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## Idaho Falls Police Station, A 'Long Time Coming', is Now Underway

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IS PUBLISHED BY

DEL Communications Inc.  
Suite 300, 6 Roslyn Road  
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**COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF**

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Publications mail agreement #40934510

Return undeliverable addresses to:

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# MESSAGE FROM THE IDAHO AGC CEO WAYNE HAMMON



Welcome to the latest edition of *Building Idaho*. All of us here at the Idaho AGC hope that you had a great summer and are heading into a profitable fall. The changing seasons remind us what a blessing it is to work in an industry that affords us the opportunity to be outdoors, working with both our minds and our hands, and building the future of our great state.

As you will explore in the following pages, it has been a busy season here at the Idaho AGC. Among the articles in this issue, you will find why we are excited to announce a new chapter in our ongoing workforce development efforts and other updates from around the state.

Fall is also the time when we gear up for the next session of the Idaho Legislature. There will be many new faces when the elected officials arrive in Boise this winter. We've spent the summer and fall reaching out to them, getting to know them better, helping them understand the state's construction industry, and building bridges that will strengthen our relationship with them for years to come.

We are also marking each passing day as that much closer to our largest event of the year: the 88th Annual Awards Gala. Once again, Colin Cloud will be our special

guest. His one-of-a-kind performance is guaranteed to amaze you and your guests. You will not want to miss this. For the past three years, the Gala has been sold out on November 1, and we anticipate repeating this trend. Don't get left out of this priceless networking opportunity – purchase your tickets today on the Idaho AGC's website.

Finally, I hope you will allow me just a few minutes of personal reflection.

First, this past August marked the 10th anniversary of my joining the Idaho AGC team. The past decade has been a whirlwind full of challenges, opportunities, and change. I'm proud of what we have accomplished together and am even more excited about what lies ahead. To borrow an old metaphor: we've spent the last ten years fine-tuning the engine; now it's time to hit the road and see what's under the hood.

Second, in December one of my mentors will be leaving the AGC family. After more than 43 years of faithful service, Utah AGC President Rich Thorn is retiring. All of us who have had the pleasure of working with Rich will miss him. He's been a constant influence on the work we've done here in Idaho and a guiding star for me as I've learned to navigate the industry. Congratulations to Rich on completing a mission with honor and good luck to our partners at the Utah AGC as they start a new chapter. ●

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# Where Compassion Spreads Like Wildfire

By Cindy Chan

PHOTOS COURTESY OF LEAP PHOTOGRAPHY.

**T**he Wildland Firefighter Foundation's (WFF) brand new headquarters allows the families of deceased wildland firefighters to grieve, remember, and rebuild.

According to Burk Minor, executive director of the WFF, the Foundation started in 1994 out of the death of 14 firefighters in Colorado. The group officially formed in spring 1999 when the board members realized there was a need to provide services for the families of fallen firefighters.

Ryan Rodriguez and Gabe Martinez, owners of FORM Northwest Contracting, as well as the general contractor on the project, are longtime supporters and friends of the cause. Rodriguez first heard of the WFF when he moved into a neighborhood and befriended a woman across the street that turned out to be

Burk Minor's mother, Vicki. After a year or two, Vicki approached Rodriguez and asked if he was a contractor.

"She handed me a single-page architectural rendering of a building by the airport," Rodriguez recalls. "Before you know it, we're in full plan development."

Construction – which occurred in two phases – officially began in 2020 and wrapped up in May 2022. Shortly after the completion, the headquarters had a grand opening ceremony, as well as their annual family day, which was the first one in the new building.

The pre-existing building used to be a restaurant chain, and then an office building. Rodriguez and his team had gutted the building down to just the structure and opened it up.

"We added a wildland lookout tower on one side of the existing building," Rodriguez says. Phase 1 of the project also

saw the construction of a memorial space, kitchen, and office spaces. "We wanted to showcase natural elements while maintaining a modern, minimalistic design.

"We needed as much wall space as we could generate; it was going to be a memorial with pictures of everybody that has lost their lives in wildland fires," Rodriguez explains. "It's tricky because the memorial grows every year. With some planning and spatial design, we were able to build a memorial that feels full right now, but allows for more room in the years to come."

Minor says there is a nine-and-a-half-foot tall bronze firefighter statue in the water feature area, which is dedicated to the founder and former executive director of the WFF, which happens to be his mother Vicki, who ran the foundation for 30 years.



“As you move through, you’ll see the walls of honor where all the fallen firefighters’ photos are hanging,” Minor says. “There are also eight different interpretive stations available for the public to learn about wildfires.”

Phase 2 of the project consists of 5,000 square feet of space on a single level, an 1,800-square-foot mezzanine, and a second lookout tower. Minor’s office is located in the second story of the tower. This portion includes more administration offices, conference rooms, bathrooms, and a merchandising area that sells T-shirts to raise money. Some of the larger walls are covered with eye-catching murals of fire events. There is exposed timber framing and beam construction throughout, a custom Pulaski chandelier designed and fabricated by FORM Northwest, and live edge slabs used on the bar tops, gathering table, and mantle.

Separate from the memorial space, this part of the building is for gathering. A 500-square-foot courtyard features a fire pit, barbecue, and plenty of seating so visitors can sit and eat. Coors Banquet Beer has been a prominent corporate sponsor for the WFF, so the Coors Banquet Room is located in the mezzanine portion of the building.





“This is going to be a special event/fundraising room,” Rodriguez says. “If the firefighters aren’t on duty, they can grab a beer and hang out or watch TV.

“We also have a Pulaski wall, with 20 Pulaskis that overlook the main room. Each Pulaski is available for corporate sponsorship which will go directly to the actual building fund of the project,” Rodriguez adds. “Once the 20 Pulaskis are sold, then the wall will forever be a donor wall. We’ll take the Pulaskis to engrave them with the companies’ names.”

There is no other place like the WFF, because Boise is the hub of wildland firefighting. Minor says wildland firefighting is incredibly underserved and under-known, because people usually picture the big red truck cruising around town when they think of firefighting. That’s why having the new headquarters is a huge accomplishment for the profession and, of course, those whose loved ones have been taken away by wildland fires. Not only can families come by to remember the deceased, but newcomers are invited to learn about these fires and the heroes that battled them as well.



“Listening to these families talk about their lost loved ones was just absolutely heartbreaking and humbling,” Rodriguez says. “It’s amazing that my company had the privilege of designing this place and helping them uphold their legacy. Before, it was just building materials assembled in a nice-looking manner, but now it has a soul. You feel like you are somewhere special and sacred.”

For more information, visit [wffoundation.org](http://wffoundation.org).



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# Abracadabra

It's a magical time in Magic Valley

By Jim Timlick



Above images: Chobani.

**T**here's something magical happening in Idaho's Magic Valley.

According to a study released last September by the University of Idaho, the food production industry is enjoying a boom in the Magic Valley area, which includes Cassia, Gooding, Jerome, Lincoln, Minidoka, and Twin Falls counties.

The study, titled *Contributions of Agribusiness to the Magic Valley Economy*, indicated agribusiness contributed close to \$12 billion, or 59 percent, of total sales and nearly \$3.6 billion, or 48 percent, of the gross regional product (GRP) in the region. The study, which was based on data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture, also showed that agriculture and food processing were responsible for 42 percent of the jobs in the Magic Valley.

That hardly comes as a surprise to Tom Kealey, director of the Idaho Department of Commerce.

"The Magic Valley agricultural and food production industry has really blossomed, going up the value-added chain, from producing vegetables, potatoes, cattle, and dairy," he said.

Kealey said there are several factors responsible for the growth in the region's food production industry. First and foremost is an abundance of raw milk that is required to produce food products like yogurt and cheese. And because the raw ingredients required to make those products are close at hand, food production facilities can keep their transportation costs low since they don't have to haul materials halfway across the country, he explained.

"Transportation costs can be quite large for commodities like potatoes, moving cattle for processing or moving milk in bulk," Kealey said. " (In Magic Valley) you're not having to add that transportation cost to the raw input. You're not moving as much bulk, low-cost, commodity products somewhere else to be processed. You're cutting that out...which makes (shipping) a smaller percentage of the total cost."

The growth in food production has also been good for the local construction industry. Several new production and storage facilities have been built over the past several years while other existing facilities have undergone major expansions during that same time.

Steven Hines, an educator with the University of Idaho Extension who co-authored the agribusiness study, said the benefits of this growth for the construction sector have been twofold. Not only have these new and expanded facilities created additional construction jobs, but they have also lured new people

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to the region, which in turn has created a demand for new homes, as well as businesses such as restaurants and retail outlets, which require brick-and-mortar locations.

“As ag business has expanded here in the last 20 to 25 years, there’s been a need for more employees and those people need homes, those people’s kids need schools, those people need restaurants, they need stores,” he said.

“We’ve got good hospitals, good schools, new businesses. All of those things attract people. There’s no doubt all of that growth came as agriculture expanded and as the ag processing side expanded (it) was able to support all of those additional businesses.”

Chobani is one of the biggest producers of yogurt in the United States and has had a presence in Magic Valley since 2011 when it opened a new, state-of-the-art factory in Twin Falls. That facility has undergone several expansions since then and Hines said another one may be imminent after the company recently secured a grant to study oat-milk production capabilities in Twin Falls.

Another upcoming project Hine is excited about is Hempitecture’s new production facility in Jerome County. The



Above images: Glanbia.

hemp-based company produces construction products like insulation and fireboard and is working with local producers and the University of Idaho to start producing locally produced hemp products.

True West Beef is located along Highway 93 in Jerome County and is looking to build a new meat processing facility that is expected to create more than 350 new jobs. Kealey said the company was convinced to do so because Magic Valley is a transportation hub, has a hearty water supply, the potential to attract new workers, and the space for new housing.

Last December, Scoular officially opened a state-of-the-art plant in Jerome that produces a new type of barley product. The product is a plant-based barley protein concentrate that is sold to the pet food suppliers and the aquaculture industry, including Idaho's trout industry (Magic Valley produces about 75 percent of the food-sized trout consumed in the U.S.). Kealey said Scoular invested about \$20 million in the project.

Kealey pointed out that one of the spinoff benefits of the boom in the Magic Valley food production industry is that it's spurred the creation of cutting-edge technologies.

One example of that technological renaissance is the NewCold Advanced Cold Logistics' cold storage facility in Burley that recently opened. The 154,000-square-foot facility is fully automated and Kealey said it's a good example of a company using new technology to cut costs and increase efficiency. He also cited a new research facility under construction in Magic Valley that is being spearheaded by the University of Idaho that will look at innovative ways to improve dairy production and feed production as well as investigate new dairy products.

"There's a lot of support in the community for continuing to be innovative and efficient," he said.

The food production boom has also helped many rural



Idaho Chamber of Commerce Director Tom Kealey.

communities in the valley link with the outside world. Since these new facilities require high-speed Internet, that has allowed the state to increase broadband Internet access in many rural areas that were previously underserved, Kealey added.

Kealey sees the momentum in the agribusiness sector continuing for some time to come – and that's good news for the local construction industry, he said.

"Having a strong construction network is so important. We're a growing state on many fronts and to have multiple, high-quality, efficient construction firms and general contractors and the support to go with it is critical." ●

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# IDAHO FALLS POLICE STATION, *A 'Long Time Coming', is Now Underway*

Facility will serve growing community at former stockyard site

By Holly Beech

**F**or the first time in city history, the Idaho Falls Police Department is going to have a station of its own.

The new Idaho Falls Police Complex is taking shape on the site of a former stockyard hub along U.S. Highway 26. The campus will include a plaza to honor the heritage of the iconic family business, which closed in 2019, while ushering in a new era of revitalization in the Northgate Mile area.

“For the first time there will be a place for the Idaho Falls Police Department,” Chief Bryce Johnson said. “The community will be able to see that this is their police department.”

Idaho Falls is the state’s fourth-largest city with a population of almost 67,000. The police department employs 146 people and currently shares a building with other government agencies. Conversations about building a dedicated police station in the growing community started in the 1990s, Johnson said, but the proj-

ect’s momentum stalled when the Great Recession hit. As a stopgap measure, the department has spread out to eight leased locations throughout town.

“The space they occupy does not even have sufficient conference room space for department and staff meetings, essential for collaboration when officers are not working directly in the field,” said Chris Pelkola Lee, an Idaho Falls realtor who chaired a citizens committee that evaluated the needs and options for a new police station.

A study as early as 2003 found the existing police facilities inadequate. Chief Johnson would guess that most residents wouldn’t even know where to find the current police headquarters, which opened in the 1970s in the shared Bonneville County Law Enforcement Building. The entrance is flanked by a magnetometer and a couple of armed deputies.

“That’s not really how a modern police department interacts with the public.

That’s very off-putting to people,” Johnson said. “We’re not [currently] designed to be community friendly, because that just wasn’t part of what they were designing back in the 1970s.”

Industry standards are changing. Community-minded designs are now prominent in public safety buildings across the country, said Rodney McManus, senior vice president and director of operations with Architects Design Group, or ADG, which specializes in public safety facilities.

ADG is partnering with Idaho Falls-based NBW Architects on the project. The city selected Ormond Builders, Inc., also based in Idaho Falls, as the building contractor, with a target open date in late 2023 or early 2024.

The project budget is \$30 million, to be funded through certificates of participation, a lease-financing option. Investors will fund the project and lease the facility to the city over the next 22 years until the lease is paid off. At that



point, ownership will transfer to the city, East Idaho News reported.

### THE FEATURES

The new police station will have a more welcoming lobby with wood-slatted ceilings and a warm, inviting feel, along with a training room that will double as a community room that's separate from secured areas, McManus said.

"What that does is it helps to form relationships between the police

department and the community," he said.

The current police facilities don't have any gathering spaces like that, Chief Johnson said. They also lack space for evidence storage, crime lab equipment, and officer collaboration. The new station will bring officers and operations back together under one roof.

"There's so many things in this new building that are just going to be fantastic," Johnson said.

Highlights include:

- A juvenile lounge that creates a better atmosphere for youth who have an encounter with law enforcement.
- Modern evidence storage with a Faraday room that prevents people from remotely deleting evidence off an electronic device. "Almost every case we work now has an electronic device attached to the case," Johnson noted, "which did not occur back in the 1970s."
- Improved interview and interrogation rooms that allow for privacy. "Right



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now in our interview and interrogation rooms you can hear what's going on in the other room," Johnson said.

- Improved crime lab with more space for forensic work and evidence processing.
- A gym for officers.
- Public, front-facing entrance and secure back entrance. "We have a public entry on the second floor, which looks like a one-story building from the road, but it's actually a two-story building because of the way the site slopes," McManus said. "Therefore, you have a secured entry on the back of the building."
- Training areas for physical agility training and classroom courses. Training is a major component in evolving industry standards for public safety buildings, McManus said.

"Trainers from out of state will be able to come and host their programs here, which will be great for us," Johnson said.

The location of the new building is also prime for the police department, as it's central to the highest call volume areas.

## PARTNERSHIPS

ADG, based out of Florida and Texas, has been designing public safety facilities for 50 years. Locally, NBW Architects has 60 years' experience in commercial designs and has strong Idaho connections. The partnership brings together the best of both worlds — national expertise in the public safety industry paired with local insight and relationships. Some questioned why the city would hire an out-of-state firm, Chief Johnson said. But he sees it as a wise decision.

"Building a police station isn't just any old building. There is a speciality to it," he said.

Police facilities are designed to be used

24/7, 365 days a year, said McManus with ADG.

"The biggest thing about these types of buildings is the durability and sustainability," he said. "They get about three times the use as a general, say a school or a shopping center.

"Every material that we select has to pass the durability/sustainability checklist or we really can't use it in this project," McManus added. "There's a lot more to choose from now than there was even five to 10 years ago."

Police officials worked closely with architects each step of the way to provide insight on the department's specific needs. The community also served as an important partner. The citizens committee evaluated the need for a new police facility and explored solutions. After the committee unanimously supported the need for a new police facility, the city selected the stockyard property as the location and purchased the site in September 2019 for \$675,000.

"The citizens' impact was huge," Johnson said. "There was a lot of community involvement, community support from the very beginning."

Lee, the former committee chair-woman, said, "It's imperative the city has its finger on the pulse of its citizens when trying to figure how best to serve them with limited dollars."

## SUPPLY CHAIN

After decades of talks about the need for a new police station, the project finally got off the ground during one of the most unpredictable times in recent history. Construction always comes with a layer of unknowns, but even more so in the past two years with a global pandemic, labor

shortages, and supply chain issues.

"There's a huge lag with the construction industry. We'll probably be dealing with it for the next few years," said Geoff Nielson, owner and principal architect at NBW Architects in Idaho Falls.

Roofing materials, electrical panels, and glass, just to name a few, can be out six months to a year, he said.

"We were afraid that because of the construction climate, the construction cost was going to come back much too high," McManus with ADG said.

Prioritizing durability and cost-effectiveness, the architects selected concrete blocks, or CMU (Concrete Masonry Units) for the exterior. They built in contingencies so the city had options to scale back the project cost if it needed to.

Safety was another priority in the design.

"When you get into the lobby, while it is quite beautiful and open and inviting, it is 100 percent bulletproof," McManus said. "In today's age, we don't really know what's coming next, so we take great pains to make sure that we protect folks that ultimately protect us."

## 'LONG TIME COMING'

Talk of a new station has been ongoing for over two decades. Now that people can see the concrete being poured, they'll know it's actually going to happen, Chief Johnson said.

"Now, the department will have the visibility necessary to the entire community," said Lee, former committee chairwoman. "They are available for those that are in need not just in dire emergencies, but in positive interactions as well."

Even during Johnson's interview to become chief in 2017, he was asked about how he would bring a new station to fruition.

"It really is exciting and fun to be part of it," he said. "It's been a long time coming, and I think it's going to serve the community for a lot of years to come." ●

## FACT SHEET: NEW IDAHO FALLS POLICE STATION

Size of project: 61,335 square feet

- Main building, two-story: 49,492 square feet
- Auxiliary building, one-story, 11,843 square feet

Total property size: 7.21 acres

Location: 701 Northgate Mile, near U.S. Highway 26

Groundbreaking: April 2022

Anticipated opening: Late 2023 to early 2024

Idaho Falls Police Department size:

- 146 employees
- That includes 88 sworn officers, with 10 unfilled officer positions

City population: 66,898 (2021 census)

### ABOUT THE NEW FACILITY:

- Training rooms
- Evidence storage
- Forensic lab
- Workspace for officers and investigators
- K-9 kennels

- Climate-controlled SWAT/specialty vehicle and equipment storage
- Backup generator
- Landscaping elements
- Secured perimeter access
- Open parking for staff and the public
- Small plaza honoring the site's history as a stockyard

### THE CREW:

- Ormond Builders, Inc. - Contractor
- Architects Design Group - Lead Architect
- NBW Architects - Local Associate Architect
- ES2 & Musgrove Engineering - MEP Engineers
- G&S Engineers - Structural Engineer
- Horrocks Engineers - Civil Engineer
- TLC Engineering Solutions - Security & Technology

### PROJECT BUDGET:

\$30 million with a 3.25 percent interest rate and payments over 22 years, for a total cost of \$42.5 million

Sources: Idaho Falls Police Department and East Idaho News

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# IDAHO INFLUENCER: Brad Little



The Honorable Brad Little is Idaho's 33rd Governor and is no stranger to the Idaho AGC. Throughout his 20 years as an elected official, Little has long championed issues important to our organization and its members. The Governor sat down with the Idaho AGC's Wayne Hammon to discuss a wide range of issues just prior to this year's special session of the Idaho Legislature. Here are some highlights.

**Hammon:** *Thank you, Governor for making the time for us.*

**Little:** Thank you, Wayne, for the opportunity. The Idaho AGC has been a great partner over the years and I'm happy to count many of your members as friends.

**Hammon:** *Most Idahoans know that your family has a long history in our state, but I would guess few know how you got started in politics.*

**Little:** Political issues were pretty prevalent in our home as I was a child. Mom and Dad had robust debates about politics over dinner, and then in 1964 I was 10 years old and Dad was the chairman of Citizens for Goldwater in Idaho. The only political science class I took in college was in state and local government, but I interned for Jim McClure during his freshman term in the U.S. Senate and got great exposure to how government operates. Then in 1976, I interned for the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee in the Idaho Legislature.

After college, I got involved in a number of statewide organizations

including the Idaho Cattle Association, Idaho Wool Growers Association, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, and the Idaho Community Foundation. So in addition to being Brad the rancher, I was the guy asked to attend meetings or speak to state or federal officials on behalf of the group.

**Hammon:** *You've spent your entire life running a family ranching business. What in your business background prepared you to make the transition to being Governor?*

**Little:** In business, you have to learn to adapt to change. In addition, the livestock business is pretty competitive and even though we don't have a big ranch, operating it taught me important lessons in managing personnel, delegating responsibility, and motivating others to do their best. I learned the better staff you have, the better team you team you assemble around you, the more success you will have.

When working with my cabinet or members of the Legislature, I always try to remember what Ronald Reagan said: "There is no limit to what a man can do if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." Particularly during COVID, there is no way we could have done all that we did if I didn't have incredible confidence in the people around me.

**Hammon:** *How would you grade Idaho's response to the pandemic?*

**Little:** Of course you have to grade on a curve, comparing Idaho to all the other states and territories. I believe that with what we knew at the time, we

did the right thing. Would I do things differently? Absolutely, but so would everyone else. Idaho was one of the first states to implement a staged opening as we gained hospital capacity. This became a model for other states to follow.

**Hammon:** *What is your favorite part of being governor?*

**Little:** Getting things done. Just look at what we've been able to do in your industry. The funding we've secured is mind blowing when you consider what we were able to do for transportation in the past.

But of course, my huge passion is in education. We should start to see in the next four or five months the first results of our effort to get every Idaho child reading at grade level by the third grade. Of course that's an aspirational goal. I tell people that if I got struck by lightning or ran over by a truck and my legacy was that I got Idaho's literacy up, I would die a happy person.

**Hammon:** *What's your least favorite part of being governor?*

**Little:** Because of my experience in business I have friends all over Idaho and as Governor I have to tell my friends 'no' all the time. But I'm getting better at it.

And obviously, the real tough part of this job is when we lose someone I'm responsible for – like when we lost

Throughout his 20 years as an elected official, Little has long championed issues important to our organization and its members.

those three pilots in the National Guard – those weigh heavily on me. Death warrants are another task that are very, very serious.

**Hammon:** Last year you championed your “Leading Idaho Initiative.” What can we expect on that front next year?

**Little:** We’re taking a hard look at what we want to get done across the state in the next five years – the state buildings that need repaired, the transportation projects that need to be completed on both the state and local systems, and other critical infrastructure – and recalculating what it’s going to take to pay for these investments now that we’re facing such high levels of inflation and rising material costs.

**Hammon:** Last question. What’s your top goal for your second term?

**Little:** I want to continue our progress in the talent area and that means starting out in literacy. You can’t have a good CTE career if you can’t read proficiently. So we’re going to keep pressing on literacy. Then we’re going to work both vertically and horizontally to link these efforts throughout the entire education system but also within our communities across Idaho. So we can get local companies – like those in construction or nursing – to partner with schools to help students understand the great careers waiting for them right here in Idaho and help them get the training they need to be successful. I know that’s important to the AGC and we are going to continue to partner with you to get the job done. ●



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# GUESS THAT PROJECT!



In each edition of *Building Idaho*, we will share a photo of a place, project, or piece of equipment. The first reader to identify it correctly will receive an Idaho AGC swag bundle, and be mentioned in the following edition. To identify this project, email Hailey Reyes at [hreyes@idahoagc.org](mailto:hreyes@idahoagc.org) with your answer, name, company, and mailing address.



Congratulations to the winner of the photo contest in our spring 2022 issue! Mike Ross with Intermountain Construction & Abatement, correctly identified the MKA Office Building in Meridian, Idaho.

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# A Beacon of Light in Times of Darkness

By Jim Timlick

**G**uho Corp has been involved in the construction of several high-profile building projects in and around Boise for the last 30 years.

Still, company vice president Anthony Guho acknowledged few of those previous projects came with the same level of expectations associated with the one it is scheduled to begin working on later this year.

Guho Corp is the general contractor for the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights, which will be built in downtown Boise right next to the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial. The two-story, 5,500-square-foot facility will feature classrooms, exhibits, public meeting space, a training facility, and a state-of-the-art interactive display and has been designed to serve as a beacon of light in times of darkness.

“Yeah, there’s going to be a lot of eyes on it,” Guho responded when asked about the pressure that comes with being involved in such a prestigious project.

“It’s a hallmark project that’s going to be in an extremely busy part of downtown Boise and is going to have some high-profile visibility. We know a lot of people are watching. It’s pressure, but that’s what we enjoy. We like the hard, complicated projects. That’s part of the challenge and part of the fun.”

Guho said his company was anxious to be involved with building the center after working with officials from the non-profit on the construction of an outdoor classroom at the same location a few years ago.

“We got to see what they do then and their mission and all the work they do,” he said. “Just seeing the work they do and the impact they have in the community, we’re honored they asked us to come back and help them with this building.”

Construction of the \$5.5 million facility is expected to begin later this year and is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2023.

The seeds for the center were originally sown back in 1995 when Boise hosted a

traveling exhibit entitled “Anne Frank and the World”. The exhibit attracted more than 50,000 visitors in one month and eventually led to the construction of the Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial in 2002, which receives more than 120,000 visitors annually. The center’s focus then shifted to promoting human dignity and diversity through education. Executive director Dan Prinzing said the new facility will allow the center to host those efforts in one centralized location rather than at numerous sites throughout the community as it must currently do.

The center is named in honor of Bill Wassmuth, a former Catholic priest in Coeur d’Alene who became a spokesperson for the Kootenai County taskforce on human relations and spearheaded efforts to shut down a white nationalist compound in Idaho in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In keeping with its mission to shine light in times of darkness, the center will feature a cross laminated timber (CLT) ceiling that will look as if it’s floating on



air with LED lighting on the top. The main floor will include offices, workrooms, and additional staff spaces. The second floor will be home to a human rights classroom where students can meet in-person or online, a research center, exhibits, and a catering kitchen.

One of the most notable features of the center will be a state-of-the-art exhibit being built in conjunction with the USC Shoah Foundation, which was created by filmmaker Steven Spielberg to help keep stories of Holocaust survivors and liberators alive. The one-of-a-kind interactive display will allow visitors to the center to ask questions of life-sized video representations of survivors and liberators who will then respond to the questions.

“It literally becomes a one-to-one conversation. It’s just phenomenal technology. It will really help to keep the stories alive,” Prinzing said.

Linking both floors of the building will be a two-story lobby. There will also be a number of original works of art located throughout the center including a glass mobile set of wings made of 500 pieces of glass shaped in the form of wings and a sculpture created by Boise-based artist Benjamin Victor, the only living artist to have three works in the National Statuary Hall in the United States Capitol building, as well as a tribute to late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Prinzing says there will be a couple of notable challenges that will have to be dealt with during construction. The center site is on top of a geothermal line that will have to be shifted to accommodate the building. There is also a water line that will have to be moved before construction begins.

Another challenge, according to Guho, is the small, triangular-shaped footprint of the site and the fact the Anne Frank

memorial will still be welcoming members of the public throughout construction.

The look of the facility was designed by

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erstad, a Boise-based architectural firm. Guho applauded their efforts and how they managed to tie in the human rights center with the Anne Frank memorial and outdoor classroom even though they were all designed at different times.

Although a team of subcontractors for the project was still being assembled as of late June, Guho said he expects most of the subs chosen to be locally based companies his firm has worked with before.

“We’ve got our core group of subs we do a lot of work with and we expect to bring our A team together to deliver a quality project that meets all of the expectations,” he said.

Prinzing said center officials were impressed by the quantity and quality of the construction companies interested in being involved in the project.

Plans are for contractors and subcontractors involved in the construction of the center to be recognized on a door-sized plaque located near the entrance to the building. The idea for it was inspired by a conversation between Prinzing and Guho

Corp owner Nick Guho who told him such plaques were commonplace when his grandfather was involved in construction.

“As we started talking about it, I said we need to do that too,” Prinzing recalled. “We’re located on a major downtown thoroughfare and it is going to become an iconic building in the valley, not only the work being done but the design. We really want to highlight and pay credit to all those that have made it possible.”

Center officials are in the home stretch of their fundraising efforts for the new facility. As of late June, \$4.7 million of the \$5.5 million required for the project had already been raised. Money raised for the project has come from a variety of sources including private companies, foundations, and individual donors as part of a capital campaign ([wassmuthcenter.org](http://wassmuthcenter.org)). Everyone who contributes to the campaign will be recognized on a stone plaque near the center’s entrance.

Prinzing said the success of the fundraising campaign is indicative of the community’s support for the project.

“I think what it really speaks to is the value of the center’s work, the presence of who we are not only in the community but as a voice throughout the state. It’s a real value for not only the work being done, but an acknowledgement that the work is really needed and that it is important in this time.” ●



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# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT: IMC Project Reduces Congestion and Helps Neighbors



With exploding growth in the Treasure Valley, traffic has started to snarl in more places. This is particularly true in Ada County's smaller communities, where the infrastructure just wasn't designed for the rush hours of 2022.

Idaho Materials & Construction is proud to provide a solution in one congested area with a lane widening project that better accommodates the large volumes of traffic traveling on Highway 44/State Street between Eagle & Star.

IMC crews spent several months this year working to widen SH-44 between State Highway 16 and Linder Road. According to Idaho Transportation Department data, this 2.3 mile-section of road has seen 20,000 to 23,000 cars every day in 2022.

The project was broken into three phases:

- Place temporary asphalt on the south side of SH-44
- Construct the permanent widening of the road's north side
- Finish by building the permanent south side of the road

Materials used:

- 40,000 tons of granular subbase
- 24,000 tons of 3/4" base
- 90,000 square yards of pulverization and cement recycled asphalt base stabilization
  - 35,000 tons of asphalt

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- Nemece Engineering

Throughout the project, IMC crews received rave reviews from the community, and someone even dropped off cookies!

"We appreciate your updates and the timely manner the job was completed. We have empathy for working in the heat and have avoided the area as much as possible while the work was done. Great job!" says Lacey Howard, community member.

"Thank you so much for your work on this project. It was done quickly and with much appreciated thought for the parking lots at the Eagle Christian Church. It's a pleasure to drive through now! Thanks again," Larry and Renee Walker, community members, say.

Hunter Mulhall, principal planner for Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (Compass), recently told the Idaho Statesman that more congestion is likely coming.

"We just haven't been able to quite keep up with building the roads out there ... those aren't necessarily built to handle the development at this point," Mulhall told the Statesman.

Idaho Materials & Construction has the experience and skill to pull off projects big and small. In addition to paving work, we also supply ready mix concrete and aggregate, as well as construction services.

With our heavy workload, we're always looking for team players to join us! We offer competitive pay, job training, and great benefits. Check out our openings at [jobs.crh.com](http://jobs.crh.com). ●

# Idaho AGC Education Foundation Scholarship Recipients 2022

**T**hese students are building a brighter future for themselves and Idaho, thanks to the Idaho AGC Education Foundation. The Idaho AGC Education Foundation's mission is to attract and retain quality workers in the construction industry – and one way they are doing that is by providing opportunities and funds to Idaho students who show an interest and high skill level in the trades.

The 2022 Education Foundation Scholarship recipients are:



## KENDRA MATTSON

Kendra is a Construction Management major at Boise State University. This fall, Kendra will lead the WICED (Women in Construction, Engineering, and Development) as president and she is also a part of the CMA (Construction Management Association) group on campus. Kendra is a REVIT specialist and has worked as a CAD drafter. Using the knowledge she gained in those two programs led her to work as a structural BIM design intern at Tamarack Grove Engineering, as she finishes school. Her graduation date is spring of 2023.

## GABRIEL BRANDT

Gabriel is a Civil Engineering major with an emphasis in Structural Engineering at the University of Idaho. Gabriel is the treasurer of ASCE (American Society of Engineers), a member of ITE (Institute of Transportation Engineers), president of the U of I cycling club, and treasurer of the Steel Bridge Club on campus. Gabriel has been on the Dean's List all three semesters at the university, and he interned this summer with an engineering consultant firm named WSP in Boise. His graduation date is spring of 2024.



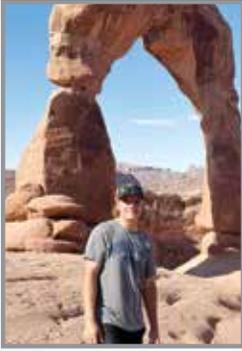
## EMILY SHEARIN

Emily is a Construction Management major at Boise State University. Emily is on the Engineering Dean's List with high honors. She is member of the CMA (Construction Management Association) group on campus and she is a financial officer for the WICED (Women in Construction, Engineering, and Development) group. Emily spent the summer in Denver as an intern with Whiting-Turner. Her graduation date is spring 2024

## ALYSA CHURCHFIELD

Alysa is a Civil Engineering student at Boise State University. She is heavily involved in the ASCE (American Society of Engineers) program and WICED (Women in Construction, Engineering, and Development). In 2022, her ASCE group travelled to Las Vegas to compete in the Intermountain Southwest Symposium on a bridge building competition. Alysa interned this summer for GeoEngineers and she will graduate in spring of 2024.





## JAXON WAGNER

Jaxon is a Construction Management major at Boise State University. Jaxon will serve as the president of the CMA (Construction Management Association) this school year. He is a team member of an Associated Schools of Construction competition team. He interned with the NRP group in Austin, Texas and his graduation date is spring of 2024.

## MARK SLISENKO

Mark is a Civil Engineering major at the University of Idaho. He was a member of the TRIO department at North Idaho College, before transferring to the University of Idaho, where he tutored other students in school. Mark has worked as a construction assistant in his family's business for several years before deciding to major in Civil Engineering. His graduation date is spring 2024.



## KOLBY MCCLURE

Kolby is a Civil Engineering student at Boise State University. He is part of the Civil Engineering Club and he participated in the (AISC) American Institute of Steel Construction, steel bridge competition. He will serve as vice president of the Civil Engineering Club this year. Kolby currently works for the family business doing finishing work and his graduation date is spring of 2024.

## ASHLEY MICHIE

Ashley is a Construction Management major at Boise State University. Last school year, she served as president of WICED (Women in Construction, Engineering, and Development). She is also a member of the CMA (Construction Management Association), Sigma Lambda Chi, and Alpha Chi Omega. This summer she has interned at Turner Construction Company in Portland, Oregon. Her graduation date is spring of 2023.



## HALEY ARNAUDO

Haley is a Construction Management major at Boise State University. She served as vice president of WICED (Women in Construction, Engineering, and Development) and she is a member of the CMA (Construction Management Association). She is on the Dean's List with highest honors and a member of Sigma Lambda Chi. Haley has interned at Sletten Construction and her graduation date is spring of 2023.



# As Fuel Prices Continue Rising, How Can a Fleet Help Control Costs?

By Enterprise Fleet Management

**W**hile businesses may not have control over the price at the pump, they still have some control over fleet fuel expenses.

At Enterprise Fleet Management, we actively work to support our clients to make the most informed decisions about their fleet operations by not only focusing on vehicle acquisition and resale, but also on day-to-day fuel usage and routing.

In addition to controlling fuel costs by right-sizing the fleet and right-typing vehicles to help prevent excessive fuel consumption, we recommend concentrating on a few key areas that include:

- Reducing idling
- Implementing telematics
- Utilizing a fuel card
- Reducing the age of the vehicles in a fleet

In terms of vehicle idling, when a truck idles, it gets zero miles per gallon. Finding ways to cut out unnecessary idling is the simplest and easiest way to quickly reduce fuel consumption across the business. The average commercial-sized vehicle consumes nearly 0.8 gallons of fuel per hour, idling. With fuel prices at record highs, this unnecessary burn can quickly turn into a meaningful financial loss for a business over the course of a year.

A popular misconception is that starting and stopping a vehicle engine uses more gas than remaining idle. Today's fuel injection engines offer starting systems that are efficient and require little fuel to start an engine.

Driver education can help, and so can implementing technology through vehicle telematics.

Adopting a telematics program for a fleet is another way to reduce fuel costs. By using a small plug-and-play fleet telematics tracking device — or an embedded device within the vehicle, which is available on many late model vehicles — operators

can keep an eye on their fleets in real time. Enterprise Fleet Management telematics solutions provide a wealth of data (e.g., GPS location, speed, fuel usage, and engine performance that includes idling) and captures critical details to improve fuel usage, optimize routes, and plan maintenance.

Enterprise Fleet Management also uses WEX to help its clients monitor their fuel costs and has found that organizations can save up to 10 percent on fuel by using a dedicated fuel program. Additional benefits of fuel cards include setting purchase limits, controlling the type and quantity of fuel that drivers purchase, and managing unauthorized purchases. The fuel card can also help drivers locate the lowest-cost fuel in the area.

Lastly, another way to reduce fuel spend is to make sure your fleet is the best fit for your business. Removing underutilized or problematic vehicles in the fleet can cut costs. By replacing older units with newer, more fuel-efficient vehicles, companies can see a significant reduction in total fuel consumption.

Businesses continue to face unique challenges during these dynamic times. Enlisting the help of a fleet management company to assist with vehicle needs and cost-saving strategies can provide valuable peace of mind and free up time and resources to focus on their core operations.

Enterprise Fleet Management provides full-service fleet management for companies, government agencies, and organizations operating medium-sized fleets of 20 or more vehicles, as well as those seeking an alternative to employee reimbursement programs. We operate a network of more than 50 fully staffed offices and manage a fleet of more than 588,000 vehicles in the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, we supply most makes and models of cars, light and medium-duty trucks, and service vehicles across North America. ●

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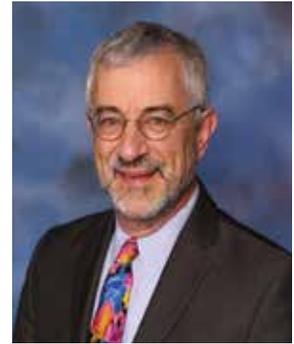
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# Materials Cost and Supply Chain Issues: *Some Improvement But No End in Sight*



By Ken Simonson, Chief Economist, AGC of America

Contractors who feel they've been hit with never-ending cost increases and delivery delays since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic are only partly right. Some of the price increases and shortages have eased. But others keep popping up, and more are likely to appear in the foreseeable future.

A long list of events contributed to price and supply problems. Even before widespread shutdowns hit U.S. mills and factories in March 2020, there were sudden shortages of materials from China and Italy, ranging from kitchen items to elevator parts.

By May of that year, demand for wood products was soaring, from homebuilders, remodelers, and restaurants that were adding decks and "streateries." Meanwhile, lumber mills struggled to get back employees and truck drivers. Extreme

weather, insect infestations, border-crossing delays, and an increase in lumber tariffs all affected supplies and prices of timber and lumber from Canada. The result was an unprecedented runup in lumber prices.

Soon, steep increases in steel, copper, and aluminum prices followed. A surge in demand for consumer goods, many of them produced in China, Korea, and Southeast Asia, led to unheard-of delays at West Coast ports. A six-day blockage of the Suez Canal further discombobulated global shipping flows.

Explosive demand for warehouses and data centers overwhelmed structural steel producers, leading to long delays in deliveries of bar joists and contributing to a doubling of waiting times for switchgear and transformers.

A major freeze in Texas in February 2021 damaged most of the plants that

produce a variety of construction plastics. The effects were felt throughout the nation for much of the year. Supplies plummeted and prices soared for PVC pipe, insulation and roofing materials, vapor barriers, geotextiles, acrylics and resins for paints and coatings, and more. A hurricane that cut electric power transmission to petrochemical plants in Louisiana in late August of 2021 added to the shortfalls of some plastic materials.

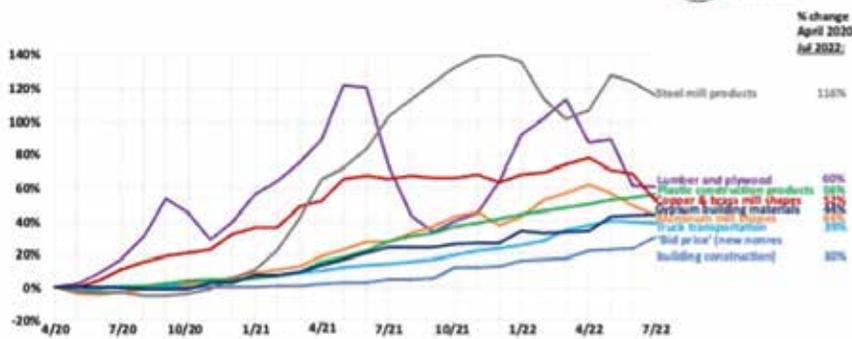
A shortage of computer chips began in early 2021 when a fire and, later, an earthquake damaged a plant in Japan that was a leading chip supplier to the motor vehicle industry. Chip shortages continue to hold down the supply of pickups and other work vehicles, as well as construction equipment and "smart" tools.

Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022 disrupted supplies of numerous materials from Ukraine itself, ranging from steel to clay used by tile makers in Italy and Spain. Sanctions on Russia imposed by Western countries further constricted supplies.

The invasion and sanctions initially caused huge price spikes, notably for crude oil. Consequently, gasoline and diesel fuel prices soared to record highs. But they have also slowed economic activity. The slowing, along with the resumption of some shipments that had been cut off, has brought some prices back below pre-war levels.

China has tried to prevent the spread of coronavirus by engaging in drastic

**PPIs for construction bid prices and selected inputs**  
cumulative change in PPIs, April 2020 - July 2022 (not seasonally adjusted)



1) Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, producer price indexes, [www.bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov)

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lockdowns, most notably for more than two months in the spring of 2022 in Shanghai. This action cut production and shipping of some goods to the U.S.

By August 2022, power generation, manufacturing, and barge traffic were being disrupted by extreme heat and drought in China and Western Europe. Drastically reduced flows of natural gas from Russia to European countries in retaliation for Western sanctions drove prices of natural gas to record highs there, forcing some factories that use it for fuel or feedstock to close.

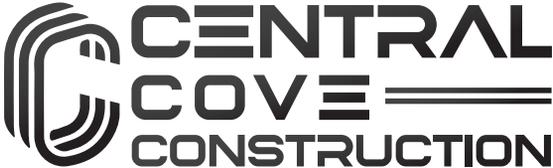
In short, a wide variety of largely unforeseeable events has made prices and supplies extremely volatile. The chart below shows the impact these diverse events have had on prices for seven major categories of inputs to construction. Some of the categories are very broad; for instance, steel mill products include steel used in automotive, appliance, and other applications, as well as structural, plate, rebar, fasteners and other construction steel products. Similarly, copper and brass mill shapes, aluminum mill shapes, and truck transportation of freight encompass products or services used in a number of sectors. Other categories, such as plastic construction products and gypsum building materials, are used almost exclusively in construction. Lumber and plywood are used predominantly in construction but also in manufacturing.

Each colored line traces the change in the producer price index (PPI) for a category, as calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Each month, BLS asks thousands of producers—manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and providers of services such as trucking and design services—what they charged on the 11th day of the previous month for a specific item. BLS then aggregates those prices and turns them into an index number for a category, such as steel mill products. The mix of items in a category remains fixed. The index number itself is meaningless but the change from one period to another measures the amount of price increase or decrease that occurred.

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The starting point for this chart is April 2020, when demand for many items had tumbled, it appeared the economy might be heading into a deep, long recession, and prices hit bottom. As it turned out, some activities—such as construction and remodeling of houses, warehouses, and data centers—took off, while production and distribution were crimped, and prices of all of the items soared for the next year or so.

Since the spring of 2021, the picture has been much more jumbled. Production caught up with demand for some products, such as lumber. And the semiconductor chip shortage curbed automakers' demand for steel, aluminum, and copper, bringing those prices down at least temporarily. However, all of the lines remain substantially higher than in April 2020.

There is one other line on the chart. It traces the price that contractors tell BLS they would charge to erect a fixed set of nonresidential buildings. Each contractor is asked about the same building it was asked about before. This process probably comes as close as possible to the usual method of asking a producer the price it actually charged for a particular item.

This "bid price" index (the formal name is the PPI for new nonresidential building construction) covers warehouse, school, office, industrial, and health care buildings. The index rose very moderately for the first year shown in the chart. It has risen more steeply in 2022 as contractors have passed along more of their costs and become more selective in bidding. But the cumulative change in bid prices is still far short of the increase since April 2020 in prices for any of the major inputs.

Going forward, it appears prices will remain volatile. A slowing economy in the U.S. and worldwide will exert downward pressure. But unpredictable events—war, extreme weather, possible strikes of rail or port workers, to mention just a few possibilities—can cause sudden price spikes and sometimes long supply-chain disruptions.

Contractors can't guard against all of these occurrences. But they must stay in close touch with suppliers and information providers. They need to communicate any change in costs, schedules, and possible alternatives with owners. They can explore using price adjustment clauses in contracts, purchasing or order some items much earlier than in the past, and hedging or otherwise seeking price protection or risk-sharing. ●

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# What's Going On With the Idaho AGC Health Plan?



**I**n recent months, the Idaho AGC Health Plan has been top of mind for many Idaho AGC members and contractors throughout the State of Idaho.

What's going on with the Idaho AGC Health Plan that is making people talk?

The plan recently changed its consulting team. The firm representing the Idaho AGC Health Plan effective June 1, 2022 is Alliant Employee Benefits, with a team based out of Spokane/Coeur d'Alene.

Alliant Employee Benefits' history dates back almost 100 years, providing services to more than 27,000 clients throughout the globe. Alliant is one of the 10 largest insurance brokerage firms in the United States and seventh largest for employee benefits. The Alliant Employee Benefits team works with seven multi-employer plans here in the Northwest that are similar to the Idaho AGC Health Plan. Alliant has found a niche with association health plans, developing strategies to make them successful. The experience and expertise the Alliant team brings to the role of consultant is essential to making the Idaho AGC Health Plan the plan of choice for Idaho's commercial construction industry.

Alliant's strong industry partnerships, data analytics services, and client volume will provide the Idaho AGC Health plan with the leverage needed to provide plan members with a benefit package they will be proud to deliver to their employees. Alliant

has also brought fresh ideas on plan design, which will provide commercial contractors and suppliers more options, richer benefit offerings, and stable pricing from the Idaho AGC Health Plan. The goal is to grow membership and participants in the health plan, resulting in more buying power, rate stability, and a wide variety of plan offerings.

Marketing of the Idaho AGC Health Plan will also change. We are in the process of finalizing a more narrow distribution channel by appointing partner brokers who share common goals with the Idaho AGC. This small group of statewide-preferred brokers will allow us to maintain the utmost quality for our members by providing specialized training on the Idaho AGC Health Plan. Preferred brokers will be armed with intimate knowledge of our products to better assist their Idaho AGC Health Plan clients with a comprehensive employee benefit package.

The Idaho AGC Health Plan will be able to provide flexibility to all prospective member companies regardless of their renewal date. Idaho AGC members (and non-members) not currently participating in the Idaho AGC Health Plan can get quotes for effective dates throughout the year that align with the Idaho AGC Health Plan's current plans and business operations.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to join the Idaho AGC Health Plan! Ask the health team about getting a quote today at (208) 344-9755! ●

# WELCOMING WEBSITE: Northwest AGC Chapters' New Retirement Plan Site More User-Friendly, Useful

By Rindi White

**R**etirement planning can be confusing: which plan is the best investment, which provides the least risk and the greatest reward? For many companies, the question is how to provide this benefit to a small pool of workers while remaining cost-effective.

Associated General Contractors, or AGC, of Alaska partners with the Northwest Chapters of AGC to offer a retirement plan to AGC members large and small. The idea of pooling with other companies to lower overhead and provide the kind of plan benefits that come with larger companies is good, but pension board members found the website for that plan was less useful and less inviting than Northwest Chapter members wanted. In fact, they worried it was a barrier to plan involvement—simply getting a quote was not possible through the site.

“The old one was extremely antiquated and difficult to maneuver through,” says AGC of Alaska Assistant Director Thea Scalise. “It was not easy to find information or understand how it could help companies.”

Last year, the board of trustees overseeing the plan agreed to hire a website designer to update the website and make it friendlier for users of all types.

The new site, designed by Philadelphia-based Impart Creative, went live June 24.

Wayne Hammon, chief executive

officer of the Idaho AGC chapter, says making sure the plan website reflects AGC and its overall values was important. One of the first steps toward building the new website was agreeing on a common voice.

“It’s professional but not clinical. It’s inviting but not hokey. It’s sophisticated but it’s not complicated—which I think really reflects our membership. Getting a webpage that reflected that was really important,” Hammon says.

Dan Kruse, studio director for Impart Creative, says his company builds webpages in a similar way that construction companies build buildings: they start with a plan, create what amounts to a blueprint, go through the design process to get the look and feel the client wants, then work on the actual construction.

“Our process is really rooted in collaboration and communication. All of the steps involve many rounds of feedback with the many stakeholders on the team,” he says.

Kruse says in working with the Northwest AGC Chapters team, his company was able to obtain a clear vision of what was needed and carry that out.

Making it applicable to all users was important, Scalise says. The page is a portal for businesses that might be interested in joining the plan—that could be employees of a company seeking information to bring to their

company leadership; human resources professionals within a company gathering information; or a company president researching before making a decision. But the same page is used by plan members: human resources professionals looking for data to provide employees, employees wanting to make changes within their account, and more. All of that is readily available, Hammon says. And getting a quote? It’s now as easy as answering four or five questions.

Kruse says, “We make sure we understand all those audiences upfront to make sure none of them get lost in the process.”

Hammon says since the new site has gone live, there has been an uptick in the number of AGC members taking part. That may be in part due to promotion; several Northwest AGC chapters have posted about the new website on social media and through other outreach methods. But having more members ultimately brings costs down for everyone, he says, so more members is good for everyone involved.

“By growing the plan, everybody benefits,” Hammon says.

Check the new site out at <https://www.nwagcretirement.com/>.

Rindi White is the editor of *The Alaska Contractor Magazine*. Originally published by AGC of Alaska in *The Alaska Contractor*, fall 2022. ●

# NW AGC Retirement Plan

- Open to all AGC member companies from the Oregon, Washington, Inland NW, Idaho, and Alaska chapters.
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- All fees are paid by plan participants, so there are no invoices to employers. The investment fund expenses vary by mutual fund, ranging from 0.035 percent to 1.10 percent.
- Administrative expenses are variable. As of March 2022, the weighted average investment expense ratio was 0.24 percent, and the average participant administrative fee was 0.33 percent. In total, the average participant paid 0.57% in fees, well under the fee rate of most other plans of this size and type.
- In 2021, employees enjoyed a 3-month holiday where no fees were charged. Another three-month fee holiday is occurring in 2022.
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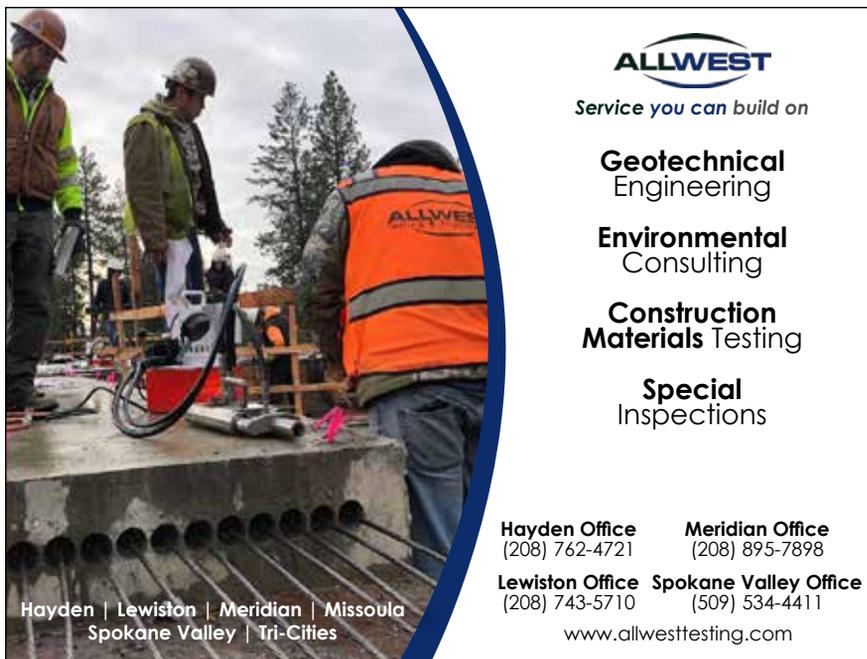
# Welcome, New Members

Please join us in welcoming these new members, who have joined the Idaho AGC since the last issue of *Building Idaho*.

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# Idaho AGC Launches New Workforce Development Partnership with State



In the last issue of *Building Idaho*, we highlighted the vast number of ongoing workforce development activities being pursued by the Idaho AGC on behalf of Idaho's construction industry. It's a huge task – but that's exactly the type of challenge the Idaho AGC thrives at tackling.

We understand that it can be overwhelming for individual contractors to navigate the wide world of workforce development. There are so many avenues to explore: apprenticeships, internships, career fairs, training options, state grants, federal requirements – the list just goes on and on. Where do you start? Who are the right people to connect with and what are the right programs to take advantage of? What are the pitfalls to be avoided? How are you going to pay for all of this?

Sometimes the path forward is a confusing mess, and you may feel so overwhelmed you want to give up.

We are here to help you navigate these options and to help ensure a solid return on your investment of time, money, or other resources.

The Idaho AGC is excited to announce that, through a new grant funded by the 2022 Idaho Legislature, it has partnered with the Idaho Workforce Development Council to hire a new Workforce Development Director. The director position is entirely dedicated to helping contractors navigate the convoluted landscape of workforce development opportunities in Idaho.

We are all thrilled to have Molly Johnson joining our team and are convinced that you will benefit from working with her to solve your individual workforce development challenges. Molly is a contractor (she owned and operated Owyhee Construction), and brings with her a strong background in human resources. Her unique combination of experience makes her the perfect fit for this important mission.

Nobody can solve this issue alone. We are hoping that all Idaho AGC members take advantage of this resource: invite our in-house expert to join your company's team in solving your workforce development needs. Contact Molly today to get the ball rolling.

## Meet Molly Johnson – your new Director of Workforce Development

- Molly Johnson joined the Idaho AGC in August of 2022 as the Director of Workforce Development. She brings with her a lifetime of experience in the construction industry including volunteer service on several Idaho AGC committees. Prior to joining the Idaho AGC she was a second-generation owner/operator of a construction company in the Treasure Valley where she was the vice president in charge of human resources, contract administration, benefits, risk management, and safety.

Molly received her B.S. Business, Human Resource Management and her M.Ed. Adult Education, Human Resource Development from the University of Idaho.

- Contact Molly:  
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