

**Inge's grand slam fuels Sandpoint**  
See Sports, Page A3



**Election and senate race letters to the editor**  
See Opinion, Page A4

# BONNER COUNTY DAILY BEE

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**GOOD MORNING!**

Today is **Tuesday**



Highs/lows  
70-80s/40-50s/A7

MAY 12, 2026

1 DOLLAR NEWSSTAND

VOL. 61 NO. 6

## Burn permits now required in Idaho

Starting May 10, Idaho residents outside city limits must obtain a burn permit for most outdoor burning activities.

The annual closed burning season runs through Oct. 20, ensuring compliance with Idaho law and reducing unwanted human-caused wildfires, according to a press release.

### Who needs a permit

Individuals living outside city limits anywhere in Idaho who plan to burn for any reason, including yard waste and crop residue, must obtain a burn permit. Recreational campfires do NOT require a burn permit.

### How to get a burn permit

Please visit the self-service website at [burnpermits.idaho.gov](http://burnpermits.idaho.gov). Permits are available seven days a week, issued immediately and are valid. Your local IDL office may also issue a permit. Burn permits are free and good for 10 days. You must have your permit with you when burning. No matter where you want to burn and what you plan to burn, our system will either issue you the burn permit you need on the spot or tell you which entity to contact for alternate or additional permits. Using [burnpermits.idaho.gov](http://burnpermits.idaho.gov) also connects you to tips for safe burning practices.

### Why get a burn permit

Obtaining a burn permit lets fire managers know where permitted burning is occurring, enabling them to respond more quickly and potentially reducing the burner's liability. Permits also help prevent false runs to fires reported to dispatch, saving firefighting resources for when they are truly needed. And it is the law.

### Is burning allowed?

Visit [burnpermits.idaho.gov](http://burnpermits.idaho.gov) to learn about the types of burning allowed in your fire protection district. Some types of burning may not be allowed at times due to heightened wildfire risk. Additionally, some local jurisdictions and counties may have other burning requirements or restrictions in place. Always check with your local fire department or county sheriff's office before lighting.

### Air quality restrictions

Ensure your burn complies with air quality regulations. Visit the Idaho DEQ website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/smoke-and-burning/](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/air-quality/smoke-and-burning/) for more details or contact your Tribal government if burning within Reservation boundaries.

### Additional assistance

Contact the Idaho Department of Lands Fire Management in Coeur d'Alene at 208-769-1525.

## INDEX

CALENDAR .....	A7
LEGAL NOTICES .....	A5
LEISURE .....	A8
OBITUARY .....	A2
OPINION .....	A4
RECORDS .....	A7
SPORTS .....	A3
TELEVISION .....	A6
WEATHER .....	A7



# Elk, wolves top worry list

Fish and Game Commission hears from North Idaho residents in CDA stop

By JACK DEWITT  
Staff Writer

**COEUR d'ALENE**— Locals sounded off to the Idaho Fish and Game Commission on Wednesday, and foremost on their minds were wolves and elk.

Larry Hatter said he believes the stark increase in tags and hunts could seriously affect elk populations.

"Elk are an iconic piece of the West," he said, "it has a seri-

ous effect on something so valued and treasured for the vast majority of rural residents."

According to an IDFG gold-sheet, the amount of Landowner Permission Hunt tags has been proposed to be increased, specifically in area 14-1 and 14-2.

The proposal would change the 80-tag limit to a 150-tag limit in area 14-1 and would change the 80-tag limit to a 100-tag limit in 14-2. It would also change the 2026 hunts with extra antlerless elk LPH tags and to retain the

original hunt dates for 2026.

The proposal would also add a new antlerless elk LPH hunts to units 14-1 and 14-2. These hunts would have 100 extra antlerless elk LPH tags in area 14-1 from Jan. 10, 2027, to Feb. 28, 2027, and add 50 extra antlerless elk LPH tags in area 14-2 from the same dates.

The aim of the increase in tags is to offset the losses that farmers are reportedly incurring from elk grazing on their land and crops.

As elk numbers have risen, so has their use of private agricultural lands, where they spend a significant portion of the year. This has resulted in damage to cultivated crops and rangeland intended for livestock grazing, said the IFG goldsheet.

Hatter recognizes that farmers are being affected negatively, but doesn't necessarily believe that two negatives equal a positive.

See WORRY, A2

## Mary Hutter selected to receive new roof



Courtesy of CHLOE COCHRAN

Mary Hutter and members of SkyRight and Sandpoint Police Department celebrate Mary winning a new roof.

SkyRight Roofing & Gutter honors service of former Sandpoint, Ponderay officer

By CHLOE COCHRAN  
Staff Writer

**PONDERAY** — There was no coincidence that the day Mary Hutter received a free roof from SkyRight Roofing and Gutter was also her late husband's 64th birthday.

When Hutter was told that several officers from Sandpoint Police would be stopping by her house, she assumed it was to honor her husband, former Sandpoint Police officer and

Ponderay Police chief Mike Hutter, on what would be the first birthday celebration since his passing Oct. 16, 2025.

When a few extra visitors from SkyRight Roofing were also in attendance, she couldn't help but be shocked that she was nominated



Mike Hutter

by Sandpoint Police Chief, and friend, Corey Coon and had won a free roof from the company.

"It's super exciting that I'm getting another roof," Hutter said. "And it's really cool that it's on Mike's birthday. I don't think that's a coincidence."

Hutter was overjoyed when presented with the gift. She said it would be a major financial relief, finally having her roof fixed, in addition to the added

See HUTTER, A2

## \$2M bail for Stateline shooting suspect

By KAYE THORNBRUGH  
Staff Writer

**COEUR d'ALENE** — A Door Dash driver accused of fatally shooting a pedestrian during a road rage incident near Stateline Speedway over the weekend is being held on \$2 million bail.

Edsel R. Johnson is charged with first-degree murder in the May 9 shooting of Bradley Rex, an offense that carries maximum possible penalties of life in prison or the death penalty. He's also charged with the misdemeanor offenses of reckless driving and battery.

"You shot (Rex) dead in the chest," First District Judge James Combo said Monday, addressing Johnson, who appeared in court via a video feed from jail.



Johnson

See \$2M BAIL, A2

## Northside's third graders use grant to pay it forward

By JACK FREEMAN  
Staff Writer

**SANDPOINT** — Equipped with a calculator, pen and paper, third graders from Northside Elementary headed into Super 1 Foods on a mission to make a difference.

Thanks to a \$500 mini-grant from local nonprofit Underground Kindness, students planned, budgeted and purchased food for healthy meals as a dona-

tion to the Bonner Community Food Bank. Shantelle Gillis, a third-grade teacher at Northside, said she wanted her class to learn life skills while supporting the community.

"I wanted them to understand all the work that goes into budgeting, meal planning and smart shopping," Gillis said. "When making the donation, I hoped they would connect the many ways we can serve others in our community."

Before Gillis' class made the trip, she walked the students through those concepts, helping them understand needs versus wants and nutrition concepts. At the store, the students worked in small groups to calculate the cost of items, staying within their allotted budget of \$100 per group.

Gillis said she was impressed with the students' ability to shop, working through the difference between generic and name

brands and staying within their means. She said students even talked through the price per ounce, which helped them find deals when purchasing carrots.

"Two 1-pound bags of carrots were \$2.96 total while one 2-pound bag was \$3.48," Gillis said. "They quickly discerned buying two 1-pound bags was better in this situation, which is not usually the case."

See FORWARD, A2

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