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Mossyrock SD selects new interim Superintendent

BY BUDDY ROSE
East County Journal

Mossyrock school board directors have chosen Dr. Effie Dean as interim superintendent of the school district. Her selection came during a special board meeting on Thursday, June 18. That followed a day-long process on Monday, June 15 featuring the four finalists for the position that included an afternoon meeting between the candidates and school staff and a community forum in the evening preceding the regular school board meeting. The candidates provided individual, candid responses to a number of questions from members of the public during the community forum.

Dean is coming to Mossyrock from Nespalem, Washington where she is currently

serving as the superintendent of the Nespalem School District, a position she has held since 2020. Nespalem is a small community located on the Colville Indian Reservation in north-central Washington with a school district of about 200 students. Dean has more than 30 years of experience in education and her background includes earning a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Washington State University.

Pending contract negotiations with the school board, Dean will be replacing Mark Chandler at the helm of Mossyrock School District beginning July 1. Chandler has served as superintendent since 2023 and is leaving to take a position at the Winlock



Dr. Effie Dean

School District as Executive Director of Special Education.

During the regular board meeting on Monday, board directors passed a resolution honoring Junior High/High School Principal Lori Courner and presented her with a bouquet of flowers in recognition and gratitude for her ongoing, exemplary service to the school district. Superintendent Chandler read a statement describing Courner's service in the form of an acronym – ROCK – that stands for Reliable, Objective, Committed and Knowledgeable and professional.

Chandler also read a personal statement expressing his gratitude to a number of district individuals who he said were

instrumental in helping the district move forward during his tenure here. They included maintenance staff Doug Brown and Jessie Pickering, administrative staff Jodi Spahn and Brandy Schultz, Elementary Principal Angela Bacon and Food Supervisor Kim Chambers. Chandler also expressed thanks to his wife, Charlene, for her constant support and encouragement.

Also, during the board meeting, Bacon reported on elementary student progress in math and reading tests between last fall and this spring. She presented a pyramid illustrating a desirable outcome of student learning in which 80 percent have success, 15 percent need some help and 3-5 percent are in need of more attention.

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Charlie Plante | East County Journal

Joshua Hail, the owner and founder of 3 Dog Cider and Brewstillery in Ethel, Washington pours a glass of alcoholic cider on March 15. In his brewstillery, Hail utilizes wild yeast to create the ciders.

3 Dog Cider treats cider more like wine

BY CHARLIE PLANTE
East County Journal

All it takes to start a business is a dream, knowledge and – sometimes – three dogs. In Ethel, Washington, 3 Dog Cider and Brewstillery opened back in 2021.

There, they grow apples, ferment, brew and distill different types of ciders.

"Don't expect standard grocery store cider here, that's not what we do," Joshua Hail, the owner of 3 Dog

Cider and Brewstillery said. "It's how cider should be, not how it's served to you."

At the brewstillery, they treat cider more like wine in how it's produced, as there is no pasteurization or traditional filtration system. Instead, as the cider ferments over six months, the cider filters itself via weight.

His "ciders will have a buttery taste to it" due to the fermentation process, according to Hail.

Another thing that makes his ciders unique, is the fact he uses wild

yeast. Unlike typical dry cider yeast, wild yeast impacts the final flavor and can be difficult to work with, which is why it is not used commercially.

Over the years, Hail has made more than 50,000 gallons of wild yeast ciders and understands it very well.

Those gallons of ciders are always changing taste as the variety and combinations of the types of apples used in the ciders differ from year to

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Roundabout is driving locals to sign a petition

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) plans to build a roundabout at the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 12 and State Route 7 in Morton. Construction is proposed to begin in June 2027.

"WSDOT looked at several options, including a single-lane roundabout, a traffic signal and a special turn lane. After comparing safety benefits and costs, they found that a single-lane roundabout would be the best solution to reduce serious crashes," said Tiffany Mancillas, WSDOT communications consultant from the southwest region.

"A traffic signal was one of the alternatives looked at for this intersection, but it didn't meet the requirements to be installed. Most of the crashes at this location were T-bone crashes. Roundabouts reduce this risk and are better at preventing these kinds of crashes than traffic signals," Mancillas said.

There is a faction of local residents who are opposing the installation of a roundabout. On openpetition.org, there is a petition that as of Monday, June 15

has 89 people signed up to express their opposition, with a chance to share their concerns.

"We do not want this roundabout and we're asking WSDOT to cancel plans for this catastrophic idea ... this would lead to major traffic problems and accidents. An alternative could be a traffic light," the petition stated, signed by the Citizens of Lewis County, Morton.

The public comments echo many of the same sentiments: worry about the cost, the ineffectiveness of stopping traffic accidents, wanting reduced speed and preference for a stop light.

"Roundabouts are expensive. It seems like it would be just as effective at a much lower cost to change the speed limit leading up to the problematic intersection," Morton resident Amber McKnight stated.

"This does not fix stupid or bad drivers. If they cannot maneuver the existing merge lanes and turn lane, they will not successfully manage a roundabout and it will just make it more difficult for large trucks and cars stuck behind them," Randle resident Tammie

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Museum gifted wedding dresses, military uniform

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

At the regular meeting of the Morton Historical Society on Wednesday, June 10, there was

a special presentation to the members of a new display that the museum is planning. Three new outfits were donated and researched for the display and at the meeting local residents modeled the outfits for everyone to see. The three outfits were two wedding dresses and a military uniform.

The first wedding dress was modeled by Morton Loggers' Jubilee Queen Fairlane Armstrong. "The wedding dress was recently rescued from the Old Settlers Museum. This dress was worn by Barbara Joan Bingaman at her wedding to Don Earl Morris on Feb. 10, 1950. Her mother,

Francis Crumb Bingaman made the dress with Ecu lace trim and satin covered buttons," presenter Becky Starr-Justice said.

The second wedding dress was modeled by Brew Coffee

Bar Manager Miranda Coleman Mathews. The dress belonged to Laura Runyon Grubb and was donated by Clem and Ruby Reynolds.

"Laura was married on Aug. 20, 1932. The style of this magnificent dress is timeless. It could be worn fashionably today, 94 years has taken its toll, changing the dress to ivory," Starr-Justice said.

The last outfit was a military uniform modeled by co-owner of Morton Town and Country Flowers and Gifts, Angela McKenzie. The uniform belonged to Lieutenant Colonel

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Amber Brown | East County Journal

Morton resident Marc Cave plays the Story & Clark player piano that had found a new home with Lewis County Fire District 18 on May 1.

Player pianos find new music-loving locales

BY AMBER BROWN
East County Journal

Morton resident Bobbin Cave has been hoping to find a new home for her beloved Story & Clark player piano. She had origi-

nally been searching for a new home for two player pianos that were in her possession. She had put an ad in the classified section and reached out to friends and family.

Eventually, she was able to

find a new home for the American made, gloss black piano. The new home is at Lewis County District 18 Glenoma's community hall.

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