

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

# Argonaut

FOR, OF AND BY THE STUDENTS SINCE 1898



STUDENT HERMAN ROBERTS IN FRONT OF THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING | ANGELA PALERMO

## COLLEGE STUDENTS SNUBBED AGAIN

*Despite looming financial insecurity, many college students were excluded from both stimulus payments*

Carter Kolpitke  
ARGONAUT

A second round of stimulus payments recently made their way to Americans, but some of the most financially vulnerable people were entirely left out.

Similar to the CARES Act, the checks were sent to eligible taxpayers and their dependents under 17. That means college students and adult dependents didn't receive a penny from either package, even though many live on their own and are working.

Congress passed the first round of stimulus checks back in March,

two weeks after University of Idaho students were sent home for the remainder of the spring 2020 semester. The \$2.2 trillion stimulus package dedicated money to local and state governments, corporations, small business, unemployment benefits and, most notably, \$1,200 direct payments to eligible taxpayers. Only dependent children under 17 years old were eligible for an additional \$600 check to the taxpayer claiming them.

The second stimulus package, passed nearly 10 months later, mirrored the first bill in many ways but with far smaller checks.

Several classifications indicated who would get a check, dependency being the deciding factor in most cases.

SEE STIMULUS, PAGE 3

### CARES ACT RECOVERY REBATES

**\$1,200**  
ADULTS

**\$2,400**  
MARRIED COUPLES

**\$500**  
DEPENDENT CHILD

**\$0**  
DEPENDENT ADULT

### HEALTH

## Students Continue with mandatory COVID-19 Testing

*University of Idaho test results are coming back much faster than before*

Haadiya Tariq  
ARGONAUT

Moscow-based students at the University of Idaho completed another round of mandatory COVID-19 testing this month, qualifying most of them to attend classes in person as the spring semester begins. For many, it was their third time getting swabbed at the Student Recreation Center, which Gritman Medical Center partnered with the university to facilitate.

Initial mandatory testing took place last August and additional required testing in September due to an outbreak of cases on Greek Row.

The university has tested more than 5,245 people in the latest round stretching from Jan. 1 to Jan. 15, according to the university's

COVID-19 website. The mass testing uncovered 93 positive COVID-19 cases, yielding a 1.77% positivity rate among UI students and employees.

Last semester, administrators said results would be available in a 24-48 hour window, however many failed to receive results in that time frame.

Results from the last two weeks seem to be coming in much closer to the 24-48 hour time period, allowing students to attend their first few classes in person.

UI senior Sam Beets was tested for the third time at the center last Wednesday.

"Pretty nice and simple," Beets said. "We just walk in, check in and wait in line."

Beets explained that last semester it took far longer to receive his results, which came in a week and a half after he was swabbed.

"They're doing pretty well tracking everyone coming into the university that may or may not have it," Beets said. "They've suggested certain things that could be really good for testing in the middle of the semester, but that they haven't gone through with."

Beets mentioned an increase of temperature checking at building entrances as an example.

According to UI Director of Communications Jodi Walker, no significant changes have been made to COVID-19 testing protocol.

"After a semester of testing the system we have worked out the kinks," Walker said. "The handoffs between testing, results and inputting results in our system are smoother."

SEE TESTING, PAGE 3



Jodie Walker

### OBITUARY

## A death in the Vandal family

*Art and design student died unexpectedly Sunday evening*

Angela Palermo  
ARGONAUT

A senior majoring in art and design at the University of Idaho died unexpectedly Sunday evening, according to an email from Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Blaine Eckles.

The student, Aleksander Halem, was from Newbury Park, California.

Halem served as a manager for the Women's Basketball Team and was a committed student with a strong will to achieve success, according to the email.

If you are concerned about a student, faculty or staff member and are unsure of what to do, UI encourages you to file a VandalCARE report. Students impacted by Halem's loss and needing assistance during this time can contact the Counseling & Testing Center at 208-885-6716.

The Argonaut shares our sincerest condolences with Halem's family and friends who are most impacted by his death. We will provide a full obituary if his friends and loved ones feel comfortable sharing more.

Angela Palermo can be reached at [arg-news@uidaho.edu](mailto:arg-news@uidaho.edu) or on Twitter @apalermotweets.

### IN THIS ISSUE



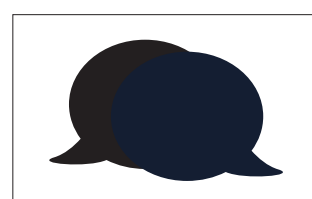
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# RECREATION & WELLBEING

## Vandal Health Education

### Freshstart Open Session

a four-part group nicotine cessation program

Wednesday, Jan. 27  
3 p.m. via Zoom

Persepolis at: uidaho.edu/health



Thinking of  
Quitting  
Vaping?

## Outdoor Program

### SNOWSHOE TOUR

TRIP: February 6

COST: Students | \$35 All Others | \$55  
(includes transportation and group equipment)

Sign up at the Outdoor Program Office

## Outdoor Program

### BOWLDERING LEAGUE

A 6-week bouldering league with your friends. New routes every week to challenge the team.

February 1 - March 12

Cost is \$10 per person  
Teams are limited to 6 climbers.

Sign-up at the Climbing Center

## Fitness Program

### FITNESS CLASSES ARE BACK!

6-week sessions begin  
January 25

Learn more at  
[uidaho.edu/fitness](http://uidaho.edu/fitness)

## Vandal Health Education

### VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mar 30 & Apr 1 9am - 12pm FOR FACULTY & STAFF

Feb 20 10am - 4pm FOR STUDENTS

pre-registration required: [uidaho.edu/mentalhealthfirstaid](http://uidaho.edu/mentalhealthfirstaid)

## Intramural Sports

### Upcoming Sports

| Sport                | Entry Due Date     |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4 on 4 Volleyball    | Tuesday, Jan. 26   |
| Badminton            | Thursday, Jan. 28  |
| Virtual Team Trivia  | Thursday, Jan. 28  |
| 3 Point Shoot Out    | Thursday, Feb. 11  |
| Dodgeball Tournament | Wednesday, Feb. 17 |

Learn More at [uidaho.edu/intramurals](http://uidaho.edu/intramurals)

Live Well. Play Well. Be Well.

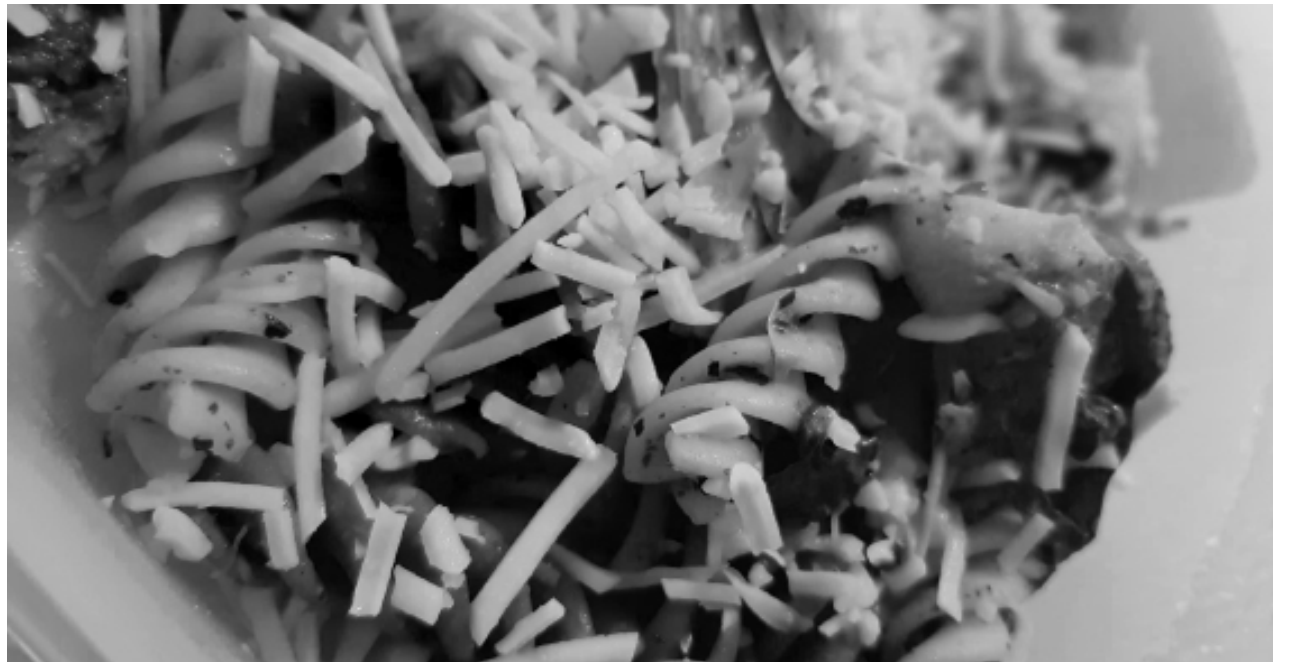
[uidaho.edu/recwell](http://uidaho.edu/recwell)

UI Recwell

# A Crumbs Recipe

## Vegetarian Spinach Artichoke Pasta

Does that voice that sounds a little bit too much like your parents, telling you to eat your vegetables, ever linger in the back of your head? An easy way to slip some vegetables into your diet is through a pasta dish. Pasta is a cheap, easy and staple dinner dish that can be as versatile as you want it to be. Follow along to create an inexpensive and tasty pasta dish that will help your meals to stretch this week.



Bailey Brockett | Argonaut

### Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 cup of your choice of pasta
- ¼ cup of ricotta cheese
- 1 cup of spinach
- Half a can of quartered artichoke hearts
- ¼ cup of pesto
- ¼ cup of grated parmesan
- Pinch of basil, salt and pepper

### Directions:

1. Fill a pot halfway with water and add olive oil. Place on high heat until it boils.
2. Once the water is boiling, reduce heat to medium and add pasta.
3. Cook pasta for 7-10 minutes, or until soft.
4. Drain water.
5. Reduce heat to low before putting pasta back on the stove.
6. Add pesto, ricotta, basil, salt and pepper.
7. Drain the artichoke hearts and add to the pot.
8. Add spinach to the pot.
9. Stir for 1-2 minutes until thoroughly mixed and spinach has shrunk.
10. Top with parmesan.

Bailey Brockett  
can be reached at  
[arg-life@uidaho.edu](mailto:arg-life@uidaho.edu).

Prep time: 20 minutes  
Servings: 2

## Work for Student Media!

Apply today to join the team

Gain professional experience in your field. No experience necessary for any position. There are opportunities working in print, radio and design.

Contact information  
The Argonaut: [argonaut@uidaho.edu](mailto:argonaut@uidaho.edu)  
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### CORRECTIONS

### THE FINE PRINT

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:  
875 Perimeter Drive MS 4271  
Moscow, ID, 83844-4271  
or [arg-opinion@uidaho.edu](mailto:arg-opinion@uidaho.edu)

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Non-profit Identification Statement: The Argonaut, ISSN 0896-1409, is published weekly during the academic school year and is located at 301 Bruce Pitman Center, Moscow, ID 83844-4271.

The Argonaut is printed on newsprint containing 24-40 percent post-consumer waste. Please recycle this newspaper after reading. For recycling information, call the Moscow Recycling Hotline at (208) 882-0590.

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Shelley Frei, left, administers a COVID-19 vaccine to nurse Nina Benichou Dec. 18. Susie Christopher, is shown to the right

Courtesy of Gritman Medical Center

COVID-19

# IDAHO'S VACCINE DISTRIBUTION ACCELERATES

*Following the four stages of vaccine rollout, local partners play a key part in distribution.*

Haadiya Tariq  
ARGONAUT

With Idaho Gov. Brad Little's COVID-19 vaccination plan accelerating, doses have been administered to over 33,000 healthcare workers and long-term care facility staff and residents across every health district in the state.

Public Health – Idaho North Central District, which encompasses the Latah, Clearwater, Idaho, Lewis and Nez Perce counties, has distributed more than 3,450 doses.

The Idaho COVID-19 resources page reports 49,555 Idahoans have received only their first dose. 11,778 have received both.

In Latah County, 212 people have received their first vaccine dose. 277 have received their second. Despite having similar populations, some counties have

had more or less vaccinations than Latah County.

While Idaho's seven health districts are all following the plans set by Little and the COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee, District 2's Public Information Officer Scott Schlegel explained that the apparent uneven distribution is based on community partners within counties.

Community partners and hospitals that administer the vaccines in their areas each receive their own separate shipments. This leads to differences from county to county.

On Jan 12, Little shared his decision to open the next phase of vaccine rollout to teachers, frontline workers and those 65 and older.

The press release stated that, "The State of Idaho is receiving a disproportionately lower share of vaccine compared to other states because the federal government is not allocating vaccine on a per-capita basis."

Peter Mundt, director of community relations and marketing at Gritman

Medical Center, explained that vaccine distributions have gone through separate rounds at the hospital.

Those who were first to receive a dose on Dec. 1 had to wait the appropriate period to receive their second dose. A second group at Gritman received their first doses Jan. 5.

The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines both require two doses. According to Mundt, the Moderna vaccine requires a 28 day window between doses while the Pfizer-BioNTech requires 21 days.

Group 3, which includes 16-64 year-olds with medical conditions that increase the risk of complications from COVID-19, is expected to begin vaccinations late March or early April. The general public is expected to have access to the vaccine in May.

"For healthy college students, you can expect to receive the vaccine with the general public," Schlegel said. "Our estimate is that we would be reaching the

general public in May 2021."

Recently, Little has spoken out against issues with the number of vaccines received by the federal government.

"Like all governors, I am disappointed in the news today that the federal government will not immediately meet its commitment to states for the large increase of vaccine doses we expected to receive," Little tweeted.

With uncertainty remaining, the district hopes to stay on track with vaccinations.

"Our hope for the summer is that everyone who will want to receive the vaccine will have that opportunity by early summer," Schlegel said. "And that we can return to somewhat normalcy as we go on... the more people that take the vaccine the more easy that transition will be."

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## TESTING

FROM PAGE 1

Alex Maas, a College of Agricultural and Life Sciences professor, also participated in UI's latest mass testing process, though employees are not required to do so. Maas expressed some concern over the university's testing policies, but believes there has been improvement since the beginning of the year.

"The fact that we are starting classes before this group of tests go through is a bit odd to me," Maas said. "It seems that you would wait until you got a positivity rate from before starting in person."

Even with the complications COVID-19 has brought this school year, Maas has seen students continue with a positive outlook.

"No one loves what's happening right now, and I feel bad for first year students who think this is the college experience," Mass said. "Overall, I would say my students have been rolling with the punches."

For freshman Madeline Essman, it was her fourth time being tested for COVID-19.

"I think it's good for the university so we keep low

numbers," Essman said. "I feel comfortable knowing everyone is negative in so many classes."

Freshman Daniela Aguilar-Carranza spent much of her first year at the university in quarantine on more than one occasion, having COVID-19 once herself.

She spent roughly a month isolating at a hotel off campus after receiving a positive test result in October. Aguilar-Carranza said the university did well to accommodate her.

"I'm hoping we get back to normal soon," Aguilar-Carranza said.

For spring break, students can expect another round of mandatory testing.

"We're watching the spread across the region as well as on our campus," Walker said.

"We're also watching the implementation of vaccinations. Because both are changing rapidly, we will wait to make any final decisions about specifics of testing after spring break."

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## STIMULUS

FROM PAGE 1

Other stimulus proposals would have made adult dependents eligible, but those ultimately weren't signed into law.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a nonpartisan research and policy institute, estimates as many as 15 million older children and adult dependents were excluded from receiving the first stimulus check. Nearly four million of those are estimated to be college students ages 19 to 23, according to the institute.

Many UI students claimed dependent on their parent's taxes feel they met the financial requirements to qualify for the checks. Carter Bottom, a sophomore studying operations management, said he feels like an independent, despite his parents claiming him.

"They don't pay for my college, living expenses, or anything," Bottom said. "I feel a bit cheated. I would've used that money to pay off some of my tuition."

Universities across the country were allotted a significant amount of

funding from both stimulus packages, allowing them to distribute money to financially vulnerable students. According to UI's website, the institution was allotted \$6,905,296. Half of that money will go directly to students, with the other half being used to "offset institutional costs."

Eligible students received \$513 last spring and were given the opportunity to apply for additional CARES Act funding in October. Another \$513 imbursement is set to arrive in students' checking accounts sometime in the beginning of Spring 2021.

Herman Roberts, a first-year student majoring in food science, relies on his own income to pay for day-to-day necessities.

"I'm in the gray space between independent and dependent where I mainly rely on myself and my own income," Roberts said. "However, I do rely on my parents slightly for other financial support."

Both Bottom and Roberts feel frustrated with Congress' efforts to exclude adult dependents from receiving any form of direct government aid, despite their need for it. They feel as though efforts to direct aid to those who need it fell short.

"It seems like politicians

are doing the bare minimum and aren't willing to give more money to those who need it," Roberts said. "Considering college students are at a very unique stage in life, I would argue they need it the most," Roberts said. "I have no explanation as to why they wouldn't have included me or other college dependents."

President Joe Biden has presented a \$1.9 trillion pandemic relief bill that seeks to include adult dependents for \$1,400 direct payments, as well as accomplish a \$15 per hour federal minimum wage and \$10,000 in student loan repayment. With a slim Democrat majority in both the House of Representatives and Senate, the bill is more likely to pass, although it may need Republican support to so.

"I'm very hopeful for the future and upcoming months," Roberts said. "Hopefully, Congress can pass legislation that will help college students and other groups of people in need."

Carter Kolpitcke  
can be reached at  
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THE ARGONAUT

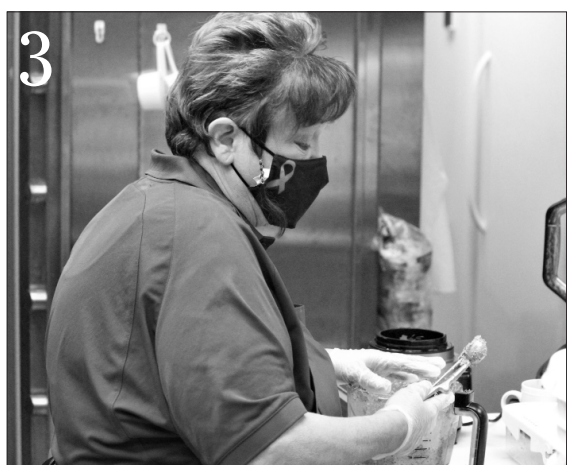
# Life

LIFESTYLES, INTERESTS, FEATURES AND ENTERTAINMENT

## COMMUNITY

## YIA YIA NIKKI'S OFFICIAL DEBUT

*Yia Yia Nikki's grand opening took place on Monday and cars were lined up in the streets waiting to get a taste of their authentic greek cuisine. The restaurant opened in what used to be Banner Bank at 1300 South Grand Avenue. Here is a look at their first busy day.*



(1) Salads rest in their containers while waiting for the rest of their toppings. (2) A finishing touch of sauce is added to a pita filled with veggies and chicken shawarma (3) A batch of falafel waits in a sheet pan to be deep-fried (4) Tine Desouky makes her eighth batch of falafel, which she says is a lot, on Monday.

Anteia McCollum | Argonaut

## COMMUNITY

## Women's Agriculture educational organization to give six-week program

*Annie's Project to hold 6-week long seminar for women in agriculture*

Sierra Pesnell  
ARGONAUT

The upcoming programming, "Annie's Project-Empowering Women in Agriculture," is an organization founded on educating women and building skills to help them achieve success in farming and agricultural management.

University of Idaho Extension in the northern district will be holding the six-week long event via Zoom, due to COVID-19, although Annie's Project is typically held in-person. The seminar will happen every Tuesday starting Jan. 19 and will finish Feb. 23. Each session lasts three hours and will host over 20 women.

Annie's Project curriculum follows five aspects of risk in farming management. Financial, human resource, legal, market and production risks will contribute to the program's education, as stated on Annie's Project. They will be individualized to the area and type of farms within counties.

Committees of women farmers in northern Idaho are assembled by facilitators to assess relevant information to be applied to the curriculum. Women are mentioned throughout the course for the participants to follow up with to continually create resources.

Colette DePhelps, UI extension educator, was certified February 2020 as an Annie's Project facilitator. DePhelps, along with three other northern Idaho facilitators, will lead small groups to help create an interactive environment for the women farmers and ranchers attending the course.

The facilitator's role is to help process the information and give occasional presentations throughout the seminar. They will create conversation about the curriculum to open discussion among women.

"The women that participate are really going to be able to look at their farm through a different lens and assess how well they are managing risk in those different areas," DePhelps said.

The program will feature several women speakers that come from agricultural backgrounds. This opportunity will introduce the women attending with the speakers and allow a chance at networking and facilitate in finding resources.

"Annie's Project was designed to create a learning environment where women are not only learning about specific topics but are developing a peer-to-peer network," DePhelps said.

Annie's Project course varies for different states because of the type of agricultural resources and farming in the regions. The focus for the upcoming program will be primarily the northern district, but there will be a southern Idaho specific programming in February.

The course recognizes that some of the role's women have within the agricultural community are in partnerships or supporting their family farms and ranches. The roles can be directly involved in risk management, maintaining records and organizing financial aspects of the farm's business.

"Within the regions of the United States, I think women's roles in agriculture can look quite different," DePhelps said.

Annie's Project will help develop women's farm and ranch skills throughout the immersive course.

Sierra Pesnell  
can be reached at  
arg-life@uidaho.edu.

## ASTROLOGY

## Weekly horoscope

Consulting the stars

Rebecca Pratt  
ARGONAUT

Aries (Ram): March 21–April 19.

It's no secret you like healthy competition, but this week you may want to consider your definition of what is healthy. Relationships, new and old, will be a source of friction and to be mindful of your treatment of others will take you far over this week. Do not lose the passion that forms your uniqueness but know that most times winning isn't everything. You may save yourself irreparable damage.

Taurus (Bull): April 20–May 20.

Times have been hard for you lately. Sudden changes and chaos in personal or professional life have rocked your boat to new limits. The good news is the light at the end of the tunnel is closer than it appears. How to get there? The shortest route possible is self-care, gentle bull. Spend your week drinking in the pleasure of the world around you. Get some alone time if you can and your shaken up spirit will begin to find its center again.

Gemini (Twins): May 21–June 21.

Not many know this about you, but you have a deep and loving side. It can be hard to show it at times, but by carefully evaluating the people in your life you may find there are a few souls out there you can safely reveal this to. This week will lead to more changes and having friends you can share your real self with, and it will be a tool for you to lean on as each adjustment works its way into your life.

Cancer (Crab): June 22–July 22.

What an emotional rollercoaster ride you have been on! The good news is that the rough bits are worth it in the end, but the race isn't over yet. There is more ahead of you waiting to challenge you in seemingly new, strange ways. Rest assured though, because these new challenges are just like the old ones in disguise. Go into your week with confidence and know that you are a capable person with more skills at your disposal.

Leo (Lion): July 23–Aug. 22.

Leo, let your creative juices flow this week! You have so many beautiful thoughts bursting inside of you it will be impossible to contain them. Beware though, this week you will also encounter more responsibilities and other perceived burdens. Don't let your creative journey distract you from the day-to-day.

Virgo (Virgin): Aug. 23–Sep. 22.

Just breath. Your mind has been going a million miles a minute and you're exhausting yourself. Tell yourself this week "there will be time" and practice any breathing, meditation or mindfulness exercises you know. Remember that it's okay to slow down; you will thank yourself for it later.

Libra (Balance): Sep. 23–Oct. 23.

Teamwork and partnership are important to you. Some may say you are too dependent on others, but you get a sense of joy when feeling connected with others. This week you may need to trim the hedges, though. Some connections you have made have gotten tangled and overgrown. Perhaps it's time for some light maintenance and setting boundaries.

Scorpio (Scorpion): Oct. 24–Nov. 21.

A natural-born rebel, you come across as a passionate "man on a mission" type. What everyone may not know is that you are a rebel without a cause. Choose your battles well and silent protest this week, it may serve you well to ask yourself how important your cause is. Your depth and intelligence will help you discern the truth and move forward.

Sagittarius (Archer): Nov. 22–Dec. 21.

You will experience great news this week and new opportunities to better yourself. Watch your emails, the news and messages from the universe. Times may be tough starting a new year, but the world will give you everything you need to succeed, you just need to watch for the signs and grasp opportunities as they come.

Capricorn (Goat): Dec. 22–Jan. 19.

Communication is not your strong suit this week. Though hardheaded, open your mind to conversations and new ideologies. Your stubbornness has helped you in the past and if there is anyone standing in the way, you move right past them. But for this week, those coping methods may not be in your best favor.

Aquarius (Water Bearer): Jan. 20–Feb. 18.

With an analytical mind and an independent soul, you are one with the world. Being easy-going and assertive, you stick to your guns and have a hard time changing your mind when things are set in stone. Focus your energies on bettering yourself this week, whether that be meditation, working on yourself or cleaning up a bit.

Pisces (Fish): Feb. 19–Mar. 20.

Swimming through life with ease and flexibility, you are laid back and will go with the flow. Life will come easy to you during the week, but there may be challenges ahead. Don't fear, as long as you go with the flow, everything will work itself out.

Rebecca Pratt  
can be reached at  
arg-life@uidaho.edu.



ART

# A NEW PRICHARD

*Due to lack of funding, the Prichard Art Gallery shifts their focus*

Emily Pearce  
ARGONAUT

The Prichard Art Gallery, a part of Moscow's downtown community since 1986, had a shift of heart as of January 2021. Focusing on internal shows and abilities within the university, the gallery will showcase student and faculty work instead of outside exhibits. As part of the gallery's shift in focus, Director Roger Rowley, who held the position for 15 years, did not renew his annual contract, ending as of Dec. 31.

The gallery has enforced new hours and will be open every Thursday through Sunday, cutting hours on Tuesday and Wednesday. Positions such as assistant director and director were given back to the university, but two part-time positions were offered instead. Former Assistant Director, Sonja Foard has accepted the part-time position, but Rowley has shown no interest.

When given a chance to have a part at the gallery, Rowley did not want to operate a "diminished version." Previously having plans to build its

presence in the future, Rowley fears the gallery will lose momentum that will be difficult to get back.

Ultimately, these decisions were made because of lack of funding.

In the budget reduction, leadership made the decision to reduce the budget at the gallery, College of Art and Architecture Dean Shauna Corry said.

The Prichard is not going anywhere, only the positions are, Corry said. The gallery will still be a gallery, but it may look different.

"This choice for how to operate the gallery is a university choice... It wasn't the choice of the college, it was what was necessary based on budget cuts," Rowley said. "The college was not responsible for putting the university in debt, but it's being held responsible for closing the gallery or reducing the gallery."

As early as spring 2020, the gallery was informed it would lose funding and changes would be made.

"[We were] working on plans to create the opportunity to continue to exist; we have given presentations to different administrators, talked about different options and possibilities on how to secure funding," Rowley said.

"With a deficit in funding, the university cannot support two full time positions and are offering part-time

positions instead. Obviously those plans don't include me as a full-time employee. I didn't turn something down, I wasn't fired, nor did I quit; I wasn't a part of the Prichard's future plans," Rowley said.

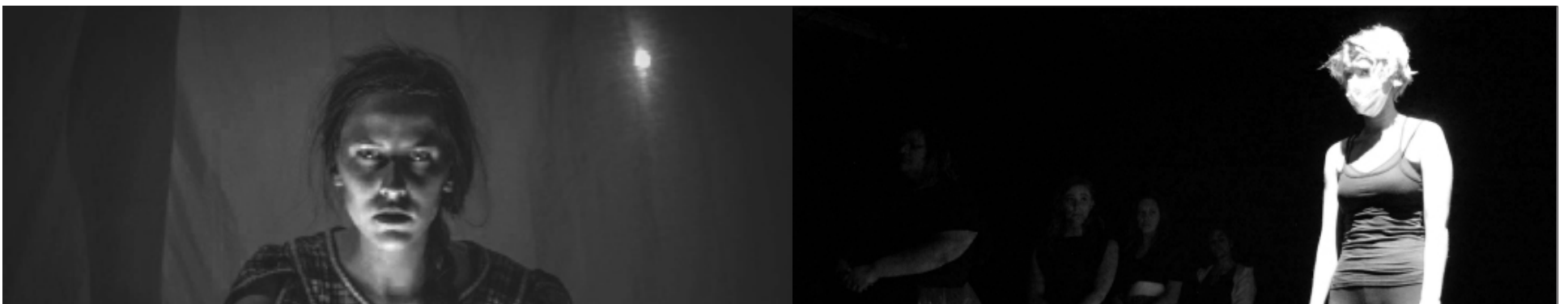
Because of the pandemic, scheduled shows have been canceled and the schedule for the gallery has changed. The gallery will still have their faculty show, beginning in January and lasting until April. They will also have the reoccurring Master's of Fine Arts show, beginning in April and lasting past the end of the academic semester, going into the summer. There are also plans to bring back former faculty members who were "highly regarded" and doing an influence show to highlight the Prichard itself, Corry said.

Although this situation is disheartening to him, Rowley said he has high regards for the gallery. The Prichard is an amazing, unique place a whole lot of universities would be envious of, Rowley said. It's been a pleasure and an honor to have been able to do so many things at the Prichard.

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Prichard Art Gallery entrance  
Emily Pearce | Argonaut



Theater Production of Sleepy Paige (left) Theater Production of Death of The Ego (right)

Courtesy of Cornerstone Theater Company

THEATER

# GIVING STUDENTS A CREATIVE OUTPUT

*Student run theater program lets students express artistic abilities*

Ryan Hill  
ARGONAUT

The theater department at the University of Idaho is well known amongst students, however, there is another group that seeks to attract those interested in theater arts. The Cornerstone Theater Company provides an opportunity for actors and actresses to act and participate in more student-led productions.

The Cornerstone is a student-run club that seeks to attract theater majors, non-theater majors and anyone interested in theater. President Tanya Thompson says the club is run by and for students.

"We were started with the idea that we wanted to support what our theater department on campus was already doing," Thompson said. "But also give students an additional opportunity to create theater."

The name of the club comes from the word "cornerstone" itself, which is a key foundational element in a building.

"We wanted to be a cornerstone for our department," Thompson said. "A piece of the architecture, a foundational element that everybody was welcome to participate in."

Thompson has been with the club for about two years, and last year she was Treasurer. She is the President this year for the club. Membership is small, but that doesn't stop them from putting on some productions.

The difference between the Cornerstone and UI Theater Department is that the Cornerstone is student-run and students decide what plays they want to do. Thompson said UI makes decisions to run plays based on faculty input, with some student input.

They also can put on more plays each semester. The Cornerstone can't put on as many as the Theater Department because they are not directly funded; they have to rely on donations and fundraising. However, the students have more input on what plays they should put on.

It does not mean they are rivals, in fact, both groups have a good relationship with each other. While the Cornerstone does

not get any financial support from the Theater Department, they do give them opportunities to help the club make money.

According to Hannah Verdi, the social media coordinator for the club, the department has them sell concessions at some of the plays put on. When they were doing a fundraiser selling buttons, the department matched donations with them as well. Also, the Theater Department lets them use the stages in Shoup Hall and Hartung Theater.

Thompson said last year they had a student write an original musical that Cornerstone put on. This year, due to COVID-19, they have shifted their format to play readings over Zoom.

Play readings are different than full-fledged productions of plays. Thompson said that during a play reading, the actors are not off book. There are some costumes but no set design. The actors and actresses are still acting and performing for audiences, but a significant difference is they are free for the public to watch.

Vice President of Cornerstone, Carly McMinn said readings are also cheaper than full-on productions.

Due to the pandemic and current political climates, the play readings focus on social issues and were written by Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC).

"We did a reading series that was strictly BIPOC playwrights to expose the department to more playwrights and expand their database of plays and writers," McMinn said.

The readings garnered a warm reception from audiences, and McMinn said that the playwright, Imani Alyse Redman, who wrote "#IfTheyGunnedMeDown" attended one of their readings via Zoom in October.

They hope to do more in the spring and are making plans, though currently, they are working on building up the organization to give it some foundation.

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## Argonaut Religion Directory

**First Presbyterian Church**  
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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: @luminuidaho  
Karla Neumann Smiley, campus minister  
lcm@uidaho.edu  
(208) 882-2536  
ELCA

**Bridge Bible Fellowship**  
Pastors:  
Mr. Kirk Brower - Senior Pastor  
Mr. Kim Kirkland - Assistant Pastor  
Mr. Nate Anglen - Assistant Pastor  
960 W. Palouse River Drive, Moscow  
208-882-0674 | www.bridgebible.org

**Trinity Reformed Church**  
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES  
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## REVIEW

# “Whole Lotta Red” cements Carti as a mainstay in the rap world

Playboi Carti proves as diverse as ever with sophomore album

Teren Kowatsch  
ARGONAUT

Ever since Playboi Carti's self-titled mixtape debut, he has been an extremely polarizing figure in the rap world. He has carved space for other artists such as Lil Uzi Vert, an artist he has frequently collaborated with. Following his debut album, “Die Lit,” he achieved more clout and a cult following he gained with his mixtape and his single “Magnolia.” However, with a bigger following comes more criticism. His music falls under the “love it or hate it” spectrum of music, with many people listening to “Die Lit” on repeat, and those who don't accredit Carti as an incredible artist.

Carti's sophomore release “Whole Lotta Red” has been one more anticipated project in rap since its announcement. It has followed the same release of Travis Scott's “Astroworld” and Lil Uzi Vert's “Eternal Atake,” all being delayed several times, fraught with reworks and track list edits. For the cult following, they anticipated “Whole Lotta Red” as another chapter of Playboi Carti's career. It was a final “Aha!” moment for Carti to show that he was deserving of this cult following that he garnered for himself.

“Whole Lotta Red” is arguably more polarizing than

“Die Lit.” Being better than Carti's debut was well worth the wait and for his detractors, it's just another piece to Playboi Carti's fame.

The first thing to talk about regarding the content of the album is Carti's growth as a musical artist. “Whole Lotta Red” is not like “Die Lit” or his self-titled mixtape. On “Whole Lotta Red,” Carti got darker with his production and his lyrics. Despite Carti occupying punk rock genre of the music world, Carti has only occasionally dipped into darker tones and stylings for his music. He has typically relied on mostly bangers in his projects, but on his sophomore album, he hits the reset Carti is self-aware enough to grow and develop as an artist. This is something a lot of artists from the SoundCloud era have a difficult time doing so it's refreshing to see Carti not fall into that trap.

Like any other Carti project, the production is incredible and undoubtedly the strongest feature of this album. Carti's choices of instrumentals include layered, articulate and flow that blends seamlessly. It's been his strongest musical feature, and despite switching his tones with his latest release, that has not changed.

Carti's choices of features in his two previous releases varied. In his mixtape, he only has three features from Lil Uzi Vert (twice) and A\$AP Rocky, two of his most well-known associates in the rap world. On “Die Lit,” the longer project of the two by over ten minutes, Carti had a plethora of features including Uzi Young Thug, Nicki Minaj, Young Thug and Young Nudy.

“Whole Lotta Red” is the longest album of the three and in contrast to “Die Lit,” it has only three total features including artists such as Kid Cudi, Kanye West, and Future. This is a long album for any artist to put out over an hour of music with hardly any features, and the album becomes grating after a bit.

Carti's lyrical content on this album isn't great, speaking similarly to any other new-generation rapper. Although Carti isn't known for his lyrics, his music flows and is wildly entertaining.

I personally think the album is entertaining, if not unspectacular. I'm lying in between, I don't think he is any revolutionary musical artist that his most avid fans think he is. If I was heavily anticipating this album, I might be more disappointed, but I've learned to curb my enthusiasm and anticipation following Childish Gambino's last album. “Whole Lotta Red” will not curve the opinions of any Carti haters, but for people who are fans or indifferent towards his music, “Whole Lotta Red” is an entertaining project and listeners won't pull tracks from for their respective playlists.

“Whole Lotta Red” gets a 6.5/10

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## STUDENT LIFE

## UI student redefining “healthy”

UI student, Ilse Moreno, seeks to change people's perspective on what being healthy means in the upcoming Student Speaker Series.

Bailey Brockett  
ARGONAUT

Ilse Moreno, a senior in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics at the University of Idaho, will discuss her experience and perspectives at the third episode of the Pre-Health Student Speaker Series, Jan. 20.

Moreno is a sixth-year student at UI, graduating in 2019 with her undergraduate in food and nutrition, who immediately started getting involved in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics. She is currently completing her last semester, and recently started an internship for Gritman, doing clinical nutrition and diabetes education. Upon completing the internship, she plans to switch to Food Service Management at Gritman.

Moreno has been passionate about healthy eating and fitness since high school but was unsure of what she wanted to study when she started college.

“It wasn't until my sophomore year that I took a nutrition class,” Moreno said. “I was finally like, ‘Okay,

this is really interesting. Let's go from here and see what happens.”

One of Moreno's professors advised her that if she wanted greater opportunities in the field, the dietetics program was the best route. Moreno signed up for it, unaware of what it was or what to expect, and has found her passion along the way. Moreno's interest sparked when she began focusing on the social injustices regarding perspectives of health and nutrition, and how certain body types are perceived.

“This needs to be talked about and people need to know the facts,” Moreno said. “I'm really passionate about redefining what the word healthy means.”

At the Student Speaker event, Moreno plans on addressing these injustices, as well as walking people through the process of what becoming a dietitian looks like, the projects they can expect to work on, and more. She will also be addressing what kind of jobs are offered in the future, and her personal experience.

“I want to tell people what I wanted to know when I was in their shoes,” Moreno said. “I want to tell people what my experience has been. It will be super casual.”

Moreno voiced her excitement for the event and her anticipation for questions people will ask. She is enthusiastic to provide the bigger picture to everyone.

“I like sharing the information,” she said. “But I'm interested to know what these younger students are maybe nervous about or want more clarification on. I

would love to expand the field of dietetics because it's a very small profession.”

Moreno's advice to people who may not know exactly what they want to do, or major in, is that it is perfectly okay to not know.

“Find a class that you really like, or figure out what you like to talk about,” Moreno said. “I could talk about nutrition all day. And don't be afraid to challenge yourself.”

Moreno also mentioned that if anyone has even the slightest urge to see what the program is about, she recommends joining the event. She wants to share the impact the dieticians have, and their role in society with as many people as possible.

“(Dieticians) can provide lots of helpful things to people across the board,” she said. “Whether you're average Joe, or you're someone who has a chronic health condition, we can help anyone.”

You can join the Zoom event and interact in the Q&A with Moreno, Jan. 20 at 5 p.m., with this link: <https://uidaho.zoom.us/j/86752871610>.

Bailey Brockett  
can be reached at  
arg-life@uidaho.edu.

## Pre-Health Student Speaker Series



### Ilse Moreno

Senior in the Coordinated Program in Dietetics  
at University of Idaho



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# Sports

## OUTDOORS

### Kamiak Butte: a versatile, soul- nurturing hike

*Beautiful views of the Palouse, well managed trails are perks*

Anteia McCollum  
ARGONAUT

Though the winter wind is rather biting this time of year, Pine Ridge Trail on Kamiak Butte is the perfect hike for getting out of the house on a weekend.

Located about 11 miles north of Pullman, the path reveals some of the region's most notable features – rolling hills drenched in the vibrant yellows and greens of farm fields during the summer months. With the small amount of snow the Palouse has received this year, Kamiak Butte is even more accessible than it typically is this time of year.

The trail is a loop stretching three and a half miles around the butte, just long enough to walk the entire loop in under a couple of hours.

Since the northwestern end of the trail is much steeper, someone looking for a hike that's a bit easier on the knees would be better off going clockwise. For those looking for a bit of a workout, taking the loop counterclockwise is the way to go.

The peak tops out at 3,641 feet in elevation, making for a wonderful picnic spot in the summer and a glorious expanse of views in the winter.

However, the trail's spring colors are the most impressive. Fresh wildflowers buzzing with bees, a lush expanse of green fields, deep shadows cast by the coniferous forest and rays of sunshine that make the heart sing.

During the winter the trails are often icy so hikers should dress for the cold and make sure they have good shoes on. Wearing shoes with little traction could result in an injury from falling. A few warm layers, a hat and some gloves are also a must.

The trail is littered with benches, picnic tables and other great places to sit. Signs with interesting information about the local geography and history can be found near each end of the trail.



There is plenty of parking and even a nearby campsite in case someone wanted to turn their day hike into a weekend adventure, though I wouldn't recommend staying overnight in the cold without proper gear and protection.

While this hike can still be enjoyable in the winter months, use caution and come prepared to stay warm. Bring a thermos of hot cocoa or another hot beverage to warm up your trip.

Whether it's a nearby weekend vacation or a quick morning hike, there's a place for everyone along this short trail. 9/10.

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can be reached at  
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or on Twitter @antxiam5.



(Top) About a quarter mile along Pine Ridge Trail is a rock face covered in moss hanging over one side of the path. (Bottom) A peek of the Kibbie Dome towering over Moscow from the summit of Kamiak Butte.

Anteia McCollum | Argonaut

## FITNESS

### Weekly Workout

*A quick HIIT to get muscles moving and the heart pumping*

Anteia McCollum  
ARGONAUT

High intensity interval training is a workout for your heart as much as it is for the rest of your body. This workout needs no weights and can be done anywhere, whether that is in a living room or outdoors.

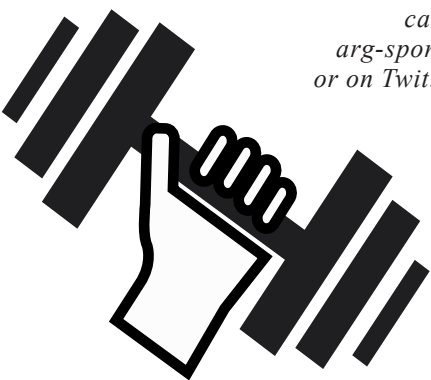
There are five exercises and each should be done for 60 seconds each. Do the whole block three times, with a minute break between each, for a total of 18 minutes, making this workout easy to fit into busy schedules.

1. High knees
2. Squats
3. Push ups
4. Leg lifts/lowers
5. Plank

These moves can all be modified to be easier or harder, depending on the level of workout someone needs. This could mean adjusting the amount of time for each block or adjusting the moves themselves to be more customized.

Follow The Argonaut on TikTok @arg-social and look for the #WorkoutWednesday posts to see this workout and more in action.

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## FITNESS

### How to keep a New Year's Resolution

*Eating right, consistency and motivation are all necessary tasks to stay on top of fitness goals*

Anteia McCollum  
ARGONAUT

Fitness goals are a popular topic when talking about someone's New Year's resolutions, but many people end up setting unrealistic goals for themselves or give up before their new schedules become a habit.

Breaking habits can be difficult, especially when someone is trying to break bad ones.

Hardships with the current pandemic, focusing too much on a specific outcome or not having a strong enough purpose are all possible reasons someone's resolution might end up flying out the door.

Nate Poznick, a graduate assistant at the Student Recreation Center, said one of the first things someone can do is keep their goals realistic.

"Instead of setting such high standards for yourself, saying you want to lose 50 pounds in three months, that's unrealistic and never going to happen," Poznick said. "It's more important you fine-tune that and have a bigger goal in mind for a year from now, then subdivide that into smaller goals."

Body image can be a reason for losing track of resolutions as well. Poznick said the two key things to staying positive and motivated when someone wants to reach their weight goals are staying off the scale and steering clear of social media.

"Invest in a tape measure because your results are most likely going to be, like a waist circumference measurement, in order to show that you're actually making progress," Poznick said. "Progress pics of people that started out three years ago and now have a six pack are showing you a three year progression. It doesn't happen overnight."

Being consistent with your program, gym visits and nutrition is another important aspect of keeping resolutions, Poznick said.

Having someone to work out with increases the chances of a person being able to create a new

routine because they hold each other accountable and provide motivation.

The Student Recreation Center offers fitness classes ranging from yoga to a high intensity bootcamp, with registration for them closing on Jan. 23 and the start date is Jan. 25.

The classes are seven weeks long, priced in at \$50 for two days a week and \$75 for three days a week. Due to COVID-19, classes are limited to 10 people and masks are required, along with no drop-ins being allowed.

Poznick said diet apps, like RP Diet Coach, are a good way to learn and grow healthy eating habits without spending every penny in the checking account.

"Buy cheaper options," Poznick said. "You don't have to buy beef for everything. Chicken is very, very cheap. Having a higher protein source than what most people probably consume is going to be crucial in losing and gaining weight."

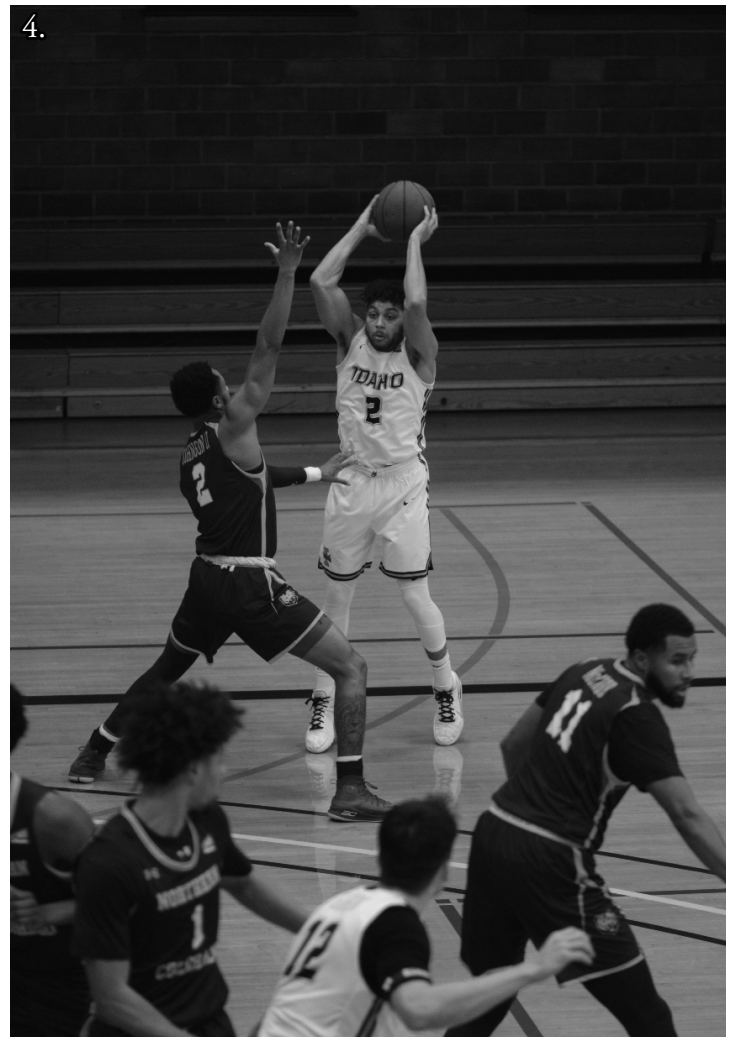
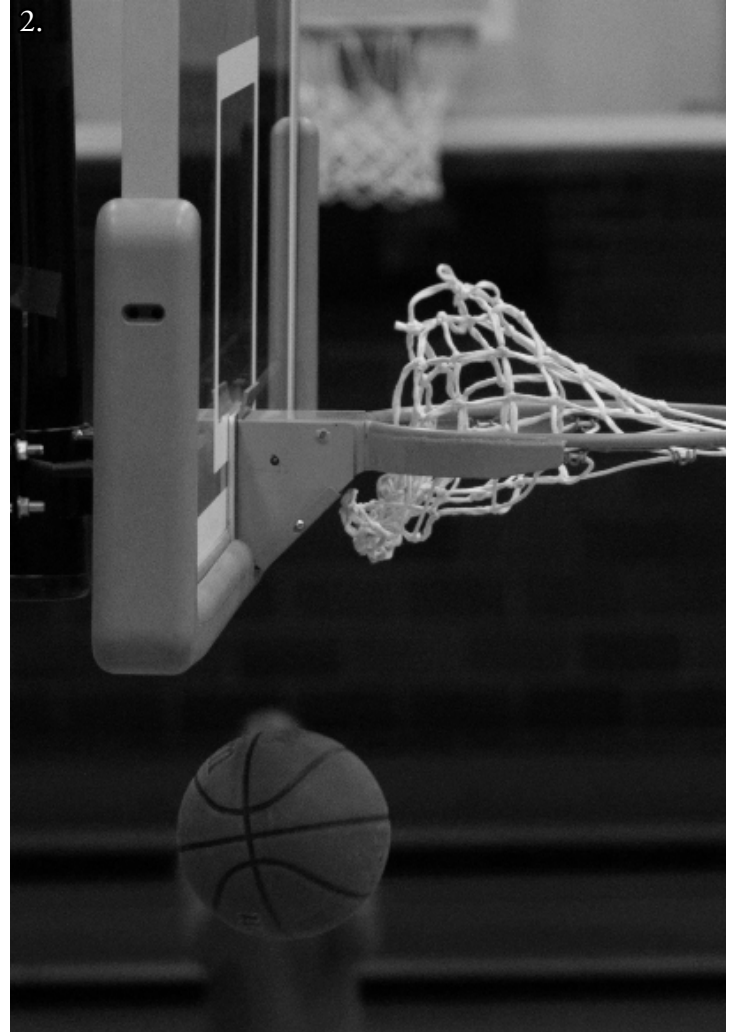
Eggs and beans are another cheap protein option while white rice and potatoes are inexpensive carbohydrate sources.

With a lot of on-campus living being so close to the SRC, it's easy for students to walk a block or two as a warm up before their workout, but finding the time to exercise for even a half hour can be difficult.

"If you don't want to go to the gym or don't have time to go, being able to do 15 minute workouts, two or three times a day of moderate to vigorous activity is going to be much more beneficial than just doing nothing," Poznick said.

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or on Twitter @antxiam5.





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1. "Senior Forward Scott Blakney makes a move around a University of Northern Colorado player on Jan. 16 in Memorial Gym." 2. "The ball swishes through the net." 3. "Senior guard Damen Thacker dribbles the ball past a University of Northern Colorado player on Jan. 14 in Memorial Gym." 4. "Senior guard Damen Thacker looks for an open teammate during the University of Idaho Northern Colorado game on Jan. 14 in Memorial Gym." 5. "Senior forward Babacar Thiombane rotates the ball in his hands just before attempting a free throw during the University of Northern Colorado game on Jan. 16 in Memorial Gym." 6. "Senior forward Scott Blakney stretches before the University of Northern Colorado game on Jan. 16 in Memorial Gym."





# Opinion

## POLITICS

## Yes but...

*Senator Carl Crabtree is a first term district 7 senator in the Idaho legislature*

**Carl Crabtree**  
GUEST VOICE

This past year has been nothing if not unbelievable. The world was set on edge by a global pandemic. This impacted lives, world-wide, and continues to do so. It has impacted your life and mine.

From the beginning of the chaos politicians were some of the first to be attacked, and perhaps rightfully so. Simply put, we were unprepared and had no idea how to manage a pandemic - legally, politically or any other way. Our laws did not address the questions we faced, and protocol had not been established on who should be in charge. Was it the government's responsibility, should there be no government at all, or was it somewhere in the middle? Bottom line: we were ill prepared.

Now, at the beginning of this legislative session, we are faced with making decisions that we could argue should have been made already. We will seek answers to questions posed during the pandemic, ultimately leaving us better prepared for the next crisis and perhaps in a position to better manage government. We now have some experience and a much better set of facts to work with.

I wish I could say we did it all

right here in Idaho, but we did not. We were not spared from disorder and disappointment. We made our share of mistakes, but one thing we did right was our fiscal conservatism and financial management. The overall fiscal picture for Idaho is good! Some states have seen huge losses, but we have come out as one of the winners. We had hoped for the best but planned for the worst – and it worked!

From March through October, Idaho's positive change in revenue was one of the largest in the nation and we are on track to have a budget surplus of more than \$600 million. Should this continue to year end, it will be the largest surplus in state history.

So, what can, and should you expect from us in the next couple of months? You will see the Idaho Legislature find ways to reduce taxes and prepare for an even stronger economic future.

The next time you hear one of your friends, family or a neighbor say there are so many things around us that are failing right now, I would respond, "that could be true, but... the facts are, Idaho's economy is doing extremely well, and money matters."



## COVID-19

## Despite a semester change, COVID stays the same

*Case numbers and social distance protocols are consistent with last semester*

**Dani Moore**  
ARGONAUT

Despite Idaho being moved back to Stage 2, and the insurmountable death toll that is rising every day, residents of Moscow appear to be taking COVID measures even less seriously than before. Many restaurants and small businesses do not appear to be adhering to the social distancing rules. I was dining at a popular restaurant in town this weekend when I noticed they kept filling tables near our area, squishing customers closer and closer together, resembling the basement of a fraternity. For multiple reasons, this is concerning. Although small businesses have taken the hardest hit from COVID, it is hardly an excuse to put customers in danger and ignore the same protocols they promised to adhere to. I am not saying to avoid Moscow's small businesses and restaurants because of this; it is crucial that we help them stay in business. However, we must proceed with caution when roaming around town and always consider ordering take out from a restaurant instead.

Vaccines are still in their initial stages of distribution and will not be available to the public until spring. That feels like forever but think of it as a reminder to keep up our good work; hope is on the way. It will not be an easy journey, but it is up to us to keep our cases down until

then. With the arrival of a new semester, changes with COVID-19 testing have arrived, as well. The Gritman testing team has improved their timing and results tremendously, with results coming back within 24 hours. They also appear to be doing different tests, using different swiping methods as compared to last semester.

Going into my fourth semester at University of Idaho, and my third of adapting to online learning, I am longing to see the light at the end of the tunnel. I am looking forward to football games, school activities, and no longer having to worry about terrible Wi-Fi when zooming in for a lecture. We are tired. We all want to interact with each other again, and cease worrying about putting our loved ones at risk. However, being "done" with a virus will not stop it. We need to prioritize our safety and not reset all of our hard work. We have been fortunate to stay at a university that remains open, and offers Hyflex classes, contrary to many schools who have shut down completely. With the looming uncertainty of spring break, and the COVID-19 vaccines that are yet to be distributed, the end is still not in sight, but it is in our reach. It is up to us to make the final push.

*Dani Moore  
can be reached at  
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## POLITICS

## Impeaching Trump again is a waste of time

*Biden's administration has more pressing concerns and duties to adhere to rather than dealing with impeachment paperwork*

**Rebecca Pratt**  
ARGONAUT

President Donald J. Trump's reign of terror is finally coming to an end, but like most storms, it went out with a bang. The quote on quote, last hurrah of Trump's followers was the most un-American movement executed by so-called "proud Americans" I have ever seen in my 23 years of existence. All the wildness, violence and pathetic chaos from January 6th aside, we have needed a new president since day one of the Trump Administration.

Why is it that after such a shocking display of treason, domestic terrorism, insurrection, mutiny, and other synonymous terms, I sit here before my column explaining that Trump's second impeachment, with less than two weeks of his presidency left, is a waste of time?

As a college student, I know what it is like to be spread thin. I have eggs in every basket. Sometimes I run out of eggs and baskets. Sometimes I make a mental note of invisible eggs in made up baskets that I promptly forget about until it is too late. President-Elect Joe Biden is walking into a White House that has broken eggs and smashed baskets all over the place. He and his incomplete cabinet do not need more to worry about.

I think it was an ill-thought-out emotional reaction by members of both parties to impeach Trump a second time in this ill-fated hour. All our lawmakers have done is give an incoming president and vice president more hoops to jump through when they should be getting their house in order. Biden stated on record that he did not support impeachment and it would only distract him and his team from more

important work.

Others I have discussed this with have told me they are pleased with the second impeachment, stating "it is time for Trump to get what he deserves." I agree with this sentiment wholeheartedly and think he deserves jail time in a jumpsuit the same color as his fake tan. The only example I can think of in recent years of the rich or well-financed getting justice served would be the death of Jeffrey Epstein.

Epstein's Frat Boy Bestie should be investigated after leaving office and I can only hope that he will be brought to justice for the crimes he committed. However, to waste our incoming president's time and resources on impeachment paperwork and press questions is inhumane during this pandemic.

Many students like me are far more concerned with not qualifying for any government aid during the pandemic. Many students are far more concerned about when they might get their COVID-19 vaccination. Many students are not interested in the pissing contest going on in Congress. Students and staff would benefit from the Biden administration's successes in office rather than the show of power Congress is showing down Trump's throat.

If I have any message for those making impeachment moves in D.C. right now, it would be elementary in nature. In the words of my third-grade teacher "STAY ON TASK!" You can do what you want after you get the important work done.

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can be reached at  
arg-opinion@uidaho.edu.*

## POLITICS

## New president, new era

*The inauguration of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris sparks a necessary change*

**Dani Moore**  
ARGONAUT

Today, Americans witnessed another key event in history, the inauguration of the 46th President Joe Biden and Vice President, Kamala Harris.

After a year of unspeakable challenges and odds, racial and political division, thousands of deaths and a struggling economy, it's safe to say the duo has a lot of ground to cover. The next four years will not be easy to recover from, but they've given many Americans an opportunity they have been craving, a fresh start.

This was only the second inauguration ceremony I watched and avidly remember. I and countless others around the globe watched history unfold, in more ways than one.

In Donald Trump's presidency, one can argue he made history; entering the White House with no political experience, creating a new subculture within his following and being the only president to be impeached twice. Today he added another aspect to that list, being the first president in almost 150 years to not attend the inauguration of his successor. The justification behind this tends to differ, some calling it unprofessional and petty, others claiming he needs time to focus on his impending trial. Whatever his reason, it's definitely a very odd ending to an odd last four years.

Vice President Kamala Harris also made headlines being the first woman of color to fulfill the role. This is a huge change that opens doors to many new possibilities in the future.

Though this is a large step in the right direction, we must also call to mind that

this is not the end. It is only the beginning. We cannot forget about the enormous political divide that has worsened in the past four years and the countless movements that led us to this event.

No matter whether your candidate won or not, or whether you support our new leadership, we must never forget that our leaders are meant to serve us. We need to hold our government responsible, criticize them for their mistakes and encourage them to do better. Idolizing politicians gets you nowhere, as we have seen in the past few months. We must view our leaders not as gods, but as public servants who have pledged to make their country a better place.

In Senator Amy Klobuchar's speech, she calls to action not only our government leaders but the American people as well.

"We pledge today never to take our democracy for granted. As we celebrate its remarkable strength, we celebrate its resilience, its grit. We celebrate the ordinary people doing extraordinary things for our nation, the doctors and nurses on the frontline of this pandemic, the officers in the Capitol, a new generation never giving up hope for justice. We celebrate a new president, Joe Biden, who vows to restore the soul of America and cross the river of our divides to a higher plane," Klobuchar said.

I hope that the next four years will be a time of growth and healing for our country. I hope that we will be able to work towards a better environment, for people of all backgrounds and social statuses. Don't stop voting, don't stop calling for change, and don't stop petitioning for things that matter. Our Democracy constantly swings in the balance, don't give up just yet.

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## COLUMN

# 2021 will not be better than 2020

It's the symbolic completion of Earth's revolution will not spark an uplift of progress



**Carter Kolpitcke**

Argonaut

The rhetoric pitted against 2020, though valid, reverberated so consistently that it convinced some of us that 2021 will somehow

be better, it won't.

It was only a year ago that we saw the near beginning of a nuclear war, it wasn't much later until we lost the late great Kobe Bryant—all the while Australia's barren land was continuously being scorched—until, ultimately, the infamous COVID-19 virus took flame. George Floyd was mercilessly murdered by law enforcement in May, corresponding Black Lives Matter protests erupted in June and disgraceful police brutality responded. A contentious election exhausted our political landscape while claims of election fraud were frivolously thrown. And there were murder horns.

It was challenging for me to summarize those events within the confines of a paragraph; I surely missed vital details. Part joke, part truth—2020 sucked. Alas, I find it bewildering that people have convinced themselves 2021 will be any better. It seems they believe the ball drop brings more than a technical date change.

Unwittingly, these problems still exist. They will today. And tomorrow. And the next.

Believing otherwise is ignorance. Believing otherwise is being complicit in the face of the oppressor. Believing otherwise stops the perpetual motion of change. Believing otherwise prevents progress.

Most of the reasons the previously listed issues occurred have yet to be addressed. The storming of the Capitol Building presented an unprecedented attack on our democracy, there has yet to be any significant police reform (not to mention Breonna Taylor's murderers have not been arrested), Congress was only able to pass two measly stimulus packages in the span of ten months, foreign affairs has seen no improvement and the global climate crisis continues to destroy environments.

It is okay to look at the horizon with hope. To visualize a light at the end of tunnel. Truth is, there is and always has been that light. It felt like we almost went backwards last year, but now we must go forward. That being said, going forward will not feel like a walk in the park. It will not feel like 2021 is sunshine and rainbows. We will take two steps forward and one step back. Over and over again.

Moving into a new presidency, we must look back on our mistakes. We must ask ourselves difficult questions, have hard conversations and make tough decisions. If we don't, the events of 2020 will reverberate tenfold, and we will be trapped in an endless scheme of problem-solution politics.

I don't mean to sound pessimistic. I'm actually quite enthralled to write this column. Candidly, we made it. We made it through the most tumultuous presidency America has ever seen and we are sort of making it through a pandemic. Sort of. However, I don't want us to be blinded by faithless hope. Earth's annual revolution does not bring great societal change, we do.

So, maybe 2021 will be better than 2020. But it is up to us. One thing I know for sure is it will not happen by coincidence; it will not happen by luck and it will not happen with our eyes closed. We have all the power to change things we hated in 2020, let's exercise that.

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## ART

## The art of ink, lead and paper

My childhood consisted of ink smeared hands, jumbles of thoughts and love in my heart



**Kim Stager**

Argonaut

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of art? Is it paintings, dancing, pottery, photography or baking?

Letter writing is a form of art that has gotten lost in the online world. People generally feel that writing a letter takes too long.

It is much easier to send a quick text to your friends and family and get almost an immediate response back.

It's not as intimate. Texting is too common.

Instead of the art of thumbs, we should create art that requires dedication, thought, inspiration, truths, love, even heartbreak and tears. Move the souls of those to whom you have written across page after page for their eyes alone to see.

Messages on a phone can be hacked, but mail struggles through harsh weather. Though beaten and torn, the words remain the same: "It's me. I love you. Please read."

I believe writing letters to someone can have a much deeper meaning than sending a message on various social media apps. It demonstrates the time, love and care you put into each stroke of the pencil or pen.

You take the time out of your busy

day-to-day schedule to sit down, whether it be indoors curled up on a chair or in front of a desk or outdoors soaking in the sunshine or breathing in the cool night air and have a conversation. This conversation is not between you and a piece of paper; it's between you and the one you are sending it to. Let it show with every single word you put on the page.

A piece of your heart is sent in a neatly folded letter that is tucked into an envelope, maybe with a photo or another treasure inside.

I remember receiving letters and notes in grade school. It made my heart skip a beat and thump in anticipation of the words that would jump out at me from the lined pages.

Do you remember receiving handwritten notes from your admirers? Well, more like you receiving a note from their friend because they were too chicken to give it to you in-person, face-to-face. Scary!

The letters I received from my friends were not always mailed, not every gift is packaged, labeled, or wrapped. Sometimes the letters were hand-delivered, just a few sheets of lined paper folded together. This didn't make them any less special to me.

I loved getting notes from my friends. I loved the ones that came seemingly "out of the blue." Those notes were showered with kind words and deep sincerity, describing how they enjoyed our friendship.

Do you remember passing notes around in class? Those are a separate category all their own, but hardly anyone even does that anymore either.

Texting someone sends a faster message than someone scribbling something down having it passed around the classroom until it reaches its destination. There is less likelihood of getting caught.

The plus side to receiving handwritten letters from friends and family is not having to scroll through an endless stream of messages on your phone just to read a few lines.

I keep the written messages from my friends in photo albums to look back on whenever I am feeling nostalgic or need something to cheer me up. The letters are framed in my mind and heart, just like a photo from a camera, in black and white or in living color.

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## COVID-19

## A semester begins, COVID-19 remains

COVID-19 same cautions as last year



**Dani Moore**

Argonaut

Despite Idaho being moved back to Stage 2, and the insurmountable death toll that is rising every day, residents of Moscow appear to be taking COVID measures even less seriously than before. Many restaurants and small businesses do not appear to be adhering to the social distancing rules.

I was dining at a popular restaurant in town this weekend when I noticed they kept filling tables near our area, squishing customers closer and closer together, resembling the basement of a fraternity.

For multiple reasons, this is concerning. Although small businesses have taken the hardest hit from COVID, it is hardly an excuse to put customers in danger and ignore the same protocols they promised to adhere to.

I am not saying to avoid Moscow's small businesses and restaurants because of this; it is crucial that we help them stay in business. However, we must proceed with caution when roaming around town

and always consider ordering take out from a restaurant instead.

Vaccines are still in their initial stages of distribution and will not be available to the public until spring. That feels like forever but think of it as a reminder to keep up our good work; hope is on the way. It will not be an easy journey, but it is up to us to keep our cases down until then.

With the arrival of a new semester, changes with COVID-19 testing have arrived, as well. The Gritman testing team has improved their timing and results tremendously, with results coming back within 24 hours. They also appear to be doing different tests, with different swiping methods compared to last semester.

Going into my fourth semester at the University of Idaho, and my third of adapting to online learning, I am longing to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I am looking forward to football games, school activities and no longer having to worry about terrible Wi-Fi when zooming in for a lecture. We are tired. We all want to interact with each other again, and cease worrying about putting our loved ones at risk.

However, being "done" with a virus will not stop it. We need to prioritize our safety and not reset all of our hard work. We have been fortunate to stay at a university that remains open, and offers Hyflex classes, contrary to many schools who have shut down completely.

With the looming uncertainty of spring break, and the COVID-19 vaccines that are yet to be distributed, the end is still not in sight, but it is with our reach. It is up to us to make the final push.

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