

\$2 million for farmworker improvements

Gebbers Farms, L&I reach settlement over 2020 COVID deaths

BY MIKE MALTAIS STAFF WRITER



Cass Gebbers

BREWSTER – Gebbers Farms and the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) have reached a settlement stemming from fines and citations levied by L&I last year following COVID-19-related farmworker deaths.

In the original action initiated last July 2020 L&I assessed a \$2.06 million fine after two

Gebbers farmworkers died from COVID-19 and cited the farm for a half dozen related

violations.

Gebbers Farms spokesperson Amy Philpott of Watson Green, LLC noted in her statement that prior to the L&I action Gebbers had already implemented COVID-response protocols that it developed in consultation with an infectious disease specialist.

“Gebbers Farms has always cared deeply about the well-being and safety of its workers,” said Cass Gebbers, CEO of Gebbers Farms. “Each year, Gebbers Farms makes improvements to its temporary housing facilities to enhance the safety and comfort of its workers. This mediation

agreement will result in even more improvements, and it will benefit the community at large through the farm’s donations to community charities and non-profits.”

Under the terms of the mediation agreement, Gebbers Farms will invest approximately \$1.4 million to improve workers’ facilities that include:

• Entirely new farmworker housing to include demolishing and rebuilding one of the older housing camps originally built in the 1970s.

“This camp has separate sleeping, cooking, and toilet facilities and consistently

requires corrective actions to meet minimum licensing requirements,” said the L&I assessment. “Three new units with all new amenities will be built in its place.”

• Constructing a cell tower to improve workers’ communications with families.

• Upgrading electrical systems to support washing machines and dryers.

• Installing air conditioners and making power upgrades.

• Purchasing new mattresses for temporary worker housing.

• Building and maintaining sports/recreation facilities including a soccer field, picnic

tables, and benches.

• Installing signage at housing camps to help emergency responders locate them.

• Payment of a \$10,000 fine.

As part of the settlement Gebbers Farms agrees to allocate \$150,000 to hire a full-time safety officer for three years who will oversee worker safety and health issues including development and implementation of Gebbers Farms’ existing and new worker safety programs. The safety officer will be empowered to stop any activity deemed unsafe

SEE L&I ON PAGE A2

Mix-up excludes small percent of voters

Early election count shows hospital levy passing

BY MIKE MALTAIS STAFF WRITER

OKANOGAN – Results released last Friday, August 6, from the Okanogan County Auditor show that the special one-year levy for Douglas/Okanogan Hospital District No. 1 is passing with a comfortable margin.

“Voters are approving the measure 71.59 percent to 28.41 percent,” said Jamie Groomes, chief deputy auditor and certified elections administrator. “However, final results will not be determined until the counties certify the election on August 17, 2021.”

Groomes said the Hospital District is shared between the two counties, with 7,539 registered voters residing in Okanogan County and 1,401 registered voters in Douglas County.

A day following the election the Douglas and Okanogan county elections offices learned that “ballots delivered to 216 (2.5 percent) of the 8,940 voters in Hospital District No. 1 did not include the district’s one-year special levy,” said Groomes.

“Since election day was August 3, 2021, ballots cannot be reissued to the 216 affected voters for this election.”

Groomes explained that the Douglas County Auditor’s Office received a call on August 4 from the Town of Mansfield inquiring why Hospital District No. 1’s measure was not included on ballots received by Mansfield voters.

“Upon investigation it was discovered that the counties had selected the incorrect ballot styling for the precincts affected, which includes 198 voters in Mansfield and 18 voters in Okanogan County,” said Groomes. “Douglas and Okanogan counties are working closely with the district and are carefully examining their processes to ensure all precincts receive the appropriate ballot style in the future.”

The special one-year excess tax levy will generate an estimated \$840,000 for the hospital in 2022. The rate will be 33 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property that equates to approximately \$66 on a home assessed at \$200,000.

BY ERIN MULLINS REPORTER

WENATCHEE - Confluence Health recently announced that they will not renew their contract with Premera Blue Cross. Effective February 1, 2022 Confluence Health will no longer be an in-network provider for patients who have Premera, Lifewise, and Blue Cross insurance plans. Other plans that are affected include Regence Blue Shield and Uniform Medical Plan.

Andrew Canning, Director of Marketing and Communications at Confluence Health said that the decision not to renew the contract will affect about 36,000 patients in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan and Grant counties.

According to Dr. Doug Wilson, CEO-elect of Confluence Health, the rates that Premera were willing to provide as reimbursement were so low that they would not allow Con-



Dr. Pete Rutherford, CEO of Confluence Health

fluence to continue providing medical services for everyone in the long term.

“We were worried that we would eventually have to look at trimming down services and that means people in this region would not have access to the kind of good medical care that they really deserve,”



Dr. Doug Wilson, CEO-elect of Confluence Health

he said.

On April 23, Confluence Health notified Premera that it would not renew its current contract. Wilson said that the rates that Premera was willing to provide were much different than what other commercial insurers are paying and the differential reimburse-

ment did not seem fair.

Negotiations about the contract dispute started well before April, Wilson said. Since then, he said they have had several meetings in an attempt to come to an agreement but haven’t made any significant progress.

Courtney Wallace, spokesperson for Premera Blue Cross, said in an email that Premera is paying its fair share.

“The truth is that Confluence is the largest multi-specialty health system in North Central Washington with no true competition within 100 miles. On average, Confluence Health’s hospital costs are higher than all other systems in Eastern Washington,” Wallace said.

Other hospitals in the region have not yet followed suit with any announcements to end their contracts with

SEE HEALTH ON PAGE A2

Clothes call



Mike Maltais/QCH

No, it’s not a new design feature of the Brewster football field upgrade, and it’s not a new trick play – like the “clothesline” – to distract opposing defenses; it’s simply some enterprising resident’s idea for making use of a few trees and some green space in the northeast corner of Champion Field while heavy equipment works nearby.

DOE recognizes clean Pateros wastewater

BY MIKE MALTAIS STAFF WRITER

PATEROS – The city’s wastewater treatment plant is among 126 across the state – five of those in Okanogan County – recognized with a 2020 State Department of Ecology (DOE) Outstanding Wastewater Treatment Plant Award. Pateros earned the honor by achieving full compliance with its 2020 water quality permits. Mike Lambert is the plant operator.

A DOE media release said that wastewater treatment plant operators faced unprecedented challenges due to the pandemic last year.

“Facility staff kept the plants running 24 hours a day, seven days a week while also managing an influx of wipes, masks,



Mike Lambert is the Pateros wastewater treatment plant operator.

and gloves clogging up their systems and causing serious problems,” said the DOE. “De-

spite these challenges, 40 percent of Washington’s treatment plants earned top-performing status in 2020.”

Other county treatment plants to receive the DOE award included Okanogan, Tonasket, Twisp, and Omak.

The DOE said wastewater treatment plant operators play a critical role in maintaining the state’s water quality. They must deal with everything homes and businesses dump in or flush down the drain, regardless of if the materials should be going down the drain in the first place.

“Wastewater treatment plant operators demonstrated just how resilient, talented, and dedicated they are by what they accomplished in 2020,” said Vince McGowan, Ecology’s

water quality program manager. “Their efforts help protect water quality for all of us. Now is the time to thank your local wastewater treatment plant operator.”

DOE evaluated more than 300 treatment plants across the state to determine how they were meeting the pollution limits, monitoring, and reporting requirements, spill prevention planning, pretreatment, and operation demands outlined in their permits.

Treatment plant operators like Lambert work in close collaboration with DOE to meet water quality permit standards and the agency provides technical assistance to help. Operators can also apply for state funding to help upgrade and improve their systems.

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

INSIDE THIS WEEK

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QUAD CITY HERALD P.O. Box 37 Brewster, WA 98812-0037 509-689-2507 www.qcherald.com

Have a seat!



Mike Maltais/QCH

Some of the new green, blue, and red chairs and white tables the city purchased with COVID grant funds earlier this year have been placed on the mall outside businesses to provide extra outdoor seating for patrons. The city acquired the furniture to help businesses cope with the occupancy and distancing restrictions mandated by the state's pandemic measures.

Red Riser



Mike Maltais/QCH

Smoke blanketing the area from wildfires has been filtering out the shorter wavelengths of light – the violet, blue, green, and yellow – leaving mostly red and orange to get through. Consequently it is not uncommon to see red sunrises like this one as well as red sunsets.

L&I

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

or in violation of the safety and health rules.

The company will also donate \$513,000 to area hospitals, health care centers, emergency medical services, day care and recreational centers serving the workers and their families to improve health care access for them.

"Although we are pleased this issue is resolved, we have not forgotten the thousands who lost loved ones during this pandemic," said Gebbers. "Sadly, in 2020, Gebbers Farms also lost longtime team members and familiar faces to our family. These men, their



Amy Philpott

families, and all Gebbers employees are part of the reason why we are gratified that

the agreement includes our continued investment in our workers and our local communities."

An L&I media release noted the benefits of reaching the settlement.

"Because a court could not order Gebbers to make these changes, this is a better result for workers than we could have achieved through litigation," said L&I Director Joel Sacks. "Instead of possibly spending years and taxpayer resources in court to potentially collect fines, this settlement means the company will put significant money where it will help the most: improving health, safety, and quality of life for farmworkers and their families. Real, on-the-ground

improvements for farmworkers and their families are a fitting way to honor the memories of the Gebbers' workers who died."

In her statement Philpott cited a CDC study that showed workers who lived in Gebbers-provided housing were three times less likely to contract COVID than workers living in the community, and the Gebbers workforce had a positive rate of only 0.7 percent.

Gebbers Farms posted copies of the agreement in common areas for employees to read. Ten days following that action the Board of Industrial and Insurance Appeals will issue an order and the agreement takes effect.

HEALTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Premera.

Three Rivers Hospital

Jennifer Best, Business Development Coordinator at Three Rivers Hospital, said that Premera is an in-network provider for the hospital and no decisions have been made regarding whether the contract will be renewed.

Lake Chelan Health

Agustin Benegas, Communications Manager for Lake Chelan Health, said in an email: "Lake Chelan Health will soon receive the contract from Premera with a plan to renew; they did not change our rates."

Cascade Medical Center

Clint Strand, Director of Public Relations at Cascade Medical, said in an email that Premera is an in-network provider at Cascade Medical and a need to discontinue the relationship with Premera has not been identified.

Since Confluence is not renewing its contract with Premera, patients with Premera insurance will be out of network at Confluence and face higher costs of medical care.

Dr. Pete Rutherford, CEO of Confluence Health, said that the costs those with Premera insurance will have to pay once the contract non-renewal is effective depend on the benefit structure that each employer has negotiated with Premera. The change could affect a patient's deductible, co-pays, or co-insurance.

Rutherford said that those with Premera insurance should talk with their employer or insurance broker to get some opinions on which other insurance companies might be able to meet their needs for care.

Because of the impacts of the nonrenewal on patients, Confluence decided to give six months advance notice of the change, Wilson said. The terms Premera was offering after five months of negotia-

tion were far from where they needed to be for Confluence to serve all its patients, he said.

"It became apparent to us, especially in the last month or even back in April," Wilson said, "that it was unlikely that Premera was going to come to a place where we could, in good conscience, accept the terms."

Confluence Health is not currently planning any additional negotiating meetings with Premera and the non-renewal decision was made with full support from the Confluence Health Board of Directors.

Wallace said that she did not believe that Premera has reached an impasse in contract negotiations, but acknowledged that there is still a long way to go to make a mutually beneficial agreement. She urged Confluence to return to the negotiations table.

"Despite Confluence's decision to end the negotiation," Wallace said, "we believe it is in the best interest of our customers and the community that we continue these critical conversations as this type of discussion takes time and isn't a sprint."

Even though there are no current plans to negotiate with Premera, Rutherford said that Confluence is always willing to discuss and look at possibilities. Canning and Wilson both said that it is common for large insurance companies to have disputes with hospitals regarding insurance negotiations.

"Insurance companies do this all the time," Wilson

said. "It is part of their way of doing business and we know it's hard on patients. But our responsibility as a health care provider is to think long term."

But some of the financial issues that the hospital faces go beyond the contract non-renewal. Confluence provides care for those who do not have insurance or are underinsured, which comes at a cost to the hospital. Wilson said that Medicaid rates in the region are nowhere near what they should be to cover the actual cost of care.

Rutherford said that reimbursement from commercial insurances has to help cover the cost of providing care to patients who are uninsured

or underinsured. Despite the cost to the hospital, he said that Confluence is committed to not turning anyone away, regardless of their insurance situation.

Confluence Health provided \$28 million in charity care last year, Wilson said. The cost of charity care is factored into the hospital's cost structure. Those costs become debt for the hospital and take away from investments the hospital could make like hiring people and buying new equipment.

Overall, the non-renewal of the Premera contract goes beyond the terms of negotiation between the two parties and reflects the larger issues that both insurance companies and hospitals face.



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THE WASHINGTON OUTDOOR REPORT

The trail less traveled

By JOHN KRUSE, THE WASHINGTON OUTDOOR REPORT

Thanks to the Covid Pandemic people are recreating outdoors like never before and one of the most popular activities for outdoors enthusiasts whether they be novices or veterans is hiking. While some don't mind crowded trails, many of us hike into the wilderness to enjoy the solitude the experience can give us. With that in mind, here's some ideas for hikes this summer that will get you away from those crowds.

Hike Mid-Week – This one's a no-brainer. Hiking Monday through Thursday you are going to find a lot less folks on the trail than the weekend. Getting an early morning start can help as well, especially if you want to beat the summer heat.

Backpack In And Stay The Night – The vast majority of hikers are day hikers. With that in mind consider an overnight trip. Load up your backpack and hit the trail in the late afternoon when most hikers are returning (or have returned) back to the trailhead. Even if you don't backpack in a long way, you'll likely enjoy an evening of solitude at a forested campsite but if you really want to leave the crowds behind, go on a multi-day trip. Just stay off trails like the Pacific Crest Trail, which tends to be very crowded these days. Speaking of which....

Avoid The Marquee Hiking Destinations – Let's

face it, some of our trails are being loved to death. Exhibit A – The Enchantments south of Leavenworth in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Demand for overnight permits is off the charts and every day of the week (all the way through September) you'll find completely full parking lots at trailheads and no ability to park outside of them without getting ticketed or towed.

This situation is not limited to the Enchantments; other popular hiking destinations include Lake Valhalla, Heather Lake and Pete Lake in the Central Cascades, Silver Falls west of Entiat, Barclay Lake and Lake 22 west of the Cascade Crest and the Horsethief Butte Trail in the Columbia River Gorge. These are just a few of the perennially crowded hiking trails in our state, though most are not nearly as crowded on any random day as just about any trail you'll find in Mount Rainier or Olympic National Park.

Less Flashy Destinations – Try looking for destinations that fly under the radar. Trails that follow streams instead of heading to lakes are often less crowded. Ingalls Creek off the Blewett Pass Highway and the Icicle Creek Trail at the very end of the Icicle River Road are both trails I've enjoyed many times while only seeing a few fellow hikers each time.

Other Public Lands – Another option is to consider hikes outside of our national forests and wilderness

areas. There are a number of trails on bureau of land management land in Eastern Washington worth exploring, and also on several national wildlife refuges. Trails found at the Toppenish, Turnbull, Columbia and Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuges offer not only uncrowded experiences in the summer, but also the chance to see lots of wildlife. Another option to consider are our state wildlife areas. Managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, they are often crowded during hunting season but in the summer many of them are empty of any visitors and like the national wildlife refuges, offer great chances to experience solitude and wildlife.

Be Mindful of Closures – Do keep in mind all state wildlife areas are only open during the day because of fire danger and no shooting or smoking (outside of your vehicle) is allowed. A reminder as well that all Washington Department of Natural Resource lands east of the Cascade crest are closed until further notice due to high fire danger. The Umatilla National Forest in Southeast Washington and Northeast Oregon also remains closed to all access as well for the same reason. When those areas reopen though, they will definitely be worth exploring.

Be Prepared – Last but not least, be prepared to help not only yourself, but some of the enthusiastic but completely unprepared people who are giving hik-



Courtesy John Kruse

The trail along Ingalls Creek off the Blewett Pass Highway

ing a go for the first time. In addition to carrying the "ten essentials" for wilderness survival, you might want to

bring along a few extra first aid supplies and water too. You just might run across someone who needs them.

John Kruse – www.northwesternoutdoors.com and www.americaoutdoorsradio.com

Unvaccinated urged to get vaccinated

Four county public health officers recommend change in masking practices

SUBMITTED BY ALMA CASTILLO, COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH CHELAN-DOUGLAS HEALTH DISTRICT

NCW - Due to rapidly increasing spread of COVID-19 in Washington state driven by the Delta variant, Region 7 (Okanogan, Chelan-Douglas Health Districts, Grant and Kittitas) public health officers are recommending a change to masking practices: All residents are advised to wear a mask in indoor public places and practice physical distancing whenever possible.

Health Officers also advise that everyone: • Increase hygiene measures (handwashing & disinfecting common surfaces) • Get tested if you develop any potential Covid-19 symptoms and isolate yourself until you know the results • If you have symptoms of

Covid-19, please call the medical facility before seeking treatment.

Like an "amber alert" or storm warning advisory, regional health jurisdictions are releasing this advisory to keep you, your family, your friends, and your neighbors safe.

Our region is seeing high levels of COVID-19 transmission including the Delta variant. Delta is the name for the B.1.617.2 variant, a SARS-CoV-2 mutation, and it is dramatically more infectious than prior strains. Current data estimates the Delta variant could be more than twice as transmissible as the original strain of SARS-CoV-2. Delta has been so successful in transmission because those infected with it produce far more virus than those infected with the original version of SARS-CoV-2, making it very easy to spread.

COVID-19 vaccines are extremely effective against the Delta variant's severity. The risk of becoming severely sick from an infection with the Delta variant is very low for vaccinated individuals who are not immune compromised. Please, get vaccinated. Un-vaccinated individuals are at higher risk of becoming infected and transmitting the virus to others.

Recommendations if you are not vaccinated:

- Wear a mask indoors in public spaces • Consider working from home if that is an option for you • Asymptomatic transmission is high, so please be cautious in gatherings • Avoid gyms and indoor fitness centers and opt for outdoor exercises like hiking or biking • Avoid "dining in" and opt for safer alternatives like takeout or a picnic at the park • Avoid close contact

with children who are not a part of your immediate household • Avoid contact with immune-compromised and high-risk individuals, even those who are vaccinated

Recommendations if you are vaccinated:

- Wear a mask indoors

in public spaces • Consider working from home if that is an option for you • Avoid contact with immune-compromised and high-risk individuals, even those who are vaccinated

Find a location to get vaccinated:

Chelan & Douglas Counties

ties have many locations near you to assist with getting a COVID-19 vaccine. To find a location near you, visit Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you or call 1-800-232-0233 (TTY 888-720-7489).

Don't hesitate, Vaccinate.

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Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition meal delivery

BREWSTER - Brewster Senior Center on Bridge Street is serving hot meals only on Thursday at this time. Take out only. Please reserve your meal by calling 509-689-2815. Pick-up time is between 11 a.m. and 12 noon. The home-delivered meal program is on its regular schedule.

For more information about senior meal programs: Okanogan County Transportation & Nutrition at 509-826-7979 or Aging & Adult Care of Central Washington at 800-572-4459

Thursday, August 12

BREWSTER - The Brewster-Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center hosts the Okanogan County Transportation and Nutrition (OCTN) meals on Thursdays. Suggested donation for those over age 60 is \$8.50. For those 60 and under the cost is \$10. Senior Menu not available for August 12.

August 12, 17, 19

'What's Up Vet!'

NCW - All Chelan and Douglas County veterans are invited to attend the new "What's Up Vet!" informational meetings via Zoom!

Every Tuesday/Thursday from 2-4 p.m.

Open to vets, spouses, dependents and anyone with questions regarding veteran benefits and resources.

Go to: us02web.zoom.us with Zoom platform meeting id: 863 5856 4972.

Call 509-664-6801 (Chelan County Veteran Service Office) or 509-683-3605 (DCVSO) for more information.

Sponsored by CCVSO, DCVSO, Wenatchee Valley College and the Washington State Veteran Corps Navigation project.

Help available for Douglas County veterans

EAST WENATCHEE - Sarah Simonson the Veterans Service Officer for Douglas County, is available for appointments in her office at 211 11th St. NE in East Wenatchee. Call her at 509-683-3605. You can also find her on Facebook at facebook.com/douglascountyvso

August 13

Brewster Farmers Market

BREWSTER - The Brewster Farmers Market is held every Friday, 2-5 p.m. at the Brewster Grange Hall, located at the corner of Highway 97 and Grange Road in Brewster. The market will continue thru mid-October.

August 13, 20

Brewster bus trips

BREWSTER - OCTN takes Brewster area residents to Wenatchee, second Friday of the month. Next trip is August 13. The bus starts picking folks up at their homes at 7:30 a.m. Riders may request destination(s); medical appointments etc.

On the third Friday of each month August 20, riders will be taken to Omak for the day. Riders request their destination(s). Wenatchee: \$12/boarding for General Public, \$6 suggested donation/day for Seniors (60 plus). Omak: \$5.50/General Public, \$2.75 suggested donation Seniors (60 plus). (509) 826-4391 to reserve your seat.

August 13-14

Pateros Community Market, Movie

PATEROS - The Pateros Community Market (PCM), also known as the Pop-up Market, will open for its third weekend of business on Friday and Saturday, August 13-14 at the Riverview Pavilion

on Lakeshore Drive. There will also be a market on Sept. 10-11. On Market & Movie Fridays, the PCM will open at 5 p.m. and continue through 8 p.m. Then from around 8:30 p.m./dusk a family friendly outdoor movie will entertain marketgoers. On Market & Music Saturdays the PCM will open at 9 a.m. through 1 p.m. with music and local vendors. The Pateros Market Committee is currently looking for vendors of all kinds, farmers, processors, crafters, makers, musicians, non-profits, young entrepreneurs, and more. Those interested in being a vendor, volunteer, or sponsor can email PaterosCommunityMarket@gmail.com. Vendor applications are available online at forms.gle/hnzg4UH5LVHboHUs8.

August 14

Thrift store open

BREWSTER - The thrift store in the Brewster - Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center will be open on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. New items added weekly.

August 19

American Red Cross Blood drive

Those donors who have re-

ceived the COVID-19 vaccine will be asked which vaccine they received.

BREWSTER - There will be an American Red Cross Blood drive on Thursday, August 19 12-5 p.m. at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 17 N.W. Hospital Way. To donate, simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements. Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next dona-

tion by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

August 23

Okanogan County PUD meeting

OKANOGAN - The next meeting of the Okanogan County PUD Board of Commissioners will be held Monday, August 23 at 3 p.m. For more information okanoganpud.org

August 23

Douglas County PUD meeting

EAST WENATCHEE - The next meeting of the Douglas County PUD Commission is August 23 1:30 p.m. at the District's East Wenatchee office.

Sept. 13

Brewster Chamber to meet

BREWSTER - The next general meeting of the Brewster Cham-

ber of Commerce will be held Monday, Sept. 13, 6 p.m. at the American Legion. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. No more Zoom meetings. For more information brewsterwachamber@gmail.com or Mike Mauk at 509-449-0605

Sept. 13

Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee

OKANOGAN - The Okanogan County Fair Advisory Committee meets the second Monday of the month and is always looking for volunteers. The meetings are open to the public and begin at 6 p.m. in the Okanogan County Commissioners' hearing room, 123 N. Fifth Ave., Okanogan.

Submitting your Bulletin Board item - Deadline Friday at Noon p.m.

Who: Any non-profit 501(c)3 group. Person(s) must submit full name and contact phone number. What: Items pertaining to local events, meetings etc., that are free or a minimum charge. Where: email to: ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com, subject line QCH Bulletin. Be sure and include date, time, place and cost if any.

Chip seal done the assembly line way



Mike Maltais/QCH

The Okanogan County Road Department does not mess around when it tackles a chip seal project like this near four-mile stretch of Cameron Lake Road just east of the Monse/Highway 97 turnoff. Nearly a dozen trucks pictured here queued up recently with loads of gravel to keep the process moving at a brisk pace in the high heat.

A Memorial Service for Evie Pariseau will be held on Saturday, August 21, in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall, Brewster. Buffet lunch at 12 noon. Following lunch there will be a slide show, speakers, and much sharing of memories of Evie.

Obituary & Memorial Policies

NCW Media, Inc.: Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Valley Record, Lake Chelan Mirror, Quad City Herald

An Obituary is a way for family member(s) to commemorate a loved one's life and to notify the community of the passing of the loved one. Obituaries are also used for historical and ancestral data.

Memorials are another way to let the community know about the life and memories of the person who has passed. A Memorial is different from an Obituary. An Obituary is usually current, while a Memorial can be written later.

Obituaries and Memorials need to be typed and emailed as a Word Document. They can be placed in one or more papers - all publish weekly on Wednesday.

Obituaries are priced by the number of words and include one color photo and go online at no extra charge. Memorials are priced per column inch. Please call for cost. *Payment is due at the time of placement. *Exception: Chapels, funeral homes who have an account, can be billed. There is no charge for a Death Notice - information is limited.

Deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday - some exceptions may apply.

Please call 509-689-2507 for more information
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- Matthew 19:26

To place your Church information in the Church Guide call Ruth at 682-2213 or email: ruthk@lakechelanmirror.com

'Preppers' Quietly Stock Up for the 'Perfect Storm'

ALLAN STEIN

A crippling ice storm that left Travis Maddox and thousands of other Missouri residents without power in 2007 had an "almost apocalyptic feel to it."

"No one could move. It just shut the whole region down for two weeks. I wasn't as prepared as I thought," said Maddox, a burly man of 43, sporting a long black beard, T-shirt, cargo pants, and baseball cap, while tending his garden.

Those two weeks made Maddox realize that being prepared—"prepping," as it's called today—was the key to a life of self-reliance and personal freedom.

To me, the ultimate level of prepping is being self-sufficient. You're still being modern, but you're in control.

Travis Maddox, prepper

As an Eagle Scout, he never forgot the Boy Scout motto: Be prepared.

"To me, the ultimate level of prepping is being self-sufficient. You're still being modern, but you're in control," Maddox told The Epoch Times on Aug. 5.

In 2009, Maddox launched his YouTube channel, "The Prepared Homestead," which now has over 32,000 subscribers.

People, he said, are waking up to the worsening reality of supply chain disruptions and food shortages, and rapid political and social changes that all point toward "a perfect storm" just ahead.

The COVID-19 lockdowns and empty store shelves only served to heighten popular sentiment that the "old normal" is gone, he said.

"When the pandemic struck, we started seeing all this panic buying," Maddox said. "What's really increased is the number of people that contact me. These are really personal emails. They're not crazy extremists. These are single moms, elderly people, disabled people, regular working people. They're realizing

that things are changing. They can just feel things are changing rapidly," he said.

"The riots [of 2020] were bad. The election was bad. Now what's happening is the whole world is starting to change."

Talk of a global political and economic "Great Reset" and vaccine passports have done little to diminish anxiety among the unvaccinated that society is about to turn its back on them. And so they and others prepare—with food, water, alternative power sources, survival gear, and plans to leave the city if possible for the relative safety of rural areas.

Along with "The Prepared Homestead," a host of other YouTube channels cater to seasoned and beginning preppers, including "Magic Prepper" in North Dakota, "Angry Prepper" in New York City, "Alaska Prepper," "Ice Age Farmer," and many others.

Maddox said "The Prepared Homestead" began as a way to share basic gardening tips that grew in scope as political and economic circumstances changed.

Now he produces at least six videos per week, touching upon such controversial topics as forced vaccination, firearms confiscation, and "cultural secession"—living apart from the government and its "woke" culture—while using careful language to avoid the YouTube censors.

"A huge portion of our country is saying you've gone too far," Maddox said. "We're seeing not just a rapid change in politics and policies and the economy, we're seeing a rapid change in the heart and soul of America."

While many individual preppers and prepper organizations try to remain anonymous, the number of people preparing appears to be growing. In the last year alone, roughly 45 percent of Americans, or about 116 million people, said they spent money preparing for hard times or spent money stockpiling survival goods, according to Finder.com.

Maddox, however, said there's a big difference between prepping and "hoarding."

"Prepping is something most people did all the time" in bygone years. "Our grandparents were preppers. I sus-



Travis Maddox, a prepper and producer of "The Prepared Homestead" on YouTube, feeds his turkeys and chickens.

MONICA DAVEY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A prepper collects eggs from his chickens, which he raises at his home in Sebastopol, Calif., on March 30, 2017.

Bansemer said that being prepared isn't about politics—it's that 'people just need to eat.'

pect if things continue to worsen, preppers will be made to be the bad guys," he said.

In the months following the pandemic lockdowns, online stores that serve a growing number of preppers have experienced record-breaking sales and interest in their products.

Keith Bansemer, president of My Patriot Supply in Salt Lake City, said his business has grown exponentially amid widespread fears of a return to COVID-19 lockdowns, empty store shelves, and forced vaccinations that will limit personal freedoms.

"For those that choose not to be vaccinated, the fear is that it's going to restrict their access to certain things," Ban-

semer told The Epoch Times. In a word—food.

"Since mid-July, we have seen a [six-fold] increase in orders and are shipping several thousand orders daily from our centers in Utah, Missouri, and Ohio," Bansemer said. "Americans are quietly preparing."

Bansemer said My Patriot Supply has provided over 1 million families in the U.S. with emergency foods, water filtration, and other survival products since the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

"We own and operate three large warehouses covering over 500,000 square feet. We spent the last year adding 10 times the additional capacity to our operations to best serve our customers during times of crisis and emergencies during spikes in orders like we are seeing now," Bansemer said.

"An increasing number of those new to preparing have placed orders recently. They are primarily purchasing our large food kits that average over 2,000 calories per day and last up to 25 years in storage. The most popular item right now is our 3-Month Emergency Food Kit."

In the end, he said, being prepared isn't about politics—it's

that "people just need to eat."

At South Carolina-based Practical Preppers, a supplier of emergency preparing supplies, President Scott Hunt said COVID is "definitely a driver of increased demand."

"The social and political divisions are also making people nervous," he told The Epoch Times.

The Texas ice storm and the Colonial pipeline ransom earlier this year "really caused people everywhere to pursue independence," he said.

"Electrical independence is very high on everyone's list. I predict demand will outstrip supply this month or the next. Shipping difficulties play a very large role in this. Port congestion and trucking shortages are contributing to this perfect storm," Hunt said.

As a seasoned prepper, Maddox said homesteading is the next level preparing for hard times. He lives with his wife and daughter in a family-built house tucked away in the pristine Ozarks with the goal of living off the grid.

The family raises goats, chickens, sheep, turkeys, and grows a variety of fruits and vegetables including squash, corn, and asparagus in a large garden.

American Employers Added 943,000 Jobs in July

TOM OZIMEK

America's private employers in July added 943,000 jobs—a proxy for new hires—in a sign that the U.S. economy enjoyed a solid burst of job growth as the labor market recovery continues.

The Labor Department's jobs report, released Aug. 6, shows that nonfarm payroll employment rose by 943,000 in July, topping the 850,000 jobs U.S. employers added in June.

Ahead of the release, economists' estimates varied widely—from 350,000 to as much as 1.6 million, according to a Reuters review of institutional forecasts.

Driving the uncertainty are the dynamics of the pandemic, particularly the spread of the Delta variant of the GCP virus, which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

The [Biden] administration must reexamine their policies holding the economy back & prioritize getting Americans back to work.

Sen. Jim Risch

considers more transmissible and potentially more resistant to vaccines.

But while the resurgence in COVID-19 infections poses a risk to economic recovery, there's no sign yet of any significant impact.

"While the Delta variant has sparked a rise in COVID cases, there's scant indication this is translating to a measurable reduction in economic activity in

JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES



A "Now Hiring" sign outside a store in San Francisco on June 3, 2021.

the U.S. so far, suggesting little meaningful impact on employment," Bankrate senior economic analyst Mark Hamrick said in an emailed statement to The Epoch Times.

While economic output has fully bounced back to its pre-pandemic levels, the labor market recovery is trailing. After shedding over 22 million jobs in the first two months of the pandemic, the U.S. econ-

omy has since recovered nearly 17 million jobs.

The Labor Department's jobs report also showed that the unemployment rate dropped by 0.5 percentage points to 5.4 percent in July, while the total number of unemployed persons fell by 782,000 to 8.7 million.

While these measures are down considerably from their highs at the end of the February-April 2020 recession,

they remain well above their pre-pandemic levels of 3.5 percent and 5.7 million in February 2020, the Labor Department said.

The brisk economic recovery has also driven down the number of American workers seeking unemployment benefits, which last week fell to a pandemic-era low, although the number remains historically elevated.

Initial filings for unemployment insurance, a proxy for layoffs, came in at 385,000 for the week ending July 31, a drop of 14,000 over the previous week's revised level, the Labor Department said in a statement on Aug. 5.

While the drop in initial jobless claims reflects the dynamics of a rebounding economy, the number of last week's filings is nearly twice as high as the pre-pandemic weekly average of around 220,000, suggesting the labor market still has a ways to go in its recovery.

"It was about a year ago when new claims first fell below the

1 million level for the first time after the pandemic began. In total, some 12.9 million Americans continue to receive some form of jobless assistance, which remains historically elevated," Hamrick said.

Some Republicans and economists have blamed generous unemployment benefits—in particular, the federal pandemic jobless compensation boost—for sidelining workers by discouraging them from taking jobs.

"With jobless claims remaining high, the administration must reexamine their policies holding the economy back & prioritize getting Americans back to work," Sen. Jim Risch (R-Idaho) said in a statement.

American businesses posted a record 9.2 million job openings in May, faster than applicants are showing up to fill them. In the face of business hiring difficulties, some two dozen states have moved to end early their participation in the extended federal unemployment programs.

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NYC Restaurants Taken Aback by News of Vaccine Passport Requirement

PETR SVAB

NEW YORK CITY—Just as New York City restaurateurs thought they would perhaps see their way out of crushing COVID-19 restrictions and back to “normalcy,” the city’s government dealt another blow: Restaurants will now have to check customers for proof of vaccination, or themselves face fines.

In response, restaurant owners seem to have flocked to one of two positions. Some support the rule as long as it prevents more lockdowns, while others reject it as an unreasonable imposition on their already vulnerable operations.

Restaurants have been among the hardest hit by the lockdowns imposed amid the CCP virus pandemic. New York City boasted a flourishing restaurant scene in 2019, with more than 23,000 establishments and more than 300,000 employed, according to a state comptroller report.

The lockdowns slashed employment by about two-thirds in the sector in April 2020. It has been gradually recovering since, in major part depending on federal relief funding and the solidarity of their landlords. December 2020 sales were 50 to 100 percent lower than the year before for most restaurants and bars, according to a survey by the NYC Hospitality Alliance, an industry group. For two in five, sales were 90 to 100 percent lower. If the government stopped supports such as rent subsidies and the eviction ban, nearly half said they’d go out



Karla Martinez, manager of Chirp restaurant in Manhattan's Garment District in New York on Aug. 4, 2021.

of business. Only 15 percent said they wouldn't. The rest weren't sure.

The vaccine requirement, announced by Mayor Bill de Blasio on Aug. 3, would apply to both staff and customers at restaurants, bars, gyms, and entertainment venues. It may be expanded to other establishments, too, a New York City Department of Health official told The Epoch Times.

Businesses will have to ask customers for their vaccination card issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or vaccination confirmation on the city or state phone app. The rule goes into effect on Aug. 16 and enforcement through inspec-

tions will start Sept. 13.

More than a third of New Yorkers haven't received even the first of the two doses of the vaccine, which was developed at record speed last year and rolled out through an emergency authorization before the completion of clinical trials.

It still isn't clear how the NYC requirement will work in practice, head of the alliance Andrew Rigie told The Epoch Times.

“The city announced the policy and over the coming weeks is going to develop the guidelines, so many questions still need to be answered,” he wrote via email. “We will work to inform the guidelines to make them as clear and fair

to restaurants as possible.”

Bar and restaurant owners are “very split on the issue,” he said, based on conversations the alliance has had with some of them.

“Some support it, others oppose it. All seem to agree we can't go to harsher restrictions and shutdowns again,” he said.

For Karla Martinez, manager of Chirp restaurant in Manhattan's Garment District, the rule announcement was “confusing.”

“The mayor saying one thing, the governor saying another thing, the CDC saying yet another thing,” she said.

Some people are already irked when asked to put on a mask. Asking for a vaccination

card will only exacerbate the situation, she said. “They're going to get angry.”

She wasn't even sure how to enforce the rule, noting that she doesn't have the budget to have a person stand by the door checking people's vaccination papers.

The Peruvian restaurant has been around for three years, barely surviving the lockdowns and still hanging on by a thread.

“It's still rough,” she said. “Every day, it's very uncertain for us. We don't know if tomorrow we're going to be able to open the doors.”

She's hoping the rule won't cost her customers.

“But at this point, we don't

know anything,” she said.

Mostafa Zouini, manager at nearby Cafe Aroma, said he would comply with the rule, but that it would make some customers unhappy.

“It's like going back to square one,” he said.

He recalled the backlash he received when the city told establishments to have customers put down their email addresses for contact tracing and even have their temperature checked before getting served.

“They used to get mad and leave,” he said.

Down the street, the manager at the Italian eatery Pomodoro opposed the new rule.

“It's stupid, because it's not our job to police people,” he said, identifying himself only by his last name, Liu.

He said he supports everybody getting vaccinated, but he's not in favor of turning away customers based on that.

“Whether you're not vaccinated or you're vaccinated, you're still my customer,” he said.

He expects businesses will ignore the rule rather than lose customers over it.

“People are not going to follow,” he said, suggesting it's the government's fault so many people aren't getting the shot.

A lack of incentives isn't the core issue holding people back, he said. The problem is that “there's no outreach.” The government should just focus on educating people, in his view.

“Instead, they're forcing these ridiculous laws on us,” he said.



OLIVIER DOULIERY/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Pro-life activists demonstrate in front of the U.S. Supreme Court during the 47th annual March for Life in Washington on Jan. 24, 2020.

Tennessee's 48-Hour Abortion Wait Period Is Legal, Federal Appeals Court Rules

IVAN PENTCHOUKOV

A federal circuit court on Aug. 5 upheld the constitutionality of a Tennessee law that requires doctors to provide pregnant women seeking an abortion with materials about the safety of the procedure and have them wait two days before performing the procedure.

“Tennessee's 48-hour abortion waiting period is facially constitutional. The law is supported by a rational basis, and it is not a substantial obstacle to abortion for a large fraction of women seeking pre-viability abortions in Tennessee,” Circuit Court Judge Amul Thapar wrote in an opinion.

The decision is the latest development in a decades-long legal saga surrounding the 48-hour rule. The state first enacted the law in 1978, but a federal court blocked it based on a case that predated Planned Parenthood v. Casey, a case in which the Supreme Court upheld a

24-hour waiting period for an abortion.

After Planned Parenthood v. Casey was decided, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled in 2000 that the law violated the state's constitution. Tennessee voters responded to that decision by amending the state's constitution to specify that it doesn't protect the right to an abortion.

After the state constitution was amended, Tennessee again enacted a 48-hour law, which required doctors to provide pregnant mothers with certain information, including the age of the child, alternatives to abortion, and the medical risks of abortion and pregnancy. The law included an exception for medical emergencies.

A group of abortion providers sued but didn't request for the law to be suspended. The statute went into effect in 2015 and remained in force for five years. The plaintiffs alleged that the law was unconstitutional and

imposed a burden on mothers seeking abortions.

Thapar noted that while the law was in effect, the level of abortions remained the same in the state, with about 10,000 unborn children aborted every year after the law was passed.

Last year, a district court held a trial and concurred with the plaintiffs, finding that the law was unconstitutional because it imposed an undue burden on women seeking abortions. Judge Karen Nelson Moore was the only member of the 16 judges on the circuit to dissent with the Aug. 5 decision.

“An honest look at the record compels but one conclusion: a law that peddles in stigma, forces women into unnecessary and invasive surgical procedures, and forces low-income women to sacrifice basic necessities for themselves and their families in order to obtain an abortion is nothing if not an undue burden,” Moore wrote. “I dissent.”

Los Angeles City Council Proposes COVID-19 Vaccination Passports for Restaurants, Theaters

JACK PHILLIPS

Los Angeles City Council members introduced a measure on Aug. 4 that seeks to require people to show proof that they've had a COVID-19 vaccine to enter some indoor public spaces, including theaters and restaurants, following a similar mandate announced by New York City earlier this week.

In an announcement on Twitter, City Council President Nury Martinez wrote that “many Angelenos stepped up and did their part,” and “they shouldn't be penalized with closures by those unwilling to do theirs.”

The legislation would direct the city attorney to draft an ordinance requiring people aged 16 and older to have received at least one vaccine dose to gain access to indoor public spaces.

The indoor spaces include but are “not limited to restaurants, bars, retail establishments, fitness centers, spas, and entertainment centers, such as stadiums, concert venues, and movie theaters,” the text of the measure said.

Martinez, a Democrat, issued a statement alongside the proposal and effectively blamed people who aren't vaccinated for exacerbating the COVID-19 pandemic. He, along with most other officials, made no mention of “natural immunity” among people who contracted and survived COVID-19.

“We have three vaccines that

City Council President Nury Martinez has blamed people who aren't vaccinated for exacerbating the COVID-19 pandemic.

work and are readily available, so what's it going to take? Our kids are about to return to school, and the unvaccinated are putting their lives at risk every day. Ask your questions, talk to your doctor and get the vaccine. Let's put this behind us,” he said.

New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced earlier this week that the city would roll out vaccine mandates for gyms, restaurants, theaters, and other venues starting in mid-September. It isn't clear yet how that will be enforced in the thousands and thousands of restaurants and cafes around New York City.

Some restaurant owners in New York City told local media that for them, it would be virtually impossible to enforce such a mandate.

Seongmin Jun, the manager of Dear Han Cafe in Queens, asked: “Will customers get offended for checking if they got COVID vaccinations? I mean I don't know how to do that, or even if I will have time to do that.”

And such a system and other

vaccine passport-type systems have been flagged by civil liberties groups as being authoritarian and would create a segregated society. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) earlier this year wrote there “is a lot that can go wrong” with vaccine passport systems.

“We don't oppose in principle the idea of requiring proof of vaccination in certain contexts. But given the enormous difficulty of creating a digital passport system, and the compromises and failures that are likely to happen along the way, we are wary about the side effects and long-term consequences it could have. We will be closely watching developments in this area,” the ACLU said.

Even some Democrat officials have rebuffed calls for vaccine passport mandates, including Boston Acting Mayor Kim Janey, who this week compared vaccine passports in New York City to slavery-era freedom papers and Jim Crow laws.

“There's a long history in this country of people needing to show their papers,” Janey told local media. The mayor then listed examples “during slavery, post-slavery, as recent as ... what [the] immigrant population has to go through here.”

“Here, we want to make sure that we are not doing anything that would further create a barrier for residents of Boston or disproportionately impact” minority groups, she added.

“I PASS ON YOUR ARTICLES TO ENLIGHTEN SOME OF THE UNENLIGHTENED.” —Philip Lewis

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1	7	2	8	4	3	9	6	5

Announcements
Lost & Found

LOST & FOUND ITEMS can be placed in our **Local Newspapers** and **Online** for **ONE** week for **FREE**. Limit 30 words

Leavenworth/Cashmere
509-548-5286
or email
classifieds@leavenworthecho.com

or
Lake Chelan Mirror
509-682-2213
or
Quad City Herald
509-689-2507
or email
mirrorads@lakechelanmirror.com

Deadline Noon on Friday for the next weeks paper

Looking for a home for your Furry friend?

Try the pet section on NCWMarket.com

Happy Ads

Do you have a **SPECIAL EVENT COMING UP?**
HAPPY BIRTHDAY CONGRATULATIONS!
WILL YOU MARRY ME?
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Add unlimited text and pictures, video for your online ad at www.NCWMarket.com

Print ads are limited to 30 words, over 30 words, or extra enhancements like bold words or border will be a minimal extra charge.

Ads will be placed in the following Wednesday edition of the papers. It is easy just Register and pay on our secure site 24/7 Or call 509-682-2213 to place ad or have questions.

The Lake Chelan or Quad City Herald or email mirrorads@lakechelanmirror.com For **The Leavenworth Echo or Cashmere Valley Record** Call 509-548-5286 or email classifieds@leavenworthecho.com

Employment

Help Wanted

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking a Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA) to provide therapeutic services to enhance the goals and objectives with patient care directed by the OT. The COTA will be responsible for implementing programs developed by the OT in compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Graduate of an accredited OT Assistant program. Certification as OT Assistant in the state of WA with valid license. Two years' work experience in a hospital setting and/ or swing bed program is preferred. Current BLS. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 [www.threerivershospital.net](mailto:opportunity@trhospital.net) opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Cascade School District is seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Elementary Music Teacher

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



Help Wanted

Part-time Administrative Assistant for Lake Chelan Lutheran Church. Equivalent of approximately one day/ week. Work is on-site and located near downtown Chelan. Competitive salary. www.lakechelanlutheran.org Please reply to orrestad@aol.com

CASCADE SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Cascade School District is seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

Icicle River Middle School Intervention Specialist

Icicle River Middle School Special Education Para Educator

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

Jewels Hair & Nails is looking a cosmetologist or barber to lease a station. \$350/ month. Please call Julie at 509-679-4764.

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

LAB TECHNICIAN/ TECHNOLOGIST Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking a Lab Tech to perform various technical, clerical and information systems related procedures in Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Blood Bank. A.S Degree in Medical Laboratory Technology or related scientific field with a one-year internship or one year of clinical experience. Professional certification as a MLT (ASCP) or equivalent is highly recommended. Will include weekends and after-hours call-time. Sign-on Bonus: \$5,000. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 [www.threerivershospital.net](mailto:opportunity@trhospital.net) opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

DOUGLAS COUNTY P.U.D.

Douglas County PUD has an opening for: **Hatchery Specialist, Wells Hatchery** Closes: 8/19/2021, 5 pm Details at www.douglaspu.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Need to promote your event? Have you thought about NCWMarket.com the best online promotion available

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Help Wanted

Bus Driver/ Operator Full-time

Organization: Okanogan County Transit Authority (TranGO)

TranGO is looking for one (1) transit drivers; one full-time (36- 40 hours per week) position based in Okanogan. This position is hourly non-exempt. Compensation is \$19.06-\$20.62 per hour. Benefits include health, dental, vision and life insurance, retirement, sick leave, vacation for full-time. Must have a minimum Class B CDL with Passenger Endorsement. Please visit www.okanoganttransit.com for required qualifications, application, and job description. A complete application including a resume and cover letter must be submitted in order to be considered for the position. E-mail your completed application to clerk@okanoganttransit.com

Application Deadline: Application review will begin September 3, 2021 and will continue until the position is filled.

Okanogan County Transit Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

OR Manager Full-Time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking an OR Manager to oversee the OR nursing staff and the surgery department. Candidate must have current WA State RN license and ACLS & BLS. Must be proficient in orthopedic, general and OB/ GYN surgeries. Should have 2-3 years of progressively responsible experience in hospital nursing, including leadership assignments. Excellent communication and discretionary skills. Monday-Friday, 8-hour shifts. No call time. Sign-on bonus: \$5,000. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 [www.threerivershospital.net](mailto:opportunity@trhospital.net) opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

Brewster School District Opening

Brewster School District is accepting applications for a High School Advanced Mathematics teacher for grades 9-12. Classes to be taught are Algebra 2, Geometry and Pre-Calculus. Applications are available on the district's website at brewsterbears.org or by calling 509-689-3418. This position is open until filled. Brewster School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Help Wanted

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

Revenue Cycle Director Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking a Revenue Cycle Director to manage our revenue cycle team, includes Patient Access/ Registration, Health Information, Patient Financial Services and Chargemaster. The Revenue Cycle Director will lead the revenue cycle in developing, planning, and managing work initiatives within the revenue cycle. Bachelor's degree in a relevant area of expertise such as business or finance or an equivalent combination of education and relevant experience is required. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 www.threerivershospital.net opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

Looking for a great local employee?

It is easy to place your ad online 24/7 at www.NCWMarket.com Register and pay on our secure site.

Want Print Only for The Lake Chelan Mirror Quad City Herald Brewster Call 509-682-2213 or email mirrorads@lakechelanmirror.com OR Leavenworth Echo Cashmere Record 509-548-5286 or send email to classifieds@leavenworthecho.com

Deadline is Friday by Noon for the following Wednesday issues of all newspapers

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

ER NURSE Full-time/ Nights

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking an ER Nurse to provide nursing assessment, treatment and evaluation of ER patients and outpatients. Current WA State RN license required. Current BLS / CPR, ACLS, TNCC and PALS certifications. Two years' Med/Surg experience or one-year ER experience preferred. Rotating days and includes some weekends. Sign-on Bonus: \$5,000. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 www.threerivershospital.net opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

Help Wanted

Full and Part-time Housekeeper, Bedmaker and Laundry Worker

The Enzian Inn is hiring full and part-time Housekeepers, Bedmakers and Laundry workers. Core hours are usually 9 AM to 2 PM. Earlier and later start & finish times often available. Enjoy a positive work environment with a competitive wage. Health insurance is available for full time employees. Apply in person. 590 Hwy 2, Leavenworth.

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

Director of Quality Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking a Director of Quality to manage our quality program, including risk and compliance. Registered Nurse with a BSN degree is preferred; however, a minimum of a bachelor's degree in Business or related field may be considered. Three to five years healthcare experience is preferred. Strong skills required: organizational, interpersonal, communication, analytical, risk assessment, computer, statistics & math, and problem-solving. Attention to detail and a high moral integrity is crucial. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 www.threerivershospital.net opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

THREE RIVERS HOSPITAL

Patient Account Rep Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking a Patient Account Rep. This position is responsible for handling outstanding accounts receivables and collections by promptly filing hospital inpatient and outpatient and clinic claims with payers, following up in a timely and efficient manner, to ensure maximum reimbursement is received for services provided. High School diploma or GED. Two years prior experience in a hospital business office preferred. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 www.threerivershospital.net opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

Help Wanted



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking a full-time Occupational Therapist. This position practices in the hospital and/or clinic setting for inpatient and/or outpatient care. Includes oversight of the hospital swing bed program. A bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from an accredited/ AOTA approved OT program is required, and studies were accredited by the APTA. Current WA State OT license. Two years' work experience preferred. BLS required. Must have strong communication and interpersonal skills. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 www.threerivershospital.net opportunity@trhospital.net EOE



Informatics RN Full-time

Three Rivers Hospital is seeking an Informatics RN to support the hospital and clinic in the application of the EMR. Experience teaching clinicians with EMR, strategic planning and development, and familiar with continuous quality improvement methods is preferred. Strong computer skills and experience working with healthcare informatics systems. Excellent interpersonal skills required. Current WA State RN license required; BSN preferred. Interested Candidates may apply in person or by mailing their resume to: Three Rivers Hospital Human Resources Dept. PO Box 577 Brewster, WA 98812 (509) 689-2517 www.threerivershospital.net opportunity@trhospital.net EOE

Help Wanted

PATEROS SCHOOL DISTRICT ASSISTANT JH FOOTBALL COACH ASSISTANT JH GIRLS BASKETBALL COACH
Junior High Coaches needed for fall sports. Salary based on experience.

All applications processed through FAST TRACK: www.pateros.org>Our District>Employment. Position descriptions available online. Contact employment@pateros.org or the district office at 509-923-2751 x4 for more information. First review of applications is 8/16/21. Positions open until filled. EOE

Full and Part-Time Breakfast Staff

The Enzian Inn is searching for energetic service-oriented individuals to join our breakfast team. Position provides opportunities to learn and perform a variety of duties. Prepare, present and serve the daily breakfast buffet. Full and part-time positions requiring some weekends. Health Insurance available for full time employees. Apply in person. 590 Hwy 2, Leavenworth.

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Rentals

One bedroom, 1,000 square foot, unfurnished apartment in the lower level of a 3 story home. Separate entrance and parking. Laundry, full kitchen, private windscreened deck with sweeping view of Lake Chelan. \$1,050/ month includes cable TV, Internet and all utilities. 12 month lease required. References required, non-smoking. Call Claudia at 360-561-6090 or email: pop.palmer@gmail.com. Available October 1.

Vehicles

Campers, Trailers & RVs



Leavenworth: 1996 Ford Motorhome RV cutaway E350, 7.5 LV8 (460cl) VIN(G), Good condition, Mechanic labor just done local certified. \$7000. Call 509-548-7220. Also see information at NCWMarket.com

For Sale

Antiques & Collectibles

Get cold hard CASH for your Antiques and Collectibles by placing them in our classifieds.

Place your ad with pictures online 24/7 at **www.NCWMarket.com** Register and pay on our secure site. **Want Print Only?** Call **Lake Chelan Mirror Quad City Herald** 509-682-2213 or email mirrorads@lakechelanmirror.com or call

The Leavenworth Echo Cashmere Valley Record 509-548-5286 classifieds@leavenworthecho.com **Deadline: Noon on Friday for all papers.**

Dealing with child resistant lids



Ask...

Dr. Louise

This summer, many families are planning and attending events that had been postponed due to COVID-19. People are traveling to family reunions, graduations, weddings and celebrations of life. Visiting grandma and grandpa is no longer limited to video calls or socially distanced interactions.

When young children visit their older relatives, there is risk of accidental poisoning from ingesting prescription medicines.

Yesterday, 85-year-old Betty brought in her medicines yesterday for me to review. I noticed how faded the green lettering was on worn white plastic caps of her prescription vials. Many of those child-resistant lids were either sitting crooked or barely fastened, to make them easier to open. One label was nearly 5 years old with newly refilled pills inside.

The challenge of opening child-resistant tops is not limited to medicine bottles. Vitamins, non-prescription medicines, and many everyday liquid household products are sold with hard-to-open lids, including paint thinners, cleaning solutions, and bleach.

The widespread use of child-resistant lids addresses a severe problem: accidental child poisonings.

In the 1960s, the most common documented cause of injury in children under 5 years old was accidentally swallowing medicines or household cleaners. In 1970 the United States Congress passed the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA). This law required all prescription and non-prescription drugs that could be swallowed to have child-resistant (C-R) packaging.

In the decades since that law was enacted, C-R packaging has saved many young lives. Unfortunately, it also causes significant inconvenience for many adults, especially those with below-average strength and dexterity. Ironically, those are also the people who take the most medicine.

Since 1974, pharmacists have been required to dispense all medication refills in brand new vials and lids. As medicine bottles get used, they "break-in," making the caps easier to open. Eventually, those tops are no able to meet the C-R standard. Pharmacists must dispense ALL medicines with C-R lids except for under-the-tongue tablets of nitroglycerin. The only exception is if the patient requests otherwise in writing and signs it.

A lid is considered child-resistant if a child under 5 cannot open it within 5 minutes, but 90% of adults can open and close it within 5 minutes. Who wants to fight with a lid to get it to open and close? No wonder Delores re-used her prescription bottles that had worn-out lids!

28 years ago, I ripped apart a ligament in my right wrist, putting me in a hard cast for 6 weeks and a rigid brace for another 6 weeks. This was a significant handicap for me. I found I could NOT open child-resistant lids while wearing a cast or brace, and as a pharmacist, I needed to open a LOT of child-resistant tops at work.

turn your arm very far before the cap disengages.

4. Turn the container, so the cap is facing up.

When you feel the cap come free, tip the container so the cap faces back up to prevent the contents from spilling out.

5. Lift the lid free.

Cup the lid with your left palm and separate your hands, one holding the cap and one holding the container. It's open!

6. Reverse the steps to seal the container.

To put the top back on, reverse the order of the steps: form a T, push your hands together, and turn your right forearm to the left (counterclockwise) until it engages.

Remember, you can request "easy-open" lids for medicines at your pharmacy by requesting and signing a release form. And make sure you store ALL medicines away from easy access by young children.

Dr. Louise Achey, Doctor of Pharmacy, is a 42-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*. ©2021 Louise Achey

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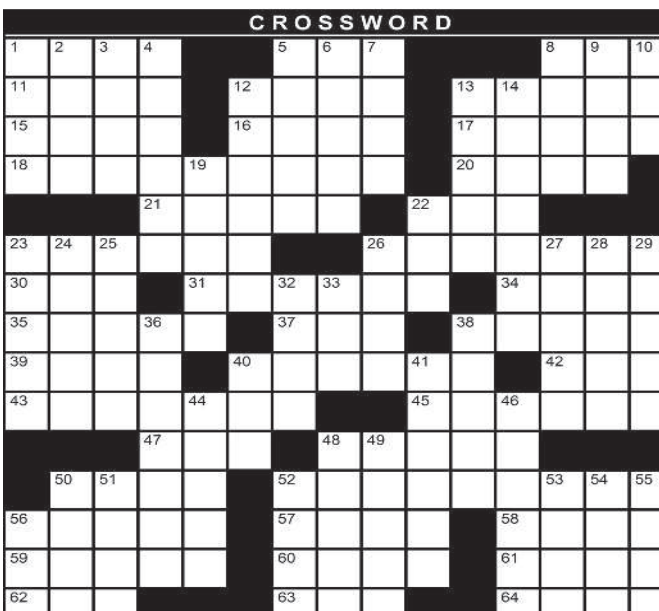
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

THEME: FOOTBALL ACROSS



- *Sports analyst, ex-wide receiver Randy
- Dashboard acronym
- *Depth of an end zone, in yards
- Fencing blade
- Weight not charged for
- Young hog
- Witnessed
- Aroma
- Nary a soul
- *Line of
- Spanish earthen pot
- Pinocchio and the like
- Bean house
- Antonym of descent
- Cycle taxi
- Greek "t"
- 50-50
- Not happening
- Newbies
- Bert Bobbsey's twin
- Like a neon sign
- "Clueless" catch phrase
- Not a desktop
- Metal-bearing mineral
- "Chim Chim Cher-ee" setting
- Relating to nose
- Actors' group
- Sink hole
- Golf club handle
- *3-point score
- Make a canyon, e.g.
- Not written
- Racing sled
- **Purple People ___" song, inspiration for Vikings defensive line name
- Like H. C. Andersen's duckling
- Poet Pound
- *AFC counterpart
- Dreaming stage of sleep

64. Daytime entertainment DOWN

- Hodgepodge
- Oil cartel
- Palm reader, e.g.
- Old and mentally infirm
- Weather-related Doppler tool
- Programs, for short
- Insignificant
- Hammer or sickle
- Europe's highest volcano
- Born, in bio
- Marinara fruit
- Ornamental hair net
- *Grabbing penalty
- Breath freshener
- *Pre-game encouragement
- Rose oil
- One's assertion
- Collectible in a cabinet
- *Fourth down option
- Colonoscopy tract
- Ancient assembly area
- B in IBS
- *Start of a football play
- Goo on a trunk
- *Scrimmage-related penalty
- Plant louse
- Yule firewood
- By word of mouth
- Candle shape
- English in Spanish
- Moumer's song
- Camelot, to Arthur
- Tennis great Steffi
- College officer-training prog.
- *Number of downs to get a first down
- Anis-flavored aperitif
- Site of Taj Mahal
- *Lambeau Field jump
- Poetic "even"

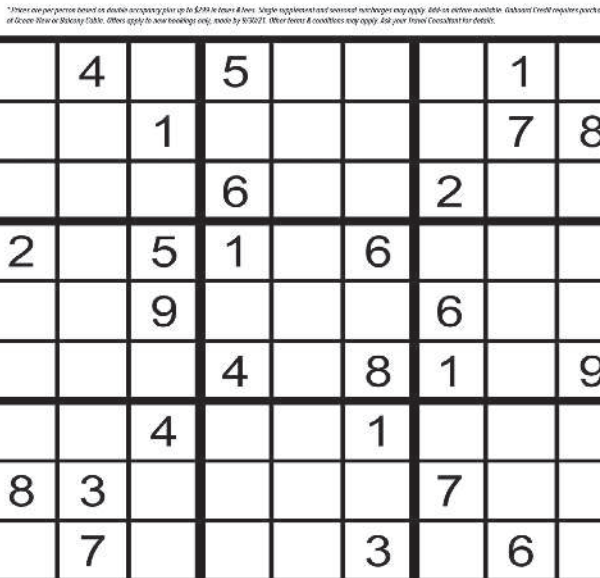
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