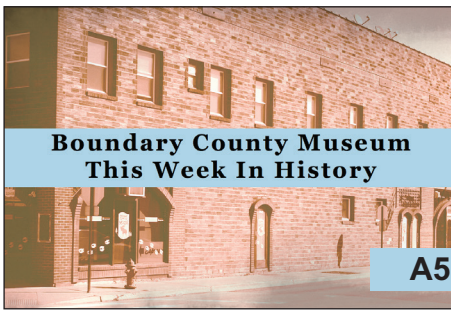


Class of '76 establishes new concert pavilion at fairgrounds / A3



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BONNERS FERRY

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SPORTS

■ LEGION BASEBALL: Lakers take third in Battle of the Beach Tournament / B1

## Second Harvest Mobile Food Market returns June 23

Second Harvest will bring its Mobile Food Market to Boundary County for the third free food distribution of the yearon Tuesday, June 23, at the Boundary County Fairgrounds. The distribution will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The only requirement to receive food is a desire for assistance in meeting household food needs. Attendees are asked to enter through the east entrance of the fairgrounds and follow directions from parking volunteers. Volunteers wishing to assist with food preparation and distribution should arrive between 9:30 and 10 a.m. at the west entrance of the fairgrounds.

See HARVEST, A5

## Regional students make honors lists at LCSC

LEWISTON — Over 25 students from Bonner and Boundary counties were named to an honors list at Lewis and Clark State College. The President's List is the highest honor and features the majority of students from the region. To qualify for the honor, students must have a 3.75 grade point average or higher and take at least 12 credits in 100-level classes or above.

See HONORS, A2

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# School district reports student math gains

## Work continues on new Valley View Elementary

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER Hagadone News Network

**BONNERS FERRY** — Work is progressing on the new Valley View Elementary, Boundary

County School District officials learned Monday.

"They're rocking and rolling over at Valley View," Boundary County School District Superintendent Jan Bayer told school board trustees. "It's really exciting. Our offices are sharking and we said we'll take all those shakes."

The city is requiring the district to add a third fire

hydrant, and those adjusted plans have been turned in to the state.

Of the state's 170-plus school districts and charters, Bayer told board trustees that the Boundary County School District is among the 28 highest-performing school districts. Those districts have achieved 5% growth or more in the past three to five years, the

superintendent told trustees.

Among the district's areas of focus for improvement was math, which saw first graders achieve 96% proficiency, followed by kindergartners at 89% and third graders at 81%. Second graders achieved 74%, fourth graders 71%, and fifth graders were at 69%.

See MATH, A2

## Young anglers reel in big catches at Kids Free Fishing Day

By JENNIFER WRIGHT Staff Writer

Sunny skies, eager young anglers and plenty of fish combined to make this year's Kids Free Fishing Day a success at Rotary Park's Snow Creek Pond on June 13.

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Bonners Ferry, the annual event welcomed local families for a morning of fishing, friendly competition and outdoor fun. Children ages 12 and under cast their lines in hopes of landing one of the trout stocked in the pond through Idaho Fish and Game's annual Free Fishing Day program.

According to Rotary Club President Sandy Johnstone,



Courtesy photos

Local youth take part in Kids Free Fishing Day 2026 at Rotary Park's Snow Creek Pond on June 13.

this year's event featured some of the largest fish ever stocked for the occasion.

"What a perfect day we had for the Free Fishing Day for Kids at Snow Creek Pond at Rotary Park," Johnstone said. "The fish were jumping and

the kids were casting."

The event is designed to encourage families to spend time outdoors and introduce children to fishing in a welcoming environment.

See KIDS, A6

## Summer food drive unites county churches

Boundary County churches are joining forces to help stock local food pantry shelves during the annual Boundary County Interfaith Food Drive, scheduled for Tuesday, June 30.

Community members are invited to bring nonperishable food donations between 1 and 3 p.m. to Community Action Partnership, located at 6665 Main St., Bonners Ferry. Organizers emphasize that participation is open to everyone, regardless of church affiliation.

The food drive comes at a critical time of year for many families. When school lets out for the summer, children who rely on free school breakfasts and lunches often lose access to those meals, increasing demand on local food assistance programs.

Organizers hope to collect 2,000 pounds of food during the drive. Unlike some donation campaigns, the effort is not structured as a competition between participating congregations.

See DRIVE, A5

## Memorial Day in New York

### Double Down Sisters perform at prestigious Carnegie Hall

By CHLOE COCHRAN Hagadone News Network

**SANDPOINT** — For passionate musicians, few accomplish the dream of hearing their music echo from the stage at Carnegie Hall in New York City, one of the most prestigious concert venues in the world.

At ages 11 and 8, local sisters Charlie and Emerson Johnson were able to turn that dream into a reality when the pair was awarded the unforgettable opportunity to play their violins at the Weill Recital Hall on Memorial Day 2026.

"When I was on stage, when I walked out, I was just enjoying it, smiling. And then, when I got to the last two measures, I was like 'don't get the long note out of tune, don't

do it.' And then I nailed it. Just hearing the applause was just so magical and so fun," 11-year-old Charlie Johnson said.

The sisters performed solo acts on the stage as a reward for being part of the 2026 American Protégé International Piano and Strings Competition winning class.

"My favorite part of the whole Carnegie Hall experience was obviously performing. When I went out on stage, I was really nervous because I didn't know if the audience was going to be a few people or totally sold out. But once I started playing, I just went into my mode," 8-year-old Emerson Johnson said. "My favorite part after that was getting my plaque. You may think, 'why was that my favorite part,' but it told me that I earned that award, it wasn't just because I won a competition, it was because I earned it."

See NEW YORK, A6



Sisters Charlie (left) and Emerson Johnson stand in front of Carnegie Hall, where they performed May 25.

## Registered sex offender arrested for child enticement

By CHLOE COCHRAN Hagadone News Network

**MOYIE SPRINGS** — A registered sex offender out of Moyie Springs was recently detained by Boundary County law enforcement after a task force found evidence to charge him with multiple counts of sexual enticement of a child.

Gary Gene Shriver, 77, was arrested June 11 after Boundary County Sheriff's Office received information from the Idaho

See ARREST, A2

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