

See pictures from Children's Arts Festival SEE PAGE 12

Vol. 122, No. 14 July 22, 2021 \$1.00

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## **Honored Citizen 2021: Mayor Knauss** receives prestigious award last week



**Chewelah Mayor Dorothy Knauss was surprised** to receive the Chamber's Honored Citizen award at last week's candidate meet and greet. K.S. Brooks photo

Chewelah Independent

Debbie Akers delivered the most startling speech at last Tuesday night's Candidate Meet and Greet when she invited unsuspecting retiring Mayor Dorothy Knauss to say a few words to the packed civic center

and then presented her with the Chewelah Chamber of Commerce "2021 Honored Citizen Award." No one was more surprised than the

As president of the chamber, Akers welcomed the political candidates and

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### Extreme conditions prompt land closures in region: **DNR-managed lands east**

#### of Cascades closing While visiting the Red Apple Fire on Tuesday, July 20, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz announced that, due to extreme fire danger and ongoing drought, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources is temporarily closing all recreational and public access to DNR-

managed lands in eastern Washington beginning 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 23. This temporary closure will apply to DNR-managed state lands, conservation areas, community forests and any associated roads, trails, campgrounds, recreational sites or

recreational facilities. The Red Apple Fire alone has burned over 12,000 acres. Across our state, over 900 fires have burned more than

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### **Hancock forest** managers close lands

Hancock Forest Management announced on July 9 that due to increasingly dry conditions leading to greater danger of wildfire, and in the interest of protecting forest resources and public safety, its lands will be closed in NE Washington to public access beginning July 12, 2021.

The company noted that while this type of restriction is not needed in most years, this year is extraordinary in terms of wildfire risk for Washington and all neighboring western states. Hancock Forest Management is working closely with state officials at the Washington Department of Natural Resources. For inquiries about the closure, contact our office in Colville, WA (509)-685-2561.

'Our highest priority is the safety of people and property," said Scott Ketchum, General Manager of Hancock Forest Management's Northern Inland Division. "This precautionary closure is in the best interests of the community and the environment, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation with this request during these highly unusual times," he said. Hancock said they will continue to evaluate the situation including weather, fuel conditions and firefighting resources and will rescind this closure as soon as it is appropriate to do so.

#### FARMING



Dry conditions in the spring and summer have area farmers choosing which crops to water. Brandon Hansen photo

#### <u>Brandon Hansen</u>

"Pray for rain" That's what farmers are feeling right now as drought grips 70 percent of Washington. Last week, the Washington State Department of Ecology declared a drought emergency for most of the Evergreen State after a dry spring was followed by the beginning of summer's re-

cord-setting heat. A drought emergency means the water supply is projected to be below 75 percent of average levels.

The Chewelah area is no exception. The Colville River, which snakes up the valley and is a source of water for several farmers, is currently running at 32.3 cubic feet per second which is markedly below the average of 139 cubic feet per second. The height of the river currently sits at 4.9 feet, and some longtime area residents say it appears to be the lowest level they have

For farms like Hagen Cattle and Hay, this summer has been more troubling than just worrying about the necessity of turning the A/C up. "The water supply is dwindling," farmer Lorren Hagen said. "The Department of Ecology notified me last week that they would be shutting the water off on two of our water rights in about ten days. This means there won't be a third cutting of alfalfa which is another big economic hit."

For dryland farms like the Clover Mountain Dairy in Blue Creek, Washington, the soil is fully depleted at this point. "According to WSU's AgWeatherNet station on our farm, soil moisture is currently at four percent," Stacy and Virginia Thomas of Clover Mountain Dairy said. "Looking back at the data from previous years, we typically didn't reach that number until late August or September, if ever."

In southeast Washington, it's considered an exceptional drought area - the worst category - and dating back to



Front Porch Farms considers themselves to be blessed with water rights and the ability to irrigate, while dryland farmers have seen soil conditions that match up with late August. Brandon Hansen photo

for the state has never classified anything in exceptional drought until this year.

An issue too, is not only have this year's yields been lacking, but next year's could suffer too. Farmers usually and late September, but they will need rain to moisten the ground to allow the 2022 crop

to establish itself. While the statewide drought declaration excludes Seattle, Tacoma and Everett, that is because their water is well supplied from snow-fed reservoirs. The Department of Ecology has already restricted 392 agricultural water-rights holders in eastern Washington and 93 in western Washington in the Chehalis basin. The drought declaration allowed for applications to drill emer-

ter rights. Front Porch Farm, a mainstay of the Chewelah Farmers Market and a very prominent farm along Highway 395 near Arden, said they had to prioritize what crops they could keep watered since there has been so little rainfall.

is certain as far as the water supply," Front Porch Farm's Merritt Acheson said. "We

water to the crops that need it and prioritizing getting those covered in an efficient way. We have utilized our big reels more in the hay fields this year as they can cover more acres much more effectively than plant between late August the older wheel lines and hand lines do."

> When the record-setting temperatures hit at the end of June and beginning of July, there was little farmers could said it's always a challenge for farmers to balance their health and do chores, so a lot of the strenuous work or "work that needs to be done is usually pushed to the cooler parts of the day in the early morning or evening. This results in short nights.

"Not only was this hot spell record-setting, but it gency wells and transfer wa- came during some of the longest days of the year, which meant we had several 18-hour work days during that week," Acheson said. "We also have had to cancel or move some of our market hours to accommodate the heat. We have been spending more time down on our stretch of the "We are fortunate in that Colville River, and we are so we have water rights for our thankful that we do get a bit farm, but this year nothing of a reprieve most nights from the heat. That's one reason we love this area."

said Acheson farm's production of hay is

2000, the drought monitor are trying to focus on getting significantly down, not only because of the heat but because of late freezes in May that hit fields hard. "I would say we are running between 20 percent and 75 percent depending on the field, irrigation, soil, etc," Acheson said. "We are doing our best to keep things alive and produce all the hay we can as there will be many animals depending on it this winter."

Front Porch Farm also do to escape the heat. Acheson has an extensive farm garden where some crops enjoy the heat and some don't. Luckily they have a drip tape and raised bed system that handles hot weather well and limits evaporation during extreme heat.

Farmers also have to worry about the health of their animals as well as their own. Clover Mountain Dairy's small herd could use the barn for shade, and Stacy and Virginia Thomas supplemented that with fans and water misters. "We fed hay so they wouldn't have to go out and graze in the heat of the day, and always ensured they had access to lots of clean, cool water," they said. "On the worst days, we were watering down the cows every hour which greatly increased our

workload and stress level." Feeding more hay and

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Date	High	Low	Precip.
July 13	99	53	0
July 14	100	51	0
July 15	99	46	0
July 16	93	51	0
July 17	88	51	0
July 18	88	46	0
July 19	94	48	0
*Precipitation is a	not recorded weel	cends/holidays D	ata gathered from

recipitation is not recorded weekends/holidays. Data gathered from City of Chewelah Weather Station

#### 99 LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS NO: 21-4-00095-33 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

JOHN C. PILLEY,

Deceased.

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or their Attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the latter of: (1) Thirty (30) days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the Notice to the Creditor as provided under RCW  $11.40.020(\bar{1})(c)$ ; or (2) four (4) months after the date of first publication of the Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Publication Dates: July 8, 2021; July 15, 2021; and July 22, 2021

**Personal Representative:** TIMOTHY A. B. PILLEY

**Attorney for Personal** Representative: Chris A. Montgomery

WSBA #12377 Montgomery Law Firm

Address for Mailing or Service: 287 E. Astor Avenue P.O. Box 269 Colville, WA 99114-0269

**Probate Cause Number:** 21-4-00095-33

**Court of Probate Proceedings:** Stevens County Superior Court 215 S. Oak Street #206 Colville, Washington 99114

Published: July 8, 15, 22, 2021

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE Deceased STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS NO. 21-4-00103-33 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of:

#### **CHARLOTTE T. BROGAN**

Deceased

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the Creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. OF **FIRST** DATE PUBLICATION: July 22, 2021 Scott D. Brogan,

Personal Representative, c/o McGrane & Schuerman Alison K. McGrane, WSBA #37417, Attorney at Law 298 South Main #304, Colville, Washington 99114,

509 684-8484

Published: July 22, 29, August 5,

#### 99 LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE **COUNTY OF STEVENS** NO. 21-4-00104-33 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of:

**DEBORAH L. HEAL** 

Deceased

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the Creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. OF **FIRST** 

PUBLICATION: July 22, 2021 Norman D. Phillips, Personal Representative, c/o McGrane & Schuerman Logan A. Worley, WSBA #48121, Attorney at Law 298 South Main #304, Colville, Washington 99114, 509 684-8484

Published: July 22, 29, August 5, 2021

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE **COUNTY OF STEVENS** NO: 21-4-00102-33 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estates of:

FRANK R. THOMPSON and

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of these Estates. Any person having a claim against the Decedents must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations. present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or their Attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the latter of: (1) Thirty (30) days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the Notice to the Creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four (4) months after the date of first must be presented within the publication of the Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

**Publication Dates:** July 22, 2021, July 29, 2021 and August 5, 2021

**Personal Representative:** LEWIS, f/k/a CHERYL CHERYL LYNN BALDWIN

for Attornev Personal Representative: Chris A. Montgomery | WSBA #12377 Montgomery Law Firm

Address for Mailing or **Service:** 287 E. Astor Avenue P.O. Box 269 Colville, WA 99114-0269

**Probate Cause Number:** 21-4-00102-33

**Court of Probate Proceedings:** Stevens County Superior Court 215 S. Oak Street #206 Colville, Washington 99114

Published: July 22, 29, August 5,

#### 99 LEGAL NOTICES

**Town of Springdale** Ordinance 471 **Septage Receiving** 

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE TOWN OF SPRINGDALE ESTABLISHIG **SEPTAGE** RECEIVING POLICIES BETWEEN **TROUTMAN** BEQUEST **FUND** AND SEWER FUND.

THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF SPRINGDALE DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS The Town of Springdale Town Council is establishing partnership of the Troutman Bequest Fund and Sewer Fund for the Septage Receiving. Troutman Bequest Fund will purchase the equipment that is required to complete the Septage Receiving for disposal usage to the Springdale Sewer System with agreement of inner fund loan with three-year payback of initial cost in joint venture of future revenue; And

WHEREAS The Town Council will budget over the threeyear inner fund loan payment based with costs of overhead and maintenance in mind of the Septic Receiving with written contract with a Septic Company to utilize the Springdale Septic Receiving area with minimum of 1 truck load daily five days a week over a three-year period of time: And

WHEREAS The Town Council will pledge that all future revenues from the Septic Receiving will be shared between the two funds at a percentage of 40% Troutman Bequest Fund and 60% Sewer Fund: And

AND THEREFORE, costs analysis of annual revenues to expenditures will be performed in the Budget adoption thereafter.

This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication as required by law.

1st Read: June 14, 2021 2nd Read: July 12, 2021 3Rd Read: July 12, 2021

Mayor Stefany Smith

Attested Clerk Treasurer Lisa Sheppard

Published: July 22, 29, August 5,

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS NO. 21-4-00099-33 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (R.C.W. 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of:

KEITH ROBERT DELL

Deceased.

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim later of: (1) thirty days after Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the Creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE **FIRST** PUBLICATION: July 15, 2021 STEVEN ROBERT DELL, Personal Representative, c/o McGrane & Schuerman MICHAEL D. WATERS, WSBA 46497, ATTORNEY AT LAW 298 South Main #304.

Published: July 15, 22, 29, 2021

Colville, Washington 99114,

509 684-8484

IN THE SUPERIOR **COURT OF THE STATE OF** WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS NO: 21-4-00100-33 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

#### 99 LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATES OF

RICHARD R. SPHULER; SANDRA E. SPHULER; and DONNA LEE LEE,

Deceased.

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of these Estates. Any person having a claim against the Decedents must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or their Attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the latter of: (1) Thirty (30) days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the Notice to the Creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four (4) months after the date of first publication of the Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

**Publication Dates:** July 15, 2021, July 22, 2021 and July 29, 2021

Personal Representative: ANGELA L. BROWN

Personal Attornev for Representative: Chris A. Montgomery WSBA #12377 Montgomery Law Firm

Address for Mailing or **Service:** 287 E. Astor Avenue P.O. Box 269 Colville, WA 99114-0269

**Probate Cause Number:** 21-4-00100-33

**Court of Probate Proceedings:** Stevens County Superior Court 215 S. Oak Street #206 Colville, Washington 99114

Published: July 15, 22, 29, 2021

**COLUMBIA SCHOOL** DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING TO ADOPT BUDGET

The Board of Directors,

Columbia School District #206, will hold a Public Hearing at 5:30 p.m. on July 27th, 2021 in the Columbia School Library and via ZOOM, for the purpose of fixing and adopting the 2021-22 school district budget and the four-year budget plan with enrollment projection. Please call or email the school at (509) 722-3311 or jclintworth@ columbia206.com for the ZOOM link. Prior to the adoption of the budget, the Board will hold a hearing for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the 2021-22 budget. Any person may appear at the hearing and be heard for or against any part of such budget, the four-year budget plan, or the proposed changes to uses of enrichment funding under RCW 28A.505.240. The Board shall fix and determine the appropriation from each fund contained in the 2021-22 budget by resolution during the regular monthly school board meeting that will be held immediately following the public hearing. Budget information will be available July 10, 2021 at the School District Office in Hunters, WA or on the school website at www. columbia206.com. A copy of the budget will be furnished to any person who might request it.

Published: July 15, 22, 2021

#### PUBLIC NOTICE Call for Bids

The Columbia School District #206 is accepting bids to be opened on July 23 at 9:00 a.m. in the District Business Office for the following supplies: 1) Heating Fuel for boilers; 2) Card Lock Fuel for school buses and other school vehicles. Bids must be marked "Bid for Supplies" and mailed, faxed, or delivered to the Business Manager or emailed to <u>mnelson@</u> columbia206.net. Visit the website at www.columbia206. com or call (509) 722-3311 for more information. Columbia School District reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids

Published: July 15, 22, 2021



**Clover Mountain Dairy at Bluecreek has** experienced diminished hay production for their grass-fed milk cows. Courtesy photo

#### DROUGHT

Continued from Page 1

reducing grazing during the hottest days means the dairy will have to buy more hay for the winter. While their pasture grazing had supplemented their dairy cows' diet to the point where they would only need to buy about a quarter of their winter supply, the Thomases said they'll be buying all their hay for the winter. They'll be in the same boat as some farmers who saw a loss in their pasture yields and they will have to deal with the difficulty of finding feed for their livestock in a market that has seen farmers lose 50 percent of their crops.

"As a 100 percent grass-fed dairy, our farm revolves around our pasture health," the Thomases said. "This year we only had a third of the hay production and grazing with stunted plants. The farm looks like it normally would in late September. For the first time, we will have summer sacrificial paddocks and feed hay.'

The conditions, in other words, are terrible.

Like Front Porch Farm, the Thomases do their chores earlier in the morning and when the sun goes down. "We try to not work outside in the extreme heat unless absolutely necessary," they explained. "It is easy to suddenly be dehydrated and need to rest."

Hagen Cattle and Hay said conditions were terrible as well for their dryland crops. They said there is no regrowth in their family farm pastures and production is about 25-35 percent of normal. While the farm has 20 acres of spring barley, they didn't cut it because there was

On the irrigated parts of the farm, they've had to water a third more than a typical year. The Hagens also soil tested and made two applications of fertilizer about six weeks apart to maximize growth on irrigated ground to make up for the lost dryland acres. "The heat wave stunted the dryland crops. In our area, the late frost killed the terminal buds on alfalfa and grass shoots which also reduced yield," Lorren Hagen said. "The weevils pretty much finished off the first cutting alfalfa eating the leaves."

The Hagens have a handline, wheel line and center pivots to water their fields, but they can't move the handlines and wheel lines fast enough to keep up with the amount of water the crops need. Luckily the center pivot can keep up with the water demand and the second cutting of alfalfa looks good.

Still it's appearing that many farmers are facing the same problem during this extremely dry summer. What is troubling is how early it still is in the year, and it will only get drier. Washington has received a little more than half of its precipitation, and the only year that was drier

The Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources said they are seeing signs of stressed fish, stymied farmers and ranchers and are trying to deal with wildfires burning through crispy vegeta-

There is no relief around the corner as forecasts are predicting above normal temperatures and below-average precipitation for the entire state through September.

So, pray for rain.

#### DNR

Continued from Page 1

140,000 acres.

"This summer is smashing all our records and leaving the state bone dry, leaving eastern Washington to face an ongoing, tremendous risk of wildfire," said Commissioner Franz, the elected official who oversees DNR. "Over the past year-and-a-half, we have been reminded just how important our public lands are, so closing them is not a decision we take lightly. But with the drought leaving the region as dry as ever, we must do all that we can to prevent human-caused fires.

"Our firefighters are already stretched thin fighting major fires across our state. We must take reasonable steps - and make sacrifices - in order to protect them and our communities."

DNR decided to close recreational and public access to its managed lands in eastern Washington based on a number of factors, including current extreme hot and dry conditions, a forecast that shows no meaningful precipitation in the near future, current fuel loads and a concern for

After a late-June heat wave that shattered many alltime temperature records across Washington, the vast majority of the state is currently in a drought emergency. Additionally, the number of fire ignitions in the state is approximately double the 10-year average, with months of fire season still to go. In all areas of eastern Washington, fire danger is at very high or extreme levels.

DNR staff will continually monitor conditions, and a reopening date for recreation access will be determined once these factors improve.

The decision to close recreation and all public access on DNR-managed lands east of the Cascades is in addition to the burn ban that Commissioner Franz enacted earlier this month on the 13 million acres of forestlands under DNR fire protection. The burn ban will remain in effect through at least September 30. Campfires also remain banned on DNR-managed lands statewide due to ongoing fire danger.

"Restricting recreational access is something we only do in the most serious of circumstances," said Angus Brodie, deputy supervisor for state uplands. "However, safety is always our top priority and right now it's not safe for people to be out on the landscape. We look forward to reopening as soon as the danger recedes."

DNR joins the Umatilla National Forest and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in closing lands in eastern Washington to public access.

Anyone who spots a wildfire should call 911 to report it as soon as possible. To get updates on recreation openings and closures, visit dnr.wa.gov/open.