

SPRING CONCERT

PHOTOS: Middle school orchestra students perform **B2**



News: City budget projects tax increase **A5**

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TWO BEAR THERAPEUTIC



Cammi Sullivan, executive director of the Two Bear Therapeutic Riding Center, and Sally Conrad, the lead instructor, share some time with Cody recently. (Julie Engler/Whitefish Pilot)

Riding center honored for high standards

By **JULIE ENGLER**
Whitefish Pilot

Two Bear Therapeutic Riding Center was one of only 130 organizations worldwide selected recently to participate in the 2026 Horses for Mental Health Campaign, a global movement raising awareness and funding for programs

that bring horses and people together for healing, connection and emotional well-being.

The organizations, including two others in Browning and Butte, were chosen for demonstrating high standards of care for both participants and horses, and a deep commitment to rela-

tionship-centered programming.

The campaign runs through May, Mental Health Awareness Month. All funds raised will directly support the center's scholarships, herd care and program access.

Two Bear Therapeutic Riding Center has been

operating at 1700 KM Ranch Road for about eight years, offering pediatric physical therapy, adaptive horsemanship, a ranch experience and summer camps. The equine assisted programs support emotional regulation, confidence, communication and connection.

See **CENTER, A8**

Habitat moves forward with townhomes on Whitefish Avenue

By **JULIE ENGLER**
Whitefish Pilot

Habitat for Humanity Flathead Valley will receive funds from the city of Whitefish to purchase two lots on Whitefish Avenue to build a pair of deed-restricted townhomes.

MaryBeth Morand, executive director of Habitat, explained the lot owners, Jack Alton and Zach Pitts, offered to sell 1958 and 1966 Whitefish Ave., at a 33% discount. The land was appraised at \$400,000 and they are selling it to Habitat for \$279,200.

She asked the city for \$250,000, and the Council approved the request unanimously.

Habitat plans to close on the deal within days, submit plans by the end of May, and build two, three-bedroom townhouses on the land for families at or below 80% of the area median income.

The homes are expected to be sold for under \$400,000 each. Groundbreaking could happen as early as August, and families could be in the homes by next year.

"I think the fact that it's through Habitat, with the discounted land and other contributions ... I think it's a very good value for the community ... in terms of creating an 80% AMI home, which is almost impossible to make any other way," Councilor Ben Davis said. "I do find this to be a very effective use of funds."

Morand said the Whitefish Avenue townhomes are just

See **HABITAT, A7**

CLASS OF 2026

Anderson Barrile takes life lessons from football field

By **JULIE ENGLER**
Whitefish Pilot

Imagine never having played or watched football, then learning, training, playing and excelling in it — all in a matter of four short years.

Whitefish High School senior Anderson Barrile did just that. He began his freshman year as a 6-foot tall, 160-pound rookie and finished his senior year two inches taller, 65 pounds beefier and as an accomplished offensive lineman.

"I didn't play football in middle school, so I came to high school and I joined the team to make friends," said Barrile, team

captain. "Football was like my big connecting point, and that's where I made all my friends, and I think that was my main thing through all of high school."

He's still best buds with his friend since middle school, Creed Scott, and said Scott helped him meet the bigger circle of friends he has today.

Barrile said being captain this year gave him a great opportunity to give back, contribute and help guide the underclassmen.

"If I had to focus on one thing that was my favorite part of what I've done here, it would be my football journey — from never playing and never watching, to a captain," he said.

Despite warnings from his middle school teachers about the high difficulty level of AP classes, Barrile faced that challenge head on, too, and took almost every AP class offered.

"I took my first two APs as a sophomore and realized that they're just normal classes. You just got to put extra work in," he said. "Once I realized that they really weren't the scariest classes ever, I decided to take more. You don't get anything out of doing nothing with your time."

Somehow, in addition to being dedicated to football and focused on academics, Barrile managed to



Whitefish High School senior and Bulldog offensive lineman, Anderson Barrile, is heading to Stanford in the fall. (Julie Engler/Whitefish Pilot)

See **LESSONS, A7**



77	82	76	59	62	65	71
53	55	55	50	45	44	47
Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues

“Because if ‘no’ is not an option, ‘yes’ has no meaning.”

— Cammi Sullivan,
Two Bear Therapeutic Riding Center

\$ 400K

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townhomes

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