O'Donnell, Mary Beth

From: LaRocque, Linnea on behalf of Barnes, Ed
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 8:28 AM
To: Orjiako, Oliver; O’Donnell, Mary Beth; Tilton, Rebecca
Subject: WFB Newswatch

for the record from Carol Levanen

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Carol Levanen [mailto:cnidental@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 9:56 PM
To: Carol Levanen; Susan Rasmussen; Leah Higgins; Rick Dunning; Rita Dietrich; Jerry Olson; Fred Pickering; Jim Malinowski; Frank White; Benjamin Moss; Lonnie Moss; Melinda Zamora; Nick Redinger; Curt Massie; Marcus Becker; Clark County Citizens United Inc.; Barnes, Ed; Mielke, Tom; Madore, David
Subject: Fw: WFB Newswatch


Flight Plan: Charting a Course for Drones in Washington

TVW looks at the growing popularity of drones, and the serious privacy issues they raise. See how they’re used and why so many people are interested in this new technology - from farmers to hobbyists to state agencies

Washington Farm Bureau Director of Government Relations Tom Davis is featured at the 42-minute mark.

View the story here.

Labor shortage looms: Record crops coming and Mid-Columbia farmers aren’t ready

From the Oct 5 edition of the Tri-City Herald Columbia Basin and Yakima Valley farmers are looking for skilled workers to hand pick apples, harvest wine grapes, sort newly harvested onions and weed rows of blueberry bushes.

They need them now, but finding enough workers is tough because of localized shortages of seasonal, skilled farmworkers and a tight labor supply statewide.

While the difficulties in finding skilled temporary workers is nothing new, it’s been accentuated this year because warm weather has hastened the ripening of some crops, overlapping peak worker needs for hops, apples, wine grapes and other crops
Record harvests also are expected.

Read the rest of the story here.

**Mid-Columbia farmers may rethink labor-intensive crops**

From the Oct 5 edition of the Tri-City Herald. The difficulty Washington farmers face in finding enough skilled seasonal workers may limit how much labor-intensive crops like apples and wine grapes they can grow.

Columbia Basin and Yakima Valley farmers have been adding acres of hops, blueberries and wine grapes. And older apple orchards have been replanted, with the new orchards denser and more fruitful.

But that means more workers are needed for harvest and other work such as pruning.

Read the complete story here.

**Ecology on water rule: Let them eat fish**


The proposed standards, foreshadowed by Inslee in July and released Sept 29, are intended to reduce pollution discharged into waterways by cities and businesses that have permits.

The connection between the new standards and agricultural practices are "weak at best," said Kelly Susewind, special assistant to Ecology Director Maia Bellon.

Read the entire story here.

**Inslee adviser gets frosty reception from carbon tax skeptics**


At a meeting this week in Pasco, the governor's policy director, Matt Steuernwalt, briefed the Energy, Environment and Telecommunications Committee on the possible consequences of taxing greenhouse gases.

He said lawmakers can expect a specific proposal in mid-December when Inslee rolls out his two-year budget proposal.

Read the full story here.