



# Idaho Public Affairs Digest

## Contents

<a href="#">Politics</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Federal/D.C.</a> .....	5
<a href="#">State Government</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Local Government</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Legal</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Business/Economy</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Environment</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Health/Social</a> .....	12
<a href="#">People</a> .....	13
<a href="#">Excerpts</a> .....	14
<a href="#">Calendar</a> .....	18

## Idaho Public Affairs Digest

Ridenbaugh Press  
 Published weekly  
 Box 834  
 Carlton OR 97111  
 (503) 852-0010

### Editor & Publisher:

[Randy Stapilus](#)

### Managing Editor:

[Linda Watkins](#)

### [SUBSCRIBE here](#)

e-mail \$59/year

Follow us on

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)



**MOOSE RIVER:** Gliding past a moose is just part of the scenery in the middle channel of Twin Lakes, in the Panhandle. (photo/Dan English)

## This week

- [Personal income grows in Idaho](#)
- [Horizon flights change – in Idaho, mostly cuts](#)
- [New raccoon rules from the statehouse](#)
- [Meth use declines in state](#)

● Indicates: Under-reported stories of special note.

© 2010 Ridenbaugh Press

The Digest is an independent nonpartisan review. Portions are adapted or excerpted from public documents and press releases; links here may be considered references to some original sources. Contact the editor at [stapilus@ridenbaugh.com](mailto:stapilus@ridenbaugh.com)

---

# Politics

---

## The race is on

---

**NOTE ON PERCENTAGES** Percentages noted below indicate probability of party winning the seat in November (not actual winning percentages), as of this issue (they may change through the campaign season as events unfold). No 100% estimates will be assigned, because upset scenarios – however unlikely – exist until votes are counted; normally, 95% or above indicates a near-lock on the office for this election.

**U.S. Senate**            R    98%

D

**U.S. House 1**        D    55%

R    45% [News reports](#) on June 18 said that candidate Raul Labrador did not report at least two of his business interests, as was required, on financial disclosure forms required of congressional candidates. Those interests concerned former involvement (ending in 2008) in a firm dealing with immigration education, and his own Labrador Properties LLC. Labrador said he would file amendments.

**U.S. House 2**        R    98%

D

**Governor**            R    70%

D            Nominee **Keith Allred** on June 4 said that campaign manager **Betty Richardson**, who had managed his campaign since its inception last fall, had departed, and her deputy Matt Compton would replace her. From his statement: “When we mapped out our strategy, Betty agreed to manage the campaign through the primary but asked that, following the primary, we reassess her role and how best she could aid the general election campaign. Betty and I now agree that this is the time for her to do what she does best: Advise and guide our efforts statewide. She’ll do that now as senior adviser to the campaign. We’ve agreed to have Matt Compton, our deputy campaign manager, step into primary role of campaign manager.”

**Lt. Governor**        R    95%

	D	
<b>Secretary of State</b>	R	98%
	D	
<b>Controller</b>	R	85%
	D	
<b>Treasurer</b>	R	98%
	D	
<b>Atty General</b>	R	98%
	D	
<b>Supt Public Instruction</b>	R	85%
	D	

---

## Federal/D.C.

🗨️ **INL AWARDS FOR RESEARCH** The Idaho National Laboratory Advanced Test Reactor National Scientific User Facility (ATR NSUF) [has selected five new university-led research projects](#) to conduct nuclear energy experiments that will advance research in nuclear fuels and help extend the lifetime of structural components in nuclear systems.

The ATR NSUF is one of the U.S. Department of Energy's National Scientific User Facilities located throughout the country that grants universities access to world-class facilities at no cost, with the goal of facilitating the advancement of science and technology.

Research teams from Boise State, University of Central Florida, Texas A&M, University of Michigan and Drexel University in Philadelphia will work with INL scientists on their proposed experiments. Here are the five newly awarded university-led proposals and their principal investigators:

- **Darryl Butt**, Boise State University (team members include Westinghouse and the University of Wisconsin): an irradiation and post-irradiation examination on "High Temperature In-Pile Irradiation Test of Single Phase U<sub>3</sub>Si<sub>2</sub>."

- **Yongho Sohn**, University of Central Florida (team members include Georgia Institute of Technology, Idaho National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory and Ohio State University): an irradiation and post-irradiation examination on "Low Fluence Behavior of Metallic Fuels."

■ **Sean McDevitt**, Texas A&M University (team members include several researchers from the Lightbridge Corporation): an irradiation and post-irradiation examination on "Irradiation Behavior and Performance of a Uranium-Zirconium Metal Alloy Fuel."

■ **Emmanuelle Marquis**, University of Michigan (team members include TechSource, Inc., and Idaho National Laboratory): a post-irradiation examination experiment on "Radiation-induced Segregation/Depletion at Grain Boundaries in Neutron Irradiated 304SS at Low Dose Rates."

■ **Mitra Taheri**, Drexel University: a post-irradiation examination experiment on "Multi-scale Investigation of the Influence of Grain Boundary Character on RIS and Mechanical Behavior in LWR Steel."

**CIEDRA PROGRESSES** Senator **Mike Crapo** [on June 16 testified](#) before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Public Lands and Forest Subcommittee regarding the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act (CIEDRA) legislation. The legislation originally introduced by Representative **Mike Simpson** received a hearing before the subcommittee. Crapo and Senator **Jim Risch** are sponsoring the bill in the Senate.

From Crapo's comments: "Thank you, Chairman Johnson, Chairman Wyden and Senator Risch for the invitation to address the subcommittee regarding S. 3294, the Central Idaho Economic Development and Recreation Act, also known as CIEDRA. I very much appreciate the opportunity to address the subcommittee today. I also want to thank our witnesses for being here: Rick Johnson, executive director of the Idaho Conservation League and Bill Dart, representing the Idaho Recreation Council. Rick has been in his position for 15 years, and Bill has a long history in land use advocacy over the last 25 years. I am very pleased that these two men could join us today.

"Nestled in the rugged, pristine expanse of central Idaho are the Boulder White Cloud Mountains. Located in and adjacent to the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and surrounded by the communities of Sun Valley, Ketchum, Stanley, Challis, MacKay, and Clayton, the Boulder White Clouds are truly wild and exquisite. The area has significant value for the many groups that visit it every year, from hunters to hikers to off-road vehicle users and others. In addition to its diversity of elevations and habitat, the biological diversity is incredible, with spawning salmon and steelhead and big game such as elk, mountain goat, bighorn sheep and black bear, among others. Simply put, this area is one of Idaho's greatest assets."

**CRAPO ON FORMALDAHYDE** Senators **Mike Crapo** and **Amy Klobuchar** (D-Minnesota) [noted on June 15](#) that their legislation, the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Act, has passed the full Senate. The bipartisan bill will establish national health standards for formaldehyde in composite wood products, protecting consumers from potentially hazardous levels of the chemical. The new standards would apply to both domestic products and foreign imports.

🗨️ **SIMPSON ON BIOMASS** Representative **Mike Simpson** joined Western colleagues in [expressing concern about EPA's efforts to regulate energy production](#) from biomass combustion under the Clean Air Act. Simpson signed a letter to EPA asking that the agency postpone implementing the rule while it reconsiders its decision.

The EPA recently released its final PSD Tailoring Rule outlining which stationary sources of carbon emissions will be subject to EPA's greenhouse gas emissions control regulations, which will be implemented beginning in January 2011. Although the draft regulation did not propose regulating emissions from biomass combustion, the EPA reversed its decision in the final rule. Both Congress and the Administration have consistently recognized biomass as a clean renewable energy resource.

---

## State Government

**CHINA TRADE MISSION** Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter in mid-June completed a trade mission to China.

[From comments by Otter](#): “My role as Governor was to open doors for Idaho businesses traveling with me in China, a country with a deep respect and appreciation for the role of relationship-building in the economic process. Once the doors were open, then it was up to the companies and industry representatives who accompanied me to sell their wares and negotiate deals. They did a great job. As a result, we have some great successes to talk about. Letters of intent were signed for \$10 million in investments for mining and real estate development activities in Idaho. The funding will go through a private entity called the Idaho State Regional Center (ISRC), a federally approved EB-5 regional center that is authorized to facilitate immigration opportunities for foreign nationals who invest at least \$500,000 in projects that create at least ten American jobs per investor. Even more investment is expected to pour in over the next several months, and the real and lasting success of this story will play out into the future.”

**HART ETHICS INQUIRY** Personal tax issues involving state Representative **Phil Hart**, R-Athol, will result in an ethics committee, called by House Speaker **Lawrence Denney**, to review his case.

Hart has for more than a decade had extensive disputes with the Internal Revenue Service (he did not file federal tax returns for some years, and the IRS has filed almost \$300,000 in liens against him) and state tax collectors, and in several cases asked for special privilege as a legislator.

The *Spokane Spokesman-Review* [reported on June 17](#), “Earlier, Denney, R-Midvale, had been sympathetic to Hart, who has invoked his status as a state legislator to argue that he should be able to appeal an order to pay \$53,000 in back state income taxes, penalties and interest despite having missed a filing deadline that fell shortly before the start of this year’s legislative session. Denney had even planned to go to the Attorney General and make a case for giving Hart more time; now, he said, he’ll hold off on that.”

---

## State Regulation

---

[Published state rules for June.](#)

*This month's rules appeared in the June 7 edition.*

---

## Local Government

🗨️ **ADA INDUSTRIAL** The **Ada County Commission** is pursuing a plan to develop an energy industrial park near a county landfill.

[From the request for proposals](#): “Ada County is soliciting Expressions of Interest from companies and individuals interested in partnering with the County to develop a Renewable Energy Industrial Park to be co-located with the County’s Hidden Hollow Landfill. The ideal Renewable Energy Industrial Park model will consist of integrated technologies, resources, and businesses that work together to share resources in a manner that generates “green” electricity, improves the environment, and strengthens the local economy. The County is most interested in receiving proposals that will best leverage the County’s offering of available industrial park land and waste-stream fuel resources generated by the County landfill operations. Proposals could include bio-mass incineration, landfill methane-to-energy, solar power generation, and wind power generation projects; however, the County will consider any green energy generation proposal that could fit within the Renewable Energy Industrial Park concept.”

---

## Legal

---

### Decisions

---

*Opinions from Idaho Supreme Court.*

■ [Credit Bureau of Eastern Idaho v. Jeff and Lisa Lecheminant](#) (June 18). “On February 14, 2006, the plaintiff, Credit Bureau of Eastern Idaho, Inc. filed a complaint against Jeff Lecheminant (Jeff) and his then current wife, Lisa Lecheminant, to obtain a judgment in the amount of \$803.16. On March 28, 2006, a magistrate court entered a default judgment for the full amount in favor of CBEI. In September of 2006, CBEI was made aware that Jeff had remarried and was currently married to Sandy Lecheminant. Also CBEI was informed that Sandy was employed at Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. That same month, CBEI filed an application with the magistrate court requesting the issuance of an order of continuing garnishment against EIRMC. The court, on September 28, 2006, entered an order requiring EIRMC

to garnish Sandy's wages. On October 15, 2006, EIRMC and Sandy filed a claim of exemption asserting that Sandy's wages were exempt from garnishment pursuant to I.C. § 11-204. CBEI filed a motion to contest the claim of exemption. A hearing was held on October 21, 2007. On February, 21, 2008, the magistrate court entered a written order denying CBEI's motion to contest the claim of exemption and granting the claim of exemption. CBEI filed a notice of appeal with the district court on February 28, 2008. On February 11, 2009, the district court entered a memorandum decision affirming the ruling of the magistrate court. CBEI filed a notice of appeal from the memorandum decision. . . . For the foregoing reasons, we vacate the judgment of the district court and further hold that CBEI has standing to challenge the constitutionality of I.C. § 11-204. Idaho Code § 11-204 is unconstitutional. This Court awards attorney fees and costs on appeal to CBEI against Jeff Lecheminant under I.C. § 12-120(5) and remands to the district court to award fees against Jeff Lecheminant pursuant to I.C. § 12-120(5). ”

---

## Business/Economy

---

### Personal income grows

---

After watching wages and salaries slide for six straight quarters, Idaho workers [finally saw an increase in earnings](#) during the first three months of 2010, another signal the state's economy may have started to recover from its worst recession since World War II.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis on Friday estimated total first quarter personal income for Idaho at over \$49.7 billion on an annual basis, up 1.3 percent from the final quarter of 2009 and the second quarter in a row that total personal income has risen after declining or remaining stagnant for five quarters. The 0.7 percent increase from the third to fourth quarters in 2009 was due solely to higher business profits and increased investment earnings.

Idaho's increase was four-tenths of a point higher than the increase nationwide and ranked 10<sup>th</sup> among the states. New Mexico was the only western state to post a higher gain.

Wages and salaries paid to Idaho workers were up eight-tenths of a percent, rising from \$22.5 billion to \$22.7 billion on an annualized basis. That essentially matched the wage and salary total for the April-June quarter in 2009 but remained well below the record total of \$24.4 billion in the final three months of 2007.

Business profits, which rose nearly 5 percent in the fourth quarter of 2009, were up another 6 percent in the first quarter. Combined, profits and wages accounted for nearly \$500 million of the \$650 million hike in total personal income.

Investment earnings slipped in the fourth quarter by \$69 million while transfer payments – Social Security, pensions, insurance benefits and similar payments – rose 2.5 percent, about \$238 million.

The major contributors to the bbrst in wages and salaries were health care, manufacturing, natural resources and administrative and support services. Construction posted a decline for the ninth straight quarter. Most other sectors of the economy showed fractional growth.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS END** Unemployment benefits [ended last week for more than 4,000 jobless Idaho workers](#).

Benefit eligibility was curtailed with the expiration of the February 2009 federal stimulus law. Those provisions – expanded by the Congress several times in the following months – provided unemployed workers who exhausted regular state unemployment benefits of 10 to 26 weeks with another 28 to 73 weeks. The provisions also added an extra \$25 to the weekly benefit of every claimant regardless of the basic benefit amount.

Unemployment benefits ended with last week's checks for all workers in the final phase of the extended benefit program, and the \$25 supplemental payment will not be provided to any unemployed workers filing their initial benefit claims after May 29.

Claimants receiving benefits under one of the four phases of the federal extended benefit program will receive weekly checks until that phase is completed. Claimants in the federal-state extended benefit program have had their benefits stopped.

Those claimants will not qualify for new phases of extended benefits or see their checks restored under the federal-state extended benefit program unless Congress votes to extend the programs. About 22,000 people have been receiving extended federal benefits. The other 19,000 are still receiving regular state benefits. Initial claims totaled just over 2,900 two weeks ago. None of them nor any initial claims filed since will receive the \$25 supplement without congressional action.

---

## Horizon flights decline

---

Horizon Air is [shoring up flight frequencies on some routes and discontinuing service on others](#) effective with its fall schedule starting August 22. Service from Seattle to Pasco and Vancouver, and from Medford to Los Angeles, will be reduced by one flight in each market to help boost profitability on the remaining flights. Seattle-Kelowna service will be reduced by one flight in the fall, but it will be reinstated during the busier winter season.

Discontinued routes include Boise to Idaho Falls, Boise to Los Angeles, Flagstaff/Prescott to Los Angeles, Eureka/Redding to Seattle, Redmond to Los Angeles, and Sacramento to Santa Barbara.

"It's unfortunate when schedule frequency is reduced or service discontinued, and we regret any inconvenience these changes will cause," said Dan Russo, Horizon's vice president of marketing and communications. "In all cases, we explored a variety of alternatives before arriving at this outcome. I would like to thank our employees who provided such great service on these routes and our customers who supported us."



Customers holding tickets on flights affected by the changes will be reaccommodated on other flights or offered a full refund.

Horizon currently has 57 aircraft in its fleet: 40 Bombardier Q400 turboprops and 17 Bombardier CRJ-700 jets. In conjunction with these flight reductions, Horizon plans to sublease four of its CRJ-700s to another party. Horizon is in the process of transitioning to an all-Q400 fleet for greatest efficiency, and this move will bring the airline closer to that goal.

Horizon serves 48 cities throughout Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Baja California Sur (Mexico), and British Columbia and Alberta (Canada).

**IDAHO POWER GREEN TAG** The **Public Utilities Commission** [is accepting a business plan](#) filed by **Idaho Power Company** spelling out how the utility intends to treat the renewable energy credits it earns from its renewable energy sources. Customer groups have differed over whether the RECs, or “green tags,” should be sold to benefit customers or “retired” to meet possible future renewable energy standards.

A Renewable Energy Credit is issued to each utility for every megawatt-hour of electricity generated by an eligible renewable energy resource. The RECs represent a currency that can be traded on an active market to entities wishing to support renewable energy.

RECs are becoming more valuable as a growing number of states require their regulated utilities to buy or generate a certain amount of power from renewable sources. Idaho Power’s 101-megawatt Elkhorn Wind project in Oregon and its 13MW Raft River geothermal project in south-central Idaho generated more than 320,000 MWh of RECs for Idaho Power in 2007 and 2008.

Last year, after reconsideration, the commission directed Idaho Power to sell its 2007 and 2008 RECs and use the approximate \$1.7 million in proceeds to benefit ratepayers. Idaho Power originally requested that it be allowed to retire, rather than sell, the RECs in anticipation of federal or state renewable mandates. By retiring the RECs, Idaho Power said it could represent to renewable energy certification programs and to customers that it is meeting customer expectations for increased use of renewable energy.

Standards established by Green-E Energy, the nation’s leading independent certification and verification program for renewable energy, say that green tags sold by utilities from a renewable project cannot be counted twice – by the utility doing the selling and the purchaser. Thus, when Idaho Power sells its green tags, the company maintains it can no longer represent to customers that customers are receiving the benefits of renewable energy projects that carry green tags. According to Idaho Power, the Green-E standards prohibit the utility from using visuals of its wind or geothermal projects in charts, graphs or line art as part of the green resources delivered to customers if the green tags that accompany those projects are sold.

Idaho, unlike many other states, does not require its regulated utilities to generate a certain amount of its power from renewable sources. However, retaining the green tags would allow Idaho Power to satisfy any future state or federal laws imposing renewable portfolio standards, the company claimed in its original filing.

**HOWELL MAY EXPAND** Howell Machine and the city of Lewiston [have reached an agreement](#) that could create as many as 100 jobs in two to three years. The owner of Howell Machine in Lewiston plans to expand another of his ventures, Extreme Bullet, in two existing buildings on two acres at 153 South Port Way. A bullet-making line will go in the larger of the two, which is 6,000 square feet. The second, a 3,500-square-foot building, will house an operation that disassembles ammunition, said David Howell, owner of Howell Machine.

Typically, the ammunition that is pulled apart is the inventory of large-scale factories that didn't meet specifications, Howell said.

As part of the agreement, the city of Lewiston has landed a \$200,000 grant from Idaho's Business and Jobs Development. It will help upgrade the city's water system to satisfy fire protection requirements at Howell's property immediately south of the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Regional Airport. If everything goes smoothly, Howell could be running at the new location in two or three months.

The additions on South Port will fuel the growth of his other businesses, Howell Machine and Ammo Load Worldwide. Howell Machine makes parts for manufacturing equipment for large-scale ammunition companies such as ATK. Ammo Load produces manufacturing equipment for small- to mid-size ammunition makers. Those two businesses will continue to be housed in downtown Lewiston, where they already employ 44.

**MINING PROJECT APPROVED** The **State Land Board** on June 15 [voted approval of a proposed mining project](#) in eastern Latah County near Bovill, to be run by a Canadian firm called i-minerals USA. The project would be undertaken in part on state lands.

The project was established to prospectively generated as many as 60-80 new jobs – if he happens. The firm has been described as not yet generating operating income and may have financial issues; and some environmental issues also have been raised.

## Stocks

Prices trended modestly downward this week almost across the board after some recent glitches.

		This wk	Last wk	Notes
<b>Micron Technology</b>	MU	10	8.9	Further steadying of the memory marketplace this week.
<b>Hewlett Packard</b>	HPQ	48	47.2	
<b>Idaho Power</b>	IDA	35	32.8	Scrambling to improve Oregon relations on its Boardman-Hemingway power line efforts.
<b>Clearwater Paper</b>	CLW	62.5	60.4	A strong 1 <sup>st</sup> quarter profit statement led to some stock improvements.

Qwest	Q	5.4	5.3	
-------	---	-----	-----	--

**GAS PRICES** Price of gasoline in Idaho continued a rise, topping \$3 in some places.

Gas prices (idahogasprices.com)	This week	Last week
<b>low</b>	2.66	2.73
<b>high</b>	2.99	3.03

---

## Environment

 **NEW RACCOON RULES** [Two new laws affecting raccoons and wildlife causing damage](#) take effect July 1.

Raccoons will be reclassified as predatory wildlife, which will allow raccoons to be taken recreationally in any number and at any time and manner not prohibited by other state or federal law. An Idaho hunting or trapping license is required to take raccoons. Raccoons remain classified as furbearers until July 1.

Raccoon hunting regulations set no bag limits. The new status will also allow raccoons to be collected live from the wild and kept in captivity if consistent with local government regulations.

The new rules will continue to allow raccoons to be hunted at night with an artificial light without a permit from Fish and Game. But this rule is specific only to raccoons and does not apply to other animals classified as predatory or unprotected.

Hunting raccoons from a motorized vehicle is prohibited and the light may not be attached to any motorized vehicle. Anyone who wants to hunt raccoons on private land at night using artificial lights must obtain written permission from the landowner or lessee.

The law affecting wildlife captured for causing damage will change July 1. Any predatory wildlife, such as raccoons, or unprotected wildlife captured because it caused property or other types of damage to human activity may be released on private lands.

The private land must be within the county where the animal was captured or on private land in adjacent counties and with written consent of the landowner where the animal is released. The consent must include the date and number of each species to be released.

Neither live capture nor live release is required; lethal control is still allowed.

Written consent from the landowner must be in possession while transporting live animals to private property for release.

**SNOWPACK % OF NORM** is running close to normal around the state, rising a bit from last week.

<b>last</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>basin</b>
91	94	Northern Panhandle
82	84	Spokane
81	82	Clearwater
89	90	Salmon
106	105	Weiser
90	90	Payette
93	92	Boise
87	85	Big Wood
93	92	Little Wood
90	90	Big Lost
96	100	Little Lost, Birch
91	93	Medicine Lodge, Beaver, Camas
83	84	Henry's Fork, Teton
83	85	Snake above Palisades
86	89	Willow, Blackfoot, Portneuf
84	86	Snake basin above American Falls
96	96	Oakley
99	98	Salmon Falls
101	100	Bruneau
96	97	Owyhee
86	89	Bear River

The percentage represents the total precipitation (beginning October 1) found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day.

**WEATHER** Idaho gained some moisture throughout June, but not much. The state remains well above drought levels.

	06/11/10	06/18/10
Boise	79/49 s	80/57 s
Idaho Falls	62/45 r	74/46 s
Pocatello	64/46 c	75/49 s
Coeur d'Alene	76/50 s	69/49 s
Lewiston	79/53 s	76/53 s
Twin Falls	79/53 s	76/53 s
Sun Valley/Ketchum	61/35 c	66/38 s

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

---

## Health/Social

**METH USE DOWN** The new National Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that between 2007 and 2009 there was a change of less than 10 percent in the rate of meth use among U.S. teens (4.4% to 4.1%). By comparison, [use among Idaho teens declined by 52%](#) during the same period, from 6.4% in 2007 (significantly above the national average) to 3.1% in 2009, below the national average. According to the YRBS, Idaho saw the largest decline in teen meth use of any state over the past two years.

“These numbers are extremely encouraging,” Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter said. “They clearly demonstrate that Idaho’s integrated approach to addressing our methamphetamine problem is having an impact. Thanks to a combination of law enforcement, treatment, and prevention efforts like the Idaho Meth Project, we are moving in the right direction. However, it is critical that we remain focused. The U.S. Justice Department says the supply of meth throughout the United States is at a five-year high.”

The 2010 Methamphetamine Threat Assessment – published by the Justice Department but not yet officially released – tracks the supply and distribution of methamphetamine in the United States. According to the 2010 report, increased involvement by the Mexican drug cartels in the manufacture and distribution of meth has resulted in a dramatic increase in the supply of cheap, highly potent methamphetamine.

The 2010 *Idaho Meth Use & Attitudes Survey*, released by the Idaho Meth Project early this year, found that Idaho’s young people are increasingly aware of the dangers of using meth, are less likely to believe there are benefits to using meth, disapprove of using the drug even once or twice, and are more likely to discuss the subject with their friends and parents. For more information visit [www.idahomethproject.org](http://www.idahomethproject.org).

---

## Culture/Communications

**MEDICAL MARIJUANA** State allowance of medical use of marijuana, granted to some extent under state laws in Oregon and Washington, has not been permitted in Idaho. [A state legislator said he's taking up the idea](#): Representative Tom Trail, R-Moscow, said he's been exploring the issue as a way of helping people with chronic pain, and has in mind to bring it to the 2011 legislative session. He said he will explore it first at the upcoming Republican state convention in Idaho Falls.

---

## People

**Doug Bauer**, managing editor of the *Daily News* at Moscow, was named managing editor at the *Lewiston Tribune*.

**Marie Bulgin** retired in June from the University of Idaho Caine Veterinary Teaching Center at Caldwell this month as a member of an increasingly rare breed: a large animal veterinarian. She has been with the University of Idaho 33 years, the last seven focused largely on her role as coordinator of Caine Center teaching programs for students in the Washington-Idaho veterinary education program. In 1977, Bulgin was the second veterinary professor hired by the University of Idaho for Caldwell. Dr. Stuart Lincoln, who retired in 1996, was the first in 1976. She is the last of the original Idaho faculty from the Washington, Oregon, Idaho veterinary medical education program to retire. Oregon has since left the partnership.

Last year, she was the center of a controversy regarding research on disease transmission among sheep; in January, she was cleared by the university of misconduct charges. [The university described the case this way](#): “In June 2009, news media reported concerns raised by several groups and individuals, including Western Watersheds Project and representatives of the Nez Perce Tribe, about comments Marie Bulgin made in her testimony before the Idaho legislature during the 2009 session and in her written statements in federal litigation relating to transmission of disease between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep. The university took these reports and concerns seriously and launched a thorough assessment of the facts surrounding her comments. At the outset, the university and Bulgin mutually agreed that she would take leave from her administrative duties at the Caine Veterinary Teaching Center and refrain from conducting research regarding or disseminating research information on sheep diseases during the course of the inquiry.”

**Derek Laxdal**, 44, coach for five seasons with the Boise Idaho Steelheads hockey team, said on June 18 that he will depart to take a coaching position with the Edmonton (Alberta) Oil Kings.

**Lee Rozen**, a former assistant managing editor at the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* (until its downsizing to online status), was named managing editor at the *Daily News* at Moscow.

The University of Idaho has appointed **Richard Reardon**, associate dean of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences for northern Idaho, as the institution’s interim associate vice president and center executive officer for northern Idaho at the University of Idaho, Coeur d’Alene. His appointment takes effect June 27.

## The Idaho Democrats' platform

---

*From the platform document.*

### [Idaho State Democratic Party Platform](#)

*Adopted June 12, 2010*

#### I. STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Idaho Democrats believe that we need strong leadership to make Idaho a great place to live. We believe in building community, providing opportunity, and acting responsibly to protect democracy and personal freedoms. We exclude no one and respect and listen to the ideas of all. Idaho Democrats, individually and collectively, are united, focused, and committed to taking the bold steps necessary for Idaho families to build strong communities that are the heart of our democracy.

#### II. WE STAND FOR THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

A. Community. As a community, we are more than a collection of individuals. Communities must protect those who cannot protect themselves. We must care for and advocate for the common good as stipulated in the Preamble to the Constitution.

B. Democracy. We believe in the need for an accountable and responsible government. We demand honesty, integrity, competence, participation and openness in government.

C. Opportunity. We believe opportunity brings prosperity. We will create jobs in Idaho by promoting innovation and providing quality education for all.

D. Justice. We will work to ensure that public and private institutions are free from corruption and that all citizens are treated equally and fairly. We affirm our commitment to social and economic justice.

E. Freedom. We will protect individual privacy and freedom guaranteed by our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

F. Responsibility/Stewardship. We must protect Idaho's superb quality of life. We must keep our air and water clean. We must protect Idaho's wildlife and natural resources for future generations.

G. Accountability. We, as Democrats, support accountability, fiscal responsibility, and transparency in government.

#### DETAILS:

#### I. STATEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Idaho Democrats believe that we need strong leadership to make Idaho a great place to live. We believe in building community, providing opportunity, and acting responsibly to protect democracy and personal freedoms. We exclude no one, and respect and listen to the ideas of all. Idaho Democrats, individually and collectively, are united, focused, and committed to taking the bold steps necessary for Idaho families to build strong communities that are the heart of our democracy.

#### II. WE STAND FOR THE FOLLOWING VALUES:

**A. Community** As a community, we are more than a collection of individuals. Communities must protect those who cannot protect themselves. We must care for and advocate for the common good as stipulated in the Preamble to the Constitution.

**1. Families:** a. We believe that families, whether traditional or non-traditional, are the foundation of our society and should be supported. b. We support public policies enabling and creating incentives for workplace flexibility and practices that help employees meet challenges related to pregnancy, child care and other family issues. c. We share, through government, the responsibility to assist those families in need.

**2. Health Care:** a. To ensure quality of life and good health for all Idahoans, we support access to a simple, affordable, quality health care system and we support the 2010 health care reform as a good beginning. b. We support parity in our approaches to medical, dental, and mental health care. c. We consider the treatment of substance abuse to be a medical necessity. d. We believe access to contraception and comprehensive education are part of appropriate medical care. e. We support evidence based medical decisions between a physician and patient. f. We support comprehensive private and public funding of health care research for cures of chronic, and/or catastrophic diseases. g. We support the re-instatement of District Health and Welfare offices and timely payments to Medicaid providers. h. We support policies that will keep abortion safe, legal and rare.

**3. Peace and National Security:** a. We strongly support those serving in the military and their families, at home and abroad, in wartime and in peace. b. We support diplomatic solutions to conflict as the first line of a strong national defense. c. We believe in the systematic withdrawal of Idaho and other U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan. d. We believe our national security will be enhanced by becoming independent of foreign oil. e. We support a strong national defense and believe it is the constitutional role of government, not private contractors, to perform military duties.

**4. Veterans Issues:** a. Idaho Democrats honor our veterans and accord them the respect and dignity they deserve. b. We support full funding for timely and appropriate medical and mental health care as well as educational benefits for veterans and their families.

**5. Americans with Disabilities Act:** a. We support the Americans with Disabilities Act and the right of people with disabilities to experience the same rights and privileges enjoyed by non-disabled Americans.

**6. Tribal-State Relations:** a. We recognize the necessity and value of meaningful consultation, collaboration, and coordination with Indian Tribal government within the State of Idaho. This interaction will be guided by state and federal laws, as well as treaties, statutes, executive orders, judicial decisions and the laws of each Tribal government. b. We respect Tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and self-government of the tribes of Idaho. c. We encourage economic development on reservations and will work with the Tribes to achieve sustainable sources of revenue for Tribal communities.

**7. Safe Communities:** a. We must effectively address violence in our communities and provide adequate funding for community-based violence prevention programs to deal with challenges such as spousal, child, and elder abuse, school violence, gangs, and hate crimes. b. We support a criminal justice system that protects our communities, treats victims with respect and dignity, preserves the rights of the



accused, and holds accountable those who commit crimes. c. We support rehabilitation of offenders, including job skills training and substance abuse treatment and ex-offender programs that will reduce recidivism and the cost of prisons. d. We support Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts throughout our state. e. We support suicide prevention programs in our communities and in our schools.

**8. Arts & Humanities:** We believe a full and rewarding life includes access to, and the opportunity to participate in, the arts and humanities.

**B. Democracy** We believe in the need for an accountable and responsible government. We demand honesty, integrity, competence, participation and openness in government.

**1. Government:** a. Government should play a limited role in our private lives but is the essential framework for our coexistence in a civil, tolerant society. Government should be accountable and transparent at all levels. b. The letter and spirit of open meeting laws must be followed. c. We support legislation or a constitutional amendment that will clarify that corporations do not have the same rights as individuals. d. We support the right of communities to self-govern, including but not limited to, the right to vote on local option taxes without the impediment of a “super-majority.”

**2. Elections:** a. We affirm our belief in a government of, by, and for the people and support campaign finance reform such as public financing of campaigns. b. We support reforms that will restore integrity and promote wider participation by individuals in the political process. A legitimate voting process must provide a paper trail. c. We oppose any laws or practices that limit the rights of citizens to vote or impede easy access to the polling place, such as needing to present photo identification as a requirement of voting. d. We support the right of independents to vote in primary elections. The right of all Idahoans to keep their political party preferences private and to vote in all elections must be preserved. e. We support statewide vote-by-mail.

**3. Communication:** a. We support stronger regulations to limit media consolidation. b. We recognize the value of Idaho Public Television to Idaho and our communities and support state funding of IPTV. c. We support state-wide internet access and network neutrality.

**C. Opportunity** We believe opportunity brings prosperity. We will create jobs in Idaho by promoting innovation and providing quality education for all.

**1. Economy:** a. Democrats are committed to environmentally sustainable economic progress that provides people with rewarding jobs at livable wages under safe working conditions with secure benefits, workers’ rights and shared responsibilities, adequate training, respect, and dignity. b. We believe a sustainable economy and job growth both depend on a positive climate for small business development. c. We will work to restore America’s manufacturing capacity to bring back balance in our trade with other nations, so that our economic destiny is in our hands and not in the hands of other countries. d. We must stimulate the ongoing economic stability of Idaho’s rural communities by consistently working toward the expansion of rural Idaho’s entrepreneurial support systems and infrastructure, including high-speed internet access, while protecting natural resources. e. We support regulation of mortgage and credit lenders to prevent predatory practices, but encourage credit and opportunity for business growth. f. We support financial reform and other regulations to ensure a corporation does not become “too big to fail.” g. We

are committed to economic, social, and environmental sustainability. h. We support the in-state processing of our agricultural and natural resources.

**2. Education:** a. We underscore our commitment to quality public education, both affordable and accessible to all. b. We support reform of education funding so that it meets the state constitutional mandates and is protected from tax variability. c. We recognize that it is a constitutionally mandated obligation of government to provide sufficient safe modern educational facilities and resources. We deplore the failure of Idaho's Supreme Court and legislature to enforce this mandate. We believe legislators must act to assure that such facilities and resources are provided for Idaho children. d. We believe that charter schools must provide students with equal access and be accountable to the public in the same manner as other public schools. e. We support statewide community colleges in order for students throughout Idaho to have affordable access to higher education. f. We support stronger state funding of affordable public higher education and increased financial assistance to students to maintain equitable access. g. We support state funding of a voluntary high-quality prekindergarten program for Idaho. i. We appreciate and respect educators in our state and support increasing teachers' salaries to retain and recruit highly qualified teachers. j. We believe that increased funding in education is paramount to the economic recovery of Idaho. k. We support math and science education to enhance our global competitiveness.

**3. Labor:** a. We support the working people of Idaho and acknowledge that they are the driving force of our economy. All workers have the right to form and join unions, and to bargain collectively. We support the extension of bargaining rights with binding arbitration to all employees, public and private. We support the principles of the Employee Free Choice Act; and we support repeal of the so-called "right to work." We oppose any and all laws restricting the rights of employees to organize. b. We oppose any system of compensation requiring employees to exchange fair employment practices for higher pay. c. We will work to increase the state and federal minimum wage to livable levels and to reduce exemptions to minimum wage coverage. d. We support competitive salaries and benefit levels for state employees.

**4. Agriculture:** a. We support Idaho farmers and ranchers and their rural values. b. We encourage partnerships with Idaho farmers and supporting them in their efforts to become sustainable. c. We support the country-of-origin labeling of all agricultural products. d. We support preservation of productive agricultural lands and advocate smart-growth agricultural planning and zoning to prevent loss of our agricultural heritage. e. We encourage buying and processing locally grown/raised food products.

**D. Justice** We will work to ensure that public and private institutions are free from corruption and that all citizens are treated equally and fairly. We affirm our commitment to social and economic justice.

**1. Human and Civil Rights:** a. We recognize there is one race, the human race. We believe human rights, civil rights, diversity and civil liberties are essential to the well-being of all individuals in a democratic society; and support allocating sufficient resources to preserve those rights. b. We oppose discrimination in all forms on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability or age. c. We abhor and condemn the use of torture – physical or emotional – for any reason and in any circumstance. d. We support comprehensive immigration reform that is enforceable, allows needed workers to legally enter the United States, protects the integrity of the family, and provides a legal path towards citizenship for law abiding workers.

**E. Freedom** We will protect individual privacy and freedom guaranteed by our Constitution and The Bill of Rights. 1. We support the rights to own and use firearms as granted in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Article I of the Idaho Constitution. 2. While we are a party of many faiths and personal beliefs, we support the constitutionally-guaranteed separation of church and state that is part of the foundation of our society and assures freedom of religion for all people. 3. We oppose the intrusion of government into personal issues of reproductive rights. 5. We support policies to protect personal health decisions.

**F. Responsibility/Stewardship** We must protect Idaho's superb quality of life. We must keep our air and water clean. We must protect Idaho's wildlife and natural resources for future generations.

**1. Public Lands:** a. We support the preservation and protection of the integrity of our wild places and access to public lands. b. We oppose any attempt to sell our public lands. Idaho is not for sale. c. Recognizing that the federal government owns much of Idaho's land, we support federal funding to counties based on the amount of acreage that is federally owned.

**2. Environment and Natural Resources:** a. We support policies and their enforcement to provide wise management and a sensible balance of stable, sustainable development and the long-term protection of our natural resources and rich biodiversity. b. We support the regulation of polluting industries that negatively impact our soil, water, and air such as pesticide use, cyanide-based mining processes, mercury pollution, Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) and the introduction, production, and storing of radioactive waste in our environment. c. Democrats seek sustainable, harvestable salmon and steelhead populations in Idaho to support fishery-based jobs and riverside towns. d. We support responsible management and protection of Idaho's plants and wildlife. e. We support recycling, re-use, composting and other waste management programs to reduce landfill waste and to encourage better resource management. f. We support programs to reduce excessive and wasteful consumption.

**3. Energy** a. We strongly support incentives for energy conservation, construction of energy-efficient buildings, and research and development toward innovative clean energy. In recognition of the tremendous potential for renewable energy, we believe that renewable and sustainable resources are key to reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. b. We encourage the development and use of energy-efficient mass public transportation systems and infrastructure to support non-motorized forms of transportation. c. We support policies and laws promoting sound energy practices, permanently protecting our environment and addressing the problems of global climate change. d. We support the responsible development of a broad portfolio of energy production that will contribute green alternatives for power production to drive future economic development.

**G. Accountability** We, as Democrats, support accountability, fiscal responsibility, and transparency in government. 1. We will spend taxpayers' dollars efficiently and effectively on programs that will return lasting value to our communities. 2. We support a fiscally-responsible and equitable tax system that will adequately fund necessary obligations of government. 3. We support the elimination of the sales tax on groceries, with a corresponding adjustment in taxation, so as to not short change public services. 4. We support a periodic and thorough review of all sales tax exemptions. 5. We urge the Idaho Legislature to assure compliance with Article VII,

Section 5 of the Idaho Constitution with respect to collecting taxes in a “uniform manner.”

---

## **Wilderness filming**

---

*A comment by Peter Morrill, general manager of Idaho Public Television, and Bethine Church, widow of former Senator Frank Church, on U.S. Forest Service reversal of a denial of permission to film a television program in the wilderness area.*

Deep within the language of the Wilderness Act of 1964 are these words: "Wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical use."

It's difficult not to think about that word "educational" as we have watched with some amazement - and some amusement - the discussion about whether the U.S. Forest Service made the correct decision when it recently reversed course and granted a request from Idaho Public Television to film a segment for its acclaimed "Outdoor Idaho" program within the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area.

Obviously, the folks at IPTV are thankful that the Forest Service made the right call and for the right reason. We are also confident that former Idaho Sen. Frank Church, who was there at the creation of the Wilderness Act and handled the bill on the Senate floor, would have heartily agreed. The Forest Service made the correct call.

Frank also would have said the language of the act, which remains one of his great legacies, holds room for common-sense application. What better vehicle to tell the story of the importance of places like "the Frank" than public television, whose entire mission is devoted to enlightenment and, as the act says, education? Some have seized on the prohibition of "commercial" activity in wilderness areas as a justification for keeping the light footprint of IPTV out, but that misses an essential point. Public television is noncommercial. In fact, IPTV is a state entity, a part of the State Board of Education and licensed by the FCC as a noncommercial station.

The thousands of Idahoans who happily write an annual check to support IPTV programming know that its noncommercial nature is fundamental to its appeal. We rarely see a program like "Outdoor Idaho" featured in another television venue, in part because such high-quality, educationally focused programming is the mission of non-commercial public television.

Taken to the extreme, would prohibiting commercial activity in a wilderness area also preclude the Forest Service from selling a backpacker a map or a river runner a permit? Following such tortured logic, the great photographer Ansel Adams - who certainly sold his remarkable photographs - would have been prevented from packing a tripod into a wilderness area? Thankfully in the IPTV case, common sense prevailed.

Frank Church once eloquently said it was pretty hard to take yourself too seriously when you had slept under the starry sky of an Idaho night. He knew the value of solitude and the unique benefits of keeping some of our most special places just as the Almighty made them. He also knew that exposing Americans to such wonders was a key to preserving those special places for all of us for all time. It strikes us that a segment on "Outdoor Idaho" focusing on young people learning the value of

experiencing and protecting a wonderful part of Idaho is exactly in keeping with the "educational" purposes spoken of in the Wilderness Act.

Protecting "the Frank" and allowing IPTV a chance to educate and inform all of us are certainly not in conflict. Quite the contrary. Common sense and the Wilderness Act tell us we can – and should – do both.

---

## Editorially

---

### **COEUR D'ALENE PRESS**

■ [On June 18](#), the paper discussed the tax problems of state Representative Phil Hart, R-Athol: “Some citizens are calling for him to resign, a proposal we would not oppose. But we think there's still a way Hart can retain some credibility and eventually focus on the needs of his constituents, rather than the demands of his creditors: First, he needs to apologize for holding constituents to different standards than he himself has been willing to accept. Maybe a sincere apology would discourage a few citizens and fellow legislators from making excuses for him. Two, he should take a leave of absence from the Legislature until the more than \$400,000 he owes the IRS and Idaho are paid in full. And three, he should enlist a responsible fill-in until he's able to return. Mike Jorgenson would be perfect, but we don't think Hart should ask if he's available. He has enough trouble on his hands already.”

[Hart offered a rebuttal](#), concluding: “Regardless of whether or not the income tax on wages and salaries is constitutional, most agree on one thing: it is an inefficient and privacy invading tax. It is also subject to manipulation and abuse. Is it then wrong to fight for my legitimate deductions and to stand on my principals?”

---

## Our Take

---

[COMINGS AND GOINGS](#) A great resource for visualizing where people in the Northwest are coming from and where they're going: [A map on Forbes.com](#) generated from Internal Revenue Service Data. County by county, it shows where people around the country are arriving from, and where they're headed.

Click on Multnomah County, and you can see where people in Portland are coming from (mainly California and the Washington/New York pole), if you can work through the heavy run of stats (represented here by black and red lines). But some of the most interesting bits are in the smaller counties. Idaho County, Idaho, for example, sends people to other nearby rural counties but draws them from more urban places, notably the Boise area.

Lots to play with here.

---

# Calendar

---

## June

---

- 1 Last day for County Board of Canvassers to meet.
- 2 County Clerk issues certificates of nomination or election to candidates and certifies to Secretary of State.
  - Administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 4 Board of Medicine meeting. Boise.
- 11 Idaho Democratic Party convention. Worley. Three days.
  - Secretary of State issues certificates of nomination or election.
- 12 Free fishing day in Idaho.
- 15 Idaho Transportation Board meeting. Boise.
- 16 Board of Education meeting. Idaho Falls.
  - Association of Idaho Cities Annual conference. Idaho Falls.
- 17 Physician Assistance Advisory committee meeting. Boise.
- 24 Idaho Republican Party state convention. Idaho Falls. Three days.
  - Water Resources Board meeting. Boise.
- 29 Last day for County Clerk to verify initiative petition signatures. This is dependent upon the last day to submit initiative petition signatures to the County Clerk - 60 calendar days from the submission of signatures.

---

## July

---

- 4 Independent Day. State and federal holiday (though on Sunday). Some offices may close the follow day.
- 5 Independence Day observed. State and federal holiday.
- 6 Public Works Contractors Licensing Board meeting. Boise.
- 7 Administrative rules bulletin publishes.
  - Fish & Game Commission meeting. Kellogg.
- 20 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
  - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
  - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
- 21 Idaho Transportation Board meeting. Rigby.

---

## August

---

- 2 Board of Athletic Training meeting. Boise.
- 4 Administrative rules bulletin publishes.
- 11 Board of Education meeting. Pocatello.
- 17 State Land Board meeting. Boise.
  - Board of Examiners meeting. Boise.
  - Possible Snake River Basin Adjudication information meeting, status conference.
- 18 Northwest Power & Conservation Council. Spokane.