

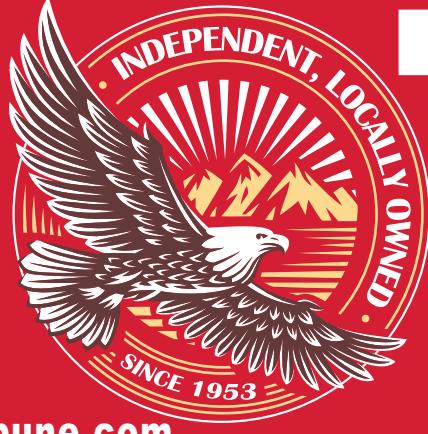
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NORTHERN KITTITAS COUNTY TRIBUNE



YOUR 3-DAY FORECAST

Full Weather Report on page A2

THURSDAY

HI 61° / LO 40°

FRIDAY

HI 57° / LO 35°

SATURDAY

HI 73° / LO 40°

A WWII veteran's unforgettable story

MEMORIAL DAY
Remember
And Honor

by Jim Fossett

jim@nkctribune.com

KITTITAS COUNTY – Two generations in a military family shared an extraordinary day when WWII veteran Lucien Ott pinned the rank of Colonel onto his Grandson Nathan Foster's shoulder. Foster is a sergeant with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office and a member of the United States Air Force, Air National Guard. In October Ott joins the ranks of America's precious centenarians. According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs there are "fewer than 325,000 of the 16 million Americans who served in World War II still with us."

"When I found out I was being promoted," Foster said, "I knew I had to involve Grandpa Ott, one of my idols and the same man who pinned my lieutenant rank 21 years ago."

A grandfather's war story

"Grandpa was drafted into the Army Air Corp in 1942 and

sent to Europe where he was stationed at RAF Martlesham Heath Air Base," Foster began. "He was an armorer keeping P47s and P51's armed and ready to support the bombing efforts in the European theater.

"He told me he served three years, two months and 20 days until he left the service as a corporal and returned to East Wenatchee where he spent the next 32 years growing apples and working for Alcoa Industries.

"During the winter months of the war, the P47s were having problems keeping their machine guns firing due to the extreme cold at the altitudes they needed to fly to support B17 bombers.

"Grandpa said one day he decided he would add antifreeze to the lubricant they were using when they loaded the guns to see if that would keep them from freezing. The antifreeze worked, which was a great breakthrough, but it



WWII VETERAN Lucien Ott (right) with grandson Nathan Foster, a Kittitas County Deputy Sheriff recently promoted to Colonel in the Air National Guard.

Photo courtesy of Foster family

created a problem for grandpa.

"As anyone in the world of military maintenance knows, there are set ways for how to work on airplanes and even

on how to properly load machine guns. Any change in those procedures has to be approved by someone a lot higher than a corporal in the

Army Air Corp.

"Grandpa told me he knew he would get in trouble for doing what he did, but he also

See WWII VETERAN..., page A7

CORRECTIONS AND UPDATES

A different kind of Easton Memorial Day Parade coming Saturday

EASTON – On Saturday, May 29, at noon, Easton's 30th Annual Memorial Day Parade is going to happen safely during these pandemic times. How so?

This year event organizers take the parade to residents in Easton with a drive

through several neighborhoods. Check out the parade route online so you can park safely along the route and watch from the roadside. Visit Eastonmemorialdaycelebration.com or the parade's Facebook page.

Street vendors set up shop near Railroad Street's Hitching Post 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., that's the small store and café just up from the school district. To get to Railroad Street, take Exit-71 off I-90 and turn into town at the post office.

This year the parade committee is hosting a raffle for an assortment of prizes, including a season pass to the Summit Ski Area, a STIHL chainsaw, a 243 rifle, a 12 gauge shotgun, a gun safe, a two-hour charter yacht ride for six off Whidbey Island, and a truck load of gravel.

Update for dedication ceremonies at Roslyn Cemetery

ROSLYN – The Heritage Club hosts a dedication ceremony at the new computer-equipped Interpretative Kiosk at Roslyn Cemetery on Saturday, May 29. The ceremony kicks off at 1:00 p.m. followed by living history portrayals at 2 p.m. NOTE: Boulet Theatre will not be involved with the portrayals as originally announced. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Visit RRCHC.com for more information.

Also at the cemetery on Saturday, Cle Elum's Sons and Daughters of Italy dedicate their new Italian Memorial Monument at 10:00 a.m. The event features music and special addresses from Jeff Demilio hailing from the Grand Lodge, Aaron Hirsch hailing from Central Washington University, and lodge members Bob Pardini, Mike Butorac and Cheryl Ficelle.

Recreation sites opening for the season while most services continue to be offered virtually

WENATCHEE – As the days get longer and warmer, many are starting to plan their summer outings on the national forest and may be wondering what will be open this season. On the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, the majority of campgrounds and recreation sites are opening normally for the season as permitted by snow melt and site conditions. Most campgrounds will be open in time for the Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial kickoff to the camping season.

Some campgrounds still closed this Memorial Day weekend

Two campgrounds on the Cle Elum Ranger District will not be open for Memorial Day weekend.

The Wishpoosh Campground will be opening in June to allow time for annual campground maintenance to occur after completing construction of several major improvements at the site including a new vault toilet and improvements to the road, parking lot and boat launch.

Rider's Camp will be closed for the season due to an outbreak of mountain pine beetle that has resulted in a substantial number of hazard trees that need to be mitigated prior to opening.

Virtual services

In-person services are still limited at our ranger district and headquarters offices. Firewood cutting permits, recreation passes and visitor information continue to be avail-

able virtually through our website, by phone, or through vendors. The forest headquarters office in Wenatchee will remain closed through March 2022 for building renovations that are starting this month. Headquarters employees will be working from other locations and the front desk is closed to the public until further notice due to construction, so services will continue to be offered virtually. When district offices re-open, residents of the Wenatchee area will be able to access services at the Leavenworth or Entiat District offices.

To check on status of a specific office or recreation site, contact the local ranger district office or visit our website at: www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/okawen/recreation .

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INSERTS

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AT A GLANCE: County, state and national COVID-19 highlights

Thursday, May 20 – the Washington State Department of Health announced it's transitioning the state-led mass vaccination effort from stationary sites to mobile vaccination clinics.

It is said this new phase of vaccine outreach will help the state reach people who have experienced barriers in vaccine access and help distribute life-saving shots more equitably and conveniently across Washington.

~ VACCINE ALERT ~

Monday, May 24 – the Washington State Dept. of Health reported a small number of cases of myocarditis or pericarditis in some patients, post-vaccination.

Agency officials say further investigation is needed to determine if these cases are connected in any way to COVID-19 vaccines.

Healthcare providers in Washington, Idaho and Oregon have been notified.

Myocarditis is an inflammation of the heart tissue, and is usually caused by a viral infection. Symptoms include chest pain, abnormal heartbeat, and shortness of breath.

Pericarditis is swelling and irritation of the thin, saclike tissue surrounding the heart.

The agency is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), local public health, and

healthcare providers in our state to gather data and other information about these incidents.

Tuesday, May 25 – the Washington State Department of Health reported a total of 3,279 cases and 31 deaths in Kittitas County, with local physicians here still concerned about the spike of COVID in younger adults and the shortage of beds in KVH's ICU because of the seriousness of COVID cases they're seeing.

If you haven't heard

The Washington State Department of Health has reported all Washington counties have moved into Phase 3, and as

See COVID-19 UPDATES..., page A7

REGIONAL NEWS

WWII VETERAN...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

... knew that it was the right thing to do to keep the planes in action.

"He said at one point other pilots wanted to know why only Ott's guns weren't freezing up, but he was too scared to tell anybody why."

"In the words of my grandpa, 'It wasn't until the full bird colonel came to talk to me that I spilled the beans. He

started yelling at me, so even though I knew I was probably going to be demoted I told him.'

"Grandpa said the colonel walked away and the next day every armorer on the base was adding antifreeze. Eventually the practice spread across the western front."

"After the antifreeze incident his commanding officer wanted to promote him to sergeant, but grandpa told him he



LUCIEN OTT ON THE wing of a P47 when he first got to RAF Martlesham Heath Air Base in 1942. Note his name painted on the aircraft.

Photo courtesy of Foster family

PUBLIC NOTICES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A6 (Rec Center Consulting Services)

- Suggest the entity(ies) that should be responsible for ongoing maintenance and operations of the community recreation center, from both an operational and financial perspective.

The Respondent will research, study, organize and report data and findings in a comprehensive and understandable format mutually agreeable to UKC CRCA and Respondent. The successful Respondent will demonstrate skills and significant successful prior experience with equivalent projects for similar communities. If selected, the Respondent will enter into a professional services engagement/contract with UKC CRCA.

Any questions or a copy of the complete Request for Statement of Qualifications can be obtained from Melissa Becker, UKC CRCA project manager at melissabecker@shoemakermfg.com.

Submit four (4) hard copies and one (1) electronic (emailed) copy to:

Melissa Becker
Shoemaker Foundation
618 E First St
Cle Elum, WA 98922
melissabecker@shoemakermfg.com

Emailed proposals must be received on or before 4:00 pm Pacific time, June 10, 2021 and hard copy proposals must be received by 4:00 pm Pacific time on June 11, 2021. Faxed copies will not be accepted. Failure to meet the deadline will result in disqualification of the proposal from review.

All proposals should indicate "CRC Feasibility Proposal" on the envelope or email subject line.

Qualified women and minority consultants are encouraged to respond.

(Published in the N.K.C. TRIBUNE, May 20 and 27, 2021.)

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did not want to be promoted because that would mean he'd have to stop working on the airplanes and move into more of an administrative role.

"So he said he refused the promotion and that his response didn't sit well with his superior officer. He said he was asked several more times to be promoted and after refusing every single time he was sent to see the colonel again.

"He said the colonel asked him why he was there and grandpa told him he didn't want to get promoted because he wanted to stay in the fight and work on his planes.

"Grandpa said the colonel looked at him and said, 'Ott, you've earned the promotion but I understand. If you don't want to be a sergeant then you don't have to be.'

"After telling this story during my speech at the promotion ceremony I told my grandpa I was proud of what he had done for his pilots, for the war and more importantly for our country.

"I told him that people like him are why we live in the

greatest country in the world and that we needed more 'sergeants' like him.

"I then announced my first act as a colonel would be to sign the paperwork for an honorary promotion giving grandpa the rank of sergeant. I pinned the sergeant rank on his collar and told him how proud I was of him.

"The men and women of the WWII generation are truly amazing. One day I asked grandpa how long they told him he would be gone when he got drafted and he looked at me with a straight face and said, 'We knew we were going to be gone until the war was over.'

"That drive, determination and selfless sense of patriotism was a lesson I took to heart and one that I have held dear while serving my nation in the Washington National Guard and while serving the citizens of Kittitas County.

"I would just like to pass on to anyone reading this story that they should truly take the time to stop and talk

to our veterans.

"There are very few WWII veterans around to tell their stories and it's a tragedy if their sacrifices are forgotten.

"The same goes for our veterans of the Korean War, the Vietnam War and our veterans involved in the Middle Eastern wars.

"Those men and women are walking pieces of history who have stories that, when they are ready to be told, should be passed down from generation to generation.

"They are our history, a history written by the men and women who have served our country."

About Foster

Nate has been with the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office for 15 years. Today he supervises a crew consisting of approximately 12 deputy sheriffs who cover day-to-day patrol duties all over the county.

He has served 21 years in the U.S. Air Force.

He and his wife Jenieve are the proud parents of two children, Sadie and Garrett.

Governor signs Dent legislation that will improve noxious weed boards and districts

OLYMPIA – Governor Jay Inslee signed legislation recently that will make a number of changes to noxious weed control boards in an effort to protect Washington state lands from toxic and noxious weeds.

House Bill 1355, sponsored by Rep. Tom Dent, would change the composition and priorities of the state Noxious Weed Control Board and county weed control boards. It also makes other changes to state noxious weed laws.

"Our weed boards and districts are instrumental in protecting our state's agricultural lands, natural resources, salmon habitat and other important pieces of land from noxious weed degradation," said Dent, R-Moses Lake. "It also is critical to protect our livestock. Some of these plants can retain their toxic properties, even when they are dried, and can be devastat-

ing if they get in a farmer's crop or hay. Washington is the most trade dependent state in the nation. We must protect our ag producers' ability to market their products overseas. Keeping these products noxious-weed free is vital in that effort."

The legislation will:

- make various changes to the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board composition and term of office;

- make various changes to county noxious weed control board provisions;

- require the State Noxious Weed Control Board to convene a stakeholder process to develop a system by which parcels owned or held by the Department of Transportation may be

identified and billed for special benefits received from county noxious weed control boards;

- require forestland owners to control and prevent the spread of Class C noxious weeds within specified distances of adjacent lands, roads, navigable rivers, and certain other areas; and

- add weed boards and weed districts to the class of assessing districts that may levy assessments to state lands.

"This legislation will allow counties to more effectively carry out the protection of our natural resources with local control and oversight," said Dent.

The bill passed both the House and Senate unanimously. The measure will take effect in late July.

COVID-19 UPDATES...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

... the governor announced last week, the state is moving toward June 30 as the date Washington will fully reopen.

Need help?

If you need additional assistance as a result of a disability, call Central Washington Disability Resources at 509-962-9620.

If you are a disabled adult or are over the age of 60 and would like sign-up assistance, call 509-925-8765.

If you do not have access to help and you are not over 60 or have a disability, call the vaccine question line at 509-933-8315.

If you need help with transportation, let us know at 509-933-8315 and we can help.

Nature Conservancy seeking volunteers

by Tonya Morrey

CLE ELUM – Want to be an Invasive Species Management volunteer? I'm reaching out to recreationalists of the Central Cascades Forest. You can volunteer to identify the location of invasive plants on trails that you travel. Interested in participating? E-mail me at tonya.morrey@tnc.org.

Volunteers participate on their own time and schedule. We will be using the iNaturalist app to record and communicate invasive plant locations. After signing up, participants will be asked to complete a volunteer application and attend an online training session. Sign up today!

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