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Monday, January 25, 2021

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Local control

Basin legislators disagree with reopening plan

By ANGELICA RELENTE
 Herald Legislative Writer

Several Republican state legislators recently expressed disapproval of Gov. Jay Inslee's "Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery" plan, which started Jan. 11.

Rep. Tom Dent, R-Moses Lake, wrote a letter to Inslee on Jan. 15, stating it is "illogical" for small counties and big counties to be grouped. Combining rural communities and urban communities is like apples and oranges, according to the letter.



Dent

"It's frustrating when the smaller communities are lumped together," Sen. Judy Warnick, R-Moses Lake, said in an interview with the Herald.

In addition to Dent, 39 other legislators, including Warnick, signed the letter. Signatures from all District 9 legislators, as well as Rep. Keith Goehner, R-Dryden, and Rep. Alex Ybarra, R-Quincy, also signed.

"I just didn't like the recovery plan and how (Inslee) put it together," Dent said in an interview with the Herald. "Obviously, there were 39 other legislators that felt the same way."

Dent said some rural areas, like Kittitas County, have done a great job of managing COVID-19 cases. Grouping them with urban areas that have a higher rate of cases, like Yakima County, is only devastating to communities, especially small businesses.

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Casey McCarthy/Columbia Basin Herald

Uggie Boo's Basin Street Bistro owner Kamela Farmer, left, chats with employees Rachel Clark, center, and Rilee Kassman at the bar in the empty restaurant Friday afternoon.

Ephrata bistro owner reflects on closure due to state limits

By ANGELICA RELENTE
 Herald Legislative Writer

EPHRATA — Kamela Farmer recalls a time during junior high when a teacher purposefully dropped a gum wrapper on the ground. By doing so, the teacher wanted to prove Ephrata had a huge sense of community.

"(The teacher) goes, 'I bet you this paper wrapper doesn't stay here for more than five minutes,'" Farmer said. "Within 30 seconds, somebody had picked that up."

Farmer, owner of Uggie Boo's Basin Street Bistro in Ephrata, said the restaurant opened its doors in 2015 when she and her husband stumbled across a bistro that was for sale. Since then, the bistro became a gathering place for family and friends alike.

"Everybody knows everybody, and we all love and support one another," Farmer said. "Our bar is — I'm telling you — it's

the heart of our community."

Uggie Boo's is known for its inviting environment, Farmer said. It was a place where parents can have a glass of wine after they drop off their kids at school practice. The bistro was also known for its spicy California crab stuffed avocado, which won the best appetizer of the year from the Samaritan Healthcare Foundation.

However, the bistro is just one of the many mom-and-pop businesses that had to shut their doors under the governor's restrictions in March 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic began.

"Once the governor closed us down, that's when everything went to hell in a handbasket," Farmer said.

During this year's state legislative session, some lawmakers are pushing for bills that would help reopen businesses like Uggie Boo's.

Senate Bill 5114, if signed into law,

Would a bill in the Legislature allow small businesses to survive?

would immediately move the state to Phase 2 of Gov. Jay Inslee's "Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recovery" plan. SB 5114 also has a companion bill, House Bill 1321.

Under Phase 2, food establishments would be allowed to have indoor dining at 25% capacity, according to the governor's office. Food establishments must close at 11 p.m., and outdoor dining would be limited to six people per table.

Farmer said SB 5114 is a step in the right direction, but it is not enough.

"As it is right now, we can't even afford to be open at 25% capacity because our place is so small," Farmer said. "That's only one table."

Farmer said Uggie Boo's tried to offer carryout service, but it was too expensive to begin with. The equipment that is needed to keep orders warm or cool, as

See BISTRO, Page A2

Fire guts potato processing plant in Warden; no reports of injuries

By CHARLES H. FEATHERSTONE
 Staff Writer

WARDEN — A fire that started late Thursday afternoon completely gutted a major potato processing facility and prompted an evacuation of nearly a third of Warden residents for several hours, according to Grant County Sheriff's Office spokesperson Kyle Foreman.

"It will probably burn for the next few days," Foreman said Friday.

The fire at the Washington Potato Company facility, at 1900 W. First St., on the western side of Warden, was first reported at around 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Foreman said. It grew to engulf the entire potato dehydrating plant, eventually threatening a 5,000-gallon anhydrous ammonia tank and prompting the evacuation order around 8:30 p.m.



Courtesy Moses Lake Fire Department firefighter Garrett Fletcher

A fire burns Thursday night at Washington Potato Company in Warden.

"Nobody was hurt," Foreman said.

Fire crews from across the region — Grant County Fire District 4 in Warden,

District 5 in Moses Lake, District 10 in Royal City, District 12 in Wilson Creek, District 13 in Ephrata, the Moses Lake Fire Department,

Adams County Fire District 5 in Othello and the Ritzville Fire Department — responded to the blaze, Foreman said.

As of Friday morning around 9 a.m., the concrete-shell processing plant was still on fire, and fire crews from Grant County Fire

District 4 were still at the scene. Since the building was made of concrete, Foreman said, it made it very difficult for fire crews to effectively fight the fire.

"Once the structure became part of the fire, it was very difficult to fight it any other way except from the air," he said. "You cannot penetrate debris to the core of the fire."

"It will have to burn itself out," Foreman added.

At one point, the fire got close to a giant tank of ammonia, likely used for refrigeration, forcing firefighters to temporarily abandon their firefighting efforts and order an evacuation of all Warden residents west of U Street (known as South County Road within the Warden city limits) and south of State Route 170 (known as First Street).

"They saw the

See FIRE, Page A3

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From the front page

PLAN

from Page A1

In Kittitas County, there have been 30 COVID-19-related deaths and 2,002 cases as of Jan. 22, according to the state Department of Health website. In Yakima County, there have been 360 COVID-19-related

deaths and 23,690 cases.

Both counties are in the South Central region, according to Inslee's plan.

"I'm not asking to open (the state) up completely 100%," Dent said. "I'm saying we need to start moving somewhere."

Another part of Dent's letter addresses Inslee's plan to make local public health districts have a

more regional approach.

Dent said looping different health districts together will not be effective.

Warnick said having local control is better.

"Our public health districts have done a very good job and response to the local needs," Warnick said. "I think putting them in a regional situation that is run more by

the state is a mistake."

Sen. Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville, said in an interview with the Herald that Inslee's plan is "flawed." Garfield County, for instance, cannot move to Phase 2 because it is grouped with Spokane County.

In Garfield County, there have been four COVID-19-related deaths

and 102 cases as of Jan. 22, according to the state Department of Health website. In Spokane County, there have been 438 COVID-19-related deaths and 31,930 cases.

Both Garfield and Spokane counties are in the East region, according to Inslee's plan.

"Inslee never really cared about small, rural

Washington anyway," Schoesler said.

Dent said Inslee has not responded to his letter. He said it is time for the governor to lift the state of emergency and let the legislators become a part of the state's recovery process.

"We should be part of the effort to handle COVID," Dent said.



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LEGAL NOTICES

EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

Local Board ID#885800

Adams County, Wa.

Contact Person: Angelina Gomez, 335 N. 3rd, Othello, Wa. 99344 509-488-3527

The Adams County Emergency Food and Shelter Board invite non-profit organizations to submit applications for emergency funding for 2021. In the past 35+ years more than 4.4 billion has been distributed across America to address needs of the homeless and hungry.

Last year Adams County received \$11,201.00. This year funding will be \$8,707.00. Any agency that provides assistance to the elderly, family with children, Native Americans and Veterans are eligible to apply. Completed applications must be received by February 12, 2021. Contact Angelina Gomez at 488-3527 if interested.

#01040/431020

Pub: January 18, 25, 2021

Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc., Rick Shuffield, 10601 N Pennsylvania Ave Oklahoma City, OK 73120-4108, is seeking coverage under the Washington State Department of Ecology's Construction Stormwater NPDES and State Waste Discharge General Permit. The proposed project, Moses Lake Love's, is located at 4315 W Pritchard Road in Moses Lake in Grant county. This project involves 18.5 acres of soil disturbance for Highway or Road, Commercial, Utilities construction activities. All discharges and runoff goes to ground water. Any persons desiring to present their views to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding this Application, or interested in Ecology's action on this Application, may notify Ecology in writing no later than 30 days of the last date of publication of this notice. Ecology reviews public comments and considers whether discharges from this project would cause a measurable change in receiving water quality, and, if so, whether the project is necessary and in the overriding public interest according to Tier II anti-degradation requirements under WAC 173-201A-320. Comments can be submitted to: ecyrewqianoi@ecy.wa.gov, or Department of Ecology Attn: Water Quality Program, Construction Stormwater P.O. Box 47696, Olympia, WA 98504-7696

#01044/431156

Pub: January 18, 25, 2021

Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District
Small Works Roster

Notice is hereby given that the Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District (MLIRD) is accepting applications for its Small Works Roster for the 2021 year.

The Small Works Roster will be used to solicit and secure telephone and/or written quotations for maintenance and improvement projects. All vendors, contractors, suppliers or other parties wanting to be included in the Small Works Roster must obtain an Application from the District.

Applications may be obtained via telephone request (509) 765-8716, email request at mlird@mlird.org, or by written request sent to P.O. Box 98, Moses Lake, WA 98837.

Dated this 20th day of January 2021
Moses Lake Irrigation and Rehabilitation District

BY: Beth Yonko
Administrative Assistant

#01053/432750

Pub: January 25, 2021

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing has been scheduled on February 9th 2021, this will be a remote access only. Maple Grove PUD is a 91 lot Major Plat and Planned Unit Development to be located on the subject property. The location is West of Grape Dr. and Maple Dr in the North half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 10, Township 19 North, Range 28 E.W.M.. The application was determined to be complete and ready for review on December 14, 2020.

Persons who want to be informed of future actions, or the final decision, on this proposal should provide their name and address to the project planner. For more information call Vivian Ramsey at 509-764-3749. Please contact Community Development for Zoom Meeting Information. Submit written comments by mail to City of Moses Lake Community Development Department, P.O. Box 1579, Moses Lake, WA 98837 or email vramsey@cityofml.com. Contact the project planner at the number above for information related to this application.

#01054/432795

Pub: January 25, 2021

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing has been scheduled on February 9th 2021, this will be a remote access only. The Refuge at Mae Valley is a 57 lot Major Plat to be located on the subject property. The location is north of W. Westlake Rd. between North Frontage Rd and Montana St in a portion of the SW 1/4 of S 29, T19, R28.. The application was determined to be complete and ready for review on November 23, 2020.

Persons who want to be informed of future actions, or the final decision, on this proposal should provide their name and address to the project planner. For more information call Vivian Ramsey at 509-764-3749. Please contact Community Development for Zoom Meeting Information or check the City of Moses Lake website at www.CityofML.com. Submit written comments by mail to City of Moses Lake Community Development Department, P.O. Box 1579, Moses Lake, WA 98837 or email vramsey@cityofml.com. Contact the project planner at the number above for information related to this application.

#01054/432761

Pub: January 25, 2021