

THE NEWPORT MINER

THE VOICE OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY SINCE 1901

www.pendoreillerivervalley.com

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

Volume 118, Number 14 | 2 Sections, 20 Pages \$1.00

Your North County COVID-19 information

BY SOPHIA ALDOUS
OF THE MINER

IONE – For north Pend Oreille County residents, getting down to Newport for medical services isn't a quick trip, even without a pandemic. The Selkirk Community Health Center (SCHC) is the closest medical care facility for many living in the Ione, Metaline and Metaline Falls area, with the clinic serving around 1,000 people in 2019. The site has six employees and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Wednesdays and 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursdays. The clinic is closed on Fridays and weekends.

SCHC is under the auspice of Northeast Washington Health Programs, a private 501(c) non-profit FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) health care organization based in Chewelah. There are also clinic locations in Colville, Kettle Falls, Lake Spokane, Springdale, Loon Lake and Northport.

There have been two confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Pend Oreille County as of deadline Tuesday, April 28.

SEE NORTH, 9A

Bob Shanklin: Railroad man passes, leaves legacy

NEWPORT – Bob Shanklin was a railroad man most of his life, working on railroads around the country for 44 years before retiring in 1996.

However, Shanklin found that he really wasn't ready to fully retire and he began working as a consultant to many railroads for bridge repairs. He kept working with railroads and ended up elected to the Port of Pend Oreille Board of Commissioners in 1999, a position he would hold for more than 20 years. The Port operates the POVA railroad. Shanklin was still an active commission member when he passed away of natural causes at home April 18, at the age of 85, with his family by his side.

"Bob was very open and honest," Port Manager Kelly Driver said. "He was a great mentor to me and a lot of people. He had so much knowledge and wanted

to share that."

His first exposure to Pend Oreille County came in 1969 as Assistant Chief Carpenter working on the line between Metaline Falls and Newport while working for Milwaukee Railroad.

Shanklin returned to the county in the fall of 1979, now as foreman of a Bridge and Building crew doing repairs on the Blueslide tunnel.

POVA was included in his consulting efforts but all of his work with POVA was as a volunteer as his heart was with this former Milwaukee line.

Shanklin began his railroad career as a Section Laborer in Drummond, Mont., with the Milwaukee Railroad after graduating from



Shanklin

SEE SHANKLIN, 2A



COURTESY PHOTO|JANDY WATSON BULL STOCK MEDIA

Newport's Cody Casper won second in the go round with this 87.5 point ride in Guthrie, Okla., Sunday, April 26. The bull's tail is wrapped around his neck.

Casper climbs PBR standings with Lazy E points

BY DON GRONNING
OF THE MINER

GUTHRIE, Okla. – Newport bull rider Cody Casper had a good showing at the first sporting event held in the country since the COVID-19 crisis started, a Professional Bull Riders television-only event, Sunday, April 26, at the iconic Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Okla.

Casper won second in a go-round and finished ninth at the event, which was televised on the CBS Sports network.

The 27-year-old bull rider moved into the top 35 in the world following his performance in Guthrie. That's significant be-

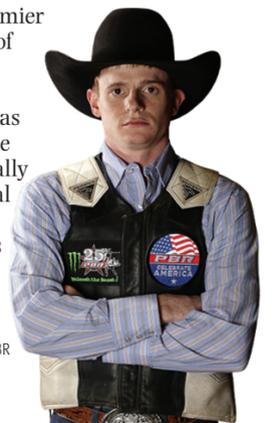
cause the top 35 are invited to the premier PBR events and the top 35 at the end of the season qualify for the PBR World Finals.

The Unleash The Beast PBR Las Vegas Invitational, presented by Union Home Mortgage, as the Lazy E event is officially called, was one of the only professional sporting events held anywhere in the country in more than a month. It was

SEE PBR, 8A

COURTESY PHOTO|PBR

Cody Casper moved to Newport about five years ago.



Tribe's closure aligns with state

BY FRED WILLENBROCK
FOR THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is reprinted with permission from The Spokesman-Review. Written by former Miner publisher Fred Willenbrock, it appeared Sunday, April 26.

USK – Kalispel tribal leaders are struggling daily with the greatest challenge they've faced since opening the Northern Quest Casino and Resort: The closure of business enterprises has led the tribe to lay off about 1,300 employees and furlough another 400.

"We held out as long as we could," said Nick Pierre, Northern Quest general manager and a tribal council member.

The tribe had paid salaries for three weeks after closing most of their enterprises but as cash reserves were

depleted they made more cuts, with the largest coming last week.

Pierre said the council made the decision to close for the safety of employees and customers even before Gov. Jay Inslee's stay-home order.

As a sovereign government, the tribe has the right to set their own parameters as they relate to social distancing and quarantine, Pierre said.

"But we're currently aligned with the state in terms of an agreed date when nonessential employees will

return to work and our businesses will reopen," he said.

Every Tuesday, near the quiet banks of the Pend

Oreille River north of Newport, five members of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians meet. For more than 80 years, their decisions have focused solely on bettering the lives of a few hundred tribal members.

At one time, their work was simply centered on helping their impoverished community in Pend Oreille County survive. But for the last 20 years it has involved a growing conglomerate of businesses, health care

SEE TRIBE, 2A

BRIEFLY

Newport Farmers Market opens Saturday

NEWPORT – Mark those calendars for Saturday, May 2, because the Newport Farmers Market opens for the season in the Pend Oreille Playhouse parking lot.

According to Newport Farmers Market Manager Michelle Masuen the market will still follow local health district guidelines in efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. Shoppers are asked to use masks and practice social distancing; allow vendors to select and bag items; use credit/debit cards, digital payments or exact change when paying; shop alone by avoiding bringing other people and leaving pets at home; wash hands, produce and reusable

bags upon returning home and if sick, stay at home.

The market's normal hours will be every Saturday through October from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Playhouse is located at 236 S. Union Avenue.

For more information on the Newport Farmers Market, go to www.facebook.com/Newport-Farmers-Market.

File online for public office May 11-15

OLYMPIA – From May 11-15, the Office of the Secretary of State will join county election offices across Washington to accept applications for public office during Candidate Filing Week. In an effort to keep the public and staff

safe, the OSOS encourages prospective candidates to file online.

Candidates for federal, statewide, and multi-county legislative or judicial offices must file with the OSOS, which can be done online 24 hours a day beginning at 9 a.m. Monday, May 11, and ending at 4 p.m. Friday, May 15. All other candidacies may file with the county elections office in which the position resides, except for some local races that cross multiple counties and require candidates to file in the county with more registered voters.

For more information go to www.sos.wa.gov/elections/candidates/online-candidate-filing.aspx or call Pend Oreille County Elections at 509-447-6472.



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CLASSIFIEDS	8B	OPINION	4A	RECORD	7B
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LIVING WELL
TIPS ON HEALTHY LIVING
SEE PAGES 1B-3B

PBR: Casper won an event in Portland, placed in Spokane

FROM PAGE 1A

unlike any other event, complete with cowboys with facemasks, shotgun microphone interviews and a tightly controlled setting outside city limits, with contestants staying onsite the whole weekend.

According to Easton Colvin, public relations manager for the PBR, the weekend was a success.

"It was the largest weekend we've ever had," he said. In addition to CBS Sports, the event was also live streamed on the PBR's RidePass.

Casper wasn't sure when he was going to be able to compete again after the COVID-19 crisis caused the cancellation of virtually all sporting events, including Professional Bull Riders events. He knew the PBR had plans to go back as soon as possible.

Casper has had a good year. He won an event in Portland and placed in Spokane. He placed at the last PBR event that was held in Duluth, Ga. That event was televised and held without in-person spectators.

Casper was happy when he heard that the PBR was putting on another television only event, this one at the Lazy E arena in Guthrie, Okla. He moved up nine spots in world standings with his performance in Oklahoma and earned a \$3,500 paycheck.

The event was won by Fabiano Vieira of Perola, Brazil, the only rider to qualify on three bulls.

Bull riding in the time of COVID-19 isn't the same as it was before.

"It was definitely different, but we did what we had to do to compete," Casper says.

The PBR had worked out a detailed safety plan on how to put the event on and protect everyone. That included traveling.

"They didn't want us to fly, so (the PBR) rented us an RV," Casper said while driving back through Idaho Monday afternoon. Casper and Walla Walla's Derek Kolbaba made the trip together, 26 hours each way.

Before the Lazy E event, the PBR developed a comprehensive safety and wellness plan. Nobody from the event left the Lazy E grounds for the weekend and everyone involved signed a social responsibility pledge to abide by workflow, process, hygiene, sanitary and separation guidelines. Everyone got their temperature taken as they arrived, Casper said.

Bull riders didn't have to wear anything unusual when competing, but helpers did. Contestants were in groups of six, with color coded wrist bands so they could keep track of each other. It's a little harder to know who's who while wearing the grey facemask, complete with the PBR logo.

"When I pulled Derek's rope on the first one, I had on a mask, safety glasses and gloves," Casper said. Officials relaxed that for subsequent go-rounds, requiring only a mask for chute help.

Casper was just short



COURTESY PHOTO/JANDY WATSON BULL STOCK MEDIA

Riders line up for the opening ceremonies in front of empty stands for the television only-event that was closed to the public because of coronavirus fears. Riders are six feet apart.

of a making a qualified 8 second ride on his first bull Saturday, riding 7.15 seconds on Shaken, a bull making its PBR debut.

The next day he drew a bull called Space Force and when the 8 second buzzer blew, he was aboard, scoring 87.5 points, good for second in the go round.

"I had seen the bull before but hadn't been on him," Casper said. He impressed the television commentators with his ride.

"Casper with a savage ride aboard Space Force!" Anthony Lucia enthusiastically said on the CBS Sports Network at the end of Casper's ride.

"Really good job by Casper," two-time world champion Justin McBride said. "See, that bull has some movement, drifting across the arena."

That put Casper in the short-go round - the finals. In the PBR, riders pick their bull for the finals and Casper got the fifth pick, as he was placing fifth going into the finals.

He chose Sitting Bull, but was bucked off in 2.69 seconds.

Casper's second go-round points held up for ninth in the event. He won \$3,500, which included the \$1,500 'show up money' riders received to compete. More importantly Casper picked up 14 points, which moved him from 44th to 35th in world standings. He plans to make the most of it.

"It's definitely been a huge goal of mine to be on tour," Casper says. "It's been a longer process than I had planned."

He says he works out and gets on practice bulls. He got on five prior to going to Guthrie.

"I've always put in the work at the gym, doing drills and getting on a lot of bulls," he says. "Feels good to see a lot of years of commitment starting to pay off."

Casper, who grew up in Buckley, Wash., near Mount Rainier, will be back in Guthrie for another televised event May 9-10.

The PBR is committed



COURTESY PHOTO/JANDY WATSON BULL STOCK MEDIA

Everyone had their temperatures taken when they arrived at the event.



COURTESY PHOTO/JANDY WATSON BULL STOCK MEDIA

Derek Kolbaba, Casper's traveling partner, during the opening ceremonies.

to safely holding events.

"It's important for every person associated with the PBR that we get back to bucking bulls," said PBR Commissioner Sean Gleason. "Our riders and stock contractors don't make money if we don't have events. We're a family, and in tough times, you work hard to help them out. We had strong motivation to get back to business in a safe and responsible way."

Newport rodeo up in air

NEWPORT – Newport Rodeo president Ray Hanson says he wants to hold the Newport Rodeo this year, but the COVID-19 crisis may intervene. The Calgary Stampede, scheduled for the week after Newport, has been cancelled. Newport's rodeo is scheduled for June 26-27.

"We want to put on an event for the community," Hanson says. He says he will know more after May 9, when the rodeo committee meets to decide how to proceed.