

'Singvergnuegen' delivers an 'almost joyous journey through spring'

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## Ponderay P&Z to review Avista application

By JACK FREEMAN  
Staff Writer

**PONDERAY** — The Planning and Zoning Commission is hosting a public hearing later this week as part of its review of a special use permit by Avista for a new public utility complex facility.

Avista is proposing

to build a six-acre substation on around 22 acres of property that the organization owns at the intersection of East Bronx Road and U.S. 95. In the project's narrative, Avista's representative Karen Kendall writes that the new substation is necessary for the company to continue providing reliable and efficient

electricity to Ponderay after a 15.8% population increase over 2020 to 2023.

Avista also intends to build a service center on the northwestern corner of the property within the next decade, according to the project's narrative. The company also wrote that it would take steps to mitigate the

impact on the neighborhood by installing landscaping, noise reduction walls and further visual softening, if the project is approved.

The initial construction phase would take around 16 months, according to the narrative, and would include adding additional vehicle access to the property.

The company has already been making improvements to Craig Court, as per the request of the Ponderay City Council, in anticipation of this project.

The commission will hear public testimony during its meeting on April 23 at 5:30 p.m. in Ponderay City Council chambers.

## LEAVING A LASTING MARK



Photo by JACK FREEMAN

Members of the VFW and Sandpoint High School's welding class stand next to one of the three benches that will be installed on the Long Bridge.

## VFW, SHS welding to bring three new benches to Long Bridge

By JACK FREEMAN  
Staff Writer

**SANDPOINT** — When the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2453 was looking into bringing benches back to the walking portion of the Long Bridge, they were staring down a price of \$6,000.

Rather than ponying up that

amount for an out of state company to make the benches and get them shipped, Sandpoint's VFW post took a different route. They contacted the Lake Pend Oreille School District and Sandpoint High School's welding teacher Jake Stark who began working on a partnership that would see Stark's class build the new benches.

"I drive on the Long Bridge all the time, and I saw those bridges deteriorating," Stark said. "So, when John and the VFW came to me, I was more than happy to take this on, because those needed to be redone quite a while ago. And I love doing community projects because it gives back to

See WELDING, A2

## Regional agencies work to fight invasive mussels

**NEWPORT** — The Pend Oreille County Noxious Weed Board recently joined regional partners to address invasive freshwater mussels — including the emerging threat of golden mussels — that pose a risk to the region's waterways.

The recent Pend Oreille Basin Invasive Freshwater Mussel Prevention and Readiness Summit focused on strengthening regional coordination following the confirmed detection and continued

See MUSSELS, A2

## Idaho marks anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week

Marsy's Law for Idaho is encouraging Idahoans across the state to recognize and celebrate National Crime Victims' Rights Week, which runs this week through Saturday.

Efforts to raise awareness this year include working with Gov. Brad Little on a proclamation recognizing the importance of Idaho's rights for crime victims and working to illuminate Boise's downtown cityscape in purple.

"It's hard to overstate the transformational power a strong set of rights can have for victims in Idaho's criminal justice system," said Matthew Hebb, state director for Marsy's Law

See RIGHTS, A2

## SASi hosting breakfast fundraiser Friday

Sandpoint Area Seniors Inc.'s monthly breakfast fundraiser is set to return this Friday, April 24.

Chef Wendy Franck, formerly of the Hoot Owl, will return to serve up delectable bites for \$10 a person. The doors of Sandpoint Senior Center open promptly at 8 a.m. with food coming out a half hour later at 8:30 a.m. Juice and coffee are included alongside your meal.

All proceeds from the breakfast go toward SASi's nutrition program that helps feed hungry seniors in the community. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 208-263-6860.

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## Court approves relinquished jurisdiction for Ramsey

By CHLOE COCHRAN  
Staff Writer

**SANDPOINT** — A man serving a year-long retained jurisdiction for committing injury to an underage girl will soon be transferred out of the program due to poor behavior.

Rowan Ramsey, 21, appeared via Zoom April 21 for a jurisdictional review hearing, where

the court reviewed an Idaho Department of Corrections request to relinquish jurisdiction of Ramsey following "horrible" behaviors.

Under a retained jurisdiction program, or rider, an inmate is incarcerated in an IDOC facility but is under the judge's jurisdiction to receive treatment and programming. Upon successful completion of the



Ramsey

rider, a resident can be placed on probation. If unsuccessful, a judge can relinquish

jurisdiction and sentence them to prison based on

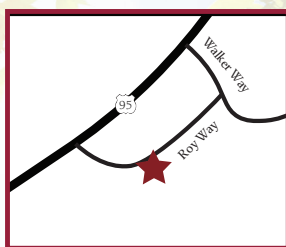
their behavior.

District Court Judge Lamont Berez followed the request of IDOC after noting that the report was one of the worst ones he has read.

"This is a very discouraging report to read," Berez said. "I've been reading these for 20-plus years, and this is the top five worst reads."

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