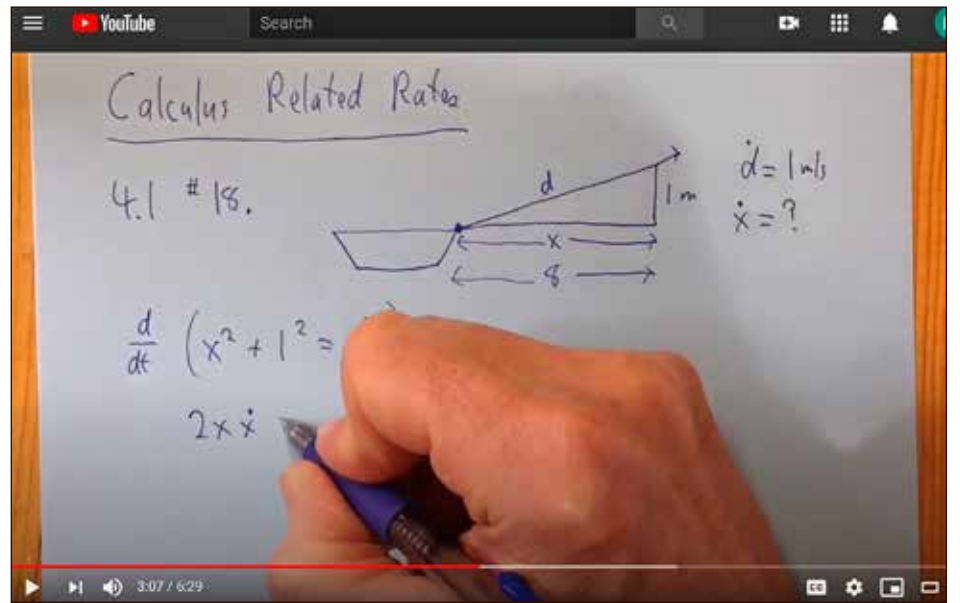




Submitted photos

CSD made Wi-Fi hotspots available to students at picnic tables outside every school.



CHS teacher, Dayle Massey has created many Youtube videos like this one going over calculus and physics problems for his students to view.

Teaching in the time of Coronavirus

BY MARLENE FARRELL

Before the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent closure of schools, teachers in Cascade School District (CSD) had familiarity with some online platforms, like Teams and Remind, but now many rely heavily on them, as well as Zoom for virtual meetings and Canvas for uploading assignments and homework.

Teachers have been provided some training, and all of a sudden, it's become foundational to the way they interact," said Superintendent Tracey Beckendorf-Edou.

When schools closed, teachers everywhere had to devise a plan in mere days. "Staff share files with each other in order to provide transparency, support and alignment. We're learning how to communicate with

parents and students in this new reality, and we still have some bumps in the road around communication," acknowledged Beckendorf-Edou.

Continuous learning – looks different at each age level, with upper grades utilizing online tools the most. For K through second grade students, Beckendorf-Edou said, "We are choosing to provide the foundation of

our learning through physical materials. We're doing a combination of online and paper packets at the third through fifth grade levels to support students who may not have internet."

Fifth grade teacher Andrea Nilles hosts virtual lessons in math, English language arts and social studies each weekday morning. "Our afternoon session is used for remediation or enrichment," Nilles said. "We also use Zoom to foster community such as sharing our pets, introducing family members, sharing a piece of art, anything that provides connections."

Without full participation, the gap in learning between students might grow large over the coming weeks. "I get anywhere from 65%-70% of my students on our morning Zoom lessons each day, with another 10% responding to Teams posts or emails," Nilles admitted. Teachers and support staff, however, are calling and emailing students who are absent from online sessions



Cascade School District Tracey Beckendorf-Edou

sto help resolve issues.

It's noteworthy that CSD has accumulated a large inventory of laptop computers over the past few years.

In response to the pandemic, the district quickly got those into the hands of students. At last count, 262 laptops went home with students and a few staff. The next challenge lies with

helping students who have inadequate internet service be able to see and fulfill assignments.

"We have picnic tables outside our school buildings where they can access Wi-Fi while still respecting social distancing," said Beckendorf-Edou. This represents

What is meant by "Continuous Learning?"

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), which guides all school districts in Washington State, explains on its website,

"The term 'continuous learning' means establishing and maintaining connections with students and families to provide learning materials and supports using a variety of modalities (e.g., email, phone, printed learning materials, and available online platforms)."

The OSPI created a Continuous Learning 2020 guiding publication with information and resources for administrators and teachers. It states: "The needs of students for supports from schools during this time

will vary. Some are feeling very alone, and outreach from educators will help them feel connected. Some may need assistance with shelter, food, or other needs; and contact from educators may be critical in order to coordinate the necessary school and community supports.

"What schools and communities will need during this time in order to meet both basic and learning needs will also vary – flexibility and communication are key. In order for educators to collaborate and plan ways to meet student learning needs and support student well-being, districts must ensure educator needs are also being met.

SEE CONTINUOUS LEARNING ON PAGE 5

More testing, new visitor restrictions, some funding arrives

Cascade Medical update

SUBMITTED BY RACHEL HANSEN CM MEDIA

LEAVENWORTH – As of April 17, Cascade Medical has sent 82 tests for COVID-19. So far, 76 results were negative, and four are pending. Two positive results were announced March 24.

We are still seeing a steady number of respiratory patients, an average of three per day. We've set up a treatment area separate from everyday medical care as a safety precaution.

We received more testing kits from Chelan-Douglas Public Health last week, which will allow us to test more people who have symptoms associated with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough and difficulty breathing).

Cascade Medical offers two kinds of tests, one for severe COVID-19 cases, and one for patients who have symptoms but don't need to be admitted into the hospital. We're continuing to search for more testing kits.

Increasing testing capacity is a high priority.

The Financial Impact
The COVID-19 pandemic presents a tough challenge for hospitals. Expenses have increased, while at the same time, many preventative and non-urgent services had to be postponed.

At Cascade Medical, we anticipate a \$1 million shortfall in revenue from mid-March to May 1. We received \$400,000 from the federal CARES act, which will help.

Our Board of Commissioners held a special meeting Tuesday (4/21) to approve participation in a Federal paycheck protection program that will allow us to keep our staff whole through the end of June.

For the long-term sustainability, we're working on funding opportunities. We have plans to reopen services in tandem with state Department of Health guidelines. In the meantime, we launched a new telehealth program that allows patients to visit with their

primary care team, including teletherapy with Psychologist Maxwell Moholy.

New Visitor and Guest Restrictions
To ensure the safety of our patients and staff, Cascade Medical will limit the number of visitors and guests who accompany our patients during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Beginning April 8, patients may have one support person to accompany them during a scheduled appointment or emergency visit at Cascade Medical.

Every patient and guest entering our facility will be questioned regarding symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath. Anyone with these symptoms will be referred to a triage nurse for further evaluation. Please call ahead if you suspect you may have COVID-19, and we will arrange for treatment in a way that limits the spread of disease.

For the safety of our inpatients staying in the hospital, we request that visitors stay home until further notice. Visitors will only be



allowed under certain circumstances. Read more about exceptions to visitor restrictions at cascademedical.org.

Cascade Medical is a nonprofit, community-owned, critical access hospital that delivers extraordinary healthcare by taking more time with each patient and their families. Centered around primary care, the medical center also provides lab and screening services; physical, occupational and speech therapy; ambulance service; emergency and acute care, and inpatient rehabilitation.

During this difficult time support your neighbors

Most local businesses offer curbside service or delivery

Inside The ECHO this week		
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8 06805 93175 4

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www.leavenworthecho.com



Cascade Fire Department Chief Kelly O'Brien and his assistant, Stephanie Kuch accept delivery of 150 masks.



Retired General Mike Worden rallies his Rotary Club troops and volunteers to make face shields for hospitals and first responders in North Central Washington.



Submitted photos

Rotarians pack the masks and ship them to area hospitals.

Leavenworth Rotary manufactures face masks

By BILL FORHAN

There is a need for face shields in Central Washington. Thanks to the work being done by Leavenworth Rotary and some local volunteers.

One hundred masks have been given to Cascade Medical, 150 to 3 local fire districts and they plan to distribute a minimum of 210 masks to small north

central Washington hospitals/clinics by Monday. Confluence Hospital in Wenatchee has requested 200.

Since the effort began three nurses have joined the Rotarians to help construct and deliver the masks.

“They want to get their wards equipped and are very committed to this,

and with their exposure to patients, I cannot say no to their help,” says Mike Worden.

Coupled with my family and neighbors’ commitment and a new streamlined and simplified production process, we are on track to construct all of the masks with no additional help.

My son-in-law, Tom Mun-

son, has a computer that cuts a Mylar face shield every minute, we attach a pre-cut thick, forehead pad to the top of the Mylar shield and then tie an elastic band to holes on the top of each side of the shield. Assembly takes about 20-30 seconds per shield.

Worden expects to have all orders easily filled and mailed by Monday.

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Due to the COVID-19 virus, all churches in the Upper Valley have suspended Saturday and Sunday services, Sunday School and meetings.

Please call or email your church listed below if you need more information. May you take time to pray, rest, meditate and reflect during this time. Stay well, stay strong and stay informed.

UPPER VALLEY CHURCH GUIDE

New to our area? On vacation? These churches welcome you!

TO PLACE INFORMATION IN THE CHURCH GUIDE CALL 548-5286

CASHMERE

CASHMERE BAPTIST CHURCH

103 Apiets Way • 782-2869
Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.
Bible Study, Wed., 7 p.m.
Pastor Bob Bauer

Find us on Facebook at Cashmere Baptist Church

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

303 Maple Street • 782-2431
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke
www.cashmerepres.org

CASHMERE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

213 S. Division • 782-3811
Worship & Sunday School at 11:00 a.m.
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Pastor Lilia Felicitas - Malana

CHRIST CENTER

Cashmere Assembly of God • 509-782-2825
Worship Services are available ONLINE ONLY at 10 a.m. Sundays
All updates on COVID-19 can be found at christcentercashmere.com/cc-updates
Underground High School Group, ONLINE ONLY at 6 p.m. Sundays
Lead Pastor, Steve Haney
Children's Pastor, Andy Robinson
Congregation Care Pastor, Joyce Williams
Director of Operations, Pastor Ian Ross
High School Director, Steffanie Haney

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Vine & Elberta Streets • 860-0736
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Robert Gohl

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

222 Cottage Ave. • 782-1590
Holy Eucharist 9 a.m.
5th Sunday Morning Prayer 9 a.m.
Deacon Carol Forhan - 670-1723
Vicar Rob Gohl - Cell - 860-0736

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

5837 Evergreen Drive • 782-1662
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Service - 6:00 p.m.
Pastor John Smith www.christforcashmere.org

DRYDEN

DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH

Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. • 782-2935
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bergland

MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 782-2616
Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Pastor Mike Moore
www.midvalleybaptist.org

LEAVENWORTH

CASCADE MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

“Where God’s Word Remains The Pillar Of Truth”
11025 Chumstick Hwy. • 548-4331
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
AWANA (Youth Program) Weekly Bible Studies
Wednesday 6:30 p.m. (school year)
Pastor Todd James
www.cmchurch.org

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST

418 Evans Street • Leavenworth
509-548-5619 • Rev. Matt Gorman
Sunday service 10 a.m.
www.leavenworthumc.org

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

Leavenworth Grange Hall
621 Front St. • 548-0748
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

10170 Titus Rd. (across from middle school)
Church: 548-7667
Meetings: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA

“Reconciling Works Congregation”
224 Benton Street • 548-7010
Worship 9:30 a.m. w/coffee following
www.faithleavenworth.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAVENWORTH, SBC

429 Evans Street, 509- 470-7745
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM
Website: www.leavenworthbaptist.com
Email: info@leavenworthbaptist.com

LEAVENWORTH CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

111 Ski Hill Drive • 548-5292
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Lead Pastor: Andy Dayton
Youth Pastor, Kent Wright
www.LCN.org

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

10800 Ski Hill Drive • 548-4345
Saturday Services
Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.
Fred Smith • 860-3997

SPIRIT LIFE CENTER

210 Benton Street • 548-7138
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Prayer 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Russell Esparza

MONITOR

MONITOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Church Service & Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Lilia Felicitas - Malana

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Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Pastor John Romine
www.lightinthevalley.org

PESHASTIN ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Bible Adventures for kids at 10 a.m. sharp
Pastor Jorge Torres

NEW LIFE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

7591 Hwy. 97 • 548-4222
Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.
Pastors, Darryl and Mindy Wall
Email: newlifeleavenworth@gmail.com
FB page: newlifeleavenworth
www.newlifeleavenworth.com



Health

Help to Relieve Dry Eyes

Due to the COVID-19 coronavirus, I wear a surgical mask every minute while at work, putting in on as I step out of my car into the clinic parking lot and keeping it on until I am safely in my car on my way home.

The only time we are allowed to remove our masks during our day is when eating or drinking.

After hours of exhaling into my surgical mask, my eyes get tired and feel like they have little bits of sand in them.

A common cause of dry eye is exposure to windy, dusty, or smoky conditions.

Another trigger is taking medicines that interfere with making saliva and tear fluids, especially bladder control medicines, older antihistamines, antidepressants, and heart medicines.

Tears help keep eyes healthy by keeping the surface of your eye moist, lubricating the inside of your eyelids, and helping wash dust and foreign objects away.

We make about 1ml (one-quarter teaspoonful) of tears every day.

While most tear fluid evaporates directly from your eye, excess moisture can drain out through little holes in the inner corners of your eye called puncta.

Some diseases like Sjogren's syndrome cause dry mouth as well as dry eyes.

Parkinson's disease can cause you to blink less frequently, reducing the lubricating effect of your tears.

Bell's palsy is a temporary paralysis of the face, often affecting eye muscles and can prevent an eye from closing all the way, allowing more tear fluid to evaporate.

Some strategies that can help relieve dry eye include keeping yourself hydrated, increasing the humidity of your environment, eliminating medications that are causing discomfort, taking Omega-3 fatty acids, and using eye lubricant drops and ointments.

If you are on a medication that you suspect may be causing your eyes to be dry, contact your doctor and ask if you can either have a trial off of it or switch to another medicine.

Avoid dry, dusty conditions, and consider using a humidifier.

People who wear protective face masks may notice that their glasses fog up when they breathe out.

To keep that to a minimum, when wearing a surgical mask, put it on so that the metal strip is across the top edge.

Pinch that strip in so that the metal edge hugs your nose and upper cheeks.

This helps direct your exhaling breaths out through the sides of your mask instead of the top, preventing your glasses from getting fogged up.

After I had LASIK surgery 20 years ago to correct my vision, they told me that I would probably need eye drops for the rest of my life.

After carrying around a bottle of eye drops every-

where, I tried taking fish oil with Omega-3 fatty acids, which worked great and was far more convenient. Fish oil and flaxseed are good sources of Omega-3 fatty acids.

When choosing an eye drop for dry eye, consider how much lubrication you need.

The more viscous the eye drop, the more lubricating it is, but also the more clumpy residue they will leave on your eyelashes.

Most eye drops contain a preservative to discourage infections. Those that don't are sold in single-use containers and are significantly more expensive.

During the years that I wore contact lenses, I developed a sensitivity to two common preservatives used in contact lens solutions and lubricating eye drops: benzalkonium chloride and parabens.

"Disappearing preservatives" are now widely available, which break apart when they come in contact with tear fluid.

Ask...

Dr. Louise



I find eye ointments very soothing, but because they make my vision blurry, I only use them at bedtime.

Here are 7 Tips to Help Relieve Dry Eye Symptoms:

1. Hydrate and humidify your surroundings. Make sure you drink enough water and avoid dry and dusty conditions. Consider using a humidifier indoors.

2. Check your medicines. Tell your doctor about your dry eye symptoms and ask if any of your medications could be the cause.

3. Try Omega-3 fatty acids. Fish oil, flaxseed, and other Omega-3 supplements may relieve dry eye symptoms.

4. Use just one drop. Adding more than one eye drop at a time only forces the extra out of your

eye, wasting it.

5. Keep it clean. Always wash your hands before using eye drops, and keep uncapped tips from touching any surfaces.

6. Choose eye drops with disappearing preservatives. Disappearing preservatives are much less irritating than benzalkonium chloride, EDTA, or parabens.

7. Consider using eye ointment at bedtime. Bedtime is the best time to use eye ointment because it blurs your vision.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy is a 40-year veteran of pharmacology and author of **Why Dogs Can't Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely.** Check out her NEW website *TheMedicationInsider.com* for daily tips on how to take your medicine safely.
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WE'RE PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM Coronavirus

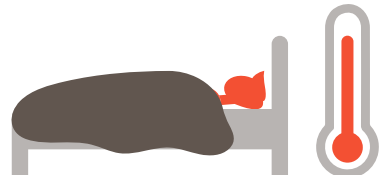


Stay Home - Stay Healthy - Stay Safe:

Monitor daily for fever, cough, and shortness of breath.



Isolate yourself if you are sick.



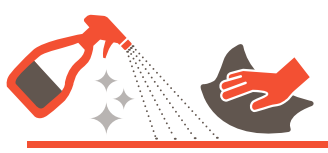
Wash your hands frequently with soap and water.



Use a 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.

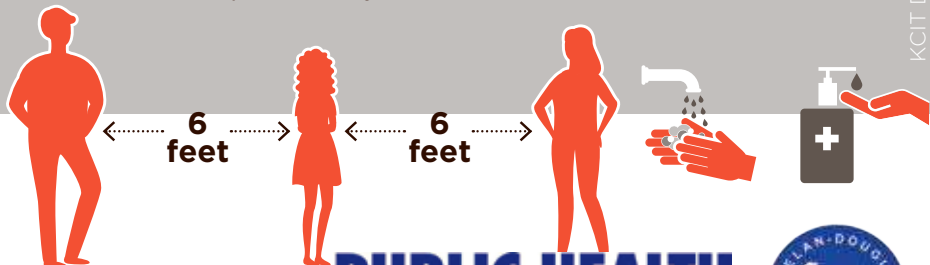


Clean and sanitize common areas.



Please help in protecting everyone:

- If you have a cough, fever, or shortness of breath, please stay home.
- Stay 6 feet away from others if you are out in public.
- If you are at high risk for Coronavirus, please stay home.
- Wash/sanitize hands often.



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PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITY



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215 14th St., P.O. Box 39
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Phone: 509-548-5286
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Circulation

1-509-293-6780
circulation@lakechelanmirror.com

DEADLINES:

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The Leavenworth Echo welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be accompanied by the author's name, a home address and a daytime phone number (for verification purposes only). Letters may be edited for length, clarity, accuracy and fairness. No letter will be published without the author's name. Thank you letters will only be printed from non-profit organizations and events. We will not publish lists of businesses, or lists of individual names. Email your letters to echo@leavenworthecho.com.

Corrections

The Leavenworth Echo regrets any errors. If you see an error, please call 509-548-5286. We will publish a correction on this page in the next issue.

The Leavenworth Echo (USPS 308 160) is published every Wednesday by NCW Media, Inc. 215 14th St., Leavenworth, WA Telephone: 509-548-5286. Fax: 509-548-4789. Periodical postage paid at Leavenworth, Wash. (and additional mailing offices) Postmaster: Send address corrections to: The Leavenworth Echo, P.O. Box 39, Leavenworth, WA 98826-0039

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Schools

Wi-Fi Access Points in Cascade School District

SUBMITTED BY JULIE WINTERS
DISTRICT ASSESSMENT COORDINATOR

Cascade School District has issued hundreds of laptops home to students in order to help students access remote learning during the extended school building closure. The continuous learning model includes many modalities of learning, including online, telephone, and paper packet support. Nevertheless, the online portion is important, not only for instruction, but also to give students access to teachers and to other students via virtual communities and exchanges.

Cascade School District is very large geographically, and extends upwards to Stevens Pass, Blewett Pass, and includes the communities of Plain, Lake Wenatchee, Merritt, Peshastin, Dryden and Leavenworth. Cascade has made Wi-Fi available outside of each school building in Leavenworth, Peshastin and Plain.

Cascade School District would like to thank LocalTel, InvestED, 59er Diner, the Ponderosa Community Club, the ValleyHi Community Club, the Cascade Education Foundation, and Take a Break Café for their support in providing Wi-Fi to students in the ValleyHi, Ponderosa, Cole's Corner and Dryden communities. In all cases, students must respect social distancing guidelines when using Wi-Fi access points.

LocalTel Communications has been

locally owned and serving homes and businesses in the Columbia Basin since 1982. They graciously set up a Wi-Fi access point in the ValleyHi Park by working with the ValleyHi Community Club.

LocalTel installed equipment in order to be able to provide twenty free vouchers for students to access the internet for 70 days with a download speed of 6000 Kbps, upload speed of 1000 Knps, and byte quota of 75000 Mbytes. Dimitri Mandelis, President of LocalTel Communications said, "We're happy to help during this time."

InvestED is a nonprofit dedicated to impacting the lives of students in need. InvestED is partnering with schools across Washington State, including Cascade School District, through allocating funds based on the student population size and percentage of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. Cascade School District received \$553 from InvestED and used that money alongside funding from the Cascade Education Foundation to purchase an AT&T hotspot, which was just installed at the Dryden Softball Field. Another hotspot will be installed at Take a Break Café in Dryden.

The 59er Diner and the Ponderosa Community Club have also generously allowed students to access Wi-Fi at their locations in Cole's Corner and Plain, respectively. Please see cascadesd.org for a comprehensive list of Wi-Fi access points available

to students.

Cascade School District would also like to thank North Central Educational Service District (NCESD) Technology Department, the Cascade School District Technology and Facilities Departments, and parent volunteer Kevin Farrell for their hard work in bringing Wi-Fi access to students.

As Cascade Superintendent Dr. Tracey

Beckendorf-Edou commented, "Cascade School District is a mountainous district with many students who live in remote areas.

Every student deserves a great education, and this team effort will allow more students to have more access, not only to continuous learning, but also to support from the great Cascade staff and classmates."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Teaching in the time of Coronavirus

part of the district's plan to build more hotspots for students to access a strong signal. Currently there are twelve locations with a few more on the way.

Teachers have put in long hours redesigning curriculum.

Molly Ravits teaches Integrated Physics and Chemistry and Biology at CHS, and when asked what she needed to redesign, Ravits said, "Literally everything. As a science teacher, I depend on labs to help students learn concepts. I also depend on daily collaboration and discourse between students."

Students and teachers alike are learning on the fly what works and what doesn't.

"Teaching biomolecules and cellular respiration has been easier than I thought, but teaching molecular bonding and chemical reactions has been difficult," said Ravits.

Dayle Massey teaches only college credit math and science classes, and thus faces unique challenges. "I had to fill out forms to ensure the universities that I had a plan to adequately cover the required curriculum and maintain rigor," said Massey.

Massey is a fan of some of the technology. "Remind is nice, because you don't need internet access to use

it; it can be done completely with regular cell phone reception, using no or minimal data," Massey said.

He also creates short YouTube videos to go over basic concepts and show how to solve example problems.

However, online teaching of complex concepts doesn't match the classroom teaching. "Sometimes it will take us an hour or more to thoroughly solve a single math or physics problem in class due to questions." That simply can't be recreated online.

Teachers are taking it week by week, and look toward next year with mixed emotions.

"Teenagers are resilient and really good at adapting and learning," said Ravits. "So, I'm hopeful they'll help us all heal!"

"This shutdown will have an effect on academics, but I'm not going to worry about that right now," said Nilles. "I just want these kids to feel connected, empowered and loved."

While the staff at CSD are making the most of this difficult situation, many would agree with Massey, who said, "Online instruction can work, but it's a poor substitute for the face-to-face rapport that is so important for motivation and learning."

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

What is meant by "Continuous Learning?"

"Districts will consider what tools, resources, and technologies students can access or if they have access at all. To meaningfully access learning opportunities, some students will need additional supports and accommodations..."

"Equity barriers should not prevent schools from offering educational pro-

grams and these exceptional circumstances may affect how all educational and related services and supports are provided."

Thus, the State's mandate expects and allows for some flexibility of interpretation from district to district, as they address the needs of their specific student population.



Special Education During School Closures

Students who have an Individual Education Program (IEP) receive daily or weekly intervention from district staff. During this time of remote learning, that assistance must still occur, even though it's more difficult without face-to-face time.

Brett Johnson, CSD's Director of Special Education, along with the extensive support staff of the district, has now reached out to every IEP student's family. They've been going down the list and made phone calls, sent emails and Remind texts and held Zoom meetings.

Johnson has been on conferences calls through the North Central Educational Service District (NCESD), which covers Chelan, Grant, Douglas and Okanogan Counties. "We're ahead of some other places," he said. Cascade has a smaller population size, making it nimble to be able to reach out to every single student.

Also, its proactive approach to the "continuous learning" directive, has meant staff have a better understanding of how students are doing and what their needs are.

Special education teachers are encouraging time for artistic pursuits and life skills like cooking while students are home.

They share Youtube videos of reading aloud. For elementary students, there are grade level small sessions that meet weekly. For all the outreach, there's not 100% engagement.



Brett Johnson, Director of Special Education for Cascade School District

Johnson noted that when it became clear that school would not be resuming this spring, the district noticed a bump up in interest in services requested, including breakfast and lunch drop offs, number of borrowed computers and education involvement.

However, after the scheduled spring break, teachers have observed a dip in engagement as demonstrated by lower Zoom meeting attendance and assignments coming in late. Expectations are hard to enforce; motivation is hard to instill.

Additionally, staff are trying to be sensitive to the fact that this is a stressful time for all right now, given health and safety concerns and the financial stress that many are facing.

North Central Regional Library

SUBMITTED BY
MICHELLE MCNIEL
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

While its libraries are closed, North Central Regional Library has added some new online features to bring the library to more people.

Some of the new and expanded services include:

- A new eCard for people who live in North Central Washington but can't go to a library right now to get a physical library card. The eCard grants access to all of NCRL's online resources, including ebooks, audiobooks, digital magazines, streaming services for TV shows, movies, and music, language learning sites, and digital access to newspapers including the New York Times and Seattle Times.

- Increased numbers of ebooks, eaudiobooks, music, and movies that can be borrowed or streamed at one time.

- Designated times when people can either live-chat online or call library staff to get answers to questions

and help using online resources. Live-chat for general questions is available at ncrl.org weekdays from 9-11a.m., and phone support for online resources is available by calling 509-888-8155 weekdays from 1-3p.m.

- Sharing story time videos, DIY STEM projects, readers advisory, health and wellness information, homeschool ideas, and other online resources on social media and their website.

"We are absolutely committed to continuing to support our communities, even with our facilities closed to the public," said NCRL Executive Director Barbara Walters.

"Our digital resources are always available, and we are continuing to expand these services and make them easier to access for everyone."

Sign up for the eCard and find online resources at www.ncrl.org, and check out videos and other information on the North Central Regional Library Facebook and Instagram

sites. New content is being posted daily.

A team of library staff are working from their homes during the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order to create new digital content. For example, bilingual outreach and children's services staff are making story time videos, and STEM librarians are posting ideas for projects that can be done with items found around the home. Staff are also posting information on how to keep your book club active, how-to videos for navigating online resources, weekly tips and resources, and even some ideas for engaging teens. Check NCRL's website and Facebook page daily for new ideas!

"I am so impressed with the dedication, creativity, and hard work that our library staff has been demonstrating in service to our communities under these difficult and rapidly-changing circumstances," Walters added. "If it can be done, it's being planned and being done."



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Opinions

Market experts agree: Stay the course

Despite the free fall of stock values in recent weeks, several local Wenatchee New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) experts agree - long term, stocks will recover, so "stay the course."

The Market has survived all previous epidemics and pandemics over the last four decades, according to any measure.

Coronavirus has crippled the professional sports industry, Ford, Chrysler, GM production has been halted, Town Toyota Center, Numerica and many other local venues have canceled or postponed events for the foreseeable future.

The financial experts NCW Media has spoken to are reluctant to give their names or their company's names as not every organization wants to be libel should this history of structural integrity reverse itself and some litigious Market losers try to sue them.

At the end of February,



GARY BÉGIN
Managing Editor

Robert J. Shiller, a Nobel Prize winning economist said, "The notion of a pandemic is pretty scary to people, and they're going to hunker down and ... that suggests a very small impact on the market."

Shiller, who predicted the 2000 market collapse and the housing crisis that led to the Great Recession, says he believes there's a less than 50 percent chance of a recession next year.

Since 1980, the world has experienced HIV/AIDS (1980s), Pneumonic Plague (1994), SARS (2003), Avian (bird) Flu (2006), Dengue Fever (2006), H1N1 (Swine Flu) (2009), Cholera (2010), MERS (2013), Ebola (2014),

Measles (2014), Zika virus (2016) and Measles again (2019).

Out of all of these diseases, only the first listed, HIV/AIDS in the 1980s, showed a dip in the Market (-16.5%) over a 12-month period and that negative showing wasn't repeated until the first Measles outbreak in 2014 where the Market only fell -0.7% over 12 months.

Over these last 40 years, the average price return over 12 months was 13.6% with a high of 36% during the Swine Flu of 2009.

The lowest positive gain over a 12 month period was in 2010 during the Cholera outbreak where the return was a paltry 5.6%.

"Just as the market can become overwhelmed with greed, it can also succumb to fear. When stocks suffer large losses for a sustained period, investors can collectively become fearful of further losses, so they start to sell. This, of course, has the self-fulfilling effect of

ensuring that prices fall further," according to Investopedia as written on its website in January.

All of this turmoil begs the simple question: Should I buy stocks when market crashes?

"During a stock market crash, almost everything heads lower. ... Buy stocks with staying power while they're undervalued. If you're interested in a long term buy-and-hold strategy, a stock market crash can be especially helpful. Not only is everything on sale, but you can find value stocks with staying power," states usnews.com in an article entitled "5 Reasons a Market Crash is the perfect time to buy" - in "the smarter mutual fund investor."

Another question: Why the market is crashing?

"Crashes generally occur at the end of an extended bull market. That's when irrational exuberance or greed has driven stock prices to unsustainable

levels. At that point, the prices are above the real worth of the companies as measured by earnings. The price-to-earnings ratio is higher than the historical averages," states thebalance.com.

As always, if you are reading this, your specific stock position should be analyzed by a professional financial advisor.

This brief article is not meant as financial advice, but as a news article about statistics over the last 40 years and opinions since the Coronavirus outbreak that began in January and has led up to a national emergency as declared by President Trump.

Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin stated last week the unemployment rate may reach 20 percent until this emergency is under control.

Governor Jay Inslee has ordered all restaurants and bars closed.

Two hospital ships are

being deployed, one for each coast, to decrease the burden on hospitals that are trying to cope with the pandemic and "everyday" patient care, which will be sent to the ships.

President Trump stated emphatically in a half dozen news conferences over a span of at least a week, that the market and the economy will rebound and reach even higher levels than it already has before the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Canadian and American governments have agreed to close the borders to all non-essential traffic.

Most airlines have sharply curtailed service and cruise ships have also canceled most cruises.

Government offices and schools, for the most part, have closed or gone to skeleton staffing.

This health and economic crisis is in an ever-changing state of flux so for the most up to date health information, contact any of the websites in the side bar for up-the-minute information.

PUD Commissioners Postpone Rate Increases

SUBMITTED BY
KIMBERLEE CRAIG

WENATCHEE - Chelan County PUD commissioners on Monday unanimously voted to delay for six months the adopted rate increase that was scheduled to go into effect on June 1.

The action means residential electric, water and wastewater rates stay the same until Dec. 1, 2020. The wholesale fiber rate increase also is postponed for six months. The PUD also extended no shutoffs of utility service and waiving late fees through the end of July 2020.

Customers facing financial setbacks are encouraged to call the PUD to make payment arrangements. Residential customers also can apply with Community Action for help from federal aid.

PUD Helping Hand funds from customer donations also can help individuals, said John Stoll, Customer Utilities managing director.

Staff members reported that a large number of individuals and small businesses are suffering economic harm as a result of COVID-19.

State and federal aid is on the way, but response

may take time due to high demand, said Andrew Grassell, energy development and conservation manager.

The PUD's policy of no cutoffs or late fees should help people who are waiting for the federal assistance to arrive.

The PUD is considering whether to expand assistance for individuals. The Helping Hand account for residential customers is well-funded, but more funds may be needed, or the PUD may need to set up an alternative account using District funds.

The PUD also is considering whether to initiate a financial assistance program for commercial businesses.

"We have a long road ahead of us and talking about what we can do as a utility in Chelan County to work with customer-owners in the best way we can," said Commissioner Randy Smith.

Board members agreed that potential actions should focus on making an impactful and meaningful difference to community members in need while ensuring fair access across the county.

New programs must be within the PUD's legal au-

thority, maintain a commitment to the adopted financial metrics and be implemented at a time that makes a difference they said.

Commissioners encouraged further exploration of:

- A program to support small business impacted by COVID-19
- Increasing the Helping Hand program scope, or developing a new program to help more individuals facing hardships from COVID-19

"I think we're moving in the right direction," said Commissioner Dennis Bolz.

"Ultimately, we want to identify the nexus of what we're allowed to do with what we need to do."

Senior managers also reported on key projects that may not get done due to the COVID-19 response.

Among those are developing technology roadmaps called for in the strategic plan and increasing hydro system reliability by returning more units to service.

Work in dam powerhouses is four to six weeks behind schedule, said Kirk Hudson, Generation and Transmission managing director.

The technology roadmap project is delayed because it involves staff across the District, who are now responding to pandemic issues, said Kelly Boyd, chief financial/risk officer.

Public Power Benefit fiber expansion also is paused as crews focus on keeping the core network running to meet increased use as many customers work from home and students must do schoolwork online, said Mike Coleman, Fiber and Telecom managing director.

Senior managers noted that with many PUD employees working at home or on staggered shifts there is an impact on productivity even as employees keep

essential utility services available and reliable.

In a related report, commissioners heard that power use in the county has declined up to 12 percent since early March when the governor put the "stay home/stay healthy" order in place.

In other business, commissioners:

1. Heard that financial markets have stabilized, offering the opportunity to secure savings on financing costs by issuing low-cost bonds as authorized by commissioners on March 30.

Heather Irelan, lead treasury analyst reported that the PUD's strong finances earned the new issue AA+

ratings from both S&P and Fitch.

Chelan PUD is one of the top-rated customer-owned utilities in the nation. Local residents interested in purchasing bonds can find details on the Finance page of the PUD's website.

2. Received an update on permits needed for construction of the new Service Center in Olds Station. Dan Frazier, District Services director, also showed concept drawings for possible trail connections, Wenatchee River access and an interpretive site nearby.

3. Rescheduled the board workshop to 9 a.m. on May 13 at Confluence Technology Center, 285 Technology Way.



We all need to be reminded to say "Thank you" to all those in the front lines working to keep us safe and healthy, in everyday health and now especially during this time of the COVID-19 Virus.

Nurses Week is May 6-12

Need A Card of Thanks ? Have a name but no address to send a card? Call us and we will make an ad for you with a name of a nurse that you would like to say "Thank you" to.

Deadline:
April 30 for May 6 issues
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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As constituents of the Buckle of the Power Belt of the Great Northwest, we should have keen interest in the re-negotiation of the Columbia River Treaty.

The agreement with Canada is crucial to our Northwest economy and especially to Chelan County P.U.D. ratepayers.

Keepers of the Buckle need eyes and ears focused on the U. S. State Department negotiations with the Canadians.

If you care, here is the State Department website: www.state.gov/columbia-river-treaty or call Doug Walker, U. S. State Department.

Tell him we're watching.

Joe Bissonette
Cashmere, Washington

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Applications and job description are available at cityofbrewsterwashington.org, by calling (509) 689-3464, or picking up at Brewster City Hall.
Applications accepted until position is filled, preferably by April 17, 2020. EOE

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AHEAD DOE ASCOT
FERNY LIVE LEACH
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PUBLIC NOTICES
SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR CHELAN COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of **ROBERT MILES**, Deceased
NO. 20-4-00094-04
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: April 15, 2020

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Personal Representative: Michael Miles
Attorney For Personal Representative: David Visser
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23 South Wenatchee Avenue Suite 320 Wenatchee, WA 98801
COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS AND CAUSE NUMBER: Chelan County Superior Court, No. 20-4-00094-0 OVERCAST LAW OFFICES
By: David Visser, WSBA No. 41546 Attorney for Personal Representative
Published in The Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on April 15, 22, and 29, 2020 #87639

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PUBLIC NOTICES
CITY OF LEAVENWORTH
On the 14th day of April, 2020, the City Council of the City of Leavenworth, Washington passed the following ordinance. A summary of the contents provides as follows:
Ordinance 1611: An ordinance of the City of Leavenworth, WA, amending certain revenue and expenditure appropriations in the 2019-2020 budget and ordinance #1579 for the City of Leavenworth.
A copy of the full text of the ordinance is available at Leavenworth City Hall or will be mailed to you upon your request to Chantell R. Steiner, Finance Director/ City Clerk, City of Leavenworth, PO Box 287, Leavenworth, WA 98826.
Published in The Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on April 22, 2020. #87648

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of: **Fred W. Hackney**, Deceased
No. 20-4-01707-5 SEA
Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030)
The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate assets and non-probate assets. DATE OF FILING WITH COURT: March 12th, 2020.
/s/ Robert M. Sifferman
Personal Representative
Attorney for Estate
Robert M. Sifferman
Address 2155- 112th Avenue NE Bellevue, WA 98004
Telephone (425) 454-5829
Published in The Cashmere Valley Record/ Leavenworth Echo on April 15, 22, and 29, 2020. #87635

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ACROSS

- "All Baba and the Forty ____," sing.
- Eureka!
- Schools of thought
- Sound of artillery
- Car nut
- Without illumination
- Nosey one
- Kind of trip?
- Lasso loop
- "Little Women's" mom
- "Tracee Ellis Ross on TV
- o' shanter
- Quitter's word
- Like a fiddle?
- Like Charles Dickens' Tim
- Quarantine state
- "Egyptian goddess of fertility
- Insane, in Spain
- Mother or daughter, in Italy
- "Biblical Rebecca's son
- Online reviews
- Research facil.
- Fisherman's decoys
- Daytime entertainment
- Furniture wood
- End of the road, pl.
- Blatant promotion
- Swedish shag rug
- Yours and mine
- Little squirt
- "Mother's mom
- "She fought for Mother's Day, then against it
- In advance
- "Bambi's mom
- Fancy tie
- Less than fernier
- I have
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- Kitchen meas. 2. Stay out of its way!
- Pelvic parts
- Tennis great Chris
- Particular arrangement
- Away from wind
- "Mother's favorite gift?"
- Ancient marketplace
- Part of a scheme
- No neatnik
- Sushi restaurant soup
- One-pot meal
- Like the States
- "One of the Gilmore girls
- Hill dweller
- One-eyed giants
- "She played Forrest Gump's mother
- May edition, e.g.
- "Worn atop the Queen Mother
- Denials
- Nike's "Just _____"
- Private
- "Take it back!"
- "Mother in Kraków
- Lard cousin
- October birthstone
- Plural of sputum
- Rundown
- Bottom line
- Kind of ungulate, pl.
- Where you'll find AM
- Living room centerpiece?
- Gamecock's spur
- "Greek goddess of fertility
- Bald eagle's nest
- "Mums' mums
- Opposite of cheer
- International Civil Aviation Org.
- Puppet precursor, possibly
- "Female gametes
- Café alternative

"Notice of Intent"
Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts
(P.O. Box 371) 5594 Wescott Dr. Cashmere, Washington 98815-0371
will be applying Copper Sulfate to their canals to remove algae and other aquatic vegetation starting as early as May 1, 2020 with the possibility of repeat treatments as often as every other week through Sept 15th 2020. For specific dates and locations of treatments please follow us on Facebook. Questions should be directed to the district manager at 782-2561 or DOE Central Regional Office at (509)454-7298.
Published in The Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on April 22, 2020. #87649

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR CHELAN COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of VICTORIA L. ROSENTRER, Deceased.

No. 20-4-00032-04

PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: April 22, 2020

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Michael W. Rosentreter

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Thomas D. Overcast

ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: OVERCAST LAW OFFICES

Attn: Thomas D. Overcast
23 South Wenatchee Avenue, Suite 320
Wenatchee, WA 98801
COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS AND CAUSE NUMBER: Chelan County Superior Court, No. 20-4-00032-04

Attorney for Estate:
Overcast Law Offices -
NCW, PLLC

By: /s/ Thomas D. Overcast,
WSBA No. 14486
Attorney for Personal Representative
Published in The Leavenworth Echo/Cashmere Valley Record on April 22, 29 and May 6, 2020. #87652

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CHELAN NO. 20-2-00073-04 SUMMONS

ROBISON ESTATE, LLC, a Washington limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF CALVIN RICHARDSON, deceased; THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF ELLA RICHARDSON, deceased; and ALL OTHER PERSONS OR PARTIES UNKNOWN, claiming any right, title, estate, lien or interest in the real estate described in the complaint herein,

Defendants.

STATE OF WASHINGTON to: THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF CALVIN RICHARDSON, deceased; THE HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF ELLA RICHARDSON, deceased; and ALL OTHER PERSONS OR PARTIES UNKNOWN:

You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 1st day of April, 2020, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Robison Estate, LLC, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for plaintiff Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward, P.S., by Michelle A. Green, at their office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court.

Under RCW 7.28.010, an action to quiet title may be maintained by any person in the actual possession of real property against the unknown heirs of a person known to be dead, or against any person where it is not known whether such person is dead or not, and against the unknown heirs of such person, and if it shall thereafter transpire that such person was at the time of commencing such action dead the judgment or decree in such action shall be as binding and conclusive on the heirs of such person as though they had been known and named.

DATED this 24th day of March, 2020,
JEFFERS, DANIELSON, SONN & AYLWARD, P.S.
By MICHELLE A. GREEN,
WSBA # 40077
Attorneys for Plaintiff
PO Box 1688
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1688
(509) 662-3685 / (509) 662-2452

Published in The Cashmere Valley Record/Leavenworth Echo on April 18, 15, 22, 29, and May 6, 2020. #87570

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Republicans introduce plan for 'safe' restart of economy

SUBMITTED BY WASHINGTON STATE GOP

OLYMPIA - Republicans in the state Senate and House of Representatives today shared the first plan for safely restarting Washington's economy while state government's response to the COVID-19 emergency continues.

"Employers across our state are looking to government for a strategy that starts to take the brake off the economy. Republicans have come through with a safe and reasonable approach for beginning the recovery," said Senate Republican Leader Mark Schoesler.

"We believe many sectors of our economy can operate safely, and employers have every incentive to take the precautions needed to guard the health of their workers and their customers. We trust that if they have an opportunity to open their doors, they'll make it work."

"Our state needs a com-

prehensive plan to restart its economy in ways that continue to emphasize the health of Washingtonians. No one has produced a plan until now," said House Republican Leader J.T. Wilcox.

"Republicans have been working over the last few weeks to come up with solutions. We know employers and workers need reassurance in these uncertain times. They need to know there's a plan for them to come back."

The Republican legislators' Safe Economic Restart Plan recommends three tiers of actions, starting with steps that may be authorized immediately by Governor Jay Inslee. They include:

- Convene a Restart Task Force comprising legislative leaders, relevant executive-branch directors and representatives of the business and organized-labor communities. This group will chart a course toward allowing all Washington businesses to reopen, on a

phased or limited basis as necessary, with COVID-19 protections for workers and customers in place.

- Allow operations to resume in economic sectors that fit one or more of these criteria: low-risk; personal health; environmental protection; aid to people who are elderly, physically challenged, or both; alternate quarantine locations; assisting businesses with tax-related requirements; and property protection. Examples are auto dealers, solo landscape services, car washes, remodeling companies and contractors, residential construction, hairdressers and barbers, flower shops, RV parks, dentists, installers of home and commercial security systems, and accountants and tax preparers.

- Fully disclose the "metrics" that must be met before the governor's March 23 stay-at-home proclamation, which closed more than 230,000 businesses abruptly, can be lifted or amended. Knowing the

standards will allow the people of Washington to act accordingly.

- Deliver on the massive testing capabilities promised by state health officials ahead of the business-closure order. Direct the appropriate state agencies to acquire antibody tests and work with employers to screen workers. Workers found to have the antibodies resulting from the COVID-19 infection will be immediately eligible for employment.

- Interface with the governor's Business Recovery Legislative Task Force and be prepared to support recommendations that are achievable, measurable and complementary.

- A moratorium on all state-agency rule-making not related to the current crisis. Rules are important, but at a time when many businesses are simply trying to survive, the making of new rules seems less than essential. Relief from rule-making goes hand-in-hand with relief

from taxes.

- Exempt small businesses from paying sales and business-and-occupation (B&O) taxes for one year.

- Offer state-government assistance to the many small businesses in Washington that do not qualify for federal emergency-assistance programs.

"We are looking forward to working with the governor and majority party to produce the best possible results for both our public health and our economic crisis," said Wilcox, R-Yelm.

"Republicans work for all of Washington, and we recognize how a strong economy makes for strong families and strong communities. Our state's economy was particularly strong before things caved in, and we believe it can get there again - and sooner if the governor and Legislature will support these very reasonable ideas," said Schoesler, R-Ritzville.

THE OUTDOOR REPORT

Boating, fishing and birdwatching

*Boating? Sure!
Fishing? Don't even think about it!*

BY JOHN KRUSE,
THE OUTDOOR REPORT

Washington is the first and only state to outlaw recreational fishing and spring hunting in an effort to combat the coronavirus pandemic. This was done to comply with Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" mandate emphasizing social distancing and discouraging travel away from home to limit the spread of COVID-19. With the arrival of mild spring weather though, boats of all types (motor powered, human powered and sailboats) have all been operating on waterways from area lakes to the Columbia River to Puget Sound.

I contacted the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife about the illogical stance of allowing recreational boating on our waterways but not fishing from those same boats. Carrie McCausland, the Public Affairs Director for WDFW, repeated the agency's stated reasons for the closure of fishing. As for boating, McCausland said, "Some decisions are within WDFW's authority, and some are not", indicating WDFW does not have the regulatory ability to open or close recreational boating.

The Governor's Office, however, certainly does. On April 6th Governor Inslee sent a letter to several Republican state representatives denying their request on behalf of anglers to reopen fishing. I contacted Jon Snyder, Governor Inslee's policy advisor on outdoor recreation, and asked him the same question about why recreational boating is allowed but fishing from boats is not. Snyder declined to answer my question about allowing one activity but not the other where the risk of spreading the coronavirus is exactly the same. Instead,

he sent me the same letter Governor Inslee sent to the concerned State Representatives two weeks ago outlining his reasons for keeping fishing closed.

As of mid-April, boating from open county and private access sites and launches remains permissible, but fishing is not. This is one of the reasons anglers planned protests for Saturday the 18th against Washington's "No Fishing" rule at several locations to include Columbia Point in Richland. An online petition by this same group, "Let us Fish" is also circulating on social media and increasing numbers of people are reaching out to their state representatives and senators as well as to WDFW and the Governor's Office asking them to open angling opportunities again.

We'll get an idea how successful these efforts are as we approach the end of WDFW's stated closure date of May 4th, at which point they promise to reassess this situation. It's also worth noting WDFW has convened meetings with select stakeholders trying to figure out how to open up fishing and hunting seasons again. It is possible everything will simply open up at once, the thinking being this will spread pressure evenly across the state. On the other hand, this action could result in a stampede to popular boat ramps, lakes, rivers and hunting areas which could trigger an immediate closure again. Other thoughts include a general opening but limitations on where you can fish or hunt, the thought being you would initially only do these activities in the county or region you live in to limit overcrowding.

At least there's backyard birding

Until we can go fishing and hunting again, or access our state lands and developed federal recreation sites to hike and camp, there's always backyard birding. It does provide some enjoyment and it's also a good way to sharpen your bird identification skills and maybe even your photographic prowess.



Courtesy John Kruse

Backyard house finch.

If you so desire you can do what I did last week. I set up a bird feeder, filled it with wild bird seed, set up a bird bath and for good mea-

sure, a bird house too!

So far, the bird house is not occupied but the bird feeder sure has been busy. The first birds to visit were

chickadees, followed by white crowned sparrows and house finches. Oregon juncos put in a daily appearance and on several occasions, I've seen nuthatches too. On top of this we've had some California valley quail in the cypress trees above the feeder and a pair of Eurasian collared doves that paid a visit on a recent morning to feed on the birdseed spilled onto the ground below the feeder.

Also seen in the backyard...Several neighborhood cats attracted to all the new bird activity. Fortunately, my springer spaniel Georgia loves to chase cats and has kept them from staying too close to the bird feeder.



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