



Cashmere Boundary Review

By MATTHEW OCKINGA, CORRESPONDENT

WENATCHEE – In a 4-0 decision, the Chelan County Boundary Review Board voted to approve City of Cashmere Notice of Intent 2023.001 in a public hearing on June 28. This motion annexed a 25-acre property bordered by Kimber Road and Evergreen Drive into Cashmere's city limits.

The decision came after five concerned residents voiced their opposition in the public comments portion of the meeting citing, among other things, safety considerations. About a dozen or so citizens attended the meeting in total.

"Now I know that's not the outcome you were looking for. I know that. But I have to appreciate all of your comments," Board Chair Dennis Johnson said to the assembled group. "It is a safety issue and I think we recognize that, but it's something that's not within our jurisdiction of denying an annexation because of."

Also voting on the matter with Johnson were Duane Goehner, Larry Cordes and Carl Blum. Vice Chairman Aaron Young did not attend the meeting as he was in transit between Twisp and Wenatchee. Goehner empathized with the opponents of the annexation but stressed the importance of heeding guidelines.

"I've had these experiences myself. I think the right direction is to follow the law," Goehner said. "We have to follow the rules and regulations, and this is mapping to what our expectations are. I think it's valuable. Hopefully the city's heard some things to consider those safety concerns."

Besides Christ Center Church, which is a property of over 20 acres, the other applicant for annexation of the property was Mark Spears, whose property borders Kimber and Evergreen.

The annexation includes the roads bordering the frontage of both properties. Neither applicant attended the meeting.

The City of Cashmere owns a portion of Evergreen right to the corner of that road and Kimber. Tammy Miller is the Planning Director for the City of Cashmere. She addressed the Board and mentioned that both properties fall within the City's urban growth boundaries.

There has been an agreement between Cashmere and Chelan County about the zoning. As for the church property, the zoning is for 7,000 square feet for single family only. Mark Spears' property has 11 sites. "We've gone through the process and there's really nothing standing in the way," Miller said.

"Our code states that we have the option to annex in. Our lowest density of annexing the zoning in single family and these properties can be zoned as single family." Gina Quinn lives on Kimber Road and shares a fence line with Christ Center Church. During her public comments, she brought up issues of safety and the potential environmental impact of the annexation, particularly protections to Brender Creek and the Wenatchee River.

"The Boundary Review Board was very empathetic and courteous; however, our concerns and oppositional statements were not in their purview so, they couldn't act on them. This would now become the City of Cashmere's responsibility. Personally, I feel disheartened and disillusioned. On the positive side: It was apparent there is significant UGA neighborhood concern regarding these developments going forward".

Ann Radoslovich of Cashmere said she worried about increased traffic in an area that experiences speeding by drivers. Also speaking was Joshua Price, who recently served as the president of the Cashmere Chamber

of Commerce. Price expressed concern that the small town will become crowded and lose its quiet, rural nature.

"I can't do anything about the properties being developed. They are zoned in an urban growth area. They can build. I understand that. But they do not need to be annexed in the city limits," Price said.

"Please don't set the precedent that next year I come back here again and say that there's another orchard across the street, that there's another lot that wants to be annexed into the city, so they can build smaller lots. It will continue to happen, but no matter what, I will continue to be here."

Price also pointed out the absence of Spears and any Christ Center Church representatives. "They felt like they have requested the annexation, they own 100 percent of the property, and there's nothing that they could say that would change their request for the annexation," Miller said.

Another issue of the meeting was Christ Center's soccer field which Julie Radoslovich, a New Mexico resident who frequently visits Cashmere, mentioned. In 2021, the church received an occupancy permit.

The next year, the church added an unpermitted soccer field which experiences a lot of public use. Radoslovich mentioned that the soccer field was included in the second phase, not the first phase, of the proposed Christ Center complex. She added that the code violation was submitted to Chelan County Community Development and Code enforcement on March 14.

The code violation was forwarded to City of Cashmere on April 14 and the matter has not been formally resolved. Miller said she was unaware of the code violation until recently. While she has received a file

about it, she has not looked at it since it's outside her purview. She added that playfields are allowed in that particular zone.

"It is not the City's place to address a code violation," Miller said. "That's not in our jurisdiction. The County takes care of codes in these suburban residential areas." Susan Hinkle is a Chelan County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney. Johnson asked her to address the code violation matter.

"When a zoning code violation is created, or reported, the Sheriff's office actually investigates code enforcement violations, not the community development department," Hinkle said. "So, the status of the investigation and the recommendation of the investigators would be created by the Sheriff's office code enforcement officers and presented to the county prosecutor's office and the code enforcement officer may first communicate directly with the violator."

Hinkle said she didn't know in what stage the investigation was in. "I'd love to have the applicant there because I'd love to know why they want to be annexed," Blum said. "My question for the Christ Church is are wanting you to come into the city because of the impending code violations? Do they think that the City would be more lenient?"

Now that the Board has approved the annexation, the matter falls into city jurisdiction.

The land is still considered undeveloped with a single-family classification. If Spears or Christ Center wanted to subdivide, they would bring an application to the City of Cashmere and go through a hearing process.

"This is dealing with annexation boundaries at the higher level," Cordes told those in attendance. "But hang on to your concerns. You'll have an opportunity to take this forward to the City or the County."

Cashmere City Council Meeting

By KIRK BECKENDORF, CORRESPONDENT

The Cashmere City pool will be fully open beginning July 3 with extended hours to include times scheduled for swim lessons, lap, and open swim. City Clerk/Treasurer, Kay Jones made the announcement at the June 26 City Council meeting. She told the Council that the pool manager is doing a great job. Visit: <https://www.cityofcashmere.org/services/parks-recreation/city-pool>

The Council unanimously approved three business items during the short meeting: 1) repair and repaving of the Riverside Trail. 2) the hiring of a consultant to evaluate system options for repairing or replacing the Riverside Center's HVAC system. 3) Authorizing RH2 to provide engineering services for emergency generator connection installation.

Steve Croci, Director of Operations, explained that damaged portions of the Riverside Trail will be repaired, roots will be removed that are causing some of the damage and the trail will be repaved. Moe Asphalt was a low bidder at \$32,984. The city has received a \$25,000 grant from the Complete Loop Coalition which will offset some of the cost.

Croci reminded the Council that the HVAC system in the Riverside Center is not working and so the facility does not have air conditioning. He said that local contractors had been contacted about repairing the system, only one bid was received, for \$47,690. The estimated replacement cost for a new and updated system is \$150,000 - \$200,000. Croci said that a professional engineer would be needed to design a new system. The Council debated potential options of replacing or repairing the system. Suggesting that there may be more cost-effective ways to replace the HVAC system, Council member, Derrick Pratt made a motion for the city to hire a consultant to evaluate additional HVAC system options more thoroughly. The motion passed unanimously.

RH2, the city's engineering service provider reduced the amount of work needed for installation of a new emergency mobile generator. Authorization was given to revise RH2 Engineering's task. The generator will be able to easily connect to 5 different city water and wastewater facilities. The updated estimated cost of the task is \$38,662.

Croci announced that work on Sunset Highway is moving along well, and the closure is estimated to run through July 12.

Rusty Finch – Teacher of the Year award

By MATTHEW OCKINGA, CORRESPONDENT

One item occupied Rusty Finch's mind: a sick pig.

During Cashmere High School's end-of-year awards ceremony on May 31, the agriculture teacher constantly left the festivities to chat with a student whose young hog was experiencing respiratory issues. Unbeknownst to Finch, his frequent absences caused respiratory issues for his fellow humans in attendance. As the ceremony continued, Finch saw his wife Frederica and daughter Maggie in the back of the room. He became suspicious. Just two minutes before someone called his name, he solved the mystery.

Moments later, Finch was named the Theo Allen Teacher of the Year, a commendation voted on by CHS seniors. "I was on the phone with a kid who had a sick pig, and I kept getting up to answer that phone call and they thought I was leaving," Finch said, recalling being curious. "Why is everybody so worried I'm leaving?" Finch had arrived just five minutes before the ceremony from a meat judging contest in Pullman. His colleagues informed him that his seniors would be receiving scholarships and awards at the assembly. That part proved true. They kept his personal award a secret. CHS secretary Angela Landes worked hard to keep Finch seated.

CHS social studies teacher Andy Groce also knew the surprise. The two have been close friends and colleagues since Finch came to Cashmere twelve years ago.

"He probably should get it every year honestly," Groce said of the award. "He is the first one here in the building. I roll in at a zero hour class before school starts and he beats me every time. He's one of the last to leave. He puts FFA as a varsity sport. That's the way he treats it. He wants commitment from kids and tells them, 'Hey, if you want to be successful, you have to put in the time.'"

Finch's teaching journey began with a desire to be a veterinarian. Raised in the Palouse north of Pullman, he grew up around



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rusty Finch

wheat and alfalfa hay farms and labored constantly with animals, particularly hogs. His father Mike worked as an agriculture teacher and instilled in his son a voracious work ethic. He taught him a variety of skills including welding, construction, small engine repair, crops and soil science and animal husbandry. When "the money ran out" on his veterinarian ambitions, teaching seemed a natural fit for the young Finch.

In 1998, he began teaching in Sumner. Describing that first year as "chaos", Finch found education simultaneously exciting and exhausting. For accreditations reasons he

combined agriculture and science courses and soon felt comfortable teaching subjects like biology and chemistry. Crediting his mentor Greg Pile, Finch quickly learned the intricate harmony of science and agriculture.

After 13 years, Finch moved to Cashmere, a small town surrounded by blankets of orchards. He knew nothing about fruit, but quickly learned its local importance. He now wants his students to know the origin of their food.

"There's ton of risk involved and it's kind of the heart and lifeblood of this valley. Ultimately, this whole valley is founded upon these orchards, so that's what I try to instill in these kids," Finch said.

He tells his students, "Most of you aren't going to be a farmer, but every single one of you is going to be a consumer and a voter. You need to know what these guys go through to produce a high-quality product." With a quarter century of teaching experience, Finch noted that adapting to the impacts of technology has proved the biggest challenge. He mentioned how smart phones have pulled students in many directions and have weakened their ability for authentic communication. Besides the intricacies of agriculture, Finch has emphasized personal connection in his teaching.

"I feel good that my program and my content is forcing those kids and requiring them to get out in front of people, communicate face to face rather than on a text or social media," he said. "Technology, while it's been our savior, it's also been an obstacle and it's created a culture where they stray away from communication."

The advent of digital technology has shown Finch the need to be direct with students and adapt along with them. He gives them caring yet firm advice regarding the importance of human interaction: "You're going to eventually interview for a job and I don't care if you're on Zoom. You'll still eventually have to communicate with somebody face to face, shake a hand, look people in the eye, answer a question, take time to think about that question and

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Crunch Pak® pairs with Minecraft and Cheez-it® on new snacker

SUBMITTED BY KARI VOLYN AXTMAN

Crunch Pak®, the sliced apples specialist, collaborated with Minecraft and Kellogg's to create a mini-meal snacking solution that both gaming and non-gaming enthusiasts will enjoy.

The 3.95-ounce Minecraft and Cheez-It® Snacker contains sliced apples, cheese and Cheez-It® crackers, and features recognizable Minecraft characters on the bright colored packaging. Crunch Pak has a licensing agreement with Minecraft and Kellogg's, maker of Cheez-It® crackers.

Mojang Studio's Minecraft is one of the most recognizable video game franchises in the world. The open-world sandbox game is filled with the kind of exploration, creation, and community that appeal to adults and children alike. Minecraft also launched hundreds of streaming careers and content creators' channels, making it one of the most-watched games of all time on streaming platforms.

"This partnership allows Crunch Pak to reach a new audience and demographic beyond children, the traditional focus of its licensing program," said Ozgur Koc, senior vice president, of new business and product development.

"The average age of Minecraft players is 24, and gender neutral," Koc said. "We like the multi-generational appeal of having Minecraft characters on our packaging. This is a great opportunity for the Minecraft community to bring the creativity of the game to their snack choices."

The Snackers will be available in mid-July at Walmart for back-to-school promotions. The suggested retail price is \$2.99 to \$3.49, depending on the market.

"Minecraft players are looking for an on-the-go snack," Koc said. "Cheez-It® crackers are an everyday favorite for parents and kids alike; pairing them with our apples and Minecraft takes snack time fun to the next level."

THIS WEEK

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Cherisse Martinelli as Maria from The Sound of Music.

Leavenworth Summer Theater opens July 7

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTY SHEARER

The Leavenworth Summer Theater season opens with the Sound of Music this week at the Ski Hill Amphitheater, on Friday, July 7.

Tickets are available online for three summer productions: The Sound of Music, Rogers and Hammerstein's Cinderella, and The Drowsy Chaperone.

Cherisse Martinelli, seen in the attached photo as Maria from The Sound of Music, is returning to the Leavenworth Summer Theater stage after a ten-year hiatus from LST, she has spent years performing professionally throughout the Pacific North-

west and singing around the globe on luxury cruise ships. She is playing Maria in Sound of Music, the title character in Cinderella, and Janet Van De Graaff in The Drowsy Chaperone.

Here are some dates or go to leavenworthsummertheater.org for calendar dates and ticket information.

Sound of Music: July 7, 8, 14, 15, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, Aug. 3, 8, 12, 17, 19, 22, 25, 26, 29, Sept. 1 and 3

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella: July 19, 21, 26, 28, Aug. 2, 5, 9, 11, 16, 20, 23 and 30

The Drowsy Chaperone: Aug. 1, 4, 10, 15, 18, 24, 31 and Sept. 2



Firewood permits available for Colockum Wildlife Area near Wenatchee

SUBMITTED BY WDFD

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced June 27 that it has firewood permits available for the Colockum Wildlife Area near Wenatchee.

The available firewood is a result of a 900-acre forest health treatment to restore forest health, reduce fuel loads and prevent wildfire, and defend against insect outbreaks in the wildlife area.

In line with the Department's Management Strategy for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's Forests, the thinning project helped to bring the area back to healthy historical tree densities, from 120 to 140 trees per acre to now about 30 trees per acre.

Interested applicants should complete a firewood permit, downloadable at this link: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023-06/wdfw-firewood-permit.pdf> and mail

it to the Department's South Central Region Office: Attn: Randy Carbury 1701 South 24th Avenue Yakima, WA 98902-5720 The Department anticipates issuing 30 permits for this first section, with six sections available in future permitting phases across the 900 acres.

Permits are available on a first come, first serve basis. Selected permit applicants will have through October 2023 to gather firewood. Reference a map of the section online.

Permittees will be allowed to cut and haul up to five cords of firewood for personal use.

Harvesters can cut from slash piles or downed wood. Gathering firewood from standing trees is prohibited.

Harvesters should also check for and follow Industrial Fire Precaution Levels prior to operating chainsaws during high fire danger periods. Harvesters also need a Discover Pass or Vehicle Access Pass to park on WD-

FW-managed lands.

For more information, reference the Colockum Wildlife Area webpage. Since 2014, WDFW has used a variety of forest management tools to mitigate risks and restore forests to their historic, healthier states.

Restored forests decrease severe wildfire risk, improve health and habitat for fish and wildlife species, and protect homes and local communities. Of forest management tools available, the Department focuses mostly on forest thinning, prescribed burning, and creating fuel breaks.

WDFW manages more than a million acres of land and hundreds of water access areas throughout the state. By actively managing lands, restoring habitats, and preserving wild places, the Department serves as stewards for Washington's natural places, protecting the state's land and water for its human and wildlife.

Where were you in 1974?

You could have seen the movie The Sting, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Its soundtrack introduced ragtime music, showcasing-Scott Joplin's musical genius.

1974 the Food and Drug Administration approved ibuprofen as a prescription medicine to treat mild to moderate pain and inflammation.

Acetaminophen eases headaches and fever, but ibuprofen is more effective for muscle aches and inflammation. In 1974, doctors could prescribe ibuprofen instead of aspirin for muscle aches, arthritis pain and swelling, and menstrual cramps.

Aspirin and ibuprofen are non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications or NSAIDs. Ibuprofen is less irritating to the stomach than aspirin, which gives better pain relief and fewer side effects.

One decade later, facing the expiration of its patent, ibuprofen's manufacturer applied to the FDA for approval to sell it without a prescription. In addition to the 400mg, 600mg, and 800mg tablets of prescription-only Motrin®, in 1984, the FDA approved ibuprofen as Motrin-IB® 200mg tablets, available over the counter (OTC).

Years later, naproxen followed the same path: first as a prescription-only anti-inflammatory, then approved for OTC use as Aleve®. The main options for pain relief by mouth without a prescription today include aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and naproxen.

Non-prescription doses of naproxen or ibuprofen are much safer than aspirin and more effective than acetaminophen in relieving muscle pain, menstrual cramps, and toothache.

Although taking an NSAID is usually safe for easing fever and muscle aches, it can be dangerous for people with certain medical conditions like heart failure.

82-year-old Diana takes a water pill daily for her heart failure, preventing fluid from building up in her lungs.

Ask...

Dr. Louise



Taking NSAIDs:

1. Keep yourself hydrated. Even young, healthy people can suffer severe kidney damage if they become dehydrated while taking an NSAID medicine. NSAIDs interfere with your body's safety net for your kidneys when you get low on fluid.

2. Ask your doctor first. Most people can take low doses of ibuprofen or naproxen without harm. However, NSAIDs can aggravate and accelerate kidney problems. If you have diabetes, take Tylenol® (acetaminophen) for aches and pains instead of an NSAID, and consult your doctor before taking ibuprofen or naproxen.

3. Protect your heart. If you have congestive heart failure, also called CHF, avoid taking any medicine that includes an NSAID. By causing sodium and water retention, ibuprofen and naproxen counteract the beneficial effects of water pills that help to keep fluid out of your lungs and reduce swelling in your hands and feet.

4. Watch your blood pressure. NSAIDs often cause your blood pressure to rise. They can interfere with how medicines keep your blood pressure in a normal range.

5. Don't double up. It's surprisingly easy to take two NSAIDs at the same time. That's because the prescription strengths have different brand names than the OTC versions of the same medicines. Not realizing that you are taking two drugs with the same ingredient puts you at risk for overdose and side effects like stomach pain, bleeding, kidney, and heart problems.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy, is a 43-year veteran of pharmacology and author of *Why Dogs Can't Eat Chocolate: How Medicines Work and How YOU Can Take Them Safely. Get clear answers to your medication questions at her website and blog, TheMedicationInsider.com*

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The North Cascades is Bear Country!

Did you know: Interior grizzly bears eat more than 100 plant species and get about 80% of their calories from plants and insects.

Tips for recreating in bear country:

Avoid bringing food, drinks, or strong-smelling non-food items (e.g. perfumes) into your tent! Always keep these items in plastic sealable bags and store them in a bear safe container or hanging sacks or packs away from your campsite.



What do grizzly bears eat?



This ad sponsored by Methow Valley Citizens Council, and National Parks Conservation Association

The Contract

Unveiling the healing power of forgiveness

A novel by local writer William E. Forhan.

Nobel Prize winning author Gabriel García Márquez was quoted as saying, "All human beings have three lives, public, private and secret."

In our modern world of the Internet search engines and DNA testing, keeping our private and secret lives separate is increasingly difficult. Sometimes they can come crashing in on our public lives when we least expect it.

Father Robert McCarthy is a middle-aged priest who is suddenly and unexpectedly confronted with his secret past. How he deals with the revelation of that past with his family, his congregation and the impacts of that secret life is inspirational. How McCarthy discloses the news of his college indiscretion requires him to take everyone involved on a journey of confession. That journey forces him to deal with issues of homosexuality,

judgementalism, divorce and pride. His pastoring skills and the depth of support from his wife help him bring forgiveness and restoration to many broken relationships.

The bonds of three families are ultimately restored through celebrations of life experiences including fishing, holiday gatherings, the discovery of unknown family connections and a wedding.

Bill's Book is available online through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com and Apple iBook. The paperback is \$16.99 and the ebook is \$8.99. You can also pick up a copy of the book or order the book directly from Carol Forhan at The Leavenworth Echo (509-548-5286), or the Lake Chelan Mirror (509-682-2213), or by emailing your contact information to Carol@leavenworthecho.com. Mail delivery add \$3.00 for postage. There is no extra charge if your order is picked up at the Echo/Record office, call for details, 509-548-5286.

CASHMERE VALLEY RECORD

© 2023 NCW Media, Inc.
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Leavenworth, WA 98826
Phone: 509-548-5286

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NCWMarket.com

Circulation
509-689-2507
1-509-293-6780

Deadlines

Calendar Listings	Noon, Friday
News Submissions:	Noon, Friday
Letters to the Editor:	Noon, Friday
Display Advertising:	Noon, Friday
Legal Notices:	Noon Friday
Classified Ads:	Noon Friday

Subscriptions

In Chelan County (yearly) - \$40
\$45 for print and online
In State-Out of County (yearly) - \$50
Online E-edition - \$40
Out of State - \$52

The Cashmere Valley Record does not refund subscription payments except to the extent that it might fail to meet its obligation to publish each week, in which case the cost of the issues missed would be refunded as an extension. Subscriptions may be transferred to another individual or organization. Toll Free 1-509-293-6780

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Corrections

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

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Have an idea for a story?
Call the Record at 509-548-5286

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Services

Back Issues are available up to one year after publication for a small fee.
Archive Research \$25 per hour

Cashmere Valley Record (USPS 092-600) is published every Wednesday by NCW Media Inc., PO Box 39, Leavenworth, WA 98826
Telephone: 509-548-5286
Periodical postage paid at Leavenworth, Wash. (and additional mailing offices)

Postmaster:
Send address corrections to: The Leavenworth Echo, P.O. Box 39, Leavenworth, WA 98826-0039

Weekly rates:
\$15.00 for first 30 words
.10 for each additional word over 30 words
Borders, bold words, headlines, logos and photos subject to additional charges.

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- For info call: Leavenworth: 509-548-5286, email: reporter@leavenworthecho.com
- Cashmere: 509-782-3781, email: Reporter@cashmerevalleyrecord.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday

Cashmere Rotary Club: meets at Cashmere Presbyterian Church hall, noon. Co-presidents Tracy Franklin 509-670-1165 and Kelley Boyd.
Mission Creek Community Club: meets every month, 7 p.m. (1st and 3rd Wed.).
Cashmere Food Bank, open 2nd and 4th Wednesday from 3-4 p.m. Cashmere Food Distribution Center, 316 River St., for more information, call Pam, 509-245-6464
Ukulele Circle Join the Ukulele Circle, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday, at the Peshastin Library. Please come 15 minutes early to tune and get the sheet music.

Thursday

Caregiver Support Group, 2-3:30 p.m. For Caregivers of those with Memory Loss. The Henry Building, 120 Cottage Ave. Contact Carmen Gamble, 509-393-0789. (1st & 3rd Thurs.)
Cashmere Sportsman Assoc. (Cashmere Gun Club), open to the public for trapshooting 7-10 p.m. Private rentals by appointment. Call Brian James, 509-782-3099.
Cashmere American Legion Post 64, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Highway. Commander Ken Komro, 509-782-4973. (1st Thurs. of every month, August - June).
Cashmere American Legion Auxiliary #64, 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Highway. President Linda Ingraham, 509-679-0243. (1st Thurs. of every month, August - June).

Friday no events

Saturday

American Legion Bingo, first call is at 6:15 p.m. American Legion Hall, 401 Sunset Hwy. Cashmere. Call 509-888-1904 and leave a message for Wiley Collins.

Sunday

CHURCH: See the church page for local service times and events.

Monday

Cashmere Wacoka Kiwanis Club, 6:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, lower level. 6:30 p.m. Call Pam Leighton, 509-669-3159. (4th Mon.)
Tillicum Riders: 7 p.m. Chelan County Fairgrounds. Call Cindy, 509-662-5984. (1st Mon.)
Cashmere City Council, 6 p.m., City Hall (2nd & 4th Mon. of each month (unless a holiday, then Tues.).
Planning Committee Meeting, 5 p.m. at City Hall (1st Mon. of each month unless a holiday, then Tues.).
Cashmere Fire Department, Business management, 7 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. (3rd Mon.)
Cashmere Fire Department, meeting, 8 p.m., above City Hall. Call Chief Cy, 509-782-3513. (3rd Mon.)
Cashmere School Board Work Session, Board work sessions are typically held towards the beginning of the month at 6:30 a.m. with no action taken. For updated info. Visit www.cashmere.wednet.edu
Cashmere School Regular Board Meetings, are typically held towards the end of the month at 7 p.m. with action taken. The schedule for meetings is subject to change to accommodate conflicts in schedule or special circumstances. Visit www.cashmere.wednet.edu for the most up to date info.
Chelan Douglas Republican Women, Monthly meeting and luncheon 1st Monday of the month (unless it's a holiday). \$21. for lunch, \$8. for sitting only. 11 a.m. check in starts, noon for meeting and speaker. Wenatchee Convention Center 121 N. Wenatchee Ave. For information and reservations, please call, Angela Dye, President, 509-668-1105 (1st Mon.)

Tuesday

Icicle & Peshastin Irrigation Districts: Current meeting time 8 a.m. at 5594 Wescott Drive. Call Levi Jantzer, cell 509-607-0278, 509-782-2561, or levi.ipid@nwi.net (2nd Tues.)
Peshastin Water District, meets at 5:30 p.m. Contact: Steve Keene for meeting location. 509-548-5266. (2nd Tues.)
Cashmere Chamber of Commerce. Noon, everyone is invited to attend as a guest. Call Executive Director, for meeting location. 509-782-7404. (3rd Tues.)
The Chelan County Cemetery District #2 (Peshastin) meets at 6 p.m., at the Memorial Hall, located at 10204 Main Street. (2nd Tues.)

NCW Libraries

Cashmere Public Library: 509-782-3314
 You can order your books online at ncwlibraries.org or call 1-800-426-READ (7323).
 Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 9-6, Wed. 1-6 and Sat., 10-2. Closed Sun. 300 Woodring Street. Call 782-3314, or online at cashmere@ncwlibraries.org
Cashmere Museum and Pioneer Village
 Call for more information 509-782-3230
Chelan County Historical Society Board meets, 7 p.m., Cashmere Museum, 600 Cotlets Way. Call Nicky 509-782-3230. (3rd Thurs.)
Note: Some meetings or events may be rescheduled due to holidays or other closures. Please call and check with that organization listed.

MEETING SCHEDULES FOR AA, ALANON, CELEBRATE RECOVERY

AA Meetings:
 Call for the Zoom link to Leavenworth AA meetings: 541-480-8946
 Call for the Zoom link to Leavenworth AlAnon meetings: 509-548-7939
 509-548-1627, 548-4522, 664-6469, 425-773-7527, 206-719-3379
 Sunday 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.
 Tuesday, 7 p.m., Light in the Valley, 8455 Main Street, Peshastin
 Wednesday, 7 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.
 Thursday, 1 p.m., Leavenworth Senior Center, 423 Evans St.
 Friday, 7 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 222 Cottage Ave.
 Friday, 7:30 p.m., Plain Community Church, 12565 Chapel Dr., Plain
Alanon Meetings, Call 509-548-7939
Renewed Celebrate Recovery, Every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Leavenworth Church of the Nazarene. 111 Ski Hill Drive. Come experience God's grace for all of life's hurts, habits and hang-ups. For more information: CelebrateRecoveryLCN@gmail.com or 509-596-1510.

Summer activities at the libraries

Storytimes at Leavenworth Library on Tuesday mornings. 10:15 a.m. for Babies, 11 a.m. for Preschoolers. Crafternoons and STEM programs are Wednesdays at 2p.m. Check with the Leavenworth Library for details 509-548-7923.

Build Day with KEVA planks on Tuesday, July 11 from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Peshastin Library. Teen/Tween Crafting in the Peshastin Library yard on Thursday, July 13 from 4-6 p.m. with sodas and snacks. Questions? Peshastin Library 509-548-7921.

Magic Tricks and Secrets, Ages K-12, July 12, at 2 p.m. online

Magician Jeff Evans brings his magic directly to you in this virtual, interactive program that you can follow along and participate from home. Learn three simple tricks and stunts you can use to amaze your friends. Register online to receive the Zoom link via email. If you want to follow along with the tricks at home, here are the supplies you'll need: a deck of cards*, Scotch tape or glue stick, paper and pen or marker. *Two cards will be permanently ruined to make a gimmick for one of the tricks. You may want to use an older deck of cards or find a couple of spare cards from an old deck. And, of course, performing this trick is totally optional. Attend a free program at your local library. Find something for everyone, no matter your age, stage, or interest.

Art Show at the Leavenworth Library for Claudia Elliott from July 5 through Aug 11. Claudia was the art teacher at Cashmere High School for 17 years. She will be showcasing her demonstration art pieces she used when teaching. This will include many different types of media including a piece made from repurposed wood from the Cashmere gym floor.

Story Walk at Cashmere Riverside Park, with storytelling and activity stations on Thursday, July 20 from 9 - 10:30 a.m. Questions? Cashmere Library 509-782-3314.

Regional

Wenatchee First Fridays

The monthly community event featuring an Arts Walk, live entertainment and dining and shopping specials on the first Friday of each month, is getting a refresh thanks to new energy from a trio of local organizations.

The NCW Arts Alliance has teamed with Visit Wenatchee and the Wenatchee Downtown Association in an effort to reinvigorate the long-standing event designed to simultaneously showcase local artists and local businesses while stimulating activity in the downtown core and beyond.

A "Re-Launch Party" is planned for 6:30 p.m., Friday, July 7, at the Visit Wenatchee Tasting Room (located at the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce. 137 N. Wenatchee Avenue) where a new logo, website, walking maps and more will be unveiled. The event is open to the public and free of charge.

CHELAN COUNTY SHERIFF, FIRE & EMS REPORTS

This report is compiled from records provided by the Chelan County Sheriff's Office and RiverCom. The publisher cannot certify the complete accuracy of the information provided.

June 23

- 05:12 Trespassing, 5607 Sunset Hwy.
- 09:18 Parking/ Abandoned Vehicle, 9365 Olalla Canyon Rd.
- 12:49 Suspicious Circumstance, Binder, and Mission Creek Roads
- 15:00 Scam, 6863 Stine Hill Rd.
- 16:21 Domestic Disturbance, 2924 US Hwy. 2, Monitor
- 17:16 Civil Dispute, 6030 Sunburst Ln.
- 19:15 Public Assist, 8115 Depot Rd., Dryden
- 20:00 Alarm, 5183 Mission Creek Rd.
- 21:17 Public Assist, 305 Independence Way
- 22:25 Civil Dispute, 6320 Pine Flats Loop Rd., Dryden
- 10:48 Suspicious Circumstance, 207 Riverfront Dr.

June 24

- 11:40 Traffic Offense, US Hwy. 2, and Hay Canyon Rd.
- 20:05 Traffic Offense, US Hwy. 2, and Old Monitor Rd.

June 25

- 00:16 Traffic Offense, US Hwy. 2 and Easy St., Monitor
- 00:18 Trespassing, 310 River St.
- 01:17 DUI Arrest, 4000 block Mission Creek Rd.
- 15:22 Welfare Check, 127 Riverfront Dr.
- 18:14 Trespassing, 3469 Iroquois Ln., Monitor
- 20:32 Unknown-injury Accident, 6343 Tigner Rd.
- 22:16 Domestic Disturbance, 3878 Strutzel Rd., Monitor
- 22:24 Domestic Disturbance, 6820 Dryden Ave., Dryden

June 26

- 03:04 DUI Arrest, US Hwy. 2 and Main St., Monitor
- 09:49 Welfare Check, 4741 Red Apple Rd.
- 10:04 Trespassing, 8746 School St., Dryden
- 19:39 Harassment/ Threat, Elberta Ave. and Maple St.
- 20:07 Welfare Check, 302 Fisher St.
- 21:57 Parking/ Abandoned Vehicle, 3770 Eels Rd.

June 27

- 20:06 Weapons Violation, 5650 Vale Rd., Chipman Construction
- 20:45 Suspicious Circumstance, 8000 Kinney Rd., Dryden

June 28

- 03:58 Suspicious Circumstance, 418 Elberta Ave.
- 09:21 Harassment/ Threat, 7955 Kinney Rd., Dryden
- 10:49 Graffiti, 247 Independence Way
- 11:05 911-call, 809 Pioneer Ave.
- 12:52 Welfare Check, E. Pleasant Ave. and Aplets Way
- 12:56 Harassment/ Threat, 222 Washington St.
- 20:00 Non-injury Accident, 6828 Dryden Ave., Dryden Post Office

June 29

- 04:57 Trespassing, 102 Titchenal Way, BJ's Shell
- 13:43 Disturbance, 5188 Regan Rd.
- 15:39 Assault, 305 Tigner Rd. alley
- 17:47 Harassment/ Threat, 110 W. Pleasant Ave.
- 18:09 Agent Assist, 300 Cottage Ave.
- 19:44 Agency Assist, 4699 Yaksum Canyon Rd.

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Michelle's Kitchen Table Strategies

By Michelle Priddy

Cornmeal Mush

I like cornmeal mush. It was one of our favorite breakfasts growing up on the farm. I liked it best with a splash of cream from Grandma's favorite milking short horn cow, Libby. That old cow...

We got her after Grandma's sweet black cow got hit on the railroad across from the farm. Libby was ornery and didn't like anyone milking her except

Grandma. She did eventually tolerate having me milk her, but she didn't like it and neither did I. I did, however, really like her milk.

After refrigerating her milk overnight there was usually more than enough cream floating on the top for our cornmeal mush cereal.

Grandpa tried milking Libby, and after he caught her hind hoof in his hand a time or two as it was aimed at his chest, he put a pair of cow kicker hobbles on her. He only did that once.

Cow kicker hobbles are two bent pieces of flat metal with a chain holding them together created to keep a cow from kicking.

In my opinion they only work as a reminder to a cow that they ought not step, or kick and they only work on very docile cows at that (of course, I'm not a dairyman, so my opinion carries about as much weight as cotton candy).

Grandpa settled one of the two bent pieces of the kicker over Libby's left hind leg just above the point of the hock, dangled the chain in front of her hind legs for a moment, standing beside her, butt poking way out to avoid giving her a target, then he settled the second piece of bent metal over the right hind leg just above the point of the hock.

Libby stood quiet even though her head was turned in the milking stanchion and she was giving him a white eyed glare. He gave a sigh of relief, stood up, placed his hand on her right hip just below the backbone. That old cow leaned away from his hand, started

to take a step, felt that chain tighten across the fronts of both hind legs simultaneously pinching the tendons at the back of her hind legs and she went wild. Ignoring the grain under her nose and her head locked in the manger's stanchion, her back end went all over the place. The barn shook, Grandpa jumped back watching that cow's hip hop rump bounce up and down. And she continued to bounce until those cow kicker hobbles jumped right off her hind legs and went flying. She stood there, glaring at Grandpa with wall eyed intensity swishing her tail. That's how Grandpa found them. And Grandpa wasn't happy. She glared at Grandpa. He left the barn with his head low, a sheepish look on his face and a handful of sprung bent metal. That old cow, in all her kicking, had almost straightened out those bent pieces of metal that once were cow kicker hobbles.

It took about two hours for Grandma to calm Libby down so she could be milked, and Grandma didn't get as much

milk as usual because Libby was so stressed. Consequently, there wasn't as much cream for the cornmeal mush the next morning.

Cornmeal Mush

- ¾ cup cornmeal
- 1 cup cold water
- 2 cups water in a saucepan – bring to a boil
- Dash of salt (optional)

Salt the water in the saucepan if desired. While waiting for the water in the saucepan to come to a boil, mix cornmeal with the cup of cold water in a small (cereal) bowl. When the water in the saucepan comes to a boil, with a spoon ready, add the cornmeal to the water a little at a time, mixing all the while, keep the water moving so the cornmeal won't stick to the bottom of the pan making lumps. After all the cornmeal water mixture has been added, stir constantly until the cornmeal becomes thick and starts to bubble. Pull off the heat before the 'popping hot' mush pops out and makes a

mess. Serve with a splash of cream or evaporated milk or a dab of butter.

About the author: In 2000 Michele Priddy left the work force to become a stay-at-home mother and wife. Being a one-income family in today's society meant she had to learn to budget quickly. Food became a priority early because she wanted the children to have the best nutrition she could offer them even on a budget. She taught cooking classes at various churches in her community on "How to stretch the food dollar with simple ingredients". Michelle has put her kitchen strategies, stories and recipes in booklets, her church newsletter and in her hometown newspaper, *The Goldendale Sentinel*. We hope you will enjoy her strategies, stories, and recipes. You can contact the *Leavenworth Echo* at Reporter@leavenworthecho.com or Michelle's email: mykitchenstrategies@gmail.com if you have any questions or comments.

Will Artificial Intelligence Replace Humanity?

The rapid development of artificial intelligence has many people nervous, and for good reason. Through data input and algorithms, artificial intelligence can learn, adapt, and ultimately synthesize human thought and interaction. One Google AI engineer claimed the AI program he was working on was sentient – possessing freedom of thought and expression without input or prompting from the user.

Before I begin on why we should be concerned regarding AI, I want to assure all of us that my reservations are not because I aspire to go back to the Dark Ages or are rooted in some superstitious belief that all technology is "of the devil." On the contrary, technology in and of itself is good, and Christians, especially, should work to improve and develop technological advancements for the glory of God.

However, we must acknowledge that AI is different. AI is not the same as an MRI or CAT scan that doctors use to diagnose medical conditions, nor is it the same as the fiberoptic internet that instantly allows us to disseminate information across the globe. Instead, AI is different because, given enough time and through logical sequences, it can



A WALK WITH PASTOR

John Smith

influence the world around it by what it can create independently and therefore replace human involvement or at least limit its need for it.

For example, AI is used as a personal assistant, managing websites, and generating social media content with minimal user involvement. AI has created art and music through learning and using algorithms, replacing the need for the artist and musician. As if that wasn't eerie enough, AI romantic relationships are on the rise, with people signing up for subscriptions to have a chatbot to talk to and interact with, with the idea that the more time you spend with it, the deeper and more intimate it will be. Think of Star Trek's Geordie LaForge falling in love with the Enterprise's computer without the sci-fi campiness and a lot more depression and creep factor.

With the creepiness of having an AI girlfriend/boyfriend aside,

AI as a personal assistant, aiding website development and marketing sounds good, right? After all, AI frees up people to do what they enjoy and allows the tedium of researching, writing, and creating the program.

However, what happens if the "program" goes off the rails and is used for evil and not good? AI has already demonstrated the power to misinform by generating convincing photographs of things that never happened. For instance, images of the former president getting arrested caused an outcry from his supporters, which were later revealed to be generated by AI. In addition, media known as "deep fakes" are pervasive on the internet and show various celebrities and political leaders speaking, which are AI produced, mimicking the actual person's facial expressions and voice modulation. No longer can we believe what we see or hear anymore, and due to the rise of AI, the difference between reality and fiction becomes all the more difficult to discern.

How should the Church respond? We should proceed with extreme caution and be wary of any program that attempts to simulate humanity to the degree of AI. Unlike some who think this new technology will be a benefit to the Church in the aid of spreading the

gospel, I am hardly convinced. AI replicates human interaction and creates synthetic human expression. In other words, AI is not real, yet it has the power to affect the real world to a devastating degree. The danger that AI poses is that, in essence, it communicates that people, and their humanity are irrelevant. Art and music can be created, language and ideas can be articulated, and relationships can be had, all without the ingredient that makes all those distinct, honored, and sacred – our God-given humanity. Furthermore, AI remains unchecked and unrestrained at this time, which means there is no limit to the damage it can do, and it can happen without any repercussions.

As AI technology advances, so does the opportunity to do evil with it. That is why we must proceed through this next technological revolution cautiously and honestly acknowledge man's sinful depravity. We also must ensure that humanity is held in honor and be vigilant against any threat to undermine its sacredness. In other words, we must be people who will not settle for the artificial but continually strive for what is real. Because no matter how real AI appears to be, it is not.

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CASHMERE BAPTIST CHURCH
103 Aplets Way • 509-782-2869
Sunday School, all ages, 9 a.m. Worship 10 a.m.
Bible Study, Wed., 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Bob Bauer
Find us on Facebook at Cashmere Baptist Church

CASHMERE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
303 Maple Street • 509-782-2431
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Call for activities: Pastor Charles Clarke
www.cashmepres.org

CASHMERE COMMUNITY CHURCH
213 S. Division • 509-782-3811
In-person Service, Sunday, 11 a.m. until further notice.
Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana
cashmerecommunitychurch@gmail.com



Sunday Worship Service at 10 am
Lead Pastor Steve Haney
5800 Kimber Rd., Cashmere
509-295-8006
christcentercashmere.com



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
• 509-860-0736 401 Elberta Ave.,
Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist.
Services, 10 a.m.
Pastor Rob Gohl

ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
• 509-860-0736 222 Cottage Ave.,
Morning Prayer or Holy Eucharist.
Services, 9:00 a.m.
Pastor Rob Gohl

DRYDEN

DRYDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Hwy 2 at Dryden Ave. • 509-782-2935
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
• Worship 10:45 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bergland

MID-VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
8345 Stine Hill Rd. • 509-782-2616
Worship Service, 10 a.m.,
Sunday School, 9 a.m.
Pastor Mike Moore
www.midvalley baptist.org

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10:30 a.m., Worship Service

CORNERSTONE CHURCH
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info@cornerstoneleavenworth.com
Sunday Worship – 10 a.m.



LEAVENWORTH COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

418 Evans Street • 509-548-5619
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Jo Dene Romeijn-Stout
Leavenworthumc.org
leavenworthumc@outlook.com
cashmeregcommunitychurch@gmail.com

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
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FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH - ELCA
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www.LCN.org

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Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Russell Esparza

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Pastor Lilia Felicitas-Malana

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



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SWIMMERS of the Week

Brittany Miller, age 7

She is a familiar face to most on the Cashmere Swim Team. She comes to every practice with a smile and open mind, always ready to face what the day ahead holds. She is eager to learn, she tunes in to all of the coaches' tips and consistently looks for ways to improve while also having fun. She is always up for a challenge, is an amazing role model for those around her and we look forward to seeing her at every practice.



Mason Bjorklund, age 11

He is a caring and loving teammate who is always seeking ways to improve. He has mastered how to work hard in practice while also having fun with his teammates and coaches. Mason has been working hard on his dive these last two weeks and demonstrated tremendous growth in our first meet Thursday night at Ephrata. We can't wait to see Mason improve even more during the remainder of the season.



The Cashmere Swim Team, which practices at the Cashmere Municipal Pool, is part of the Wenatchee Valley Summer Swim League, which also includes teams from Ephrata, Quincy, Leavenworth, Waterville, East Wenatchee and the Wenatchee Racquet & Athletic Club. The season runs six weeks, from the first practice on June 20 to championships set for July 30. Meets are held at 6 p.m. Thursdays. The Cashmere team has four coaches this season — Isabelle Dressel, Kim Krumvieda-Buchan, Emma Knott and Elle Seidensticker. For information on the team, go to <http://wvssl.org>

WAY TO MOVE
Swimmers of the Week!

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Online Only - In County - \$40 - E-Edition (Paper as printed)

- ☐ ECHO ☐ RECORD ☐ MIDCOP ☐ HERALD

Print Only - Out of County/In State - \$50 per year

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WASHINGTON OUTDOORS REPORT



Salmon weighed in at a past Wenatchee Salmon Derby.



The Mount Vernon Mariachi group plays this summer at Lake Wenatchee State Park.

Outdoors Roundup

By JOHN KRUSE

Summer Chinook Season Curtailed

The Oregon and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife announced fishing for adult summer chinook from the mouth of the Columbia River to Priest Rapids Dam was closed on July 1. The reason why? It's because the run is tracking significantly below pre-season expectations. As of June 28, only 52, 572 adult summer Chinook salmon had crossed Bonneville Dam. That's about 12,000 fish less than last year's run at this time and 6500 fish less than the ten-year average.

However, fishing for sockeye salmon, hatchery steelhead and jack Chinook salmon remains open from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge in Pasco.

The daily adult bag limit is two adult salmonids (only one may be a hatchery steelhead) and five hatchery jack salmon. All sockeye salmon are considered adults. The fall Chinook run on this portion of the Columbia River is still scheduled to open on August 1.

The Wenatchee Salmon Derby

The 10th annual Pete Flohr Memorial Wenatchee Salmon Derby takes place on the Columbia River between Rock Island Dam and Wells Dam on July 14 and 15.

There will be over \$7500 in cash and prizes given away this year to include a cash prize for the biggest salmon weighed in and for the team who weighs in the heaviest limit of salmon on their boat.

There is a mandatory skippers meeting at 6 p.m. on July 13 at the Eagles Aerie in Wenatchee.

Weigh-ins will take place both derby days at Beebe Bridge State Park and at Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee.

The awards ceremony will commence on Saturday July 15 at 5 p.m. at the Wenatchee Eagles Aerie. Proceeds from the event benefit the Washington state chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association. Tickets are available online at www.wenatcheesalmonderby.com

A reminder - No Fireworks on Public Lands

Fireworks are illegal to use in many places east of the Cascade mountains due to high fire danger and that includes public lands throughout the state such as state parks, national parks, U.S. Forest Service lands as well as property managed by the Bureau of Land Management in both Washington and Oregon.

With wildfires already starting in several locations in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant Counties, fireworks bans can help reduce the risk of additional fires starting at this time of year.

Upcoming WRI events

SUBMITTED BY WRI

New Naturalists on the River program this Summer

Join WRI and Leavenworth Outdoor Center for a new program this summer. Become a river naturalist as you paddle down the Icicle and Wenatchee Rivers. These are guided trips that will introduce you to the plants and animals of our diverse river area.

You will learn how to be a better observer of nature and be introduced to river safety and navigation. This is a great way to build your naturalist skills and confidence on the river. Learn more and find dates on our website.

Bilingual Mountain Home Ridge Day Hike

Saturday, July 8 from 9-1 p.m. Join WRI and Chelan-Douglas Land Trust on a day hike up Mountain Home Ridge. The dramatic views of the Icicle River Valley show the amazing geology and ecology of our region and remind us why this is such an important place to protect. This is a free, bilingual event. Register online.

Birding by the River Wednesday

July 12 from 8-9:30 a.m. Join WRI for Birding by the River happening the second Wednesday of every month. Join us for as many as you can. You'll walk around the WRI campus with knowledgeable WRI staff. All birding experience levels are welcome. Need binoculars? We have loaners.

Red Barn Event

Both Sides of the Fire Line Wednesday, July 19 from 7-8 p.m. Join WRI, A Book for All Seasons, and Wenatchee Pride to welcome retired firefighter and author, Bobbie Scopa. In her memoir, she "shares her life as a man, a woman, and a firefighter. Each chapter of her life, and of this book, can help us to better understand what it means to be transgender." Come listen to her stories.

Wednesday Wenatchee Birding

Wednesday, July 26 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. Go birding with knowledgeable WRI staff around Walla Walla Point Park and the Horan Natural Area in Wenatchee. All birding skills are welcome. This is a free event and no registration is needed.

Student-led Native Plant Garden at WRI

Earlier this year, WRI began a new program working with the Plant Science class at Cascade High School to design and develop a new native plant garden on the WRI campus. The garden is now finished. If you walk the trails near the Red Barn, you can't miss it.

The group of 11th and 12th grade students helped clear the beds, spread mulch, put up the fence, and planted their chosen native plants.

There are about 9 different plant species and 40 plants in the garden. Throughout these last few months, the students learned about plant biodiversity, native plants, how to perform site evaluations, and which plants may grow better together.

The garden also helps students gain community service hours to place towards graduation, college applications, and more. The garden also has drip irrigation to support the growth of the young plants throughout the summer.

This program is possible because of the grant from Washington Native



Plant Society. With the grant, multi-lingual native plant signs will also be created. Cascadia Conservation District also helped with their expertise and supplies.

E. Lorene Young House Ownership

Earlier this year, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) deeded ownership of the E. Lorene Young House along with the property it sits on (including the space where the E. Lorene Young Community Garden is located) to WRI. This is exciting news with the WRI campus now measuring at 13 acres; previously at 9 acres.

E. Lorene Young was the first woman mayor of Leavenworth. When she died in 2007 at 94 years old, she donated her home and property to CDLT to be used as a nature center for environmental education. In 2008, CDLT agreed to steward the property to fulfill her final request. She hoped that her space would be used to promote conservation, connect people with nature, and teach about the environment.

Today, her legacy lives on. Since 2008, WRI has managed the property and continues to incorporate her values into the space that she loved. Her land is being preserved and helps with environmental education not only for participants of WRI's programs, but also for Mountain Sprouts Children's Community.

The house is also used to house education staff and program presenters. Now that WRI officially owns the property, WRI is looking for next steps to help promote E. Lorene Young's wishes. We are working on the vision for the future of this property in the next strategic plan. Do you have ideas for the space?

Feel free to email them to info@wenatcheeriverinstitute.org.

Rusty Finch –Teacher of the Year award

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answer it intelligently," he tells his pupils.

Finch's sincere concern for each individual shows in the success of Cashmere's FFA program. Nearly every year, he brings double-digit students to Nationals. Though he comes

from an urban background, Groce has seen both his children involved in agricultural classes. His son became a meat evaluator while his daughter earned honors as the top youth apple judge in Washington.

"He's just incredible and the amount of work he puts in,"

Groce said. "The FFA program, when he started here it just took off and turned into what it is today. We're thankful that he is a Bulldog."

Whether he is offering advice on produce or encouraging public speaking skills, Finch has found his vocation.

Though he once longed to be a vet, his way with people has proved its own reward.

"The irony is they're giving me this award and then at the same time I'm getting blown up on my phone about a sick pig," he said. "In all reality, I think I was meant to do this more than be a veterinarian. I think I can impact more people and still be connected to animals."

Let it go.

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