

'Spring for Teens' benefit is today

See Page 5



Bulldog golfers tee it up at Palouse Invitational

See SPORTS, Page 7



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INSIDE TODAY

- DISH DIRECT
- EARTH DAY

ITD, city differ on Curve construction options

By CAMERON RASMUSSEN
Staff writer

SANDPOINT — Clear differences in priorities between city officials and U.S. 2 Curve planners slowed discussion over a construction project Thursday.

City staff and council members met with Idaho Transportation Department per-

sonnel in an attempt to reach common ground regarding the Curve extension, a change to local roadways that will transform traffic circulation throughout the town. However, the two government entities have different ideas and goals for the project, and finding an acceptable compromise will take some work, meeting participants said.

City officials are approaching the project with the ambition to preserve Sandpoint's character, unity and viability for walkers and bicyclists by acting according to the city's comprehensive plan. ITD officials, meanwhile, want to make sure the highway extension is built to accommodate the highest traffic projections, potentially saving recon-

struction costs decades down the road.

Much of the contention centers on whether or not the Curve will use a roundabout to control traffic. While two of the concepts ITD engineers presented to the public at a Feb. 28 workshop featured roundabouts,

See CURVE, Page 5

RIP CITY



—Photo by JASON DUCHOW PHOTOGRAPHY

Sandpoint senior Mamie Mitchell laces one of the Bulldogs' 13 hits in an 11-1 rout of 5A Post Falls on Thursday at the new field at Sandpoint Middle School. The emerging Bulldog softball team is going to be a tough out at districts. For more on a busy day of prep action, as well as a preview on the Vandals' final spring football scrimmage, see Pages 6-7.

LPOSD mulls budget cuts

By CAMERON RASMUSSEN
Staff writer

SANDPOINT — There were no easy choices in a series of cuts district superintendent Shawn Woodward recommended to the school board Wednesday afternoon.

Even though the Lake Pend Oreille School District levy passed, Woodward advised board members that they still needed to cut \$738,250 from the 2014 budget. In addition, the district needs to maintain a \$200,000 buffer to account for unexpected enrollment numbers and a \$130,000 line item for contingency staffing.

While there is no easy way to reach those cuts, Woodward presented a budget proposal that was tailored by a budget committee led by district business manager Lisa Hals.

As with previous budget planning sessions, the nature of several revenue sources and expenses were still

See LPOSD, Page 5

KUDOS

Neighbors and local firefighters

Kudos to our friendly neighborhood firefighters, and our friendly neighbors, who helped put out a brush fire gone awry. Cool heads and helpful hands saved the day and our yard. Many "warm" thanks to you! Charis Uzabel

Email your kudos to clobsinger@bonnercounty-dailybee.com

BRIEFLY

Veterans invited to 'Honor Flight'

SANDPOINT — The Sandpoint High School Honor Flight Club will be showing the movie "Honor Flight" at Sandpoint High School 7 p.m. tonight and 2 p.m. Saturday. "Honor Flight" is a heartwarming documentary about four living World War II veterans and a Midwest community coming together to give them the trip of a lifetime.

During Saturday's presentation, the club invites all World II veterans to attend. Tickets for either showing are \$12 can be purchased on-line or at the door. Any veteran and their spouse get in free.

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Judge orders jail in pill theft case

By KEITH KINNAIRD
News editor

SANDPOINT — A pharmacist who succumbed to the occupational hazard of abusing the drugs he was dispensing was ordered Thursday to serve 30 days in jail.

First District Judge Barbara Buchanan also placed Bradley William Owens on three years of supervised probation and ordered him to pay nearly \$15,000 in restitution, most of which accounts for the thousands of tablets of prescription medication he pilfered from Sandpoint Super Drug, his former employer.

Owens, 33, was charged

last year with burglary, grand theft and felony possession of a controlled substance. The pill thefts occurred from 2010 to 2012, according to charging documents.

Owens pleaded guilty to the possession charge. In exchange for the plea, the theft and burglary charges were dismissed.

Owens said he became reliant on prescription drugs after taking them to have more energy and to cope with the stress. Owens expressed shame for betraying his employer, disengaging from family and becoming selfish and arrogant as his addiction worsened.

"I'm here today because of the bad choices I made," said Owens.

Owens' family members testified that they regretted not connecting his erratic behavior and moods to his secret addiction to stimulants, high-potency painkillers and other prescription drugs.

Owens entered a 90-day inpatient rehabilitation program followed by stringent, five-year sobriety program through the Idaho Physician Recovery Network.

Sandpoint Super Drug estimated that Owens was responsible for taking more

See SENTENCE, Page 5

L&L suspect enters pleas

By KEITH KINNAIRD
News editor

SANDPOINT — A Sandpoint man accused of engaging in lewd conduct with minors and possessing methamphetamine entered into a plea agreement with the state as his trial



Patterson

got under way in 1st District Court.

Shardan Cody Patterson was to be tried on April 8 on two counts of lewd conduct and one count of meth possession.

But Patterson agreed to plead guilty to possessing meth and entered an Alford plea to one of the lewd conduct counts, court records show. In exchange for the pleas, the second lewd conduct charge was dismissed.

Under an Alford plea, Patterson admits no wrongdoing but concedes

See PLEA, Page 5

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