From Our Readers

ads@huckleberrypress.net

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Stevens County Prosecutor's Report

We ought to express our thanks and support for the firefighters that have poured into our area to fight these terrible fires. I have seen trucks from as far away as Minnesota and New Mexico and I am sure many more are coming. The Emergency Coordinator, former Stevens County Sheriff's detective, Jim Caruso, says this is the worst disaster ever to come to Stevens County. He was just hired just before these fires began and has been working hard to keep organized and the people informed. This is hard to do because the fire situation is fluid. It can change radically in a few hours.

Above all, do not burn anything or carelessly dispose of any cigarette. Careless people set most fires. There are lightening caused fires, but most start along side a road or in a yard. Just be careful with everything that burns. Wait till the wet season before burning anything.

Michael Ray Snyder, 31 yrs old, was sentenced to 204 months in prison last Tuesday. He received this

sentence as a result of his involvement in an Armed Robbery of the Old Schoolhouse Store in Addy last January. During the Robbery, he was armed with a saw-off shotgun and threatened the clerk with the gun to her face. At the sentencing, Judge Nielson saw a video of the robbery and deemed it a very violent

At the sentencing hearing, the clerk who threatened and robbed told the Judge how she had been affected by the incident. The defendant's mother spoke on his behalf and told Judge Neilson that her son had been heading down the right road until about 2007. She said that her son tried Meth one time and that from then on, that is all he wanted. She told a brief story of his drug addiction and that he would do OK for a while and then get back into it. Like every good mother, she was grieved to see her son ruin his life and asked the Judge to be a lenient as he could in his sentence.

The state pointed out that he has been to prison before, and after the sentencing here, was headed for Snohomish County for a sentencing on a Robbery charge there. In that case he had less of a role, but multiple prior felony convictions.

After summarizing or other professional forest-

Snyder to the maximum sen- tise and knowledge necessary tence of 204 months.

(CORRECTION: Tim Rasmussen's letter as published in the August 27, 2015 edition of Huckleberry Press should have correctly stated an Officer was involved in a shooting on Wednesday, August 19, 2015).

Stevens County Commissioners Working To Lift the Level 4 Industrial Fire Precaution

The Stevens County Commissioners are actively working with the Department of Natural Resources, area legislators, as well as the Governor's Office to lift the Level 4 Industrial Fire Precaution (IFPL) to permit salvage logging activities on lands hit by recent wildfires when and where it is appropriate.

The Commissioners understand that once the fire has occurred, the burnt timber has a limited shelf-life; the time frame for salvage logging is short and the fire danger is greatly reduced. In fact, most of the justification for Level 4 precaution is was an accomplice. He has gone but safety hazards may still be present. The Commissioners are working with DNR to possibly find retired,

the situation, and noting what ers that can assist with the and economic recovery. The sentences have been given to waiver process. If this action Commissioners will continue tain activities to between 8 others with the same charge, were approved, it would pro- to use every means available p.m. and 1 p.m. Judge Nielson sentenced Mr. vide the professional experto help accomplish this. to safely log without pulling current DNR staff away from tion Levels (IFPL) is a for- 1 p.m. firefighting efforts.

> The are absolutely determined BLM and Bureau of Indian that landowners affected by the fires in this county be allowed to access their own ment and fire watch service lands for healthy restoration is required.

est closure system set up to reduce wildfire risk and is tions are prohibited. Commissioners used by DNR, Forest Service, Affair. They include:

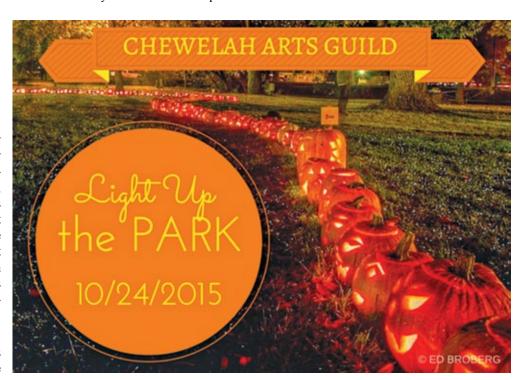
Level 1 - Fire equip-

Level II - Limits cer-

Level III - Prohibits some activities and limits Industrial Fire Precau- others to between 8 p.m. and

Level IV - All opera-

Stevens County Commissioners



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