



Lake Chelan Valley Events, Things to do, Meetings

Chelan Museum: Nov. 4-6
Winter hours

CHELAN - November and December hours for the Lake Chelan Museum will be 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Thursday-Saturday. They will be closed January and February of 2022, and open by appointment only. They will re-open March 1, 2022. Face masks are required for all those visiting the museum.

A Matter of Balance in-person workshop: Nov. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, Dec. 2-3

NCW - This is a free workshop starting November 4 and 5, 11 and 12, 18 and 19, December 2 and 3, (8 sessions total). The times are 10 a.m.-12:00 and location is TBD. Interested people can call or email to register -- sailwithmeec@gmail.com or 509-393-9113.

Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board: Nov. 4

WENATCHEE - The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board (UCSRB) Directors' meeting will be on Thursday, November 4, 2021 1-3:45 p.m. This is an additional workshop to discuss the Ruckelshaus Center Regional Evaluation. The meeting will be held as a webinar/teleconference call and to participate in the GoToMeeting or call in for the teleconference: Join via webinar: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/251048853>. Join via teleconference: 1-224-501-3412 access code: 251-048-853#

Holiday bazaar/bake sale: Nov. 5-6

ENTIAT - Entiat Friends Church 2nd annual Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale, will be held at Entiat Friends Church, 2848 Entiat River Road, 1/4 mile up Entiat River Road on Friday, Nov. 5 and Sat., Nov. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Lots of homemade items, wood products, fiber art, jewelry, Christmas items, bake goods, homemade fudge, a raffle table and more. They will be accepting non-perishable food for the Entiat Food Bank. More info Karen Crape, 509-888-6450.

Echo Valley Ski/Tube work party: Nov. 6

Early Bird member rates thru 26

CHELAN - It is time to start thinking snow. Echo Valley Ski Club has a work party scheduled for November 6, from 9 a.m. Lunch will be provided in the lodge. Everyone is invited to attend, you do not have to be a member to join in. Come up to the hill and see what Echo Valley has to offer you and your family. Early Bird membership rates are in effect until November 26 for the 2021-22 ski and tubing season. Individual membership is \$140. A family membership is \$360. Family members must be immediate family defined by 2 parents plus children 20 years of age and under, living in the same home. Children 5 years and under are free. You can go to the website skiechovalley.com, click Tickets, scroll down to How to Purchase.

Glass recycle: Nov. 6

Volunteers needed - new hours in effect

CHELAN - Rotary of Lake Chelan 911 Glass Rescue is open on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m.-noon, at 23235 Highway 97A across from WalMart, weather permitting. They are charging a small fee per pound for glass drop-off. Buckets of the materials produced, sand and aggregate, will be available for purchase at \$5 per 5-gallon bucket. City of Chelan residents are asked not to put glass into their blue recycle bins, but to bring it out on Saturday mornings. Their all-volunteer team relies on support from members of the community to make the operation run smoothly every week. They have tasks suitable for all ages and abilities. To volunteer go to www.911glassrescue.org, and click on the volunteer tab on the home page.

Food Bank food distribution: Nov. 6, 9

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, 310 E. Johnson Avenue in the tub outside.

Veterans' Day Parade: Nov. 11

CHELAN - The Veterans' Day Parade, put on by VFW Post 6853 will be held on Thursday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. (11th hour/11th Day/11th month). Bring your flag, be proud, and show your patriotism. Come celebrate with the Veterans' of our community at Chelan's annual Veterans' Day Parade along Woodin Avenue. The parade will line up on Woodin Avenue by the U.S. Forest Service headquarters, come across the old bridge, go up Woodin Avenue, turn right onto Sanders Street and end at the Chelan Fire Station (corner of Sanders and Wapato). Immediately following the parade the Chelan Fire and Rescue #7 will provide a barbeque lunch to all the Veterans' at no charge. Others are welcome to join them

SEE EVENTS/THINGS TO DO ON PAGE A3

Chelan gets Car-Stume'd

Historic Downtown Chelan was filled with lots of trick or treaters and car-stume'd cars on Halloween as they were invited by the Historic Downtown Chelan Association and the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce to drive through a ghostly downtown to receive Halloween goody bags. Vehicles staged in the Chelan High School parking lot and proceeded to Woodin Avenue to cross the old bridge and enter downtown. Spooky décor and haunted characters awaited them. In Manson North Shore Bible Church hosted a successful Trunk n' Treat. The event was sponsored by North Shore Bible Church and the Manson Chamber of Commerce. RIGHT: Alice in Wonderland waves to parade watchers lining the streets. BELOW RIGHT: A boy checks out the candy he got from a Chelan County Sheriff's deputy. BELOW: A unicorn and balloons adorn a car-stume'd car.



RuthEdna Keys/LCM



Chelan County explores building forest resilience

New grant will look at feasibility of a forest products campus

BY JILL FITZSIMMONS
CHELAN COUNTY PIO

WENATCHEE - With western wildfires now burning big-

ger and hotter every year, heavily forested counties such as Chelan County are searching to find an answer on how to better build forest resilience.

Well-documented research has shown that forest resilience to wildfires can be enhanced by increasing the use of mechanical thinning of overcrowded young trees and prescribed fires, said Mike Kaputa, director

of the Chelan County Natural Resources Department.

"There is also a broad consensus that new tools and technologies as well as policies and partnerships are needed to help build that resiliency," Kaputa added.

Chelan County is exploring the building of a Forest Products Campus that will harvest timber from overburdened

Central Washington forests and produce lumber products for market, in turn improving forest health and preventing wildfires.

Natural Resources Department has raised \$532,000 in federal, county and private dollars to explore its forest products campus project. The U.S. Forest

SEE FOREST ON PAGE A2

Healthcare Community Statement: Joint-statement regarding the 'mixing & matching' of COVID-19 boosters

SUBMITTED BY LAKE CHELAN HEALTH, COLUMBIA VALLEY COMMUNITY HEALTH, CONFLUENCE HEALTH, CASCADE MEDICAL, CHELAN-DOUGLAS HEALTH DISTRICT

NCW - The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Western States Scientific Review Workgroup approved the use of all three COVID-19 vaccine types for booster doses.

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) adopted the federal recommendations to allow eligible individuals to receive a booster dose of the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The FDA and CDC suggest that "mixing & matching"

boosters is safe and effective. Booster doses do not have to be the same vaccine type as your initial vaccine. For example, individuals who received a Pfizer or Moderna primary series can receive a Johnson & Johnson booster and those who received a Johnson & Johnson vaccine can receive a Pfizer or Moderna booster. It is important to note that the Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson boosters are full doses, while the Moderna booster is a half dose.

It is recommended that everyone 18 and older who received a one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine two months ago, get a booster dose. The following at-risk individuals who received a two-dose primary series of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine six months ago, are now eligible for a booster dose:

- Individuals 65 years and older
- Individuals 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings
- Individuals 18 years and older who have underlying medical conditions
- Individuals 18 years and older who work or live in high-risk settings

Local healthcare providers including Confluence Health (Confluence), Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH), Cascade Medical (Cascade) and Lake Chelan Health (LCH) are working with Chelan-Douglas Health District (CDHD) to offer equitable access for all three booster vaccines to the residents of Chelan and Douglas Counties. Local providers are currently offering the following booster vaccines:

CDHD • Pfizer
Confluence • Pfizer, Moderna, J&J

CVCH • Pfizer, J&J
Cascade • Pfizer, Moderna
LCH • Pfizer, Moderna, J&J

Vaccine providers are working diligently to offer as many vaccine types as possible, so please note that booster clinic dates, times and locations vary and may change moving forward. If you are interested in scheduling a booster appointment with any of the healthcare facilities above, visit the websites below to self-schedule (if online-registration is available) prior to calling for an appointment. We appreciate your patience as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chelan-Douglas Health District: cdhd.wa.gov/
Confluence Health: confluencehealth.org
Columbia Valley Community Health: cvch.org
Cascade Medical: cascademedia.org
Lake Chelan Health: lakechelan-health.org

With the COVID-19 restrictions relaxed, take time to visit our local businesses for Shopping, Dining and Events

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CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL

Lady Goats win league championship with win over Quincy Jack Rabbits

SUBMITTED BY COACH ABBY PHELPS, CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL COACH

CHELAN - The Chelan lady goats beat the Quincy Jack Rabbits on 10/26 in 3 sets to win the league title.

The scores were 25-6, 25-8, 25-17.

The stats on the night were:

- Kills:**
 Olivia Strandberg: 17
 Kira Sandoval: 13
 Ally Williams: 5
 Josie Garfoot: 4
 Makenzie Griggs: 3
- Assists:**
 Juliana Perez: 34
- Digs:**
 Kira Sandoval: 11
 Olivia Strandberg: 11
 Morgyn Harrison: 9
 Celia Polley: 3
 Juliana Perez: 3
 Ally Williams: 2
- Aces:**
 Morgyn Harrison: 6
 Jamie Bekel: 3
 Kira Sandoval: 3
 Juliana Perez: 2
 Olivia Strandberg: 1
 Ally Williams: 1

RIGHT: The Chelan High School girls volleyball team with the league championship trophy.

Courtesy CHS Volleyball



CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

Lady Goats win 2nd place in league, with win over Quincy Jack Rabbits

SUBMITTED BY COACH AMARIS LONGMIRE, CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

QUINCY - Lady Goats secured a 2nd place finish in CTL play with victory over the Jackrabbits.

With a 3-1 win vs. the Quincy Jackrabbits, the Goats were able to secure 2nd place in the CTL. This is the first time in school history that the Goats have finished in the top two in league play, finishing with

an 11-5 overall season record and a 5-3 league record.

Going into tonight's (Oct. 28) match the Goats were in control of their destiny. With a win against the Jackrabbits, it safely secured a 2nd place finish. If a loss would have occurred, the Goats would be relying on Cashmere beating Cascade. With the victory as well as Cashmere's the Goats secured their destiny with a 2nd place CTL finish.

Tonight, the Goats traveled to Quincy to play on their new turf football field. As this was the first match on turf for the year and for many of the players their first match ever on turf. It took a few minutes to get feet under us. Eighteen minutes into play Maya Cowan took the ball deep to the end line and sent a rocket across the face of the goal. Jaielyn Reinhart came in on the back side and redirected the ball

into the back of the net.

At half with a 1-0 lead the goats knew what it would take to win the game. After being taken down hard a few minutes earlier just outside the box Arden Paglia would get a perfectly placed ball from Maya Cowan. Paglia finished with a clean strike sending the ball past Quincy's goal keeper. Giving the goats a 2-0 lead in the 48th minute.

The Jackrabbits would continue to put high pressure

on with their best player Emily Wurl, last season's CTL Player of the year in which the Goat's Madi Barker was assigned to throughout the match. In the 54th minute of play, Joslynn Simmons came out hard to clear the ball which resulted in a card giving the Jackrabbits their only goal of the match.

With only minutes remaining, Cowan sent a ball off of a run to Makayla Griffith. Griffith was able to take a cannon

shot from 21 yards out to seal the victory for the Goats. Giving the goats the 3-1 lead to finish the match with the win.

Saturday, (Oct. 30) the Goats traveled to Wenatchee and will be playing Cashmere in the district championship. Winner will play the following Saturday (Nov. 6) at home in a cross over game. Loser will host the winner of the Cascade vs. Quincy game on Tuesday (Nov. 9) at home.

CHELAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

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In the 68th Battle of the Bronze Shoe against the Cashmere Bulldogs, the Bulldogs came out on top, 22-12, over the Chelan Mountain Goats, in the Friday, Oct. 30 game at Sargent Field in Chelan. LEFT: Chelan quarterback Reed Stamps throws a pass. RIGHT: Chelan wide receiver Quin McLaren kicks ball after Chelan gains a touchdown. BELOW: Chelan wide receiver Jahir Garduno runs with the ball.



Megan Sokol/LCM



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310 E. Johnson Avenue
 PO Box 249
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Local golfers golf in 2021 Annual Golf Binge

SUBMITTED BY BOB MATSON

WALLA WALLA - After a year delay due to Covid, the 2021 Annual Golf Binge took place from October 4-8. Eight local golfers traveled to Walla Walla and played five different golf courses located in five different cities. The golfers played Apple Tree Golf Resort (Yakima), Wine Valley Golf Club (Walla Walla), Wildhorse Resort Golf Course (Pendleton), Canyon Lakes Golf Course (Kennewick) and The Links at Moses Point (Moses Lake). The group competed to win daily and weekly awards.

The overall Low Gross Score Winners were Scott McDonald (1st) and Tom Fagerholm (2nd), and the overall Low Net Score Winners were Ellis Nierenberg (1st) and Bob Matson (2nd). Ellis Nierenberg was awarded the "Wold Memorial Cup", named in honor of founding Binge Member Larry Wold, for the Lowest Weekly Net Score.

At Apple Tree Golf Resort the 2-Man Net Score Best Winning Teams were Darrell

Richards/Bob Matson (1st) and Lance Stark/Scott McDonald (2nd). The KP Winner was Lance Stark.

At Wine Valley Golf Club the 4-Man Net Score Best Ball Winning Team was Ellis Nierenberg, Ray Wilson, Tom Fagerholm and Chuck Rhoden. The Most Fairways Hit Winners were Lance Stark (1st), Ellis Nierenberg (2nd) and Bob Matson (3rd). The KP Winner was Tom Fagerholm.

At Wildhorse Resort Golf Course the Least Putts Winners were Darrell Richards (1st), Tom Fagerholm (2nd), Chuck Rhoden (3rd) and Lance Stark (4th). The Net Birdies or Better Winners were Ray Wilson (1st) and Chuck Rhoden (2nd). Ray Wilson, Bob Matson and Darrell Richards tied for the Most Sand Traps Hit. The KP Winner was Scott McDonald.

At Canyon Lakes Golf Course the Lone Winning Team in the 2-Man Team Pink Ball Game was Tom Fagerholm and Bob Matson. The Long Drive Winner was Scott McDonald and the KP Winner was Tom Fagerholm.

At The Links at Moses Pointe the Best 9 Holes Net Score Individual Game Winners were Tom Fagerholm (1st), Chuck Rhoden (2nd) and Darrell Richards and Ellis Nierenberg tied for 3rd Place. The Most Greens Hit in Regulation Winners were Tom Fagerholm (1st), Ray Wilson (2nd) and Scott McDonald (3rd).

Other Weekly Game Winners for Least Putts were Ellis Nierenberg (1st), Tom Fagerholm (2nd) and Scott McDonald (3rd), the Most 1-Putts Winners were Ellis Nierenberg (1st), Scott McDonald (2nd) and Darrell Richards (3rd), the Most 3-Putts Winners were Lance Stark (1st) and Darrell Richards (2nd), the Most Trees Hit Winners were Lance Stark (1st), Darrell Richards (2nd) and Ray Wilson (3rd), and the Most Balls Hit in to Water Winners were Chuck Rhoden (1st) and Darrell Richards (2nd). Past



Courtesy Bob Matson
Left to right are: Ray (Sunshine) Wilson, Bob (Trey Big House) Matson, Chuck (Roadie) Rhoden, Scott (Scottie) McDonald, Darrell (Doc) Richards, Ellis (Crash) Nierenberg, Tom (Tommy Gun) Fagerholm, and Lance (Shooter) Stark.

Binge Members not able to join the 2021 Golf Binge in-

clude Bob (Moe) Lindeman, Ron Hanken, Don Valentini,

Brian Dougan and Bob (Bob-a-Lu) Ludeman.

4th Quarter Road Biking Group 2021 season summary

SUBMITTED BY BOB MATSON, 4TH QUARTER ROAD BIKING GROUP

CHELAN/MANSON - The 4th Quarter Road Biking Group has ended the 2021 riding season. As a group, the members rode approximately 1,150 miles and recorded over

60,000 ft. of elevation gain. Several members logged over 3,000 total road miles during the 2021 riding season.

The group consists of members riding road bikes, e-bikes and mountain bikes. Participating members this season included Mary Fuhr, Bob Fuhr, Charlotte Ochoa,

Michael Ochoa, Karen Stoelk, Greg Feist, Scott McDonald, Mia Mickelson, Andrea Menin, Larry Epstein, Laura Halter, Ann Clark, Kim Howitt, Jake Howitt and Bob Matson. In addition, several visiting friends and family of group members joined the group rides.

The group rode Mondays and Fridays from April through October 2021 along with additional unscheduled ride dates and participation in local sponsored bike events. The group rides took place mainly in the Manson area covering 20 miles on average in approximately 90 minutes.

Some of the more challenging rides included ascents of Upper and Lower Joe Creek roads, Totem Pole Road, Green Avenue and climbing to Echo Valley Ski Area. On the first Friday of every month, member Greg Feist led the group on south shore rides from Pat & Mike's store

to-and-from Field's Landing and 25 Mile State Park.

The group will resume riding in late March or early April 2022 depending on road conditions. For more information about the group, and to be added to the group's email list, contact Bob Matson at 509-888-1554.

Home for the Holidays

5 tips to prep your home for holiday guests

STATEPOINT - Cooler temperatures, outings to the Christmas tree farm, game nights and holiday feasts. Now that the holiday season is here, it's time to prep your home for seasonal fun! Whether you're hosting a big or small group of family and friends this holiday season, decorating and decluttering around the house can make party prep easier and more enjoyable for everyone. With that in mind, here are some top tips to create functional and stylish spaces that are easy to keep clean and tidy throughout the festivities.

Delightful décor. Make any room feel warm and welcoming with EasyLiner Removable Adhesive Shelf Liner by Duck Brand. Decorating with laminate is an affordable way to add pops of color to a kitchen backsplash, reading nook or old side table. Choose a print that matches your style and easily stick the laminate to smooth, flat surfaces for a fresh new look that will wow your guests.

Mudroom without messy floors. Preparing an area

near your entryway for bags and shoes is a must when expecting visitors. If you have a bench with storage, add machine-washable liner to the cubby to keep shelves clean and dry. Placing liner by the entrance of your home will also offer extra space to store muddy or wet shoes and stop salt and snow from tracking in the house. When guests leave, toss the liner in the wash and reuse.

Spotless spaces for kids. All holiday gatherings need a space for kids to have fun and play together. While setting up for arts and crafts, line the table with a clear, textured liner to prevent crayons, markers or glue from damaging surfaces. When it's time to clean up, simply wipe the liner or toss it in the dishwasher.

Get your guest room ready. If you have family staying overnight, it's time to get your guest room in shape. Dress up drawers and closet shelves with Smooth Top EasyLiner. The grip bottom will keep the liner and items in place. Trendy patterns will elevate your

home décor and guests will appreciate how clean and homey the space feels during their stay.

Bathroom basics. Once you're done prepping the guest room, don't forget about the guest bathroom. Keep styling stations and the bath clean and tidy with

shelf liner and a bath mat. Duck Brand offers a variety of cushioned, machine-washable bath and shower mats for extra comfort and safety. The Clorox mat is also designed to prevent the growth of mold and mildew on the mat.

Making these small up-

dates around the house now will keep your most-used spaces clean and tidy to en-

sure family and friends are comfortable and happy over the holidays.

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DeSantis Sues Biden Administration Over COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

NANETTE HOLT

LAKELAND, Fla.—Gov. Ron DeSantis has announced that Florida is suing President Joe Biden, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, and others over mandates requiring employees of federal contractors to be vaccinated for COVID-19.

The lawsuit, filed Oct. 28 in a U.S. District Court, names as defendants Biden, Nelson, six other officials, and five federal agencies.

In the complaint, Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody seeks an injunction to block the federal government from mandating that its contractors require all workers to be vaccinated by Dec. 8.

“We have a responsibility to stand up to those requiring vaccine mandates, or new mandates will just keep coming,” said DeSantis, a Republican.

“We’ve gone from 15 days to slow the spread, to three jabs to keep your job. Are you kidding me?”

While DeSantis was making the announcement on Oct. 28, space workers 100 miles to the east on the Atlantic coast were wrapping up an anti-mandate protest that had begun well before sunrise.

About 700 workers representing five unions gathered outside the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, waving American flags and holding signs. The employees have been told if they don’t have proof of vaccination when they show up for work on Dec. 1, their access to the base will be denied.

And that’s exactly what the lawsuit is designed to stop, DeSantis said at a news conference at the Florida Air Museum.

“We’ve been clear in the State of Florida that we want people to be able to work and provide for their families,” he said.

“In Florida, you have an opportunity to earn a living, and it should not depend on these shots.”



Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis departs after signing Senate Bill 7072 into law at Florida International University in Miami on May 24, 2021.

By requiring vaccinations of all employees of businesses providing services to the federal government, the Biden administration has created “heavy-handed mandates hanging over people’s heads.”

People have a wide variety of reasons, DeSantis said, for not wanting vaccines—religious objections, health conditions that make vaccines risky, or natural immunity following a recovery from COVID-19.

Many worked throughout the pandemic and now are being “kicked to the curb,” he said. “That’s just wrong.”

The Governor’s Office says new data show that Florida has the lowest per capita infection rate for COVID-19 in the continental United States.

And when a new federal report was released showing 194,000 jobs

had been created across the nation in September, 84,500 of those jobs were in Florida.

DeSantis said requiring vaccinations would deal a serious blow to an already faltering economy if workers walk off jobs or are fired. And it will cause the supply-chain crisis to worsen as more Americans leave the workforce, he said.

He said that many institutions, including health care providers, will have a difficult time functioning if they lose workers to vaccine mandates.

Matthew Dawley, a 38-year-old Air Force veteran, has worked for 16 years as an EMT and firefighter for a contractor that provides those services for Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

“I love my job,” he said. “It’s the best job I’ve ever had.”

But employees there have been told that, because the space center is a federal facility, they must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If not, the identification cards that allow them to enter to do their jobs for Space Force will be deactivated.

Dawley is not willing to get the vaccine because he believes he should have a right to choose what to put in his body. The idea that his government could compel him to take the vaccine, or any medical treatment, terrifies and enrages him.

But if he loses his job, “we’ll be broke,” says the married father of two. “We’re a single-income family.”

Pressure on the federal government will increase when vaccinated workers walk off the job with their unvaccinated colleagues at Cape Canaveral. That’s the plan for many, he says.

“If 900 people don’t show up for

work, you can’t launch a rocket, so good luck,” he says. “They’re going to have an inoperable space center.”

Every worker there “plays an essential role in accomplishing our day-to-day mission,” said Heather Scott, spokeswoman for Space Launch Delta 45.

That’s the new name for the military’s 45th Space Wing, overseeing Patrick Space Force Base and Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

The installations are “committed to continuing to deliver assured access to space for the warfighter and our nation.”

Why would the vaccinated quit too? “Most of us are veterans, and we’ve seen things like this imposed in other countries,” Dawley said. “We’re not having it. If you want to take away our rights and freedoms, we’re going to take away your ability to operate your space center.”

When he was hired, there were no health requirements other than passing an annual physical, he says. Now the rules have changed.

That’s another huge problem with a requirement for federal contractors to have vaccinated workers, DeSantis said. It’s not fair to change the rules after businesses have bid on and won government contracts.

DeSantis said he expects more litigation to follow his lawsuit.

The governor will soon announce the dates for a special session of the Florida Legislature, the main goal of which, he said, will be to “make sure people can keep their jobs.”

He said he hopes his fight to keep people from losing their livelihoods “based on their decision about an injection” will ultimately help people around the country.

He didn’t say how many Floridians may be facing job loss due to the federal mandates.

“There will be a lot of people in the crosshairs,” he said.

NIH Removes Language on ‘Gain-of-Function’ From Website Amid Criticism Over Funding Chinese Research

Collins and Fauci are under heightened scrutiny for their funding of research in China.

ZACHARY STIEBER

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) altered a key portion of its website last week around the time it disclosed to Congress that experiments it funded in China met the definition of gain-of-function.

The federal agency had a detailed explanation of gain-of-function research on its site, noting that the term refers to any research “that modifies a biological agent so that it confers new or enhanced activity to that agent.”

But the explanation was wiped between Oct. 19 and Oct. 21—possibly ahead of the NIH’s most recent disclosures on Oct. 20 about research it funded in China that increased the potency of a virus by modifying it.

The updated page now says, in its only reference to that type of research, that research involving enhanced potential pandemic pathogens (ePPPs) “is a type of so-called ‘gain-of-function’ (GOF) research.” It claims that “the vast majority of GOF research does not involve ePPP and falls outside the scope of oversight required for research involving ePPPs.”

Oversight involving research on ePPPs is governed by a framework

SARAH SILBIGER / POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



NIH Director Fr. Francis Collins testifies during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on May 26, 2021.

issued by the U.S. government in late 2017, on the same day the NIH lifted its yearslong funding pause on most gain-of-function research.

There’s no definition of gain-of-function inside the framework. The only mention of it refers people to a list of examples of activities that would and would not be considered to involve ePPPs. That list was last available in May 2017, according to an Epoch Times review.

An NIH spokeswoman confirmed that the webpage, a “backgrounder” on the framework, was altered last week, around the same time the disclosures were made.

The information concerning gain-of-function “was being misused/used incorrectly (and still is) and creating confusion (and still is),” the spokeswoman told The Epoch Times in an email.

“The backgrounder was updated to

provide clarity on the scope of the framework,” she said.

The NIH Office of Communications and Public Liaison made the decision to alter the page, according to the spokeswoman. She noted that a separate page still gives details on gain-of-function research, but it doesn’t contain nearly as much information about what exactly the type of research is as the other page did.

The Epoch Times has submitted a Freedom of Information Act request for all communications and other internal NIH documents concerning the alteration.

The agency’s outgoing director, Dr. Francis Collins, and one of its top officials, Dr. Anthony Fauci, are under heightened scrutiny for their funding of research in China during and after a pause in funding of most gain-of-function research.

The new disclosures, some experts say, showed the funding did go toward GOF research, which runs counter to what Collins and Fauci told members of Congress in Washington during public hearings earlier this year.

While Collins and Fauci are standing by their statements, Fauci shifted his defense on Oct. 24, saying the experiments didn’t meet the definition of “gain-of-function research of concern”—after earlier claiming they were not gain-of-function at all.

Meiling Lee contributed to this report.

‘Ample Scientific Data’: Rep. Harshbarger Introduces ‘Natural Immunity Is Real Act’

ZACHARY STIEBER

There is plenty of evidence that people who have recovered from COVID-19 have natural protection against reinfection, Rep. Diana Harshbarger (R-Tenn.) said.

“There’s ample scientific studies that show that natural immunity is absolutely one of the best things you could have—and some studies even show that it’s more effective [than vaccination],” Harshbarger said during a recent appearance on NTD’s “Capitol Report.”

Natural immunity refers to post-recovery antibodies that shield an individual against reinfection by the CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus, which causes COVID-19.

Multiple studies have indicated that natural immunity among past COVID-19 patients is strong and similar or superior to the protection gained from COVID-19 vaccines. Some experts have pushed for federal health officials to take natural immunity into account when issuing recommendations and rules. But federal authorities currently recommend that virtually everybody be vaccinated, including those who have recovered, arguing that the strong protection gets even better when those people get the shot.

Harshbarger says a number of Americans have objections to getting the vaccine, while point-

ing out that natural immunity to other diseases is accepted as an alternative.

She and 10 other members of the House of Representatives late last week introduced the “Natural Immunity Is Real Act,” a companion to a Senate bill from Sens. Mike Lee (R-Utah), Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), and Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska).

It would require federal agencies to “acknowledge, accept, and agree to truthfully present, natural immunity pertaining to COVID-19 pursuant to promulgating certain regulations.”

The lawmakers are presenting the proposal as President Joe Biden’s administration works to finalize a regulation that would force private companies with over 100 employees to mandate presenting proof of COVID-19 vaccination or have staff members be tested weekly for the disease. There is no opt-out for natural immunity.

Other mandates are already in place on the federal, state, and local levels that have led to some Americans losing their jobs.

The other co-sponsors are Reps. Jeff Van Drew (R-N.J.), Chris Stewart (R-Utah), Bill Posey (R-Fla.), Mary Miller (R-Ind.), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa), Dan Bishop (R-N.C.), Mo Brooks (R-Ala.), Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.), and Chip Roy (R-Texas).

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CITY OF CHELAN NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Chelan, Washington, will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, in City Council Chambers, 135 East Johnson Avenue in Chelan, Washington to consider 2022 property taxes and other revenue sources for the coming year.

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