

# LEWISTON TRIBUNE

FOUR SECTIONS

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THE REGION'S INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1892

ONE DOLLAR

## Idaho's school tax credit has \$7M left

Application window will be reopened if funds haven't been distributed

By ROYCE MCCANDLESS  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

The Idaho State Tax Commission has released preliminary details on the expenditures for the first year of Idaho implementing its \$50 million school choice tax credit.

The application window for the tax credit closed on March 15. Though the Idaho State Tax Commission is

continuing to process applications, the breakdown of the tax credit's utilization as of Tuesday is as follows:

- Tax credits awarded: \$33.4 million (67.71%).
- Advance payments awarded: \$8.84 million (17.91%).
- Available balance: \$7.09 million (14.37%).

Idaho's program requires the Idaho State Tax Commission to reopen the application window if all funds have not yet been expended. Though a set reopening date has yet to be announced, the law states new applica-

tions can be accepted until Aug. 15 or until the credit's annual maximum limit is reached, whichever is first.

The tax credit was initially passed in 2025 and represented the first instance in the state of Idaho where public funds were able to be utilized to fund private and religious K-12 education. The credit is limited to nonpublic schools — including private and microschoools — that must be either accredited institutions or provide documentation of a "learning record that indicates the student's growth."

The program provides a refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 per eligible student and up to \$7,500 per eligible disabled student.

Qualifying expenses covered by the tax credit include fees for attending a nonpublic school, tutoring, standardized assessments, textbooks, curricula and transportations costs.

Parents with taxable incomes that don't exceed 300% of the federal poverty level are able to receive advanced payment to pay for either a portion or the entirety of an eligible student's qualify-

ing educational expenses.

According to Renee Eyemann, a public information officer with the Idaho State Tax Commission, 2,709 applications out of a total of 6,069 had a modified adjusted gross income at or below this value.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services' 2026 Poverty Guidelines, a family of four earning \$33,000 would be at the federal poverty level, making \$99,000 the equivalent 300% threshold.

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### CELEBRATING CINCO DE MAYO



Cecilia Martinez prepares authentic Mexican cuisine on Tuesday at Taco Cecy's in Lewiston. Cinco de Mayo was celebrated by many with Mexican food — and it just happened to be a Taco Tuesday.

August Frank/Lewiston Tribune

## Survey: Latah County residents need more info about jail

Commissioners hear presentation on public feedback regarding possible new facility

By ANTHONY KUIPERS  
MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

MOSCOW — Latah County residents want clear public updates and transparent cost estimates regarding a new jail facility, according to a recent survey.

The Latah County Commissioners heard this and other information during a presentation Tuesday from Clearwater Financial, a firm hired by the county to gather public input on a new jail.

The county is transitioning away from its 53-year-old jail in Moscow because it fails to meet jail standards for fire safety, electrical, plumbing and space. Local law enforcement is currently transporting inmates to the Nez Perce County jail in Lewiston.

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## Asotin County adds more space to its footprint

County buys building in Asotin that previously housed the public health department

By KERRI SANDAINE  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

ASOTIN — The seat of Asotin County is now home to a courthouse, annex and commercial office building that once housed the public health district.

On Tuesday, Commissioner Chris Seubert confirmed the purchase of the latest addition, saying the county got a good deal on a building that guarantees parking for employees and more space for Asotin County services.

An inspection of the property on the 100 block of First Street has been completed. The county bought it for

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Jonah Jorgens exits Taco Time in Lewiston dressed as a taco for Taco Time's annual 99 cent taco sale for Cinco de Mayo on Tuesday.

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