

LEWISTON TRIBUNE

FOUR SECTIONS

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THE REGION'S INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1892

ONE DOLLAR

Johnson says he'll run for mayor again

Man who was elected after switch to strong mayor aims for another term

By **ELAINE WILLIAMS**
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

Dan Johnson confirmed Tuesday he will seek a second four-year term as



Johnson

Lewiston's mayor in this fall's general election. "I am a candidate for mayor," Johnson said in a text to the

Tribune on Tuesday. "I will continue to focus on infrastructure investment and economic growth."

Johnson is the first person to serve as Lewiston's mayor since voters passed a strong mayor form of government in 2021 to replace a council/city manager structure.

"The city has taken a disciplined approach to budgeting and must continue to do so in the future," Johnson said. "Higher costs will continue to challenge the city budget. I will be a good steward of the city resources."

The annual salary for the mayor is \$84,000. At recent meetings, the council members talked about reducing the compensation to give the city room in its budget to hire a city administrator.

While Johnson works full-time as mayor, the job is technically part-time, Lewiston City Councilor Kasee Forsmann has said.

Paying the mayor less and hiring a city administrator would have allowed individuals to run for mayor who wanted to continue in their jobs, Forsmann said.

The filing period for elected officials in Idaho cities and towns started Monday and runs through Aug. 29. Exactly who else will run for office in the city of Lewiston is not clear. A candidate list at nezpercecountyelections.gov had no names as of 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The mayor's seat is one of four city of Lewiston positions on the Nov. 4 ballot. The other positions are the council seats presently held by Forsmann, Kathy Schroeder and Matthew Wright. Lewiston city councilors make \$700 per month.

Schroeder was elected to her second four-year council term in 2021, the same election where Forsmann won her first term. Wright was appointed to his seat this year to replace Hannah Liedkie, who was elected to the Nez Perce County Commission.

The winners in the Nov. 4 general election will be sworn in Jan. 12.

Williams may be contacted at ewilliam@lmtribune.com or (208) 848-2261.

OLD COURTHOUSE COMES DOWN



August Frank/Lewiston Tribune

The wall on the back side of the old Nez Perce County Courthouse comes crashing down as an excavator begins demolition of the building Tuesday in Lewiston. It's expected to take two weeks to fully demolish the building that dates back 136 years.

Courthouse's ending begins

Demolition starts Tuesday on old Nez Perce County Courthouse, which is being toppled to make room for parking lot of new courthouse

By **DEAN FERGUSON**
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

Orange dust from clattering broken bricks marked the end of the 136-year-old Nez Perce County Courthouse.

At 8:36 a.m. Tuesday, a Komatsu 450 excavator clawed down the fairly modern sallyport on the building's east side, pulling apart metal and wood. Brutally efficient, the excavator stacked that wreckage into a platform where it could climb higher and reach farther.

Soon a wall collapsed, exposing three floors. "Hey, there goes the

breakroom," observed Nez Perce County Clerk Patty Weeks, who worked there for 26 years. She and about 20 other workers stood quietly, videoing the destruction.

It will cost about \$470,000 for a few weeks of demolition and a few more weeks spent hauling away 1,500 truckloads of debris. Then, the space will become a parking lot for the new \$50.6 million courthouse that stands a few long steps to the west.

"I feel kind of sad," said Deputy Clerk Shellie Roe. "This has been my

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August Frank/Lewiston Tribune

Shellie Roe, the employee that has worked at the courthouse the longest, watches demolition of the old Nez Perce County Courthouse on Tuesday in Lewiston.

WA 'will not be bullied or intimidated,' Ferguson tells Bondi

The governor on Tuesday responded to a letter from the U.S. attorney general warning the state over its 'sanctuary' immigration policies

By **JAKE GOLDSTEIN-STREET**
WASHINGTON STATE STANDARD



Ferguson

Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson swiped back Tuesday in response to threats from U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi to withhold federal funding and potentially prosecute officials if they fail to cooperate with the Trump administration on immigration enforcement.

"You are hereby notified that Washington State will not be bullied or intimidated by threats and legally baseless accusations," Ferguson, a Democrat, wrote in a sharply-worded letter.

In a letter to Ferguson last week, Bondi wrote that federal, state and local law enforcement have

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HUD secretary joins Senator Crapo in Boise

Housing Secretary Scott Turner says country needs 7 million units of affordable housing

By **ROYCE MCCANDLESS**
IDAHO PRESS (NAMP)A

BOISE — Idaho and the nation's housing affordability woes were the subject of discussion at the Idaho State Capitol in a Tuesday meeting between U.S. Sen. Mike Crapo, Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Scott Turner and state stakeholders.

Their gathering in the governor's office featured a roundtable discussion with Idaho leaders, including local and regional HUD personnel,

Gerald Hunter of the Idaho Housing and Finance Association, Director of Idaho Workforce Development Wendi Secrist, Caleb Roope of Eagle-based developer Pacific Companies and Boise Mayor Lauren McLean.

The content of their discussion, which was closed to the media, was described by Turner as having "no surprises."

"One thing consistent around our country is that we have a housing affordability issue," Turner said. "We need about 7 million units of affordable housing, workforce housing around our country ... so there's consistency across the board."

Turner, who was confirmed

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Trump assures U.S. troops won't be sent to help Ukraine > 1B

Vandals stage final scrimmage of (official) preseason camp > 1c

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