

**Tuesday, May 06, 2008**

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- No new education news stories today.

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

- No new education news stories today.

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

- UI facilities projects scheduled for summer

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- No new education news stories today.
- Canyon County students make gains in reading

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- Sunnyside third-grader earns award

FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

**No new education news stories today.**

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

**No new education news stories today.**

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**UI facilities projects scheduled for summer**

University plans to address some of its deferred maintenance needs

By Hadley Rush, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Monday, May 05, 2008

The University of Idaho will knock a few million dollars off its \$200 million in deferred maintenance this summer.

"There's going to be a lot of work on campus this summer," UI Architectural and Engineering Services Director Ray Pankopf said. "Anytime there's work on an infrastructure there's work being done on deferred maintenance."

Pankopf said a few million dollars may seem like a drop in the bucket compared to the overall deferred maintenance figure, but the UI is making progress.

Most of the construction that needs to be done on the campus will begin after students depart for the summer next week.

"We work hard in the spring on project design so we can get (projects) bid," he said. "After commencement, contractors start working."

Pankopf said the construction that will be done this summer includes fire-sprinkler installation and updated universal access in the Administration Building's executive suites, which house the president and the provost's offices.

"It's not a good situation for a person in a wheelchair to get into those offices," Pankopf said, adding that the office doors were "recessed into very narrow alcoves" when the building was renovated in the 1960s.

Pankopf said fire sprinklers, which never were installed, also will be added in the executive suite. The project will cost about \$300,000.

The roof on the Theophilus Tower also is scheduled to be replaced. Pankopf said the roof hasn't been updated since the building was completed in the late 1960s. The project will cost about \$150,000.

Director of University Residences Ray Gasser said work on the new roof shouldn't displace any students who are living in the building over the summer.

"It shouldn't create issues for them," Gasser said. "It will create noise."

Pankopf said some of the larger projects that will be done over the summer are heating, ventilation and air conditioning projects in the Life Science South Building and the Janssen Engineering Building.

Pankopf said the Life Science South Building's HVAC project should be completed by September at a cost of about \$1 million. The Janssen Engineering Building HVAC renovations will cost about \$1.8 million.

The projects are being paid for by the state through the Permanent Building Fund.

"You're taking structures that were designed with heat only and you're (bringing) it to current standards, which include energy conservation standards," Pankopf said. "Both of those buildings are lab buildings that require a lot of air movement."

Pankopf said construction in the Janssen Engineering Building will be "a little disruptive" on the upper floor of the building because there currently isn't a duct system.

"We're relocating classes," he said, adding that some offices will have to be moved during the process. "It will be largely off-limits."

Terence Soule, an associate professor of computer science who has an office on the third floor of the Janssen Engineering Building, said his office is going to be moved to the basement during construction.

"Moving is always a pain and it will probably disrupt work for a week moving down there and a week moving back," Soule said. "It's not something I look forward to, but in the long run it will be nice."

Soule said although people in the building have been told the project won't take long to complete, he doesn't buy it.

"I would guess more likely a full year," he said, adding that the project will be beneficial for the university.

"I think it will probably save a fair amount of money in the long run," he said.

Other construction projects scheduled for the summer include updating sidewalk disability ramps around campus, which will cost \$330,000, and renovations to the Vandal Athletic Center, which already have begun and will cost \$800,000.

Pankopf said the Art and Architecture South Building also needs about \$1.2 million worth of life-safety renovations, although that project hasn't yet gone through the bid process.

"We don't have a firm price," he said. "Therefore I'm not sure we'll do the project this summer."

Pankopf said the campus is constantly being renovated due to changing building codes.

"As the codes evolve there are certain things we need to do," he said. "We hope to have all or part of it under construction this summer, depending on bids." Hadley Rush can be reached at (208) 882-5561, ext. 239, or by e-mail at hrush@dnews.com.

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

**No new education news stories today.**

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

**Canyon County students make gains in reading**

Christin Runkle

crunkle@idahopress.com Updated 13 hours 50 minutes ago CANYON COUNTY — Scores on the Idaho Reading Indicator of students statewide, and in Canyon County, rose from fall to winter, according to figures the Idaho State Department of Education released this week.

Statewide, kindergartners reading at grade level jumped from 56 to 71 percent, while the percentage of first graders at grade level rose 10 points. Second and third graders also made modest gains.

Percentage of students reading at grade level:

Statewide

Kindergarten (fall): 56

Kindergarten (winter): 71

First grade (fall): 57

First grade (winter): 67

Second grade (fall): 62

Second grade (winter): 65

Third grade (fall): 61

Third grade (winter): 67

Nampa School District

Kindergarten (fall): 47.81

Kindergarten (winter): 62.4

First grade (fall): 49.76

First grade (winter): 60.88

Second grade (fall): 62.9

Second grade (winter): 62.48

Third grade (fall): 58.04

Third grade (winter): 63.11

Caldwell School District

Kindergarten (fall): 31.78

Kindergarten (winter): 51.37

First grade (fall): 45.97

First grade (winter): 56.93

Second grade (fall): 50.87

Second grade (winter): 50.38

Third grade (fall): 45.87

Third grade (winter): 57.2

Vallivue School District

Kindergarten (fall): 47.55

Kindergarten (winter): 68.69

First grade (fall): 50

First grade (winter): 59.05

Second grade (fall): 62.07

Second grade (winter): 57.24

Third grade (fall): 55.03

Third grade (winter): 59.79

Students in local school districts made similar advances.

The IRI measures reading skills of kindergarten through third grade students with tests given in fall, winter and spring. It helps teachers better determine which students are struggling with reading.

Schools may give the spring IRIs between April 15 and May 15.

The state adopted a new test in 2007 which, according to the department, “reflects more current research in reading education and serves as a better measurement of student performance for teachers in the classroom.”

For that reason, it won’t be possible for school districts to analyze data from year to year until the test has been in place for a while.

“This is a baseline year,” Nampa School District spokeswoman Allison Westfall said. “It’s hard when the test changes so much.”

Most school districts say that the IRI is just one of many tools they use to measure student achievement in reading.

And school districts pay most attention to the gains students make from fall to spring.

Jonathan Cline, area director of elementary schools at the Caldwell School District, said it’s most useful to examine the results from fall to spring, but winter IRIs, which were taken in January, “do give us a good indication of how well we’re doing.”

“It certainly was a good midpoint assessment for us to look at and see what we need to do to help (students),” Gary Johnston, Vallivue School District director of assessment and instructional services, said.

## FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

### **Students' reading scores up from fall**

A new exam given when school started last year showed 3,000 more kids needed help, but that number was reduced in the latest round of testing.

See how your school preformed  
BY BILL ROBERTS - broberts@idahostatesman.com  
Edition Date: 05/06/08

Idaho elementary school students showed gains in reading ability on the latest statewide exam given earlier this winter.

But a similar test given at the start of the school year showed that districts faced an increased number of students who ranked among the lowest-performing readers.

On Monday, the state released Idaho Reading Indicator results from Fall 2007 and Winter 2008. The 10-minute exam is given to students in kindergarten through third grade three times a year to check reading skills.

The focus is on these grades because studies have shown that students who leave third grade and aren't strong readers are at risk for dropping out of high school or becoming under-employed.

The test results showed overall better marks in winter: More students are reading at grade level than were at the beginning of this school year.

The test was redesigned this school year, so the results can't be directly compared to last school year's. But the new test this fall did identify 3,000 more students - up to 12,700 - who ranked among the lowest-performing readers.

Between fall and winter this school year, the number of low-performing students decreased from 15 percent of those tested to about 11 percent, results show.

Results also showed the number of students struggling to speak English improved their performance on the exam between fall and winter. In kindergarten in the fall, for example, 52 percent of these students scored in the lowest category. This winter, just 20 percent were at the lowest level.

State officials think the improvements come from additional tools to help teachers pinpoint weaknesses in students' reading. The information helps teachers customize homework for students to emphasize areas in which they need work, said Jenny Fisk, state Department of Education reading coordinator.

That kind of detailed information, however, hasn't filtered down to parents' reports on their children's reading ability. Most parents get only a quick summation of where their child ranks. But state officials say they are working to improve that for next year.

The winter scores showed more proficient readers at most grade levels:

Kindergarten - from 56 percent to 71 percent.

First grade - from 57 percent to 67 percent.

Second grade - from 62 percent to 65 percent.

Third grade - from 61 percent to 67 percent.

State officials revised the exam first given in 2000 after test scores began to stagnate and students showed little growth.

Some school administrators say it is too early to tell how well the exam is detecting reading problems. The new exam stripped away some of the parts of the test, such as those assessing comprehension and a spelling test focused on fluency.

"I do feel better about our ability to look at fluency gains and where we need to do work," said Don Coberly, Boise School District curriculum director.

The increase in the number of low-performing readers, however, will cut into the money districts receive to pay for additional training for those students. Schools received about \$125 per student. But the increase in low performing readers could cut that to about \$110 per student. Districts will have to decide whether they will make up the difference with their own money.

Bill Roberts 377-6408

### **New exam indicates more Idaho students struggle in reading**

Idaho Performance Data and IRI reports  
Read more stories about education online  
Bill Roberts - broberts@idahostatesman.com  
Edition Date: 05/05/08

Idaho students reading on grade level have declined slightly over last school year, but state officials say that is because a new exam has identified more struggling readers. Results are from the Idaho Reading Indicator, a 10-minute test given three times a year to students in kindergarten through third grade.

Results show 68 percent of students were on grade level this winter, compared to 69 percent last winter.

The number of low performing readers rose to 11.2 percent up from 10.9, according to results. Learn more about the exam results in Tuesday's Idaho Statesman.

### FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

#### **N. Idaho two-room school may shut down**

WHITE BIRD, Idaho - A two-room school house in northern Idaho that first opened in 1888 may have to close if voters don't pass a school district levy later this month.

"If we lose this school, there isn't much left," said Ray Stowers, the school board member who represents White Bird on the Mountain View School District Board.

The district also includes Kooskia, Elk City and Grangeville. If the school in White Bird closes, the 18 students there will be bused to Grangeville.

"I can only beg and plead so much when there is a bus that runs from here to Grangeville," Stowers told The Lewiston Tribune.

Superintendent Wayne Davis said the district recognizes the need for schools in small communities. But he said students at White Bird can be served in Grangeville.

Elizabeth Reidhead, a third-grader, is one of three sisters attending White Bird.

"This school is fun," she said.

"Now I'm not the only third-grader," said Emily Kernutt, sitting nearby.

Students each morning line up inside rope barricades surrounding the school grounds to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem.

In 1895, enrollment at White Bird was 44 in the first- through 12th-grade school. A fire destroyed the building in 1913, and a flood damaged the replacement building in 1917.

Because of a shortage of teachers, students were bused to Grangeville in 1942.

Clarence McReynolds owns Hoots Cafe in White Bird. He said his two children attended the school as did four grandchildren. Now three of the students at the school are his great-grandchildren, and two more are set to become students.

He wants White Bird to stay open.

"Without little kids in town something is wrong," he said. "I'll do everything possible to keep this school. I want to see little kids running up and down the street."

Information from: Lewiston Tribune, <http://www.lmtribune.com>

A service of the Associated Press(AP)

### FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

#### **Aiming to make difference**

Nigerian studying at ISU plans to get involved when she returns home

BY BROOKE ANDERSON

For the Journal

POCATELLO — When Mary Chunu was looking to transfer to a new college from the one where she was studying in Senegal in West Africa, she wanted something completely different. And that's exactly what she got when she enrolled at Idaho State University.

"I wanted somewhere different, somewhere I'd never been," the Nigerian native explains. "I wanted to learn how to ski. I snowboarded for the first time this past winter."

As a contrast to the private university where she was studying, she wanted to go to a big state school with a high student population.

She left a hot and moist air of West Africa for the cool and dry climate of Pocatello.

And she left the hustle and bustle of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, for the slow pace of life in the sparsely population state of Idaho.

But one change she was really looking forward to — living in a place with a low crime rate.

Back in Nigeria, she says, "There's not a lot of security. You just have to be careful. You live your life. That's all."

According to [www.globalsecurity.org](http://www.globalsecurity.org), "Nigerians frequently voice intense complaints about the National Police Force (NPF). Nearly everyone believes they are incompetent, corrupt, and involved in much of the crime that plagues Nigeria's large urban areas. Experts concur that the NPF is understaffed and that personnel are extremely poorly trained, poorly equipped, and very poorly paid."

Here in Idaho, Chunu, who studies international relations at ISU, hopes get the education that will eventually give her the skills to make changes in her home country.

"I've always wanted to go into politics. I would like to work for my country, maybe for the United Nations — or maybe I'd like to run for president," she says. "There's a lot that has to change in Nigeria."

But she says, “Sometimes I get discouraged. A lot of good people are assassinated because politics is a dirty game.”

It was last year, around the same time that she transferred to the university here, that she started thinking about running for president.

From her personal computer here in Pocatello, she follows the news in her home country.

One day, while following Nigeria’s news online, she learned that a man who wanted to run for political office in the capital of Lagos was assassinated.

She remembers, “I asked myself, ‘Why is it that the good people go, and the bad people rule?’ We need good people.”

But for now, Chunu said she is enjoying her stay at ISU, where she has made friends from all over the world, including some from Idaho.

While she misses her family, friends and culture in Nigeria, she also appreciates her experience in Pocatello.

In fact, Chunu suggests, “More Americans should go out and see what the world is like and learn about other cultures.”

## **Marsh Valley school levy election set today**

Polls open at 8 a.m. at district schools

BY JOHN O’CONNELL

joconnell@journalnet.com

ARIMO — It’s been several years since they stopped making replacement parts for Marsh Valley High School’s antiquated coal furnace. So when the furnace malfunctions, the district’s maintenance supervisor has to weld a makeshift part.

Kent Whitaker, a Marsh Valley School Board member from Lava Hot Springs, lists replacing the furnace among the pressing needs to be addressed by the district’s fund for facility maintenance and upgrades.

He’s hoping Marsh Valley voters will approve a 10-year, \$750,000 plant facility levy today to help the district keep up with rising costs into the future. Voters rejected the levy by a slim margin on March 18.

Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at all of the district’s schools and at its district office in Arimo. A supermajority of voters will be needed for it to pass.

“We missed it by 25 or 30 votes over the whole district (in March). The feedback we got from our patrons was that so many people didn’t know about it and would have voted had they known about it,” Whitaker said.

The levy dates back to 1961 and was last approved in 1998. The current levy is set at \$523,000, but Whitaker noted the district took only \$450,000 in tax dollars for facility maintenance last year. He anticipates the district won’t take the full \$750,000 if the new levy passes, but he believes the higher ceiling would be prudent in case unexpected maintenance expenses arise. The owner of a \$150,000 home with the homeowner’s tax exemption would pay an extra \$25 per year if the district were to take the full \$750,000.

“People need to understand we’ve been tightening our wallet for the past 10 years making it work on the current levy,” Whitaker said.

Phil Beeson, of Lava Hot Springs, has been among the most vocal critics of passing such a large levy. He believes the district should have scaled back its request after the original levy was shot down; he also argues that \$523,000 should be enough to maintain the district's facilities.

"I kind of feel that's a pretty outrageous increase. Bannock County is the highest taxed county in the state, and we voted down this levy once," Beeson said. "My children came up through the Marsh Valley School District, and they've done a fine job of educating them. But I don't believe anyone's wages have gone up 44 percent in the past 10 years. That's just totally out of hand."

Hoping to bolster turnout by levy supporters, Randall Brown and his wife, who teaches a kindergarten at Marsh Valley Middle School, plan to spend this afternoon calling as many Marsh Valley voters as possible to lobby for the district's cause. Brown, who coaches girls' basketball at Marsh Valley Middle School, said some Inkom residents also plan to make phone calls today to help turnout.

If no levy passes at all, the district would have only \$50,000 in state Lottery funds available for maintenance. If only the current rate of \$523,000 is approved, district officials doubt they could finance major capital expenses and would have to seek a supplemental levy to finance them.

"My worry is if they don't pass this, they're going to shut down some of the elementary schools, possibly lose some of our sports programs, just things like that that aren't fair to the kids," Brown said.

#### FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

### **Two-room school in N. Idaho may be closed**

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barry Kough / Associated Press - The morning snack at the White Bird school on Thursday gathers all 18 students in the two-room school. The future of the school hinges on the outcome of a school district levy election later this month.

WHITE BIRD -- A two-room schoolhouse in northern Idaho that first opened in 1888 may have to close if voters don't pass a school district levy later this month.

"If we lose this school, there isn't much left," said Ray Stowers, the school board member who represents White Bird on the Mountain View School District Board.

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"Without little kids in town, something is wrong," he said. "I'll do everything possible to keep this school. I want to see little kids running up and down the street."

### **\$1 million available for Safe Routes to School**

The Idaho Department of Transportation has \$1 million available for the Safe Routes to School program for the 2009 calendar year. Schools, nonprofit organizations, local governments and other state agencies need to submit their letters of intent to apply by May 16 to be eligible for the funds.

Safe Routes to Schools pays for projects that will encourage students, from kindergarten to eighth grade, to walk and ride bicycles to school.

Infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks or bicycle racks may receive funding up

to \$100,000. Noninfrastructure improvements such as "walk to school" events and education activities can receive funding up to \$25,000. A list of eligible projects and a sample Letter of Intent are available at [www.itd.idaho.gov](http://www.itd.idaho.gov). Click on "Safe Routes to School" and then "How to Apply."

Dora Erickson to host its spring carnival

Dora Erickson Elementary School's PTO is sponsoring a spring carnival on Friday, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in front of the school. Everyone is invited.

There will be large inflated rides, food and games. Wristbands can be purchased for \$11 at the hair color booth or at the prize booth for unlimited rides, games and food. Tickets are four for \$1, and it takes between two and four tickets per ride. Games cost two tickets each, and everyone wins a prize. There will also be prizes for sale (cash only, no tickets).

Summer food services locations announced

Local school districts are participating in the Summer Food Service Program.

Meals will be provided free to all children, 1 to 18 years old. The following districts will serve breakfast and lunch at the following locations:

Fremont School District 215 will serve breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and lunch at 11 a.m. The meals will be served at Lincoln Elementary School, 825 S. Fourth West in St. Anthony, from June 9 through July 3.

Idaho Falls School District 91 will serve breakfast and lunch at several sites:

Fox Hollow Elementary School, 2365 Genevieve Way, will serve breakfast from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., from June 2 through July 10.

Emerson High School, 335 Fifth St., will serve a snack from 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., from June 2 through June 26.

A.H. Bush Elementary School, 380 W. Anderson St., will serve breakfast from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and lunch from noon until 12:45 p.m., from July 14 through Aug. 8.

Clair E. Gale Junior High School, 955 Garfield St., will serve breakfast from 9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and lunch from noon until 12:45 p.m., from July 14 through Aug. 8.

From Post Register reports

### **Sunnyside third-grader earns award**

SCHOLARLY STARS  
SONJA DECATO

Tell us about your scholarly stars -- students who have earned significant academic achievements. E-mail Sonja DeCato at [sdecato@postregister.com](mailto:sdecato@postregister.com) or send a fax to to 529-9683.

Alexis Plum's story about a dragonfly is turning heads at Reading Rainbow and Idaho Public Television.

The Sunnyside Elementary School third-grader's story won second place in the third-grade division in Reading Rainbow's Young Authors/Illustrators contest.

Alexis' story, titled "Dee

Dee the Dragon Fly," is about a dragonfly that goes looking for her caterpillar best friend when the caterpillar turns into a cocoon.

She also illustrated her story.

The inspiration for Alexis' tale came from her dad telling bedtime stories, she said.

She's now working on her second book, "My Dog is Lost."

"I like my stories," she said. "They make me laugh."

Alexis' story will be available June 1 on the IPTV Web site, [www.idahoptv.org/kids](http://www.idahoptv.org/kids).

Area students earn

state scholarships

The Idaho State Board of Education has dished out \$15,000 to local high school seniors.

Five students received the Robert R. Lee Promise Scholarship, which is worth \$3,000 and is renewable for up to four years.

To earn the state scholarship, students must earn a 3.5 grade point average.

The following students earned the scholarship:

Madison High School: Jessica Johnson and Jessica Kugath

Skyline High School: Krista Klinger

Sugar-Salem High School: Nicholas Lines

Shelley High School: Nikki Johnson.

Additionally, eight students will receive up to \$1,500 apiece from the federally funded Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship.

The scholarship is awarded on merit, and the total amount given is based on funds available.

The following students received the scholarship:

Blackfoot High School: Ryan Davis

Firth High School: Jordyn Wilding

Madison High School: Rebecca Eaton, Jessica Johnson, Paige Kempton and Jessica Kugath

Skyline High School: Krista Klinger

Sugar-Salem High School: Nicholas Lines