

SUNNYSIDESUN

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BRIEFLY

Miss Sunnyside Court hosts yard sale this weekend

The Miss Sunnyside Royalty Court will be hosting a yard sale this Saturday, July 24 at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church from 7 a.m. to noon.

All proceeds from the sale go directly to the Miss Sunnyside Royalty Court to cover expenses for summer travel to parades and other events.

The court will be accepting donations on Friday, July 23 starting at 4 p.m. at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church. Donations items may include gently used clothing, home goods, toys, furniture, and other items.

Celebration of Life for Jazzy Guillen this Saturday

PROSSER — The community is invited to a Celebration of Life for Jazzy Guillen this Saturday, July 24. The celebration will begin at 9 a.m. at Art Fiker Stadium, 1433 Paterson Road.

Team Jazzy members are invited to purchase a butterfly in advance to participate in the live butterfly release. Butterflies can be purchased at wishingstar.org/jazzy. All proceeds will go to The Wishing Star Foundation.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that the community donate to some of their favorite charities: Wishing Star Foundation, Forever Fighters, and Austen Everett.

Love Letters takes the stage on July 30

PROSSER — Valley Theater Company presents its second installment of 'Love Letters,' a play by A.R. Gurney, set to take the stage for its first showing on Friday, July 30.

This production is a reprise of the grand opening show of the Princess Theatre in February of 2007. Local actors Candace Andrews and Richard James once again will portray the roles of Melissa Gardner and Andrew Ladd as the Princess Theatre officially reopens its doors after the pandemic.

The show can be seen at the Princess Theatre, 1228 Meade Avenue, on July 30, 31, August 1, 6, and 7. Tickets are available online at theprincesstheatre.net.

Together Grandview Can returns Aug. 10

GRANDVIEW — The Grandview Police Department, in partnership with the Grandview School District, announce the return of "Together Grandview Can" on Tuesday, August 10 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Westside Park near the Grandview Swimming Pool.

Anyone interested in having a booth at the event is welcome to contact 509-882-2000 or email Kal.Fuller@grandviewpd.us for more information.

SEAL COATING ON GRANT AVE.



Ileana Martinez/Sunnyside Sun

Sunnyside Public Works member Juan Quezada and crew worked on seal coating Grant Avenue between 4th and 9th Streets last Wednesday, July 14. The street crew began their day at 4 a.m. to beat the heat wave, ending at 9th Street around noon. The Public Works team is scheduled for more seal coating today, July 21, on North Avenue between Cemetery Road and 16th Street, on Edison Avenue between 7th and 9th Streets, and on 6th Street between the railroad tracks and Yakima Valley Highway, according to the Chip Seal Schedule at www.sunnyside-wa.gov

Dept. of Ecology declares drought emergency

Record-breaking heat wave exacerbates already dry conditions across state

OLYMPIA — A historically dry spring and summer, followed by a record-breaking heat wave have affected water supplies across Washington, prompting the Washington Department of Ecology to issue a drought emergency for most of the state. The only areas excluded from the emergency declaration are Seattle, Tacoma and Everett.

In late May, the fourth-driest March through April on record prompted Ecology to issue a drought advisory for 29 counties. Dryness persisted through June. Averaged statewide, March through June precipitation ties 1926 as the second driest such period since 1895. A heat dome in late June brought triple-digit temperatures and smashed all-time records across the state, rapidly worsening drought

Washington Drought Declaration Areas



conditions.

Now Ecology, along with the departments of Fish and Wildlife, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, are reporting signs of stressed fish; farmers and ranchers are being forced to cut back on irrigation; and wildfires are burning through dry vegetation.

"Farmers' crops are failing, and

ranchers are losing livestock because of these dry conditions, extreme heat, and lack of water," Inslee said. "We're experiencing more droughts in our state as the climate warms. These dry conditions, combined with scorching heat, are putting our way of life at risk. We must continue to act on climate change to protect our state."

Farmers and ranchers without irrigation in eastern Washington were among the first to feel the effects of the drought, with some reporting up to a 50 percent loss of wheat crops and difficulty finding feed for livestock. Rising water temperatures in the lower Yakima, Okanogan, and Snake rivers reached levels lethal to some fish, including threatened salmon species.

Water supplies in Eastern see **DROUGHT**, page A3

What is a drought emergency declaration?

A drought emergency means water supply is projected to be below 75 percent of average, and there is a risk of undue hardship to water users and uses. A formal drought declaration authorizes Ecology to take certain measures for the purpose of providing emergency drought

relief:

- Expedite processing for emergency drought permits
- Process temporary transfers of water rights
- Provide funding assistance for public entities
- Hold public education workshops

Sunnyside Fire Dept. welcomes new hires

Seven new firefighters have joined the team at the Sunnyside Fire Department.

New hires for the Sunnyside Fire Department include Damian Ramos, 30, of Sunnyside; Jeremy Garrett, 31, of Wenatchee; Zach Durbin, 26, of Prosser; Josh McConnell, 34 of Riverside, California; Nathan Hede, 29, of Yakima; Emma Verge, 28, of Mt. Vernon; and Miguel Barrios, 28, of Sunnyside.

Each new firefighter will be featured weekly in the Sunnyside Sun's "Firefighter Spotlight" to introduce them to the community.

Hospitalizations are increasing in Yakima County

Yakima County has seen a recent increase in hospitalizations. From July 8 to 14, Yakima County had 15 new hospitalizations, which is the highest increase in a seven-day period compared to weeks in May and June. Over the last three months, an average of 96% of individuals that have been hospitalized due to COVID-19 have been unvaccinated.

COVID-19 cases are also increasing, but not as sharply as the increase in hospitalizations. This may be due to less individuals seeking COVID-19 tests.

"We encourage everyone who can get vaccinated to do so to protect others who can't get vaccinated yet, such as children under 12 years of age and people who are immunocompromised. We don't want to overwhelm the hospital or healthcare system in the county again," said Dr. Larry Jecha, Interim Health Officer at the Yakima Health District.

In the past, the Yakima Health District has noticed an increase in cases after a large event, followed by hospitalizations. This increase aligns with the June 30, 2021 opening of the state and loosening of masking guidance.

It is important individuals who can get vaccinated do so. The vaccine is safe and effective, and the more individuals that get vaccinated, the less COVID-19 will spread in the community. Individuals are encouraged to visit YakimaVaccines.org for a location near them. If individuals choose not to get vaccinated, continue to wear a mask and social distance.

"We know that only 49.5% of community members 12 and older are fully vaccinated. However, when you go in public, you are not seeing 50% of individuals wearing masks. Masks are an effective measure against the spread of COVID-19, if you are not fully vaccinated, you should be wearing a mask to avoid further increases in cases and hospitalizations," said Melissa Sixberry, RN and Director of Disease Control at the Yakima Health District.



— Penny Piggybank

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