

Spring enrollment is happening through Monday January 8th at Action Academy 1830 Addison Avenue East in Twin Falls. At Acton Academy our mission is to inspire each child and parent who enters our doors to find a calling that will change the world and bring enjoyment to their life. If you are interested in finding out more information, contact Action Academy in Twin Falls.

IT'S the bull bash at the college of southern Idaho. Saturday Jan 6 at the CSI expo center. Doors open at 5:30 and Bull riding begins at 7. Tickets are available at the door. Once Again Saturday January 6th at CSI.

Don't miss the 46th annual CSI Cowboy and Cowgirl boxing smoker Saturday January 27th at the CSI Expo Center. Doors open at 5:30 and the first fight begins at 7pm. This is the annual fundraiser for the CSI Rodeo Team. 15 bouts of pure excitement. Potential boxers need to call Steve Birnie @ 208-732-6620 for information on how to sign up to box.

The next Canyon Rim trail parkrun will be Saturday January 6th starting at 9 am at Nielsen Point Place. This is a free fun and friendly weekly community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate - it's up to you! Once again January 6th at 9 am along the Canyon Rim Trail in Twin Falls.

What is the measure of a band? Devoted fans? Longevity? A body of work that continues to grow and is as fresh today as it was the day it was recorded? Don't Miss Denver Bierman and the Mile High Orchestra Friday January 19th at the King Fine Arts Center in Burley. The concert will begin at 7:30 pm and tickets are available at the door.

It's back on! This is the most attended event in Jerome. Everything is free to all who come for the festivities. This is a free community event. There will be Live Nativity Performances, Choir Performances, Santa, Coats for Kids, Food, Hot Chocolate and hot Cider, a Petting Zoo, a Light Parade, and so much more ... 3 TO 6 PM SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH There is still time to sign up for the parade. 10th Annual Christmas in Jerome - Dec 16, 2023 - Jerome Chamber of Commerce

The first responder awareness dinner and santa will be Sunday December 17th from 2 to 7 at the Hagerman Legion Hall. This by donation dinner will include smoked Meat, door prizes, raffle items, santa a photo booth and kids activities. It's open for anyone to attend

There is always something for everyone at the annual Castleford Men's Club auction, set for the last Saturday of January. 2024 will be the 50th year of the community wide event! It begins at 10am in the Castleford Schools cafeteria, with coffee, hot chocolate, and cinnamon rolls early and yummy lunch options later, along with tons of homemade pies for purchase. The auction is the only fundraiser of the year for the community, and its mission is to support youth and other local activities, with all the dollars raised staying in the area. The club has given each high school graduate a scholarship with only an application, and proof of attendance at a continuing education facility. The proceeds will also support the Quick Response Unit, 4H clubs, and other organizations or events through-out the year.

Don't miss cowpokes for Christmas at the Wilson theater in Rupert. It will be Saturday December 16 at 7 and feature Brenn hill and Andy nelson. Celebrate the Christmas season the cowboy way with cowboy music, poetry, shenanigans and sentiment. Tickets are available from historic Wilson theatre dot com or at the door. For more info call 208-436-2787

On December 23rd, it's live music with bryon Hildreth at the West Point Watering Hole in Wendell. The concert starts at 7 pm. Westpoint Watering hole is located between box canyon and Ritter Island state parks.

There will be a New Year's Eve dance and potluck at the American legion hall. Don't miss the Shadows band from 8 to midnight. The American legion is located at 447 Seastrom in Twin Falls.

It's a New Year's Eve country gala with Heath Clark Sunday December 31st at the Twin Falls County Fairgrounds. The night will feature Texas Style Dinner, comedy Show, live music and a champagne toast. Go to Heath Clark Band dot Com and purchase your tickets today.

Community Events

11/06/2023 – Mr BHS @ The king Fine Art Center, Burley @ 7:00 p.m

Head on over to the King Fine Art Center at 7:00 p.m and watch Thirteen boys fight for one title. This is so much fun to for the students and the audience. Burley Special Olympics Partners Program, Burley High Business Professionals of America. Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12 and Students are \$5, Adults are \$8 and Families \$20

11/10- 11/12/2023 – CSI's Harvest Festival @ CSI Expo Center 506-698 N College Rd from 10:00 a.m – 7:00 p.m

Starts Friday 10th 10 am to 7 pm, Saturday 11th 10 am to 7 pm and Sunday 12th 10 am to 4 pm. Come by to our new specious booth and check out all of our new product. Hope to see you there.

11/10/2023 - AGF Men's Conference, @ Amazing Grace Fellowship, 1061 Eastland Dr. @ 9:00 a.m

Join us for the AGF Men's Conference on November 10th and 11th, featuring Dr. Dave White as our guest speaker. Mark your calendars, share the news, and get ready for a truly trans formative experience. Plus, don't forget to invite a friend!

Here's the conference schedule:

Friday:

- Dinner at 6:00 PM
- Service at 7:00 PM

Saturday:

- Session #1 at 9:00 AM
- Breakfast to follow.
- Session #2 at 10:30 AM

Please RSVP to reserve your spot for the meals. The cost is \$20. To RSVP and pay, click here <https://agf.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/215/responses/new>

Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect and learn how to "Make the Call" in your life. We look forward to seeing you there!

11/14/2023 – Minidoka – Cassia Classical Academy Community Informational Meeting @ Historic Wilson Theater, Rupert @ 5:00 p.m – 6:00 p.m

K-12 Tuition – Free public Charter School Coming Soon. There will be a Free dinner starting at 5:00 P.M and a presentation Following at 6:00 p.m

11/17/2023 – Stories with Santa @ The Oregon Trail Rec Center,, 1750 Park Ave, starting at

7:30 p.m

Come and listen to your favorite Christmas stories read by Santa, while you enjoy some milk and Cookies!

11/18/2023 – Magic Valley Kid Market - Christmas Market @ The Twin Falls Fairgrounds, from 10::00 a.m – 1:00 p.m

Come do your holiday shopping at a vendor market run by kids!

With over 100 young entrepreneurs selling at this event, we hope you'll join us in supporting their ingenuity.

Friday 100623

The ISDA's treatment for the quagga mussel on the Snake River has started and officials say they expect a large amount of fish to die. The treatment plan will be spread over a 10 day period. The treatment began Tuesday.

An opinion from the Idaho Attorney General's Office says opioid settlement funds spent in recovery centers must go exclusively toward people who have issues with opioids. The opinion which Idaho health officials say limits Idaho in ways different from other states would make it hard to fund recovery centers.

The Idaho fish and game said a hunter was forced to shoot and kill a grizzly bear in self-defense near Henrys Lake. It happened September 28th while the man was hunting elk through heavy timber. The female bear charged the hunter and was shot several times.

Gooding commissioners have signed a Quagga mussel resolution declaring an emergency. The commissioners are reminding the public of the Snake River closure from the Twin Falls dam to Niagara Springs south of Wendell.

Micron in Boise has started the construction of a memory chip manufacturing facility. The company said this will be the first facility built in the last 20 years in the United States. The cost? \$15-billion dollars making it the largest private investment in Idaho history.

The first phase of a three-phase dairy processing project in Burley is on track to be completed by April 2024. Suntado a company specializing in dairy processing and packing is steadily progressing project leaders say. Along with the completion of phase one, 60 to 80 employees will be hired. Phase two is slated to be complete in 2025 and phase three in 2027. Each phase will include the hiring of additional 60-80 employees, the company said.

Idaho's population growth has been growing fast so quickly that the state had the No. 1 growth rate in the nation at 21.5 % from 2012-2022, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Idaho's fast-growing population doesn't mean growth is happening evenly either throughout the state or by age group according to Labor Economist Lisa Grigg said.

Four teens were arrested following a large fight Tuesday at Brothers Park in Caldwell. Police said the fight appears to be gang-related, involving 15 to 20 juveniles.

Friday 101323

The preliminary hearing for Athena Miller has been moved to October 31st. She is charged with the murder of her boyfriend Roger Driesel whose body was found under a tarp at his home in Gooding. Athena admitted to authorities during previous interviews with law enforcement that she asked her nephew, Nicholas James to kill her boyfriend. Nicholas James status hearing has been postponed until October 31 as well.

The fallout from the Republican Party's dispute continued this week as the members of at least two GOP county central committees say Idaho Republican

Party Chairwoman Dorothy Moon and other statewide leaders are dividing the party. The Bingham County Republican Central Committee filed a lawsuit last month to block Moon from stepping in to hold an election to fill county leadership positions. Six officials with the Ada County Republican Central Committee resigned after alleging bullying tactics by state party leaders.

For Idaho absentee voters and people who want to register to vote online, today is the deadline to register to vote or update their registration. Voters can register or update their registration online at VoteIdaho.gov or in person.

Idaho State Department of Agriculture workers will wrap up their efforts today to deploy the Natrix Pesticide in the Snake River to eradicate the Quaga Mussel. Over a two-week treatment about 40,000 gallons of the chemical was used.

One person was injured after a natural gas transmission line was damaged by an excavator in Middleton yesterday morning. A worker struck the transmission line causing an explosion. Authorities began evacuating residents in a 4 mile area. That was lifted just before noon.

The Idaho Supreme Court's ruling that a police drug dog performed an illegal search in Mountain Home 4 years ago stands. The U.S. Supreme Court decided not to make a decision. In 2019 Kirby Dorff was convicted of drug possession and delivery appealed the conviction. The courts decided the drug dogs actions was a warrantless search.

The state of Idaho has issued a death warrant for the execution of Thomas Creech, who is a convicted murderer who has been incarcerated on Death Row for over 40 years. Creech is scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on Nov. 8.

Friday 10/20/23

A legal bill is growing as the State Board of education defends itself in an ongoing open meetings lawsuit. The State Board's attorney has submitted \$81,018.97 in invoices. The bills are part of the legal showdown over U of I's plan to purchase the University of Phoenix. Attorney General Raúl Labrador

filed a lawsuit, saying the State Board violated the law by discussing the \$685 million purchase during a series of closed-door executive sessions.

With the treatment completed for now on the Snake River, that hopefully will eradicate the Quagga Mussel officials are opening more areas for access. Centennial Park reopens this morning. Access to the river is still closed. On Monday morning access to Murtaugh Lake, Salmon Falls dam and Cedar Creek Reservoir will reopen. The hot wash station at the Visitor's Center is still open for any watercraft and gear that was in the affected area of the Snake within 30 days of the discovery of the mussels.

A settlement has been reached in a mortgage transaction case that impacted some 480,000 end-users. The Idaho Department of Finance and 43 other state agencies announced that settlements were reached with ACI Payments over erroneous electronic transactions totaling \$2.3 billion. According to the Idaho Department of Finance, violations occurred when ACI erroneously used live customer data in a test of its transaction platform, which caused multiple mortgage payments from customer accounts.

Former Boise School District principal Christopher Ryan formally plead not guilty to a felony charge of Injury to Child. Prosecutors argue that while in his role as principal, Ryan allowed a 13 year-old girl to be alone with an adult male while the adult male was behaving in a way that was inappropriate and unlawful toward the child. A trial is set for February 20th of next year.

A fire burning on the Minidoka ranger district continues to burn as crews allow brush burn. Fire managers and crews intend to treat the area during the entire weekend while conditions allow. Additionally, crews will continue structure protection efforts and plan to burn the remaining slash piles near the Magic Mountain ski area.

<https://www.leefamilybroadcasting.net/post/local-news-10-27-23>

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit temporarily blocked an Idaho law scheduled to take effect Nov. 3 that would have prevented transgender students from using school facilities that match their gender identity. The law would have allowed students to sue their school for a minimum fine of \$5,000 for each instance that the student encountered a person of the opposite sex while accessing a public school restroom, changing facility, or sleeping quarters. On Thursday, the Ninth Circuit granted a request for an injunction pending appeal.

24 year old Mathew Shoup of Twin Falls is facing 12 felony charges including sexual battery of a child and rape. He appeared in Magistrate court yesterday.

Afton Gailfus of Twin Falls was sentenced to five years in prison for the death of a motorcyclist on St. Patricks day. Police say the woman was driving a van when she didn't yield to 25 year old Dylan Wormsbaker near County West in Twin Falls. She was on probation for Domestic Violence and drug charges at the time of the crash.

The judge in the trial of Brian Kohberger who is accused of murdering 4 U of I students told the defense no to throwing out the indictment of the grand jury. The defense claimed there was an error in the instructions. The judge said the information given out was standard in Idaho.

A Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based data center firm, with centers in Idaho, is creating the first internet exchange in the Gem State. Involta is working to deliver on its commitment to bring connectivity to areas where it is most needed. It announced recently that it is launching two nonprofit internet exchanges "to enhance local connectivity and reduce costs."

The city of Boise and towns in Blaine County are taking the lead on establishing renewable energy policies in Idaho, experts said at a policy forum. Unlike neighboring states such as Washington, Oregon and Montana, Idaho has no renewable energy goals set by the Legislature. While some clean energy goals are coming from the private sector, such as Idaho Power Boise and Blaine County cities have also established their own goals.

Governor Brad Little proclaimed November “Idaho Apprenticeship Month” and promoted Idaho LAUNCH. In an apprenticeship, a person trains on-the-job to become skilled in a trade or profession while earning wages and taking courses.

The Filer Kids pond and the Filer pond will be restocked with fish this month. The Idaho fish and game said they plan to stock 10 to 12 inch rainbow trout.

The Idaho Attorney General’s office said officials arrested a 43 year old Ammon man Monday for alleged sexual exploitation of a child. 43-year-old Jason A. Bergener was booked into the Bonneville County Jail. He is alleged to have possessed sexually exploitative material.

Farmers in the Northwest are scrambling for ways to offload 165,000 tons of potatoes after overestimating the public’s demand for the root vegetable in 2023. With the average large russet weighing roughly 6 to 10 ounces, farmers in Oregon, Washington Idaho and Alberta, Canada are dealing with a combined surplus of 600 million potatoes.

The BLM Boise District Office will host a wild horse adoption Nov. 10–12 at the Boise Wild Horse Off-Range Corral just off Pleasant Valley Road. There will be more than 100 wild horses available for adoption during the three-day event.

An early morning police involved shooting near Lewiston yesterday has left one person injured. Just before 2 am police attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. When the vehicle wouldn’t stop more officers joined in a pursuit. The driver of the car shot at an officer. Officers returned fire striking the suspect who was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Prosecutors have until December 1st to hand over DNA evidence to the defense in the trial of Bryan Kohberger. The judge issued that ruling yesterday. Kohberger faces murder charges in the death of 4 U of I students who died in a home near the school last November.

Two small earthquakes were reported this week in Idaho. No damage was reported in either case. The first was Wednesday just after 10 near Stanley. The second yesterday just after 9 am near McCall

Friday 110923

A U.S. District Court has decided to temporarily block enforcement of Idaho's "abortion trafficking" law, which took effect in May after Idaho legislators voted on its passage during the 2023 legislative session. If enforced, those convicted of "abortion trafficking" would face a penalty between two to five years in prison.

Idaho state lawmakers on the Legislature's powerful budget committee are mulling how they'll respond to an audit that found flaws in how the state health department distributed \$72 million in federal grant funds. The Legislature's budget committee, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, is meeting for three days this week to review budget requests by state agencies and prepare for the 2024 legislative session.

In an effort to begin setting state budgets earlier in legislative sessions, members of the Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will shorten the public portion of their daily committee meetings beginning in 2024. Sen. C. Scott Grow of Eagle, and Rep. Wendy Horman, of Idaho Falls, discussed the upcoming changes during an interim meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on Wednesday at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise.

Some tense moments yesterday in Boise as a non-student boarded a school bus near downtown who the bus driver described as possibly being under the influence. When authorities boarded the bus they found the individual had a gun in their backpack. No students were harmed and the suspect was taken into custody.

The man accused of murdering four of his neighbors in Kellogg this summer made another court appearance Wednesday afternoon. Majorjon Kaylor defense asked the court to throw out his confession, saying officers and detectives did not read him his Miranda rights until hours after he was

detained and had already made voluntary statements. Idaho State Police Detective Justin Klitch told the court he read Kaylor his Miranda rights about a minute after they sat down.

Homicide Investigation

On November 16, 2023, at approximately 1:47 am the Twin Falls Police Department responded to the 800 block of Capri Dr. in regard to a reported shooting. It was reported that a home owner heard a disturbance outside his house and confronted an individual inside of his vehicle. Our officers arrived and discovered that the home owner had been shot while confronting the suspect inside his vehicle. It was reported that the suspect then fled the scene, got into a white truck and left the area at a high rate of speed. Although first aid was rendered by first responders, the 32-year old victim died as a result of the shooting and this case is currently being treated as a homicide investigation. The victim has been identified as Fred Rodriguez of Twin Falls. Rodriguez was married and a father to three children.

Acting Chief Matthew Hicks would like to remind the citizens in Twin Falls to remain vigilant. While we believe this event is an isolated incident, the suspect is not yet known and is considered armed and dangerous. We would also like to remind residents to try to avoid direct confrontation with suspects, gather as much information as possible and notify police as soon as possible.

At this time there is no further information available regarding the suspect or vehicle of interest. The Twin Falls Police Department will release appropriate information as it becomes available. Anybody with possible information regarding this incident is encouraged to call Detective Jason Kelly at 208-735-7307.

BOISE, Idaho—After extensive work with local partners, the Bureau of Land Management today finalized the second of five plans that taken together will define a comprehensive system of existing motorized routes through Owyhee County in southwestern Idaho. The Canyonlands West Travel Management Plan provides for hunting, hiking, biking, and off-highway vehicle access, while also supporting working rangelands and minimizing user and resource conflicts.

The strategy, developed under a collaborative effort that engaged Owyhee County Commissioners, motorized user groups, Tribes, and various state and federal agencies, would designate 1,305 miles of BLM-managed routes within Owyhee County. Designated routes are defined by more than physical characteristics such as paved surfaces, but also include usage,

size, condition, and popularity considerations. The BLM designated 1,089 route miles as open for motorized vehicles, providing access to 677,000 acres of BLM-managed public land. The BLM will allocate 41 miles specifically for ATV/UTV use and 36 miles for single-track use, such as motorcycles or e-bikes.

Friday 120123

The weather is making headlines this morning. There is a winter weather storm watch and advisories in place through tomorrow night for much of the higher elevations in the gem state. Up to 10 inches of snow is expected. There also is a wind advisory that is in effect Saturday afternoon and into Sunday Morning where gusts could reach up to 50 miles an hour. In the Valley, winds and 1 to 2 inches of the white stuff is expected.

The Biden administration and federal agencies are prepared to remove four lower Snake River dams to save imperiled salmon species, according to a leaked proposal among parties in a federal lawsuit and the administration's environmental council. Republican representatives in the Northwest, as well as some electric utilities, are not pleased about the proposed agreement.

A 57 year old man is facing criminal charges of sexually abusing a minor while they were asleep. James L. McKim allegedly provided the minor with meth and then sexually abuse them while they were asleep.

The 30 vehicle pileup on Monday morning has claimed the life of a 66 year old man who was transferred to Utah for treatment. The man was an American Falls resident. On Monday, a thick layer of fog covered the interstate, causing limited visibility in a short amount of time, west of Pocatello.

There is an active amber alert this morning. Teton County Sheriffs Office is looking for a 10 month old child who was last seen at 4600 SKYLINE LOOP in VICTOR and is believed to be in imminent danger. Suspect is armed and dangerous please do not approach. The victim is Zeke Best. Authorities are looking for Jeremy Best who is the biological father. He could be headed to Wyoming.

Lori Vallow Daybell has been booked into a Maricopa County jail. She was found guilty in May of killing her two youngest children, as well as conspiring to kill Tammy Daybell, her fifth husband's previous wife. Vallow Daybell was sentenced to three consecutive life sentences. She was previously indicted in Arizona in a separate felony case after a grand jury indicted her in 2021 on a charge of conspiring to kill her fourth husband, Charles Vallow.

Friday 120823

Twin Falls police say 40 year old Angelica Martinez is facing charges in the double murder of a Twin Falls businessman and his employee. Martinez a Twin Falls woman was arrested in Phoenix Arizona and charged with Aiding and abetting murder along with drug related crimes. On December 1st, Jaime Bravo Rodriguez and Jesse Ortiz-Meda were found dead.

Lori Vallow Daybell appeared in an Arizona Courtroom yesterday. She has been charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit murder. She entered a not guilty plea for both counts. In Idaho she was convicted of the murder of her two children. Her husband also faces murder charges and could be facing the death penalty.

Idaho Attorney General Raul Labrador has ordered Canyon County to conduct a re-count of the votes that narrowly passed the City of Caldwell General Obligation Bond in November's election. The \$17.3 million fire dept. bond unofficially passed by the slimmest margin at 66.74 percent. It requires two-thirds of the vote to pass.

U.S. senator James Risch has honored the 2nd south market in Twin Falls with a congressional record statement. The honor represents Region Five for the Support of what they call Local Gems.

A fire at a Walmart in Boise has closed the store while officials investigate the blaze. In a news release, the fire department said they were called to the store on Overland Road around 5:30. They found the active fire in the back corner of the store. The fire damaged the back corner of the building and the entire store sustained smoke and water damage.

Minidoka county commissioner Wayne Schenk said he will not be running for a third term. Schenk, who represents District 1, said he made the decision in order to allow individuals ample time to consider whether they should run for the position.

Friday 121523

Idaho's passed a law in 2011 that closed party primaries. However, the law also allowed leaders of each party could keep their primaries open. The Idaho Democratic Party opted to do so. The Idaho Republican Party said no. Idahoans for Open Primaries is trying to change that. All the candidates would run against each other on the same primary ballot; the top four vote-getters would advance to the general election.

The Idaho State Police made a large drug bust near Idaho Falls Tuesday. They found 2.7 pounds of Meth, 2.7 pounds of Cocaine, over 5300 Fentanyl pills and drug paraphernalia. Drug enforcement officers say they also found almost a pound of meth that was destined for Twin Falls.

Quadruple murder suspect, Majorjon Kaylor, came to a plea agreement with the state of Idaho in the case against him. In court documents filed Wednesday, Kaylor will plead guilty to four counts of second-degree murder. The remaining charge of burglary will be dismissed as part of the deal.

While the mountain snowpack is off to a slow start, there is enough snow to produce dangerous avalanches. That means the Sawtooth Avalanche center in the Wood River Valley is open and producing reports. You can find those at sawtoothavalanche.com.

Accused murder suspect, Jeremy Best's preliminary hearing scheduled for Monday is now vacated by order of the court. All proceedings in this case are now on hold until a mental capacity determination can be made. He is accused of killing his wife and unborn baby. He also is accused of taking his 10 month old son who was later found dead. Charges for his death have not been filed.

The defense team for Bryan Kohberger has been given access today to the house in Moscow where 4 U of I students were found murdered. The home is set to be demolished December 28th.

After months of legal battles, Idaho is still planning to change which company runs mental health services for one in five Idahoans. The decision who to pay \$1.2 billion over four years to run Medicaid has been in the courts for months. Magellan Health will oversee the contract starting July 1.

Friday 122223

A judge has issued an order for the release of the remains of Tylee Ryan to her family members. Colby Ryan, Tylee and JJ's older brother, is expected to take custody of the remains. JJ Vallow's remains were released to family members in October.

Heavy fog yesterday morning closed a portion of I-86 in Power County at around 9:30 am. Several accidents occurred according to Idaho State Police prompting the closure. Both directions were reopened just before 4 pm.

The parents of a man shot and killed by a Star Idaho police officer is asking for an unbiased third party review of the case. 39 year old Jeremy Banach died after being shot on June 15th of 2022. The Valley County prosecutor reviewed the findings who said the shooting was justified. His parents said he did have a drug problem but he was still a good person.

The bureau of land management Twin Falls district recently transferred a wildland fire engine to the Notch Butte protection association. They serve northern Twin Falls County.

The Biden administration moved to conserve groves of old-growth trees on national forests across the U.S. and limit logging as climate change amplifies the threats they face from wildfires, insects and disease. The proposal follows longstanding calls from environmentalists to preserve older forests that offer crucial wildlife habitat and other environmental benefits. Timber companies have fought against logging restrictions on government-owned lands.

At least 14 of the Gem State's 19 ski areas will be open during the holiday season. Sun Valley has been open since Thanksgiving. In Southern Idaho, Magic Mountain Ski Resort near Hansen is open and Pomerelle Mountain Resort near Albion is open daily for the season. Soldier Mountain near Fairfield will spin both chairs Saturday.

The bureau of reclamation say the water level in the reservoir system is building back up. The reservoir system is 63% full, which is approximately 114% of median for the date and 1,377,769 acre-feet higher than a year ago.

Friday 122923

The home where four university of Idaho students were murdered was demolished yesterday. The home had been guarded by security since November of 2022.

A University of Idaho Study Indicates That Idaho's Agricultural Sector Achieved Record Sales for Four Primary Commodities in 2023. According to the report the state's agricultural cash receipts for the year amounted to \$11 billion. Although this figure represents a marginal 1% decline from the record high of the previous year, it underscores the sector's overall stability.

Idaho State University has been awarded \$2.2 million in grants to train students and educators who will work with children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. Idaho State University's Department of Communications and Disorders was awarded two grants from the Office of Special Education Personnel Preparation that will make \$2.2 million in grant funding available over the next five years.

This is moving week for Jefferson elementary in Jerome. The school is moving everything to the new Frontier elementary where students will be when they return to school on January 8th. The move will make it possible for Jefferson to be remodeled.

Season restrictions are in place for off highway vehicles for parts of the Wood River Valley. Areas include parts of East fork, Greenhorn, Ohio Gulch, Quigley to Muldoon. Bell Mountain to Picabo. Croy Creek, Big and little beaver

drainages, camp and poison creek and the Elk mountain area. The BLM said big game herds are returning to winter range.

Idaho governor Brad Little said he was excited to see that the state ranks first for income growth and fifth for household income in all 50 states. The median household income was \$70,214, increasing by \$9,153.

The annual tradition of the Sugar Beet Drop is set for another year in Rupert. The large beet with hundreds of lights will drop from a 150 foot crane in the square 60 seconds to midnight. The festivities will also include free ice skating, performances from local entertainers, and a fireworks show.

Monday 100223

A 10 vehicle pileup closed a portion of I-84 yesterday afternoon and sent two people to the hospital with injuries. The accident just after 2 in Elmore county started when a semi-truck that was westbound failed to stop in time for slowed traffic near a construction zone. The truck collided with 9 other vehicles. The lanes were closed for nearly 5 hours.

The Idaho department of Agriculture hosted a town hall meeting yesterday evening at the city hall in Twin Falls to discuss the extent of the Quagga Mussel infestation at Centennial Park. Officials say they have found one mussel so far and will be treating the water beginning at the Twin Falls Dam and down river to Centennial park which is closed until at least October 20th.

Lawmakers failed to gather enough support to call a special session to fix an error in Idaho's primary election by yesterday's deadline. That means the state will move forward with their caucus plan.

Emergency room doctors in Idaho are no longer protected from prosecution under the state's abortion ban after the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed an order that had been in effect since August 2022. The court granted the Idaho Legislature's appeal after U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill made the decision and refused to reconsider it in May.

A dispute between the state Republican party and a local party continued in court last week over whether the Bingham County Republican Central

Committee violated its rules and bylaws during its election of new officers over the summer. Former Bingham County Republican chairman Dan Cravens announced his intent to resign earlier this year and called a meeting to elect his replacement in July. Idaho Republican Party chairwoman Dorothy Moon later declared the elections void after she received a complaint about the conduct of the meeting.

Flying from the Idaho Falls Airport to Los Angeles got a bit easier and cheaper. The Idaho Falls Regional Airport has been awarded a federal Small Community Air Service Development Grant of \$950,000 to support efforts to offer additional flights. The grant provides a revenue guarantee to pursue and develop future air service to the Los Angeles area. The grant also aims to further reduce airfare costs and provide greater regional connectivity.

Monday 100923

A crash yesterday afternoon closed 3400 east from Polk Street to Kimberly Meadows in Twin Falls for several hours. According to the Twin Falls County Sheriff, a pickup was struck by a train. There were no injuries reported.

Tamlyn Leigh Ulin-Gilson the Former president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local Union pleaded guilty to wire fraud after stealing more than \$40,000 from the union and spending it at casinos and on other personal expenses. The federal labor organization represents about 1,100 medical support staff at Boise's U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Healthcare System and other associated clinics. She faces 20 years in prison.

Four senior Idaho Attorney General staffers are leaving the office. Idaho Solicitor General Theo Wold and Labrador's chief of staff, Tim Frost. Lincoln Davis Wilson, chief of the Civil and Constitutional Defense Division and the office's communications director, Beth Cahill, also is leaving. A fired deputy attorney general last month filed a wrongful termination lawsuit against the Attorney General's Office, alleging retaliation after raising ethical concerns.

A head on crash of two semi-trucks early Friday morning along I-84 near Mountain Home claimed the lives of both drivers. The crash just before 7 am closed the freeway in that area for 12 hours.

Another crash at the corner of Fillmore Street and Pole line road in Twin Falls sent a 65 year old Rupert man to the hospital. It happened when a semi-truck failed to stop at the intersection while the passenger truck was attempting to make a U-turn. The intersection was closed for nearly 5 hours.

A record influx of state and federal funding is paying for a \$140 million transformation of Idaho state parks that officials say will benefit Idahoans and visitors for generations to come. Two funding sources have come together to create what one state legislator calls a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in and protect Idaho state parks.

Monitoring by fish and game officials continue along the Snake River as treatment for the Quagga mussel continues. Earlier fish were tagged. As of now they have found few dead fish but caution that it's early in the treatment process. Fish mortality could be noted through the month officials say.

Monday 101623

Four people were killed Friday morning in a 3 vehicle pileup at the junction of highway 93 and state highway 25 in Jerome County. Police say a 35 year old male from Mexico was westbound and didn't stop. His van collided with a garbage truck. As the driver of a pickup who was traveling south slowed for the crash a vehicle following rear ended the pickup. The vehicle with 4 hispanic males all died at the scene. A fifth passenger was transported by air ambulance while a female was sent to the hospital by ambulance. It happened just after 7 and the intersection was closed for nearly 6 hours.

Jerome County has a new prosecuting attorney. On Friday, deputy Prosecutor Sam Beus was sworn into the position. He replaces Brad Calbo who remains in a Lincoln County Oregon jail facing charges of violating a no contact order. He plead no contest to assault charges from an incident in June.

Former Boise Police Chief Ryan Lee has filed a million dollar suit claiming Police department members campaigned to sabotage his career. He claims false information was spread among the department.

56 year old Catherine Skidmore from Meridian, was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison for embezzling almost \$2 million in a money laundering scheme from the Black Canyon Irrigation District. In the sentence, the Judge also ordered Skidmore to pay back the money and be under supervised release for three years after completing her prison sentence.

Idaho public schools are now required to maintain separate restrooms, showers, and changing areas for biological boys and biological girls. The law also ensures that any student unwilling or unable to use the bathroom of their designated gender will be provided reasonable accommodations. This law originally went into effect on July 1 of this year, but was blocked in August when Judge Nye issued a temporary restraining order on the legislation, pending further court action.

Thomas Creech's attorneys have filed a clemency application in hopes of having his death sentence commuted to life in prison without parole. The Idaho Department of Corrections has served Thomas Creech with a death warrant and scheduled his execution for November 8, 2023.

Monday 102323

Early voting in the magic valley opened today and there are many choices residents will decide on. Ballots include 15 city councils, 4 mayoral races and many school board contests. Election day is Tuesday November 7th.

Just after midnight Saturday a 27 year old man was killed on I-84 in Gooding County. Police say the man from Lubbock Texas drove lost control and rolled.

Republican Representative Mike Simpson was one who voted no against Jim Jordan for House speaker. Simpson said that he cannot vote for someone who has never voted for the farm bill and that he felt Jordan wouldn't represent Idaho. Simpson's vote was criticized by Idaho Republican Party chairwoman Dorothy Moon.

An initiative to increase clean energy production is picking up steam, solar and wind. The U.S. Department of Energy is supercharging its efforts in its Clean Energy initiative by researching potential partners in Idaho. The agency

issued a request for information to identify industry partners who would be interested in developing clean energy projects in eastern Idaho.

Despite opposition from Northwest Democratic leaders, federal regulators voted unanimously Thursday to allow more natural gas to flow through Oregon, Idaho, Washington and northern California. It comes after more than a year of opposition from environmental groups and leaders in California, Oregon and Washington.

As the November 7 Election quickly approaches, campaign signs are out in full force around town and some signs are being illegally taken down. Stealing a sign could run you a \$1,000 fine and possible jail time. They can't be on private property unless the owner gives permission. After the election, signs on public property must be removed within 48 hours.

The Centennial Park is back open but not the Snake River. The treatment for the Quagga Mussel is complete for now and the Twin Falls Sheriff's office will be patrolling the site to make sure no one trespasses into the river. Officials say the fight against the mussels is not over yet.

Monday 103023

A critical incident task force has been called in to investigate an accident that claimed the life of a 41 year old female from Malta. Idaho state police say a trooper was responding to assist a motorist on state highway 81 in Cassia County late Wednesday when he struck the woman who was in the roadway. He stopped and began administering CPR until EMS workers arrived. She died at the scene. The Twin Falls county sheriffs office is taking the lead in the investigation. The findings will be reviewed by the local prosecutors office.

Two teens died after the car they were in failed to stop at a stop sign Friday afternoon. Police say the accident happened at the intersection of U.S. 26 and 2000 East in Gooding County. The teens were struck by another vehicle driven by a 50 year old man from Wendell. That car went off the road and struck a backhoe. Two others involved in the accident were taken to a nearby hospital. Another teen was transported by air ambulance.

There are roughly 2.55 million heads of cattle in Idaho, and a recent study revealed that they can keep on grazing on federal lands. Research from a 10-year University of Idaho study showed that cattle grazing on federal land won't negatively affect sage grouse nesting success, and the coexistence of the animals could have benefits.

The Environmental Protection Agency this week gave two Idaho organizations a combined \$770,000 to fulfill projects promoting environmental justice. The Duck Valley Indian Reservation received \$435,000 to adapt the National Incident Management System for emergency response to achieve input on mining. The Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation, Boise received \$335,000 for its Tribal Youth Environmental Justice and Climate Leadership Program.

A former funeral director from Pocatello could spend over 200 years in prison following 22 felony charges including state tax evasion, perjury, forging public records, computer fraud and grand theft. 49 year old Lance Peck owned the Downard Funeral Home.

Monday 110623

A Rupert female was killed Saturday evening near the Minico High school after walking out into traffic along Highway 25. Police say a 56 year old woman was near 300 West around 7:30 when she walked out into the westbound lane and was struck by a car. She died at the scene. The driver of the vehicle was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

This year is proving to be a deadly one for traffic accidents in Idaho. According to the Idaho Transportation Department, 222 people have died in crashes on Idaho roads this year. This is compared to 215 deaths in 2022. ITD says of the 222 people who died, 74 were not wearing seatbelts. Additionally, the most frequent type of fatal crash in Idaho is when a single vehicle leaves the roadway and crashes.

A Bomb Threat at Smiths Grocery Store in Twin Falls sent police looking through the building. Turns out it was a hoax. A caller notified the store that a bomb would go off unless they received an unspecified amount of Amazon and Apple gift cards.

Sarah Wondra the woman who police believe knows about the death of Michael Vaughan of Fruitland, was sentenced to three years in prison on unrelated charges. She was charged with aggravated assault, evidence destruction and possession of a controlled substance.

Kroger's deal to scoop up Albertsons appears likely to face regulatory heat – but a decision might not come until “some point next year.” FTC Lina Khan said that her agency continues its review of Kroger's proposed \$24.6 billion acquisition of Boise-based Albertsons, which was announced more than a year ago.

There are about 1,500 fewer students in Idaho schools. Fall enrollment fell to 312,900 compared to 314,400 last year. In 2022, Idaho's population grew by 1.8%, making it the state with the second-highest growth rate behind Florida.

A recent designation could light the way for further innovations in nuclear energy in the state at a newly formed Idaho tech consortium. Along with the designation comes a \$500,000 grant, which will help the agency apply for a second phase of funding worth anywhere from \$40 million to \$75 million.

Monday 111323

In an effort to begin setting state budgets earlier in legislative sessions, members of the Idaho Legislature's Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will shorten the public portion of their daily committee meetings beginning in 2024. Sen. C. Scott Grow of Eagle, and Rep. Wendy Horman, of Idaho Falls, discussed the upcoming changes during an interim meeting of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on Wednesday at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise.

The man accused of murdering four of his neighbors in Kellogg this summer made another court appearance Wednesday afternoon. Majorjon Kaylor defense asked the court to throw out his confession, saying officers and detectives did not read him his Miranda rights until hours after he was detained and had already made voluntary statements. Idaho State Police Detective Justin Klitch told the court he read Kaylor his Miranda rights about a minute after they sat down.

Idaho's largest two-year college wants to offer its first four-year degree. The College of Western Idaho could launch a bachelor's program in business administration next fall, if the State Board of Education signs on. The program could allow students to receive a degree for about \$20,000 in tuition costs. There is only one such program in the state a CSI program in "operations management," focused on the food processing industry.

Idaho's bankrupt Health Data Exchange was difficult to regulate because of how the state created and managed it, a watchdog report released last week found. Idaho legislators on the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on Friday asked the watchdog evaluators whether the exchange could be shut down, whether Idaho's health information stored on the privately-ran but publicly funded exchange is secure and what next steps the Legislature can take. The answer: its complicated and more debate is sure to come.

Convicted murderer Lori Vallow Daybell, continues to sit in an eastern Idaho women's prison while the court prepares court transcripts of her trial that must be filed by January 12, 2024, as part of her sentencing appeal. That means her extradition to Arizona to stand trial has been put on hold.

Monday 11/20/23

The leader of Idaho's Senate has stripped another legislator of his committee leadership role in response to his conduct. Senate President Pro Tem Chuck Winder sent a letter to Sen. Brian Lenney of Nampa, notifying him that he would be removed as vice chair of the Commerce and Human Resources Committee because, Winder alleged, Lenney had "aggressively attacked, disparaged, and degraded fellow members of the Senate, members of Senate leadership, and members of the general public."

Winter weather advisories were issued Sunday afternoon for much of East Idaho as a rainstorm that entered the region Saturday night intensified to include powerful winds and snow. Multiple wrecks, some involving injuries, were reported in the Bannock County area late Sunday afternoon as the rain shifted to snow and began accumulating on local roads.

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.2% in October from 3.1% in September. The state's labor force increased by 1,900 people to 971,208.

Customers' bills from Idaho Power could rise but not as much as initially expected. In June Idaho Power filed for an overall increase of \$111 million, or 8.61%. If approved, this would have raised the average residential customer's rate, who uses 950 kilowatt hours a month, by \$11.61 monthly – or about \$140 per year. Now, the PUC is considering a settlement that would allow the utility an overall increase of \$54.7 million. For the average residential customer, this would come out to a monthly increase of \$4.44.

Leaders of education in the state are considering the pro's and con's of accepting federal money for schools. Currently that adds up to nearly \$525.2 million. Opting out could buy a state some autonomy in areas such as testing. Idaho already struggling with a \$66 million special education budget gap.

The University of Idaho-University of Phoenix megadeal cleared one regulatory hurdle this month. Phoenix's accreditors have signed off on the deal, which would turn the giant for-profit online university into a nonprofit operating under the U of I's umbrella. The U of I still needs the go-ahead from its own accreditors, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. The case between the AG's office and the Board of education is expected to go to trial within 3 months.

Monday 112723

The state's unemployment was up month-over-month in October to 3.2%, increasing by .1%, reported the Idaho Department of Labor. Though the unemployment rate was up, so, too, was the number of employed people. Total employment increased by 693 to 939,743. The labor force also increased by 1,900 people to 971,208. Unemployment increased by 1,207 people to 31,465, which is the highest since June of 2021, the state reported.

Seattle-based dairy giant Darigold plans to split part of its corporate office off and staff up in the Boise area. The company said it would maintain a presence

in Seattle, but wanted to put “key functions” closer to its farms and processing plants.

After reports of overworked public defenders and years of lawsuits against the state claiming inadequate public defense for those in the criminal justice system, Idaho’s new state agency for public defense is in its early stages of formation to help. Last month Idaho Gov. Brad Little’s office announced it had appointed Eric Fredericksen as the state public defender, a new position created during the 2023 legislative session.

The price of gas is going down. Today’s average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.69, which is six cents less than a week ago, 25 cents less than a month ago, and 49 cents less than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.28 per gallon, which is seven cents less than a week ago, 27 cents less than a month ago, and 36 cents less than a year ago.

State attorneys general in Oregon, Washington and California and two environmental groups are asking federal energy regulators to reconsider their approval of a natural gas pipeline project that would increase the flow of gas through the Northwest. Federal regulators voted unanimously to allow TC Energy to expand the capacity of its 1,400-mile-long gas pipeline through Oregon, North Idaho, Washington and northern California. The expansion would allow 150 million more cubic feet of gas to be delivered to the region each day.

Monday 120423

It was a very sad weekend of news to report. On Saturday Bonneville County deputies discovered the body of a 10 month old boy that was the subject of an amber alert earlier in the week. Just after 9 a call from hunters sent authorities east of Idaho Falls who found a naked man making odd statements. Nearby a vehicle was located where the baby was found. Police identified the baby as Zeke Best. The naked man was identified as Jeremy Best, who police were searching for following the murder of the child’s mother.

Police in Twin Falls found two people dead Friday night just after 8. According to accounts by the police they were called to the Tint Shop on Kimberly road for Shots Fired. There they found 26 year old Jamie Bravo and 36 year old Jesse Ortiz. the shop owner, had been killed. Authorities say they are continuing their investigation and are looking for two individuals. Photos of the suspects have been posted by police to social media.

One person died Friday evening near Mountain home following a two car pileup on I-84. Police say a 36 year old Mountain Home man was westbound when he lost control and crossed over the median. He struck a car driven by a 30 year old Rupert man who died at the scene. The road was closed for about 4 hours while authorities investigated and the scene was cleared.

Police in Jerome are investigating a hate crime made against the owner of Demerays funeral chapel. Angela Demaray said she found markings in the snow on the top of the hearse parked next to her business on Fillmore Street.

Tonight Twin Falls city manager Travis Rothweiler will go before the city council to request the reappointment of Craig Kingsbury as police Chief. Kingsbury announced his retirement in September. He was hired to the position in September of 2016.

A jackknifed semi was the cause of a three truck pileup east of Burley Saturday morning. Police say the westbound truck made contact with a guardrail. A third semi-truck then struck the guardrail as well. The crash occurred near Milepost 230.

Monday 121123

The Fremont County district judge overseeing Chad Daybell's case ruled Friday the trial will remain in Ada County. Daybell is charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy in the deaths of Lori Vallow Daybell's two children, JJ Vallow and Tylee Ryan, and his late wife, Tammy Daybell. The state attorney's motion argued that due to the extensive media coverage that took place during his wife's trial, Lori Vallow Daybell, jurors have the potential to be biased.

72 year old Penny Kay Clark who had been missing since Dec. 5 was found in a rural area of Canyon County on Saturday, just before noon. Authorities received a call from two men who found a car near Map Rock Rd and Rim Rd near Melba. The woman's car had fallen down a canyon wall and she was found by responders 40 feet below in a ravine. Emergency rescuers found her alert and conscious. She was taken by air ambulance for treatment.

Wildlife conservation groups on Nov. 29 filed a legal petition asking the U.S. Forest Service to prohibit aerial gunning of wildlife in national forests in Idaho. But leaders on the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board disagree. The Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board was established in 2014 to manage funds for wolf depredation control in Idaho.

An officer with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game reported a dead juvenile swan on Nov. 9 at the 7-mile Slough Access near Emmett. Swans are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and there is no swan hunting season in the Southwest Region of Idaho. Anyone with information on the incident is encouraged to call the Idaho Fish and Game

Monday 121823

Daring a preliminary hearing in court this past week, four detectives and the chief of police for Gooding County took the stand to testify about the murder investigation of Roger Driesel. Athena Miller asked her alleged nephew Nicholas James to shoot Roger, who was her boyfriend. Athena claimed that her reason was because Roger was being physically abusive.

The Idaho Heritage Trust was given \$750,000 to award grants to historic theaters in Idaho's rural areas one of those was given to the Shoshone Show house. \$100-thouseand to be exact. A sign on the front of the theater said they were closed due to the need of digital equipment. The Burley Theater was also awarded a \$100,000 grant as well.

Organizers with Idahoans for Open Primaries announced Wednesday the coalition has gathered more than 50,000 signatures as part of its effort to qualify a ballot initiative for the November 2024 general election. Their goal is 63,000 registered Idaho voters by May 1.

A decades-long battle over dams in the Columbia River Basin had a breakthrough as the Biden administration announced a deal with four tribes in the region that is meant to restore salmon and other fish runs while also looking at eventually breaching four of the dams. The settlement agreement calls for a 10-year pause in legal fighting that dates back to the 1990s.

Idaho is a state known for its natural beauty, agricultural products, and outdoor recreation. But it also has a dark side: drug trafficking. According to a recent report by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, one city in Idaho has been named the drug smuggling capital of the state: Boise. 200-thousand call the capitol city home.

As was anticipated, large numbers of fish mortalities were observed on the river within two days of the start of the mussel-killing treatment. Fish and Game staff handled approximately six to seven tons of dead fish over the two-week treatment.

Thursday 100523

32 Year old Kevin Kuintzle of Twin Falls, who is accused of the shooting death of Jerome resident Bill Eakin on September 16th had his preliminary hearing postponed for at least 60 days. The hearing was supposed to be yesterday. Meanwhile his friend, 42 year old Erika Brock's hearing was vacated as well. Both public defenders in the case are asking for more time.

Lori Vallow Daybell's appeals attorney filed an amended notice of appeal yesterday. They are appealing to the Idaho state Supreme Court about the judgement of conviction. No court date has been set.

The new COVID-19 vaccine is available in Idaho, while the coronavirus spreads around the state more than usual lately. The uptick in spread is nowhere near as sharp as huge spikes during the pandemic. But experts still say it's worth getting the new vaccine to avoid the inconveniences of isolation and health woes of serious cases. Dr. Christine Hahn, Idaho's epidemiologist, in an interview this week, likened the current state of COVID-19 to past fall seasons, as peaks approached.

Idaho State University has been awarded 330 thousand dollars a year for five years to assist training and improve health care in rural communities. 8 million dollars total was awarded to 18 primary care residency training programs throughout the country,

New data from spring assessments show that Idaho students are outperforming their national peers in early literacy. It also shows losses in proficiency levels on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test. Each spring and fall, Idaho students in kindergarten through third grade take the Idaho Reading Indicator. The assessment is used to gauge how well Idaho students are reading.

The Idaho transportation department is looking to replace the dry Creek Bridge along highway 30 and they want to hear your thoughts. The bridge built in the 1930's is located just north of Murtaugh Lake. The ITD will have an open house next Wednesday afternoon starting at 3:30 in the Murtaugh high school cafeteria.

Thursday 101223

The group, Idahoans for open primaries, have gathered 25-thousand signatures for the voting ballot initiative. Depending on whom you talk to in the Republican Party it's either a good thing or a bad idea. Former Idaho Governor Butch Otter has come out for the plan. Idaho Republican Party Chairwoman Dorothy Moon and some Republican officeholders say no. Supporters have until May 1 to gather more than 63,000 signatures statewide and qualify 18 legislative districts.

A dairy facility in Jerome has been fined thousands of dollars over what the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality said was a violation of the company's discharge permit. Agropur was fined \$29,605 by the DEQ for a wastewater discharge on Dec. 5, 2021, that was not allowed under the federal Clean Water Act. Company officials said the discharge was the result of equipment failure. .

In a federal lawsuit filed last week, the Boise School District is being accused of mishandling reports of abuse involving an underage student and staff at

Fairmont Junior High. The lawsuit accuses the now-deceased school social worker Scott Crandell, of predatory sexually abusive acts towards students. The latest court documents were filed by a minor girl's parents who claim she was pulled out of class to visit with the social worker for nap time. Crandell committed suicide months ago.

The Idaho Department of Insurance is warning consumers to be wary of improper marketing by telemarketers and TV commercials for Medicare. Medicare will be open for enrollment for 2024 starting Sunday through Dec. 7. The department says to hang up if callers you don't have an appointment with ask for private information.

The University of Idaho is refusing to release records that could address financial risks from the proposed University of Phoenix purchase. The issue ramped up on Sept. 20, when the Biden administration announced a plan to write off \$37 million in Phoenix student debts a move that could affect the U of I. Special Counsel for the school Kent Nelson said student loan records fall under a nondisclosure agreement and the internal analysis is confidential.

Thursday 101923

The Idaho Department of Agriculture opened a portion of the Snake River to public access this morning just after midnight. Officials opened the river from the Highway 46 Bridge to the bottom of Yingst Grade.

Twin Falls water department crews spent much of yesterday afternoon dealing with a broken waterline. Around 3 pm a break was reported in the area of Eastgate drive, Carriage Lane and parts of Elizabeth Boulevard. Eastgate Drive between 4th avenue and Carriage lane was closed.

The Idaho Supreme court has ruled to move up the date of Thomas Creech's oral arguments to Thursday November 2nd. Creech remains on death row and is scheduled to die on November 8th.

The sharp increase in human-caused fires in Idaho continued throughout the summer and into the fall, with Idaho Department of Lands officials investigating 206 fires caused by people so far this year. The 206 human-

caused fires reported by the Idaho Department of Lands so far in 2023 compare to 78 fires caused by lightning over the same time period. The state's cost for fighting fires is expected to hit \$17.4 million for 2023 leaving \$64 million in the firefighting fund.

More people around Idaho have relied on food banks and pantries over the last few years and data shows the need is not slowing down. Food banks and pantries around the state are feeling the impact. Randy Ford, The Idaho Foodbank president, said inflation plays a role in high demand. They serve about 213,000 Idahoans every month.

After three months since Boise resident Gwen Brunelle was reported missing, searchers have located a third piece of evidence. On June 26, Brunelle informed her family and friends that she was headed to California. She was last seen in Jordan Valley, Oregon, at a gas station on June 27. Now a helicopter searcher has found Gwen's boots roughly 80 yards south of where the previous clue, her T-shirt, was found.

Boise Airport officials say there are new airline routes that will begin in 2024 from Sun Country Airlines. Beginning in June of 2024 the airline will offer nonstop service from Boise to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Thursday 102623

Idaho has joined 32 other states in a lawsuit against Meta of designing Facebook and Instagram to intentionally addict children and teens. The states say that Meta knew its platforms psychologically harmed youth but hid those harms to fuel youths' social media addiction.

Idahoans can now enroll in health and dental insurance through Idaho's health care exchange, Your Health Idaho, for policies in 2024. Enrollment will stay open until midnight Dec. 15. Idahoans can find out within minutes how much their tax credits would be, which could cover some or all of their monthly health insurance premiums.

At a hearing, dozens of Idaho Power customers and climate advocates laid out concerns about a proposal that would change the way the company credits

solar customers. In May, Idaho Power submitted a proposal to decrease the amount it credits customers who sell their rooftop solar power back to the grid. Homeowners, who installed solar panels after December 2019, would be impacted by the changes if it is approved.

Idaho Secretary of State Phil McGrane is reminding eligible Idahoans who want to vote via mail to request their absentee ballot before the Oct. 27 deadline, according to a press release from the Secretary of State's office. Election Day for 43 out of 44 Idaho counties is Nov. 7. Early voting is open now until Nov. 3. Absentee ballots are due to local county election offices by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

After extensive work with local partners, the Bureau of Land Management finalized a decision to create a comprehensive system of existing motorized routes through Owyhee County. The Canyonlands East Travel Management Plan allows the public access while also supporting working rangelands.

On Oct. 19, Idaho Fish and Game conservation officers received a report of two wasted mule deer off of Crows Nest Road, near Hagerman. The wasted deer were found within Game Management Unit 46 in Twin Falls County.

Governor Brad Little has signed the extradition for Lori Vallow Daybell. She will be taken to Arizona to face charges related to the murder of her former husband Charles Vallow and attempted murder of her former nephew in law Brandon Boudreaux. Arizona will be responsible for all the bills.

Thursday 110223

Voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 7 to decide on a number of local mayoral, city council races, levies and bonds across Idaho. Early voting is available in most counties until Friday, Nov. 3. On election day, Nov. 7, polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. In Cassia county the question of changing the way the Oregon Trail Recreation District is funded. In Jerome county a super majority is needed for the construction of a new public recreation and senior center. There is a supplemental levy for school district 331 in Minidoka, Cassia, Jerome and Lincoln Counties.

Timber Roberts, who illegally lived on public lands in Idaho for three years, and assaulted and threatened federal officers, received his sentencing Monday. Timber was sentenced to five and a half months in prison, of which the presiding judge in the case deemed "time served." Meanwhile, Timber's brother, Brooks, still has a \$50 million tort claim pending against the government because of how officers handled the arrest - which resulted in him being shot by responding officers and ultimately paralyzed.

Former Idaho State Representative Aaron Von Ehlinger was convicted last year of raping a 19-year-old legislative intern in 2021. He filed an appeal in July of 2023. His legal team claimed that remarks made by a nurse who testified about the victim's statements in the trial should be inadmissible. The Idaho Supreme Court will need to decide if it will hear the case.

The fight over Idaho's abortion laws continued in court this week. The State filed a motion to dismiss the Center for Reproductive Rights lawsuit. Using court precedent from a previous case, the motion to dismiss states the Center for Reproductive Rights does not have grounds to sue because Idaho's Supreme Court already ruled the state constitution does not contain a right to abortion.

Parties to a lawsuit challenging the federal government over its plans to continue operating dams on the Snake River at the expense of salmon runs asked a federal court in Oregon for more time to negotiate with one another. During the next 45 days, the parties will continue to hash out a plan to save imperiled salmon and deal with the Snake River dams outside of the courtroom.

Thursday 110923

Police say a 35 year old Rupert man died following a crash just south of the Hansen Bridge last night. The accident just after 6, happened when the Rupert Man did a U turn and struck a pickup driven by a 37 year old Twin Falls man. The road was blocked till about midnight while crews cleared the scene.

Area residents had the opportunity to voice their opinion to the Idaho Public utilities commission concerning Idaho Power's application to make changes to

onsite and self-generation tariffs. The company is proposing to reduce the amount paid. The media was not allowed to attend so it's not known what comments were said.

Voters denied the state's largest education funding asks on Tuesday, putting the kibosh on a combined \$112.8 million for bonds in Shelley and Pocatello. Pocatello's \$45 million bond — which would have funded enhancements at two high schools, including one damaged by a fire last spring — garnered just 56% support. And only 48% of voters supported Shelley's \$67.8 million bond, which would have funded a new high school. Meanwhile, the 2 year 2.25 million dollar per year supplemental levy in Minidoka passed as well as the Kimberly 2 year 800-thousand dollar per year levy.

The Bureau of Land Management seeks public comment on a proposal to collect day-use fees to improve the visitor experience at the Jump Creek Recreation Site, located seven miles southwest of Marsing. Recreation at the site, known for its 60-foot waterfall, has almost doubled over six-year's.

The Idaho Ag Outlook Seminar will be face-to-face this year. The seminar, sponsored by the University of Idaho Extension, has been held online for the last two years because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year will be held at four locations, including the College of Southern Idaho's Herrett Center in Twin Falls on Dec. 13.

Idaho's official 2023 Christmas tree will be cut from state property this year. The Blue Spruce is currently in front of the Idaho Department of Administration, which is behind the Statehouse. The tree will be cut on November 20th and moved to the front of the Statehouse. The official tree-lighting ceremony will take place on November 30, starting at 5 p.m.

Thursday 111623

Just before 8 last night gunfire erupted in the Target Parking lot on Blue Lakes north in Twin Falls. Police say they were responding to the report of a fight involving a large group of people when the incident occurred. One adult male was taken to the hospital with what is being described as non-life threatening

injuries. Latest reports indicate there is no one in custody but police are looking for a heavy set black male.

Yesterday, the man accused of murdering Jerome resident Bill Eakin was in court. Kevin Kuintzle declined to waive time for his preliminary hearing. That came as a surprise to his defense Attorney. Kuintzle is charged with shooting Eakin in the head while sleeping inside his home on Bob Barton Road in September. He faces five felonies. That includes murder, 2 counts of destruction of evidence grand theft and burglary.

Micron Technology is set to redefine computer chip production with its expansion project in Boise. The centerpiece of this project is a 600,000-square-foot semiconductor cleanroom. It's a structure equivalent in size to 10 football fields. Spanning across 340 acres of land, and will cost \$15 billion. The expansion doubles the size of the existing Boise campus.

At the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare Dave Jeppesen will retire at the end of this year after five years as DHW director. Governor Little selected Idaho Department of Insurance Director Dean Cameron to serve as interim director.

Thursday 113023

Idaho's top two statewide elected officials said that the state is well-positioned to ride out economic uncertainty created by the collision of inflation and high interest rates with rapid growth officials are still taking stock of. Gov. Brad Little and Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke were among the speakers during the 77th annual Associated Taxpayers of Idaho conference yesterday in Boise. Little and Bedke highlighted the Idaho Legislature's efforts to cut property taxes, reduce income taxes, bolster the state's rainy day savings accounts and spend down a record state surplus through investments in public education, state parks, roads and infrastructure projects.

With almost 30,000 California expatriates leading the charge, the number of Republican voters moving from other states to Idaho dwarfs the number of Democrats moving here from other states. A new data visualization report

released by the Idaho Secretary of State's Office maps the party affiliation of 118,702 current Idaho voters who moved here from other states.

Police are looking for a Jerome man that went missing Monday. Billy Joe Mathis was last seen in northern Nevada. Nevada authorities are conducting the search.

The Jerome school district is considering a four day school week. Right now there are 97 Idaho districts that have a 4 day week. The topic was presented at this week's school board meeting. No decision was made.

Chad Daybell's triple murder trial will be broadcast live by the court after a judge amended a camera-ban yesterday. Judge Stephen Boyce made the ruling after arguments from the state, Daybell's attorney and an attorney representing local media outlets. Daybell is accused of killing his first wife, Tammy Daybell. He's also accused of killing Tylee Ryan and JJ Vallow, the children of his current wife, Lori Vallow.

Three people were injured, two taken by air ambulance following a crash on U.S. 30 just after 1 yesterday afternoon. Police say a 40 year old Kimberly woman collided with another vehicle at the intersection of 3400 east and highway 30. The crash closed the intersection for about 2 and a half hours.

Thursday 120723

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality has awarded \$331 thousand dollars to nine drinking water and wastewater systems to help the facilities evaluate system deficiencies and determine necessary upgrades. The city of Buhl was awarded \$83 thousand. Filer received \$58 thousand. King Hill was awarded \$22 thousand.

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are expanding into Idaho and Montana a program that offers financial incentives to agriculture producers who voluntarily participate in conservation programs for migratory big game. The program includes about \$21 million to begin the expansion.

The Idaho outfitters and guide industry contributes up to \$600 million to Idaho's economy, supports nearly 5,000 jobs and contributes \$50 million in

state and local taxes annually, according to a new study conducted by the University of Idaho. The Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association will have a follow-up study released next year.

Thursday 121423

Idaho's longest-serving death row inmate, Thomas Cree, seeks a district court hearing for his case. After 40 years on death row, Cree's legal team argues for a jury, not a judge, to decide his fate. His execution was delayed after a clemency hearing was granted, scheduled for January 19th.

Intermountain Packing in Idaho Falls laid off more than 100 employees this week. In response, the Idaho Department of Labor arranged for more employers at their bi-monthly job fair. The department said they are doing its best to help the unemployed have a quick turnaround in the job force.

The state police along with over 50 law enforcement agencies have begun aggressively searching the roads for drivers who are impaired. Police say this will continue through New Year's Day.

A special meeting was called last night for the North Idaho College Board members. There was just one key item on the agenda. It states new business with action to grant authority to the board chair to direct litigation at the request of council. In President Nick Swaynes lawsuit against North Idaho College, he is asking the court to compel the college to turn over an investigative report that has been at the center of debate amongst the board of trustees.

Idaho Governor Brad Little said the historic transportation funding investments continue to improve roads at the local level and defray local property taxes. Forty-eight transportation projects, many of them ready for construction in 2024, received grants this week as part of the Strategic Initiatives Program. The program directs \$100 million to help local jurisdictions.

Work began yesterday to widen the final mile of Highway 93 between Jerome and Twin Falls. Drivers will see minor delays with the majority of the work starting sometime in January. Construction will expand US-93 to four lanes between 200 South Road and 400 South Road. Other changes include reconstructing the railroad crossing, widening highway shoulders and building turn lanes at 300 South Road and other business developments.

Thursday 122123

Jerome police say the homicide case that dates back to August 10, 1995 has finally been solved. 84 year old Wilma Mobley was found dead from strangulation and an ax attack. Now ISP lab technicians have found DNA profile matching Danny Lee Kennison on the victim's underclothing. The case is closed as Kennison committed suicide in Filer in March of 2001.

Following the Colorado Supreme court ruling that former president Donald Trump cannot appear on the state ballot in 2024, the Idaho Republican party issued a statement condemning the move. The group said Yet again, leftists in the government are directly interfering with the electoral process to obstruct the people's will.

Idaho has removed children from Medicaid faster than many other states which the federal government is not happy about. Earlier this year, states started to remove people from Medicaid after federal pandemic era-rules that kept people on Medicaid automatically expired. HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra wrote in a letter to Idaho Gov. Brad Little that he was "deeply alarmed" that 56,580 fewer Idaho children were on CHIP or Medicaid as of the end of September, compared to when states started removing people from Medicaid this spring.

Idaho Fish and Game has lifted the hunting, fishing and trapping closures in the previously closed reach of the Snake River upstream of "broken bridge" at Yingst Grade to Pillar Falls. The closure was in response to the detection and treatment of the Snake River for quagga mussels and larvae earlier this year.

A former Idaho State Police trooper accused of murdering his wife more than two years ago has been released on a property bond, according to court

records. 57 year old Daniel C. Howard, was arrested on April 21 in connection to the 2021 murder of his wife, Kendy Howard. He turned himself in after Kootenai County prosecutors obtained a warrant for his arrest.

As more than 115 million Americans, including 660,000 Idahoans, prepare for a holiday vacation, falling gas prices will make the journey a bit merrier. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.30, which is 11 cents less than a week ago.

Thursday 122823

A federal judge in Idaho has prevented the state's ban on some gender-affirming treatments for transgender children from taking effect Jan. 1. U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill issued a preliminary injunction, six days before the controversial law's scheduled start date. Winmill ruled that the plaintiff's two Idaho transgender minors likely will prevail in their lawsuit under the 14th Amendment's equal protection.

A violent clash unfolded at Idaho's maximum-security prison near Boise, marking the latest in a series of disturbing incidents at the facility. Officials say the recent brawl is symptomatic of a larger, more complex issue plaguing the U.S. correctional system. Prisons are struggling with overcrowding, underfunding are often scenes of violence and unrest.

A judge has agreed to seal a motion to dismiss the proceedings against a man charged with killing four college students in Idaho. This follows last week's move by the judge to deny a defense request to throw out the charges against Bryan Kohberger. The prosecution has proposed going to trial next summer.

There are only a few days to register for the Idaho Republican presidential caucus that is set for March 2nd. Idaho Republican Party Chairwoman Dorothy Moon said you must be a registered voter with the Idaho GOP by December 31 to be able to be a part of the caucus. They will not have absentee ballots for the caucus.

A University of Idaho Study Indicates That Idaho's Agricultural Sector Achieved Record Sales for Four Primary Commodities in 2023. According to

the report the state's agricultural cash receipts for the year amounted to \$11 billion. Although this figure represents a marginal 1% decline from the record high of the previous year, it underscores the sector's overall stability.

A former Twin Falls youth pastor pleaded guilty to sexual battery of a minor Tuesday in a case in which he was indicted by a grand jury. 31 year old Dakota Austin Kennemer worked at Grace Baptist Church in Twin Falls. He could spend several years in prison when he is sentenced in March.

Tuesday 100323

The Twin Falls School District announced that Dr. Kasey Teske is no longer principal at Canyon Ridge High School. In a statement released by the district yesterday, officials said he is still working for the district in an administrative capacity. Scott Thompson will assume the role of principal. School district officials said this was a personnel matter.

An early morning crash in Minidoka County slowed traffic along I-84. Police say it happened just before 1 am in the eastbound lanes near Rupert. A pickup drove into the shoulder and struck a parked car. The truck rolled several times. The driver was sent by air ambulance to the hospital for treatment. Traffic was backed up in the area for about 3 hours.

A farm labor shortage is facing Idaho and it could threaten the agricultural industry. Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson and a bipartisan group of lawmakers are determined to pass an immigration reform bill into law. The Farm Workforce Modernization Act, reintroduced this year and passed by the House two years in a row, aims to create a legal workforce for agriculture.

It's officially fall, but so far, Idaho gas prices aren't living up to the name. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$4.14, the same as a week ago and just two cents less than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.81 per gallon, which is about four cents less than a week ago and the same as a month ago. While the national average is now a penny higher than a year ago, Idaho's average is still 29 cents less than a year ago. Idaho ranks 9th for most expensive gas in the U.S.

The Jim Risch for U.S. senate committee has been charged with failing to return excessive contributions on time during his 2020 campaign. The committee is facing a civil penalty. Under the negotiated settlement with the FEC, the campaign must pay \$4,325 in fines after failing to resolve the excessive contributions on time.

TSA officers at the Boise airport discovered two handguns in carry-on luggage yesterday. They say the two discoveries were unrelated.

Tuesday 101023

An Idaho Falls woman, a Twin Falls man and a Rigby man have all been indicted by a grand jury after reportedly producing, sending and receiving sexual videos of a two-year-old. 32 year old Rexanna Johnston of Idaho Falls, 37 year old Nicholas Glenn Baker of Twin Falls and 53 year old Dale John Hensel of Rigby all face charges in the case.

School districts in Idaho have a chance to receive millions of dollars to purchase electric powered busses. Funding for the clean school bus program comes from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed in November 2021. The law authorized the United States Environmental Protection Agency to offer \$5 billion in rebates over five years to replace existing school buses with new zero-emission models.

Idahoans who received an extension to file their 2022 Idaho income tax returns have until Oct. 16 to file their returns and submit their full payment. Over 950,000 individual income tax returns have been filed so far this year," Idaho State Tax Commission say they expect to receive around 50,000 more in the month of October.

Idaho drivers may feel a bit more optimistic the next time they fill up. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in the Gem State is \$4.05, which is nine cents less than a week ago and 11 cents less than a month ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.70 per gallon, which is 11 cents less than a week ago and 12 cents less than a month ago.

Does Idaho have anyone listed on the 400 richest people to appear on the Forbes list? The answer is yes. Frank VanderSloot of Idaho Falls is ranked 354th. VanderSloot's current net worth is \$3.3 billion. VanderSloot founded Melaleuca. Products are sold directly to consumers through an online presence. He also runs a purebred angus cattle operation.

Tuesday 101723

Instead of voting in a presidential primary election, Idaho voters will pick their political party's nominee for president in a series of presidential nominating caucuses in 2024. In a caucus, the votes will be counted by and they'll be run by the respective political parties, not by state or county elections officials. There will be at least one caucus site per county. The caucuses are for the purpose of nominating the political parties' presidential candidate. The caucuses are separate from Idaho's 2024 primary election, which will take place May 21. All 105 seats in the Idaho Legislature up for election in 2024.

Judge Steven Boyce signed an order releasing JJ Vallow's body to his next of kin. JJ Vallow and Tylee Ryan were victims in the Lori Vallow Daybell case. Lori was found guilty for 1st-degree murder, conspiracy to commit murder and burglary. Chad Daybell, Lori's husband, was in court last week.

A local coroner has identified a teenager who died over the weekend in a crash near a high school. Bingham County Coroner Jimmy Roberts said the teen who died was 17 year old Jesus Ortiz from Blackfoot. The incident happened near Snake River High School on Saturday night. Officials say a man was driving a GMC pickup truck. Ortiz was the passenger. The driver allegedly ran a stop sign at the intersection and hit another pickup truck. Alcohol is believed to have been a factor.

A recent study revealed that Idaho tops the list of states people are moving to from other states due to job opportunities and housing affordability. State-to-state movers totaled 7.9 million in 2021 and 8.2 million in 2022, the study results found. In Idaho, that equated to 25 new residents per 1,000 existing residents in 2021.

In a request for clemency, attorneys for a man on Idaho's death row say his original sentencing judge now believes he shouldn't be executed. Thomas Creech has been on death row since 1983. A judge set his execution date for Nov. 8. The petition for clemency goes through the Idaho Commission of Pardons and Parole, which could choose whether to grant Creech a hearing.

Tuesday 102423

Idaho's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased in September, rising by one-tenth of a percent to 3.1% from 3% in August. September's labor force increased by 2,171 people to 969,376.

Enrollment for 2 Idaho Colleges are reporting record freshman enrollment this fall. The University of Idaho in Moscow says there are 18-hundred 49 new students while ISU reports 17 hundred 59 new freshmen.

This October, the Idaho Lottery is guaranteeing big money on two tickets. The Idaho Lottery will be selling two winning tickets worth \$1 million each. There are 17,800 prizes other than the two \$1 million tickets that range from \$15 up to \$10,000. There are 15 daily \$1,000 winners picked during the first 15 days.

Idaho gas prices are dropping, but the high cost of crude oil and steady fuel demand are slowing their descent. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.94, which is a nickel less than a week ago, 20 cents less than a month ago, and 42 cents less than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.55 per gallon.

U.S. and state flags in Idaho are flying at half-staff after Governor Brad Little made the request yesterday. It's to honor a 36 year old Post Falls Police officer who had a heart attack while on Duty. Sunday afternoon Nicholas McDaniel was found slumped over in his police car.

Yesterday the dirt was turned signaling the construction for the new Minico high School Agriculture and FFA building. The Ag building will begin pouring concrete on the first of November and the construction process is expected to be completed by January.

It was also a groundbreaking ceremony in Twin Falls as county officials turned the dirt to begin the construction of the judicial building. It will be built in front of the existing county courthouse and is expected to be completed in January of 2026.

Customers enrolled in the City of Twin Falls' Trash and Recycling Collection program are reminded that they can discard leaves, clippings, and small yard debris on their regularly scheduled pick-up day at no additional cost.

Tuesday 103123

Idaho's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday introduced a bill to stop the development of the lava ridge wind project in southern Idaho. U.S. Sens. Jim Risch and Mike Crapo and Reps. Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, all Idaho Republicans, introduced the "Don't DO IT Act," by its sponsors; it would require the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to deny any wind or solar energy project proposed on public land that is disapproved of by the State Legislature.

Idaho drivers will have a little less to be frightened about when they stop to fill up before trick-or-treating this week. According to AAA, the Gem State's average price for regular is \$3.89 per gallon, which is about a nickel less than a week ago, 25 cents less than a month ago, and 45 cents less than a year ago.

Following a trend with many post-secondary schools, Boise State University saw an overall increase in student enrollment this fall. Though some demographics saw a decrease, the majority of classes and degree pursuits saw positive numbers for the school. The overall fall enrollment increased by 565 students for a total of 26,727.

Most of the park entrances and roads in Yellowstone National Park will be closed to the public and normal vehicle travel for the winter beginning Nov. 1. Yellowstone's East, South and West entrances and almost all of the park's roads will close for the winter season. Each year, park officials close three main entrances and most public roads for the harsh winter that descends on the park.

Beginning Friday RIDE TFT will begin offering extended hours until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights. All rides requested or scheduled for pickup after 9 p.m. will have a \$10 fare instead of the standard \$3. RIDE TFT is also offering Airport Service, which will provide service to and from the Magic Valley Regional Airport. Rides to and from the Magic Valley Regional Airport will also have a \$10 fare.

Tuesday 110723

Voters will head to the polls today to decide on a number of local mayoral, city council races, levies and bonds across Idaho. Today polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Among issues being decided, In Cassia County the question of changing the way the Oregon Trail Recreation District is funded. In Jerome County a super majority is needed for the construction of a new public recreation and senior center in the Eden Hazelton area. There is a supplemental levy for school district 331 in Minidoka, Cassia, Jerome and Lincoln Counties.

Voters going to the polls need to know a few things. You will need a photo ID. If you are not registered, you can do that when you arrive. To register you will need to bring proof of residency such as a utility bill with your name on it. Polls close at 8 but you can't be closed out if you are in line. If you have a mail in ballot, bring it to city hall or the clerk's office.

Idaho gas prices took another step in the right direction this week. According to AAA, today's average price for a gallon of regular is \$3.83, which is seven cents less than a week ago, 26 cents less than a month ago, and 53 cents cheaper than a year ago. Meanwhile, the national average currently sits at \$3.42 per gallon, which is eight cents less than a week ago, 32 cents less than a month ago, and 38 cents less than a year ago.

Rescue workers described it as a freak accident. Near Coeur d'Alene a Post Falls woman died after a tree fell on her car Saturday morning. The 68 year old woman was driving when a tree fell over the lanes. There was no wind at the time rescue workers say.

Blaine county deputies arrested a 41 year old Hailey man charging him with felony possession of Cocaine and a misdemeanor possession of Marijuana. Thomas Scarnegi was taken into custody following a traffic stop along State Highway 75 near Ketchum.

Tuesday 111423

Convicted murderer Lori Vallow Daybell, continues to sit in an eastern Idaho women's prison while the court prepares court transcripts of her trial that must be filed by January 12, 2024, as part of her sentencing appeal. That means her extradition to Arizona to stand trial has been put on hold.

In a fitting reflection of the holiday, the roads and airports will be pretty stuffed over Thanksgiving weekend. According to AAA, 55.4 million Americans, including nearly 314,000 Idahoans, will journey 50 miles or more for turkey and all the trimmings 1.3 million travelers more than a year ago. The Thanksgiving travel period is defined as Wednesday to Sunday.

An open meetings lawsuit will continue to loom over the proposed University of Phoenix purchase possibly for several more months. A judge has ordered a trial in the case to settle one legal issue: Was the University of Idaho in competition with other bidders as it pursued the \$685 million Phoenix purchase?

Former Idaho gubernatorial candidate Ammon Bundy who was arrested in August on contempt of court charges has a new warrant out for his arrest after skipping the first day of his court trial. The trial, set to start yesterday, would have focused on contempt of court charges requested by private attorneys representing St. Luke's Health and several medical professionals, who were awarded a combined \$52 million in damages this year after suing Bundy, associate Diego Rodriguez and groups linked to them.

One of the people police believe was involved in the disappearance of Michael Vaughan was released from federal custody. Stacey Wondra was sentenced to 21 months after pleading guilty to the unlawful possession of a firearm. The

charge was unrelated to the disappearance of Michael Vaughan; Police had previously thought Wondra might have been involved. This week marks one year since Fruitland police dug in the Wondras' backyard searching for remains.

Tuesday 112123

Police say a 33 year old Burley man was killed while walking eastbound on State Highway 50 just after 4 yesterday morning. The accident near redcap corner happened when a 53 year old Hansen woman struck the man. He died at the scene of the accident.

Charges have been filed against two men in connection to the homicide that occurred on Capri Drive in the early morning hours of last Thursday. Yesterday police identified the two as 18-year-old Mi"Quavis Dewayne Taylor and 18-year-old Kaden James Thomson both of Twin Falls. The two face 1st degree murder, grand theft and Burglary.

There will be no news cameras in the upcoming murder trial of 28 year old Bryan Kohberger. Yesterday, the judge said he will grant Kohberger's motion to remove cameras but will offer a livestream of the trial on the Judge's YouTube channel.

At around 8pm a 29 year old man led police on a car chase after authorities attempted to stop him along Blue Lakes for not having his headlights on. 29 year old Gage Rolph was arrested when he crashed into a fence near the Flying J truck stop. Authorities say he was uncooperative and is suspected of being intoxicated.

The attorney general's office and the State Board of Education have spent months arguing about closed meetings. Now, they're fighting about who should pay the lawyers. The state board of education bills exceed 81-thousand. State law says the Governor would have had to tell the AG's office to pay the bill beforehand.

The Idaho State Police and Local Law Enforcement Agencies Gear Up for Thanksgiving. Police across southern Idaho are uniting to address the

anticipated surge in holiday travel during Thanksgiving week. With travel numbers expected to reach record highs this year, our collective focus is on ensuring the utmost road safety. Law enforcement agencies will proactively enforce traffic regulations to deter aggressive driving behaviors.

Tuesday 112823

A 30 vehicle pileup just west of Pocatello yesterday morning shut the eastbound traffic down for about 7 hours. Police say the accidents occurred around 8 am due to heavy fog. Minor injuries were reported.

Commuters near Hazelton along I-84 yesterday morning around 8 were redirected because of a power line that fell. The outage affected around 200 Idaho Power Customers. There were no injuries reported.

A fire that heavily damaged a Jerome home is being blamed on a lithium battery for a radio controlled car that exploded. The fire, early Sunday morning gutted the single family home. The occupants were able to escape with minor injuries.

Local veterinarians are warning dog owners of a mysterious illness. The illness can be mistaken for kennel cough and is concerning because of its unknown origin, lack of a specific test, and is similar to other respiratory diseases. Doctors say make sure your pet is vaccinated and limit any shelter exposure, dog parks and socializing with other dogs.

A 19 year old Emmett woman has been charged with seriously injuring a pedestrian in Ketchum. The Blaine county sheriff's office say 19 year old Clenida Celia Orihuela struck a man along state highway 75 near hospital drive. The 38 year old man from Salt Lake City was airlifted to Boise for treatment. Orihuela is facing a DUI and leaving the scene of an accident.

Thanksgiving travel has drawn to a close, but Idaho drivers are continuing to see prices plunge at the pump. Today, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.64. Idaho prices have been falling since September 7, when drivers paid the most for the year at \$4.16 per gallon.

A 36 year old man from Oregon who tried to portray himself as 15 years old to have sex with a teenage girl from Twin Falls is facing five felony charges. Frank Migel Stroud allegedly met the 13 year old girl online and stayed at her residence for two days. Later he led Lincoln County deputies on a pursuit that reached speeds of up to 125 miles an hour.

Tuesday 120523

Just after 1 am yesterday, police shot and killed a 34 year old man in Idaho Falls after he ran following a traffic stop and allegedly began shooting at officers. The area was closed and the eastern Idaho critical incident task force is investigating.

There has been a double homicide in Meridian. Police say it occurred Sunday night just after 7. 33 year old Emily Works of Meridian and 41 year old Sarah Walmsley of Boise were killed and an 11 year old child was present when the murders occurred. Police say the suspect is 31 year old Clint Powers. While authorities were investigating the murders, the suspect allegedly held two people at a nearby residence at gunpoint and took their vehicle.

The woman allegedly killed by her husband in Victor on November 30 was pregnant. In addition to the original count of first-degree murder in the death of Kali Randall Best, the husband Jeremy Albert Best is charged with first-degree murder of the woman's unborn child. He was located running naked. Nearby authorities found the woman's 10 month old child who had died.

Ammon Bundy, who has refused to make payments to St. Luke's following a Judge's decision to award the hospital 52-point 5 million in damages for defamation, is missing. The health system has taken ownership of his Emmett property and house. Bundy websites and social media have been removed.

Two new vending machines offering Narcan, a lifesaving medication that can help with opioid overdose, have been installed in Coeur d'Alene and Kellogg. The machines are filled with free Narcan, a brand name of the opioid reversal medication naloxone, as well as medication disposal pouches to discard unused and unwanted medication safely.

Gas prices have dropped another 9 cents this week. The threat of more expensive crude oil looms but may not affect year end pump prices. Triple A said the average price in Idaho is now \$3-55.

Officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture are expanding into Idaho and Montana a program that offers financial incentives to agriculture producers who voluntarily participate in conservation programs for migratory big game. The program includes about \$21 million to begin the expansion.

Tuesday 121223

The Idaho Supreme Court will consider whether two laws that regulate acceptable voter identification for registration and at the polls effectively deny the fundamental right to vote for some people. During a hearing yesterday, an attorney for the group Babe Vote and the League of Women Voters of Idaho argued that the laws do heavily restrict this right, especially for young people and older voters or others who don't have a current Idaho driver's license.

26 year old Tyler George Morgan was sentenced after pleading guilty to recording his roommates with secret cameras. He faces at least two years, possibly 4 years in prison. Morgan will complete a rider treatment program, pay a 25 hundred court bill but will not need to register as a sex offender. He was a student at BYU Idaho. The incident was investigated by Rexburg police.

Traveling the highways this year will see an increase in cars. According to AAA, 115.2 million travelers, including 660,000 Idahoans, will take a year-end vacation – nearly 2.5 million more people on the roads and in the skies than a year ago.

Following an investigation by Twin Falls Police, the woman who is suspected in being involved in a double murder at the Tint Shop could be facing more drug charges. Authorities searched the womans home last week where drugs were found. 40 year old Angelica Martinez was not at the home at the time of the search. She was apprehended in Phoenix and charged with aiding and abetting murder along with two felony counts of possessing meth and cocaine.

Residents may see low-flying helicopters during big game survey work. Over the next several weeks wildlife biologists from Fish and Game's Magic Valley Region will be flying mule deer surveys across many of the region's game management units.

Superintendent of Idaho Schools Debbie Critchfield believes rural communities are highly interested in increasing workforce-ready career technical programs for their students, so she wasn't surprised by the "sheer demand" of grant applications. Thirty-two of 35 proposals went to rural schools, which accounts for a little more than three-fourths of the money awarded so far.

Tuesday 12/19/23

The judge overseeing the capital murder trial of Bryan Kohberger, the man accused of killing four Idaho college students last fall, has denied both of his lawyers' attempts to toss out the charges against him. Kohberger's lawyers had argued that prosecutors withheld evidence that might aid Kohberger in defending himself, and biased the grand jury.

According to a facebook post from the Lincoln County Sheriff's office, two separate home burglaries occurred this past weekend. No one was home at the time.

Marjorjon Kaylor the northern Idaho man who was accused of killing his neighbors over the father's day weekend has pleaded guilty to four counts of second degree murder. Kaylor and his wife claim that a neighbor engaged in inappropriate behavior in front of their young children while standing in front of a window. He will be sentenced March 25th.

An Ada County judge said he will decide within the next month whether to dismiss a lawsuit filed by four women and two physicians against the state of Idaho challenging the scope of the medical exceptions in the state's abortion ban. The lawsuit is named for the lead plaintiff, Jennifer Adkins, who sought an abortion in Oregon in April because her 12-week-old fetus was diagnosed with a condition that would have resulted in a miscarriage or stillbirth, and likely jeopardized her own health.

Kootenai County's prosecutor is attempting to have Magistrate Judge Clark Peterson removed from all cases involving his office after filing a sexual harassment complaint against the judge, according to court documents. Peterson had been on leave over personnel issues since May and was publicly reprimanded by the Idaho Judicial Council last month. His leave ended on Dec. 6.

Chobani has purchased a coffee company for a cool \$900 million. The yogurt-maker, which operates a large manufacturing facility in Twin Falls, announced it acquired La Colombe, an independent coffee roaster that sells canned and ready-to-drink coffee beverages and coffee beans. La Colombe operates 32 cafes.

Tuesday 122623

Chalk up another arrest warrant for former gubernatorial candidate Ammon Bundy. He missed the first day of trial in his case against St. Luke's which was set to start last Monday. The trial would have focused on contempt of court charges by attorney's representing the hospital. Reports have it that he is no longer in Idaho.

There were some tense moments in Idaho Falls Sunday. Police say just after midnight they found a woman with visible injuries. She told them that a man had battered her in her apartment. She had gone to a neighbor to call for help. Authorities ended up evacuating the building and detonated gas to force the suspect out. He was identified as Robert Flores who had already ben wanted for battery and burglary.

Police say a 46 year old Aberdeen man was killed Sunday just before noon when he crossed the center line on State Highway 39 in Bingham County. His vehicle collided with a semi-truck. The road was blocked for 5 and half hours.

A 30 year old Jerome man died Sunday afternoon in Lincoln County when he failed to negotiate a curve and struck a power pole and rolled. It happened at the intersection of 470 north and 375 west. He was taken to the hospital in a private vehicle where he succumb to his injuries.

Idaho's unemployment rate went up a bit last month. This, while the state's labor force made gains from October to November. Idaho's adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.3% in November from 3.2% in October, while state's labor force increased by 2,771 people to 973,924.

The Jerome school district hopes to help students, staff and families of the district with their mental health. The district has partnered with Care Solace after receiving a grant from the Substance abuse and mental Health services administration. Through the partnership, they will help connect the students, parents, and staff with a service provider that meets their needs.

Prosecutors in the quadruple murder trial of Bryan Kohberger have requested a summer trial. The trial would last six weeks. Kohberger faces the death penalty if found guilty in the murder of the U of I students.

Wednesday 100423

Crews led by the Idaho department of Agriculture are treating the Snake River near Twin Falls in an effort to eradicate the quagga mussels. Earlier they found the larva between the Twin Falls dam and the Centennial Park. Another adult mussel was also found near Shoshone Falls. The ISDA said without treatment it has the potential to have a irreparable impact to the waterways.

During a time when prices are going up one industry could provide some relief to consumers'. Recently the Idaho Department of Insurance released a report detailing a decrease in health insurance coverage rates up to 13%. Those prices will be reflected in plans available for purchase starting in mid-October for coverage in 2024. Additionally, six carriers will offer dental insurance. Between all the insurance providers, there are 154 medical plans and 21 dental plans available.

A pedestrian walking along Highway 30 near Lava Hot Springs was killed yesterday morning. Police say a pickup truck struck the 34 year old male who was in the lane of travel. It happened just after 6 am.

Officials with the Idaho State Controller's Office are able to verify state revenue collections unofficially as the state transitions to a new, wide scale

business system called Luma. Chief Deputy State Controller Joshua Whitworth said the system is working, and raw, unofficial data shows that as of Wednesday, the state has taken in a combined \$7.3 billion in revenue from all sources since July 1.

This is only a test. Expect your cell phones, TV's and this radio station to transmit a test this afternoon. This one will be nationwide and originate from FEMA who said the purpose is to ensure systems continue to be efficient in alerting the public in this case on a national level. If all goes as planned, the system will be activated locally at 12:20 pm.

Yesterday, Fourth district judge Samuel Hoagland dismissed a lawsuit brought by Babe Vote and the League of Women voters in Idaho against the state over voter registration laws. Idaho lawmakers removed student ID's as acceptable for voter ID's. The group felt it would be difficult for students to vote.

Wednesday 101123

One person is dead following an incident yesterday afternoon in Meridian. Police say around 5:30 officers responded to a call involving a white woman and two Hispanic men at the Village in Meridian. Authorities discovered that the car they were in was stolen. When police pursued the suspects they drove away into oncoming traffic, jumped a median and hit several cars. The woman died at the scene. Another suspect ran from the crash and stole another vehicle. The stolen security vehicle fled westbound on I-84. It is believed to have been involved in a hit and run. Police eventually stopped the chase after the car crossed into Oregon.

Police are continuing their investigation of an accident that claimed the life of a Hansen Man. ISP says it happened Monday just after noon on 1300 west and 760 south in Cassia County A pickup with a 28 year old male and a 23 year old male both from Hansen drove off the road and overturned killing the 28 year old. The 23 year old was airlifted for treatment.

Governor Brad Little has ordered both the U.S. and State of Idaho flags be flown at half-staff immediately to honor the people who lost their lives -

including American citizens in the attacks committed against Israel by Hamas. Flags should remain at half-staff until sunset on Friday.

The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has agreed to reconsider an appeals case that will determine whether emergency room physicians in Idaho will be shielded from prosecution under the state's abortion ban for providing stabilizing care. The order comes less than two weeks after a three-judge panel of the court granted an appeal from the Idaho Legislature to reverse a decision that prevented ER doctors from criminal penalties for providing an abortion as stabilizing care.

The eastern Idaho man charged in the murders of his first wife, as well as his current wife's two children, wants cameras in the courtroom during his trial. Chad Daybell is the husband of Lori Vallow Daybell, who was sentenced to life in prison for murdering her two children as well as conspiring to murder Chad's late wife, Tammy Daybell.

Wednesday 101823

Officials with the state department of agriculture say that now the treatment on the Snake River for the quagga mussel is completed, copper levels are already significantly decreasing. Officials used Natrix that contained copper.

The Small business administration says the deadline is approaching for people to apply for working capital loans due to the Drought. The interest rate is 3.3 percent. In Idaho, those in Cassia, Owyhee and Twin Falls qualify.

Idaho drivers are seeing a welcome sight at the gas pump the state average is below the \$4 mark for the first time since August. According to AAA, the average price for a gallon of regular in the Gem State is \$3.99, which is six cents less than a week ago, 16 cents less than a month ago and 42 cents less than a year ago. The national average currently sits at \$3.60 per gallon.

The City of Twin Falls will begin the seasonal shutdown and winterization of pressurized irrigation stations beginning October 23. Subdivisions connected to Pressurized Irrigation will not receive irrigation water until next season

typically in late-April. Homeowners are encouraged to winterize their sprinkler systems.

In a highly unusual move, Bonneville County Prosecutor Randy Neal on Monday issued a point-by-point rebuttal to Idaho Falls Superintendent Karla LaOrange's critiques of his office. The back-and-forth centers around a lawsuit: Neal charged former Idaho Falls Superintendent Jim Shank and district spokesperson Margaret Wimborne for inappropriately using public funds to promote a 2022 bond issue that ultimately failed. Neal fined the two district employees a combined \$375. Now, both the district and prosecutors' office are involved in extended litigation at taxpayers' expense.

A former Caldwell police sergeant is facing charges of sexually abusing women. 41 year old Ryan Bendawald of Tennessee was indicted according to the Idaho District US Attorney's office. Starting in 2017, Bendawald allegedly engaged in unlawful sexual conduct with at least 7 women in Caldwell. If convicted he faces life in prison.

Construction on the Twin Falls Fire Station two is finished. It's been 50 years since a new fire station was built in the city. City officials opened the facility up to the public yesterday.

Wednesday 102523

As we come on the air this morning the National Weather Service has issued 2 winter weather advisories for the area. Snow is expected with up to 14 inches in higher elevations through tomorrow morning in the areas of Stanley, Ketchum, Sun Valley and Galena. Another advisory is in place until midnight tonight for the West Central and Boise Mountains above 5500 feet with up to 9 inches of snow possible.

Following the transition to a new statewide business system called Luma, Idaho state officials delivered the first official revenue report of the 2024 fiscal year that began July 1. The report showed state revenues have come in \$38.8 million below the predictions year-to-date.

For the seventh consecutive year, workers' compensation rates are decreasing. The National Council on Compensation Insurance's rate filing for 2024 shows a 12.6% reduction in workers' compensation rates. The reduction marks the seventh year in a row that rates have trended downward.

Idaho's plan for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure has been approved. That means the state will announce the first request for proposals in Bliss, Pocatello or Lewiston, with two of these locations selected for development.

Voters in Jerome county will decide on the fate of a recreation or senior center for the Eden and Hazelton area. Earlier Jerome county gave the Valley recreation district 100-thousand dollars in funding to look into bringing a facility to the communities. A 10 million dollar bond would include a building that would include an indoor track, gym, weight center and multipurpose room.

Caldwell police have a brand new unit that involves 6 to 7 officers riding horseback. Chief Rex Ingram says they created the Caldwell Police Mounted Foundation, where people or businesses can donate funds to help pay for hay, tack, or even vet visits for the horses. The Chief said they want to make sure both horses and riders are certified and clear to patrol. Depending on the number of donations they receive, Chief Ingram hopes to be ready for the 100th anniversary of the Caldwell Night Rodeo.

Wednesday 110123

The FBI is on the scene of the Moscow home this week where four U of I students were killed last year. The school is giving access to the King Road House to give investigators the opportunity to make visual displays because the trial of Brian Kohberger has been delayed indefinitely.

Local conservation groups are speaking out against a mining exploration project proposal in the headwaters of the Boise River. Idaho Copper Corporation is currently seeking the green light from the U.S. Forest Service for a project that would involve the construction of up to eight miles of new

roads and the clearing of 122 drill pads within National Forest lands near Grimes Creek.

Idaho legislators will set the stage for the upcoming 2024 legislative session during a series of seven meetings at the Idaho State Capitol in Boise over the next two weeks. Although the 2024 legislative session does not begin until Jan. 8, activity will pick up inside the Statehouse halls starting tomorrow, with the first of seven consecutive days of meetings. During some of the meetings, legislators are expected to discuss deadlines for the legislative session and begin looking at budget requests and revenue reports.

Idaho is ranked as the No. 7 safest state, according to a new study from the research firm Hubscore that graded all 50 states in five categories including crime rates, firearms, and personal and social welfare. In the study, Idaho was No. 1 for welfare and personal security, largely due to significant statewide declines in larceny and property crimes.

Brendan Ash, who has served as Lincoln County Magistrate Judge since 2022, has been selected for the same position in Camas County. A former assistant public defender in Gooding County who has been practicing law since 2014, Ash will succeed Daniel M. Dolan, who is set to retire on Jan. 1.

The Bureau of Land Management is issuing Christmas tree permits Nov. 15-Dec. 24. The permits allow for members of the public to harvest up to three Christmas trees on BLM-managed public lands in southwestern Idaho. Christmas tree permits are available for \$10 at the BLM Offices.

Wednesday 110823

Election results from yesterday's votes are coming in as we go on the air this morning. In Jerome, voters said no to the Valley Recreation district bond. It appears the supplemental levy passed for Minidoka school district 331. The Hansen free library district permanent override levy is leaning toward a yes vote. Go to this stations website's local news tab for the most up to date results. <https://sos.idaho.gov/elections-division/election-results/>

A Rock Creek Fire District firefighter was injured by a hit-and-run driver yesterday morning when he was at the scene of a crash north of Hansen. The firefighter stopped a female motorist driving a smaller, blue SUV with 2T plates to prevent a head-on collision. The woman, westbound on Addison Avenue, stopped to let an oncoming vehicle pass, and then her vehicle struck the firefighter as she accelerated to go around him. The impact pushed him into a fire engine. He was transported to the hospital. Police are looking for a woman with dark hair and wearing a baseball cap. There should be some damage to the passenger side or mirror of the blue SUV.

Federal Judge B. Lynn Winmill heard oral arguments for and against a preliminary injunction for House Bill 71, a bill that criminalizes gender-affirming care for youth in Idaho. If it takes effect, the law would make it a felony for medical providers to give minors puberty blockers or hormone treatments for gender dysphoria. The bill also makes it illegal to perform gender-affirming surgeries to minors. Medical providers could face up to 10 years in prison.

Idaho state officials are hopeful that the approximately \$3 million effort to kill invasive quagga mussels detected in the Snake River in September was successful. But they don't expect to know if they wiped out all of the mussels until water sampling surveys resume next spring. The plan involved treating a 16-mile section of the Snake River near Twin Falls.

A traffic accident early yesterday morning clogged a portion of I-84 in Boise. Police say a semi with a single trailer struck a center barrier and overturned just before 3 am. Two left westbound lanes were blocked for most of the day.