

Dozens killed in Connecticut shooting
See WORLD/NATION, Page 8



West Valley sweeps Sandpoint in doubleheader
See SPORTS, Page 6



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Doubts surface over drawdown proposal

Basin board, Tribe agree to meet

By KEITH KINNAIRD
News editor

SANDPOINT — Members of the Pend Oreille Basin Commission expressed hope Thursday that common ground can be reached regarding a Kalispel Tribe of Indians pro-

posal to improve bull trout habitat below Albeni Falls Dam.

But commissioners expressed doubts that a late summer or early autumn drawdown of Lake Pend Oreille will provide meaningful help to bull trout and other cold-water fish species below the dam.

They also harbor concerns that an earlier drawdown could have detrimental effects on bull trout and other fish above the dam.

"We're taking about a very

small area between Box Canyon and Albeni Falls. The potential detriment to the fish upstream — where we're talking about a much larger area and a greater deal of fish — is certainly something that would have to be taken into consideration," Mitchell said during a commission teleconference.

Mitchell said the best way to aid bull trout below the dam could be to install a fish ladder, although she acknowledged that such infra-

structure is quite costly.

Commissioner Brent Baker said he wants to be on the same side as the tribe, but agreed with Mitchell.

"The solution is not going to be drawing the water down from Lake Pend Oreille," said Baker. "It's a fish passage problem and solutions are going to be passage solutions."

See LAKE, Page 5

I LOVE SNOW AT CHRISTMAS TIME!

Dec. 15
10 Shopping days 'til Christmas

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Big Blake!
From Your Sandpoint Mountain Family!

INSIDE TODAY

- ▶ SEARS
- ▶ WALMART

KUDOS

Dover residents

Compliments and thanks to the gracious folks of Dover for the sumptuous feast provided following the recent dedication of the Dover Bridge.

BRIEFLY

Concert planned

The SHS Choral Department will present its annual holiday dessert concert on Wednesday. The concert is at 6:30 p.m. in the commons. The community is invited to a fun-filled evening of music. A dessert auction and themed baskets to be raffled off that evening. The cost is \$5 at the door which includes dessert and a beverage.

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100 YEARS OF MEMORIES Centenarian, family celebrate birthday

By CAMERON RASMUSSEN
Staff writer

SANDPOINT — Hearthstone Village Assisted Living has another centenarian among its residents.

Friends and family of Simone "Mona" Vincent gathered Friday in Bonner County to celebrate the matriarch's 100th birthday. The family is splitting the celebration over two days, with Friday party at the assisted living home and a private family gathering today. She may be 100 years old, but that hasn't slowed her down one bit, according to great-granddaughter Jessica Benner.

"Mona hasn't aged a day for about 20 years," she said. "We have the photos for proof."

Friday was a smaller celebration for Vincent and her family, but it allowed Hearthstone Village staff and fellow residents a chance to take part in the festivities. The party was packed with well-wishers, and facility staff served up special treats to commemorate the once-in-a-lifetime achievement.

"The party was excellent," Benner said. "We had homemade angel food cake, and she received a beautiful bouquet of roses and lilies from her stepson Jerry Vincent of



—Courtesy photo

Simone "Mona" Vincent definitely earned those flowers. After all, not everyone lives to be 100 years old.

Arizona."

The event was about as multi-generational as a person could hope to experience. Her daughter Elaine Farrar and son-in-law Don Farrar were in attendance, as was her grandson Mike Thurmond, Benner and her great-great-grandson Noah Benner.

See BIRTHDAY, Page 5

Judgment stands in assault case

By KEITH KINNAIRD
News editor

SANDPOINT — A 1st District judge is rejecting a former Bonner County man's effort to have a felony conviction wiped from his record.

Counsel for Gary Lee Warren argued his aggravated assault conviction should be dismissed because he has fulfilled all of his court-ordered obligations and has an otherwise clean criminal record.

Bonner County Chief Deputy Prosecutor Shane Greenbank objected, arguing that blotting out the conviction would be incompatible with the public interest because of the severity of the offense.

Warren, 44, was charged with attempted strangulation and felony domestic violence in the presence of children in 2008.

Charging papers alleged that Warren picked up his girlfriend by the throat, threw her onto the counter and pummeled her face.

The charges were subsequently amended to a single count of aggravated assault and Warren pleaded guilty, according to court documents. Judge Steve Verby imposed a suspended one-to-three-year prison sentence placed him on four years of supervised probation.

Warren successfully moved to have his probation changed from supervised to unsupervised, court records show.

The victim in the case moved to have a no-contact order extended,

See JUDGMENT, Page 5

Community gathers to aid 'Tots' drive

'Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a harder battle.' — Plato

By MARLISA KEYES
Staff writer

SANDPOINT — It is usually very easy to write this column.

It is a pleasure to chronicle the kindness of others toward adults and children within the

community — people they most likely do not know.

Individuals drop checks by the Daily Bee office for Toys for Tots and slip toys in donation boxes around the community.

Business owners who work hard all year during a difficult economic time share the fruits of their labors.

And yes, there are bittersweet moments when opening an envelope reveals a donation that includes an "in memory of" note.

Today it is different, how-

ever, as our country mourns the tragic deaths of school children and educators in Newtown, Conn., on Friday.

Sorrow can debilitate us or serve as a touchstone.

While we cannot control what goes on around us, we can continue to make a difference in our community and the world.

We have so many examples close at hand that prove so much is accomplished when we act together.

See TOTS, Page 5

Sandpoint Lions Toys for Tots



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Our economy and lives revolve around Lake Pend Oreille. Please help defend it.

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