

THE UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Argonaut

FOR, OF AND BY THE STUDENTS SINCE 1898

Faculty awaits vaccine



Angela Palermo | Argonaut
College of Engineering Associate Professor Fritz Fiedler teaches a civil engineering class in Renfrew Hall

University of Idaho faculty and staff is scheduled to be vaccinated in Phase 2

Cody Roberts
ARGONAUT

States across the country are setting their own priorities for distributing limited quantities of the COVID-19 vaccine. In Idaho, higher education employees are not considered in Phase 1B of vaccination as they are in other states.

In the University of Idaho’s first Faculty Senate meeting of the spring semester, Provost and Executive Vice President Torrey Lawrence addressed the disparity after receiving “many questions” about why faculty and staff are not included in the same vaccination group as K-12 teachers and staff.

According to Lawrence, President Scott Green is currently in talks with the Idaho State Board of Education and public health officials to learn where university faculty members are on the timeline.

“We are trying to advocate for our people, also realizing that we want the people that need them most to get them first,” Lawrence said.

Public colleges in Florida and West Virginia, two states that treat the two groups the same way in its vaccine priority plan, began vaccinating employees age 50 or above the week of Dec. 28, 2020.

Some states, such as California and Iowa, explicitly include higher education workers at the same priority level, Phase 1B, as K-12 teachers.

SEE VACCINE, PAGE 3

Bears take baths to reduce stress

Researchers create digital model to stimulate and analyze bear behavior

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

Unwinding in a bath after a long day isn’t just limited to humans – in fact, large bodied mammals in the wild have been observed doing the exact same thing.

In collaboration with Washington State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison and the U.S. Geological Survey, researchers at University of Idaho set out to find answers about why bears appear to enjoy bathing, especially during hot months.

In the study, led by Associate Professor of Wildlife Sciences Ryan Long and UI graduate student Savannah Rogers, researchers found grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park take baths in cool water to help prevent overheating.

Because the body temperature of mammals rises during lactation, female grizzly bears may fully submerge in natural depressions containing water deeper than the wallows used by ungulates such as elk. The “bathtubs” help facilitate increased milk production and ensure offspring survival.

“Back in 2016, National Geographic published a series of camera trap photos and videos of grizzly bears using these pools to immerse themselves on a regular basis, and at the time everybody thought it was a novel behavior,” Long said. “There’s a couple previous studies in other parts of the world but people have largely not pursued this question of how important heat is as a determinant of bear behavior.”

Long’s study focused on behaviors in female bears and the limitations that come with being a large animal in hot weather. Mammals generate heat internally and body functions are limited to how much energy it spends by its ability to cool back down again, Rogers said.

Bears don’t have the ability to sweat and cool down by laying on cool ground or in water. Their findings highlight the importance of bear behaviors, but especially for female bears who are lactating and producing additional internal heat.

There has been a great deal of study on bears in the Yellowstone area studying external factors that influence



Courtesy of the National Park Service
A recent University of Idaho study of grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park found that the bears use water holes to cool down

behavior. This includes food related factors, human disturbance and the environment, according to Long. Instead of traveling to the park, researchers were able to make a stimulating model and analyze bear behavior through technology.

The model creates a digital world. Data was taken from bears at the WSU Bear Center and translated into the model along with collared bears from Yellowstone. After anesthetizing the bears at WSU, they measured their dense they were and included their dimensions, according to Long. Researchers set up a treadmill and were able to record the bear’s metabolic rates and walking speeds.

SEE BEARS, PAGE 3

Tuition freeze is in the hands of the Legislature

Gov. Brad Little's budget proposal could halt tuition increases for another year, taking additional pressure off students

Haadiya Tariq
ARGONAUT

The presidents of Idaho’s four-year universities pledged earlier this month to forgo tuition increases for the 2021-2022 academic year if lawmakers approve Gov. Brad Little’s higher education budget.

The decision came in a press release from the Idaho State Board of Education, signed on by University of Idaho President Scott Green, Idaho State University President Kevin Satterlee and Boise State University President Marlene Tromp.

Little’s proposed higher education budget would restore nearly \$15.4 million that was cut as part of a 5% holdback. For UI, this would account for an additional \$4.6 million that was previously missed.



“While the University of Idaho is ranked as the best value of any public university in the west, we recognize that the cost of education is still a barrier to entry for many of our potential students,” Green stated in the press release.

The presidents made a joint decision with the board in 2019 to implement tuition freezes for the 2020-2021 academic year, addressing the affordability of higher education for students. The decision was made prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The board voted in July to approve Little’s proposed 5% holdback for public schools in response to the pandemic. His newly proposed budget for the upcoming year takes the holdback into account, restoring money to the universities.

With these additional funds in hand, the institutions plan to continue their tuition freezes.

“We took a dramatic hit in 2020, first with holdbacks, then a one-time 5% holdback in response to the pandemic,” UI Director of Communications Jodi Walker said. “The governor has recommended this 5% be reinstated for 2021-2022. If this indeed is what the Legislature agrees to, we will be able to hold tuition flat across the state.”

SEE TUITION, PAGE 3

Testing data updated

University of Idaho reports low percentage of positive cases after mass testing

Angela Palermo
ARGONAUT

Since Jan. 1, the University of Idaho has tested over 6,023 students and employees for COVID-19, returning 107 positive results and a positivity rate of 1.78%, according to its case count page.

After conducting mass testing at the start of the semester, the university plans to continue with surveillance testing, which is useful in identifying outbreaks early on.

According to an email from President Scott Green, a small number of students enrolled in in-person classes remain untested.

“Steps for how to request an exemption or obtain a test have been sent repeatedly to these students,” Green stated. “Their lack of testing puts people around them at risk, so it is important for us to take this requirement seriously.”

In 2020, the university returned 23,559 test results with a positivity rate of 2.72%. Those statistics reflect both employees and students tested.

While UI reports the number of results received through its testing protocols, this is not inclusive of all positive cases in people associated with the institution.

Testing is available through appointments at the Student Recreation Center.

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IN THIS ISSUE



Find your roots at colfax plant store A Modern Plantsman

LIFE, 5



Swimmers race again with end of season in sight

SPORTS, 7



Congress' depiction of college students is grossly misconstrued

OPINION, 9

RECREATION & WELLBEING

Vandal Health Education

Freshstart Open Session

a four-part group nicotine cessation program

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

Pre-register at: uidaho.edu/tobacco-free



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.

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Fitness Program

FITNESS CLASSES ARE BACK!

6-week sessions begin January 25

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Vandal Health Education

VIRTUAL MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

9am - 12pm FOR FACULTY & STAFF
10am - 4pm FOR STUDENTS

pre-registration required: uidhao.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 uidah..edu/intramurals

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uidaho.edu/recwell



A Crumbs Recipe

Mushroom “burger” and fries

Even if you don’t follow a vegetarian diet, adding a few meatless options into your weekly meal plans is a great way to lower your carbon footprint, cut down your grocery bill and experiment with new ways of cooking. This mushroom “burger” with a side of crunchy potato wedges is an excellent and delicious place to start!



Bailey Brockett | Argonaut

Ingredients:

- 2 portobello mushrooms
- 1 potato
- Olive oil
- Lawry’s seasoning
- Garlic powder
- Basil
- Blue cheese

Prep time: 20 minutes
Servings: 2
Cooking time: 30 minutes
Total time: 50 minutes

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

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 425 F.
2. Wash the potato and mushrooms. Cut off mushroom stems.
3. Slice the potato in half and slice each half into wedges of desired thickness.
4. Coat the baking sheet in non-stick spray. Place potato wedges and mushrooms (stem side facing up) on a pan.
5. Spread a generous amount of olive oil on potato wedges and mushrooms.
6. Sprinkle Lawry’s seasoning, garlic powder and basil over everything.
7. Bake in the oven for 15 minutes.
8. After 15 minutes, take the pan out, flip everything to the other side and add seasoning.
9. Put back in the oven and bake for another 15 minutes.
10. Top mushrooms with blue cheese and enjoy!

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CORRECTIONS

Jodi Walker’s name was misspelled on page one of The Argonaut’s Jan. 22 edition.
Damen Thacker’s name was misspelled in a photo caption on page eight of the Jan. 22 edition.
University of Northern Colorado was misspelled in a photo caption on page eight of the Jan. 22 edition.
Scott Blakney’s name was misspelled in a photo caption on page eight of the Jan. 22 edition

UI STUDENT MEDIA BOARD

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

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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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Women’s Center receives funding for violence protection



Anteia McCollum | Argonaut

A close up of a domestic violence ribbon at the Women's Center

The grant, nearly \$300,000 will focus on stalking prevention and inclusion

Angela Palermo
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho Women’s Center received the continuation of a \$299,944 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women.

The grant will fund the Campus Violence Prevention Project’s ongoing efforts to implement culturally relevant and community responsive prevention education programming as well as victim services, according to a press release from the university.

“We’re excited to work more closely with our Center for Disability Access and Resources, and with national leaders in violence prevention for diverse populations,” Lysa Salsbury, grant principal investigator and Women’s Center director, said. “Our goal is to enhance and add to existing educational programming and services to break down some of the barriers and taboos that exist for students in reporting and seeking support resources.”

Back in the early 2000s, a staff member of the Women’s Center first applied for the grant and received it. With the money, the applicant was able to fund a new office to lead violence prevention initiatives on campus. UI’s Violence Prevention Programs Office has received the



Lysa Salsbury

grant four more times since then.

When the original applicant left the institution in 2009, the university began funding the office and position permanently. It didn’t need grant funding to keep it going.

In 2016, after no one had applied for the grant in several years, Salsbury applied for the grant again, and received it. With the money, she hopes to expand the scope of prevention education and better serve students from diverse populations.

The funding provides an opportunity to concentrate advocacy efforts on sexual assault, domestic abuse and stalking. Focusing heavily on sexual assault in the past, Salsbury thought it was time to do programming on stalking prevention.

“Stalking is a crime that often precedes other crimes,” Salsbury said. “We really need to do a lot more work to educate our campus community on stalking behaviors and dynamics.”

Salsbury also wants to focus on how to better serve students with physical and intellectual disabilities. The office is going to purchase a subscription to an app that helps hard of hearing students with real time transcription.

The work of the grant is carried out by a team called the Coordinated Community Response Team, a group of 30 individuals from all areas of campus. The team works in subcommittees to move forward initiatives made in their strategic plan.

“Our team has folks in all levels of the institution, from senior administration to faculty to student representation,” Salsbury said. “We tried to have someone who can actively represent specific student populations and also share that information with faculty and staff.”

In the past, the Women’s Center used the grant to raise awareness for consent.

“We did some focus groups and surveys and found that consent was an issue which students expressed a lot of confusion or misinformation about,” Salsbury said. “They are a lot of questions about consent if there’s alcohol or drugs involved.”

With the continuation of the grant, the office will be able to pay for an advocate from Alternatives to Violence of the Palouse to be on campus about 20 hours a week. Salsbury says the funding is critical to maintain and expand the advocacy programs developed within the last grant cycle.

Developing and implementing the project will take three years, with a goal of having programs and services fully operational by October 2023.

“We are committed to improving our campus education and response to the crime of stalking, which often co-occurs with sexual assault and dating violence,” Salsbury said. “Most stalking incidents – over 83% – are not reported to law enforcement.”

Angela Palermo can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter apalermotweets

BEARS

FROM PAGE 1

All of the information was transferred to a computer, where they were able to run different scenarios that bears in Yellowstone may experience.

“Since my project was largely analytical, I didn’t have as many field-work challenges as many researchers do, but I did run across some hiccups,” Rogers said. “Simulation-based studies need to be meticulously checked and rechecked to be sure our predictions are realistic.”

Along with finding out why female bears take baths, researchers were able to explain the physiology behind their behavior. Hearing anecdotes about bears playing in water, it’s interesting to know the reasons why, Rogers said.

“The study highlighted the challenges that large bodied animals are up against as the climate continues to warm,” Long said. “They also highlight the sort of behavioral flexibility that animals like bears have and finding ways to overcome those constraints.”

In the future, Long and Rogers will collaborate on more wildlife projects, including a study of how large and small African antelope regulate internal temperatures in their environments. Recently starting her PhD at the University of St. Andrews, Rogers looks forward to developing new methods of estimating dolphin population abundance and survival rates.

Emily Pearce can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu

TUITION

FROM PAGE 1

The freeze put a temporary hold on tuition pricing, as well as student fees. Tuition and fees for academic year 2020-2021 were the same price as academic year 2019-2020 for in-state, out-of-state, undergraduate and graduate students.

The tuition freeze for the current academic year was Idaho’s first in 43 years. The decision came at a time when UI was already facing a \$14 million shortfall which would eventually climb to \$22 million.

When it comes to higher education, Idaho is relying more and more tuition to pay the bills. According to reporting from the Idaho Statesman, state appropriations for higher education were almost 17% of the state’s budget in 1980. Today, it amounts to less than 8% of the state budget.

In 1980, tuition revenue paid 7% of the state’s higher education budget, now it’s 47%.

Furthermore, the university has increased its tuition by 53% in the last 12 years, the highest increase in the state of Idaho. This upward trend in fees has been putting the cost of higher education more and more on students.

By committing to a tuition freeze, the university would not be able to profit from a raise in tuition. While the university may not lose money from a tuition freeze, UI would give up roughly \$1 million per every percent increase in tuition. In the previous freeze, the school gave up a potential \$2 to \$3 million.

“We recognize tuition remains a barrier for many of our qualified Idaho students,” Walker said. “We are working hard to reduce those barriers by raising money for more scholarships and keeping the cost of attendance down.”

If the proposed budget does not go through, UI might not continue the tuition freeze, instead focusing on other avenues of financial aid for students.

“We continue to focus on raising money for scholarships,” Walker said. “Our donors are incredibly supportive and enthusiastic about helping Vandals.”

Little’s proposed budget will be sent to the Idaho Legislature where the final decision will be made.

Haadiya Tariq can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu



Jodi Walker

VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1

Idaho, along with seven other states, plans to vaccinate higher education employees in Phase 2.

While some UI faculty have already been vaccinated, that is due to circumstances unrelated to their position at the university, Lawrence said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided recommendations to assist with state-level decision making, which call for essential workers, including workers in the education sector, to be included in Phase 1B.

Researchers at Boston University’s Department of Health Law, Policy, and Management found that 19 states are including higher education employees in Phase 1B, consistent with CDC recommendations, while 35 states include K-12 teachers in the same category. Recommendations for Phase 1 focused mostly on health-care workers, including workers at academic medical facilities and residents of long-term care facilities.

Rumors of vaccinations being distributed early for North Idaho College faculty was denied by Panhandle Health District, who said the timeline issued by the Gov. Brad Little’s office is still being followed.

Laura Rumpler, chief communications officer for North Idaho College, said only a few faculty members of NIC might be vaccinated due to involvement in the head start program. There were no pushes by the rest of the college’s faculty for vaccination earlier than what is outlined in the timeline, Rumpler said.

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Bite-sized news with ASUI

Senators and cabinet members introduce their upcoming projects

Carter Kolpitcke
ARGONAUT

Black Lives Matter survey

ASUI President Lauren Carlsen sent out a survey about BLM, which received roughly 271 responses, according to Director of Diversity Yasmine Tovar.

Tovar is looking to create a committee of several ASUI senators to address the responses.

“At the end of the day, this is something that has been going on in our nation,” Carlsen said. “It’s impacting students, impacting all students regardless of color and it’s a topic that is huge.”

Free feminine hygiene products

Senator Dylanie Frazier is working to bring free feminine hygiene products to campus.

Frazier spoke with Kenneth McCurry, head of custodial staff, on how the University of Washington implemented plastic menstrual product dispensers and what steps UI can take to do the same.



Increasing retention

Senator Secilia Lopez talked about working with the Office of the Registrar to survey students who dropped out of the university.

Responses will hopefully offer insight on how UI can increase student retention rates.

Meal swipes for pre-packaged meals in The Grid

Senator Ezmy Perez gathered feedback from residence hall students asking if they would be interested in using their meal swipes for pre-packaged meals in The Grid.

Perez said it’s been a unanimous “yes” from students.

Midterm munchies

ASUI Director of Community Relations Connor Dahlquist and four others are working in conjunction to get students snacks during midterms.

Currier says a bill will be introduced to the senate next week.

Carter Kolpitcke can be reached at arg-news@uidaho.edu or on Twitter @carterkolpitcke

Life

LIFESTYLES, INTERESTS, FEATURES AND ENTERTAINMENT

‘A Modern Plantsman’ encourages green thumb

“A Modern Plantsman” rooted in Colfax tends to plant lover’s needs for an indoor garden

Katarina Hockema
ARGONAUT

Looking to fill the desire of taking care of something other than a pet or child? Consider purchasing and tending for a houseplant at A Modern Plantsman, a locally owned and operated nursery and indoor houseplant store located in Colfax, WA.

A Modern Plantsman specializes in providing a large selection of exotic indoor plants to support the green thumb of Colfax and beyond by providing plants not usually seen in the eastern Washington region. Plants are directly selected and sourced throughout the northwest from Spokane, Seattle, Portland and other locations.

“We have a lot of people coming up from the other communities like Pullman or Moscow, and we are having people coming as far as Lewiston or Spokane,” Dominic Villareal, Colfax local and owner of A Modern Plantsman, said. “As far as the plant community goes, there are tons of people getting involved in it...and we’re definitely seeing that effect on the Palouse.”

Due to the smaller nature of the Palouse, Villareal focuses on bringing the plants seen in larger, more competitive outlets to his business, while adding the experience of hands-on connection and love to plants that may not be present in more commercial sources.

A Modern Plantsman, being Villareal’s first business venture, was inspired by his love and passion for plants and plant care. The shop focuses not only on being a provider for plants in the eastern Washington area but also on reconnecting people to nature and creating a community through guided services, such as plant education and potting, a botany club and in-store paid workshops open to customers.

The botany club is a free, hands-on community and online club normally held once a month before COVID-19 restrictions paused meetings. Events usually centered around activities such as plant-swapping, potting lessons, group hikes, foraging, plant-based art, terrarium workshops and macrame, all supplemented with refreshments.

More extensive, hands-on paid

workshops derive from the success of the “guinea pig” meetings of the club, according to Villareal.

“When I decided to start the shop, I put together a list of things that I felt like all of the other places I’d been to were missing,” Villareal said. “One of them was a sense of community, so I felt like if we focused on workshops and doing things that were inclusive and engaging, then that would help create that community vibe.”

A Modern Plantsman’s employees, personal friends of Villareal, hold the same innate love and passion for plants as the owner.

BriAnn Davis, a Pullman local and employee since last November, pursued employment after years of supporting Villareal’s business for personal means.

“For me, the most enjoyable part (of working here) is probably just being around the plants all day,” Davis said. “I’m technically the plant care tender, so I do most of the care for everything, and coming into this environment every day is a really welcoming and happy vibe.”

Aaron Agulay, also a Pullman local and employee, for over a year pursued the job as a fun hobby grown out of friendship.

“Potting things up and being creative and seeing the joy on some people’s faces when they get their complete little project done, or bringing home something that they’re going to take care of are the fun parts of it all,” Agulay said.

As for advice for potential plant parents, Villareal encourages learning and resilience in taking care of new additions to your home.

“For me, plants have always been about experimenting, so there’s a lot of failure in experimentation,” Villareal said. “It’s just a part of the game. One of the things I always tell people is ‘don’t be discouraged by the losses that you have, just keep learning. Use it as growth.’”

Originally opened in a different location in Feb. 2019, Villareal has operated the business at 124 N Main Street since Feb. 2020. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information, visit their Facebook page ‘A Modern Plantsman: Plant shop, botany club & workshop’ (@amodernplantsman) or Instagram @amodernplantsman.

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Richarch Pathomsiri | Argonaut

(Top) The outside of A Modern Plantsman on N Main Street, Colfax, WA (Middle) Chloe, employee of A Modern Plantsman, repots a plant. The store offers repotting as an additional surface (Bottom) A fraction of the total amount of plants sold at A Modern Plantsman

Shilpi Ganguly navigates medical school applications

Shilpi Ganguly brings application advice to pre-health students

Sierra Pesnell
ARGONAUT

Shilpi Ganguly, a second-year medical student at the University of Miami, will hold a presentation for University of Idaho students on Jan. 28. Ganguly will talk through the medical school application process and provide advice to potential medical school students and healthy methods to approach it.

Ganguly will bring a candid approach to the talk and discuss what characteristics make a strong medical school applicant. She’ll use her application as an example for students. In the second half of the presentation, she’ll go over her own experience with cases in medicine outside of the hospital setting.

Applying for medical school can be taxing. Ganguly will share resources to avoid demanding aspects that leave a student with anxiety and provide healthy

copied mechanisms to use throughout the process. This is inspired by her own experience as a prior candidate.

“I’m approaching this as preparing people for the realities of what the application process is,” Ganguly said.

She will also highlight her experiences as a medical student at UM. Her first year was typical until the latter half of the second year was changed because of COVID-19. The learning conditions changed dramatically, with many of her classes being held over Zoom. The current situation has given Ganguly further appreciation of her goals as a future healthcare provider.

“It added more value to my life goals,” Ganguly said. “I really can make an impact with what I want to do with my career.”

The upcoming event is another installment in the Pre-Health Student Speaker Series. The programming is organized by UI’s Pre-Health Professions department. The department supports students’ futures in becoming healthcare

providers in multiple capacities.

UI’s Pre-Health Professions advise in required courses, equip students with additional experience and help prepare students for admissions into health-related graduate schools. The series is one of the multiple opportunities that provide students with resources within the healthcare field.



Shilpi Ganguly

and medical students. The speakers are from all over the country, creating a variety of experiences.

“We’re really trying to expand our connections with UI,” Mazzocco said.

Mazzocco said another goal of the series is to acquaint other universities

with the work UI is currently doing.

The program encourages networking for students and provides additional resources in building their involvement. It also allows participants a chance to ask honest questions.

The series started in the latter half of the fall 2020 semester. The goal for Spring 2021 is to organize a speaker each week from a different health field. Mazzocco also discussed the good turn out from the series and the continuation of the programming.

“Based on the success we’ve had so far, we do want to continue connecting our current undergraduates with current graduate students,” Mazzocco said.

Ganguly will speak via Zoom on Jan. 28 at 4 p.m. The presentation will be followed by a Q&A.

You can attend the event using the Zoom link provided on the Vandal Events website.

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Emily Pearce | Argonaut
Lionel Hampton School of Music

Jazzy experiences for college students

St. Lawrence String Quartet takes up virtual residency hosted by the school of music

Esther David
ARGONAUT

In New York City in 1977, Leonard Garrison is transfixed by famed African American Jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald. There are no barriers between her and the soaring notes, and her passion echoes through the performance hall.

Garrison, professor of flute at the Lionel Hampton School of Music, and director of the Auditorium Chamber Music Series for several years, said Fitzgerald’s performance sparked his passion for jazz and inspired him to become a flutist.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they had to get creative for their students and audiences by inviting three to four ensembles to perform yearly. The Neave Trio was hosted in the fall, the St. Lawrence String Quartet and men’s acapella group Chanticleer will perform this spring.

Currently, the critically acclaimed St. Lawrence String Quartet is doing a virtual residency. They will present a chamber music seminar on Jan. 28, and a composition seminar and a string workshop on Jan. 29.

Due to the lockdown in San

Francisco, the quartet members has been unable to rehearse together. Their concert has been postponed to Sunday, March 28.

“I think it’ll be fascinating for everyone to see,” Garrison said. “Anyone’s welcome to come and it’s free.”

The events are live-streamed due to the pandemic, but despite deterrents, it has allowed people from around the world to tune in.

Carlee Vigesaa, a flutist, music education major and vice president of the women’s music fraternity on campus, strongly encourages attending music events.

She performs in several ensembles and attends over 15 concerts every semester.

“I love getting to watch guest performers and peers perform because it allows me to remain really present in the performance and enjoy music without having the stress of being up there myself and performing,” Vigesaa said. “It is a good motivator as well because while it’s nice to sit back and enjoy the music, you also are itching to be on the stage.”

Garrison encourages all college students and community members to explore everything they can.

While it’s entertaining, it also allows for the discovery of new music, Vigesaa said.

“There’s nothing like seeing live performances,” Garrison said. “When you see something that is incredibly beautiful or excellent, you want to do the same thing. That’s what originally inspired me. I saw some great flute playing, and I wanted to immediately know how to do that.”

One of Vigesaa’s favorite performances is Tchaikovsky’s Nutcracker Suite.

“I love listening to Pas de Deux especially,” Vigesaa said. “That movement invokes a sense of peace and longing at the same time.”


To be inspired by the world of ensemble music, visit the Lionel Hampton School of Music and the Auditorium Chamber Music Series for more information about upcoming events.


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Weekly horoscope Jan. 24-30


Your weekly guide to consulting the stars


Rebecca Pratt
ARGONAUT


 **Aries (Ram):** March 21–April 19
It’s time for change and growth. You’ve been holding onto some strong emotions from the past. It’s time to take a step back and let go of what no longer serves you. This can be anything from old habits, toxic peers or points of view.


 **Taurus (Bull):** April 20–May 20
A flirty new friend will arrive in your life this week. Be careful of attachment though. Some people are meant to come and go like the seasons while others are here to stay. This new friend in particular will build your confidence and show you what beauty strangers see in you, but they will come and go organically from your life. Allow them to grow, bloom and fade, appreciating them and what they bring you.


 **Gemini (Twins):** May 21–June 21
Conflict may arise in the chaos of your week, but do not fear. You have people and stars in your corner, watching out for you in ways you cannot see now. Sometimes our strongest guardian angels are the best at being invisible.

 **Cancer (Crab):** June 22–July 22
You can be a little clingy some would say, but you are just a passionate, loyal friend and partner. It’s easy for you to come off a little strong to your peers, but in the right light, you shine as the empathetic, loving and wonderful friend to have in one’s life. People are lucky to have you. This week, let your love and passion flow freely. Keep in mind your dedication can turn some people off. Use your natural ability to read the room to avoid this.

 **Leo (Lion):** July 23–August 22
Opportunity awaits you! All eyes will be on you this week and it’s your opportunity to show others what you are made of. Don’t doubt yourself but cover your bases. If you can brush up on your weak spots, your performance will speak for itself and rewards will not be far behind.

 **Virgo (Virgin):** August 23–September 22
Karma alert, sound the alarm! Watch out for the negativity you put out there Virgo! What goes around comes around. The kindness, understanding and love you show others this week will be well accounted for. That said, so will your short temper, over-criticalness and passive-aggressiveness. If all else fails, retreat to the golden rule. Treat others as you wish to be treated.

 **Libra (Scale):** September 23–October 23
Clever Libra is always the one to sort out conflict. Your peers rely on you to keep the peace. Your natural talent to smooth ruffled feathers will come into play this week. Your personal life has been a little rocky, but despite your natural gifts, you have yet contain the chaos. Listen close and take a step back, perhaps there is something you’ve missed.

 **Scorpio (Scorpion):** October 24–November 21
Love is in the air, sort of... your romantic life isn’t how you pictured it now, but what can be done? Sexual Scorpio often thinks action shrouded in mystery is the right answer, but only being vulnerable will help the situation. Drop your walls, if only for a second, and be rewarded. Your love life can only improve when you have shown the real you.

You can see Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces online at uiargonaut.com

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Courtesy of the Festival Dance and Performing Arts Academy
The Academy's Logo

Strap on your ballet shoes

The academy moves forward with in-person classes in new studio location

Emily Pearce
ARGONAUT

Festival Dance and Performing Arts Academy has been offering opportunities to express creativity since 1972. The academy, spread across the Palouse, has re-opened its location in Troy, Idaho, to expand its in-person classes.

Opening Jan. 20 to the general public, classes are available to children four to nine-years-old, as stated in the press release. Located in the guest area of the Lions Club, students can take creative movement with an introduction to ballet and levels one and two. Though the debut of this satellite location was placed on hold during the academy’s first semester, they are pleased to open their doors to young dancers.

Sophia Raasch, current faculty and teacher at the academy, instructs the classes. Raasch attends the University of Idaho and is working on her bachelor’s degree in science in food and nutrition, pre-physical therapy and a minor in dance. She grew up in Troy and is a former student of the academy. Dancing at the academy since she was 12, she has been a part it for six years.

“I started dancing when I was six years old, and I didn’t really start taking it seriously until I was about 12.” Raasch said. “There’s just something about it that for me, it’s an art form and a (sport) that I just really enjoy.” “I think my favorite part about it was the self-competition. I learned how to work with my body and I had tried other sports...(but) I just love the structure

behind dance.”

Raasch works with children and her favorite part is introducing them to the passion she has for dance. Learning dance is education for their bodies and coordination skills and getting acquainted and comfortable in their own skin, Raasch said. It teaches kids how to count music, different point connections and memorization. Skills they learn here can be applied everywhere outside the dance studio or in public school, Raasch said.

A part of the reason why the academy re-opened its satellite location in Troy was to introduce a younger generation to dance.

“The goal of it is to reach the surrounding communities (outside of) Moscow to get more kids involved in dance,” Raasch said. “Especially up here in northern Idaho, it’s hard to find dance studios in the area.”

She hopes opportunities the outreach program has reaches people as a way to share the art of dance.

Although the Troy location is only available to children, the academy’s locations at UI and in Moscow allow college students to explore dance. They offer adult classes and have adults come in regularly, as the academy is open to all ages and experience levels.

To learn more about opportunities at Festival Dance and Performing Arts Academy, visit their website.

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Classic review on Wu Tang Clan's legendary record

Over 20 years later – how does Wu Tang Clan's debut album hold up

Teren Kowatsch
ARGONAUT

On Nov. 9, 1993, the entire rap world changed. Wu-Tang Clan dropped their iconic debut album: “Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers).” The album has been universally acclaimed and has reason to be the single best rap album of all time. It not only helped break the West Coast’s hold on Hip-Hop along with fellow East Coast counterparts Notorious B.I.G. and Nas, but it also helped reinvigorate the kung-fu genre within constants mentioned and skits regarding classic movies. However, over 27 years later, how does the album stand against the test of time?

I’m not going to add any pomp and circumstance over the quality of this album in modern times, but the album is still immaculate. What helps the album stay current is the fact that almost every single rapper in the collective is an all-time best. RZA, Raekwon, GZA, Inspectah Deck, Method Man, the late-great Ol’ Dirty Bastard and Ghostface Killah all have classic albums to their name and are masters at their craft. There could be a masterclass on the history of their work both as a group and as individuals, as well as their significance in hip-hop history.

Regarding the music itself, it remains relevant. Tracks like “C.R.E.A.M.,” “Protect Ya Neck” and “Wu-Tang Clan Ain’t Nuthing to F’ Wit” are all tracks that still get used in movie and TV show soundtracks such as Netflix and Marvel’s “The Defenders” and “Luke Cage” series. RZA’s production is timeless, and the rhymes cut deep, even 20-plus years later.

The skits on tracks such as “Tearz” and ‘Protect Ya Neck” also shine a light on the environment the group comes from, which helps reach the audience. The skits show the

rough, gritty and dangerous life of trying to survive in Staten Island, where the rappers grew up in. For those who can’t understand the struggle the group went through in their lyrics, the skits truly set the scene and create a tone that keeps listeners intrigued. When you relate this album with their biopic series on Hulu, it truly creates a new dimension and respect for the group.

This album is so amazing because it accomplishes everything a rap fan can want in an album. It slaps, it’s gritty, has classic bars, and it’s a vibe. Even more, it’s vulnerable. From reading the stories and accounts of all members as well as watching the biopic, this album was it for all the artists involved. GZA and RZA had already tried and failed at the time of the album’s release, making a name for themselves as artists who were selling drugs and gangbanging to survive. This album was make-or-break for everyone involved, and you can hear that. The passion, effort and desperation make this arguably the most complete album in hip-hop history. This reason might also be why the group, despite still pushing out quality work as a collective, hasn’t been able to surpass this album since.

During the passing of Ol’ Dirty Bastard, this album was the last chance for everyone to make it out and the collective accomplished that.

Remove the legendary production RZA has continued to push out since this album, as well as the legendary solo albums such as “Liquid Swords,” “Only Built 4 Cuban Linx,” “Ironman” and “Uncontrolled Substance” only keep their debut. This album is the peak of rap and represents for so many people – an escape, an opportunity, passion and history.

“Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)” gets a Perfect 10.


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Sports

Just keep swimming

As the season closes, the UI swimmers get ready to go back to competition in time for upcoming championship

Sierra Pesnell
ARGONAUT

University of Idaho's swim and dive season closes with two dual meets before it competes at the Western Athletic Conference Championships in February. The season has posed many challenges for the Vandals, particularly with COVID-19 restrictions, but the team remains diligent on finishing strong.

Mark Sowa, head coach of UI swim, said the team's enthusiasm has spiked since picking up the season after a long break.

It's been over a month since the swim team's last meet, which was at Northern Arizona in early December. The upcoming meets will be against Washington State University on Jan. 29, in Pullman, WA, and Jan. 30 against Dixie State, at the UI Swim Center.

"We're really excited to race," Sowa said. "It's been too long. We were really pleased with our performances in November, so we're looking forward to getting up and racing."

The Vandals faced several barriers throughout the season because of COVID-19 restrictions. Team members had to quarantine, use separate locker rooms and stagger swim lanes, Sowa said. This contributed to a different kind of team bonding that wouldn't have happened during a normal season, like being able to warm up together in communal spaces.

"We definitely had to work around a lot of obstacles," freshman Ani Husaby said. "We've used up all of our resources to make practice as normal as possible."

Social distancing guidelines have stopped spectators from coming in-person to meets. However, beginning in November 2020, the Vandals began livestreaming their events. The Vandals utilized Facebook Live as a streaming

platform and received a strong turnout from fans. Sowa said they would continue the use of live streaming services to broadcast meets because of the accessibility for viewers.

The meets with WSU and Dixie State will be helpful to distinguish where swimmers are at in their events, especially after such a long time practicing, Sowa said.

"It's going to be nice to race again," Husaby said. "It's going to be a good jumping off point to see where we are at and where we need to go with the three weeks leading into conference after it."

Katie Hale, a junior swimmer for the Vandals, will be concluding her time with the team after this season. Hale reflected on her time swimming and what the future holds for her.

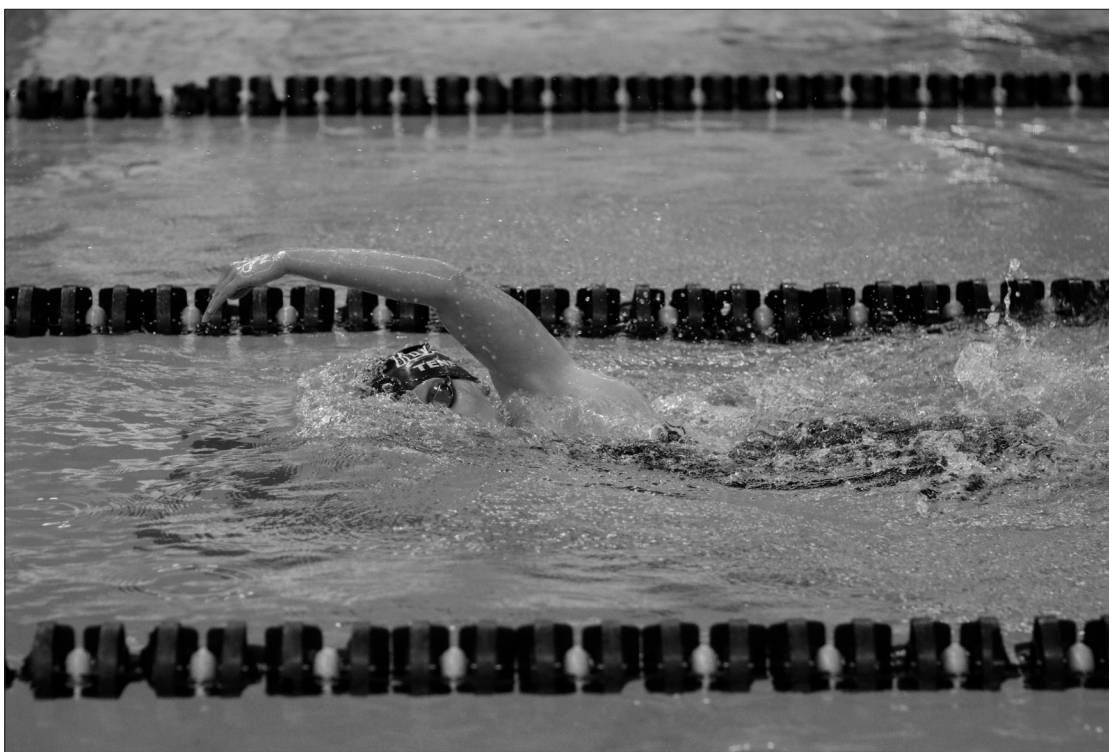
"My years at the University of Idaho have been nothing but a good experience," Hale said. "It has given me so many opportunities."

Hale and Husaby both said they are excited to finally be competing at the UI Swim Center this weekend.

After several weeks of traveling, the last home meet of the regular season will be this Saturday. The start time has yet to be announced. The WAC Championships will take place Feb. 17-20 in St. George, Utah, where the team will end their season.

"It's definitely a super exciting time," Hale said. "We're all trying to get into the zone and figure out our racing and get ready as a team to compete well."

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Saydee Brass | Argonaut

(Top) UI Swim Coach Mark Sowa gives a thumbs up to an athlete on Feb. 7, 2020 during the meet against New Mexico State at the UI Swim Center. (Bottom) Alexa Teneyck swims in an event during the meet against New Mexico State on Feb. 7, 2020 at the UI Swim Center

Ski prepped for racing

Despite many obstacles, UI Ski Club's first race of the season is officially set

Cody Roberts
ARGONAUT

Rather than another somber story of yet another sport canceled, this year the University of Idaho Ski Club races on through the pandemic. As their events are taking off soon, club leaders tell of the recent triumphs and what is to come.

Roan Willson, UI Ski Club president, said they recently pulled off the annual basic training camp for the club and are ready to begin racing.

In years past, Willson said, the UI Ski Club would typically be partnered with Washington State University to do their basic training, but because there are obstacles with large gatherings this year, the UI Ski Club stuck to itself.

This required having "all hands-on deck," Willson said. "I think because of it, we had some great participation."

The training usually lasts a week or longer, Willson said. Its purpose is to teach new skiers who have never competed before the logistics and technicalities of racing, as well as fine-tune the skills of more experienced racers.

"Every year ... the amount of improvement in our athletes is always impressive," Willson said.

Katie Fischer, the club's vice president, said basic training went well due to Willson's efforts. It could have been easy for Willson to call off the season due to COVID-19, Fischer said, but she made sure they would still be active.

As the basic training suggests, the club is not just made up of people with ample experience speeding down the slopes.

"We have people that have never raced before a day in their life," Willson said.

Of all the promising new members, Seth Bowen and Jenna Randolph are two Willson and Fischer spoke highly of.

Bowen is new to racing on skis, Willson said, but after basic training, his skiing "improved immensely."

Randolph, while new to the club, is more experienced



Courtesy of Katie Fischer

Athletes and volunteers of the 2021 UI ski club

and used to be on the ski club for the College of Idaho, so her new team is looking forward to seeing where she ends up, Fischer said.

Last year the ski club placed second in dual slalom, which is a timed race on a zig-zagging course, at regionals. Willson went on to compete in nationals.

The club is made up of five women and three men, and their first races for this year have been confirmed for Lookout Pass Ski Resort, MT, on Jan. 30 and 31 against College of Idaho and Rocky Mountain College.

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Weekly Workout

This pyramid ab blaster is one step closer to a stronger six-pack core

Anteia McCollum
ARGONAUT

Core is an important part of what keeps the body steady. A pyramid ab blaster is a good way to work out those tummy muscles and one step closer to a six-pack.

This workout doesn't need weights, though they can be added, and can be done anywhere, whether that is in a living room or outdoors.

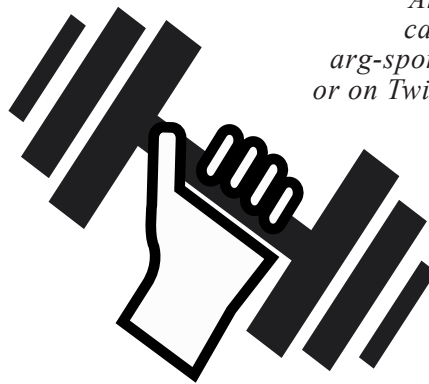
There are five exercises and each has their own amount of reps based on specific muscles. Do the whole block three times, with a short break between each set to stretch out muscles that are sure to be aching in the best way.

- 25 crunches
- 20 flutter kicks
- 15 bridges
- 20 leg raises
- 25 heel taps

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 repetitions 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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E-Sports rises up amid pandemic

Spring brings club many opportunities for competition and recruitment

Ryan Hill
ARGONAUT

The newly developed E-Sports club has had their struggles during the pandemic, but were still able to continue recruitment and lucked out as far as finding a new place to call home.

While the club would usually meet in the Palouse Mall at PlayLive, things changed because of the store’s limited hours after the pandemic began.

The E-Sports Club President Dylan Shepler said the club found another meeting spot in the ASUI Student Lounge, located in the Idaho Student Union Building.

“It was hard getting people to actually go to meetings because there was a slight cost,” Shepler said. “And the distance between here and PlayLive made it difficult for some people to actually get there.”

With the new meeting place on campus, it limits travel, and students living on campus don’t have to make the trek to the mall. The lounge in the ISUB is set up well enough they are still able to play their games similarly to how they would at PlayLive.

E-Sports is competitive gaming where a group masters a game and learns to work as a team in order to win gaming competitions. This can range from fighting games, like Super Smash Bros., to multiplayer team-based games, like Overwatch, League of Legends and Rainbow Six Siege.

Shepler said he is optimistic about putting together a good squad for the tournament since the club meetings are on campus now. But first, they need to train a team to be efficient at a game before they enter a tournament.

The E-Sports club had plans to enter competitions last semester, but that proved to be more difficult than they anticipated because of the difficulties the club has had engaging people.

Shepard said because they are a new club, they still need a good number of people to become skilled enough at playing a game to compete, but sometimes it can be difficult to get people engaged. However, they still welcome gamers to come and have fun.

Many clubs on campus have had trouble getting started after COVID-19. Clubs at University of Idaho are required to create their own protocols and safety measures, which have to be approved. The process can be tedious, yet it hasn’t been a major issue for the E-Sports Club.



Shepler said they were easily able to adapt the club to the new space and implement protocols such as social distancing, wearing masks and having those who are not playing games hang outside the meeting space until it’s their turn.

The Big Sky Conference has an E-Sports League and offers tournaments as competition. Shepler said he is hoping to enter one a few months down the road, but that’s if they are able to put a team together. He said they really are excited.

Hannah Marschell, a transfer student, is relatively new to the club, but is excited about what she can do there.

“I’m hoping to bring Among Us to the E-Sports Club,” Marschell said. “But I also want to try out Super Smash Bros. and other existing games.”

The E-Sports club meets Mondays and Fridays from 6-8 p.m. in the Vandal Lounge of the ISUB. For those who have questions or who want to join, they can email esports@uidaho.edu.

Ryan Hill
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arg-sports@uidaho.edu



Saydee Brass | Argonaut
(Top) Dylan Shepler and Hannah Marschell play video games in the ASUI Student Lounge on Jan. 22.
(Bottom) Hannah Marschell holds Nintendo Switch controllers while playing video games in the ASUI Student Lounge on Jan. 22

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A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a dark sweatshirt with the University of Idaho Vandal logo. He is looking off to the side.

EPIC
GEAR
EVERY DAY

Idaho starts slow, gains momentum

More digs, blocks prove effective after season opener against Portland State

Anteia McCollum
ARGONAUT

The University of Idaho volleyball team opened its season with back-to-back matches at Portland State University, losing Sunday’s season opener 2-3, before bouncing back on Monday 3-2 for the first win of the season.

UI Vandals (1-1, 0-0 BSC)

On Sunday, Idaho began its season opener lagging behind, allowing Portland State to take the first set, 25-21, with the defense overrun by the Vikings’ relentless offense.

The Vandals had a total of 49 kills on Sunday and 45 on Monday. Junior middle blocker Kennedy Warren led the Vandals offense in both matches with 26 total kills, followed close by senior outside hitter Avery Housley with 22 total kills.

The offense was pretty similar, statistically speaking, between the two matches. The big difference for the Vandals on Monday came with the elevated play of the defense.

Idaho totaled 11 blocks on Sunday, seven of which



Saydee Brass | Argonaut
Players celebrate after scoring in a match against Montana State University on Nov. 9, 2019

were made by redshirt freshman Bea Whitling, but the Vandals bumped that number up to 19 on Monday.

Redshirt junior middle blocker Nikki Ball, who only had three blocks on Sunday, came through with 10 block assists and one solo block in Monday’s win.

The biggest jump, however, came from the Vandals keeping the ball off the floor, jumping from 62 digs on Sunday to 82 in Monday’s win.

Whether the swing in defensive momentum was due to the change of libero from sophomore Alaina Lacey to junior Becca Owen or a change in the game plan is unclear, but Monday’s was the key determining factor in the win.

PSU Vikings (1-1, 0-0 BSC)

Portland State jumped right out of the gate with a strong offense in Sunday’s match, along with an active defense that gave Idaho headaches through the weekend.

The Vikings’ defense remained steady through opening weekend, with 82 digs for Sunday and 90 on Monday. Sophomore libero Ellie Snook led with 52 digs over both matches.

However, Monday’s assist total spoke to how much the tides turned because of the Vandals’ defense.

On Sunday, Portland State had 70 assists, but with the Idaho defense leading the way, the assists fell to just 54 on Monday.

The same can be said for the Vikings’ kills. They started the weekend by smashing down 73 total kills, with freshman outside hitter Gabby Hollins finishing with 23 kills in Sunday’s win.

Portland State’s offense in the second match wasn’t so successful, thanks in part to Idaho’s defense on the net and floor, being held to 54 kills.

The Vikings’ defense was solid throughout but their offense was just unable to finish the weekend out and pick up the sweep at home.

The Vandals return to Moscow for their home opener in Memorial Gym against Southern Utah on Jan. 31 at 2 p.m. and on Feb. 1 at 6 p.m.

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Opinion

Congress should not have neglected college students

College students deserve to be included in the stimulus bills, despite what Congress thinks

University of Idaho students were left out of each stimulus bill this past year, because of Congress’ fundamental misunderstanding of what it means to be a college student and claim as a dependent.

Semantics and legal mumbo jumbo aside, Congress ultimately decided to exclude adult dependents and college students from receiving direct stimulus checks. For reasons that escape our understanding, it can be theorized this was to deliberately spend less money. But at what cost?

UI students deeply understand the financial struggles of maintaining adequate academia, social standards, physical and mental health and a part-time job. The verbiage of it all adds to the consistent societal neglect of our strife. Properly phrased, we are just students who work part-time jobs. Why would we need stimulus—we aren’t adults, right?

Making the assumption that most college students go to an in-state, four-year, public university, they pay an average \$21,216 a year for tuition and various fees, according to educationdata.org, \$84,864 to obtain the coveted degree. In the worst-case scenario, a student who received no financial assistance and is paying for their college entirely would have to work a full-time job at \$10 an hour to

just break even. That is not possible.

This analysis and realization reveal a variety of fundamental issues. Those aside, it is clear we are not dependent. Financial assistance

from our parents does not negate the insurmountable totality of college expenses. Those who can’t manage to work their way through their degree will leave college with a

debt balance of \$29,800, according to CNBC.

When COVID-19 first surged, many college students were left out of work despite a growing list of bills to pay. It was clear, Congress and the current administration were not interested in recognizing those problems.

This purposeful exclusion is un-American at

best and inhumane at worst.

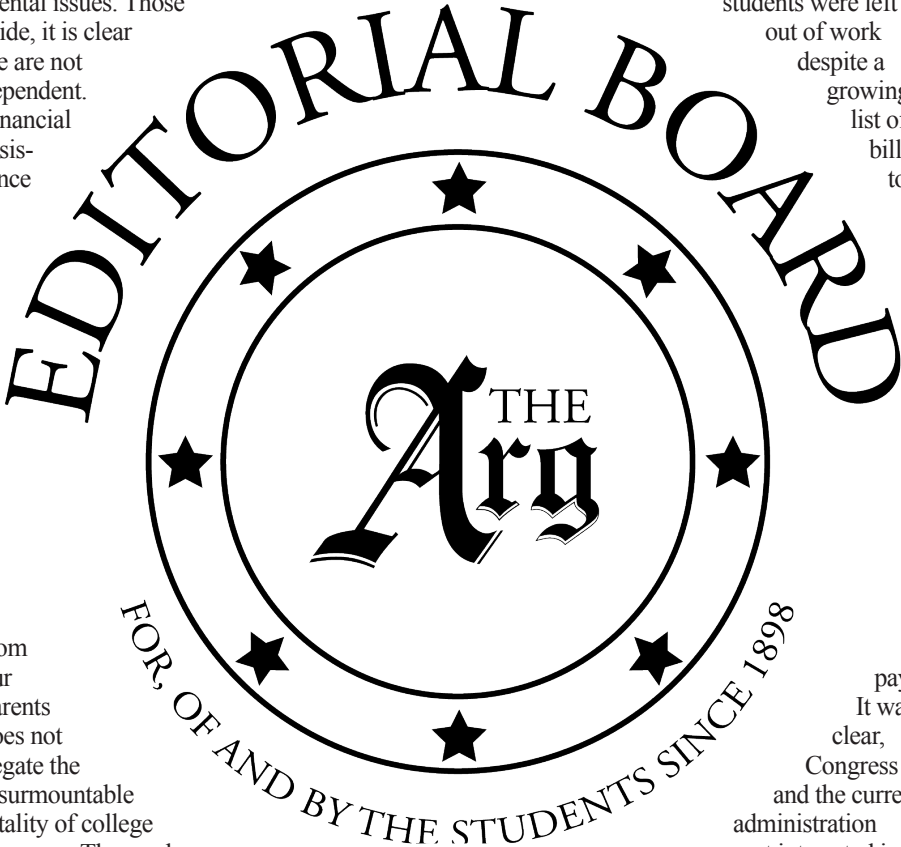
Fortunately, there are steps UI and other college students can take this year to receive the money they rightfully deserve. The Recovery Rebate Credit will disperse the original \$1200 and \$600 funds to those who did not receive it. To do so, when filing 2020 taxes either electronically or physically, there will be a worksheet in Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR that will work out how much funding you can receive.

Furthermore, Biden’s administration has put forward a proposed \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill that includes \$1400 direct payments to independents and adult dependents, among various other benefits.

Though there is a light at the end of the tunnel and newfound hope for us UI students, the damage has already been done. It has been 10 months since we were sent home. At its worst, that’s 10 months without a job for some students. That very thought, concept and reality is sickening and stifling to the core.

We can only hope that future efforts will heal the scar left in our community, in all college communities. We can only hope Congress realizes college students are more than just dependents, we are human and we suffer just the same.

The Editorial Board can be reached at arg-opinion@uidaho.edu



Politics on campus

University of Idaho students differ politically but manage to make campus feel like home

The University of Idaho’s political field ranges greatly on campus, making an incredibly diverse yet often confusing atmosphere.

Moscow is an oddity in more ways than one. It’s an unusually small college town, especially for a state school. It’s tightly located to another state and major college campus. But what stands out the most is it’s political standing—being a small blue dot in a bright red state.

Notably, UI is located in one of the few blue Idaho counties and the second most liberal Idaho city. This is most likely a result of being so close to another two college campuses and it’s

location on the border. However, one may find that growing up in Moscow or attending UI creates a very strange, yet unique political spectrum.

UI stands out for this factor, grouping thousands of students of all ages and backgrounds together. Despite bringing in hundreds of students from out of state and abroad, a large group comes from small Idaho towns, bringing in a viewpoint wildly different than those from Idaho’s cities.

Due to the election and the tumultuous year we’ve experienced, this multitude of differing opinions can often cause friction. Although classes have been online this semester, political differences are often very clearly arising through discussion posts, break out rooms and work situations. I am currently living in a sorority with fifty other people and, these differences have shown through especially in the last few weeks,

sometimes making certain topics or discussions difficult, or taboo. Many people choose to not talk about it, finding it uncomfortable, especially in living situations.

Politics have become more apparent than ever in the past year, even in campus life, as multiple tables for Pro-Life or Turning Point USA conflict with Pro-Choice and Democratic events. Despite all of our differences, UI students have managed to be thoughtful of one another. The political discourse among peers has been consistently cordial, and for that, I’m extremely grateful.

Coming to UI as an out-of-state student, I was greatly surprised and relieved to find such a welcoming and open-minded campus.

I applaud the UI for being accommodating towards all it’s members, allowing both faculty and students to grow and learn from each other.

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Dani Moore
ARGONAUT

We don’t have Vandal Pride

Our disconnected campus and unsure students show a lack of school patriotism

The Vandal Pride we desperately miss is more of a pipe dream than a distant reality. Our disconnected campus has never perpetuated pride to be a Vandal.

Like most of you, I have been eagerly awaiting the return of football, basketball, Greek events, university events and so on and so forth. I have spent most of my days these past two semesters in my room, staring at a screen, reminiscing of times previous. If only I knew how good I had it in my first year, fall semester.

I lived in the dorms back then. 11th floor of the Theophilus Tower. I had a pretty good view, pretty good friends and did some pretty cool stuff. I have lived in Theta Chi for a year now and I can say the same. Pretty good view, pretty good friends and doing some pretty cool stuff. But is that what being a Vandal is about?

If someone asked me, “what do you like about being a Vandal?” I simply wouldn’t know what to say. I would mutter something related to Greek life, probably. First-year, I would’ve muttered something related to the residence halls. And I’m sure that when I move off campus, I will mutter something related to apartment life.

We are kidding ourselves if we truly think every student goes to the football game with the same purpose—to celebrate our team. Even during all our university events, like Homecoming, the students feel grouped and cliqued. We are not there as Vandals. We’re there as

Greek members, dorm kids, or off-campus students.

I know it wasn’t always this way. Hearing alumni rave about their college years offers some bittersweet jealousy. They don’t rave about the group of students they were a part of, they rave about being a Vandal. I can only imagine what I’m missing out on.

What is the first step to mending this lost way of life? It is a total mindset change. How do you convince Greek members to hang out with residence hall students? How do you convince off-campus students to be on-campus? I truly don’t know.

We need something to rally behind, something that unites us under a common goal. Sure, if we had a football team like WSU, maybe this would be less of a problem. Maybe if we were in a bigger city, this wouldn’t be a problem. Maybe this will always be a problem.

It is something to keep in mind going forward. Think of your freshmen self. Unsure and wary of the world. Nervous with every step you took. Unwilling to branch out. Life at college is daunting at best—it’s only worse when the entire student body is disconnected. How do you make friends when you notice that half of the student body doesn’t acknowledge the other half?

This will not be an overnight change. Or a “next year” kind of thing. This probably won’t come into effect for several years. We’re here now and I’m going to do everything I can to mend those gaps. I hope everyone does the same.

I hope I look back at my time as a Vandal with pride. Right now, I’m not sure I will.

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COVID-19 stays until it doesn't

We're in this together, no matter the season

Will life be more normal in the spring? Or will we never return to life pre-COVID-19?

We've all lived in COVID-19 land for about a year now. Most of us have probably gotten used to the new normal: wearing masks, social distancing and washing or sanitizing our hands.

We will probably follow basic protocols for months or even years still. However, businesses are starting to stay open later and relax their policies. According to the New York Times, despite scientists saying we need to continue wearing masks and social distancing at least until midsummer, we are starting to become comfortable.

It's not what we want to hear, but we need to know the realities that face us.

I've taken daily walks around downtown Moscow to observe the everyday life our citizens. I see people with and without masks walking up and down the sidewalks. I see people enjoying their own company or the company of others.

The businesses around Moscow advertise "required masks" or nothing at all.

People get to choose their preferred mode like we're living in a relaxed version of the apocalypse.

I think life will still look like for the next coming months. Hopefully by late spring, we won't have to stand in lines reaching out the doors because we need to stay six feet away from each other.

Maybe we won't have to wear masks as often.

Either way, we should all go outside and enjoy more than just the sunshine. We should enjoy the rainy, cloudy and windy days. Winter has dampened our spirits and with COVID-19 looming in the shadows. We all need to spend time outdoors in nature or around town, safely with friends and family.

We've learned a lot from COVID-19, but most importantly we've learned how to be stronger together though apart.

You can believe whatever you want about life returning to normal. I believe life will never be the same. COVID-19 changed the world. For better or for worse, we're in this together, however long it takes.

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far from the only environmental issue to rear its head over the past four years. We have seen harmful changes to the framework of some of our fundamental environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

Our public lands were abused and neglected by the previous administration. An Executive Order in 2017 led to two Utah national monuments being slashed in size. Closer to home, Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument was also under review for downsizing. It narrowly escaped the process unscathed.

More than 70% of Idaho land is public and 22 species are protected as threatened or endangered. The games the last administration played with environmental laws had a disproportionate impact on the Western states—we felt the change personally when those laws were degraded.

It will take time to restore these laws in the court system and more time to watch them take effect. Unlike a Diet Coke button or an insurrectionist Twitter account, much of the damage from the last administration cannot be undone overnight. Healing and rebuilding will take time and action.

The President of the United States of America has set things in motion to restore Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah to their previous size. He has put a stop to one ruthless land-grab by oil companies. He has recommitted joining nations across the globe in working to slow climate change.

For today, we have the Paris Agreement. Tomorrow, we get to work on the rest.

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The Paris Agreement is just the beginning

Biden's early administrative efforts propose a promising future for the U.S.

Within hours of his inauguration, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to bring the United States of America back into the Paris Climate Agreement. I'm feeling optimistic.

In 30 days, we will once again be a part of the international agreement to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change.

I know the Paris Agreement is the bare minimum. Its goal of keeping our planet from warming to 34.7 F above pre-industrial levels would not be enough to avoid serious climate catastrophes around the world.

I know it's likely to happen despite our efforts. I know our country is not on track to meet its goals of reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. Yet, I feel comforted knowing we have made this bare minimum commitment. We're moving in the right direction again. Science is back, baby.

Of course, we have to back up this commitment to climate action. Biden has already started putting the final nail in the coffin for the Keystone XL pipeline project that would have cut through hundreds of miles of Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska. Canceling the pipeline reflects a turn in the tide for the North American fossil fuel industry.

This was also apparent in the failed sale of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve. Major banks and oil companies refused to purchase leases to drill the priceless sanctuary for polar bears, caribou, wolves and more.

Through public policy and private corporate action, we are on our way to disinvesting from fossil fuels and committing to meeting our climate goals.

On the other hand, climate change is

We've entered a new era of trading

The catastrophics rise of certain stocks introduces a new era of trading

For what seems like the first time ever, the fate of the stock market rests in our hands—the people.

Over the past week, hopeful investors have coordinated mass purchasing of certain dying companies' stocks. GameStop, AMC Theatres and Nokia grace the top of the list. Consequently, investors have made up to 700% in returns. To put that into perspective, that is a heck of a lot of money.

The semantics of how stocks, options, calls, put options and shorts work aside—this is an unprecedented event. Average everyday people have successfully made hedge-fund billionaires lose millions and millions of dollars. Some companies even went bankrupt. All because a bunch of kids on Reddit thought it would be funny to dump their life savings into GameStop.

They were right, it was hilarious. That is the beauty of the previous day's events. We operate under a free market; we have always had the ability to do this. Now that we have done it once, who knows how many more times we can do it again. How many more times can we outsmart—no—work around the market? The possibilities are endless when we work together.

The theory is achieving financial freedom. As college students, that sounds pretty nice if you ask me. All of us at the University of Idaho probably fit into the general guidelines for stock trading: 18 years or older and have a bank account. I am telling you that you can be a part of this financial surge too.

But should you be?

All this excitement and potential should come with a strict warning. The stock market is more than just a fun money game. It's a cat and mouse game that can easily end in drastic losses.

Sure, you can put all your money into AMC Theatres on a whim and hope for the best. You can wake up the next morning to tripled profits. You can wake up to \$0.

I'm not trying to dismay you from participating in all the fun. But don't do it because some guy on TikTok told you AMC is going to the moon. The reality is it probably won't.

Instead, learn from this worldly event. There is truth to the whole thing. Having a good investment portfolio is a key step to financial freedom. It probably won't happen overnight, but it certainly won't happen if you don't try at all.

If you are genuinely interested, talk to a licensed professional. There are people there whose main job is to tell you what stock to buy. I'm not one of those people.

If we all manage to learn how the market works, how to coordinate between us and what stocks are worthwhile, we can perpetuate this trend. What happened this week would surely happen again. And again. And again.

We have the power to influence the stock market. We have always had that power but we're just now realizing it. Now, we should focus on mastery. But don't take it from me—I am not a professional. I'm just a kid who likes to see the rich lose a lot of money.

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9th Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium

Trump, the Media and the Path Forward

David Folkenflik
Media correspondent, NPR

Thursday, February 4, 2021
4 p.m. PT
Via Zoom: <http://uidaho.edu/op21>



Based in New York City, Folkenflik has reported for NPR since 2004. His stories and analyses are broadcast on the network's news-magazines, including *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition* and *Here & Now*. Folkenflik's reports illuminate the figures who shape journalism and the tec-

tonic shifts affecting the news industry. He has reported on the relationship between the press, politicians and the public.

The Oppenheimer Ethics Symposium is organized annually by the U of I School of Journalism and Mass Media in the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. The event is supported by a gift from alumni Douglas F. Oppenheimer, president, and Arthur F. "Skip" Oppenheimer, chairman of the board, of the Boise-based Oppenheimer Companies.

