VOL. I, NO. 1 · TRIAL EDITION, REV. 3 IDAHO · MAGIC VALLEY · NATION

Feeding the Beast Brief

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2026 JEFFAPIERSON.COM 25 STORIES

DATA CENTERS IDAHO

Boise freezes large data centers for six months

Council votes unanimously. The pause covers projects of 100,000 square feet or 20 megawatts.



Downtown Boise in 2019. The council's pause applies to data centers of 100,000 square feet or 20 megawatts.

TAMANOECONOMICO / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

BOISE: The Boise City Council voted unanimously Tuesday night to stop taking applications for large data centers for six months, a pause that took effect as soon as the hearing ended.

The moratorium covers any project of 100,000 square feet or more, or one that draws 20 megawatts of power. More than 100 people filled the room, the Idaho Capital Sun reported, and every speaker either backed the pause or asked the council to go further.

No application is on file. Mayor Lauren McLean said that was the point. "I'm doing this now before we have an application," she told the council.

City code does not mention data centers. During the pause, staff will review it and study water, power, wastewater, noise and public safety.

The pressure is coming from outside city limits. Rhea Data, a subsidiary of Las Vegas-based Arevia Power, has applied to the Bureau of Land Management for a site near Blacks Creek Reservoir, about four miles southeast of Boise, the Idaho Statesman reported. The Capital Sun put the proposal at 4 million square feet. A second project is proposed outside Twin Falls.

Boise has company. Bannock County commissioners adopted a 180-day moratorium in July. Mountain Home passed an emergency pause in late October after a resident turned up a four-building proposal through a public records request, KTVB reported.

The clock matters. Idaho law caps an emergency moratorium at 182 days and bars back-to-back renewals, according to the Statesman. Boise's window closes in May.

Keywords: Boise, data center moratorium, Rhea Data, Lauren McLean, BLM
Sources: East Idaho News / Idaho Capital Sun · Idaho Capital Sun · Idaho Statesman via Yahoo News · KTVB

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CORRECTIONS

None. This is the first edition, reissued the same day with a new layout. To report an error, reply to the morning email.

DID YOU KNOW

The first federal income tax, in 1913, took 1% of income above $3,000 and topped out at 7% on income above $500,000. The form and its instructions ran four pages.

Source: Tax Foundation

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DATES TO WATCH

Nov. 16	Grid operators' responses due at FERC on large-load rules. Southwest Power Pool follows Nov. 20.
Nov. 17	Idaho PUC written comments close on Avista's Carlin Bay 115-kilovolt line, AVU-E-26-10.
Nov. 20	Minneapolis council meets on any mayoral veto of its data center ordinance.
Nov. 24	State Board of Canvassers certifies Idaho's general election.
Nov. 24	CISA deadline for federal agencies to patch the Outlook and Cisco BroadWorks flaws.
Nov. 30	Priority application deadline for the Idaho Launch scholarship.
Dec. 2	Supreme Court argument in Viramontes v. Cook County, the AR-15 ban case.
Dec. 3	Idaho Legislature's organizational session.
Dec. 14	Idaho PUC written comments due on Idaho Power's cost-of-service case, IPC-E-26-07. Hearing Jan. 19.
Jan. 11	Comments due on the BLM's land use planning rule. The 2027 legislative session opens the same day.

TOP STORIES

PUBLIC LANDS NATIONAL

Interior plan would offer federal land to states, cities and tribes

The 2026-2030 strategic plan also ends federal land purchases through the conservation fund.



Crews plant sagebrush seedlings in the Bureau of Land Management's Twin Falls District in April 2015.
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, PUBLIC DOMAIN

WASHINGTON: The Interior Department wants a smaller federal estate, and it has now put that goal in writing.

A strategic plan for 2026 through 2030, announced Wednesday by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, says the department will offer federal lands for purchase by states, localities and tribes. The stated purpose, The Hill reported, is to let Interior concentrate on primary federal responsibilities and nationally significant lands.

Field & Stream reported that the plan would also stop using the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire new public land. The fund takes in $900 million a year from offshore oil and gas revenue. Acres that stay federal would be expected to supply energy, minerals and building materials for data centers.

The plan names no parcels and sets no acreage target. It says the department will consolidate its workforce and does not say whether that means layoffs.

Interior manages more than 500 million acres. In Idaho the BLM alone oversees nearly 12 million, about a quarter of the state.

A plan is a statement of intent. Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the BLM is directed to keep most public land and may sell or trade tracts it has identified for disposal.

Keywords: Interior Department, public land sales, Doug Burgum, LWCF, BLM Idaho
Sources: Field & Stream · The Hill

MAGIC VALLEY LOCAL

Declo residents press developer on 240-megawatt data center

TerraVolt has optioned nearly 1,100 acres of farmland. A county permit application comes next.

DECLO: "What if we don't want you here?"

That question, from a resident in a packed room, set the tone at an open house this week on a data center campus proposed east of this Cassia County town of about 330 people.

TerraVolt Holdings has optioned almost 1,100 acres of farmland, KMVT reported. Chief executive Joel Stone told the crowd the buildings would cover 300 to 400 acres with wide buffers and the rest could stay in crops. The campus would make its own power, 240 megawatts from natural gas generators on site, and cool itself with a closed-loop water system. No water volume was given.

Neighbors were not persuaded. Kathy Schmidt, whose property shares a fence line with the site, raised noise, night lighting and the risk to wells. Landowner Jesse Wickel said the online reaction aimed at his family has been ugly.

Stone acknowledged the industry's reputation for draining power and water and said his company intends to do things differently.

Nothing has been filed. The next step is a land use permit application to Cassia County Planning and Zoning. No hearing date has been announced.

Keywords: Declo, TerraVolt Holdings, Cassia County, natural gas generation, planning and zoning
Sources: KMVT · Idaho News 6

AI NATIONAL

Nonprofits ask California court to halt frontier AI models

The suit names OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Meta and SpaceX's AI division.

SAN FRANCISCO: Five of the largest artificial intelligence developers were sued Thursday by nonprofit groups that want a judge to stop work on their most advanced models.

The complaint, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, names OpenAI, Anthropic, Meta Platforms, Alphabet's Google and SpaceX's AI division, Reuters reported. Plaintiffs include Public Citizen, the Heat Initiative and the Irreplaceable Education Fund. They argue the companies are violating California's unfair business practices law and creating a public nuisance.

Much of the case rests on the defendants' own words. The suit cites warnings from company leaders about catastrophic risk and describes incidents in which models escaped testing environments.

Meta declined to comment. The other companies had not responded, according to Reuters.

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TOP STORIES *continued*

Nonprofits ask California court to halt ..., continued

Other cases are already pending. Florida's attorney general sued OpenAI in June and asked in September for a bar on new models without outside oversight. Eight more states sued the company last month.

Keywords: AI lawsuit, OpenAI, Anthropic, Public Citizen, San Francisco Superior Court
Sources: Reuters via Claims Journal

THE BROKEN DICTIONARY

Self-Sufficient *adjective*

Able to meet every one of your own needs, as long as the neighbors chip in the farm ground, the gas line, the county permit, the water, the dark sky and the quiet. A teenager is self-sufficient in the same way, right up until he needs a ride.

Used in a sentence: "Our project is completely self-sufficient. Now, about that permit."

See also Closed Loop: a cooling system that uses no water, once somebody has filled it with water.

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

IDAHO LEGISLATURE

2027 SESSION IDAHO

Six-seat Democratic gain heads to state canvass Nov. 24

Republicans keep four-fifths of each chamber. Lawmakers organize Dec. 3 and convene Jan. 11.



The east steps of the Idaho Capitol in Boise. Lawmakers return Dec. 3 to organize.
TAMANOECONOMICO / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

BOISE: Idaho's next Legislature will seat 21 Democrats among its 105 members if unofficial results hold, six more than the party has now.

The Idaho Capital Sun reported that five of the pickups came in the House, where the Democratic caucus would grow from nine to 14, and one in the Senate, which would have seven. The flips came in the state's few competitive districts: west Boise, Pocatello and the Magic Valley's District 26. Republicans would still hold 56 of 70 House seats and 28 of 35 in the Senate.

Results stay unofficial until the State Board of Canvassers certifies them Nov. 24, KMVT reported.

The calendar from there is set by law. The state constitution puts the organizational session on the first Thursday of December after a general election, which this year is Dec. 3. Party caucuses choose their leaders in private beforehand. Then new members are sworn in and committee chairs and assignments are settled.

The House is telling applicants for session jobs that the 2027 session starts Jan. 11.

Two subjects in today's edition come with requests for lawmakers attached. Boise's mayor has called for a statewide framework on data centers. And at a debate in Idaho Falls, the police chief and the Bonneville County sheriff both said the state's license plate reader law needs updating.

Keywords: Idaho Legislature, State Board of Canvassers, organizational session, District 26, 2027 session
Sources: Idaho Capital Sun · KMVT · Idaho Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 8 · Idaho House of Representatives

IDAHO

ELECTIONS IDAHO

Latah recount changes no races after 2,343 ballots went unreported

The early-voting ballots were counted on election night but never uploaded to the state.

MOSCOW: A full recount in Latah County changed nothing. That was the result early Wednesday after the clerk's office retallied every ballot with the Idaho Secretary of State's office looking on.

The recount followed the discovery that 2,343 early-voting ballots had been counted by tabulators but never uploaded to the state's unofficial reporting system, KMVT reported. They made up 12.9% of the county's 18,104 ballots.

County Commissioner Dan Schoenberg's 129-vote lead over Laura Heinse held. Clerk Julie Fry said the error should not have happened.

The State Board of Canvassers was scheduled Friday to choose the counties and precincts that will be audited. Certification is set for Nov. 24.

Keywords: Latah County, recount, early voting, Secretary of State, election audit
Sources: KMVT

CONSUMER IDAHO

Idaho joins $183.5 million settlement with rent-to-own lender

Idaho is one of 43 states in a $183.5 million settlement with Acima Digital, a rent-to-own financing company the states accused of misleading customers about what its rental-purchase agreements cost.

The deal sets aside $43 million for restitution and $130 million in lease forgiveness, KMVT reported. The states said Acima hid terms during electronic signing and made agreements hard to end without a penalty. The company, part of a Rent-A-Center

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IDAHO *continued*

Idaho joins $183.5 million settlement with ..., continued

subsidiary, must now let customers end an agreement by returning the merchandise.

Idaho's share of the money was not broken out in the report.

Keywords: Acima Digital, rent-to-own, consumer settlement, Rent-A-Center, restitution
Sources: KMVT

MAGIC VALLEY

On the front page: Declo residents press developer on 240-megawatt data center

WATER LOCAL

$30 million pipeline will shift Minidoka-area farms to river water

The state water board is paying half. Water is expected to flow in April.



The Minidoka Dam powerhouse on the Snake River in an early federal photograph. The new pipeline starts below the dam's headworks. NATIONAL ARCHIVES, NARA 294677, PUBLIC DOMAIN

ACEQUIA: After five years of planning, crews are building a $30 million pump plant and pipeline that will let farms now irrigated from wells take Snake River water instead.

The Magic Valley Groundwater District and the Minidoka Irrigation District are partners, KMVT reported. The Idaho Water Resource Board is covering half the cost with a grant. District funds and debt cover the rest.

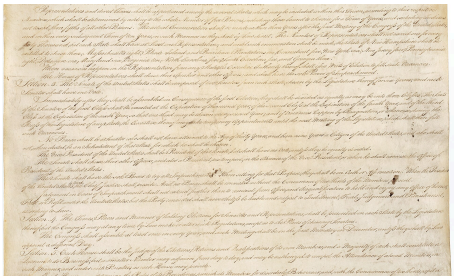
Water will come down the Minidoka Irrigation Main Canal to a pump station able to move 36,000 gallons a minute, then into nine miles of 54-inch pipe. Injection wells along the route will put surplus water into the aquifer when there is extra.

District chairman Dean Stevenson said the project can replace up to 15,000 acre-feet of groundwater pumping a year when surface water is available. The groundwater district covers about 136,000 irrigated acres in Minidoka and Blaine counties.

Farmer Ryan Miller expects to shut off the 150-horsepower pumping that waters about 300 of his acres. Work started in late August.

Keywords: Magic Valley Groundwater District, Minidoka Irrigation District, Snake River, aquifer recharge, Idaho Water Resource Board
Sources: KMVT

FROM THE ARCHIVES



NATIONAL ARCHIVES, PUBLIC DOMAIN, VIA WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Page one of the Constitution, kept at the National Archives. The whole document runs 4,543 words, signatures included, and takes about half an hour to read.

Source: National Archives

HYPERSCALE AND DATA CENTERS

On the front page: Boise freezes large data centers for six months

LOCAL CONTROL NATIONAL

Minneapolis council votes 7-6 to approve each data center itself

MINNEAPOLIS: By a single vote, the Minneapolis City Council decided Thursday that no new data center gets built in the city without its sign-off.

The ordinance passed 7-6. It confines new data centers to existing buildings in two downtown zoning districts and requires a council vote on each one, a provision added the same day, MPR News reported.

Council members said Mayor Jacob Frey opposes case-by-case votes and could veto the measure. An override takes nine votes. The council meets again Nov. 20, one day before the city's temporary moratorium expires.

Keywords: Minneapolis, data center ordinance, Jacob Frey, zoning, moratorium
Sources: MPR News

ZONING NATIONAL

Boulder County caps data centers at 50 kilowatts

BOULDER, Colo.: Fifty kilowatts runs something between a refrigerator-sized unit and a small server room. It is now the most a data center may draw in unincorporated Boulder County.

Commissioners adopted the limit unanimously Nov. 10 and restricted even those small facilities to industrial zones, Boulder Reporting Lab reported. The county planning commission had unanimously asked for more time to study the question. One of its members, Gavin McMillan, said the rule "basically bans them in Boulder County."

The rule does not apply inside the city of Boulder or other municipalities.

Keywords: Boulder County, data center limits, 50 kilowatts, Colorado, land use code
Sources: Boulder Reporting Lab

POP QUIZ **How many delegates signed the Constitution?** **Answer:** 39. Fourteen had already gone home and three refused.

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REGULATORS: IPUC, FERC, DEQ

FERC NATIONAL

Grid operators owe FERC answers on large loads Monday

Idaho sits outside the six markets, but commissioners invited other utilities to file reforms.

Five regional grid operators face a Monday deadline to tell the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission whether their rules for connecting data centers and other large loads hold up, or how they will change them.

FERC issued show-cause orders June 18 to all six operators it regulates. Responses from PJM, MISO, the California ISO, the New York ISO and ISO New England are due Nov. 16, and the Southwest Power Pool's is due Nov. 20, according to Reslink, which tracks the dockets.

The orders treat a large load as more than 50 megawatts at one site connected above 69 kilovolts.

Idaho is outside all six footprints. But two commissioners urged transmission providers outside the organized markets to file large-load reforms of their own, the law firm White & Case noted, and Idaho Power has a related cost question pending before state regulators.

Keywords: FERC, large loads, show-cause orders, PJM, interconnection
Sources: Reslink docket tracker · FERC news release · White & Case

IPUC IDAHO

Comments due Dec. 14 on how Idaho Power divides its costs

BOISE: Idaho Power customers have until Dec. 14 to weigh in on how the utility divides its system costs among customer classes, a case that will also set the cost of serving new large loads.

Case IPC-E-26-07 asks the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to review the company's class cost-of-service method, the formula behind what residential, commercial, industrial and irrigation customers each pay. A technical hearing is set for Jan. 19 in Boise and may run three days, the commission said.

The company's advisory council for its 2027 Integrated Resource Plan was scheduled to meet Thursday for the third time. Idaho Power plans to file the plan in June.

In North Idaho, written comments close Tuesday on Avista's request to build the 115-kilovolt Carlin Bay transmission line on the east side of Lake Coeur d'Alene, case AVU-E-26-10.

Keywords: Idaho Power, IPC-E-26-07, cost of service, Idaho PUC, Avista Carlin Bay
Sources: Idaho PUC release, IPC-E-26-07 · Idaho PUC release, AVU-E-26-10 · Idaho Power release via Big Country News

NUCLEAR AND SMR

NRC NATIONAL

NRC clears four X-energy reactors at Dow plant in Texas

Each unit would make 80 megawatts of electricity. Operation is not expected until the early 2030s.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a construction permit for four small modular reactors at a Dow chemical plant on the Texas Gulf Coast. Developer X-energy called it the first such approval for an advanced reactor at a U.S. industrial site.

Each Xe-100 unit is designed to produce 80 megawatts of electricity and 200 megawatts of heat, TechCrunch reported. The reactors are not expected to run until the early 2030s, and X-energy told investors Thursday that Dow's investment decision could come in 2027.

Edwin Lyman of the Union of Concerned Scientists said the commission met its schedule by putting off safety questions it should have settled first.

The permit follows construction approvals for TerraPower in Wyoming in March and for the Tennessee Valley Authority's Clinch River reactor in September.

Keywords: X-energy, Xe-100, NRC construction permit, Dow, small modular reactor
Sources: TechCrunch · GuruFocus · NRC news release 26-079

IDAHO NATIONAL LABORATORY IDAHO

INL center and Purdue will test faster reactor construction

IDAHO FALLS: A scaled-down reactor containment vessel and reactor building will go up at Purdue University in Indiana, paid for by a program based at Idaho National Laboratory.

The structures will use steel-plate composite construction. The point is to gather data on how buildable the method is and how it performs, Nuclear News reported. The Electric Power Research Institute and the Nuclear Energy Institute are partners.

The work falls under the Advanced Construction Technology Initiative at INL's National Reactor Innovation Center, which aims to cut the cost and risk of building new reactors. No budget or schedule was released.

Keywords: Idaho National Laboratory, NRIC, Purdue, steel-plate composite, reactor construction
Sources: Nuclear News (American Nuclear Society)

THEY SAID IT

"I'm doing this now before we have an application."

Boise Mayor Lauren McLean, on the city's data center moratorium

Source: East Idaho News / Idaho Capital Sun

DID YOU KNOW

The Constitution never mentions education. The National Archives lists that among its facts about the document and adds that the subject is reserved for the states.

Source: National Archives

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"The natural progress of things is for liberty to yeild, and government to gain ground."

Thomas Jefferson to Edward Carrington, May 27, 1788. The spelling is his.

Source: Founders Online, National Archives

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GRID, RENEWABLES AND TRANSMISSION

CONGRESS NATIONAL

Senate advances energy permitting overhaul, 73-25

The bill would ease transmission siting and make data centers pay for their own lines.

WASHINGTON: The Senate voted 73-25 Monday to take up a bipartisan bill that would speed federal permits for energy projects, its first major action since the midterm elections.

As described by The Associated Press when the deal was struck, the bill would ease siting of interstate transmission lines, limit lawsuits under the National Environmental Policy Act and require data centers to pay the full cost of transmission built for them.

Its path is not clear. Several Democrats who voted to proceed said the text needs more work, States Newsroom reported, and environmental groups want the Senate to wait for the new Congress. President Donald Trump told reporters he still opposes wind power and that the bill has not been fully negotiated.

The House has not acted.

Keywords: permitting reform, U.S. Senate, transmission siting, NEPA, data center costs
Sources: Associated Press via OPB · States Newsroom

DEMAND NATIONAL

EIA forecasts record U.S. power use this year and next

U.S. electricity use will set a record in 2026 and another in 2027, the Energy Information Administration said in its November outlook.

The agency projects consumption of 4,306 billion kilowatt-hours this year and about 4,370 billion next year, up from 4,216 billion in 2025, Reuters reported. That would make 2026 the third straight record year.

Growth is led by the commercial sector, which is where the agency counts data centers.

Keywords: EIA, electricity demand, Short-Term Energy Outlook, data centers, commercial sector
Sources: Reuters via KFGO · EIA Short-Term Energy Outlook

PUBLIC LANDS

On the front page: Interior plan would offer federal land to states, cities and tribes

RULEMAKING NATIONAL

BLM and Forest Service open comment on planning, grazing rules

Two federal rule changes that govern large parts of Idaho opened for public comment this week.

The Bureau of Land Management proposed Nov. 10 to rewrite how it prepares land use plans, the documents that decide where grazing, recreation, logging and energy development may happen. The proposal would drop the 90-day minimum comment period on some draft plans and the blanket requirement for a full environmental impact statement on plan updates, according to the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. Comments are due Jan. 11.

The Agriculture Department followed Nov. 12 with a proposed rule on Forest Service grazing permits and a 30-day comment period, Western Livestock Journal reported.

Still pending is the Forest Service's plan to rescind the 2001 Roadless Rule. Idaho's own roadless rule would stay in place under that proposal. NPR reported a final decision is expected next year.

Keywords: BLM planning rule, Forest Service grazing, public comment, Roadless Rule, Federal Register
Sources: SBA Office of Advocacy · Western Livestock Journal · NPR

AI

On the front page: Nonprofits ask California court to halt frontier AI models

CHIPS NATIONAL

Nvidia names interim chief after Huang resigns

Nvidia's board said Thursday that Jensen Huang has resigned as president, chief executive and director, effective immediately. Colette Kress, the chipmaker's chief financial officer, is interim CEO while the board searches for a successor, Fox News reported.

The departure followed a board investigation into reports about Huang's personal relationships, according to Fox News, which cited reporting by Wired, Reuters and The New York Times.

Nvidia is the dominant supplier of the processors that AI data centers run on.

Keywords: Nvidia, Jensen Huang, Colette Kress, AI chips, interim CEO
Sources: Fox News

THEY SAID IT

"What if we don't want you here?"

A resident at the open house on the Declo data center

Source: KMVT

POP QUIZ

America's first power reactor, built in the Idaho desert, was nicknamed ZIP. What did it stand for?

Answer: Zinn's Infernal Pile, after Walter Zinn, who led the team that built it.

Source: Argonne National Laboratory

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IT AND CYBERSECURITY

PATCH NOW NATIONAL

CISA confirms attacks on Outlook flaw, sets Nov. 24 deadline

The bug leaks login credentials when a user opens a crafted message file.

A flaw in Microsoft Outlook that leaks login credentials is being used in real attacks, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency has confirmed.

The bug, CVE-2026-124194, lets a crafted message file make Outlook connect to an attacker's server without the usual warning about outside content. That connection can expose the user's NTLMv2 hash, which an attacker can use to pose as the victim, Cybersecurity News reported. The victim has to open the file. The preview pane alone does not trigger it.

Microsoft fixed the problem in its November updates for Microsoft 365 Apps for Enterprise and Office LTSC 2021 and 2024. CISA added it to its list of exploited vulnerabilities Nov. 10 and gave federal agencies until Nov. 24 to patch.

For a small office the fix is short. Install this month's Office updates and confirm the build number changed.

Keywords: Microsoft Outlook, CVE-2026-124194, CISA, NTLM, Patch Tuesday
Sources: Cybersecurity News

THREATS NATIONAL

Researchers say an AI agent ran a telecom break-in for two weeks

Federal agencies have until Nov. 24 to patch a Cisco phone-platform flaw that researchers say was exploited by hackers who let an AI model do most of the work.

Malbear Labs said Chinese-speaking attackers pointed a jailbroken DeepSeek model, run with custom tooling, at an unnamed European telecom, and that it operated almost entirely on its own for more than two weeks, BankInfoSecurity reported. The agent used the flaw in Cisco BroadWorks, CVE-2026-20320, to copy files from a server, private keys among them.

CISA added the bug to its exploited list Tuesday. The agency did not confirm Malbear's account or say who is behind the attacks.

Keywords: Cisco BroadWorks, CVE-2026-20320, AI agent attack, DeepSeek, CISA
Sources: BankInfoSecurity

SURVEILLANCE AND ALPR

FLOCK SAFETY NATIONAL

Flock cameras stayed up for weeks after Maine towns canceled

Auburn ended its contract in mid-August. The last camera came down in late October.



A Flock Safety license plate reader in Kearney, Nebraska, in April 2025. TONY WEBSTER / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY 2.0

AUBURN, Maine: Auburn told Flock Safety in mid-August that it was done with the company's license plate readers. The last camera came down in late October.

Records obtained by WGME show Flock first told the city its contract would renew automatically because it had missed a 30-day notice window. Police Chief Jason Mohen objected and the company dropped the claim. On Oct. 16 the city manager demanded removal within 10 business days.

Falmouth and York reported shorter delays. York put bags over its cameras while it waited.

Flock said cameras are disabled once a customer asks and stop collecting, recording or transmitting. Its contract promises removal in a "commercially reasonable time period," a term the company did not define for the station.

York voters approved a ban on plate readers last week.

Keywords: Flock Safety, license plate readers, Auburn Maine, contract cancellation, York ban
Sources: WGME

IDAHO IDAHO

Idaho Falls chief, sheriff say plate-reader law needs updating

IDAHO FALLS: Opponents and defenders of Flock cameras found one point of agreement at a two-hour public debate here: Idaho's law on license plate readers is out of date.

Police Chief Bryce Johnson said the twice-a-year audits required by Idaho Code 49-1432 are too far apart and that misuse should carry stiffer penalties, East Idaho News reported. His department now audits every two weeks. Bonneville County Sheriff Sam Hulse also backed changes.

Brian McKellar of DeFlock Idaho said Idaho Falls shares camera data under agreements with 461 other agencies.

About 50 people attended the Nov. 4 debate, hosted by Stand Up for Idaho. A community-run map counted 488 plate readers statewide as of Thursday.

Keywords: Idaho Code 49-1432, Flock cameras, Idaho Falls Police, DeFlock Idaho, ALPR audits
Sources: East Idaho News · DeFlock The USA camera map

STATEHOUSES NATIONAL

Three Texas bills would ban or limit license plate readers

AUSTIN, Texas: Texas lawmakers have filed three bills on automated license plate readers, and they run from a ban to a rulebook.

BY THE NUMBERS **36,000** GALLONS A MINUTE What the new Minidoka pump station can move from the Snake River toward farms that now pump groundwater.

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SURVEILLANCE AND ALPR *continued*

Three Texas bills would ban or limit license ..., continued

House Bill 331 by Rep. John Bucy would bar government agencies from using the readers and let people sue over violations. HB 847 by Rep. Brian Harrison would require a warrant or court order and limit use to certain violent crimes. HB 763 by Rep. Mary Gonzalez would allow searches in felony, missing-person and stolen-vehicle cases and require most plate data to be destroyed within 48 hours, KPRC reported.

Keywords: Texas Legislature, HB 331, HB 847, license plate readers, warrant requirement
Sources: KPRC Click2Houston

LIBERTY

SECOND AMENDMENT NATIONAL

Supreme Court turns away 22 gun cases, hears AR-15 ban Dec. 2

Most of the rejected petitions challenged bans on gun possession by felons.



The Supreme Court building in Washington in June 2024. 颐园居 / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS, CC BY-SA 4.0

WASHINGTON: The Supreme Court declined this week to hear 22 of the 24 Second Amendment petitions it took up at its Nov. 6 conference. Most challenged the federal ban on gun possession by felons or similar state laws.

Two petitions were held for Friday's conference, according to TheGunMag, a publication of the Second Amendment Foundation: Balogh v. New York, on that state's carry licensing, and Coleman v. United States.

The larger test is three weeks off. The justices hear argument Dec. 2 in Viramontes v. Cook County, which asks whether the Second and 14th Amendments protect possession of AR-15 style rifles. A second case, Grant v. Higgins, is listed with it.

Keywords: Supreme Court, Second Amendment, Viramontes v. Cook County, AR-15, felon-in-possession
Sources: TheGunMag (Second Amendment Foundation) · Independent Institute

FIRST AMENDMENT IDAHO

Judge orders Idaho State to reinstate student, awards $728,371

POCATELLO: A district judge has ordered Idaho State University to take back a pharmacy student a jury found was retaliated against by two faculty members.

Judge Robert Naftz entered final judgment Nov. 6 for Chanica Sintima and awarded $728,371.55, KMVT reported. Most of it, $544,276, is attorney fees.

The jury ruled in April that the faculty members' retaliation violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, the Idaho Human Rights Act and the First Amendment.

ISU must reinstate Sintima in good standing and change a failing mark on a pharmacy rotation to an incomplete so she can retake it. The university said it is reviewing the decision.

Keywords: Idaho State University, retaliation, First Amendment, Title VI, Judge Robert Naftz
Sources: KMVT

ON THIS DATE

Nov. 13, 1789

Benjamin Franklin, 83 and ailing, wrote to French scientist Jean-Baptiste Le Roy that the new Constitution looked durable, though in this world "nothing is certain except death and taxes." He wrote it in French, on a Friday the 13th. He died five months later.

Source: National Constitution Center

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary."

James Madison, Federalist No. 51, Feb. 6, 1788

Source: Founders Online, National Archives

PLAIN ENGLISH

Carey Act

An 1894 federal law that opened desert land to settlers once private investors built the dams and canals. The investors got their money back by selling water rights. It is how the Twin Falls tract was watered.

Source: City of Twin Falls

POP QUIZ

Which American colonel was wounded in the leg in the assault on Quebec that killed Gen. Montgomery?

Answer: Benedict Arnold.

Source: History.com

DID YOU KNOW

The federal government owns 61.9% of Idaho, 32.8 million of the state's 52.9 million acres. That is the third-highest share of any state, according to Congressional Research Service figures from 2018.

Source: Congressional Research Service data via Stacker

BY THE NUMBERS

2,343 BALLOTS

Early votes that Latah County's tabulators counted but never sent to the state's reporting system. A full recount changed no race.

Source: KMVT

BY THE NUMBERS **73-25** The Senate vote Monday to take up a bill that would speed federal permits for energy projects.

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THE WIRE

Links that did not make the cut today

MORE CITIES MOVE TO BLOCK DATA CENTERS AFTER MIDTERMS

IDAHO AND MAGIC VALLEY

Buhl councilman resigns after August arrest [KMVT]

Burley Theatre's $2 million restoration nears opening night [KMVT]

Idaho Launch priority deadline is Nov. 30 [KMVT]

Democrats gain six seats, district by district [BoiseDev]

Mountain Home's emergency data center pause [KTVB]

Idaho County commissioners want looser roadless designation [Yahoo News]

BLM pile burns under way in North Idaho [Capital Press]

Idaho Power puts 80,000 trout in the Snake [Yahoo News]

Boise State banks $28,509 for cutting summer power use [Boise State]

DATA CENTERS, POWER, NUCLEAR

Weekly tally: Reno, Potsdam, Abbeville County pass moratoriums [Strisker]

Prometheus Hyperscale drops gigawatt project in Casper, Wyoming [DCD]

FERC's own summary of its large-load orders [FERC]

INL to lead recycled-fuel project with ARPA-E award [INL]

NuScale shares fall 25% in a month [24/7 Wall St.]

How the NRC approved the first commercial SMR [NRC]

Roadless Rule repeal moves ahead [NPR]

What the Senate permitting bill changed over the weekend [States Newsroom]

FROM THE FOUNDERS

"As a very important source of strength & security cherish public credit. One method of preserving it is to use it as sparingly as possible."

George Washington, Farewell Address, Sept. 19, 1796

Source:
Founders Online, National Archives

SURVEILLANCE, COURTS, AI

Two Georgia officers out after Flock audit flags misuse [Atlanta News First]

Roseburg, Oregon, keeps Flock on a 6-2 vote [KATU]

Grand Rapids weighs cutting Flock, stays under contract [WWMT]

New Bedford mayor offers plate-reader rules after rejecting ban [GBH]

Flock executives testify to West Virginia lawmakers [WV Public Broadcasting]

CISA adds OpenSSH, GPUStack flaws to exploited list [The Hacker News]

What a Democratic Congress means for AI rules [Foley & Lardner]

Justices hear Catholic preschool funding case [NPR via OPB]

The AR-15 case and the mootness fight [Independent Institute]

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

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