



EARTH FEST CELEBRATION 2026

# CITY OF HAILEY OUR TOWN, OUR HOME

May — Issue No. 270

This spring, I join all Idahoans in the urgent need to address drought. The Idaho Department of Water Resources has issued an emergency drought declaration for the entire state, putting water conservation and protecting the health of our watersheds at the forefront of our minds.

We are faced with a dangerously low snowpack; the Big Wood River basin snowpack is currently at 79% of median peak. I am deeply concerned about the low snowpack in our basin because it directly affects water in our rivers and increases our wildfire risk. A low snowpack challenges our community's water resources, puts pressure on irrigation for agriculture, and threatens fish and wildlife that rely on our stream flows. Addressing this issue is critical to protecting our environment, supporting wildfire smart

water stewardship, and ensuring long-term resilience and water security for our residents.

Please read below to learn about the programs Hailey is launching to address the drought. Hailey will be taking steps with the lands that the City owns, and we ask our citizens to consider the same. We hope you will do your part and participate in one of our programs.

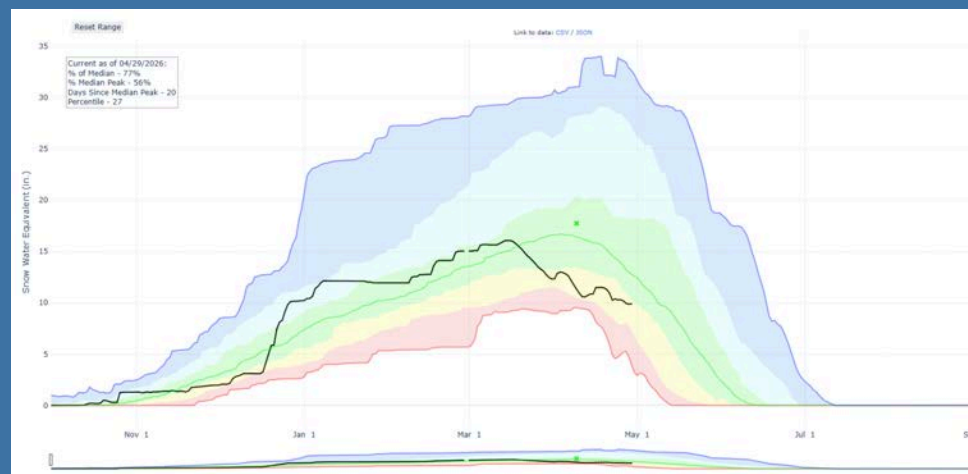
I warmly celebrated Earth Day with our community on April 25th. I must say, this event epitomizes the character and values of our town. I thank all the volunteers, participants and staff who made this happen.

Thoughtfully,

*Martha Burke*  
Mayor Martha Burke

## CURRENT DROUGHT

As of April 2026, the Big Wood River Basin is experiencing a significant drought, with snow water equivalent (SWE) peaking in late March, three weeks earlier than normal, at 8.1 inches, which is nearly 5 inches below the median peak.



The black line in the graph above shows the 2026 percent of median SWE for the Big Wood basin. This low snowpack, combined with high temperatures, has prompted a statewide emergency drought declaration. For the City of Hailey, this means continued water conservation efforts as diminished aquifer recharge from low snowmelt threatens both municipal water supply and the flow of the Big Wood River, which is key for local ecology.

# WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS



More information on these three (3) programs will be available on the City website [www.haileycityhall.org](http://www.haileycityhall.org). The City will host a public workshop on May 8<sup>th</sup> at Town Center West (116 S River St) on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:30PM.

## 2026 IRRIGATION REDUCTIONS

Customers who desire to participate indicate by selecting to reduce water usage by 20%, 30%, or 40%. If goal is achieved when the total consumed volume is calculated at end of season, customer receives a reduction in their Metered User Fee for the same time period as a credit on their water bill. The fee reduction is calculated as 50% of the goal percentage. If participants don't reach their goal but achieve 50% or more of goal, they receive 25% of the full fee reduction credit.

## PERMANENT IRRIGATION REDUCTION

Eligible projects are primarily removal of water intensive plantings, such as turf, and replacement with xeriscape or other non-irrigated, permeable areas. 20% irrigation reduction minimum for eligibility based on preceding 5-year average usage during irrigation season. City may rebate 50% up to \$5,000 maximum upon verified completion of project.

## IRRIGATION AUDIT

City will provide up to \$150 rebate for customers to receive irrigation audit from their preferred licensed contractor. Audit will include calculations of existing irrigation demands and recommendations for reductions. Interested customers will be required to submit a simple preapproval form to the City, and a receipt for the audit.

CAROL WALLER PHOTO

# ARTICLES



ROLAND LANE PHOTO

## ERC'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CLEAN SWEEP

The 2026 Clean Sweep will take place on Saturday, May 2nd, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Participation is free and easy! Meet at Hop Porter Park starting at 9:00 a.m. to register, pick up garbage bags, and gloves. Once you have registered, fan out and pick up trash in your chosen area until 12:00 p.m. You'll receive a map indicating drop-off points for your collected trash.

## HAILEY MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

The 25th Annual Hailey Memorial Day Ceremony will take place Mon, May 25th, at 11 AM at the Hailey Cemetery, 511 Maple Avenue. We will honor the 432 veterans laid to rest at Hailey Cemetery as a heartfelt tribute to the brave men and women who have served our country and protected our freedom. On Friday, May 22nd, 2026, we will be decorating all veterans' graves with flags and carnations. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, call 208-720-7395.

# PUBLIC MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CITY COUNCIL:

Mon, May 11 5:30 PM  
Tues, May 26 5:30 PM

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

Mon, May 4 5:30 PM  
Mon, May 18 5:30 PM

### URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY:

Tues, May 19 11:00 AM

### ARTS & HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:

Wed, May 13 3:30 PM

### TREE COMMITTEE:

Wed, May 13 5:30 PM

### PARKS & LANDS BOARD:

Tues, May 26 5:30 PM

### LIBRARY BOARD:

Tues, May 19 5:45 PM

# HAILEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

READ LOCAL



## NEWSLETTER

“Sweet May hath come to love us.  
Flowers, trees, their blossoms don.

Heinrich Heine

Say **YES** to Libraries!

LEARN MORE 

For information about the proposed Big Wood River Library District please visit [www.bigwoodriverlibrarydistrict.org](http://www.bigwoodriverlibrarydistrict.org)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Author Talks - Online Events**

*register to attend at HPL's website*

Courage, Turmoil and the Transformative Power of Love with **Marjan Kamali**  
May 7th @ 5:00pm MST

How to Robot-Proof Your Kids and Yourself with **Dr. Vivienne Ming**  
May 12th @ 12:00pm MST

Reshape Your Beliefs and Unlock Your True Potential with **Nir Eyal**  
May 19th @ 12:00pm MST

**Ham Radio Workshop with Joe Yelda and the Wood River Amateur Radio Club**

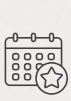
May 2nd 10am - 1pm  
Town Center West - 116 S River St.  
registration required  
please email [library.staff@haileypubliclibrary.org](mailto:library.staff@haileypubliclibrary.org)  
to secure your spot!

**Becoming Idaho with Dr. Ross Peterson**

May 14th 5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Town Center West - 116 S River St.

**Library Board of Trustees Meeting**

May 21th @ 5:45pm  
Town Center West - 116 S River St



for our full schedule of weekly events please visit our website

**Holiday Closure**  
May 25th - Memorial Day



It's almost time for shorts, swimming, and popsicles, which means it's also time for Summer Reading at Hailey Public Library. The theme for this summer's program is *Unearth a Story*. Sign-ups for kids of all ages begin Tuesday, May 26, and continue throughout the summer. Summer reading officially starts June 3 and wraps up on the 31st of July with our annual celebration honoring readers and their accomplishments. The Summer Reading Program encourages kids and families to keep reading during the school break, when many students experience the "summer slide," a decline in literacy skills. It's also a fun way to stay connected with friends and family. The program is free and will look familiar to returning participants. Parents of babies and toddlers track how many books they read together, elementary-age readers complete sticker charts based on time spent reading, and older students take on a Bingo-style challenge. Participants who reach their goals are entered into a drawing to win prizes, including a Yoto player and AirPods.

In addition to many *Unearth a Story* reading activities, we'll offer additional Science, Technology, Reading, Engineering, Arts & Math (STREAM) programs all summer. The Hunger Coalition will be back with nutritious free meals, too! Hailey Public Library looks forward to helping kids enjoy a creative, enriching, and book-filled summer.

*For information about registration and activity schedules, please visit our website!*



**Friends of the Hailey Public Library Annual E-Bike Raffle**

The Friends of the Hailey Public Library kicked off their Annual Bike Raffle in April. Tickets are now available for purchase for a chance to win a stylish Electra Vale Go e-bike from Trailhead Bicycles in Hailey. This "fun" fundraiser supports the Friends' mission to enhance library services and advocate for literacy.

In celebration of National Bike Month, there's no better time to support your community's cultural hub while entering for a chance to roll away on a brand-new electric bike. Raffle tickets are available at the library, and the lucky winner will be drawn on July 4. Since you don't need to be present to win, it's an easy way to promote local literacy and gear up for a summer of cycling.

### WE ARE FAR MORE THAN YOU EXPECT

Step into a space where real people and modern resources come together. Our team is here to help you explore everything we have to offer beyond the shelves.



Need a hand? We can help  
We help patrons print 2200+ pages a month!



Focus Found Here  
Our private rooms are perfect for meetings or tutoring. Reserve time today on our website.



@haileypubliclibrary

haileypubliclibrary.org

7 W Croy St

208-788-2036

# YARD WASTE CLEAN UP

**SATURDAY, MAY 16TH**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**  
**HAILEY PARK & RIDE (CORNER**  
**OF BULLION & RIVER)**

Hailey residents, bring grass, yard trimmings, and branches (maximum: 8' long and 18" diameter) to be chipped into mulch.  
No treated lumber, food waste or trash.

This is NOT a curbside collection service.

Questions? Call Clear Creek Disposal: 208-726-9600



**StoryWalk®**

**May 20th - May 26th**  
**in English and Spanish!**

The StoryWalk® will be posted along the bike trail from Myrtle Street to Fox Acres Road!

In partnership with



**Becoming Idaho with**

**Dr. Ross Peterson**

**Thursday, May 14th**

**5:30 - 7pm**

**Town Center West**

Dr. Ross Peterson shares personal anecdotes from authoring Idaho's 1976 Bicentennial history, exploring the state's unique place in the national narrative.



PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSLETTER