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Highs/lows
60-70s/40-50s/A13

JUNE 26, 2026

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1 DOLLAR NEWSSTAND

KUDOS

I would like to express my very thankful kudos to a young man at Walmart in Ponderay on Oct. 21, 2025.

I was in the checkout lane around 2:30 in the afternoon on Oct. 21, when a young man came up to the cashier and they were discussing money/change as I was putting my items on the belt. I thought he wanted change once I checked out and she had the register open. He left and I continued on. Much to my utter surprise and disbelief, the cashier told me that the young man gave her money to pay for my items. It brought me to tears. Not only for his kindness, but the thoughtful gesture from such a young man. His parents should be proud.

I did not have an opportunity to thank him and I am not sure if he/they read the Bee, but I hope he realizes and feels in his heart how so very thankful I am; I admire him for being such a kind and thoughtful young man. The world is and will be a better place because of people like him.

Island Isle Troubadours to perform at SHS

SANDPOINT — Entertainment enthusiasts will have the opportunity to experience a rare eurythmy movement performance, featuring live music and theatrical interpretations, July 1 as a professional troupe from Mount Shasta is scheduled to take the stage at Sandpoint High School's auditorium.

The Island Isle Troubadours will perform "The Nightingale" on July 1 at 5:30, sharing their own interpretation of Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale, which includes different movements, music and storytelling.

The performance is open to adults and children, with admission at \$15 per individual or \$30 per family. Tickets available at the door or reserved by calling Shannon Weiler at 208-597-4177.

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State GOP aims to eliminate property taxes

Plan would leave schools with multi-million dollar funding gap

By SEAN DOLAN
Idaho Ed News

If the Idaho Legislature follows Scott Herndon's plan for eliminating property taxes, public schools would miss out on over \$400 million.

Herndon, who in May won his primary election against Sen. Jim Woodward, R-Sagle, said he wants to get back to the founders' original vision for America: true private property ownership.

He led the charge at last weekend's Idaho GOP state convention to add a plank to the party platform calling for the elimination of property taxes and a replacement with "revenue sources that do not place a lien on a citizen's home."



Herndon

Herndon told EdNews that his plan doesn't call for increasing sales or income tax rates. Instead, he is banking on overall growth in the state economy to increase tax revenue. He said his plan is realistic. All it takes is the will of the people.

"Was going to the moon realistic?" Herndon said. "Humans are capable of doing anything they set their minds to."

For House Minority Leader Ilana Rubel, D-Boise, Herndon's plan to eliminate property taxes

without an increase in income taxes is like hoping that money will fall from the sky.

"Maybe money will magically appear, and we'll be fine," Rubel said. "That is not a budget plan. That's preposterous."

The newly elected first vice chair of the Idaho GOP, Adams County Commissioner Viki Purdy, told EdNews she isn't sure how Idaho could ever get

See TAXES, A3

A LOCAL SENSATION



Courtesy photos

Noey Richards and her family pose for a photo at her booth.

Black garlic brownies are a hot ticket

By MAKEILAH LAW
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — As customers wander the Farmer's Market at Sandpoint, one vendor offers them a smile and a product most people have never heard of — black garlic.

From the bright fuchsia-pink garlic bulbs splayed across her table to the many health benefits of black garlic she can recite from memory to curious shoppers, it is evident that wellness is something Noey Richards cares deeply about. That passion has taken shape in the form of black garlic.

Although the name suggests the same intense bitterness of regular garlic, black garlic yields a completely different flavor. Richards

describes it as sweet, date-like and balsamic.

Raw garlic becomes black garlic after it has undergone a lengthy process — one that took Richards a while to perfect.

"You basically slowly age it for a long period of time at a very, very low temperature," said Richards. "It goes through a process called the maillard process, which is its own natural fermentation process, which bumps it up to a superfood."

In 2024, Richards and her husband sought to leave the corporate world behind to pursue their dream of being local growers. Forgoing a 9-5 job would allow them to spend more time with their daughter, Catalina.



A few of the items available for purchase at Catalina Garlic & Company's booth at the Sandpoint Farmers Market.

See GARLIC, A3

USFS eyes emergency logging for 5 million acres

Includes Kootenai, Boundary, Bonner, Benewah, Shoshone

By Daily Montanan Staff

The U.S. Forest Service published an eight-page emergency plan that it says addresses catastrophic wind damage done to federal forest land after two weather emergencies, but environmental watchdog groups say it's rushed and could result in millions of acres being used for commercial logging with an almost impossibly short public comment period.

The project's scoping document doesn't disclose which parcels of federal forest land will be logged and treated as part of the emergency plans, but a table shows it could involve more than 5 million acres spanning across Montana and Idaho's Panhandle.

The notice, issued by the USFS Northern Regional office in Missoula, said the "emergency salvage" effort is a response to the straight-line and high wind events in December 2025 and April 2026. The Forest Service said the windstorms created large patches of overturned or "downed" trees.

"Wind-felled and damaged trees of conifer species native to the Northern Rockies are highly susceptible breeding material for associated native bark beetles, including pine engraver beetles, spruce beetle, Douglas-fir beetle and potentially fir engraver and several species of wood boring insects," the documents said.

See USFS, A3

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