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**A2**



NOVEMBER 16, 2025

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Red Roses: A  
Vintage Cabaret  
set to revive  
golden age  
entertainment

By JACK FREEMAN  
Staff Writer

**SANDPOINT** — Members of the Lake Pend Oreille Repertory and local theaters are planning to bring a one-of-a-kind show to The Hive next weekend.

A group of five local performers have formed a troop to present Red Roses: A Vintage Cabaret, a musical experience that harkens back to shows of the 1920s and 1930s. The Red Roses promise a night packed with a fusion of vintage glamour and modern favorites with plenty of crowd interaction.

“We’re reviving the glamorous, respected song-and-dance entertainment that made the 1950s through ’70s so iconic,” Keely Gray, founder of the LPO Repertory and singer, said. “There’s nothing like this in the inland Northwest. We’re bringing vintage glam sophistication with local heart and accessibility.”

Gray built the team alongside Ashley Lopez, an international touring artist. Using her wealth of performing tools from contortion to opera singing, Lopez will lead the Red Roses through their routine of carefully curated musical numbers.

Holly Beaman, an LPO Repertory star, and Nicole Brianna, who goes by Nickie B on stage, has been dancing cabaret for over 20 years. Dressed in sequins and feathers accurate to the time period, that will create an intimate experience for attendees.

Rounding out the Red Roses is the lone male rose, Andrew Sorg, a founding board member of the LPO Repertory. The show Nov. 22 will be the group’s debut show at The Hive, attendees will be encouraged to buy roses before the show to throw on stage.

Tickets and further information are available at [livefromthehive.com](http://livefromthehive.com). Attendees must be 21 or older to enter when doors open at 7 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Helping area youth is in the (hand)bag



A pair of shoppers check out a few of the handbags available at a past Purse Party event. The North Idaho CASA fundraiser — this year set for Thursday, Nov. 20 — raises money to support Bonner County’s Court Appointed Special Advocates program.

Photos courtesy NORTH IDAHO CASA

North Idaho CASA’s Purse Party set for Nov. 20

By CAROLINE LOBSINGER  
Staff Writer

For many in Bonner and Boundary counties, helping the community’s youth is in the bag. Well, to be completely accurate, in the handbags.

Through North Idaho CASA’s annual Purse Party, area women can select from among hundreds of slightly used handbags previously donated at purse drops throughout the community.

This year’s Purse Party fundraiser will be Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Pend d’Oreille Winery tasting room, 301 Cedar St. The event runs from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

Guests can enjoy appetizers and wine while they chat with neighbors and friends, mingle and shop.

Proceeds benefit the North Idaho CASA program, which provides trained advocates for more



Shoppers pose for a photo while attending at a past Purse Party event. The North Idaho CASA fundraiser — this year set for Thursday, Nov. 20 — raises money to support Bonner County’s Court Appointed Special Advocates program.

See PURSE, A3

Idaho SNAP  
recipients  
should soon  
get full food  
assistance

By LAURA GUIDO  
Idaho Capital Sun

Idaho health officials expect to have received full SNAP food assistance funding by Friday, and recipients should receive their benefits within 48 hours after that.

Amid the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare had paused November benefits for the federally funded Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

See SNAP, A3

Judge halts  
Kootenai  
logging  
project over  
impacts  
on grizzlies

By MICAH DREW  
Daily Montanan

A federal judge has halted a logging project in the Kootenai National Forest, saying the federal government failed to correctly analyze the impacts to grizzly bears.

The Knotty Pine Project, a 10-year project that would have authorized 7,465 acres of prescribed burning and 2,593 acres of commercial harvest in the Cabinet-Yaak Mountains, has been in litigation since 2022.

See GRIZZLIES, A3

A steno in the shadows during Vietnam

By SARAH PARKINS-PYLES  
Contributing Writer

The humid air of Nha Trang clung to everything — typewriters, uniforms and nerves alike.

Michael J. Parkins, a young stenographer with the 5th Special Forces Group, Airborne, sat behind a battered metal desk in the headquarters compound, his fingers moving swiftly across the keys of an old Underwood machine. The sharp clack-clack-clack of each keystroke was his rifle fire, the rhythm of a man serving in the quietest corner of a war that

was anything but quiet.

Mike’s orders placed him in the nerve center of Col. Robert B. Rheault, commanding officer of the 5th Group — a respected, formidable leader soon caught in what history would call “The Green Beret Affair.” From his desk, Mike saw the undercurrents few ever would: classified memos, intelligence cables and the whispered tension of men burdened by impossible decisions. The affair that shook the Special Forces to their core — accusations, secrecy and political maneuvering — unfolded

just a few doors away.

Mike, though a clerk, became a quiet witness to history, typing reports that would later echo through the Pentagon.

But even amid that storm, life in Nha Trang had its flashes of light. Mike remembered the laughter when Martha Raye — the beloved “Colonel Maggie,” honorary Green Beret and tireless entertainer — visited the base. She moved through the compound like a whirlwind of lipstick and morale, cracking jokes, hugging



Photo courtesy SARAH PARKINS-PYLES

Michael J. Parkins served in the U.S. Army with the 5th Special Forces, Green Beret, during the Vietnam War.

See PARKINS, A3



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