



SCHOOL BOND INFO MEETING MONDAY!!

# THE WEEKLY BEAVER!

WEEKLY BEAVER VOLUME 14, No 38 APRIL 24 A. D. 2024! PUBLIC SCHOOL FOES TARGET PRO-PUBLIC-SCHOOL CANDIDATES! YOW!

**Mountain Humane and the City of Fairfield hosted a huge pet chip+jab event last Sunday! THE DOGGAGE WAS MAGNIFICENT!**



José brought Bitsy for shots. Itsy was also there, but out of the picture.

**Remembering and celebrating Jamie Peterson!** A celebration of Jamie's life will be held Friday, April 26, 2024, at 1 p.m. at the Camas County High School Gymnasium in Fairfield, Idaho. Pastor Ron Geer will officiate.



## *Passage:* Richard Lee – Dad, Army Vet, Passionate Singer

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Richard L. Lee, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, passed away on April 13, 2024 at the age of 77 in Draper, Utah. Born in Fairfield, Idaho on September 29, 1946, to Harold Dixon Lee and Dora Packham Lee, Richard's life was one of service, love, and dedication to his family.

Richard served a faithful mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and later married his sweetheart Cheryl in the Idaho Falls Temple. Richard was a proud Army veteran who served his country with honor and distinction.

Beyond his military service, Richard found joy in music and church callings. He was a passionate member of the Payson Civic Chorale, where his voice lifted spirits and touched hearts. Affectionately known as "General," Richard dedicated many years of his life to Geneva Steel, where he not only worked but also fostered friendships and made lasting contributions to his workplace and family.

Richard's legacy of love, service, and kindness will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His laughter, his wisdom, and his unwavering love for his family will continue to inspire those whose lives he touched.

Richard was preceded in death by his cherished wife of 51 years, Cheryl Simmons Lee, his parents Harold and Dora, and his siblings Norene, Harold, Gordon, Jay, and Molly. He is survived by his children Jason (Andrea), Angela, Noel (Jonathan), and Jeremy (Zach), along with his grandchildren Tamra, Makayla, Richard, Abigail, Isabell, Katelin, Jackson, Banin and Rian. He also leaves behind his

siblings, Kenneth Lee and Peggy Lee, and two great-grandchildren.

Services were on Wednesday April 17, followed by interment at Richard's final resting place, Payson Cemetery at 400 N. 800 E. in Payson, Utah



Though Richard may no longer be with us in body, his spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved him. May he rest in peace, reunited with his beloved Cheryl and embraced by the eternal love of his Heavenly Father.

CAMAS LILY DAY

# FUN RUN

THROUGH CAMAS CENTENNIAL  
MARSH TO SUPPORT  
STUDENTS & TEACHERS

06.08.24



REGISTER & MORE INFO HERE!

- CHECK-IN 9AM START 10AM
- RUN/WALK
- VOLUNTEER/DONATE
- 1 MILE, 5K AND NEWLY ADDED 10K
- T-SHIRTS, SWAG & PRIZES



NEW COURSE THROUGH CENTENNIAL MARSH IN  
FAIRFIELD DURING CAMAS LILY DAY CELEBRATIONS.



Photo by Gary Watson: "Squirrel and Bee"

## Yup, a Job! **Camas County Road and Bridge – Part-Time Seasonal Equipment Operator!**

Camas County Road and Bridge seeks to fill (1) Part Time-Seasonal equipment operator position. Successful applicant must reside in Camas County at the time of employment. Must have a Class A CDL driver's license. Applications and job descriptions are available at the Camas County Courthouse. Position is open till filled. Camas County is an EOE.

**RE-ELECT GALEN! VOTE ON MAY 21!**



# Galen Colter

I'm now the District 1 Commissioner, Camas County Board of Commissioners, and I'm running for re-election. I'd appreciate your vote in the May 21 primary and in the November general election. My aim: to be fair to everybody.

- 2 elected terms on the Camas County Commission
- 44+ years as an Idaho Ag teacher
- Service on Camas Soil Conservation District Board
- Volunteer for Camas County Search & Rescue

## Yup, a Job! **Part-Time Emergency Dispatcher – Sheriff's Office!**

The Camas County Sheriff's Office has a dispatcher job opening. It is a part-time job with 16 hours weekly plus fill-in occasionally. Two eight-hour shifts weekly. The applicant must be able to stay calm and communicate well in stressful situations. The pay rate is \$13 to \$15 per hour DOE. Send resumes to [dispatch@camascounty.id.gov](mailto:dispatch@camascounty.id.gov) or mail in at PO Box 220, Fairfield, ID 83327, or apply at 119 Willow Ave West.



# Supporters of Idaho's failed voucher bills are waging war on pro-public-school candidates!

What they couldn't achieve at the Statehouse, they are trying to achieve at the ballot box in the May GOP primary election, writes Rod Gramer.

This guest opinion column is reprinted here with permission from *Idaho Capital Sun*, [www](http://www.idahocapitalsun.com).

Rod Gramer is the president and CEO of Idaho Business for Education, a group of nearly 250 businesses across the Gem State. IBE advocates for state policy that contributes to an educated and skilled workforce to build upon and support the state's economy.



**Over the next five weeks** Idaho voters will be barraged by political messages from the far-right in their mailboxes and on social media.

These messages will sound dark and scary. They will also be full of lies and deception.

The billionaires and their front organizations who lost the battle to pass voucher legislation in the 2024 session, are now waging an all-out war against the pro-public-school lawmakers who opposed their attempts to use taxpayer money to fund private and religious schools.

What they couldn't achieve at the Statehouse, they are trying to achieve at the ballot box in the upcoming May GOP primary election.

Just see what Tommy Schultz, the CEO of the American Federation for Children [was quoted as saying](#): If you're a candidate or lawmaker who opposes school choice and freedom in education – you're a target."

And Schultz means it. The American Federation for Children spent \$9 million in 2022 defeating public school supporters across the country. This year Schultz pledged to spend \$10 million to defeat lawmakers who oppose vouchers, according to *Politico*.

And Schultz has a powerful ally in Idaho House Speaker Mike Moyle who was frustrated he couldn't get the voucher-like tax credit bill sponsored by Rep. Wendy Horman and Sen. Lori

Den Hartog approved this session. "I still think that the school choice issue is not going away, *Idaho EdNews* as the Legislature adjourned. "I assure you that something will happen next year."

Yet that "something" will only happen if Schultz and like-minded pro-voucher groups succeed in defeating pro-public school Republican lawmakers in May. Sadly, their targets are the very legislators who consistently vote to support the more than 300,000 students who attend our public schools. If Schultz and his allies win, Idaho's public-school students lose.

## What out-of-state front groups invested in while lobbying the Idaho Legislature?

During the 2024 Legislature, the American Federation for Children, Young Americans for Liberty and Yes. Every Kid spent \$134,148 promoting vouchers. Together, the American Federation for Children and Young Americans for Liberty were by far the biggest spenders in the Legislature; Young Americans number one at \$69,708 and the AFC number two at \$55,794. The next closest Idaho-based lobbying effort was the Idaho Grain Growers which spent less than half of what the AFC and Young Americans did.

These pro-voucher groups are based out of state and have ties to some of the richest people in the country. The American Federation for Children is based in Dallas and was founded by billionaire Betsy DeVos. Yes. Every Kid is based in Arlington, Virginia, and was founded by billionaire Charles Koch. Young Americans for Liberty is also based in Virginia.

Even the Idaho Freedom Foundation, which holds the stated goal of abolishing public education in Idaho, has ties to out-of-state billionaires. The IFF is one of two Idaho "affiliates" of the State Policy Network, which is financed by dark money provided by some of the wealthiest people in the country. The IFF's political action committee has launched a vicious campaign against the pro-public-school legislators.

## Out-of-state front organizations invest big for May 2024 primary election.

On April 8, the Citizens Alliance of Idaho received \$350,000 from its national Citizens Alliance Political Action Committee to support pro-privatization candidates in the May primary. Its only other current in-state contribution was \$10,000 from Doyle Beck, a board member of the Idaho Freedom Foundation.

And on April 12, the American Federation for Children Victory Fund deposited \$400,000 in the American Federation for Children PAC to support Idaho candidates who support voucher-like legislation.

Both disclosures are on the Idaho Secretary of State's online [campaign finance reporting site](#).

That is nearly \$1 million invested so far to support pro-voucher candidates and take out those who have opposed vouchers over the past two years. And that amount doesn't even account for what may be invested over the next five weeks.

### **Attack propaganda misleads Idaho voters.**

In their attack propaganda, the pro-voucher groups claim the legislators who support public schools and oppose vouchers are "Right for California, Wrong for Idaho." Ironically, the legislators they attack have deep and multi-generational ties to Idaho. They are life-long Republicans and conservatives and have nothing in common with California politics.

Meanwhile, the AFC and like organizations claim their anointed candidates are fighting for Idaho's children. Yet their acolytes vote against every bill that would set our students up for success in school, work, and life. They even voted against funding for the Idaho Launch program which 14,000 high school seniors have applied for to attend postsecondary education.

Most of the time these billionaires don't even mention vouchers in their attack messages because they know they are unpopular if privatization takes money away from public schools, which it does. Or sometimes they hide vouchers under the euphemism — "school choice." They don't bother to mention that Idahoans already have plenty of school choices, including local community schools, open enrollment, public charter schools, and home schools.

In short, these billionaires and their front are trying to convince Idaho voters that legislators who consistently support our youth wear black hats and legislators who never support education wear white hats. It's like claiming day is night and night is day. It just doesn't square with the truth.

### **Idaho isn't the only state where billionaires throw their weight around.**

Idaho voters should be aware that this influx of billionaire money and political muscle is not unique to our state. They have been bullying pro-public-school lawmakers for years and have stepped up their attacks this year.

In the Texas primary last month, the billionaires and their front organizations, including the AFC Victory Fund, launched a pitched battle against the pro-public-school lawmakers. Unfortunately, they were successful in defeating nine legislators who had stood in their way for years. Their success almost ensures that vouchers will pass in Texas next winter. One of the Texas legislators the billionaires defeated was Rep. Glenn Rogers, a conservative sixth-generation rancher

from Mineral Wells, and a staunch public-school supporter. The billionaire front organizations accused Rogers of voting to create a pension fund for himself (he didn't) and supporting President Biden's border policies (he doesn't). Clearly, they didn't let the truth stand in their way.

Rogers [told Nashville's NewsChannel 5 Investigates](#) that those accusations were in mailers sent to voters by Texans United for a Conservative Majority PAC. It is a Texas political action committee started this year by oil billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks. Since January [Dunn and Wilks spent \\$3 million](#) to support pro-voucher candidates, according to The Texas Tribune.

If Farris Wilks' name sounds familiar, it's because he and his brother [bought thousands of acres of Idaho land](#) a few years ago and made headlines when they closed it off to snowmobilers and other recreationists who had used it for years.

The border control mailer warned Rogers' primary voters, "Don't let Glenn Rogers Give Democrats control of the Texas Border!" Then it had pictures of President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, and former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi next to it. Rogers told NewsChannel 5 that the claim that he was supporting Biden's border policies was "obviously a ridiculous statement and a complete lie."

Just like the ads against Idaho legislators, the bogus pension fund and border control mailers never mentioned vouchers as they are unpopular in rural Texas. But the message to Rogers was clear — he had stopped them from privatizing Texas schools for the last time.

"To say that billionaires don't have anything to do with this (attack literature) is ludicrous," Rogers said. "They're in control of our state right now. And if this trend continues with billionaires having this much influence, what happens to our Republic? Well, it's really no longer a Republic. It's an oligarchy."

### **Billionaires target Tennessee!**

The billionaires have next turned their firepower on Tennessee lawmakers who oppose a \$144 million voucher bill. One of the legislators being targeted is Republican Rep. Todd Warner. [Warner told Nashville's NewsChannel 5](#) that a pro-voucher lobbyist told him, "I can't protect you if you aren't on the right side of this."

"So, when you don't vote with Americans for Prosperity (a pro-voucher group founded by billionaire Charles Koch), you're risking billionaires coming after you," Warner told NewsChannel 5. He added that "big money" is trying to control the Volunteer State's Legislature.

NewsChannel 5 reported that the American Federation for Children Victory Fund is warning legislators that it defeated anti-voucher lawmakers in Texas and “hinting” that it will do the same in Tennessee. Yes, that’s the same AFC which is targeting Idaho’s anti-voucher lawmakers in the upcoming May primary.

The station also reported that billionaire and TikTok founder Jeff Yass recently gave the AFC Victory Fund \$3.5 million and billionaires Betsy and Dick DeVos gave it \$1 million. Betsy DeVos and her AFC have spent millions over the years expanding vouchers in states like Wisconsin by electing pro-voucher legislators — just as the AFC wants to do this May in Idaho.

### Idahoans be warned!

It is important for Idahoans to know what is going on in their state, and these other states because they are being misled by these billionaires and their front organizations. I am confident that if voters have accurate information about the candidates they will see through the misleading mailers and social media ads attacking the legislators who support the schools their constituents’ kids attend.

These billionaire-funded front groups don’t understand what makes Idaho tick because they don’t live here. Historically, Idahoans are fiercely independent, have a live-and-let-live philosophy, and hold a strong commitment to and pride in their communities and public schools. Idahoans volunteer in their communities, churches, and schools more than almost any state in the country.

Every Friday night in the fall and winter the bleachers in towns across our state are full of people cheering for their local teams. These public schools are the heart and soul of our Idaho communities. Just ask the good people of West Bonner who [fought and took back their schools](#) from the far-right last fall.

Idahoans I’ve talked to are tired of the chaos that these far-right legislators and their billionaire backers are creating year after year. They are tired of legislators who work to defund our public schools and ignore the kitchen-table issues that Idahoans face like being able to buy a home. They are tired of political extremists preaching at them about “Idaho values” when they couldn’t find Mackay or Kamiah on a map. They are tired of carpetbagger billionaires who want to privatize education in our state.

All voters must do to get the truth is ask their candidates if they support public schools or support taxpayer-funded tuition for private and religious schools. That will help voters separate white-hat candidates from the black-hat candidates. And it will tell them who will bring sanity, common sense, and true conservative principles back to the Idaho Legislature.

Perhaps Rep. Glenn Rogers has the best advice for our primary voters. “I’m hoping that people will begin to realize what is actually happening here, who is behind this and be able to see through the money and lies.”

Let’s just hope Rogers is right. For the sake of our public-school students.” ●

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## Kindergarten! Kindergarten! Sign up for ‘24-‘25 next month!!!



Call to schedule an appointment!

Camas County Schools

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration and Screenings will be held:

Wednesday, May 29th, Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
& Friday, May 31st

If you have a child who will be in Kindergarten this fall, please call the school at 208-764-2472 ext. 0 to set up an appointment time or email Chelsea Tupper at [ctupper@camascountyschools.org](mailto:ctupper@camascountyschools.org)

Screening includes vision, hearing, speech, language and learning.

Please bring your child’s birth certificate and updated immunization records. These are required prior to enrollment in August. Child must be the age of 5 on or before September 1st, 2024 in order to enroll.

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## School Bond Election May 21!

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT! INFORMATION MEETING MONDAY! 6:30!

The big school improvement project is coming to a vote May 21! Questions? The latest project public information meeting will happen Monday, April 29 at the school, at 6:30 p.m.!!!