

This show won't go on

Lewiston Civic Theatre cancels 'Rocky Horror Show' after anonymous letter from a detractor

By MARY STONE
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

It took one anonymous letter and the fear of a “culture war” to topple the Lewiston debut of a popular Broadway musical.

The Lewiston Civic Theatre’s board of directors voted to remove “The Rocky Horror Show” from its 2026-27 season lineup late last month after learning of the unsigned letter from “an active mem-

ber and supporter of the theatre” who objected to the show, calling it “obscene.” Copies of the one-page, typewritten letter were delivered to officials at the city of Lewiston and Lewiston School District, which help fund and provide a venue for the nonprofit theater, respectively. A copy was obtained

by the Lewiston Tribune from the city of Lewiston through a public records request. No announcement about the cancellation had been made by the civic theater as of Thursday, but Executive Director Nancy McIntosh said she expected that to happen

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Moscow buried by records requests on Kohberger

Most of the thousands of requests center around police probe

By ANTHONY KUIPERS
MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS

The Moscow city government is receiving hundreds of public records requests each month related to the 2022 Moscow murders, according to a city official. According to City Administrator Bill Belknap, Moscow is on pace to receive more than 2,100 public records requests this year. For comparison, it received less than 1,000 requests per year from 2020 to 2022, according to data shared by Belknap. In July alone, the city received 243 requests. It received 41 requests just on Monday, Belknap said. Belknap said the workload of processing these records has strained his staff and caused them to fall behind on the timeline for delivering them to the requester. “We can’t keep up,” he said. That is why Belknap plans to ask the city council for permission to hire a temporary legal assistant to process public records. This comes at a time when the city has



Belknap

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RIVER TRICKS



Evelyn Reedy, 12, leaps backward into the Snake River from the Southway Boat Launch while cooling off with Chris Adkison, Gabriel Adkison, 12, and Aiden Adkison on Thursday in Lewiston.

August Frank/Lewiston Tribune

Asotin shuts down RV dump site after weeks of heavy use

Record-breaking surge of usage forces city to take down the facilities

By KERRI SANDAINE
LEWISTON TRIBUNE

ASOTIN — Rafterers and campers who use two dump sites in the city of Asotin will have to find another place to offload their waste. After a record-breaking summer of usage, city officials temporarily closed the popular sites near the Asotin football field and scheduled a public hearing for community input on whether to continue the service. Bob Portlock, the public works director, said the city’s top priority is maintaining the integrity of the nearby wastewater treatment plant. A “tremendous uptick” in usage, primarily by rafterers, triggered enough concerns to shut down the dump sites until after a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 24 at City Hall. “I’ve never seen this many rafters come through, and I’ve been here 17 years,” Portlock said Thursday. “It is shut down right now because everyone coming off the Snake and Salmon rivers

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— Bob Portlock

seem to be using it, and it has basically tripled in use. I saw lines with as many as 19 rafters waiting to use the SCAT machine in Asotin.” The machine is owned by the Bureau of Land Management and sits at Chief Looking Glass Park on city property. Recreational vehicles have been allowed to dump waste at a site near the basketball courts on First Street in the same parking lot. “What’s happened is we’re taking in so much — way more than the usual amount — and some of it is grease that affects our wastewater treatment plant,” Portlock said. “We run our plant very efficiently and have won multiple awards over the years for how well it is operated. We want to keep it that way.” Mayor Dwayne Paris said the issue will be up for discussion at the public hearing before any final decisions are made. City officials want to

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Goats for fire prevention? Maybe

With fires battering the West, the animal world may offer an answer

By RACHEL SUN
LEWISTON TRIBUNE AND NORTHWEST PUBLIC BROADCASTING

On a late July morning on a rocky slope near Spokane, Craig Madsen is watching his goats attack snowberry bushes, hawthorn and Oregon grape. Madsen owns a company that rents goats for a variety of regional jobs. Today, that job is to remove brush that could act as a carrier fuel for wildfires and threaten a nearby home. The homeowners use a tractor to clear fuel in other areas, Madsen said, but that doesn’t work on the hill. “They can’t really use the equipment on it, so we use the goats on it to knock back the brush and reduce the fine fuels,” he said. The goats also have some other benefits: Unlike heavy machinery or herbicides, well-managed grazing has minimal environmental or health risks associated with it, leaving only animal droppings to fertilize the soil. It’s not exactly a new strategy. But increasingly, landown-



Rachel Sun/Lewiston Tribune

A goat owned by Craig Madsen munches on leaves.

ers are exploring their options. Maurice Robinetto, a cattle farmer in Cheney, first took an interest in targeted grazing for fuel mitigation three years ago after he saw the Gray Fire’s impact on two different neighbors’ properties. The first neighbor had done fuel reduction, including heavy grazing, on his property. The second hadn’t done any fuel reduction. When fire reached the first neighbor’s field, Robinetto said, the lack of vegetation slowed it enough

that it stopped when it hit a major highway. But the fire in the field next to it — the one owned by the second neighbor — had a lot more fuel. “It jumped the highway and continued on towards the south, and burned another 500 acres, I’d guess,” Robinetto said. He said because the fire jumped from that second neighbor’s property, at least six homes were threatened.

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