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MONTANA VIEWPOINT

By Jim Elliott

Montana Viewpoint has appeared in weekly and online newspapers across Montana for over 30 years. Jim Elliott served sixteen years in the Montana Legislature as a state representative and state senator. He lives on his ranch in Trout Creek.

ROAD TRIP

A month ago, I wrote an article that mentioned a couple of former hired hands and that I was going to travel to New York to see one of them, so this is my travelogue. My friend who travelled with me had not been to any of the places I wanted to visit, but I had and wanted to return.

If you travel East, you will find that food plays an important part in people's lives there, and mine is no exception, so I wanted to re-visit a joint in Wellsboro, New York that sold Texas Red Hots. They are like a Coney Dog but with lots of cinnamon in the sauce which is like a chili sauce with finely ground meat and no beans. Filling up at a gas station in a small town in northern Pennsylvania, the guy at the next pump says. "Looks like you're goin' on a road trip."

"Yep," I said, "We are going to Wellsboro for a Coney Dog." His eyes brightened and he said, "Man, they've got good Coney Dogs in Pottsville, too!"

See what I mean about food?

And after two Texas Red Hots with onion and a piece or two of pie in an old tall backed wooden booth (the place had just celebrated 100 years) we made it to Dave's place. We told him about the saga of the Texas Hots, and he countered by offering us White Hots, a specialty of the New York Finger Lakes. They are like skinny bratwursts and delicious.

See what I mean about food?

Dave was raised in a foster home next door to where he now lives. He was made a ward of the court early on and was five when he was fostered out to the family who became mom and dad. He was placed there along with a four-year-old who turned out to be his full brother. That is where they met for the first time. His brother, Jason, lives in Idaho. He and I have been friends for over 50 years.

After he left my employ, Dave was hired off the streets of Denver, by an act with the Ringling Brothers' Circus. For two years he lived and travelled on the circus train. The act consisted of horses prancing around the center ring of the Big Top with tigers that ran beside them and jumped on and off their backs. Dave was "cat wrangler." When the boss's contract with Ringling expired, Dave was sent by ship, with the cats, to South America for a year. Back in the States, Dave worked as a roustabout on the Texas oil rigs and then made his way back to New York to his foster parents' place.

There was a pine grove on the property and his dad suggested he build a log cabin out of the trees, which he did, all very cozy and pleasant with wood heat and lots of books. The place is just magical whimsey. He lives there

with his ladylove of thirty years, a kind and beautiful Mohawk woman. From his living room window, he can look into the window of the eight-by-eight-foot bedroom next door where he and his brother grew up. His Dad gave him a seven-acre parcel of land and Dave has turned it into a park, with lots of Hosta plants. His only complaint is that since he is taking chemo for leukemia, he is too tired to weed it.

On the way home I visited the family burial plot near Canandaigua, NY. All my male forbears in America are buried there, all named James, my father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and their wives. I will stick with Trout Creek.

The last night out we stayed at a house that had been converted to a hotel along the upper reaches of the Delaware River, another wide, shallow river with the mist rising off it in the morning and the tendrils of mist flowing in columns with the current. Next to the hotel was an aqueduct that carried the Delaware and Hudson Canal over the river! It was built by the man who built the Brooklyn Bridge and carried canal boats loaded with coal from the Pennsylvania mines to New York City. It is now a one-lane road bridge.

The country was beautiful and the people outgoing and more than friendly.

Before I left Montana I got a call from Patrick Riley, the other hired hand I mentioned. He had been trying to get in touch with me and when looking me up on the internet came across the story I wrote about him and Dave. Serendipity.

That's another road trip.





The Living Lake Project: Where Art Meets Advocacy for Coeur d'Alene Lake

The Coeur d'Alene Arts and Culture Alliance has been selected as a Thriving Communities grantee to complete the Living Lake Project. This EPA-funded program supports local solutions to public health and environmental challenges, and this opportunity lets us continue work our community has been leading for a long time.

The Living Lake Project is a 15-month fellowship led by the Coeur d'Alene Arts & Culture Alliance, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Natural Resources Department. Ten artists from Kootenai, Benewah, and Shoshone Counties are exploring the health of Lake Coeur d'Alene through field trips, research, and hands-on learning.

Meet the fellows: Jenni Passaro — Poet/Writer, Christina Villagomez — Installation artist/Illustrator, Duncan Menzies — Performer/multi-media artist, Bobbie White — Coeur d'Alene tribal artist/beadworker/cultural educator, Jen Erickson — Painter/arts educator, Jessica Bryant — Watercolor artist/arts educator, Kate Lund — Illustrator/multi-media artist/arts educator, Jonathon Nomee — Coeur d'Alene tribal artist/Fancy Dancer/cultural educator, Sarah Thompson Moore — Public art/bronze artist, Gabrielle Lewis — Muralist/graphic designer/illustrator

Why Art, Why Now

Water quality reports, phosphorus loading models, and cleanup timelines matter enormously, but they don't always reach the people whose daily lives are shaped by the health of this lake. That's where artists come in.

Artists have a unique ability to connect people across generations, cultures, and the everyday divides that can make a shared issue feel distant or abstract. They make complex topics approachable, translating technical work into something human-scale — inviting in people who might never open a data table.

That's also why it matters that artists have a seat at the table in spaces traditionally reserved for scientists and policymakers. When an artist sits alongside a hydrologist or a tribal natural resources manager, something shifts: they ask different questions and notice what moves people emotionally, not just what's measurable. Folded into the stewardship process from the

start, rather than added on afterward as illustration, that perspective reaches further and lands deeper. The Living Lake Project is built on that premise: real, lasting solutions come from working together. Scientists bring expertise and data. Tribal knowledge-holders bring generations of relationship with this land and water. Artists bring the tools to make it all visible, felt, and shared. Together, they open the door to reimagining our relationship to this lake and watershed for generations to come.

What the Project Is Doing

Over 15 months, our fellows are adapting proven models of creative environmental stewardship to:

Make complex environmental data accessible through artistic interpretation

Build bridges between traditional ecological knowledge, Indigenous wisdom, and Western science

Create culturally relevant engagement opportunities that inspire action

Develop ongoing channels for community input and participation

Document community stories and connections to the lake

Generate collaborative solutions across jurisdictions and stakeholders

Through field trips, research, and partnership with the Idaho DEQ, Basin Environmental

Improvement Project Commission, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, the Idaho Water Resources Research Institute, the KEA, and others, fellows are learning the deep history of this watershed, alongside the more recent chapters of restoration work, mining history, and contamination that continue to shape the lake today.

Our hope is that this project will enliven and bring attention to our shared watershed, raise awareness of the issues facing the lake, foster connection across generations and communities, build genuine partici-

Continued To Page 15



Autumn Dream

A weathered oak’s blood-red leaves fall to earth
like tears wept in silence.

A lone white swan glides over a black glass lake
at dusk under a full cream moon.

A shadowed woman sits alone in the distance
on a hill of golden grasses.

A tawny owl calls out, *Who, who, who—
who are you?* to the openness.

I wake, and through the curtain, sunlight seeps
into the echo of owl’s lyric.

Above that tree limb, those eyes in the velvet dark
stare into my still-swallowed mind.

I lie half in shadow, half in the question of the dream
floating across the distance.

A shroud of loneliness blankets my body—
owl, woman, swan, oak—pressing.

Turning, I peer into my life choices, all
gathered, naked before me.

Each one hums in me, an emptying swell.
My heart beats its shaman drum.

I’ve carved a totem, now—oak, swan, woman, owl,
a mythology for my waking.

Left Undone

Wind slaps the siding of our house; long gray
rolls in across the sky. Pins of sleet rake the
air, prick the window glass.

*The afternoon is sown up, we say. No
Sunday walk through the woods,
today. Just waiting.*

The sleet-wind whips and spins around
leaves and pine cones all along the yard, the
road, our walkways.

Autumn has fallen away; winter is still
wandering in circles farther north. Slipped
between these certainties, an agitation.

Looking out the windows, I see the apple tree
and shrubs stand bare; sky is full, roiling. *The
world is top-heavy*, I murmur.

We feel the echoing ache of something
unfinished, pace through the house,
searching, baffled as the weather.

The clouds press, lean and lean, finally
releasing against the roof long rasps—the
sound of an insistent plea.

We can’t stop listening; if we just keep *trying*, we
might decipher the message, though we haven’t
any true education in the language.

LOCAL POET:
SUSAN BOTICH



Strange Cleansing

The Clark Fork Valley fog rises, exposing the base of
the Monarch Mountains, then its steep ridges. Dark
clouds pull the fog into their billow, lifting just enough
that, between the mountains and the moisture, an
opening appears.

The thin blue of it entices me to stare, fixated on the
promise of better weather. Or situations. Decisions.
I’ve been wrapped in a steel gray claustrophobia—this
moment of my life, my old age, a stagnation of aches,
unfulfilled dreams,
dangling.

Out there,
the southern horizon—a distance of possibilities...
The mountains now exhale. Into the blue opening, a
graying over.

From above and below, clouds and mist—swallowing
and swallowed. I peer into the gray shroud, unable to
pierce through. My mind, finally tired from so much
squinting, glazes over. The fog thickens, indistinguish-
able from the leaden clouds pressing close to the
house, until it becomes a soft threading of rain.
A blustery wind blows a spattering against the win-
dows.

In this quiet rhythm, I feel I’m being held. In bewilder-
ment, tenderness touches me through to rest soft fin-
gers on tired sinew, forgotten. Regrets dissipate into a
calm, my eyes tear while I swallow, and I’m swallowed
into a mystery, unfathomable. This. Simplicity. This
fundamental.

Rivulets run
down,
until
disappearing
from view



LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER: DON FISHER

Vietnam, with the sole intention of going over there to help these young guys out. I spent a year in the jungles of Vietnam administering to the troops in a very improbable war. And even more improbable, that is where my love for photography began to flourish. I met a fellow medic who was much more knowledgeable about the history of photography than I was. Ansel Adams, Diane Arbus, Henri Carter-Bresson, Edward Weston became familiar people to me largely through the help and guidance of my friend Stuart. So deep in the jungles of the world he and I would be discussing the classics of photography. I began shooting pics with every spare moment. It was a great relief to my tired brain and at the same time was creating a valuable artistic approach to my everyday life that I would not have had in any other situations. I would send my rolls of film to my mother who would then have them printed and then sent back to me in the far away jungle. Such an improbable start fortunately was to stay with me for the rest of my life. I'll always be grateful to Stuart for his loyal friendship and his avid photographic interest.

Most artists have a start in their journey due to other family members who are artists. I was fortunate to have a photographer grandpa and an artist gramma who did the old practice of painting color into black and white photos. My mother was an artist in her own right by making beautiful quilts and weaving scarves. Just being around these people was a huge influence on my young mind, introducing me to the world of art before I really knew what art was. And then when I was in high school my grampa gave me his Contax camera with Zeiss Ikon lenses. Little did I know at the time that that was the start of a lifetime passion. How could a small device like that record what the eye sees. And by merely pressing a button, a fantastic image is recordedand then the drugstore on the corner has an envelope of glossy images to hand to you as if by magic. Beyond my imagination!!!! I was a long way from creating anything called art, but it was planting the seed for future endeavors.

Throughout high school and college taking photos was merely a means of recording events and remembering people. Then after enlisting in the army in between going to schools, I volunteered to be a combat medic in

After graduating from anesthesia school, I took a job in Minnesota and worked there for 36 years. All that time I was taking slides of the beautiful lakes and great variety of weather conditions. I kept learning from the pros in seminars and online classes. My learning has intensified since my retirement in Idaho. I have taken around 55,000 photos since coming here in 2012. It has been my good fortune to have been associated with the art community here. My goal is to always maintain my love for creativity and appreciation of the art of not just taking photos but to put something into them that may spark some of the same love for the art of photography.

Much of the photography by Don Fisher can be viewed at the Columbia Bank Building/ Marigold Bistro in Sandpoint or online at <http://www.donfisherimages.com>



Train Over The Bay, Photography, 24"x36"



Night Scene in Bayview, Photography, 24”x36”



Colorful Ponderay, Photography, 24”x36”



Clouds Over Ponderay III, Photography, 24”x36”



Chasing His Shadow, Photography, 24”x36”

A New Curtain Rises: The Coeur d'Alene Area Theatre Alliance Brings Local Theatre Together

There is a lot happening on the stages of Coeur d'Alene and the surrounding area.

Musicals. Plays. Youth productions. Auditions. Concerts. Workshops. Volunteers working behind the scenes. Actors learning lines late into the night. Directors, choreographers, designers, musicians, technicians and countless others bringing stories to life.

But for audiences, performers and supporters, there has often been one frustrating question:
Where do I find out what's happening?

A new collaboration is working to change that.

Introducing the Coeur d'Alene Area Theatre Alliance

The **Coeur d'Alene Area Theatre Alliance** is a collaboration of local theatre organizations coming together to strengthen and promote theatre throughout our community.

The Alliance is not intended to replace or compete with the individual theatre organizations that make up our local arts community. Instead, it is about **working together while celebrating what makes each organization unique**.

Each theatre has its own productions, traditions, audiences and personality. The Alliance provides a place for those organizations to connect, share information and collectively make local theatre more visible and accessible to the community. The philosophy is simple: **When local theatre works together, everyone benefits**.

A stronger collective theatre community means more opportunities for performers and volunteers, greater visibility for productions, easier access for audiences and more ways for community members and businesses to support the arts.

One Community. Many Stages. One Place to Find It.

One of the first projects of the Theatre Alliance is a new website designed to become a **one-stop destination for local theatre**.

Instead of having to search individual theatre websites, social media pages and event calendars to figure out what is happening, audiences will be able to visit one central location and discover theatre throughout the Coeur d'Alene area.

The website will bring together information about participating theatre organizations and their upcoming productions, making it easier to answer questions like:

What's playing this weekend?

When are auditions?

Where can I volunteer?

What theatre opportunities are available for my child or teenager?

How can I support local theatre?

What shows are coming up this season?

The Alliance website will also provide information about volunteer opportunities, sponsorship and ways for businesses and community members to become involved.

The goal is to make discovering local theatre as easy as possible.

Collaboration Is the Point

Theatre is inherently collaborative. A production requires actors, directors, designers, musicians, technicians, stage managers, volunteers and audiences all coming together to create something that exists for only a moment in time.

The Theatre Alliance is taking that same spirit of collaboration beyond the stage.

Rather than each organization working in isolation to reach the same community, the Alliance creates an opportunity to share information and collectively promote the incredible theatre already happening here.

A person who discovers one local production may discover another.

A young performer looking for an audition may find an opportunity they never knew existed.

A community member looking for a way to volunteer may find the perfect fit.

A business interested in supporting the arts may discover multiple ways to make an impact.

And someone who simply wants a great night out may finally realize just how much live theatre is happening right here at home.

More Than Shows

Theatre is not simply about filling seats.
It is about creating community.
It gives young people a place to find confidence and belonging. It gives adults an opportunity to create, perform and connect.
It gives audiences the chance to laugh, cry and experience a story together rather than watching it alone on a screen.
Behind every production are dozens of people giving their time, talent and energy to make it happen.
The Theatre Alliance hopes to shine a brighter light on all of them.
It is an invitation to audiences to discover local theatre, to performers to find opportunities, to volunteers to lend their talents, to businesses to support the arts and to theatre organizations to continue building something together.

The Next Act

The Coeur d’Alene area has a vibrant theatre community. The Theatre Alliance is about making that community easier to see, easier to access and easier to support.
Whether you are a lifelong theatre lover or someone who has never attended a local production, there is an opportunity waiting for you.
Visit the new Coeur d’Alene Area Theatre Alliance website at www.cdatheatrealliance.org to explore upcoming shows, auditions, volunteer opportunities, participating theatre organizations and ways to support local theatre.
And now, one place to find them all.



Jessica Jameson CDA Theatre Alliance Member, Kristi Mendoza How Much More Productions Executive/Artistic Director, Mickaylea (Kiki) David Take Five Community Theatre Board President, Michellea David Take Five Community Theatre Board Vice President, Sarah Noble Take Five Community Theatre Board member (Fresh Voice), Presley DuPuis Aspire Community Theatre Music Director, Trigger Weddle Aspire Community Theatre Artistic Director, Thomas Gandy CDA Theatre Alliance Member



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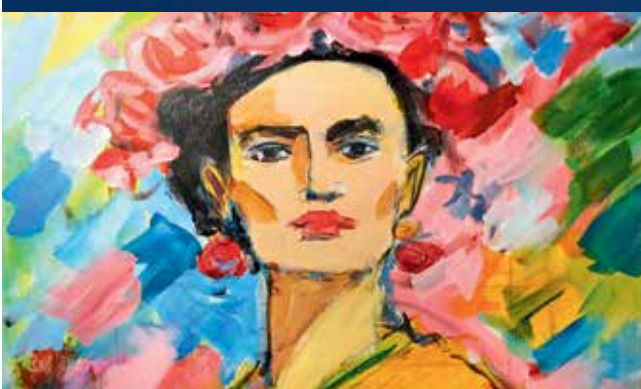
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TREE

By Warren Carlson

When I was ten, I celebrated Christmas by going into the woods across the street (owned by the local college) and sawing down a young pine tree. Why my mother allowed me to do that is a mystery. Did she have hope that by having my own tree, it would somehow lead me to the church? To me, the church was a confusing and annoying part of my life forced on me by my mother. (My father said he had done enough growing up to last a lifetime.) Was she tired of me hanging around the house? Is fresh air good for you even at five degrees? She zipped me into my nearly outgrown snow suit and sent me into the arctic world. She seemed proud of me.

I went up our neighbor's driveway pulling my kid size toboggan—my favorite winter "toy." (I would wax the bottom with paraffin and ride the hill at the end of street standing up, holding onto the rope) A short distance into the woods, I saw a perfect tree, but I was now enjoying my adventure and wasn't ready to return. I didn't feel alone. I had the dark woods, the quiet, the cold, the call of chickadees, and I realized, myself for company. Hallelujah!

I walked in the woods until I was sure that mother would be worried about me, then reluctantly, as if I were an explorer failing to reach the south pole, I turned for home. I stopped and sawed down the tree I had seen earlier with a folding camp saw and tied it on the toboggin with a short piece of kitchen twine. Out

of the woods and into the half bright, slanted winter sun, the sun, low on the horizon, threw a long shadow of our house across the street.

My father's car was in the driveway. He was home from work early. He was standing on the back porch watching me come up the drive. "Hail the mighty woodsman!" I didn't respond. "Leave the tree on the porch, we'll go down to the basement and make a stand for it."

Did any of this have to do with Jesus? What child could understand his parables? And yet, I can remember staring at his picture in the family bible and feeling...for him...love.

We set up the tree in the den, my favorite room. It was pine paneled. I often pretended it was a cabin in the woods. My sister insisted on helping me decorate it. It was still my tree.

Even now, some fifty years later, the balsam smell of Christmas trees brings back the joy of retrieving lawn furniture cushions from the basement, and, wrapped in a blanket, making a nest; a place separate from the rest of the house, a place to read, and as I like to think now, dreaming of being a woodsman.



Continued From Page 7



pation in a serious public health issue, strengthen partnerships, and bring new art into the world that informs, inspires, and educates. The Lake We're Working to Protect Coeur d'Alene Lake has long been a hub for recreation, tourism, and economic activity for our region — and it's also a lake with a complicated history. Historical mining activity in the Silver Valley left millions of tons of metals-laden sediments — zinc, lead, and cadmium — resting in the lake bottom. Recent land uses continue to add excess phosphorus to the water, which can alter the chemistry near the lakebed and, if oxygen levels drop, risk releasing those metals back into the environment.

Water quality has improved over the last several decades, but phosphorus levels have been rising again, making phosphorus management critical to the lake's long-term health.

Since 2009, IDEQ has guided this work through the Lake Management Plan (LMP), a basinwide framework aimed at limiting nutrient inputs that threaten water quality and could mobilize the metals contained in lakebed sediments. The Living Lake Project grew directly out of this ongoing effort — it's through the LMP's collaborative, community-driven approach to lake protection that CDAACA secured the EPA Thriving Communities grant funding this fellowship.

In 2021, Governor Little established the Coeur d'Alene Lake Advisory Committee and directed \$2 million in Leading Idaho funds toward reducing phosphorus and improving water quality; the following year, Idaho added \$35 million from American Rescue Plan Act funds to the effort. The Committee's 2021 solicitation led to 19 funded cleanup projects, which DEQ is implementing with recipients through 2026. DEQ's Coeur d'Alene Lake Advisory Committee storymap offers more detail for anyone who wants to dig deeper. An Invitation

The Living Lake Project isn't just about documenting a problem — it's about building a community-wide relationship with our lake rooted in knowledge, care, and shared responsibility. As our fellows work alongside scientists and Tribal knowledge-holders, we hope their art helps all of us learn our watershed's history, understand what's being done to protect it, and find our own ways to celebrate and uplift Coeur d'Alene Lake — so future generations can still find recreation, connection, and belonging in these waters.

Watch for opportunities to engage with fellows' work in the coming months, and stay connected as this project unfolds. The Living Lake Project is made possible by a Thriving Communities Grant from the EPA, administered by Philanthropy Northwest. Follow along on Instagram @livinglakeproject or at livinglakeproject.com.



Old Red Farmstead by Don Fisher, Photography, 24”x36”



Yesterdays Ferry by Don Fisher, Photography, 24”x36”



Foggy Longbridge by Don Fisher, Photography, 24”x36”



Colorful Train by Don Fisher, Photography, 24”x36”



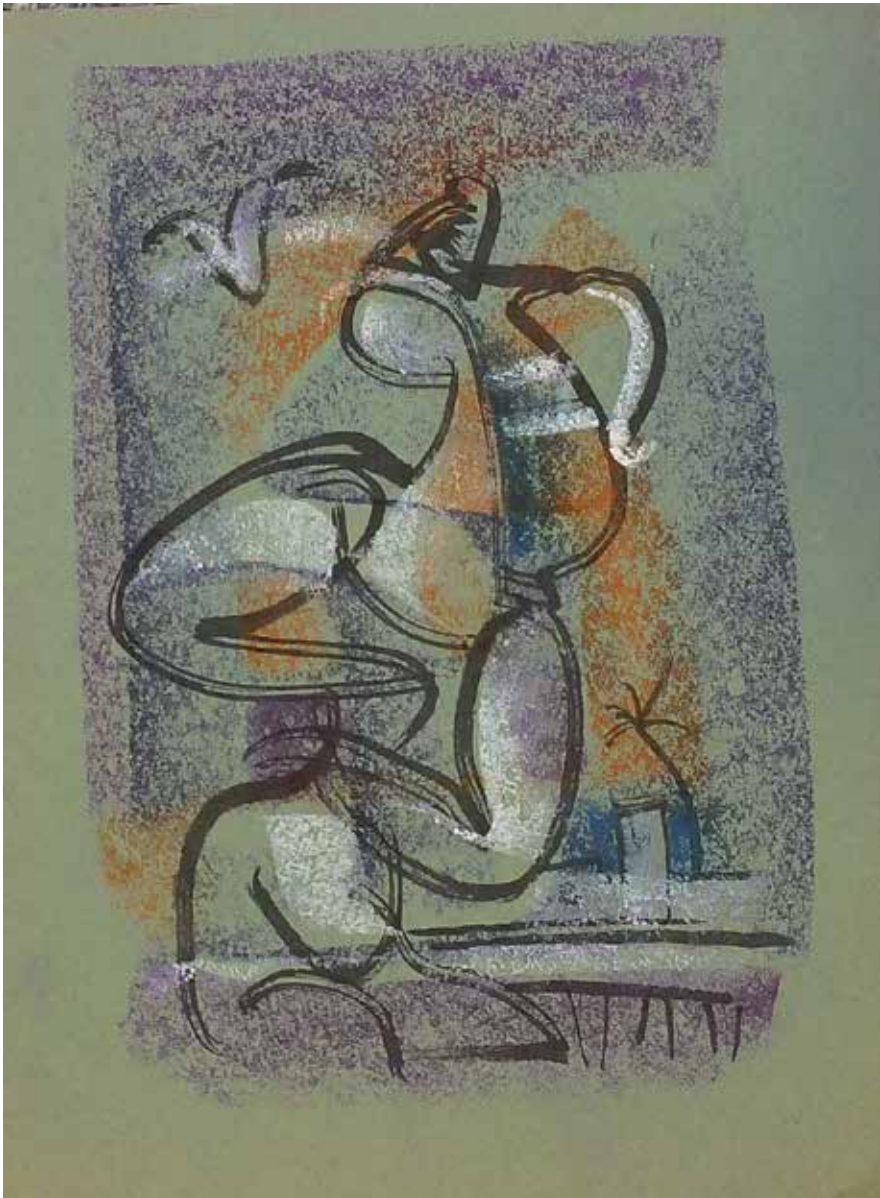
Anemone in Shadows by Don Fisher, Photography, 24”x28”



Red Hut in Fog by Don Fisher, Photography, 24”x36”



Image of Wisdom by Ernest Lothar, Oil, 16”x20”



Woman with Bird by Ernest Lothar, Oil, 9”x12”

IDAHO
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Automobile & Truck Services

Bear Auto 137 David Thompson Dr.,
208-267-5763
Dycks Auto Sales 6697 Main St., 208-267-2400
Les Schwab Tires, South Hill, 208-267-2411
NAPA Auto Parts, 6838 Main Street,
208-267-5531
North Hill Tire, 35 Swift Ln, 208-267-0293
North Idaho Collision Repair
148 David Thompson Dr, 208-267-9995
Northwest Diesel Performance and Repair
6472 Riverside St, 208-603-0778
Riverside Auto Center, 6437 Bonner St,
208-267-3100

Bars

Firehouse Vines & Hops, 6371 Kootenai St,
208-217-2817

Books

Bonn timers Books, 7195 Main Street, 208-267-2622

Construction and Trades

Bonn timers Ferry Glass and Door 6821 S. Main St.,
208-267-3195
Boundary Tractor and Yamaha 6632 Main St.,
208-267-5571
Fredricksons Bonn timers Ferry Garbage
P.O. Box 1913, 208-267-3303
Off Grid Unlimited 137 Enterprise Dr.,
208-627-4476
Pro X Home Center 510374 US Hwy 95,
208-267-7561
Purity Homes 425-217-9020
Summit Plumbing Drew Foster 208-946-3123
Trusstek, 64679 Highway 2, 208-267-7471
Turner Plumbing 208-610-7538
Universal Well Drilling and Pump
388 Tonka Way, 208-290-1069
Wink Inc Sand Gravel and Excavation,
208-267-5804

Chiropractor

Pam Svec 208-267-7355

Clothing

Larsons, 6426 Bonner St, 208-267-3330

Education

9B Family Foundations, 7142 2nd St,
208-610-6507

Fitness

Iron Mikes Family Fitness 64450Hwy 2,
208-267-5298

Healthcare

Auburn Crest Hospice, 6541 Main Street Suite 2,
208-267-0579

Boundary Community Clinic, 6641 Kaniksu St,
208-267-3655

Boundary Community Hospital,
6640 Kaniksu St, 208-267-3141

Dr. Pam Svec, 6514 Main St, 208-267-7355

Holos Counseling

DBA Rawlings Community Counseling,
6807 Cody Street, 208-267-0900

Motels and Hotels

Idaho Lodge, 6506 Main St., 208-267-7915

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6521 Walker Ln, 208-267-2100
Community Title 7184 Main St., 208-267-6500
Isaac Carey 208-661-1389
Pace-Kerby Real Estate, 7192 Main St,
208-610-8211

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Mi Pueblo, 7168 Main St, 208-267-4735
Mugsy's, 7161 Main Street, 208-267-8059
The Badgers Den, 6551 Main St, 208-267-1486
The Rusty Moose, 7211 Main St, 208-267-1950

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Boundary Consignments 7196 Main St,
208-267-4466

Hidden Haven, 6371 Kootenai St Suite 7,
208-217-2817

The Haircut Place, 510686 US-95, 208-304-2079

The Rusty Trunk, 6127 Main St, 208-691-9441
Trusted Computer, 7177 Main St. Ste. E,
208-267-0100

Universal Storage, 72 Tonka Way, 208-946-3017

COEUR D'ALENE

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All About Sculptures 504 E Lake St.,
208-641-8380
All Things Art 7880 Franklin St., 208-215-4471
Art Spirit Gallery 415 Sherman Ave.,
208-765-6006

Blackwell Gallery 205 Sherman Ave.,
208-699-2116

Emerge 119 N 2nd St., 208-930-1876
Idaho Community Foundation 208-342-3535

Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center
405 N William St., Post Falls 208-457-8950
Music Conservatory 627 N Government Way,
208-551-3933

Samson Art and Music 213 W Appleway Ave.,
208-819-6484

Education

Human Rights Educational Institute
414 W Fort Grounds Dr., 208-292-2359

Furniture

Runge Furniture 1319 N 4th St., 208-664-2131

Garden and Gifts

Jungle Relic 314 N 3rd St., 208-551-4195
VanHoff Garden and Gifts
1844 N Government Way, 208-930-4424

Jewelry

Burchell Goldsmith LLC 1524 Northwest Blvd.,
208-676-1645

Clarks Diamond Jeweler 307 E Sherman Ave.,
208-664-4615

Photography

Tony Mills Photography 208-819-3024

Real Estate

Fred Meyers eXp Realty, 208-660-5647

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Juniors Cantina 313 E Coeur D'Alene Lake Dr.,
208-771-7020

La Condesa 117 N 2nd Ave., 208-551-2868
Magpie 423 E Sherman Ave., 208-691-1231
Seasons of CDA, 209 E Lakeside Ave,
208-664-8008

The Moose North 10325 N Government Way,
Hayden, 208-518-1145

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Tour CDA 1618 E Lakeside Ave., 208-550-3939

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Naples General Store 208-267-2947

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Old Town Flea Market, 1332 E Highway 2,
Call Todd at 208-946-8226

SAMUELS

Blue Heron Cafe 486260 US 95, 208-263-1146
Samuels Store 208-263-1146

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95 Express Car Wash, 477285 US-95,
208-656-1953
Fox Auto Body, 31466 SH-200, 208-263-6443
Les Schwab, 279 Bonner Mall Way,
208-265-4518

Pac West Parts, 21 McGhee Rd Ste 105,
208-265-5500

Coins and Metals

Grunberg Schloss Collectors' Cabinet,
210 Triangle Dr, 208-263-6060

Fitness

Natural Fitness Gym, 400 Schweitzer Plaza Dr
Ste 6, 208-255-2299

Physical Therapy

Kauai Therapy 30544 ID 200. 208-205-9559

Restaurants

Chicks, 476864 US 95, 208-597-7091
Flavors of Phoenicia, 477100 US-95 Suite C

Specialty Shops and Services

Brown's Northside Machine & Gear,
1100 Triangle Dr, 208-263-4643
Floor Show Inc, 880 Kootenai Cutoff Rd,
208-263-5198

Monarch Marble & Granite,
1502 McNearney Rd, 208-263-5777
Selkirk Power Generation, 1200 Triangle Dr,
208-263-1258

The Rusty Trunk, 875 Kootenai Cutoff Rd,
208-691-9456

PRIEST RIVER

Automobile

Patti's Action Auto Supply, 5611 US-2,
208-448-2331

Bars

Jammers, 113 Main St, Priest River,
208-448-9956

Building and Trades

Rob's Heating & Cooling, 5431 Hwy 2,
208-448-0973
Scott Thompson Construction, 188 Pine Creek
Ln, 208-304-2025

Insurance

Carpenter Insurance Agency, 5809 US-2,
208-610-8190
Farmers Insurance, Ben Horton,
5871 US-2 Ste B, 208-448-1231

Real Estate

Amanda Williams Century 21, 208-448-0901
Century 21 Riverstone, 19 W Beardmore,
208-448-0901
Suzie Hatfield Century 21, 208-290-7945

Restaurants

Mi Pueblo, 5436 US-2, 208-448-0115
Thai Garden at The Ranch, 4555 US-2,
208-290-3507
Vicki Rae's Pizza,
45 South Mckinley Street Suite 101,
208-448-2200

Specialty Shops and Services

Blue House Vapors, 45 S McKinley St Ste 104,
208-270-0972
Color Up, 45 S McKinley St #102, 208-783-5076
Priest River Cleaners, 186 Highway 57,
208-448-2299
Styles N Files, 45 S McKinley St, 208-946-8892

SAGLE

Construction and Trades

Insight Restoration, 469058 US-95,
208-946-9648

Turner Plumbing LLC, 468146 US-95,
208-610-7538

SANDPOINT

Art and Music

Art Works Gallery, 214 N 1st Ave, 208-263-2642
Pend Oreille Arts Council, 313 N 2nd Ave Ste B,
208-263-6139

T. Zinke, 204 East Superior, 208-603-1803

Automobile

7B Mobile Mechanic, 253-389-5261
Melody Muffler, 602 Pine St, 208-263-2812
Nelsons Automotive, 1111 Michigan St,
208-263-4911

Books

Sandpoint Books, 321 N. Second Ave,
208-263-2417

Clothing

Bella Terra, 223 N 1st Ave, 208-263-1116
Bizarre Bazaar, 113 S Boyer Ave, 208- 263-3400
Eve's Leaves, 326 North First Ave, 208-263-0712

Finan McDonald, 301 N First Ave, 208-263-3622
Larsons, 327 N 1st Ave, 208-263-2414
Construction and Trades
Pac West Parts, 21 McGhee Road Ste 105.
208-265-5500
Sandpoint Garage Doors, 1309 Wright Way,
208-263-6040
Top Notch Electric, 855 Wood View Rd,
208-290-2336
Fitness
Natural Fitness Gym, 1103 W Superior St,
208-263-0676
Floral
Nieman’s, 211 Cedar St, 208-263-3024
Grocery
Winter Ridge, 703 Lake Street, 208-265-8135
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Alliance, 105 Pine St, 208-263-2125
Carol Curtis Century 21, 305 N 1st Ave,
208-290-5947
Leah Sandlin Keller Williams Realty,
509 N 5th Ave Suite H, 208-610-4627
Suzie Hatfield Century 21, 208-290-7945
Restaurants
Arlo’s, 124 S. 2nd Ave, 208-255-4186
Bab’s Pizzeria, 1319 Highway 2, 208-265-7992
Barrel 33, 100 N 1st Ave, 208-920-6258
Chicks, 476864 US 95, 208-597-7091
Connies, 323 Cedar St, 208-255-2227
Eichardt’s, 212 Cedar Street, 208-263-4005
Jalapenos, 314 N 2nd Ave, 208-263-2995
Joe’s Cheese Steak, 102 Church Street,
208-263-1444
Marigold Bistro, 414 Church St, 208-263-9514
Second Avenue Pizza, 215 S Second Ave,
208-263-9321
Spuds 102 N 1st Ave., 208-265-4311
Sunshine on Cedar, 334 N. 1st Ave, Ste 208,
208-597-7055
Tandoori Grill, 202 N 2nd Ave, 208-916-4075
The 113 Main, 113 Main St, 208-946-5309
Specialty Shops and Services
Ballard Orthodontics, 301 S Division Ave,
208-263-4122
Cedar Street Bridge, 334 N 1st ave,
208-946-9531
Habitat for Humanity, 1537 Baldy Park Rd,
208-265-5313
Home Sweet Home Consignment, 205 Cedar St,
208-255-1818

Rejavanate, 1009 Highway 200, 208-255-4545
Tendril Herbal Apothecary & Healing Center,
532 Main St, 208-597-7944
The Restore, 1519 Baldy Park Dr , 208-265-5313
The UPS Store, 217 Cedar St, 208-263-0261
Vapor Planet, 819 US-2, 208-263-9561
SPIRIT LAKE
Health
Mountain Springs Assisted Living, 3254 Spirit
Lake Cutoff Rd, 208-263-2273
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Katy Yoder Exit Realty, 912-402-9835
Specialty Shops and Services
Blue House Vapors, 206 S Main St,
509-270-0972
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Motels and Hotels
Riverview Motel, 120 Riverside Ave,
509-442-2990
NEWPORT
Antiques
Now and Then Antiques, 321 S Washington Ave,
509-447-4300
Art and Music
Vessel Gallery, 331 S Washington Ave,
509-703-4886
Automobile
Perfection Tire, 311 W Walnut Street,
509-447-3933
Roger’s Body & Frame, 530 S Cass Ave,
509-447-4225
Salesky Service Center, 333209 Hwy 2,
509-447-4767
Construction and Trades
Purity Homes, 425-217-9020
Legacy Logging, 724 West 3rd St, 509-946-7575
Grocery
Owen’s, 337 S Washington Ave, 509-447-3525
Insurance
Carpenters Insurance, 208-610-8190

Quilting
Cuppa Tea Quilting, 5609 Hwy 2, 509-589-1350
Real Estate and Title
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509-671-1886
North Country Realty, 220 S Washington Ave,
509-447-2421
Sunshine Real Estate, 118 S Washington Ave,
509-671-7630
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509-447-4454
Susan Evans, Amplify Real Estate, 509-710-8846
Vincent Realty, 301 Washington St. Ste A.
509-599-7382
Alisha Krause Realtor, 509-671-7630
Restaurants
Mi Pueblo, 311 N Washington Ave, 509-447-3622
Specialty Shops and Services
Amanda Crow LMT Massage Therapist,
104 S Washington Ave Suite A, 509-462-0486
Anderson Family Cleaning, 509-671-6694
Griffin’s Furniture, S 217 Washington Ave,
509-447-4511
Leo’s Excavating, 206 Laurelhurst Dr,
509-447-3037
Nails by Grace, 509-919-0567
Newport Buzz & Trim, 203 S Washington Ave,
509-202-2587
Pend Oreille Cannabis Co., 601 State Rte 20,
509-550-5218
Pend Oreille Merch Company, 601 Hwy 20,
509-550-5218
Petroglyph Printing & Signs, 300 2nd St,
509-447-2590
Sunshine Shipping,
118 S Washington Ave Suite B, 509-245-2005
Tan Linez Sunshine Tanning Salon LLC,
118 S Washington Ave Suite B, 509-203-7626
Tim’s Barbershop, 301 S Washington Suite B,
509-671-1903
Vibin’ Hair, 104 S Washington Ave,
509-671-6564

NORTHERN JOURNEYS

A Magazine for the Arts, Humanities and Sciences

We are issuing a call to all authors of prose, poetry and visual artists to send their writing and/or art any time of the year for consideration.

Northern Journeys celebrates 30 years of providing beginning, maturing and established writers and artists a venue to share their work with the region’s readers. The magazine is made available primarily to communities throughout Northern Idaho, into Western Montana and Southern British Columbia. However, when the editor or pubisher is traveling, the magazine makes appearances in Washington, California and Nevada.

Prose, poetry and art may be submitted to:
norjour_tan@yahoo.com as an attachment. Art should be sent in jpeg format with a minimum of 300 dpi. Please contact Jason Thomas, at 208-597-3963 with questions.

Those interested in advertising may contact Jason Thomas, Publisher, at 208-597-3963.
We hope to hear from you!

NORTHERN JOURNEYS

A Magazine for the Arts, Humanities and Sciences

NORTHERN JOURNEYS

P.O. Box 1789
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
208-597-3963

For advertising: Please call 208-597-3963
To submit prose, poetry or art, please send digitally to:
norjour_tan@yahoo.com

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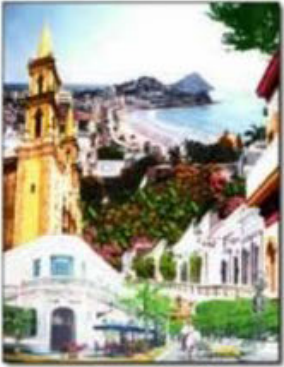
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RESTAURANTS

Mi Pueblo

Authentic Mexican Food



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Priest River, ID 83450

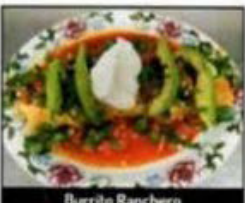
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Like us on Facebook Mi Pueblo Authentic Mexican Food

Some menu items have peanut products in them. Please let your server know if you have an allergy.



Burrito Ranchero



Mi Pueblo Nachos

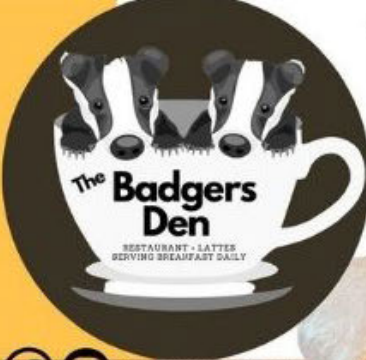


Camarones ala Mexicana

Mi Pueblo-Authentic Mexican food. When you have a craving for truly authentic Mexican food, your choice is Mi Pueblo in Priest River, 5436 Hwy 2, and 7168 Main St. in Downtown Bonners Ferry, Idaho, 6249 W. Maine, Spirit Lake, Idaho, and 311 North Washington, Newport, Washington. You'll find friendly service, fresh ingredients, great menu choices, many vegetarian and gluten free selections available and a surprise after every meal! Fast lunch service! To go orders, too!



Mugsy's Tavern & Grill is known as the local watering hole, a one of a kind gem up in North Idaho! Family owned and operated, Mugsy's proudly hosts a slew of taps local to the northwest alongside a few of your favs from around the country! Continuing the legacy of our infamous burgers, adding a few new special items to the appetizers to entrees. We know you'll be telling your friends about this treat! The chefs love to get creative and come up with different rotating lunch and dinner time specials, as well as great, fun cocktails to pair with special events happening in town! Come see why Mugsy's is known as the as "The Cheers of North Idaho!"



THE BADGERS DEN

Dine In • Drive thru • Open Daily



@thebadgersdencafe



A local favorite, **The Badgers Den**, is the #1 breakfast place! Open daily, serving all day breakfast such as biscuits and gravy, homemade hashbrowns, pancakes, chicken fried steak, and all your breakfast favorites! We also are the only breakfast place to have in house espresso options, as well as a convenient drive thru for lattes, and even grabbing your breakfast to go! Whether you dine in, or take out, we are sure you will love to frequent The Badgers Den!





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FRI-SAT: 11AM-9PM
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WWW.BABSPIZZERIA.COM

OPEN FOR DINE-IN OR TAKEOUT!

Babs' Pizzeria, located at 1319 Hwy 2 in Westpointe Plaza, is a "mom and pop" Pizzeria specializing in the best thin crust pizza this side of the Mississippi - a true slice of New Your in beautiful Sandpoint, ID with dough hand-made daily. Sample Stromboli or pasta dishes, and end the meal off with a classic hand-filled cannoli. Open Monday through Sunday, so you can enjoy a little bit of New York every day! Online ordering and delivery available.



208-263-1444

Craving an authentic cheesesteak? No need for a plane ticket; head to Joes Philly at 102 Church Street in Sandpoint, where your cravings meet their match! Sink your teeth into a foot of mouthwatering, cheesy, beefy goodness that'll leave the Liberty Bell ringing in your ears. Don't let the name fool you, this is no one trick pony; indulge in their burgers, dogs, hoagies, and more, all crafted with fresh ingredients. Come for the philly, leave with a smile!



FRANKLIN'S HOAGIES

Good food. Good people. North Idaho.
 Proudly serving Coeur d'Alene with fresh, made-to-order hoagies, burgers, breakfast favorites and more. Whether you're a local or just passing through, come enjoy a meal made with care and a little Franklin's hospitality.
 Come hungry. Leave happy.
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

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pub • grill
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coffee house

The Pub with Personality

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208.263.4005

A SandPint Tradition Since 1994

Eichardt's Pub is more than a Public House, a restaurant, and a music venue, it's a hub where community connects, and ideas are shared. It's 'The Pub with Personality'. An outstanding selection of micro brewed and imported beers, regional draft ciders, and an extensive wine by-the-glass list. The menu is vast, the ingredients are high quality and locally sourced. American Brew-Pub style cuisine, with vegetarian-friendly options available. The servers are mature, authentic and sometimes surly. Offering a variety of excellent and diverse, weekly live music, featuring the Monday Night Blues Jam. Great Vibe! Great Food! Great Music! Please follow us on Instagram @eichardtpublichouse to keep up on music, art and any other important stuff.

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We Deliver!
5:30pm - 10:00pm
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Business Hours
 Tues - Thurs 11am - 9pm
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 Closed Mondays

215 South Second Avenue
Sandpoint, Idaho
208-263-9321



Seasonally inspired, spirited cuisine. Coeur d'Alene's Fresh Grill & Bar. Seasons of Coeur d'Alene Fresh Grill and Bar opened in 2011 and has been a popular gathering place for locals and visitors ever since! Choose from the lively bar, an intimate dining room, summer patio seating and private party rooms for groups large and small. Check our calendar for live music and upcoming wine and special event dinners!

Daily Happy Hour Specials! Weekly Live Music 6-8 PM!
 2PM-5PM & 8PM-Close
 209 E Lakeside Ave.. Coeur d'Alene, ID, 208-664-8008
seasonsofcda.com

SPUDS

WATERFRONT

Grill

Located in downtown Sandpoint along the waterfront, Spuds Waterfront Grill offers fresh, scratch-made food in a relaxed North Idaho setting. Known for creative sandwiches, hearty salads, house-made soups, and signature baked "spuds" loaded with flavorful toppings, the menu blends classic comfort food with globally inspired ingredients. Breakfast favorites, daily specials, and house-made dressings and sauces highlight the kitchen's commitment to freshness. Whether you arrive by boat, bike, or on foot, Spuds is a local favorite for casual dining and waterfront charm.

102 N First Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864, 208-265-4311
Hours: 8am-8pm Daily
www.spudsonline.com

Arlo's
RISTORANTE

In addition to all your old favorites, Arlo's is now serving authentic pizza out of our beautiful new brick oven from Italy! Our Neapolitan style dough is crafted with 00 Flour imported from Italy, fermented a minimum of 48 hours with fresh yeast, and hand stretched to order. This process in addition to the high temperature brick oven results in a crispy, delicate crust with just the right amount of char.

Open every day except Thursday
 11:30am-2:00pm, and 5:00pm-9:00pm.
 (208)-255-4186 www.arlos-restaurant.com.
 124 S. 2nd Ave. Sandpoint, ID - 83864



Beer & wine bar located on the Cedar Street Bridge with Hawaiian-flair food boards. The short but sweet menu is Full of island flavors. Pop-up dinner specials announced on social media.



Wed-Mon 11am-8pm
 Sunday Closed at 5pm
 (208) 597-7055
 334 N. 1st Ave. Ste 208
 Sandpoint



@sunshine_on_cedar



Sunshine on Cedar



Connie's Café & Lounge Est 1955 For seven decades, Connie's has been the "go-to" spot in Sandpoint for locals and visitors alike. Our motto says it all: Good People. Good Drinks. Good Food. Whether you're sliding into your favorite counter stool in the retro diner café or relaxing in the laid-back lounge, you'll find the same warm hospitality and hearty meals that keep folks coming back. Connie's Lounge hosts live music, trivia, cribbage and jam nights every week. Check out our calendar at www.conniescafe.com



Marigold Bistro is a vibrant community-focused bistro with an emphasis on fresh ingredients and friendly service. Nestled in the heart of Sandpoint, Marigold Bistro specializes as a cafe and is open for regular service from Monday to Friday from 7am to 3pm with ample space for intimate gatherings, business meetings, and grand occasions. Offering after-hours private events on-site as well as off-site catering services, Marigold Bistro is dedicated to creating memorable and delectable experiences for all its guests.






Great drinks.

Great food.

Great mood.





OPEN DAILY
 LUNCH 11AM-3PM
 DINNER 4PM-9PM

208.946.5309
 113 MAIN ST., SANDPOINT, ID
 113MAINSANDPOINT.COM




LOCAL ARTIST/ ILLUSTRATOR: WILLIAM H COX

I've worn a few hats over the years from working in the woods in fisheries and wildlife, to fighting fire, ranching and construction. Just in the last few years the Lord has laid it on my heart to share some of these experiences with you. Most of these short stories involve hunting, fishing, and living in the back country of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Using the universal language of humor and a good dose of hard knocks, these stories will bless you with a good laugh and have you sitting on the edge of your seat or tearing up the next. There's also a learning lesson after each story you might be able to relate to.

I recently retired and am now painting and writing more. I just released my first children's book called the "Keeper of the Gate" and also selling prints from the illustrations in that book.

Prints are available to purchase on the website (rusty-ironranchllc.com) and at Art Work gallery in downtown Sandpoint. I participate in the Panhandle Creatives Gallery Tour in Boundary County each Sept. I also have a small gallery in our barn out on Westside Rd and Shire Lane. It is called the Shire Barn Gallery. Stop by and visit!



North Idaho Love Affair, Watercolor, 22”x14”



Grizzly _ You Lookin for Me, Pen and Ink, 12”x8”



Keeper of the Gate, New Published Book



Through The Woods, Watercolor, 14”x10”

Coeur d' Alene Pipe & Cigar
416 1/2 E Sherman Avenue
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho 83814
(208) 664-0786

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Sandpoint, ID
208.263.2642

Hours:
Mon - Sa.
10 - 5pm
Su. 11 - 5pm

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artworksgalleriesandpoint.com

glass work | ceramics | fine art paintings | photography | art cards & prints

art clothing | metal works | jewelry | woodworks | crafted interior decor

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All proceeds returned to the community as grants and scholarships

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Pend Oreille Arts Council

PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

- SEPT, 2026 Through APRIL, 2027 -

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The Heartwood Center
Nov. 13, 2026

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Alysha Brilla
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LOCAL MUSICIAN AND SCULPTURIST: BRIAN SACCO

Brian Sacco was born and raised in the small town of Oakdale just outside of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. He gained valuable exposure to the world of music from the late Joseph Stasko, his grandfather, who led a big-band orchestra. He started playing his first notes on the saxophone around age 6. Later in life, around the age of 30, he began to also work with stone as an artist. He has since produced hundreds of hand-crafted sculptures.

Brian moved to Hayden, Idaho around 2013 where he eventually met and married his wife and best friend, Tricia. They now live in Hayden Lake with their 2 cats and 8 chickens. "Tricia has always been a huge support to me through times of nervousness and doubt.", he exclaims.

Brian has raised funds and donated countless hours and tens of thousands of dollars in tips as direct donations to various charities focused on special needs in the PNW. These include great organizations such as Team Hoyt CDA (athletics) and CDA ACT (theater). He is now also raising funds for SNR (Special Needs Recreation), as they are quickly growing their presence in the area.

Brian performs weekly at Seasons of CDA and donates 100% of his tips to charity. "Seasons is a wonderful venue for me to perform Jazz, Motown and interesting remixes of Pop music classics on the Saxophone!", said Brian. "The staff and owners are like family to me. They keep me smiling and motivated. The lively and colorful lounge is a hit all year long"

Brian looks forward to future opportunities to use his artistic and music gifts to help others in finding their place in the wonderful Pacific Northwest. He has plans for a busy and productive year in 2027!

Please visit his Facebook Pages!
Brian Sacco - Saxophonist
Sacco's Primal Gallery



The Penitent, Sculpture made of Brazilian Dark Soapstone

Translucent Parrot, Sculpture made of White Marble

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William H Cox, Fishing Deep, Watercolor, 10"x8"

LIVING IN FLOW: THE SCIENCE OF SYNCHRONICITY

How focused attention, meaningful action, and good choices Can help life move in a favorable direction

By Harvey Eckhar M.S., D.C.



Have you ever become so absorbed in gardening, playing music, cooking, painting, writing, dancing or solving a problem, that time seemed to disappear? Your worries grow quiet. Your actions felt natural. You were challenged, yet capable. You may have been experiencing flow- one of the most rewarding and productive states available to the human mind.

Psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihaly brought the modern study of flow to public attention. More recently, author and performance researcher Steven Kotler, explored it through athletes, artists, innovators, and people accomplishing what once seemed impossible. His book, *The Rise of Superman*, shows that extraordinary performance is not simply a gift reserved for elite adventurers. Flow is a human capacity - and the conditions that encourage it can be practiced by anyone.



Flow is not forcing yourself to work harder. It is becoming fully present for something that matters. Attention narrows, self-consciousness softens, and action and awareness begin to work together. Research associates flow with deep concentration, enjoyment, learning, creativity, and high-quality performance. But its greatest value may be simpler: in flow we feel vividly

alive and connected to what we are doing.

The word synchronicity adds another dimension. I see it as the meaningful alignment that becomes more likely when our values, attention, preparation, and action point in the same direction.

When we know what matters, we notice useful people, ideas, and opportunities that distraction might have hidden. A timely meeting might open the door, but our choices determine whether we walk through it.

This is why living in flow can favorably influence our life. Clear intention changes what we pay attention to. Focused practice builds skill. Contribution connects our effort to a purpose larger than ourselves creates momentum. Gratitude and curiosity keep the mind open. Over time life feels like a creative partnership between preparation and possibility.

Six Ways to Invite More Flow

- 1) Choose a meaningful goal. Be specific about what you want to do today and why it matters. A clear goal organizes attention.
- 2) Find the challenge-skill balance. If a task is too easy, boredom appears: if it is too far beyond your

present ability anxiety arises. Choose a challenge that stretches you without overwhelming you.

3) Protect uninterrupted attention. Turn off notifications and alerts. Clear visual clutter and give one activity your full presence. Deep focus is increasingly rare and therefore increasingly valuable.

4) Welcome immediate feedback. A musician hears the melody. A gardener notices that the plant responds to nourishment. A writer rereads a paragraph and edits and reflects. Feedback helps us adjust without turning every imperfection into a personnel judgement.

5) Respect the flow cycle. Kotler describes a rhythm that includes struggle, release, flow, and recovery. Frequently struggle is not proof of failure but rather the brain gathering the pieces. Step away briefly, breathe, walk in nature, stretch or sleep. Insight frequently arrives when we stop pushing.

6) Recover and contribute. Flow uses energy. Restore yourself with movement, nourishment, laughter, relationships, and time outdoors. Then share what you created and learned. Flow becomes more meaningful when it benefits someone else.

Begin small. Choose one activity you care about and give it twenty or thirty protected minutes. Set one clear goal. Make the challenge slightly greater than your present comfort level. Notice the feedback. When the session ends write down what worked and what the next step will be. Instead of waiting passively for life to align, we participate, prepare, pay attention, make choices, adapt and serve.

The science of synchronicity begins there. Not with wishful thinking but with purposeful living. Focus your mind. Train your skills. Follow what has meaning. Stay open to wonder. When opportunity meets preparation take the next courageous step.

Flow is not a rare gift. It is a practice-and your life is one of the places it can grow.

Ernest Lothar and the Women Who Preserved his Art



An artist’s hope is to be remembered. For their works to be passed down, explored, and preserved for generations to come. Every artist holds on to the belief that their work will survive them. But many artists are swept up in history, quickly forgotten, and barely remembered. For Ernest Lothar, the women in his life were his inspiration, the reason he created, and spent decades ensuring that his memory continues to live on.

When Melita Pepper first visited Coeur d’Alene’s Art Spirit Gallery holding a sampling of Ernest Lothar’s paintings, she wasn’t looking to rewrite art history. Instead, she wanted to tell it, wanting someone else to finally see what she, and her family, had known and kept alive for decades. Not simply the art, but the extraordinary story of the man behind it, a man with all the odds stacked up against him. This story is told through every imaginable and unlikely format — portraits, newspaper clippings, letters, photographs, political cartoons, and more. Gallery owner Blair Williams recognized Ernest’s story and the historical and artistic value behind it. She then began retelling it through her gallery, the history of an artist whose work and profound impact slipped through the cracks of twentieth-century art history. Because for Ernest Lothar, whenever recognition began to surface, life and its subsequent hardships interrupted it.

Ernest was born in 1906 in Vienna, Austria. He fell in love with the outdoors at an early age. He could always be found playing in the woods or embracing his craft at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, copying the old masters and building a strong foundation for his time at Austria’s Academy of Fine and Applied Arts and his later artistic direction toward Abstract Ex-

pressionism. But when Hitler came into power, Ernest had no choice but to escape persecution, fleeing from Austria to Switzerland, and discovering a new purpose in teaching his fellow labor camp refugees about art — finding time to do so while also breaking rocks in the road service. While in the labor camp, Ernest became so physically ill that he was unable to serve in the road service and was instead forced to draw pictures of the Swiss military generals.

Ernest’s time in Switzerland did not last long. He and his significant other Marianne Kater, along with some of his fellow refugees, had an opportunity to immigrate to Santo Domingo, where they were offered safety in exchange for the difficult work of farming tobacco. Here he began to make a name for himself once again, constantly drawing for others while working in the fields. Throughout his hardships, Ernest always dreamt of coming to America — a dream that to this day continues to reveal itself in his art. While his works arrived there before he eventually did, travelers who happened upon his art would arrange for one-man shows in the United States. No matter his position, be it in universities or in refugee camps, Ernest kept his trademark sense of humor and sharp wit. He



Autumn, Oil, 16”x20”



Dreams, Oil, 16”x20”

was an art teacher at heart — well-educated, highly regarded, and bright-spirited, a beacon of hope for his students, friends, and family.

When Ernest was finally able to emigrate to the United States in 1947, he met and married Helen Pepper, Melita’s mother and the woman he would ultimately be with until his eventual death due to multiple sclerosis in 1961. Helen provided a newfound sense of structure for Ernest: organizing his drawing station, applying glassine between drawings, storing his art properly, labeling and protecting the individual works. Together they created a system that allowed Ernest to fully embrace his innate drive to create. She wasn’t simply keeping art — she was preserving a future archive. And for Ernest, he didn’t need notes; he only needed a surface, an outlet to paint, set it aside, and immediately started another.

Women of all different forms appear throughout Ernest’s work. Some are more grounded, like his drawing of a little girl on a white horse that he drew for Melita when she was a child. Others are more erotic, free-form female figures, abstract and beautiful in their shape and design. And outside the canvas, the women in his life continued to shape his life and legacy just as profoundly. When Helen passed away

in 1987, Melita inherited not only Ernest’s work but the responsibility to preserve it. She tried gallery after gallery, antique roadshows, interviews, one-on-ones with historians, anything to keep his artistry alive.

Nearly sixty years after Ernest’s death, the right gallery finally came face to face with the right collection at the right time, and the rest is history. Ernest spent his entire life refusing to let circumstances and the hardships around him dictate whether he could pursue his dream. He was simply an unstoppable force. Helen refused to let time erase his art. Now, Melita refuses to let history forget it.



Forgotten Harbor, Oil, 18”x24”



Trees, Oil, 16”x20”



The Beach, Oil, 18”x24”



Townscape, Oil, 21”x17”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR COEUR D'ALENE & VICINITY

Organization	Event	Show Dates	Website / Tickets
NoID Film Festival	NoID Film Festival	Sep 24-26, 2026	noidff.org
Lake City Playhouse	Finding Neverland	Sept 25-Oct 11, 2026	lakecityplayhouse.org
Jacklin Arts Center	Taste of the JACC Annual Fundraiser	Oct 2, 2026	thejacklincenter.org
Coeur d’Alene Symphony Orchestra	Rhythms of America	Oct 3, 2026	cdasympphony.org
Museum of North Idaho	Forest Cemetery Comes Alive	Oct 3, 2026	museumni.org/cemeterytours/
City of CdA Arts Commission	October Unveiled, an Evening of Arts & Hldden Treasures	Oct. 6, 2026	cdaid.org/government/committees/arts-commission
Coeur d’Alene Summer Theatre	A Night of Musical Splendor Fundraiser	Oct 7, 2026	cstidaho.com
Lake City High School	Fall Preview Concert	Oct 7, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/lchs/events
Arts & Culture Alliance	2nd Friday ArtWalk	Oct 9, 2026	artsandculturecda.org
Kootenai Environmental Alliance	Water Warrior: Junk2Funk Fashion Show	Oct 10, 2026	events.kealliance.org
Coeur d’Alene Art Association	Monthly Meeting	Oct 15, 2026	coeurdaleneartassociation.org
North Idaho College Theater	On the Verge or The Geography of Yearning	Oct 15-17 & 22-24, 2026	nic.edu/theatre/current-season
Shakespeare CdA	Henry V	Oct 16-18 & 23-25, 2026	shakespearecda.org
North Idaho College	Silent Sky	Oct 16-18 & 23-25, 2026	nic.edu/theatre/current-season
Museum of North Idaho	Harvest Festival	Oct 17, 2026	museumni.org
Coeur d’Alene High School	Fall Concert - Orchestra	Oct 20, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
CDA Charter Academy	Fall Choir Concert	Oct 20, 2026	cdacharter.org
City of CdA Arts Commission	Coeur d’Alene Arts Awards	Oct 21, 2026	cdaid.org/government/committees/arts-commission
Coeur d’Alene High School	Fall Concert - Choir	Oct 21, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Gizmo	3rd Annual Gizmo Goes Bowlistic Fundraiser	Oct 24, 2026	gizmo-cda.org/bowlistic
Coeur d’Alene Summer Theatre	Uncorked: A Cabaret	Oct 26, 2026	cstidaho.com/tickets/uncorked
Coeur d’Alene High School	Fall Concert - Band	Oct 27, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Idaho Humanities Council	No. Idaho Distinguished Humanities Lecture & Dinner	Oct 29, 2026	idahohumanities.org/2024northidaho
CDA Charter Academy	Fall Band & Orchestra Showcase Concert	Oct 29, 2026	cdacharter.org
Lake City High School	Jazz Concert	Nov 5, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/lchs/events
CDA Charter Academy	Drama Fall Performance - Of Mice & Men	Nov 5-7, 2026	cdacharter.org
CDA ACT	Disney Alice in Wonderland Jr.	Nov 5-8, 2026	cdaact.com
Take Five Theater Community Theatre	Curtains Up! Debut Show	Nov 6-8, 2026	instagram.com/takefivecommunitytheater
Christian Youth Theater North Idaho	Disney Alice in Wonderland Jr.	Nov 7-8, 2026	cynorthidaho.org
Emerge	Holiday Market	Nov 7, 2026	emergecda.com
Emerge	Winner Takes All Gallery Fundraiser	Nov 8, 2026	emergecda.com
Sorensen Magnet School	Veterans Assembly: Celebrate America’s 250th!	Nov 10, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/sorensen
Arts & Culture Alliance	2nd Friday ArtWalk	Nov 13, 2026	artsandculturecda.org
Christian Youth Theater North Idaho	Best Christmas Pageant Ever: The Musical	Nov 13-15 & 20-22, 2026	cynorthidaho.org
Waymaker Arts	It’s a Wonderful Life	Nov 13-14 & 20-21, 2026	waymakerarts.com
North Idaho Youth Symphony	Fall Concert	Nov 16, 2026	niysmusic.org/schedule
Coeur d’Alene High School	Jazz Band Concert	Nov 17, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Coeur d’Alene Art Association	Monthly Meeting	Nov 19, 2026	coeurdaleneartassociation.org
Lake City Playhouse	A Christmas Story	Dec 4-20, 2026	lakecityplayhouse.org
TOCNW Productions	Need a Little Christmas	Dec 4-21, 2026	needalittlechristmas.com
Coeur d’Alene Symphony Orchestra	A Cinematic Christmas	Dec 5, 2026	cdasympphony.org
Coeur d’Alene Summer Theatre	Home For the Holidays	Dec 7, 2026	cstidaho.com
CDA Charter Academy	Winter Orchestra Concert	Dec 10, 2026	cdacharter.org
CDA Charter Academy	Winter Band Concert	Dec 11, 2026	cdacharter.org
Arts & Culture Alliance	2nd Friday ArtWalk	Dec 11, 2026	artsandculturecda.org
Museum of North Idaho	Holidays at MONI	Dec 12, 2026	museumni.org
Chorale Coeur d’Alene	By the Fireside	Dec 14 & 15, 2026	choralecda.com
Coeur d’Alene Summer Theatre	Season Subscriber Christmas Party	Dec 14, 2026	cstidaho.com
Lake City High School	Grand Winter Gala Concert	Dec 15, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/lchs/events
CDA Charter Academy	Winter Choir Concert	Dec 15, 2026	cdacharter.org
Coeur d’Alene High School	Holiday Concert - Band / Orchestra	Dec 15, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Coeur d’Alene High School	Holiday Concert - Choir	Dec 16, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Sorensen Magnet School	The OK Corral - Musical Theatre Performance	Dec 16, 2026	cdaschools.org/o/sorensen

Aspire Community Theatre	Offbeat Christmas	Dec 17, 2026	aspirecda.com
Coeur d'Alene Art Association	Monthly Meeting	Dec 17, 2026	coeurdaleneartassociation.org
Arts & Culture Alliance	2nd Friday ArtWalk	Jan 8, 2027	artsandculturecda.org
Coeur d'Alene Art Association	Monthly Meeting	Jan 21, 2027	coeurdaleneartassociation.org
Coeur d'Alene Symphony Orchestra	Music of Youth - A Family Concert	Jan 23, 2027	cdasympphony.org
CDA Charter Academy	Jazz Concert	Jan 28, 2027	cdacharter.org
Lake City Playhouse	American Idiot	Jan 29-Feb 14, 2027	lakecityplayhouse.org
Emerge	The Bash Annual Fundraiser	Feb 5, 2027	emergecda.com
Aspire Community	Theatre Encore!	Feb 5-6, 2027	aspirecda.com
CDA Charter Academy	Wednesday Night Live - Drama Show	Feb 10, 2027	cdacharter.org
Arts & Culture Alliance	2nd Friday ArtWalk	Feb 12, 2027	artsandculturecda.org
Christian Youth Theater North Idaho	Into the Woods Jr.	Feb 13-14, 2027	cytnorthidaho.org
Coeur d'Alene Art Association	Monthly Meeting	Feb 18, 2027	coeurdaleneartassociation.org
Christian Youth Theater North Idaho	Disney Frozen The Broadway Musical	Feb 19-28, 2027	cytnorthidaho.org
Coeur d'Alene High School	Jazz Band Concert	Mar 2, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Sorensen Magnet School	Sorensen Palooza: Celebrating 20 Years	Mar 6, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/sorensen
Coeur d'Alene High School	Festival Preview Concert - Band / Orchestra	Mar 9, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Coeur d'Alene High School	Festival Preview Concert - Choir	Mar 10, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/chs/events
Sorensen Magnet School	4th Annual Drum Show	Mar 11, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/sorensen
Shakespeare CdA	As You Like It	Mar 11-14 & 19-21, 2027	shakespearecda.org
Arts & Culture Alliance	2nd Friday ArtWalk	Mar 12, 2027	artsandculturecda.org
CDA Charter Academy	Drama Spring Musical	Mar 12-13 & 18-20, 2027	cdacharter.org
North Idaho Youth Symphony	Spring Concert (tentative)	Mar 15, 2027	niysmusic.org/schedule
Sorensen Magnet School	Disney's The Lion King Jr.	Mar 17-18, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/sorensen
Coeur d'Alene Art Association	Monthly Meeting	Mar 18, 2027	coeurdaleneartassociation.org
Chorale Coeur d'Alene	A Celebration of Song	Mar 19-20, 2027	choralecda.com
Coeur d'Alene Symphony Orchestra	Celebrating Young Artists	Mar 20, 2027	cdasympphony.org
Lake City High School	Festival Choir Concert	Mar 23, 2027	cdaschools.org/o/lchs/events
CDA Charter Academy	Spring Choir Concert	Mar 23, 2027	cdacharter.org
CDA Charter Academy	Spring Band & Orchestra Showcase Concert	Mar 25, 2027	cdacharter.org
Lake City Playhouse	You Can't Take It With You	Mar 26-Apr 11, 2027	lakecityplayhouse.org



ICF Forever Idaho Grantee, Festival at Sandpoint.
Photo credit: Racheal Baker.

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