

Friday 070723

The Idaho GOP is planning to host presidential caucuses instead of primary elections for the upcoming 2024 election cycle. The change comes as a result of decisions made in the 2023 legislative session. Lawmakers and the governor passed a bill aimed at consolidating the March presidential primary election with the May primary election date, so that all primary elections in the State of Idaho will be held on the third Tuesday in May.

There was a groundbreaking ceremony this week just off Interstate 84 near U.S. 93 in Jerome County to celebrate the construction of the Idaho Army National Guard regional readiness center. The center is a project with the department of Defense and the state of Idaho. The two year project will cost 23-million dollars. The center will house units that are currently in Twin Falls and Jerome.

Fire crews are quickly gaining control of the flying hat fire along the Big Wood River. At last check no growth has occurred outside the control lines. It ignited Wednesday afternoon and burned about 14 acres.

There's no splashing going on right now at the First Federal Bank Park splash pad in Twin Falls. The feature opened up Monday but was closed Thursday because of more surface issues. There's no estimate when it will re-open.

Two years after his capture in Mexico, Erasmo Diaz Alcala is facing up to 30 years in an Idaho prison for what authorities called a domestic violence murder. Diaz Alcala, now 59 years old, was the target of a manhunt that began in June 2015, after the Canyon County Sheriff's Office said he shot his wife at their home in Wilder. He was sentenced yesterday.

After a jury found Lori Vallow Daybell guilty of murder, her brother and uncle are writing a book and doing a podcast about what led

to her conviction. Although Lori is now waiting for her sentencing on July 31, both said there are "gaps in the story," which is why they are working on the podcast and book.

West Nile virus has been detected in two different mosquito populations in Canyon County. Mosquitos collected south of Nampa, near Lake Lowell and west of Parma both tested positive for the disease.

Friday 071423

Authorities have identified the man who died near Wendell Wednesday morning. 85 year old Claude Strickland was found in an irrigation head gate just before 11:30 am.

Police are looking into an officer-involved shooting which occurred early yesterday morning, according to the Rexburg police department. At around 3:30 am, police responded to a physical argument between a husband and wife.

Aaron von Ehlinger, the former Idaho lawmaker convicted of raping a 19-year-old legislative intern, has filed his official appeal to the Idaho Supreme Court asking the judges to vacate his conviction. Von Ehlinger said the district court erred in allowing certain testimony from a nurse who examined the woman he raped and that state prosecutors were framing questions to the nurse in order to lead her into making certain statements about the rape.

This week Boise Police Department's chief and deputy chief went in front of city councilmembers and talked about changes they are making after an outside investigation. The investigation started in November after retired captain Matt Bryngelson shared racist and discriminatory views online.

The Moscow home where four University of Idaho students were killed will remain standing for now. Earlier this year, U of I announced it would demolish the house on King Road, which was

donated to the university by the owner. In a memo to students on Wednesday, U of I said it would pause demolition until October.

34-year-old Raul Garcia of Castleford man is facing multiple felony charges, including kidnapping and child sexual abuse with a child under 16. He is accused of locking the victim in a room making her inhale a white powder that later tested positive for meth. The victim told law enforcement her hands went numb, and at that point, Garcia started to touch her.

51-year-old Cory Gaylor a former Kuna Middle School teacher pleaded guilty yesterday to lewd conduct with a child under 16 and enticing a child over the internet. Gaylor is set to be sentenced Sept. 14. He faces up to life in prison.

Friday 072123

The most recent Jobs Report for small businesses reveals concerning trends impacting Main Street businesses throughout the United States. Suzanne Budge, the Idaho state director responsible for monitoring hiring measurements said that wages are not regarded as the primary concern in Idaho. Idaho reached just under \$25 an hour last year. Despite raising wages, small businesses are struggling to find qualified workers due to issues of inflation, lack of access to the workforce, and supply chain problems.

Before the pandemic, lawmakers spent three years trying to rewrite Idaho's school funding formula. Now, state superintendent Debbie Critchfield wants to finish the job in barely six weeks. She and her State Department of Education senior team seek a formula that's simpler, more responsive to local needs and aligned with the state Constitution's mandate of a thorough, uniform system of public schools. With this year's \$2.7 billion K-12 budget as the launching point, she wants to build next year's numbers around a new formula.

A grand jury in Twin Falls has indicted 38 year old Jeffrey Michael Tyler who is accused of child sex crimes. The alleged acts happened between December 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023 in Twin Falls County.

Time for another Twin Falls city budget for next year. Through August 21<sup>st</sup>, the city council will focus on things like a healthy, a safe and accessible community along with a responsibility. The budget for the next fiscal year is projected at \$88,400,548 which is an increase of nearly 10 million dollars from this fiscal year. The taxes per \$1,000 in value will remain at \$4.78.

Attorneys representing Chad Daybell were expected to appear in court yesterday to argue motions ahead of their client's upcoming murder trial in 2024, before the hearing was abruptly canceled. Daybell's legal team submitted a request for all exhibits, transcripts, and materials from the trial of Lori Vallow Daybell, who was found guilty of murdering her children. That caused Judge Steven Boyce to vacate the hearing.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game denied Colorado Parks and Wildlife's request to use the Gem State as a resource to reintroduce gray wolves back into Colorado. They wanted to start trapping wolves in the gem state.

Friday 072823

Boise Police have arrested 27-year-old Dallas Brower of Twin Falls after responding to a reported stabbing around 7:30 a.m. yesterday in the area of South Production Avenue north of Gowen Road. According to police, evidence indicates that Brower and two adult males were parked in the area and became involved in an altercation when the victim was stabbed. Brower is charged with 1st Degree Murder.

An 82 year old female died around noon yesterday when a vehicle struck her while she was riding on a mobility scooter in a

crosswalk near Idaho Falls. Police say the incident occurred on Northbound I-15 at the 118 off ramp.

A 500-thousand dollar check was presented to Magic Valley Paramedics yesterday by the St. Luke's Health Foundation. The foundation spent 18 months in a fundraising campaign. The money will be used for Ambulances.

School buses in Filer are going to be smarter come this next school year. The district purchased 17 buses and equipped them with GPS technology. Parents will be able to follow the bus their child is riding on.

Twin Falls county commissioners have put the 182 day moratorium on permits for large scale commercial energy projects on hold for now. They will take the discussion back up on August 24<sup>th</sup>. Some are concerned that the county may not be ready for large scale energy projects on county land. The moratorium would not control federal land.

The defense team for the man accused of murdering four U of I students in November 2022 has filed a motion to dismiss the indictment against him. According to new court documents, the defense team says the grand jury was misled about the standard of proof required for an indictment against Bryan Kohberger. His trial is scheduled to begin on Oct. 2, 2023.

The department of energy is launching an initiative to increase clean energy production by potentially leasing thousands of acres of DOE land for new emissions free energy development. The DOE has identified approximately 40,000 acres of land potentially available for clean energy industry projects in Washington State, New Mexico, South Carolina, at the Idaho National Laboratory, and the Nevada National Security Site.

Police say a 44 year old Filer man died yesterday morning just before 11 when he attempted to pass a turning freightliner truck near the Jerome airport on Highway 25. Both were eastbound.

A 22 year old Twin Falls man died when he was ejected from a vehicle near Shoup Idaho and a 21 year old Jerome man was charged with Vehicular manslaughter. Police say Kolby Slagel died after Garret Duncan was driving recklessly and traveling too fast for conditions.

As the trial for Bryan Kohberger moves closer, the defense team is now hinting that the 28 year old was out driving alone and not at the home where the murder of four University of Idaho students happened. Kohberger had previously declined to provide a pretrial alibi in response to the state's request. His trial is set to begin October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Latah County district court.

One man is dead after a shooting involving the Boise Police, marking the sixth police shooting in the city this year. Police say a man called them yesterday morning to a parking lot on Dale Street, located near Ann Morrison Park. The man, who was in his 50s he said he was going to go back inside his apartment, but instead ran down the stairs with at least one sharp or edged weapon. The subject aggressively approached the officer with the weapon, police asked him to drop the weapon and he did not.

31 year old Dakota Kennemer a former youth pastor at Grace Baptist church in Twin Falls was indicted on two counts of sexual battery of a minor child who was 16 or 17 years old. The incident allegedly occurred between 2019 and 2022. He is due in court on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador has joined a coalition of nine attorneys general urging the FDIC to reverse course on its proposed rule to impose a special assessment on banking organizations. The would-be rule is an effort to recover the costs of bailing out depositors like venture capitalists and foreign

nationals at Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank. The group said the federal government's decision to invoke the systemic risk exception of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act for the bailout was arbitrary and reckless.

Friday 081123

Yesterday the Idaho Supreme Court threw out ballot titles written by Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador's office over a new ballot initiative relating to Idaho's primary elections and ordered Labrador to deliver new ballot titles to the court by today. The issue came before the Court because Idahoans for Open Primaries and Reclaim Idaho filed a legal challenge, alleging that the ballot titles Labrador's office supplied were misleading and inaccurate.

Idaho doctors asked state legislators this week to let doctors continue managing health care for people on Medicaid, a health insurance program for the poor. Idaho formed a committee of legislators to study how to potentially restructure funding for the state's Medicaid program, which uses up to \$4.5 billion this fiscal year is mostly funded by the federal government.

An Idaho judge has barred Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador from pursuing demands for information in civil court from three senior staffers from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, unless he appoints an independent special prosecutor. Labrador said he wants to investigate how the Health and Welfare administered \$36 million of child care grants authorized last year by the Idaho Legislature.

The U.S. District Court decided yesterday that it would temporarily block enforcement of an Idaho law meant to prevent transgender students from using school restrooms that correspond with their gender identity. The Bill would have required public schools to maintain two separate multi-occupancy restrooms, showers, changing facilities and overnight

accommodations for students based on their sex assigned at birth.

Quite a number of court filings over the Kellogg man accused of murdering an entire family of four are keeping a judge busy. Attorneys representing the Idaho Press Club and other media outlets have petitioned the court to vacate the non-dissemination order currently in place, which prohibits anyone related to the case from talking or making statements to news reporting agencies. Majorjon Kaylor faces four counts of murder after he said he snapped following an argument with the family next door to him.

Friday 081823

Reported smoke in the elevator shaft of the Twin Falls county Courthouse caused those inside to evacuate yesterday afternoon. The cause was the main motor that had failed. The building is once again open but the elevator will be out of service for some time.

Yesterday in a Gooding courtroom, a status hearing was held for Nicholas James. He has been charged with the murder of Roger Driesel. The defense is contesting the findings of a report that their client's mental condition is fit to stand trial.

Today the Joe Mama Car show kicks off in Jerome. The event at the downtown city park in Jerome starts with a parade tonight from Con Paulos at 5. The show averages nearly 400 cars a year.

The Bureau of Land Management said that the 106,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands in the Lava Ridge Wind Project area will continue being set aside from appropriation, meaning the lands cannot be sold or have mining claims filed under the public land laws for another two years.

Lamb Weston is in the process of significantly expanding french fry production capacity at its American Falls facility. The \$415 million-plus expansion project will increase capacity at the facility by about 40% and make it one of the largest frozen potato

processing facilities in the world. Officials expect the \$416 million dollar project to be completed by July.

Idahoans for Open Primaries is starting its signature collection drive tomorrow in hopes that a ballot initiative to end Idaho's closed primary election will qualify to go before voters in the November 2024 general election. Former Chief Justice of the Idaho Supreme Court Jim Jones will speak at the Boise kickoff event.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit will continue to block Idaho's "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" from taking effect while litigation over the law's merits continues. The state law bans transgender women and girls from competing on female student athletic teams.

With federal student loans set to resume in October, Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador is warning Idahoans about potential scams targeting borrowers. Some of the most common scam methods include claiming to arrange smaller monthly payments for a fee, claiming to negotiate loan forgiveness on behalf of borrowers for a fee or calling and posing as a loan servicer collecting on past due amounts and pressure borrowers to make payments over the phone.

Friday 082523

In Bellevue, one man is dead after being shot by his roommate. The suspect is in critical condition after he turned the gun on responding police yesterday. According to the state police and the Blaine County Sheriff's office they were called to the 300 block of 5th street just after 6 am.

The Twin Falls county commissioners approved a 182 day moratorium on large scale energy projects. It will allow them to review and place guidelines and regulations. It does not have any control over federal lands such as lava ridge.

Yesterday some Idaho Republican legislators and law enforcement officers discussed potential legislation to curb

employment of undocumented workers and to increase law enforcement's search and seizure powers. The discussions came during a public meeting of the Idaho Legislature's Joint Committee on Federalism at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise.

An Ada County judge could act within a week on a motion to disqualify Attorney General Raúl Labrador from suing the Idaho State Board of Education. District Judge Jason Scott took no action after a 45-minute hearing yesterday. On June 20, Labrador sued the State Board, claiming the board violated open meetings law when it discussed the University of Idaho's proposed acquisition of the University of Phoenix in closed executive session.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is awarding \$2.1 million in specialty crop block grant program funding in Idaho. The grant program will provide funding for 16 projects in Idaho. Projects announced to receive funding relate to bees and pollination, seed quality and health, sustainability and disease management.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho has filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice on behalf of Latino students in Nampa's school district. The group claims that the dress code policy against gang activity, which prohibits students from wearing anything that is "evidence of membership, is vague and gives school staff the discretion to ban any item they.

Fire crews are starting to get some control over a wildfire burning on East Mountain roughly 10 miles east of Cascade. Coverage remains at 3,342 acres, at last check. The fire is burning near the East Fork of Clear Creek. Recent rainfall of 1.5 inches kept fire activity to a minimum. Containment is up from 0% on Sunday to 6% on Thursday.

Friday 090123

This week the Cassia County School District held a special board meeting to discuss sex offenders on school property or activities. When three sex offenders in Cassia County submitted their applications prior to making their first visit on school grounds, as

required by state law, the board granted their requests, much to the dismay of the committee. After much discussion the group decided to amend the motion and re-instate the old policy for a case by case basis.

University of Idaho President Chris Lynne and chief academic officer and provost John Woods are making two things very clear. The Purchase of the online University of Phoenix could help convince more Idahoans to attend college. The group said the \$685 million purchase of the for-profit online giant carries little risk for the University of Idaho, and Idaho taxpayers.

Idaho is experiencing significant corrections in home prices as a result of the increasing impact of rising mortgage interest rates. Zillow's housing economists have revised their estimates for 2024, forecasting a 6.5% surge in U.S. home prices from July 2023 to July 2024, up from last month's 6.3% prediction. Home sales are up 8.8 percent in Twin Falls.

After seven years, the family of a hiker who went missing in 2016 now has closure. Crews found the remains of Jack Thomas in Boise County. Thomas disappeared in the Sawtooths in Elmore County. Crews found his remains seven or eight miles away from his last phone ping in 2016.

The Union representing the workers of Amalgamated Sugar voted to approve a new five year agreement. Negotiations between Amalgamated Sugar and the union had been ongoing since the end of May. Wednesday, employees voted to approve the new collective bargaining agreement.

Ann Morrison Park is hosting the 32nd annual Spirit of Boise beginning Friday for the Labor Day weekend, weather permitting. The Events continue through Sunday.

Friday 090823

One man died following an officer involved shooting early yesterday. It happened on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. Police say a man refused to leave a residence after knocking at a door. When authorities arrived they discovered the man had a knife and wouldn't obey commands. After unsuccessfully deploying a Taser, an officer shot the suspect.

High turnover rates and the supply and cost of workers are among the top concerns for Idaho employers, according to a new report from the Idaho Department of Labor. The Department released the results of its inaugural Idaho Employer Business Climate Survey for 2023.

More details are being released after 72 year old William Butler of Hailey shot Michael Bosse, a 34 year old also from Hailey. Police reports say Butler was annoyed at the victim who was always sitting in his car and on his phone everytime the 72 year old walked past him at a city park. A dash cam video of the incident just after the shooting led police to Butler's vehicle.

Tyler Patterson a 29 year old Twin Falls man has been charged with Robbery, Burglary and Grand Theft after holding another man at gunpoint after burglarizing his car. It happened in a hotel parking lot last month.

Idahoans will see a lower property tax bill this fall as the State of Idaho picks up the tab for \$300 million that would otherwise be covered by your property taxes. More than \$106 million in state General Fund dollars started to roll out at the end of August to school districts across Idaho.

If reporting from Reuters and Bloomberg is accurate, grocery giants Kroger and Albertsons may sell some stores in our region to help clear the way for their proposed \$24-billion deal. Reuters said the chains would sell more than 400 stores to C&S Wholesale Grocers for "nearly \$2-billion". C&S isn't a big name in the grocery store world it operates just two dozen stores under two brand names: Grand Union and Piggly Wiggly.

Residents in Blaine County are reporting an increase in mountain lion and black bear sightings. According to Idaho Fish and Game, most reports are coming from Ketchum and Sun Valley. Residents and visitors are asked to keep their pets on a leash and secure their trash.

Friday, 091523

As we come on the air this morning, police and rescue workers are dealing with a major crash that has closed a portion of I-84. The ITD says the accident occurred near the Jerome Minidoka county line in the eastbound lane. At last check crews are working to open at least one lane of travel. The crash involves at least 2 large semi-trucks. It happened just after 2 am. There are injuries and one fatality is reported. Authorities report a large debris field.

Police are investigating a 3 vehicle crash in the same area along I-84 that left one person injured. It happened yesterday just after 2 pm when a car collided with a potato truck. Then the first car collided with a second.

The Jerome School district superintendent Pat Charlton sent a message to parents yesterday that said a student had taken a weapon to the High School. The school went into lockdown while police investigated. The student was taken into custody.

Twin Falls police and the Idaho Fish and Game spent much of yesterday morning dealing with a cow moose that had wandered into the city. Authorities say the moose was first spotted near the canyon rim near Costco. Unfortunately the Moose died when workers attempted to sedate it. The moose fell over the canyon rim and died.

A proposal by the Idaho Senate to call a special session of the Idaho Legislature to reinstate the presidential primary election in May does not have the votes to advance in the Idaho House of Representatives. Meanwhile support is building in the Idaho

House for a different proposal that could reinstate the presidential primary in March.

The Jerome County prosecuting attorney has resigned his position. Christopher Calbo recently pled no contest to assault charges in Oregon.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Debora K. Grasham is expected to decide in the coming weeks whether to grant a request to temporarily bar Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador from enforcing the state's so-called "abortion trafficking" law. The lawsuit is over its constitutionality proceeds in federal court.

Friday 092223

More charges are being made against 32 year old Kevin Nicholas Kuintzle of Twin Falls who faces murder in the death of William Eakin of Jerome. Police now say they have charged him with Robbery following an incident at CSI that caused the college to issue a shelter in place Sunday. The suspect remains in the Jerome jail with no bond.

Animal Rights group PETA is asking the Twin Falls county prosecutor to investigate and file criminal charges against those responsible for the January deaths of 10 pigs that died in transport to Independent Meat. The group alleges the animals made the 33 hour trip in a trailer when temperatures reached 4 below zero.

For the first time in over a decade, Idaho's largest electricity provider is looking to increase its general rate - a proposal that has led to criticism from customers and environmentalists. In March, the utility company filed a general rate case with the PUC to increase its rate by \$111 million, or 8.61%.

The Biden administration is writing off \$37 million of University of Phoenix student loans and it's unclear whether that move would leave the University of Idaho on the hook. U of I and State Board

of Education officials downplayed the news, and said it doesn't change U of I's plans to purchase Phoenix.

The state department of Agriculture is asking everyone who visits any recreational waters in the gem state to hot wash watercraft. The department put into place an intensive action plan. They cut off access to the water and stopped all recreational access to other traffic on the river.

Governor Brad Little has appointed Eric Fredericksen as State Public Defender to lead the newly created Office. House Bill 735a in 2022 provided immediate and ongoing property tax relief to all Idahoans by reducing county property taxes by the annual amount counties spent on public defense.

Idaho Launch starts next month. Hundreds of high school seniors have already signed up for notifications about the Launch application window, which opens on Oct. 3. Its a \$75 million program, which would provide high school graduates up to \$8,000 for training tied to in-demand careers.

Friday 092923

Police in Twin Falls say that they are investigating a fatal crash that happened last night on Falls Avenue East. The vehicle hit a person between Wood River Drive and Eastland Drive North.

Add Lake Walcott to the list of closures. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife service said the closure happens today in order to prevent the further spread of Quagga Mussels. .

Two people from Greenleaf Idaho are facing felony charges of second degree kidnapping. 40 year old Matthew Rettkowski and 34 year old Alisha Rettkowski are alleged to have coordinated a plan to abduct a juvenile from Phonex on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The child whose father lives in Greenleaf recently moved to Arizona to live with his mother. The mother notified police saying she believed Matthew had abducted him. Authorities later found the child in the custody of Alisha.

In Boise a US attorney said through the work of the district of Idaho's COVID-19 fraud task force, they have charged a dozen defendants criminally and obtained civil judgements against three with cases that total over 7-million dollars. Officials say the defendants took advantage of the pandemic through fraud. Charges include wire fraud, identity theft and false claims. Some are awaiting sentencing while others have been sent to prison.

So far water samples taken downriver of Centennial Park have come back negative for the Quaga Mussel larve. Officials say that while the few negative results are a good sign, that doesn't mean we're out of the woods. They say it's hard to determine when the parks and waterways will re-open.

Prosecutors in the Brian Kohberger murder trial are asking Amazon, Apple and Pay Pal to provide more information from before and after the murders. The prosecution is looking at detailed customer click activity for knives and accessories, payment methods, details in electronic carts and all suggestions made to the account.

October 1 is the deadline for the Idaho GOP to notify the national party on how they'll select delegates for the 2024 presidential election. For the previous two presidential elections, the GOP has used the Primary System, but in the last legislative session, they accidentally removed it. This happened while they were trying to switch the Primary Election from March to May.

It's time for Heyburn's Annual Riverton Pumpkin Festival, this Saturday, October 7th from eleven until two at the Heyburn Riverside Park. Hope for Heyburn is an organization that promotes safety and community awareness. Bring down the Family for an afternoon of fun, Safety vehicles including the Classic Air Medical Helicopter, safety booths, variety of vendors including food vendors, \$20 dog microchipping from Joint Power Animal Shelter and free pumpkins for the kids. Brought to you by HOPE, City of Heyburn, Total Waste Management, Robins Roost, Idaho Central Credit Union, and Intermountain Health. Heyburn's Annual Riverton Pumpkin Festival, this Saturday from eleven to two at the Heyburn Riverside Park.

Mt Harrison Heritage Foundation and the Burley Theater present William Shakspeare's Macbeth. October 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16. Curtain at 7:30 each night. Come support the renovation of the Burley theater and step into a world of ambition, deception, and treachery. Embark on a journey through the corridors of a mind ensnared by greed and desperation, as we bring to life this tragic tale of witches, battles, and the decent into madness. 5 performances only. October 11, 12, 13, 14, 16 Tickets available now at [BurleyTheater.ticketleap.com](http://BurleyTheater.ticketleap.com)

Be listening and keep an eye on our facebook page for a chance to win one of 10 pair of tickets we will be giving away for each performance! (Kat, Hot, Balanced Rock).

Kick the weekend off right...with entertainment at the Spud Cellar Lounge inside the Best Western Plus Burley Inn. This Friday catch (insert entertainment here). Saturday night it's (insert entertainment here). Food and Drink specials available each evening. It's always entertaining at The Spud Cellar Lounge inside the Burley Inn.

October line up:

7pm every night

- \*October 6th - Ned Carter & Dennis Peterson
- \*October 7th - Karaoke
- \*October 13th - Carson Hasher
- \*October 14th - Heath Owens
- \*October 20th - Close to Midnight Dance Band
- \*October 21st - Karaoke
- \*October 27th - Crazy Love Duo

\*October 28th - Music Bingo

Spud Cellar:

Live music in the Courtyard when Weather Permits Spring, Summer & Fall

Otherwise entertainment will be inside at the Spud Cellar Lounge .

Monday 070323

Idaho's longtime member of the Republican National Committee Damond Watkins has resigned from his position. Watkins has served as national committeeman for the Idaho Republican Party since 2011.

Former lawmaker and state superintendent candidate Brandon Durst was appointed superintendent for the West Bonner County School District. The process is still pending state board approval. The board voted to approve Durst as the new district superintendent, the vote was 3-2.

Twin Falls County commissioners are looking at addressing large scale renewable energy projects. To that end, an ordinance under consideration would block new projects on private land for 182 days. The commissioners have no say on public lands.

Idaho-based beet sugar processing company, Amalgamated Sugar announced a new President and CEO. Amalgamated Sugar Company hired Fran Malecha, who previously served as the CEO at Compass Minerals International, Inc. Malecha is taking over for the previous CEO, John McCreedy, who concluded his 8-year tenure as CEO but will continue to serve as an advisor throughout the transition period.

The ITD is looking for your thoughts on the just-released draft Idaho Transportation Investment Program. It outlines the state's transportation priorities and guides investment decisions for the

next seven years. Projects are located throughout Idaho's 44 counties and involve all modes of transportation.

The Idaho State Board of Education says it will have to hire an outside attorney to defend itself in a lawsuit filed by Attorney General Raúl Labrador and the board plans to forward its legal bills to Labrador's office. The State Board fired off a pointed written response to Labrador's office after the AG sued the board over a series of closed-door discussions of the University of Idaho's plans to acquire the University of Phoenix. The lawsuit argues that the board's three executive sessions were illegal and did not constitute "preliminary" discussions of the purchase, as the law requires

Monday 071023

Two people died in separate accidents over the weekend locally. A 37 year old Twin Falls man died in a single vehicle crash around 7:30 Saturday evening. Police say the vehicle left the road and rolled in the 400 block of Grandview Drive. A 52 year old Buhl man died last night just before 10 when he lost control and rolled his pickup along highway 30.

Yesterday marked the last daily print publication of the Twin Falls Times News. In an editorial, the paper said it will be a mail delivered service Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday's. They plan to post a daily digital version.

BLM officials have reopened about 45 hundred of acres of land near Boise after having to close it this weekend. The Hulls fire burned into an area of unexploded munitions of the former Boise Army barracks artillery range 3 miles northeast of Boise.

A state trooper was injured while responding to a collision Saturday morning around 7 am. The accident happened along Highway 20 in Elmore County. The ISP vehicle struck a deer and

rolled down a 40 foot embankment. Those who saw the accident assisted the trooper from the vehicle.

The stage is set for a legal battle pitting the State Board of Education against Attorney General Raúl Labrador. Voting unanimously Friday morning, the board stood behind its decision to hold three closed-door executive sessions to discuss the University of Idaho's plans to purchase the University of Phoenix. The state board said they will be sending legal bills to the AG's office.

Friday, Idaho Health and Welfare reported the first heat-related death of the year. An Idaho resident between the ages of 40 and 60 years old died of heatstroke. The individual was hiking a strenuous route in Southern Idaho. At that time, temperatures were in the 90s with little shade.

Fire conditions are rapidly changing in northern Idaho with a sudden increase in the number of wildfires. Nearly 40 wildfires have been fought in northern Idaho since the last week of June. Idaho Department of Lands has been dispatched to 16 fires and the Forest Service has fought 13 wildfires. Many were human caused.

Monday 071723

Yesterday temperatures were in or near the triple digits for much of southern Idaho. Today it's the wind that will make headlines. Gusts could hit 50 miles an hour. Temperatures will remain in the mid 90's.

This weekend, several people died on Idaho highways. ISP say a crash around 8:30 Saturday night on state highway 75 near Shosohne a 37 year old Bellevue man died after his vehicle rolled. Three people were killed when their car collided with a freight train in Bonner County Saturday morning just after 11.

More defendants are expected to come forward after a judge said a complaint against the city of Burley must include all parties who have a claim or interest which would be affected by a declaratory judgment. The LDS church along with several others is expected to be named on the amended complaint. Jon Anderson, a former mayor has filed a lawsuit against the city of Burley over a sewer and water development agreement.

31 year old Dakota Austin Kennemer a former youth pastor at Grace Baptist church in Twin Falls is facing sexual battery charges. He is accused of fondling a 16 year old girl in 2021.

A trial involving St. Lukes and Amon Bundy is expected to continue today. On Friday a Meridian doctor cried on the stand as she explained how Bundy's protests affected her life. Bundy led protests against the hospital after a baby was taken into protective custody for medical care. Bundy has been a no-show at the trial.

On Saturday, Mountain Home had a festival that was the first of its kind in the city. Organizers got together to promote an initiative to legalize the medicinal use of marijuana in Idaho.

65 year old Robert Kolb Senior a former Twin Falls man is facing 12 felony lewd conduct charges. He allegedly engaged in various sex acts with 2 underaged girls who were 6 at the time.

Eagle Police are investigating the discovery of a body along the bank of the Boise River. Passerby's detected a smell and found the body partially submerged in the water around 6:40 p.m. on Wednesday.

Monday 072423

A Head on crash in Minidoka County has claimed the life of a Kimberly man and sent another driver to the hospital by air ambulance. Police say the accident happened Saturday afternoon just after 2 on Highway 25. A Hay Hauler was westbound driven

by a 41 year old Heyburn man when a 68 year old man driving a cargo truck crossed over the center line crashing head on.

The civil case against Ammon Bundy is in the hands of the jury. Prosecutors say that in March of 2022, Bundy organized protests in front of St. Luke's Hospital to protest a baby being taken from his mother. It was reported that the protests cost St. Luke's nearly \$1.5 million. The jury decides what Bundy must pay.

A fire involving two homes in Caldwell Friday hospitalized two men. The fire on Red Robin Way started around 2:30 p.m. A vehicle was also damaged.

The Magic Valley Arts Council awarded over \$44,000 in prize money during the Art & Soul of the Magic Valley Awards Ceremony on Friday, July 21 in Twin Falls City Park. The 13th anniversary of this community-wide arts appreciation contest had 209 participants. Prize winner and recipient of \$15,000 is Glendale, AZ artist LeAnn Hileman.

The families of two transgender teens, who are suing Idaho officials in federal court over a new law that would ban transgender youth from accessing gender-affirming care, have made a new motion in the lawsuit. On Friday, the families filed for a preliminary injunction a move that asks the court to prevent the ban from going into effect until the lawsuit is settled.

E-commerce giant Amazon will soon open its first delivery station in Idaho Falls that will create over 150 new jobs. An opening event for the facility will be held at 11 a.m. today in Idaho Falls.

Idaho government officials pledge to be transparent about how government agencies are spending millions of lawsuit settlement dollars to help combat opioid addiction. The State has received \$26 million from opioid settlement funds. Less than half of those funds went directly to the state, \$8 million was set aside for cities

and another \$5.8 million was directed to seven regional health districts.

Monday 073123

As we come on the air this morning, firefighters are battling several wildfires in Idaho. New Fire burning near Cascade is called, the Sixty Fire. Multiple structures are threatened, and evacuations are underway by the Valley County Sheriff's office. The fire is burning near the timber rim subdivision South of Sixty lane to the east, north of round valley rd. There is a new Fire burning near Grangeville is called, the Russell Fire. Multiple structures are threatened. The fire is burning near mile marker 217, East of HWY 95, South of Whitebird. The Hayden Fire, which is burning 18 miles west of Leadore has now burned 17,531 acres and is 0% contained and has over 700 fire personnel working together to get ahead of the blaze that started on July 19th.

A 14-year-old boy is in custody this morning. He was arrested after reportedly shooting a child at a home in Caldwell Friday morning. The child is being treated for gunshot wounds and is expected to be ok.

An Oregon judge said no to a motion on modifying release orders of Jerome County Prosecuting Attorney Brad Calbo. He is faces felony charges while in Oregon last month. The victim works in the Jerome County Judicial Annex, and as a condition of his release from jail, Calbo was ordered to stay away from the victim's place of employment, meaning Calbo has essentially been locked out of his job. The victim was in favor of the modification.

Lori Vallow Daybell the eastern Idaho woman found guilty of murdering her two children and conspiring to murder her husband's former wife is scheduled to be sentenced at 9 a.m. this morning in Freemont County. Vallow will not face the death penalty, but she could face up to life in prison.

Two young children visiting Bear Lake in Eastern Idaho made the grim discovery of possible human remains. No other details have been released.

A mosquito has tested positive for West Nile virus in Twin Falls County. It was found 7 miles Northwest of Buhl on the river's edge and county line.

Water levels in the Snake River are higher than average for this time of year. With the heavy amount of snowfall, this past winter and with June being cooler, the snow melt has been prolonged. Water manager from American Falls dam and Milner Reservoir have both been releasing more water.

Monday 080723

This morning fires continue to burn on public lands in Idaho. The Elkhorn Fire burning in the mountains near McCall continues to burn and has scorched an estimated 24,025 acres since the fire began on July 24<sup>th</sup>. The Hayden Fire, burning in the Salmon Challis National Forest near Leadore has burned 24,489 acres.

Today marks the first day of the Jerome County fair and Rodeo. There is a rodeo through Wednesday. The parade is set for tomorrow afternoon. Antique tractor pulls in the arena Thursday. A concert with Warren Zeiders Friday and sand drags on Saturday.

Seven teens were critically injured when a school bus crashed near the North Fork Payette River on Highway 55 Friday afternoon. There were 30 teenagers on the bus. All were taken to the hospital. 11 were injured. They were traveling for a Treasure Valley YMCA summer camp program. Authorities are

investigating what caused the crash. The camp has been cancelled.

Christopher Calbo, Jerome's prosecuting attorney was taken into custody last week after deputies went to his home to find he had violated a protection order in connection with a domestic violence charge in Lincoln County Oregon. When deputies arrived at the residence, the victim, who also resides at the residence, was uncooperative and verbally combative with the sheriff's deputies, refusing to let them in the home.

As the beginning of the school year approaches, only one Idaho school district remains without a superintendent: Council. And this is after more than 20 openings in school district and charter leadership positions that needed to be filled. In Buhl, Angie Oparnico will take over. The Mackay Joint School District board hired Christine Ivie. She will remain in Jerome directing Heritage as well. In Bliss, the new superintendent is Matt Valladao. David Carson, Buhl's superintendent, took the helm in Gooding on July 1. Spencer Larsen, who was the superintendent at Gooding School District, will take the reins of Minidoka County School District.

Today, Idaho drivers are feeling the misfortune of gas prices hitting the \$4 mark for the first time this year. The average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$4, which is ten cents more than a week ago and five cents more than a month ago. At last check, Twin Falls average is at \$3.95.

Monday 081423

If you travel on I-84 between Jerome and Burley expect some delays this week. Construction is underway in much of the area. In addition, the state will be seal coating from the Kimberly Hansen Exit to Ridgeway road. Motorists will be slowed to 45

miles an hour and should expect some delays that could last 30 minutes.

Ammon Bundy, the anti-government activist, has been arrested again in Gem County. Bundy has had an active arrest warrant since mid-April after an Ada County judge found him in contempt of court for refusing to show up to legal proceedings for nearly a year over a civil lawsuit filed by St. Luke's Health System. His bail was set at \$10,000. An Ada County jury sided with St. Luke's last month, forcing him, his associate, Diego Rodriguez, and their respective business entities to pay the hospital \$52.5 million.

No charges will be filed against a Heyburn Police officer who shot two dogs running along the freeway earlier this year. Jerome Police conducted a independent investigation and said those involved were justified.

It appears that Amalgamated sugar company union workers will not strike. A tentative agreement has been reached. Employees were unhappy with new union contracts that would freeze pensions for newer workers, have employees go through a two-tier pay raise, as well as unsanitary conditions concerning port-a-potties in 90+ degree weather.

Rescue workers were called to rescue a 50 year old female Saturday evening who had fallen while on a hike in the canyon. It happened around 7:30 pm.

31 year old Josue Edgar Carillo-Coronado of Gooding has been charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder following an investigation that began a year and a half ago. On January 20, 2022, the body of then 21-year-old Edgar Leonel Torres-Ayala was found south of Wendell at 3300 South and 2093 East.

36 year old Jedediah Mortenson of Jerome is facing 10 counts of sexual exploitation of a child. Police found images following a

cybertip from the attorney general's office. He is due back in court for a preliminary hearing on August 18.

Two separate accidents have claimed the life of two people in the gem state. A Rexburg man was killed following a two-vehicle crash on U.S. 20 in Jefferson County early Friday afternoon. Then on Saturday, a 60 year old Caldwell man died when he lost control of his motorcycle near New Plymouth.

Monday 081923

The August 29 school elections are right around the corner and besides the \$67 million in bonds and supplemental levies up for approval there is a recall election of two trustees in the West Bonner School District. In Shoshone there is a 8-point 2 million dollar bond issue. A 2/3 super majority is needed. Castleford is asking for a 2 year 700-thousand dollar supplemental levy. In Valley there is a 2 year 600-thousand dollar supplemental levy.

The University of Idaho has spent more than \$1.2 million in the aftermath of an off-campus quadruple homicide. And as the university proceeds with its plan to tear down the murder scene, it will have to use some of its budget reserves to cover the costs.

Meanwhile, Bryan Kohberger, the man charged with the murders of four University of Idaho students, returned to court on Friday. The judge confirmed the trial will still take place this year. If convicted Kohberger faces the death penalty.

It's back to jail for Jerome county prosecutor Brad Calbo. He was returned to the Lincoln County Oregon Jail after being arrested for violating a no-contact order at his home in Jerome last week. His next court date is set for September 18<sup>th</sup>. Jerome county commissioner Charlie Howell has been quoted as saying they will hire another attorney whether Calbo bonds out or not.

Idaho officials say that a letter from federal regulators that says Idaho may have broken federal rules in how the state removed

people from Medicaid this spring doesn't paint a full picture. Idaho's 51% procedural disenrollment rate was the second highest in the country, just behind Texas, at 52%.

From student-led facilities to classical academies, and from new construction to expanded existing buildings, 11 new schools opening in the coming weeks will offer a diversity of contexts and instruction. These schools add to the more than 700 schools in Idaho. The latest local school to open is Gem Prep in Twin Falls.

Intermountain Gas said that an adjustment has been filed to reduce the rate customers are paying by 20-percent. The Idaho PUC must approve the change.

Monday 082823

Authorities say 43 year old Charles Christopher Holloway has been charged with first degree murder following the death of his roommate in Bellevue Thursday morning. He is accused of shooting 40 year old Joshua Takacs. It happened at 317 5<sup>th</sup> street just after 6 am. Holloway was critically injured after being shot by authorities at the scene. He is being held on million dollar bond. At last check a go-fund-me account set up for Takacs for funeral expense was nearly 12-thousand dollars.

There were several fatal accidents over the weekend in southern Idaho. A 34 year old male from Wendell died east of Twin Falls when he lost control of his vehicle traveling west on I-84 Saturday afternoon around 2:30.

Five vehicles crashed killing one and seriously injuring several others just outside of Boise just before 11 Saturday morning. That accident shut the westbound lanes down for four hours.

Then, two people died a one-vehicle crash that occurred just past 2:00 a.m. on Saturday along golf course road in Jerome County. The westbound car was driven by a 24-year-old male from Buhl and traveling at a high rate of speed. He lost control of the vehicle, which rolled several times. The driver and his passenger, a 23-year old male from Jerome both died from their injuries.

A 30 year old Malta man died in an accident around 6:30 Friday morning in Cassia County. Police say a 22 year old female from Rupert was westbound on I-84 when her vehicle blew a tire. She lost control and the vehicle rolled.

Smoke and fire damaged a Twin Falls home Friday evening. Just after 5 fire crews were called to the home in the 800 block of Chase Drive. The garage had flames showing. The home suffered smoke damage.

Today is the first day Twin Falls residents can file for a seat on the city council. There are 4 positions open. Election will be November 7<sup>th</sup>.

Ammon Bundy has been ordered to stop making defamatory statements about St Lukes. A Judge told him to remove videos and posts he made over the past year and a half. Earlier he was ordered to pay the hospital 52 million dollars. He said he has no intentions of doing that and says has legally transferred most all his assets to someone else.

Monday 091123

Traffic along I-84 between Hazelton and Burley was backed up for over 6 hours Saturday morning around 11 when a semi-truck crashed and ended up in the Northside canal. A 64 year old Kuna man was killed. The westbound truck was completely submerged. Currently the frontage road and the right lane of the freeway is closed while repair work to the bridge is made.

The BLM reports the Wedge Fire fully contained as of 10 am yesterday. The fire, burning near Timmerman hill south of Bellevue destroyed about 7,375 acres. No structures were damaged and officials say it probably started from a spark by a vehicle dragging something on the side of state highway 75 Saturday afternoon.

The Ada County Critical Incident Task Force is investigating a police shooting involving a 41-year-old man from Star. Police were called to Idaho 16, south of Floating Feather Road around

5:30 PM Thursday. Around 6 PM, Officers heard a gunshot and saw a man fall to the ground. The injured man then began waving the gun. That's when a Star Police officer fired at him. Authorities were able to get him to a nearby hospital at 7 PM. He died at 9 PM.

Link Up Idaho, in coordination with the Idaho Office of Broadband and the Idaho The Broadband Advisory Board has introduce Broadband 101, a statewide initiative aimed at bringing high-speed internet access to every corner of Idaho.

Voters in Bonner County decided to recall two school board members. They decided to end the four-year terms of school board trustees Keith Rutledge and Susan Brown. The remaining board members have 90 days to appoint 2 new members. The community decided that Brown and Rutledge did not uphold their oaths to improve West Bonner school district.

The University of Idaho is postponing the demolition of the off-campus house where four students were murdered in November 2022. The College had planned to have the house demolished before the start of the fall semester. In July the school rescheduled the demolition for October but has since said they are instead focusing on building a memorial garden.

Monday 091823

As we come on the air this morning there is some breaking news. The College of southern Idaho told those on campus to shelter in place last night. There was a report of a possible robbery suspect with a gun that was last seen near the pickle ball courts on the east side of the main Campus. Police in Twin Falls spent much of the night investigating. The suspect was last seen wearing a grey shirt with short hair glasses and a tattoo on his right arm.

Meanwhile there are unconfirmed reports of gunfire in a Jerome neighborhood. Reports to the station began coming in around

1:30 am Sunday morning of shots fired around Avenue D and Davis. Police presence was seen in the area shortly after.

The State Board of Education ended Branden Durst's quest to become the certified superintendent of West Bonner. In a letter to the district they were told there is no pathway for Durst to obtain the legally required certification because he has not met all the five requirements to do so.

An eastern Idaho Attorney is facing 20 years in prison and a million dollar fine. 68 year old Robin Dunn of Rigby was indicted by a federal grand jury to distribute fentanyl and meth and distribution charges. The charges stem from alleged incidents that occurred in 2022 and 2023 in Eastern Idaho.

Officials at the Idaho Division of Motor Vehicles have eliminated the convenience fee that had been charged to Idahoans who pay for their license reinstatement online. Idahoans with a suspended driver's license will still need to satisfy the other requirements and wait the required period of time to get their driving privileges back.

The University of Idaho and a former law professor have reached a \$750,000 settlement, resolving a race and gender discrimination lawsuit. Shaakirrah Sanders joined the U of I's law school faculty in 2011, and in 2018, she was the first African-American descendant of slaves to become a full law school professor at the university. But in June 2019, she sued the university, saying she was subjected to insulting, humiliating and discriminatory conduct related to her gender or race. She said she was subject to workplace discrimination.

Thursday 070623

A Blaine County resident is facing up to 20 years in state prison for allegedly punching his partner multiple times while driving with a young child in the vehicle. 36 year old Adam Richard Pullin

was charged with felony domestic battery. He was arrested in Twin Falls. The incident allegedly happened at a campsite near West Magic Resort on May 29th.

A motorcyclist died yesterday afternoon after colliding with a car in Caldwell. The 44 year old crashed into a vehicle who failed to yield at a stop sign at the intersection of South Montana and East Ustick Road.

Idaho is struggling to retain child care workers. That is causing the price of child care to increase, which makes it more difficult for parents to find child care, leading to people quitting their jobs to care for their children at home. According to Idaho Voices For Children child care challenges cost Idaho's economy \$525 million a year. From 2020 to 2021, 10 percent of Idaho children under age 5 lived in families in which someone quit, changed or refused a job because of problems with child care.

Idaho state agencies are facing two lawsuits after awarding a new, expanded \$1.2 billion contract to manage behavioral health services statewide. The contract, which could change care as soon as next March, controls how more than 425,000 Idahoans or 1 in 5 residents access behavioral health care. The new organization selected, Magellan Health, will manage care for Idahoans on private health insurance or Medicaid, and those who are uninsured. Beacon Health and Optum Health are filing a lawsuit against the decision.

Jerome County has a new County Clerk. Cy Lootens who has been head of elections for the county for about 10 years will replace Michelle Emerson who retired. Her term expires at the end of 2024. Lootens will have to decide if he wants to run for the position.

Its contract renewal time in the city of Eagle for the Police and there is a bit of friction. Currently Ada County provides a police chief and services at 3.7 million dollars but the sheriff said that's

not enough. He wants eagle to bump that up to 4.2 million. The Eagle city officials disagree.

Thursday 071323

The Preliminary hearing for Nicholas James and Athenia Miller in a Gooding courtroom has been vacated. The two are each facing a first degree murder charge in the death of Roger Driesel who was shot and killed in May. Their counsel filed competency evaluation orders. A status hearing is set for August 3<sup>rd</sup>. They are being held without bond.

Employers grappling with a nationwide labor shortage gave low-wage workers the largest pay increases in most states between 2019 and last year. But even so, many of those workers are struggling to cover the inflated costs of basic expenses. Many low-wage workers got significant raises such as Idaho, of \$7.25 an hour. Idaho's minimum wage for tipped workers remains \$3.35 an hour.

A Nampa man is now in custody, after barricading himself from police for roughly 10 hours on Tuesday. Police say 36-year-old Rodolfo Reyes had an outstanding warrant linked to an Amber Alert on May 18. Police say Reyes would not answer his cell phone or comply with orders given through a loudspeaker.

The Justice Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a settlement with J.R. Simplot Company regarding the Don Plant manufacturing facility located near Pocatello. The plant produces over 1 million tons of various phosphate products every year. The company will pay a \$1.5 million civil penalty for violations, while also providing \$200,000 in funding for environmental mitigation work in Idaho.

Tuesday Boise Police Department's chief and deputy chief went in front of city councilmembers and talked about changes they are making after an outside investigation. The investigation started

in November after retired captain Matt Bryngelson shared racist and discriminatory views online.

For the hunters, most resident capped elk zone tags went on sale Monday. All Idaho residents with a valid 2023 hunting license who did not apply for a controlled elk hunt can buy a capped elk zone tag. You can buy tickets at all Idaho Fish and Game License Vendors, Fish and Game Regional Offices

Thursday 072023

Idaho ended the 2023 fiscal year June 30 with a \$99.1 million budget surplus, money which will be swept into the property tax reduction package the Idaho Legislature passed earlier this year. The \$99.1 million surplus will be combined with \$205 million in funding already earmarked for property tax reductions through House Bill 292 to total about \$300 million in property tax reductions.

Look for more state police on Idaho roads through the end of the month. In the last 10 days 15 people have died from crashes. The latest fatality happened last night around 9 when a 39 year old man was killed in Bear Lake County when he lost control and crashed into a barrier.

Idahoans can weigh in on the state's new plan to maintain and overhaul roads and other transportation infrastructure. The ITD is asking for comment on its seven year draft Idaho plan which includes more than 1,000 projects that add up to \$4.85 billion.

Due to drought conditions in North Idaho and warmer than normal temperatures across the state, most of North Idaho and southwest Idaho is at elevated risk for wildfire through September. Thanks to a cool, wet spring, most of Idaho experienced a slower start to the fire season without a lot of significant acres burned.

More than 5,000 Idahoans can expect to see their federal student loans forgiven in the coming weeks, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The Department and the White House said it will provide \$39 billion in automatic loan relief to 804,000 federal student loan borrowers. The plan was announced two weeks after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled to strike down the Biden administration's student debt relief program.

City leaders from across the northwest filled the Boise Depot yesterday for the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit to discuss potential Amtrak service expansion through region. Amtrak shut down the Pioneer Route connecting Portland to Salt Lake City by way of the Treasure Valley in 1997.

A decomposed body found the night of Thursday, July 13, in the Boise River in Eagle was that of a Boise man who was reported missing earlier this year. Officials identified the body as that of 65 year old Eric Jorgensen.

Thursday 072723

Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador's office has asked the Idaho Supreme Court to dismiss Idahoans for Open Primaries' legal challenge to ballot titles assigned by Labrador's office. The ballot initiative is designed to eliminate Idaho's closed party primary elections and replace them with a single primary election that all voters vote in and all candidates run in, regardless of party affiliation.

More people will be allowed to give impact statements when Lori Vallow Daybell is sentenced for the murder of her two children and conspiring to the murder of her current husband's former wife. Her aunt, Vicki Hoban, will be allowed to speak. Her sentence is set for Monday at 9 am.

Boise Police Department say an officer shot and killed an armed suspect on the intersection of 19th and Resseguie street last night. The suspect was pronounced dead on the scene by

BPD. Boise Chief of Police Ron Wineger said officers could hear shots being fired and called for backup at 10:43 p.m. last night.

A 22 year old Oklahoma man was sentenced to 28 years in federal prison for sexually exploiting a child by producing child porn. Investigators learned that Kobe Mahoney traveled from Twin Falls to Elko, Nevada, to meet a 13-year-old child. He admitted that he had sex with the child and used his cellphone to make a recording of the acts.

Yesterday U.S. Senator Jim Risch criticized the U.S. Customs decision to maintain adjusted hours at northern U.S. ports, including Porthill Port of Entry in Idaho. Risch has long advocated for a return to pre-pandemic hours.

Following a meeting this week, the Twin Falls Planning and Zoning commission said work continues on the city's new master transportation plan. The master transportation plan shapes the future of Twin Falls for the next 20 years and deals with topics that include changing one way streets, maintenance costs and safer options for intersections.

Idaho Power announced new fire restrictions at campsites it maintains at C.J. Strike south of Mountain Home, in addition to a fire ban already in place at Woodhead Park in Hells Canyon.

Thursday 080323

A boat on a trailer that became disconnected from a pickup caused a multi vehicle accident yesterday afternoon along the freeway near Burley. Two vehicles crashed into the trailer and pushed it into the westbound lanes of travel causing one vehicle to roll over. No injuries were reported.

A 34 year old Mackay man has been charged with stealing a government issued truck and driving at speeds of 110 miles per hour and refusing to stop for police. Deputies in Blaine County

began chasing the truck yesterday morning driven by Kyle Foster near Carey. They chased the vehicle about 8 miles before using spike strips. The truck was taken from a gas station in Mackay.

There are rumblings from union workers at Amalgamated Sugar that they may go on strike next week. Employees are unhappy with the new contracts that reportedly freeze pensions for newer employees, have workers go through a 2 tier pay raise and easily be able to move to other departments in the factory. Employees also noted unsanitary conditions with outdoor toilets in 90+ degree weather, that haven't been maintained.

Governor Brad Little formed a new state advisory committee that will work to improve outdoor recreation opportunities, as Idaho sees a "historic number" of visitors at state parks. About 7.4 million people visited Idaho's 30 state parks from 2020 through 2022. That's a 27% increase in visitation from the five years prior.

South Central Public Health District has issued a public health advisory for Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir after recent testing from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality shows levels of a cyanotoxin that are now at unhealthy levels in the reservoir. Exposure to this toxin can be harmful to people, pets, and livestock.

Though it appears to be a shipping container on the outside, Idaho National Laboratory's latest technology can help rural communities maintain power during emergencies. The mobile grid system can tie into a modern electrical grid and coordinate the distribution of electricity for a small town, military base or a hospital.

Thursday 081023

Two people died north of Pocatello yesterday afternoon after a dump truck struck three vehicles. It happened around 2 pm. The victims were Idaho Falls residents. Police say the truck was

southbound on I-15 when it approached slowing traffic. The truck didn't slow down in time. Two other people including the driver of the truck, were taken to the hospital.

A federal judge has dismissed a TikTok user's counterclaims against University of Idaho Professor Rebecca Scofield, who sued for defamation when the TikToker accused her of murdering four college students last year. Scofield sued Ashley Guillard when she posted multiple videos on TikTok claiming she discovered, through spiritual readings.

Serve Idaho recently received a \$4,339,065 grant to fund the AmeriCorps programs in Idaho. Nearly 370 AmeriCorps members will be supporting efforts to provide communities with low-income access to health care, education and mental health services.

58 year old Randy Scott Vail of Meridian has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Boise for shooting two Idaho power stations, causing damage to both. According to the United States Attorney's Office Vail is alleged to have used a rifle to shoot at the Hells Canyon Dam hydroelectric power station and the Brownlee Dam hydroelectric power station in June.

Rodney McMullen the CEO of Kroger is giving few clues as to who potential buyers could be for stores it plans to shed if the proposed merger with Boise-based Albertsons goes through. Kroger hopes to buy Albertsons in a \$24.6 billion deal. It would put together the nation's two largest standalone grocery chains with somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 locations under one corporate command. Kroger hopes to close the deal by early 2024.

The body of the 30 year old that went missing in March near Lowman has been found. Authorities say Tyler Beyer's remains were found in the area of Red Mountain. They believe the snowmobile he was riding was caught in an avalanche and he died from hypothermia.

Thursday 081723

One man is dead following an officer involved shooting in Nampa yesterday. It all started with a 911 call from St. Lukes reporting a patient had run away from the hospital. The suspect was located in a parking lot where he charged at the officer who fired his gun. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> police shooting in Treasure Valley so far this year.

Idaho Attorney General Raul Labrador submitted his letter of resignation for his seat on the Central health District Board. It's effective at the end of the week. The resignation leaves an open seat to represent Ada County. The next appointment will be made by the Republican controlled Ada County commission.

Another person has drowned at The Drops in Shoshone. The second incident happened Tuesday evening around 7. This is the second time in 16 days someone has drowned in the area. Authorities say the victim was a male teen.

Shoshone City Councilman Payson Reese died suddenly on Monday. Reese was the Shoshone Chamber Director and had worked with the fire department. He also organized the Lost N Lava Cowboy gathering. He was 42.

Police are investigating an accident involving a motorcycle and a pickup that claimed the life of the cyclist. Authorities say it happened on Caldwell Boulevard in Caldwell yesterday morning. The victim was 62 years old and from Nampa.

Idaho Governor Brad Little has selected Annie McDevitt to be the District Judge in the fourth judicial district. McDevitt has served the Fourth Judicial District as a Magistrate Judge since her appointment in 2018.

Idaho Fish and Game has received more reports this year of a non-native fish species in the Snake and Salmon rivers, prompting the agency to raise the alarm about potential impacts on struggling salmon and steelhead. Officials said they've received

numerous reports of walleye, a predatory fish from the Midwest, on the Snake River near Hells Canyon and on the Salmon River. The agency said signs point to more walleye on the way to Idaho.

Thursday 082423

Brian Kohberger's legal team said they are waiving his right to a speedy trial. That means the man charged with 4 student murders near the University of Idaho will not start October 2<sup>nd</sup>. At the next scheduled court appearance on Sept. 1st the judge will hear the defense's motion to dismiss the grand jury indictment based on arguments that the jurors did not receive proper instructions.

Last week, the State Board of Education submitted four motions designed to undercut Attorney General Raúl Labrador's open meetings lawsuit. A district judge will take up one of these motions this morning. Labrador said the board broke state law when it discussed the University of Idaho's proposed University of Phoenix purchase behind closed doors. The board voted unanimously to endorse the \$685 million purchase.

A 38-year-old man was sent to prison Monday after driving the wrong-way down a freeway and causing the death of a man in April 2022. Tommy Ray Larkin was given a minimum of three years and a maximum of 10 years. The crash killed 69-year-old Juan Berrocal-Gonzales on I-15 in Bingham County. In court, Larkin repeatedly said he was unaware he was there to be sentenced and thought they were taking the case to a jury trial.

Eight people have been arrested by Boise police following a large scale investigation. The charges are related to the sexual exploitation of children. Allegedly the men digitally targeted minors and tried getting children to meet with them for sexual purposes. It was found out that one suspect traveled across state lines to meet with what he believed was a minor.

It's one of the largest drug crackdowns Idaho has ever seen. The investigation is over Methamphetamine and Fentanyl distribution. Police say Idaho is an ideal distribution location for drug dealers due to the number of highways that lead to our cities. During these investigations, law enforcement seized approximately 98 pounds of Methamphetamine, 21 Fentanyl pills, 531 grams of Fentanyl powder, 38 firearms, 3 bulletproof vests, and more than \$121,615.

Thursday 083123

A 32 year old Burley man is facing serious charges after he allegedly attempted to exchange money and drugs for sex with a minor. Oliver Encinas was taken into custody in Rupert after he allegedly planned to meet up with the minor.

A hearing scheduled to address the defense Motion for Dismiss today in the case against Bryan Kohberger has been vacated and rescheduled for later in the month. A hearing to rule on whether or not cameras are allowed in the courtroom is still scheduled for tomorrow.

The names of those killed over the weekend in car accidents have been identified. 24 year old Iziah Humberto Rodriguez of Buhl lost control of his vehicle just after 2 am along Golf Course Road in Jerome. He and his passenger 23 year old Daniel Martinez o Jerome died from their injuries. Later Saturday 34 year old Oscar Tenorio Aragon of Wendell died when he crashed while traveling westbound on I-84 just outside of Twin Falls.

Ammon Bundy is scheduled for a new trial without a jury starting Oct. 2 on contempt of court stemming from a lawsuit from St. Luke's Health System. If convicted, he could face no more than up to six months in jail. Bundy did not accept or deny the charges against him and questioned how many he faced.

With the passage of House Bill 92 the Idaho legislature said schools need to teach personal finance literacy. With that, First

Federal bank has teamed up with the Idaho High school activities association to provide education assistance to member schools.

The Eastern Idaho State Fair will be returning in September, and fair officials say it's one people won't want to miss. Just like every year, the fair will be held on the fairground in Blackfoot. It will last from Friday through Sept. 9.

Sen. Scott Herndon, R-Sagle, has begun circulating what he said is the first of two petitions to call the Idaho Legislature back into special session to consider legislation related to the presidential primary election that legislators eliminated earlier this year. The Idaho Legislature has the new power to call itself back into session upon a written petition signed by at least 60% of the members of the Idaho House of Representatives and Idaho Senate.

Thursday 092123

Just before 11 last night Jerome police issued a endangered missing person alert. Authorities are asking the public's help in locating Michael Underwood, a 78 year old male with severe dementia. He was last seen at Mr. Gas in Jerome around 7:30 pm. He was walking officials say.

Authorities have arrested two people following the death of 84 year old Bill Eakin at his home along Bob Barton Road in Jerome. The Jerome sheriff's department arrested 42 year old Erika Nichole Brock of Heyburn and 32 year old Kevin Kuinytzle of Twin Falls. He has been charged with first degree murder, burglary and grand theft. The woman faces charges of receiving stolen goods, concealment of evidence and withholding knowledge.

The Twin Falls Sheriff's office says access to the boat ramp and docks at Murtaugh Lake will be closed. The Twin Falls County Commissioners and Twin Falls Canal Company have made this decision following the discovery of quagga mussel larvae in the Snake River. Access to this area will be closed for the next 30 days, and will be revisited at that time. All parks, picnic and camping areas remain open to the public and will not be affected.

Meanwhile, the City of Twin Falls has closed Shoshone Falls Park Boat Ramp and Dierkes Lake Park to all watercraft including kayaks, paddle boards, canoes and inflatable craft to help contain the spread of invasive Quagga Mussels.

The Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners approved a 4.7% increase in the budget request for the Idaho Department of Lands' fiscal year 2025 budget. Overall, the land board approved a budget request totaling \$90.3 million from all funding sources, including state and federal funding. The state general fund share of the total budget would be just over \$11 million in the proposed new budget, for an increase of 6.4% over the current budget.

The BLM in Shoshone will begin construction on the Dempsey Meadows Road north of King Hill in the Bennett Hills beginning this week. Travel delays are to be expected. The construction, which will replace four culverts and add gravel, is expected to last until Oct. 20. The culvert replacement will be the most disruptive to travelers through this Saturday. This road is heavily used by hunters in the area.

Thursday 092823

Police say they have located the missing girl who went missing from a home on Kimberly road yesterday. Last night area cell phones were triggered by an alarm that Twin Falls police were looking for 14 year old Victoria Gollenbusch. Later authorities said they were able to locate her.

A former deputy attorney general representing the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has sued the Idaho Attorney General's Office, alleging it retaliated against her after she raised ethical concerns relating to the representation of her clients. The concerns raised by former Deputy Attorney General Daphne Huang tie back to an investigation into child care grants distributed by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

On their facebook page, Twin Falls police are warning of a scam alert. They say some residents are reporting phone calls claiming the police called them demanding money because they have a

warrant for their arrest. Authorities say calls such as this are scams and you should hang up and never give any information to the caller.

A new Idaho Conservation league study has found that 57 percent of Idaho's wastewater treatment facilities violated the clean water act last year. The study goes over 520 violations. It states the listed facilities failed to comply with standards for harmful bacteria, chemicals, toxic metals or other substances at least once. Data shows Driggs, Jerome and Kuna facilities made up a quarter of all the 2022 violations. Officials in Jerome said the wastewater staff takes permit violations very seriously. The goal is to make sure clean and safe water is provided for all downstream users.

Several local groups in the area are working to establish a new center for community health in Twin Falls. Their goal is to provide non clinical navigation services. The center will be housed in a Twin Falls School District administrative building on Main Ave., which is currently under construction. It is expected to officially open within the next six months to a year. The new center could help people find housing assistance programs and enroll in Medicaid.

Governor Brad Little has appointed Cody Brower to serve as sixth district judge. Brower has served as the Oneida County Prosecuting Attorney since 2016. The position will cover Caribou County cases.

Area residents can dispose of their pesticides at several locations across the state this month. The Idaho Department of Agriculture's pesticide disposal program said it will offer free and safe disposal of unusable or unwanted pesticides from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Burley today at the BLM Field Office and in Twin Falls at the Canal Company on Sept. 26.

A 22 year old Junction Utah man was killed in a crash last night just after 8 north of Kimberly in Jerome County. Police say the vehicle rolled after the driver lost control.

36 year old Adam Richard Pullin of Twin Falls was arraigned yesterday on a charge of Felony Domestic Battery in the presence of a child. The alleged incident happened on May 29<sup>th</sup> at Magic Reservoir. He is being held without bond.

Idaho is looking at restructuring how it pays for Medicaid, a free health insurance program that insures about 458,000 Idahoans, costing state taxpayers more than \$4 billion last fiscal year. Legislators met yesterday in Boise to discuss the current funding structure.

Brian Kohberger who is accused of murdering four University of Idaho students last November has filed a motion to stay proceedings in his case. Newly filed documents show Kohberger requested the stay citing substantial failure to comply with selection procedures for a grand jury. An indefinite stay of proceedings was ultimately denied, but a Latah County judge did grant a 37-day stay to allow Kohberger and his defense to review the material from the grand jury.

Anti-government activist and former gubernatorial candidate Ammon Bundy and his associate Diego Rodriguez were both no-shows for the first day of trial in a civil case brought against them by St. Luke's Health System. The judge called the case unusual. Bundy was quoted from a text saying he was unaware he had a trial.

Students in the Boise School District have filed a federal lawsuit against Idaho school officials to keep them from enforcing a new law meant to prevent transgender students from using school restrooms that correspond with their gender identity. Signed into law by Idaho Gov. Brad Little the law requires schools maintain two separate multi-occupancy restrooms, showers, changing

facilities and overnight accommodations for students based on their sex assigned at birth. The law took effect July 1.

Tuesday 071823

The state school board of education said seven colleges in Idaho including CSI, may be victims of a worldwide data breach. Move-it transfer software tracks personal information of students and employees nationwide to provide enrollment and degree data on their students to other entities.

As part of a new law that took effect July 1, the Idaho Transportation Department is offering Free State identification cards for Idaho adults who do not have a driver's license to use for voting. The cards are free to individuals 18 or older who have not had a driver's license for at least six months.

27 year old Stephen Carston Wells of Idaho Falls, was sentenced to 8 years in federal prison for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine. On August 18, 2022, Idaho Falls Police found Wells passed out in his vehicle. Law enforcement found meth, cocaine, marijuana and several weapons.

U.S. Senators Mike Crapo re-introduced the Bring Our Heroes Home Act, which would eliminate obstacles preventing families from accessing the records needed for recovering America's prisoners of war and missing in action. Records show more than 81,500 Americans including 361 Idahoans remain unaccounted for.

Legislative lawmakers want the Idaho Commission for Libraries and the state's school and public libraries to sever ties with the American Library Association. The Idaho Freedom Caucus push stems from a since-deleted tweet from group President Emily Drabinski who described herself as a Marxist lesbian. The lawmakers fear she could inject hard left politics and sexuality into libraries.

Latah County prosecutors in the case against Bryan Kohberger, the man accused of killing four University of Idaho students, say that he can't just put his speedy trial on pause he has to waive his right to speedy trial altogether. His trial is set for Oct. 2. A stay could mean the case could be thrown out, which is supported under Idaho law.

Owyhee County deputies say the body of a man who disappeared Sunday while swimming in the Snake River has been found. A husband and wife were boating on the river Sunday when, the he went for a swim near Bernard's Landing. The strong currents swept him away.

Tuesday 072523

More than a year after anti-government activist Ammon Bundy and his supporters swarmed a Boise hospital, prompting a shutdown that diverted ambulances to other hospitals, a jury ordered Bundy, his associate Diego Rodriguez and a network of groups to pay \$52.5 million in damages.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 2.7% in June, slightly above May's 2.6%, according to the Idaho Department of Labor. Total employment increased by 1,058 to 938,529 while unemployment increased by 720 to 25,717. Twin Falls experienced decreases of 0.2%.

People driving through Meridian may have recently noticed cameras fixed to traffic signals or streetlights. The cameras capture and read the license plate of the vehicles driving through. The cameras are also connected to the National Crime Information Computer that helps identify wanted out-of-state plates.

Idaho mountain climber Braydan Duree of Kuna died after falling about 50 feet from a jagged peak in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park. His body was recovered by a helicopter.

Thursday, a judge will consider a motion on modifying release orders of Jerome County Prosecuting Attorney Brad Calbo is faces felony charges while in Oregon last month. The victim works in the Jerome County Judicial Annex, and as a condition of his release from jail, Calbo was ordered to stay away from the victim's place of employment, meaning Calbo has essentially been locked out of his job.

New court documents show 54-year-old Jeffery Noble from Meridian allegedly harassed and threatened five councilmembers and the Caldwell mayor between 2019 and this month. Police arrested Noble on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

This morning recovery efforts continue after a man who went underwater Sunday on Lucky Peak Reservoir. 35 year old Rodolfo Gomez Thomas had jumped into the water without a life preserver after his daughter had flipped over in an innertube and was experiencing a panic attack.

Tuesday 080123

Lori Vallow Daybell will serve three consecutive life sentences without the possibility of parole. She was sentenced yesterday in a Franklin County courtroom for the murder of two of her children as well as conspiring to kill the wife of her fifth husband. She also received an additional life sentence for the conspiracy and grand theft.

A man is dead after drowning in a popular recreation spot in Lincoln County. The incident happened at the Drops in Shoshone. Water levels were reduced and were able to recover the body yesterday morning.

A federal judge in Idaho has granted a preliminary injunction barring Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador from taking legal action against medical providers who refer patients across state lines for abortion care and denied Labrador's request to dismiss

the case. The parties have 14 days to submit litigation and discovery plans as the next step in the lawsuit.

A staffing shortage and hampered transition services are some of the main obstacles the Idaho Department of Correction must overcome to improve the reentry experience for formerly incarcerated individuals, according to a legislative report released this month. But aside from those obstacles, some state programs seem to be working well, including education and work-release programs.

The annual Twin Falls State of the City Address will be held at 7:30 a.m. tomorrow at the 2nd South Market. Speakers will include Twin Falls City Mayor and Council who will provide the annual update on city objectives, challenges and achievements.

After weeks of slow and steady price drops, Idaho pump prices are rising again. The main culprits are rising crude oil costs and a slight increase in fuel demand. Today's price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.91, which is three cents more than a week ago but six cents less than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.76 per gallon, which is 16 cents more than a week ago and 22 cents more than a month ago.

Tuesday 080823

The state of Idaho is almost done removing people from Medicaid who state health officials flagged either for being ineligible for the program, or not replying to the state's requests for new information. The state health department flagged about 153,000 people. Of the 118,710 people, 89,325 people were removed from Medicaid.

Within the next four months, convicted murderer Lori Vallow Daybell will be heading to Arizona where she will face charges in Maricopa County. She will face two conspiracies to commit murder charges related to her late husband Charles Vallow's death at their home in Arizona and an attempt on Brandon Bourdeaux's life. Chad her 5<sup>th</sup> husband, still faces trial in the murder of Lori's Children. His trial is set to begin April 1<sup>st</sup> of next year. He could face the death penalty.

A Concert with Luke Bryan in Nampa has been cancelled. The concert was set for August 5<sup>th</sup>. Bryan went on social media to say doctors want him to rest his voice. Ticket holders are being told to hang on a possible reschedule could happen. Meanwhile the Salt Lake concert has been rescheduled for August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Water experts and public officials across the state presented challenges, success stories and solutions regarding Idaho's water supply at the Governor's Water Summit yesterday. Officials recognized that water levels in Idaho are in decline, and some of the main challenges they discussed at the summit include population growth, outdated water infrastructure and climate change.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission is hosting virtual workshops Aug. 14 and 15 to share information about Idaho Power's application to increase rates for electric services. If approved, Idaho Power will increase its overall rates by 8.6 percent.

Questions about how to describe a proposed ballot initiative that would change Idaho elections were the focal point of oral arguments before the Idaho Supreme Court yesterday. Idahoans for Open Primaries and Reclaim Idaho sued Labrador. They are asking Labrador fix ballot titles he submitted for their proposed initiative and disqualify him from doing anything further on the initiative due to bias. The ballot titles are important because they

describe to voters and the public what the initiative is and what it does.

Tuesday 081523

For Idaho drivers, it's been another week of rising gas prices, with no end in sight. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$4.06, which is a nickel more than a week ago and 15 cents more than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.85 per gallon, which is two cents more than a week ago and 28 cents more than a month ago.

U.S. Sen. Jim Risch has introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate that would fully delist grizzly bears in the lower 48 from Endangered Species Act protections. Risch introduced the Grizzly Bear Review and Resource Act shortly before Congress went on its summer recess.

After being sued Friday afternoon a second time by St. Luke's, anti-government activist Ammon Bundy was arrested that evening on a contempt of court warrant stemming from his first lawsuit from the health system. Bundy posted bail early Sunday morning and appeared in court in a temporary restraining order hearing yesterday to address the second lawsuit which alleges Bundy has made fraudulent property transfers to evade collection of \$26 million in damages awarded to the hospital system. At the hearing the judge ordered Bundy to not transfer any property over the next two weeks and limit their cash expenses to under \$5,000.

The Cassia County fair is underway this week. Tonight it's the Motor rodeo. Tomorrow morning the parade at 10:30 and the PRCA RAM rodeo hits the arena Thursday through Saturday. Those attending are encouraged to wear purple Thursday for the Man-Up Crusade Night to create awareness about domestic

violence, and wear pink on Tough Enough to Wear Pink Night for breast cancer awareness on Friday.

Two suspects in the beating death of a man in Caldwell on Aug. 1 have not been charged with murder, but they did record the beating on a GoPro, court documents say. 44 year old Jeremy Jones died on the way to the hospital after he was "pistol whipped," police say. Court records say Kyle McGinnis and Richard Laine broke into Jones' home with a BB gun that looked like a sawed-off shotgun and began beating him over the head when he answered the door.

Tuesday 082223

Talks resume today between the union workers and Amalgamated Sugar Company. On Friday the union rejected the most recent contract revision. A strike would affect over 17-hundred workers across all of the factories and would also affect growers in Southern Idaho.

If you're planning one last summer getaway for Labor Day weekend, you're not alone. According to new data by AAA, domestic bookings for everything from Cruises, Flights and Hotels are up 4% from a year ago, and international bookings are up 44%. AAA says that the busiest times on the road will be Thursday.

An audit into the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's distribution of grant funds to help children deal with the after effects of the pandemic found that "lack of controls throughout the program" led organizations that received the grants "to use the funds for ineligible purposes and for ineligible groups." The release of the audit Monday comes as Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador faces three lawsuits over his demands for information from senior Health and Welfare department officials, an ex-department official and 36 organizations that received the grants.

Following an elevator fire at the Twin Falls county courthouse last Thursday county officials are considering some upgrades to the courthouse. The building was constructed in 1909.

After what appeared to be a salmon shark that washed up on the shores of the Salmon River near Riggins, Fish and Game offices began getting phone calls. After investigating, officers believe someone took the picture after dropping the fish in the area as a joke. Officials say no sharks have been observed swimming up the fish ladders lately.

At last night's Twin Falls city council meeting the decision was made to terminate the city attorney Shayne Nope. The decision was unanimous and no reason was given. He will receive six months' salary and benefits.

A McCall man is dead and police say they are investigating it as a hit and run. On Saturday night just before midnight officials responded to a bike path to find a man who was badly injured. He later died at a nearby hospital

Tuesday 083023

Today voters decide on school funding. Besides the \$67 million in bonds and supplemental levies up for approval there is a recall election of two trustees in the West Bonner School District. In Shoshone there is a 8-point 2 million dollar bond issue. A 2/3 super majority is needed. Castleford is asking for a 2 year 700-thousand dollar supplemental levy. In Valley there is a 2 year 600-thousand dollar supplemental levy.

A 31 year old Jerome woman died after the vehicle she was driving crashed into a concrete wall, telephone pole and rolled. Police say the accident happened on U.S 91 just south of Reservation road in Bannock county just before midnight yesterday. Travel on the road was shut down for 4 hours.

A Boise police officer remains on the job after he was sentenced for a DUI. Casey Hancuff was sentenced to a year of unsupervised probation. His attorney said that his father had died shortly before his citation and that Hancuff had just discovered he has Stage 2 cancer.

The Boise Police officer who shot and injured a stabbing suspect in November of last year has been told his actions were justified. Twin Falls county prosecutor Grant Loeb made that announcement last week. The suspect, 30 year old Jeremy Waste was sentenced this month to up to 30 years in prison.

Idaho Power took a substantial leap toward cleaner energy with the groundbreaking of the Pleasant Valley Solar Project in Boise. The Pleasant Valley Solar Project has a capacity of 200 Megawatts. The project will create 220 construction-related jobs.

An 18 year old Castleford High school student is facing charges of sexual exploitation of a child and possessing a weapon on school grounds. Alejandro Hernandez-Sanchez is accused of enticing a 14 year old Cassia County girl to send a nude photo to him.

Washington state Treasurer Mike Pellicciotti and six other state treasurers are urging federal regulators to oppose a merger of the nation's two largest grocery store chains. They are warning of "significant adverse effects" if Kroger, the nation's largest supermarket chain, is allowed to acquire Albertsons, the second largest, for \$24.6 billion. They raise concerns about lower pay for store employees, the potential for layoffs, reduced ability for workers to organize and negotiate on working conditions, and

consolidation and store closures leaving communities with fewer or no shopping options.

Tuesday 090523

Authorities in Blaine County continue to investigate a shooting that left one person injured. It happened at Lion's Park on Friday morning. 72 year old William R Butler of Hailey was taken into custody. Police were called to the area to check on someone yelling for help. 34 year old Michael Bosse of Hailey was taken to the University of Utah hospital for Treatment.

Idaho State Police are investigating a head on two-vehicle fatality collision that claimed four lives which occurred Friday just before 10 pm near Driggs in Teton County. The driver of a car crossed the center line and collided with a semi-truck. All 4 people in the car were killed. All lanes of State Highway 33 were blocked for 8 hours while crews worked to clear the scene.

Two semi's collided Friday afternoon just before 4 near the Kimberly exit along I-84 killing one of the drivers. Police say one truck was slowing in the eastbound lane for traffic when another semi collided with it. Eastbound traffic was blocked for about 4 hours.

The Treasure Valley YMCA school bus rollover that left 8 people seriously injured last month was caused by the driver losing control. The 64 year old female driver from Caldwell was one of those injured. There were 28 passengers. Police have forwarded the results of their investigation to the Boise County Prosecuting attorney's office.

A 19 year old Idaho Falls teen was arrested over the weekend and charged with Felony vehicle Manslaughter. Emerson Caleron's blood alcohol was .21. That's well over the limit for a driver under the age of 21. He crashed into another vehicle near Idaho Falls on May 28<sup>th</sup> that killed one person.

The Idaho Board of Land Commissioners met briefly Friday morning to acknowledge and cure a violation of Idaho's open meeting law. To remedy the violation, the land board voted to void the Aug. 15 executive session and re-do the motion. The land

board then went into an executive session. When the board members returned to open they announced they took no action.

In just one week, Boise Pride will light the capitol building. But this year, festival organizers needed some financial help. It typically costs about \$5,000 to light the building. Now, it costs about \$15,000 because they have to set up lights across the street. Lime, the company that places electric scooters throughout the Boise said they would fill the gap.

Tuesday 091223

The committee that was tasked with looking at data to advise actions that could be used to address EMS shortages across the state is ready to take ideas back to the legislature. A resolution that passed the Legislature earlier this year also established a sustainability task force for EMS. The change is simple. Idaho law needs to deem emergency medical services an essential service. Current law does not deem EMS essential, so the state is not obligated to provide any funding.

Not good news for motorists in Idaho. Gas prices are at the highest level for the year and experts say they could go higher. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$4.15, just a penny less than the high for the year. Pump prices have hovered near \$4.16 since the beginning of the month.

A former Wendell school district teacher and baseball coach plead guilty yesterday to three counts of disseminating harmful material minors. Joseph Swainston was sentenced to a suspended sentence of a year in prison for each count and must pay a \$500 fine. He resigned from his position last year.

Hundreds of people met at the Twin Falls visitors center to pay honor to those who lost their life during the attacks of 9-11. A large flag was unfurled between the canyon walls.

Several Idaho legislators serving on a committee that makes recommendations for distributing state funding from tobacco settlements expressed concern Monday with some of the funding proposals. Some are concerned that funding should be focused more on prevention than having health districts focus on treatment.

33 year old Kalob Morrison of Heyburn has been found guilty of first-degree murder in the January 2022 death of a man in which he beat the victim with a sledgehammer before shooting him. The body of Julio Caesar Lopez was found in the Lincoln County desert last January along with his vehicle which had been set on fire.

Tuesday 091923

Authorities are investigating whether the attempted robbery at CSI and the death of a resident on Bob Barton Road in Jerome county are connected. Sunday afternoon a person was found dead. Later some near the pickle ball courts at CSI thwarted the attempted robbery when a man demanded money, a phone and a car from a woman.

Idaho's unemployment rate rose to 3% in August, up from 2.8% in July, marking the first time it has been at or above 3% since November 2021, according to the Idaho Department of Labor. The total number of people employed in Idaho increased by 121, making it 938,190. There are nearly 29 thousand out of work.

Idaho drivers saw little change at the pump this week, but with the cost of crude oil now at a 10-month high, gas prices could be on the move soon - for the worse. According to AAA, the West Texas Intermediate benchmark for crude oil is currently trading near \$91 per barrel, the most since November of last year.

Gov. Brad Little defended the University of Idaho's proposed University of Phoenix purchase and told three U.S. senators to butt out of the debate. In a letter sent Friday the governor called

out Sens. Richard Durbin, Elizabeth Warren and Richard Blumenthal.

Longtime Jerome businessman LeRoy Craig has passed away. He served 36 years on the CSI board of trustees and has been part of Prescott and Craig insurance in Jerome. He was 89.

A 52 year old former Kuna Middle School teacher will spend at least 13 years in prison after having sexual contact with a minor. Cory Gaylor pled guilty to lewd conduct with a child under 16.

A routine traffic stop by Blaine County deputies Friday led to drug charges for the driver. Police stopped 32 year old Gabriel Toscano near Treasure Lane, north of Hailey. They discovered that he was driving on a suspended license which led to his vehicle being towed. Later they found drug paraphernalia. He was also charged with possession of Meth.

A 56 year old man and his horse died when they were struck by a semi truck. The incident happened last night just after 8 on Old Butte Highway north of Hamer in Jefferson County.

Tuesday 092623

Jerome police located the body of 78 year old Warren Underwood yesterday morning. His body was recovered in the canal near the Jerome animal shelter and the fairgrounds. He was last seen at his Jerome home on Date Street on Wednesday.

The state health and welfare department say an adult male in southwest Idaho has a confirmed case of Measles. The person spent time at the Boise Airport on September 13<sup>th</sup> and in the Nampa area on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. Officials say measles is extremely contagious and that about 90-percent of those unvaccinated who are exposed will become infected.

Idaho drivers eagerly anticipate the cheaper gas prices that usually arrive this time of year, but so far, we're still playing the waiting game. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$4.14, a penny less than a week ago

and a penny more than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.85 per gallon. Today Idaho ranks 10th in the country for most expensive fuel.

Given the volume of people writing in, Yellowstone National Park has extended the public comment period for its draft Bison Management Environmental Impact Statement until Oct. 10. Park officials say they have received nearly 2,000 comments so far.

Home prices are down in Idaho compared to nationwide average. However, the median price of home in Idaho is \$462,800, whereas the median price for a home nationwide is \$407,100, up 3.9% from a year ago. In August, 2,466 homes were sold throughout the state, down from the 2,667 sold at the same time last year.

Idaho state legislators and government officials can't verify how much revenue the state has collected during the first three months of the state's new fiscal year because of errors transitioning to a new software program. State officials transitioned on July 1, launching a cloud-based software system that was designed to increase government transparency.

Idaho is facing a critical [farm labor shortage](#) that could threaten the agricultural industry's vitality. While this scarcity of labor is not unique to the Gem State, it is a widespread issue affecting farms [nationwide](#). In a bid to resolve this crisis, Idaho Congressman [Mike Simpson](#) and a bipartisan group of lawmakers are determined to pass an immigration reform bill into law.

"There are so many undocumented workers working in agriculture today — if we can't get this passed, what's going to happen is you're going to deport these people, and then all of a sudden milk is gonna go to \$50 a gallon or \$100 a gallon," Simpson said. "You won't be able to have any cherries or strawberries or anything else that requires picking, all that kind of stuff. It would be devastating to our economy and to agriculture."

The [Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#), reintroduced this year and passed by the House two years in a row, aims to create a legal workforce for agriculture, a priority underscored by Simpson. It seeks to bring undocumented workers "out of the shadows" by requiring them to comply with the law. This entails the payment of fines for their previous illegal entry into the country.

Idaho State Police is investigating an injury collision which occurred on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 12:47 AM, on eastbound I-84 near mile marker 202.5 in Minidoka County.

A 28-year-old-man from Portland, Oregon was driving a 2005 Chevrolet Silverado eastbound on Interstate 84 when he drove onto the right shoulder. The Chevrolet rear-ended a 2015 Hyundai Santa Fe which was stationary on the shoulder. The Chevrolet rolled several times before coming to rest on the south Frontage Road.

The Hyundai had three occupants at the time of the collision.

The driver of the Chevrolet was transported via ground ambulance, then air ambulance, to a local hospital. The occupants of the Hyundai were not transported.

The driver of the Chevrolet was not wearing a seat-belt.

The eastbound I-84 lanes were partially blocked for approximately three hours allowing emergency responders to assist those involved and clear the scene.

This incident remains under investigation by the Idaho State Police.

Wednesday 070523

Supporters of a proposed open primary ballot initiative said they are challenging the ballot titles assigned Friday by the office of Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador. A coalition of groups called Idahoans for Open Primaries is backing the initiative, which would do away with the closed primary elections and replace them with an open primary that all candidates and voters could participate in, regardless of party affiliation. On May 31, Labrador's office issued a review of the initiative that raised concerns about the initiative conflicting with the Idaho Constitution and Idaho law.

Objections have been raised to demolishing the house where four University of Idaho students were killed last year, with members of three of the victims' families signaling it should be preserved until after the trial of the man charged in the deaths. The owner of the property donated it to the school after the killings, and the

university announced earlier this year that it was planning to demolish the home.

As proceedings continue in court over the murder of four U of I students last fall, the Brian Kohberger defense team gained a small victory after Judge John Judge granted them access to requested training records for some key officers in the case. In the defense team's motion for discovery, they argued that they need access to the training records of three officers involved in the case in order to understand the methods they utilize.

The areas of Lewiston, Pocatello and Bliss are in the running to serve as pilot locations for a new network of electric vehicle charging stations paid for with federal funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law. The three geographic locations were selected based on public input gathered in 2022. From the three areas, two will be selected to host pilot sites for the electric vehicle charging stations.

The public is invited to an event from 6 to 8 p.m. today at Twin Falls City Park to honor local law enforcement officers. Musicians Heath Owens and the Heath Clark Band will perform, and food trucks will be on site.

Wednesday 071223

Police were called to the intersection of Highway 93 and 30 near Filer yesterday morning when a flatbed semi trailer rolled. The accident blocked westbound traffic for several hours while crews cleaned up the debris. Hazmat crews were notified but it turns out the large containers of chemicals were not hazardous. No serious injuries were reported.

Several advocacy organizations and a civil rights attorney filed a lawsuit against Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador's office yesterday alleging a law that criminalizes the act of transporting minors across state lines to obtain an abortion violates

constitutionally protected rights and is too vague to be enforceable. The federal lawsuit asks the Idaho District Court to grant a temporary injunction that would block the law from being enforced while the case proceeds.

Outbreaks of Mormon crickets and grasshoppers have been identified in Cassia County. Assistance requests to the state department of Ag within a designated outbreak area are expedited, according to the department. To qualify for assistance, individuals must manage at least five acres of agricultural use land and be actively experiencing infestations of at least three Mormon crickets per square meter or eight grasshoppers per square meter.

After weeks of hovering near the \$4 mark, Idaho gas prices are slowly falling. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular is \$3.93, which is three cents less than a week ago and four cents less than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.54 per gallon, which is the same as a week ago and five cents less than a month ago.

In the past year, Idaho has seen a significant surge in its tech job market. The state attracted a considerable number of professionals who relocated while working remotely. As the COVID 19 pandemic subsided, many of these firms altered their operations. As a result, local tech companies benefited from this influx of skilled workers.

The surviving family members of one of the victims from the shooting at the Boise Towne Square Mall filed suit last week alleging the mall's management and local officials didn't do enough to prevent the shooter from committing a violent attack. The suit came from the family members of Roberto Padilla Arguelles, one of two people shot at the mall on October 25, 2021 by Jacob Bergquist who later committed suicide.

A warning has been issued by the Idaho Attorney General's office. A sextortion scammer recently impersonated the Idaho Internet Crimes against Children task force. The scammer attempted to obtain personal information and enroll the victim in a court issued second chance program. The AG's office is asking anyone who receives one of these emails to contact the ICAC unit.

Several accidents in Idaho yesterday claimed the lives two people and police are looking for witnesses for a third. A motorcyclist died along U.S. 12 in Idaho County when the female victim collided head on with a semi. Another head on crash along highway 39 in Bingham County claimed the life of a 29 year old Pocatello man. Police in Meridian are looking for witnesses to an accident that happened along the freeway near McDermott road. A car flipped over a barrier and overturned just before 6 yesterday morning.

Idaho Governor Brad Little has appointed Paul Woods to the tax commission. Woods is founding and managing partner of Magic Valley Bioenergy.

The Idaho Lottery presented the largest single dividend to schools yesterday. \$82-million is a 12.3 percent increase from last year thanks to lottery sales hitting \$422 million.

The community of Stanley could receive some funding through the Stanley workforce housing economic development initiative presented by Representative Mike Simpson. Money would be used for up to 80 employees and their families. The funding package heads to the floor of the U.S. house.

Idaho Governor Brad Little is looking for names in order to appoint a new state Public Defender Position. The new position is the result of property tax relief legislation. It provides property tax relief by reducing county property taxes by the annual amount counties spent on public defense and transferring the ongoing cost of providing indigent public defense to the state.

In a recent survey, students in Idaho say they aren't going to college at least right away. Instead, many are choosing to go straight into the workforce, travel, volunteer, attend a trade school or join the military. 47% plan to go to college.

Wednesday 072623

Without actually naming businesses, President Joe Biden recently took aim at grocery consolidation. Kroger hopes to buy Albertsons in a \$24.6 billion deal. Biden said that the Ag Department will make sure large corporations cannot artificially raise food prices through price fixing and price gouging.

The State Board of Education's hired attorney wants a judge to toss Attorney General Raúl Labrador's open meetings lawsuit against the board. Labrador's arguments against the State Board and its closed-door meetings to discuss the University of Idaho's plans to acquire the University of Phoenix needlessly undermine the people's trust in government the board attorney said. A hearing on the motion to dismiss is scheduled for Aug. 3.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources won't be shutting off the water for hundreds of groundwater users pumping off the Eastern Snake Plan Aquifer in Idaho at this point in the summer. Last week, Idaho Department of Water Resources Director Gary Spackman found that there was no water demand shortfall for surface water users.

Bryan Kohberger's defense team was required to submit an alibi for the defendant for the night that four students at the University of Idaho were murdered. That deadline was Monday, but court documents show Kohberger has chosen to remain silent.

A federal judge on Tuesday vacated the military conviction of Bowe Bergdahl, a former U.S. Army soldier who pleaded guilty to desertion after he left his post and was captured in Afghanistan and tortured by the Taliban. The ruling from the U.S. District

Judge says that the military judge, failed to disclose that he had applied to the executive branch for a job as an immigration judge, creating a potential conflict of interest.

Planned Parenthood bought advertising space at six different billboard locations throughout western Idaho. The billboards are a direct response to an increasing number of Idaho patients who are unsure if they can legally leave the Gem State for an abortion procedure. The billboards state it is legal.

Wednesday 080223

Hot summer temperatures across the state have resulted in drier conditions and an increased fire danger, with nearly all lands under Idaho Department of Lands fire protection now in Very High to Extreme Fire Danger. As of today, IDL crews have fought 166 fires with most being human-caused.

The Idaho Career Ready Students Council convened for the first time yesterday to award its first set of grants to expand Career Technical Education in Idaho schools. Hansen School District was awarded \$25,530 for computers and equipment.

The Idaho Transportation Department began construction yesterday on the I-84 and US-93 interchange on and off ramps at exit 173 in Jerome County. The project will resurface the ramps, upgrade signals, and construct a right-turn lane for the westbound I-84 off-ramp. Construction will last 2 months.

The Idaho Republican State Central Committee selected former congressional candidate and longtime GOP activist Bryan Smith to fill the vacant national committee seat for the party. Smith, an attorney from Idaho Falls, ran unsuccessful campaigns for the U.S. House of Representatives. U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson defeated Smith both times in the Republican primary election.

Governor Brad Little is meeting with leaders at the Governor's Water Summit, to discuss trends in Idaho's water supply. Since taking office Little has recommended, and the Idaho Legislature has approved, more than \$1 billion in additional funding for water-related infrastructure projects.

Federal regulators delayed a key vote that would allow more natural gas to flow through Oregon, Idaho and Washington to California following pressure from environmentalists and Oregon's two U.S. senators. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission was scheduled to vote whether to approve the expansion of the GTN Xpress that sends billions of cubic feet of natural gas each day from Canada to customers in the Northwest and California.

The University of Idaho has closed fiscal year with record-breaking fundraising numbers. The university closed fiscal year 2023 with \$57.5 million in gifts.

Wednesday 080923

Late Monday night Jerome deputies were called to a residence northwest of Jerome for a reported disturbance involving a person with a firearm and a young child in the residence. After talking for several hours, authorities say 40 year old Charles Randall Clay peacefully surrendered. He was charged with Aggravated Assault, Resisting Arrest and Attempted Strangulation.

Police say a juvenile failed to yield to an oncoming train yesterday afternoon died at the scene of the accident. It occurred in Payette County.

A coalition of professors from across Idaho have filed a lawsuit in federal court against the state alleging a law prohibiting the use of public funds to promote or counsel in favor of abortion is "sweeping and unclear" and violates their constitutional free speech and due process rights. It is the fourth lawsuit filed against Idaho for abortion-related laws.

Following last week's resignation, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission is beginning the search for its third director in the span of six months. Bluum is a nonprofit that helps develop charter school growth. CEO Terry Ryan expressed concern, because the commission is critical to ensuring the financial and academic quality and integrity of the vast majority of Idaho's public charter schools.

A lawyer for Boise-based Babe Vote and the League of Women Voters Idaho argued at a court hearing that a new law passed in the 2023 legislative session is making it harder for voting advocacy groups to register voters. Meanwhile, the defense argued that the new law is constitutional, and it makes the registration requirements easier to understand.

Idaho families will soon no longer have to send their children out of state to get their children mental health care inside a residential facility. The Idaho Youth Ranch is opening a treatment facility that has 64 beds, all with their own room, and a charter school on a campus only a short drive from downtown Caldwell.

Wednesday 081623

The preliminary hearing for a north Idaho Man suspected of killing four of his neighbors has been waived. Today's hearing for Majorin Kaylor was vacated by the Shoshone County Court earlier this week. He is accused of killing a family of 4 that lived next to him. Court documents reveal Kaylor snapped after he told investigators Devin Smith exposed himself to Kaylor's young children. A motion hearing is set for September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Tonight the Gooding pro rodeo kicks off with 4 days of events in the Andy James Arena. The Gooding rodeo also hosts multiple world champions. These cowboys and cowgirls compete and are among some of the best athletes.

Today students return to schools in Twin Falls. This year the district will be implementing two mental health care services. School leaders say they hope to help those struggling with depression and anxiety or simply other mental health conditions in General.

Yesterday afternoon local officials cut the ribbon that signaled the re-naming of the Jerome County Judicial Annex. It's now going to be known as the Thomas H. Borresen Judicial Complex. Judge Borresen served in Jerome County as a magistrate from October 1993 to October 2018.

At least 55,300 Idaho children have lost access to Medicaid health insurance since April as the state continues to disenroll people from the program after pandemic-era protections have ended, data recently released by the state health department shows. Most of the kids that are part of the Medicaid Protection group were removed for not replying to the state's requests for information.

The state is investigating an increase in human-caused fires as hot, dry conditions continue to present an elevated risk. That's what the director of the Idaho Department of Lands told Gov. Brad Little and other members of the Idaho Stand Board of Land Commissioners yesterday. Through last week, 152 of the 198 fires reported within the Idaho Department of Lands protection area were caused by humans. That compares to 46 fires caused by lightning.

Wednesday 082323

The western Idaho Fair in Boise had some delays in the first day of that event. That's because Boise was hit with  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch of rain in 25 minutes yesterday evening. There was a flood advisory and thunderstorm warning issued in Ada County, but was lifted before 9 p.m.

You just don't hear this all the time. Twin Falls County Deputies say a driver of a pickup truck reported his vehicle was submerged in the Salmon Dam reservoir at Grays landing. The incident happened Monday morning.

One of the two splash pads in Twin Falls continues to undergo repairs. That's something that has been going on for most of the summer at the Sunway Soccer Complex. Workers have been working to resurface the pad making it less slick. They are also in the process of cleaning the pump. The other one which is next to city hall on Main Avenue has been open throughout the season.

Police are investigating a rollover accident that claimed the life of a 77 year old Nampa Man. The accident yesterday afternoon just before 4 happened on State Highway 21 in Boise County. The driver of the pickup towing a camp trailer and an ATV trailer drove off the right shoulder and struck a tree causing all three units to erupt in flames. The driver died at the scene while his 77 year old female passenger was sent to the hospital with injuries. The road was blocked for about 4 hours.

Good news for travelers using the Boise Airport. Yesterday the ribbon was cut signaling the opening of the new East Parking Garage. The site is 5 stories tall, has 1148 stalls and will increase the long term parking by 50 percent.

Fire crews are beginning to gain ground fighting the East Fire, burning about 10 miles east of Cascade. Heavy rains dumped almost 1.25 inches of rain in the area, resulting in a 6% containment update. The blaze has been burning since August 16.

A reported road rage incident has led to a Caldwell man being arrested. Police say 25 year Arren Hunter Trujillo has been charged with three counts of aggravated assault, injury to property and discharging a weapon into a car with someone in it. The incident allegedly happened on Sunday.