



In this week's Star



Sneaky Fish SWATed

A regional tactical response team training at Center Elementary Wednesday surrounds a sneaky suspect, Ryan Fish, after finally finding him and ordering him onto the floor. Officers from the Grant and Adams county sheriff's offices, plus Othello and Moses Lake police departments, attended. Moses Lake Cpl. Aaron Hintz said the big, empty building provides a perfect training ground. On their first pass through the building, the team missed Fish, who had originally showed up to simply shut off an alarm but was recruited into the activity. — Scott Hunter photo

“Era of Megafires” to be presented

Anyone who has wondered about the growth of the local wildfire season and of the size of the fires that have struck the region in the last few years may want to catch up on the work of Dr. Paul Hessburg.

They'll have a good chance next week. That's when Wildfire Project's "The Era of Megafires" will be presented at the new Lucy F. Covington Government Center Auditorium in Nespalem on Tuesday, March 21. Another presentation is scheduled for the Omak Performing Arts Center the next night. Both presentations begin at 6 p.m. Dinner will be available at 5 p.m. for the Nespalem presentation.

Hessburg is with the Pacific Northwest Research Station, in Wenatchee, and the University of Washington, Seattle, where he has researched wildfire and landscape ecology for more than 27 years.

"The presented material will come in the form of fast-moving, short, topic-based talks interspersed with compelling video vignettes," a press release stated. "Think Ted X mixed with snappy documentary shorts."

Megafires are wildfires over 100,000 acres and are exceptionally destructive to communities, wildlife and our natural spaces, as local area residents well know.

"The goal of the project is to help communities understand the issues surrounding megafires so that they can better participate in the conversation and begin driving towards solutions," said Jeff Ostenson, director of the project. "I do believe we can change the way we receive wildfire and related smoke but it's going to take everyone playing their part."

After the "Era of Megafires" presentation and Q&A, representatives from the Okanogan Conservation District, Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan Land Trust, Okanogan County Emergency Man-

See MEGAFIRES page 2

CEO: Hospital must stop its own bleeding

by Scott Hunter

After racking up multi-million dollar losses in four of the past five years, Coulee Medical Center will put in place a turn-around plan to "stop the bleeding," CEO Jonathan Owens said, "sooner, rather than later," and that will include some strategic job cuts.

Owens said CMC will be operating in the black within eight months, predicting the restructuring plan will produce a nearly \$6.6 million turnaround in 2017 and \$3.6 million per year thereafter.

The hospital is currently in debt to Grant County and out of sorts with its mortgage loan conditions, so Owens said a plan that would have been implemented more slowly will be started now.

"HUD won't wait and neither

will the county," he said, referring to the federal agency that loaned the money for building the new hospital.

From 2012 through 2016, CMC has reported losses averaging just under \$3.1 million a year, with 2013 its only year to finish in the black. In 2016, the hospital and its clinics lost \$5.7 million after deciding to halt implementation of a costly electronic medical record system. It took in nearly \$34 million in revenue.

At the same time, the hospital has been in growth mode, with clinic visits in 2016 exceeding the year before by about 4,500, said Owens, who took over as chief executive officer last summer. The growth is still occurring, with recent signing of a new physician and another surgeon.

In November Owens ordered a See HOSPITAL page 2

Man sentenced for receiving child pornography

by Scott Hunter

A former vice principal at Lake Roosevelt Elementary School was sentenced in federal court Monday to seven years in prison for receipt of child pornography.

Nathan Piturachsattit, 38, pleaded guilty to the charge Nov. 29, 2016.

Sentenced by United States District Judge Salvador Mendoza Jr., Piturachsattit will be supervised by the court for 10 years after release and must register as a sex offender.

He also surrendered his

iPhone, with which he had traded sexually explicit images with a 14-year-old Wisconsin girl using Instagram.

Piturachsattit was arrested at the school in February of 2016, after the girl's mother contacted police in Wisconsin saying her daughter had received a package containing a shirt from Pink, a Victoria's Secret affiliate, from a Spokane, Washington address.

The subsequent investigation was pursued as a part of Project Safe Childhood, a U.S. Justice Department initiative to combat child sexual abuse, bringing to See PITURACHSATIT page 2

Newsbriefs

School boards to meet together

The boards of Nespalem and Grand Coulee Dam school districts will hold a joint meeting Wednesday, March 22, at La Presa Restaurant, in Grand Coulee, at 6 p.m. The joint board meeting is open to the public.

Park board considering bids

The Coulee Area Park and Recreation District is considering bids from three companies interested in taking care of North Dam Park.

Bids were opened at the commission's regular meeting March 6, and commissioners are weighing price, experience, proposed work and references in their deliberations.

Taylor Enterprises bid \$18,578. Oasis Lawn Care bid \$20,000, and Pride Building Maintenance and Landscape bid \$17,600.

Commission Chair Bob Valen said a decision must be made by the end of March.

Council appointments made

Several appointments were made at Electric City's city council meeting last Tuesday night. Councilmember Lonna Bussert was appointed to the hotel/motel committee to replace Brad Parrish, who had held the position but recently resigned from the council. Councilmember Aaron Derr was appointed to the park committee. And the council will seek a replacement for Carol Nordine, who as a citizen represented the city on the Grant County Health District. Nordine told the council that she wanted to hold a yard sale at the Vet Center on May 20, to raise money for the new city park behind the fire station. Councilmember Rich McGuire was named to the Grant County Transit committee.

Support group for care providers starts

A support group for those providing care for persons with dementia and chronic illnesses will begin in the art room at the Senior Center from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., April 3. Education and support will be led by a trained facilitator at no cost. Call Betty at 509-631-2201 for additional information.

Free legal advice offered

Many local attorneys will be on hand to answer legal questions and provide limited legal representation and advice on various legal topics at a "Free Legal

Advice Clinic" next month in Ephrata.

The Grant County Bar Association's event will include advice on many legal issues from family law to criminal defense to estate planning.

The event will happen Friday, April 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. at 124 3rd Ave SW, Ephrata, WA.

Appointments can be made by calling 509-221-1824. Drop-ins will also be accepted on a first come, first-serve basis.

All clients must meet 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The event is hosted by Benton and Franklin Legal Aid and sponsored by Jerry Moberg & Associates, PS.

Equalization volunteer sought

County commissioners are looking for a citizen of Grant County to serve a three-year term on the Board of Equalization, which hears appeals on property tax evaluations and more. At a minimum, the board holds day-long hearings seven to 10 times per year.

The volunteer should be able to attend scheduled hearings and attend state-mandated training within one year of appointment. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of appraisal methods; experience in real estate sales and marketing, banking, farming; and general knowledge of the County. Members may not hold an elected office or be employed by an elected official.

Volunteer applications are accessible from the county website at: <http://www.grantcountywa.gov/Request/Volunteer>. Letters of interest should go to Board of Equalization, 35 C Street NW, Ephrata, WA, 98823.

Town has grant in hand for trail connections

by Roger S. Lucas

You've heard it said that "the check is in the mail." Well, this one is in the hand!

That check for \$250,000 arrived last week for Elmer City's "Complete Streets" project.

City Clerk Gary Benton and public works director "Jimmer" Tillman didn't waste any time in moving forward with the grant funds.

The town has three years to use the funds. Tillman said Friday the project will likely be done in 2018. The grant is from the state Department of Transportation's TIB (Transportation Improvement Board). Tillman said the Complete Streets award was one of 39 awarded throughout the state totaling some \$10.5 million. The grants ranged from \$125,000 to \$500,000. Tillman said that Elmer City got the grant because "we had a shovel-ready project." Elmer City had submitted its plan along with its application.

The Complete Streets project will provide sidewalks connecting to trails from two locations in the town to the existing 6-mile-long Down River Trail.

The Complete Streets designation allows for multiple uses such as vehicles, walking and biking movement.

Sidewalks will connect Third Street and Front Street to the Down River Trail system, cross-



Elmer City public works director Jimmer Tillman charts part of the "Complete Streets" project, for which the town recently won a \$250,000 grant, at the corner of 3rd Street and Elmer City Access Road. A pathway along the road will help residents reach the Down River Trail at two locations.

— Roger Lucas photo

ing Elmer City Access Road at two crosswalks to parking areas along the river.

The paved trail along Elmer City Access Road will be about three-quarters of a mile long, a drive over the area with Tillman Friday showed.

Tillman said Belsby Engineering of Spokane will do the design work on the project.

The town is already in the beginning stages of an ongoing project to go after additional funds for more sidewalks and connecting sidewalks to expand the current Complete Streets project.

Tillman and Benton spoke at a Complete Streets meeting March 8, held locally, before town and city representatives on how to apply for TIB money.



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Awarded firefighting scholarship

by Roger S. Lucas

An Electric City man has received one of two scholarships offered by the state to study structural firefighting.

Joshua Reeding, who recently moved to the area from Victorville, California, won an 11-week training scholarship recently, and will be going to the North Bend Fire Center for instruction. The training runs from April 7 through June 25.

"It is a great honor for Joshua and for our volunteer fire department," fire Chief Mark Payne told the Electric City Council last week.

Reeding was a volunteer fireman in California and won the scholarship with a 500-word essay explaining why he should be selected.

Reeding pointed out to those making the selection that he was interested in "giving service back to his community." His wording in the essay attracted the judges' attention and their positive response.

The scholarship winner is an electrician for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Reeding stated that when he received word that he had the job,



Electric City volunteer fire Chief Mark Payne, left, appears at the fire hall with "structural fire" scholarship winner Joshua Reeding, right. Reeding is one of two throughout the entire state of Washington to receive the structural training scholarship. — Roger S. Lucas photo

he and his wife, Abbigail, came to the area and "fell in love with the area."

Victorville is a high-altitude desert area, and this is considered a low-altitude desert area.

"We think this is a beautiful area, with the canyon and the water," Reeding said last Friday.

Currently, Reeding holds a lieutenant position in the department.

"My grandfather, while I never knew him, was a firefighter, and

that may have influenced me," Reeding stated.

Payne said the scholarship was worth from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

The training will take him to North Bend for classes each week on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Reeding works 10 hours days at the Bureau, four days a week, Mondays through Thursdays.

When his training is complete, Reeding will be structure-fire certified.

Hospital

Continued from front page

stop to the medical records project that was draining cash and which had forced the hospital into using county warrants to pay its bills. And CMC is overdrawn on that account.

Owens said he and financial consultant Chris Bjornberg had been working on a plan to turn the losses around more gradually, over the next year or so, but that plan was accelerated by a call from the federal Housing and Urban Development Department, the agency that loaned CMC the money to build the new hospital.

The hospital isn't meeting all the financial specifications the agency imposed in the loan agreement. Its "days of cash on hand," for example, a measure of cash flow, fell from 69.36 in 2014 to 10.12 at the end of 2016. HUD wants 21 days.

HUD has instructed the hospital to submit a turnaround plan and begin implementing it within 60 days, Owens said in an interview.

Job cuts that would have been implemented as people retired or quit will now be forced into a small reduction in force. He said yesterday that he has met with department heads and that all cuts will be known by Monday.

"We need to put our resources into physicians," not into the ancillary services that have less to do with actual delivery of health-care, he said. CMC will hire its own nurses instead of paying for agency-employed nurses, saving

Continued from front page

Megafires

agement, and CCT Environmental Trust will be available to talk with audience members about programs and services that can help residents prepare for and recover from wildfires.

Okanogan Conservation District, Colville Confederated Tribes Environmental Trust Department, North 40 Productions, and the U.S. Forest Service are bringing the presentation.

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Winter toll on roads and budgets steep

by Roger S. Lucas

City officials in the four towns will be more than happy to see winter end, but they all fear what is going to happen to city streets in the region.

Ken Dexter, public works director for Electric City, summed it up last week when he stated, "It has been the worst winter I've seen in 20 years or so."

Dexter has been with Electric City for over 30 years and will be retiring at the end of March.

City streets there are showing signs of breaking up, with frost heaves just showing up. Typical of street problems, now visible, is the area between Sunset and Silver Avenues. Cracks in pavement can be seen throughout the city, with some edges of pavement chipping away on the sides of the street.

Dexter said budgets for snow removal and street repair are "tight."

Grand Coulee is pretty much the same.

City Clerk Carol Boyce said last Thursday that the city budget for streets is \$144,000. Of this, \$30,000 was earmarked for salaries and benefits, \$30,000



A large coffee cup in a patch of former pavement on Roosevelt Drive in Grand Coulee lends perspective to the size of the problem of local streets degrading after a long winter. — Jacob Wagner photo

for street lights, and \$10,000 for street cleaning. Snow removal has exceeded its budget of \$12,794, and street repairs are expected to go through the roof.

"We will be able to repair the worst spots, maybe, and the rest will remain," Boyce stated.

There already are two major frost heaves in the city. One is on Roosevelt Drive, where the street is coming apart, and on B Street, where a frost heave has torn up the roadway. Several streets are

marked with cracks and could require major repair.

Boyce explained that it is very costly to repair roadways where stretches of pavement need replacing.

Both Electric City and Grand Coulee could get some help from Grant County. The county is petitioning the state for help for cities and towns so they can at least address the most serious street problems.

Public works director "Jimmer" See ROADS page 5

Piturachsattit

Continued from front page

gether federal, state and local resources.

According to acting U.S. Attorney Joseph H. Harrington in Spokane, the investigation was conducted by a Homeland Security Investigations special agent and Janesville, Wisconsin police.

"Prosecuting offenders who entice minors to produce child

pornography and receive child pornography is a priority of the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Washington," Harrington stated in a press release. "This Office is, and will continue to be, committed to prosecuting aggressively and seeking appropriate punishment for child pornography crimes.

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A SILENT AUCTION WILL BE HELD
Coulee Dam City Hall
Sat., March 18 ~ 4:30 - 8:00

Mumps knocking on the community's back door

And it's not just for kids anymore!

From the desk of Sandy Edwards, CMC's Infection Control:

What is "Mumps"?
Mumps is a highly contagious viral illness that can have serious complications in young adults.

Mumps complications are serious in young adults!

Mumps can cause:

- Meningitis or swelling of the brain and spinal cord
- Painful swelling of one or both testicles
- Painful swelling of ovaries and breasts
- Pancreatitis
- Permanent deafness
- Spontaneous abortions in the 1st trimester

ALERT!

- Adults get the vaccination if needed
- Young Adults get the vaccination
- Get your kids vaccinated.
- It is all about Herd immunity, everyone needs to be vaccinated.

How do you know if you have the Mumps?
You might think you have the FLU. You may have a fever, headache, muscle aches, and pains, feel tired and lose your appetite. It then may be followed by painful swelling of one or both of the glands located within your cheek near your jaw line. It may just start as an earache or tenderness along your jaw.

How do you get the Mumps?
It is spread by:

- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Kissing
- Touching contaminated surfaces, then touching your nose or mouth
- Sharing food or drink

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COULEE MEDICAL CENTER

OPINION

Letters from Our Readers

Open letter to the US House of Representatives and District 4 Representative Dan Newhouse

I am very concerned about the current state of affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives. Bills are being voted on willy nilly with minimal input from constituents, across the aisle, and from the Congressional Budget Office, apparently in a quest to meet an arbitrary legislative agenda. In the words (through Twitter) of Senator Tom Cotton (R-AR) regarding the replacement for the Affordable Care Act: "House health-care bill can't pass Senate w/o major changes. To my friends in House: pause, start over. Get it right, don't get it fast."

Our representative here in District 4, Dan Newhouse, appears to be succumbing to this

pell-mell rush to pass shoddy legislation. The Affordable Care Act, while in need of improvements, has brought many benefits to our rural district: increased health care coverage, improved funding for our hospitals, and employment opportunities for healthcare professionals. An ill-conceived replacement would have detrimental effects on our economy and access to quality care for many. Representative Newhouse has publicized his zeal to repeal the ACA but has offered no detail on what he intends to replace it with or if he intends to support the replacement that is currently being rushed along in the House.

This is an important time for

a representative to meet with constituents and hear what they think before hastily voting the party line. However, despite repeated requests from constituents, Representative Newhouse did not schedule any town halls during the in-district work period in February, and there is still not one on his calendar for the mid-April in-district work period. Representative Newhouse: let's take it slow and get it right. Listen to your constituents and work across the aisle for quality legislation that works for your district.

**Brad Halm
Winthrop**

Speed limit change should be temporary

I had to chuckle at Scott's editorial about the speed limit change above the dam, as I too had done the mental calculations! After driving 40 mph through that stretch for 16 years, it's apparently made its way into my DNA as I catch myself on a daily

basis still driving 40 and having to slow myself down.

I understand changing the limit during construction of the new fire station, but after completion, my personal feelings are that the limit should be raised again, as I know most law-abiding Ameri-

cans already know to slow down and pull over when we see a fire truck!

**Wiyaka Steinke
Electric City**

Proof that your one vote counts

The Moses Lake School Bond passed officially Friday February 24, with a very small margin. For the last few months, I had been encouraging everyone to vote yes for the school bond and our kids. I specially wanted to urge the young people to vote.

In talking with them, I got the impression they thought their one vote wouldn't make a difference. This school bond issue sure shot that theory down, as it was a four-vote difference at one point.

I'm not exactly sure when Washington state started mailing out our ballots — but, I do remember before. Second Tuesday of November, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. People actually had to go to their

polling place (mine was Peninsula School) where local volunteers manned the official voters' registration books. The volunteers verified who you were, you signed the book by your registered name and then went into the booth and pulled the lever for each of your choices.

Now we have the luxury of voting while in our own homes and popping it in the mail or dropping in a local ballot box — as long as it is postmarked before or on the deadline date. How difficult is that?

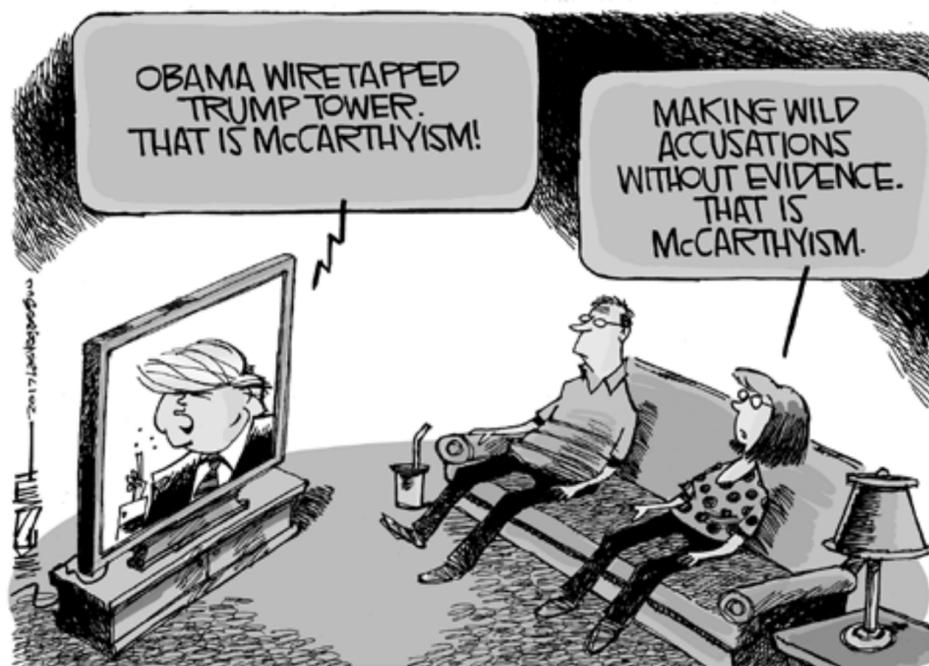
My mother, a Swedish immigrant, came to America in 1929. She became a citizen, registered to vote, and never missed voting

in any election. She passed in her 90s.

November 1960, Tacoma, cold, rainy weather, election day — Hannah, my husband's grandmother, got off the bus coming from work. Went to polling place to vote. Then walked 8-9 blocks home in the pouring rain. She was born in 1898.

I tell my kids and grandkids they have a responsibility to know the issues, the candidates and vote. Not only because it's their duty, but I will never let them forget it if they don't, plus we owe it to all those who have come before.

**Joan Green
Moses Lake**



Is it finally here?

Although spring does not officially start until March 20, I feel something in the air. Along with feeling the brisk morning air, I am smelling the morning wetness, seeing the sprouting buds, hearing the early-morning song birds and feeling the itchiness that comes with pollen. Yep, spring is here.

After being held captive by the ice queen of a winter and the grumpy ground hog, we've made it to the thawing and warming process. Gardeners will be out tilling, weeding, raking and pruning, preparing for the bountiful harvest of seeds now in their heads and soon to be in the ground.

Fishermen who do not tread on the ice-covered lakes will soon have a bank and a lake to cast their cares into, in hopes of reeling in the glory of time well spent and a tasty meal. The boats will be unwinterized, dusted off and put to good floating. Both professional and hobbyist alike will partake in the ritual called "opening day."

The sports of spring will spring up everywhere as well. Tracksters will be running and jumping, golfers will be driving and putting, ballers will be slid-

ing and pitching, and "tennisers" will be backhanding and serving, all on every available court, field and course.

Kids will venture outside. Yes, they are allowed to do that. In search of bugs, baby critters and toys that were lost under the snow load. Adults will venture out too ... to search for tools that were lost under the same snow. Hills will be climbed, mud will be conquered and walks will be grand.

This winter was a long and brutal one. It seemed that grey was the color of choice for most of it, and that darkness crept into our hearts; but now the light has come again and broken through the bitterness, bringing joy and renewal again. Enjoy it. Let the sun warm your skin. Relax in the outdoors again. Breathe it in deep and exhale. We made it.

Soon we will be complaining about the heat, mosquitoes and deer eating our tomatoes, but not yet. Not 'til after spring cleaning is complete, babies are all born and lawns have been groomed back to perfection. Yes, yes, spring is here at last.

**Jess,
shut up!**

Jesse Utz



Seventy-nine years ago

Mining raw aggregate at the Brett Gravel Pit with a power shovel and conveyor system. — March 16, 1938 photo

The Star reserves the right to edit for length, spelling and grammar, but every effort is made to keep the writer's intent.

Libelous material and UNSIGNED LETTERS WILL NOT BE PRINTED.

A writer's name may be withheld by request

but only after editorial board review. Please include a daytime phone number so we can contact you if we have questions.

Send letters to The Star, Letters, P.O. Box 150, Grand Coulee, WA 99133.

Fax to (509) 633-3828 or e-mail The Star at: star@grandcoulee.com

Progress on Repairing America's Health Care

Throughout my time representing the people of Central Washington in the U.S. Congress, constituents from across the 4th District have shared with me their deeply personal stories about the struggles and hardships they've faced under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), or Obamacare.

In late 2016, a gentleman from Yakima wrote me in distress as his insurance provider was pulling out of his county: "My wife and I are losing our healthcare coverage. Our financial lives are about to radically change and a literal risk to our health is upon us. The challenge to find affordable, acceptable healthcare insurance will be immense."

In early 2015, a woman from Grandview wrote to describe her dire situation after being forced onto the ACA exchange: "I was paying \$231 a month for a policy that had a \$500 deductible with a \$10 co-pay." However, under the ACA, she said her healthcare costs skyrocketed: "I now pay \$475 a month for a policy that has a \$5,500 deductible. This is not affordable healthcare. It is the middle-class American who has worked hard to have a good retirement who is being hit hard by this."

A gentleman from West Richland recently pleaded that the many middle-class workers, like him, must not be forgotten as we repeal and replace this broken law: "Do not forget us when fixing. We liked our plan, and we lost it."

Very recently, a farmer from Moses Lake called my office and said that before the ACA he was pay-

ing less than \$200 a month for catastrophic coverage for his family. Yet he is now forced to pay \$1,000 per month with high deductibles, discouraging his family from even being able to use and access their care.

As Congress debates the best way to repeal and replace the ACA, I am committed to ensuring we protect the most vulnerable—and also to providing relief for the majority of everyday, middle-class Americans who have been devastated by this misguided and broken law.

The American Health Care Act currently being considered in House committees is draft legislation and subject to amendments, so the final bill that will be voted on the House floor and sent to the Senate for consideration and possible amendments remains to be seen. This is the beginning of the debate, and it is a good start to fix the failed status quo.

While I have heard some stories from people who feel like they have better coverage under the ACA, I have heard many more stories from my constituents who are struggling under this failed law. To those who have been hoping for relief: I hear you, I will not forget about you, and I will keep your stories at the forefront of my mind as we work to fix this failed system.

This column is adapted from remarks Rep. Newhouse delivered on the floor of the U.S. House on March 10, 2017.

Guest Column

Dan Newhouse

Representative Washington 4th District



The Star

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Obituaries

Mary Esther Sullivan 1923 – 2017

Mary Esther Sullivan, a long-time resident of Coulee Dam, Washington, passed peacefully Saturday, March 4, 2017, at Welcome Home Villa in Omak, Washington. Born in Seattle, Washington on Dec 31, 1923, to Karl Richard Mueller and Mary Bland (Cumbo) Mueller, Mary attended school in Waterville, Washington, graduating in 1941. She then received her nursing degree through St Anthony's Hospital in Wenatchee, Washington. Her nursing skills advanced her to 2nd Lt in the U.S. Army, where she served from 1945-1946.



Mary was a traditional wife and always provided visitors with homemade cookies, or a slice of cake. She collected owl figurines, enjoyed finding bargains at yard sales, and learned to oil paint. Various needlework projects graced her home and she was known as the family historian and record keeper. Mary married Robert C. Hirst in Dec. 1946, and of that union two children were

born: Karen Ann Hirst and Ronald Blaine Hirst. Mary and Bob were later divorced.

Mary married Patrick M. Sullivan in 1961. They made their home in Coulee Dam. After Pat's retirement, they traveled extensively with their fifth wheel trailer and enjoyed spending winters in Arizona.

Survivors include her daughter, Karen Hirst of Spokane; son, Ron (Bonnie) Hirst of Tonasket, Washington; granddaughters: Lacey Hirst-Pavek, Trilby (Richard) Michels; great grandson, Blaine Hirst; great-granddaughters: Meri Hirst, Rylee Michels, Mia Michels.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Alice Elizabeth Canterbury, and husband, Patrick Sullivan.

Bergh Funeral Home, in Oroville, Washington, has been entrusted with arrangements. A graveside service at the Waterville Cemetery will be held at a later date.



End of day

Ice fishermen cling to the last rays of sunshine Sunday evening on the ice of Banks Lake, now rapidly warming with 50-degree days coming.

— Scott Hunter photo

Grand Coulee community blood drive planned

Inland Northwest Blood Center along with the Grand Coulee community blood drive volunteers, are planning a blood drive for Monday, March 20.

Donation hours will be from 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the community room in Coulee Medical Center.

INBC needs an average of 200 blood donors every day to meet the needs of more than 35 hospitals in the Inland Northwest. A single donation can save the lives of up to three people!

For more information contact Tina Lingo 509-981-7023.

Star Obituary Policy

There is a \$50 charge for obituaries published in the Star. This includes a photo and up to 500 words. Reminders for Celebrations of Life and Death Notices are \$25.

Articles must be either e-mailed, faxed or dropped off at the Star office. They will not be accepted over the phone. The deadline to submit an article is Monday by 5 p.m.

For more information, call 509.633.1350 or visit our website at grandcoulee.com.

Senior Menu

- Wed., March 15 - Dinner**
Nick's Creamy Bacon and Potato Soup, Homemade Bread, Cheesy Cauliflower, Mixed Fruit, Cookie
- Thurs., March 16 - Dinner**
Corned Beef and Cabbage, Potatoes/Carrots, Applesauce, Rolls, Green Flip-Flop Jell-O
- Fri., March 17 - Breakfast**
Ham, Eggs, French Toast, Fruit Bowl, Orange Juice
- Mon., March 20 - Breakfast**
Sausage Links, Eggs, Hashbrowns, Toast, Fruit Bowl, Orange Juice
- Tues., March 21 - Dinner**
Chicken Casserole, Onions, Peas and Carrots, Lima Beans, Pears, Pudding Parfait
- Wed., March 22 - Dinner**
BIRTHDAY DINNER! Pot Roast, Potatoes, Carrots, Onions, Gravy, Fruit Salad, Birthday Cake
- Thurs., March 23 - Dinner**
Mac and Cheese, Ham Slices, Mixed Veggies, Mixed Fruit, Peaches and Cream
- Fri., March 24 - Breakfast**
Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Eggs, Fruit Bowl, Orange Juice
- Mon., March 27 - Breakfast**
Sausage Patties, Eggs, Pancakes, Fruit Bowl, Orange Juice
- Tues., March 28 - Dinner**
Stuffed Sausages, Mashed Potatoes and Cheese, Sauerkraut, Applesauce, Ice Cream
- Wed., March 29 - Dinner**
Hamburger Steak, Onions, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Fruit Cup, Parfait
- Thurs., March 30 - Dinner**
Shepherd's Pie, Mixed Vegetables, Sliced Fruit, Fruit Crisp



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Meetings & Notices

CHAMBER THIS WEEK

The Grand Coulee Dam Area Chamber of Commerce will meet at noon, this Thursday, March 16, at La Presa Mexican Restaurant, Grand Coulee. General business will be on the agenda.

COULEE CREATORS MEET

Coulee Creators meet every Tuesday 1-4 p.m., except for Monday, March 28, which has been canceled. Contact Marlene Oddie 509-386-5715 or marlene@kissedquilts.com for details. Enter east end of building, push in door knob to release door latch.

GRANT COUNTY DEMOS TO MEET

The regular monthly meeting of the Grant County Democratic Party will be held Tuesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m., at the Democrats' building at the fairgrounds. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information call Jill Springer Forrest, chairman, at 509-765-4790.

CMC GUILD TO MEET

The Coulee Medical Center Guild (Auxiliary) meets the third Monday of each month. This month's meeting will be Monday, March 20, at noon at Coulee Medical Center. Join us for lunch.

Community CONCERT

Featuring the
Cascade Christian Academy
high school band
and handbell choir

FREE and open to the public
FRIDAY, MARCH 17
7:00PM

*Sponsored by the Grand Coulee
Seventh-day Adventist Church*

Coulee Dam Community Church
509 Central Drive
Coulee Dam, Washington

For more information, contact Ella Jones at 509.665.7090

Church Directory

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Welcomes you.
Everyone is invited.
Interim Pastor Ron Hunter
2 miles east of Hwy 155 on Hwy 174
Adult Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:45 a.m.
Church office 633-2186

FAITH COMMUNITY

A Foursquare Church
PASTOR STEVE ARCHER
16 Grand, Electric City
Sunday Morning Service10:00 a.m.
KIDS' Church and Nursery
Call the Church Office 633-3044 to find out about other regularly scheduled meetings.
Come Worship the Lord!

BANKS LAKE BIBLE CHURCH

25 School Avenue, Electric City, 633-0670
"An Independent Bible Church"
Pastor Bill Williams - Everyone Welcome!
Adult Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship10:45 a.m.
Evening Worship6:00 p.m.
Call for schedule of mid-week events.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

Come Worship & Praise With Us
103 Continental Heights, Grand Coulee
Church (509) 633-3030
Pastor Eric Chavez - (509) 207-9460
Fit for Life9:00 a.m.
Bible Study10:00 a.m.
Worship Hour11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Meal12:30 p.m.
Mid-week Mannah (Wednesday) 6:00 p.m.

GRAND COULEE COMMUNITY CHURCH

An Independent Congregation
Modeling our Ministry after the New Testament
405 Center St., Grand Coulee
Lead Pastor: Monty Fields
Pulpit Pastor: Rev. Paul Ashbrook
Church Office 633-0980
Contact Number 633-3319
EVERYONE WELCOME!
Come Worship and Praise God with Us!
Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.
Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.
Thursday Bible Study1:30 p.m.

ZION LUTHERAN PASTOR SHAWN NEIDER

348 Mead Street, Grand Coulee
Church 633-2566
Coulee City Bible Study8:00 a.m.
Coulee City Worship9:00 a.m.
Zion Bible Study & Sunday School9:30 a.m.
Zion Worship11:00 a.m.
Soup Supper, Wednesday6:00 p.m.
Lenten Worship, Wednesday7:00 p.m.



Nursery Available
NEED A RIDE? CALL 633-2566

LR Elementary students of the month

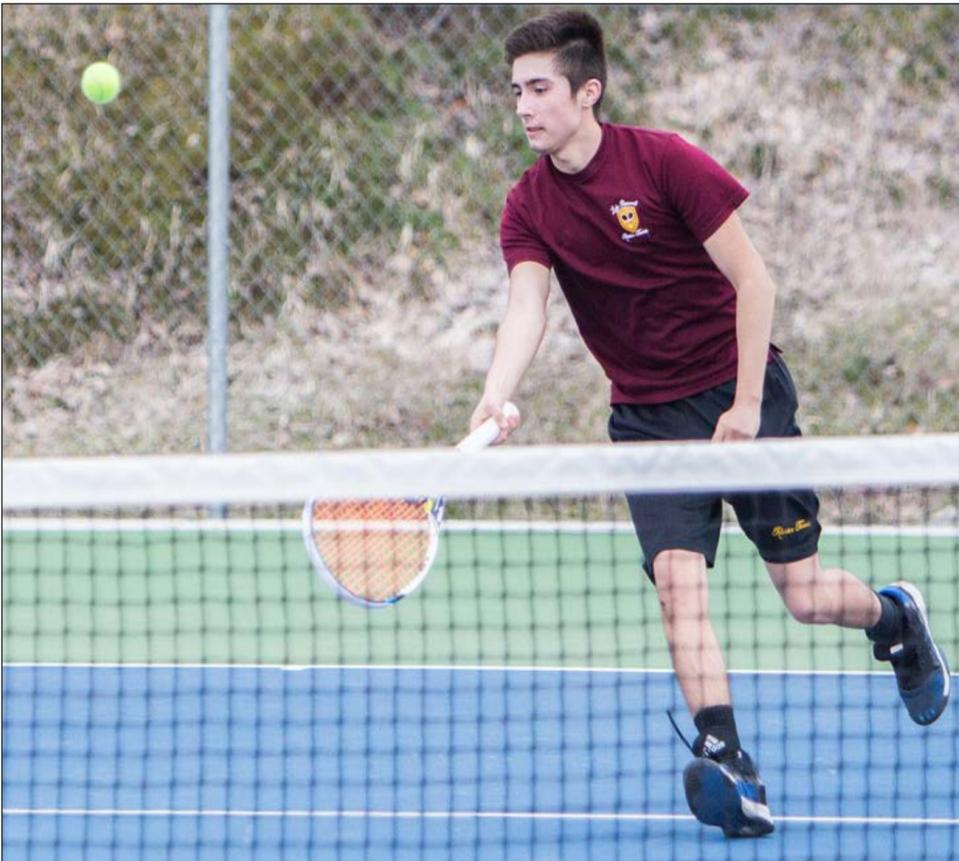
The students of the month for February at Lake Roosevelt Elementary include the following:



Kindergarten through Second Grade – from left, front row: Paris Figueroa, Zachary Dick, Lily Hendrickson, Rainee Covington, Maggie ThinElk, Amy Connors, Tommy Tynan; back row: Taryn TallBull, Tyler Sherwood, Kenzie Brown, Randy Cawston, Talouah Day, Rylin Wonch, Carter Senator.



Third through Sixth Grade – from left, front row: Kaitlyn Baker, Halle Picard, Malachi Stice; middle row: Teyten Flores, Veronica Tynan, Aiden Meckler, Nichole Batten, Allie Bowles; back row: Sawyer Steffens, Christian Carson, Carly Neddo, Kate OnePennee, Penny Antoine.



Net gains

Malcom Carson returns a volley against a Pateros opponent Tuesday afternoon at Lake Roosevelt High School's courts, the first match of the season. — Jacob Wagner photo

Roads

Continued from front page

Tillman in Elmer City said the cold winter sent frost as deep as 12 inches down, from two to three times normal. He stated that Williams Street looks "bad" and that cracks in pavement have allowed water to penetrate, which then froze below the surface. He expects major frost heaves on several streets.

The Elmer City budget allows only \$17,000 for street repair. However, Tillman thinks he will have some "back door" funding to assist with some of his repairs. That could come from some help from the Department of Transportation's TIB (Transportation Improvement Board).

In Coulee Dam, the street in front of Columbia River Inn is already breaking up. Central Drive, Camas Street and Columbia Avenue, particularly in front of the entrance to the Coulee Dam Federal Credit Union, will all need repair.

The problem isn't unique to the four municipalities, but highways throughout Eastern Washington are showing signs of breaking up. And a Grant County road 12 miles east of Moses Lake was closed Sunday, with a sinkhole developing beneath the pavement some 3 feet wide and 15 feet deep.

Survey gives guidance to school leaders

by Roger S. Lucas

Curriculum, students, and staff received the most comments from a recent Lake Roosevelt School survey that was made available to patrons in the area.

The survey was taken to provide some guidance to a team of school district personnel and local residents who work together in developing information for a Strategic Plan that will shape school activity for the next few years.

The study team developing information for the school board met last Monday and Tuesday in the high school library.

Superintendent Paul Turner, who is in Washington D.C. at an impact aid conference, stated last

week that he would assess the team's work and present it to the board upon his return.

The district received 55 surveys back, and replies fell into three categories:

- **Students:** Respondents would like to see more opportunities for college-bound students and the same for career students. They also would like to see more "hands-on" engagement with students. There was strong support for the fine arts and for better writing skills.

- **The whole child:** Respondents were concerned about academics, behavior, student attendance, and social and emotional support. Several respondents said they thought students should be more consistent.

- **Staff:** Those returning surveys commented on the need to hire highly qualified teachers and then retain them. They also suggested the district provide ongoing professional development support. Smaller class size comments were on several survey returns.

On strengths of the district, several listed the new facilities and the need to finish with a new gym and athletic field improvements.

Many made comments that the staff was very caring and committed to good, quality education.

Now the school will take these comments, and those coming out of the two-day team meeting, and develop the district's long-range Strategic Plan.

Science fair coming up

The PTA will host its second annual science fair March 23 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the old

LRHS gym.

Judging of some 36 registered projects will occur at that time.

There are about 56 students participating.

Aaaargh! Children's theater group to present "Treasure Island"

Missoula Children's Theatre will be in town again April 24-29, and auditions for young actors for "Treasure Island" will start

at 4 p.m. April 24 at the Village Cinema in Coulee Dam. Rehearsals will occur each evening from April 24-28 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Two performances will be held on April 29, at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. There will also be dress rehearsals earlier that day.

Bowling Scores

COLUMBIA LEAGUE		
TEAM	W	L
Team 6	24	20
Solid T Const.	18	26
Strike or Spare	17	27
High Game: Jesse Vieira 248		
High Series: Don Richer 621		
Splits Don Richer 4-7-10; Corey Baker 5-6-10		

SENIORS		
3-8-17		
Dixie L.R.	131+116+134=381	
Frank E.	121+132+134=387	
Scott E.	152+162+156=470	
Karen M.	93+148+130=371	
Mike	170+200+172=542	
Ray D.	145+115+134=394	
Splits: Frank 3-6-7-10; Karen 4-5		

THURSDAY MIX-UPS		
TEAM	W	L
Fry Bread Pwr	68.5	27.5
The Melody	66	38
San Poil Valley	52	52
Bob & His		
Gutter Girls	50.5	53.5
High Game: Kota Weed-Butz 236;		
Candy Weed-Butz 204		
High Series: Bob Schryvers 603; Candy Weed-Butz 576		
Splits: Frank Quinto 2-7-8/9-10; Marvin Bob 3-10; Percy Kuehne 5-7; Sara 2-7; Gwen Hilson 2-10; Candy 3-10		
Previous: High Game: L.J. Stensgar 243; Candy Weed-Butz 218		
High Series: Bob Schryvers 584; Candy Weed-Butz 573		
Splits: Gwen Hilson 2-7; Frank Quinto 4-7-9; Kota Weed-Butz 2-10		
Amber Olsen clean game		

DAM KEGLERS		
TEAM	W	L
#6	116	84
#5	107.5	92.5
#4	98.5	101.5
#2	84.5	115.5
#3	84	116
High Game: CJ Bjorson 263; Mae Stensgar 190		
High Series: Dale Bjorson 695; Candy Weed-Butz 545		
Splits: Candy Weed-Butz 5-7		

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 Cost is \$6.15 for first 15 words; 15¢ for each additional word - Yard Sale ads are \$8.00 for the first 15 words, includes two free yard sale signs.

Rentals

Rentals

Rentals

Rentals

Mobile

Misc.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.
 This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.



LARGE 2 bdrm. apt., Electric City, w/s/g, \$500 per month. 509-631-2039 or 509-928-1805. (N12-28-tfc)

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OFFICE SPACE for rent: \$550 per month includes electricity, water, sewer and garbage. First, last months' rent and \$300 damage deposit. Favorable background check required through Acranet. Contact (509)633-3167, (509)449-5413. (W2-22-tfc)

FOR RENT - 2 bedroom house. No smoking, no pets, credit check. \$750/month first, last and security deposit. Available April 1st. 509-670-4187 for appointment. (E3-1-tfc)

COULEE DAM - 2 bed/1bath. \$700/month plus deposit/fee. 509-710-2080. (M3-8-3tpp)

2 BDRM. HOUSE - fenced yard, shed, March rent paid. Move in ready. \$600/month. 509-956-9559 (P3-8-2tpp)

CUTE 3 bdrm., 2 bath in Electric City. Available April 1st with upgraded amenities. Call Virginia 509-990-1471 for information. (M3-8-4tpp)

LARGE 2 bdrm. apartment, Electric City. W/S/G paid. \$600 month, laundry facility onsite. 633-3625 or 631-0828. (M3-15-1tp)

CLEAN LARGE STUDIO for one. Ideal for out-of-town worker. Completely furnished. \$450-\$550 month, w/cable and high speed internet. 631-0301. (C3-15-tfc)

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Realty

PROPERTIES FOR SALE: 2 bedroom, 2 bath, mobile home with a large garage, \$125,000; 2 bedroom, one bath, home with storage shed, \$70,000; and 3 bedroom, 2 bath, mobile home with basement apt., \$130,000. Call for more properties for sale. 633-2485 or 631-0135. (F7-27-tfc)

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 Grand Coulee, WA 99133
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Coulee Cops

Compiled from police files

Grand Coulee Police

3/6 - Vandals did about \$125 damage at Young's Welding. Boys with long skateboards were thought to be responsible. The suspects tipped a display over and broke a rock, the police report stated.

3/7 - USBR Plant Protection was notified by a citizen of two small juveniles on the Coulee Dam bridge who appeared to be distraught. The department tried to contact Coulee Dam police, but when they couldn't, a Grand Coulee officer drove to Coulee Dam. No one was on the bridge.

- Police assisted Coulee Dam and tribal police in serving a search warrant and an arrest warrant on a man. Police had to breach the door. The man was arrested and taken to jail.

- An officer checked on a report that two small children were holding a sign asking for money and food at Kent Street and Highway 155. Police took the girls to their home and advised the man there to look after the two girls and to get a license for the dog that was with them.

- A man who had been banned from Coulee Medical Center was issued a trespassing citation for being on the CMC property, where he had been going through garbage at the smoking area, looking for "smokes."

- An officer checked on a trespass incident at a house on Third Street in Electric City. A neighbor told police that the suspect had left the area.

3/8 - Police stopped a vehicle going the wrong way on a one-way street near the hospital and found that a passenger was wanted on an arrest warrant. The driver was cited for driving with a suspended license, going the wrong way on a one-way street, having no proof of insurance, and for not carrying vehicle registration in the vehicle. The warrant out of Union Gap, Washington wasn't confirmed, so the passenger went free.

- A woman told police that she thought she was being followed and recorded by another woman. The woman explained that she thought it was because she was involved in a custody dispute. She stated that the woman had earlier blocked her movement for a couple of minutes. Police told the woman to call 911 if the incident was repeated.

3/9 - An 18-year-old Grand Coulee man was cited for first-degree negligent driving, driving while his license was suspended, and as a minor in possession and consuming alcohol after an officer had to chase him before he stopped.

- A man called police from Arizona stating that he thought he had suffered an identity theft in regard to an IRS issue. Police said the IRS would handle any investigation.

- A man reported to police that he had found a breached safe and some papers on "Bunny Hill." Police took the items as found property until the owner is contacted.

- Police assisted with a CPR issue on Stevens Avenue in Electric City until an ambulance arrived.

- A person called police from Burdin Boulevard to inform officers that it was thought that a neighbor was thought to be loading stolen items into his truck.

- A person who saw a flashlight beam reported that someone was entering an apartment on Main Street. The reporting party said the person in the apartment had been kicked out but was returning every other night or so. No one was in the apartment when the officer arrived.

3/10 - A person listed as an Electric City transient was arrested on an outstanding warrant and taken to Grant County jail. During a search, officers found a foil wrapped up containing a brown, burned residue. The material was sent to the Washington State Crime Lab for identification. Additional charges may be filed depending upon the lab report.

- Police checked on a report that someone had climbed through a window of a trailer near the Eagles Lodge. Police stopped a vehicle leaving the area. The driver said she had been visiting her boyfriend and didn't know of anyone climbing through a window.

- An Electric City resident was cited for a violation of a trip per-



Striking form

C.J. Bjorson rolls a strike Friday night at Riverview Lanes during league play. Bjorson, one of several good bowlers in his family, bowled a perfect 300 game recently. — Scott Hunter photo

mit and for driving with a suspended license.

3/11 - A Malaga, Washington, man who gave an officer considerable trouble in front of Banks Lake Pub was taken to Grant County jail after struggling with the officer. He faces charges of third-degree assault, intimidating a public servant, first-degree criminal trespass, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

- An officer responded to an issue in East Heights. It was reported that a vehicle was driving around the loop in the area. The officer went to the door of the residence where the suspect car was parked. A woman came to the door of the residence and, upon seeing the officer, said, "Wow, you are cute; sorry I am drunk." The woman was told if she was seen driving while in that condition she would be arrested.

Coulee Dam Police

3/1 - A woman on Camas Street was advised that she was going to be cited for her two dogs running loose. When the officer went to the woman's front door, one of the dogs bit his shoe. It wasn't the first time that the woman's dogs have been loose.

3/6 - A man with a suspended license was stopped because of the way he was driving and issued a citation. He was advised by the officer not to drive.



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Wed.	Low 37° - 54° High	Rain likely
Thu.	Low 32° - 53° High	Morning rain then clearing
Fri.	Low 37° - 51° High	Rain likely late day
Sat.	Low 34° - 52° High	Rain / rain showers
Sun.	Low 32° - 49° High	Sunny - enjoy!
Mon.	Low 31° - 52° High	Clear
Tue.	Low 33° - 51° High	Cloudy

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