



October is
 Breast Cancer
 Awareness Month
 For
 Information
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Brewster resident has run-in with Riverside property owner

By MIKE MALTAIS
 STAFF WRITER

RIVERSIDE – Interacting with the public comes with its perils. Brewster resident Dione Crossland-Asmussen found that out during an encounter with a Riverside resident on whose property she was performing her duties as a representative of the Okanogan County Assessor’s Office.

According to an arrest report released by Okanogan County Sheriff Tony Hawley, Crossland-Asmussen was appraising property on Scanlon Lake Road when she was confronted by the property owner, Edward Conger.

Conger, 60, reportedly

struck the county vehicle Crossland-Asmussen was driving with a bat after advising her that she was trespassing on private property. When Conger then came after Crossland-Asmussen with the bat, she left the property, drove to a safe location, and reported the incident.

Okanogan County Sheriff’s Deputies Orr and Gonzalez interviewed Crossland-Asmussen after which they contacted Conger and arrested him. Conger was booked into Okanogan County Jail on charges of Attempted Assault in the Second Degree, Intimidating a Public Servant, and Malicious Mischief in the Second Degree.

Gebbers Farms cleared of COVID-19 outbreak

Okanogan Health Officials call on community to spread facts, not fear

SUBMITTED BY LAURI JONES,
 MN, OKANOGAN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

BREWSTER – The dangers of bias and misinformation can complicate our response to COVID-19, especially in these uncertain times.

To make sure you have the latest and most accurate facts, we remind you to check your sources, and rely on state and local health departments.

For example, Gebbers Farms came under fire based on assumptions that people made about H2A farmworkers. Those assumptions may have been unintentional, or they may have been caused by racial bias, but the result is that one of our key employers and primary industries is being criticized.

In fact, when Gebbers Farms was required to test over 3,100 employees, what they found

was a very low positivity rate, 0.7%, which is far lower than the positivity rates that we’re seeing in the tests of the community at large (click here for our data dashboard).

What we do know is that it will take all of us working together to contain this virus. When it comes to the public health of our community, we are all individually responsible for wearing a mask, washing our hands, and staying at least six feet apart. Together, we can also help make sure that people have what they need, like paid time off or help getting groceries, to isolate and quarantine when it’s recommended.

We encourage everyone – no matter where you work – to get tested at the first sign of symptoms, and to work with contract tracers to make sure we can stop the virus in its tracks. Click here for testing locations.

The pandemic is global, but how we choose to respond is local, and the people of Okanogan County are the kind of people who look out for each other.

Please join us in spreading facts, not fear.

“I Voted”

Students can cast ballots in 2020 mock election

By MIKE MALTAIS
 STAFF WRITER

QUAD CITIES – In one of the most controversial and contentious presidential elections in modern history, Washington state school students have an opportunity to cast votes for candidates and ballot measures in the 2020 Student Mock Election now available through the Office of the Secretary of State through Nov. 3.

A media release from the Office of the Secretary of State said ballots, along with corre-

sponding tabulation sheets and Voters’ Pamphlets, are available for download and printing at sos.wa.gov/mockelection. Students read candidate statements and arguments for and against races, measures, and issues that may be relevant to their daily lives.

“The Student Mock Election offers teachers resources and tools that empower kids to become more informed and involved citizens,” said Lori Augino, director of elections, Office of the Secretary of

SEE ELECTION ON PAGE B2

Debris clean-up, assistance discussed

Cold Springs fire victims continue recovery meetings

By MIKE MALTAIS
 STAFF WRITER

OKANOGAN – Cold Springs wildfire victims gathered on Tuesday evening, Oct. 6, for the second time in two weeks at the Okanogan County Fairgrounds. The principal topics of the night concerned wildfire debris cleanup and disposal, potential property flooding, fence and hay supplies, and information intake for agency and volunteer assistance.

Larry Robinette of the Colville Tribes and Maurice Goodall of Okanogan County Emergency Management again coordinated the meeting.

Carlene Anders, Executive Director of Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group (OCLTRG) reported that her



Mike Maltais/QCH

Josh Thompson

group linked with Disaster Case Management Lead Jessica Rounds recorded more than 270 intakes from Cold Springs fire victims. Anders



Kent Kovalenko

said information is being gathered now for the long-term vetting process that begins in November.

County Assessor Larry Gilman updated landowners that



Sabrina Abrahamson

his office has now completed the fire assessments for all the fire-affected land.

“If you are concerned about

SEE MEETINGS ON PAGE A2

Oregon sends its share

2020 wildfires produce state record smoke pollution

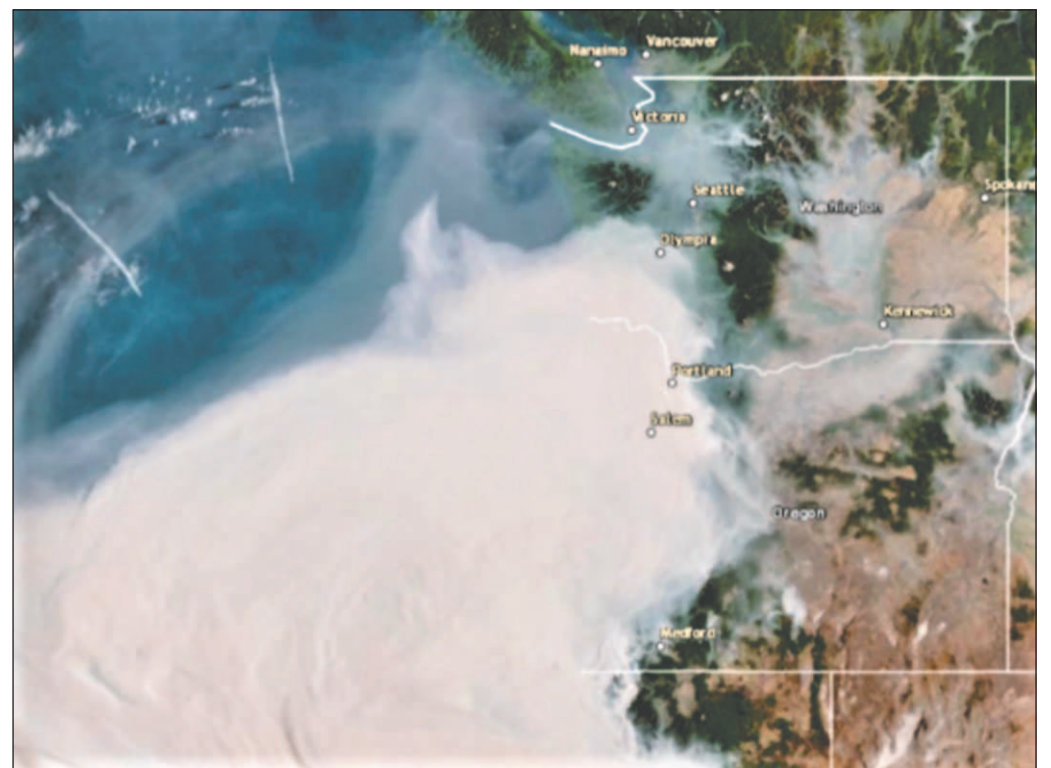
By MIKE MALTAIS
 STAFF WRITER

OLYMPIA – “2020 was a record-setter.”

That simple statement from Andrew Wineke, Communications Manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Air Quality Program, sums up on a statewide level what Quad Cities residents experienced following the Cold Springs and Pearl Hill wildfires that ignited over Labor Day weekend. Not only did a record number of acres burn, the smoke from those conflagrations combined with what drifted over the state between Saturday, Sept. 12, and Thursday, Sept. 17, and set record levels of particulate pollution for every single air quality monitor used by DOE.

A look at historical records going back to 2000 - when

SEE WILDFIRES ON PAGE A3



Courtesy WSDOE)

A smoke plume as large as the State of Oregon can be seen in this weather photo blowing over neighboring Washington.

TRH adds 3D to mammography imaging

By MIKE MALTAIS
 STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – With an acquisition that will accrue to the breast health of its patients, Three Rivers Hospital (TRH) Board of Commissioners approved the addition of 3D mammography equipment at its regular Sept. 30 meeting.

TRH will soon be offering 3D imaging with a Siemens MAMMOMAT Revelation digital mammography machine. A



Nancy DeFord

TRH media release said the purchase is partially funded by a \$50,000 Philanthropy in Action grant received earlier together with \$13,750 credit from Siemens. The balance of the estimated \$206,000 will be paid over a 60-month lease with General Electric.

“The 3D technology offers a gentler mammogram with much greater depth of detail than digital 2D imaging,” said Nancy DeFord, Three Rivers Hospital’s mammography

coordinator with more than 20 years of experience.

TRH is also working with Virtual Radiologic Corp. to offer patients diagnostics and same-day results, the release said.

“We’re excited to be able to provide these services to our patients, so they can get a diagnosis faster and get life-saving treatment even sooner,” DeFord said.

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SHOP LOCAL

During this difficult time support your neighbors

Most local businesses offer curbside service or delivery

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