

Three locals claim first-place medals

See SPORTS, Page A3

Troy woman accused of embezzling

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GOOD MORNING!

Today is Tuesday



Highs/lows 40-50s/30-40s/A7

MARCH 24, 2026

VOL. 60 NO. 277

1 DOLLAR NEWSSTAND

Behring hosting Brazilian jiu-jitsu seminar

SANDPOINT — A highly respected figure in Brazilian jiu-jitsu, Sylvio Behring will host a seminar today at SBA Ponderay.

Behring holds a prestigious black-and-red, 8th-degree coral belt, along with a black belt in judo. A lifelong martial artist, he has spent decades refining his craft and sharing his knowledge with students around the world. In 1992, he developed the Progressive System of Brazilian jiu-jitsu, a structured approach focused on effective learning and long-term growth.

The Ponderay seminar is part of Behring's U.S. tour. Class times are organized by age group: little kids, 3:30-4:15 p.m.; youth, 4:30-5:30 p.m.; and adults, 6-8 p.m.

For more information or to reserve a spot, call 208-398-3195 or email sba.ponderay@gmail.com.

District 1 legislators' town hall series returns on March 28

SANDPOINT — District 1 legislators will be back in North Idaho for their monthly town hall series Saturday, March 28.

State Superintendent Debbie Critchfield will be joining the legislators for all three sessions, according to Sen. Jim Woodward.

As always, the trio of town halls begins at the northernmost event, in Bonners Ferry. This month's town hall will take place from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Boundary County Fairgrounds at 6567 Recreation Park Road in Bonners Ferry.

Next on deck will be Sandpoint, which will be broadcast live and archived on KRFY for those who cannot make the town halls.

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Northside Fire seeking \$1.38M levy

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER Staff Writer

PONDERAY — The Northside Fire District will be heading to voters to seek approval for a two-year levy to give the district time to find a more long-term solution while maintaining current staffing levels.

The fire district's board voted 3-0 at a recent meeting to approve a resolution to put the temporary levy before voters May 19.

"Following two failed ballot measures in 2025 for a permanent levy, this is being proposed as a two-year temporary levy based on feedback from the community," Northside Fire Chief Jeff Armstrong said in a press release announcing the ballot measure. "The amount has not changed. It reflects the budget that will allow operations to continue at our current level of service and does not include increased staffing."

The estimated cost to the taxpayers of the proposed levy is \$21 for every \$100,000 of taxable assessed value per year, based on current conditions. The dollar amount estimated to be collected each year from the levy is \$689,112. If the proposed levy is approved, the tax rate per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value is expected to increase by an additional \$21 — totaling \$41 per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value. Northside Fire officials said

the temporary levy would give the fire district some budget relief, allowing leadership to explore long-term plans, alternative funding and other ways to maintain the current service levels. While the recent sales of some assets, including land and fire engines from outlying stations, have provided temporary budget relief, officials said it won't last long.

See LEVY, A6

FOCUS ON FUTURE CAREERS



Photo courtesy LAKE PEND OREILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Andrew Zurfluh, a sixth grader at Southside Elementary School presents his rollercoaster to parents at the wax museum event.

Students bring STEM to life during wax museum event

By JACK FREEMAN Staff Writer

COCOLALLA — Rollercoaster engineers, fisherman, tigers and butterflies all found a home at Southside Elementary last week during the school's sixth annual wax museum event.

The students snaked through the halls of the school presenting on their chosen animal or career. Southside principal Jennifer Smith said this event is one of her favorites of the year because it's a chance for parents and students to engage with their material together.

"What makes it the most special is just how it brings the kids and the families together, and it brings them into the school," Smith said. "The kids are so excited about learning about their careers, and it just gives them one more item on their menu for their potential careers in the future. Then the

families get to see that as well."

STEM teacher and librarian Lynette Leonard said the event switched gears once Southside became the first school in the state to earn a STEM designation. Instead of the typical wax museum focus on history, students spent months on researching and putting together a poster and infographic on STEM topics.

Leonard said the event helps students practice their research skills as they work their way up through the grades. She said the project also helps students practice public speaking, which is a skill that becomes critical as they progress into the world.

"A lot of kids really struggle with that, and so we try to help encourage them to prepare for the future," Leonard said of public speaking. "In college and high school and middle school, they're going to do more presentations, and we want them to build those

skills and their writing skills."

Younger students at Southside are tasked with choosing an animal to research as Smith said it ties more into their learning and gets them excited for the presentation. Meanwhile, the older students are looking into future careers that interest them now, which ranged from a passionate fisherman to a video game developer.

Leonard said she enjoyed seeing the kids who diligently worked on their presentations. She referenced Andrew Zurfluh, a sixth grader, who built a functioning rollercoaster that went around his poster board.

"Each grade level has a student that obviously may put a little more effort into it" Leonard said. "We have even kindergartners that have great costumes that they have put on. So, I can't really say that I have a favorite, because I think they've all done a wonderful job."

Flu cases hold steady in North Idaho

By CAROLYN BOSTICK Staff Writer

Working at the clinic for Heritage Health, Dr. Anthony Rehil-Crest said the usual suspects for respiratory illnesses: namely influenza, COVID and RSV are making their way through the population in North Idaho.

"In the clinic setting, we've seen a lot of patients with influenza these past several months and RSV. The trends that I see especially with influenza, is that it's not going down. It's plateauing," Rehil-Crest said.

The general pattern in recent years has been that flu hybrids continue through April and then numbers start falling in May.

See FLU, A6

Pickens challenging Gov. Little

By JACK FREEMAN Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — Democratic candidate for Idaho governor Terri Pickens, who is challenging incumbent Gov. Brad Little, made her way up north for a meet-and-greet March 21. Pickens, a fourth-generation Idahoan, works



Pickens

See PICKENS, A6



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