

Celebration of Life for Craig Gildroy will be May 20

CHELAN - A community memorial celebrating the life of Craig Gildroy will be held Friday, May 20, at 4 p.m. at the Chelan Senior Center, 534 Trow Avenue.

Gildroy was the City of Chelan Community Development Director and had worked for the City since 2001. He played a key role in the City's development and growth during the last 20 years and was a wealth of knowledge. An obituary for Gildroy appears on page A3.



Craig Gildroy

Jamie Pancho named Chelan High School principal



Courtesy Lake Chelan School District

Jamie Pancho (blue jacket) will be taking over the principalship at Chelan High School effective July 1. Jamie is finishing his third year as the principal at Newport High School. Prior to his principal appointment at Newport, he served as a fourth grade teacher (at Stratton Elementary), Special Education teacher (Newport High School), and paraprofessional (Newport High School). He earned his master's degree in 2019 from Washington State University and bachelor's degree from Whitworth in 2004. Jamie and his wife Kamie (red scarf) have two adult children, Sierra (right), and Koa (left).

Dick Gordon to speak at Lake Chelan Historical Society's annual meeting May 23

CHELAN - The Lake Chelan Historical Society will be hosting its Annual meeting Monday, May 23 at 6 p.m. The gathering will be held at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, with Dick Gordon sharing the story of the Gordon Family settlement in Chelan in the late 1800's. Dick's family musical group known as Daybreak Canyon Bluegrass will provide entertainment.



After that everyone will go to the museum for cookies and juice and a chance to enjoy walking through to see how things have changed. It was 50 years ago that the museum opened to the public, so they are looking forward to this celebration and hope you can join them.

Candidate filing week ends Friday, May 20

WENATCHEE - Skip Moore, Chelan County Auditor, announces that Filing Week for the August 2 Primary Election and the November 8 General Election will commence on the 16th of May and will continue through the 20th of May.

A list of open offices is available on their website. Many of these offices may require a filing fee. The qualifications are to be a registered voter within the district and a willingness to serve. Information concerning all positions up for election is available from the Chelan County Elections Department, 509-667-6808, or on the Chelan County Auditor's website. www.Elections.ChelanCountyWa.gov

Lake Chelan Valley Events, Things to do, Meetings

SAIL Exercise Classes: May 18, 19, 23

CHELAN - SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life) fitness classes are offered at Chelan Senior Center on Monday and Wednesday at 1 p.m. and are taught by Beth Shaw and Linda Hollier. Evening SAIL classes are Monday and Thursday evenings at 5:30 p.m., also at the Chelan Senior Center and are taught by Ann Cooper.

Lake Chelan Wine & Jazz Festival: May 19-22

Road closures in Chelan, Manson Thursday and Friday

LAKE CHELAN VALLEY - The Lake Chelan Wine and Jazz Festival is a one-of-a-kind event taking place over 4 days, May 19-22. Road closures will be happening for the 2022 Lake Chelan Wine & Jazz Festival in both Downtown Manson and Downtown Chelan on Thursday, May 19, 8 a.m. to Friday, May 20 at 11 a.m. Manson will be closed from Totem Pole Rd to Green Ave in front of the Trout Building. Chelan will be closed on the 100 block of Woodin Ave, with access still on Columbia St. and Emerson St. All shows are outdoors at gorgeous wineries and venues around the lake. This year's festival also features Grammy award-winning artists, The Manhattan Transfer.

See **EVENTS** ON PAGE A2

102nd Manson Apple Blossom Festival celebrated

A little rain did not dampen the spirits of those attending the 102nd Manson Apple Blossom Festival on Saturday, May 14.

RIGHT: With the younger generation out in front, runners and walkers take off for either a 2k or 5k run walk on Saturday before the parade.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Precious Promise Christian Preschool, was one of over 50 parade entrants. **LEFT:** Robin Pittman and her daughter, Katelyn, show their support of Lake Chelan EMS employees.

See page A2 for more photos and lakechelanmirror.com



RuthEdna Keys/LCM



Lindsay Timmermans/LCM



Courtesy Shannon Perri

Hospital Guild Y selling etched memorial bricks for new outdoor patio at Lake Chelan Health Hospital

Bricks on sale thru June 30

SUBMITTED BY VICKI CARR,
GUILD Y PUBLICIST

CHELAN - Hospital Guild Y is an organization of women which raises money to financially support the Lake Chelan Valley Hospital. The guild was organized in 1965 and another fundraiser is currently underway, 57 years later.

Guild Y is selling paving bricks (4 inches x 8 inches)

for the outdoor patio adjacent to the new Orchards Café in the new Lake Chelan Health Hospital. For a \$100 donation, your family name or the name of a pioneer family, healthcare worker, or someone else of importance will be sand-blasted onto the patio brick by Bricks R Us.

The gift to Guild Y will pay for the etched brick and also help buy outdoor furniture for the patio. Forms for the name(s) to be etched are available at Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce, 216 East Woodin Avenue in



Courtesy Lake Chelan Health

Show your support by buying a memorial brick for the new Lake Chelan Health Hospital replacement hospital that will continue to serve the Lake Chelan Valley, which will open this fall.

downtown Chelan. Payment by cash or check can also be made at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce.

Guild Y has organized

this fundraiser as a way for residents to support the new hospital and excellent health care in the valley.

Chelan Valley Hope, Lake Chelan Food Bank, gather to honor volunteers



Courtesy Chelan Valley Hope

Volunteers, staff, and friends of Chelan Valley Hope and the Lake Chelan Food Bank gathered on Friday, April 29, to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Cornerstone Building in Chelan.

SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL A. GIBB,
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHELAN VALLEY HOPE

CHELAN - More than 40 volunteers, staff, and friends of Chelan Valley Hope and

the Lake Chelan Food Bank gathered on Friday, April 29, to celebrate Volunteer Appreciation Day at the Cornerstone Building in Chelan. Both agencies serve the community out of that location and have

many clients in common. In attendance were also volunteers from Seniors Tender Loving Care, a home visitation program assisting seniors to live comfortably in their own home through companionship

and connection. They can be reached at 509-699-9042.

Those in attendance enjoyed the springtime weather, visiting with each other, and a

See **HONORED** ON PAGE A2

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\$1

102nd Manson Apple Blossom Festival celebrated



RuthEdna Keys/LCM

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Manson Apple Blossom Royalty pose with the Royalty's Choice quilt at the Lake Chelan Undercover Quilt show held at the Manson Grange. The quilt was made by Karen Phelps and named Summers at the Sandpiper; Manson Apple Blossom Royalty Queen Cara Hutton (center), Princess Emely Valencia (right), and Princess Raven Pope (left) reigned over the 102nd Manson Apple Blossom Festival; Appleatchee Rodeo Queen; and Chelan High School marching band sporting their new band uniforms;

More photos at lakechelanmirror.com



Lindsay Timmermans/LCM



Lindsay Timmermans/LCM



Lindsay Timmermans/LCM

EVENTS

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On Sunday, May 22 there will be a free concert in Riverwalk Park in Chelan. The Shack will play 12-1:30 p.m. and the Ellensburg Big Band will play 2-3 p.m. For more information about the festival, where to stay, and to purchase Festival Passes visit chelanwinejazz.com.

Chelan Thursday Farmers Market: May 19

CHELAN - Chelan Thursday Evening Farmers Market is now open thru October, from 2-6 p.m. and has expanded into Riverwalk Park. The market is located on the corner of S.

Emerson Street and Wapato Avenue, near Riverwalk Inn and Riverwalk Park. New vendors are welcome. For more info www.chelanfarmersmarket.org

Spring Bird Fest: May 19-22

LEAVENWORTH - Attention bird lovers the Leavenworth Spring Bird Fest is back to in-person events with some hybrid and virtual options. Join us for our 20th year, happening from May 19-22. Registration is currently open for all events. Celebrate the return of the migratory birds and discover the natural beauty and wonders of North Central Washington. Join in on a birding field trip, workshop, art class, or activity! Some field trips include

Birding Horse Lake Reserve, Local Habitat Restoration Projects Tour, Birding by River Raft, Birds & Wine Leavenworth, Hike & Draw Mountain Home, and more. One of Bird Fest's favorite traditions is also returning- Family Day. A family event with many opportunities to learn about local organizations and businesses, take part in art and nature activities, purchase local art, and enjoy some live music on the WRI Lawn. Family Day will occur on Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Bird Fest welcomes acclaimed poet, author, naturalist, and professor at Wenatchee Valley College, Derek Sheffield, as the Keynote Speaker. His hybrid presentation will be on Saturday, May 21 from 7-8:30 p.m., talking

about the unique and ancient connection that exists between poets and birds. Pick up one of his books at the event from A Book for All Seasons. Thank you to all partners, sponsors, and volunteers for helping Bird Fest soar. For 2022, field trip participants will be required to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination. All current information and details can be found at: www.WenatcheeRiverInstitute.org Contact: Rande Zerg 509-548-0181, rzerger@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

VFW #6853 Post Coffee/Donuts: May 20

CHELAN - Every Friday VFW Post #6853, located at 427 S. Bradley Street is open 9-11 a.m. for donuts and coffee and conservation. Veterans are invited to join them every Friday.

Food Bank food distribution: May 21, 24

Volunteer gleaners needed

CHELAN - The Lake Chelan Food Bank food giveaway is on Saturday and Tuesday, 9-10 a.m. Distribution is drive-thru. They are located at 417 S. Bradley Street. The Food Bank is getting requests for pet food. Small bags of dog food are best. They can be dropped off at the Lake Chelan Mirror office, 131 S. Apple Blossom Drive, Ste. 109 (Chelan Business Center.)

The Lake Chelan Food Bank is looking for two teams of two people to help glean Safeway and Walmart once a month starting in April. They would pickup both Safeway and Walmart on Saturday, Safeway only on Monday and Walmart only on Tuesday starting at 7:30 am on those days. Everything is boxed and ready for pickup at the stores. They would ride with one of our current gleaners for training and introductions to the process. We just purchased a covered utility trailer so they would need a vehicle capable of towing. If interested call 509-368-4151 or email info@lakechelanfoodbank.org

Alzheimer's Support Group-Now Chronic Disease Support Group: May 19

CHELAN - With the support of Aging and Adults and Tender Loving Care for Seniors, an Alzheimer's Support Group for Chelan/Manson area restarted in March. They are now opening this meeting to family caregivers of people who have any serious chronic conditions: cardiac, pulmonary, neurologic (post stroke, Parkinson's Disease, MS) and others. Meetings will be the third Thursday of the month, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Chelan Valley Hope, 417 S. Bradley Street. Aging and Adults is providing the facilitator, Bob Poindexter, who has great experience in leading support groups. Please join them to be

encouraged by spending time sharing with others who are on this journey. For more details please call Claudia Swenson, Manager, TLC for Seniors, 360-561-6090.

Memorial Day Parade: May 26

LAKE CHELAN — The Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce presents the 25th annual Memorial Day Parade on Thursday, May 26 at 7 p.m. Hosted by the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce on the Thursday before Memorial Day, we honor soldiers, police officers and firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty, as well as those who have served and are currently serving our country. Before the parade, members of service, veterans and their families are invited to enjoy dinner donated by The Meat Shop at the Veterans Appreciation Social at 5:30 p.m. at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce. Community members are invited to help us honor those who are in service or have been in service by showing your support at the parade or participating in the parade. To register please email claudia@lakechelan.com. Parade applications can also be found at the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce office located at 216 E Woodin Ave. Chelan.

More Events at

lakechelanmirror.com

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HONORED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

slice of delicious pie donated by Blueberry Hills Restaurant in Manson. The special event included an Open House tour of the Food Bank and Chelan Valley Hope, including a look at the new Client Resource Center, where clients can

improve their connectivity to the greater community, including potential employers and regional services.

The Food Bank provides food boxes on Tuesday and Saturday mornings via drive-through services. More information is available at info@LakeChelanFoodBank.org and at 509-368-4151.

Chelan Valley Hope is a

broad menu, nonprofit social services agency, furthering positive changes in people's lives. Individuals and families can call for an appointment for help ranging from rent and utilities assistance to nonfood pantry items to food and fuel vouchers. More information is available at their website; chelanvalleyhope.org, and by calling 509-888-2114.

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Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce shares 1st quarter report

Highlights milestones, achievements

SUBMITTED BY MIKE STEELE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LAKE CHELAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

CHELAN - We are excited to share our Q1 2022 PR report. In this report, we highlight our milestones/achievements from the quarter and look into our plans for Q2. Over the previous 3 months, we have secured over 41 million media impressions with coverage in top national and regional publications.

Milestones and achievements

Through GreenRubino's outreach efforts and organic media achieved, an estimated 41,124,175 media impressions were garnered in Q1 of 2022, featuring a mix of regional and national media outlets.

Secured coverage in top national and regional publications, including USA Today 10Best, OnlyInYourState, The Manual, Seattle Met, Northwest Travel & Life, Seattle's Child, Great Northwest Wine and The Stranger.

What's next?

Continue positioning Lake Chelan as a family-friendly destination, offering outdoor exploration year-round and award-winning wineries.

Planning for outdoor travel group FAM in September, compiling a list and initial outreach to target media to experience outdoor adventure in and around Lake Chelan.

Conduct media relations to promote travel for target flight markets, top tier national outlets, and international travel, including Canadian markets. Coordinate media visits with travel writers, bloggers and content creators.

Ongoing regional/national outreach for summer-fall travel coverage.

Press received

Below is a synopsis of the top press wins from January 1 to March 31.

Gina Birch's attendance to the 2021 Wine FAM resulted in a Lake Chelan feature in USA Today 10Best (media impressions: 5,620,000), which was also syndicated on NewsBreak (media impressions: 14,300,000) and DailyAdvent (media impressions: 5,620,000).

A media visit with freelancer Jessica Wick back in October 2021 resulted in two media placements in OnlyInYourState (media impressions: 6,500,000 & 7,770,000).

The Manual (media impressions: 2,800,000) put out a Washington State wine guide, featuring Lake Chelan for its foothills occupied by dozens of wineries.

A successful visit by Adam Sawyer back in May 2021 resulted in a Stehekin print feature in Northwest Travel & Life (media impressions: 45,000).

Chelan Ridge Winery ownership transferred to William and Candace Swayne, with partners Greg Kurtz, Brad Bodley, Robert Knosp

By NORM MANLY, COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

MANSON - On September 3, 2021, Henry and Lynn Munneke transferred ownership of the Chelan Ridge Winery, which they owned since 2003 to Chelan Ridge Holding LLC. The majority of the winery is owned by William (Bill) and Candace Swayne with partners, Greg Kurtz, Brad Bodley and Robert Knosp. The sale includes the tasting room, production facility and 11 acres of amazing grapes located at 900 Swartout Road in Manson.

“We are extremely pleased with our move to Manson and purchase of Chelan Ridge Winery, Candace declared. The people are amazing in this down-to-earth community. Welcoming, friendly and supportive are just a few of the reasons we love it here. Add the weather and beauty, what took us so long.”

I asked Candace if they had discussed owning a winery in the past. “Once he retired, I knew Bill was going to be looking for something to do. He's not the kind that can sit and watch the world go by. He enjoys wine, and being a lifelong learner, the wine business was interesting and a challenge, which he needed. Once we moved to Manson in 2015, Bill got his first taste of the winery business serving as Regional Marketing Director for Mellisoni Vineyards, located on the south shore of Lake Chelan. It was an amazing experience, a real-life, hands-on class in the winery business.”

“In 2020 I learned Chelan Ridge Winery was for sale, Bill said. By the time I was able to visit with Henry and Lynn, they had taken the winery off the market. I told them if they ever changed their mind to let me know. On one of my many visits



Courtesy Manson Chamber of Commerce
Chelan Ridge Winery majority owners, Bill and Candace Swayne.

to the winery, in December 2020, they finally said yes and the rest is history.”

“After taking possession of the Winery the first big change was the addition of a wood-fired pizza oven, an enlarged tasting patio and pavilion. This is part of our overall plan of offering amazing food under the direction of Chef, Greg Kurtz, Bill stated. Greg has an incredible background with his last assignment as executive Sous Chef from 2012 thru 2016 for the 1200 room Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Dallas, Texas. As part of his responsibilities, Greg managed the entire culinary program for the hotel, which included banquets, events, plated dinners for over 2000 people, large volume of conven-

tion business, and oversaw the Centennial Cafe with over 180 seats, Parrino's Italian Restaurant with 65 seats, Module's Bar with over 500 seats and all room service food for 1,200 rooms. In the future Greg will serve as Executive Chef and Restaurant Manager for the planned “Ridge” Restaurant that will be coming soon.”

All Chelan Ridge wines are Estate wines, which means at least 85% of the grapes making their wines are grown in their vineyard. They currently make 12 different wines, seven reds, three whites and two rosé, each distinct in color, smell and taste. This year they will produce 2,700 cases of wine, plans are to increase that number each year.

Chelan Ridge Winery employs Jeff Crowder, owner Radiance Winery to serve as winemaker. He works hand in hand with Bill in the production facility onsite, together making all decisions on winemaking for Chelan Ridge Winery.

Enrique Hernandez and his family planted and managed Chelan Ridge Winery's 11 acres of grapes for the last 15 years. Their knowledge and dedication to growing quality grapes is known and respected throughout the Lake Chelan AVA. They will remain on staff as a very important part of the companies success.

At Chelan Ridge Winery their family begins with their club members. Their wine club will open a world of wine and food only found at Chelan Ridge Winery. From special wine-maker dinners to member-only wines, priority reservations to all events, discounts, and access to special wine club events, you won't want to miss anything.

The first 100 new members will be considered Ridge Club Founders and have their names permanently engraved on a “Founders Plaque” displayed in their tasting room.

Will Chelan Ridge Winery offer entertainment and events for the public? “Brad Bodley our events manager is working on several activities including Monday Night Bingo, cooking classes, local bands and more. Throughout the year we will offer several Wine Club events and our facility is available to rent for weddings and parties,” Bill said.

Hours of operation at Chelan Ridge Winery are Friday and Saturday 1-7 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. on Sundays. Summer hours to be determined. For more information call 509-687-4455 or visit their website at www.chelanridgewinery.com/

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CHELAN & MANSON HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SHORTS



Photos by Megan Sokol/LCM
ABOVE LEFT: Manson midfielder Malcom Richmond dukes it out with Cascade defensive midfielder Ryan Denega.
RIGHT: Manson midfielder Jaxon Teague and Cascade midfielder Kevin Castillo. Manson lost to Cascade by 5-0 in a District League soccer game on May 11 in Leavenworth.



Chelan Baseball

Editors Note: The Chelan Goats are a 3 seed and will play Meridian in the opening round of 1A State Baseball on Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. at Wenatchee High School.

SUBMITTED BY MOUNTAIN GOAT BASEBALL STAFF

May 11
EPHRATA - The Goats baseball team advanced to the state tournament Tuesday evening by virtue of a 12-0 thumping of the Quincy Jackrabbits at Obrien/Johnson Stadium in Ephrata. It is the 3rd straight district title for the Goats, in addition to their 36th consecutive wins over Caribou Trail League opponents. The Goats

were fired up for this one, as they were looking to punch their ticket to the State tournament, and did so, in convincing fashion.
Junior left hander Braiden Boyd was handed the ball on the mound for the critical show-down, and he responded with his third no hitter of the season, striking out 11, using only 61 pitches to dominate the Jacks in the “mercy rule” shortened game. Boyd’s record for the season now stands at 9 wins, no losses.
On offense, it was Boyd again, going 3 for 3 at the plate with 2 doubles and 4 rbi’s. It was a total team effort, with the Goats amassing 11 hits. Ethan Strandberg going 2 for 3 with 2 rbi’s, Colt Funk 2-3 with 2 rbi’s, and Reed Stamps adding 3 rbi’s with a long double.
The Goats now wait for the

State Committee to determine the exact location and opponent for the regionals. Given their 19-3 record, and strength of non-league opponents, the Goats are hopeful for a favorable draw. That decision will be announced sometime Sunday afternoon (May 15). If possible, mark your calendars to plan on attending their next games. This is an exciting, and talented group of young men focused on bringing home the State Title.
Next Up: State Tournament Saturday, May 21. Location: TBA. Go Goats.

Chelan Track

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER, CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

May 11
CHELAN - Today was a highlight for our track program. We had four javelin throwers place in the top three and two of them

won a CTL championship.
Ryan Allen came out and took first place in the Javelin with a throw of 131 feet 10 inches. Aliyah Finch took first place with a monster throw of 105 feet 10 inches. Finch also took second in the shot put and third in the discus. Teegan Silvia had a big day taking first place in the mile with a time of 5:39.89 and third place in the 400. Tyler Fogolson had a great performance in the 400 taking second place along with Cray Silva taking second place in the mile as a sophomore.
Other top finishers include: Jason Pritchard second place in the Javelin and fourth in the discus. Peyton Bodle took third in the javelin with a throw of 92 feet 10 inches.
Thursday, May 19 is the final track meet of the regular season. We will travel to Cashmere for our district meet, with the top one from each event getting an

Trojans end Bridgeport’s season with 6-0 win



Mike Maltais/LCM
Bridgeport pitcher Cristian Lopez (3) covers home plate after a pitch got away from the catcher. The plate umpire has his eyes glued to the attempted tag of Manson’s Mason Stotko who just beat the throw to score one of the Trojan’s six runs in the District game played on a neutral field at Brewster. The loss brings Bridgeport’s post-season play to a close. Manson moves on to play Okanogan in the next round of District competition.

automatic bid into the All Class State Track meet in Spokane.

Chelan Golf

SUBMITTED BY COACH KIRK EINSPAHR, CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL GOLF

May 10
Chelan traveled to Suncadia in Roslyn, today for the annual tournament (not held the last three years) hosted by Ellensburg High School. We returned to play on the Prospector Course, which we haven’t been on for quite some time now (as we have played on the Rope Rider course for many years prior to today).
The Chelan boys did quite well for themselves today, taking 3rd place in a field of eight

teams, being beaten only by 3A schools Bellevue and Interlake. Carson Clinton tied for 2nd place with a 3-over par 75 on a sunny but very windy day. Teammate Joey Gasper came in 11th out of 37 total golfers with an 86, and teammate Duke Nordby had a personal best 95 for the day.
For the girls, we only brought two girls, but they both did very respectable, with Arabelle Finch shooting a 110 for 8th place (out of 26 golfers) and teammate Kira Sandoval coming in 10th with a 113.
This was a course with very fast greens, and was a good tuneup for our CTL Championships and state qualifier in Quincy this week Tuesday, May 17, which also had some very fast greens the last time we played there.

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TEE TIME

SUBMITTED BY SHERRY FISK, LAKE CHELAN LADIES GOLF CLUB

CHELAN - On May 12, 16 players were in competition out on the course. Those sanded greens are growing

in beautifully. This week’s competition was Throw out 3 (gross score less 3 worst holes less your full handicap).

Division 1: First Place: Linda Hahn, 53.
Division 2: First Place: Nancy Judson, 49.
Division 3: First Place: Jo Higgins, 50. Second Place: A tie between Tina Nyce and Tracy Zembruski, 53.
The only birdie of the day was Jan Artim on hole 12. There were no chip-ins for the second week in a row. The pot grows large for this week’s winners.
This week’s competition will be Medal play (low Net by division and low gross and net of the field.) Our club will also host the Apple Valley Women’s Golf monthly competition this week so it should be a busy Thursday out on the course.
Moving on to the third week of our Apple Blossom match-play tournament will be Jan Artim, Jo Higgins, Karen Holst and Linda Hahn.
Our tee time is at 9 a.m., it will be important to sign in by 8:30 a.m. as we will have a lot of ladies starting in a shot gun manner.

The Lake Chelan Lions Club
would like to thank the following businesses for their Sponsorship of our annual golf tourney!

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China’s Killing of Prisoners of Conscience for Their Organs a ‘Tool of Genocide’: Rep. Smith

GARY BAI

The Chinese communist regime’s mass killing of prisoners of conscience for their organs is a “tool of genocide,” according to Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.). Beijing’s forced organ harvesting involves “the execution of people declared enemies of the state, as if on order to provide certain organs to meet transplant needs,” he said. “This is also an apparent form of punishment, and indeed a tool of genocide meant to cull minority populations deemed ‘undesirable’ by the state.”

Smith made the remarks at a May 12 hearing of the House’s Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to explore evidence of China’s organ harvesting. The Republican from New Jersey is a co-chair of the commission.

A 2019 independent panel found “beyond a reasonable doubt” that the Chinese regime has for years been forcibly harvesting the organs from detained prisoners of conscience on a significant scale, with no signs showing that the practice had stopped. The primary victims are detained Falun Gong practitioners, the tribunal found. It also found that the practice amounted to “crimes against humanity.”

Falun Gong is a spiritual practice consisting of meditative exercises and moral teaching centered on the tenets of truthfulness, compassion, and tolerance. After it became widely popular in China in the 1990s, the communist regime, perceiving that popularity to be a threat, began a nationwide persecution targeting the practice and its adherents. Millions of practitioners have since been held in detention centers, jails, and labor camps across the country, effectively turning them into a living organ bank for the Chinese regime.

Smith also urged Congress to approve his legislation seeking to punish those involved in China’s forced organ harvesting trade.

He said the proposal, the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act (H.R. 1592), would impose sanctions against known perpetrators such as Chinese officials, prohibit surgery devices proved to be used for forced organ harvesting from being exported from China, and require the State Department to report on these measures.

Chilling Details

At the hearing, Ethan Gutmann, China studies research fellow at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation and author of “The Slaughter,” recounted his interviews with victims



(Top) U.S. Rep. Chris Smith of New Jersey.

(Right) Falun Gong practitioners take part in a parade in Brooklyn, N.Y., marking the 22nd year of the persecution of Falun Gong in China, on July 18, 2021.



who were jailed in concentration camps in China. The people shared strange and chilling details that he said were signs that they were a living pool of involuntary organ donors.

“Following a camp-wide health check, including comprehensive blood tests, certain individuals are cross-matched for organ harvesting,” Gutmann said, recounting how Sayragul, a teacher in a camp, told him she had printouts for the blood tests on which “a pink checkmark” was manually added to certain names.

“Other witnesses recalled that certain individuals were forced to wear colored bracelets or vests, sometimes pink, sometimes orange,” he said. “Either way, approximately a week after the test, the color-coded individuals vanished in the middle of the night.”

Gutmann noted that “witness testimony from approximately 20 camps is strikingly consistent—between 2.5

percent to 5 percent annual disappearances from the entire camp.”

These disappearances, he said, are predominantly of people in the 28-year-old age group, which is “deemed the ideal age for organ ripeness by the Chinese medical establishment.”

Adding to the testimony was a regretful recount by Dr. Enver Tohti, a former oncology surgeon who the Chinese regime ordered to carry out the first known case of live organ harvesting, in 1994. Tohti was made to extract the organs of a prisoner who had purportedly just been executed, only to discover on the operating table that the man was still alive.

“The whole operation took around 30 to 40 minutes. Chief surgeons happily put those organs into a weird looking box, and said, ‘OK, now you take your team back to hospital; remember nothing happened today,’” Tohti testified. The hearing came weeks after re-

Rep. Chris Smith urged Congress to approve his legislation seeking to punish those involved in China’s forced organ harvesting trade.

US Baby Formula Shortage Worsens As Families Panic

ANDREW MORAN

The baby formula shortage is intensifying in the United States, according to new Datasembly numbers.

The retail information provider reported that out-of-stock (OOS) rates continue to climb nationwide, rising to 43 percent in the week ending May 8. This is up from the 30 to 40 percent readings in April.

“Unfortunately, baby formula out-of-stock levels have continued to soar since the beginning of April, and we see no indication of a slowdown,” Ben Reich, CEO of Datasembly, told The Epoch Times. “Baby formula out-of-stock levels have reached 43 percent nationwide and continue demonstrating higher out-of-stock levels than other categories.”

Data as of May 1 show that nine states have OOS rates above 50 percent, including Tennessee (54.7 percent), Delaware (54.5 percent), Texas (52 percent), Montana (51 percent), and Nevada (51 percent). Jurisdictions with the lowest OOS rates were Colorado (26.3 percent), New Mexico (29 percent), and Indiana (29.7 percent).

Across the United States, multiple retailers including CVS, Kroger, Target, and Walgreens, have applied limits on purchases of infant formula.

Last month, CVS limited in-store and online purchases of baby formula to three per order. Kroger installed a limit of four products per customer. Target and Walgreens have maintained restrictions for several weeks.

Media reports suggest that some parents are responding to the shortages by producing their own,

watering down current supplies, and rationing formula.

The FDA has discouraged parents from making formula at home due to “very serious health concerns” for babies.

“The potential problems associated with errors in selecting and combining the ingredients for the formula are very serious and range from severe nutritional imbalances to unsafe products that can harm infants,” the agency noted.

Health experts warn that too much water for infants under six months could trigger seizures and brain swelling and dilute the calories.

As of 2018, four companies control close to 90 percent of the market: Abbott, Reckitt Benckiser, Nestlé, and Perrigo.

How Did This Formula Crisis Begin?

Earlier this year, Abbott Laboratories, a leading baby formula maker, recalled products sold under the Alimentum, EleCare, and Similac brands that were produced at a Michigan facility. Four children had become sick with bacterial infections, resulting in two deaths. This prompted public health authorities to encourage shoppers to avoid buying formulas tied to the plant, although Abbott doesn’t believe there is a link between these illnesses and its formulas.

In addition to Abbott’s recall, the baby formula shortage has been exacerbated by global supply chain snafus, the shifts in pandemic-related consumer patterns, and soaring price inflation worldwide.



Baby formula for sale at a big box store in Chicago on Jan. 13, 2022.

At the beginning of the COVID-19 public health crisis, many parents hoarded containers of baby formula much in the same way consumers accumulated large amounts of toilet paper and paper towels.

In 2021, manufacturers noticed that demand had been sliding. They responded by curbing production. Today, infant formula demand is surging once again as shortage fears grow and breastfeeding rates fall.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only one-quarter of babies born in 2018 were breastfed exclusively in their first six months.

In recent years, the prevalence of breastmilk substitutes has been a source of controversy among public health experts.

“The promotion of commercial milk formulas should have been ter-

minated decades ago,” said Dr. Francesco Branca, director of the WHO Nutrition and Food Safety Department, in a statement last month. “The fact that formula milk companies are now employing even more powerful and insidious marketing techniques to drive up their sales is inexcusable and must be stopped.”

The global formula milk industry is now worth \$55 billion.

Meanwhile, Abbott announced that it will work closely with the FDA to restart operations within two weeks. The company projects that it could take six to eight weeks to get its products back on store shelves.

‘Life and Death’

The U.S. government has been scrambling to resolve the issue.

President Joe Biden met with infant formula manufacturers and retailers

searchers published a paper in the American Journal of Transplantation that reviewed more than 2,800 Chinese-language articles from between 1980 and 2015, and concluded that Chinese transplant surgeons forcibly removed organs from people without performing tests required to determine brain death.

“In plain language, the papers appear to show that the donors, who were prisoners, were alive at the time of surgery, and were killed by the transplant surgeons in the process of heart extraction,” Matthew Robertson, co-author of the transplant paper and a doctoral candidate at the Australian National University, testified at the hearing.

More Action

Others at the hearing called for more action from the international community and medical entities.

“The topic for today’s hearing, organ harvesting, has far too long been swept under the rug by the international community,” said Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.), who is a co-sponsor of the Stop Forced Organ Harvesting Act.

“The United States and our allies must send a strong and unwavering message in defense of basic human rights and protections for all people.”

Last week, the European Union approved a resolution voicing “serious concerns” about the Chinese regime’s “crime against humanity.”

“Respect for human rights is not an option, but a requirement in all areas, including in the challenging medical and ethical area of organ donation and transplantation,” said the EU’s top foreign policy official, Josep Borrell.

The medical community, meanwhile, has been largely silent on this issue because of significant professional and financial opportunities in China, Gutmann said.

“This catastrophe was created by Beijing. Yet, for the last 10 years, it has been continuously enabled by a handful of Western doctors who thought they could ride the Chinese dragon and come back home as if everything was normal,” he said.

Robert A. Destro, former assistant secretary for democracy, human rights, and labor during the Trump administration, urged the United States to take concrete action.

Congress must use its “power of the purse to demand accountability from the bureaucracy and the business community.”

From NTD News

on May 12 to gather updates on intensifying shortages across the country.

Following the meeting, the president announced additional steps to address the issue to get more infant formula on store shelves faster, including reducing red tape and boosting supply through increased imports. In addition, he urged the Federal Trade Commission and state attorneys general to tighten down on any infant formula price gouging.

Earlier, more than 100 House Republicans urged the administration and the FDA in a letter to release data on the nationwide shortages and provide specific details on how they plan to address the issue.

“This issue is a matter of life and death, and it is time this administration treats it with the appropriate urgency it deserves,” the 106 Republican lawmakers wrote.

Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-N.Y.) says this is an example of Biden’s “failed leadership,” adding that the FDA didn’t have a plan to figure out how to address the supply chain crisis aspect of baby formula manufacturing.

“But it even goes back earlier than that, as a result of just the labor shortage in this country, the lack of accessing basic materials that are part of the manufacturing process,” she told the host of NTD’s “Capitol Report,” Steve Lance. “But what’s really struck me is the sheer incompetence of Joe Biden and House Democrats and frankly, failure to address any aspect of this.”

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf assured the public that “we are doing everything in our power to ensure there is adequate product available where and when they need it.”

Emel Akan contributed to this report.

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON/THE EPOCH TIMES



Lester Hidalgo Aguilar (C) is escorted from the Kinney County Civic Center before his trial for trespassing on a local ranch, in Brackettville, Texas, on May 9, 2022.

Guilty Verdict in First Illegal Alien Trespass Trial in Texas

CHARLOTTE CUTHBERTSON

BRACKETTVILLE, Texas—The first jury trial under Texas’s Operation Lone Star border program wrapped up in Kinney County, Texas, on May 9.

The defendant, Honduran native Lester Hidalgo Aguilar, was found guilty of criminal trespass on a local ranch and sentenced to the maximum jail time of one year. The judge declined to apply an accompanying fine, which could have been up to \$4,000, but said Aguilar should pay court costs (\$290).

Aguilar’s trial was a litmus test for the Operation Lone Star arrests, which began around August last year as Gov. Greg Abbott directed state troopers to arrest trespassers on state or private land.

Until now, almost all defendants

have pleaded guilty or no contest to trespass or other misdemeanor charges, and have reached a plea deal of time served and no fine.

Aguilar’s trespass charge was enhanced to a Class B misdemeanor as he was found beyond 100 feet inside the property line of an agricultural operation, then elevated to a Class A as the crime occurred during a declared state disaster.

Most of the Operation Lone Star arrests have taken place in Kinney County, with ranchers and landowners increasingly finding cut fences, broken water troughs, and other property damage as scores of illegal immigrants have traversed their land to avoid law enforcement.

The Del Rio border sector, in which Kinney County sits, is consistently one of the highest regions for illegal immigrant “gotaways”—

those who are detected by Border Patrol but evade capture.

In April, preliminary numbers from Customs and Border Protection revealed more than 16,000 gotaways in the Del Rio sector.

Those gotaways either coordinate with smugglers to drive them to San Antonio or Houston, or walk through private ranchland until they’re clear of the Border Patrol highway checkpoints, then arrange for transport.

Cheryl Gabler Tomlin, upon whose family ranch Aguilar was arrested, testified at the trial, saying the property is fully fenced and no one was authorized to enter the property, where she raises cattle and goats.

After the trial, she told The Epoch Times she was satisfied with the outcome. “I thought he would get off. I’m happy,” she said as she left the courtroom.

Tomlin said her life has changed considerably in the past year and a half as more illegal aliens encroach on her land. She recalled one of her scariest moments when she was opening a fence to let her horses out while still astride her ATV. A man appeared, and she said he whispered, “Don’t tell, don’t tell,” and leapt over the fence toward her ATV.

She hit the gas, and he struck the side of the ATV and fell down. She waved down Border Patrol agents who were down the road looking for him. The agents arrested the man and later told her he was a five-time aggravated assault felon from Honduras.

“I have a gun all the time now,” Tomlin said.

Big Trial for Small Town

Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Sgt. Ryan Glenn, who super-

vises the tracking and arrest teams in the local area, testified that the priority for his teams is to protect local property owners.

“We met with local landowners and asked who should be here and who shouldn’t,” Glenn said. He said DPS uses surveillance cameras, drones, and communication with landowners and Border Patrol to help apprehend trespassers.

Defense lawyer Bryan Owens appealed to the jury for a not guilty verdict, saying the state didn’t meet the burden-of-proof threshold.

“Your verdict today won’t change anything about the border situation,” he said. “A guilty verdict is not going to deter even one person from trying to cross the border. This is about trespass.”

Prosecuting lawyer Tony Hackbeil suggested the jury “send a message” with a guilty verdict.

“You folks live in this community. I would say this is a good time to send a message ... that the people of Kinney County do not tolerate people trespassing in our county,” Hackbeil said.

The jury took less than 20 minutes to find Aguilar guilty.

Aguilar chose to allow state District Judge Roland Andrade to sentence him, rather than the jury—which was subsequently allowed to go home—and Aguilar took the stand to appeal for a light sentence.

He said his parents brought him to Florida at age 6, where he later graduated from high school.

Aguilar admitted to a criminal history that includes a 1996 shoplifting charge in Omaha, Nebraska, buying cocaine in California in 2002, and conducting a home invasion in Florida in 1999.

After being jailed in California, Aguilar was extradited to Florida to face the earlier home invasion charge. Upon his release, he opted to voluntarily return to Honduras rather than take an extended probation period. He later moved to Mexico but said cartels were targeting him, so he crossed the U.S. border.

He said he hasn’t made any attempts throughout the years to enter the United States legally.

At its conclusion, Aguilar said he was happy with the trial.

“I’m still grateful. Everything’s OK. There’s tough feelings from the community,” he told The Epoch Times. With eight months served since his arrest on Sept. 13, 2021, he has four months to go.

Lawsuit Seeks Documents on Biden ‘Climate Disinformation’ Push

NATHAN WORCESTER

A nonprofit is suing the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to obtain records that it argues “will inform the public of high-profile ethics revelations at OSTP and media coverage thereof,” including correspondence related to an OSTP event on “climate disinformation.”

In a lawsuit filed on May 5 in the D.C. District Court, Energy Policy Advocates (EPA) stated that it asked OSTP to provide correspondence and other documents it requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Those records include materials that the nonprofit says were produced for Politico’s Alex Thompson and discussed in Thompson’s article on billionaire Eric Schmidt’s influence over the Biden administration’s OSTP.

According to EPA, OSTP’s only response was a request for a minor formatting change.

“OSTP’s failure to simply turn over what it has already processed and produced to another party is inexplicable, at least outside of the White House. There literally is no excuse,” Matthew Hardin, a member of the EPA’s board, told The Epoch Times in an email.

Politico declined to comment on the complaint.

EPA is also seeking emails connected with OSTP’s February event on climate “denialism and delay,” which featured such speakers as Michael Mann.

Hardin characterized that roundtable as “more of a strange than sinister

misuse of taxpayer resources, in seeking a social-science answer for why people continue to stand in their way.”

Specifically, EPA requested correspondence related to the event between former OSTP Director Eric Lander and Jane Lubchenco, who’s serving as OSTP’s first deputy director of climate and environment.

Lander, a mathematician and geneticist who leads the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, resigned from OSTP in February after admitting that he bullied his subordinates within the agency.

Lubchenco, a marine biologist at Oregon State University who also belongs to the OSTP’s new Scientific Integrity Task Force, has come under fire for a scientific ethics violation—she edited a paper written by some of her former coauthors, including her brother-in-law, University of California–Santa Barbara marine scientist Steven Gaines.

According to EPA, OSTP partially denied their FOIA request, redacting some information based on either personal privacy or the claim that it reflected “deliberative process.”

Hardin told The Epoch Times that he believes OSTP’s deliberative process objection was made “on what appear to be specious grounds.”

EPA’s lawsuit comes soon after the Department of Homeland Security announced the formation of a Disinformation Governance Board (DGB), to be led by Nina Jankowicz.

The push by Democrats and Big Tech against “disinformation,” “misinformation,” and “malinformation”

has grown to encompass claims about climate change.

On Oct. 5, 2021, former Facebook Civic Integrity team member Frances Haugen testified to Congress that the social media company had “profited off spreading disinformation and misinformation and sowing hate.”

Just two days later, Google announced that it would ban ads and monetization for “content that contradicts well-established scientific consensus around the existence and causes of climate change.”

“This includes content referring to climate change as a hoax or a scam, claims denying that long-term trends show the global climate is warming, and claims denying that greenhouse gas emissions or human activity contribute to climate change,” the announcement reads.

On April 23, Twitter announced that “misleading advertisements on Twitter that contradict the scientific consensus on climate change are prohibited.”

Some activists have gone beyond pushing for steps such as demonetization by suggesting that “climate denial” could be defined as a crime.

In a 2019 article for the UNESCO Courier, University of Exeter professor Catriona McKinnon argued that “climate deniers” such as energy executive and former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson could be brought before the International Criminal Court for “postericide.”

The term “postericide” was invented by McKinnon, who defined it as



Eric Lander, nominee for director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy and presidential science adviser, speaks at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del., on Jan. 16, 2021.

“intentional or reckless conduct fit to bring about the extinction of humanity.”

“The damage that climate deniers do is heinous, and they have no excuses. The time has come to prosecute them for postericide,” McKinnon wrote in the U.N. publication.

Hardin said, “On the heels of the news about a ‘Disinformation [Governance] Board,’ it’s certainly a reasonable conclusion that this administration and its allies, including on Capitol Hill, seek to use the weight of the federal government to silence political speech in opposition to its ‘whole-of-government’ climate agenda. Whether that means attempts at criminalization or not, we shall see.”

In 2018, EPA received \$45,910 from Government Accountability & Over-

sight PC, another nonprofit, to “help support their mission to seek to bring transparency to the realm of energy and environmental policy.”

Hardin also serves on the board of Government Accountability & Oversight PC.

Government Accountability & Oversight PC’s board members have included Chris Horner, an attorney and climate change skeptic who has received funding from the coal company Alpha Natural Resources.

“Like all nonprofits, Energy Policy Advocates is grateful for and respects the privacy of donors who support its work,” Hardin told The Epoch Times when asked about the organization’s financial supporters.

OSTP officials didn’t respond by press time to a request for comment.

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Wanted

Okanogan County Public Health Welcomes Applications for New Board Member
Okanogan County Board of Health will add a "consumer of public health" member seat as of July 2022. Okanogan County Public Health (OCPH) is accepting applications until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 to fill a key Board of Health (BOH) position per Washington state statute following adoption of HB 1152 during the 2021 state legislative session. Completed applications will be reviewed, followed by recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for appointment. The new board position appointment is expected to be announced prior to July 2022 Board of Health meeting. The "consumer of public health" board position is open to any Okanogan county resident who has self-identified as having faced significant health inequities or as having lived experiences with public health-related programs such as: The special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children; the supplemental nutrition program; home visiting; or treatment services. It is strongly encouraged that individuals from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities are given preference. These individuals may not be elected officials and may not have any fiduciary obligation to a health facility or other health agency, and may not have a material financial interest in the rendering of health services. Access to the Board member application is available in English or Spanish on the OCPH website at www.okanogancounty.org/boards_and_committees/board_of_health to print and postal mail to OCPH, or email, or complete the online form. Printed applications can be picked up at the OCPH office at 1234 South 2nd Ave in Okanogan. If you would like an application sent to you, please send an email request to ocphlink@co.okanogan.wa.us or call us at (509) 422-7140.

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Fast Track application process and information can be found on our website at: www.cascadesed.org EOE

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Help Wanted

Two Cashmere area United Methodist churches seeking a piano accompanist for Sunday Services. Be dependable, skilled and available 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 48 Sundays per year. Pay is \$130.00/ Sunday E-mail kbray@nwi.net if interested.

Sunday School Teacher for Cashmere United Methodist Church. Friendly, reliable Sunday School Teacher who is motivated and creative with a talent for teaching 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.. \$65/ week. E-mail kbray@nwi.net if interested.

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