

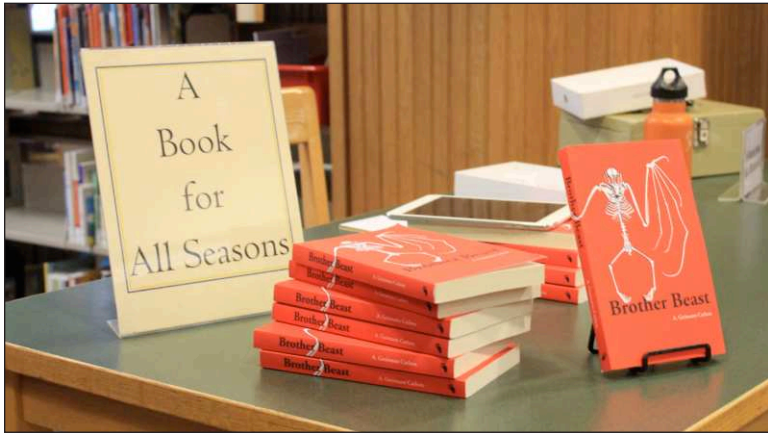
Chelan County PUD Board holds public hearing on bitcoin, block chain mining rates

See B1

AUGUST 15, 2018 • VOLUME 118, No. 33

UPPER VALLEY NEWS SINCE 1904

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Kalie Drago/NCW Media

Amy Carlson reads from her newest book "Brother Beast" at the Leavenworth Public Library on Thursday, Aug. 9.



Submitted by Reed Carlson

"It's always great when people meet the author. It can be exciting and nerve-racking."

Joanne Gembe, senior librarian
Leavenworth Public Library

Amy Carlson Book Launch

BY KALIE DRAGO
Echo Reporter

An evil dragon, a brother who is a bully and Chinese mythology are a few of the components that weave together the story line of the freshly published novel, "Brother Beast". Leavenworth resident, Amy Carlson, is the author. Carlson paired up with the Leavenworth Public Library to host a book launch for her new novel Thursday, August 9.

"It's always great when people meet the author," Joanne Gembe, senior librarian, said. "It can be exciting and nerve-racking."

The hour long, free event was an opportunity for Carlson to do a reading, answer readers' questions and the book was available for sale.

With a mythological world as the backdrop, the novel centers around main character, Teague, as he attempts to rescue his brother. Fueled

by action, fantasy and mythical elements, the story propels a young boy into an adventure where myth and two real kids intersect.

Surface level, the tale's format is in a mythical context. The fantasy driven plot unfolds to reveal Teague's adventure of saving his brother mirrors a journey of self reflection and grasping the meaning of compassion.

"It's a middle grade fantasy. The 11 year old protagonist enters a Chi-

nese mythological world to free his brother and also himself," Carlson said. "It's about recognizing the beast within yourself and the little guy is learning about compassion throughout the book."

"Brother Beast" hit bookshelves this summer and is Carlson's first fictional work. However, the novel isn't her debut into the literary world and she isn't a stranger to the Leavenworth arts community. Also known as her nickname, Dr. Fu, the

local author has done Avra Kedavra Kamp, Bear Run Antics, and a professor at Wenatchee Valley College. She has also published other non-fiction travel books.

"She is a great inspiration for young authors and she really supports the arts in this community," Gembe said.

Kalie Drago can be reached at reporter@leavenworthecho.com or 548-5286.

Cougar Creek Fire

BY KALIE DRAGO
Echo Reporter

According to a news release, as of Monday morning, the Cougar Creek Fire had reached up to 29,912 acres with 5 percent contained and personnel up to 1,151.

Fire growth continued into the evening Sunday, August 12, but fire fighting operations and favorable weather conditions stopped spot fires' progression within the Entiat River Valley.

In an effort to attack Cougar Creek Fire, personnel worked throughout Sunday night to strengthen fire lines and protect structures south of Stormy Creek and north of Mud Creek.

Monday's stable atmosphere made an ideal day to engage the fire directly. Smoke in the valleys was visible Monday with an inversion layer serving as a lid over the fire. The firefighting priorities were focused in the Entiat River Valley on Monday. On the east side, south of Tye Creek, in Stormy Creek and in Potato Creek, there was active fire. Fire fighting operations will also be placed near the southeast tip of the fire. To protect Plain, dozers will reinforce line around the southern and western perimeter.

There are evacuation notices in place:

Level 3: Means leave now – Entiat River Road north from Mad River Road to the end of Entiat River Road, Ardenvoir, and Mad River Road

Level 2: Means prepare to evacuate – Entiat River Road from Crum Canyon north to Ardenvoir and all of Crum Canyon Road

Level 1: Means be aware of a potential evacuation – Entiat River Road from 97A to Crum Canyon Road, Oklahoma Gulch Road, Navarre Coulee Road, from Hwy 97-ALT to South Lakeshore Road, Johnson Creek Road, and First Creek Road Check our website at LeavenworthEcho.com for updated fire reports from the Incident Command Center.

Kalie Drago can be reached at 548-5286 or reporter@leavenworthecho.com.

Teens Experiment With Alcohol Ink

BY KALIE DRAGO
Echo Reporter

Glue is sticky, colored pencils leave something to be desired and paint is permanent – from artist legends to toddlers still mastering the art of finger paint, many can attest that the process of creating art with irreversible materials can be frustrating. Alcohol ink is a medium that defies the intimidation of permanent paint strokes. The Leavenworth Library hosted Craft Night for Teens, Thursday, August 9, for a chance to try the forgiving alcohol ink.

Aspiring Van Goghs or teens' whose only muse was finding an indoor activity to hide from the summer heat; all children, ages 12 and up, were invited to Craft Night. Budding artists gathered to test out the method led by librarian, Lana Larson, who has experience with alcohol ink.

"It's (alcohol ink) foolproof," Larson said. "If you don't like what you've done, you can take a cotton ball and wipe clean."

Following a swift, but clear explanation of the seemingly simple process, everyone launched into wiping down their individual tile. The teens were instructed to use gloves and pick up the finished product tomorrow after drying overnight.

Using tiles as the canvas, the teens' were given the opportunity to create, erase and re-start their artwork. The first step was to cover the tile with rubbing alcohol and then drip the ink onto the tile. Some of the children eyed the rubbing alcohol curiously, one faceless voice rose above the others and compared the scent to the



Kalie Drago/NCW Media

Ella Stimmel, 12, uses the straw as a tool to create a pattern for her tile at the Leavenworth Library's Craft Night for Teens held on Thursday, Aug. 9.

doctor's office. Alcohol ink seemed to be a foreign product amongst the teens.

"This is the first time (using alcohol ink) and I'm so excited," Ella Stimmel, 12, said.

Straws, toothpicks and paintbrushes were used to take individual artistic liberties with swirling patterns. Several of the participants tapped into their creative side by blowing their breathe to create different designs. There was soft

chatter from the tables, comparing tiles and various methods to best formulate a pattern.

But the real magic was the ability to change the art at any time by applying rubbing alcohol to wipe down the tile and start over with a fresh canvas.

"You can be as creative as you want, if you don't like it you can clean it off and start all

SEE INK ON PAGE 2

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Inside The ECHO this week

Community News..... 2
Community Calendar.. 3
Neighbors..... 4

Section B
Community News..... B1
Sheriff's Report B1
Classifieds B2-B3
Community Voices.... B4
Opinions..... B4

Inserts
Dan's food Market
Safeway



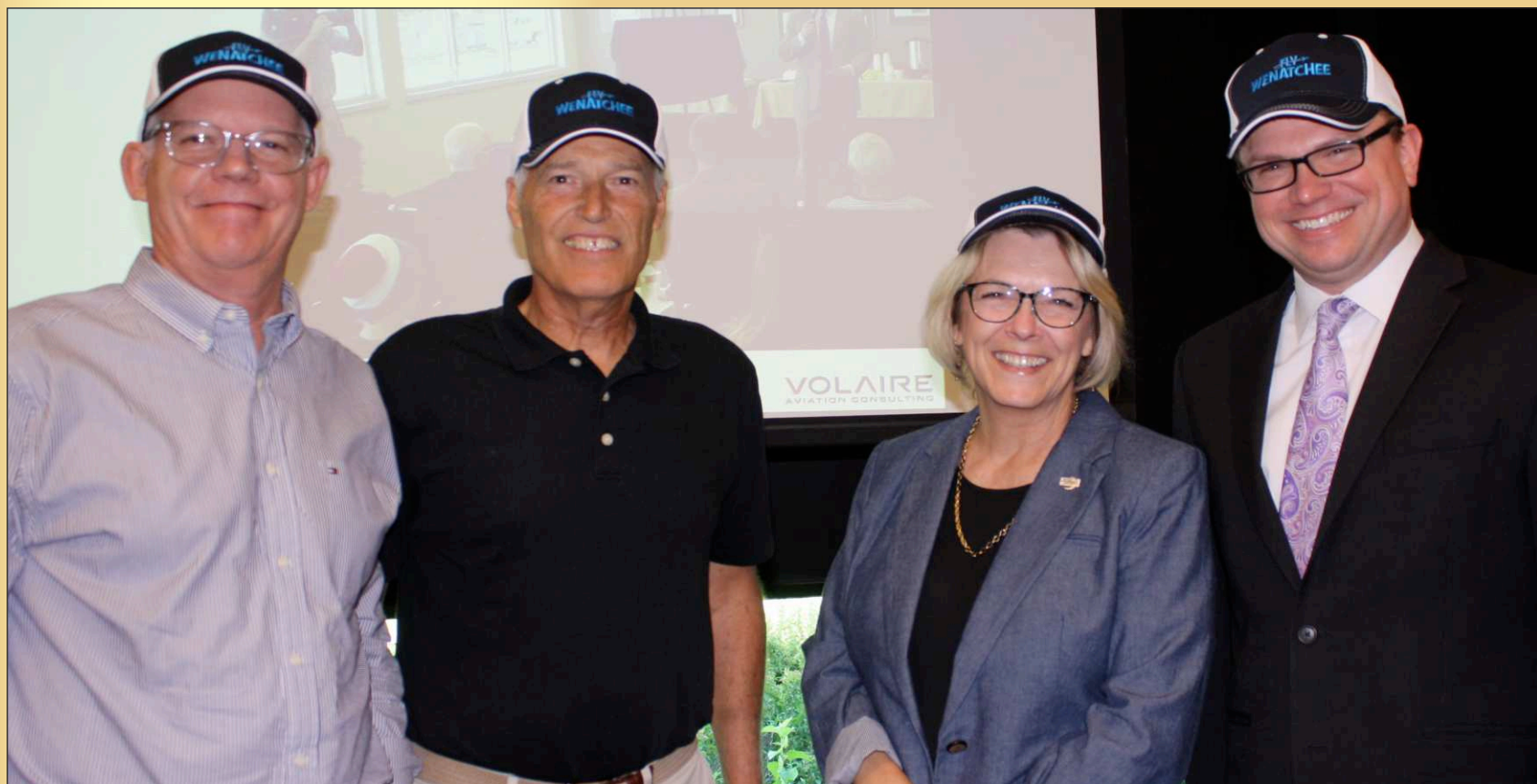
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Community

Fly Wenatchee wheels up



All photos Gary Bégin/NCW Media
Wearing their positively inspiring hats bearing the imprint "Fly Wenatchee," Port of Chelan Commissioners Rory Turner, Donn Etherington, JC Baldwin and Volaire Aviation Consultant Managing Partner Jack Penning strike a winning pose for the Wenatchee Business Journal camera shortly after August 6 lunch seminar meant to spread the great news about possible non-stop air service from Pangborn Memorial Airport in East Wenatchee to San Francisco.



LEFT: Port of Chelan County Executive Director Patrick Jones talks to a full house at the Confluence Technology Center event celebrating the winning of a major grant from the federal government that may lead to non-stop air service to San Francisco from Pangborn Memorial Airport in East Wenatchee. See the August edition front page of the Wenatchee Business Journal for the full story. **RIGHT:** Jack Penning, managing partner for Volaire Aviation Consulting, explains his theories about potential growth and impact to the economy a non-stop flight could bring to the Wenatchee and North Central Washington area.

Got Mobile?



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THE LEAVENWORTH
ECHO

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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.



Kalie Drago/NCW Media
Under the guidance of Librarian Joanne Gembe, teens experimented with alcohol ink Kalie Drago/NCW Media at the Leavenworth Library's Craft Night for Teens held on Thursday, Aug. 9.

Ink: Experiments

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over again," Larson said.

Mistakes happen: a shaky hand, a clump in the brush or an uneven foreground in a landscape portrait. Craft Night was an opportunity for teens to work on art without fear of mistakes on a permanently stained canvas.

Kalie Drago can be reached at 548-5286 or reporter@leavenworthecho.com.



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AA Meeting Schedule

Information numbers for AA:

509-548-1627, 548-4522, 664-6469, 425-773-7527, 206-219-3379

Sunday, 9 a.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.

Sunday, 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.

Tuesday, noon, First Baptist Church, 429 Evans St.

Tuesday, 7 p.m., United Church of Christ, 8455 Main Street, Peshastin

Wednesday, 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.

Thursday, noon, Kristalls Restaurant, 280 US-Hwy.2, Leavenworth

Friday, 7:30 p.m., Plain Community Church, 12565 Chapel Dr., Plain

Information number for Alanon: 509-548-7939

Alanon Meeting Schedule:

Monday, 7 p.m., United Methodist Church, 418 Evans St.

Leavenworth

Lake Wenatchee annual sale

Save the date for the 24th annual Fire & Rescue yard and bake sale, Sept. 1 from 9 to 4 and Sept. 2 9 to 1 at Fire Station 93, 19015 Beaver Valley Road (next to Beaver Valley School in Plain), all sales by donation except for Silent Auction items, no early sales. (e33,34)

Cornerstone Laying Ceremony

Join us on Saturday, August 18 at 11 a.m. at The Alpine Lakes Elementary School, for the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony by Washington Freemason Grand Lodge.

The public is invited.(e33)

Upper Wenatchee Valley Pickleball Club

Free Clinic for beginning Pickleball Players on Saturdays, August 18, and 25 at 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., at the District Office, 225 Central Ave, Leavenworth on the tennis courts. There is a limit of 16 players per training session. Please email Trainer, Dave Sebring, USAPA Ambassador at dls47@msn.com or call Sally Sebring, USAPA Ambassador, 548-5102 to get on the list. (e32,33)

Cashmere

Special Education Services

The Cashmere school district is seeking children from birth to age 21 who aren't enrolled in school that may need special education services. Three separate services are being offered: Family Resource Coordinator, Leah Harris, will be scheduling individual appointments for children birth to age three. For more information or to schedule an appointment for children birth to age three: please call 664-3781. A free Child Find screening is scheduled on Thursday, August 30, 2018, for children ages three to five. A translator will be available to assist Spanish speaking families. For more information or to schedule an appointment for children ages three to five: please call 782-2710. Family or care givers of any child between birth and age 21 that would like information about their child's development conditions are encouraged to contact Cashmere Student Support Services to schedule an appointment: 101 Pioneer Avenue, Cashmere, WA 98815, (509)-782-2710.

Collin Raye in concert

Raye will perform on Sept. 7, and the Concert is Free with Fair Admission! The Chelan County Fair begins on Thursday, September 6 and runs through Sunday, September 9.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students, and a Family Pass is \$30 for 2 adults and 3 children. See the complete schedule at www.chelancountyfair.com or call (509)782-3232.(re32)

Blue Ethel Storytime and Chalk Activity

Join Librarians Lisa and Leah on Wednesday August 15 at 10:00 a.m. At the Cashmere Public Library for games, songs, finger plays, and rhymes! There will be awesome stories and a chance to chalk the library's entryway and sidewalk. (r32,33)

STEM: Science of Sound

Join STEM Librarian Heather on Thursday, August 16, 3:00 p.m., at the Cashmere Public Library. It is free.

Sound is all around! You can hear it, touch it, feel it, and see it. Come learn about sound and participate in musical activities. (r32,33)

REGIONAL

NCW Quilt Guild 2018 Quilt & Fiber Art Festival

Displaying over 300 quilts, dolls and beaded art, including by local featured quilter, Eileen Dvorak. Vote for People's Choice winner, \$1 raffle quilt tickets, bid on silent auction mini wall hanging art with proceeds to benefit the local YWCA. At Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee, Friday & Saturday, August 17 & 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., \$7 admission at the door, good for both days.

United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties: Emergency Food and Shelter Funds Available

United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. Chelan County has been allocated \$13,078 and Douglas County will receive \$25,663 to supplement emergency food and shelter programs in each county.

The selection was made by a National Board that is chaired by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency and consists of representatives from American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA; The Jewish Federations of North America, The Salvation Army; and, United Way Worldwide. The Local Board was charged to distribute funds appropriated by Congress to help expand the capacity of food and shelter programs in high-need areas around the country. A Local Board will determine how the funds awarded to Chelan and Douglas Counties are to be distributed among the emergency food and shelter programs run by local service agencies in the area. The Local Board is responsible for recommending agencies to receive these funds and any additional funds made available under this phase of the program.

Under the terms of the grant from the National Board, local agencies chosen to receive funds must: 1) be private voluntary non-profits or units of government, 2) be eligible to receive Federal funds, 3) have an accounting system, 4) practice nondiscrimination, 5) have demonstrated the capability to deliver emergency food and/or shelter programs, and 6) if they are a private voluntary organization, have a voluntary board. Qualifying agencies are urged to apply. United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties has distributed Emergency Food and Shelter funds previously.

Agencies interested in applying for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds can access the application at uwcdc.org/apply_EFSP through November 2.

If you require assistance, please contact Bobbie Hughes at 662-8261. The deadline for applications is November 2.

Visit www.leavenworthecho.com

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This announcement sponsored by The Leavenworth Echo

City Council Meetings

7 p.m., Leavenworth Planning Commission, City Hall Conference Room, Nathan Pate 548-5275 (1st Wed.)

8 a.m., Leavenworth City Council study session, City Hall, Joel Walinski 548-5275. (2nd Tues.)

3 p.m., Design Review Board, City Hall, Sue Cragun 548-5275 (2nd & 4th Tues.)

6:30 p.m., Leavenworth City Council meeting, City Hall, Joel Walinski 548-5275 (2nd & 4th Tues.)

Senior Center Menus

Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St., Leavenworth Please call 548-6666, 24 hours in advance to reserve a meal. Meals are served at noon.

August 16, Thursday: Spaghetti & meat sauce, Caesar salad, Mandarin oranges, garlic bread, & dessert.

August 17, Friday: BBQ meatballs, garlic pasta, cauliflower w/chives, spinach salad, roll, & fruit cobbler.

August 20, Monday: Chicken chow mein, noodles or rice, Asian style slaw, pineapple, garlic bread, & dessert.

August 21, Tuesday: Chicken strips, potatoes, trio vegetables, spinach salad, Mandarin oranges, ww bread or roll, & dessert.

August 22, Wednesday: Meat & spinach wrap, carrot raisin salad, fresh fruit tray, tortilla chips, & dessert.

Senior Center Events

Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St., Leavenworth Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10:00 a.m., Gentle Exercise

Tuesday, 9:00 a.m., Leavenworth Area Seniors' Council Board meeting

Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Crafts

Thursday, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Square Dancing

Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Bavarian Dancing

Friday, 6:00 p.m., Bingo

Saturday 6:30-9:00 p.m., Music, Public Welcome, No cover charge

Community Calendar

Wednesday

Plain Aerobics, 8:30 a.m., Plain Community Church, \$1 fee, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For information, 763-3621.

Prostate Cancer Awareness & Support Group, 8:30 a.m., Kristall's Restaurant, call David McIntyre, M.D., 206-954-4166. (2nd Wed.)

Icicle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited, 6:00 p.m., Kristall's Restaurant. Call Dave Moazed, 548-0903. (2nd Wed.)

Children and Youth program, 6:30-8 p.m., Age 4-12th grade, Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene, 548-5292.

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Community News

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Gary Bégin/NCW Media

The Chelan PUD Board held a public hearing at the Confluence Technology Center Monday, August 6. Pictured from left are General Manager Steve Wright, Commissioners Garry Arsenault, Steve McKenna, Ann Congdon and Randy Smith.

Chelan County PUD Board holds public hearing on bitcoin, block chain mining rates

Commissioners extend moratorium, schedule more discussion for Aug. 20

CHELAN PUD NEWS RELEASE

Chelan County PUD commissioners last week listened to comments from 14 people on a proposed rate for cryptocurrency operations that reflects the cost of buying variable-priced market power to serve miners and assures cost recovery for any new infrastructure investments.

The comments on Aug. 6 came at the second hearing held on the moratorium adopted March 19 for cryptocurrency service applications.

Following Monday's hearing, PUD commissioners extended the moratorium until Aug. 20 to allow time for staff and board members to consider what they heard. Board members will continue discussion of the proposed rate at 1 p.m. at the next board meeting.

Commissioners endorsed a continued cautious approach to setting the new rate. Board Vice President Garry Arsenault thanked

those who spoke and asked for understanding of the commission's responsibility to balance risks from the new load to existing customer-owners and to "safeguard the county's precious jewel, our hydropower."

Protecting existing PUD customers while giving the new technology a chance to be successful in Chelan County is the goal of the new rate, said Lindsey Mohns, Customer Utilities business adviser.

General Manager Steve Wright said he hoped the smaller crowd, about 30 people, than at the May 14 hearing reflected progress in increasing community comfort that the impact of serving bitcoin mining and similar operations will be neutral to positive for existing customers. "We're trying to turn lemons into lemonade through right-sizing our pricing and the amount of service we offer."

Most speakers said they were cryptocurrency operators. Small miners questioned the impact of

a variable, market-based price for power on their operations. One of the larger operators expressed support for the policy, but asked commissioners for consideration for those who have played by the rules so far.

Three people questioned using the PUD's renewable hydropower for such an energy-intensive industry.

This proposal seeks to be consistent with the District's policy to provide the best value for the most people for the longest period of time.

Studies since the first moratorium hearing in May have shown there is transmission system capacity to serve some cryptocurrency load growth, but costs will significantly increase once that capacity is allocated, Mohns said.

Chelan PUD now serves 22 authorized cryptocurrency and similar data operations, a combined load of up to 16 megawatts. Before

the moratorium, requests had come in that could have more than doubled the District's retail load of 180-200 megawatts.

Information on Chelan PUD's continuing response to cryptocurrency mining issues is on the website at chelanpud.org/cryptocurrency.

In other business, commissioners: • Heard the good news forecasts show the District will end the year with a positive bottom line of \$12 million better than budget. Staff said higher revenues and lower expenses are leading to the improved forecast.

• Heard the timeline for completing Olds Station property agreements with the Port of Chelan County by mid- to late September. They also heard concerns from community member Russ Speidel about the PUD leaving downtown Wenatchee. He asked for reconsideration of keeping a portion of the facilities at

the existing site.

• Reviewed second quarter progress on the District's 2018 performance plan. General Manager Steve Wright said staff response to cryptocurrency requests has delayed some scheduled work, but that staff is making good progress on a new rate.

• Heard plans to use a new contracting method for new support buildings at Rock Island Dam. Staff will ask for board approval at the Aug. 20 meeting for the General Contractor/Construction Manager approach. The total project estimate is about \$40 million.

Upcoming events:

- August 20 — Special commission meeting, 8:30 a.m., PUD headquarters
- August 20 — Commission meeting, 10 a.m. boardroom; 1 p.m. cryptocurrency rate discussion
- Sept. 4 — Commission meeting, 10 a.m. boardroom (rescheduled due to Labor Day)

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Cooking With Teri

The heat is on and it is not good for most fruit, veggies plants and flowers. Of course tomatoes and peppers love heat and need lots of water to keep them healthy for fruit production. I was up in Chelan last week and noticed a lot of sunburn on apples, they are literally baking on the trees. We are harvesting peaches and it is very difficult to pick them in this heat as they are also heat stressed. It makes them softer and easier to bruise. We try to pick early in the morning or late in the evening to minimize the bruising. We love peaches at my house and I am always looking for new ways to serve them even though they are excellent on their own. My recipe this week is a new way I am serving peaches and I hope you try this beautiful and delicious summer salad.

It's delicious with a nice summer white wine.

"An apple is an excellent thing...until you have tried a peach."

*George du Maurier, (1834-1896)
French Author*

Peach And Spinach Salad

- 1 bag of baby spinach
- 2-4 ripe peaches
- ½ - 1 cup blueberries or blackberries
- ½ cup chopped hazelnuts (filberts)
- ½ cup feta cheese
- Brianna's Poppy Seed Dressing

Directions
Add spinach to a salad bowl toss in blueberries, slice the peaches and add to mixture. Lightly coat with salad dressing, sprinkle on the feta and nuts. Serve immediately.

Teri Miller, Broker

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Leavenworth, WA 98826
509-669-1585
terismiller@hotmail.com
www.leavenworthrealty.com

Thursday, August 23rd
CTC Building 285 Technology Ctr. Way • Wenatchee

Morning Session • 8:30am-noon
Fix QuickBook Messes Q & A

Afternoon Session • 1:00-4:30pm
Cash Flow Tools Seminar

Call (509) 494-8500 or go to <http://www.facebook.com/AugustedgePill/>

Tricia McCullough
CPA, CMA, EA, FP

Zarthan Masonic Lodge No. 148

will host a dual Cornerstone Laying Ceremony

August 18, 11 a.m. at Alpine Lakes Elementary School, Leavenworth, WA.

Officiating will be the Grand Lodge of Washington Freemasons.
The public is invited.

To see Sheriff's Report, visit us online at **www.leavenworthecho.com**

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Closing Date: Open Until Filled

Starting Date: Sept 2018

Job Description:

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- Bilingual in Spanish Preferred

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Brewster School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applications for positions may be obtained on the district's website www.brewsterbears.org under employment or by contacting the district office 509-689-3418.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- THEME: THE 1930s
- ACROSS
- Stopped from sleeping
 - Emergency responders
 - Much ado
 - Carl Jung's inner self
 - Old French coin
 - Approximately
 - Castrated bull
 - "Swan Lake" step
 - Relating to pond scum
 - *Great Depression state
 - *"The Maltese Falcon" author
 - *Row
 - *-de-camp
 - Churchill's "so few"
 - *Subject of "Reefer Madness"
 - Herpes ____, a.k.a. shingles
 - Cain's victim
 - *Johnny Vander Meer and Ernie Lombardi
 - Go "Bool!"
 - Shower with affection
 - *"Now demoted planet identified in 1930
 - Antioxidant-rich berry
 - Insect, post-metamorphosis
 - Slang for heroin
 - College cadet program
 - Elongated shape
 - Shining armor
 - Fifth note
 - One less traveled
 - Snafu
 - *First FIFA World Cup location
 - *FDR's brainchild
 - Linoleums, for short
 - Hole-in-one
 - Mr. Simpson to Marge
 - *Seabiscuit sound
 - QB exclamation
 - IM tagging
 - *Johnny Hodges and Jimmy Dorsey played it
 - Group of exercises
 - In the Queen of Hearts' oven? DOWN
 - Yellowjacket
 - Cognizant of
 - Capital on the Dnieper
 - Midwest V.I.P.
 - Limited in scope
 - Sports award
 - Bygone bird
 - Uncooked seafood
 - *"The Mummy" or "City Lights"
 - Egg on
 - *Cab Calloway's improvised singing
 - *Gandhi's ____ March
 - Brooches with low relief carving
 20. Pipsqueak
 - Wood-shaping tool
 - Cited as evidence
 - *Dominant mass media in the 1930s
 - Mushroom cloud maker
 - Prenatal
 - Snaky swimmers
 - Melee memento
 - Fiesta fare
 - One of the Muses
 - 1930
 - Building block
 - Just for men
 - Nose of a missile
 - Military offensive
 - India's smallest state
 - Disinterested response
 54. Nursemaids in India
 56. Parkinson's disease drug
 57. Arm bone
 58. Cambodian currency
 59. ____ of measurement
 60. 1960s boots
 61. Remaining after deductions
 62. Another spelling for #4 Down
 63. "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Got That Swing)"
 64. *Colbert showed them in "It Happened One Night"
 67. Pool shark's weapon

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Opinions

What we have here is a failure to communicate...

BY BILL FORHAN



IN MY OPINION
Bill Forhan
Publisher

With all of the ways to get information today it would seem that we should all be better informed about the issues. The problem is that there is too much news and that news is too often incomplete.

I have spent the better part of my professional career in this business and I have to say while most of the journalists I have worked with are progressive in their approach. Few are truly crusaders for a cause. They are however, woefully uninformed about many of the core issues they are called to report on.

To make matters worse the general public often has an unrealistic view of the role the media plays in reporting the news of the day.

Here's a good example. I had a couple come into my office last week to take me and my old editor, Ian Dunn, to task for our reporting on the controversy up in Plain over the Fire Department's efforts to buy land from the Cascade School District.

We had run an article on the front page of the Leavenworth Echo that was written by the Fire Chief up in Plain. They were upset that we had given the Fire Chief the opportunity to express his opinion on the front page without vetting every word the Fire Chief said in his article.

There are a couple of issues here. First, the Fire Chief is in charge and he speaks for the department on official matters. His comments may well be his opinion but as the head of the organization his opinion is the official position of the organization. Individuals in the community may disagree and they can express their disagreement in a letter to the editor but their opinion does not carry the same weight. Second, we do not "vet" opinions we report them. It is up to the reader to decide whom they believe.

The media is not the judge of truth or accuracy of claims made. When possible we do try to get the opinions of both sides of controversial issues some media do a better job of that than others.

For a number of decades

politicians have tried to challenge media credibility by claiming the role of the press is to be "fair and balanced" or "objective." Here's a news flash. There is nothing in the Constitution that says media news reports must meet a standard of balance. The US Constitution simply guarantees that the press is free to report on the issues of the day free of any governmental oversight.

It is up to the reader to decide where they stand on the issues of the day.

Many early newspapers were unabashedly dedicated to a political agenda and proudly included "Democrat" or "Republican" in the name of their paper.

Many individuals today do not want to have their prejudice challenged. It's the old song, "don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up!" They often use the phrase, "you're entitled to opinion but not your own set of facts."

This week my friend Fred Obee takes issue with the President accusing news media of spreading "fake news." Clearly, he is offended that not everything he chooses to print is viewed favorably by readers or politicians. I'm often offended by Rachel Maddow, MSNBC and Rosie O'Donnell but I watch from time to time.

Many local people are offended by my editorials. I am sorry they are offended but I actually wish they would respond with a letter that challenges my positions not just my character.

It is time we all looked at the challenges we face as adults not impetuous children. Too often we use words intended to incite an emotional response instead of address a significant issue. Generating anger rarely solves any problem it simply increases the divisions that separate us.

The morning after ... and I still respect you

BY GARY BÉGIN

To all those who gave it their best as candidates for various offices in the primaries remember this, you are still respected the morning after your defeat. It is always best to try at something which could lead to failure than to just sit on the couch and complain. Of course, those who want to stay off the ridge-line will continue to complain, often anonymously, while hiding in the weeds.

After all, Donald Trump was never supposed to win the presidency and when he did it gave hope to everyone from every demographic to at least try this uniquely American experiment known as democracy.

Bravo to one and all from the marijuana grower to the lady with the purple hair to the millionaire to the mild mannered school teacher.

Liberals, extreme liberals, conservatives and "regular" Democrats and Republicans all came out in force and perhaps set a record for citizen participation as far as candidates are concerned.

Twenty-nine folks contested for United States Senator, 28 of them were not named Maria Cantwell.

The overall turnout wasn't the story last week, but the variety of candidates was. There was even a Jew-hating Muslim in the batch who drew about 6,000 votes statewide, oy vey! Ironically, he called himself a Democrat, even though the Democratic Party nationwide usually embraces Israel and its causes.

This extreme left wing anomaly could be one more sign of the apocalypse. In this case, I am grateful Maria Cantwell will probably keep her seat.

One candidate thought he'd make the top two in the primary required to move on to the November general election, but finished last.

A small group of candidates never answered my interview questions posed before the primaries because they were certain to move on and, I guess, didn't want to waste their time appealing to rural, conservative voters like exist in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant counties.



APPLES TO APPLES
Gary Bégin

Many candidates wore the mantle of "independent" on their sleeves because they didn't want to be labeled as pro or anti Trump. Others because they were afraid of trying to win as a Democrat in a heavily Republican part of the state.

They all deserve our respect for taking part in Democracy and not trying to violently tear it down as in many Third World countries where tyrants rule as the common man is made to slave.

The "strongman" mentality attracts many adherents, even in this age, because it is associated with leading the country by force of will and the will of force. Charismatic leadership draws millions to it as if it were a giant flash mob, moths to a candle, while legislative procedures are

cumbersome and sometimes painfully predictable in its red tape inefficiencies.

Needless to say the latter is boring, but legally and culturally acceptable while the former foments revolutionary antics that sometimes last for centuries (like the United States).

We were born in a violent revolution as were the Russians. Trump and Putin, Americans and Russians actually do have a lot in common, but I still like to cast my vote and make believe it will be counted properly and that the guns will remain holstered, at least for another year.

In that vein, we have nothing in common with modern Russia.

They need another revolution and I'd like our CIA to start one on their citizens' behalf. It would be payback for screwing around in the sanctity of our election process we should all hold sacred.

Managing Editor Gary Bégin can be reached at gary@ncwmedia.net. His opinions are not necessarily those of NCW Media.

Standing up to fake news charges

BY FRED OBBE

The plight of a grieving orca who continues to carry her dead calf for weeks is reported by the Seattle Times. The Spokane Spokesman-Review lets people know for the first time the Legislature is forming a task force to exempt lawmakers from portions of the Public Records Act.

The Columbia Basin Herald in Moses Lake warns that air quality for the county fair may be unhealthy because of wildfire smoke pollution. The Omak County Chronicle reports that Wally Richards is this year's Omak Stampede grand marshal. The Nisqually Valley News in Yelm tells its readers where ballot drop boxes will be located so they can participate in the primary election. In the Port Townsend Leader, we learn about firefighter Reece Chambers and ways the community can support his family following his heart transplant.

These stories and many more all appeared recently in the pages of newspapers

across Washington State as they chronicled the history of the communities they serve. For more than a century, they have informed, celebrated and lamented the good and bad of the schools, governments and people in their coverage area. And these are the enemy of the people? This is fake news?

Of course not. Yet in one way or another all journalists are being tossed into the anti-media waters being chummed by President Trump and others.

I do not write today to choose sides on the right or left of national politics. Instead, I write today on behalf of the more than 80 newspapers of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association as we join others across the nation in defense of our profession. We witnessed President Trump's June 27 rally in Fargo when he, throughout the course of an hour, taunted the media seven times, inciting jeers from the audience. This month at a rally in Pennsylvania, he pointed at reporters

and called them "horrible, horrendous people."

"They can make anything bad, because they are fake, fake disgusting news," he said.

During a speech at a VFW event in Missouri, the president said that what Americans are reading "is not really happening." Even the VFW winced, saying it was "disappointed to hear some of our members boo the press. We rely on the media to help spread the VFW's message. ... We were happy to have them there."

Yet some people believe the president and, unfortunately, the ugly rhetoric is sifting downward, settling even on small newspapers.

Yes, even in Washington State, newspapers are being called "fake news" by candidates, public servants and the people we cover as they seek to discredit news reports and create their own smokescreens in the face of news coverage they see as critical of themselves or their political beliefs.

Do not fall for it.

Letters to the editor

Drop the lighting ceremony

I am writing about the traffic during the Christmas Lighting Festivals. We live here, and enjoy the town with all its lights. However, we have experienced, this last year, the difficulty of traveling out of town, or trying to get back into town at the time the lights go on, and after. It is next to impossible.

Now, here is my concern. The lights come on right around 5:00, and all those cars then hit the roads. I have thought a lot about if someone should need medical assistance in their home, or if there was a house fire, how would the aid vehicles or fire trucks get through the tangled mess of traffic. Would the city be liable for the clog of traffic as the result of the Lighting? More than concern for the city, I have concern for the people that might need help.

A solution would be to simply have the lights on all day, without the lighting ceremony. I know this sounds kind of radical, however it could be a solution to a possible devastating event. And, I believe people would still come to enjoy the lights and town, but without the mass exodus at 5 p.m.

I would like this to be seriously considered. Can the Chamber of Commerce address this problem? Sure hope so.

*Adele Juvet-Fuhrer
Leavenworth*

A rash can be mild and annoying or escalate into a misery of itching. What should you do when you notice a rash?

Thirty-five years ago, on the week before Thanksgiving my two-year-old daughter Maureen became feverish and started tugging at her ear. The pediatrician diagnosed her with an ear infection and prescribed 10 days of the antibiotic amoxicillin.

On the second day of her taking the amoxicillin, I noticed that her back and stomach were covered with a fine red rash, like someone took a fine point marker and put little red dots all over. I called the doctor who prescribed a different antibiotic to be given every 12 hours.

When it came time for Maureen's second dose of new antibiotic, I noticed her rash had changed. Instead of little red dots, it was blotchy, like hives. I didn't want to bother the doctor at 9 o'clock at night, so I gave her the second dose. I really regretted that decision when a couple of hours later her rash morphed into bright red hives and spread out over her entire body. Not only that, but her temperature jumped to 104 degrees and her wrists and ankles started to swell.

As I bundled Maureen into my car for the trip to the nearest emergency room, I chewed myself out for giving her that second dose of antibiotic. She

ended up with a third antibiotic and round-the-clock doses of both Tylenol® and Benadryl® to treat the fever and swelling. It took longer for my daughter to recover from her allergic reaction to the antibiotic than from the ear infection.

A rash can be triggered by something going on inside you or outside of you. My daughter's rash was caused by a reaction to an antibiotic, the medicine most likely to trigger a rash, either as a side effect or an allergic reaction. Medicines can also cause your skin to become sensitive to sunlight, causing rash or even sunburn if exposed to sunlight or a tanning booth. Rashes can also be triggered insect bites or certain types of infections.

You can also develop a rash from by touching plants, chemicals that can irritate your skin, called a contact allergy. Poison ivy, poison oak and nettles cause rash, blisters and intense itching in most people, while detergents, perfumes, and antibacterial compounds added to soaps can also create itching, burning, and rash.

Diaper rash is another example of contact allergy. Babies have sensitive skin that easily reacts to perfumes and detergents as well as irritants like urine or feces. Using scented baby wipes or leaving a diaper on too long can trigger rash in the diaper area.

Here are 4 Tips to Taming a Rash

1. Track down the trigger. When starting a new medicine, keep an eye out for rash as one of the possible side effects. Some very serious allergic reactions start out with a rash, so be sure to tell your doctor right away if you develop a rash after starting a new medicine, particularly if it is an antibiotic.
2. Tame the itching. Scratching leads to breaks in the skin and opens you to infection. I still have a shiny scar in the middle of my right kneecap from an infected mosquito bite. For mild itching, hydrocortisone cream is available as a 1% cream or ointment. My favorite is a sunburn remedy for itching called Aloe Vera gel with benzocaine. I store it in the refrigerator between

uses to enhance its soothing effect. Benadryl® (diphenhydramine) tablets or capsules are also helpful in relieving itching. If these options don't help, contact your doctor.

3. Protect your skin. The urge to scratch an itch is something your body cannot override easily, especially after falling asleep at night. Help your skin stay intact by keeping your fingernails trimmed short or covering them by wearing cotton socks or gloves to bed.

4. Avoid using Benadryl® cream. Using Benadryl® directly on your skin is not very effective and can actually CAUSE an allergic reaction. Taking both Benadryl® cream and pills together can cause dizziness, confusion or dry mouth.

Rashes can range from small red dots to big and blotchy patches and from being flat against your skin to raised welts, but the single biggest predictor of misery is how much they itch. While some rashes don't itch at all, severe itching is impossible to ignore and the act of scratching not only can make the rash and itching worse, if you scratch

through the skin it can become infected.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy is a 38-year veteran of pharmacology and author of Why Dogs Can't Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely. Your questions and comments are always welcome at www.AskDrLouise.com.

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