

# LEWISTON TRIBUNE

FOUR SECTIONS

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THE REGION'S INDEPENDENT NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1892

ONE DOLLAR

## Lewiston mountain lion shot in yard

Fish and Game officer decides ‘best choice was to euthanize’ the big cat, which was killed near an elementary school and a grocery store

By **ERIC BARKER**  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

An Idaho Fish and Game officer shot and killed a mountain lion in a Lewiston backyard Tuesday morning after determining the animal could not be safely darted with a tranquilizer gun.

Fish and Game spokesperson Jen Bruns said Lewiston police notified the department of the lion’s presence in a yard near the corner of Eighth Avenue and 20th Street, a few blocks from Whitman Elementary School and Albertson’s grocery store.

“We decided the best choice was to euthanize it,” Bruns said. “It had been sighted a couple of times. Public safety is our first priority and we had to make a decision with it being that close to houses and people and the best decision was to put it down.”

The male animal was dispatched at about 6:30 a.m. Tuesday by George Fisher, conservation supervisor for the agency’s Clearwater Re-

gion at Lewiston, using a rifle with a silencer. Bruns said Fisher estimated the animal weighed about 80 pounds.

“George said it was still a younger cat but it was bigger than we thought,” Bruns said.

The mountain lion was first seen on the Lewis-Clark State College campus Sunday night where a security camera recorded it entering the covered ticket window area at the LCSC Activity Center

adjacent to Harris Field.

Mountain lions, also known as cougars, are generally secretive animals that avoid humans and urban areas. However, young lions looking to establish their own territory are sometimes drawn into urban environments. Bruns said when that happens the animals often leave quickly to find more natural

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### READY TO STRETCH MY WINGS



A bald eagle takes off from a branch following after its mate that took flight seconds earlier Tuesday above Beachview Park in Clarkston.

August Frank/Lewiston Tribune

## Best of the LC Valley starts now

Let’s recognize the best our region has to offer — start nominating now

You don’t realize you’re carrying it around until somebody needs it: your personal LC Valley guidebook.

It’s not written down anywhere — but the moment someone asks, “Where should we go?”, you know exactly what happens next.

A short list pops into your mind — your favorite coffee place, the lunch spot that hits the mark, the shop where you always find the right gift, the mechanic who gives it to you straight, your go-to place to grab a drink with friends, the nonprofit that shows up when families need help.

It’s these local businesses and organizations that give our towns character in an otherwise bland, Amazon-

dominated world.

One reason we love where we live is because of our local business community.

So let’s do this. Let’s recognize and celebrate the business owners, operators and staff who keep our LC Valley and surrounding region running. They’ve earned it.

This is our third year running a “Best of” program. After KLEW-TV ended its “Best of the West” tradition following the 2022 edition, we picked up the mantle with the Best of the Inland Northwest, a regionwide effort spanning north central Idaho and southeastern Washington.

The response was staggering. Last year, readers submitted about 8,000 nominations across

170 categories. During the final voting round, more than 8,100 people cast more than 200,000 votes.

The first two years also made something clear: the LC Valley and the Palouse deserve their own “best of” celebration.

So this year, we’re running separate community choice programs for each area to highlight the creativity, talent and local loyalty unique to each region.

That means two efforts in 2026 — Best of the LC Valley and Best of the Palouse — to properly recognize the local businesses and services that help define life across our distinct communities.



UP FRONT/  
COMMENTARY

**Nathan Alford**

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## JFAC mulls further spending cuts to budget

### Cost of federal tax cuts unknown

By **ROYCE MCCANDLESS**  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

BOISE — As the budget-setting process gets further underway, the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee will soon be tasked with enacting budget cuts for state agencies, which are due to arrive with layoffs.

Idaho’s state agencies provided reports to the Legislative Services Office (LSO) on Friday detailing how 1-2% cuts would impact their operations if adopted by the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). With these reports now in hand, JFAC reviewed a slate of potential agency cuts as well as recommendations from Gov. Brad Little to right the state’s budget picture.

JFAC members acknowledged Tuesday that while current revenue and spending projections avoid a deficit, this could be reversed if the cost of implementing the tax cuts of the One Big Beautiful Bill — which passed out of the House on Tuesday — reduced state tax revenues more than anticipated.



Ehlers

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## No simple solution

Lewiston and Nez Perce County decision makers grapple with attracting stores, filling vacant buildings

By **ELAINE WILLIAMS**  
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

Lewiston city staff have issued building permits for 145 apartments and townhouses east of Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories.

That development and another 100 residences along with trades and commercial projects tallied up to a total of \$97 million of valuation in building permits in fiscal year 2025, said Shannon Grow, community development director.

The majority of the \$97 million or \$59 million was in the trades and commercial categories and the remainder was for housing, she said.

Grow spoke at a Monday meeting of the Lewiston City Council where elected officials in Nez Perce and Asotin counties as well as experts talked about how to fill vacant buildings and attract retailers.

Lewiston City Councilor John Spickelmire and Mark Losh, the CEO and president of the Lewis Clark Valley Chamber of Commerce were among those who supported forming a round table to work on issues identified at the meeting.

Councilor Matthew Wright proposed completing an inventory of vacant properties. But the council took no formal action after talking and listening to reports for about one hour.

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Grow



Spickelmire



Losh

Vandal women to host Big Sky’s No. 1 team Thursday > 1C



Defense objects to videos of Charlie Kirk’s killing > 1B

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