

Community Events

02/21/24 – First Aid Info Session, Munchkin Playland, 635 21st St, Heyburn @ 10am,

We are excited to host this first aid and CPR info session! We will have Brittany Preator, a teacher from the American Heart Association, leading the session. It is NOT a certification class, but will give you information and tools to help in the case of an emergency. The class is free to attend, but normal play admission applies if you bring kids who want to play!

02/21/24 - Wilson Theater,610 south Fremont avenue in Rupert, Miller Research Potato Pest Management Meeting

The 2024 Miller Research Potato Pest Management Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at the Wilson Theater. The meeting will run from 9:00 am to noon. Wilson Theater is located t 610 south Fremont avenue in Rupert.

02/22/24 - AGF Ladies Conference, Amazing Grace Fellowship, 1061 Eastlamd Dr, N Twinfalls, @7pm,

AGF Ladies Conference is coming! Join us on February 22nd & 23rd at 7 PM each night! We will have special guest speakers Julie Goss and Tracy Wilde-Pace. There will also be morning sessions on Friday, February 23rd, starting at 9 AM. Save the dates!

Sign up TODAY for your special early bird gift, early registration ends February 4th. You can also bring a friend who has never attended FOR FREE! Special pricing for seniors 60+, widows, and single moms. Teens are free!

02/23/24 – Community Benefit Auction,@ West Minico Jr High Auditorium @ 6:00pm

Dont miss Guest speaker Prior Air Force Captain Daniel Young a Minico High School Graduate. Proceeds to benefit Rupert Idaho Heart Operation. Supporters: Les Schwab Tire Stored, Goode Motors, Kloepfer Concrete, Dave's Appliances, Impact Athletics.

02/27/24 – Spring Gnome, Burley Senior Center, 2415 Overland Ave, @6pm,

Come join us for a cute spring gnome to brighten up your home! Tickets are \$35 per ticket, \$25 for adults over 60 and \$15 for 12 and under. \$5 of each ticket goes back to the center!

Must reserve spot by Feb 23rd by calling the Senior Center at 208-878-8646 or using the ticket link below.

Each painting is on an 11x14 canvas and all supplies are included in your ticket.

02/29/24 - Car Seat Safety,@ Munchkin Playland, 635 21st St, Heyburn, at 3:00pm,

Come learn how to keep your munchkins safe in the car, from a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician from the Cassia County Sheriff's Office. (Free info session; regular play admission applies if you bring kids who want to play!

03/02/24 - BINGO Sponsored by Minidoka County 4-H Teen Association @ 12:00pm,

The Minidoka County 4-H Teen Association is having a BINGO fundraiser on Saturday, March 2 inside the McGregor Center at the Minidoka County Fairgrounds beginning at 1:00 pm.

All ages are welcome.

There will be 10 games played. The cost for the 3 game card is \$10.00 and the 6 game card is \$20.00.

Many area businesses have donated items or gift cards as prizes. There will be a potato bar, raffle, lots of grab bags, and plenty of refreshments.

Doors open at noon.

For more information, contact Jeni Bywater at 436-7184 or jbywater@uidaho.edu

03/07-03/10/24 - Beauty and the Beast @ Minico High School 7:00pm-10:00pm,

Spend an evening enjoying the spectacle of Disney's Beauty and the Beast, produced by the Minico High School Music Department! An enchanted castle, a beautiful girl, Gaston, Lefou and wolves! Get your tickets @ Beauty and the Beast Tickets in Rupert, ID, United States (ticketleap.com)

03/16/24 – Basque Dinner and Auction @ Rupert Elks in Rupert, Event by St. Nicholas Catholic Women @ 6:00m,

St. Nicholas Catholic Women will be holding their annual Basque Dinner & Auction. Dinner starts at 6:00 pm, live auction at 8:30 with music following by Barton & Bollar. Come join us for a fun filled evening! Tickets are \$30.00 and can be purchased from any St. Nicholas School student or by calling 208-436-6320

You are invited to the Monthly Genealogy Workshop! It will be Tuesday January 9, at the Twin Falls Public Library starting at 6:30 pm. Each month, explore a different resource, tool, or skill in genealogy research! This month learn how to effectively research your genealogy with historical newspapers! Once again Tuesday January 9th at the Twin Falls library starting at 6:30.

The next STEM group meeting will be Tuesday January 16th starting at 4 pm at the Twin Falls Public Library. This is for all elementary age kids. It will feature hands-on activities designed to get kids excited about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Once again it's at the Twin Falls library starting at 4 January 16th.

The Twin Falls County Historical society museum invites you to stories from the cemetery. It will be Saturday January 20th starting at 1 pm. What intriguing stories lay behind the engraved names and dates of a cemetery? Every person laid to rest within its walls led a unique life that ties into the history of our area. If exploring the rows of graves has ever left you wondering "what lives did these individuals lead?", join us at the museum January 20th. Filer Cemetery sexton, Ron Klimes will discuss the stories behind the local veterans, heroes, and pioneers that helped shape the Magic Valley. All museum lectures are free and open to the public so invite a friend!

You are invited to attend Knitting & Crochet Basics at the Twin Falls Library. There will be patterns for you to use, or bring your own yarn to keep your project, or you can borrow some of ours to practice! Stick around after class for A Good Yarn Club to keep working on your project & meet fellow yarn crafters. It will be Monday January 22 starting at 5 pm at the Twin Falls Public Library.

Take your first steps towards creating a successful business! Do you want to start a business, but don't know where to begin? Do you know what a business plan is and how important it is to your future business success? Do you have lots of questions & need some answers? Then this concentrated LIVE 3 hour "Start-up Business Seminar" is for you! The topics & Information you'll receive will include: - The 'Basics' of Business Regulations (what you need to know BEFORE you open your doors) - The importance of "preparedness" (Your Business Plan) - Basics of Taxes - and MUCH MORE! Speakers: Bryan Matsuoka - Idaho Small Business Development Center Irene Gonzalez - Small Business Administration Steve Taylor - Idaho State Tax Commission It will be at the Idaho Small Business Development center 202 Falls avenue in Twin Falls, Wednesday January 24 starting at 12:30.

Mark your calendars for January 27th and start saving your seeds, because the Twin Falls Public Library is hosting a Seed Swap Event in collaboration with the Master Gardeners. Whether you have extra flower seeds, vegetable seeds, or unique heirloom varieties, this is your chance to exchange and diversify your garden collection. It's a fantastic opportunity to connect with fellow gardeners, learn from the experienced Master Gardeners from the University of Idaho Extension, and get a head start on planning your spring garden. Plus, you'll be contributing to a more vibrant and diverse local gardening community! Once again Saturday January 27th starting at 11 at the Twin Falls Library.

The 2024 Miller Research Potato Pest Management Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at the Wilson Theater. The meeting will run from 9:00 am to noon. Wilson Theater is located at 610 south Fremont avenue in Rupert.

Who's hungry for some delicious Basque style lamb served up in a community dinner, live music and fun? The Rupert Elk's Lodge will be hosting their Annual Lamb Feed on Saturday, January 20th kicking off at 6pm. Bring some cash for the silent auction and make it a great evening with your friends and family to help the Rupert Elk's raise money for local charities in one of their biggest fundraisers of the year! Only 300 tickets will be sold, they're \$35 each and can be purchased by stopping by the lodge at 85 South 200 West in Rupert, or call the lodge at 208-436-6852 to buy them over the phone. All proceeds to benefit the numerous charities they've supported in our community for over 65 years.

City of Rocks Park Rangers will be at the Twin Falls Public Library on January 13th to teach you the basics of snowshoeing! They'll cover the equipment you need, where to get it, and where to snowshoe in Southern

Idaho. After the presentation, join us in City Park for some hands-on practice (equipment is limited, BYO snowshoe if possible)! Ages 12+

Come see what McCain Foods has to offer at our next maintenance hiring event! We are looking for Mechanics, Leads and Electronic Techs! We will be at the Department of Labor in Burley on Wednesday, January 10th from 10 am – 4pm. Interviews will be conducted on the spot with offers for hire made within 48 hours.

Friday 010524

Twin Falls city council members voted to name Ruth Pierce as the mayor for a second term. The vote was five to seven.

A woman was charged with felony drug trafficking after Twin Falls deputies found large quantities of methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl pills and cash in her vehicle as she drove north on U.S. Highway 93. 31 year old Jessica Lundy was pulled over for driving erratically. They found nearly a pound of meth, along with fentanyl and Heroin along with marijuana.

Idaho officials including Governor Brad Little said more students than expected are applying for the Idaho LAUNCH program. The program, passed last legislative session, offers graduating high school students looking to enter a high-demand industry with 50 or more annual job openings, either 80% of their tuition or up to \$8,000 in grants. Initially they thought about 7 to 9,000 seniors would apply.

The 2024 Idaho legislative session begins Monday at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise, where Republican legislators will look to expand the Idaho Legislature's power and influence through budgetary changes and a slew of election year policy bills. Although there is no time limit for the annual legislative session, legislators will spend the next 70 to 90 days setting each element of the fiscal year 2025 state budget and considering new bills and administrative rules.

Police say a two car crash along Highway 75 in Lincoln County just after noon yesterday claimed the life of a 68 year old Hailey man. The head on crash sent the other driver, a 59 year old Ketchum man, to the hospital.

An ISP trooper was injured when his car was struck by another vehicle just after 6 last night. It happened in Power County. The trooper was pursuing a vehicle that fled from a traffic stop on I-86. The caravan was traveling the wrong way when the 35 year old Pocatello woman slammed head on into the trooper. The driver and two ISP troopers were transported to a local hospital.

Tomorrow is Cabin Fever days in Twin Falls. Many free events are scheduled throughout the city.

Friday 011224

With blizzard conditions and whiteout in parts of southern Idaho, we come on the air this morning with many several roads and school districts closed today. Also U.S. 20 from Mountain Home to Fairfield. State Highway 46 from Camas Gooding line to U.S. 20 is closed. U.S. 26 from Carey to Big Lost River is also closed. Twin Falls City Hall will operate with reduced staff to allow staff who live outside the City limits to work from home.

The twin Falls police department report they responded to the 400 block of Hankins Road just after midnight yesterday where gunshots were reported being fired outside of a residence. They found a 38 year old man who was armed with a rifle. The situation escalated leading an officer to shoot the suspect. There were no other injuries and no word on the condition of the suspect. The prosecutor from Ada County will investigate.

CSI announced yesterday that the performance o the Peking Acrobats will be canceled. They were set to perform next Wednesday. The cancellation is due to a delay in travel documents for the performers who were slated to travel to the United States from China this week.

The BLM wants to hear from you. They are looking for your thoughts about the silver city travel management plan environmental assessment. Motorized routes are planned for up to a 1000 miles in Owyhee county.

A new bill introduced yesterday in the Idaho Legislature would make it a crime to use sexually explicit images generated by artificial intelligence to harass victims or extort money from the victim depicted. If the bill is passed into law, it would become a crime to use sexually explicit media, generated by AI, to “annoy, terrify, threaten, intimidate, harass, offend, humiliate or degrade an identifiable individual depicted by the media.”

Yesterday afternoon two men were rescued after being caught in an avalanche near the Montana boarder. A third person is believed to be dead.

42 year old Erika Brock who is one of the suspects in the murder of Bill Eakin of Jerome had her hearing continued yesterday in Jerome. She faces accessory to first degree murder charges. She is currently in a recovery program.

Friday 011924

Idaho Gov. Brad Little is asking for almost \$6.6 million in the Idaho Department of Agriculture’s fiscal year 2025 budget to continue the state’s response to invasive quagga mussels detected last year in the Snake River near Twin Falls. Yesterday Idaho Department of Agriculture Director Chanel Tewalt told JFAC the department would use the new funding to pay for two new full time positions, 18 temporary positions, and double water monitoring and sampling activities and increase the number of wash stations.

For the 9th time, Senate Minority Leader Melissa Wintrow introduced the “Add the Words” bill in the Idaho Senate yesterday. The bill would place the words, “gender identity” and “sexual orientation” in the Idaho Human Rights Act.

Chad Daybell’s attorney John Prior was told he couldn’t withdraw from the murder case yesterday. The attorney had asked the court for two capitol certified attorneys since Daybell is facing the death penalty. He also said Daybell is now an indigent, not able to pay his bills.

An Idaho Republican senator wants to remove exceptions in Idaho’s abortion laws that allowed the procedure in cases of incest and rape reported to law enforcement. Republican Sen. Dan Foreman introduced the personal bill,

meaning the proposed law did not go through the standard committee process. Those bills rarely become law.

The new Rupert Mayor is looking at several improvements to the city. It's been just over a week since Tammy Jones became mayor. She said the city needs a new fire department and a upgraded wastewater plant. The mayor hopes to see the projects completed by 2026.

Intermountain Health will close or sell all Saltzer Health locations this spring after 63 years of serving the treasure valley area. The health group cited financial and economic difficulties for its decision to end operations by March 29. Saltzer Health has more than 400 employees and serves just under 80,000 patients annually.

Friday 012624

Legislation introduced in Idaho could put a halt to the planned sale of the old ITD building in Boise. The transportation headquarters from 1961 until the move to the former HP campus in West Boise was set for demolition and sale for redevelopment. Now, the sale could be nixed and if speaker of the house Mike Moyle and Representative Britt Raybould have their way, it will be remodeled and kept in state possession.

The Idaho Transportation Department is preparing for lane closures on the Perrine Bridge beginning Sunday which are expected to remain in place until Wednesday. Only one lane in one direction will be closed at a time. Crews will repair expansion joints that allow the bridge to expand and contract with the weather. This work is a part of ongoing maintenance to extend the life of the Perrine Bridge. Repairs are expected to continue into the spring.

The ITD is reminding motorists that they are beginning work on the south Jerome interchange. Soon the signs will be going up to redirect traffic. Motorists should expect road closures, traffic shifts and ramp changes.

Starting Monday, Idaho and the federal government will start processing individual income tax returns. Idahoans can visit the commission's website, tax.idaho.gov, for payments, help, forms and to check the status of returns. To

get your return faster, the commission recommends Filing your return sooner and filing your tax return online.

Despite fervent opposition from school trustees, administrators and teachers as well as concern from law enforcement officials, Idaho Republicans advanced a bill that would grant school employees the right to carry guns in classrooms and give them legal immunity if they engage in a gunfight on campus. The NRA backed legislation would grant school employees the right to carry guns on public school campuses, as long as they have an enhanced concealed weapon permit.

A Marsing woman was sentenced to up to 5 years in prison for Insurance fraud. Lanae Lynn Perez claimed insurance after a vehicle crash. She obtained insurance after the accident and attempted to alter the time.

Friday 020224

A motion was filed on behalf of Idaho's longest death row inmate to the Idaho Supreme Court to stay his execution. The Motion to Stay Execution of Thomas Creech was filed Wednesday. According to court documents, a date is set for oral arguments on Monday, Feb. 5. Both sides will be given five minutes to present their arguments against or in support of the appeal. He is set to be executed on Feb. 28.

A bill to expand contraception access in Idaho is making its way to the Senate floor after a public hearing in the Senate Commerce and Human Resources Committee yesterday afternoon. Senate Bill 1234 would require that insurance companies provide up to a six month supply of prescribed contraceptives to enrollees.

Just after 1 p.m. yesterday, Bingham County Sheriff's Office responded to a crash involving one of their deputies with another vehicle south of Goshen. The driver of A pickup that collided with the deputy's SUV died at the scene. The female deputy suffered serious injuries.

The Idaho Legislature's House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee voted to hold a potentially unconstitutional bill that would have allowed the

state to seek the death penalty for convictions of lewd conduct with a child under 12. Under current Idaho law, only first-degree murder is punishable by the death penalty.

Tax season is here. On Monday, the Idaho State Tax Commission and the Internal Revenue Service began processing state and federal tax returns. E-filing is the fastest way to get a refund. According to the Tax Commission, it takes eight weeks to get a refund when filing electronically versus 10 to 11 weeks when filing by paper. Idaho processed over one million individual income tax returns in 2023 and expects to process over 1.03 million in 2024.

Governor Brad Little will join up with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and 13 other governors Sunday. The group will be in Texas to see firsthand Texas efforts to secure the border. Two Idaho State police teams are headed to the state to assist.

Friday 020924

After trying to send a message to the Biden Administration alongside more than a dozen other Republican governors at the Texas-Mexico border, Governor Brad Little is calling on the federal government to secure the southern border. This past weekend Governor Little joined Texas Governor Greg Abbott and 13 other governors in Eagle Pass for a briefing about border issues. Little said the cartels not the American government and not the Mexico government are controlling access into our country. Governor Little is demanding action from the Biden Administration to secure the border.

A bill giving Idahoans living in mobile home parks a better chance to buy their park is heading to the House floor. The Idaho House Business Committee held a public hearing on a bill that would require owners to give 15 days of notice to a mobile home park association before a park is sold.

Republican state lawmakers in Idaho ousted a senior member of the Republican leadership in an escalation of a dispute over the way budgets for state agencies are passed. Rep. Megan Blanksma of Hammett was removed from her position as House majority leader. The vote came a day after Blanksma was the lone House leader to oppose budgets passed by a panel of

lawmakers, a controversial new process. Mike Moyle remains speaker of the house.

The Idaho Senate on Thursday narrowly passed a bill to require insurance companies to cover six months supplies of contraceptives. The Idaho Senate approved it on a 19-16 vote. The bill would require insurance companies to provide up to a six-month supply of prescribed contraceptives to people covered.

Three Creek resident Kim Brackett has been elected policy division chair of the national cattlemen's beef association. She operates a ranch on the Idaho Nevada Border.

42 year old Erika Brock appeared in court yesterday. She faces accessory to first degree murder charges of William Eaken of Jerome. The Judge suggested maintains contact with counsel if she wanted to avoid being taken back into custody. She will return back to court at the end of March.

Friday 021624

Authorities in Idaho Falls continue to investigate a shooting that killed one person and injured two others in the parking lot of one of the city's high school. Officers responded to Compass Academy around 1 a.m. Monday after a nearby deputy and residents reported hearing gunshots. None of the people involved attended the high school or had any connection to the school. Both the high school and a nearby elementary school were closed Monday.

In a resolution lawmakers are threatening a lawsuit opposing the University of Idaho's proposed University of Phoenix purchase. The bipartisan resolution, in the works for weeks, comes as the U of I and Phoenix hope to close the controversial \$685 million deal. It also sets up a high-stakes political showdown pitting lawmakers against Gov. Brad Little and the State Board of Education, who support the Phoenix purchase.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Census of Agriculture says Idaho is losing more farms than the national average. Over the past five years, almost one in 10 Idaho farms has shut down, according to the department's

numbers. The USDA says Idaho has lost more than 2,000 farms in five years, but the average farm has grown 8% in size.

A crucial element of Idaho's water supply, snowpack, is trending down. A Dartmouth study said since the 80's, the Northwest lost 5% to 10% of snowpack, each decade. They attribute the decrease to a changing climate.

40 year old Angelica Martinez who faces two first degree murder charges in the shooting at the Tint Shop 5 was in court yesterday. She has admitted to driving two men to the shop, waiting for them and then driving off. The three traveled to Mexico where she was told she was no longer needed.

In Pocatello, The preliminary hearing in a case involving a man accused of raping a 15-year-old, recording pictures and videos of the acts, then kidnapping her, has been waived with charges bound over to District Court. 18 year old Kadyn Leo Swainston will now appear before a district judge for arraignment on felony charges of rape, second-degree kidnapping and three counts of producing child porn.

Friday 022324

The family of Milo Warnock wants answers after he was beaten to death by another inmate at an Idaho prison in December. Idaho State Police said that their investigation was wrapping up and would be forwarded to the Ada County Prosecutor's Office "shortly" for review.

The Idaho Senate yesterday narrowly defeated the latest bill targeting "materials harmful to minors" in libraries.

Idaho Republican Party Chairwoman Dorothy Moon was within her rights to nullify a Bingham County election last year, a judge has ruled. District Court Judge Darren Simpson ruled in favor of the Idaho Republican Party in a lawsuit brought by the Bingham County Republican Central Committee, claiming Moon inappropriately used her power to negate an internal election.

If a new bill introduced Wednesday in the Idaho Legislature becomes law, cities, counties and other local units of government would be prohibited from

regulating knives. Rep. Jordan Redman sponsored the new bill, saying knives are a form of arms that are protected by the Second Amendment.

Idaho lawmakers unanimously passed a bill that would legalize fentanyl testing strips and exempt them under the state's drug paraphernalia law. Idaho is one of a few states across the nation where it is a misdemeanor crime to have the test strips in your possession. It moves on to the senate.

Jury selection began this week in a murder case that is almost 20 years old. Bradley Scott Compher is facing first-degree murder charges in the stabbing death of 25-year-old Nori Jones, of Pocatello, in 2004. Jones was murdered in her home on Pole Line Road in Pocatello. The case was cold for 10 years until DNA evidence linked Compher to the killing.

A new report shows Idaho has lost 22% of its OBGYNs since Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022 – that's more than 1 in 5.

Idahoans are leading the states when it comes to throwing in the towel. From December 2022 to December 2023, Idaho's workers quit their jobs 48.9% less.

Friday 030124

An Idaho judge is weighing whether the Idaho Attorney General's Office should pay \$187,000 in attorney fees connected to a scrutinized child care grant program. The lawsuits sought to block civil subpoenas issued in March 2023 by Attorney General Raúl Labrador. But the suits were closed late last year after those demands were withdrawn by a special prosecutor, who says there's still an ongoing investigation of how \$72 million of federal child care grants were spent in Idaho.

Payette police arrested a man after he led officers on a multi-state high speed chase and pointed a gun at officers. Tuesday evening just after 7, police say they received a call about a man making threats at a home. Michael Bullard was charged with multiple felonies after damaging a home and running from authorities. Oregon and Idaho police were both involved in the pursuit.

The Teton County Prosecutor is seeking the death penalty against Jeremy Best, a man accused of killing his wife, her unborn child and their toddler. The 48 year old was indicted by a grand jury in December for three counts of first-degree murder and three enhancements for the use of a firearm during the commission of a crime.

No action was taken by the Buhl City Council this week after a police officer shot Eli Johnson with a stun Gun after forcing their way into a home. Johnson was facing three felony charges, after he was pulled over in a routine traffic stop. Those charges were later dropped and now Johnson is considering legal action against the city.

The Idaho Secretary of State's Office unveiled a revamped version of the Vote Idaho website on Thursday as part of its effort to make official elections information easier to access. The new Vote Idaho site is available at voteidaho.gov.

The United States Geological Survey in Idaho say earthquake activity continues in central Idaho. In the last 36 hours, USGS recorded three events near Smiths Ferry, magnitude 3, 2.7 and 2.6, and a magnitude 2.7 northwest of Stanley.

Friday 030824

Shasta Grone, the Idaho woman who survived one of the state's most infamous killing sprees lost her Nampa home and everything inside to a fire Wednesday. In 2005, the now 27 year old was kidnapped, held captive and tortured. She endured the slaughter of her entire family, including her brother, who was taken along with Shasta and then killed in front of her. Authorities are investigating how the fire started. She and her 5 children escaped uninjured.

A bill to ban Idaho public funds from covering gender-affirming medications and surgeries for Idaho adults and children is headed to the Idaho House floor. The ban on using public dollars for gender-affirming care would explicitly apply to Idaho Medicaid.

The sale of the former ITD Boise headquarters is being discussed among lawmakers. Some want to restore the flood damaged building that has asbestos inside others want to sell the building estimated to be worth \$51-million.

Two people have died following a house fire in Twin Falls Wednesday morning. Authorities say a 59 year old man and 69 year old woman were killed at the home located in the 100 block of Starfire Street.

Chad Daybell is scheduled to be back in court today. Court Documents say there are two motions to discuss. One to challenge a state's motion to quash a subpoena and another to exclude Dr. Davidson as an expert witness. Daybell faces three first degree murder charges.

A Bellevue man who is well known in his community is fighting for his life after being kidnapped, beaten and thrown 21 feet down a ravine. Fredy Inca Cisneros was in Peru visiting family in January when the incident occurred. He suffered a broken spinal cord, broken ribs and a collapsed lung.

This week Idaho Governor Brad Little signed house bill 428. It is designed to cut unemployment insurance taxes by 20-percent for Idaho Businesses. The Idaho Department of Labor will send out rate notices.

Friday 031524

Last Thursday, an eastern Idaho republican committee censured Rep. Stephanie Mickelsen after they said she violated Idaho's GOP platform. In the summer of 2022, under the new leadership of Chair Dorothy Moon, Idaho's GOP established its new party platform. A return to conservative principles, they called it. She will not be able to run as a republican. The group also censured Sen. Kevin Cook. They said Rep. Mickelsen received her second censure for her House votes regarding school choice and parental rights, party disaffiliation, and conduct unbecoming of a Republican representative. It also resolved that Rep. Mickelsen isn't a real Republican.

The Idaho House of Representatives voted along party lines Thursday to pass a nonbinding resolution that supports the designation of a new traditional

family values month in Idaho. Although the resolution does not carry the force and effect of law, legislators engaged in a passionate debate over the proposal Thursday nevertheless.

In a 4-3 vote Thursday morning, Idaho lawmakers on the Senate State Affairs Committee voted to move a bill forward that would prohibit transgender and nonbinary Idahoans enrolled in Medicaid, or state employees enrolled in the state's insurance plan, from obtaining gender-affirming care. Promoters said the bill is aimed to protect taxpayer dollars, and it is a redrafted version of previous legislation presented earlier this session.

A judge has set the trial for Jeremy Best to start September 15th next year. Best was arrested last December and is charged with killing his wife Kali Randall, their unborn baby and their 10-month old son Zeke. Randall was found bleeding from a gunshot wound outside a shop at their home in Victor on November 30, 2023. After an extensive search, Best was found the following day by a pair of hunters on a desolate road in Bonneville County, sleeping nude on the side of the road in a sleeping bag. His son Zeke was found dead with him. He faces the death penalty.

Friday 032124

The two men who were the subject of a statewide manhunt are behind bars this morning. Yesterday afternoon around 2 Skylar Meade and Nicholas Umphenour were taken into custody at two separate locations in Twin Falls County. One just east of the Curry Crossing and the other at a house in Filer. The arrests followed a short vehicle pursuit. Early Wednesday morning Meade who had injured himself on purpose in the state prison was taken to St. Al's in Boise. When he was being escorted back, Umphenour opened fire at the hospital where 3 officers were injured. Both suspects are associated with white supremacy. Police say the two are suspects in a double murder that occurred in Northern Idaho that are tied to the escape.

The Idaho Legislature is requesting Office of Performance Evaluations investigate youth treatment homes. In response to InvestigateWest reporting

that uncovered allegations of child abuse and neglect at state-licensed facilities.

Library staff, board members and patrons testified at a Senate State Affairs Committee hearing this week to voice their opinions on the Legislature's most recent library bill that would regulate materials for minors. The committee will continue its discussion at a later time.

Motorists in Idaho will see an increase in troopers patrolling the states road. The ISP said they will increase patrols through the end of the month as they target dangerous driving behaviors.

The Idaho State Tax Commission is urging folks who get an identity verification letter from them to take the requested action. The letters are a part of the commission's fraud detection. Many victims don't know someone has filed a phony tax return on their behalf until they get a letter. If you get a letter and you have filed a return, the commission says you should follow the instructions and confirm your identity, then the processing of the refund will continue. If you get a letter and didn't file a return, you could be a victim of identity theft.

Friday 032924

Another person has been charged with helping Skylar Meade escape from the state prison in Boise. Tia Garcia was in custody at the Twin Falls county jail on a probation violation but authorities allege she had knowledge and was involved in the planning and execution of the escape. She is alleged to have aided Nicholas Umphenour by picking him up at the Boise airport and giving him her car to use in the escape plan. She later reported her car stolen.

After national outcry following the report of a racist harassment incident in North Idaho, several Idaho senators questioned the need for a resolution denouncing racism. In the end, the Idaho Senate adopted the resolution on a 33-1 vote. It's in response to an incident in Coeur d'Alene where people yelled racial slurs at a group of University of Utah's women's basketball players.

Members of a divided Idaho Senate on Thursday killed a major transportation budget, dashing any dwindling hopes of wrapping up the 2024 legislative session today. One of the major sticking points in the transportation budget was language revoking the state's authority to sell the ITD's former headquarters in Boise.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture says the first case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in Idaho livestock has been reported. The disease, also known as the bird flu, was found in cows at a Cassia County dairy. Officials said the dairy imported cattle from another state which had confirmed cases of the illness.

A judge in the trial of Chad Daybell has issued a gag order until after opening statements are made. Court documents say the silence order comes after counsel for the defense interviewed a reporter that was later broadcast.

A mountain lion may have been spotted in Twin Falls. It's been spotted several times over the past week. The last report was around 7 yesterday morning near Cascade Park off Stadium Boulevard.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little signed a bill into law, which would prohibit transgender adults and minors enrolled in Medicaid or those enrolled in the state's insurance from receiving gender-affirming medications or procedures.

Monday 010824

According to the Idaho Department of Labor, the state's 2023 population growth was more than double the national average of 0.5%. In July 2023, the U.S. Census estimated Idaho had a population of 1,964,726 a 1.3% increase from the same time in 2022. In 2023, 78% of Idaho's growth was from people moving to the Gem State from other places 82% domestic and 18% international. In 2022, international migration to Idaho was just 5%.

Idaho State Police is cracking down on mobile bars. Mobile bar carts that serve beer and wine at special events have grown in popularity recently. Without a liquor license and catering permit, it's a felony to operate a mobile bar. At least one person has recently been arrested.

Idaho Governor Brad Little will deliver his 2024 state of the state and Budget address this afternoon at 1. It will be made in the Idaho House Chambers.

A Boise couple says they sold their new home after they were told they couldn't display their Black lives matter flag. Somi and Jenna Ekwealor say they purchased their first home in the Southwest Boise Charter Pointe subdivision. When they displayed the flag, The Home Owners Association told them they were in violation of their contract. The family contends other flags continue to fly and feel they were discriminated.

An Elmore County privately-owned landfill will remain closed after a federal judge threw out the company's lawsuit against the county for shutting it down last year. In December, Idaho Regional Waste Services filed a suit in Idaho Federal District Court against Elmore County for revoking its conditional use permit to operate the Simco Road Regional Landfill after a long-running dispute over the disposal of tires at the site.

The \$50 million "parental choice tax credit" program could be re-introduced this legislative session. It seeks to open up public funds for private education.

Police in Idaho are warning the public that an armed and dangerous individual is driving around in an SUV impersonating a law enforcement officer and pulling over motorists. The imposter struck on Saturday night in Pocatello. Earlier on Saturday Chubbuck police said the suspect has been pulling over motorists in Chubbuck.

Monday 011524

Gov. Brad Little asked lawmakers to do something they and their predecessors have staunchly refused to do for decades, which sets the stage for a political showdown. Little wants the state to pay for school facilities — a responsibility currently carried on the shoulders of local property owners. Lawmakers have their own pet project: school choice. Momentum is gaining to use public moneys for private schools. House Speaker Mike Moyle said he believes there is room in the budget for both. But if either passes it would be unprecedented in Idaho.

The Idaho Lottery says one of the Idaho two million dollar winners have stepped forward. Long time McCall resident Andrew Nachman picked up his check. The other winning million dollar ticket was sold in Benewah County and has not been claimed. The winning number is 091588.

It's something that hasn't happened in nearly a year – today, Idaho's average price for a gallon of regular gasoline is the same as the national average. Both are currently at \$3.07 per gallon, with the Gem State just a third of a penny more expensive. Idaho's average price is about seven cents less than a week ago, 35 cents less than a month ago, and 31 cents less than a year ago.

Monday 012224

Fire investigators spent some time in Buhl sifting through the ashes of a home that claimed the life of one person. The fire was reported Thursday. They used a search dog to find the victim. The fire was so intense that search and rescue had to use heavy equipment to eliminate some of the dangers. The cause of the fire was combustible materials near a wood burning stove.

Idaho's Commission of Pardons and Parole heard pleas for mercy and cries for justice on Friday at a commutation hearing for Thomas Creech, the longest-serving man on Idaho's death row. Creech, now 73, has been on death row since 1983 for the beating death of fellow inmate David Jensen in 1981. His defense team is asking for life in prison without the possibility of parole, rather than death. Creech has admitted to killing or participating in the killing of at least 26 people.

Idaho along with California, Oregon and Washington are proposing legislation to make standard time permanent. In Idaho, the standard time bill has been drafted and will move to the House State Affairs committee.

As the Idaho Legislative Session got underway last week, Gov. Brad Little announced education would continue to be his priority this year. During his State of the State Address, he introduced a 10-year, \$2 billion plan to replace Idaho's aging public school buildings.

Early Friday morning police in Twin Falls were called to Sundance road with the report of shots fired. Following a six hour standoff, a SWAT team entered the residence to find a man who had committed suicide. Earlier they removed a woman who may have been a victim of domestic violence.

The Nampa Police Department is investigating a fatal hit-and-run that happened early yesterday. At 12:48 a.m., Nampa Dispatch received a call reporting a pedestrian had been struck by a driver on the 300 block of 2nd Street South in Nampa. According to the caller, the driver who struck the pedestrian fled the scene. The 30-year-old female victim was transported by EMS to a Boise hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

Monday 012924

There is no school in Jerome today. Not because of the weather, but because the lack of teachers. Some on social media are saying teachers are upset that the district decided not to go to a 4 day a week schedule.

Governor Brad Little said he is sending two more teams of Idaho State police troopers to the Texas Mexico border to assist with securing the nations border. Little said he proclaimed January Idaho Stands with Texas in securing the nations border month.

A man's body found in a farmer's field last week near Idaho Falls has been identified by local law enforcement. The Bonneville County Sheriff's Office said the man is 37 year old Cory Nichols and he is believed to be homeless from the Bonneville County area.

Latah County District Judge John C. Judge held off Friday on setting a trial date for Bryan Kohberger, the 29-year-old Pennsylvania criminologist accused of killing four University of Idaho students in a 4 a.m. ambush in November 2022, over concerns by prosecutors and defense lawyers about the time it would take to be ready for the proceeding. Judge also denied a motion to dismiss the quadruple murder charges against Kohberger, citing potential delays to the case, and denied a defense request to appeal to the Idaho Supreme Court.

A proposed new amendment to the Idaho Constitution would ask Idaho voters to decide in November whether to limit the length of any special session of the Idaho Legislature to 20 days. The Idaho Legislature's Senate State Affairs Committee voted Friday to send Senate Joint Resolution 104 to the floor of the Idaho Senate with a recommendation it passes.

The Hawai'i Island Police said a missing woman visiting from Idaho has been found. Police said she was found Saturday morning in the Puna district and was in good health. She had been reported missing Thursday, Jan. 25.

The two police dogs that were stabbed by a suspect who police later shot have been released. The dogs were seriously injured by a man who authorities later shot south of Boise.

Monday 020524

Twelve of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee's 20 members rebelled against the legislative committee's co-chairs on Friday, going around committee leaders to pass new, standalone budgets that are in direct competition with the bare-bones maintenance budgets JFAC passed Jan. 16. In the short term, Friday's budget votes suggest a majority of JFAC members rejected the way JFAC's co-chair broke the budgets into different pieces this year.

Although he is prepared to work with whatever alterations legislators come up with, Idaho Gov. Brad Little said the changes that the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee is making to the state's budget process could have unintended consequences. . One concern is it could make it more difficult to pass recommendations and requests for new funding.

The ITD said they made a mistake when it comes to the Boise to Salt Lake passenger train proposal. Idaho officials announced they applied for a half million dollar grant to study the plan. Turns out a staff member submitted the request to the wrong link on the internet.

A 59 year old Twin Falls man has been charged with attempting to fraudulently transfer a property belonging to a man who died in 2022. Patrick

Kenneth Bennett showed a quitclaim deed for \$18,000 for a Buhl Home. The property was assessed at more than \$122 thousand.

Police in Caldwell are looking for a man this morning who they say sexually assaulted a woman last night. It happened around 7 near Middleton road. Police say the suspect should be considered armed and dangerous.

ISP says they are continuing their investigation into the fatal crash that occurred near Idaho Falls last week that involved a Bingham County Deputy. The female officer apparently drifted over the center line crashing into a pickup. The 80 year old male driver died. A 78 year old passenger and the deputy were seriously injured and transported to a nearby hospital.

Monday 021224

A small airplane crash landed near the Burley airport Saturday afternoon leaving the pilot injured. It happened around 12:40 pm. Authorities said the pilot was forced to crash land the plane at Burley's airport after the aircraft suffered oil pressure failure. He was the plane's only occupant. The plane landed at the airport but continued off the runway and through a fence before coming to a stop outside of Snake River Sports and Marina. The plane was flying from Edmonton Canada to Mexico.

A 24 year old female from Murtaugh along with 4 passengers were injured when the car they were in failed to negotiate a curve along U.S. 30 near Buhl late Friday night. The roadway was blocked for about 30 minutes.

Idaho governor Brad Little has asked all US and State flags fly at half-staff until tomorrow to honor Capt. Benjamin Moulton of Emmett. He along with 4 other marines was killed last week when their helicopter crashed in Southern California.

Idaho State police made a large drug bust last Thursday near Pocatello. Police say they found 5 and a half pounds of Meth and 3000 fentanyl pills inside a spare tire.

Idaho Republican state legislators advanced several bare-bone budgets Friday, in an apparent endorsement of a new budget process playing out in

the powerful Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee that has now spilled onto the House and Senate floors. Rep. Greg Lanting of Twin Falls voted against the public school budget saying it would cut education by quite a bit.

An Idaho state representative wants to build out the state's law against cannibalism over fears that the composting of human remains could lead to humans consuming other humans. Republican Heather Scott floated a bill that would make it illegal to serve "the flesh and blood of another human being" to someone who does not know or consent to it.

A semi crash Saturday morning blocked both eastbound lanes of I-86 traffic. The accident happened near American Falls when the semi struck some ice and rolled.

Monday 021924

This morning authorities are continuing their investigation into an early morning hit and run accident in Twin Falls. Just after 1 am, police say two vehicles struck a person that was walking. Police say anyone who may have witnessed the incident in the area of Addison and Washington Street should contact them. One of the vehicles could be a light color 2000 Ford F 150 extended cab. No word yet on the condition of the injured person.

The defense attorney for Chad Daybell has filed a motion to request more time or that evidence he claims is new be omitted from trial. It's expected that the trial will begin April 1st in Boise. Attorney John Prior said he needs time for experts to review findings the state has with new information from Arizona. Daybell is accused of killing JJ Vallow, Tylee Ryan and his former wife.

Friday, police say a shooting in Caldwell has left a female injured. It happened around 10:30 and may have started as a road rage incident where a known gang member fired several shots into a car with two children and a young child. It happened near the intersection of Indiana and Ustick.

Idahoans could receive a state-issued voter guide for primary and general elections under a new bill headed to the Idaho Senate. Idaho Secretary of State Phil McGrane said it would require the Idaho secretary of state to

prepare and distribute voter guides before primary and general elections. The bill would expand upon and replace a voters pamphlet already mailed to Idahoans.

The Selway Bitterroot Frank Church Foundation is accepting volunteers for trail maintenance projects in Idaho and Montana forests between May and September. There are eight opportunities for volunteers to take part in projects spanning across the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness and the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.

Baxter's Dog Park located at 240 Shoup Ave. West is closed until further notice due to wet conditions causing turf damage. The city of Twin Falls said it will remain closed until the dirt dries out.

Monday 022624

Idaho state police say a 29 year old female died over the weekend after being struck by a train. It happened in Payette county Friday evening around 6:30. The woman was walking on the tracks when she was hit.

Two people were killed in Bannock county Saturday afternoon in a head on collision. One of the victims was from Preston the other from Hyrum Utah.

Idaho lawmakers are working to get an official state license plate featuring the Gadsden flag, the yellow flag from the Revolutionary War era featuring a coiled rattlesnake and the phrase "Don't Tread on Me," serving as a popular symbol of opposition to the violation of personal liberties.

In an effort to block a proposed open primary ballot initiative, a Republican Idaho legislator is proposing an amendment to the Idaho Constitution that would limit elections to one round of voting. Rep. Vito Barbieri is sponsoring the proposed amendment, House Joint Resolution 3. If ratified it would prohibit ranked choice voting, which is one of the components of the open primary ballot initiative that supporters hope to qualify for November.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals panel in San Francisco has decided not to delay Idaho's scheduled execution of one of the nation's longest-serving death row inmates. 73 year old Thomas Creech has been convicted of five murders:

three in Idaho, one in California and one in Oregon. But he has confessed to dozens of killings.

Lawmakers should take “appropriate legal action” against the proposed University of Phoenix acquisition, according to an attorney for the Legislature. Elizabeth Bowen says the State Board of Education has no power to acquire Phoenix, and move the for-profit online school under the umbrella of a nonprofit aligned with the University of Idaho.

This morning, there are several weather warnings and advisories from the national weather service. A winter storm warning for up to 9 to 18 inches of snow combined with wind in Blaine County. A Wind advisory with up to 55 miles an hour for southern Idaho and Twin Falls county could see 1 to 4 inches of snow today.

Monday 030424

Republicans across Idaho came together Saturday to decide on the republican presidential nominee. As expected, former president Donald Trump was the clear choice. The democrats will caucus on May 23rd.

Hundreds gathered yesterday for a memorial service for Marine Captain Benjamin Moulton. He was among the 5 killed in a helicopter crash in California February 6. Friends, family and Marines shared stories and memories of the Emmett Marine during the emotional service on Boise State's campus.

A 37 year old female from Twin Falls was injured in a car accident over the weekend that killed one person. Police say an eastbound pickup was traveling between Boise and Mountain Home when the driver lost control. The pickup rolled several times. The driver a 38 year old Boise resident died.

Today, people are gathering in Boise to protest laws that they feel are anti-LGBTQ. The event is called March forth. Organizers say lawmakers have introduced 16 bills that target or would affect some in Idaho in a roundabout way.

The Twin Falls Sheriff's office is warning residents of a phone scam that appear to originate from their office. The caller claims the victim has missed Jury duty and a warrant has been issued for their arrest. They demand money to avoid legal action. Officials say they will never make calls of that nature.

Members of the Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee are attempting to block the \$51 million sale of Idaho Transportation Department's flooded former State Street headquarters in Boise calling on the department to refurbish the building, not sell it. The building contains Asbestos which was discovered after a pipe broke and flooding the facility.

The Idaho House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee essentially killed a bill that would have created a new \$420 mandatory minimum fine for marijuana possession. It was for anyone convicted of possessing less than 3 ounces of marijuana in Idaho.

Monday 031124

Two accidents along highway 93 over the weekend injured one and claimed the life of another. ISP tells us an accident just after 11 Saturday night happened between Jerome and Twin Falls with a semi driven by a 58 year old Buhl resident was struck in the rear by a 28 year old female from Twin Falls. The female was transported to the hospital with injuries. The southbound lanes were blocked for an hour and a half. Another accident just before 1 Saturday afternoon happened between Jerome and Shoshone. A 69 year old Shoshone woman died when she lost control of her vehicle on the snow covered road. She collided head on by a southbound SUV.

The Idaho Falls Police SWAT teams arrested a 23-year-old male Saturday night after two people were shot, killing one of them. Shortly before 9:00 p.m. on Saturday night, a call to 911 reported a burglary in progress at a residence.

Two similar versions of legislation to narrow Idaho's "Terrorist Control Act" to only apply to those connected to foreign terrorist organizations failed to find enough support to move out of an Idaho House of Representatives committee. Critics began raising concerns that the bill would render useless

the Terrorism Control Act, which had been developed in response to a white supremacist bombing in North Idaho.

Allowing school staff to carry guns is on the minds of an Idaho senate committee. Friday a new bill was introduced after the first one stalled in the senate. The new version still gives school staff with enhanced concealed carry permits the right to have a weapon. It has additional training requirements, and it gives local school boards some discretion.

A teenager from the Mini-Cassia area is facing charges after running from police. Officials say it started at 5:15 a.m. Friday, when the juvenile driver was speeding down the road near the intersection of 275 West and 100 South. A deputy pursued before the vehicle crashed. He was soon located and airlifted for medical assistance.

Monday 031824

Idaho's labor market and economy are expected to witness healthy growth between now and 2032, with the above sectors representing over one-third of new jobs created, according to the Idaho Department of Labor. In general, Idaho's economic and job growth over the next decade is projected to outpace the U.S. average.

More than 275 candidates filed to run for legislative races, congressional races or judicial positions in Idaho. The filing period for all Idaho candidates running for office this year closed at 5 p.m. Friday.

The Idaho State Tax Commission is reminding Idahoans who don't make enough money to file taxes, they can get a refund from their grocery shopping. For most Idaho residents it would be \$120, plus \$120 for each qualifying dependent, and residents who are 65 and older get \$140.

A former Idaho State Trooper who is currently on trial for the alleged murder of his wife was arrested Friday night at the Spokane International Airport. Daniel Charles Howard was arrested by Spokane International Airport police at 10:40 p.m. on Friday. Howard's trial started on March 4 and is expected to

wrap up at the beginning of next week. He's been out of police custody since December 20, 2023 on a property bond.

The USS Idaho, the U.S. Navy's newest warship, was christened and named Saturday morning in Connecticut. The USS Idaho Commissioning Committee organized watched parties across the Gem State to bring together Idahoans to celebrate the historic moment.

Idaho State Police say a blown tire lead to the fatal crash that happened Saturday near Mountain Home on I-84. Police say a A 45-year-old male from Filer, was traveling westbound on Interstate 84 when the tire blew causing the vehicle to exit the roadway off the right shoulder where it rolled. There were six occupants in the vehicle; three adults and three juveniles. One of the juveniles succumbed to injuries at the scene. Three others were airlifted for treatment while two were taken by ambulance.

Monday 032524

A valve accidentally left open is being blamed for a 10-thousand gallon above ground diesel spill over the weekend. It happened Saturday afternoon and contaminated three miles of Mason creek in Nampa. That's a 18 mile tributary to the Boise river. A safety system that would have prevented the leak failed.

Within the span of a few minutes, two big bills passed at the Idaho Statehouse last week, moving the 2024 session out of neutral, and maybe closer to conclusion. A deeply divided House narrowly passed a spending bill to fund Idaho Launch a brand-new but popular grant program. Then the Senate passed a bill to provide \$1 billion for school facilities wrapped within an income tax cut and a spate of school policy changes.

As part of the construction of the City of Twin Falls Hankins Pressure Zone Project, Filer Ave. E from Hankins Road to Meadowview Ln. will be closed this week. A new 12 inch water line is being installed. Traffic will detour to Stadium Blvd.

Automobile gas prices are soaring upward. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.51, which is 16 cents higher than a week ago and 42 cents higher than a month ago.

Idaho Democrats called on Republican legislators on Friday to introduce legislation that would stop the departure of OB-GYNs, create health exceptions for pregnant women in the state's abortion ban, and protect access to in vitro fertilization services. Since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned in June 2022, Idaho, like 13 other states across the country, implemented a near-total ban on abortions.

Idaho Department of Corrections is looking for a woman who left her community job. Whitney Jo Pattee was last seen Sunday, Mar. 24 at 4:10 p.m. at her job in downtown Boise. She was up for parole in July 2024. She has been convicted in the past of possession and delivery of a controlled substance.

Thursday 010424

In a move that could be the end of private solar panels that were installed to generate power to sell back to Idaho Power, the Idaho Public Utility Commission approved a new way the power company must pay for the power. They approved a net billing system instead of kilowatt hour for kilowatt hour. The Sierra Club said the new compensation rate will be 5.96 cents down from 8.8 cents. That could mean the cost of new solar panels will favor corporate solar ownership.

Idaho student murders suspect Bryan Kohberger's defense team has asked the judge to reconsider his denial of their efforts to have the indictment against him dismissed as prosecutors look to speed up the clock for the quadruple stabbing suspect's trial. Judge John Judge scheduled a closed-door hearing on the defense motion for Jan. 26.

An anti-government leader with Arizona ties who was ordered to pay more than 50-million dollars in a defamation lawsuit recently resurfaced on social media after going into hiding. Right-wing extremist Ammon Bundy, in a post on X said he was driven out of his home in Idaho and has lost millions of

dollars because of the lawsuit. Some reports say Bundy may be living in southern Utah.

The average teacher salary in Idaho increased by 9.1% to \$61,516 this school year. Average salaries are up \$5,151 since the 2022-23 school year. And average salaries have increased by 28% over the past 10 years, since the inception of the career ladder.

The Idaho State Capitol in Boise was searched and cleared early yesterday after Idaho was among several states that received nonspecific, emailed bomb threats that day. The threat was reported around 5:30 am.

Jeremy Best who is accused of Killing his wife, unborn child and his 5 month old son appeared in court yesterday. The 48 year old faces murder charges.

Following a ban that prevented the crop from entering most of Mexico until 2022, Idaho officials in a recent trade mission were eager to spotlight fresh potatoes. The state and 20 Idaho businesses joined Gov. Brad Little in November for a five-day trade mission to Mexico City.

Thursday 011124

The Idaho Secretary of State's Office is warning about scams targeting small businesses. Small businesses are receiving mailers that look like official government forms offering business compliance filings, including certificates of existence or UCC statements. The advertisements demand large fees and include deadlines to create a false sense of urgency. Idaho businesses rarely need the advertised documents and if they do, the forms can be obtained directly from the state.

For now, Boise-based Albertsons remains a standalone company, not with parts sold to Kroger or C&S Wholesale Grocers. With the merger hanging in the balance, Albertsons continues to see strong sales and profit results, as noted in its third-quarter earnings report. The company said it saw net sales & revenue grow to \$18.6 billion in the quarter, which ended on December 2nd – up two percent from the \$18.2 billion in the same period of 2022.

The Idaho Legislature has resumed its efforts to enact a law to prevent libraries from providing “harmful materials” to minors. Last year, Governor Brad Little vetoed the bill. The bill last year would have allowed minors, parents or guardians to sue a library for \$2,500 for a violation of the bill. Under the new legislation, a form could be filled out asking libraries to relocate a library item that they deem “harmful” to the adult section.

The BLM will implement an annual seasonal motorized travel closure in the South Hills area, south of Twin Falls, starting next tuesday. The closure is intended to prevent resource damage and protect crucial mule deer winter range and sage-grouse habitat. The area remains open to the public for non-motorized use.

Police are continuing to search for two males identified as El Guero and El Diablo following the murder of Jamie Bravo and Jesse Ortiz-Meda. They died following a shooting at the Tint Shop V on December 1st. 40 year old Angelica Martinez was allegedly the getaway driver. Her court date has been pushed back to March 1st.

Keep listening to this radio station for the latest weather related school Closures.

Thursday 011824

Two more state of Idaho road plows were damaged following separate collisions yesterday. The first happened at 6 am on I-84 near milepost 173 near Twin Falls. A semi-Truck failed to slow for the plow striking the back of the state rig. A second occurred around 12:30 yesterday near Wendell. Police say the plow driver was working the freeway when another semi-truck failed to slow and collided with the plow. Both snowplow drivers were taken to the hospital for treatment. The snowplows will be out of service for about 2 weeks.

Traffic deaths in Idaho have reached a 20 year high while the numbers show that pedestrian deaths have doubled. Over 277 people were killed in the gem state. There were 16 pedestrian deaths in 2022 compared to 31 last year.

In Idaho Falls authorities have charged a 42 year old Spokane man with first degree murder of a missing woman. He reportedly lived with her body for three weeks. Chris Foiles allegedly admitted to killing 34 year old Megan Stedman. Police were notified of a suspicious RV. They found a 1973 Dodge RV, which was being looked for by Montana law enforcement in connection to Stedman, a missing endangered woman of Bozeman.

Trash collection was halted yesterday. The next pickup will be next week.

The department of interior announced yesterday plans to increase renewable energy plans for federal land. Renewable projects are planned for several western states and will include wind, solar and geothermal locations on public land.

A new bill in the Idaho Legislature is designed to combat the use of artificial intelligence to manipulate a candidate's recorded speech. Yesterday, the House Judiciary, Rule and Administration Committee introduced a new bill that would allow a candidate to seek injunctive relief prohibiting the publication of the materials and seek damages. They say AI generated images and videos have become sophisticated enough to mislead the public during election campaigns.

Thursday 012524

The Ada county sheriff's office is investigating a shooting that happened yesterday morning. Authorities say 37 year old Jeremiah Gaver is dead. He attempted to run from officers but not before stabbing two K-9 dogs who were badly injured.

Jerome School Superintendent Dr. Patrick Charlton announced that he plans to retire in June. The school board plans to utilize the Idaho School Boards Association to help find a new superintendent.

A bill that would impose mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of trafficking fentanyl is heading to the floor of the Idaho House of Representatives for a vote, where it already has the support to pass. The

Idaho Legislature's House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee voted Tuesday to send House Bill 406 to the House floor.

An Idaho Republican is again working on legislation to change legal definitions of "sex" under Idaho code. According to the legislation, gender would be considered a synonym for sex rather than gender identity. The legislation would also add definitions of boy, father, female, girl, male and mother into Idaho Code.

Maegan Hanson became a librarian because of her love of reading. Her favorite part of her job is helping people discover their next favorite book. Hanson is the Buhl Public Library director, doubling as its children's librarian. But in her one year serving as library director, she said she regularly considers leaving the profession because of the stress. She said that legislation establishing an adults only section would be impractical in her small, one-room library.

The Jerome school district will not implement a 4 day week. After consideration Superintendent Pat Charlton recommended the school district remain 5 days a week. Heritage charter school will continue with a 4 day schedule.

Yesterday, Kevin Kuintzle appeared in a Jerome courtroom. He is charged with the Murder of 84 year old Bill Eakin last September. His next court hearing is set for March 13th at 2 pm. The other suspect Erika Brock is currently in a treatment program in Boise.

Thursday 020124

A hangar collapse at Rickenbacker Street and Luke Street near the Boise Airport left three people dead and nine people injured yesterday evening just after 5. A privately owned hanger that was under construction collapsed. Five of the nine injured are in critical condition and all are being treated at local hospitals.

The bill that would allow teachers to carry guns with an enhanced concealed carry permit has passed the Idaho House 53-16 with one absent. It now heads to the senate.

Defense attorneys representing Bryan Kohberger, the man accused of murdering four University of Idaho students in November 2022, filed a motion yesterday requesting a change in venue for the case. Kohberger's attorneys argue that a fair and impartial jury comprised of Latah County residents couldn't exist due to the case's pretrial publicity.

A man was found dead by police early yesterday after officers responded to a call to a Nampa Alley. At 3:38 a.m., a caller said a man was lying in an alley in the 1200 block of 3rd Avenue North. Upon arrival, first responders found a man dead with "what appeared to be stab wounds. The victim was identified as 29-year-old Abel Saenz of Caldwell. One person is in custody.

37 year old Brandon Aaron Drake of Twin Falls could be spending up to 24 years in prison if he is found guilty of a pair of felony burglary and grand theft charges. He allegedly illegally entered a business in north Hailey in August 2023 and stole nearly \$4,000 worth of equipment that included tools, a generator and power distribution boxes.

An Ada County judge has rejected an open meetings lawsuit against the State Board of Education a potential breakthrough for the \$685 million University of Phoenix purchase. The State Board "reasonably believed" the University of Idaho was vying with other bidders for Phoenix, justifying its closed-door discussions, Ada County District Judge Jason Scott ruled. Scott's ruling clears one major obstacle blocking the U of I's proposed Phoenix purchase.

Thursday 020824

A divided Idaho House of Representatives voted 38-31 to pass the first of 10 omnibus budget bills that are at the center of a budget showdown in the Idaho Legislature. The vote to pass the fiscal year 2025 budget for the judicial branch appears to represent a narrow political victory for Republican House Speaker Mike Moyle.

The lawyers for Thomas Creech, Idaho's longest-serving death row inmate, have filed a federal complaint against State of Idaho prosecutors, and are asking the state to pause his upcoming execution. According to the Federal Defender Services of Idaho state prosecutors violated his constitutional rights. They are also asking for a new commutation hearing, saying the tie vote shows the commission was clearly torn.

The Hollister School could become a charter school. Currently the elementary school is part of the Filer District. Currently the discussion is in the beginning stages and organizers are looking for community feedback.

A bill determining the future of pesticide-related lawsuits is headed to the Idaho Senate floor. The bill would add language to existing Idaho laws to protect agricultural pesticide products our farmers and ranchers depend on.

Gray wolves in Idaho will not be relisted under the Endangered Species Act despite conservationist concerns. The decision concluded more than two years of analysis in response to multiple petitions regarding the animals' status in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and parts of Oregon, Washington and Utah. Environmentalists say stand by for the lawsuits.

Most Idaho state employees could soon be required to return to the office under a new bill making its way through the Statehouse. The bill would require state offices to allow a maximum of 15% of its staff to work remotely on any given day.

Idahoans elected to state or federal offices including the Idaho Legislature would not be allowed to simultaneously serve in elected local positions under a new bill state lawmakers introduced yesterday. The proposed law would take effect Jan. 1, 2025 if passed.

Thursday 021524

There are several weather warnings from the national weather service for parts of southern Idaho. A warning for up to 6 to 10 inches of snow with possible 12 to 24 inches on the higher peaks in West Central Mountains, Stanley and Galena Summit through 5 pm this afternoon. There is also an

avalanche watch for much off the backcountry in Camas and Blaine County. Winds could also be a factor with 35 mile per hour gusts in those areas.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee voted to provide \$11.6 million in next year's budget to fight invasive quagga mussels that were detected last year in the Snake River near Twin Falls. The money is included in the new spending requests in the enhanced fiscal year 2025 budget for the Idaho State Department of Agriculture.

The new hangar near the Boise Airport that collapsed late last month was a key piece in a long-range project to revamp the Boise Airport campus. It's not currently clear how the interconnected projects will move forward. The airport has seen passenger volumes surge in recent years as the Boise metro area continues to grow.

The Idaho Senate will now review a recommendation from the legislature that could add the death penalty for Lewd Conduct cases involving a minor. The legislature also passed on a bill that would allow prosecutors to levy charges of sexual exploitation of a child when images of children are generated by artificial intelligence.

News reporters will not be allowed inside the Idaho Republican presidential caucus on March 2 or allowed to observe party officials tabulating results at party headquarters, raising concerns among some transparency advocates. Idaho Republican Party's rules for the caucus only allow registered Republicans and their minor children to attend.

Most Idahoans qualify to e-file their taxes for free but according to the Idaho Tax commission only 10 percent take advantage of the offer. If your adjusted gross income is less than \$79,000 a year, you're likely eligible. That's about 70-percent of Idahoans.

Thursday 022224

Just before 7 last night authorities in Heyburn issued a warning to residents to evacuate. The order was made for those living within the three blocks of 21st

street and Mona Avenue. Police say they were called to a residence on Mona Street on a report of gunfire. For a time they negotiated with a person inside the home. Later when they entered they found the person died by suicide.

A 36 year old Jerome man died from injuries he received from a crash just after 5:30 yesterday afternoon. Police say the victim was westbound on 700 north when he crossed the center line and struck another vehicle head on. The other driver was air lifted for medical treatment.

Starting Monday motorists who travel on I-84 near Burley and Heyburn will want to know this. The upgrade for the interchanges near both communities will begin. Both multi-year projects include replacing the interchanges. Both were built in the 1960's. It's expected that construction will continue through late 2026 and will cost around 85 million dollars.

An Idaho bill is trying to remove the six-month waiting period for a non-fee ID card for voting. Idaho House of Representatives passed House Bill 532. The bill addresses some issues including the removal of student IDs as a valid form of personal identification and provided no-fee IDs to people who have not had a driver's license for at least six months, but need an ID to vote.

The Child Protection Legislative Oversight Committee will meet on this morning at 8 to highlight various Idaho foster care crises. The committee will discuss the increasing reliance on Airbnbs and short-term rentals to house children, foster child rights violations and foster parent concerns with system oversight.

The body of 27 year old Captain Ben Moulton who died in a helicopter crash in California February 6th in a military training exercise is being returned to Idaho this afternoon. Around 3:30 a processional will begin at the Boise Airport and will travel to Emmett City Park for a public ceremony. ISP will assist with the processional. They hope to arrive in Emmett around 4:30.

Thursday 022924

Thomas Creech, who was to be executed by lethal injection, was returned to his cell yesterday morning after the medical team couldn't establish an IV line. Now his death warrant has expired and the state is considering the next steps.

The Idaho House of Representatives voted unanimously to pass a bill that would make it a crime to share sexually explicit images of real people that were generated by artificial intelligence. It would also become a crime to threaten to disclose sexually explicit AI generated media for the purpose of obtaining money or something else of value.

Ranchers whose livestock are killed by grizzly bears and wolves could get more financial support from the state of Idaho under a bill making its way through the statehouse. The bill would set up a \$225,000 annual fund to reimburse ranchers for livestock losses. It would be managed by the Idaho State Department of Agriculture. The federal Wildlife Services reported that wolves were responsible for 85 livestock deaths in 2023.

Instead of cutting the ribbon, Twin Falls fire department members separated the hose to open the newest fire station this week. Station 3 is finished with the city spending about \$8-million on the facility.

Thursday 030724

Attorneys representing the man accused of murdering four University of Idaho Students are asking the Idaho Supreme Court to step in on a recent decision by the district court judge overseeing the case. According to newly released court documents, Byran Kohberger's defense is appealing Latah County District Court Judge John Judge's decision not to toss Kohberger's grand jury indictment. Kohberger's attorneys argue the indictment should be thrown out due to inaccurate grand jury instructions.

The Idaho legislature gave a universal green light in both chambers to move a house bill to the Governor's desk in an effort to curb "home equity theft. Home equity theft occurs when a county government repossesses a property with outstanding property tax debts. After selling the property, the government keeps the entire sale value even if the sale is greater than the tax debt owed.

A former congressional candidate was identified by Las Vegas police as the murder suspect in the death of Christopher Tapp. Las Vegas Police said an arrest warrant for 45 year old Daniel Rodimer, was filed yesterday. He is being charged with open murder. Police found Tapp injured from what they believed was an accident turned out to be blunt force trauma. He later died. Tapp spent 20 years in prison, and in 2017, he was released from prison after it was ruled he was wrongfully convicted in the murder of Angie Dodge.

A bill that would place restrictions on who could apply for an absentee ballot in Idaho was sent out for possible amendments Wednesday after members of the public and several state and county elections officials came out against the bill. Under the bill, a voter would only be able to request an absentee ballot if they were unable to vote in-person on Election Day. Currently, Idaho voters can request an absentee ballot for any reason.

The Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee adopted a revenue projection. JFAC members, who set the state budget, voted 17-0 to set their revenue target for the fiscal year 2025 at \$5.9 billion.

A bill that would let Idaho law enforcement officials temporarily detain people who are a danger to themselves or others because of neurological conditions, like Alzheimer's, widely passed the Idaho Senate. The bill would allow for 24-hour holds for neurological patients in crisis that health care providers can halt at any time.

Thursday 031424

The Twin Falls Coroner has identified the couple who died in a house fire last Wednesday. 59 year old Pete George and 69 year old Carolyn George died from smoke inhalation and heat after flicking cigarettes into the fireplace.

The man charged in the death of 84 year old William Bill Eakin in September of last year was back in court yesterday. Yesterday Kevin Kuintzle appeared for his status conference and scheduling conference. He faces first degree murder charges. According to the court, the preliminary hearing delayed partly because of the lack of availability for witnesses.

A bill that would require Idaho public and school libraries to move materials deemed harmful to children, or face lawsuits, passed the Idaho House

yesterday. House Bill 710 follows years of attempts by the Idaho Legislature to regulate materials deemed harmful to children in Idaho libraries. Idaho Republican House lawmakers clashed over whether there's an issue with libraries distributing "harmful materials" to minors in a tense floor debate.

Blackfoot authorities say a man died yesterday after the homeowner shot him in what investigators believe was a home invasion. The homeowner, an elderly woman, had been injured.

The Idaho House has voted to approve House Bill 613. It would ban commercial advertising of marijuana in the State of Idaho and heads to the senate for consideration. Marijuana has been legalized in some form in most of Idaho's neighboring states.

Interstate 84 is still closed in eastern Oregon, due to a semi-truck crash yesterday. According to the Oregon Department of Transportation, all lanes of travel between Baker City and Ontario are blocked, as of 8:30 p.m. The eastbound lanes between Pendleton and Baker City are also closed.

The blm is extending seasonal motorized travel in the south hills to March 24. The area is still open to the public for non motorized use.

Thursday 032124

Authorities continue to search for two suspects following a shooting at Saint Alphonsus shortly after 2 am yesterday. 31 year old Skyler Meade is an escapee from the State prison. The other person is 28 year old Nicholas Umphenour. The two could be traveling in a grey Honda Civic with Twin Falls license plates. They should be considered armed, dangerous and a threat to law enforcement and the public. Call 911 with any tips on their whereabouts.

Skyler Meade was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 2017 for firing shots at a Twin Falls Deputy during a high speed chase. He lost control of his vehicle and crashed.

Governor Brad Little signed into law this week to support the fight against invasive quagga mussels in Idaho waterway. It adds \$6.6 million to increase

the ongoing prevention and monitoring. Last year the Snake River near Twin Falls was closed to the public following the discovery of the invasive species.

The College of Southern Idaho say they are seeing significant enrollment growth for the spring 2024 semester. Headcount has grown 12.1% when compared to spring 2023. This is a year-over-year increase of 11.9%.

Idaho lawmakers drew a hardline yesterday. A vote to end the needle exchange program is now on Governor Little's desk. Supporters of the repeal said they aren't convinced the program really helps.

The Idaho Legislature is requesting Office of Performance Evaluations investigate youth treatment homes. In response to InvestigateWest reporting that uncovered allegations of child abuse and neglect at state-licensed facilities.

Library staff, board members and patrons testified at a Senate State Affairs Committee hearing yesterday to voice their opinions on the Legislature's most recent library bill that would regulate materials for minors. The committee will continue its discussion at a later time.

A bill to criminalize advertising illegal services or products like marijuana in Idaho failed to pass the Idaho Senate yesterday. Marijuana is illegal in Idaho and in federal law. But states surrounding Idaho have legalized marijuana for recreational use in recent years.

Thursday 032824

240 thousand dollars. That's how much Raul Labrador Idaho's attorney General must pay in legal fees and court costs to the state board of Education. The court order, issued late yesterday, stems from Labrador's lengthy, and ongoing, lawsuit of the State Board's closed-door discussions of the proposed University of Phoenix purchase. Labrador's office said they disagree with the decision and expect to prevail on appeal.

A 44-year-old man was shot multiple times yesterday morning in Caldwell and at last check is in critical condition. Officers responded to the 5000 block

of Lake Avenue in south Caldwell at 7:15 a.m. Upon arrival, they found a man with gunshot wounds. It's believed the victim and suspect knew each other.

Looking to own a home? According to a new report from Zillow your annual income will need to be over 106 thousand dollars a year in the United States. That's 80% more than the income buyers needed to purchase a home in January 2020.

A new unfunded Texas style immigration bill was introduced to Idaho lawmakers yesterday. The Idaho bill would allow local law enforcement officers to check the immigration status of people and arrest them or detain them for entering Idaho without legal documentation outside of an official port of entry. The bill also allows magistrate judges to order people who violate the bill to return to the foreign country that they left Idaho for.

The Senate killed a late-session bill to rework the University of Phoenix purchase and legislative leaders say the startling vote could stop the \$685 million deal in its tracks. The next steps are unclear and Senate President Pro Tem Chuck Winder indicated the U of I's plans could be dead.

The Twin Falls Police Department say they are looking for a 17 year old that is missing. Stephen Depew was last seen Tuesday March 19th. He is 6 foot 6, and has brown hair. He weighs 240 pounds. Contact the police if you have tips as to his whereabouts.

Tuesday 010224

Fourth Judicial District Judge Jason Scott on Friday only partially granted a motion from the Idaho Attorney General's Office to dismiss an abortion lawsuit. The Attorney General asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit arguing that it is the policy of Idaho to allow no exception for an abortion in situations where the physician believes that the fetus is unlikely to survive after birth.

A 78 year old woman died Sunday night just before midnight when the car she was driving collided with another car in the intersection of Highway of 20 and 26 on the county line of Ada and Canyon County. Then just before 1 yesterday morning a 21 year old man from Dietrich died from injuries he received when

he lost control of his vehicle. It happened on state highway 24 in Lincoln County.

A prosecutor appointed by Idaho Attorney General Raúl Labrador said there is probable cause that a former Idaho Department of Health and Welfare employee who led a scrutinized child care grant program committed a crime, court filings show. The allegation came with little other information such as what crime the ex-state official, Ericka Rupp, is accused of, official charges she could face or what specific evidence backs up the claim.

An Idaho inmate, already serving time for violent offenses, has been charged with a murder from a 2011 Alaska cold case. 36 year old Keenon Leland Keyes was arraigned with the potential of facing up to 99 years for each murder count. The case was reopened in 2022 by the Alaska State Troopers Cold Case Investigation Unit.

The Caldwell Police Department is investigating a robbery that happened early Saturday morning on Dec. 30 around 10. One man was taken to the hospital with "minor injuries." Police said the jewelry store in the 400 block of Kimball Avenue was "robbed by force."

Boise resident Lora-Lee Casady spent New Year's in New York City for a VIP trip where she had a chance to become the first millionaire of 2024. Casady was one of nearly 70 thousand Idaho entrants who entered the contest. The lucky Idaho Powerball player was one of 5 nationwide finalists participating in the New Year's event. Pamela Bradshaw from Clinton North Carolina took home the million-dollar prize.

Tuesday 010924

Idaho Gov. Brad Little put forth a 10-year, \$2 billion plan to address Idaho's aging, crumbling public school buildings during his State of the State address yesterday in Boise. Little and his aides said the proposal would represent the largest investment in school facilities in state history.

Weather in southern Idaho is making headlines once again. A large winter storm is heading into Magic Valley bringing blizzard like conditions and

creating hazardous driving conditions for most everyone in the region. Winds of 35 to 55 miles an hour with the snow will bring visibility to below a quarter of a mile causing wind chills to plunge for the next several days.

One man is dead following a police involved shooting in Idaho Falls yesterday. Authorities say 29 year old Wyatt Landon was a passenger in a car that had been stopped by police when he started to run and shooting at police. They returned fire killing the suspect.

According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.12, which is 36 cents less than a month ago and 29 cents less than a year ago. The national average currently sits at \$3.08 per gallon, just four cents cheaper than Idaho's average, which ranks 16th in the country for most expensive fuel.

The South Central Public Health District is lifting the public health advisory for Cedar Creek and Salmon Falls Creek Reservoirs after testing by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality show concentrations of a toxin, microcystin, are back to safe levels.

A fire in the attic of Texas Roadhouse in Idaho Falls yesterday caused extensive damage to the restaurant. The cost to repair is estimated to be around 200-thousand dollars. So far no cause but firefighters were called to the facility earlier due a fire in the fryer or the exhaust hood in the kitchen.

Bellevue resident Charles Holloway appeared in court yesterday where he pled guilty to second degree murder of his roommate Joshua Takacs. He also faced charges for assault and battery on law enforcement. He faces life in prison.

Tuesday 011624

A person is dead from a gunshot wound following a domestic dispute. Bannock County Deputies are still investigating the death that happened on Pocatello Creek Road in the early yesterday morning. The sheriff's office said more information will be released later today.

Some are predicting that Idaho's population could high 2 million this year. Idaho, one of the least populous states in the country, is gaining traction in the national population rankings as out-of-state migration numbers push the state to nearly 2 million residents despite a slowdown from the highs of the COVID-19 pandemic. Idaho department of Labor said many are coming from the coastal states of Washington, Oregon and California, but others such as Utah and Nevada are also contributing heavily to parts of the state.

Idaho lawmakers say they will hold part of the Health and Welfare admin budget hostage as they wait for some corrective action. Members of the Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will not include any funding for Idaho Health and Welfare's indirect support services. An earlier audit found a lack of controls in the program that led to grant recipients using the funds for ineligible purposes and for ineligible groups.

A new bill seeking to have public and school libraries move "material harmful to minors" to adult sections of the library is heading to the floor of the Idaho House of Representatives for a vote. Yesterday, the Idaho Legislature's House State Affairs Committee voted along party lines to send House Bill 384 to the House floor with a recommendation to pass it. The Bill is a revived and tweaked version of last year's libraries material bill which Gov. Brad Little vetoed.

Amarillo U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk has granted a motion allowing Idaho, Missouri and Kansas to intervene in a lawsuit originally filed in November 2022 against the Food and Drug Administration by anti-abortion group Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine. One of the arguments in the motion to intervene is new data showing people are traveling out-of-state to get, or ordering by mail, chemical abortion pills called Mifepristone.

Monday 012324

Most Idahoans trust public libraries and librarians and more Idahoans feel the state is on the wrong track than they have in the past decade, according to a new report published by Boise State University's Idaho Policy Institute and School of Public Service. The survey was conducted in November, and it includes responses from over 1,000 adults in Idaho representing all 44

counties. In the survey, researchers asked Idahoans about their opinions related to the economy, education, housing, elections among other Idaho topics.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged. The Idaho department of labor said between November and December, it remained at 3.3%.

With the freezing and thawing, potholes are starting to grow. City workers in Twin Falls are asking for your help. They want you to let them know where they are so they can send crews out to fill them. You are also asked not to drive through standing water because it may be hiding one which could damage your vehicle.

Sen. Mike Crapo of Idaho announced his support for former President Donald Trump. In a statement announcing his endorsement of the former president, the top Senate Finance Republican cited Trump's economic record and border security as reasons behind his support.

Even with the large amount of recent snowfall, officials say Idaho has a long way to go to get to the average level. Because of a dry November and December, many measuring sites are below normal. Northern Idaho is worse off than the South.

According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$2.97, which is eight cents less than a week ago, 30 cents less than a month ago, and 43 cents cheaper than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average sits at \$3.08 per gallon.

Tuesday 013024

Some 90 Jerome school district teachers called in a personal day yesterday following the decision of the district not to implement a 4 day school week causing the district to close schools. The Jerome education association said the teachers actions were not coordinated or endorsed by them.

The Idaho House of Representatives passed a bill that would require mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of trafficking fentanyl. Following more than an hour of debate among representatives, House Bill 406 passed the House floor in a 53-14 vote. It is now headed to the state Senate.

Thomas Creech will remain Idaho's longest-serving death row prisoner after the state parole board recommended yesterday against his plea to avoid execution with a reduced sentence to life in prison. The Commission of Pardons and Parole deadlocked in a 3-3 vote, which upholds Creech's death sentence because a majority did not support his request.

This week, Idaho gas prices defied the national trend, dropping by an average of eight cents while the U.S. average inched higher by three cents. According to AAA, Idaho's average price for a gallon of regular is \$2.89, which is 31 cents less than a month ago and 56 cents less than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.11.

Idaho's state government employee health insurance is set to be managed by Regence BlueShield of Idaho this summer, as Idaho change's insurers for the first time in nearly two decades. A final decision on the contract is still pending until a lawsuit is resolved that seeks to uncover how outside analysts compared costs between insurers that wanted the contract. Blue Cross of Idaho, the insurer that held the contract since 2004, sued the state over those and other records concealed.

The unions representing more than 100,000 workers at Albertsons and Kroger stores around the country want the companies to walk away from their plan to merge. The union said the acquisition would result in a dramatic decrease in bargaining power for hundreds of thousands of workers and be felt by customers across the country.

Tuesday 020624

The lawyers for Gerald Pizzuto Jr., who is on death row in Idaho, have filed a motion to find out about the drugs that would potentially be used in his execution. One of the questions previously asked if the drugs were obtained from a veterinary source. Yesterday two appeals were brought to the Supreme Court. The appeals claim the decision should be reconsidered primarily due to a concurrent U.S. Supreme Court appeal and concerns surrounding the fact his execution was imposed by a judge and not a jury.

Douglas Stuhlberg, a 52 year old Jerome County man is in custody after being charged with 10 counts of alleged sexual exploitation of a child. He was arrested by the Idaho Internet Crimes Against Children unit. Stuhlberg is charged with 10 counts.

Big D Builders, the company hired to build the 39,000-square-foot steel hangar for Jackson Jet Center, said the hangar collapse on Wednesday evening that killed three and injured nine others was a huge sorrow for their company. In a statement they said they lost family members and valued employees who were close personal friends. We have also had colleagues experience significant injuries. They say they are working with OSHA and others to determine exactly why the structure failed and collapsed.

Boise state has been studying sewer water to predict COVID 19 hospitalizations and deaths before they're even reported. But after Idaho lawmakers rejected about \$16 million from a pool of federal grant funds that would've supported pandemic response efforts last year, Idaho's wastewater tracking dashboard is likely to have less data. Those who run the University of Idaho's wastewater processing facility said parts of the state are going dark.

Idaho gas prices are at their lowest level in nearly three years, but the recent trend of plummeting prices may soon come to an end. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$2.89, just a third of a penny less than a week ago, Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.15 per gallon, which is four cents more than a week ago.

The Idaho state police are looking for a few good men and women. 25 to 30 to be exact. Applications for all 6 districts in the state will be accepted until February 27 for trooper positions.

Tuesday 021324

After largely negative public testimony, Idaho legislators advanced a bill Monday that would require public and school libraries to create a review process and to restrict children's access to harmful materials following complaints. The bill would allow people to sue Idaho libraries.

19 year old Logan Penner was sentenced to at least 15 years in prison after being charged with 2nd degree murder in the death of a 2 month old baby. The child died from being shaken in November of 2022.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game, is warning Ketchum residents that two younger mountain lions have been roaming through neighborhoods and getting very close to houses. IDFG said they have had 17 calls this year about mountain lions in the Magic Valley Region, with most calls coming from Ketchum and Hailey.

This week, Idaho drivers saw a rise in the state's average price of gasoline for the first time this year. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$2.92, which is three cents more than a week ago, but 16 cents less than a month ago and 75 cents cheaper than a year ago. The national average currently sits at \$3.20 per gallon. Today, Idaho ranks 34th in the country for most expensive fuel.

Idaho legislators introduced a bill on Wednesday to criminalize advertising illegal services or products like marijuana in Idaho. Marijuana is illegal in Idaho and in federal law. But states surrounding Idaho, like Washington, Montana, Nevada and Oregon, have legalized marijuana for recreational use in recent years.

The prosecutor of the man accused of murdering four University of Idaho students has hit back against what he called a "premature" bid to change the trial venue. 29 year old Bryan Kohberger is charged with four counts of murder and one count of burglary in connection to the four University of Idaho students who were found fatally stabbed in an off-campus rental home in Moscow, Idaho, on November 13, 2022. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Tuesday 022024

As we come on the air this morning there have been several accidents involving multiple semi's on I-84 near mile marker 182 near the Twin Falls and Hazelton exits. Slick roads are the cause.

A fire that broke out at Commercial Creamery in Jerome damaged one of the three cheese dryers that the company uses. Fire crews were called to the building around 2:30 pm Friday where heavy smoke could be seen coming from the building. The company said the other two dryers are working and the fire will have limited impact on the facility where 150 people work. It's estimated it will take 2 months to make repairs.

Idaho has asked the Supreme Court to take emergency action so the state can enforce its felony ban on gender-affirming health care for transgender minors, arguing that a district court's injunction goes too far. It would make it a felony for health care providers to administer treatments to transgender young people or face up to a decade in prison and \$5,000 in fines. A federal judge in December temporarily blocked Idaho's ban days before it was to take effect.

Advocates inside the Statehouse sharing findings of recent research related to the State's unauthorized workforce and contributions to the State's economy. The Idaho Dairymen's Association, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation, and the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry worked with the University of Idaho to present the report. Idaho Dairymen Association says of those 35 thousand individuals, 86 percent, are employed. That's higher than the national average.

With a 13-4 vote, the House Business Committee sent a controversial rent bill to the floor yesterday. If signed into law, local governments could not make landlords accept federal housing assistance programs, including Section 8 vouchers. Cities or counties also could not regulate rent, fees or deposits.

A bill to expand birth control access is making its way to the Idaho House floor after it passed in a House Business Committee hearing yesterday afternoon. The bill would require that insurance companies provide up to a six month supply of prescribed contraceptives to enrollees.

Tuesday 022724

Police say in Wendell yesterday a tree trimming truck crashed into an insurance building on west main and North Wallace Street just after 5 pm.

The truck came to rest on its side. The driver suffered a medical emergency and died at the scene.

A car and a garage were damaged by fire yesterday afternoon around 4:30. Twin Falls fire said they responded to the 100 block of Jefferson Street. Crews spent about 12 minutes knocking down the flames.

Yesterday, the Federal Trade Commission sued to block a proposed merger between grocery giants Kroger and Albertsons, saying the \$24.6 billion deal would eliminate competition and lead to higher prices. Kroger and Albertsons agreed to merge in October 2022. The companies said it would help them better compete with Walmart, Amazon, Costco and other big rivals. Together, Kroger and Albertsons would control around 13% of the grocery market; Walmart 22%.

Local religious communities, civil rights organizations and activists are co-sponsoring discussions, protests and vigils prior to the scheduled execution of Thomas Creech. They are hosting discussions, protests and vigils prior to the scheduled execution tomorrow.

According to AAA, Idaho's average price for a gallon of regular is \$3.11 today, which is 11 cents higher than a week ago and 19 cents more than a month ago, but still 52 cents cheaper than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.26 per gallon.

Governor Brad Little signed a bill yesterday that added fentanyl trafficking to the states mandatory minimum sentencing laws. Now those convicted face three years in prison and a 10-thousand dollar fine. The maximum penalty is 10 years in prison and a 25-thousand dollar fine.

AT&T is reimbursing customers for the nearly 12-hour network outage on Thursday. The mobile network will issue a \$5 credit to potentially impacted AT&T Wireless customers, which it says is the average cost of a full day of service.

Tuesday 030524

Idaho State police say they are investigating an officer involved shooting that occurred Saturday morning. Officers from the department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs pursued a vehicle from the Duck Valley reservation in Nevada into Owyhee County. The driver ran from the vehicle and shots were fired. He died at the scene.

Gem State drivers continue to face surging prices at the pump. According to AAA, Idaho's average price for regular jumped ten cents this week to \$3.21 per gallon, which is 33 cents more than a month ago, but 45 cents less than a year ago.

Yesterday morning many emergency rescue personnel and area police departments were busy sorting out 28 crashes involving 63 vehicles near the Elmore county line. ISP says another 20 plus vehicles were stuck between the crash locations. The crashes were reported around 5 am and were cleared by 11 am. Westbound traffic was diverted for 6 hours.

The filing period for candidates running for the Idaho Legislature and other elected offices opened Monday morning, kicking the 2024 campaign season up yet another notch in Idaho. This year, all 105 seats in the Idaho Legislature are up for election.

The overwhelming majority of Idaho's registered Republican voters did not participate in Saturday's Republican Presidential Caucus. Fewer Idaho Republicans voted in Saturday's GOP caucus than voted in the 2012 GOP caucus. Unofficial reports show turnout for Saturday's Idaho Republican Presidential Caucus at about 6.8%.

The Shoshone County Sheriff's Office is investigating the discovery of a human fetus found in a storm drain in Smeltonville. Investigators say it appears the fetus was approximately four months along.

The Idaho Legislature is moving forward with an attempt to involve itself in the University of Idaho's bid to purchase the University of Phoenix amid a number of concerns over the expense and transparency of the deal. Legislative leaders are being asked to explore legal action against the State

Board of Education's creation of a not-for-profit corporation in order to make the purchase.

Tuesday 031224

Four people were injured when a semi-truck rear ended a school bus yesterday afternoon. ISP said it happened just before 5 on U.S. 95 in Washington County. The northbound bus was stopped for unloading when the semi collided with it. Both vehicles overturned. 2 juveniles and both drivers were sent for medical treatment. The highway was blocked for about 5 hours.

Did anyone feel the earth move under your feet last night? Officials say there was an unconfirmed earthquake around 9:30 near Twin Falls. The epicenter was about 48 miles from the city.

A nonbinding piece of legislation calling on Congress to impeach President Joe Biden over U.S. border security issues failed yesterday in the Republican-controlled Idaho House of Representatives. Language that referred to "cheap immigrant labor" appeared to doom the measure.

A proposed amendment to the Idaho Constitution that sought to block ranked choice voting failed in the Idaho House of Representatives yesterday and won't appear on the ballot in November.

A bill that would mandate insurance companies to dispense six months of birth control passed the House by one vote, and is now headed to Governor Brad Little's desk.

A bill that would bar public school employees from displaying flags on campus is heading to the House. Exempt would be The U.S. flag, Flags of foreign nations, Official flags of U.S., Official school and U.S. military, Indian tribes, Flags recognized by the Department of Education and school mascots.

The price of gas keeps going up. Triple A reports that the Idaho price is now 8 cents more than a week ago at \$3.29. That's 37 cents more than a month ago but still 38 cents cheaper than a year ago. The National average is \$3.40.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged remaining at 3.3%. December 2023's unemployment rate also remained the same at 3.3%. The latest data show the labor force increased by 546 people to 967,862.

Tuesday 031924

Adjusting time by an hour in Idaho every six months could be a thing of the past. A bill is working its way through the legislature. Clocks would remain on Standard time but there is a catch. At least two nearby states, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Utah and California would have to make the move. Washing and Oregon have passed similar bills.

The lead attorney for Bryan Kohberger, the man charged with murdering four University of Idaho students, urged state lawmakers to oppose a bill that proposed expanding the defendants who would qualify for the death penalty. Anne Taylor appeared before an Idaho Senate committee to argue that the state was not in a position to shoulder an increase in its number of capital punishment-eligible criminal cases. The proposed law Taylor testified against sought to make certain sex crimes against children under the age of 12 punishable by death

A 16 year old Rupert teen has died following a car accident that occurred on March 4th. According to a go fund me account, Alejandro Alvarez passed away Friday. He had been airlifted to Pocatello following the crash.

The Idaho Legislature is seeking to preempt many potential knife regulations in the same way the state does with gun regulations. The Senate State Affairs Committee yesterday passed HB 620, which prohibits local governments from creating regulations around knives with some exemptions.

After military officials said proposed Idaho legislation could result in defunding the Idaho National Guard, Idaho lawmakers stopped the "Defend the Guard Act" from advancing in the Idaho Legislature. Supporters see the bill as a way to rein in what some call unconstitutional federal war powers. Critics worry the legislation could limit the Idaho National Guard, which officials say is mostly federally funded.

Legislative budget writers have drafted the budget for Medicaid, Idaho's largest state government program that would keep the program's budget at roughly \$4.7 billion. JFAC's Medicaid budget for fiscal year 2025 includes funds for new staff that agency leaders said would help save money and increase pay for some medical providers that had been stagnant.

Tuesday 032624

Without any real debate, the Idaho House of Representatives passed a new joint memorial that again makes it clear Idaho Republican legislators oppose removing or breaching dams from the Columbia River and Snake River systems and their tributaries. The Idaho House voted to pass a request that was addressed to President Joe Biden, Congress and Idaho's congressional delegation.

A bill that ends rental application fee ordinances is headed to the Idaho governor's desk after passing both legislative chambers. Its purpose is to prevent local governments from enforcing local rent control ordinances.

A resolution that would've let Idaho voters decide whether special sessions of the Idaho Legislature should be limited to 20 days was halted in the Idaho Legislature. It's not clear if the bill would advance this legislative session, which legislative leaders have said they hope to wrap up on Friday.

An Idaho judge only required Attorney General Raúl Labrador's office to pay a small share of attorney fees in lawsuits connected to an investigation into a scrutinized child care grant program. A Judge denied requests by current and former Idaho Department of Health and Welfare officials to have Labrador's office pay \$186,000 in attorneys fees. Instead, Idaho's top attorney's office must pay \$9,500.

Idaho's newest library bill targeting harmful material for children is moving forward in the Idaho Legislature. Last week, the bill was left undecided by the committee because of time constraints, following testimonies from 29 out of 30 individuals speaking against the bill, including library staff, board members, and patrons.

Bond has been set for Skylar Meade and Nicholas Umphenour who were arraigned in an Ada County courtroom yesterday. The two led authorities on a two day statewide manhunt ending in Twin Falls last week. Bond was set at two million dollars apiece. Both Meade and Umphenour will be back in court for a preliminary hearing on April 8th at the Ada County Courthouse.

Wednesday 010324

Four of the seven seats for the Twin Falls City Council were up for election last year. This week the new council begin with the swearing in. Ruth Pierce and Craig Hawkins were re-elected while Grayson Stone and Cherie Vollmer are new to the council.

As the new year begins, how did the 2023 housing market go in Idaho. Most things that were expected didn't happen. Mortgage rates were supposed to drop. They didn't. The market was supposed to pick up speed. It didn't. The number of homes sold is down double digits in Ada and Twin Falls Counties.

According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.17, which is a nickel less than a week ago, 39 cents less than a month ago, and 26 cents less than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.10.

The Idaho Legislature will be open for business starting next Monday. For the 67th session, this year is an election year so some say to expect business will be wrapped up by March 31st so those seeking re-election can begin their campaign season which starts with the May 21st primary.

New laws for the new year in Idaho. Students can no longer use student Id's to vote. Gender affirming care for minors was blocked by a federal judge. The clean slate act for low level offenders means a fresh start and it's mandatory for everyone enrolled into the Nutrition program known as SNAP must be working if they are able.

More people are visiting the area ski resorts and experts say you should expect more in the coming year. The National Ski Areas Association estimates more than 65 million people traveled to the country's six regional skiing areas

during last year's skiing and snowboarding season. This marks a 6.6% increase from the previous winter season.

A Boise man is in custody after he was charged with pointing a gun at three teenagers who were toilet papering his home Monday. Police say they were called to the scene just after 10 pm. 25 year old Omar Al Azzawi was charged with three felony counts of aggravated assault. Al Azzawi said the gun was not loaded.

Wednesday 010924

Athena Miller and Nicholas James were in the Gooding courtroom yesterday for the arraignment on Murder charges. The two are allegedly connected to the death of 58 year old Roger Driesel whose body was found in a Gooding shop last year. Miller allegedly asked James to kill Driesel who was her boyfriend at the time. It's been determined the two will have separate trials.

A 16 mile stretch of road between Mountain Home and Fairfield is closed this morning due to poor weather conditions. Yesterday the Camas county courthouse in Fairfield closed early because of the weather.

The Idaho state police are continuing their investigation into a head on crash that involved a Fish and Game officer. The accident that happened Saturday along I-84 just west of Mountain Home occurred around 6:30 pm. Authorities say an eastbound car crossed the median and collided with a pickup pulling a boat driven by the conservation officer. The Officer wasn't injured but the car's driver was sent to the hospital for treatment.

With winter weather in southern Idaho expected this week, AAA is reminding drivers to check the road and weather reports before you travel. Take appropriate clothing and clear snow and Ice from your vehicle. Check your battery, engine and tires. Leave a note on the dashboard with your name and phone number if your vehicle becomes disabled.

Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior Laura Daniel-Davis was at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise yesterday where she announced a \$138 million allocation from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help

combat wildfires across the country. The department is investing \$1.5 billion over the next 5 years into wildland firefighting.

An influential and controversial conservative Idaho lobbying group announced Monday that it has parted ways with its longtime president, replacing him with a former state representative known for his far-right policies. The Idaho Freedom Foundation said that Ron Nate, who served several legislative terms between 2014 and 2022 as a Republican from Rexburg, would replace organization co-founder Wayne Hoffman as president.

Wednesday 011724

Over the course of two-and-a-half hours, the Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee set \$5.1 billion worth of "maintenance of current operations" budgets to simply keep the lights on and doors open at nearly all state agencies next year. Taken together, the fiscal year 2025 maintenance of operations budgets reduce state general fund spending by \$46.6 million. No democrats voted in favor.

There is some good news for motorists in the Gem State. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.04, which is 33 cents less than a year ago. In Magic Valley the average is \$2.97. In Pocatello that price is \$2.57. The national average is \$3.07.

Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson has voted in favor of H.R. 1147 – Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2023. This bill gives schools flexibility to craft nutritious lunches for students participating in school meal programs by allowing whole and 2% milk options.

Idaho Supreme Court Chief Justice G. Richard Bevan will deliver his annual State of the Judiciary address to both chambers of the Idaho Legislature today. The yearly speech discusses significant Judicial Branch projects important to maintaining the state's impartial court system.

Repairs are set for today to replace the damaged Traffic signal at the intersection of Kimberly and Hankens Road in Twin Falls today. Yesterday

morning a traffic accident damaged the signals. Motorists should expect delays while traveling through the intersection today.

Earlier this week, the Hagerman school district held a meeting to discuss current superintendent James Brown. Last October, Brown allegedly showered in front of the boys football teams. He was never formally charged or arrested.

The Idaho House Health and Welfare Committee on Tuesday introduced a bill that would prohibit new Medicaid waivers from being implemented without legislative approval. The bill would require legislative approval before the state's Department of Health and Welfare can add additional groups of people covered by waivers to the state Medicaid plan.

Wednesday 012424

Lawmakers in Idaho heard from Emergency medical services this week where leaders hope to see legislation this session to make EMS an essential service. The group heard how help is arriving slower in rural areas because of Population growth and other strains on the volunteers. Rick Funk an EMS chief said that without an increase in funding and recruitment the system could fail in a few years.

Last spring, 81% of Idaho's high school students graduated on time a slight increase from 2022. All told, nearly 21,000 students graduated in four years, and about 4,800 did not. Still, 2023's four-year graduation rate remains far short of the state goal: that nearly 95% of students earn a high school diploma on time.

Payette City Mayor Craig Jensen resigned from his position Friday for personal reasons. The resignation was listed as "effective immediately" as of today. Jensen asked that he and his family be given privacy and not be contacted by any news outlets to discuss the matter.

Idaho lawmakers could soon allow teachers and other school employees to carry concealed weapons on school grounds and shield information about the staffers armed at school from public records requests. A bill introduced

Monday would let public school staffers who have “enhanced” concealed weapons permits to carry firearms on campuses. The legislation would also require every school to remove any “gun-free zone” signs or face a fine.

The Twin Falls Transit is now a full city program. There has been tremendous demand for the pilot ride program that started two years ago. Ride prices range from a dollar to five. The average wait time is 30 minutes.

Twin Falls County named Will Carson as the new coroner. He replaces Gene Turley who resigned earlier this month due to medical problems.

Winter storms in the area followed by warming temperatures are leading to flooding on some Southern Idaho roads. The Twin Falls sheriff’s office said many roads have standing water especially near 3100 east and 3050 north.

Wednesday 013124

A day after the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole denied his request for clemency; the Idaho Department of Correction received the death warrant for convicted serial killer Thomas Creech. Creech was sentenced to death for the murder of a fellow inmate in 1981. He has admitted to killing or participating in the killing of at least 26 people. An execution date is set for Feb. 28.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals is blocking enforcement of a ban on gender-affirming medical care for transgender people under 18 until a ruling is given. The ACLU of Idaho called the decision a victory.

Republicans on a U.S. House panel blasted the Biden administration on Tuesday for an agreement they said paved the way for four dams’ removal from the Snake River in eastern Washington State. The agreement to take steps to restore salmon populations in the Snake River that President Joe Biden announced in December would lead the way to removing four dams on the river.

The CSI Refugee Program will have new administrative management. The United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants will take over the day-to-day management of the center. The Refugee Center has been affiliated

with CSI since 1980. CSI will continue to partner with the center for educational and workforce training for relocated refugees.

Idaho lawmakers introduced a bill Tuesday to allow tax credits for parents who send their children to private schools, a proposal that opens the door for \$50 million in state funds to go toward private education a system that would create what's commonly known as school vouchers. It would allow families to receive up to a \$5,000 tax rebate for school expenses while special needs children could receive up to \$7,500.

The Twin Falls fire department led the cleanup for a potato waste spill that happened Saturday evening near Hankins and Kimberly Roads. Vehicles began losing control when they drove over the mess. In the end, a team from the city, broom trucks front end loaders and a large crew of people spent 6 hours on the scene.