

L&I issues Order of Immediate Restraint against Gebbers Farms

Housing violations cited

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – An Order and Notice of Immediate Restraint effective July 22 has been issued to Gebbers Farms by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries applicable to all the company's temporary worker housing locations following an L&I investigation in the wake of the July 8 death of a Gebbers worker from COVID-19.

The order specifically states that the company is directed to "come into compliance with the additional requirements to protect occupants in temporary worker housing from 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) exposure (emergency farm worker rule), WAC 307-16102, for all of your locations."

The order adds that "the employer should strongly consider following the cohort provisions."

"There is no lack of clarity," said L&I Director of Communications Tim Church. "You are ordered to do it this way."

The notice was issued following several inspection visits to Gebbers Farms housing sites where investigators cited non-compliance with the worker separation mandates as specified by L&I and the Health Department.

Church said groups allowed to share quarters must be either an individual family or a cohort of no more than 15 workers.

"That means the group must stay together separate from everybody else during living, eating, working and traveling," said Church. "That means transport on separate busses and work in



Courtesy of Washington Tractor/YouTube
Cass Gebbers, Gebbers Farms CEO

separate fields."

Gebbers Farms spokeswoman Amy Philpott said that Gebbers was proactive in early implementation of worker safety measures to meet COVID-19 restrictions.

Philpott pointed out that before the L&I emergency order was applied Gebbers had already created "pods" of workers who lived, ate, traveled, and even recreated together. Each pod was comprised of seven cabins with six workers per cabin for a total of 42 workers per pod, Philpott said.

"They allow one person per cabin to go grocery shopping," said Philpott. "Each cabin chooses that person. There is limited interaction and we strongly encourage and remind them to maintain the pods during off-work hours."

Philpott said that in addition to every worker receiving a COVID kit with mask, gloves, sanitizer, information and directions about

the disease, a 30-35 person cleaning crew outfitted with suits, masks, shields, and gloves cleans every housing site on a daily basis.

"This was all before the emergency rule," Philpott said.

Gebbers Farms CEO Cass Gebbers hosted a July 15 telephone conference with Okanogan County Public Health officials, seven days prior to the L&I action to discuss the COVID-19 situation in the Brewster area, where positive cases of the pandemic have recently spiked.

In a July 18 letter following that conference call, health officer John McCarthy, M.D., credited Gebbers Farms for its proactive response to the COVID outbreak noting that the company implemented protocols to address the disease before any other growers in the Okanogan area.

In his letter McCarthy said that Community Health

Director Lauri Jones informed him "that Gebbers Farms COVID-19 protocols and the implementation of those protocols have been impeccable."

"It is clear that Gebbers Farms has gone to great lengths and expense to keep its workers safe during the current COVID-19 pandemic," McCarthy said.

Church characterized the Order of Restraint as a rare action by his agency.

"We don't do this very often, maybe five to 10 times a year across a variety of businesses," said Church. "This one is different because it involves a fatality," Church said referring to the Hispanic farmworker who had been a Gebbers' employee for more than a decade.

With the number of positive cases in the county approaching 700 as of July 31, testing is a major priority for health officials. McCarthy cited two public health goals in his letter to Gebbers:

1. "To obtain increased COVID-19 testing of individuals in the Okanogan County area, specifically those who are asymptomatic.

2. Based upon the test results, to have individuals who test positive to be isolated from those that are not knowingly infected."

Philpott said Gebbers Farms has safety officers regularly monitoring workers, testing those showing symptoms and sending positive individuals to a dedicated quarantine area.

"If they refuse to be tested, they are automatically isolated in a separate location for 14 days," Philpott said.

While she acknowledged that her information was several days old, Philpott said the number of workers testing positive was just un-

Gebbers Farms reports second COVID-19 fatality

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – A second Gebbers Farms worker has become the latest victim of the novel coronavirus in Okanogan County after expiring Friday evening, July 31, while undergoing quarantine.

Earl Edwards, 63, a long-time guest worker and valued employee had returned to Gebbers Farms annually for the past decade, said Gebbers spokeswoman Amy Philpott.

Edwards reported that he was not feeling well on July 21, so the company took him to see a doctor. In accordance with state and federal health guidelines, Edwards was then placed under quarantine for 10-14 days, Philpott said.

"Mr. Edwards had been feeling well, indicating earlier in the day on July

31 that he felt good," said Philpott. "He had not shown any symptoms of illness for several days. Both the company and the employee followed the recommended guidelines and the outcome was still tragic."

Gebbers Farms takes its role as an industry leader seriously, and that is why it is committed to doing everything it can to help minimize the impact of this unprecedented pandemic on our community, Philpott said.

"We are profoundly saddened by this loss," said Gebbers Farms CEO Cass Gebbers. "Although we know there is nothing we can say that will bring comfort to those who knew and loved Mr. Edwards, our hearts go out to his wife, family and friends, and to anyone who has lost a loved one to this terrible global pandemic."

der three percent (2.7) with another 3.5 percent isolated with symptoms.

"Those percentages out of our 4,500 employees and guest workers is significantly lower than the county ratio," Philpott said.

Church said that by law, L&I now has six months to complete its investigation and make its findings public.

"Where it concerns coronavirus, we are trying to be much quicker," said Church. "These are immediate safety and health concerns."

At the conclusion of the L&I investigation a Citation and Notice will be issued. It will outline the nature and level of the

violation(s) if any and, if a financial penalty is involved, what that penalty is, Church said.

Philpott said that Gebbers Farms is deeply invested in the community with a business that has spanned five generations and more than 100 years of operation in the area.

"Our challenge is to make the new system we are asked to use, work," said Philpott. "Gebbers Farms has been doing everything it can to minimize the risk to its workers and the community before the emergency and will continue to do so during and after the emergency."

WIAA announces 2020-21 sports seasons

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

RENTON – High school sports for the 2020-21 season will have a different look courtesy of a pandemic-modified calendar unveiled by the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) on July 21.

The new format features four WIAA-sanctioned seasons that will group the moderate- and high-risk fall sports of football, 1B/2B boys' basketball, volleyball, and

SEE WIAA ON PAGE 3

Colville Tribe restores stock of summer Chinook salmon

Fish for the future

By Mike Maltais
Staff writer

BREWSTER – While more than 100 sportfishing boats plied the Columbia River for Chinook and sockeye salmon near the mouth of the Okanogan River last Thursday, July 30, a crew of Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) fisheries workers were transloading adult summer Chinook broodstock from a catch boat called the Dream Catcher to a waiting tanker truck for transport to the Chief Joseph Dam Hatchery (CJH).

As each salmon was caught, it was scanned with a yellow T-bar scanner to detect a coded wire tag (CWT) inserted into the snout of every hatchery fish. Each fish was then



Mike Maltais/QCH

Each salmon on the Dream Catcher is scanned with a T-wand to detect a coded wire tag (CTW) that detects a hatchery-reared fish before being loaded into a rubber transport boot.

slipped into a rubber transport boot and quickly handed off to a tank tender who dumped the fish into a truck mounted transport tank.

"As of today," said hatchery manager Matthew McDaniel on Friday, July 31, "we're close to our broodstock goals with about 200



Chief Joseph Hatchery Chinook Broodstock Collection



Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife

more adults needed to complete our broodstock needs (approximately 100 each of wild and hatchery)."

SEE TRIBE ON PAGE 4

Additional space will bear fruit



Mike Maltais/QCH

A steel framework is taking shape on the east side of the Honeybear Growers complex at 12 Fugachee Drive along U.S. 97 east of Brewster. A source at the fruit processing facility said the new space will be used to house additional packing lines.

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Responding to Crisis: Community Foundation Adapts Programming

BY DENISE SOROM, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPY, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NCW



Denise Sorom, Director of Community Philanthropy, Community Foundation of NCW

By April it became quite clear to the leadership at the Community Foundation of North Central Washington (CFNCW) that for the foreseeable future, it would not be business as usual, but rather “business unusual.”

As the region’s largest manager of charitable assets—offering grant funding and training opportunities for nonprofits, scholarships for students, and forging connections between donors and charitable causes—CFNCW knew it had an important role to play in helping this region survive the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. It had already decided to adapt its Helping Hands grants to provide emergency relief funding for groups impacted by COVID, but more had to be done. Just as CFNCW had stepped up during the wildfires of 2014 and 2015, creating special emergency funds and stewarding the generous donations from people far and wide to help rebuild and recover, this crisis required a response as well, but what?

The pandemic had impacted just about every facet of daily life and CFNCW’s response needed to be equally comprehensive. Food banks and housing support organizations were seeing giant spikes in de-

quest as much as is needed, and approved requests are disbursed monthly.

Nonprofit Reemergence Grants – Funding for Nonprofits as they Reemerge in the Covid Environment

In lieu of the Regional Impact Grant, this is a temporary grant program to address recovery for nonprofits. Rather than being program-specific, these grants provide general operating support. Nonprofits can request up to 10% of their current budget with a max request of \$20,000. Grants will be awarded quarterly through July 2021.

NPI Virtual Learning – Nonprofit Reemergence Learning Series

This is a free learning series to help nonprofits plan and strategize for reemergence in their community. The series will cover several topics (leadership, financial strategy, fundraising, collaboration) via Zoom with guest presenters once a month from July – October.

Back to Basics – Schools helping Families in Need

CFNCW has heard heart-breaking stories from schools about families struggling with basic needs, making it next to impossible for students to focus on learning. The Back to Basics campaign will be a crowdsourcing campaign to raise funds for school districts throughout our region to help families, purchase formula, diapers,



clothing, food, and other basic needs. This campaign will run during the month of September.

As of July, almost \$400,000 has been donated to CFNCW’s Helping Hands Fund for COVID Relief by hundreds of local donors, businesses and foundations. The “All in Washington” campaign matched \$65,500 of those gifts, bringing the total to over \$465,000! Several donors gifted the entirety

of their federal stimulus checks, recognizing that many in this community needed those funds more than they did.

Beth Stipe, CFNCW’s Executive Director, states: “Our donors have blown us away with their generosity and their desire to help. We hope that this new grant-making approach for 2020-2021 will honor those donations and put this region on a road to recovery.

We are always astounded by the generosity, resilience, and commitment that this community exhibits to find positive solutions to difficult problems. This might be one of our greatest challenges yet, but we think the people of North Central Washington are up for it!”

For more information about any of the programs above, or the work of the Community Foundation, visit www.cfncw.org.

Business ramps up at HighLine Grain Growers

Loads arrive daily

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

vest at the HighLine Grain Growers (HLGG) elevator in Brewster officially got

underway on July 20 when the first tractor trailer arrived with its load of golden cargo. Over the next several weeks the Brewster

and Mansfield elevators and another 47 like them in the HLGG network scattered across the region from Almira to Withrow will be the ports of call for a variety of grain crops.

Brewster elevator manager Robert Moreno scales the load, dumps the cargo, and logs in the vital statistics for each new arrival as part of his day’s work.

In April 2018, five local grain companies, Central Washington Grain Growers, Odessa Union Ware-



Mike Maltais/QCH
Sheldon Malone pulls into the Brewster Highline Grain elevator with a load of wheat from the Wade Troutman farm on Pearl Hill.

house Co., Reardan Grain Growers, Davenport Union Warehouse Co., and Almira Farmers Warehouse Co., combined to form HLGG for the benefit of their member growers.

The new consortium manages and maintains a network of grain and seed handling warehouses in eight Eastern Washington counties along the U.S. Highway 2 corridor from Wenatchee to Spokane.

“We provide facilities for commodity storage, a wide selection of top-quality seed, a renowned test-plot program, feed supplies, hardware, blacksmith services, merchandising services for member crop sales, and top-tier access to domestic and export markets,” the company website, highlinegrain.com said.

The website provides a daily commentary on market conditions locally and around the world as part of its information stream to visitors.

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Mike Maltais/QCH

This group of two-dozen-plus salmon fishing boats was part of more than a hundred working the Columbia River near the mouth of the Okanogan River east of Brewster last Thursday, July 30. The numbers are likely to ramp up after August 3 when the daily sockeye limit increases from three to four fish.



Mike Maltais/QCH

Cindy Biddle with the Brewster Senior Center stands at the back door of the building at 109 S. Bridge Street where lunch orders will be delivered to seniors in their vehicles on a drive-up arrangement beginning August 22. Lunch days and hours will remain the same, from 11 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

TRIBE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Fisheries staff selectively harvest wild and hatchery-origin broodstock from the Columbia and Okanogan rivers with a fishing boat named the Dream Catcher that employs a vertical seine net equipped with weights on one edge and floats on the opposite edge.

A live-capture weir is also used in the Okanogan River to catch Chinook stocks. Wild salmon are released and excess hatchery salmon including sockeye are distributed among tribal members for subsistence and ceremonial uses. Weirs fashioned from wood were a traditional method used by tribal members to catch salmon. Today the same method is still used but the

constructions materials are metal and PVC pipe/

“Studies have shown that too many hatchery fish on the spawning grounds are a competitive and genetic risk to wild spawners,” said Casey Baldwin, Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife senior research scientist. “Removing excess hatchery fish is critical to the long-term viability of the population.”

The CCT Anadromous Fish Division provides ceremonial and subsistence fisheries for the tribal membership. An anadromous fish like a salmon or steelhead is defined as one that is born in fresh water, spends most of its life in the ocean and returns to fresh water to spawn.

The 2019 CJH production plan included goal of planting 1.1 million wild summer



A CCT fisheries worker hands his precious cargo to a waiting loader manning the tanker.

Chinook in the Okanogan river system. From mid-May to June 2020, 300,000 sub-yearling fish were released in the river at Omak. In mid-

April 2021, another 800,000 yearling salmon will be released, 400,00 in both the Similkameen and Okanogan rivers.

WIAA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

soccer, girls’ soccer, and volleyball into the spring 2021 season (3).

Here is how the modified schedule looks at of August 1. All dates are tentative:

- WIAA Season 1: Sept. 7 - Nov. 8 – cross country, softball, girls swim and dive, golf (alternate season), tennis (alternate season).

Cross country, softball, as well as alternative seasons for golf and tennis will begin practices the week of Sept. 7, a WIAA media release said adding that the viability of girls’ swim and dive is dependent on more information from the Department of Health.

- WIAA Season 2: Dec. 28 – Feb. 28 – basketball, bowling,

boys’ swim and dive, gymnastics, cheerleading, wrestling.

Traditional winter sports will remain in Season 2 with the expectation for those to begin in late December or early January.

- WIAA Season 3: March 1 - May 2 – volleyball, girls’ soccer, 1B/2B boys’ soccer, football.

- WIAA Season 4: May 2 - June 27 – tennis, softball, track and field, baseball, golf, boys’ soccer, dance/drill.

Traditional spring sports will complete Season 4 through the end of the school year.

The board recognizes that participation in any fall sports will depend on county progression through the phases laid out in Governor Inslee’s Safe Start plan over the coming weeks,” said the WIAA release.

The WIAA board set benchmarks on July 28 to be met in order for Season 1 to take place. Should those benchmarks not be met, the board will plan to move the remainder of fall sports to Season 3.

“Since March, the philosophy of our Association has been to allow students every chance to participate,” said WIAA Executive Director Mick Hoffman. “We’ve asked our Executive Board and planning committees to be as creative as possible in allowing for those opportunities. These are tough and unprecedented decisions to make, but it has been inspiring to see so many people around the state come together to work on behalf of students.”

The board and planning committees are working the Return-To-Activity Guide-

lines co-authored by the National Federation of High Schools, Washington Department of Health, and the Governor’s office along with sport-specific guidelines proposed by committees comprised of coaches, athletic directors, officials, students and local health professionals. The guidelines can be viewed online at wiaa.com.

NCRL to reopen book returns, curbside service

Wi-Fi project complete

BY MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – Starting August 10, North Central Regional Library branches in Okanogan, Grant, and Ferry counties will reopen their book return services and start curbside pickup for library patrons. All three counties are in either Phase 2 of 3 of the state’s reopening plan but precautions will still be followed to prevent spread of the novel coronavirus.

All returned materials will be quarantined for 72 hours before being handled or checked in. Masks will be required for all patrons utilizing curbside pickup.

Brewster library branch manager, Rebecca Zion has

her own plan for book intake at her facility.

“I am placing a cardboard box outside the book return site,” said Zion. “When the box is full, I will close it up, tape and date it and put it in a stack. After 72 hours have passed, I will check the materials in.”

“Due to rising COVID-19 infection rates, NCRL is unable at this time to resume any services at its libraries in Chelan and Douglas counties, which are still in Phase 1.5 of the governor’s reopening plan,” said an NCRL media release. “The mail order library, which is headquartered in Wenatchee, also remains closed.”

Wi-Fi completed

The project to expand NCRL’s Wi-Fi coverage up to an additional 600 feet at all 30 library branches has been

SEE BOOK ON PAGE 4

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OBITUARIES

Genevieve Rose Alexander Wheeler

1917-2020 Genevieve was born Dec. 19, 1917 in Mansfield, Washington to William and Pearl Alexander.



took over) they said she was like a little chaplain going all over encouraging and praying for people.

Genevieve graduated from Northwest University (Bible Institute) in 1938.

After her graduation she and Eva Radnovsky pastored in Goldendale, Washington for two years. Eva went into missions and Genevieve came back to the coast where she married Walter Wheeler.

Genevieve was preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Walter Wheeler, and her son, Rev. Paul Wheeler. She leaves behind her other five children, Arlene (Roy) Brewer; Genevieve (Ed) Benintendi; Eunice (Elvin) Huston; Steve (Carmen) Wheeler and Dee (John) Lloyd; her foster daughter Bonnie (Ed) Smelser, and her daughter-in-law Anita Wheeler Secrist; 15 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Besides all these, she leaves many foster children.

Born, and surviving, the Flu Epidemic in 1917-1918, she survived COVID-19 but passed during the Pandemic of 2020.

She saw so many changes in her lifetime, but one thing never changed - her love for God and people. It seems fitting that the last people to be allowed to see her before the pandemic were a daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter and her two great-great grandchildren who visited in Jan to get a five-generation picture. It sums up her love of family and children.

Since dementia robbed her of the last years of her life, it is wonderful to think of her with a whole body and mind renewed in heaven with her Lord and loved ones.

Please leave any thoughts and memories for the family at www.prechtrose.com. Services are entrusted to Precht Rose Chapel of Chelan.

DEATH NOTICE

Karlene Kay Wooten

Karlene Kay Wooten, 61, of Brewster, Washington passed away on July 27, 2020. Please leave any thoughts and memories for the family at www.barneschapel.com. Services are entrusted to Barnes Chapel of Brewster.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition meal delivery

BREWSTER - Brewster Senior Center on Bridge Street is still serving hot meals Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Take out only. Please reserve your meal by calling 509-689-2815. Pick-up time is between 11 a.m. and 12 noon.

The home-delivered meal program is not interrupted and is on its regular schedule. For more information about senior meal programs: Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition at 509-826-7979 or Aging & Adult Care of Central Washington at 800-572-4459

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday Senior meals

BREWSTER - The Brewster-Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center hosts the Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition (OCTN) meals Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Suggested donation for those over age 60 is \$4. For those 60 and under the cost is \$8.50.

Tuesday, August 11 Garden Chili, Cottage Cheese, Caesar Salad, Fruit Cocktail, Corn Chips, WW Roll, Dessert

Wednesday, August 12 BBQ Chicken, Macaroni Salad, Green Beans, Mixed Greens Salad, WW Roll, Berry Cobbler

Thursday, August 13 Pork Roast, Stuffing & Gravy, Capri Vegetables, Spinach Salad, Applesauce, Dessert

July 31 Brewster Grange Farmers Market BREWSTER - The Brewster Grange Farmers Market is open every Friday, from 2-5 p.m., at the Brewster Grange, located on Highway 97. Vendors are able to accept WIC Checks and Senior Nutritional Vouchers. For more information call Marge at (509) 733-1963.

August 14, 21 Brewster bus trips are back on schedule BREWSTER - OCTN takes Brewster area residents to Wenatchee, second Friday

of the month. Next trip is August 14 The bus starts picking folks up at their homes at 7:30 a.m. Riders may request destination(s); medical appointments etc. On the third Friday of each month August 21, riders will be taken to Omak for the day. Riders request their destination(s). Wenatchee: \$12/boarding for General Public, \$6 suggested donation/day for Seniors (60 plus). Omak: \$5.50/General Public, \$2.75 suggested donation Seniors (60 plus). (509) 826-4391 to reserve your seat.

August 20 Red Cross Blood Drive BREWSTER - The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive on August 20, 12 Noon to 5 p.m. The site will be changed the Brewster Adventist School gym at 115 Valley Road. Donors can call 800-733-2767 or 800 REDCROSS org go to redcrossblood.org to make an appointment. All blood will be tested for antibodies of the COVID-19 type viruses. Please make sure you have recovered from the virus on the day of the

donation. All social distancing, masks, and procedures will be followed.

Help available for Douglas County veterans

EAST WENATCHEE - SARAH SIMONSON THE VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER FOR DOUGLAS COUNTY, IS AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS IN HER OFFICE AT 211 11TH ST. NE IN EAST WENATCHEE. CALL HER AT 509-683-3605. YOU CAN ALSO FIND HER ON FACEBOOK AT: HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DOUGLASCOUNTYVSO

Submitting your Bulletin Board item - Deadline Friday at 5 p.m.

Who: Any non-profit 501(c)3 group. Person(s) must submit full name and contact phone number. What: Items pertaining to local events, meetings etc., that are free or a minimum charge. Where: email to: ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com, subject line QCH Bulletin. Deadline: Friday at 5 p.m. Be sure and include Date, time, place and cost if any.

DOUGLAS COUNTY SHERIFF

July 24 Parking/abandoned vehicle at 1636 Fisk Ave. in Bridgeport. Parking/abandoned vehicle at 1505 Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport. Animal problem at 2904 Rd. L. N.E. in Bridgeport. Parking/abandoned vehicle at 1130 Foster Ave. in Bridgeport.

128 in Bridgeport. Fall at 1618 Fisk Ave. in Bridgeport.

July 27 Suspicious incident 700 Fairview Ave., No. 6B in Bridgeport. Alarm at 1400 Tacoma Ave. in Bridgeport. Agency assistance at 43 Washburn Ave. on Bridgeport Bar. 911 at 1724 Douglas Ave. in Bridgeport.

July 28 Agency assistance at 43 Washburn Ave. on Bridgeport Bar. Unknown accident at 621 State Route 173 on Bridgeport Bar. Welfare check at 108 Arden Ave. on Bridgeport Bar.

July 29 Public assistance at 1011 Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport. Public assistance at 1112 Douglas Ave. in Bridgeport.

July 30 Traffic offense at State Route 17, milepost 135 in Bridgeport. Suspicious incident at 536 21st.

St. in Bridgeport. Fraud/forgery at 536 21st. St. in Bridgeport. Alarm at 1206 Columbia Ave. in Bridgeport. Traffic offense at the 1100 block of Douglas Avenue in Bridgeport.

Weapons violation at 2400 Tacoma Ave., No. 14 in Bridgeport. Fall at 1618 Fisk Ave. in Bridgeport. Abdominal pain at 1618 Fisk Ave. in Bridgeport.

BOOK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

completed. "All of the district's libraries already offered free Wi-Fi inside the buildings," an NCRL media release said. "While the closure of NCRL's branches in late March has been a major barrier to those who depend on the library for their internet needs, in many locations the Wi-Fi network remained accessible near the building exterior or in the

parking lot." The Wi-Fi expansion project was funded by grants funds from Microsoft and the Public Library Association. Remain funds will be used to purchase portable devices for checkout once libraries reopen to the public in branches where computer stations are limited. Expanding broadband access has been a key objective for NCRL Executive Director Barbara Walters since implementing NCRL's 2019-2021 Strategic Plan.

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Due to the COVID19 Virus, churches have suspended Saturday and Sunday Services, Sunday School and meetings. Please call or email your church listed below if you need more information. May you take time to pray, rest, meditate and reflect during this time. Stay well, stay strong and stay informed.

QUAD CITY CHURCH GUIDE BREWSTER • BRIDGEPORT • PATEROS New to the area? On Vacation? These churches welcome you! BREWSTER SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH AND SCHOOL Saturday Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Saturday Worship 10:45 a.m. Church: 509-689-3537 17 Hospital Way NE, Brewster www.brewstersda.com School: 509-689-3213 115 Valley Road, Brewster www.brewsteradventistschool.com Pastor Matthew Axford CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m. 509-689-2920 • 6th & Jay www.cbcbrewster.com Pastor Greg Thorn COMMUNITY LOG CHURCH Sunday Worship 10 a.m. 509-689-2224 • 501 W. Indian Avenue www.communitylogchurch.com Pastor Gordon Wright HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sunday Bible Study & Sunday School 10:00 a.m. 509-689-3106 • 1520 Sunset Dr. Pastor Kevin Moore NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Wednesday 7 p.m. Adult Prayer & Bible Study and King's Kids 509-689-2420 • 412 W. Hanson "With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." ~ Matthew 19:26 To place your Church information in the Church Guide call Ruth at 682-2213 or email: ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com

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THE WASHINGTON OUTDOORS REPORT

Lake Wenatchee Sockeye

By JOHN KRUSE, THE WASHINGTON OUTDOOR REPORT

Anticipation is running strong for the Lake Wenatchee sockeye season opening August 3. This season is never a sure thing, always dependent on the number of salmon returning up the Wenatchee River to this wood-lined lake in the Central Cascades and there have not been enough salmon returning for a season to take place for several years.

That changed this year with a strong run of sockeye coming up the Columbia River, about 11 percent better than the ten-year average. Travis Maitland, a biologist with the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, says an estimated 35,000 sockeye are coming to the lake this summer, far surpassing the 23,000 salmon required to meet spawning escapement goals for this species. Because of this surplus we get a season running until Sept. 7 with a four fish daily limit.

There are a few things you should know about the Lake Wenatchee sockeye fishery. First off, you won't be catching any sockeye



Photo Courtesy Bob Loomis
Kimberly Loomis holds up a limit of sockeye she and her husband Bob caught out of Lake Wenatchee.

out of this lake from shore, this is a boat show and unless you own property on the lake (or know someone who does) you've only got two options about where to launch.

The main launch site is at Lake Wenatchee State Park (Discover Pass re-

quired) and boats start lining up to launch when the fishing is hot as early as 3 a.m. There is a good launch here but it is crowded and this year, with Covid-19 restrictions at Lake Wenatchee State Park, that may pose a problem.

Because of overcrowding, staff have been closing all entrance into the day use area of the park (by vehicle or foot) once the day use parking lot is full. Speaking with Park Ranger Trevor Wylie about whether this was going to be an issue for anglers and visitors he said he didn't think it would be because most of the anglers are launching at 4 a.m. and are off the water and leaving the park by 10 a.m., which is when the bulk of day use visitors begin to arrive. The one user group that could have a problem accessing the park would be anglers hoping to fish in the late afternoon or early evening.

Another option if you have a car topper boat is to launch at Glacier View Campground (Forest Service Recreation Pass required). There is limited space to park at the day use area here but it is close to the northwest end of the lake where the fish, and most of the anglers, congregate.

As for catching sockeye here the first two weeks of the season are definitely the best and early morning is the time to be fishing for them. Bob Loomis with Mack's Lure out of Wenatchee knows this fishery well and recommends:

- 1. Looking for the sock-

eye around 40 feet deep to start and going deeper as the morning progresses.

2. Troll slow. If you are trolling at 2 1/2 miles an hour you are going way too fast. Cut that speed in half and you'll be in the zone.

3. Use a dodger. An 8" dodger will provide not only plenty of flash, but also give action to the lure. Loomis recommends a silver or pink dodger.

4. The traditional offering behind your dodger is a bare red hook (selective regulations are in effect with only a single barbless hook allowed and no bait). However, Loomis recommends fishing a Mack's Lure Double Whammy Sockeye Pro which adds beads and a red mylar Smile Blade spinner to that red hook or a Mack's Cha Cha Sockeye lure with a squid body for better success. The go to colors? Red and hot pink.

5. One other trick specific to this fishery is to use a short leader. Loomis recommends a leader length of only 7 to 18 inches between the dodger and the hook to combine the most attraction and lure action.

Put it all together and you've got a great primer on how to catch sockeye salmon this August in one of the more scenic areas of the state to do so!

Campfire restrictions, fire precaution levels, in Eastern Washington

OLYMPIA - Due to the extremely dry, hot weather, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced today the following changes in campfire restrictions, industrial fire precaution levels (IFPL) and fire danger ratings on DNR-protected lands. These changes come on the heels of the statewide burn ban on all DNR-protected lands signed July 28 by Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz.

Effective Friday, July 31 Campfires in campgrounds are not allowed in Foothills, Kaniksu, and Upper Basin Fire Danger Rating Areas.

Fire danger will increase from very high to extreme in the Valley Fire

Danger Rating Area. Fire danger will increase from high to very high in the Chelan and Upper Basin Fire Danger Rating Areas.

Fire danger will increase from moderate to high in the Kaniksu Fire Danger Rating Area.

Fire danger rating remains very high in the Lower Basin and Methow Fire Danger Rating Areas

Fire danger rating remains high in the Foothills, Highlands, Lower Yakima, and Upper Yakima Danger Rating Areas.

Effective Tuesday, August 4 IFPL will increase to Level 3 in zones 684 and 686.

IFPL will remain Level 1 in zones 678E, 680, 685, 687, and 688.

IFPL will remain Level 2 in zone 609W, 609E, and 675.

IFPL will remain Level 3 in zone 678.

Burn restrictions remain in place for the following:

Small debris disposal fires (rule burning) are not allowed in Chelan, Foothills, Highlands, Kaniksu, Lower Basin, Lower Yakima, Methow, Upper Basin, Upper Yakima, and Valley Fire Danger Rating Areas.

No burning allowed (written burn permits issued by DNR are suspended) in Chelan, Foothills, Highlands, Kaniksu, Lower Basin, Lower Yakima, Methow, Upper Basin, Upper Yakima, and Valley Fire Danger Rating Areas.

Campfires may be al-

lowed in designated campgrounds. Always check with local campground hosts before lighting a campfire. Additionally, always make sure campfires are completely out before leaving them unattended - if it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave. Counties and local jurisdictions may have additional restrictions.

Daily updates on burn restrictions are available at 1-800-323-BURN (2876) or on the burn portal map at https://burnportal.dnr.wa.gov/ and IFPL map at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/ifpl.

The IFPL system Industrial Fire Precaution Levels apply to all industrial operations that might cause a fire on or adjacent to lands protected from fire by DNR (WAC

332-24-301); this applies to logging, industrial and forest landowner operations.

The levels are established for each of the 38 "shutdown zones" in the state on the basis of National Fire Danger Rating System data.

There are four IFPL levels:

Level 1 (closed fire season): fire equipment and a fire watch are required

Level 2 (partial hoot owl): limits certain activities to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m.; fire equipment and a fire watch are required

Level 3 (partial shutdown): prohibits some activities and limits others to between 8 p.m. and 1 p.m.; fire equipment and a fire watch are required

Level 4 (general shutdown): prohibits all activities

State launches new grant program to conserve community forests

OLYMPIA - Communities wanting to conserve forest lands now have a state grant program to help, the Recreation and Conservation Office announced today.

Beginning Sept. 1, communities can apply for grants of up to \$3 million in the newly created Community Forests Program.

The grants must be used to buy at least five acres of forestland and the land must be maintained as forestland forever. The land must be actively managed to include timber harvest and other income generating activities. Grants also may be used to restore the land or provide recreation opportunities, such as trails, when combined with land purchases.

"Forests in Washington serve many purposes. We use them for timber for our homes and as places to hike, mountain bike and do a whole slew of other outdoor recreation activities," said Kaleen Cottingham, director of the Recreation and Conservation Office, which is administering the grant program. "In addition, forests provide important wildlife habitat and other benefits such as clean air and clean water. Conserving forestlands ensures they remain part of our heritage for generations

and that Washington stays the Evergreen State."

From 1978-2001, 700,000 acres of forestland in Washington were converted to suburban development, rights-of-ways, and agriculture.

"The loss of these forestlands diminishes a reliable source of forest products and jobs. It also threatens to impair important habitat for fish and other wildlife," Cottingham said.

More than 1,700 forest products-related businesses call Washington home, supporting 101,000 workers and gross business income of about \$28 billion a year.

"The new Community Forests Program provides another tool in the toolbox for communities like mine, where timber is an important part of our economy, culture and history, but commercial forestry is challenging due to population growth and consolidation in the industry," said Kate Dean, Jefferson County commissioner. "Community forest grants will allow for all the benefits of forestry - standing trees, environmental benefits like improved water quality, open space for recreation and revenue - while giving local decision-making on stewardship and harvest.

Jefferson County looks forward to the opportunity to create a community forest for all of the myriad benefits they bring to our timber county."

"What's unique about this program is that it's not another parkland acquisition or pure conservation program," said Jason Callahan, director of Government Relations for the Washington Forest Protection Association. "It's a program to help maintain the state's base of managed working forestlands. Actively managing forests also will help forest health, the rural economy, log supplies for mills and other aspects of the community. These values are only obtained when working forests are kept working."

"I am really excited about Washington's new community forest grant opportunities," said Ray Entz, director of Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources for the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. "These opportunities create special places to engage and enrich the communities that they serve. From the fiscal, educational, recreational and environmental perspectives, these community forests are nothing but untapped potential."

The Recreation and

Conservation Office will accept applications from Sept. 1-Oct. 1. More information about the Community Forests Program is available online.

"Community forests provide the opportunity for citizens to have a direct stake in how Washington's vital and iconic working forestlands are used and managed," said Nick Norton, director of the Washington Association of Land Trusts. "I have seen community forest projects in Washington already allowing local communities to create

jobs and revenue through creative, cross-boundary forest management, serving as educational centers to cultivate the next generation of natural resource professionals and civic leaders, and providing outdoor hubs that connect tens of thousands of recreationalists to the benefits of working forests. This work will have a tremendous benefit to rural communities across the state now and for future generations."

Interested individuals can contact Contact: Ben Donatelle, 360-867-8331

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Wanted to Rent

Retired Naval Officer seeks to lease Lake Wenatchee boat dock access during potential 2020 Sockeye fishery. Will share catch. Call Dan at (619)993-1681.

Retired man is looking for a small apartment or very small house, in the Leavenworth or nearby area. I have references. Call 509-663-0754.

Public Notices

PATEROS SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS RETREAT/WORKSHOP SPECIAL MEETING FOR GOAL SETTING & STRATEGIC PLANNING

As directed by the Board Chair of the Pateros School District 122-70J; a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pateros School District 122-70J has been scheduled for Monday, August 10, 2020 via electronic Zoom at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a board retreat for goal setting and strategic planning. No actions will be taken. Visit www.pateros.org board of directors for electronic meeting address.

The Pateros School District is a barrier free facility accessible to persons with disabilities. Additional information is available in the superintendent's office 509-923-2751 ext. 4. Greg Goodnight Secretary of the Board Pateros School District

PROPOSED AGENDA 1. Call to Order 2. Goal Setting & Strategic Planning 3. Adjournment

Published in the Quad City herald August 5, 2020 # 616

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