

Argonaut

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

FOR, OF AND BY THE STUDENTS SINCE 1898

Moscow City Council passes protocols for mask mandate



Kelli Zakariassen, who protested against the mask mandates Monday night, asks the Moscow City Council a question

Cody Roberts | Argonaut

Public health district officials and medical professionals support proposal

Cody Roberts
ARGONAUT

Moscow Mayor Bill Lambert said lifting mask restrictions now would be “irresponsible.” Moscow City Council met Monday night to discuss updates to the protocols used to determine whether mandates are necessary. The council unanimously approved the updates.

The council approved these metrics, after talking with a panel of officials from the Public Health - Idaho North Central District, University of Idaho, Latah County Commission, Moscow School District and Gritman Medical Center.

City Supervisor Gary Riedner presented the proposal via Zoom, unable to attend in-person after testing positive for COVID-19. Between short bouts of coughing, Riedner said the new protocols utilize regional data tools from PH-INCD. Once an area is considered “minimal risk,” mask mandates can be up for termination,

according to Riedner. “Input from hospital partners (in the proposal) was huge,” Riedner said.

Dr. John Brown, the chief medical officer at Gritman Medical Center, said mask mandates affect Gritman’s ability to staff the hospital.

“If everybody is getting sick in our community because people aren’t masking, people will not get the care they need,” Brown said.

Dr. Nicholas Garrett, an ER physician, said hospital capacity is limited by available staff members, hospital beds and the capacities of other medical centers, where patients can be referred to. The ability to get patients to other medical centers is “one of the single biggest stressors on the system right now,” Garrett said.

Carol Moehrle, PH-INCD director, said the department thinks mask mandates are critical for COVID-19 patients and for members of the general public, which need medical attention for other ailments as well.

“These masks are keeping people out of the hospital,” Moehrle said. “If we’re not wearing masks and the hospital is full of COVID-19

people, the rest of us that need that hospital... won’t have a place to go.”

Outside the council chambers, several people protested the mandates. One protestor, Kelli Zakariassen, said she had followed the council’s mandates from the beginning and was now happy to see the metrics which power the city’s decisions.

“It is not the place of the city council to make a medical decision,” Zakariassen said. “Masks are a class two medical device... and putting one on is a medical procedure. There are no long-term safety studies on wearing masks perpetually, so I think people, knowing that, should have the ability to choose (whether they wear one).”

Once the pandemic is no longer considered a threat, as determined by the protocols updated at this meeting, mask mandates may be removed. However, “(masks) are one of the last things we should remove from our mandates,” Garrett said.

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HEALTH

COVID-19 case surges clot contact tracing

Community members encouraged to take precautions when waiting on test results

Alexis Van Horn
ARGONAUT

Daily averages of COVID-19 cases in some Idaho health districts have tripled, according to a Monday news release from Public Health – Idaho North Central District. Surges in PH-INCD have resulted in backlogs for the teams contacting people who test positive and their close contacts.

This backlog means more people are not receiving calls from PH-INCD, the news release stated, so the district is encouraging community members to take precautions to protect themselves and others.

“We are doing our best to keep up with the demand, including working overtime, but with the drastic increase in positive cases in such a short time, we need the help of the public to slow the spread,” PH-INCD Director Carol Moehrle said.

The news release states those waiting for a test result should stay home and away from other members of the household when possible while watching for symptoms of COVID-19, which may take from two days to two weeks to appear.

People who test positive should stay home for at least 10 days from the start of symptoms, or from their test date if they are asymptomatic. The department encourages getting rest, staying hydrated, staying in contact with a healthcare provider and contacting the people they have had close contact with so others know about the diagnosis.

As of Monday morning, PH-INCD had last updated its COVID-19 case page Nov. 6. This update reported 2,903 confirmed and 196 probable cases of COVID-19 throughout the district. Of these cases, 118 were reported on Nov. 6. There had been 30 COVID-19-related deaths in the district.

As of Tuesday, PH-INCD reported 3,219 confirmed and 251 probable cases of COVID-19 with 112 new cases that day. There have now been 32 COVID-19-related deaths in the district. PH-INCD did not update data on Wednesday in observance of Veterans Day.

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POLITICS

Students dive into politics

University organizations inform student voters before and after elections

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

Election Night and the days which followed took University of Idaho by storm.

UI clubs are nonpartisan, serving students of all political beliefs. Several encouraged student voters to get to the polls on Election Day.

ASUI and an assortment of other organizations drove golf carts to help students who needed assistance getting to the Student Recreation Center polling location.

ASUI President Lauren Carlsen served as one of the drivers. The rides helped get voters to the doors faster, which improved morale, Carlsen said.

“Like all Americans, (we) are confused and anxious to see what

happens regardless of the results,” Julia Keleher, director of the UI LGBTQA Office, said. “And I think it’s hard because (we knew) this election (would) be complicated.”

Before the election, students had the opportunity to publicly voice their opinions on freedom through the For Freedom Poster Project. This allowed students to voice what they’re thankful for in this country, what they’re working toward and what they do in times of stress, Carlsen said. ASUI’s academic affairs officer, Savannah Stroebel, was approached about the project during Faculty Senate.

The posters were not set up until after the recent windstorm, but they’re now displayed on the Administration Building Lawn.

ASUI also put together a legislative report card to educate people about policies, legislators and polling locations with a focus on the impact on students

and higher education.

“There is so many different kinds of students, so I think everything impacts students because you’re toeing this line of adulthood and also being a student, which has its own (complications),” Carlsen said. “For a lot of us just leaving home and figuring how to be an educated citizen of society, there are a lot of things that impact students.”

It’s important for everyone, but especially students, to pay attention to and understand local politics, because local policies, elections and laws impact us personally and can change over time, Keleher said.

For example, the Moscow City Council has begun moving to make some public city bathrooms gender neutral, Keleher said. The Argonaut reported on this in coverage of the Nov. 4 City Council meeting.

Keleher and Carlsen both advise dealing with the stress of the

election and politics by stopping in at the Counseling and Testing Center, talking to ASUI members or checking in with Dean of Students Blaine Eckles.

“No, we can’t necessarily change anything, but we can definitely talk about it, make sure to take feelings and abilities into consideration and any worries that students may have,” Carlsen said.

The CTC can be reached at (208) 885-6716 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is an emergency phone line open 24 hours a day at the same phone number.

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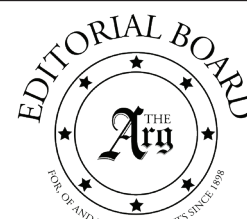
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RECREATION & WELLBEING

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10am

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Emily Pearce | Argonaut

Ingredients:

- 2 russet potatoes
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1 teaspoon salt

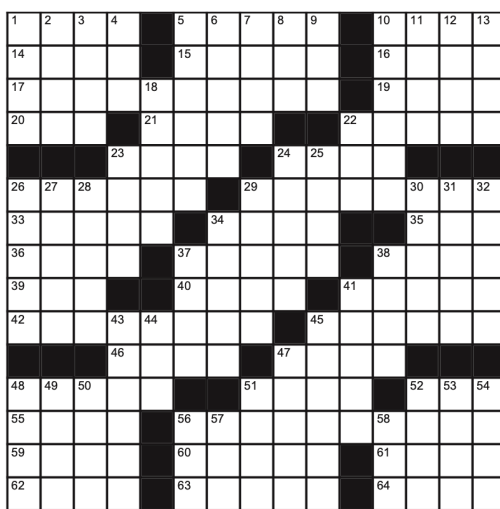
Directions:

1. Chop two russet potatoes finely and add them to a bowl with water and salt to let sit for five minutes.
2. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees Fahrenheit.
3. Drain the potatoes and blot with a towel.
4. Spread the potatoes evenly on a cooking sheet lined with aluminum foil.
5. Add vegetable oil and spices. Mix until evenly distributed.
6. Cook in the oven for 30 minutes.
7. Serve or set aside for later and enjoy.

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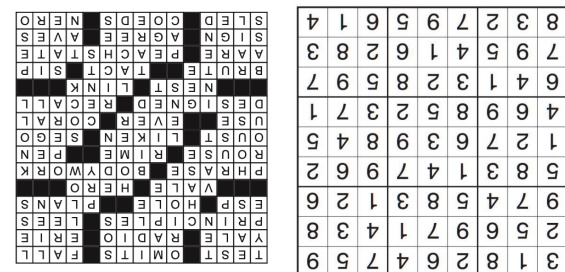
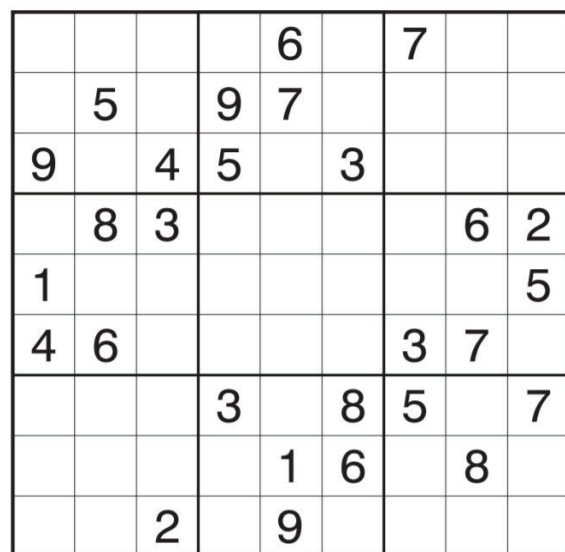
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THE FINE PRINT

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The UI Student Media Board meets at 4:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public. Questions? Call Student Media at 885-7825, or visit the Student Media office on the Bruce Pitman Center third floor.

The Argonaut welcomes letters to the editor about current issues. However, the Argonaut adheres to a strict letter policy:

- Letters should be less than 300 words typed.
- Letters should focus on issues, not on personalities.
- The Argonaut reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, length, label and clarity.
- Letters must be signed, include major and provide a current phone number.
- If your letter is in response to a particular article, please list the title and date of the article.
- Send all letters to:

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CONSTRUCTION

Library construction ongoing

Construction efforts include interior redesign, roof and wall repair

Teren Kowatsch
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho Library has undergone three separate yet concurrent construction projects since the spring, according to Project Architect Stephanie Clarkson. But this construction is nearly complete.

The aging of UI's campus and deferred building maintenance means the library is not the only building in need of renovation, Ray Pankopf, Architectural and Engineering Services director, said. Some of the newer buildings, like the Idaho Student Union Building and the J.A. Albertson Building, are still over 20 years old.

"Many of our structures are over 100 years of age," Pankopf said. "Systems and

finishes are, simply put, old and tired and in need of refresh and update."

The library's interior was updated first, with the aim of using the existing space more efficiently and improving the interior aesthetic. Communication between the library and the architecture department was critical in determining how to format and furnish the design, Clarkson said.

"Those markerboards, furnishings, the signage – that was all driven by the library to improve the space and update it," Clarkson said.

Work began on the roof to fix existing leaks and prevent new ones from reappearing. This was particularly important because of the library's contents.

"There's always a chance for items to get damaged," Clarkson said. "We try to get to roofs before there is a problem.

I knew that this one was in need. Typically, the lifespan of a roof is 20-30 years."

According to Clarkson, the interior is finished and the roof is nearing completion.

The last of the three projects is still ongoing. The north wall of the library, facing Memorial Gymnasium, is still under construction. A sewer line near the wall, which was redone last year, made the wall construction necessary, Clarkson said. However, there's been a few setbacks on this project, so Clarkson is unsure when it will be done.

"This is probably the only project that I've had that has been mostly impacted by COVID-19," Clarkson said. "It was difficult to get people here to work on it for the spring and summer."

COVID-19 did not play a large roll in getting funding for new projects, but Pankopf has run into funding problems.

The main funding from these projects is part of Idaho's income tax, which has been fixed at \$10 per tax return since 1961, Pankopf said.

"Using an inflation calculator, which anybody can find online, it takes \$85-90 to have the same purchasing power that \$10 afforded in 1961," Pankopf said.

This means Pankopf's team is updating, renovating and maintaining UI's facilities with 12.5% of the money they were receiving in 1961. Adding in liquor and cigarette sales tax money still isn't enough to make up the difference in funding, Pankopf said.

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ADMINISTRATION

Spring 2020 update

Student organizations informing student voters before and after elections

Evelyn Avitia
ARGONAUT

On Oct. 26, University of Idaho President C. Scott Green emailed students, faculty and staff announcing Faculty Senate's decisions regarding the Spring 2021 calendar. After reviewing results from a poll, the university decided to leave the calendar unchanged.

Spring classes begin Jan. 13, Spring Break will be March 15-19, exam week will end May 14 and Commencement is expected to be held May 15. Students returning to the Moscow campus must be tested for COVID-19 to attend in-person classes.

ASUI President Lauren Carlsen was involved in the discussions about the calendar and was happy the university moved forward with what students expressed interest in. She said the COVID-19 precautions UI used this semester will remain in place unless the situation changes.

Ciara Drake, a junior at UI majoring in medical sciences with an emphasis in pre-medicine, is impressed with the work UI has done to keep the university open during the fall semester. She said UI has been able to provide timely COVID-19 testing to faculty, staff and students with the help of Gritman Medical Center.

As a healthcare worker, she said she recognizes the hard work and courage it takes to work during a global pandemic and is thankful for the medical staff at Gritman who have aided UI in keeping the community safe, but she said she hasn't seen much communication about what Spring 2021 will look like.

"As a student, this is alarming for both my physical and mental health," Drake said. "Over Labor Day weekend, the infection rate at (UI) rapidly increased due to travel and community outbreak. Thinking of Spring Break makes me fearful that these same statistics will follow break, only in larger quantities."

Carlsen is aware that potential travel over Spring Break may concern UI students.

One change being made in Spring 2021 is hyflex or virtual meeting courses will not have a web fee, although online courses will. In semesters prior to Fall 2020, online and hybrid courses had a \$35/credit web fee, according to Green's e-mail.

UI plans to continue making improvements for the spring semester.

Evelyn Avitia can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu.

FACULTY SENATE

Controversy over new sexual harassment policy

"Not complying is not an option" for University of Idaho

Cody Roberts
ARGONAUT

Some members of University of Idaho's Faculty Senate raised questions about a bill passed this Tuesday to comply with a Title IX policy. The concerned members thought the bill, which complies with a national sexual harassment dispute policy, could deter people from coming to the university about sexual harassment.

The policy aimed to make sure all sexual harassment cases are handled with the same procedure, burden of proof and appeal rights, Jim Craig of the UI General Counsel Office said. Before, the code of conduct handled sexual harassment disputes differently depending on whether the incident involved a student, staff member or

faculty member.

Erin Agidius, the director of the Office of Civil Rights and Investigations, brought the bill, also known as FSH 6100, to Faculty Senate. Agidius said there were a handful of changes, with the biggest change being a live hearing component, where involved individuals can be cross-examined. In the past, information from victims in sexual harassment complaints could be submitted for review in writing.

The new policy "expressly prohibits students from directly cross-examining one another, and it requires schools to provide support services to students, even if a student chooses not to move forward with a formal complaint process," according to a press release from the Department of Education.

Filing a formal complaint will prompt an investigation, formal notice to the accused and live hearings, Agidius said.

Universities are now obligated to provide advisors for the cross-examinations.

Those who do not want to participate in the formal disciplinary process can opt for an informal resolution process, but this is only available after filing the formal complaint, Agidius said.

The victim does not need to be in the same room as the accused for the cross examination, according to earlier reporting from The Argonaut.

A senator asked Agidius if this new process could potentially discomfort people out on the stand.

"Yes, and this is one of those things that is not an option for institutions," Agidius answered.

Craig said that even in the drafting process, concerns for the policy were not up for discussion. A working group, composed of the Provost's Office, Faculty Senate, Staff Council, ASUI, Human Resources, student

body representatives and other campus organizations, was assigned only to find how the university could comply with the policy.

"We pulled together a very broad working group to discuss these changes..." Craig said. "There's enough stuff in these regulations that everybody can find something to disagree with. The policy is required by federal regulations. If it's not adopted, we will be out of compliance with federal regulations. Not complying is not an option."

One senator asked Agidius if, in her professional opinion, the new measures could deter people from coming forward with complaints.

"Genuinely, yes," Agidius said.

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GREEK LIFE

Fraternity accused of displaying Confederate flag

AGR members say the object was a gray blanket, not a flag.

Kim Stager
ARGONAUT

UI alumnus and former Greek Life member Morgan Chaffee said she saw a Confederate flag hanging in the window as she drove past Alpha Gamma Rho on Oct. 19. She didn't have the time to take a picture at the time, but when she returned later, the flag was no longer there.

Chaffee's boyfriend, a current UI student, saw the flag as well, she said. She said the flag was hanging "in the top floor farthest right window if you're facing the building," Benjamin Uptmor, president of AGR, said he ran around the house Oct. 20 looking for the flag but could not find it anywhere. He took photos of the house with timestamps before going to class for the day.

Uptmor searched all members' rooms at around 6:30 a.m. that day and conducted a more thorough search of the house with executive board members later in the day. He said he contacted AGR's national organization and their chapter advisor, Zane Gardner, telling them he was aware of Chaffee's post but did not find a flag.

Gardner then contacted Nick O'Neal, director of UI Fraternity and Sorority Life, and determined the AGR members would have a mandatory meeting to discuss the situation and why they wouldn't have a Confederate flag in the chapter house.

O'Neal responded to Chaffee on Oct. 21, thanking her for bringing the issue to his attention, encouraging her to reach out to him if any other issues arose and saying his office had "taken

immediate action to connect with chapter leadership and their national organization to address this holistically."

"I have seen people consider (the Confederate flag) as a piece of history and heritage and doesn't represent hate," Uptmor said. "And they believe that it is their First Amendment right to be able to fly the flag. The other side that I have seen with the Confederate flag is that it is a symbol of hate. And that it stands (for) oppression and white supremacy. These two very different views make it a sort of grey area in society because there is such a contrast in beliefs instead of one common thought about it."

Uptmor said he'd be willing to have a conversation with Chaffee about the issue. Chaffee was not contacted again after O'Neal's email, but she said she plans to reach out to the Greek council about the issue. She hopes the university will hold AGR responsible for their actions.

"It's very sad that members of (AGR) are refusing to acknowledge their own blatantly racist displays and would rather dispute the issue instead of solving it," Chaffee said.

After talking with Uptmor, Gardner also contacted AGR's national organization. Uptmor said they believed AGR was taking steps in the right direction and did not see the need to step in.

"We never want to see allegations like this happen against our house," Uptmor said. "This one was an untrue statement made about us, but it's also a chance for us to learn as well and further educate ourselves on why issues like this should not be an issue."

One of AGR's vice presidents,

Anthony Buzzetti, is the student Chaffee accused of displaying the flag in his window. He said he's had the same gray blanket in the window as a blind for the past two years. He believes the house and a lot of its members wouldn't stand for the Confederate flag or anything like it.

"This issue took a lot of my attention off of schoolwork because it was so stressful and hurtful," Buzzetti said. "It deeply saddened me that we would be accused of such thing. As far as my leadership position, it just adds more unwanted work to my plate that I didn't need with this already stressful semester."

Dean of Students Blaine Eckles said UI's goal is to create an inclusive environment where everyone is welcome. He said diversity is highly important to the university and he wants to help facilitate discussions when students feel excluded for any reason.

Chaffee said she enjoyed her time in the Greek system because of how much it emphasized diversity.

Eckles was pleased when he heard about how AGR addressed the issue, saying one of the best ways to solve problems like this is through civil discourse, which helps students understand how their actions impact others.

This is not the first time UI has had an issue regarding Confederate flags, Eckles said. He mentioned a truck driving around campus with one. To his knowledge, though, it doesn't happen often. It's been an issue within both Greek Life and residence halls, but it has not resulted in any disciplinary action. Greek Life chapter facilities are independently owned private



(Top) Outside view of AGR chapter house on Oct. 20. (Bottom) Anthony Buzzetti's gray blanket as a blind in his room at AGR Oct. 20.

Ben Uptmor | Courtesy

property, but leaders coordinate with UI on certain issues to inform and educate their members on inclusivity.

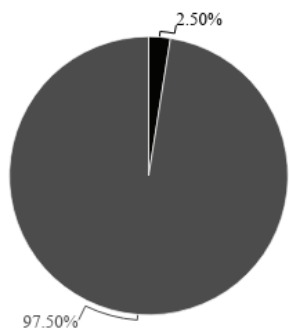
"It's a great opportunity to help students understand the different viewpoints and perspectives," Eckles said. "Our job is to help facilitate that understanding

and growth for students so they see how their actions, while not intending to impact others, definitely can and do impact others at times."

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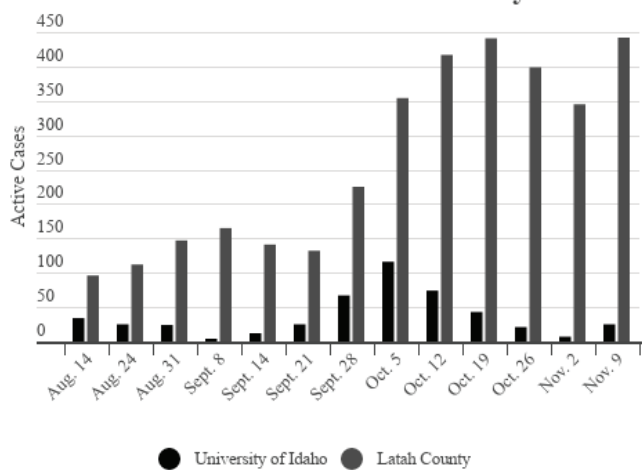
COVID-19 testing results

COVID-19 test results from
UI's test site (Oct. 31 to Nov. 6)



● COVID-19 positive ● COVID-19 negative

Active COVID-19 cases at University of
Idaho and in Latah County



● University of Idaho ● Latah County

POLITICS

Voting trends remain consistent

Latah County keeps Democratic lean with 2020 election cycle.

Carter Kolpitcke
ARGONAUT

Latah County election results are now official, despite opposition from the Republican Party about national election results. The county has shown a lean towards Democratic candidates over the past ten years.

The most drastic difference between this year's election cycle and previous years was the increase in absentee voting and overall voter turnout.

"Voter turnout was about where I expected it to be," Latah County Elections Director Jennifer Henrichs said. "We definitely had an increase in absentee voting, whether that was through the mail-in option or early voting. It was fairly consistent for our voters...for voters in similar type of elections such as president elections."

Latah County had 27,476 registered voters for this election cycle. Of those, 20,930 voted, showing a 72.9% turnout rate, Henrichs said. There were 13,440 absentee ballots cast this year.

In comparison, Latah County reported 5,204 absentee ballots in 2016. The increase this year was most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the national push to utilize mail-in ballots, Henrichs said.

The official results indicated no change in projected winners, only narrowing or widening gaps by small margins. Nothing seems out of the ordinary compared to previous years, Henrichs said.

According to official results, David Nelson (D) won the race for State Senator District 5 with 56.88% of the vote. Dulce Kersting-Lark (D) won the race for State Representative District 5 Position A with 50.54% of the vote. Tom Lamar (D) won the race for Latah County Commissioner District 2 with 62.76% of the vote.

Paulette Jordan (D) won Latah County with 50.37% of the vote, but lost the statewide election for U.S. Senator to Jim Risch (R). Rudy Soto (D) won Latah County with 48.23% of the vote, but lost the statewide election for Representative

in Congress to Russ Fulcher (R). Caroline Nilsson Troy (R) won the race for State Representative District 5 Position B with 51.17% of the vote.

Magistrate Megan Marshall retained her position with 88.53% of the vote. Kathie LaFortune (D), Richard Skiles (R) and W.W. Thompson (D) ran unopposed for Latah County Commissioner District 1, Latah County Sheriff and Latah County Prosecuting Attorney, respectively.

Several incumbent candidates were re-elected. Latah County Sherriff Richard Skiles won against Barry Johnson in 2016 by 72 votes. Latah County Prosecuting Attorney W.W. Thompson has won re-election uncontested for the past 10 years.

The Latah County Commissioner District 2 race brought national attention to the City of Moscow when Rench was arrested on Sept. 23 at a Christ Church Psalm Sing. Though the race was contentious, and Lamar only won his 2014 race against Shirley Greene by 626 votes, Lamar pulled away with a 25% lead. The Latah County Commissioner District 2 position has remained Democratic for the past decade.

Paulette Jordan's governor race remained consistent in Latah County, though her lead diminished in 2020. Jordan won Latah County against Brad Little by over 2,000 votes in 2016, but only won the county against Jim Risch by 872 votes in 2020.

The presidential election results indicated similar trends, with Latah County remaining blue by voting for former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in 2016 and President Elect Joe Biden in 2020. Biden's lead over President Donald Trump in Latah County was only 764 votes.

"We are so grateful that everyone was so patient with everything that had happened, and we did our best to get the results as quick as we could," Henrichs said. "The results should be up on the website."

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Treat yourself at the VandalStore Starbucks!

VandalStore
The official store of the University of Idaho

Life

LIFESTYLES, INTERESTS, FEATURES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Life Hacks

Things to do on the Palouse

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT



Friday the Thirteenth

Time: 11 a.m.
Date: Nov. 13
Place: Bitterroot Tattoo
Price: Various purchases

It's Friday the Thirteenth, and we all know what that means. From horror movies to edgy traditions, a frightening day is on our calendar. Stop by Bitterroot Tattoo and get a great price for some new ink. Doors open at 11 a.m. and make sure to get there early to grab a spot in line.



Wine Tasting: Scharffenberg Cellars and The Walls

Time: 3-6 p.m.
Date: Nov. 13
Place: Vine Wine Bar and Cellar
Price: Various purchases

Take a night on the town and enjoy some wine. Sample Vine Wine Bar and Cellar's selection and meet other wine enthusiasts while tasting. It is a guarantee you will be going home with a bottle at the end of the night, because their wine is just that good.



Spotswood Abbey

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Date: Nov. 13
Place: Timber Mill Bar and Grill
Price: Free

A big-time opportunity presents itself in Troy, Idaho. Take a drive out to the Timber Mill and listen to Spotswood Abbey, playing songs from Vulfpeck, Allen Stone, Player, Bee Gees and more. Grab a drink, a meal and vibe out with the band.



Palouse Ice Rink Open House

Time: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Date: Nov. 14
Place: Palouse Ice Rink
Price: Various purchases

Palouse Ice Rink is opening their floors to everyone this weekend. Whether it be a fun way to spend a day or a date idea, the rink is slick and ready for skating. Along with the rink, patrons can tour the new facility and get to know what's behind closed doors.

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DIVERSITY

Native American Heritage Month event schedule

University aims to honor and educate

Katarina Hockema
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho has several events planned to celebrate Indigenous communities during November's Native American Heritage Month.

These events, coordinated and sponsored by the Native American Student Center, the Native American Student Association, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Office of Tribal Relations will be held throughout the month of November to provide opportunities for students, faculty and staff to learn more about the heritage and culture of Native individuals. All events except for the vigil will be held over registration-only Zoom sessions available on UI's information page for Native American Heritage Month.

Dakota Kidder, the program coordinator of the Native American Student Center, hosted the opening ceremony and following Q&A. The ceremony featured Dr. Hailey Wilson of the Nez Perce Tribe presenting "Fostering Native Wellness," a webinar educating on the meaning of wellness, its components and its application to Native individuals in the context of healing, resilience, culture, family and humility.

"Being in tune with your culture is powerful," Wilson said. "It's a great tool for wellness. All of the four different realms of wellness can actually be impacted by cultural participation and practices."

On Nov. 9, a panel titled "Beyond Awareness: Panel of Experts on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and People" explored the epidemic of violence against women and all Indigenous individuals as the first part of the "Voice for the Voiceless" series.

The panel featured Karee Picard, director of the 'Uuyit Kimiti - Women's Outreach Program, Bernie LaSarte, executive director of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal STOP Violence Program, Lisa Brunner, co-curricular director and adjunct faculty of the White Earth Tribal & Community College, former legal assistant and crime mapper Lauren



Courtesy from the Native American Student Center and Native American Student Association

Chief Elk and Natasha Anderson, staff attorney of the Nez Perce Tribe Office of Legal Counsel.

A traditional games workshop titled "Reintroducing Family Values Through Hand Game: A Cultural Education Perspective" was hosted by Orlando Avery of the Cheyenne River Lakota and Grant Weston of the Oglala Lakota on Nov. 10.

Avery is a K-12 educator, artist, singer, community organizer and traditional arts instructor with Oglala Lakota College (while) Weston is a community organizer, singer, song composer and traditional games instructor from the Pine Ridge Reservation, according to UI's informational preview of the event.

There are still several events to look forward to this month to celebrate Native American heritage.

The "Beyond Awareness Keynote Address" featuring Winona LaDuke originally scheduled for 5:30-6:30 p.m. Nov. 16 as the second part of the "Voice for the Voiceless" series has been cancelled. LaDuke is a Native American land rights activist, environmentalist, economist, politician and author who has spent her career working on a national level to advocate, raise public support and create funding for environmental groups, according to the National Women's Hall of Fame.

An in-person vigil honoring "stolen siblings" of Indigenous tribes will take place on Nov. 16 from 6:45-7:45 p.m. at the ISUB Summit/Vandal Lounge, concluding the "Voice for the Voiceless" series. Masks and social distancing are required for attendance.

The last event of the month will be another keynote address titled "RESILIENCE" featuring Marcie Rendon of the White Earth Ojibwe. The event will take place from noon to 1 p.m. on Nov. 17.

According to UI's informational page, Rendon will share her writing and speak on the topic of resilience in Native American communities. She is an enrolled member of the White Earth Nation, author, playwright, poet, freelance writer and community arts activist supporting native artists, writers and creators to pursue their art.

"While we take time throughout this month to celebrate our Native people, we as Indigenous people know that our history, our language and our traditional ways of being and knowing goes beyond a day, a week or even a month," Kidder said. "Our identity is who we are every day, and we take pride in that."

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CAMPUS LIFE

Friends teamed up for King of the Hill

Recommended changes to the game were spacing out the barricades more and different laser tag game option

Kim Stager
ARGONAUT

Flashing lights, upbeat music and gamer noises greeted students at the nighttime Laser Tag event on Friday, Nov. 6.

Teams competed in the Vandals Entertainment's event in the Memorial Gym 7 p.m.—11 p.m. Around 40 teams signed up, and the staff had to adjust the logistics, which took longer than expected.

Students signed up with their team name, added up to four people in their group and one of the group member's names and phone numbers.

Erin Noble, the UI Performing Arts coordinator, gave each team that signed up a time slot. The teams played in rounds to compete for King of the Hill.

In King of the Hill, teams compete against each other to reach 300 points before the time runs out. If no one makes it to 300 points, whoever has the most points by the end of the round is the winner.

A person gets nine points every

three seconds from a glowing box in the middle of the arena. The team with control over the box is the "king."

The players shot each other three to five times with laser guns, containing 24 rounds each for points. The teams got around five minutes to compete, so all would get a chance to play.

Leilani Fugere, Tekla Shaw, Andrew Botterbusch and Cade Disselkoe created the team "Winners." They enjoyed having a break from school and spending time with friends. The game was more fun than they thought it would be and easy for all skill levels.

The team said some changes that could be made to the layout would be a tighter space to play because it was too open. They also said there should be more barricades.

Shaw said four players were perfect—less than four would be tedious and exhausting, and more than four would be too much.

"Future events should be unique and something (students) don't have easy access to," said Botterbusch. "You can go out and play soccer but not laser tag."

Noble said Vandal Entertainment searched for COVID-19 safe events to put on for the students and decided on laser tag. This game allows students to be safely distanced from each other with

masks and wipe down the equipment after each round. Students were encouraged to keep the headbands and laser guns used in the rounds together. Yoseph Alamoudi, his cousin Aziz Alamoudi, Mubarak Alsomali and Moaz Mahmod created the team "Nameless." They heard about this event from a group chat they are a part of.

Alsomali said other laser game tags with a different mission and style rather than just one would be good next time.

Mahmod said he would like to see bubble football as a future event.

Some future events to look forward to are a daytime mindfulness event, a Thanksgiving survival pack before students leave and virtual events during the online portion of the semester.

Noble said it will be challenging to find social events during the online portion of the semester, but to keep an eye out and do research on lists of fun events from companies or websites.

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Snow on University Ave. Nov. 10

Emily Pearce | Argonaut

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Providing students with security on campus

A free campus security walking service that remains through the pandemic

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

University of Idaho safe walk has made students feel safer on campus even before Bruce Lovell, director of Security and manager of Campus Security, had started working at the UI.

A part of the Office of Public Safety and Security, the VandalCARE Team helps create a secure atmosphere on the Moscow campus.

The team, an interdisciplinary group collaborating between campus departments helps faculty, staff and distressed individuals feel safe, according to VandalCARE Team's website. Coming together across campus and functioning as part of the Division of Student Affairs, the team meets yearly to address concerns.

The safe walk, provided by the Campus Security Team on the Moscow campus, offers an escort to any destination around the university. Available year round, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, the service is free and a call away.

"So, people that want to safe walk,

they call into security staff and tell them where they need to escort, essentially from then security shows up and walks them to a destination," Lovell said.

Those who need the service can call (208)8585-7054 or (208)874-7550. Both numbers will reach Campus Security directly and if unanswered, they will give a call back.

With the pandemic in place, the security team will still send officers and respond to those in need of the service. Not a lot has changed, Lovell said, With officers maintaining a six-foot social distance and wearing a mask.

During the year the service will see more requests with more talk around campus.

"Last year during the scare when everyone was talking about the white vans, we got more calls," Lovell said.

Outside of that specific situation, the service's usage remains stable.

When the safe walk was first suggested, it was an internal and external decision. An important element of safe walk is that students know that the resource is available.

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COMMUNITY

Pups on the Palouse

Humane Society of the Palouse's animals ready

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

As the Argonaut staff and lovers of puppies, we took to the Palouse to find the best pups it has to offer. No matter the size, color, breed or pawverty level — all pups are the best and we are here to find them. Missed us this week or want your pup (or other furry creature) to be featured in next week's Pups on the Palouse? Send us an email at arg-life@uidaho.edu.

Meet Calypso, a surrendered pup who is looking for a new best friend. This one-eyed sweetheart has all the love in the world plus more. She enjoys anyone's company and will take any adventure that comes her way. She prefers a home with no other pets. This is one girl who loves to play, snuggle and go on outdoor adventures on the Palouse.

For more information about Calypso, call (208)883-1166 or send an email at information@humanesocietyofthepalouse.org.

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Courtesy of Humane Society of the Palouse

CAMPUS LIFE

Engaging with students

Vandal Entertainment provides students with a way to destress and engage

Ryan Hill
ARGONAUT

Vandal Entertainment has been putting on small events in the ASUI student lounge in the ISUB. They offer music, board games, foosball, pool and painting to help liven up students' days.

"It's just trying to get more students to come onto campus and engage and really create more of a feeling of community again on campus rather than this isolation that we've been dealing with the past couple months," Lauren Fereday, Vandal Entertainment marketing and special events specialist, said.

The events took place during Nov. 4, as a way for students who are either done with a class or in between class have a chance to stop by and relax.

Each event hosted has a theme to add more personality for students to enjoy. Fereday

said that a few weeks ago they had a tie-dye mask event and a voter registration event as well, which attracted people. The point of putting on these events though is to have students come by, engage and relax.

However, at times they don't get a lot of students. The event on Nov. 4 didn't have any students attend. However, that doesn't discourage them from putting on these events.

"We honestly are just trying to make a positive impact on people's days," Erin Nobel, the special events coordinator for Vandal Entertainment, said. "If we were able to get people a little bit unstressed or outside of their house in a safe way, that's a win for us."

These events are normally in the afternoons Wednesday, but pay attention to Vandal Entertainment's social media page and engage, they'll inform anyone who wants to de-stress.

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Sports



Idaho Women's Basketball put their hands in to cheer before the Sacramento State game in Cowan Spectrum in Camas, Oregon.

Saydee Brass | Argonaut



Sophomore guard/post Beyonce Bea shoots the ball while a Montana State opponent defends her on Feb. 6 in Cowan Spectrum.

Saydee Brass | Argonaut

BASKETBALL

Women's basketball and choosing their Vandals

Ever wonder just how much work goes into recruiting and forming not just a team, but a successful one?

Zack Kellogg
ARGONAUT

In college sports, one of the most interesting and common story lines is that of the newbies. The latest batch of talent that coaches look to be the future of the program.

From an outsider's perspective, the formula for recruiting looks simple: play well in high school, programs will notice athletes and if they like them enough after seeing their film and making a couple visits, boom, they're in.

Fans are always excited to hear about the newest addition and what the expectations are set at, being gaining with excitement for just who was asked to come be a member of a collegiate program.

Although recruiting seems simple in a broad view, it might only be outmatched in importance by tallies for wins and losses.

"It's everything to the program," Idaho women's basketball head coach Jon Newlee said.

"You have to have great players coming in to have success, and you have to have the right people." It isn't by chance that Newlee and the Vandals have consistently found success through the years, in large part due to the program's recruiting.

But what does being recruited look like from the player's perspective?

Many would think that when a player is entering their senior year is when schools would begin to take notice from local or statewide hype and impressive stat lines. But, that isn't the case.

The recruitment process for junior Janie King and sophomore Beyonce Bea started earlier than most might think.

"The recruiting process really got started for me in the spring of my sophomore year of high school," Bea said. "That's kind of when coaches started reaching out to me. I started calling them back having conversations getting to know different teams."

Once Newlee and his staff have a player in their sights, they will watch film that is posted and distributed by the players, adding when programs can come watch them play both in the summer and regular season.

Bea and King said it's not just hoping that a coach or program will hear about athletes. It's about sending the best footage to as many coaches as possible, making sure you are seen.

"It's definitely a big aspect being on the right team, just with a good coach who can help you just get recruiting the stuff out," King said. "Being in a situation where your team has success by playing together really helps in finding the best fit later on."

Players like King will get contact information after games from schools that

were not on their radar, as the Eagle, Idaho native had her eyes set on the hometown Broncos before the Vandals.

Newlee said that another key is the importance of his staff. Newlee praises associate head coach Christa Sanford and assistant coaches Jordan Kelley and Drew Muscatell for their contributions year-round.

One of the biggest moments in high school are the coaches visiting to watch athletes on gameday.

Word quickly spreads through the school that college coaches are coming to watch their classmates play, leading to packed bleachers, large community support and rowdy student sections providing an atmosphere that won't be forgotten.

Bea and King said those days were stressful and nerve-wrecking to perform your best, but weirdly at the same time made them calmer and more confident.

"At the same time, it helped me to just keep playing," Bea said. "They're already interested, that's why they're here, I don't need to worry about that, I just need to go out and do what I do best."

But there is more to getting noticed than just having raw talent.

Newlee, King and Bea all said that an impressive stat line or a high skill ceiling can help in getting noticed, but it's a player's personality, attitude and overall commitment to what is best for the team's success that will decide whether they will be asked to be a Vandal.

"Whenever things are bad or good, whichever way, you really want a certain type of player and person in our program," Newlee said. "So even though somebody might be a McDonald's All-American and want to come here, if they don't have the correct attitude, if they don't have the respect and treating people the right way, they're not coming here. We cut them off our list."

The final step is the on-campus visits. Players tour the school and its facilities, sit in on a practice and end the trip with dinner with the entire team, Newlee and his family.

This is where recruits have a chance to connect with the team. Although some players don't feel the vibe, finding a team where they are comfortable with who they are is what draws great teams together.

This is the circle of life of recruitment and a look inside to how the Vandals have not only built a successful program but have sustained it for over a decade with no sign of slowing down.

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OUTDOOR PROGRAM

Outdoor Program offers ski and snowboard tuning clinic

Participants will learn basic understanding of tuning skis and snowboards.

Armin Mesonovic
ARGONAUT

With snowfall entering Moscow and winter approaching, winter activities like skiing and snowboarding are coming soon. Although before every ski and snowboard season, people who participate should understand how to properly wax and edge their skis or snowboards in order to have an enjoyable experience.

Ski wax is applied to the bottom of snow runners like skis, snowboards and toboggans in order to ensure the improvement of their friction performance in certain snow conditions. Edging a ski or snowboard helps the rider develop more speed and make better turns.

The Outdoor Program at the University of Idaho is offering a Zoom webinar Nov. 18 at 4 p.m. to teach participants how to properly wax and edge their skis or snowboards in preparation for the upcoming season. Sandra Townsend, an Outdoor Program event coordinator, will be running the Zoom webinar. Townsend has about a decade of experience as a ski technician in Killington, VT and Steamboat Springs, CO.

"We've been running clinics for about the last three years, traditionally, it's in the springtime but we decided to shake it up this year as we're doing it virtual," Townsend said. "Anyone can join our Zoom webinar that we're going to have, and they will learn a little bit about how to tune skis and snowboards. We'll be doing a demonstration on a pair of skis and going through the whole process of how to figure out what your ski actually needs and how

to rectify any issues that there may be."

Townsend said that waxing and edging your equipment is the best thing you can do for your equipment in order to make it more effective and last longer. Individuals should wax their equipment every season depending on how often they go in order to keep it in good condition.

"It extends the life of your equipment, protects the base of it and it creates a side barrier between the base of your equipment and the snow," Townsend said. "The snow is quite abrasive so adding that extra layer does protect the base and helps you do better turns and stop faster because it will react quicker with whatever you want to do. It's just more fun when you're able to make your speed do what you want it to do."

Individuals can also bring in their skis and snowboards to be worked on in the Rental Center if they are unable or don't

want to personally wax or edge their equipment. At this time the Rental Center is doing a half price deal for full tunes so individuals can bring in their gear now to be assessed and worked on where needed.

They also mount speeds for skis and snowboards, but aren't able to mount bindings on all skis or snowboards due to the difference of sizes for some equipment. However, they do have an assortment of goods that allow them to mount bindings on some equipment.

Costs of waxing is set to \$15, edge and wax is \$25 and a full tune is \$35. Full tunes will be half price for the entire month of November.

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GOLF

UI Golf Course reaches record number of participants

UI Golf Course closes for the season but offers virtual golf simulator.

Armin Mesinovic
ARGONAUT

A local attraction on the University of Idaho campus in Moscow had the most success as a business this year than they've ever had. The UI Golf Course has been putting up record numbers during the pandemic, as more people have showed up to play.

Andrew M. Elaimy, head golf professional at the UI Golf Course, has seen an increase in people playing golf during the COVID-19 pandemic and hopes to see it continue going into next year.

"It's been our best year ever," Elaimy said. "We've nearly doubled our rounds this year. We were able to be open, socially distant and it was a great way for people to get out and exercise. I think that we've seen an increase in people coming out because most people wanted to look for an activity to participate in during this pandemic. Most people didn't want to go out to bars/restaurants so they decided to come play golf since it's been one of the best socially distant activities to do."

Elaimy said that this year, a mix of individuals came to play golf on the course with many of them being new players. The increase of players helped the course purchase new golf carts along with bringing more popularity to the course as a whole.

"Our biggest increase was with new golfers," Elaimy said. "It's a great game and once people tried it, they were addicted. With the new or current golfers, we offer lessons for individuals, two people, groups and juniors in order to help them develop their game."

Because of the recent snowfall, the UI Golf Course has closed the course for the rest of the year but the course will reopen

that is available for individuals who want to continue playing is the Indoor Trackman Simulator that is available for use in the winter.

"The virtual indoor golf simulator is something that we offer in order for players to come in and improve on their skills or for new players to learn more about the game," Elaimy said. "It's the best for people to get into the game and learn how to improve their skills whether that's improving their stroke, figuring out what's the best stance to take or learning how to hold the club in a proper position."

The Indoor Trackman Simulator is the first golf simulator available in the area, and it is powered by Trackman technology. The simulator lets you play on 38 different courses, and it allows people to use their time in order to hone their game on the virtual driving range along with providing shot feedback via video analysis.

The technology records all aspects of someone's swing including club speed, attack angle, smash factor and launch angle. Club speed determines a golfer's potential distance, attack angle follows the direction the club head is moving on impact, smash factor determines the ball speed divided by club speed and launch angle refers to the angle that the ball takes off relative to the ground.

There are multiple different play formats including group formats with up to four people. Indoor lessons are available for adults and juniors. Lessons will be taught from Professional Golfers' Association of America (PGA) professionals, and people interested in trying out the golf simulator can call 208-885-6171 to book a time to play.

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(Top) The Vandal volleyball team huddles before playing Grand Canyon University in Memorial Gym (Middle) Cutrell Haywood breaks a tackle and reaches for the end zone against Central Washington (Bottom) The Vandal soccer team celebrates after a goal scored by graduate student Taylor Brust in her sophomore season against Weber State on Senior Day in the Kibbie Dome

Saydee Brass, Leslie Kiebert | Argonaut

VandalStore

The official store of the University of Idaho

EPIC GEAR EVERY DAY

BIG SKY

Spring schedules released as fall break approaches

Vandal teams prepare for spring competition

Armin Mesinovic
ARGONAUT

The Big Sky Conference released the Spring 2021 schedules for football, women's volleyball and women's soccer. Each sport will participate in an adjusted schedule and will partake in weekly COVID-19 testing. These schedules are subject to change with the ongoing concerns of COVID-19.

Football

The Spring 2021 Big Sky football schedule features 12 teams that will compete in a six-game schedule over an eight-week period. Big Sky football enters its 58th season as games kickoff on Feb. 27 and end on April 10. There will be an open week for all schools from March 20 and April 17 to reschedule games if they are postponed due to COVID-19.

The University of Idaho football team opens up the season against Northern Colorado on Feb. 27 in the Kibbie Dome. The Vandals play against Portland State March 13 in Moscow and Montana April 3, with The Little Brown Steiner up for grabs in the Kibbie Dome against the Grizzlies.

The Vandals away games include Idaho State, in the annual ICCU Battle of the Domes on March 6, Eastern Washington on March 27 and Southern Utah on April 10 to close out the season.

Each team will have three away games and three home games with no teams playing three consecutive away games.

Ticket sales of Vandal home games will be announced in the coming weeks. Kibbie Dome attendance will be determined by local and/or state health ordinances and government officials. Game times and broadcast clearances will be decided at a later date.

Travel by bus will be used to reduce the spread of COVID-19 as each team will play at least three opponents from their original Fall 2020 schedule.

Big Sky teams will not be allowed

to participate in non-conference games in the spring and Sacramento State University announced on Oct. 15 they will not be competing this spring football season.

The NCAA Board of Directors approved 2020 NCAA Division I fall championships to be played in the spring as outlined by the Division I Council.

The FCS Playoffs will feature 16 teams with 11 automatic qualifiers and five at-large berths. The bracket will be announced April 18, with a champion being crowned in Frisco, Texas, on May 14, 15 or 16, according to a press release from the Big Sky.

"This spring football season certainly will be unique, and I am confident that all who care about our conference share in the sentiment that we cannot wait to watch our student-athletes and coaches compete for a Big Sky title and contend for the FCS championship," Big Sky Commissioner Tom Wistrick stated in a press release. "This schedule provides consistency by utilizing much of the original Fall 2020 slate, flexibility by allowing space for games to be rescheduled and sensibility by prioritizing regional matchups that minimize travel and expenses."

Volleyball

The Spring 2021 Big Sky women's volleyball schedule includes 16 games to be played over an eight-week span between Jan. 24 and March 22. Each Big Sky team will play eight different opponents in back-to-back games each week to limit travel.

The UI women's volleyball team will play four opponents at home and four on the road beginning Jan. 31. The Vandals open up the regular season at Memorial Gym against Southern Utah. The Vandals' remaining home games include Northern Arizona, Montana State and Northern Colorado.

On the road, the Vandals will face-off against Idaho State, Sacramento State, Montana and Eastern Washington. The Vandals close out the regular season at home against Northern Colorado.

The top eight teams in the standings at the end of the regular

season will advance to the Big Sky Conference Tournament hosted by Northern Colorado from March 31-April 2. The tournament champion will earn an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament, stated in a press release from Vandal Athletics.

"It's a sense of relief for our athletes," Debbie Buchanan, head coach of women's volleyball, said. "They have all been waiting so it is exciting to be able to share this information with them. It gives us something to look forward to. Going through COVID-19 and all the different regulations takes a toll on the athletes mentally, but they are super excited and can't wait to play."

Ticket information will be announced at a later date. To stay up to date on Idaho Volleyball, fans can go to GoVandals.com or check out @IdahoVolleyball on Twitter.

Soccer

The Spring 2021 Big Sky women's soccer season begins on March 12 and will last five weeks, with each team playing each other once. There will be no Big Sky Championship this season due to COVID-19 concerns.

The Vandals open up the season on the road as they face Southern Utah March 12 and Northern Arizona March 14. The Vandals return home the following week to play against Portland State March 19 and Sacramento State March 21.

The Vandals' remaining away games will be played against Northern Colorado and Montana. They return home for the remainder of the season to play against Eastern Washington, Idaho State and Weber State. The game against Weber State will close out the spring season for the Vandals.

"We are very excited to have a conference schedule for this spring," Jeremy Clevenger, head coach of women's soccer, said. "It has been a long time since anyone has played a game. I know the soccer team is looking forward to competing and representing the University of Idaho."

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Opinion

Remember, ASUI is here for the students

The biggest questions when it comes to ASUI for students should never be what the organization does

Being a member of the University of Idaho community is more than simply wearing the silver and gold, attending events and supporting our teams.

For students, a major responsibility that must not be overlooked is participating in UI's student government and its upcoming election from Nov. 16 – Nov. 18.

ASUI is an elected body whose responsibility is to be representatives for students and their interests on our campus by interacting with university administration.

The biggest question students ask is often "What even is ASUI, and what is going on?" This is where the biggest issue lies: a lack of information and engagement.

ASUI is made up of three branches: the Executive Branch, the Judicial Branch and the Legislative Branch.

The upcoming election will fill five senate seats of the ASUI Senate, or the Legislative Branch. Six other senators, the ASUI president and ASUI vice president will be voted on in Spring 2021.

Yes, these elections are happening, and yes, you need to care, be informed and cast your vote.

ASUI is here to

represent you, the students, and provide the resources and materials to make the most of your time as Vandals.

Projects like the giveaway of menstrual cups for UI students and a campaign for Men's Mental Health Week help improve the quality of life on campus.

fall entirely on the student body. The issue goes both ways.

On ASUI's UI web page, the weekly senate meetings are advertised with a message of "Link to join coming soon!" even though the meetings have been ongoing the entirety of the semester with a working Zoom link.

Many UI students are

on campus and the responsibility ASUI holds, more needs to be done to keep students informed.

As is the case with classes or with every successful advertisement, messages must be continually repeated because, after enough times listening, students will remember.

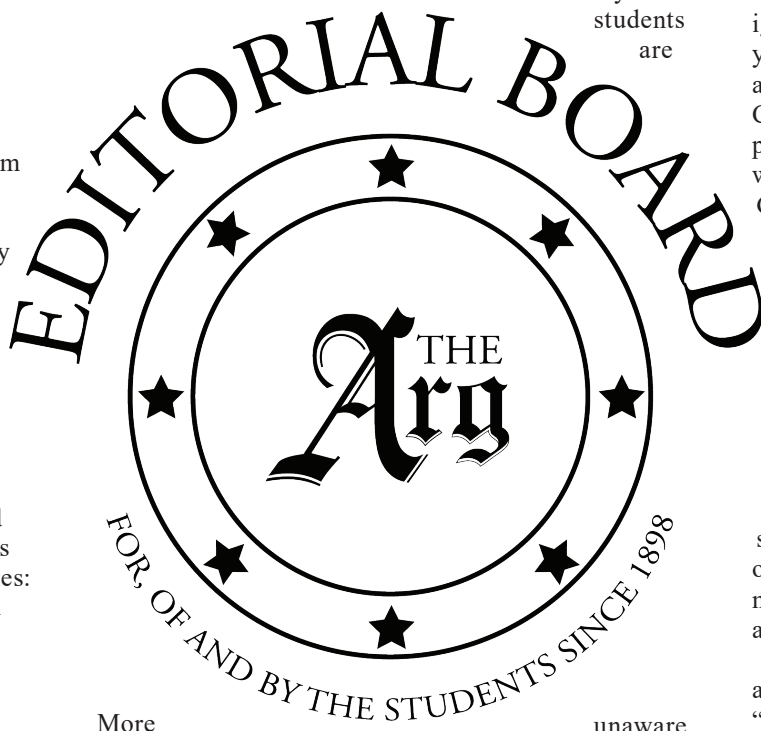
And students, do not ignore ASUI. They are your representatives to UI's administration. Lauren Carlsen, the current ASUI president, meets regularly with President C. Scott Green about how to improve your on-campus experience.

But ASUI representatives, you must be a consistent voice, making your intentions clear to students and ensuring they know how they can be involved through sending emails, posting on social media and making resources regularly available.

The biggest question for an election should never be "Wait, there's an election?" It should be "Who should I vote for?"

Ballots for the upcoming ASUI election will be emailed to students' UI email accounts at 8 a.m. Nov. 16. Students can cast their votes online in just a few minutes. The deadline for ballots is by Nov. 18 at 5 p.m.

- Editorial Board



More information on ASUI and contacting them is available on Engage UI Idaho, where students can see upcoming events and communicate with ASUI.

If students are concerned about other issues, the Senate meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m., currently via Zoom due to COVID-19.

The lack of understanding does not

unaware of the meetings' existence or Engage, as well as their ability to communicate with their student body government.

The entirety of the blame cannot fall on students. Some fault must be handed to those who are responsible for getting the information out where it's needed.

With the frequency of ASUI's elections, the impact they have

Yes, politics do matter

Politics shouldn't be playing with people's lives



Dani Moore

ARGONAUT

Last week during the election, I spotted an interesting trend going through social media. Online, people were reposting images reading "It doesn't matter who you voted for this election, we are still friends," or "Not all Trump supporters are racist, sexist, etc. respect others' opinions." The problem with this flawed logic is they seem to claim that politics really don't matter and are a trivial thing to end friendships over.

I disagree with this idea wholeheartedly. Maybe at one point in time, politics were simply politics and were considered matters where only the wealthy and mighty cared about what happened. Lately in politics however, issues that should simply not be political, are.

Issues such as COVID-19, gay marriage, LGBTQ+ rights and equality for people of color have become matters that people disagree on, and vote over, bartering with people's lives. It is okay to agree to disagree with friends. In fact it is healthy and beneficial to see others' points of view. Yet when that "disagreement" bleeds over to people's rights, wellbeing and identities, it takes on an entirely different significance.

Maybe when you vote for President Donald Trump, you're seeing it simply as a "political matter," voting for him because of his stance on gun rights, the economy or taxes. Yet doing this means you choose to ignore everything he's ever said about minorities, the LGBTQ community, people with disabilities, other countries and women.

Voting for Trump means you made the decision that the integrity and safety of others simply doesn't matter. It is one thing to vote for Trump due to fear of the economy crashing or the possibility of a new leader, but it is another to flaunt it and to be proud of it.

When LGBTQ members see someone sporting a Trump flag, they see the name "Pence" underneath. Pence is a candidate who is openly anti-gay, a fact that is acknowledged by Trump himself. When you fly Trump's flag and vote for him proudly, you're doing more than being political. You're choosing to publicly associate with him and disregard all the critiques and concerns others have made about him.

Contrary to the beliefs of people posting these statements defending friendships, human rights and equality are not something to "agree to disagree over." Perhaps politics are not an important matter in friendships simply because they don't affect you.

But just because it may not affect your life, doesn't mean it won't affect others. If your close friends and family speak to you of concerns for the election, for genuine fear of their rights and identities, politics stops being just "politics."

Throughout the past four years we have witnessed a president draw unimaginable hatred out of the dark, create a divide between the American people, refuse to acknowledge or call out racism or discrimination and make many people ashamed to be Americans.

Nominating a president who oozes hatred, yet preaches to love your neighbor and respect their opinions is contradictory. Let your words reflect what they truly mean, and elect people who won't make your friends and family have to disagree over human rights.

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President-Elect Biden's plans benefit everyone

Free college and university policies are only a few steps away from implementation



Carter Kolpitke

ARGONAUT

Former Vice President Joseph R. Biden has officially become the President-Elect of the United States of America. I couldn't be happier for the students that grace our campus today.

The 2020 presidential election brought upon itself some of the most divisive, vulgar rhetoric and anger I've seen in my life. The constant reverberation of hatred from party to party was not only drastically draining but cumbersome on our mental health. And now, a light appears at the end of the tunnel.

For simplicity's sake, and a lack of jurisdiction of knowledge, I'm not here to argue whether or not Joe Biden "stole the election" with mail-in ballots. Or whatever the argument claims to be.

And say all remains the same, and on Jan. 20, Biden becomes the 46th president of the U.S., what's next? What does all this mean for me? For us college students?

I attend the University of Idaho completely on government funding. I have two student loans, a Pell Grant and outside scholarships. My mother is a retired elementary school teacher

who now lives out-of-state. My father is a soon-to-be retired photographer who lives out-of-state. My financial situation allows me the opportunity for decent government assistance, but I will be \$25,000 in debt by the time I leave college. And that number is not even that bad comparatively.

It is daunting to face the world head on with a ball and chain on your ankle. Leaving college feels like an uphill battle when it should feel like the entrance to an endless road of opportunities. As far as I'm concerned, something needs to change, and it needs to happen fast.

Luckily, Biden has a comprehensive plan to make college more affordable, and, in a perfect world, potentially free.

Across the board, student debt has accumulated more than \$1.54 trillion, according to the U.S. Department of Education. It has increased by 72% from 2010. Luckily for the 44 million Americans who have student debt, as reported by CNBC, Biden has policy plans to cancel \$10,000 of student debt.

There have been calls across the Democratic board for varying levels of cancellation. Forbes reported that Senator Elizabeth Warren called for a \$50,000 cancellation and Senator Bernie Sanders called for a one-time complete cancellation. As nice as that sounds, both seem unlikely with a gridlocked Senate and House of Representatives. Biden's preliminary plans offer a steppingstone to further progress.

This first steppingstone will one day, hopefully, lead to free tuition for public colleges and universities. This policy has consistently been argued

against. Opposers claim that it would not "technically" be free—someone will have to pay for it. As reported by Forbes, Biden's free college plan would pay for itself.

Biden's plan would make public colleges and universities free for individuals with a family income less than \$125,000 and make community colleges free for all students, no matter their income. The entire policy would roughly cost \$49.6 billion in its first year, reported by Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

The argument claims making college and university free would provide substantial societal benefits that would result in \$371.4 billion in tax revenue and \$866.7 billion private after-tax earnings gains, reported by Forbes. The outcome outweighs the initial cost.

This is the next step in higher education. It is the most logical step in progression. With these plans, and with Vice President Biden as our President-Elect, these goals seem within reach.

I understand the election was contentious, and the debate between the two candidates was tumultuous. However, these plans will benefit everyone, no matter political preference. Be excited that it is a real possibility.

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HOLIDAY

Christmas is the most annoying holiday

Allow me to wage a war on Christmas, please



Rebecca Pratt
ARGONAUT

Let's talk about Christmas. I'm here to tell you why it is the worst holiday ever created. Let's move right on past the Christian exclusiveness, the mass marketing, the freedom of religion arguments and just get down to the brass tacks of it all. Christmas is the worst because of how obnoxious it is.

First, the music is repetitive. Nothing is original about it. All we get for "new Christmas music" is a coma inducing Michael Buble CD available only at Starbucks or confusingly bad remixes by Snoop Dogg. And why does it need to play everywhere?

Let's do a little math problem. I have four stops to make before I get home. One at the grocery store, one at the bookstore, one at the post office and one at a gift shop. If I spend 45 minutes at the grocery store, an hour in the bookstore, twenty minutes in at the post office and about an hour in the gift shop, why am I wishing we were required to wear masks and earplugs in public places? The answer is because I probably heard the same three songs by 29 different artists at each location.

Second, why does Christmas last longer than other holidays which are meant to span across days or weeks? Why is it that the Month of Ramadan stays within its allotted 30 days, but Christmas Day seems to go from mid-October to Jan. 15? I shouldn't have to deal with bad music, tastelessly multi-colored decorations and intensely extra (to the point of actual bullying) Christmas ambassadors for over three months. People shouldn't have to deal with it for over a month, period.

Moving onto my third point. Why is it so important for Christmas lovers to be validated? What happened to them in

their childhood to have such insecure love for their "favorite holiday"? I love Halloween, but guess what, on Nov. 1 I took all my decorations down because I wanted to get a head start on cleaning the house for the week. I also wrote a column in this paper claiming spooky season was beginning, for me, in September. But I included that if Halloween wasn't your thing that if you left me alone to enjoy my holiday, I'd not force the spooky times upon you.

Unlike many Christmas enthusiasts, I am confident enough in my celebrations to not beg for more people to participate with me and to not argue with those who are against or just have a "meh" opinion on Halloween.

If Christmas lovers would please stop asking me why I don't like Christmas I wouldn't have to keep making up dumb reasons on the spot that will ultimately offend them. I just don't like it. Although I have found some exceptionally valid reasons to not like it, as I have mentioned a few above, I originally just never really got excited about Christmas even as a kid. But maybe if people who love Christmas so much would have just left me alone politely after learning this I would most likely have remained indifferent to the holiday.

So please, just shut up about Christmas. We get it. There's snow, and gifts, and music, and food, and family, and bad movies, and good movies, but seriously just leave it be for a bit. It's obnoxious. It's everywhere. The symbolism and customs of Christmas are everywhere.

There has been no war on Christmas, even though people like to complain there is. I can't believe I am saying this, but... I agree with Melania Trump when she says she doesn't like Christmas.

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EDUCATION

A letter to my professor

From a grateful student to a beloved professor



Kim Stager
ARGONAUT

Dear Professor Hal Foster,

Some days I felt like I could say what I wanted to say to you, but I wound up not knowing quite how to say it. After months of pondering and gathering my thoughts, I chose to start at the beginning by writing a letter of appreciation in the hope that others will understand how you impacted my life.

I am a broadcasting and digital media student at the University of Idaho who felt the impact when you passed away a few months ago.

You were my instructor for JAMM 121, Media Writing, for Fall 2019. I was excited to learn how to write for a newspaper and online articles. Writing has been a passion of mine since I learned how to write.

Some may think a teacher cannot impact someone so deeply, only knowing them one semester. But let me say from experience—they can.

I learned how to write 15 to 16-word lead sentences, to organize a story with out-of-order information, to cover difficult stories that need to be written, to be sensitive to how a story impacts a person's life and many other things I could go on about.

I am not the only student who has been impacted by a professor. Many students could talk about how a professor challenged them when they didn't know they needed it. They could tell you how their career was shaped by their professor's teaching and understanding.

I think one of the biggest things for me about how you taught JAMM 121 was your knowledge, helpfulness and correction. Back then, and I'm saying this as if it was eons ago, students could receive their written exams or homework assignments from their professors with the corrections and grade in red pen.

I miss receiving the printed-out papers all marked up in red ink with comments on all sides of the various paragraphs I had typed out days ago. I think I grew more in

my writing abilities from those comments and wished other professors did the same.

Those comments showed me that you took the time to read what I wrote and cared about me improving my skills.

The email sent out by Robin Johnson, director of the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences, this summer on Sunday, June 14 stated, "Hal was always eager to help the school and his fellow faculty members, and he was committed to teaching students how to become better writers and reporters using his years of experience in journalism as a foreign correspondent and college educator. During the spring semester amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Hal encouraged his students to write personal essays about their experiences, and many were published in news outlets locally and throughout the state and region."

I enjoyed hearing about your travels and work overseas. I dreamed, and still do, of reporting and doing photography in foreign countries or even places in the U.S. I have never been to. I became inspired by your stories and interested in broadening my perspectives on cultures around the world.

I think you would be proud of me for the work I've done since you passed, Mr. Foster. I was hired by The Argonaut, and I work in the JAMM department as an office assistant.

I still get redlined on my articles, and I need to keep working on clear and concise sentences. But I find myself learning, growing and keeping in mind the things you taught me last fall.

I hoped one day to take Reporting 1 from you, but it wasn't meant to be. I am currently taking Reporting 1 from Professor Glenn Mosley, and am grateful for everything I have learned so far in his class.

I quote my Facebook post on the day I learned of your passing when I say it's "hard to believe he's gone, but I'm grateful for all I learned from him..."

I am not trying to put you on a pedestal. You were human just like everyone else. But your impact made a difference in my life and I am forever thankful.

I didn't have the words to express your impact on my life back in June, but I do now.

Thank you beyond what words can rightfully express and these stories can tell,

Kim Stager

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or on Twitter @journalismgoals.

POLITOOON

Bear Brains Episode 5- Can't Bear to See Their Students Leave

Rebecca Pratt | Argonaut

Argonaut Religion Directory

First Presbyterian Church
A welcoming family of faith, growing in Jesus Christ, invites you
Sunday Worship Online 10:30 am
www.facebook.com/moscowfirstpres/
Visit our website for latest updates
405 S. Van Buren, Moscow
208-882-4122 • http://fpcmoscow.org
Norman Fowler, Pastor

Lutheran Campus Ministry
at the University of Idaho in The Center at 882 Elm St
Our usual events - dinners, bible studies, worship, and conversation - will be adapted this year due to Covid-19.
Follow us on social media or contact us for current information
Facebook: @lcm.uidaho
Instagram: @luminidaho
Karla Neumann Smiley, campus minister
lcm@uidaho.edu
(208) 882-2536
ELCA

BRIDGE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP
Sunday Services
Pastors:
Mr. Kirk Brower - Senior Pastor
Mr. Kim Kirkland - Assistant Pastor
Mr. Nate Anglen - Assistant Pastor
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www.bridgebible.org

Trinity Reformed Church
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES
8:30 am & 11:00 am
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office@trinitykirk.com

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