

**Thursday, May 15, 2008**

**[From the Coeur d'Alene Press](#)**

- NIC seeks to maintain college campus feel

**[From the Spokesman-Review](#)**

- Idaho task force aims to improve middle schools
- 8 vie for school board seats
- New PF school to open in fall

**[From the Moscow Pullman Daily News \(password required\)](#)**

- Pumped up about poetry

**[From the Lewiston Tribune \(password required\)](#)**

- Idaho school districts take levies to voters
- UI president may take post in California

**[From the Idaho-Press Tribune, Nampa](#)**

- Vallivue High principal won't return next year
- Panel seeks to help middle schools

**[From the Idaho Statesman](#)**

- U.C. Riverside considers U of I president Tim White for chancellorship

**[From the Twin Falls Times-News](#)**

- City Council rejects Lighthouse Christian's plans for outdoor lighting, sound system

**[From the Idaho State Journal \(password Required\)](#)**

- Southeast Idaho Energy creates five ISU scholarships

**[From the Idaho Falls Post Register \(password required\)](#)**

- No education stories posted online today.

FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**NIC seeks to maintain college campus feel**

Posted: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 - 11:28:42 pm PDT

Email this story Printer friendly version By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

New strategic plan charts course through 2013

COEUR d'ALENE -- During the next five years, North Idaho College plans to grow its professional-technical programs, develop more opportunities for students to transfer to four-year colleges and acquire properties for expansion while maintaining "the existing college campus feel."

Those are just a few of the goals and objectives mapped out in NIC's new strategic plan, which charts the college's course from now through 2013.

"This spells out where we're headed with our programs. It talks about where we're going to put our financial resources," said Kent Propst, NIC vice president for college relations. "President Bell is determined that this plan drives the budgeting and the resource allocation for the college."

Before the document is finalized and presented to trustees at their May 28 board meeting, college officials are giving the public a chance to glimpse the plan and make suggestions or comments.

A draft of the plan and an explanation of the eight-month process that led to its creation is available for viewing on the college's Web site: <http://www.nic.edu/planning/strategicplan/>.

A committee made up of 10 community members and 10 NIC staff, faculty and students has been working on the five-year strategic plan since November.

"This is people's chance to be a part of that," Propst said.

A public forum held Wednesday on campus with members of the strategic planning committee available to answer questions and accept comments failed to attract many people, but Propst said it's not too late for people to participate.

Comments can also be submitted by e-mail to [strategicplan@nic.edu](mailto:strategicplan@nic.edu).

Eric Murray, committee chair and college vice president of student services, said staff and faculty are already creating ways to meet the goals and objectives mapped out by the plan that will be reviewed and updated each year.

"This is not just going to go on a shelf," Murray said.

Vicki Isakson, from the Coeur d'Alene office of the Idaho Department of Labor, said the college responded to what she and other community members on the committee said during the process.

For example, the plan includes growth of the college's professional-technical programs, but also highlights the need to speed up the process.

"That's been something that's been kind of a contention," Isakson said.

Increased student support and improved communication throughout the college community are some of the other five-year goals.

Committee member and NIC Information Technology head Steve Ruppel said the strategic plan's goal to "assure opportunities for expansion" goes beyond purchasing property like the proposed acquisition of the 17-acre DeArmond Mill site that sits adjacent to the college.

"We had to think more broadly than that," Ruppel said.

Ruppel said it includes maintaining the college's existing properties throughout the region as well as improving the technology infrastructure.

Dr. Peter Zao's experience serving on the committee wasn't what he expected.

"I thought it was just another committee, but this is a remarkable experience," said the anatomy and physiology instructor.

Zao said it was the first time in his more than 20 years at NIC that he has seen community members and college staff collaborate so constructively on a project.

"There was no contention. It has been one of the best experiences I've ever had at North Idaho College," Zao said.

Trustee Mic Armon, who served on the committee, said creating a strategic plan like this is something that has needed to be done "for a long time."

"It's really tied the community to the college and the college to the community," Armon said.

#### FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

#### **Idaho task force aims to improve middle schools**

First public meetings to generate feedback on plans  
Recommendations

- Create a statewide credit system that sets specific targets students must attain before heading to high school.

- Offer professional development for teachers and create a teacher certification and endorsement for middle level educators.

Associated Press  
May 15, 2008

TWIN FALLS, Idaho – An Idaho task force assigned to come up with ways to improve the education of middle school students held its first public meeting to take comments on the plans it has come up with.

"Part of the reason we're going on the road is we want feedback on the recommendations," said Melissa McGrath, spokeswoman for the Idaho State Department of Education. "We want to know: How much do you think it would cost, what type of funding would you need?"

The 21-member Idaho Middle School Task Force was formed in May 2007 by the Idaho State Department of Education. It plans additional public meetings through the summer, McGrath said, before considering those public comments and possibly altering its recommendations.

Advertisement

More public meetings might then be held in the fall, McGrath said.

One of the main suggestions from the task force for improving middle school education is to create a statewide credit system that sets specific targets students must attain before heading to high school.

"Right now many students won't pass a class in middle school and they'll still go onto high school," said McGrath. "We want to make sure they're still proficient."

About 25 people attended the meeting Tuesday, mostly school administrators and teachers.

The task force has also recommended offering professional development for teachers, and creating a teacher certification and endorsement for middle level educators.

"When I graduated from Boise State, there was nothing special that helped me understand the middle school level I was about to work with," said task force member Rob Sauer, deputy superintendent of innovation and choice for the Idaho State Department of Education.

McGrath said that teachers at the middle school level are not required to be endorsed or certified to teach at that level.

"Hopefully the work of the task force will help propel universities or colleges to improve in this area," said Wiley Dobbs, superintendent of the Twin Falls School District.

The task force could make recommendations to state lawmakers next year.

## **8 vie for school board seats**

Who will fill three open spots to be decided by voters May 20

Taryn Hecker

Staff writer

May 15, 2008

The eight candidates vying for three open school board seats in the Lakeland and Post Falls school districts have differing philosophies when it comes to education.

One wants more discipline. Another wants more vocational education offerings.

Some say being prepared for growth and planning for the future are priorities.

All are willing to give up a good chunk of their personal time to serve as trustees. For free, for the students and for their communities.

Two seats are open in the Lakeland School District and there is one contested seat in Post Falls. Elections are May 20.

### **Lakeland Zone 2**

Incumbent Barbara Puckett is being challenged by Daniel Gregg in Zone 2, which includes the Athol and Bayview areas, extending about four miles south and three miles west of Athol. Polls will be open at Athol Elementary and Bayview Community Center from noon to 8 p.m.

Puckett, who works as postmaster in Hayden, filled about six months remaining on the term of a trustee who resigned, before being elected to her current post. The 14-year Athol resident and mother of two said serving as a trustee has given her good insight into the workings of a school district.

Puckett, 43, said she doesn't have an agenda other than "to do what's best for the district and stay open-minded."

She was involved in the hiring of the district's new superintendent and said with all the changes in the district's administration next year, keeping continuity on the board of trustees is important.

Gregg, a 42-year-old detention deputy at the Kootenai County Jail, has two children in the district. He lives in the Athol area, and said he has volunteered for years at Athol Elementary.

He said he was approached by a couple of teachers and asked to run.

Gregg said he has concerns about the implications of the federal No Child Left Behind Act and believes teachers are too constricted in their teaching because of the emphasis placed on test scores.

"There are children being left behind," he said. "Let teachers teach."

He would like to see teachers paid more.

"If a teacher has a lot of years under their belt, they're not getting paid what they should be," he said. "If you want to get good teachers, you've got to pay for them."

Gregg said the district has some nice new schools, but he also wants to make sure the older buildings – including Athol Elementary – are well cared for.

Lakeland Zone 3

Four are seeking the seat currently held by Board Chairman Don Soltman, who is not seeking re-election.

Floyd Moyer says discipline is lacking in the school system.

A Marine, former mayor and police chief, the 66-year-old grandfather said he has the experience to deal with disciplinary problems.

As the in-house supervisor at Post Falls High, Moyer works full time supervising students who are in trouble.

Moyer, who lives east of Rathdrum, has three grandchildren in Lakeland schools and said they're getting "a super education." He doesn't believe major changes are needed.

Richard Reese declared his candidacy for the school board because two years ago incumbents ran unopposed.

To keep it from happening again – and offer voters a choice – he decided to run.

The independent electrical contractor said he's passionate about vocational education, which he has taught in the past.

"There's an assumption that everyone's going to college," he said. "The absolute fact is that's not true."

He said he wants to keep kids from dropping out of school and he believes increasing vocational offerings might be one way to do that. For those who are academically inclined, Reese said he'd like increased funding for high achievers.

A self-described fiscal conservative, Reese, 56, also has experience as a substitute teacher in "every grade, including kindergarten." He has lived in the district for five years and has four children in Lakeland schools.

Tim Skubitz had never heard of Rathdrum when the opportunity arose nearly seven years ago to purchase the town's McDonald's restaurant.

He did some research, learned the school district "was one of the finest in the state of Idaho" and moved to the Twin Lakes area with his wife and three daughters.

Skubitz is interested in the long-term outlook for the district and would like to see a plan developed looking 10 to 20 years ahead.

"I think it's a huge fiscal responsibility," Skubitz said.

He has served on the Ronald McDonald House board of directors for 5 1/2 years and will serve as president of the board beginning next year.

The 45-year-old said it's not the job of board members to work independently. They must be able to work together.

Skubitz said the board must operate with "complete transparency."

Architect Paul Matthews said the Lakeland School District is the "best school district in Idaho," where everything from money management to test scores is concerned.

"I wanted to see that continue," said Matthews, 46, who lives in the Twin Lakes area.

He said he'd like to see communications improve between the board of trustees and patrons in the school district. It's not only parents of students who should be considered stakeholders, Matthews said, but everyone in the district who pays taxes to the schools.

Matthews, who has two children attending the Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, said he'd like Lakeland to have a charter school – though he said that's an area where parents, not trustees, need to take initiative.

"That kind of diversity in education I'd love to see," said Matthews, who has lived in the district for 18 years.

Zone 3 includes Garwood, Chilco, Twin Lakes and Lower Twin Lakes, extending south to Boekel Road. Polling places are Garwood and Twin Lakes elementary schools. Polls are open noon to 8 p.m.

Post Falls Zone 5

Julie Hunt and Aimee Gerome are vying for the seat vacated by Trudi Kuhn.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Ponderosa Elementary School.

Hunt has been treasurer for the Parent Teacher Organizations at her children's schools for years. She's served on district hiring committees, textbook selection committees and budget committees and volunteered in classrooms.

Running for the school board is the next natural progression in her quest to serve the community, Hunt said.

The Certified Public Accountant said she has a "good understanding of budgets and money" and is open-minded.

Growth is one of the biggest challenges facing the Post Falls district, she said, along with keeping teachers from leaving the district.

Hunt, 46, has lived in Post Falls for 16 years. She has three children enrolled in the district.

Gerome worked with special education students in the Post Falls School District as a para-professional before going into real estate.

"I want to be involved in the community and this is a way for me to be involved in an area where my kids are going to be impacted," said the 41-year-old realtor.

Her strengths include a passion for education and business sense, she said.

As a real estate agent, Gerome said she knows the potential for growth in the district.

"We need to be prepared," she said. "We can't have overcrowded schools."

Gerome has three teenage children and has lived in the district for three years.

## **New PF school to open in fall**

Principal chosen, book drive under way for West Ridge Elementary

Bruce Kapron, of Big Sky Supplies, sands the floor of the gymnasium at West Ridge Elementary in Post Falls. The new school opens this fall. The Spokesman-Review (TARYN HECKER The Spokesman-Review )

Taryn Hecker  
The Spokesman-Review  
May 15, 2008

It's down to final details for West Ridge Elementary School.

Shortly after school lets out in June, the school district plans to begin setting up Post Falls' newest elementary school for the 400 students expected this fall.

Despite rising construction costs, Elementary Programs Director Barney Brewton said the district was able to stay within the project's \$8 million budget by eliminating two classrooms from the school.

Still, the school is expected to have a capacity of 500 students, he said.

Mandy Surratt-Florin has been selected as the school's principal. Surratt-Florin has been with the district since 1980 and has been principal of Mullan Trail Elementary for the past six years.

Most students who attend the new school will be coming from Mullan Trail and Seltice elementary schools, Brewton said.

#### Advertisement

A book drive is under way to help stock the shelves of the new school's library.

All Post Falls elementary schools are participating. Collection boxes are set up at Prairie View, Mullan Trail, Seltice and Ponderosa elementary schools as well as various locations throughout the community.

#### Art show opens

The Timberlake Creates Art Show opens Saturday with a reception from 4 to 5 p.m. at Timberlake High School.

A slide show featuring more than 50 pieces entered in the competition will be shown during the reception. The contest was open to students and adults throughout the community.

Following the reception, the public is invited to view the art at area businesses including Miller's Food City, 4th & Maine Pizza, Hideaway Cafe, Las Cazuelas Mexican Restaurant, The Emily Rose Cafe, Inland Northwest Bank and Spirit Lake Books.

Seven pieces entered in the Spirit Lake Heritage category – a special category created for this year's Spirit Lake Centennial celebration – will be displayed at the Spirit Lake Library.

An oil painting by the late Don Ealy, a Spirit Lake artist, will be featured as part of the Heritage exhibit.

The artwork will be on display through June 6.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**Pumped up about poetry**

By Devin Rokyta, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Wednesday, May 14, 2008

Geoff Crimmins/Daily News

It only took an hour for Cameron Peterson to get hooked on poetry.

The Jefferson Elementary School first-grader already has an idea for his first masterpiece - a poem about his teacher getting bucked off a bull.

Peterson, 7, and his classmates drew inspiration from children's poet Kenn Nesbitt, who visited the school Tuesday. He spent the majority of the day reading poetry to the children and passing along a few tips to jump-start their curiosity about the subject.

Nesbitt lives in Spokane and has written 10 children's poetry books. Jefferson students have been reading his poetry for about a month in preparation for his visit.

Peterson and his friend and fellow first-grader Ty Hendrickson agreed that Nesbitt's poem about sticking his finger in his nose and finding a purple car, a dozen rubber bands and a basketball was their favorite.

Neither has had much experience with poetry, and both enjoyed their first taste.

"Before I didn't really know what poetry was," Peterson said.

Nesbitt said poetry has a way of drawing in readers who otherwise might never open a book.

"Even the most reluctant readers are drawn into this and they'll read for hours," Nesbitt said. "It really gets kids to read that wouldn't otherwise be reading.

"You open up to pretty much any page and you'll get a smile or a laugh out of it."

Nesbitt, 46, has committed to only writing funny poems, with titles like "My Puppy Punched Me In the Eye" and "I Have Noodles in My Nostrils."

He always has been attracted to the lighter side of poetry.

"I like to write what I like to read, and I have liked to read funny poetry since I was a kid," Nesbitt said.

During his presentation to second- and third-graders, Nesbitt said poetry can take many forms.

"I know some people think poems can only be about boring stuff like trees, flowers and falling in love," he said. "I can write a poem about sticking my finger up my nose."

He shared a few of his secrets with the children, and said if they learned to write poems he could retire to Hawaii. The No. 1 secret to writing poetry is finding ideas.

"Ideas are so easy to come by," he said. "All you have to do is look around and think, 'What am I going to write about today?' "

Nesbitt asked the children what things they liked, and one student said he liked his dog. Nesbitt then asked the students what was funny about their dogs. The children's hands flew up, and they offered responses like their dog plays soccer, bites people, licks too much and snores.

About 15 minutes later, Nesbitt and the children had written a rough draft of a poem about a dog that snores loud enough to wake up people in China.

My dog snores extremely loud.

He's louder than a mouse.

His snoring breaks the dishes,

and his snoring shakes the house.

He wakes up folks in China.

It makes them really mad,

but the weird thing is

his snoring isn't half as loud as dad.

Librarian Stephanie Johnson was excited about the chance for the school's children to meet Nesbitt.

"I love poetry and I thought it would be fun to have a poet come," she said. "When do you get to see a poet?"

Second-graders Kelsey Nestegard and Molly Eaton shared that excitement.

"I like how he never really runs out of ideas and he's cool," Eaton said.

Nestegard already has shown an interest in poetry and frequently writes poems on topics ranging from her family to her two cats, Benny and Boots.

Eaton also has dabbled in poetry.

"I write poems sometimes, not all the time," Eaton said. "Most of the time I write about my little brother and sister and how they annoy me so much."

Nestegard said she reads about one poem each day and that poetry is on the top of her list right now.

"I can't find a (book) series I really like, but I found poetry," Nestegard said. Poetry is "definitely more fun."

Nesbitt will visit Sunnyside Elementary School on Thursday and Franklin Elementary School on May 23. More information on Nesbitt can be found at [www.poetry4kids.com](http://www.poetry4kids.com).

Devin Rokyta can be reached at (208) 882-5561, ext. 237, or by e-mail at [drokyta@dnews.com](mailto:drokyta@dnews.com).

#### FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

#### **Idaho school districts take levies to voters**

Several elections set Tuesday

By Jodi Walker

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Voters across the region will head to the polls Tuesday to decide on maintenance and operations levies for schools.

All polls except Lewiston are open until 8 p.m. Lewiston polls close at 7 p.m. Start times vary, and locations can be obtained by calling the district offices.

Potlatch and Mountain View voters will decide on the only two contested school board seats in the region.

Potlatch voters will also weigh in on a facilities levy in addition to the regular maintenance and operations levy.

In Genesee and Kendrick, cuts to staff were made despite the outcome of proposed levies.

Absentee voting is available in all districts, and ballots must be cast by the close of business Monday.

Levies require a simple majority to pass.

Cottonwood

The board increased the levy request by \$10,000 and will ask voters for \$208,000.

"It is just to continue with programs we have right now," Superintendent Gary Blaz said. "There will be nothing new. We are trying to hold sacred to things we have now."

While the levy amount is up, the cost to taxpayers is less due to increased property values.

The cost is estimated at \$1.62 per \$1,000 in net taxable property value, down from \$1.74 last year.

The district's two school board incumbents refiled for their positions and are unopposed. Roy Schumacher will represent Zone 1, and Bill Hill will represent Zone 2.

Polls are open from noon to 8 p.m.

#### Culdesac

The board is proposing a \$175,000 levy, up from \$150,000 last year.

Most money from the levy will support the kindergarten program, extracurricular activities and the food service program.

The cost to taxpayers is \$3 per \$1,000 in taxable property value.

No school board elections will take place. Zone 2 will be represented by Sherri Caddell, Zone 3 by Richard Grant and Zone 4 by Rick Milionis.

Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Genesee

Patrons will be asked to decide on a \$565,000 levy. This is up from last year's levy of \$495,000.

The district is expecting a \$250,000 shortfall for the 2008-09 school year because of a decline in revenue.

The board has already voted to cut hours for the district speech and language pathologist and a clerical aid, eliminate elementary art and cut one elementary teacher.

The board also voted to reduce supplies by 20 percent, use \$30,000 from savings and increase fees.

The levy is expected to cost taxpayers \$4.76 per \$1,000 in taxable property value, up from \$3.90 last year.

No school board elections will take place. Incumbents Jan Barber, Zone 4, and Lorie Ewing, Zone 2, will represent their districts.

Polls are open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Lapwai

The district is not running a maintenance and operations levy.

No one filed against the three school board incumbents. The district will be represented by Debbie Henry, Zone 1; Julie Kane, Zone 2; and Sonya Samuels, Zone 3.

No election will take place.

#### Mountain View

The board is asking for \$1.68 million for the Grangeville-based district. The total is up from last year's \$1.5 million, a reduced amount that was passed after an earlier levy failed.

The levy is expected to cost taxpayers \$2.35 per \$1,000 in assessed property value. The 2007 levy cost taxpayers \$2.67. Increased property values created the decrease.

The levy will keep the White Bird Elementary School open. Other items in the district that are funded by the levy include extracurricular activities, the district nurse, the district librarian, an elementary counselor at Grangeville and Clearwater Valley elementary schools, a teaching position at each of the four elementary schools, a teaching position at Clearwater Valley Junior High School and half of the principal's position at Clearwater Valley Elementary School. Computer equipment and software, textbooks, supplies and technology lab aides are also funded by the levy.

School board elections will take place in the Kooskia district where Roberta Joy Lee did not refile for her position. Cindy Dahler and Rob McHone have filed for that seat.

The Grangeville seat, held by chairman Bobbi Bodine, will be filled by Lot Smith. Bodine did not refile.

Polls will be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Highland

The board is asking for a \$209,000 levy, up from last year's \$199,000.

"Basically it is to cover increased costs in heating and inflationary items," Superintendent Clair Garrick said.

The cost to taxpayers is expected to go down due to increased property value. The rate is estimated at \$1.79 per \$1,000 in assessed value, down from \$1.88 last year.

No school board elections will take place. Incumbent Debra Widmier filed for her Zone 4 seat, and newcomer Catherine Patterson filed for the Zone 2 seat held Kelli Bledsoe. Bledsoe is not running again.

Kamiah

The district is not running a supplemental levy.

"We have been careful enough the last five years that we have cut and kept ourselves to running a bare-bones essential program," Superintendent Doug Flaming said.

Only the incumbents filed for the school board. Julee Harper will represent Zone 2, and LaRoy Kidder will represent Zone 5.

No election will be held.

Kendrick/Juliaetta School District

The district is running a \$445,000 levy, up from \$395,000 last year.

The board also made cuts on top of raising the levy, Superintendent Clark Adamson said.

The board voted to cut the high school librarian position to halftime and cut half an elementary teacher's salary from the general fund but it will be picked up by federal money. An elementary coaching position and a secondary computer lab aide will be eliminated. A bus route will be dropped and the driver position eliminated. Half of an elementary reading aide's salary will be moved from the general fund to the special education budget. Some assistant coaching position will be eliminated at the high school.

"What they tried to avoid was getting into any core classes," Adamson said.

The district is suffering from declining enrollment, Adamson said, causing the district to receive less money from the state. A decline of about \$100,000 is expected for the fall.

No school board election will take place. Incumbents Debbie Klatt in Zone 2 and Buddy Henson in Zone 3 have refiled for their positions.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

Lewiston

Voters will decide on a levy rate the same as it has been since 1998.

The district estimates the rate will generate about \$9.6 million at a rate to taxpayers of \$4.39 per \$1,000 in taxable value.

The same levy generated \$8.9 million in 2008, but property values are expected to continue to climb.

No trustee positions were up for election this year.

Polls will be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Moscow

No levy is being run. The district has a permanent levy of \$7.57 million that will continue for the 2008-09 school year.

Incumbent Julia McIlroy, Zone 1, was the only one to file for the position.

Nezperce

The district is asking for a \$220,000 levy, the same as last year.

Because of a slight increase in property value, the cost to taxpayers is expected to decrease 1 cent, to \$2.43 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

Incumbents Rhonda Wemhoff, Zone 2 and Ken Hart, Zone 4, refiled for their positions. No trustee election will take place.

Polls are open from noon to 8 p.m.

Orofino

The district is running a \$1.49 million levy, up from last year's levy of \$1.3 million.

Passage of the levy would maintain current programs, although the board did vote to cut 1.75 instruction aide positions. No teachers are proposed to be cut as long as the levy passes.

The cost to taxpayers is approximately \$2.61 per \$1,000 in assessed taxable value.

Board member Shelley Wessels is moving, and John Schwartz filed for Zone 3. No trustee election will be held.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

Potlatch

Potlatch School District patrons are being asked to weigh in on two levies May 20.

The first is a standard maintenance and operations levy for \$895,000. The total is up from last year's levy of \$790,000.

Superintendent Joseph Kren said the increase is to support programs the patrons are asking for.

"Our patrons have communicated with us pretty strongly to offer additional opportunities for our students," he said.

Two years ago the board made significant cuts because the patrons did not support the initial levy. Cuts were made from that request twice before voters approved a \$650,000 levy.

Last year the district passed its \$790,000 levy on the first try and promptly replaced two full-time teaching positions.

Patrons have expressed interest in an additional teacher at the secondary level to offer more electives and in a certified physical education teacher for the elementary.

Kren said both would be nice and the board will decide how to best utilize staff to give the patrons what they are asking for.

The maintenance and operations levy will cost taxpayers 1.25 per \$1,000 in assessed property value.

The patrons are also being asked to decide on a \$652,340 plant facilities levy.

The levy is a two-year commitment that will cost tax payers \$4.98 per \$1,000 in assessed value the first year and \$4.15 the second year.

The money will allow for construction of a bus garage. Voters passed another plant facilities levy five years ago but no work had been done on the building. This spring, money from that initial levy will allow site preparations.

The building is planned to be a pole building with two repair bays and bus storage.

The remainder of the money is planned to be used to purchase two busses.

Kren said the total tax rate will be higher than last year if the levies are passed but they will be lower than two years ago. That was the last year of the prior plant facilities levy. During the five-year duration of that levy, taxpayers paid between \$2.21 and \$2.67 per \$1,000 for the two levies.

The only contested school board race in the district will be between incumbent Charlie Johnson, Zone 3, and challenger Jamie Paul. Zone 5 representative Shirley Ackerman is unopposed.

Polls are open 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Salmon River

The board is proposing a \$495,000 levy, down from \$515,000 last year.

"It will keep the program solvent," Superintendent Carl Morgan said.

"Without it ... well we aren't even talking about that."

The rate to taxpayers is about \$3.64 per \$1,000 in taxable value, a decrease from the current tax rate, Morgan said.

Board incumbents Joyce Barnard, Zone 1, and Cindy Carlson, Zone 4, refiled for their positions.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

## Troy

Patrons are being asked to vote on a \$602,600 levy, up from last year's levy of \$560,000.

The amount will maintain programs and cover a slight decrease in enrollment, said Superintendent Clark Adamson.

The levy rate to taxpayers will be \$5.44 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

No trustee election will take place. James Fry filed for the Zone 1 seat vacated by Nancy Swanger. Wendy Fredrickson refiled for her Zone 5 seat.

Polls are open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Whitepine

Voters here are being asked to weigh in on a \$674,000 maintenance and operations levy. It is an increase from the current \$485,000.

The rate to taxpayers is \$4.12 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

The overall taxation will go down because the district's facilities bond passed in 2001 expired this year. The new total tax rate to patrons is \$5.33 per \$1,000 in assessed value.

"We are just trying to keep fiscally sound," said Bernie Nordin, bookkeeper for the district.

Aaron Proctor refiled for his Zone 3 seat. He is unopposed.

Polls are open from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Walker may be contacted at [jodiw@lmtribune.com](mailto:jodiw@lmtribune.com) or (208) 848-2275.

## **UI president may take post in California**

Tim White could take the helm of University of California Riverside; announcement scheduled for today

By Joel Mills

Thursday, May 15, 2008

MOSCOW - University of Idaho President Tim White could be named chancellor of the University of California Riverside as soon as this morning.

A report in Wednesday's Press-Enterprise of Riverside County cited unnamed government sources who said the new chancellor could come from Idaho.

White announced last month he was in discussions to take over another university, but declined to name the school.

UC Riverside spokeswoman Kris Lovekin said the university's board of regents would announce a new chancellor at 9 a.m. today. Lovekin declined to name any of the candidates.

White did not immediately return messages left on his cell phone. The UI stuck by its previous statement that said White had been approached by another university about the potential to take the helm there.

White's annual base salary at the UI is \$291,912, with additional compensation in the form of a vehicle stipend, an official residence and other amenities.

The UC Riverside board of regents will vote on its next chancellor's compensation package this morning at its meeting on the UCLA campus.

The next chancellor will be introduced in person at 4 p.m. to UC Riverside faculty, staff and students by UC system President Robert Dynes.

The UI declined on Tuesday to release White's travel schedule for the week without an official public records request, a process that takes at least three days.

White has led the UI for almost four years, beginning with some of the university's most difficult fiscal times. He inherited a mountain of debt left by former President Robert Hoover's mismanaged attempt to build a satellite campus in Boise.

The UI's financial situation has improved under White, but it came partly at the expense of jobs, employee benefits and other cutbacks.

If he leaves, White will be the shortest-serving UI president since Frederick J. Kelly, who served from 1928-1930.

White has ties to the University of California system. He got his doctorate from UC Berkeley in 1977. Before that, he was in the California State University system, earning his master's degree at the Hayward campus and his bachelor's degree at the Fresno campus.

The 17,000-student UC Riverside campus is located about 50 miles east of Los Angeles. Its chancellor will succeed France A. Cordova, who was appointed president of Purdue University in May 2007. Robert D. Grey has served as acting chancellor since last June.

Before coming to the UI, White was provost and interim president at Oregon State University.

Mills may be contacted at [jmills@lmtribune.com](mailto:jmills@lmtribune.com) or (208) 883-0564.

#### FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

#### **Vallivue High principal won't return next year**

Christin Runkle

[crunkle@idahopress.com](mailto:crunkle@idahopress.com) Updated 11 hours 5 minutes ago CALDWELL — Vallivue High School principal Wyatt Tustin has resigned and will not return to the school next fall.

Tustin said there's "no big controversy or big scandal going on." But after what he called four years of positive job evaluations, he said this year's was different. "I felt I had no choice but to resign," he explained.

The principal declined to comment on the contents of the evaluation, which was given to him by Superintendent George Grant and Assistant Superintendent Pat Charlton, who declined to comment on the personnel matter.

Tustin said he didn't feel like he was being forced out by any administrators.

He is actively looking for another job and plans to keep his two children in Vallivue schools next year. "I just feel it's not an option for me to stay," he said.

The Vallivue Education Association voted to back Tustin, VEA President Deb McDorman said.

"All the (teachers) I've talked to are very sad to see him go," she said. "They all felt he was one of the best administrators they'd worked with. ... The parents I've talked to really liked him a lot."

Linda Dobbs, a retired Vallivue High English and French teacher and the grandmother of a Vallivue student, said she "can't say anything negative about" Tustin.

“He’s the best principal I ever had,” she said. “He knew how to handle teachers, as well as students and parents.”

Dobbs’ daughter, Darci Toscan, said she and other parents who support Tustin are upset that his departure “has been decided and no one really has a say.”

“He really sticks to his guns, and he has kids’ best interests at heart,” she said. “I was shocked when I heard he was leaving.”

### **Panel seeks to help middle schools**

The Associated Press

Updated 11 hours 4 minutes ago

TWIN FALLS (AP) — An Idaho task force assigned to come up with ways to improve the education of middle school students held its first public meeting to take comments on the plans it has come up with.

The 21-member Idaho Middle School Task Force was formed in May 2007 by the Idaho State Department of Education. It plans additional public meetings, McGrath said, through the summer before considering those public comments and possibly altering its recommendations.

One of the main suggestions from the task force for improving middle school education is to create a statewide credit system that sets specific targets students must attain before heading to high school.

The task force has also recommended offering professional development for teachers, and creating a teacher certification and endorsement for middle level educators.

### **FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN**

#### **U.C. Riverside considers U of I president Tim White for chancellorship**

Sources confirm that he is in contention for the position at the California school

University of California Riverside's Web site

BY BILL ROBERTS - broberts@idahostatesman.com

Edition Date: 05/15/08

University of Idaho President Tim White could be named chancellor at the University of California, Riverside Thursday morning.

The U.C. Board of Regents is expected to meet behind closed doors in Los Angeles to discuss compensation for the job and to vote on an appointment.

The Press-Enterprise in Riverside reported Wednesday that government sources said the new chancellor could come from Idaho. White told the Idaho State Board of Education last month that he has been in discussions with another college about assuming a leadership position.

He has declined to name the school.

Sources confirmed Wednesday that White is in contention for the chancellorship. U.C. Riverside officials told the Press-Enterprise Tuesday they had nothing to announce.

If White gets the job, he'll be moving to a much larger campus. U.C. Riverside has about 17,000 students, nearly 46 percent more than the 11,636 student at University of Idaho.

He also would be moving to a school where administrators are seeking final approval from the Board of Regents to open a medical school beginning in 2012. Idaho doesn't have a medical school and White has not backed efforts to open one at the Idaho State University campus.

White was hired by the State Board of Education in 2004 to clean up the mess at U of I created by overspending, budget cuts and the failed University Place project in Boise.

White could not be reached Wednesday.

Reflecting on what he inherited when he came to the school, White told the Statesman in December: "It was a crisis of leadership, no doubt. It was a crisis of vision - not having one. It was a crisis of financial mismanagement, of low integrity and loss of trust with our public, with our faculty on and off campus, the Legislature, the governor, the (State) board. The university was at her knees."

In the last several years, White has made some gains - winning back donors who had shut their wallets following the University Place project.

The school also has begun to show some resurgence in getting research dollars, and the slide in enrollment has shown signs of leveling off.

Bill Roberts: 377-6408

#### FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

### **City Council rejects Lighthouse Christian's plans for outdoor lighting, sound system**

By Damon Hunzeker  
Correspondent

As of now, Lighthouse Christian Fellowship's new school has a stadium that can't be used at night.

The school, located in the former Anderson Lumber building on Eastland Drive south of Addison Avenue, requested that the zoning regulations be amended to allow the use of a PA system and stadium lights for nighttime football games, as well as other events such as graduations.

Twin Falls Planning and Zoning, by a vote of 4-3, recommended approval of the request - pending a few conditions regarding sound levels and hours of operation - but the City Council rejected the recommendation at Monday night's meeting.

The rejection, however, emanated more from a technicality than a majority opinion. Councilman Don Hall was absent - which resulted in a tie vote of 3-3. In the case of a tie, the result, as explained by Twin Falls Community Development Director Mitch Humble, is essentially the same as a 0-7 vote.

"A tie vote isn't broken; it's just not approved," he said.

Most of the objections related to which came first - the school or the houses. "If the houses came later, the homebuyers would have known what they were getting into," Humble said.

But it's not as though games would have been played every night or even every week. "We were asking for five home games and another seven events - a total of 12 nights until 10 p.m. - which is about 60 hours out of 8,000 hours in a year. That's 68 percent of the year," said Lighthouse Athletic Director and football coach Nick Karavedas. "I think all of us were pretty shocked. We were only asking for what most high schools in America have - a P.A. and lights for night games."

Former Twin Falls mayor Paul Ostyn was also surprised. Ostyn lives one block away from the school and testified Monday night. "I had to leave before the decision, and I didn't know they denied it," he said. "That just floors me. I think the whole thing is absolutely ridiculous."

Ostyn acknowledged the concerns from residents who didn't expect their homes to end up next to a football stadium. But, he said, "So many other things could have come in to that area and created a bigger problem. Anderson Lumber was a bigger distraction than that school will be."

While trying to understand the decision, Ostyn focused upon the contributions night games provide to the community. "It's people having a good time without drugs or alcohol. What the hell kind of City Council do we have that would deny an activity that's beneficial and wholesome for young people and their parents?" he asked.

If the City Council doesn't change its ruling or grant an appeal, based on Don Hall's absence, then Lighthouse will have to conduct its games during daylight. But, as Karavedas said, "Kids who play high-school football in America play at night."

Damon Hunzeker can be reached at 208-420-4697 or hunzeker@aol.com.

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**Southeast Idaho Energy creates five ISU scholarships**

BY JOURNAL STAFF

AMERICAN FALLS — A company proposing to build a coal gasification plant that would make fertilizer in Power County plans to award five scholarships for Idaho State University students for the next school year.

The company, Southeast Idaho Energy, plans to award a total of \$7,000 in scholarship money to graduates of Aberdeen, American Falls and Rockland high schools.

Two scholarships are to be given to incoming freshmen. The SIE Freshman Engineering Scholarship will be a \$1,500 award given to a student who intends to major in engineering. The SIE Freshman Scholarship of \$1,000 will be available to a freshman in any field.

Two additional scholarships, each worth \$1,500, will be awarded to ISU upperclassmen. They are the SIE Engineering Scholarship and the SIE Chemistry Scholarship.

The fifth SIE scholarship is for the College of Technology. This \$1,500 award will go to an individual enrolled in one of the college's following programs: Energy Systems, Instrumentation, Technical General Education, Electronic Systems, Building Construction, Electrical Technician or Human Resource Training and Development.

For more information about qualifying for each scholarship and to apply, contact the Idaho State University Scholarship Office. Applications should be received by June 1.

FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No education stories posted online today.**