

THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

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Spokane, Washington

KOOTENAI CO. GOP SPLIT OVER GAETZ APPEARANCE AT DINNER

Former U.S. House representative accused of drug use, paying for sex to speak at Lincoln Day event

By Mathew Callaghan
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

For decades, the Lincoln Day Dinner at the Coeur d'Alene Resort has been a hallmark event for the Kootenai County Republican Central Committee and scores of conservatives in the region.

Brent Regan, the chairman of the KCRCC, said Saturday

night is set to be a record event, as sales are up 20% from last year. He expects nearly 600 people to attend.

"We've got a great lineup of speakers," Regan said. "We've got Commissioner (Bruce) Mattare from



Gaetz

Kootenai County, Dorothy Moon, our Idaho State party chairman. We've got Congressman Russ Fulcher, Sen. Jim Risch and also Matt Gaetz."

It's the last person Regan mentioned, slated to be the keynote speaker, who's drawn criticism from some KCRCC precinct committeemen.

See **GAETZ, 6**

Meidl among 4 finalists for police chief job in Coeur d'Alene

By Garrett Cabeza
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Former Spokane police Chief Craig Meidl is one of the four finalists for the Coeur d'Alene police chief position.

The city announced the top candidates for the position on Friday: Meidl, Coeur d'Alene interim police Chief Dave Hagar, El Monte (California) Chief Jake Fisher and Fort Col-



Meidl

ins (Colorado) Deputy Chief Greg Yeager.

Chief Lee White retired last month after leading Coeur d'Alene police for more than a decade and spending more than 30 years in law

See **MEIDL, 6**

BELOVED COLFAX COACH DIES AT 45

REECE JENKIN, FATHER OF THREE, SUCCUMBS TO STAGE 4 PANCREATIC CANCER IN HOSPICE, ENDING BRIEF BUT PUBLIC FIGHT THAT RALLIED BASKETBALL COMMUNITY

By Dave Nichols
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Reece Jenkin, the boys basketball coach at Colfax High School and a coach with the Hooptown Elite club program in Spokane, died on Friday morning after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 45.



Jenkin

Jenkin was diagnosed on Dec. 11 with inoperable Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, which had already metastasized to his liver. Jenkin underwent a series of chemotherapy treatments over the holidays, but recently stopped treatment and was being

supported by hospice.

Jenkin is survived by his wife, Breanne, and three children - Adrik, an 18-year-old senior at Colfax; Allie, a 15-year-old freshman; and Ryker, a 12-year-old seventh-grader.

Both Adrik and Allie were their teams' high scorers in State 2B regional-round playoff wins on Friday.

Jenkin was a standout player at Reardan High School, Big Bend Community College and Whitworth University. This was Jenkin's 17th year as head coach at Colfax, amassing more than 300 coaching wins, eight consecutive state tournament appearances and state titles in 2012 and '24.

The Bulldogs, led by Adrik - the three-time Northeast 2B South league player of

See **JENKIN, 6**



JAMES SNOOK/FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Colfax Bulldogs Ledger Kelly, left, and Adrik Jenkin meet the captains of the Liberty Bell Mountain Lions before a State 2B regional-round game on Friday at West Valley High School in Spokane.

Area's golf season just around the corner

Mitch McPholomy, MeadowWood Golf Course superintendent, talks Friday about the replacement of poles and netting for the Liberty Lake Golf Course driving range. Spokane County has plans for a new \$4 million maintenance facility to serve Liberty Lake and MeadowWood golf courses.



KATHY PLONKA/THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Spokane County courses set to open with renovations at Liberty Lake and MeadowWood coming in fall

By Nick Gibson
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

Inland Northwest golfers can start retrieving their clubs from winter storage.

Spokane County Parks, Recreation and Golf intends to open its three county-owned courses in the coming weeks, following a mild winter that beckoned many longtime golfers to the links earlier than usual. There are plans underway for two of the courses that are expected to improve the

experience for visitors, said department director Doug Chase.

Liberty Lake and MeadowWood golf courses will open to the public March 11, but golfers can get some practice in at MeadowWood's driving range starting Monday. The driving range at Liberty Lake Golf Course will remain closed until June, at the earliest.

The driving range and practice green at Latah Creek Golf

See **COURSES, 6**

Mostly sunny
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