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Spring/Summer
2024



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MESSAGE FROM IDAHO AGC PRESIDENT, MATT BLANDFORD



Welcome to another great year ahead for the Idaho construction industry! This spring issue of *buildingIdaho* highlights many of the tremendous projects, initiatives, and opportunities that lie ahead in 2024 and beyond. These enterprises driven by the Idaho AGC’s leadership, membership, and industry partners are a testament to the strength of our organization!

The Idaho AGC is at an important inflection point. Years of unprecedented membership growth, exceptional value-driven programming, and strong leadership and development within our tremendous staff has laid the foundation for a great question: What’s next?

The landscape of our industry is changing at a dramatic pace. Workforce development, trade labor shortages, and material escalation are no longer buzzwords. They are all working parts of the reality of where our industry currently stands: a shrinking talent pool, supply chain uncertainty, and the inability to rely on predictable timelines for projects based on financing.

As an industry we have no choice but to evolve. Embracing change in innovation, infusing new technologies, and placing a focused effort in talent development, recruitment, and diversification.

The adage “it takes a village” holds true here. The secret is out on the great State of Idaho. Rapid in-migration, soaring scale of construction projects, and the necessity of responsible planning around infrastructure require an active and more importantly unified front from our AGC membership.

2024 marks a great opportunity for the Idaho AGC to take a step back and focus on answering the “What’s next?” question. In doing so, we can develop a strategic plan that serves the organization’s mission to “lead, represent, and support Idaho’s diverse and dynamic construction industry.”

My ask as the 2024 Idaho AGC President is simple: PARTICIPATE. Pick up the phone: engage with other members, leadership, our government affairs, and workforce development teams. Support the political action committee, our student advisory board, and great staff!

I have no doubt this collective effort will yield transformative outcomes paving the way for the Idaho AGC’s invaluable role in leading our State’s construction industry for years to come.

I am humbled and excited to have been selected to support the Idaho AGC in accomplishing its mission through 2024.

Matt Blandford

Andersen Construction Company of Idaho

2024 Idaho AGC President ●



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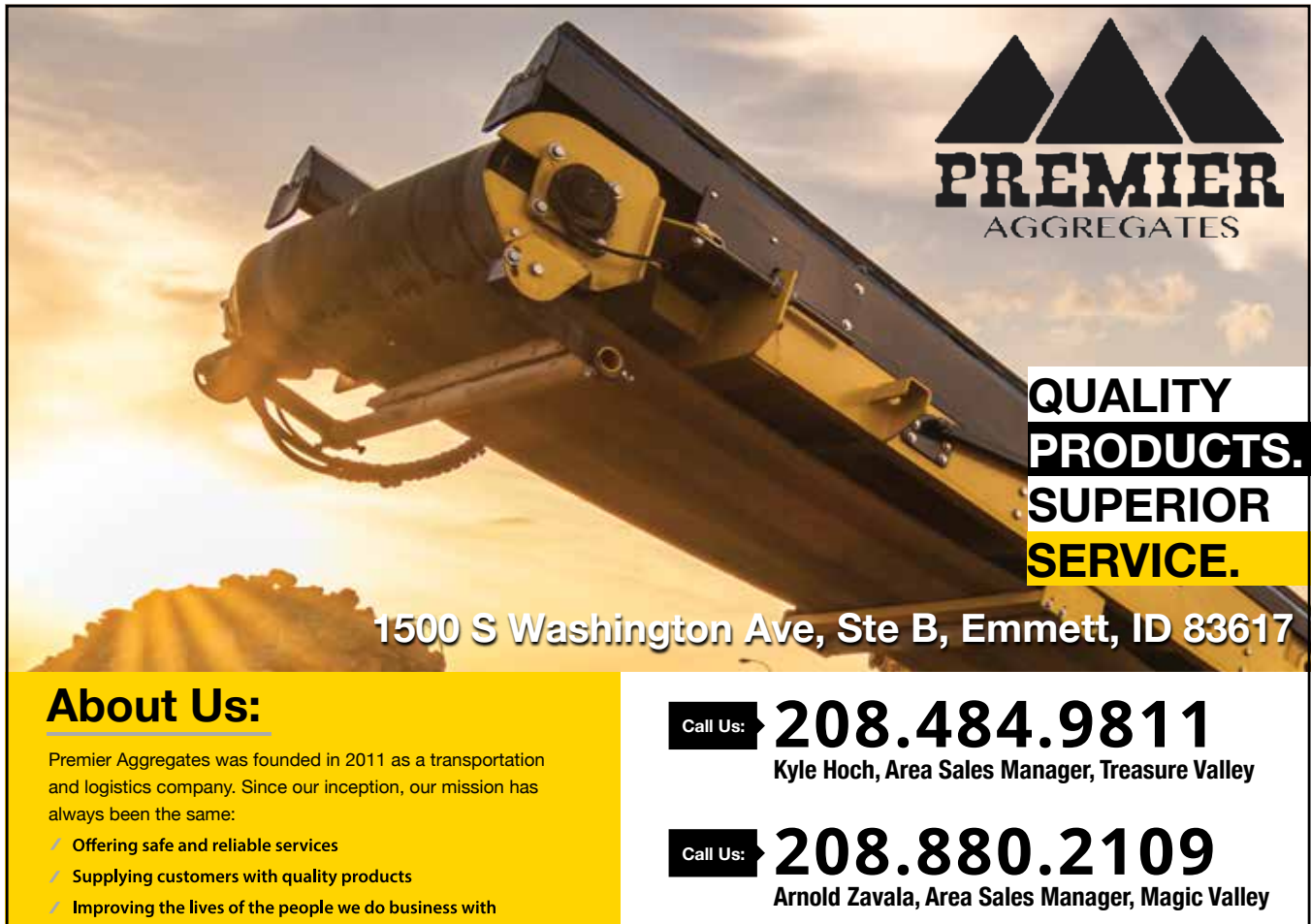
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AGC of America Education & Research Foundation Scholarship Recipients 2024

The AGC Education and Research Foundation offers undergraduate and graduate level scholarships to students enrolled in ABET or ACCE-accredited construction management or construction related engineering programs. Over \$10 million in scholarships have been awarded to more than 4,000 students attending colleges and universities across the country.

This March, three students from Idaho were awarded with an AGC of America scholarship:

- Emily Elliott from Boise State University was awarded the Holt Rast Memorial Scholarship.
 - Kylee Leigh from Boise State University was awarded the AGC Specialty Contractors Council & Supplier/Service Providers Council Scholarship.
 - Amber Smith from Boise State University was awarded the Hensel Phelps Scholarship.
- Congratulations to the scholarship recipients! We know your future is bright in this industry! ●



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TOOLBOX HUNT

The winner from the Fall 2023 issue was
LAURA McGRANE with Petra, Inc.

For this issue, your challenge is to find all the tools scattered throughout the magazine, and tell us what page you found them on. The first person to “fill their toolbox” and email Hailey at HReyes@IdahoAGC.org will win this custom Milwaukee embroidered backpack compliments of Milwaukee Tool.



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Idaho Contractor Expectations for 2024 and Beyond

By Macrina Wilkins, Senior Research Analyst, AGC of America

Slowing population growth, cooling residential markets, and interest rate uncertainties pose significant challenges to Idaho's economy in 2024. The state, which saw robust growth in its manufacturing sector in 2023, driven by projects from Micron, Meta, and others, is set to experience a modest shift from the previous year's surge.

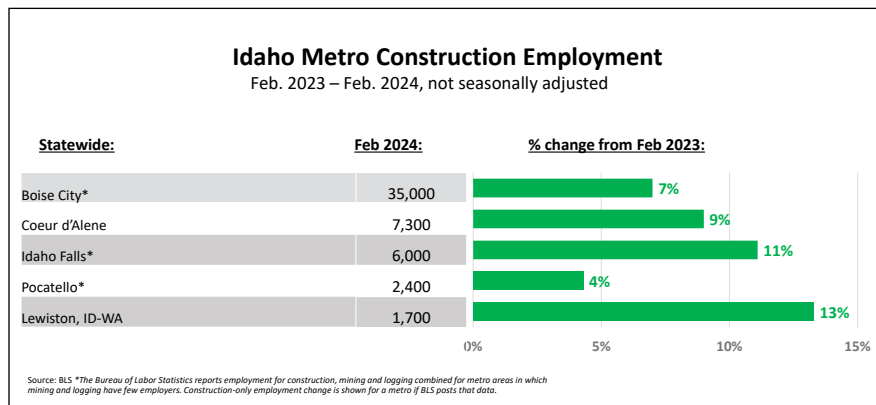
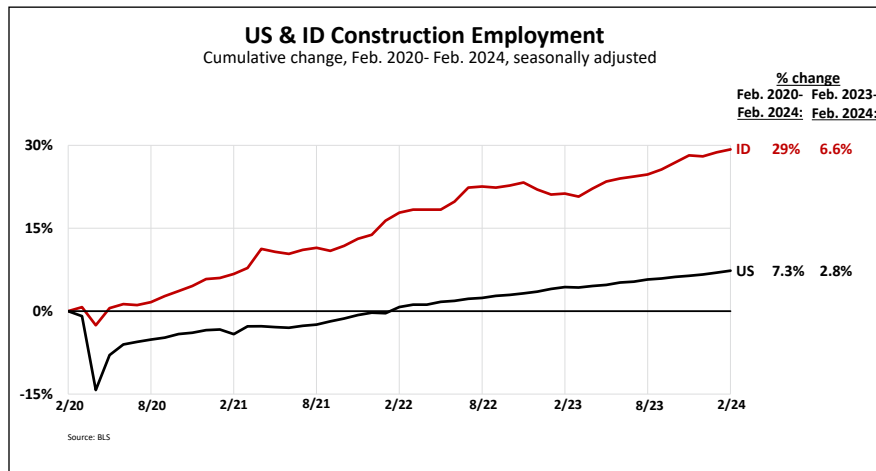
Construction plays a vital role in Idaho's economy, contributing \$7.8 billion, or 6.6 percent, to the state's \$119 billion GDP in

2023. Idaho's construction spending, as a percentage of GDP, was the third highest among states. The state has also seen an increase in the number of construction establishments, with a seven percent rise in the first three quarters of 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. This growth has been bolstered by the state's push for significant infrastructure projects, including school and energy projects, which remain key growth areas despite broader economic pressures.

By February 2024, Idaho's construction

industry employment reached 71,100, a 6.6 percent increase from the previous February and a record since data collection began in 1990. This growth outpaced the national increase of 2.8 percent. Most of Idaho's metro areas saw increases in construction employment over the last year, with Lewiston experiencing a 13 percent increase; Idaho Falls, 11 percent; Coeur d'Alene, nine percent; Boise City, seven percent; and Pocatello, four percent. This increase in construction employment correlates with the state's population growth, a key driver of the construction sector's expansion. Idaho's population grew by 1.3 percent from July 1, 2022 to July 1, 2023, slightly down from 1.8 percent the year before but still the fourth highest in the U.S., trailing only South Carolina, Florida, and Texas.

Despite the upward trend in employment, there is still a shortage of specialized labor. Finding enough skilled labor, particularly hourly craft workers such as electricians and HVAC technicians, continues to be a significant issue. This shortage is resulting in rising wages as firms vie to attract more qualified labor with competitive compensation. The average hourly earnings of Idaho's private sector employees rose 7.7 percent year-over-year in February 2024 to \$31.29. In the construction sector specifically, average hourly earnings in Idaho grew by nine percent over the same period to \$33.30, underscoring the wage pressures stemming from labor shortages.



Despite the upward trend in employment, there is still a shortage of specialized labor. Finding enough skilled labor, particularly hourly craft workers such as electricians and HVAC technicians, continues to be a significant issue.

These labor shortages and diminishing population growth raise concerns for economic expansion, especially as Idaho's housing market cools. After a period of low rates in 2021, the subsequent years have seen mortgage rate increases and inventory contractions, exacerbating affordability issues and leading to the cancellation of several multifamily projects, particularly affecting small and medium-sized developers. Multifamily permits declined by eight percent in Idaho in 2023, a stark contrast to the 31 percent increase the year before, pointing to a drop in multifamily construction.

Nonresidential construction starts showed massive growth in 2023. Meta announced the construction of an \$800 million Data Center in October 2022. In October 2023, Micron announced its construction of a semiconductor fabrication facility, an extremely large project estimated to cost \$7 billion. New nonresidential starts increased 196 percent from 2022 to 2023, according to data provider ConstructConnect. The construction project categories that contributed the most to Idaho's growth were industrial and military, while commercial, community, and education contributed the least.

It is unclear whether 2024 will see the same degree of growth as 2023 – there were an unprecedented number of extremely large projects started. Yet, there is optimism in the air, with legislative efforts such as the proposed bill for school construction and maintenance promising substantial investment in the state's infrastructure over the coming decade. Additionally, there are initiatives aimed at

enhancing Idaho's energy infrastructure, as the state has made a commitment to investing in renewable energy, such as wind farms, and sustainability. Despite challenges posed by labor costs and a

slowdown in certain sectors, the ongoing developments in manufacturing, public infrastructure, and energy sectors suggest a resilient and evolving economic landscape. ●



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IDAHO INFLUENCER: James Holtzclaw



James Holtzclaw is a seasoned veteran of Idaho politics and one of the state's most influential lawmakers.

One of the Idaho AGC's primary purposes is to serve as an advocate for Idaho's commercial construction industry. Perhaps the most obvious demonstration of this effort is the organization's diligence during the annual sessions of the Idaho Legislature. Each year, the Idaho AGC tracks somewhere between 60 and 80 individual pieces of legislation – each of which would have an impact on construction. Now in his sixth term (twelfth year) as an Idaho Representative, James Holtzclaw is a seasoned veteran of Idaho politics and one of the state's most influential lawmakers. He sat down for breakfast with Idaho AGC CEO Wayne Hammon and discussed his work in the Legislature.

Wayne Hammon: James, thanks for joining me today. I've known you now for more than a decade, but I've never been able to figure out your accent. Tell us about your background.

James Holtzclaw: I get that all the time. Before moving to Idaho decades ago, I spent half my life in Georgia and half in Texas. It's not really a Georgian accent but it's not quite Texan either.

When I was a boy, we lived on a small family farm in Georgia. In addition to farming, my father built homes. He was the type of builder that did it all – from the concrete in the foundation to the shingles

on the roof and everything in between. So, at an early age I learned how to construct things. He put me to work at five years old as the gopher and over time I learned the honor in building things.

Working construction and farming taught me a lot. It taught me that it's important to develop skill and it taught me that there is honor in hard work. But one day when I was 16, I was driving the tractor out in the field. It was a hot day, and I was covered in sweat. All of a sudden, two jets buzzed over my head, and I knew right then that I wanted a career in the military.

WH: Really? It was that simple? You saw the jets and made a life course decision right there in the tractor seat?

JM: Yes. Right then and there I knew that I was meant for the military. I was 16, so I had a few years to prepare, and I studied hard to get my grades up so that as soon as I finished high school, I would be eligible to enlist.

WH: How long were you in the military?

JM: I spent over 10 years in the military and loved every day of it. I was able to do a lot of really cool things. Serving in the military, I learned so much about myself and it instilled in me a deep responsibility to be of service to others. Military service showed me how I wanted to live my life.

WH: So, what brought you to Idaho?

JM: It's a classic story. I met an Idaho girl, and we started a family. The rest is history.

When I was in the military, I volunteered for a mentoring program where I would spend time with children whose fathers were deployed overseas. Doing so, I experienced firsthand how hard military service can be on the family. So, when I had a son, I had a decision to make. I could either be an okay dad and continue to serve or I could be the best dad and find a career where I could be fully engaged in his life. We chose to put family first and I left the military and relocated permanently to Idaho.

WH: What do you do when you're not in the Legislature?

JM: My primary business is in real estate, but I'm also very involved in development across the Treasure Valley. In addition, we buy homes, fix them up, and resale them. My background in construction really helps in that regard because we do most of the work ourselves. And if that wasn't enough, we just purchased an ice cream stand. So, any given weekend I'm either showing a house, tearing out dry wall, or scooping ice cream. It's really a diverse, some would say crazy, mix of activities.

WH: Being an entrepreneur affords you the flexibility of serving in the Legislature. But that also means that nobody covers for you when you take time away from work for public service.

JH: While it's true that my life does give me flexibility, it does come at a cost. I lose

money each year I'm in the Legislature. It's just the nature of the real estate work. When someone wants to buy a house, they want to do so right away. They don't want to wait until the evening or weekend because I have a committee meeting to attend.

WH: What's the most rewarding part of serving in the Legislature?

JH: The best part of my work is providing service to my constituents. It is very rewarding when I can help someone who has a problem find a solution. Sometimes it's a problem with the state or even their local city government. No matter how small the problem might be, it's a big deal to them and helping them resolve that is very rewarding. Doing so gives me the feeling that I've made a difference in that individual's life.

Again, it goes back to my experience in the military. I enjoy being of service. These people elected me and it's my duty to advocate for them whenever and wherever I can. It's hard to explain, but to me it's an honor that they have entrusted me with this important responsibility.

I truly believe that there is honor in public service.

WH: So, what's the secret? How do you balance a family, owning multiple businesses, your duties as a legislator, and being the chair of a very busy committee?

JH: It's tough to find the right balance. I believe that it's important to separate the duties in a way that makes sense for you as an individual. There are days that I am 100 percent committed to my responsibilities as an elected official. There are others that I have to focus on my business. What's important is to carve out specific time for each specific area of life and stay focused. When I'm with my family, I'm with my family. When I'm at the statehouse, I'm focused on my legislative work.

It's hard to be everything to everybody, but for me, I have found it helpful to focus

on what is at hand at that moment and to make sure that each part of my life gets time during the week – so that no one part is totally abandoned.

WH: So final question. If you could talk to that 16-year-old kid on the tractor in Georgia, what advice would you give him?

JH: I would tell him that it's all going to be okay. When I was growing up, I worried

a lot about the future. Will my grades be good enough to get into the military? Will I be successful in the duties entrusted to me? Will I be a good father?

Now it's taken a lot of hard work, but in the end, it has all worked out and I wish I could tell that kid to have faith. And maybe to enjoy life a little more along the way. ●



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2023 AGC/ITD Excellence in Construction Partnering Award Winners



Each winter, the AGC/ITD Excellence in Construction Partnering Awards recognize when organizations within the construction industry collaborate to achieve exceptional work. Why recognize exemplary partnering?

“When we put forth the extra effort to be a good partner, we enhance safety, increase collaboration among stakeholders, and build higher levels of trust, all of which result in a better project being delivered,” said AGC CEO Wayne Hammon.

“The benefits of partnering include enhanced teamwork, efficiency, and safer work zones,” added ITD’s COO Dan McElhinney. “We want to celebrate the long history of excellent partnering taking place here in Idaho.”

Statewide and local construction projects are eligible for recognition, and applications for the awards are accepted each fall. To qualify, applicants should be able to demonstrate that a project team of ITD and contractor employees stood out in their ability to resolve conflict, improve communication on the project with all audiences, utilize innovative solutions, incorporate team building activities, honor stakeholders, and ultimately achieve a common goal.

“We’re excited to be part of these awards, and to celebrate the excellent partnering we’re seeing take place all across Idaho,” said Hammon.

The Idaho AGC would like to congratulate the following award recipients, who were recognized for their achievement in partnering in late 2023. ●

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TOP GOLD AWARDS

Knife River Corporation, LHTAC, COMPASS,

City of Eagle, & ITD District 3

Bike/Pedestrian Bridge over Boise River, Eagle

M.A. DeAtley Construction, Inc. & ITD District 3

SH-55, Smiths Ferry to Round Valley

GOLD AWARDS

Selland Construction, Inc., LHTAC, & Benewah County

Slaughter House Bridge

LaRiviere, Inc. & ITD District 1

SH-53, Int N Ramsey Rd.

US-95, McArthur Lake, Boundary County

Apollo, Inc. & ITD District 1

US-2, BNSF RR Underpass

Knife River Corporation & ITD District 2

US-12, Oro no to Greer & SH-11,

Top of Greer Grade to Weippe

M.A. DeAtley Construction, Inc. & ITD District 2

US-95, Jct. SH-6, Turnbay, WIR RR Bridge, Deep Creek Bridge

Idaho Materials & Construction & ITD District 3

SH-21, Mores Creek Summit to Lowman

SH-55, Eagle Rd; I-84 to SH-44

Summit Construction, LLC & ITD District 4

SH-46, Intersection East 2000 South

HK Contractors, Inc. & ITD District 5

I-15, Rose IC to N. Lava Rocks

Ralph L. Wadsworth & ITD District 5

I-86, UPRR Bridge, Pocatello

SILVER AWARDS

Poe Asphalt Paving, Inc. & ITD District 2

Fy23 D2 Non Commerce Pavement Restoration

Concrete Placing Company, Inc. & ITD Districts 3/1

I-84, FY23 D3 W Bridge Repairs

Division St IC Overpass & Elizabeth Park Overpass

Knife River Corporation & ITD Districts 4/2

I-84, Declo POE EB, Cassia County

US-95 Aht'Wy Interchange and Plaza

Royal Bridge, Inc. & ITD District 2

US-95, Whitebird Creek Bridge Repairs

C.L. Heilman Company, Inc. & ITD District 1

FY23, D1 Bridge Repair

Western Construction, Inc. & ITD District 4

I-84, Kasota to Burley IC WBL

HK Contractors, Inc. & ITD District 6

SH-31, Overlay and Guardrail Upgrade

J7 Contracting, Inc. & ITD District 1

US-95 Labrosse Hill St to Alderson Ln, Bonners Ferry

Sundt-Cannon JV & ITD District 5

I-86 & I-15 System Interchange

Idaho Materials & Construction & ITD District 3

US-20, US-26, Chinden; I-84 to Middleton Rd.

Interstate Concrete & Asphalt Co. & ITD Districts 1

Osburn to W Wallace; Big Creek to MP 58.5

BRONZE AWARDS

Braun-Jensen, Inc. & ITD District 4

SH-21, Elk Creek Bridge

Cannon Builders & ITD District 4

SH-46, Big Wood River Bridge

Western Construction, Inc. & ITD District 4

US-93, Marley Rd to Jim Byrne Slough



FREE AGC of America Education Program Seeks to Help Emerging Contractors on the Road to Success

Geared toward small business owners, AGC of America's Emerging Contractors Education Series focuses on helping emerging contractors overcome the challenges they face by learning directly from seasoned AGC members.

Created by contractors for contractors, each module of the 12-part series dives into a different aspect of owning and operating a construction business. Each module of the series is led by a different contractor leader with subject matter expertise and hard-won real-world experience.

The series is a fully virtual, work-at-your-own-pace program available to members and non-members. It essentially functions like having a team of seasoned contractors mentoring you along the way, helping new contractors overcome the challenges

all small emerging businesses face. The course should assist emerging contractors in making their businesses thrive and grow.

While geared toward small business owners, the program offers a holistic dive into all facets running a construction company and could be useful for young or rising leaders within a company as well to make sure they have a strong foundational overview of what it takes to make it in the industry.

Because the course is free, students can view all 12 modules, or pick and choose whichever are relevant to their own path or needs. If you have employees or acquaintances, members or non-members of the AGC, who could benefit from AGC of America's Emerging Contractor Education Program, they can access the course at the following URL: www.agc.org/education/agc-emerging-contractors-education-series. ●



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Who Took Home Awards at the 89th Annual Awards Gala?

By Hailey Reyes, Idaho AGC



Each December, AGC members gather at the Boise Centre to celebrate a year of hard work, fundraise for the association and, most important of all, celebrate and honor those who go above and beyond in our chapter and our industry.

2023's lu'au-themed event was the 89th anniversary of the association and saw a record 830 attendees from across the state.

The first award was the Member Services Award, and it was awarded to JoAnn Lighty, Dean of Boise State University's College of Engineering.

BSU President Marlene Tromp commended Lighty, saying, "Your support and vision for our Construction Management program as well as the entire College of Engineering has helped [the construction industry] thrive and grow. The CM program has grown more than 60 percent in the last five years and you've been a champion for the new Construction Management building. You've led the way in helping donors see the great potential for this program."

The second award of the evening was the Service and Supplier Member of the Year and was awarded to Taelor Preheim of PortaPros. This past summer, the Idaho AGC partnered with PortaPros to place information on how to reach out for help in what is often the only private space on a construction site – the porta potty – in an attempt to lower what is a much higher-than-average rate of suicide in our industry. This effort was led by Idaho AGC's Director of Workforce

Development Molly Johnson and the entire team at PortaPros, but it was Taelor Preheim who got the job done.

“When she’s not trying to save lives, Taelor is a never-failing advocate for the construction industry and a champion of the AGC,” said AGC CEO Wayne Hammon as he presented the award.

Next up was for the Specialty Contractor of the Year. This award not only recognizes how important subcontractors are to the Idaho AGC, but how essential they are to the construction process.

“These masters of the trades are the cornerstone of every successful project,” noted Hammon. The 2023 Specialty Contractor of the Year Award went to Brie and Tony Ghinazzi, and Roy Thompson at Merit Professional Coatings, for their decades of reliable service to the Idaho construction industry.

Outgoing President Darrin Dance then took to the stage, “honored” he said, to present the fourth award of the evening: the 2023 President’s Cup. The Cup commemorates the hard work of an individual on behalf of the industry in Idaho. Dance said, “It’s not too often that you find a politician that is both effective and humble. Someone who keeps his promises and puts personal ambition aside for the betterment of the entire state. Our governor is a true leader [...] guided by solid principles and a desire to make Idaho a better place. He is also a solid supporter of the construction industry and a true friend of the Idaho AGC. It is my honor to [...] present him the 2023 Idaho AGC President’s Cup.”

Culminating the evening’s awards was the National SIR award, which is the highest award given by AGC of America and represents a lifetime dedication to the three qualities emblazoned on our emblem – Skill, Integrity, and Responsibility. In the over 110 years since

Our governor is a true leader [...] guided by solid principles and a desire to make Idaho a better place. He is also a solid supporter of the construction industry and a true friend of the Idaho AGC. It is my honor to [...] present him the 2023 Idaho AGC President’s Cup.”



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the AGC's founding, only 30 Idahoans have been honored with the SIR award.

President Matt Blandford had the honor of presenting the award.

"Like myself, tonight's honoree was born in Alaska. A Capital High graduate, he attended the University of Idaho where he received a degree in civil engineering," Blandford said. "Like so many of us, he worked outside Idaho after finishing school but found his way back to Idaho. For the past 17 years, Chuck Graves has been a force within the Idaho construction industry. As co-owner at McAlvain Construction, he has left his mark all across the Boise valley and beyond."

Among those who shared their stories of Chuck's impact on their lives, the industry, and the community were McAlvain CEO Torry McAlvain, Deputy Administrator Barry Miller of the Idaho Division of Public Works, mentee Kiki Sam, ACHD General Counsel Steve Price, and Camp Rainbow Gold CEO Elizabeth Lizberg.

"Chuck has a real ability to work with people. The Construction industry as a whole has benefited from Chuck. His honesty, integrity, his leadership skills, everything he has taught some of the younger generation of this industry: giving back, being involved in his community. He has been an inspiration to a lot of people," praised McAlvain.

Congratulations to all the award recipients at the 2023 Annual Awards Gala. If you know someone who should be nominated for an award, please reach out to the Idaho AGC – our Nominating Committee would like to consider your recommendation.

We'll see you all at our 90th Annual Awards Gala on Thursday, December 12, 2024 featuring country music legends, Lonestar. Tickets are on sale now at web.idahoagc.org/events. ●



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2024 Legislative Session in Review



By Sean Schupack, Idaho AGC Director of Government Affairs

The Idaho AGC set an ambitious agenda going into the 2024 legislative session. Volunteer leaders throughout the interim laid out numerous priorities that the organization was tasked with completing. In addition, your Government Affairs team identified several threats in harmful pieces of legislation that were

being pushed by a variety of groups against the interests of the construction industry in Idaho.

Fast forward three and a half months (and over a thousand bills) later and the Idaho AGC Advocacy Steering Group tracked 44 bills and took positions on more than 20. Of the bills that your organization engaged with, we are proud that (as

of writing this) nearly all of them had successful outcomes. While impressive, these numbers do not reflect the countless bad ideas that we were able to stop long before they ever got a bill number.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of members like you. Below are some of the highlights from this year's legislative session.

OFFENSE

School Facilities Funding – Supported legislation that funds well over one billion dollars in school facilities construction across Idaho over the next 10 years.

Infrastructure Funding – Successfully lobbied for over \$500 million in construction spending on heavy civil projects. This includes \$200 million in one-time money for small bridge repair and \$302 million in ongoing funds for highway safety projects.

Public Works Contractor Licensing Reform – Passed a bill that will exempt subcontractors from having to hold a public works license if the bid amount is under \$100,000 and they are under the direct supervision of a GC. This bill will increase the pool of available subcontractors to work on public works projects, especially in rural areas, while ensuring quality work.

New Software for General Construction Permit – Successfully lobbied for over \$200,000 to build a new software system at DEQ that will streamline the permitting process and ease the frustrating bottlenecks that have plagued the current system.

Lien Law Reform – Passed a bill that restores predictability and consistency in the lien law statute by setting a clear (within six months of filing) timeframe that a mechanics-lien must be enforced.

Unemployment Insurance Multiplier Reduction – Supported legislation that reduced the fund multiplier from 1.3 to 1.2, cutting rates paid by contractors by up to 35 percent.

DEFENSE

Buy America Act – Stopped a bill that would have required all manufactured materials in public works construction to be manufactured in the United States or be exempted through an arduous administrative process.

Contractors Right to Lien – Worked with the sponsor to hold a bill that would have removed suppliers from having the right to a mechanics-lien on a construction project.

Seasonal Unemployment – Killed a bill in committee on a 9-5 vote that would have drastically reduced unemployment eligibility for seasonal workers.

Criminal Penalties for Fire Sprinkler Code Violations – Stopped a bill that would have made it a misdemeanor criminal offense for violating fire code regulations on fire sprinklers.

What we thought was going to be an extremely close 1-2 margin vote ended up being a resounding 9-5, much of which I attribute to those members that took time out of their day to show up and testify.

LOOKING FORWARD

The work that we have been able to accomplish this year is a testament to the Idaho AGC brand, its staff, and most importantly, its members. Our members are what make the organization a powerful advocate for one of our state's most important industries.

A personal highlight for me this year was filling the committee room with members on the unemployment insurance bill (H 558). What we thought

was going to be an extremely close 1-2 margin vote ended up being a resounding 9-5, much of which I attribute to those members that took time out of their day to show up and testify.

With the legislative session over, we are turning our attention to the primary elections. Getting PAC contributions out early and supporting industry-friendly candidates is crucial to keeping our allies in elected office, some of whom are Idaho AGC members.

There is a lot at stake this election cycle and your organization will be actively engaged in scores of legislative races. Advocacy is a fundamental pillar of the Idaho AGC's mission. If you or someone at your company is interested in getting involved or has questions, please reach out anytime.

Thanks,

Sean Schupack ●



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Reentry Career Development Program Assists Idahoans Emerging from Incarceration

St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho provides vital services to individuals both before and after being released from prison

By Kelsey James



St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho's Reentry Services Program began 12 years ago with a special conference formed to address the needs of men and women exiting prison.

Security Institution due to the limited rates of release," Leigh said. "There are four of us on the team, and we're in the prisons almost every day of the week. We provide job search classes where we teach people how to write resumes, interview with confidence, talk about their criminal backgrounds, properly fill out applications, and provide general job search information."

The team conducts one-on-ones to find out each person's specific needs and then makes direct referrals to other services or organizations. They also build relationships with employers and talk to them about the incentives of hiring people who have been incarcerated and what they learn while in prison.

One of these incentives is the Federal Bonding Program which, in conjunction with the Federal Department of Labor, can issue a \$5,000 fidelity bond for employers who want to hire someone recently released from prison but whose insurance company doesn't allow it. The other is called the Work Opportunity tax credit. For one year of release from prison, an individual is eligible for

St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho is offering a helping hand to those transitioning out of the prison system, a service that is helping to address the construction industry's workforce development problem.

The organization's Reentry Services Program began 12 years ago with a special conference formed to address the needs of men and women exiting prison. In those early days, St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho offered basic services, including providing bicycles, food, clothing, and helping with financial needs. This program expanded approximately eight

years ago when Mark Renick began offering First Day Out services.

Six years ago, St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho started doing pick-ups to bring newly released citizens into town and connect them with services. Reentry Career Development Manager Tim Leigh joined the organization about 18 months ago and spearheaded the creation of the new Career Development Services, which includes pre-release courses, pre-release consultations, career searches, and support in finding and maintaining employment.

"We go into all the southwest Idaho prisons, except for the Maximum

enrolment in the program where, if the person is a veteran, the employer can get up to \$9,600 in a tax credit or \$2,400 for non-veterans.

“We’re trying to open the door for more employers to understand what these people can bring to the table,” Leigh said. “We care about the people. Just because they were incarcerated, it doesn’t mean they don’t deserve opportunities. The one thing I would like employers to do is learn more about the individual and don’t base a decision on a title of a conviction. Talk to the person and ask for their story.”

Last year, St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho conducted 12 classes with 462 residents in attendance. That was predominantly in two prisons, with the organization entering the third, fourth, and fifth facilities later in the year. They also met with 196 people for individual consultations while incarcerated, and 197 returning citizens met with the St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho Reentry Career Development team after release. The organization expects these numbers will double in 2024.

“When you’ve been incarcerated for an extended period, you have a big lapse in employment,” Leigh said. “If you’ve been out of the workforce for a while, people make assumptions that you don’t have anything to offer, and that’s just not true.”

Leigh worked at the Idaho Department of Labor for 20 years where he took an interest in the world of reentry, learned about the Idaho Department of Correction (IDOC), and what reentry meant for men and women leaving prison.

Leigh and a co-worker put together a training program on the topic and provided information to both Idaho Department Labor staff state-wide and Probation and Parole. Fifteen years later, Leigh joined the Department of Correction in the newly created role of Reentry Manager.

“I had a unique opportunity to see between those two jobs that there was a definite need for people to get employed as soon as they walked out of prison,” Leigh said. “It was important we started conversations prior to release from prison because if people walk out of prison and have an idea of where they’re going and what they’re doing, know how to market themselves via resumes, talk about their

criminal background, and access different organizations that provide services, their opportunity to succeed is that much greater.”

The Reentry Program operates in two ways. The Career Development side provides support within prison facilities, while the First Day Out Program is a team of people that pick individuals up when they’re released, bring them

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downtown, and provide basic services, including giving them a box of food, a clothing voucher to be used at one of the organization's thrift stores, and whatever else they may need. An assessment is also done and then follow-up referrals are made with the rest of the team to help the person transition and look for work.

"When people walk out of prison, most of them don't have a lot, especially if they've been in for an extended period. They literally walk out with the clothes on their back," Leigh said. "Getting started on the right foot is important. Sometimes their confidence level is low, so part of what we're trying to do is establish a relationship where we can build that

confidence. We try to teach people that just because they've been incarcerated, it doesn't mean they can't move on in a positive manner. When we give them those basic needs, that's a step in the right direction for a lot of people."

Working with the Idaho Department of Labor, St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho is a group sponsor for the apprenticeship program. If an employer is not a sponsor through the federal government for apprenticeships but is interested in providing training hours, they can be enrolled in the program under the organization.

"The Idaho Department of Correction provides a lot of training in the

construction field for people while incarcerated," Leigh said. "They have over 30 apprenticeship programs in prison. Many of these are construction-based and include cabinetry, basic carpentry, electrical, welding, fabrication, and creating blueprints. While they're incarcerated, they can get enrolled in a federally registered apprenticeship program and then, depending on what facility they're in, they can get on-the-job training in whatever their apprenticeship program is. Currently, there are roughly 150 people going through various programs within Idaho Correctional Industries in the prisons teaching people these skills."

There are several prison facilities within Idaho that offer NCCER certifications so those incarcerated can exit prison with construction experience and potentially be enrolled in an apprenticeship program. After a person has been placed with an employer, St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho will do 30 and 90-day follow-ups, although they continue to check in with the person for up to one year.

"We're trying to provide a workforce that is basically untapped because a lot of people don't understand or see what goes on in prison," Leigh said. "If employers understood that there are qualified people returning to our community with construction skills, certifications, and potential apprenticeships, then they would know they have a lot of value."

Leigh encourages any employers interested in learning about what skills are being taught within the prisons to reach out to the organization. St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho can schedule tours of facilities so employers can see the equipment people train on while being incarcerated.

For more information about St. Vincent de Paul Southwest Idaho and the Reentry Career Development Program, visit www.svdpid.org. ●



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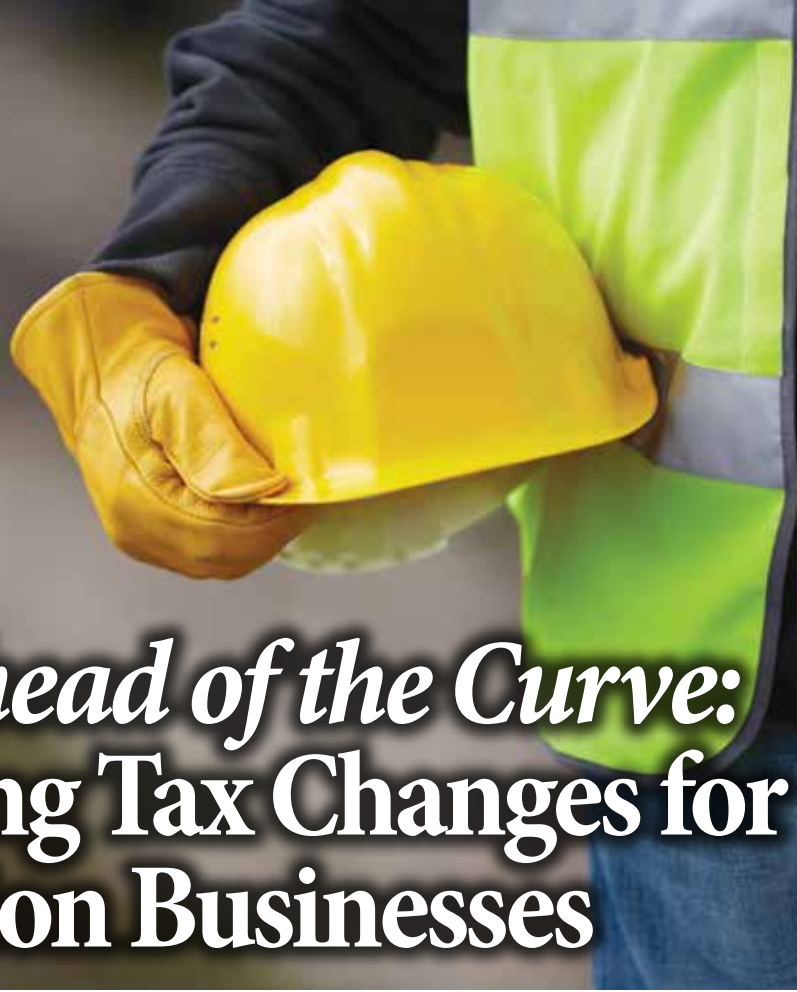
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Staying Ahead of the Curve: Anticipating Tax Changes for Construction Businesses

By Ryan Beard, Harris CPAs

Though we find ourselves past another tax season, we continue to remind our construction clients to anticipate the evolving tax landscape and its implications year-round. Fortunately, the 2023 tax year brought very few disruptions. With the gradual phasing out of COVID-19 relief measures, we've entered a period of relative stability (for the time being).

With that said, there are still some immediate changes affecting your company's 2023 tax return, as well as some changes on the horizon in future tax years, including adjustments to tax deductions and credits.

For construction businesses, there were some notable changes for tax year 2023:

- As part of COVID-19 relief efforts, the IRS encouraged business spending, including at local restaurants. While

business meals were 100 percent deductible in 2021 and 2022, this deduction reverted to 50 percent for 2023. Additionally, there were some standard inflation adjustments for various retirement plans and health savings plans.

- Limitations for business interest expense were increased during the TCJA to include 50 percent of adjusted taxable income in the calculation to determine deduction. In 2023 and beyond, the limit reduced back to 30 percent of adjusted taxable income.
- Depreciation rules, particularly for bonus depreciation, were reduced to 80 percent for qualified property placed in service in 2023 and 60 percent for 2024. There is legislation advocating to extend bonus depreciation, but the decision is yet to be made.
- Section 179 expensing, with limits previously set to \$1.05 million,

increased to \$1.16 million for tax year 2023. These changes could affect the timing and extent of deductions for construction equipment, vehicles, real estate improvements, and other assets.

- The Inflation Reduction Act of 2023 offered construction business owners increased energy incentives, driving them to adopt energy-efficient technologies and practices. By leveraging these incentives, they can reduce costs, enhance project marketability, and meet the demand for environmentally conscious construction. Investing in renewable energy sources positions businesses as industry leaders, ensuring competitiveness and contributing to long-term sustainability.

As we look towards the future, we anticipate these potential changes for the 2024 tax year and beyond:

- The deduction for qualified business



income (QBI) under Section 199A may see alterations, impacting the tax treatment of pass-through entities common in both industries, such as partnerships, LLCs, and S corporations.

- There has been a great deal of interest regarding 174 capitalization rules that may change due to the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024. The bill passed the House of Representatives on January 31. This act has repealed the prior rule change allowing taxpayers to deduct R&D Expenses rather than capitalize and amortize over time. More details will be provided if the bill does pass.

In addition, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), implemented in 2018, brought significant alterations to the tax code. However, these changes are set to expire after 2025, implying a return to pre-TCJA tax conditions by 2026 – albeit adjusted for inflation.

Here's what to expect:

- Adjustments in tax incentives for construction-related research and development (R&D) activities may occur, affecting the availability and scope of tax credits for innovation in construction techniques, materials, technologies, and real estate development.
- Regulatory changes or tax incentives aimed at promoting workforce development, training, and affordable housing initiatives in the construction industry may influence hiring practices, employee retention, and development project strategies.

Given the impending changes in the tax landscape for the construction industry, proactive tax planning and consultation with a tax professional specializing in these industries can provide invaluable guidance in navigating these transitions and optimizing tax outcomes for construction businesses and investors. ●



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Who Is Paying for Big Pharma?

By Alliant Employee Benefits

While drug supply chain players can argue over which component directly contributes to the increasing cost of prescription drugs, the truth is, drug prices are impacted by several elements. The lack of transparency around financial arrangements directly impacts the pockets of employers and their employees who need these lifesaving medications.

MEET THE PLAYERS

Several players in this complex ecosystem influence drug costs as a drug makes its way to the person in need.

- Manufacturers set the price for drugs based on their own criteria, which may include research and development

costs but also considers uniqueness, effectiveness, and competitors' pricing for similar drugs.

- Wholesalers have leverage to negotiate the purchase price from manufacturers and have room to mark up the price that pharmacies will pay.
- Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBM) determine which drugs are covered by a plan and negotiate pricing with insurers and pharmacies. The intent is to ensure members enrolled in a prescription drug program receive affordable therapies, but PBMs don't always pass along the savings.
- Insurers guide plan participants toward the pre-negotiated drug formulary recommended by their PBM, but

ultimately set the out-of-pocket coinsurance and copays for prescription drugs.

- The US Government even plays a role through the absence of regulation on the pharmaceutical industry.

CONSUMER AFFORDABILITY VS. SUPPLY CHAIN PROFIT

As each supply chain link keeps some profit along the way, the gap between access and affordability grows. From higher costs for lifesaving medications, to adverse health outcomes due to members rationing or skipping expensive medications, the vicious cycle continues for every new drug that comes to market. Lacking individual control, consumers look to their employers to help keep necessary drugs within budget.

WHAT CAN EMPLOYERS DO TO PROTECT THEIR EMPLOYEES?

Employers have a significant role in ensuring members enrolled in their prescription plans have cost-saving opportunities amid a very complex system.

1. **Educate your employees:** Education is free for the most part and will not only reduce costs but engage employees

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more effectively with their benefits packages. From preferred pharmacies to generic alternatives, mail-order services, and other cost-saving options, every communication regarding their drug costs should be framed in the context of the employee.

2. Manage your PBM relationships:

Because these organizations negotiate with pharmacies, drug companies, and insurers, they can secure the rebates for specific drugs and keep costs low for their clients. Transparency is the number one issue with PBMs, so retaining the right to renegotiate your contract at any time is paramount.

3. Work with an experienced pharmacy broker: They can help keep your PBM on their toes and ensure you and your employees get the savings they promise to pass along. Actively managing this relationship is a full-time job. A trusted employee benefits consultant acts in your best interest and isn't afraid to push back against your PBM for pricing that meets the needs of your organization.

These strategies can mean the difference between cost-cutting opportunities and putting the increasingly high costs of the drug supply chain on the backs of employees. ●



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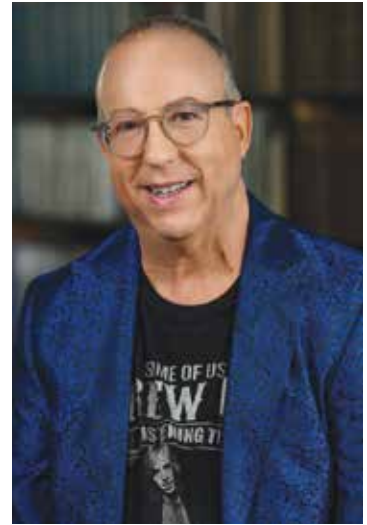
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The Tech-Driven Construction Revolution: How Idaho is Leading the Charge

By Louis Katz, President, Technolene



In the fast-paced world of construction, where every second and cent counts, Idaho's builders are leading the charge towards more efficient, cost-effective, and smarter construction practices by leveraging the latest technological advancements. From sky-high views with drones to

building smarter with BIM, wearables on the worksite, 3D printing for affordable housing, and robots joining the crew, the construction industry in Idaho is undergoing a revolution.

SKY-HIGH VIEWS WITH DRONES

Companies like Idaho's own Tamarack Construction are leveraging drones to

capture every detail of the landscape from angles that were once impossible to achieve. These high-flying helpers are used for tasks such as surveying land and monitoring construction progress, turning what used to be a time-consuming and costly chore into a swift, precise operation that keeps projects on track and under budget.

BUILDING SMARTER WITH BIM

Building Information Modeling (BIM) is revolutionizing the way architects, engineers, and builders collaborate. By creating a digital model of a project before construction begins, companies like Engineered Structures, Inc. (ESI), headquartered in Boise, are reducing misunderstandings and costly mistakes, and ensuring that every project is built right the first time.

WEARABLES ON THE WORKSITE

Safety and efficiency are getting a high-tech boost with wearable gadgets. Companies like Andersen Construction are using smart wearables to keep workers safer and make every minute on the job count. These wearables can monitor vital signs and alert workers to potential hazards, acting like a guardian angel on the worksite.

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3D PRINTING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

3D printing is not just for small gadgets anymore. In Idaho, innovative companies like Prefab Logic are exploring how to print entire homes, offering a potential solution to housing shortages and high construction costs. By using 3D printing techniques to create components of homes with less waste and in record time, these companies are proving that big ideas can indeed come from small nozzles.

ROBOTS JOINING THE CREW

Robotic technology is making its way onto construction sites, taking on repetitive tasks and freeing up human workers to tackle more complex challenges. Companies like McAlvain Companies, Inc. are integrating robots into their construction crews to work smarter, not harder, and push the boundaries of what's possible on a construction site.

These Idaho trailblazers are just a few examples of how embracing technology is not just a strategy but a necessity for staying ahead in the competitive construction landscape. By leveraging these technological advancements, Idaho's construction community is building a future where every project is smarter, safer, and more sustainable than the last.

DRONES IN CONSTRUCTION

- Drones in Construction: How They're Being Used & the Benefits: <https://www.bigrentz.com/blog/drones-construction>

BUILDING INFORMATION MODELING (BIM)

- What is BIM? A Guide to Building Information Modeling: <https://www.autodesk.com/solutions/bim>
- Wearables in Construction
- The Practical Wearable Construction Technology Contractors Need to Learn About Right Now: <https://www.forconstructionpros.com/>

[profit-matters.com/article/22874545/practical-construction-wearables](https://www.profit-matters.com/article/22874545/practical-construction-wearables)

3D PRINTING IN CONSTRUCTION

- Dr. Behrokh Khoshnevis: on the 25-year journey to bring Contour Crafting & construction 3D printing to the masses: <https://www.3dsourced.com/3d-printed-houses/contour->

[crafting-dr-behrokh-khoshnevis-interview/](https://www.crafting-dr-behrokh-khoshnevis-interview/)

ROBOTICS IN CONSTRUCTION

- Robots Are Coming to the Construction Site: <https://www.constructconnect.com/blog/construction-robotics>





Idaho's First Designed Medical Camp Serves Children and Their Families

In 2019, Camp Rainbow Gold purchased Hidden Paradise in Fairfield, which encompasses 172 acres of an old 700-acre golf resort.

Camp Rainbow Gold renovates new location with help of community, construction companies, and suppliers

By Kelsey James

An Idaho medical camp for children living with cancer is expanding with the support of local contractors, suppliers, and craftsmen.

Camp Rainbow Gold is a non-profit organization serving Idaho children diagnosed with cancer and their families. It began in the mid-1980s as a week of camp for a handful of children and has since grown into a summer oncology camp, sibling camp, family camp, college scholarship program, and teen support group.

In those early days, Camp Rainbow Gold was a program of the American Cancer Society and leased campsites across Idaho. The organization eventually expanded its summer camp from one week to two while also introducing year-round programming. They now offer

a total of five camps; including ones specifically designed for children and teens with cancer, as well as camps that serve the entire family.

Through this process, the group ran into challenges leasing campsites. Many weren't built with medical access or needs in place, and they couldn't invest in any safety upgrades to the facilities. This led them to purchase a 36-foot trailer they called the "Med Shack" because doctors could no longer use the facilities provided by the camp. They also couldn't get any long-term leases, so it was rare for them to know what dates camp would be each summer, making planning difficult.

"But the most heart-wrenching thing was that we had to turn kids and families away because capacity was low," said Camp Rainbow Gold Chief Executive Officer, Elizabeth Lizberg. "If you ask the kids, it's

life-altering for them. It's what they wait for every year. For these kids whose lives have been changed by a diagnosis, having a place like this is imperative to their healing."

In 2014, Camp Rainbow Gold left the American Cancer Society and became its own non-profit organization. This is when they decided to explore what they could do to create a permanent home.

In 2019, Camp Rainbow Gold purchased Hidden Paradise in Fairfield, which encompasses 172 acres of an old 700-acre golf resort. They conducted a feasibility and master plan study and kicked off a campaign to raise over \$15 million to renovate the property.

Then, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

"It brought everything to a screeching halt," said Camp Rainbow Gold Capital



Campaign Director, Lonni Leavitt-Barker. “We took all our programs and went to an online format. Our volunteers and staff went above and beyond, but it wasn’t as magical as the kids were hoping. A big part of going to camp is being with their friends face-to-face. Our doctors came to us at the end of that summer and said, ‘We have to figure out a way to get these kids back together.’”

In less than six months, the Camp Rainbow Gold team remodeled 14 buildings on the property. The cabins were revamped and ADA bathrooms, new flooring, and bunk beds were installed. They tore out an old swimming pool to create an outdoor dining area. The project was budgeted at about \$3.2 million, but they completed it for about half the cost because of the tremendous support from the community, local contractors, and suppliers.

Camp Rainbow Gold was able to host their first camps at Hidden Paradise in 2021, two years ahead of schedule.

“It was all these people coming together that helped us pull this off,” Leavitt-Barker said. “One of those we must call out is Chuck Graves, the co-owner of McAlvain Construction. He’s guiding this project and overseeing it. He is why we are successful. He’s helped us stay on schedule and made sure everything is built to last. We would not be where we are without him.”

Chuck Graves is just one of countless examples of the generosity of this community. Camp Rainbow Gold received \$2.1 million from Blue Cross of

Left: Camp Rainbow Gold is a non-profit organization serving Idaho children diagnosed with cancer and their families. Above: Camp Rainbow Gold was able to host their first camps at Hidden Paradise in 2021, two years ahead of schedule. Below: Hidden Paradise is seeing more than 50 percent of in-kind donations and much of that comes from our construction community.



Idaho to build a new “Med Shack” on site, which will allow them to better support the campers while at camp. Hummel Architects donated the design, Andersen Construction is building it at below cost, and many of the subcontractors are donating materials and labor. For example, Leighton Enterprises just donated their entire framing package with Builder’s First Source contributing the lumber. The medical building is on schedule to be completed in May—ready for the kids to arrive in June.

Andersen Construction, based in Portland, also brought a team of employees up for five days and presented the camp with a brand new 200-seat outdoor amphitheater.

Homebuilder Blackrock Homes spearheaded the donation and building of six new ADA cabins with the help from three other Valley builders: Alturas, Core Building Company, and James Clyde Homes. The cabins have two bathrooms,

granite countertops, air conditioning, and heating. There will even be a sliding door in the middle so it can be divided into two distinct cabins allowing them to invite double the number of families to camps. The foundations for another six cabins are under construction as you read this.

“That’s the incredible support we’re seeing as we build out this camp,” Leavitt-Barker said. “They’ve set all this competition aside and have worked together to do this for the children. It’s mindboggling to us. We’re very grateful.”

Typically, non-profit projects of this size see about four to six percent of in-kind donations. Hidden Paradise is seeing more than 50 percent of in-kind donations and much of that comes from our construction community.

Hidden Paradise now boasts seven new buildings with ADA washrooms, wheelchair ramps, an outdoor dining area, and accessible mountain bike trails with specialized bikes for kids who can’t pedal.

Many of the 26 buildings on site have also been remodelled, paddle boats, fishing, 3-D archery, a ropes course, and an equestrian area are other highlights of the property. Amenities that are still expected to come include ziplines, an accessible playground, and sports courts.

One of the most impactful elements of the medical camp is that it is serving many organizations that need a safe, accessible, nurturing space. Starting in 2022, Camp Rainbow Gold welcomed other non-profit groups serving children and families with medical challenges from across the state facing similar problems with accessing facilities to host their camps. A few of these organizations using the property or signed up for the future include the Epilepsy Foundation of Idaho, Amp Camp (a camp for children who are amputees), Camp River Run (medically complicated children), and Joni & Friends (families with children who are disabled).

“It’s truly become Idaho’s medical

camp,” Leavitt-Barker said. “Hidden Paradise is home of Camp Rainbow Gold, but it’s becoming the home of all these organizations as well. It’s also not just having an impact on children; there’s a group, Sunrise Retreats, that comes up twice a year with widows to do yoga, hiking, and cooking. The sky is the limit of those we serve.”

“We knew what we were struggling with, but we didn’t realize it was every organization that serves medical needs and hosts camps,” Lizberg added. “The need in Idaho was far greater than what we envisioned when we started down this road.”

The next phase of the project is to build a main lodge, which the organization says is key to being successful. Local architects are in the process of drawing renderings.

“Currently, there’s a small lodge on site that will only seat 50, maybe 60 indoors. Our biggest camps can be around 200, so this is our next push,” Leavitt-Barker said.

“We need to have a place where everyone can safely gather inside and eat together as a group. It will have a platform so we can have our dances and talent shows, but also a commercial kitchen that can feed these large groups.”

There is still plenty of work that needs to be done at Hidden Paradise, and Camp Rainbow Gold is happy to meet with local construction companies to discuss where they can be of help.

“The bottom line is kids just want to be kids,” Leavitt-Barker said. “They want to run around, have fun, be accepted, and do things that other kids get to do. We’re trying to level the playing field and create a welcoming place where everyone can feel comfortable, safe, and welcome.”

For more information and to get involved, visit www.camprainbowgold.org. Or to learn more about utilizing the facility, visit www.hiddenparadisecamp.org. ●

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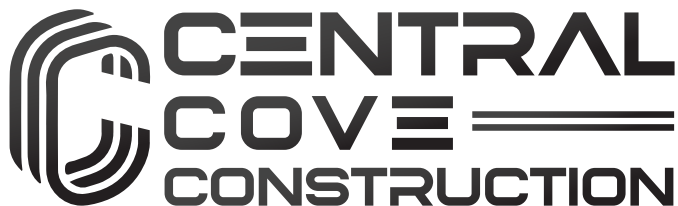
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Idaho Recycling Company to Open State's First Food Recycling Plant in Nampa

Timber Creek Recycling currently specializes in the recycling of organics, concrete, sheetrock, wood, and manure management

By Kelsey James



Left: Timber Creek Recycling (TCR) currently recycles approximately 400 million pounds of material each year through a wide range of innovative services for residential, commercial, and industrial companies throughout Idaho. Center: Based in the Treasure Valley, Timber Creek recycles organics, concrete, sheetrock, wood, and manure management. Right: Timber Creek Recycling is currently in the process of finalizing blueprints on its new one-storey, 33-acre commercial food recycling plant, which will be northeast of the Amalgamated Sugar plant in Nampa.

A cutting-edge recycling company and Idaho AGC member is building Idaho's first food recycling plant.

Timber Creek Recycling (TCR) currently recycles approximately 400 million pounds of material each year through a wide range of innovative services for residential, commercial, and industrial companies throughout Idaho.

Based in the Treasure Valley, the organization offers concrete crushing, grinding, screening, turning, and land clearing and demolition. In terms of recycling, Timber Creek focuses on organics, concrete, sheetrock, wood, and manure management.

"We try and serve the waste of the community – agricultural waste, too – and

then engineer that waste to its highest and best use," said Mike Murgoitio, owner of Timber Creek Recycling.

The company also partners with other businesses to recycle waste they're currently unable to, such as hard plastic, glass, and cardboard.

ORGANICS RECYCLING

In the U.S., about 95 percent of food scraps are thrown away and eventually end up in landfills, which then produces methane gas. According to the U.S. Environment Protection Agency, landfill gas compromises 17.7 percent of all U.S. methane emissions.

At Timber Creek Recycling, the company will help individuals recycle residential and yard compostable,

including leaves, grass, brush, pine needles and cones, Christmas trees, food organics, and other natural materials. They also recycle industrial single stream by-products, which the TCR will evaluate to see if the waste can be used for feed within the guidelines set by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), and the Idaho Department of Agriculture.

"What we try to do is listen to the pain points from everybody, and one of the pain points from landfills is that 40 to 60 percent of what goes into the landfill is organic and can be recycled," Murgoitio said. "If you're sitting in downtown Boise or Garden City, you're going to smell the landfill, and that's because of the food waste."

CONCRETE RECYCLING

Demolition to make space for new structures generates a large volume of waste. Unfortunately, most of this waste from concrete structures is routinely shipped to landfills for disposal. Concrete recycling, which is the use of aggregate from demolished concrete structures, provides an alternative, and TCR is offering it locally.

Recycling concrete is cheaper and more ecological than trucking aggregate to a landfill. Crush aggregate can be used for road gravel, revetments, retaining walls, landscaping gravel, or raw material for new concrete.

Recycling one tonne of cement can save 1,360 gallons of water, or 900 kilograms of CO2. It reduces pollution from transport to landfills and dumps, as well as lowers the costs of transporting these materials.

SHEETROCK RECYCLING

Instead of shipping sheetrock – or drywall – to a processing facility to be used as fertilizer, Timber Creek Recycling grinds the drywall with construction wood to repurpose as cattle bedding.

The company was the first to recycle sheetrock at a landfill on a large scale in the Treasure Valley.

“I used to own cattle, and so did my family,” Murgoitio said. “We had a need for cattle bedding, so we started grinding materials for our own needs. My cousins wanted some, so we started doing it for our family and then we extended it to friends. Next thing I knew, people loved what we were doing, so we started producing more.”

Currently, sheetrock and gypsum materials dumped into a landfill convert into toxic hydrogen sulphide gas, releasing up to a quarter of its weight in hydrogen sulphide. The paper in the plasterboard also converts into methane gas.

Other uses of recycled sheetrock include acting as a source for plant nutrients,

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“This is one of a kind. I don’t know of anywhere else that has housed the packager, transfer station, and compost facility all in one spot.”

improving soil properties, reducing toxins in agricultural runoff, soil remediation and stabilization, and water purification, among others.

WOOD RECYCLING

Recycled wood waste – such as pallets and old lumber – produces mulch, which has a medium texture and can be used for ground cover.

Mulch is placed on the topsoil in gardens, flower beds, backyards, parks, and recreational areas. There are numerous benefits to using mulch, including controlling soil erosion, reducing water evaporation from the topsoil by 25 to 50 percent, reducing weed growth, and maintaining irrigation in soil.

MANURE MANAGEMENT

This type of composting involves

forming organic waste into rows of long piles called “windows” and aerating them periodically by mechanically turning the piles.

“For my family, it was a big challenge to manage our manure process because there’s a lot of work to it and doing it right is hard,” Murgoitio said. “What I did was offer the service to the dairymen so it was one less headache they had on their plate. The next thing I knew, I started engineering by-products that wouldn’t be recycled, like packaged items. We’ve developed processes that will separate those and get that material out and then separate the plastic for it to be recycled.”

A NEW VISION FOR TIMBER CREEK RECYCLING

Timber Creek Recycling is currently in the process of finalizing blueprints on its

new one-storey, 33-acre commercial food recycling plant, which will be northeast of the Amalgamated Sugar plant in Nampa. This location was selected because it’s in between Nampa’s two landfills, has freeway access within a mile, and is close to a large gas line capable of handling high volumes of gas.

“With this new facility, we’re going to offer the Treasure Valley the opportunity to recycle food waste in a way that’s never been done here before in the state of Idaho,” Murgoitio said. “This is going to solve a lot of pain points for community members. The landfills don’t want to accept sludge or liquids, and this will be the first facility that uses liquids and doesn’t try to evaporate them. It will create an avenue for these companies to do it safely.”

The project is estimated to cost upwards of \$5 million and is being self-funded. The new facility is expected to be operational by fall/winter of this year.

“This is a unique property. In fact, engineers that are helping us absolutely love the design because the plumbing and everything ties in with our composting facility and the transfer station,” Murgoitio said. “This is one of a kind. I don’t know of anywhere else that has housed the packager, transfer station, and compost facility all in one spot.”

Seattle-based company Green Mountain, which is world famous for building these types of compost facilities, is assisting with the project.

There will also be a retail location on-site that allows customers to buy compost from any scale, making the facility a “one-stop shop for waste.”

Murgoitio encourages all interested Idaho construction companies to contact Timber Creek Recycling and schedule a waste characterization study on their materials to learn what recycling opportunities they might have.

For more information, visit www.timbercreekrecycling.com. ●

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