Clark Fork's Anderson named North Star MVP
See SPORTS, Page A8



SPECIALTY AUTO GLASS
YOUR AUTO GLASS EXPERTS
NEED auto glass REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT?
208-263-2600
600 Schweitzer Plaza Dr Ponderay, ID
282186

BONNER COUNTY
DAILY BEE

BONNERCOUNTYDAILYBEE.COM

GOOD MORNING!
Today is Wednesday
Highs/lows 50-30/A11
NOVEMBER 4, 2026
VOL. 61 NO. 157
1 DOLLAR NEWSSTAND



Winners undecided in legislative race

By CHLOE COCHRAN
Staff Writer

With ballots still being counted and final results not expected until 2 or 3 a.m., Steve Johnson, Karen Matthee, and Kathryn Larson led, with the outcome still to be determined.

Voters took to the polls to decide which candidates and ballot measures would represent and impact northern Idaho on Tuesday.

The early and absentee voter turnout significantly surpassed the May 2026 Primary election, with approximately 7,084 voters counted, according to VoteIdaho.gov.

District 1 legislative races

Former State Senator Scott Herndon is trailing independent candidate Steve Johnson for the District 1 state Senate seat. Johnson leads with 3,619 votes, or 57.58%, while Herndon follows closely with 2,666 votes or 42.42% of the vote.

In the race for the District 1A seat, Democratic candidate Karen Matthee is ahead of Republican Jane Sauter. At the time of publishing, Matthee led with 3,199 votes, or 50.92%, while Sauter trails with 3,084 votes, or 49.08% of the vote.

The only incumbent in the legislative races, Republican Cornel Rasor is being defeated by independent candidate Kathryn Larson for the

See UNDECIDED, A3

Sandpoint musician advances to MTNA division finals

By MAKEILAH LAW
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — The violin has long been an important part of Jacinta Larson's life, though she never imagined attending college for it.

"College was never even on my docket as ever going for anything, let alone music," said Larson.

But after her violin teacher's encouragement, Larson auditioned and was accepted to the University of Idaho as a violin performance student.

"I love being a music student," said Larson. "That's definitely where I'm supposed to be."

Now, the Sandpoint local will compete as a finalist in the Music Teachers National Association Northwest Division Young Artist String Performance competition.

Founded in 1876, MTNA is the nation's oldest professional music association and is committed to advancing the value of music study and music making to society, according to its website.

The three-tiered MTNA competitions begin at a state level. State winners advance to the division competition, and division winners proceed to the national finals.

If Larson, who competed under her maiden name, Howard, wins the division competition, she will compete in the national finals. Division winners will be announced in mid-January.

"I think this is such a great fruition of just seeing my hard work pay off because sometimes it's not always as visible," said Larson of the competition.



Courtesy of JACINTA LARSON

Sandpoint local Jacinta Larson will compete as a finalist in the Music Teachers National Association Northwest Division Young Artist String Performance competition.

Larson began preparing a music program and performed in the competition held in Boise before being selected to compete at the state level.

Competing for the first time, Larson said the calm environment caught her by surprise.

See LARSON, A2

Smith leading in BOCC race

By CHLOE COCHRAN
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — Bonner County saw one contested race for the 2026 General Election, with most county candidates running unopposed after the May primary election.

By 10 p.m., ballots were still being counted, and final results were not expected until 2 or 3 a.m. At the time of publishing, Smith appears to have claimed the Bonner County Commissioner District 1 seat in the 2026 General Election. Bonner County as a whole saw five uncontested county races and one request to retain Magistrate Judge Luke Hagelberg.

Bonner County races

Two political newcomers, Republican Steve Smith and independent Fred Arn, faced each other for the Bonner County Commissioner District 1 seat with Smith leading by 3,640 votes, or 54.01%. Arn trails with 3,099 votes, or 45.99% of the vote.

Republican Jeff Roberts went unopposed for the Bonner County Commissioner District 2 seat and has 4,104 votes.

Bonner County Clerk of the District Court was awarded to Republican Roger Rudd, who ran unopposed in the race. He currently has 4,266 votes.

Republican incumbents Clorrisa Koster and Robert Beers each won their respective uncontested races for Bonner County treasurer and coroner. Koster has 4,332 votes, and Beers received 4,404 votes.

For the Bonner County Assessor, Republican Cory Gabel is winning his

See SMITH, A3

Fire danger low in Bonner, Boundary counties

SANDPOINT — Fire danger is low again in North Idaho as winter approaches and temperatures hold between 40 and 50 degrees, Selkirk Fire Rescue & EMS announced Monday.

The lower fire danger follows a summer marked by fires, including Upper Smith Fire, Silver Fire, Parker Lake Fire and Turner Fire, among others. While fires aren't uncommon for the region, they continue to pose a threat to forest lands, rural homes and air quality.

Selkirk Fire officials made the announcement Monday, Nov. 2, stating that fires are still a possibility, but threats are minimal.

"Please obtain a burn permit through IDL prior to starting a burn project and burn safely. If you are having a campfire, make sure the fire is cold before leaving it unattended," officials said in a Facebook post.

INDEX

CALENDAR A11
COMMUNITY A2
HEALTH A4, A5
LEGAL NOTICES A9
LEISURE A12
PRIEST RIVER A6
RECORDS A11
SPORTS A8, A9, A10
TELEVISION A10
WEATHER A11
WORLD/NATION A7

8 36118 00005 8

Little re-elected, state GOP incumbents lead on Election Day

Bedke, Labrador, McGrane, Woolf, Ellsworth and Critchfield also hold leads over challengers

By CLARK CORBIN
Idaho Capital Sun

Idaho Republican Gov. Brad Little was reelected in Tuesday's general election and will serve a third term as the Gem State's governor, according to the Associated Press.

The Associated Press called the race for Little at 10:36 p.m. Tuesday.

Little, a Republican from Emmett, was projected to beat his two closest challengers, Democrat Terri Pickens and independent John Stegner.

As of 10:45 p.m. Mountain time Tuesday, Little had received 195,0981 votes, or 53.1%, while Pickens was in second place with 132,912 votes, or 35.9%. Stegner was in third place, with 30,539 votes, or 8.2%.

Several other candidates ran for governor as well.

Libertarian Paul Sand received 5,710 votes, or 1.5%. A Constitution Party candidate who changed his name from Marvin Richardson to Pro-Life received 3,967 votes, or 1%. And an independent named Jacob Burnett ran as a write-in candidate and had received 34%.

Little will serve his third, four-year term as Idaho's governor. He

See ELECTION, A3

