

Airway fire damages apartment complex

By PAUL DELANEY
Contributor

AIRWAY HEIGHTS — A fire just after midnight on June 7 caused significant damage to six units of the Cedar Summit Estates Apartments at 10620 W.12th Ave.

According to Airway Heights Fire Chief Mitch Metzger, there were no injuries to civilians or firefighters. Of the six units, three were destroyed by fire and the other three have extensive water damage. The Red Cross has assisted all displaced residents find

emergency residences. "There were nine people in the six different units that were displaced," Metzger reported in an email, adding that the cause is currently under investigation.

The blaze was battled by 16 apparatus with about 50 firefighters from AHFD, Spokane County District 10, District 3, Spokane city and Fairchild Air Force Base.

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Suspending licenses for not paying fines unconstitutional

FROM STAFF AND NEWS SOURCES

OLYMPIA — Drivers whose licenses were suspended because they didn't pay traffic fines may be able to get back on the road by June 16.

A Thurston County Superior Court Judge has ruled that it's unconstitutional to suspend a

driver's license for failure to pay fines or appear in court.

The ruling stems from a lawsuit in which the American Civil Liberties Union sued the state Department of Licensing, arguing the constitutionality of a state law.

The state is not planning to appeal the deci-

sion.

The decision is a stop-gap measure that will allow motorists to get back behind the wheel now.

On Jan. 1, 2023, Senate Bill 5226 goes into effect.

That law prevents the state from suspending the licenses of motorists who can't afford to pay tickets as long as they show up

for court hearings.

Those who don't show up will still face fines and suspensions.

Previously, motorists who didn't pay fines or show up in court could have licenses suspended, and driving with a suspended license was a misdemeanor criminal offense.



Contributed photo Mark Wilson / Cheney Free Press

Schoonover named ML Yard of the Month

Medical Lake Kiwanis has named the home of Marilyn Schoonover as its June Yard of the Month. The house, which is reportedly over 110 years old, is located at 104 S. Jefferson. Schoonover receives a \$25 gift certificate. Pictured above are Jean Nelson, Jon Albright, Marilyn Schoonover and Kristin Rodney.

Burning

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modify the restrictions if conditions warrant," Jenkins added. "With that, we also understand that frequent changes lend to confusion and thus, should be minimized if possible."

Jenkins noted in an email thread between chiefs that there was some question on whether or not the ban superseded the Department of Natural Resources' ability to issue its own burn permits, which it was doing on a case-by-case basis. To avoid confusion, Jenkins said Monday, June 7, that DNR is not issuing these permits at this time, allowing "all parties to be in unison with one another."

"The county fire chiefs agreed to re-evaluate if any jurisdiction felt the current conditions were no longer applicable," Jen-

kins added. "For now, we are all maintaining the current restrictions given our drought conditions along with air quality concerns in a Covid laden environment."

The National Weather Service was forecasting unsettled weather patterns this week as several storm fronts moved through the region, bringing some chances of showers and breezy conditions, particularly Wednesday and Thursday, with slight chance of thunderstorms, gusty winds, small hail and heavy downpours in areas this weekend. Even so, the projections through June 20 called for temperatures in the area 40% above normal while precipitation would likely be 50% below normal.

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Contributed by Lisa Bennett / Cheney Free Press

Pictured above left to right are June Yard of the Month winner Debbie Morgan, Pat Isbell, Kiwanis, and Gina Erickson, Gardeners of Cheney.

Morgan home named Cheney's June Yard of the Month

Debbie Morgan was happy to receive a \$25 gift certificate to Jarms Ace Hardware as part of her reward for being named Cheney's Yard of the Month by the Kiwanis and Gardeners of Cheney clubs.

Morgan has invested much time and treasure in her yard at 819 5th St. over the last 25 years. Just recently, she took out two big pine trees to open up her landscape and probably save her house. She is most proud of her Lily Tree plants which grow 3-5 feet high and have a giant bloom on them.

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