

Sasquatch 16U  
collect two wins  
See Sports, Page A2




Planning department  
needs to change  
See Letters, Page A4

BONNER COUNTY  
DAILY BEE

GOOD MORNING!

Today is  
Tuesday

  
Highs/lows  
70s/50s/A7

JULY 15, 2025

1 DOLLAR  
NEWSSTAND

 BONNERCOUNTYDAILYBEE.COM 

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Fulcher hosting  
telephone town  
hall meeting

Idaho U.S. Congressman Russ Fulcher is hosting a telephone town hall at 5 p.m. PT Tuesday. The event serves as an opportunity for residents of Idaho's first congressional district to ask questions, share input and receive a congressional update. Constituents can participate by dialing 833-998-1718.

At that town hall, constituents raised questions on a wide range of topics, including the economy, federal land policy, Social Security, immigration, and cultural issues.

To read excerpts from the town hall, go online to [bit.ly/4nlK83X](http://bit.ly/4nlK83X).

Idaho ends 2025  
fiscal year with  
approximately  
\$345M balance

The state of Idaho ended the 2025 fiscal year with a balanced budget and a positive cash balance of about \$345 million, Gov. Brad Little announced in a press release issued Friday afternoon.

"Idaho leaders have long championed responsible budgeting and conservative principles that promote economic activity," Little said in a written statement Friday. "What we're doing is working. The Legislature and I have delivered historic tax relief while making critical investments in public schools, roads and infrastructure. In fact, state support for public education increased nearly 70% in a few short years, and we will continue to prioritize better teacher pay and classroom resources."

Idaho runs on a fiscal year calendar that begins July 1 and ends June 30. That means the 2025 fiscal year just ended.

Over the past couple of months, state revenues have come in below forecasts set by the Idaho Legislature in the state budget, the Idaho Capital Sun reported. But legislators and Little left enough of a cushion that the state still ended the year with a \$345 million ending balance.

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Clover Fire burns 30 acres near Naples

Wildfire devastates two local logging families

By NED NEWTON  
Hagadone News Network

**NAPLES** — A fast-moving fire broke out Sunday, scorching roughly 30 acres and causing millions of dollars in damage to two family-run logging businesses, according to one of the families affected.

The Clover Fire was 75% contained by 2 p.m. Monday, roughly 24 hours after it began, according to Lizz

Blossom, an incident command trainee with the Idaho Department of Lands. Full containment was expected by 8 p.m. Resources on the fire include 80 personnel, 10 engines, nine tenders and two excavators.

Some residents near the fire were advised to either evacuate or placed on notice to be prepared to evacuate due their proximity to the Clover Fire. The Boundary County Sheriff's Office

lifted all evacuation notices at 5 p.m. Monday.

The decision was made in collaboration with unified commanders including Idaho Department of Lands and South Boundary Fire District and is based upon current fire containment and expected fire behavior, said Andrew O'Neel, Boundary County public information officer.



Photo by NED NEWTON

At least 10 children were among those who had to evacuate their homes amid the July 13 Clover Fire, according to an affected family.

See NAPLES, A6



Photo courtesy SAM OWEN FIRE DISTRICT

Volunteers serve up a pancake breakfast to community members at a previous fundraiser.

Firefighters whisk up support for district needs

Annual pancake breakfast  
is Saturday

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER  
Staff Writer

**HOPE** — The griddle will be fired up and some of the fluffiest pancakes around will be flipping as the Sam Owen Fire District hosts its annual pancake breakfast Saturday.

The annual fundraiser turns the district's volunteer firefighters into chefs as they cook up a

breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy — all for only \$6. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The breakfast will be held at Sam Owen Fire Station No. 1, located at the junction of Peninsula Road and Highway 200 in Hope. After breakfast, residents are invited to tour the station, climb into the trucks and pick up free handouts for the kids.

Donations go toward training, equipment and other needs throughout the year, said Todd

Wendle for the fire district.

Past funds generated from the breakfast have gone for everything from supplies for the firehouse and uniforms to communication devices and important firefighting equipment. It takes dozens of volunteers and district firefighters to collect donations, cook the meal and serve the community a delicious breakfast, district officials said.

See BREAKFAST, A6

Man  
arrested  
for fleeing  
county  
officials

By CHLOE COCHRAN  
Staff Writer

**OLDTOWN** — An Oldtown resident is facing charges after allegedly fleeing officials and exceeding posted speed limits and failing to stop and use a turn signal June 25.

Kelly James Miller, 37, is charged with a felony attempt to elude a police officer, for which he could face up to five years in jail and/or up to a \$50,000 fine. Miller is being held at the Bonner County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

Court records indicate that county officials first recognized Miller's car at a Mobil gas station in Oldtown, noting that he had a probation violation



Miller

See ARREST, A6

City to hold public forum on updated development fees

By JACK FREEMAN  
Staff Writer

**SANDPOINT** — The Sandpoint City Council will host an open public forum about a potential increase in development impact fees during its Wednesday meeting.

Sandpoint Mayor Jeremy Grimm is a proponent of raising development impact fees to help fund growth related capital improvement projects in

the city. Grimm says the city's ability to generate revenue has been limited by the passing of House Bill 389, which established budget caps and limits for local governments.

These fees would be paid by developers in Sandpoint when building permits are approved and can only be used for capital improvement projects.

The city of Sandpoint hired TischlerBise, a Boise-based consulting firm, to update the city's

existing development impact fee program according to the city's 10-year projected growth. TischlerBise previously consulted with Sandpoint on its fee program in 2011.

TischlerBise presented the company's findings to the Sandpoint City Council on June 25, in which all four attending councilors voted to hold a town hall on the plan.

"Making sure that we have an updated development impact

fee study is critical to ensuring the city can recover the cost of growth," Grimm said at the meeting. "Proper impact fees ensure that those investing in our community are going to have a pretty strong assurance that we are going to be able to maintain the level of service that attracted them to our community."

See FEES, A6



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