

State needs to pay its share of elections

BY MARIANNE NICHOLS
PEND OREILLE COUNTY AUDITOR

No one should have to choose between safety and democracy. Your county shouldn't have to prioritize one over the other. But that's what happens every other year. And that's exactly what will happen again in 2020 if the Washington State Legislature continues refusing to pay its fair share of election costs.

Counties conduct elections on behalf of every level of government – from federal presidential elections all the way to local mosquito control districts. Washington State residents should be confident and proud that they have one of the most trustworthy and efficient election systems in the United States, with an excellent reputation for integrity, accuracy, and access.

Achieving this unparalleled election system comes with a cost. It's expensive to modernize and maintain election registration and ballot-counting systems. It's expensive to provide the highest possible election security. And it's expensive to conduct elections for 4.4 million registered voters across the state.

Same-day voter registration, more ballot drop boxes, and pre-paid postage are important additions to help improve voter access. However, they are costly additions that have been mandated by your state legislators. They are either not funded fully or not funded at all, creating more unfunded mandates to county government who already struggle to meet other obligations in providing public health services, law enforcement, courts, and a myriad of other statutorily and constitutionally required programs and services.

Who should pay? Nearly every ballot in every election contains a mixture of districts, such as state, county, city, schools, etc. And every participating district pays its fair share of the total election cost based on the number of registered voters within its boundary lines. Every participant except for the state of Washington, that is. The state Legislature has decided to "dine and dash" during even years, when the vast majority of their state offices are on the ballot. Despite being given multiple opportunities to do the right thing and change the law, the state instead sticks your cash-strapped county government with the bill.

That's why your county commissioners and coun-

SEE NICHOLS, 6A

The way things are sometimes

It was about two months after my boyfriend James had died and I was walking on the beach along



SOPHIE'S CHOICE

SOPHIA ALDOUS

Lake Roosevelt in front of my dad's house. The date doesn't really matter, but it was summer and the sun was white-hot, turning the sand that had been revealed from the water's drawdown into cracked hard pack. I had a walking stick, which had been brought along to make noise to alert rattlesnakes of my presence as I made my way through the bushes from the road to the sand. There were no snakes, but there was the space I needed that had been both my playground in childhood and a comforting recreation in adulthood.

My ego desperately wishes I could tell you how that loss back in 2011 changed me on a deep, fundamental level, how I came out of my grief with a clear vision of what it meant for me to love and be loved, how I forged ahead in assuredness and gratitude for a life well-lived. However, that is not what happened. Me handling feelings was like a cat getting caught up in a stream of flypaper: this is awkward, don't look at me, and don't you dare film this for YouTube!

When I returned from California after James's funeral and helping clean out his room in the house he had been renting, life settled back into my everyday routine. Work at the local newspaper, the occasional play at the local theatre, etc. During the week, my veneer reflected what I thought was that of a professional: courteous, efficient, kept up my quota of coffee consumed between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. When the weekend came and I was alone with no appearances to keep up, I would dissolve into an unstoppable surge of tears and my body would fold and collapse like a broken card table. It was almost like clockwork, and it always happened when I was by myself.

That day at my dad's it was a relief to stroll the expanse of beach, no sounds except the occasional bird chirping, or car going by on the highway, or the tick, tick, tick of my walking stick hitting the ground. It was a beautiful day actually, vivid blue skies, that Northeast Washington sun that feels like it's set at birthday cake baking temperature. I didn't see it though, because James wasn't there to see it with me. I was fast becoming convinced that nothing could be

SEE SOPHIE, 6A



YOUR OPINION

Land use and economic opportunity

To the editor,
Pend Oreille County Commissioners Comprehensive Plan amendment CPU-18-001 involves sweeping changes that eliminate the "Public Land" designation for all currently designated Public Lands. Public lands include federal, state, local agencies and private ownership. CPU-18-001 public land rezoning would impact lands across approximately two thirds of the county, and would allow more intense uses; including industrial, residential and other development.

Concerned citizens have speculated that CPU-18-001 would facilitate the location of the controversial smelter in Newport. Until the county amends its Comprehensive Plan to reform the current county zoning laws and Public Land designation, PacWest is unable to apply for a conditional use permit.

After diligent deliberation, the Pend Oreille County Planning Commission recommended to deny the blanket Public Land rezoning CPU-18-001 at its April 9, 2019 meet-

ing. The discussion regarding the amendment was highly professional, and the conscientious work demonstrated by the Planning Commission is to be commended. County Commissioners will make a final decision at some point in the future.

A past letter in The Miner Newspapers ("Is smelter another Toy-Pack?" Nov. 15, 2017), describes an offshore company's proposal to build an experimental paper mill in Pend Oreille County that sparked citizens' concerns. "The experimental mill was not built, we waited and we got a clean, proven design paper mill instead."

We are now faced with another foreign company's proposal to build a heavy polluting facility; and the smelter has again sparked citizens' concerns.

We need an honest and cooperative approach to securing our economic future. The Kaniksu Connections Trail Project Public Workshop at the Camus Center (Thursday, 4/18/2019) included the movie "Era of Mega Fires." This movie recommends management strategies that could

revitalize our timber and forest products industry. Environmentally conscious land use, plus economic opportunity – this sounds like a potential win-win situation worth pursuing.

-John Endres
Newport

Human Rights Club long overdue

To the editor,
At Priest River high school, a student told a black kid someone was coming to school dressed as a Ku Klux Klansman and chase him around school. I admonished him. He asked, "Why? It's funny."

One student proclaimed he was a racist. I had him look up the word: "Someone who thinks that their race is superior to all others, in some situations willing to commit violence against others not of their race." I explained people who knew the definition might think he was willing to harm others.

I heard one black kid called "N-----." About 20 kids laughed. I reprimanded the yeller. He said "I'm not the only one who calls him that. He likes the attention."

LETTERS POLICY

We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Letters should be typed and submitted to The Miner office no later than 5 p.m. Friday for publication the following Wednesday. No letter will be published unless it is signed by at least one individual, even if the letter represents the view of a group. The letter must include a telephone number and address for authentication. The Miner reserves the right to edit letters. Political letters will not be published the last issue before an election. Letters will be printed as space allows.

WEB COMMENTS

We welcome comment on select stories on our web site. You may comment anonymously. We will review comments before posting and we reserve the right to omit or edit comments. If you want to comment only to our writers and editors, let us know that you do not want your comment published.

Students were talking about "stupid Mexicans." I responded, "When you put down one minority you have no idea who you are insulting. Prejudiced remarks coming from someone who doesn't know minorities, is ignorant. You don't know who our relatives are. You don't know my husband is a black man." Jaws dropped. "I'm not. But you don't know that."

Two kids raised their hands. They were 50 percent Hispanic and heard similar hurtful comments often. One student told me a substitute teacher said similar things in a classroom.

"F-----," was frequently yelled by kids with intention to insult other kids. Many teen suicides are committed by "gay" kids who are tormented and bullied. The Human Rights Club at the high school is overdue. It is not a "gay club." It discussed gender issues one time. Kids can learn that the world is composed of lots of different kinds of people and whether or not they are one of those different kinds of people they can be compassionate towards people who

SEE LETTERS, 5A

Child marriage is not acceptable

I was disappointed that Idaho voted down a bill to disallow children from getting married. The bill would have made it so that no child under the age of 16 can be married and a 16-year-old cannot marry anyone more than three years their elder. In Washington, as the law stands now, a 17 year old can get married with parental permission, and anyone under the age of 17 must petition the court. Shame on those that voted it down, and shame on the judges that sign off on marriages to children in their early teens, especially

to those who are marrying men



CANEEL'S CORNER

CANEEL JOHNSON

The law says that children under the age of 18 are not allowed to buy cigarettes because they are too young to understand the damage they do to their health. Washington bumped the age to 21. A person has to be 21 to buy alcohol, and they have to be 25 to rent a car or a hotel room. All of these things are a one-time commitment.

Hell, they have to be 18 to legally enter into a contract and it is limited to a specific amount of time.

SEE CANEEL, 6A

READER'S POLL

A redacted version of the Mueller report was released last week. The report is the culmination of a years long investigation into whether the campaign of President Trump coordinated with the Russians over the 2016 election. The report said there was no coordination between the campaign and the Russians and said it couldn't decide on whether President Trump obstructed justice. It also painted the White House as a chaotic place to work.

What should happen next?

Impeachment proceedings must be started against Trump. The report demonstrates he is unfit for office.

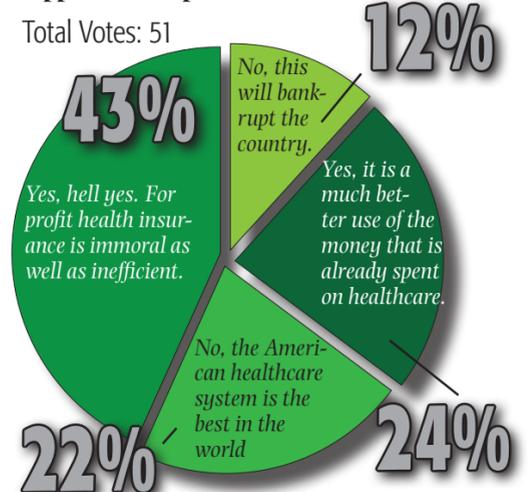
Nothing, the report said Trump and the campaign didn't collude with the Russians.

The FBI should be investigated over spying on a presidential candidate.

Impeachment no, but the country simply must elect another president in 2020.

READER'S POLL RESULTS

Vermont senator and Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders announced his 'Medicare for All,' proposal recently. Do you support such a plan?





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SCHOLARSHIP

FROM PAGE 3A

tance in getting our returning adult students into high-demand career and technical fields and on to a prosperous career," Brockbank said. "The mission of the All Within Our Hands Foundation runs parallel to our mission at SCC and we are honored to be in partnership with the foundation and the greatest rock band ever."

SCC plans to use the Metallica money to serve adults in the community who may need to get their GED or get extra support as they move from basic education into college credit

classes. This could include extra support with college costs, additional staff support or special classes that bridge the learning from basic education to college courses.

"It is a priority for our college to continue to build a pipeline of future employees in the high-demand career and technical education areas," Brockbank said. "This grant with Metallica and All Within My Hands will bolster our efforts to transition students from college readiness offerings, GED training and high school completion courses into college level coursework and programs that will

lead to lifelong careers."

The first cohort of students helped by the Metallica grants will become known as the Metallica Scholars, according to the AACC, which partnered with Metallica on this initiative.

"While the foundation continues our support for the fight against hunger and emergency community aid, we are now expanding our mission to include support for career and technical education," said the foundation's executive director, Dr. Edward Frank.

The Newport Community College is part of SCC.

CANEEL

FROM PAGE 4A

Yet, Idaho will allow a 13-year-old child to enter into a lifetime contract. Most layers will not even take on a divorce case for a person that young because their contract is not valid because they are not 18. Idaho has mandatory counseling designed to discourage adult women from having an abortion, but no counseling is mandatory before a child can be married.

How can a child know if they are ready for that kind of commitment? Some people justify it by saying that they know people who have been

together since they were in their early teens. That is rare especially today when half of marriages fail.

Parents make their children wait until they are old enough to smoke, drink, or get a tattoo. Make them wait until they are 18 to get married. I don't know how many times I heard my mother say if you still want to when you are 18, I can't stop you. What is wrong with that? Do you know how many stupid things that saved me from? I am now 38 and thank my mother for saying no!

If a child is not mature enough to decide to get

a permanent picture put on their body they should not be able to get married. Even a tattoo artist will not tattoo anyone under 16 with their parent's permission. The consent age is 16. How can you consent to marry someone if you can't consent to have sex his or her spouse.

This is the 21-century. This is not the 1800s.

I like most people thought this was a thing of the past or only happened in third world countries, but it happens right here in the United States. I read an article in the Inlander titled 'Given Away' about child marriage and two women

who were married off at a young age and abused by their husbands. According to the Inlander, 200,000 children have been married in the last 20 years. Many of them to adults who would have faced statutory rape charges otherwise. Eighty-seven percent of them were women, and 86 percent of them married adults. In my opinion one is too many. Most of them end up dropping out of school and being poor for life.

Shame on the parents who allow their children to be married off to a much older man. Do you have no shame? What are you thinking?

RISSO

FROM PAGE 4A

Police have their own more detailed tracking system to help them follow crime called Spillman. The crimereports.com is geared for Neighborhood Watch programs and for homeowners who want to be aware and help make their community safer. The site gives information about the types and locations of crimes. However, names of individuals are not given.

Visit www.crimereports.com to access an interactive crime map for your community. When navigating this map, the user can specify the crime(s) or layers to populate on the map, the date range, and the location(s) to be shown. Users also have the ability to register their home or business security cameras with CrimeReports.com and equally important citizens can send tips related to crimes already listed on the map to aid in investigations, as well as for non-reported crimes.

Tips can be anonymous and encrypted, so that agencies can communicate with the tipster through email to gain further information.

Addresses are given as "Hundred blocks" rather than specific locations to protect victim's privacy. With a click of a mouse users can view information about each incident. The mapped incidents specific to neighborhoods; users can create an alert to monitor activity around a specific location as well as show sex offender and violent registry lists.

In a recent phone interview with Pend Oreille County Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee, he mentioned his department is reviewing the Crime Reports application for all of the county, so its citizens are aware of what is going on. Sheriff Blakeslee also explained his department wants to be as transparent as possible. And that one of his deputies, Jake Larsen, is developing a Neighborhood Watch Program in the county similar to that of Bonner County's Neighborhood Watch program.

For more information on how you can get involved in the program contact the Sheriff's Department at 509-447-1980.

"Nixle" is another tool, a service

that allows verified government agencies to send messages to local residents via phone, email and through the internet. Information is delivered almost instantly to geographically targeted consumers. You can sign up online, or simply text 888777 and enter your zip code in the message body. Reply "STOP" to cancel and "HELP" for help information.

The service is provided for free by Nixle, but carrier message and data rates may apply.

Visit Nixle.com and their FAQs for additional information.

These are just some of the tools that can be used. But remember the best thing we have is us citizen's getting involved. We are, and we will always be one of the best deterrents to a crime, in a community, anywhere USA, before it starts.

If you have any questions with regards to the technical applications you can write me at kellierisso@gmail.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kellie Risso is a community volunteer who is heading up the Priest River Neighborhood Watch program.

NICHOLS

FROM PAGE 4A

cil members are forced to choose between the public safety you need and a democracy you can trust.

When counties are on the hook to pay the entire cost of conducting the state's elections, it means that law enforcement and our criminal justice

system, public health, and parks are deprived of resources. So long as the state fails to pay its fair share of state elections, your county will shoulder the burden of these unfunded mandates. County officials will continue to foot the state's bill while siphoning resources away from public safety and quality of life.

Or will they? Election administrators are readying for 2020, looming as the largest and most contentious election in Washington State's history. Will counties even be able to backfill the state's election costs? Is this a risk you

want to take?

Now more than ever, we must support secure, transparent, and accessible elections. Hundreds of county officials – including all 39 independently-elected county auditors and elections directors – asked the state Legislature to pass a Fair Share Election Funding bill (House Bill 1291 and Senate Bill 5073). Instead of stepping up to their responsibility as every school, fire, and park district does, the state of Washington continues to refuse to pay its bills putting your vote at risk.

Let your voice be heard on this issue and tell your

legislators to stop putting our electoral system at risk. As representatives of the Washington State Association of County Auditors and the Washington State Association of Counties, we urge you to call or e-mail your state legislators and tell them it's time to pay their fair share of their own elections. If you don't know how to reach the lawmakers who represent you, call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000 or visit www.leg.wa.gov.

MARIANNE NICHOLS IS PRESIDENT OF THE WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AUDITORS.

SOPHIE

FROM PAGE 4A

gorgeous, funny, or meaningful again.

That's when it hit me, figuratively and literally.

The tears came, my knees buckled, and as I fell forward I dropped the walking stick, which bounced off the hard pack and hit with a hollow "Thwack!" as it hit me right between the eyes. Surprised, I sprawled onto my back, clutch-

ing my forehead. Peals of laughter flew out of me like racing pigeons let out of a cage, while tears leaked from the corners of my eyes. I imagine if anyone had happened by at that moment, they would have thought my cheese had slipped off of my cracker, permanently.

If you've ever laughed and cried at the same time though, you know it's a glorious feeling to be reminded that you can still do both.



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OUR OPINION

Changing of the guard successful for fair

The 101st edition of the Pend Oreille Count Fair wrapped up Sunday and by all accounts was a success under the leadership of fair board president Garth Hanson.

Hanson was elected chairman after long time chair Jim Mathis turned over the reins after 20 years as fair board chairman. Mathis still organizes the car show, something he intends to continue.

The success of the fair is really the result of the hard work of many volunteers, young and old. It is the largest event in the county, with hundreds of participants and even more spectators.

The fair will pay out something like \$18,000 in premiums, the money ribbon winners get. The fair is required to award half of the \$36,000 they get from the state in premiums.

The Fair Market Animal Sale generated about \$120,000 for young participants. The number is down a little from last year, as there were fewer buyers, with Teck, owners of the Pend Oreille Mine, not buying this year. The Kalispel Tribe was a strong buyer, as always, but it was needed more this year and the tribe came though.

There were more large animals this year in the Fair Market Animal Sale, with 21 steers sold, up from 13 the previous year.

The fair changed the rodeo dates to Friday night and Saturday night. In the past it was held Saturday night and Sunday. The change brought more spectators and let organizers enjoy Sunday a little more.

The work of fair volunteers isn't over yet, as there are checks to write and results to publish. But they can breath easier knowing this year's fair came off without a hitch and was greatly enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

-DG

Things that go bump in the night

Being the rational sort that I am when it comes to ruling out the impossible, the only logical conclusion I can arrive at after being woken up in the wee hours of the morning two nights in a row is that my apartment must be haunted.



SOPHIE'S CHOICE
SOPHIA ALDOUS

Ghosts: The convenient answer when explanations are too hard for me to grasp in the moment.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. As some of you dear readers may know, I live in the apartment adjoining The Roxy Movie Theater. There was some humble bragging about it quite a bit in last year's Home Edition of Voice of The Pend Oreille Valley. However, this column isn't about my fixation with all things vintage and retro. I guess you could qualify supernatural specters as "vintage", because there don't seem to be any famous ones past the 1960s, but again, I'm meandering.

It started last Thursday, when I was woken from a dead sleep by the sounds of heavy footsteps. Sounds travel strange in my apartment; you can't always tell if it's coming from downstairs or in the theater next door. For a few hazy moments I thought perhaps it was my neighbors downstairs, doing some cleaning or rearranging furniture. Then I saw the time: 3:30 a.m. My neighbors are productive, no-nonsense ladies, but they certainly aren't living Better Homes and Gardens out loud in the wee hours of the morning. That realization sliced right through my grogginess and I was awake like a squirrel with a firecracker tied to its tail. Looking out my back window I didn't see any cars in the parking lot. Moving to the front room and looking down on the street, also nothing. Meanwhile, those stirring sounds are still going on.

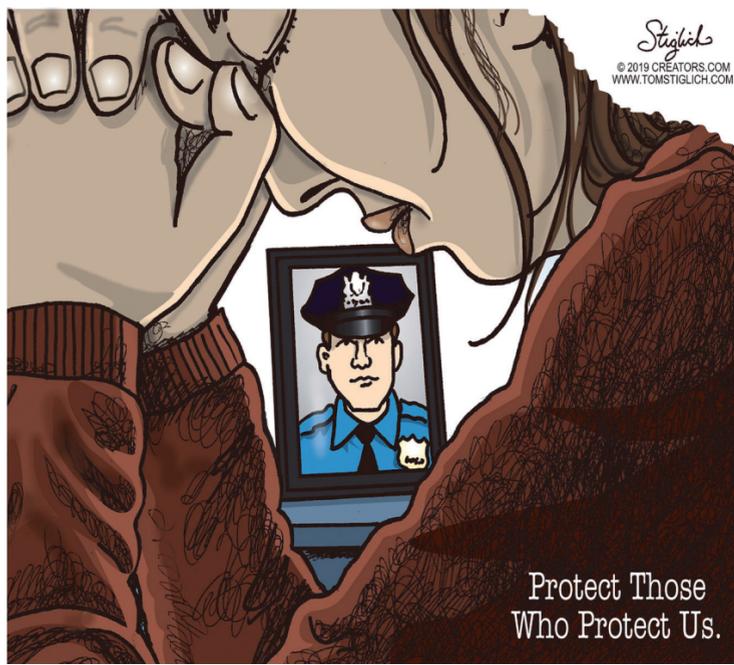
If I wanted to spice this retelling up, I would say that I then called out, demanding that whoever is tromping about to cease their impression of an elephant doing the Electric Slide across a plywood floor, and a voice sounding horrifyingly like Linda Blair in full-possessed mode answered, "We're actually doing The Hustle. Keep up."

Nothing like that happened. I ended up calling Pend Oreille County Dispatch to request a welfare check and drank coffee until it was time to get ready for work. The sounds eventually tapered off. I texted my landlord about the incident and we both had a good chuckle about "ghosts." I made a crack about how I would rather it be something paranormal than an actual person loitering loudly around the apartment.

I changed my mind rather quickly when it happened the next night. This time, it was around 1 a.m. Stomping, rearranging sounds anywhere from 15 to 20 minutes. Once again, I checked the parking lot and the street outside. No vehicles. Unnerved would be an apt way to describe my state of mind.

For the record, I don't believe in ghosts. Sometimes, I feel like I am among only a handful of women born after the countercultural movement that thinks

SEE SOPHIE, 6A



Protect Those Who Protect Us.

YOUR OPINION

Fair volunteer generous

To the editor:
I wonder if we know how fortunate we are to live in a small friendly community. I went to the Pend Oreille Fair on Friday and changed to a smaller purse, well I forgot to put my billfold in. Got up to the entrance looked in my purse and no money.

I did have my driver license and credit card. She said we do not take credit cards but there is an ATM over there. I don't have a pin and have never used an ATM machine-and don't really want to learn. Guess I'll drive back 20 miles and get my money.

She said I'll give it to you and you can pay it forward. Well if I did that she would be out \$7. Had to talk her out of her name, Tina Olson. My granddaughter was coming up for the weekend and stopping

at the fair after work so I told her to pay her and I would pay my granddaughter back, when she got there. Tina was off shift and no one would take her money. Sunday I stopped on the way home and she wasn't there. I guess I will pay it forward but I worry that she is still out \$7. Thank you very much Tina.

Irene Dixon
Spokane and
Holiday Shores

Comments on recent letters

To the editor:
Just a few honest comments on the letters of Aug. 7. Due to the fact that The Miner does not arrive until Thursday, so we in the north end of the county, our views are very seldom seen.

Mr. Bedore, you say, 'how do you know that I watch Fox news?' I'll tell you how I know, you are nearly an exact echo of Hannity or Tucker

Carlson. You write nothing that I haven't heard before on Fox news.

Mrs. Lands, did you flunk grade school history? Kingly President Trump. Didn't them, those and we fight a bloody war to rid ourselves of a king?

Mrs. Newman and Mr. Platz, we are one of the poorest counties in the state and what do we poor folks do? We vote for the same Republicans that think they're living in King County.

Mr. Scobby, run for public office, bitching will not change a damn thing.

Bob Gregerson
Ione

Assessments too high

To the editor,
Increasing property tax assessments provides a way to offset the increasing costs of county government. That's what many homeowners are expe-

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Drones planting trees in burned wildlands

While drones are coming of age in firefighting, they are also establishing a foothold in restoring fire-scorched forests.



GUEST OPINION

DON C. BRUNELL
ASSOCIATION
OF
WASHINGTON
BUSINESS
PRESIDENT

At first, it appeared the iconic building would be completely destroyed; however, French firefight-

ers used thermal vision drones to direct their hoses and get an upper hand of the situation. Notre Dame is massive and having a view from above provided critical information which was not available on the ground.

In the days after the flames, drones were used extensively to collect key structural information and allow workers to safely enter the building and begin restoration.

Then last June, fire bosses near Flagstaff, Ariz., found themselves battling an 8,000-acre blaze, part of which was used for World War II artillery training. Unexploded bombs, shells, bullets, grenades and mines posed a deadly hazard to firefighters on the ground, pilots in low-flying retardant spraying aircraft, and high-voltage transmission lines.

Drones not only provided a view of where the ordinance may be,

but allowed remote operators to drop ping-pong size fire bombs to start low-intensity backfires. It worked because when the main fire arrived, most of its needed fuel was gone.

While drones used in firefighting have drawn lots of attention, a new role is surfacing in helping to reforest burned wildlands.

Replanting trees as quickly as possible after a wildfire is one of the most important ways of reducing CO2, stemming erosion and preventing floods. Every year worldwide, 15 billion trees are destroyed by fire or pollution and despite \$50 billion a year spent by governments around our planet on replanting, there remains an annual net loss of 6 billion trees.

Over the last decade, western forestlands have been devastated

SEE BRUNELL, 5A

READER'S POLL

President Donald Trump tweeted that it would be a sign of "weakness" for Israel to admit two U.S. Congresswomen, Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar, into Israel. They are both Democrats and Muslim and support the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement against Israel over its treatment of Palestine. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu followed through and denied their entry, although he later lifted the ban for Tlaib as long as she didn't promote BDS. She declined to visit under those terms.

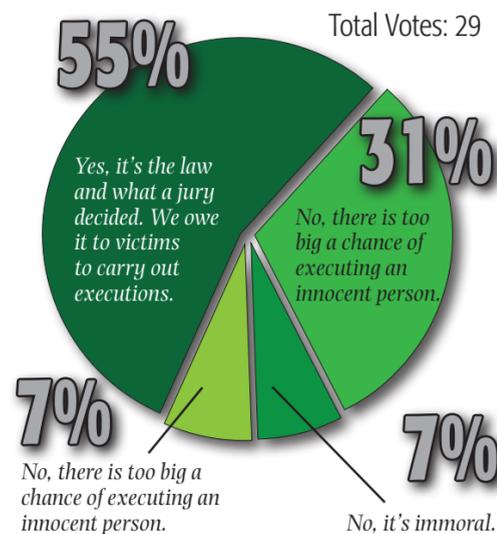
Israel is the largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, receiving more than \$3 billion in 2019. Should Israel continue to receive U.S. aid after banning duly elected members of Congress from entering the country?

Yes, why should Israel admit someone who is against its very existence?

No, Israel commits war crimes in Palestine with U.S. weapons.

READER'S POLL RESULTS

Should the federal government execute people?



Four wolves culled for killing cattle



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SPOKANE – On the morning of Aug. 16, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lethally removed four known members of the OPT wolf pack.

A series of WDFW investigations had shown the pack responsible for 29 depredation incidents in Ferry County near the Canadian border.

That same day, King County Superior Court Judge John McHale barred WDFW from killing the remaining member of the pack until the court heard the merits of

the case.

WDFW Director Kelly Susewind reauthorized the lethal removals on July 31 in response to continuing depredations of cattle on federal grazing lands in the Kettle River Range of Ferry County.

The removal decision was made with guidance from the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the lethal removal provisions of the department's wolf-livestock interaction protocol.

According to a news release for WDFW, the

OPT pack has been involved in 14 livestock depredations in the last 10 months, with nine in the last 30 days, and a total of 29 since Sept. 5, 2018.

The livestock producer who owns the affected livestock took several proactive, nonlethal, conflict deterrence measures to reduce conflicts between wolves and livestock, and WDFW will continue to monitor for wolf activity in the area and work closely with producers.

This was the fourth time Susewind has authorized lethal removal in the OPT pack since Sept. 12, 2018.

Plaintiffs, supported by the Maryland-based Center for a Humane Economy, filed a petition for review of Susewind's July 31 reauthorization, and sought a temporary restraining order in King County Superior Court on Aug. 1.

The motion for a restraining order was denied by a court commissioner at the time, allowing the removal effort to continue.

The hearing on a motion for preliminary injunction was scheduled for Aug. 16, when the court was expecting to, and did, hear an update on the department's removal activities.

According to Donny

Martorello, wolf policy lead for WDFW, the department had been working steadily to meet its stated intentions since the courts gave it the clearance to move forward on Aug. 1. To date the department has killed:

- On Aug. 7, one wolf
- On Aug. 8, one wolf
- On Aug. 13, one wolf
- On Aug. 16, four wolves

WDFW believes it has removed all members of the OPT pack, although another wolf was sighted in the area late this spring.

That wolf may have dispersed from a different pack.

"I know this is an extremely difficult time for many of our communities around the state and having to carry out lethal removals of wolves is something we take very seriously," said Susewind. "Hopefully we can pull from a diversity of perspectives, ideas, and approaches to find better solutions for coexistence."

In April 2019, the department reported 27 wolf packs in Washington.

A summary of Washington wolf recovery and activity can be found at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf>.

Livestock fire evacuation meeting Aug. 28

PRIEST RIVER - A meeting to gather information about evacuating animals and livestock in the event of a fire will be held Wednesday, Aug. 28 at 6 p.m. at the Edgemere Grange, 3273 Bandy Road in Priest River.

The meeting is to gather resources from community members in the Hoodoo Valley and Bonner County area.

"We will be gathering names and contact info of people who can house and transport evacuated pets and livestock," a flyer about the event reads. "We will be working directly with the director of Bonner County Emergency Management, Bob Howard, to compile a county-wide resource list they can use during these times."

Call Chelsea Earls at 208-610-6512 with questions about the meeting.

SCAM

FROM PAGE 3A

release says. "The callers can be argumentative and seem to have significant amounts of personal information including where the targeted licensees do their banking, NPI numbers, and personal addresses."

The Medical Board of California reported a similar scheme where scammers posing as

DEA agents demanded payment in order to keep a licensee from being suspended.

The Washington Medical Commission will never call asking for a DEA number, private information or looking for payment.

If you receive a call like this and have questions, contact Medical Commission@wmc.wa.gov.

SOPHIA

FROM PAGE 4A

astrology, spirits and vibes are bull pucky (if it's your thing, enjoy yourself, but my Virgo sagacity prevents me from taking it too seriously).

When unusual sounds rouse you from slumber the second night in a row though, I told myself, "If it's a ghost, what are you going to do? No Ghostbusters to call."

After ambling about myself for a few minutes, I went back to bed. The next morning, I let my landlord know there had been a repeat and his explanation is probably the most accurate one: a person or people were probably cavorting about on the back porch that leads to the apartment. It wouldn't be the first time, just the loudest time.

Phonants should know though that the movie starts at 7:30 p.m. Please be considerate of fellow moviegoers.

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Animals in need of a good home will be featured in this section on the first and third week of each month, thanks to these advertisers and The Miner Newspaper. These pets can be adopted from the Priest River Animal Rescue, Hwy 2, across the street from Mitchell's Grocery Store in Priest River. Hours are 11 to 4, 208-448-0699. Please visit our web site to view all available adoptions at www.pranimalrescue.org

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Farmers Market celebrates 40 years in Newport

BY MICHELE MASUEN
MANAGER, NEWPORT FARMERS MARKET

It was in the spring of 1979 that a group of producers approached Janet Kiser (Lambarth), the county Agriculture Extension agent, about starting a local farmers market. Gretchen Anderson researched Farmers Markets in the state of Washington and found 18 markets in the state. Janet stated that, "At the time there were many back-to-the-land or counter culture people moving into Pend Oreille, and the idea of a farmer's market fit this change in society ... I do remember that an influential Newport businessman was very worried, thus opposed, to 'these hippies' setting up the market. So, he and I had a sit-down meeting where we talked, and he eventually felt reassured that things would work out all right."

The final hurdle was passed in May 1979, and the opening day was June 9, 1979, at Little People's Park on the corner of Fifth and Union. Many of the original vendors sold out of the back of their trucks or from a blanket on the ground.

Since that original opening the Farmers Market, known as Earth Market, has been in at least 12 different locations – Little People's Park, the lot where Radio Shack was located, a lot across from Safeway, an empty lot owned by Bob and Alice Owens at Washington and Spruce, then to Rural Resources, behind the Post Office, Centennial Plaza (twice), on Third between Union and Washington, on Highway 2 by the schools, twice in front of the Farm Store, and now in the parking lot of the Pend Oreille Playhouse. In 2004 the name was changed to Pend Oreille Valley Farmers Market and then in 2018 the name was changed to the current name, Newport Farmers Market. What has stayed the same is local producers growing quality fresh produce sold at a fair price and artisan products which are unique and locally made.

In 2004, the Earth Market celebrated 25 years and part of that celebration was a celebration of Robert Karr who had served as the president and led the market for 23 years. You cannot think of the Earth Market without remembering Robert and Linda Karr, Nephi White, Pat McGinty, Toni Carey and so many more. We all owe them so much for their dedication to the market and keeping it going all these years.

Today the Farmers Market is a sea of canopies with vendors selling produce, bedding plants, breads, jewelry, eggs, meat, flowers, soaps, lotions, woven and knit woolen items, hand knit or crochet items, aprons, bird houses, and so much more. We also have many non-profit organizations like the Master Gardeners and Friends of the Library. It is an ever changing group of artisans so you never know just what you might find as you wander through the market. What doesn't change is the welcoming atmosphere to all the people who come. It is a wonderful place to visit with old friends and make some new ones.

So, come help us celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Farmers Market in Newport. It is believed to be the oldest continuous farmers market in Eastern Washington. The celebration will be Saturday, Sept. 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be music, food (including one of our vendors, who happens to be a trained chef, cooking up produce and meat from our vendors), lots of artisan and produce booths, and non-profits like, Master Gardeners, Friends of the Library, PAWS, and WSU Food & Nutrition and Create will have children activities.

Be a farmer for a day and have your photo taken at our Photo Booth. In addition, we will have a free raffle of five shopping bags filled with goodies from our vendors (a great way to sample all the market has to offer). The raffle will be at the top of each hour so stop by the raffle booth and put in your ticket and while there read about the history of the Newport Farmers Market and the history of agriculture in the Pend Oreille Valley.

What is a love story, really?

"Why are you with him?" This was the direct question my best friend asked me to which I didn't have an answer. We were in our early twenties at a roadside cafe, coming back from Seattle and dealing with car troubles. Said automobile issues were exasperated by my then-boyfriend, who was traveling with us. His response to my mechanical mistake (and it was my error) was condescension. Instead of helping to alleviate the situation, he decided to throw some figurative gasoline on the temporary setback by behaving like a know-it-all. He called his mother's boyfriend, who happened to be a mechanic, and berated me to him over the phone. He decided that the best way for me to learn from my misjudgment was to be sure to hammer it home that I had indeed messed up. It turned



SOPHIE'S CHOICE
SOPHIA ALDOUS

SEE SOPHIA, 5A



YOUR OPINION

First Amendment as important as Second Amendment

To the editor,
First Mr. Hicks, I agree with you on the First Amendment ("Trash speech still protected" The Miner letters Aug. 14).

It is as important as the Second Amendment. However, lately it seems as the first amendment only applies to low IQ Democrats.

An example is when President Trump says anything he is called a racist, mentally ill, or an idiot by low IQ Democrats.

What about his First Amendment rights? Omar is being invested for marring her brother, plus other things, AOC is being invested for campaign finance laws, plus more and the low IQ Democrats are fine with that.

A Democrats can do no wrong. Only Repub-

licans can do wrong. If a Republican did any of the above, Democrats would be screaming for their removal from office.

As I've stated in the past I'm an independent and vote for the best person.

Gender doesn't matter to me. I even voted for JFK.

With all of the low IQ Democrats running for office I will never vote for one even in city, state, or federal elections.

I don't believe in socialism.

I stand by my previous state regarding the squad of four. They should be tried for treason and locked up. I also stand by what I wrote to another writer.

If you hate the US government so much move to a socialist country such as Venezuela, Turkey, Norway, Peru, Bolivia, etc. Be happy not miserable.

-Curtis Bedore Blanchard

America must remain hope of the hopeless

To the editor,
Most of us have stories about ancestors who came to America as refugees.

My grandfather came when he was a teenager, penniless and desperate for a new life. He certainly could have been labeled as someone who might be a burden to the country, but he found work and raised a family of four children who all became contributing citizens.

America has always been the shining city on a hill, welcoming asylum seekers, poor though they may be, they may struggle, but they work hard, and they become the very backbone of our country.

No one wants to leave the country of their birth.

LETTERS POLICY

We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be no longer than 300 words. Letters should be typed and submitted to The Miner office no later than 5 p.m. Friday for publication the following Wednesday. No letter will be published unless it is signed by at least one individual, even if the letter represents the view of a group. The letter must include a telephone number and address for authentication. The Miner reserves the right to edit letters. Political letters will not be published the last issue before an election. Letters will be printed as space allows.

WEB COMMENTS

We welcome comment on select stories on our web site. You may comment anonymously. We will review comments before posting and we reserve the right to omit or edit comments. If you want to comment only to our writers and editors, let us know that you do not want your comment published.

There must be bitter circumstances to force that decision.

We must always remain the hope of the hopeless; the country offering a new chance in life. God bless America.

-Ruth Calkins
Newport

Politics like pornography

To the editor,
You get chided if you write a letter that mirrors the entertainment news on Fox.

MSNBC is called fake news by Fox watchers. I watch both channels and clearly one is chocolate and the other is vanilla.

Your flavor of ice cream doesn't make you a monster or a political outcast.

Humans have a need to believe in things. We watch what we believe for affirmation.

SEE LETTERS, 5A

Tacoma natural gas project needs to happen

Hopefully, Puget Sound Energy will receive final permit approval so it can complete its Liquefied Natural Gas plant currently under construction on the Tacoma's Tide Flats.

For background, LNG is natural gas chilled to a liquid state, (-260° Fahrenheit), for shipping and storage. The volume of natural gas in its liquid state is about 600 times smaller than in its gaseous state. The comparison is similar to condensing air in a

beach ball to a ping-pong ball. In its liquid state, LNG is not explosive. If spilled on land or water, it vaporizes and leaves no residue behind. During LNG processing many greenhouse gases (GHG), such as CO2 and methane, are removed. So are traces of mercury.

Most cargo ships today run on diesel or bunker fuel. The Port of Tacoma's most recent emissions inventory showed that, while ship-related emissions have dropped, they still accounted for 63 percent of the maritime-related diesel particulate matter emissions.

Switching to LNG is imperative to further cut GHG levels. TOTE Puerto Rico Maritime already has two LNG-powered containerships sailing between Jacksonville, Florida, and San Juan. The ships are designed to roll cargo on and off without large gantries. They were key to supply-

ing essentials to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Irma ravaged the island in September 2017.

TOTE Alaska Maritime, headquartered in Federal Way, intends to use the same type of ships to ferry cargo between Tacoma and Anchorage. In total, TOTE hauls a third of Alaska's goods. PSE's facility, when finished, will supply fuel to TOTE's ships.

"These vessels are the most advanced, environmentally responsible vessels of their kind – reducing particulate matter by 99 percent, vessel sulfur emissions by 98 percent, nitrogen oxides by 91 percent and CO2 by 35 percent," TOTE reports.

They surpass international shipping regulations, which require ships traveling within 200 miles of shore to use low-sulfur

SEE BRUNELL, 5A

READER'S POLL

Former FBI Director James Comey violated FBI policies in his handling of memos documenting private conversations with President Donald Trump, the Justice Department's inspector general said last week. The watchdog office said Comey broke bureau rules by giving one memo containing unclassified information to a friend with instructions to share the contents with a reporter. The Justice Department declined to prosecute Comey.

Was Comey a good FBI leader?

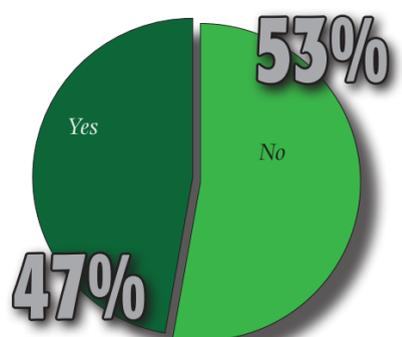
No, Comey was a self-serving hack. President Trump was right to fire him.

Yes, he served in difficult times with a difficult leader who he thought was harming the country.

Who knows? The FBI was a disgrace long before Comey was at the top.

READER'S POLL RESULTS

The Festival At Sandpoint has a policy prohibiting guns at the Festival, partially to comply with entertainer's contracts. The state of Idaho prohibits cities and counties from prohibiting firearms on public property. Should The Festival be forced to comply with state law and allow firearms?



Total Votes: 34

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4A

Politics is like pornography.

We only watch the political acts that stimulate our interests.

I love the truck driver that calls into a political talk show and defends tax cuts for rich people. That driver can't afford

to stop at a rest area to relieve himself because he gets paid by the mile. The CEO of the trucking company makes millions and his employee driver thinks that only employees should pay income taxes.

So, tune in to whatever political porn you like. Just understand that it's

all entertainment and programmed to sell products for the companies that buy advertising.

Years ago, a friend invited me to his home to watch his political porn channel.

The show host was famous for his position on American jobs being lost to foreign countries.

A commercial break featured an ad for Korean cars.

My friend didn't see the irony.

You don't get another viewpoint on Fox.

You get what the network has programmed for you to believe.

Think of The Miner reporting that a dog bit

a man on a Newport sidewalk.

The dog was tested for rabies and the bite wound was treated.

How would this story be reported on a political porn channel?

Either the dog is a vicious breed and should be destroyed or the man was teasing the dog and

encouraged the attack. The viewer can be a dog lover or a dog hater.

-Pete Scobby
Newport

Need something at a good price? Try The Newport Miner and Gem State Miner Classifieds.

Idaho to appeal transgender ruling

Fight in transgender inmate's surgery case is a fight for what is right and reasonable

BY GOV. BRAD LITTLE

Activist federal judges overstepped yet again in a case involving an Idaho transgender inmate seeking gender reassignment surgery.

If upheld, taxpayers will foot the bill down the road for more lawsuits and medically unnecessary procedures for prisoners.

Adree Edmo is a transgender prisoner serving time for sexually abusing a 15-year-old child. Edmo was born male but identifies as a woman, and is seeking gender reassignment surgery. Edmo would have been eligible for parole by now but has chosen not to follow the prison's rules of conduct. There are numerous instances of Edmo engaging in violence and other prohibited conduct while incarcerated, eliminating the opportunity for parole.

Last week, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court's decision to provide the surgery while ignoring the professional opinions of Edmo's doc-

tors and mental health professionals, who universally agreed gender reassignment surgery is neither medically necessary nor safe given Edmo's mental state and incarceration.

These medical professionals have been treating Edmo for more than seven years. The judges instead relied on the testimony of a medical "expert" hired by the prisoner's attorneys who interviewed Edmo for only a few hours before forming the opinion that the surgery was medically necessary.

I quickly declared my plans to appeal the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Why?

Judges shouldn't replace doctors. This case sets a dangerous and costly precedent. It opens the door to let activist judges decide – over the opinion of medical professionals – which procedures inmates will receive in the state's custody. Activist judges shouldn't force taxpayers to pay for a medical procedure that was not approved by the treating physician and multiple mental health professionals.

Some are lamenting the decision to

SEE LITTLE, 6A

BRUNELL

FROM PAGE 4A

fuel. TOTE's entire trip between Tacoma and Alaska falls within this North American Emissions Control Area.

Puget Sound Energy's LNG facility will not only supply fuel to TOTE's ships, but will provide natural gas to residential and commercial customers during peak cold weather demands. About six million of the eight million gallons produced in Tacoma will be set aside to provide natural gas to local customers.

That LNG reserve also provide a backup supply of natural gas – a need that was dramatically underscored last October with the explosion of a Canadian natural gas pipeline that reduced flows of natural gas to both British Columbia and Washing-

ton State, the Vancouver and BC Business Journal reported.

PSE's Tacoma facility is small considering massive plants being constructed along the Gulf Coast and on Australia's west coast. It is similar to Connecticut's Yankee Gas plant, which has operated safely since 2008. It is being built by the same contractors; however, it is smaller and not large enough to produce exportable LNG.

Switching to LNG is important to reduce air contamination especially while ships are docked. Many ports are not equipped with shore-side electrical cables that allow ships to hook up and turn off their engines. Many seaports are located in cities with already high GHG concentrations.

Making the fuel switch is important because

90 percent of the world trade is carried by ships. Hellenic Shipping News, reports. Shipping represents 2.5 to 3.5 percent of global CO2 emissions.

The main causes of an increase in GHG emissions from ships are due to the growing demand for shipping to support international trade and the challenges with switching to lower-carbon fuels.

Projects, such as PSE is constructing, are essential to both our environment and economy. It's simply time to finish the project.

DON C. BRUNELL IS A BUSINESS ANALYST, WRITER AND COLUMNIST. HE RETIRED AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON BUSINESS, THE STATE'S OLDEST AND LARGEST BUSINESS ORGANIZATION, AND NOW LIVES IN VANCOUVER. HE CAN BE CONTACTED AT THEBRUNELLS@MSN.COM.

SOPHIA

FROM PAGE 4A

out that what I had done was an easy fix; we just needed to let the car cool down and we would be, in the uplifting words of that wise, musical denim patchwork known as Willie Nelson, "On the road again."

Boyfriend wouldn't let it go, though, and as we sat in the booth in the diner, he gave one more patronizing parting shot before going to the bathroom. As soon as he was out of sight, my friend Mercury (stage name, though part of me wishes that was on her birth certificate) popped that opening question at the top of this column. She followed that inquiry up with a stark statement:

"Let's just leave him."

I blinked at her like an owl that had been woken up too early.

"Are you serious?" I asked, chuckling nervously.

She didn't smile or shake her head. She looked me straight in the eye.

"Yes. Let's walk out of here right now. If the car is ready, let's just get in and go. He can figure out his own ride home if he's so damn smart."

If there had been a screenwriter in my pocket, this would be the part in the Rah, Rah, Sis, Boom, Bah romantic comedy where the poppish score swelled, we smiled knowingly at each other, threw our napkins on the table and Thelma and Louise our way outta' there. Not the sad, scary parts of Thelma and Louise, but the cool part where they find their inner strength and those stellar

high-rise jeans and drive off into their wonderful combination of individuality and sisterhood.

Of course, this was real life and we did no such thing. Boyfriend came out of the bathroom, we got on the road, and he and I would stay together for over another year. Yes, he behaved like a jackass, but my self-esteem was about as strong as a cellophane wall trying to hold back a Mack Truck, so I let him.

That boyfriend is long gone, but Mercury is still here. The other day someone mentioned on one of my social media posts that we tend to treat our friends like, "placeholders" until "the one" comes along. I think there's some truth to that. The way romance is exalted, packaged and put forward to us, it seems we are quick to drop friends or dismiss their concerns when they serve us with a side of reality. Friendship is seen as a window dressing as opposed to the integral part of our being that looks for other people to connect with.

It would be a gigantic fib on my part if I said I have never done a 180 when a hot, new crush came into my life and let my friendships fall to the wayside. But when chocolate crushes wear off, my friends have helped be the grounding force, the forges that allow me to re-fire my passion and move forward.

Their kindness and uniqueness makes me ask myself how I can be a better friend to them and let them know they are valued.

If that's not a love story, then I need to find a new screenwriter.

BACK TO SCHOOL POWER SAVINGS

With the kids heading back to school and the house empty during the day, now is the time to save some serious energy!

- Unplug electronics and turn off power strips.
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- Turn off the lights.
- Make sure faucets aren't dripping.

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