



2018 A YEAR IN REVIEW



Photo by Mike Maltais

American Legion Area Three Commander Denny Pittman lays a wreath at the base of the flag pole in Brewster's Locust Grove Cemetery last Memorial Day.

Bridgeport American Legion Post 218 will close its doors after 68 years

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
BRIDGEPORT – After 68 years in existence, Bridgeport Post 218 of the American Legion has announced that the chapter will close its doors this year.
The pending closure was confirmed by Adjutant Sheryllyn Jacobson of College Place, Wash., who is the registered agent of record for the non-profit corporation that was formed on June 22, 1950. A declining membership and advancing age of those few who remain members was given as the reason that the Post will cease operations and transfer ownership of its flags to Columbia Post 97 in Brewster. Of those who remain members of the Bridgeport Post, one will transfer membership to Brewster and the others to Post 110 in Lacey, Wash., near Olympia.

Trejo to serve second year as a member of WIAA's LEAP

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
BRIDGEPORT – For only the second time since 2009, a Quad City area high student is serving on the Washington Inter-scholastic Activities Association's (WIAA) statewide LEAP Committee. LEAP, for Leadership through Education Activities and Personal Development, is comprised of eight seniors and seven juniors representing the WIAA's classifications, from 1B through 4A, and nine districts.
Bridgeport High School senior Ana Trejo is one among 17 committee members representing more than 225,000 student participants in the state.



Ana Trejo



Photo by Mike Maltais
Armed with water blasters, members of the Brewster Boys and Girls Club were hard to ignore.

Brewster hosts blow-out July 4 parade and fireworks

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
BREWSTER – If a picture is worth a thousand words, then

spectators shot a book full at Brewster's annual Independence Day parade down Main Street on Wednesday, July 4.

Floats, classic cars, political candidates, water blasters, horses, flags, balloons and lots and lots of candy made the 45-minute procession appear longer in length and duration than it actually was.



Photo courtesy of okanogancountyrecovery.com
The "Smoke and Mirrors" Fire Maze Display provides an in-depth look at what a major wildfire is like.

Rising from the Ashes Reunion runs through Sunday, July 22

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
PATEROS – The Rising from the Ashes Recovery Reunion and Celebration, a five-day observance with a schedule of activities befitting the past three-and-a-half-year struggle to rebuild after the state's two largest wildfires, is underway from Wednesday, July 18 through Sunday, July 22. The list of tours, music, food, and displays and how to register for them can be found online at okanogancountyrecovery.com.



Photo by Mike Maltais

Tackle cover maker, Mike Mauk, pictured here with Brewster Chamber of Commerce President, Anna Marie Dalbey, also serves as the Chamber secretary.

Meets with President Trump, Vice President Pence

Mauk Fishing Stuff represents Washington state at Made in America Product Showcase

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
BREWSTER – When Mike Mauk first began making his fishing tackle covers in 2005 he could not have foreseen that one day his product would lead to a trip to the nation's capital to meet the President of the United States. But that was what happened on Monday, July 23, as Mauk represented Washington state at the Made in America Product Showcase at the White House, as part of Made in America Week designated by President Donald Trump last year.



Photo by Mike Maltais

The boys launch as the horn sounds to start the heat.

Bearacudas close swim season with five high-point winners

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
BREWSTER – The Bearacudas Swim Club closed out its season with the most high-point winners in the Okanogan County Summer Swim League (OCSL) Championships at the Brewster pool last Saturday, July 28. Bearacudas won five of the 13 age brackets, taking top spots in girls aged 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, and 15-16. The Bearacuda boys won their 13-14 age group.

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Be proactive to be safe

Bridgeport resident sounds the alarm over citizen safety, security

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BRIDGEPORT – A homeowner who experienced an uncomfortable encounter with a trespasser/intruder last month is sounding the alarm for citizens to become more alert and proactive concerning matters of their own safety and security.

The long-time resident who wishes to remain anonymous was awakened very early one December morning to her dog barking. When she checked to see what was causing the disturbance, she saw a stranger standing outside her fenced yard.

The stranger also saw her, easily cleared the locked gate and six-foot fence, and advanced toward the enclosed



Photo by Mike Maltais

Newly elected Douglas County Sheriff Kevin Morris addressed the Bridgeport City Council last month.

SEE SAFETY ON PAGE A2

Three-plus decades as head coach

Rick Miller hands Lady Bears varsity softball duties to new successor



QCH File Photo

Coach Rick Miller high-fives a player during a 2017 playoff game after an over-the-fence home run.

By MIKE MALTAIS
STAFF WRITER

BREWSTER – It's going to take some getting used to. Following 32 years as the coaching face of the Brewster Lady Bears varsity softball team, Rick Miller is handing the reins off to a new successor next spring.

Following a coaching career that by any standards can be called a solid success, Miller took the Brewster girls to 16 state appearances with two, fourth-place trophies, 13 league championships, and 10 district championships. Out of 763 total games from 1987 through 2018, the Lady Bears won 472 and lost 291 for a near-62-percent winning average.

Miller also understood the importance of mentoring well-rounded students as well as athletes. In his letter of resignation from coaching to school Athletic Director Greg Austin last November, Miller described "the Academic State Championship the players achieved in 2008 as one of my proudest moments."

Miller took over coaching duties from Randy Taylor a year after the softball program debuted at Brewster in 1985. He has been the head coach ever since, guiding his team through its transitions from the Central Washington 2B League to the 1A Caribou Trail League and back.

Miller reached his 100th win against Waterville in April

1994 and notched his 400th win against Tonasket in March 2016. That was the same year the Lady Bears were among the finalists for the second straight season for the North Central Washington Rotary Female Team of the Year.

Miller graduated Grandview High School and attended Central Washington State College before coming to Brewster in 1986. He teaches business education at Brewster High School and will continue to keep his fingers in Bears' sports as an assistant coach for the varsity basketball program.

"I figured I'd come here for a year," said Miller of a tenure

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The competitive season spanned just over one month, starting on June 26 against the Methow Valley Killer Whales and spanning 11 meets including last Saturday's championships.



Photo courtesy of Brewster Salmon Derby Facebook Winner in the youth division was Alex Davis with a winning weight of 21.22 pounds.

Weigh in 253 salmon Last-minute Brewster Salmon Derby draws more than 200 anglers

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – When Maurice Santillants of Lynnwood dropped his line in the Brewster pool on the Columbia River last Friday morning, August 3, he did not expect that he would haul in a 34-plus-pound hatchery chinook salmon that would dwarf the King of the Pool winner in the annual Brewster King Salmon Derby. However, Santillants did not enter the Derby. "We come over here about the same time every year," Santillants said of he and his fishing partner's annual trip. After boating the lunker salmon, Santillants decided to swing by the derby headquarters to get an accurate scale weight of the catch. As derby co-organizer Randy Coles placed the king on the scales, the reaction of those present as the digital display flashed at 34.32 pounds indicated the surprise at a catch that exceeded the early leader by more than 10 pounds.



Photo by Mike Maltais The city council voted to deactivate the Brewster Housing Authority that once managed the Vista Park Homes low income housing complex, after transferring ownership of the property to the Okanogan County Housing Authority.

City Council votes to deactivate Brewster Housing Authority

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – At their regular meeting Wednesday, August 8, members approved a resolution to deactivate the Brewster Housing Authority that once managed the 13-building, 25-home Vista Park Homes housing complex, the city's only Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) property at 509 S. Fourth Street. Following discussions between Brewster city attorney Chuck Zimmerman and Okanogan County Housing Authority (OCHA) administrators, the city elected to transfer ownership of its only low-income property to the OCHA, which administers several properties in the county. Photos by Mike Maltais

Pateros hosts smoke and thunder at annual hydro classic

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 PATEROS – A heavy layer of smoke from Canadian wildfires could neither smother the fun nor dampen the thunder of the hydroplanes that descended on Lake Pateros for the annual Pateros Hydro Classic/Terry Troxell Memorial Regatta last Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20.

Goal to reduce accidents DOT begins work to install U.S. 97 two-way left turn lane

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – A crew from the Washington State Department of Transportation out of Wenatchee began preparing a stretch of U.S. 97 west of the Brewster city limits last Monday, August 27 for the installation of a two-way left-turn lane at the intersection of Brewster Grange Road.

Brewster Heroes honored during National Health Center Week



Photo courtesy of Family Health Centers Jesus Hernandez, left, CEO of Family Health Centers stands with Brewster Hero recipients Brian Paine, Director of the Brewster Boys and Girls Club; Shan Miller, Brewster pool manager and owner of Sweet T's Unique Gifts; and Brewster Police Chief Nattalie Cariker. The three were honored during a ceremony at BBGC, August 22, during observance of National Health Center Week, August 12-18.

Douglas County PUD adds shoreline armor along Columbia Cove

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – A Douglas County PUD contracting crew began a shoreline stabilization project around the perimeter of Columbia Cove Park on August 13 and is making steady progress with block and sand bag installation along the shoreline. Brewster Public Works Director Lee Webster told city council members earlier this month that the PUD would begin armoring the shoreline in mid-August to prevent further erosion of the embankment.

Pateros Chamber of Commerce announces suspension of operations

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 PATEROS – The Pateros Chamber of Commerce announced that it is suspending operations indefinitely according to an announcement posted on the Chamber's Facebook site on August 21. "Our main goal was to get the Pateros sign back up and finished," read the announcement. "We did just that with the help of many people."



A folding panel showing wildfire photos is part of the Smoke and Reflections display that will be featured at The Pioneer Project in the Commercial Building at the Okanogan County Fair, Sept. 6-9.

Ralph Fries, Smoke and Reflections featured at Pioneer Project at Okanogan County Fair

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – Former Brewster resident and South Okanogan County historian Ralph Fries served up early pioneer stories along with the refreshments at the annual Pie Socials he has hosted since 2006 at his family homestead or at Brewster High School. This weekend, Fries will introduce his extensive history of South Okanogan County pioneer life at a new venue when he participates as a featured guest in The Pioneer Project in the Commercial Building at the 71st annual Okanogan County Fair from Thursday, Sept. 6, through Sunday, Sept. 9. Also appearing as part of The Pioneer Project will be the Smoke and Reflections display of 2014 Carlton Complex and 2015 Okanogan Complex wildfire stories, photos, art, and artifacts compiled by the Okanogan County Long Term Recovery Group (OCLTRG)



Photo by Mike Maltais Ei Eric Ramirez with the Brewster FFA posed with his pig. 71st Okanogan County Fair hosts successful four-day run

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 OKANOGAN – The Okanogan County Fair, an annual four-day extravaganza that brings the county together every September, opened its gates for the 71st time last Thursday, Sept. 6, with the theme "Stirrup Some Fun." Exhibitors, vendors, entertainers, competitors, and spectators converged on the fairgrounds on Rodeo Trail Road right up to until closing time at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 9. In between visitors enjoyed a wide variety of attractions from arts, crafts, agricultural and educational displays to horse racing, mutton busting, and a Pro-West Rodeo.



Photos by Mike Maltais Mario Martinez, Sr., flanked by son, Mario, Jr., left, and Bridgeport School Superintendent Scott Sattler, holds the time capsule aloft for the assembled students to see.

Buried 25 years ago Time capsule unearthed, opened at Bridgeport Elementary School

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BRIDGEPORT – A familiar quotation states: "There is no time like the present," but in the case of Bridgeport Elementary School, one might say "There is no present like the time." That "time," 25 years ago, was revisited when a time capsule was unearthed last Friday, Sept. 14, in the presence of Bridgeport Elementary students gathered at the site of the Mega-Mansion playground. Mega-Mansion, an extensive and elaborate wooden playground funded and built 25 years ago by parents and community volunteers, is being dismantled at the conclusion of its useful life.

Brewster Boys and Girls Club seeks new Director

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – The Brewster Boys and Girls Club (BBGC) is seeking a new director following the departure of Brian Paine last week. BBGC staffer Heather Carington is acting as interim director while the search begins for a new replacement. The Brewster club opened in March 2015, and Paine took the director's reins in June 2015, after serving as CEO and Executive Director of Everybody Can Win (ECW) for five-and-a-half years. ECW addressed the epidemic of childhood obesity issues through a whole child model program

Subsidized apartments ending Market value rentals catch up with Pateros affordable housing

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 PATEROS – The competition to find affordable housing, or any housing for that matter, in the City of Pateros just ramped up a notch as the 16 residential units in the rent-subsidized Pateros Garden Apartments revert to market value Oct. 1. Terms of an FHA loan secured by the building's purchasers years back stipulated that the living units in the complex would be rent subsidized for the duration of the loan. The loan now paid, the units can now be let at market value, though the owner said existing lease agreements will be honored until they expire.



Photo by Mike Maltais Pateros 2018 Homecoming royalty included, from left: Mr. Football - Andrew Gonzalez, Miss Volleyball - Ashlyn Gonzalez, freshmen Bella Arellano and Seth Russel, sophomores, King, Santana Ayala and Queen, Anna Williams, juniors Ramiro Ambriz and Debora Gutierrez, and seniors Omar Mota and Gabby Talavera.

Pateros Homecoming festivities soothe Odessa-Harrington loss

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 PATEROS – A week of Homecoming activities culminating with the coronation of this year's king and queen during football halftime provided some balm to soothe the bruises from an 80-6 loss to Odessa-Harrington last Friday, Sept. 21.

Lack of funds, participation cited Brewster-Pateros-Bridgeport Senior Center threatened with closure

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – The Senior Center located at 109 S. Bridge Street, that serves senior citizens in the communities of Pateros, Brewster, and Bridgeport, is facing the real prospect that the facility may soon be forced to close its doors. Dwindling participation, declining membership, and operating costs are the three principal factors combining to put a squeeze on an institution that has been part of the Brewster downtown landscape since the 1970s. Sources at the Center report that as of this writing the facility is operating with a temporary president after its most recent president relocated to Montana following some health issues. The club secretary is recuperating from a broken bone, and the treasurer, who lives in Wenatchee, travels to Brewster a couple times a month to pay the bills.



Photos by Mike Maltais Ernie Nanamkin and Betty Martinez were crowned Homecoming royalty during halftime ceremonies at last Friday's football game against Liberty Bell. Bears top off Homecoming with 54-0 football win.

Bears top off Homecoming with 54-0 football win

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – With their two toughest league opponents just ahead, the Brewster Bears varsity football team kept its undefeated Central Washington B-2B record intact with a 54-0 win over visiting Liberty Bell on Homecoming Night last Friday, Sept. 28.

Property designated commercial Brewster zoning code change interferes with residential sale

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BREWSTER – When Brewster residents Ronald and Ruth Ann Paslay decided to relocate to Wenatchee recently, they put their home at 401 Lakeview Drive, a one-way street between N. Bridge Street and the Columbia River on the market. It did not take long for the Paslays to find an interested purchaser, but something unexpected occurred during the buyer's mortgage financing procedure. An appraisal of the Paslay's property revealed that the home they bought when the site was zoned R2 (residential) was now zoned C2 (commercial). Paslay and neighbors Sheila Lautensleger and Juan Hernandez appeared at a meeting of the Brewster Planning Commission last Thursday, Oct. 4, to inquire when the zoning was changed and what, if anything could be done to resolve the issue. "None of the mortgage companies will touch financing a home that is in commercial zoning," Paslay told the commission. "So here we went from ready to sign today and be handed a check for what we're asking for our home to no deal at all."



Photo by Mike Maltais The entry gate remained closed at Lake Woods Golf Course last Monday.

Lake Woods Golf Course closing until further notice

By Mike Maltais, Staff writer
 BRIDGEPORT – The Lake Woods Golf Course located at 232 Half Sun Way, announced recently that it is suspending operations until further notice. A posting on the course Facebook site, www.facebook.com/LakeWoodsGolf,

