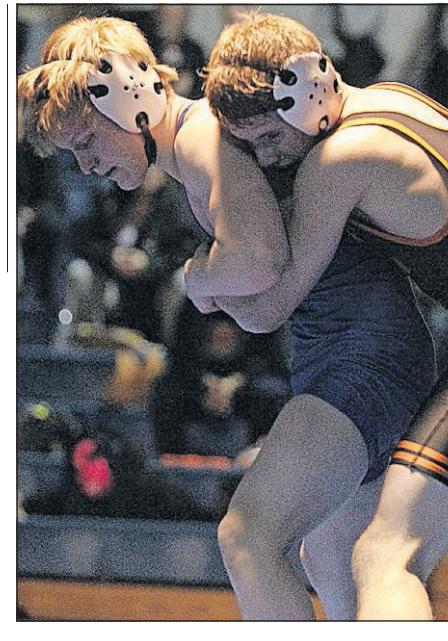


Medical offices see \$1.2 million refinance / C1



Angler hoists new state record trout / C1



Post Falls collides with Coeur d'Alene in wrestling / B1



COEUR d'ALENE PRESS

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Thursday
February 5, 2026

51°
34°

UV 1 Low AQI 53 Moderate

Chance of Rain 0%

Seasonal snow 15.2"

Wind speed Light

Lake Condition:

33°
Calm

Lake level 2122.97'

BRIEFLY

Wednesday's temperature set a record high for Feb. 4 of 53 degrees in Coeur d'Alene, breaking the previous record of 52 set on that date in 1998.

While many are lamenting the lack of snow, Climatologist Cliff Harris is not one of them.

"I would take this over record cold," he said.

It has snowed just 15.2 inches this season, compared to an average of 52 inches for this time of year.

However, Harris said while spring is closing in, he expects cooler temperatures and some snow next week.

"Not a lot, but it will be something," he said.

Harris said a high-pressure ridge is the cause of the area's third-warmest winter with temperatures hovering in the 40s and reaching the 50s, bested only by conditions in 1931-32 and 1935-36.

"It's just unbelievable," Harris said.

Groaner

What's the difference between a pessimist and an optimist?

A pessimist says, "Things can't get any worse." An optimist says, "Sure they can!"

...

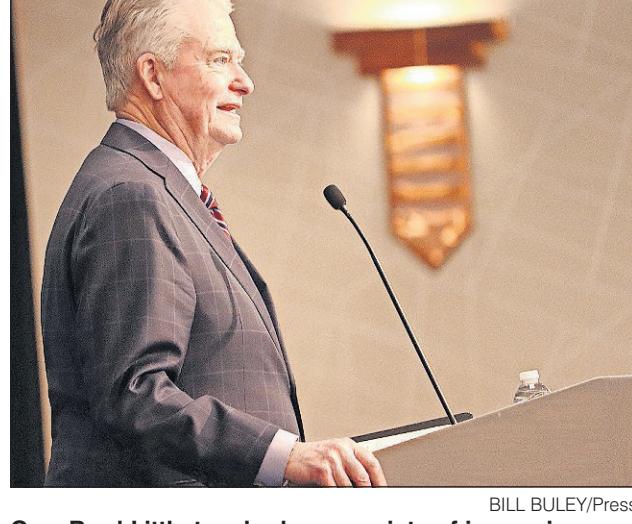
Send your groaners to Devin Weeks, dweeks@cdapress.com. Keep 'em clean, and don't be mean!

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Little stands by LAUNCH



Governor talks education, healthcare in Cd'A

By HAILEY HILL
Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE — Gov. Brad Little said Wednesday that public education and the Idaho LAUNCH program should be protected from budget cuts, even as lawmakers confront what he called "tough decisions" during this year's legislative session.

"Believe me, I'm not going to blink on this one," he said.

K-12 public education and the LAUNCH program were focal points as Little laid out his

"Enduring Idaho" plan before about 500 people at The Coeur d'Alene Resort.

He described the plan as one of "belt tightening and persistence," calling on state agencies to reduce spending by 3%.

Education and the LAUNCH program were both exempt from these cuts in the budget submission. Online schooling, however, will likely see cuts.

"(Education) is a highest priority," Little said during the Coeur d'Alene Regional Chamber luncheon.

Idaho LAUNCH

provides Idaho residents with one-time grants of up to \$8,000 for postsecondary education and workforce training. Community colleges statewide have reported enrollment increases of up to 28% since the program began in 2023.

From a business perspective, Little said this keeps more money circulating within the state's economy as residents have more opportunities to stay in Idaho to pursue careers.

See LITTLE, A6

People protest governor's visit

Proposed Medicaid cuts, education changes draw fire from families

By KAYE THORNBURGH
Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE — Protesters greeted Gov. Brad Little's visit Wednesday, opposing his office's proposed cuts to Medicaid funding and other policy positions.

More than 40 people lined Sherman Avenue in front of The Coeur d'Alene Resort late morning, while the governor addressed the business community inside.

In the crowd were Post Falls resident Tara Mayers and her 4-year-old son, Zavier, who is disabled and has complex medical needs.

"We're here for my son, Zavier, and kids like him," Tara Mayers said. "Between Medicaid cuts and cuts to education, it could limit his ability to be part of his society."



Zavier Mayers, 4, accompanied his mother, Tara, and grandparents John and Linda to a protest Wednesday outside The Coeur d'Alene Resort.

Zavier has received Medicaid services, including home and community-based services, which are on the chopping block under Little's proposal to cut \$22 million from Medicaid funding next fiscal year.

Home and community-based services cost about \$176.5 million in state general funds, according to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. More than 16,400 Idahoans use these services,

including case management, homemaker services, home health aides, adult day services, respite care and more, at least once a year.

Zavier's grandparents, Linda and John Mayers, also joined the protest. They moved to North Idaho to care for their grandson, with John going so far as to obtain certification to provide the specialized care he needs at home. Medicaid pays for this caregiving.

"It's not about a dollar in our pocket," Linda Mayers said. "They don't have enough licensed providers who can care for (Zavier). We need someone to be able to care for him."

Tara Mayers said having her father as a paid caregiver for Zavier allows her to work outside the home and support her son.

See PROTEST, A5

Redman bill would track hospital usage by undocumented patients

By LAURA GUIDO
Idaho Capital Sun

A North Idaho Republican lawmaker has proposed a bill to require many hospitals to report the number of undocumented patients it serves.

Rep. Jordan Redman of Coeur d'Alene on Wednesday introduced draft legislation that would create a new requirement for hospitals that accept Medicaid to ask patients on their intake forms what

their immigration status is. Hospitals would have to report quarterly to the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare the number of patients who were citizens, lawfully present and not legally present in the U.S.

The state health agency would then be tasked with annually reporting to the governor and Legislature

hospital and emergency department admissions by each category of immigration status, as well as "information relating to the costs of uncompensated care" for undocumented patients.

Redman said the forms would also have to include a statement that the response would not affect patient care or result in a report of their status to immigration authorities.

"This is simply a data reporting transparency mechanism," Redman told

the House Health and Welfare Committee on Wednesday.

The bill would also require the Health and Welfare to create rules for how the information would be collected and reported; the rules could not require names or other personal identifying information be included.

Rep. Josh Wheeler, R-Ammon, said he would want to hear from hospitals what

See USAGE, A6

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