. Committee members who support the intent of the bill said they're concerned about allowing medical care that might permanently change a minor's body.

Two different organizations representing young people in Idaho announced they have filed lawsuits challenging a new law that Gov. Brad Little recently signed that eliminates student IDs as an acceptable form of identification for voting. Before Little signed the law, current student IDs were accepted at the polls.

Idaho gas prices have dipped slightly this week, and the Gem State recently fell out of the Top Ten for most expensive fuel now at #11. Idaho's average price for a gallon of regular is \$3.64 per gallon, which is four cents less than a week ago. The national average is \$3.46 per gallon, which is a penny less than a week ago. Meanwhile, the cost of crude oil has plummeted by more than 10% this week.

Traffic was backed up on I-84 west of Mountain Home just after midnight Saturday. Police say a 34 year old female from Mountain Home died when she lost control and her vehicle overturned.

Friday 031723

The Twin Falls Canyon Ridge High School Pass room supervisor who is in legal trouble has been fired. 24 year old Kyle McClure was arrested Tuesday and charged with two counts of sexual battery of a minor child and two counts of destruction of evidence. Court documents say McClure told police he knew the student was 17 and tried to hide the relationship by deleting

phone messages and having her delete her texts and social media account.

Being on the State board of Education won't require members to campaign for their position during a primary and general election. A house bill was defeated this week by one vote. Currently the board is appointed by the governor. Four of the seven members are from the Boise area.

It's St. Patrick's Day and in downtown Twin Falls festivities start at noon. The Parade is set for 5. Roads around downtown will be closed starting around 3.

As the weather warms and the snow starts to melt, some roads in the Mini Cassia are flooding. People needing sand bags are being directed to the Minidoka County fairgrounds where they will be able to fill sandbags. Bring a shovel, the bags and sand is free. The flooding is affecting low-lying areas at 300 North and above.

Without even voting, the Idaho House of Representatives sent new Attorney General Raúl Labrador's budget back for revisions after the Attorney General's Office budget called for larger raises than legislators are approving for most state employees. That means Labrador's proposed 2024 budget will need to be rewritten before the 2023 legislative session adjourns.

A group of education and child care providers from around the state, including some public school districts, have filed a court complaint against the Idaho attorney general's office, seeking to block or modify the office's demand for their records. The plaintiffs include 35 Idaho-based providers that received federal grants through Health and Welfare.

A new report released to the Idaho Legislature found the state needs at least 3,000 more direct care workers to serve older and disabled Idahoans who rely on those professionals to remain in their homes. The report found Idaho's direct care workforce

shortage is worse than the national average because pay is capped by Medicaid rates.

Thursday 031623

While all but one school local district fared well in Tuesdays bond election, but statewide there were several failures. The night's biggest ticket item Coeur d'Alene's permanent, \$25 million-a-year supplemental levy failed with 49% support. The largest bond measure of the night Nampa School District's \$210.2 million failed with only 40% support. Others that failed were Kuna's 111.4 million dollar bond, Jefferson county's 75 million, Fremont's 59-point 98 million, Lakeland's 19.4 and 6.88 million dollar request. Castleford's 6 million, Emmett's 3 million, Payette's 1 million and Sugar Salem's 600-thousand dollar requests were all killed.

Some bills relating to the turbulence at North Idaho College are on their way through the Legislature. The first proposal would allow the State Board to assume emergency authority over the college if patrons of the college's district presented a petition with 1,000 signatures. The second bill would revoke a community college's property tax levy authority after two years of accreditation loss.

A contentious school bathroom bill is headed to the House floor. It would require school patrons to use the bathroom associated with the gender they were assigned at birth. The same rule would go for locker and dressing room use, and overnight accommodations for student trips.

Tomorrow, Governor Brad Little is bringing the business of the state capital to Gooding. The capital for a day event starts at 10 am at the Basque center.

In Twin Falls, a Canyon Ridge High School PASS Room supervisor is in legal trouble after allegedly having a sexual relationship with a student. 24 year old Kyle McClure was arrested Tuesday evening. He has been charged with two counts of sexual battery

of a minor child and two counts of destruction, alteration or concealment of evidence. He has been employed with the school district since August.

The Idaho Fish and Game said that coyote and Foxes have been spotted in some Twin Falls neighborhoods. They are warning residents of conflicts with pets after several encounters with dogs. Coyotes have been spotted near Blue Lakes North.

Wednesday 031523

Once again the weather is making headlines in the Magic Valley. Forecasters say to expect winds of possibly 65 miles an hour till about 6 tonight. There is a flood advisory for parts of Lincoln and Minidoka counties. Upwards to 16 inches of new snow could fall in the Boise and West Central Mountains and the Avalanche warning remains in place for parts of the Sawtooth Stanley Basin, Sun Valley and the Wood River Foothills.

All area school districts were given the thumbs up by voters yesterday on their requests for levies and bonds. Most past with at least a 60 percent favorable margin.

The job numbers are out and the latest indicates that Pocatello saw the greatest increase with non-farm job gains were 7-point 3 percent. Twin Falls with 1-point 6. In Idaho, the unemployment rate is down to 2.7%. Non-farm jobs increased by 4,600 to 842,000.

A Rupert meat processing company has had its USDA accreditation suspended. It stems from an incident where there were inhumane practices with swine slaughter at Jensen Meats last year.

The Shoshone Falls after Dark light show is returning for the 3rd year. It will happen over two weekends April 27th through the 30th and May 4th through the 7th. Each show lasts about 20 minutes.

In Idaho lawmakers are pushing legislation forward that would prevent discrimination against those who choose not to be vaccinated for COVID. The bill passed the senate on a party line vote.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee finished setting the fiscal year 2024 state budget yesterday and signed off on a 16.4% increase in state funding for K-12 public schools. Altogether, JFAC approved a \$378.6 million increase for public schools. That's a \$145 million increase for teacher raises.

Attorneys hired to represent the Idaho Legislature in a federal case over Idaho's abortion ban have appealed their right to intervene in the case. The lawsuit, filed by the feds against Idaho, argues the state's near-total ban on abortions violates the federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

Tuesday 031423

It could be the biggest school election day in Idaho history. Today voters will decide on bonds and levies running more than \$1 billion making it, easily, the spendiest election day in the past several years. About \$700 million of the bond issues and levies have a set lifespan. If passed, the bond issues would run from 10 to 30 years. The levies would run from one to 10 years. In Cassia County there is a Ten-year, \$32.7 million plant facilities levy for roof repairs and technology upgrades. In Twin Falls a Two-year, \$11.4 million supplemental levy for salaries and security guards. In Castleford, a 6 million dollar bond issue. Jerome a 2 year \$1.25 supplemental levy. Camas County a 2 year 600-thousand levy and in Hansen a 2 year 580-thousand levy.

A bill that would add the firing squad as an alternative form of execution in Idaho is headed to the floor of the Idaho Senate for a final vote. Idaho has eight convicted murderers awaiting execution on death row.

Legislation aimed at addressing concerns related to no-excuse absentee voting in Idaho is going back to the drawing board, after failing in the House yesterday. The bill would have restricted who could request an absentee vote.

Idaho's average price for a gallon of regular gasoline is \$3.67, which is two cents more than a week ago and the same price as a month ago. Meanwhile, the U.S. average currently sits at \$3.47.

County commissioners in Twin Falls are joining other counties in Southern Idaho to oppose the Lava Ridge Wind Project. On April 6th, Twin Falls, Jerome, Gooding, Minidoka, and Lincoln County will all meet together at the Minidoka National Historic site near Hunt, to sign the joint resolution, making it official.

A bill that would prohibit the resale of new liquor licenses that become available, while allowing one transfer of a license 'inherited or given by a family member' was presented in the senate state affairs committee. The bill seeks to reduce speculative purchasing by out-of-state interests and give Idaho small business owners a better chance to grow and compete.

Monday 031323

One person died yesterday after their snowmobile was caught in an avalanche in the Stanley lake creek drainage in the Sawtooth National Recreation area. The victim was located about 15 minutes later but died at the scene.

As of this morning, the City of Hailey said all roads and parks are now open in Della View. Warm Springs Road remains CLOSED to all traffic from the pavement onward. Officials say crews will not enter the area until it is deemed safe.

A former Idaho legislative intern is suing a lawmaker who was convicted of raping her and one of his colleagues for publicly releasing the teen's identity and launching a campaign of harassment against her. The young woman was 19 when she

reported that then-Rep. Aaron von Ehlinger raped her at his apartment after the two had dinner at a Boise restaurant. The lawsuit says von Ehlinger and then Rep. Priscilla Giddings retaliated by publicly releasing her name.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee signed off on a \$32 million supplemental funding request for emergency rental assistance. Under the assistance program, payments are made directly to the landlord or utility company.

Rupert Business owner Ryan McEuen has been charged with felony counts of possession of a controlled substance and delivery of a controlled substance to a minor. The 44 year old's arraignment is set for Thursday.

A \$355 million property tax bill was introduced in the House Revenue and Taxation Committee for school districts. It would divide \$100 million between districts, based on average daily attendance. The money would pay off existing school bonds and levies and save for future facility needs. It would also eliminate the March school election.

A plan to pump \$50 million into career-technical education programs is headed to the Senate. The bulk of the money, \$45 million, will go into a fund to provide one-time money for CTE programs.

Friday 031023

Today's weather is making headlines with 7 weather alerts issued by the national weather service. A winter storm warning extends through parts of Northern Magic Valley with 14 inches of snow and 50 mile an hour winds are expected. There is an avalanche warning in the Wood River area. Castleford schools are closed because of plumbing issues.

The water outlook is looking better as the area approaches the growing season. Locally the reservoirs are about half or 3-quarters full.

The body of former Idaho Governor Phil Batt will be honorably transferred from the Capitol in Boise to the Cathedral of the Rockies for a memorial service this morning. The 29th Governor of Idaho died on March 4th.

The House State Affairs Committee yesterday held a resolution that would have asked voters to amend the Idaho Constitution and make it harder to get an initiative or referendum on the ballot. The resolution comes after a similar piece of legislation in 2021 that was struck down as unconstitutional by the Idaho Supreme Court.

Legislative budget-writers approved a spending plan for higher education and basically followed Gov. Brad Little's playbook. JFAC approved providing \$353.9 million to the four-year schools.

The Republican-controlled Idaho Senate voted last night to eliminate student IDs as an acceptable form of identification to vote in Idaho elections. If passed into law it would mean students would need to use their driver's license, passport or their concealed weapons ID.

Those who don't make enough money to file an income tax return can still get a refund on some of the sales tax they paid on groceries. Anyone who has lived in Idaho for a full year qualifies for the grocery credit refund.

City officials in Ketchum said Boise-based Albertsons is eyeing a store in Ketchum, which would serve the greater Sun Valley area. Albertsons owns a piece of property at 1000 Warm Springs Rd.

For many Americans, Spring Break marks the unofficial start of the travel season, and according to new research by AAA, it's

going to be a busy one. AAA booking data shows a 30% increase in international travel.

Thursday 030923

In the state house of representatives yesterday, lawmakers are looking at creating a resolution that would oppose the proposed Lava Ridge wind energy project. It asks the governor and the attorney general to take legal steps to encourage the BLM to select the no build option.

The Ada County Sheriff's Office is investigating what they believe is a "murder and attempted suicide" in Eagle. The sheriff's office said a 38-year-old man killed one woman and injured another inside the Westmark Credit Union off Eagle Road and Eagle River Street near Highway 44 in Eagle, before turning the gun on himself in the parking lot. It happened yesterday afternoon around 1.

Idaho's state bird, the Mountain Bluebird, will be the new design on Idaho licenses. The Idaho Transportation Department said the new look will be on all new license issues and renewals beginning in April.

As expected, a bill to rework the Idaho Launch postsecondary incentives program made its debut Wednesday morning. With no discussion, the Senate State Affairs Committee introduced the bill, a unanimous vote that could set the stage for a full hearing at a later date. The bill makes three key changes to Idaho Launch Gov. Brad Little's controversial plan to provide high school graduates with \$8,500, which they can use for college, career-technical education or workforce training.

One of state superintendent Debbie Critchfield's top legislative priorities died on the House floor yesterday. On a 39-30 vote, lawmakers rejected House Bill 268, a proposal to ramp up training for school trustees.

Next Friday, Idaho Governor Brad Little will bring his capital for a day to Gooding. It's set to begin at 10 am at the Gooding Basque Center.

19 year old Kristopher Jones of Twin Falls is facing two counts of robbery, one count of burglary and eluding officers. Late Tuesday police say Jones entered a home in the 1100 block of Twin Parks Drive and demanded keys to a vehicle. He led officers on a high speed chase eventually crashing the vehicle and hid under a dumpster near the Epic Car Wash.

Wednesday 030823

A new proposal to repeal Idaho's Blaine Amendment resurfaced yesterday. The amendment which prohibits the use of public dollars to support religious enterprises, including schools has been a recurring theme in Idaho's school choice. The Supreme Court has rendered the amendment moot saying that if states put public dollars into private schools, they cannot discriminate against religious-based schools.

The House Education Committee heard a bill yesterday that seeks to redefine abstinence. At the heart of the bill is a state-provided sex education curriculum. The curriculum defines abstinence as refraining from any activity that could cause pregnancy or the transmission of STDs.

The Idaho House of Representatives voted to pass a bill restricting the performance of public live drag shows that contain "sexual conduct" as opponents worried that passing the bill jeopardizes all live performances. If passed, it would require live shows that feature "sexual conduct" must restrict minors from attending the shows. Live shows could not use public facilities.

The Idaho Legislature's House State Affairs Committee advanced a bill over the objections from the Secretary of State's Office that would greatly restrict who can distribute absentee ballot request

forms. If passed, only a county clerk, election official, officer or employee of the state authorized by law would be able to distribute absentee ballot application forms.

Former Idaho Governor Phil Batt who passed away Saturday will lie in state at the capitol starting tomorrow. His body will be then transferred to the cathedral of the Rockies on Friday for the funeral that is set for 11 am.

19 year old Sydney Gibson who was driving a car during a high speed chase last year where police shot and killed her passenger, has offered a plea agreement to possession of a controlled substance. She will be sentenced on May 22nd where the state is recommending jail for at least 3 years.

Lori Vallow, the woman who is accused of murder and conspiracy to murder her two children and her husband Chad Daybell's former wife, Tammy Daybell, has filed to dismiss the death penalty prosecutors seek against her due to "the troubling thought" of executing a mentally ill person.

Tuesday 030723

Idaho Senators Jim Risch and Mike Crapo proposed legislation backed by 24 other Republicans in what they say is a method to close loopholes when it comes to federal funds being used for abortion care. Called the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, Risch says it will keep "taxpayer dollars out of the pockets of pro-abortion organizations."

The agencies that oversee public health for Idaho's populous southwestern region this week announced one new and one ongoing outbreak of syphilis, a sexually transmitted infection. There were 52 syphilis cases in the region in 2018. There have been 168 cases of syphilis infection in the region since Jan. 1, 2022.

Have a commercial driver's license and need to renew it? Thanks to the passage of house bill 9 and the governors red tape reduction act, CDL licenses can soon renew online starting in July. It's an option available to non cdl license holders.

Orange construction barrels and construction signs will soon be popping up. The Idaho transportation department said with warmer weather, they will begin rebuilding the Burley and Heyburn interchanges.

Idaho drivers enjoyed another week of savings at the pump, but AAA warns that the current trend is likely the calm before the storm. Today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.65, which is two cents less than a week ago, but a nickel more than a month ago. Idaho slipped from 9th to 10th place for most expensive fuel this week.

60 year old David L. Randall may spend the rest of his life in prison for murdering his ex-girlfriend in December 2019. The Boise man was sentenced to life imprisonment, with 25 years fixed. The sentence comes more than a year after Randall pleaded guilty to first-degree murder. Randall was arrested Dec. 16, 2019, for the murder of Darla Fletcher at a Boise home she had shared with Randall before the two ended their relationship. Randall attacked, tortured, stabbed and beat Fletcher to death when she drove to the home to collect some of her belongings.

Monday 030623

Former Idaho Governor Phil Batt has passed away. Idaho Governor Brad Little said Saturday he was ordering U.S. and state flags to be lowered to half-staff until his interment. Batt died at his home Saturday on his 96th birthday.

The turmoil continues for North Idaho College. Trustee's will convene tonight in Coeur d'Alene for a special meeting, following a

Friday night order from a judge to immediately reinstate Nick Swayne as the college's acting president.

A 31 year old female from Hood River Oregon was injured in a 1 vehicle rollover yesterday afternoon on I-84 near Tuttle. Police say the driver lost control just before 3 pm and the vehicle rolled.

Defense attorneys for a man accused of stabbing four University of Idaho students to death asked the Idaho Supreme Court to keep a gag order in place, saying a challenge to the order filed by 30 news organizations is premature and that media coverage of the case has been "twisted." 28 year old Bryan Kohberger is charged with four counts of first-degree murder and burglary.

A new state initiative is encouraging Idahoans submit information online about their slow, unreliable internet to better understand broadband availability across the state. Link Up Idaho is gathering information about connectivity challenges to improve the state's broadband coverage. March 15 is the deadline to make a submission.

With state officials unable to obtain chemicals to carry out an execution by lethal injection, the Republican-controlled Idaho House of Representatives voted Friday afternoon to pass a bill that would add the firing squad as an alternative method of execution. Currently, lethal injection is the only form of execution allowed in Idaho.

The Idaho House State Affairs Committee moved forward a bill on Friday that would make it a felony crime to transport or recruit a minor for an abortion without parental consent.

Twin Falls County Sheriff's deputies have been cleared of wrongdoing in the death of a Twin falls man. 24 year old Caleb Tussey died at the scene of a vehicle chase last year. Tussey was a passenger in the car driven by 18-year-old Sydney Gibson who

plead not guilty to felony charges of eluding police. A four-day trial has been set for April 4th.

Friday 030303

The Bureau of Land Management will extend the public comment period for the Lava Ridge Wind Project draft environmental impact statement for an additional 30 days until April 20. The Lava Ridge Wind Project is a commercial-scale wind energy facility of up to 400 turbines proposed to be constructed on approximately 84,000 acres 25 miles northeast of Twin Falls. Magic Valley Energy is seeking authorization to construct the project in Jerome, Lincoln and Minidoka counties.

The Ag programs at Minico High School are drawing a record number of students, and they are outgrowing their space. More than half of the students at Minico High School are a part of the Ag program in some way or another. Now, a plan is in the works to build a brand-new Ag center on campus, which would include a welding center, classroom space with labs for more than 450 kids per semester, and room to continue to grow their program.

A new survey of vacationing in small towns shows several locations in Idaho as some of the best. Sun Valley is ranked in the top 100. Other locations in the gem state include Sandpoint and Stanley.

A Bellevue man is facing felony child enticement charges. Authorities say they arrested 23 year old Joseph Frye Thursday. The Blaine County Sheriffs office say the arrest comes after an ongoing investigation over internet related activity.

A married couple accused in a bizarre doomsday-focused triple murder case will be tried separately, an Idaho judge ruled yesterday. Now, Lori Vallow Daybell will stand trial as planned on April 3, but Chad Daybell's trial will take place at a later date. Chad Daybell has waived his right to a speedy trial and his attorneys said they needed more time to review DNA evidence that recently came back from testing.

Through a new online option, some Idaho veterans with disabilities are eligible to have their property tax bill reduced by as much as \$1,500 on their Idaho residence and up to one acre of land, according to the Idaho State Tax Commission. The deadline to apply is April 18th.

Thursday 030223

The House Education Committee grappled with two library bills yesterday. And after nearly three hours of heated testimony, both bills remain with the committee. The two bills are vastly different, but chase similar goals. House Bill 139 bans “harmful materials” from libraries and imposes fines on libraries that violate the ban. House Bill 227 requires libraries to implement policies for selecting and removing materials, and for parents to question materials or restrict their child’s access.

A portion of Blue Lakes in Twin Falls was closed earlier this morning because of a broken waterline. City officials said the break happened near 334 Blue Lakes Blvd. North. The repairs required the closure of the outside northbound lane between 326 Blue Lakes Blvd. and 334 Blue Lakes Blvd.

The Idaho Legislature’s House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee voted yesterday to advance a bill that would add the firing squad as an alternative method of execution when lethal injection is unavailable. As of now, lethal injection is the only form of execution in Idaho.

One person was injured after a roof collapsed at a restaurant in the small community of Lava Hot Springs. According to the Bannock County Sheriff’s Office, the Blue Moon Bar and Grill’s roof collapsed yesterday afternoon. Residents of nearby apartments were evacuated.

Idaho State Police have a mystery to solve and are hoping someone from the public can help. Yesterday morning authorities found a male that had died along the westbound lanes of I-84 in

Canyon County. Police found an abandoned vehicle near milepost 26. About a half mile from the vehicle they found the Male who it appeared had been struck by a westbound vehicle. Police are asking you to call if you have any information about the incident.

Because of blowing snow, U.S. highway 20 between Mountain Home and Fairfield was closed earlier this week. As of this morning the road has been reopened. Another road between Carey and Arco that was closed has been reopened as well. Meanwhile, an avalanche was reported along Warm Springs Road near Ketchum. Portions of the road were closed yesterday between Gates road and Jane Lane.

Wednesday 030123

Law enforcement officials seized dark clothing, medical gloves, a flashlight and other items from a Pennsylvania home where they arrested a graduate student charged with stabbing four University of Idaho students to death, according to newly unsealed court documents. The records were made public two months after Police arrested 28 year old Bryan Kohberger at his parents' home in eastern Pennsylvania.

Idaho has joined a Texas lawsuit against the Biden administration's waterway protections, claiming the rules are too vague and violate state sovereignty rights. The lawsuit, originally filed in southern Texas was amended to include Idaho. In it, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador contend that a new interpretation of a Clean Water Act rule is too vague, oversteps the bounds of federal authority and puts the liberties of states and private property owners at risk.

Public drag performances in Idaho could be prohibited in Idaho if Lawmakers prevail in proposed legislation. It was introduced this week and if passed would hold private venues accountable if children are present at a performance.

The House Education Committee on Tuesday heard three informal presentations regarding new education savings account, or ESA, proposals. The Senate on Monday rejected a universal ESA bill. The first proposed expanding an existing college savings account program known as a 529 plan. Another proposal would also expand an existing program, the Empowering Parents grant. Rep. Lance Clow, of Twin Falls, presented the last proposal of the day. The bill would create an ESA that could be used for accredited private schools.

The Idaho Legislature's Senate Transportation Committee voted to advance a bill that would create a restricted driver's license available to all people 16 and older residing in Idaho, regardless of their immigration status.

Saint Alphonsus unveiled their Idaho's first Neuro, Surgical, and Trauma Intensive Care Unit yesterday. The unit is designed to treat the most critical neurological injuries. The facility is part of St. Al's in Boise.

Tuesday 022823

Rent prices might be starting to lower. Idaho was one of the states that saw a year over year decrease at 5-point 7 percent according to rent dot com.

A divisive education savings account bill died in the Idaho Senate yesterday afternoon. Senate Bill 1038 would have established a universal education savings account program, providing \$5,950 scholarships to students who are homeschooled, or attend non-public schools.

Jerome county commissioners and Jerome's 20-20 announced yesterday that the new overlook near Shoshone Falls is almost a reality. Idaho Power said they will kick in \$250 thousand while Jerome County is putting 100-thousand into the project. More fundraising will happen along with a safety study soon.

The home where four university of Idaho Students were killed in November by a stabbing will be demolished according to school officials. The owner gave the school the building. No timeline has set for the demolition but the goal is to have the house knocked down by the end of the semester officials say.

The LDS church has agreed to settle allegations that it tried to hide a huge investment fund from the government. The Securities and Exchange Commission said the church has agreed to pay a 5 million dollar fine over a 32 billion dollar investment fund. The church said there were mistakes made.

Idaho's attorney general has obtained a court order that requires a terminally ill death row inmate to be executed within 30 days, even though the state has no way to carry out the death sentence. Idaho officials have not been able to obtain the chemicals used in lethal injection executions and two previous death warrants issued for Gerald Ross Pizzuto Jr. have gone unfulfilled.

This week, Idaho drivers got a chance to catch their breath at the pumps. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in the Gem State is \$3.67, which is two cents less than a week ago. The national average is \$3.37 per gallon.

Look for increased police patrols through March 11, as authorities across Idaho are joining forces to stop aggressive driving. ISP said 2022 data shows over 14,000 aggressive driving crashes in Idaho and 39 percent of all fatal crashes involved some form of aggressive driving behavior.

Monday 022723

It could be the biggest school election day in Idaho history. On March 14, voters will decide on bonds and levies running more than \$1 billion making it, easily, the spendiest election day in the past several years. Cassia County has a ten year 32-point-7 million dollar plant facility levy. Twin Falls has a 11-point 4 million

two year supplemental levy. Castleford has a 6-million dollar bond, Jerome a two year 2.5 million dollar supplemental levy and Hansen a 2 year \$580-thousand supplemental levy.

Police say a juvenile driver who was eastbound on U.S. 30 in Cassia County Friday just after 7 Friday collided head on with a westbound car. That driver, a 46 year old Burley man died at the scene. The juvenile was air lifted for treatment. The teen's car also struck a 3rd vehicle. That driver not injured.

Police have charged 33 year old Silas Roland Brand II from Fairfield with a pair of felonies following the confrontation that led a deputy in Gooding to discharge his service weapon Thursday. No one was injured but the deputy was treated after the incident. Brand was charged with aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, leaving the scene of an injury accident, and a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest.

Two men have been arrested for spray-painting several buildings in Jerome including the county courthouse and Jerome city council chambers. 25 year old Jacobo Saucedo of Burley and Javier Macias a 19 year old Jerome man were tracked down from video surveillance footage.

Early voting opens today. In Twin Falls County early voting runs for two weeks and will take place at the county West Building. Voting is for the upcoming March 14th election.

Last week Chad Daybell and Lori Vallow-Daybell appeared in a Fremont County courtroom for a pretrial conference. The trial is set to begin on April 3rd where the couple faces Murder charges over the death of her two children. In the hearing several motions were heard including Lori's mental health and a request to sever the cases.

In Gooding last night police arrested a suspect following an officer involved shooting. Authorities responded to the report of an altercation in the parking lot of North Canyon Medical center around 5 pm. Deputies chased the suspect to the Gooding county airport where authorities shot at the suspects' car. The person was taken for medical treatment and later taken to jail.

The House State Affairs Committee introduced a bill yesterday that would limit who can apply for an absentee ballot in Idaho. The only people allowed to request an absentee ballot would be those in the military; people who are disabled, hospitalized or infirmed; on a religious mission; or living in another state temporarily, are in school or unable to get away from work. Unexpected illness or vacation would not qualify as a reason. Ballots would need to be requested 11 days prior to Election Day.

Two people have been arrested following a shooting near the College of Idaho Campus in Caldwell earlier this week. The 19 year olds are charged with felony unlawful discharge of a firearm at a dwelling, riot and intimidating a witness. Milo Yerby of Middleton and Traystin Riach of Meridian were taken into custody Wednesday at their homes.

The city of Idaho Falls is facing a lawsuit from the family of a man who was mistakenly shot by an officer. Joseph Johnson was killed in February 2021 while police were searching for suspect, Tanner Shoesmith, who ran from police during a traffic stop. Johnson was allegedly wearing dark clothing similar to Shoesmith when Johnson was shot in his own backyard.

The ITD wants to hear your thoughts into proposed changes to the I-84 interchanges in Burley and Heyburn. A meeting is set for next Wednesday at the Burley Hampton inn and online from March 2 through the 15th.

Former Ada County Sheriff Stephen Bartlett is no longer certified by Idaho Peace Officer Standards and Training. Bartlett was

appointed sheriff in 2015 after the retirement of then-Sheriff Gary Raney. In June 2021 Bartlett announced his retirement.

Thursday 022323

The report of an active shooter at Canyon Ridge yesterday morning turned into a false report. Police say several cities in Idaho were hit with what is now believed to be a nationwide hoax. Just before 10 am police received a call of shots fired and one injured at the school. The school was immediately placed in lock down. A medical helicopter was dispatched and police conducted a room by room search. There were no injuries.

A neighborhood east of Rupert was evacuated yesterday morning after a Van collided with a semi-truck loaded with Propane. The accident happened on State Highway 25. The collision caused the truck to catch on fire. The roadway was closed and everyone in the area told to leave for about 3 hours. There were no reported serious injuries.

The Nampa Police Department is looking for two suspects of an armed robbery at a business on the 500 block of Caldwell Blvd. It happened last night around 7. According to police, the two left with an undisclosed amount of money. Nampa Police say that the two men came into the store and one of them had a gun. Both suspects were described as Hispanic males.

Idaho could bring back firing squads as a method of execution under legislation introduced by a panel of lawmakers yesterday. This after state prison officials announced they are unable to get the materials for lethal injections.

Legislation is making its way through the Idaho Legislature that would make it a crime to file a false report of child abuse or neglect. Several other states have similar laws on their books. If made law those making false claims could be found guilty of a misdemeanor.

With very little discussion, the House State Affairs Committee voted Wednesday to advance a bill that would move Idaho's presidential primary elections from March to May beginning with next year's presidential primary. If passed it could save 2-point 7 million dollars every four years.

The Idaho Legislature's House State Affairs Committee introduced three new Republican sponsored bills designed to combat the use of environmental, social and corporate governance. ESG standards and ratings are used in business investments and credit ratings, and can indicate social consciousness, a commitment to environmental stewardship or a commitment to sustainability.

Wednesday 022223

The House State Affairs Committee introduced a bill yesterday to prohibit the use of ranked choice voting and instant runoff voting in Idaho. In ranked choice voting, rather than holding a runoff election between the candidates with the highest votes, voters rank candidates in order of their preference, and the lowest vote earners are eliminated in rounds until one candidate earns a majority.

The Idaho Senate passed a resolution that directs the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to work on a statewide planning, coordination and funding system for emergency medical services. Currently, Idaho does not designate EMS as an essential service and therefore is not required to provide state funding. Funding for EMS agencies varies widely between counties.

The Twin Falls fire department made quick work of a fire that broke out in a home Monday night. It was discovered that the fire in the 1900 block of Poplar Avenue started from hot ashes and coals from a wood stove being thrown into a plastic waste basket - and left unattended. Fire officials credit new smoke and carbon

monoxide detectors tied to an alarm to a monitoring service for helping save the home from any serious damage.

Idaho's employment growth continues - at least for the near future according to information from the Idaho department of labor. Total employment in Idaho reached a new high of just over 854,000 in 2022; and is projected to grow by 1.4% annually, reaching 878,000 by next year. The growth is expected to continue over the next two years.

A 36 year old man from Salmon was arrested earlier this week on a felony drug arrest in Blaine County. Donald James Owens was arrested and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of less than three ounces of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Cassia County commissioners have taken a proposed zoning amendment under advisement following a hearing yesterday. Most of the testimony concerned a change regarding the county's zoning chart and removing the zoning administrator's authority to interpret the chart when uses are not specifically mentioned.

Tuesday 022123

Authorities this morning are continuing their investigation of a female who died in McCall over the weekend. Police were called Sunday afternoon around. Upon arriving they found two injured: A male who was transported for treatment. The female died at the scene.

Police in Caldwell responded to several calls of a shooting just before 3 am Sunday near the College of Idaho Campus. When police arrived several students were running in fear from a home near the school. Police believe the shooting may have started when several males were denied from entering the home. It's believed they returned to a vehicle and fired rounds striking parked vehicles.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee agreed to give new Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke an additional \$7,000 in supplemental funding for statewide travel and to backfill the portion of former Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin's salary that was deferred to avoid a budget shortfall last year. The money still needs approval from the Idaho House.

Former Caldwell police officer Joseph Hoadley, found guilty of three felonies, filed a Notice of Appeal. The former Caldwell police officer was convicted of three federal crimes in September 2022 and sentenced to three months in prison on Feb. 6, far less than prosecutors sought. Hoadley was charged for falsifying a record in a federal investigation, tampering with a witness by harassment, and tampering with documents. He is scheduled to report to federal prison in Oregon on April 4.

The Idaho Senate State Affairs Committee moved three voting bills forward on Monday, all supported by Secretary of State Phil McGrane. Senate Bill 1078 would add candidates to the state's existing voting guide. House Bill 11 would prohibit the state from accepting private money to pay for elections. Senate Bill 1048 creates an exemption for precincts that had a close race and are already within the legal margin for a free recount.

Authorities have re-opened Polk St. West and 3400 East in Twin Falls. It was closed after a vehicle struck and ruptured a natural gas line. The driver left the scene.

SPORTS

From the local high school basketball games with boys district tournament action. First for 3A where Kimberly ended Filer's hope for state games 48 to 43. In 1A D1 action, Lighthouse Christian ended Murtaugh's season 51 to 26. It was Valley downing Oakley 38 to 34. Oakley is now out of competition as well.

On Today's Schedule, in 4A action 5th ranked Mountain Home travels to Twin Falls to play 4th ranked Canyon Ridge at 6:30 with the loser out. In 1AD2 action, second ranked Richfield takes on 3rd ranked Dietrich in Gooding at 7 with the loser out. In 1A D1 action, #5 ranked Lighthouse Christian will meet 6th ranked Valley at the College of Southern Idaho at 6 with the loser out. Then #2 ranked Carey plays #1 ranked Castleford at CSI 7:30 pm for the district Championship game.

WEATHER

Tuesday: Rain before 11am, then a chance of snow. High near 42. Breezy, with a west northwest wind 21 to 28 mph, with gusts as high as 41 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Tuesday Night: Increasing clouds, with a low around 23. West wind 13 to 17 mph, with gusts as high as 26 mph.

Wednesday: A 30 percent chance of snow showers, mainly after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 31. West northwest wind 11 to 18 mph. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Wednesday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow showers, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. Breezy, with a southwest wind 16 to 20 mph becoming east after midnight. Little or no snow accumulation expected.

Thursday: A 20 percent chance of snow showers after 11am. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 32.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 19.

Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 38.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 40.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 22.

Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly sunny, with a high near 40.

Sunday Night: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Monday: A 20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 41.

Monday 022023

Early Saturday morning a vehicle went off the north side of the road, on the first top side curve on the Shoshone falls grade. One person was taken to a nearby hospital by Air St' Luke's with non-life threatening injuries.

Leaders from the Idaho State Board of Education are talking about the issue of school choice being debated in the Idaho Legislature. The group said school choice shouldn't take away from providing a uniform system of public education. Next; accountability and true need.

A special education teacher at an Idaho elementary school was arrested Friday on allegations of physically abusing preschool-age students. Lincoln Elementary administrators told Caldwell police they were concerned that several children were being abused by teacher Kerry Black.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee unanimously approved a \$1 million supplemental funding request for extra security costs at the University of Idaho following the Nov. 13 slayings of four students. The supplemental funding is a one-time request.

Four people died in accidents in Southern Idaho over the weekend. Police say a three-vehicle crash occurred Friday just before midnight on the 1-15 freeway in Bannock County. A 29-year-old male from Pocatello succumbed to his injuries at the scene. Saturday afternoon two people from Payette died while traveling on I-86 in Cassia County. The driver lost control while traveling east. Yesterday just after midnight, a 33 year old Emmett man died when he lost control of his vehicle north of Nampa.

The Bureau of Land Management is inviting the public to open house meetings that will outline the process for a strategic, landscape-scale approach to respond to increased interest in renewable energy projects proposed on public lands managed by the BLM in southern Idaho. There will be meeting in Twin Falls from 5-7 Thursday at Canyon Crest. The session is scheduled to coincide with the Lava Ridge Wind Project draft review period public meeting,

Friday 021723

The murders of four University of Idaho students in November was a massive investigation that required many resources from police and other agencies to work together and with that, came over 282 thousand dollars of expenditures related to the homicide case

by Idaho State Police. The price tag includes travel, overtime, lab testing, storage of evidence and other police work.

Governor Brad Little and 16 other Republican governors say President Biden owes the public more explanation over his handling of foreign objects in American airspace. In a statement, the governors said in part the violation of American airspace is unprecedented and threatens security. Too much time has passed, and too little information is known.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee conducted its first votes of the year yesterday, building some positive forward momentum as the 2023 session nears the end of its sixth week. Not much looked and felt different. But the first votes did offer some insight into the new members on the committee, which experienced significant turnover and is also under new leadership this year.

A lawsuit by Lincoln and Latah County's over how homeowner tax exemptions were processed was recently decided. It centered over when the exemption would start. In 2020 the legislature passed a bill that allowed it to start from the date of application. The attorney general's opinion was that it should be for the complete year. The judge disagreed with the AG's office.

The Idaho House State Affairs Committee approved two election-related bills yesterday, including one to prohibit the use of high school or university student ID cards for voter identification at the polls. Current state law also allows for use of driver's licenses, state ID cards, passports, tribal identification cards, and concealed weapons licenses for identification.

An accident on Highway 50 at 3800 East near the Hansen Bridge closed the road at around noon yesterday. Police say the driver of a pickup failed to yield to a semi-truck. The pickup driver was taken by air ambulance for medical treatment.

Thursday 021623

Last night, the Senate Education Committee sent a \$45 million school choice bill to the Senate floor. It calls for \$45 million of state money to establish individual \$5,950 per-child scholarships for families of K-12 students. Parents could put the funds toward approved education expenses, including private school tuition and fees, tutoring, counseling, and more. But to access the funding, a student cannot be enrolled in a public school.

The Idaho House of Representatives yesterday passed a nonbinding memorial calling for formal talks between the Idaho and Oregon legislatures to discuss moving some rural Oregon counties out of their state and into Idaho. The proposal seeks to include 63% of Oregon's landmass, within Idaho's borders because proponents of the plan think eastern Oregon is more politically and culturally aligned with Idaho. Moving the borders would require the Idaho Legislature, the Oregon Legislature and Congress to all sign off in favor.

The Idaho Senate State Affairs Committee introduced a bill yesterday that would limit the governor's ability to extend a state of disaster emergency order. The bill states the governor cannot extend a state of disaster emergency by executive order beyond 60 days unless the governor petitions the Legislature.

According to the Idaho Treasurer's Office, there is currently \$228 million in unclaimed property waiting to be returned to the rightful owners and heirs. Since launching the Unclaimed Property Campaign on February 1, there were more than 2,800 claims from Idahoans checking the unclaimed property website. In just two days, the claims totaled over \$1.3 million.

Governor Brad Little will visit with high school students in Twin Falls today to reinforce the benefits of the proposed Launch workforce training program. The program would make available \$8,500 to qualifying Idaho high school seniors starting in 2024 to

help pay for enrollment in an Idaho-based education or training program.

Cassia County is changing some of their polling locations. The county will no longer be able to use the Mormon Church, due to legal requirements.

Wednesday 021523

The Idaho House of Representatives passed a bill that gives the state the final say over road projects around the state capitol. The legislation extends the Department of Administration and Capitol Commission's authority over the streets ringing the Idaho State Capitol and gives them the final say on changes to the roads lasting more than seven days.

As Idaho lawmakers weigh in on the issue, the Caldwell School Board hit pause on a proposed school policy that allows students to use a bathroom or locker room that aligns with their gender identity. At the Statehouse, a bill was introduced Monday to require schools to maintain separate bathrooms, locker rooms, showers, dressing rooms and overnight accommodations on the basis of biological sex. The bill will next be considered in full committee hearings.

A bill criminalizing gender-affirming healthcare for minors overwhelmingly passed the Idaho House, despite warnings from opponents who said it would likely increase suicide rates among teens. The bill would subject physicians to felony charges if they provide puberty blockers, hormone treatment or gender-affirming surgeries to transgender youth under 18.

A controversial school choice bill ignited a long debate in the Senate Education Committee yesterday leaving some 70 people waiting to speak, and a committee vote on hold. A vote is expected today. The bill would establish a universal education savings account program, using around \$45 million of state money. Under the legislation, any family with a K-12 student would be eligible to apply for an ESA and receive \$5,950-per-child

scholarships but to utilize the funds; a student cannot be enrolled in public school.

The judge has denied Lori Daybell's motion to dismiss the case due to lack of a speedy trial. Judge Boyce says the delay is justified, in part because of the decision to move the trial to Ada County. With this decision, the Daybells' joint trial is still set to begin on April 3rd.

A whiteout caused six vehicles off Highway 93 yesterday morning just outside of Twin Falls. High winds were causing snow to blow across the road authorities said.

Tuesday 021423

Attorneys general representing nearly two dozen Republican states including Idaho are backing a lawsuit that would remove the abortion pill from throughout the United States after more than two decades, eliminating the option even in states where abortion access remains legal. The lawsuit argues that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration exceeded its authority when it approved mifepristone to end pregnancies in 2000.

According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.67 per gallon, which is seven cents more than a week ago, 29 cents more than a month ago, and 14 cents more than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.42 per gallon, which is five cents less than a week ago, 13 cents more than a month ago, and seven less than a year ago. Idaho is back in the top ten for most expensive pump prices.

Another bill targeting library pornography made a brief debut yesterday. Billed the "School and Library Protection Act," the bill would prohibit schools and libraries from distributing obscene materials to minors. The new bill outlines library materials that would be defined as obscene and "harmful to minors."

A new bill introduced in the Idaho Legislature would move Idaho's presidential primary election back from March to May. However, the change could have the unintended consequence of delaying Idaho's presidential primary election until after candidates clinch

their party's nomination. Rep. Dustin Manwaring from Pocatello is pushing House Bill 138, which he said could save the state millions of dollars by not having to administer the March primary elections.

28 year old Artemio Hernandez Camacho from Twin Falls has been charged with attempted strangulation. Friday night, police responded to a disturbance call, the victim told police she was afraid for her son's and her life.

35 year old Phillip Albert Morrill from Hazelton is facing Battery and child sex abuse charges. He is accused of inappropriately touching minor children.

48 year old Brian Cameron Galbraith a Wood River area Dentist has been charged with domestic abuse. Records show the assault allegedly occurred in Blaine County.

The annual Magic Valley Homeless count numbers are in. This year the survey shows 38 compared to 29 last year.

Monday 021323

A proposal to create a restricted driver's license for Idaho residents who do not have a Social Security number in the United States was introduced in the Senate State Affairs Committee on Friday. The new legislation would allow a person over the age of 16 to obtain a driver's license that would only be valid for driving, not for voting, purchasing a firearm, boarding an airplane or obtaining a passport.

Idaho's health committee chair proposed repealing the state's Medicaid expansion law going against his own recommendation to the Idaho Legislature, to keep the program mostly untouched for now. Rep. John Vander Woude said his intent is to open a discussion about Medicaid's costs to the state.

Bill to create full voter guide for Idaho elections has been introduced to lawmakers by Secretary of State's office. Phil McGrane said the Guide would include candidate information and

more detail on initiatives, proposed amendments. It's estimated to cost \$750-thousand and would be printed for primary and general election years.

A bill that would prohibit all school personnel or third parties from any type of instruction related to human sexuality, sexual orientation or gender identity before the fifth grade was introduced in the Senate Education Committee. It's a short piece of legislation that adds to an existing law stating parents or legal guardians can opt out of sex education in school.

US highway 95 is open to traffic again after being closed in both directions between New Meadows and Riggins, the Idaho Transportation Department announced at 10:36 a.m. Saturday. The highway had been shut down Thursday morning after a semi-truck hauling propane overturned at milepost 177, near the Little Salmon River bridge, and began leaking fuel.

The Bureau of Land Management is restricting public access to portions of the Wood River Valley to protect wintering wildlife. The restriction that begins Wednesday will primarily apply to several of the south facing slopes from North Picabo Road to East Fork/Triumph area, including the Buttercup Ridge.

Friday 021023

A group of 25 consumers from 11 different states has filed a federal antitrust lawsuit to block the Kroger-Albertsons merger. The suit argues that the proposed merger and special dividend payout of nearly \$4 billion or \$6.85 per share violate the Clayton Antitrust Act. The suit says as part of the mega-merger transaction, the companies seek to financially cripple Albertsons and to weaken its competitive position relative to Kroger.

A crash involving a semi-truck hauling propane has closed Highway 94 near New Meadows. Police were called to the scene

just before 11 yesterday morning. Crews remain on the scene this morning and the immediate area is evacuated.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will conduct a prescribed burn at the CJ Strike Bruneau Duck Ponds located 12 miles south of Mountain Home thru March 31. The 93-acre burn will enhance wetland habitat and improve recreation opportunities. The burn is expected to last one to two days, followed by up to seven days of mop-up and patrol.

The Senate Local Government and Taxation Committee introduced a bill Thursday to address rising property taxes in Idaho by dedicating 4.5% of the state's annual sales tax revenue to homeowners for property tax relief on a primary residence. The sales tax revenue would be calculated as a subtraction from property tax for homeowners, and the revenue would become available to the local units of government that collect property taxes.

A Burley woman has been sentenced to a 4 year prison term after taking her 4 year old granddaughter out of state without permission. Elizabeth Rose Crofts was charged in November 2021 after police issued an Amber Alert regarding the child. With the sentence Crofts was sentenced to a rider program which if she is successful could mean she will be on probation.

Authorities in at least two Pennsylvania counties where Bryan Kohberger attended college have searched their cold case files, looking for links that could connect those cases to the suspect in the Idaho college murders. Authorities have previously said that the 28-year-old Kohberger has no prior criminal record.

Thursday 020923

At yesterday's state of the city, Jerome Mayor Dave Davis revealed plans for a new park and recreation facility that will

begin construction in the spring. The new park will be located in the 400 block of East Nez Perce and will have two full sized soccer fields, parking, restrooms, Picnic area, playground pathways and open spaces. The Jerome urban renewal agency is contributing 1.5 million dollars while the city will kick in 2.3 million from the American rescue plan act. It will sit on 17 acres.

A new law that would require fees imposed on residential tenants to be reasonable and in an amount that is no greater than what was agreed to in a rental contract passed out of committee for amendments in the Idaho Senate. Property owners would have to notify the Tenant of any fee changes 30 days in advance.

St. Luke's Health system said that it plans to cut its workforce by 2% by April. It has already eliminated about 150 jobs through attrition, but it will now lay off nearly 200 employees over the next two months. The layoffs will mainly affect non-clinical and administrative positions.

A bill exempting state public works contractors from requirements to provide access to non-gendered multi-use restroom or locker facilities on job sites easily passed the Idaho Senate. The bill would allow projects that are funded only by state or local funding to disregard a federal provision about discrimination.

According to Idaho Fish and Game, the Gem States wolf population saw a slight drop after their most recent count. Idaho's wolf population dropped by 13% in 2022, compared to numbers calculated in 2021.

Travelers through the Boise Airport set a new record in 2022. Almost 4.5 million passengers traveled through Boise in 2022. This represents a nine percent increase from the previous record, set in 2019. The increase in passenger traffic is a good sign that Boise has completely rebounded from the dip experienced during the pandemic.

Wednesday 020823

Idaho drivers are feeling pain at the pump this week. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.60, which is 15 cents more than a week ago and 18 cents more than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.47, which is four cents cheaper than a week ago and 16 cents more than a month ago. Today's least expensive fuel can be found in Texas at \$3.08.

Idaho could reduce its Medicaid spending by as much as \$65.7 million, according to a contractor hired to evaluate ways to reduce Medicaid's costs to the state general fund. But almost every option would have a potential downside making it harder for Idahoans on Medicaid to get health care, or driving up costs for another state program, for example.

Six district superintendents paid a visit to the House Education Committee yesterday. They spoke of the successes from their regions, ranging from CTE programs to community schools to multi-district collaboration. Superintendent Brady Dickinson of the Twin Falls district focused on K-3 literacy. "We want every child reading at grade level," he said.

Thirty news organizations have asked the Idaho Supreme Court to overturn a gag order in a case against 28 year old Bryan Kohberger accused of stabbing four University of Idaho students to death. The challenge comes just a few days after an attorney representing the family of one of the victims filed an opposition to the gag order, saying it places an undue burden on the families.

A bill that would add the act of transporting, recruiting or harboring minors to seek an abortion to Idaho's criminal human trafficking law was introduced in the House State Affairs Committee. The bill also gives Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador the authority and "sole discretion" to prosecute a person for violating any section of the section of law around

human trafficking or abortion if the prosecuting attorney refuses to bring charges.

Idaho lawmakers are moving forward with a Bill that would ban sex change procedures from being administered to children. Committee members voted 14 to 3 to send HB71 to the House floor with a “do pass” recommendation.

KILL FEB 17

The Mule Deer Foundation is proud to present our annual fundraising banquet. This event helps raise money for mule deer conservation and habitat work in Idaho. Come join us for a night of great food, games, raffles and great auction items! It's Saturday February 18th from 5 to 9 pm at the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds in Filer.

KILL FEB 21

It's the Limited Edition Book Club: You Are What You Eat. Join our three-month book discussion series! We'll read and discuss how food and eating affect our personal and cultural lives. This month, we'll discuss Mary Roach's Gulp Adventures on February 22nd at 6:30 PM in the Twin Falls public library Program Room.

KILL FEB 20

Make Friends in a judgment free community of women who want to encourage and support you. This is a 12 week program. Say goodbye to fear and hello to joy! We help you when life doesn't make sense. Baby needs covered, Free Baby Shower and a pamper Princess day for mom's. Meeting Tuesday evenings at 6:30 starting February 21st. Dinner provided at the First Christian Praise Chapel on 8th street in Rupert.

KILL FEB 26

On February 27th, from 6-8 pm, the Twin Falls Public Library and the Magic Valley Writers Group are hosting a night of short story readings. Everyone is invited to come and listen to the readings and share their own stories! Readings will be limited to 3 minutes to ensure all readers have an opportunity to share. Should time allow, attendees may give multiple readings. Light refreshments will be provided.

KILL FEB 27

Teens in 6th - 12th grade, join us at the Twin Falls Public Library to learn some important life skills! On Tuesday February 28th at 6pm Siew Guan Lee from the University of Idaho Extension office will teach those attending how to make some simple but tasty dinners and desserts.

KILL MAR 3

Come on out to a craft show that's sure to knock your winter socks off and usher in a beautiful spring! Local crafters, artisans, small business, and bakers are gearing up to help you shake off those winter blahs. Creative Cravings will also be there to feed you with some of the most delicious food in the Magic Valley! Free Entry! Lots of parking, and a play area for the kids. See you at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension at 371 Eastland Dr. N on March 4th from 10am to 4pm.

KILL FEB 22

Have you ever wanted to budget your finances in a better way but didn't have the skills or tools? Do you want to set budget goals that can benefit you or your business? Register today for this no-

cost "Budgeting For What Matters Most" It's Thursday February 23, at the Gooding Public Library 306 5th Avenue W.

KILL MARCH 3

Join local author Genalea Barker in celebrating the release of her debut young adult novel, LIFE AFTER. This Open House style Book Launch will be hosted by Renew in Jerome on March 4th, from 3-6pm. Signed paperback copies of Barker's searing coming-of-age novel will available for purchase.

Tuesday 020723

Idaho lawmakers are starting the process for the Idaho Legislature and Oregon Legislature to begin talks about relocating the border shared by the two states. In the House State Affairs Committee they are looking to authorize the Idaho and Oregon Legislatures to begin official discussions on whether it is feasible to move the Idaho border into Eastern Oregon.

Idaho drivers are feeling pain at the pump this week. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.60, which is 15 cents more than a week ago and 18 cents more than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.47. Today's least expensive fuel can be found in Texas at \$3.08.

After discussions of alleged vaccine-related child protection situations in states as far away as Maine, but none in Idaho, the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee unanimously voted to advance a bill that would prohibit immunization status from being a factor in child protection investigations or termination of parental rights. While vaccinations for children from preschool through 12th grade are required to be vaccinated before attending school, Idaho Code includes exemptions for medical, religious, "or other grounds." Idaho is one of 15 states that have personal and religious exemptions.

Idaho house members pushed legislation forward to the senate yesterday that would expand the existing Idaho Launch Program to High School Graduates starting next year. Eligible graduates can receive a grant of \$8,500 to be redeemed at an Idaho technical program, community college, or college of their choice.

Sarah Wondra who has been accused of failing to notify authorities of Michael Vaughan's Death was not in court yesterday. She is currently being evaluated for competency to stand trial. Meanwhile Logan Penner of Twin Falls was not in court in Twin Falls yesterday after his preliminary hearing was canceled. He faces first degree murder after shaking a 2 month old baby.

Idaho leaders and representatives in Washington DC say they are concerned about the Lava Ridge wind farm proposed for southern Idaho. A joint letter was sent to the BLM who is considering authorizing the construction.

Monday 020623

Idaho State Police are investigating single vehicle crash that happened yesterday just after 1 on Thousand Springs Grade Road, South of Hagerman, in Twin Falls County. A 73-year-old male from Jerome was traveling westbound on Thousand Springs Grade Road in a Van. The driver lost control and drove off the south side of the roadway over a steep embankment. The road was blocked for about 3 hours.

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality announced it will award more than \$51.3 million in construction grants to six drinking water and wastewater systems across the state using federal funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The projects are part of a \$300 million allocation from the federal funds. The City of Rupert was awarded more than \$16 million to design and construct a membrane bioreactor, secondary filtration and a UV disinfection process.

Idaho's newly elected Lt Governor said it will be different than the last administration. He plans a marked contract from his predecessor Janice McGeachin, who spent much of her term campaigning for Gov. Brad Little's job. Scott Bedke's relationship with the governor is much different. The two may have spirited discussions about various issues, but there is no serious disagreement about the state's general direction or the governor's agenda.

The national special interests groups who have poured millions of dollars into efforts to make education savings account programs a reality in states like Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Wisconsin and New Hampshire are the same donors who spent hundreds of thousands of dollars during Idaho's midterm election to ensure school choice-friendly legislators occupied as many seats as possible. In Idaho, Sen. Tammy Nichols introduced an education savings account bill for parents to use per-pupil funding from state funds at the institution of their choice.

An update in the case of Idaho v. Bryan Kohberger on Friday. The state requested discovery from the defendant, meaning Kohberger's attorneys would have to disclose and share any evidence they plan to share at trial in his defense.

Friday 020323

The Idaho Legislature's House Revenue and Taxation Committee introduced a trio of new property tax bills on Thursday morning in an effort to address one of the top priorities facing Idahoans. The three new bills all take a different approach to attempting to solve the same problem reducing the amount of money Idahoans pay in property taxes.

People who earn \$73,000 or less can electronically file their federal and state income taxes for free. According to the Idaho State Tax Commission, of the 986,000 returns processed last year, 611,000 Idaho taxpayers qualified for free e-file. However, only about 70,000 of them took advantage of the free-file option.

Blaine County is one of four entities in Idaho benefitting from the "Safe Streets and Roads for All" grant program. The county was awarded \$160,000 to develop a comprehensive safety action plan. This is one of 510 projects across the country, totaling 800-million dollars.

According to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, about 150,000 Idahoans stand to lose their Medicaid benefits in a few short months. During the pandemic, states had continuous Medicaid enrollment and were not allowed to remove anyone from Medicaid unless they moved out of state, asked to be removed, or died. DHW says of the 450,000 Idahoans currently enrolled in Medicaid, only 300,000 are eligible.

The discovery of a skull and bones of an unknown type in North Lewiston near Pepsi Park is being investigated by the Lewiston Police Department and other agencies. A person doing excavation work in the area called 911 to report the discovery. The police called the situation an "active investigation" and said the types of remains are unknown at this time.

The Bureau of Land Management Shoshone Field Office is hosting meetings on the draft environmental impact statement for the Lava Ridge Wind Project. The Project is a commercial-scale wind energy facility of up to 400 turbines proposed to be constructed on approximately 84,000 acres of Federal, State and private land about 25 miles northeast of Twin Falls. The meetings are set for February 22nd at the Lincoln County Community center and the 23rd at Canyon Crest in Twin Falls

Thursday 020223

The Mountain Home High School was in lockdown yesterday after school officials say there was a threat of violence. The school

superintendent said the threat was made to an individual not the school. The school district learned about the threat after school had already started for the day.

Lawmakers introduced a bill yesterday that would eliminate Idaho's only bipartisan legislative committee and place the state's independent auditing agency under Republican control. It would place the Office of Performance Evaluations under the control of the Legislative Council, which has a Republican majority.

After all but two of about 40 individuals testified against its passage, the Senate State Affairs Committee of the Idaho Legislature voted to amend a joint resolution to put a question on the ballot that would change Idaho's constitutional process for ballot initiatives. Senate Majority Leader Kelly Anthon said he thought it should be sent to the amending order, a process where bills often get stuck for the rest of the session.

The Idaho State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division is "bursting at the seams" with safe deposit boxes that it hopes to reunite with the rightful owners. Idaho's Unclaimed Property Division is holding the contents of 2,300 safe deposit boxes collected from banks, according to the release, which include items like jewelry, photos, legal documents, collectables, or stocks and bonds.

Gas prices are going up. According to AAA, Idaho's average price for regular gasoline is back above the national average after spending about ten days below it. The average price in the Gem State is \$3.52 per gallon. The national average currently sits at \$3.50 per gallon.

Looking for a job? The Idaho Department of Labor will be holding a hiring event 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. today. The event will be held at Twin Falls Reformed Church on Grandview Drive North.

A multimillion-dollar incentive program for high school graduates cleared its first big Statehouse hurdle yesterday. A deeply divided House Education Committee passed the Idaho Launch bill, on a 10-7 vote that suggests the bill could run into more trouble. House Bill 24 would provide up to \$8,500 for high school graduates who are looking to pursue in-demand careers. They could put the money towards further education.

Idaho gas prices are on the rise, but drivers here continue to pay less than many of their counterparts nationwide. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.44 per gallon, which is a nickel more than a week ago, but the same price as a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.51 per gallon, which is nine cents more than a week ago and 33 cents more than a month ago.

A new bill introduced in the Legislature yesterday would eliminate Idaho's March and August school bond and levy election dates and move nonpartisan school elections into alignment with election days for partisan elections in May and November. Supporters say they want to eliminate two of the four possible dates on the calendar for school bond elections because they believe those elections are dishonest.

A bill introduced in the Idaho House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee on Tuesday would make it illegal to provide Idaho minors with medical treatments for gender dysphoria. The ban on gender-confirmation health care would apply regardless of whether a parent gives consent for the treatments.

Earlier this week Idaho Fish and Game euthanized a bull moose, near the freeway just outside of Declo. After the officer tried to move it away from the campground, the moose eventually charged toward the interstate, forcing the officer to shoot it to prevent it from crossing into nighttime oncoming traffic.

The Rupert Police Department arrested Bryce Betram a 41-year-old Heyburn man on charges of distribution of child pornography. He was charged with three counts of sexual exploitation of a child.

Tuesday 013123

Governor Brad Little is leading 24 other Republican Governors in opposing the Biden Administration's Waters of the United States rule and called on President Joe Biden today to delay implementation of the rule until the U.S. Supreme Court issues a ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*, a case involving an Idaho couple. Biden's WOTUS rule seeks to put puddles, ditches, watering ponds, and other small water features under federal protection.

All four members of Idaho's congressional delegation signed a letter to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration demanding that the agency reverse its decision to allow retail and mail-order pharmacies to dispense an abortion drug saying the action violated federal law. Nearly 80 Republican members from the U.S. House of Representatives signed the 12-page letter. Idaho's Attorney General Raúl Labrador signed on to a similar letter earlier this month from 21 other state attorneys general also urging the FDA to reverse its decision.

The Idaho House of Representatives voted 53-13 to pass a bill that would withhold state sales and use tax revenues from a local unit of government that declines to enforce state felony laws. If passed into law it would prohibit any local government in Idaho from receiving sales and use tax revenue if it passed an ordinance refusing to investigate or enforce any state felony in Idaho law.

A new bill introduced in the Idaho Legislature would prohibit the use of student IDs as an acceptable form of identification for voting in Idaho elections. It would remove a voter's ability to sign an affidavit to prove their identity to vote.

Yesterday joint resolution was introduced to the Senate Education Committee that may play a pivotal role in whether or not school choice legislation gets passed the session. It aims to remove the Blaine Amendment from the Idaho State Constitution. The amendment places restrictions on the use of public funds by states to support religious institutions and schools.

The construction continues for two new fire stations and a training center in Twin Falls. The station on Cheney is a head of scheduling according to Fire Chief Les Kenworthy.

Monday 013023

St. Luke's is investigating an employee after a photo was released on social media where he made an inappropriate hand gesture that is often associated with white supremacy. The hospital would not comment on the employee.

The Idaho Chiefs of Police association issued a statement following the release of police video in the deadly assault of 29 year old Tyre Nichols from Memphis Tennessee. The association said it was a horrendous criminal act.

With about 30 young people in the audience looking on, House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee Chairman Bruce Skaug announced Friday he is modifying his ban on accepting testimony from people under 18. Skaug said he will now allow young people to testify in the committee if they have parental permission or are accompanied by a parent or guardian.

New data released by the White House this week shows that 79,000 people in Idaho were on track to have at least some of their student loan debts washed away under a debt-forgiveness executive order. Another 47,000 had pending applications or would have been automatically eligible for the debt forgiveness program. However, in November of last year the Department of Education was required to stop accepting applications as a result of lawsuits.

Caldwell Police have arrested a Syringa Middle School substitute teacher after multiple fights in the classroom Thursday. Officers say fights between two male students and two female students were encouraged by Mr. Ettson Arreola. Caldwell Police say Arreola encouraged the students to fight for ten seconds while he recorded it and posted on social media.

The State Department of Education seeks sponsors for this year's Summer Food Service program. The department hopes with the help of these sponsors they can help curb hunger over the summer. According to the Idaho Food Bank, over 46,800 kids struggle with food insecurity in Idaho. During last year's Summer Food Service Program, nearly 900,000 meals and snacks were served.

Friday 012723

The switch to a 120 megawatt solar project south of Twin Falls near the Nevada border has been flipped on. It's located on 952 acres and will generate enough electricity to serve roughly 24-thousand homes. Company officials say Jackpot Solar will move Idaho Power toward its target of providing 100% clean energy by 2045.

Attorneys for Lori Vallow -Daybell, are asking an Idaho judge to dismiss the murder case against her. In a motion filed yesterday Vallow's attorneys argue that the government has "not met its burden" to uphold her constitutional right to a speedy trial. A hearing on that motion and three others is set for 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 9 with Seventh District Judge Steven Boyce in St. Anthony.

Shock and disappointment are the feelings of the Canyon County Sheriff after hearing of the early release of a convicted kidnapper. Brian Sangjoon Lee was charged with 2nd degree kidnapping of an 11 year old Nampa girl. He was released Monday, nine months after sentencing as part of a "rider" program. Sheriff Kieran

Donahue says the decision takes away from the work that law enforcement does to put felons away.

A bill that would prohibit immunization status from being a factor in child protection investigations or termination of parental rights was introduced in the Idaho Senate Health and Welfare Committee yesterday. Greg Stahl, a spokesman for Idaho Department of Health and Welfare said there has not been a case in the department's known history when a parent's parental rights have been terminated or a parent has been investigated because of immunization status.

Work is underway in Twin Falls to make changes to the county's judicial annex. Workers are clearing off the landscaping to build a new 70-thousand square foot building. It will cost about 30-million dollars.

Several law enforcement agencies in the magic valley say they are seeing an increase in livestock theft in the area. Recently 16 goats were taken in Gooding and 15 in Buhl. It's suggested that you install a security camera to monitor your property. Officials say any livestock theft is a felony.

Thursday 012623

Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador this week questioned the legality of what he called a "dangerous" and "suspect" LGBTQ+ rights policy that's already in place at about a third of Idaho's school districts and charters. That policy came into the limelight when attendees at a Jan. 9 Caldwell School Board meeting threatened board members over the draft of a potential policy, which would establish rights regardless of sexual orientation. Labrador said this proposed policy appears to violate Idaho law.

Police say a 20 year old Boise man died yesterday evening when he stepped into traffic along I-84 just after 6 last night near Boise.

He was eastbound and was struck by a car. He died at the scene. Traffic was blocked for about 3 hours for the investigation.

State superintendent Debbie Critchfield spelled out a few of her budget priorities Wednesday, deviating slightly from Gov. Brad Little's blueprint. Critchfield and Little agree on K-12 spending goals. But Critchfield wants several items that didn't make the cut with Little such as a boost in career-technical programs; learning materials to help reverse pandemic-related learning loss; money to offset the rising cost of bussing and mandatory training for local school trustees.

Legislation has been introduced that would ask voters to change the state's constitution to make it harder to get initiatives on the ballot. If approved, it would ask voters to change the Idaho Constitution so that lawmakers could reenact tougher ballot initiative rules that were thrown out by the Idaho Supreme Court in 2021. The tougher ballot initiative rules would require signature gatherers to get 6% of voters in each of Idaho's 35 legislative districts within a short time span.

A bill that would remove the legal requirement for couples to obtain a marriage license from their respective county recorder's office will be printed for the Senate Judiciary and Rules Committee to consider. Supporters say if approved couples won't need to ask the state for permission to get married.

Wednesday 012523

If Idaho representative Bruce Skaug has his way, cities that refuse to enforce felony crimes could lose the sales tax revenue. A Nampa legislator is widening the scope of proposed legislation to punish cities and counties that decide to stop enforcing felonies in Idaho. This comes after Skaug introduced a bill specifically focused on cities that move to defy the state's abortion ban.

If voters had not approved the expansion of Idaho Medicaid to low-income adults, Idahoans would have spent tens of millions of dollars more on health care for those patients. If the state pulls back on its Medicaid coverage, Idahoans will spend nearly \$78 million more due to the loss of federal funding. Juliet Charron, administrator of Idaho Medicaid, told legislators this week. Now, about 145,000 Idahoans have coverage through the Medicaid expansion.

Idaho lawmakers want to crack down on those who file false reports of child abuse. Last year over 23-thousand reports were made. 93-hundred were investigated and 80-percent unsubstantiated. If legislation passes, a false claim could mean a misdemeanor and a 25-hundred dollar fine or damages.

Idaho officials have identified the man who was shot and killed by a police officer on Monday as a 32-year-old Boise resident. Eli Nash was pronounced dead in a parking lot Monday evening after attempts to save his life were unsuccessful. The shooting happened around 4:30 p.m. near a popular restaurant and shopping center.

The Idaho Legislature's House Local Government Committee is now the second committee of the Idaho Legislature to prohibit public testimony from people under age 18. Earlier this month, the House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee did the same thing. Some democrat leaders say the new rule change could affect first amendment rights.

The Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee introduced a bill on Tuesday that would mandate consumers be made aware in labeling if "vaccine materials" are in food. This comes after some say in California they've been given grants to start introducing vaccine products into food for human consumption.

Highway 93 south of Twin Falls was blocked for about 2 hours yesterday because of a 3 vehicle pileup. Police say the accident happened just before 6 pm when a passenger vehicle attempted to pass a semi-truck. It collided head on with another vehicle and crashed into the truck.

It's education week at the statehouse in Boise. Legislative budget writers will hear from the state's schools spending proposals that add up to over half of Idaho's Budget. Today they will hear from Boise State, Idaho State and Lewis-Clark. Tomorrow, State Superintendent Debbie Critchfield will make her pitch. Thursday it's the four community colleges and Friday the University of Idaho.

Idaho's gas prices are now actually below the national average; something that rarely happens. According to AAA, the national average price for a gallon of regular gasoline is \$3.42 today, which is 33 cents more than a month ago. The national average is \$3.39 per gallon, which is 12 cents cheaper than a month ago.

A Boise police officer shot and killed a man yesterday while law enforcement officials were trying to take the man into custody on alleged felony charges, according to police. Officers were trying to remove the man from a car when police said he produced a weapon.

Former gubernatorial candidate Ammon Bundy pleaded guilty to misdemeanor trespassing yesterday. The charge stems from an incident when Bundy refused to leave the property of St. Luke' in Meridian. The protest happened when a child was taken to the hospital. Health and Welfare believed the child was in medical danger.

The hearing for Sarah Wondra who authorities believe is connected to the disappearance of 5 year old Michael Vaughan has been reset. The hearing is set for February 6th and 7th. She

has been charged with failing to report a death. It's believed the child was buried at her home but then moved.

The Idaho Legislature's House State Affairs Committee introduced a new bill that would create a mandatory waiting period before elected officials can register as lobbyists after leaving office.

Monday 012323

Idaho Governor Brad Little is touting what he says is a win for Idaho. An activist group filed a lawsuit challenging the state's right, and the governor's authority to remove an encampment from public property near the state's capital. Advocates filed a lawsuit challenging the state's actions. A judge dismissed the lawsuit.

Yesterday marked 50 years since the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision that struck down states' prohibitions against abortion. Anti-abortion groups marched on Saturday from Julia Davis Park to the steps of the Idaho State Capitol for the March for Life. The event is held every year.

Twenty-two regional and national news organizations have formed a coalition to ask a judge to narrow a gag order in the case against 28 year old Bryan Kohberger accused of killing four University of Idaho students. The coalition contends that news access provides the public with important context and a better understanding of how the criminal justice system operates.

A Boise senator introduced a personal bill Friday to encourage the Idaho Legislature to reconsider passing a law that would add the words sexual orientation and gender identity to Idaho's Civil Rights Act, a bill that has failed to pass the Legislature for more than 15 years. Senate Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow said she asked and was unable to get a hearing for the bill this session, but she and the rest of the Idaho Legislature's Democratic caucus

wanted to make sure the LGBTQ community knew the effort was made.

An increasing percentage of Idahoans believe the state is on the wrong track, according to a new Boise State University School of Public Service survey. According to the Survey, 41.2% said the state is on the wrong track. 37.3% said they expect economic conditions in Idaho to get worse.

There is a new warming center for Magic Valley Homeless people. The center opened Friday night at the Taproot church at the corner of Shoshone and 6th street in Twin Falls. Plans call for it to be open from 11 pm to 5 am daily. Once inside people will be able to warm up, and be offered warm drinks and snacks.

Friday 012023

The Washington state Medical Commission has accused a medical doctor in Idaho of violating standards related to COVID-19 and patient care. The commission said it had issued a statement of disciplinary charges against Dr. Ryan Cole of Idaho is currently one of Ada County's appointed members of the Central District Board of Health.

A bestselling author of crime stories and other nonfiction works is working on a book about the stabbing deaths last fall of four students at the University of Idaho. Howard Blum has a deal with HarperCollins Publishers. Blum has been reporting on the Idaho killings for Air Mail, the digital newsletter co-founded by former Vanity Fair editor-in-chief Graydon Carter.

Blaine county deputies arrested a 19 year old while he was burglarizing a home in Ketchum. Just after 9 pm Wednesday the suspect was in his vehicle at the residence with seven bottles of alcohol with a value of \$750-\$1,000 each from the home. In addition to the burglary, Jacob Russell was charged with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

An Idaho judge says a couple accused in a bizarre triple murder case will not be allowed to meet face-to-face to talk about strategy before they stand trial in April. Attorneys for Lori Vallow Daybell and Chad Daybell presented several requests to 7th District Judge Steven Boyce during a motion hearing on Thursday, including that the trial be delayed until 2024 and that the death penalty be taken off the table.

Idaho Health and Welfare Director Dave Jeppesen went before Idaho legislators three days in a row this week to present the agency's budget request. And each day, House and Senate members on the Joint Finance-Appropriation Committee asked "Why should we spend money on this?" The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's overall budget request is \$5.49 billion, about 11.6% more than last year's fiscal year appropriation.

The Idaho Fish and Game say last Friday a resident of Ketchum received substantial injuries in her driveway area after a moose attack. The encounter started between an unleashed small dog and the moose. When the homeowner attempted to intervene, the moose charged the woman. While unconscious the moose continued to attack her.

Thursday 011923

Burley is saying that allegations made by one of its former mayors that officials violated the Idaho Constitution and dealt favorably with The LDS church are not true. Former Burley Mayor Jon Anderson said the city violated the state Constitution by entering into a development agreement with the church and nearby landowners to share the cost of extending water and sewer lines to the site of the LDS Temple and by allowing the church to grant a sole vendor to bid.

A group of Republican lawmakers are expected to introduce legislation this session that will open the door for universal school choice in Idaho, and allow public education dollars to follow the students and not the public education institutions. Lawmakers plan on introduce an Education Freedom Bill this session. It will

pave the way to an Education Savings Account of roughly \$6,000 per child.

The city of Twin Falls said that due to a billing error, the City did not include sanitation services on some utility billing accounts for the month of January. The City has sent effected customers a second bill for the total amount due. Customers who are on auto pay, or who have elected to include the sanitation payment with their next month's payment, will not incur late charges.

A man who served as a detention deputy for the Ada County Sheriff's office for nearly two decades has been arrested and charged with eight counts of lewd conduct with a minor and two charges of child sex abuse. Gerald Fairbanks is being held in Mountain Home and his preliminary hearing is on January 30th.

Investigators seized stained bedding, strands of what looked like hair and a single glove but no weapon when they searched the Washington state apartment of a graduate student charged with stabbing four University of Idaho students to death, according to newly unsealed court documents. The search warrant for Bryan Kohberger's home and office was unsealed by a Washington state judge.

Cassia County Commissioners voided action taken a week ago after declaring the meeting was illegal. It's over testimony on proposed zoning changes subdivision amendments and special use permits in agriculture zones. The County attorney said the meeting was not properly noticed.

Wednesday 011823

The first bill of 2023 session, which amends Idaho law related to election audits, is heading to the floor of the Idaho House of Representatives for a vote. Yesterday, the House State Affairs Committee voted to send House Bill 1 to the floor of the Idaho

House. It would require that ballots subject to an election audit would be counted by hand, not machines.

Rep. Vito Barbieri is sponsoring a new resolution that would eliminate so-called personal bills in the Idaho House of Representatives. If adopted it would eliminate seven words from House Rule 6 and would read "No bill shall be introduced except by committee".

Funds are being raised for a Cassia County Sheriff Deputy who suffered a stroke last weekend, and is currently hospitalized. Deputy Shelby Carr experienced a massive stroke. A GoFundMe page has been set up.

The cost of crude oil is on the rise, and Idaho drivers are starting to feel the effects at the pump. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.39. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.32 per gallon.

A new building at the Twin Falls fairgrounds in Filer will soon be built. The 11,000 square foot building will replace the produce, flower, arts and photography buildings.

Governor Brad Little is proposing to increase ISP trooper pay by 10-percent. He also is asking to spend 200-thousand dollars on each officer for safety equipment.

Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador, along with chief legal officers from 21 other states, wrote a letter to the head of the FDA about the decision to make abortion pills more accessible. The letter said in part, "The decision to abandon common sense restrictions on remotely prescribing and administering abortion-inducing drugs is both illegal and dangerous."

The Twin Falls Police Department is asking for the public's help locating a missing woman. 40 year old Angela Dawn Gwin was last seen Monday, January 9.

Tuesday 011723

Prosecutors for the trial of Lori Daybell said they have sufficient evidence. Several days ago, Daybell said she was in her apartment when the children died and the children were at her brother's apartment in the same complex. She also said she was in Hawaii at the time of Tammy Daybell's death. The trial for her and her husband Chad Daybell is set for April 3rd.

School was cancelled yesterday for all Gooding district students following a threat of a shooting that was received late Sunday night. The superintendent said the police notified the middle school principal. The student has been referred to the Prosecutors office.

Travel on the Perrine Bridge tonight will slow as the Idaho Transportation department reduces traffic to one lane each way. Crews will be replacing some wiring to the lights. The closure is expected to start around 9.

A small plane crashed near northern Minidoka county yesterday morning. It was reported just after 11 am near the Laidlaw Corrals area which is a landing strip near Minidoka, Lincoln and Blaine Counties. The pilot was uninjured.

A bill that would allow contractors in Idaho to disregard a federal executive order barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity for certain projects was introduced in the Senate State Affairs Committee yesterday. Because the Idaho Legislature can't change federal law, Sen. Scott Herndon's bill would allow projects that only use state and local funding to disregard that provision of contracting and not

provide access to multiple-occupancy restrooms, shower facilities or changing rooms on any basis other than biological sex.

In a post to Facebook, Mountain Rides said it discontinued the three day a week bus service between Twin Falls and Sun Valley. The service was terminated yesterday. In the spring of 2021, Mountain Rides expanded its service to Twin Falls to benefit those needing help getting to and from medical appointments.