

# The Leavenworth Echo

\$1.00  
Volume 124 • No. 2

Upper Valley News Since 1904  
A Ward Media Publication

 leavenworthecho.com



## 5 things to do this week

Five of the most captivating events of the week | A2

## Upper Valley MEND secures 28 properties, expanding affordable housing in Leavenworth



COURTESY OF UPPER VALLEY MEND

Leavenworth properties acquired by Upper Valley MEND for affordable housing.

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Upper Valley MEND officially secured 28 affordable rental apartments on Jan. 1, with plans to close on an additional three apartments at the end of January. The total 31 units are spread across seven properties in Leavenworth, in ten different buildings. Five apartments are one-bedroom, and 26 are two-bedroom. “One of the things we love about them is that you wouldn’t know that it’s affordable housing. They’re just houses on normal streets and

there’s kids playing in the yards, and it’s just really important that we keep that kind of vibrancy of the community and that the folks who are living there don’t get displaced,” said Kaylin Bettinger, UV MEND Executive Director. The properties were originally owned by the Marson family, who also rented them out as affordable units. When they decided to sell, they approached MEND about purchasing in January of 2022, in order to guarantee affordability in perpetuity and ensure current renters weren’t displaced. The Marson family is also donating a subdivided lot, which will

allow UV MEND to build up to three more rental units. “Our family, my sister and I and my wife, we just felt that it was the right thing to do for the community that’s been so good to us, and we’d like to maintain those affordable rents for the people that supported so many businesses like ours,” said Ken Marson. The nonprofit raised over \$5.4 million for the acquisition. The City of Leavenworth contributed \$600,000, which went toward the purchase of two of the properties, 218 West Whitman St. and 106 Joseph St.. Chelan County contributed \$860,000

and the State of Washington pledged \$1 million. The remaining funds came from community donations. “People have been so supportive of this project so far. There’s obviously a huge need for affordable workforce housing and Leavenworth, and so we’ve just seen people step up to donate at levels that they never have before, which has been pretty incredible to see,” said Bettinger. UV MEND’s total budget for the acquisition is \$6.8 million. The Marson family sold all 31 units to UV Mend for \$5.1 million, or \$165,000 per

See **MEND** Page **B4**

## Nason, Peshastin Creek restoration projects secure \$1.27M

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

WASHINGTON — Floodplain restoration projects on both Nason and Peshastin Creek were two of 18 aquatic ecosystem restoration projects awarded \$51 million in funding through President Joe Biden’s Investing in America agenda at the end of December. Chelan County Natural Resources received nearly \$770,000 for its Peshastin Creek Historic Channel and Floodplain Reconnection Project. The construction of State Route 97 in the 1950’s caused the Peshastin Creek channel to straighten and reduce, disconnecting it from its historic floodplain. The project will reroute and reconnect the creek to its original floodplain, and build two highway bridges across the relocated creek. The funding will go towards the initial study and design of the project. The Yakama Nation received \$500,000 for engineering and design costs in 2024 and 2025 of its Nason Creek Floodplain Project. The project will realign a 0.65 mile segment of State Route 207 near Cole’s Corner to adjacent uplands, avoiding interference of Nason Creek’s floodplain. The current location of the segment intersects and disrupts the historic floodplain, putting the road’s stability at risk and impacting crucial salmon habitat.

“Yakama Nation Fisheries has been focused on recovering and enhancing tribal priority salmon and steelhead runs in the Wenatchee Subbasin for decades, and salmon habitat restoration in Nason Creek is a key regional priority that continues to require substantial investment to achieve the highest priority objectives in the Upper Columbia Basin Spring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan,” said Hans Smith, Yakama Nation Fisheries Northern Treaty Territories Special Projects Lead, in the Yakama Nation Fisheries press release.

The funding for the projects chosen in the Investing in America agenda will be supported by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s WaterSMART Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Grant Program.

“The benefits of these projects are far-reaching in terms of climate resilience and ecosystem restoration benefits,” said Reclamation Commissioner Camille Calimlim Toutou, in the Department of Interior’s press release. “The work to restore and protect the habitat for fish and wildlife also helps to improve water quality and mitigate impacts of drought and potential flood events.”

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or [taylor@ward.media](mailto:taylor@ward.media)

## Leavenworth to be featured in PBS mini-docuseries

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

LEAVENWORTH – Leavenworth will be featured on a PBS mini docuseries, “Small Towns, Big Icons.” A film crew interviewed local history experts at the Greater Leavenworth Museum this past week. “It’s a way to look into the small towns that not everybody knows about but has some sort of a draw to them, and finding out the story of how they became a town and looking back at the indigenous culture that was here before,” said Cori Kipps, WETA Digital Content Producer. The series is produced by WETA, a Washington D.C. PBS station known for producing Ken Burns documentaries and PBS Newshour. Leavenworth is one of five American towns that will be featured in the series, which will air on the WETA PBS Youtube Channel as five-minute shorts this summer. “It’s a short snippet, but they’re packed full of information,” said Kipps.

Although Kipps lives in Northern Virginia, he knew of Leavenworth’s Christmas Town through his mother, who lives in Spokane, Washington. “When I was looking for interesting stories, that’s one of the first places that came to my mind just because of the draw of, you know, what I only knew then, [which] was the lights,” said Kipps. When he started researching, Kipps reached out to Matt Cade at the Greater Leavenworth Museum. “Matt was a huge help in providing me with a ton of information, on not only how the town was founded and created into this Bavarian village, but also that the native population, the indigenous population, is still here. They’re still very active and it’s a very important place to them,” said Kipps. Cade helped Kipps make the connections, including reaching out to John Sirois, the Traditional Territory Advisor at Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

See **PBS** Page **A 3**



Digital Producer Cori Kipps interviews John Sirois at Greater Leavenworth Museum for PBS mini series.



TAYLOR CALDWELL/WARD MEDIA



A group of volunteers stand in front of Waste Loop’s Reuse Innovation Center, which will likely open in the spring.

COURTESY OF WASTE LOOP

## Waste Loop comes closer to opening center for reclaimed building materials and community workshops

By **TAYLOR CALDWELL**  
Ward Media Staff Reporter

CASHMERE – Local environmental nonprofit Waste Loop is getting closer to opening a new center for environmental sustainability, currently called the Reuse Innovation Center. On Jan. 18, it will announce a new official name for the center. On Jan. 21 and 23, it is hosting volunteer work days to help reach its goal of opening in the spring. The reuse center will be a

community hub for educational workshops and repair events, and also serve as a tool library and reclaimed building material store and donation center for builders. The center is located at 103 Railroad Avenue in Cashmere, which Waste Loop strategically chose as a midway point for both the Leavenworth area and Wenatchee residents. “Our vision is for the center to be kind of a one stop shop for all things circular economy in Wenatchee Valley,” said Amanda Close, Waste

Loop’s Education and Outreach Coordinator. The main focus of the center will be its salvaged building material retail space. Homeowners or construction groups can donate leftover or salvaged materials from a project, which Waste Loop will sort and price at a much more affordable rate for community members than if they were to buy new. The center will also have a tool library, where people can check out tools for a project instead

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### Inside The Echo this Week

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## Cascade Medical Foundation receives \$6,000 grant to boost employee education fund

Ward Media / Leavenworth Echo

LEAVENWORTH - The Cascade Medical Foundation (CMF) recently received a notable financial enhancement for its new employee education initiative. A \$6,000 Regional Impact Grant, bestowed by the Community Foundation of NCW,

aims to bolster the Mark Judy Memorial Caregiver Education fund. This fund is dedicated to assisting Cascade Medical employees in advancing their education and job-related skills.

"We're so grateful to the Community Foundation for supporting this new fund and helping enable us to invest in caregiver education for the

staff at Cascade Medical," CMF Board Chairperson Shannon Keller said. "When we grow the skills of our local caregivers, we know, in turn, this will benefit our entire community with even better and more skilled employees."

Established in 2023, the fund honors the memory of former Cascade Medical CEO and CMF

Board Member Mark Judy, who passed away in March. It was initiated with donations in Judy's memory and aims to perpetuate his legacy of inspiring and educating others.

"Mark believed in and urged countless employees over his decades of leadership to learn, to grow and to serve," said Terri Judy, Mark's wife and

Cascade Medical Foundation board member. "He would be so honored to know this scholarship fund will help our local healthcare workers, who care so deeply for our community."

Since its founding in 1992, CMF has funded over \$1.9 million in projects, including a cardiac rehabilitation center set to open in this month, and

essential medical equipment. The new education fund marks a significant step in the Foundation's efforts to enhance the skills of its workforce and improve caregiving quality.

The first scholarships from this fund are expected to be announced in late March. For more information, visit [cascademedicalfoundation.org](http://cascademedicalfoundation.org).

## Cascade Medical Foundation welcomes four new board members and unveils 2024 slate of officers

Ward Media / Leavenworth Echo

LEAVENWORTH - The Cascade Medical Foundation four new board members and announced a fresh slate of officers for the upcoming year.

The addition of these new board members brings a diverse blend of business acumen and experience in public education to the volunteer-based panel, which now comprises 20 dedicated members.

Randy Pollock, a retired grocery industry executive residing in Plain since 2018, alongside his wife Elizabeth, has actively participated in the Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue Auxiliary. Intrigued by the Foundation's work, Pollock stepped forward to serve a three-year term on the Cascade Medical Foundation Board.

Joining Pollock are Kathi and Wade Nash of Leavenworth, along with Bob Adamson of Plain. The Nashes, both having previously served six-year terms on the Foundation board, bring in extensive experience. Kathi, a retired school teacher, and Wade, a retired small business owner, return after a bylaw-required one-year hiatus. Similarly, Adamson, a retired school principal, re-enters the board after the mandated hiatus and will also serve as a "member at large" on the Foundation's executive committee for 2024, replacing Vangie Schasse, who concluded six years of dedicated service and is stepping down from the board.

In the upcoming term, the 2024 executive committee will be led by Chairperson Shannon Keller and Vice Chairperson Shari Campbell, completing



Bob Adamson



Kathi Nash



Randy Pollock



Wade Nash

their two-year officer posts. Treasurer Strode Weaver, Secretary Dana Wilson, and Ann MacPherson, the other at-large member, have been re-elected to their respective one-year positions.

Other board members are: Rich Adamson, Vito Fedor, Julie French, Bob Jennings, Terri Judy, Carol Kasper, Bob Keller, Rex McMillian, Kathy

Montgomery, Ted Montgomery and Aileen Yost.

The Cascade Medical Foundation's mission revolves around supporting Cascade Medical's provision of quality healthcare to the community. The Foundation orchestrates several prominent fundraising events, including the Marson and Marson Cascade Golf Classic scheduled for June 17

at Kahler Mountain Club, the upcoming Jive Time in the Cascades big band concert on Sep. 21 at the Leavenworth Festhalle, and a series of popular Benevolent Night events in collaboration with local restaurants.

2023's fundraising efforts facilitated the establishment of a cardiac rehabilitation center at Cascade Medical,

poised to open its doors in January. Previous campaigns have successfully funded critical medical initiatives such as a mobile health clinic, 3D mammography, ambulance safety equipment, and community AEDs. The ongoing campaign aims to replace an aging blood analyzer in the lab. Additionally, the Foundation is introducing an education fund to provide training opportunities for Cascade Medical employees, established in memory of former Cascade Medical CEO and CMF Board Member Mark Judy, who passed away in March 2023.

Since its inception in 1992, the Foundation has contributed over \$1.9 million towards the acquisition of vital medical equipment for Cascade Medical. For more information, visit [cascademedicalfoundation.org](http://cascademedicalfoundation.org).

## Leavenworth Library rolls out January Dungeons & Dragons Fest

Engaging the community in fantasy and fun

Ward Media / Leavenworth Echo

LEAVENWORTH - Leavenworth Library is set to transform into a realm of fantasy and adventure with its January Dungeons & Dragons Fest. The event series, catering to both novices and seasoned players, promises a month-

long celebration of the beloved role-playing game.

**A trio of themed events**

The festivities kick off on Jan. 11 at 4 p.m. with 'A Beginner's Guide to Dungeons & Dragons.' This introductory session, led by library employee and D&D aficionado Gracie Camp, aims to demystify the game for newcomers. Attendees can expect to learn the basics

of D&D and participate in a beginner-friendly game.

**Crafting meets gaming**

The following Thursday, Jan. 18, also at 4 p.m., combines the thrill of D&D with artistic creativity. 'Dungeons & Dragons AND Arts & Crafts' offers participants the chance to create fantasy-inspired crafts. The library supplies materials for various projects,

including hand-drawn maps and resin dice, with pre-registration required for dice-making.

**Epic finale with in-person play**

The grand finale, scheduled for Jan. 25 from 4-7 p.m., invites players to 'Let's Play Dungeons & Dragons IN PERSON!' This event features Gracie Camp and local D&D enthusiasts

as Dungeon Masters, leading groups through engaging, family-friendly gameplay. The evening is set to be filled with fun, snacks, and lots of dice rolling.

**Open invitation to all**

Leavenworth Library's Dungeons & Dragons Fest is an inclusive event that welcomes experienced players, beginners, and the

curious alike. Attendees are encouraged to participate in one, two, or all three events to immerse themselves fully in the world of D&D.

For more information on the January Dungeons & Dragons Fest, contact the Leavenworth Library at [leavenworth@ncwlibraries.org](mailto:leavenworth@ncwlibraries.org) or call (509) 548-7923. The library invites all to join in this celebration of imagination and community.

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**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Ezra Week Basketball**  
Sophomore



Ezra has made an impressive debut in basketball this year, securing a spot on the Varsity team. He has tremendous natural athletic talent, proves to be highly coachable, and consistently maintains a winning attitude. Throughout the season, Ezra has emerged as one of the most formidable rebounders and shot blockers. It is a pleasure to coach Ezra and to see the improvements in his game weekly.

**Kodiaks Scoreboard**

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Jan 2:	Cascade 45, Entiat 40; Win
Jan. 5:	Cascade 21, Chelan 49; Loss
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Jan 2:	Cascade 42, Entiat 40; Win
Jan. 5:	Cascade 26, Chelan 62; Loss

**Kodiaks Schedule**

GIRLS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 12:	Cascade vs. Cashmere, Home at 5:45 p.m.
Jan. 16:	Cascade vs. Quincy, Away at 5:45 p.m.
BOYS BASKETBALL	
Jan. 12:	Cascade vs. Cashmere, Home at 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 16:	Cascade vs. Quincy, Away at 7:15 p.m.

**CASCADE KODIAKS**

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**Cascade girls basketball team rallies to defeat Entiat**

Ward Media / Leavenworth Echo

ENTIAT - The Cascade Kodiaks clinched a much-needed win, defeating the Entiat Tigers 45-40 in a closely contested non-league girls' basketball game.

In a game that showcased the resilience and determination of both teams, the visiting Cascade Kodiaks emerged victorious, edging past the Entiat Tigers by a narrow margin. The tightly contested match, held at the Entiat gymnasium, saw the Kodiaks leverage strategic plays to outmaneuver the Tigers, marking their first win of the season.

Cascade's performance was a blend of strong defense and timely offense, which proved crucial in the game's decisive moments. The Kodiaks, now holding a 1-2 record, demonstrated their capability to bounce back and set a positive trajectory for the upcoming games.

**Washington Outdoors Report**

Winter Outdoors Roundup  
By JOHN KRUSE  
Special to Ward Media

So, what's an outdoors enthusiast to do in January? It turns out there are several opportunities for fun this month, to include two ice fishing derbies and a chance to either watch or participate in Conconully's annual Outhouse Races. If you are in the market for an RV, this is a good month to shop for them too with several RV shows going on in the state.

**CONCONULLY OUTHOUSE RACES:**

Tami Cochran with the Town of Conconully confirms the annual Conconully Outhouse Races will take place on January 13th. There is no snow on the ground right now but the town will make an effort to truck some down and spread it out for the racers.

The race vehicles are wooden outhouses with one rider sitting on the outhouse seat while the other two push the outhouse down the race course. Each outhouse is outfitted with a set of skis. There are several divisions for racers to compete in. The cost to enter is \$35.

Even if you don't race it's a great event to watch. There is a "Show and Shine" contest just prior to the race where people vote for their favorite outhouse. At noon there is a parade through the very small town and then the races begin. Find out more at [www.conconully.com/outhouse-races](http://www.conconully.com/outhouse-races)

**SIDLEY LAKE ICE DERBY:**

The annual Sidley Lake Ice Derby, put on by the Oroville Chamber of Commerce, also takes place Saturday, January 13th. Registration begins at 7 AM and fishing takes place between 8 AM and 1 PM. You'll be targeting rainbow trout here and the biggest trout (measured by length), will garner the winning angler \$500 in cash and a \$500 gift certificate from the Country Store. The second place and third place trout caught

are worth \$300 and \$200 respectively. The registration fee is \$30.

In addition to this there is a second category you can enter for an additional \$20. The angler with the heaviest limit of fish caught (five trout maximum) will walk away with all the money put into this cash pot. A minimum of \$300 will be given away to the winner of this side-pot event.

Shelly Roberts with the Oroville Chamber of Commerce reports the ice is safe and thick. She also said there will be a tent set up offering anglers the opportunity to stay warm and full with chili, hot dogs and hot chocolate.

**BONAPARTE LAKE ICE DERBY:**

The second annual Bonaparte Lake Ice Fishing Derby takes place January 27th with bigger prizes available for participants thanks to generous donations from sponsors. That's the word from Eric Cruz, co-owner of Bonaparte Lake Resort.

There are three divisions you can fish in. There is a grand prize of cash and a \$450 gift certificate from Scheels for the biggest fish caught and four additional cash/gift prizes. There are also five cash/gift prizes available in the multi-

species category (multiple species of trout, kokanee and smallmouth bass are all found in Bonaparte Lake). Finally, ten prize packages are available for kids fishing in the tournament.

Entry fees range from \$15 to \$30. Registration is open from 5:30 to 9:30 AM on the day of the event and participants have to be wearing a wristband showing they registered. Weigh-ins take place between 7:30 AM and 4 PM. You can get more information at the Bonaparte Lake Resort Facebook page

**RV SHOWS**

Three RV shows are taking place this month in Washington State to include:

1. **The National RV Show** that's going off at the Spokane Convention Center January 11th thru the 15th, featuring new and used RVs. Admission is free and there will not only be live music but also a scavenger hunt for the kids.

2. **The 36th annual Inland Northwest RV Show** takes place at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center January 18th through January 21st. Seven area RV dealers will have motorhomes and trailers available covering 175,000 square feet of space inside the Expo Center. Admission is \$12 cash for adults, kids

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**DEATH NOTICE**

**Jack J. Ambrose**  
Jack J. Ambrose, 96, of Pullman, WA died Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at Pullman Regional Medical Hospital. Short's Funeral Chapel of Moscow is in charge of arrangements.



COURTESY OF ERIC CRUZ, BONAPARTE LAKE RESORT  
**Bonaparte Lake Ice Fishing Derby**



**Conconully Outhouse Races**

COURTESY OF TOWN OF CONCONULLY

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**Kid Scoop Puzzler**

**Pottery Places**  
Number these pieces of pottery in order from lowest to highest based on the Roman numerals on each label.

Standards Link: Mathematics: Order numbers from lowest to highest.

**Kid Scoop Together**

**Roman to Arabic**  
Adding and subtracting Roman Numerals is not easy. Multiplying and dividing is even harder.

To simplify things, people switched to Hindu-Arabic numerals (called Arabic numbers for short). They were invented by two great mathematicians from Ancient India, **Aryabhata** (fifth century BC) and **Brahmagupta** (sixth century BC).

The Arabic system has ten digits - 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

**ROMAN NUMERALS**

Long ago, people in the Roman Empire started a number system called **Roman numerals**. They found it helped when all of the people in their empire used the same symbols for counting and for math.

The Roman Empire was so big that the numbers were eventually used in parts of Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Roman numerals have seven symbols: I, V, X, L, C, D, and M. The chart at left shows which letters represent which numbers.

I	V	X	L	C	D	M
1	5	10	50	100	500	1000

**Standards Link:** Mathematics: Understand different numbering systems.

**How It Works**

Roman numerals are combined to make different numbers. Here is a number in Roman numerals. It is three letter Is in a row.

**III**

To figure out what number this is, you add the three Is.

**I + I + I**  
1 + 1 + 1 = 3

If you want to write the number 4, things change a bit. Instead of IIII, the number 4 is written as **IV**. This shows that the number 4 is one less than 5.

**IV = 4**

**What is VII?**  
Add the Roman numerals:  
**V = 5 I = 1 5 + 1 + 1 = 7**

The number 7 is written as **VII** in Roman numerals. But the number 9 is **IX**. That shows that the number nine is one less than 10. (The number 10 is **X** in Roman numerals.)

<b>VIII</b>	<b>IX</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>XI</b>
8	9	10	11

**Give it a try!**  
Can you write each of these numbers as Roman numerals?

3	I		
16		V	
29	X		
32		X	X

**Standards Link:** Mathematics: Understand the Roman numeral system.

**Match Up**  
Draw a line between each number and the Roman Numeral that has the same value. One is done for you.

<b>XIV</b>	6	12	14	<b>XXV</b>
<b>XII</b>		24		<b>XXIII</b>
<b>XXIV</b>		23	25	<b>VI</b>

**Standards Link:** Mathematics: Understand that numbers can be represented in different ways.

**Miles to Marketplace**  
Add up the Roman numerals on the signposts to see how many miles it is to the marketplace.

**Extra! Extra! Roman Numeral Search**  
Look through the newspaper for five numbers under 100. Rewrite each one as a Roman Numeral.

**Standards Link:** Mathematics: Practice writing Roman numerals.

**FROM THE KID SCOOP LESSON LIBRARY**

**Around the World**  
Roman numerals came from Rome. Chocolate came from Mexico. Rice came from Asia. Look through the newspaper for examples of things in your community that come from another country.

**Standards Link:** Differentiate between wants and needs.

**Write On! My Favorite Number**  
Which number is your favorite or "lucky" number? Why? Write about it!

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### Waste Loop

Continued from page A1

of buying.

Waste Loop's mission is to transform waste streams into sustainable resources. It has partnered with Winton MFG Compost Works on food waste and secured glass recycling in the Leavenworth area. Salvaging building materials seemed like the next step, and something Waste Loop has been considering for awhile.

"It's a category of waste products that is quite large... But it's one of those categories that there's not a lot of options [to recycle]," said Close.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), construction and demolition debris includes steel, wood products, drywall and plaster, brick and clay tile, asphalt shingles, concrete, and asphalt concrete. In 2018, the EPA estimated that the United States generated 600 million tons of construction and demolition debris.

The Department of Ecology's 2020-2021 Waste Characterization Study estimated the state produced nearly 1 million tons of construction and demolition waste. It was the third most prevalent category of waste, making up 18.5 percent of the overall waste stream, just behind paper (18.8 percent) and other materials (18.8 percent).

"We want to be part of a solution that takes that waste and puts it to good use, because oftentimes a lot of that waste was usable materials. People are just not willing to go through the trouble of sifting through it and finding what can be rehomed to a new project," said Beryl Bils, the Reuse Innovation Center Co-

Manager.

Waste Loop started the project after securing a grant from the Washington Department of Commerce in late summer of 2023. The grant required a one-to-one financial match, which Waste Loop received through Andy Thomas of Side Street Cashmere, who donated a year of free rent to the nonprofit.

"It's been pretty fast. The grant is only a year, so it's quite a fast grant cycle period. It's really forced us to kind of hit the ground running," said Close.

For the last few months, the team has been sorting through donated wood, doors, tools, and appliances. The next steps involve insulating, painting, and putting up shelving.

Once completed, the center will be a space for the community to learn how to build through DIY workshops and have the resources to complete projects sustainably and affordably.

"Oftentimes, going into box stores like Home Depot or Lowe's can be really intimidating, especially as a woman or as a new builder, to go in and ask questions. I want this space to be a place [for] anyone, no matter who you are or where you're at in your building journey, to be able to learn and feel empowered with the projects they are doing," said Bils.

The new name for the center will be announced during Waste Loop's Green Drinks event on Jan. 18, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Milepost 111 Brewery, and on social media the following day. Those interested in volunteering can find out more at wasteloop.org.

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or [taylor@ward.media](mailto:taylor@ward.media)

### Sen. Hawkins

Continued from page A2

structure is critical to our regional economic growth and quality of life. Having an efficient and effective transportation system is essential for getting our crops to market. Investing in our transportation system is also important for community safety. In recent years, local traffic congestion is also becoming an increased challenge.

#### Transportation budget (\$13.5 billion)

The 2023-2025 transportation budget funds the construction and maintenance of the state transportation system, including the maintenance and preservation of roads, bridges, and ferries. This budget also funds the state agencies and commissions that serve our transportation system. The budget also funds numerous previously approved road projects based on their construction schedules.

In 2022, the Legislature approved a 16-year, \$16.9 billion "Move Ahead Washington" transportation investment package, primarily for preservation and maintenance of the existing system and to complete large-

#### Mend

Continued from page A1

unit. The remaining \$1.7 million is budgeted for closing costs and interest, three years of property management, immediate maintenance, and capital campaign costs. UV MEND's Solid Foundations Campaign will continue fundraising throughout 2024 to secure the remaining \$1.4 million.

The units are currently

scale transportation projects. The plan combines federal infrastructure funds, climate revenues approved during a previous session, transfers from the operating budget, and license plate and driver license fees to fund a collection of new investments.

#### Transportation Priorities

- Preservation and Maintenance (statewide):** Sustaining our current transportation system should be an important state priority. Preserving our existing system is even more important than new projects. Local, state, and federal officials should acknowledge the importance of adequately maintaining our existing system and keeping preservation a priority.
- Confluence Parkway (Wenatchee):** Confluence Parkway seeks to provide a second bridge across the Wenatchee River, a widened pedestrian bridge, and a roadway with a direct connection to the U.S. 97A/US 2 Interchange. The project was awarded \$49 million in federal grants in 2021 and \$85 million in state funding in 2023. Like most transportation projects in

the state, this project needs additional funds to cover recent cost escalations.

**Additional Projects (other areas):** In other areas of the district, the State Route 522 widening project outside of Monroe needs to be completed and could cost \$260 million. Improvements to the Highway 2 corridor near Sultan have been identified as well to add roundabouts and expand the highway to four lanes. A new interchange at I-90 and SR 18 near North Bend will improve safety and traffic flow and widening of SR 18 is currently funded at \$665 million.

#### Maintaining our existing system

The Legislature has increased funding in recent years for preservation and maintenance of our roads and bridges, but funding has not kept pace with inflation. WSDOT needs more funding to maintain and preserve our transportation assets. The preservation of our existing system is more important than new projects. Legislators and local elected officials need to acknowledge preservation of the existing system as a priority, even though it may not

be as glamorous as discussing new projects.

#### Thank you for the opportunity to serve

I hope this provides you a good overview of transportation priorities within 12th District. If you have any questions about the state budgets or legislation being considered, please call our Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. To learn more about my legislative efforts on your behalf, please visit my website at [senatorbradhawkins.org](http://senatorbradhawkins.org). Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator.

Brad Hawkins is State Senator for the 12th District and serves on the Senate Transportation Committee.



limited supply. "Maybe we can inspire some other people that might have some rentals or something that would be willing to help out MEND and the working class people up here," said Marson. More information on UV MEND's waitlist and capital campaign can be found at [uvmend.org/housing](http://uvmend.org/housing).

Taylor Caldwell: 509-433-7276 or [taylor@ward.media](mailto:taylor@ward.media)

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