# ENVISION

NEWS | OCTOBER 6, 2026

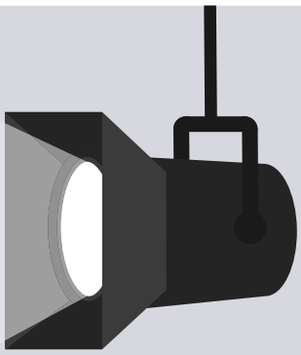
A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER...

**What are we building for the next generation?**

+ Pathways that help young people discover what's possible.
+ Organizations strong enough to meet tomorrow's challenges.
+ Partnerships that accomplish more together than any of us could alone.

The things we build today become the opportunities someone else inherits tomorrow. This month, we're celebrating the people, partnerships and ideas investing not only in the community we have, but in the community we continue to become.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



## *Building Pathways*

### What if we stopped asking young people what they want to be and started showing them what they could become?

Something exciting is happening in our community. We're giving young people more opportunities to learn by doing, work alongside people who know their craft, and discover possibilities they may never have known existed.

Ken Larson has been part of that work for years through the North Idaho High School Aerospace Program, where students don't simply learn about aviation, they build airplanes, learn from experienced mentors, and get hands-on exposure to careers that once might have felt worlds away.

That same spirit is growing with the opening of Sandpoint High School's new Career Technical Education Center, creating even more pathways for students to explore their strengths through hands-on learning.

And then there are young people like Carter… Carter and another local high school student recently launched the Selkirk Launch Group, an ambitious effort to design and build a rocket they hope will reach 60,000 feet. They're finding local welders and engineers willing to share their expertise, securing donated electronics from SparkFun, raising money for materials, and learning what it actually takes to turn an audacious idea into something real.

That's what makes investments in young people so powerful. We may build the classrooms, create the programs, introduce the mentors and open the doors. But we don't get to decide how far they'll go once they walk through them.

Sometimes, apparently, they aim for 60,000 feet.

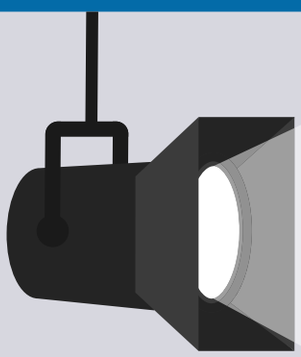
**Listen to our conversation with Ken Larson and discover what can happen when a community gives young people the opportunity to dream bigger.**

LISTEN TO THE CONVERSATION

## *Want to help these young innovators reach 60,000 feet?*

**Selkirk Launch Group is looking for local engineers, machinists, businesses and community members interested in helping bring their first rocket to life.**

LEARN MORE / SUPPORT THE LAUNCH



COMMUNITY NEED

## *Building Capacity*

### How do we know we're actually making a difference?

Every year, our community pours extraordinary amounts of time, generosity, volunteer hours and funding into making Bonner County stronger. We count meals served, people housed, rides provided, dollars raised and families helped.

Those numbers matter. But they don't always tell us what changed.

A vehicle repair might count as one service provided. But did it allow a parent to keep their job? Did their family remain housed? Six months later, are they more stable than they were before?

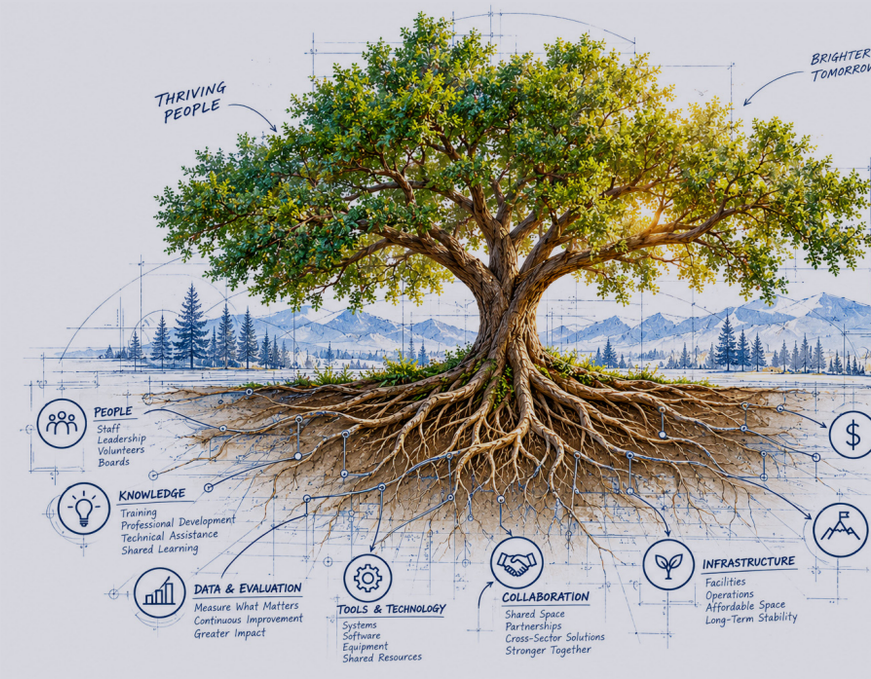
That's the difference between measuring activity and measuring impact, and it's a question more nonprofits are being challenged to ask.

Building strong organizations isn't only about raising more money or launching another program. It means having the time, tools and capacity to collect good information, listen to the people we serve, learn from what's working, and be willing to change what isn't.

That's especially important in a community like ours, where so many organizations are working on interconnected challenges with limited resources.

**Perhaps strengthening our community doesn't always mean creating something new. Sometimes it means strengthening the organizations already doing the work.**

READ: MEASURING WHAT MATTERS ➤

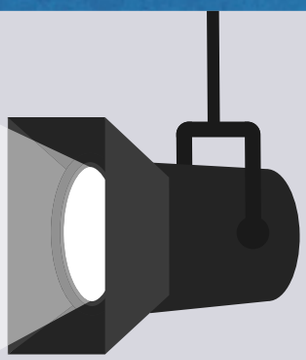



## *Do you know of a need or opportunity in the community?*

SUBMIT A COMMUNITY NEED SUGGESTION

COMMUNITY PILLAR

## *Building Together*



### What happens when two community anchors ask, "What could we do together?"

Sometimes the best ideas don't begin with a new organization, a new building, or even a new program. They begin when people look at what they already have and imagine what might be possible if they shared it.

When Numerica Credit Union came to Sandpoint, they wanted to invest meaningfully in local kids. Schweitzer wanted more children in our community to experience the mountain.

Add the school district and Sandpoint Cinemas to the conversation, and a simple idea took shape: encourage kids to read, and let reading unlock an experience.

Students who read ten hours could earn their choice of a Schweitzer lift ticket or a movie package. Last season, 56 students chose the mountain and another 49 chose the movies.

But the part of this story we love most isn't the numbers. It's the question behind them: **What do we have? What do you have? What does our community need, and what could we create together?**

That's collaboration at its best. Each partner brings something different to the table, and together they create an opportunity none could offer quite the same way alone.

As we think about what we're building for the next generation, perhaps that's one of the most important things we can pass along: a community where organizations don't simply work beside one another, but actively look for ways to work with one another.

**Because sometimes the greatest community resource isn't something we need to build. It's the connection between what we already have.**

HEAR HOW THE PARTNERSHIP HAPPENED ➤

## *Upcoming Events* | WAYS TO CONNECT THIS OCTOBER

**7th**
**Wednesday Farmers' Market**
3-5:30pm
Farmin Park

**7th**
**Aster After Hours**
5-7pm
924 W. Superior St.

**8th**
**IPAC Sandpoint Movie Night**
5pm | The Hive
207 N. First Ave.

**10th**
**Apple Fest**
11am-4pm
Downtown Sandpoint

**10th**
**Oktoberfest Food Bank Benefit**

**17th**
**Harvest Fest Final Farmers' Market**

**17th**
**Celebration of American Music**

**17–24th**
**Sandpoint Idaho Film Festival**

Noon-6pm Matchwood | 513 Oak St.

9am-2pm
Farmin Park

2pm | Little Carnegie
110 Main St

sandpointidahofilmfest.org

## 22nd

**Festival at Sandpoint's 2027 Fine Arts Poster Public Unveiling**

7-8:30pm
301 Cedar St.

## 24th

**Celebrate the Sled Hill**

11am-4pm
The Sled Hill

## 24th

**POAC's Masterpiece Ball**

6pm | The HIVE
207 N. First

## 27th

**SHS Fall Choir Concert**

7pm
410 S. Division Ave.

## 30th

**Sandpoint Senior Center Monthly Breakfast Fundraiser.**

8am | SASI
820 Main St.

## 30th

**Grand Kyiv Ballet The Swan Lake Symphony of Lights.**

7pm | Panida
300 N. First Ave.

## 31st

**Thin Line Community Center Fundraiser: Brewooos for the Brave**

2-5pm | Matchwood
513 Oak St.

## 31st

**Halloween Parties Galore!**

**sandpointonline.com >**

ENVISION CENTER MOMENTUM

*What We're Building Together*

COMMUNITY RESOURCE ENVISION CENTER
CRECidaho.com

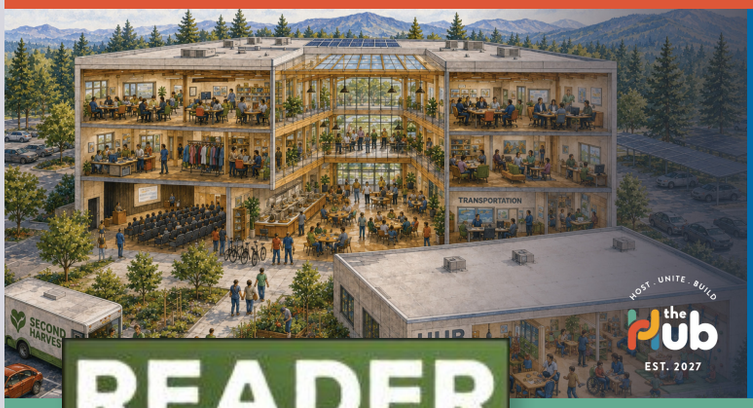
# NEW PARTNERSHIPS

ROLL FOR REPAIRS IS BRINGING OUR AUTOMOTIVE COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO HELP LOCAL FAMILIES STAY SAFELY ON THE ROAD.

THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE ENVISION CENTER PRESENTS

# A HOMETOWN TRADITION

THE FESTIVAL OF TREES IS TAKING SHAPE! DESIGNERS, SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE COMING TOGETHER TO CREATE AN UNFORGETTABLE HOMETOWN HOLIDAY.




# A BIGGER VISION

THE CONVERSATION IS GAINING MOMENTUM AS MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS EXPLORE WHAT THIS CAMPUS COULD MAKE POSSIBLE.

The Sandpoint Reader recently toured the campus and took a deeper look at the vision behind the HUB and what could happen if Bonner County thought differently about the spaces, resources and infrastructure we already have.

READ THE SANDPOINT READER STORY ➤

CURIOUS ABOUT THE HUB? EXPLORE THE VISION ➤

## What if Bonner County Shared More?

More space. More resources. More ideas. More connection.

This month reminded us that the future isn't something we simply wait for. It's something we build. In classrooms and workplaces, through stronger organizations, unexpected partnerships, and ideas big enough to require all of us.

We may never know exactly who will benefit from the things we build today. But that's the beautiful thing about building for the future. We don't have to. We just have to leave something worth inheriting.

BOOK A COFFEE OR CAMPUS TOUR

The future of Bonner County is already under construction. What will you help build?

When Families Need Someone:
The Story of Safe Start

LATEST PODCAST

There Is Room
At The Table

LATEST BLOG POST

ENVISION

A STRONGER
COMMUNITY
TOGETHER...

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ENVISION CENTER

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