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IDAHO · MAGIC VALLEY · NATION

Feeding the Beast Brief

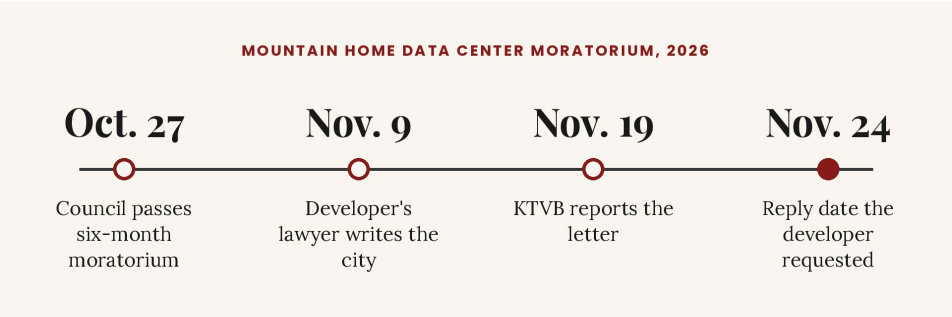
Daily news on power, land, data and liberty in Idaho

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2026 JEFFAPIERSON.COM 24 STORIES

DATA CENTERS LOCAL

Mountain Home data center developer says moratorium may be void

A lawyer for Weitz & Co. says the city may have skipped required steps and wants an answer by Tuesday, Nov. 24.



Dates in the dispute over Mountain Home's data center moratorium, from the Oct. 27 vote to the Nov. 24 reply date. CHART: FEEDING THE BEAST BRIEF, FROM DATES REPORTED BY KTVB AND CBS2

MOUNTAIN HOME: The landowner behind a four-building data center plan says Mountain Home's emergency ban on data centers may be void. It wants an answer by Tuesday, Nov. 24.

William L. Ghiorso, a Salem, Ore., lawyer for Weitz & Co. Inc., sent a Nov. 9 letter to Mayor Rich Sykes and the City Council. KTVB got it through a records request and reported it Nov. 19.

The council passed the six-month moratorium unanimously Oct. 27, a day after Sykes told developer Dan Weitz his plans left at City Hall were not a formal application. The ban covers accepting applications and issuing permits, CBS2 reported.

Ghiorso says the council added the moratorium to the agenda after the meeting began without the emergency declaration the Open Meeting Law requires. If the record lacks those steps, he writes, the ban is void. He says the firm knows of no written finding of imminent peril. Idaho Code 67-6523 requires one and caps an emergency moratorium at 182 days.

The letter also argues the statute, which speaks of a moratorium on issuing permits, gives a city no power to refuse applications. He wrote that the moratorium "was not adopted in compliance with Idaho law."

Ghiorso says uses such as storage and offices are already allowed in the light industrial zone, and city code does not define a data center. Each building would use about 125,000 gallons of city water to fill a closed-loop cooling system, the letter says. KTVB found no total in the letter or the plans.

Weitz proposes amending the 2020 annexation agreement to allow data centers, with public infrastructure financed by a special taxing district. He may request a regulatory taking analysis. Idaho Code 67-8003 gives a city 42 days to provide one and makes its action voidable without it. City attorney Geoff Schroeder said the city had no comment on the letter.

Keywords: Mountain Home, data center moratorium, Weitz & Co., Bennett Ranch, Open Meeting Law
Sources: KTVB via Yahoo News · Idaho Code 67-6523 · CBS2 Idaho News · Idaho Code 67-8003

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CORRECTIONS

None today. To report an error, reply to the morning email.

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"The conclusion which I am warranted in drawing from these observations is, that a mere demarcation on parchment of the constitutional limits of the several departments, is not a sufficient guard against those encroachments which lead to a tyrannical concentration of all the powers of government in the same hands."

James Madison, Federalist No. 48, Feb. 1, 1788

Source: Avalon Project, Yale Law School

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DATES TO WATCH

Nov. 24 IPUC: PAC-E-25-14 and RUL-U-26-03, decision meeting at 1:30 p.m. on a comment period for a Rocky Mountain Power cost allocation settlement and Green Recursive Utility Service's rulemaking petition.

Nov. 24 Last day for the State Board of Canvassers to meet and canvass the Nov. 3 general election results, 21 days after the vote under Idaho law.

Nov. 24 Developer Dan Weitz asked Mountain Home to respond by this date to his lawyer's letter saying the city's data center moratorium was not legally adopted.

Nov. 25 IPUC: IPC-E-26-07, staff and intervenor testimony is due in Idaho Power's cost of service and large-load case.

Nov. 30 CAISO: EDAM congestion revenue allocation, written comments are due.

Nov. 30 Health and Welfare plans to submit a year-two budget for the $183 million federal rural health grant.

Dec. 1 U.S. Supreme Court hears Jouppi v. Alaska, No. 25-246, an Excessive Fines Clause challenge to the forfeiture of a $95,000 airplane.

Dec. 3 The Legislature meets in Boise for its organizational session, set by Idaho Code 67-404a for the first Thursday of December in election years.

Dec. 4 IPUC: IPC-E-26-21, comments are due on Idaho Power's $154 million sale of its Oregon service territory.

Dec. 7 FERC: ER27-506-000, comments are due by 5 p.m. Eastern on CAISO's large-load tariff compliance filing.

Dec. 9 FERC: PF26-15-000, Silver Spur scoping meeting, 5 to 8 p.m. at Magic Valley High School, 512 Main Ave. N., Twin Falls. The notice calls it Mountain Valley. Comments are due Dec. 14.

Dec. 9 CAISO: Board of Governors and WEM Governing Body joint meeting, online. The time is tentative until a notice one week ahead.

Dec. 14 IPUC: IPC-E-26-07, public comments are due on Idaho Power's cost of service and large-load study.

Dec. 16 IPUC: INT-G-26-09, comments are due on Intermountain Gas's bid to defer temporary LNG costs.

Dec. 16 FERC: ER27-532-000, comments are due on CAISO's resubmitted large-load tariff amendment, 5 p.m. Eastern.

Dec. 16 Comments close at 11:59 p.m. Eastern on the Park Service plan to allow hunting in Craters of the Moon, RIN 1024-AF13.

Dec. 18 IPUC: IPC-E-26-23, comments are due on Idaho Power's revised depreciation rates, about $32.3 million a year more in expense.

Jan. 1 Idaho plans to start Medicaid expansion work requirements, unless the state takes the federal delay to June 30.

TOP STORIES

IDAHO POWER · IDAHO

Idaho Power cost case draws 128 comments as testimony comes due

The PUC posted 128 public comments in four days. Staff and intervenors file testimony Wednesday on who pays for growth driven by large loads.

BOISE: Idaho Power drew a wave of public comment last week in the case that will set how the utility divides its costs among customer classes. The Idaho Public Utilities Commission posted 128 written comments to the case from Nov. 17 to 20, its records show.

The case, IPC-E-26-07, also asks the commission to decide what new large customers such as data centers should pay. Data centers come up by name in 51 of those comments. Micron comes up in 13.

Many ask the three commissioners to make new large customers carry the full cost of the plants and lines built to serve them. One commenter wrote, "Pay their fair share and not a penny less." Before last week, the docket held one batch of public comments, posted Oct. 13.

Commission staff and the intervenors must file their testimony and proposals by Wednesday, Nov. 25, under Order No. 37170, page 2. The intervenors include Micron, the Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association, the City of Boise and the Industrial Customers of Idaho Power.

Idaho Power filed the case March 31. Its petition, page 24, says a customer already pays up front for delivery facilities built only for it, so those costs stay out of rate base. Page 25 says a customer needing more than 20 megawatts must sign a special contract, and each such customer is treated as its own rate class.

A 2026 state law, Idaho Code 61-335, bars a utility from serving a new load of 50 megawatts or more without a commission-approved contract and a no-harm test of the effect on existing customers' rates. It covers contracts signed on or after July 1.

Public comments stay open through Dec. 14. The technical hearing opens Jan. 19 in Boise and may run through Jan. 21.

Keywords: Idaho Power, IPC-E-26-07, cost of service, data centers, public comments

Sources: Idaho PUC case page, IPC-E-26-07 · Public comments filed Nov. 17 · Public comments filed Nov. 18 · Public comments filed Nov. 19 · Public comments filed Nov. 20 · Idaho PUC Order No. 37170 (schedule) · Idaho Power petition, IPC-E-26-07 · Idaho Code 61-335

STATE BUDGET · IDAHO

Idaho revenue runs $82.5 million ahead as budget co-chair eyes raises

A legislative report projects a $688.3 million general fund balance next June. JFAC's co-chair puts state worker pay first.

BOISE: Idaho's general fund collections are running $82.5 million ahead of forecast four months into the fiscal year, and the state now projects a $688.3 million cash balance when the year ends June 30, a Legislative Services Office report shows.

The office's October Budget Monitor, dated Nov. 16, puts collections from July through October at $1,816.5 million. That is $130.6 million, or 7.7%, more than at the same point last year, page 1 says.

October alone came in $7.7 million, or 1.9%, below forecast, page 2 shows. Sales tax ran $5.0 million short for the month, and individual income tax ran $3.8 million short. Strong withholding in August and September keeps income tax

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TOP STORIES *continued*

Idaho revenue runs $82.5 million ahead as ..., continued

ahead for the year, the report says.

The projected balance is $539.5 million larger than the $148.8 million lawmakers expected when they adjourned April 2, according to the table on page 1. Of the projected balance, $258.0 million is cash left over from last year and $291.1 million comes from a higher August revenue forecast.

Lawmakers set this year's general fund budget at $5,621.8 million, 0.04% less than the year before, page 1 says. In the 2026 session they cut budgets for almost all agencies to cover the cost of federal tax changes, the Idaho Capital Sun reported.

"Things are looking positive," said Sen. Scott Grow, R-Eagle, co-chair of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee. Grow told the Capital Sun that some may want to undo last session's cuts when revenue looks stronger. He said he does not expect the Legislature to reverse all of them.

His first priority is a raise for Idaho's more than 20,000 state employees, who got none this year. He also wants to prefund the state's wildfire suppression account and put more money into highway upkeep.

The committee writes the fiscal 2028 budget after the 2027 session opens Jan. 11.

Keywords: state budget, general fund revenue, Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, Scott Grow, state employee pay
Sources: Legislative Services Office, FY 2027 General Fund Budget Monitor, October results · Idaho Capital Sun

PIPELINE IDAHO

FERC takes comment on 88-mile gas pipeline into Twin Falls County

Northwest Pipeline's Silver Spur project would carry eminent domain power if approved. A Twin Falls session is Dec. 9 and comments are due Dec. 14.

TWIN FALLS: Federal regulators will hear from the public in Twin Falls on Dec. 9 about a planned gas pipeline of about 88 miles from Nevada into Twin Falls County. If the project is approved, the company could use eminent domain against landowners who do not reach an easement agreement.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission opened environmental scoping for Northwest Pipeline LLC's Silver Spur Project in a notice published Nov. 18 in the Federal Register. Comments must reach FERC by 5 p.m. Eastern time Dec. 14 in docket PF26-15-000.

The plan calls for about 88 miles of new 24-inch pipe from the existing Ruby Pipeline in Elko County, Nev., into Twin Falls County, page 74154 of the notice says. It would add about 275,000 dekatherms of firm capacity to bring gas from Opal, Wyo., to delivery points in Idaho.

A new 4,700-horsepower Jackpot Compressor Station would go up in Twin Falls County. A new 15,900-horsepower unit would be added at the existing Buhl Compressor Station.

The notice tells landowners that a company representative may contact them about easements. They are under no obligation to sign. If FERC approves the project, the Natural Gas Act gives the company the right of eminent domain, page 74153 says. Without an agreement, the company could go to court to condemn the land, and a judge would set compensation under state law. FERC has no jurisdiction over condemnation cases, the notice says.

The acreage is unknown because routes are still being refined, the notice says. Northwest has yet to file a formal application, and the notice gives no cost estimate.

The Twin Falls session runs from 5 to 8 p.m. Mountain time at Magic Valley High School, 512 Main Ave. N. The federal notice names it Mountain Valley High School. A session in Wells, Nev., is set for Dec. 8. Company representatives will be on hand to answer questions.

Keywords: Silver Spur Project, Northwest Pipeline, eminent domain, Twin Falls County, FERC
Sources: Federal Register, FERC notice, Docket PF26-15-000 (91 FR 74153) · FERC event page, Twin Falls scoping session, PF26-15-000 · Idaho Commission for Libraries directory, Magic Valley High School (Alt.)

THE BROKEN DICTIONARY

Scoping *noun*

The stage of a federal pipeline review at which landowners are asked where they would prefer the pipe to go, a courtesy extended before it goes there anyway.

Used in a sentence: "Your participation is entirely voluntary," an imaginary federal facilitator assured the room, "as, for the moment, is the easement."

See also Eminent Domain: the right to buy something from a man who has declined to sell it.

Suggested entry for Jeff's edit. Not found in the existing volumes. Source story

IDAHO LEGISLATURE

On the front page: Idaho revenue runs $82.5 million ahead as budget co-chair eyes raises

DID YOU KNOW The Glenns Ferry Formation at Hagerman Fossil Beds holds one of the world's richest Pliocene fossil deposits.

DID YOU KNOW Nearly 250,000 California-bound emigrants passed through City of Rocks from 1843 to 1882.

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IDAHO LEGISLATURE *continued*

LAWMAKER PAY IDAHO

Citizens panel freezes lawmaker pay at $25,000 for a year

The committee voted 5-1 to hold base pay flat, then raise it to $26,685 in December 2027. Every legislator gets a $6,000 allowance.



The east steps of the Idaho Capitol in Boise, photographed in 2019. A citizens committee meeting in the Capitol voted 5-1 on Nov. 19 to hold lawmakers' base pay at $25,000 for a year.
TAMANOECONOMICO / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

BOISE: Idaho legislators will keep earning $25,000 a year in base pay until Dec. 1, 2027, after a citizens committee voted 5-1 Thursday to hold their pay flat for a year, the Idaho Capital Sun reported.

Base pay then rises about 6.7%, to $26,685, for the second year of the two-year pay period. The Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation met at 4:30 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Capitol's Room WW55, its agenda shows. The agenda called for setting pay and expenses for the two years starting Dec. 1, 2026.

House Speaker Mike Moyle, R-Star, had asked the panel to raise base pay to $26,685 starting this Dec. 1. Committee members Tom Harris and Bryan Mooney noted that state employees got no raise this year.

"I think it sends the right message if they didn't get a raise," Mooney said.

The panel also set a flat $6,000 constituent services allowance for every legislator. Most lawmakers had received $2,500 a year, and members from large districts got up to $5,300.

The committee last raised pay in 2024, from $19,913 to $25,000, its Nov. 6, 2024, minutes show. The state's more than 20,000 employees have had no raise since 2025. Lawmakers cut agency budgets in the 2026 session to cover federal tax changes. Moyle told the committee the Legislature will raise state employee pay next year.

Lawmakers cannot set their own pay under Article III, Section 23 of the Idaho Constitution. The six committee members are citizens who hold no paid public office. The governor appoints three and the Idaho Supreme Court appoints three, the Capital Sun reported.

The 2027 session opens Jan. 11. The House and Senate can still reject or reduce the new rates by concurrent resolution before the session's 25th legislative day, Section 23 says. If they reject them, the prior rates stay in effect.

Keywords: legislator pay, Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation, Mike Moyle, state employees, Idaho Constitution
Sources: Idaho Capital Sun · Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation agenda, Nov. 19, 2026 · Idaho Constitution, Article III, Section 23 · Committee page, Idaho Legislature · Citizens' Committee on Legislative Compensation minutes, Nov. 6, 2024

PROPERTY RIGHTS IDAHO

Freedom Foundation wants limits on HOA boards and zoning changes

Ronald Nate's essay asks lawmakers to protect backyard chickens and widen the 2026 accessory dwelling law.

BOISE: The Idaho Freedom Foundation wants the 2027 Legislature to rein in homeowners associations and local permit rules, President Ronald M. Nate wrote in a Nov. 19 essay.

Nate says Idaho law should spell out what HOA boards may do and the process for doing it. He cites boards that try to limit how many guests an owner may host. The group has been alerted many times to abuse of HOA board authority, he writes.

He calls for clear protection for keeping chickens and other small livestock at home, including from HOA bans. He also says Senate Bill 1354, which protects homeowners' right to build accessory dwelling units, still limits the types and number it protects. That bill passed the Senate 25-10 and the House 47-23, and Gov. Brad Little signed it March 31, the Legislature's bill page shows.

Nate says local governments should face limits on changing zoning rules once owners have come to rely on them. He also wants owners notified, and their consent sought, before government spraying programs reach their land.

The group's agenda also calls for phasing out property taxes by holding state and local spending growth to inflation plus population, a plan it restated Nov. 18.

The session opens Jan. 11, and Nate's essay names no lawmaker sponsoring the HOA or zoning changes.

Keywords: Idaho Freedom Foundation, property rights, homeowners associations, accessory dwelling units, zoning
Sources: Idaho Freedom Foundation · Idaho Legislature, Senate Bill 1354 (2026) · Idaho Freedom Foundation, property tax essay

TAXES IDAHO

Tips and overtime break drops Idaho to 13th in tax ranking

The Tax Foundation says copying federal deductions cost Idaho revenue without much growth. HB 559's fiscal note puts its cost at $175 million this year.

BOISE: Idaho fell four places, from ninth to 13th, in the Tax Foundation's 2027 State Tax Competitiveness Index, mostly because lawmakers adopted the federal deductions for tips and overtime, the foundation says.

The state dropped eight places on the index's individual income tax measure, to 25th, the foundation's Idaho page says. It says matching those temporary deductions costs Idaho a lot of revenue without producing much economic growth.

The deductions came in House Bill 559, the annual bill that ties Idaho's income tax code to federal law. The House passed it 59-9 on Feb. 3, and the Senate passed it 28-7 on Feb. 6, the Legislature's bill page shows.

The bill matches Idaho to nearly all of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Its fiscal note estimates the whole bill cuts state general revenue by $155 million in fiscal 2026 and $175 million in fiscal 2027.

Mountain States Policy Center flagged the drop in a Nov. 16 post. It put the cost at about $155 million this fiscal year, though the fiscal note puts fiscal 2027 at $175 million.

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IDAHO LEGISLATURE *continued*

Tips and overtime break drops Idaho to 13th ..., continued

Idaho still ranks first on property taxes and eighth on sales taxes, according to the foundation. The 2027 index scores tax law in effect July 1, 2026.

Lawmakers return Jan. 11. HB 559, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2025, was the 2026 session's conformity bill.

Keywords: Tax Foundation, House Bill 559, tax conformity, Mountain States Policy Center, income tax
Sources: Tax Foundation, 2027 Idaho tax rankings · Idaho Legislature, House Bill 559 (2026) · House Bill 559 statement of purpose and fiscal note · Mountain States Policy Center

IDAHO

RURAL HEALTH IDAHO

Rural hospitals passed over for grants say need lost out

Idaho got $3 million less for year two of the federal rural health program. The health director who ran year one leaves in about a week.

BOISE: Leaders of small rural hospitals that missed out on Idaho's first round of federal rural health grants said Thursday that polished applications seemed to beat genuine need, the Idaho Capital Sun reported.

Brad Huerta, CEO of Lost Rivers Medical Center in Arco, said the perception among eastern Idaho hospitals was that "grants that were written pretty got funded." He said many cannot afford a grant writer.

Idaho awarded nearly $186 million in the program's first year. More than $103.5 million went to hospitals and clinics for infrastructure and equipment. Federal officials awarded Idaho nearly $183 million for year two, about $3 million less.

Health and Welfare Director Juliet Charron told the Rural Health Transformation Committee the department still does not know why the award shrank. The state must send federal officials a revised budget by Nov. 30, both the Capital Sun and the Idaho Press reported.

Rep. Josh Tanner, R-Eagle, questioned some first-year awards, saying state money already pays for chronic disease and cancer work, the Idaho Press reported. He asked whether the governor's office steered awards. Charron said department experts alone scored the applications.

Charron has just over a week left before she resigns, and no successor has been named, the Press reported. She said the agency plans a simpler online portal and hopes to preview second-year awards in January.

Keywords: Rural Health Transformation Program, Juliet Charron, Josh Tanner, rural hospitals, Department of Health and Welfare
Sources: Idaho Capital Sun · Idaho Press · Rural Health Transformation Committee agenda, Nov. 19, 2026

MEDICAID IDAHO

Idaho has not decided whether to delay Medicaid work rules

Federal regulators offered states a hold until June 30. Idaho has planned a Jan. 1 start for about 82,500 people on Medicaid expansion.

BOISE: Idaho health officials have not decided whether to take a six-month federal delay of Medicaid work requirements set to begin here Jan. 1, the Idaho Capital Sun reported Friday.

On Nov. 13 the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services offered states an optional six-month hold on enforcing the rules, through June 30, 2027, KFF reported. "We just found this out on Friday," AJ McWhorter, spokesman for the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, told the Capital Sun.

The federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act requires adults on Medicaid expansion to prove at least 80 hours a month of work, community service, schooling or job training.

About 82,500 Idahoans are enrolled in Medicaid expansion, the state says. In July, state officials said their first review found 68,400 of them already met the rules. An Urban Institute and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation analysis estimated 20,000 to 34,000 Idahoans could lose expansion coverage by 2028 under the federal changes.

Idaho has already passed up one federal grace period on the policy. This summer the agency said it would not give enrollees with disabilities a year before they must prove their condition keeps them from complying, the Capital Sun reported.

States that want the hold must tell CMS by Dec. 11, and the department has not said when it will decide.

Keywords: Medicaid expansion, work requirements, Department of Health and Welfare, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, One Big Beautiful Bill Act
Sources: Idaho Capital Sun · KFF

WATER IDAHO

Aquifer recharge may run 100,000 acre-feet below average this winter

With no flood releases expected from upper Snake reservoirs, the board will rely on Magic Valley irrigation partners for all its recharge water.

BOISE: The Idaho Water Resource Board may put about 145,000 acre-feet of water into the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer this winter, its staff estimated. That is roughly 100,000 acre-feet below the board's 15-year average of 245,514 acre-feet.

The board gave the estimate in a Nov. 16 release. Matt Anders, who supervises the board's planning and projects section, made the estimate. With no surplus flood-control releases expected from the Upper Snake reservoir system, Magic Valley irrigation partners must supply all the recharge flows, the board said.

Recharge diversions totaled 550 cubic feet per second in the week before the release. North Side Canal Co. carried about 450 cfs of that. Twin Falls Canal Co. moved 51 cfs, and the Southwest Irrigation District moved 46.

The board also approved three low-interest loans. Last Chance Canal Co. got $420,000 to repair and replace parts of its canal infrastructure, at 5.5% over 10 years. Drainage District No. 6 got $385,074 on the same terms to rebuild a pump station that drains about 5,500 acres of farmland in the Kootenai River Valley.

The board approved a $500,000 increase North Side Canal Co. requested on an

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IDAHO *continued*

Aquifer recharge may run 100,000 acre-feet ..., continued

existing $5 million loan for its $7 million canal rehabilitation. That loan carries 4.38% interest. The release gave no vote counts.

Keywords: Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, managed recharge, Idaho Water Resource Board, North Side Canal Co., water loans
Sources: Idaho Water Resource Board release, Nov. 16, 2026

MAGIC VALLEY

WATER LOCAL

Bedke warns of thin water carryover, says Oakley reservoir is empty

The lieutenant governor told Twin Falls business leaders he hopes lawmakers keep paying for water infrastructure.



Shoshone Falls on the Snake River near Twin Falls, photographed in 2018. Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke told business leaders in Twin Falls on Nov. 19 that southern Idaho heads into winter with little stored water. FRANK SCHULENBURG / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

TWIN FALLS: "Oakley is empty," Lt. Gov. Scott Bedke told Magic Valley business leaders Thursday, Nov. 19, as he warned that southern Idaho heads into winter with little stored water.

Bedke spoke at the Business Plus annual meeting in Twin Falls, Idaho News 6 reported. He said most farmers made it through the irrigation season with cutbacks, and there is little carryover for next year. He said the region is leaning on Mother Nature.

Asked whether lawmakers would respond to the drought, Bedke said he did not know what they would do. He said he hopes they keep funding water infrastructure so the state can store more water when it comes and use it efficiently. He named no dollar figure.

Business Plus Executive Director Rebecca Wildman said gaps in water supply and wastewater capacity limit economic growth in the farm-based Magic Valley. Twin Falls City Manager Travis Rothweiler said Idaho's moratorium on new water rights changes how the city acquires water and pushes it toward efficiency.

Bedke took part in the 2024 negotiations to preserve the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, the station noted.

Keywords: Scott Bedke, drought, Oakley Reservoir, Business Plus, water infrastructure
Sources: Idaho News 6

TAXES LOCAL

Ketchum cuts $1.4 million after voters reject local option tax hike

Burying power lines and parking management come off the city's preliminary 2027 budget list after the local option tax measure failed.

KETCHUM: Ketchum has cut about $1.4 million in projects and services after voters turned down a higher local option tax in November, KMVT reported.

The measure would have raised the tax on lodging by 2%. Retail sales and building materials would each have gone up 0.5%. The city expected the increase to bring in about $2 million a year for streets and sidewalks.

At its Nov. 12 meeting, the City Council told staff to pull several items from the preliminary 2027 budget list. They include burying power lines and parking management, along with technology upgrades and fire suppression at Ore Wagon.

"You'll see a difference in some service levels for sure," said Daniel Hansen, the city's director of community engagement. He said the cuts help build reserves against lower revenue.

The existing local option tax brings in about $3.9 million a year and eases the load on property owners. Hansen said visitors pay about 82.3% of it.

That tax runs through December 2027. The city said the question could go back to voters that fall, with the size of any increase still undecided.

Keywords: Ketchum, local option tax, budget cuts, property tax, Blaine County
Sources: KMVT

HYPERSCALE AND DATA CENTERS

On the front page: Mountain Home data center developer says moratorium may be void

DID YOU KNOW

Nez Perce National Historical Park is made up of 38 sites in four states.

Source: National Park Service

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"The protection of these faculties is the first object of government."

James Madison, Federalist No. 10, New York Packet, Nov. 23, 1787. The faculties are those from which the rights of property originate.

Source: Avalon Project, Yale Law School

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HYPERSCALE AND DATA CENTERS *continued*

DATA CENTERS IDAHO

Fulcher says data centers must bring own power and recycle water

Idaho's 1st District congressman told town hall callers that local governments should make the final call.

BOISE: U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher says he has no interest in a data center proposal that fails to bring its own power and recycle its own water. The Idaho Republican took questions on the subject during a telephone town hall Wednesday, Nov. 18, the Idaho Press reported.

Several callers pressed him on data centers, which have drawn moratoriums in Idaho and across the country. Fulcher, who sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, said the sentiment he hears there is that a project should come with its own power supply.

He said data centers cannot take up the region's power and raise rates for everyone else by forcing utilities to build more generation. Recycling water costs a lot, he said, and belongs in a project's first design. Of projects that do neither, he said, "I'm not interested in their proposal."

Fulcher called it his personal position. He said local governments should be the final decision makers on data center limits.

Mountain Home adopted a six-month emergency moratorium on data center applications and permits Oct. 27, CBS2 reported. The Legislature this year passed House Bill 895 to limit water use for cooling certain data centers. The Idaho Press said the law pushes future projects toward closed-loop cooling.

Fulcher won a fifth two-year term in November.

Keywords: Russ Fulcher, data centers, ratepayers, local control, water recycling
Sources: Idaho Press · CBS2 Idaho News · Idaho Legislature, House Bill 895 (2026)

TAX BREAKS NATIONAL

Texas Senate finance chair files bill to end data center tax break

Huffman says the comptroller puts the break's cost at about $3.3 billion over the next two years. Idaho's own break has no end date.

AUSTIN, Texas: The chair of the Texas Senate Finance Committee filed a bill to repeal the state's sales tax exemption for data centers. She cites a comptroller estimate of about $3.3 billion in lost revenue over the next two years.

Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, filed Senate Bill 293 on Nov. 9. It would end existing exemptions on its effective date and deny pending applications. Community Impact reported Nov. 20 that 23 senators and senators-elect back it.

"Texas should welcome investment. It should not write a blank check," Huffman said in a release. She said the break cost about $14.6 million in its first two-year budget after its 2013 creation.

Rep. Cody Vasut, R-Angleton, also filed a repeal bill. "I would be shocked if that sales tax exemption survives the legislative session," he said, Community Impact reported.

Tax experts at the Nov. 19 meeting of the Texas Taxpayers and Research Association argued the break yields big returns. A study by the group found a qualifying $10 billion, 250-megawatt data center would bring roughly $130 million in property and franchise tax revenue.

Idaho's exemption, Idaho Code 63-3622VV, has covered server equipment and new buildings for data centers since July 1, 2020. A business must pledge $250 million within five years and 30 new jobs. It has no end date. The Texas session opens Jan. 12.

Keywords: data center tax exemption, Texas Legislature, Joan Huffman, Idaho Code 63-3622VV, sales tax
Sources: Sen. Joan Huffman news release, Nov. 9, 2026 (PDF) · Community Impact · Idaho Code 63-3622VV

REGULATORS: IPUC, FERC, DEQ

On the front page: Idaho Power cost case draws 128 comments as testimony comes due

DATA CENTERS IDAHO

Texas firm asks PUC to adopt its data center measuring standard

The petition is on the commission's Tuesday agenda. State law gives the commission 28 days to grant or deny it.

BOISE: A Texas company that performs data center audits wants the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to make its measuring method the state rule for large power users.

Green Recursive Utility Service LLC of Weatherford, Texas, filed the petition Oct. 29, a commission legal memo says. The petition itself is dated Oct. 30. It asks the commission to adopt its standard, GRUS-STD-60084, as the way to state how much power and water a new large load uses (petition pages 1 and 2).

The petition, case RUL-U-26-03, is listed for deliberation at the commission's Tuesday decision meeting. Idaho Code 67-5230 gives it 28 days to grant or deny the petition, Deputy Attorney General Chris Burdin wrote in a Nov. 17 memo.

The firm cites Idaho Code 61-335, the 2026 law requiring a commission-approved contract and a no-harm test before a utility serves a new load of 50 megawatts or more. It says the law sets no method for measuring the numbers behind those findings (page 3).

It also says the method would give Idaho Power's pending cost case, IPC-E-26-07, figures in one checkable form (page 3).

Green Recursive says the standard is in the public domain and the rule would impose no fee (pages 1 and 4). Its stake, by its own account, is that it publishes the standard and performs audits under it.

A denial would be final agency action, the petition notes (page 2).

Keywords: Idaho PUC, large load, data centers, Idaho Code 61-335, rulemaking petition
Sources: Idaho PUC memo and petition, RUL-U-26-03 · Idaho PUC Nov. 24 agenda · Idaho Code 61-335

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REGULATORS: IPUC, FERC, DEQ *continued*

ROOFTOP POWER IDAHO

PUC staff says Idaho Power's plug-in solar cap is too tight

Idaho Power would cap easy-signup plug-in solar kits at 400 watts with no batteries. Staff wants 880 watts and small batteries allowed.

BOISE: Idaho Power wants to let residential and small business customers register small plug-in solar kits without the full hookup review. Its proposal caps those kits at 400 watts and bars batteries.

Idaho Public Utilities Commission staff says that is too tight. In comments filed Nov. 19 in case IPC-E-26-27, staff asked the commission to allow small batteries behind the inverter (page 3). It also asked for an 880-watt limit, about the size of two panels (page 6).

Most kits now on the market exceed 400 watts and would not qualify, staff wrote (page 6). It said an 880-watt kit would draw under 7.5 amps on a 15-amp household circuit, while a hair dryer draws about 12.5 amps (page 7). At least eight states allow 1,200 watts, and Colorado allows 1,920, staff found.

Idaho Power based its limit on emerging safety codes, other states' rules, industry opinion and the products for sale (page 5). Staff called that position "too conservative." Smart inverters, already required, cut a kit off when the grid goes dead, which protects line crews, staff wrote (page 6).

The company told staff a battery would need extra review and gave no reason, according to the comments (page 5).

Registered kits would earn nothing for power sent back to the grid. Owners who want export credits must use the existing full application (pages 2 and 8).

Of 29 public comments filed by noon Nov. 19, staff counted 28 with identical prewritten text sent through KnowWho on behalf of people tied to the Sierra Club. They ask for 1,200 watts (page 11).

Idaho Power's reply is due Dec. 3 under Order No. 37204. The company asked for a decision by Dec. 31.

Keywords: Idaho Power, IPC-E-26-27, plug-in solar, Idaho PUC, Schedule 68
Sources: Idaho PUC staff comments, IPC-E-26-27 · Idaho PUC Order No. 37204 · Idaho PUC case page, IPC-E-26-27

NATURAL GAS IDAHO

Intermountain Gas seeks to defer $2.5 million in winter LNG costs

A highway district sped up removal of a bridge carrying a gas line in northwest Boise. Comments on who covers the stopgap are due Dec. 16.

BOISE: Intermountain Gas Co. is running temporary liquefied natural gas facilities this winter after losing a supply line on a northwest Boise bridge, and it wants to recover the cost from customers later.

The Idaho Public Utilities Commission set a Dec. 16 deadline for public comments on the request Nov. 19, Order No. 37237 shows. The company's reply is due Dec. 23.

The Ada County Highway District found a wooden bridge carrying a company gas line unsafe and sped up its removal. The district required gas service through that line to stop Oct. 14, the company says, according to the order (page 1).

Intermountain plans a new line bored under the Boise River and a wildlife preserve, in service around March 2027 (page 2).

A third-party estimate puts the stopgap at about $4.4 million. About $2.5 million is non-gas cost the company wants to defer and seek later with carrying charges. The other $1.9 million, for the gas itself, would pass through the yearly purchased gas cost adjustment (page 2). The deferral would let the company ask later to put the $2.5 million into customer rates.

The estimate covers Oct. 26 through Jan. 29 and leaves out traffic control and extra fuel. The company says the figures may change. It asked for an order by Dec. 31 in case INT-G-26-09.

Keywords: Intermountain Gas, INT-G-26-09, liquefied natural gas, Ada County Highway District, Idaho PUC
Sources: Idaho PUC Order No. 37237

NUCLEAR AND SMR

NUCLEAR WASTE IDAHO

Idaho cleanup crews build tool to ready used fuel for shipment out

The work ties to the 1995 settlement. About 64% of shipments to the federal transuranic waste repository came from Idaho from 2024 to 2026.

IDAHO FALLS: Crews at the Idaho National Laboratory Site have built a first-of-its-kind tool for lifting canisters of used nuclear fuel, a step toward shipping the fuel out of Idaho, the Energy Department said Nov. 17.

In the Road Ready Demonstration Project, crews will move fuel from the site's Irradiated Fuel Storage Facility into Energy Department canisters. The tool connects to loaded canisters, which weigh as much as 6,000 pounds, so the facility crane can move them into protective assemblies.

The project is meant to meet the 1995 Idaho Settlement Agreement, which calls for used fuel to leave Idaho for permanent disposal. The packages will sit on a concrete pad onsite until a disposal path is available, the department said. Crews also recovered more than 200 feet of rail inside the Cold War-era storage facility to move packages of up to 120 tons to a pad to be built nearby.

The same settlement requires that 55% of transuranic waste shipments to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant come from Idaho on a three-year running average. About 64% did from 2024 to 2026, the department said Nov. 10.

More than 17,000 contact-handled waste containers remain at the site, along with roughly 1,000 remote-handled containers. Crews have identified more than 13,000 as certifiable for future shipment.

Kerry Oltmanns of contractor Idaho Environmental Coalition said "completing the handling tool fabrication is essential" to the job. The department gave no date for the first fuel shipment.

Keywords: Idaho Settlement Agreement, used nuclear fuel, Idaho Cleanup Project, transuranic waste, Idaho National Laboratory
Sources: U.S. Energy Department, Office of Environmental Management (Nov. 17) · U.S. Energy Department, Office of Environmental Management (Nov. 10)

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GRID, RENEWABLES AND TRANSMISSION

On the front page: FERC takes comment on 88-mile gas pipeline into Twin Falls County

TRANSMISSION IDAHO

PUC staff backs Avista's $30 million line by Lake Coeur d'Alene

Staff calls the 13-mile line part of the least-cost fix for strained feeders. Nine of 11 public comments opposed it.

COEUR D'ALENE: Avista should get permission to build a 13-mile, 115-kilovolt power line on the east side of Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Public Utilities Commission staff said in comments filed Nov. 17.

Staff put the line's cost at about $30 million (page 3). It is part of a $73 million package that adds a new Carlin Bay substation and upgrades the O'Gara substation (page 5). Avista's other option, converting both feeders and their two substations to 25 kilovolts, would cost $108.9 million, staff wrote.

Avista says both feeders serving the area are at capacity. A Jan. 13, 2024, cold snap overloaded a lake crossing cable and melted a fuse (page 4). Avista told staff the area lacks natural gas service, so electric heat is the only practical option.

Nine of the 11 comments filed by the Nov. 17 deadline opposed the line. Two backed it (page 7). Seven cited scenic views and property values. One feared losing land through eminent domain.

One commenter suspects data center demand is behind the line. Staff made no finding on that.

Avista seeks no rate change in case AVU-E-26-10, and staff will review the actual cost for prudence when the company asks to recover it (page 6).

Avista, in Nov. 19 reply comments, called this its first such certificate request since 2012. Staff wrote that Avista asked for an order by Dec. 1.

Keywords: Avista, AVU-E-26-10, Carlin Bay, transmission line, eminent domain
Sources: Idaho PUC staff comments, AVU-E-26-10 · Avista reply comments · Idaho PUC case page, AVU-E-26-10

PERMITTING NATIONAL

Crapo, Risch vote yes as Senate passes permitting bill 62-33

The House acts next on a bill that sets permitting deadlines and bars shifting data center grid costs to other customers.

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Senate passed a broad rewrite of federal energy permitting law 62-33 late Thursday, Nov. 19, with both of Idaho's senators voting yes.

The Senate roll call, vote 270 at 9:30 p.m., lists Republican Sens. Mike Crapo and Jim Risch among the yeas. The Senate used H.R. 2347, a House bill, as the vehicle.

Utility Dive reported that 47 Republicans and 15 members of the Democratic caucus backed the measure, the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act of 2026. Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., voted no and said the bill was "stuffed with giveaways to data centers and industry at the expense of farmers."

Risch said the package carries two of his measures. One would require annual geothermal lease sales and set timelines for geothermal permit applications. The other is meant to let critical mineral production continue in the West.

The text the Senate passed, posted by the Government Publishing Office, says environmental assessments generally must be finished within one year and environmental impact statements within two. Court claims that an environmental review was done wrong would face a 150-day filing limit.

It also amends the Federal Power Act so that no part of the added cost of serving a data center may be charged to other customers. That cost includes generation and grid service tied to the site.

"Unnecessary and outdated regulations have created significant barriers to modernizing Idaho's infrastructure," Risch said in a statement. The Mountain States Policy Center urged Congress on Nov. 10 to pass the bill quickly.

The House acts next. Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, set to become speaker in January, has said the bill "falls short in several areas." A bill that fails to clear both chambers before this Congress ends in early January must start over.

Keywords: permitting reform, U.S. Senate, Mike Crapo, Jim Risch, data center costs
Sources: U.S. Senate roll call vote 270, H.R. 2347 · U.S. Senate roll call vote 270 (XML) · U.S. Senate roll call vote 268, cloture · H.R. 2347, Senate engrossed amendment (GPO) · Utility Dive · Sen. Jim Risch press release · HNGN · Mountain States Policy Center · Bloomberg Government (subscription)

ON THIS DATE

Nov. 23, 1805

William Clark marked his name and the date on an alder tree, and Meriwether Lewis branded his on another. The men cut the first letters of their names into trees around camp. That evening seven Clatsop visitors brought two sea otter skins. Clark offered one of them his watch and a dollar in American coin, and the man turned them down and asked for blue beads.

Source: Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, University of Nebraska

IDAHO IN PICTURES



TAMANOECONOMICO / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

Downtown Boise's skyline is shown in 2019. The city says Boise has more than 190 miles of trails.

Source: City of Boise

KNOW YOUR CONSTITUTION

Article I, Section 11, Idaho Constitution (closing sentences)

"No law shall impose licensure, registration or special taxation on the ownership or possession of firearms or ammunition. Nor shall any law permit the confiscation of firearms, except those actually used in the commission of a felony."

These sentences of Idaho's right to keep and bear arms section bar gun registration laws and allow confiscation only of firearms used in a felony.

Source: Idaho Legislature

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PUBLIC LANDS

PUBLIC LANDS IDAHO

Park Service proposes hunting inside original Craters of the Moon

Hunters would be limited to short-range weapons, and the monument's north end would stay closed. Comments are due Dec. 16.



Lava at Craters of the Moon National Monument in Idaho, photographed in June 2014. A Park Service rule proposed Nov. 16 would open hunting inside the original monument. DOUG KERR / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 2.0

ARCO: Hunting would open inside the original Craters of the Moon National Monument, where the National Park Service now bans it, under a proposed rule open for comment through Dec. 16.

The proposal, published Nov. 16 in the Federal Register, carries out a Sept. 17 executive order from President Donald Trump that gave the Interior Department 90 days to allow hunting at Craters and at Castle Mountains National Monument in California.

Federal and Idaho law would govern hunting there, under limits written with Idaho Fish and Game. Hunters could use only short-range weapons, defined to match Idaho law. Modern centerfire rifles would be barred because the open lava has few natural backstops, page 73491 says.

Park Service land north and northwest of Highway 20/93 would stay closed. That area covers about 5,000 acres and holds the park's water system.

Hunting is already allowed in the Craters of the Moon National Preserve and on the monument's Bureau of Land Management ground.

The Park Service expects minor economic effects and a small rise in enforcement costs. It said non-hunting visitors could bear some costs from noise. It cut the comment period to 30 days from the usual 60.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a release that "conservation and access go hand in hand." Comments go to regulations.gov under RIN 1024-AF13.

Keywords: Craters of the Moon, hunting, National Park Service, Executive Order 14429, public land access
Sources: Federal Register, NPS proposed rule (91 FR 73488) · U.S. Interior Department release · Idaho Press

SURVEILLANCE AND ALPR

PLATE READERS NATIONAL

Arizona town bans license plate readers on a 5-2 vote

Fountain Hills writes a permanent ban on plate readers and their data into town law. Idaho cities still argue over their own cameras.



A Flock Safety license plate reader in Kearney, Nebraska, photographed in April 2025. Fountain Hills, Ariz., voted 5-2 on Nov. 17 to bar such readers, Flock cameras among them. TONY WEBSTER / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY 2.0

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz.: Fountain Hills, Ariz., has permanently barred itself from buying, leasing, running or hosting automatic license plate readers after a 5-2 town council vote Nov. 17.

The ordinance covers Flock Safety cameras and similar vehicle identification gear. It also bars the town from buying plate-reader data or search services. The town has no Flock cameras running, so the vote makes that status permanent, AZFamily reported in a story KOLD also ran.

Mayor Gerry Friedel, Vice Mayor Rick Watts and council members Allen Skillicorn, Gayle Earle and Hannah Larrabee voted yes. Brenda Kalivianakis and Peggy McMahon voted no.

"This is the gold standard," said Skillicorn, who wrote the ordinance.

The report gave no position from local police. Arizona's attorney general is reviewing how police departments use Flock and similar systems, AZFamily reported. Tempe, Flagstaff, Surprise and Sierra Vista are among Arizona cities that ended Flock contracts this year.

Idaho Code 49-1432, added in 2025, lets cities and other agencies use the readers for police work and traffic studies. It limits who may see the data and bars uses outside law enforcement. It sets no time limit on keeping the data. The Idaho Freedom Foundation reported the law came from Senate Bill 1180.

In Pocatello, Councilmember Hayden Paulsen is pursuing a ballot initiative to remove that city's cameras, East Idaho News reported in October.

Keywords: license plate readers, Flock Safety, Fountain Hills, Idaho Code 49-1432, surveillance
Sources: KOLD · AZFamily · Idaho Freedom Foundation · East Idaho News, Pocatello town hall

THEY SAID IT *"Things are looking positive"* **Sen. Scott Grow, R-Eagle, co-chair of the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee, on state revenue, as reported by the Idaho Capital Sun**

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LIBERTY

VOTER ROLLS IDAHO

Idaho backs federal citizenship checks of voter rolls on appeal

Labrador signs a states' brief asking the D.C. Circuit to restore Social Security data checks a judge ruled broke privacy and administrative law.

BOISE: Idaho has joined other states asking a federal appeals court to revive changes that let election officials check voters' citizenship against Social Security records, Attorney General Raúl Labrador's office said Nov. 18.

The states filed a friend-of-the-court brief in League of Women Voters v. Department of Homeland Security, now before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The release did not say how many states signed.

The dispute turns on SAVE, the federal Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements program. In 2025 it began searching Social Security Administration records and accepting names in batches. A federal district court threw out both changes in June, finding they broke federal privacy and administrative law. The federal government appealed.

The U.S. Supreme Court paused that ruling Sept. 25 while the appeal proceeds, its docket shows.

The states argue they have the constitutional authority and legal duty to make sure only eligible citizens vote, and that federal law allows the data sharing.

Idaho law requires the secretary of state to compare voter records with federal citizenship data. Using that data, the office flagged 745 Idaho registrations in 2024 for review, Labrador wrote in a Nov. 20 letter. After individual reviews, 34 went to Idaho State Police and 15 to the U.S. Justice Department for possible prosecution, his office says. Secretary of State Phil McGrane told the Idaho Capital Sun in October 2024 that a first review flagged 700 possible noncitizens, and 36 were very likely noncitizens being removed. Neither the release nor the letter says whether anyone was charged.

Labrador wrote that states learn only whether citizenship is confirmed and never receive Social Security records. "Only American citizens should vote in American elections," he said in the release.

The League of Women Voters, which brought the suit, won the lower court ruling. The release gives no date for arguments.

Keywords: Raúl Labrador, SAVE program, voter rolls, D.C. Circuit, League of Women Voters
Sources: Idaho Attorney General news release, Nov. 18, 2026 · Labrador Letter, Nov. 20, 2026 · U.S. Supreme Court docket 26A308 (stay) · Idaho Capital Sun via Lewiston Tribune, Oct. 19, 2024

FORFEITURE NATIONAL

Justices hear Alaska pilot's fight to keep his plane Dec. 1

A bootlegging case over beer bound for a dry village tests how courts measure excessive fines when the state seizes property.



The U.S. Supreme Court building, photographed in June 2024. The justices hear Alaska pilot Ken Jouppi's fight to keep his seized plane on Dec. 1. 顾园居 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

WASHINGTON: A bush pilot's fight to keep the airplane Alaska seized over beer bound for a dry village reaches the U.S. Supreme Court on Dec. 1.

Ken Jouppi, a Fairbanks air taxi operator, planned to fly to Beaver, a dry town in Alaska's Interior, in 2012. A state trooper saw a six-pack in the baggage. A search found three cases of beer meant for the postmaster, the Alaska Beacon reported.

Jouppi was convicted of bootlegging and sentenced to three days in jail and a fine. The trial judge refused the state's bid for his plane, and the state appealed. In 2025 the Alaska Supreme Court ruled the seizure was not an excessive fine, reasoning that alcohol does such harm in rural Alaska that severe punishment is in proportion.

At issue is the Eighth Amendment's Excessive Fines Clause. One reading weighs the crime in the abstract. The other weighs what the defendant did.

Jouppi's lawyers at the Institute for Justice argue for the second reading. Attorney Mike Greenberg said judges should evaluate "what the person before them did." Jouppi's side says he knew of only one six-pack. Alaska says judgments about punishment belong first to the legislature.

The U.S. solicitor general will also argue, and Florida and other states filed a brief. Jouppi's petition values the plane at $95,000. The case is No. 25-246.

Keywords: civil forfeiture, Excessive Fines Clause, Jouppi v. Alaska, Institute for Justice, Supreme Court
Sources: U.S. Supreme Court docket No. 25-246 · Question presented, No. 25-246 · SCOTUSblog case file · Alaska Public Media

DID YOU KNOW

Craters of the Moon was named an International Dark Sky Park in 2017.

Source: National Park Service

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor"

George Washington, Thanksgiving Proclamation, Oct. 3, 1789

Source: National Archives

PLAIN ENGLISH

Intervenor

A person or group allowed to join an Idaho Public Utilities Commission case it did not start. It must file a petition showing a direct and substantial interest in the outcome. In cases involving a utility with more than $3.5 million a year in Idaho revenue, intervenors may ask to have some costs paid.

Source: Idaho PUC Rules of Procedure, IDAPA 31.01.01, Rules 36, 71 and 161

ON THIS DATE

Nov. 23, 1863

About 14,000 Union troops under Gen. George H. Thomas marched on Orchard Knob outside Chattanooga, Tenn. Only 634 Confederates held the hill, and they fell back to Missionary Ridge. Two days later Gen. Ulysses S. Grant used the knob to watch the Union assault on the ridge.

Source: National Park Service

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THE WIRE

Links that did not make the cut today

CAISO FILES LARGE-LOAD TARIFF CHANGES AT FERC, COMMENTS DUE DEC. 7

IDAHO AND MAGIC VALLEY

North Side Canal crews spray new lining on Milner mainline [Idaho News 6]

Idaho water delegation pitches $50 million a year drought program in D.C. [Local News 8]

Bannock ambulance levy hike waits on a dispatch money deal [Idaho State Journal]

Buhl schools plan May levy after $1.25 million request fails [KMVT]

Health and Welfare asks for a 13% raise for disability caregivers [Idaho Capital Sun]

Governor's panel floats lottery money for college athletics [Office of the Governor]

Two lawmakers plan a bill to treat fast e-motos as motorcycles [Idaho Capital Sun]

Caldwell council rejects 373-lot Legacy Farms annexation, 4-2 [Idaho Press]

Idaho jobless rate edges up to 3.7% in October [KMVT]

POWER, DATA AND LAND

PUC weighs comment period on Rocky Mountain Power cost-sharing deal [Idaho PUC]

Bannock County data center pause runs to Jan. 26 with no draft rules yet [Bannock County]

Rapid River hatchery closes to visitors Nov. 30 through February 2029 [Idaho Fish and Game]

BLM sells $1 Christmas tree permits for Idaho land through Dec. 23 [BLM]

Utah bills would lift nuclear waste limits for a proposed Tooele campus [Idaho Capital Sun (Utah News Dispatch)]

FERC staff says Western day-ahead markets may trim costs this winter [Utility Dive]

BPA ends fiscal 2026 with $460 million net revenue, $49 million short [BPA]

DEQ takes comment to Dec. 27 on dropping wells at Bruneau waste site [Idaho DEQ]

St. Louis group seeks 2027 vote to bar 30-megawatt data centers [GovTech]

NATION, COURTS AND LIBERTY

Trump order tells contractors to clear replies to Congress first [AP via East Idaho News]

Groups urge Congress to keep spy law renewal out of must-pass bills [EFF]

Newsom asks lawmakers for power to shut down dangerous AI models [GovTech]

Lakeland trustees cure open meeting violation over group text [Idaho Education News]

Pocatello pays $1.5 million of $4.5 million police shooting settlement [Idaho State Journal]

Pocatello council bans retail sale of kratom inside city limits [Idaho News 6]

Lawsuit targets SNAP soda and candy limits in Idaho and 17 other states [Idaho Capital Sun (States Newsroom)]

Ten Commandments classroom petitions likely go to justices Dec. 11 [SCOTUSblog]

SonicWall tells owners of older firewalls to replace them now [The Hacker News]

About this brief. How stories are chosen: each must touch Idaho or set a precedent that will reach it, put law, rates, land, water, rights or money at stake, be new, and have a source anyone can read free. Stories carry their sources. Links marked (subscription) may be paywalled.

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