

LET'S GO
DEFENSE

Dawgs take down
Corvallis: B2



Feature: Songwriters take the stage B3
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\$1.50

Great Fish Community Challenge raises record \$8.6 million

Whitefish Pilot

The Great Fish Community Challenge, which ran from Aug. 11 through Sept. 11 saw more than 4,000 donors contribute a record \$8.6 million to 89 Flathead Valley nonprofit organizations. This preliminary total does not include the Great Fish Match, which will be announced Oct. 22 at the Great Fish Awards

Ceremony. "Year after year, the Flathead Valley rallies together to support our friends and neighbors," Whitefish Community Foundation President/CEO Alan Davis said. "More than 4,000 donors gave more than ever before this year, which is an incredible testament to the generosity of this community and the important work these

89 nonprofits are doing every day." This year's Challenge raised approximately \$2 million more than last year, a 30% year-over-year increase, and the largest amount raised in the 12-year history of the campaign. For the first time, the Foundation processed more than 15,000 donations, reflecting the many donors who chose to support multiple

nonprofits through the Challenge. More than \$3 million was raised during the final week alone, and Whitefish Community Foundation is still processing gifts that were initiated prior to the Sept. 11 deadline. The Foundation will award a percentage matching grant on \$25,000 raised by each participating organization.

The matching grant is made possible by the Foundation's Circle of Giving and other donors who gave directly to the Great Fish Match Fund during the Challenge. The percentage match and final amount raised will be announced at the Great Fish Awards Ceremony on Oct. 22 at the Wachholz College Center in Kalispell. The event will be held from

5-7 p.m. and is open to the community. "The numbers are remarkable, but what they represent is even more meaningful," Whitefish Community Foundation Board Chair Doug Reed said. "Every gift is a vote of confidence in the nonprofits that make the Flathead Valley a stronger place to live. On Oct. 22, we'll have an opportunity to

See CHALLENGE, A4

NEVER FORGET



People got a close look at the metal beams from the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center that are the centerpiece of the 9/11 memorial in Whitefish. Several people reached out to touch the steel. (Julie Engler/Whitefish Pilot)

BIG MOUNTAIN ROAD Council backs grant app to fund roundabout

By JULIE ENGLER
Whitefish Pilot

The Whitefish City Council directed staff last week to apply for a federal grant to help fund a proposed reroute of Big Mountain Road and a roundabout at its intersection with East Lakeshore Drive. Arthur Donnelly from Conti Partners, along with WGM Group engineers Mike Brody and Steven McDaniel, have been working on the proposed project with the city for about a year. Relocating Big Mountain Road approximately 350 to the east would give better sight lines and, according to the staff report, improve safety for all intersection users. "This would reroute the Big Mountain Road to a straight point in the curve," Brody said. "Right now, that intersection is actually in the curve, which I'm sure you all do the look over your shoulder as you're trying to get out, to make that left ... but this would align the intersection at a perpendicular location on East Lakeshore Drive. The roundabout would then be at that intersection."

See ROAD, A5

Family parks food truck to open Whitefish Eatery

By JULIE ENGLER
Whitefish Pilot

Patrick and Reem Mata opened the Whitefish Eatery in early July after operating a series of restaurants and a successful food truck in the valley. The couple operated a restaurant called Big Fork near Skyles Lake west of Whitefish for about one year before the Covid-19 pandemic caused it to close. They also owned a restaurant in Bigfork called Fork Fusion, before building the Fork Fusion mobile food trailer and working several large events in the region. "We signed some contracts with the Averills. They hired us to ... open their food park with them, so we did,"

Patrick said of Thirty-Eight Whitefish, a food truck court on the corner of Central Avenue and East First Street. "We contracted there two years. We got busy with weddings and some notoriety from a couple of larger establishments," Patrick said. "The Griz wanted us to serve the home games just this last year, and we turned that down to open up a restaurant again because we just outgrew the trailer." For more than a year, the couple searched for a building in which to open a restaurant. When the location at 6185 U.S. 93 South became available, they jumped on it. The site was most recently



Owners Patrick and Reem Mata alongside six of the 15 employees at the new Whitefish Eatery located at 6185 U.S. 93 South. (Julie Engler/Whitefish Pilot)

See EATERY, A4



69	76	72	72	74	74	70
43	48	47	47	47	48	46
Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues

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— Whitefish Community Foundation Board Chair Doug Reed

4
Trailview homes purchased for deed restriction