

Sandpoint boys, girls continue streaks as district champions

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Highs/lows
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OCTOBER 24, 2025

Join Sandpoint Rotary in fight to end polio — forever

SANDPOINT — Today, on the birthday of Dr. Jonas Salk, the scientist who developed the first effective polio vaccine and deliberately chose not to patent it so it could be available to all, the Sandpoint Rotary Club invites the community to join in the global effort to finally eradicate polio from the planet.

Rotary International launched its fight against polio in 1987. Since then, worldwide cases have dropped by 99.9%. Today, in 2025, only 16 cases have been detected worldwide. We are this close to wiping out one of humanity's most devastating diseases forever.

To mark this year's World Polio Day, the Sandpoint Rotary Club is holding a "Match the Match" fundraising campaign. The club will match the first \$1,000 in local contributions, and then the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will match every dollar twice more. That means your \$10 gift becomes \$60 toward ending polio.

Each polio vaccine costs only 60 cents, so that same \$10 donation will vaccinate 100 children — literally changing 100 lives.

"Karen Applegate is leading our club's End Polio Now campaign this year," said Rotary Club President Chris Chambers. "Karen is an inspiration to our club."

See ROTARY, A2



To donate to the Sandpoint Rotary Club's effort to eradicate polio forever, scan the QR code.

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New LPOSD facility brings technical education

By JACK FREEMAN
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — On the south side of Sandpoint High School, construction crews are raising the frame of what is destined to become the future of technical

education in North Idaho.

The Lake Pend Oreille School District's new Career Technical Education Center will provide a customized and larger home for four existing programs at SHS — residential carpentry, sports medicine, computer network

support and nursing assistance — with room to expand, according to LPOSD's Chief Financial and Operations Officer Brain Wallace.

Alex Gray, CTE director at SHS, said the building will be revolutionary for the programs

involved, which will now have permanent homes. He said that classes like the Health Professions class were being taught in a converted broom closet due to lack of space.

See LPOSD, A2



A collage of the actors taking part in the upcoming Lake Pend Oreille Repertory Theatre's production of "Arsenic & Old Lace." Opening night is tonight with additional showings on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 25-26; Friday, Oct. 31, and Nov. 1-2.

A KILLER COMEDY

LPO Rep brings classic dark comedy to life

SANDPOINT — Lake Pend Oreille Repertory Theatre's production of "Arsenic & Old Lace" has its roots in a favor for fellow actors.

Dorothy Prophet had long wanted to do the play but there was a catch. She wanted to be in the play, not direct it. So, after LPO Rep's Timothy Bangle directed the theater company's take on "Murder on the Orient Express," she went to the director with a proposal.

Would he consider adding the play to his list? She told Bangle, who is known for putting a fresh take on classic productions as well as innovative original shows, that he would bring "some life" to the classic dark comedy.

"I read it and thought it was quite funny and put it on my list of shows to do in the next few years," Bangle said.

However, Prophet and Kate McAlister, who portray sisters Martha and Abby Brewster in LPO Rep's take on the tale, recently hinted they weren't getting any younger. Bangle got the point and pushed the play forward on his schedule.

"They hinted that they wanted to do it before they got too old, so I bumped it up," Bangle said, clearly content with the decision to help fellow LPO Rep members check characters they've wanted to portray off their acting checklist.

"I'm glad I took it on," Bangle said. "It's been a fun show."

Without giving too many spoilers, "Arsenic & Old Lace" tells the tale of two sisters who poison lonely old men in a belief they are saving them from a life of loneliness and suffering.

The play is loosely inspired by the story of convicted murderer Amy Archer-Gilligan who ran a boarding house for the elderly in the early 1900s. According to newspaper records from the time period, more than 60 people died at the Archer Home in Windsor, Conn., roughly six times as a

similar facility in nearby Hartford, Conn.

Playwright Joseph Kesselring heard about the murders and subsequent trial and is known to have reviewed court documents surrounding the case.

While inspired by the case, the events that unfold in the play are pure imagination and Kesselring spins a dark comedy about a very dysfunctional family centered around Martha and Abby Brewster who take in lonely old men into their boarding house. The pair "put them out of their misery" by giving them elderberry wine laced with poison before burying them in their basement.

"It's very dark humor, but it's hysterical," Bangle said.

The play is filled with drama as well as dysfunctional family dynamics with three brothers added to the mix. Throw in a healthy dose of comedy, albeit dark in nature, and a bit of romance. "There's no cussing, there's no inappropriate content other than there's a lot

of talk of murder and death in the show, but it's done in a very comedic way," Bangle said.

Bangle said he wanted to put a different take on the play and is "shooting it," so to speak, in black and white, with much of the costume and staging in shades of black, white and gray.

"There will be accents of color that we are building into the show, but they are very intentional and tell a story themselves," Bangle said. "Like the characters that do come into the home, there are two characters that the old ladies try to murder in the show and their color is the visual representation of how the old ladies look at the world."

Also shown in color is Teddy Brewster, who believes he's Teddy Roosevelt.

See ARSENIC, A2

City warns of scam targeting Planning Dept. customers

By JACK FREEMAN
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — The city issued a warning to developers and applicants working with the Planning Division of a phishing attempt impersonating a city account.

In a Thursday press release, Sandpoint officials said that an email with fake invoice documentation and request for a \$4,800 wire transfer payment was sent to a customer with a project

See SCAM, A2

Torrez seeking election to Sandpoint Council

By JACK FREEMAN
Staff Writer

SANDPOINT — When Joshua Torrez's daughter started attending elementary school, he was faced with a choice.

Torrez could either see his daughter less, or pick up his whole life in Colorado with a job in the IT industry and move to Sandpoint. So, in 2017, Torrez said he packed his bags, hit the road and immediately



Torrez

See TORREZ, A2

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