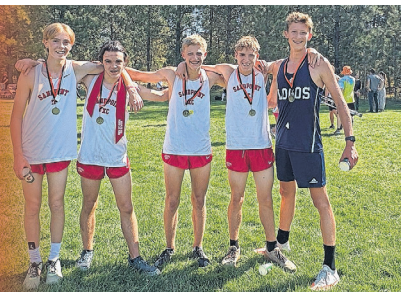


PREP ROUNDUP: Budensiek a winner at Post Falls River Run

See SPORTS, Page A8



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Board, commission interviews open to public

By CHLOE COCHRAN
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — After several months of consideration, Bonner County commissioners voted to allow members of the public to

witness the interview process of appointed boards and commissions in the county.

The decision was brought forth by Commissioner Asia Williams, who noted in a memorandum that the request stems

from the community’s desire for transparent interviews of board and commission candidates. The memorandum further notes that members of the public cited that “when in doubt the meeting should be held in public.”

The action item was followed by a lengthy discussion between county commissioners and community members, where the public heavily favored the new process.

See COUNTY, A2

ART DAYS COMING



Photo courtesy PEND OREILLE ARTS COUNCIL

POAC arts coordinator Claire Christy and Amber Brown are pictured during a stop at a past Artists’ Studio Tour. The tour, which is hosted by the Pend Oreille Arts Council, takes place this weekend, Aug. 29-31.

Area artists open doors for annual STUDIO TOUR

Event taking place Aug. 29-31

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER
Staff Writer

In one studio, an artist may be sculpting. Down the road or across the Long Bridge, another might be laying down the lines for what will become a large-scale oil painting.

That diverse variety will take center stage this weekend as the 2025 Artists’ Studio Tour comes to town. The self-guided driving tour takes place Friday through Sunday, Aug. 29-31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, and is free of charge.

Hosted by the Pend Oreille Arts Council, POAC arts coordinator Claire Christy said the tour is a chance to both enjoy summer and discover your next favorite artwork.

“The Artists’ Studio Tour is a great way to connect with artists and their work,” said Christy. “When a viewer can see where the artist works, it gives insight that you can’t achieve in a gallery setting. It allows the viewer to step into the atmosphere where creativity blooms.”

The tour features 20 artists at 16 studio stops, where visitors can explore the working spaces of painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, and more. Some studios host multiple artists, offering

even more opportunities to experience creativity firsthand.

This year’s featured artists include: Jenni Barry, Molly Gentry, Lynn Gardner, Devon Chapman, Alison Barrows-Young, Barry Burgess, Ed Robinson, Lucy West, Connie Scherr, Larry Clark, Don Fisher, Susan Gallo, Lori Salisbury, Daris Judd, Jessie Watt, Eileen Marcotte, Mary Gayle Young, Linda Gue, Ronald Gue, and Kim Powers.

In addition to being able to explore the studios that interest them the most, residents can start and end the tour as desired, deciding which studio to visit first and on which day.

“Participants can set their own schedule and enjoy the natural beauty of Lake Pend Oreille and the surrounding mountains as they travel between studios,” Christy said.

After all, she noted, along the tour’s route are the towns of Westmond, Sagle, Sandpoint, Ponderay, and Kootenai — all of which provide convenient stops for dining, shopping, and exploring.

Maps are available at the POAC Gallery, 313 N. Second Ave., from participating artists, or online at artinsandpoint.org/artist-studio-tour. Visitors are encouraged to pick up a brochure and start their journey at any stop.

For more information, contact the Pend Oreille Arts Council at 208-263-6139 or visit www.artinsandpoint.org.

Crews make significant progress on Sunset Fire

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — For the second consecutive day, firefighters made significant gains on containing the Sunset Fire.

Northern Rockies Team 5 officials said Tuesday that containment of the wildfire in southern Bonner County has increased to 42%. Full containment of the 3,230-acre fire is expected by Sept. 20.

The fire, first reported Aug. 13, has 643 personnel assigned to the fire.

Infrared flights are proving to be an effective tool in fighting the fire with information being sent to firefighters on the ground in real-time.

“They were able to go and use the infrared information that we got, and go ahead and go pick up hot spots and continue to look for more hot spots in those green, kind of dirty burn as we call it, making sure that those fires are extinguished and totally mopped up with the crews that they have,” Paul Diaz, an operations chief for Northern Rockies Team 5.

While aerial resources continue to be important in fighting the fire, Diaz said residents will probably see fewer planes and helicopters as crews are able to get hose into additional areas and “get water onto the fire.”

Crews successfully connected line around the entire fire perimeter and Hotshot and Type II crews will continue to work the fireline on the southeastern edge near the lake securing and “mopping up” areas of residual heat within the interior, Northern Rockies officials said.

On the southern and western flanks crews are using pumps, hoselays, and sprinklers in pockets of unburned material where residual heat remains, officials said.

See FIRE, A2

BRIEFLY

WBCSD sets early childhood screenings

A free Well Child Developmental Check-Up screener will be held Friday, Sept. 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Priest River Elementary School, located at 231 Harriet St. in Priest River.

Children from birth through age 5 will be screened in areas including speech, language, gross motor, fine motor, readiness, hearing, vision and other developmental milestones.

The event is sponsored by West Bonner County School District 83 and the Idaho Infant/Toddler Program.

Screenings are by appointment only. At the scheduled time, only one adult may accompany the child. To schedule an appointment, call 208-448-1181, ext. 3116, and ask for Victoria Joy.

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