

Local line dancing stepping up/ A3



Three Badgers place at North Idaho Rumble / B1

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SPORTS

■ **PREP BASKETBALL:**
Badger boys and girls suffer losses / B1

BRIEFLY

White powder in mailed envelope forces brief closure at bank

By NOAH HARRIS
Staff Writer

BONNERS FERRY — An unknown substance discovered in a white envelope received Friday, Jan. 30, prompted Columbia Bank to close for the remainder of the day.

An investigation is ongoing and, as a result, little information has been released.

Bonnors Ferry police were notified of the incident and an officer responded, Bonners Ferry Police Chief Willie Cowell said.

"We received a call that there was a suspicious envelope with a white substance in it that was opened at the bank," Cowell said. "My officer went and confirmed it. Beyond that, we don't know what the contents were."

Cowell said multiple federal agencies are investigating the incident.

See **POWDER**, A2

Free food handlers course offered in Bonners Ferry

A free food handlers course will be offered Monday, March 23, through University of Idaho Extension office in Boundary County.

The class will run from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Boundary County Extension Office. Participants who complete the full course and pass the exam will receive an Idaho food handlers card.

The course is open to individuals who work in the food industry or whose jobs involve preparing food for others. Pre-registration is required to attend.

Snacks and beverages will be provided, and participants are asked to bring a sack lunch.

To pre-register or for more information, contact the Boundary County Extension Office at 208-267-3235. The Extension Office is located at 6791 Main St., Suite B, in Bonners Ferry.

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Residents raise safety concerns at ITD workshop

By NOAH HARRIS
Staff Writer

BONNERS FERRY — Community members are calling for safety improvements along U.S. 95 between Ponderay and the Canadian border, following hundreds of crashes reported in the last five years.

The concerns were among those brought up at a Jan. 30 safety workshop held by Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho State Police and others to gather residents' input and to share future plans for the highway.

Well over 100 people attended

the four-hour event, which organizers said was as much a learning opportunity for them as it was for attendees.

At the open-house style event, attendees were able to share suggestions by writing their comments and ideas on Post-it notes placed on tables throughout the room. Some connected were sign-related, with one person stating that they wanted to have movable, illuminated signs that display the speeds of oncoming vehicles. Another suggestion called for signage reading, "Lights on for safety."

See **WORKSHOP**, A7



Photo By NOAH HARRIS

Attendees talked with ITD and ISP, wrote down suggestions and viewed ITD posters at the safety workshop on Jan. 30 at the Bonners Ferry High School.

Volunteer coordinator helps expand Second Chance Animal Adoption

By NOAH HARRIS
Staff Writer

BONNERS FERRY — Carolyn Birrell has lived in Bonners Ferry for more than a decade but didn't begin volunteering at Second Chance Animal Adoption until early October.

"I responded to a Facebook post that Second Chance put out and it said something to the effect of, 'Want a dog, but don't have time for one? Why not give us an hour of your time as a volunteer?'" Birrell said.

When Birrell started, there was only one other volunteer, as well as two employees.

"I had the impression that I was going to walk a dog around the block," Birrell said. "I quickly realized that they were really close to being unwalkable because they weren't used to regular human interaction."



Courtesy photo

SCAA volunteer coordinator Carolyn Birrell takes a picture with Lucky, a dog currently at the shelter.

Lawmakers urged to allow Canadian flag display

By NOAH HARRIS
Staff Writer

BONNERS FERRY — The Bonners Ferry City Council has unanimously approved sending a letter to the Idaho House State Affairs Committee regarding proposed House Bill 538, which would limit the types of flags a governmental entity may display.

The letter was unanimously approved

at the council's Feb. 3 meeting.

The proposed bill allows several exceptions for flag displays. One provision states that "a governmental entity shall not display a flag on its property other than the following: official flags of countries other than the United States to commemorate special occasions."

See **FLAG**, A6

Town hall focuses on health care, sign, budget

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER
Hagadone News Network

BONNERS FERRY — Boundary County residents got a chance to both learn about the legislative process and share their concerns about potential budget cuts amid the state's budget challenges.

District 1's Rep. Mark Sauter, R-Sandpoint, and Rep. Cornel Rasor, R-Sagle, welcomed the many county residents who attended the Saturday, Jan. 31, town hall — the

first of three in the two northern counties which comprise the district. State Sen. Jim Woodward was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

Sauter and Rasor told residents local input is important to all the district legislators, and encouraged them to email them their thoughts and input on proposed legislation — or on ideas for bill they could introduce.

See **HALL**, A7

Cowell ready for trial, new interviews come to light

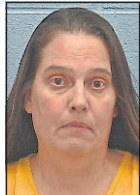
By CHLOE COCHRAN
Hagadone News Network

SANDPOINT — The trial for a Naples woman is slated to take place Monday, Feb. 9, after a pre-trial conference confirmed both parties would be ready to proceed.

Katherine Cowell, 51, is expected to stand trial during the week of Feb. 9 for allegations leading to the charges of two felony counts of lewd conduct with a minor under 16.

During a pre-trial conference, both the defense and prosecutor indicated their preparedness for the

five-day jury trial. However, prosecutor Katie Sherritt, in place of Louis Marshall, shared



Cowell

with the court that ten videos of interviews made by Boundary County law enforcement had not been sent to Bonner County officials, and would need to be sent to both the prosecutor and defense council.

According to Sherritt, the videos containing proof of unknown interviews will be available by the end of the day to start reviewing. Not having the videos may be a result of miscommunication.

See **COWELL**, A3



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