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#### **GOOD MORNING!**

Today is



Highs/lows 80s/50s A13

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2025** 

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1 DOLLAR

# Districts embrace limited phone use

By JACK FREEMAN Staff Writer

**SANDPOINT** — Connor Baranski has been teaching at Sandpoint High School for over a decade, slowly watching an unseen and unregulated addiction take over the classroom.

As cell phone use crept its way into schools, Baranski saw how the devices commanded students' attention with a never-ending stream of information. He grew tired of the overwhelming amount of phone use in his class and said he found it personally offensive.

"I very much see teaching as interacting with you." I'm a human being and there is value if I'm taking the time to teach something," Baranski said. "The humane thing to do would be at least pretend to listen, make some sort of eye contact, the basic decency to not ignore somebody when they are

While there was a phone use policy in the Lake Pend Oreille School District, Baranski said it was generally left up to the teachers, which caused division between them and the students.

See PHONES, A8

# All Seasons 208-265-2944 • allseasonsgardenandfloral.com 9-5:30 P.M. MON-FRI • 9-4 SATURDAY

#### **BRIEFLY**

#### Residents invited to iPhone photography class

31831 HWY 200 E, SANDPOINT, IDAHO

Area residents are invited to join professional photographer Melody MacDonald and learn how to get the most out of your iPhone cameras.

The program will be held at the Priest River Library at 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 20.

MacDonald will be covering subjects like composition, editing and settings. It's a chance for residents to learn how to turn good photos into great ones. Those interested need to bring their iPhones with them to class.

Please contact the library at 208-448-2207 to sign up.

#### Book sale planned for Oct. 5

The West Bonner Friends of the Library are having a huge book sale at Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 4. The event will take place from 10:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Main Street Books.

Main Street Books is located at 118 Main Street in downtown Priest River. All proceeds go to support the Priest River and Blanchard libraries.

"Come shop the sale for your winter reads and gifts while supporting your favorite library," Friends officials said.

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By CHLOE COCHRAN Staff Writer

**SAGLE** — Two bald eagles have taken flight again after spending several months rehabilitating at a local raptor rehabilita-

The eagles released were just two of many that Birds of Prey Northwest has helped rehabilitate over its 32 years of

According to the organization, Birds of Prey Northwest's mission is to educate the public about raptors through live presentations and to provide medical treatment to sick, injured and orphaned birds of prey, with the goal of returning them to the wild.

Of the two released was an adult and a juvenile bald eagle. The adult eagle was admitted to the center April 20 after suffering from a wing fracture. Through the use

of a 120-foot flight run and reconditioning, the adult was able to heal and regain its strength.

The juvenile eagle was one of the youngest that was admitted into the center during the summer. According to Birds of Prey owner Janie Veltkamp, the heat and high temperatures led the juveniles to jump from their nests before they were capable of flying.

Today, Sept. 17, the nonprofit is releas ing the remaining three young bald eagles out of its raptor facility.

Birds of Prey encourages the public to call 208-245-1367 if they see any raptors on the ground.

Birds of Prey rehabilitation center is located near St. Maries, where volunteers and core staff can attend and care for birds, giving them the proper medical treatment needed to return to their natural habitat.



Courtesy photos of CHLOE COCHRAN

# **NIC** instructor on leave after alleged Kirk comments

By KAYE THORNBRUGH Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE A North Idaho College instructor accused of making insensitive remarks about the killing of conservative activist Charlie Kirk is on administrative leave while NIC fields "threatening" messages sparked by the instructor's alleged comments.

Administrators learned of the allegations Friday and launched an investigation into the instructor's social media post the same day, according to NIC. The college has not publicly identified the instructor.

See INSTRUCTOR, A8

## **Nasin** sentenced two years of probation in **City Beach** assault

By CHLOE COCHRAN Staff Writer

 $\mathbf{SANDPOINT} - \mathbf{A} \ \mathbf{man}$ charged with several crimes related to sexual battery has been sen-

tenced to two years of probation for an assault that occurred last year at City Beach.

Kent Charles Nasin, 25,

pled guilty May 19 to felony aggravated assault and misdemeanor sexual battery. As part of a plea deal, felony charges

See NASIN, A8

### **NEW LOCATION OPEN IN SAGLE**

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