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Another high school football
season begins tonight / B1

COEUR d'ALENE PRESS

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Real breaks, real boundaries

Cellphone ban to lift at lunch for high schoolers in Coeur d'Alene

By DEVIN WEEKS
Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE — The cellphone ban will be lifted at lunchtime for high schoolers in the Coeur d'Alene School District when school resumes Sept. 2.

A student-led effort to allow ninth-through-12th graders

use of personal electronic devices during lunchtime — at principals' discretion — was successful thanks to collaboration between the Student Advisory Group and district administrators and with approval from trustees of the Coeur d'Alene School Board. "It's been a long time coming," incoming Lake City

High senior and SAG Chair Maddie Gilmore said Aug. 13.

Maddie and incoming Coeur d'Alene High senior and SAG Vice Chair Caleb Torgensen shared proposed procedure changes



Gilmore

to Policy 3265P at the Aug. 11 school board meeting during a joint presentation with Executive Director of Secondary Education Trent Derrick, with whom the students had been working on this procedure update for several months.

See PHONES, A9

Friday
August 22, 2025



90°
59°

UV 7 **AQI 37**
High Good

Chance of Rain **0%**

Wind speed
NE 5-15 mph

Lake Condition:



72°

Lake level **2127.52'**

BRIEFLY

Approximately 458 Avista electric customers in Wallace and Murray will experience a planned power outage Tuesday. The outage is scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4 p.m.

Affected customers are located at the end of Nine Mile Road, extending up the Coeur d'Alene River to Shoshone Base Camp.

Traffic control will be in place as Dobson Pass Road will be closed from the bottom of Dobson Pass on the Nine Mile side to Carbon Center between 8:30 and 10 a.m.

Coeur d'Alene River Road traffic will not be affected.

Avista will use a helicopter to transport power poles along Dobson Pass during the outage. Helicopters are used in areas that are difficult to access. Crews will perform maintenance and equipment upgrades as part of Avista's ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure safety and reliability.

Customers with questions or concerns can contact Avista at 800-227-9187.

Groaner

Why did the dumping go to therapy?
It was feeling a little steamed!

...

Send your groaners to Devin Weeks, dweeks@cdapress.com. Keep 'em clean, and don't be mean!

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Hospice of North Idaho thrift store will close in November

By CAROLYN BOSTICK
Staff Writer

POST FALLS — The Hospice of North Idaho thrift store will close the Seltice Way location for good this fall.

Nov. 8 is the final day. Eric Ladwig, executive director of Hospice of North Idaho, said the Post Falls Hospice Thrift Store has 35 volunteers and three paid employees to run store services and supports end-of-life services for the community.

"This is just the right decision for the business as it is right now just because of the commercial economy out there and the lack of available building spaces

See THRIFT, A9

Courtyard transformation commences at Lakes

Community chips in to launch optimization project

By DEVIN WEEKS
Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE — An underutilized space at Lakes Middle School is approaching a transformation.

The school's courtyard has entered the first phase of an overhaul project that will eventually create a more user-friendly space with seating, tables, shade sails and a pavilion where teachers will take learning outside and students can study and eat lunch in the open air.

See COURTYARD, A6



HAILEY HILL/Press

Chloe Schroeder tests her grip strength as she attempts the action bar challenge at the North Idaho State Fair.

'Action bar challenge' draws a crowd at North Idaho State Fair

By HAILEY HILL
Staff Writer

COEUR d'ALENE — One hundred seconds is not a very long time. But when attempting Action Entertainment's "action bar challenge," it can feel like an eternity.

The challenge, which has become a staple at the North Idaho State Fair, is simple: spend \$10 to hang from a metal bar using an over- or underhand grip

without letting go for 100 seconds. After that one minute and 40 seconds is up, win \$100.

It sounds easy enough to the hundreds that attempt each summer, but Action Entertainment only sees an average of 30 to 35 winners over 10 days at the fair, according to owner Andy Smith.

As of Wednesday, 16 people had successfully completed the challenge.

The key, Smith explained, is

grip strength, as the bar itself provides no resistance.

"Overall body strength actually has very little to do with it," Smith said.

Though based in Billings, Mont., Action Entertainment has returned to the fair for the past seven summers, always drawing crowds as people cheer on those willing to take on the challenge.

See FAIR, A2

Unapproved ambulance purchase sparks debate

By JOSH McDONALD
Staff Writer

WALLACE — Concerns over ambulance funding and purchasing decisions resurfaced during a recent meeting between the Shoshone County commissioners and members of the Shoshone County Ambulance Service District (SCASD).

Last month, the commissioners met with Shoshone County District 2 Fire Chief Scott Dietrich, who informed them that SCASD lacked the funds to cover the cost of four ambulances ordered over the past year.

Dietrich said SCASD had overestimated its annual budget



JOSH McDONALD/Press

Shoshone County Ambulance Service District board member Jay Huber, left, sits alongside Shoshone County Fire Chiefs Scott Dietrich and John Miller during a recent meeting with the Shoshone County commissioners concerning ambulance purchases.

See AMBULANCE, A6



Gutters



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After

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