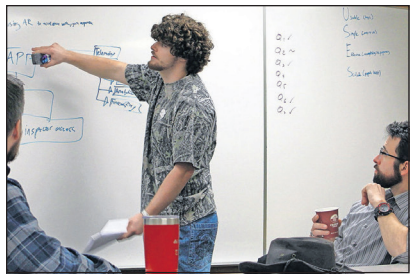


Hand-on learning gets collaborative / C1



St. Luke's dedicates new stained glass windows / C1

Lake City Center
Every Monday & Thursday
Bingo!
 Doors Open @ 4pm | Bingo Starts @ 5:15
 Minimum \$10 Buy-in | CASH PRIZES

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Zags advance to 29th straight WCC title game / B1

Tuesday
 March 10, 2026



UV **2** Low AQI **24** Good

Chance of Rain/Snow **20%**

Rain/Snow 0.0"-0.10"

Seasonal snow 20.2"

Wind speed W 5-15 mph



• Which golf club doesn't accept any kind of application, as it recruits members by sending them an invoice without any comment?
 Cypress Point, Seminole, Augusta National, Bighorn

• Who pushed for some U.S. states to be named Assenisippia, Metropotamia, and Sylvania?
 Benjamin Franklin, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln

• Which award, trophy, or logo was modeled after Ed Smith?
 Heisman, NBA, Purple Heart, Oscar

• What type of teeth are succedaneous ones also known as?
 Baby, Permanent, Molars, Abscessed

• Where did the martial art of Taekwondo develop?
 Japan, Korea, Philippines, China

• Mortadella is a type of ...?
 Cheese, Pesticide, Bread, Sausage

ANSWERS: Augusta National, Thomas Jefferson, Heisman (1935 stiff-arm pose), Permanent, Korea, Sausage



Ghastly Groaner

Why did the orange stop?
 It ran out of juice!

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

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DEVIN WEEKS/Press

Coeur d'Alene Backpack Program volunteers Elise Smith, right, and Kait McKay load up wagons with boxes of food items March 3 in the nonprofit's Coeur d'Alene warehouse. For the first time since its inception in 2010, the solely community donation-supported program that feeds kids in need on weekends and school breaks is facing a financial crisis as funding is running out.

Financial famine

Cd'A Backpack Program needs help to keep feeding kids

By DEVIN WEEKS
 Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE — A program that keeps kids fed when they're out of school for weekends and holiday breaks is facing financially lean days.

"We are out of money and our program will not last past this school year," Coeur d'Alene Backpack Program Vice President Jennifer Branstetter told The Press in a recent email.

The nonprofit Coeur d'Alene Backpack Program serves

roughly 700 students in the Coeur d'Alene School District who are experiencing food insecurity.

"Our program started in 2010 with only 16 kids and has grown by leaps and bounds," Branstetter said. "When COVID hit, our numbers just skyrocketed, and that's where the need has just gone crazy and it keeps going up."

School counselors review lists of students who qualify for free and reduced-price lunches, chat with their teachers, and arrange for students to receive food items

discreetly. School officials may at times quietly place food kits in an elementary student's backpack during recess, or secondary students may have access to a school pantry to take items of their choosing.

"Sometimes there might be a kid that needs it just two weeks. Maybe a parent is just struggling," Branstetter said. "Our numbers fluctuate week by week because of that."

See BACKPACK, A5

Silver Valley man gets 60-year sentence

Prosecutor says they are pursuing stronger penalties for child sex crimes

By JOSH McDONALD
 Staff Writer

WALLACE — A Silver Valley man who pleaded guilty in December to two sex crimes will spend the next 40 years in prison.

Samuel Baugh Jr., 43, was sentenced to 60 years, including 40 years fixed, after pleading guilty to rape and lewd and lascivious conduct with a child under 16.

Baugh had previously accepted a plea agreement in which the state agreed to drop four additional sex crime charges in exchange for his guilty plea.

Both charges carry potential life sentences. Shoshone County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Britney Jacobs explained the state's reasoning behind its sentencing recommendation.

"The defendant's fixed term will not lapse until he is 83 years old, with an indeterminate period extending until he is 103



Baugh

See SENTENCE, A6

St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho lands \$827K grant

Will help youth, young adults facing homelessness

St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho has been selected as a recipient of an \$827,000 grant through the federal Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program to serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness across North Idaho.

"This investment allows us to build a youth-centered system that listens to young people and walks alongside

them toward independence," said Scott Ferguson, CEO of St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho.

The YHDP is a program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development designed to reduce and ultimately end youth homelessness.

In October 2024, the Idaho Housing and Finance Association announced it had received a \$3.8 million YHDP award from HUD.



Ferguson

IHFA conducted a competitive process to select local providers to implement youth-driven housing solutions. Five state-wide projects received funding.

A cornerstone of the program is authentic youth leadership throughout planning, project design, implementation, and evaluation. Young people with lived experience played a direct role in identifying the most effective housing models for Idaho communities, the release said.

Through the \$827,000 award, St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho plans to expand housing

stability options.

This model provides access to safe transitional housing rental assistance, case management and supportive services, education and employment pathways, and long-term housing placement assistance, the release said.

The goal is not only to provide shelter, but also to create a pathway to stability, self-sufficiency, and hope.

"We are deeply grateful to Idaho Housing and HUD for this opportunity to strengthen our response to youth homelessness in North Idaho," Ferguson said.

Bill would ban K-12 gender identity, sexual orientation

Lobbyist: Idahoans would have greater clarity about what is allowed in public schools

By ROYCE MCCANDLESS
 Coeur d'Alene Press

BOISE — The Senate Education Committee voted Monday to hold a bill in committee seeking to enact a total ban on gender identity and sexual orientation in K-12 schools. House Bill 516 sought to further tighten rules on this instruction that passed in the previous legislative session.

The bill revises House Bill 352, which was itself an addition to the 2024 Parental Rights Act that brought a slew of parental consent requirements for issues ranging from medical care received at schools to interactions with



2026 Idaho Legislature

Inside

■ JFAC reverses course on wildfire funding / A4

new bill brought forward

school resource officers.

House Bill 352 added to the Parental Rights Act a prohibition on classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity, "or in a manner that is not age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students." The

See GENDER, A6

Idaho Legislature introduces Medicaid expansion repeal bill

Comes as proposals for state budget cuts to Medicaid disability services have stalled

By KYLE PFANNENSTIEL
 Idaho Capital Sun

After several legislative moves to punt decisions on Medicaid cuts this year, Idaho Republican lawmakers introduced a bill Monday to repeal Medicaid expansion.

The bill would repeal Medicaid expansion Jan. 1, 2028. That would remove roughly 90,000 Idahoans from the health insurance public assistance program.

In 2018, nearly 61% of Idaho

voters approved the policy through a ballot initiative to close a health care assistance gap affecting a population commonly called the working poor.

In the past, Medicaid expansion repeal bills haven't gone far in the Legislature. But this year, state lawmakers are pushing for deeper, across-the-board state government spending cuts — including to Medicaid disability services — after approving years of tax cuts that have reduced the state's revenue by more than \$4 billion.



Redman

See MEDICAID, A6