

THE NEWPORT MINER

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MINER PHOTO/SOPHIA ALDOUS

Firefighters from West Pend Oreille Fire, Selkirk Fire and Fire District No. 4 were among the emergency personnel that responded to the fire at The Club Rio Saturday, Oct. 10.

The Club Rio burns to the ground

No injuries, owner hopes to rebuild

BY SOPHIA ALDOUS
OF THE MINER

OLDTOWN – A landmark local business went up in flames early Saturday morning, Oct. 10, when

The Club Rio in Oldtown caught fire. Emergency personnel, including firefighters, law enforcement and EMTs responded to the scene at about 2:30 a.m. The section of Highway 2 between Safeway in

Newport and the Oldtown Bridge was closed for several hours to through traffic.

The cause of the fire is still under

SEE CLUB RIO, 10A

Fox's death investigated as murder

BY DON GRONNING
OF THE MINER

NEWPORT – The Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies are investigating the death of Newport resident, Jason M. Fox, 19, as a murder. Fox's body was discovered Oct. 4 a few miles north of Newport, according to Pend Oreille County Sheriff Glenn Blakeslee.

"We are continuing to work the case and follow all leads," Blakeslee said.

Blakeslee added that the Sheriff's Office is working with other agencies, but declined to identify which ones.

Nor would he confirm the murder is being investigated as a hate crime, as was said at a candlelight vigil held in Newport City Park and attended by several dozen people last Friday.

SEE FOX, 10A

Bankruptcy trustee rejects tribe's offer on newsprint mill

BY DON GRONNING
OF THE MINER

NEWPORT – The Kalispel Tribe's offer to buy the former Ponderay Newsprint Co. mill has been rejected by bankruptcy trustee John Munding.

Kalispel Tribe of Indians Vice-Chair Curt Holmes said the tribe offered a little less than \$6 million for the newsprint mill site and equipment. Holmes said he had a Zoom call with Munding Thursday, Oct. 8. He said Munding was scheduled to speak with another

entity interested in buying the site Monday, Oct. 12. Holmes said he would know more after that call. He said the tribe might consider upping their offer, but that he wasn't interested in negotiating in the

SEE MILL, 2A

Willenbrock receives top publisher award

Former Newport Miner owner honored by Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

BY DON GRONNING
OF THE MINER

NEWPORT – Fred Willenbrock was recognized by the Washing-

ton Newspaper Publishers Association with the Miles Turnbull Master Editor/Publisher Award during a virtual presentation Friday, Oct. 9.

Willenbrock and his wife Susan owned The Newport Miner from 1986-2015.

"Fred and his wife Susan left their jobs in Seattle when they were both 34 to take ownership

of The Newport Miner on the opposite end of the state," said WNPA President Caralyn Bess of the Columbia Basin Herald.

"They honestly didn't know whether it was the right time to own a paper in eastern Washington. The year was 1986 and a first look around town didn't

SEE AWARD, 2A

BRIEFLY

'May's Vote' play presented Oct. 24

NEWPORT – Create Art Center will present an online performance of May's Vote, a play by Toni Douglass about the two women who led the campaign that won the vote for women in Washington state in November 1910. The performance is Saturday, Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. The program is being presented in honor of that anniversary and of the 2020 centennial of the 19th Amendment. It is performed by Denise Winter and Barbara Callander.

It is offered by Create on a donation basis. Suggested donation is \$5 per person and \$15 per family.

Create is an all volunteer, 501(c)3, community center for the arts in Newport. For more information about the program and how to make reservations, contact Create at 509-447-9277 or www.create@createarts.org.

Youth service updates on food, Christmas drive

NEWPORT – Youth Emergency Services (YES) of Pend Oreille County is providing snack bag pickup every Thursday. Those in need may pick them up at the YES building at 229 N. Calispel Ave. If Thursdays are not possible, con-

tact YES to make other arrangements. Those receiving monthly food bank deliveries need to make other arrangements beginning in November. For those experiencing hardship, call YES and staff will provide information on appropriate resources.

The YES and Mountain West Bank Tree of Angels Christmas Drive is beginning earlier than previous years. Tags are available for pick up for youth in need, ages infant to 18. Youth in need must return their filled out tags to YES no later than Monday, Nov. 2. For more information call 509-447-1125.



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