



2018 A YEAR IN REVIEW

Moments to last a lifetime: A journey home

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – A homecoming story that could make author Nicholas Sparks himself envious are few and far between, but for Chelan native Brooke (Jenkins) and her husband Zachary Dodson, the storyline wrote itself. The journey began with a surprise homecoming planned by Brooke's parents, Keith and Deena Jenkins, and husband Zach. However, as we all know, life does not always work out as planned. And sometimes, the obstacles life throws at us make the small blessings even sweeter.



Mirror file photo
Brooke and Zachary Dodson welcomed their son, Zachary Dodson II, into the world while hundreds of miles apart.

As part of the Army, Zach is stationed out of Ft. Lewis, Wash., but has been deployed in the Middle East for the past nine months. While on deployment, Brooke came home to Chelan to stay with her parents. In the midst of moving her belongings from Ft. Lewis to Chelan, the Dodson's realized that there would soon be a new edition to their new family.

After nine months of deployment, Zach and in-laws Keith and Deena planned a surprise homecoming for Brooke, to have her husband home for Christmas and the birth of their first child. Originally, the plan had the father-to-be arriving Wednesday, Dec. 20. Zach boarded the plane Tuesday, Dec. 19 and was on his way home when, half way across Saudi Arabia, the pilot came across the intercom, explaining that a flap had broken on the plane and it was necessary to turn the plane around. The delay lasted exactly 24 hours said Zach.

HDCA hires new Executive Director

Submitted by Historic Downtown Chelan Association

CHELAN – The Historic Downtown Chelan Association announced recently that Erin McCardle has been hired to serve as their next Executive Director. In the role, she will work with the HDCA Board of Directors as they continue their mission to develop and promote the historic core of Chelan while emphasizing enhancement and preservation of local historical features.

Erin brings with her 25 years of experience in marketing, management and business development. After 13 years at Microsoft, McCardle moved to Chelan and quickly became involved in the Lake Chelan community. McCardle was hired as a consultant by the Lake Chelan Chamber of Commerce in 2009 to transform the Winterfest event in to a source of economic boost for the Lake Chelan valley. In her time as the Executive Director of the Lake Chelan Wine Alliance, Erin helped guide the branding effort for the newly formed AVA. McCardle has also been a Chelan City Councilmember for the past seven years and just recently was re-elected for another four year term.

Lake Chelan Hospital and Clinics to form research committee

Searching for direction after CEO resigns

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – As the community recovers from the shock of the news of resignation of Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinic's (LCCHC) Kevin Abel, board members and staff gathered, to hold an informational meeting on the CEO vacancy effective April 1. The special meeting took place Friday, Jan. 5 at the hospital, and was scheduled for two hours. The two-hour meeting, however, concluded after a little over 30 minutes.

During the meeting, held with the intent of identifying the direction to take in Abel's absence, the board members explained that a research committee will be formed and tasked with identifying options available with the CEO vacancy moving forward. To start, the committee is tasked with setting up an outline and presenting that to the board. "It's to research possible directions," explained chairwoman Mary Signorelli, "and to put some information together for us (the board) as to what direction to take." Chief of Medical Staff Ty Witt took the moment to receive some clarification on the events to come as well, "everyone has said how long this process would or could take," he began, then asked "is there going to be a discussion on an interim tonight or are we going to hold off on that?" Signorelli replied, stating that an interim is something to hold off on until more information is received from the research committee. LCCHC chairwoman Mary Murphy expanded on Signorelli's response, "it's critically important to look at where we are now and where we're going in the near future," Murphy began, "our hospital 10 years ago is very different then it is now, so the qualifications of the CEO are going to be perhaps different, so it's important that we look for our needs and our challenges right now, and look for the CEO that can address those challenges and needs."

Manson couple leaves a lasting legacy

Submitted by Manson School District

MANSON - Many of us have pondered what influence our lives will have on future generations. Long time Manson residents, Ted and Nicki Leffler, quietly took steps to insure they could positively impact future generations in the communities they loved. In 1993, they created a charitable trust to be equally distributed to three school districts: Chester High School in Chester, Montana (Nicki's school); Manies County Belle High School in Belle, Missouri (Ted's school) and Manson High School in Manson, Washington. Upon Ted's death in 2003 and Nicki's passing in 2016, the trust funds were transferred to the successor trustee named in the original trust, Superintendent of Manson School District.



Ted and Nicki Leffler

The Leffler's generous actions 25 years ago resulted in the development of scholarship trust funds in all three school districts with each receiving more than \$200,000 in trust funds. These endowment funds are to be held in "perpetuity" and used for graduating high school seniors from each district with only the interest/earnings on the principle amount to be used each year. In doing so, the original trust amount will stay intact and students one hundred years from now will still benefit.

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Lake Chelan Hospital hires Steve Patonai as permanent CEO

By DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – After going into an Executive Session during their Dec. 20 board meeting, the Lake Chelan Community Hospital Board of Commissioners agreed to remove Steve Patonai as Interim CEO and unanimously voted to place him as permanent CEO of Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinics.

Board Chair Mary Signorelli, congratulated Patonai and expressed the Board's support towards him. "We are pleased to have you as permanent CEO," she said.

Patonai thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as CEO. "I am usually not speechless but it hit me with your announcement ... there's so much to do here, I just want to say thank you," he said to the Board.

The Board went through a

national search for seven or eight months and interviewed 10 people for the CEO position. They were able to narrow it down to four, however for one reason or another "they were not the right fit for us and our community."

Signorelli explained that the Board offered Patonai the CEO position a few times before he finally accepted it. "We are looking forward to working him, we think he has done a tremendous job so far," she said.

That afternoon the Board also approved the 2019 hospital budget. Chief Financial Officer Vickie Bodle presented the proposed operating budget. The projected income for 2019 is \$776,419 on anticipated net revenue of \$27,748,395. The budget includes \$518,516 allocated to capital projects and \$50,000 for the emergency capital.

The Board also heard from new CEO Patonai as he reintroduced the six pillars of performance. Each of the pillars includes a goal for 2019 that will help achieve the vision of the hospital in 10 years.

The pillars focus on people, service, quality/safety, growth/innovation, finance and community. Patonai informed that the Board will hear updates on each pillar every quarter.

In the last meeting, Commissioner Mary Murphy sug-



Steve Patonai Lake Chelan Community Hospital new CEO.

gested for the Board to write a letter to community answering questions they have on the hospital. The letter was presented during the meeting and approved to be published in the hospital's website.

The Commissioners want to communicate with the community at a personal level and will be writing letters to the community with updates from the hospital every now and then.

To read the letter from the Board Commissioners see page A2.

Grandpa Camp and Thrive Chelan Valley team up to serve MOE students

Grandpas in the Classroom will begin in Feb. 2019

By DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – Representatives of the Grandpa Project, Thrive Chelan Valley and Morgen Owings Elementary met in an informal session on Dec. 17 to discuss the future mentoring program for third grade students at Morgen Owings Elementary (MOE).

School and Community Liaison and founder of Thrive Sarah Barnes, opened the discussion. "I see my job as

bringing the resources of the community to kids ... caring people is the best resource our community has," said Barnes.

Barnes informed that she is always seeking opportunities to make those relationships happen. So when she met Rod Brooks of the Grandpa Project she was excited.

"I think you have no idea, what legacy you might leave behind for a student in the schools," said Barnes as she thanked the five grandpas who attended the meeting.

After moving to Chelan from the East Coast and from Bellingham, Associate Princi-

pal at MOE Todd Hausmann noticed that there are fewer resources in the community to meet the diverse needs of students.

"It's going to take all us in the small town of Chelan to work together and help kids with what they need," said Hausmann.

He recalls his first conversations with Mentoring Program



Rod Brooks of the Grandpa Project

Director Tori Carpenter and Barnes about mentoring opportunities at MOE and being thrilled for the kids.

Hausmann shared a few statistics from MOE, "We have a school population that really is hurting in a lot of different ways ... 60 percent of our students are Hispanic, 70 percent of our students qualify for free and reduce

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Chelan City Council tackles last meeting of 2018

New rates and fees addressed

By DIANA PIÑON STAFF WRITER

CHELAN – The Chelan City Council voted to adopt the new fees and charges for water and sewer, effective March 2019 during the Dec. 18 meeting.

Andy Baker of FCS Group was brief and efficient as he went over the changes based on feedback from the last workshop session with the Council and staff.

"We have separated out the General Facilities Charges to be effective on March 1 rather than January 1, to have those going through the process time to react to that," informed Baker.

The resolution includes the Lord Acres local facility charge area fee, which was not in the previous draft. However, the fee was included in the

current resolution and there's no change to how that is being handle at the moment.

New services within the Lord Acres area are charged an additional \$1,970 per sewer ERU. According to Public Works Director Jake Youngren. "There was a sewer lift station constructed that had a benefit area to Lord Acres, it essentially reimbursement that cost allocation."

The Lord Acres fee is not taking anyone by surprise, since it was part of the current code. "Everyone in that area has been paying this fee, when they are connected in addition to the GFC," said Baker.

Council woman Erin McCardle felt uncomfortable about finding out about the fee last minute. "We spent two months really digging in and understanding the numbers and the cost behind GFC charges in general .. for



Photo by Diana Piñon
Mayor Mike Cooney recognized Michelle Jerome and Mark Tesch for many years of Community Service in Chelan. The two will be moving to Twisp.

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Chelan City Council swears in new members, accepts resignation

Finance department helps right some wrongs
By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Oaths of office by incoming councilmembers Ty Witt and Tim Hollingsworth, as well as incumbents Erin McCardle and Servando Robledo initiated the regular City Council meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 9 in council chambers at City Hall. Each council representative stood, hand raised, repeating oaths as instructed by City Clerk Peri Gallucci. After each receiving their certification solidifying their placement on the council, regular agenda items began. Motion considerations consumed a bulk of the night's agenda. Considerations included the assignment/election of a Mayor Pro Tempore, which was designated to Councilwoman Wendy Isenhardt by unanimous decision. Isenhardt currently serves in this capacity, and will continue to for another two years.

Chelan Fire and Rescue Staff moves up

Welcomes Assistant Chief of Volunteer Services Brandon Asher



Mirror file photo

Assistant Chief of Volunteer Services Brandon Asher gets pinned by his father, and Entiat Fire Chief, Mike Asher at the regular commissioner's meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Chelan Fire and Rescue (CFR) 7 Station.

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Fire and Rescue 7 staff and commissioners initiated the regular commissioner's meeting with an oath of office, and promotion and badge pinning ceremonies.

After being elected as commissioner number one to Chelan Fire and Rescue (CFR), Phil Moller swore his oath to office and sat amongst fellow commissioners, Russ Jones and Tom Peters, Wednesday, Jan. 10 at CFR Station 71. Following Moller's oath to office, was a promotional and pinning ceremony for Assistant Chief Mark Donnell, who will now be serving as Deputy Chief of Operations. Brandon Asher was then announced as the new assistant chief of volunteer services, and was pinned by his father, and Entiat Fire Chief Mike Asher. Concluding the pinning ceremony was Ed Bleitz, who has been assigned as Chaplain.

Chelan Town Hall meeting talks affordable housing options

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Walking into room filled with community members, all in wait for the first of many town hall meetings to commence, is usually a sure sign of the level of awareness within the community on any given subject. This particular night, Tuesday, Jan. 16, the discussion was all about the need for affordable housing in Chelan. "The reason that we're doing these town hall meetings is that we've found it's so hard to have a dialogue at city council," Chelan Mayor Mike Cooney explained, then added that he would like to see more town hall meetings held, at least once per quarter.

Cooney led into the night's discussions with an introductory flow chart of the needs and problems in the community's lack of housing. "I think (everyone) has an idea of what affordable housing is," he began, "but it's very hard to put it down on paper and to actually see it transpose into something affordable." The intent of the meeting was to not only identify the root cause of the affordable housing dilemma in Chelan, but to also identify possible solutions for the creation and sustainability of affordable housing within Chelan's city limits.

Friends of Lake Chelan provides insight on affordable housing crisis

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Friends of Lake Chelan's Steve Kiene and John Olson orchestrated an affordable housing meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 10 at Lakeside Lodge and Suites. The meeting emphasized on the negative impact that short-term rentals (STR) can have on a community.

Olson led into the presentation with a slideshow of statistics gathered through many agencies including the planning departments of the City of Walla Walla, Wash., City of Chelan and City of Bend, Oregon. The presentation started out by comparing the community of Chelan and the short-term rental crisis to "The Frog Story" in which a frog stays in a pot of water, brought to a slow boil, until the end, but will jump out of already boiling water. "Our community is only degrees away from being that frog," said Olson, "(and) short-term/vacation rentals are the burner."



John Olson

Alyssa La Mar crowned Manson Apple Blossom Queen



Alyssa La Mar was crowned as the 2018 Manson Apple Blossom Queen by last year's Queen Rosellyn Lindert, during the Apple Blossom Royalty Selection.

Saturday, Jan. 27 at Manson High School. Princesses are Celina Mendoza, Addi Torgeson and Diocelina Cervantes. Theme for this year's festival is Apple Blossom Fever, a throwback to the 1970s, and will take place on May 11 and 12.

Lake Chelan Community Hospital's research committee divulges CEO replacement process

Commissioners receive USDA funding update

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – The Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinic (LCCHC) CEO Transition Research Committee provided a proposal to hospital leadership staff and commissioners during the monthly board meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the hospital. The committee, responsible for finding an interim replacement, have advertised the open position and set a target closing date for the CEO interim position of Friday, Feb. 2, they said. "I think we've put together a good plan on moving forward," stated Hospital Commissioner Phyllis Gleasman. After collecting the submitted applications, the research team will begin narrowing down the candidates based on qualifications and will present the top three selections to the hospital board to begin the interview process. The interim CEO, however, will not be eligible for the permanent position. The rationale behind disallowing eligibility, explained Medical Director Ty Witt, was "mainly because other applicants may look at that person as having a leg up, and maybe we would lose some very applicants and very qualified CEOs because somebody else basically already had their foot in the door." The search for the interim will take place locally through advertising and the community, however the board approved a separate search technique for the permanent position, contracting B.E. Smith's professional search services in the discovery and selection of qualified individuals.

Smart meter concerns explained, voices continue to grow

An interview with the Smart Meter Awareness Group of Chelan County

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – From the moment Chelan County PUD presented a proposal on the replacement of the current, older analog meters with the advanced two-way meters, there was voiced concern on the adverse health effects that these meters may present within the community. The Lake Chelan Mirror sat down with three of those voices for a detailed look at the concern.

Chelan citizens Robin Casal, Suzan Keller and Laura Folsom, with Smart Meter Awareness Group of Chelan County, presented a folder, filled with some research from reputable sources and other pieces the group felt solidified the health concerns associated with the increase in Radio Frequencies (RF) that the installation of the two-way meters would present. "When we started doing our research," began Laura Folsom, "is the health effects on the human body, and they (Chelan County PUD) have taken a study that was done back in 1998, which was actually done on an older study, that was done by the military on a healthy, young adult male that determined that such amount of RF was safe for the human body." That study is the study that has been used on their basis for the safety of the RF, she continued. "Most of us weren't in this type of frequency back in 1998," Folsom added, "we didn't hardly have cell phones and things like that ... they say this one machine is safe, but don't really say (how safe it is) when you add them all (the electronics) together."

2018 Chelan High School Hall of Fame inductees

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Nearly every seat was taken at the Chelan High School's (CHS) gymnasium, Thursday, Feb. 1. The ceremony for the 2018 Chelan High School Hall of Fame inductions of Jim Talley, Phil Cullen, Stephanie Parsley and the 1999 State Baseball Championship Team was held between varsity games at Chelan High School, and the photos and histories of the inductees will be displayed at the Chelan Community Gym.

Chelan Fire and Rescue Citizen's Task Force recommends maintaining level of service

Refuses to advise levy as means to maintain staff level

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – The Citizen's Task Force of Chelan Fire and Rescue District 7 (CFR 7) provided an update to fire commissioners and staff during a special meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 6 at Station 71. The purpose of the presentation from the Task Force was to divulge discovery after unearthing both financial and operational regime within the Fire and Rescue District and the community's perception, needs and wants of the district's service. "We're at the end of our journey," began Community Task Force Program Developer Robert Merrit. "CFR has a very well-defined mission, they know what they're doing, they know what they're delivering, they know what their mission is. They have a vision of where they want to be, and a direction that they're to be in and a service that they're trying to do," he explained to the task force, "they have what we call in the fire service as a standard of coverage, which means they're going to try and define the best as they can, in the form of a goal, and try to measure that goal, which is generally how quickly we can get help to you when you call 911."

Manson High School Band instructor receives Terry Stombaugh Logo 'W' award

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

MANSON – The Terry Stombaugh Logo "W" award was presented to Manson High School and Jazz Band's instructor, Matt Brown, Sunday, Feb. 4 at University of Washington's (UW) Husky Stadium, within Don James Center, in Seattle. Brown, with wife Julie and kids, Levi and Lucy, accepted the award.

Along with being awarded the plaque, Brown and Manson School District also received a \$500 honorary award to be utilized within the high school's band department. The money will be applied toward the jazz band's trip to Monte Ray, Calif., in May, said Brown. "The neat thing is his wife and daughter were the ones presenting the award," he explained, "so we had a nice long conversation afterward, and I told her what was happening and that it was neat that I was able to tell her how the money was going to be used."

Mayor proclaims Feb. 27 World Spay Day

Chelan councilmembers, staff updated on Woodin Avenue Bridge project

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Agenda items for Council, Tuesday, Feb. 13, included a mixture of consent items and presentations.

Beginning the night's agenda, Mayor Mike Cooney announced the appointments of Barb Koenig to the Library Advisory Board and Tara Lautiki to the Parks and Recreation Board, as well as proclaiming Feb. 27 as World Spay Day, which will fall on a Tuesday this year.

In the final administrative report for the night, City Engineer Jake Youngren and SCJ Alliance's Dan Ireland updated councilmembers and city staff on progress made with the Woodin Avenue Bridge restoration project with the 90 percent design review. "The last time we were here with council was at the 60 percent design level," Youngren communicated, "and now we're hitting our 90 percent level."

Chelan Goat's Skyler Gordon fourth best in state

Junior Classman Skyler Gordon (green singlet) attempts to shoot one leg for a takedown on his opponent during an initial bout at the 2018 Classic XXX State Championship tournament, Friday, Feb. 16 at the Tacoma Dome in Tacoma. Gordon moved through the brackets, completing the tournament with fourth in state.

Commissioners in agreement for need of levy on April 10 Special Election ballot

Chelan Fire and Rescue commissioners hear personnel's sincere thoughts on levy

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – After receiving the Citizens Task Force report in a special meeting in early February, there have been a lot of lingering questions and uncertainties within Chelan Fire and Rescue 7's (CFR 7) realm. While other agenda items were discussed during the regular commissioner's meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Station 71, the concern with the lack of direction and communication in regard to the firefighter funding as the SAFER grant nears an end was a subject that took up a bulk of the allotted meeting time.

Manson High School biology students take on challenge of leaching fertilizer into lake



Photo by Erin Rossell

Each group in Manson High School's PBL program is responsible for measuring and recording growth of their plants, the algae-based duckweed and nitrate levels present in water. Using these measurements and data, the students must problem solve in order to find a solution.

By ERIN ROSSELL, STAFF WRITER

MANSON – High School general biology and honors biology students have teamed up for unique educational experience. The hands-on, problem-solving course earns students credits in both biology and language arts as they work their way through finding a solution for the minimalization of fertilizer leaching from orcharding into the pristine water in Lake Chelan.

Commissioners unanimously pass request for levy in April

Chelan Fire and Rescue 7 commissioners called a special meeting into session, Thursday, Feb. 22 at Station 71 with a sole intent of reaching a decision on the placement of a Levy Lid Lift on ballots to be sent out for the April special election. Sitting among 10 of the station's paid firefighters, Commissioners Tom Peters, Russ Jones and Phil Moller listened as the fire personnel expressed their concerns and wishes with the levy, but most of all, their expressed opinion on the community's and department's need for the voters to be able to have the option of the passing or failing of the proposed levy.

After hearing from the paid personnel, and deliberating among themselves, CFR 7 commissioners unanimously passed the request for placement of the levy on the April 10 ballot, at a rate of \$1.32 per \$1,000 assessed property value. This rate is a 40-cent increase from the current rate, and equates to just over \$13 a month, per household, based on the median home price in Chelan of \$400,000.

For the full story on the special meeting, levy details and exclusive interviews, see the March 7 edition of the Lake Chelan Mirror.

Farewell reception for Abel

Submitted by Celeste Thomas, LCCHC

CHELAN - Please join the community for a farewell reception for Kevin Abel, CEO of Lake Chelan Community Hospital & Clinics, Saturday, March 24 at Sorrento's at Tsilian Cellars from 1 - 3 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Lake Chelan Health & Wellness Foundation, Hospital Guilds B, Y and E, LCCHC employees and Lake Chelan Rotary. Kevin and his family will be leaving Chelan to move to Whitefish, Montana, where he will become the CEO of the North Valley Hospital - Kalispel Regional Healthcare April 1.

This reception is to thank Kevin for his many years of outstanding service to the hospital and community.

If unable to attend the event, please take a moment to wish Kevin and his family well before their departure.

Cochran's named Manson Kiwanis Citizens of the Year



Marty and Lorrie Cochran (pictured with Fred Barkley) were recognized as Manson Kiwanis Citizens of the Year at a Valentine's dinner. They were chosen based on their many years working with children and youth as leaders of the Manson 4-H program. In addition to 4-H, they are also involved with FFA, Echo Valley Ski hill, and the Manson high school Jazz Band and Marching Band. The award was presented to them by former Manson Kiwanis President, Fred Barkley.

Affordable housing in Chelan – fact or fiction?

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Housing is scarce in Chelan. Affordable housing is even more of a rarity. In recent months, an effort from various community and City members alike has been made to rectify the issue.

Although the intent is clear, create housing for the community, mixed information has created somewhat of a false perception as to who and what will be involved or affected. It is this mixed information that needs to be cleared up, so the community can all come together on the same page, explained Mayor Mike Cooney.

The January town hall meeting was the first step of many meetings to come in addressing the need of affordable housing, not just housing for ownership, but rental housing as well, Cooney defined. To make affordable housing a reality in Chelan, it will take all aspects of the community in partnership with the city's major source of funding, tourism. In an interview with another media, he was stated to have a message "for developers looking to build vacation homes in his city," the message being "take your money elsewhere," said the Feb. 15 article. This, in fact, was not the message he expressed, nor was it his intended message, he clarified. Tourism is, in effect, a lifeline for the survivability of Chelan.

Every member of the community is needed in the steps of making the dream of affordable housing in Chelan a reality. From the everyday small business worker, orchardists, land/property owners, to realtors and the city government themselves. "We all must play a role in the creation of affordable housing for it to work," explained Cooney.

Navarro crowned Miss Lake Chelan, Princesses Barboza, Bordner



Miss Lake Chelan hit its 92nd year, Saturday, March 10 with the announcement of 2018's Miss Lake Chelan Gabi Navarro, First Princess Lucy Bordner and Second Princess Rosa Lopez Barboza.

Chelan Fire and Rescue 7 Commissioner Peters vacates seat

Provides letter outlining unresolved issues leading to decision

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Chelan Fire and Rescue 7 Commissioner Tom Peters made public his decision on turning in his resignation as fire commissioner after over four years of service, which he submitted Monday, March 12. In a two-page letter, Peters expressed his frustration with several aspects of the duties of a commissioner, as well as policies in place that he felt were restrictive in the board's ability to communicate and strategize without constantly being in the public eye, he explained. "At the outset of my term," he began in his explanatory letter, "I said I would serve as long as I continued to help improve Chelan Fire and Rescue (CFR). After lengthy consideration, I concluded I was no longer able to do so."

Steve Patonai hired as LCCHC interim CEO

Submitted by Celeste Thomas, LCCHC

CHELAN – Steve Patonai, who has more than 25 years of senior healthcare executive experience, will start as interim CEO at Lake Chelan Community Hospital & Clinics (LCCHC) Monday, March 19. He replaces LCCHC CEO Kevin Abel, who is leaving

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this month for a new CEO position with North Valley Hospital in Whitefish, Montana. Patonai will serve as CEO while the LCCHC Board looks for a permanent CEO to replace Abel.

Safeguarding the student body

Part one of "School Safety" series

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

As parents, one of the most frightening days is the day your child leaves your side for the first time to brave a whole new world, a world filled with learning, sharing and trusting others. That same day, parents too learn to entrust another with the safety and well-being of the embodiment of their world, their child.

Schools across the nation take measures to ensure the safety of the student body from all forms of threats, whether it be a natural disaster or an out-of-place individual within the walls of a school. Drill after drill has been conducted to prepare the students for these scenarios. Manson and Chelan schools have been equipped with automatic or key fob door-locking systems, locked side entrances, video surveillance and more, in an effort to provide the utmost protection and safety for the students.

Supreme Court sides with Goodfellow Brothers

In a March 15 ruling, the Supreme Court for the state of Washington has decided Goodfellow Brother's controversial Lake Chelan landfill, known locally as the 3 Fingers, can stay as is and does not violate any laws.

Manson Fire emphasizes out-of-district protection services

Discusses possibility of acquiring pictometry services

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

MANSON – Ever wonder how residents out of district boundaries receive fire protection? That topic was one of several topics discussed during the scheduled monthly commissioner's meeting, Tuesday, March 13 at Station 51.

In the recent past, firefighters responded to a structure fire, out of district, that resulted in the dispatch of six apparatus and an ambulance, explained Fire Chief Arnold Baker. "We had less than \$2,000, at state chief's rate, for all the personnel and equipment that went up there," he clarified for the commissioners, "when you're inside the fire district, there are taxes, which means there is no bill," he continued explaining, "this was out of district." Chief Baker proceeded by explaining his intent for the topic, the request for a discussion amongst commissioners on what billing action should be taken in out-of-district response situations.

Affordable Housing consultant hired by City of Chelan will make public presentation April 24

Submitted by Karen Sargeant, City of Chelan

CHELAN - As part of the ongoing community effort to address the shortage of affordable housing in the Chelan Valley, the City of Chelan has engaged the services of Housing and Community Development consultant, Julie Brunner.

Julie Brunner is a nationally recognized expert in planning and implementation of affordable housing strategies. She has extensive experience in participatory community and organizational capacity assessments. She has supported a wide variety of communities and organizations in the Northwest and across the country to assess and plan for meeting their unique affordable housing needs. In addition to being a consultant, Ms. Brunner has served as OPAL Community Land Trust's housing Manager, on Orcas Island, Wash. since moving there January 2002. As such, she regularly assesses housing needs for Orcas Island to implement solutions in that community.

Council has night filled with considerations

New Public Works Operations Manager introduced

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Motion considerations and administrative reports dominated a majority of the agenda during the regular council meeting, Tuesday, March 27. Prior to addressing the scheduled agenda, however, members of the public took advantage of the citizen comment portion, voicing individual thoughts and concerns to the council.

Brian Patterson, of Manson, came to voice his concerns on the Holiday Hills development, he explained. "In the public comment period of that development, I submitted some extensive comments," he began, "I forwarded a copy of those to everybody on the council and to the Mayor. These (comments) are based on my 25 years of environmental consulting experience," he added, "and I probably wouldn't be talking about this if I didn't have that experience." Patterson stated that he had some key concerns that "revolve around the state and environmental policy act (SEPA) procedures and requirements, the processing of the applications," he explained, "and what I'm reading so far, the City is not meeting those requirements. In fact, the key notifications that the City has sent out on this project so far don't meet the intent of SEPA and moreover legal requirements." His concern began with the notice of application, the original filing in October of 2017, as well as the most recent notice issued this March. "I have two major concerns," he expressed to Council, "my first concern is that neither of the notice of applications acknowledge the significant lead and arsenic soil contamination at the project site. It's a well-known soil contamination has to be negated in accordance with environmental rules, and unfortunately under SEPA, the City doesn't note this." The public notification process, known as an Optional DNS process, minimizes the amount of public comment that's allowed, he explained, "in fact, the SEPA does not allow this streamline process to be used, so my comment is that on that issue is to go back, acknowledge the contamination, address how it's going to be mitigated and reissue a notice of application that allows the public to comment on that, which is a key part of the SEPA process."

Citizens for Fire District 7 hold informational public forum

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Citizens for Fire District 7 conducted an informational public meeting at the Performing Arts Center within Chelan High School, Wednesday, April 4. The intent of the meeting was to not only present facts on both the benefits and the risks involved with a levy LID lift, but also to answer any lingering questions from the community. The levy, which is placed on the ballot for April's special elections, is requesting an additional 40 cents to the existing 92 cents per thousand Chelan residents currently pay in their property taxes for the fire district, for an annual total of \$1.32 per thousand of assessed property value. The levy, if not passed, does not eliminate the 92 cents per thousand already being paid, that will remain in place. Instead, the new levy, if passed, will add 40 cents to what is already being paid in taxes.

Chelan doctor Tobe Harberd named 2018 Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner

Submitted by Celeste Thomas, LCCHC



CHELAN - Dr. Tobe Harberd of Chelan (left) was honored as the 2018 Outstanding Rural Health Practitioner this week at the annual Rural Health Conference in Spokane.

Harberd, who has practiced family medicine at the Lake Chelan Clinic (LCC) for 10 years, is an advocate for rural health and an inspiration to medical students, said John McCarthy, who presented the award March 27. McCarthy, Assistant Dean of Rural Programs at the University of Washington (UW) School of Medicine, oversees the UW programs that place medical students in rural primary care clinics to learn from established doctors.

Xitlali Cruz earns spot at summer computer science program

Submitted by Brad Wilson, Chelan High School Principal

CHELAN - Chelan High School freshmen Xitlali Cruz has earned one of only 30 available spots in a prestigious Stanford summer computer science program! Xitlali is the daughter of Jose and Rosa Cruz.

Town Hall meeting focuses on Lake Chelan

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN – Water quality, supply and sustainability was the topic of the City's second town hall meeting, Thursday, April 19.

The meeting included presentations by Mike Kaputa of Chelan County Natural Resources Department, Phil Long of the Lake Chelan Research Institute (LCRI), Marcie Clement of Chelan County PUD, John Olson of Friends of Lake Chelan and Jake Youngren of the City of Chelan. Each presentation touched on an issue or concern for Chelan's proudest asset, it's lake.

Manson Parks takes steps toward purchase of Ernie's

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

MANSON – Parks and Recreation's Department gathered for a special meeting, Friday, April 27, to discuss the intent to purchase the corner lot of Wapato Way and Pedit Street in Manson, formerly Manson Mobil & Marina, or fondly known throughout the community as Ernie's.

The idea of purchasing the sidelined property has been tossed around for years, the board explained to meeting attendees.

Kara Raftery, of Pacific Engineering and Design, joined the Manson Parks board and staff for the acquisition discussion of the two parcels, and to lead the Parks Board through the application for the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)

grant. The grant covers the acquisition only, she explained, so the RCO grant wouldn't allow for any development funds but would allow for closing costs and other administrative fees, as well as other costs involved with the purchasing of the parcels.

Special Election preliminary results

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

CHELAN/MANSON – Preliminary results from the April 24 special election indicate opposing feelings between Manson Park and Recreation's Maintenance and Operation Levy and Chelan Fire and Rescue 7's (CFR 7) Property Tax Levy LID Lift. Manson Parks Department came through with strong community support, passing with just over 70 percent approval.

CFR 7, however, received a strong disapproval from the Chelan community, with nearly 70 percent of voters denying the district's additional funding request.

Manson Senior Meals Program

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

MANSON – The senior meal program celebrated 30 years of bringing the senior community lunch and companionship, Friday, May 4 at North Shore Bible Church.

After expressing concern for the aging community, the program came to fruition May 6, 1988 at North Shore Bible Church and has remained at the location for the entire 30 years. Prior to February of 2014, meals had been provided to the program by various businesses with industrial kitchen capabilities throughout Chelan. In 2014, the church developed a fully functioning kitchen, enabling the preparation of the meals on location.

Debbie Conwell hired as Manson Chamber of Commerce executive director

Submitted by Eric Featherstone,

MANSON – The Manson Chamber of Commerce announces it has hired its first Executive Director, Debbie Conwell, to manage the operations of the Manson Chamber of Commerce.

Debbie Conwell, long-time Manson resident, brings over 30 years of administration management. In addition, she is a local business owner and donates a tremendous amount of time to local non-profits and their events.

Goats head to state playoffs

Goats break 20-year drought with district victory

Submitted by Head Coach Dana Papesedero and Athletic Director Rob Rainville
EPHRATA – The Chelan baseball team won the district championship Friday

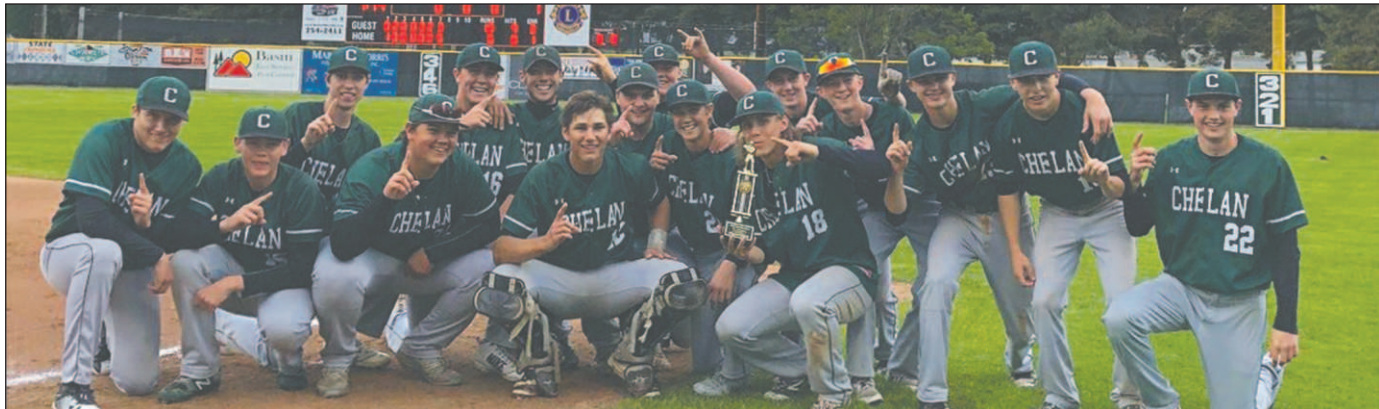


Photo courtesy of Athletic Director Rob Rainville

Goats baseball moves on to state playoffs after defeating the Cashmere Bulldogs in District playoffs, Friday, May 11 at Johnson/O'Brien Stadium in Ephrata. The victory for the Goats marks the first district championship for Chelan baseball in

night by defeating long time CTL powerhouse, and number 2 ranked team in the state Cashmere Bulldogs by a score of 10-6 at Johnson/O'Brien Stadium in Ephrata. This is the first district championship for the baseball team in over 20 years.

Cashmere jumped out to a quick 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first, but that would not last for long, as shortstop Gage Estes smashed a 2-run homer to deep left field, giving the Goats the lead in the top of the second. The Goats never looked back, cruising to an eventual 10-6 win behind Connor Wilson's masterful performance on the mound, earning his 6th win of the season vs no losses. Sophomore Brennan Moody, and freshman Drake Bird each had two hits in the game, along with two RBIs apiece.

Manson Fire recognizes volunteer's certification, discusses future workshop

By Erin Rossell, Staff Writer

MANSON – The volunteer-based fire department, Chelan County Fire District 5 (CCFD 5), recognized Volunteer Firefighter Karen Sargeant for completing training and becoming HazMat certified during the board of commissioners meeting, Tuesday, May 8 at Station 51.

"These certifications are huge," Fire Chief Arnold Baker said to Sargeant, "and it's not an easy thing, but it's very appreciated. You put in the time and the effort, and the citizens get value out of it." Sargeant explained that, after setting the goal of completing the HazMat training, there were times that she wasn't so sure of the outcome.

Campbell's Resort Voted #1 Resort in King 5 / Evening Magazine Contest

Submitted by Mia Campbell

CHELAN – Campbell's Resort on Lake Chelan was recently voted 'Best Resort' by King5.com and Evening Magazine's Best Northwest Escapes contest. The annual contest allows thousands of Pacific Northwest residents to cast their votes for destination preferences in such categories as road trips, hikes, wineries and resorts. To qualify for the "Best Resort" category, nominees were required to have full service resort amenities including a restaurant, pool and spa and to reside in a location that offers superlative, natural beauty. Campbell's had previously won the contest's 'Best Resort' recognition in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2016.

Chelan organizations receive Washington Main Street Award

SEATTLE – The Historic Downtown Chelan Association and the Lake Chelan Historical Society received the Community Partnership Award at Washington Main Street's Excellence on Main Awards Ceremony on April 24 in Port Townsend. The ceremony was held in conjunction with RevitalizeWA, Washington State's Preservation and Main Street Conference.

Recognizing their shared goals around Chelan's heritage and historic treasures, the Historic Downtown Chelan Association (HDCA) and the Lake Chelan Historical Society forged a partnership in 2016 focused on two types of public projects: plaques and wraps.

LINK Plus application and processing at Chelan Valley Hope was very successful

Submitted by Claudia Swenson,

Tender Loving Care for Seniors

CHELAN - Link Plus representatives, Maggie and Adina, worked with nine Chelan and Manson residents and their family/caregivers Thursday, May 17 at Chelan Valley Hope. They reviewed their applications, did the "transit walk" activity and talked with them about issues that prevent them from using the regular Link Bus. The applicants will be notified by mail of the outcome of their application.

Tender Loving Care for Seniors staff and volunteers provided administrative support for Link staff and refreshments for the applicants. Ken Young provided courtesy rides for five applicants and TLC staff assisted another. The event was very successful and a wait list has been started for the next Chelan/Manson LINK Plus event.

Chelan Council selects SCJ Alliance, Stormin' Towing for city services

By Mike Maltais, Staff Writer

CHELAN – It was a workmanlike, business-as-usual bi-monthly meeting of the City Council last Tuesday, May 22, featuring AWC appointments, a PUD interlocal agreement, a few changes to the municipal code, and a couple of contract awards.

Council members authorized Manor Mike Cooney to finalize and execute a Professional Services Agreement with SCJ Alliance of Wenatchee for construction administration and inspection oversight for the Woodin Avenue Bridge Project. Council also gave the major the go-ahead to execute an agreement with Stormin' Towing for city towing services to replace the previous contractor, Burkhard Towing, that closed its doors last year. Council members also approved a minor to Chelan Municipal Code language to allow the city to pursue services with the new towing service.

Lake Chelan Hospital Board appoints LaPorte as new commissioner

Submitted by Celeste Thomas of LCCHC

Chelan – Lake Chelan Community Hospital & Clinics (LCCHC) Board of Commissioners appointed Jordana LaPorte of Chelan to fill the vacancy left by Commissioner Tom Warren at its regular board meeting Tuesday, May 22. She will serve until the November 2019 election.

"I applied for this position because I believe our valley should have the best possible healthcare facility, and I believe I can contribute to that goal," said LaPorte, who is the President/CEO of LaPorte Financial Alliance, Inc., a full-service accounting firm in Chelan.

Local RN seeks grant funding to continue community service

By Mike Maltais, Staff Writer

CHELAN – For the last four of her 35 years as a practicing Registered Nurse, Michelle Jerome has served the greater Chelan Valley from Manson to Chelan Falls visiting, assisting, and educating vulnerable and older adults in their homes. The service Jerome provides is free and is funded by grants and generous donations from those who help Jerome "knit a safety net for the Lake Chelan Community" to use her words.

Jerome's latest funding, a \$23,000 grant from United Health Care, combined with community fundraising to meet minimum budgetary requirements, kicked in last August 1. The problem is, that grant comes to an end on July 31, and Jerome needs to find another one to continue her community outreach.



LCM file photo

Michelle Jerome RN, BSN, Chelan Valley Community Nurse

Chelan Fire and Rescue's fast response contains brush fire, saves homes

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer

CHELAN – A fast response by fire personnel from Chelan Fire and Rescue Station 71 is credited with containing a wind-driven brush fire and saving two homes on Sunday, May 27.

According to the official CFR release the blaze was first reported at about 10:04 a.m. Sunday, May 27, as a 50-foot-by-50-foot brush fire along State Route 150. Stiff winds pushed the flames up the hillside despite efforts by a number of citizens to stop the fire's rapid progress.

The first units from CFR Station 71, two brush engines and water tender with six fire

fighters, were on the scene in less than five-and-a-half minutes after the initial 911 call.

City gets green light to award Woodin Avenue Bridge restoration project

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer

CHELAN – In a special workshop on Tuesday, June 5, the City Council addressed several issues including the State Route 97A pacing project with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), water safety rules, lead and arsenic with the Department of Ecology and the pending Woodin Avenue Bridge renovation. The list of repairs, alterations and additions to the Woodin Bridge is an extensive one. Chief among them is changing the vehicle traffic across the span from two-way to a one-way configuration entering the south downtown.

City Administrator Mike Jackson itemized other improvements including "expanding approximately 1,900 feet of sidewalk to increase pedestrian access, incorporating 1,200 feet of new bike lanes, replacing 1,200 feet of water line and improving the Woodin Avenue Landing Park."

County County Commissioners select Witherbee to Chelan Fire District Board

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer

CHELAN – Former Chelan Mayor and City Councilman Jay Witherbee is the choice of Chelan County Commissioners to fill the vacant position on the Chelan County Fire Protection District 7 Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners selected Witherbee from among four candidates at their regular Tuesday meeting, May 29, to fill the seat vacated by Tom Peters on March 12. He joins commissioners Russ Jones and Phil Moller on the three-member board to complete Peters' six-year term that expires at the end of 2019.

Chelan hospital board votes to approve affiliation agreement with University of Washington family medicine residency program, in partnership with CVCH

Submitted by Lake Chelan Community Hospital and Clinics

Chelan - Lake Chelan Community Hospital (LCCH) will become the state's sixth host hospital and training site for a Family Medicine Residency Rural Program, the hospital Board voted at a special meeting Thursday, June 7. Beginning in August 2020, physician residents from the University of Washington's residency program will practice at LCCH in partnership with Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH). There will be two physicians in Chelan the first year, followed by another two in 2021, for a total of four in the valley.

The residency doctors will spend two years in Chelan and practice primarily at CVCH, spending about a third of their time at LCCH. Each resident will have a panel of patients at CVCH and work in the hospital's emergency room, medical / surgical unit and Sanctuary addiction recovery unit. They will also deliver babies and spend a small portion of time at Confluence Health in Wenatchee finishing neurology, nephrology, cardiology and dermatology rotations.

Firefighter 1 Recruit Class is ready to serve our community

By Diana Piñon, Staff Writer

CHELAN – After working so hard for the past three and a half months, the 2018 firefighter recruit class graduated in front of their families, friends and colleagues at Chelan High School Performing Arts Center.

This wouldn't have been possible without the \$924,308 volunteer recruitment grant given to Chelan, Entiat and Orondo back in 2017, for a four year period. This grant was given to the agencies due to the decrease in volunteering recruitment, the grant covers all the costs for up to 80 volunteers.

The first graduating class from the academy consisted of 27 volunteers. Twenty of them were from Chelan, five from Entiat and two from Orondo. This number exceeded expectations, the program's goal was to have 20 volunteers per year. "We are off to a good start, I am excited for that" stated Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Asher.

Lakeside Park Master Plan will be modified with \$1.1M

By Diana Piñon, Staff Writer

CHELAN - In two hours on June 21, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Director Karen Sargeant was able to present to the public and the Park Board members two different Master Plans for the Lakeside Park.

In order for the Lakeside Park project to be officially started, Sargeant has been working with a consulting group in order to find funding for the various park projects in mind.

The Lakeside Park project could potentially be funded by the Reservation Conservation Office Grant. Since February, Sargeant has been putting all the documents together and gathering the correct information in order to file an application for the RCO Grant. The application was then filed on May 1, followed by a 12 minute presentation given to a Parks and Recreation committee from all over Washington State, in Olympia.

Public lands commissioner Hilary Franz to visit Chelan June 27 for Wildfire, Forest Health Town Hall meeting

Submitted by Department of Natural Resources

CHELAN – Fire season has begun, and Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz is hosting Town Hall outreach events to make sure communities are prepared and engaged. The events are scheduled in Chelan (June 27 - 6:7:30 p.m.), and Spokane (June 28).

Commissioner Franz leads the Department of Natural Resources – the state's largest wildfire fighting force and the agency responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires on 13 million acres of private, state and tribal-owned forestlands.

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