

# Methow Valley News

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\$1

## Holston sweeps to Mat Classic title

### White takes 3rd, Jones-Mowen makes history

BY RICK LEWIS

It was a history-making event for Liberty Bell High School at the 2022 Mat Classic in Tacoma last weekend.

Senior Noah Holston swept through the 1B/2B 195-pound weight class to the top of the podium, joining his two older brothers, Milo (2014) and Finlay (2018), as state wrestling champions.

Classmate Cody White also had an outstanding meet, wrestling his way to a third-place finish in the 145-pound class.

And Cassidy Jones-Mowen became the first ever female Mountain Lion wrestler to hit

the mats in the Tacoma Dome. "Noah has been driven all season," noted Mountain Lion head coach Joe Downing of his senior grappler. "He wrestled with his brothers, practiced long and worked hard all year."

Indeed, Holston had said in an interview during pre-season workouts that his goal was not just to get to state, but to win the championship. "When it was his time," continued Downing, "he asked his teammates if they were ready to watch him go to work."

Go to work is exactly what he did. Holston rolled through the three-match bracket without giving up a single point. He opened with a major decision technical fall, 15-0, over Brock Gustavson of Davenport, pinned Darrington's Landen Brown

See **TITLE**, A3



Photo courtesy of Erin White

Assistant coach Kyle Erickson, left, Cassidy Jones-Mowen, Noah Holston, Cody White and head coach Joe Downing traveled to the Mat Classic tournament last weekend.

## McCabe, U.S. women close out Olympics impressively

BY RICK LEWIS

Minnesotan Jessie Diggins led a four-member American contingent with her second-place finish in the 30-kilometer freestyle Nordic skating event to close out the Winter Olympics Games in Beijing last weekend.

The U.S. team placed all of its skiers in the top 20 of the 65-skier field. Rosie Brennan of Alaska finished in 6th place, Sophia Laukli placed 15th and Mazama's Novie McCabe crossed the line in 18th place, in a pack just 1.3 seconds

See **OLYMPICS**, A3

## County seeks coordination with state over cannabis licenses

BY MARCY STAMPER

Okanogan County is working on a checklist to help coordinate the licensing process with the state for new cannabis operations.

The Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board (WSLCB) notifies the county of new license applications but, in the past, the county rarely commented on these applications, Planning Director Pete Palmer told the county commissioners last week.

Palmer proposed a checklist to help review all aspects of a new license, including the 911 address and zoning regulations. The county could also tell the WSLCB they have no objections.

The county has been concerned that some licenses contain incomplete or inaccurate information because the state has been issuing licenses for multiple suites or units at a given address, without accounting for the size of the parcel or the aggregate size of the individual grows, Palmer said.

Many cannabis growers have been assigning their own 911 address, which gets listed on the license even when it's not a valid address, Palmer said. Others apply for licenses for a Suite A and a Suite Z, she said.

Obtaining more detailed information from the state would also allow the county to identify how many companies would operate on a given parcel. It would assist in the environmental review and give neighbors a better sense of what's planned, Palmer said.

Okanogan County has imposed a moratorium on new cannabis farms to gather up-to-date information on the licensees and to determine whether the farms are in compliance with county zoning regulations. The county also wants to ensure that all growers have an approved, detailed site plan. The

See **CANNABIS**, A2

## DOGGIES DASH, THEIR HUMANS TRY TO KEEP UP



Photo by Steve Mitchell

Dogs took their people for a ski Saturday at the annual Doggie Dash in Winthrop. See page A8 for more photos.

## Chamber Music Festival returns in new venue

BY MARCY STAMPER

The Methow Valley Chamber Music Festival will be offering six concerts of inspiring live music this June, after a two-year hiatus because of the pandemic.

Loyal concertgoers will find the impeccable musicianship and electrifying performances they've come to expect since the festival was launched in 1996. They'll also see some changes, including a new concert venue.

Festival Artistic Director Kevin Krentz said he is exhilarated to be gathering musicians and planning concerts after the long break.

"We're really, really looking forward to returning to the celebratory feeling of everyone being together after two years off," Festival Executive Director Rebecca Lundquist said.

Audiences will see familiar faces on stage, including Krentz



Photo courtesy of Twisp Terrace Lodge

Chamber music lovers will enjoy impeccable performances - and stunning views - from the chamber music festival's new venue at Twisp Terrace Lodge.

on cello, but that stage will look different. This year, concerts will be at the Twisp Terrace Lodge, which provides a beautiful space, with high ceilings, a dramatic wall of windows and

great acoustics, Krentz said.

Krentz and the festival board considered about 20 new venues, and Krentz and his wife, cellist Haeyoon Shin Krentz, played their instruments to test

sound quality and ambience at half a dozen finalists, Krentz said.

"A single note must be beautiful," Krentz said. "The acoustics at Twisp Terrace Lodge were beautiful from the start." The more intimate space lends exquisite detail to the sound, he said. Another attraction of the space is its climate-controlled environment, Lundquist said.

In addition to the change in venue, the festival has revamped the concert schedule. This year, they're offering a total of six concerts for two consecutive weeks on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each week, the Thursday and Saturday concerts will be completely different, offering four unique programs. Each Friday concert will combine selections from the other two nights that week, Krentz said.

See **MUSIC**, A3

## OK County cancels jail contract for Douglas inmates

### Agreement will be in effect for up to one more year

BY MARCY STAMPER

The Okanogan County jail will no longer house inmates from Douglas County. The Okanogan County commissioners cancelled their contract last week because the arrangement reduces the county's ability to provide adequate services to Okanogan County, the commissioners told their Douglas County counterparts in a Feb. 15 letter.

"Pandemic mitigation requirements combined with a significant staffing crisis as well as the lack of isolation capability in such a dated facility are significant factors in our coming to this conclusion," the Okanogan commissioners wrote.

The contract with Douglas County allowed either party to terminate it with one year's notice. The contract will remain in effect for up to a year to allow Douglas County to find alternate arrangements.

For several months, commissioners from both counties have been reviewing the terms of the contract, which provides 40 beds daily to Douglas County, which doesn't have its own jail.

After scrutinizing the condition of the jail and its needs, the Okanogan County commissioners determined that the "aging and inadequate facility" cannot effectively and safely house all those inmates, particularly with booking restrictions imposed during the COVID pandemic, Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley said in a Feb. 17 press release. Current

See **JAIL**, A2

### ADDRESS LABEL

THURS.	FRI.	SAT.	SUN.	MON.	TUES.
Feb. 24	Feb. 25	Feb. 26	Feb. 27	Feb. 28	March 1
31°	27°	30°	36°	41°	41°
18°	12°	17°	21°	20°	24°
Cold and sunny	Cold and sunny	Overcast	Showers possible	Cloudy	Showers possible

WEATHER DATA BASED ON ACCUWEATHER.COM FORECAST FOR TWISP

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# WDFW takes comment on wolf-removal rules, livestock conflict

BY ANN MCCREARY

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) invites the public to submit written comment from Feb. 22 to April 11 on a proposed rule change and a new rule to address wolf-livestock conflict deterrence.

In September 2020, Gov. Jay Inslee directed WDFW to initiate rule making with the goal of instituting practices that would reduce the number of livestock killed or injured by wolves as well as the number of wolves lethally removed as a result of depredations of domestic animals.

The proposed rule change, if adopted, would amend the language of Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 220-440-080

to require that, to authorize lethal removal of wolves, the WDFW director (or WDFW staff designee) would need to confirm an owner of domestic animals has proactively implemented appropriate non-lethal conflict deterrence measures.

The proposal, if adopted, would also create a new rule (WAC 220-440-260) that directs WDFW staff, in consultation with willing, affected livestock producers, as well as affected federal, state and tribal agencies, to author conflict mitigation plans that would establish area-specific criteria for the use of non-lethal and lethal measures to mitigate wolf-livestock conflict in areas of chronic conflict.

"If adopted, the proposed

change to WAC 220-440-080 would align the code with the agency's long-standing commitment to non-lethal conflict mitigation strategies," said Wolf Policy Lead Julia Smith.

"The proposal creating WAC 220-440-260 aims to address areas that have experienced significant levels of livestock depredation and subsequent wolf removals year after year, an especially difficult scenario for all communities concerned about wolf conservation and management. This proposal focuses limited time and resources to areas where the most livestock and wolf loss has occurred in the state."

In addition, a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) that analyzes the

environmental impacts of four alternative rule making options and a Small Business Economic Impact Statement (SBEIS) that evaluates the potential costs to businesses in the livestock industry resulting from the proposed rule and rule change were developed as part of the rule-making process. During this public comment period, WDFW is looking for input on the draft proposed language for both WACs, as well as feedback on the DSEIS.

To submit comments on this proposal, go to the Wolf-livestock Conflict Deterrence Rule Making public engagement page at: <https://publicinput.com/WolfConflictDeterrence102>.

Written comments can also be submitted via email to WolfCon-

flictDeterrence102@PublicInput.com, or members of the public can call (855) 925-2801 (enter project code 3861) to record their input.

To review the SEPA materials and share feedback on the DSEIS online, visit: <https://publicinput.com/SEPAWolfConflictDeterrence>. Written comments can also be submitted via email to SEPA-WolfConflictDeterrence@PublicInput.com, or members of the public can call (855) 925-2801 (enter project code 6659) to record their input.

A public hearing is scheduled for April 8 at 8 a.m. The meeting will take place by webinar. The public may participate in the meeting. Registration is required to testify at the public hearing. Registration deadlines and regis-

tration forms are available on the Commission Meetings page or you may contact the commission office at (360) 902-2267.

The final SEIS is planned to be issued in May and the Fish and Wildlife Commission will consider the proposal in May of 2022. The rule and/or rule changes that may result from this process are proposed to be effective in January 2023.

Visit the Department's website for more information on the proposed rule at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/regulations/development/wolf-livestock-conflict-deterrence> and the rule-change process.

More information on wolves in Washington can be found at [wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf](http://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf).

## OLYMPICS

From Page A1

behind Laukli. No other country had all four skiers in the top 20.

Norway's Therese Johaug took the gold medal, covering the 18-mile race in 1:24:54.0. Diggins was one minute and 43 seconds behind and Kerttu Niskanen of Finland earned the bronze at 1:27:27.3. Laukli and McCabe are teammates at the University of Utah when they aren't out on the World Tour.

It was the third event for McCabe, skiing in her first Olympics at the age of 20. She placed 24th in the 98-skier 10K classic, and skied a very strong third freestyle leg of the 4x5K relay for the U.S. team of Hailey Swirbul, Brennan, McCabe and Diggins. The U.S. women placed sixth.

McCabe has returned to the University of Utah and was scheduled to sit in on a Zoom press conference at the Salt Lake campus Tuesday afternoon (Feb. 22).

## Juniors ski at National Qualifier

Winthrop's Jori Grialou doubled as the first-place winner in both the U-18 girls' Saturday freestyle sprints and Sunday 5K classic races at the Spokane Nordic Cup on Feb. 19-20 at Mount Spokane State Park.

The Methow Valley Nordic Team's Mariah Lucy placed 4th and Stella Scholz 6th in the U-18 sprints. Lucy claimed another 4th-place finish, and Scholz moved up to 5th, in the Sunday classic 5K.

In the girls' U-16 division, Dashe McCabe finished 4th in the Saturday sprints and moved up to 3rd in the Sunday 5K classic.

On the boys' side in the U-18 division, Saturday's sprints found Graham Sheley placing 8th and twin brother Carter in 9th. In Sunday's classic, Carter took 9th and Graham placed 12th. Dexter Delaney and Emmett Bondi each skied in the U-16 division on Saturday, placing 13th and 15th, respectively. Sunday's classic saw them in 7th and 17th, respectively.

Each of the above skiers has qualified for Junior Nationals, according to Program Director and Coach Sam Naney.

"We had seven skiers qualify for Junior Nationals," Naney said. "Emmet Bondi was named as first alternate for the U-16 boys, which is a great accomplishment for him as a first-year U-16 and his first foray into this higher level of racing."

In the younger divisions, Aidan Sands and Marit Nelson each came away with wins in the U-14 classic 3K races on Sunday. On Saturday, the sprints saw wins by Maren Sands, Marit Nelson, Dylan Sands and Aidan Sands.

Naney pointed toward Wylie Smith as having a particularly good race on Sunday, but she also managed a 3rd place finish in the U-14 sprints on Saturday, just ahead of teammate Nora Bolinger.

Nils Smith got 3rd-place in the U-10 sprints, as did Thorsen Yarraes in the U-12 sprints.

The Junior National Championships for ages 14-20 are scheduled for March 6-12 in Minneapolis.



Photo courtesy U.S. Ski and Snowboard

Rosie Brennan, left, Hailey Swirbul, Jessie Diggins and Novie McCabe at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

## TITLE

From Page A1

1:07 into the match, and scored another major 15-0 decision and technical fall in the title match against Weston Fruh of North Beach.

Holston outpointed his three opponents by a score of 32-0 and he was so efficient that his matches took only 9:58 of the possible 18 minutes. He closed out his season with a 28-1 record, that one loss being a strategic forfeit at the District 6 meet two weeks ago.

### Battling back

White started out fast by pin-

ning his first-round opponent, Kolby Mozingo of Onalaska, at 1:40 into the second period. The Mountain Lion was then faced with a rematch from regionals against Lionel Castro of Grandview in the semi-final, with Castro pinning White at 39 seconds into the second period.

White moved into the consolation bracket, defeating another familiar face, Christian Carson of Lake Roosevelt, at 1:52 into the first period, setting him up to take on Josiah Skindzier of Kittitas for the third-place trophy.

White opened the match with a takedown for 2 points just 15 seconds into the bout for third place, deferring the up-down choice at the start of the sec-

ond period. Skindzier chose the down position, but was not able to earn the reversal or escape points. White scored a 3-point near fall and a 2-point reversal early in the final frame, winning by fall to end the match.

"He was tough as nails," said Downing of White. "He had a tough match against the [eventual] champion, Lionel Castro."

### Long day on the mats

Jones-Mowen, a freshman, wrestled three matches at state on Friday, losing her first-round match in heartbreaker fashion. Wrestling Monroe Bearcat senior Sophia Breaker, Jones-Mowen broke out to an early 3-0 lead, scoring a first-period takedown

and a second-round escape.

Starting the third period from the neutral position, Breaker scored a takedown to close the match to a 3-2 score. Jones-Mowen responded with an escape for 1 point with 43 seconds left to go. Up 4-2, and things looked good for the first-year wrestler.

But, as Yogi Berra famously warned the sports world 70-some years ago, it really ain't over until it's over. Breaker scored a 2-point takedown and 2 more on the near fall, coming back for the 6-4 win and sending Jones-Mowen into the consolation bracket.

From there, Jones-Mowen took on junior Elizabeth Walton of Silas High School (Tacoma). Walton sported a 21-9 season

record at the 4A school, but Jones-Mowen was up to the task, jumping out to a 3-0 lead before scoring the win by fall in the second period.

Elizabeth Messman of Vancouver's Mountain View ended Jones-Mowen's tournament and third match on day one, by fall after taking the early 4-0 lead on a takedown and near fall.

### Some history

Reached for comment, one of Liberty Bell's early female wrestling pioneers, Jessie Yockey, expressed her pride in Jones-Mowen's accomplishments this year. Yockey, along with Andrea Love, are, as far as anyone knows, the first female wrestlers in the program, members of the team from 2000 through 2002.

"We had to wrestle with the boys. I qualified as an alternate, but never got to wrestle at state," said Yockey. "That girl" she said, referring to Jones-Mowen, "worked her butt off to get to where she is today. She has earned the title of the first [Mountain Lion] girl to wrestle at state, and she did great."

Yockey's son, Damien Spears, is a freshman who suffered a season-ending knee injury that took him out of the District 6 and regional qualifying meets.

Only once before in Liberty Bell history have three male competitors from the same family earned the top honor in the annual tournament. From 1997 through the 2001 tournament, the Tuller family (Matt, Andrew and Courtney) totaled five titles

among them.

Meritt and Emmett Fink each won a pair of championships in 2014-16.

The history of the tournament is highlighted with other Mountain Lion champions and high podium placers, most notable of which would probably be Trent Skelton's run of a second-place finish as a 106-pound competitor in 2012, then a string of three straight titles from 2013-15 at 106 and 120 pounds.

### The future

Downing and assistant Kyle Erickson, are hoping to build on this year's success as they head into the off-season.

White and Holston will be gone to graduation, but Jones-Mowen looks to return for her sophomore season, and there is some promise at the junior high level of stronger numbers soon.

Downing is also heading up a junior wrestling program that is just now gathering steam for a March full of practices and meets around the area.

"We have a meet scheduled for March 26 at Liberty Bell," said Downing. "We expect teams from Oroville, Pateros/Brewster, Chelan/Manson and even Cashmere. It'll be pretty big."

"Kyle and I aren't going anywhere," he said of himself and Erickson. "We have plans to show kids that this is a growing program," hoping that in those numbers the Mountain Lion program can develop and return to its tradition of state champions, both individual and team.

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