

**Cogswells celebrate 70th anniversary**

See Page 8



**4 kids pass belt tests at SMA**

See SPORTS, Page 5



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**AUGUST 27, 2020**

1 DOLLAR NEWSSTAND  
14 PAGES

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**BRIEFLY**

**Three injured in Hwy. 200 crash**

CLARK FORK — A Sandpoint teen was injured Tuesday in a crash on Highway 200 near the Montana state line, according to Idaho State Police.

State police said Rachel A. Dunn, 18, was headed westbound on when she attempted to negotiation a right-hand curve. Dunn lost control of the 1990 Honda Accord she was driving, over-corrected and crossed the center line of the highway. Dunn collided with a 2014 Toyota Prius driven by Lori S. Adams of Heron, Mont. Dun was transported by air ambulance to Kootenai Health in Coeur d'Alene. Adams and her passenger, Edward L. Bernier, 83, of Heron, were taken by ground ambulance to Bonner General Health in Sandpoint.

State police said Dunn and Bernier were not wearing seat belts, while Adams was.

The 6 p.m. crash just west of the state line blocked the highway for approximately three hours.

State police said the crash remains under investigation.

**Mt. lion killed after attack on family pet**

PRIEST RIVER — A mountain lion that had reportedly killed a cat near an elementary school in Priest River was euthanized Tuesday by Idaho Fish and Game conservation officers.

The lion had been observed within city limits near the junior high school, Fish and Game said. The cat's owner saw the lion on her property twice before contacting Fish and Game.

Fish and Game officers, the Priest River Police Department and a wildlife biologist from the Kalispel Tribe tracked and killed the lion on county property west of Priest River High School, according to Fish and Game.

"That is uncommon behavior for a lion to be hanging out in town like that," said Senior Conservation Officer Doug Meyer.

The decision to euthanize the lion was based on its proximity to town and risk to public safety, Meyer said.

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**BRIDGE OPTION OK'D**



Bonner County Road & Bridge officials are seeking public comments on a project to replace an aging span across Rapid Lightning Creek.

(Photo by KEITH KINNAIRD)

**Rapid Lightning Bridge to be built in halves**

By KEITH KINNAIRD  
News editor

SANDPOINT — Bonner County commissioners approved an alignment Tuesday for a bridge replacement project on Rapid Lightning Creek.

The preferred alignment involves building the new bridge in halves and using a traffic signal to regulate the one-way flow of traffic.

The other options involved realigning the span to the north or south of the existing span, which allow the bridge to remain in use during construction.

However, both the north and south options would require the acquisition of additional right of way, which would escalate the project's cost.

Moreover, the northern

option would require stream bed alterations, which would trigger a federal permitting process.

Bonner County Road & Bridge officials sought public comments on three proposed alignments on the bridge across the creek. The department's director, Steve Klatt, said he received only a half-dozen comments.

"I really received very few comments," Klatt told commissioners on Tuesday.

Klatt said some were appreciative of being asked to weigh in on the proposal before an alignment decision was made by commissioners. Others questioned why the public's time and the county's time was being wasted by seeking comments.

"I would recommend that we go with the preferred option," said Klatt.

The project, which is located east of Sarah Lane, is being funded through a \$1.9 million grant through the state's Local Highway Technical Assistance Council. The bridge replacement project is at least four years out from construction.

The preferred alternative would mimic a recent Idaho Transportation Department bridge replacement project on Highway 41 in Oldtown, which also used a traffic signal to regulate one-way traffic on the span.

It's estimated that the Rapid Lightning Creek signal would add three minutes to motorists' commute each time they cross the bridge.

Keith Kinnaird can be reached by email at [kkinnaird@bonner-countydailybee.com](mailto:kkinnaird@bonner-countydailybee.com) and follow him on Twitter @KeithDailyBee.

**Mining ordinance hearing canceled**

By KEITH KINNAIRD  
News editor

SANDPOINT — A hearing on Bonner County's proposed overhaul of its mining ordinance has been canceled.

The Bonner County Planning & Zoning Commission was scheduled to take up the matter today.

Bonner County Commission Chairman Dan McDonald said it was his understanding that the proceeding was canceled so P&Z could conduct further work on the ordinance, which would allow the county to administratively approve permits for surface mines in certain zoning districts, meaning public hearings on such proposals would not be conducted.

See HEARING, A3

**Boundary Co. records first COVID-19 death**

By KEITH KINNAIRD  
News editor

BONNERS FERRY — The Panhandle Health District reported on Wednesday the first death related to novel coronavirus in Boundary County.

The district said the man was in his 70s and had been hospitalized due to complications from COVID-19.

Out of respect to him and his family, no additional details will be released, the district said.

It's the 40th death in the five northern counties, according to PHD. The district said 27 people have died in Kootenai County and 11 have died in Shoshone County. The virus is blamed for one death in Benewah County.

"Our thoughts are with the family and loved ones during this difficult time," said Lora Whalen, PHD director.

See VIRUS, A3

**Legislature puts final touches on COVID bills**

By CRAIG NORTHRUP  
Staff writer

Idaho lawmakers put in the final legwork Wednesday on a few pieces of legislation as the House wrapped up its business and prepared to head home from an extraordinary special session.

The Senate had put forth a last-minute nonbinding resolution and sat down for an evening hearing on HB 6, a House bill that provides certain immunities from COVID-contracting lawsuits. The bill protects indi-

viduals, corporations, churches, cities, counties, schools, colleges and other institutions.

Different versions of the bill had tried and failed to make it through the House that included rejected language that would have protected those same entities from COVID-related lawsuits, such as disruptions of scheduled plans and an inability to provide equitable services, as well as a "good-faith" definition. The draft that made its way to the Senate Wednesday

See SESSION, A3



Anti-government activist Ammon Bundy is wheeled from the Idaho Statehouse in Boise on Wednesday, Aug. 26, following his second arrest for trespassing in two days. Bundy was arrested Tuesday in a committee room and charged with trespassing.

(AP Photo/Keith Ridler)

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