

STATE
BOUND

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divisionals: B1



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Whitefish musician Ethan Thompson, known as Alt Bloom, auditioned for the NBC singing competition “The Voice” last week and won a spot on Queen Latifah’s team. (Griffin Nagel/NBC photo)

Local singer earns accolades on national stage

By JULIE ENGLER
Whitefish Pilot

Whitefish-born musician Ethan Thompson, performing as Alt Bloom, earned a spot on Queen Latifah’s team on the NBC singing competition “The Voice” last week.

Thompson sang “The Bones” by Maren

Morris, accompanied by a piano. The judges on the show remarked about Thompson’s range and his ability to span multiple genres.

Both country music star Riley Green and Queen Latifah expressed an interest in having Alt on their teams.

“You sound amazing,”

Latifah said. “When you got into some of those higher registers, all it did was show me you had more.”

While he felt good energy from both judges, he chose to partner with Latifah.

“I really like that Riley is very much in the music industry – still a touring artist doing his thing, and Queen is someone who’s

like a legend and she’s done a little bit of everything,” he said.

Thompson said he liked the way Latifah expresses herself on the show. He said she is honest, sweet and pure when talking to the young performers. She also sang directly to Thompson

See SINGER, A7

Whitefish
growth policy
green lights
60-foot
buildings
downtown

By KELSEY EVANS
Whitefish Pilot

Sixty-foot-tall buildings will be allowed in downtown Whitefish under new state law.

Whitefish City Council approved amendments to the city growth policy, Vision Whitefish 2045, last week after striking from the document an attempt to block 60-foot buildings in the downtown area. Councilors also removed a developer’s attempt to rezone their property to build a 42-unit community land trust near Lion Mountain.

The city’s growth policy mandated by the Montana Land Use Planning Act goes into effect Thursday, Oct. 1. In its efforts to modernize land use and update zoning to the benefit of affordable housing, the act clears the way for 60-foot residential or mixed-use buildings in certain commercial and industrial areas, despite efforts from Whitefish citizens and city staff to prevent such heights.

The Planning Commission moved forward an amendment to the growth policy supporting 45-foot-tall buildings as the cap,

See POLICY, A7

Councilor selected to
lead Flathead GOP

By HAILEY SMALLEY
Daily Inter Lake

A cohort of newcomers seized control over the Flathead County Republican Central Committee at a Sept. 17 convention, following months of strife between the local GOP group’s old and new guards.

A quorum selected Whitefish City Councilman Giuseppe Caltabiano to chair the committee’s executive board after former congressional and gubernatorial candidate Al Olszewski bowed out of the role a few months before his term expired. The handoff marks a flex point for an organiza-

tion recently besieged by infighting.

“As of Thursday, I’m the former chair. It’s a great title to have,” Olszewski told the Inter Lake following the convention.

“We always want the new leadership to do better than the current leadership. We have a large new passionate group and it’s important for them to be able to elect their leaders,” he added.

The passion Olszewski referenced was largely stirred by Kalispell’s 2025 mayoral election, which saw the Republican-favored candidate Kisa Davison bested by former city councilman Ryan

See GOP, A7

BIG VIEWS



The new athletic field at Whitefish High School has an excellent view of Big Mountain. The new complex will be ready for the spring track and field season. (Kelsey Evans/Whitefish Pilot)



64	62	64	68	70	74	69
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