

LEWISTON TRIBUNE

FOUR SECTIONS

WEATHER, PAGE 6A:  **78°**  **46°**

THE REGION'S INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1892

ONE DOLLAR

Murray to hold WSU event about public health trust

She will formally launch an initiative with an event at Washington State University in Pullman on Wednesday

By **ORION DONOVAN SMITH**
SPOKESMAN-REVIEW (SPOKANE)

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Patty Murray on Wednesday launched an initiative aimed at rebuilding trust in the nation's public health system, assembling a group of experts to

develop a “blueprint” for policy after the tenure of President Donald Trump and his top health official, Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

The Washington Democrat, a member of the Senate Health Committee who led the panel during the coronavirus pandemic, announced in a news release what she calls the Public Health for America Working Group. She will formally



Murray

launch the initiative with an event at Washington State University in Pullman on Wednesday, where a panel of public health officials and WSU faculty members will discuss the working group's goals.

“Right now, Trump and RFK Jr. have put our public health system on life support,” Murray said in a statement, accusing the administration of downplaying an ongoing rise in measles

cases and responding too slowly to an outbreak of cyclosporiasis, a food-borne illness that sickened thousands of Americans this year.

“We can't just put back what was there before,” Murray added. “Public health policy can't become a political football — it can't shift drastically every four years based on political ideology; it has to be reliably grounded in science and facts.”

Kennedy, a political scion and former environmental

lawyer who initially ran for president as a Democrat in 2024 before endorsing Trump, arrived at the Department of Health and Human Services as a voice for the many Americans who distrust the scientific establishment. Long a critic of certain vaccines, the HHS secretary dissolved the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices in June 2025, accusing its 17 members of acting as a “rubber stamp” for the

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PEEKING OUT



Olivia Anderson/Lewiston Tribune

A marmot pokes its head out of the rocks on Thursday along the Levee Parkway Trail in Lewiston.

School choice super PAC endorses Gov. Brad Little

By **SEAN DOLAN**
IDAHO EDUCATION NEWS

A federal school choice super PAC announced Thursday that it has endorsed Gov. Brad Little for reelection.

The AFC Victory Fund, a political action committee affiliated with the American Federation for Children, stated in a press release that Little has supported “significant school choice expansion,” citing the \$50 million Parental Choice Tax Credit, the Idaho Launch grant program and opting in to the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit.

Tommy Schultz, CEO of the AFC Victory Fund, said Little has empowered families to “choose the education that best fits their child's needs, abilities and aspirations.”



Little

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Idaho voters can help pick the state's official gun in general election

By **KYLE PFANNENSTIEL**
IDAHO CAPITAL SUN

This year, Idaho voters have a lot to decide on: Who will be the state's next governor or U.S. senator? Should two constitutional amendments pass? Should voters pass their own law to repeal the state's abortion ban?

But in the mix is a poll that the Idaho Legislature called for: What should be the state's official gun?

Idaho, a Republican supermajority-controlled state, has strong protections for gun ownership — such as not requiring permits for concealed carry in city limits. The state Legislature considered a bill this year to allow members of the public to carry concealed guns inside parts of courthouses that aren't meant for court, like offices for county commissioners and clerks.

The advisory question on the ballot this year asks voters to weigh in on the Legislature's possible decision to declare a firearm — out of a mix of well-known Western and American guns — as Idaho's official state gun.

If Idaho declared a state gun, the recognition would grow the list of officially declared state symbols,



Adobe stock photo

The advisory question on the ballot this year asks voters to weigh in on the Legislature's possible decision to declare a firearm — out of a mix of well-known Western and American guns — as Idaho's official state gun.

like the state flower, the syringa; the state gem, the star garnet; or the state amphibian, the Idaho giant salamander. Ten other states have declared state guns, according to the National Rifle Association, a prominent gun lobbying group.

IDAHO LAWMAKER HOPES THE ADVISORY QUESTION WILL BOOST VOTER TURNOUT

One of the lawmakers behind the push for the ballot

question, Rep. Jason Monks, R-Meridian, said he thought it might drum up voter turnout during a year when many consequential issues are on the ballot. In election years when the president isn't on the ballot, like this year, fewer voters tend to participate.

“Voter turnout is always important,” he said in an interview. “... When you have a lot of voter apathy, I think we don't get as good of results as we could if we had

an informed electorate that was actually out and voting.”

The votes won't be the final say.

“The results,” the bill says, “will guide the Legislature as to which gun shall be designated the state gun of Idaho.”

But Monks said this is the only time he knows of when the state sought public input before designating a state item.

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East City Park stage construction beginning

City asking artists to submit ideas for mural

MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

MOSCOW — Construction is beginning this month on the new East City Park stage in Moscow.

The city is going forward with a \$708,000 project to build a new entertainment stage attached to the East City Park restrooms.

It will replace an older stage that was built in 1983 by volunteers and has since deteriorated.

According to a city news release, construction fencing will be installed in the coming days around the project area to ensure public safety. Park visitors are asked to remain outside the fenced construction zone throughout the project. The park's internal pathways will be temporarily closed where they intersect with the construction area.

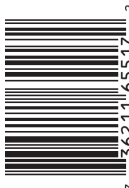
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