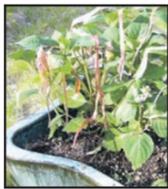


## Arbor Day celebration packed with fun, facts

See Page 10



## Strikers name Pellicio new director of coaching

See SPORTS, Page 6



# BONNER COUNTY DAILY BEE

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## Last Mann Gulch survivor passes

Bob Sallee lied about his age to get job with Forest Service

By KEITH KINNAIRD  
News editor

SANDPOINT — Bob Sallee was fresh out of Sandpoint High School when he dropped into a tragic piece of U.S. History.

Sallee fibbed about his age when he was 16 to snag a job clearing trail for the U.S. Forest Service's Sandpoint Ranger District. Impressed by his size and fitness, managers suggested that he join the smokejumpers, the airborne wildland fire-

fighting unit that parachutes into remote areas to battle wildfires.

He graduated from SHS in 1949 and at the age of 17 was deployed to a seemingly routine conflagration that would turn out to be anything but.

"His first fire was the Mann Gulch Fire. His first plane ride, even, and he had to jump out of it," said his sister, Theodora, referring to the Montana fire that would claim 13 firefighters' lives.

See SALLEE, Page 3



—Courtesy photo

Bob Sallee with his aunt, Jeanette, at a 2009 family reunion.

## A 'FAIR' AMOUNT OF FUN



—Photo by CAMERON RASMUSSEN

Christine Tang, left, inspects her handiwork with her custom-made "potato head" doll, while Shaylee Benda, right, carries her planting kit as the two head toward their bus.

## ORGANIZERS BRING EVENT TO A NEW GENERATION

By CAMERON RASMUSSEN  
Staff writer

SANDPOINT — There's nothing quite like getting hands on with animals and agriculture to get kids excited about the Bonner County Fair.

Enter the Bonner County Pre-Fair. A new event introduced this year by manager Rhonda Livingstone and the fair staff, the pre-fair focused primarily on elementary school students, who spent a morning last week engaging in crafts, listening to special speakers and learning the essentials of 4-H activities. The hope, Livingstone said, is to bring the fair to yet another section of the community.

Students from Washington and Sagle elementary schools got to experience the new activity for themselves Friday morning, a chance other school students had the previous day. At its peak, the event featured hundreds of kids exploring various lessons and activities, Livingstone said.

According to Livingstone, the hope was to give students ample opportunities for both learning and fun. Students got a little crafty by making their own Mr. Potato Head dolls — in this case, actual potatoes with popsicle sticks for legs, yarn for hair and various other items for facial features. They also received a small kit to grow their own plant at home or the

classroom. A small combination of a biodegradable container and prepackaged planting materials, the kit allowed kids to grow a plant themselves without overly-complicated steps, Livingstone said.

Later, it was the adults' turn to admire the children's handiwork. Event organizers collected the many dozens of paintings, essays and more that the students submitted for the event. Livingstone was particularly impressed with the 3D figurines, shapes and designs students created using a 3D printer.

According to Livingstone, the pre-fair was born out of one central idea: How could organizers bring the fair's mission of agricultural heritage and rural tradition to a wider audience?

Livingstone said they began answering that question last year by introducing the after-fair, during which organizers brought animals, produce and more to retirement home The Bridge at Sandpoint. This allowed residents, many of whom couldn't handle the physical activity of walking the fairgrounds, to experience the excitement and fun of the fair for themselves.

The pre-fair was a natural progression, Livingstone said. While the after-fair served an older set, last week's event focused on children. With any luck, a few of them may be inspired to participate in 4-H activities and competitions themselves, she added.

## Prison ordered in stabbing case

By KEITH KINNAIRD  
News editor

SANDPOINT — A Post Falls man was ordered on Friday to serve up to 15 years in prison for stabbing and slashing his wife with a knife at her home near Priest Lake last year.

James Leverne "Vern" Carlton will have to serve at least five years in prison before he can be considered for parole, according to the terms of the sentence imposed by 1st District Judge Barbara Buchanan.

Buchanan said prison was in order because the victim was severely injured in the attack and the reason for it remains elusive — even to the defendant.

See SENTENCE, Page 3

## Benefit set for Johnnie Lawson

By CAMERON RASMUSSEN  
Staff writer

SANDPOINT — Johnnie Lawson has given a lot to community members both musically and philanthropically.

Now his friends and family are hoping they'll return the favor in his time of need.

Following Lawson's alleged assault in late March, he remains hospitalized and semi-comatose in Portland,

Ore. His injuries were sustained in a collision with a truck driven by an man who police say targeted him intentionally. The impact resulted in serious head trauma and an extensive medical stay.

With medical bills accumulating, Lawson's loved ones are asking the community for assistance. A benefit is planned for 5 p.m. Saturday at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. The evening will include a spaghetti dinner,

See BENEFIT, Page 3

### INSIDE TODAY

- ▶ BONNER BIZ
- ▶ J.C. PENNEY
- ▶ TV TIME

### BRIEFLY

#### Kaniksu Lane Trust hosting hike series

SANDPOINT — The Kaniksu Land Trust, a local non-profit dedicated to private land conservation, is excited to announce its first guided summer hike series.

Each outing will be held on a unique land trust-protected property and will feature a different ecological theme.

It's a great opportunity to learn how a conservation easement works and explore one of the exceptional easement-protected private properties in the Sandpoint area, while learning from local experts. All are welcome. Space is limited.

Call to reserve your spot (208-263-9471).

#### Schedule:

May 31 — Pack River bird walk guided by local birding expert and photographer.

June 28 — Sherwood Forest wildflower walk and picnic; guided by Kaniksu Land Trust staff (lunch provided; \$15 donation)

July 26 — Selle Valley plants walk; guided by a master naturalist.

Aug. 23 — Gold Creek Ranch forest ecology tour; guided by a certified forester.

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