

NEWS SHORTS

ADA DEMS LEADER OUT

The Ada County Democratic Party, the state's most successful chapter of that party, has new leadership.

Brian Cronin, chairman of the Ada County wing of Idaho's minority party stepped down from his post late last week.

Cronin, 37, had been chairman for just about three years. He took the post in March of 2005.

"Though I've enjoyed it and it's been really rewarding, it is a serious time commitment," Cronin said. "I need to attend to matters of business and family a bit more."

Cronin and his wife are co-owners of Garabatos Spanish Preschool in Boise. The 2-year-old school has about 30 children enrolled, he said.

He is also the owner of Cronin and Associates, a public affairs firm in Boise.

Cronin's term has seen plenty of gains by minority Democrats in Ada County, from legislative seats to the Ada County Commission to the retention of the Boise Mayor's Office. And, fundraising has been a priority too, he said. Cronin estimates the county party has about \$23,000 in the bank.

He'll be replaced by Deb Spindler, who has been the chairwoman of Boise's District 17, a part of town now represented completely by Democrats in the Legislature.

Cronin's exit and replacement were ratified by this week's meeting of Ada County Democratic Party Central Committee.

Cronin said he expects to stay in politics, but next time around, he's likely to be a candidate.

"It's very likely I will run, whether it's this year or some time down the road," Cronin said. He declined, however, to specify what office he might seek.