

Calling the shots

New owner takes over at Kind Grinds

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Making a point

A look at Blue Lives Matter, Juneteenth events

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County health director explains contact tracing

Answers concerns raised about process

BY MARCY STAMPER

Okanogan County Community Health Director Lauri Jones explains contact tracing as a standard, essential public health technique used for 150 years to control the spread of disease.

Jones' explanation at the county commissioners' meeting on June 22 was in response to a letter from the Okanogan County Farm Bureau to the commissioners that expressed concerns about "involuntary enforcement of contact tracing."

"Okanogan County Farm Bureau members are currently under increased, extreme pressure from Washington State to protect the health of their families, workers and communities while still growing and harvesting food for our county, state, nation and the world. ... As law abiding citizens, we will comply with voluntary contact tracing. We will not submit to involuntary contact tracing," the June 14 letter said [bold and italics in original].

The Farm Bureau fears that involuntary contact tracing will increase

division and polarization, violate civil liberties, and strain law enforcement, according to the letter.

"Forceful isolation could create unrest and reaction in Okanogan County. We want to maintain the voluntary aspect. People are thoughtful and concerned and will comply," Okanogan County Farm Bureau President Dick Ewing said in an interview this week.

"The first thing, is I'd get rid of the words 'contact tracing.' It's gotten political," Jones said, preferring to call it "case investigation."

"If you found 50 cows had died, what would you do?" she asked the Farm Bureau representatives at the meeting.

Jones gave a short lesson on the history of public health and how epidemiologists trace disease outbreaks. The first use of what's now called contact tracing was in London in 1854, during a cholera outbreak. Health workers interviewed people who'd lost family members and ultimately tracked the disease to a single water system contaminated by a leaking sewer pipe.

Since then, the technique has been

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Photo by Marcy Stamper

Three-Fingered Jack's Saloon has experienced a peculiar wave of shortages, most recently, pork products, beer and salad dressings.

Restaurants' recovery lacks key ingredients

Some basics still in short supply

BY MARCY STAMPER

All restaurants have made adjustments to do business in the COVID era, moving tables apart and sanitizing bottles of ketchup. But some have had to change their menu because they can't get basic ingredients.

For some restaurants, ingredient shortages mean small tweaks, like substituting a different cut of meat. For others, it's made it impossible to do any business at all.

After months of closure, Vickie Malone would love to at least offer take-out at Oliver's Artisan Kitchen in

Winthrop. With just a handful of tables in an intimate setting, the restaurant is too small to meet physical-distancing requirements for dine-in service. But Malone, who prides herself on homemade dishes, still can't find essential ingredients.

"I've had trouble getting supplies — I can get things one week, but not the other," said Malone, who wants a reliable supply before she re-opens. "Yeast has been the biggest challenge."

Malone bakes all her bread from scratch. Finding yeast without preservatives is even harder and has become "outrageously expensive," she said. She's squirrelled away a tiny bit to bake bread for her family and to feed her precious sourdough starter.

Malone typically goes through 25

pounds of flour a week, but many stores still restrict purchases to 5 pounds. Specialty cheese and other dairy products are becoming more reliable and, with the growing season in full swing, Malone can get local produce.

Meat shortages

While Malone hasn't had trouble sourcing meat, other restaurants in town are grappling with meat shortages.

Since Three-Fingered Jack's Saloon in Winthrop opened early this month, the restaurant has experienced shortages of beef, pork and dairy, although things are slowly returning to normal, owner Seth Miles said.

"Currently, pork products, beer and

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Statewide mask mandate

In response to a growing number of coronavirus cases in Washington, Gov. Jay Inslee on Tuesday (June 23) announced a statewide mandate that requires facial coverings in all indoor or outdoor public places. The order, which will be issued by the Secretary of Health, takes effect on Friday (June 26).

The mandate specifies that

children under 5 are exempt from the order, as are people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Masks can be removed while eating in a restaurant, or during outdoor activities either alone or with family members.

A violation of the order could carry a misdemeanor charge. Violations are subject to a fine of up to \$1,000 and as many as 90 days behind bars.

Commissioners refine anti-racism proclamation

Includes support for constitutional rights

BY MARCY STAMPER

A denouncement of racism and social injustice and support for the rights to free speech, peaceful assembly, and to own and bear firearms are the focus of the proclamation currently under consideration by the Okanogan County commissioners.

County Commissioner Chris Branch read the first draft of a proclamation last Monday (June 15) that takes a stand against racism. The proclamation acknowledges violence across the country in response to excessive force in policing and mentions a peaceful dem-

onstrations in Omak.

The proclamation stressed support for people's exercise of their First and Second Amendment rights, but noted that the presence of people with assault-style weapons had intimidated some individuals who were seeking to exercise their First Amendment rights to speech and assembly.

The presence of an unregulated and untrained militia could hamper a peaceful gathering, Branch wrote in the draft proclamation. The county commissioners believe that the presence of professional law enforcement officers is adequate, it said.

The proclamation referenced a peaceful Black Lives Matter rally in Omak attended by almost 500 people, where an additional 100 to 200 armed commu-

nity members spread out along the street and on rooftops to protect businesses. Branch said he'd heard from people who'd felt intimidated by the presence of so many armed individuals.

After input from County Commissioner Andy Hover and Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley, the proposed proclamation was revised to remove references to intimidation.

"I fully agree with denouncing racism and social injustice," Hover said. But Hover had concerns that the proclamation put the right to speech above the right to bear arms. "It's tricky to decide which right is more right — the person carrying a gun intimidates a person who wanted to speak," Hover said. The sug-

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Fundraising for new Loup Loup Ski Bowl day lodge nears the finish line

Grant match needed to launch construction

BY DON NELSON

The fundraising drive to support replacement of the Wolf Lodge at Loup Loup Ski Bowl with a new building is in its crucial home stretch.

The Loup Loup Ski Education Association, the nonprofit that operates the ski bowl, launched a campaign last October to raise \$1 million for a new day lodge.

Craig Howard, a fundraising consultant, and foundation board member Jeff

Brown said this week that an anonymous donor has pledged \$50,000 toward the project — if the foundation can raise a matching \$50,000 by July 1. Brown said early this week that the fundraising effort to match the grant was about \$20,000 short of the goal.

The foundation intends to carry through on its plans to demolish the existing lodge and build a new one this summer and fall if the fundraising is successful, Howard and Brown said.

Fundraising slacked off after coronavirus containment measures were imposed earlier this year, Brown

See LOUP, A2



Photo courtesy of Loup Loup Ski Bowl

The existing lodge at Loup Loup Ski Bowl is more than 50 years old and requires costly maintenance.

ADDRESS LABEL

THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUES.
June 25	June 26	June 27	June 28	June 29	June 30
88°	90°	77°	73°	74°	78°
58°	58°	50°	54°	58°	51°
Partly sunny	HOT and HOT	That's better	Mostly cloudy	Showers possible	Cloudy

WEATHER DATA BASED ON ACCUWEATHER.COM FORECAST FOR TWISP

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