

From Silver Belle the Elf to your bookshelf / C1



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Youth Sports / B5

COEUR d'ALENE PRESS

SERVING KOOTENAI COUNTY SINCE 1892

Editorial: Norris did his job at town hall, AG says, and we agree / A4

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Wednesday
November 12, 2025



54°
41°

UV 1 Low
AQI 54 Moderate

Chance of Rain 50%

Rainfall 0"-0.15"

Wind speed Light

Lake Condition:



40°

Calm

Lake level 2124.21'

BRIEFLY

Ribbon-cutting for rehab unit

A ribbon-cutting for a new 17-bed inpatient rehabilitation unit at Northern Idaho Advanced Care Hospital is scheduled from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Friday. The unit is a joint venture between Ernest Health and Kootenai Health. It will assist patients in many areas, including those who have suffered strokes, amputees, complex fractures and spinal cord and brain injuries. The Post Falls Chamber of Commerce will be present, as well as leadership from both healthcare organizations.



Today's Ghastly Groaner

Why did the turkey cross the road?
To prove it wasn't chicken!

...

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

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Man destroys new home with excavator

Suspect arrested while trying to flee

By CAROLYN BOSTICK
Staff Writer

POST FALLS — Fred Kudrna, 29, was arrested for DUI and malicious injury to property Tuesday morning after Post Falls police say he took an excavator and used it to demolish a house. Dispatchers began receiving 911 calls regarding a person destroying a newly constructed home near the intersection of Alsea Avenue and West Platte Court with an excavator around 5:30 a.m.

Resident Wayne Isley said he

was startled by the noise in the neighborhood, which still has homes being completed.

"About 5 a.m., I heard a big bang and looked out the window. The next thing I heard was a big boom and then there were a lot of cars and lights and everyone was here," Isley said.

Isley said he had just moved into their new home about a month ago and his heart went out to the people who were hoping to live in the now destroyed home.



CAROLYN BOSTICK/Press

A side view of the demolished house at the intersection of Alsea Loop and Platte Court near Alsea Avenue, Post Falls. See EXCAVATOR, A8



BILL BULEY/Press

Honor Guard members, from left, Avram Gooden, Dennis Watson and J.B. Whipple cast long shadows during the Veterans Day ceremony at McEuen Park on Tuesday.

A call to action

Keynote speaker Bob Martin says veterans should be supported throughout the year

By BILL BULEY
Staff Writer

When Damon Darakjy asked Vietnam War veterans to stand Tuesday at McEuen Park's Veterans Memorial Plaza, many did.

The crowd of about 100 applauded, perhaps a tribute long overdue.

"When you returned home, you were not given enough gratitude," said Darakjy,

who served with the Marine Corps and the Army in his distinguished career and was emcee of the Veterans Day gathering put on by the Coeur d'Alene American Legion Post 14 and the VFW Post 889.

With flags flapping in the wind, young and old rose as veteran Charles Riffel, once again, rang the bell 11 times to start the ceremony that included salutes, songs and speeches on a sunny morning.

The VFW Post 889 also presented a \$1,000 check to the city to go toward a War World II statue to join the others — a miner, lumberjack, farmer, suffragist — created by artist Terry Lee on Front Avenue, as well as a World War II Army soldier commissioned by the late Bud Ford of Coeur d'Alene that stands at the Veterans Memorial Plaza.

Lee said a Navy nurse is next to be added to the

collection that forms a history walk. His part, the clay work, is done. Next up, it must be cast into bronze at a foundry, which takes about seven months.

It's been difficult getting sponsors for the \$75,000 project, Lee said, so the \$1,000 was much appreciated.

"That's going to help," he said.

See ACTION, A9



Douglas Champagne smiles after being honored for serving in the Navy from 1951-1955 and the Air Force from 1958-74 on Tuesday at the Idaho State Veterans Home in Post Falls.

CAROLYN BOSTICK/Press

Friends of valor

Men honored at Idaho State Veterans Home

By CAROLYN BOSTICK
Staff Writer

POST FALLS — Friends Marvin Urwiller and Douglas Champagne were both honored for their service Tuesday at a special Veterans Day presentation of Quilts of Valor to residents at the Idaho State Veterans Home.

"It's been an emotional day,"

Urwiller said.

When he received his quilt from Giannine O'Connor and Linda Hill, there were tears in his eyes as he processed the big moment.

"It's an honor I've seen before, but I never thought it was going to be me," Champagne said.

See FRIENDS, A7

'Our country is blessed'

By HAILEY HILL
Staff Writer

HAYDEN — World War I, once referred to as "the war to end all wars," ceased between the Allies and Germany

on the eleventh hour of Nov. 11, 1918. The first Armistice Day, later called Veterans Day, was observed exactly one year later.

See BLESSED, A8



HAILEY HILL/Press

Mayor Alan Davis, right, presents Distinguished Veteran Ross Welburn with a commemorative plaque Tuesday.