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Photo by Ralph Schwartz

Junior Greta Laesch spoke to students Friday (Sept. 20) outside Liberty Bell Junior-Senior High School during a student climate action.

Liberty Bell students tackle climate change locally

Group plants tree to recognize global strike

BY RALPH SCHWARTZ

Students gathered on the lawn outside Liberty Bell Junior-Senior High School on Friday (Sept. 20) to plant a tree and join young people around the world who were protesting government inaction on climate change.

The Liberty Bell group wrote signs on small whiteboards with slogans such as "Be kind to the Earth," "End corporate pollution" and "I'm sure the dinosaurs thought they had time, too." Then they posed for a group photo that shows 33 students — 30 girls and three boys.

They brought a potted aspen tree to plant on the lawn, but the students were uncertain about where the tree

should go, and whether school officials perhaps wanted them to plant an oak instead. The group settled for a symbolic planting on the day of the global climate strike, and the actual planting was to take place on Tuesday (Sept. 24).

Greta Laesch and Lena Nelson, two leaders of the Liberty Bell Climate Action Group, spoke briefly to the students, who took time out from their lunch to consider the impact fossil-fuel burning is having on the planet.

The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is about 1.5 times greater than it was before industrialization. The accumulation of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases due to human activity has raised the average global temperature by about 1 degree Celsius. The 2015 Paris climate accord asks governments and corporations to reduce carbon output in order to keep global

warming below 2 degrees Celsius, hoping to keep it within 1.5 degrees.

"We only have two decades to limit our Earth to 1.5 degrees Celsius," Laesch said. "That's not a lot of time to make absolute structural change in our lives."

The Liberty Bell students have Greta Thunberg as an inspiration for their actions.

Thunberg singlehandedly started the school strike for climate movement a year ago, in her home country of Sweden, when she was 15 years old. On Friday (Sept. 20), an estimated 4 million people took to the streets to raise awareness and demand action on climate change, including some 10,000 in Seattle.

Taking action

Just as the other Greta crossed the Atlantic Ocean last month on an

See **CLIMATE**, A2

Water 2066: ideas needed

BY MARCY STAMPER

Enough water for ag (sustainable, regenerative ag).

Households have adequate water for healthy families!

We should be a center for Art. It does not take much water to create a vibrant art scene. Provides jobs!

Shift from capitalist thinking that a vibrant life has to do with money.

No more houses except in towns.

All our wildlife still here.

Asked to visualize the future of the Methow Valley, people offered wide-ranging ideas at two recent workshops called Water 2066. Water 2066 was conceived by the Methow Watershed Council to develop a vision for the Methow Valley — its lifestyle, economy, and environment — 50 years from now. The council is inviting all interested parties to share their dreams and concerns about the world we bequeath to future generations.

About 110 people attended the two workshops in Twisp last week. After a brief overview of state water law and the rule that governs water usage in the Methow, attendees shared their ideas



Photo by Marcy Stamper

About 110 people shared their ideal vision of the Methow Valley in 50 years to the Water 2066 process, which asks how we should use our water.

by posting sticky notes about different topics around the room.

Some people used pictures to represent their image of the future — families hiking on trails, bears in the woods, and birds and fish thriving. People talked in informal groups and added their own sticky notes to respond to others' ideas.

The council is still compiling the input — and collecting surveys from

people who couldn't attend — so it's too early to draw any conclusions, Ashley Thrasher, chair of the watershed council, said. They're very pleased with the level of interest and careful thought community members are giving the issue, she said.

Participants were urged not only to consider current water issues, but to

See **WATER**, A2

County burn ban lifted as conditions improve

USFS, DNR also relax campfire restrictions

BY MARCY STAMPER

The Okanogan County commissioners have lifted the countywide burn ban because of moderate temperatures and recent rains. The ban was lifted on Sept. 17.

District fire chiefs recommended lifting the ban. The U.S. Forest Service and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) have also relaxed their fire restrictions, the commissioners said.

The Forest Service lifted restrictions in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest on Sept. 12, meaning that wood campfires and the use of charcoal for

See **BAN**, A2

CANDIDATES' FORUM AT GRANGE ON OCT. 2

The Twisp Valley Grange will host a candidates' forum next Wednesday (Oct. 2) for all local offices that are being contested in the November general election.

Doors will open at 5:45 p.m. and the forum will begin at 6:15 p.m., continuing until 8:15 p.m. All candidates will answer written questions collected from the audience.

Ballots for the Nov. 5 general election will be mailed to voters on Oct. 17.

Here's a roundup of candidates who are in contested races:

- Town of Twisp — Mayor, four-

year term, incumbent Soo Ing-Moody, Vern Nations; Position No. 3, four-year term, incumbent Alan Caswell, Leone C. Edson; Position No. 4, four-year short and full term, incumbent Mark Easton, Kevin K. Hickman.

- Methow Valley School District — District 5 at large, four-year term, incumbent Frank Kline, Leverett Hubbard.

- Okanogan County Fire District No. 6 — Commissioner, Position No. 2, six-year term, incumbent Darold Brandenburg, Ken Doran.

For more information, call (206) 999-1898.

Doran, Brandenburg vie for Fire District 6 position

Race focuses on proposed Winthrop fire hall

BY RALPH SCHWARTZ

One of the most closely watched races in the Methow Valley this election season is between Darold Brandenburg and Ken Doran for a seat on the Okanogan County Fire District 6 board of commissioners.

Brandenburg, 56, has been on the board for 13 years and seeks his third full six-year term. Doran, 46, is a career firefighter who would bring both local and big-city experience to the rural district.

On a broad level, the race is a referendum on how well the fire district is running. A vote for Brandenburg implies that no course corrections are needed.

"The fire district is not in disrepair," Brandenburg said. "It's running as good as it ever has."

The district has as many volunteers as ever, if not more, Brandenburg said. With a paid staff of five, the district relies on its 40-plus volunteers to respond to emergencies.

"Our response, our equipment — everything about our fire district is good," Brandenburg said.

On the other hand, Doran said he's learned a lot about how to run a fire department during his 22 years as a firefighter for the city of Bothell. Doran currently lives just outside of Twisp and commutes once a week to Bothell for two-day shifts.

"I've been hoping to see some changes and hoping to see some improvements over a lot of years, and I'm really not seeing them here," said Doran, who vol-

unteered off and on with the fire district and the now-defunct Twisp Fire Department from 1993 to 2012.

More narrowly, this election could foreshadow the outcome of a levy expected to go on the ballot next year. This property-tax measure would fund construction of a new fire hall in Winthrop, currently estimated to cost \$3.85 million.

This will be the district's third time asking voters to approve a property tax that would pay for a new Winthrop fire station. A \$5 million bond measure failed in 2008, and a \$2.4 million levy also failed, in 2014.

Levy questions

In campaign statements, Brandenburg has expressed both bafflement that the past levy measures failed and a conviction that a third try would pass.

"I truly don't even understand why things have gone the way they have gone over the past few years, over building a fire station," Brandenburg said at a meet-and-greet with voters, Thursday (Sept. 19) at the Old Schoolhouse Brewery Taproom in Twisp.

"I don't understand why 100% of the people aren't supporting the people who support them in every way," Brandenburg added, referring to the volunteers.

In an interview, Brandenburg said public sentiment over the levy has turned to the fire district's favor.

"The public support is there. It's in massive quantities," he said. "Not just myself, but all us commissioners have spent a lot of time trying to get information out there, so people would understand the need for a fire station."

For his part, Doran said he is discouraged that the latest plan for a fire station

See **DISTRICT 6**, A3



Darold Brandenburg



Ken Doran

ADDRESS LABEL

THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUES.
Sept. 26	Sept. 27	Sept. 28	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	Oct. 1
67°	62°	53°	50°	55°	57°
43°	39°	33°	29°	35°	33°
Clouds & Sun	Evening Showers	Cloudy, Showers	Cloudy & Brrrr!	Very Cloudy	Mostly Sunny

WEATHER DATA BASED ON ACCUWEATHER.COM FORECAST FOR TWISP

INSIDE ...

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WATER

From Page A1

start with a clean slate so they're not constrained in imagining the future. Seven workstations around the room helped organize input around the vision for the Methow, water-rights transfers, land use and water storage, among other topics.

In casual conversations at the meeting, some attendees voiced

a sense of urgency about water issues. "How do you figure in climate change? We're not talking 50 years — we're talking now," one said.

"They're really good conversations. There are no answers, just good questions," said another.

Watershed council

The watershed council was formed in 1999 to assist in managing water supplies for a sustainable balance between human

and ecological needs. The council also helps educate the community about water. It includes representatives from around the valley and elected officials from Twisp, Winthrop and Okanogan County.

It's been about 15 years since the council developed a list of priorities. Input from Water 2066 will help the council determine if these priorities need to be updated to reflect what the community wants, Thrasher said. Current priorities are:

- preserve water for agriculture
- provide adequate water for towns
- investigate and implement water-storage opportunities
- initiate studies to inform water-supply policy decisions
- revise the 1976 "Methow rule," which allocates a certain amount of water for the Methow Valley and sets priorities for water use

At the Water 2066 meetings, Travis Thornton, a water attorney and member of the watershed council, explained Washington

water law and the Methow rule.

The rule gives first priority to households (which includes watering a garden and livestock), followed by water in rivers for fish (instream flows), and then everything else (including more water for the towns).

Because the Methow rule makes single-domestic residential development the top priority, even if the county or towns decide that Winthrop and Twisp should get first dibs the rule doesn't currently allow that, Thornton said.

All water belongs to the people of the state, Thornton said. Water use is administered by the Washington Department of Ecology, which must approve all changes in use, such as from agriculture to residential or commercial use. A new water use can't impair the water use by someone who has seniority.

The presentation included data that tracks the growth of the Methow Valley by decade through the number of new residential wells.

Between 1911 and 1940, there

were just three wells. Another 60 were constructed by 1970. Then things really started booming. The Methow added 802 wells in the next two decades. The biggest surge in growth was from 1991 to 2000, when 1,332 new wells were drilled. Another 1,161 have been drilled since then.

Next steps

As part of the Water 2066 process, the watershed council will meet with 10 stakeholder groups to get their input. Those groups include elected officials from Okanogan County, Twisp and Winthrop; the Methow Conservancy; the Methow Valley Citizens Council; irrigation districts; the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Colville Tribes and the Yakama Nation; and the Okanogan County Farm Bureau.

Water 2066 is separate from other planning activities, such as Okanogan County's comprehensive plan and zoning code. Ideally, the results of Water 2066 can help inform county-wide planning, Thrasher said.

Consultants from the Washington Water Trust and Dally Environmental will compile the Water 2066 input in a report that's expected to be completed at the end of March.

WHAT'S YOUR IDEAL WATER FUTURE?

People can still provide input about the future of the Methow Valley through a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/TKXFW9Q. The survey asks about priorities for water use, residential and commercial development, fish, and water storage.

A video of the Water 2066 presentation, made by Okanogan County Watch, is available on the watershed council website at www.methowwatershed.com under "Projects," then "Water 2066." There is a link to the survey on that page (see the end of the first paragraph).



Photo by Marcy Stamper

Goals for the future included specific suggestions about metering water use, as well as visions of the more personal qualities of Methow life.

CLIMATE

From Page A1

emission-free sailboat to attend Monday's Climate Action Summit at the United Nations, Liberty Bell's Laesch walked to school on Friday. Nelson took the bus, in an effort to raise awareness about the role of vehicle emissions on global warming. Transportation is the single largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

Noting the several cars in the parking lot right next to their climate action, the students said they would plan another alternative-transportation day and give students more notice.

The Climate Action Group's first action was on Sept. 5, when students spoke with their state senator, Republican Brad



Photo by Ralph Schwartz

More than 30 students gathered outside Liberty Bell Junior-Senior High School on Friday (Sept. 20) to raise awareness about climate change.

Hawkins, at TwispWorks. They plan on traveling to Olympia during next year's legislative session, to lobby for climate change legislation.

Nelson is also on the board of the Methow Valley Citizens Council. She is working with a wide range of community

members from governments, nonprofits and businesses on a valley-wide climate action plan.

"It's important to be getting youth involved," Nelson said.

As one of the student's signs said, "The earth is our future." Simply put, young people have more future to look forward to.

IT GROWS ON YOU



Photo courtesy of Classroom in Bloom

Supporters of Classroom In Bloom recently enjoyed a garden party to celebrate healthy food and gardening education for Methow Valley School District students.

BAN

From Page A1

cooking are allowed in dispersed campsites as well as in designated campgrounds. Fires are always prohibited in wilderness areas in the national forest.

"Forest visitors still need to be aware that fire hazard still exists, especially if warmer weather returns," Okanogan-Wenatchee Fire Management Officer Rob Allen said. Visitors and hunters should be careful with all fires, and make sure fires are completely out and cold to the touch before they leave their campsite.

Wetter, cooler weather also allowed the Forest Service to lift restrictions on wood cutting and other industrial activities in the forest. Wood cutting is now allowed all day long.

DNR reduced the fire danger to "moderate" for most of the Methow Valley, including Mazama, Winthrop, Twisp and Twisp River, and Carlton to Pateros, on Wednesday (Sept 18). The higher elevations — away from the main highways — are now at "low" risk.

The lower fire danger means people can burn forest debris in piles less than 4 feet in diameter. Campfires are allowed in DNR

campgrounds. Campfires are always prohibited on other state lands.

Areas from Brewster to Omak to Oroville are also at "moderate" risk. Most of eastern Okanogan County is at "low" risk.

Prescribed burns

With more moisture in the forest, the Forest Service has started burning slash piles from forest-thinning projects. Fire crews headed up to the Loup Loup ski hill on Monday (Sept. 23), where they burned 20 acres of hand piles, said Dan Robbins, assistant fire management officer (fuels) for the Methow Valley

Ranger District.

The second priority is 128 acres of hand piles from thinning done over the past two years near the radio-repeater site on McClure Mountain, which will be burned the week of Sept. 23 if conditions permit.

The work on Loup Loup and McClure is their top priority, to remove wood piles that could present hazards to skiers and to provide a buffer to the communications site on McClure in the event of a wildfire, Robbins said. Those two projects should take just a few days.

The ranger district also hopes to burn piles from the Lost

Driveway thinning project, which removed small-diameter trees on more than 600 acres from Winthrop to Lost River, primarily in the valley bottom. They need more moisture to burn these piles and will most likely continue even with some snow, Robbins said.

Fire managers are hoping to burn undergrowth and small-diameter trees on 210 acres in the Upper Rendezvous, but it may already be too wet to accomplish that this season, Robbins said.

The district hopes to use prescribed fire on the Lucky 7/17 project on the valley bottom near Wolf Creek. Although

plans for the Lucky burn have been on the books for years, there is a very short window of opportunity between conditions that are too dry and too wet, Robbins said.

Later this fall, the ranger district plans to burn piles in the Chewuch, Mazama, Twisp River, Libby and Buttermilk creeks, and the South Summit on the Loup. Most will be pile burns; they will evaluate opportunities to burn undergrowth as weather permits.

The Forest Service uses prescribed fire to restore the forest and remove the build-up of unhealthy woody fuels.

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Designed to ensure the actions of our schools align with what we as a community aspire to develop in our youth, we look forward to hearing about what you take pride in, what challenges we face, and what ideas you have to increase opportunities for all students as we move forward together!

Hope to see you there!
Sara, Paul, and Crosby

Unable to attend? Look for information in the coming week regarding alternative ways to participate.

HOSTED BY
ILC PRINCIPAL SARA MOUNSEY,
MVE PRINCIPAL PAUL GUTZLER, &
LBHS PRINCIPAL CROSBY CARPENTER

6-7:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 @ TWISPPWORKS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 @ LITTLE STAR IN WINTHROP
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16 @ MAZAMA COMMUNITY CLUB

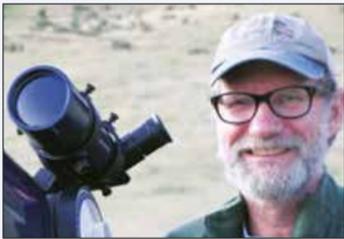
Questions? Contact the Methow Valley School District office at 509-996-9205; 18 Twin Lakes Rd, Winthrop; methow.org

mv schools

NAKED EYE

The Milky Way is headed for a big crash

I hope you got a chance over the summer to see one of the grandest sights in the night sky, the Milky Way galaxy, our home in the cosmos arching across the heavens. But what if there were two? What if the second one was even bigger and brighter and intersecting our own Milky Way in a huge V up in the sky?



David Ward

Would that not be a sight to behold? That is just the view that will be seen from earth in the deep future, if anyone is still around to see it.

Since long before the earth existed, even before our sun was just a twinkle in the Milky Way's eye, we have been fall-

ing. Our entire galaxy of 300,000,000,000 suns has been falling, in what is probably one of the longest falls in the history of the universe, into the Andromeda galaxy. Andromeda is bigger than us with hundreds of billions more stars, which means it has more mass. More

mass means more gravity so the Milky Way is getting sucked in and there is nothing anybody can do to stop it.

Having trouble visualizing all this? Try this simple demonstration in the comfort of your own living room, and amaze your family and friends with your knowledge of celestial mechanics: Get two footballs, one to represent the Milky Way, the other for the Andromeda galaxy. Place them 30 feet apart on the floor. Believe it or not, this is just about the scale in size and distance apart that the two galaxies lie from one another in real life. Now simply sit on the couch

and watch closely. In 9,722,222 years the two footballs will move one inch closer to each other! Wow! That is gravity at work. The same force that is irrefutably proved every morning when you get out of bed and your feet hit the floor, not the ceiling.

Check out Andromeda

Want to see our inevitability coming for yourself? You can actually see the Andromeda galaxy with your naked eye. No telescope is needed, but a pair of binoculars might come in handy. I pointed it out with my laser pointer to a few friends not long ago down in the Nevada desert. Pick a clear moonless night and get away

from any distracting lights. Up in the northeast look for the constellation Cassiopeia, the queen. It looks like a W and will be kind of standing up on end. A W is composed of two Vs and using the sharper of the Vs point in a southerly direction about the length of the entire W. If you spot it, it will look like a faint smudge and binoculars will show it as an oblong smudge.

If you do manage to find it, the distant galaxy will be the most far-flung thing you have ever seen as well as the biggest. Also you will be looking downhill in the largest sense of the word imaginable. That laser beam I pointed out Andromeda with a few nights ago is on its

way across the cosmos right now traveling at the speed of light, 186, 242.4 miles per second. It will arrive at Andromeda in the year 2,502,019 A.D. give or take a few thousand years.

While you are out there under the night sky, take one last look at Jupiter and Saturn, two planets hanging low in the southwestern sky that are much closer to home. They will not be around with us much longer as they fade into the sunset glow. By the way, if you are worried about our impending crash with Andromeda, you do not have to rush out and buy collision insurance tomorrow. It will be three and a half billion years before we get there.

DISTRICT 6

From Page A1

is essentially unchanged from the proposal that failed in 2014.

In a flyer mailed to voters earlier this month, Doran implied the \$325,000 commissioners paid in 2009 for a new fire station site on Horizon Flats Road was too much, saying it was "well over present market value." In an interview, Doran said commissioners have ignored members of the public who say the property is unsuitable for a fire station and the building's price tag also is too high.

"If size is a problem or location, let's find something the public will support," Doran said.

Voters living within the Town of Winthrop will be able to vote in this race, as Winthrop joined Fire District 6 in 2018. Residents of Twisp, however, will not cast a ballot for the fire district seat because the town is not part of the district.

Annexing Twisp

Twisp has been contracting with the district for fire protec-

tion since disbanding its own fire department in 2012. The contract will cost the town \$53,700 in 2020 and expires at the end of that year.

Both Brandenburg and Doran said incorporating Twisp into the fire district would be among their priorities. Brandenburg was directly involved in negotiations with Winthrop that led that town to annex into the district. As a result, property owners in Winthrop pay the district 65 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed value.

"The annexation [of Twisp] is something we have not stopped working on," Brandenburg said. "I'm going to keep following through with it. I'm going to predict the town of Twisp will be annexed in the next couple years."

Doran cited ongoing tensions between officials at Twisp and the fire district, saying he was less optimistic about current leadership finding a path to annexation.

"The leadership at both the entities aren't going to find a way to bridge the gaps in the near future," Doran said.

Doran, who was the last person to serve as Twisp's fire chief, said he is in a good position to help make annexation happen. He said he has good relationships both with the sitting mayor and council, and with those who seek to replace them in this year's elections.

Both candidates also are enthusiastic about a \$1.8 million grant to the fire district, recently announced by the Bruno & Evelynne Betti Foundation. The money would be used to outfit the new Winthrop fire station and an outdoor training facility on the same property.

The grant would only be awarded if a bond or levy to pay for construction of the fire station passes.

Brandenburg credits district volunteers who spent three years hammering out the successful grant application.

"When you have volunteers writing multi-million-dollar grants, that's just pure goodness," he said.

Doran sees a lot of potential in the grant, too, but doesn't like how it's tied to successful pas-

BRANDENBURG, DORAN RAISE MORE THAN \$14K

Not only is the race for Okanogan County Fire District 6 commissioner hotly contested; it also happens to be the most expensive race in the valley.

Brandenburg and Doran both expect to raise more than \$5,000 in campaign contributions. As a result, both are required to report all donors and expenses to the state Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).

The PDC website shows that Brandenburg had raised \$10,716.59 as of Monday (Sept. 23), with \$3,102.50 coming from Brandenburg himself.

While a candidate can donate

an unlimited amount of cash to his or her own campaign, outside donors in this race are limited to \$1,000.

Brandenburg's top donors, according to the PDC:

- Winthrop Firefighter Association, \$1,000
- Paul Sisson, \$1,000
- Emily Sisson, \$999
- Mazama Fire Department Association, \$500
- Karen Mulkahy, \$500
- Erick Rottman, \$500

Brandenburg's biggest reported expense was \$2,000 to D*Signs of Twisp for yard signs. Doran's name has appeared

on the PDC website since Friday (Sept. 20), but the PDC is still processing his materials. His individual donations and expenses were not available as of Monday (Sept. 23).

In an interview earlier this month, Doran said he had raised about \$3,500 so far and expects to finish with slightly more than \$5,000 in donations.

Doran's expenditures have appeared in the community in the form of yard signs and mass mailings. Brandenburg said he would send his own informational flyer in the mail in the coming weeks.

sage of the levy.

"I'm concerned about a sense of coerciveness that comes with that grant," Doran said. He said he could work with the grant's trustees to make it suitable to a new building proposal.

Not there yet?

The current board of commissioners plans to build a fire station to serve the district's needs

over the next 50 years. Doran, who works for a westside fire department that goes on 7,000 calls a year, said he doesn't think taxpayers are ready to build a fire station that includes round-the-clock amenities for firefighters. Fire District 6 responded to 311 calls in 2018.

"I believe there comes a point where a fire department is big enough ... and has the fire

loss numbers where the public says, 'We're going to spend the tax money needed to maybe have full-time guys ready at a moment's notice at this station,'" Doran said.

"With our number of calls and fire loss numbers, I don't think we're there yet."

"If I get elected in, I think that means people want a fresh approach" to a new fire station, Doran said. "I will work to find the solutions that I think the people will support."

Any conversation with Brandenburg about the new fire hall is likely to land on the topic of loyalty.

"I've watched the community pitch in to help people like myself and my own family over time, and I've just always respected those people," said Brandenburg, who has owned and operated his own construction company in the valley for more than 30 years.

"And I feel in my own heart that I need to give back, and that's what I'm going to do," he added.

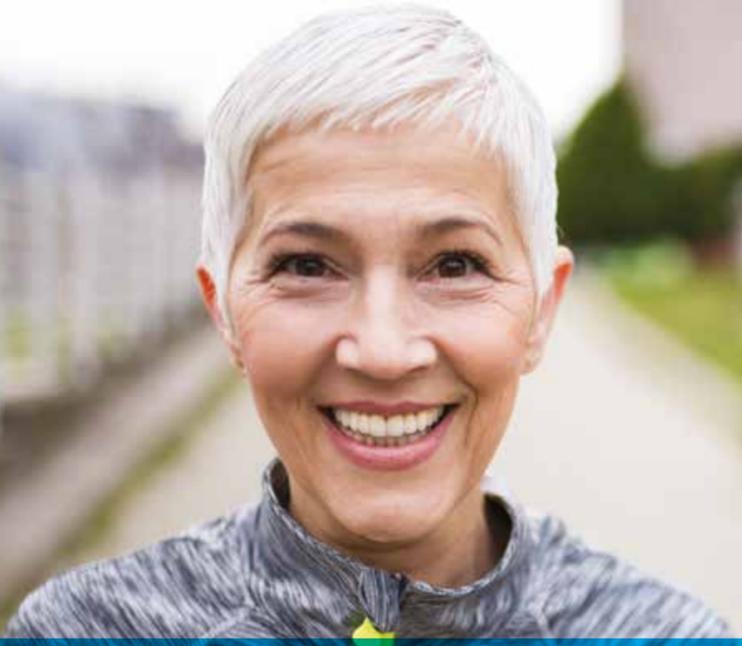
In his role on the Fire District 6 board of commissioners, Brandenburg wants to expand that spirit of giving that has buoyed him and his family.

"One of my goals is to create an atmosphere for the community and the fire district and all firefighters, to be encouraged and want to help build a larger volunteer program with more firefighters than we've ever had," he said.

"A new fire station is truly a stepping stone to get to that point."



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for

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by Tom Dulack
Directed by Carolanne Steinebach

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Wednesday, October 9 at 7 p.m.

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Rehearsals: November - January 9, days TBD
Performances: January 10 - 12, 16 - 19

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Opinion

NO BAD DAYS

Holding adults accountable

The kids are worried — and they should be. They are watching their inhabitable world disintegrate at an increasing pace.

They're angry, and have every right to be. They are not seeing any meaningful global effort to preserve a planet for them to exist on.

They don't trust the grown-up power structure, and who can blame them? Time and again they've been dismissed with condescension and disdain by adults who have no vested interest in doing anything to slow the effects of climate change.

In the face of all that, they are trying — desperately, because desperation is the only option at this point — to raise consciousness, organize movements, generate action and force change as if their lives depend on it.

Because they do.

That ought to be enough to motivate the world's adult population. Particularly if you are a parent or grandparent of any of these kids, or you simply care about them, how could you possibly be opposed to something that might help save them?

That's the question Greta Thunberg keeps asking. The 16-year-old Swedish girl has become the face and voice of young people worldwide, not really promoting climate change action so much as insisting that adults take it seriously. She is wise, courageous and determined beyond her years — leading perhaps to the question of why someone older could not have done the same things. I think the answer is that no one would have paid nearly as much attention. Greta was a curiosity who turned into a phenomenon, thanks in large part to the digital-age dissemination of her message. That said, it is her insistent message that has endured after the novelty of a teen heroine was no longer was the story of the day.

Only a year or so ago, Greta drew attention with her first school strike for climate change action. She turned out to be articulate, persistent and forceful in a non-threatening way. Her peers paid attention. Last Friday, millions of young people (and to be fair, a lot of adults) around the world congregated in "climate strikes" to demand more than lip service. Students at Liberty Bell High School used their lunch break to gather. Another group formed in downtown Winthrop.

Greta has, in her public appearances, typically been composed and direct. But speaking at a panel during the United Nations climate summit this week, her impassioned, more-strident words unleashed emotions. She became visibility agitated and briefly wept, likely out of both exhaustion and frustration. In that moment, I realized that Greta, for all her worldliness, is after all a teenager who simply wants to grow up and have a life.

Hearing her words, and to a lesser extent seeing them in print, you feel the anguish that underlies her activism. She's clearly dismayed that, instead of reacting responsibly, many adults are disingenuously drafting off her dramatic profile and youthful energy. Here's some of what she said at the UN gathering:

"I shouldn't be up here. I should be back in school on the other side of the ocean. Yet you all come to us young people for hope. How dare you?"

"You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words. People are suffering. People are dying. Entire ecosystems are collapsing. We are in the beginning of a mass extinction, and all you can talk about is money and fairy tales of eternal economic growth. How dare you?"

How indeed?

"For more than 30 years, the science has been crystal clear," she continued. "How dare you continue to look away and come here and say you're doing enough when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight? You say you hear us and that you understand the urgency, but no matter how sad and angry I am, I do not want to believe that, because if you really understood the situation and still kept failing to act, then you would be evil, and that I refuse to believe."

"You're failing us," Greta concluded, basically referencing adults everywhere. "But the young people are starting to understand your betrayal. The eyes of all future generations are upon you. And if you choose to fail us, I say, we will never forgive you. We will not let you get away with this."

They should not.

EXERCISE YOUR FREEDOM. Letters must be fewer than 350 words and may be edited for libel, grammar and taste.

Send to: Methow Valley News, P.O. Box 97, Twisp, WA 98856, fax to (509) 997-3277, email editor@methowvalleynews.com or drop by 502 S. Glover St., Twisp

Methow Valley News

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Front page banner photo

Box 97: Letters to the editor

Support Ing-Moody

Dear Editor:

Those of us who lived in the Methow before 2010 may remember the problems the town of Twisp was having. The town was struggling financially, with audit problems and no financial reserves. The town had lost its water rights, and a moratorium against new construction was placed on the town. Businesses were closing and potential investors stayed away due to the water issues.

In 2010, the mayor of Twisp resigned. Soo Ing-Moody was appointed to fill out the mayor's term. And boy did she. She immediately went to work to get the town water. Not only did she negotiate with irrigation districts to get water rights, but she was able to get the rights changed from seasonal to permanent.

Since 2010, Soo has been a tireless worker for the town of Twisp. Her leadership is unmatched in Okanogan County. The town is now financially secure, with reserves and clean audits. In the past five years, the town has invested \$15 million in badly needed infrastructure improvements, 75% of which was paid for by grant money secured from the state. Town equipment is now owned (not rented) and is much more efficient and less costly to operate. New sewer and water pipes have dramatically improved town utilities. A badly needed \$4 million civic center will be constructed with grant money secured from the state.

Wildfire has become a huge threat to towns throughout much of the west. Soo worked 24/7 during the 2014 firestorm, getting the town generators and coordinating evacuation and communication systems. Her experience and leadership in disaster response is invaluable.

There will be a day sometime in the hopefully distant future when Soo will no longer be mayor. I will feel very sorry for her successor. Soo is not a large woman but she will leave behind enormous shoes to fill. Please vote to re-elect Soo Ing-Moody for mayor of Twisp.

Dave Hopkins
Twisp

Bad idea

Dear Editor:

The county's proposal to purchase 540 acres directly above the town of Methow to construct and operate a gravel pit continues to affront any financial sensibilities and turns a blind eye towards all environmental and community impacts. It will be a disruptive and permanent scar to one of the most scenic landscapes in the lower valley both day and night.

The Conditional Use Permit application submitted on Aug. 15 states it will "decrease cost to the taxpayers." This language alone should raise an immediate red flag to county taxpayers. When has any government agency, at any level, saved taxpayer money by decreasing costs? What financial sense does it make to pay twice the assessment value on a parcel of land, in turn justifying the purchase with the hope they can someday resell the remaining unused (and overpriced) portion to the WDFW, an agency that has not committed to the purchase and if they did, should equally be chastised for overpaying as well.

The CUP application reveals the county's plan of expanding operations and could potentially run seven days a week for months and months on end, day and night. However, the devil is in the details or more specifically, the lack thereof. They now request expanded operations of up to 2 1/2 months and potentially 24 hours day. Furthermore, the CUP application states they may need to "increase frequency or duration" depending on "emergencies and major projects." What does that mean? What constitutes "major projects" and how long will they last?

And don't think for a second they will be operating under the cover of darkness as they extract gravel and sand morning, noon and night. Expect diesel truck noise, compression brake noise, conveyor noise, crushing machinery, back-up warning beepers, fumes, silica dust and a new addition to the pristine Methow night sky, the soothing glow of dozens of 1,000W-LED construction lights.

The county has failed on all fronts to research viable options for more fiscally responsible, less-intrusive sites and/or comparison studies for purchase of gravel and sand from privately owned pits. The gravel pit is bad idea and getting worse.

Edward Gutekanst
Methow



By Tania Gonzalez Ortega

New leadership needed

Dear Editor:

There really is no question on the need for a new fire station in Winthrop. The question is, how will the station be funded and how will the fire district's money be spent? I have been a part-time resident of Winthrop since 1989 and am now a full-timer since retiring from the city of Bothell as a deputy fire chief.

I worked with Ken Doran as a professional firefighter for over 20 years. Ken's duties as a professional firefighter have given him experiences and knowledge that will be extremely useful in working as a fire commissioner for District 6. Ken has worked on apparatus committees to develop specifications for new fire engines and aid cars and Ken also has the experience of being a member of, and instructor for the East Side Technical Rescue Team.

Working on annual budgets and developing training curriculum are some of the other duties he had, and continues to have as a firefighter at Bothell. Candidate Ken Doran will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience as a Fire District 6 commissioner, especially at this critical time of growth in the valley. We need his leadership.

Jim Roepke
Winthrop

Must be a better way

Dear Editor:

My husband and I camped at the Riverbend Campground outside of Twisp last Tuesday and Wednesday. Normally a serene place to camp by the river, we were disheartened to hear the flight of military planes starting at 10 at night. We live in Langley on Whidbey Island and concerned citizens have built a case against the Navy's expansion of the Growler force through Sound Defense Alliance. We wondered if the roar of the jets we heard in Twisp is coming from flights from Whidbey. The big issue here is that people need quiet place to recreate. A well-researched article in Bitterroot Magazine describes the expansion and taking of public lands by the military, along with the impact it is having on the communities who live with them (<https://bitterrootmag.com>).

If citizens are interested in learning on what's being done to encourage the military to be a better neighbor, please subscribe to Sound Defense Alliance's newsletter (<https://sounddefensealliance.org>).

In Oak Harbor the slogan is, "jets = jobs." Yes, but at what cost? Isn't there a better way to provide work for people than taking away the well-being of others' lives?

Kate Poss
Langley

Real common sense

Dear Editor:

I really like the campaign slogan: "A common sense approach." That leads to some pretty clear choices in the upcoming local elections: Re-elect the folks who have a proven record of supporting local people and the local economy. Don't replace them with challengers who have no positive record or real program to offer. This is common sense.

Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody is probably one of the best small-town mayors around. She and the town council have done a great job in supporting local people and businesses. She also was an important part of Washington state's delegation to the other Washington in support of the successful Headwaters campaign. That benefits the whole Methow Valley.

Council member Mark Easton has been an important part of the successful functioning of the Twisp Council. He deserves to be re-elected as well.

The District 6 fire commissioner race has been getting personal and nasty. What we have now is a well-functioning, efficiently run fire department. District 6 Commissioner Darold Brandenburg shares in the credit for this success. All District 6 firefighters I've spoken with support his re-election.

Like most of us, Darold recognizes how important it is for District 6 to have a new fire station in Winthrop. In contrast, challenger Ken Doran has been questioning the building of a new fire station for years.

Randy Brook
Twisp

Support Brandenburg

Dear Editor:

I am voting for Darold Brandenburg for Fire District 6 commissioner, and here is why.

Darold brings over 25 years of dedicated firefighting experience to our valley — 13 years as a firefighter, and another 13 as commissioner. He has upgraded the district's equipment, improved and maintained its financial standing, stayed within the budget, purchased generators for the four fire stations with FEMA grant money, and encouraged public attendance at the commissioners' meetings. Firefighter morale is at an all-time high.

Brandenburg has expanded capacity in many ways. Fire pre-planning has been done on commercial structures in Winthrop, Twisp and some rural areas, which means the firefighters know the details of a building before they arrive at a fire. Firewise inspections and educational flyers have helped homeowners reduce fire susceptibility. Expanded and regular training has improved response time, firefighter safety, and better coordination. Additionally, his contracting experience helps the entire community when it comes to bids and pricing.

Thanks to the work, character and commitment of the commissioners, four full-time firefighters and scores of volunteer firefighters, the Methow Valley has significantly improved fire protection. We owe it to ourselves and our future to continue this progress. Darold's vision is more fire fighters and station improvements. The Winthrop fire station is a 1940s mechanics' shop on a bluff with steep roads and two sharp curves at either end in the middle of Winthrop. Fire fighters can't even put on their gear in this building when the trucks are inside.

The Twisp Grange is sponsoring a candidates' forum on Oct. 2. Learn who deserves your vote.

Sharon Sumpter
Winthrop

It's not cider

Dear Editor:

Lately I have been noticing some fake news being spread about by the Methow media. It's this so-called Cider Squeeze. As one of the owners of the oldest cider company in north central Washington, I am obliged to tell the public that there is no cider being squeezed at this event!

If you were to throw a bunch of grapes in a barrel and then stomp on them with your feet, would you then have wine? No, of course not! The word cider means a fermented beverage from apples, it has for over 2,000 years, just like wine is a fermented drink from grapes. The juice or ("must" in cider-makers' terms) has to be acted on by yeast to convert the sugars to alcohol to make cider. This process can take weeks or months. Cider squeezers, please take note of this educational opportunity, maybe add some pears and huckleberries, then you could call your event more truthfully the Fruit Squeeze.

Richard Wasson
Winthrop

Contact your U.S. representatives

Sen. Patty Murray (D)
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Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: (202) 224-2621
D.C. toll-free: (866) 481-9186
Fax: (202) 224-0238
website and email access: murray.senate.gov

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Rep. Dan Newhouse (R)
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Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5816
Fax: (202) 225-3251
website and email access: newhouse.house.gov

Arts & Culture

Twisp seeks to elevate status as artistic hub through state program

Town, Methow Arts to apply for 'creative district' designation

BY RALPH SCHWARTZ

The Town of Twisp and Methow Arts Alliance are developing a plan to make the town one of the state's first official creative districts.

The town and the arts nonprofit hope to submit an application for creative-district status to the Washington State Arts Commission "by November at the latest," Methow Arts Executive

Director Amanda Jackson Mott wrote in an article posted on the organization's website.

The state's creative district program began in 2017 as a way to spur economic development by heightening a community's brand as a center for arts and culture. So far, three creative districts have been recognized by the Arts Commission: Edmonds, Chewelah and Olympia.

The Town Council heard a presentation about the creative district program in June from Annette Roth, the Arts Commission's creative districts program manager. Roth also met that week with people in Twisp's arts community.

Town and arts leaders were

enthusiastic about the project after Roth's visit, and they initially hoped the town would submit an application to the state by September, with help from Methow Arts. Council members, however, balked at Methow Arts' request for up to \$2,275 to put the application together.

Under an agreement reached recently by Jackson Mott and Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody, the town and Methow Arts will be co-applicants, Ing-Moody said, and Methow Arts will complete the application at no cost to the town.

Once the application is ready, it will come before the Town Council for approval before it is submitted, Ing-Moody said.

Methow Arts and the town will host an open house in mid-October, when the public can learn more about what a creative district is and how the designation might benefit the community. The date of the open house hadn't been set by press time.

Benefits to town

Creative districts receive \$5,000 in grant funding from the Arts Commission. The grant requires a \$5,000 match from the applicants.

The program also provides free highway signs to help travelers find arts-based destinations in a community. A marketing package for creative districts is supposed to be provided by the state

Department of Commerce, but that program hasn't started yet.

The Arts Commission's website describes a good candidate for creative-district status as a walkable community with a clearly defined concentration of artistic or cultural activities. Creative industries recognized by the state include everything from galleries and theater companies to restaurants, landscapers and industrial designers.

Town Council member Mark Easton, who is an artist, said creative-district status would benefit Twisp.

"It's another way of putting us on the map," he said in an interview in June, adding, "it's another way to make us attrac-

tive to people," particularly tourists.

The Twisp Chamber of Commerce and TwispWorks are both active supporters of the creative district effort. The Methow Valley School District got on board as well, recently agreeing to partner with the town and Methow Arts to advance the goals of the creative district.

The school district, the town and the arts organization will be "working together to promote economic vitality through the arts, and at the same time, opportunities for our students" to develop skills they can continue to pursue after graduation, Superintendent Tom Venable said.

ARTS BRIEFS

'BOEING, BOEING' CONTINUES AT MERC

The Merc Playhouse production of "Boeing Boeing," a French comedy, continues through this weekend. The play was written by Mark Camoletti and translated by Beverly Cross and Francis Evans, and is directed by Kelly Donoghue.

Shows are on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (Sept. 26, 27 and 28) at 7 p.m., and on Sunday (Sept. 29) at 2 p.m. Doors open 30 minutes before each performance.

Tickets for adults are \$18 or \$20 for reserved seats online, and \$20 at the door. Youth general admission is \$5, or \$7 for reserved seats. Admission to the Thursday performance is by donation. Visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/401-7862 or www.mercplayhouse.org/happening-now.html for on purchases.

For information, email info@mercplayhouse.org or call 997-7529.

ZAHN HIGHLIGHTS CASCADIA PARTY

The Cascadia Music season kick-off party will be on Saturday (Sept. 28) at the Methow Valley Community Center, starting at 7 p.m. The event features vocalist Nancy Zahn and her band. Zahn is also releasing her first CD. General admission is \$20 for adults and \$1 for students. For information, visit www.cascadiamusic.org.

ART WALK, STUDIO TOURS IN TWISP

Confluence Gallery, TwispWorks and the Twisp Chamber of Commerce are coordinating to sponsor the Twisp Fall Art Walk & Studio Tour on Saturday (Sept. 28), from 1-5 p.m.

The Art Walk on Glover Street, with connections to the Methow Valley Community Center, will feature local art in business storefronts, dance, artists' talks and live music. There will be artists' studio tours at TwispWorks throughout the afternoon. More than 40 artists are expected to participate.

The event is free, and maps will be available at Confluence Gallery, D*Signs Gallery, Methow Arts and TwispWorks that day.

GEORGE WINSTON RETURNS

Noted pianist George Winston is returning to the valley for a concert on Tuesday (Oct. 1) at the Methow Valley Community Center in Twisp. The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. The cost for limited reserved seating is \$40. General admission is \$30. Community Center members receive a \$5 discount. Tickets can be purchased online at [Brown Paper Tickets](http://BrownPaperTickets.com). For information, visit methowcommunity.org or call 997-2926.

Proceeds from CDs sold during the concert, and any donated food items brought to

the event, will go to The Cove food bank in Twisp.

CONTRA DANCE

Methow At Home will host a contra dance fundraiser at the Twisp Valley Grange on Oct. 4, from 7-9 p.m. Admission is by donation. Local musicians will provide the music. For information, email manager@methowathome.org.

SUPAMAN AT OMAK PAC

The Omak Performing Arts Center presents Native American hip hop artist and dancer Supaman on Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. He has won MTV's New Artist of the Week, Aboriginal People Music Choice Award, and has won the Native American Music Award and seven Tuney awards. Tickets are available at Rawson's in Okanogan, Kelley Imaging in Omak, Tonasket Interiors, and Oroville Pharmacy. Tickets prices are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets are also available at omakpac.org. Tickets will be \$5 less if purchased for all three shows and purchased at ticket outlets.

STRONG TO PLAY IN WENATCHEE

Liberty Bell High School junior Stephanie Strong will be a featured performer when the Wenatchee Valley Symphony Orchestra opens its season with a presentation of "Orchestral Classics" on Oct. 5 at the Numerica Performing Arts

Center in Wenatchee. The program, which begins at 7 p.m., includes works by Haydn, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Tickets are \$21 to \$40. Order by calling (509) 663-2787 or visit www.numericapac.org/event/vwso-orchestral-classics.

Earlier this year, Strong — a cellist — took first place in the 2019 Angela Schuster Svendsen Young Musician Competition sponsored by the orchestra.

AUDITIONS AT MERC

The Merc Playhouse will hold auditions for the January 2020 production of the comedy "Breaking Legs," written by Tom Dulack and directed by Carolanne Steinebach, on Oct. 6 at 4 p.m. and on Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. Rehearsals begin in November. The play runs Jan. 10-19, 2020.

Roles to fill include three men in their 50s, and one woman in her 30s. No prepared material is required. Auditioners will read from scripts which will be provided.

For information, call 997-7529 or email missi@mercplayhouse.org.

NATURE DRAWING CLASSES

Perri Howard and Mary Kiesau are offering "Autumn Art Adventures," a series of nature journaling classes that combine educational excursions outdoors with indoor nature drawing lessons.

Classes meet on Fridays,

12:30-5 p.m., on Sept 27, Oct. 18 and Oct 25. Attend any individual class for \$70. All materials are included. Registration is required online at www.mountainkindphotography.com or by contacting Kiesau at (509) 551-6714, kiesau@gmail.com; or Howard at (509) 557-2299, perri@vmgworks.com.

Each class starts with a short natural history walk then moves to Howard's studio on the TwispWorks campus.

NATURE WRITING WORKSHOP

Write on the River and the Wenatchee Institute team up to offer a day-long writing workshop, "Walking on the Wild Side: the Nature of Nature Writing," featuring three accomplished Northwest authors on Oct. 12 at the Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth.

Featured will be Ana Maria Spagna of Stehekin, author of several books and two essay collections with a strong environmental focus, and a four-time finalist for the Washington State Book Award; Heather Murphy, a 30-year wildlife biologist who lives in Leavenworth and in retirement has consulted, served as an artist in residence and led workshops here and in Europe; and poet Derek Sheffield of Leavenworth, whose award-winning work has appeared in many literary journals and anthologies.

The workshop will be from

8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., including morning presentations and prompts and afternoon field writing, and concluding with readings by participants and guest writers. Cost is \$70, including a picnic lunch. Attendance is limited. Register at www.wenatcheeinstitute.org. For more details see either www.wenatcheeinstitute.org or www.writeontheriver.org.

PHOTO SHOW IN TONASKET

The Community Cultural Center in Tonasket hosts the "Life Thru a Lens Art Show" on Oct. 13. The free event begins at 4 p.m., and will feature local works by Ephraim Brown, Angelina Heyd, Maddie Price and Mary Parrilla. There will be refreshments and live music. For information, call (509) 486-1328 or visit www.communityculturalcenter.org.

'FOUR MINUTES OF FAME' RETURNS

Write On The River again partners with Sun Mountain Lodge to stage "Four Minutes of Fame," an opportunity for local writers to read from their works, on Oct. 25. The first 16 readers to sign up can read original work in any format or genre, complete or excerpted, published or in-progress. Writers, readers, friends, family and any other interested listeners are welcome to attend the free evening event. Register at info@writeontheriver.org by Oct. 20.

Methow Valley Nordic Team
REGISTRATION OPEN through October 31!
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Go to www.skireg.com/junior-team-registration-19 or call 996-6000
Photo by Rachelle Weymuller

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Help the Methow Valley adapt to climate change!
Save the date for the launch of the Community Climate Action Plan Meeting series on November 19th at the Methow Valley Community Center!
509.997.0888 www.mvcitizens.org

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What's Happening

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 25

LOCAL MUSICIANS JAM: Weekly jam session at the Methow Valley Ciderhouse orchard, 13B Walter Road, Winthrop. Free. 341-4354. 7-9 pm

THURSDAY SEPT. 26

METHOW RIVER HIKE: Methow At Home sponsors a hike to the west fork of the Methow River with naturalist Eric Burr, starting from the Mazama Corral parking lot. Free. Register at methowathome.org. 10:15am

ULTIMATE FRISBEE: At the Winthrop ball field, all skill levels welcome. Free. (206) 919-4869. 6pm

MVES OPEN HOUSE: "Back to School Night" at MV Elementary School. Free. 996-9205. 6-7pm

MUSIC: Wild Mountain Nation Reunion with Annie Emmenegger at the Copper Glance, Winthrop. Free. copperglance509@gmail.com. 8pm

FRIDAY SEPT. 27

STORYTIME: For kids 2-6 at Twisp library. Free. 997-4681. 11am

SCHOOL RETIREES: Okanogan County School Retirees meet at Cariboo Inn, Okanogan, with 7th District Legislators Shelly Short, Joel Kretz and Jacquelin Maycumber. 422-2954. 11am

NATURE DRAWING CLASS: "Leaves and trees" with instructors Perri Howard and Mary Kiesau at TwispWorks. \$70. Register at www.mountainkindphotography.com or 551-6714. 12:30-5pm

OPEN ROADS FUNDRAISER: Fundraiser to support efforts to keep local roads open, with music by Loren Boley, Tylar Moe and Wes Wil at OSB Taproom, TwispWorks. By donation. 4pm happy hour, 6pm music

COUNTRY ROCK: Scott Clay at Methow Valley Ciderhouse, Winthrop. Free. 341-4354. 6pm

SATURDAY SEPT. 28

METHOW VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: At MV Community Center in Twisp. Free. www.methowvalleyfarmersmarket.com. 9am-noon

TWISPPWORKS TOUR/ARTWALK: TwispWorks studio tours and ArtWalk through downtown. Free. 997-3300 or events@twispworks.org. 1-5pm

CIDER SQUEEZE: Methow Conservancy's annual Cider Squeeze at Sabold residence, 17 Bean Road, Winthrop. Free. 996-2870. 2-4pm

BLUES AND BOOGIE WOOGIE: Michele and the Love Dealers at Methow Valley Ciderhouse, Winthrop. \$5. 341-4354. 6pm

METHOW VALLEY GEOLOGY: Methow Naturalist editor Dana Visalli presents "The Dynamic Geology of the Methow" at MV Interpretive Center, Twisp; plus field trip on Sunday. Free. dana@methownet.com for information and to sign up for field trip. 6:30pm

CASCADIA KICKOFF PARTY: Cascadia kicks off its season with performance by Nancy Zahn and her band at MV Community Center. \$1-\$20. www.cascadiamusic.org. 7pm

SUNDAY SEPT. 29

FREESTYLE DANCE: Drop-ins welcome, at the Twisp Movement Studio, \$5. 996-2017. 9-10am

POTSTICKERS: Learn to make potstickers with Jean Wilson at Kathy B's Kitchen, TwispWorks. \$30 includes lunch. 997-0314. 11:30am-1pm

PICK-UP VOLLEYBALL: Friendly but competitive volleyball play at Liberty Bell High School gym. Free. 429-0056. 4pm

NATIVE AMERICAN REMEMBRANCES: MV Interpretive Center's "Last Sunday" program presents Indian rancher and Methow descendant Jimmy Timentwa sharing stories from his family; at TwispWorks. Free; donations accepted. mvinterpretivecenter@gmail.com. 5pm

STRING QUARTET: Tamarack String Quartet plays Bach to rock at Sixknot Taphouse, Winthrop. Free. 996-3862. 5:30-8pm



Photo by Ralph Schwartz

'Boeing Boeing' continues

"Boeing Boeing" continues at The Merc Playhouse. The show runs through Sept. 29.

MONDAY SEPT. 30

LINE DANCING: Singles or couples of all levels welcome at Twisp Valley Grange Hall. By donation. (509)429-2064. 6-8pm

DRUM CIRCLE: Pasayten Association of Percussion Adventures at Methow Valley Ciderhouse, Winthrop. Free. 341-4354. 7pm

OCT. 1-3

MINDFULNESS AND PAIN: Mindfulness training for decreasing pain, managing pain, improving the quality of your life, at Winthrop Physical Therapy and Fitness. Free. 449-2594 to register. 1:30-3:30pm

TUESDAY OCT. 1

STORY TIME: Stories, songs and crafts at the Winthrop Library. Free. 996-2685. 11am

ADVENTURE READING: For home-schooled kids ages 7-14 at Twisp library. Free. 997-4681. 11am

GEORGE WINSTON CONCERT: Celebrated pianist George Winston returns for a concert at the MV Community Center, Twisp. \$30-\$40. methowcommunity.org. 997-2926. 7:30pm

WEDNESDAY OCT. 2

CANDIDATES' FORUM: Candidates' forum for local offices including Okanogan County Fire District 6 Board of Commissioners, Twisp Town Council and Methow Valley School Board, at Twisp Valley Grange. Free. (206) 999-1898. 6:15-8:15pm

LOCAL MUSICIANS JAM: The "Methow Electric Musician Experience" is a weekly opportunity for local musicians to join in a jam session at the Methow Valley Ciderhouse orchard, 13B Walter Road, Winthrop. Free. 341-4354. 7-9 pm

OCT. 3-5

RUMMAGE SALE: Cultural Community Center in Tonasket's annual fall rummage sale. Free. 486-1328. 9am-4pm Thursday and Friday, 9am-3pm Saturday

THURSDAY OCT. 3

CLASSROOM IN BLOOM FARMERS MARKET: Buy student-grown vegetables at Classroom in Bloom garden on MV School District campus. Free. kim@classroominbloom.org. Noon-2pm

FIX YOUR GEAR NIGHT: Get your outdoor gear fixed for free at eqpd on the TwispWorks campus. 997-2010. 4-7pm

ACOUSTIC MUSIC: Methow Acoustic Musicians Association meets at The Cove II, Twisp. Free. 429-9593. 6:30pm

FRIDAY OCT. 4

STORYTIME: For kids 2-6 at Twisp library. Free. 997-4681. 11am

NATIVE AMERICAN HIP HOP/DANCE:

Supaman performs at the Omak Performing Arts Center. omakpac.org. \$10-\$20. 7pm

CONTRA DANCE: Fundraiser for Methow At Home, at Twisp Valley Grange. By donation. manager@methowathome.org. 7-9pm

OCT. 5/6

BLOCK PRINTING: Advanced block printing class presented by Janet Fagan through Confluence Gallery, at VMG Studios, TwispWorks. \$150. 997-2787 or sarahjo@confluencegallery.com to register.

SATURDAY OCT. 5

METHOW VALLEY FARMERS MARKET: At MV Community Center in Twisp. Free. www.methowvalleyfarmersmarket.com, 9am-noon

LIBRARY PRESENTATION: Friends of the Winthrop Library hosts a pancake breakfast, presentation and design discussion for interior spaces in the new Winthrop library, at the Winthrop Barn. Free. 996-8011. 9am breakfast; 10am design review

WENATCHEE VALLEY ORCHESTRA: Methow Valley cellist Stephanie Strong is the featured artist for the Wenatchee Valley Orchestra's season-opener at Numerica Performing Arts Center, Wenatchee. \$21-\$41. 663-2787; www.numericapac.org/event/wvso-orchestral-classics. 7pm

SUNDAY OCT. 6

FREESTYLE DANCE: Drop-ins welcome, at the Twisp Movement Studio, \$5. 996-2017. 9-10am

AARON HAMMER BENEFIT: Aaron Hammer family benefit spaghetti dinner at the Methow Eagles, 205 Highway 20 S., Twisp. \$8 suggested donation. 1-5pm

PICK-UP VOLLEYBALL: Friendly but competitive volleyball play at Liberty Bell High School gym. Free. 429-0056. 4pm

MERC AUDITIONS: Merc Playhouse in Twisp hosts auditions for 2020 production of "Breaking Legs," written by Tom Dulack and directed by Carolanne Steinebach; roles for three men and one woman. 997-7529; missi@mercplayhouse.org. 4pm

MONDAY OCT. 7

LINE DANCING: Singles or couples of all levels welcome at Twisp Valley Grange Hall. By donation. (509) 429-2064. 6-8pm

DRUM CIRCLE: Pasayten Association of Percussion Adventures at Methow Valley Ciderhouse, Winthrop. Free. 341-4354. 7pm

TUESDAY OCT. 8

STORY TIME: Stories, songs and crafts at the Winthrop Library. Free. 996-2685. 11am

Meetings, etc. and other weekly things

Wednesday 9/25

CLOSET QUILTERS: Open studio, 309 Highway 20, Twisp. Free. 997-7020. Noon-5pm

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD: Commissioners' hearing room, County Courthouse in Okanogan. 422-7165. 4pm

MV SCHOOL BOARD: Meeting in the school district office. See agenda: www.methow.org, click "District," then "School Board." 996-9205. 5:30pm

MV EAGLES AERIE #2584: Meeting at Eagles Hall, Twisp. 997-8133. 7pm

Thursday 9/26

GERMAN CONVERSATION: An informal group of conversational German-speakers at all levels. Rocking Horse Bakery, 265 Riverside Ave., Winthrop. 557-5769. 9-10am

SPINNERS & WEAVERS: Meets at 137 Old Twisp Highway. 997-5666. 1pm

FOOD BANK: "More than just food" at The Cove, 128 Glover St., Twisp. 997-0227. 1-4pm

FIRE DISTRICT 6: Training and meetings at local fire halls. 997-2981. 6:30pm

Friday 9/27

BINGO: Play at Eagles Hall, Twisp. 997-8133. 6pm

Saturday 9/28

CASCADE BIBLE YOUTH: Youth group meeting at Cascade Bible Church, Twisp. 997-8312. 6:30-8:30pm

Monday 9/30

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Open meeting, Okanogan County Admin. Bldg., 123 Fifth Ave. N., Okanogan. 422-7100. 9am-5pm

SPEAK FRENCH: Have fun and revive or improve your French. Summer meeting locations vary. French@greatcat.net for info. 4:30-5:30pm

GAME NIGHT: Darts, cards and free pool at Eagles Hall, Twisp. 997-8133. 5pm

Tuesday 10/1

WINTHROP KIWANIS: Meets at the Winthrop Barn. 997-1086 or 997-5666. 7am

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly at MV United Methodist Church, between Twisp and Winthrop. 997-2071. 8:00-10am

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: Open meeting, Okanogan County Admin. Bldg., 123 Fifth Ave. N., Okanogan. 422-7100. 9am-5pm

Wednesday 10/2

CLOSET QUILTERS: Open studio, 309 Highway 20, Twisp. Free. 997-7020. Noon-5pm

EAGLES AUXILIARY: Meeting at Eagles Hall, Twisp. 322-3341. 7pm

WINTHROP TOWN COUNCIL: At Winthrop Barn Hen House. 996-2320. 7pm

EASTERN STAR: Meets at Masonic Hall in Okanogan. 997-2071. 7:30pm

Thursday 10/3

WOMEN, INFANTS & CHILDREN: WIC help with nutrition, health care and food. Room One, 315 S. Lincoln, Twisp. 997-2050. Call for hours

FOR AA, NA & SIMILAR MEETINGS, SEE HEALTH DIRECTORY

Submit your event to:

Calendar@MethowValleyNews.com

Please include the name of event, a short description, date/time, address, cost and phone number.

Deadline: Fridays at 5pm

*ALL PHONE NUMBERS ARE 509 AREA CODE EXCEPT WHERE NOTED

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Sports & Recreation

Methow Valley News

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

WEEK IN SPORTS

VOLLEYBALL

9/25 Okanogan 6:30pm
9/26 @Bridgeport 6:30pm
9/28 @Quincy Tournament 8am
10/1 Lake Roosevelt 6:30pm

SOCCER

9/26 Tonasket 4:30pm
10/1 @Oroville 4:30pm

FOOTBALL

9/27 @Entiat 7pm

CROSS COUNTRY

10/5 Nike Twilight Invite Marysville

LBHS volleyball sweeps Soap Lake, improves to 3-1

BY RALPH SCHWARTZ

Players on the Liberty Bell High School volleyball squad made the 240-mile round trip to Soap Lake worth their time, sweeping the Eagles in three games last Thursday (Sept. 19).

Coach Christine Scott was pleased to see the sweep, calling Thursday's road victory a "building win."

"Our game three mentality has been something we've been trying to break through," Scott said. "(We need to) continue to play hard and not let up."

The win lifted the Mountain Lions to 3-1 in preseason play.

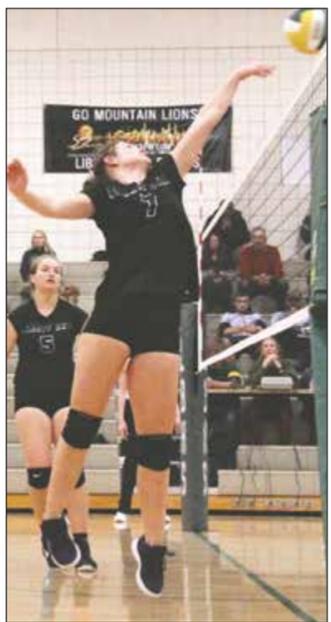


Photo by Ralph Schwartz

Sophomore Shae Taylor extended to tip the ball over the net on Sept. 17 against Tonasket.

Freshman Ellie Blank had a breakout game against Soap Lake, her coach said. Blank had four kills playing the left front-row position. Sophomore Jadyn Mitchell, middle hitter, had 12 kills and three aces on serve.

Senior McKenna Ott had two kills and an ace Thursday. Hannah Bakke, also a senior, contributed three kills and two aces.

Senior setter Hailey Damman stood out with five aces and strong defense, Scott said. Junior Gretta Eberline had three digs from the back row when she substituted for Ott.

Earlier, the Lady Lions defeated Tonasket in four games played Sept. 17 at Liberty Bell: 25-13, 25-13, 21-25 and 25-12.

Mitchell had 13 kills against Tonasket. Ott and Caitlyn Cooley had three kills each, with Bakke adding two kills.

The Lady Lions overcame Tonasket with strong defense and consistent serving, Scott said.

The Tonasket Tigers were the Lady Lions' second opponent in as many nights, with the volleyball squad going 2-0 in those back-to-back home matches. Scott said playing on consecutive nights was a good mental challenge for the team at that early point in the season.

"You can't get this type of experience during practice," she said. "They rose to the occasion."

"We're still getting in shape, mentally and physically," Scott added.

The volleyball team has a busy week in the lead-up to league play, which starts Tuesday (Oct. 1) with a home match against Lake Roosevelt.

The Lady Lions were scheduled to play at Omak on Tuesday (Sept. 24), followed by a home match against Okanogan on Wednesday (Sept. 25). They travel to Bridgeport on Thursday (Sept. 26) and will participate in a tournament at Quincy, starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday (Sept. 28).

Odessa stops Mountain Lions

BY DON NELSON

The Liberty Bell High School football team got a good look at what a reigning state championship 8-man program looks like when they traveled last Friday (Sept. 20) to Odessa, where the Tigers rolled over the Mountain Lions, 66-0.

And all things considered, it wasn't a bad showing by the visitors. Earlier, Odessa dispatched Bridgeport, 88-6. Bridgeport beat Liberty Bell, 32-20, in the season's opening game.

Odessa won last year's 8-man state championship game over the other regional powerhouse, Almira-Coulee-Hartline, 63-12, after pounding Neah Bay 71-8 and Quilcene 65-6. Before the state tournament, the Tigers had been held to under 70 points only once.

Senior Magnus Treise had a cred-

itable night running the ball against Odessa, carrying 20 times for 90 yards. However, including losses, the Mountain Lions netted only 58 yards rushing.

Freshman quarterback Riley Lidey was 4-13 passing, with one interception, for 63 yards. A 50-yard completion to senior Alex Whites accounted for most of that.

Treise also led the defense with eight tackles. Junior Bodie Paul was in on seven tackles.

Liberty Bell is now 1-2 on the season including a win over Waterville-Mansfield. The Mountain Lions travel to Entiat on Friday. The Tigers are 4-0 in league play, and beat Bridgeport 62-24. Liberty Bell returns home on Oct. 3 to host Pateros, kicking off at 7 p.m. The game had originally been scheduled for Oct. 4 but was rescheduled because of problems finding officials.

Rodeo pro Hammer awaits transplant

BY RALPH SCHWARTZ

Professional rodeo rider and Twisp native Aaron Hammer is making progress in his recovery from injuries suffered after he was trampled by a horse on Sept. 7 at the Sumas Bull-a-Rama.

Hammer remains in critical condition in intensive care at the University of Washington Medical Center, hospital spokeswoman Susan Gregg said on Tuesday (Sept. 24).

Family friend Taylor Ferrill updates Hammer's condition on the GoFundMe page that is raising money to support Hammer's wife and two children while he recovers.

Medical staff are treating an infection so Hammer will be strong enough to undergo a liver transplant.

"He has been making baby steps the last few days, which is answered prayers," Ferrill wrote on Monday (Sept. 23).

The "Aaron Hammer & Family Fund" on GoFundMe had raised \$17,075 as of Tuesday.

Methow Valley Horsemen and the Methow Valley Cascaders 4-H Club will host a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Hammer family, from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6, at the Methow Eagles, 205 Highway 20 in Twisp. Suggested donation is \$8.



Photo by Don Nelson

Liberty Bell senior Tommie Ochoa, No. 8, turned over goalkeeping duties to teammates Mckenna Kurtz and Chloe Sprauer against Manson, and scored one of the Lady Lions' four goals.

Lady Lions extended soccer win streak with 4-0 victory over Manson

BY DON NELSON

The Liberty Bell High School girls' soccer team recorded its third consecutive shutout with a 4-0 win over visiting Manson on Sept. 19.

Earlier in the week, the Lady Lions took a 3-nil win at Bridgeport.

"The Bridgeport game started slowly but as the game progressed we were able to take control of the possession and create some scoring opportunities," Liberty Bell coach Lincoln Post said. "Maya Sheely made a beautiful cross to Josephine Cole for our opening goal. Tommie Ochoa scored twice in the second half, one on a penalty kick and one on an assist from Maisy Shaw."

Against Manson, the Lady Lions controlled the match completely in the first 40 minutes, scoring all four of their goals and not allowing the visitors a single shot on goal — leaving Liberty Bell goalkeeper Mckenna Kurtz with little to do.

Sophomore Wyatt Albright started Liberty Bell's scoring with a blast from slightly left of the net. Ochoa followed with a more straight-on kick that eluded the Manson goalkeeper.

The Lady Lions' next score came on rare corner shot by senior Ali Palm, one of the most difficult kicks to convert. The ball arced perfectly into the top left corner of the net, beyond the Manson goalkeeper's reach. Post said a corner shot goal is somewhat akin to

a hole-in-one in golf. Palm shortly followed with a more conventional score from mid-field.

The Mountain Lions' starters sat out all but about 10 minutes of the second half. "The Manson game showed the depth of our team," Post said. "I think we played 21 members of the team and maintained quality passing and possession. Chloe Sprauer [playing in goal for the second half] made two beautiful saves to keep a clean sheet." One of those saves was on a free kick that she leapt high to tip away.

Liberty Bell is now 3-1 for the season, and hosts Tonasket on Thursday (Sept. 26) starting at 4:30 p.m. The Lady Lions travel to Oroville next Tuesday (Oct. 1).

Liberty Bell girls make strong XC showing at Wenatchee invite; Nike Twilight event next

BY RICK LEWIS

The No. 1 ranked Liberty Bell High School girls' cross country team continued their stride toward state with an impressive performance at the Wenatchee Invite on Saturday (Sept. 21) at Walla Walla Point City Park.

Gretta Scholz again led the way, placing 3rd in the varsity girls' race, and led a pack of seven Mountain Lions to a 4th-place team finish, behind 2A schools Ellensburg and Deer Park and host 4A Wenatchee.

Only 10 points separated Liberty Bell from the championship in a remarkably close competition. Sophomore Jori Grialou and juniors Liv Aspholm and Keeley Brooks ran well, but the news may have been freshman Stella Scholz, just a few steps behind Brooks and the 5th-place scorer for Liberty Bell. Lena Nelson and Lindsay Worrell completed the varsity squad, helping by bumping several competitors back in the standings.

"Stella ran a very smart race, picking off runners from the start, and all the way through the race," coach Erik Brooks said of the freshman.

As at the opener at Seheme last week, the Liberty Bell girls were packed fairly well, although there was

a bit more distance from first to fifth. Brooks attributes that to the first race where they have all run together. Previously the runners were divided by class; last week they were all running together.

On the boys' side, the Mountain Lions were led by junior Ian DeLong, who placed 22nd. Coach Brooks noted his time this year on the 3.1-mile course was faster than his last trip around in 2017, when the course was set at 3.0 miles.

Junior captain Travis Grialou was hampered by a respiratory congestion issue and finished way back of his accustomed top Lion spot. Brooks thinks he is on the mend, and the extended week without a meet will be good for his system. Several freshmen got their first varsity action in Wenatchee, all of them showing some great promise. They were 9th of the 14 teams competing, and have moved into the "Teams To Watch" category of the State Top Ten this week.

Twins Graham and Carter Sheley were the No. 2 and No. 3 Liberty Bell runners, respectively, and both under 19 minutes. Fellow freshman Isaiah Stoothoff ran and finished with Grialou at 19:36 to complete the scoring team. First-year runner Oliver Orkand

was in at 20:05 and Tristan Schmekel wrapped up the Liberty Bell contingent at 20:53.

News from the middle school ranks was highlighted by the seventh-grade boys sweeping the top six spots and scoring a perfect 15 points. Dexter Delaney led the way, circling the 1.55-mile course in 8:54. Mac Surface was just seconds behind, followed by Brayden Schmekel, Sam Patterson, Tristan Hover and Damon Alumbaugh. Wil Halpin lead the eighth-grade boys, placing 1st and pulling Aksel Thompson, Landry Chrastina, Kyler Mitchell and Conrad Laesch along with him.

The girls middle schoolers did not have the requisite five runners for a scoring team in either the seventh- or eighth-grade races, but were at the top of the list in both races. Marta Schkrokowski placed 2nd (11:22), Mia Libby was 7th and Zoe Kaltenbach was 14th in the seventh-grade race, while Liberty Bell's two eighth-grade runners Leki Albright and Dashe McCabe finished 4th and 5th in their race.

The middle schoolers were scheduled to race at the Okanogan Golf course Tuesday (Sept. 24). The high school is taking a break this week in preparation for the Nike Twilight event in Marysville on Oct. 5.

SPORTS BRIEFS

METHOW RIVER HIKE

Methow At Home sponsors a hike to the west fork of the Methow River with naturalist Eric Burr on Thursday (Sept. 26), starting from the Mazama Corral parking lot at about 10:15 a.m. (or carpool from the Winthrop Barn at 10 a.m.). The free event is open to the public. Bring a lunch. Register at methowathome.org. For information, email manager@methowathome.org.

SATURDAY IS FREE PARKS DAY

In honor of National Public Lands Day, the Washing-

ton State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to visit a state park for free on Saturday (Sept. 28.) No Discover Pass will be required for day-use visits by vehicle.

FOOTBALL, SOCCER GAMES RESCHEDULED

Because of a shortage of football officials, the Liberty Bell High School's home game against Pateros has been changed to Thursday, Oct. 3. It had been scheduled for Oct. 4. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Because of that change, the girls' soccer team's home game against Lake Roosevelt will be

rescheduled from Oct. 3 to Oct. 29, starting at 4:30 p.m. The Lady Lions will instead play at Lake Roosevelt on Oct. 3.

HAWKWATCH FIELD TRIP

The Wenatchee River Institute is offering a "Hawkwatch Field Trip" to Chelan Ridge on Oct. 3 to see hawks, eagles and falcons in flight. The Chelan Ridge Hawkwatch International observation is located in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.

Cost is \$45 for Wenatchee River Institute members or \$60 for non-members, transpor-

tation included. Participants will leave from the Wenatchee River Institute campus in Leavenworth at 8 a.m., or from the Penny Road Park & Ride in Wenatchee at 8:45 a.m. Pack a lunch, snacks and water, and be prepared to hike for 30 minutes at approximately 6,000 feet elevation.

To register, visit www.wenatcheeriverinstitute.org. For information, email rbishop@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

ALPINE HIKE

The Methow Conservancy offers a "Land of the Larch"

alpine hike with environmental educator Amy Fitkin on Oct. 11, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The event will be a moderate hike at elevation. Cost is \$15 and registration is required. Email daniel@methowconservancy.org or call 996-2870.

CELEBRATE MVRU'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Start planning for Methow Valley Riding Unlimited's (MVRU) "Juleps & Jodhpurs," a fundraiser and celebration of the organization's 25th anniversary, on Oct. 12 at Moccasin Lake Ranch. Gates open at 12:30 p.m.

MVRU's goal is to raise \$25,000 to support its operations. The event will include tailgate-style food, mint juleps from Copper Glance, cross country croquet, music by Bitterroot Beets, carriage rides and dessert. Participants are urged to attend in derby attire.

Tickets are \$75, and can be purchased at brownpapertickets.com. Tables of eight will be available for purchase. To participate as a volunteer or sponsor, email info@mvridding.org. Visit www.mvridding.org/juleps-and-jodhpurs-2019 for more information.

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14YARD SALE

MULTI-FAMILY YARD sale Thurs 1-4, Fri, 9-4, Sat 9-4. Clothes, carpet remnants, flooring, saddle, new garage door opener. Delta truck box, antique wardrobe, much more. 18 Second Mile Rd, Twisp. 997-4904. 21

KOOL YARD SALE at Doc Schnee's. Furniture, tools, stuff. Friday 9/27 at 9am. 16 Iris Ln, Twisp. 21

20REAL ESTATE

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination, call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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COMPLETELY FURNISHED 3-BED 1.5 bath on the Methow River. Avail. 10/15/19-4/30/2020. \$1500 per month with \$1500 deposit. First, last and deposit required for move in. Pets considered. No smoking/drugs. References/credit check required. 360-701-8443. 21

HOUSE FOR RENT, 95 West Chewch Rd Winthrop. 2 Bdrm, 1 Bath, WD, DW, Range & Refrigerator. Gas & Electric heat. 2-car garage. Small fenced yard. No smoking. Pet upon approval. \$1,400 a month plus \$1,000 deposit. 6-month lease. 509-996-2228 Lynn. 21

PRIVATE TRAILER PARK for your RV's or Trailer. Year round or monthly rental. (2) Two spots available. Lots of open space on acreage with a view. 30 and 50 amp with full hook up. \$550.00 per month. Call 509-997-2128. 22

31EMPLOYMENT

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL is seeking a OR Circulator/PAR RN. This position is responsible for providing preoperative care to patients as well as intensive observation and assistance of patient recovering from an operative procedure. Current WA State RN license. Two years' experience as a full-time circulator. BLS and ACLS certifications. Variable days and hours. May include call time, 20-minute response time is required. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital, Anita Fisk, Director of Human Resources, PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812. (509) 689-2517 x 3343, www.threerivershospital.net, afisk@trhospital.net, EOE. 21

METHOW VALLEY SCHOOL District is accepting applications for the K-6 After-school Childcare Coordinator position. For a full job description and online application, please visit the district website at <http://methow.org/district/employment/>. (509) 996-9205. Position is open until filled. EOE. 22

CINNAMON TWISP BAKERY is now hiring a morning counter/barista (5:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.) Wake up and smell the coffee! Work mornings. Have the afternoon to yourself! Join our team and help our morning customers get their day started right. Looking for cheerful, motivated individuals with excellent people skills. We know you're out there! Apply now at 116 N Glover St in Twisp or email resume to cinnaomtwisp@centurytel.net. 21

31EMPLOYMENT

SUN MOUNTAIN LODGE still has a few positions available for the season. Dining Room Host/Hostess, Bussers, Licensed Massage Therapists, Licensed Estheticians, Scheduling Receptionist. To apply see Leslie, stop by the Front Desk for an Employment Application, or go to www.sunmountainlodge.com and look at our Employment page for a printable Employment Application. For more information or an appointment call Leslie at 509-996-4720. 22

GREAT POSITION AT Sun Mountain Lodge. We are seeking a Part Time Night Auditor, OR a full time Night Auditor/Front Desk Receptionist. To apply stop by the Front Desk to get an Employment Application or call Leslie at 509-996-4720 for more information or an appointment. You can also find a printable Employment Application form on our website at www.sunmountainlodge.com near the bottom of our Employment page. 22

SUN MOUNTAIN LODGE two exciting and rare opportunities that have just become available in Food and Beverage. Management positions open up rarely, but we currently have two: Dining Manager and Banquets Manager. Come by the Front Desk for an Employment Application, or to find a printable Employment Application see our website at www.sunmountainlodge.com on our employment page. Call Leslie for more information or an appointment. 509-996-4720. 22

THE WINTHROP INN and Methow River lodge and Cabins are hiring, positions available are: Front desk agent with full time availability, must be a team player, have great communication, attention to detail and computer skills. We are also hiring housekeeping staff to join our team, part time and full time, must be flexible to work at both locations if necessary. Pay offered for both positions will be based on experience. To apply please, send an email to wininn@winthropinn.com, call 509-996-2217 or fill out an application at 960 highway 20 at the Winthrop Inn. 24

WINTHROP RINK IS hiring Zamboni drivers! Position includes ice conditioning, snow management, and overall support for Rink operations this November-February. Must be able to work weekend and holiday shifts (variable). Bonus points if you are a mechanic! Contact Steve at sbondi@winthropink.org or call 996-4199 for more information. 24

ROOM ONE IS hiring a Finance & Operations Manager at 32 - 35 hours per week, see full position description on our website! www.roomone.org. 21

BUS DRIVER/OPERATOR AT Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO). There is one (1) position available; Part-Time (30 hours per week) based out of Okanogan, WA. This position is hourly non-exempt. Minimum Class B CDL with Passenger Endorsement is required. Compensation is \$19.06-\$27.13 per hour. Please visit www.okanogantransit.com for required qualifications, application, and job description. A complete application including a resume and cover letter must be submitted in order to be considered for the position. E-mail your completed application to clerk@okanogantransit.com. Application Deadline: Application review will begin September 27, 2019; open until filled. Okanogan County Transit Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 21

METHOW VALLEY RIDING Unlimited is seeking its first Executive Director. This position provides a professional opportunity for someone looking for a meaningful career, in a beautiful setting, working with a highly skilled and dedicated team. Experience with horses is preferred, but not required. The right candidate will be highly organized, experienced, an excellent communicator and comfortable working in a fast-paced, dynamic environment. Interested candidates should visit www.mvriding.org/staff/our-people for more details. 23

CINNAMON TWISP BAKERY now accepting applications for Soup Maker/Barista/Sandwich Artist position. Looking for someone with excellent people skills, experience in food service, an interest in marketing, and a dedication to teamwork. Must be available weekends. Apply at 116 N Glover St. Twisp or email resume to cinnaomtwisp@centurytel.net. 21

AUTOMOTIVE LINE TECHNICIAN - Position requires a tech with two years of on the job training or education. This position will require tech to perform general automotive repairs successfully and efficiently utilizing skill levels B&C with minimal direct supervision. Wages are DOE. Benefit package available after probationary period. Mail resume to: Quality Lube and Repair, PO box 1039, Twisp, WA 98856. 21

31EMPLOYMENT

TOWN OF TWISP - Looking for an exciting Part-Time position where you can make a real difference in your community and get paid to be part of a dynamic team? The Town of Twisp is seeking a PT Administrative Assistant to work in the Clerk's office in support of the Mayor and Administrative staff. The perfect applicant is a quick learner with outstanding customer service skills; appreciates a busy and dynamic work environment; has computer experience with Word and Excel; possesses excellent communication and organizational skills; and a positive disposition. Hourly pay scale dependent on qualifications up to \$13.50/hr. with room to grow. The Town of Twisp is an equal opportunity employer. An application packet is available at Town Hall, 118 S Glover Street or at www.townoftwisp.com/index.php/announcements. Questions contact 509-997-4081. This position is open until filled. 52

GLOVER STREET MARKET is now hiring a back-office manager. Responsibilities will include bookkeeping, cash deposits, maintaining POS and computer systems, general filing and office organization. Prior bookkeeping skills are a big plus, but more important is an attention to detail and a desire to learn and become a part of our team. Beginning schedule is M,W,F 6 hrs/day with room for growth. Pay based on qualifications, including a generous grocery discount. No phone calls please. Email denise@gloverstreetmarket.com. 52

GLOVER STREET MARKET is hiring. We have positions open in both our store and Juice Bar. The Juice Bar position requires confidence with food preparation and food service, restaurant or catering experience is helpful. We sell products that are healthy and organic, and we are looking for team members who are hardworking, committed to customer service and are excited to work in a natural grocery store. Part-Time or Full-Time, Saturdays required. \$15/hr potential with full time hours and commitment. Please drop off or email a resume to denise@gloverstreetmarket.com. No phone calls please. 52

34SERVICES

Pennock Excavation, LLC
Tree Removal
Full Site Development
Toby Pennock pennockexcavation.com
LIC #PENNOEL831D2 (509) 429-2695

CRYSTAL CLEAR WINDOW Washing. 509-997-0808 or 509-341-4686. 26

IS IT ART OR IS IT MAGIC? Face painting, balloon twisting, and glitter tattoos make every party or event more fun! Visit www.abracadoodles.com for information. 52

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

EVENTS-FESTIVALS

PROMOTE YOUR REGIONAL EVENT statewide with a \$325 classified listing or \$1,575 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PLACE FOR MOM has helped over a million families find senior living. Our trusted, local advisors help find solutions to your unique needs at no cost to you. Call 855-415-4148.

ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS. Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed lowest prices. Call the Oxygen Concentrator store: 844-495-7230.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON OKANOGAN COUNTY
In re Estate of
EVONNE LYNNE DUFRESNE
Deceased.
No. 19-4-0011724

PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.020, .030

DARRELL DUFRESNE has been appointed as estate administrator of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner provided

LEGAL NOTICES

in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address state below a copy of the claim and filing the original claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) 30 days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: September 18, 2019.

ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE:

PO Box 3059, Winthrop, WA 98862
Attorney for Personal Representative:

Mark Ryan, WSBA #18279
Ryan & Kuehler PLLC
Court and Case Number: Okanogan County Superior Court - No. 19-4-0011724

Published in the Methow Valley News September 18, 25, October 2, 2019

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING CHANGE

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Three Rivers Hospital Board of Commissioners has been postponed to October 2nd, 2019. The meeting will take place in the conference room of the McKinley Building at Three Rivers Hospital, 507 Hospital Way, Brewster, Washington, commencing at 11:15

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THANK YOU, MITCHELL'S ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION for buying my market lamb. - Elidai Corter

THANK YOU HANK'S HARVEST FOODS for buying my FFA market lamb. - Spencer Smyth

Thank you for purchasing our 4-H pigs!
Nicholas White North Valley Lumber
Emma White Valley Hardware Twisp
Sam Otonicar Methow Valley Thriftway

Thank you to The Patterson Company (Jeff and Molly Patterson) for purchasing my market steer! I appreciate your support! Mac Surface
Thank you Gary and Bri Mitchell of Gary Mitchell Construction for supporting Quincy Scott's 2019 Okanogan County Fair steer.

Thank you Hank's Harvest Foods & Okanogan Shriners
Brody Barnhart
Thank you Hank's Harvest Foods & Okanogan Shriners
Brazilyn Barnhart

SEPTEMBER 28
National Good Neighbor Day

Winthrop OKs library construction agreement with FOWL

BY DON NELSON

It was a formality, but an important one: The Winthrop Town Council last week approved an agreement with Friends of the Winthrop Library (FOWL) for construction of a new library.

FOWL, the nonprofit organization that is spearheading construction of the new library, will use donated funds and a state capital projects grant to build

the facility on town-owned property, and then will gift it to Winthrop.

The 7,300-square-foot building will include community space that will be maintained by the town. That 1,300-square-foot portion (including public meeting spaces and bathrooms) will be Winthrop's responsibility. The public library portion of the building will be 6,000 square feet and will be maintained with support from the North Central

Regional Library.

The new library will be built on a .81-acre parcel on White Avenue near Little Star Montessori School. FOWL has subsequently acquired funds to purchase a smaller adjacent parcel on White Avenue to provide more room for parking and better traffic flow. The preliminary plans for the library assumed that the project would be able to use both parcels.

The construction agreement

CLEARING OUT THE SURPLUS

Think you might have any use for 17 decommissioned fire hydrants? Or a plow blade, or tractor, or some shop lights or hose reels? Those are among the items (there are many more) that the Town of Winthrop has declared as surplus, to be sold to the highest bidders.

The town will publish a legal notice of the

sale. All items will be sold as-is with no warranty. "Some of it works, some of it doesn't" Public Works Superintendent Jeff Sarvis told the Town Council last week. "A lot of it will probably end up scrapped." The items will be at the old town shop on Bluff Street, or at the well-house site on White Avenue.

requires that FOWL complete a "turn-key" building before gifting it over to the town.

In other business, the Town Council reappointed Barb Preston to the Winthrop Planning

Commission. One position remains open on the seven-member group.

State auditor: MV Irrigation District expenses not properly handled

A state auditor found that the Methow Valley Irrigation District did not properly account for payroll expenses and certain payments to vendors in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Payments to employees totaling \$71,917 in 2016, \$50,235 in 2017 and \$51,175 in 2018 were not supported by timesheets

or employee contracts. Also, the district could not provide detailed information on the purpose of \$3,321 in purchases over those three years, according to a report by the Office of the Washington State Auditor, issued Sept. 9.

In addition, the district could not show that another \$499 paid

to vendors from 2016 to 2018 was for "allowable business purposes," the report said.

The auditor's finding amounts to a violation of state law, which requires local governments to document the validity of every transaction involving public funds.

The district's three directors

were approving payroll and other expenses each month without first confirming they were valid and accurate, the report said.

"The board of directors did not understand the importance of proper monitoring for the safeguarding of public assets," the report stated. "Rather, the board largely trusted the dis-

trict's two employees to perform their jobs without detailed oversight of vendor and payroll payments."

The district's directors will immediately begin verifying the payments made to vendors, the auditor's report said. Also, the directors will set employee salaries annually in a written

resolution.

The irrigation district was formed in 1919 to provide water to orchards and farms from Twisp to Carlton. Its main source of revenue is a property tax levied on the roughly 200 landowners it serves. The district collected \$127,221 in 2018.

READ IT HERE



Photo by Don Nelson

The barn is gone, but The Merc's message wall is back.

More swastikas found in Liberty Bell bathrooms

BY RALPH SCHWARTZ

Liberty Bell Junior-Senior High School principal Crosby Carpenter informed parents last Thursday (Sept. 19) that three swastikas had been carved in stalls in two separate boys' bathrooms at the school.

This was the second recent incident where the hateful symbol was discovered in boys' bathrooms at Liberty

Bell. Then-principal Deborah DeKalb reported in March that the same graffiti had been found.

School officials are investigating the latest incident. Carpenter said he did not think the student's intentions were malicious.

"We do not and will continue to not tolerate hate speech and the use of such symbols," Carpenter said in an interview on Friday (Sept. 20).

Carpenter, who is in his first year as Liberty Bell principal, said he talked to all students at the beginning of the year about the importance of accepting people of all identities.

"Regardless of gender, socioeconomic status or race, [students] belong here. They're welcome, and any sort of discrimination against them will not be tolerated," he said.

After the swastikas were dis-

covered last school year, students in grades 7 through 11 received two-day workshops in April to address bullying and the use of "charged language" in the school.

School staff began collaborating last spring with Room One and the Methow Valley chapter of Showing Up For Racial Justice to develop a plan to "promote a safe and inclusive school environment," DeKalb wrote to families on March 27.

LEGAL NOTICES

a.m. on the date set forth above. Published in the Methow Valley News September 25, 2019

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of Twisp Planning Commission will hold an open record public hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday October 9, 2019 at Twisp Town Hall. The previously scheduled hearing was canceled due to a lack of quorum. The purpose of the hearing is to take testimony on revisions to draft amendments to Title 18 Zoning previously submitted to the Town Council for adoption. The revised amendments are intended to address concerns set forth by the Town Council as a result of public input. A copy of the revised amendments is available for review on the Town's website and at Town Hall.

All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Those requiring assistance are requested to contact Town Hall a minimum of 24 hours prior to the scheduled hearing to notify the Town of the type of assistance required. Persons wishing to view the proposed amendments may contact Twisp Town Hall, 118 S. Glover Street between the hours of 9:00 am until 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday. For further information contact Kurt Danison, Town Planner at (509) 997-4081.

Published in the Methow Valley News September 25, October 2, 2019

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM

In Re the Estate of KENNETH LEE WESTMAN, Deceased. NO. 19-4-00489-37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

LEGAL NOTICES

RCW 11.40.030 JUDGE: ROBERT E. OLSON

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: September 11, 2019

P E R S O N A L REPRESENTATIVE:

LYNN M. NORTHCOTT ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE:

P.O. Box 1147 Winthrop, WA 98862 Attorney for Personal Representative:

Erin Mae Glass, WSBA #39746 Barron Smith Daugert, PLLC, 300 North Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Whatcom County Superior

LEGAL NOTICES

Court, Cause No: 19-4-00489-37 Published in the Methow Valley News September 11, 18, 25, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners that a Public Hearing is set for 2:45 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2019 and will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room. The hearing is held to receive public comment for or against the consideration of a budget supplemental appropriation within the ER&R Fund 501 in the amount of \$475,000. The funds are from the Ending Fund Balance and will be used to purchase a Stripping Truck. The hearing will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington 98840. Published in the Methow Valley News September 18, 25, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 19, 26, 2019. OVG874002

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners that a Public Hearing is set for 2:40 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2019 and will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room. The hearing is held to receive public comment for or against the consideration of a budget supplemental appropriation within the Crime Victims Fund 129 in the amount of \$17,150. The funds are from additional S/C and City Court Revenues and will be used for Salary and Benefits. The hearing will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room

LEGAL NOTICES

located at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington. Persons wishing to comment may attend the hearing or submit their comments in writing to the Commissioners' Office at 123 5th Avenue North, Rm 150, Okanogan, Washington 98840. Published in the Methow Valley News September 18, 25, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 19, 26, 2019. OVG874009

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Okanogan County Commissioners that a Public Hearing is set for 2:30 p.m. on Monday, September 30, 2019 and will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room. The hearing is held to receive public comment for or against the consideration of a budget supplemental appropriation within Homeless Housing Fund 142 in the amount of \$25,000; and within the Infrastructure Fund 117 in the amount of \$19,900. The funds are from the Beginning Fund Balance and will be used for Professional Services to cover contract amendments. The hearing will be held in the County Commissioners' Hearing Room located at 123 5th Avenue North, Okanogan, Washington. Persons wishing to comment may attend the hearing or submit their comments in writing to the Commissioners' Office at 123 5th Avenue North, Rm 150, Okanogan, Washington 98840. Published in the Methow Valley News September 18, 25, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 19, 26, 2019. OVG874016

NOTICE TO PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing will be held on October 1, 2019 at 2:30 PM regarding the vacation of the

LEGAL NOTICES

following platted roads within the Town of Methow:

Vacate that portion of Augusta Avenue located east of Main Street, all of East Street north of Blanche Avenue, all of the Alley in Block 12 and part of the Alley in Block 7 between Lots 1, 2, 3 & 13, 14, 15 all within the Town of Methow, WA according to the official plat thereof now on file and of record at the Office of the Okanogan County Auditor's Office, Okanogan Co. WA, All within Section 06, Township 30 North, Range 23 East W.M.,

Public Hearing will be held in the office of the Okanogan County Board of Commissioners, located at 123 Fifth Ave. North (Room 150), Okanogan, Washington.

All interested persons may be heard in this matter. Please send written comments to Jo Ann Stansbury, at Okanogan County Department of Public Works, 1234 A Second Ave. South, Okanogan, WA 98840 or email jstansbury@co.okanogan.wa.us

Dated this 3rd day of September, 2019 at Okanogan, Washington.

Josh Thomson, P.E.

County Engineer

Published in the Methow Valley News September 18, 25, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 19, 26, 2019. OVG874019

PUBLIC NOTICE

At the regular scheduled meeting on October 8, 2019 held at the Okanogan County Public Health Office, the Okanogan County Public Health Board members will consider for adoption Resolution #2019-06 which pertains to the 2020 Public Health Fee schedule. Published in the Methow Valley News September 25; October 2, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 26; October 3, 2019. OVG874872

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING (Supplemental Appropriation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by Okanogan County Public Health that a public hearing is set for Tuesday, October 8th, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. to consider a supplemental budget appropriation for the unreserved fund code # 670,051 in the amount of \$10,000 and fund code #670,058 in the amount of \$10,000, to the Okanogan County Public Health 2019 budget.

The public hearing will be held at Okanogan County Public Health, located at 1234 S. 2nd in Okanogan WA. Persons wishing to comment may attend the public hearing or submit their comments in writing to Jill Gates, PO Box 231, Okanogan, WA 98840. Comments may also be submitted via email jgates@co.okanogan.wa.us

Published in the Methow Valley News September 25; October 2, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 26; October 3, 2019. OVG874874

OKANOGAN COUNTY NOTICE OF FINAL DECISION

Project: Festival Permit 2019-5, Okanogan Family Faire Proponent: Okanogan Family Faire

Decision: Approved

The Okanogan County Office of Planning and Development approved the above-noted project. Within 20 days of publication, parties with standing may appeal this decision to the Okanogan County Hearing Examiner at 123 5th Ave. N. Suite 130, Okanogan, WA 98840, pursuant to OCC 2.67.010. An appeal must include the \$300.00 appeal fee.

Published in the Methow Valley News September 25, 2019; Okanogan Valley Gazette-Tribune September 26, 2019. OVG874868

Health Directory

HEALTH & SERVICE DIRECTORIES - Deadline for ad placement & changes is Friday at 5pm for insertion in the next Wednesday's paper. Directory ads are \$8 per column inch. Additional charges may apply for color. To have your service listed please call 997-7011.

Advocacy & counseling for victims and survivors of domestic violence and assault

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Domestic violence survivor support group meets every two weeks. For info, call:

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Samuel P. Van Meter, Ph.D. Administrator
Wendy Hernandez Director of Nursing

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AL ANON MEETINGS

Support group for families of those with chemical dependencies

Fridays, 8:30 am
at Masonic Hall, Twisp
NEWCOMERS WELCOME!
509-997-0356 for more info

Steven C. Harrop, D.D.S. FAMILY DENTISTRY ORTHODONTICS

996-2293
Emergency: 996-2164
505 Hwy 20
P.O. Box 865 • Winthrop

AA MEETINGS

Twisp:
Sun. 9:30 am & 6:30 p.m.
Mon. 6:30p.m., Tues. 6:30 p.m. at Masonic Lodge
Wed. 7 p.m. at Calvary Chapel

Winthrop:
Thur. & Fri. 7 p.m. at Friendship Church
Sat: 7 p.m. at Winthrop Fire Hall

Men's group (C): Wed. 5:30 p.m. at Masonic Lodge, Twisp
Questions? Call Joe @ 509-429-1683

Okanogan PUD planning solar project

BY MARCY STAMPER

PUD ratepayers can support solar power and get a credit on their utility bill if there's enough interest in a community solar project that could power about eight homes.

The Okanogan County Public Utility District (PUD) is in the first stages of planning Sunny Okanogan Community Solar. The community solar project would allow residential and business customers to invest in a centralized solar array. Ratepayers who buy the units will get a credit on their bill in proportion to their share of the total project.

The idea behind community solar is to pool the costs of solar power, since for many people it would be too costly to install their own solar panels, which run from \$10,000 to \$20,000, PUD Community Relations Coordina-

INTERESTED?

The PUD encourages people who may want to participate to fill out a tentative-interest form. The form is available from local PUD offices or online. The form does not commit anyone to participating, but will help gauge interest. People can also join the Sunny Okanogan Solar Club, which will help spread the word about the project.

For more information or to get the interest form, visit www.okanogapud.org/communitysolar or email communitysolar@okpud.org.

tor Sheila Corson said. Instead, the PUD will sell "units" — not an entire panel, but a percentage of the total solar array.

The PUD is currently gauging interest to see if there's enough interest in community solar to make it financially feasible. This will also determine the project size. The utility is still figuring out the minimum buy-in — and number of investors — that would make it work. The PUD expects

estimates on the project this fall.

Washington approved the PUD for a solar installation that could produce up to 74.4 kilowatts, enough power for seven to nine average homes, according to the PUD.

That includes an incentive of 14 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) of production, which would give participants an additional annual check for the kWh they use (capped at \$5,000 per year per

customer). State incentives are approved for the next eight years; the Legislature would have to approve a new incentive package to continue beyond that, Corson said. Federal tax credits may also be available.

Although the panels would be installed at the PUD's Omak substation, customers from anywhere in the county can participate. Grants will be available to help low-income ratepayers join. The project gives people who don't have ideal sun exposure a way to benefit from solar power.

Participant contributions will cover the costs of constructing and maintaining the project. Solar panels typically last about two decades before they need to be replaced, according to the PUD.

The PUD has a year to install the solar panels from the state's Aug. 1 approval of the project.

THAT'S SOME PUMPKIN



Photo courtesy of Jay Humling

Steve Dixon of Carlton won an award at the recent Okanogan County Fair for his 490-pound pumpkin — shown here accompanied by Dixon's grandson, Abram Dixon, whose parents are Pete Dixon and Mary Humling. Steve Dixon was a longtime teacher in the Methow Valley, now working part-time.

Local entrants' results from Okanogan County Fair

Following are some local results from the recent Okanogan County Fair. Submit results to editor@methowvalleynews.com.

• North Cascades Wild Riders: Grand Champion for Stall Decorations, Reserve Grand Champion Herdsmanship.

Senior Division

• Jady Mitchell riding Sandy: Grand Champion English Equitation; Grand Champion Reining; Grand Champion Barrels; Grand Champion Pole Bending; Reserve Champion Stock Seat Equitation; Reserve Champion Bareback Equitation; Reserve Champion Western Riding;

Reserve Champion Key Hole Race; Reserve Champion Herdsmanship.

• Jady Mitchell riding Lucky: Grand Champion 2-5 year-old Horsemanship; Reserve Champion Quarter Horse Halter Mares.

• Elizabeth Clark riding Cicely: Reserve High Point Performance Horse; Grand Champion Paint Halter Mares; Grand Champion Stock Seat Equitation; Grand Champion Trail; Grand Champion Western Riding; Reserve Champion English Equitation; Reserve Champion Western Pleasure; Reserve Champion Barrels; Reserve Champion Flag Race.

Intermediate Division

• Tyler Mitchell riding Sandy: Grand Champion Pole Bending; Grand Champion Herdsmanship; Reserve Champion Barrels; Reserve Champion Trail; Grand Champion Yeast Breads — Sheepherder's Bread; Reserve Champion Desserts Eddie Lull Carrot Cake.

• Mackenzie Scott riding Bobby Sox: High Point Performance Horse; Grand Champion Reining; Grand Champion Bareback Equitation; Grand Champion English Equitation; Reserve Champion Fitting and Showing; Reserve Champion Western Pleasure; Reserve Champion Stock Seat Equitation; Reserve Champion Round Robin; Grand

Champion Record Book; Grand Champion Illustrated Talk (Public Speaking).

• Ayla MacDonald riding Jack: Grand Champion Quarter Horse Halter Geldings; Reserve Grand Champion Reining; Reserve Grand Champion Horse Educational Display — Swirlology; Grand Champion Jam - Virgin Islands Tropical Jam Senior Division; Grand Champion Quick Breads - Apple Zucchini Bread Senior Division; Reserve Grand Champion Record Book Senior Division

• Kady Hammer riding Galena: Grand Champion Novice Rider; Barn Inspiration Award

• Kara McMillan: Grand

Champion, Lads and Lassies — Sheep; Blue, Fitting & Showing, Market, Herdsmanship and Education Display — Sheep; Special Award — Costume Class — Sheep; Producer of Merit — Sheep; Grand Champion — Pumpkin; Grand Champion — Dahlia; Trophy & Grand Champion — Recycled Project; Reserve Champion — Canned Tomatoes; Grand Champion — Dried Foods; Reserve Champion — Cut Flower; Special Award — Veggie Creature; Special Award — Fine Arts; Trophy & Grand Champion — Sewing Reserve Champion — Sewing; 46 Blues, 7 Red, 8 White in various 4-H projects including sewing, baking, foods,

canned, vegetables, flowers, crafts.

• James McMillan: Grand Champion, Lads & Lassies — Sheep; Special Award, Costume Class — Sheep; Producer of Merit — Sheep; Blue & Call Back — Fitting & Showing & Market — Sheep; Blue — Education Display & Herdsmanship; Special Award — Recycled Project; Reserve Champion — Dried Foods; Reserve Champion — Sunflower; Reserve Champion — Veggie Creature; Special Award — Cookies; Special Award — Fine Arts; 31 Blues, 5 Reds, 4 Whites in various 4-H Projects including foods, baking, canned, veggies, flowers and crafts.

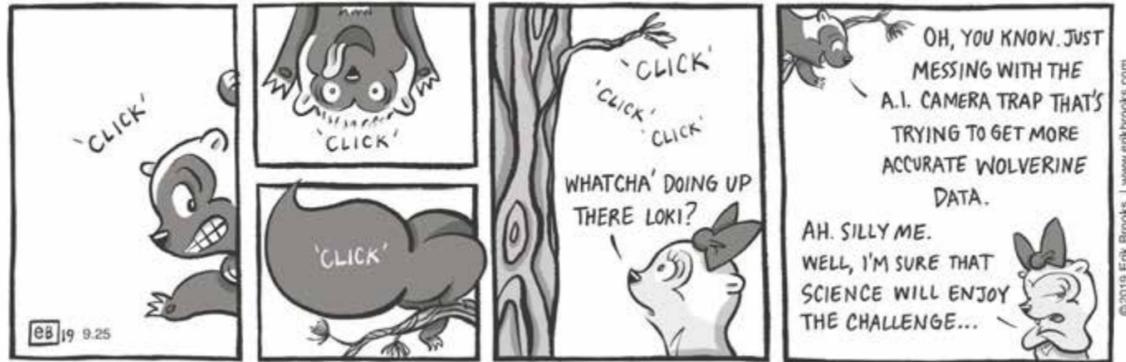


Photo by Alisha McMillan

Kara McMillan was a multiple winner in the sheep category.

Harts Pass

By Erik Brooks



REAL ESTATE

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NEWS BRIEFS

BACK TO SCHOOL AT MVES

Methow Valley Elementary hosts a Back to School Night on Thursday (Sept. 26), from 6–7 p.m. Students and parents will get an overview of grade-level curriculum, including opportunities in music, P.E. and Spanish. Community partners who support students and families will be available to share information regarding their programming. Child care for younger siblings will be provided in the Cub Gym. For more information, call 996-2186.

OPEN ROADS FUNDRAISER

A fundraiser to support efforts to keep local rural roads open will be at the Old Schoolhouse Brewery Taproom at TwispWorks on Friday (Sept. 27), with a happy hour at 4 p.m. and live music by Loren Boley, Tylar Moe and Wes Wil at 6 p.m.

CIDER SQUEEZE ON SATURDAY

The date for the Methow Conservancy's annual Cider Squeeze and Social has been changed to Saturday (Sept. 28), at the Sabold residence, 17 Bean Road, Winthrop. (It previously had been scheduled for Sept. 29). Bring a plastic jug or take one from the apple pressing. The free event will be from 2–4 p.m. For information, call 996-2870.

METHOW GEOLOGY COMES ALIVE

Local naturalist and editor Dana Visalli will present "The Dynamic Geology of the Methow" on Saturday (Sept. 28) at the Methow Valley Interpretive Center in Twisp. The free event begins at 6:30 p.m. Visalli also will lead a field trip around the valley on Sunday (Sept. 29). To register, contact him at dana@methownet.com.

REMEMBRANCES AT INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The Methow Valley Interpretive Center's "Last Sunday"

program on Sunday (Sept. 29) will be "Remembrance of Old Times." The free event begins at 5 p.m.; donations are appreciated. Native American rancher and Methow descendant Jimmy Timentwa will, for the first time, share stories from his mother Julianne Michelle and father Alexander Jack Timentwa, about a time when salmon were plentiful in our streams, mountain goats were abundant on the high mountains and Indian people knew the right place, time and song for harvest of every root, berry and animal. For information, email mvinterpretivecenter@gmail.com.

CULTURAL CENTER RUMMAGE SALE

The Community Cultural Center in Tonasket hosts its annual fall rummage sale on Oct. 3–5. Hours are 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Thursday and Friday, and 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Saturday. The center is accepting donations. For more information, call (509) 486-1328.

FOWL BREAKFAST, PRESENTATION

Friends of the Winthrop Library (FOWL) will host a free pancake breakfast, followed by a presentation of design concepts for the interior space of the new Winthrop library, on Oct. 5 at the Winthrop Barn. Breakfast starts at 9 a.m., followed by the presentation, as well as a community discussion, from 10–11:30 a.m. For information, visit www.winthroplibraryfriends.org.

SEARCHING FOR WILD SALMON

The Methow Conservancy's "First Tuesday" program on Oct. 8 will be "Upstream — Searching for Wild Salmon, From River to Table," with Washington author Langdon Cook. The free event will be at The Merc Playhouse in Twisp from 7–8 p.m. For information, visit methowconservancy.org or call 996-2870.

NONPROFIT EVENTS

Registration is open for the Nonprofit Practices Institute's fall workshops and annual Board Celebration Dinners.

The workshops are on Oct. 8 at Pybus Market, Wenatchee, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; and on Oct. 9 at Aero Methow Rescue Service in Twisp, also from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

The workshops' topic is "The Road Less Traveled: Building and Implementing a Fund Development Plan." Online registration is required along with a \$20 fee that includes lunch.

Board Celebration Dinners are on Oct. 14 at Sleeping Lady Resort, Leavenworth, starting at 5:30 p.m.; and on Oct. 16 at Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop, also starting at 5:30 p.m.

Registration deadline for both events is Monday (Sept. 30), or when maximum capacity is reached. To learn more, visit www.cfncw.org.

SPEAKERS TALK ABOUT SALMON, WATER RIGHTS

The Wenatchee River Institute will host two speaking events in October at the Red Barn, 347 Division St. in Leavenworth.

On Oct. 9, Leavenworth resident Tracy Bowerman will discuss the adaptations salmon have evolved in order to persist in a highly dynamic environment. Bowerman has a Ph.D. in aquatic ecology, and conducts research on salmon and trout throughout the Columbia River Basin.

On Oct. 23, attorney Erin McCool will offer an introduction to water rights law in Washington state. McCool is a member at Ogden Murphy Wallace PLLC.

Admission to both events is by donation. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and presentations begin at 7 p.m. For more information, visit wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

SCHOOL MENU

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26: Breakfast pizza bagel; chicken patty mozzarella, homemade breadsticks; custom sandwich deli option.
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27: French toast sticks; fish and chips, cornbread; soup, fresh-baked roll deli option.

MONDAY, SEPT. 30: Sausage pancake wrap; chicken alfredo, roasted broccoli and cauliflower; ham pesto wrap deli option.
Hot breakfast may be pizza, burrito or pizza bagel. Granola is made in the school kitchen. Oatmeal is offered daily. Fruit and milk (1 percent and nonfat)

included. A fresh fruit and vegetable bar is served with each lunch, featuring local produce when available. Deli option is a build-your-own sandwich, wrap or bagel. Bread products are made in the school kitchen. All meals include locally produced ingredients whenever possible.

METHOW VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

It's here — snow on the mountains and time for the Winter Sale on Saturday (Sept. 28). The next weekend we will be adding Halloween costumes and other spooky items. Come check it out — lots of warm coats, hats, boots, skates, sleds and more. Check our Facebook page for details.

We are in need of paper bags again. They are going out fast, and when we have a sale they go out faster. So, if you have some to share we would appreciate them.

We are asking our shoppers to hang the empty hangers on the end of the racks — it makes it a lot faster an easier for us to find them. Thank you.

Hard to believe summer is over. Hope we have a nice long

fall, with lots of pretty colors. Our new house is in now, and in a few weeks will be ready to move into. We can hardly wait.

The Senior Center is located next to the Methow Valley Community Center on Highway 20 in Twisp. Lunch is served at noon by the Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition Program on Monday, Thursday and Friday. The suggested donation for lunch is \$4 for seniors over age 60; the cost is \$.85 for those under 60. Annual membership dues are \$1.25.

The senior center's Rummage Room is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.. During Farmer's Market season, it is also open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Transportation is available locally for the senior lunch program, and for monthly trips to Omak/Okanogan the second Tuesday of the month and to Wenatchee the third Tuesday of the month. Call 1-800-635-4391 for additional details.
Rosalie Hutson

Lunch menu

THURSDAY, SEPT. 26: Ham-and-cheese sandwich, potato salad, pea salad, Waldorf salad, carrot cake.
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27: Roast beef, potatoes and gravy, Normandy vegetables, Caesar salad, whole wheat bread or roll, apple crisp.
MONDAY, SEPT. 30: Sloppy joe, green beans, squash and melon salad, fruit salad, dessert.

Obituary

Chris Michael Dammann

Chris Michael Dammann passed away in his Winthrop home on Sept. 16, 2019, at the age of 65. Chris was a long-time resident of Winthrop, watching it grow from a small quiet town to the busy destination it is today. Chris, the youngest of three children, was born on Oct. 2, 1953, to Henry "Hank" and Jean Dammann in Brewster.

Chris graduated from Winthrop High School in 1972. He joined the U.S. Army

following graduation and was stationed in Germany after completing basic training. Later in his life he worked for the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery. Chris began his time with Fish and Wildlife in 1994 as a volunteer for several months and ultimately gained full-time employment until his 2014 retirement due to medical reasons.

He was an avid hunter and

fisherman and enjoyed the outdoor lifestyle. His passion was working antler with which he created many artistic pieces from cribbage boards to candelabras to belt buckles. Chris was a good friend to many people with different backgrounds and was considered to have a generous nature.

Chris is survived by his sons John (Cady) Dammann, Matthew (Nicole) Dammann, and Daniel (Kate) Dammann; his stepsons Steven Farmer and Thomas Robertson; and stepdaughter Kelly Robertson.

At his request, no services will be held. Condolences may be sent to 3942 NE Blueridge Dr., East Wenatchee, WA 98802.



Chris Michael Dammann

Valley Life



Shelley Smith Jones

Mazama

Mazama could use a Pied Piper for the prolific crop of rodents this year. Imagine the legendary colorfully dressed character playing his magic pipe and all the rodents coming out of their burrows to follow him to a death plunge.

Rodents, varying in size, include mice, voles, pack rats, chipmunks and squirrels, to name a few of the area residents. Rodents are characterized by their ability to gnaw, as their classification comes from Latin *Rodere*, “to gnaw.”

I had been hearing of the mice prob-

lems from other Mazamans and was feeling pretty pleased that Tux, our barn cat, was keeping on top of our local population. That is until the day a dead critter showed up in our storage shed where there had never been any before.

Gingerly, I uncovered a rack where winter coats rest for the summer, and there it was: evidence of gnawing. A beautiful shirred beaver coat that I had packed around for three decades had one sleeve chewed to shreds. Ugh! I know — although vintage, since I bought it from the original owner who had it since World War II era — fur coats are not so socially acceptable nowadays. Maybe it met its demise respectably.

Now that we officially had a “mouse problem,” what to do beyond the cat and traps? Our neighbor had devised a bucket trap that was collecting mice by the dozens. A simple concept made from a 5-gallon bucket with a little ramp up to the rim. Then, the bait of peanut butter to lure the critter onto a slippery plastic pipe that rotates around a thin metal rod. The mouse walks the plank and that’s the end for him. Not to belabor this death trap, but the record catch has been 20

in a night.

Going back to the Pied Piper, the end of that legend was a little shocking to me as it’s been a long time since I revisited it. Because the mayor of Hamelin refused to pay the rat-catcher, Pied Piper retaliated by using the magical power of his instrument on the children of the town, leading them away as he had the rats. That’s a terrible story!

There’s another pest group indigenous to the valley: wasps. Most homes, barns and sheds have the ubiquitous yellow wasp-catcher hanging in the popular areas. Although we name Sno-parks and trails after the yellowjacket, it’s not so-named affectionately. The yellowjacket is an aggressive wasp, mostly coming around in August, harassing outdoor activities such as barbecues, picnics and restaurant patios. Of course, it’s the smell of food that attracts them. They will band together and attack en masse if their nest is threatened.

Then there is the most aggressive wasp: the hornet. They, too, fiercely protect their nests. Some types, such as the bald-faced hornet, will employ a couple of “watchmen” who will alert the team

inside to attack as a group, if threatened. With fall in the air, wasp season is on the wane. Most wasps die off during the winter due to starvation. But, not the queen; so be prepared for another battle next year.

With all this talk about pests, let’s give some attention to the good bees: the pollinators. Honeybees, bumblebees and mason bees are among our locals of the group of bees that pollinate 80% of the plants in the world. The mason bees are exceptional native pollinators here in the Methow Valley. They are non-aggressive, mellow little guys. Patrick from Nice Nests in TwispWorks makes mason bee boxes and homes for other beneficial pollinators. Knowledgeable about these busy workers, he is happy to answer any questions about how to attract them.

Trail etiquette update: An avid hiker from Mazama shared some thoughts from his perspective. Plan ahead and be prepared. Accidents, weather and wildlife can cause unexpected situations. Knowing what to do and having what you need with you are important safety tips. He especially emphasized the trail courtesy of giving the person



Photo by Joel Engberg

Mason bees are mellow native pollinators.

hiking uphill the right of way. “They are working harder and should be allowed to keep their rhythm,” he says. Finally, dog owners need to be courteous about a dog that may be unfriendly and, another general rule, pick up the little green bags.

Giving readers a little more lead time this week to visit with me at Mazama Store: Friday (Sept. 27), from 3:30–4:30 p.m. Coming up: pivotal moments.



Ashley Lodato

Winthrop

I was recently at a memorial service for a longtime family friend — an occasion that is happening with altogether too much regularity in recent years. I’m at an age where my parents’ generation is failing, and these past few years have brought a steady stream of passings and, consequently, memorials, celebrations of life, and other opportunities to remember those who meant a great deal to me and the people I grew up with.

The gatherings have also brought a reminder of our own mortality, since — as one friend grimly put it, upon hearing of yet another elder’s death — “we’re next.”

These memorials are in some ways grueling. It’s heartbreaking to witness a grieving spouse stand bravely, wondering who he or she is without this life partner of 50 or 60 years; to see friends lose parents and children lose grandparents.

But the memorials are also undeniably wonderful life experiences. Those close to the deceased tell stories that are, in turn, funny, irreverent, surprising, poignant. Celebrating lives through stories and memories makes us experience the people anew through all of their phases of life, infusing our memory of their failing days with a fresh perspective: our

loved ones as teens, as young parents, as complex and competent and vulnerable people doing their best with their lives, just like the rest of us.

At these gatherings we see old friends and classmates with whom we’ve lost touch; we meet their children and their spouses. We reconnect with former teachers and coaches. We interact as adults with people who were merely our friends’ parents when we were growing up. We see our roots, our foundations — the people who nurtured us and sent us out in the world to become whoever we were going to become, knowing that we carried a little part of each

of them inside us.

We see — as another friend remarked after the most recent memorial — “the good people who raised us, taught us, shaped us, and loved us.”

So we mourn the passing of each elder who moves to the other side of the veil, and at the same time we feel a little bit better, a little bit fuller, for having had them in our lives. And “lucky us!” we think. We got the chance to know these people. They mentored and supported us, and, above all, let us grow into the people we were meant to become. Despite our grief in the wake of losing these people, lucky us.



Sarah Schrock

Twisp

It was dirty business for few valley residents this past weekend who traveled over to the muddy side of the state and participated in the Tough Mudder in Black Diamond. The Tough Mudder is an international event and racecourse that ranges from 5-12 kilometers with up to 25 obstacles of dirty challenges.

Less of a race and more of a challenge, the event attracts the bold and brawny who are willing to wade through pits of mud, swing over pools of crud, commando crawl under electrically charged wires, and crawl up and down cargo nets and the like. Participants work in teams to scale or slither through the obstacles, and cooperation and

encouragement are emphasized.

Last year, I featured Gene Shull and his Mudder partner Abby Baur in this column. After interviewing Gene, I got excited and decided to join the 2019 team and recruited my family along with me. All summer a small group of committed Mudders met each Thursday morning at 6 a.m. at Twisp Park to train. We jumped in the river to simulate being wet, we lunged, we crawled, we crunched, we pulled. We grew strong and ready. We later found out that there was a Winthrop team training upstream. Game on!

Then two weeks ago, I tore a ligament in my hand and crushed my left shoulder, resulting in injuries that left me unable to compete (or do anything of much use like fold laundry). Anyhow, I found a surrogate team member and accompanied my team that included a crew of local U.S. Forest Service buffs like Gene, Rosemary Seifried, Jenn Zajac and Connie Mehmel, along with my own household consisting of Hans Smith and my two sons Eldon and Quin as Mini Mudders. Abby Baur, Sarah Billings, formerly of Twisp, along with some affiliated friends and family from the west side, met us on the course in Black Diamond. As I watched for our team dressed in bright pink from the spectator route, I bumped into the Winthrop team Joe and Isolde O’Driscoll, Seth and Kellen Miles, and Aemon Monahan, who were warming up.

The Tough Mudder is tough, but



Photo by Sarah Schrock

The Methow team “Nevertheless She Persisted” tackled the Block Ness monster obstacle, one of 25 on the Tough Mudder course.

most agreed, it wasn’t punishment. But more than strength and endurance, it’s a battle of grit and teamwork. The obstacles are designed to require assistance with pushes and pulls from others. Teams help each other and reach out to other competitors. The Mini Mudder, designed for ages 6-12, captured three young valley athletes who, like their adult companions, didn’t shy away from the mud and gave it their all.

Take Connie Mehmel — at age 68, this is her fifth Tough Mudder. Impressive, because based on the crowd I surveyed, there weren’t many with AARP cards. Connie epitomizes grit. Last month, she retired from a lifelong career with Forest Service where she was an entomologist, firefighter and forest sil-

viculturist, careers typically dominated by men.

Coincidentally, last week as I was listening to NPR, she was featured with her son on Story Corps, an NPR interview show that documents American’s personal stories. The interview was captured in 2009 following a wildfire where she was the crew boss in charge of her son’s crew. She noted, NPR called her in August to fact check before they ran the interview, 10 years later. I was listening and had to hush my household and say, “hey, we’re doing the with Mudder her, she’s on NPR right now!” Congratulations to Connie on her triumphant muddy finish and retirement. By the looks of it, she’s not slowing down anytime soon.



Photo by Nicole O’Driscoll

Kellen Miles and Aemon Monahan in the Tough Mudder 5.



Joanna Bastian

Lower Valley

Elderberry Canyon, located in the Libby Creek drainage, has no elderberries. At least, from what I observed on a recent foray, I could be wrong. My attention was oft distracted by views of silvery granite peaks of the Sawtooth range, adorned by seasonal colors of golden larches.

If you are looking for a short and

sweet, in and out, close to town, and relatively flat walk, Elderberry Canyon is one option. To get there, travel 1 mile south of Carlton, and turn right into the Libby Creek drainage. After 3.6 miles, take the left fork and continue on Libby Creek Road for about a quarter of a mile. An old forest road sign indicates “Elderberry Canyon Road End, 2.” The first portion of this dirt road is private. If driving a high-clearance all-wheel drive vehicle, you could drive to the end of this 2-mile rutted road and park in a small clearing. Otherwise, park alongside Libby Creek Road. Do not block the entrance, and do not stray from the easement.

Elderberry Canyon trail begins at the end of this 2-mile rutted and overgrown jeep track. Wide and shaded, the trail is a roadbed that gently climbs for approximately 2 miles through red ponderosa pine, dressed in brilliant wolf lichen. At 2 miles, the trail disappears into a small meadow. Lookout Mountain rises ahead, and the ambitious hiker in search of views can continue on the open ridge-line to the lookout.

This gem is a go-to trail for all sea-

sons. In the spring, yellow balsam and spring beauties carpet the forest floor and frame the views of the Sawtooths. In summer and fall the shaded roadbed is an easy mountain bike ride with rewarding views. Elderberry Canyon is accessible in winter, as Libby Creek Road is reliably plowed. Skiers and snowshoers should look for wider parking pullouts at the junction of Libby Creek Road and Smith Canyon Road and walk the quarter mile to the beginning of Elderberry Canyon Road.

The Last Sunday presentation at Methow Valley Interpretive Center this month features Methow descendant, Jimmy Timentwa. Jimmy has never before shared his stories in an open public forum. As a child, Jimmy accompanied his parents, Julliane Michelle and Alexander Jack Timentwa, into the canyons and upper meadows of the Methow Valley, learning the “right place, time and song for harvest of every root, berry and animal.”

He will share stories of a time when, “salmon were plentiful in our streams, and mountain goats were abundant on the high mountains.” Jimmy’s



Photo by Joanna Bastian

Elderberry Canyon is a rewarding hike in any season.

grandparents were Louis and Rosalie Timentwa. Louis was chief of the Lower Okanogan. Today, Jimmy operates his family ranch on the Colville Reservation.

Jimmy will share his stories, entitled “Remembrance of Old Times,” on Sunday (Sept. 29) at 5 p.m. in the Interpretive Center, located on the TwispWorks campus. Admission is by donation.